

SRDHS

SACRAMENTO RIVER  
DELTA HISTORICAL SOCIETYP.O. Box 293  
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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## MAY MEETING

Charles Duncan will be the featured speaker at the May meeting of the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society. He will present a program, "The Delta--Its Pre-agricultural Time", exploring the river area's flora and fauna, Indian tribes, and Spanish occupation prior to the development of farms and ranches by other settlers. Mr. Duncan, now with the Sacramento Bee, was a principle contributor to the well researched volume, Sacramento--An Illustrated History 1839-1874. He also has been very active in the dramatic production department of Sacramento State University.

All members and guests are welcome to attend the meeting to be held Monday, May 19th at 8 p.m. at the Koinania Hall of the Presbyterian Church in Walnut Grove. Refreshments will be served following the program.

## Locke's Plans Filled

A portfolio of detailed drawings of Locke were displayed at the March SRDHS meeting by Francis Armstrong. The collection is a result of a study done by architectural scholars to record and preserve the unique designs found in the lone remaining town founded by the Chinese in the west. John P. White of Texas Tex, Christopher Lys of the University of California at Berkeley, and Pamela Chang of UCB were among the group who spent the summer making exacting measurements and scale drawings on location and later produced a complete set of records showing floor plans and elevations of each building. A cut-away survey of the whole of Main Street was also included.

A copy of these maps and blueprints will be placed on file in Washington, D.C. in the Office of Architecture in the Historic preservation, Heritage conservation, and Recreation Department. It was also the hope of the membership that a set of drawings might be reproduced and made available at the Society's museum in Locke.

## NEW BOOKLET

A pamphlet on Locke and the Dai Loy Museum will soon be available to visitors at the museum. Detailing the development of the Chinese communities in the Delta, the establishment and growth of Locke, and the use and facilities of the Dai Loy gambling hall, the booklet will help to explain the colorful history of exhibits prepared by the Society.

Jean Harvie painstakingly compiled the information from published resources, private archives, and personal interviews. She organized the material for final editing and reproduction, which was done by Kathie Graham and Yvonne Pylman. The manuscript was transformed by a photographic reduction process into a convenient size and format for museum guests.

The Board of Directors has determined that books will be put on display at the Dai Loy and at Society meetings. A small donation will be asked to cover the cost of printing. Copies will also be sent to the local libraries and to the State historical files.

In her research, Jean discovered a wealth of information, but also found that even contemporary sources disagreed on important facts. Two differing accounts of the Walnut Grove fire, one taken from the Sacramento Bee and one reprinted from the Sacramento Union, were included in the text to illustrate this dilemma in reconstructing an accurate picture of the past. This pamphlet will be an attractive and informative addition to the preservation of the Delta's history.

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# GRANTS

# HISTORY CENTER

A near \$140,000 history grant has been awarded to the community of Locke, it was reported in an April release in the River-News Herald of Rio Vista. The money was part of a \$2 million federal program to preserve historic resources associated with minorities, native Americans and ethnic populations.

The Locke Historic District is the only California project and the fifth largest grant among 26 awarded by the Department of Interior's Historic Preservation Fund.

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Also reported in the press is California AB 990, by Assemblyman Kapiloff, which would allocate \$1,200,000 to the acquisition and development of the Town of Locke project. It was being considered in the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee in January, after being approved by the House. The bill would appropriate funds for Locke and eight other state park land sites. The schedule of payment is limited by the provision "That none of the funds appropriated by this category shall be expended for development, other than structural stabilization, until a general plan for the Town of Locke Project has been approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission."

## WORKERS

A crew of dedicated workmen spent a score of hours revamping the Dai Loy exhibits, prior to the museum opening in early March. Bob James, Galen and Maryn Whitney, Jim and Barbara Dahlberg, Loyal Mealer, and Clarence Pratt were recognized for their work at the March membership meeting.

Many of the plastic overlays on the pictures were replaced or repaired, a number of new signs and labels were added, and a more prominent donation display was arranged. General spring "House Cleaning" was also necessary before the opening.

Many, many thanks are sent to these members who contribute time and energy to the maintenance of the society's principle showplace.

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Another example of work--above and beyond the call of duty--and outside the job description: a complete seven page roster of all names and addresses of the SRDHS membership has been prepared and distributed to the officers and board of directors by Chris Giovannoni, Corresponding Secretary.

The listing will aid in forming committees, recruiting members, and mailing information.

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Continuing kudos go to Enaline Fylman who keeps the museum staffed every week!

Lawrence Hibpsham, Project Archivist of the City of Sacramento Museum, was the guest speaker at the March 17 meeting of the SRDHS. He brought two slide shows depicting the resources available to those interested in doing Sacramento County history research and the work of an ongoing project to recover artifacts and preserve records at the Sacramento History Center.

Working under a government grant, Mr. Hibpsham and his staff of professional and intern helpers are organizing the archives of social, political, and legal records. Their files contain many sources of information including assessment rolls from 1850-1951, county grant and grantor deeds from 1912, business and marriage license lists, civil court files, Sacramento City Council minutes, and Sacramento Union "morgue" materials.

The Center is now located in temporary quarters at 1931 K Street, but plans call for the 1981 opening of a new building on Front and I Streets in Old Sacramento. The Sacramento History Center project is "designed to establish a regional history museum, archive, and visitors center to present the social, cultural, and material history of the Sacramento Valley and to be a repository of artifacts, documents, and film which have been collected and preserved for use by present and future generations."

Completion of the project has been delayed by changes in previous monetary commitments from both the city and county, but representatives of the Sacramento Museum and History Commission, the Sacramento Trust for Historic Preservation, Sacramento Pioneer Association, and Friends of the Sacramento City and County Museum are now working with both private and public groups to seek alternative means of support. Local organizations, such as metropolitan area Rotary Clubs, Junior League, Old Sacramento Citizens and Merchants Association Chamber of Commerce, Cal State History Department, have already pledged support and a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has been submitted for approval.

The Center and its resources are open to the public, and SRDHS members were invited to visit at any time.

## NEWSLETTER

The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society has received a request from the California State Library for copies of its newsletter to be added to their permanent collection in the periodicals section.

The Consumes River College History Library has also asked to be included on the permanent mailing list of the SRDHS that they may receive future issues as they are published.

Members may obtain extra copies to send to friends at the May meeting.