

# Yolo County Historical Society



OCTOBER 2016

## Prez Says

L.M. Montgomery, in The Story Girl wrote "Nothing is ever really lost to us as long as we remember it." That is how I feel about people that have made a lasting contribution to the Yolo County Historical Society. In this newsletter, you will find memories from several of our members about Lynn and Bob Campbell. Enjoy.

On that same note, on Tuesday, November 15, the Friends of the Woodland Public Library is hosting Lorraine Rominger who has written a book entitled **The Rangity Tango Kids**. This is a heartwarming memoir of the Rominger Family's five generation family farm. The author will speak at 6:30. More memories to enjoy.

Dennis Dahlin will begin our Sunday series with a presentation at the Davis Community Church on October 30 at 2:00. His illustrated talk and tour will emphasize the vital role the Davis Community Church has played in Yolo County from pioneer days to the present. It will be an exciting and informative talk. Bring a friend. It is free and the best part is you will be with other historians.

Remember, as always...

History Rules!

Kathy Harryman  
President, Yolo County Historical Society

## Memories of Bob and Lynn Campbell

As most of you know, Bob and Lynn Campbell passed away in September. Their obituary was published in our last newsletter. Below are two remembrances of the Campbell's. The first is from Shipley Walters, historian extraordinaire and the second is from our own fabulous Vice President, Dennis Dingemans. Many thanks to Jeanette Molson, another historian extraordinaire for gathering the information for our newsletter.

Shipley's thoughts.....

I met Lynn in the summer of 1967 when we moved to Davis. I was invited to a 10th anniversary party of the Davis League of Women Voters and she was there. I joined the League in Sept. and worked with Lynn on various committees and on the Board. I believe that she was President of the League, and was a board member for many years. After I retired from my job at the County Office of Education, I was appointed to the Historical Advisory Committee (HAC) which advised the Board of Supervisors about historical matters in the county. Lynn was on the committee and we worked closely together for many years. While we were on the HAC we got the Gibson House to be a county Historical Museum, we helped establish the Yolo County Archives, and we conducted a study of the county's historical resources and wrote the Historical Element for the County Master Plan and Historical Resources Ordinance, which the B of S approved. When I was writing my books on the history of Yolo County, several of which were published by the Yolo County Historical Society, I worked closely with Lynn and Bob

Campbell who were on the board of the Society. They were both careful and conscientious in preparing the manuscript for publication and then marketing it. Lynn was always the "glue" in the organizations she belonged to. She worked behind the scenes and also in a leadership role, getting people to work together. When she and Bob moved into the University Retirement Community (URC), she continued to be the gracious hostess for newcomers and conscientious member of various committees until Bob's and her health failed. She was a careful mother and grand mother to her 3 children and 4 grandchildren. She and Bob did more than their fair share

Dennis' thoughts.....

I first met the Campbells back when I was on the Davis Planning Commission back in 1984 to 1987. With encouragement from Council Member Ann Evans, the Campbells hosted a five week course of instruction on "Roberts Rules of Order" for running meetings of small boards and commissions. We met at 8 pm Wednesdays at their pleasant house on Linden Lane. And a "card carrying parliamentarian" from Sacramento gave us a dynamic version of his often-taught class on Parliamentary Procedures for the situations we were encountering in Davis. The Campbells were interested in how we could be more effective when advocating for historic preservation. They were gracious hosts and both of them participated alertly in the course work. We all passed the exam and became registered Parliamentarians.

Second, I remember that both Bob and Lynn attended my lecture given upon being awarded the UCD 1991 Distinguished Teaching Award by the Academic Senate. They were eager participants in the walking tour which followed the formal talk as I demonstrated my classroom use of field trips through downtown Davis to illustrate historic preservation trends and opportunities.

Third, I benefitted greatly from an hour or so spent in 2009 at the Gibson House with Lynn. I was working on a Newsletter article about the history of dairy farms in our County and Lynn showed me items from the Museum's files. Tillie Alcartra's record setting production achievements were well known to Lynn. She allowed me to tour the Museum's collections and displays showing the various dairy farms and their milk bottles bearing logos. "Ayrshire Dairy" was my favorite.

The Campbells were participants on several of the bus trips which I lead for the historical society — to Eastern Solano County's orchards, to Colusa County's museums and industries, to Stockton and Lodi, and to the Museums of Folsom.

I remember them with fondness and with appreciation for their leadership roles in the Core activities of the Yolo County Historical Society.

Jeanette's thoughts ....

I will miss seeing the twinkle in her eye whenever we met and that she never forgot a request for information and always delivered on her promises.



## **Business Buddies**

The following businesses in town have financially supported the Yolo County Historical Society. We would like you to support them and keep your money local. If you know of any to join our support list, contact me. Businesses pay \$50.00 per year for advertising.

**L & S Printers, Main St.**

**Larry Shapiro**

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**Alderson Convalescent Hospital**

## Ducks and Yolo County

By Kathy Harryman

It's duck season in Yolo County. Hundreds of individuals leave the comfort of their homes to spend the day wet, soggy, cold and happy in the marshes of this county. Ducks and geese have always lured the avid hunter into the wilderness. The following is some information that I thought would be fun to share with our avid hunters.

There was an abundance of ducks and geese in the Sacramento, San Joaquin Valleys and the Delta Area. Waterfowl for the market proved to be such a profitable venture and reached such magnitude, that game birds became the major trade of the ... game transfer companies of San Francisco.

There were even special guns designed to hunt these birds. The Punt guns were usually custom-designed... but could have bore diameters exceeding 2 inches and fire over a pound of shot at a time.<sup>[1]</sup> A single shot could kill over 50 waterfowl resting on the water's surface. They were too big to hold and the recoil so large that they were mounted directly on the punts used for hunting, hence their name. Hunters would maneuver their punts quietly into line and range of the flock using poles or oars to avoid startling them.



In the U.S., this practice depleted stocks of waterfowl and by the 1860s most states had banned the practice. The Lacey Act of 1900 banned the transport of wild game across state lines, and the practice of market hunting was outlawed by a series of federal laws in 1918. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punt\\_gun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punt_gun)

About 1900, according to game transfer company records, the San Francisco markets handled a minimum of 250,000 ducks annually. In the 1895-96 seasons, the average price per duck was about 25 cents. During the 1911-12 seasons, over 300,000 ducks were sold in the San Francisco markets according to the Fish and Game Commission in its 24th biennial report. The average price at this time had increased to 50 cents, but often went as high as 80 cents. Grinnel et al (op cit) cite figures showing 47,565 mallard ducks alone were sold in the San Francisco markets in the winter of 1895-96.

<http://downloads.ice.ucdavis.edu/sfestuary/skiner/archive1007.PDF>

One of the most well known market hunters was a man named John Patterson who was born in the town of Washington, which today is part of West Sacramento. He sold birds to merchants in San Francisco. One receipt from 1903 documents shows Mr. Patterson being paid \$13.20 for 73 teal of two species, three mallards, one canvasback, four sprig, one wigeon, and four lesser white geese. Patterson did most of his hunting in the Yolo Bypass... He often shipped his birds to the Bay Area by flagging down west bound trains at the Swingle Station, once located near the corner of Roads 32A and 105.

[http://yolobasin.org/wp-content/uploads/PDF/mgmtplanbychapter/mgmtplan\\_36\\_cultresources.pdf](http://yolobasin.org/wp-content/uploads/PDF/mgmtplanbychapter/mgmtplan_36_cultresources.pdf)

Who knew?

**Thanks to the following** for generously supporting the Society. You too can be a Patron by donating \$100.00 to help us run our projects

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### **Mrs. Eaton**

By Carol Rose

Esther Ann Smith was born in 1906 in Sutter County. She was raised in and around Meridian, a small river community tucked against the levee. At some time in her life, she married Harry Eaton. They owned and operated Peggy's Kitchen from the mid-1950s into the 1960s. It was located on the southeast corner of Beamer

and East Streets in Woodland. Peggy was the previous owner who still lived next door to the restaurant.

Here's a quote from the inside of a match book cover listing some menu specials:

**“New York Steak, Baked Potato, Vegetables, Hot Rolls and Butter, Soup and Salad, and homemade Pie  
Plus all the coffee you can drink--\$1.75”**

If your taste buds ran to chicken, it was yours with all the fixings for only seventy-five cents. A burger with fries and a large milk shake took three dimes out of your wallet.

Later, Harry and Esther Eaton served up the usual comfort food combination plates at the Tip Top Restaurant and Bar on East Street. Many a late Saturday night, you would find us occupying a booth at the old Tip Top. The stream of Woodland revelers arrived from a dinner dance at the Fliers Club out by Watts' airport or an uptown Elks Lodge party. We would gobble up plates of eggs with hash browns, all slathered with real butter. There were thick slabs of ham, sausage patties, or bacon from proud Yolo County pigs. All this was washed down with many cups of great tasting high-octane coffee.

Mrs. Eaton's daughter, Helen, lived across the street from us. One day I was in need of a baby sitter, someone who did not mind doing a little cleaning. I asked Helen if her mom might be interested in giving it a try. With that memorable conversation, a legend was born.

From about 1968 until 1974, she was our family's number one baby-sitter. She would come every Tuesday and on weekends if I needed a sitter. When we were gone overnight, she would always be the one I would ask first. I never had to cajole and plead with my kids whenever Mrs. Eaton was expected. She was welcomed as a dear, beloved member of the family.

Everyone looked forward to her arrival. Many times she would come with treats and surprises in her purse. I never had to pick her up--she had a car. In fact, when my oldest, Steve, got his learner's permit, she would take him out for a spin so he could practice. Later, I found out she would share a cigarette with Steve. I definitely would not have approved of that, but it became part of the mystique that was Mrs. Eaton.

Not only was Mrs. Eaton kind, affectionate, and the perfect substitute grandma, she knew her way around my kitchen in a kid-friendly manner. Her recipes and methods of preparation were tops on the list of all-time favorite meals: Kraft macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, spaghetti, Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup, Jell-O, and cereal with bananas. Her sandwiches were also crowd pleasers: grilled cheese, peanut butter and jelly, bologna, and, if she was especially ambitious that day, tuna with chopped sweet pickles.

Her "piece de resistance" was what we later referred to as "Mrs. Eaton-Style Eggs". Here is her recipe.

**Heat pan on stove.**

**Add a scoop of butter to pan; when melted, crack egg into pan; allow to set.**

**Break yolk and mix with partially set egg white; cook to desired doneness.**

**Sprinkle with salt and pepper.**

**Serve with toast and jelly.**

Eggs were always the ticket when trying to find the solution to a meal with an empty fridge and a bare cupboard. None of my four ever turned up their noses at Mrs. Eaton-style eggs.

For those who might question the difference, in our family scrambled eggs are mixed in a bowl usually with an added liquid, for example, water or milk.

Esther died in 1975 at the age sixty-nine. Little did she know she would be remembered with such affection by her extended families. To this

day, I continue to ask the question, "Do you want your eggs scrambled or Mrs. Eaton-style?" This tradition continues with our children.

Often, on a Saturday morning, at a Rose, or a Morgan, or a Niehues household, you might hear a small person ask, "Can I have a Mrs. Eaton-style egg, Mom?"



### UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2016-2017

All programs will begin at **2:00** unless otherwise noted

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|------------|--|
| October 30 | Church and Community – Davis<br>Davis Community Church                     |
| Nov 27     | Land Grants in Yolo County<br>Gibson Museum, Woodland                      |
| January 29 | World War I – The Beginning<br>Gibson Museum, Woodland                     |
| Feb 26     | Church and Community –<br>Woodland<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church, Wldd |
| March 26   | Early Railways – Farm to Fork<br>Railroad Depot, Woodland                  |
| April 30   | Dixon – The Next Hollywood??<br>Hatti Weber – Davis                        |



Looking for an old article published in the newsletter or upcoming events? Check it out on our website. [www.yolo.net/ychs](http://www.yolo.net/ychs)

**If you have a story** you would like to share that relates to Yolo County, send it to [rbarzo@yahoo.com](mailto:rbarzo@yahoo.com) and we can include it as space is available. Photos are also encouraged! Our members enjoy reading about the memories that have been shared in the newsletter in the past.

**Yolo County Historical Society**  
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**Woodland, CA 95776**

**Address Service Requested**

**Dated Material**

**Vision Statement** *The Yolo County Historical Society strives to preserve, protect and acknowledge the diverse history of Yolo County through education, communication and advocacy*