



Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run COMMUNITY

Volume 34 – No. 4 PUBLISHED BY THE DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER WITH MEMBER SUPPORT Winter 2023

Angels in the Attic 75 Years and Counting

By Geri Lennon



The team of volunteers at The Attic

Photo courtesy of The Attic

During the holiday season, let's take a moment to thank all the volunteers who do so much to help our three communities at large. Dutch Flat, Gold Run and Alta. The Church volunteers who tirelessly show up at the Thursday weekly 10 to 12AM Food Bank at Sierra Baptist Church in Alta. Prepping for this event takes time, effort and dedication, plus miles to pick up from contributing stores and farms. Then there's the Pancake Breakfast, monthly on the second Saturday from 8 to 10AM, upstairs at the Dutch Flat Methodist Church. Let's not forget the combined Church volunteers who serve and cook at the Spaghetti dinners, Easter, and Christmas events, to mention but a few of the fund raising and free celebration dinners and pie auctions.



Photo by Jeannie Nyberg

Attic Andy on the guitar

Another group is the invisible list of volunteers who show up to support memorial gatherings at the Community Center, the 4th of July extravaganza, the famous and ridiculously laborious presters for the Labor Day Elephant Sale (this goes on, the prep scenario, for WEEKS to MONTHS) hauling and organizing for the big 3 day event and support in emergencies, all angels "unaware".

Thank you every blessed one of you and yes, once again, "It takes a Village", actually three: Alta, Dutch Flat and Gold Run. And yes, we are all in this together, in case anyone forgets. They are all members of the "How can I help Brigade".

ANGELS IN THE ATTIC

OK, as an "investigative journalist" one must seek out the truth...no fake news for sure. It isn't easy herding volunteers for history of what they do, but if I forget

anything, I'll follow up with the immortal Longnecker History of 75 years. WOW. But for this write up, I'll stick to present time.

This marvelous thrift store in the sweet red building next to the fire house has served the needy, curious and those who share cool items for decades and it is run solely by volunteers. By taking in donations of clothes, kitchen and household items, books, CDs DVDs, stationery and cards, sleeping bags, sheets and towels and the mysterious items that bring joy....pure and simple: the Attic is a treasure trove. In economically challenging times, the Attic serves to help. It also serves to be a sweet gathering and fellowship and often with a song or two by a couple of roving minstrels and the ever-present cookies.

But far beyond these activities, the funds engendered by the Attic have served to provide scholarships for kids and grandkids of volunteers, goods for fire victims and contingency funds for the Volunteer Fire Department.

The prep and service of the volunteers is endless. It's also "invisible" and seamless to those who attend. Organization, storage and outlay, and all the things that make this wonderful site available, plus hugs, is just the short list. They SHOW UP, fold their wings, and open the door on Thursdays from 10 to 1. There are eight-plus that have served, now and over the years. I best include their angelic husbands and male friends who appear to help with emergency repairs (toilets and trenches included). It is truly a work of love and dedication and, most of all, compassion.

A closing thought: In the land of reusable, repurposed and regifting, the Attic is a perfect place to cruise for wonderfully unique items for gifts. How's that for a win/win?

It's just too darn easy to get spun out and too busy with the holidays to remember those who support those in need. Let's give a standing ovation and God Bless the sweet Angels in the Attic who make it happen. As well as all, repeat, ALL the volunteers that we take for granted in every social and emergency situation (including Sarah and the volunteers of this Newspaper).



Photo courtesy of Alta Fire Protection District

The Attic in Alta

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Historic Hearse House Restored

By Sarah Fugate

With funds donated by the Dutch Flat Community Center and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Dutch Flat Volunteer Fire Department, the Golden Drift Historical Society has restored Dutch Flat's historic Hearse House.

In 1875, Dutch Flat residents raised money to buy a hearse. The horse-drawn hearse, housed in the Hearse House, was purchased in 1876 for \$602 and was used by the public until 1947. The Runkel family, whose home and bakery were next door, donated the land on which the Hearse House sits.

This year, under the management of



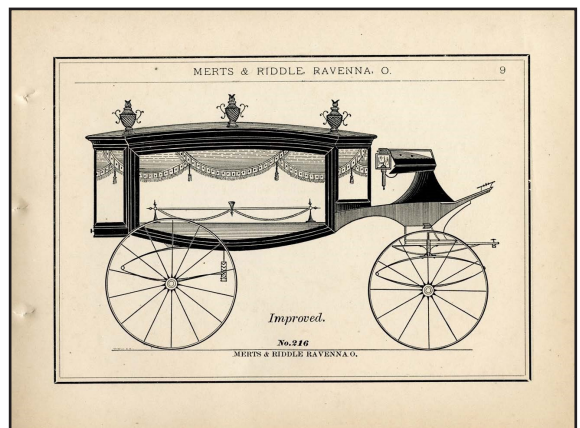
Photo by Sarah Fugate

Dutch Flat's Hearse House

GDHS's Laura Glassco, contractor, Bob Hermiston of Auburn, restored the Hearse House. Significant preparatory structural work was done before fire-resistant Hardie board fascia, trim and siding was installed. The front doors were straightened and refastened, before new windows were installed. After thoroughly cleaning the interior, the walls and floor were primed and painted, taking several coats to get full coverage. Then, the exterior was primed and painted with two coats of premium paint.

Since there is no electrical service to the building, a solar panel was installed to provide power to new LED lighting installed in the interior and exterior of the building.

Now, Dutch Flat's Hearse House should be able to withstand another 50 years without needing significant repair and its historic hearse remains safely stored and on display for all to see.



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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:

March 10, 2024.

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

By Laura Glassco

Hello to All!
We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Please stay healthy and ready to have a great 2024!
So many people have worked endless volunteer hours to make this organization such a vibrant, vital cornerstone of our community. Our goal is to preserve our traditions, maintain our beautiful historic building and provide a place for our community to meet and enjoy one another’s company.
As you know, the Dutch Flat Community Center was built in 1898 and requires us to be diligent about repair and maintenance needs. Our roof has leaked for several years. We started a GoFundMe in late November, the same day CBS Channel 13 came and taped a segment that aired three times. From that publicity, we have secured sizeable donations and also a local roofer, Ken Edwards, owner of Colfax Professional Roofing, who will be donating his company’s labor at no charge. This will allow us to continue to maintain this amazing landmark building for generations to come.

We are all volunteers working together. We want to hear from you! If you have suggestions, ideas or concerns, please contact us or come to one of our monthly Board Meetings.

Become a DFCC Member today!

Our annual membership drive will be underway shortly. If you don’t receive a letter in the mail, please contact us. Your contribution will support this organization to maintain and grow. We look forward to a very fun-filled year of events and activities with you!
You can contact us by telephone at 530-389-3810, by email at dutchflatcommcenter@gmail.com, or mail at P.O. Box 14, Dutch Flat, CA 95714.



Dutch Flat Community Center

Allow me to introduce your Board of Directors for 2023-2024:

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By Bill Gallaher

EJECT! EJECT! YOU'RE HIT!! The Navy A-7 snap rolled as a large piece of wing flew off, beginning the first of 40 harrowing hours evading the enemy in the jungles of central Laos. By the time Navy Lieutenant Kenny Fields, call sign Streetcar 304, was rescued, the U.S. Air Force had flown 189 rescue sorties, 4 pilots ejected, seven planes were lost or heavily damaged, and a pilot was captured and spent the next 5 years as a POW.

Streetcar 304's target was a heavily defended NVA resupply area on the Ho Chi Minh trail in central Laos. The mission started out "normal" enough, but literally spiraled out of control.

The FAC (Forward Air Controller) that had been working in the area near the river for three days prior reported no enemy fire. (That is not surprising because shooting at a FAC can sometimes reveal the enemy gunner's position). Guided by the FAC, Streetcar 304's first bomb run was a success with very light AAA fire. As he climbed after his second bomb run, many heavy AAA guns opened up and suddenly his world literally turned upside down. The FAC watched the A-7 snap roll as a large piece of wing flew off. "Eject! Eject! You're hit!..."

LT Fields encountered wild animals, saw anti-aircraft gun emplacements, was shot at by enemy soldiers, and even our own Air Force...

Ejecting at only 300' helped the pilot evade most enemy eyes. He landed safely in thick jungle which helped him evade as he put distance between himself and his downed aircraft. Being slightly injured but mobile, he suddenly came across a wide, hard-packed trail, stretching each way for a couple hundred yards. Probably the Ho Chi Minh trail. Run on the trail? All military survival manuals say stay off trails. He had heard enemy in the area, calling to him in English. "Hey G.I. Come out, we know you here. We won't hurt you."

As explained in his book "The Rescue of Streetcar 304", for the next 39 + hours Lieutenant Fields encountered wild animals, saw anti-aircraft gun emplacements, was shot at by enemy soldiers, and even our own Air Force hit him with friendly fire which severely chewed up his legs. All this while trying to find an area where he could explain to rescue aircrews how to find him. But how, where? The jungle looks the same from above and below.

He said, "I could hear airplanes, but because of the thick jungle canopy, sometimes could only catch a glimpse as one flew over". He kept moving and finally spotted a clearing with a lone tree. Easy to describe, but was the enemy staking it out because it's a good reference point? He had seen enemy soldiers with heavy machine guns tied into treetops.

Welcome Home



Navy A-7

Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy National Naval Aviation Museum

Even though the dense 10' tall jungle foliage made it easier to stay hidden, the enemy had directional finding equipment so his radio directions needed to be quick and accurate.

Once Streetcar 304 reached a place he could be picked up, the Sandys (A-1 Skyraiders), needed to silence the guns. Lt Fields described it as the most outstanding airshow he ever witnessed. "A-1s were crisscrossing down the tree line spraying 20 mm ammunition and rockets at the NVA riflemen strapped in the treetops. Skyraiders were flying so low the enemy's 37 mm guns on the surrounding ridges couldn't be depressed at a low enough of an angle to get a shot off." The A-1s were flying so close to each other that Fields worried they might have a mid-air collision. The first A-1 got hit on a pass and pulled off. His wingman joined up and told him he had several holes in the airplane, but no fluid was leaking so in typical sky raider bravado he flew back into the battle.

While the Sandy's were silencing the guns, the Jolly 16 pilot (Jolly Green Giant HH-3 helicopters) gave his account of an attempt to get to Streetcar 304.

"As we were twisting and turning clawing our way toward the top of the ridge I saw some men pull a camouflage tarp off of a gun position at the bottom of the gully about three hundred yards ahead of me. They begin firing as I banked hard to fly up over the side of the gully but there was heavy fire pouring down on us from the ridge top. By this time, we were nearly over the gun position. I held the helicopter in a bank and my flight mechanic, manning the door gun, emptied an entire belt of M-60, silencing the gun." "The Sandy's blasted the guns on the edges of the slope and lead me to the top of the ridge. I could clearly see the muzzle flashes from guns in the valley. The flashes from the guns were soon displaced by a steady

blossoming glow as the firing increased."

Toward the end, the Sandy leader was faced with one of the worst possible circumstances any rescue leader could ever imagine. His survivor was surrounded by enemy guns, down to his last battery, the power in the radio was weak, he was injured and might not be able to come up on the hoist without the assistance of a PJ, and the enemy guns had not been totally silenced. Jolly 16 described the rescue: "We were over the general area where we thought the pilot was, but we still had to find him. Small arms firing was coming from all directions. Once we found Streetcar 304, we lowered the jungle penetrator, and he was able to climb onto the penetrator so we could lift him into the helicopter... all the while being shot at."

If all things go perfectly (Ha! What could go wrong?), a rescue can take as little as 30 seconds. The longer the hover, the greater the chance of being shot. In this case, Jolly hovered for 4 minutes trying to find and rescue Streetcar 304. Four minutes in a hover is forever.

When the rescue crews made it back to their base in Thailand, a Sandy and the Jolly16 pilots compared bullet holes in their aircrafts. The Sandy was riddled with bullet holes, but Jolly had none!

Jolly 16 is a Christian and credits his safety to God. During this rescue, an amazing miracle occurred. His wife was awakened by their young son in the middle of the night. He told his mom that he had a nightmare and "They're trying to hurt daddy". She knew her man needed prayer and so immediately prayed for the safety of the crews. Later they determined that she was praying at the same time he was in his four-minute hover.

Miracles still happen.

My next column is the story of Baron 52, a US Air Force EC-47 shot down a week after the war was over...

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Winter with Wildbirds

By Annette Rodgers Purther



Anna’s Hummingbird

Photo by Annette Rodgers Purther

Wintertime is an important time to make sure your bird feeders are kept clean and dry. It’s imperative to avoid mildew and dampness which leads to disease. If you use seeds w/shells, that’s even more of a possible problem; because the birds that feed on the feeder either knock the seeds they don’t like onto the ground or eat and drop the shells onto the ground; which...piles up and causes mildew which the ground eating birds, such as doves and juncos search through and will be subject to getting involved with possible disease. Disease that they will take with them and spread to other birds. Also, FYI cheap seed contains Milo which many birds do not like and will knock out while seeking out seeds they like. I am not speaking of millet which is fine; I’m speaking of a round hard seed about 1/8”- diameter sort of brown in color. Although pigeons and doves will eat Milo, so will mice and rats. So, if you try to keep rodents at a minimum, buy better seeds without Milo which is used as a “filler” in the bag. I use only sunflower hearts, which are more expensive but there is no waste and you are not paying for the shell. Think about it, when you buy black oil sunflower seeds in the shell, you are paying for the shell and then will need to clean up the mess under

the feeder to prevent mildew forming on the mounds of shells that will collect.

I bring in my bird feeder whenever it rains and/or the air is moist. I let it dry by the wood stove overnight and get it back outside early in the morning. But my feeder is right off my deck and easy to get to. It’s about 30’ from windows so birds are much less likely to get excited around feeders and fly into the windows. 3’ or less or 30’ or more from windows is the suggested distance I use to avoid window collisions.

I, personally, suggest that if you can’t/ aren’t able to go out and get feeders every night we have moisture, so that the seed can dry overnight...don’t feed the birds in the winter.

Remember! They don’t need us to feed them. We just like to feel like we’re helping wildlife, which is never a bad thing. But I cannot impress enough on this truth. Wildlife does not want to be our friend; they only come around us out of pure and simple opportunism. We draw them close to us by offering food, whether intentionally as with bird feeders or unintentionally as with our plants, livestock, and pets. So, if you don’t want to have any problems with wildlife, keep all your stuff safely out of their reach.



Bird feeder in Winter

Photo by Annette Rodgers Purther

Easier said than done, I know but it’s true.

Some Anna’s Hummingbirds do hang around all winter, so go ahead and keep some 4:1 (water: sugar) available. I only use 4oz feeders because I don’t really get many hummers. Keeping the sugar water fresh and feeders clean is the most important thing. I make a big batch of sugar-water and keep the surplus in the frig. I also have 2 feeders for both hummers and seed-eating birds. This way I always have a clean feeder to change out. I soak my weighted perch bird feeder with antibacterial dish soap and bleach. I use a toothbrush to get in the corners. You’ll be surprised how easily seeds get wet and stuck in the feeder. I soak hummer feeders with antibacterial dish soap.

I also offer suet for my birds in the winter only. The fat in the suet helps them endure the cold, and in spring readies their body to bare young.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (530)263-3628.

I can also be reached through my Facebook page: “Placer County Wildlife”.

Lastly...TAKE TIME TO ENJOY CREATION. I believe that being good stewards of our wildlife is essential; but the gift of wildlife to enjoy with our ears and eyes is surely the intention of an almighty Creator.



Dawn M. Anderson, D.D.S.

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By Sara Bellem



In a lifetime of dogs and cats, and maybe a parakeet or two, most folks entertain the usual pet choices. Shedding of fur, feathers and noise levels be it howls, meows or squawking are met with oh well, that's the name of the game when you have a "pet". Some even identify them as fur babies.

However, for one Heidi S., the gift of a lifetime, a fabulous lady pig arrived. Needless to say, Heidi pondered the open arms approach but she soon found that Lady Pig, AKA Annabelle, would bring myriad surprises, joyful encounters and several years of laughter. Living with a pig would be shall we say, extraordinary?

Heidi had recently moved to her home some years ago. She smiled, sighed, and thought to herself, *Now I can have any pet I please.* She mentioned the option of a pig and was swiftly discouraged by meaningful folks who had experienced pig care. Undaunted, Heidi held onto her dream. A few weeks later, a woman called and said, “Hey, do you know of anyone who can foster a pig for a couple of weeks?:

You know the drift on this one: Heidi volunteered without hesitation and the 2 weeks turned into five years and counting.

The first day of reckoning occurred when Heidi picked up a 50-pound pig rumored to be an adult. Struggling to dislodge said pig from a pickup truck was worthy of a Netflix mini-series. Then the games began.

Madam Piglet/ Pig abruptly concluded that she did not like her new owner. Bites, hoof marks, and bruises followed as Heidi wrestled the new arrival but was terrorized by assaults to her person requiring rest, endurance of pain and antibiotics. Finally, Heidi sought professional help. One knows the term Alpha, be it wolf, dog, shark or, YEP, ...PIG. The power struggle needed to be readjusted.

Heidi's instructions were explicit: Protect

yourself and have a “come to Jesus” meeting with said pig.....and be clear you are the Alpha. Now that’s wonderful for a lovely woman like Heidi to even consider but she donned her ski racing outfit, complete with helmet, face mask, knee pads and pig hazmat protection suit and entered the pig’s personal space. I might add, she had also assumed a “Don’t mess with me again aura” as well. The aura and protective gear made the newbie back into a corner. She was dazzled, if not a bit overwhelmed by this strange person in combat gear. Alpha Pig had made her statement. From then on the new arrival “mostly” followed her pig mama’s lead.

An enclosure had to be built as well as a wonderful wooden pig cabin for winter and weather protection for this lady pig who now took the name of Annabelle. When I asked why Annabelle, Heidi laughed and responded, “It rhymes with Cannibal.” Shortly thereafter, I researched this title on Facebook. There they were in all their glory. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=h6W6KzZDp7c>). As pigs are fairly omnivorous (eat anything), she had two specific no-no’s: cabbage and Bok choy. When asked if Annabelle was a diva, Heidi smiled and said: “Dictator is more accurate than Diva.”

For those wondering about the intricacies of pig care, it somewhat follows a bouncing ball or to be exact, *make it up as you go along*.

Straw was for starters, but thrift store and Goodwill cast off blankets were a particular favorite. Annabelle kept herself busy in weather, by packing the wooden cabin. She also rounded up twigs and branches and added them into the mix. The three little pig story had NOTHING on Annabelle's adventures with housing. She was adamant about being cozy and warm, so the cabin quickly became stuffed with assorted packing items. Unfortunately, she burned her pig house down twice as the grow light ignited some of the combustibles when power was restored. Not to worry, undaunted, both pig and human, rebuilt again.

Annabelle became somewhat of a legend in her time. The nearby locals often noted a large pig walking merrily down or up the path near the house. Annabelle grew from 50 to 300 pounds. Apparently, there were errors regarding her initial age and breed. She wasn't a piglet, and she wasn't a miniature pet sized gal. She was a Berkshire cross. At one point, the vet put her on a diet and glory of glories, she lost 50 pounds. You go Annabelle!

Annabelle loved music. Heidi is a violinist, so she played for her, and Annabelle dutifully kept time with her tail. (I'm not kidding. <https://youtube.com/wwGXKmy9JfA?si=vc2xdOWYRf4suCC6>). Those of us that shared in our devotion to this delightful "pet", will always remember



Photos by Heidi

the stories and videos posted. There are a dozen more hilarious stories about this profoundly engaging farm animal turned loving companion, including her hysteria when the vet arrived. It took two sturdy vet Amazons working in tandem to orchestrate injections and nail trimming. This was accompanied by lots of pig squeals but these vet dames got er done.

I've struggled with how to write the ending of this saga because it is NOT a happily ever after. A couple of dogs entered the property one day and attacked our portly friend. It wasn't game over. They came back a second time. It is far too sad to repeat the details. It's been close to two months since those awful days and we are all still reeling from the violence of it all. It's impossible to place blame on anyone or anybody. It is our fondest hope, however, that the shock of this loss will lead others to be careful and yes also to be accountable for their own "pets".

Annabelle lost her life and her owner will likely be broken-hearted for years to come, as indeed I am and other locals who loved this special pig, and that includes a gentle friend who laid beside her for over an hour comforting her.

This sad ending could have been prevented.
Rest in Peace, Annabelle, in your Sty in the
Sky.

Sierra Animal Wellness Center



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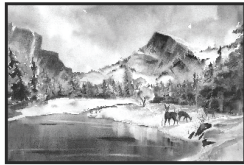
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Golden Drift Historical Society Members enable positive change

By Sarah Fugate



Photo courtesy of CCBA

Chinese Ancestry Restoration Project donation presentation to Golden Drift Historical Society by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in San Francisco’s Chinatown

It has been a productive year for the Golden Drift Historical Society and we have big plans for 2024.

In 2023, the Golden Drift Historical Society revised its Walking Tour Brochure to include updated information about the historical Chinese American population. GDHS organized a Dutch Flat History Day, that coincided with Placer County’s Heritage Trail Day, with positive community response: 55 visitors were treated to special exhibits and presentations at the Dutch Flat Methodist Church, Oddfellows Hall and Dutch Flat Hotel. Our effort and funding enabled the historic Hearse House to be restored, including new fire-resistant siding, paint, windows and lighting. In addition, Placer County Museums Division restored the Museum sign and repaired the front patio and steps.

After the Placer County Fuels Reduction crew cleaned up Dutch Flat’s Public and Chinese Cemeteries, GDHS’s Chinese Ancestry Restoration Project (CARP) got underway. Gravesites were identified using ground penetrating radar (GPR) and were recorded using global positioning (GPS). The Society contracted with a landscape designer who developed a plan for the public spaces within the Chinese cemetery.

Also, GDHS was awarded an additional \$20,000 for the project from the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in San Francisco’s Chinatown.

In 2024, GDHS plans to continue to develop the Dutch Flat History Day to include more exhibits and to work with Placer County to execute the plans for restoration of the Dutch Flat Chinese Cemetery.

From its inception, the Society has been an independent, self-governing Membership organization. Membership is open to all who are interested. **Membership dues and supplemental donations are used by the Society to educate docents, maintain and improve the Museum and its exhibits, develop and publish educational literature for the general public, offer events, and much more.**

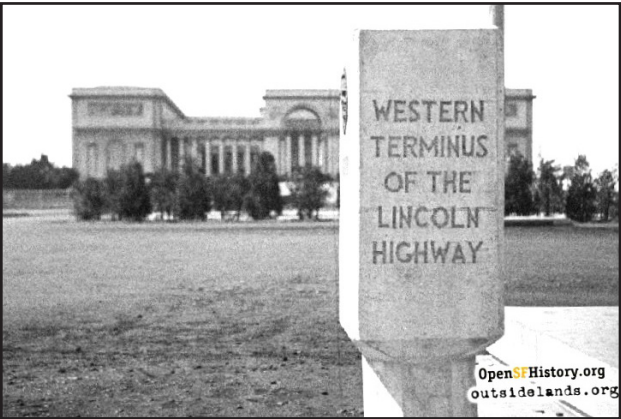
To continue to serve our mission, we need to increase Membership. Please take the time to renew your own Membership, then, encourage others to become Members of our Society. **Visit our website, www.goldendrift.org, to renew or become a Member.** Your dues and donations to the Society are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support. See you at the Museum!

A Mind’s Meander

By Mia Monroe

Turning my back to the ocean, I look one more time at the Lincoln Highway marker where its terminus is in Lincoln Park, near the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. I take a mental journey eastward through the Golden Gate, imagining the mixing of waters from the great rivers of California such as those near Dutch Flat (the American and Yuba) coming together in San Francisco Bay.



My trip is in my imagination. It often veers to those using the river valleys for their journey such as salmon heading upstream, birds making their way to coastal waters and friends heading to ski slopes for several months we’ve welcomed the monarchs from the Sierra breeding grounds to their overwintering groves of refuge along the CA Coast. Ahhh, the journeys!

So far it has been mild: welcome especially after last year’s long winter, then the recent times of extended drought, smoke filled air and now there’s the pause as days shorten, darkness descends.... What is ahead? Is everything ready with acorns stored here, burrow lined and snug? Maybe winter is the time to visit the SF Chinese Railroad Museum, China Beach and the vestiges of the Chinese cemetery in Lincoln Park. Or pick up a new book such as *The Milkweed Lands*, or *Erosion* by Terry Tempest Williams or *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl.

My minds-eye journey is to seek how much of historic Route 40, the Lincoln Highway, is still in existence and where I can take this early route today. Already planning spring jaunts!

Bob Hampshire



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More Gold Rush Trivia

By Debby McClatchy

The Illinoistown Indian War of 1849-50

The Maidu Indians who lived along the Bear River were first impacted by arriving miners in 1849. Their settlement stretched from what is now Auburn to Illinoistown (Colfax today). This area was supported by an abundance of available food, including pine nuts, acorns, and game. A peaceful people, their only enemies were occasional bands of Paiutes from the north. At first there was no interaction between them and the miners, as the former group was leery of the latter’s guns. Then about twenty younger Maidu found disturbing evidence of the miners’ permanency, mostly tools and structures. They broke into a mercantile while the owners were away, ate all the food, looted, and destroyed the rest. They left the whiskey alone, not knowing its purpose.

The owner of the store, David Fairchild, returning from a supply trip with his son, found the Indians still feasting in the building. They tried to fire upon them but were thwarted by wet powder. The Indians escaped, taking the Fairchild’s mules and a neighbor’s oxen.

Fairchild mustered Placer County’s first militia, the California Blades, composed of twenty-one local white residents. They tried to attack the Indian village, but found it deserted. Full of butchered animals, the Indians had also left their winter’s cache of food. After an argument about the inhumanity of destroying this cache, it was voted to do so, winning by one vote.

Over the next year, all-out war existed between the two groups. Mostly the Maidu raided and disappeared, while the various town militias marched and killed lone individuals. Finally, the remaining Indians moved to the north to stay with friendly, more isolated tribes. The Bear River area became more peaceful then, in a very sad way.

The Great Meadow Lake Gold Rush

Henry H. Hartley left Pennsylvania for California in the early 1860s. He first settled in Dutch Flat, but, finding it too crowded for his tastes, left for the Meadow Lake area of Nevada County. He wasn’t after gold, but beaver pelts, easily sold to the wealthier ladies of Sacramento.



In June of 1863, Henry found a small amount of gold and mentioned it to his friend, Bob Campbell, owner of the general store at Cisco. Although Meadow Lake was remote, other gold seekers began to arrive, at first in small groups, later in large companies. Mining was slackening in Virginia City and hydraulics were not for the individual, so the pressure of so many men found hundreds in the area. Claims were staked and a 160-acre townsite, christened Summit City, was laid out on the shores of Meadow Lake. Soon lots



Maidu Indian

that had sold originally for \$25 now fetched \$400. Businesses moved in, butchers, saloons, taxi-dancing establishments, hotels, cigar stores, a real estate office, assay offices. All this with no significant gold yet found. Most members of Dutch Flat’s brass band moved to the area and started another.

Just enough gold was found to keep up everyone’s hopes, but the reality was that the boom was really a bust. The first winter was a hard one; the area’s higher elevation brought an abundance of snow. The residents from Norway fashioned long skis. Most others left for warmer places. Summit City went into hibernation.

At first the spring did not see residents returning. Most people and businesses were broke, and there was a dawning realization that expectations, not reality, had fueled the town’s growth. The other problem was that the local gold was melded with other metals, mostly iron, and extraction was difficult.

However, the hopes and optimism of newly arriving residents swelled the town back to four thousand people by late spring. Lots now sold for \$3000. Cash brought in by these new immigrants kept it all afloat until autumn. Soon mining shares lost all value and people again left in droves. The winter brought thirty feet of snow.

The next few years brought the same turnarounds until 1869, when the remaining 307 homes, many crushed by the snow, housed only seven families. By 1872 the sole resident was Henry Hartley, who had quietly remained with his traps, watching it all happen with good humor. He married a younger woman of artistic talents and stayed for another twenty years. Tragically he died of opium poisoning. It was never known if it was an accident, murder, or suicide. Summit City, now renamed Meadow Lake, became a ghost town. By 1989, a visitor only found the cemetery evident.

Henry is buried there. His gravestone states, “Henry H. Hartley - He died with the belief his town would someday live again.”

Top Ten Ways You Know You Work at a Small School

By Shana Brown, Superintendent-Principal

1. All of your students fit in one classroom (we tested it this year at Halloween!)
2. You regularly hold parent-teacher conferences in front of the post office (or Abe’s) (or the pool).
3. You know which water bottle belongs to which student.
4. You can identify the handwriting of every student better than the FBI ever could.
5. You’ve taught big brothers and sisters (and aunts and uncles) (and parents!)
6. On any given day, you should be prepared to serve lunch, mop a floor, take a temperature, throw a football.
7. You know parents’ phone numbers by heart.
8. You regularly hear, “We’ve always done it this way!”
9. The community refers to you as “Our school.”
10. You have the same students for two years (and sometimes more!).
11. You wouldn’t have it any other way.

Teaching at a small school is not for the faint of heart. We are all called on to fulfill many roles beyond teacher: nurse, counselor, custodian. Many days it feels like we are seriously outnumbered and we wish we had more hands on deck. We talk to colleagues at bigger schools who have PE teachers and musical instruments and computer coding electives. But we know a secret. What we have here, at our small school, beats the fanciest gymnasium in the world.

One of the best days at Alta-Dutch Flat School is the day before Thanksgiving vacation. On this day, the entire school, every single child, sits down for a meal together. The parents sign up and send in stuffing and potatoes and cranberry sauce. They bring in cooked turkeys. The multipurpose room is decorated with handprints made to look like turkeys. There’s a large tree in the corner full of paper leaves where everyone has written what they are thankful for. The teachers have written a list with the best attributes of every child. The first and second graders have been practicing a play about the first Thanksgiving, and all the other students watch it and remember when they did the same play and sang the same songs. It’s a day where we all remember what and who we are thankful for and our school is on the very top of that list.

Thank you to everyone who does so much to support our little school in Alta. We are thriving because of you! We wish you a very happy New Year.

Placer County Library Visiting Dutch Flat Community Center



Thursday
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

January 11 & 25
February 8 & 22
March 7 & 21
April 4 & 18
May 2 & 16

Book Club at Dutch Flat Community Center

January 25 - *The Scent Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister
February 22 - *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin
March 21 - *A Wall of White* by Jennifer Woodlief
April 18 - *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman
May 16 - *A Girl Called Samson* by Amy Harmon

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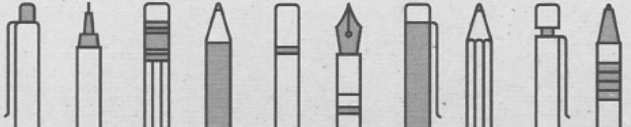
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The Dutch Flat Pool Relies on Volunteers and Donors

By Mike Mutto

The Dutch Flat Pool Board is actively pursuing grants and funding to replace the existing pool deck to include new drainage features.



Photo courtesy of Trulia

First and foremost, the pool board and the community would like to thank the elite group of Lifeguards that served us so well this past summer. They were truly one of the best teams we have had supporting the facility in many years! A big shout out is due to Chris, Paige, Aiden, Izzy, Kaylie, and Daniel. A fine job they did as trained, responding to multiple incidents and challenges through the season.

We would also like to thank all the board & community members for supporting the now annual benefit BBQ. It was a wonderful evening!

Now that the bathrooms are built, we

are actively pursuing grants and funding support from the County to replace the old pool deck with new drainage features. This might take a few years to accumulate the needed finances, so we are soliciting the support of our Supervisor Cindy Gustafson who has really helped us in the past.

We could not do it without all the volunteers that have really stepped up in the last couple of years to support the facility.

So, hence we begin the lifeguard quest for the 2024 season. If anybody knows anybody that would be interested in working the best summer job in town, please reach out to myself or Paul Thompson for details at (530)

906-9923. The County will post the position opportunity on their employment web site right after the 1st of the year. The board will pay for all training and certification expenses once the applicant is hired.

Thanks to a generous donation from Susan Prince & Jim Ricker we were able to provide one-on-one swimming lessons this year with a great success rate, allowing kids out of the shallow end to having full pool access! Thank You Calle Geneste for all your time and help! We will strive to continue the individual lessons next year in the same manner. It is now proven to work well vs. group lessons!



DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY POOL

Placer County is now hiring **Lifeguards** for the Dutch Flat Community Pool, located approximately 30 miles northeast of Auburn, just off I-80. This is a great opportunity in a beautiful setting to supervise swimmers and ensure a safe experience for residents and visitors.

No experience necessary! Prior to starting employment, applicants must obtain the following:

- * A valid American Red Cross Lifeguard Certificate or equivalent
- * A valid CPR certificate or equivalent
- * A valid Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) First Aid Certificate or equivalent.

Additionally, applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

Multiple positions available!
\$18.42 - \$19.83 per hour (depending upon experience).

The pool is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

For additional information and to apply, please visit our website at: www.jobsAtPlacerCounty.com.

Questions?
E-mail: jobs@placer.ca.gov
or call: 530-889-4060



Placer County is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EEO).

Dutch Flat Mutual Water Consolidation Project Update

By Ernie Bullard

All the work for the Dutch Flat Mutual underground construction for the water mainline/services has been completed. The first week of December the new system was flushed and disinfected and is now ready to provide treated water.

MCI, the contractor, will begin switching over services the second week of December from the Dutch Flat Mutual pipeline to the new PCWA pipeline.

PCWA Inspection will be placing door tags with contact information 2 days in advance to notify customers of the upcoming work on their street as the crews progress.

PCWA Inspection will contact customers in person the day of the swap over if they are home or follow-up with a phone call if they are not home.

The order the services will be switched over is as follows:

1. Clark Ave.
2. Park Ave.
3. Secord Alley
4. Lower Main St.
5. Sacramento St.
6. Stockton



Photo courtesy of Placer County

Water Consolidation Project team members

7. Jay St.
8. School St.
9. Lower 5th Ave.
10. Upper 5th Ave.
11. Upper Main St.

Work will include excavating to expose the plumbing between the backside of customers' existing Dutch Flat Mutual meter and the newly set PCWA meter box.

A brief water outage will occur when the connection is made to customers' existing plumbing. In most cases, outages are anticipated to be less than 1 hour; max outage of 4 hours.

When water is restored:

- Clear air from incoming water by opening an outside faucet and letting water run for one to two minutes.
- Check any pumps and your hot water heater's low flow cut off switch.

PCWA will provide email updates as the crews finish services on each street.

At this time, the exact date of each customers' service swap cannot be provided, but if customers need to make arrangements to be home during this work, please inform PCWA for coordination.

Customers will continue to be billed as usual by Dutch Flat Mutual all the services have been swapped over and PCWA takes over operation of the system; this is anticipated to occur by February.

Thank you for your continued patience and support of this project.

Susan Winje
(530) 389-8000

Lynn Oliver
(530) 305-8290

Karen Calvert
(530) 906-2336



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