

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

“For what is the present, after all, but a growth out of the past.” – Walt Whitman

NEWSLETTER

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President's Notes

Well here we are again. Summer's gone. Winter's here and Christmas is over. A new year is upon us and hopes are high for a wonderful year. We had two great programs this fall. Susie and Steve Swatt gave a fabulous presentation on the political scene of Sacramento. Gary Kurutz presented many written works of the Gold Rush - very interesting. The crawl which is an event where one can visit historical collections of four sites in Sacramento went very well. And we give many thanks to all who volunteered at our table there. We again had a successful day at the Pear Fair where we sold our 2020 calendars and Pear Perfection cookbook.

In a sad note, Jim Dahlberg died this fall. He was a longtime officer and board member of our society. He worked as an Agriculture advisor for over 50 years at Harvey Lyman Chemicals business and was able to personally collect the finest collection of pear fruit and vegetable labels of the Delta. The labels published on our calendars which we started in 2012, are from his collection. Jim was also a founder of the Pear Fair and started the historical display at the fair. He was involved in many other projects of the Pear Fair and Delta programs. He will be missed.

We are still working on getting oral histories. If you can help or know of someone that will give us an oral history please contact our society. Our January program and election of board members is upon us on January 21st. David Stuart will present a program on the Native Peoples of the Sacramento Region. March is still open and in May Marilyn Sommerdorf and Maryellen Burns are going to have a program on food and recipes of the local railroad for our yearly scheduled pot luck dinner.

I know it's getting hard for many of our older members to come to our programs as driving at night is a problem. Now's the time to get some of the younger people involved as they can be the drivers for us older members and get involved with our rich history. We look forward to an exciting year as we are going to reprint the Delta historic houses book, work on getting more oral histories, get involved in the Delta heritage area, cover historical events and protect our Delta historical sites and values. I hope many of you can come to our interesting meetings. Also a note – we are always in need of volunteers at the resource center in Jean Harvie.

Thank You,
Tom Herzog, President

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &

POTLUCK

Will be held at our **May Meeting** 5/19/2020

Remembering the Delta Progress Club

By Katherine Graham Hutchinson

The Delta Progress Club, a men's charitable organization (similar to Rotary) in Walnut Grove for many years (late 1920's, throughout the 1930's and early 1940's) annually produced an extremely popular Christmas show, songs and skits written and directed by Russ Graham, Sr. and performed by club members – among them over the years: Bill Darsie, John Wheeler, Sr., Bill Beck, Stan Brown, Russ Durbin, Stu Brown, Bill Hutchinson, Sr., Milo Dye, Frank Judy, Jack Burchell, Sr., Al Kammeyer, Russ Graham, Sr., Mitch Laudis, Hod Towne, Phil de Back. The following is one of the songs which audience and members sang together.

Sung to "Springtime in the Rockies"

Oh, it's Christmas in the Delta,
And our hearts are full Of fun,
And our Delta Progress gathers
For festive days have come.
So we'll sing our songs of gladness
Resound them far and near
We'll tell the world we're happy,
We are full of Christmas cheer.

We all have cares and troubles,
Forget them for tonight,
For Christmas comes but once a year,
So let your heart be light.
Merry Christmas to you, Ladies,
Merry Christmas to you, Men,
We all believe in Santa Claus,
Merry Christmas once again.

We all have worked and waited
For a chance to strut our stuff
You folks who are outsiders
Think our club is quite a bluff.
But we all are earnest workers
And each member joins us now
In wishing you "Merry Christmas
And a New Year that's a wow".

If you like our Christmas meeting
Come on Wednesday noon, sometime
Perhaps you have a good suggestion
Or perhaps, an ax to grind.
But you will always be quite welcome
And when Christmas comes next year,
We hope this congregation,
Will one and all, be here.

The Sacramento Southern Railroad

THE SACRAMENTO – SAN JOAQUIN *Delta is one of the oldest produce-growing regions in California. At first, there were relatively few residents, thus only so much could be grown and consumed.*

Following completion of the Pacific Railroad in 1869, however, this "land of plenty" was poised to ship wheat, other grains, and fresh fruits and vegetables across the continent. The Museum's Sacramento Southern Railroad was founded and grew to become part of the original "farm to fork" transportation network right here in the Sacramento region.

Throughout the latter decades of the 19th century, orchards were planted in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's flood plains, interspersed with fields supporting other crops. At harvest time, farmers would set out the harvested goods at individual landings along the Sacramento River or its many tributary sloughs. From these, a river steamer would transport the goods to Sacramento, Stockton, or San Francisco, where local markets or long-distance transportation awaited. The dominant railroad in Northern California, the Southern Pacific, controlled most of the Delta's shipping (including via steamboats) until competitor Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe entered the market around 1900.

The SP responded by incorporating a new railroad: the Sacramento Southern. Totally owned, funded, and operated by SP, the standard-gauge line was to be built in a southeasterly direction from Sacramento to Stockton. By June 20, 1909, service began to Freeport, while construction crews continued to push southward. Completion of the pivot bridge at Snodgrass Slough allowed through service to begin between Sacramento and Walnut Grove on March 12, 1912.

From this time forward the route would be popularly known by its timetable designation: the Walnut Grove Branch Line of the Southern Pacific. Service began with self-propelled McKeen Motor Car railcars—with their distinctive "wind splitter" nose and round "porthole"-style windows—providing passenger and freight service along with a single, steam-powered roundtrip freight run. Over the next few years, rail competition increased in the area as the Western Pacific and its subsidiary Sacramento Northern built branches into the Delta.

Southern Pacific responded by extending its Walnut Grove branch another 7.5 miles south to Isleton; this extension

which crossed Georgiana Slough on a Bascule lift bridge opened in late October 1929. In 1931, a three-mile spur was built to the Golden State Asparagus Company cannery on the Mokelumne River. With the Depression in full swing by this time, SP ceased carrying passengers on the branch the next year. Freight business continued briskly throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

In 1951 the spur to the asparagus cannery was abandoned, although service continued to Isleton. Unfortunately, a major flood inundated Isleton in 1971, destroying much of the railroad on Andrus Island. Six years later, SP abandoned 17 miles of the line below Hood; with the flood damage the line had become impassable, and customers of necessity turned to trucking. The traffic decline continued, and service to Hood was reduced to a thrice-weekly local freight.

By 1978, the railroad applied to abandon all but three miles on the line's Sacramento end. At this point the California State Parks entered the picture, setting out to acquire major portions of the right-of-way to Hood. On October 10 of that year, SP diesels picked up the final train of empty freight cars, stored below Hood, and exited the picture. Excursion trains for the California State Railroad Museum began operating on a short portion of the line out of Old Sacramento in the mid-1980s, and continue to do so to this day.

Reprinted from California State Railroad Foundation Newsletter.

Congress Passes Garamendi's Delta National Heritage Area Act

WASHINGTON, DC—Tuesday, Congressman John Garamendi (D-Davis, Fairfield, Yuba City) announced the House passage of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act. The legislation passed by a vote of 363 to 62.

The bill provides \$10 million for community-based efforts to conserve the Delta's cultural heritage, historical landmarks, and natural beauty. Congressman Garamendi, the former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior under President Bill Clinton, reintroduced this legislation in January. The bill passed the Senate on February 12, 2019 and now heads to the President's desk for signature.

"A National Heritage Area designation will provide crucial support for the Delta, which I have called home for over 40 years. We must safeguard this iconic working landscape and the most productive watershed in the western United States, and I am pleased that Congress has finally passed my legislation to make that possible," said Garamendi. "I thank my colleagues in the

House for their strong support, and Senator Feinstein for championing the bill in the Senate."

"I'm proud that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta will become California's first National Heritage Area," said Senator Dianne Feinstein. "This was a bill I first introduced with Senator Boxer, and I'm pleased that with Congressman Garamendi's help it's finally on the cusp of becoming law. The overdue heritage designation will preserve the Delta's rich culture and traditions and ensure it remains an economic engine for the region's economy."

The legislation (H.R.357) is endorsed by the Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Counties Coalition (Sacramento, Solano, Contra Costa, Yolo, San Joaquin), Delta Chambers and Visitor's Bureau, Delta Protection Commission, National Parks Conservation Association, Restore the Delta; and Solano County.

Garamendi's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act would establish the first National Heritage Area in California's history. A National Heritage Area designation will authorize \$10 million in federal grant funding over 15 years to provide matching grants to local governments, historical societies, and community nonprofit organizations throughout the Delta. This funding will support cultural and historical preservation and environmental conservation projects under a locally developed management plan, coordinated by California's Delta Protection Commission.

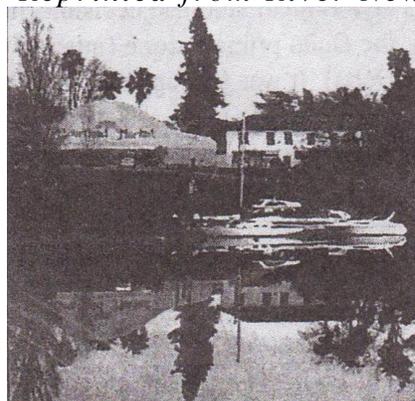
As confirmed by the National Park Service, which administers the National Heritage Area grant program, designations do not affect individual property rights in any way nor do they restrict local land use decisions, water rights, landownership, or hunting and fishing within the designated heritage area.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has sponsored the Senate companion bill to Garamendi's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act since 2010.

Reps. Jerry McNerney (D-CA09), Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA11), Mike Thompson (D-CA05), and Doris O. Matsui (D-CA06) are each original cosponsors of H.R. 357.

The full text of the legislation (H.R.357) is available, along with a map of the proposed National Heritage Area

Reprinted from River News Herald & Isleton Journal



OBITUARIES

The Delta is now without a weekly newspaper. The River News Herald & Isleton Journal abruptly discontinued publication after 129 years. For many years it was known as the "Delta Herald" and covered from Clarksburg to Rio Vista. Stringers supplied news and gossip from the towns and hamlets and a local photographer covered events. Recently the news concentrated on Rio Vista with little or no input upriver.

The following are two obituaries that we were unable to fit into the June 2019 newsletter; and our beloved James "Jimbo" Dahlberg that did so much for our Historical Society.

Hamatani, Osamu "Ossie" (1929 - 2019)

Osamu 'Ossie' Hamatani, born March 16, 1929 in Franklin, CA to Hoyzaemon and Shina Sueta, passed away at home in Galt, CA March 2, 2019 after a lengthy battle with cancer and a rare heart disease, cardiac amyloidosis. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Jo, stepson Larry Black and 12 siblings: brothers Kyohiko (Kay), Peter Yosh, George, Minora (Min) and Tomio; sisters Fumiye Hamatani, Nabuko Takunaga, Yukiye Combs, Kikuno Tanaka, Shizuye Sugioka and Sabura Kawai. He is survived by one sister Motoye "Mo" Hamatani, step-daughter Patti Cisneros and son-in-law Salvador Cisneros. He is also survived by his best friend and fishing partner Michael Barringan. Other surviving family members are stepson Gary Black and numerous nieces and nephews.



He retired to Galt, CA where he continued to pursue his life-long love of fishing with his fishing buddy Michael Barringan. Ossie went on many deep sea fishing trips out of Sausalito on the New Rayann and annually off the Mexican coast for tuna on the Independence. Ossie continued to host epic parties with crab feeds, opening his home to neighbors and friends alike. He maintained his friendship with neighboring farmer Tom Herzog until the end. He will be missed.

The family would like to give special thanks to Tia, Uila and Yolo Hospice Nurse Stephanie for their devoted care until the end of his life. We couldn't have asked for better caregivers.

Ossie will be interred with his wife Betty at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery 5810 Midway Road in Dixon, CA. Services and interment are Tuesday, Mar 26, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. Lunch reception at the Club Pheasant, 2525 Jefferson Blvd, West Sacramento after the service.

In lieu of flowers, a remembrance in Ossie's name to Yolo Hospice, Loaves and Fishes in Sacramento or the charity of your choice.

As a teenager, he was detained at Tule Lake, CA and Camp Amache, Colorado internment camps during World War II. Upon his release, he was a student at Courtland High where he graduated in 1950. He was drafted into the US Army in 1951 earning two bronze service stars in Korea and surviving hemorrhagic fever during his enlistment.

After his service, he worked at Hamatani Farms helping his family business grow and thrive. Osamu 'Ossie' was generous to a fault and helped many during their times of need. He was a well-known Delta farmer, grape grower and party host with his brothers for Hamatani Farms' Annual Christmas party for employees, other farmers, friends and family. Hamatani Farms party was one of the legendary events in Courtland until the early 1990s when the family corporation was sold.

Akio Adachi

June 26, 1928 - February 13, 2019



On February 13, 2019, Akio Adachi passed on after a brief illness. Akio was born in Courtland, CA and like all the Japanese Americans on the West Coast, spent World War II in an internment camp. Akio and his family were interned at the Tule Lake Internment Camp. After the war, the family went back to Japan. While in Japan, Akio met Shin, the woman who he would be married to for the rest of his life. Eventually Akio returned to the United States and went to work for the Federal Government, starting with the US Army Audit Agency and the Defense Contract Audit Agency. Akio was a longtime resident of San Leandro. Upon his retirement in 1988, Akio settled into a life with Shin

that revolved around their large collection of bonsai plants, extensive yard and occasional travel.

He is survived by his wife Shin, son Robert, nephews, Craig Okabe and family, and Jeff Adachi and family, nieces Tami Adachi and family, Shari Gee and family, and Tracey Okabe-Yamamura and family. Akio was preceded in death by his parents Tetsujiro and Fusa Adachi, his brothers Kazuto, Tadashi, Kiyoshi and sisters Masako and Helen.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Eden Medical Center and the San Leandro Healthcare Center for making Akio's last days comfortable and for their compassion and kindness. In keeping with his wishes, no services will be held.

Dahlberg, James "Jimbo" (1938 - 2019)

Passed away peacefully in Elk Grove on September 19, 2019 with his wife Barbara by his side. Born in Anoka, Minnesota to Ted and Lily Dahlberg. Jimbo grew up in Walnut Grove, California where he met and married Barbara Schmidt in 1958. They raised their three children in the Delta.

Jimbo began working for Harvey Lyman Chemicals in 1956 and continued his career there until he retired after 50 years in 2006. He continued consulting there for several years after his retirement. While working and raising a family Jimbo was also very involved in his community. He volunteered with numerous organizations throughout his career including the Boy Scouts of America, The Delta High School Future Farmers of America, the Sacramento River Jaycees, the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society, the Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church and the Walnut Grove Rotary Club. During the 40+ year span of service-oriented leadership to these organiza-

tions, he consistently held offices including Elder, Secretary, Treasurer and President. In addition, as one of the founders of the Delta Pear Fair, he played an integral part of the celebration for years and later became known as the Godfather of the Pear Fair. Jimbo received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career and community service including the Scouter's Key and National Crop Advisor Stewardship Award. His most esteemed and proud accolade was as husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by Barbara, his children Tammy (Scott), Bo (Tressa) and Rodney (Monica) his 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. The family will hold a private funeral. Please join the family for a celebration of Jimbo's life Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 2:00 pm at the Jean Harvie Community Center at 14273 River Road, Walnut Grove, CA 95690. Donations may be made to the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society or the Alzheimer's Association.

SRDHS 2020 SCHEDULE

January 21.....General Meeting
 February 18.....Board Meeting
 March 17.....General Meeting
 April 21.....Board Meeting
 May 19.....General Meeting & Annual Potluck
 June 16.....Board Meeting
 June Newsletter
 July/August.....Summer Break
 September 15.....General Meeting
 October 20.....Board Meeting
 November 17.....General Meeting
 December.....Board Meeting
 December Newsletter

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

Remember to come get your 2020 SRDHS Calendar featuring 12 new Pear Labels from the late Jim Dahlberg’s collection or your Pear Pearfection Cookbook. Available at the resource center every Tuesday morning from 10 am to 1 pm. Or fill out the order form on the last pages of this newsletter and send it to us.

Thank you for your donations to our resource center! We are recording each item in our data base – many collections are done, but many still need to be entered. **Would you like to help?** We work almost every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and need people to enter data. Call Esther at 916-777-2227 to make sure we will be there and join us.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to thank all those who made memorial contributions to the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carol A. Jensen from Brentwood
 Greg McCosker from Walnut Grove
 Leanna Noble from Elk Grove
 George A. Nolta from Oakley
 Harry Sen from Sacramento
 Chris Zanobini from Sacramento

DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THIS GREAT PUBLICATION???

Then make sure you pay your 2020 dues – Use this form or one of our handy dues envelopes

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____

I’m paying Annual dues for the following year(s):
 2019 2020 Other _____
 \$25.00 a year for Annual Membership

I’ve enclosed \$150 to become a Lifetime Member

I’d like to register as an Honorary Member – Free to members 80 years and older

Please mail this form with a check payable to SRDHS to:

SRDHS Membership
 P.O. Box 293, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

INFORMATION

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society web site is srdhs.org. Please view and enjoy the information. If you wish to email the resource center, the email address is srdhshs@gmail.com.

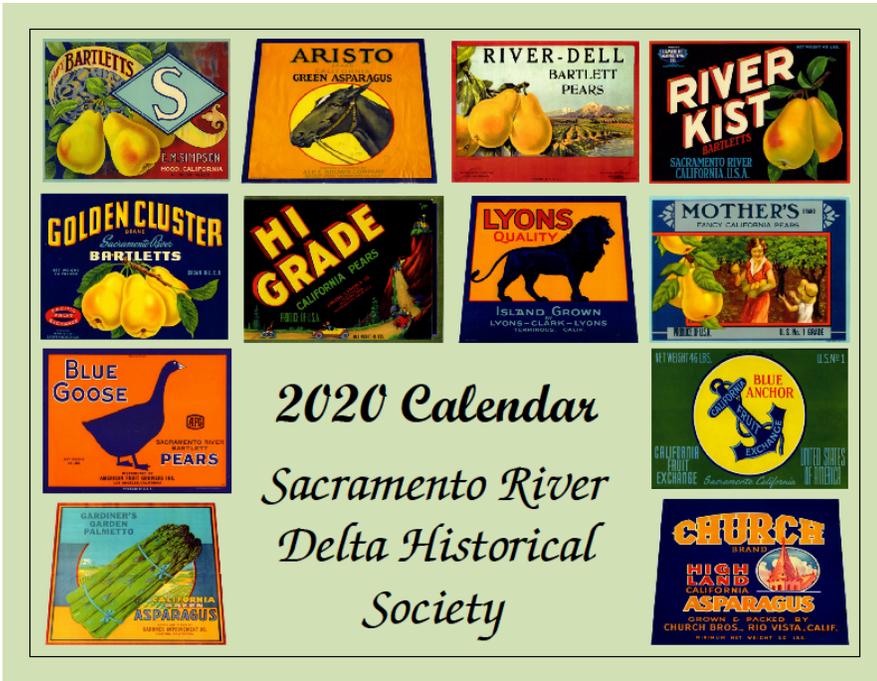
NEWSLETTER STAFF

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*The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society publishes the Sacramento River Delta Society

Here is the cover of the delightful 2020 Calendar representing more Labels from Jim Dahlberg's Collection. Each month shows a different Label that has not been published before from his wonderful collection. The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society's Calendar for 2020 is available at the Resource Center and at the Society Meetings. You may also purchase the calendar by filling out the form below and mailing it with your check to:

SRDHS
 P O Box 293
 Walnut Grove, CA 95695



The price for each 2020 calendar is \$15.00 plus postage
 2012 thru 2019 calendar price is \$10 each plus postage

If you wish to have the calendar(s) mailed **PLEASE** add the following postage:

1 Calendar \$1.75 postage

2 Calendars \$2.50 postage

3 - 6 calendars \$7.35 for priority mail (2 to 3 day delivery)

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society Calendar Order Form

Please send _____ 2020 calendars @ \$15 per calendar

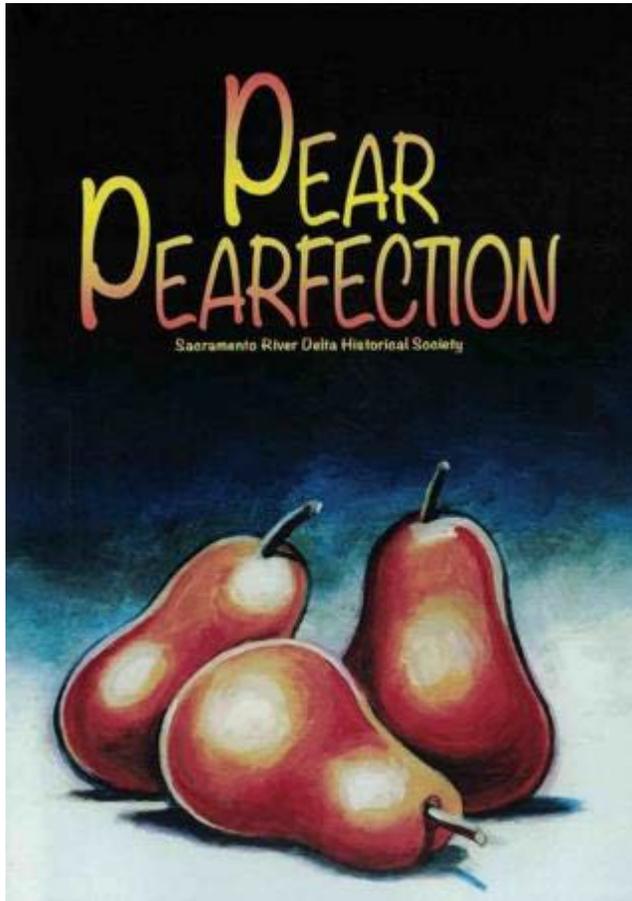
__2012__2013 __2014 __2015 __2016 __2017__2018__ 2019 calendars
 @ \$10 per calendar

Enclosed is payment in the amount of \$_____ **(include postage in total)**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



PEAR PEARFECTION cookbook full of delightfully tasteful recipes using pears which our Delta is known for producing. It is a revised Pear Cookbook done by Barbara Dahlberg in the 1970's for the Pear Fair with many delicious added recipes

You may purchase the cookbook at the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society Resource Center or at the Society Meetings or at the Courtland Pear Fair held the last Sunday in July. You may also order the cookbook(s) by filling out the form below and mailing it with your check to:

SRDHS
P O Box 293
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

The price for each cookbook is \$15 plus postage if mailed.

If you wish to have the cookbook(s) mailed **please add the following postage:**

1 Cookbook	\$2.50 postage
2 Cookbooks	\$3.30 postage

3 - 5 Cookbooks \$7.35 for priority mail (2 to 3 day delivery)

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society Cookbook Order Form

Please send _____ Pear Pearfection Cookbook(s) @ \$15 each

Enclosed is payment in the amount of \$ _____ (**include postage in total**)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____