

"For what is the present, after all,  
but a growth out of the past?"

-Walt Whitman

1987

Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 2

Summer/Autumn Edition



TENTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
FOR THE  
DAI LOY

This marks the 10th year of operation for the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society's Dai Loy Museum in Locke. The Dai Loy has welcomed over 115,000 visitors in that time; in 1987 over 8,500 visitors were recorded. Exploration Cruise Lines continues with a stepped-up schedule of visits this fall. Additionally, the San Jose State University Continuing Education Program visited; Bates School in Courtland sponsored two tours; the Watsonville School District children visited again;

and the Chinese Alumni Group from the University of California were guests. The Dai Loy opened during the Locke Blossom Festival in March and during the two weeks of August "History Week."

Robert James, Frances Armstrong, and Kathie Graham reviewed the displays at the Museum in September, and Frances and Kathie worked three days cleaning and refurbishing all the exhibits. Some items were withdrawn, because they were not strictly applicable to the Chinese experience in the Delta and Locke, itself. Those items will be incorporated in the Delta History Gallery at the new SRDHS office. Attention is once again clearly focused on the Gambling Hall motif. A committee of Carol Gwerder, Chris Giovannoni, and Becky Wheeler will assist with future arrangements.

The Board of Directors voted to close the upstairs to visitors. The Supply Room will be refurbished as a bedroom and will serve as a display area for the genre pictures which were previously upstairs. (In the refurbishing project it was found that these photographs required more work due to dirt, bugs--especially silverfish--and other disfigurement.) Liability and fire insurance questions also provided strong reasons to close the upper rooms. Any future changes or major renovation projects will be considered by the building owner and the Society with caution and thoughtful planning.

B O A R D N E W S: Sacramento County has granted a request from the SRDHS for the use of areas in the Jean Harvie School Community Center in Walnut Grove. The Society will use a classroom and a cloakroom with locked storage space for a SRDHS office, library, meeting room, and Delta History Gallery, where non-Chinese artifacts, memorabilia, and exhibits can be displayed. This will serve as a resource center for the Society.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors rejected the request of the SRDHS for grant funds to renovate the yellow school house near the Jean Harvie School Community Center without a safe deposit box at the Bank of Alex Brown in Walnut Grove has been rented to store tapes and typed copies of each oral history developed by the Society.

The Board was invited to participate in the introduction of a new book, "Bitter Melon: Stories from the Last Chinese Town in America", on October 31, from 1-4 p.m. at the River Road Art Gallery in Locke. The book by Jeff Gillenkirk and James Matlow includes 10 oral histories and 50 pictures of Locke.

Galen Whitney has been appointed chairman of the nominating committee for 1988 officers.

**15 miles from Sacramento** Down River

**HOLLAND TRACT**  
"WHERE IT PAYS TO FARM"

**COME TO CLARKSBURG**  
where you will find every advantage a modern farmer requires and every factor which makes for farming success.

WRITE FOR INFORMATION  
**HOLLAND LAND CO.**  
First National Bank Building  
STOCKTON  
Also: Clarksburg, California (on the property)

You will make no mistake in buying here  
Inspection trips from nearby towns at our expense.

NL V007 #002

# Did You Know? . . . . .

....that the last survivor of the Lewis and Clarke Expedition is buried in Franklin Cemetery, Franklin? Alexander Hamilton Willard, born in Charlestown, NH in 1778, died in Franklin in 1865. He kept a journal on the expedition and gave valuable service as a gunsmith. ....that the Wong Center on lower I Street, Sacramento is located on what was the large Chinese district which extended from 2nd to 6th Streets. ....that there was a small Jewish community in Sacramento in the 19th century which operated businesses between 3rd and Front, J & K streets--and that their cemetery was on the southside of J St. between 31st and 32nd Sts. ....that in June 1909, Florin had a Japanese population of 450 which grew by several hundred during the strawberry and grape harvests. Florin was well known for its strawberries. ....that there was a large stand of redwoods in the east bay which were easily seen by early navigators in San Francisco Bay, who used them to fix their bearings in order to avoid Blossom Rock which lay under one fathom of water between Yerba Buena and Alcatraz. The redwoods were completely logged beginning in 1840.

# VIRGINIA DARE

EXTRA DRY

# GINGER ALE

A NEW PRODUCT A GOOD MIXER

ISLETON PRODUCTS COMPANY

# ISLETON CANNING CO.

"GOLDEN WREATH" BRAND

Asparagus :: Spinach :: Fruits

ISLETON, CALIF.

THINGS TO DO

ATTEND a lesson at the Old Sacramento Schoolhouse and Museum on Front St. The one hour lesson, a condensation of a class in 1852, will be taught by a costumed school teacher. All ages welcomed. Call 916-371-0803 AT THE CROCKER ART MUSEUM: "100 years of California Landscape." Included are works by Albert Bierstadt, Ansel Adams, Mary Amanda Lewis, and Perham Nahl.

A TEXTILE ARTS EXHIBIT at the Sacramento History Center and California State Railroad Museum-Stanford Gallery.

NOVEMBER 19, at the Sacramento Historical Society, the speaker will be Ernie Hartley, curator of the Towle Ford Museum, 2200 Front Street. Call 916-457-8340.

TOMBSTONE TOURS, Sacramento City Cemetery. Many well known early Californians are interred in City Cemetery, and some of the best early plastic art found in Sacramento is in the cemetery. Call 916-481-4525.

THE WESTERN RAILWAY MUSEUM at Rio Vista Junction is offering 16-mile round trip excursions through "the rolling agricultural land of Solano County, passing the platted town of Solano City (1914) and the Jepson Prairie, the last parcel of native Central Valley Prairie land." Call 707-374-2978 (weekends)

BLACK DIAMOND MINES Regional Preserve near Antioch at the end of Somerville Road. The coal mined here powered the paddlewheel steamers on the river beginning in the 1870's.

The N.C. Barry Store in Walnut Grove handled bags of coal from the mine at their wharf. There is also a sand mine and a mining museum, the abandoned towns of Stewartsville, Somersville, and Nortonville and picturesque Rose Hill Cemetery.

HAYES TRUCK MUSEUM, Woodland: Beautifully restored antique trucks. THE TOWLE FORD MUSEUM, largest single collection of one make of auto in the world. 2200 Front St., Sacramento.

OFFICE OF

## GEORGE M. PITTS & CO.

GENERAL SHIPPING AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

AND DEALERS IN

POULTRY, EGGS, GAME,

FRUIT, POTATOES, BEANS, GRAIN, HIDES, WOOL, ETC.

No. 512 Sansome Street, S. E. Corner Merchant

Sales for Account of *John H. Colby*  
 Account Sales sent every Tuesday, for the week previous. Cash when ordered.  
 San Francisco, *Oct 23 1882*

Oct 17 - 6 P.M.	Mustard	3 @ 5.25	15.75
		Spring 298 @ 2.50	620.00
18 7 "	Dublin	117 @ 1.25	68.75
		Deal 11 @ 2.00	67.00
20 7 "	Spring	369 @ 2.50	764.66
		Dublin 41 @ 1.85	97.65
21 7 "	Deal	59 @ 1.25	86.25
		Carrots 5 @ 3.40	20.80
22 7 "	Meal	23 @ 4.50	86.25
		Spring 269 @ 2.25	504.46
23 7 "	Meal	85 @ 1.50	106.50
		Deal 26 @ 1.75	37.75
24 7 "	Carrots	3 @ 5.00	15.00
		Meal 5 @ 4.50	18.75
25 7 "	Spring	112 @ 2.50	233.00
		Dublin 52 @ 1.25	54.25
26 7 "	Meal	43 @ 1.25	62.75

from the left  
 421 B  
 Oct 11/1977

Oct 10 59.00  
 " 11 269.59  
 " 23 251.10  
 579.69

We send you the above amount  
 \$579.69 by Express to day same  
 being balance due you to date

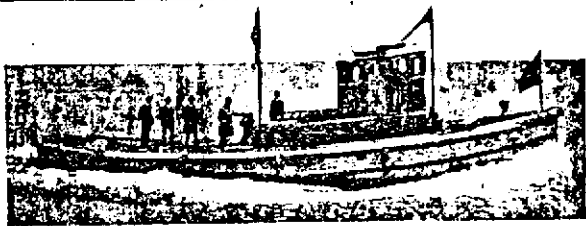
CHARGES:

Freight,		575
Drayage,		287
Weighing,	282 3/0	
Commission,	8/0	2258 31
Net Proceeds,		251

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society welcomed additional members to the organization and new names to the mailing list recently:

Christine Fye, New York, NY  
James Grieb, Pacifica, CA  
M/M Thomas Herzog, Courtland  
M/M Alan Kaufman, Pleasant Hill  
Edgar Kruse, Walnut Grove  
Ann Lofstrand, Roseville  
M/M Edward Paters, Concord  
M/M Paul Williams, Sunnyvale  
Pauline Lee, Palo Alto  
Virginia Yeyes, Palo Alto  
Torrey Lyons, Davis  
Margaret Cave, Hood  
M/M Dick Marshall, Clarksburg  
George Knoles, Palo Alto



### FREIGHTING AND TOWING

*Modern Equipment . . . Prompt Service*

## Rio Vista Lighterage Company

**C. F. CHRISTENSEN**  
GENERAL MANAGER

Rio Vista

California

## IN MEMORIAM

All society members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Marion Aldrich Brown on September 17, 1987.

Mrs. Brown was born near Courtland in the Pierson District in 1888. After her marriage to Walter Mansfield Brown, she lived south of Ryde in one of the better known old Delta homes. In her later years she resided near her daughter, Mrs. Mildred Brown Millhauser, in Hillsborough. Mrs. Brown was a charter member of the SRDHS.

## GIFTS

Assessments over the summer months have included these gifts: Chinese records and a woman's jacket given by Dorothy Huggett and the Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church; old Walnut Grove Justice Court Records from Jim Dixon; a Chinese style garden figurine from Locke; a group photograph of the Norman Jang family in 1922, taken at the Margaret Smith Ranch; numerous medicine bottles from James Campbell, operator of the Front Store in Locke. MANY THANKS!!!

The Society welcomes gifts of historic items and material from members and friends. Memorial and honorarium donations are acknowledged by the treasurer to families or recipients.

1987  
**RICHARD J. MURPHY**

149 California Street

San Francisco

California

# BEANS

REPRESENTED BY

**A. C. SCHUMACIER**

Walnut Grove

Sacramento County

California

## SPECIAL WORKERS

Kathie Graham has researched and written two new booklets for the Dai Loy Museum: "Discover How the Games Were Played" and "Discover Paintersville, Vorden, and Ryde." "Discovering Courtland has been substantially revised, and next year, "Discovering Walnut Grove" will be revised. Proposed for publication sometime in 1988 will be booklets on Isleton, Clarksburg and Freeport, and Hood and the surrounding area.

Kathie also gave a brief lecture and conducted a walking tour of "historic" east Walnut Grove for Walnut Grove teachers in conjunction with the celebration of the U.S. Constitution in September. She also distributed the booklets and calendar to the teachers.

Jan Quesenberry recorded the oral history of George W.G. Smith this past winter. Both the Smith history and an earlier tape by Jan with Clarence Pratt have been typed and placed in binders; they will be available for valid researchers.

The SRDHS has a new sign painted by Roger Carr. It has now been laminated for use in future years.

The sign was first used at the SRDHS booth at the Delta Pear Fair in July in Courtland. Chairmen of the society exhibit were Harry Rasmussen and Carol Watson.

HENRY F. ISHAM

MYWIN M. ISHAM



## H. F. ISHAM & SON

DEALERS IN

QUALITY MEATS

*We have served you for  
over 36 years with quality  
meat products. May we  
not continue to serve you?*

COURTLAND, CALIF.

NL V007 #002

# Down the Sacramento River in a Boat



READING SUGGESTIONS

from KATHIE GRAHAM

October 3, 1877. Night.

Sailed yesterday from Bidwell's Landing, seven miles west of Chico, at 3 p.m. Camped the first night on an island beneath a large sycamore. Enjoyed the strange sounds, the busy owls, the rush of the river, the planets reflected in the water, the seven stars of Ursa Major, the effect of my camp light on the willows and sycamores . . . A lovely dawn. Great numbers of birds -- cranes, geese, and ducks. Rapids are numerous. I fear lest my precious boat, "The Spoonbill" -- a lively memento of the Bidwells' kindness -- be stolen . . .

The river is full of snags. The banks are high -- twenty to thirty feet; sand and gravel bars are common. Steamers are hard tried -- a steamer going uphill is one of the most distressful sights imaginable.

Birds, especially brants, are abundant; I disturbed a flock of a thousand or more. They rose in a dome and gradually parted, then wheeled in a loud uproar, settled again into one flock, and alighted farther down.

Curlews are numerous along the gravelly, sandy, open beaches; and small birds, such as sandpipers and killdeers. Also flocks of mallards, blue-wings, cranes, and wood ducks.

Cattle coming to drink are afraid of my craft where I am camped on a low sloping bank between two clumps of willow. My boat sprang a leak from the swelling of ill-nailed bottom boards.

October 4, 1877.

I turned the boat upside down and removed one of the boards, and with my jack-knife, whittled it smaller to fit, replaced and nailed it with a stone for a hammer, then lightened it by throwing unnecessary lumber overboard, and sailed on more buoyantly and swiftly in the glorious purple sunrise . . . Struck snag while rowing and nearly upset. Began to think of climbing a tree to look for Marysville Buttes, when, at the end of a lovely reach, they appeared in full imposing view, exceedingly jagged in outline.

An hour before sunset I reached Colusa, and then sailed four or five miles farther over a charming bit of river of gradual sweep, with banks magnificently treed and vine-hung. The water was glassy with just a perceptible flow, and now and then a murmur of rippling current around the roots or dipping sprays. Camped under a huge old arching sycamore on a narrow ledge widened with my paddle. A strange animal grunted like a pig -- I saw the track in the mud, probably a coon, or badger or skunk . . . Plashing and plumping of fish.

October 5, 1877.

The sunrise on the Buttes this morning was a glorious rose purple. I sailed a few miles farther, passed the mouth of Butte Creek, and when the Buttes bore a little south of east, landed, hid my goods in the vine trees secure from pigs and civilized men, and set off cross-lots for the Buttes. Soon came into a road which led off eastward past the base of the southmost and highest of the group -- found it nineteen hundred and fifty feet above the river, or in round numbers, two thousand feet above the sea.

It is chiefly composed of old trappean lava with tilted stratified beds around the bases, chiefly conglomerate, with polished quartz pebbles (Scotch word for pebbles) abundant. The whole group evidently consists of mere remnants of a much higher and more united mass.

Butte Creek, a fine stream luxuriantly treed and lined, flows past on the south; the distance from river to base of westmost (butte), three miles; to southmost and highest, six miles; from Marysville, fourteen miles. I left my boat at 8 a.m., and reached it again at 3 p.m. The south sides of all the five main summits are dotted with small oaks and laurels, the latter more abundant. The north sides are clothed with dwarf oak, Salvia, Carduaceae common, also Spiraea, Mahonia, and Baeria. Gilias, pentstemons, and eriogonums . . .

The Buttes for fifty miles or so form a striking feature in the river scenery. In most places only the banks are seen with their luxuriant vine festooned trees, but from many a reach opposite them, they loom grandly and effectively as a mountain-range many times higher.

I camped on a sandy bar on the edge of a fine growth of young cottonwoods.

October 6, 1877.

The river-bank is becoming gradually lower, and the colors are becoming riper -- glorious reds and purples on the vines, the sycamore a rusty brown, the oaks gray and blue green, the Cephalanthus a fine yellow and falling with beautiful curves in long sprays into the water notwithstanding the lowness of the present levels. The Cephalanthus is more patient under submersion than any other bank plant, not excepting even the willow. The fine-leaved willow of the bank sends down long tresses of rootlets into the water, giving the trunks and branches up to the high-water mark a peculiar appearance.

Beneath the successive strata of flood sediment is a blue-gray deposit of fine material evidently belonging to an earlier chapter of the valley's history -- probably deposited prior to the existence of the Sacramento as a distinct one-channeled stream.

Below Colusa, there are no rapids. The river becomes stately and calm, flowing on in reaches of surpassing loveliness. The bends become longer and more abundant, now north, now south, east, and west.

Of all the domestic animals, sheep are the only ones not greatly excited and terrified by my strange boat. The birds are curious without much fear, and often wait until very near. One came out and fluttered above the bow as if intending to alight. It is interesting to witness their morning bathings. The buzzards are abundant along the river, being well supplied with drowned animals. They walk as if tenderfooted and waddle like geese. Often they sit along the stream on the ground, always in open places. Frequently they perch on dead oaks or sycamores, especially in the morning after heavy dew-falls, with outspread wings held open to the sun to warm and dry. The blue loon,

America Westward! \$10.95 (History told by those that lived it.) Thorn House Press, PO Box 528, Simi Valley, CA

Chinese Gold, The Chinese in the Monterey Bay Region \$18.95 by Sandy Lydon, Capitola Book Co. (Highly recommended, excellent text and pictures)

The Last Californian, by Feliz Guthrie, Sutter Creek (about the Spanish-Mexican culture at the time the Americans arrived and the conflicts which ensued)

The Earth Shook, The Sky Burned \$12.95, by William Bronson, Chronicle Books (excellent picture book about the 1906 earthquake)

The Bittersweet Soil: The Chinese in California Agriculture, 1860-1910, by Sucheng Chan \$40.00

Golden Gate Metropolis \$14.95 by Charles Wollenberg

Jessie Benton Fremont \$24.95 by Pamela Herr (Biography of remarkable woman who shaped John C. Fremont's public career.)

The Mythic West in Twentieth Century America \$23.00 by Robert Athern (the myth and the reality)

The Gold Rush \$29.95 by Regina Phelan, 1002 West Rd., La Habra Heights, CA

The Capital that Couldn't Stay Put \$12.72 by June Oxford, Canyon Press, 7777 Canyon Pt. Lane, San Diego

John A. Sutter's Last Days: The Bidwell Letters \$38.50 ed. Allan R. Ottley, % Martin Huff, Sacramento Book Collectors Club, PO Box 160044, Sacramento

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo \$25 by Harry Kelsey, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA

The California Trail Yesterday & Today: A Pictorial Journey along the California Trail \$24.95 by William E. Hill, Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, CO

Trail of the First Wagons Over the Sierra Nevada \$21.95 by Charles K Graydon, Patrice Press, Box 42, Gerald, MO (Reno to Truckee to Grass Valley--a fascinating story)

History of the (Roman) Catholic Community in Suisun-Fairfield 1861-1986 \$25.50, Holy Spirit Centenary Book Committee, 1050 N. Texas St., Fairfield, CA

Helen Hunt Jackson: A Lonely Voice of Conscience \$5.95 by Antoinette May, Chronicle Books

Muir Among the Animals: The Wildlife Writings of John Muir \$17.95 ed. Lisa Migheto, Sierra Club Books

Farmer to Farmer Around the World, by George H. Wilson-SRDHS Member from Clarksburg (Available in Sacramento bookstores and UOP Book Store, Stockton)

[probably a local name for some unidentified bird] a long-necked heavy-billed fellow, also alights on trees, and rises from the water by beating his wing-tips and paddling with his feet for a hundred yards or so. Even when perched on high snags, in taking to flight he swoops to the water and beats his wings as if rising from it in the first place.

Although not in large flocks, wood ducks are quite abundant, especially on the lower river, where there are few open bars. Geese and mallards, however, are far more numerous on the upper river. The curlew is not found at all on the lower reaches. Blue cranes (herons) -- the large species with a tremendous coarse, hoarse squawk -- are common, also the smaller kind, all leg and wing, and a big kink in the neck. Sand-hill cranes are here and there -- noble birds, flying in harrow-shaped flocks.

Camped in a little sandy cove.

October 7, 1877.

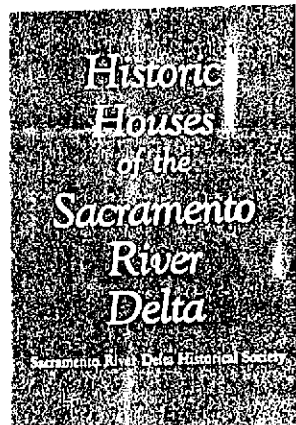
Passed Knight's Landing. The river is intensely lovely, slow and stately in flow. Camped on top of the bank . . .

October 8, 1877.

Just before reaching the confluence of the Feather, the river is more than usually crooked. Below the Feather it is doubled in width, but shallower. The difference in temperature of the river between Chico and Sacramento is only about two and a half degrees -- sixty-four to sixty-six and a half -- though the distance is nearly two hundred miles.

From the book *John of the Mountains*, edited by Linnie Marsh Wolfe, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Copyright 1938 by Wanda Muir Hanna. Copyright renewed 1966 by John Muir Hanna and Ralph Eugene Wolfe. Reprinted by permission.

The SRDHS still has first edition books for sale:



Order by mail: \$14.  
P.O. Box 293  
Walnut Grove, 95695