



Community

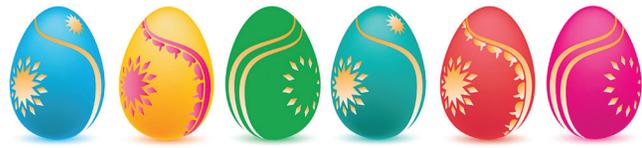
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ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Get your little ones ready for the best egg hunt in town! Free to all, the event will again be held, rain or shine, at the **Dutch Flat Community Center starting at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 11th.**

To put on this event, **we need your help to color and donate a dozen eggs.** You can leave the eggs with the Dutch Flat Trading Post and the Center's volunteer bunnies will collect and hide them before the kids arrive. You can also drop them off at the Center between 9:30-10:00 on Saturday the 11th.

Following the egg hunt, there will be games and prizes awarded for every child. A free lunch will be given to everyone who attends.

We also need volunteers to help with the event. If you are interested in helping to hide eggs or serve lunch, please call or text Heidi Suter at 530-305-7782 or arrive at the Center at 9:30 to help.



GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

THE ALTA BEAR CAVE CAFÉ

BY MICHELLE HANCOCK

On a cold wintry day, when the local bears are still hibernating, I went over to the Alta Bear Cave Café for lunch. The café, named after the location and the local bears, is located at 33965 Alta Bonnybrook Road next to the Alta Store. The restaurant is a comfortable cozy warm cave to come out of the cold, sit by the fire in the wood stove and order a nice hot coffee from the extensive coffee menu. I met the new proprietors, Desiree and Jason Ledsome - a delightful, friendly couple who live and work in and for the community. Desiree and Jason also run the Outrigger Café at Rollins Lake from Memorial Day to Labor Day

with great success over the past three years. Then they decided to take on the challenge of opening up the Alta Bear Cave Café in Alta, off Bonny Nook Road. They celebrated their grand opening on December 6, 2019

Desiree told me that some Bay area folks have found them on Google maps recently and stopped in to have lunch. When I left, a couple of people pulled up to the café for lunch. The lady who got out of the car said she was from the Bay area and her son told her it was a great place to get a burger. I could vouch for that. Word of mouth is always good



Desiree and Jason Ledsome in front of the Alta Bear Cave Cafe and Grill
photograph by Michelle Hancock

advertising.

Local Follows her Passion

Desiree grew up in Alta. Her grandfather, Joseph Hujus, upon retiring from the United State Air Force, settled his family in Alta in about 1956. Desiree told me her Grandfather Joe, is credited with starting the Mormon church in Colfax with about 50 people. The church now has over 500 members. Desiree's mother, Debra Hugot, went to school in the area along with many of the older members of the community. Desiree's father was a great cook and she learned a lot of cooking skills from him. She credits her passion for cooking to her father and was fortunate to be able to attend the California Culinary Cooking Institute in San Francisco and work for a lot of 5-star restaurants in Menlo Park, including the Left Bank and several wineries in the Santa Cruz area. She also provided catering for the Santa Cruz Winery Association. This is where she met her husband, Jason, who was a musician

with a wine certification from the University of Davis California. Jason is from the Bay area originally and has an IT background before stepping into the culinary world. They worked together well, became friends and fell in love forming a great partnership.

Desiree has been a chef for over 24 years and loves what she does and sees her culinary skills as an art. Jason is her sous chef and backbone of the business. While Jason takes care of the front of the house, Desiree is the main chef. She and Jason wanted to bring their culinary abilities back to her home town. First starting the Outrigger Café at Rollins Lake and then recently taking on the challenge of opening up the deli in Alta.

So, what's on the Menu?

Desiree and Jason provide fresh, homemade, wholesome and healthy food. Nothing frozen, canned or packaged. They utilize the "Farm to Fork" trend and try to buy locally sourced fresh foods from farmers.

Alta Bear Cave continued on Page 8

4th ANNUAL BUTCH FLAT Spring Artisan Faire

Saturday, May 2, 2020

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Dutch Flat Community Center
933 Stockton Street, Dutch Flat, CA 95714

A VARIETY OF HANDMADE ART FOR SALE:

- Oil Paintings
- Watercolor Paintings
- Pottery
- Jewelry
- Fabric Art
- And More!

Gourmet Lunch Available

Just in time for Mother's Day and Graduation gifts!

FOR MORE INFO: LAURA GLASSCO 916-778-8308

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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:

Summer 2020 - June 15

Fall 2020 - August 15

Winter 2020 - December 15

Spring 2021 - March 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.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Special Meeting about Hearse
House** - Monday, April 6, 6:00 PM.
Dutch Flat Community Center
Annual Easter egg hunt - Saturday
April 11, 11:00 AM. Dutch Flat
Community Center
**IOOF Pancake breakfast - Easter
Sunday**, April 12, 7:00 AM - 11:00
AM. Odd Fellows Lodge, 32775 Main
Street, Dutch Flat
Western Night - Saturday, April 25,
Dutch Flat Community Center.
Annual Artisan Faire - Saturday, May
2, Dutch Flat Community Center. 9:00
AM - 2:00 PM.
Swimming Pool Clean up Day -
Saturday, May 9
IOOF Pancake breakfast - Sunday,
May 24 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Odd
Fellows Lodge, 32775 Main Street,
Dutch Flat
Cemetery Clean up Day - date to be
determined - Saturday in June

ONGOING EVENTS

Alta Attic Thrift Store - Thursdays,
10 AM-1:00 PM
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 Bob Kims, 530-389-8684)
**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
**Golden Drift 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 Sun-
days, 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 SCHEDULE

Spring break - April 6 - 10
Open House - Thursday, May 7
Bear Walk - Friday, May 8
Memorial Day - Monday, May 25
8th grade graduation - Fri, May 29
Last day of school - Friday, May 29
(minimum day)

*Editor's note: As of press time, the schedule
may be changed due to Covid 19 restrictions.*

2019-20 PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday January 2 - New Year's Day
Monday January 16 - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
Monday February 13 - Lincoln's Birth-
day
Monday February 20 - Presidents' Day
Monday May 29 - Memorial Day
Tuesday July 4 - Independence Day
Monday September 4 - Labor Day
Monday October 9 - Columbus Day
Friday November 10 - Veterans Day
Holiday
Thursday November 23 - Thanksgiving
Day
Friday November 24 - Thanksgiving
Holiday
Monday December 25 - Christmas Day



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

BY BOB KIMS, PRESIDENT BOARD
OF DIRECTORS



Could this be our last printed newspaper? At our last potluck, I announced that we are in need of an Editor for the newspaper. Our wonderful and talented

Editor, Marybeth Blackinton, is retiring from the position. Marybeth has done so much for the community and for the Community Center we will miss her and her talents. So, if you want the job of being editor, or even a co-editor, please contact me. Marybeth has volunteered to train the new editor. Marybeth, we thank you for all that you have done; enjoy not being in charge of our great newspaper.

The annual St. Patrick's Dinner had to be cancelled this year. It was a tough decision for the Board as we look forward to seeing everyone and the fun, raffles and especially the good food. Mother Nature made the decision for us as snow fell long and hard.

The weather is needed, as we all know. However, it will delay some of the work planned for the Center. We have lined up a contractor to work on the drainage issue that continues to cause water to run into the basement. There is also a plan to do some planting and landscaping in front of the Center.

Our small communities have lots of history and many of us are emotionally attached to "the way things have always been". Some time in the 1960's the Dutch Flat Hearse House was deeded to the Dutch Flat Community Center. Many feel that it would make sense for the Golden Drift Historic Society to take over ownership and maintenance of the property, building and the Hearse. Because there is history that some of us may not be aware of, we welcome any information regarding the ownership of the property. Anyone with information that the Board should consider should attend the **April 6th** meeting or contact a Board member prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held at the Community Center at 6:00 PM. The DFCC Board of Directors will be voting on this issue at their April 13 meeting. The DFCC received a donation a while back from the Fire House Auxiliary that is earmarked for work on the Hearse House. That money will also be transferred to the Golden Drift Historic Society if the property is given to them.

Just a reminder that on April 11 we will be hosting the annual free Easter egg hunt and

on May 2nd the Artisan Faire is scheduled to be held at the Community Center.

WILL THIS BE THE LAST DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY?

MARYBETH BLACKINTON, EDITOR

Dutch Flat Community has been published in its current form since the Winter of 2004 – a mere 15 years. It follows in the footsteps of years of Dutch Flat Chronicles and the Dutch Flat Forum which were published MANY years ago. The previous editors (recently including Janet Fonseca, her daughter, Toni Fonseca, Rick Sims and Susan Prince) each had their own personal touches to make the paper interesting and informative to the community. I assumed the role of editor in 2014 quite by fault – Susan Prince had done it for a number of years and wanted to step back from being editor but the Board was unable to find anyone else to take over.

I learned enough from Susan to temporarily keep the paper in publication, hoping to find a permanent replacement. Susan left big shoes to fill - she did an excellent job for many years. She was responsible for the purchase of the laptop computer for the Community Center and load all the programs used for the creation of the quarterly paper. However, no one else ever came forward to volunteer their time and energy to keep the paper in existence.

With no one else to take Susan's place, I have served as editor of *Community* since the Summer issue of 2014. I have learned so much about computer programs and different types of documents and digital transmissions. But there's a lot I have yet to learn about being an editor. I have always said the compilation and integration

of submissions for the paper has kept my mind somewhat sharper than just sitting and reading or knitting or creating jewelry. I have enjoyed meeting the challenges of all that has been required of an editor. But my biggest challenge was to find enough content to fill the pages. If you have noticed, the paper under Susan's leadership was at 24 pages. Soon after I took over, I struggled to fill that many pages. Because of the format our little paper uses, you have to decrease or increase the number of pages in increments of 4. We are now down to 20 pages. In fact, we have been down to 16 pages for several issues.

The paper is published four times a year. It is delivered at no cost to every post office box holder in Gold Run, Dutch Flat, Alta and Emigrant Gap as well as those paid Community Center members who live outside those zip codes. It is very discouraging for me to walk in to one of the post offices a day or two after the mailing and see the papers tossed in the trash or sitting on the counter without having been read. There is a lot of information contained between page 1 and 16 as well as advertising for local businesses providing services to the community. It is insulting to all those advertisers and volunteers who take the time to write articles and columns for the paper. But then the folks who think the paper is worthless won't ever know that because they discard it before learning what it contains.

However it is now my turn to hand over the reins to someone else. We have moved out of state which makes it harder for me to keep in touch with all the local news and events. The paper is paid for by the Dutch Flat Community Center with advertising costs by local businesses helping to defray the costs of printing and mailing. It doesn't make a profit and in this day of social media and the internet, it may seem an obsolete method of communication. The Board of Directors has discussed just creating a digital "paper" and posting it on the website. We do post it on the website now as well as sending monthly email newsletters to paid Community Center members who have provided us with an email address. We also have Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts where we try to post updates as well.

If a volunteer would step forward and be willing to learn the process, the Board would love to be able to continue with the publication. I would also be there for the training and transition. If no one steps forward, our community stands to lose a piece of local history. I have enjoyed the time I've had serving as editor and would hate to see our little paper become a victim of progress



DUTCH FLAT SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

BY MIKE MUTTO

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Some good news for the community and patrons of the pool! After three years in pursuit of supplemental funding for some needed capital improvement work at the pool, we have been earmarked and awarded a substantial piece of the Parks Department Proposition 68 funding recently released by the State.

Thanks to Andy Fisher, the County Parks Administrator, and our new Supervisor Cindy Gustafson advocating for us, we were able to procure some of the grant money that was being proportioned out to various County projects.

We are now submitting an application with the State to fund our new bathroom facility and full replacement of the pool deck. Good things take time, especially in California, but we are seeing daylight at the end of this tunnel.

We have had good response to our pleas for lifeguards and there are few in the application process with the County.

One of the things we are also working on is a committed search for a WSI certified lifeguard to re-establish swim lessons for the kids that we are hoping to be able to provide for two to three weeks in June. Many thanks to Laura Glassco who has worked hard getting the word out at the schools and through social media for our lifeguard needs.

This year's pool clean-up will be held the **Saturday** before Mother's Day on **May 9th**. Please mark your calendars for this chance to help us out, make new friends and get a free lunch. After lunch that day, the pool Board of Directors will hold our annual public meeting that we would like to encourage any and all to attend and provide input and ideas to help keep this wonderful facility going for the generations to come.

Save the date of **July 25th** for the now ever-popular annual fund-raising Bar-B-Que. Tickets, as usual will go on sale at Abe's Trading post shortly after the pool opens on Memorial weekend.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Marybeth for always reminding me at the last minute to get my article in on time and allowing me to make last minute changes.

Editor's Note: That's why we call the paper "Community". We all work together to make it a great place to live

DUTCH FLAT MUTUAL WATER COMPANY WATER SYSTEM UPDATE

BY ERNIE BULLARD

On February 15th, the Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company (DFM) conducted an Open House and Forum at the Dutch Flat Hotel to discuss the DFM-PCWA (Placer County Water Agency) Consolidation Project and new water system. Over a dozen members and customers made it to the function. Some members felt this event was important enough to travel a few hours to speak to the DFM Board and PCWA engineers about the project and have their questions answered about the development of the new water system.

Afterwards, the general consensus of the members was positive. Many see the water treatment and distribution infrastructure grant and consolidation project as a significant improvement and benefit for the community.

PCWA and DFM addressed challenging questions related to assurances that there is adequate funding to complete the project, and that PCWA is committed to manage potential cost overruns. Based on extensive experience, this project is budgeted conservatively and there are milestones in place to ensure project completion.

The project plan is to:

- Replace all of the 50 year old water mains and water meters in Dutch Flat
- Upgrade and replace fire hydrants to current standards,
- Connect to the PCWA treated water distribution system,
- Consolidate the Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company into PCWA.

This project will be funded partly by a substantial grant from the State of California Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and by the sale of assets of DFM.

Members were appreciative of the level of transparency. Many expressed strong overall support for the significant improvements to fire protection and the water main system. Several members commented about getting the project started as soon as possible so as to not let such a grant slip through our fingers.

In the next few months, DFM will be working with PCWA to finalize an agreement to consolidate the water company, which will allow us to decommission our aging water treatment plant and have PCWA provide the needed expertise to serve the community in the future.

DFM is also receiving assistance from Rural Community Assistance Corporation

(RCAC), a non-profit organization that provides training, technical resources, and advocacy so that rural communities can achieve their goals. RCAC builds community partnerships to help identify funding sources and develops long-term solutions for California's water quality and access problems.

The preliminary schedule calls for bids to be received in Fall 2020 and construction to start in the beginning of 2021. Below is a project timeline to help you visualize these milestones:

- April 2020 – Consolidation Agreement approved
- August 2020 – State Funding Agreement for construction completed
- September 2020 – Advertise and receive bids for construction
- November 2020 – Award construction contract
- January 2021 – Begin construction of pipelines and connection to PCWA source

A final beneficial agreement between DFM and PCWA will be reviewed by a RCAC attorney and approved by the DFM Board of Directors. Within the next few weeks, each member of Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company will be mailed a ballot requesting approval for the DFM consolidation with PCWA, and subsequent dissolution of Dutch Flat Mutual as an entity. It is important that all members participate in this vote and respond in a timely manner.

The goal of DFM throughout this process is to be as transparent as possible and we will provide updates as we move forward.

PLACER SUPERIOR COURT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR GRAND JURY SERVICE PLACER COUNTY PRESS RELEASE FEBRUARY 27, 2020

The Placer Superior Court is seeking applications from Placer County citizens interested in an opportunity to serve on the 2020-2021 Grand Jury. The Grand Jury's one-year term begins on July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021.

In order to meet the minimum qualifications for service on the Grand Jury, applicants must be United States citizens who are 18 years of age or older and must reside in Placer County for a minimum of one year immediately prior to becoming a grand juror. Service on the Grand Jury requires a substantial investment of time, usually 40-50

hours per month.

For those interested in obtaining more information, the current Grand Jury will be sponsoring a meet-and-greet session to discuss the workings of the Grand Jury on **April 14 at 10 AM** in the Grand Jury's Office, 11532 B Avenue in Auburn.

Additional information and applications for Grand Jury service are available by contacting the Court Executive Office at 916-408-6186 or by visiting the Court's website at www.placer.courts.ca.gov.

The application deadline is May 8.

GOLDEN DRIFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

BY SARAH FUGATE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please become a 2020 member of the Golden Drift Historical Society. Dutch Flat is fortunate to have a museum in town to preserve and promote the rich history of the region. Membership dues enable us to provide docents and operate the Golden Drift Museum, host special events, accomplish special projects, e.g., historical signs, and provide annual support to local non-profits responsible for maintaining historical buildings in our area.

Becoming a member is easy. Go to our website, www.goldendrift.org, find **Membership Options** near the bottom of the home page, use the pull-down menu to **choose your membership level**, and click **Pay Now**. You'll be routed to PayPal checkout where you have the option to pay by credit card or debit account. Donations can also be made this way.

In May, watch for our new Dutch Flat

Walking Tour Brochure. It will be a trifold, 2-sided brochure with pictures, descriptions and a map to inform locals and visitors about the historic buildings and places within Dutch Flat.

Also in May, we'll host Dutch Flat History Day at the Golden Drift Museum on **Saturday, May 23**. 2020 marks the 160th anniversary of the founding of the Central Pacific Railroad Company in Strong's Drugstore on Main Street in Dutch Flat.

The museum will be open for the season with a new Chinese pioneer exhibit. There will be a tour of historic Dutch Flat, led by Jim Ricker, and a tour of the Dutch Flat Cemetery, led by Debby McClatchy. Both Jim and Debby are excellent historians and do a great job of passing on their knowledge. We'll also have complimentary refreshments provided by volunteers. Come out and spend the day with your neighbors getting to know the history of Dutch Flat.

Five additional historical signs will be installed in Dutch Flat this year: one describing the Towle Brothers and their lumber company in front of the existing Towle house on Main Street, a sign highlighting historic fraternal organizations will be installed near the Oddfellows Hall, a sign describing Dutch Flat's Chinese pioneer history will be installed near the Chinese Adobe on Sacramento Street., one will be placed in front of the Methodist church and another at the Dutch Flat cemetery.

Consider becoming a docent at the museum. You will learn the history of this area and meet new and interesting people. Shifts are only 4 hours and you can volunteer once in the season or many times. Go to our website, www.goldendrift.org, click the **"Become a volunteer"** button, and fill out the form. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Anne Holmes, will get in touch with you promptly.

LAW OFFICE OF JOEL C. BAIOCCHI

JOEL C. BAIOCCHI
ATTORNEY AT LAW

POST OFFICE BOX 67 · DUTCH FLAT, CA 95714
530-389-9175 · 530-389-9176 FAX



31TH ANNUAL DUTCH FLAT WESTERN NIGHT

BY JOE HOFFMAN

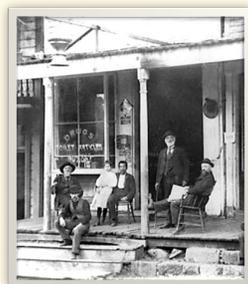
Western Night is almost on us! **Saturday, April 25**, is the date and 5:30 is the time dinner starts. At 6:30 we start singin' the good old songs, and at 7:00 the show starts. There's more to Western Night than cowboys this year, so we'll be singin' and playin' a lot more old-time "Americana" folk music to get a broader picture of our past. Our own talented Deb McClatchy and her remarkable family will be entertaining us on banjos, guitars, as well as Bob Suter and Clan. Our Sunday music-makers, Mark Watson, Heidi Suter, and Will Corbet, will also be part of the Sing-Along team.

Now dinner is as spectacular as the show! Perfectly barbequed tri-tips and chicken, in addition to a complete meal and home-baked pies, your choice! There will be just-what-you-always-wanted door prizes so hang on to your ticket stub!

The location is the Dutch Flat Community Center, 933 Stockton Street downtown Dutch Flat (10 miles on up I80 from Colfax). Prices: adults \$16, children under 12 \$8, and a family-cap of \$40 (for parents & their children under 12). Reservations are limited and may be purchased in advance at the Dutch Flat Trading Post. Or to make reservations and pick up your tickets at the door, call 916-847-8477.

Whoopi-ty-yi-yay! Bring your fam'ly our way! It'll sure make your day!

STRONG'S DRUGSTORE

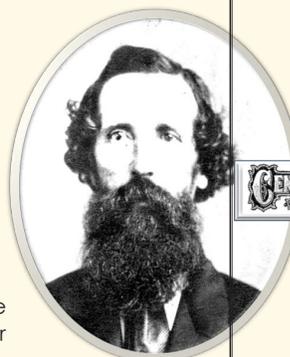


STRONG'S DRUGSTORE

Strong discovered, and Judah mapped, the once elusive Pacific Route over Donner Summit.



The Central Pacific Railroad Company was founded here in 1860 enabling the completion of the transcontinental railroad.



DR. DANIEL W. STRONG
CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD



THEODORE D. JUDAH
CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD



Hearse House Garden



Petroglyph Falls

Joan
Chlarson



Depot Hill, 1910



Lake Alta



The Diggins Gold

Online Gallery:

BearsLoveArt.com

PO Box 268 DUTCH FLAT CA 95714
530.389.2769 Joan@BearsLoveArt.com

Watercolor

and the book is comfortable to read. He is also clearly motivated by his own cultural identity and the reader feels his joy with each discovery.

In some ways the book is as much about the history of the TRR as about those who built it. But that seems appropriate as the two were so intertwined. Professor Chang does present some questionable local statistics. He places Dutch Flat as a neighbor to Auburn and establishes our Chinese population in the 1850's, well before the building of the railroad, at 3500 - far more than the estimated 800 our museum researchers have found for the next decade. Also, the otherwise exquisite painting on the dust jacket, presents the Chinese workers as being lowered in baskets, presumably on Cape Horn. Professor Chang presents a compelling case to support this, except it is all from second and third-hand written accounts. No photos, pictures, or first hand accounts have been found. The general viewpoint lately has been suspicious of the basket story. Much here for thought.

Small quibbles of an otherwise highly enjoyable and informative book now available at bookstores and the County libraries. The author is a professor of history at Stanford University and author of eight other books. His pedigree shows through every page.

A number of years ago, I wrote an article for this newspaper about Dutch Flat's Chinese heritage. I learned many new and interesting facts from this book and present some now.

Completion of the TRR shortened a journey of three to six months to that of one week and promoted healing after the Civil War. The Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR) workers were 90% Chinese and completed 690 miles of track from the West. They were mainly men in their teens and early twenties. The Union Pacific (UPRR) used Irish, European, and Civil War vets and completed an easier 1,086 miles in the same time. From 1864 to 1869, they all together were the single largest workforce in U.S. history to that date. It is estimated that 250,000 letters were sent back and forth from China, but not a single one or other written text has been found.

Most of the railroad Chinese came from four counties in Guangdong in Southern China, known as the Pearl River Delta. This is an area slightly larger than San Francisco and so densely populated that life was very difficult. About one-quarter of the residents left to work overseas in the nineteenth century. The climate was similar to the Sacramento Valley, where many workers eventually permanently settled. Leaving

China was officially illegal but to return meant possible death, so many stayed in the U.S. Most left in groups of family members. They generally sailed on ships owned by railroad companies, another way these businesses profited from them. Upon arrival in San Francisco, many were taken in hand by one of six Chinese benevolent societies, and given space to sleep in Chinatown. These societies were also responsible for returning the bones of those who died home to China. Others arrived into nightmares where armed overseers forced those on a "credit-ticket" system, and beholden to others for their fare, into railroad cars and unsure destinations.

Each worker was paid one dollar a day in gold coins, and their day was ten to twelve hours long, six days a week, with Sundays off. Out of this they paid for their own meals and lodging. Many contractors made their profit not off of wages, but from keeping the crews supplied and fed. White workers received thirty percent more and were sometimes housed in the more comfortable train-hotels, which could sleep up to five hundred.

Trestles, like the one at Secret Town, were built by American carpenters of European ancestry. The Chinese were used more for physical labor and as cooks, blacksmiths, and general helpers.

The TRR was the second largest construction project ever attempted. The first was the Suez Canal, built at the same time. During this time in the 1860's, thirty percent of Placer County was Chinese. In 1865, as the TRR grew towards Dutch Flat, two to three thousand Chinese worked the line, many recruited from a contractor in Auburn named Hung Wah. He was honored at the Promontory Ceremony by an invitation to a party given by field construction boss, Strobridge, in his private carriage.

We have so few individual names; most were listed on payroll sheets by the name of their contractor, as "Ah Fong's men". Each contractor represented about twenty-five men and he worked alongside them. Some had multiple crews, as Hung Wah, with more than nine hundred workers under him at one time, and became very wealthy. Archeological evidence from workers' camps show that most of the goods they ate, used medically, for kitchen prep, and personal items had been brought across the Pacific from the Pearl River Delta. Ships' manifests include rice, dried fish and shrimp, noodles, soy sauce, teas, seaweeds, and fermented sauces. Also firecrackers, candles, sweet delicacies for feasts, chopsticks, and lacquer and bamboo ware were imported. Exactly what you would still find for sale in today's

GHOSTS OF GOLD MOUNTAIN BY GORDON H. CHANG

REVIEW AND EXCERPTS BY
DEBBY MCCLATCHY

All throughout 2019, we celebrated the sesquicentennial of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad (TRR). Now a wonderful book, "*Ghosts of Gold Mountain*", effectively chronicles the Chinese railroad workers from their origins in Southern China to the finish of the TRR and beyond. From the cover art by Mian Situ, to the detailed notes, this book is a stylish offering and gives serious tribute to the contributions of the Chinese crews.

The book is well written with lots of details but doesn't get bogged down by minutia. Professor Chang presents a nice balance of facts and descriptive passages. As a resident of the area he writes about, I felt it authentic and precise. Through letters and media quotes he recreates personal lives and stories of the new realities in California. There is a great flow forward to his phrasing,

Chinatown.

These foods were augmented by lots of fresh produce, meats, and fish supplied locally. In the 1860's, Chinese operated thirty-six truck farms in Placer County, one half of the total. There was so much fish and seafood available that some of it was sent back to China. The Chinese cooks stocked small lakes along the route with catfish, still found there today.

One workers' camp, at Donner Summit, existed for four years as laborers finished all the tunnels. Wooden buildings still couldn't protect them from the terrible winter of 1867-68, as forty blizzards covered the mountains with forty-four feet of snow. Tunnels through the snow to bring in supplies stretched for hundreds of feet. Chimneys and air shafts poked out the top. Many worker deaths and injuries were attributed to avalanches. The most daunting of all their work was the "Summit Tunnel", 1,659 feet in length and 23 feet high. It took two years to excavate, using only hammers, chisels, and black powder. During harsh winters workers both lived and labored in the dark, dusty enclosure.

Historians portray the Railroad Chinese as predominantly docile. But grueling, dangerous work, unequal pay, and blatant racism forced many to quit and find work elsewhere. This was followed by a well-coordinated strike in June 1867 of three thousand workers. Charlie Crocker, in charge of all labor, stood firm. The workers relented, having little social and economic support, and threatened by large numbers of new crews arriving from China. But the strikers still won a psychological battle. The TRR never took them for granted again, and wages, at least for the more skilled, gradually went up. The strikers also gained self-respect, as the effort was more important to them than the outcome. They had proved solidarity along the line.

When the TRR reached Utah, Mormon and Native American crews joined the Chinese. Crocker treated the Indians just as he had the Chinese, as "they were so much alike personally, no one could tell them apart". There was some friction between the two cultures, but mostly they got along, even intermarried.

In comparison, interaction between the Chinese and the UPRR Irish workers included serious violence and overt hostilities. This was exacerbated by competitions hosted by the owners for the greatest daily track mileage. Helped by prodigious advance planning and supplying, the Chinese ultimately won, laying ten miles and fifty-six feet of track in a twelve hour day,

when six miles would have been astounding. Reporters referred to the crews as the "Asiatic contingent of the Grand Army of Civilization".

Completion of the TRR not only allowed Easterners to settle the West, but facilitated the Railroad Chinese to move eastward. Spurred on by an article that eventually appeared in twenty newspapers, "The China Man as Railroad Builder", which praised their stamina, expertise, and lower costs, the American Chinese enjoyed a brief period of opportunity and respect. Unsuccessful efforts were even proposed to use them to replace slaves in southern plantations. Many returned to China, but most went on to become farmers, small merchants, cooks, and herbal doctors. Many still worked on railroads, in southern California, Canada, and on other continents.

The TRR kept no records of worker's deaths, but detailed accounts of the Canadian railroad showed ten percent of their workers died in the process. This number was definitely at least duplicated on the TRR. Personal letters between the Big Four and members of their staff show little concern for these deaths, belittling reports that it was "in their interest to safeguard employees". Official reports show only 150 deaths by accident or disease. Later records of bones found along the tracks and shipped home showed over 1200.

Immigration from China now was also stimulated, with an average of 15,000 a year arriving until 1877. During that year, a coordinated effort, probably led by a secret fraternal organization, The Order of Caucasians, burned down every Chinatown in Northern California. Dutch Flat was one of the few communities to help them rebuild. The worst atrocities were committed in Truckee and, thereafter, such

acts were known as the "Truckee Method". In 1882, Congress passed the first Chinese Inclusion Acts, and the Chinese were denied citizenship up to 1943.

Professor Chang finishes by stating, "they did more than survive, they also triumphed.... they built rich lives and contributed to society....admiration, even celebration, is due them". How very true!! We can be so proud that our town of Dutch Flat played such a large part in that historic time.

PLACER AMENDS IMPACT FEE SCHEDULES FOR SMALLER ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

PLACER COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

JAN. 16, 2020

New State laws aimed at increasing the supply of affordable housing are being implemented in Placer County, reducing the cost and regulatory requirements for residents to build accessory or junior accessory dwelling units on their property.

The County Board of Supervisors approved an update to its fee schedule for accessory and junior accessory dwelling units to align it with the State law changes, exempting certain development impact fees for secondary units smaller than 750 square feet. That amounts to savings of about \$15,000 per unit, though the fee range depends on a unit's location.

"Hopefully this will help get some more affordable housing units built in our communities," said Board Chair Bonnie Gore.

Accessory dwelling units are additional

Accessory units continued on Page 9

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the Elvis shake.

Working with the Community

Speaking of Elvis, they play Elvis music and movies along with the great food. Friday nights they serve dinner along with some great music provided by local musicians. The Kai Clark Band plays and jams with other musicians from the area. Jason, who sings, plays guitar and drums also loves to jam on Friday nights when he isn't helping Desiree in the kitchen. Their goal is to serve fun, good quality food, a family atmosphere and keep it growing.

Desiree and Jason's other mission is to support the community and provide a safe, warm friendly environment. They try to provide a welcoming place for those less fortunate and in the afternoon, they provide a safe place for young people to come, study and have a snack with food donated by the community.

Also featured are local artists every month who display their art for sale. The featured artist for March is Jennifer Longnecker. They also have a childrens' book written by a local artist and author. The book is for sale, but children are allowed to look at and read the book while at the Café.

Desiree and Jason hope the community will support them in their new endeavor. So, if you are looking for some good food, a warm cave to hang out and hibernate for a while or a good time on a Friday evening, stop in at the Alta Bear Cave Café.

They do not have a business phone and prefer people stop by to order take out. Their hours are as follows:

Mondays: Closed

Tuesday – Thursday 11:30 am to 7 pm

Fridays - 2 pm – 9 pm, dinner and Open Mike Jam Session

Saturdays – 10 am to 7 pm

Sunday – 9:30 am to 4 pm

PLACER COUNTY RECEIVES GRANT TO SUPPORT RESI- DENTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S, DEMENTIA

PLACER COUNTY PRESS RELEASE
FEBRUARY 20, 2020

A new grant from the California Department of Public Health will help create "dementia-friendly communities" in Placer County. The County's Public Health division was one of six statewide that were awarded

Alta Bear Cave continued from Page 1

Everything is freshly cooked and prepared. They have great homemade soups, including Prime Rib and Harvest Vegetable soup. They can also accommodate any dietary lifestyle, including vegetarian, Keto, Paleo or gluten free. So, sit back, relax and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

Their menu is extensive with breakfast items, hot-off-the-grill waffles, pancakes and eggs, along with huge breakfast burritos. The grill menu includes a variety of sandwiches and eight handcrafted hamburgers made with fresh beef - juicy, perfectly cooked and seasoned. They have a cowboy western burger with fried onion rings, a homemade barbecue sauce and the works.

Also, on the menu are their popular Redneck Fries made with crispy fries, topped with house-made beer cheese, pulled pork (smoked over 18 hours) and their barbecue sauce, lettuce, tomato, cilantro and sour cream made to order. Redneck fries come in individual portion size or family size to share.

Also on the menu is Jalisco style Mexican food including tacos and burritos, Carnitas and Carne Asada. No ground beef, just quality homecooked steak and pork.

As I said before, there is a great coffee menu with handcrafted coffee beverages and shakes. They have eight different shakes to go with your burger, including the Elvis milk shake. Desiree would not share the ingredients (shhh! It is a secret recipe.) So, you will have to try



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the competitive grant, and will receive a total of \$750,000 over a period of about two years. The grant is part of the larger Healthy Brain Initiative.

Public Health will embark on a collaborative effort to increase community supports so that residents with Alzheimer's and other age-related brain dementias may lead fulfilling lives and remain engaged and independent as long as possible.

Placer is an aging community, with 74,000 residents over the age of 65 in 2017. The county's senior population will surge to about 120,000 by 2030, according to California Department of Finance forecasts — about 26% of the total estimated population.

From 2003 to 2017, the number of deaths in Placer County from Alzheimer's increased 162%, making it the third-leading cause of death.

"This grant will allow us to mobilize partnerships across many sectors, like health care, transportation, community-based organizations, law enforcement, businesses and others," said Dr. Aimee Sisson, the County's Health Officer and Public Health Director. "Bringing everyone to the table will give us a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of our residents with Alzheimer's and their caregivers."

Over the grant period, Public Health will conduct initial, more in-depth research into areas of need in our community; develop a collaborative advisory committee; and work with that group on community outreach and policies that could positively impact the county, informed by best practices from other communities across the country.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to address this public health issue at the local level, and together with our community partners, find meaningful solutions to minimize the impacts of Alzheimer's disease to Placer County residents," Sisson said.

Accessory units continued from Page 7

structures added to properties with a primary residence. Often called granny flats or in-law quarters, they include all the amenities of a traditional home like a bathroom, kitchen and sleeping area. A junior ADU is smaller unit built within an existing home (like a garage conversion), which can share facilities like a bathroom with the main home.

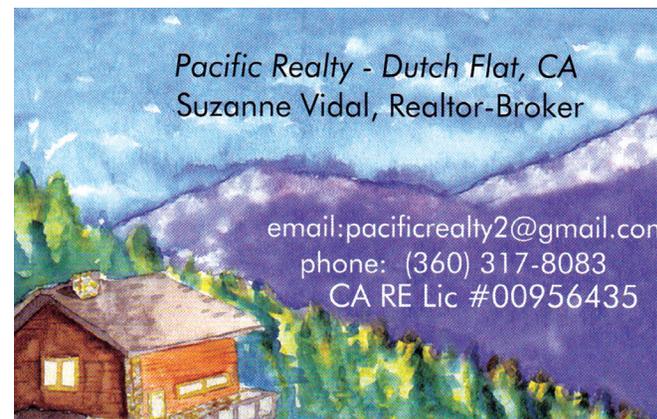
In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law six bills intended to reduce local barriers to building accessory dwelling units.

Building more ADU's is widely considered to be part of the solution to California's housing challenges. Because ADU's are smaller than many traditional single-family homes they're generally more affordable by nature. And they're often faster to build, since they usually don't require additional utility infra-structure and have fewer permitting restrictions than primary homes.

Though Placer's ordinance will not be in effect for 30 days and the fee schedule won't be in effect for 60 days, Placer has already been complying with the new State law since it went into effect Jan. 1 and has been consistent with the ordinance and fee schedule for eligible projects.

Consistent with State law, Placer County imposes fees on development projects to offset the need for more infrastructure and services additional residences will create.

As of Jan. 1, California law exempts ADU's less than 750 square feet from local impact fees and requires that fees for an ADU of 750 square feet or more must be charged proportionately in relation to the square foot-



age of the primary dwelling unit.

The new law does not alter connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, including water and sewer service, unless the accessory dwelling unit is built with a new single-family dwelling.

Placer Planning staff expect to bring forward additional ordinance changes for the Board's consideration to fully align County regulations with the remaining State law changes.



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Peggy Roberts, DVM

STAY THE HECK PUT

BY G.A. LENNON

epidemicsweb.wordpress.com

A subtle reminder: “Things that go bump in the night” which I wrote as an intro to this blog in March 2017.

Avian flu? Smallpox in refrigerators... somewhere? Ebola? Hanta? and anything else live and well that goes bump in the night. We will be witnesses to and perhaps players in to the next pandemic. When will it occur? Tomorrow? This afternoon, or YIKES, in the middle of the night? Are we prepared? Good luck with that.

It is now 2020...and the beat goes on... OK, are we in a pandemic or not? Do we need to have every country infected before WHO will get off their backsides and call it? By definition, the new Corona virus has crossed borders - states, countries and continents. What else do we need for it to be recognized as up front and personal everywhere?

I'm a microbiologist and have just finished a creepy book on pandemics, co-authored with a famous epidemiologist. Unfortunately, it is in the long line up to be published. So here we are, living the last chapter of that book which is entitled “For Whom the Bell Tolls”.

I wrote that chapter over three years ago and now it is coming to rest. What do we do IF? Frankly, we are living the IF. But so many Americans especially are lulled into smart phone tweets, and the latest fear-based info that the press has finally decided to spew. But guess what? Most of it isn't “fake news”. We are no longer living in a world of NON Communication. During the last big pandemic of flu or, at least the most famous inappropriately called “The Spanish Flu”, there were no flutes and whistles of direct communication worldwide. Hence the misnomer, by the way.

The Covid19 virus is now the official title of our current visitor. Maybe the Corona beer company litigated. In any event, we are all rapidly trained as sheep to accept all

the news and statistics. I don't. I will often repeat: Something smells. The numbers are off, the response is inadequate if not extraordinarily flawed. But I also know that there are courageous reporters of current facts as we know them. Chris Martenson is one of them. He is tireless in his daily reports and I agree with most. Maybe the mortality isn't as bad as the creeping Ebola surges but dead is dead whatever percentage. And then we linger at those who count their stock's decline as an indication... shame on you. Get off your butts and stop worrying about money and look at where things are going.

The disturbing fact is that this virus can be anything from asymptomatic to deadly in a heartbeat or it can stretch out symptoms for almost 3 weeks so far and potentially shed virus after being released from quarantine. That translates to one thing that everyone needs to understand: crowds. Incubator experiences like closed planes, trains and cruise ships are a great means of putting people in close proximity and jeopardy. I love the BART in the California Bay area, but YIKES, I wouldn't be on any rapid travel situation at all for now.

Hence, why I gave this blog the title “Stay the Heck Put!”. I know we have to go to school and work, we have to feed our families, we have to attend church, we have to, have to, have to. Right now, we all need to STOP and realize that this is a serious situation, a potential plague at our doorstep. Keep kids home if they aren't well. Don't go to work if you are sick. It isn't cool. It isn't wise and it is dangerous to everyone else.

If this was the bubonic plague or small pox, buboes (those creeping swelling that gave bubonic plague its name) and the pox of small pox were obvious and easily observed in the community. The herd controlled the herd as best that they knew how.

Isolation could be achieved by staying at home. Don't get me started on the boarding up of houses in Europe during the plague. Here, we are determined to live life in the normal way and not give up a thing, including cruises, and trips abroad.

Our little friend Covid19 is trying to teach us a lesson and that is to follow safe precautions. China, and its way over-used term “draconian” methods, started too late in the piece. The rest of the spread is due to people from China and the magic of invisible spread on uncontrolled situations such as airline travel.

I have written about Ebola but the best story I ever heard was from Dr. Bill Close's book “Ebola” which covered the first response to the first outbreak in Sudan. No one knew the cause. No one knew the why,

but people were dropping dead of hemorrhagic disease. The African chiefs figured it out: hammer up fences around the villages infected. NO IN, NO OUT. Did this method stop the spread? Maybe not, but it slowed it down. People and rituals and loving families had to change their ways to stay alive.

With the advent of rapid global travel, any but anywhere can hitch hike and reach another shore in hours. The respiratory viruses are the best at that mode of dissemination.

Covid19 has a low mortality rate, but people still die. The immuno-compromised and elders are allegedly at highest risk. That could change. But for now, we have the possibility of our good ole US of A getting it spread rapidly as well.

Singapore has a great idea. Find the folks that break quarantine or go snorting out into public. Draconian??? They GET IT. Control is control and it has to be obeyed. All the Kumbaya folks that want their freedom and won't listen need to move to Mars. It is time to hunker down and behave and LISTEN to reason.

As for the testing, I called a friend who speaks fluent immunology. There's no Ag/Ab lateral flow, rapid Dx test for Covid19, so the world is stuck with a molecular test that can only be done in bigger labs. On top of that, the test formulation that CDC put out had at least one non-optimal PCR primer set.

What is bottom line for those of us that don't have a PhD in Molecular Biology? We still won't have rapid testing for awhile. It isn't some dark super-cosmic conspiracy plan for dissemination of population by not testing. It boils down to the fact that we have once again been caught with our pants down - insufficient preparation. I'll be fair and also say that each new virus requires its own specific test. But that oversimplifies the issue. Until we can have proper rapid testing on site wherever there are people who have been symptomatic or exposed, we are all at invisible risk. This bug can fool everyone.

So rug up, pour yourself a glass of wine, or herbal tea, and wait it out. Wash your hands a hundred times a day, singing the happy birthday song twice (that is real research proven info), spray or wash down door knobs, handles and, yes, wear an N95 mask if you are in a crowded place. An N95 has a hepa filter inside the mask. They are the ones that vaguely make one look like Porky Pig. But there are restrictions of time use and proper installation. They won't last for days and they won't help if they are not placed tightly on the face. Scenes of people in line with masks below their noses...well... need I say more?

Oh yes, spray down that beloved cud-

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So here we are. What do we do? THINK before you act. Don't sign up for big crowd fests and closed-in flights and cruises. Sure, maybe they've fixed the shared air in plane cabins but they haven't fixed people that sneeze and cough in crowded cabins. By the way, thank you airlines for putting more seats in for your economic increase. We now are like flying sardines. Nix the drink service and carry your own water and food. Thank you, Southwest for spear heading this tradition.

I'm the first to get bored with isolation, but it is time to hunker down and hunker well until this things is over. If you have to travel, and it is at all possible, do a road trip, listen to NPR or my beloved pasttime Books on CD or MP3. But stay home if you can.

Get some food and supplies in but don't go crazy and hoard. You will be the draconian one if you do.

HELP ONE ANOTHER, not just your neighbors and close friends. We are all in this together.

Share rides to store or pick up things for others. "How can I help?" needs to be the prime directive in our little piece of heaven on earth: Alta, Dutch Flat and Gold Run.

And it ain't over yet, baby, it ain't over yet.

Good info: youtube: Chris Martenson Peak Prosperity; Youtube: Dr. John Campbell Both Martenson and Campbell have re-ally simple info on preparation and staying healthy.

THE WORLD'S SIX BEST DOCTORS

STEVE JOBS, 2011

Steve Jobs was the co-founder, Chairman and CEO of Apple Corporation and died in 2011, aged 56, after losing his battle with Pancreatic Cancer. He posted the following observation just prior to his death.

I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In some others' eyes, my life is the epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, my wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on my bed and recalling my life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in have paled and become meaningless in the face of my death.

You can employ someone to drive the car for you or make money for you but you cannot have someone bear your sickness for

you. Material things lost can be found or replaced. But there is one thing that can never be found when it's lost - Life. Whichever stage in life you are in right now, with time, you will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends. Treat yourself well and cherish others. As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, we realize that a \$300 or a \$30 watch both tell the same time. You will realize that your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether you fly first class or economy, if the plane goes down - you go down with it.

Therefore, I hope you realize, when you have mates, buddies, and old friends, brothers and sisters, who you chat with, laugh with, talk with, have sing songs with, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth, that is true happiness! Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. So when they grow up they will know the value of things and not the price. Eat your food as your medicine, otherwise you have to eat medicine as your food.

There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!

The six best doctors in the world are sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confidence and friends. Maintain them in all stages and enjoy a healthy life.



CHEERS OR JEERS

BY MARGIE NICKLAUS

Dark Waters Mark Ruffalo gives an Oscar worthy performance as Robert Bilott, a corporate defense attorney who uncovers a dark secret that connects a growing number of deaths, unexplained I might add, to one of the world's largest corporation, DuPont. Based on the shocking true story, it spans

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almost 20 years and mountains of discovery. Cheers.

Joker was not on my list to see but then it garnered 11 Oscar nods so, yep, we caved in. Joaquin Phoenix gives an electrifying performance as failed comedian Arthur Fleck who encounters violent thugs while wandering the streets of Gotham City dressed as a clown. He begins a slow descent into violence and madness as he transforms into the mastermind as the Joker. There is strong language and some bloody violence, so not for everyone.

Just Mercy - The true story of Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) a new attorney in the 80's who goes to Alabama to fight to exonerate men on death row. Not all, of course, but when he meets Walter McMillan, (Jamie Foxx) who has been on the row for 10 years, and finds out the awful reason, he throws himself into uncovering the truth. It's tense and agonizing, but Jordan and Foxx are magnificent. *Big Cheers*

Bad Boys for Life Just fun, but the body count is high and the chase scenes are really high. The wife and son of a Mexican drug lord start a vengeful quest to kill all those involved in his trial and imprisonment, including Mike Lowrey, a Miami detective played by non-other than Will Smith. He teams up again with his partner, Marcus - who wants to retire after he is wounded, and bring the culprits to justice. It's a free for all. *Mild Cheers*

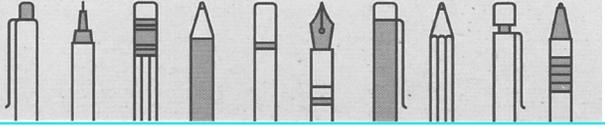
Call of the Wild Based on the beloved book by Jack London, Buck is a big-hearted dog whose blissful life gets turned upside down when he is uprooted from his California home and sent to the exotic wilds of the Alaskan Yukon in the 1890's to be the newest rookie on a mail delivery dog sled team. He experiences adventures of a lifetime and he finally finds his true place in the world along with Harrison Ford who is magnificent. *Big Cheers* despite the real looking computer-generated animals.

Movies continued on Page 14

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ROUGHING IT

BY MARK TWAIN

1880

CHAPTER VI

It did seem strange enough to see a town again after what appeared to us such a long acquaintance with deep, still, almost lifeless and houseless solitude! We tumbled out into the busy street feeling like meteoric people crumbled off the corner of some other world, and wakened up suddenly in this. For an hour we took as much interest in Overland City as if we had never seen a town before. The reason we had an hour to spare was because we had to change our stage (for a less sumptuous affair, called a "mud-wagon") and transfer our freight of mails.

Presently we got under way again. We came to the shallow, yellow, muddy South Platte, with its low banks and its scattering flat sand-bars and pigmy islands--a melancholy stream straggling through the centre of the enormous flat plain, and only saved from being impossible to find with the naked eye by its sentinel rank of scattering trees standing on either bank. The Platte was "up," they said--which made me wish I could see it when it was down, if it could look any sicker and sorrier. They said it was a dangerous stream to cross, now, because its quicksands were liable to swallow up horses, coach and passengers if an attempt was made to ford it. But the mails had to go, and we made the attempt. Once or twice in midstream the wheels sunk into the yielding sands so threateningly that we half believed we had dreaded and avoided the sea all our lives to be shipwrecked in a "mud-wagon" in the middle of a desert at last. But we dragged through and sped away toward the setting sun.

Next morning, just before dawn, when about five hundred and fifty miles from St. Joseph, our mud-wagon broke down. We were to be delayed five or six hours, and therefore we took horses, by invitation, and joined a party who were just starting on a buffalo hunt. It was noble sport galloping over the plain in the dewy freshness of the morning, but our part of the hunt ended in

disaster and disgrace, for a wounded buffalo bull chased the passenger Bemis nearly two miles, and then he forsook his horse and took to a lone tree. He was very sullen about the matter for some twenty-four hours, but at last he began to soften little by little, and finally he said:

"Well, it was not funny, and there was no sense in those gawks making themselves so facetious over it. I tell you I was angry in earnest for awhile. I should have shot that long gangly lubber they called Hank, if I could have done it without crippling six or seven other people--but of course I couldn't, the old 'Allen's' so confounded comprehensive. I wish those loafers had been up in the tree; they wouldn't have wanted to laugh so. If I had had a horse worth a cent--but no, the minute he saw that buffalo bull wheel on him and give a bellow, he raised straight up in the air and stood on his heels. The saddle began to slip, and I took him round the neck and laid close to him, and began to pray. Then he came down and stood up on the other end awhile, and the bull actually stopped pawing sand and bellowing to contemplate the inhuman spectacle.

"Then the bull made a pass at him and uttered a bellow that sounded perfectly frightful, it was so close to me, and that seemed to literally prostrate my horse's reason, and make a raving distracted maniac of him, and I wish I may die if he didn't stand on his head for a quarter of a minute and shed tears. He was absolutely out of his mind--he was, as sure as truth itself, and he really didn't know what he was doing. Then the bull came charging at us, and my horse dropped down on all fours and took a fresh start--and then for the next ten minutes he would actually throw one hand-spring after another so fast that the bull began to get unsettled, too, and didn't know where to start in--and so he stood there sneezing, and shovelling dust over his back, and bellowing every now and then, and thinking he had got a fifteen-hundred dollar circus horse for breakfast, certain. Well, I was first out on his neck--the horse's, not the bull's--and then underneath, and next on his rump, and sometimes head up, and sometimes heels--but I tell you it seemed solemn and awful to be ripping and tearing and carrying on so in the presence of death, as you might say. Pretty soon the bull made a snatch for us and brought away some of my horse's tail (I suppose, but do not know, being pretty busy at the time), but something made him hungry for solitude and suggested to him to get up and hunt for it.

"And then you ought to have seen that spider legged old skeleton go! And you ought

to have seen the bull cut out after him, too--head down, tongue out, tail up, bellowing like everything, and actually mowing down the weeds, and tearing up the earth, and boosting up the sand like a whirlwind! By George, it was a hot race! I and the saddle were back on the rump, and I had the bridle in my teeth and holding on to the pommel with both hands. First we left the dogs behind; then we passed a jackass rabbit; then we overtook a coyote, and were gaining on an antelope when the rotten girth let go and threw me about thirty yards off to the left, and as the saddle went down over the horse's rump he gave it a lift with his heels that sent it more than four hundred yards up in the air, I wish I may die in a minute if he didn't. I fell at the foot of the only solitary tree there was in nine counties adjacent (as any creature could see with the naked eye), and the next second I had hold of the bark with four sets of nails and my teeth, and the next second after that I was astraddle of the main limb and blaspheming my luck in a way that made my breath smell of brimstone. I had the bull, now, if he did not think of one thing. But that one thing I dreaded. I dreaded it very seriously. There was a possibility that the bull might not think of it, but there were greater chances that he would. I made up my mind what I would do in case he did. It was a little over forty feet to the ground from where I sat. I cautiously unwound the lariat from the pommel of my saddle----

"Your saddle? Did you take your saddle up in the tree with you?"

"Take it up in the tree with me? Why, how you talk. Of course I didn't. No man could do that. It fell in the tree when it came down."

"Oh--exactly."

"Certainly. I unwound the lariat, and fastened one end of it to the limb. It was the very best green raw-hide, and capable of sustaining tons. I made a slip-noose in the other end, and then hung it down to see the length. It reached down twenty-two feet--half way to the ground. I then loaded every barrel of the Allen with a double charge. I felt satisfied. I said to myself, if he never thinks of that one thing that I dread, all right--but if he does, all right anyhow--I am fixed for him. But don't you know that the very thing a man dreads is the thing that always happens? Indeed it is so. I watched the bull, now, with anxiety--anxiety which no one can conceive of who has not been in such a situation and felt that at any moment death might come. Presently a thought came into the bull's eye. I knew it! said I--if my nerve fails now, I am lost. Sure enough, it was just as I had dreaded, he started in to climb the tree----

"What, the bull?"

"Of course--who else?"

"But a bull can't climb a tree."

"He can't, can't he? Since you know so much about it, did you ever see a bull try?"

"No! I never dreamt of such a thing."

"Well, then, what is the use of your talking that way, then? Because you never saw a thing done, is that any reason why it can't be done?"

"Well, all right--go on. What did you do?"

"The bull started up, and got along well for about ten feet, then slipped and slid back. I breathed easier. He tried it again--got up a little higher--slipped again. But he came at it once more, and this time he was careful. He got gradually higher and higher, and my spirits went down more and more. Up he came--an inch at a time--with his eyes hot, and his tongue hanging out. Higher and higher--hitched his foot over the stump of a limb, and looked up, as much as to say, 'You are my meat, friend.' Up again--higher and higher, and getting more excited the closer he got. He was within ten feet of me! I took a long breath,--and then said I, 'It is now or never.' I had the coil of the lariat all ready; I paid it out slowly, till it hung right over his head; all of a sudden I let go of the slack, and the slip-noose fell fairly round his neck! Quicker than lightning I cut with the Allen and let him have it in the face. It was an awful roar, and must have scared the bull out of his senses. When the smoke cleared away, there he was, dangling in the air, twenty foot from the ground, and going out of one convulsion into another faster than you could count! I didn't stop to count, anyhow--I shinned down the tree and shot for home."

"Bemis, is all that true, just as you have stated it?"

"I wish I may rot in my tracks and die the death of a dog if it isn't."

"Well, we can't refuse to believe it, and we don't. But if there were some proofs----"

"Proofs! Did I bring back my lariat?"

"No."

"Did I bring back my horse?"

"No."

"Did you ever see the bull again?"

"No."

"Well, then, what more do you want? I never saw anybody as particular as you are about a little thing like that."

I made up my mind that if this man was not a liar he only missed it by the skin of his teeth. This episode reminds me of an incident of my brief sojourn in Siam, years afterward. The European citizens of a town in the neighborhood of Bangkok had a prodigy among them by the name of Eckert, an

Englishman--a person famous for the number, ingenuity and imposing magnitude of his lies. They were always repeating his most celebrated falsehoods, and always trying to "draw him out" before strangers; but they seldom succeeded. Twice he was invited to the house where I was visiting, but nothing could seduce him into a specimen lie.

One day a planter named Bascom, an influential man, and a proud and sometimes irascible one, invited me to ride over with him and call on Eckert. As we jogged along, said he:

"Now, do you know where the fault lies? It lies in putting Eckert on his guard. The minute the boys go to pumping at Eckert he knows perfectly well what they are after, and of course he shuts up his shell. Anybody might know he would. But when we get there, we must play him finer than that. Let him shape the conversation to suit himself--let him drop it or change it whenever he wants to. Let him see that nobody is trying to draw him out. Just let him have his own way. He will soon forget himself and begin to grind out lies like a mill. Don't get impatient -- just keep quiet, and let me play him. I will make him lie. It does seem to me that the boys must be blind to overlook such an obvious and simple trick as that."

Eckert received us heartily--a pleasant-spoken, gentle-mannered creature. We sat in the veranda an hour, sipping English ale, and talking about the king, and the sacred white elephant, the Sleeping Idol, and all manner of things; and I noticed that my comrade never led the conversation himself or shaped it, but simply followed Eckert's lead, and betrayed no solicitude and no anxiety about anything. The effect was shortly perceptible. Eckert began to grow communicative; he grew more and more at his ease, and more and more talkative and sociable. Another hour passed in the same way, and then all of a sudden Eckert said:

"Oh, by the way! I came near forgetting. I have got a thing here to astonish you. Such a thing as neither you nor any other man ever heard of -- I've got a cat that will eat cocoanut! Common green cocoanut--and not only eat the meat, but drink the milk. It is so--I'll swear to it."

A quick glance from Bascom--a glance that I understood--then:

"Why, bless my soul, I never heard of such a thing. Man, it is impossible."

"I knew you would say it. I'll fetch the cat."

He went in the house. Bascom said:

"There--what did I tell you? Now, that is the

way to handle Eckert. You see, I have petted him along patiently, and put his suspicions to sleep. I am glad we came. You tell the boys about it when you go back. Cat eat a cocoanut--oh, my! Now, that is just his way, exactly--he will tell the absurdest lie, and trust to luck to get out of it again.

"Cat eat a cocoanut--the innocent fool!"

Eckert approached with his cat, sure enough.

Bascom smiled. Said he:

"I'll hold the cat--you bring a cocoanut."

Eckert split one open, and chopped up some pieces. Bascom smuggled a wink to me, and proffered a slice of the fruit to puss. She snatched it, swallowed it ravenously, and asked for more!

We rode our two miles in silence, and wide apart. At least I was silent, though Bascom cuffed his horse and cursed him a good deal, notwithstanding the horse was behaving well enough. When I branched off homeward, Bascom said "Keep the horse till morning. And--you need not speak of this--foolishness to the boys."

A STORY I WAS TOLD AS A PACIFIC BELL EMPLOYEE IN 1956

BY DAVE BALLENGER

Before the central offices, Pacific Bell had what was called Agents. Agents were residents who would allow Pacific Bell to install a switchboard in their home and pay that family to operate that switchboard 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As an installer-repairman, I had access to the Alta central office where the dial tone originated behind the Alta store. This central office served the surrounding area.

The lady that had the Alta area switchboard in her home had had it with the demands of the switchboard and told Pacific Bell they had a month to come and get that switchboard or they would find it in her front yard.

In the meantime a cement slab and building was built to house the central office behind the Alta Store. Pacific Bell was replacing an aged rotary dial central office at Sharp Park south of San Francisco on Hwy 1. After cut-over, the central office was boxed up and sent to Alta. This was done before they found the switchboard in that lady's front yard. Soon after a new central office was built in Dutch Flat.

The last family that I know of that had a magneto switchboard in their home was Tom and Maria Sparks in Newcastle, CA.



REMEMBERING

JAMES "BUD" PAUL
1952-2019



Bud Paul, 67, passed away on December 27, 2019 at his house in Dutch Flat doing what he loved, working in his yard. He was preceded in death by his parents James A. Paul and Yvette H. Paul, both of Meadow Vista, California. He is survived by his daughter: Jana Johnston (Braden), son: Andy Paul (Tina), his six grandsons: Beau Davis, Dillon Davis, Austin Davis, Blake Johnston, William Paul and Anthony Paul, his two granddaughters: Ashlie Little and Leah Johnston, and his two great-grandsons: Jameson Davis and Logan Davis. Bud is also survived by his three sisters: Marcia Belford (Mike), Linda Schlichting (Bill), and Ricki Kartes (Kevin).

Bud was born on May 1, 1952 in Sacramento. He grew up in Meadow Vista, attended Placer Hills Elementary, Weimar Middle School and graduated in 1970 from Placer High in Auburn. Bud retired from PG&E in 2017 after 46 years of service in the Gas and Hydroelectric Divisions and had many cherished friends, stories and memories from his time there.

He adored his dogs. An avid fisherman, Bud loved the outdoors, gardening, birds and animals. He was active in conservation organizations such as the Audubon Society, the Ocean Conservancy, and the Nature Conservancy. He loved both to play and listen to music, and went to countless concerts.



Movies continued from Page 11

Age has not slowed down director Clint Eastwood! His **Richard Jewell** is the best he's done, in my opinion, in decades. The story of the 1996 Summer Olympics when security guard Jewell discovers a bomb in Centennial Park. With no time to spare, Richard helps with the life-saving evacuation before the bomb explodes, killing two and injuring hundreds. Many more would have perished if not for him. Heroism is brief, as the FBI names him as the prime suspect in the bombing. The struggle Richard and his mom, the remarkable Kathy Bates, is heartbreaking. *Big Cheers.*

Two Popes Anthony Hopkins and Jonathon Pryce are riveting as the liberal and future Pope Francis and the conservative Pope Benedict and their struggling, at first, relationship. It's a dramatic feast that rises to the occasion!

Big cheers to Adam Sandler in a role that he has never undertaken. In **Uncut Gems** he plays Howard Ratner, a New York city jeweler always on the lookout for his next big score. He's also a high stakes gambler and when he places a large bet that could lead to a windfall, he finds himself in a precarious high wire act that could cost him his business and his family. The tense thriller could earn Sandler an Oscar nod, but the language is severe.

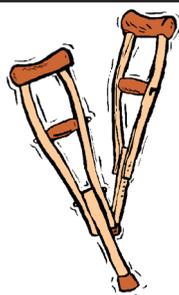
The Photograph Total Chick Flick but so good. When famed photographer Christina passes away unexpectedly she leaves an estranged daughter Mae, who is hurt, angry and full of a lot of questions. Mae finds a photo in a safe deposit box and finds herself

digging into Mom's early life and leads to an unexpected romance with a rising journalist. Bring a tissue.

I think I just watched the best movie of 2020 so far. After watching the latest version of **The Invisible Man**, you might not be so sure you're all alone. Elizabeth Moss delivers a knockout performance as Cecelia, a terrified woman trying to leave her abusive and manipulating boyfriend. When she does finally leave, she can't shake the feeling that he is still watching her. She learns that he has committed suicide and thinks she is free but still has the feeling of being watched. It's tightly wound and it will make you jump more than a few times but that is what a GOOD thriller should do. A couple of violent scenes, but they are so well done! *Big Cheers.*

Ordinary Love. Liam Neeson and Leslie Manville are perfect as Joan and Tom, a couple married for many years and share a remarkable love for one another. They are at ease with each other that only comes from spending an almost lifetime together. When Joan is diagnosed with breast cancer, that ease is tested over and over and the course of her treatment shines a rather harsh light on their enduring devotion. Every emotion plays both of them and yet they try and find the humor and grace to survive a year of adversity. *Huge Cheers*

Ben Affleck is back and grand in **The Way Back**. He plays Jack Cunningham who, back in high school, had everything going for him. A basketball phenom, he could have written his ticket to any college or even the pros, but chose to walk away and forfeit his future. A life-changing event has left him broken and



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alcohol is his only consolation. When he is approached to take a chance and take back his life to coach the struggling basketball team at his alma mater, he reluctantly accepts, surprising no one more than himself. As the boys come together as a team and start to win, Jack gets his last shot at redemption. Given the fact that Affleck himself struggled with alcohol and other demons, I give him credit for taking this on. I'm sure it was difficult and brought back ugly memories role. *Huge Cheers again.*

Knives Out is an updated take on a "who-done-it" via Agatha Christie. When a crime novelist is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the suave Detective Blanc, played to the hilt by Daniel Craig, is sent to the estate to investigate and converse with the novelist's dysfunctional family and some of his devoted staff. The cast, consisting of Jamie Lee Curtis, Christopher Plummer, Chris Evans, Toni Collett, Michael Shannon and of course Craig, is hysterical but the film belongs to Ana Dearmas, who plays the devoted nurse. *Big Cheers*



**2020 COMMUNITY
CENTER CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

JANUARY

Potluck Thursday Jan. 16th
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner

FEBRUARY

Potluck Thursday Feb. 20th
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner

MARCH

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
Saturday March 14th
at the Dutch Flat Community Center
(No pot luck this month)

APRIL

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 11th
Potluck Thursday April 16th
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner
Western Night Saturday 25th

MAY

Artisan Fair May 2nd
Pool Clean-up May 9th
Potluck Thursday May 21st
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner

JUNE

Cemetery clean-up
Potluck Thursday June 20th
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner

JULY

Independence Day Celebration
Thursday July 4th
No Potluck due the White Elephant Sale
preparations

AUGUST

Potluck at Dutch Flat Pool - Thursday
August 20th, 5 PM

SEPTEMBER

White Elephant Sale
Saturday and Sunday, Sept 5th and 6th

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Potluck Thursday Sept 19th
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner

OCTOBER

Potluck Thursday October 15th
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner
Halloween Open House Thursday
October 31st

NOVEMBER

Holiday Boutique Saturday Nov 9th
Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck
Thursday Nov 21st
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner

DECEMBER

Holiday Potluck Thursday Dec 19th
at the DF Community Center
6:00 PM fellowship, 6:30 dinner

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