



# Community

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VOLUME 23 – No. 1 Dutch Flat Community Center · Box 14, Dutch Flat CA 95714 SPRING 2010

## DFCC BYLAWS REVISION – MEMBERS’ HELP REQUIRED

BY SUSAN PRINCE

The DFCC Board has decided to revise the organization’s bylaws, to make them easier to read and follow. They’re currently 23 pages long. We’d very much welcome advice and suggestions from DFCC members on bylaws changes. The current bylaws are printed, starting on page 4 in the paper. The board both wants member help to revise the bylaws, and needs your member vote to approve the new bylaws, next fall. Here’s the timeline –

- ▶ March 2010 - Spring 2010 “Community” printing of current bylaws
- ▶ March – May 2010 – Members submit comments, suggestions
- ▶ May 1, 2010 – Bylaws workshop, Community Center, 9 a.m. to noon
- ▶ June 17, September 18, October 21, 2010 – present final draft to members
- ▶ October 21, 2010 – vote to approve bylaws

Where we will need members’ help – under the current bylaws, twenty percent of current members are required to vote on the revised bylaws to change them. Based on 2009 membership, we will need about 35 members to vote on the bylaws, either in person or by proxy. We’ll provide more information on this in future issues of Community.

The bylaws workshop will be at the Community Center the morning of May 1, 2010, from 9 a.m. to noon, with free refreshments. We’ll present a first draft of the bylaws and to gather member suggestions and work on the next draft to present to the membership.

We will publish the final draft of the bylaws revisions in the Summer 2010 issue, around June 15, 2010. After that, we will bring the revised bylaws to three members’ meetings, the June, September, and October potlucks. At the end of the October potluck, we will ask the members to vote on the bylaws revisions.

Please send comments, suggestions and ideas on bylaws to the DFCC by email at [info@dutchflatcc.org](mailto:info@dutchflatcc.org), or in writing to DFCC, P.O. Box 14, Dutch Flat, CA 95714.



## AREA GETS BROADBAND

BY GERI LENNON

At long last, local residents have a wifi hotspot. The Sugar Pine Deli in Alta has not only wifi, but great coffee, and fabulous foods. How cool is that?

Local broadband wifi is powered by Corey Juchau of Colfaxnet.com, [www.colfaxnet.com](http://www.colfaxnet.com). Thanks from all of us, Corey.



**Top Row. Daria Snider, Ed Snider, Bottom Row from left, Kevin Hegge, Jill Bechtel, John Siether, Jared Slover, Lauraine Bacon, Daniel Seipert, Jay Therrien, Cornell Davis Jr., Chief Mullen**

## LOCAL RESIDENTS JOIN FIRE ACADEMY

BY LAURINE BACON

It may be the furthest thing from our minds after so much rain and snow but Chief Tim Mullen, a volunteer with the Alta Fire Department and Dutch Flat Fire Company, thinks about it every day ... fire. Many of us think of fire hazards primarily during the fire season. With the recent 49er Fire in Auburn and other major fires in Northern California over the past few years, preparing is a year-round activity. Efforts to insure firefighters have enough help to protect the area is a constant concern.

Over twenty years ago Mullen began his service in the Santa Cruz Fire Department, and later became a volunteer in the Dutch Flat Fire Department in 1995. He is now celebrating his third year as a volunteer in the Alta Fire Department. In his “real job,” he is Station Captain of the Tahoe National Forest Service at Big Bend. His wife, Katy, works for Cal Fire, the state firefighting service. On their days off, they both serve as volunteers for Alta and Dutch Flat.

Several months of recruiting new volunteers have paid off, with twelve new students attending the Fire Academy, all residents of Alta, Dutch Flat or Gold Run. Chief Mullen is thrilled with the response to their efforts but says, “We really should have 15-25 volunteers for the Alta Fire Department alone.” The Dutch Flat Fire Company is supported by funds from Placer County but the Alta Fire Department is supported strictly from district homeowner property taxes and fundraising efforts. The Alta Fire Protection District covers an area of approximately 2.5 square miles.

All volunteers in the Fire Academy have signed up for service in both the Alta Fire Department and Dutch Flat Fire Company. “It’s a commitment,” Mullen says. “The training is four months just to get to the basic level.” Although typically 60% of the students complete the course, Mullen feels very optimistic about the current team. He says, “I really want to thank this group of people who have stepped up to help keep this fire station going. We’re mostly unrecognized. Nobody thinks of us until they’re dialing 911.”



## AN AFTERNOON AT THE GOLDEN SHAMROCK

BY SUSAN PRINCE

Grab your shillelagh and jig down to the Dutch Flat Community Center on March 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. for an afternoon at The Golden Shamrock. Find the Community Center transformed into a lively Irish “local” with pub-style games, Celtic and mountain music provided by Debby McClatchy and friends, and delicious food provided by O’Heidi and clan.

Tickets are available at the Dutch Flat Trading Post, in Dutch Flat, the Monte Vista Inn, and the Sugar Pine Deli, in Alta. Before the event, tickets will be \$13 for adults and \$8 for children 8 to 15. The event may sell out, however, at the door, tickets will be \$15 for adults, with a \$2 discount for DFCC members, and \$8 for children 8 to 15. Children under 8 are welcome to attend at no cost.

The afternoon’s menu will feature delights like Irish cheese chutney bites, carrot soup, Irish soda bread. If you wish liquid refreshment other than tea or lemonade, B.Y.O.B. Support the Community Center and have a delicious and entertaining afternoon at The Golden Shamrock!



## A HELPING HAND

BY SUSAN PRINCE

We’re lucky to live in an area filled with kind, skilled, helpful people. It’s time to recognize them on a more formal basis. On page three, you will now find the Community Hall of Fame column, listing people, businesses, and organizations which have helped the Dutch Flat Community Center by contributing professional skills, or donating or discounting materials for activities, events, or building maintenance.

If you see these folks, please give them your thanks for their generous efforts to support our communities, and give them your business, too.

Have we missed someone? If so, please let me know, at 530-389-8344 or at [newspaper@dutchflatcc.org](mailto:newspaper@dutchflatcc.org).

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This newspaper is published quarterly and distributed to members of the Dutch Flat Community Center and to residents of the Center's service area, from Secret Town to Emigrant Gap, along Interstate 80 in Placer County, California.

We welcome contributions from readers.

Submission due dates for upcoming issues:

Summer 2010 – May 15, 2010  
 Fall 2010 – August 15, 2010  
 Winter 2010 – November 15, 2010  
 Spring 2011 – February 15, 2011

Views expressed in letters and guest opinion pieces and other contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the Dutch Flat Community Center, or its Board.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY LAURINE BACON

You may have received a letter from me inviting you to either renew your membership of the Dutch Flat Community Center, or become a new member. The last week of January I was at the home of Eleanor Bridges, helping to finish up the membership mailing, with her son Charlie. They are two well known names in this community, giving over half a century of community service. The following morning, I had a nice visit with the Dutch Flat postmaster, Shelly Willmsore. As we spoke, I discovered she has spent over 30 years at the Gold Run, Alta and now Dutch Flat Post Offices.

As I handed over our letters to Shelly, I noticed several going to cities throughout the state, and across the country. I thought of the stories and history associated with each letter. So many of you have generations of stories from living in the area, or visiting. Houses once an occasional summer retreat in your youth are now your year-round home. Perhaps the family retreat is still a place you visit from time to time but your home is elsewhere. Still, you return to the area to enjoy the tranquility of a fall stroll, the stillness of a winter day, the cheers of our colorful parade in July, and the laughter of children at the community pool.

There is an invisible thread that connects us to this place. Many people have carried that thread through the years and it weaves its way down our streets and into our homes. We come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We celebrate the connections that bring us together.

You may be an occasional visitor, a part time resident or here year-round, but the thread is always here. For some, like Eleanor and many others, the thread has become a rope that binds her and this community and the building she so passionately protected. The DFCC can not hang on by just a thread. It takes the threads of many joining together to create community events, and preserve our historic building. We need the support of community members, near and far.

By now you may be thinking, *What letter is she referring to? How do I get one of those letters? I want to support that connection.* Lucky for you, we printed a few extra copies. You can also use the membership form printed on page 15 in this issue.

All members and those thinking about becoming members are invited to join us at the Dutch Flat Community Center on Sunday, March 21st from 1 to 4 p.m. for *An Afternoon at the Golden Shamrock* a celebration of music, games and gourmet fare.

Thanks for getting involved!  
 Contact me at [living@altadutchflat.com](mailto:living@altadutchflat.com).

Lauraine Bacon  
 President  
 Dutch Flat Community Center

## THE PARTRIDGE AND THE FOWLER

BY AESOP

A Fowler caught a Partridge and was about to kill it. The Partridge earnestly begged him to spare his life, saying, "Pray, master, permit me to live and I will entice many Partridges to you in recompense for your mercy to me." The Fowler replied, "I shall now with less scruple take your life, because you are willing to save it at the cost of betraying your friends and relations."

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Special Events:

- ▶ Thursday, March 18, 6:15 p.m., DFCC potluck Community Center, 930 Stockton Street, Dutch Flat. Contact Lauraine Bacon for more, 530-748-5484.
- ▶ Sunday, March 21, An Afternoon at the Golden Shamrock at the Community Center, with food, music, and fun.
- ▶ Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunrise Service in the Diggings.
- ▶ Sunday, April 4, annual DFCC egg hunt, on the Community Center grounds. All welcome.
- ▶ Saturday, April 24, Western Night at the Community Center, sponsored by the Dutch Flat Methodist Church. For more information, contact Virginia Woolfe at 389-8491, or [wolfe@hughes.net](mailto:wolfe@hughes.net).
- ▶ Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to noon, DFCC Bylaws Workshop. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Susan Prince, [sdprince@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:sdprince@stanfordalumni.org), or 530-389-8344.
- ▶ Saturday, May 1, 7 p.m., North Fork American River Alliance free second annual *Winter's Over, Get Back to the Canyon* presentation. Music, refreshments and presentation of *Over the American*, with KVIE producer Kelly Peterson. For more information, contact Jim Ricker at 530-389-8344, or [jvricker@prince-ricker.net](mailto:jvricker@prince-ricker.net).
- ▶ Sunday, July 4, 10:30 a.m., annual Dutch Flat Independence Day Parade. Watch the Summer 2010 issue for further information.

### Ongoing Events:

- ▶ Third Thursday of each month, September through June, Dutch Flat Community Center potluck, 6:30 p.m. Bring family and friends, place settings, and a dish to share.
- ▶ Dutch Flat Community Center board meeting, second Wednesday of the month, times and locations vary. Call President Lauraine Bacon for details at 530-748-5484, or at [living@altadutchflat.com](mailto:living@altadutchflat.com).
- ▶ Dutch Flat United Methodist Church - Fellowship Dinner at 4 p.m. and, Worship Service at 5 p.m. until March 14, then Fellowship Dinner at 5 p.m. and Worship Service at 6 p.m.
- ▶ Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta, worship service at 11 a.m. every Sunday.
- ▶ Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run, Sunday Service 10 a.m.
- ▶ Bingo at the Alta Community Center the first Friday of each month, 7 p.m. For more information or a reminder call, contact Carol Gilles at 530-389-2601. Free refreshments are provided and all proceeds benefit the Alta Fire Department.
- ▶ Dutch Flat Methodist Episcopal Church pancake breakfast, the second Saturday of each month.
- ▶ Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting 7 p.m. first Tuesday of each month, Golden Drift Museum, Dutch Flat. Contact Doug Ferrier for information, 530-389-2617.
- ▶ NFARA board meeting 7 p.m. third Tuesday of each month, locations vary. Contact Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344.



## COMMUNITY HALL OF FAME

These people and companies have donated goods or services to the Dutch Flat Community Center. We greatly appreciate their help.

- ▶ Chris Gibbs, a local roofer, who helped fix a leak in the Community Center roof during the winter.
- ▶ Tully-Wihr Company, Colfax, for donating printing services and supplies for DFCC communications.
- ▶ Abe Khamis at the Dutch Flat Trading Post collects donations and sells tickets for our events, and is always generous.
- ▶ Abby & John Wardwell, and the crew at the Monte Vista, also support the DFCC by selling tickets, and with their ongoing support.
- ▶ Other generous local businesses, which have provided gift certificates for DFCC raffles, are Ugly Bug Pest Control, the Sugar Pine Deli, i Alta, and The Old Pharmacy, in Colfax.



If you or your company might be able to donate items or services to the community center, please contact the DFCC at [info@dutchflatcc.org](mailto:info@dutchflatcc.org). If you know of someone or a company which deserves to be listed here, please let us know.



## LOOK TO THIS DAY

BY MAGGIE MAE SLOVER

It may come as a shock to some of you that a new president has taken office. You may be even more surprised to learn there was no inaugural address, no inaugural parade and no inaugural ball, as the new leader's obligatory rite of passage. And if none of the above caused you to bat an eye, you will surely be interested in the fact that this president is a woman. To all of you, ladies and gentlemen, holding your breath in anticipation, it is both my pleasure and privilege to introduce to you Lauraine Bacon, President of the Dutch Flat Community Center.

Voted in by the Community Center panel last October, her duties as president include chairing board meetings and setting the meeting agendas, creating or recommending committees to meet various needs, and having significant involvement with the nominating committee to recruit new board members. It goes without saying that a substantial amount of both capability and energy are required for such a task, but Lauraine has something far more invaluable to offer, her love of place. "I love the history, the people, the towering cedar trees on my property, the whistle of the train off in the distance, the changing colors of the leaves, the tree in front of Sue Hugh's home, the pride people have for this community and of course the Dutch Flat Community Center and so much more," she explains. "Yes, this is a volunteer position ... but the rewards are priceless."

Needless to say, the job also comes with its own set of challenges, most notably the precarious

circus act of balancing the traditions of the past, the needs of the present and the unknowns of the future. When asked if her new responsibility has been what she expected so far, she said "I heard a saying once, "Without expectations, you have everything." I really didn't have any expectations going into this." As the brunt of the supervisory responsibilities falls on her shoulders, Lauraine has felt pressure to make wise decisions with the interest of others with both today and tomorrow in mind. She cites a poem as the philosophy that has served her best:

*"Look to this Day, for it is Life, the very Life of Life. In its brief course lie all the varieties and realities of your existence. The bliss of Growth, the glory of Action, The splendor of Beauty; for yesterday is already a dream and tomorrow is only a vision; But today, well-lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, And every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this Day. Such is the salutation of the Dawn." - by Kalidasa (Indian poet, 353-420 a.d.)*

But even if Lauraine has embraced her role with an open mind, she is already showing her aptitude for leadership in the way she rolled up her sleeves, assessed the immediate needs of the community and set about to meet those needs.

Although the list is a long one, it affords many opportunities for locals to pitch in and contribute in practical ways such as helping in the repair and maintenance of the historical buildings that make our town so distinguished, including the Community Center itself. If upkeep of the landmarks you love is not in your capacity, think of becoming a regular at the monthly potlucks. Integrating yourself into the reliable and time-proven network of the friends and neighbors that form our community is a contribution in itself. If that isn't incentive enough, there are other tantalizing events on the horizon. Our St. Patrick's fundraiser, which started just last year, is returning as *An Afternoon at the Golden Shamrock*. There will be live music and fabulous food. It is very likely this popular event will sell out quickly, so buy your tickets right after reading this!

"I have other ideas for fundraisers but we need more resources, primarily funding and people to help," points out Lauraine.

"There are grants that we could apply for but knowing what they are and applying for them takes time. I'd like to form a grant committee that could just focus on that activity. Anyone with experience or even a willingness to help in this area should contact me."

It's easy to grow used to and then apathetic towards all the elements that make our town so pleasant and nostalgic, apart from the hurried pace of the world around it. Those of us who have lived here a while may not realize how lucky we are to be threads in the fabric. Since taking her position, the President notes, "I have a greater appreciation for the history and longevity of the relationships among many community members, including our board members. We have two people on our board that have known each other for 50+ years! I think that's amazing. I'm continually hearing stories of how people are connected to this community and these stories go back generations. I've lived in a lot of places and I've never seen it as strong as it is here."

What is her greatest hope for the preservation of that history and longevity? "I love our regulars that attend the potlucks ... you know who you are ... but I also hope to see more people I don't know. That will show us that our outreach efforts are working."

So what exactly can we, the citizens, do to make our president's load as light as possible? She's made it as easy as one, two, three ... well, add a few

more numbers.

Step 1: Renew your membership. Each membership is for one year so if you were a member in 1982 and haven't renewed, it's time.

Step 2: Become a member! If you've never been a member, please join!

Step 3: Attend a potluck – the third Thursday of every month, except July and August.

Step 4: Attend events. *An Afternoon at the Golden Shamrock* on March 21st, our Easter Egg Hunt (at press time this was not confirmed but will probably be on Easter, Sunday, April 4th)

Step 5: Get involved! Join our volunteer committee, let me know what special talents you have. We'll find a place for you.

Step 6: Donate items to our raffle, silent auctions and/or White Elephant Sale.

Step 7: Help with fundraising, put your spare change in our donation jar at a potluck, or write a check.

Step 8: repeat step 1

Of course our wonderful new president would like to seize this moment to offer you, the reader, a word of thanks. "I first want to thank all the people that have come before me that have kept these traditions alive. I thank our current board members who have a rich history in this area. They volunteer many hours to keep things going. We have some amazing volunteers that make these events happen. A lot goes on months or weeks before an event that most people are unaware of.

Lastly, I'd like to thank you, the reader....I know you're thinking "How can I help?" Thank you to our future board members, future volunteers and future donors. *For yesterday is already a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision...."*

## TREASURE SEEKING

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEPTEMBER 17, 1874.

It seems as if California would not recover, in this generation, from the demoralizing effects of the early rush for gold. We observe in the newspapers of that State advertisements and prospectuses of treasure-seeking expeditions, which in other communities would be received with nothing but laughter. One of the latest of these is the grave announcement of the formation of a party to work the gold and silver mines of the Incas of Peru. The authors of the precious scheme profess to have found the treasurecaves whence was drawn the wealth of the people conquered by Cortez and Pizarro. The precise situation of the mines is, of course, mysteriously veiled for the present, but recruits are promised their choice of quartz, river-bed, placer, or hydraulic mining—a variety of richness which is most enticing. Grass, water, agricultural productions, and cheap cattle are added—with lavish profusion of printer's ink. The Lobos Island treasure is another ignis fatuus that has deluded many unthrifty adventurers into the 'Pathless wastes of the Pacific.' The tradition says that a party of Americans, intrusted with the gems and gold of a besieged South American port, took it on board of a schooner for safe keeping; weighing anchor in the night, they fled to sea, buried the treasure on Lobos Islands, and before they could return for it, nearly all of the party were killed in various ways. A survivor turns up every once in a while and offers to pilot an expedition to the place where bushels of precious stones and vast golden stores lie buried. Many have been the explorers, but not one has found the treasure.

Time would fail to tell if the wild schemes in

*Continued on Page 12*

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**BYLAWS OF DUTCH FLAT  
COMMUNITY CENTER**  
A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation  
Approved 2001

**ARTICLE I – Recitals and Definitions**

Section 1.01. Name of Corporation. The name of this Corporation shall be DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER and shall be referred to herein as the "Corporation."

Section 1.02. Corporation Is Nonprofit. This Corporation has been formed pursuant to the California Nonprofit Corporation Law as a public benefit corporation.

Section 1.03. Specific Purposes. The specific and primary purposes of this Corporation shall be to:

(a) To assist in the philanthropic, CIVIC, community and recreational development of the area of Dutch Flat, California.

(b) To own, lease, improve, operate and maintain, and repair a community center and to engage in community projects for the benefit and welfare of the Members of the Corporation and the residents and property owners of Dutch Flat, California and the surrounding rural communities of Alta and Gold Run.

(c) To engage in charitable and educational activities for the benefit of the Corporation's Members and other residents of Dutch Flat, California and the surrounding communities of Alta and Gold Run, including but not limited to the preservation, protection, maintenance and enhancement of historical records and sites within those communities which pertain to the role that each community played in the early development of California's gold country, and to serve as a community forum and meeting place for educational and charitable purposes relating to that history.

(d) No substantial part of the activities of this Corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office. Without limiting the foregoing, no partisan political events will be permitted to be held on or within any premises owned or maintained by the Corporation.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or (b) by a corporation contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

(f) Religious activities may be held on or within the Corporation's premises only with Board of Directors approval and for a given period of time. If use is to be made beyond the agreed upon time limit, re-application to the Board of Directors must be made. The standard use agreement must be signed by a person accepting responsibility for use of the premises. Reasonable reimbursement to the Corporation for utilities used must be made unless waived by the Board of Directors. Other community activities may be conducted on the premises with approval of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE II Principal Office**

Section 2.01. Location of Principal Office. The principal office of the Corporation will be located at the Dutch Flat Community Center, 933 Stockton Street, Dutch Flat, Placer County California, 95714.

**ARTICLE III - Membership**

Section 3.01. Members of the Corporation. The Members of this Corporation shall include and be limited to any resident or property owner in the historic gold mining communities of Dutch Flat, Alta and Gold Run and surrounding areas. Other individuals who have demonstrated an interest in the history and community activities of those three communities may also be admitted to membership upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors. To be a Member of the Corporation a person must remain in good standing and be current in the payment of any dues imposed by the Corporation.

**ARTICLE IV - Membership Voting**

Section 4.01. Single Vote Per Member. Each Member in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote on any matter requiring approval of the Members, including the election of directors; provided, however, that in the election of directors, Members shall be entitled to one vote for each vacancy on the Board to be filled. Cumulative voting in the election of directors shall not be permitted. In order to be in good standing, a Member must be current in the payment of all dues duly imposed pursuant to Section 10.01, below.

Section 4.02. Manner of Casting Votes.

(a) Voting at a Meeting or by Written Ballot. Voting may be by a show of hands or by ballot. The vote on any issue properly before a meeting of the Members shall be conducted by secret ballot when determined by the chairman of the meeting, in his or her discretion, or when requested by ten percent (10%) of the Members present and voting at the meeting, including Members represented by proxy. Otherwise votes may be conducted by a show of hands.

(b) Proxies Permitted. Members otherwise eligible to vote at a meeting may do so in person or by designating another person as a proxy holder to appear at a meeting of the Members to vote on behalf of the Member issuing the proxy. To be valid a proxy must be in writing, signed by the issuing Member and filed with the Secretary of the Corporation. No proxy may have a term longer than eleven (11) months from its date of issuance.

Section 4.03. Action by Written Ballot Without the Necessity of Calling a Meeting.

(a) Written Ballots, Generally. Any matter or issue requiring the vote of the Members, including the election of directors, may be submitted to the Members for approval by written ballot without the necessity of calling a meeting of Members. The determination to seek Member approval for Association action in this fashion shall be made by a majority vote of the Board.

(b) Balloting Time Requirements. When a Member vote is conducted by use of a written ballot, without a meeting of the Members, each Member in good standing shall receive a ballot form at least thirty (30) days prior to the final date the written ballots are to be received to be counted. All written ballots shall provide a reasonable time within which to return the written ballot to the Association and shall state, on the face of the ballot, the date by which the written ballot must be returned in order to be counted. The time fixed for the return of written ballots may only be extended if the Board so notifies the Members in the balloting materials originally sent to Members and then for no more than two successive periods of thirty (30) days each.

(c) Content of Written Ballots. Any written ballot distributed to the Members to vote on any issue shall set forth the proposed action and provide an opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of the proposal.

(d) Requirements for Valid Action. Approval by written ballot in the absence of a meeting of the Members, shall be valid only when: (i) the number of votes cast

by ballot within the time period specified equals or exceeds the quorum (as specified in Section 5.06, below), that would have been required to be present at a membership meeting if such a meeting had been convened to vote on the proposal, and (ii) the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of affirmative votes required to approve the action at a membership meeting.

(e) Prohibition on Revocation. Once cast, a written ballot may not be revoked.

**Section 4.04. Majority Vote of Members Represented at Meeting Required.** If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of the voting power of Members represented at the meeting, entitled to vote and voting on any matter (other than the election of directors) shall be the act of the Members, unless the vote of a greater number is required by California's Nonprofit Corporation Law or by the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Corporation. In the case of director elections, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes, up to the number of directors to be elected, shall be elected to the vacant director seats.

#### **ARTICLE V Membership Meetings**

**Section 5.01. Place of Meeting.** The meetings of the Members shall be at the Dutch Flat Community Center or at such other reasonable place (within the County of Placer) and at such time as may be designated by the Board in the notice of the meeting.

**Section 5.02. Annual Meeting.** There shall be an annual meeting of the Members in October of each year. The date, time and location of the meeting shall be set forth in the notice of meeting sent to the Members in accordance with Section 5.05, below.

**Section 5.03. Regular Meetings.** In addition to the annual meeting, there shall be a regular monthly meeting of the Members on the third Thursday of each month, except that certain meetings can be deferred, with notice to accommodate corporation sponsored community events, the celebration of a holiday or other circumstances which make it impractical to conduct a regular monthly meeting, a day and at a time and place determined by the Board. The day (e.g., the third Thursday of the month) and the time and location shall remain firm and shall only vary due to official holiday or majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 5.04. Special Meetings.**

(a) **Persons Entitled to Call Special Meetings.** A majority of the Board, the President or five percent (5 %) or more of the Members may call special meetings of the Members at any time to consider any lawful business of the Corporation.

(b) **Procedures for Calling Special Meetings Requested by Members.** If a special meeting is called by Members other than the Board of Directors or President, the request shall be submitted by such Members in writing, specifying the general nature of the business proposed to be transacted, and shall be delivered personally or sent by registered mail or by telegraphic or other facsimile transmission to the President, the Vice President, or the Secretary of the Corporation. The officer receiving the request shall cause notice to be promptly given to the Members entitled to vote, in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.05, below, that a meeting will be held, and the date, time and purpose for such meeting, which date shall be not less than thirty-five (35) nor more than ninety (90) days following the receipt of the request. If the notice is not given within the twenty (20) days after receipt of the request, the persons requesting the meeting may give the notice. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed as limiting, fixing, or affecting the time when a meeting of

the Members may be held when the meeting is called by action of the Board of Directors or the President.

**Section 5.05. Notice of Members' Meetings.**

(a) Generally. Not less than ten (10) days prior to any regular meeting, notice of the meeting or cancellation thereof, shall be posted in a location(s) reasonably accessible to all resident Members. Notices of special meetings shall be sent to all Members by first class mail at least ten (10) days, but not more than thirty-five (35) days prior to the date of the special meeting. All notices shall include an agenda identifying all matters that will require Member action or approval. The notice of any meeting at which directors are to be elected shall include the names of all those individuals who are nominees at the time the notice is given to the Members.

**Section 5.06. Quorum Requirements for Member Meetings.**

(a) Twenty percent (20%) of the voting Members, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Members; provided, however, that at any regular meeting actually attended, in person or by proxy, by less than one-third of the Corporation's Members (but the quorum is achieved), the only matters upon which action can be validly taken are those matters the general nature of which was described in the notice of the meeting issued pursuant to Section 5.05, above.

(b) The Members present at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough Members to leave less than a quorum, if any action taken (other than adjournment) is approved by at least a majority of the Members required to constitute a quorum.

(c) The quorum rules of subparagraph (a), above, shall also apply to the conduct of written ballot voting pursuant to Section 4.03, above.

**Section 5.07. Adjourned Meeting.** Any Members' meeting, annual or special, whether or not a quorum is present, may be adjourned to another time and/or place (but not for more than forty-five (45) days) by the vote of the majority of Members represented at the meeting, either in person or by proxy. Unless there is an absence of a quorum (in which case no other business may be transacted at that meeting except as provided in Section 5.06(b) above), the reconvened meeting may take any action which might have been transacted at the original meeting. When a Members' meeting is adjourned to another time or place, notice need not be given of the new meeting if the time and place thereof are announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken.

**Section 5.08. Waiver of Notice or Consent by Absent Members.**

(a) **Waiver and Consents, Generally.** If decisions are made by the Members at a meeting where a quorum is present, but for which proper notice was not given to all Members for whatever reason, the decisions made at that meeting will be valid if, either before or after the meeting, each Member entitled to vote who was not present at the meeting (in person or by proxy) consents to the meeting by signing (i) a written waiver of notice, (ii) a consent to holding the meeting, or (iii) an approval of the minutes. All such waivers, consents or approvals shall be filed with the Corporation records or be made part of the minutes of the meeting.

(b) **Effect of Attendance at Meeting.** Attendance by a person at a meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice of that meeting, except when the person attends the meeting for the sole purpose of objecting at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of any business due to the inadequacy or illegality of the

notice.

#### **ARTICLE VI Board of Directors**

**Section 6.01. General Corporation Powers.** The business and affairs of this Corporation shall be vested in and exercised by, the Corporation's Board of Directors. Subject to the limitations expressed in Section 8.01, below, the Board may delegate the management of the activities of the Corporation to any person or persons, or committee, provided that notwithstanding any such delegation the activities and affairs of the Corporation shall continue to be managed and all Corporate powers shall continue to be exercised under the ultimate direction of the Board. Without prejudice to these general powers, and subject to the same limitations, the directors shall have the power to:

(a) Select and remove all officers, agents, and employees of the Corporation; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, with the Articles of Incorporation, and with these Bylaws; fix their compensation; and require from them security for faithful service.

(b) Change the principal executive office or the principal business office in the State of California from one location to another; cause the Corporation to be qualified to do business in any other state, territory, dependency, or country and conduct business within or without the State of California.

(c) Adopt, make, and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal.

(d) Borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Corporation and cause to be executed and delivered for the Corporation's purposes, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds debentures, deed of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, and other evidences of debt and securities.

**Section 6.02. Number and Qualification of Directors.**

(7) The Board shall be comprised of those persons holding the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and three directors at large. To be eligible to serve on the Board a director must be a Member in good standing.

No person serving on the Board of Directors at any time may be an interested person. An interested person is (1) any person being compensated by the Corporation for services rendered to it within the previous twelve (12) months, whether as a full-time or part-time employee, independent contractor, or otherwise, excluding any reasonable compensation paid to a director as director: or (2) any brother, sister, ancestor, descendant, spouse, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, or father-in-law of any such person referred to in (1), above. However, any violation of the provisions of this paragraph shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any transaction entered into by the Corporation.

**Section 6.03. Term of Office.** The term of office of all Members of the Board shall be one (1) year. There shall be no limitation upon the number of consecutive terms to which a director may be re-elected. Each director, including a director elected to fill a vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which elected and until a successor has been elected and qualified.

**Section 6.04. Nomination and Election of Directors.** At least sixty

(60) days prior to the date of any election of directors, the President shall appoint a nominating committee to select qualified candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The committee shall file its recommendations at the September membership meeting and the election of officers and directors at large shall be

*Continued on Page 6*

*Bylaws, continued from Page 5*

conducted at the October membership meeting.

Section 6.05. Removal of Directors and Filling Vacancies on the Board of Directors.

(a) Vacancies, Generally. A vacancy or vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be deemed to exist on the occurrence of any of the following: (i) the death, resignation or removal of a director; or (ii) an increase of the authorized number of directors.

(b) Resignation of Directors. Any director may resign, which resignation shall be effective on giving written notice to the President, the Secretary, or the Board of Directors, unless the notice specifies a later time for the resignation to become effective. If the resignation of a director is effective at a future time, the Board of Directors may elect a successor to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

(c) Filling of Vacancies. Except in the case of a vacancy resulting from removal of a director by action of the Members, vacancies on the Board may be filled by the vote of a majority of a quorum of the Board, or if the number of directors then in office is less than a quorum, the vacancy may be filled by (i) the unanimous written consent of the remaining directors, or (ii) the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Members of the Board at a duly held meeting or (iii) by the sole remaining director.

(d) Removal of Directors for Cause. The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to remove a director and declare his or her office vacant if he or she has (i) been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court; (ii) been convicted of a felony; (iii) been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty under California Corporations Code sections 5230 through 5237, inclusive, (relating to the standards of conduct of directors); or (iv) if the director fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Directors which have been duly noticed in accordance with section 7.03, below.

(e) Removal of Directors Without Cause. Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (d), above, a director may only be removed from office prior to expiration of his or her term by the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the Members.

#### **ARTICLE VII Board Meetings**

Section 7.01. Place of Meetings; Meetings by Conference Telephone. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four times a year. The time and this place of Board meetings shall be determined by the President who shall have the discretion of establishing and providing to the other directors a schedule of regular meetings at the inception of each year. Typically Board meetings are held at the Dutch Flat Community Center. Notwithstanding the above provisions of this section 7.01, a regular or special meeting of the Board may be held at any place consented to by all the Board Members, either before or after the meeting. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, so long as all directors participating in the meeting can hear one another, and all such directors shall be deemed to be present in person at such a meeting.

Section 7.02. Special Meetings of the Board. Special meetings of the Board of Directors for any purpose may be called at any time by the President or any three (3) directors.

Section 7.03. Notice of Board Meetings.

(a) Manner of Giving Notice. If established in advance by the President and communicated to all directors, no further notice shall be required with respect to regular meetings of the Board. If no schedule of regular meetings is established, and whenever a special

meeting is called, the members of the Board shall be given at least four days notice by first-class mail or forty-eight (48) hours' notice delivered personally or by telephone, including a voice messaging system or other system or technology designed to record and communicate messages, facsimile, electronic mail, or other electronic means. Notice of a meeting need not be given to any director who signs a written waiver of notice or a written consent to holding the meeting or an approval of the minutes thereof, whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting, prior thereto or at commencement of the meeting, the lack of notice to such director. All such waivers, consents and approvals shall be filed with the Corporation records or made a part of the minutes.

(b) Content of Notices. The notice shall state the date, time, place, and the general purpose of the meeting. Section 7.04. Quorum Requirements for Board Meetings.

(a) Specified Quorum. A majority of the authorized number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that a quorum need not be present to vote to adjourn as provided in Section 7.06, below.

(b) Action of the Board. Except as otherwise provided herein or in the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, every act or decision done or made by a majority of the directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the Board of Directors.

(c) Effect of Withdrawal of Directors From Meeting. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of directors below a quorum, if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for that meeting or such greater number as is required by the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

Section 7.05. Waiver of Notice. The transaction of any meeting of the Board of Directors, however called and noticed or wherever held, shall be as valid as though taken at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice, if (a) a quorum is present, and (b) either before or after the meeting, each of the directors not present, individually or collectively, signs a written waiver of notice, a consent to the holding of the meeting, or an approval of the minutes thereof. The waiver of notice or consent need not specify the purpose of the meeting. All waivers, consents, and approvals shall be filed with the Corporation records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting and shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board. The requirement of notice of a meeting shall also be deemed to have been waived by any director who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of notice.

Section 7.06. Adjournment. A majority of the directors present, whether or not constituting a quorum, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place or may adjourn for purposes of reconvening in executive session to discuss and vote upon personnel matters, litigation in which the Corporation is or may become involved and orders of business of a similar nature. If the meeting is adjourned for more than twenty-four (24) hours, notice of adjournment to any other time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the directors who were not present at the time of the adjournment. Except as herein above provided, notice of adjournment need not be given.

Section 7.07. Action Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board, individually or collectively, consent

in writing or verbally to that action. Such action by consent shall have the same force and effect as an unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Any written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

Section 7.08. Compensation. Directors, officers and members of committees shall not be entitled to compensation for their services as such, although they may be reimbursed for such actual expenses as may be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors to be just and reasonable. Expenses shall be supported by an invoice or voucher acceptable to the Board.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - Committees**

Section 8.01. Committees of Directors. The Board may, by resolution adopted by a majority of the directors then in office, designate one or more committees to serve at the pleasure of the Board. A committee comprised solely by directors may exercise all the authority of the Board with respect to matters within their area of assigned responsibility, except that no committee, regardless of Board resolution, may:

(a) Take any final action on any matter which, under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of California, also requires approval of the Members.

(b) Fill vacancies on the Board of Directors or on any committee which has been delegated any authority of the Board.

(c) Amend or repeal Bylaws or adopt new Bylaws.

(d) Amend or repeal any resolution of the Board of Directors which by its express terms is not so amendable or repealable.

(e) Appoint any other committees of the Board of Directors or the Members of those committees.

(f) Expend Corporation funds to support a nominee for director after there are more people nominated for director than can be elected.

(g) Approve any self-dealing transaction unless authorized by California Corporations Code section 5233(d)(3).

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(e) Appoint any other committees of the Board of Directors or the Members of those committees.

(f) Expend Corporation funds to support a nominee for director after there are more people nominated for director than can be elected.

(g) Approve any self-dealing transaction unless authorized by California Corporations Code section 5233(d)(3).

Section 8.02. Other Committees. The Board may establish other committees as deemed necessary or appropriate to implement the charitable programs or activities of the Corporation, increase the effectiveness of the Corporation, provide information or otherwise assist the Board. Such committees may include

Members who are not directors; provided, however, that any committee which includes non-directors may not exercise any powers of the Board, but rather shall serve as an advisory or recommending body to the Board.

**ARTICLE XIV - Officers**

Section 9.01. Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 9.02. Election of Officers. The officers of the Corporation, shall be chosen annually by vote of the Members and each shall hold his or her office until he or she shall resign or shall be removed or otherwise disqualified to serve, or his or her successor shall be elected and qualified.

Section 9.03. Removal of Officers. Officers may only be removed in accordance with the procedures and voting requirements applicable to the removal of directors pursuant to Section 6.05, above.

Section 9.04. Resignation of Officers. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board or to the President or to the Secretary. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein; and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 9.05. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification of an officer for any other cause shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.05, above.

Section 9.06. President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board, have general supervision, direction and control of the affairs and officers of the Corporation. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the Board, and shall have the general power and duties of management usually vested in the office of President of a corporation, together with such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board or the Bylaws.

Section 9.07. Vice President. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the President. He or she shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed by the Board or the Bylaws.

Section 9.08. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept at the principal office or such other place as the Board may order, a book of minutes of all meetings of directors, with the time and place of holding same, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at directors' meetings and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, appropriate current records showing the names and mailing addresses of any persons designated as "members" of the Corporation. He or she shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board required by the Bylaws or by law to be given, and he or she shall keep the seal of the Corporation in safe custody, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or by the Bylaws.

Section 9.09. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, losses, capital, retained earnings and other matters customarily included in financial state-

ments. The books and records shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any director. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board. He or she shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board, shall render to the President and directors whenever they request it, an account of all of his or her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or the Bylaws. The Treasurer shall serve without bond.

**ARTICLE X - Dues and Finances**

Section 10.01. Establishment of Dues. The Board of directors shall establish the amount of dues payable by Members each year at a level designed to maintain the fiscal stability of the Corporation. Dues shall be due and payable on January 2, of each year Members joining the Corporation after the beginning of any calendar year shall not have their dues prorated, but rather shall pay the full yearly amount.

Section 10.02. Checks. All checks or demands for money and notes of the Corporation shall be signed by the President and Treasurer, or by such other officer or officers or such other person or persons as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

Section 10.03. Operating Account. There shall be established and maintained a cash deposit account to be known as the "Operating Account" into which shall be deposited the annual dues payments received from the Members. Disbursements from such account shall be for the general needs of the Corporation, including, but not limited to, repairs, betterments, maintenance, and other operating expenses associated with the Community Center.

Section 10.04. Other Accounts. The Board shall maintain any other accounts it shall deem necessary to carry out its purposes.

Section 10.05. Financial Statements. The Board of Directors shall cause review of the financial affairs of this Corporation to be made at least every twelve (12) months. Such review shall reflect the financial condition of this Corporation as of the date of the review and shall summarize the financial transactions in which this Corporation was involved during the period between the last of such reviews and the date of the current review. A copy of the annual review shall be available for examination by each of the Members of this Corporation. A copy of any annual financial statement and any income statement of the Corporation for each quarterly period of each fiscal year, and any accompanying balance sheet of the Corporation as of the end of such period, that has been prepared by the Corporation shall be kept on file in the principal office of the Corporation for twelve (12) months.

The income statements, statements of changes in financial position, and balance sheet referred to in this section shall be accompanied by the report, if any, of any accountants engaged by the Corporation or the certificate of an authorized officer of the Corporation that the financial statements were prepared without audit from the books and records of the Corporation.

**ARTICLE XI - Maintenance of Corporate Records**

Section 11.01. The Corporation Records. The Corporation shall keep:

- (a) Adequate and correct books and records of account;
- (b) Minutes in written form of the proceedings of its Members, directors and committees of the Board. Minutes of the meetings of committees that are

*Continued on Page 10*




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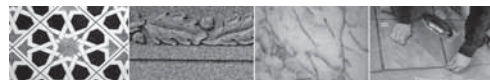
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**What you cannot enforce, do not command. - Sophocles, dramatist (495?-406 BCE)**



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**A man's ethical behavior should be based effectually on sympathy, education, and social ties; no religious basis is necessary. Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hope of reward after death. - Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate (1879-1955)**

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## THE ADVENTURES OF ARCHIBALD GWATHROP

A FICTION - PART 24

BY RICK SIMS

It never rains in Dutch Flat in the month of August.

But it rained on the morning of August 1, 1868.

That morning, Archibald Gwathrop was awakened by the pelting sound of rain on the tin roof of his home, Wild Honey.

After the remnants of sleep stepped aside, Archie thought, "Dear God. It is raining in the garden of the Dutch Flat Hotel. It will be raining there at 11 a.m. It will be raining on my beautiful Abigail in her wedding gown and on all the guests at our wedding. Dear God. I must find tarps."

There was no time to bathe, as he had planned. He shaved quickly with his straight razor and nicked his left ear in the process. Blood began to drip on his chest. He wadded up some toilet tissue and pinched it against his ear. After a few minutes, it stuck, providing him with an unusual dangling earring in the style of an African tribesman. Then he dressed quickly in work clothes and bolted out the door.

Sal Alarcon was just opening the Dutch Flat Store when Archie ran up, out of breath.

"Tarps," gasped Archie.

Sal realized immediately what Archie was getting at, because Sal had been invited to the wedding of Archibald Gwathrop and Abigail Wardwell Murphy that was to transpire at 11:00 a.m. that morning, across the street in the garden of the Dutch Flat Hotel. In fact, the entire town of Dutch Flat had been invited. Archie and Abigail had started with a list of selected invitees. But the list had grown and grown, and those who had not been invited conveyed not-so-tactful hints that they had resented being left out. So, after a bit, Archie had posted a notice of the wedding on the Post Office bulletin board and had invited "All Citizens of the Town of Dutch Flat" to the wedding. This included both Yick Wo and Ming Chin, who were planning to attend.

"Tarps," repeated Sal Alarcon, who led Archie behind the store to his storage building. Sal unlocked the door, stepped over some cans of paint, and pointed to the rear corner of the building. A pile of tarps.

"We have to get them strung up in the garden," chattered Archie nervously, pointing across the street.

"You have too many other things to worry about," said Sal. I will get the tarps up."

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you." exclaimed Archie, who turned and hurried back up Main Street toward Wild Honey.

Meanwhile, Abigail Wardwell Murphy was soaking in her bath. Her sister, Charity, who had come out from Boston, was busy laying out Abigail's

wedding clothes on her bed. The bridal dress was not white but blue, although it had a row of small white flowers sewn around the neck. It was a long dress for a rather long woman: it reached from the floor to the base of Abigail's chin. Charity would later fasten 52 buttons up the back. Charity would help Abigail put on the long blue gloves that reached to Abigail's biceps.

Charity stuck her head in the bathroom door. "I like this one better than the first one," said Charity.

"Better than Michael?" asked Abigail.

"Yes," replied the sister. "Michael was not a gentleman. Archie is a gentleman."

"Most of the time," said Abigail, mostly submerged in bubble bath.

By 10 a.m., Sal and a crew of friends had strung tarps over the garden of the hotel. The tarps had not been designed with weddings in mind. They were the stuff that got thrown in the backs of wagons, that hauled deer carcasses. Their patchwork presence made the garden of the Dutch Flat Hotel resemble an outdoor market in some Middle Eastern country.

It stopped raining.

Judge Oliver Sparks arrived from Auburn at 10:30 a.m. He was greeted by Archie's brother, Dr. John Gwathrop, who was to serve as Best Man.

Judge Sparks was a large man with greying, thinning hair. He was kept in good shape by his frequent riding of his horse, Roeder. He took John Gwathrop aside.

"How many rings are involved here?" asked the judge.

"Just one, your honor, for Abigail," said John.

"Do we know if it fits?"



"She says it does."

"Then it might or might not," said the judge. "Let's see the ring."

John handed it over. The judge said, "Put the ring on the little finger of your right hand. Leave it there. When I ask for the ring, hand it to me." And the judge placed the gold band on John's little finger.

By 11:00 a.m., an overflow crowd filled the garden of the Dutch Flat Hotel. The crowd spilled out into the street and up the hill on Main Street. No one in Dutch Flat wanted to miss this event. A large contingent of Chinese, led by Yick Wo and Ming Chin, gathered in the street just below the hotel. An odor of barbecue drifted up from down Stockton Street, where Freddy Fonseca and Tom Lorang and "Tubby" Watkins guarded two deep brick-lined pits in the ground. The pits were filled with dirt. At the bottom of the pits, 24 large roasts of beef had been cooking over night.

At approximately 11:15 a.m., Archibald and John Gwathrop appeared and made their way through the crowd to a platform in the garden of the hotel. Many shouts of welcome and congratulations went up from the crowd. Archie and John, who were wearing dark suits and black cravats, were met on the platform by Judge Sparks, who had donned a black robe and who looked consummately distinguished.

An upright piano had been moved from inside the hotel to the edge of the platform (still covered with a tarp). Wendell Gallagher began to play, "Here

Comes the Bride," and the crowd parted, like the Red Sea, to let Abigail and Charity make their way from the hotel to the platform in the garden. Abigail was carrying a bouquet of white lillies. She was smiling radiantly. Standing in the crowd as she passed, Hector Torres later said that, in all his life, he had never seen anything as beautiful as Abigail Wardwell Murphy gliding toward the platform in the back of the garden.

Abigail stepped up on the platform and Archie took her hand and kissed her gently on the cheek. In fact, Archie suddenly realized that he had to urinate, but it was too late. That moment passed. Judge Sparks nodded and smiled at the bride and groom. Abigail smiled broadly at Archie and then turned to the anxious crowd.

"It's not raining any more," Abigail said loudly. "Let's cut the tarps down!"

And 50 knives appeared instantaneously, and, in a flash, the tarps were brought down and sunshine illuminated the garden. A roar of approval went up from the crowd.

Abigail raised her fist over her head in a gesture of victory, and the crowd roared again.

"Ladies and gentlemen," began Judge Sparks. "We are gathered here today to join in holy matrimony Archibald Gwathrop and Abigail Wardwell Murphy." Another cheer from the crowd.

And Judge Sparks continued with a ceremony that had been refined, and honed, and tested hundreds of times. All those assembled said later that it was perfect.

There was just one glitch in the ceremony.

When Judge Sparks turned to best man John Gwathrop and said, "May I please have the ring?" John realized that the ring was not on his little finger, as the judge had instructed. John began fumbling in his pocket as he could feel the profound disappointment and disapproval of the judge, who knew that there had been a very good reason, indeed, why he had instructed John to keep the ring on his little finger. After several moments, the ring magically popped into the air, dropped on the platform, and was retrieved by Abigail herself, who gave John a most appreciated smile of forgiveness. As Abigail had indicated, the ring, in fact, fit perfectly on the second finger of her left hand.

Judge Sparks then said, finally, "By the authority vested in me by the State of California, I now pronounce that you are husband and wife." Then, with a huge smile, the judge turned to Archie and said, "And you may kiss the bride."

And he did, with gusto.

After that, the pits were dug, the beef unrolled, the whiskey broken out, and the music pumped up. It seemed as though every man in town danced with Abigail, to the music of Barbara McClatchy's banjo and her fellow musicians on guitar, piano, and gut bucket.

Meanwhile, it seemed as though every other man in town shared a drink with Archie and that each said, "You're a hell of a lucky man, Archie Gwathrop!" True. True. Archie knew it.

The next thing Archie knew, he woke up and it was dark outside. His boots were beside the bed. The bed was in the bridal suite of the Dutch Flat hotel. The room smelled of freshly cut flowers. There was white lace everywhere. Pillows everywhere. Abigail Wardwell Murphy was sitting in a chair in the corner of the room.

"What time is it?" Archie asked sheepishly.

"It's 9 p.m.," replied Mrs. Gwathrop, somewhat perturbed.

The newlyweds stared at each other silently for a minute.

"I have a plan," said Abigail.

"Yes?" asked Archie.

"I'm going to go into the bathroom for a few minutes. Why don't you take your clothes off and get into bed.

She did and he did.

Abigail then emerged from the bathroom still wearing her bridal gown. She systematically went around the room extinguishing all candles except one on a table in the corner of the room.

Then she came over and sat on the edge of the bed. She looked straight at Archie. Not a word was spoken. And then, one by one, and slowly, she unbuttoned the buttons on her left glove, up to her bicep. Then, still looking at Archie, she bit the glove on the fingers and pulled it slowly off her arm.

Archie immediately became more interested in what was happening.

She performed the same procedure on the other glove.

Then Abigail turned around, so that her back was to Archie.

"I need help with the buttons she said," looking him in the eye.

Archie's hands began to tremble. But, one by one, he undid the 52 buttons on the back of her dress.

"Stay here," she said, and returned to the bathroom.

She emerged in a minute and stood silently in corset and petticoats. Then she turned her back to him and let her petticoats drop to the floor.

Archie became interested in the extreme.

Her corset was tied together with a lace that ran from the middle of her chest to the bottom of the garment. She smiled at Archie and removed the lace slowly, letting the lace run silently through her fingers.

The corset fell open, revealing Abigail Wardwell Murphy in her own right.

Archie was beside himself.

Still not a word was spoken.

With the index fingers of both hands, Abigail then let her panties drop to the floor.

Archie was now looking at all of her. He was unable to speak. He motioned for her to get into bed.

And then Abigail Wardwell Murphy reached up and, with a single swift gesture, removed her wig.

[TO BE CONTINUED]



## NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER ALLIANCE

BY JIM RICKER

### Winter's Over, Get Back to the Canyon!

Join NFARA for its second annual kick-off to spring event on May 1, 7 p.m. at the Dutch Flat Community Center, 933 Stockton Street.

The event will feature a special showing of the KVIE documentary, *Above the American*. This film takes you on an aerial tour of one of California's most picturesque waterways. The journey begins at the confluence with the Sacramento River and travels the North, Middle and South Forks of the American River. Included in the film are Old West history, wildlife, Native American artifacts, and a thrilling ride down

some of America's most famous whitewater rapids. Producer Kelly Peterson of KVIE Channel 6 will introduce the film and present background on the making of the film.

In addition to the film, local favorite band Down Home will entertain us with their special blend of doo-wop, country and bluegrass music.

NFARA board members will give updates on current projects and recent successes. This is a great opportunity to learn about NFARA, meet board members and discover more about the area's spectacular natural resources. There will plenty of time for questions and answers, and for socializing.

This event is free and open to the public, with home-made desserts and beverages.

### Tahoe National Forest Travel Management Plan

In September 2008, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, DEIS, was issued for Tahoe National Forest, TNF, Travel Management Plan. TNF received over 7,000 public comments. Several of those comments questioned some of the data TNF was using. TNF staff went back to older NEPA (National Environmental Planning Act) documents to verify road and trail status decisions. A review of those earlier decisions resulted in a revision of the numbers in the Travel Management Analysis regarding system roads and trails and unauthorized roads and trails. Some roads and trails thought to be open had actually been closed, some thought to be closed had documentation that they are open to motorized travel. TNF staff also reviewed the current status of roads and trails that cross private property and found that some did not have valid rights-of-way; this is also being corrected in the analysis.

A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, SDEIS, will be released later this winter so the public will have the opportunity to comment on the new information. There will be a 45-day comment period once the SDEIS is released.

For more information, contact Ann Westling, Tahoe National Forest Public Affairs Officer, (530) 478-6205

NFARA is a public nonprofit volunteer organization formed to promote and preserve the wild, scenic and cultural heritage within the watershed of the North Fork of the American River. For more on NFARA'S goals and activities contact Jim Ricker at 530-389-8344 or email: [jvricker@prince-ricker.net](mailto:jvricker@prince-ricker.net)



## CAMP 20 SCONES

BY TERI MURCH

If you've been in the area for a while, you might remember Camp 20, the coffeehouse on Main Street in Colfax (now the pizza parlor). Camp 20 was run by Teri and Larry Murch (and they and Camp 20 are sorely missed!)

This is Teri's recipe for scones. She says *Some days I couldn't bake enough!*

### Ingredients

- ▶ 3 cups flour
- ▶ 1 Tbsp plus 1 tsp baking powder
- ▶ 1 tsp baking soda
- ▶ 1/2 tsp salt
- ▶ 1/4 cup sugar, cut into flour mixture
- ▶ 8 oz. REAL butter (2 Sticks)
- ▶ 1 cup buttermilk
- ▶ 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ▶ 1 cup FROZEN blackberries

### Directions

- ▶ Mix dry ingredients in mixing bowl, using paddle attachment.
- ▶ With mixer running, add buttermilk and vanilla; mix until just blended. It should be a nice soft dough.
- ▶ Throw onto a floured board, gently pat or roll to about 1/2 inch thickness.
- ▶ Sprinkle with blackberries. Fold dough over a couple of times and roll out again, but don't overwork.
- ▶ Cut with a large biscuit cutter and place on parchment covered baking sheet.
- ▶ Brush tops lightly with buttermilk
- ▶ Bake in 375° oven for 15-18 minutes or until done,
- ▶ Cool on racks for a few minutes. These freeze well, too.

### Dutch Flat Community Center – Membership Form

P.O. Box 14  
Dutch Flat, California, 95714

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer interest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership – \$25 per family, \$15 per individual

\_\_\_\_\_ Building Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Pool Fund

*Annual membership runs from January through December.*

Bylaws, continued from Page 7

not comprised exclusively of directors need not be maintained if the Board resolution forming the committee dispenses with the requirement that minutes be maintained.

Section 11.02. Maintenance and Inspection of Other Corporate Records. The accounting books and records and minutes of proceedings of the Members and the Board of Directors, and minutes of any proceedings of committees of the Board of Directors shall be kept at such place or places designated by the Board of Directors, or, in the absence of such designation, at the principal office of the Corporation. The minutes shall be kept in written form and the accounting books and records shall be kept either in written form or in any other form capable of being converted into written form.

Section 11.03. Inspection Rights.

(a) Inspection by Directors. Every director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, and documents of every kind and the physical properties of the Corporation. This inspection by a director may be made in person or by an agent or attorney and the right of inspection includes the right to copy and make extracts of documents.

(b) Inspection By Members. The accounting books and records of the Corporation and minutes of proceedings of the Members, the Board of Directors and Committees of the Board shall be open to inspection by any member at any reasonable time upon written demand on the Corporation. Any request for inspection must state a purpose that is reasonably related to the inspecting Member's interest in the Corporation.

**ARTICLE XII Miscellaneous**

Section 12.01. Amendment or Repeal of Bylaws.

(a) These Bylaws may be repealed or amended by the Board of Directors on recommendation of a Bylaw Committee appointed to study proposed changes, subject to ratification by the Membership. Members may propose change(s) to the Bylaws at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

(b) Any amendment or the repeal or revision of a portion of these Bylaws shall be made available to the Membership at the next three (3) regular meetings of the Membership following Board approval, a vote of the Members to be taken immediately following the third meeting and the amendment shall be deemed approved if a quorum of the Members are present at the meeting and at least a majority of those in attendance vote in favor of the proposal.

Section 12.02. Gifts and Contributions. The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purpose of the Corporation.



***Each man takes care that his neighbor shall not cheat him. But a day comes when he begins to care that he does not cheat his neighbor. Then all goes well -- he has changed his market-cart into a chariot of the sun. --Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)***

**THE 2010 CENSUS**

BY PLACER COUNTY PUBLIC

INFORMATION OFFICE

Beginning in mid-March 2010, census form packages will be mailed or delivered to every household in the United States. The packages include the census questionnaire and a postage-paid, return envelope. The ten questions on the census form will help count every resident of the United States.

For Placer County residents, that can translate to millions in federal funds for local communities. The ten census questions only take about 10 minutes to answer.

The importance of a complete count for the census has many facets. The census count will help determine where \$400 billion in federal funding will be distributed each year. Communities can receive federal funding for things like:

- ▶ Hospitals
- ▶ Job training centers
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Senior centers
- ▶ Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- ▶ Emergency services

In addition, the census also determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The census will set up Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) throughout the county. At these QAC, residents can get help in filling out the census form, or get answers to any questions they may have about the census process. Also, the census will set up Be Counted Centers (BC) with self-help assistance for those with questions about the census, needing forms and other materials. A list of these Centers is below.

The census, required by the U.S. Constitution and conducted every 10 years, aims to count all residents, both citizens and non-citizens. **All information obtained by the census is confidential and protected by U.S. law.**

Residents who do not return the form will be visited in person by a census taker. A census taker is a person from your community who is hired by the Census Bureau to make sure that your neighborhood gets represented as accurately as possible. The census taker's primary responsibility is to collect census information from residences that have not sent back their 2010 Census form. For more information on the census, visit [2010.census.gov/2010census/](http://2010.census.gov/2010census/)

As the Centers become operational, their hours of business may change. Please check this web page - [www.placer.ca.gov/News/2010/February/Census.aspx](http://www.placer.ca.gov/News/2010/February/Census.aspx) - for updates.

**Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted Centers (BC)**

- ▶ Placer County Library – Auburn (Beecher Roo, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, Tues. 5 – 7 p.m., Thurs., 4 – 7 p.m., and Sat., 10 am – 5 p.m.
- ▶ Auburn One Stop Career Center, 1919 Grass Valley Hwy #400, Auburn, Mon. – Thurs., 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ Auburn Senior Center, 11577 E Ave., Auburn. Call (530) 823-8172 for hours.
- ▶ Sierra Vista Community Center, 55 School Street, Colfax, Mon. – Fri., 4 – 7 p.m.
- ▶ St. Dominic's Church, 58 E. Oak Street, Colfax, Mon., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Thurs., 5 – 8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



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**js west**  
PROPANE GAS

## DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

BY DOUG FERRIER, SWIMMING POOL  
CORP. PRESIDENT

It's not long before we start planning for the coming season's pool opening. During this past winter, the Corporation had to get a taxpayer ID number, even though we have no income, do everything with volunteer labor, and have no significant increases to our one and only asset (the pool property). Even though we have nothing to report, we still must file paperwork (now e-filed) with both and State and the Feds. Amazing!

Sometime in April, we will sit down with the Placer County Park & Recreation staff to go over what the pool's operating budget will be for the season. As a Special Use District, we generate about \$43,000 in taxes that form the total operating income. We will discuss life guard staffing, and procedures for rehiring and finding new recruits.

We'll also set a volunteer cleanup day date that fits county needs while still giving enough time to have everything done and ready to open by the close of the school year, in June. It's likely pool operation hours will remain the same as last years.

If you have time available and feel like volunteering for pool cleanup this May, tentatively plan on the second, third or fourth Saturday of the month. We will decide the date after we meet in April. Watch for posters in the post offices.

So far, I have not seen any more trees turn brown at the pool. Keep hoping for a wet remainder of winter and spring, so the vegetation can stay healthy and fight any remaining bark beetles.

Anyone thinking about trying to become a life guard at the pool should plan on getting all necessary certifications completed prior to June. If you have any questions about what certifications are required, call Marci Seither at 530-389-8401.



**Gravel pit swimming hole**

## FROM THE PHILADELPHIA NEWS, BEFORE 1887

"No doubt you have heard," said the streetcar conductor, "of the man who always gets into a car with a ten-dollar bill, as it cannot not be changed for his fare and rode scot-free. A certain aged creature played the game on me for five consecutive mornings. In order to get even with him I filled a small tin pail with \$9.95 in pennies and five-cent pieces. The next time he offered me the ten-dollar bill, I dumped the contents of the pail into his hat. 'We're square now,' I said to him 'Quite so,' was the reply. But when I turned his \$10 into the office, it was pronounced counterfeit, and I, for my smartness, was that much out of pocket."

## WHY AN ANNUAL EXAM FOR YOUR PET?

BY PEGGY ROBERTS, DVM

A thorough annual exam is one of the most important tools to help maintain good health and prolong the life of your companion.

Many dogs presented to our clinic have ear infections that the owner isn't aware of and these are found on the routine annual exam. A mouth exam identifies dental disease and we can recommend steps to prevent plaque and tartar build-up. If your pet has dental disease, which about 80% of pets do, this can lead to painful tooth decay as well as systemic illness due to chronic infection. The eyes will be checked for cataracts or glaucoma. Your pet's heart will be checked for the presence of murmurs and irregular sounds. If abnormalities are found, an EKG and chest x-rays may be needed. Abdominal palpation is an important part of the exam, to check for enlarged organs or masses in your pet's abdomen. A skin exam will be performed and any abnormalities discussed. Vaccine history will be reviewed and vaccine decisions will be made after reviewing risks and lifestyle. We'll discuss nutritional recommendations for your animal's lifestyle.

What can you do to help this process? Prior to coming in, make a note of any changes you have seen in activity levels, eating and thirst habits, urinating and defecating habits, any changes in behaviour or any other change you have noticed. Sometimes seemingly small things give us big clues. Also, write down any questions you may have.

The annual veterinary exam is a small investment of time, effort and money that will more than pay for itself in better health and longer life for your animal companion.

### Do Cats get Heartworm?

The answer is an unequivocal yes but the feline situation is vastly different from the canine situation. Recent research indicates that in heartworm endemic areas, like our Sierra foothills, the incidence of feline heartworm infection is 2% to 14% of all cats, making heartworm a concern for any cat owner living where there are mosquitoes.

Cats are not a natural host for the heartworm, which means the migrating larval heartworm is not likely to complete its life cycle. But, because the feline heart and blood vessels are so small, a few worms can wreak havoc.

In cats, symptoms of infection tend to be more immune-related than heart-failure related. Cats develop more of a lung disease, complete with respiratory distress, and chronic coughing or vomiting. Feline heartworm disease is often misdiagnosed as feline asthma. Sudden death may occur just as it may occur in infected dogs.

In dogs, diagnosis is usually not complicated. A blood sample is tested for proteins that can only be found in the body of the adult female heartworm. In cats, no single test is reliable. When heartworm disease is suspected, an antigen test and an antibody test are recommended along with chest X-rays and/or an echocardiograph.

Peggy Roberts, DVM  
www.pegkensdogs.com / www.pegkenscats.com  
PO Box 285  
Gold Run, CA 95717  
530-559-9323 cell

## TAX TIPS AND MORE...

BY GREG HERRICK, CPA

I hope everyone has recovered from the holiday season and the added weight to our waistlines and our credit card debts. It is now that other time of year, which we enter with mixed feelings.

Years ago, I was getting a check signed for a company to make the corporate tax payment, due in a couple of days. I took the check to the president for his signature and remarked that he would not like signing that particular check, knowing it was for company taxes. He replied, *I don't ever mind signing checks for income taxes, it means we are making money. What I hate is what they do with the money once they get their hands on it!*

I remember those words as they are true all the way around. Paying taxes is the price we pay for living in a democracy. Yes, I would like to pay less taxes and there are things I would not spend the tax dollars on but I am one vote out of many. The best definition I have heard of a democracy is it is rule by the majority with respect for the minority. There are other definitions out there but this one seems to define our style of democracy pretty well.

On to the tax rules for this year and what to bring to your tax return preparation spot. The one item which seems to be causing problems for many older taxpayers this year is whether they received the \$250 Economic Recovery Payment which most Social Security Recipients got last year.

The payment can be confirmed at one of three numbers, depending on who pays the person's retirement benefits:

- ▶ Social Security (who pays most benefits) at 800-772-1213,
- ▶ Veterans Administration (if the VA pays the benefits) 800-827-1000,
- ▶ Railroad Retirement Board If you receive railroad benefits) (877) 772-5772.

You would have received benefits for only one of the agencies, most likely in May June or July but it may have been later.

The tax changes this year are, as always, spread across the board.

New forms: Schedule L will affect more people. This is where you report your property tax credit if you do not itemize on Schedule A. If you bought a new (not new to you) vehicle this year, the sales taxes on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price would be on Schedule L if you do not use Schedule A. Remember, Schedule L is where you list the deductions when you don't want to itemize – Huh?

Form 5405 - New Home Buyers Tax Credit for those who purchased homes. The credit is 10% of the qualified purchase price up to \$4,000 per taxpayer; couples would get \$8,000. Long-time home owners can qualify for a credit of up to \$6,500 per couple. The rules and regulations are so new on this area, they may be written on a magic slate. Several things requested by the IRS with the 5404 include the Final Escrow or HUD-1 statement and, if the title is split, copies of the mortgage billings and check copies of payments. The really painful thing about this type return is it can not be electronically filed and a paper return needs to be mailed. If you need to mail your return, be sure to mail it *Certified, Return Receipt Requested* on or before April 15 (or use an extension form 4868).

Not For Profit Organization forms 990 and 99EZ are changing and have just being released by

*Continued on Page 13*

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**Poverty is the worst form of violence. - Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)**

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*Cape Horn engraving*

**PACIFIC TOURIST EXCERPT**

*The Pacific Tourist* was a tour book published in 1879, provided highlights along the Central Pacific route to California.

Placer Mining - Where the earth-carrying gold could be easily dug, and water was of ready access, and the diggings were rich enough, the washing out was done by hand, and this form of gold hunting was called placer mining. It required no capital except the simple tools and implements used in digging and washing, with food enough to keep one till some return from labor could be obtained. Several hundred million dollars value of gold were thus washed out of the surface soil of California in early years. Little ground remains that can be made to pay by this process, and it is almost a thing of the past. It naturally led, however, to hydraulic mining which is as flourishing as ever, and promises to continue so for many years. Placer miners came occasionally upon ground which, though carrying gold, was not rich enough to pay if worked by hand, but would pay handsomely when handled on a large scale. The device was soon adopted of providing flumes in place of cradles and rockers. Into these flumes a stream was turned and the earth shoveled in. Large quantities could thus be washed as easily as small amounts had been before.

The gold in each case, except that portion which was impalpably fine, and would even float on water, was detained by riffles on the bottom of the rocker, or the flume, and gathered up from time to time. It was found eventually that large banks sometimes hundreds of feet high, were rich enough in gold to pay for working, and the device was next adopted of directing a stream against them to wash them down. Stiff beds of cement have been found rich in gold, but too stiff to yield to any except a mighty force. Higher heads of water have been sought, until even 500 feet of head have been employed, the usual range being from 50 feet to 300, and a force obtained which nothing can resist. Such a stream issuing from a six-inch nozzle, comes out as solid to the touch as ice, the toughest bed of cement crumbles before it, and boulders weighing tons are tossed about as lightly as pebbles. A man struck by such a stream would never know what hurt him. The strongest iron pipe is required to carry the water to the nozzle, through which it is played. No hose can be made strong enough to bear the pressure, and the directing of the stream to the point desired is effected by two iron jointed pipes, moving in planes at right angles to each other, and thus securing a sweep in every direction. The amount of the force exerted by such a stream has been described, it is impossible to estimate except approximately, but 1,300 pounds to the inch is not too high. To provide the water required where "hydraulic" is done on a large scale,

streams are brought long distances.

The price for selling water is graduated by the size of the opening through which it is delivered, usually under six inches pressure. Practically it is found that there is in California, more gold than water, for there are many places rich in gold, which cannot be worked for lack of water.

The season varies in length, according to the situation and the rainfall, but nowhere is it possible to work the whole year, and probably on an average the active season does not exceed seven or eight months. There is one feature connected with hydraulic mining which no one can contemplate without regret. It leaves desolation behind it in the form of heaps of shapeless gravel and boulders, which much lie for ages before blossoming again with verdure. One of the difficult problems in hydraulic mining is to find room for the debris which the streams, used in washing down banks of earth, are constantly carrying along with them. The beds of streams have been filled up in some parts of the State so as to increase greatly the exposure of the cultivated regions below the mining districts to inundation and ruin. Legislation has been sought by the farmers to protect their interests, but the effort was opposed by the miners and a dead-lock followed. The muddiness which will strike the tourist as affecting all the mountain streams on the west slope of the Sierra Nevadas, is the result of this mining. Once the Sacramento River, the Feather and the American Rivers were clear as crystal, but the hunt for gold has made them like the Missouri River in high flood and even muddier, and they are not likely, while this generation and the next are on the stage of life, to resume their former clearness and purity.

*\*Editor's note – my English teachers would have cringed at the prior run-on sentence.*

*Treasure, continued from Page 3*

which sober and matter-of-fact men have engaged with the expectation of finding precious ore or gems in unlimited quantity. There was once a rush to a little lake in the heart of the Sierra, verily believed to be lined with "golden ledges;" another to some sea-beat bluffs, thought to contain equal quantities of gold and sand in the wave-washed beaches at their feet; another to a death-haunted region where golden idols were to be exhumed from the graves of a prehistoric race. One company was formed to manufacture diamonds by subjecting carbonic acid gas to tremendous pressure. And at least the names of some New Yorkers were lent to one of the great bubbles of the age – the California diamond. scheme of Arnold Lent, and others.

These all are legitimate legacies of the time when men appeared to get rich in a hurry. No man can measure the harm that has been inflicted upon society and humanity by the sudden amassing of a few great fortunes in the early days of the gold excitement. The scattered instances of golden luck stand out prominently; in the dim background are crowded the figures of disappointment, despair, and suicide. The sum of woe wrought by the insane greed of gold is incalculable. While its immediate consequences have passed away, the influence of the grand passion endures. An aimless, thriftless class of population still drifts about in the hills and mountains of the Pacific States, seeking for "rich strikes," and utterly incapable of taking up any sort of regular labor. In the towns and cities, men are still fired with delusive hopes inspired by such schemes as those of the Lobos Islanders, and in a land where agriculture yields magnificent return and labor wages are uniformly liberal, men are tormented with a desire to find treasure. The baffling vision of sudden wealth is fading, but many years must pass before it will cease to disturb the community.



**Beacon Hill Rope Tow**

## TAHOE SKIING STARTS AT DONNER SUMMIT PART TWO

BY MARK MCLAUGHLIN

When it comes to the earliest concentration of ski facilities and rope tow operations in the Lake Tahoe region, the Donner Summit area was the leader of the pack. By the end of the 1930s, the Donner Summit region boasted one of the most extensive concentrations of rope tows, ski clubs and ski trails in the United States.

During the winter of 1930-31, the Auburn Ski Club solicited the help of State Senator Bert Cassidy to help convince members of the California state legislature to approve funding to plow Highway 40 during the winter months. Up to this time the west-bound road was closed at Truckee and the eastbound stretch was kept clear only as far as Baxter, located at 3,891 feet in elevation on the Sierra west slope. To cross the Sierra during the winter, motorists had their cars loaded onto railroad flat cars that carried them between Sacramento and Reno. Opening the road eastbound to Truckee during the winter months ultimately provided direct access to motorists from the vital ski markets in the San Francisco-Bay Area and Sacramento.

Compared to the ski jumps, sledding, skating and tobogganing activities at Truckee, and especially Tahoe City on Lake Tahoe's north shore, the summit operations were much closer for snow-lovers traveling from the populated urban centers of Northern California. Taking advantage of this perfect storm of transportation technology and natural resources, a small group of innovative characters established lodging, lessons, and up-ski operations on the Summit for the growing number of people who wanted to visit the mountains in winter. Once development took off on Donner Summit during the 1930s, it eclipsed the Truckee-Tahoe areas in popularity and visitors.



Johnny Ellis, left, was the man who may have pioneered the earliest rope tow on Donner Summit, installing one in 1936-37 at Lake Mary. Ellis graduated from Dartmouth College in 1935. That summer he arrived at Donner Summit just in time to help with the completion of the Sierra Club's new Clair Tappaan Lodge. He then became the first custodian of the lodge and built a small cabin next door to live in. Ellis began exploring the surrounding terrain in a search for the best skiable areas. He had an idea to establish a west coast version of the Dartmouth Outing Club he remembered from school and he started a campaign to get California Dartmouth alumni involved in his project.

Ellis settled on a site near Lake Mary, but needed money to buy the land from Southern Pacific Railroad. He secured the purchase by borrowing money from his college alumni, paying Southern Pacific \$3.50 an acre. Ellis recognized the economic opportunities associated with ski area development. He quickly subdivided the land and began to sell lots. *This game of buying land for ten dollars an acre and selling for a couple of hundred works*, he wrote.

Johnny Ellis knew that getting skiers to the top of the slope quickly and easily was the main obstacle inhibiting the rapid growth of alpine skiing. When Ellis installed a rope tow above Lake Mary in 1937, he claimed it was the first in the West, although the Clair Tappaan Lodge built a rope tow for their skiers at about the same time. In the Sierra Nevada there were at least two other lift systems in operation that winter. There was the Up-ski sled system at Badger Pass which was prone to mechanical breakdown, and a J-bar in operation by 1937 at Cold Spring on Sonora Pass.

Near the shoreline of Lake Mary, Ellis built a small log cabin that served as a warming hut and refreshment stand. His electrically-powered tow eventually reached 1,200 feet up the mountain slope and provided access to an exhilarating downhill run. He told his customers, "Pay 50 cents. Keep your skis on. Grab a handle. Ride up and down all afternoon. We don't count the rides."

In the mid- to late 1930s, rope tow mania swept the nation and operations started popping up everywhere. As soon as people learned that they could now grab a moving rope and be pulled quickly up the slope, instead of spending a whole day of arduous climbing for just a few runs, downhill skiing grew in popularity.

During winter storms, the west-facing slopes of Mt. Judah and Donner Peak are exposed to high wind and drifting snow so the two gas-powered rope tows Johnny Ellis installed on east facing Signal Hill were better protected from the weather. But weather wasn't the only risk when riding the Ellis tows. He wrote, "Normally low gear was used, but just to liven things up the operator could shift to high gear and this would spill all but the hardest!"

Johnny Ellis had a dream to expand beyond his multiple rope tow system. He wrote, "...the three ski tows did a steady business. I think they served one purpose well. They started a lot of people seeing what growth skiing could have and what stimulation lifts could be to this growth." Ellis envisioned the "first-class development of an area" and approached investors with a plan to run what he called a "mechanically excellent" high speed aerial tramway from Lake Mary to the top of Mt. Judah. In his 1941 design, Ellis called it an aerial tram, but in reality it was a cable-propelled funicular car that traveled on tracks.

But Ellis' vision was not to be. Once World War II broke out, train stations on the Summit were closed to protect the transcontinental railroad. Highway 40 was open primarily to thru-traffic and the military meant business when they said no stopping on the Summit. In May 1942, Truckee's Sierra Sun newspaper reported that two tourists from Wyoming had parked their car at the Rainbow Bridge just east of the Summit to take some photographs until gunfire from U.S. troops sent them quickly on their way. As fate would have it, new adventures during the war period took Johnny Ellis east and he never returned to Donner Pass.

By 1939, there were rope tows and mom-and-pop ski operations all along the Highway 40 corridor. The increasing popularity of alpine skiing on the Summit would soon be elevated to a new level with

the opening of the Sugar Bowl ski area. With some of Tahoe's finest off-piste terrain and deep snow Sugar Bowl is a Mecca for powder hounds, but that is a story for another day.

*Tahoe historian Mark McLaughlin is a nationally published author and photographer. His newest book, "Longboards to Olympics: A Century of Tahoe Winter Sports" is available at local stores or at www.thestormking.com. Mark can be reached at mark@thestormking.com.*

*Tax Tips, continued from Page 11*

the IRS. They want more information about the operations and uses of funds. There has been abuse in this area so the Fed wants to know what the organization is doing and what purpose is being served.

Non-Tax items: Identity theft is a big item again this year. If you have not bought a shredder yet, you really need to think about it. I guess I am paranoid about this but I tear every label which comes in with my name and address on it. Shredding is one of the best ways to protect yourself. Cutting down on marketing mail is another. Writing to the Direct Mail Association and requesting your name and address be removed from mailing lists will cut down your exposure also. Try this trick -when subscribing to magazines and entering contests, alter your name and see where that spelling shows up on your junk mail.

A long time ago, I subscribed to a supposedly high-end gardening magazine using a variant of my name. About six months later, we received a catalogue from a place in Brooklyn which sold things we used to joke about in high school gym class. I did not know those things were really available. I wrote the garden magazine and cancelled my subscription the next day - at my wife's insistence. I got a letter back from the publisher saying they'd sold the list to a broker. I still discourage people from subscribing to that magazine to this day.

There are some new rules for reverse mortgages about to be implemented. If you are thinking about one, look around. Have your attorney look it over before you sign up and before you hand over any money. If the company will not provide a copy of the papers for your review before you sign or they are not willing to guarantee the papers they handed you are the same as the ones they want you to sign, race for the exit, even if it is the bank you have been dealing with for 20 to 40 years. There are some times where a reverse mortgage is good, but it is usually an expensive source of money.

Mortgage restructuring firms seem to be closing as fast as they appeared a few months ago. One company sent staff to my office, talking about their product, saying there was no money required up front with them. Two sentences later, the lead person said all I had to do was pay \$750 to get things rolling. What the heck is the difference between *up front* and *getting things rolling*? \$750, I guess. A lot of these companies now have big files in prosecuting attorneys' offices.

Basically, folks, if it looks like gold and smells like fish; it will still smell bad the next time you are near it. Just the gold paint will have faded. Be careful before you commit. If it is a good deal, it will be a good deal the next time around.

Please be kind to your tax preparer; he or she is trying to save you money. Try doing what they suggest. It might be make or save you money!

*Greg Herrick is a Certified Public Accountant in Granite Bay, California. He can be reached at (916) 787-4040 or at Greg@HerrickCPA.com. He is available for tax preparation and consulting as well as year around accounting and bookkeeping services.*

## AN AMERICAN IN DEUTSCHLAND, PART ZWEI

BY CLAUDIA MCCAFFREY

I write to you all on a frigidly cold and blustery, yet beautiful German afternoon. Since I last wrote, I have spent two very important holidays in Germany. I experienced not only Christmas, but also Silvester (New Year's) in Bavaria. I counted down to the year 2010 in Munich, and tomorrow, I will be hopping on a train to go there again. Munich seems to have stolen a little piece of my heart....

Christmas in Europe was unlike anything I had seen before. I felt like I was experiencing what Christmas is truly about, because it seemed the consumerism so rampant around the holiday season in the U.S. was muted here. A common theme popping up again and again is how family-oriented life is here. Christmas was more about enjoying the sights, sounds, and people around us. The cities with their individual Christmas markets came alive at night, each boasting the best bratwurst or glühwine - a spiced red wine winter drink - in the region. I attended my local Christmas market, which was quaint and surprisingly interesting for such a small town. Old black and white German Christmas classics were projected on the side of the church while people shopped, ate, and drank. In the middle of the town square, friends and family gathered in the mock ski hut and drank mulled wine. The hut looked like it was straight out of the Alps, complete with deer antlers. My local Christmas market was a nice taste of German holiday culture, but nothing could compare to my first authentic Bavarian Christmas market. Destination: Ansbach.

Everything you have ever imagined or seen on a German postcard is true in Ansbach at Christmas. Lights adorned the centuries-old buildings, while old-fashioned wooden huts stocked with genuine German goodies filled the air with smells so sweet it could only be described as heavenly. German Christmas carols and laughter floated through the air as I made my way through the crowds of cheerful people. Never had I felt such warmth, togetherness, and overall Christmas joy epitomized.

New Year's Eve, was a completely different story. If you think that Americans love their fireworks, Germans love them even more. The streets were completely littered with debris, and everyone had a bottle of champagne. I feel that in Germany, people are able to really celebrate uninhibitedly joyous moments—there is no fear of police or laws. Surprisingly, things don't get out of hand as much as one might think. The common philosophy is that mankind is more likely to participate in an activity if it is not allowed. The people here enjoy life, and when it is too much, most likely it will stop.

People here *make* time. For life, for fun, for family. When Germans say something to you, they mean it. The bluntness of the grocery store cashier or taxi driver may be jarring at first, but once you take a peek into the household of a real German family, you will see what German hospitality is all about. The majority of all German ladies know how to cook, and hosting is a must here. Germany is about many things, but in the end, having a good time and enjoying the precious moments together with loved ones is *wichtig*, important. I highly recommend the holiday season to any future European travelers.

*To be continued. Next time: Spring in Germany, working in Germany, and other observations.*



## CODFISH FALLS HIKE

BY RON GOULD

### Description: Easy, 1.5 miles

This is an easy 1.5 mile hike to Codfish Falls on Codfish Creek, a small tributary stream of the North Fork American River. The falls will typically have a flow all winter and spring with the best flows right after a storm. Spring time offers many wildflowers along the trail. A pamphlet describing the plant life along the trail is available a short distance down the trail.

The trail starts on the north (I-80) side of the bridge. From the bridge, walk down and across the top of the beach and then up on the rocks at the far end. This section of the river from the Ponderosa Way bridge down to Lake Clementine consists of large gravel bars and you will notice mounds of river rock left from when dredges once worked the gravels of the river.

After about 1 mile the trail leaves the bank of the river and heads into the side canyon containing Codfish Creek. This section of the trail travels under a nice canopy of oak, madrone, pine and fir. In about 0.5 miles, you will reach Codfish Falls. Along the way you will pass a cellar that is probably part of the remains of a miner's cabin.

### Getting There:

The trailhead is located where Ponderosa Way crosses the North Fork. Ponderosa Way can be accessed from I-80 or Foresthill Road. A high clearance vehicle is recommended for both routes on this rough dirt road. The area around the bridge is a popular swimming hole in warmer months, which may mean difficult parking.

From I-80, exit at Weimar Cross Road. If coming from the west, turn right off the ramp, then right onto Ponderosa Way. If coming from the east, turn left at the end of the exit, cross over I-80 to the stop, turn left and then right onto Ponderosa Way. Follow Ponderosa Way for about 6 miles to the river. From Foresthill Road, about 11 miles east of Auburn, turn left onto Ponderosa Way. It is about 3 miles to the river.

*From "North Fork Trails", by Ron Gould*

*Editor's Note - This is a wonderful springtime hike. The wildflowers are remarkable.*



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## NUGGETS FROM THE GOLDEN DRIFT MUSEUM

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

As you walk down the picture gallery of our local museum, there is a dresser on the left, full of binders. These binders contain first-hand recollections from past residents, and are really worth a good read. I spent last summer going through them, noting stories and bits of information that might be of particular interest to our community. I should point out that reminiscences can sometimes be based upon biased or even wrong information, so take these nuggets with a grain of salt.

The first American family to cross the Isthmus of Panama during the Gold Rush was the William Ferguson family. The father unfortunately died of cholera on the way, but his six children survived, including the eldest son, Claron, who moved to Dutch Flat in 1862 and bought the Dutch Flat Opera House. The venue was a combination tavern, hotel, and performance area. Rooms were often rented by the local lodges. The walls were covered with mirrors, and four large stoves in corner alcoves kept it warm and cozy in the winter. Sleeping babies were left in these alcoves, while Mom and Dad danced. Men would walk as far as 20 miles to attend dances, then walk back the same night, getting home to Lowell Hill, Elmore Hill, etc., just in time to work in the mines.

Claron and his wife had two daughters, Alice and Amy, who as teenagers had many friends. The foyer of the Opera House became their "club house," with a piano for songs and a room for parlour games. The foyer fronted onto Main Street and was used by patrons attending a formal opera or theatrics. The Fifth Street entrance was used for informal dances and parties.

Alice and her friends loved to play pranks. One day, around 1905, they all dressed up as a wedding party, complete with bouquets and rice, and met the train up at Monroe's Store. Alice was the bride and Robert Riley, the groom. Unfortunately, by the time they got back to Dutch Flat, other passengers had spread the word that Alice had eloped, and her furious parents were waiting. Mrs. Ferguson slapped Robert, but then congratulated the couple. When told the truth, she was even angrier, but eventually forgave all, being known as a "good sport."

Many Cornish miners did not immigrate directly to California. As mining declined in Cornwall, many miners first came to Wisconsin to work in the lead and zinc mines there. With the discovery of gold, many then came to California. The Nicolls brothers, Phillip and William, followed this path. They later established a bank in Dutch Flat, eventually torn down for safety reasons. Another Nicolls, Arthur, owned the water company, and willed it to the town upon his death. It has been suggested that he did this not for altruistic reasons, but to get even with all his customers who complained!

The last standing saloon in Dutch Flat was Buster's Saloon, located in the space now occupied by the real estate office, and, in my youth, the Black and White Soda Fountain. The saloon was previously owned by Hunts Widford. Buster became the proprietor after an injury on the railroad. He had been an engineer and fireman, but caught his foot under a wheel and lost part of it, becoming lame.

The building housing the saloon burned down in the 1940s, but local ladies raised the funds to rebuild it, through bake sales and other events. That way, they would always know where their men were!

## GOLDEN DRIFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY DOUG FERRIER, SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Why does it seem we never have the time to spend on things we really enjoy, but instead have to try and keep up with everyday matters? I love researching the old history of this area, but never seem to have the time to really explore a lot of the questions people bring up.

I recently talked with a lady who lives in Alta but works at the Hearst Castle in San Simeon. Now there's a commute! Anyway, in the course of the conversation, I asked if she knew George Hearst once owned some mines in the Dutch Flat Mining District, and visited the area? George Hearst, William Randolph Hearst's father, made his millions in the Comstock Lode in Virginia City, Nevada. In 1874, he and a partner bought portions of eight mining claims on Elmore Hill, located between the Little Bear River and the Bear River, just off the Drum Powerhouse road.

After consolidating their ownership in the claims, Hearst and his partner, John Pearson, also bought a mining ditch to bring water to their claims. They folded their interest in the claims into the Elmore Hill Hydraulic Mining Company.

The Company continued to own and mine the property until 1885, when, due to a Superior Court judgment against them, they had to sell their ownership to the California Powder Works Co., of San Francisco.

All of this was found in my files from deed research I did many years ago. What I need to do now is find out the names of the other partners in the Elmore Hill Hydraulic Mining Company, a corporation in the State of California. Did Hearst remain a partner in the Company until they lost ownership in 1885/86? I assume the Powder Company bought the claims in 1886 for the amount owed them by the Company, but is that true? Court records in the Placer County Archives may shed light on the specifics of that case.

Today, the property is owned by different branches of the Delius Family; Sally Pansegrouw owns a large portion of the old claims.

Ah, to have time to do further research. Maybe sometime this winter.

## LOCAL FIRE SERVICE - CORRECTIONS

BY SUSAN PRINCE

Rui Cunha, Program Manager, Placer County Office of Emergency Services, provided some corrections from the Winter 2009 issue fire services articles.

- ▶ Local residents, not Placer County, pay for winter staffing at Station 33 from base property tax that comes to the county. Similarly, residents pay for summer staffing from base property tax, sales tax and a number of other charges that are collected by the state.
- ▶ The area from Alpine Meadows to Yuba Gap, is CSA 28 Zone 150, not Zone 50.
- ▶ Local residents are paying \$185,582 in FY 09/10 to fund winter operations at Station 33. It is not actually likely that doubling this charge would cover a change from 2 person staffing during the winter months to four person staffing during the winter months. There isn't any way to know what the actual charge would be without asking Cal Fire for a formal proposal.



## THE TRAVELERS AND THE PLANE-TREE

BY AESOP

Two Travelers, worn out by the heat of the summer's sun, laid themselves down at noon under the widespreading branches of a Plane-Tree. As they rested under its shade, one of the Travelers said to the other, "What a singularly useless tree is the Plane! It bears no fruit, and is not of the least service to man." The Plane-Tree, interrupting him, said, "You ungrateful fellows! Do you, while receiving benefits from me and resting under my shade, dare to describe me as useless, and unprofitable?"

Some men underrate their best blessings.



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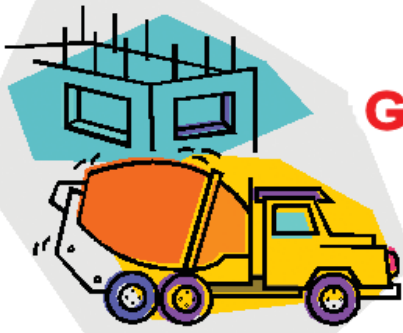
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