



Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run COMMUNITY

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Wardwells celebrate 50 years at the Monte Vista Inn



Photo courtesy of Monte Vista Inn

Petrified Wood Hearth in the Lounge at the Monte Vista Inn

By Sarah Fugate

In 1972, John and Abby Wardwell moved with their baby daughter, Allison, to Dutch Flat from the Bay Area, to purchase the Monte Vista Inn. At the time, the Monte Vista Inn served breakfast, lunch and dinner. Partners John Wardwell and Larry Kelly knew immediately that they wanted to convert the existing restaurant into a fine dining establishment. In the early 1990's, the Wardwells took full ownership of the Inn when Larry moved to Colorado, and the family owned and operated business really took off.

"The restaurant's location has been key to its success", said John Wardwell, when I sat down with him and his youngest daughter, Holland, in the Monte Vista's cozy lounge. He is proud of the Monte Vista's established reputation. While focusing on local area customers, the Wardwells have always tried to highlight the unique building and its location.

Over the years, Monte Vista has employed hundreds of locals, including multiple generations of area families. The Harmon Family of Alta have a long history with the restaurant. Joel and Eric began working there

"My hope is that customers have a great experience while dining at the Monte Vista Inn" -John Wardwell

in the early 80s. Eric fondly remembers the kinship that existed among the employees. Eric's children, Joseph, Heidi and Grace, have followed suit and worked on the floor.

Current floor manager, Brianna Harback, met her husband, Kevin, a cook, at the Monte Vista Inn. Brianna has worked at the restaurant, "as long as she can remember", since her mother, Dutch Flat resident, Deanna Goodale, has worked in many capacities there for more than 30 years.

At one point, there were six members of the Formo family working at the Inn. Jimmy Formo and his wife Terri, Kathy,

"The fact that we have gotten to live in this special place has made it all worth it" -John Wardwell

and her husband, D.R., and Gunda, with her husband, John Pramuk. Both of Kathy and D.R.'s sons went on to work at the Inn in high school where they made some of their lifelong friends.

John Pramuk recalls regulars like, Bearded Richard Foster and Doc Almond, sitting at the bar, along with others sharing stories. Pramuk said, "It was a gathering place, a family tavern and restaurant. John (Wardwell) was great to work for. Those were the golden years. (The Wardwells) have gone the distance over the decades, while other I-80 places have come and gone."

The Wardwells are proud of the home away from home they have created. Along with the families who have worked for them, their own children and grandchildren have made the Inn their first jobs. Many diners have enjoyed a song on the ukulele from grandson, Brannon, or have loved having three generations of the family help them during dinner.

There are not a lot of restaurants that survived on the I-80 corridor, but the Monte Vista remains after all these years, better than ever. 50 years and counting..

"Our legacy has been good people and good food in a great place" -John Wardwell

The Monte Vista Inn is located on I-80 at Dutch Flat. The Dining Room is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 5 pm. Featuring savory meals, cooked to order, and their famous homemade desserts. Reservations required on weekends. Call 530-389-BEEF (2333). Visit their website: www.montevistainn.com

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Independence Day in Dutch Flat



Photos by Sarah Fugate

By Sarah Fugate

As has occurred since the 1850's, a parade will be held in Dutch Flat at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 4, to commemorate Independence Day. Marchers, floats, classic cars, first responders and more will line up at 10 a.m. on Stockton Street. The parade will follow its traditional route, Stockton Street to Main Street to Sacramento Street and back to Stockton Street, and make two revolutions. The parade is a community-organized event having no affiliation with the Dutch Flat Community Center.



Mike and Margie Jager will be honored as Grand Marshalls of the parade.



Following the parade, the Dutch Flat Community Center will host a Salad Luncheon, including assorted salads, cookies, ham and bread, donated by community members, for \$5 per person. The Dutch Flat Trading Post will have barbecued hamburgers, served with chips and a drink, for sale. The Rustic Table, from Emigrant Gap, will sell burritos.



Dutch Flat's Golden Drift Museum will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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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 is September 10, 2022.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Attic: Thursdays, 10 am - 1 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. 6:00 pm. Dutch Flat Pool, Mattel St. Bring a place setting, your own drink, 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 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.

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.

Placer County Library Mobile Service: Alta Store, 7/7, 8/4, 9/8, 11 am-12 pm. Dutch Flat Community Center, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 10 am -12 pm.

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.

COMMUNITY has lost one of its own...

Michelle Hancock

March 14, 1957 - April 25, 2022

By Marybeth Blackinton

Michelle Ann Hancock was always a storyteller, an attribute born of her love of history, genealogy, family, and her genuine interest in everyone she met. On April 25th, 2022 after a heroic battle with cancer, she left behind those of us who loved her to carry on telling our stories in her place.

Michelle was born on March 14, 1957 to parents Sarah-Ann (nee Vincent) and Michael McKenny in Maine, during the years when her father was an Air Force pilot. She often joked that she did more traveling as an Air Force kid than she did in the rest of her life, living in Maine, Florida, Massachusetts and eventually Germany, all by the age of six. In 1963, Michelle’s father died in a plane crash in Germany when he was just 28, and the family moved back to Fair Oaks, CA to begin again. Sarah-Ann was widowed with three small children to care for when the family’s pastor introduced her to another young widower at their church, Allan Goller. Six months later, Sarah-Ann and Allan married, and Allan adopted Michelle, Lauryl and Marcus and loved them as his own. Sarah-Ann and Allan remained happily married until Sarah-Ann passed away in November of 2019 and Allan followed her in June of 2021.

Michelle graduated a year early from Bella Vista High School in 1975, and then attended American River College, before going to work for CalTrans in 1986. There, she worked her way up over a long career, retiring in 2017. She had a reputation for connecting people while at CalTrans, a mother hen who was good at taking care of her colleagues. An astute coworker suggested that Michelle would be the perfect person to help introduce Steve Hancock, a new engineer, to Sacramento. Whether it was luck or inspired matchmaking, they quickly became friends and then married, spending 22 of the happiest years of Michelle’s life together.

Steve made Michelle laugh like no one else could, supported and fought for her throughout her illness, and above all, he did his best to fulfill Michelle’s dearest wishes, from their wedding at a historic church in Coloma, to building and relocating to their log home in the woods of Alta, CA.

A born storyteller, it was always a dream of Michelle’s to become a journalist. She fulfilled that wish in retirement, often submitting articles to the Dutch Flat *Community* newspaper. She would ‘interview’ friends and family as if she was preparing to write an article, going so far as to pretend she was holding up a microphone. Michelle loved being part of the Dutch Flat and Alta communities, both for the comradery of small town living as well as for the opportunity to continue her role as mother hen.

More than anything, Michelle was a stubborn optimist and a woman of faith, who never gave up hope even when she learned her diagnosis was terminal. She spent her last year with Steve, her friends, and her family, as upbeat as ever, fighting



Photos courtesy of Marybeth Blackinton

even harder, and refusing to live as if this was the end. If it had not been for the wigs, you might never have known she was ill, and that’s how she wanted it. She traveled to Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, Hawaii, the northern California coast and through the Rockies with Steve, all in just the last six months, never relenting in her kindness, positivity, or joy for life. She was a ray of sunshine, and the lives of all who loved her are brighter for knowing her.

She leaves behind her husband Steve, her sister Lauryl Frame (husband Darren Frame); her sisters and brothers in-law Amy Goller and Michael, Diane, Mary, Christine, John and Tom Hancock; her nieces and nephews Kristin Emmett, Emily Frame, Casey Frame, Spencer Goller, Macy Goller; her Malamute, Timbre, and many friends from Alta, Caltrans, and from just about anywhere she stopped to chat and learn a new story. She is reunited with her parents, Sarah-Ann, Michael McKenny and Allan Goller; and brother Marcus Goller.

Services were held on June 1 at the Fair Oaks Cemetery where Michelle will rest in eternity in a plot beside her father, Michael McKenny.



Monte Vista Inn

I-80 at Dutch Flat, California



Dining Room is now open Tuesday—Saturday from 5:00 pm
Featuring savory meals cooked to order
and our famous homemade desserts

Reservations needed on weekends
Please call 530-389-BEEF (2333)

Welcome Home - *A personal story*



By Bill Gallaher

Welcome Home Afghanistan Veterans.

Last summer, 2021, the US public watched on live TV, as the Taliban, a much smaller and weaker fighting force, ran the US out of Afghanistan. Since then, I have thought of how similar my experience as a Vietnam Vet is to Afghanistan war vets. I recently read an article in the Disabled American Veteran, DAV, magazine, written by an Afghan war veteran, that discusses how common experiences and struggles bond Vietnam and Afghanistan veterans.

So many things have changed and yet so many things are the same. Up until Vietnam, war photos were the way the American public learned about the horrors of combat. That changed in Vietnam with nightly newscasts on television showing things like the My Lai massacre and a young Vietnamese girl running naked through the street while napalm melted away her skin. Public opinion turned against the war and consequently the returning veterans. Vietnam vets were called baby killers and spit on. Returning Afghan veterans found the treatment of Vietnam veterans totally foreign to them and made them feel there was a difference between Afghan and Vietnam vets. “Kind of like Afghan was a good war and Vietnam was the bad one”. Many Afghan war veterans grew up hearing about how we “lost” Vietnam. That Idea was supported by the image of an American helicopter evacuating embassy personnel from the rooftop of the American embassy in Saigon in April of 1975.

That Idea changed when, 47 years later, TV pictures showed U.S. embassy personnel being evacuated from Kabul last summer. “Afghanistan is my Vietnam now...and it made me feel more connected to those guys than ever before”.

The DAV national commander, a twice wounded Vietnam army veteran, said “I couldn’t believe they’re doing this again to our troops. It was depressing to see it happen 50 years later. I feel like something that ties Vietnam and Afghanistan veterans together is all the negative and conflicting feelings one can have after their country pulls out from a war they were in. You’re there because you were sent there to do your job and you just hope your family and the American public appreciate it”.

Personally, after Kabul fell to the Taliban, I didn’t like to see our enemies wearing our armor and using our weapons. Almost as bad as Hanoi Jane Fonda sitting on an anti-aircraft gun in Hanoi.

Each generation has its own unique traits, and the military experience, especially that of a war zone, is a unifying trait.

I have personally been thanked by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. I believe it’s because they know that Vietnam vets were not treated with respect when we returned home and they’ve always shown me a genuine gratitude for my sacrifice. And there are no words to describe how much I appreciate that.

Do I regret my time in the military? That’s a tough one because things would definitely be different now. Some for the good, some for the bad. I gave my country and the military some of the best years of my life and it gave me some of the best experiences and friends in return. It wasn’t the end any of us wanted but I think most veterans feel like we made a difference. Especially for you Afghan veterans. There’s probably an entire generation of Afghans who got to live in a way that they otherwise might not have had if we hadn’t helped. And I hope that’s true for Vietnam as well as Afghanistan people. What good is it if it can’t be maintained for the next generation? And that’s of course the struggle that we all have, I guess. Even though the wars on the ground are over, some of us are still struggling with the war inside ourselves. Are the sacrifices worth it? What was the meaning of it all? After 50 years, why do I still hurt so much?

There’s obviously in a range of emotions that veterans of Vietnam and Afghanistan share. Are our emotions and attitudes toward how things ended up over there, and after we came home, negatively affecting our mental health? It affects mine. Sometimes just thinking about Vietnam makes me cry. I think we all need to remember that more than anything our service and sacrifice matters and no picture of us retreating can ever change that. At least that’s my hope and prayer.

I’m asking all vets and families to join with me in sharing our stories. Email your stories to hiddnlakes@aol.com to share your pain and joys with our community.

A message from the Dutch Flat Community Center Board President



Photo courtesy of Roxanne Bertell

Volunteers install new landscaping at the Dutch Flat Community Center

By Bob Kims

Hello from the Dutch Flat Community Center,

Your Community Center is a great resource for our communities. It is supported mostly because of fundraisers, donations and volunteers. Volunteers are vitally important to the Center. An opportunity for you to help out is coming up soon in our annual White Elephant and Estate Treasures Sale. Preparations will begin shortly after July 4th and we will be accepting donations soon after that. This sale is our biggest annual fundraiser and has always been fortunate to receive some wonderful items that have found new homes and made a profit for the Center. We look forward to seeing what our friends and neighbors bring us this year. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the sale on Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. That is September 3rd and 4th this year. See you there!

Some time back the Liquid Amber trees were removed from the front of the Center because the roots were invading the building foundation. The Covid 19 pandemic and various other events caused delays after that but we finally got around to putting in a water system and some plants. I think it looks pretty good and as the plants and trees fill in it will only look better. Thank you to the volunteers that helped out with this project.

The Board of Directors is looking for people that care about the Center and would like to help maintain it as members of the Board. My time on the Board will be coming to an end this year so one of the positions that will need to be filled is the President. If you are interested in working on and with the Board please contact a Board member. This will help the Center, can be fulfilling and can even be fun.

Have a great Summer.

Thank you,
Bob Kims
President DFCC

Krissy Smith sworn in as Alta Postmaster



Photo by Sarah Fugate

On Friday, April 22nd, in her third year as a postal employee, Krissy Smith was sworn in as Alta Postmaster.

Smith began her postal career in Gold Run, CA as a postal support employee in 2019. In 2021, she began her management career supervising clerks in Alta, CA.

“I am extremely honored to be Postmaster of Alta,” Smith said. “I take my responsibility seriously and vow to care for all those in our community. My aim is to serve this community by providing them with stellar customer service by means of my expertly trained team of dedicated employees.”

Smith loves outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, taking day trips, cooking, and baking. In 2013, she received her Associate of Science degree in Veterinary Technology from Consumnes River College.

Smith also oversees Dutch Flat, Gold Run, Emigrant Gap, Soda Springs and Norden post offices.

As Alta Postmaster, Smith, oversees over 700 pieces of daily mail and nearly 1,500 daily Post Office Box deliveries. She manages four employees, with a combined population of over 1,000..

Education is the Key during Wildlife Baby Season

By Annette Rodgers Purther

WHEN DOES WILDLIFE NEED US TO LEND A HAND, & WHEN DO THEY NOT NEED US TO INTERVENE AT ALL?

Baby bird season is upon us from about April-August. And, actually the entirety of SPRING is not the time to trim your bushes and/or trees; hired gardeners will most likely not agree for obvious reasons. But, it’s better to trim in the fall to avoid nesting birds, and it’s better for the bushes and trees too. I’m mentioning this because I myself get a little over-zealous when winter is coming to an end, and I get the itch to go out into the garden. Carefully monitored, of course, some trimming can be done.

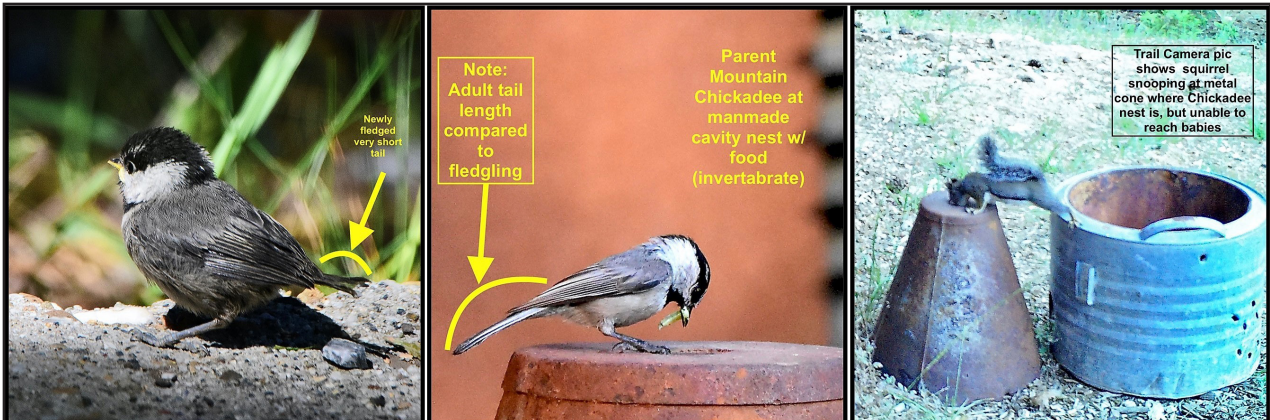
It can be challenging to know what to do when we are faced with, what appears to us as a possible problem with our wildlife and we wonder if we should intervene; or we just plain wonder what’s going on. It’s important to remember that during baby season what you’ve always thought, may not be so. Although songbirds sleep at night so you will only see them from dawn to dusk, it is normal to see nocturnal mammals (such as Coyotes) during the day in search of food for a hungry family; they are no rabid or sick. We, as humans, are going to have to try to think in animal terms; because they operate very different than we do. Songbirds, in particular, each require specie specific food that if not adhered to WILL affect them and quite possibly for their entire life; which will likely be shortened due to incorrect nutrition as a growing baby. A songbird in general terms grows to adulthood from hatching in about 1 month. This means they MUST have perfect nutrition. Rescues cannot replace a parent, and only attempt to do their best to raise them sufficiently enough for release.

A baby bird has fallen from it’s nest, or so you think. It is a myth that the parent bird will not accept their baby bird back into the nest if a human has touched it. If you can, please get that baby back in it’s nest. If it’s naked or not fully feathered they require heat that comes from siblings and the parent, and will not last long if they get too cold. Assuring the parent is present, even a green plastic berry basket w/ soft crumpled paper towel tacked to the tree, near the original nest will work if you can’t reach/find the nest.



A baby bird

NOW, this only applies to a nestling which will either be naked of feathers, having only a little down, or not fully feathered. Consider the time of year. Could this bird scooting around on the ground actually be a nesting baby or fledgling, or just a small bird possibly injured? The photos give you a good idea of what you may be viewing during nesting season. Look for the parent diligently. You may need to re-nest baby and watch to see if parent comes back. This can be a challenge because parent birds can sneak in and out right when you turn your head the other way. Is either baby or parent



Photos by Annette Rodgers Purther

Birds nest in a variety of ways. These Mountain Chickadees have chosen our metal cone yard art for 2 years now.

in distress, or do they seem to be okay and it’s just you worrying? By the time most songbirds fledge, they look very similar in size to the parent being fully feathered, yet with a very short tail and a few tiny baby head feathers. Fledged birds should NOT be taken into care unless injured. Adult birds with LONG adult tails will be bringing the food and attending to their young nestlings or feeding the fledged juveniles and teaching



A fledgling

Photo courtesy of nycaudubon.com

them to fly outside the nest. They will not be needing help unless they are injured.

Many songbirds fledge to the ground initially, and then quite quickly are directed by the parent, via feedings and calls, to jump or flit into bushes and onto branches of trees starting from the bottom up, of course. If you notice that a baby bird has just recently fledged, PLEASE, give it a safe route and just let it do it’s thing. If the baby bird seems stressed/open mouth breathing, it’s in the hot sun, and not moving around, you can move it under a bush/safety; hopefully the parent sees. Although you can provide a jar lid of water, DO NOT hydrate or feed. You can usually hear the parent calling their newly fledged baby, giving directions. There is a chance a predator bird, like a crow, raven, or even a jay may be lying in wait to snatch the fledgling; although natural to the cycle of life, I would try to protect the baby.

Keeping dogs and cats away for a short time (at least for the day or even a few hours till they have moved on) will allow this VERY important event to happen successfully. Remember that the parent/s have put ALL their time into raising their young. This is a very crucial yet risky time for these teenagers, so it’s nice to assure we are not adding difficulty to their task. It would be very sad to unintentionally “BIRDNAP” a fledgling that does not need help. In fact, this does happen often, and wildlife rescues cannot really afford the time or volunteers to care for wildlife that should have been left alone. Not only does this happen often, it’s often that the baby ends up not surviving the ordeal of being captured, eyed, boxed, & driven to a place where they are eyed again before being put in very unfamiliar surroundings. It’s, many times, too much

for young birds; so PLEASE consider if rehabilitation is necessary. Baby season is the busiest time a wildlife rescues, and they are always overwhelmed with trying to keep up with the intakes.

DO NOT EVER ATTEMPT TAKING CARE OF WILDLIFE YOURSELF.

First of all, it is illegal and we have a great local rescue that is highly experienced and capable for dealing with the diversity in wildlife species needs. It’s also not a good idea to let your child try the experience of raising a baby bird. It will likely be a sad experience as most baby birds will begin to fail, will then be taken into rescue, & not survive the chain of events that are too much for the baby to handle.

Or, they start to fail and then are taken to a rescue where they will likely not survive.

If there IS a cat/dog that will come into the area, can you possibly sit and watch the process and serve as “the bird cop”? If not, you will need to decide if you think this baby bird will need to be saved from the situation. But if you can, it’s actually exciting and enlightening to watch the process. Get the kids and make this a wildlife learning event. I’ve had many friends and neighbors excited to tell me about the Jays, Robins, or Finches that have built their nest in a tree outside a window, somewhere near the house like yard lights, in/on their horse trailer or barn, and/or in the wreath hanging on their front door. If you can, leave them be and enjoy the process. If you do need to move the nest,



Photo courtesy of pennington.com

Adult bird with fledgling

generally you can but the parent MUST be aware; and move it to a safe place away from critters and the hot sun.

Taking a bird into rescue involves a few crucial steps:

- 1 - ASAP, time can be of the essence. Drive, no air on baby and no music=quiet
- 2 - small lidded box, size appropriate or even a paper bag with a few small air holes
- 3 - paper towel on bottom allows rescue to easily see if there’s any blood, healthy feces, mites, etc.
- 4 - DO NOT FEED OR HYDRATE as each species has specific nutritional needs & it’s very easy to aspirate a baby bird.
- 5 - Take the bird to our Local Placer County Rescue: Gold Country Wildlife Rescue, 11251 ‘B’ Avenue (DeWitt Center, diagonal from Animal Control), Auburn. Phone (530) 885-0862. Call for hours, as they are seasonal and change. For raptors and larger mammals, call and listen for directions.

I, Annette, can be reached through a page on Facebook, “Placer County Wildlife”. Please like the page and submit interesting information, photos of nests or trail cam pics/videos of wildlife in our area. Please, Direct Message questions you may have about wildlife through Placer County Wildlife.



Suzanne Vidal, Broker
DRE # 00956435
pacificrealty2@gmail.com
(360) 317-8083

Two vintage cottages on 7.85 acres in great condition. Lovingly cared for by long-time owners. Zoning minimum parcel size 2.3 ac. Large orchard with many varieties of fruit trees and vines, irrigation water for lush green lawns, all on a county-maintained road. Must see!
\$599,000

Magnificent mountain estate... A rare find. Chateau/chalet-style, large, 5 BR stone house well built around 1942 on 5.6 acres. Living room with a floor to vaulted ceiling stone fireplace, recreation/pool room with a bar, fireplace, wine cellar, bath & storage rooms. Detached spa/ bath house with sauna, soaking tub, shower & sleeping area. Add to that a well-appointed 1 BR/1 BA guest house, huge garage/shop/barn, and in-ground swimming pool.
\$1.1 mil
In Dutch Flat, the heart of Gold Country, with lakes, rivers and ski resorts nearby; +-55 miles to N. Lake Tahoe. The Dutch Flat Community Pool, a favorite summer spot, is available to all local homeowners.

LAW OFFICE OF JOEL C. BAIOCCHI

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Dutch Flat Pool News



Dutch Flat Community Pool

Drone Photo by Brandon Cravens Construction

By Mike Mutto

Welcome to our 2022 summer season. The pool received an off-season face lift with a new paint job accomplished by our board members in their spare time. I think you will be impressed with the new look upon your 1st visit. After 3 years of scrapping with the State and County we finally received the needed funding and the ever so elusive building permit to construct the new bathroom facility. We, fortunately, have a wonderful contractor busy at work with intentions of completing the project in the first or second week of July! With the pool now open, we need to all make an effort when you are visiting to thank our returning and new hired lifeguards who make it all possible, keeping the facility open 7 days a week weather permitting. We are fortunate to have this fine group supporting the facility this year while many other ARD pools have limited days and hours due to lifeguard shortages. Once again, we would like to ask all local patrons to refrain from any social media posts regarding your visit to the pool. Any and all pool news and updates will be posted on the “All things 389 Community” Facebook site.

We are currently working on swim lesson arrangement’s, trying to improve on what we were able to provide last year thanks to Calli Genest. Last year’s response was overwhelming for the limited staff and time constraints in a cold pool for the little ones early in the AM. If we can pull it off again this year, hopefully in the 1st week or two in July, we will put notice for enrollment out on the “389” Facebook site. Tickets for the July 30th benefit BBQ are on sale at Abe’s Store and may be purchased from Shasta Patton or Kathy Mutto. Get them now while they are available. We will have the same multi course meat BBQ prepared by the Stetler family cooking team (with all your favorite side’s) Music for your dancing pleasure will be provided by the Steve Menconi Band, returning again this year for everybody’s enjoyment (along with our no host bar’s) We look forward to seeing you all @ poolside! For safety’s sake, we ask that all the parents, please remember to keep a vigilant eye on your Kiddo’s enforcing compliance to all the safety rules about running on the deck and the respect for the marked, restricted diving areas, Enjoy!

“Hello Neighbor!”

By Tom Fugate

I wrote this in 1999, and the thoughts expressed explain why Sarah and I have retired in Dutch Flat. For the first time in our lives, we have become integral contributing members of a fantastic community.

Hello Neighbor! These words of welcome unexpectedly popped into my mind as I was returning from a business trip to New York. A flood of emotions and feelings quickly followed as my mind reconstructed bits and pieces of contacts and experiences Sarah and I shared with Dorothy Bridges. Experiences memorable not so much for their number, or tangible significance, as for their deeply-felt personal impact. My thoughts in the airplane hearkened back to a cool, somber, overcast February morning as Sarah and I came upon a hearse driving slowly down Sacramento Street, into Dutch Flat. Having just left the memorial service for Dorothy in Auburn, Sarah and I had decided to make a quick stop in Dutch Flat before returning to San Jose. We followed the hearse as it turned onto Stockton, passed the Community Center, turned onto Fifth Avenue and then onto Cemetery Road. A poignant and forever memorable last view of a friend, and neighbor, making her final trip through Dutch Flat, to her final resting place.

This last encounter with Dorothy, though unexpected, was a welcome opportunity to say, “Farewell Neighbor”. Hello Neighbor! Dorothy’s booming welcome, on a Friday afternoon or evening, occasionally greeted us as it rang across the yard. Hello Neighbor, two words that brought warm feelings. It took some years of bi-monthly weekend visits before Sarah and I became “neighbors” to Dorothy, neighbors in a sense that we all knew and felt, but didn’t really define.

As a small town boy, transplanted into the rapidly expanding heart of Silicon Valley, I lost the sense of familiarity and neighborhood that I had felt as a child in a small California farming town. Hello Neighbor! The first time she boomed it out, I was flooded with an emotional sense of belonging that I had long since forgotten. It’s too bad that as adults we lose such feelings and ties that bond us to others. Hello Neighbor! There is so much implicit in the heart-felt expression of these words. Concepts of relationship, trust and respect, that are too often lost in our world of shallow values and lost contact with our heritage. Hello Neighbor! It is amazing how the most meaningful and profound concepts can be embodied and conveyed in such few words.

Sarah and I had visited with Charlie and Dorothy in Palo Alto on several occasions during her trips to Stanford Hospital as she battled problems caused by a liver transplant. The giving nature of both people that we had observed over the years, was emphasized by the strength of character and dignity shown by both of them during those difficult times. Sarah and I are not sorrowful when we think of Dorothy; this would not be what she would want as a legacy. Rather, we think of her and the fundamental values that she represented so well. Dorothy did and Dorothy gave, not out of a desire for recognition, but out of a strong sense of caring.

Sarah and I are fortunate to have known Dorothy, and to know Charlie. We both have been positively influenced by their example of community commitment. Let each of us hope that upon our passing we too can be viewed in such a way. We will never be able to fully express our feelings and gratitude for knowing the Bridges, except by our conduct. Farewell Neighbor!

4th Annual Artisan Faire a Big Success



Metal artist: Ken Weatherwax



Photos by Sarah Fugate

Jewelry artist: Elaine Rhodes



Local artist: Linda Bena

By Laura Glassco

On June 4th, the Dutch Flat Community Center hosted the Spring Artisan Faire. Over 30 artists were present selling their amazing and varied art pieces. Both upstairs and downstairs rooms were filled with colorful, eye-catching items. All the artists commented that this event was very successful and that they look forward to returning next year. We approximate about 250 customers arrived, ready to purchase one-of-a-kind items. The Cafe was busy selling box lunches and beverages. Many thanks to Placer County for supplying the COVID shot clinic, where many citizens received doses. The Golden Drift Museum extended their hours that day, so that visitors could see Dutch Flat from a historical perspective.



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Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company WATER SYSTEM UPDATE

By Ernie Bullard

Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company (DFM) is pleased to announce that the funding agreement for construction of a new water distribution system has been executed by the State Division of Financial Assistance and PCWA. The construction project is made possible by a substantial grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. The approval process for the funding agreement was delayed 22 months due to the Covid pandemic.

Upon completion of the construction project, DFM will consolidate its operations into PCWA, and DFM will dissolve as an entity.

In February 2020, DFM conducted an Open House and Forum at the Dutch Flat Hotel to discuss the DFM/PCWA Consolidation Project and new water system. Community members felt that the water system upgrading and consolidation project was a significant improvement and benefit for the community. PCWA and DFM addressed challenging questions related to assurances that there is adequate funding to complete the project, and that PCWA is committed to manage potential cost overruns.

In April 2020, a vote was conducted and overwhelmingly approved by the DFM members to consolidate with PCWA.

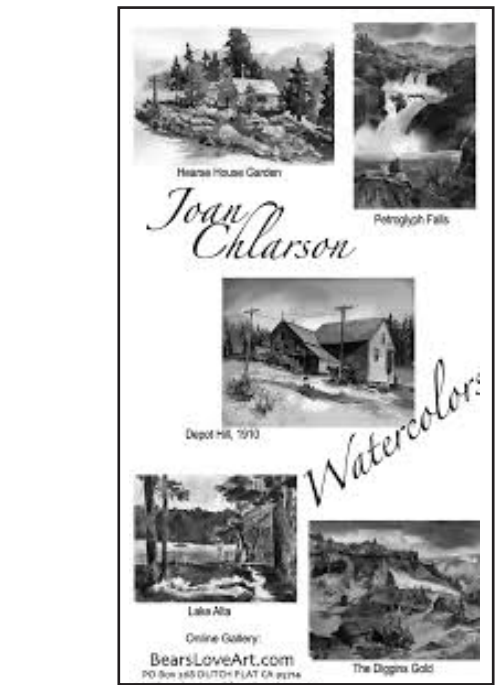
- The project plan is to:
- Replace all of the 50-year-old water mains and water meters in Dutch Flat,
 - Upgrade and replace fire hydrants to current standards,
 - Connect to the PCWA treated water distribution system,
 - Consolidate the Dutch Flat Mutual Water Company into PCWA.

DFM is also receiving assistance from Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), a non-profit organization that provides training, technical resources, and advocacy so that rural communities can achieve their goals. RCAC builds community partnerships to help identify funding sources and develops long-term solutions for California’s water quality and access problems.

Below is a preliminary project timeline to help you visualize the project milestones.

- July 2022 – Advertise and receive bids for construction
- December 2022 – Award construction contract
- February 2023 – Amend funding agreement to incorporate bid results
- January 2023 – Begin construction of pipelines and connection to PCWA source
- June 2024 – Construction End
- July 2024 – Project closeout

The goal of DFM throughout this process is to create a water secure future for the community and be as transparent as possible. We will provide updates as we move forward.



Our Wonderful Dutch Flat Community

By Connie Gulling

The snowstorms just after Christmas last year will not be forgotten by any of us. Yes, it was beautiful and we needed the snow, but the damage it caused is still in the process of being cleaned up or rebuilt.

Our daughter was visiting for Christmas and her flight home was on Monday. The snow had stopped and she and I were shoveling my car out so I could drive her to the airport. When our neighbors, three brothers, Jaden, Ethan, and Carson Garrett (10 yrs. old) saw what we were doing, they came over to help and our car was cleared off, the driveway cleared and ready for our trip to the airport in no time. We all then helped Pat, our other neighbor, get her car out and then we all cleaned off the cars at the boy’s house. Dain Miskiman noticed what was happening and he came and helped also. The boys then went to Dain’s house and helped him clear a path to the road.

This was happening all over our town that day and all week. We are so grateful for our neighbors, who are our friends, taking the time and working so hard to give each other the help that was needed.

Monday evening brought more snow and no electricity. We were doing well with our whole house generator until the propane ran low. We had an appointment to receive propane and would be able to get through until then. AmeriGas never showed up! They stated that it was too dangerous for them to come to Dutch Flat. Their reason for not delivering was very irritating for us because three other propane companies had been delivering to people in Dutch Flat for a few days. I made another appointment and they didn’t make that one either. I called PG&E’s information number and they could supply funds to stay in a hotel but not get us propane. That would have worked but my husband uses a walker and I could not make the walkway wide enough to get the walker to the street...there was no where to put the snow and the walkway was too icy.

My husband uses a CPAP at night and without the propane he would not be able to sleep and we would not be able to heat our home.

During this time Charlie Bridges came by to check on us to make sure all was well. I told him about our dilemma and when our propane was going to run out. Bob Joslin also came by to check on us. The next day Charlie, Bob and Ray Cunningham showed up with 5 gallon and 10-gallon propane tanks. They rigged the small tanks to the line and we had the heat we needed. Bob came by every day to change out the tanks and keep the heat going. When Dave Mintline and Aaron found out what was happening, they each brought us a tank.

Before the generator was installed, we used two small Honda generators and we were able to keep the refrigerator, freezer, lights and of course the television working. Boy, was I spoiled with the whole house generator, but was very happy that we had kept the small ones.

During this time, PG&E had sent an email to Placer County and I received a call from the Placer County Health Department. They asked if there was anything they could help us with. I asked her if she would call AmeriGas and see if they would deliver propane. After five days of her calling and me calling, nothing was happening. The call center people back east were doing their jobs and making the appointments, but the local AmeriGas company was just ignoring the appointments. She called me every day to see if we were okay and if we had gotten our delivery. I told her that I was ready to give up.

On January 5, our delivery came. I called the Health Department to let her know and asked her how she convinced them. She told me she was “persistent” and called many times in the last few days. I love this lady!

The electricity did come back on during this time and we were just fine because of the help from our friends.

Our problem during this time was nothing compared to those whose trees fell, damage to their houses or cars and lost food in their refrigerators and freezers. I do hope that all of you are recovering from this horrific time in your lives.

We are so fortunate to live in a small community where everyone is willing to make life easier for those around them.

By the way, we have changed to a different propane company...one that really cares about their customers.

Look Up at a Sugar Pine



By Mia Monroe

Word reached us of this last winter’s epic storm with intense winds and many trees down. Being a “Muir-ophile” I immediately recalled and re-read his legendary account of a Winter Storm ([A Wind-storm in the Forests, Chapter 10, ‘The Mountains of California’ by John Muir \(1894\) - The Writings of John Muir - John Muir Exhibit \(John Muir Education Project, Sierra Club California\)](#)) and thus we checked in as soon as we could to see the devastation but also reassured that some of our favorites, the tall old sugar pines, had fared well.

Muir called Sugar Pine the Queen of the Sierra (bonus point: who is the king of the Sierra?) and also, since I work at Muir Woods, what he called “the best tree-lover’s monument that can be found in all the forests of the world” another quote of his often comes to mind: *“No traveler, whether a tree lover or not, will ever forget his first walk in a sugar-pine forest.”*

We often check in on the sugar pines. One marks a corner, one is locally famous for having record-sized cones, one can be seen from almost anywhere. We’ve pondered why there are so few to learn how susceptible they are to disease and insect but a truly valued lumber tree, too. So many cut down “once upon a time”. We imagine some of the older homes in Dutch Flat have prized sugar pine paneling!

Not only to learn but also to learn how to protect there have been some extraordinary scientific research to discover the genome (learn more about how complex it is at open access at the Pine Reference Sequences [website](#).) Then fascinated to hear that some record holders are in nearby Tahoe National Forest and reassured that not only was this discovery for the books but also to help learn how some things live longer, how to better protect we read what the Sugar Pine Institute said about these discoveries: *“Simply knowing that these enormous trees exist is awe-inspiring. They are true marvels of nature — and we need more people to develop a sense of appreciation for nature’s treasures and fragility,” Gibbard said. “We don’t have many giant trees or old growth left: we need to take pains to preserve and protect these specimens intact.”*

Want to get to know them better? Easy! They are the tallest, largest pines IN THE WORLD! and they produce the BIGGEST cones! Unlike most conifers with conventional growth forms, no two sugar pines are the same: the “wild” branches are mostly at top of a stately trunk and the cones hang conspicuously at tips. The seeds held in them are popular with chickadees, woodpeckers, jays and beetles. Blue-green needles are held in bundles of five.

The sugar pine grows at usually 3,500 - 7,500-foot elevation so we’re lucky to have them in slightly lower Dutch Flat! Any wounds to the tree produce a thick ooze that solidifies into white resin nodules sweet with sugar, thus the tree’s name. Indigenous peoples prized the sweetness but were careful as it also was known, and invaluable for, its laxative qualities.

Many treasure a cone on the hearth or among holiday decor to have the wonders of nature in the home.... lucky we have them lying liberally around to do so.

Plus, here’s another Muir quote to help take a fresh look at life these days:

“Between every two pines there is a door leading to a new life.”

Our Neighbor, Nevada County

By Debby McClatchy

We all enjoy visits to the Grass Valley-Nevada City area and to Truckee, both part of Nevada County. Placer and Nevada Counties contain many similarities; large hydraulic mining operations for gold, land starting in the foothills and climbing to the Donner Summit, no large urban areas until the twentieth century, a balance of liberal and conservative politics, and a tradition of arts, music, and personal independence.

Nevada County contains the largest, richest, longest running gold-quartz mining area in California. In its heyday about \$2,500,000 worth of gold was mined annually. In October, 1850 George Roberts found gold on Ophir Hill.

After some fruitless digging, he sold the claim for \$350. It later became the Empire Mine, the richest in the area. Usually hardrock mining doesn't produce a decent return, being difficult and expensive. The Empire Mine was an exception. It operated from 1850 to 1956 and always turned a profit, mostly due to the expertise of its Cornish miners. It finally closed due to competition from South Africa. In 1975 the mine was purchased by California and became a state park.

Our "Diggins" run along the same "Blue Lead" as the Malakoff Diggins at North Bloomfield. Incorporated in 1866 by a group of San Francisco capitalists, the mine stripped sixteen hundred acres to a depth of four hundred feet, washing out fifty thousand tons of debris daily. The canal that brought in water was forty-five miles long.

Grass Valley was first named Boston Ravine, after miners from Boston settled there in 1849. Then, as it was halfway between Nevada City and Rough and Ready, it became Centreville. When a post office was established in April of 1850, Grass Valley was chosen.

Nevada City was called Deer Creek Dry Diggins, then Mushroom City in 1850, due to the rapid population growth, then Nevada, then Nevada City after the county was established.

Rough and Ready was named after the company back east who emulated General Zachery Taylor, then president of the United States. The town declared its independence from the USA on April 7, 1850, and drew up its own constitution. This resulted from a "legal" scam of a local, Joe Swiegart, by a "city slicker". The latter said he would buy Joe's claim if he could take out \$200 in a day. If not, he could keep the gold. He only worked seven hours, said it was a day, and claimed his gold. So Rough and Ready succeeded, Joe took back his gold, and the slicker was run out of town. Two months later the town rejoined the USA so they could celebrate July 4th properly. Washington DC

never knew they were gone.

The town of Red Dog was a prosperous hydraulic mining town until the winter of 1867-68, when one hundred days of continuous rain completely washed away all the ditches, flumes, and equipment. Paydirt was buried under tons of debris. The surviving buildings were moved to You Bet. All that is left today is a cemetery.

Most believe that the Truckee area was named after a local Indian chief in 1844, after he greeted them by shouting "trokay". However, It was not his name, but a peaceful welcome. First named Gray's Station, it became Coburn Station after the owner of the trading post. In 1868 it became Truckee when Coburn's burned down.

At first a "hell on wheels" with drink, bordellos, and hoopla, the town became a respectable family area with the arrival of the railroad, the lumber business, and a booming ice industry. Boca Reservoir was created by these companies, which shipped ice as far as New England and New York. Three hundred thousand tons were harvested annually. It all ended in the 1920s with the invention of other, less natural ways to make ice.

The Native American tribes in Nevada County were mostly Nisenan, or Southern Midou. Because of the massive gold mining locally these tribes were more affected by the gold rush. Those who survived were sent to a reservation in Mendocino. This land is now the MacKerricher State Park where many of us go to camp.

The first churches in Nevada County were in two saloons, The Empire and Barker's Exchange, situated across from each other on Main Street in Nevada City. Itinerant preachers would stop by on Sunday mornings. The games and liquor would stop while they preached, sang hymns, and passed the hat. The miners were usually generous.

Water hose fights during July 4th parades began in Nevada County in 1861. This was in response to the disastrous duels of the day; dueling with pistols gradually changed to stand-offs with water hoses during the holiday.

Beforehand, the seconds often just put in blanks. Unfortunately, the hoses were high powered, and often men and their surrounding audience, including children, were hurt and the practice was discontinued.

Many brands of well known commodities started in Nevada County. John Studebaker started as a wheelbarrow builder; Levi Strauss used canvas tenting to make durable pants; and Philip D. Armour was a butcher. Hydraulic mining created huge debris accumulation behind any dam. In 1883 the English Dam on the Middle Fork of the Yuba River failed. Six hundred million

cubic feet of water created a wave sixty feet high that surged down the riverbed at ten miles an hour. This poured into eighty miles of ditches. Luckily a watchman was able to cable ahead, warning those below. Even so, the San Juan Ridge lost half a dozen men and property damage was massive. The flood reached Marysville about 2pm, spreading debris over farms and rice paddies. Inspectors from the Anti-Debris League were stranded, then rescued. This all resulted in The Sawyer Decision, where the farmers took the miners to court and won, effectively ending hydraulic mining.

In 1887 a grand scheme was hatched by investors from the city of Chicago to develop a town near the pear orchards across the Bear River from Colfax. Sixty-seven hundred acres was bought and a grid was laid out for a town square, hotels, homes, churches, and a park. They called themselves "The Chicago Park Company" and promoted sales of lots in Illinois newspapers. Most sold to people in the Midwest. Unfortunately, in the winter of 1890 the worst snowfall since 1849 crushed most trees and buildings. The Railroad couldn't run for weeks and investors pulled out. The Colony never developed, although the area attracted fruit growers and became known for its "blushing Bartlett pears" It seems mountain grown fruit has more sweetness and taste than those from the Valley.

The Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad crossed over the Bear River on a large, tall steel bridge constructed in 1908. When the Railroad stopped operation in 1942, the bridge remained. It was slated for demolition in 1963 so Rollins Dam could be built. Two hundred onlookers watched as two large dynamite charges were set off. The bridge lifted a bit, then settled back down off-center. Two more blasts and a shove from a bulldozer, and most of the bridge still stood. It was finally cut up by acetylene torches and knocked down by tractors. The Railroad's nickname, "Never come; never go" proved true!

Nevada County has been discovered and settled lately by retirees from more urban areas. They are tempted by the combination of community spirit, natural beauty, interesting history, fabulous music and arts events, creative, independent neighbors, fine food, and outdoor opportunities. This has changed the overall ambiance of the county, but the area still beckons with many joys and special times.



Dutch Flat's Chinese "Adobe"

Reprinted from the Colfax Record, June 1973

Most of us have been curiously watching the progress taking place these past five weeks on the Marsh Evans Chinese Adobe, under the expert hands of Eugene Durret of Sacramento and Wade Patterson of Stockton. Both gentlemen have had many years' experience restoring state-owned buildings, but this is the first time that either has worked on a rammed-earth adobe, which is not surprising, as there are only two such original buildings in existence in California—that owned by the Evans' and the Chinese Store in Fiddletown. Mr. Durret and Mr. Patterson termed the work, "extensive stabilization" rather than restoration, as only the exterior is being touched. Layer upon layer is built up during the repairing and the surface must be dampened at this time, which accounts for the sack "drapery" displayed during this process. Eventually, iron doors and windows will be replaced to complete the adobe. Hattie and Marsh deserve our thanks for undertaking the saving of one of Dutch Flat's most interesting buildings. Anyone who has traveled extensively in the Gold Country and has seen the remains of other adobe buildings knows that, without the concern shown by the Evans', it would have just been a question of time before Dutch Flat's adobe shared the same fate.

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Golden Drift Historical Society News



Edwin Towle House sign

By Sarah Fugate

I have been President of the Golden Drift Historical Society since 2018. Throughout these last 4 years, I have been amazed by the great work that can, and has been, accomplished by just a few committed, passionate people—our Board of Directors. I want to thank them and all our volunteers for making the Golden Drift Museum “the best little Museum in Placer County”. Please take advantage of this gem in our community. Regular hours are noon until 4 pm, Friday though Sunday, through the end of September. Admission is free.

Since my last article, the Golden Drift Historical Society has been responsible for installing two more interpretive signs on the Dutch Flat Walking Tour: Chinatown and the Edwin Towle House. Thank Michael Ellison for augering the post holes and Tom Fugate, Jim Sanders and Ken Weatherwax for their work to place the posts. The Placer County Museums Division has installed a new, impressive Chinese History Exhibit in the Golden Drift Museum. The Placer County Parks Department has agreed to clean up and maintain the Dutch Flat Public Cemetery. Finally, using funds granted to us by the Dutch Flat Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, Placer County installed a radar repeat sign on Main Street and Laura and Kim Glassco, along with our local CalFire station, removed the dilapidated, wooden fire hydrant covers and installed new, all-weather fabric hydrant covers. At the same



Ken Weatherwax, Tom Fugate and Jim Sanders installing sign post

Photos by Sarah Fugate

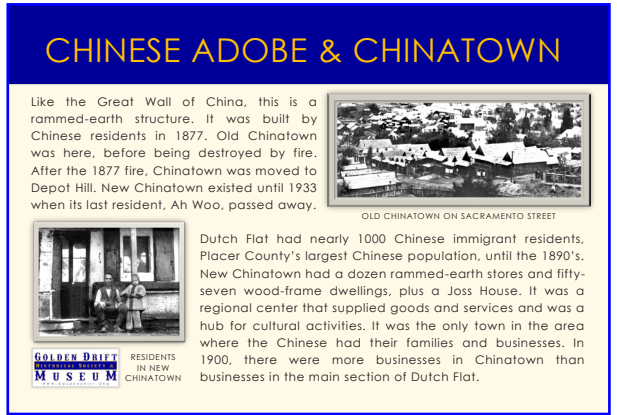
time, CalFire flushed, tested and made necessary repairs to all the fire hydrants throughout town.

At noon on July 2nd, Debby McClatchy will bring her classic, gold rush music to the Alta Realty office on Main Street, the site that was once Busters Saloon. On July 4th, there will be a group of Chinese-Americans representing Dutch Flat’s early Chinese Pioneer community marching in the parade, including a Dragon, and the Golden Drift Museum will be open from 9 am until 4 pm.

Saturday, August 6th, is the Museum’s Heritage Day. The Museum will be open from 9 am to 4 pm. At 10 am, meet at the Museum for a tour of Dutch Flat led by local historian, Jim Ricker. At 11:30 am, meet at the Dutch Flat Cemetery for a tour led by cemetery expert, Debby McClatchy. For both tours, wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Throughout the day, refreshments provided by volunteers will be available at the Museum.



New Chinese History Exhibit in the Golden Drift Museum, one of three panels



Chinatown sign



Michael Ellison augering a post hole

Rainbow Music Company

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