

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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PRESIDENTS NOTES

It seems the summer is gone and we are about to enter 2005. Time seems to go faster and faster along with the changes around us. Just yesterday you could drive down Franklin Blvd and Bruceville Road and see open farmland. No more, as homes have taken place. It's now even more important for us to preserve the past in photo's, literature, oral histories, documents, landmark buildings and museums. The resources we save today is tomorrow's history. We can't stop progress but we can save some of the past by being active in preservation. If you find it in your heart leave some time to help.

Our Resource Center has been active in preservation of the many materials and items that are stored there. Along with cataloging many of the fine donations from the past the volunteers have been working on putting all of our Newsletters into a computer program CD. In the near future our past Newsletters will be available on the CD for a small fee for anyone interested. Also, if you have a document that is a family keepsake and you want to share it as a part of history but not donate it, then notify the volunteers at the center and a good copy can be made for the center.

Our Oral History Program is still moving ahead along with transcribed documents being put on computer files. There still are many of our older residents who have stories to tell and no one to capture their oral history. We need your help here. Please become active and do a few oral histories.

At our program meetings we are trying to make available some of the items we have for a small donation fee. We will have available the book "Historic Homes of the Sacramento River Delta," the video "The Good Old Days, Sacramento Remembered," the CD "History of Sacramento County 1880, Thompson & West," the book "Delta Primer" and our Historic pamphlets on the towns of the delta. If you have a historical program you would like to present or know of someone who does, please contact me.

At our October meeting our board approved a contract with California State Parks and Rec. to proceed with the beginnings of a museum in Locke on the Chinese history of Locke and the surrounding Delta. This will be a State Park Museum with a lot of local input. It would be nice to see other museums develop in the Delta. So far the only one operating is the Rio Vista Museum.

We are making a change to our membership program. Instead of the usual collection of dues at our annual meeting there will be a mailing renewal in December. You can still bring your dues to the January meeting but because some can't make it to the meeting it is easier with a mailing. If we miss someone or your membership becomes lost don't hesitate to contact us.

Again, I want to thank all the officers, directors and volunteers who have and are keeping our historic society very active. At the Sacramento Area Consortium meeting in October I realized that we are one of the leading active historic societies in the area. Tom

SOCIETY NOTES

Pear Fair was held in Courtland the last Sunday in July as scheduled. The community based event celebrates the pear harvest and provides community groups with an opportunity to raise money for their charitable projects. In the auditorium, there was an historical exhibit about local communities and the pear industry. We are looking forward to the last Sunday in July 2005.

Our historical society has been hosting a luncheon for the Sacramento Historical Consortium, an informal group with representatives from many nearby historical societies. We will be having the luncheon again this June (2005). Be sure to come to help out and to enjoy the visitors as they enjoy the Delta. (Continued on Pg 2)



Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL POTLUCK

Tuesday, January 18th at 6:30 pm

Location to be determined. Watch for postcard.

"Life and Times of Locke"

By Ping Lee

Please bring food for 10: A - N: Hot Dish O - S: Salad T - Z: Dessert

Please call Tom Herzog at 916-775-1479 if you have any questions

NL V024 #1002

SOCIETY NOTES (Continued)

We are trying to do more oral interviews. Please contact us if you would like to help or if you have suggestions for people to be interviewed.

The Resource Center is ready for use and full of fascinating information. If you want to browse or to do research it is open most Tuesdays or by appointment. Call Fran Bates at 776-1012. If you want to help there is a great deal to be done!

We have been scooped! There is a history of Walnut Grove on www.walnutgrove.com web site. Try it you will like it.

If you missed the meeting last year on the Chinese in the Delta you can purchase "Bittersweet Roots," the videotape that was shown at that time. It is available for sale in Locke. The film is a wonderfully done epic of the Chinese and their contribution to the Delta and California. It is locally produced and therefore right on the mark.

Our September 21 meeting was speaker Jane Wolff author of "Delta Primer." Her talk was a wonderful explanation of the fragility and necessity of the Delta. More on the meeting in a later issue of the Newsletter.

Stories Wanted! Are you sitting on a piece of history? History Detectives, is a PBS series about the discovery, documentation and preservation of historic American buildings and artifacts. We are seeking story submissions for our second season. History Detectives is sending a call out for stories to historical organizations across America. If you, or someone you know, have an object or building that may have played a key part in American history, tell us about your mystery. Please submit questions or story ideas to: melissah@liontv.us <<mailto:meganl@liontv.us>> <http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/> History Detectives is a co-production of Lion Television and Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Our Historical society is going to help The Locke Association and the California Department of Parks and Recreation to form the Locke museum. It is important that we keep track of the Dai Loy and our artifacts as well as support the development of Locke.

Don't forget the January Potluck, location to be determined, **TUESDAY, January 18.** Ping Lee will speak on the Life and Times of Locke.

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"The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society publishes the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society Newsletter twice a year.

WALNUT GROVE 1850-1970

Written by Kathleen Graham Hutchinson

This is the continuation of our Towns along the River series. We have completed Ryde, Vorden and Courtland. This is a multi part history of Walnut Grove. Because some of the material is conflicting and some is vague or ambiguous there are sure to be inaccuracies in this article and recollections can be fallible. As with all previous articles, additions or corrections are welcomed. Many thanks in advance to Art Brown, Fran Brown, Barbara Brooks, Marilyn Dye Fisher, "Terry" Salisbury, John Salisbury, Katherine Oda, Russ Graham, Jr. and to some who are no longer with us, Bill Berry and Bill Hutchinson among others.--Ed.

PART TWO - Our Walnut Grove saga continues

The new Alex Brown General Store building, built in 1916 stands next to the old bank building. In the early years there was a line of walnut trees from the store to "Chinatown." The trees in front of the store had iron hitching rings driven into them. The store was operated by the Nelson C. Barry family and called the N. C. Barry store. Barry's grandfather William H. Barry was born in South America and came to the Delta in 1854 settling upriver near Onisbo. A long wharf extended along the levee in front of the store called Barry's Wharf. It is said that the first river pears were shipped from Barry's Wharf. Freighters express and passenger packets, launches all stopped at the wharf. The Delta King and Delta Queen did not stop. They were limited, Sacramento-San Francisco with only one stop at Rio Vista. Two toots and the bridge opened for them as they glided along the river.

In 1925 the store advertised: dry goods, farming implements, hardware, paints, oil and glass. In 1940 the N. C. Barry Co. advertised radios, electric appliances, bean spray parts and "Castle Gate" coal from Utah. After the Barry family, Jack and Hubert Brown, sons of John Brown and the grandsons of Alex Brown ran the store which during their custodianship incorporated the butcher shop on the premises. They renamed the store "The Shopping Center." In 1951 the brothers sold to Ping Kan Lee, his brother On Kan Lee and Chester King. The trio remodeled the store, sold off the hardware and rebuilt the meat counter and grocery shelves. The Lee brothers and King were from Locke. The renamed the store "The Big Store." Family members of the owning trio owned the store for 45 years when it was sold to long time employees.

A one and a half story brick addition to the general store building was the office of Schumacher and Brown Brokers. Al Schumacher was a grain and pink beans broker who when he branched out into the insurance business in 1922 associated with himself Myron Brown, the son of Art and Amy Dye Brown. After Schumacher, Myron Brown Associated with Fred Meyer and the firm's name changed to Meyer and Brown Insurance and a new office built next to the General Store. When the new bank opened in 1952, Brown, Meyer and Trantum as it then became, moved into the old bank building and the Alex Brown Estate Co. and (Continued on Pg 3)

WALNUT GROVE 1850-1970 (Continued)

Alex Brown Electric Co found a new home in the old insurance office. (Their previous offices were lost in the hotel fire). Enos Real Estate is the current occupant. Opposite the old Bank building, stands one of Walnut Grove's older buildings, the Lufkin Store and Public Hall. Harry Tileston Lufkin married Louisa Jane Wise, the daughter of early Walnut Grove settlers and built his general store and public hall in 1885. The Public Hall, in back of the hall, was entered via a catwalk and door to the right of the building. A stage was the hall's most distinctive feature. Recitals, amateur revues, church services and community meetings were held in the hall. Among the community service organizations were the Delta Progress Club and its successor the Walnut Grove Rotary Club. The U. S. Post Office later occupied the store premises. For some years the building was decorated with a Mission Revival curvilinear pediment edged in roof tiles. Lufkin departed for the Freeport area early on and Alex Brown bought the building. After the Post Office moved to a new building the store became a hardware store operated by Ferdinand Steiner, a Swiss. He opened the area to include the old Public Hall and the stage was integrated into the store. The building today houses an auto parts store. The Brown's horse stalls where were housed their standard bred pacers were beneath the store. The barn doors are still there. Their racetrack was on Racetrack Road until the 1907 flood. They then moved the barn to Woodland, Yolo County and built two racetracks on the Stoneyford ranch in Colusa County. It was there that they had the stud farm where a sorrel named Monte stood stud. Prizes and several cups were won by "Aristo" (also an asparagus brand), "Prince Ancel" and "Alice." Behind the old bank building is a small house recently renovated by Mrs. Hubert Brown. The early history of the house is obscure. It has been speculated that it was a settler's house or hotel cook's quarters. It is known that in 1869 Fred Wicker lived in it and later it became a tack room. In the 1930's it was the Tyler Packers Association manager's office. In a small house in back Hervey Salisbury the husband of Clarabelle Lord Salisbury resided during his long illness.

In the 1920's and 30's it was the medical office of first Dr. Pallison and then Dr. John Drew. The first doctor of record Dr. Hayes made his house calls by horse and buggy. Dr. Martin followed in the 1920's after visiting a patient he would reach into one of his pockets and retrieve the prescribed tablets, dust them off and then give them to the patient. Known to keep very blunt needles for his syringes, he tossed his medical bag and equipment into the trunk of his car which was filled with his old cigar butts and other trash.

The street between the Lufkin store/post office and old bank building, which ran down the levee flank was called at one time Railroad Avenue. At other times it has been called Dixie Lane and Brown's Alley. In the 1920's its residents called it "Gasoline Alley" after a popular comic strip. The houses on both sides were built by the Brown Estate about 1922. Among those families who lived on Railroad Avenue in the early 20's were Russell Durbin, W.N.L. Hutchinson and next door Stanford Brown. Also "Doc" Mount, the vet and as mentioned Dr. Pallison and later Dr. Drew. In 1927 the County Branch Library was in one of the residences. The Hutchinson house is now a

dentist office.

In addition to the Bank of Alex Brown, Walnut Grove was known for its magnificent Tudor-style hotel. The first hostelry in Walnut Grove was the Sharp House where travelers were taken in. Eventually the house was enlarged into a full-blown hotel. Three stories with two front balconies. In 1879 Mrs. Agnes Brown arrived in Walnut Grove with her family and leased the hotel from the Sharps. In 1880 E. F. Fitch appears to have been its manager. The Brown's eventually bought it and in 1918 it was either "moved back" or razed and the Browns built the new hotel which cost \$120,000 to both build and furnish. Ardella "Dell" and Frank Brown lived in a hotel apartment as did Alex and Kate Brown. The hotel was three stories in front and four in back. It was between the old Post Office and the New Post office. The garden in front of the hotel was enclosed by a concrete post and chain fence. The *cederus deodora* in the garden was strung with Christmas lights each December. Until the hotel demise in a spectacular fire, October 1969, farmers and businessmen met regularly in the coffee shop and Rotary weekly in the dining room. Along the side of the hotel a catwalk led to Hans Rugaard's Barbershop. After Rugaard moved, Alex Brown Electric Co and the Alex Brown Estate Company office occupied its place. (Rugaard in 1927 occupied a site on the riverbank opposite the hotel).

Alex Brown Electric Co had 300 customers, all in East Walnut Grove. Established in 1911, it never raised rates. Everett Earl Campbell was its head accountant for many years, followed by Mrs. Hildreth Dambacher, also for many years. When Mrs. Dambacher retired in 1974 as bookkeeper for both the Alex Brown Electric Co. and Alex Brown Estate Co the Electric Co. was sold to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Alex Brown Estate Co employees were "Cap" van Gelderen head maintenance, "Solderin Joe" Conrad mechanic and "Old Doc" Eldred, carpentry.

In back of the hotel, Del Brown tended a small pretty iris garden, and there was a wonderful hill (part of the hotel foundation fill) which youngsters delighted in rolling down. The also enjoyed climbing to the attic and yelling down the laundry chute.

All the young bachelors lived at the hotel. One story is told that Stewart Brown (no relation) during Prohibition would engage Kate Brown in conversation while his buddies using a rope, hoisted barrels of liquor through an upstairs window. Another story has John Brown after a few after business drinks and driving home, telling his friends "follow me" and proceeded to miss the ferry ramp. Another story is told that when Mrs. Kate Brown asked the hotel's Chinese cook how he got the beautiful glaze on the dinner rolls, he explained the he took a mouthful of water and sprayed it through his teeth onto the bread. Joe Brooks, a New Englander, who married Allie Brown's widow Christine, (Allie died in the flu epidemic) managed the hotel for a number of years. The Brown's finally sold the hotel to "Toad" Crowfoot, who renamed it the "Boon Dox Hotel" and who then sold again to Mo Morais who was the owner when it burned. The Fire Department determined that the blaze was started in the basement by a transient.

Continued on Pg 4)

WALNUT GROVE 1850-1970 (Continued)

The Brooks' lived next to the hotel in a "Delta Style" house which is a house built over a full above ground basement. The house was built by Christine Brown and her late husband Allie Brown. It had a wrap-around glass enclosed porch and faced the hotel. In later years the new post office building was built between the house and hotel. Christine Brooks was remembered among other things for absinthe "tea parties" where young Delta matrons "had a ball" sliding down the stairs on pillows. Christine also had a small antique shop for a time. Years later, below the new Post Office was Dee Wise's barber shop, James Gualco's law office and the Walnut Grove-Isleton Judicial Court.

To the back of the house was the Brown's barn, built on stilts, painted an orange-yellow and an adjacent corral. Nearby the Alex Brown Company Garage was overseen by "Studderin" Vina Conrad roughly situated near the south corner of Theater and North-South Street, today Alex Brown had his asparagus warehouse. In the 1930's the Tyler packing shed (Asparagus Association) occupied a similar site. "Ty-Pac" was its chipping label. George Wilson ran the shed and Stu Brown the office on Railroad Avenue (Brown's Alley). In the 1930's Tyler Island was planted entirely to asparagus: "Grass." The association shipped east hundreds of rail carloads of fresh asparagus. The asparagus was packed in moss in shook boxes. Before 1936 over 90% of all commercially grown asparagus in the United States was grown in the Delta. The "Green Grass" went east to the "White Grass" country to the cannery. On the site of the present Court/Library building the yearly carnival performed.

At the request of Kate Brown, the "Imperial Theater" was built in 1919/20. The building was owned by Tonekichi Takeda. In 1930 he sold to Ben Harvey. Harvey's widow renamed the theater "Grove." She sold it in 1941 to Ben's brother Ray Gilgert who with his wife ran the Gilgert and Harvey "Grove" Theater. The theater was the locale for amateur nights in the 1930's and 40's and in the thirties several road shows performed at the theater. During the 1940's-1960's an annual Christmas show was presented for local youngsters. In May 1954 Delta Chinese gathered at the Theater to hear Li Pook Sang of Nationalist China (Taiwan) speak. Occasionally foreign language films were shown. The theater had 400 seats (100 loge, 300 regular). Dangling from the ceiling were single light bulbs which lit the interior. Rats and mice scurried under-foot during shows. The theater closed in 1970. Across the street an old streetcar served as a diner. Above the street car on the levee there reportedly was a bakery.

Next to the theater was the Delta Garage, owned by Edward V. Helm and W. M. Miller. It was painted white and on the right side in red and blue lettering was painted "a wheel in line saves many a time" under which a Model-T in need of wheel alignment was pictured and under which was written "Let us help you go straight" and under which was also advertised "General automobile repairing, tractors, accessories, acetylene welding, Firestone Tires and tubes" and "Official Willard Gas Station." Ed Helm later moved to Dos Palos, Merced County. Now adjoining, but once separate was the Wilson-McCall Garage which housed the Dravage

Company owned and operated by George Wilson and L. W. McCall. McCall advertised contract hauling and the telephone number was Courtland 752. McCall parked his trucks next to the levee in front of the garage. The chief machinist was Lee Hanson contract trucking began about 1928 in the Delta and supplanted the river freighters. Later Walnut Grove Transport operated by J. T. "Snick" Manus occupied the premises. Manus later operated a Cafe at Four Corners on the Walnut Grove-Thornton Road. Other garages in Walnut Grove were the Walnut Grove Garage and Machine shop whose proprietor was Frank J. Fallman. (he later moved to Brentwood, Contra Costa County) and E. J. Picard "expert electrical and battery service" and selling agents for the Star Motor Company.

Directly behind the Wilson-McCall garage and situated next to a large Oak tree was the first schoolhouse. In back of the schoolhouse was a dense forest of oak and sycamore trees in and under which thrived large flocks of orioles, quail and other birds. The building lastly was used as the first Oriental School after institution of the California Oriental Segregation law in 1921. In the early 20's the school mistress was a young widow Mabel Birch. She commuted weekly by riverboat from Sacramento leaving her young daughter with her parents. She lived with the Hervey Salisbury family arriving on Sunday and leaving on Friday. The new Walnut Grove Oriental School (Later Walnut Grove Elementary School) was built in 1936. As educators viewed the situation, language arts was the primary reason for segregation. The oriental school often had the larger enrollment. Among the founding trustees were Al Kammeyer and George Fry. The separate school provision of the law was successfully challenged in 1946 and the brick school and oriental School were consolidated.

The school was built on the Walnut Grove Ballpark site. The Semi-pro Delta League baseball team played at the park and the spectators sat on bleachers. The Dr. Paul Barnes Community Park also occupies a part of the site. The Park is named for Walnut Grove's highly respected long time (over 35 years) physician who came to town after World War II. He was a native of northwest Arkansas. (Continued next issue)

UP DELTA

Courtland Parker summarized his book "Up Delta" at the Society May Meeting. He called it the early days or a cruise into the past. The book, from a boater's standpoint, was written so people could appreciate and enjoy the Delta. After five rewrites something like the format became a tour guide of 19th century **manners the Delta** in the 1800's. There are very few records of the Delta in the early 1800's but the San Francisco newspaper "Alta" was his best source.

Boaters are mostly lost due to levees which obscure the landscape. It was like being in a big ditch. The best they can do is focus on Mt. Diablo and navigate from there. The tule fog also caused visibility problems. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration makes charts and maps but does not have a lot of material on the Delta. The Coast Guard cannot (Continued on Pg 5)

Up Delta (Continued)

provide much information either.

Mr. Parker summarized a number of Delta anecdotes which appear in his book:

Onisbo, platted but never settled a “boomtown” laid out near the Steamboat Slough entrance to the Sacramento River where the river became shallow. Boats were supposed to dump their cargo at Onisbo for smaller boats to deliver. Somehow it did not boom and Courtland developed instead and got a Post Office. What Delta records were kept disappeared in floods and fires. China towns and Japanese towns simply burned and relocated—leaving only oral records.

Captain John Sutter’s first trip up the Sacramento River began in San Francisco August 9, 1839. He claimed, due to currents and wind, it took two days to find Carquinez and another two days to find the entrance to the Sacramento River channel from Suisun Bay. In spite of this, he claimed to land at Sutter’s landing (on the American River) on August 12, 1839. He did not get around to writing his log until 30 years later. He did go on north to the mouth of the Feather River.

On New Years Eve 1861 during a flood stage the Chrysopholis set a Sacramento to San Francisco speed record, 5 hours and 19 minutes—through Steamboat Slough. The Chrysopholis was 245 feet in length and averaged 22 miles per hour. The New World a steamship built in New York and very expensive was attached waiting in dry dock for someone to pay her bills. Somebody convinced the Sheriff to put it the water so it would season and not dry out. Somehow the boat took off and was next heard of in Rio de Janeiro. The captain lost all the ship papers in a mishap on the way to the port authority. The port authority kindly issued new papers and the New World continued around the Horn to San Francisco fully accredited. It held a Sacramento to San Francisco record of 5 hours and thirty minutes. The Chrysopholis shaved 8 minutes off the record.

Collinsville was the fishing capitol of the Delta. It had wooden streets which flooded all the time. The town lasted about 10 years and then waned. One of its inhabitants was Al Adami better known as “Al the Wop” who later moved to Locke. The fishing boats used were called Monterey boats and were used on the Sacramento River. They were double ended sailboats. When they were used in San Francisco to get sardines they had a small motor. They moved on to Monterey Bay where they got their name.

Mariano Vallejo was responsible for several names on the land. Once he lost his favorite white horse while crossing the channel—years later a white horse was seen running with the elk on a strip of land now known as “Mares Island.” Pinole got its name as thanks from Vallejo for food given to him by the Indians when he had trouble crossing the straits. Vallejo sold the land for a town to be named after his wife “Francisca.” That did not go well with the people across the bay and so the town got another of Vallejo’s wife’s name “Benicia.” The ferry from Martinez to Benicia was started in 1848. The toll money collected was to go to the schools, and so

it did until 1952 when the ferry stopped running.

For over 100 years there were plans with very strong efforts to dam the Delta. “They” were finally convinced that flooding everywhere would not be beneficial.

Pittsburg, originally surveyed (as was Sacramento) by Lieutenant William T. Sherman at that time it was called “New York” landing. A family named Pittsburg (no relation to the eastern Pittsburgh) created a steel mill and that is why the town is so named. It was also a shipping point for coal mined at the Black Diamond mine located near Somerville on the flanks of Mount Diablo.

Paintersville is named after Eli Painter who had a 40 acre farm and a well known “posthole” bank. People began to leave gold dust with Mr. Painter. After dark he, who seemed always to be building a fence would pull out a post and deposit money in the hole and replace the post. No one ever figured out where the money was, even though he was often followed.

In 1849 a bark “Witten” sailing from San Francisco to Sacramento (upstream) made it in 72 hours. That was quite a Delta breeze! The flat bottom stern wheeler “Ohio” was the first to go up the American River to Coloma.

Stockton was originally “Tuleburg”. In 1846 Webber renamed the town Stockton after Commodore Robert F. Stockton who was involved in taking California in 1846. This was the first English named town in California. es to Oregon in 1839 and did not want to go around the Delta again with 1000 head of cattle and so tried to cross the Carquinez Straits at Port Costa. He tried several times and several ways—once trying to float a corral with the cattle in it, but the strong currents all the way across made it impassable. Finally with lariats strung across the strait and taking 2 cattle at a time it took 15 days to ford the strait.

Early Walnut Grove got its name from walnut woodchoppers who supplied wood for the steamboats. Then when the boats started stopping the houses of gambling and ill-repute started. Georgiana Slough was the main water connection for a 600 mile inland waterway. Steamboats ran from south of Fresno to Redding.

Between 1853 and 1879 Steamboat Slough lost depth from 15 to 5 feet due to hydraulic mining techniques. This sent the steamships up and down the Sacramento River. Every landowner had a landing. They put out a light or flag and the pilot grabbed a piece of brush to hold the boat while the cargo was put on board. There was a \$1.25 limit per stop. There were boards next to the landings called echo boards used by pilots to navigate in the fog—their whistles echoed off the boards giving distance information to the pilots.

Riverboat races sound romantic but a large unknown number of people were killed due to over taxed boilers that blew up. Many Captains were highly competitive and would try to pass in the wrong circumstances. They liked to race the mail packets. There was a Captain George Washington Kidd who blew up three ships racing. The Nevada was the first in 1861. (Continued on Pg 6)

Up Delta (Continued)

Racing the record of the “New World” the “Oregon” blew up and sank. In 1864 the “Washoe” trying to overtake the “Chrysopolis” had tied down the boiler relief valve. There was low water in the boiler and when they turned a corner the water disappeared and the boiler blew up. No one was held responsible. It was all blamed on the boilermakers back east. The explosion killed many passengers who were near the boiler.

There is still a “dolphin” at the south side of the Steamboat Slough entrance to the river. Boats would put their nose in and the dolphin would swing it around into the slough. One time reportedly when the “Sacramento” came off the dolphin the “Antelope” tried to pass and ran aground. The “Antelope” caught up with the “Sacramento” as it was leaving Rio Vista and rammed it shoving it for two miles while shots rang out. Finally tempers cooled and every one went about their business.

Writing from General Mariano Vallejo

“December 12. 1842, the whole country was overflowed, and all that level part of your country out to the hills at Vacaville. On that day I sailed in a schooner of twenty tons from the present site of Sacramento in a southwesterly direction passing over what is now elevated farming lands in that section. The Montezuma Hills and other highlands were not submerged, but all the other country was. I was able to, and did, sail over these with ease where are now fine farms. Several hunters and their horses were drowned and afterwards found at Benicia when the waters subsided. The overflow lasted for several weeks. No crops were then raised as there were no settlers in the whole region at that date, only a few cattle-herders and hunters.” Abandoning any hopes for a town on Captain Davis lot No3 the men looked down river, for a more secure location. They were looking for a place above the rivers reach which still had river access, to build a new town. A town which would also be name Rio Vista. From Rio Vista Museum Newsletter.

WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THIS GREAT PUBLICATION???

*Then make sure you pay your 2005 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):
 2005 other _____
 \$25 a year for Individual/Family/Business Membership
 I've enclosed \$150 to become a LIFETIME member.
 I'd like to register as an Honorary Member.
 (Free to those 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

SRDHS 2005 SCHEDULE

Meetings are typically held on third Tuesday of each month. Tentative schedule – Subject to change.

January 18.....	General Meeting/Annual Potluck
February 15.....	Board Meeting
March 15.....	General Meeting
April 19.....	Board Meeting
May 17.....	General Meeting
June 21.....	Board Meeting

June Newsletter

July/August.....	Summer Break
September 20.....	General Meeting
October 18.....	Board Meeting
November 15.....	General Meeting
December.....	Board Meeting

December Newsletter

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 P. O. Box 293
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