

The Sierran

— A Publication of the Sierra County Historical Society —

MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
AND THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

The Carman Valley by Anne Eldred

CARMAN VALLEY is a series of small, verdant wet meadows west of Sierra Valley in Sierra and Plumas Counties. These meadows are primarily northwest trending and are connected as tributaries of Carman Creek and as part of the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River in Sierra Valley. Geologically Carman Valley and Sierra Valley are similar: They both exist as the result of fault movement and the uplift of the Sierra Nevadas. The bottom of the Sierra Valley was a fault block which moved downward as the sides (the surrounding mountains) moved upward. The eastern scarp of the Sierras borders the west side of Carman Valley. Carman Valley had a series of small faults which formed the Basin and Range-like small depressions and rises that delineate these wet meadows today. The most westerly valley is Carman Valley proper which occupies the West Fork of Carman Creek. Moving east the next small valley occupies the East Fork of Carman Creek and is unnamed except for the most southerly portion which is called Three-Cornered Meadow. The most easterly meadow is Folchi Meadow, which, at its southern end, tees into an east-west running meadow called Knuthsen Meadow.

Natural History:

Geology, Geography, Climate, Hydrology

After the ages of glaciation, most of the ice sheets melted and lakes began forming in closed basins, probably 20,000 to 40,000 thousand years ago (Lonerger 1987; unpublished booklet). Sierra Valley, which was a closed basin, became Lake Beckwourth, named for the early black explorer who was the first non-Native American to come into Sierra Valley. Carman Valley meadows are generally similar in elevation to Sierra Valley and thus undoubtedly were flooded when the lake was present and were arms of Lake Beckwourth. Originally the lake was very deep, at least 1600 feet. Deposition of eroded soils from the surrounding mountains began filling the basin. The lake terraces around Sierra Valley are 150 feet or so above today's valley floor at their highest level. Another level, approximately 50 feet lower, must have reflected the level at which Lake Beckwourth and Mohawk Lake balanced each other, a level that was maintained for many years. During this time Lake Beckwourth was about 160 feet deep and couldn't go any lower until Mohawk

(Continued on Page 3)

Knuthsen Meadow in Carmen Valley and Beckwourth Peak in the background to the north. Photo courtesy Judy Lawrence.



— THE 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 an annual meeting, 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!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcome these new members who have joined since the Fall 2003 issue of THE SIERRAN. We appreciate the interest and support of all our members.

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 due and payable each January for the calendar year.

Membership categories are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL	\$15.00
FAMILY & INSTITUTION	\$20.00
BUSINESS & SUPPORTING	\$30.00
SUSTAINING	\$50.00
LIFE (per individual)	\$250.00

Please send dues to the Membership Chair:
Lynn McKechnie
PO Box 294
Sierraville, CA 96126

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Address:
Kentucky Mine Museum
PO Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125
(530) 862-1310

2003 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & STAFF

President	Bud Buczkowske
P.O. Box 904, Alleghany, CA 95910	(530) 287-3287
Vice President	Bill Copren
P.O. Box 95, Sattley, CA 96124	(530) 994-3376
Treasurer	Milton Gottardi
P.O. Box 305, Loyalton, CA 96118	(530) 993-4407
Secretary	Virginia Lutes
P.O. Box 145, Sierraville, CA 96126	(775) 323-1127
Membership Chair	Lynn McKechnie
P.O. Box 294, Sierraville, CA 96126	(530) 994-9999
Director	Bill Long
P.O. Box 904, Alleghany, CA 95910	(530) 287-3287
Director	Maren Scholberg
P.O. Box 141, Sierrville, CA 96126	(530) 994-3480
Director	Susan Schoensee
P.O. Box 54, Sattley, CA 96124	(530) 994-3208
Museum Director/Curator	Anne Eldred
P.O. Box 184, Sierraville, CA 96126	(530) 994-3514
Administrative Asst.	Laurie Upland
P.O. Box 373, Downieville, CA 95936	(530) 289-3198
Assistant	Lee Adams
P.O. Box 404, Downieville, CA 95936	(530) 289-3506
THE SIERRAN Editor	Judy Lawrence
5016 Holyoke Ave., Sacramento, CA 95841	(916) 332-1044 Sacramento (530) 994-3066 Sattley

Carman Valley (Continued from Page 1)

drained completely. Mohawk found a new exit and head-cut itself, at which point it drained very rapidly. Lake Beckwourth drained itself down to the elevation of its exit between Beckwourth and Portola at that time, at least 10,000 years ago (Durrell 1987:253-257, 273-274). There would have continued to be standing water in Sierra Valley for several thousand more years until erosion filled it to today's elevation of 5,000 feet. Some features were islands: the Buttes, the Mounds, Randolph, the Sierraville cemetery and other named and un-named mounds. These mounds all contain items of early human occupation, as do the lake shorelines.

The geological and geographic histories of Sierra Valley and Carman Valley are shared. Their landscape features were determined by similar occurrences in the past, such as tectonic, volcanic, glacial, erosional and depositional events. The landform had developed as the continent added land ever westward by erosional activity from the east and volcanic eruptions where the continental and oceanic plates met during millions of years. Thus the basement rocks of the area are large granitic and metamorphic formations which have been deposited on the land and then stretched and constricted together at various times through huge geological pressures. Pleistocene volcanic activity between 1 and 2 million years ago resulted in the deposition of fine-grained basalts. Four major periods of glaciation have been identified in the north-central Sierra Nevada, terminating about 10,000 years ago. Since that time there have been neoglacial periods of shorter duration and intensity. With the melting of glaciers came the filling of the closed basins in the Basin and Range country with lakes, such as Lake Beckwourth (today's Sierra Valley). The glacial melting began with the transition into a cool moist era with increased winter precipitation. Vegetation was likely to represent a cold sagebrush steppe. Summers were similar to modern temperature ranges. The ecosystem shift was to a coniferous forest. By about 10,000 years ago the environment had become much warmer and drier. There is indication of rapid environmental change and an intensification of summer drought. These drying conditions caused any of the Basin and Range and Great Basin lakes to decline (Lindstrom 1994). Lake Tahoe dropped many feet below its rim for a long period of time and trees (conifers) grew on the deepening shores. The peak of this dry period lasted from about 9500 to 8500 years ago. The overall length of this drought period lasted until around 5000 years ago. Then

from about 5000 to 3000 years ago there was a gradual shift toward cooler, moister conditions. Lindstrom reports that between 4000 to 1500 years ago this cool, moist trend contained warm dry intervals, but that most precipitation fell during the winter months. It was during this time that the conifers, which were growing 16 feet below the rim at Lake Tahoe, were drowned by rising waters and many Basin and Range and Great Basin lakes filled again to record high levels (Lindstrom 1990:146-157). A generalized cool moist regime continues into present times, although the last 1500 years has been punctuated by extremes: Two major periods of drought have occurred within this period, one between 1100 and

With the melting of glaciers came the filling of the closed basins in the Basin and Range country with lakes, such as Lake Beckwourth (today's Sierra Valley).

900 years ago and the other from 700 to 500 years ago. Based on tree-ring analysis, these droughts lasted 220 and 141 years, respectively, with a period of extreme wetness separating them. The second and less severe dry period lasted from 1750 to 1850 A.D., ending just 25 years before the Truckee River began flowing at above-average levels. This wet period lasted from 1875 to 1915 A.D. and marks the longest time period during which flows were that high in the last 500 years (Lindstrom: 1994:19-20). Fire has had a hand in shaping of the montane forest of the north-central Sierra Nevadas as well. A number of species are strongly influenced by or dependant upon fire for survival.

Prehistoric Sites — Native Americans

Prehistoric people began living on the shores of Lake Beckwourth (and, no doubt, along the arms of the flooded meadows of the Carman Valley Creek watershed) in hunting, fishing, gathering, food-processing and tool-making camps. These camps were probably not inhabited year-round because of the severe Sierra Valley/Carman Valley winter temperatures. As described above, we know that there were long periods of drought which occurred after the Washoe and Maidu people came into the area. Their predecessors, the Martis culture (pre-Washoe and pre-Maidu people) used large basalt points on atlatls for hunting large game and manos and metates for grinding seeds and berries of various kinds.

(Continued on Page 4)

Carman Valley (Continued from Page 3)

Evidence of these early people has been found in Carman Valley in several archaeological sites which have been studied recently. Other prehistoric sites have been located and recorded but not yet evaluated. Surface finds have been prolific. However, much surface artifact material has been picked up and is residing in private collections.

Sites in Knuthsen and Folchi Meadows indicate that there were a number of prehistoric occupations. Excavations at the heritage resource site in Knuthsen Meadow revealed successive occupations and material which is probably 4000 years old or older at the deepest level of 20-30 centimeters. Much artifactual material was found between the 20 and 30 centimeter levels. It contained flakes and stone artifacts, no historic debitage, and occurred in non-compacted soils of decomposed granite. The level from 10-20 centimeters yielded sparser amounts. There was more again at the 0-10 centimeter level. Both of these upper levels were in soils characterized as a moist, dark brown sandy loam with lots of organics, which had been compacted through subsequent use and which contained historic artifacts along with the debitage of earlier occupation. In 1996 when Leslie Steidle and two other archaeologists were performing test excavations using Shovel Transect Units (STU's) and Shovel Probes (SP's) in small, promising areas, 126 pieces of flaked stone debitage were recovered, as well as one core, two biface fragments, one projectile point, three groundstone, two bedrock milling features and a hammerstone. Of the flaked stone debitage most is basalt (91%) while obsidian, chert, quartzite and meta-rhyolite account for the remainder. The projectile point is a large basalt Elko Side-Notched point. Both biface fragments are basalt and show no signs of use or reworking. The core, also basalt, contains five negative bulbs of percussion (places on the core where pieces have been knocked off as blanks for making points) and cortex (the rind of the rock, in this case basalt). Two bedrock mortars were located in granite boulders (milling stations, one cup each). Two granite manos were recorded from the surface. A meta-volcanic battered hammerstone fragment was found on the surface. It contains some flake scars, which could be the result of use or equipment scarring.

There are several other sites close by. Hopefully, when they are studied more completely or excavated, more will be known of the subsistence patterns. There was a

bountiful supply of acorns, pinenuts, roots, seeds, fish, waterfowl and big and small game within a day's walk. It is not known when the last Washoe or Maidu people left Carman Valley. The so-called "Indian Camp", just south of Loyalton on the edge of Sierra Valley existed until approximately 35-40 years ago (Personal communication-Martin Sam 1996). There are a number of recorded sites north of Beckworth Peak and a few along the west side of Sierra Valley. How late these were occupied is also unknown.

Ranching: Grazing and Dairying — The Dairy

The earliest (1852) European-Americans known to have set up a ranch in the Carman Valley area were Finneman, Hedges, Davidson and Craycroft (Fariss and Smith 1882: 261) who ranched near Craycroft Neck which seems to be the name of "the rock", as it is known locally, which is east of Beckworth Peak.

It is unknown whether both beef and dairy cattle were being grazed at that time. Jacob Knuthson and William Gibson subsequently became the principal owners of the settlement of Craycroft (Fariss and Smith 1882: 261).

An unpublished biography of the Jacob Knuthson family, written by his great-great grandson, Chuck Knuthson, states that Jacob sold his mining interests in Downieville and purchased a 160-acre ranch "in Sierra Valley, just west of Sierraville. He also took up a homestead claim and purchased other tracts of land, eventually becoming the owner of a twelve hundred acre ranch." Another reference states that the first known "white man" to have settled in the area of the Carman Valley watershed itself was Peter Schutte who had an 860 acre ranch "twelve miles northwest of Sierraville" and that he sold his interest to Jacob Knuthson (Fariss and Smith 1882: 272). There is a deed of sale for the Peter Schutte Ranch between Schutte and Jacob Knuthson, a copy of which Chuck Knuthsen was able to obtain from the Sierra County Clerk-Recorders Office (Personal communication Chuck Knuthsen; 2003). According to Jim Turner in an interview by



Jacob Knuthson, 1880. Photo courtesy Chuck Knuthson.



Knuthsen Meadow looking south toward the present day McPherrin sheep camp. Photo courtesy USFS.

to his land holdings on the 1935 map of this general area. Another spelling used occasionally is "Knutzen".

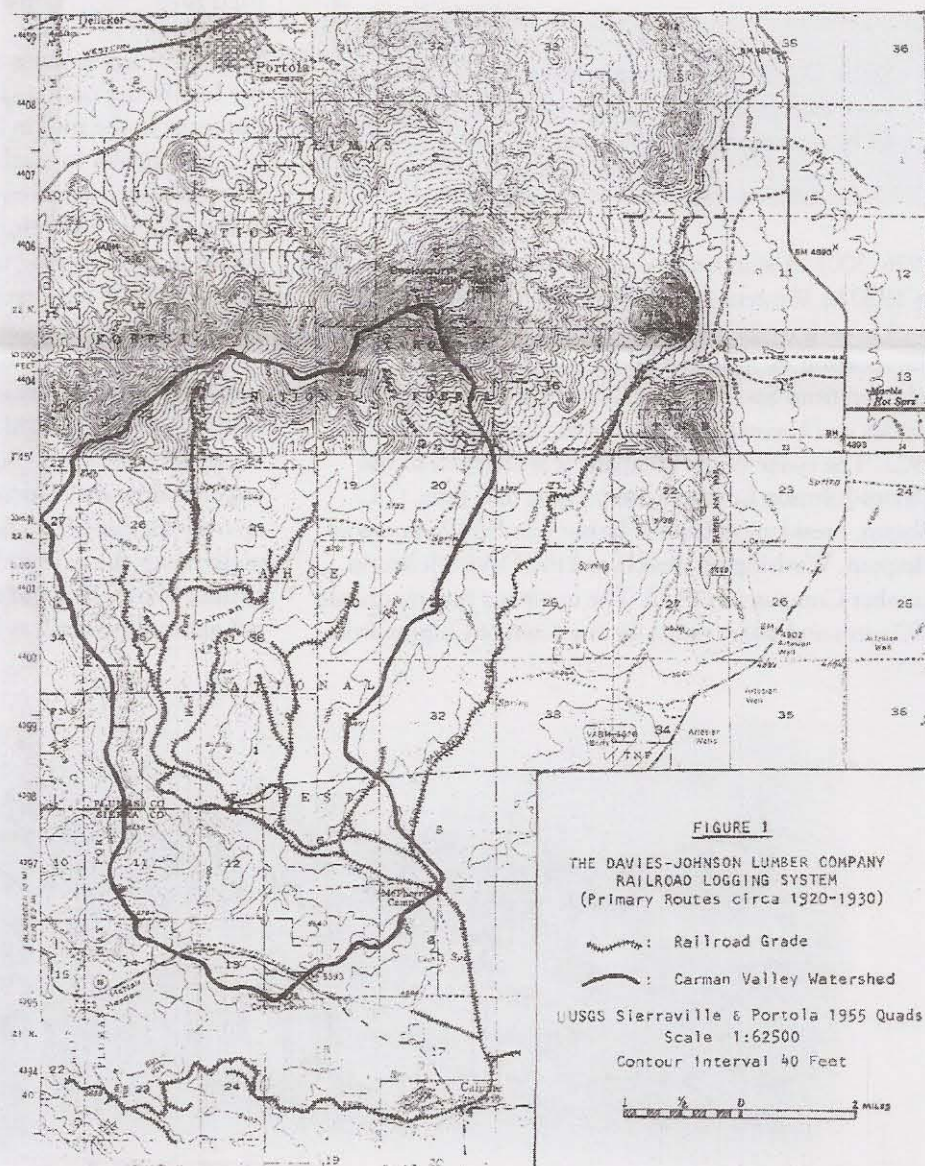
The Logging Camp

The Davies family had been in the timber and mill business for a long time, the first known Davies mill (assuming that it is the same family) being in Sardine Valley in southeastern Sierra County In 1865. The family continued to build mills in northern Nevada County and southern Sierra County up through 1915. They were already proposing the purchase of Forest Service timber

(Continued on Page 6)

Kathleen Miller (Sprowl) in 1981, George Knuthsen (Jacob's son) "got land from the Chapman Ranch". Perhaps he purchased all of the aforementioned ranchlands or they all refer to the same ranch. At any rate the big dairy barn was built in Knuthsen Meadow in 1872. Jacob grew grain in the Carman Creek Meadows, raised dairy cattle, and ran the dairy for many years, retiring in the early 1900's. He turned over the business to George who ran the ranch until 1920, who then turned it over to his son, Charles, who ran it until it was sold in the mid-1920's.

The spelling of the Knuthsen name needs some explanation. Jacob used the name "Knuth" on board ship from his native Germany and continued to use that spelling while in New York City and in his first two years in California. When he came to Sierra County, the spelling "Knuthson" or "Knuthsen" appeared on documents. His descendents use 'Knuthson'. Farris and Smith used "Knuthsen" and the meadows named for him are "Knuthsen Meadows" as are the references



The Davies-Johnson Lumber Company Railroad Logging System and Carmen Valley Watershed boundary. Photo courtesy USFS.

Carman Valley (Continued from Page 5)

west of what would become their mill town of Calpine and were planning a mill site close to the one they eventually built in 1919. Between 1916 and 1919 they operated the Davies Box and Lumber Company to the north in Blairsden in Plumas County (USDA Forest Service 1913, Knowles 1942:41-42). Arthor Davies began building the mill and housing for the mill workers in Calpine in 1919. The mill was completed in 1920 and sawing began in 1921. A planing mill and box factory were also constructed. The mill was steam powered and had a capacity of 80,000 board feet per shift (Sinnott

Steam Donkey engines and log chutes were used to move the logs to the railroad for loading onto flatcars for transport to the mill in Calpine.

1976: 300). A standard gauge railroad spur track was built in 1920 by Western Pacific Railroad from their line near Beckwourth to the mill complex in Calpine for ease in transporting the finished lumber to the main line. C.D. Johnson from San Francisco became a partner to Arthor Davies and became president of the company around 1922. The name of the company was changed to the Davies-Johnson Lumber Company at that time. C.G. Blagen, president of Grays Harbor Lumber Company of Hoquiam, Washington, purchased the Davies-Johnson Lumber Company in 1923. The company had purchased 400 acres and water rights for the town of Calpine from

George W. and Charles M. Knuthsen. Timberland was also purchased from the Knuthsens, whose father and grandfather, respectively, had owned the land. Davies-Johnson laid track in a northwesterly direction from the Western Pacific spur into almost every major drainage that provided easy access to timber (Miller 1981). The southern part of the Carman Valley watershed was logged between 1920 and 1923. The picture below was taken in 1923 of the Knuthsen dairy barn surrounded by loggers' skid shacks (railroad logging camp living quarters) and the old Knuthsen home, which burned down at some later time. The dairy barn was moved board by board and rebuilt on the Devine Ranch between Sattley and Calpine in 1924 after the Sattley fire had burned down their barn.

Steam Donkey engines and log chutes were used to move the logs to the railroad for loading onto flatcars for transport to the mill in Calpine. In 1923 gasoline engines became popular in machinery used to skid logs to the railroad where steam engine loaders were used. Later on, as the railroad was being phased out, haul roads were developed and logging trucks were used. Gas powered tractors, which were more versatile, cost effective and less likely to be a fire danger than the steam donkey engine, hauled the timber downslope to haul roads. Big wheels pulled by tractors were used where the ground was not steep (Miller 1981; USDA Forest Service 1923-1937). "High wheels", as the big wheels were known, were haul wagons with two immense wheels that would be lined up over the cut logs. The logs were then strapped on underneath the axle and driven to a railroad loading area (Miller 1981). By 1930 the company began salvaging its rail and rolling stock as logging trucks replaced the



Southern edge of Knuthsen Meadow where industries overlapped: Knuthsen Dairy Barn and home; Davies-Johnson Lumber Co. skid shacks; McPherrin Sheep Camp corrals (not shown). Picture taken July, 1923, courtesy Calvert McPherrin.

When the U.S. Government took ownership of this land in 1937, the McPherrins continued to graze their sheep from May to September under the "Beckwourth Allotment", as it is designated by the U.S. Forest Service.

railroad for moving logs. The Western Pacific spur line between Calpine and Beckwourth remained in place until 1939 when the mill closed and was dismantled.

Beginning in 1933 Davies-Johnson began exchanging out of their cut-over land for other public timberland. The last of these exchanges took place in 1937 (USDA Forest Service 1923-1937).

The Sheep Camp

Although sheep grazing was part of the early history of Sierra County, its success was variable, depending on among other things, the amount and quality of feed available, unseasonably cold storms in the high country, the number of sheep killed either by coyotes or poisoned by their eating of milkweed. Getting reliable herders to live the nomadic and lonely life for half the year was a problem as well. Sheepherders set fires behind the herds as they left their mountain pastures in the fall in order to get rid of brush and timber and to improve the herbage for grazing. This practice made for some unhappy timbermen and local residents. Soon there was a reduction in numbers of sheep being grazed. Grazing

regulations were established during the early part of the twentieth century and allotments of National Forest lands were established. Permittees were assigned areas where they could graze their sheep, dates between which they could graze and the numbers of sheep allowed on their allotments was regulated. Sheep numbers went up during the First World War because of the increase in need for wool and meat during those years. Men from Basque country in the Pyrenees Mountains between Spain and France began being employed as herders in the late 1800's and continued to be employed through the 1930's and 1940's. They have been replaced basically by men from Mexico and Central America today.

The McPherrin Sheep Company began bringing sheep up from California's Central Valley to graze in Carman Valley in 1921. At that same time they leased the grazing rights from the Davies-Johnson Lumber Company which was already cutting timber in the area. When the U.S. Government took ownership of this land in 1937, the McPherrins continued to graze their sheep from May to September under the "Beckwourth Allotment", as it is designated by the U.S. Forest Service. Since 1947, Government Range Records show that the McPherrins have averaged around 2500 sheep, not counting lambs, each summer. The sheepherders were traditionally headquartered at the McPherrin Sheep Camp which was located where the Knuthsen dairy barn and family home were. As mentioned in the discussion of the Davies-Johnson Lumber Company, the barn was moved in 1924 and some years later the house burned down. The skid shacks, in which some of the loggers lived, eventually were moved into other railroad logging areas along the Western Pacific spur track or along some of the temporary tracks which Davies-Johnson built into the Carman Valley watershed. The McPherrins moved one of the skid shacks back to the sheep camp headquarters area. They also built the "Basque" oven (a conical shaped oven made of brick and used for baking sheepherder bread) and its shelter, root cellar, an outhouse and a small building that served as a barn. This small building was built out of timbers and lumber which had been used elsewhere (the foundation timbers are notched, but not for this building). Springs were developed for both drinking and stock water. Several sheep corrals and a loading chute were constructed as well. During the summer operation the herders ran sheep on adjoining ranges where they set



Modern sheepherder carving on cabin door frame at McPherrin's sheep camp. Courtesy of USFS.

(Continued on Page 8)

Carman Valley (Continued from Page 7)



Basque oven and its shelter looking as it has for 60+ years. Photo courtesy USFS.

up small temporary shepherd camps and sheep feeding areas scattered throughout the watershed in brush fields and alongside meadow environments. These have been used consistently since 1921. The sheep boss stayed at headquarters along with a baker and a person who delivered supplies. Supplies including bread and wine

The oven, though no longer used to bake a week's worth of bread for the herders, was used several summers ago by Sierraville Ranger District Archaeologist, Michael Baldrice, and his "Passport in Time" crew (including the author) to cook stew and bake bread for lunch (we had been measuring and describing every board in the small barn in order to determine its origin).

were delivered once a week to the herders. Sheep are unloaded today onto the loading chute and into the corrals and tended by a herder and his dog. As he moves the sheep toward summer pasture and throughout the season, he is met by a truck delivering his supplies. The oven, though no longer used to bake a week's worth of bread for the herders, was used several summers ago by Sierraville Ranger District Archaeologist, Michael Baldrice, and his "Passport in Time" crew (including the author) to cook stew and bake bread for lunch (we had

been measuring and describing every board in the small barn in order to determine its origin).

Present Day Use

Today Carman Valley is important as a dispersed recreation area. Local people hike and picnic there, others 4-wheel, some cut firewood and some cross-country ski. Vandalism has occurred at the sheep camp, but not much. It is important for people to recognize what a unique historic resource we have in Carman Valley. *References listed on Page 9.*

This issue of The Sierran was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service. Anne Eldred compiled and edited the notes of Michael Baldrice, Sierraville District Archaeologist; Leslie Steidle, Archaeologist; Carmel Barry-Schweyer, former Forest Historian; and others who contributed to the ongoing study of Carman Valley. Anne added some original research as well. ~

CARMAN VALLEY REFERENCES

Durrell, Cordell

1987 Geologic History of the Feather River Country, California. University of California Press, Berkeley, California.

Farris and Smith

1882 The History of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties, California. Howell-North Books, Berkeley, California.

Handbook of North American Indians

1986 Volume 8, California, and Volume 11. Great Basin. Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Knowles, Constance Darrow

1942 A History of Lumbering in the Truckee Basin from 1856 to 1936. Manuscript on file at Tahoe National Forest, Nevada City, California.

Lindstrom, Susan

1990 The Submerged Tree Stumps and Indicators of Mid-Holocene Aridity in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, Volume 12, Number 2.

1997 Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, Final Report to Congress, Status of the Sierra Nevada. Addendum, Chapter 7, Page 265. Centers for Water and Wildland Resources, University of California Davis, California.

Miller, Kathleen

1981 Historic Land-Use in the Carman Valley Watershed. Unpublished report on file at the Sierraville Ranger Station, Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville, California.

Myrick, David E

1962 Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California, Volume 1. Howell and North Books, San Diego, California.

Nevers, Jo Ann

1976 Wa She Shu: A Washo Tribal History. Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Reno, Nevada. University of Utah Printing Service, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sinnott, James J.

1976 History of Sierra County, Volume IV, Sierra Valley Jewel of the Sierras. California Traveler, Inc., Pioneer, California.

Welcome New Officers and Directors

WE WELCOME NEW OFFICERS AND TWO NEW DIRECTORS to the board of the Sierra County Historical Society.

At the annual meeting in September, two new directors were elected, welcome to Sherrie Allen of Alleghany, and Edwin Shotzberger from Goodyear's Bar and Virginia! We feel fortunate that these two individuals who love Sierra County and our history are willing to serve.

New Elected Officers:

Bud Buczkowske, President
Bill Copren, Vice President
Virginia Lutes, Secretary
Milton Gottardi, Treasurer

Continuing Directors:

Maren Scholberg
Bill Long
Suzi Schoensee

We now have a full board of nine members. **Bill Long**, our past president, and **Maren Scholberg**, our past secretary—thank you for your valued service and dedication.

Anne Eldred has agreed to continue as our Kentucky Mine Museum Director/Curator. She is hoping to job share in the coming season. **Lynn McKechnie** is continuing as our membership chairperson. In this issue you will find a renewal notice, it would really help us out if you could renew your membership with this notice, it saves the organization mailing costs. **Judy Lawrence** is continuing as our "Sierran" Editor. We are very pleased with the fine job she has done for us. Judy has donated her time and publishing expertise through her advertising company. ~

Annual Meeting Report

SEPTEMBER 21, 2003 was a beautiful day in Alleghany where over 35 people gathered for our annual meeting. Bud Buczkowske, Mike Miller and Rae Bell had worked hard to put together a fantastic tour of the Mining Museum by Rae; a gold display and introduction to hard rock mining at the mine office by Mike; and a tour of the cemetery by Bud.

We met in the museum where Rae issued hard hats and lights to those who planned to go underground in the 'Original Sixteen to One Mine' on a tour guided by Mike Miller. Rae then guided us to the mine office where CEO Mike briefed us on gold mining operations in Alleghany, it was of great interest to learn of the miles of tunnels under our feet. We moved from there to have a picnic

lunch and annual meeting in the center of town. New directors were elected, each attendee introduced themselves, and our business was conducted. After adjourning, those who were not going underground joined Bud for a tour of the cemetery. Those who signed up to be miners for a day geared up and headed to the mine to experience the beautiful Sixteen to One Mine. Mike Miller and Rae Bell are excellent tour guides and volunteered their time and vast knowledge to make this a memorable experience. We were treated to traversing the mine to the Cathedral, which is truly an awesome cavern.

We wish to sincerely thank these three individuals for the wonderful day. If you missed this one, you missed something very special! ~

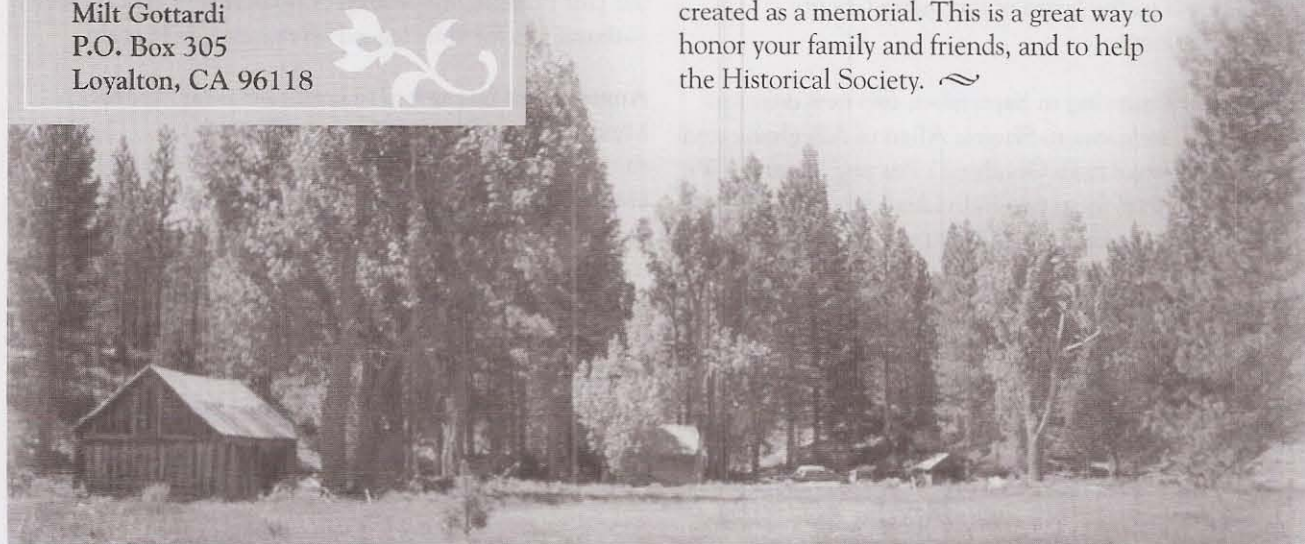
Honor Thy Father and Mother...and Grandfather and Grandmother...and Aunt and Uncle...and Friends!

MANY OF OUR READERS are not aware that the Sierra County Historical Society has a great program to honor family and friends through our Memorial Program. This program also helps the Historical Society in its many activities to preserve the history of our area. One can make a contribution to our Memorial Book program.

Send your contribution to:

Milt Gottardi
P.O. Box 305
Loyalton, CA 96118

A letter is sent to the family of the deceased and the name of the deceased is enrolled in our Memorial Book at the Kentucky Mine Museum. Should you wish to make a more substantial memorial donation, you may choose from the following: \$100 as a supporter; \$250 as a benefactor; \$500 as a builder; or \$1,000 as a patron. In each case, a metal disk engraved with the name of the deceased is added to the names already enrolled. The larger the donation, the larger the engraved disk created as a memorial. This is a great way to honor your family and friends, and to help the Historical Society. ~



Message from President Bud Buczkowske

OUR PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS is a very diverse and experienced group of individuals. They live and work from the west end, middle and east end of Sierra County. I am familiar with my area just as each of you has the expertise, knowledge and interest in your area. Therefore, as a group our interest lies in, and covers the entire county. Each officer, director, and member, just as a piece in a puzzle, makes up the whole picture and history of Sierra County. There are many in the Sierra County Historical Society that are direct descendents of pioneers that forged our county and country. I would like each one of you to know that we count on you for information and guidance in preserving their memory, our heritage, and the preservation of the Sierra County Historical Society itself. I for one am privileged to be associated with each one of you and to be a member of this organization. Remember that each of us is a volunteer and that your God and family come first. ~

A Shelf of Histories

- * *The Historical Homes of Sierra Valley in Sierra County*, by Maren Scholberg is available for \$17 (includes tax. Add \$2 for postage.) Orders payable to: Sierra County Historical Society, Box 141, Sierraville, CA 96126
- * Jim Olsen's popular memoir, *The Camps of Clover Valley*. Make checks for \$19 (includes tax and postage), payable to the Sierra County Historical Society, Box 141, Sierraville, CA 96126
- * *Sierra County Pioneer Cemetery Historic Survey* (to 1925) compiled by Lee Adams in 1997. \$22 (only a few copies left). Order from the Sierra County Historical Society, Box 141, Sierraville, CA 96126
- * *Voices Still Echo in the Canyon and Whispers on the Wind* by Bud Buczkowske, recounting the history of Alleghany and some stories from the Goodyears Creek/Canyon Creek band of the county, respectively, replete with photos. \$22 includes tax and postage. The books may be ordered directly from Bud at Box 904, Alleghany, CA 95910
- * **COMING SPRING OF 2004:**
"Schools of Sierra County in Sierra Valley"



Sierra County Historical Society Renewal Notice

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 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!

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 due and payable each January for the calendar year.

By including the Renewal Notice in "Sierran" mailing we are saving postage. Please help us by renewing now for 2004.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Membership categories are listed below.
Please check your choice.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family & Institution | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business & Supporting | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (per individual) | \$250 |

~ PLEASE SUPPORT THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~

Send dues to the Membership Chair: Lynn McKechnie, P.O. Box 294, Sierraville, CA 96126

The Sierran

Sierra County Historical Society
P.O. Box 260
Sierra City, California 96125

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
Permit #2
Sierra City, CA 96125

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE SIERRA
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**
Be sure to renew your dues today.
We've included a convenient form
inside this edition of *The Sierran*.

THE SIERRAN

WINTER/SPRING 2004

Knuthsen Barn today, having been moved to the Devine Ranch in 1924, presently owned by Joleen Torri.

