



# Community

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Winter 2018



## Dutch Flat

## Holiday Boutique

### GET READY FOR THE DUTCH FLAT HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

BY JULIE KENNEDY

The holiday spirit is in the air here in Dutch Flat. Falling leaves, pumpkins and holiday gatherings remind us of how quickly the gift giving season is approaching and the task of choosing the perfect present for our loved ones. On **Saturday, November 10, from 9 AM to 3 PM** the Dutch Flat Community Center is hosting its annual Holiday Boutique and we invite you to peruse the fabulous array of gift items brought to you by over 20 local artists, makers and vendors. Some of the merchandise offered for sale includes beautiful handmade jewelry, candles, works of art, edible treats, ceramic and stone works, bead art, table decor, knit and crochet goodies, and hand painted silk pieces.

On the second floor, Community Center volunteers will be selling holiday decorations, linens, and gently worn apparel. Our fabulous local chef and DFCC Board member, Sandy Sanders, will be treating us once again to her delectable food at our Boutique Cafe. There will be live demonstrations by some of our artists and makers. The proceeds from the table rentals and the second floor merchandise benefit the DFCC while at the same time supporting our many talented local residents.



## 50TH ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT SALE BIGGEST EVER

BY BOB KIMS

The 2018 White Elephant Sale was a resounding success. Once again, citizens from our local communities came together to donate items for the sale and volunteer to work. The sale has been happening for 50 years. That's right, this year was the 50th anniversary of the Dutch Flat White Elephant Sale. We are told that the first sale occurred in Eleanor Bridges' front yard and that the sale brought in a few dollars. The sale has continued and has grown until this year's sale brought in over \$18,000 after expenses. Any event of this size requires lots of labor and this one is no exception. Volunteers began accepting and sorting donations right after the 4th of July and continued to work until a week or so after the sale on Labor Day weekend. Volunteers worked over 1,853 hours to prepare for and run the sale.

The sale would be nothing without volunteers. In order to honor those volunteers past and present, we decorated the vestibule with gold stars hanging on the stair rails, the walls and on a tree. Each star had a name of one of our past or present volunteers. We tried to list every volunteer's name however if we missed your name or one of your family members we apologize. One of our current volunteers was part of the very first sale, Jean Binder. She has helped out at many of the White Elephant Sales over the past 50 years. This year, she was at the Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays washing donated items and helping where she could. She also worked during the two days of the sale. It is so wonderful to have someone this committed to supporting the Dutch Flat Community Center and this sale and to work alongside such a special person.

Each year volunteers open boxes, bags, totes and more of items donated by our generous neighbors and friends to find new treasures for the next sale. Donations range from simple kitchen utensils to exotic items that challenge the imagination to determine what it really is. Some of us look forward to

those items. The wide diversity of the items helps us draw shoppers from near and far. Some shoppers lined up this year hours before the sale opened on Saturday, September 1st. The first few hours of the sale were a blur of happy people finding treasures. Some people shopped for hours while others found what they wanted in a flash. The sale and fun started Saturday and Sunday at 9 AM and continued until 2:00 PM both days. Shoppers and volunteers alike enjoyed the food from the "Café" prepared by another volunteer and Board member, Sandy Sanders.

The term "White Elephant" means different things to different people. Our sale is not a flea market or a junk sale. For example, this year we were fortunate enough to receive a donation of a very large collection of wonderful pewter coffee pots, tea pots, salt & pepper shakers, bowls etc. We often have various antiques. One of our local artists, Joan Chlarson, donated some of her original paintings this year. When you come to the next sale, and we hope you will, you have no idea what you might find.

While we did sell some of the beautiful pewter items, we still have a number left. We have established a selling name "Old School Collectibles" and are listing them on the website "Ruby Lane". If you missed the chance to buy at the sale, check out the online store.



Already plans are being made for the 2019 sale and some donations have already been accepted. Without the donations this sale would not be possible so if you need to rid your home of some possessions please bring them to us so we can include them in the next sale. These small communities we live in have supported the Dutch Flat Community Center and this sale for 50 years. Please donate and volunteer if you can to help us maintain the old Dutch Flat School house for the next 50 years. You can be

**Sale continued on Page 3**

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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 2019 - March 15  
Summer 2019 - June 15  
Fall 2019 - August 15  
Winter 2019 - 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 EVENTS

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM** Dutch Flat Community Center Holiday Boutique. Crafts, food and more

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 4 - 7:00 PM** Community Christmas dinner. Free Christmas dinner, kids crafts and a general community celebration of Christmas Sponsored by the three area churches. Held at the Alta Community Center.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Alta Attic** - 1st, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays 10:00 - 1:00. 2nd 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 Fellowship Dinner, 5:00 PM and Worship Service, 6:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

**Sierra First Baptist Church, free**

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

**Sierra First Baptist Church Food**

**Pantry**, Thursdays 10-Noon, 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. For more, call 530-389-2168

## ALTA-DUTCH FLAT SCHOOL CALENDAR

Monday, November 12 - **No school** in honor of VETERANS DAY

Tuesday, November 20 - Thanksgiving feast, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM and **school dismissal at 12:30**

Wednesday-Friday, November 21-23 - **No school** - Thanksgiving holiday

Friday, December 21 - **Minimum day**

Monday December 24-Friday January 4 **No School** for Winter holiday

Monday January 21 - **No school** in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. day

## 2018 COUNTY OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday January 2 - New Year's Day

Monday January 16 - MLK Day

Monday February 13 - Lincoln's Birthday

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

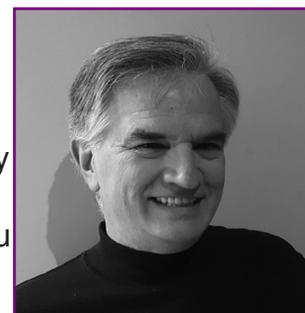
Friday November 24 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday December 25 - Christmas Day

## PRESIDENTS COLUMN

BY BOB KIMS

Hello to all neighbors and friends from your Dutch Flat Community Center. Our summer was busy with the White Elephant Sale which you will have read about elsewhere in this



paper. What a great success it was. Volunteers are what made this event successful and as well as all our other events too.

All of the volunteers who have recently left the Board of Directors deserve our thanks. **Cathy Gallardo** served on the Board for nearly 5 years before resigning earlier this summer. She has, and still does, help out whenever and wherever she can. She has also been a Team Leader for the

Linens 'n Things department during a number of the White Elephant Sales.

**Roxane Bertell** was on the Board for 5 years and has also worked on White Elephant Sales. She has been the Team Leader for the Garden department. Her help and support have been a big help and we look forward to her continued participation even though her 5 year term on the Board is over.

**Dehnel Demianew** served on the DFCC Board for 4 years. Her work, support and enthusiasm have made her a valuable part of the Board. Dehnel has moved out of the area so she had to resign prior to the end of her 5 year term. She has promised to help out when she can and wants to remain a part of our community.

The recruitment committee for filling openings on the Board has again included another one of our wonderful volunteers, **Laura Glassco**. She has helped out many times and in many ways. Her work recruiting new Board members has been invaluable to the Center. She does such a good job recruiting people to participate, work and help on the Board. She recruited me too - I guess she can't always be right.

Welcome aboard to our new Board members **Alex Prero** and **Alicia Lampley-Gebel**. Alex was born and raised in Auburn and attended Placer High School. He bought his home on Ridge Road six years ago. He wants to work with the Board and the Community Center members to continue the many traditions of community and friendship. Alicia was born in Gold Run and raised in the Cape Horn area. She attended Colfax High School, received her Bachelor's Degree from Sacramento State and then moved to Monterey. She got her teaching degree and worked as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She went back to school and got her Masters in Counseling. She works in Truckee for Sierra High School and Coldstream. She and her husband Beau have a home on Main Street here in Dutch Flat. She enjoys working with others to help make our community a wonderful place to live.

While I am on the subject of thanking volunteers, I neglected to point out something in the Fall issue of this newspaper. There is a bench in front of the DFCC with a plaque commemorating Don Wilson, one of Dutch Flat past postmasters. The bench had been subject to the grueling Dutch Flat weather for a number of years and had become dangerous to sit on. **Ken Weatherwax** took it upon himself to repair the bench. He got some help from **Jim Sanders** and donated his time and supplies. He brought the bench back to better-than-new condition. He did such good

work that the bench is really a pleasure to see and use.

Part of the charm of Dutch Flat is its history and the historic buildings. Another great example of history is our hearse which is stored in the Hearse House at the corner of Main and Sacramento Streets. The building is not in great shape and it is not doing a very good job of protecting the antique hearse.

**The Women's Auxiliary for the Volunteer Fire Department** recognized this and took action. They donated \$10,000 earmarked specifically for the restoration of the Hearse House building. Anyone and everyone with the Auxiliary deserves a great big thank you. We hope to be able to enlist the skills of licensed workers to bring the building back to a better condition.

A big thank you to these volunteers and everyone else that supports the DFCC with their help and their time.



*Sale continued from Page 1*

proud of your community and the Dutch Flat Community Center.

See pages 8 and 9 of this paper for a few pictures capturing some sights from the sale.



## HALLOWEEN AT THE CENTER BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

The sixteenth annual Dutch Flat Halloween Open House was welcomed by almost spring-like weather. Once again costumed groups of children and adults made the rounds of Dutch Flat homes, ending up at the Community Center for fun games, where every child won a prize, and hot dogs and cocoa. It was all free due to the generosity of the Centers' Children Holiday Fund.

Every year the costumes get more original and fabulous with this year no exception. Through our doors came Davey Crockett, Harlequin, a drag pom pom princess, a flashing pumpkin, knights and soldiers, Sirius, the three headed dog, a headless horseman with his head, Dracula brothers, a flamingo dancer, John Glenn, blow-up T-Rexs, Lady Godiva with clothes, zombies galore, and a moo cow. The Volunteers Award for most creative goes to the Warwick family, whose half dozen children were costumed and face-drawn as a fantasy woodland group, reminiscent of Victorian valentine cards and Shakespearean scenes. Beautifully done!

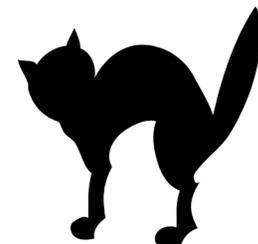
Along with the old-time favorite games, penny in the pumpkin, bean-bag

toss, and tarantula race, this year a new game, basketball toss, proved popular. The prize table was fun and colorful with toys and many special treats. Afterward everyone enjoyed the church's cupcake walk and chili cookoff.

Thanks so much to The Attic in Alta and the Dutch Flat White Elephant Sale for free or reduced prices on the prizes. Finally a huge thanks to the loyal crew of volunteers who show up every year to decorate, find prizes, shop, run games, run the kitchen, meet and greet in the foyer, and all the myriad tasks it takes to get it all together. See you next year!



All photos by Jeannie Nyberg



## GOLDEN DRIFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

BY SARAH FUGATE

### **Become a Member today!**

Membership dues and generous donations from the community have enabled us to accomplish a lot this year. We developed a website, [www.goldendrift.org](http://www.goldendrift.org), where you can become a member, renew your membership, and make donations using our PayPal account. You can also stay abreast of our events and contact us by visiting our website. We installed a mobile hotspot in the museum so visitors and docents can access the internet. Further, we are making use of email and a local social media website, *Nextdoor*, to communicate.

Improvements made this year to the museum building include new exterior paint and LED light bulbs installed in the Gallery. We found that this change has reduced the heat being created inside during hot summer months. Also, the Society made \$100 donations to several local historical non-profit organizations. In 2018, unrestricted donations were made to: Dutch Flat Community Center, Dutch Flat Volunteer Fire Department, Alta Volunteer Fire Department, and Alta-Dutch Flat Elementary School. Building Fund donations were made to Dutch Flat United Methodist Church and Pioneer Union Church in Gold Run.

Following a very successful regular season, the Golden Drift Museum is now open for special occasions and private tours. Call the Placer County Museums Division at 530-889-6500 to schedule a visit. From our opening Memorial Day weekend until the end of September, we have had 915 visitors in 2018 and expect more in the coming months.

On **Saturday, November 10**, the mu-

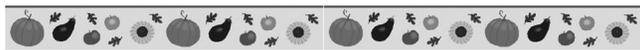
seum will be **open from 10 am until 3 pm** to coincide with the Holiday Boutique being held at the Dutch Flat Community Center.

During this off-season, the Golden Drift Historical Society will be working with Placer County Museums Division to upgrade our Chinese history and railroad exhibits. We expect to have the improvements finished before opening for our regular season in May of 2019. Generous donations given by our members are making these improvements possible.

Please become a member of the Golden Drift Historical Society. Your membership dues and donations allow us to operate the Golden Drift Museum and preserve the historical heritage of Alta, Dutch Flat, Gold Run and the surrounding areas. You can become a new member, renew your existing membership, and/or donate to the Society any time by visiting our website, [www.goldendrift.org](http://www.goldendrift.org), and clicking the appropriate button. Additionally, watch your mail (email and USPS) for membership materials which will be sent in January 2019.



**Golden Drift Historical Society  
and Museum  
Main Street, Dutch Flat**



## SWIMMING POOL NEWS

BY MIKE MUTTO

Another great summer at the pool was enjoyed by all (from what we hear). Many thanks are due to all the volunteers for the behind-the-scenes support to maintain the grounds and the pool itself. We are now in the process of winterizing the facility

The two most instrumental people we would like to acknowledge in appreciation are **Jim Sanders** and **Brent Nyberg** for keeping the pool water balanced. These two men dedicate time every day all summer to ensure the water is safe, clean and filtered properly. Without Brent and Jim's efforts we could not operate the facility to the County and State standards that we are held to.

Moving forward, after we had solicited the Board of Supervisors and Jennifer Montgomery, we are a little disappointed to report that Placer County has not allotted the pool any supplemental 2019 funds for some needed repairs or the new bathroom facility. However, keep in mind that the County did come up with additional funding last year to install a complete new filter system that was sorely needed. Maybe we'll get lucky next year on some of the other needed capital improvement support from the County.

We will now, with the financial support of our non-profit "Friends", concentrate on building new bathrooms next Fall with volunteer community support. We are looking for a draftsman / engineer to formalize our design and provide us a final set of drawings submit to the County for approval. If anybody knows of somebody that could help us in this regard, please have them call Mike Mutto at (530) 389-2902.

On another note, we are now seriously recruiting for new lifeguards and a WSI certified swim instructor for next season. We lose a few lifeguards from year to year as they go off to college or pursue other life and career opportunities. We would also really like to re-establish free swim lessons for the kids as has been done in years past.

To ensure that no out-of-pocket expenses are incurred by any applicants, the Pool Board of Directors is committed to providing the funding for any candidates' training time, travel time and all associated class fees. This is a Placer County paid position with incentive-based supplemental performance bonus awards throughout the season.

**Please, one & all**, put out the word of our needs and have any interested candidates contact Mike Mutto at (530) 389-2902 or Shana Brown at (530) 389-2153

Enjoy your winter and see you all at the annual pool clean-up day in the Spring!

BEST VETERINARY HOSPITAL, VETERINARIAN AND ANIMAL CARE CENTER

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**530.346.2297**

## NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER ALLIANCE (NFARA) UPDATE

BY JIM RICKER

### Great Sierra River Cleanup

The tenth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup (GSRC) was held on September 15th. Sixteen volunteers (including 3 kids) removed over three hundred pounds of trash and recyclables from three sites: Mineral Bar, Yankee Jim's, and Casa Loma Springs. The first two sites are routine locations for our cleanup efforts as they are right next to the river and get heavy use. The Casa Loma Springs area, including Iron Point, is a new cleanup site.



Yankee Jim Bridge (Photo by Susan Prince)

I frequently walk my dog, Jesse, on Casa Loma Road. After seeing several large trash piles in the forest near the springs and some trash at Iron Point, I decided to include this area in our efforts. There was a lot more junk out there than I had thought. Over two thirds of the total amount we removed that day came from this area. We removed tarps, tents, plywood, a dishwasher, a microwave oven along with the standard cans, bottles, and papers. We filled my full sized pick-up truck.

I thank Ron Gould of NFARA and Bill Templin of Upper American River Foundation for organizing and coordinating the work at Yankee Jim's and Mineral Bar. I also thank Eric Peach of Protect American River Canyons for getting a large dumpster placed at the Confluence below Auburn for us to use. Thanks also to local resident Gay Wiseman for helping assemble the volunteers for our Casa Loma site.

The GSRC is an annual event coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and held in conjunction with California Coastal Cleanup Day. The preliminary results for this year show over 1000 volunteers removing almost 9 tons of waste from 72 miles of rivers throughout the Sierra Nevada. NFARA looks forward to participating again in 2019.

### Activities in 2018

In addition to the river cleanup, NFARA organized three other outings into the North Fork canyon. In April, Ron Gould led a small group down the Windy Point Trail. In June, Ron led a group down the Euchre Bar Trail to the Southern Cross Mine. In July, NFARA and the Sierra Club organized a hike to Loch Leven Lakes; Ron Gould and Rick Ramos co-led the outing. We were also involved with several conservation issues.

One of our main issues, as it has been for the past seven years, was suction dredge mining. In March, Senator Jeff Stone introduced SB 1222 which would change the definition of suction dredge mining equipment as laid out in previously enacted legislation, SB 637. SB 1222 would create a major loophole in the law and allow suction dredge mining on the beds and banks of rivers and lakes. So far the legislation has gone nowhere. We opposed SB 1222. Suction dredge mining (SDM) creates significant environmental impacts. Most importantly, it puts public health at risk by re-suspending and mobilizing toxic metals like mercury left behind from historic gold mining. SDM also degrades fish habitat and can ruin cultural and historic sites. The North Fork American watershed was home to huge hydraulic mines (particularly at Gold Run and Iowa Hill) and the mercury laden debris from that legacy still haunts us. There is currently a moratorium on suction dredge mining until the State Water Resources Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife create a permitting process that adequately regulates this activity.

Another issue we are involved with is promoting and protecting designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. In an effort to counter the Trump Administration's roll back of environmental protections, California passed legislation creating a safety net for federally designated wild and scenic rivers. AB 2975 (Friedman) provides for the inclusion into the state wild and scenic rivers system of any federal wild and scenic river in California that the federal government withdraws protection for. The two systems provide similar protection – they prohibit new dams and major diversions on protected river segments, classify segments as wild, scenic, or recreational (based on the level of development at the time of designation), and agencies are required to protect the free-flowing character and river values of designated rivers. The North Fork American River is both a state and federally designated Wild and Scenic River. NFARA supported AB 2975 which was signed into law by Governor Brown on August 27th.

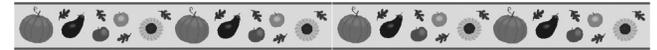
For more information on NFARA activi-

LAW OFFICE OF JOEL C. BAIOCCHI

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ties, contact: Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344 or email [jvricker@prince-ricker.net](mailto:jvricker@prince-ricker.net).



## SB 824 EXPANDS INSURANCE PROTECTIONS

PLACER COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

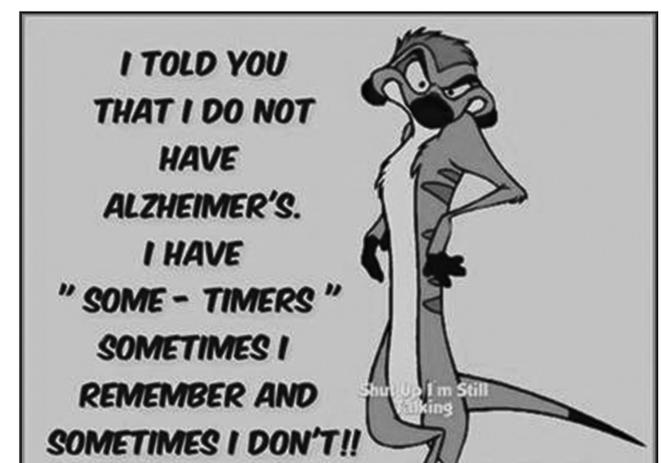
SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 824 which will expand insurance protections for homeowners following a wildfire disaster. Here are four things you need to know:

SB 824 prohibits insurance companies from cancelling or not renewing any homeowner policies for one year within a declared emergency area. Specifically, an insurer cannot cancel or refuse to renew a policy of residential property insurance for a property located in any zip code within or adjacent to the fire perimeter based solely on the fact that the insured structure is located in an area in which a wildfire has occurred. SB 824 also orders insurance companies to report detailed wildfire risk data to the Department of Insurance, in order to give a full picture of the insurance market in an era of increasing wildfires.

SB 824 will serve to slow the pace of non-renewals and extend existing renewal protections to neighboring homeowners that are currently available to total loss disaster survivors.

For more information and to read the full bill, go to ["leginfo.legislature.ca.gov"](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)





Hearse House Garden



Petroglyph Falls

*Joan  
Chlarson*



Depot Hill, 1910



Lake Alta



The Diggins Gold

*Watercolor*

Online Gallery:

**BearsLoveArt.com**

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

## PLACER COUNTY CANNABIS ORDINANCE UPDATES

PLACER COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

AUGUST 14, 2018

Placer County regulations prohibiting all commercial cannabis activity wouldn't change but some enforcement protocols would be adjusted under a proposed ordinance update moved forward by the county Board of Supervisors.

Placer responded to and resolved 158 cannabis cultivation complaints in the first year of enforcing its cannabis regulations. To help ensure continued success, County regulatory staff proposed several updates to the cannabis ordinance to address lessons learned from the first year and to match up with current State law.

Notable changes include allowing non-commercial delivery of small amounts of cannabis in alignment with State law; adding a requirement for tenants to secure written approval to cultivate cannabis from parcel owners; and clarifying that cultivation limits

apply to individual, private residences, not individual parcels.

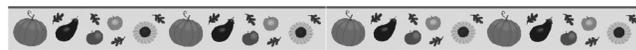
The update also removes a \$500 per plant penalty at initial contact by Placer Code Compliance officers, but retains a \$1,000 per plant penalty, if compliance isn't achieved within 72 hours of receiving notice to abate. A new provision holds that the County would only issue one 72-hour notice-to-abate per offender per year, allowing enforcement hearings and fines to proceed immediately against repeat offenders.

In a related change, the updated ordinance addresses under what conditions a chemical and forensic laboratory that tests cannabis for medical or forensic purposes would be allowed to operate in Placer County. In October 2017, the Board rejected a provision that would have licensed such facilities, because of concern that it could encourage commercial cannabis activity.

A narrower allowance approved in a separate 3-1 vote by the Board would allow for a more limited range of chemical and forensic testing for medical, health and safety or law enforcement purposes.

The provision specifically prohibits any on-site cannabis cultivation or testing that could support commercial cannabis activities, and limits the amount of cannabis allowed at such a facility to a maximum of 3 pounds. Any facility where medical cannabis research would be conducted requires separate approval and licensing by the federal government.

District 4 Supervisor Kirk Uhler voted against the change, citing concerns about the sequencing of Federal and local approval processes. District 5 Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery was absent from the meeting.



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**November 7, 1944** - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

**December 15, 1791** - The Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution) became effective following ratification by Virginia.

**January 28, 1986** - The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons, including Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.

## DUTCH FLAT HOTEL DEBUTS NEW GOLD COUNTRY CONCERT SERIES

BY BRET EAGLESTON

An eclectic set of mismatched chairs surround the cozy lobby stage at the Dutch Flat Hotel. A player piano and a few vintage guitars and banjos hint at a dormant musical history. It's a place where important shows will happen, at least, if things go the way Linda Vaccarezza, the new hotel owner, intends.

The first show of a regular concert series took place on Saturday, October 20th, with a sold-out show by John Vanderslice, a Bay Area indie musician and producer.

In between songs, Vanderslice held a quirky, irreverent dialogue with the audience resulting in an evening which felt like a rare and intimate party with friends. Fans of the performer came from as far north as Portland and far south as Mexico. A lively contingent of Dutch Flatters and folks from Auburn, Grass Valley and Nevada City also attended.

Concert producer Amanda Eagleston, founder of Gold Country Concerts spent weeks organizing the event and was ecstatic with the evening's success, "Seeing people enjoy live music while shining a spotlight on talented local musicians, and bringing the community together, are my rewards", stated Eagleston.

The venue, an 1852 fixture in Dutch Flat, is one of California's oldest hotels. You might guess it's age from the architecture, but the energy here is brand new. In addition to the whimsical indoor stage, there is a beautiful outdoor pavilion. With a patio and porch seating around the entire building on all three levels, this place was built to entertain. Hotel manager Alex Ladner even doffed a Chef's hat to prepare delicious hors d'oeuvres for the show.

If this is the kind of show that we can expect on a regular basis, it's going to be a great year at The Dutch Flat Hotel. For show scheduling, booking, or other inquiries, email Eagleston at [info@goldcountryconcerts.com](mailto:info@goldcountryconcerts.com)

In addition to scheduled concerts, the hotel opens its doors the first Sunday of the month from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM for free community events for groups of up to 25 participants. Please submit your request to [thedutchflathotel@aol.com](mailto:thedutchflathotel@aol.com) or by mail to PO Box 1, Dutch Flat, CA 95714.



## EXCERPT FROM DUTCH FLAT CHRONICLES

COMPILED BY RUSSELL TOWLE

### **January 12, 1861 – RAILROAD TOPICS**

The passage of the Pacific Railroad bill in the Lower House of Congress, and the expectation that it will now become a law, providing as the bill does, appropriations for a road from the navigable waters of the Sacramento River to the eastern boundary of the state, has called something of public attention to the subject and is bringing out discussion as to the practicable routes from the valley over the Sierras. Various portions of the state will put forward claims as to the proposed road, but it will be admitted that it is desirable to have the road located as near the central portion of the state as possible, as affording a more direct connection with the main line to be built across the territories, as well as extending present facilities to the heavily populated counties it would pass through, and to meet the growing demands of the Washoe mining country. Explorations during the last summer and fall have demonstrated that this desideratum can be obtained, and through the counties of Placer and Nevada on the dividing ridges between the waters of the North Fork of the American and Bear River, exists a route to the eastern slope of the mountains upon which grades can be obtained no greater than at present in use on a number of roads crossing the Allegheny mountains. This fact having been established by barometric and instrumental survey, gives a prominence to the route that no other has or will probably attain; and while other passes may be as low as Summit Pass, it will not be found that there exists another route in the central portion of the state upon which there are no rivers to be crossed after leaving the valley until the state line is reached or that shows so gradual an ascension of grade from the valley to the summit. To reach Summit Pass, two lines are designated – one directly from Sacramento City to Lincoln and from thence ascending the foothills to the Illinoistown Divide (between Bear River and the North Fork) above Auburn, and following the divide to the summit. On this line, the only river crossing would be the American at Sacramento, but the grades from the plains up the foothills towards the Illinoistown road, within a distance of eight or nine miles, would be necessarily so heavy from the abrupt rise of the country that the maximum grades would be at least 150 feet to the mile. The other line is from the terminus of the Sacramento

Valley Railroad at Folsom and from thence to Auburn, Illinoistown and the summit. From a point six miles above Auburn,, the two routes are coincident. As is well known, the Sacramento Valley Road is an accomplished fact – the line is 22 miles in length. From Folsom to Auburn, a distance of 19.08 miles, a location survey giving complete estimates of grades, cost, etc. was made last year by Sherman Day under the authority of the Sacramento, Placer and Nevada Railroad Company. A preliminary survey was subsequently made by Mr. Elliott from Auburn up the Illinoistown divide twenty miles and thence across the Bear River to Grass Valley and Nevada. And later he ran a survey from Dutch Flat (seven miles above the point where the railroad survey crossed the Bear River and went to Grass Valley) for a wagon road, up the divide to Summit Pass, Donner cabins and down the Truckee. Mr. Judah has also informed us that he has ascertained the practicability of a railroad over the same route and has published his view relative thereto in pamphlet form. The whole distance then, from Folsom to the summit and down the Truckee has been under instrumental survey, with the exception of about seven miles just below Dutch Flat, which is also shown by the elevations taken by aneroid barometer, would not require grades exceeding seventy feet per mile. The survey from Folsom, by way of Auburn, to Illinoistown give the maximum grades at eighty feet to the mile and from there to the summit there are no grades greater than are successfully used on the Virginia Central Railroad.

We have in this route that which should engage the attention of railroad capitalists, the citizens of Sacramento, and the central counties that desire the proximity of the western end of the Pacific Railroad.

### **January 19, 1861 – CALIFORNIA PACIFIC RAILROAD**

The Sacramento Union is urging, with great earnestness, upon the citizens of that city to subscribe to the project of Mr. Judah for the organization of a railroad company to build a road from that city to the state line and states that nearly one-half of the sum necessary to secure the organization and franchise has been subscribed in the counties of Placer and Nevada and, unless the business men and property holders of Sacramento “are totally neglectful of the future interests of the city, they will fill up the lists in a very few days”. Now, as we understand the project, it calls for the organization of a company to construct a road 116 miles in length with a capital stock of \$116,000. Ten percent on this \$1000 per mile must e paid can be an organization under the State laws. The Union may consider this a very practicable arrangement, but we are informed that the Placer County subscribers to it have so far lost confidence that they do not intend paying one cent on their subscriptions. If this is true – and we have no reason to doubt our information – a considerable deficiency, over and above that already existing, will have to be made up for that large enterprise with such a small capital.

The Sacramentans appear slow in adopting the advice of the Union to subscribe to this affair, being doubtful, perhaps, whether the liberal grants of the Pacific Railroad Bill (if it passes) can be secured by a flimsy paper organization like the one proposed; and they are certainly not to blame for their indifference. The citizens of Auburn were solicited to subscribe to the same arrangements but declined.

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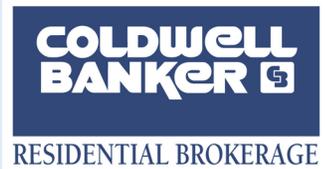


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**Abby Wardwell finds the perfect vase (Photograph by Susan Prince)**



**And this one fits just right (Photograph by Susan Prince)**



**Mary Vosika and Kathy Moyer-Kims (Photograph by Susan Prince).**



**Garden Department (Photograph by Susan Prince)**



**General Store Volunteers Jean Binder and Corleen Lambert (Photograph by Susan Prince)**

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# SCENES FROM THE 50TH ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT SALE



Hudson McDonnell selling raffle tickets (Photograph by Susan Prince)



Values galore for everyone from young to old (Photograph by Susan Prince)



Volunteers Karen Calvert and Jeannie Nyberg take a well-deserved break (Photograph by Susan Prince)



Beau Patton buying a special item from Brent Nyberg (Photograph by Susan Prince).



Decorating with the names of past and present volunteer names on gold stars (Photograph by Susan Prince)



Kitchen crew Connie Rubiano and Sandy Sanders (Photograph by Susan Prince).

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## HOW'D YA GET HERE

DEBBY MCCLATCHY

BY MICHELLE HANCOCK

### “Go West Young Man”

Debbly McClatchy's family came to California during the Gold Rush era. Her great, great grandfather, James McClatchy, was born in Ireland in 1824 and emigrated to America during the Potato Famine in about 1840. McClatchy was a young journalist and worked on the editorial staff of Horace Greeley's New York Tribune in 1848. News of a gold strike in Northern California on the American River had reached the East. Taking the advice of his employer who famously declared, “Go West young man”, McClatchy did.

It was a difficult and arduous journey to Panama where James was going to take a ship to California. He was warned, however, there was a 50% chance of the boat sinking. James was not discouraged and, as someone described his character, he was “courageous, pugnacious, and focused.” So, he took a ship to California where it sunk off the coast of Baja. Only 24 people survived. James swam to shore and then walked from Mexico to Sacramento, California where he subsisted partially by eating lizards.

James reached the gold fields but did not find his fortune in gold. He returned to being a journalist that summer in 1849 working for the Placer Times at Sutter's Fort, which gave way to a larger settlement in Sacramento. James McClatchy married Charlotte Maria McCormick and had at least four children: Fanny, Emily Estelle, Charles Kenny and Valentine Stuart.

By the fall of 1851, James McClatchy became the editor of the new fledgling Sacramento Bee. When James died he left the paper to his two sons, C.K. McClatchy and Stuart McClatchy. And just like the Hearst Media Corporation the McClatchy Corporation is still well known in and around Sacramento and California history to this day

### The McClatchy Family of Dutch Flat

Debbly was born to Leo Graves Mc-

Clatchy and Martha Gibson in Berkeley in 1945 and lived in the Bay area until she was 8 years old. The family eventually moved to San Francisco where the education was better. Her father was an attorney for the McClatchy Corporation, a lobbyist and educator teaching at San Francisco State College in Berkeley. Her mother was from the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and was a teacher in adult education and a seamstress and design class at the local college. While attending college, her mother and father met at a dance in Palo Alto. The custom was the young women would throw their shoes into a pile and the young men would choose a shoe from the pile and dance with the woman who belonged to the shoe. Leo picked Martha's shoe and danced with her the rest of the night and that was the beginning of things to come.

From the time Debbly was a baby, she spent 18 consecutive summers, Easter and Christmas in Dutch Flat and considered it to be her home. First, the family rented the little stone cottage, which is now the Post Office next to the Trading Post. Later her father built them a cabin to live in on land purchased by her paternal grandmother Graves. Debbly grew up in Dutch Flat along with fifteen cousins and the Dutch Flat (DF) Gang, with Debbly as ring leader.

From 1945 through the 1950's there were a lot of children in Dutch Flat. During much of that time there were no cars, no phones, and no television - so you walked everywhere and spent a lot of time outdoors; and, as Debbly would say, life was idyllic. Every day, Debbly's routine was meeting up with her (DF) gang, which consisted of Jimmy Johnson, Susan Prince, Jerry Reioux and others. The DF gang walked to the pool, which was where they spent much of their time. Debbly also spent time exploring the diggings or down by the Bear River, and building forts to hide out in when she felt like running away from home.

The Dutch Flat pool was an important part of everyday life for a kid. The pool was dug out of red clay, not filtered and more like a pond than a pool, left over from the old hydraulic mining. As Debbly shared, the pool had a nice tinge of green on top. The pool is still a historic pool preserved to this day by the community and Placer County.

Every year for many years there would be a big fund-raising BBQ for the pool. At one time, Debbly says, it was bigger than the Dutch Flat 4th of July Parade with music, dancing, a queen and the Aquacade made popular in the 1950's by actress/Olympic swimmer, Esther Williams. Many of the young people took the free Red Cross swim-

ming course so they could take part in the Aquacade with the instructors organizing it.

Some of Debbly's early memories were the gang streaking at the Baptist church camp at 10 years old. She also remembers learning how to kiss her old brother's friend at 11 years old, having a big crush on Charlie Bridges and the Dutch Flat Trading Post as a full grocery store with butcher shop and lots of fresh produce from local farmers and people would buy their groceries on account.

### Treasure Map Found in the Old Hydraulic Water Tunnel

At 10 years old, Debbly read a book about a girl who hid her family's treasures during the Civil War. It was at summer's end and she decided to concoct a practical joke to play on her friends. Debbly, in her many explorations, found an old hydraulic water tunnel down by the Bear River. So, being creative (and a little precocious), she made an “old” map and hid it in some rocks down in the hydraulic tunnel. The next day she announced to all that she had seen an old map in the tunnel. “I told all the kids to meet me there the next morning.” When she arrived the next morning, she was surprised to find the whole town there. The search of the tunnel proceeded and produced a map. But it was not Debbly's map! The map led them all over town and finally up by the railroad tracks. There they dug up a very heavy box. Everyone held their breath in anticipation as one of the fathers opened the box. When the box was opened it was only to find a sign that said, “Sucker!”. What a laugh that must have produced. Debbly concluded that some of the fathers got together overnight to draw up a new map and buried the treasure. “They sure got us all” Debbly said, “including me – I was completely taken in.”

What a wonderful fun adventure for all to have at summer's end.

### Leaving Dutch Flat

Debbly went to San Francisco State University to study American History and English Literature to eventually become a teacher. But fate took her in a different direction. Debbly was putting herself through college in the mid-60's by being a professional dancer. She taught ballroom dancing at the Arthur Murray Dance School and as a Go-Go dancer at night in the clubs off Broadway.

She had also been going to a local coffee house as a student to study where she heard a band playing songs she remembered her mother singing to her as a child. They would start singing, “Keep on the Sunny Side” and she would remember the chorus. Her mother, growing up in the Smokeys, sang

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old-time music from the Carter family and others. Her father was violinist from Irish and Gold Rush backgrounds.

Hanging around coffee houses with open mikes led to one thing or another and she met a man who introduced her to the folk music scene in San Francisco. Debby, while still in college, began to learn to play the guitar for fun (and to impress the young man). Soon she started playing and singing Irish music regularly with two friends. One day, the three friends went to a local Irish tavern that was willing to let them come in and play for fun, some tips and maybe a beer. She remembers they brought down the house and they were hired on the spot and soon began performing regularly. Debby then quit college, joined the musicians union and started supporting herself as a full-time musician only two months after she started playing guitar. Her folk singer/traditional music career began in 1969 in an Irish pub off Geary Street in San Francisco.

Debby worked very hard and learned traditional Irish music very quick. A year later she was part of a coffee house duo working four nights a week plus street singing. After a year of playing all night gigs she and her friend (who she married) needed a change and decided to go to Dublin, Ireland



by way of Boston. Debby had met a woman at a party who played old-time banjo and she loved what she was doing. She got the woman to teach her the basics. While driving across country in an old '59 Chevy, which had a really big front seat, she would practice and learned how to frail. Six months after playing in Dublin Irish pubs, she tried the folk scene in England by going on tour and became a big hit. She has performed in England, Wales, and Scotland ever since.

What is frailing you may ask? Frailing is an antique style of banjo playing and, as her friend Utah Phillips, who is also a huge fan of McClatchy, calls her the "frailed banjo player of the Western world" and "very few people out there are doing traditional repertoire, but she's one of the few still doing it." Debby is a complete folk singer/songwriter – she has written so many songs about California and California stories which would have

been forgotten if she had not turned them into songs," Phillips added.

Debby returned to the states and after her marriage ended she met an older business man from New York City and lived with him for about 10 years. She lived in the West Side near Greenwich Village where she would play music in the coffee houses. There were lots of coffee shops and pubs in which to play all types of music. Greenwich Village at the time was a place known for a huge revolution of folk and rock music in the 50's, 60's and 70's that gave way to the likes of the Kingston Trio, Bob Dylan, Carol King, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell and many others.

Debby began to record folk music and played the folk music trail of Ireland, Stockholm and England. She was then offered a new banjo by the Sunhearth Banjo Company located in the Appalachias of Pennsylvania. They wanted her to endorse their product. That is where she met and fell in love with the owner's son, Michael Martin. She soon got the banjo and the guy. She lived with Mike, settling down in Pennsylvania for many years, but always wanted to come home to Dutch Flat.

#### **Home to Dutch Flat**

Debby bought the log home her father built in Dutch Flat and rented it out to Cactus Jack for many years. Until finally in 1993 the log home was empty and needed to be cleaned and either rented or sold. She always wanted to return home to Dutch Flat to live, but "Pennsylvania Mike", her partner of 38 years did not want to move to California. It was decision time. A decision had to be made between returning home to Dutch Flat or stay in Pennsylvania.

Debby and Mike made the trip to Cali-

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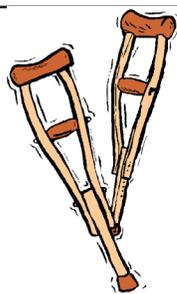


References Available **530-401-1570**

jeriwohn85@gmail.com Check out our Facebook page

fornia to clean out the cabin. Debby decided to leave Mike off at the Monte Vista Inn and bar while she worked on the log home. He was there for hours and when she went to pick him up he told her he had a good time at the Monte Vista and he decided he liked the place. Debbie and Mike decided to stay in this rich community of old friends and neighbors and have lived happily ever since, making Dutch Flat their permanent full-time home since 2004.

Her great great grandfather, James McClatchy, who once was described as being "courageous, pugnacious and focused" reminded me a little of Debby. But Debby describes herself as "organized, stubborn (tenacious) and friendly," and she is. Debby uses her many talents to give back to the community she loves and calls home. She has served as President of the Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors and is a regular contributor to the Dutch Flat Community newspaper, a docent at the Golden Drift Museum, works at the Alta Attic thrift store and as a regular volunteer of the Dutch Flat Community Center, among many other things.



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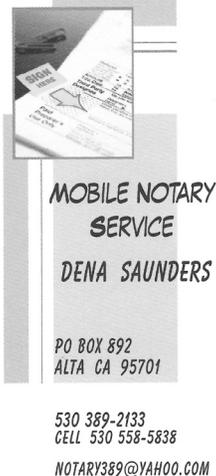
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## TWENTIETH CENTURY GOLD MINING IN THE DUTCH FLAT DISTRICT

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

California is divided into mining districts, designated by the Public Relations Code and approved, at the time of inception, by at least twenty-five percent of landowners in the area. These districts were not necessarily geographically defined, but centered on a local mining location. They extended out from a few acres to much larger sizes. Mostly determined by local miners, using existing European guidelines, the papers drawn up also included procedures for punishments for claim jumpers and murderers. The Dutch Flat District was one of fifty hydraulic districts.

The total amount of gold taken out of California from 1848 to 1970 was 106 million troy ounces, the most of any state, and thirty-five percent of all from the whole country. The year 1852 was the most productive, bringing in \$81 million. Placer County's total share for all years was \$120 million, about fifty percent higher than the average, but only about twenty-five percent of that of Nevada County.

The Dutch Flat Mining District included Alta and Towle, but Gold Run and Lowell Hill had separate districts. The Dutch Flat District is unique in that it was located at the junction of three major channels of the ancient Blue Lead River system, the source of our local gold. There are still massive amounts of unwashed gravels in our area, particularly under the railroad right-of-way between Interstate 80 and the diggins near Gold Run. The gold is still down three to five hundred feet and, being tertiary gold, was mostly fine dust, so efforts to tunnel and extract have met with frustration.

There was little surface, or placer, gold in the Dutch Flat District, compelling over forty hydraulic mines to operate within

five miles of the town from the 1850's to the 1870's. By the 1880's over one and a half billion cubic yards of debris from all the mines in the state had washed into the tributaries of the Sacramento River. This is equal to a body of gravel ten miles long by one mile wide and one hundred twenty-five feet deep. This debris, called "slickens", covered the valley with six feet of mud, right up to the Capital steps. Valuable crops were destroyed, and the farmers took the miners, specifically the North Bloomfield Company of the Malakoff Diggings, to court. Everyone thought the judge was in the miners' pocket, but agriculture was now the more profitable commodity to California and the Sawyer Decision of 1884 was won by the farmers. Sort of.

Hydraulic mining was still legal, but not its debris. The 1893 Caminetti Act allowed for debris dams, but their huge expense saw none completed officially for forty years. As mining moved into the twentieth century, makeshift dams in our district allowed some mines, such as the Polar Star, to carry on minor operations. Regulation from the government was poor or non-existent and the new telephone lines could warn you if the law showed up.

In the 1930's, the California Board of Engineers OK'ed debris dams on the Bear, Yuba, and American Rivers. Two were built: the Upper Narrows Dam on the Yuba near Smartsville and the North Fork Dam on the American near Auburn. However, existing water supplies had been consolidated into PGE making them too expensive to use and hydraulic mining gave way to dredging and washing.

The twentieth century miner still used some of the older techniques: the pan, rocker, sluice box, and long tom but a more popular machine, the "squaw sluice" or "doodlebug", predominated. Cheaper to build than a large dredge and using gasoline for power, two men could operate it, washing the gravel through riffles to catch the gold. Small dams called "shooflys" kept back unwanted water.

Mostly, though, twentieth century mining was still done by companies of businessmen, helped by developing technology including air drills, better explosives, corrosive chemicals to catch the gold, pumps, and electricity. Dragline dredges with washing plants, powered by steam or gasoline, became the norm.

First a stream or river was dredged out to form a large pond. A dragline dredge, basically a machine to scoop out the river bottom gravels, was mounted on a barge and

tethered to the bottom. It contained a hopper into which these gravels were dumped. This gravel was brought up by a dragline and transferred to a belt conveyor. Water was then pumped from the pond into the hopper and the resulting slurry containing gold, sand, and rock would be washed through graded sluices and riffles. The gold remained; the rest flowed back into the pond. When nearby gravels were all washed and the pond full of debris the dredge could then be moved to another pond. From January through June most water was from the natural flow of the stream or river; other times it had to be bought from irrigation companies. The machines ran twenty-four hours a day. Tractors, or as many as two dozen men, were needed to move the larger ones,.

During the 1940's up to World War II, the LaKamp Brothers of this area operated a non-floating washing plant at the Mutual Mine in Dutch Flat. They used a bulldozer to deliver the gravel. Another washing plant, the Stewart Gravel Mines, owned by a man from Auburn, covered two miles on the Blue Lead Channel running from Dutch Flat to south of Gold Run. Many hydraulic mines were still owned by a descendant of the banking Nicholls brothers at this time but they were mostly worked out.

The environmental costs to the Dutch Flat District, from both hydraulics and dredging, are apparent and horrendous. A short walk out past our post office brings you immediately into the Nicholls Diggings with the Franklin Mine and its debris tunnel on your left. This area used to be Grey's Hill, a high hillside behind today's Trading Post that contained cattle and hog pens and many homes and businesses. It is completely gone now. Parts of the Bear and American Rivers still show scars of man's involvement. Both mining practices are now illegal, for obvious reasons. But there is still a lot of gold out there. As kids, we all knew the local story of a boy who found a potato-size nugget on Main Street near the horse trough. Keep on looking!





## VETERANS RESOURCES

PLACER COUNTY PRESS RELEASE  
AUGUST 2, 2018

There's a new tool to help veterans easily access resources in our community. Local veterans worked with the County and community organizations to develop a web-site, resource cards and posters that are scannable by phone so that vets can access resources at home or on-the-go.

### OTHER LOCAL RESOURCES

Stand Up Placer 916-773-7273  
Narcotics Anonymous 800-600-4673  
Alcoholics Anonymous 916-624-6807 or  
530-888-3607  
Al-Anon 916-334-2970

### VETERAN CONNECTIONS

[www.maketheconnection.net](http://www.maketheconnection.net)  
[www.placerveteransstanddown.org](http://www.placerveteransstanddown.org)  
[www.womenveterans.alliance.org](http://www.womenveterans.alliance.org)  
[www.voa-ncnn.org/veterans-services](http://www.voa-ncnn.org/veterans-services)  
[www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org) Or 877-  
832-6997

### SUICIDE PREVENTION WEBSITES

Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255 (Option 1)  
Veteran Suicide Prevention Task Force (24/7)  
877-493-1161  
English 800-273-TALK (8255)  
Spanish 888-628-9454  
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
800-273-8255  
[wellspacehealth.org/services/counseling-prevention/suicide-prevention](http://wellspacehealth.org/services/counseling-prevention/suicide-prevention)  
[www.reachout.com](http://www.reachout.com)  
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### MENTAL HEALTH/COUNSELING

Veteran Affairs (VA) Mather, CA  
916-843-7000

Placer County Adult Crisis and Intake (24/7)  
916-366-5420 or 888-886-5401  
Lincoln Lighthouse (free counseling)  
916-645-3300  
The Forgotten Soldier Program  
530-889-2300  
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530-567-3500 or 916-783-9697

### SUBSTANCE USE

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Emergency Housing Gathering Inn  
916-791-9355  
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877-424-3838  
Legal Services of Northern California  
916-843-9237

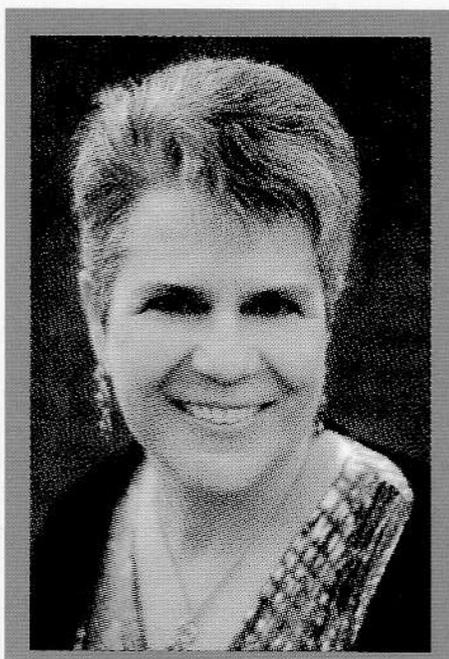


## ROUGHING IT

BY MARK TWAIN  
CHAPTER III

About an hour and a half before day-  
light we were bowling along smoothly over  
the road--so smoothly that our cradle only  
rocked in a gentle, lulling way, that was  
gradually soothing us to sleep, and dulling  
our consciousness--when something gave  
away under us! We were dimly aware of it,  
but indifferent to it. The coach stopped. We  
heard the driver and conductor talking to-  
gether outside, and rummaging for a lantern,  
and swearing because they could not find  
it--but we had no interest in whatever had  
happened, and it only added to our comfort  
to think of those people out there at work in  
the murky night, and we snug in our nest with  
the curtains drawn. But presently, by the  
sounds, there seemed to be an examination  
going on, and then the driver's voice said "By

*Roughing It continued on Page 14*



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George, the thoroughbrace is broke!"

This startled me broad awake--as an undefined sense of calamity is always apt to do. I said to myself: "Now, a thoroughbrace is probably part of a horse; and doubtless a vital part, too, from the dismay in the driver's voice. Leg, maybe--and yet how could he break his leg waltzing along such a road as this? No, it can't be his leg. That is impossible, unless he was reaching for the driver. Now, what can be the thoroughbrace of a horse, I wonder? Well, whatever comes, I shall not air my ignorance in this crowd, anyway."

Just then the conductor's face appeared at a lifted curtain, and his lantern glared in on us and our wall of mail matter. He said "Gents, you'll have to turn out a spell. Thoroughbrace is broke."

We climbed out into a chill drizzle, and felt ever so homeless and dreary. When I found that the thing they called a "thoroughbrace" was the massive combination of belts and springs which the coach rocks itself in, I said to the driver "I never saw a thoroughbrace used up like that, before, that I can remember. How did it happen?"

"Why, it happened by trying to make one coach carry three days' mail --that's how it happened," said he. "And right here is the very direction which is wrote on all the newspaper-bags which was to be put out for the Injuns for to keep 'em quiet. It's most uncommon lucky, becuz it's so nation dark I should 'a' gone by unbeknowns if that air thoroughbrace hadn't broke."

I knew that he was in labor with another of those winks of his, though I could not see his face, because he was bent down at work; and wishing him a safe delivery, I turned to and helped the rest get out the mail-sacks. It made a great pyramid by the roadside when it was all out. When they had mended the thoroughbrace we filled the two boots again, but put no mail on top, and only half as much inside as there was before. The conductor bent all the seat-backs down, and then filled the coach just half full of mail-bags from end to end. We objected loudly to this, for it left us no seats. But the conductor was wiser than we, and said a bed was better than seats, and moreover, this plan would protect his thoroughbraces. We never wanted any seats after that. The lazy bed was infinitely preferable. I had many an exciting day, subsequently, lying on it reading the statutes and the dictionary, and wondering how the characters would turn out.

The conductor said he would send back a guard from the next station to take

charge of the abandoned mail-bags, and we drove on.

It was now just dawn and as we stretched our cramped legs full length on the mail sacks, and gazed out through the windows across the wide wastes of greensward clad in cool, powdery mist, to where there was an expectant look in the eastern horizon, our perfect enjoyment took the form of a tranquil and contented ecstasy. The stage whirled along at a spanking gait, the breeze flapping curtains and suspended coats in a most exhilarating way; the cradle swayed and swung luxuriously, the pattering of the horses' hoofs, the cracking of the driver's whip, and his "Hi-yi! 'lang!" were music; the spinning ground and the waltzing trees appeared to give us a mute hurrah as we went by, and then slack up and look after us with interest, or envy, or something; and as we lay and smoked the pipe of peace and compared all this luxury with the years of tiresome city life that had gone before it, we felt that there was only one complete and satisfying happiness in the world, and we had found it.

After breakfast, at some station whose name I have forgotten, we three climbed up on the seat behind the driver, and let the conductor have our bed for a nap. And by and by, when the sun made me drowsy, I lay down on my face on top of the coach, grasping the slender iron railing, and slept for an hour or more. That will give one an appreciable idea of those matchless roads. Instinct will make a sleeping man grip a fast hold of the railing when the stage jolts, but when it only swings and sways, no grip is necessary. Overland drivers and conductors used to sit in their places and sleep thirty or forty minutes at a time, on good roads, while spinning along at the rate of eight or ten miles an hour. I saw them do it, often. There was no danger about it; a sleeping man will seize the irons in time when the coach jolts. These men were hard worked, and it was not possible for them to stay awake all the time.

By and by we passed through Marysville, and over the Big Blue and Little Sandy; thence about a mile, and entered Nebraska. About a mile further on, we came to the Big Sandy--one hundred and eighty miles from St. Joseph.

As the sun was going down, we saw the first specimen of an animal known familiarly over two thousand miles of mountain and desert--from Kansas clear to the Pacific Ocean--as the "jackass rabbit." He is well named. He is just like any other rabbit, except that he is from one third to twice as large, has longer legs in proportion to his size, and has the most preposterous ears that ever were mounted on any creature but a

jackass.

When he is sitting quiet, thinking about his sins, or is absent-minded or unapprehensive of danger, his majestic ears project above him conspicuously; but the breaking of a twig will scare him nearly to death, and then he tilts his ears back gently and starts for home. All you can see, then, for the next minute, is his long gray form stretched out straight and "streaking it" through the low sage-brush, head erect, eyes right, and ears just canted a little to the rear, but showing you where the animal is, all the time, the same as if he carried a jib. Now and then he makes a marvelous spring with his long legs, high over the stunted sage-brush, and scores a leap that would make a horse envious. Presently he comes down to a long, graceful "lope," and shortly he mysteriously disappears. He has crouched behind a sage-bush, and will sit there and listen and tremble until you get within six feet of him, when he will get under way again. But one must shoot at this creature once, if he wishes to see him throw his heart into his heels, and do the best he knows how. He is frightened clear through, now, and he lays his long ears down on his back, straightens himself out like a yard-stick--every spring he makes, and scatters miles behind him with an easy indifference that is enchanting.

Our party made this specimen "hump himself," as the conductor said. The secretary started him with a shot from the Colt; I commenced spitting at him with my weapon; and all in the same instant the old "Allen's" whole broadside let go with a rattling crash, and it is not putting it too strong to say that the rabbit was frantic! He dropped his ears, set up his tail, and left for San Francisco at a speed which can only be described as a flash and a vanish! Long after he was out of sight we could hear him whiz.

I do not remember where we first came across "sage-brush," but as I have been speaking of it I may as well describe it. This is easily done, for if the reader can imagine a gnarled and venerable live oak-tree reduced to a little shrub two feet-high, with its rough bark, its foliage, its twisted boughs, all complete, he can picture the "sage-brush" exactly. Often, on lazy afternoons in the mountains, I have lain on the ground with my face under a sage-bush, and entertained myself with fancying that the gnats among its foliage were lilliputian birds, and that the ants marching and countermarching about its base were lilliputian flocks and herds, and myself some vast loafer from Brobdignag waiting to catch a little citizen and eat him.

It is an imposing monarch of the forest in exquisite miniature, is the "sage-brush."

Its foliage is a grayish green, and gives that tint to desert and mountain. It smells like our domestic sage, and “sage-tea” made from it taste like the sage-tea which all boys are so well acquainted with. The sage-brush is a singularly hardy plant, and grows right in the midst of deep sand, and among barren rocks, where nothing else in the vegetable world would try to grow, except “bunch-grass.” Bunch-grass grows on the bleak mountain-sides of Nevada and neighboring territories, and offers excellent feed for stock, even in the dead of winter, wherever the snow is blown aside and exposes it; notwithstanding its unpromising home, bunch-grass is a better and more nutritious diet for cattle and horses than almost any other hay or grass that is known--so stockmen say. The sage-bushes grow from three to six or seven feet apart, all over the mountains and deserts of the Far West, clear to the borders of California. There is not a tree of any kind in the deserts, for hundreds of miles--there is no vegetation at all in a regular desert, except the sage-brush and its cousin the “greasewood,” which is so much like the sage-brush that the difference amounts to little. Camp-fires and hot suppers in the deserts would be impossible but for the friendly sage-brush. Its trunk is as large as a boy’s wrist (and from that up to a man’s arm), and its crooked branches are half as large as its trunk--all good, sound, hard wood, very like oak.

When a party camps, the first thing to be done is to cut sage-brush; and in a few minutes there is an opulent pile of it ready for use. A hole a foot wide, two feet deep, and two feet long, is dug, and sage-brush chopped up and burned in it till it is full to the brim with glowing coals. Then the cooking begins, and there is no smoke, and consequently no swearing. Such a fire will keep all night, with very little replenishing; and it makes a very sociable camp-fire, and one around which the most impossible reminiscences sound plausible, instructive, and profoundly entertaining.

Sage-brush is very fair fuel, but as a vegetable it is a distinguished failure. Nothing can abide the taste of it but the jackass and his illegitimate child the mule. But their testimony to its nutritiousness is worth nothing, for they will eat pine knots, or anthracite coal, or brass filings, or lead pipe, or old bottles, or anything that comes handy, and then go off looking as grateful as if they had had oysters for dinner. Mules and donkeys and camels have appetites that anything will relieve temporarily, but nothing satisfy

In Syria, once, at the head-waters of the Jordan, a camel took charge of my overcoat while the tents were being pitched, and

examined it with a critical eye, all over, with as much interest as if he had an idea of getting one made like it; and then, after he was done figuring on it as an article of apparel, he began to contemplate it as an article of diet. He put his foot on it, and lifted one of the sleeves out with his teeth, and chewed and chewed at it, gradually taking it in, and all the while opening and closing his eyes in a kind of religious ecstasy, as if he had never tasted anything as good as an overcoat before, in his life. Then he smacked his lips once or twice, and reached after the other sleeve. Next he tried the velvet collar, and smiled a smile of such contentment that it was plain to see that he regarded that as the daintiest thing about an overcoat. The tails went next, along with some percussion caps and cough candy, and some fig-paste from Constantinople. And then my newspaper correspondence dropped out, and he took a chance in that --manuscript letters written for the home papers. But he was treading on dangerous ground, now. He began to come across solid wisdom in those documents that was rather weighty on his stomach; and occasionally he

would take a joke that would shake him up till it loosened his teeth; it was getting to be perilous times with him, but he held his grip with good courage and hopefully, till at last he began to stumble on statements that not even a camel could swallow with impunity. He began to gag and gasp, and his eyes to stand out, and his forelegs to spread, and in about a quarter of a minute he fell over as stiff as a carpenter’s work-bench, and died a death of indescribable agony. I went and pulled the manuscript out of his mouth, and found that the sensitive creature had choked to death on one of the mildest and gentlest statements of fact that I ever laid before a trusting public.

I was about to say, when diverted from my subject, that occasionally one finds sage-bushes five or six feet high, and with a spread of branch and foliage in proportion, but two or two and a half feet is the usual height.



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