



Community

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BARK BEETLES AND TREE MORTALITY

BY JERRY REIOUX, CONTRACTOR,
PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AND

STEVE JONES, PLACER COUNTY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(Editor's Note: There is a lot of valuable information contained in this article. I apologize for having to cut it up and put it in several locations throughout this paper.)

“My trees looked nice and green a few weeks ago – what happened, where did they come from – what can I do!?!?! HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” We have heard these and other similar comments over the past year. So what is this all about any way?

Bark beetles, hard bodied native insects, are present in our forests all the time. When the populations are low they tend to weed out the weak and diseased trees. They tend to choose the stressed trees that are not able to defend themselves from attack. In this process they create gaps in the forest for younger trees. This creates the opportunity for diversity in species and age.

They are not very big, about the size of a grain of rice. They survive in trees that are stressed, diseased or injured by human activity or nature, such as storms or wildfire. But they do increase very rapidly when the opportunity exists. The high numbers (outbreak populations) attack trees en masse. Trees are killed all over the landscape. In the always ongoing battle, the two major factors are tree vigor and beetle numbers. When beetle numbers are low the healthy trees resist by producing enough resinous pitch to pitch out the beetles that attempt to enter. But when the trees are stressed they may not be able to produce enough pitch to pitch out the beetles. When beetle populations are high the healthy trees may not even be able to produce enough pitch to ward off a mass attack. Additionally, many of the beetles carry fungi that aid in impairing the trees defense systems.



Frost Hill, Dutch Flat, Placer County

So what happened? Over time the forests have become much more dense than before pre-Europeans came to California. The early descriptions of these forests said they were park-like, with large trees that were spaced far apart. The lack of fires, both controlled and wild, the drought, lack of stand manipulation, management regimes, policy and public perception, all have contributed to the state of our forests today.

Current climate conditions with lower than average precipitation, warmer than normal days and longer growing seasons, have caused very large numbers of trees, predominately conifers, to become stressed. When this happened the bark beetles took advantage, attacking the trees. Predominately, they attacked the larger Ponderosa Pines first, then as their numbers multiplied, they began to attack the smaller trees. In some areas Sugar Pines were the first trees attacked.

When bark beetles attack, they bore through the bark and lay their eggs in the phloem (the tissue that carries nutrients and water throughout the tree). The eggs hatch and the larvae disrupt this transportation system by living off the nutrients and water. Then they mature, bore back out through the bark, mate and either recolonize the same tree if it is still alive or fly off looking for other trees to colonize. This process is repeated over and over again across the landscape. Normally this process continues until the precipitation returns to normal for 1 to 3 consecutive years, or all of the host trees are gone. Some believe temperature also plays a part, the colder the better. Then, with the able as-

sistance of natural enemies, the beetle population decreases and the forest regenerates and begins to recover.

There are three types of beetles attacking the pines (Sugar, Jeffrey, Ponderosa or Bull Pine or Yellow Pine) in the surrounding area. These are Mountain Pine Beetle, Western Pine Beetle and Red Turpentine Beetle.

Red Turpentine Beetles, largest of the Pine Bark Beetles, usually attack trees in poor vigor, those infested by other bark beetles, mechanical or fire-injured, or those with injured or poorly developed root systems. It may attack freshly cut stumps. Most of the attacks are near the ground line and may go upwards to 20 feet on the bole or below ground. Red Turpentine Beetles may not kill trees, but they indicate a tree is stressed or injured. These attacks may pave the way for further attacks by other beetles.

The Western Pine Beetle primarily attacks Ponderosa Pines. During drought and high stress periods, it can kill trees of all ages and vigor. Group attacks are common. The attacking beetles release aggregating pheromones that attract other beetles until the mass attack overcomes the tree. These attacks move into adjacent trees creating a group kill. There may be as many as three or four generations in a single year. The gallery pattern unique to this beetle is winding and crisscrosses in several directions.

Mountain Pine Beetles also release aggregating pheromones to draw in others and cause mass attacks that spill over to the adjacent trees. They may attack trees as small as 4 to 6 inches in diameter. Their galleries are straight and typically vertical, up to 3 feet long. Larvae construct galleries at right angles to the parent gallery.

So, you say, no problem for me because I have mostly Douglas Fir, White Fir and Red Fir. Sorry to bring you bad news, but there are insects that feed exclusively on these trees. These are the Fir Engraver Beetle which only attacks true firs (Red and White Fir) and not Douglas Fir as it is not a true fir. These small, shiny, black beetles carry a fungus into the tree which starts to stain the wood. The larvae over winter under

Trees continued on Page 7

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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:

Spring 2017 - February 15
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Winter 2017 - November 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 DATES AND EVENTS

Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 6:00 PM - annual Alta Community Christmas dinner, Alta Community Center, Alta Bonnybrook Road.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alta Attic - First, third and fourth Thursdays, second Saturdays 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 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 Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 AM followed by a free lunch (new morning worship service hours)

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

November 22, 2016 - Minimum day, Thanksgiving feast
November 23-25, 2016 - No school, Thanksgiving break
December 16, 2016 - Minimum day
December 19-January 2 - No school, Christmas break
January 16, 2017 - No school, MLK Day observed
February 20-24, 2017 - No school, Winter break
March 15, 2016 - Minimum day

COLFAX HIGH SCHOOL IMPORTANT DATES

November 23-25, 2016 - No school, Thanksgiving break
December 15, 16 - Finals, minimum days
December 18-January 2 - No school, Christmas break
January 16, 2017 - No school, MLK Day observed
February 13, 2017 - No school, Lincoln's birthday observed
February 20, 2017 - No school, President's Day
March 10, 2017 - No school, Teacher In-Service Day

2016-17 COUNTY AND STATE OFFICE CLOSURES

Thursday, Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday
Monday, December 26 - Christmas Day
Monday, January 2, 2017 - New Years Day
Monday, January 16, 2017 - MLK Day
Monday, February 13, 2017 - Lincoln's Birthday
Monday, February 20, 2017 - Presidents' Day
Monday, May 29, 2017 - Memorial Day
Tuesday, July 4, 2017 - Independence Day
Monday, September 4, 2017 - Labor Day
Monday, October 9, 2017 - Columbus Day
Friday, November 10, 2017 - Veterans' Day
Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24, 2017 - Thanksgiving Day and holiday
Monday, December 25, 2017 - Christmas

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY MARYBETH BLACKINTON

This will be my last column as President. Elections were held by the members present at the pot-luck on October 20th which inducted three new members to the Board.



The Board's By-Laws allow officers to serve a maximum of five consecutive years. As a result, **Tom McDonnell**, was "termed out" and will not be on the Board. Tom served as President for several years and most recently served as Treasurer. Tom's knowledge of the area, people and law will be sorely missed. I hope he will consider coming back when his job and family commitments have slowed down.

Also leaving the Board is **Brianna Harback**. Brianna and her husband, Kevin, are expecting their first child early next year so she felt she could not commit the time needed for Board. They live in Dutch Flat so possibly after the chaos of a new family settles in to a manageable routine, she will consider being on the Board in the future.

The By-Laws allow for a maximum of eleven members: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and six At-Large. We are one short of the maximum which is the most we've had in a number of years. The 2016-2017 Board will consist of **Bob Kims**, President, I will assume the position of Vice President to help Bob with the transition, new-comer **Brent Nyberg** will be Treasurer, **Joanne Blohm** and **Lynette Vrooman** will continue as Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary respectively. The At-Large members are **Roxane Bertell**, **Dehnel Demianew**, **Cathy Gallardo**, **Bob Pfister** and **Jim Sanders**.

As the new Board looks at upcoming projects for the Center, it appears the biggest one looming is the repairs and painting of the exterior of the building. It will be a very expensive job and require some repairs prior to painting. We hope to get the repairs done over the winter and start the painting job in the spring. Thanks to a generous donation from the dissolving **Dutch Flat Heritage Preservation Society**, we will be able to accomplish the project with a little less financial impact to our bank accounts.

A quick note about the success of the White Elephant Sale in September. We made over \$15,700 this year. A great success with thousands of volunteer "person-hours" responsible!

The County grant projects that were started over three years ago have finally been completed. We have a new fence around the tennis court, a sidewalk from the front of the building to the tennis court and a new playground set. You can see pictures of the ribbon cutting ceremony and kids playing on the set on the back page of this paper. We are grateful for the work the County did to get the playground installed.

The tennis court still ponds a bit when it rains but we've installed a channel drain under the net and have a large squeegee available to push any standing water in to the drain. It wasn't the best solution, just the fastest and least expensive.

The upcoming holidays will be upon us soon. As you may be aware, we take collections at this time of year for the Childrens Fund. The Center donates funds for families who may be struggling a little financially. If you know of anyone you think might need a little help from Santa, please contact someone with the Board so we can consider donations.

In closing, I want to thank everyone in the community who has helped make all our events and projects successful. I receive compliments frequently for the work I've done but the truth is that a lot of people put the plans in place before I came to the Board and there are too many names to list to thank for where we are today. There is always more work to be done to keep our old building standing tall in the community but together we can accomplish that.

PLATO WAS RIGHT

BY RICK SIMS

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As many of you know, my wife, Linda Wallihan, and I moved in March from Dutch Flat to San Diego so my melanoma cancer could be treated by Dr. Gregory Daniels of the University of California at San Diego Cancer Center. It was a good decision. After a regimen of injections of new drugs designed to bolster my immune system, a PET whole body scan recently confirmed that I was cancer free.

That is the good news.

The bad news is that I have some sort of disease (apparently unrelated to the melanoma) that attacks my speech and balance. Although I can still talk, as my friends will tell you, I sound like Daffy Duck. More to the point of this story, I am able to walk only with the assistance of a red aluminum walker.

I have been truly amazed at how the citizens of San Diego have helped me and

my walker at every turn. It seems like every time I am in public, and have to open a door, there is someone doing it for me. I never have to negotiate stairs without a helping hand. If I have trouble getting out of a booth at a restaurant, it seems like there is always some ex-linebacker who appears to lend a hand.

But the most amazing thing of all is how many of these volunteer helpers have been Black or Latino young bucks sporting black baseball caps or LOTS of tattoos or small studs embedded in their noses or wearing 20 pounds of jewelry. Thus, for example, the other morning I decided to treat myself to a breakfast of Denny's pancakes (I think they are SO good), leaving Linda to sleep in. Denny's on El Cajon Boulevard in San Diego has a long ramp, and, as I was negotiating it with my walker, I heard the screeching of tires as a car came to an abrupt stop nearby. I looked and saw that the tire squeeler was a lowered and tricked out Chevy Impala—circa 1963. Out of the Impala leapt two young Latino men, who ran up the ramp and exclaimed, "Need any help, Dude?" I didn't, but we had a short but great conversation as the Impala idled in the street.

And so life in San Diego has reminded me that the ancient Greeks had it right. It was Plato who wrote, quoting Phaedrus, "Things are not always what they seem; the first appearance deceives many."

**

HEART-FELT THANK YOU FROM NEIL FANNING

Firstly, a big "thank you" to all those who helped and added to the quality of the lives of my parents, Bill & Jean, over the years. The saying that "it takes a village..." may be rather worn but it is no less true for that. After my mother died in December of 2015, I could not have done as well as I have without those of "the village" who have checked up on me and helped in so many ways. Your loving efforts touched me deeply and have meant so much - please know that you have my sincere and heartfelt gratitude.

I know that a warm, caring & responsive community does not happen by chance - nor easily: it takes action, commitment, concern, forbearance, understanding, acceptance, forgiveness - all things that we can at times be sorely challenged to feel and act on. But the evidence is undeniable that people in this area are capable of creating this kind of community. It is the main thing that makes living here so special. May you continue to take up the challenge and sustain this valuable tradition.

HALLOWEEN AT THE CENTER

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

It was a dark and stormy night but that did not deter more than 170 kids of all ages from enjoying the annual Open House at the Dutch Flat Community Center on Halloween night. Who do you think came? There were the customary witches and wizards, superheroes and royalty, but also baby raccoons, zombie-princesses, a kid with a baseball bat through his body, a senior citizen leopard, many steampunkers, kitties of all persuasions, Big Foot, babies in arms, a big M&M giving out candy in the foyer, and Frida Kahlo, complete with fruity toque and appropriate eyebrows (my personal fav). The volunteers voted the homemade robot and knight as The Best.

Fun, free games were played and everyone won a prize. The kitchen served up free hot dogs, chips, and cocoa. Many people stayed inside to enjoy the festive community atmosphere and warmer temperatures. Afterwards many enjoyed the Methodist Church's Cupcake Walk, just across the street.

There are so many to thank, persons and groups, including the wonderful Attic thrift shop in Alta and the Dutch Flat Community Center's White Elephant Sale for donations and reduced prices for prizes, the DF Trading Post for help with food and supplies, and the DF Community Center for funding this event, so it could be free to all. Plus our always important volunteers who set it all up, decorate, buy the supplies, run the games and the kitchen, clean it all up afterwards, and make it all happen. I can't thank them enough!

This was our fourteenth annual event and it keeps growing. Children who were babies when we began now come back as teens and tell us of their special memories. How lucky we are!

**

LABOR DAY SURPRISE

BY JOANNE BLOHM

It has been my experience that running a Bed and Breakfast inn means that you will never know what will happen on a day-to-day basis. Some of these situations are fun, some are unusual and some are just downright weird. However, there was one this year that was truly outstanding.

On Monday, after a long Labor Day weekend, my friend, Bob Pfister, and I went out so I could have a little time to enjoy the holiday. A couple hours later Bob and I were on our way home when I noticed that my neighbor was talking to four Chinese people on the corner in front of the Inn. I turned to Bob and told him that the Chinese people were headed to my house. He asked how I knew that and I replied, "they were all smiling and waving at us". My only thought at the time was please let one of them speak English!

Several minutes later, I had four Chinese people on my porch and, yes, one did speak English. I showed them my big family suite and they were happy with the rooms and decided to stay. They explained they were hungry so I sent them to the Monte Vista Inn for a bite to eat. I called Deanna Goodale at the restaurant and asked her if she could give them a little special attention and help them with the menu. They ate in the bar and told me they absolutely loved the place. Later, I talked to some of the customers and employees of the Monte Vista and they were enthralled by the foreign guests.

When they returned to the Crystal Springs Inn, we sat around my dining room table and with the interpreter I was able to learn a great wealth of information on Beijing. They also shared their Chinese "hooch" with me which tasted a lot like Appalachian moonshine and equally as deadly. They all had

question after question about this area. They were especially interested in the Chinese workers of the mid to late 1800's particularly the railroad workers – more than the miners. As it turned out, they were following the Union Pacific's railroad route to Utah. I thought how great it would be if they could tour our museum so at 8:30 that night, I called Anne Holmes, the Vice President for the Golden Drift Historical Society. She agreed to give them a private tour at 10:00 the next morning.

We continued our translated conversation and I realized how fortunate I was that they had found me. It was a complete joy to have these interesting, polite and wonderful people in my home. It was a magical evening of sharing information, jokes and laughter about our respective cultures.

The next morning, I made them breakfast and told them how I hated left-overs. They took me to heart and everything was eaten although a couple of the guests looked like they might burst. When 9:45 arrived, we left to go to Dutch Flat to meet Anne. We stopped at the Dutch Flat Trading Post (lots of pictures including Stephanie Hiebert) and then I delivered them in to Anne's capable hands. They said a warm goodbye and told me they would never forget my inn or their trip to Dutch Flat and I will be seeing more guests from Beijing in the future. I will forever remember Weixin Li, Ju Li and their childhood friends.

It was an honor to share with them experiences of our little community in the present with a trip to the past at the museum. How fortunate I am to have these unforeseen opportunities that enrich my life. For the second part of the Chinese visitors trip to Dutch Flat, read the Golden Drift Historical Society Update in this paper written by Anne Holmes. Finally, a big THANK YOU to the museum docents for being so knowledgeable and accommodating to all the guests we send their way.

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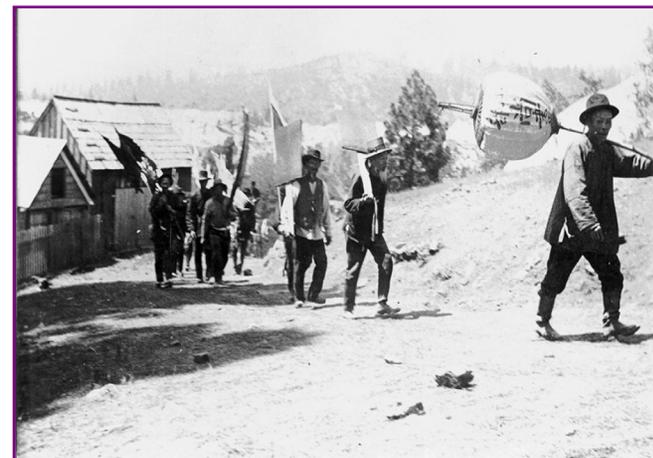
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GOLDEN DRIFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

BY ANNE HOLMES

Our season this year was busy and fun. We have had 771 visitors to date, which is up from last year's total of 725. The Heritage Trail Museum Tour of County Museums was organized differently this year. It was held on one day instead of two and the event was spread out over the whole summer so our numbers for that day were down from past years. This summer was very rewarding with lots of enthusiastic visitors, especially families with children. Being open on Friday instead of Wednesday was a success. There are always slow days, but there were fewer than before and sometimes Friday was the best day of the weekend.

The best part of working at the museum, besides learning more about our local history, is to see it through the eyes of our visitors. Sometimes I feel that they have given me more than I am able to give them. That happens when someone comes in that is a descendant of an original Dutch Flat family or someone with a special interest. I was privileged to have both experiences this summer.

The first was a pre-announced visit from a family living in Eureka who stopped in while traveling home from Reno to look up their relatives, the Palmtag family. We found their family plot in the public cemetery, their property shown on the 1871 map and a reference to them in the Coffin Diary. The Palmtag's owned the property on the corner of Clark and Sacramento Street (the Young's parcel, Harmony House) and their house was burnt during the Chinatown fire. As they were reading the Coffin Diary deciding whether to buy a copy, I showed them the original journal that we have on display at the museum. The descendant, who was in her eighties, pointed to the top left photograph (Sarah Cook) and said "that is my grandmother". The Coffin journal is kept in the County Museum archives over the winter. When it is brought back for the season, it is opened to a different page each year as that helps to protect the book. What a serendipitous occasion it was to have the page with that portrait on display while they were visiting.

The second experience was a visit with four Chinese who dropped in the day after Labor Day. I open the museum on a request from Joanne Blohm, as they were guests at the Crystal Springs Inn, and had the pleasure of spending three and a half hours with them. They are childhood friends,

probably in their 40's. Three are from Beijing and the fourth has lived in San Jose for 18 years. The gentleman from San Jose, Weixin Li, spoke decent English and helped me with translations, a second gentlemen, Ju Li, spoke a little bit of English and the other two, a couple, did not speak any English. They were interested to see what the museum has regarding the railroad and the Chinese.

We first looked at the Joss House altar, and after much discussion and gesturing they told me that the chopsticks were placed incorrectly in the display, and that the panels with the inscriptions that hang on the either side of the altar should be reversed because Chinese is read from right to left. The translation given for the panels was "Brothers come together" "Make history". Next they looked at the prescription written in the book in the gallery Chinese display. The gentleman from San Jose told me the ingredients called for an herb, walnut, a certain seed, and some roots. He was not sure what it was for. Past visitors to the museum have translated it to be for hemorrhoids or as Doug told us an "itchy butt".

Then we talked about the railroad. Ju Li, the gentleman that spoke a little bit English, is the author of a book about the Chinese who built the Central Pacific Railroad. He gave the museum a signed copy of his book "Footsteps of the Silent Spikes - In memory of Chinese Railroad Workers in the United States". This book is beautifully done and though it is written in Chinese with some English text, the pictures tell the story. In one section of the book he chose historical photos documenting the building of railroad and then took current pictures standing in the same location wherever possible. He spent 5 years writing the book which was published in 2013.

I offered to take them around the area. First we walked out to the diggings and I showed them where the mining took place and how it was done. We then drove to the cemetery and the first and second Chinatown locations. To follow his desire to stand in locations where the old photos had been taken, Ju Li walked along the tracks above the second Chinatown and took a picture looking East on the curve leading into the Dutch Flat crossing. I also showed him the tunnel where Canyon Creek goes under the railroad on Casa Loma Road.

Two historical events, the Gold Rush and the building of the railroad, brought two cultures together more than 150 years ago, and then provided a modern day encounter. What a pleasure it was for me to help these visitors from China find more information.

As I was closing the museum, a cou-

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ple was getting out of their car and I stayed a little longer for them. They were from Holland and wanted to see "Dutch" Flat. They enjoyed the museum and learning about our history, even though the founding fathers were not Dutch. I left them with our handout of the walking tour of town. What a fun day we all had in our small town with its big history.

Though the museum is closed for the season, we are happy to open on request. Jim Ricker opened the museum Oct. 4 to give a walking tour of Dutch Flat to 22 visitors from the Winchester Country Club. I opened during the Community Center's Oktoberfest celebration held on Oct. 15 and had 5 visitors even though it was a rainy day. If you have family members and guests or are part of a group that would be interested in seeing the museum, call the County Museum Office in Auburn at 889-6500 to set up an appointment. Our museum is fortunate to have wonderful group of volunteers that keeps it running smoothly. As always we could use more docents, so if you are willing to spend one or two days a month during the summer, greeting visitors for four hours in the afternoon on a weekend, please let me know. Contact **Anne Holmes, (530) 823-1341**

**



Good
friends
make
bad days
a little
more
bearable.



Hearse House Garden



Petroglyph Falls

Joan
Chlarson



Depot Hill, 1910



Lake Alta



The Diggins Gold

Watercolors

Online Gallery:

BearsLoveArt.com

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

MEDICAL MARIJUANA UPDATE

BY JENNIFER MONTGOMERY,
PLACER COUNTY SUPERVISOR,
DISTRICT 5

The actions the Board of Supervisors will be taking is really one policy to ban commercial growing activities in any manner and to communicate the Board's intent to allow for no more than 6 plants per parcel for individual use - indoor or outdoor - within certain criteria (which is still evolving): 100 foot setback, closer to your home than your neighbors, etc. County staff will be returning with Placer County Code Chapter 17 (Zoning Ordinance) land use provisions providing greater zoning clarity in early 2017. But the Board's intent is to provide clarity to all constituents who wish to cultivate marijuana under existing laws as to what is and is not allowed which will be fully enforceable by Code Enforcement and the Sheriff's Office beginning January 6,

2017.

The actions that the Board will be taking regulating marijuana fall into two categories: 1) a complete and outright prohibition on commercial cultivation indoors and outdoors anywhere in the county, with an exception for limited personal indoor grows of no more than 6 plants and 2) a follow up on the regulated approach to limited outdoor cultivation for personal use only.

The ban on ALL commercial cultivation, as well as the regulation allowing limited indoor personal cultivation, will take effect in early January. The regulations and guidelines for limited outdoor grows for personal use (no more than 6 plants and a number of other restrictions still being crafted as mentioned above) is expected to be implemented by April.

Below is the language of the Staff Report for the November 22nd Board meeting which will also include the first reading of the new ordinance.

"Introduction of an ordinance amending Chapter 8, Health and Sanitation of the Placer County Code, establishing regulations regarding cultivation of cannabis for personal use, banning all commercial activities related to cannabis, and waive the reading of the ordinance in its entirety.

The ordinance currently before the Board amends Chapter 8, Health and Sanitation Code, to establish regulations regarding indoor and outdoor cultivation for personal use only. This Ordinance is Phase 1 of a two-phased policy effort directed by the Board in order to achieve the following in the most expeditious manner possible:

Prohibit commercial cultivation, processing, manufacturing, delivery and distribution of cannabis;

- *Provide guidance to Placer County constituents who wish to cultivate cannabis for personal use under relevant state laws as to what is allowable;*
- *Provide Code Enforcement and the Placer County Sheriff's Office with clear guidelines necessary for the enforcement of local cannabis regulations that are consistent with Board direction.*
- *Phase 2 of this approach will be the development of zoning and land use regulations that will be included in Chapter 17 of the Placer County Code, to provide specific requirements for limited outdoor cultivation of cannabis for personal use, as allowed under Chapter 8.*

**

NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER ALLIANCE - NFARA

BY JIM RICKER

Great Sierra River Cleanup

The eighth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup (GSRC) was held on September 17. NFARA joined the Upper American River Foundation, Canyon Keepers, and Protect American River Canyons in organizing a cleanup event near the Colfax-Iowa Hill Bridge. Ten people (9 adults, 1 child) participated in cleaning up the Mineral Bar Campground, the river downstream, and the Penny Weight Trail. Most of the participants were members of one of the above mentioned groups. However, two people just visiting Mineral Bar decided to join our effort when we showed up; they simply thought it was a great idea and wanted to be part of it.

The total amount of trash and recyclables removed, about 100 pounds, was much less than in previous years. The area seems to stay cleaner since our yearly efforts started. It goes to show that people will keep an area clean if it is already clean. Unfortunately, a trashed out area seems to invite more trash, not more cleaning.

The GSRC is an annual event coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and held in conjunction with California Coastal Cleanup Day. This year approximately 1500 volunteers removed over 35,000 pounds of waste from rivers throughout the Sierra Nevada. NFARA looks forward to participating again in 2017.

Outings in 2016

In 2016, NFARA decided to purchase insurance and start conducting more outings in the area. In past years, due to lack of insurance, we only organized cleanup outings where the government agency (BLM, Forest Service) insured volunteers. This limited us to one or two outings per year. This year, in addition to the river cleanup, we led hikes into Green Valley, to the Loch Leven area, and down to China Bar on the North Fork of the North Fork. We hope to expand this program in 2017. For more information on NFARA outings, contact **Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344 or email jvricker@prince-ricker.net.**



DUTCH FLAT HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY UPDATE

BY TOM MCDONNELL

In the summer of 2015 some longtime residents of Dutch Flat began seriously talking about how to keep the Dutch Flat store/post office buildings intact and in business. Ensuring that the store stays open has been an ongoing concern of townspeople for many years. The U.S. Postal Service has also been ratcheting down the hours of the post office since Postmistress Shelley Wilsmore retired a few years ago. The store and post office have been central to the character of Dutch Flat for generations.

Rick Sims spear-headed the practicalities of putting together a plan to have these properties essentially held in trust for the benefit of the town. A non-profit entity was formed (the "Dutch Flat Heritage Preservation Society") and a seven person board of directors installed. The owners of the property agreed to sell to the DFHPS and offered to help finance the sale. Donations were solicited and Rob and Chris Bonner put on a (very fun!) benefit concert at the Dutch Flat Community Center. By late 2015 about \$60,000 had been raised.

The DFHPS went into escrow on the property and started working through the escrow process. As the income and operating expenses/loan carrying costs began to firm up, it became clear that far more money than the DFHPS had was needed to make the project work financially. Two of the projects strongest supporters, Rick Sims and Bill Newsom, also had to step away from the project during the escrow process.

The DFHPS pulled out of escrow and was left to decide what to do with the money that had been raised. Donors were asked if they wanted their donations returned or directed to another non-profit and their wishes were followed. Of the funds that donors re-directed, the pool, DFCC and Golden Drift were the beneficiaries.

At the DFHPS' last board meeting in October it was resolved to formally dissolve. That process has begun but will take a few months to accomplish. Any funds remaining will be given to the DFCC and Golden Drift.

During the life of this project, many people put in considerable time and energy and donated their money and talents to try to make this work. While the goal eluded us, it was heartening to see our community strive to make it happen.

**

Trees continued from Page 1

the bark and the adults typically emerge one time a year between June through August.

The Douglas Fir beetle is not common. It only attacks Douglas Fir trees. It normally is found in large areas of trees that have blown over.

In both cases, the combination of the beetle attack, construction of the gallery and the feeding of the larvae as well as the staining fungi cause the tree to die. The fading of the crown occurs within 4 to 10 months after attack, but drought stressed trees may fade in a much shorter period of time.

So, what can you do? React to the beetles and protect your trees from bark beetles. Once your trees have been attacked by Western Pine or Mountain Pine Beetles, there is little you can do to save the tree. Some trees will survive the attack, but the majority are killed. Additional mortality may be reduced if the trees are removed and the wood and slash are disposed of properly (see Tree Note 3). Many bark beetles transport fungi (blue stain, bacteria nematodes and other associates that help in breaking down the cellulose. Trees killed by bark beetles can rapidly decay and therefore become hazards.

So what can you do to maintain healthy, thrifty trees thus lessening the susceptibility of them to attack by bark beetles and other insects? Know what species of tree you have. The principal conifers in the area are Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine, Incense Cedar, White Fir, Red Fir and Douglas Fir. Additionally, you may have Coast Redwood or Sierra Redwood.

Ponderosa Pine has needles consisting of 2 or 3 in a bundle and 3 to 10 inches long. Cones are 3 to 5 inches long with small spines. Sugar Pine has needles in a bun-

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dle of 5. The cones are very large, 10 to 20 inches long. Additionally the upper branches are often large, turned upwards or almost at right angles to the trunk.

The true firs do best at elevations of 4,000 feet and above but with the lack of fire they may be found at lower elevations. White Fir has single flat needles, 2 to 3 inches long and flattened on the lower branches. The cones tend to be upright and greenish-yellow and only on the upper branches. Red Fir needles are 4-sided and are somewhat flattened on the lower branches. They are greatly curved upwards on the upper branches. The cones are 2 to 4 inches long and are upright and purplish. Red Fir cones are often not noticed as they fall apart on the tree when the seeds are mature.

Douglas Fir is not a true fir. It has short single flat needles about 1 to 2 inches long. The cones, from 3 to 4 inches long, are unique. They have distinct bracts that resemble a trident.

Incense Cedar has scale-like leaves that are opposite of each other, that overlap and are closely pressed against the branchlets. These leaves are very short and sharply pointed at the tip. The bark is typically red-

Trees continued on Page 8

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Trees continued from Page 7

dish-brown, furrowed, and stringy. Its cones are very small, about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long, hanging down from the limbs.

Once you know what types of trees you have, you can begin to determine the health of your trees and the susceptibility of your trees to attacks by insects.

Susceptibility is the condition of individual trees or a stand of trees that makes it more inclined to an attack by bark beetles. The more stressed the tree, the more susceptible to attack. Stressors include poor crown condition, competition from other trees and understory vegetation, human activity such as construction, injury, and natural causes such as drought, fire and wind. A stand, or a larger group of trees, can also be susceptible. Species composition, the ages of trees, the density, having root diseases, being in a drought prone area, can make a stand more susceptible. Of all of the above, species composition seems to be the biggest issue. Stands that have trees that have been severely attacked are typically a single genus, and most a single species. In other words – monocultures of a single species are not a good thing for a number of reasons. Stands that are made up of diverse species tend to have fewer trees attacked by beetles.

Have you determined if your trees have been attacked by bark beetles? There are several symptoms and signs of bark beetle attack. Listen for woodpeckers working in your conifers; these are an indicator that

there are insects in your trees.

For Mountain and Western Pine Beetles, look for pitch tubes, small holes in the bark. Most attacked trees will have pitch tubes scattered over the tree bole. The reddish tubes are from successful attacks. The white or cream colored tubes may mean unsuccessful attacks. Look from the top to the bottom (you may need binoculars) for signs of an attack. The first symptom of mortality is typically fading needles (dark green getting lighter in color), so the successfully attacked trees begin to fade and change color over several months.

For Red Turpentine Beetle look for very large pitch tubes around the base of the tree. The pitch tubes may vary in size, texture and color. They may be up to 2 inches across.

Fir Engraver attack is very hard to detect before the crown starts to fade. Pitch tubes are not formed on firs. Also the fading crown may occur before the beetle exit holes are visible. Attacks typically result in tree mortality.

The Douglas Fir beetle attack is the presence of reddish-brown boring dust near the beetle entrance holes, or around the base of the tree. Crown fade may occur in the year of attack or in the following spring. Typically, freshly downed trees or fire injured trees are the most susceptible to attack.

If you have trees that have been successfully attacked by Western, Mountain and Fir Engraver Beetles, there is generally

nothing you can do to save them. In California it is the responsibility of the landowner to remove dead and dying trees. Remove trees quickly if they are attacked by these species. Additional tree mortality might be reduced if the trees are removed while they are still infested. Again, at present there are no chemical insecticides, either recommended or registered, for killing bark beetles under the bark of infested trees.

So what can you do to maintain a healthy, thrifty stand of trees on your property? There are several things you can do.

-Thinning trees to a wide spacing is the best long-term solution to increase forest health and vigor and reduce the likelihood of beetle attacks.

-Diversity of species as well as thinning seems to hamper mass attacks. Select the residual trees that are the healthiest and most vigorous. For example, at lower elevations consider not only Ponderosa Pine, but also Incense Cedar and California Black Oak. If the aspect is conducive, more north facing, also consider Douglas Fir.

-Clean up blown down trees or fresh slash to avoid creating more suitable habitat for beetles.

-Remove trees that contain beetles. Although this treatment generally depends upon the species of bark beetles. Removing successfully attacked trees reduces the pheromone source associated with attacked trees. All green material greater than 3 inches in diameter should be treated by removing from the site, chipped, buried, covered/tarped, or burned. The wood from trees containing live beetle brood can be kept if it is cut, stacked, and carefully tarped with clear plastic sheeting to contain beetles (see Tree Note #3). The tarping must remain intact and form a tight seal against the ground to prevent beetle escape. Store the wood in direct sunlight, well away from other trees of the same or related species. High temperatures develop within tarped woodpiles exposed to direct sun, killing the trapped beetles (see Tree Note 3).

-At present there are no chemical insecticides registered or recommended for controlling bark beetles in infested trees. As a preventative treatment only, on trees that have not been attacked by bark beetles, an insecticide may be applied to the bark of those trees that you consider to be high value susceptible host species. Typically the treatment is performed by a commercial applicator. Even with this there is no guarantee the tree will not be attacked by beetles and killed.

-Watering trees during the drought may give your trees the boost to survive. (See Tree Note 19).

Where can I get more information or help? In Placer County, many agencies are available to provide technical assistance, referrals, information, education, land management assistance and advice, etc.

Technical Information:

California Stewardship Hotline – 1-800-738-TREE

Placer County Resource Conservation District – 530-885-6505

Placer County OES website: www.placer.ca.gov/departments/ceo/emergency/tree-mortality

There may be Cost-Share Assistance for Landowners (not within 100 feet of a habitable structure). Each agency has its own requirements for qualifications for participation in their programs.

For those with over 20 acres of forestland: Cal Fire - California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), Mary Huggins, 916-718-6258

For those with more than 3 acres (or 1 acre with no structures) and at least 20% of the property with dead or dying conifer trees: USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service – 530-885-6505 ext. 3

There may be grants available through FireSafe/Firewise grants. In certain instances USDA – Rural Development may be able to provide assistance through the Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants Program. They can be reached at 530-885-6505.

Further information is available on the web at:

Cal Fire: www.readyforwildfire.org

Trees continued on Page 15



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- For information about certification requirements and other class schedules contact Safety Training Pros at: <https://safetytrainingpros.com>

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- For information about reimbursement for certification classes and to be notified of upcoming certification classes contact *Laura Glassco, President of the Friends of the Dutch Flat Pool.*

Email: friendsofthedfpool@gmail.com or call 916-778-8308

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MURDER BY CLICHE

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

CHAPTER 14

Here's a re-cap of the cast of 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 - millinary 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

The next morning Charlie, Ray, and Carole were sitting around the table at the station sharing tea, strong, sweet, and milky, with Carole's current recipe for Victoria sponge. If a little lopsided, it still oozed delightfully with raspberry jam and lemon glaze. The tablecloth and all three chins were covered with yellow crumbs.

Ray picked up the copy of Lord George's letter that Sir Mathew's secretary had prepared for him, and said, "If this document proves valid it will open Pandora's box. First of all, it now gives Mike Tadbourne a motive for two of the three murders."

Charlie immediately caught Ray's meaning, but still questioned, "Do you think Lord Commander was murdered?"

Ray nodded. "Definitely. I don't think Lady Casey or the Doc are trying to cover anything up, and all evidence points away from a crime, but my gut tells me otherwise. And my gut is rarely wrong."

Carole smiled over at him and cut him another piece of sponge.

Ray continued, talking between bites. "Mike had a bad quarrel with Tom, and now, with the Lord gone, he can at least marry the daughter and possibly be the Lord himself someday. He also seemed pretty mad at John when his dad was unsure to claim the title or not."

Charlie interjected, "I just can't see Mike as a murderer, even in anger, as perhaps with Tom, but especially not with premeditation, which is how it had to be with the Lord. It might have been an accident with Tom, but not the Lord."

Carole cut some more cake for Charlie and speculated, "You must mean premeditation, my boy. Where it is planned ahead of time, and I agree. Someone who could get into the house and come and go without being noticed. Someone Lord Calvin knew and trusted. Because it would have to be something undetectable to your tests. Was he examined for small punctures? Perhaps it was given to him in a needle?"

Ray colored slightly. He had been remiss and she was right; evidence just hadn't been gathered for the doctor's and the family's sakes. He should have called them on that and taken charge. He knew it was because of Exeter. He just couldn't face Babbitt again.

He pushed back his chair noisily and walked over to his desk. He purposely picked up some papers and said sharply to Charlie, "It's time someone went out and checked about Carstairs and that Givens woman. Maybe they're off together. This town is going to Hell in a handbasket!" He sat down quickly and shuffled through his

desk's contents, appearing busy.

Charlie thanked Carole for the cake and went out to get his bicycle.

Mornings were the best time in Lindenmouth. The streets had been freshly scrubbed down; each doorway and stoop gleamed with a house-proud sheen. In early Spring like this, the sunlight glanced off the sea and lit up all the little corners tucked between shops. Anything metal shined as if seamen had been up all night with polish cloths.

Charlie put back his cycle and started off on foot. As usual, of the few early walkers, the Evans cousins were conspicuously sauntering from door to door, peeking in as if on patrol. Whispering to each other, they almost again collided with Charlie.

The constable wished them a good morning, then started right in. "Miss Gloria, Miss Lareen, in your capacities as our neighborhood watch, have you seen Carstairs or Valerie Givens lately? It seems they have both disappeared." He was a bit curt, but he was tired of their useless meddling.

Gloria answered defensively, "We provide a service of great worth and stability to our hapless neighbors. No one here truly has the understanding of the cesspit (her sister blanched) of immortality our sanctified town has sunk to."

"Yes, well, thank you, but to the matter at hand?" Charlie was losing patience.

Gloria continued, "That Givens woman, you can tell she is a tart by her dress and mannerisms. All those artistes have, by their very nature and birth, no moral code or fiber. Anyway, she has been missing for exactly three and a half days. We know because we saw her then, on her way to the hardware store, but not since." She pulled herself up into a righteous posture. She looked over at Lareen and whispered, "should we tell him about Horace?"

Charlie interrupted, in growing frustration, "Horace who? And what about him? You have to tell now."

Gloria looked peeved, sighed, and replied, "Horace Green. He is out a lot at night, sneaking up to the part of town below the golf course, below the Southcoast Moor. Plenty of people live up there, including Valerie. We know Hugh has been gentlemanly calling on her. He is her landlord, but who knows? The appetites of men are beyond our understanding, thank God!" Gloria looked ecstatic and Lareen close to fainting.

Lareen started to speak and Charlie had to lean down close to hear what she was saying. She stammered, "She was having them both, I just know it. I could see it in her eyes. She was wanton and evil and won't be

missed!"

Charlie stepped back a bit at the onslaught of venomous words. "You talk as if she is dead or gone. Do you know something that I don't?"

Gloria pulled Lareen back into the protection of her embrace. "You leave us alone, Charlie Cummins. You have no right to lord it over two helpless women. You should be ashamed of yourself. We're taking our leave now to pursue our diverse errands." They gathered up their shopping baskets and parcels and stomped off.

A small crowd had gathered to watch the scene. Charlie colored a little, feeling foolish, especially as he had learned so little. Next stop should be the hardware shop, Valerie's last sighting. He hadn't yet had a chance to interview Art Friendly, and it was a good time.

The man in question was out sweeping the sidewalk in front of his shop. As usual, he seemed to disappear into the background; he was slight and slim and wore clothes of grey and beige. He knew everything about bolts and screws, hammers and saws, little about people. Especially in large groups. His favorite pastime was to read hardware catalogues in front of a good peat fire, with Muggles, his ancient marmalade cat, sharing the space, a frothy cup of cocoa, and ginger biscuits, lovingly baked, tinned, and mailed from Malvern by Mother. He saw Charlie coming and tried to disappear further into the displays of garden tools to the left of the main entrance. It was a futile effort.

Charlie again got right to the point. "Did you know Valerie Givens and Carstairs have disappeared? Not necessarily together, although we're not ruling that out. Definitely not seen locally for over three days. In fact, Valerie was last seen walking down to your store, last Tuesday."

Art rested the broom up against a wheelbarrow. He took out his kerchief and mopped an already dry brow, then scrunched up his forehead, as if in thought. In reality he was playing for time. Conversation was not his forte.

"Nope." That should take care of that!

"What do you mean, 'nope'? Did you see her last Tuesday or not?"

"Nope."

"Come on, Art, you can say more than that. Tell you what, why don't you take some time off and come up to the station with me. There's Victorian sponge and we can talk there."

Art visibly paled, grabbed the broom, and furiously began sweeping. "Ask away."

Charlie was losing his decorum, "Was

she here?"

Art finally capitulated, "No, I saw her coming down. I went inside to wait for her, but she never showed. I just thought she went elsewhere. I did catch her just as she went around the corner towards Carrie's neighborhood. Not seen her since."

"And Carstairs?"

"Yes, that I can clear up. Had a pint with him Monday eve up at The Endeavor. He has decided to get the wife back and has gone out after her. I wish him luck. I didn't think her worth it." He resumed sweeping.

Charlie sighed, thanked him, and continued down to the seafront. That cleared up one matter, but it was even more confusing about Valerie. She appeared to have disappeared into thin air. Maybe Molly would be on a break, and he could use her as a sounding board. He started feeling better; The sun was becoming warmer and the light brighter. He headed towards the Royal Devon.

Back up at the Endeavor, Connie the barmaid was dissolutely wiping down the old scarred teak, getting ready for the mid-morning straggle of patrons. She had given birth to a son, but was still plump in the arms and face. The father, Lord Calvin, was no longer any support, financial or otherwise, and she could hardly go to Lady Casey. She wiped and wiped, trying to decide which of her regulars might do as a husband for she had to do something.

Ray Thorpe and his mum were discussing their favorite subject, him and her desire for grandchildren, when Lady Casey

came storming into the station. Her hat, very much in the style of a man's fedora, was askew over one eyebrow, and her fashionable waves were drooping. Her suit was of a light green-grey worsted, almost past her calf and accentuated at the shoulder with wide pads. The suit was covered with small white petals. She caught her heel on the welcome mat and, flailing forward, fell into Ray's flustered embrace.

She quickly righted herself, brushed futilely at the petals, and sank into a Windsor chair as gracefully as possible.

Ray and Carole watched in astonishment. Ray finally composed himself and asked, "What can we do for you, Lady Commander?"

His mum piped in, "how about a nice cuppa? You look all in."

"Yes, please, thank you, very kind." Casey looked around her surroundings as if confused. She'd never been in a police station before, except to attend meetings, and then she hadn't actually paid attention to the room. This was very surreal. Maybe it had been a mistake to come?

She smiled and observed, "This is very homey." Carole brought over the steaming cup. Casey sipped delicately and continued, "Please excuse my appearance. Hilton was not available to drive and I thought a walk would clear my head, but the wind was a fright and blew the bloody...oh my, I'm so sorry Mrs. Thorpe...the horrid fruit tree's

Murder continued on Page 13



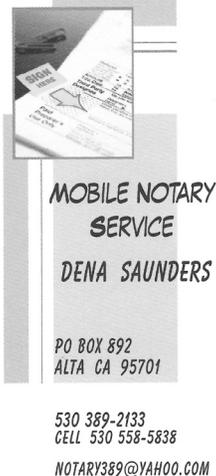
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DOLLARS AND SENSE

BY KEVIN HARBACK

EUREKA! WHAT NOW?

If you are like me, or most anyone for that matter, you have dreamed of what you would do if you suddenly came into a very large sum of money. The sudden windfall might come from hitting those Lottery numbers you diligently play every week, or you happened to trip over an old can in the woods filled with rare mint condition gold coins from the 49er days (and yes, it has happened!).

Ok...the odds of one of those scenarios happening to you are very low, but it's not out of the realm of possibility that you might end up with an inheritance or be the beneficiary of a family member's life insurance death benefit. Having a large sum of money handed to you overnight can be a blessing or a curse. I encourage seeking the guidance of a qualified financial planner or advisor, who can help you identify pitfalls to avoid, as well as present opportunities to help you achieve some financial goals which may have been out of reach before.

Take the following hypothetical scenario of a middle aged gold prospector working the local river side with his shovel and gold pan who dug up a gold nugget that weighed an amazing 10 lbs.! Eureka! Every prospectors dream come true. As of the time of writing this article, the price of gold is \$1,285/oz. (Finance.Yahoo.com 11/7/16). Based on the price of gold from Yahoo on 11/7/16, his gold nugget would be worth an estimated \$205,600 (probably more, with the rarity of such a find).

After prospecting the local Yellow Pages to find a qualified advisor, this is how he handled his sudden riches:

- He assembled a team of financial professionals to help him navigate through any investment plans, estate, and tax considerations.

- He paid off the loans he had on the equipment from his failed hard rock gold mining operation in a "secret" location only he and his old dog know about. He turned around and leased the equipment to a more successful operation for some positive cash flow.
- He paid off his high interest credit card debt and created a "rainy-day fund" for when emergencies will inevitably come up.
- Not only did he find gold, he also has a heart of gold! He made a generous donation to a local homeless shelter that assisted him when he was down and out.
- With the help from his new financial advisor, he crafted a plan to save for his nearing retirement.
- Finally, he bought the truck he has been dreaming of, but could not afford before. He needed something that would provide a bit of immediate satisfaction from his windfall, and that's perfectly ok.

Some of us may be lucky enough to have the same dilemma in our lifetimes to have a sudden windfall of fortune. Just remember that with some responsible planning, you may be able to avoid becoming a riches to rags story.

Kevin Harback is a Dutch Flat resident, an Investment Advisor Representative, and Insurance Agent with Ostrofe Financial Consultants, Inc. managing \$187 million in assets, with clients in 27 states. Securities and Advisory Services offered through National Planning Corporation (NPC), member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor. Ostrofe Financial and NPC are separate and unrelated companies. For questions or suggestions, visit ostrofefinancial.com. (530) 273-4425. 565 Brunswick Road, Ste. 15, Grass Valley.

The opinions voiced in this article are for general information only. They are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual and do not constitute an endorsement by NPC. To determine which investments may be appropriate for you, consult with your financial professional.

Please remember that investment decisions should be based on individual goals, time horizon, and tolerance for risk.

Commodities may be affected by the overall market movements, changes in interest rate and other factors such as weather, disease, embargoes, and international economic and political developments. An investment in commodities may not be suitable for all investors

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GET NOTIFICATIONS IF DISASTER STRIKES: REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

OCTOBER 21, 2016

Residents of Placer County are urged to register with the mass notification system at the following website: Placer-Alert.org. Registering will allow public safety officials to text, call cell phones or landline phones, or email in the event of a disaster. Residents choose the notification methods they prefer at time of sign-up. Signing up is easy and information is protected. Officials will only notify residents during an emergency or if help is needed to find a missing person.

Wildfires and flooding can occur rapidly, sometimes forcing evacuations, shelter-in-place orders and/or road closures. The mass notification system is a critical link for residents to immediately learn of actions they might need to take for their safety.

The alert system allows residents to register more than one contact method including cell phones, alternate numbers, text, email and landline phones. Residents choose the best notification method for them, or choose them all. Multiple locations such as work, a parent's or children's school address can also be selected.

Alert messages for Placer County residents will include a local phone number to call, so that the message may be repeated. If anyone is not sure if they've registered or if they've changed phone numbers, they are encouraged to check their registration information now at Placer-Alert.org or and log in or create a profile.

For more information, to register alternate phone numbers or e-mail addresses, or to be notified about multiple addresses, visit: Placer-Alert.org.

**

PLACER COUNTY'S NEW ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OCTOBER 25, 2016

Placer County's new Animal Services Center opened its doors to the public today in North Auburn. Now that all the animals have been relocated from their dated and worn building across the street in North Auburn into the modern 29,500-square-foot facility that meets Humane Society standards, Animal Services staff can provide even better care

for Placer County's rescued animals, and many more services for the people who love them

The facility sits on 4.3-acres of county land and can house approximately 80 percent more dogs and 75 percent more cats than the previous facility. The new center also has the ability to house more than twice the capacity of animals during large incidents, such as wildfires, than the previous shelter.

"With the cat condos, the visitor-friendly dog bonding areas and the many other improvements we've implemented, we fully expect the adoption rates to skyrocket as a result of this beautiful, new facility," said Wesley Nicks, Placer County Director of Animal Services. "The transformation in the animals in just the first 15 minutes of being in the new building was amazing to watch," he added. "We actually saw the dogs and cats go from extremely stressed, nervous, pacing and noisy or downright depressed - to quieter, happier, a more peaceful state of mind. They are finally able to just relax and be animals."

The \$22.1 million state-of-the-art facility showcases a large public lobby, reception desk, touch screen kiosks, retail space, multipurpose room and both dog and cat adoption areas. Additionally, there is a veterinarian clinic, administration area and an exterior area that will provide an enclosed exercise courtyard, kennels, livestock barn, exercise pasture and agility yards.

View the online photo album of the new animal shelter at www.flickr.com/photos/placercounty/sets/72157674480331430

Community education classes will be offered at the new facility with a focus on responsible pet ownership. The Animal Ambassador Room will also be available for our non-profit organizations and volunteer partners to use for training, meetings and other activities that benefit the animals.

The shelter is located in the Placer County Government Center, 11232 B Ave. in North Auburn. The front office hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kennel hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To learn more about the shelter, volunteering or donations visit www.placer.ca.gov/departments/animal-shelters.



Murder continued from Page 11

branches in my face, and I thought I was being attacked, and I started to run. Well, there you have it. I'm a bit disheveled and out of breath, but I'm here."

Ray waited for her to continue, to get to the point, but very patiently. No matter the situation, she was still a Lady. Although, for how long was anybody's guess.

Casey gathered herself, and began, "I'm here to make a complaint. Now that Calvin is gone from us I can be truthful and nip a wrong-doer in the bud. I assume whatever I tell you is covered by some clause or something that precludes you telling others; a confidentiality kind of thing."

Ray grimaced, "Not really. We're not like barristers or doctors with privileged communications. If a crime has been committed, I can't guarantee anything."

Casey sat back, a worried frown upon her well-kept features. "Oh, I didn't realize. Can I just tell you as a friend, and you can take it from there? And not involve me?"

Now Ray was really interested. He turned to Carole and suggested that it might be a good time to shop for supplies. She easily understood his meaning, and was quickly out the back door. Ray turned back to Casey. "Lady Commander, please just tell me everything and I will advise you what to do."

Casey looked sheepish, and agreed. "It's Alan deLay. We had, well, a little fling a while back. He was very sympathetic and he listened so well and made me laugh, and before I knew it, there we were, well, you know. When I tried to break it off with him, he blackmailed me into continuing. But I won't. He gives me the creeps now."

Ray tried not to sound judgmental. "Did you give him any money?"

"No, no. he just wanted us to continue. But now I'm afraid he might have killed Calvin. I know I didn't originally think it was murder, but, now looking back, I'm not too sure." She started to softly cry. Ray passed her his handkerchief.

"Is there anything other than suspicion to support this? Did he say something or did you see something that day?"

Casey snuffled and explained, "He came by that day with a meat order. Cook dealt with him. I never saw him, but I know he was there. It is a big house and he knows it well. We were indiscreet once and used my bedroom, when Calvin was away on business and the servants had a half day."

"Do you want the body exhumed?"

Casey was aghast. "Oh no, no, please. So undignified. Is it necessary?"

"Maybe not, especially if you will testify and we can find some physical evidence. The problem is how much time has passed. I assume your maids do an excellent job of cleaning up?"

"Yes, you're right. But I can't testify and I don't want it out about me and Alan. I'm so ashamed. It was all a big mistake. I don't think he'll tell anyone or be able to make me continue now with Calvin's death. If he is guilty, he got just the opposite of what he wanted. What should I do?"

Ray paced over to the darkening window. A quick heavy storm had passed over earlier in the day, and it already felt like evening. He really didn't think deLay capable of what would certainly have been a complicated, premeditated murder, but his gut made him wonder. He sat down across from Casey and said, frankly, "I won't pass this on unless I absolutely have to. Meanwhile, I'll look into deLay's actions that day. But I must be honest with you, it doesn't sound like him. Your best course is to stay quiet and avoid him. It will probably all die down."

Casey obediently nodded. "Thank you so much, Ray. I knew I was doing the right thing coming to you." She rose up, scattering petals like confetti, blushed, and apologized. Ray held the door for her as she sailed out. Ray came back inside as Carole rounded the corner with arms full of packages.

"Go well, son?" she asked.

He looked thoughtfully at Casey's re-treating figure, and replied, "Yes, Mum, what a Lady is our Lady!"

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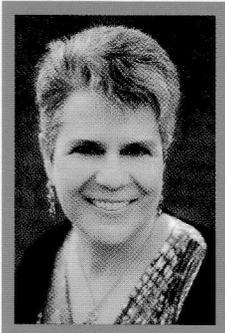


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HIKING WITH PEGGY

BY PEGGY EWING
PETER GRUBB HUT

(Editor's note: Earlier this year during a casual conversation with Peggy Ewing, I learned she had kept a journal describing all the local hikes she has taken over the years. I thought it would be interesting for her to share her observations during those hikes so she agreed to write about some of her hikes.)

This is my second article for the "Community" newsletter about the Alta Hikers hikes. Our destination for this hike was Peter Grubb Hut near Donner Summit. The distance for the hike was about 3 miles one way, total of 6 miles.

We hiked to Peter Grubb many times and with different hikers. I've tried to pick out a few times to tell you about. Many more people have hiked to the Hut with us and I would have liked to mention their names, but there are too many and I might miss some.

The Peter Grubb hike is located near Donner Summit (take the Boreal off ramp from I80, turn left under the freeway). We went through a green gate, drove to the meadow area and parked. We walked the dusty road until the end. When the road was not too bad, we drove as far as The Hole-in-the-Ground trail head and parked there but a four-wheel drive vehicle was needed. Occasionally, there was a vehicle parked at the end of the road (brave soul). From there, we scurried up the mountain side to the main trail and go right where we found the Castle Summit sign, elevation 7880. At that point, you can climb to the top of Castle Peak (a hike for another time). We had our snack there and continued down the switch-backs to Round Valley. Peter Grubb Hut is on the left. It is slightly obscured by trees and shrubs, so we had to be careful not to pass it.

The hut was built by Peter Grubb's parents in his memory, as he was a mountaineer and loved the Sierra Mountains. He died from sun stroke in a bicycle race in Europe before he reached 19 years of age. The Sierra Club maintains it primarily for



cross country skiers, but anyone is welcome to use the hut. Due to the snow level, a multi-level outhouse was built. The hut is two stories, rustic but suitable for an overnight stay, if you had to.

A few times we were surprised by snow on the ground if we went too early or too late in the season depending on the winters. If we could, we would continue through the snow, but on one occasion, the snow was so deep we could not see the trail and had to turn back. We usually played it safe and went in the middle of summer or early Fall.

We visited the hut a few times a year, as there are many other hikes in that area. My first visit to the Hut was July 31, 1991 under the leadership of Florence Legg. Other hikers were: Lonna Haas, Sally & Dick Towle and their dog Indy, Eva Edwards, Ken Wolfe with his dog Goldie, Sue Lee, and her son, Steve Lee. We often had dogs with us.

On September 21, 1999 we were at the hut and had a real "Girl Talk" discussing our poor husbands and anything else that came to mind. It was all in fun and we called it our counseling or therapy session. Hikers on that hike were: Nancy Harvey, Mary Ann Marker, Anna Ewing, Cecile Wood, Lucinda Ingram & Shirley Beedy.

The August 15, 2000 hikers were: Nancy Harvey, Val Calvert, Wendy Philipson, Lucinda Ingram, Anna Ewing, Julie Tannehill, & Sally Towle. We drove to the Hole-in-the-Ground area and parked as the road wasn't too bad! We began up the bike trail that has cement decorative blocks that were placed in the trail to help the bikes get traction. We hiked the ridge of Andesite Peak and then down into the valley to the Sand Ridge Lake trail. It was about 3 ¼ miles and it took us almost 2 hrs. This is a very beautiful area - the scenery changes so much in a short distance. We found a large colorful toadstool this time. When we reached the trail that went to Sand Ridge Lake, we turned left. The other way goes to the Pacific Crest Trail and Peter Grubb Hut. We found a sign that said

the lake was one mile away then another sign in a tree where we had to leave the trail and go about a quarter of a mile to the lake. The sign was hard to see, as it was facing the other way.

Sand Ridge Lake is a small lake with green grass growing all around it. We ate our lunch at the water's edge. We met a group from the National Sierra Club that had stayed overnight at the lake. Some of their group was going to hike to the top of Castle Peak.

It was a little windy that day, so we were debating whether we would go swimming or not. Some of us decided to go in anyway. It was cold, but felt good after the initial shock. We just went in with our clothes on. It felt refreshingly good on the way out on the trail with wet clothes. When we reached the trail that we came down on from the Andesite Peak, we continued in the direction of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and Peter Grubb Hut. The sign said half of a mile to PCT, but the trail was an up-hill climb, so it was slow going. We reached the hut and rested awhile. The hikers that had never been there before wanted to explore it and were pleasantly surprised that it was equipped with all the items you would need to stay the night. Then we headed up the switchbacks to Castle Summit, 7880 elevation. This was a different way than when we came in this time.

We went on the trail that headed toward I-80 and got off at the meadow area. We shouldn't have, as it was the longest way back to our cars since we had parked in the Hole-in-the-Ground area. We had hiked about 8 ½ miles that day and we were tired. We stopped at Nyack Burger King and most of us ate dinner instead of just a snack, since we were hungry and we didn't get home until after 6 pm.

The last time I went was on August 25, 2009 with Sally Towle, Connie Heilman, Lucinda Ingram, Michael Barham, Marilyn DeMarco, Margie Dolezal, Andrey James, Peggy Potter & Julie Tannehill. We almost made it to the Hole-in-the-Ground in our 4-wheel drive but we had to stop a little before as the road was too bad. Some hikers went to Round Mountain and the others went to Peter Grubb Hut. The ones that took the Round Mountain route hiked about 8 miles. We all met at Nyack on the way home for our snack.



Trees continued from Page 9

From Cal Fire website at calfire.ca.gov/foreststeward/treenotes (Tree Notes are a treasure trove of information for everyone), particularly #3, 9, 10, 13, 19, 28 and 30. For example: Tree Note 19: Managing Bark Beetles in Urban and Rural Trees

USDA-USFS: Bark Beetles in California Conifers Are Your Trees Susceptible? R5-PR-033. www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5384837.pdf

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FEDERAL FUNDING AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS TREE MORTALITY ON PRIVATE FORESTLANDS

DAVIS, Calif., Nov. 7, 2016

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California is expanding its initiative to assist private forestland owners in addressing tree mortality and other drought-related damage to improve forest health. NRCS will provide financial assistance for landowners with dead and dying conifer forest trees in certain counties. Removing dead tree debris and other woody material will also help reduce the spread of invasive pests and reduce the threat of wildfire.

"The dry conditions posed by California's ongoing drought have increased the potential for devastating wildfires and insect-related tree mortality," said Carlos Suarez, NRCS California state conservationist. "In the upcoming year, NRCS will continue and expand our 2016 forest recovery efforts by initially allocating \$4 million for tree mortality projects. We will also provide additional forestry staff to meet the overwhelming demand for assistance."

Landowners with dead trees on non-industrial private conifer forestlands in Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Tulare and Tuolumne counties may be eligible for financial assistance. Funding is available through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcseprd440606>

The Forest Tree Mortality Initiative is focused on removing dead trees on larger, severely damaged, private forestlands. Interested applicants will need to develop a Forest Management Plan for their forestland property. The minimum size forestland property is one acre and at least 100 feet wide. An applicant with more than 20 percent of their conifer forestland property covered with dead trees will receive priority funding consideration. An approved NRCS Forest Management Plan for tree mortality will not include tree removal on lands within 100 feet from homes. Please contact your county's tree mortality task force about opportunities for removing dead trees around homes. Approved conservation practices include treating or removing woody residue from dead or dying trees, thinning overstocked forest stands, and tree planting.

Suarez further explained that the Agency's landscape restoration efforts are part of USDA's Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture. "Our focus is to combine healthy forest practices with the need to sequester carbon and improve soil health," he added.

Interested applicants are encouraged to get their applications to their local NRCS service center as soon as possible. NRCS will process applications and visit an applicant's property prior to December 9, 2016. There will be additional funding opportunities in 2017.

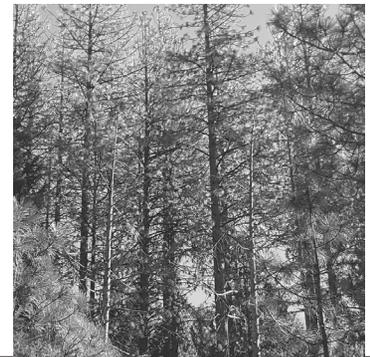
Eligible landowners are encouraged to contact their local county NRCS service center for more information and to apply:

El Dorado County - (530) 295-5630

Nevada County - (530) 272-3417

Placer County - (530) 885-6505

Since its inception in 1935, NRCS has worked in partnership with private landowners and a variety of local, state and federal conservation partners to deliver conservation based on specific, local needs.



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