

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

JUNE 2007

President's Notes

I am pleased to be writing my first report as president of the Historical Society. We are making a minor change in the format of our newsletter and combining the traditional President's Notes with the Society Notes. I would like to say a huge thank you to Kathleen Hutchinson for her talented writing ability. She is full of interesting stories and is credited for the content of this newsletter. In the past, Carol Watson co-edited the project, and the Board recently recognized Carol for her many years of dedication as she retired from the position; our own Esther Koopman is coordinating the production of the newsletter. Without these women, none of us would receive our bi-annual update of Society news and history.

We began the year with our annual potluck on January 16. Over 150 folks attended and enjoyed "Pete Budnik and his Walnut Grove" which was organized by Tom Herzog. The new officers were announced and voted in at the meeting. Thanks to the board for helping coordinate, decorate, set up, cook, and clean up the Annual Meeting. I am appreciative of our board's willingness to volunteer for leadership positions and confident they will help the Society as we continue to grow.

President: Judy Culbertson; Vice President: Debbie Chan;
Recording Secretary: Fran Bates; Corresponding Secretary:
Esther Koopman; Treasurer: Mindy Harding; Past
President: Tom Herzog; Board Members: Terry Alchorn,
Bobbie Collier, Joe Enos, C.J. Jensen, Phil Pezzaglia, Doris
Pylman, Marshall Pylman, Linda van Loben Sels
Committee Chairs:

Resource Center: Bobbie Collier & Esther Koopman

Program Coordinator: Tom Herzog

Website: Bobbie Collier

Newsletter: Kathleen Hutchinson & Esther Koopman

Oral Histories: Karen Vercruse & Linda van Loben Sels

Publicity: Becky Wheeler & Tom Herzog

One of the great things that has happened over the past several months is the development of our new website - www.srdhs.org. THANKS to the creators for your initiative and talent to make a one-stop shop for any information

about the Society. Be sure to check out the calendar for future activities and peruse any of our previous newsletters as EVERY SRDHS newsletter that was found has been scanned and is on the website.

Two other General Meetings have been successful this year due to the coordination of Program Chair Tom Herzog. On March 20, Tom arranged the general meeting as an outing and tour of the Isleton Museum. On May 15 we enjoyed hearing from Elizabeth Pinkerton, author of "Elk Grove - Images of America". Both meetings were enlightening and enjoyable. Thanks to Tom for his insight, dedication and connections to the history of the delta.

Two areas of discussion of the board in the last six months include reviewing and rewriting the Memorandum of Agreement between SRDHS and CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation for the Locke Boarding House Project, and revisions of our Society Bylaws. Another area we are embarking on with more emphasis is obtaining Oral Histories of so many treasured citizens of the Delta. We are excited that Karen Shanks Vercruse and Linda van Loben Sels are heading up a renewed effort.

Several members of the board set up a booth and participated in the Sacramento County Historical Society/SAMCC Open House and History Fair. It was great to make connections and see what neighboring societies had to offer. SRDHS will be hosting the next meeting of the Sacramento Consortium (a coalition of all the historical societies in the Sacramento area) at the Jean Harvie Center on Thursday, June 28 from 10am – 2pm. Give me a call if you would like to join us.

Please contact me or any one of our board members if you have questions or suggestions to help with the Society. I appreciate all of the institutional knowledge about SRDHS that exists - please share it with me when you think I can use it! I thank you for your membership, and encourage your participation in general meetings again this fall. Have a great summer!

Judy

THE DELTA PROGRESS CLUB

By Kathleen Graham Hutchinson

Over the years I have been asked to write an article on the Delta Progress Club, a forerunner to Rotary in Walnut Grove. My grandfather, Russ Graham, Sr. produced the home talent plays and vaudeville skits for the Club. I have a few odds and ends from those productions which I will share with you. It seems most everything to do with the shows has been lost in the mists of time. And, there seems to be no one alive who remembers having attended the shows. I remember my grandfather's collection of costumes and props, which when I was a grade-schooler, were kept above the garage in the apartment which once housed Taka, the Japanese cook/housekeeper. It was always a wonderful treat to be allowed to poke around.

The Delta Progress Club was flourishing by 1917 when the first banquet was held. The banquets were held at the Walnut Grove Hotel and it appears that turkey "with all the fixins" was often the menu. Raffle prizes were donated by local and Sacramento merchants, tickets purchased and other monetary donations collected. The group, besides being a social get-together for the merchants and farmers of the community also raised funds to underwrite local projects and activities. Among those was the pedestrian walkway which was attached to the first Walnut Grove Bridge, an item needed to safely get school children and others across the river, Walnut Grove being the only town split by the river. The Club also benefited the Walnut Grove PTA and the Boy Scouts. Additionally, at Christmas those less fortunate were distributed grocery and other items.

The Club evidently held regular or irregular luncheon meetings, an annual football luncheon from time to time, special luncheons honoring individuals and the annual Christmas banquet which was combined with a raffle, play and vaudeville skits. The following give a glimpse of the club.

Circa 1927 the "Annual Football Luncheon" was held at the Walnut Grove Hotel. It was a crowded, popular event presided over by the president Jack Veteran, the Studebaker agent in Walnut Grove. George McDonald, Jr. who operated the hotel served turkey with "all the fixins" the club standby banquet meal. The Courtland High School Football team were the honored guests and the coach Jack Quinn spoke. He was followed by Myron Brown who had been a member of the University of California's 1924-25 football teams "the Wonder Teams." My grandfather Russ was as always in charge of entertainment and he produced in the "Delta Herald's"

words "a thriller": "The All-American Girl." The paper went on to say, "The German band tore apart the quiet room with Bill Stone on base drum and Stan Brown and Russ Graham with swinettes or some sort of music instrument." The linesmen were: "Burchell and Myron Brown for dear old California and Bill Hutchinson and Bill Darsie of the red hot Indians. What forms, what voices, what steppers." Milo Dye starred as "the American Girl." The paper went on to say, "was she a daisy. Ooh! La! La!..... (he) made Kate Smith pass as a ship in the night."

In 1932 the Delta Progress Club honored Walnut Grove's Ed Salisbury who was the stroke on the University of California crew which won the gold medal at the 1932 Olympics held in Los Angeles. A luncheon was held to which ladies were invited and a watch presented to Ed commemorating his accomplishment. To quote the newspaper:

"As entertainment, Russell Graham provided the members with on of those skits of ridiculousness and nonsense that are always a treat. This time it was appropriately a rowing crew composed of Graham himself, Stanford Brown, "Windy" Burchell, Bill Stone and Gordon Wight. Equipped with water-wings, life preservers, they made a motley crew. They could have won any race, not from the ability to row so much, but any crew with whom they were competing would have dropped their oars from laughing.

There they stood the finest exhibition of muscle-bound, worn-out athletes in the Delta. Long ones with short oars and long oars for short ones, with Gordon Wight handling the rudder. Appropriate songs in parody were rendered (we can't say sung).

The presentation of the watch to Salisbury was made by Burchell; we guess it was because he had the greatest wind capacity.

It was a success from every point of view, a huge success."

Furthermore, Milo Dye had these published comments on the occasion:

"At the Luncheon Club

As Seen by Milo Dye

The Four Oarsmen:

Stone, with the heavy oar.

Russ Graham, tall and short oar, and cracked.

Stan Brown, long slim oar and tied with ribbons.

Burchell, short oar. Meaning little work.

Wright, the coxswain. Rubber, ribbons and two fish tied at the front.

And each was outfitted with life preservers.
 Burchell had the form-fitting kind.
 Wright's to hold his chin up.
 Stan Brown, a mustache holder.
 Russ Graham, to keep his chin out of water.
 Stone, to make the weight.
 The rudder holder sings one line alone. Tenor?
 Stan loses the lip cover.
 Stone the heavy lines.
 Russ Graham leads the Champs.
 And Ed Salisbury looks on. What will he tell Ky?
 Jerry Salisbury wins the jack pot.
 And the ladies enjoyed the whole thing. So did everyone else.

Thanks to Graham. When he puts on a show, it's good.
 Jack Hughes from Ryde. Carl Jones. Dan Burr all there
 and not missing a thing. Hans Rugaard showed up.
 Dining room crowded and Veteran doing his best.
 Blue and Gold flowers.
 Amy Brown gets the flowers together.
 Mr. and Mrs. McDonald taking care of everyone as
 usual. And they know how to do it.
 John Brown's garden produced the big bouquet.
 One of the best meetings the club has had."

In 1927 Frank Judy was president. Russ Graham was
 program chairman, Al Kammeyer was Banquet President
 and Jack Burchell, Sr. was the immediate past president. I
 don't know when by grandfather became program
 chairman, but 1927 is the first note I have of it in my
 grandmother, Florence Graham's (usually undated)
 scrapbook, which at this writing is my only record for this
 article.

He loved producing the entertainment. It all came
 naturally to him. (He used to thoroughly entertain his
 grandchildren with off-the-cuff limericks, poems, lyrics,
 stories and anything funny and clever which might pop
 into his head. He also loved producing theme parties which
 he and my grandmother gave from time to time with other
 couples.) In combing through his sheet music I found
 various songs he had annotated with appropriate lyrics,
 such songs were: "Don't Give Up the Ship", "If you Knew
 Susie", "Good Morning, Good Morning", "I've Got a
 Pocketful of Dreams", "No, No A Thousand Times No!"
 You get the idea – there were many more of which I'm not
 aware. The skits and plays spoofed locals, the town, the
 Delta and other subjects. The audiences loved them. The
 annual "Christmas party done in the Russell Graham
 manner" was always a sell-out. The "Delta Herald"
 commented, "When (Russ) puts on a show, it's good."

The tenth Christmas banquet was held in 1927. An early
 enticement for a Christmas banquet went: "And talent! If
 Franchon and Marco could only get an eye-full of what
 goes on at these special events, under the guidance of
 Russ Graham, Ziegfield of the Delta, well the Senator
 Theatre in Sacramento would cease to worry where their
 next 40¢ for a ticket is coming from.

We don't know what's going to happen so how can we
 tell you about it. There is one thing sure, you'll eat plenty
 of turkey and dressing prepared by Scot McDonald host at
 the Walnut Grove Hotel, but is you want to go adverse to
 opinions of Mr. Volstead, well that's your business.

That's saying enough – just be there."

At the conclusion of the evening, gifts were distributed.
 Whether the gifts were raffle prizes of community gifts, it
 is left unsaid.

The "Delta Herald" reported December 26, 1930 that the
 "Grove Christmas Jinks Crowded with Laughter!" Held in
 the dining room of the Walnut Grove Hotel, 125 attendees
 were treated to dinner, (prepared by the McDonalds)
 singing, acting and puns." Hats and noisemakers were
 included at each place setting and balloons were released
 from ceiling netting partially through the dinner hour
 causing gravy to splatter and changed peas into bullets
 when a fork or knife popped a balloon too near a plate.
 J.W. Burchell acting as Santa "passed the hat" and
 collected \$30.00 for the less fortunate. The Stanford
 Browns, Myron Browns and John Brown were big raffle
 winners. It was a noisy, boisterous evening to begin with.

"And then the entertainment. If there's anything funnier
 and more ridiculous than the characterizations and antics
 of Russ Graham, well, we just haven't seen them.

The annual secretary's report prepared and read by
 Graham was packed as usual with its 101 laughs.

Mitch Landis sang several solos, much to the pleasure of
 his listeners, one of his offerings being in Italian.

The skit, "Good-bye, Hard Times" written by Russ
 Graham and enacted by Stan Brown, Bill Hutchinson,
 Mitch Landis, Bill Stone, Bill Darsie and Myron Brown,
 was a "wow." One wondered if all the top hats, swallow-
 tailed coats and black ties worn by these "actors" were
 reminiscences of previous good times. In this act Bill
 Darsie found another use for a piano. He discovered it was
 a good thing to lean on.

And we'll bet that no human being ever looked like
 Mitch Landis in his get-up.

The one man band appeared on the scene with his
 contraptions that kept his fingers, toes, mouth and "what
 have you" busy during his number.

The Russian quartette (only they couldn't have been
 Russian for they didn't sing "The Volga Boatman)

announced as composed of Mitch Landisky, Stan Bronski, Russ Grahamsky and Bill Hutchinsons, sang the famous finger and nose song from Paintersville.

Community singing as part of the program was enjoyed by the crowd.

Phoney phone conversations were held with imaginable people by J.W. Burchell, Milo Dye and Bill Stone.

Nineteen door prizes were presented to the holders of lucky numbers. These were donated by various merchants in the Delta and Sacramento.

Ed Helm presented each one present with a dust cloth with which to keep you car shiny.

Yes, siree! It was a success!"

"In A Little French Café" was presented one year when the club still had its annual Christmas banquet at the hotel. It was previewed in the "Delta Herald":

"IN A LITTLE FRENCH CAFÉ

ADAPTED FROM THE FRENCH

WILL STARTLE XMAS DINERS

WALNUT GROVE – For the past several days startling news has come from Europe. France has failed to pay the United States some \$19,000,000 on her war debt.

But back of all, lies a story made public for the first time in this issue of the Delta News. It isn't the fault of France – Russ Graham is to blame. It is he who has put that country in the hole and he did it for his "Alma mama" the Delta Progress Club. Even the gold reserve of poor little France was inadequate to stabilize the pound, the pence or franc or whatever a Frenchman uses for money.

It all came about when President Jack Veteran of the Delta Progress Club assigned Graham the duty of providing the hot-cha for the Annual Christmas Jinks to be held in the Walnut Grove Hotel on Wednesday evening, Dec. 21.

"You make it plenty hot," said Veteran or I'll never sell you a Studebaker no matter how bad you want one.

With such an assignment as this Graham knitted his eyebrows, went out to his celery patch and gave out all the appearances of thinking.

"I'll make it hot," suddenly shouted Graham in such boisterous tones that all the Hindu workers started running to their cabins. "I'll go to Paris for my stuff, that ought to be hot enough for anyone."

Wireless and cables were kept busy between France and the Graham home until finally the last wire carried this news. "Wee, wee Monsieur Graham."

Then the announcement through the press that France would not pay. How could you expect them to. Cablegrams cost money, such a show as "In A Little Café" and the Siphoney orchestra accompanying cost 'dough'. "We can't do everything for America; we are sending them our most beautiful women and now they want our

money, too! That cannot be. If there is anything to say, say it to Mester Graa-ham," wires the President of France.

Which at last brings us up to the point where you will find out what all this preamble is about. It's the entertainment features for the Annual Christmas Jinks of the Delta Progress Club.

No, you can't go; the tickets have all been taken up; too bad, but put in your request for next year's affair now and you'll probably be taken care of.

"In A Little French Café" a story of that part of the French life that thousands from America go to see each year, will be transplanted right in the Walnut Grove Hotel.

Director Graham advises that it is the greatest melodrama of the age; even more so.

A chorus of beautiful French girls will however, detract somewhat from the sordidness of the background of the French life.

As well, the "Sin-Phoney" orchestra of Eight Fanatical Frenchmen will be on hand to tear off that heart-rending theme song "Hearts and Flowers" whenever a dagger is thrust into the heart of some too over jealous Frenchman in the play.

But we'll have to stop soon or everyone will throw their tickets away, feeling that this explanation is sufficient and then France and Russ Graham would be disappointed.

Four of France's most beautiful women in the persons of Margo (Myron) Brown, Kiki (Al) Kammeyer, Clodo (Bill) Hutchinson and Frefru (Milo) Dye are now on route from New York under heavy police protection.

"Them thar girls must be protected," says Director Graham.

Well, that's enough of the French, for only \$2.50 for a year's subscription. What do you want a history.

No, we're forced to return to the subject. In writing about the mademoiselles we forgot about the masculine characters.

The café must have an owner so J.W. Burchell will take that part. Gordon Wright as Ivan, the Russian pianist will run the Volga boatman over the keys. Stanford Brown in the character of Annette the soubrette with her lover Apache Russ Graham will probably do a couple of murders for a glass of vin-rouge.

About them foods—there'll be plenty, Mac has assured the committee of that, and that's why the number is limited so that all will be properly cared for. Turkey, you know the kind that's just browned up nicely; stuffing that's done to a nicety—but what's the use of saying anymore—if you're going you'd find out about it and if you have not a ticket you can't get in so we'll only make you re-gusted by telling you about it.

Santa Claus will distribute plenty of door prizes and there will be favors, and noise makers to lend to the spirit of the evening.

That's enough—if we got a dollar a word like Coolidge we might write six more words, that would buy a pint of good fire-water to better enjoy those charming young girls from France, but as we don't get that much per, we'll drink to their health with a Hoover cocktail, a glass of water with a dash of defeat.

Au revoir—enjoy that fete champetre."

Somewhere between 1930 and 1938 the Christmas banquet and program became so popular that it was moved to the Brick School Auditorium. One year 225 tickets were sold and the Walnut Grove PTA, who now provided the dinner, and the Boy Scouts were benefactors. After the show gifts were as usual distributed from under the Christmas tree. A wildly popular event, members, guests from throughout the Delta attended.

The Delta Progress Club also participated in the Walnut Grove Elementary Schools 1932 "George Washington Bicentennial Program" February 18. The cast list in the program was as follows:

History of George Washington

Carmel Mosher	Edward Helm
Bernice Burchell	Billy Hutchinson
Loyal Mealer	Everett Campbell
Donald Hutchinson	Russell Crow
Thelma Fox	Marie Hollenbeck
Dolly Veteran	Bernice Campbell
Christine Burnett	Mildred Gier

Memories of Washington

Johnny Mendonca	Hermelle Gier
Tom Cummings	Margaret Mealer
Glen Gier	Barbara Brooks
Katherine Mealer	Nancy Jane Wise
Thelma Fox	

Dancers

Donald Hutchinson	Barbara Andress
Jimmy Barry	Drusilla Toepelman
Butler Rugaard	La Verne Schauer
Billy Mendonca	Lorraine Simoni

Quartet

J.W. Burchell	William Hutchinson
Stanford Brown	Bud Newell
Assisted by the Doodle Boy	

Minuet

Introductory poem – Dorothy Sheppard

Dancers

Birdie Swift	Bobby Swift
Nora Brown	Jack Ross
Lorraine Bettencourt	Tom Dunigan
Ida Whitman	Joe Mendonca
Renee Andress	Jerry Salisbury
Marie Hollenbeck	Raymond Silva
Bernice Campbell	Eugene Cox
Bernice Burchell	Loyal Mealer

Boys of '76

Fife and drum

T. Stone (drum)	M. Dye (fife)	M. Brown (flag)
Sentinel.....	R. Graham	
Soldier at fireside.....	White	
Soldier in tent.....	W. Burchell	
Washington.....	W. Hutchinson	
Prisoner).....	S. Brown	
Messenger)		

In 1938 the play centered around "Spike's Café" a take-off of Ike's Café, a popular Walnut Grove short order eatery. According to the photographs snapped by my late husband Bill Hutchinson, Jr. there were a number of locals and other characters meeting each other in the Café. The menu was tacked to the wall –

"Thick Jussy Steaks	.75
Jussy Steaks	.50
Steaks	.25"

Also "Eat California Pears \$15 a ton"

And later..... "Eat or Burn California Pears \$5 a ton"

A kazoo and slide whistle band was also a part of the entertainment.

In one photo I have my grandfather is seen leading the "sin-phoney" dressed in his late father's Knights of Pythias jacket and Kepi (cap) with a lot of gold braid (electric wire insulated with gold thread.)

In 1940 300 tickets were sold. Jack Brown was President, Darrell Mealer secretary, Edward Lyons vice president and A.V. (Tony) Chargin treasurer.

The Christmas banquet and jinks were suspended during World War II. About the end of the war my grandfather nearly died of equine encephalitis. It is possible the jinks were revived once. My grandmother glued into her scrapbook an undated yet tantalizing clipping to that account.

The Delta Progress Club was absorbed into Rotary International when it was established in Walnut Grove in the early 1950's.

The only play extract (From the files of the late Bill Hutchinson, Jr.):

Cast-		
Reginald de Prave	(a man about town)	Stanford Brown
Fifi Scarletina	(a woman with a reputation)	Wm. Darsie
John Stout	(father of many children)	Wm. Beck
Sadie Sous	(a gold digger)	Wm. Hutchinson
May Bee	(girl with a past)	John Wheeler
Pearl Barleycorn	(girl with a past)	Russell Durbin
Williw Grow	(a child)	by himself
Officer Orderly	(a gum shoe)	Russell Graham

Time - 4:30 A. M.

Scene - de Prave's bed chamber.

Reggie- And now for bed it's almost half past four (Madelon
Shut the windows close and lock the door
Pull the shades down Reggie if you can
Just remember your a ladies man
But before I go to bed to dream
Of my sweetheart Fifi Scarletina
I'll put my pottle on the floor
Under the bed, under the bed, under the bed.

Knock on the door

Reggie- Now what the devil can that mean? Who comes there?

Fifi It is I, Reggie, Fifi Scarletina, your sweetheart.

Reggie Curses, Fifi, have you no sense of propriety.

Fifi But I must see you Reg-- I must I simply must.

Reggie (goes to the door, opens, beats a hasty retreat)
Well of all things Fifi--My God Fifi what have you
brought with you in the perambulator, more liquor?

Fifi (rushes to Reggie entwines him in her arms and smothers
him with kisses)
It is our child Reggie-the child I told you of.

Reg Our child-preposterous-what are you truing to pass on me
heavens knows my position in society is precarious enough
already without having a child of--

Fif Reginald de Prave, you're a man so brave (Where'd you get
Oh you have the ladies guessing those eyes)
They're hot from your caressing
They twist, they turn, their red lips pray
To be with you both night and day
You're so wonderful, dear Reggie boy
The girls all say you have it
You little jackrabbit
Oh, won't you love me, a little bit
Say, Boy you've sure got it

Reggie- But I had expected nothing, nothing like this Scar.

Fif But Reggie it is your birthday, this child I bring
you as a gift. It is yours and I am giving it to you.

Reggie- But what shall I do with her?

Fif But its not a Her Reggie dear, its a him, and I have
that someday he may live in a big city and be a bond salesman.

Reg-- Ah yea Fifi or maybe he can sell pencils.

Reggie and Fifi (Song together) Tune-In a little Spanish town
In a little city not so very far from here
He'll live a life of ease and drink his foaming lager beer
He'll drive his fine motor car
Near and far he'll steer
He'll be a ladies man just like his papa used to be
But while he's young he'll sit a home upon his daddies knee
We'll raise him with care, er're a prize winning pair
Fifi Scarletina. Reginald de Prave are we.

Off stage- Honking of Motor Car
Voice- Reg, Oh you Reggie come out and play

Reggie-(goes to window, opens)
Come on up John and boy and bring the girls with you.
(turns to Fifi)
And what shall we do with the kid? They must not
see him in my apartment. Its John and Sadie.

Fif- John and who?

Reg John Stout and Sadie Sous

Fif Into the closet. Anyplace, any place.
(Wheels carriage and baby into the closet)

ENTER. John Stout and Sadie Sous (Brilliantly illuminated)

Reggie- Hello John, Sadie- meet Fifi. You and John will hitting
it off together pretty well?

Sadie-- Not so well Reg. I have my ups and downs.

Reggie- Your ups and downs?

Sadie-- Yes Reg-- Song (Yip I dee, Yip I day)

My change of life is coming fast.
Oh my God, Oh my God,
For I'm a woman with a Past
And need much sympathy
I've lived with men both fat and thin
And they all loved to touch my skin-

I work at night and sleep by day, I cannot hope to be
A woman of the upper crust, I need much sympathy.

All- She works at night and sleeps by day, she cannot hope to be
a woman of the upper crust, she needs much sympathy.

Sadie-- I know my busts are falling low

Oh my God, Oh my God,
But what to do I do not know
I cannot wear suspenders
I try to hold them up just so
But when I dance then down they go.

I work at night and sleep by day, I know I cannot be
a woman of the upper crust, I need to wear suspenders.

All-- She works by night and sleeps by day, she knows she cannot be
a woman of the upper crust, she needs to wear suspenders.

Sadie (Cries)

John--There, there, cutie, don't cry, Johnnie will but you some
bigger and stronger brassiers, even it it busts him.

John-- Song (Yankee doodle)

I'm a man who thinks it funny, that the girlies like
my money
The ladies too and not a few, delight to call me Johnnie.

Johnnie Stout, the race track tout
When I blow my whistle
The girlies say I'm loves sweet dream
I'm so hot I sizzle.

All Johnnie Stout, the racetrack tout
When he blows his whistle
The girlies say he's love sweet dream
He's so hot he sizzles.

Off Stage (from closet-- softly) Mama, Mama,

Sadie- What was that - Who was that calling?

Reg I heard nothing (aside) Curses on the child.

Sadie. But I did

Reg It was probably my grandfather who is spending the week
end with me.

Off Stage (louder) Ma Ma Pottie Pottie

John The old gentleman is in a bad way, better fix him up
before anything serious happens.

Reg Yes, yes, if you will excuse me for a moment I'll see that
He's attended to. (exit Reg.)

At front door - (Pounding for admission)

Enter Reg - Now What

Off stage - Open the door, in the name of the Law.

Reg (opens door, enter officer followed by May Be and Pearl Be)

Officer- I'm officer Orderly. Does two dames say dere's something
fony being pulled off here? Dey wants to know what youse guys
done wit de kid you swiped off en on.

May and Pearl-- Our child, where is our little Willie?

Officer Song (Bye Bye Blkbrd.)
We came to look for Willie Grow. you don't know
What he looks like
He may be big he may be small, but we dislike
Looking into other peoplies houses
Travelling round at night with red nose souses
If you can tell us where he is
We'll get in touch with Dizzie Liz
Willies Grandaw

Reg And who is this woman Dizzie Liz

May Please kind sir - she's your housekeeper

Off stage (closet--Loud)

Mama Mama -- Where the hell are you maaa

May Bee Song (Round the clock)

1. You stole my child my teenie weenie Willie
My darling little Willie, with diapers on for clothes
And now I've come and brought with me a policeman
We're going to make you show us where you've put my Willie Grow

Chorus -- Willie Grow white as snow
She's going to make us show her, where we've put
her Willie Grow.

2. His ears are large, he has the cutest tummy
My darling little Willie, and what do you suppose
The cop and me we're looking for the lady
We're looking for the lady who stole my Willie Grow

Chorus -- Whillie Grow, We don't know,
She's looking for the lady who stole her Willie Grow

Officer-- Kick through with the kid before I have to send for the
wagon. I aint got all night to fool around this dump.

Reggie-- But officer, I'm quite positive he's my child, these
women are endeavoring to bring about a miscarriage --- of
justice.

John And for all I know he may be my child, Miss Carriage
was a great friend of mine.

Office And here he is, and saint and sinner, he's my child

Closing Chorus - (Tune -Somewhere in France is a Lilly)

For we all love our darling Willie
And someday you wait and see
A salesman of bond or real estate
Or maybe a banker He'll be
Taking the people's money
Selling them motor cars
But whatever he shall do
Our thanks go out to you
You've helped to make our Barbecue.

- F I N I S -

For we are a bunch of hayseeds
We all work from dawn to night
No time for golf or poker games
We all be moan our plight
But now we give way to pleasure
No worry of grass or pear
We all portray for you
What a little child can do
The finale of the Barbecue

Annotations found on my grandfather's copy of "The
Darktown Strutters' Ball"

Chorus:

"I'll be down to get you with mule and Buggy, You better
be ready about half past eight, -- I'll meet you at Emigh's
gate, -- We'll go up and down in the old elevator.
Remember when we get there, Mammy, The huggin, I'm
goin' to have it all, -- Goin' to love with both my arms, --
Better turn on all your charms, Tomorrow night in the
alley by Barree's store.

There are probably some articles on the Delta Progress
Club in the archives of the "River News Herald or Isleton
Journal", "Sacramento Bee" or "Sacramento Union."

Walnut Grove by Milo Dye:

"Know Your Town...

We Like It—We Live Here

Did you know that, we have the first Boat Club on the River
Headed by Russ Graham's The Flagship Cruiser Florence.
Mealer Bros. Berlina, George Figg's Cat-Fish-Mar. Harvey's
Dragon-Fly.

And a fleet of Outboards. Bill Arlin and Ricco Squalia's FOO

FOO.

First in the F Class Pacific Coast Champs. Bill Barry and
his Maggie No. 3 Pac. Coast Champ Class C.

Milo's El-Gro Winner of the long distance.

And that we are the Home Port of the "PERCH"

The Fish and Game protector in the Delta. Capt. Siebeck.

And we have two Drug Stores. Everything and also Medicine.

2 Doctors (Horse) Hoffman and Mount

The Police Dept. The Cop. Walt. 1 big gun, Cuffs, and Star.

Also side line

of ditching machines and Well Drilling.

Three Cleaning Agencies and Piano Studio. Ada Barry.

Meat Markets. All grades Tough, Tender and Meat.

Butschy's, Power Buck Rake factory. Makes hay fly.

Geo. Adams' Mill. If it's wood we make it.

The one Architect is at Adams also.

Building Contractor. Bill Schauer. All the latest.

Italian Dinners. At Gisto Giusti's. Just fone ahead.

All Nationalities. You name 'em. We have 'em.

And we do not write Life Ins. Farming Center. Since 32 and no
prices.

We are afraid they will starve to death.

Stockton Box and Calif. Pine Box furnish all the Boxes for the
Delta.

Boy Scout Troops. Canary Birds to Eagles.

We keep Cool with Ice. Union Ice Co. Ice House. Car Pre-
cooling.

Russ Graham. Playwright-Impresario. Xmas Party. Tickets like
hens' teeth.

Plumbing Supplies and Plumbing. The Pioneer. Geo. Fry. Now
4 Plumbers.

We are surrounded by Grand, Andrus, Tyler, Staten, and Dead
Horse Islands.

Our Homes. All kinds. Shanty Town to the DeLuxe Round
home of Stew. Brown

Frank Gwerder. The mounted Dep. Sheriff. Heads the Posse.

See that saddle.

Our Auto. Drivers. Some fly too low.

Wire Service. Western Union. Pacific T. & T. Co. and Delta T.
& T. Co.

The Town's famous dogs. Chang and Diesel.

The only Chinese Masonic Lodge in the Delta.

Flower Shop. Rose Figs. The Way-Side Gardens. See Rose for
Roses.

Mechanical and Elec. Contractors. Carr Bro. Consultations with
a Smile.

Catfish caught, cleaned, and sold at the Fishermans Dock.

Bob's nursery and Landscape. Gardening.

Our town has the best drinking water in the Delta.

The Resident of the Deltas Dep. Co. Assessor.

So when you are down the River. Drop In.

And smile it don't cost anything, and,

Hoping we never grow up."

Help the Resource Center

Can you add a name or more to this list of Delta Progress Club members?

Bill Hutchinson Sr., Russ Graham Sr., J.W. Burchell, Myron Brown, Bill Beck, John Wheeler Sr., Stanford Brown, Bill Stone, Gordon Wight, Jack Hughes, Carl Jones, Dan Burr, Hans Rugaard, Milo Dye, Frank Judy, Al Kammeyer, Mitch Landis, Bill Darsie, Ed Helm, Jack Veteran, Jack Brown; Darrell Mealer, Ed Lyons, Tony Chargin, Russell Durbin, Hod Towne, Phil de Back, Bill Barry



Newly formed Walnut Grove Rotary Club in front of Walnut Grove Hotel (early 1950's)

Back row: John Bryan, Brud Darsie, Bob Collins, Ed Salisbury, Myron Brown, Hod Towne, Loren Cramer, Geroge Adams, Mitch Landis, ?, Dr. Paul Barnes, Dennis Leary.

Front row: ?, ?, Tim Wilson, Fred Noble, Darrell Mealer, Al Kammeyer, Frank Judy, Hubert Brown, Reed Henderson

CORRECTIONS - DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

John Herringa article, page 3
Born in Groningen
Lived with uncle in Appingedam
Joined police force in Oppenhuizen



SRDHS 2007 SCHEDULE

July/August.....Summer Break
September 18.....General Meeting
October 16.....Board Meeting
November 20.....General Meeting
December.....Board Meeting
December Newsletter
January 15, 2007.....Annual Potluck

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR 2007

Beth Belanger from Sacramento
Gene & Cathie Bunnell from Klamath Falls, Oregon
Heath Charamuga from Sacramento
Bill Geyser & Naida West from Sacramento
Julie Holmes Law from South Jordan, Vermont
Phil Pezzaglia from Rio Vista
R.P. Reeves from Tracy
Carmel Silva from Elk Grove
Karen Shanks Vercruse from Durham

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to thank all those that made memorial contributions to the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society. In memory of Pete Budnik: The Silva Family, Mr/Mrs John B. Dowly, Mr/Mrs. Milo Wetzel, Anita Giovannoni, Mr/Mrs. John Callis, Donna Wahl, Mr/Mrs. Tim Wilson, Lillian Gemignani, Mr/Mrs. Robert McClain, Mrs. Gloria Gabrielli, Mr/Mrs. Russell Lukey, Tom and Sandy Stokes. In memory of Minnie Chan: Mary Budnik Hanson.

CONTENTS

President's Notes.....1
The Delta Progress Club.....2
Corrections to December 2006 Newsletter.....7
SRDHS Notices.....8

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

Then make sure you pay your 2007 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):
2007
Other
\$25.00 a year for Individual or 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

DID YOU KNOW?

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society now has a web site. Just go to srdhs.org to view and enjoy the information. If you wish to email the resource center, the email address is srdhs@riverdeltawireless.com.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor.....Kathleen Hutchinson
Design/Layout.....Esther Koopman

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