

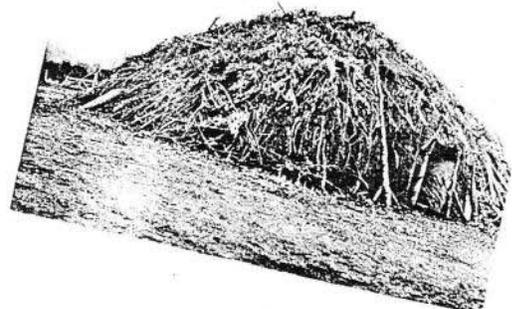
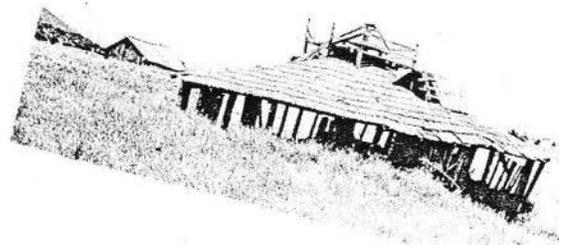
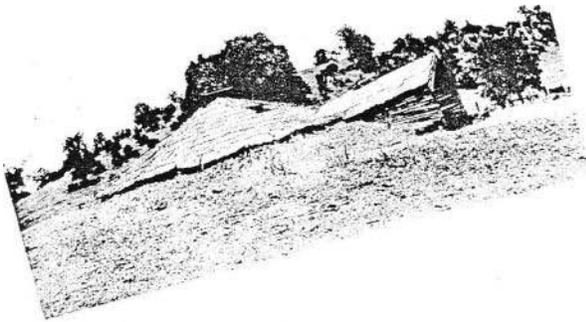
SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. 2 No. 11

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 17 1961



TYPICAL VALLEY INDIAN HOMES

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 1961

TUESDAY EVENING - 8 P.M.

PLACE: Board of Supervisors Chambers
County Office Building, 2nd Street
PRESIDENT: Mrs. Florence Arritt
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: Randolph Schnabel

PROGRAM

SPEAKER: Waddell F. Smith
President, National Pony Express
Centennial Association
TOPIC: The History of the Pony Express and
Its Centennial

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

October 5, 1961

The Board of Directors of Sutter County Historical Society met in regular session October 5, 1961 at 7:30 P.M. in the office of the County Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Mrs. Ida Littlejohn in the absence of the president, Mrs. Florence Arritt. Mrs. Arritt is on her vacation traveling in the southwest and visiting many spots of historic interest such as Tombstone, Arizona.

The minutes of the July Board meeting and regular meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer reported cash in the bank \$737.33. Film Fund \$447.00 and general fund \$290.33. Mr. Ramey reported a membership of 111. Fifteen new members were secured at the county fair booth.

The following bills were approved for payment: Valley Print Shop - Membership Cards, Stationery \$41.70. County of Sutter - Bulletin pictures \$6.20. Earl Ramey - Postage \$3.50.

Program Chairman, Randolph Schnabel reported the program had already been arranged for the annual dinner meeting in January. Mrs. Gibson presented an invitation to the Sutter County Historical Society to entertain the Symposium of Historical Societies of Northern California and Southern Oregon in the fall of 1962. It was necessary to pass the word on immediately as the Symposium is in session in Ashland, Oregon this weekend, October 6 - 7 - 8. It was moved by Randolph Schnabel and seconded by W. A. Greene that we accept the invitation to entertain the Symposium in 1962. It was unanimously agreed to ask the Mary Aaron Museum Association to be co-hostess with the Sutter County Historical Society.

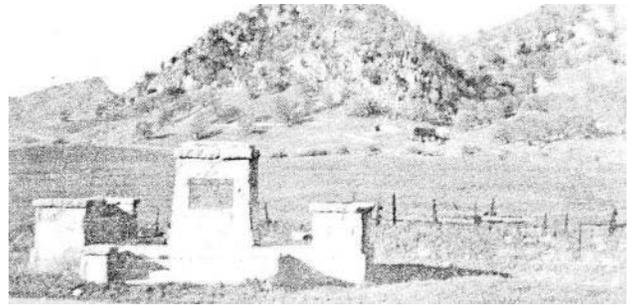
Mrs. Florence Arritt, President was appointed General Chairman.

The by-laws committee asked for an extension of time to report on the by-laws. Other changes than membership dues appear to warrant change. The committee will report at the January Board of Directors meeting and the revisions will be run in the January Bulletin.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

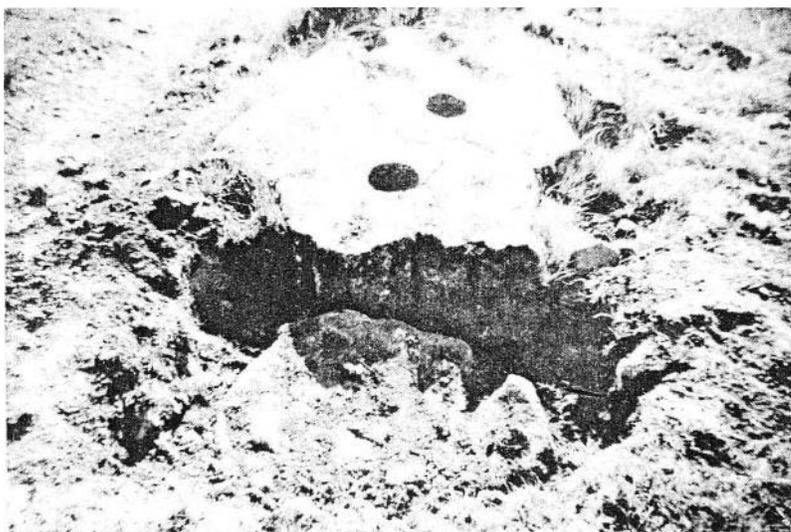
Those Present: Mrs. Ida Littlejohn, Mrs. Frances Laney, Mrs. Emmet Gibson, Earl Ramey, Randolph Schnabel and W. A. Greene, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernice B. Gibson, Secretary



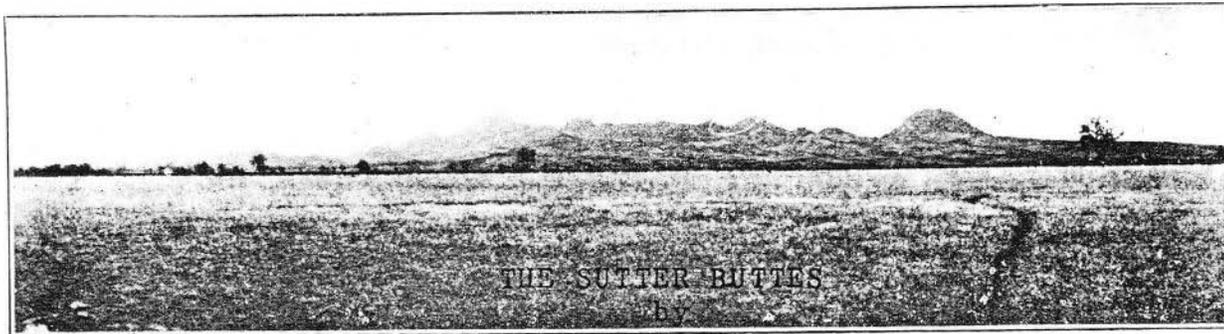
FREMONT MONUMENT SUTTER BUTTE PASS

SUTTER BUTTES ARE A PICTURESQUE GROUP OF THREE VOLCANIC HILLS IN NORTHERN SUTTER COUNTY. COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM THE COAST RANGE AND THE SIERRA NEVADA, THEY RISE UNEXPECTEDLY FROM THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIKE A SMALL STRAY MOUNTAIN RANGE. IN THE SPRING THEIR SLOPES ARE CLAD IN THE BEAUTY OF MYRIAD WILDFLOWERS AND NATIVE SHRUBS.



INDIAN ROCK CORRAL - EAST BUTTE

INDIAN ACORN MORTARS IN ONE LARGE ROCK IN EAST BUTTE AREA



THE SUTTER BUTTES
by
Frances McFeeley Jommen

Several million years, ago, during the geological Greacous period, the Sutter Buttes forced their appearance upon the earth's scene. Volcanic pressure pushed the huge dome about a mile into the air before the activity ceased. Erosion took over, and the big plug was eaten away by wind and water approximately to its uneven contours of today. Then volcanic activity again occurred, this time pouring streams of mud into the valley. A crater formed in the central part of the dome, but geologists have never been able to discover any appreciable traces of lava flow. Long of interest to geologist and geology students, the Sutter Buttes were called by Howell Williams, head of the department of geology at the University of California, and an expert on volcanics one of the most interesting and unique formations in the United State, Each year students from the University of California make a trip to the Buttes where they map the southern quarter. The geology is complicated, but the structures are well exposed on the southern side because of the lack of vegetation. Today the hills stand at a maximum height of 2,132 feet above sea level, appearing much higher due to the fact that the valley they rest on is scarcely more than a hundred feet above sea level. The outer fringe of the Buttes is composed almost solely of a ring of loose sediment which resulted from the second peri-of activity. The next ring contains tall cliffs of volcanic rock, this layer of upturned material being tilted in all directions away from the crater. The crater of the Buttes is now scarcely visible, having been collapsed and worn down and filled with its own debris.¹

INDIANS

The Maidu (meaning people) Indians occupied a large area of Central California, and were the occupants of the Sacramento Valley.

Their story goes back to the time when the great valleys were covered by an inland sea. When the force of storms or water broke through at the Golden Gate, the water receded. The first people came down from the mountains, to the north on a raft, and landed on what we call the Sutter Buttes.

As the Sutter Buttes were the site of the beginning of the Maidu, these Indians also believed that when a Maidu died his spirit went to the Buttes, which they called Spirit Mountain; there the spirit rested washed its face at the springs, then set out from its top for "Heaven: Valley," following the Milky Way. He would be greeted there by the Creator who has a basket of choice food which is always full.

At the top of the North Butte is an interesting rock with an alt hollowed out. Toe and hand holds lead up to the resting place which looks so much like an altar. Here, it is said the Indians watched for SMOKE messages in the northern mountains. If the message told of a

¹Sentinels of California's Great Valley, an article by Bernard Fontana, 1948, unpublished but is on file at the Sutter Historical Society, Yuba City, California

big flood coming down the river, before it reached this locality, he could warn the Indians and they could move their belongings and families to safety.¹

Another legend of the Indians reads as follows: A few hundred years ago the Indians gathered on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Night had fallen, but toward the direction in which the sun had dropped was a huge tower of flame reaching skyward in great bursts. By day this same flaming mass could be seen to emanate from mountains in the center of a great sea. "The Great Smoking Mountain in the waters to the Setting Sun from here" was the Sutter Buttes as they stood amidst the sea of Water covering the Sacramento Valley plain. The "smoking mountain" probably alluded to natural gas ignited by lightning or brush fires. After many more years, the waters receded and the Indians made their way out of the mountains onto the fertile basin level. Some of them moved into the Buttes where they hunted small game and ground their acorns in cups hollowed out in ingeneous boulders.²

¹Minnie B. Jenkins, *The Maidu Indians*, Historical Research B.A.R.

²Bernard L. Fontana, Spirit Mountain, *Sacramento Valley Sentinel*, 1948

The Indians, too have their version of the origin of the Buttes. From Jack Franco, a northwestern Maidu born about 1845 in the vicinity of the present day Durham, in Butte County, California, we have this story.... That night Sky Chief went down into the ground at the foot of the central post of the house and came out at the lake. He went away southward. Nobody saw him go. With his feet he made the Sutter Buttes, and there he waited for the son of Nose Talker...."¹ Another old legend gives a different version. It concerns the tale of an immense and beautiful tortoise who, in her decision to maintain peace in the land, raised the Buttes in the middle of the plain. By this means she hoped to separate contending tribes that were about to make war on one another. Her plan succeeded and bloodshed was prevented. No warrior dared attempt the crossing of the mountains, as the good spirit of the peace-loving tortoise dwelt on the summit and had power to strike down any who might disobey her command.²

The souls of the dead were believed to go to Estobiaim-yamani (in the-centre mountain), where two roads led, one westward to the place where lived Sumuini-were (nose talk), the evil one of the two creators; the other eastward to the home of the good creator, Nen-yepani (big Chief), or Yakasin-yepani (in-the-sky-Chief). The body of this Sky Chief was like gold; in fact, the old people used to say that he was the moon, and his sister the sun. The souls of the peaceful took the eastward road, and those who had killed or fought, the westward. The soul was called either the breath or the heart.³

The following is another Indian legend of the origin of the Buttes: The Indian Creator had just finished molding the Sierra Nevada and Coast

¹Curtis, *North American Indian*, Vol. XIV pp 175, 1924

²McPherrin, Mrs. W.H., Why Indians Never Crossed the Buttes

³Curtis, *North American Indian*, Vol. XIV, page 117, 1924

Range mountains, when, being very satisfied with his work, he dusted his hands off. That dust fell down to the Sacramento Valley to form the Buttes, 2,132 feet in height.¹

Early California explorers didn't regard the Indians of the Buttes very highly, however, whatever may be said against the Maidu people, white man owes him an apology for it was his coming and his diseases which spelled almost total doom for the Maidu race. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the Indians roamed the Buttes no longer, thus giving way to a new period in their history.

¹Program on the Sutter Buttes for the Sutter County Library... March 12, 1948 On file at the Sutter Historical Society)

FIRST WHITE EXPLORERS

In 1808, Gabriel Moraga became the first known white man to see the Buttes. His eleven-man exploring party, in search of mission sites in the Spanish northern settlements took him to a "mountain range in the middle of the valley." The Buttes were the guidepost for this remarkable "Columbus of California," the first known white man to venture into the unknown valley wilderness of the vast Northern California region. It was Moraga who gave the name of "Sacramento" to the overflow plain of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers, a name which has since been attached to the capital city of California.^{1 & 2}

In 1817, another expedition was made, this one by boat from San Francisco. Luis Arguello, then a Spanish Lieutenant, and later one of the first governors of the settlement of San Francisco, was in command. Although Arguello's trip was perhaps not so spectacular as those of Moraga, he did manage to get within sight of the Buttes, which were said to be ten leagues farther on.¹

In 1828, a party of Hudson's Bay Company trappers, headed by the illustrious Jedediah S. Smith, became the third group of white men to see the Buttes. Smith and party trapped in the vicinity of the Buttes.³

The following year, 1829, Michel La Frambeau, a Hudson Bay Company trapper named the cluster of peaks in the middle of the valley "Buttes."⁴

The last well known visitor of the Buttes was John C. Fremont in 1846, United States army officer. In his ten or twelve day stay in the Buttes Fremont held several crucial meetings with men noted for their part in Bear Flags Uprising.⁵

¹Chapman, Charles E., A History of California, the Spanish Period, 1939, page 423

²Hoover & Reash, Historic Spots in California, Stanford Press, 1942

³Drury, Aubrey, California, an Intimate Guide, Harper & Bros. New York, 1935, page 372

⁴Drury, Aubrey, California, an Intimate Guide, Harper & Bros. New York, 1935, page 375

⁵Fremont, John C., Memoirs of My Life, 1887, page 509

FIRST SETTLERS

In 1849 Edward Thurman and a partner built a cabin at the east end of the Buttes south pass. The pair, who herded cattle, were the first known white settlers in the Buttes. There were more settlements in 1850, and in 1853 G. E. Brittan took over the Thurman land and built a two story home out of the igneous rocks resting everywhere on the group. This home stands today, a monument to the ingenuity of the settlers.¹

Most of the settlers before 1853 busied themselves raising cattle, selling the meat, butter and cheese to the Marysville markets. 1852 brought many settlers to the Buttes occupying the bottom land and even moving farther into the hills. Sheep were raised, and the ground was worked for beans and wheat; however, the many thousands of mosquitoes in the tules and marshes along the Sacramento River drove many of these settlers away from the Buttes.

Chinese laborers were brought in to assist in moving the huge rocks from the land to clear the fields for plowing. The rocks were stacked into fences, many of which may still be seen.^{2 3}

The life of the settler was anything but dull, with work in the field to be done every day. Occasional get togethers were held in the town hall at West Butte and people from all around came. While the general store at West Butte supplied the farmers with most of their daily needs, a monthly trip to Marysville was made. These trips took a whole day because of the slow method of travel.² When a farmer did have some spare time he could make a little extra money by shooting ducks for the market. The limit of birds was fifty per day, and it was possible to shoot that many, clean and pick them, and have them ready for the daily wagon passing through West Butte to get the birds.

The main road going from Colusa to Marysville passed through the South Butte pass, and stage coaches made the trip daily. Ferries were used to get the wagons and coaches across the Sacramento River and Butte Slough. Once a circus passed through the Buttes on the way to Colusa, elephants and all. It is said that the elephants waded the river and saved the owners ferry toll. Although a few of the settlers at first sought gold and coal in the Buttes the majority of the people contented themselves with agriculture as they do even today. Gold has never been found in large enough quantities to make its development worthwhile and the farmers realize they have a gold mine in their animals and craps for the Buttes have some of the richest farming in Sutter County.⁴

In 1864 the citizens of the Buttes organized a cavalry company, which they called the Butte Mountain Rangers. The company was formed for a home guard, and was never called on for active duty. Each man furnished his own horse, and was armed with a sabre and a Colt's revolver. The strength of the company varied from seventy-five to one hundred men. With the money furnished them by the state and county, they built an armory near Butte House. In 1866, after the war ended and the cause which has led to the formation of the company no longer existing, it disbanded. The armory was sold at auction, and torn down. The proceeds of the sale were donated to the county school fund.

¹Letter to B.L. Fontana for Mrs. Mattie Wullweber, April 28, 1948.

Original copy on file at the Sutter Historical Society, Sutter County, Ca

²Interview November 15, 1947 by B.L. Fontana with Mrs. Edward F. Davis (Gladys Counts, daughter of an original settler in the Buttes) Copy of interview is on file at the Sutter Historical Society

³C. Stohlman (letter)

⁴Chamberlain & Wells, History of Sutter County, 1879 page 65

⁵Chamberlain & Wells, History of Sutter County, 1879, page 50

ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Ten gas wells have been drilled in the Buttes since 1930, nine of them belonging to the Buttes Oilfield Inc. These wells range in depth from two thousand to seven thousand feet, with four of them presently producing gas for commercial consumption. The venture was and is intender as oil exploration, and the heads of the company have faith that they will some day discover of in the Buttes. Although the original gas output was fairly large, the supply has dwindled in the ensuing years, and the gas coming from the wells supplies but a very small portion of the Sacramento Valley. Most of the wells are located in the southern perimeter of the Buttes, but a few are on the west, one is on the east, and one is on the north side. The Shell Oil Company holds the rights to the one on the northern side of the Buttes.¹

Although the venture in the Buttes has been unsuccessful to date for all practical purposes, this particular enterprise opened up gas and oil explorations throughout Northern California, most of which have proven quite beneficial.

Perhaps the most important single industry in the Buttes is the raising of sheep. This particular area of Sutter county lends itself well to the grazing of livestock. There is no exact estimate of the number of sheep in the Buttes, but they must number several thousand head. Most of the sheep men are Basques, members of a race who have made their living from sheep for hundreds of years. Sheep are sure to be found on any side of the Buttes, and occasionally a few will be seen wandering in the rocky interior. Because of the relative isolation of the Buttes, the sheep have few, if any, natural enemies, and if the pasture is good, they thrive extremely well. It might be said that of all the families who presently live in the Buttes that over seventy-five percent of them depend upon this industry for their living.²

On 1200 acres of land in the northern sector of the Sutter Buttes is located the Vantress Poultry Breeding Farm. The farm handled some forty-five thousand chickens in 1948, and contained five-hundred fifty-eight range houses, forty-one brooder houses, and ten laying sections. The Vantress Breeding Farm, one of the largest on the west coast, was one of the first establishments in the United States to initiate scientific inquiry and breeding methods to develop better strains of meat chickens. The breeding farm boasts of a low mortality rate for its animals, the birds being relatively safe from disease and predatory animals. Although a few foxes have appeared on the ranch, they are kept in check by trapping and shooting.³

Not the least of the Buttes industries is the raising of rice, wheat barley, beans, almonds, peaches, and other orchard and field crops. The hillier lands are used almost entirely for grazing purposes, while the rich soil in the lower regions is planted with field crops. A few of the farmers raise beef and dairy cattle, and a few more raise turkeys, chickens, and pigs.

¹Excerpts from the California Journal of Mines and Geology, Vol. 39, No. 3, July 1943 by Walter Stadler

²According to research done by B. L. Fontana, which is on file with the Sutter Historical Society.

³Interview by B. L. Fontana with Mrs. Charles Vantress, March 14, 1948, on file with the Sutter Historical Society

Although, generally speaking, the Buttes hold a rather lowly position on the economic scale of Sutter County it is these hills which give Sutter county a wide variety of income bringing industries. It was also these hills which attracted the first Sutter County settlers. Moreover, with explorations not yet stopped by the Buttes Oilfields, Inc. the potential of the Buttes in this direction is significant indeed.

Though clay, coal, gold, stone, and limestone have all been found in the Buttes, stone is probably the most important among these so far as early economic value was concerned. The early settlers used rocks to make homes and in the southern end of the Buttes is an abandoned stone quarry which netted its owner a sizeable amount of money when it was in use. The county used the crushed rock for road pavement until 1920 at which time it was discovered to be cutting the automobile tires.¹

Gold has been found in the Buttes from time to time, but never in sizeable quantities. The largest nuggets ever reported were five dollars. One of the chief difficulties concerning the seeking of gold is the lack of water. Water was fairly abundant in the Buttes at one time, but the coming of the white man saw the destruction of the all important, trees by fire and chopping. The result is that water is quite scarce in the Butte today. Most of the farmers have small springs on their land. Two of the springs flow the year around, while most of the others fill the Streams only in the winter when water is plentiful. One of the pleasant features of the Buttes is Bragg Falls, a three hundred foot waterfall on the west side of the Buttes which flows in early spring and late winter. The waterfall is the only one in the Sacramento Valley. Also on the west side of the Buttes there is an artesian well.²

¹Warring, Clarence A., Mines and Mineral Resources of Butte, Lassen Modoc, Sutter and Tehama Counties, December 1916

²As per personal observation and talks with B. L. Fontana, who has done extensive research on the Sutter Buttes.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AND FLORA

The Sutter Buttes, from the scenic standpoint, are not the most gorgeous spot on earth. They are unique because of their position on the valley floor; they are eerie because of their rocky spires; they are ever-changing in mood, sometimes green, sometimes brown or blue; they afford an excellent view of Northern California. However, there are only six or seven weeks out of the year that find the Buttes soft and green. These are the early weeks of spring, when the wildflower are in bloom and the climber finds ever different varieties at changing altitude. The southern section of the hills is generally quite barren, giving rise to grass and rocks. The northern half of the Buttes, though, is quite wooded and the undergrowth of shrubs and bushes is heavy. In places, acres of Toyen berries fill canyons, and moss and maidens hair and ferns spring out along the streams.

The predominant tree is the scrub Oak tree, generally only on the north sides of the hills. The southern portion is noticeably absent of these trees, an absence which insures desolation and barrenness.

The winter months find the Buttes cold and wet. They are frequently visited by fog and rain, and it is not uncommon to see them cloaked in masses of billowy clouds. One of the nice features of the winter months

is that they often bring snow to the Buttes. Snow is very rare, however, settling on the upper reaches of the Buttes only once every other year or so.

Aside from the Oak trees there are a few Sycamore and Cypress and an occasional Elm or Maple tree in the Buttes. There are countless varieties of shrubs and bushes, not uncommon among them being Poison Oak and nettle. In fact, Poison Oak is very abundant.

In spots on the northern half of the Buttes are areas heavily wooded enough to be called forests. Most of the trees are of a variety that the autumn months do little for their color, though, and this season of the year for the little mountain range means no more than the dry approach of winter.

The summer months are quite unbearable in most places in the Buttes, and all hiking is generally suspended during this time. The temperatures, which may have gone as low as 20° F in the winter rise to as high as 120° F in the summer. The northern foothills in close to the central core are pleasant in the summer, this area being an exception. This is especially true where water is available the year around. The temperatures here, in fact, may be even cooler than those of the Sacramento valley proper in the summer and not appreciably colder in the winter.¹

¹All information on the above is from personal experience and observation from living in the area myself.

FAUNA

Some mention should be made of the wild life in the Buttes. Prominent among the Butte family is the fox. Although foxes have been killed off in great numbers in recent years by the county trapper, they still continue to roam the hills killing small rodents and chickens whenever the opportunity affords. There were once coyotes in the Buttes along with deer, elk and bear before white man and destruction.^{1 2}

Buzzards, crows, and small birds congregate in the Buttes in huge bands. The buzzards and hawks make their homes in the lofty peaks, keeping an ever-watchful eye open on things below. Also ranking high among the birds are the ducks and geese which pass in their migrations each year, and there are a few duck clubs on the outskirts of the Buttes. Also popular game birds which make their home in the Buttes are the pheasants, doves, and quail.

Raccoons make themselves a nuisance to chicken raisers, and the residents of the area are always trying to kill them. Rats, squirrels, and rabbits also abound in the Buttes, as do bats which make their winter homes in the cracks of decayed boulders.

Included among the small animals are hundreds of lizards and snakes. A very unwelcome guest in the Buttes is the rattle snake, with literally hundreds of them making their homes in the east, north, and west sections of the Buttes.

¹Everett Chaffee, Jedediah Strong Smith in California, written in Bancroft library for M.A. in history at the University of California June 1929

²Fremont, John C. Memoirs of My Life, 1887 p. 509

OFFICIAL NAMING

In 1829, Michael LaFrambeau, Hudson Bay Company trapper was the first white man to give the name of Buttes to this cluster of peaks. In 1846 General John C. Fremont called them the "Buttes of Sacramento."² On John A. Sutter's original land grant they were called "Los Tres Picos" and the early settlers Americanized it to "The Three Peaks."³

While maps of 1867 and 1873 refer to them simply as Butte Mountain the Department of Interior geological survey of 1895 picked up the name Marysville Buttes thus starting a long and heated debate because they are in Sutter county and have no relationship to Marysville, in Yuba County. On December 23, 1948 after many letter and much effort on the part of Bernard L. Fontana the United States Department of the Interior officially named them THE SUTTER BUTTES.⁴

¹Drury, Aubrey, California, an Intimate Guide, Harper & Bros., New York, 1935, p. 372

²Fremont, John C., Memoirs of My Life, 1887

³The Diary of Johann August Sutter, the Grayhorn Press, San Francisco, 1932

⁴Letters between B. L. Fontana and the Department of the Interior are on file with the Sutter Historical Society

MAIDU VILLAGE SITE BUTTE 63 Frank Dean Van Zant

The excavation of this site was possible through the cooperation of Mae Milliam, on whose ranch the site is located and the encouragement of Francis Riddle.

Butte 63 is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, north east of Marysville, California, east of Bangor, California at an elevation of approximately 600 feet, in the valley of Upham, Darby Road and on the west side of Honcut Creek.

At the mouth of a small ravine or canyon it is approximately 100 to 150 yards west of Honcut Creek on a small prominence overlooking the creek. It appears to be Middle Horizon (Early Middle Horizon), and possibly occupied as early as 2000 BC.

During the time of Indian occupancy, before the coming of the Americans, Upham was a land of large oaks, yellow pine, cedar trees, lush grass and scant underbrush. Possibly due to overgrazing, cutting of the large oaks for wood, and the timber trees by the early gold seekers and ranchers the lush grass was replaced by a less nourishing but more hardy grasses and mother nature then shrouded much of the land with almost impassable brush fields. However, it is still a beautiful and interesting land. It has many natural springs, some developed, but many still in their natural state.

It may be of interest to note that the Indians were known to maintain fire watches during lightning storms and to dispatch men to put

out possible fires at lightning strikes. The Indian had no use for loose fire. It must be bore in mind that they lived from the land and fire could do nothing but destroy their food sources.

During the time of Indian occupancy there were possibly more human inhabitants in this valley than at the present time. It would appear that Butte 63 was not directly occupied during historical times, although other sites in the area undoubtedly were. One such site yields much in pottery fragments, pieces of buckskin and one complete arrow was observed. However Butte 63 is probably early middle horizon.

The first Americans to locate on this site were 49ers, later it was homesteaded by a Mr. Parks who sold to Mr. Petrezinni in 1916. Mrs. Millam purchased the property from Mr. Petrezinni.

Mrs. Millam's home is situated at the northwest edge of the midden deposit and apparently on the original homestead homesite. Mrs. Millam has in her collection a perfect bowl mortar recovered from another village site approximately 1/8 of a mile south of Butte 63. This mortar was originally recorded as having come from Butte 63, this recording was in error. There is no evidence of the globular mortar having been used by the inhabitants of Butte 63. Numerous metatos and manos have been recovered. The manos are uniformly rectangular in shape and well worked. Metates are apparently made from native stone, some outside shaping is apparent, but not well finished. Many of the metatos were broken and most of these were reburied on the site. Basalt and chert apparently were most commonly used for projectile points, however, obsidian, quartz, opal, jasper and other materials were used to a lesser degree.

It would appear that when this site was first occupied there was an outcropping of granite boulders extending some two or three feet above the level of the alluvium. The occupation level then grew to cover these rocks by some two to three feet of midden.

The boatstone and basalt blade were found under decomposed granite boulders which do not lend themselves to the theory of having been placed over the artifacts. More it would seem the blade and boatstone were lost during the early part of the occupation period and fell into crevices in the outcropping which were inaccessible to their owner and laid there to be gradually covered over by the growing occupation levels, to a depth of more than six feet.

Four other midden sites in the immediate vicinity and many others in the valley appear around such rock outcroppings. The midden has built up alongside and through these rocks, however, on most of the sites observed by this writer, the rocks extend more from the alluvium, have a greater height than those found in Butte 63.

On the site immediately across the creek from Butte 63, in 1931 I observed three portable mortars, two of these were globular and the third was a thin walled cylinder mortar, the latter was shattered. Many globular mortars are now possessed by local residents. As a youth in this same area our driveway was lined with 76 such mortars. What became of them no one seems to know.

Bedrock mortar sites are numerous around Butte 63, one containing three bedrock mortars, contiguous to the site in a westerly direction. Several large bedrock mortar sites along top of a small ridge immediately to the north. Other bedrock mortars along a small ravine in a south west direction perhaps three hundred feet from the center of Butte 63. Other bedrock mortars are close to midden deposit.

Another bedrock mortar and midden site is approximately 200 feet east. This site has numerous bedrock mortars, however, those close to the creek have suffered much disturbance due to early day mining and dredger operations. Considerable erosion is noted in many of the bedrock mortar sites, while others show apparently none, yet all are of the same type granite.

Another midden site is approximately 1/2 mile west, in the canyon but the midden deposit is slight. This site is a large outcropping of granite boulders with bedrock mortars and matates, however many are rapidly eroding away.

Approximately 5/8 of a mile west is a midden and mortar site. Depth of the midden not tested. Numerous sites are spread throughout the Upham Valley. These are open village sites, bedrock mortar sites, petroglyph sites. The whole foothill region from here to Oroville is dotted with such sites.

Folklore - many of these people felt that all life came from the Sutter Buttes and many considered them sacred. There is some evidence that the Sutter Buttes were occupied while they were still Islands. Many village and cave sites occur in the Sutter Buttes.

The obsidian at Butte 63 may have come from a so-called "Sacred flint cave's (mine) near Oroville.

A village or villages at or near Honcut are believed to have once gone to war with the Indian people of Bangor at Upham over an Indian girl. This battle was believed to have taken place between Honcut and Palermo. Evidence has been recovered in the form of blades and points in an area showing no evidence of occupation.

The excavation of Butte 63 consisted of a 37 and 1/2 foot trench running in a northeast, by southwest direction, in the center of the midden site, approximately 5 feet in width, and a pit 4 x 6. Depth of the trench was from 5' to 6'6", which represented depth to the alluvium. The midden was not entirely sifted.

Almost all granite rocks uncovered in the trench were decomposed to some degree.

Dome meal scraps of shattered deer bone were recovered, however, incidents of recovery are very slight. Few mussel shells were recovered possibility of recovery very slight.

It would appear that this site was not used extensively in historic times, possibly occupation had ceased, on this immediate site, before historic times. Although some other nearby sites were undoubtedly occupied. Some possible historical projectile types have been recovered from the surface, but those found at any depth were all of a very early type.

Approximately 200 yards in a southwest direction on a hill covered with yellow pine at the time of Indian occupancy, there are two easily discernible house pits, but no midden.

Vegetation in the area includes: California Poppy (*Eshscholtzia Californica*) Soap Pant (*Chalrogalione*) Buttercups (*Boykininice Bon-unculifolica*) Blue Bells (*Martensia Calata*) Fairy Lanterns (*Calochartus Albus*) Johnny Jump Ups (*Viola Nuttallu*) Mariposa Lillies (*Calochartus Leteus*) Clover (*Medicagohispdia*) Poison Oak (*Rhus Diversiloba*) Blackberry (*Rubus Bitifolius*) Wild Rose, Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparious*) Red Bud (*Cerees Occidentalis*) Toyon (*Pholinia Arbutifolia*) Sawtooth Golden Weed (*Hazardia Squarrosa*) Anis, Buckeye (*Aesculus Californica*) Live Oak (*Quercus Dumosa*) Black Oak (*Quercus Helloggii*) Post Oak (*Quercus Lobata*) Madrone (*Arbutus Menziesu*) Yellow Pine (*Pinus Ponderosa*) Chaparrael, Manzanitea (*Arctostaphylas Spp.*) Bay, Willow (*Walix Spp.*) Snow Drop (*Styrax Officinalis*). No native tobacco recognized.

The Mae Millam site is in the Maidu tribal boundaries, which extend from a nebulous line running north and south through the Sutter Buttes east to the crest of the Sierra Nevadas, south to the Consumnes River and north to Lake Almanor.

Eight identifiable burials were encountered in the excavation. Most of these were completely decomposed and identified only through rock cairns and occasionally a scrap of bone. The midden in the area of the burials had been packed to the consistency of old brick and was further identifiable by the small granules of decomposed granite in the midden, otherwise the midden is fairly loose.

One burial had a basalt projectile close to the skull, but this may have been happenstance in as much as the only artifacts recovered from the remaining burials were fragments of quartz crystals. Most of the burials were covered by cairns of native rock. Sometimes a broken fragment of metate and on two occasions a complete metate.

Gophers may have played a large part in the destruction and disturbance of the midden and gravel. After the first days digging, these animals filled the excavation by two-thirds in one night.

As can be observed from the sketches most burials were at a depth of less than four feet. A three foot burial was found, resting on the decomposed granite at a depth of three feet and under a cairn consisting of two native granite rocks and a metate over the head. It was possible to save this skull although very fragile. Also several other bone fragments including a thigh bone with a healed compound fracture. All other bones were entirely missing.

The site is now a permanent pasture and has been irrigated since last spring (1960), this has been only a surface irrigation and reaches no appreciable depth. Changes in this deposit can be expected due to this.

Approximately 60 man days were spent in this excavation during November and December. The most significant finds were the boatstone and large blade. Most of the projectiles recovered could have been for the Atlatl.

WAY OF LIFE OF THE OCCUPANTS OF BUTTE 63

They were until approximately 1848, before they were completely conquered, by the "Forty-niners," a hard working, industrious, clean and fun loving people.

They were agriculturist and hunters. Their homes were from 10 to 4 feet in diameter and half the diameter in height. They were a gregarious people who spent much time on the education of their children.

It was seldom that a Maidu ever traveled more than twenty miles from the place of his birth. They married from neighboring villages for the simple reason that most everyone in a village was related. They believed in a supreme being.

Their trade extended through several nations or tribal boundaries. Theirs was a true democratic society. While all villages had a chief, his decision had to coincide with the majority and he was generally elected for his age, experience and quite often his oratory.

Property was owned privately with some lands being recognized as belonging to the community. Their laws were remarkably similar to our contemporary ones, in as much as they apply, fines and damages, being paid to the injured, rather than a court of law.

Contrary to popular opinion they were neither lazy nor indigent. This latter occurred only after they were destroyed and completely conquered as a people, The California Indian was overrun more rapidly than any other American Indian. In a matter of months most had been driven from their ancestral lands, by the invading army of hungry gold seekers.

In this instance, if not in all original incidents, it would seem the Indian was the cultured, the civilized, and the invading gold seekers were the savages.

It must be remembered that every foot of this particular region was privately owned, by individuals. It was not an unsettled uninhabited land. It was a land owned by individuals who had won it through hard work and clever buying. While payment for this land at 1849 prices, was recently approved, payment to the remaining Indians has not been forthcoming, nor has there been any mention of over one hundred years of interest, nor has anyone come up with a way of returning to them their pride and self respect, as a people.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 1872-1261
Span of 89 Years

1872

Auburn- 44 Pupils	Live Oak - 21 Pupils
Barry - 36 Pupils	Marcum - 32 Pupils
Bear River - 24 Pupils	Meridian - 55 Pupils
Brittan - 38 Pupils	Myers - 34 Pupils
Browns - 43 Pupils	Nicolaus - 49 Pupils
Buttesylvania - 21 Pupils	North Butte - 29 Pupils
Central - 38 Pupils	Prairie - 15 Pupils
Columbia - 31 Pupils	Rome - 33 Pupils
Eagle - 26 Pupils	Salem - 15 Pupils
Fair View - 19 Pupils	Slough - 41 Pupils
Franklin - 15 Pupils	Sutter - 29 Pupils
Gaither - 62 Pupils	Union - 35 Pupils
Grant - 41 Pupils	Vernon - 22 Pupils
Illinois - 39 Pupils	Washington - 44 Pupils
Jefferson - 28 Pupils	West Butte - 49 Pupils
Knights - 26 Pupils	Willow Pond - 25 Pupils
Lee - 20 Pupils	Winship - 36 Pupils
Lincoln - 45 Pupils	Yuba - 130 Pupils
	TOTAL 1290

1961

Barry - 334 Pupils	Nuestro - 49 Pupils
Brittan - 359 Pupils	Pleasant Grove - 156 Pupils
Browns - 153 Pupils	Robbins - 107 Pupils
Central Gaither -- 190 Pupils	Slough - 10 Pupils
Encinal - 78 Pupils	Tierra Buena - 321 Pupils
Franklin - 150 Pupils	Wilson - 61 Pupils
Hedger - 54 Pupils	Winship - 19 Pupils
Lincoln - 680 Pupils	Yuba Elem. - 2637 Pupils
Live Oak El. - 727 Pupils	East Nicolaus High - 169 Pupils
Marcum Illinois - 113 Pupils	Live Oak High - 284 Pupils
Meridian - 88 Pupils	Sutter High - 225 Pupils
Nicolaus - 40 Pupils	Yuba City High - 1399 Pupils
North Butte - 16 Pupils	TOTAL 8526

ARE YOU?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at your office
And criticize and knock?
Do you ever work on committees,
To see there is no trick?
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?
Well, come to meetings often;
And help with hand and heart;
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

.....Anon.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Sutter County Historical Society

1600 Yuba Street

Marysville, California

Please report my name as a regular member in the Society

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ in payment of dues.

Regular \$2 per year

Name _____

Address _____

HARK! Sutter County History - ites -
We are going to be co-hostesses for the Symposium of
Northern California and Southern Oregon Historical Societies
in 1962. Let's get together and make our community aware
we are interested in the preservation of our very inter-
esting past. Please rally round ! You will be hearing
from the chairman.
