



Community

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Winter 2017



*The 2017-2018 Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors
(L- \rightarrow) Cathy Gallardo, Dehnel Demianew, Sandy Sanders, Alan Willsmore, Roxane Bertell, Julie Kennedy, Brent Nyberg, Lynette Vrooman, Bob Kims (not pictured Eric Cecil and Cindy Goldman)*

YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BY MARYBETH BLACKINTON

At the October 19th potluck, the new Board of Directors for the Dutch Flat Community Center was elected. The Board members are elected annually with a maximum of serving five years on the Board before having to take the minimum of a year off. With the departure of Marybeth Blackinton, Joanne Blohm, Bob Pfister and Jim Sanders, as well as filling some previously unfilled vacancies, the Board is now comprised of the maximum number of members: 5 officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary) and 6 At Large.

Bob Kims will retain the position of President for the second year and Brent Nyberg will continue as Treasurer. Lynette Vrooman transferred from Corresponding Secretary to Recording Secretary. Roxane, Cathy and Dehnel will continue as At Large members. The new board met for their first meeting on November 6th and discussed the officer duties and vacancies. With so much

to learn about the workings of the Center and Board, they decided to study the By Laws and make recommendations at the December 11th meeting.

The Board profiles vary to make a balanced and dedicated group.

Roxane Bertell has been a dedicated volunteer on the Board for four years. She has been with her partner, Ken Weatherwax, for 32 years and has lived in the area for 38 years while she commutes to work at Romaine Electric in Newcastle. She has one adult daughter. Even though she works full time, she tries to make herself available when possible for volunteer projects in the community.

Eric Cecil has lived full time in the area for about 30 years but has just started volunteering with organizations here. He lives along Main Street in Dutch Flat with his wife, Lisa Bullard-Cecil, and their two daughters and is employed with Placer County. This is Eric's first year on the Board

Dehnel Demianew returns for her third year on the Board. She has lived full time in Dutch Flat for 9 years and works full time in the Rancho Cordova area as

Board continued on Page 3

HOORAY FOR LOCAL DINING

THE BEAR NOOK RESTAURANT
BY MARYBETH BLACKINTON

On November 4th, the new owners of Alta's only restaurant opened The Bear Nook at 33945 Alta Bonny Nook Road next to the Alta Store. Locals have been anxiously awaiting the opening as a place for breakfast, lunch or coffee with friends. The Nook, which is open from 5:00 AM - 6:00 PM Wednesday-Sunday and 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays is owned and operated by Ryan Hebert and Brenda Christopher, an Alta couple who live nearby. They will work at the restaurant along with two employees who are also from the Alta-Dutch Flat area.

Ryan is a former IT Tech with Sutter Health in Sacramento. He resigned from his job to work at the restaurant. He has set up their own website (bearnook.com) and will be setting up a cell phone app which will allow users to place orders for pick up. Brenda grew up in the area and attended Colfax High school. She is currently employed with Mydax in Auburn, an industrial company that builds and sells industrial-grade chillers and coolers. She will keep working an alternative schedule that allows her to prepare meals at the restaurant before going in to work.

The current menu is somewhat limited but they are still working on and "tweaking" it for more selections. Some items they want to provide require some special equipment that they are working on acquiring. With

Bear Nook continued on Page 3



*Brenda Christopher and Ryan Hebert
in front of The Bear Nook*

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER STAFF

Publisher – Dutch Flat Community Center
P. O. Box 14, Dutch Flat CA 95714
(530-389-8310)

Editorial Staff

Marybeth Blackinton
Krista Voosen

Reporters & Columnists:

Marybeth Blackinton
Debby McClatchy
Jim Ricker

Other Contributors:

Joan Chlarson - art work

Photographers

Marybeth Blackinton

Dutch Flat Community Center Board

Bob Kims, President
Brent Nyberg, Treasurer
Lynette Vrooman, Recording Secty.
Roxane Bertell,
Eric Cecil
Dehnel Demianew
Cathy Gallardo
Cindy Goldman
Julie Kennedy
Sandy Sanders
Alan Willsmore

Email – dfcc.newspaper@gmail.com

Address – PO Box 14, Dutch Flat CA 95714

Website - www.dutchflatcc.org

Facebook - Dutch Flat Community Center

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:

Fall 2017 - August 15

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Spring 2018 - February 15

Summer 2018 - June 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

Tuesday, December 12 4-7:00 PM,
Community Christmas Dinner, Alta
Community Center, 33950 Alta Bonnybrook
Road.

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- pan-
cake breakfast

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALTA-DUTCH FLAT SCHOOL IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, Dec 15 - minimum day
Dec 18-Jan 1 - Winter break
Monday, Jan 15 - MLK Day
Monday, Feb 12 - Lincoln's birthday
Monday, Feb 19 - President's Day

2018 PLACER COUNTY OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday January 1 - New Year's Day
Monday Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
Monday February 19 - Presidents' Day
Monday May 28 - Memorial Day
Wednesday July 4 - Independence Day
Monday September 3 - Labor Day
Monday October 8 - Columbus Day
Monday Nov 12 - Veterans Day observed
Thursday November 22 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday November 23 - Thanksgiving Holiday
Monday December 25 - Christmas Day



PRESIDENTS COLUMN BY BOB KIMS

It has now been one year that I have been part of the Board of Directors for the DFCC and what a year it has been. I have learned a lot about our Center, about our Community and best of all about our community members. You all know that most everything done at the Center is done by volunteers. What a great bunch of volunteers we have! Hours and hours of volunteer time have made all of our events and fundraisers successful. Besides donating time, many members donated goods and/or money to support our Center. I don't know if every small community is like ours but ours is full of great people. You have been generous and gracious. It has been my privilege to work with you.



Another plus to being involved with the DFCC is that I've gotten to know many of you. Some people I met during events and some at our monthly pot lucks. We have a

pot luck meal/meeting at the Center almost every month. Neighbors and friends get together for some good food and fun. This is a great opportunity to talk with your neighbors and friends. We learn about each other and about things happening in our area. We also have a raffle for prizes at these pot lucks. The raffle raises money for the center and the winners get some fun prizes. At our last gathering, the prizes included two \$50 gift certificates for the Dutch Flat Trading Post. One of the certificates was provided by the DFCC and the other by an anonymous donor. We want to thank that anonymous member of our community for their generous donation.

Some of the donations and other funds we collect throughout the year are designated for our Children's Fund. That fund is used for events such as the free Halloween Open House and the Easter Egg Hunt. Another purpose of the fund is to help families with children in our area that may be struggling a little at this time of year. We provide gift certificates to the Dutch Flat Trading Post as well as to Target for each child in the family. The Board of Directors could use your help collecting names of families in our area that might be struggling to provide a gift this Christmas or might not have enough to eat. Please contact a Board member if you know of any children in this situation.

All of the events held during this past year have been successful. We had a St. Patrick's dinner, an art fair in May, the White Elephant Sale, an Oktoberfest and a Craft Fair in November. There was an Easter Egg Hunt, the 4th of July parade and a Halloween Open House. I may have forgotten to mention some special events but already you can see that the Center is a busy place. The DFCC is a great resource for our communities and we want to make it even better. If you haven't participated in some of these events why don't you come to the Center and join us?



Board continued from Page 1

the Customer Service Representative for Sherman Loehr Custom Tile Works. She is recently widowed and the mother of two grown sons.

Cathy Gallardo and her husband, Tony, have lived in Dutch Flat 4 ½ years splitting their time in Oregon. They moved here from the northern Sacramento Valley where they were involved in agricultural business for 30 years. They are both retired and have four grown children. Cathy is

serving her fourth year on the Board.

Cindy Goldman moved to Dutch Flat in 2003 and is new to the Board this year. While she travels frequently for pleasure and work as a massage therapist, she considers Dutch Flat her full time residence. Cindy has made herself valuable to the Center by soliciting donations for the annual July 4th Salad Lunch as well as eggs for the Easter egg hunt. Her hard work ethic has benefitted many in the community.

Julie Kennedy is also new to the Board this year and a somewhat new member of the community, moving from the Marin County area to Dutch Flat in March 2016. She and her husband, Jeff Berry, purchased the Harmony Farms property at the corner of Clark and Sacramento Streets and run the property as a vacation rental. Julie currently works in real estate with previous jobs in architecture, fashion and retail.

Bob Kims is serving his second year on the Board as President. Bob was very brave and accepted the position in his first year. He took to the position easily and serves the community well. He and his wife, Kathy Moyer-Kims, moved to Dutch Flat in 1995 while he worked for the Raleys Corporation. Bob and Kathy are instrumental in leading the White Elephant Sale as it grows exponentially in size and income.

Brent and Jeannie **Nyberg** moved to Alta from the Sacramento (and previously Grass Valley-Nevada City) areas about two years ago and have been tireless volunteers ever since arriving. Brent retired from the automotive industry specializing in antique car parts. Wife, Jeannie retired from Fairy Land Preschool in Sacramento and is now in charge of the Attic Thrift Store in Alta. Their grown children reside in the Sacramento area. This is Brent's second year on the Board where has been doing an excellent job as Treasurer.

Sandy Sanders has happily been in Dutch Flat about 4 ½ years. She decided to volunteer for the Community Center this year after travelling around the country for a number of years. She is semi-retired and works as a cook in Auburn. She shares property with her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren along Main Street.

Lynette Vrooman has served for three years on the Board and has lived in Dutch Flat with her husband, Mike for 18 years. She was born in Dutch Flat to the Bridges family (granddaughter of Eleanor and daughter of Charlene). Lynette works at Sierra College as full-time faculty teaching English composition, literature and creative writing. She and Mike have two sons, Alec

and Avery who live with them occasionally.

Alan Willsmore may be best known for his locally famous wife, Shelley, who has worked in all the Post Offices in our area at one time or another. He has a background in construction which is especially useful with the Community Center building. Alan and Shelley have been in the area for about 35 years, have a two grown sons and enjoy spending time with their two granddaughters. This is Alan's first year on the Board and we hope he enjoys it.

A lot of time and effort was spent by Laura Glassco in August and September who recruited the new members. We couldn't have done it without her and really appreciate who has been willing to step up to the plate and try for a home run!



Bear Nook continued from page 1

everything so new, they are receptive to suggestions from customers for menu additions. They sell take-and-bake pizza or you can eat in. For now, there are limitations as to the number of baked pizza you can order for take out or eating at the restaurant but they are hoping to get an approved pizza oven to sell homemade pizzas. Ryan will also be making homemade chili on the weekends.

More plans include a sports bar atmosphere in the back room of the restaurant with separation from the rest of the family dining area. Ryan and Brenda have plans to apply for a beer and wine license but, again, that will take some time and money. They do currently have wi-fi available at the restaurant.

To learn more about the restaurant, hours or menu, you can find them on Facebook (Bear Nook) or go to the website. To order food to go, call 530-718-8655. There may be a few "growing pains" in the beginning but I'm sure you join the rest of the community wishing Ryan and Brenda success in their new venture. We're glad they decided to take it on!



LAW OFFICE OF JOEL C. BAIOCCHI

JOEL C. BAIOCCHI
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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530-389-9175 · 530-389-9176 FAX



Hearse House Garden



Petroglyph Falls

*Joan
Chlarson*



Depot Hill, 1910

Watercolors



Lake Alta



The Diggins Gold

Online Gallery:

BearsLoveArt.com

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

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

A great big "M&M" greeted the over 200 children, teens, and adults who attended the Dutch Flat Community Center's 15th annual Halloween Open House on October 31st. Sixteen volunteers worked very hard to decorate the building, serve the free hot dogs and cocoa, and run the games where every child won a prize. Thanks again to the DF White Elephant Sale and the Attic Thrift Store in Alta for providing the prizes for free or at little cost. The building sparkled with new windows and paint. Across the street, the Methodist Church's cupcake walk was another popular tradition.

Who came? The diversity and originality of the costumes this year were absolutely incredible. Along with our usual witches, warlocks, zombies, fairies, ghosts, and clowns, in walked the Frito Bandito, Cleopatra, father and son Tarzans, Papa polar bear, Little Red

Riding Hood, a family of storm troopers, a Boa constricted explorer, many Power Rangers and Hulks, a kangaroo with joey in the pocket, and a completely ticked out English butler. The Volunteers Award this year goes to a young man dressed as a gangster, covered with boxes of rice krispies and corn flakes, who confessed to being a "cereal killer". Hooray to all!

Thanks to the Community Center's Children's Fund which keeps this all going and keeps it all free, And a HUGE thanks to the volunteer crew which shows up every year to make it all happen.



GOLDEN DRIFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

BY SARAH SUNDERLAND.FUGATE

This has been another great year for the Historical Society. Placer County Museums Division's Curator of Archives accepted Doug Ferrier's vast collection of historical resource materials to be preserved. Our Board, as well as the County Museums Division, has accepted a proposal offered by local railroad expert, Steven Bush, to build a new railroad exhibit for the museum that will highlight the Secret Town Railroad Trestle with a three-part diorama. Using funds donated to us by Laura Waste and her family, we expect to have the exhibit in place in 2019. Improvements to the Museum included a new fence, constructed by local contractor, Steve Holmes, French drains, installed by the County to alleviate flooding in the basement, and new exterior paint.

We celebrated our successful Museum season at a volunteer gathering at Anne Holmes' family's house at Lake Alta. Currently we have 35 volunteers, including Marybeth Blackinton, Ernie Bullard, Tony Gallardo, and Bud Paul, who are new to us this year. In addition to docents, we are currently seeking one at-large member of our Board of Directors. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Anne Holmes at 530-823-1341.

Our annual Museum Open House, held on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, was attended by over 50 visitors who enjoyed a beautiful day and refreshments supplied by our volunteers. Throughout the season, which runs from Memorial Day weekend through September, we had nearly 800 visitors to the Museum. Our annual Heritage Trail event in

August attracted nearly 60 visitors on a single day. In addition to refreshments supplied by our volunteers, the event included a Town tour, presented by Jim Ricker, and new this year, a Cemetery tour, presented by Debby McClatchy.

The Museum is now closed for the season, but you can contact me at sarahjsund@aol.com or 530-389-2121 to schedule a special tour. Thank you to our community for all of your support!



Jean Binder and Sarah Sunderland-Fugate



NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER ALLIANCE - NFARA

BY JIM RICKER

Great Sierra River Cleanup

The ninth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup (GSRC) was held on September 16. 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. Thirteen people participated in cleaning up the Mineral Bar Campground, the river downstream, and the Penny Weight Trail. Most of the participants are members of one of the above-mentioned groups. However, one participant was Vic, a miner who has helped with this event for the past few years. He says he just wants to keep his river clean, a sentiment we all agree on.

This year, we removed about 200 pounds of trash and recyclables, about twice the amount collected last year at this location. The area stays fairly clean but because of the high flows in the spring, a lot of trash washed down from above. Tarps and other light weight items were found 4 to 5 feet up on the bushes and trees along the bank. Cigarette butts and bottle caps were the most numerous items removed. The heaviest items

were shovels and other mining equipment. The most unusual item collected was a prom dress - your guess is as good as mine as to how that got there.

The GSRC is an annual event coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and held in conjunction with California Coastal Cleanup Day. This year approximately 3000 volunteers removed over 33 tons of waste from rivers throughout the Sierra Nevada. NFARA looks forward to participating again in 2018.

Activities in 2017

In addition to the river cleanup, NFARA organized four other outings into the North Fork Canyon. Unfortunately, the June hike to Euchre Bar had to be cancelled due to heat. The other hikes (Green Valley, Loch Leven, and China Bar) were successful and well attended. We were also involved with several conservation issues. We opposed the Bear River Centennial Dam, supported current National Monuments, supported extending Wild and Scenic River protection from Colfax/Iowa Hill Bridge to Shirttail Creek, and opposed a congressional proposal that would allow bicycles in designated Wilderness areas.

For more information on NFARA activities, contact: Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344 or email jvricker@prince-ricker.net.



SIERRA COLLEGE AND SIERRA WRITERS HOST THE THIRD ANNUAL SIERRA WRITERS CONFERENCE

VOICES AND VISION

By Lynette Vrooman

Sierra College and Sierra Writers will host the Third Annual Sierra Writers Conference on Saturday January 20th, 2018, at the Sierra College Nevada County Campus. Activities will include the keynote address presented by local author and Sierra College professor Gary Noy, performances by poet Grace Totherow and the Poets Quartet, and an array of workshops provided by writers Kim Culbertson, Betsy Fasbinder Rachel Howard, Patricia Dove Miller, Sands Hall, Dimitri Keriotis, and Shawn Odyssey.

The 2018 Sierra Writers Conference will feature three learning tracks all oriented to the stages of writing: creativity, critique and revision, and publishing. In addition to attending workshops, attendees can enjoy a preordered lunch, visit with presenters, meet new people, collaborate with their peers, and

enjoy performances.

Writers all - come join us for a day of learning, sharing, growing and being inspired to craft your words into the stories, articles, and books that only you can write.

Sierra College -- Located in the Sierra Foothills community of Grass Valley, the Sierra College-Nevada County Campus serves the citizens of Western Nevada County. The beautiful 105-acre campus was built overlooking the city of Grass Valley atop what was formerly Litton Hill.

Sierra Writers - Writers helping each other - supports writers of all genres in Nevada County. Organized in 1982, we continue to offer a variety of prominent speakers and open reads. Members are encouraged to participate in fiction and non-fiction critique groups.

Third Annual Sierra Writers Conference

Saturday January 20th, 2018 | 9-4:30 |
Sierra College Nevada County Campus
Tickets & Registration: <http://www.sierrawritersconference.com/>.



DECEMBER IN HISTORY

December 6, 1492 - The island of Hispaniola was discovered by Christopher Columbus. Today the island is divided between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

December 12, 1870 - Joseph Hayne Rainey of Georgetown, South Carolina, became the first African American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. He filled a seat which had been declared vacant by the House and served until 1879.

19TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Every year the churches in our area get together to sponsor a free community dinner for everyone. With wonderful and delicious food as well as activities for children, the annual event has become a favorite among the community.

This year's dinner will be held on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th at the Alta Community Center from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and local favorite side dishes as well as a huge dessert bar will be provided.

The dinner is presented by the Dutch Flat Methodist Church, the Sierra First Baptist Church in Alta and the Pioneer Union Church in Gold Run.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Dana Ames at the Sierra First Baptist Church, 530-389-2168.



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DUTCH FLAT MUTUAL WATER HAS BACKUP POWER

BY MIKE VROOMAN

The 2017 fire season was Cal Fire's worst ever, according to Capital Public Radio. Residents in this area are all very aware of the risks of fire; Nevada County, Sonoma, Napa, and Santa Rosa all proved to be horrific examples of what fire can do. Although the people of Dutch Flat hope never to experience what the residents of this year's fire season endured, Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company (DFMWC) hopes to be prepared in case we do. This last summer, the DFMWC added a back-up power generator to its list of equipment upgrades. The capability of producing back-up power assures the nearly 100 customers served a continual supply of treated water regardless of weather, fire, or other related power interruptions.

Fully funded by the Dutch Flat Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary (DFVFDA), the generator's primary purpose is to provide power in the event a fire in the area disrupts power to the treatment plant. DFMWC Board President Dave Mintline said that the ability to have back-up power "is a great idea!" Furthermore he said, "The safety and security the community gains by producing water during extended power outages cannot be overlooked." Recalling the Lowell Fire from July 2015, Mintline stressed the importance of running the plant at maximum capacity,

saying "how disastrous it might have been if the power were compromised during the fight against that fire." Power was compromised during this year's fires in the previously mentioned areas. Sheri Miller, a Senior Engineer with the California State Water Resources Control Board's Santa Rosa Office, was right in the middle of the situation. According to Miller, "having back up power to keep the water storage tanks full and pumps running was extremely important!"

We certainly do not want to experience a fire season as severe as the one we just went through, but having the ability to produce lifesaving water in the event something does ever happen should make everyone sleep a little better at night.



Crew installing backup generator from L to R: Charlie Bridges (Facility and Distribution Mgr), Construction Crew Nick and Ben Thompson and Plant Operator Alec Vrooman

GREAT HOMES FROM THE PAST

CRYSTAL SPRINGS INN
BY MARYBETH BLACKINTON

As you drive on Alta Bonnybrook Road approaching E. Towle Road, you will see the white picket fence surrounding the property with a strong history. The stately home and grounds have been owned and operated as a Bed and Breakfast for the past 25 years by the Blohm family. Joanne Blohm lived in the home but has decided it is time to move on to the next chapter in her life, returning to her home town in Green Bay Wisconsin and has put the home up for sale.

The original structure was built in 1890 on 160 acres as a Summer home for the family of Sophary Euer (the date "1890" is engraved above the front door of the residence). Mr. Euer was born in 1841 in Switzerland where he had been a fruit grower. He became a U.S. citizen in 1860 and married Marie Clare Lamblet. Sophary and Marie Clare made their way to the Sacramento area where they owned cattle. He would move the cattle up to the Towle-Baxter area for the summers then back to Sacramento for the winter.

In 1915, the Euers sold the house and property to James and Mary Ella Cothrin from Sacramento. The Cothrins traded a portion of their ranch in the Shingle Springs area of El Dorado County for the Crystal Springs property. They turned the house in to a hotel which they ran until approximately 1927. Mr. Cothrin died in 1922 but his wife continued to run the hotel for another seven years with help from her grandson, George Cothrin.



Photo from Doug Ferrier collection

It appears the Cothrins sold the property to the Euer's granddaughter, Genevieve Lehman, who ran the property as a boarding house until 1939. Mrs. Lehman's would hold barn dances on the property. During the Prohibition years of 1920-1933, many locals



Photo provided by Joanne Blohm

would gather for the dances, hiding bottles of liquor in a creek that flowed through the property. George Cothrin played in a band for the dances.

It is believed Mrs. Lehman sold the property in 1939 to Dr. Cherry. With fresh air and pure water, the area was believed to be have beneficial properties for curing tuberculosis. Dr. Cherry established a facility to help those patients. He constructed about six small cabins on the property as temporary homes for patients. One of the cabins is still evident on the property albeit in very bad condition. Also during Dr. Cherry's ownership, expansion of the second floor was added above the kitchen area.

In 1948, Vic Freeland (Sr.) and his wife, Evelyn, purchased the property. They had three children who were born while residing there. Mrs. Freeland's mother, Rose Sauer, also lived with the family. She was instrumental in planting many of the beautiful gardens and landscaping that can still be seen on the property. In 1975, the property was gift deeded to Vic Jr. while Evelyn lived

and ran the old Baxter Cafe. During that time, the house was treated as a commune for locals and fell in to disrepair. Vic and Suzanne (Vidal) were married a few years later and added the swimming pool in 1978.

The Freelands sold the house and property (now reduced to 1.3 acres) to the Blohm family in 1988. The Blohms opened it as a B & B after acquiring necessary permits from Placer County in 1992. They fixed many of the structural problems, remodeled it and have maintained the home in excellent condition during their ownership. We're hoping new owners will continue maintaining the house and property in its current state.



Editor's Note: This is the second in a series about the grand old homes in our area. If you would like to have another home profiled, please contact me.



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PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS

- 1) The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi
- 2 I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.

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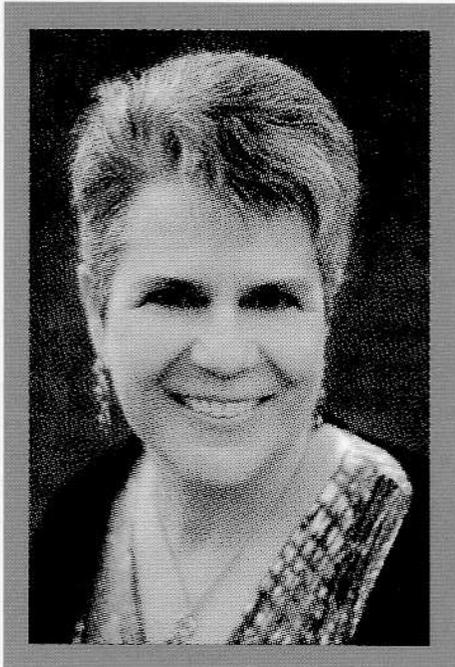
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A SHORT HISTORY OF WATER USE IN THE DUTCH FLAT AREA

BY DEBBY MCCLATCHY

There is probably no other area in the U.S., or perhaps the world, where ditch and canal works once covered such a vast and rugged area as ours. Especially as they were built by manual, rather than mechanized, labor.

The first source of water for settlers in the "Flat" was the Dutch Flat Creek, of which nonculverted sections can still be seen in town, running between School Street and Nicholls Alley. In the early 1850's, a road stretched from the Emigrant Trail, across the Bear River, and up to and along the northern slope of Squire's Canyon. Today's Stockton Street sits atop a section of this road. In the spring of 1851, the Dornbach brothers and their families followed the road to a level spot on the south side of today's Community Center. The nearby creek was a dependable water source and helped with their decision to settle there.

The first local water claim was made by J. Shirley and J. Porter in July 1851 for the "South Fork of the Bear River" now known as the "Little Bear". A local entrepreneur and shoe salesman named Stephen Hoos also laid title, while the "Why Not" company of Thompson Hill claimed a spring near today's Sacramento Street.

In 1855, James Teaff was the first person locally to try hydraulic extraction to secure gold. Inadequate hoses and lack of water frustrated his efforts. He had purchased canvas, string, and beeswax from a local mercantile store but the resulting hoses wouldn't sustain the pressure needed. As

hose technology increased, mostly due to fire companies' efforts, the need for water to wash down the gravels became paramount. Numerous companies were formed to build sluices, ditches, and flumes to serve the eventual forty hydraulic mines within a five mile radius of Dutch Flat.

Soon three large ditches arrived in Dutch Flat, the Placer County Canal in 1859, the Miners' Ditch in 1860, and, in 1871, the South Yuba Canal Company built a ditch from the Yuba River to the Bear River and into town. Gravity and incline were their power. In 1854, E.L. Bradley formed Bradley and Company to administer the water rights on the Little Bear, Canyon Creek, and later, the Placer County Canal. This name was soon changed to the Dutch Flat Water Company.

Elisha Lafayette Bradley left New York for California in 1852. Owner of multiple local businesses, he was also a major stockholder in the Dutch Flat Donner Wagon Road and a charter member of the IOOF Clay Lodge in town. His large, beautiful home still stands at the corner of Stockton Street and Fifth Avenue. He moved to San Jose in the 1870's, where he helped found the First National Bank and successfully ran for State Representative. He died in 1880 from a kitten bite that infected his thumb!

In the 1850's there was a high continuous hill, named Gray's Hill, that ran behind and parallel to Main Street. At the head of that hill, Brown's Reservoir channeled water down through a sluice to the Dutch Flat Diggins. These gravels on the Blue Lead Channel were looser in the Dutch Flat area and, therefore, more easily removed than in the Gold run area. Gray's Hill was hydrauliced away and a 36-inch pipe replaced the sluice as more and more water was needed.

The 1850's had seen the evacuation of hundreds of ditches from small canyons and forks of streams. During the 1860's these small ditches were enlarged and extended. However, in the 1870's, as mines started to show less return, the construction waned and Dutch Flat went into decline and lost half its population.

In 1872 the Dutch Flat Water Company was sold to an English firm, the Cedar Creek Mining Company, for \$400,000. By 1877 this company declared bankruptcy, then skipped town, leaving many debts. The company was sold off by the banks then, in 1888, was absorbed into the Towle Brothers' lumber operation, then by PGE in 1913.

The original Dutch Flat Water Company was formed to run the larger operation of bringing water to the mines. As Dutch Flat grew into a town, at least three wells were dug to meet domestic water needs. But soon another company was required to facilitate this need, getting water to homes and businesses. This writer cannot find written evidence to tell if this company was an offshoot of the original water company, or formed independently. The first names associated with what became known as the Dutch Flat Water Works were owners N.W. Blanchard and Mr. Mathewson.

In 1865, Isaac Coffin, a local photographer and landlord, bought the Water Works for \$1200 borrowed from his Masonic brothers. This included a reservoir, several springs in town, and old and dilapidated pipes and equipment. Isaac got to work to repair everything and then bought the other half in 1871. Isaac's diary is full of the trials and tribulations thirty-five years of ownership brought upon him. But also he hints at enjoying the recognition and acceptance plus a little financial reward.

Upon Isaac's death the Works was inherited by his daughters, Viven and Gladys. In 1911, they sold the Water Works to Arthur Nicholls, owner of the Polar Star Mine and the grandson of William Nicholls, an early pioneer and banker. Arthur started water treatment in the 1950's using tubing and a chlorine water tank tied to a tree. Whenever there was a leak in the main line he would plug it with wooden stakes wrapped in burlap.

In 1966, Arthur willed the Water Works to its approximately one hundred customers. I lived across the street from him all my childhood and teens and remember him as a sweet, soft-spoken man who loved to tend his roses. Others have less positive memories. It is said he gave the company to the town, not because he was a generous man, just one tired of all the complaints.

The water company incorporated in

1969 and began certifying water purity in 1971. The system was remodeled in 1994 with financial help from the Evans family. In 2003 the large tank on Main Street was built with a loan from the State.

If you would like to see a remnant of past water glories, walk down the small road going off the lower bend of Main Street. Within a few minutes you will see a large partially collapsed tunnel dug into the rock on your right. Originally this tunnel brought water from Nevada County to our Flying Fish and Jehosaphat Mines, as well as to wash away the heavier gravels in the Gold Run Blue Lead.

The Dutch Flat Water Works is now the Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company and it is a small gem, mostly run by volunteers, continuously in peril from government regulators. Somehow, with fifty years going, the Water Company soldiers on, a great example of what a little town with backbone can accomplish.



AN EXERPT FROM
**RICHARD HALLIBURTON'S
COMPLETE BOOK OF MARVELS
CHAPTER II - THE GOLDEN
GATE**

SUBMITTED BY JIM FOLEY

Just where the mile-wide "gate" is narrowest, a little peninsula juts out from the San Francisco shore. On this peninsula's point in 1854, the United States Army built a brick fort called Fort Winfield Scott, after the famous American general of that name. The guns of this fort were of the largest size ever made up to that time and could shoot all the way across the channel - over a mile - and prevent any hostile battleship from entering the harbor.

One of the Army officers stationed in the fort in 1879 was a colonel named Sydney Taylor. His wife and his ten-year-old son, Sydney Junior, lived there, too. One day little Sydney asked a gunner what that powder was which he packed into the muzzle of the big guns to fire them. The gunner, thinking it amusing to make fun of the little boy's ignorance, said charcoal powder.

Straightway Sydney thought to himself, "If it's only charcoal powder, perhaps I

can fire the big guns." So he pounded up this grit into the mouth of the biggest gun and used a ramrod to pack it tight. Then he set a match to it and plugged his fingers into his ears to keep out what he thought was going to be a terrific explosion. But the charcoal grit crammed into the gun wouldn't even burn. Disgusted, Sydney left it as it was, and went off to some new adventure.

Then, a few days later, great excitement swept over the fort. A ship carrying Ulysses S. Grant was entering the Golden Gate. This was the world famous General Grant who had led the northern armies to victory over the southern Confederacy, the General Grant to whom Robert E. Lee had surrendered, the General Grant who had twice been President of the United States, and was now on a triumphant trip around the world. He must be given a twenty-one-gun salute - and quickly - for his ship was sailing swiftly by, with the incoming tide.

The gunners prepared to man the biggest gun... It was full of charcoal grit! And by the time this grit had been cleaned out, and gunpowder put in, Grant's ship had disappeared around the corner of the harbor.

The General's companions were indignant and all San Francisco ashamed that the fort had failed to salute one of the greatest living American soldiers and the most celebrated person who had, up to that time, ever come to California.

But why do I tell this story? I tell it because Sydney continued to grow up in that fort, gazing across the rushing waters of the Golden Gate wondering if someday giants might build a bridge across it ... how wonderful it would be ... a bridge soaring from side to side.

But he not only dreamed - he planned

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and worked too. And, thanks in part to his vision and enthusiasm, the bridge was built, not by giants but by American engineers. And to Sydney Taylor went the office of traffic-master, the official who has control of all bridge traffic.



JANUARY IN HISTORY

January 1, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 10, 1861 - Florida became the third state to secede from the Union in events leading up to the American Civil War.

January 20, 1945 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated to an unprecedented fourth term as president of the United States. He had served since 1933

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.



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HIKING WITH PEGGY EUCHRE BAR AND GREEN VALLEY TRAILS BY PEGGY EWING

Many local people are familiar with these two trails.

EUCHRE BAR TRAIL

The first time I hiked the Euchre Bar Trail was November 4, 1992 with Florence Legg, Ken & Virginia Wolfe & their dog Goldie,

We took the Alta exit off eastbound I-80, turned right off the freeway and then left on Casa Loma Road where you parallel to the freeway for about a mile. We crossed over the bridge over Canyon Creek and continued across the RR tracks (we knew not to turn on Moody Ridge Road). We continued to the end of the pavement and turned right across the tracks (the sign said Euchre Bar Trail 1 mile). We drove past Iron Point, on the right, and parked down the road near the outhouse where we walked down the road until we saw the trail. If we would have continued down the road we would have gone to Rawhide Mine.

We started down the trail to the American River. There were lots of switchbacks-

some were short and others were very long. The first two were rather short and the third one went all the way around the mountain. It seemed like forever! We promised ourselves that we would count them when we come back again.

We had our lunch near the river and watched the big Sucker fish and Goldie swim.

On November 3, 1995 our group included Sally Towle, Shirley Beedy and me. Sally took her dog Indy and I took our "grand-dogger" Sadie.

Everything was pretty much the same as the last time we hiked here, except the gnats were really bad. We put some bay leaves in our hats and used insect spray, but it didn't seem to help.

Some places on the trail were covered with acorns and leaves, so we had to be careful not to slip and fall. When we reached the river, we ate our lunch to the right of the green bridge.

We didn't see any Suckers his time, but the dogs had a good time swimming. We remembered to count the switchbacks on the way out. There were 17.

On May 23, 2000 there were five hikers: Virginia Wolfe, Lucinda Ingram, Janet Waters, Mary Ann Marker and me. On the trail down, we tried to stop and rest our knees and thighs remembering how steep this trail is. When we reached the river, we went to the green bridge to see the view and took some pictures. We ate our lunch on the right side of where we came down the trail. It was hot today, so we put our feet in the water to cool off. I had taken two containers of water and had already drunk one, so I filled one with river water, to keep cool going back up the trail by wetting our kerchiefs and pouring the water down our necks.

It took us longer today to hike the trail because of the hot weather causing us stop a lot. It usually takes us from 2 to 2 1/2 hours

to go each way.

GREEN VALLEY TRAIL

April 21, 1993 - Hikers: Florence Legg, Ken & Virginia Wolfe (with their dog, Goldie), Sally Towle, Sally Pansegrouw, Shirley Beedy and me. We parked at Sally & Dick Towles' house at the end of Aquila Rd off Moody Ridge and walked down to the trail-head. The trail was quite rocky, so we had to watch our step.

We ate our lunches at different sections near the American River, as it was difficult to find a spot close to the river. Shirley, Sally P. and I ate near a little stream. The others ate near a meadow area. We saw a grave marker with the date of 1948.

There was a young couple living near the stream (their names were James - who had very red hair - and Brenda). They showed us a cave (tunnel) that Shirley and I walked in a little ways, but there was some water in it and our flashlight wasn't too bright, so we decided not to go any further. James showed Shirley, Sally P. and me their campsite. It was very neat and they had planted sunflowers and Iris. They planned to grow a vegetable garden, also.

When we got back to the meadow, Brenda was there talking to Florence and Sally T. Ken and Virginia had taken Goldie to the river to get a drink and to go swimming.

The way back up was not easy but we all made it okay. Back at their house, Dick Towle had a pot of coffee ready for us that we appreciated. His son Richard was there, so we had a nice visit. Sally treated us to chips, salsa and cheese. Nice after a day of hiking!

May 11, 1999 We won't forget this hike to Green Valley!! The hikers were Shirley Beedy, Lucinda Ingram, Joan Charlson, Mary Ann Marker, Virginia Wolfe, Michael Barham, Sally Towle, Matt Bailey, and me. The trail was not maintained, so it was pretty rough going down. Trees were down across the trail and it was rocky from the winter run-off.

The wild Azaleas were in full bloom and especially pretty near the meadow area.

There was a tent set up with a camper. He told us that he had come down the night before to get away from it all. And here we were!!!!

Matt was chosen as our leader for the day since he had some property there and knew the area. He showed us a spring with fresh water that came out of the mountain and he said it was good to drink. He mentioned the grave marker that we had seen the last time we were here. We went up stream for about 10-15 minutes and found a nice area to have our lunches.

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When we started back up the hill, we noticed that Matt was acting differently and seemed to be having difficulty walking. We tried to get him to “stay-put”, but he insisted on going on. He fainted momentarily and fell into the Manzanita bushes and scratched his arm. We told him what happened and he did not think he had fainted and was determined to get up. Mary Ann tried to talk him into stopping, but he wanted to go on. So he went very slowly until he finally sat down to rest. Mary Ann tried to take his pulse, but he wasn't being cooperative so we knew we he needed medical assistance we couldn't provide.

This was the first hike that Mary Ann had gone on with the Alta Hikers and we were fortunate to have her as she was not only a lifeguard, but had first responder experience.

Meanwhile, Joan and Michael started walking out. Michael had a cell phone and as soon as he could get reception, he called Dick Towle. Dick contacted CDF (California Division of Forestry) in Alta and they were down the trail in no time at all. Three men came first with a paramedic. Then came a nurse and a whole crew of men. Some of the men were prisoners from the jail that were assigned to CDF for fire duty.

Forest Service helicopters came plus a couple more. One checked out the situation down by the river and the other to where Matt was located. At that time they did not know which way they would rescue him. Matt was on a rock in an open area, so that was the best way for the operation. He was hoisted up in a basket to the helicopter and taken to a

waiting ambulance and taken to Auburn Faith Hospital. Matt's wife, Betty was at the trail-head waiting to give him support. We were somewhat anxious when we saw Matt being taken up and swinging in the air in that basket

Sally had given Matt her bottle of water, so we shared mine the rest of the way back up, but we ran out before we reached the top. We were happy to see Dick at the top with cold sodas.



FEBRUARY IN HISTORY

February 2, 1848 - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas. The treaty was ratified on March 10, 1848.

February 6, 1933 - The 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted. It set the date for the Presidential Inauguration as January 20th, instead of the old date of March 4th. It also sets January 3rd as the

official opening date of Congress

February 15, 1898 - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of “Remember the Maine!”

February 27, 1950 - The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the president to two terms or a maximum of ten years in office

February 28, 1844 - During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing several top U.S. government officials on the steamer ship, and narrowly missed killing President John Tyler.



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Photo by Mary Ann Marker

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