

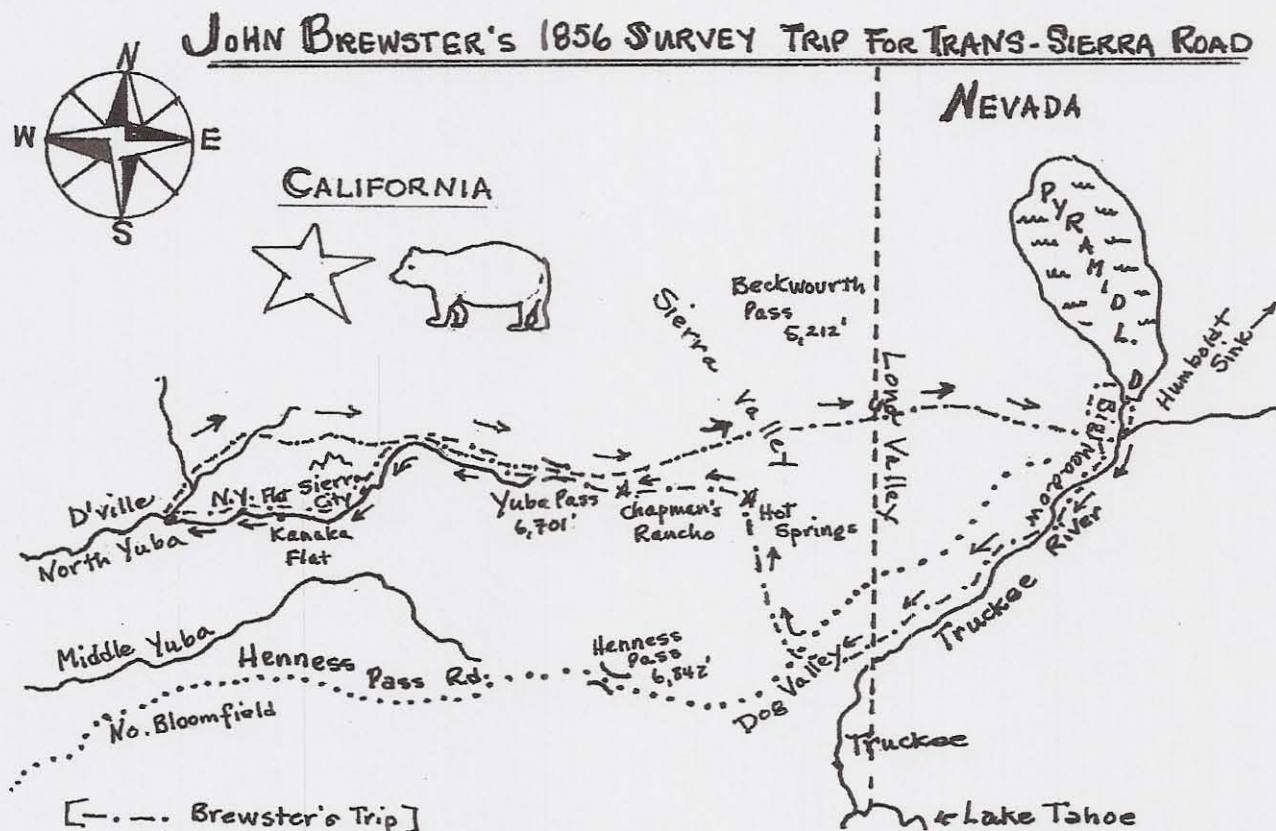
THE SIERRAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies
and the California Association of Museums*

Volume XXIX, Number 2

Fall/Winter 2001



TRIPPING OUT WITH THE STATE SURVEYOR GENERAL IN 1856

by Lee Adams

In 1844, the Townsend-Murphy-Stephens party completed the first known crossing of the Sierra with wheeled vehicles. Making their way along the Truckee River (so-named by an ancient Paiute they met on their journey), they then crossed the Sierra crest near what subsequently would be called Donner Summit, that landmark named for the ill-fated emigrants who were trapped in the vicinity by early deep snows two Novembers later.

The discovery of gold in California in January of 1848 fueled nearly a decade of westward migration. Following that, the California legislature adopted a bill in 1855 entitled "An Act to provide for the survey and construction of a Wagon Road over the Sierra Nevada Mountains". This act was just one of many attempts to locate and fund a state-supported road over the Sierra. At issue and of great interest throughout the state was the specific route of that road, for with it would come an incredible windfall of political importance and economic gain to those communities along its way.

By 1856, the year-old legislation was bogged down in a lawsuit, its constitutionality challenged. No such road could be built until the legal challenge was resolved. It was against this backdrop that in August of 1856, California State Surveyor John Alexander Brewster traveled to Downieville to examine that community's proposal that the Tran-Sierra road come through their

"Surveyor" continues on page 3.

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 quarterly meetings, publishes a semi-annual 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!

2001 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS and STAFF

President	Bill Long
Vice President	Bill Copren
Treasurer	Rita Bradley
Secretary	Maren Scholberg
Membership Chair	Lynn McKechnie
Directors	Lee Adams, Milton Gottardi, Katie Green
Museum Director	Anne Eldred
THE SIERRAN Editor	Katie Green

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Report

We welcome these new members who have joined since the Spring issue of The Sierran. We appreciate the interest and support of all our members.

Nick & Marian Becker	Paradise, CA
James & Mary Curtis	Nevada City, CA
Gayle Dodge	Reno, NV
Lin Gilman	Sunnyvale, CA
Milton Gottardi	Loyalton, CA
Norman Holmes	Portola, CA
Ronald & Gretchen Jurek	Auburn, CA
Mary Jo Knueth/Tony Mannino	West Hills, CA
Tom Martell	Mill Valley, CA
Gus & Joy Norton	Santa Cruz, CA
Jim & Susan Olsen	Pine Grove, CA
Ronald & Judy Ondracek	Sattley, CA
Jack & Kay Perkins	Alexandria, VA
Cy Rollins	Goodyears Bar, CA
Katie Ross	Cottonwood, CA
David Rubiales	Marysville, CA
Ray & Delanna Schneider	Corte Madera, CA
Jeff & Diane Slattery	Concord, CA
Gerald & Jean Thomas	Sattley, CA

ANNUAL MEETING 2001

This year's meeting was held at charming Wright Ranch in Goodyear's Bar, with owner Betty Smart as hostess to tell of the enthralling characters and events of it's long, colorful history. Many thanks to Betty and her family for providing an exceptional setting and warm hospitality that made the day so pleasant. Betty, in case you didn't already know, directs the CA State Museum Resource Center (where the archaeological and historical artifacts given to the State are housed) and is a walking encyclopedia of interesting information about our history.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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 payable each January for the calendar year. Membership categories are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL	\$10.00
FAMILY & INSTITUTION	\$15.00
BUSINESS & SUPPORTING	\$25.00
SUSTAINING	\$50.00
LIFE	\$250 +

Please send dues to Membership Chair:

Mrs. Maren Scholberg
P.O. Box 141
Sierraville, CA 96126

CURATOR POSITION

The Historical Society is in the process of restructuring staff duties and schedules at the Kentucky Mine Museum. As visitorship grows and the number of attractions is expanded (for example, soon the mine tunnel will be reopened to visitors), the curator's job has become rather overwhelming. Therefore it is hoped that the curator's position at the Museum can be split between two persons for the May-October season of 2002 and thus avoid burn-out. The Historical Society's knowledgeable veteran curator, Anne Eldred, has offered to train an assistant. Salary is \$14,00 per season in total (in other words, that amount would be shared between the two persons); housing at the Museum is a possibility. Interest parties should contact Society President, Bill Long, by writing a letter outlining pertinent experience and interests and mailing to P.O. Box 177, Calpine, CA, 96124-0177.

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Address: Kentucky Mine Museum
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125
Phone: (530) 862-1310 • Fax: (530) 862-1312

"Surveyor" continued from page 1.

town. A community of considerably influence and population at that time, Downieville had previously made the short list for consideration as state capital, along with less than a dozen other California towns. Sierra County as a whole was approaching its brief peak population and gold production—the characteristic "boom and bust" pattern of the Gold Rush era.

Surveyor Brewster, a native New Yorker, reportedly arrived in California in 1848 in adventurer John C. Fremont's party. As a resident of Sonoma County, Brewster was present in the stronghold of old Mexican California during the excitement called the Bear Flag Revolt and the birth of California as one of the United States. In 1855 he was the American Party (Know-Nothing) candidate for Surveyor General during one of several inflammatory years when the Know-Nothings swept offices statewide. As Surveyor General, therefore, Brewster was directed to conduct firsthand investigations prior to the legislature choosing the best transportation route over the mountains.

What follows is John Brewster's report [copies are in the State Land Office and State Library] composed after he and his party of nine Sierra County men wended their way from Downieville to Pyramid Lake in Nevada and back in a great circle route. Brewster was alive to more than just topography, as the reader will discover: he scouted for good water or the lack thereof, good browse for stock, the presence of Native Americans and their attitudes towards emigrants, abundance of wild game and fish, mineral deposits and other phenomena he knew would be of interest to the continuing stream of prospectors, travelers and settlers.

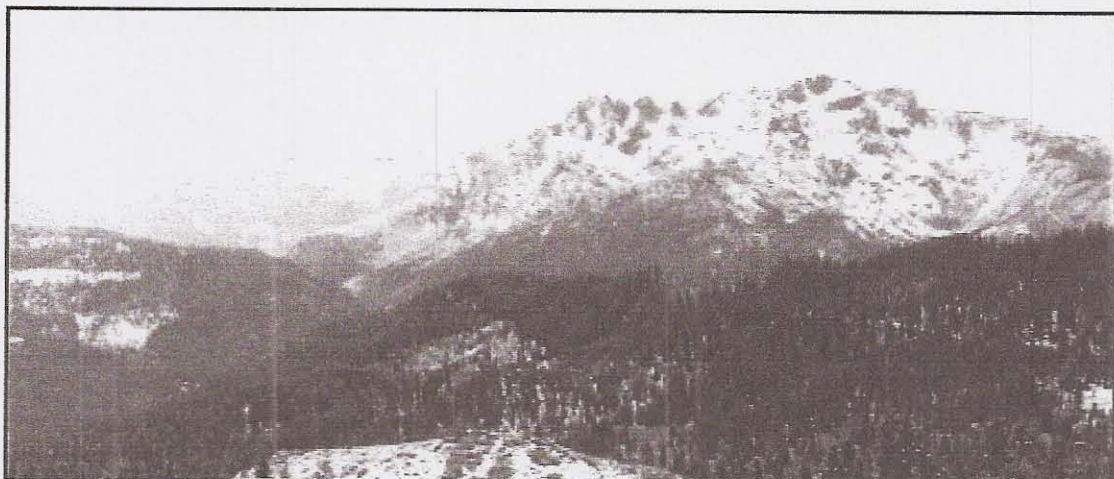
As time went on, the very survival of mountain communities depended on easy transportation in and out, as they very well knew. The careful description of the land was such that the report could also function as a tour guide. Quite apart from the pragmatic purpose of the report, it is always instructive to read early descriptions of the West describing its relatively unspoiled loveliness and abundance.

THE BREWSTER REPORT

Having been invited, by certain public spirited citizens of Downieville, to examine their route for an Immigrant Road, I left that place for Sierra Valley on the 17th of August, 1856. The party accompanying me consisted of Messrs. A.P. Chapman, W.D. Noland, J.J. Bramley, E. Cady, Sol. Purdy, J. Carleton, Joseph. Sargent and J. McMurtie, with well provided pack animals.

Traveling northeast up the East fork of the North Yuba for four miles by an easy graded trail we turned due east, and, at twelve miles, crossed the summit of the Butte Ridge, which is a part of the main ridge of the Sierras. The crossing here has an elevation of 1,300 feet above Downieville. Bending North for a mile to avoid the Buttes, which are a rugged mass of conglomerate rock and volcanic debris, with so bold an outline and so great altitude as to be the landmark of this section, we traveled due East over a succession of little valleys and low ridges covered with timber and interspersed with small lakes to the East branch of the South fork of the North Yuba. Thence eastward up this branch and descending gradually, we crossed a low ridge at its head and entered the Sierra Valley at Chapman's Ranch. This point is twenty-four miles from Downieville and is 1,100 feet lower than the Butte Ridge crossing.

The proposed road route, after leaving Downieville, instead of following the ridge that I traveled, runs up the North side of the South fork of the North Yuba by way of New



"Surveyor" continued from page 3.

York and Kanaka Flats and Sierra City with an easy grade, until it passes the Buttes on their Southern side, and thence, on by the East branch, as above, and through Chapman's Pass, into Sierra Valley. By this route the ascent and irregularities of the ridge are avoided, as well as any deep fall of snow to impede the travel in winter.

Sierra Valley is a large and level plain, about forty miles long and ten miles wide, lying nearly north and south. It is covered with nutritious grass and abounds with springs of fresh and mineral waters; some of the latter are of high temperature and virtue. Its northern, southern, and western sides, are enclosed by hills clothed with fine oak and pine timber. In its center is collected, in winter, a large body of water, out of which flow the heads of the Middle Feather river. Mohawk and Lake Valleys adjoin it on the north-west, and may be considered as its branches. They are of considerable extent and of equally valuable character. The Beckwourth Pass and old Trading Post lie near the northeast extremity.

After leaving Chapman's, a canter Northwest for twenty-three miles over the open plain—a better road than is found in most of the foothills of the Sacramento Valley—brought us to the Divide and Pass, which is almost on a level with the valley. Thence east, descending on an easy slope for seven miles, we came to Grass Spring in Long Valley, where are good grass and water. The waters of this valley run north into Pyramid Lake, and may offer a good road to the desert. Thence southeast for three miles, and then east over a rolling country for six miles farther, we came to Pea-vine Spring, which is about 100 feet higher than the Pass. Here the wild sage region begins, the hills being covered with its scattered growth, while a little grass is found in the hollows. We here passed parties of Indians, over 350 in number, belonging to two different tribes, who had been holding a "grand talk" to settle some disputes about their hunting grounds; and their council having broken up, they were now on their way to their autumnal haunts. A few had horses on which the happy possessors pranced in great state, while the squaws and half grown children dragged after them the lodge-poles, on which were fastened their household gear, and in some instances a papoose, whose glittering eyes shone out in wonderment amid the confused pass of Indian baggage.

Nine miles farther over a bare rolling upland, with volcanic debris scattered thickly around, and crossing the beds of three alkaline lakes whose now dry beds glistened like snow in the sun-rays, we reached the edge of Truckee River valley; then leaving the sand and wild sage, which had annoyed us for the last two miles, we crossed the valley for five miles to the edge of the river, which is here about eighty yards wide, confined between abrupt banks about fifteen feet high and bordered with willow thickets.

This portion of the valley is known as the Big Meadow, extending five miles along the river, with a width of from four to five miles, in which is an abundance of nutritious grass and good water, and at this season enjoys a delightful climate. A number of immigrant trains were camped throughout the valley, and their cattle, dotting the plain, reminded one of an older and settled region. About four miles to the southeast, we were informed, was an incipient Mormon village, whither some of our party were invited to a ball. We here first obtained some of the fine salmon trout of the river. Proceeding down the river (crossing it several times to avoid the sharp points of volcanic ridge-spurs which jut close upon the stream,) with a gentle and uniform descent in a course nearly directly east for twenty-six miles, we reached the lower crossing and the road which comes in here across the Desert, from the Sink of the Humboldt, distant from this crossing thirty-eight miles. The river here bends sharply to the left, and running north for twenty-two miles, empties into Pyramid Lake. Crossing to the right bank or desert side, we moved down the river over barren desert bluffs of hard sand and volcanic rock covered with wild sage and a few patches of white bunch grass.

The river lies two hundred feet below, and the bluffs are close on the river, with an occasional expansion into handsome little valleys having fine grass and cottonwood and oak trees; one of these [valleys] at the mouth of the river, extending for five miles with as fine grass and handsome trees as ever met the eye of the immigrant. The river has two mouths; one branch turning abruptly off, within three hundred yards of Pyramid Lake, and running in a semicircle to the S.E. and N.E., at five miles empties into Mud Lake, which lies to the northeast of Pyramid.

Pyramid Lake is about forty miles in length and fifteen in breadth, containing the singular rock which has given it its name. It is surrounded by high mountains on the northern and western sides. On the east stretches the barren desert waste, and on the south the river comes in, passing a low ridge of volcanic debris and concrete in which I found a number of veins of superior spar. I had no opportunity to go out on the lake and examine its waters, but along the shore the water was alkaline and of an offensive fetid odor, leaving a broad and thick deposit as tough as felt. Several Indians were camped here in the sand, living on the fine trout of the river which they are expert in catching, and having an occasional chase of the big horn sheep. From this river mouth a good road could be made direct to the Big Meadows, where we first reached the river valley; and from this point east to the Sink of the Humboldt or some point higher up that river, whereby much of the desert travel and not less than thirty-five miles of distance can be saved.

After one day's rest in this handsome spot, with the enjoyments of fine fish and game, we traced our trail to the Big Meadows. Thence, leaving the Beckwourth Pass to the right, we continued up the river to the upper crossing on the old Truckee route. The river running through narrow canyons here bends south. After crossing twice, we left it, passing over a low rocky ridge and at five miles crossed Dog Valley. Ascending westward for four miles, we reached the first summit, here covered with a dense pine forest. Two miles further on we came to the forks of the Henness and old Nevada roads. Bending to the northwest for four miles, we made a noon camp in Clover Valley, which is full of fine grass and water; thence north sixteen miles brought us into the north end of Sierra Valley at the hot sulfur springs, in which the party enjoyed a delightful and invigorating bath. The temperature of these springs is from 103 degrees to 114 degrees Fahrenheit, and they have proved in a few cases of great medicinal power.

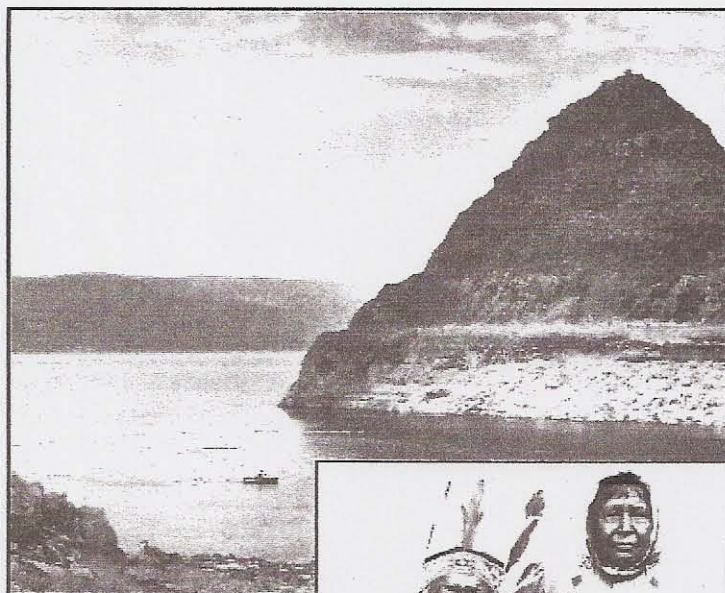
The next day the party returned to Chapman's rancho and thence to Downieville.



Conclusion: On this route, from the Butte Ridge eastward, there is little or no work necessary; the grade in no place needing to exceed four degrees. It is in many places a good buggy road at present. From the Butte westward, a grade of five degrees should suffice to make the road of a superior quality. Here, however, for a few miles some heavy work will be required. Rock and timber for construction are abundant and convenient where needed, and the grass and water are amply sufficient quantity and quality. Of the state of the snow on the mountain in winter, I am unable to speak with certainty; but from the lowness of the sheltered character of the Pass, I should consider it with favor even for a winter road. It is well worthy of the attention of the Legislature.

(Signed) **J.A. Brewster, State Surveyor**

This route, like many others similarly evaluated, was never built in its entirety, although present-day State Highway 49 probably closely follows what Brewster delineated along the Yuba River and over Yuba Pass down into Sierra Valley (passing the site of Mr. Chapman's "rancho", somewhere between Sattley and Calpine. Chapman also had a spread — summer pasturage? — on the western slope, near Haskell Peak, and the creek bearing his name flows into the Yuba River close to the pass.) When the Central Pacific Railroad was completed in 1869, its impact on the movement of both freight and passengers over



Above: Pyramid dwarfs anglers on the desert lake's surface.

Right: Captain Dave Numanana succeeded Winnemucca as leader of the native peoples of Pyramid Lake in 1879.



the Sierra sealed the fate of any great push for road building in the early years. No grand trans-Sierra state project was ever completed. Highways 40 (now I-80) and 50 would be built with federal dollars and Hwy. 49, while loved and lovely, was long in coming and was hardly "grand". Instead, the Sierra continued for many decades after settlement to be traversed by any number of small roads whose roots can be traced back to modest projects wherein individual segments were constructed for specific purposes and ultimately evolved into the thoroughfares of today. The western portion of Hwy 49 from Downieville to Camptonville, for example, follows the route of a privately built toll road called the Sierra Turnpike.

As for John Brewster, he elected not to run again for public office after 1855 and instead returned to his Sonoma County home. In 1858, at the age of 38, he retraced his steps to his native New York, married, and moved back West as far as Indiana. During the Civil War he rose to the rank of Colonel in the Union Army as a member of the 63rd Indiana Volunteers. After the war, he returned to Sonoma County with his wife Julia and their three young children, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1889. To complete the circle, his great-grandson, Lee Adams, today serves as Sheriff of Sierra County, intimately acquainted with the territory surveyed by Brewster in 1856.

SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR

On April 16, 1852, a group of men elected to represent the gold camps of the Northern Sierra in a twenty mile radius or so around Downieville were successful in persuading the State Legislature to grant them some territory independent of Yuba County. The Yuba County seat at Marysville was deemed by those men and their constituents to be too far away for effective communication, timely remedy in the courts, law enforcement and so forth. The new county was named, most appropriately, Sierra. A few years later a slight boundary adjustment allowed affluent La Porte, Gibsonville and several other camps to slip away to join Plumas County, but otherwise Sierra remains as it was delineated way back in 1852.

A core committee under the leadership of Sheriff Lee Adams and Dee Bulanti has already begun brainstorming about possible activities and windings appropriate to celebrating our 150-year milestone. Individual communities will be responsible for designing their own commemorative events in schools, by businesses, organizations and interest groups with, we hope, coordination of schedules. Some events will link more than one town, such as Lee Adams' famed wandering jeep treks. There is also a commitment from Wells Fargo to contribute to our pageantry with some special happenings since that company is also gearing up to mark its own sesquicentennial in 2002. Rides on the old Well Fargo stage, for example, will occur one weekend next summer, and it looks as if the stupendous Sierra County gold collection sitting in San Francisco will be moved closer to home—to Sacramento for display to the general public.

On the birth date itself—April 16—an observance will be held at the Sierra County Court House by the Board of Supervisors to kick off a year of remembrance and celebration. Bring your party hats and come!

Be ye biker or business person, resident or merely a well-wisher of Sierra County who would like to help us showcase our picturesque past, our dwindled but brave present, and our hopeful future, you are encouraged to lend a hand where able. Potential volunteers not attached to an organization or business are encouraged to contact Dee Bulanti (dee@highsierrarealty.com) or Lee Adams (hangman@cji.net) for assignments to some congenial aspect of the party.

GEORGE WASHINGTON HUGHES PHOTO ALBUM

Researchers of Sierra County history received an incomparable gift this autumn when Jack Hughes, great-great grandson of George Washington Hughes (former miner, businessman and assessor in the Downieville area during the 1870s and '80s) turned over a photo album to the Downieville Museum. Similar to the albums stuffed with cartes d'visite (visiting cards) that were all the rage in that era, this one is devoted to formal portraits which were likewise exchanged by friends and acquaintances. Some of

bums of the time combine both cards and photos or contain flowery sentiments along with autographs. Several dozen of the high-quality commercial photographs in the Hughes album identify G.W. Hughes' friends by name. For the first time, in numerous cases, it has been possible to match faces with names of well-known individuals in the town's early history.

Sheriff Lee Adams was one of the first history buffs to do back flips when the album was received. Among the pages of portraits he found a photograph of Edward Purington, Sheriff of the county from 1866-70. Purington was one of five former sheriffs whose faces were missing from the line-up of pictures which adorn the hallway leading into the Sheriff's office in the County Courthouse. One down, only four more to go: William J. Ford (1852-6); Edward Irwin (1856-60); John Campbell (1870-74); and Michael Henry Mead (1884-95.) (Please keep your eyes peeled for photos of these gents as you visit garage sales, antique shops, museums or other places where old photos crop up.)

Newly-appointed Editor of *The Sierran*, Katie Green, likewise went into transports of joy when the faces of three persons named in her recent book, *Like a Leaf Upon the Current Cast*, popped up in the album. The pictures of Henry Scamman, Jerome York, and Jean Garnosset were promptly copied and inserted in the second printing of the book, which was released in early December.

Heartful thanks to Jack Hughes for so thoughtfully sharing his family treasure.

ENDANGERED PLACES OF THE HEART

In 1999, when the Forest Supervisor of the Tahoe announced impending doom for a dozen remaining "isolated" structures on public lands in Tahoe National Forest, the Sierra County Historical Society was among the first to protest. The Society is vehemently opposed to the loss of any more historic landmarks in the county, having watched the demise of dozens of cherished buildings—even entire ghost towns, such as Poker Flat—at the hands of the Forest Service over the past 30 years and more. The County Board of Supervisors, too, made their opinion plain in 1999, voting a unanimous resolution asking that the Sierra County structures be spared.

Since that watershed year, the Society has attempted to keep up a constant dialogue with and pressure on TNF, urging the agency to become more respectful and creative in its attitude toward our legacy of buildings left from the early settlement period. Many of these quaint and humble structures were converted to recreational leases later on and thus became vulnerable to the whims of changing policies within the Forest Service and bureaucratic interpretation by individual Forest Supervisors. The books published by and for the Historical Society in this past year have been efforts to document the importance of various structures and the sites they sit upon. Since tourism as a source of revenue in the county far outstrips our traditional revenue-generators—mining and tim-

marks, the Society maintains.

Betty Smart, Curator of California's Resource Center Museum (which houses all the archeological and historic cultural objects left to the state) and the person who led the charge to save the ghost town of Bodie and protect it within a State Park, is also vocal about the loss of historic buildings on public lands within our fair domains. A third generation steward of Wright Ranch in Goodyears Bar, Betty has compiled a long list of deliberately destroyed cabins in the Goodyear's and Indian Valley area, lamenting the toll of places dear to her and many others in that part of the county. The current TNF staff has branded our emotional attachment to these one-of-a-kind little landmarks as "sentimentalism"—as if loving attachment were a derogatory characteristic of human beings, to be repented of, a punishable offense cured by burning or bulldozing the object of one's affection. It's all very strange and heartless.

The current hit list would take out the following remaining vestiges on public lands in the North Fork Yuba River corridor:

- Padgett Cabin, east of Sierra City a short ways, just off Hwy 49, built in 1930s with impeccable Scandinavian craftsmanship by Alec Ostrom, local carpenter and stone mason. Ostrom had a hand in constructing many early resort buildings in the Lakes Basin.

- Keirn Cabin/Lagomarsino House at Loganville, a chalet-style building built in 1870s by one of the earliest Italian families to the region. One of only a pair of buildings left standing at Loganville.



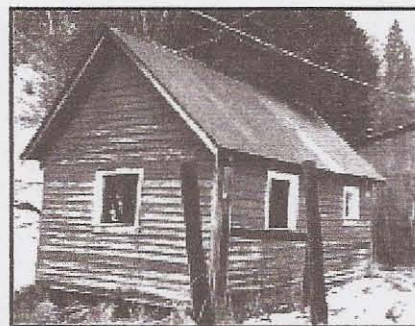
*Keirn/
Lagomarsino*

- Carmen's Cabin at Rattlesnake Bar on the old Sierra Turnpike/Tollbridge Road, built 42 years ago by Tye Holler, and slated for destruction despite a "guaranteed" 99-year lease. Although this cabin is somewhat newer than the others, it is a sturdy landmark and typical of TNF's arbitrary and unjustified policy of removals, in the eyes of local citizens.

- Barns and outbuildings at China Flat/Camp Yuba, built in 1860s or 70s at this once populous settlement. TNF acquired this patented land in a land swap not



many years ago, more's the pity, and has refused to sell it back to descendants of early settlers who wished to restore and protect the buildings.



China Flat

- Shady Flat Cabin in the Shady Flat Mining District, built in early 1900s, home to the Willmarth family for 55 years. Continuously occupied since the Gold Rush, the greater Shady Flat Mining District was also the site of a sawmill in the 1850s and '60s, as well as home to many miners, a commercial photographer and a famous artist in its long history.



The cabin at Shady Flat

AS LONG AS WE ARE DREAMING DEPT.: SCHS WISH LIST

- a proper Archives!, where all the scattered documents and collections of books and photographs can be gathered together in one place, catalogued, stored under optimum temperature and humidity, shelved under standardized conditions, readily accessible to all who wish to do research. And once that is realized...
- microfilm and microfiche readers and printers
- a collection of Sierra County censuses and newspapers on microfilm
- an endowment to pay for the operating expenses so we

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT BILL LONG



As the Society finishes one busy year, we face an even busier 2002.

2001 saw two more highly popular four-wheeled drive treks led by Lee Adams. A year ago the Society's Board decided to lend a helping hand to the Loyalton Centennial Celebration in lieu of staging our usual Living History Day at the Kentucky Mine. Thus, the Society's Bill Copren served as Co-Chairman with Milton Gottardi, Lord Mayor of Loyalton, of the very successful Loyalton Centennial Celebration in September. The Society's Laverne Monico admirably headed the "living history" sector of that celebration, helped out by numerous Society members. And the Society staged a three-concert "Encore" series at the Kentucky Mine in August. All of this was in addition to keeping the Kentucky Mine Museum complex open and running during the regular season. We are very grateful to the volunteers—some doing double duty—who made all this activity possible.

Most notable this past year was the publishing of three important books in which the Society had a hand. Early in the season came Maren Scholberg's *Historic Houses of Sierra Valley in Sierra County*. Mid-summer brought Jim Olson's *The Logging Camps of Clover Valley*. And mid-August brought Katie Willmarth Green's work, *Like A Leaf Upon The Current Cast*, about the Gold Rush settlements between Downieville and Sierra City.

With this issue we welcome Katie as the new Editor of *The Sierran* and as a new member of the Society's Board. We also welcome to the Board Milton Gottardi, who was instrumental some years ago in giving the Society direction, and we look forward to

his on-going contributions. Both new Board members were elected at the Annual Membership Meeting held at historic Wright Ranch in Goodyears Bar in September.

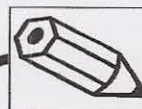
On April 16, 2002 Sierra County becomes 150 years old, and the Society will play a major role in the county-wide, year-long Sesquicentennial Celebration. Our Board member, Lee Adams, heads that committee. The newly re-energized Sierra County Chamber of Commerce also plans a major role in the county's celebration.

We hope that 2002 will finally see the re-opening of the Kentucky Mine portal back to "hard rock." The front portion of the mine has been closed by successive landslides and cave-in since the late 1950's. In recent years the Society has funded efforts which have carefully re-timbered 80 feet of the rubbled caved-in front area. We think we are close to the interior "hard rock" main portion of the mine. In August the Sierra County Board of Supervisors approved applying \$20,000 of the county's share of the most recent State Park Bond Act monies to completing the tunnel work. We thank Sierra County District Two Supervisor Peter Huebner for his help in this cause.

We also have other public grant applications in the works, and we have contributions and important volunteers to recognize, which we shall do in the next issue.

In the meanwhile, we all plan to keep working hard and keep on volunteering. We hope you will feel motivated to join in, if you haven't already.

A TRIO OF HISTORIES FOR 2002

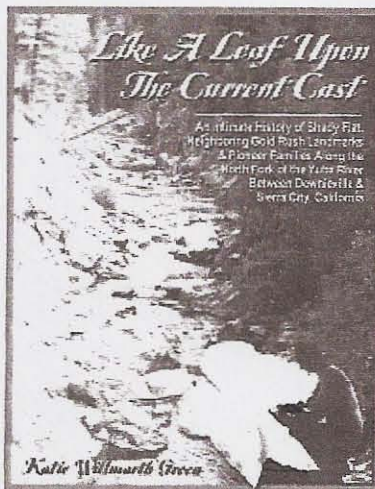


A trio of local histories recently published under the auspices of the Sierra County Historical Society is available by mail order for 2002. A volunteer for each book, and each at a different address, stand by to fill requests promptly. If the purchaser wishes to have the book(s) shipped directly to a giftee, just enclose clear directions and perhaps—a gift card.

■ *Like A Leaf Upon the Current Cast*, by Katie Willmarth Green, published in August, sold out swiftly and has just appeared in a second revised, expanded edition of 277 pages. As the subtitle says, it's an intimate history of Shady Flat, neighboring Gold Rush landmarks and early families along the North Fork of the Yuba River between Downieville and Sierra City, CA. This book is solidly researched, written with love and humor and lavishly illustrated with ca. 400 photos and prints.

For Katie's book, make checks for \$37.00 (this includes CA sales tax, insured shipping and a contribution to the Historical Society),

payable to Katie W. Green, 3935 Fruitvale Road, Lincoln, CA 95648. Phone: (916) 645-2499 or email: greengal@psyber.com. Also available through selected bookstores and shops in Sierra, Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.



■ Jim Olson's popular memoir, *The Logging Camps of Clover Valley*, also brought out last summer, is in its third printing. Charming anecdotal, informative and nicely illustrated. 87 pages. Make checks for \$12.30 (includes tax and mailing), payable to the Sierra County Historical Society. Mail to Box 144, Sierraville, CA 96129. Telephone information at (530) 994-3346

■ Long awaited by fans of her Sierra Valley barns book, Maren Scholberg's, *The Historic Homes of Sierra Valley in Sierra County*, is available for \$17.00 (sales tax included; add \$2 for mailing). A photograph of each house and intelligent commentary based on Maren's voluminous knowledge of the Sierra Valley. 71 pages.