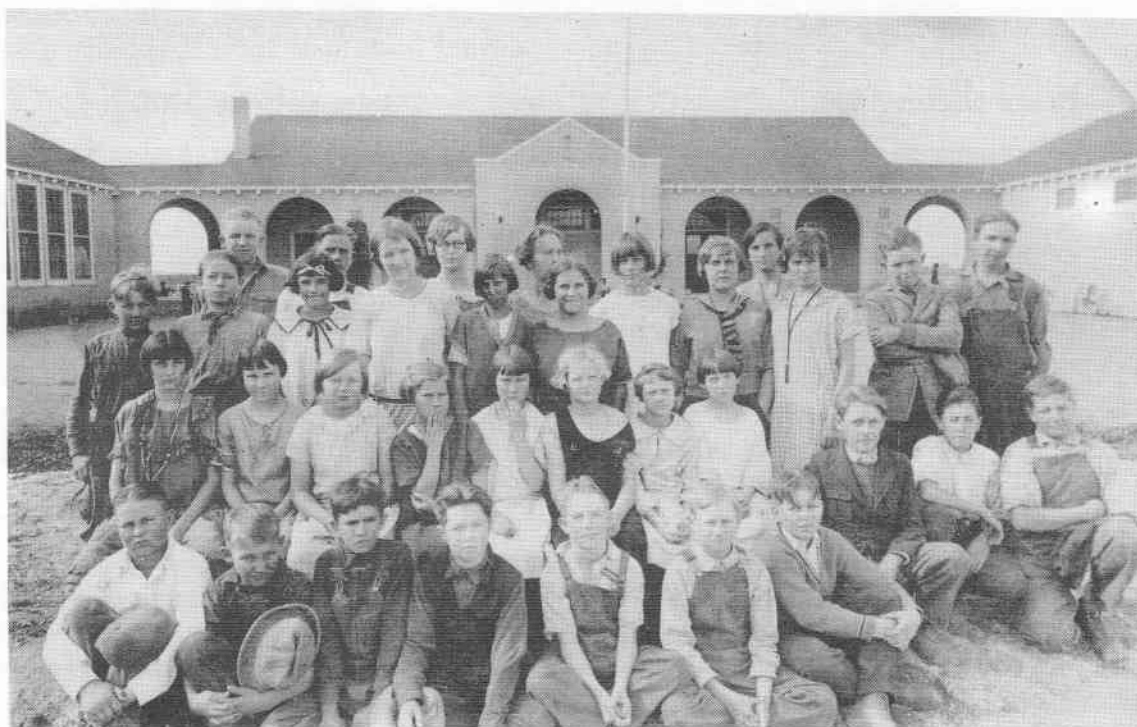


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Yuba City, California

January 2009



Terra Buena Schoolchildren, 1924  
*(photo courtesy of Community Memorial Museum)*

Richard Lange, Herman Schmidt, Marastacia Peppard, Mrs. Mooney, Naomi Mygaard, Stella Lathrop, Junior Wilbur, Chase Neary, Zelda George, Vera Jones, Bernice Bumagardner, Esther Schmidt, Winefred Hull, Lucille Page, Jack Church, Donald Taylor, Velma Henson, Oleta Neamy, Bessie Leuth, Elizabeth Schmidt, Othara Reamy, Margaret Carraginio, Helen Higherman, Ethel Lathrop, Fred Hull, Elmer George, Fred Hull, George Tharp, Francis Higherman, Stanley George, George Randolph, Erwin Jones, Benny Wells, Diane Swinson.



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Audrey Breeding, President

Bob Mackensen, Vice President

Phyllis Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

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Audrey Breeding-1997

Sarah Pryor - 2008

Constance Cary-1987

Margaret Pursch-2002

Bruce Harter-1991

John Reische-2000

Helen Heenan-1996

Margit Sands-2007

Bob Mackensen-2002

Jennifer Scrogin-2007

Leona Pennington-2006

Phyllis Smith-2000

Steve Perry-1994

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Cynthia Pfiester-2004

Bill Stenquist-2004

\*The year the director joined the Board.

The **Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Historical Society in Yuba City, California. Editors are Sharyl Simmons and Phyllis Smith. Payment of annual membership dues provides you with a subscription to the **Bulletin** and the Museum's **Muse News** and membership in both the Society and the Museum.

The 2009 dues are payable as of January 1, 2009. Mail your check to the Community Memorial Museum at P. O. Box 1555, Yuba City, 95992-1555. 530-822-7141

Student (under 18)/ Senior Citizen/Library .....	\$ 20
Individual .....	\$ 25
Organizations/Clubs .....	\$ 35
Family .....	\$ 40
Business/Sponsor .....	\$ 100
Corporate/Benefactor .....	\$1000

## President's Message

I have two exciting announcements this issue.

First, the survey of historical properties is complete! Many of you may remember that we hired Galvin Preservation Associates, Inc. to conduct a survey of local properties with historic value. The survey was begun in 2005, and was funded by the settlement of a lawsuit regarding the demolition of the Jacob Onstott House, and much of the fieldwork was done by volunteers from the Historical Society. In October Phyllis Smith and I presented the completed survey (in electronic form) to the Sutter County Board of Supervisors for inclusion in the General Plan, which is currently being revised. Our hope is that when county planners are considering changes and development in the county they will incorporate information from our survey and protect those properties. Our survey includes 318 properties. At times we selected only representative houses from some neighborhoods. In the next year we will be gathering addresses of properties that were not included and will expand our list.

Second, based on requests the Museum and others have received for copies of *Thompson and West's History of Sutter County, California*, the Historical Society has reprinted this important reference book. The original *History* was printed in 1879 and reprinted by the Historical Society in 1974. While occasionally a copy of the second edition is available for sale on the Internet at the inflated price of \$200, we will sell the third edition for \$45. Your first opportunity to purchase it will be at our General Membership meeting on **January 17** at the Museum. It will be available at the Museum after that date until it sells out. Be sure to pick up a copy while they are still available.

Besides coming for *Thompson and West*, we hope to see you that Saturday for dessert and the presentation of two interesting topics. Our main speaker is Andrea Galvin, of Galvin Preservation Associates, who will talk about our survey. We will also hear from Mike Hubbart of the Middle Mountain Foundation. He's preparing to write a book on the Sutter Buttes for Arcadia publishers and is asking for people to share photographs and stories with him.

And finally, if you wonder why you missed our October bulletin, the busy and exciting lives of our editors forced them to skip that issue. It's not easy to find or write interesting articles, and they receive little input from the members. Stalwarts such as Don Burtis, whose article on Tierra Buena School graces this edition, are few, and we would appreciate ideas, articles and interviews from all of you.

Audrey Breeding, President

## Directors Report

We are looking forward to offering you an interesting new year indeed at the Museum. I know you will enjoy the pedal tractors that are on exhibit in January. A local collector has shared his delightful toys with us, so be sure to see them and bring back some memories.

The River Valley High School Art Department will exhibit students' work during the first three weeks of February, followed by the Yuba City High School Art Department in the last week of January and the first two weeks of March. We find that these annual student art exhibits are vibrant, fresh and full of talent. It's a treat to see the work of these up and coming artists.

We look forward in April to Gerry Tsuruda's exhibition of black and white photographs in a collection called *Roadside*. Gerry has photographed along local roads, roads all over the West, and in other parts of the country, looking for unique and intriguing views.

Many of you may miss our longtime annual Valentine's Day fundraising event, *Love's Messenger*, but it has been replaced this year by *Amaretto Sweetheart Truffles*. A pretty red organza heart containing two of our famous amaretto chocolate truffles is great for gifting sweethearts, friends, and all special people. They make a nice thank you or hostess gift, as well. *Sweetheart Truffles* can be picked up in the Museum Store for \$5.00 plus tax during the month of February.

You are invited to attend a Charitable Gift Annuity Workshop on **January 24** from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The purpose of the workshop is to educate us about the benefits of giving a planned gift that would be shared between the Museum and Sutter North Medical Foundation. In this time of volatile markets, it is nice to know that there is a way to give you with a lifetime of income, while offering a solid financial future for the Museum. It will also provide you an immediate tax deduction. Charitable Gift Annuities provide all of these benefits and often have larger payments than stock dividends and higher rates than many CDs and US Treasury Bills.

The workshop will take place at Peach Tree Golf and Country Club, 2143 Dantoni Road in Marysville. A complimentary breakfast will be served, and guest speaker Matt Laufman, Vice President of Planned Giving for Sutter Health, will share the numerous benefits of giving a charitable gift that helps the non-profit organization (the Museum) and also gives back to the donor. He will explain how you can secure income in your retirement and help support the Museum at the same time. If you are interested in attending this free workshop, please call me at the Museum at 822-7141. There is no obligation incurred by attending; it is simply informational.

See you at the Museum.

Julie Stark, Director

## Memorials

In Memory of **Glenda Alves**  
Darlene & Joe Davis

In Memory of **Gilbert Azama**  
Steven Richardson  
Howard & Ruth Anthony

In Memory of **Agnes Bell**  
Joni Adams  
Joe & Rebecca Benatar  
California Camel Clompers  
Walking Club

In Memory of **Mary C. Butler**  
Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Eleanor Ballard Clark**  
Dorothy Coats  
Live Oak Women's Club

In Memory of **Renzo Del Pero**  
Mike & Helen Andrews

In Memory of **Dorothy Ettl**  
Ronald & Sharon Nishita Osgood

In Memory of **Katherine Forderhase**  
Mike & Helen Andrews

In Memory of **Warren Hall**  
Rich Bowder  
Dorothy Coats

In Memory of **Betty Jean Heffington**  
Jim Staas

In Memory of **Irene Mae Holvick**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **Roger Holvick**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **Dudley Igo**  
Howard & Ruth Anthony  
Paula Carder  
Ann Karperos

In Memory of **Elsie Jelavich**  
Mike & Helen Andrews

In Memory of **Paul Licari**  
Mike & Helen Andrews

In Memory of **Cecil S. Maciel**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **Lucille Reische McVey**  
Jean De Mattos

In Memory of **Michael Mikulas**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **Bill Miller**  
Steven Richardson

In Memory of **Ray Mullins**  
Paula Carder

In Memory of **William Leonard Neal**  
Live Oak Women's Club

In Memory of **Cody Nelson**  
W. C. McFarland

In Memory of **Evelyn Nesmith**  
Live Oak Women's Club

In Memory of **Don Perkins**  
W. C. McFarland

In Memory of **Eldon Pryor**  
Everett & Liz Berry

## Memorials

In Memory of **Randolph Schnabel**  
Marysville York Rite Bodies

In Memory of **Linda P. Scott**  
Merlyn Rudge

In Memory of **Marilyn Metcalf Smith**  
Dorothy & Robert Coats Family

In Memory of **Wanda Sorenson**  
Jim Staas

In Memory of **Mark W. Souza**  
Howard & Ruth Anthony

In Memory of **Marty Tull**  
George & Shyrlie Emery

In Memory of **Julie Tyler**  
Jim Staas

In Memory of **Leon West**  
Marysville York Rite Bodies

Outright Gift from  
Larry Combs

Outright Gift from  
Yuba City Women's Club

## Charitable Gift Annuities

*Your Invitation to  
An Absolutely Not Scary,  
Friendly, Informal Workshop  
To Learn About Charitable Gift Annuities –  
A Great Way to **Receive** a Lifetime of Income and  
To Make a **Gift** to the Museum.*

*Saturday, January 24  
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Peach Tree Golf and Country Club*

*Complimentary Breakfast  
Free Informational Workshop  
No Obligation*

*In Partnership with Sutter North Foundation  
RSVP to the Museum 822-7141*

You Asked, We Listened  
Back by Popular Demand  
Thompson & West's  
*History of Sutter County*

Originally published in 1879, reprinted in 1974, and out of print since

Available for sale beginning **Saturday, January 17** at the general membership meeting at the Museum

\$45 plus tax (\$48.26 total)

Thomas Hinckley Thompson and Albert Augustus West published 17 histories of California counties between 1876 and 1892. These histories are consistently used for research and are cited by other historians such as H. H. Bancroft.

*History of Sutter County* includes 40 chapters on various aspects of local history, biographies of over 320 residents, and 115 illustrations of Sutter County farms and residences.

This book is a **must have** for connoisseurs of local history!

## Letter Home

by  
I. Manasco

*This letter was addressed to:*

*Genl Manasco  
Holly Grove  
Ala*

*It was pre-envelope days and the pages were folded and then sealed, apparently with wax. Note the original spelling.*

Marysville California August 25<sup>th</sup> 1850

Genl Manasco

My old Brother

Your kind favour of the 13<sup>th</sup> May came to hand five days since & afforded me a great deal of pleasure for a man in a strange land feels quite lonely. If you write in a few days after you receive this, I will get your letter in 3 months so you may direct it to this place and then I will instruct you where to send the next. I have enjoyed uninterrupted health, but I have seen [illegible] since I came here, for notwithstanding money is vastly plenty, expences are in protion & if you stop for only a day or two your mony wasts away verry fast. But as I have believed for a number of years that I was a man amongst men, I have fought on bravely & now am doing what I call verry well for this or any other country. The fact is I am at present clearing full 200\$ every 8 days. This looks large, but it is a fact and my prospects are bright for doing better if my health continues good for the next two or three months. Then the rains will commence and business will be suspended intirely for I don't know how long. I am well pleased that I came, for I should not have been satisfied if I had not. I am selling provisions for a

large proffit. I have bought and paid for five mules and a pack load from this place to where I am staying pays about \$250 as proffit. So I think to about \$50.00 for expences I clear about \$200.00 a trip, and I make a trip every eight days. I shall increase my train to five or six mules and then stop for the present season for I don't want too many on hand at the Commencement of the Rainy season and five mules will clear me at least nine hundred Dollars a month. All I lack in this country is health and if I have health for a few months I shall have made mony enough to take one more fare start with the swelled heads, but Jack there is more distress here and more men sick of California than you can form any idea of, and hundreds are trying to get home - to get home, ah there lys the rub. They want to get home. Their friends ~~many of them have~~ furnished them mony to come here and now they want to go home without one dollar. But enough of this for they are of no account in this country, nor no other, but don't incourage your friends to come here for they will be disappointed if they come. They will have to work hard & live hard. But if they can stand



that, they can make money and not a small quantity at that. The place where I am selling goods is about three hundred miles from San Francisco north east and about 65 miles from this place, but direct your letter to this place. I am here frequently. Direct to I. Manasco Marysville California and tell me all about all my friends. I have just bought the New York Herald for which I paid seventy five cents. It contains an account of the death of the president, so Mr. Filmore is president. I think from what I have learnt of his character that he is to say the least a friend of abolitionists, but I am satisfied just as well with him as I was with poor old Zack.

You will be difficulted to read this. I have not written but few lines in almost 12 months. I left Gainsville the 17<sup>th</sup> of Oct last.

I now must close my very uninteresting letter barely expressing my regrets on account of being so far from you all. But the time will soon roll round, like the termination of our

existence, that I shall try to (illegible) for old Ala. I left home to be gone two years and if I keep well I shall try to be at home that time. It may be a month or so over, but about that time. I am as apt as not to be at home and then tell old Vicy I will come and see him and notwithstanding life is so uncertain, I feel we shall all meet again in this world, but if not let us be content and if it please my maker to call me from time while I am in California none of you must grieve for at the end even of a long life, we shall all soon meet in a better country than this if we try. Tell the boys to do better and above all things to quit swearing and if we meet no more in this world that it is the earnest request of their brother.

My love to all,  
Farewell

I. Manasco

## Oliver Perry Stidger

by  
Stephen G. Hurst

*The following is an obituary from September 1959. Oliver Stidger was very active in the Society of California Pioneers. Also included is a look at his grandfather, for whom he was named, who lived and worked in Marysville in the 1850s. We think you'll find this an interesting read.*

The passing of Oliver Perry Stidger was the death of a great champion for the right - a fighter who never gave up except to old man death. When in the great earthquake of 1906

they were about to blow up the Montgomery building, he defied the soldiers, with this five feet of man threatening to make them blow him up along with the old building if they

persisted. In the end he won, securing a legal stop that saved the historic structure, once the place of the great General Halleck in Pioneer days, for over fifty years of useful life. But now the gallant old structure and its gallant defender have had at long last to yield to Father Time. The building was sentenced to destruction in the near future and it seems that fate destined the brave little man who was for so many years its guiding spirit to die with it. At any rate, Oliver Perry Stidger has passed over and his building, a building with soul, will soon join him.

He will be remembered for his construction work in the organization of the Society of Pioneers but his grandest battle was upholding the legal rights of the minorities in Court, particularly the Chinese. Until Stidger came along and became their champion, no Chinese had any rights a white man was bound to respect; after Stidger a Chinese knew that he would have his day in court. For that they loved and trusted him and he never let them down.

But he was not the greatest of the fighting clan; that honor belongs to his grandfather, Oliver Perry Stidger, a 6' 4" giant who came to Marysville from Ohio in the days of '49.

He was a lawyer and while in Marysville he became an editor. In fact, he was editor and part owner for a time of the Marysville Herald, the grand pappy of the Appeal-Democrat. He was a fighting editor, for he belonged to the school of editors who subscribed to the theory that the function of a newspaper was to tell the

news and raise hell. This netted him some beatings and one duel, a duel heard around the world. It was the fruit of one of those North vs South newspaper wars in which his opponent was Col. Richard Rust, an aristocratic Southerner. They called each other the worst names they could think of and having exhausted names they resorted to arms - a duel.

It took place over in Sutter County. The weapons were rifles at 10 paces and all of the big shots of Marysville were lined up on one side or the other. They included such celebrities as Judge Mott and the famed nobleman Charles Fairfax. The combatants traded several rounds of shots with the net result that Stidger was wounded in the hip pocket and one of his shots clipped a tress of hair off the head of Col. Rust. This was getting a little too close and so Rust's seconds made peace between the principals.

After a busy life in Marysville in the late 1850s, Stidger moved to the Nevada City area. Sometimes he lived in North San Juan and sometimes in Nevada City. Then he took turns at practicing law, acting as Judge and editing newspapers, some of which he started. As an editor he still told the news and fought for the right which netted him several beatings and several attempted assassinations. After a long life of living dangerously like this he went out fighting, not by any man's hand, but at the call of the big Boss himself.

Somehow life seems duller since the last of the Stidgers were summoned to meet their God.

# Early Rice Production

by  
Glenn A. Gibbons

*Reprinted from the Sutter County Historical News Bulletin, January, 1979*

*THE AUTHOR: Glenn Gibbons was born in Nez Perce, Idaho in 1899. His family moved to Biggs when he was 11 and he attended school for several years, graduating from Marysville High School, Class of 1918. After a short stint in the Navy, he attended UC Berkeley and received his A. B. degree in 1926. He joined the Commercial Credit Co., a consumer finance organization. For several years he and his wife, Sally, were sent to various parts of the United States and to Madrid, Spain. Finally they settled in Oregon and bought their own business in 1952, and sold it in 1977.*

*After nearly 40 years away from the Bay Area, they moved to Rossmoor, near Walnut Creek, California where they now reside. [1979]*

The Gibbons family moved from Idaho to Biggs in 1910. Biggs was a farming community with both small and semi-large ranches. West of Biggs at that time was a large expanse of land reaching from Willows to the Marysville Buttes, called the "dobe" (adobe) country. The land was considered worthless and good only for wild geese. It was a black, sticky soil on which they could find nothing that would grow.

During the period of 1910 to 1914 the U. S. Government established an experimental station at Richvale to find out if anything could be grown on this "worthless" soil. They finally found that rice would grow abundantly.

The first year crop on this "dobe" soil would yield about 100 hundred pound sacks to the acre. The yield of the second year would be about 60 sacks and that of the third year from 20 to 30 sacks. At that time farmers would let the soil rest for a year or more after the third crop. Today with chemical fertilizers a good yield can be produced every year.

Harvesting rice in those first days was a real problem. The cutting

was done by plain old binders. These binders were pulled on sleds through the sticky, muddy fields by four-horse teams or by tractors. On each binding machine was a small gas engine (usually a Cushman or Briggs). These auxiliary engines drove the sickle and belt-line. There were no wide-tracked tractors to pull combined harvesters such as exist today.

The bundles of rice were kicked to the ground and then picked up by the wagons which hauled them to a given location where they were placed in round stacks to await the thresher. The thrashing machines were like those used in the large grain fields. They were powered by a steam engine or a stationary gas engine. The Caterpillar and combine were just around the corner.

Growing rice was anything but a sure bet. Sometimes the early winds and rains would knock the heavy-headed stalks down before they could be harvested. Nothing yet had been invented to save them after they had fallen. Usually the rice farmer fell with them.

# A Night Parade

by  
Jessica Bird

*Some of you may remember Jessica Bird, a local journalist who also wrote for national magazines. She was very active in the Historical Society and wrote many articles for the Bulletin during her lifetime. Recently some of her papers were accessioned into the museum collection and among them was this story, the first piece published under Jessica's by-line. Originally printed on November 1, 1897 in the newspaper in Banning, California, Ms. Bird joined the ranks of published authors when she was 10 years old.*

The moon is shining brightly and if you chanced to step into the woods you would behold a most beautiful sight - a night parade.

What kind of parade you say?

That is a very sensible question to ask, for it is no common parade but a fairy wedding train going to the leafy palace.

What a beautiful sight it is, to see the prince in his violet-petal suit with a blue-bell cap upon his head and the princess in pink-rose-leaf dress and her beautiful hair falling down over it, with dew drops for jewels and a wreath of small, but beautiful feathers on her head.

They sit in a chariot of gold

drawn by two beautiful fireflies, one red and the other blue.

After the chariot come the pages and the fairy ladies and gentlemen on fireflies, but none of the pages, ladies or gentlemen are as beautiful as the prince or princess.

If you follow them you may in a little while see the princess lying on a bed of a water-lily and the prince in another one exactly like it, they are both asleep yet as beautiful as ever and as we do not care to wake them up we seek our own beds to dream sweet dreams about "The Night Parade."



# A Centennial History of Tierra Buena School

by  
Don Burtis

## *Prologue*

Before February 2, 1848, the area we know as Tierra Buena was part of Mexico, as was all the rest of California. On this date in a suburb of Mexico City called Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed. This treaty ended the Mexican-American War. The whole of California, as well as other land that was part of Mexico, was ceded by Mexico to the United States.

The base of the Sutter Buttes was along the northern boundary of the Mexican Land Grant that had been given to John Sutter by the Mexican government. The area that later became Terra Buena consisted of grasslands and forests of trees, with many giant Valley Oaks. This land had not been developed to any great extent but one thing that has remained to this day was a trail from the Feather River, where various Indian groups lived, to the Buttes. The route of that trail would later be called Butte House Road. The Indians called the Buttes "Spirit Mountain" and they believed the Buttes were sacred because the Great Spirit dwelled there.

Acorns were harvested from the many giant oak trees that grew on the lands this trail passed through. As settlers came into the area, they used this trail for travel because it was on relatively high ground and was not flooded as often as other routes.

Sutter's land claim was greatly reduced from the original size of his Mexican grant. When the land that

was previously his became United States Territory. settlers were allowed to settle there and lay claim to the land, and later get legal title by obtaining a patent from the government. The settlers cut down many of the trees for fuel for their homes and also for the many steamboats that began traveling on the Feather River. Tree cutting also allowed the settlers to develop their farms and ranches for growing grain.

When California became a state in 1850, the area that would become Terra Buena soon developed into farms and ranches much like other sections of Sutter County. The area was part of two school districts, but by 1908 the population had increased so that the people who lived there really wanted a new school to be established in that locale.

Thompson and West published the "History of Sutter County" in 1879. It relates that the first public school in Sutter County was established in 1852 by the citizens along the south side of the Bear River at Kempton's Crossing about two miles from Wheatland. The bridge there allowed the children to attend school from both sides of the river even though the north side was in Yuba County. In 1853 the second public school opened in Nicolaus and Yuba City started a school in the spring of 1854. As new families moved to Sutter County and the child population increased, other schools and other districts were created.

I've not been able to find anyone alive in 2008 who was a student in the new school which began in 1908. There are, however, a number of people around today who remember Terra Buena as a more-easily defined area which had its school, a post office, a store or two, an active women's club, a packing shed, two railroad stations with train service to the north, south, east and west, as well as other businesses and activities. Terra Buena was located about three to four miles west of Yuba City. The address of "Tierra Buena" is now Yuba City and a substantial part of Tierra Buena is now in the Yuba City city limits.

#### *The school history*

The Terra Buena School District was created on October 6, 1908 to serve the needs of the children who lived in that community; the first school year was during 1908-09. The present school year of 2008-09 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tierra Buena School.

By 1908 a number of people had purchased property in two new tracts of land, the Elmer Tract and the Terra Buena Tract, which had been subdivided, and people were building homes in the area. They wanted a new school district established.

Mark Pease, a prominent rancher in the area, is recorded as being a very supportive person who participated in trying to improve the local education. Mr. Pease was a trustee of the Franklin School District and afterward helped to form the Hill School District, of which he was also trustee. Still later he assisted in organizing the Terra Buena School

District, and was a trustee there. Pease Road was named for him.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1908, a petition proposing a new district and signed by the parents of more than 15 census children who lived in this area was presented to the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools. The petition requested that a new school district be formed from portions of the Yuba, Franklin and Live Oak school districts. (In 1908, Live Oak district was called Encinal.)

One problem was obtaining allocation for the school district to fund the construction of a schoolhouse. It was generally understood that no new district would be formed unless the land syndicate provided the lot and building.

Another outstanding supporter of this new district was Mrs. Clara P. Lytle. She owned land in the Terra Buena area and was a prominent realtor. She succeeded in getting the Sutter County Land Syndicate to donate the site and build the first schoolhouse, without any cost to the school or district or county. It was obviously in the best interest of the syndicate to assist in the matter. People have always been interested in having schools near where they live. Mrs. Lytle became the first clerk of the board of trustees in this new district when it was established, a position she held for eight years.

On September 7, 1908, Colonel E. A. Forbes, another supporter representing the land syndicate and involved with the subdividing and selling of lots in the area, appeared before the Sutter County Board of Supervisors and offered the lot and building. This assured that action on

the new district would take place at the October meeting of the Board.

Regular appropriations were to be secured from the school funds and it was planned that furnishing the building would be paid for out of regular funds later. They expected that everything would be ready by October 10<sup>th</sup>.

On October 6, 1908, the Board of Supervisors approved the petition for the formation of the new school district. The new district was designated **Terra Buena School District**.

### *The District Boundaries*

A description of the new Terra Buena District is as follows: Beginning at the South west corner of Section 18, Township 15 north, Range 3 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, and run thence north along section line 3 to the county road running east and west in front of L. T. Stearnes; thence east along said road produced to section line dividing section 4, township and range aforementioned, into east and west halves; thence south on section line to the center of section 21; thence west to the center of section 19; thence north one-half mile and thence west one-half mile to place of beginning.

Using a current road map of the area you can trace the boundaries of the new Terra Buena district using points of reference on the map.

1. Begin at the corner of Township Road and Highway 20.
2. Go north three miles (that point should be about one-quarter mile north of Nuestro Road).

3. Go east to a point that would be due north of Stabler Lane.
4. Go south to connect with Stabler Lane/Walton Avenue to where it intersects with Bridge Street.
5. Go west on Bridge Street to where you would cross El Margarita.
6. Go north one-half mile to Highway 20.
7. Go west to the point of beginning.

On September 11, 1908 the land syndicate indicated the lot would be donated and the building erected in time for school to begin on October 10, 1908. The contract to build the new schoolhouse was awarded to George Creighton on September 24, 1908 and construction was to commence at once. That this group knew how to get things done in a speedy way was evidenced by the fact that the new district had not yet been established because the boundaries of the district had not yet been correctly defined. The boundaries were corrected and presented to the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting. This error did not stop the schoolhouse getting under construction right away. A lot of building and planning was certainly done prior to the approval by the Board of Supervisors. I'm not sure of the legality of what happened but the people involved certainly accomplished their goal.

By October 4 the new schoolhouse was well under construction and there was talk among some residents about giving a dance in the building on the coming Saturday to raise funds for the purchase of a new flag to float over the structure. I

found no article in any newspaper that the dance had taken place but that doesn't mean it didn't happen.

The hoped-for date of October 10<sup>th</sup> didn't happen, but the Terra Buena School did open on Monday, October 26, 1908. The building was completed and seats installed just a couple of days before school opened.

#### *Location of the first Terra Buena schoolhouse*

The best way to describe this would be to look at the front of the present school from Villa Avenue on the south side of Butte House Road. From the corner of the present school grounds at Villa and Butte House go south 128 feet. Mark this point. Continue south for 160 feet. This 160 feet was the eastern boundary of the original school site. The lot was a rectangle with a depth of 218 feet. This would be officially described as Lot 56 of a portion of Lot No. 1 of Subdivision No. 2 of the Elmer Tracts.

It was mentioned earlier that Colonel Forbes, representing the land syndicate, offered to donate the land and put up the first schoolhouse without cost to the district. I have discovered some conflicting information from the records at the Sutter County Records Office. There was an indenture made on July 31, 1909 between E. A. Forbes and the Terra Buena School District for the sum of \$175 for the following property: Lot 56 of a portion of Lot No. 1 of Subdivision No. 2 of the Elmer Tracts. (This is where the schoolhouse was built.)

Another indenture was made on September 4, 1911 between Forbes and the district for \$175 for Lot 57. (This lot is on the north side of lot 56,

on the corner of Villa Avenue and Butte House Road, and is approximately the same size, doubling the size of the school property.)

Terra Buena was a one-room schoolhouse with one teacher instructing all of the children through grade eight. The first teacher hired was Miss Angella Bevan. There were 15 pupils enrolled at the beginning of school. Miss Bevan was paid a salary of \$70 per month. During this first year, in addition to the teacher's salary, the following bills were recorded as paid:

\$3.50 to Hampton Hardware for a stack of flue

\$27.00 to C. D. Simpson for wood

\$75.00 to C. F. Weber for furniture

\$17.50 to C. E. Maston for insurance

\$50.00 to Diamond Match Co. for building out buildings (I would guess these would be one for girls and one for boys)

\$14.80 to G. W. Hall for books

\$1.00 to G. W. Hall for chalk

\$28.80 to O. Moncur for boring a well

\$7.65 to G. W. Hall for books and supplies

\$18.00 to P. W. Lytle for taking a census

\$20.00 to C. F. Weber for furniture

\$20.00 to Diamond Match Co. for materials

\$175.00 to Sutter Land Co. Syndicate - Lot 56 of Elmer Subdivision tract

During the 1909-1910 school year the teacher was Miss Agnes



Weber, a name familiar to the Terra Buena area. She received a salary of \$75 per month. Miss Weber in later years became Mrs. Agnes Weber Meade and was elected to the office of Yuba County Superintendent of Schools.

In December of 1909, there were a couple of interesting bills to be paid:

\$100 to George Creighton for a foundation and base

\$100 to B. B. Manford for moving school house

Evidently the schoolhouse was originally constructed without the desired base and foundation or for some reason it was moved to a new location on the school lot.

In 1914, six years after the district began, the trustees of Terra Buena School District decided to build another classroom during the summer and T. J. Crabbe, who resided in the area, was given the contract. This new addition was on the plan of an open air room with canvas screen shutters to keep out the cold in the winter. In the fall and spring when the weather was pleasant, the screens could be adjusted so that the entire room would be open. Arrangements were also made for heating the room. When school opened for the 1914-1915 school year there were two teachers instructing the students and it remained a two-teacher school until 1920 when the staff increased to three. This increase of the teaching staff is an indication that the student enrollment was increasing.

The following information was taken from an article printed in the

Sutter Independent newspaper that was published in Yuba City.

"A new Terra Buena School was built to replace the old school in 1921. The new school was dedicated on Friday evening, March 11, 1921 with a splendid program of speaking, music and literary exercises, followed by dancing. It was reported that the building was thronged to capacity and many did not leave for their homes until after midnight. Mrs. Howard H. Harter, music instructor in the Sutter County schools, led the community singing with Miss Verna McLean as accompanist. Rev. H. V. Miller of Sacramento delivered the invocation and also the dedicatory address. Miss Lizzie Vagades, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, told of the change from a canvas school to a permanent structure and beautiful structure. Mrs. Raymond Oliver sang several songs. The Terra Buena Improvement Club Members served refreshments.

"The new school is ample to take care of all requirements for a long time. The building is of Mission architecture and was built under a \$24,000 bond issue."

*What did the new school look like?*

This new school consisted of a large auditorium facing east with a covered corridor in front of it that ran north and south with a wide entrance in the center. There were three large open archways on both sides of the entrance. The arches on each end provided openings to pass through to the playground area on the west side of the building. The auditorium was the first new building to be constructed. Next two buildings were constructed; they were connected at

each end of this long corridor. The south building contained two classrooms and on the east end was the office. The north building contained two classrooms.

At the south end of the auditorium was a small kitchen. Pictures show the smokestack rising from the roof. This auditorium was used as an eating area for the school, for school programs and other school activities and also by the Terra Buena Farm Bureau for their meetings. This new school was more than adequate to take care of the local needs. The number of teachers did not exceed the available classrooms until the mid-1940s when five teachers were needed. During my interview of Mrs. Norene Heryford, formerly Norene Hageman, she told me she attended first grade class in the old Terra Buena auditorium while the new classrooms were being built at both ends of the auditorium. She also said that when she was in sixth grade, she participated with her class when the tall evergreen trees were planted in front of the building on Villa Avenue. Some of the trees are still there. She remembered that her last teacher and principal was John Spradling; her teacher in grades 3, 4 and 5 was Mrs. Blanch Tharp. She also recalled Mrs. Olive Dasonville as her teacher in the first and second grades.

Her son Bob Heryford also attended Terra Buena where he graduated in 1954. The old auditorium was still being used during his last year. His 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers were Daniel Woodward and Francis Shaw. By this time two classrooms had been constructed on the south side of the old auditorium. The doorways to these rooms were on

the south side and a covered porch was built along the entire side. The school office was added to the east end and it also had a covered porch. Bob said that the principal's desk faced a large window through which the principal could observe his entire class while taking a phone call. There was also a doorway which connected his office to the classroom. The two classrooms and the old office are presently a part of the current buildings on campus. Bob also mentioned that on the south side just off the porch of the two classrooms was a fence marking the south end of the school property.

As time passed and the student population grew, the need for more classroom space became a problem that needed to be addressed. Bonds were passed and more classrooms were added to the campus. In order to provide more space, in the mid-1940s the district acquired two U. S. Army barrack buildings from Camp Beale that were offered for sale for \$1,000 each. These two buildings were transported from the base to the school and located end-to-end to the west and north of the auditorium. Margit Schnabel Sands remembers having class in one of these buildings. Yet later, as enrollment increased, there were two more classrooms constructed on the north side of the barrack buildings. These two classrooms are part of the present campus. The barracks were sold to Paul Green, who lived nearby, and made into apartments. A building containing six new classrooms was constructed on new land acquired to the south. That building is also part of the present campus. In 1965, the old auditorium was torn down and the

two classrooms near the north end of the old auditorium were also removed. The classrooms on the south near the auditorium remained and were remodeled so that both rooms had entrances on the south side. The office remained at the east end of this building and that building is a part of the campus today.

The next change took place, again in 1965, when two new buildings were added to the school. The building that presently contains the school office had four classrooms when constructed. The classroom located at the southeast corner of that building was later remodeled into the office. The former location of the office was in the center on the south side of this building and has been turned over to other uses at this time.

The second of the new buildings was the multi-purpose building, which also contains four classrooms which surround the MP room on the north and south. On the west end of the building is the kitchen where food is prepared and served to the children in the MP room. South and slightly east of the MP room, a portable classroom was located and used for Special Education.

Several parcels of land adjoining the Terra Buena school site were purchased before 1965. This doubled the size of the property owned by the Terra Buena School District and provided space for new school buildings as well as to develop the athletic fields.

The changes and additions described above, with the exception of remodeling the classroom into a new school office, were as they

existed when I became principal in 1973. More simply stated, the school campus at that time had five separate buildings and one portable classroom.

I greatly appreciated the several people who were willing to help me sequence the changes in the school buildings that took place when some of them were attending school, teaching school, were parents, or were residents of the area. These people include Carolyn Childers, Dave Teja, Joe Houk, Gerald Slagle, Shirley Schnabel, Emogene Woodard, Joan Robertson West, Isabel Singh Garcia, Margit Schnabel Sands, and Harriet Henson Foster.

#### *More changes*

Several parcels of land adjoining the Tierra Buena School site were purchased in 1962, 1963 and 1965. In 1966, Tierra Buena School District became a part of the Yuba City Unified School District. This newly formed district included the Yuba City High School District and all of the elementary school districts located within the Yuba City High School District. The inclusion of the Tierra Buena School doubled the size of the property owned by the Yuba City Unified School District.

In 1973, Tierra Buena School implemented a year-round program that included the primary through the sixth grades. The seventh and eighth grades remained on the traditional schedule. The year-round program lasted for five years and in 1978 the school returned to a traditional schedule.

The school had more students in its attendance area than it could accommodate. Parents really wanted more classrooms so their children

could all be housed at Tierra Buena, but the money wasn't available so it wasn't an option. Instead, parents were given these three choices: 1) go to double session classes; 2) transfer students to other schools in the district; or 3) implement a year-round schedule to create more classroom space. The parents chose what might be called, in their minds, the lesser of the evils, the year-round schedule. The program selected was the 45/15 program and all those students in the program were divided into four groups, labeled A, B, C and D, including all the different grade levels. Each group was scheduled to attend 45 days in school and then take 15 days of vacation. The program began with one group starting their first 45 days. Three weeks later the second group started and three weeks after this, the third group began. Three weeks after that,

the first group completed their first 45 day schedule and were then off for 15 days, and the fourth group took the classroom which they had vacated. This is how four classes only needed three classrooms to attend school. This equated to 16 classes needing only 12 classrooms to accommodate the program. The year-round program was a success, making it possible to accommodate all the children living with the school's attendance area.

There have been other new schools constructed in the Yuba City Unified School District but because they are all in one district there have been no changes to the district boundary lines. Individual schools now have attendance area boundaries which may be defined as needed so each of the schools in the unified district has the number of students it can best accommodate.



Tierra Buena Elementary School  
*(photo courtesy of Community Memorial Museum)*

### *Name change*

You may have noticed that at some point above I changed the spelling of the school district from Terra Buena to Tierra Buena. The following explains why.

In the Sutter County Board of Supervisors Minutes dated July 17, 1952, page 41, is a resolution changing the name of the unincorporated town and voting precinct, Terra Buena, to Tierra Buena. The reason, according to the resolution, is that "it has been called to the attention of this Board that the aforesaid name is confusing to some residents of the County of Sutter, and the correct spelling should be Tierra Buena."

In April 1954 the Sutter County Supervisors petitioned the U. S. Department of the Interior to officially change the name. It was at this time that the school district and other agencies using the spelling "Terra Buena" also made this change.

The early residents who chose Terra Buena chose "terra," which is Latin for earth and "buena," which means good.

Tierra is Spanish for earth and buena is Spanish for good.

Ponder this thought. If the name had never been changed, would you agree to this change today?

### *What happened to the original schoolhouse?*

In August of 1937, Grover D. and Emma Wilkie sold Lot 29 of Subdivision No. 2 of Elmer Tract to Lillie McDaniel. It is to this particular piece of property that the original Terra Buena School House was moved and it is still there. Apparently, when the building was relocated to this

site, it was set down on piers where it is still resting, just like a portable classroom, but perhaps a bit larger. The ceilings in the building are 12 feet high and the attic is quite large. I'm told this has quite a cooling effect in the hot weather. Although new siding has been put on the building, the original siding can be seen on the ends of the building. On the back up near the roof line is an example of some of the gingerbread-type of decoration one might expect to see on a building constructed in 1909.

In August of 1949, Lillie McDaniel died and in her will she left Lot to Amy R. Potoski, her great-niece. Amy and her husband Nicholas Potoski had two daughters, Mardell and Joyce, and their home was this remodeled schoolhouse. They moved into the building in 1949. Of course they attended Tierra Buena School. I'm informed that Mr. Potoski was a carpenter and was responsible for the remodeling. Mardell said her father told her he had to remove a large chalkboard that was still on the wall. Also that there was a little porch in front that once held the old school bell with a bracket still in the ceiling where the bell fit.

Mardell Potoski married Tom McClain and had a son named Scott and a daughter named Tracy, who attended Tierra Buena during the time I was principal there.

Joyce Potoski McCormack and her husband later lived in this very unique home originally constructed as the first Terra Buena district schoolhouse. It is located at 1561 Redding Avenue in Tierra Buena and is owned by Mardell McClain.

### *100 years old*

During the last 100 years, Tierra Buena School, still in the same location at the corner of Butte House Road and Villa Avenue, now part of the Yuba City Unified School District, has grown from a one-room one-teacher school with 15 pupils into a school with 33 classrooms and a student population of over 780 students and 33 teachers. The staff also includes two administrators (principal and vice-principal), two full-time secretaries and one part-time secretary, one full-time counselor, one part-time psychologist, one part-time nurse and one full-time nurse's aide, three custodians, four yard duty supervisors, three instructional aides, and two Special Education aides.

The school facility also includes a multi-purpose room used as a cafeteria with food prepared by three cafeteria workers in the kitchen, a library, a music room, a custodian shop and office and three storage buildings. The school has a full-size track that surrounds an athletic field that supports football, soccer, softball, track and other sporting activities. There is also another field area for physical education activities for the students.

### *Some former principals to the present time*

Going back over 50 years to identify some principals of Terra Buena/Tierra Buena School might bring a memory to some of the readers.

John S. Spradling  
1928-1940 12 years  
Richard Corbin  
1940-1941 1 year

Herbert Roulston  
1941-1943 2 years  
Velma Hay  
1943-1945 2 years  
Daniel Woodard  
1947-1953 6 years  
Francis B. Shaw  
1953-1956 3 years  
Larry Hultz  
1956-1958 2 years  
Allen G. Bryant  
1958-1961 3 years  
Donald Jones  
1961-1966 5 years  
Harold Uren  
1966-1969 3 years  
Henry Richard Burton  
1969-1973 4 years  
Donald C. Burtis  
1973-1988 15 years  
Stephanie Cross  
1988-1995 6 years 4 months  
Santee Barrett 1995  
Steve Justus  
1995-present  
completing 13<sup>th</sup> year

I will end this history by recognizing the many fine dedicated teachers and administrators and all the other staff members who have worked at this school through the past 100 years. Others playing a very important role were the many members of the school boards who provided leadership and service to the school because they felt it was a duty and privilege and they wanted the best for the school. We should also remember the dedicated parents of the students and the many supportive residents who wanted the school to be successful in educating the children.

# PUZZLER

J T L Z F U P J O D X T L E J D D C  
 Q O J U Z G W W E G X E L M E R Q C  
 G K S E L F F U R T L K W G Z R J J  
 B R F V G I B B O N S A L H P T I I  
 W N O S P M O H T B N A D F T O Z B  
 T C E N T E N N I A L S C I T I C N  
 H B B P A R A D E H N V R I H T R B  
 L A R S L L T Y Y I C N A F S Q T W  
 G N I U P B P T V R E G D I T S Y D  
 H B A F U E E L G Z K D R I C E E L  
 H V E R U I A B E B C R B H M R A J  
 B M T V C G I C O R A O G S H Y U R  
 T I M O A F K S H Z M O U N T A I N  
 S N S A W N C G N T F H D H W V Q V  
 A E P N Z L D C H A R I T A B L E C  
 T I E R R A B U E N A E D T F H V P  
 K S L W I N O I T A V R E S E R P Q  
 I W S K A M A N A S C O Q W X E N L



Bevan	Burtis
Centennial	Charitable
Elmer	Galvin
Gibbons	Hidalgo
Jessica	Manasco
Mountain	Parade
Peachtree	Preservation
Rice	Society
Stidger	Thompson
TierraBuena	Truffles

## Coming Events

### January

- 17 Historical Society general membership meeting, 2:00 p.m. at the Museum; dessert will be served  
Program: Andrea Galvin of Galvin Preservation Associates about our survey of historical properties  
Republished *Thompson & West History of Sutter County* for sale
- 25 Vroom Vroom! Pedal Car Exhibit closes at the Museum

### February

- 3-20 River Valley High School Art Exhibit  
27 Yuba City High School Art Exhibit

### March

- 15 Yuba City High School Art Exhibit closes  
21 Buttes hike

### April

- Children's Spring Vacation Program  
Roadside Photography by Gerald Tsuruda  
18-19 Wear & Remembrance Vintage Apparel Fair