



Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run COMMUNITY

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Fall 2023

New water system coming to Dutch Flat

By Ernie Bullard

The Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company's (DFM) new water main construction and consolidation project is well underway. The construction company, Mountain Cascade Inc (MCI), is using a phased construction approach to the project. They will complete the major pipelines and service lines first and seal/pave, then complete the secondary pipelines for side streets. This will avoid costly weather delays that could occur with an early winter.

MCI began digging trenches on July 18th and making their way up Main Street. Four foot deep trenches were excavated, and the 8 inch ductile iron pipeline was laid on a bed of sand and backfilled with aggregate base cover. After Main St was completed, work started on Sacramento St, then Stockton St and 5th Ave. Next, School and Jay streets were completed. It took MCI only 33 days to lay the major pipelines of approximately 8,000 feet (1.5 miles) in Dutch Flat; an impressive feat.



Main Street

Photo by Ernie Bullard

Construction for the pipeline went smoothly until MCI started excavating School St and Jay St. While digging in this area, five huge boulders were encountered, two on School St and three on Jay St. Some were as big as 12ft x 6ft x 4ft and required extensive time and effort to extract the boulders on very narrow streets. People began talking about the size of the boulders and the strong possibility of finding gold underneath them. Nevertheless, MCI moved on to close the trench before nighttime.

Following the Labor Day weekend, MCI started installing service lines, consisting of lateral pipe, new meter boxes, and upgraded fire hydrants. This task may take 3 – 4 weeks. No meters will be installed at this point, only angle stops inside the boxes.

MCI will then complete upper Main St with the tie-in connection at the storage tank and the PCWA main pipeline. This tie-in will provide PCWA treated water to the steel storage tank, then gravity flow out to the distribution system. Also, a separate parallel line will be tied into the PCWA main to provide water under pressure to the houses on upper Main St and 5th Ave (approximately 20 homes). The high pressure line will provide between 40 to 60 psi, which would not be attainable with a gravity fed water line.

Stockton Street

Photo by Sherry Cunningham



Sacramento Street

Photo by Sherry Cunningham

After all the pipelines, laterals, meter boxes, and hydrants are installed, the new system will be tested under pressure for any leaks. Once the system integrity is confirmed for no leaks, paving will begin over the major pipeline streets. The paving will only cover approximately half of the roadway, because PG&E is scheduled to begin undergrounding electrical lines in the summer of 2024 on the opposite side of the road.

MCI will then loop back and excavate Clark St, Park St, Secord Alley, and lower Main St and install the secondary pipelines, service laterals, meter boxes, and upgraded fire hydrants. Once this construction phase is completed, the distribution system will be disinfected to eliminate any bacteria, then it will be flushed to eliminate the residual chlorine.

New automated water meters will then be installed and hooked up to each individual household and water service will be switched over to PCWA treated water. This gradual switch over process may take up to 30 days. Consequently, we may have some customers receiving treated water from DFM and some customers receiving water from PCWA. Eventually, all customers will receive treated water service from PCWA.

Additional construction work will also be performed at the storage tank site. The steel storage tank will be taken out of service, drained, cleaned, and re-coated as needed. A Tank Mixer, and Power Vent will be installed, as well as an Altitude Control Valve to control the water level in the tank. After modifications are complete, the tank will be cleaned and disinfected then returned to service. Also, an Insertion Flow sensor will be installed in the tank outgoing water line to monitor system flows.

Additional earthwork and paving will be performed around the tank property and access road. A chain link fence will also be installed around the property for security purposes. The project will then be substantially completed and close-out will occur.

Upon project acceptance by PCWA, the Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company will decommission the water treatment plant and begin dissolution of the company, which may take several months to complete. This will include: removal of the old water filters and instrumentation from the building, dismantling and disposal of the redwood storage tanks, and filling in of the sedimentation basin. Once these legacy assets and the property are disposed of, the company will be dissolved.

The Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company has operated for over 54 years as a community based mutual water company. It is a non-profit organization in which each member/customer is a part owner in the company. DFM is proud to have served the community with safe and healthy water during this period without incident.

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Upcoming Events



October 14, 2 - 5:30 pm, at the Dutch Flat Hotel, benefiting the Dutch Flat Community Center. Food and live music.



October 28, 6 - 11 pm, at the Dutch Flat Community Center. Food, live music and costume contest. Not affiliated with the Dutch Flat Community Center.



October 31, 6 - 8 pm, at the Dutch Flat Community Center. Food, games and prizes.

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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 10, 2023.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Attic: Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm.

Auburn Interfaith Food Closet: Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm, Wednesdays, 4-7 pm, last Saturday of each month, 10 am-2 pm. 1788 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn. 530-885-1921. Delivery available.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting: 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Laura Glassco, 916-778-8308.

Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck: 3rd Thursdays. 6:00 pm. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share. July and August at the Dutch Flat Pool.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast: 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 am -10:00 am.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Arts & Crafts: Thursdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Learn something new!

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

Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting: 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Golden Drift Museum, Main Street. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-210-5085.

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

Placer County Library Mobile Service: See schedule on Page 8.

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 message from the DFCC President

Hello to cooler days and nights!

What a busy summer for us all! Our beloved Dutch Flat Community Center got a lot of attention. The driveway around the building was completed, chips were spread to cover dirt and promote weed control, Kenny Weatherwax donated his time and materials to creating a lovely entry trellis as well as refurbishing the front bench. The bathrooms never looked better with new low-flow toilets, raising the sinks, new flooring and paint.

The July 4th celebrations continue to be enjoyed by young and old alike. Sarah Fugate headed up a great team to provide our famous Salad Luncheon. Many thanks to all of those that donated salads and desserts and to those that helped serve and clean-up! A healthy amount was raised for the Center!

The Pet Mayor’s Race was a big fundraiser for the Center headed up by Suzanne Vidal. A pot belly pig, a koi, dogs, and cats were welcomed into the Race. Mayor Piper was the ultimate winner! Congratulations to all that participated and voted with your donations!

On July 4th the Chinese community came to honor their heritage by participating in a colorful celebration in the parade.

A limited supply of Dutch Flat totes and frames are still available. Please call the Center at 530-389-8310 if you would like to make a purchase. Both items make great gifts!

The Annual White Elephant Sale, headed up by Shelley Willsmore was an enormously successful fundraiser! The team of men and women who tirelessly sorted, displayed, and sold all sorts of collectibles, clothing, decorations, linens, furniture, tools, toys etc made sure we secured a very healthy profit for the Center. Not even the unseasonable downpour stopped shoppers from coming to our community to participate in bargains

galore. Many thanks to all who donated their items and to all of those that worked so hard to make this event so special!

The Dutch Flat Water Company’s consolidation with the Placer County Water Agency has been underway for several months. Residents of the town realize what the benefits are to all of us. Many thanks to all those people who worked so hard and long to make this happen!

We have a few Board Members that will be leaving the Board this year. Many thanks to Alicia Lample-Gebel, Alan Willsmore and Alex Prero for their contributions over the years. At the September 21 Potluck we will be introducing three nominees for those vacancies: Shelley Willsmore, Deb Harris and Ernie Bullard. At the October 19 Potluck we will be voting for all Board Members. Please come to the Potlucks to enjoy friends, great food and participate in the voting process.

What another event? YES! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 14th for the DFCC Oktoberfest. It will be held at the Dutch Flat Hotel gardens from 2 to 5:30 pm. Many thanks to Leif and Wendy Lowery for allowing us to have such a beautiful setting! No advance tickets will be sold. Come and purchase a plate for \$12.00 which will include bratwurst sausage, potato salad, sauerkraut, and a dessert. Beer and wine will be sold. We’ll have music by Malarkey Band and a great afternoon to enjoy!

Oh wait, another event? YES! Mark your calendars for the Annual Halloween Party at the Dutch Flat Community Center on October 31st. Kids games, prizes, food and fun!

We look forward to seeing you at these events and having another great fall season!

Laura Glassco

Local broker offers free Medicare Assistance

By Kim Swift

Medicare is a government-funded health insurance program providing insurance primarily for Americans aged 65 and older, but also for some younger people with disability status. Medicare covers about half of the healthcare expenses of those enrolled. Enrollees almost always cover most of the remaining costs by taking additional private insurance and/or by joining a public Part C and/or Part D health plan.

No matter which of those supplemental options beneficiaries choose to make up for the shortfall of what Medicare covers, they also have other healthcare related costs. These additional costs include Medicare Part A, B and D deductibles and Part B and C co-pays; the cost of long-term custodial care; the cost of annual physical exams; and the costs related to basic Medicare’s lifetime and per-incident limits.

If you are confused or have questions about Medicare, it is useful to seek assistance from a licensed Medicare Insurance Broker.

If you are turning 65, or even if you have been on Medicare for some time, the Medicare process is not an easy one. I run into seniors all the time that have no clue



Kim Swift

as to what their plan offers, or what the difference is between a Medicare supplement and Medicare advantage. Product offerings change yearly.

At no cost to you, I will be happy to meet with you and explain all the many options. Having lived in Alta for over twenty years, this area will always be a special place for me. Give me a call. Kim Swift, License #OC94160, 530-906-2995; Swiftkimberly44@yahoo.com



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Welcome Home - *Monte Kent*

By Bill Gallaher and Jennifer Longnecker



Monte Kent 10/8/1939-8/31/2023

A fond farewell to Monte will take place on October 7, 2023, at the Kent residence off Alta Powerhouse Rd, from 1-4 pm. Please RSVP: 530-389-2235.

According to his Aunt, Nancy Longnecker, Monte was in a hurry the day he was born. His Mom, Idalene, barely made it from Blue Canyon to Dr Smith’s office in Colfax (Now Dr Fox’s) and had him there! Skipped the hospital and came back up the hill. They moved to Alta a bit later and he attended the Alta School.

They left Alta for Washington and after high school he went to Vietnam. While in the service, he met his wife Linda in Tacoma. We are blessed he came home. Monte spent a lot of time in Alta with his Uncle Hensel and cousins, the Longnecker kids. When he retired, he chose to come back to Alta and build their house. He was an integral part of the community serving on the Alta Volunteer Fire department and helping at two local churches. He served His family, His friends, His country, His community and first and foremost His God. He has left a wonderful legacy and will be greatly missed.

This part is my (Bill Gallaher’s) memories of Monte:

“You lucky b&#%rd.” That’s what I told Monte the day before he died. He chuckled because he knew I meant that he was about to see Jesus. The most important thing Monte told me that he wanted people to know about him was that he was a believer in Jesus Christ. And he was excited about what was about to happen to him. Monte was my friend. He loved to laugh. We connected through Jesus and Vietnam. He didn’t talk much about his war experiences, and after hearing them, I know why. When he was stationed at Biên Hòa airbase, Monte was in the middle of what Col. Wild Bill Beatha (Commander of the 34th Tactical Fighter Group) said was the worst U.S. military disaster since Pearl Harbor. A B-57 bomber, while waiting to takeoff on a mission, exploded, setting off a whole chain of secondary explosions. The resulting conflagration destroyed 24 B-57s, eleven Vietnamese A-1H Skyraiders, and

a US Navy F-8 Crusader. There were 26 USAF killed and several injured. There were also many casualties among civilians and Vietnamese air force personnel. Monte’s friends died in the fireballs. He cried as he was telling me the story. He told me those images were with him always. It gave him nightmares.

But war time also had its fun and games. Monte told me that during a golf game he hit a ball into the rough. The ball hit and knocked a stick into the air. As Monte was about to follow his ball into the rough, their Vietnamese caddy stopped him. The “stick” was a King Cobra.

Ironically, Monte was saved a second time by a Vietnamese. I say “ironically” because many times we couldn’t tell the Vietnamese who were working with US, and those that weren’t. And even those working with us sometimes strangely seemed to know the “enemy’s” movements. A good example: Monte was stationed at Biên Hòa airbase, and he and his buddies would travel the 50 miles to Saigon to find more and better girls, food, booze, girls. Monte told me they always tried to get the same driver and became friends by tipping him with cigarettes and whiskey. During one of their excursions, they were detoured off the main road by a Vietnamese soldier. Driving just a short distance down a dirt track, parking out of site, and not being told what was happening, many nasty scenarios came to mind. The truth was that Monte’s friendship with the taxi driver kept him and his buddies from being ambushed, caught in a subsequent fire fight, and possibly killed wounded or captured. Good thing he wasn’t in a hurry that time.

I loved Monte. He was a good, Godly man.

Rest in Peace

Peggy Ewing 5/21/1930-8/29/2023



Margaret “Peggy” Louise Ennis Ewing, passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 29th, 2023 in Auburn, CA. “Peggy Lou” was born on May 21, 1930 in Martins Ferry, Ohio to Robert George Ennis & Margaret Edwards. Her family eventually moved to Pittsburg, California where her younger brother, Robbie was born. Her parents divorced when she was 13 and later her mother married Charles Carlson who was serving in the US Army. She moved around during her high school years, but ended up at Camp Cooke in Lompoc, California where she was a cheerleader and worked on the school newspaper.

In July 1951, while living at the YWCA in Tacoma, Washington she met a handsome Airmen named Robert Ewing at a dance at McChord Air Force Base. In January 1952 they were married. They had three children, Robert Ivor Ewing Jr, Debra Ewing, & Diane Ewing. Peggy worked as a City Clerk for the City of Clayton, CA before they purchased the Rainbow Tavern Lodge. They went on to own Sierra Disposal for 19 years before retiring in Dutch Flat, CA. Peggy worked as a volunteer for the Dutch Flat Volunteer Fire Department Women’s Auxiliary, Golden Drift Historical Society, and served on the Board of Directors for the Dutch Flat Community Center.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband of 71 years, Bob Ewing of Dutch Flat; son Bob Ewing and his wife Susie of Fort Collins, CO; daughter Debbie Adams and her husband Dick of Colfax, CA; daughter Diane Ewing of Dutch Flat; and many grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. She served her family, friends, and community with love, patience, and loyalty. She will be greatly missed and her love and impact on all the lives she touched will never be forgotten!

A memorial service will be held October 21st, 2023 at 12pm at the Dutch Flat Community Center. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Dutch Flat Community Center in memory of Peggy Ewing, PO Box 14, Dutch Flat, CA 95714 or online at www.dutchflatcc.org.

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2023: The year of the Hummingbird Moth

By Annette Rodgers Purther



Hyles lineata, also known as the white-lined sphinx Photo by Annette Rodgers Purther

I believe many nature lovers living here in Placer County would agree that this year may aptly be called, “2023, The Year Of The Hummingbird Moth”. I, myself, have never seen one before, or at least they never made an impression on me as they have this year. One glance out of my peripheral vision and I’m off following this fascinating flier.

Let’s get the truth out in the open right off the bat. These moths, in caterpillar form, are the Tomato Worm or hornworm. I recall as a child, my Dad and I searching for them on our tomato plants. The damage they do is much easier to see than the worm itself. So, maybe the fact they somehow hide very well, may be why many make it to the flying stage. After mating, the female moth lays eggs on plant leaves and the hatched caterpillar feeds on its host plant, which is more than just the tomato plant.

Hummingbird moths share many common characteristics with hummingbirds. Both of these creatures are effective pollinators of many of the same flowers, and hummingbird moths also sip nectar from many of the same blooms hummingbirds prefer. And, Hummingbird moths are also agile fliers that can hover, fly sideways, and fly backward just like hummingbirds with a rapid wing-

beat up to 70 beats per second (depending on the species), enabling it to fly up to 12 mph. Instead of a beak like a hummingbird, it has a long tongue-like proboscis that rolls out of its coiled tube to reach the nectar deep inside flowers. Its tongue is about double the length of the moth’s body. It has large, menacing eyes that appear to warn predators to keep their distance. Also protecting it from potential predators is its close resemblance to a bird, instead of a bug. They range in length from 2—2.5 inches long and are covered in gray hair that resembles feathers, with white, rust or brown markings or variations. Their wingspan ranges from 2 to 6 inches depending on the species.

Observing a Hummingbird moth flying about my Impatiens flowers for several different days, I got to wondering if flowers regenerate their nectar; and it turns out that they do, but this varies from a few minutes to several hours. Temperature, soil, moisture, and plant age can affect how quickly nectar is replenished.

I hope you got to experience the Hummingbird moth this season. Sure were a lot of them.

CHP ramps up I-80 brake checks

By Max Resnik

California Highway Patrol in Gold Run says it’s placing a greater emphasis on big rig brake checks, after a series of fires along Interstate 80 that threatened communities. “We don’t want to have any more fires here in California, if we can avoid that,” said Officer Earl Nattrass.

Nattrass spent much of his day on the lookout for truckers who passed a mandatory brake check near Nyack. Those who didn’t stop to check the status of their breaks were pulled over and issued citations.

Among those was driver Bilal Talal, who told Nattrass he didn’t think he needed to stop because he wasn’t hauling anything. Talal, aware of the wildfire concerns, acknowledged the importance of the brake checks. “It’s a great thing because we do need to be made aware,” he said. “We have to take the initiative and be safe. That’s what it’s all about is being safe.” After receiving his ticket, he got out of his truck and went underneath it to get a look at the brakes.

Officer Chris Nave chalked up the brake fires to a few key factors. The first, he said, was truckers passing the brake check. “We have a brake check area at Blue Canyon where all trucks are supposed to stop, by law, and check their brakes, make sure they’re not too hot before they come down the hill,” he said.

Aside from blowing off the brake check, Nave said too many truckers speed down the Sierra’s steep westbound lanes, which in turn, causes them to apply too much pressure, too often, to their brakes.

Inexperience, he added, is also to blame. “The experienced drivers that drive this mountain a lot, know how to gear down, how to maneuver these hills better than maybe some of these drivers that don’t have the experience,” he said. Nave suggested drivers new to the mountain trek talk with their colleagues over the radio and at truck stops for best practices on getting down the mountain.

Everyday drivers, Nave added, aren’t free of blame either. He said drivers who cut off truckers or don’t give them enough space cause them to slam on their brakes more often, which over time, can also lead to brake fires.

CHP said it will continue its stepped-up enforcement with the help of an airplane. With a bird’s-eye view, it can more easily catch big rigs ignoring the brake check.



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55 years of White Elephant Sales

By Shelley Willsmore



Eager White Elephant Sale shoppers line up in front of the Community Center

The 55th White Elephant Sale was a huge success, thanks to the dedicated volunteers, shoppers, and generous donations from the community. It just would not have been possible without all these contributions. Amid unprecedented rain showers, the shoppers lined up as usual and descended on our beloved Community Center. After months of preparation, our volunteers were ready for them. The wonderful donations so beautifully displayed in our historic schoolhouse created a bargain hunter's delight.



The White Elephant Cafe served delicious home baked goods from talented members of the community and hot beverages were in demand. There were also tasty pasta and fruit salads served. The Rustic Table sold their yummy Breakfast Burritos during the morning hours and the Trading Post barbecued hamburgers for lunch. We wanted to make sure shoppers did not run out of energy.

Rain prevented us from opening the tennis/pickleball court on the scheduled sale dates, so the sale continued Monday and the court opened again on Tuesday. And since we were having so much fun, we decided to open again the following Saturday. This too

had never been done before.

The White Elephant Sale has historically been the largest fundraising event for the Center, with probably the fewest volunteers per capita. I heard from the volunteers that they had a lot of fun preparing for the sale and enjoyed meeting and working with members of the community. And they will also say, it was a lot of work. So, if someone takes on the very big job of coordinating this event next year, please consider volunteering your time, and talents.

We cannot forget to thank all those who gave their treasures so others could acquire new treasures. Personally, I found some fun and useful items and I am already looking over my over-abundant belongings for things to donate next year.

Though we don't have the final figures since all the expenses have not been calculated, funds were raised to continue maintaining the building, making needed repairs, and covering recurring expenditures. Such a wonderful community and we are so thankful.

Photos by Jennifer Longnecker



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Daylight Saving Time

Sunday,
November 5,
2023

Squirrel this one away!

By Mia Monroe

We have been watching the abundant cones on the sugar pine in our area and we saw new first-year green ones, lots of mature second-years, plus those that held over for this season to drop. We imagined gathering for friends, holiday decoration and as fire starters. Then we noticed the local squirrels in the treetops cutting them down and, when Steve picked one up, the alert went out that someone was "stealing" a cone and did he get a vociferous chatter from all the treetops around! Whoa! Then, we began to notice that there was a halo of cone scales around every sugar pine and the cones now looked like an eaten corn cob!

My love affair with Sugar Pine trees now shifted to how squirrels were feasting and I asked myself, what else relied on them, and learned woodpeckers do. Once upon a time the local tribes would move upslope from their foothill oak woodlands to the sugar pine at higher elevation. Tree climbing contests would ensue! The native Americans not only gathered the choice small pine nuts from the sugar pine, but also prized the nodules of pine sugar that had little resin, is primarily a sugar different than what we're used to, and could be dissolved in water. But watch out! Pine sugar has cathartic qualities.

Squirrels seem common and are easy to observe. It is great fun to watch their acrobatics, balanced by their bushy tail as they leap from branch to limb. During the summer, they make big, leafy bark nests called drey, high enough to be out of carnivore's reach, yet not exposed for predation by raptors. They don't hibernate but move their residence in winter to tree cavities. Besides pine nuts they cache fungus, berries, and acorns with the added benefit of helping reseed the world if they forget where they hid their supply.

I was amazed to learn squirrels are considered "living fossils" and originated in North America 36 million years ago to spread through most of the world but remain very close to their ancestors. Also was surprised to learn that the west has the greatest diversity of chipmunks!

Well, everything must eat! What else have you observed nosing? The dogwood fruits are prized by migratory birds, the bats sure help keep the flying insects at bay, the monarchs seek milkweed for their hungry caterpillars. Everything, it seems, loves something the oak have to offer!

Much on the move (migration) to milder climes, but squirrels are out and about for us to enjoy year round! I'm going to watch those sugar pine halos to see if they return for a special sweet treat!

Sierra Animal Wellness Center

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FAIR Plan offering new discounts for homeowners

LOS ANGELES – The California FAIR Plan Association announced that it will introduce new home hardening discounts, effective August 23, 2023, for policyholders who take steps to make their homes safer from wildfires. As Californians continue to grapple with the impact of climate-fueled natural disasters across the state, the new discounts are designed to enhance wildfire resilience, support insurance availability and give peace of mind to policyholders.

“Home hardening in communities vulnerable to wildfire improves safety and helps to address insurance availability for consumers,” said Victoria Roach, president of the FAIR Plan. “Our goal is to help save lives and protect homes. The new home hardening discounts will encourage homeowners to take steps that increase wildfire resilience and reduce risks in areas threatened by worsening wildfires.”

Home hardening helps to protect properties from wildfires, especially in areas where fire risk is highest. The qualifying mitigation measures have been identified by fire prevention experts to help protect structures from wildfire and reduce the risk of fire spreading in the immediate surroundings.

The amount of savings will depend on which protections policyholders choose to implement. Consumers are encouraged to work with their insurance broker to identify discounts for which they are eligible. To qualify for either the immediate surroundings discount or structural discount, homeowners must meet all the following criteria:

- Immediate Surroundings Protections
 - Cleared vegetation and debris from under decks
 - Removal of combustible shed and other outbuildings from the immediate surroundings of the home, to at least a distance of 30 feet
 - Defensible space compliance (including trimming trees, removal of brush and debris from yard, and compliance with

- state law and local ordinances)
- Structure Protections
- Class-A Fire rated roof
- Maintain a 5-foot ember-resistant zone around a home (including fencing within 5 feet)
- Noncombustible 6 inches at the bottom of exterior walls
- Ember and fire-resistant vents (See **Low-Cost Retrofit List**, and Chapter 7A)
- Upgraded windows (Double paned or added shutters)
- Enclosed eaves

The latest discounts are in addition to a Firewise discount already offered by the FAIR Plan for properties located within designated Firewise USA communities.

These discounts are part of the state’s Safer from Wildfires inter-agency partnership, comprised of the California Department of Insurance, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and Office of Planning and Research, and California Public Utilities Commission.

To learn more about qualifications for discounts, visit CDI’s Safer from Wildfires webpage.

About the California FAIR Plan
The California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan is an insurance pool established by law to assure the availability of basic property insurance to people who own insurable property in the State of California and who, beyond their control, have been unable to obtain insurance in the voluntary insurance market. The FAIR Plan provides stability in California’s insurance marketplace. It is committed to strengthening consumer choices in the voluntary insurance market, while ensuring that all homeowners, including those who live in areas threatened by wildfires, have access to basic property coverage and the peace of mind they deserve. For more information, visit www.CFPnet.com.

GDHS gets results!

By Sarah Fugate



Chinese Americans in Dutch Flat parade

2023 has been another productive year for the Golden Drift Historical Society. Our active Board, consisting of 8 Society members, successfully convinced Placer County that the Dutch Flat Cemetery was owned by them and, therefore, their responsibility to maintain. As such, earlier this year they cleared the public cemetery of large, downed trees and debris, making it more fire-safe for our community and easier to walk around. A new fence was installed at the Fraternal Orders cemetery, a project we sponsored.

Significant funds have been raised for our Chinese Ancestry Restoration Project (CARP), enabling us to improve the Chinese section of the public cemetery, in addition to other efforts to restore Dutch Flat’s Chinese-American history.

A Dutch Flat History Day coincided with Placer County Museums Division’s Heritage Trail Day. The Society supplied docents and special programming at the Odd Fellows Lodge, Dutch Flat Hotel and Dutch Flat Methodist Church. A third edition of our “Walking Tour of Dutch Flat” brochure was produced. Additionally, we have joined forces with Placer County Resource Conservation District to continue improvements in the Dutch Flat Community Garden.

Finally, we have contracted with Bob Hermiston to improve the historic Hearse House. Work will begin late September/early October to be finished by November. The plan includes encasing the structure in Hardie board, plus new paint, windows, and lighting. Any ideas for paint colors? Leave a message on our website: www.goldendrift.org.

Bob Hampshire



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A short history of the Dutch Flat Methodist Church

By Debby McClatchy

(Presented to the Placer County Docent Guild as part of a town tour May 8, 2023)

Originally there were three churches in Dutch Flat. The Methodist Church is the only one left. It has the distinction of being the second oldest Methodist Church in Placer County, the first being the Pioneer Church in Auburn. Methodism started in Cornwall and was brought to California by miners from that country. Originally a Methodist-Episcopal Church, it still is, although the Episcopal was dropped informally in the latter part of the twentieth century.

The town of Dutch Flat was founded by the Dornbach family in 1851 as a mercantile center for miners working on the Bear and American Rivers. By 1854 there were enough residents that their thoughts turned to social and spiritual needs. Fraternal organizations could meet in taverns, but there were no houses of worship.

The “Herald” newspaper of Auburn tells us in 1854 that there were no Methodist pastors in Placer County at that time. A lay pastor, Jack Martin, started a worship service in his home in Dutch Flat that year. Another lay pastor, R.B. Schofield, from the Sacramento parish, purchased, for \$450, a small building on the present site of the church. It was a combination residence, school, and church, and services were held there for a number of years.

In 1858 Reverend Schofield held an eight-day town meeting. So many new members were signed up they decided to build a proper church.

Construction started in 1859 and was completed in 1861. The timbers were all hand-hewn by the Towle Brothers Lumber Company. A small square, New England style steeple was built; in later years, probably in the early 1870s, this was replaced by the taller spire we see today. Church lore tells us that the divided wooden pews came “round the horn”. They were divided, also two entrances built, so women and men could sit separately.

This custom has ended.

During the U.S. Civil War, Dutch Flat was split between pro- and anti-slavery factions. This was mirrored throughout the town, including the church. In 1864 the anti-slavery group, mostly people originally from New England, split off and built their own church, located up on the SE side of Main Street. It was named the Union Church. The children of both continued to go to the two Sunday schools, as they knew gifts and treats would come to them from both during Christmas festivities. After the Civil War ended, the Union Church members gradually returned to the Methodist Church. By the 1870s, the former was no longer used. After the building partially collapsed in the harsh winter of 1889/90, it was torn down.

A third church, of a Catholic denomination, was built on Park Avenue in 1865-66. In its thirty years of existence, it never had

a permanent priest, just traveling ones. An arsonist burned it down in 1898. Mass continued to be held in private homes.

The size of the Methodist congregation rose and fell with the fortunes of Dutch Flat. Boom and bust years for hydraulic mining, due to droughts, then wet years and advances in technology, saw numbers go up and down. In 1873, at the height of hydraulics, the Church bought the lot behind and to the side from E.L. Bradley. This lot was important in 1997, when the extra space allowed the Church to build its present extension. The town being an historic area caused the permit process to take two years.

A local family, the Wedgewoods, lived in Dutch Flat in the 1890s. They were Charles, the father, Mother Fannie, and their five children. Charles Jr., the eldest, was the only of the five to survive to his teens. The others were taken by the waves of contagious diseases that swept through Dutch Flat in the nineteenth century. In his teens, Charles Jr. was diagnosed with a mental illness and sent to an institution in Napa. Two years

ERECTED IN 1861

later, supposedly better, they discharged him home. Over two days he burned down the school, two residences, and the Catholic Church. They sent him back to Napa. Mother Fannie was found in a “state” wandering the streets. She evidently survived as she was buried in our Oddfellows cemetery a dozen years later.

By the 1930s, a lack of employment opportunities, and The Great Depression in general, made life in Dutch Flat difficult. The church building was deteriorating to the point of condemnation. In 1934, a recently formed Ladies Aid Society took on an informal sponsorship, and, through bazaars, sales, and donations, was able to keep the Church afloat throughout the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. They paid the pastor’s salary, the fire insurance, the wood for the stove, and raised funds for the materials to rebuild the structure. Town folks did the labor. They made possible the concrete steps, the new chandeliers, and the piano. While the Church was only one of a dozen organizations served by the LAS, their support was instrumental in its continuance.

The Dutch Flat Community Club (a precursor to our Community Center) helped out by holding Sunday school in the 1950s.

In 2004, using 1854, when Jack Martin held his home services, as a starting point, the Church celebrated its sesquicentennial with an all-day event. Starting with a service, there were then tours of the hotel, the museum, and the cemetery, followed by a luncheon. All went back to the Church for a music and poetry program, then for the highlight of the day, the burial of a time

capsule, full of current memorabilia, for future generations to find.

Over the years there have been many memorable pastors. The Reverend E.H. King was pastor from 1877-1880, the last boom period in the area. Previously, Reverend King had been a chaplain to the northern troops in the Civil War; then pastor at the Pioneer Church in Auburn. The boom saw \$10 and \$20 gold pieces in the collection plate, plus the Reverend could ask \$5 -\$40 for officiating at a wedding or funeral.

There are conflicting accounts of a Reverend E. Smith, perhaps a father and son. Most pastors only stayed one or two years. The Reverend Smith is listed only for 1904. However, our Isaac Coffin diary tells us a Reverend E. Smith, probably a lay-pastor, officiated from 1880-86 and 1894-1900. He was very unpopular as his sermons went on and on and on. He was asked to leave in 1886, but brought back eight years later, probably because of a lack of others to call upon.

The Ladies Aid Society’s formation in Dutch Flat was spearheaded by Reverend Baine in 1933. He contacted Pearl Quinn, the wife of the store-owner, and other influential women, and suggested they meet with the Colfax LAS, which provided the advice needed. As we mentioned previously, this probably saved the Church.

Between 1953 and 1956, a lay pastor, Dr. Chester Bockman, conducted religious surveys and a missionary style outreach to the community, which substantially increased the congregation. These numbers held throughout the decade.

From about 1990 to 2005 the pastor, shared with Colfax, was Clarence Wagner. An incredibly energetic and charismatic man, and a wonderful cowboy poet, with many like-minded friends, he re-energized the congregation.

After his retirement, the Church never regained those numbers.

In 2009 the Methodist Churches of Dutch Flat, Colfax, and Meadow Vista were combined to form one parish. Traveling pastors serve all three.

Besides a church service on Sunday evenings, followed by a community supper, and another service on Wednesdays, there’s a weekly arts and crafts workshop, and a pancake breakfast (plus biscuits and sausage gravy) on the second Saturday. They also sponsor a monthly open mike for musicians, poets, and dramatists, and a very popular strawberry shortcake booth at the Fourth of July festivities. A BBQ and Western Night Concert is on hiatus, but the town hopes it will continue.

Today the Methodist Church is not only a religious center, but a very much beloved member of the community of Dutch Flat. The fact that it has continued for almost 170 years is a testament to its members’ energy, tenacity and commitment.

Become a Member of the Dutch Flat Community Center!

Dutch Flat Community Center Membership Form

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization (Tax ID# 68-0484699)

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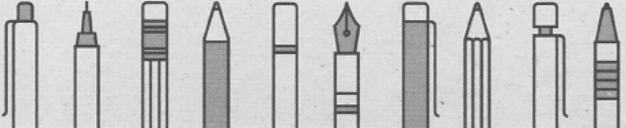
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Dutch Flat Odd Fellows 165th Anniversary

By Lynn Kannenberg

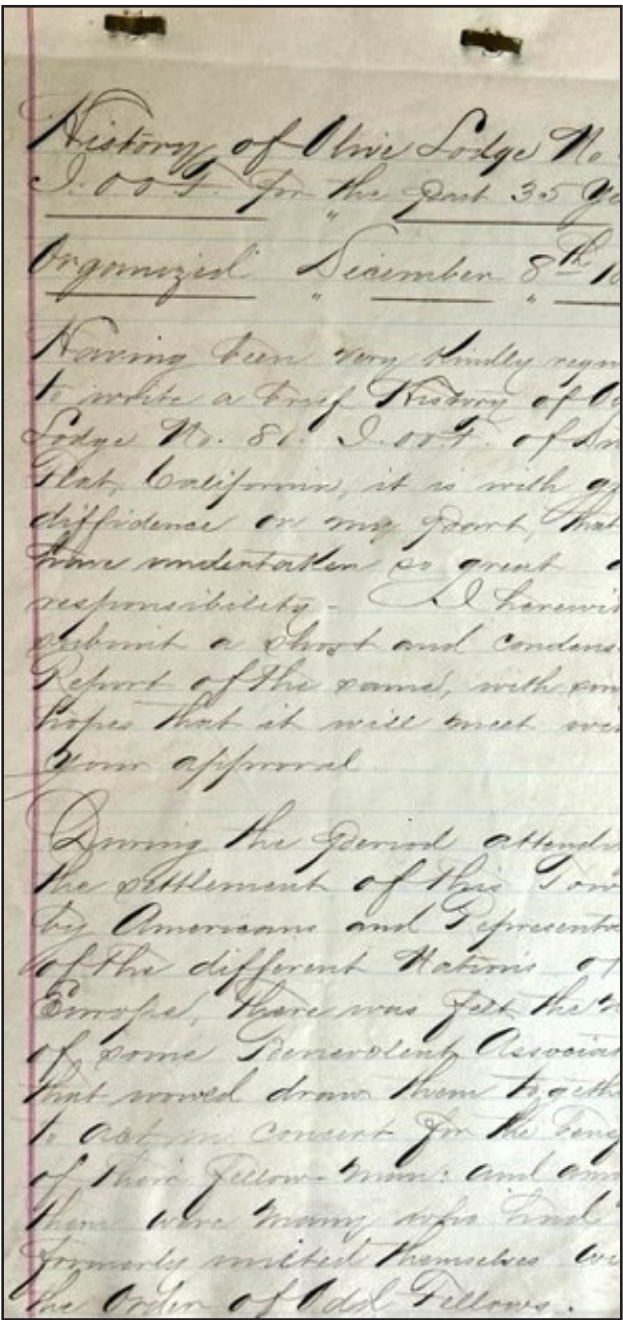
2023 marks the 165th anniversary of the founding of Olive Lodge, Number 81, Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Dutch Flat. This is a transcribed excerpt from a hand written history prepared by William Nicholls Jr. in 1893.

History of Olive Lodge No 81 I.O.O.F. for the Past 35 Years; Organized December 8th 1858

Having been very kindly requested to write a brief history of Olive Lodge No. 81 I.O.O.F. of Dutch Flat, California, it is with great diffidence on my part that I have undertaken so great a responsibility. I herewith submit a short and condensed report of the same, with sincere hopes that it will meet with your approval.

During the period attending the settlement of this town by Americans and Representatives of the different Nations of Europe, there was felt the need of some Benevolent Association to act in concert for the benefit of their fellow man and among them were many who had formerly united themselves with the Order of. Odd Fellows. After due notice, the following Brothers met and organized Olive Lodge No. 81 IOOF.

H.T. Woosten, T.G. Steel, Solomon Williams, N.W. Blanchard, P.I. Craig, L. Gross (?) and B.F. Moore. They applied to the Worthy Grand Master J. L. Van Bokhelen for a charter for this lodge and a special



dispensation was issued to D.D.G. Master N. R. D. Tr_____, and on the 8th day of December 1858 the above named Brothers met and the lodge was instituted and opened in due form and appropriately named Olive No. 81 I.O.O.F. , there being present several brothers from Brooklyn No. 46 and Placer No. 38 who assisted them in the opening ceremonies. On the same evening, the lodge proceeded to the nomination and election of officers with the following result.

- Noble Grand, N.W. Blanchard
- Vice Grad, H.T. Woosten
- Secretary, P.I. Craig
- Treasurer, B.F. Moore

After a careful survey of the finances and work of the lodge, it is something of which we as members of the Olive Lodge should feel justly proud and thankful to those Bros who carried the lodge through its adversity and have handed down to us an ample fund for our future necessities and may it be our duty as members to see it taken care of and spent for those that may be sick or in need of assistance. And now in conclusion, I will state that it is our pride and ambition to well and truly perform the duties of Odd Fellowship as instructed so to do by our obligations and the laws of our order.; if we have failed to do so on any occasion, it must be attributed to the head and not the heart. I now close with my best wishes for the future success of Olive Lodge.

Alta-Dutch Flat School News

By Shana Brown, Superintendent-Principal

Our school year is officially underway and summer vacation is just a distant memory. This is the longest instructional block of our school year, from Labor Day to Veterans’ Day, and our classrooms are busy with all kinds of learning. There is a welcoming and warm atmosphere on campus where students and teachers all contribute. School hours are 8:30 to 2:30. Thank you for watching for our students walking and riding their bikes to and from school. We appreciate all the community support and well wishes we receive.

Some of the things happening on campus:

Our fifth through eighth graders walked to the pool for PE on one Friday in August. We were hoping for two but were rained out unfortunately. This is one of the favorite traditions at Alta and a much-looked-forward-to rite of passage for our big kids.

You may have seen our cross-country team out running in the mornings. They have been practicing on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings under the guidance

of Coach Maribel McDonnell. The team consists of fourth through eighth graders and are about 15 strong. They compete with other schools in Placer and Nevada counties. There have been lots of medals and even some first-place finishes. The athletes thrive on seeing their times improve.

Our enrollment is holding steady at 91 students. This seems to be our set-point as we only seem to deviate from that number by about five students, give or take. We have several new families who have been wonderful additions. We also have two new teachers, Kayla Parra and Zoey Lynch. We don’t get new teachers here very often! They are settling in well and figuring out the “Alta way” of doing things.

Scott Leaman, who served as our Superintendent-Principal for the last year and a half is staying on as a Transitional Assistant Superintendent. He is focusing on some of the big projects which need to happen on campus. Our portable buildings that are located adjacent to our playground were heavily damaged over the last couple

of hard winters. We are in the process of deciding whether to rehab them or remove them. We also plan to upgrade our HVAC system, mainly through the use of federal covid relief funds. Our classrooms only have window air conditioners so a new HVAC system would provide much needed cooling to the entire school as well as filtering the air more effectively.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 21, for the Fall Festival. This fun community event, sponsored by the ADF Parents’ Club, has faire food, carnival games, and a hay slide. This year will also bring a bigger and better Haunted House to benefit the 8th grade class specifically.

We are so fortunate at Alta-Dutch Flat School to have a very strong Parents’ Club. Brandy March, our Parents’ Club President, called the first meeting on September 6, which had record attendance. In addition to the Fall Festival, look for information at Christmas and a dinner-fundraiser in late-winter.

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