

The Sierran

— A Publication of the Sierra County Historical Society —

Editor's Note: In 2002, Sierra county celebrated its sesquicentennial. The town of Sattley commemorated the 150th birthday by publishing the stories of some of the people living in the Sattley area of Sierra County through the years, and the historic events that took place. This issue of the *Sierran* features the first installment of the Sattley Sesquicentennial Story.

First People

There is no way to determine the earliest date that Native Americans entered Sierra Valley, however, there is evidence that a Native American group known as the Martis people may have been hunting and gathering in the Sattley area between 5000 and 10,000 years ago. It is suggested that the Martis were predecessors of the Washoe and Maidu people, who continued coming to the valley until the early 1900s. They moved with the seasons and the game throughout their area of occupation, which included Lake Tahoe.

It is generally agreed that these Native Americans



Kenneth Voorhees, a member of the Paiute tribe, logging near Sattley.

came to the valley usually during the warmer months, but there is some evidence that they may have come during the winter to camp near the hot springs throughout the valley. In the Sattley area, the Washoe and Maidu gathered wild grass seed and dug camas

bulbs during the months of June and July, as well as collecting acorns from the oak trees that were growing in the valley at that time. They hunted the plentiful waterfowl—deer, antelope, rabbit, and other game.



Projectile points found near Sattley.

Artifacts including bedrock mortars, grinding rocks, arrow and spear heads, and worked stone tools have been found at many locations in the Sattley area. Several large bedrock mortars and many projectile points have been discovered at the ranch, located on State Highway 89 near the intersection with County Road A-23. Native American artifacts have also been found on the Martinetti and M. Turner ranches. A rock formation on the M. Turner ranch features a “pecked hole” pattern which would indicate that it was the site of Native American rituals.

In more recent times, the number of Washoe people in the valley has dwindled, while a small number of people belonging to the Paiute tribe have worked and lived in the Sattley area at times. Kenneth Voorhees, a Paiute tribe member, and his

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The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, holds an annual meeting, publishes a newsletter and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of Society activities, receive THE SIERRAN, and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour. If you would like to become involved in these activities or would just like to give your support, please join us!

Officers and Executive Board of The Sierra County Historical Society

President: Mary Nourse, Sierra City

Vice President: Joleen Torri, Sattley

Secretary: Judy Lawrence, Sattley

Treasurer: Bill Copren, Sattley

Board members in addition to those previously mentioned are Maren Scholberg (Emeritus), Sierraville; Elda Faye Ball, Loyalton; Suzi Schoensee, Sattley; Bud Buczkowske, Alleghany; James Connolly, Sierra City; Eli Scholberg, Sierraville; Jane Cooper, Loyalton.

Museum Curator: Virginia Lutes

Assistant Curator: Judy Lawrence

If you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to contact any board member.

Become a Member! Dues for 2012 Payable Now!

Membership in the Sierra County Historical Society is open to any interested person, business or organization. Members need not be residents of Sierra County. Dues are due and payable each January for the calendar year.

Membership categories are as follows:

- INDIVIDUAL.....\$20.00
- FAMILY & INSTITUTION.....\$25.00
- BUSINESS & SUPPORTING.....\$35.00
- SUSTAINING.....\$50.00
- LIFE (per individual)\$300.00

(The board increased membership fees commencing in June of 2008)

Please send dues to: S.C.H.S. Membership Chairperson, PO Box 54, Sattley, CA 96124

Bud Buczkowske - Past Board President of Sierra County Historical Society and New Member of the Lakota Sioux Tribe!

We would like to thank Bud Buczkowske for his dedicated leadership as Board of Directors President for many years and we are very fortunate that Bud will continue to serve on the board. And we congratulate Bud on his recent acceptance as a member of the Lakota Sioux tribe. The ceremony took place on July 16, 2011, at the reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. The English translation of the Indian name given Bud is "He who travels with a good heart". Congratulations Bud!



Bud Buczkowske celebrates his membership in the Lakota Sioux Tribe at a ceremony held at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, in July.

Sattley Facts - 1860

Isaac Sattley Church bought land which included the present-day site of Sattley, and engaged in farming, raising cattle, and operating a dairy until 1901. He helped build the first schoolhouse at a site known as Rocky Point. It was later moved to the Sattley township about one mile north of town.



Sierra Valley School (Circa 1892) Sattley School - Alpine District; Back Row: Arthur Strang (born 1881), John Burney, Harriet Church Humphrey, Edwin Church, Lottie Turner, Daisy Turner Parker Miller, Frank Copren, Charlie Toomey, Suzette Copren, Jennie Toomey; Seated in Front: Jennie Church Copren (born 1883, Hattie Beaton, Alice Church Robertson, Agnes Berry; Two Boys: John and Charlie Copren; Group of Three: David McNeer, Grace Foules, Charlie Mc Neer; Teacher: Bradford Newman.

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wife Marion, raised twelve children at their home near Sattley.

RANDY CHURCH - Randy is the person to consult when questions about the Church family history come up. Tracing his roots is Randy's avocation. Call or email Randy with a query about his family's colorful history and you'll receive page after page of fascinating information—from the trip his great-grandfather Isaac Sattley Church made from Vermont to the California gold rush including crossing the Isthmus of Panama by foot; to the schoolhouse Isaac later helped build for the Sattley children.



Randy and his wife Patricia.

Randy and his wife Patricia live in Westwood, a small community west of Susanville, but he was born and lived much of his life in the Sattley area. He was a Social Studies teacher at Westwood High School from 1968 to 2001, and is now retired. Patricia taught French, English, Spanish and Leadership over the same period of time and is also retired. Randy and Patricia enjoy their two children and grandchildren, and their hobbies which include travel, genealogical research, outdoor activities, and making crafts. The Church family home, located on County Road A-23, was moved to the present site in 1930 by Albert Church, Isaac Church's son, when the original home and dairy barn on the farm were destroyed by fire. Randy's brother Rob and wife Loraine



Albert Bliss Church and Eunice Edna Hamlin Church on wedding day.

Church now live in the home, and his brother Dale Church now lives nearby in the Gordon and Evelyn Church home.

Sattley was originally named Church's Corners, after Isaac Sattley Church, and later renamed Sattley in honor of Harriet Sattley, Isaac's mother. Isaac arrived in the Sierra Valley in 1860 when he claimed a squatter's title to his ranch, making him the first permanent settler in Sattley. He raised cattle and operated a dairy on the land until 1901, when illness made it impossible for him to continue farming. Isaac then turned his attention to the education of the children residing in the Sattley area. He helped build the first Sattley



Isaac Church owned and operated a small inn in Sattley for several years.

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Gordon Kent Church going to town in Buick (circa 1929).

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school and named the school district Alpine. Isaac died at Sattley in 1914 after having been an influential leader in the growth and development of Sattley.

The history of the large Church family in the Sattley area, and their considerable contribution to the area's past and present, could make for a fascinating book on its own. All one needs to do is read any account of Sattley's history, talk to one of the many descendants who continue to live in the area, or visit the cemetery on Sattley Hill where dozens of headstones bear the Church name, to realize what an enduring impact the family has had on the little town once known as Church's Corners.

(To be continued...)

Winner of Historical Quilt Raffle Announced

Barbara Laws of Reno, Nevada, is the very excited and thrilled winner of the one-of-a-kind, hand-stitched, historical photo montage quilt raffled off by the Sierra County Historical Society during our annual meeting held on September 18, 2011, at the home of Joleen Torri in Sierra Valley. Barbara's winning ticket was drawn by longtime society member, Maren Scholberg, as the dramatic culmination of the afternoon's activities that included a delicious barbeque lunch, interesting program and business meeting.

"I've always loved antique quilts. They are among our treasured possessions and your magnificent quilt will always be treasured by our family. Thank you!!" said Barbara. She and husband Jay, who was raised on a Wyoming cattle ranch, are avid collectors of Old West memorabilia. The beautiful quilt, created by Irmke Schoebel and friends, was on display at many locations throughout the county during the summer. All ticket proceeds will be used by the historical society to help fund ongoing projects.



Barbara Laws of Reno, Nevada, displays the historical photo montage quilt that she won in the recent raffle held by the Sierra County Historical Society.

Historical Society Annual Meeting Features Food, Fun, and Fascinating Historical Facts!

The 2011 annual meeting of the historical society was held on September 18 at the historic Strang ranch in Sierra Valley. Hosted by historical society vice president Joleen Torri, the well-attended event began with a short business meeting that included the election of new board member Cory Peterman of Downieville. A delicious barbeque catered by the Old Sierra City Hotel was enjoyed by members and guests. Society treasurer Bill Copren presented an entertaining history of the Strang family and the history of



Barbeque and all the "fixins" was enjoyed by the large group attending the annual meeting.

their ranch in Sierra Valley. He also recounted his firsthand experiences with the Strang family and the many community events that took place in the Sierraville area during the early and mid-twentieth century.

Following the program a drawing was held for the history-themed quilt displayed throughout the county during the summer. Maren Scholberg drew the winning ticket purchased by Barbara Laws of Reno, Nevada, at one of the Music at the Mine concerts. (More about the quilt winner on pg. 4) The society would like to thank everyone who purchased quilt raffle tickets. The successful fundraiser will help with the cost of historical society projects.



At the annual meeting, Archie and LaVerne Monaco displayed the "register/ledger" that they have donated to the Kentucky Museum. The register was used in the Johnson General Store in Sierraville which closed in the latter part of the 1940s.

A short board meeting was held at the conclusion of the afternoon's activities to elect new officers for the coming year. Officers elected are: President Mary Nourse, Vice-President Joleen Torri, Treasurer Bill Copren, acting Secretary Judy Lawrence, and Membership Chair Suzi Schoensee. Also serving on the board are Bud Buczkowski, Elda Faye Ball, Jane Cooper, James Connolly, and alternate board member Eli Scholberg. Maren Scholberg was presented a plaque to commemorate her long-time historical society membership and support and was named board member emeritus.



The beautiful Strang Ranch with its scenic vistas of Sierra Valley was the site for the annual meet and greet.

Historical Society Group Visits the Nevada State Museum

By Judy Lawrence

A small group of history-loving folks traveled to Carson City on November 2, 2011, for an “insiders”, guided tour of the Nevada State Museum and the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center. The invitation to society members to make the visit was extended by a group of staff members from the Nevada State Museum and the textile center that visited the Kentucky Mine and Museum during the summer. After taking the guided tour of the Kentucky Mine and visiting the museum, the group graciously suggested a reciprocal visit by Kentucky Mine staff and volunteers and members of the historical society.

Those making the one-day excursion were Virginia Lutes, Kentucky Museum curator and husband Larry, assistant curator Judy Lawrence, historical society treasurer Bill Copren, society board member Cory Peterman, and Kentucky Mine volunteer docent Don McKetchnie. Arriving at the textile research center mid-morning, the

group was greeted by curator Jan Loverin who is a Sierra County Historical Society member. We would like to thank Jan who gave the group a personal tour of this incredible facility where approximately 10,000 artifacts have been restored, preserved, recorded and stored under

very carefully controlled conditions. Jan guided our group through the very extensive women’s collection dating to the eighteenth century and the many other collections including quilts, hats, children’s wear, political and ceremonial dress, flags,

banners, and military and men’s wear. This is a very unique collection and worth the trip to Carson City on its own.

In the afternoon the group was given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Nevada State Museum by Jeanette McGregor, exhibit preparator. Jeanette guided the group to the area where the extensive basket collection is kept in climate-controlled storage lockers. The collection includes several of the baskets crafted by



Don McKetchnie, Judy Lawrence, Jan Loverin, Cory Peterman, Virginia Lutes, and Bill Copren at the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center in Carson City, Nevada.

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the renowned Washoe basket maker Dat So La Lee who lived in Carson City for many years. She created exquisite baskets that were highly prized at the time, and are even more prized today. Dr. Eugene Hattori, co-curator of the Nevada State Museum, and a leading authority on basketry, allowed us to view many of the baskets included in the collection and explained when they were created and what some of the designs may have represented to the maker. Another once-in-a-lifetime experience was afforded the group when archaeologist Pat Barker, PhD, brought out a pair of sandals that have been dated to approximately 9000 years ago! Only three sandals in the archaeological record have been dated to a later date than the pair at the Nevada State Museum. We were very fortunate that Dr. Hattori and Dr. Barker were at the museum on the day we visited because to have these two experts add valuable



Kentucky Mine and Museum curator Virginia Lutes listens as Textile Research Center curator Jan Loverin informs our group about one of the unique hats in the collection.



Dr. Eugene Hattori, Nevada State Museum co-curator, displays one of the finely-crafted Native American baskets included in the museum's extensive collection.

information about what we were looking at was an unforgettable experience.

Next, Jeanette led us to the basement for a sneak peek at a special collection not yet being displayed to the public known as the Merci Train collection. Jeanette and her staff are painstakingly recording and restoring the items that were sent to the United States by the French people after World War II to thank the United States for its participation in their liberation. Each state received a railroad car loaded with items that were donated by individuals making the collection eclectic and unusual. Jeanette pointed out many items and related the fascinating stories of the people who donated them and why they were included in the trainload of gifts.

As we all headed home from a long, but very memorable day, we were thankful for the special invitation extended by our Carson City counterparts at the Nevada State Museum and hope to host them next summer at the Kentucky Mine and Museum.

The Sierran

Sierra County Historical Society

P.O. Box 260

Sierra City, California 96125

The Sierran - Membership Corner News, December 2011

By Suzi Schoensee, Membership Chair

Since I last reported in the June "Sierran" we have been united with eight new memberships! They are the following: 1.) Robin Azevedo of San Francisco joined as a sustainer in June; 2.) The Chris Hayes family of Ripon, California, joined in June also; 3.) In July, Susan Black from Nevada City joined us with an individual membership; 4.) Virginia & John Gaston of Truckee joined in August as sustaining members; 5.) The Scruggs family of Glendale, Arizona joined with a family status in August; 6.) In August as well,

Mary and Allen Wright of Sierra City joined as a family. 7.) Carl Somers of San Francisco joined as an individual in September; and 8.) Bonnie & Rhynie Hollitz as of September are family members from Lincoln California. Our board and staff want to welcome you warmly and are delighted to have you on board. We hope to see you at the annual picnic and "Music at the Mine" and the museum.