

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society NEWSLETTER

*"For what is the present, after all,
but a growth out of the past."
— Walt Whitman*

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18, No. 1

JUNE 1998

SOCIETY NOTES

The annual Potluck dinner was a great success in spite of the flu bug and very wet weather. Joann Wisemann chaired yet another seemingly effortless production. She was helped by Fran Bates who promised to try out the chairmanship next year. They were assisted by Lillian and Leonard Souza, Gene Wisemann, Terry and Jayne Alchorn, Mary Fulster, Jerry and Doris Waterworth and all the other cooks who contributed to the dinner. Melissa Stephenson portrayed the lives of three western women which was enjoyed by all. (See article on p. 5). A vote of thanks is due those who organized and carried out the annual event.

The Resource Center is making haste slowly. We have work space and people are accessing and cataloging bits and pieces of Sacramento River Delta History. Fran Bates, Carol Watson and Clarisse Jonson visited the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center (a good place for a future meeting — it's fascinating!). Pat Johnson, the archivist, spent an hour or so educating us to the details of archives which will help us make some decisions about what we want to collect and how to keep track of all those papers. Archives are not like libraries. It seems that donations are saved as collections and all the collections are cross-indexed and filed. We need more volunteers to take on a project, i.e., choose a collection and number and describe it. It is really fun if you have a project in which you are interested. Anyone who wants access to the Center can call Terry Alchorn at 775-1124 to make arrangements to use the material, take on a project or make suggestions to improve the center.

The May meeting was another pleasant reunion. The class of 1936 of Courtland High School had a small reunion with their classmate and principal's daughter, Theresa Halley Maxwell. The Courtland reminiscences were lots of fun. For details, see the article on page 3.

Our membership categories are going to change. We plan to collect dues each January for the year. If you are not a Life Member and have not paid your 1998 dues you may be expunged from our mailing list before the December newsletter. **PAY NOW. QUICK!** In January the dues will rise for everyone (except Life Members) to \$15 for individual memberships. Family memberships will remain at \$25.

Our Pear Fair exhibit needs lots of support — setting it up and/or serving as a docent or host during the Fair on Sunday, July 26th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any time you can give will be appreciated. Call Tom Herzog at 775-1479 to volunteer. The Pear History Exhibit is a cornerstone of the fair and is a big undertaking. **PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

ODE TO PEARS

Hazen, Janet. Pears, a Country Garden Cookbook. Collins, S.F. 1994

"Few fruits conjure a more clear and distinct image than the pear. With its graceful voluptuous contour, it is easily one of the most provocative and sensuous fruits in the world." Thus starts the introduction to this gorgeous book. There are pictures of 13 European pear varieties and six Asian pear varieties. (The Bartlett has the best shape.) The many photographs are beautiful still lives — each one more intriguing than the previous. The first two ingredients of the first recipe (pear soup) are 1 cup of dry white wine and 1 cup of dry vermouth. What could go wrong with that? Lots maybe, but the recipes are varied and carefully crafted taste treats; not just pears substituted in a fruit melange. They include marvelous canape mixes, salads, breads, main dishes and desserts.



PEAR FAIR

JULY 26, 1998 • COURTLAND, CA

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MORE ON TYLER ISLAND

(continued from December 1997)

Tyler Island's heyday was the 1920s and the 1930s. It was most entirely planted to asparagus which thrived in the peat soil. It was a prolific producer. The asparagus grew so fast that the Filipinos who cut the "grass" began at 2 A.M. and worked by moonlight to keep up with the fast growth. Tyler Island became a big asparagus income center—"grass" was cut into July. The Asparagus Association office was located in Brown's Alley ("Gasoline Alley"), Walnut Grove, in the 1869 building which once housed Walnut Grove's first butcher Fred Wicker. Stuart Brown was the Association's manager. The Tyler Packers' asparagus packing shed was situated about 300 yards from the site of Dr. Paul Barnes Park. George Wilson ran the shed. Before 1936, "Ty-pac" shipped carload after carload to the eastern markets. The green asparagus was sent east and the white asparagus (spears cultivated so as not to see the sun) were sent to local canneries in Rio Vista, Vorden, Ryde, Locke and Isleton. Today asparagus is being reintroduced but a variety of grain and other field crops suitable to the peat soil prevail. There is several hundred acres of pear orchard acreage on upper Tyler near Walnut Grove.

For many years Tyler was connected to the island system by ferries. The first known is Sperry Dye's triangle ferry route linking Andrus, Tyler and Walnut Grove, crossing Georgiana Slough by rowboat. Eventually this service was replaced by the first Georgiana Slough Bridge, in 1900. John Miller operated a horse drawn ferry for 55 years, crossing the North Fork of the Mokelumne at the Walnut Grove-Thornton Road connecting Tyler and Staten Islands; Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties. In 1904, a swing bridge replaced Miller's Ferry. Known as Miller's Bridge, the bridge was hand-cranked by 6 or 8 men. It took 48-72 hours notice to open. After Miller, the Brown Family owned the ferry and toll house. Around 1912-13 Egisto Giusti took over the operation and opened a restaurant, bar in the toll house. His customers often helped crank the bridge open. The old bridge was replaced in 1955 by a sturdier swing bridge. It was hand operated until 1963 when an electric motor was added. 237 feet long the bridge is tended from 9am to 5pm from May through October. During the heavy farm and recreation season it opens about 400 times a month. The bridge was closed for 30 days in 1986 when the State Fish and Game Department tried to dump 100,000 baby Chinook salmon into the North Fork of the Mokelumne River. The truck backed onto the span and the bridge tender opened the bridge and the whole rig almost went into the water. Repairs cost \$80,000. The "Tyler Island" bridge is located several miles up Georgiana Slough from its confluence with the Mokelumne River. The bridge joins Andrus and Tyler Islands. The current bridge replaced a ferry in 1940. Locally known as "Eddie's Bridge" for the man who has tended the bridge since 1947, it is an electrically operated swing span type bridge. Beginning in 1912, for sixty years, the Southern Pacific Railroad operated a short line between Sacramento and Isleton which crossed Tyler Island. From Walnut Grove the line proceeded down the middle of the island until it swung west crossing Georgiana Slough to Andrus Island on a single leaf Scherzer bascule railroad bridge built in 1929. The bridge, in order to accommodate traffic, was maintained in the open position most of the time. Sticking nearly straight up into the air it was a widely visible local landmark.

In the 1950s a new Walnut Grove-Thornton Road was laid across the top of the island connecting River Road to the Miller's Bridge. This led to a new commercial area into which Walnut Grove business expanded. The old road remains along the Tyler Slough levee. The most famous road is Racetrack Road. This is where Allie Brown (Alex's youngest son who died circa 1918), who owned standardbred pacers, worked them out. He had both stables and racetrack. His "Aristo" and "Alice" won several cups and prizes on the circuit. ("Aristo" was also used as an Alex Brown asparagus label.) After the March 1907 flood, he moved his stables to Woodland, Yolo County.

Avian wildlife winters regularly on the island, preferring lightly flooded acreage. Yearly, sandhill cranes, snow swans, cattle egrets, geese ducks and others are seen.

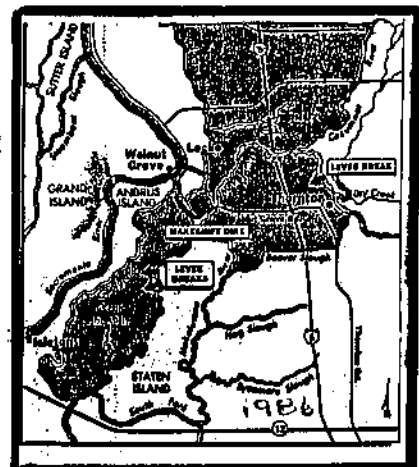
No towns were settled on Tyler island and no schools established. The most significant residence on the island was built by John Miller, an Italianate two-store brick residence with covered front veranda. It was later occupied by the Danforths and then Lum Bun Fong until it burned in the 1940s. The population of upper Tyler gravitated towards Walnut Grove and that of lower Tyler gravitated towards Isleton. Both towns have such interesting histories, they will be treated in separate articles.

This concludes our series on islands. We have not written about Staten Island or Bouldin Island in San Joaquin County and Randall Island, near Courtland, has had few land holders. Nor have we been able to find anything about Hensley, for whom the adjacent Slough was named. If anyone can contribute information on these islands, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the editors.

Sources:

California Drawbridges by Bernard C. Winn
History of Sacramento County by Thompson and West
The Tulebreakers by Edward Dutra and John Thompson
Flood Chronologies and Aftermaths Affecting the Lower Sacramento River 1878-1909 by John Thompson
 Delta Residents, past and present, and various miscellaneous resources.

The Flood of 1986



Flooded area is shaded

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SAMUEL HALLEY (*May Meeting*)

Samuel Halley was born in Kentucky around 1870. He graduated from the University of Kentucky after which he and his brother, also an educator, moved to California. The exact date is not known, but they were in California before the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Both became school principals — Samuel at the San Rafael Military Academy and his brother at Modesto High School. Samuel married in his early fifties. His wife died in childbirth leaving him with baby daughter, Theresa. Theresa lived with relatives in Patterson and with a German Baptist family. "Pop" Halley came to Courtland High School as principal in 1922. In 1926, Theresa joined her father in Courtland, living in the apartments next to (then) Miller and Jackson's store. These are the early facts of her life as related by Theresa Maria Halley Maxwell. She attended Bates School and Courtland High School. Mr. Kishpaugh, the manual arts teacher, and his two children also lived in the apartments. Theresa and the Kishpaugh daughter had string phones between floors and did other things (hiding) which sometimes got them spanked. Among the landmarks in Courtland, Theresa remembers the boardwalk, the bank and Miller and Jackson store.

Theresa knew her father as "Daddy" and was not aware of the appellation "Pop". Mr. Halley was known to students as a bit of a martinet, although there were no real horror stories—just a few people getting caught off base. Someone suggested that Coach John Quinn was always there as backup. In one of the La Peritas dedicated to him, he is referred to as "that fine old southern gentleman." Elliot Stevenson remembers Mr. Halley waiting for him at the top of the stairs each morning in case he was a minute or two late. Long after Mr. Halley left it was suggested he would have been of service in quieting the halls between classes. The Halleys spent weekends and summers on the Modesto farm and Mr. Halley raised tomato plants in the school science lab for the farm. Theresa remembers some trips to San Francisco on the Delta King or Queen. Mr. Halley was never seen in Courtland wearing anything but his black suit and he sported an outstanding mustache which twitched with annoyance. But for farming he wore bibbed overalls and, once, to his granddaughter's chagrin, in downtown Palo Alto. Theresa and two children lived with him in Courtland the last year of Samuel Halley's tenure (wartime) and then he retired to the farm in Modesto which is still in the family.

There were several other members of the class of 1936 at the meeting and there was a general discussion of activities. School activities included the La Perita (edited by Manny Cunha that year), a play each year and athletic teams. On weekends, students journeyed to Sacramento and the Alhambra, Hippodrome or Senator theater before adjourning to Zips on the corner of Sutterville Road and Freeport Boulevard for hamburgers. Courtland fixtures mentioned included Eddy Electric, Dr. Primasing and Walt Goodman, the local deputy. In addition to Mr. Halley who taught Latin, Mr. Kishpaugh in the wood shop, John Quinn as Coach, Mildred Quinn who was the business teacher, Mrs. Higgins who taught English and Sophie Lent were also recalled. Nelson Eddy recalled the annual Halloween tomato fights with Rio Vista High School, especially one in which he received a black eye and was questioned the next day by Mr. Halley. Nelson maintained that obviously he could not have participated with a black eye.

The History Society meeting, held in the Courtland Community Church, was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our thanks to the refreshment committee, Clarisse Jonson, Jerry Waterworth and Judy Eddy.

(Ed. note: Courtland High School began in the basement of Bates Elementary School in 1917 with one student, Alicia Buckley, who graduated in 1918. The High School building was first occupied in 1921, just before Mr. Halley's arrival. Mr. Kyte was the first principal, followed by Mr. Mower in 1919 and W.J. Alexander in 1920 and 1921. Mr. S.J. Halley reigned from 1922 through 1943 and was succeeded by Mr. Lawrence A. Duffield who was followed by Mel Hoyt, 1946-1954; M.K. Goodridge, 1954-1960; and Don Purdy until 1967 when Courtland High School was merged with Clarksburg to form Delta High School.)

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE RIVER DISTRICT LABELS?

"Blue Parrot"	Earl Fruit Co.
"Buy the Best"	Sacramento River Assn.
"California Bartletts"	Lambert Packing Co.
"Delta King"	deBack & Co.
"Delta Queen"	deBack & Co.
"Covert Brand"	Covert Orchards, Courtland
"Fancy Bartletts"	E.M. Simpson, Hood
"ORR Brand"	Runyon & Dorsey
"King's Taste"	Runyon & Stephenson
"Lydia"	J.H. Thomas Co., Ryer Island
"Pioneer Special Pack"	Lambert Marketing Co.
"Queen Brand"	American Fruit Growers
"River Gold"	Pacific Fruit Exchange
"Royal Orchard"	B.B. Green
"Sacramento River"	P.H. McGrath, Sutter Island
"Western Shore"	Western Shore Orchard, Hood
"C.W. Locke"	Locke
"Life Brand"	Dennis W. Leary
"Have One!"	A. David J. Elliot Product
"Gold Crest"	Simons & French
"Gobbler"	Earl Fruit Co.
"Golden Cluster"	Pacific Fruit Exchange
"Diamond S"	E.M. Simpson
"Circle C Brand"	E.J. Cowing, Hood
"Blue Flag"	Earl Fruit Co.
"Richland Orchard"	Hood
"Pride of the River"	C.W. Locke & Son
"Honeymoon"	American Fruit Growers
"Netherlands Brand"	J.L. Aldrich
"Ideal Bartletts"	M.R. Dean, Courtland

PYLMAN FAMILY

The Ralph Henry Pylman family emigrated from Leovarden, Friesland, Holland in 1882. In Holland their names had Dutch spellings (RAELF HENDRIKS PYLMAN and ALBERTJI HARTEMA), but the story most of you may have heard that Pylman was spelled Pijman is probably not true. Research in the Amsterdam phone book reveals that there are as many P-Y-Ls as P-I-Js and several other families who came to America between 1890 and 1920 and spell their name P-Y-L. As an aside, PYL in Dutch means "arrow," so maybe the name signified a weapons maker or a hunter. The state of Friesland is an area where there were many dairies. Ralph was said to have been in the peat business—that is cutting peat from the ground to be used as fuel. The family's fortunes, for whatever reason, were not financially the best and they chose to respond to encouragements written by Albertie's family and friends who had previously settled along the Sacramento River. It is said that the area with waterways and levees looked very much like parts of Holland with rich soil and a climate that would accommodate agriculture in general and dairying in particular.

This group arrived at Ellis Island on September 16th on the ship Demetic and then took another ship around the horn to San Francisco, arriving in the late fall of 1882. There were seven children ranging in age from 14 to only 2 years old. The voyage was a rough one for everyone. The baby was so ill, they feared he would die.

To quote one oral history, "They were able to rent a house and some acreage along Elk Slough just south of CR#142. Their resources were meager, and Ralph was not prepared either by training or inclination to do well in a frontier community. The family consisted of seven children, three small boys—Henry (7), Amos (4), and Garrett (2)—and four older girls—Alida, Charlotte, Ida, and Jennie—and the indomitable mother, Albertie, who had to feed, guide, and inspire the family to dig in, make do, and forge ahead." However it is told that as soon as the boys were old enough to work, Grandpa retired to the porch with his long pipe and dreams of returning to Holland.

The family worked hard under the pioneer conditions, and all the children did more than their share. The older children walked 5 miles to school in Clarksburg. Lyda soon had to leave school as there was work to be done at home; and as the few cows increased in number, Lottie and Ida left school and worked too. Jennie finished school and briefly lived in Sacramento to acquire some business education. Henry, the oldest of the boys, quit school after the 6th grade to work on the farm. At 16, he had saved enough to buy a team of horses and earn hire for himself and the team when he could be spared at home. The extra money was as vital as his help at home.

In 1900, the three brothers pooling resources were able to purchase 240 acres from J.B. Greene (for \$10,000 the records says) on Merritt Island. The virgin land produced large crops of beans and the land was paid for in three years. Henry, Amos, and Garrett farmed as Pylman Brothers until 1913 when they divided the efforts and the property. In the few years from 1900 to 1913, the brothers expanded their holdings. They purchased the Nelson Ranch, 163-acre King Ranch from Benjamin Chambers for \$20,000 in 1903, and two other places.

Henry and Nettie Smith and their large family of Albert, Alice, Thornton, Gordon, George, Jackie, and Evelyn lived on the King Ranch. Henry's sister, Jennie, married Edward Bunnell and had sons Norman and

Elwood, and for years of work at home was given a sizeable payment on the ranch located along the river just south of CR#142. Lottie married John Heringer and they bought the next ranch along the river frontage. They adopted an infant nephew, Raymond Bish. Next south was acreage that Amos, married to Nellie Perry with Children Harvy and Ralph, moved into. Shortly Lyda, now married to Bill Atkins with four young children—Della, John, Nellie, and Henry, occupied the next ranch south. The Nelson Ranch provided a home for Garrett and mother, Albertie, who had been widowed in 1906, and later wife, Maybelle McGilivary and their four children—Robert, Emeline, James, and Ethylmae. The only one to leave the river was Ida, who married Alec Creason and settled in the Fresno area with children, Jessie, Lester, Byron, and Charlotte.

Each family built a home along the river—one next to the other. Thus, there was established a real enclave—sort of Pylman Row! There was a mile and a half of family. And the next generation repeated the pattern with some taking over an old house and others building new ones. Even now there are members of generations #4 and #5 repeating the pattern and "coming home." A majority of the males continued the farming traditions, but many of the girls received advanced educations and eventually moved away, but they remain on the "invitation" lists for celebrations and close in the heart of the families, and even after much time away, some come back to live. Twenty of the first cousins grew up and old together.

An article from "History of the State of California and Biographical Record of the Sacramento Valley, California," 1906, J.M. Guinn, A.M. (reportedly a biography was \$10, with picture \$50) tells us of the Ralph Henry Pylman family in more colorful prose. "The record of the Pylman family in California is a record of persevering industry and untiring energy. Father and sons unitedly have labored to promote their mutual welfare and have counted no labor too difficult when by its successful accomplishment the general prosperity might be promoted. Ralph Henry Pylman, head of the family, is a Hollander by birth and parentage and grew to manhood in his native land where he married and engaged in farming until more than forty years of age. As his children began to grow up around him and the necessary expenses of the family increased, he began to realize that in Holland little expectation could be maintained of getting ahead in the world. The utmost frugality scarcely sufficed to provide the family with a scanty livelihood and nothing could be saved for future needs. For this reason he was led to seek a home in America, crossing the ocean in 1881 with his family and proceeding directly to San Francisco, from there coming to Merritt Island to Yolo County, where he has since made his home...The father, who is now sixty-five, is practically retired, and in his declining years enjoys the comforts secured through previous efforts. The kindness of his sons, Henry Lester, Amos, and Garrett M., who are partners, has relieved him of all manual labor... Politically the father and sons affiliate with the Republican party. Thoroughly loyal to the land of their adoption, they yet retain a deep affection for their native land across the sea. In the sons this affection is one of sentiment rather than knowledge, for they were small when the family left Holland. Having lived practically all their lives in the new world, they have become American

OLD SACRAMENTO (March Meeting)

Our announced speaker, Cliff Hagle, went to the hospital and we wish him well. He was replaced by three members of the Old Sacramento Living History Group. They stroll through Old Sacramento in costume and bring color and action to the scene.

Sue Remboldt, aka Lavinia Waterhouse, was born in 1809 in New Jersey. She was married for 20 years, had 13 children, and then moved to California in 1850 with the three remaining children. (The others had perished of influenza, etc.) They lived on a ranch in the foothills. Her husband, Charles Waterhouse, died and she had an 8-bedroom brick house at 8th and I. She took in boarders, was a midwife (attended the birth of Nellie Crocker), and ran the Sacramento Water Treatment Hospital. (Alternative medicine was popular back then too!) She became very wealthy and married a Mr. Mulgrow who lived down the block. They never did live together. She was very independent and wrote poetry. In the 1870s she became a suffragist, knew Susan B. Anthony, and attended a convention in Washington, D.C. In 1880 she retired and moved to Pacific Grove where she died in 1890.

Charlotta Parker roams Old Sacramento as Rosanna Hughes Keenan who witnessed a murder in Sacramento in 1850 and fled to El Dorado where she made some money. In Sacramento, she bought a large brick (8-bedroom) house on Third Street between J and K. It was a house for young women where they served food and wine and perhaps gambled a bit. In 1885, Rosanna was accused of running a house of "ill repute." A policeman reported 50-75 men entering her house from the Orleans Hotel during one evening. Her husband, John Keenan, testified that they ran a saloon with food and spirits. They went to British Columbia and returned later. Rosanna also owned a house in San Francisco. Her establishments were elite—top drawer. There were a dozen levels of houses of ill repute from luxurious mansions to cribs and the streets.

Andrea Dayton told us of coming activities of the Living Historians—the Saturday before Easter, an Easter Bonnet Parade; when they open the new docks, there will be an 1800s bathing suit parade. We found out our President, Terry Alchorn, and his wife, Jayne, are developing the characters of Sol and Adelaide Runyon to stroll through Old Sacramento. If you are interested in being a street thespian, call Terry.

After the more formal presentation, we sat around and chatted about the costumes and activities of the old days in Sacramento. There were so few women that for dancing purposes some men wore patches indicating they

were women. Sacramento was one of the few places that women could own property in those days. The ladies not only make their costumes—skirts, dresses, numerous petticoats, crinolines or hoop skirts, vests, mantles and corsets, but they also haunt thrift shops for jewelry, hats and shoes. Fashion did not change much from year to year and clothes were pretty simple for those who had crossed the planes.

We are also indebted to Terry and Jayne for the coffee and brownies that ended the evening. Thanks for another pleasant and entertaining evening.

It seems appropriate to mention the Eagle Theater, the first theater in Sacramento, which operated for part of the year during 1849. It was constructed, as most of Sacramento in those days, of canvas and wood. Floods and fires destroyed the original, but the replica located on Front Street is always active and has plays and other entertainment for children of all ages.

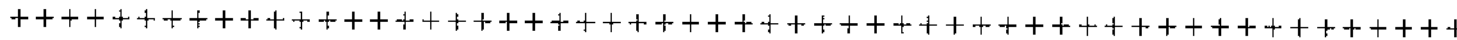
WESTERN WOMEN (January Meeting)

Melissa (Mo) Stevenson treated us to four "biologs" of Women of the West.

The first was Abigale West who roped cattle and tramped west from Illinois to Oregon. In 1872, she was told she had to be practical and could not be a lawyer. She had lots of suitors and married Ben Dunaway after removing the obey part of the marriage vows. In spite of that, they had seven children. Abigale was a writer and hard scrabble suffragist at a time and place where there was no equality for women. She formed the Oregon Equal Suffrage Society which Susan B. Anthony visited. Abigale edited a newspaper and at 81 she died of an infected toe that she treated herself.

The second lady of the evening was Jeannette Rankin. Born in Montana, she was a suffragist and legislator. She listened to men talk—Chief Joseph was her hero. She studied in New York and then spoke to the Montana Legislature as a suffragist. She ran for Congress funded by her brother. She spoke in pool halls, churches, saloons, on the streets, etc. It took three days to count the vote and find out that she was the first woman elected to Congress. Her first vote was against WWI — the only negative vote. She later voted against entering WWII, again the only negative vote. Jeannette was a true believer in peace! She introduced bills about women's needs—health, etc. She was called a "Senior Hippie" during the 1960s when, at 86 years of age, she led an anti-Vietnam War march of 10,000 people.

(see WESTERN, p. 6)



ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN

Do you know someone, family or friend, who would enjoy hearing about and supporting the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society? It's fun to be part of preserving and sharing our local history.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (____) _____

- Regular \$10.00
- Family/Business \$25.00
- Patron \$50.00
- Life \$150.00

Make check payable to: SRDHS
P.O. Box 293, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society publishes the SACRAMENTO RIVER DELTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (SRDHS) NEWSLETTER twice a year (December and June).

WESTERN WOMEN *(continued from p. 5)*

Our third western woman from history was Virginia Reed Murphy, a child of 12 years on the Donner Party trip from Illinois to California in 1846. They had an elegant wagon—piano, et al. She was frightened of Indians. Some were friendly and some were not. Virginia's grandmother died on the trip and in an effort to keep her body from Indians and animals, they found a tree, hollowed it out, and sealed grandma's body in it. There were some pleasures on the trip like pleasant evenings round the campfire. However, the Donner Party decided to try Lansford Hasting's cutoff to the Sierra. They were late in the year already and then the desert was 80 miles across instead of the expected 40. Their animals were no longer fit and a lot of them died. During an argument that they tried to break up, a man struck Mrs. Reed and Mr. Reed killed him. As a result, the rest of the group sent Mr. Reed out of the group. (Someone supplied him with some food on the trail.) Virginia took over the family at that time. They were too late to get over the summit and were trapped for the winter by raging storms. It was terrible! They ate boiled hides and some people starved and died. The Reed family was the only one to get through without eating human flesh. Of the 31 people who left Illinois, only 18 arrived in California. Mr. Reed had made it through and led rescue parties into the Sierra.

The last lady was a "soiled dove," unconventional but a survivor. Poker Alice Tubbs was Queen of the Western gamblers. She came from England to Virginia during the Civil War. Then on to Colorado where she married Frank Dipple who was killed in a mine cave-in. Alice and her six-shooter turned to gambling. In Silver City, New Mexico, she gambled in a saloon and won \$10,000. She then went east and lived like a queen until her money ran out. Alice married Mr. Tubbs and they lived happily on his chicken ranch. Mr. Tubbs died and then she returned to gambling—never cheated and never gambled on Sunday. There was a disagreement one night and someone followed Alice home and she shot him through the door. She was convicted of murder and paroled back to the chicken ranch. At the age of 79 she needed an operation and was told it was a gamble. Of course, she took the gamble—and lost.

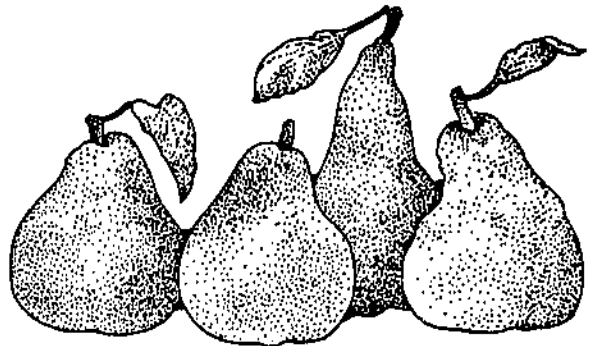
Mo Stevenson and her husband were delightful additions to our dinner. Mo's deft costume and character changes were wonderful and made for a very entertaining evening.

PYLMAN FAMILY *(continued from p. 4)*

in enterprise, thought and ambitions. To the parents, however, who spent many years in the Netherlands, the recollection of the mother country is very vivid. Often, as they converse with each other and with their children, they use by preference the old Dutch language to which their lips became accustomed in their childhood years. With all their love for the old home land, yet as they look out upon their broad acres, with two hundred acres in beans and large tract in hay and barley, and as they look upon their seventy head of fine dairy cows, they can have no reason to regret having cast their fortunes with the new west." (Ed. note: This article is an abstract of a talk written and delivered by Linda Pylman for the Pylman Family Reunion last year (1997).)

SOCIETY NOTES *(continued from p. 1)*

There are a number of historical venues to visit this summer. The Folsom Museum has a quilt exhibit and gold panning. Old Sacramento has constant entertainment in the streets, stores and museums. The Old City Cemetery is good for a tour or just to poke around. The Towe Auto Museum still has a marvelous car collection—not all Fords but all vintage and interesting. Many of the people who bought cars at the Towe auction left them in the museum. Rae House is open some Saturdays during the summer. There is always something going on at Micke Grove near Lodi. Take a child or grandchild and go for a tour—many of the museums are air-conditioned.



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