

SRDHS

SACRAMENTO RIVER
DELTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293
Walnut Grove, CA 95612

Volume 1, Issue 2

December, 1979

Annual Dinner

Invitations will be in the mail early in the new year, announcing the fourth annual meeting of the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society. Chairman Maryn Whitney is planning a renewal of 1979's successful potluck dinner to be held on Monday, January 21st, at St. Anthony's Parish Hall in Walnut Grove. Each family is asked to provide a main dish, salad, or dessert and to indicate their selection when responding to their community representative who will be listed on the invitation. Wine, bread, and coffee will be provided by the committee.

All members and friends are cordially invited to attend the evening's festivities which will begin at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the talented Clarksburg musical ensemble, The New Holland Combine. A slide show program of vintage photos will test the memories of long-time residents and history buffs. A short business meeting will include the election of officers, museum reports, and recognition of outstanding volunteers.

A memorabilia exhibition is planned, and anyone having articles to display is asked to contact the committee who will arrange an exhibit area. Ample time will be allowed for inspection of the historic items, pictures, and other personal mementos. Everyone is urged to share in this highlight of the Society's year.

MEETING NOTES

The SRDHS meets every other month from September through May, with meeting locations rotating among the river towns of Rio Vista, Isleton, Walnut Grove, and Clarksburg. All members, guests, and friends are welcome to enjoy a wide variety of interesting speakers and programs. Regular meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of the month.

SEPTEMBER

Mr. Verle Weight, Director of the LDS Genealogical Library of Sacramento, gave an informative review of the process of "Discovering Your Roots" at the September 17th meeting held at the Isleton Community Center. He offered a list of steps in tracing family heritages including home sources, LDS resources, county records, state and national archives, and immigration reports. He emphasized that family trees should be personalized with information such as occupation or position and not just the statistics of names, dates, and locations.

Mr. Weight stated that in a few families it is possible to find information as far back as the 1500's, but that most histories will average six generations; a complete tree of 15 generations would include 16,383 ancestors!

NOVEMBER

Tours of both the Rio Vista museum and the home of Ed and Linda Dutra were enjoyed by a crowd of over 80 guests at the November 18th meeting. Members were free to divide their time prior to the business meeting in viewing the well-developed displays of delta and Solano County history and the lovely vintage Dutra home located near the high school in central Rio Vista. The hosts provided refreshments for the evening.

Mr. Krug Dunbar offered a brief presentation on the methods used by the local group in establishing their exhibits and raising money for the purchase of

Following the regular meeting, Mr. Dutra shared a showing of slides reproduced from old photographs featuring early day dredging operations along the rivers and sloughs of the delta. Many enjoyed testing their instant recall.

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MUSEUM

REVIEW

Since opening for its third season the Dai Loy Museum has had 10,708 visitors. The 1979 viewers have come from 37 states with Nevada, Oregon, and Washington leading the list, but also including guests from such diverse areas as North Dakota, Florida, and Maryland. Twenty-eight foreign countries were also represented in the current register; England, Taiwan, and Canada had the largest delegations, but Italy, South Africa, Brazil, Denmark, Panama, and the Seychelles Islands contributed travelers who were pleased to view the Locke, California gambling hall.

Maintenance work was done this spring with new picture captions being added, plastic overlays affixed to photographs, and additional display items catalogued. Work was suggested to improve the lighting above the award display without losing the total dim effect of the building. A new pedestal sign was made to replace the sidewalk banner which had become one tourist's souvenir when it was inadvertently left outdoors after closing.

From its many visitors, the museum has received \$1,579.40 in donations. It is the continued hope of the board that the Dai Loy can remain self-sufficient. With changing conditions the rent has increased to \$100 a month, but repairs, utilities, and insurance expenses have been kept to a minimum. Many hours of volunteer work have made it possible for all to enjoy this historic collection, and without such dedication the project would be impossible.

Ninety-one "sitters" have served in the museum with most taking at least two days. The museum was open 73 days from March 17 to November 18, including 4th of July and Labor Day, but excluding Easter. Special tours have also been arranged for large groups from schools and other historical societies. The Staff is co-ordinated by Emeline Pylman. A special thank you is offered to Clarence Pratt who serves as trouble shooter and all-round assistant.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we note the passing of members and longtime area residents. The families and friends of Janet McDonald, E.R. Picket, Clyde Bishop, and L.C. "Toots" Bloom feel the special loss that is reflected throughout the community.

A memorial donation has been given to the Society in memory of Mr. Bloom, and procedures have been established with the cooperation of treasurer, Jennie Sheehan for receiving and acknowledging any other such remembrances and gifts.

OFFICERS

The nominating committee reported to the membership at the November 18th meeting the results of their canvassing for a slate of officers for the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society for the 1980 year. Their recommendations will be presented for voting at the annual dinner to be held in Walnut Grove on January 21, 1980. Those nominated by the committee are as follows:

- President--Judy Merwin
- Vice President--Kathy Graham
- Recording Secretary--Sarah Mings
- Corresponding Sect.--Chris Giovannoni
- Treasurer--Jennie Sheehan

New Board Members:

- Jean Harvie
- Carel van Loben Sels
- Maryn Whitney

Additional Board Terms:

- Frank Wilcox
- Francis Armstrong
- Clarence Pratt

Other board members whose terms will continue on two year terms from last year are Doris Waterworth and Yvonne Pylman. Retiring from the board are Ping Lee, Gerry Gardner, and Kay Wheeler. The board also includes past presidents, Bob James and Jean Harvie.

Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the general meeting. Officers, according to the by-laws, are limited to two successive 1 year terms and directors are elected to two year terms with no limit on their tenure.

MEMBERSHIPS DUE

Membership renewals are due on February 1, 1980. Two notices are sent yearly by the treasurer; those not responding by the second notice are deleted on the master roster. Those who submit renewal, unasked, will save the Society time and postage.

The Society is open to all residents and former residents of Delta towns and neighboring islands and any interested in gathering and preserving the history of the Sacramento River Delta.

Membership categories are as follows:

Regular.....\$ 6	Family.....\$12
Senior Citizen..\$ 3	Student.....\$ 3
Sustaining.....\$20	Patron.....\$50
Life.....\$150	

The coupon below may be used both for renewals and new memberships.

Make checks payable To:	
Sacramento River Delta	
Historical Society	
P.O. Box 293	
Walnut Grove, CA 95612	
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