

# Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

"For what is the present, after all, but a growth out of the past." - Walt Whitman

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

JUNE 2005

### PRESIDENTS NOTES

Are you a collector of old items at your home? Well if you are you may have history stored there. So many times people save letters, keepsakes, coins, books, documents and you name it. These items are many times ones junk or something for a yard sale but to history buffs they are treasures. Collectors buy, sell and trade these treasures all the time. Museums and libraries collect these treasures for displays or collections. Our Resource Center is a collection of many fine local history items, including books, pamphlets, photo's, letters, documents, maps, journals and other items. My hat is off to those who have donated items, worked and made this center possible. If you have any of these treasures around and would like to donate them or just bring them down to be copied for our center please contact us. We now are in the computer age and with this technology and now can save these resources in memory banks for a useful library. This computer process also saves those using the resource from over handling the items in the center and an easy way for copies to be made. Any photos or documents of our local towns, canneries, water transportation and etc. are items of great importance. We are also putting our past newsletters on a computer file. We are missing fall/winter 1977, all of 1978 and all of 1986. If you have these please contact us so we can make copies. We are also missing the book "Bitter Melon" and if you borrowed it sometime ago please contact us so we can quite looking.

Our Oral History Program has really taken off with some new volunteers to obtain these histories. We are in the process of obtaining a few more recorders to get the job done.

The museum project of Locke that we approved in October with State Parks is off and running. The funding from the state has been approved for purchase and is moving forward.

Our September program will be the arrival of the Chinese Junk "Grace Quan" between September 7 and 8th. John Muir, curator of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, will pilot the boat for its stay in Walnut Grove along with hopeful lectures to the schools and an evening program with our society. Web site- (<http://www.nps.gov/safir/junk.html>) Exact times and date haven't been set yet. In November we hopefully will have Jim Dahlberg present a slide show and lecture on local collectable labels. In January for our annual meeting may be Terry and Jane Alchorn presenting a program on the Sol Runyon residence.

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor.....Kathleen Hutchinson  
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### SOCIETY NOTES

The third Tuesday in January brought our annual potluck dinner. A large crowd enjoyed Ping Lee telling the story of Locke. Mr. Lee's speech belied his admitted 88 years. He told of his father beginning the town and then of his own keeping it alive for the last 35 or 40 years. Connie King was there to back up his account.

The Delta cooks brought wonderful food, wine was provided by Bensen Ferry Wines (Stokes Farms) and Ehrhardt Estates Winery (Herzog Company), Tommy Mayes pouring. A brief meeting was held during which a slate of officers and directors was approved. 2005-06 officers are President Tom Herzog, Vice President Judy Culbertson, Recording Secretary Terry Alchorn, Corresponding Secretary Doris Pylman and Treasurer Linda van Loben Sels and Fran Bates Past President. Directors include Bobbie Collier, Debbie Chan, Joe Enos, Jim Dahlberg, Mindy Harding, Esther Koopman, Marshall Pylman and C.J. Jensen. C.J. organized the dinner with help from Jayne and Terry Alchorn, Tom Herzog and his helper Richard, Jim Dahlberg, Mary Fulster, Barbara Dahlberg, Fran Bates, Debbie Chan, Judy Culbertson and Linda van Loben Sels and Doris Pylman at the door.

There is a possibility of the Resource Center being "on line". This would make our material available to many researchers. It would be a giant step forward.

We have 221 fabulous members. Our thanks to every one.

Connie King and Clarence Chu are turning the Locke Hotel into a museum of Locke and Delta Chinese artifacts and would like any contributions or donations of artifacts. Contact them in Locke.

The SRDHS March meeting was such a success that the Elk Grove Historical society imported it. A wonderful job on TOOLS by Jerry Waterworth and Tom Herzog. More next issue.

Hats off to Judy Culbertson who has agreed to chair an education committee to involve our local schools in the study of history. Judy has several successful programs in this field already so we can count on some interesting programs.



JULY 31, 2005  
COURTLAND, CA

NL V025 #001

**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 THREE**

Caucasians and Asians lived parallel lives. To the north of the theater and garages was Walnut Grove's Oriental Town divided roughly by Dye and Brown property lines and by Chinese and Japanese. The division between Dye and Brown was today's C Street. Fire destroyed Walnut Grove's Oriental Town known as "Chinatown" and "Japan Town" twice. The first and most devastating was on October 7, 1915. At the time, the area contained 94 houses and numerous businesses and was the second largest on the West Coast. Only San Francisco's "Chinatown" was larger.

The Oriental Town suffused with the odor of fried food and opium, teemed with activity. In 1912 it was described by Deltan Russell Graham Sr. as a "World beater". The fronts of the gaming halls were "lacquered/painted". Large groups of See-Yap and Chong-San Chinese resided in the town. The men wore traditional clothing and kept their hair in queues. (The emperor declared that all men below a certain caste would suffer death if their hair wasn't queued. Since most Chinese expected to return to China they followed the Emperor's edict. The law was abolished in the 1920's.)

There was controversy in the newspapers as to the origin of the fire, but an elderly Japanese resident remembered the fire began about noon in an old building overhanging the river. A recent Japanese immigrant started a cook fire which caught the news papered ceiling on fire. The wind was brisk and the fire rapidly spread leaping to nearby structures on both sides of the levee. The fire burned very hot and Alex Brown's two fire boats the "Fighting Bob" and the "Alex B" streamed water onto the fire. Embers smoldered for weeks. Many lives were lost, notably those in the opium dens. Walnut Grove residents recalled the stench of burned flesh lasted for days.

After the fire many Chinese left to live in Locke but enough stayed that by 1929 over 800 Chinese lived in Walnut Grove. Their numbers increased to over 1000 at harvest time.

To oversee and regulate businesses, the powerful Bing-Ong Tong was established. Between 1910 and 1920, the Tong operated gambling syndicates and performed social functions (such as assisting the indigent to return to China, sending remains to ancestral...(Continued Page 3)

**CHINESE HISTORY BOOK**

In November 2004 the Sacramento River Delta and Isleton, Andrus and Brannon Island Historical Societies met in Isleton. The speaker was Debbie Leung Yamada who spoke about writing her book "Striking it Rich". She saw a need for a fourth grade text book on the Chinese in California during the Gold Rush. In California fourth graders, study the state history. The Missions and the Gold rush get good coverage but the Chinese who came to "Gold Mountain" or California in 1850 seemed under represented. One fifth or approximately 50,000 of the gold seekers were Chinese. It is not a child's book although formatted as children listening to their Chinese grandfather tell of his days as a store keeper in a mining town in 1850. The author traced the Chinese throughout the mother lode to frame her book. She covers the treatment of the Chinese, their participation in the Gold rush, building the railroad, building levees, farming, and fishing in Monterey. The setting is an old country store in Oakland patterned somewhat after the well known Fiddletown Herb store. At the time of the gold rush Fiddletown was the largest Chinese town outside of San Francisco probably 4-5000 Chinese men. Of course the Chinese had to live on the outskirts of town and took most of their gold from tailings. Locating the store in Oakland allowed the author to discuss the Monterey fishing, as well as the gold field activities of the Chinese men. The men came to make their fortune and return home. Since they planned to return home they had to maintain their queues as they were required by their emperor. There were very few Chinese women allowed in California and most of them were forced into slavery. The stories are told to the children through letters, experiences and family stories. The children may ask questions of the storyteller. The gold rush drew large numbers of people from all over the world although there were few Japanese. It sounds like a children's story but it is an excellent adult read—no one who reads it wants it to end.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR 2005**

Charlene Anderson, Ralph & Ruth Clark, Richard Hunt, Pat Janssen, Russell & Janice Lukey, William Bates Noland, Lucky Owang, Donna Reed, Laurel Ross, Nellygrace Stoll, Milton Webb, Dorothy Wheeler, Verda Zayas and Isleton, Brannon-Andrus Island Historical Society.

O.R. Runyon developed the "Tragedy" Prune. John Miller of Tyler Island developed the "Miller Orange" Cling Peach.

Bayside Canning Co. was opened in 1906 in Alviso, Santa Clara Co., by Thomas Foon Chew. By 1921 it was the third largest cannery in him United States. There was a branch in Isleton.

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## WALNUT GROVE 1850-1970 Continued

villages or arranging for Cantonize Operas to visit and perform). The Tong also helped mediate quarrels. The Tong numbered 400 men at the height of its influence and during the 20's-40' sponsored a yearly festival at Chinese New Year, the Spring Banquet and its installation of officers.

Among other associations were the Chinese Society, district and family associations, and in the 1930's the Chinese Benevolent Tong flourished which acted as a bridge between Chinese and American cultures. The Chinese Free Mason Hall sits among a row of buildings on the levee. One balcony over hung Market Street.

Some Chinese associations in the United States were pseudo-political and were loosely organized underworld groups linked with violence. Extortion, it is said, was not uncommon in Walnut Grove which it is said was run by a series of "bosses". It is furthermore said that Eddie Lee Dip ran Walnut Grove as well as at times Teddy Mar and Man Chuck.

During this time there were many grocery stores, six gambling houses (the Chinese shot off firecrackers if someone won), numerous houses listed as lodging houses, general merchandise stores, barbershop and many buildings with "rooms" available. Dick Phipps, when working at the bank recalled two houses of prostitution. One was Bortilea's Bordellos about 50 yards from where Tony's restaurant is today, another was combined with gambling on Market Street. Nearby the Chinese Language and Culture School and the first Oriental School appeared to share the first Walnut Grove Schoolhouse.

There were also a number of Japanese businesses interspersed in the Chinese section of town prior to 1937. Notably the Baba Soda Fountains Pool Hall owned by the Inaba family, Yasuda Shoe Repair, Mizutani Candy Store, Tsurota Grocery, Kusaba Boarding House, Kinoshitaa Bait Shop, Sakai Pool Hall, S Adachi Bathhouse, Yasamura Grocery, Mrs. Sawada the midwife office and the Washio Barbershop. Some of these relocated to "Japan Town".

Hindus and Sikhs came to the Delta as farm laborers in the 1920's and 1930's. To the back of the Chinese settlement was a small building, an East Indian store, built to cater to their needs. In front stood two gasoline pumps. The Bank of Alex Brown at one time had more Hindu depositors than any other bank in America. Many of them attended John Brown's funeral saying that he "helped them and trusted them when help and trust meant the difference between success and failure in their farming ventures". The small East Indian store later became a Filipino store catering to the Filipino farm laborers and allegedly sold beer to minors. The Filipino community also traded at Lee's Market formerly Inaba's Grocery, at the corner of C and Market Street. Lee's delivered to the labor camps on ranches which employed Filipinos. The Hindu, Sikh and Filipino added to the mix in the colorful oriental quarter.

After the fire "Chinatown" was rebuilt and next to it Japan Town's population grew. Japan Town was

generally that part north of C street (Front Town). and later it expanded east of the railroad levee (Back Town). The Japanese style of architecture is readily apparent in narrow streets, the roof lines and overhanging balconies. Pre 1937 the sidewalks were wooden. In 1918 the Japanese formed the Walnut Grove Japanese Town Association to support the utilities and services needed such as street repair, water system maintenance, street lights and fire department support.

A Bok-Bok man was employed by the Brown and Dye Estates to tour "Chinatown and Japan Town" nightly clicking a stick on a wooden box to denote all was well. He even toured though "Old Walnut Grove" but in 1937 the fire alarm was raised. Fire destroyed everything from what is now Bridge Street to the South side of C Street inclusive. It is recalled that when the fire broke out, the Japanese with garden hoses sprayed water on their wooden structures reducing water pressure to the Chinese section which burned to the ground in most places. After the fire again many Chinese decided not to return when the land rent was increased. This helps account for the spotty placement of buildings in the old Chinese section. Several restaurants, gambling halls, Mah's Barbershop and Lim Kee's Department Store did return. Lim Kee's, founded by Suen Kim and continued by his son Robert Suen was a clothing and shoe store. The Suens lived above the store. Japan Town untouched by the fire continued to flourish and slowly expand.

Both drugstores in Walnut Grove were situated in this part of town. Ben's Drugstore was founded in 1907 by Ben Tatsuda. When he first arrived in Walnut Grove he was employed in the grocery department at the Alex Brown Store. The original store was on A Street and has been demolished. The second and last store was on Market Street and later run by Tatsuda's son-law Shigeo Kato and his wife Florence Tatsuda until their retirement to Seattle Washington. A full service pharmacy, they also sold gifts, yardage and notions.

At the corner of the levee and C Street was Robert Daugherty's pharmacy and ice cream parlor who in 1937 was succeeded by Fred Noble. After the '37 fire the pharmacy removed to a new building on the levee near Bridge Street. "Freddies" also had a popular soda fountain.

Opposite Dougherty's across C Street was at one time Ike Hanlon's Cafe. The building was recently certified by the National Park Service for rehabilitation. The first proprietor was Dann Needham. "Ike's" was a popular spot with locals and is the predecessor so to speak of Alma's which is today nearly next door. Later "Ike's" moved across the levee from Noble's Pharmacy to a building overhanging the water. Ike's was the Gibson Line bus stop at each location. All the local girls seemed to work at "Ikes Cafe" at one time or another. Facing Market Street, in the basement of the first cafe on Market Street George Fry had his plumbing shop. At one time Walnut Grove had four plumbers.

Also on the levee were service stations. The only one remaining is the Chevron Station which was at different times Shell and Union Oil. Signal Oil had a station which overhung the river roughly opposite A Street. The garage then became Union Oil and.....(Continued Page 4)

**WALNUT GROVE 1850-1970 Continued**

Victor Ow managed it. Near the corner of A Street on the north side the brick Fuji Garage still stands.

Inside Japan Town there were many businesses pre World War II. Afterward many of the buildings were converted to dwellings. Its heyday was the twenties. To catalogue there were six groceries: Ioka, Tsurota, the Hatanaka Tofu Shop, the Noritake Tofu Shop and T. Hayashi which opened in the 1920's and Inaba (Lee's Market). After World War II the Inaba parents retired and the three sons established a wholesale grocery business specializing in Japanese foodstuffs which is headquartered in Sacramento. And there were four confectioners: Miyasaki Sweets, the Watanabe Fountain, Mizutani Sweets and the Lion Soda Works which produced bottled sodas.

There were at least eight restaurants—the Fuji, Mary's (owned by Mary Watanabe), the Okamoto Chop Suey House, the Natsukawaya (owned by the Tanaka family), Ito's, Susie's (owned by the Akamatsu family and then G Matsumoto) and the Black Cat Cafe.

There were also "boarding houses" Arimoto, Kishida, Takemura, Kusaba (it was converted from the Tatsukawaya Restaurant), Kumamoto (which was owned in order by the Yamashita family, Fukada family and finally the Sakogawa family), the Yoshida and the Yamaga. There were five "hotels" Nihon, Tomooka, Aki (owned by the Yamaga family) and Kyushu.

Mercantile choices were Asai Notions, the Naysykawaya Store owned by the Tanaka family, Itoda General Merchandise and the Matsuoka Shoe Shop begun in 1918 by Harry Matsuoka the store was furnished with a line of shoe store chairs. Shoe repair was added and a small line of leather goods. Matt's Shoe Service as it came to be called continued until Harry's son Tosh "Matt" retired.

S. Hayashi provided laundry service, the Namura family owned a cleaners and Mr. Hirotsu was a tailor. There were several small laundries.

Among the Japanese style Bathhouses in town were those owned by the Miyasaki family and the Adachi family. There were four barbershops Kawamura, Koga, Yagi and Adachi. Kawamura remains. There were also bait shops, some on the levee, but those in town were Maeda, Kobata and Nakaoka. The big fish sign at the Nakaoka Shop now hangs outside the Locke Boat House in Locke.

Two pool halls existed: Hamada and the Yagi Barbershop and Pool Hall.

Storage and warehousing was provided by Noritake, Kuwabara and the Inaba warehouse.

On the site of the Walnut Grove Market once owned by Jack Oda was the building which housed the Walnut Grove Japanese Town Association and the Walnut Grove Japanese Hall where traveling Theater companies performed Kabuki and other traditional theater. They also sponsored civic outings to Japanese cultural events prior to World War II. The Fourth of July outing was a

big event. The complex burned years later. Gakuen Hall in the Walnut Grove Estates (Backtown) became the Walnut Grove Japanese Community Center and it is now titled the east Walnut Grove Estates Center. The hall was built in 1928 as the Japanese language and culture school to replace its previous premises. The school began operation in 1914. Until the new Oriental School was built the hall housed the Japanese section of the elementary school. More than 300 donors contributed toward the hall and a Japanese architect from San Francisco designed the Mission Revival structure. A plaque in Japanese characters runs the length of the arcade with the names of the donors and the amounts each contributed. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

There were two churches which served the Japanese community. By far the largest is the Buddhist Church in "Back Town". Built in 1927 the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church was vandalized during World War II. The religious furnishings now in the Church on Pine Street were in the Isleton Buddhist Church which did not re-open after the war. The bell hanging above the entrance has no clapper, but in the Japanese style is sounded by gently tapping the outside with a special mallet. Situated adjacent to the Church, the Columbarium holds the inurned ashes of the deceased. Adjacent to the Columbarium and Church is the open area where is held each July the annual Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Bazaar on the weekend closest to the fourth of July. A few weeks later, in mid-summer the annual Obon Dance takes place on the grounds. The dancers, all parishioners wear traditional kimonos and yukatas. The Obon Dance is an important religious ceremony. The rectory is next door to the church.

The Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church South, "Kawashimo Minami Mi-I Kokai" is in the "Front Town:" on Winnie Lane and began as a mission in 1913. The first church was constructed by the Rev. Keiichi and burned in 1917, and again in 1934. The congregation decreased after the Buddhist Church attracted many who did not support Prohibition. The present church is two stories with cupola. The upper floors served as a Japanese Cultural School after World War II and as a boarding house.

The community medical needs were met over the years by Dr. Yamao, Dr. Akamatsu, Dr Lee a dentist and the Midwife Mrs. Sawada.

Beyond "Japan Town" up river there was a mixed residential commercial area. Notable structures were Martin Apartments (probably owned by Doc Martin) and the first John Brown house, one other house and in 1932, maps show a brothel situated next to Mealer Lane.

(Part Four continued next issue)

**Errata/Corrections to Walnut Grove articles****Corrections:**

1. In first article Phillips should read Phipps.
2. Second article: Page 3 Second column, paragraph 2: solderin should read STUDDERIN'  
Paragraph 4 Correction- Joe Brooks came from Colusa Ca. not New England.  
Page 4 Paragraph 2-correction Joe Conrad not Vina, also shipping label not chipping label. also The "Green Grass" went East: the.....(Continued Page 5)

**BOTTLE COLLECTING**

At the May 2004 meeting Jim Kuykendall of Clarksburg shared some of his experiences as a bottle collector. Jim has over 4000 bottles in his collection. Some are purchased at bottle collector meetings but most have been found along the sloughs and levees in our area. Jim probes and digs for bottles all over the Delta. Once he had to be cautioned about going too energetically after bottles in the levee.

Bottles have a variety of uses, one of the most interesting local bottles is a Walnut Grove soda water bottle. Jim has even found where the Lion Soda Works were located in Walnut Grove on Pine Street. He has found bottles in Clarksburg that were made in Hong Kong. He has mineral water bottles, whisky and wine bottles (some made in France) bath salt bottles, cola, soda the list can go on forever. Some of the collectable bottles are plastic.

The ages of the bottles are interesting too. His collection includes an Irish bottle from 1905, some from the 1870's, an 1882 (Chicken) bird feeder and a medicine bottle from 1899 which, has an eye dropper. The oldest bottle Jim mentioned (not his) was 1789.

The bottles of color are more expensive and add interest to the collection. Sometimes with certain bottles they color in the sun—but it takes quite a while.

Bottles have a great variety of shapes, long, tall, fat, and short and sometimes with a stopper or lid. Sometimes the cap is a measurer. Old pickle bottles are impressive for their shape. He also has a pine tree bottle from 1873. Perfume bottles offer interesting shapes. There is an eight sided inkwell too.

Jim really enjoys his hobby which he pursues as he walks around the countryside and attends bottle shows. He also demonstrated a talent with birdcalls.

The old Grand Island pumps and all other early reclamation district pumps were installed by Byron Jackson Machine Works of San Francisco. The pumps were coal fired.

**GEORGE THISBY**

He was born in Scarborough, East Riding, of Yorkshire, England in 1828. The son of William and Mary Trattles Thisby. He emigrated to the United States in 1849. For 23 years he was a night watchman on a Mississippi steamboat. In 1852 he migrated to California driving cattle by the southern route to Los Angeles. He spent two years mining in Nevada City and wound up in Sacramento with ten cents in his pocket. He worked in Sacramento for two years. In 1856 he bought 50 acres on Georgiana Slough. He cleared two or three acres and built a cabin 10x12 feet. He then rented an additional 20 acres on Grand Island. In 1859 he captained a trading boat, 5 tons burden, from Walnut Grove to Sacramento. During the flood of 1862 he lost all his stock except a span of horses and a cow. In 1862, he returned on a visit to England. Returning to California, in 1864 he bought the sloop "Franklin" of 35 tons, and captained her in the San Francisco trade. Meanwhile in 1868 he planted a 10 acre orchard on the "Slough" ranch and in 1867 bought his 222 acre home ranch. He became a director of the California Transportation Company upon its organization as well as Vice President until his death. In 1869 he married Rebecca Elliot of Enniskillen, Ireland. Rebecca emigrated to the United States with her mother. Rebecca's sister was Anna Sidwell of Rio Vista. The Thisby's had five children; Philip Henry born 1870, George born 1873, William John born 1875, Robert Francis born 1877 and Leonard Charles born 1878. In September 1880 George Thisby was killed on his ranch when he fell from a loaded hay wagon and was dragged. After his death his widow added 81 acres of the adjoining Wesfall Ranch to the Slough.

**Errata/Corrections to Walnut Grove articles Cont'd  
Corrections Cont'd**

"White Grass" to the cannery.  
Paragraph 4 "Wheel in line saves many a dime not time.

**Errata**

Millie Wensell writes: (regarding Walnut Grove article)  
"I remember my Mother telling me that Dell Brown's son Frank was a playwright and after several attempts he finally had a play due to open on Broadway during Christmas season in December 1941. Unfortunately, the plot was built around the lifestyle of our military leaders in Hawaii. Needless to say it ever opened and I believe he never had another chance."

**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 19.....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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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**

**DOROTHY MILLETTE— A Sad End**

Dorothy Millette Born-1889-1932 the marker reads in East Lawn Cemetery. A story long forgotten but which made big news in Walnut Grove, September 1932. She was a starlet married 20 years to Paul Bern but recently divorced. He immediately married Jean Harlow in July 1932. On September 5, 1932 he was found shot dead—an apparent suicide. An ambiguous note was left behind. His first will left Dorothy Millette his heir. Then a second will was found which left Harlow his heir. One day after Bern's death Millette checked out of her San Francisco Hotel and bought a ticket on the "Delta King" for Sacramento. The following morning about 4:30 AM as the boat passed Courtland an officer found a pair of slippers and a coat on deck. The article was identified as Millette's but she was no where to be found. Her baggage was in her room; her bed had been slept in. One week later a fisherman found her body floating in Georgiana Slough near Walnut Grove. She was buried by the Sacramento County Coroner James A. Garlick in East Lawn Cemetery.

**JOHN MILLER**

Miller, who became a close friend of Alex and Kate Brown was born in Virginia in 1835. Until 1870 he was in merchandising. At that time he migrated to California and settled on upper Tyler Island where he owned 1500 acres. He bought the land from Joseph Friend and Louis Winters. The original owner was H.W.C. Tyler, John Sharp's son-in-law. Evidently Friend died and Miller married, in 1872, his widow, who was a Canadian. His house on Racetrack Road was a brick "Victorian" with a porch. Subsequent owners were Danforth and Lum Bun Fong. It burned in 1940. The site remains on the Lum Bun ranch. After acquiring the 1500 acres Miller began "reclaiming" a large tract of a thick forest of Walnut trees. In the ensuing years he sold 1199 acres to C. W. Clarke and 200 acres to William Iagna. Miller's Ferry is named for him. Giusti's Restaurant likely was the ferryman's house. In agricultural circles Miller was known for his development of the "Miller Orange Peach". He died after 1912.

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

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society  
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Walnut Grove, CA 95690

**DYE**

The Dye family came west from Lee County (eastern) Iowa. They walked across the country. There were three (known) brothers Troy, Sperry, John and one sister, Delilah. At this writing we don't know the parents names but Delilah was born in Miami County, Indiana. She married Wm. Henry Harrison Bloom and they homesteaded on the mound east of Snodgrass Slough near what became Hood. Her son Andrew Carsly Bloom owned land at the point of Andrus Island opposite Walnut Grove for many years. Troy Dye became a County Supervisor and County Administrator. With three accomplices he murdered a local Grand Island farmer, A. M. Tullis to gain land rights. He was tried and hung on May 29, 1879 and buried in Franklin Cemetery on the Hood-Franklin Road. He was married and had two children, a son and a daughter who was 12 in 1879.

Sperry Dye married Elizabeth E. Sharp. He was a riverboat captain. He was born in 1846 and died in 1913. She was born in 1851 and died in 1913. They had five children: "Lizzie" b. 1867 and d. 1916 married L.D. Redisky, Sperry W., b. 1870 and d. 1959 married Elizabeth "Lizzie" in 1906/7 and had one child Marcella b. 1912 and d. 1985. Marcella married Edgar "Bud" Kruse and had four children Robert Sperry b. 1936 and d. 1939, Barbara b. 1939 who married Ralph Rose, Donald b. 1941 and Carl b. 1945 who became Mayor of the city of Poway near San Diego. Corodon who married first Lily J. and second Muriel had no children. He was the twin of Amy b. 1878 d. 1963 who married in 1901, Arthur Brown second son of Kate and Alex Brown. They had two children Myron b. 1904 and d. 1975 and Kate b. 1906 and d. 1978. Myron married Helen Cole of Sacramento in 1927 and had two sons Arthur William b. 1929 and Thomas Montford b. 1929. Kate married Fran Awalt and had two daughters Kathryn "Kay" b. 1930 and d. 1997 and Stephanie "Stessie" b. 1935 and d. 1978. Milo Ernest b. 1882 and d. 1963 married Carol Wise in 1905. She was b. 1888 and d. 1970. They had a son Grove Ernest b. 1907 and d. 1976. He married Eleanor Marilyn Mayden in 1931. She was b. in 1908 and d. in 1984. They had one daughter Marilyn Barbara b. in 1933 who married Herman William Fisher in 1956.