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VOLUME 28 – No. 3

PUBLISHED BY THE DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER, WITH MEMBER SUPPORT

FALL 2015

2015 WHITE ELEPHANT SALE - LET YOUR INNER SHOPPER OUT!

BY MARYBETH BLACKINTON

The 47th annual White Elephant Sale will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 5th and 6th at the Dutch Flat Community Center. This is the largest, single event in the area and the main source of income for the Center. We were astounded at the turnout last year and hope for an even larger one this year!

In the past, our hours on Saturday were different than Sunday but with the added amount of merchandise we have this year, we will be open both days from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Some items MAY be 1/2 price on Sunday but don't depend on everything being reduced.

Saturday morning there will be coffee, tea and donuts available for purchase as well as a lunch. The Cafe will be open from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch this year will include salad, quiche, pinwheel sandwiches plus home made desserts. Dining this year will be in front of the building in our outdoor cafe.

In the past, we have had merchandise displayed in the front of the building however this year due to the high amount of items we've received, our display will be outside at the rear of the building. The things outdoors will include sporting equipment, electronics, tools, pet care products, indoor and outdoor furniture, and much more.

We have many valuable items that were generously donated by the family of Matt and Betty Bailey from indoor and outdoor furniture to collectible dishes to clothing and holiday decorations. You'll want to be there early to find parking. When parking, try to be courteous to the residents who are neighbors to the Community Center; don't block their cars or driveways.

On Sunday, there will be a pancake breakfast from 8:00 to 11:00 at the IOOF Hall. You may want to walk off your breakfast at our sale after your delicious breakfast.



JULY 4TH, DUTCH FLAT STYLE

BY MARYBETH BLACKINTON

For the 164th year (since 1851), Dutch Flat celebrated the nation's Independence Day. From the first annual 5K Fun Run to the World War II airplane flyovers to the always popular water wars in the parade, residents and guests celebrated the day in style.

The day's activities initiated with a 5K walk-run that started at the Community Center and followed a route that included 5th Avenue, Main Street, in to the Diggins, and back to Main Street. There were about 55 registrants which resulted in great turn-out for our first year. A big thanks to local runner (and Boston Marathon alumni) **Shana Brown** and her running friends who planned the route and got everyone on their way.

Girl Scout Troop #424 led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Heidi Harmon** sang a beautiful a capella rendition of the National Anthem. Right on cue, **Stewart Wells** and his friends flew their planes overhead and thrilled everyone with their acrobatics. Grand Marshalls this year were **Bob and Peggy Ewing** who are long-time Dutch Flat residents and volunteers. They rode in the parade with their two GREAT grandchildren.

With a campaign slogan of "I've already been King, why would I want to run for Mayor", Dutch Flat resident and bon vivant, **Bob Pfister** won this year's Honorary Mayor campaign. Bob had the honor of being King of the Krewe of Okeanos Mardi Gras parade

several years ago. In answering the call for fund-raising for the Dutch Flat Community Center Building Fund, he raised more than the other four candidates. In total, this year's candidates raised about \$2890.

The full list of candidates running for Honorary Mayor are: **Joanne Blohm** (Inn-keeper, slogan "It's crystal clear, I'm INN it to WINN it"), **Jim Sanders** (retired electrician, slogan "Let me check your shorts"), **Dick Towle** (world traveler, slogan "I won't lead you astray") and **Ken Weatherwax** (caretaker/handyman and incumbent Mayor, slogan "I've been around a few times"). This year the campaign work of recruiting candidates, preparing and distributing posters and ballots, as well as collecting and counting the "votes" was done by dedicated volunteers, **Laura and Kim Glassco**. It is more work than anyone realizes.



As usual, even with the drought, water took center stage in the parade. As hard as volunteers try to control the use, it ends up getting everyone wet. We need to really try and reduce the importance of the water and re-introduce the importance of the day and its celebration. The parade has lost some of its small town charm with children and animals dressed up in costumes and has become famous for the water wars between fire trucks and yard hoses.

Following the parade, there were food and merchandise vendors and the annual Salad Lunch to keep everyone from going home hungry.

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

We welcome contributions from readers. Submission dates for upcoming issues:

Winter 2015 – November 15
Spring 2016 - February 15
Summer 2016 - May 15
Fall 2016 - August 15

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT..... 3
CLASSIFIED ADS.....15
GOLDEN DRIFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE..... 7
HOW'D YA GET HERE?..... 7
MURDER BY CLICHE10
NFARA NEWS..... 6
SWIMMING POOL NEWS..... 9

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, September 6, 8:00-11:00 AM - pancake breakfast, IOOF Hall, Main Street

SATURDAY, October 10, 5:00-8:00 PM
Oktoberfest - IOOF Hall, Main Street

ONGOING EVENTS

Alta Attic - Thursdays 10:00 - 1:00
Bingo, Alta Community Center, 1st Fridays, 7:00 PM - proceeds benefit the Alta Volunteer Fire Department.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors meeting 2nd Mondays, 6:00 PM - location varies (or contact President Marybeth Blackinton, 530-389-8393)

Dutch Flat Community Center potluck 3rd Thursdays. Sept. - June, 6:00 PM - . Dutch Flat Community Center, 933 Stockton St. Bring a place setting and a dish to share.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church - 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 AM -10:00 AM- pancake breakfast

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church - Sundays Fellowship Dinner, 5:00 PM and Worship Service, 6:00 PM

Historical Society Board Meeting Golden Drift Museum 1st Mondays - .

NFARA board meeting 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 PM - , locations vary. For more, call Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344

Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run Sundays, 10:00 AM - , Sunday Service

Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta Sundays, 11:00 AM - , worship service

Sierra First Baptist Church bible study, Mondays 8:30 a.m., 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. Bible study, For more, call 530.389.2168

Sierra First Baptist Church, free community lunch Mondays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. For more, call 530-389-2168

Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry, Thursdays 10-Noon, 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. For more, call 530-389-2168

ALTA-DUTCH FLAT SCHOOL IMPORTANT DATES

October 5, 6, 7 - Parent Teacher Conferences -Minimum Days

October 14-16 - Marin Headlands trip for 6th and 7th graders

Wednesday, November 11 - Veteran's Day Holiday

Tuesday, November 24th - Thanksgiving Feast for all students Parents' Club

November 24th - Minimum Day

November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Holiday/ School Break -

2015 COUNTY AND STATE OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

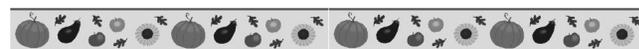
Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day

Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans' Day

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, December 25 - Christmas



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

BY MARYBETH BLACKINTON

Our town's July 4th celebration activities seem to have gone off

without a hitch thanks to a lot of work by a lot of people. We no sooner had packed up the decorations than we started getting the Community Center ready for the annual White Elephant Sale. Donations, cleaning, set up and pricing are in full swing as we prepare for September 5 and 6.

We all had a real scare this month with the Lowell Fire burning so close to Dutch Flat. It erupted on Saturday morning, July 25th, and by 4:00 that afternoon, rumors were going around town to prepare for evacuation. Fortunately, we did not have to leave our homes but many residents were packed and ready to go. It provided a wake-up call for all of us to be prepared for the definite possibility of a devastating fire to the community.

Our hope of getting four new windows installed at the Community Center before July 4th was dashed by the high demand for

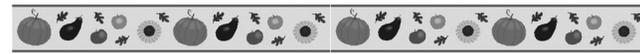
construction supplies so they did not arrive in time. They have arrived now but need primer and paint prior to installation. And with the Community Center now in full swing for the White Elephant Sale, there's little room for the installation process. They are stored until after the White Elephant Sale.

The tennis court saga continues to plague the Board of Directors. The more we delve into getting a new surface, the higher the bids get. Should we install asphalt? Concrete? There are so many issues to consider. The current surface is apparently the original one installed in the 1930's. But, being aware of all these things, the Board has voted to have J & S Asphalt in Rocklin completely replace the existing surface. They specialize in tennis courts so we're hoping it will be better than ever!

A huge thanks to **Chris Deck** who volunteered to make the exterior fence permanent which will prevent kids and small animals from falling off the wall.

However Dutch Flat Company 32 fire department does not, and has not, done so at all to the best of my knowledge. Taking items from wrecks that are not yet turned over to the trucking companies and their insurance companies is interference with interstate commerce and may result in Federal legal action. We are very aware of this and any inference in the aforementioned article was fiction. It would have been a courtesy to the local fire department(s) to state that before or after Ms. Henderson's fiction article.

The Old Curmudgeon



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT DUTCH FLAT TRADING POST

BY JOANNE BLOHM

(Editor's note: This is the fifth of several articles that will feature our local businesses. As always, we would like to remind people to eat and shop locally in order to support these hard-working entrepreneurs.)

For 18 ½ years, the smiling face of Abe Khamis has greeted us at the Dutch Flat Trading Post. Abe lives in Sacramento and wanted to start a small business. After looking around for some time, he decided to pay a visit to his friend who owns the Colfax Market. While he was visiting with his friend, a beer salesman overheard their conversation and told Abe there was a little market for lease in Dutch Flat, a few miles away. Abe immediately drove up to Dutch Flat to check it out. Looking through the windows, he was horrified to see the condition of the store but Abe could envision his dream.

So the process began to re-open the Dutch Flat Store. The Murrays were attempting to sell the property, and soon did, to Robin Reynolds. On January 31, 1998, Abe opened for business. Re-opening the store was no easy matter. The previous lessee had completely trashed the store. Everywhere there were broken shelves, garbage and refrigeration units that could not be used. The worst problem was the raw chicken and other meat products that had been sitting around for months. And flies. Lots and lots of flies. Abe and his family worked seven days a week, usually from 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM for the month of January to get the store cleaned and ready to re-open.

Abe had a clear idea of how he wanted his new store to look. Number one on his list was clean – REALLY CLEAN.

He re-organized the old outlook of the store and moved the coolers to the back wall. He slightly decreased the retail space so he could make a small warehouse in the back for his surplus products. He also increased the inventory tremendously. Now, not only are we able to purchase the usual eggs, bread and milk, but also more unusual items such as hoses, crock pots, DVD players and sandals to name a few. He came to my rescue one Christmas when I couldn't find the hangers for my tree ornaments. I went to the store with little hope of finding them but there they were!

Winters are particularly hard on Abe. Not only is it a slow season but he also loses a lot of product due to our frequent power outages. (Most of the loss is not covered by insurance.) He does have generators but they are limited how much equipment they can run. Even without power, Abe takes care of us. The store is always open and if he runs out of candles, wood, lamp oil, etc., his dependable clerks, Steph or Nancy, will give him a call so he can re-stock the same day. Perhaps you have been at the store during a power outage and they hand you a flashlight to navigate in the dark. If we told this to people from the city, they would never believe it.

Two years ago, he also became the Village Post Office. They can now sell you stamps and mail your flat rate boxes if the U. S. Post office is closed. The hours for the Village P.O. are the same as the store: Winter 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM and Summer 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Before I started interviewing Abe, he was paying some bills. He showed me his PG & E bill from August which was over \$1700! I know from past experience that refrigeration is expensive but I was shocked to see how REALLY, REALLY expensive it has



Abe Khasim (photo by Jessica Lee)

Business Spotlight continued on Page 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have finally been moved into responding to a past article in the Community paper, notably an article a few months ago which I chose to ignore responding to at the time.

My nom de plume probably says enough but for some validation of whence I will speak, I offer the following facts. I have been a member of this community for 45 years which almost removes me from "new-comer" status. I have been a member of the local fire department for that entire time, from when it was loosely organized and any able (and some not-so-able) members of the community would respond when the siren sounded – to now where new volunteers must attend academy and we volunteers must meet essentially entry professional-level status before we can even respond on an engine.

The past article I am referring to contained statements that the fire department responded to truck accidents along Interstate 80 and brought items back from some of the calls. The article was presented as fiction but those who have lived in the communities served by this paper for several years may remember the reference to calls that were, in fact, very real. And it has not been uncommon for the public to pick up various kinds of "road kill" from major truck accidents such as garlic, onions, candy and more.

LOCAL NON-PROFIT CORPORATION CONTRACTS TO BUY HALF THE TOWN OF DUTCH FLAT

The Dutch Flat Heritage Preservation Society, a local nonprofit, public benefit corporation formed during the past six months, has signed a contract to purchase half the town of Dutch Flat. The background of this important event for the town of Dutch Flat is as follows:

In 1999, Dutch Flat residents Robin Reynolds and his wife, Diane Star, bought half the town of Dutch Flat. By “half the town”, we mean the following parcels, going from downhill to uphill:

1. Vacant lot between Alta Realty and the

- garage next to the store
2. The garage next to the store
3. The Dutch Flat Trading Post
4. The Post Office
5. The red duplex behind the Post Office
6. The strange grey building across the street from the duplex and behind Jean Fanning’s antique store



7. The Antique Store.

Because all of these parcels are served by a single septic tank and leach

field and because the current zoning does not allow for the dividing of the property, the County will not allow the parcels to be sold (conveyed) individually; rather, all parcels must be conveyed together. For convenience, we shall refer to all these parcels as “half the town.”

In 2011, Robin and Diane sold these parcels to an individual purchaser. They financed the purchase taking back a promissory note from the purchaser who also bought the Masonic Hall on similar terms. Last year, the purchaser stopped making payments on his note to Robin and Diane, and he listed the property for sale with a real estate broker in Foresthill. However, Robin and Diane did not foreclose on the deed of trust securing the note; rather, they let the purchaser try to sell the property.

To avoid the possibility of half the town being desperately sold to some unknown party whose only interest would be to turn a fast buck, Robin and Diane began negotiating a buy-back instead. At a dinner party at Bill Newsom’s house, Sacramento Street neighbors Eric Smith, Rick Sims and Newsom agreed that the situation presented a rare opportunity to acquire half the town to preserve it and control development and rents of favored tenants, such as Abe. Retired judges Newsom and Sims then retained attorney Mark Himmelstein of Soda Springs, a former law partner of Sims’s who had formed many California nonprofit corporations. Himmelstein went into high speed and quickly formed a non-profit, public benefit corporation with federal and state tax exemptions—the Dutch Flat Heritage Preservation Society. The original officers and directors of the Society were as follows:

- President—Rick Sims
- Vice President—Bill Newsom
- Chief Financial Officer (Treasurer)—
Toni Fonseca
- Secretary—Marybeth Blackinton
- Director—Attorney Tom McDonnell
(Mary McClung’s son)
- Director—Laura Resendez
- Director—Eric Smith, M. D.

Because of tragic family circumstances, Laura Resendez later resigned and has been replaced by new director Lynn Oliver.

The Society has retained local attorney Joel Baiocchi to serve as its counsel.

The By-Laws of the Society set forth its Mission Statement as follows:

“The specific mission of this corporation is to ensure the preservation and protection of the heritage of the town of Dutch Flat, California and to preserve structures in Dutch Flat through the acquisition, maintenance and holding of historically significant

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buildings and other improvements in the current configuration of said unincorporated area.”

Meanwhile, Robin and Diane repurchased the property from its most recent purchaser. Also, Bill Jager (read: house on Main Street above the town water works), a licensed real estate broker, took over representing both the Society and Robin and Diane without fee to structure a transaction whereby the Society could purchase half the town. After countless hours of work, Jager brokered the following deal between the corporation and Robin and Diane, which resulted in a contract signed by all of them on August 16, 2015:

1. Purchase price for half the town to be \$249,000.00;
2. The sum of \$100 paid now as a good faith deposit; \$24,900 cash to be paid at close of escrow;
3. The Society gives Robin and Diane a promissory note, secured by a deed of trust, in the amount of \$224,000.00 payable in interest-only payments at 6% for six years, with all remaining principal due at the end of six years with no penalty for prepayment of principal.
4. Escrow to close in five months (desired by both Robin and Diane and the Society);
5. Robin and Diane to bear all escrow costs.
6. The Society has the right to environmental and ordinary inspections of the properties.

Although not a part of the purchase contract, Robin and Diane also negotiated an option to purchase a portion of the adjacent “Diggins” property behind the town to complete a lot-line adjustment 100 feet wide behind the duplex, post office, store, garage and vacant lot—to be used for additional septic and leaching. This was the best, and perhaps only, opportunity to acquire land needed to upgrade the system.

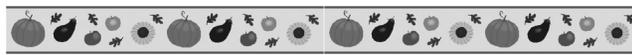
So the Society has to raise the \$24,900 down payment within five months. The Society’s fund-raising has been kick-started by a \$6,000 pledge by a long-time local family and a likely contribution of \$15,000 from a foundation. The Society is planning its fund-raising agenda now: watch for announcements in this newspaper.

If escrow closes, the interest-only payments required by the promissory note should be no problem, because those payments are in the approximate amount of \$1,400.00 per month and rents on the acquired parcels are about \$2,500.00 per month.

Society President Rick Sims said, “This transaction could come about only because of the desire of Robin Reynolds and Diane Star to preserve the town they love, and the Society is deeply grateful to them.

Also, the transaction is due to the phenomenal work done by attorney Mark Himmelstein and real estate broker Bill Jager. The deal should work, because the law prohibits anyone in the Society from making money from ownership of half the town; thus, all excesses of income over expenses can be reinvested in the properties. The Society should be able to preserve the town as we love it. All we have to do is raise \$24,900 within five months and \$224,000 within six years. Maybe we need another barbeque and aquacade.”

Donations to the Dutch Flat Heritage Preservation Society are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to the Dutch Flat Heritage Preservation Society and mailed to the Society at P.O. Box 303, Dutch Flat, CA 95714.



Business Spotlight, continued from Page 3

become. This, in turn, has to be reflected in his prices.

Nancy Hiebert started working for Abe on day one and her daughter, Stephanie, joined his team a week or two later. In addition to selling merchandise, the two women know everyone in town and can help locate someone for you or bring you up to date on someone’s life. Since they have been with Abe all these years, he feels like they are his family. Speaking of family, Abe has five children. When I asked him their names he said, “there are just too many; just put down five”. You probably have met Abe’s wife, Kellie and his daughter, Zaina on several occasions when they have been helping at the store.

Abe likes to think of the store as “our local market” and works hard for us to have this convenience. He spends countless hours shopping, loading and unloading so we have an array of useful items. This is on top of his six days a week shifts.

As we all know, the store has been struggling for the last several years. Abe told me that if business doesn’t improve, he will be forced to cut hours, close the store one day a week and reduce inventory, even though he doesn’t want to. I remember when the store closed for about six months before Abe came. Overnight, Dutch Flat became a literal ghost town; it was beyond awful.

Abe absolutely loves this community and, as he puts it, “the wonderful people who reside here”. He told me that, honestly, is what still keeps him here. For the last 18 ½ years, Abe has been taking care of us. So now let’s help him and stop in a little more often. You’d be surprised what a difference a few extra customers can make!

The phone number for the Dutch Flat Trading Post is 530-389-8017

LAW OFFICE OF JOEL C. BAIOCCHI

JOEL C. BAIOCCHI
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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“DELICIOUS” “DELIGHTFUL” “DELECTABLE” JULY 4TH SALAD LUNCHEON

BY LAURA GLASSCO

Those were but a few of the words that over 150 attendees used to describe this year’s July 4th Salad and Ham Sandwich Luncheon.

Once again, **Betty Fetherston’s** decorations throughout the first floor of the Community Center set a very festive patriotic theme to our annual event.

Cindy Goldman’s donation solicitation hit a new record! Over 75 amazing salads and cookies were created by very generous citizens! Ham from **Susan Prince** and **Bill Hart** along with **Bob Pfister’s** famous home made bread made sure NO ONE LEFT HUNGRY!

Before, during and after the Luncheon: **Diane Dunn, Jean Binder, Marybeth Blackinton, Dehnel Demianew, Peggy Potter, Kathy Smith and Debby McClatchy** made sure the Luncheon was enjoyed by all. Thanks you to each of you for all your hard-work!

Many thanks to all of you who donated your salads and cookies! Without you, this event would never be possible. The money raised will help support the Dutch Flat Community Center.



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GOLDEN DRIFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY JIM RICKER

Things are going well for the historical society. We have 131 memberships, about the same as last year, with total dues paid slightly lower than last year. Monetary donations are quite a bit higher than last year mainly due to generous contributions received in memory of Doug Ferrier, and Matt and Betty Bailey. The museum opened for the season on May 23 with the annual Open House party. Over 60 people visited the museum that weekend. The new carpet in the gallery, installed last November, was much appreciated. We have 33 docents and for the most part have been able to staff two docents on each day we are opened. The museum is open from noon to 4:00PM Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday through Labor Day. After Labor Day we will be open on weekends only.

We are changing a things a little. Our Annual Meeting has traditionally been held on Labor Day weekend. However, this year it will be held a week later on Saturday September 12 at 4:00 PM. We did this to accommodate

the volunteers who work the Dutch Flat Community Center White Elephant Sale (WES). Most of the organizations in the area share the same pool of volunteers. Those who work the WES over Labor Day weekend are too exhausted to attend a Saturday afternoon meeting at the museum. We thought we'd try a different date and hopefully get better attendance at our annual meeting.

Changes are being made in the museum itself. We purchased a portable air conditioner to keep the museum cooler on those hot summer days. Our docents and visitors should be pleased. The lights in the Gallery will be changed to LEDs. LEDs are expensive but don't give off the heat our current lights do and in the long run are cheaper to operate. A new porch light has been installed. Future projects include rearranging the Gallery and adding some new photographs, rebuilding the front fence, and re-doing some exhibits to give us more space. The museum is in a small building and it is difficult to find room to install any additional displays.

This column would not be complete without mentioning Doug Ferrier's Celebration of Life event. Doug was involved with many things in the community, from the pool and the museum to his forestry work and fuel reduction efforts. A celebration of his life was held June 13 at the Community Center.

Connie Gulling helped organize the event and submitted the following report.

Judge Sims was the MC and between speakers he told stories and recalled many wonderful things that Doug said or did for people. Tribute speakers included Dave Ferrier (Doug's younger brother), Matt Dias - Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing- Board of Forestry & Fire Protection, George Gentry - Executive Officer of Board of Forestry & Fire Protection, John Ramirez - Placer County Parks Administrator, Ann Holmes- Docent Director, Golden Drift Historical Society.

Dave Dashiell and crew supplied tri-tip and chicken and cooked it to perfection to feed the over 200 people who were in attendance. All those in attendance brought salads, desserts or bread to complete the meal. Rob and Chris Bonner played background music during dinner. Eric Carlson of the Associated California Loggers sent a flowering dogwood to be planted at the Community Center in Doug's name.

It was a fitting memorial to a wonderful, community-minded man who will be sorely missed.

NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER ALLIANCE - NFARA

BY JIM RICKER

Great Sierra River Cleanup

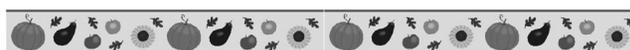
The seventh annual Great Sierra River Cleanup (GSRC) will be held on Saturday September 19. NFARA will once again join this effort by organizing a clean-up event along the Wild and Scenic North Fork American River near the Colfax-Iowa Hill Bridge. The outing is from 9:00 AM to noon with registration at Hills Flat Lumber in Colfax between 8:00 and 9:00 AM. Our efforts will be concentrated at Mineral Bar and the Penny Weight Trail, a favorite area with locals, families, recreational miners, swimmers, and hikers. This outing will consist of walking along the river picking up and bagging trash and hauling bags back to the trailhead. We may also try cleaning up trash along the more difficult Stevens Trail if enough energetic volunteers show. We are joined in this effort by State Parks, Upper American River Foundation, Canyon Keepers, Protect American River Canyons, and Bureau of Land Management.

The Great Sierra River Cleanup is coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in partnership with the California Coastal Cleanup Day and serves to promote good stewardship on all our waterways. Last year 5,650 volunteers removed over 180,000 pounds of trash and recyclables throughout the Sierra Nevada. NFARA helped organize the effort at the Colfax Iowa Hill Bridge area and 25 volunteers removed approximately 1,200 pounds of trash and cleaned graffiti off rocks.

If you are interested in participating on this outing or would like more information, contact Ron Gould at 530-878-9232 or email: rgould@northforktrails.com.

Spring Thing 2015

On Saturday May 30 NFARA held its annual Spring event at the Dutch Flat Community Center. Like last year, we scheduled events in the afternoon and evening. Unfortunately, we had mixed results this year. The afternoon activities were well attended. Over 45 people enjoyed an informative and very entertaining presentation on Raptors (birds of prey). The show, by the rescue group *Hawks, Honkers & Hoots*, featured live birds including a Red-tailed Hawk, a Peregrine Falcon, and a burrowing owl. A tour of historic Dutch Flat followed the raptor show with 25 people in attendance. Unfortunately we had to cancel the evening presentation of Under Our



Skin, a film about Lyme disease, due to lack of interest. In the future we will probably limit our event to either the afternoon or evening depending on who we get to do a presentation.



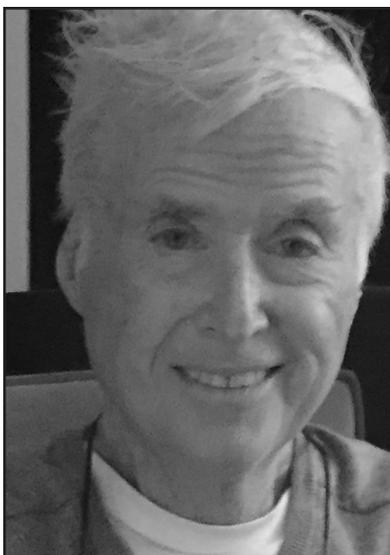
HOW'D YA GET HERE WILLIAM A. NEWSOM?

By Marybeth Blackinton

It doesn't seem fair that I have the privilege to be writing about someone who has been so much a part of my life for the past ten years. Where do I start to let you know the generous and witty man who I have had the pleasure of serving as a Professional Assistant? My life with Judge Newsom has been an introduction to politics, society, poetry, law and all things amazing.

William Alfred Newsom Jr. was born February 15, 1934 in San Francisco to Irish immigrants,

Christine Brennan and William Newsom, the second of five children. His grandfather was a charter member of the Bank of America, his father a self-employed building contractor and mother a hard-working housewife. They raised their children to value the benefits given them and work to achieve even more.



He attended St. Ignatius Preparatory School then continued his education at University of San Francisco and Stanford earning degrees in law and English Literature in 1961. His personal desire was to be an English professor, sharing his love for poetry and literature. I would consider Bill to be a book-aholic. His love for the written word is evidenced by the vast number of books in his personal collection. His home in Dutch Flat is lined with books of all subjects and rivals libraries: books of fiction, autobiographies, historical sets, nature.

He taught English at Stanford, however his parents encouraged him to pursue a career in law. He first practiced law in Italy for his friend, Gordon Getty and Getty Oil, from 1965-1966 but moved to Tahoe City in 1967 taking a job as a Court Commissioner. His ardent love for the environment kept him there until 1975 when he was appointed Su-

perior Court Judge in Placer County followed by an appointment in 1978 to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, where he worked until his retirement in 1995. He married Tessa Menzies who passed away in 2002. They had two children: Gavin and Hilary. He has five grandchildren. To know Bill, you know his life revolves around his family.

His life from childhood included relationships with former Governor Pat Brown, his son, current Governor Jerry Brown as well as good friend, Gordon Getty, grandson of oil magnate, J. Paul Getty. These three names are only the tip of the iceberg in the "Lives of the Rich and Famous" that Bill leads. Continuing that life, his son, Gavin, is a former member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, former Mayor of San Francisco and current Lieutenant Governor.

Bill's passion for wildlife and the environment is unsurpassed. He has served on the Boards of Directors for Ecojustice, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund and many more over the years. He continues generous donations to support environmental causes. In addition to his support of the environment, he will donate money or wine to charitable causes and won't hesitate to help those in need of temporary financial assistance.

In 1975, he moved part-time to a small house on Secord Alley in Dutch Flat, then bought his current home on Sacramento Street in 1980. He lives there part time and has an apartment in the Getty's mansion in San Francisco where he spends the rest of his time. Being a celebrity wherever he goes might be a burden to some but comes naturally to the humble gentleman.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Bill has a wonderful ability to mimic Italians and Irish and tell any number of jokes with the accent to make it so enjoyable. And the

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stories of old San Francisco. And the stories of placing horse-racing bets as a child for his grandmother. And quotes of Shakespeare or personal friend, Christopher Logue, or any other poet. He knows them all.

His jet-setting days are behind him now as he settles in to the sunset years and is enjoying a slower paced lifestyle. He has a wonderful caregiver and friend in Marcella helping him when he's in Dutch Flat as his life changes. As a result, I have passed on most of the duties I had with him and get to enjoy my relationship with him as a good friend sharing a joke and a margarita at the Monte Vista. If you see him there, ask him to sing a little Irish jig or tell a story from his past. I hope to be part of his life for many years to come.



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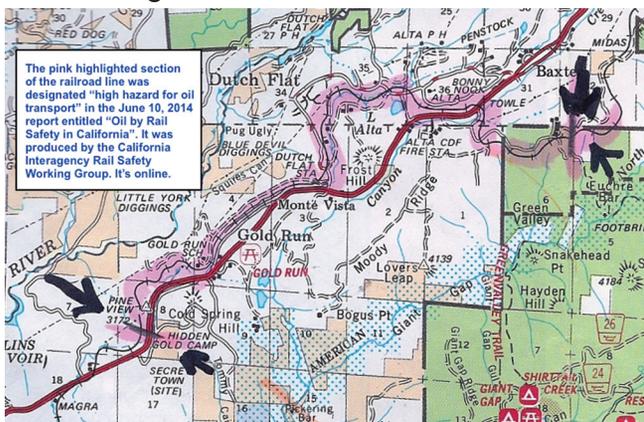
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WHAT ARE THEY HAULING?

Some Learnings From a 9-Day, 24-Hour Study of the Trains on the Donner Pass Railroad, Summer 2015

BY GAY WISEMAN

There is much history to this data quest, but I won't go into that except to say that I've followed a broad range of information sources about energy/oil/climate change/etc. issues for... years... decades. Last fall I read the CA state report: "Oil by Rail Safety in California" published in June 2014, and learned that the 15-mile section of railroad line with Dutch Flat smack in the center of it has been designated "High Hazard" for oil transport safety, as have four other California rail line segments.



This was quite concerning, but I reached an information dead-end when I tried to learn specifics about my local railroad system's participation in the increasing phenomenon of 'rolling pipelines.'*

So, with the support and encouragement of a few key friends, in mid-July I sent out an email to about 60 people:

"Hello friends,
(Please forward as appropriate.)

I am organizing a 9-day citizen monitoring of all trains traveling on the Transcontinental track system, within the state-designated "High Hazard Zone" of the railroad. If you also are interested in helping to get solid, current data on just what—and how much of it—is passing through

our communities, our wildlands, and our watersheds on this railroad line, I hope that you will help. The dates are Friday, July 24 through Sunday, August 2nd."

I got volunteers. It turned out that many people want to know more about what's moving on the railroads. Twenty people came to spend at least one 24-hour shift at the train watching camp and helped to record train data. Many spent several days, visitors came and went, music and food and art and more food and good conversation happened around the clock for nine straight days!

It was a total blast, truth be told. Who knew? Watchers and camp visitors came from a broad age span—from 16 to 91, and from all up and down the rail line. Two came from out of state, from Eugene, OR and Reno, NV. Eight people came south from neighboring Nevada County. Except for the some of these Nevada County folks, everyone who participated lives, works, or has loved ones near the Union Pacific transcontinental rail line, within the "blast zone"—that's the distance of initial devastation that will occur if an accident causes an oil train explosion.

So, an early important learning from this experience has been that quite a large, diverse group of people are interested in and concerned about what is passing on the trains. It was a wonderful bonus to find the joy of a community-building experience bubbling up out of our shared desire to know and understand a crucial element of our community and of our national infrastructure.

We recorded, first, the direction and time of each train, and then we listed with a single letter the type of each car as it passed. We worked in teams, with one person being the spotter, another the recorder, to fill out a data sheet for each train. We had more than one team whenever possible, to back each other up, and to be ready for the possibility of a second train to appear on the parallel track. This happened more than once; one team would switch to recording the second train. And if we had yet another person on hand, we'd have a designated car counter—just getting the count of engines and cars (a surprisingly hard job). And if we had MORE people, we'd get some photos or video. Whenever we spotted a hazardous material placard we'd record the 4-digit code.

Here's what they look like:



Back in our camp after each train had passed we'd compare data and make corrections and notes; then our Jedi DataMaster would enter it all into a running summary of what we were observing.

And so, you are wondering, just what ARE they hauling? Here's just a few interesting facts gleaned from our data. We saw an average of 19 trains per day. Typically, 25% of these trains carried some kind of hazardous freight. Each day, we saw typically:

- 1,200 cars moving freight (non-tanker)—grain hoppers, auto carriers, lumber, inter-modal containers full of consumer goods, etc. (non-hazardous freight)
- 105 tanker cars, about 70% of which held hazardous contents
- 20 to 24 cars moving people (Amtrak, one train of 10 -12 cars, in each direction)

We observed 32 different types of hazardous materials over the 9 days. These included explosives, such as propane, ethanol, jet fuel, munitions, and seven tanker cars of unrefined crude oil; as well as chemicals such as ammonia, chlorine, methyl bromide and sulphuric acid.

Now, I must digress to tell you that we did get a little personal attention from Union Pacific about our train watching. The U.P. corporate public relations voice came to us via Lisa Stark, who contacted me before the watch even began, to let me know about U.P. private property, trespassing laws, railroad police, and such like that—"just to make sure we didn't get crosswise with them". (We didn't. Thanks for the heads up, Lisa.)

Lisa refers to "homeland security" quite often. Five of the most intrepid of our train watch group had a subsequent meeting with her, and she used that term many times. So—another learning from the train watch—is that calling up "homeland security" is a very handy way to not have to answer questions that a community-at-risk might justifiably have about its safety. "In North America oil by rail grew a whopping 4,100% between 2008 and 2013. There's been enormous growth but

little public debate.” (<http://www.forestethics.org/crude-by-rail-dangers>).

Railside communities and wildlands have EVERYTHING at stake when it comes to railroad safety. We want and expect to feel secure in our homes and neighborhoods. I'm ALL ABOUT homeland security.

By the way, I was happy to read about the CERT team in our area (Spring 2015 issue of *Community*). I am very grateful for our local dedicated first responders. We have an awesome community of concerned and selfless, giving people. But I don't think communities like ours should be bearing ALL the risk, and much of the emergency response preparedness costs, of increased oil-by-rail. Or, for that matter, of the transport of any hazardous materials. We should be talking directly about this, not staying mum and averting our gaze from actual daily hazards we already face, because of the nebulous concept of potential “homeland security” hazards. Some California communities are not only talking—they've actually adopted ordinances against the expansion of oil by rail through their communities (Davis, Richmond, Oakland, Berkeley).

For the record, I want NO train accidents EVER. Here, or anywhere. I favor ALL safety innovations and improvements that can help ensure NO ACCIDENTS EVER—the best possible braking systems on trains; back up staff on EVERY train; specially designed tank cars suitable for Bakken crude (whatever it is that is shipped). I say, don't ship a substance until appropriately safe cars will be used—no “phase-in plan,”—that leaves open too much risk! I say, safety FIRST, literally. I say, we need locally-based, fully-trained Hazmat response teams, HERE when we need them—not an hour and a half away to be mobilized from Roseville or Truckee while a disaster worsens. I'm for hazmat teams and spill response materials traveling WITH the most dangerous trains. I'm for speed limits in this high hazard section of the line. I'm for gates and signals at EVERY public grade crossing. I'm for raising the prices of hazardous materials shipments as needed to cover costs of implementing all these ways of keeping communities and wildlands and watersheds 100% safe from transport disasters. I'm for open and INFORMED community discussions about “acceptable levels of risk,” and who should be bearing the costs.

To that end, I will happily share a summary of the data we gathered with anyone who asks me for it. Just leave a message on my voicemail number (530) 388-5001.

*This is a reference to the railroad transport of dangerously explosive “sweet crude” from the Bakken fields in North Dakota

[and other places?] that is being transported in rail tanker cars—that were not designed for it—through the communities and wildlands and watersheds of North America. Unrefined crude oil shipments from the Bakken fields are expected to increase dramatically on this and other California rail lines if/when bay area oil refineries get re-tooled to accept it. That process is underway.



SWIMMING POOL NEWS

BY TONI FONSECA

As another summer season comes to an end, we want to once again express our gratitude to the many volunteers who work tirelessly so that we can all enjoy our local pool. A big thank you to Kenny Weatherwax, Jim Sanders, John Hershey, and Jim Johnson who, because of their daily volunteer work, keep our expenses down and help us

stay within our operating budget.

We would also like to offer our thanks and appreciation to the lifeguards, all of whom did a great job this year. Kaylie, Olivia, Austin, Amanda, Nick, and Christian had an especially challenging summer because of the increase in the number of people using the pool. Additionally, once they returned to Colfax High School, several lifeguards come to work in order to keep the pool open despite attending school all day and postponing their homework at night.

This year, we received a generous donation to establish the “Doug Ferrier Lifeguard Scholarship Fund.” These funds will be used to assist with the cost of lifeguard certification for individuals in need of financial aid who are hired to work at our pool. Guidelines and the application process will be announced before next spring.

If you were at the pool this season, especially in June, you likely noticed that the pool was more crowded than in the past due to the large number of “out-of-area” people taking advantage of our beautiful “free” pool. We have seen a steady increase in usage since the closure of the Colfax pool and now it seems that many people from Nevada County, Meadow Vista, Auburn and other areas have also discovered it. The increase in the number of people using the pool could

Pool continued on Page 11



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MURDER BY CLICHE

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

CHAPTER 9

Here's a re-cap of the cast of story characters:

Constable Charlie Cummins - new on the force; young but keen

Emily and Walter Cummins - his parents
Mr. Clarence Warrington - the town curmudgeon

Carole Thorpe - police station receptionist; a motherly type

Detective Sergeant Ray Thorpe - her son, the police chief

Hugh Shallows - Welshman, recently bought local hotel

Molly Shallows - his daughter, the hotel's chef, and Charlie's secret love

Tom Clark and Brad Feeny - local farmhands and pranksters

Gloria and Lareen Evans - spinster cousins and gossips

Lord Calvin Commander - Lord of the Manor

Lady Casey - his American wife

Corrine Commander - his eldest daughter

Juliet Commander - his youngest daughter

Lord George Commander - his grandfather

Denton - his butler

Alan deLay - the butcher with extracurricular activities

Lara deLay - his wife, also with sidelines
Carstairs - the blacksmith and motor mechanic

John and Mary Tadbourne - farmers

Mike Tadbourne - their son, loves Juliet

Valerie Givens - artist who rents cottage for the season

Connie - barmaid at the Endeavor

Madge - Lindenmouth's telephone operator

Celeste Woodward - town's premier literary recluse

Manning - her live-in staff

Roger Smith-Robbins - Celeste's ineffectual nephew

Sharon Woodward - Celeste's ward

Marcy Wallace - millinery clerk, loves Roger

Sir Mathew Broadstairs - town barrister

Dr. McKnight - town physician

Vicar Constanton - elderly clergy

Cornelius Spanner - owns antique shop

Art Friendly - hardware shop

Sarah Daley - lace and notions shop

Tom's Friend and the Older Couple - seaside visitors?

Horace Green and Carrie Thompson - victim of pranks

Detective Babbitt - Exeter police

Charlie pedaled down the High Street. At a point, a short distance from the seafront, it forked in two, the main High Street, with its restaurants, fancy garment shops, and stores more tempting to visitors, and the smaller lane to the right, where the many practical, day-to-day wares were displayed. Along this lane were the butcher, the blacksmith, hardware, lace and notions, a millinery, and the sweets shop. Cornelius Spanner's antique shop was on the main High Street, so Charlie headed there first.

He found Cornelius in the back, dusting off an old brass lantern, sneezing profusely, so he was glad of an opportunity to come out into the fresh air. Charlie started right by asking, "Cornelius, we are really stumped by these two deaths, seemingly unrelated, and now the Exeter police are here, walking all over us. I just wish we had more info, more insight."

Cornelius adjusted a small artifact on a display table to better advantage, and mused, "I really didn't know Tom; can't be a help there, but I was in the war with Celeste. I was a trainee in the hospital corps, and she was a secretary to a bigwig surgeon. We saw all our service here in Devon, in a large hospital near Exeter. She wasn't a famous author yet, just a girl doing a job. No artistic frocks; well, we all wore uniforms."

Charlie asked hopefully, "anyone or any reason from that time, that could've had anything to do with her being murdered almost twenty years later?"

"Not a thing I can remember. There was talk about the surgeon and her, but that was just gossip. There were so many wounded needing help; you didn't have time to think, let alone your colleagues' business."

"And did you notice anything amiss or out of character on the day she was killed?"

Cornelius sat down on a cast iron garden chair, put outside and marked down as dowdy, and replied, "Well, Celeste did disappear for a time; I wanted to get a better price out of her for a piece of jumble, and was finally told she was in the fortune teller's tent. I didn't want to have her drool all over my hand and pronounce rubbish, so I declined to contact her. But I hear they found her down by the water, so I guess that has no bearing?"

Charlie thought, then inquired, "How did you know where she was found? It is not supposed to be public knowledge."

Cornelius laughed and said, "A small town like Lindenmouth? Of course, everyone knows everything. Besides, that dandy copper from Exeter told us all."

Charlie swore silently, thanked Cornelius, and walked his bicycle back to the fork and down the local lane. First shop was

Sarah's Notions, really a small emporium for anything a lady might need to complete her satorical splendor. The proprietress was hardly a good advertisement for her own wares, dressed fairly plainly in a navy blue sailor dress with large brass buttons cascading down a copious front, and stretched just a little bit too tight across the midsection. The latest wave-set of hair was plastered close to her head, making her resemble a bouncing buoy, as she exuberantly attacked a tray of seedlings, balanced across her counter at the front of the store.

Charlie tried to introduce Celeste into the conversation, but Sarah was almost manic in her concern for her plants. "No, didn't know her at all, except to help with the Fair. But look at these darlings. Soon they will be the very best dahlias the judges have ever seen. And I'm going to do snaps this year, too. Everyone thinks they are passe, but they can be done up so beautifully; have such color. I'm truly getting excited." She beamed up at Charlie. "You should have a garden, young man. Improves the physique and the mind."

Charlie nodded absentmindedly, and tried again, "When you were at the Spring Fair, did you notice anything out of the ordinary, or just anything that seemed, you know, not right?"

Sarah glanced at him, not wanting distractions. "No, no, Celeste was her usual obnoxious self, sorry to speak ill of the dead, but she had really outdone herself this time. Your detective's mom seemed the most put out; I believe Celeste had taken over her role as charletan soothsayer. I'm sorry if I sound facetious, but I'm a little busy right now." Charlie nodded, then started to leave.

Sarah brought him back with "She did tell me she was meeting someone later in the afternoon; seemed important and she was nervous about it, but wouldn't say why."

Charlie stopped and asked, "Do you know who?" This sounded good.

"Sorry, that's all I heard."

Disappointed, Charlie moved on; this was going nowhere. So many people had been at the Fair; it was impossible to pinpoint who had been where when.

The next stop was the blacksmith's building. Carstairs was at the forge, fixing something on an automobile. Sparks and smoke swirled around him like a sinner out of Dante's Hell. More and more of his work was of this nature, and it angered him to work on mechanics instead of the horses he loved. He was always angry these days; his wife running off with a constable had demeaned him, in his eyes, as a man and a respected business owner. Plus now he had

to cook! He glanced at Charlie and resumed his pounding at the forge. There was a warm ale on the table to his left. The place was like a sauna. Charlie felt the sweat gather under his collar and start to run down the back of his shirt. He was very uncomfortable, but went on, urged by a desire to get this all over with.

"Just need to ask a couple of questions, and then I'll be leaving you to your task."

Carstairs grunted.

"Is there anything you can think of linking Tom Clark and Celeste Woodward? Or any other thoughts that come to mind since we last talked?"

Carstairs wiped his hands along his leather tunic and stepped back from the heat. His large shadow almost cooled the air around Charlie, who feeling the chill, still persevered, "Anything at all?"

"No link I know of," the blacksmith speculated. "But Celeste got what she deserved. You know, you reap what you sow. She was a real piece of work, that one. Never paid on time, always complaining, was never satisfied. I'd turn her down, but I always felt a soft spot for that Sharon lass, and Celeste was wise enough to send her with the errand. Cagey, crafty, looking out for number one, that one."

It wasn't his business, but Charlie couldn't help but prod, "Why didn't you tell Sharon; why don't you do so now?" Carstairs groaned, "She's heads over about that Roger. I haven't a chance. Look at me; I'm all grime and grit and she's a lady." "Well, just an idea. You never know. Any thoughts about the two murders?"

"I know Tom was working for Cornelius just before he died. Sort of under the table, fixing up junk to look like antiques. Everyone knows ole Cor does it; that's why he has so little local trade."

Charlie said, "That's interesting. Do you think Tom could've been blackmailing Cornelius?"

Carstairs laughed, "No, no, nothing like that. As I said, just about everyone knows his antics. How could it be worth it?" Charlie thought, well, I didn't know, and I bet many of the richer folks in town didn't either. Something to ponder. He thanked Carstairs and got back on his bike. Turning up the lane, he almost struck both of the Evans cousins, coming out of the sweet shop.

"Oh my," gasped Gloria. "Oh my," echoed Lareen. They grabbed each other in a defensive hug and stepped backwards into a puddle. Trying not to laugh, Charlie helped them back to the pavement, only to suffer a whack on the arm from Gloria's umbrella.

"Hands off, young man, we are not infirm! We can fend for ourselves, except in such massive traffic." Charlie looked around at the empty street, but still apologized profusely. Lareen nodded her acceptance, and inquired, petulantly, "Was that Carstairs's forge you were visiting, Constable?"

"Yes, ma'am," Charlie answered respectfully. He almost tipped his hat.

"You know he is to be trusted not at all? He says he never had any parance with that poor boy, Tommy Clark, but we know, in a factual way, that he accused Tommy of dousing his forge fire, two or three times, over a week's period. We're sure, if Tommy is guilty, he was just executing a youthful prank, with no meaning of harm. But Carstairs was over the wall." She leaned in and whispered, "It was just after the wife deserted him, so we're trying to give him the doubtful benefit." Charlie mentally scratched his head; the Evans seemed to prefer an archaic dialect. He did tip his hat this time, climbed on the bicycle, and pedaled up the windy street towards home and supper.



Pool, continued from Page 9

necessitate having an additional lifeguard on duty, which would add additional expense to our already strained budget. Funding for the pool comes from the special tax paid by property owners in our County Service Area (CSA), grants, and donations. Due to some past grant requirements, we are currently

required to allow people from outside our County Service area (CSA) to use the pool; however we may charge them an entry fee. Because of the continuing increase in out-of-area users, we are working with the County to develop a plan to charge people who live outside of our CSA to use the pool. There will not be an additional fee for those who live within our CSA and, therefore, pay the special tax. We hope to put this into effect for the 2016 season and should be able to announce more details by the next issue of *Community*.

Finally, you may recall that County staff coordinated a donation effort in order to purchase a plaque in memory of Doug Ferrier. The plaque will be located on the pool grounds. County staff will be at the pool for a plaque dedication on September 25th at 11:00 A.M. and community members are invited to attend.



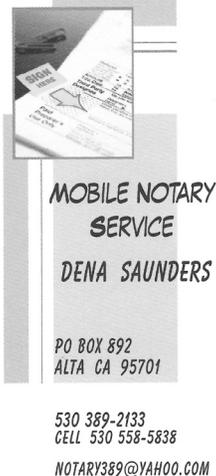
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FRINGE STUDIO IN TINY DUTCH FLAT WINS AWARDS, ATTENTION FOR 'LUXE FURNITURE

BY CATHIE ANDERSON,
BUSINESS EDITOR, SACRAMENTO BEE
canderson@sacbee.com
(re-printed with permission from the
Sacramento Bee)

If you make a run to the post office in the Sierra foothills town of Dutch Flat, population 200 on a crowded day, set aside at least 30 minutes for catching up with the neighbors. That's what sought-after furniture designers George Bennett and Stacy Binns have learned since moving here two years ago from the Bay Area.

The two architects design award-winning contemporary desks, cabinets and more from inside a rambling Victorian-era home on Stockton Street.

They are still bringing their signature style to the place, but inside, you already will find a number of pieces from their MIXI modular line of furniture, which snagged the best furniture award at last year's Dwell on Design show in Los Angeles. An antique wine rack from a French chateau covers a 2-foot-by-4-foot strip of one living-room wall, bottles jutting out upward at a 45-degree angle. A peek into a nearby sitting room reveals one of German master Ingo Maurer's suspension lights, the one with a pendant surrounded by a cloud of love letters written on Japanese paper.

Bennett, educated at Princeton and Columbia universities, has worked at a number of large architecture firms in New York and the Bay area, but he left all that behind nearly eight years ago to work with his wife of 17 years in a firm they call Fringe Studio. Binns, a graduate of the California College of Arts & Crafts, has 20-plus years of experience designing homes for high-net-worth individuals. Her first job as a professional was reimagining a New York loft for then-married

celebrities Lenny Kravitz and Lisa Bonet.

"We've had very high-end, very big multiyear projects in Atherton and Hillsborough," Bennett said. "We've also done a lot of really tiny ones. Sometimes, those are more fun and more interesting. The really big projects, because we established trust and good relationships with our clients, we went from doing the architecture to doing the interior design."

And, after they began doing interior design, he said, they found that clients had special challenges with getting the right furniture to fill their rooms.

"If you have a client who has got 20 rooms that need to be furnished," Bennett said, "and she says, 'I need a dining room table that needs to be big enough to fit 20 people, and it's got to be almost 20 feet long,' you can't just go to a store and buy that. We said, 'All right, we're designers. We'll make one.' It became a habit. There were a lot of cases where the particular thing a client wanted just didn't exist."

They formed relationships with artisans such as Jim Baker of Baker Hardwoods in Gilroy and metal fabricator John Kolkka in Redwood City, a maker of fine furniture in his own right.

For years, Bennett and Binns operated out of San Mateo, but they bought their home in Dutch Flat about five years ago and moved there full time a couple of years ago to allow their 12-year-old son to live the quintessential small-town life.

Bennett and Binns said they have designed more than 50 custom furniture pieces for their wealthy clients. Commercial furniture dealers were delivering other pieces to the same showpiece homes that featured Bennett and Binns' custom work, the couple said, and they began to contact them, saying: "If you're making stuff like that, we'd love to carry it."

Binns and Bennett enjoyed designing furniture, but they were so busy with architecture and interior design that they didn't have the time. Then, two things happened. Five years ago, the owner of San Francisco's trendy Zinc Details suggested they do a furniture show at his design store.

"We said, 'Sure, cool, we'll do that. When do you want our stuff in there?'" Bennett recalled. "He said, 'How about six weeks from tomorrow?' It was the sort of thing where you say yes and then figure out how to do it."

They designed a storage unit called Divide. A predecessor to their MIXI Modular line, it had cabinets and drawers and shelves all blended together, some elements with sleek white fiberboard surfaces and others with sustainable wood grains. They also

showed several of their wood-slab tables featuring fallen, dead timber that Baker had collected from vineyards and aged to perfection. They also completely reconfigured how everything was displayed in the Zinc Details store.

To meet the deadline, they called in every favor they had amassed with their artisans, Bennett said. When he looks back now at photos from their opening party, he can see just how exhausted everyone looks. The show was a success, however, and it made Bennett and Binns realize that they could maybe do more with furniture, if only they could find the time.

Then, in 2013, they said, they got the time. Just as much of California began emerging from a housing crisis, Fringe Studio began to experience a slowdown.

Suddenly, that furniture idea seemed imminently doable. They knew the Divide cabinet was popular. They had put photos of it on their website, Bennett said, but there was only one challenge.

"We were finding that every other order for one of those, someone was saying, 'We love it, but can you make this end box longer, so I can put legal files in it? Can you make it taller, so it holds my TV a little higher? Can you make it do this or that?'" Bennett said.

Customization, they figured, was what customers wanted, so they designed a line of clean, contemporary furniture called MIXI Modular. It is essentially a kit of parts: boxes of different sizes and colors and finishes that the customer can combine to create bedside tables, credenzas, media cabinets, shelving and more. They included in the line a wood cabinet printed with a refreshing blue marble pattern that glistens like water passing over rocks in a creek bed.

Last year, they showed that Watermark cabinet and other products from the MIXI line to the interior design industry at the Dwell on Design show in Los Angeles and at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York. MIXI won the award for best furniture at Dwell, and although there were no awards at ICFF, Binns said, their furniture was recognized as one of the top eight lines to see during the show.

It was a heady year. Now the task for Binns and Bennett is to get MIXI to furniture dealers that have expressed interest for retail customers and boutique hotels in Canada, in Asia and in the United States.

The couple spent a little more than two years trying to find the right manufacturer, and they have finally found one in Wisconsin. They could have product ready as early

as September, they say. While their custom pieces have sold for as much as \$40,000, Binns and Bennett said, they are hoping they will be able to sell the MIXI line for roughly 5 to 20 percent of that cost.

Although MIXI will be manufactured in mass, Binns said, it still resonates as a custom piece with clients because they can choose the size and finishes to fit their needs.



ALTA BOY WINS WRESTLING AWARD

Nate Mitchell, age 6, of Alta, took home a silver medal, and placed 4th in two separate tournaments on July 11th at the UFC Ultimate Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas.

Nate has been competing since he was 4 years old and has wrestled at some of the largest events in the nation. He placed top 10 at the World Championships in April, and has won many smaller tournaments on his way there. Nate's record for the year was 53-17 in folkstyle wrestling and finished 9-2 in freestyle.

When he isn't wrestling, he spends his time at Marinoble's Kickboxing Academy in Roseville training for future Pankration tournaments. Nate attends Alta-Dutch Flat School and is in 2nd grade.

Nate's parents are Nathan and Hannah Mitchell of Alta. He also has a younger sister Amaya, age 4, who will begin wrestling this fall.



MR. JUDAH AND THE BIG FOUR PART ONE - THEODORE JUDAH

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

Theodore Judah, the Chief Engineer of the Central Pacific Railroad, died in 1863, at thirty seven years of age, and was forgotten almost at once. Children in San Francisco now know him as an avenue with a street car that takes you to the beach. At times he was considered a fanatic, an eccentric, and a burden to his family. He was often called "Crazy Judah" to his face in Sacramento.

Judah was born March 4, 1826 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His father was an Episcopal minister and died when Theodore was quite young. He pursued an education and career in engineering, with an emphasis on the new railroads. He married Anna, the daughter of a warden in his church, and went to work. He was employed by the Niagara Gorge Railroad in New York in the early 1850s, then worked in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and on the Erie Canal. In 1854, he received an urgent letter from C.L. Wilson in California, who proposed to build a railroad from Sacramento to the placer mines of the foothills.

Judah was blessed with a highly organized mind and was very productive, but he was also without humor or patience, and the trip seemed too long. At first he resisted the move; his brother Charles, an attorney in San Francisco since 1850, wrote that life there was difficult. Also Judah had plenty of work in the East and had achieved a hard won reputation. However, Wilson's enthusiasm was contagious, and Judah soon telegraphed Anna, "Be home tonight; we sail for California April 2nd." "You can imagine my consternation!", she wrote.

They took a steamer, overcrowded with excited miners-to-be, from New York City to Nicaragua, then endured a hot, hard crossing of that country. They boarded a Pacific Mail steamer to San Francisco, where they spent a couple of days in that teeming, colorful city, then a noisy riverboat to Sacramento. The entire journey took five weeks.

At this point not a single mile of track had been laid in California, but residents were primed and ready for the romance of the rails. The practical pursuit of commerce was paramount in the East, but Westerners wanted to hear and smell the belch and feel the speed. Judah immediately was hired and found sympathy for his enthusiasm among the young men eager for the rail-

road's future. Their goal was for an intercontinental line. Gradually the impracticality of their isolation led to more pragmatic reasons for their ideals, and men began to realize the huge profits possibly available to them.

Within two weeks of his arrival in Sacramento, Judah presented a preliminary survey to his employers. A friendship with the influential editor of the "Union" newspaper, gave Judah a wider audience through supportive articles and editorials. Five months later a short railroad from Sacramento to Folsom was opened by Judah and three other officials. Unfortunately, declining placer gold receipts closed them down and put Judah out of a job.

In September, 1859, Judah was a delegate to the Pacific Railroad Convention in San Francisco, where the consensus agreed that an intercontinental railroad's only chance was with the help of the national government, specifically Congress. Judah needed a route up the mountains to present to them. In October of 1860 he went to Dutch Flat to meet with Daniel Strong, the local druggist and an outdoor enthusiast, who showed him a continuous ridge up the mountains. The route had been abandoned after the tragedy of the Donner Party, but it was perfect for Judah's needs.

Judah and Strong drew up articles of association and collected \$46,500 from local investors. They needed \$115,000 to incorporate, or \$1,000 for every mile up to and over the crest. Judah set off for Sacramento and an historic meeting over a hardware store with ten possible investors, including the men who would become known as "The Big Four": Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker, Mark Hopkins, and Collis P. Huntington. Judah had wisely not sought out corporate sponsors from San Francisco, but had appealed to the shopkeepers of the moderately sized Sacramento. He concentrated on the profit potential and won them over.

The discovery of silver in Nevada, rich in deposits but difficult to mine, brought back mining fever to California and increased the need for a railroad across the mountains. Now again a Chief Engineer, Judah finished a survey to the mountains' base by early summer. Unfortunately, the U.S. Congress had made the railroad issue linked to the slavery question, and was deadlocked between northern and southern routes. Judah was exhausted, ill, and broke from six years of continuous exploration, lobbying, and writing reports, but in 1861 he still traveled East with Anna to champion his cause. They reached Washington D.C. three months after the Bat-

Judah continued on Page 14



DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT AUBURN? PART II

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

Auburn had their Centennial in 1988. A booklet was compiled of first hand recollections of some of the older residents. Here are some of them; to be taken with a grain of salt given the sources.

11. Around 1910 a second permanent east-bound track was laid through town. A temporary track was constructed to take the load. It took forty mules to move the tracks.

12. The first train depot in town had the depot office and a saloon on the first floor, and a skating rink and dance hall on the second. It burned down in 1897.

13. Auburn has seen many spectacular train wrecks. In the early 1900's, a fast train going east named "The Flyer" crashed heads-on with a freight train, due to a faulty switch, killing all the engineers and firemen. It took three days to get the trains apart. Another time a train derailed with a hobo locked into a car. Luckily his banging was heard, and he was let out, "squirting out of that thing like a cork out of a champagne bottle; ran off into the bush, and was never seen again."

In 1923 two helper engines got into a race; neither would give way, sideswiping each other til one tipped over at the east end of Lincoln Ave. At this point the railroad owned huge cranes that made short work of resetting the engine.

14. The Auburn Opera House was built in the early 1890s. It sat six to seven hundred people with a balcony and a forty foot stage. Souza's band played there, plus all school commencements and town ceremonies and entertainments. It later became a movie theater complete with pipe organ. Made out of wood, the whole building would resonate when the organ was played. It burned down in 1957.

15. At first the only high school in Placer

County was in Auburn. Students from out of town either stayed with relatives or boarded locally. Some took the special trains, the "Colfax" or the "Roseville", up or down the hill. One teacher remembers classes so big she had to sit in the cloakroom. The children were separated by sex during recess. The girls would play house, with three designated as Mommy, Daddy, and the Bear that Ate Children. Later, a teeter-totter and swing were installed, bought with donations collected by the girls.

16. Auburn mothers baked hundreds of loaves of bread to send to the survivors of the San Francisco 1906 Earthquake and Fire.

17. Auburn had a fine photography studio. One day a lawyer was showing off a new picture to friends at the Orleans Hotel. One remarked that it wasn't a good likeness because "who in hell ever saw a lawyer with his hands in his own pocket."

18. One night two men from Auburn, Parker and Dishie, booked a room in the Dutch Flat Faller Hotel, located next to the train tracks up Depot Hill. Parker left early due to bedbugs, and took a night train back to Auburn. In the early hours a steam engine blew up on the tracks, almost destroying the hotel. Dishie sustained a broken back.

19. The first telegraph in the West was in Auburn to allow miners to record their deeds, claims, and patents. It was named the "Alta California Telegraph Company", and was started by two enterprising young men, I.E. Strong, and the local postmaster, H.M. House. The first line, to the Grass Valley/ Nevada City area, was such a success that others jumped on the bandwagon, forming more lines. They all eventually merged into the Western Union.

20. The bar, glasses, and other items from the old Round Corners building were purchased by Mary Pickford to decorate a study for her husband, Douglas Fairbanks.

21. Boys from different backgrounds formed gangs, depending if they were from downtown (now old Auburn) or uptown. The former group were larger and meaner, but very superstitious. The latter boys found they could escape from their bullies by hiding in the cemetery.

22. After the creek nearby was mined, old town Auburn was built over it. Most buildings had a trap door, allowing residents to just

sweep their garbage down into the still running water. They later tried to build a tennis court there, but the active spring destroyed it. The road was still named "Tennis Way".

23. Henry Ford's cousin owned a local grocery store, and was visited once by that famous man. He chopped some wood, panned some gold, and visited the local Ford agency.

24. The first automobile owned in Auburn was a belt-driven Holsman, owned by Judge Prewitt. He would drive downhill to the post office, but, as the car wouldn't make it back up the hill, had to arrange for three to four strong men to push it!



Judah continued from Page 13

tle of Bull Run and presented the railroad bill as helpful to the looming war effort. The southern states had seceded, and were no longer able to vote against his route. The bill passed and was signed by Lincoln in July 1862.

Judah returned to Sacramento a hero, and certainly no longer "crazy". By the end of 1862 the first thirty-two miles of roadbed had been laid. At this point Judah and The Big Four began to disagree. Judah wanted his railroad built of the best and most durable equipment and components, as befitting what he considered the greatest line in the world. The Big Four wanted PROFIT and they wanted it NOW. They felt that the first thirty miles just led to the place where their subsidies became much larger, and they wanted it built quickly and cheaply, with the goal of underpinning the competition to the Nevada mines. To somewhat play the Devil's Advocate, they were using the business tactics of the day, reflecting the boom and bust backbone of frontier life.

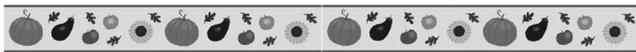
Here is where the "Great Dutch Flat Swindle" comes in, where the *Alta Californian* newspaper led an outcry that no rails would ever go past Dutch Flat, and customers would be forced to use The Big Four's wagon road to Nevada, with its huge fees. Public confidence started to deteriorate, until the railroad did continue.

The Big Four started to meet without Judah. He wrote Dr. Strong, "I had a blow-out, so much so that I look for instant decapitation." They then called in the stock he had bought on margin, and gave him no further voice in the corporation. At first he tried to fight them, particularly on where the mountains actually started, but he was overwhelmed. He was forced to retire, receiving

\$100,000 in compensation.

Judah and Anna left San Francisco in October of 1863, traveling on the St. Louis to Panama, where, on the crossing, he and many others contracted yellow fever. Judah died one week after reaching New York. His dream of taking back his railroad with help from influential Easterners was over.

The Big Four appointed a new chief engineer more sympathetic to their methods. A bust of Judah was commissioned by railroad employees, but took sixty years to be unveiled in Sacramento. We are proud, here in Dutch Flat, to remember him, and our important role in the founding of the transcontinental railroad.



LONG-TIME FORESTRY LEADER TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CALIFORNIA FORESTRY

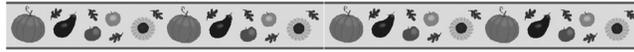
SACRAMENTO—The prestigious “Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry” was granted in name to Doug Ferrier this year by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) at their August 26th meeting. Having passed away in February, Ferrier was chosen to receive the award as an industry leader and respected registered professional forester over his 40-year career.

Ferrier cared deeply about the forestry industry and professional excellence in his field, and was Chairman for 14 of the 23 years he served on the Professional Foresters Examination Committee. He worked closely with the BOF to affect positive change in forest practice as well as with the Association of Consulting Foresters and the California Licensed Foresters Association. He was respected by his peers and a mentor to many.

Ferrier’s strive for excellence carried over into his personal life. As a long-time resident of Dutch Flat, he dedicated much of his free time to his community, serving as the President of the Golden Drift Historical Society and Museum for more than 10 years as well as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Dutch Flat Swimming Pool Corporation.

The award is named for Francis H. Raymond, the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1953 to 1970. Mr. Raymond was one of the primary advocates for the passage of the

Professional Foresters Law in 1973. Since 1987 the award has been given to a group or individual who has achieved excellence in forestry in California.



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YARD WORK WANTED: Young, energetic man would like to make your yard a show-place or at least fire safe. \$15/hour with most required equipment. Call Ryan, 530-210-4379

WANTED: Musicians for July 4, 2016 parade for the first Dutch Flat Trailered Marching Band. Maybe you played an instrument in high school. That’s good enough. Our goal is to just have people hopefully recognize the song. Starting in January, 2016, we will practice twice a month. If interested, call Joanne at the Crystal Springs Inn 530-389-2355.

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WINDY NIGHTS

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Whenever the moon and stars are set,
Whenever the wind is high,
All night long in the dark and wet,
A man goes riding by.
Late in the night when the fires are out,
Why does he gallop and gallop about?

Whenever the trees are crying aloud,
And ships are tossed at sea,
By, on the highway, low and loud,
By at the gallop goes he.
By at the gallop he goes, and then
By he comes back at the gallop again.

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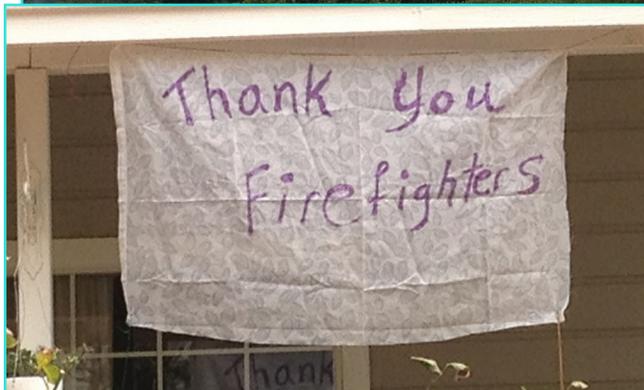
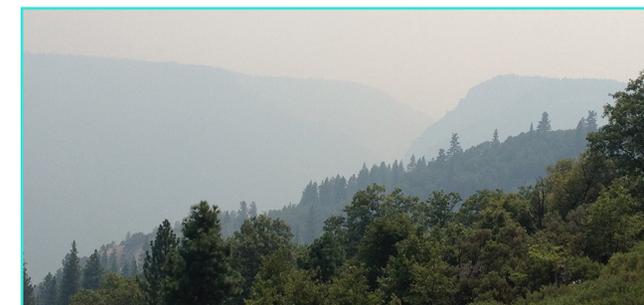
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