

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. NO. 12:

Yuba City, California.

Jan. 21, 1958



MID-WINTER MEETING
SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
January 21, 1958 - 8 P.M.
CHAMBERS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Sutter County Office Bldg.
(Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 P.M.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 21, 1958 at 7:30 P.M.

It is necessary to have a Board of Directors Meeting before the general session. Would the following people please be present:

Randolph Schnabel	Mrs. Ida Doty
Mrs. Honora Laney	Bert Ulrey
Mrs. Bernice Gibson	W.A. Glenn
Earl Ramey	Mrs. L. D. Baun
Harold Moore	Mrs. Eleanor Reische
Mrs. Irmina Rudge	

YUBA

A. M. Robertson, Publisher, 1922

The name of Yuba was first applied to the river the chief tributary of the Feather. The theory has been advanced that it received the name of Uba or Uva, the Spanish word for grapes, from an exploring party in 1824, in reference to the immense quantities of vines loaded with wild grapes growing along its banks. Uba becoming corrupted into Yuba, but Powers, in his Tribes of California, says Yuba is derived from a tribe of Maidu Indians named Yu-ba who lived on the Feather River. This is probably the true explanation of the name. Fremont refers to the name in his Memoirs, "We traveled across the valley plain and in about 16 miles reached Feather River, at 20 miles from its junction with the Sacramento, near the mouth of the Yuba, so called from a village of Indians who live on it. The Indians aided us across the river with canoes and small rafts. Extending along the bank in front of the village was a range of wicker cribs, about 12 feet high partly filled with what is the Indians' staff of life, acorns.

A collection of huts, shaped like bee-hives, with naked Indians sunning themselves on the tops, and these acorn cribs, are the prominent objects in an Indian village.

The English name the Feather River was originally called El Rio de las Plumas (The River of the Feathers). In 1820 feathers of wild fowl floating on the water attracted the attention of Captain Luis A. Arguello who gave it the name El Rio de las Plumas.

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 1ST MEETING

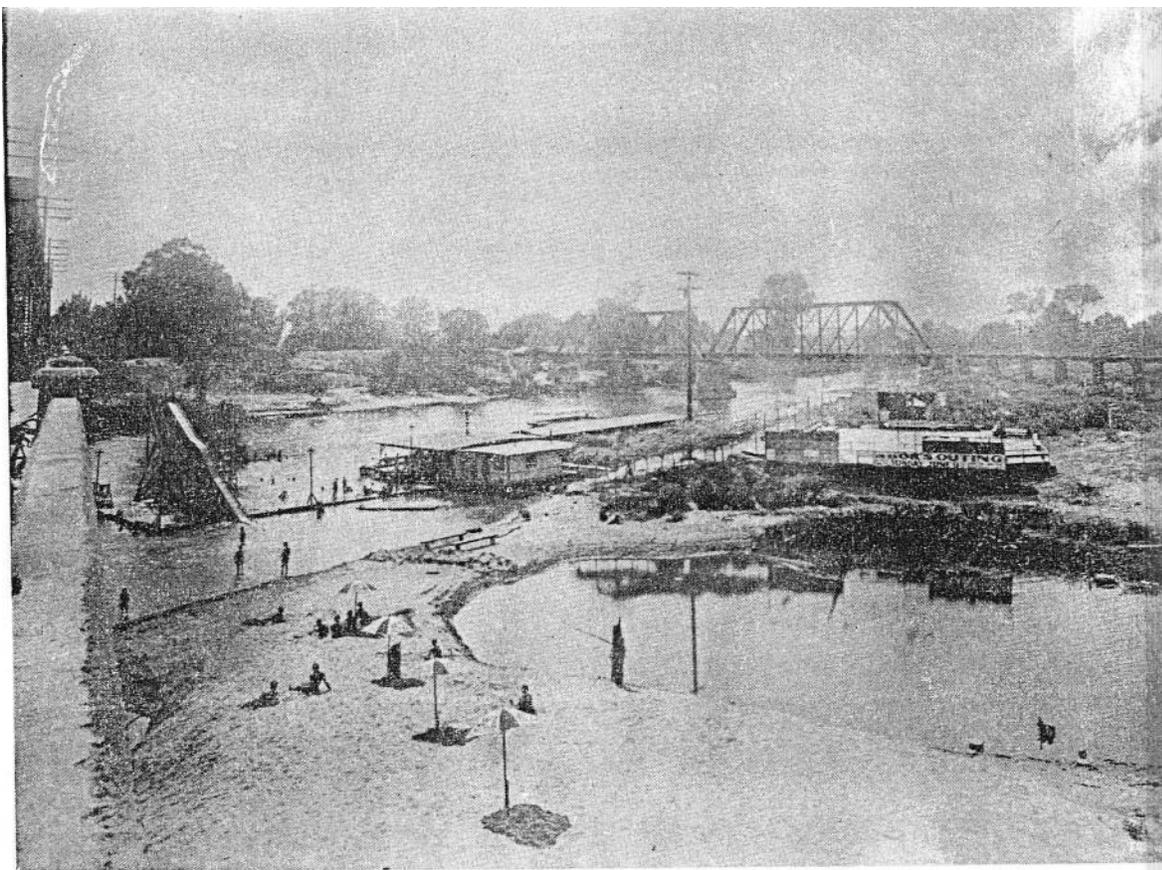
Earl Ramey - General Chairman of Program

Panel Discussion: You Were There

Randolph Schnabel - Moderator

Panel Members:

Frank Bremer, Judge Hugh Moncur, Bert Ullrey,
Judge Arthur Coats, Ed Von Geldern, Herman Wolfskill,
Eugene Boyd



Feather River Railroad Bridge North of Fifth St. Bridge
1910

CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

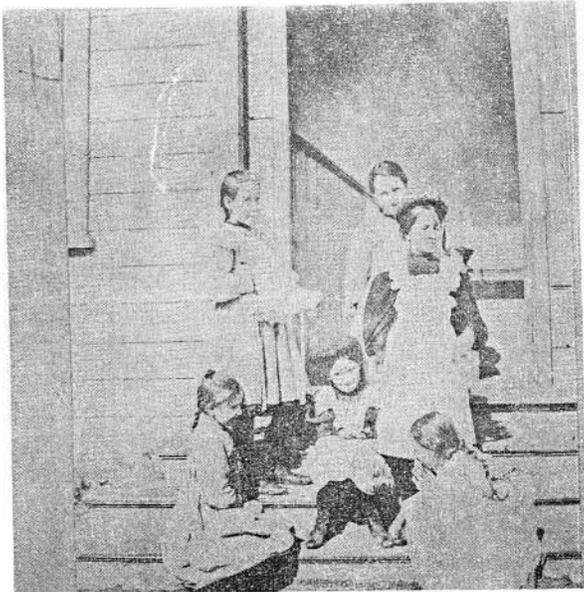
The Conference of California Historical Societies is an association of some eighty historical societies and other organizations with a similar interest. Many individuals are associate members. It is not another historical society but, as its name implies, is a group which convenes to discuss means of making its members more effective in their several activities. We invite you to read more about our organization as outlined on the back page.

Through the courtesy of the College of the Pacific our headquarters is maintained on the campus at Stockton.

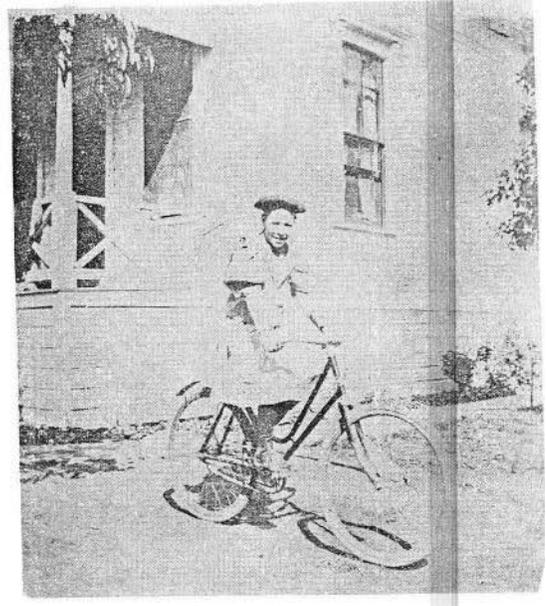
Conference of California Historical Societies
College of the Pacific, Stockton 4, California

A report from Henry Mauldin, Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee and President of the Lake County Historical Society, states that plans are being made for a barbecue to be held on Thursday evening, June 26, at the Lake County Fair Grounds as the opening event in the Annual Meeting to be held at Hoberg's June 26, 27, 28, 1958. Delegates would have an opportunity, also, to see the collection of museum pieces of early Lake County farm life, such as old style tractors, farm machinery, and hand tools that are too large to house in the museum. Nearby is the museum which will also be open to delegates. Other interesting events are being considered if they can be scheduled, such as a tour to see open pit mining at the Sulphur Bank Quicksilver Mine, and excursion on Clear Lake, a trip to one or more of the Mineral Springs resorts, and a good Indian display with verbal descriptions.

These plans sound interesting and it looks as if we are destined to have another fine Annual Meeting in 1958.



Prominent citizens of Yuba City
on steps of old C St. School.



Author, Mrs. Ruth Smith Grant
as school girl.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF YUBA CITY
By Ruth Smith Grant

My first real memory of Yuba City was in January 1892, when my father Thomas L. Smith was elected to the office of sheriff of Sutter County.

This necessitated our change of residence from our ranch near Harkeys Corners, which was situated near Township and Oswald Roads, to that of the county seat in Yuba City.

My family consisted of my father, mother and an older brother.

A new world had really opened up to me. Heretofore my playmates had been few, mostly my pet animals.

The two things that impressed me most, as a four year old, were the children that gathered around the old court house to play, for here were found the only cement sidewalks in town. Of course, I soon joined them; and secondly, the oranges that hung from the trees in almost every yard of which I am sure I had my share.

Our home, the Edward Van Arsdale place on C Street stood on the ground where the new county offices are located. In the winter time all this ground was covered with seepage water and what fun we had sailing our bread pan boats around, drawn by strings. Of course, this necessitated making a hole in the side of the pan for which we were strongly reprimanded. But it was really worth the chance.

It was hard to leave our pets at the ranch so we brought some of them with us, a goat that we drove to a small cart, a coon that would turn the water on and then run down the hose and place his paw on the nozzle until the pressure was too strong, then he would release his paw and receive a very unwelcome bath. Oh yes, our two dogs, Beecher, a Scotch Terrier and Jimmy a Hound, took up new residence too.

Directly across C Street from our house to the south stood the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church which we attended.

Beecher liked to sneak unawares to church. One Sunday an Evangelist was holding forth and Beecher got out in the aisle. As the preacher would wax eloquence, the little dog would go him one better, much to the chagrin of my mother. I can still see Mr. Charley Duncan, the father of our late Dr. John Duncan, gathering up Beecher and carrying him outside. The only other church in town at that time was the Methodist Episcopal Church on Yolo Street.

The Yuba City Grammar School was located west of the old court house on the corner of C Street and McRae Way. Here I spent the first four years of my school days. My first and second grade teacher was Miss Tina McAuslin, those parents were early Sutter county pioneers. My third and fourth grade teacher was Miss Nell Brophy whose parents lived in Yuba City. She later married Mr. Glenn Harter, a member of the Senior Harter family. We did not have the books and the comforts that children have today. Our desks and benches were very crude, they were hand-made.

Most of the stores in Yuba City were on the west side of 2nd Street between Fairman and Bridge. Some of those that I recall were Uncle Cale Wilcoxon's Grocery Store located where Johnny's Quick Lunch stands, a barber shop, butcher shop, post office, Barr's Candy Store and Mr. John Duncan's Grocery Store near where Bremers Store is today. We liked to buy candy from Uncle John since he gave us more for our 5¢ than anyone else. The Windsor Hotel run by the family of our Judge Hugh Moncur was a very popular place on Second Street. Where the present hotel stands a flour mill did a flourishing business. Mr. Dosby's Drug Store, with the tall glass bottles filled with colored water always caught our attention. On the east side of Second Street we found the blacksmith shops, tin shop and the brewery. The only bank was located on Bridge Street between Johnny's Quick Lunch and its present location. It was known as the Farmer's Union Bank. If one wanted to buy a spool of thread they had to go to Marysville since there was not a dry goods store in Yuba City. The only sidewalks were on Second Street and they were wooden ones and very high to avoid the mud and such. The streets were knee-deep with mud in winter and dust in summer. I remember my brother William T. Smith riding horseback down Second Street in the mud to get the groceries.

The only lights in town were in front of the court house and at Wilcoxon's Corner. These were gas lights that were lighted each evening and turned off in the morning by the lamp lighter.

Chinese women from Marysville came often to pick up the beetles that gathered around the lights and fell upon the ground. Chinese food has never been attractive to me because I always recall the Beetle gathering.

I think riding across the covered bridge that spanned the Feather gave me more thrills than any other one thing in my early experiences. The bridge was located south of the present structure. The Yuba City approach was on the ground where the Veterans Memorial of World War I was located.

Mr. Fletcher Bickley who was the bridge tender on our side always kept his eyes peeled upon the traffic that came and went across. The most important thing was to obey the sign "Walk Your Horses" and he saw to it that you did just that.

Keeping to the right was of great importance as the bridge was divided in the middle. It was hazardous to walk across on your own power. One time my brother and some friends were walking and a herd of cattle came crowding in at the other end and they were compelled to climb the beams to escape injury. It was sort of dark and smelly in the bridge and the beat of the horses hoofs sounded loud and spooky. The only lights came in from the open windows and they were few and small. Of course, at night it was pitch dark, no lights inside or out.

The public transportation between Yuba City and Marysville was by means of a small street car drawn by two small mules. Several trips were made each day. On festive occasions a second car was brought into use. Mr. David E. Knight the owner of the car system had several pairs of mules, so after each trip the animals were changed so they might have a rest.

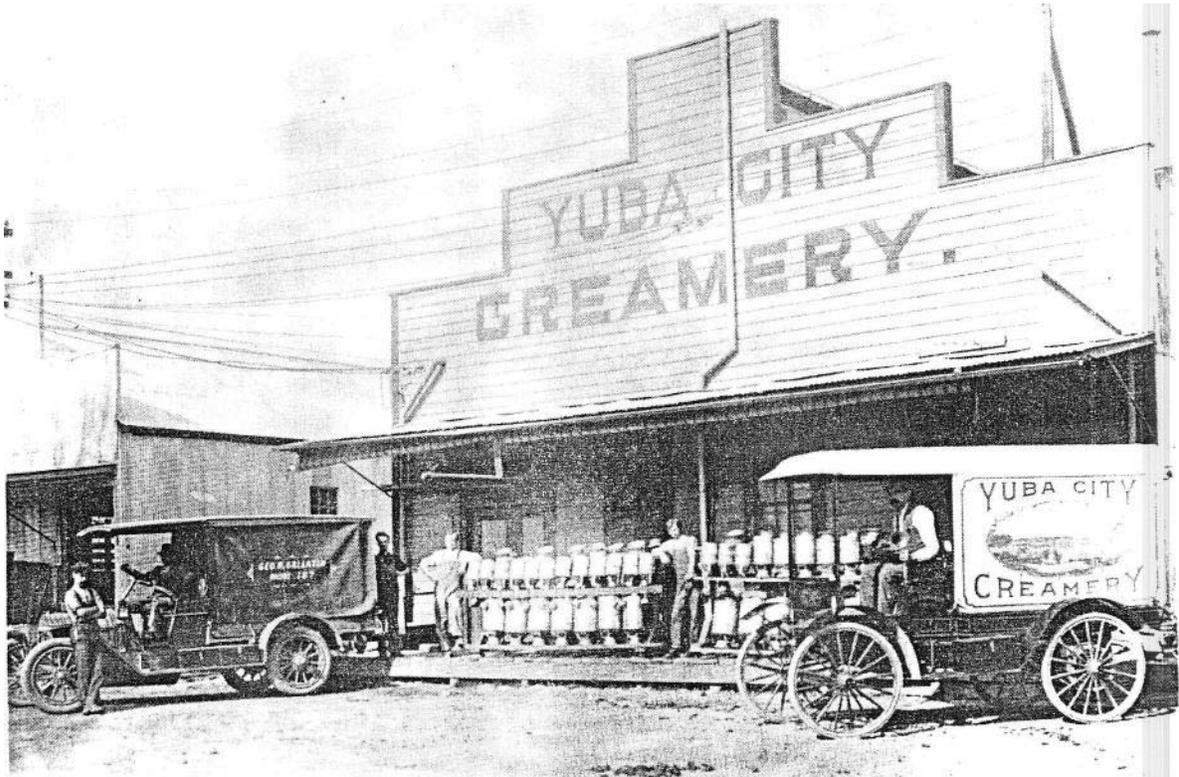
Mr. Tom Peirano, Mrs. Estelle Crowhurst's father, was the driver of the mules. How well I remember the blacksnake with which he gently tapped the little fellows to start them out. Then there was the hand brake he turned off at will. If a large crowd was aboard, the men always helped to push the car up the grade to the covered bridge.

The route included Second Street south to B Street, then west on B to Plumas where it turned going north to Bridge, down this street and back to the covered bridge, and to Marysville via the Fifth Street Grade.

One of our pastimes was placing objects upon the tracks just to see them flatten out where the car passed over them. Occasionally Mr. Peirano would have to apply the brakes, get out and remove the obstacles, not forgetting to kindly admonish us for such pranks.

It is hard to realize that west, south and north of Plumas Street was one expanse of grain fields with now and then a few fig and olive trees. At the south of Second Street the Giblin Brothers had a flourishing cherry orchard. The land on the sides of the slough was a dense thicket with a few patches of wild berries growing here and there.

Much more could be told about my early experiences in Yuba City, but such was the environment in which I spent my early childhood. When I look back on these happy days, the many playmates I had, and the life-long friends that were made, there comes to my thoughts happy memories indelibly stamped upon my mind.



Sutter County Court House after fire.