

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 2

DECEMBER 2018

President's Notes

Another year has drawn to a close and it was, again, a successful one for the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society. I have just completed my term as President and will be passing the reins to the capable hands of Maryellen Burns. Maryellen participates in a number of local historical groups and is interested in many facets of historical preservation, including oral histories, storytelling, and book writing.

Tom Herzog (Program Coordinator) continues to amaze us with a schedule of fabulous presentations for our general meetings. Tom has emerged from a rough year in fine shape....a bit leaner than he was. If any member has a topic or person that they would like to propose for a presentation at a general meeting, please contact us. Speaking of presentations, the Society is now fully reequipped with a new sound system, video camera, and projector to enhance the quality of our presentations.

One decision that the board made this year, was to move the annual potluck/general meeting from January to May. With poor attendance over the last several years, we thought it might be better suited to have the dinner when it stays light later and the weather is warmer (think BBQ weather). Please think about attending this year on the new date. Bring friends and neighbors who might want to learn about your historical society. All are welcome!

Sales of our 2019 Pear/Asparagus calendar and republished Pear Cookbook are sluggish, but along with membership fees and sponsorship of the calendar, continue to supply our yearly budgetary needs. I hope more of our members will consider sponsorship in the future. While our costs have remained fairly stable and our membership fee low, we do not have a huge reserve.

Lastly, it has been a pleasure to serve my term as your President. Our board is comprised of dedicated friends and neighbors. I would especially like to thank those members of the board that have duties that require additional work; Esther Koopman (our correspondence secretary & archivist), Mary Hanson (treasurer), and Kathleen Hutchinson for our fabulous newsletters. Think hard about participating, either as a board member, or helping to work in the archive located at the Jean Harvie Center. The time commitment is minimal and the work rewarding. If you are inclined to put in a fun day of local history, volunteer to assist board members at the Pear Fair. It is very rewarding to answer questions for visitors to our wonderful area. Please call me or email if you are interested.

John Stutz, President
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jstutz@ix.netcom.com

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &
POTLUCK

Will be held at our May Meeting 5/21/2019

With reference to the recent SRDHS meeting talk regarding ethnicities in the Delta I thought I'd republish this charming memoir of a former Deltan

Kathleen Graham Hutchinson

Summer of '58
Lifelong Values Learned from Childhood
 by Michael T. Murakami



THE SACRAMENTO RIVER Slowly meandered through the verdant Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta on its way to San Francisco Bay. Much of the Delta region sat below sea level, behind levees reclaiming the land, earning it the nickname "California's Holland." The levees separated the rich farmland from the river, the roads sat atop the levees, with the occasional bridge punctuating the landscape. Blooming agriculture on one side and life-giving water on the other. Small towns dotted the green countryside.

I pedaled my Schwinn bike furiously down the levee road, moving over occasionally to make way for the passing pickup truck. It was 1958, a typically hot summer afternoon in the Sacramento River Delta, and I was on my way to a friend's house a couple of miles away. I had my swimming trunks on underneath my Levi's, and my towel draped around my shoulders. Having just helped my father, a gardener, finish cutting and trimming an enormous lawn, I was impatient to spend the next few hours playing in his backyard pool. swimming and playing in the backyard pool.

THE DARSIES

The Darsies were like a second family to me. They were third- or fourth-generation Scotch-Irish-American ranchers. Their son, Sam, and I had been classmates since kindergarten. Our elementary school class drew

only thirty-five children from within a fifteen-mile radius of surrounding rural farmland. Sons and daughters of farm workers studied side by side with children of landowners. We were a diverse community, from a variety of races, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds, united by the sparsity of human contact. By rivers, sloughs, and bridges. By orchards, fields, and roads.

The Darsie home was a large, pink two-story house, downhill off the levee nestled in a pear orchard. Their pool was where I learned to swim as a child, and it had become a reliable destination on hot summer afternoons. I rode down the gravel driveway, skidded to a stop, waved to Sam (who was already in the pool), and dove in. This was my childhood. Sweet summer heat, watering holes, simplicity, and the rose-colored hue of nostalgia.

THE INTERNMENT CAMPS

How had I gotten there? (Flash back to 1941.) Shortly after the onset of World War II, all those of Japanese ancestry (citizens or not) were ordered to be removed from the west coast of the United States. My Japanese American parents (both U.S. citizens) were uprooted from Santa Monica, relocated to a camp in Arkansas, and subsequently sent to Wyoming. In the process, they lost virtually all their possessions. They were among the 14,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned in Heart Mountain Relocation Camp, a World War II internment camp near Cody, Wyoming. I was born "in camp," amidst the winter snows of 1944.

AFTER THE WAR

After the end of the war with Japan in 1945, my family was released to return to California, where I celebrated my first birthday. We were welcomed into the small farming community of Walnut Grove in the Sacramento Delta, where we lived in a small cottage on the J. Stewart Brown family's homestead of three acres. My dad was employed by Stewart Brown, the owner, a prosperous "gentleman farmer" raising sugar beets and milo (drought-resistant sorghum) on several large ranches in the area. Everyone knew one another in this small rural community. We were Chinese, Japanese, Mexicans, Filipinos, African Americans, Italians, Portuguese, Irish, Scotch, and Dutch, all living, working, and going to school together. In July of each summer, the local Buddhist church would have a fundraising "bazaar" on the grounds of their rustic temple bordering on the fields of Walnut Grove. People would come from miles around; former residents would come home to savor teriyaki chicken and sushi, and play bingo and other games. The whole community would gather in support and enjoy the company of one another.

Growing up in that environment, I never thought of people as defined first by race. There were too few

individuals of any one group to form stereotypes; it was impossible to distinguish between manifestations of culture and idiosyncrasies of a family or personality. Our community was so small that we all depended on one another for our daily existence. It was a realized version of a "melting-pot" America: we were drawn together by paucity, by sharing, and by the joys and challenges of rural living.

We understood one another's heritage by sharing our personal stories in classrooms, neighborhoods, and fields. In those days before the internet and cell phones (at the dawn of television!), we spent our free time outdoors, riding bikes, visiting one another, invading each other's homes. We joked and kidded with each other; we wrote papers in school about our families' ancestors, from the villages in Asia to the Gold Rush days in California. As an assignment, I remember writing about my family's internment-camp experience, and it helped me understand how deeply the war had affected all of us. We were all touched by

hearing of others' experiences, and thereby developed a greater understanding of each other's personal histories.

A SHARED LEGACY

My youth taught me the richness of sharing our legacies with one another. One can be part of a common community without becoming a clone. We can be culturally united as Americans without giving up one's own cultural traditions, family prerogatives, or personal passions. My experience of growing up in rural yet diverse farm country, instilled in me an ideal: we can all participate and become a part of something greater than our individual selves. I am motivated by this ideal to this day.

**Reprinted from Bohemian Club Library Notes No. 213, Late Spring 2015*

Question: Of the 120,000 Japanese-Americans who were interned for security reasons during World War II, how many were convicted of spying against the United States?

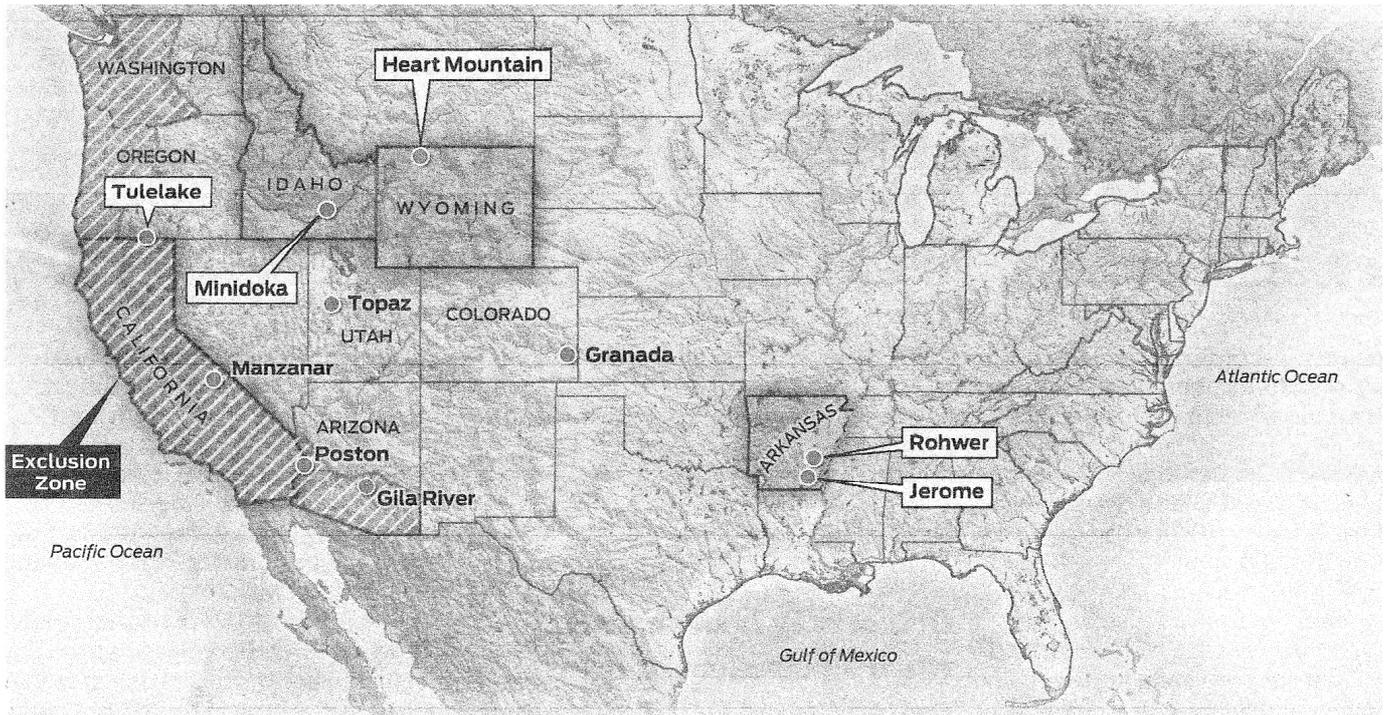
- Ted Elswicke | Femley, Nevada

internee with \$20,000. Still, the Supreme Court has upheld the government's right to hold citizens without trial or hearing in wartime.

NONE, DESPITE AGGRESSIVE investigating. The U.S. government did convict ten people of spying for Japan, and they were all Caucasian. says Adriel Luis, curator at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, which formally apologized for the internment and compensated each surviving

Ron Meada who grew up in Walnut Grove and who now is of Colorado Springs, says that most Japanese from Wallnut Grove were sent to Granada, CO.

Internment Camps



Old listings of some Delta Post Offices



After whom Hood, CA is named.

William Hood (1846-1926) was born at Concord, New Hampshire. After serving in the Civil War, Hood entered Dartmouth College, where he earned a scientific degree in 1867. Like many an ambitious young man of the time, Hood then headed west to build railroads and soon began a career with the Southern Pacific that was to last for the next 54 years.

Hood worked almost everywhere on the expanding SP system. He helped build the CP's line over Donner Pass and east to Promontory. After completing the Tehachapi Pass line, he worked on the building of the Sunset Route. He became chief engineer for the OP in 1883 and was then chief engineer for SP's Pacific system during a 15-year period that saw the SP complete its Shasta Route into Oregon.

In 1900 Hood became chief engineer for the entire Southern Pacific Company, and over the next decade he directed completion of the Coast Line between Los Angeles and San Francisco and a massive Harriman improvement program that included such notable projects as the reconstruction and double-tracking of the CP's line over Donner Pass, construction of the Lucin Cut-Off across the Great Salt Lake and the building of the San Diego & Arizona. Hood retired from SP in 1921 and died at San Francisco five years later.

Old Advertisement

HOOD GARAGE AND MACHINE SHOP

HOOD, CALIFORNIA

J. S. LaGRAVE
Proprietor

AGENT FOR DODGE AND CHALMERS AUTOMOBILES

FREEPORT 4th Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 11/28/1864. Disc. 8/31/1920. MT: Sacramento.
 Founded, 1862, as a shipping point (river) to escape the taxes levied by the port of Sacramento. Located 0 miles south of Sacramento. Erikin Greer, lit PM.

CLARKSBURG. Clarksburgh 2nd Cl. YOLO
 Estab. 12/7/1876 'h' dropped in 1803, however original cancel die may have been used until 1895. Named for Robert C. Clark, who settled here in 1849. Located on the Sacramento River, 16 miles south of Sacramento. Frederick A. Alexander, 1st PM.

HOOD 3rd Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 5/6/1912. Named for William Hood, chief engineer of the Southern Pacific RR. Located 5 miles NE of Courtland. Fred W. Chapman, 1st PM.

ONISBO SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 5/13/1854. Disc. 10/29/1872. NCT: Courtland.
 Located on the Sacramento River 20 miles south of Sacramento. Charles S. Howells, 1st PM.

COURTLAND.. 2nd Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab.. 10/29/1872. Named for Courtland Sims, son of the founder of the community. Was a steamboat landing on the Sacramento River and shipping point. Located 20 miles south of Sacramento James V. Sims, 1st.PM.

VORDEN 4th Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 3/31/1902. Was: Trask. Disc. 1/31/1936. MT: Locke. Located 4 miles north of Locke. Martin Jongeneal, 1st PM. Named for hometown in the Netherlands.

LOCKE SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 10/13/1916. 3rd Cl P0 to Ind. Rur. Sta. of Walnut Grove, Disc.1/1/1968 per PB, not dropped from DOP until 1/1/1971. Named for the Locke family, early pioneers. In 1971 one of the heirs sought to sell the townsite. Located 26 miles (RR) down-river from Sacramento. Clay B. Locke, 1st PM.

WALNUT GROVE 2nd Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 12/15/1856 Was the canter of extensive walnut groves, hence the name. Located 32 miles south of Sacramento. John W. Sharp, 1st PM

RYDE 3rd Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 6/4/1892 Named for the town of Ryde on the Isle of Wight. Located on Grand Island 7 miles north of Isleton and 3 miles west of Walnut Grove. William A. Kesner, 1st PM.

ISLETON 2nd Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 3/19/1875 A "small island town". Located on Andrus Island 10 miles SW of Walnut Grove. Josiah Pool, 1st. PM.

ELLIOTT'S RANCH 4th Cl. SACRAMENTO
 Estab. 1/18/1854. Disc. 7/28/1857. MT: Sacramento. Named for J. Elliott, pioneer rancher. Located 25 miles south of Sacramento and 23 miles north of Stockton. Lewis T. Mitchell, 1st PM,

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey Jonas from Walnut Grove
Elizabeth Garamendi Kann from Walnut Grove
Lynda Mahoney Montano from Stockton
Laura Schneider from Clarksburg
Louis & Sherri Silveira from Sacramento
Kelley Woodward from Sacramento

NEW REVISED “PEAR COOKBOOK”

The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society and the Pear Fair Committee have reproduced the revised Barbara Dahlberg cookbook produced in the 1960s containing Pear Recipes from many local residents and organizations of the Delta. It is now for sale from SRDHS. See last page of the newsletter for order form.

The new 2019 SRDHS Calendar featuring frammable Pear and Asparagus labels is also for sell. See next to last page of the newsletter for order form.

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

Thank you for your historical donations to our resource center! We are recording each item in our data base – many collections are done, but many still need to be entered.

Our program January 15th will be given by Charlotte Cameron, “**History of Thornton**” Our Programs are open to everyone and begin at 7 pm.

SRDHS 2019 SCHEDULE

January 15.....	General Meeting
February 19.....	Board Meeting
March 19.....	General Meeting
April 16.....	Board Meeting
May 14.....	General Meeting & Potluck
June 18.....	Board Meeting
June Newsletter	
July/August.....	Summer Break
September 17.....	General Meeting
October 15.....	Board Meeting
November 19.....	General Meeting
December.....	Board Meeting
December Newsletter	

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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INFORMATION

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

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

*Then make sure you pay your 2017 dues –
Use this form or one of our handy dues envelopes*

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

- I’m paying Annual dues for the following year(s):
 2019 2020 Other _____
\$25.00 a year for Annual Membership
- I’ve enclosed \$150 to become a Lifetime Member
- I’d like to register as an Honorary Member – Free to 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

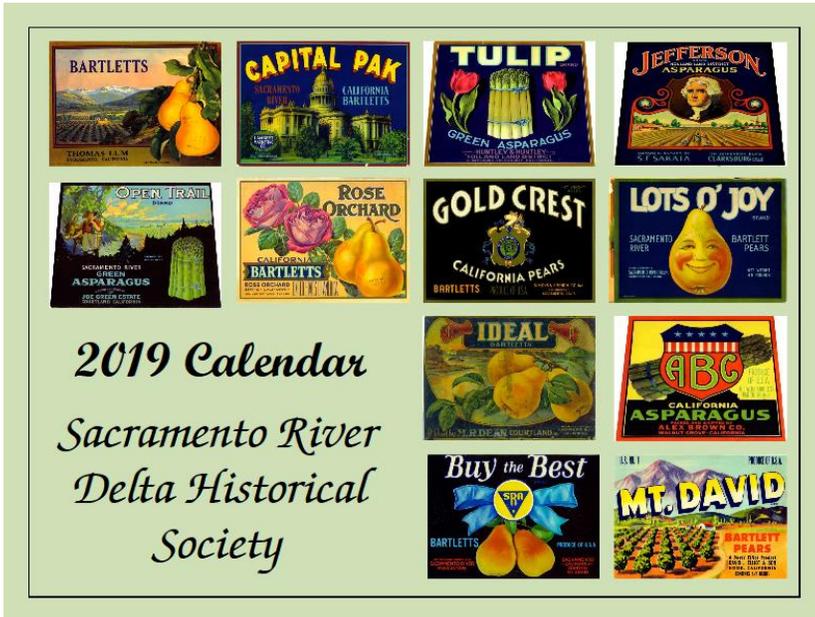
NEWSLETTER STAFF

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

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

NEW “2019” SACRAMENTO RIVER DELTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PEAR and ASPARAGUS LABEL CALENDAR AVAILABLE

Here is the cover of the delightful 2019 Calendar representing more Labels from Jim Dahlberg’s Collection. Each month shows a different Label that has not been published before from his wonderful collection.



The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society’s Calendar for 2019 is available at the Resource Center and at the Society Meetings. You may also purchase the calendar by filling out the form below and mailing it with your check to:

SRDHS
P O Box 293
Walnut Grove, CA 95695

The price for each 2019 calendar is \$15.00 plus postage
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 calendar price is \$10 each plus postage

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

1 Calendar \$2.05 postage

2 Calendars \$2.70 postage

3 - 6 calendars \$6.70 for priority mail (2 to 3 day delivery)

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society **Calendar** Order Form

Please send _____ 2019 calendars @ \$15 per calendar

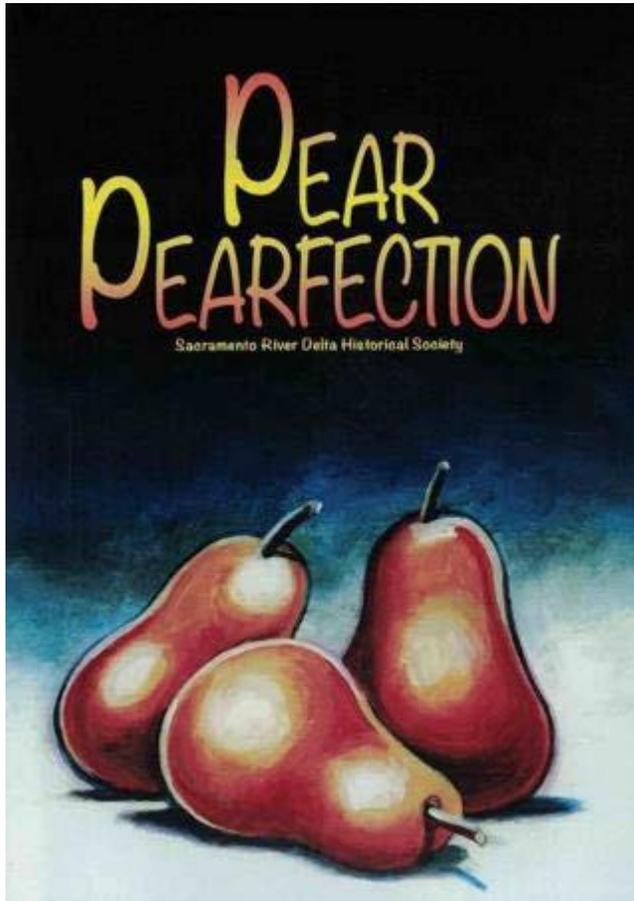
__2012__2013 __2014__2015 __2016 __2017__2018 calendars @ \$10 per calendar

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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

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

SRDHS
P O Box 293
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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

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

1 – 2 Cookbooks \$3.20 postage

3 - 5 Cookbooks \$6.65 for priority mail (2 to 3 day delivery)

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society Cookbook Order Form

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____