



Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run COMMUNITY

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Fall 2020

A Grand Celebration of Independence *Liberty and Justice for All*

By Margie & Mike Jager



This story is about the 2020 non-parade parade in the metropolis of Dutch Flat which was enjoyed by visitors from Gold Run, Alta, and other points of interest in the adjacent area.

Arriving in Dutch Flat as I did in the summer of 1938 with my parents, George and Dorothy Hahn, was for this city-bred child, named Margie, like arriving in Heaven: trees to climb, fields to run in, forests to explore, and a recently built town swimming pool to go to every day! And who didn't look forward eagerly to going to the little station house on Depot Hill and getting out and waving the proper red flag to stop the train when one had arriving or departing guests? Best of all, of course, was the annual Dutch Flat 4th of July parade, held every year since 1856, with the exception of one or two years during WWII. It was a very simply arranged affair, by whom I don't remember, but always first a prayer was said, the flag was raised and the National Anthem sung followed, depending on the year, by some local VIP on a horse, the local Boy Scout troop, the Sons and Daughters of Norway and then the children, many with their pets, and lastly, the adults, everyone dressed up in homemade costumes. There were no airplane fly-overs, no marshals, no food stalls, no game booths, no water fights, no attendees from far-

away places, just all the local folks getting together to celebrate the privilege of living in this free and beloved country.

Fast forward to 2020 and Mike Jager, my husband and thereby a resident of Dutch Flat and enjoyer of Dutch Flat parades for 65 years, who continues the saga:

It all started around the first part of June this year when Kim Glassco and I were on his back porch having a bit of schnapps and discussing the news that the big muck-a-mucks had banned all 4th of July parades in California this year, 2020. After bemoaning this fact, one of us said "why don't we meet at the Community Center at 10:30, on the morning of the 4th with our Model A Ford and 1950 Ford F1 pickup truck and just drive around the old parade route a couple of times and have our own parade celebrating Independence Day with a non-parade parade?" So we agreed and had another glass of schnapps to seal the deal.

Kim's Model "A" Ford was built in 1928 so it is really old, but Kim had just bought it, so it was new to him. Our Ford is another story. It was delivered new to Doc Hahn in 1950 and has been in Dutch Flat for all 70 years since. The truck is still running very well and Margie is still enjoying running around in it like a teenager;



A letter from the DFCC Board President, Bob Kims

It is the time of year for hot weather, vacations and the annual White Elephant and Estate Treasures Sale. This year many of us have had to stay home and skip vacations. We have had the usual hot weather. And, we are not having our annual sale this year. Kathy and I miss the preparations for the sale more than we thought we would. We miss opening boxes to find the latest surprise items and maybe another treasure. We miss working with all of the wonderful volunteers. The volunteers are what make the sale the success it has become and it is a big added bonus that it is so much fun working with everyone. Yes, we miss working on the sale and the Center will miss the funds it brings in. This sale is a very big part of our annual money raised to manage and maintain the building. So, for many reasons we hope that we are able to have our sale next year, 2021, and we hope it is a big success.

Our summers have been all about the sale so now we find ourselves with a lot of time and nowhere to go. Projects around the house, organizing and cleaning have filled many of our days. I don't usually mind staying at home but it feels different now. I want to stay safe as I am sure everyone does right now, I feel like I have no choice but to stay home as much as possible and that causes me to feel closed in. We are doing our best to keep busy and hope all of you have found good ways to deal with the situation.

I wish I could tell you that there has been progress at the Center with the drainage issue, the landscaping and the kitchen remodel. Again, the social distancing rules and rules about nonessential activities have stopped all progress on these projects. It seemed like things were getting better and the rules started to be relaxed but right now we are being asked to stay home and social distance again. We look forward to a time when things get back to "normal" or at least loosen up enough to get going on the work. The Community Center is a wonderful building and a big part of local history. It deserves to be taken care of and to look it's best.

The Board of Directors of the Dutch Flat Community Center is doing our best to adjust to the current crisis and the changing rules. Above all, we want to do what's best for the Center. We miss getting together at potlucks and the events we have been forced to cancel. The Center has missed the money raised at the events. The safety of our friends and neighbors is far more important at this time. Let's all hope for a time soon when we can get together and enjoy each other and our wonderful community.

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well maybe a little older than that!

After we sealed our deal, little was said about the non-parade parade. I did say to Abe, the owner of the greatest store in Dutch Flat, that I would try to get our granddaughter, Sophia, to sing the National Anthem for the two participants, the Glasscos and ourselves.

On the morning of the non-parade parade our daughter Kathi decided to decorate the truck with fir limbs, flags and a sign on the doors HAPPY 4th OF JULY! So we were ready to join the Glasscos with his Model "A" and started down Main Street to the Community Center with our daughter driving as she was the only one around who can shift it without grinding the gears. Margie was in the cab and I was in the truck bed in a chair with another friend Chris Watson and off we went!

All these people showed up because of word of mouth.

Imagine our surprise when we ran into a traffic-jam of cars, trucks and people just up from Abe's store. There were about seventy five people in the middle of the road having the best time cheering, laughing and all waving American flags. Then Abe put on a disc of our National Anthem and played it a couple of times for effect with all the crowd singing and at the end a great roar rose up of satisfaction for America!!! Next our ford truck joined a slew of cars and trucks in a non-parade parade around the standard parade route that had been used for more than 150 years. We went around three times finally parking at the Community Center.

I cannot describe to you adequately the response we received from all the people on the non-parade parade route. It was amazing! There were from 300 to 350 folks scattered all over town cheering and waving flags and having a grand time celebrating our independence from England and Sacramento. All these people showed up because of the word of mouth people like to use in our country.

As you can see in the picture of the folks on the steps of the church, everyone looks extremely happy because we Americans can celebrate all our good fortune.

We have one special incident to relate to you. We stopped on our trip along the route opposite the McClain's home and saw a little girl of around 5 to 8 years old waving a small flag through a slot in her garden fence. You could barely see her. My son-in-law ran over to her and gave her an 8 by 11 flag which she promptly took and backed up, able to wave it over the fence, with a great big smile which we will never forget.

This was true America and Americans that day. God Bless America!



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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.

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 deadline for the next issue: December 15, 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ongoing Events - Some are currently canceled, due to pandemic.

The Attic: Thursdays, 11 am - 2 pm.

Bingo: 1st Fridays, 7:00 pm. Alta Community Center. Proceeds benefit the Alta Volunteer Fire Department.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting: 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact 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 Pancake Breakfast: 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 am -10:00 am.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church: Sundays. Fellowship Dinner, 5:00 pm. Worship Service, 6:00 pm.

Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting: 1st Sunday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 3 pm. Location varies. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-389-2121.

NFARA Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344.

Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run: Worship Service, Sundays, 10 am.

Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta: Worship Service, Sundays, 11 am. 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. Contact 530-389-2168.

Sierra First Baptist Church Bible Study: Mondays, 8:30 am,

Sierra First Baptist Church Community Lunch: Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Free.

Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry: Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm.

A Short History of the Pony Express

By Debby McClatchy



The Pony Express never stopped at Dutch Flat. Its California route arrived east of Lake Tahoe and continued down what is now U.S. 50 to Sacramento. From there steamers brought the mail to San Francisco. However, for eighteen months, from April of 1860 to October of 1861, the Pony Express brought news that kept Dutch Flat linked personally and economically with major events and suppliers in the East.

California became a state in 1850 and the United States became a two-coast nation, divided by such a distance that contact was costly, difficult, and time-consuming. From 1840 to 1860 hundreds of small railroads back east pushed the frontier westward, cities were bursting, and the Industrial Revolution mandated expansion. Steamships, purchased by the U.S. Congress, were commissioned to bring the mail ‘round the Horn, but the government was in the red by sixty-five percent. And still the mail was too slow and arrived stale.

By 1860 the growing friction over slavery between the southern and northern states carried over into California, where forty percent of the miners were from the South, although few had been owners. Everyone was desperate for news of the escalating tensions, plus businessmen needed a secure way to communicate with the East. The existing mail routes, serviced by wagon teams, were impractical and expensive, as well as a slow and easy target for robbers and Native residents. Supporters of slavery were spreading false news in an effort to sway California to their cause. Those who wished to keep the state in the Union needed facts and answers.

The first serious attempt at overland mail delivery was by the Butterfield Overland Mail Company, an 1857 merger of the Adams, American, National, and Wells Fargo Companies. Their coaches took about twenty-five days to travel from St. Louis to San Francisco. The better, southern route was plagued by locals destroying what they thought of as Yankee property; the mid-route was long with tragic tales of the Donner Party and controlled by upset Mormons and Native Americans. That winter was so bitter the oxen froze and the Company lost half a million dollars. A profit was made in 1858, but the writing was on the wall, and the partners came up with the idea of the Pony Express.

The Transcontinental Railroad had its Big Four; the Pony Express was run by the Big Three. William Russell was the politicians’ friend and dealt with contracts and financing. It is interesting to note that the Pony Express never had a real contract with the government, just promises. Alexander Majors ran the day to day operations and was a great manager of teams and men. William Waddell administered the home office, hired the employees, and purchased the supplies.

An advertisement was taken out to attract riders: “Wanted; young, skinny, wary fellows. Not over 18. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred.” Offered wages were \$100 to \$150 per month.

The inaugural rider in 1860 from the East was most likely Johnny Frye. Many records are scarce,

destroyed in the Civil war. The final rider on that run, William Hamilton, escorted by eighty other riders and a lot of dust, arrived in Sacramento within one hour of the scheduled time. The city went crazy; a holiday was declared; there were bands and bells, flags waving, singing, and shouting from the rooftops.

Over their eighteen months the Pony Express made a total of 308 completed runs, covering a distance of 616,000 miles, roughly equivalent to riding around the world thirty times. Their schedule was to reach San Francisco in ten days, passing through 135 primary stations and countless smaller ones. They delivered about 35,000 pieces of mail, and lost only one mail sack, called a “mochila”. Unfortunately, despite their accomplishments, the Pony Express always ran in the red, often to the cost of \$13 a letter.

Famous employees included Wild Bill Hickok (James Butler) and Buffalo Bill Cody. Wild Bill’s skill as a marksman was honed as a boy hunting food for his family. Too tall to be a rider, his job on the Express was to provide buffalo meat for the stations and protection there from robbers.

Buffalo Bill’s autobiography tells us that he held the record for the longest ride, one of over three hundred miles, necessitated by a lack of relief riders, and wearing out twenty horses. However, as there is no other evidence of this ride, most historians dispute his claim.

A looming rival, the telegraph business, was made up of many small lines before 1860. Soon the push was on to build all the way across the continent. Congress voted funding in 1860. Then, a huge Indian attack on the Pony Express at Pyramid Lake, and another really bad winter, killing many of their horses, demoralized the Company. The officers were feuding, fraud was suspected, and the Express continued to lose serious money. All the directors were slave holders and their energies turned to the escalating war between the States. A rival company finally received the mail contract from Congress, and the transcontinental telegraph line was completed on October 25, 1861. The Pony Express quickly went out of business. The three owners all eventually died destitute.

We have a lovely legacy from the Pony Express. The station in Troy, Kansas was run by two sisters named Dooley. One of the riders, the aforementioned Johnny Frye, was very popular with them. They would bake small round yeast cakes for him and pass them to him while he quickly changed horses. But he often dropped the cakes, so they baked them with a hole in the middle, as he could more easily hold on to them. And so - now we have doughnuts!

(Editor’s Note: a quick search on the Internet makes it clear that this doughnut tale is not true, but a good story nonetheless.)

Back to the Pony Express. One of my favorite drives is Route 50 through Nevada, allegedly the loneliest road in America. The old Pony Express trail follows alongside for many miles. You can easily visualize those courageous boys on their ponies, making history, so proud and strong. What stories they would have for their grandchildren!



Friends and neighbors moving on...

Sheriff Rick Armstrong and His Lovely SideKick Marybeth Blackinton

By Michelle Hancock

Rick Armstrong and Marybeth Blackinton have lived in our community for more than 40 years. Both have been very involved in our community, friends and neighbors too many to name. My husband, Steve, and I have known Rick and Marybeth for almost sixteen years as good friends and neighbors. I fondly think of Sheriff Rick as a very good “Boy Scout” always helping others in need. He has helped us out as neighbors many times. One time in particular, Steve and I were stuck on Casa Loma at the railroad tracks with a stalled train blocking our way home. We were on our way home with fresh groceries, including milk. Rick and Marybeth, stuck on the other side of the train, were expected at a party. Rick, with his two-way radio, kept track of the train to make sure it didn’t move while helping us cross over to the other side with our groceries in hand. We switched vehicles. We took their vehicle home and they took our truck and went on to their holiday party. This is what good neighbors and friends do for each other.

Even after being retired for 15 years, locals still ask Rick for advice on how to handle problems.

I have many fond memories of Rick and his stories, but I remember one instance that tickled me. We were all at the Annual Alta Crab Feed when an elderly lady came up and said, “Sheriff Rick, can you help me?” Even after being retired for 15 years locals still ask him for advice on how to handle problems. Rick kindly acknowledged the lady, listened to her issue, and politely explained he was retired, and gave her advice on who to contact. The lady happily went on, having received good advice from Rick. I witnessed the kind of wonderful human being Sheriff Rick is and how well loved he is in the community.

A Great Career

Rick and Marybeth met many years ago as both were involved in law enforcement. Rick began his career in Los Angeles and then moved to Northern California in 1979 working in the Placer County Sheriff’s Office in Auburn. A few years later he moved to Colfax where he was assigned as one of the resident Deputies working the I-80 corridor which included the Gold Run, Dutch Flat, Alta area and all the way up to Soda Springs. Rick said it was one of the most rewarding times of his career. “I met many local folks and worked closely with highway patrol officers assigned to the Gold Run and Truckee offices.”

In 1986 Rick built his home in Secret Town east of Colfax. This is about the time he met Marybeth who worked as a dispatcher in the Sheriff’s office. They found that they had a lot in common and started dating in 1994. Marybeth moved into the Secret Town home with Rick in 1996.

In 1995 Rick was promoted to Sergeant working at the Auburn jail and Colfax Substation, later promoted to Lieutenant in 1997, and Captain in 2001 in Auburn. Rick ended his career as Commander of the Tahoe Substation in 2005.

Marybeth retired from the Sheriff’s Office in 2001. In 2004 Marybeth started working as a personal assistant for retired Appellate Court Judge, William (Bill) Newsom, Governor Gavin Newsom’s father. Marybeth worked out of the guest house on Bill’s property off Sacramento Street in Dutch Flat. She worked for Bill for 10 years and enjoyed every minute of it spending time with him. She said Bill was “a genuine, interesting, funny and generous person.”

The Friday Night Club at the Monte Vista

In 1994 Rick and Marybeth started the Friday Night Club Safety Meetings at the Monte Vista Inn. “In those days” she reminisced, “we enjoyed spending time with Don and Kay Kipp, (who was the bartender at that time) Melinda and Jerry Chellew, Scott Miles, and many more. We would vacation with many of them. John Wardwell once complained that he couldn’t afford to stay open when we all left town at the same time.” Don Kipp passed in 2002 and Jerry Chellew in 2009.

Rick and Marybeth were able to conduct a lot of “business” at the Monte Vista. One business item in particular was learning about 80 acres for sale on the old Baxter Land Grant off Casa Loma Road next to property owned by Mike



Rick Armstrong and Marybeth Blackinton in their 1966 Austin-Healey

Tippet. Rick and Marybeth bought the property in 2001, developed it, split it into four 20-acre parcels and sold 3 of the parcels. They built their dream home on the remaining parcel in 2005-2006. Rick retired in 2005 from his post as Commander in Tahoe because it was too difficult to work and build a house at the same time. Rick and Marybeth planned all the details of the development and dream home at the Monte Vista.

Rick and Marybeth lived in the house on Canyon View Court for 10 wonderful years before deciding they needed to reduce the amount of property maintenance. An opportunity to sell presented itself in 2017. They moved back in to the Secret Town house which they had kept as a rental.

One of the best stories Marybeth remembers about the Friday Night Club was at Halloween. Steve and I were there to witness this story too. Most everyone was dressed in funny costumes and having a good time when in walked our UPS driver, Brian. He was delivering a package to Rick. We were all amazed that he found Rick and delivered a package to him at the Monte Vista. We asked him how he knew Rick was there. He said the Train was blocking Casa Loma Road and that he had run into a couple of Rick’s friends dressed as “hippies.” It was Grant Ballinger and Linda dressed as Sonny and Cher. Too funny. Sonny (Grant) and Cher (Linda) showed up at the bar soon after, recounting the story. We all had a good laugh. But that is the life living in a small rural community “where everyone knows your name” and the UPS driver delivers to you wherever you are.

Community Service

In 2006, Joanne Blohm, the owner of the Crystal Springs Inn, initiated the Fourth of July Honorary Dutch Flat Mayor fund raiser for the Community Center. Marybeth was among five other candidates who ran. She won the election by raising the most donations and she won again in 2007. She was awarded a proclamation, “Key to the City”, a beaver-skinned hat and rode in the parade. When 2008 came around Marybeth decided she had “termed out” and then helped Joanne to recruit candidates and organize the event. The “Honorary Mayor” was a fundraiser that ran for 10 years with Krista Voosen being the last winner.

As resident Deputy, Rick was always a popular entrant in the Dutch Flat 4th of July parade.

As resident Deputy, Rick was always a popular entry in the Dutch Flat Fourth of July parade because of his K-9 partners, Stryker, Bizmark and Gunther. “The July 4th in Dutch Flat is always a good time and brings out everyone working to make it safe and fun.” For many years Rick continued his involvement with the parade as Master of Ceremonies until 2017 when he turned over the reins to Jeff Calvert “who is doing a great job!”

When Rick’s mom moved into a retirement community in about 2011, they had to get rid of a lot of her possessions. They took them to the Community Center for the annual White Elephant Sale (WES). Marybeth discovered that no one was dedicated to organizing and setting up the clothing section of the sale. So, the following year Marybeth helped to organize and setup the clothes, expanding to use the upstairs for the first time in the history of the sale and was able to display the clothes, linens and holiday decorations. As well, there was an overall improvement of the set up and display of all the

WES items, organizing into various sections for antiques, houseware, toys, furniture and yard goods. Marybeth headed up the clothing section until 2018. She really enjoyed the work and feels she was able to contribute substantially to the total sale income.

Rick was also involved in quite a few community activities since 2007. He helped using his tractor at the annual swimming pool clean-up, the annual cemetery clean-up, and maintenance at the DFCC. His labor helped to

Marybeth served on the Dutch Flat Community Center Board from 2010-2015. She was Treasurer for 2 years and President for 3 years. She also served as Editor of this newspaper for 6 years.

save the community the cost of a lot of manual labor and money. Rick and Marybeth were always at the community events from the Fourth of July, the St. Patrick’s fundraising dinners, the monthly DFCC potlucks, crab feeds, spaghetti feeds and the annual pool BBQ. Rick said, “Meeting up with so many good friends and neighbors, too many to name, on a regular basis - that meant a lot to us.”

Moving On

Now it is time to move on. Rick and Marybeth have put the Secret Town house up for sale and have moved to Sparks, Nevada. “We felt the need to move” Rick said, “and make the change now while we are still physically able to do it” needing to find a one-story house with smaller property maintenance and have essential services within 5 – 10 minutes. “We love the new life and friends we have established and look forward to golf and exploring the area in our 1966 Austin-Healey.”

On a beautiful day in April, Marybeth was driving through Dutch Flat to drop off something at the Center. The Pickle Ballers were playing and greeted her. As she left town, she waived at Connie Gulling in her front yard, waved at Ernie Bullard walking down the street; she waived at Kenny Weatherwax as he drove past. She said, “I already miss the unique friendships we have in Colfax, Dutch Flat and Alta...”

Marybeth said she hopes the community never changes. “I want to be able to drive through, visit and know everyone and hope they all stay the same. But we have no regrets moving to Nevada.” It was a move they needed to do “as we get older.”

“We will miss all our neighbors, friends and the great people of the community, the regular gathering events the community sponsors, but hope to be able to return and see them occasionally (at these events.)”

“We love the new life and friends we have established and look forward to golf and exploring the area in our 1966 Austin-Healey”.

The final message from Rick and Marybeth is their hope that, whenever anyone is in the Reno-Sparks area, they get in touch with them. Everyone is invited to visit them in their new home in Sparks.

As we wave goodbye to you, Rick and Marybeth, we will all miss you too. But it is just a quick trip over the hill to visit Sheriff Rick and his lovely sidekick Marybeth.

Best wishes in your new life.

Dutch Flat Pool News

By Mike Mutto

We made it through the season against all odds: Covid restraints, a shortage of lifeguards, and serious air quality days, along with a series of mechanical issues that encouraged us to bring on upgrades to the pump house that will benefit us for years to come.

First of all, a big shout out of appreciation goes to Jennifer & Scott Stanfield who stepped up this year as our only two lifeguards to save the season!

Second on the list of people that made it possible to keep the facility open and going goes to our incredible maintenance support staff. Paul Thompson, Eric Cecil and Brent Nyberg did a stand up job, many times with the pump room running on temporary, spare equipment and a prayer, to keep everything balanced, up to standards and running.

The Dutch Flat Pool Board is currently recruiting lifeguards for the 2021 season. Apply now!

The board would like to start early here in 2020 to make our plea to the community for support in our pursuit and recruitment of lifeguards for the 2021 season. This is the biggest challenge we face every year! Please ask your friends, kids, neighbors, aunts and uncles to consider applying for the positions that we desperately need to fill to continue providing the community with a pool to use for the summer. Anyone that might be interested can call me at (530) 389-2902 or Laura Glassco at (916) 778-8308 for details and help getting certified for the position. All training expenses will be reimbursed by the pool board upon hiring by Placer County.

It was very unfortunate that our yearly fundraising barbecue was another victim of the Covid-19 pandemic. The event has become a summer ritual that will be resurrected next year for all to enjoy. Once things settle back to normal we are considering a small event at the pool or Community Center to get everybody together, if possible.



Lifeguards: Scott and Jennifer Stanfield

T-shirts and Koozies were our only fundraising effort this turbulent year. Many thanks to Joy Hughes and Val Bullard for working with Laura Glassco in design and theme. A special thanks to Jeannie Nyberg for her poolside sales. We netted over \$2000 profit from this effort. It was so popular that we plan to continue this endeavor next season.

Please remember to get the word out for lifeguards, so that we can continue to provide the services you have all become accustomed to at our wonderful facility.

Stay safe, healthy and well for the winter.

LIFEGUARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

By Laura Glassco

Dutch Flat has the only swimming pool maintained by Placer County. Lifeguards are hired by Placer County and work approximately 25 hours per week. The pool opens Memorial Day weekend and remains open, 7 days a week from noon until 6 pm, through Labor Day. Two lifeguards are on duty for every shift.

We are looking for qualified lifeguards for 2021. If you are not currently a certified lifeguard, you will need to attend and pass the American Red Cross Lifeguard, First Aid and CPR Certification courses. These classes are available through Auburn Recreation District in March 2021. If you are a current Lifeguard who’s certification will expire in 2021, a re-certification course is offered in March 2021, also by Auburn Recreation District.

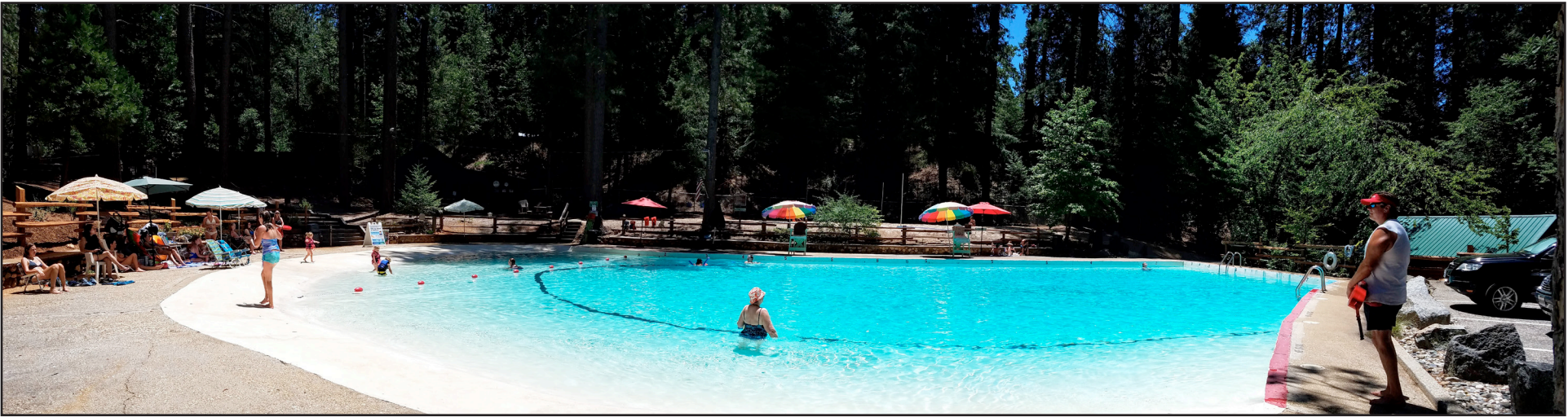
Your fee for taking the course will be reimbursed to you after 30 days of employment.

If you pass the American Red Cross Lifeguard, First Aid and CPR Certification or Re-certification Courses and are hired by Placer County to serve as a Lifeguard, you will be eligible for tuition reimbursement from the Friends of the Dutch Flat Pool.

This is a wonderful job for the summer! The Dutch Flat Pool is in a beautiful park-like setting. Being a lifeguard is a very serious responsibility, but also very rewarding and enjoyable.

Remember, time is very important. You may be able to be hired by the County, pending your successful completion of the certification courses. Courses have limited capacity and are only offered in Auburn once per year. They are also available through the American Red Cross, but are not held in Auburn.

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Laura Glassco at (916) 778-8308.



Opening Day 2020 at the Dutch Flat Pool



Sierra Animal Wellness Center

Thank You

to all of our clients and friends
for making this possible

Best Veterinarian, Best Veterinary
Hospital, Best Customer Service

From all of us at Sierra Animal Wellness Center






Located at

1506 S. Canyon Way, Colfax, CA 95713

530.346.6611




Hearse House Garden

Petroglyph Falls

Joan Chlarson





Depot Hill, 1910

Lake Alta

The Diggins Gold

Online Gallery:

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

Halloween, Trick or Treat?

By Michelle Hancock



Debby McClatchy managed the Dutch Flat Community Center’s Halloween celebration for 18 years.

Halloween is a special time of year for kids and adults alike. It is the conclusion of summer and fall harvest and the beginning of the cold dark days of winter. It also ushers in the holiday season where family and friends gather together to celebrate. This year, due to the pandemic, will likely be different for most of us.

I had noticed a few weeks back that Halloween Costume shops have already opened in Auburn and stores are stocking up and prominently displaying Halloween candy. Did you know that Halloween is the second biggest holiday (after Christmas) for candy sales in the United States? Although shoppers spend about 70% more on candy in the preceding two weeks before Halloween, chocolate sales surge 170% in the two weeks leading up to Christmas.

Do you know the history of Halloween or “All Hallows Eve”?
Do you know where our customs and traditions come from?

I started reminiscing about my childhood memories of one of my favorite holidays. I grew up in the 1960’s and early 70’s in Fair Oaks, California. During that time, Halloween was geared toward children, dressed in costume, running up and down their neighborhood streets going house to house knocking on doors yelling “Trick or Treat”, thrusting their bags toward whoever opened the door.

Memories of Halloween

I am sure each family has their fond memories of Halloween traditions, like Trick-or-Treating, fall parties, bobbing for apples, hayrides, barn parties or waiting for the “Great Pumpkin”. But do you know the history of Halloween or “All-Hallows Eve? Do you know where our customs and traditions come from?

The origins of Halloween date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). Over 2000 years ago in Ireland, the UK and Northern France, but mostly in Ireland, they celebrated their new year on November 1st. This day marked the end of summer and harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time that was associated with human death. The Celts believed on the night before new year, the boundary between worlds of the living and the dead blurred. So, on October 31st, they celebrated Samhain when it was believed the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. These ghosts could cause trouble to crops and the spirits made it easier for the Druids or Celtic priests to make predictions about the future. These prophecies were an

important source of comfort to a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world during the long, dark winter.

On Samhain the Druids would build big bonfires where the people would gather dressed in costumes, typically of animal heads and skins, and attempt to tell each other’s fortune. They also gathered before the bonfires to burn crops and animal sacrifices to Celtic Deities and at the end of the night the villagers would take fire from the burning embers home to light their hearths for the cold winter days and nights ahead.

By 43 AD the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic lands. In the course of 400 years of rule two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the Celtic celebration Samhain. The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was to honor a Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the old tradition of bobbing for apples.

On May 13, 609 AD the Pope, Boniface IV, dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in honor of all Christian martyrs and the Catholic feast of Martyrs Day established in the western church. Pope Gregory III later expanded the festival to include all saints as well as martyrs and moved the May celebration to November 1st – All Saints Day.

By the 9th century the influence of Christianity had spread across the Celtic lands, where it gradually blended with and supplanted older Celtic rites. In 1000 AD the “All Souls” or “All Saints” day was moved to November 2nd and it is widely believed that the church was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, church-sanctioned holiday. All Souls or All Saints Day was celebrated similarly to Samhain with bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils. All Saints Day was also called All-Hallows or All-Hallowmas (from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints’ Day) and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic region began to be called All Hallows Eve and eventually, Halloween.

Superstitions

Halloween was filled with mystery, magic and superstition beginning with the Celtic end of summer festival. People felt particularly close to dead relatives and friends. They would set a place at the table, left treats on doorsteps and along the side of the road, and lit candles to help loved ones find their way back to the spirit world.

Pumpkins with ghoulish faces and

illuminated by candles are a sure sign of the Halloween season. The practice of decorating jack-o’-lanterns originated in Ireland, where large turnips and potatoes served as early canvasses. In fact, the name, jack-o’-lantern, comes from an Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack. Irish immigrants then brought the tradition to America, home of the pumpkin, and it became an integral part of Halloween festivities.

And, Halloween ghosts today are often depicted as more fearsome and malevolent, and our customs and superstitions are scarier too. We avoid crossing paths with black cats, afraid they might bring us bad luck. This old superstition came from the middle ages when many people believed that witches avoided detection by turning themselves into black cats.

We avoid walking under a ladder for the same reason. This superstition is believed to have come from the Egyptians who believed triangles were sacred (the pyramids are triangular.) Besides, walking under a ladder is dangerous anyway. Around Halloween, especially, we try to avoid breaking mirrors and stepping on a crack in the sidewalk or road.

The practice of creating jack-o-lanterns originated in Ireland.

Halloween Comes to America

The celebration of Halloween was extremely limited in puritan New England colonies because of the rigid Protestant belief systems there. Halloween was more common in Maryland and the southern states.

A distinctly different American version of Halloween began to develop as the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups and the American Indians meshed. The first celebrations included “play parties” which were public events to celebrate the harvest and neighbors shared ghost stories, tell each other’s fortunes, dance, and sing, along with all kinds of mischief-making.

It does remind me of one of my favorite classics I love to read this time of year. It is Washington Irving’s story of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”. It is set in the 1790s countryside around the Dutch settlement of Tarry Town (historical Tarrytown, New York) about Ichabod Crane, a lanky, lean and extremely superstitious schoolmaster from Connecticut and the most infamous specter in



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COMMUNITY
CENTER
HALLOWEEN
FESTIVITIES
CANCELLED

Regretfully we have cancelled the 2020 Halloween Festivities at the Dutch Flat Community Center. This decision was made to follow local and state guidelines to protect the members of our community.

We want to thank the community for your support of our many events over the years and want to assure you that our monthly potlucks and annual celebrations will be back, as soon as it is safe to do so.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors

the Hollow, the Headless Horseman. Supposedly the ghost of a Hessian trooper whose head had been blown off by a stray cannonball during “some nameless battle” of the Revolutionary war who “rides forth to the scene of battle in a nightly quest of his head”. Worth a read to get a flavor of storytelling of the time.

By the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with immigrants, especially the Irish, which helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween.

By the middle of the 19th century the annual autumn festivities were not celebrated everywhere in the country. But by the second half of the century America was flooded with immigrants, especially the Irish fleeing the Irish Potato Famine by the millions which helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally.

Borrowing from European tradition, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food and money, a practice that eventually became known as “trick-or-treat”. Young women believed that on Halloween they could divine the name of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple pairings or mirrors. When I was a teenager, I tried peeling an apple into one long peel then threw it over my shoulder. The peel once it lands on the ground should form the first letter of the name of your future husband. My peel landed in an “S” shape. Now I will not vouch for the validity of this fortune telling trick or how often the peel falls into the shape of an “S”, but my husband’s name is Steve. Hmm?

In the late 1800s there was a movement in America to turn Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers than about ghosts, pranks and witchcraft. At the turn of the century Halloween parties became the most common way to celebrate the holiday

focused on games, foods of the season and festive costumes. Parents were encouraged to take anything “frightening” or “grotesque” out of the Halloween celebration.

After World War I, during the roaring twenties, Halloween had become a secular, community-centered holiday, with parades and town-wide parties as the featured entertainment. These parties were wild and mostly for adults dressed in scary costumes with plenty of food and alcohol. During this period there were a lot of pranks and vandalism which plagued many communities.

By the 1950s town leaders successfully reduced vandalism and Halloween evolved into a holiday mainly for the young. Due to the high numbers of young children during the fifties baby boom, Halloween parties for adults moved into the home and the centuries-old practice of trick-or-treating, became a relatively inexpensive way for an entire community to share the Halloween celebration. Families could prevent tricks being played on them by providing the neighborhood children with treats. Thus, a new American tradition was born and it continues to grow today.

Borrowing from tradition in Europe, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food and money.

Halloween has modified over the years and many superstitions forgotten over time. I think we are returning to a time where community parties are held instead of the traditional door-to-door trick or treating.

I live in the mountains now, on twenty acres amongst the forest. Our house is up on a hill in the dark with maybe only the moonlight to light the way up the long winding road. We always joke that if any kid ever made it up our driveway on Halloween night, they would earn a whole bag of candy or a \$20 bill.

Boo! And Happy Halloween!

References: History Channel: Halloween 2020 and Wikipedia: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

**PLACER COUNTY
DECLARES END OF
LOCAL COVID-19
EMERGENCY**

AUBURN, Calif. (Sept. 9, 2020)

Citing a low incidence of COVID-19 and increasing harm caused by California’s reopening, the Placer County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution declaring the end of Placer County’s local health emergency.

While acknowledging that California’s state of emergency and Department of Public Health orders, directives and guidance remain in full effect in Placer County, the resolution expresses the board’s concerns that the state framework for measuring COVID-19 mischaracterizes the current state of disease specifically in Placer County and harms the community’s economic, health, mental and social well-being.

The resolution also rescinds the board’s resolution on March 9 that ratified the Placer health officer’s March 3 declaration of a local health emergency. On June 23, the board adopted a resolution to return the authority to terminate the local health emergency to the Board of Supervisors, delegated to the health officer under its March 9 resolution.

“We cannot continue to keep our community shut down for some unknown amount of time as determined by the ever-changing metrics according to the governor,” said Board Chair


“We cannot continue to keep our community shut down for some unknown amount of time as determined by the ever-changing metrics according to the Governor”


and District 1 Supervisor Bonnie Gore. “Health emergency declarations are obligated to be terminated at the earliest possible date that the conditions warrant and, based on the number of COVID-19 cases in our county, there is no longer a health emergency with regards to COVID-19 in Placer County.

“Residents need to continue practicing safety measures recommended by the CDC and need to remember that the state emergency and orders are still in effect,” Gore said.

Since the board’s ratification of the local health emergency March 9, the county has and will continue to work diligently to manage local disease spread - sharing community health information; reporting COVID-19 case dynamics at board meetings; providing a COVID-19 dashboard for community reference; addressing the needs of vulnerable populations; and clarifying state guidance so local businesses can reopen responsibly and consistent with state public health orders and safety protocols.

“If we look at this based on facts, we currently do not have a health emergency in Placer County,” said District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson. “I agree with ending the emergency based on the statistics that we have in front of us, but I can’t agree with a lot of the politicization of this issue. We do have a virus that we don’t understand and we need to protect our most vulnerable.”





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Golden Drift Historical Society News

By Sarah Fugate

Though we were not able to open for our regular Museum season, the Golden Drift Historical Society Board, along with many volunteers, have not been idle and have made meaningful progress in preserving and promoting the historical heritage of our area.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Our “Walking Tour of Dutch Flat” brochure was developed, printed and distributed.
2. Planning for the Dutch Flat Community Park, including landscape design and plan costing, has been completed. A grant proposal was produced and submitted to Union Pacific for funding, but was denied.
3. A Dutch Flat Community Garden clean-up was organized and completed by volunteers over the course of two weekends.
4. A locals-only, drive-by Liberty Parade was organized and delightfully executed on July 4.
5. Placer County installed a new roof on the Museum.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Society consists of 90 members (individual and family). Last year, we had 104 members. Membership dues received in 2020 total \$3,900, as compared to \$4206 collected in 2019.

MUSEUM VISITATION:

There were less than 50 visitors to the Museum this year, compared to 640 at this time last year. The Spring Artisan Faire, Open House, and Heritage Trail event, which brought many visitors in previous years, were not held due to the pandemic. The few visitors we have had in 2020 were given private showings by volunteer docents.


FINANCIAL CONDITION (As of July 31):

Assets total \$52,227, as compared to \$51,127 in 2019. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$1,402. Cash increased by \$1,416. Revenues consisted of Membership Dues, \$3,900, Donations Received, \$248, and Sales, \$25. 2019 Sales were \$1,553. Our Expenses, \$2,823, consisted mainly of Landscaping, Walking Tour Brochures, Insurance, and Donations Made of \$100/each to five local nonprofit organizations.

VOLUNTEERS:

The Museum remained closed this year, due to the pandemic. Anne Holmes continues to serve as our Volunteer Coordinator, donating her time to recruit, train and schedule docents. Our Board of Trustees consists of 8 volunteers. I serve as Board President, Anne Holmes is Vice President, Ernie Bullard is Treasurer, Jeanne Wilson is Secretary and Jim DeCaro, Laura Glassco, Connie Gulling and Diane Star are Members At Large.

*A Walking Tour
of
Dutch Flat,
California*



Provided by the Golden Drift Historical Society whose mission is to preserve and promote the rich history of Alta, Dutch Flat, Gold Run and the surrounding area in Placer County, California. For more information, visit the Golden Drift Museum and our website,

WWW.GOLDENDRIFT.ORG

MUSEUM EXHIBITS:

We are working closely with Placer County Museums Division to continually improve “the best little Museum in Placer County”. A temporary Chinese history display has been installed, while a new Chinese History display is being built. In addition, the historical bottle collection has been given its own display cabinet in the Gallery.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The terms of two of our current Board members, Anne Holmes and Ernie Bullard, have expired. Thankfully, both have agreed to renew their Board membership. We will continue to have 8 Board members, which is in compliance with our by-laws.

I welcome your input. Feel free to contact me at SARAH@GOLDENDRIFT.ORG. Hopefully, we’ll be able to see each other again in 2021.

BE PREPARED

By Madam Truefire

You don’t need to be reminded that we just might be smack in the middle of the worst fire season in many years.

I have friends in Nevada City that found themselves in evacuation status. It wasn’t pretty and it didn’t offer a lot of time.

The media has covered the horrific scenes in CA, OR and WA where time ran out for so many. So it’s a good idea for us all to prepare a bug-out bag.

Taking notes from my friend in Nevada City, here’s my plan. Keep it simple, but make a list and put the items in boxes that do not get rifled for stuff. That’s a guarantee that they won’t be put back. During this time, they stay in the corner nearest the door. Oh and put a lantern (battery run) or flash light on top of one of the boxes. Fires don’t keep time.

So here goes:

- Sleeping bag, pillow, blanket, ground covering, BOTTLED WATER;
- Simple food: boiled eggs, cheese and crackers in a bag in the fridge, marked “EVACUATION”;
- A coat or heavy sweater. Let’s face it, it gets cold at night and in the morning;
- An extra pair of sneakers, socks;
- Clothes: practical, useful clothes. Ditch all temptation to take your glitzy stuff. You can replace it;
- A simple, small first aid kit;
- Two towels and washcloth per person;
- Hand soap, alcohol wipes, N95 MASKS;
- A roll of paper towels;
- A couple of rolls of toilet paper;
- Any medications: be sure to take enough for a couple of weeks;
- Legal papers unless you have been clever enough to have scanned them to the cloud;
- Hard drives you cannot live without, unless you have been clever enough to have put all on the cloud;
- Photos you cannot live without unless you’ve been clever enough to scan them;
- Laptop or tablet with its plugs.
- If you have pets, prepare their bug-out bags as well: food, water, dish, leash.

Since I’m a writer and a documentary video producer, SIGH, I have to box up my original productions. I used to evacuate them to my Mom’s place every year just in case. But let’s get back to that odious term “cloud”. I’ve never warmed to putting things up in some invisible place but in this instance, it could save one’s backside.

I’m sure I’ve forgotten some things, so add them to the list.

When and ifwon’t allow any time for casual packing.

Keep your cell phone charged and if possible have a second battery.

Keep at least a half tank of gas in your car at all times.

And a flashlight for each member of the family.

So while we are coughing and not walking in the poor air quality of fires elsewhere, we have time.....Prepare your bug-out bag. Oh and since we are in some form of quasi-lockdown, when oh when are we going to organize a list, a very simple call list for people in town both Dutch Flat and Alta, and also have a list of elders living alone who will certainly benefit from younger people caring enough to see that they are OK. This goes for fires, snowed-in situations and grocery shopping in pandemics. We are all in this together is a trite statementlet’s mean it.

Oh and here’s an important P.S. With PG&E’s rolling power outages, it is just good sense to have a generator....even a small one that runs the refrigerator, a cell, and a lamp. MOST IMPORTANT, practice using it, the mysterious generator. It will be your best friend. Also, get a plug in the wall phone. This is no time to be a wuss and not know how to handle emergency power outages.



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The Dutch Flat Community Center is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible (TIN 68-0484699).

REMEMBERING

Nancy Hiebert
August 18, 1947-July 23, 2020

By Marybeth Blackinton and Mike Mutto

Our community lost a long-time resident in July. Nancy, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother passed away after a brief fight with cancer at her home in Pahrump, Nevada. She was born to Ed and Irma Wright of Auburn, granddaughter of Earl and Amy Atwood, also of Auburn. Nancy married Dale Hiebert in 1965 then moved to Alta where Dale worked for Pacific Gas & Electric. They lived at the Drum Powerhouse Camp where she raised their children Steve and Stephanie. “Drum” is an isolated area and had no phone or TV service at the time. In the winters, it was advisable to have at least 30 days of food and supplies as the road would occasionally be impassable and not routinely plowed.

Nancy worked as a Teacher’s Assistant at the historic, one-room schoolhouse in Emigrant Gap. In winter, she drove their 2-wheel drive car through the snow each day. She later was an Aide at the Alta-Dutch Flat Grammar School. She also worked as a cashier at Scrivener’s Alta Store and then at the Dutch Flat Trading Post.

Before cell phones and social media evolved, Nancy had her finger on the pulse of the town and an ear to her scanner to update us on current events, chain controls, road conditions and just about anything else we needed to know. Nancy and daughter, Stephanie, were integral to the operation of the Dutch Flat store and were always able to help members of the community or the public with information about local “doin’s” and history of the area. She was a generous, kind and patient woman always ready to lend a helping hand or offer advice to anyone who knew her (and even the weekends that didn’t). Known for her generosity, smile, laughter and willingness to always lend a hand, she was loved by her many friends and customers.

In 1979, Dale and Nancy built their home on Sawmill Road in Alta. The Thursday Night Pot Luck Club gatherings that Dale and Nancy hosted at the home, rain, snow or shine were something to really look forward to at the beginning of each week. They lived there until 2018 when they moved to Pahrump, Nevada. She and her family were missed when they moved, but she will be truly missed now by all that had the privilege of knowing her. Her pioneer spirit and love for her family was unsurpassed.

Nancy is survived by her husband Dale, son Steve and daughter-in-law Paula, daughter Stephanie, granddaughters Krystal Hagen, Stevie Hiebert, great granddaughter Donna Hagen, brother Mike Wright, as well as nieces and nephews.

God bless you and rest in peace Mrs. Hiebert.



Dale and Nancy Hiebert

One in a Million

By Geri Lennon

Nancy Hiebert, a thoroughly wonderful woman just passed a few days ago. I’m bummed. I’m sitting in my swing on a very hot afternoon, toasting her with a cold one and shedding a tear or two ...or more. Nancy to everyone in Dutch Flat was like a mom, aunt, sister, friend. I NEVER ever went into the Dutch Flat Trading Post when she was on duty, that I didn’t get that sweet greeting she always gave, and was up for a hug as well. She was one of my dear friends for 32 years, and we shared so many thoughts together. When the Hieberts sold their place and moved to Nevada, it seemed like some sweetness left. I’m swinging and remembering, a good ole gal that I’ll never ever forget. She made kindness easy and free and just plain warm. I hope the angels are taking good care of you, Nancy girl. You will be dearly missed and yes, you were one in a million.

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