

Auction Action

Dixon like many other towns throughout the country had its auction and auctioneers. Auctions not only provided for a way to dispose of material goods, it was also a time for a social gathering. More people probably showed up to gossip than to buy anything. In Dixon's beginning they had their own auctioneers. An ordinance was passed in 1890 by the City regulating auctioneers and licenses to be paid by the persons selling by auction.

The first sale attributed to Dixon took place in 1892 according to the Tribune. Newby and Norman announced an auction sale of horses at the Himan stable. Livestock was the usual commodity sold but estate sales, moving sales, ranch sales and retail store sales took place. In 1910 Wm. Van Sant a local grocery store owner disposed at public auction his grocery store. This sale was conducted by Dixon's own auctioneer J.P. Martin. Another item auctioned was the old Dixon High school in 1916 which was purchased for \$210.00 by a local person Mr. Elmer McNair who was a dairyman. The next local auctioneer was Walt Harris who was in the business for the next few years.

In 1939 Art and Homer Brown two local ranchers obtained a permit from the City to conduct public livestock auction sales at what was then known as "The Park" (Now known as the MayFair grounds). They paid the City a fee of \$25.00 a month. A competent auctioneer, who has had experience handling similar sales in other parts of the state, will cry the sales in Dixon. They had found that similar sales had been conducted in Gridley to the north successfully, decided to conduct their own. The sales were to be open to anyone who had livestock, one or many, fat or feeder that the person wanted to sell. So March 15, 1939 they had their first sale. This proved successful so continued at this location for about a year. A few local people decided this wasn't the location that was in the best interest of the city so the Browns moved their sale to the north of town. The new location was on what then was Highway 40 north of town across the street from the Wolfe property. Today there is a welding company located where the old auction yard was. It is half way between Currey Road and Pedrick Road and on Sievers Road. Here a very prosperous business existed. Every Wednesday rain or shine an auction was held. Sheep, cattle, hogs and goats were sold. Sometimes the auction lasted well into the night until everything was sold. A small food bar was present so the buyers and sellers could keep their energy up. There was also an animal pharmaceutical department so ranchers could purchase vaccines and sprays to keep their animals healthy. This was maintained by another Brown, Herb. The book keeper was Stuart Grady who had been the owner of the grocery store on Main Street. Not only did the business sell animals it gave several locals a good job, checking in the livestock, tagging them, penning them and then running them in the ring. This location lasted until Highway 40 was moved to what is now Highway 80. At that time Art Brown purchased the Dudley ranch three miles north of town and along side of Highway 80 where a new Auction yard was built. The new Yard was designed by and built by John Gentry. This is where the present Walmart building is now located. The snack bar was operated by the Dallas family who later were the cooks at Dawson's Bar & Grill. The new Yard was managed by C. F. Baker. Fred Clark was in charge of the cattle

department. Jack Dalby another local was in charge of getting the cattle into the ring. The secretary was Barbara McGrew. The auctioneers were J.D. Robinson and Herb Widger. Elmer Brown another brother was also involved with the auction. The auction started at 1:30 pm which allowed ranchers to get their stock in during the morning for afternoon sale.

The auction yard also provided a public service when they helped the American Red Cross by selling animals for the benefit of the Red Cross. In 1944 the Red Cross netted \$945.00 because of the Auction Yard benefit. One item sold was two bottles of whiskey donated by Joe Dawson and purchased by Bruce Mace, Bob McKenzie, Bob Collier and Howard Vaughn all local lamb buyers, who stipulated the two bottles be accepted by an army officer and sent to Marine flyers in a combat zone (World War II)

Then in the 1950s another Auction entered the picture south of town when the Schene Brothers started selling lambs. Then as business slowed down due to lack of animals, Schene operated the Dixon Yard north of town. Finally, the livestock numbers decreased to the point it was not economically profitable to operate and the yard was closed in the 1990's.

During the time Dixon had an auction Yard, Gridley, Elk Grove, Petaluma, Orland, Galt and Stockton all had Auction yards. One by one most all have closed because lack of animals, due to different farming methods that came to be. A lot of people who now live in Dixon are not aware of how big the livestock business was around Dixon. That is the reason that there is today a celebration called "Lambtown". Dixon was also known as the "Dairy City" because at one time there were over fifty dairies in the area. Then in the 1980's animal rights people were active and they were responsible to have started the Auction yard on fire and it was never rebuilt. At the same time the veterinary building at U.C.Davis was spray painted and torched. No one was ever prosecuted. Thus the era of the Dixon Livestock Auction Yard came to an end. Now yard sales have become popular and only occasionally a ranch auction is to be seen.

Help with some of information was given to me by two local people, Robert Gill a long time rancher and Hank Toulson a long time lamb buyer for Armour & Co meat packers.

CANNERIES

[Several articles from the period of 1896 through 1922 on the subject of canneries in Dixon and vicinity extracted from the Dixon Tribune.]

1896/05/01

From present indications, Foster Bros. will be compelled to largely increase the capacity of their cannery at Tremont this season in order to supply at Tremont the demand for their "Tremont Brand" of canned fruits. They are receiving orders from all parts of the Sacramento Valley, which they cannot fill as last year's output has long since been exhausted. One firm in Vacaville sent in an order for 100 cases of tomatoes. If the boys continue in future as they have in the past they will build up an industry in Northern Solano which will add greatly to the prosperity of the district.

1896/11/06

Foster Bros.' cannery at Tremont has put up many thousand cans of peaches, pears and tomatoes this season. The fruit which is prepared under the name of Solano Chief brand has absolutely no superior on the market and the demand far exceeds the supply. There is scarcely a doubt that the proprietors will be compelled to enlarge their plant until some day they will have one of the largest plants in the State.

1899/11/01

In keeping with the spirit of the times H.W. Timm has installed a new power sausage machine in his meat market. It is driven with an electric motor and is almost noiseless in operation, doing its work much quicker and better than the old style machine. The old machine is now doing service in Foster Brother's Cannery, near Tremont, where it is used for chopping the ingredients of chow chow and other delicacies manufactured at the cannery.

1901/11/01

The cannery proposition is endorsed by everybody, seemingly, and the formation of a company is among the possibilities of the new year. Last Sat. the directors of the Grangers' Business Association held a meeting and designated a nominal sum for a site for the cannery and set forth a lease proposition. Foster Brothers have the removal of their plant to Dixon under consideration and will be able to give the promoters of the scheme a definite answer soon.

1901/12/01

Foster Brothers' Tremont cannery was destroyed by fire last Weds. evening. During the day a portion of the plant had been used in processing but everybody had left the building before the fire was discovered. Mr. Everett Foster, who manages the industry, had gone to another part of the farm and there was no one on the premises except his wife when the fire broke out.

1902/02/01

Foster Brothers received a new boiler last week for their cannery, which they will rebuild at Tremont in the near future in time for the coming season.

1902/03/01

BUILD A CANNERY. SAY THE PUBLIC SPIRITED MEN OF DIXON. Subscription List Being Circulated to Raise Money Sufficient to Build \$10,000 Cannery. FOSTER BROTHERS REBUILDING. Their Tremont cannery will Be Ready for Operation This Season.

1902/08/01

The Tremont cannery under the enterprising management of Foster Bros. is developing a very promising industry. It is now in full blast putting up peaches and tomatoes, about three thousand can's a day being the usual pack.

1902/10/01

Proposition to Have Foster Brothers Cannery Here Regarded Favorably.

1902/10/24

DIXON HAS AWAKENED TO NEED OF ENTERPRISE. A MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS LAST MONDAY EVENING RESULTS IN UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSITION TO LOCATE FOSTER BROS. CANNERY IN DIXON. A Committee of Prominent Citizens Appointed to Solicit the Necessary Funds and Commendable Support Is Manifest on Every Hand. Names of those Who Subscribed: E.D.N. Lehe, Oscar C. Schulze, S.G. Little, H.E. Mccune, J.H. Schneider, Herman Fischer, J.S. Mayes, H. Petersen, WM. Vasant, Clark & Duke, Peter MacHugh, E.J. McBride and G.D. Schulze, A. Kirby & Son, A.F. Shangraw, G.S. Conner, D.D.S., J.D. Grady, H.A. Kerr, J.D. Johnson, J.F. Cowden, Geo. Steinmiller, J.C. Grove, W.O. Landreth. The subscription list is still open.

1902/12/05

TOWN PROPERTY CHANGING HANDS. The Influence of the Cannery Making Itself Felt and Values are increasing. There was quite a stir in real estate circles in Dixon Thursday of last week and locations and values were subjects of general discussion on our streets and in our business houses. The well-known Little property on the corner of B and Second streets was sold to J.H. Rice for a substantial money consideration. J.C. Grove was the same day the purchaser of E.C. Eames' handsome cottage on the east side of south First Street.

1903/01/23

CANNERY COMMENCED. MANAGER E.H.FOSTER HAS PURCHASED THE MACHINERY FOR DIXON PLANT. Plant Will Be Up-to-Date In Every Particular. Preparing to Plant Tomatoes. The cannery will have a capacity of 25,000 cans every ten hours and as arrangements will be complete to work night and day during the busy season it will be seen that a large pack will be made if the season is favorable. Foster Brothers will be better prepared to meet emergencies than any other plant we know of.

They are to raise 100 acres of tomatoes and have a large supply on which to draw when necessity requires. A large hot house 14 x 100 ft has been erected at Tremont and seed will be planted in a few days which will provide 75,000 tomato plants.

1903/02/01

CANNERY TO THE FRONT. COLEMAN BROTHERS, OF ASHLAND, OREGON, GET A LEASE OF THE BUILDING. Work on the Building to Begin Shortly. The Machinery Will Be Ready for Creditable Pack This Season. Coleman Brothers, J.W. Coleman and N.B.S. Coleman, two ex-Dixon boys who have been operating a large canning and packing plant in Ashland, Oregon, are to conduct Dixon's cannery. The fact that we are to have a cannery has brought about the necessity for new lines of industry in the community. Among those who are looking into the new avenues of business is J.A. Kerr. Mr. Kerr will order within a few days a complete electric pumping plant and will devote at least four acres of his newly acquired portion of the Eibe lands to the growing of tomatoes.

1903/02/27

CANNERY TRUSTEES RECEIVE DEED FOR THE SITE, A MOST VALUABLE LOCATION. The necessary instruments were signed this week and passed to record giving the title to the cannery site into the keeping of the board of trustees composed of J.A. KERR, E.D.N. LEHE, Dr. G.S. CONNER, O.C. SCHULZE and J.D. GRADY. The site is one of the most valuable land holdings in Dixon and was acquired from the Grangers' Business Association. The sum of \$500 was paid for the ground. The site has a frontage of 300 feet on the line of the Southern Pacific Company; has a depth of practically 450 feet and is bounded by Mayes and Jefferson streets and Broadway. The property is probably better described as lying just west of the Grangers' Business Associations warehouse No. 3.

1904/03/01

FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE. Dixon Brass Band, an organization of young men who have been under the instruction of Prof. W.N. Hayden for some time, will make their first public appearance this (Friday) evening, April 10th at 7:30 o'clock, in front of the Opera House. The young musicians have generously tendered their services in aid of the cannery fund.

It is proposed to give a ball in the cannery building about the 22d of May for the benefit of the building fund. The building is a spacious affair and a most auspicious social affair could be given before the machinery is installed.

1904/07/01

Coleman Bros. have decided in view of the high price demanded for apricots, not to can any early fruit this season but are getting things in readiness for the late fruits and tomatoes which they have already contracted for. They expect to make a big pack of their popular brands this season. Their cannery was in operation to relieve Foster's cannery whose capacity was overtaxed. The Tremont establishment is running at full blast engaged in turning out a full pack of apricots. Since last season many

improvements have been effected in the machinery and internal arrangements with the result that operations are greatly facilitated.

1904/11/18

THE DIXON CANNERY - Trustees Discuss Alleged Unsatisfactory Conditions
FOSTER'S CANNERY BURNED - Loss Will Total about Twenty Thousand Dollars.

1905/01/06

Jan. 6, 1905 –

Satisfaction has been expressed at the action of the Trustees of the Dixon Cannery at their meeting at the Bank of Dixon on Saturday last in deciding to lease the premises to Foster Bros. The belief is fully expressed that under the new lessee the object of the building of the cannery by popular subscription will be attained. Foster Bros. have built up an enviable reputation for their brand of tomatoes all over the United States and it is gratifying that the local institution will here after be identified with the famous product. After a discussion of the situation during which it was understood that Messrs. Coleman were not financially able to run the cannery for another season, upon motion, the Secretary was instructed to inform Messrs. Coleman of the decision of the Trustees to cancel the lease as the terms of the agreement had not been lived up to.

1905/02/01

The directors of the newly organized Winters Canning Company paid Dixon a visit on Saturday last with the object of inspecting the machinery which has been used during the past two seasons by the Coleman Canning Company. The directors had previously visited Woodland and obtained an option on the machinery at the cannery therein but the very reasonable figure asked for that here induced them to conclude negotiations on the spot. They made arrangements for N.B.S. Coleman to superintend the removal of the machinery and offer him a substantial monetary Inducement to assume charge of the cooking arrangements at Winters as soon as the cannery gets into operation.

1905/06/01

THE DIXON CANNERY. Manager E.H. Foster of the Foster Bros. Co., announces that on Weds. evening June 21st, there will be a grand opening at their cannery at Dixon Visitors will be shown the methods of canning fruits as practiced in the up-to-date canneries of today. This will no doubt be a revelation to hundreds who are not familiar with the rapid strides being taken in this wonderful industry. The raw fruit will be taken at the door, graded, passed to the cutters, packed, scrupled and cooked. The entire cannery force will be on duty and the regular routine of work will be observed.

1906/01/27

THE DIXON CANNERY. Cannery matters seem to be engaging attention at this time. A number of representative business men held a meeting one evening this week to consider the possibility of forming a stock company to run the establishment during the coming season. (Later) Just as we are going to press this (Friday) afternoon we

learn that the negotiations have been successful and therefore the cannery will be run by local capital. The Directors of the Bank of Dixon contribute \$5,000 to the fund and the following have invested \$1,000 each: - J.D. Grady, J.H. Rice, J.H. Petersen, Lehe and Oscar C. Schulze. J.E. Martin will be engaged to manage the business. E.H. Foster who operated the cannery last year has gone to a larger field and is now engaged in interesting capital at Napa in the erection of a cannery there.

1906/02/17

DIXON IN THE LIST OF LOCATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR STATE FARM. A meeting of those constituting the cannery co-partnership was held on Tuesday evening when organization was effected and officers elected. It had already been decided to adopt the title "Dixon Packing Co.," and the engagement of J.E. Martin, who so successfully handled the inside business of the concern last season, as manager was ratified.

1906/05/03

LARGE FUND FOR BUILDING IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE Mr. Jacobs Indorses the plan to advance Insurance moneys to the small manufacturers in order that they may begin operations in their respective lines at once. He says that the hills surrounding the Santa Fe tracts have thousands of women and girls who would be only too glad to secure employment. Jacobs says that his concern will open a cannery at Dixon in two weeks which will give employment to many in that vicinity. The projected cannery in this city is just opposite the factory of the Holman Can Company.

1906/12/01

Having closed up the business of the California Cannery Co. here, Mr. Martin, the manager, has gone to San Francisco, where he will enter the main office of the company. We understand that the company do not intend to operate the Dixon cannery next year. This leaves a good opportunity for some independent man who understands the business, for there is a good cannery here and plenty of stuff to can, especially tomatoes, of which there are no better grown in the State.

1908/01/01

(At the Town Board Meeting) Henry Peterson appeared before the Board and requested that the tax on the cannery building be remitted, which request was granted.

1908/01/01

Negotiations are now in hand looking toward the establishment of the factory of a San Francisco incubator company in the cannery building. If the deal goes through, the company will employ some forty or fifty mechanics, with a suitable payroll. This would prove of great benefit to the town and it is sincerely hoped that the deal will be consummated.

1909/04/17

Dixon has the best shipping arrangements of any place on the line. Considerable fruit of very fine quality is raised right here at Dixon and on Putah Creek. During our run

of 1905 the best apricots packed at the factory were raised in the Bell orchard, in the suburbs of Dixon. I have been asked pointedly why no one has as yet made a success of the business in Dixon, and I will reply in the same light and say that no one has as yet had money enough to handle the proposition. The amount of capital required is tremendous, and it must be had right at the time when it is needed. All but a few articles are cash on delivery. by E.H. Foster

1910/10/01

J.E. Martin of Napa was in town the first of the week trying to interest the farmers in tomato raising, as it is his intention to reopen the cannery here next spring. No very definite arrangements have been made as yet.

1912/03/01

March 1912

AD. DIXON PLANING MILL. In Old Cannery Building. Now Ready For Business. Everything Made in the Wood Line. Sashes, Doors, Mouldings, Screens, Screen Doors, Etc. W.H.Morrill, G.H. Dittmer, prop.

1912/03/01

March 1912

The firm of Spates & Dunstin who have been conducting the Panama Theatre, have dissolved, Mr. Spates retiring. Mr. Dunstin intends to conduct a high grade place of amusement to which he invites the public. An aviation meet is to be held at the Agricultural Park, Sacramento, March 2d and 3d, at which the principal aviators on the Coast will participate. Our suggestion last week that the proceeds of the annual May Day festival be turned over to the Woman's Improvement Club for the purpose of buying books for the new library, seems to have struck a popular chord.

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Dixon was visited by a fire on Wednesday that for completeness of destruction was as hard as has ever visited the town. It was just noon when the alarm was given that the cannery building was on fire and in twenty minutes the building had been completely destroyed. No one seems to know how it started, as everybody employed there had gone to dinner, so that No one was there at the time, but the commonly accepted theory is that the smoke stack had a hole rusted in it through which some sparks fell on the roof setting it on fire. The building was occupied by the steam laundry, whose loss was about \$2,000, on which there was a small insurance. As most of the week's washing was in it was, of course, destroyed. The building was erected about twelve years ago for a cannery by public subscription, but has not been used for the past five years until the laundry started last fall. The worst feature of the fire is that it probably puts out of business the laundry, which was just getting on its feet, and is an industry needed here. We hope Mr. McVey will see his way clear to resume business in the near future.

1918/01/01

1918 - Jan.

J.J. Merritt from Santa Clara arrived in Dixon this week and with his family occupies the Cecil Ferguson house. Mr. Merritt is an experienced cement worker and is going to open a plant on the old cannery grounds for making cement pipe for irrigation purposes.

1922/09/01

September

A cannery has leased 500 acres of the Petersen estate lands between Rio Vista and Maine Prairie for the growing of asparagus.

Binghampton VS. Maine Prairie

It's almost like the Hatfields and McCoy story of old. It wasn't between two families but between two county schools. To set the stage we will begin by telling you the incident took place about five miles south of Dixon where Binghampton was located and about two miles directly east of Binghampton at Maine Prairie. Both had county schools that were involved. These were the days when school kids who lived in the county were unable to get to town to attend school, so the beginning of the one room school was here. The Binghampton school was located in what had been the old Armory building a two story brick structure. The Maine Prairie School which originally was located at the settlement called Maine Prairie which was a loading dock where grain was shipped to San Francisco and other ports. This school floated away in high water and ended up several miles to the north at the corner of Robben and Binghampton Roads.

Prior to 1925 it was being discussed to close one of these two schools with one merging into the other, the reason being there weren't enough students in the area to keep two schools open. The following is the report that appeared the Dixon Tribune in 1925.

"For the time being at least, politics is not discussed in the Binghampton-Maine Prairie districts. A merger of the two school districts recently took place because the number of pupils had fallen off till it was seen that one school could more economically and efficiently do the business. But the merger was considered too one-sided and one thing led to another till appeals have been made to the lawyers, an injunction was threatened, everyone is "sleeping on his arms" so to speak and there has been some talk about a Ku Klux Klan raid and reassembling of the old Maine Prairie Home Guard. James McNeil and Frank Norton stayed up nights, we are told, fearing that Homer Brown and A.M. Robson might swing a cable around the school house and drag it over as a sort of annex to the unoccupied Binghampton School. Anyway, the situation has become tense and if they are singing any song down there it is "Blest be the Tie that binds."

"The consolidation is all right," said a Binghampton man, "but you see Binghampton was merged into Maine Prairie when we thought we were going to have a union district. Our board of trustees was cruelly and with malice after thought wiped out, only one of the Binghampton members being allowed to sit on the merger board, Otto Dannenberg joining James McNeil and Frank Norton as the merger board. Then we had a meeting and talked over the matter of a school house, believing it would be in the best interest of the economy to use the Binghampton school house and took a vote on the matter, which stood 19-13 in favor of Binghampton. But the county superintendent of

schools ruled that it required a two-thirds vote, so there we were high and dry. The Superintendent of the State Board though “ruled that only a majority vote is necessary.”

In the meantime the Maine Prairie school house was moved to the McNeil corner for general accommodation and school will open on Monday. The district attorney has been consulted on the question of whether Binghampton has been really merged into Maine Prairie or the consolidation is a union district with both sections having the same rights and the legality of the vote on school house is also to be determined. Ultimately the differences will be ironed out. A.M. Robson will kick the top back onto the kettle, a new school house may be built, neighbors again sing out of the same hymn book and Dan White (county superintendent) able to go into the territory without a body guard.”

So, the saga of the county schools ended temporarily, as eventually all the county school unified and attended Dixon schools.

COUNTRY CHATTER 1874 and 1875

[Tribune Articles from Maine Prairie, Batavia, Binghamton, Allendale, Tremont]

December 26, 1874

Letters from Maine Prairie

Editor of the Tribune; when it becomes known through your columns, that John Fredrickson duck boat was supposed to be lost with all on board, and expedition was organized here to go in search of it. After days of fruitless search, the laborers of the hunters were last rewarded by finding certain proof of the wreck; is: if you dead animals of strange appearance, one of which, I sent you here with. This is proof positive, inasmuch as a boat which was built with so much care, ingenuity and skill would certainly not go after common game. The animal I send you was known as a held diver, by antiquarians, and something that the fact of finding it is to give again of what direction the boat had gone. Mr. J. Hardie, of your town, is the happy possessor of another of the birds found.

January 29, 1875

Letter from Maine Prairie

My time has been so fully taken up of late, that it has been impossible for me to write anything for your valuable paper, although many an event occurred or in that time well worth mentioning. But you have your ever watchful eye upon us, and we cannot, therefore-like Davisville, complained that you having ignored or forgotten us, for you have made mention of everything worth mentioning, and that has occurred amongst us, during my silence.

As stated at the time, the schooner which Capt. Merithew was building here, was successfully launched, on 24 December, and she is worthy of more than just mere mention. I will try to give some description of her, but as I am not well versed in such work, I cannot do justice to the subject. Her keel is 81 feet long, 12 x 14" in thickness; depth of hold 6 feet clear; being 25'6"; link overall 92 feet; that means 6 x 12", 2 feet apart, the stringers under the deck beams are 9 x 10", fastened frame by bolts running through both; chocks between the beams are all dovetailed, and fastened to frame, same as the stringers; the frames are double, 12 x 12 at the rail; the Kilson is 12 x 14; the ceiling is 4 inches thick, and fastened by bolts and treenails running through and through, are superior to anything I've ever seen on this coast; the deck is late of 4 x 4 time. She certainly reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. Mortenson, the builder, and she will prove a solid investment in more ways than one to the owner.

As she was launched during the absence of the owner, some little disappointment was felt that she should go into the water without a name, but she is

now named after the owner's eldest son, C A. Merithew. The mass are going into her today, and as soon as the rating is set up, she will be ready for sea. Capt. Merithew, although his enterprise, has proven beyond a doubt, that building vessels in the interior, where the proper facilities are, is a success.

We had a variation in the monotony of our daily lives, day before yesterday; Vaca Creek treated us to an extra allowance of local opinion, or as it is generally expressed here, Barker Slough ran all over us. The water came over us in the morning, and raising fast until about five o'clock in the evening, at which time the water was about 2 feet deep in town, and rushing along furiously. In every direction except north of us, as far as I could reach, was one vast sheet of water, carried along with the current with nothing could stem. But yesterday morning, lo and behold! Everything look as green and smiling under a bright sun, when you're correspondent emerged from his domicile, as if such a thing as a flood had never been known here; it looked as innocent of water as if we had entirely thrown all on our the local option laws, which he still adhered to, in spite of the decision of the Supreme Court no harm was done by the flood; on the contrary's, it was it carried away a great deal of rubbish which we are glad to get rid of, and cleaned the slough thoroughly. By the Way, Fredrickson's duck boat suddenly came to life and did good service as a means of communication between up and down town. That boat will yet earned honorable mention in the annals of California!

A scourge has broken loose on the inhabitants of this place, which if no stringent measures are taken to check it, will be because of the death by starvation, of nearly all the male inhabitants of this ancient town. I ask you, Nay, I demand of you, as it was imported from Dixon to open your vials of wrath and with your mighty eloquence break the backbone of this terrible being, this and the you raise it has a Spanish name, is called Pedro, look at in this picture; for respectable citizens of this place were smitten by this mania; the other day they sat down to a table with a deck of cards play a game of Pedro, and to play it chinch. For a bit a game hour after hour came and went, still they played; the noonday meal was forgotten; the afternoon passed away, supper was never thought of; all night long, but still there they sat one intent on catching Pedro. The night passed away and all the next day, while these men still played on, never thinking of sleep, drinking or eating area on the evening of the second day, anxious friends searching for them, found them in an almost insensible condition, still seated at the fatal board, and as each one was shaken, he would just mutter "I ketched" his Pedro or he's cinched; now is it has becomes a general thing, the very air is full of Pedro. At night my dreams are haunted by a huge five spot, the upper spot changing into fiery eyes, the middle one a nose, and the lower two spots a huge mouth; this fearful vision hovers over me, and threatens me with dire vengeance if I do not soon succumb.

Mr. James Hardie of your town became a father to a little girl in our town, last Sunday morning.

No more than this time from your Pedro-there it is again!

February 13, 1875

Maine Prairie

I have no items to insert to of interest to write you this time, I nearly wish to place myself in the proper light in the eyes of the residents of this Township, in regard to a letter which appeared in your last issue, signed "X" and to come from Maine Prairie. Your "Squint" has been justly used of being the author of that article area no, no, my friends, I cannot see that it will be a benefit to any class of the community to enable the poor portion of the retail liquor dealers to sling out fester gut, strychnine, or benzine at reduced rates. However, as asked justly says; everyone has a right to his opinion. I am only glad to be able to state, that his opinions are not those of the residents of Maine Prairie Township, with, perhaps five or six exceptions.

Schooner Tartar, Capt. Stanton, left here last Wednesday, with 110 tons of wheat for Friedlander.

Schooner, C. H. Merithew who having received the finishing touch, was on Friday last hauled up to one of the warehouses, and to get 135 tons of wheat. This was all the wheat ordered to be shipped at the time, or she would have taken 250 tons, a full load. So light is her draft that she can easily float a large cargo at the warehouse, where there is only 7 feet of water. J. C. Merithew is in command to take her to San Francisco.

Schooner "Bartlett Alan", Capt. Bealer, arrived last night with mixed cargo.

George Albert, son of George T. Elliott, was severely wounded in the leg by some careless Hunter, when he was out boat riding on the slough near his home. One buck shot passed almost entirely through his thigh; fortunately the bone was not touched and he e is doing fine.

September 6, 1875

Maine Prairie

At last a little life seems to have sprung up among our sportsmen, and a sporting club has been organized. There are so many good hunters and good shots in this our community that it is a wonder to me, this has not been done before. The club is making preparations for a grand scale pigeon shooting match about Thanksgiving, to which, I believe, all the shooters of repute are invited. 1000 birds have already been contracted for and our citizens are putting up and somebody to help the thing along.

E. A. Beardsley of Maine Prairie has sold out his entire interest to in the Brickyard near that place to J. C. Merithew who will hereby continue the business alone. Mr. Beardsley has purchased his outfit for a journey with his family, to Arizona.

Our young friend Mark of camp meeting fame will take an active part in the coming shooting match. He has purchased a new then for the occasion.

June 23, 1877

Maine Prairie items

G. Luttges is building a two-story frame house for G. C. McRae.

W. D. Vail has opened a lumber Yard at this place and will keep a variety stock of redwood and pine lumber, and all other articles found in a lumberyard. All his freighting being done by water, he is able to sell at such rates as will make it an object for the residents of a large circle of surrounding country to buy of him. He will also carry on the warehouse business-receive, store and ship grading on the most reasonable terms.

Considerable progress has been made with the harvest and summer fallow ground is reasonably good, but winter personas very poor. Much of it will not be cut.

Maine Prairie, though not a large place, boasts two candidates for the honors of assemblyman-Ms.; G. T. Elliott and Capt. Bennett.

The Dixon band is becoming very popular at Maine Prairie, and many more of its pleasant visits are hoped for in the future.

This is a place of cooling sea breezes and mild temperature, but during the recent hot spell the thermometer jump to 105, on Wednesday and 110 on this succeeding.

July 14, 1877

Allendale

At Allendale things look b risk and cheerful, and the prospects are that more grain will be taken in this year than any former one. A ton of sacks will about cover all that has been shipped of this year's crop from that point. Tom Gregory and J. Talbot have stored, both of whom have had very satisfactory crops. Tom Baker is now hauling his crop and placing it in storage. Mrs. Udell is doing likewise. Henry Ayesworth, whose farm adjoins the town plat, has received the largest yield per acre of any in the vicinity of Allendale.

Ike Brinkerhoff's machine is now at work on J. Wilson's grain, which we hear is turning out well. The machine is said to perform satisfactorily. He had over a week's run

at Al Withams and John Emorys. He goes next to Batavia, where he will attack John Duke's wheat.

Batavia

Businesses are very lively at the Batavia just now. Grain is coming in quite freely and the warehouses are filling up with wheat-a fact which makes Coulter smiled over all over his face. Among those hauling and storing, there are Garnett and McCune, who have several large teams at work hauling from their big ranch. As. G. McMahon, of Putah Creek is running two teams in making a trip per day. His wheat is of good quality. Alec Fraser, K. McPherson and J. Johnson, farming on the McMahon track, have several very fine six and eight mule teams hauling and their grain is of the excellent quality. Dan O'Connor has three small teams in motion making four trips daily from his farm on Sweeney creek.

John Brinkerhoff has just finished hauling 2200 sacks, the product of his Batavia form. The yield is considerable way up on 160 acres in a dry year. All the wheat being hauled is going in the warehouse, and not a pound lying in the yard for sale at present acres.

Charlie Porter is around daily pocketing samples and announces his readiness to purchase at the highest price. James Porter started up his threshing machine last week to thresh his own crop and before dismantling he will runs Charles Cushing's through in one and the most approved style of the art.

July 28, 1877

Maine Prairie

Mr. G.T. Elliott informs us that in the stock region between Maine and Rio Vista the Thule feed is good, although all other, of course is very short. Those with feed, was all on the high lands have all either hired pasture on the Thule, or move their stock to some of the islands. Stock is generally looking well.

A public dance was given at Vail's Hall, Friday evening the 20th, by the Binghamton Social Club. The party was advertised to be given at the Binghamton Hall on the same evening, but by the unexpected decision of a member of the board of school trustees the use of the hall for that purpose was refused, and the dance was given here. About 30 couples were present and took part in the dancing, besides a considerable number of more elderly people whose sober ideas did not run to the light fantastic. There were 10 or a dozen Dixon people among the number, and a much larger proportion of Elmira; besides some for Batavia and other places. McCray Brothers furnish the music, and the whole affair passed off very pleasantly, although the late hour at which the change was made in the place of holding it cause some inconvenience; among others the lack of a supper. Mr.'s M. Thompson and J. Freel

acted as floor committee. Dancing was kept up until daylight, when all left for home well pleased with the success of the party.

Batavia

In another column is an advertisement of J. C. Smith, blacksmith, who offers business for sale.

Coulter has been fixing up his scales to make them more convenient for weighing stock.

Mr. F. Tuck" Is one of our well fixed farmers", with his wife left a few days ago for a trip to the East.

Mr. J. M. Bell, the well-known farmer, will move into Dixon in a couple of months, having recently bought a residence there. He will leave the farm in charge of a foreman.

The grain season has given us for a short time quite an appearance of life and business to the station.

We are in eminent danger of losing our accommodating railroad agent and telegraph operator, Mr. Ballard, who talks of shaking the Batavia and dust from his feet at note distant day.

Batavia

From Mr. Coulter's we obtain some facts in regard to the wheat and barley at this station. There is now on store about 2000 tons of grain, and there is also 500 or 600 tons more, as estimated, to arrive. From these figures a good idea can be formed of the relative crop of this area, as compared with four years. In the region around Batavia and that section northwest of Dixon, whence the grain is generally hauled to this station, there has been about one third of last year's crop. The grain is falling far below the farmer's estimates when they began thrashing, though, of course, more than was expected three months ago. To show what mistakes were made, we can mention the case of one man who bought 1000 sacks, fully expecting to fill them all; he used about 290 for his wheat and 122 for his barley, leaving 688 surplus. There is a good deal of variation in the quality of the grain raised on different places. The lightness, average about 120 pounds to the sack; while the best, race on Mr. Isaac Brinkerhoff's farm, weighed as high as 144 pounds in some cases.

The grain raised on the McMahon place, Garnett and McCune's Creek Ranch and in fact all the places in the Putah Creek region, is good. John Johnson hauled in some club wheat, which, being extra good, is selling at \$2.50 per central, for seed. Mrs. Southerners we was also very good, averaging 136- 137 pounds.

Wednesday evening McCune and Garnett finished threshing, up to Monday evening they had all 435 tons and were still at it; but we understand their grain, like everybody else's is not turning out near up to expectations

The warehouse at this place, notwithstanding that all the wheat which arrived goes to storage, will not be in the least crowded. In fact a good deal of space is not likely to be occupied at all.

August 4, 1877

Maine Prairie

The Republican primary election last Saturday, was a spirited affair not nearly the whole strength of the party in this Township. 46 votes were poll. The contest was between Elliott indebted as candidates for assemblyman, and the first named Juan, his candidate for delicate receiving 28 votes to Bennett's 18.

August 25, 1877

Allendale

530 tons of grain are in storage in the warehouse at this place and another hundred held in the yard the largest lots belonging to J. H. Wilson, Antonio, W. Witham and R. T. Baker.

The fruit crop in this vicinity is a partial failure the present year. Most of the peaches are very poor, apparently drying up before they are ripe. The damages attributed to the very hot weather last June.

But little grain has yet been shipped from this point. A few lots have been sent to Vacaville.

Batavia

The private school formally taught by Mrs. Eddy, will not be opened this season as there were not sufficient pupils to make it remunerative.

September 1, 187

Tremont

Mr. James Graham, of San Francisco and Miss Hattie Behrens, daughter of Mr. A. Behren's, one of our most thrifty farmers, were united at altar, at the residence of the bride's parents, on the evening of the 27th. They left on the bridal tour with many congratulations of friends.

1200 tons of wheat is stored in the warehouse at Fosters switch. Four carloads were shipped from here by Eppinger and Co. last Monday.

Not many of the candidates have found time to visit this town is the in the course of their bushwhacking for votes. John Lemon, J. E. Wilton and John Hopkins, however, are among those who recognize the importance of writing around and cultivating friendships amongst our Grangers.

Maine Prairie

The County Bridge over Lindy Slough, near the house of G. T. Elliott came to near total destruction by fire one day last before last Mr. Elliott was sitting in his home, when his boys came rushing in and told him the bridge was burning up. He rushed out and as there was no water in the slough, carried several buckets, and finally succeeded in extinguishing the flames. The bridge is something over to hundred feet long.

September 8, 1877

Tremont

An erroneous impression was given by our item last week in relation to the marriage of Miss Hattie Burns daughter of Mr. A. Burns. In consequence of misspelling the name it was thought to be one of the daughters of Mr. A. Behren's, which is a mistake.

Tremont has been made a regular station instead of merely a flag station and all the trains will now stop there. G. W. Foster has been appointed agent.

Binghamton.

The attendance upon the public school, F. M. Righter teacher, now numbers about 40. Additional seats had to be placed in the building to accommodate the increased number of pupils.

His social dance was given a week ago Thursday evening at the public Hall, but the attendance, owing to the attraction of the cantata at Dixon was small.

Farmers began sowing and running their harrows over summer fallow ground last week.

Candidates were buzzing around the last two weeks of the campaign like bluebottle flies, and some of them were so keen to drum up votes that they visited the school house to election-year with the master and through the children with the parents.

September 15, 1877

Binghamton

A special party was given at the public hall last Friday evening, with an attendance of 15 or 20 couples. McCray Brothers dispense the music, and a supper was served in Smith's shop. It was therefore clock when the party broke up.

October 6, 1877

Maine Prairie

A housewarming was given Friday evening, the 28th at the new home of Mr. G. C. McCray, at which there was a large attendance from Maine Prairie, Dixon and Elmira and other places. It was a very pleasant occasion and everybody went home happy, a big dancing was the principal amusement of the evening.

Batavia

Only about 150 ton of wheat has been shipped from here the present season.

Mr. F. Tuck returned from the East, Monday.

October 20, 1877

Maine Prairie

An auction sale of 1000 head of cattle a part of a log recently received from the northern counties will be held at Lewis Pierce on McCune and Garnett ranch the 31st.

Within the past three weeks five or six of the farmers having wheat stored have sold. But not over 200 tons has changed hands during the whole season. 150 tons have been shipped.

Batavia

The school in the Owens district closed Thursday after a term of three months. 24 pupils were enrolled.

L. S. Cushing is back to his own place at Binghamton them Tuesday. He had been renting and living here the past season.

J. C. Smith, blacksmith, has sold out and will move away to Sacramento. The purchaser is a man named Warner.

No wheat has been shipped from here.

November 3, 1877

Binghamton

Rev. Woodward services are here every Sunday for noon at 11 o'clock.

A week or two ago a sheet and pillowcase party was given at the place of Captain A. Bennett, being participated in by a large number and generally enjoyed.

There will be a little land plowed in the city the present season. Most of the land is volunteer with a little extra seed harrowed in.

A social of the Methodist Church Society was held Thursday evening.

Maine Prairie,

The auction sale of Lewis Pierces 1000 head of cattle came off Thursday. The stock was sold in lots of not less than 100, thus preventing any farmer except very extensive ones from buying. The first lot's brought \$13 a head and some as low as six dollars. Two or three butchers from Sacramento attended the sale.

September 10, 1877

Tremont

A party was given Friday evening, the second, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. Behrens. A few friends from Dixon, and many from Davisville and the surrounding region, were present and spent a pleasant evening.

In a social dance was given Friday evening of last week at the house of Mr. Robert Armstrong, a considerable number of persons being present from the farming region, and from Davisville.

November 17, 1877

Maine Prairie

The party was given here last week Friday evening, by Mr. Rathke, lately of Dixon. Vails Hall was pretty well fill, the total number in attendance. About 90 of whom 20 were from Dixon. McCray Brothers furnished the music.

November 24, 1877

Maine Prairie

Richard Belcher, the murderer of John H. Patton, on Satten Island last summer, under circumstances narrated in the Tribune at that time-and who was found guilty of murder in the first degree at Sacramento, Tuesday, and sentenced to imprisonment for life-was formally a residence of this place; G. C. McCray and others were supposed to testify in the trial to Belcher's character.

Lou Pierce, of Suisun, has had a gang of vaqueros gathering up his cattle from the two leads and driving them off. Some of the animals were very ugly and dangerous.

Binghamton

F. M. Righter closed up his school at this place last week Friday. The term had been expected to last several weeks longer, but owing to the severe weather, the attendance was small and the trustees decided to bring the term to close.

A dance was given last Friday evening at the public Hall in aid of the Good Templars Lodge. 20 out of 25 couples were present and the attendance would've been larger if it had been generally known such an affair was to come off.

CANNERIES

1896/05/01

From present indications, Foster Bros. will be compelled to largely increase the capacity of their cannery at Tremont this season in order to supply at Tremont the demand for their "Tremont Brand" of canned fruits. They are receiving orders from all parts of the Sacramento Valley, which they cannot fill as last year's output has long since been exhausted. One firm in Vacaville sent in an order for 100 cases of tomatoes. If the boys continue in future as they have in the past they will build up an industry in Northern Solano which will add greatly to the prosperity of the district.

1896/11/06

Foster Bros.' cannery at Tremont has put up many thousand cans of peaches, pears and tomatoes this season. The fruit which is prepared under the name of Solano Chief brand has absolutely no superior on the market and the demand far exceeds the supply. There is scarcely a doubt that the proprietors will be compelled to enlarge their plant until some day they will have one of the largest plants in the State.

1899/11/01

In keeping with the spirit of the times H.W. Timm has installed a new power sausage machine in his meat market. It is driven with an electric motor and is almost noiseless in operation, doing its work much quicker and better than the old style machine. The old machine is now doing service in Foster Brother's Cannery, near Tremont, where it is used for chopping the ingredients of chow chow and other delicacies manufactured at the cannery.

1901/11/01

The cannery proposition is endorsed by everybody, seemingly, and the formation of a company is among the possibilities of the new year. Last Sat. the directors of the Grangers' Business Association held a meeting and designated a nominal sum for a site for the cannery and set forth a lease proposition. Foster Brothers have the removal of their plant to Dixon under consideration and will be able to give the promoters of the scheme a definite answer soon.

1901/12/01

Foster Brothers' Tremont cannery was destroyed by fire last Weds. evening. During the day a portion of the plant had been used in processing but everybody had left the building before the fire was discovered. Mr. Everett Foster, who manages the industry, had gone to another part of the farm and there was no one on the premises except his wife when the fire broke out.

1902/02/01

Foster Brothers received a new boiler last week for their cannery, which they will rebuild at Tremont in the near future in time for the coming season.

1902/03/01

BUILD A CANNERY. SAY THE PUBLIC SPIRITED MEN OF DIXON. Subscription List Being Circulated to Raise Money Sufficient to Build \$10,000 Cannery.

FOSTER BROTHERS REBUILDING. Their Tremont cannery will Be Ready for Operation This Season.

1902/08/01

The Tremont cannery under the enterprising management of Foster Bros. is developing a very promising industry. It is now in full blast putting up peaches and tomatoes, about three thousand can's a day being the usual pack.

1902/10/01

Proposition to Have Foster Brothers Cannery Here

Regarded Favorably.

1902/10/24

DIXON HAS AWAKENED TO NEED OF ENTERPRISE. A MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS LAST MONDAY EVENING RESULTS IN UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSITION TO LOCATE FOSTER BROS. CANNERY IN DIXON. A Committee of Prominent Citizens Appointed to Solicit the Necessary Funds and Commendable Support Is Manifest on Every Hand. Names of those Who Subscribed: E.D.N. Lehe, Oscar C. Schulze, S.G. Little, H.E. Mccune, J.H. Schneider, Herman Fischer, J.S. Mayes, H. Petersen, WM. Vansant, Clark & Duke, Peter MacHugh, E.J. McBride and G.D. Schulze, A.Kirby & Son, A.F. Shangraw, G.S. Conner, D.D.S., J.D. Grady, H.A. Kerr, J.D. Johnson, J.F. Cowden, Geo. Steinmiller, J.C. Grove, W.O. Landreth. The subscription list is still open.

1902/12/05

TOWN PROPERTY CHANGING HANDS. The Influence of the Cannery Making Itself Felt and Values are increasing. There was quite a stir in real estate circles in Dixon Thursday of last week and locations and values were subjects of general discussion on our streets and in our business houses. The well-known Little property on the corner of B and Second streets was sold to J.H. Rice for a substantial money consideration. J.C. Grove was the same day the purchaser of E.C. Eames' handsome cottage on the east side of south First Street.

1903/01/23

CANNERY COMMENCED. MANAGER E.H.FOSTER HAS PURCHASED THE MACHINERY FOR DIXON PLANT. Plant Will Be Up-to-Date In Every Particular. Preparing to Plant Tomatoes. The cannery will have a capacity of 25,000 cans every ten hours and as arrangements will be complete to work night and day during the busy season it will be seen that a large pack will be made if the season is favorable. Foster Brothers will be better prepared to meet emergencies than any other plant we know of. They are to raise 100 acres of tomatoes and have a large supply on which to draw when necessity requires. A large hot house 14 x 100 ft has been erected at Tremont and seed will be planted in a few days which will provide 75,000 tomato plants.

1903/02/01

CANNERY TO THE FRONT. COLEMAN BROTHERS, OF ASHLAND, OREGON, GET A LEASE OF THE BUILDING. Work on the Building to Begin Shortly. The Machinery Will Be Ready for Creditable Pack This Season. Coleman Brothers, J.W. Coleman and N.B.S. Coleman, two ex-Dixon boys who have been operating a large canning and packing plant in Ashland, Oregon, are to conduct Dixon's cannery. The fact that we are to have a cannery has brought about the necessity for new lines of industry in the community. Among those who are looking into the new avenues of business is J.A. Kerr. Mr. Kerr will order within a few days a complete electric pumping plant and will devote at least four acres of his newly acquired portion of the Eibe lands to the growing of tomatoes.

1903/02/27

CANNERY TRUSTEES RECEIVE DEED FOR THE SITE, A MOST VALUABLE LOCATION. The necessary instruments were signed this week and passed to record giving the title to the cannery site into the keeping of the board of trustees composed of J.A. KERR, E.D.N. LEHE, Dr. G.S. CONNER, O.C. SCHULZE and J.D. GRADY. The site is one of the most valuable land holdings in Dixon and was acquired from the Grangers' Business Association. The sum of \$500 was paid for the ground. The site has a frontage of 300 feet on the line of the Southern Pacific Company; has a depth of practically 450 feet and is bounded by Mayes and Jefferson streets and Broadway. The property is probably better described as lying just west of the Grangers' Business Associations warehouse No. 3.

1904/03/01

FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE. Dixon Brass Band, an organization of young men who have been under the instruction of Prof. W.N. Hayden for some time, will make their first public appearance this (Friday) evening, April 10th at 7:30 o'clock, in front of the Opera House. The young musicians have generously tendered their services in aid of the cannery fund.

---It is proposed to give a ball in the cannery building about the 22d of May for the benefit of the building fund. The building is a spacious affair and a most auspicious social affair could be given before the machinery is installed.

1904/07/01

Coleman Bros. have decided in view of the high price demanded for apricots, not to can any early fruit this season but are getting things in readiness for the late fruits and tomatoes which they have already contracted for. They expect to make a big pack of their popular brands this season. Their cannery was in operation to relieve Foster's cannery whose capacity was overtaxed. The Tremont establishment is running at full blast engaged in turning out a full pack of apricots. Since last season many improvements have been effected in the machinery and internal arrangements with the result that operations are greatly facilitated.

1904/11/18

THE DIXON CANNERY - Trustees Discuss Alleged Unsatisfactory Conditions

FOSTER'S CANNERY BURNED - Loss Will Total about Twenty Thousand Dollars.

1905/01/06

Jan. 6, 1905 - satisfaction has been expressed at the action of the Trustees of the Dixon Cannery at their meeting at the Bank of Dixon on Saturday last in deciding to lease the premises to Foster Bros. The belief is fully expressed that under the new lessee the object of the building of the cannery by popular subscription will be attained. Foster Bros. have built up an enviable reputation for their brand of tomatoes all over the United States and it is gratifying that the local institution will here after be identified with the famous product. After a discussion of the situation during which it was understood that Messrs. Coleman were not financially able to run the cannery for another season, upon motion, the Secretary was instructed to inform Messrs. Coleman of the decision of the Trustees to cancel the lease as the terms of the agreement had not been lived up to.

1905/02/01

The directors of the newly organized Winters Canning Company paid Dixon a visit on Saturday last with the object of inspecting the machinery which has been used during the past two seasons by the Coleman Canning Company. The directors had previously visited Woodland and obtained an option on the machinery at the cannery therein but the very reasonable figure asked for that here induced them to conclude negotiations on the spot. They made arrangements for N.B.S. Coleman to superintend the removal of the machinery and offer him a substantial monetary Inducement to assume charge of the cooking arrangements at Winters as soon as the cannery gets into operation.

1905/06/01

THE DIXON CANNERY. Manager E.H. Foster of the Foster Bros. Co., announces that on Weds. evening June 21st, there will be a grand opening at their cannery at Dixon Visitors will be shown the methods of canning fruits as practiced in the up-to-date canneries of today. This will no doubt be a revelation to hundreds who are not familiar with the rapid strides being taken in this wonderful industry. The raw fruit will be taken at the door, graded, passed to the cutters, packed, scrupled and cooked. The entire cannery force will be on duty and the regular routine of work will be observed.

1906/01/27

THE DIXON CANNERY. Cannery matters seem to be engaging attention at this time. A number of representative business men held a meeting one evening this week to consider the possibility of forming a stock company to run the establishment during the coming season. (Later) Just as we are going to press this (Friday) afternoon we learn that the negotiations have been successful and therefore the cannery will be run by local capital. The Directors of the Bank of Dixon contribute \$5,000 to the fund and the following have invested \$1,000 each: - J.D. Grady, J.H. Rice, J.H. Petersen, Lehe and Oscar C. Schulze. J.E. Martin will be engaged to manage the business. E.H. Foster who operated the cannery last year has gone to a larger field and is now engaged in interesting capital at Napa in the erection of a cannery there.

1906/02/17

DIXON IN THE LIST OF LOCATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR STATE FARM. A meeting of those constituting the cannery co-partnership was held on Tuesday evening when organization was effected and officers elected. It had already been decided to adopt the title "Dixon Packing Co.," and the engagement of J.E. Martin, who so successfully handled the inside business of the concern last season, as manager was ratified.

1906/05/03

LARGE FUND FOR BUILDING IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE Mr. Jacobs Indorses the plan to advance Insurance moneys to the small manufacturers in order that they may begin operations in their respective lines at once. He says that the hills surrounding the Santa Fe tracts have thousands of women and girls who would be only too glad to secure employment. Jacobs says that his concern will open a cannery at Dixon in two weeks which will give employment to many in that vicinity. The projected cannery in this city is just opposite the factory of the Holman Can Company.

1906/12/01

Having closed up the business of the California Cannery Co. here, Mr. Martin, the manager, has gone to San Francisco, where he will enter the main office of the company. We understand that the company do not intend to operate the Dixon cannery next year. This leaves a good opportunity for some independent man who understands the business, for there is a good cannery here and plenty of stuff to can, especially tomatoes, of which there are no better grown in the State.

1908/01/01

(At the Town Board Meeting) Henry Peterson appeared before the Board and requested that the tax on the cannery building be remitted, which request was granted.

1908/01/01

Negotiations are now in hand looking toward the establishment of the factory of a San Francisco incubator company in the cannery building. If the deal goes through, the company will employ some forty or fifty mechanics, with a suitable payroll. This would prove of great benefit to the town and it is sincerely hoped that the deal will be consummated.

1909/04/17

Dixon has the best shipping arrangements of any place on the line. Considerable fruit of very fine quality is raised right here at Dixon and on Putah Creek. During our run of 1905 the best apricots packed at the factory were raised in the Bell orchard, in the suburbs of Dixon. I have been asked pointedly why no one has as yet made a success of the business in Dixon, and I will reply in the same light and say that no one has as yet had money enough to handle the proposition. The amount of capital required is tremendous, and it must be had right at the time when it is needed. All but a few articles are cash on delivery. by E.H. Foster

1910/10/01

J.E. Martin of Napa was in town the first of the week trying to interest the farmers in tomato raising, as it is his intention to reopen the cannery here next spring. No very definite arrangements have been made as yet.

1912/03/01

March 1912

AD. DIXON PLANING MILL. In Old Cannery Building. Now Ready For Business. Everything Made in the Wood Line. Sashes, Doors, Mouldings, Screens, Screen Doors, Etc. W.H.Morrill, G.H. Dittmer, prop.

1912/03/01

March 1912

The firm of Spates & Dunstin who have been conducting the Panama Theatre, have dissolved, Mr. Spates retiring. Mr. Dunstin intends to conduct a high grade place of amusement to which he invites the public.

An aviation meet is to be held at the Agricultural Park, Sacramento, March 2d and 3d, at which the principal aviators on the Coast will participate.

Our suggestion last week that the proceeds of the annual May Day festival be turned over to the Woman's Improvement Club for the purpose of buying books for the new library, seems to have struck a popular chord.

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Dixon was visited by a fire on Wednesday that for completeness of destruction was as hard as has ever visited the town. It was just noon when the alarm was given that the cannery building was on fire and in twenty minutes the building had been completely destroyed. No one seems to know how it started, as everybody employed there had gone to dinner, so that no one was there at the time, but the commonly accepted theory is that the smoke stack had a hole rusted in it through which some sparks fell on the roof setting it on fire. The building was occupied by the steam laundry, whose loss was

about \$2,000, on which there was a small insurance. As most of the week's washing was in it was, of course, destroyed. The building was erected about twelve years ago for a cannery by public subscription, but has not been used for the past five years until the laundry started last fall. The worst feature of the fire is that it probably puts out of business the laundry, which was just getting on its feet, and is an industry needed here. We hope Mr. McVey will see his way clear to resume business in the near future.

1918/01/01

1918 - Jan.

J.J. Merritt from Santa Clara arrived in Dixon this week and with his family occupies the Cecil Ferguson house. Mr. Merritt is an experienced cement worker and is going to open a plant on the old cannery grounds for making cement pipe for irrigation purposes.

1922/09/01

September

A cannery has leased 500 acres of the Petersen estate lands between Rio Vista and Maine Prairie for the growing of asparagus.

From Tribune of December 4, 1914

PIONEER JAMES MILLER TELLS OF EARLY DAYS IN DIXON AND MAINE PRAIRIE

Mr. Editor: reading some thrilling tales of early days by early pioneers brought back remembrances of a day's experience in this section about 60 years ago.

Bands of antelope and elk fed on the plains with the cattle, which we used to get occasionally. I killed two fine elk one afternoon a half-mile from a house. One of them had his hind legs shot off, and we had to run it him down and lasso him. They weighed 500 pounds each, and sold in Sacramento for 12 1/2 cents per pound. The antelope were rather wild and in order to get one we had to stalk them with an ox. The last of the elk and the antelope was in the years 59 and 60.

We shot coyote from the door at night as they came prowling around. There were no jackrabbits for them to catch. But when the coyotes were killed off the jacks became plentiful.

The geese were numerous. The method was to stalk them with an ox. One kept to windward of the flock to attract attention while the other sneak up behind the ox. My favorite was a big Durham bull, which I could drive with a line attached to his nose, and he would remain on the ground until I picked up the game. When then I would load them into the back and carried him home. Digging a pit was another successful plan.

Speaking of ducks, thousands of mallard used to breed on the marshes east of here, and they were easy prey for our old fashion muzzle loading guns. When the northern birds came and there'll were millions. And I have seen 260 birds gathered in one forenoon from one gun, and that was an old musket -loader. Many a morning I have groped my way to the tule so as to get the morning shoot. I had a good retriever. He could stay in the ice cold water all day. In fact, I lost him one morning and thought he had gone home, but the next morning I hurried back to the tule's and found him waiting, with only his head out of water-just 24 hours later.

WILD HORSE CHASE

But the greatest that we had was a wild horse chase. There had been a band of wild horses running south with a fine white stallion at the head. He had a beautiful long mane and tail, which almost reached the ground. He would come in during the night and steal our mares and so great a nuisance that he become that we organized a party to catch him or ran them off the range. The day before we were to chase them I saw the horses about a mile away and by an ox talk him. I had an old muzzle loading rifle, but

the distance was too great, and my bullet struck him near the shoulder, instead of in the neck. The next morning Sam Snead and Stevens Little started the band and ran them up to our ranch. Then I took them and pursued them to the sink of Putah. Their Jack Adams took them and chase them to old Silveyville, where he turned them east: Adams still pursued and caught the exhausted stallion. Later the boys rendezvous at the ranch to see the horse. He was quite old, but a beauty in form, and could trot a gate that would take a good horse to keep up with. When he was running his main and tail flew out in the wind. We had no Barns then, so we had to stake him out with a rope. That night it rained, and being warm from the effects of the bullet, he died the next day. Mr. Mays set out from Sacramento, with two vaqueros, prepared to give us \$300 for the stallion. He was a noted horse and would have shown well.

Another hunt was for some boys who had stolen 45 head of fine cattle driving them to Coyote Valley. I got one of them, but the other escaped. I recovered all the cattle except three. They were taken from the tule and driven up through Putah Canyon. I rode eighty miles the day before I caught them. One was afterwards hanged in White Pine for horse stealing. The other turned out a good citizen. This is not as good a story as my old friend J. D. J. and Uncle George tell, but it may interest to some of my younger friends. James Miller.

June 12, 1959

Dixon landmark coming down

One of the oldest landmarks in Dixon came down last week with the wrecking of the old Presbyterian Church at the corner of Mayes and South First. According to Mrs. Mary Little, was born in 1874, the church was constructed in 1878, several years after the town of Dixon had been moved from Silveyville. Mrs. Little recalls that as a three or four-year-old she used to skip from her home near the present IOOF building to watch daily progress of the church.

Dr. Alexander was the first preacher, and Dr. Evans (he was an MD) he led the singing. Dr. Evans lived in a house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Morris.

As old as the Presbyterian Church was, Mrs. Little says there are two older ones. The Methodist Church was moved along with the houses from Silveyville in 1868 and the red brick Community Church was built in 1878.

The demolished church building has been used in recent years as a youth building by the Community Church but was finally declared unsafe.

REMEMBRANCES

A man named Hirsh had a harness shop on the corner where the post office now stands. On the north corner of the block was brewery and between were a number of small houses, some of which were China houses and the rest were houses of ill fame. We called this area the "Barbary Coast."

The senior Mr. Carpenter moved his shop from Silveyville when Dixon was started. Brinckerhoff had a two-story hotel where the Bank of Dixon now stands Bank of America.

May Day picnics were held on the West side of the rail road on Mr. Mayes land.

The first Odd Fellows Hall was built on the lot on the south side of my dad's drug store (Mr. Kirby.) After the fire in 1884 he sold the corner to the Odd Fellows.

There was a Congregational church on a lot where the McDermott house now stands (the corner of Jackson and West A.) It was later moved over near the schoolhouse for a primary school. Then the Protestant church was built.

There was a two-story lodging house back of the depot where the Farmers Exchange nursery is now. That was where the big fire of 84 started which levelled the town.

The biggest livery stable was where the Frosty drive in is.

Dixon's Airports

About the time Charles Lindburgh was solo flying across the Atlantic Ocean Dixon was also involved with flying. Dixon's first landing strip was located south of town. It was just south of what is now the Cemetery. In 1928 during the May Day celebration an airplane from Oakland flew here to give fair goers rides. Shortly after that the Aviation committee of the Exchange Club took an option on forty acres of the Peters property south of the present City Hall. It was to have a 1,700 foot runway. The cost was to be \$200 per acre. Here flight lessons were given.

It's not quite clear but by 1930 it was reported to be back south of the cemetery. The airport was run by Justin Lawson who also was a crop seeder along with being the instructor. The cost to take lessons in those days, for a plane, instructor and gasoline was \$8.00 per hour. Mr. Lawson was later killed in a crop seeding incident.

The next airport was located north of town alongside Highway 40. It was on the east side of the highway across from the Milk Farm restaurant and behind the Old Giant Orange juice stand. For those who remember there was also a Giant Orange on the other side of the highway. This air field was owned by Mr. A. Ballenger who also owned and operated both Oranges. The next airport was the Dixon-Vaca airport which was located south of Dixon alongside of what was now known as Highway 80. This was just south of Midway road and alongside of the auto drag track and racing track. The next airstrip which is still used is located south of Dixon on Highway 13 about 4 miles, on what was then the Raycraft Ranch. This was owned and operated by Bill Joslin also a pilot.

It seems only appropriate when talking about Dixon's airports to mention some of Dixon's early pilots. One of Dixon's police officers, Jerry Stearns was one, Pem Burton a local farmer and hay dealer, Pete Murphy another farmer, Ed Dold who worked for one of the radio stations east of town, Dr. Vernon Dutra the local chiropractor and Benn Schmolke who also was employed by the NBC radio station east of town. Watsie Kilkenny Jr. who owned the Farmers Exchange and Al Gondry who owned the Dixon Drug Store were also pilots. There were also two Dixonites who flew commercial airplanes as pilots, John Dawson and Wayne Stark, both served in the service. There were two pilots who gave their lives during World War II and they were Lester Rohwer whose father was Mayor of Dixon and Petty Stearns who's father mentioned above, a police officer. Dixon's most famous pilot was Lyman Phillips who was a local pure bred sheep producer, who served in both World War I and II.

There may have been others, hopefully all have been mentioned.

February 21, 1930

Dixon Had a Haunted House

Some of the residents of the West side of town have had suspicions that the old Casey house, which was originally moved from Silveyville to town a few years ago taken to the C. E. Schmeiser field, has become haunted. Strange sounds have been heard, and there were flickering shadows of the windows. Fred Smith said that he had heard unmistakable moments from the place, and Henry Peter said that all the bats had left.

A cat skull had replaced one of the doorknobs on the inside: but one of the strangest things was that a few days ago Carl Schmeiser, the owner, found one of his missing hats-the one that was taken from the last duck club party. Half burned candles were found in the corner of each room, and an old pair of tennis shoes in the closet. One of the walls of the living room had been fitted with holes, and every pane in the lower windows was shattered. Pieces of shattered cups were found all over the floor. And the floor of the next room and in line with the door between the rooms, a whole had been cut and open tin can place with the top flush with the floor. The stairway door had been broken off and on the steps and the walls were indentations made by some hard object, and some dried human blood was found on to the steps. Every door in every room upstairs was off its hinges and standing in a corner. In each of the rooms was a tomato can hole similar to the one on the lower floor.

Going home around 1:30 in the morning last week, Pat Doyle attention was attracted to the place by the light from the lower and the upper windows, all of which had been covered with newspapers. Somebody was violently waving his arms and swinging backward and forward. The same movements took place in the next room at short intervals, and then upstairs. He said nothing about it for fear as to his condition, what would he saw the same thing the next night he reported the weird affair to the officers, and brought others into collaborate his story.

On the following night the mystery was solved. Watchers saw a short, thickset man with a package on his back shuffling along and you're totally looking backwards. He entered the house and soon lights appeared in first one room and then another. The violent motions, as going unreported, took place with dull, clicking sound and thuds on the wall.

Then a violent commotion was heard on the stairways, with tremendous cussing, some of the profanity trailing off into spooky, nerve shaking hisses. From an upstairs room came the noises that had been heard on the lower floor. Then it was all repeated downstairs and in the lower rooms. For an hour or more this violent acting continued

throughout the house which shook as by an earthquake tremor. A brick clattering down from the chimney, a window crashed intercepting bullet like whistle past the ear of one of the sleuths. Then one final crashing cuss word as terrifying as the after clap of thunder storm-and stillness.

One of the watchers stealthily opened the door, stepped in and saw it formulated against a wall and breathing hard a bit of a light true tremendously glowing from the end of a cigarette.

Throwing on a flashlight, the form of a well-known, highly respected but dejected appearing, citizen was revealed with old tennis shoes on his feet. Some well-known implements were on the floor. So said the man appear that those who trailed him left it undisturbed, quietly went back to town and inform their wives that the mystery was solved and, it was only Bert Lafontaine practicing for the opening of the new golf course. The fragments of China were from the cups which he had inverted for teeing off, the pitted walls were indentations from wild shots, and the blood of the stairway was from barked shins as he laboriously pounded the ball up the stairs.

Dixon's Airways

Early Dixon life revolved around agriculture. Livestock and grain production were the first products followed by dairies and row crops. Not many people knew or realized the importance of another totally unrelated business.

In the early 1930's American Telephone and Telegraph purchased 640 acres of land six miles south west of Dixon on the corner of Midway and Robben road. Here they erected a masonry two story 50 by 100 foot building and put up a huge amount of poles and wiring. In the early days it was known as the "Radio Station". In 1931 the station opened with one supervisor and four technical personal. By the 1950's the personal had increased to 15. The station went into service as part of the Transpacific Communications Company Limited. Dixon was selected because of its geographic location and being situated next to the first Transcontinental telephone cable. The first service began with a one voice circuit to Hawaii. This expanded to the whole Pacific area and was very important during World War II. This station provided vital communications link to General Douglas McArthur in the Pacific theater. During World War II the US Army guarded the station. It remained in use until 1999 and is now a wildlife refuge operated by the US Dept of Fish and Game.

The next station was the NBC relay station started in 1944 and was under their control until 1963. At this time the US government took over the operation and it became the Voice of America. It was quite important during World War II and was used to broadcast news to quite a few foreign countries. Twenty five programs were sent out during sixteen hours of broadcasting per day in Russian, Mandarin, Chinese, Korean and English dialect. This lasted until 1979 and was put into mothballs. From 1983-1988 it was again operated by the government, then decommissioned and closed permanently. At this site there are three towers two of which are 325 feet tall and one 305. Besides these towers there are hundreds of shorter poles all strung with wire. All of these towers had to be maintained and it was quite a site to see a maintance man on top of these towers painting. This station was located in such a place that it had unobstructed wave lengths to the Pacific. The buildings and towers are still visible, located on Radio Station road a mile south of Midway and east of Robben Road.

Because of its location another radio station was started in 1946. This was constructed just to the west and adjoining the Voice of America property. It was finished being built in 1949 at a cost of \$2,500,000.00 and was known as the U.S. Naval Communications station. It was located on 1200 acres. This installation was very powerful and was said to be able to transmit to all parts of the world and ships in all the seas. It was a high/low frequency transmitter facility for the U.S. pacific Fleet. It was

then converted to a contractor facility and operated by the Rome Research Cooptation. Part of it is also used as a migrant housing facility.

Satellite communication soon became used, so these facilities became obsolete. There is still some activity at the naval station but the others stand as ghosts of the past.

February 26, 1915

Trials of early days

Anna Wolfskill, 75 years old, writes of pioneer experiences in Solano County

One of the interesting papers read at the pioneer meeting of the women's improvement club was written by Mrs. Anna Wolfskill, 75 years old, whose husband was a brother of the late John Sweeney. She was also a sister-in-law of the late John Wolfskill who came to California in 1844 and settled at Los Angeles. Following is the story:

My introduction to California proper was on a bright, sunny afternoon, October 1, 1850. Place, Nevada City, right in the heart of the mining district. Though but a child of eight the impress on memories walls of that day was never been effaced. A train of 18 wagons drawn by meek eyed, long-suffering oxen, with perhaps 100 souls, dragging its way up the long hill and down into the quiet vale that was to be our of abiding place for two years. In our family were father, mother, four brothers, five sisters, all grown except one sister, 12, and myself.

On either side of the road men were in digging for gold. Five months of camp life and tramping over mountains, desert and playing, exposed to sun, wind and storm had made inroads upon the most invulnerable. We were sunburned, freckle, tattered and torn, down at the heels and out at the toes, but to those minors away from home we looked good. Hats were doffed, pick and shovel lay down, and from those homesick men came a most royal welcome.

California was young in statehood, having been admitted less than one month before. She was also crude in her methods, using the whipping post and branding iron for the wayward and unfortunate. Bear and bull fights furnished Sunday afternoon amusement for those whose tastes inclined that way. But God had reserved into himself a few names that did not bow the knee to Baal, and while there was no church, as soon as a minister came my mother opened her home and sent me on my first missionary to her to ask the minors to come. And they came, and eat such singing I have never heard since. In 1852 week came to Solano County, pitching our tent halfway between Putah Creek and Vacaville, the Vaca, Spanish for cow, was then in evidence: the Villa came some years later. We were bounded on the north by Uncle John Wolfskill, his brother Mathis, a wife and two sons. On the south by Mason Wilson and family and the Maguires with these exceptions, like Alexander Selkirk, we were monarchs of all we surveyed. Our right there was none to dispute.

Besides, 30 miles away, was our nearest post office, and also grocery, dry goods drugstore. Sacramento was about the same distance, but the river overflowed the land to Davisville in the rainy season and scarcely dried after December so the roads were rarely passible. Save for the inhabitants mentioned not one's house, North, South, East

or West, dotted the level playing where now you have mansions and well improved homes.

Later Mr. Silvey put up his tavern, which was considered quite an event. Mr. Silvey was a violinist and once or twice a year, when by raking and scraping the country you got enough to make it quadrille, we had a dance. We went early and stayed till broad daylight: we had to as everybody was miles from home. We would take our party dresses in a carpetbag hung on the horn of the saddle.

The house my father and brothers build-though not one of them was a carpenter-was unique in the extreme. All the building material was brought from the Benicia, which of itself was no small undertaking. Before the windows were in or the home made doors were hung, my father sniffed a big storm in the air and we must move in. The floors were dirt and to keep down the dust, were sprinkled before sweeping. In the center of the parlor a large hole was dug to serve as a fireplace, around which, with eyes smarting from smoke, many story and hearty laugh was enjoyed. The predicted storm came the night after we moved in. The next morning the hole where the fire should have been was filled with water. Bucket after bucket was bailed out, blankets boards nailed to the places for doors and windows, a fire built, with no alternative but to see the rain come down until the earth was covered with water. For six weeks this storm lasted. Fortunately we had a large cook stove, but with 10 of our own, to visitors spending the winter with us, and the stranded traveler, it's somehow proud of the kitchen, and was a wee bit trying to the cook.

Our lighting system was the latest then, which consisted of a twisted right entered old bowl filled with lard or tallow. Handled with care it gave a sticky light at best, but it was all we had. Later we had candles, which certifies at least to read by and my husband used to say: one more would produce total darkness.

When the kerosene lamp came we thought we were progressing but I, for one, said farewell to the oil lamp with no tears.

Perhaps our greatest luxury was our splendid water system. A 40 foot well operated by a bucket on each end of the rope. Later we have the block and tackle, which was some improvement, and still later the chain pump. The man who invented this pump I presume had been dead these many years but I hope not before he knew, of the broken backs and corrupted morals among the women folks caused by his invention. The pump had to be primed every time it was used and if you stop moving a handle for one instant the work you like done before counted for not, for no matter how deep the well the water was at the bottom. I could hear the groan of that pump land feeling the ache in my back after all these years of trying to forget: the penalty for halting to catch breath.

Ours stationary tubs must not be overlooked for they were neither a thing of beauty nor a joy forever. They were made by sawing into a barrel or cask made of heavy, thick oak staves, bounded together with thick iron hoops and holding possible two hundred gallons. These were naturally heavy but in order to make them hold water

they had to be kept full, which increased their weight tremendously. We could not lift them hence they were our stationary tubs.

But with all our hardships and privations we were happy and contented.

God and mother were my tutors. I love nature and lived much in the open. I hungered and thirsted for knowledge, but schools there were none. Books were few and not easily obtain, but what we had we read and assimilated into the very warp and woof of our being.

By the time I reached womanhood the country was pretty well filled with a good class of people. Strange as it may seem, I scarcely knew the feeling of loneliness-was happy when alone with my books or my own thoughts.

The first railroad built in the state was from Sacramento to Folsom, from capital to penitentiary. I was one of the fortunate, or unfortunate, mortals to avail myself of the opportunity to make this eventful trip to the "pen". However, for good behavior and on account of the influential friends I was allowed to return the same day

Not many of the old guard are left, and perhaps none of those remain will see or hear of this paper. Volumes could be written on the pioneer women who side-by-side with the men, struggled on without murmur or complaint to build up manhood and womanhood and make California a safe place in which to live, a land where all the world the lights to come. And let it not be forgotten that the lot of the pioneer woman was much harder than that of the man, for the reason that men could secure help: women could not.

But before closing let me lay this tribute at the feet of the women who helped to make this great state, the pioneer woman who lived and labored, made brick without straw, suffered and died that the world might be better because they lived in toil, and that the women of today may enjoy the fruits of their labors by all the modern conveniences and improvements, you are repeating your reward. God grant that the lessons of patience, unselfish and independence learned at such fearful cost and sacrifice be not lost on the women of today. The opportunities are great, the responsibilities tremendous. When will you measure up to them? Anna S. Wolfskill.

Churches of Dixon

A good deal of early settler's life revolved around the church and its activities. Silveyville from which Dixon got its start was the first to have church services in the area. That along with Binghampton to the south had its churches. The one to the north, Silveyville was known as the North Methodist church and Binghampton to the south was known as the South Methodist church. In those days travel especially during the winter months was difficult. Residents from as far away as Tremont would make the journey to attend services in Silveyville. It didn't take long before the ladies of Tremont decided that they needed a church of their own. So a group of them got together and formed the Mite Society which was to collect money to build their own church. Mite being the small denomination of a coin. This group was started in 1863. By 1891 services were being held in the new church which was and is still located east of Dixon on Tremont Road.

By 1875 Dixon had several churches in town, The Methodist church that was moved from Silveyville by rolling it along on logs and pulled by horses to its location where services are held every Sunday to this day. The reason it is located on the west side of the rail road tracks was that they were unable to cross the tracks. That location is at the corner of B Street and Fitch (Which is now Jefferson Street). Another church that sprung up at about the same time was the Baptist Church located just south of A street in the middle of the block going south on the west side of the street. This was built of bricks in the year 1875. Prior to the erection of the church Baptist services were held in the Masonic Hall. Another church was the Presbyterian Church which was built in 1891 and located on the south east corner of First and Mayes St. Another church, the Congregationalist Church was built in 1875 on the corner of Jackson and A Street located where the present Police Department stands. Then on Second Street between A Street and Mayes Street the Catholic Church was built. This building was located in the middle of the block on the east side of the street and later moved to the corner to the north. And finally the German Lutheran Church was built directly across the street from the Catholic Church where the telephone company now has their office. These six churches were where the citizens worshiped.

The Lutheran church which was built in 1875 had a bell that was purchased from Cincinnati, Ohio put up in 1876 and was rung for the first time Sept. 6. Members of the first Boards of Directors were, Harry Petersen, Henry Meyer, Peter Peters, Joachim Schroeder, John Sievers, Claus Eggert, and Joachim Jahn. In the year 1925 the steeple was removed because it was too expensive and too hard to paint. In 1940 it closed its doors but no decision at that time was made as to what to do with the building. F.O. Wagner purchased the building.

The Congregationalist Church was built in 1875. Money was gathered to build the church but fell short of the necessary funds at the time. Money was finally collected to finish his church. This building was where the present Police Station is located. This church lasted only seven years. The reverend who preached there became ill and passed away as did the church. The next inhabitant of this building was the Presbyterian Church. Then eventually it was moved to the northwest corner of what was then Third and D Street. It was used for many years as a primary grade class room.

In the meantime the Presbyterian Church was built on First Street. In about 1916 the building on the South east corner of First and Mayes was built and used for a short period of time. In 1916 a movement was underway to unite the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. They all three agreed to sign but the Methodists decided to drop out. In 1923 the Harvey's rented the old church building and tried to convert it into a movie theater but that didn't work out. In 1924 the old steeple was removed for safety reasons and it was used as a Christian Science reading room. In 1933 Ralph Castner purchased the building and was going to tear it down but instead renovated it and it opened as the Full Gospel Church. In 1936 it was used by the Calvary Tabernacle. Then the Baptists purchased the old Presbyterian Church for use as Sunday School class rooms.

In 1866 E.S. Silvey sold a piece of property to the Vaca Valley Missionary Baptist Church for one dollar but there is no mention of any build being put up for a Church. The Baptist Church in Dixon was built of bricks in the year 1875. Prior to the erection of the church, Baptist services were held in the Masonic Hall. A Mr. Henry came down from Sacramento to do all of the brick work and Mr. Love did all of the wood work in the building. The building cost \$7,000 and would seat 500 persons. It had an 80 foot spiral column. The bell was elevated in November of that same year and the first service was held December the first. In 1877 a Smith-American organ was installed. In 1880 the building was remodeled, repaired and repainted. At this time the tower was moved from the center to the corner of the building. The cost of these changes was \$3,400. In 1894 the building was wired for electricity. Then in 1896 the old bell cracked and had to be replaced. The next improvement was new furnace installed in 1902. The following year a parsonage was built.

In 1917 as was mentioned earlier the Baptist and Presbyterian churches joined together and it was known from then on as the United Church and ultimately called the Dixon Community Church. This church was torn down and a new one built on the outskirts of town on East A Street. It was a sad day when this beautiful building was demolished.

Prior to the Methodist church moving into town services were held at a school a mile north of Silveyville and then later moved to a hall above a saloon in Silveyville.

Then a church was built in Silveyville at a cost of \$4,300. Then the church was moved to town when Mr. Dickson gave land for the town to be built next to the Railroad. The group that had been the Congregationalist church moved in with the Methodist Church along with what was known as the North Methodists (Silveyville) and the South Methodists (Binghamton). In 1890 electricity was installed for the convenience of everyone as well as a cement sidewalk from the Rail Road depot to the Church steps. A parsonage was built in 1872 at a cost of \$2,000. This church stands proudly today much like it was when it was moved to town. Recently the bell and tower were installed as it had been out of use for some time for repair. I think it was in the 1940's or 1950's that a group of Methodists broke away from the church and formed the Marantha Church.

The Catholic Church better known as Saint Peters Church was built in 1868 by Father L. Auger and a parish house was built in 1877. Prior to the building of the church, missionary priests traveled up and down the state preaching until Father Deyaert served the communities of Silveyville, Elmira and Rio Vista. He also traveled to Binghamton. The first church was built in the center of the block and in 1915 the present church was built at a cost of \$25,000. This structure had two towers whereas the old church had only one. This had a seating capacity of 400. It also has 17 art glass windows which were donated by leading parishioners. More buildings were put up as years went by.

Along with the church services each church had its Ladies Aid Society. These ladies put on Pot-luck dinners, socials, collected funds for different civic projects and were very important in the community.

This is a brief history of Dixons fine churches. I'm sure there have been more faiths served here in Dixon but these are the earlier ones.

Dec. 13, 1962

How Dixon Mammoth was discovered

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schulze, whose home is on Currey Road 3 miles north of Dixon, received word recently that Monticello Dam was about to release water into Putah Creek Sunday, December 2.

For weeks the creek had been entirely dry, permitting the State Highway Department to take out tons of gravel for the six laying of the 7 mile stretch along Highway 40 north of Dixon.

Odd stones exposed

When Sunday arrived, Bob decided to take a hike with his wife to see the water come in. During the stroll along the dry creek bottom he noticed three curious rocks jutting up close together from the sand. On careful examination he noted the rocks had a strange bone structure with cellular formation.

After talking them loose from the saying he felt sure they were fossilized bones of some animal.

They were located near enough together that in such position they concluded they were all from the same animal and, if so, it would be reasonable to assume that there might be many more fossilized bones immediately below.

A job for scientists

He did not want to disturb the area anymore since he felt that only trained scientists should be able to uncover the complete skeleton without damaging some of the parts. By Sunday evening water from the dam had completely covered the spot of discovery, but Bob had made careful notes identifying the position as so as to be able to return to it again as the water in the creek periodically goes down.

University confirms find

To satisfy his own curiosity, he took all bones found to the University California the next day confirmed with Dr. Donald Savage of the paleontology Department there. Dr. Savage identified the Dixon find as genuine fossilized bones of a woolly mammoth. He further offered to carry out further diggings at the identical Putah Creek site for the purpose of locating the mammoth skull, jaw load and other skeletal remains.

Discovery hunt planned

Schulze readily agreed to work with the University in this project that as soon as conditions at the creek permitted, it is expected that the UC crew will go ahead with their Dixon explorations.

Mr. and Mrs. Schulze had recently returned from a trip which took them to Greece, where they saw many relics, some 2500 years old. On returning home to Dixon we take a short hike from our home and find relics which were perhaps 500,000 years old, chuckle. Actually we never saw anything in Europe as ancient as the bones we found right here in Dixon he concluded.

Bob and Barbara Schulze Dixon may have the credit for the opening of a new feels of prehistoric exploration in central California, it appears from University reports on bone discoveries by them in Putah Creek on December 2.

Dr. Donald Savage of the University of California in Berkeley and Mary Elizabeth Shutler, archaeologists from the University of California Davis, agree that the Schulze discovery is the remains of a woolly mammoth and that it is almost certain that other similar bones of prehistoric creatures will be unearthed by an expedition which is planned by University specialists to comb the discovery site for further finds.

A pelvic bone, thighbone, leg bone and knee bone of the mammoth will be on display at Dixon Chamber of Commerce offices during Thursday.

The Dixon discovery has awakened much interest in scientific circles. The Channel 10 news staff under the direction of Bill Wilson of KX TV will arrive in Dixon Saturday to film a news program in corporation with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. The program will give the main story of the Dixon mammoth and is expected to be scheduled on 11 PM program of Channel 10 on Saturday evening, December 15.

June 6, 1930

The Vanished Maine Prairie

Below is interesting comment on the vanished Maine Prairie from the "Knave", in the Oakland Tribune & signed O. E. M.:

Who now can remember Maine Prairie in Solano County? At one time it was a greatest shipping point in California, when the state was one of the grain exporting regions of the world. This was before the construction of the California Pacific Railroad from Vallejo to Sacramento before the overland railroad was completed. Now Maine Prairie has disappeared from the list of post offices. The only suggestion remain of what is was once a large four-story warehouse building about 1867 by Capt. Charles Merrithew , who ran the principal steamboat carrying passengers and freight between Maine Prairie and San Francisco. At least, the warehouse was even there seven or eight years ago. There were two other steamers running regularly between these points besides numerous schooners, and scows. Maine Prairie was at the head of Cache Slough a tide channel extending 60 miles back from the Sacramento River a few miles above Rio Vista. It had the appearance of a river. In some places it was more than a quarter of a mile wide. Its tanks were vertical in the hard black earth so that vessels could be moored to the shore without the necessity of a wharf. I once saw an oceangoing steamer, the Brother Jonathan, tied up to the bank to rid it of barnacles in fresh water. There is no indication that Cache Slough was ever a part of the Sacramento River channel. Apparently, it was formed when the great inland California Sea drained off through the Golden Gate. In 1866 and 1867, the west side of the Sacramento Valley was one great wheat field. Some portion produced 2 tons to the acre. When the grain was thrashed the production of freighters started. A large portion consisted of three wagon tandems. The bed of the foremost was 5 feet or more in depth. The first trailer was smaller and the rearmost smallest of them all. The team was 12 miles driven by a single line. The driver road perched high on the projecting fore end of the big wagon, or he rode the near wheeler. The single line was fastened to the ring of the long brake lever and extended out to rings between the ears of the swing mules to the outside ring of the new leader. The off leader was steered by a jockey sticks fastened to the lower end of the hames on the near leader. The other end was fastened to the offside ring of the off leader.

Then the town died

Frequently Jews harp band of iron fastened to the upper end of the hames on each mule carried a chain of four bells these varied the monotony of the long, hot, dusty road. They were smaller outfits with 10 or eight mules or horses, having only two wagons, down to the two horse wagon. Through the day these teams were scattered

along the roads from as far north as Colusa County. The regular freighters remain in town overnight and started in the morning. One forenoon I counted over 100 teams coming away from the town and forming, a continuous line. In those days Maine Prairie was a busy place, even between harvests. There were several large warehouses for grain, various stores, hotels, a steam grist mill, a telegraph line and most accessories of such a town. One peculiarity would attract attention, the warehouses and lumber yards were located up on heavy timbered platforms 10 to 12 feet above the ground. This way was in 1886 and 1887 when the spring floods of the Sacramento River covered the country miles back from the channel. In the lower part of town, the water was sometimes 8 to 10 feet deep. The overflow extended a half-mile or more beyond the town. When the California Pacific was built, the freighting business came to an end so far as Maine Prairie was concerned. Woodland, in Yolo County became the terminal for the Valley to the north. Thus ended a chapter in California history.

June 16, 1916

This pioneer bought ox with savings

W. J. McElwaine, retired rancher, will soon celebrate his 82nd birthday. He was not always a rancher, however, having had experience as a miner, butcher and retailer.

W.J. McElwaine was 17 years old when he came to California, from Illinois, to which state his parents had moved from New York a few years previously. Of course there was no train across the plains other than the ox cavalcade, and he had the usual hardships, as well as novelties of the trip to the west by that way. He had one dollar when he reached Sacramento. The town burned down, and was a most unpromising River town. Soon afterwards he got a job watching the river at night at six dollars a night, and did not know that the regular wage was \$10. Sooner than pay the high hotel charge he got a blanket and slept on the bank of the river, and cooked his meals in tin cans, getting all the vegetables he wanted from the boats as they came down the stream.

He saved his wages. Then he went to Diamond Springs, where he worked as miner \$125 a month and board. His first month's pay consisted of two gold slugs, a \$20 slug and a five dollar piece. It was the most money that he had seen before and anyone time in his life. He worked three months, prospecting on Sundays and cleaning up around \$10 and \$20 a day. Tired of working for others he struck out for the South Fork of the Feather River, where, he in company with two or three others they flooded the river. He had \$1500 when he began and quit.

Previous to his venture he had made some money in a rather novel way. While in Sacramento with \$300 in his pocket he saw a man coming down front Street with a yoke of oxen. He asked the price, not knowing just why he did it. The fellow said \$300, will you sell one? Yes, how much, \$150. Unyoke that one. He led the ox away, soon realizing that it was a sort a white elephant as well as an ox. He took it to a livery stable for the night and had to pay three dollars for the stabling. Out on the bank of the river he went to sleep, but in reality to figure out what to do with the ox. The next morning he bought 5 gallons of whiskey and 50 pounds of tobacco, which he hung on the cross tree of the crude saddle it started for Hang town leading his ox. On the outskirts of the camp he killed the ox and cut it up to retail meet. He sold liquor for two bits a drink, and retailed the tobacco at a good figure. Before 10 o'clock it cleaned up everything and was \$400 to the good. He asked the stage driver what it would cost for a ride back to Sacramento, a distance of 45 miles and was told \$25. He concluded to walk and was in the city in

a day and a half jaunt. This time he bought two oxen, some more liquor and tobacco, and going back to Hangtown cleanup \$800 by noon.

After this he made a mistake by buying a string of pack mules, for freighting was not as profitable as butchering. He next went to Butte County, where he obtained land and in 1874 came to Solano County where he obtained land and has since resided, rearing six children and accumulating enough to live on comfortably the rest of his days.

October 23, 1914

A Great Bear Hunt.

Grizzly got his man before posse brought big Berryessa marauder to death.

While in a reminiscent mood, G. W. Foster, now 84 years old a pioneer across the plains place, told the following bear story:

In the early days great herds of antelope galloped over the plains of Solano in deer and elk swarm the hills. We could go anywhere in the hills for grizzlies, instead of 200 miles, as at present.

One great hunt

The greatest hunt I know of took place in the early 60s, my neighbor, the late John Wolfskill, being one of the chief performers. He went into the hills by way of Putah Canyon to look up the land-grant covering the Valley now called Berryessa after the owner, a Spaniard. This tract of about 1000 acres of wooded land swarmed with bear, but the bear were giving much trouble, especially a giant grizzly, whose tracks stood out above all others to and from the creek.

A boy victim

A boy by the name of Wolfey started out to hunt the big marauder, and he never came back. Searching was made, but no trace of the boy was ever found, save his rifle, the stock of which was marred by their teeth. There was no doubt that the grizzly got him.

Posse organized

A posse of seven settlers was organized by Wolfskill and they set out for the timber. From the top of the knoll they overlooked a small depression in which they counted 14 grizzlies, but not the one they wanted this trip. Each hundred carried a rifle, but not the modern repeating weapon of today. They were single shotguns.

Plans to get monster

It was agreed that when confronted by the monster grizzly all would fire and stop him. And soon they had their fight. The bear came out of a clump of brush and it was a bad looker, even bigger than they expected to see. All fired at about the same time, but the grizzly did not drop. He rushed and got one of the men down. While the bear was gnawing and pawing him a rifle was loaded and a close ranging bullet was sent to the great brutes head, killing him.

While recovery was slow

The wounded man was carried back to camp and his wounds dressed. But the hole in his hip would not heal and gave him much trouble. Acting on a surmise, a couple of the men sought the carcass of the bear and found one of his tusks missing. A physician was brought to camp and the bears tooth was found embedded against the bone. It was extracted and the young man recovered.

The Binghamton Armory, School and Post Office.

Old brick armory of immune and Civil War days serve beyond time of Binghamton post office

Editors note this article is the fourth in a series appearing in the Dixon Tribune telling the history of six post offices which at one time serve the Dixon area from about 1860 up through 1906. At this time the construction of a new post office for Dixon is in progress. Though the research efforts of Postmaster Jim Kilkenny, this local history series has found much reader interest for old-timers and descendants of northern Solano County pioneers.

The Binghamton office from 1864 two 1906

The community of Binghamton was one the three settlements that made up Maine Prairie Township. The other two were Morning Light and Enterprise. Due to the high water danger at Maine Prairie Landing, Binghamton became the cultural center and social center of the Township.

In 1861, J. F. Brown, J. B. Jamison, Sherman Brown, Albert Bennett, D. B. Brown, James Clark and H. M. Bentley settled in this area.

In 1863 with the country and a hot Civil War, the Maine Prairie Rifle were commissioned as a unit in the state militia by Gov. Stanford. The records show about 60 members of this unit with Albert Bennett as Captain, John Low, A. S. Hopkins and James Bingham, as Lieutenants.

The name Binghamton was eventually taken from Lieutenant Bingham. After the war the unit was disbanded by Gov. Haight and the 35 by 50 foot one-story armory sold to D. L. Munson. The only activity of the Maine Prairie Rifles was to assemble when some strange Indians appeared and started to gather up livestock. The alarm was sounded and the members assembled to fire a few volleys over the heads of the Indians who hastily fled into the tules to the East.

Munson ran a general merchandise store and added a second story to be used as an assembly place and social Hall.

When Munson retired, the building was sold to the school district and the lower floor used as a schoolroom and upper floor as a dance and social Hall.

The first teacher was a Mr. F. M. Righter. In 1865 Methodist Church was established with T. H. Woodard as minister and this area became a strong Methodist community. Even in

these early days, there were factions and a group called the Protestant Methodist was formed in Maine Prairie Landing with Rev. T. New, Rev. G. Triplett, Rev. Dustin and Rev. Graves, as pastors. This group survived two years, maybe too many pastors and too few parishioners.

The Binghamton post office was established on July 25, 1864 with Richmond L. Gordon as postmaster. He was succeeded by David Munson, who also ran the general merchandise store, on July 7, 1871, the post office was discontinued on September 29, 1874, and again reestablished on October 16, 1874, with Luther M. Frick as postmaster. He was succeeded by William H Smith, in April of 1876, who served until the post office was finally closed on September 29, 1906. He had served as postmaster for over 30 years.

When the post office closed the records available showed the following people held post office boxes at Binghamton: Ed Sparling, Edward Rayns, J. L. Brown, C. S. Craig, A. J. Brown, J.C. Ninady, Henry Peters, H. G. Brown, C. Bernhart and C. Parker. Long after the post office was closed the old brick armory served as a school and social hall. The older folks may remember the wonderful times they had in that upstairs dance hall.

Again, some regret this building could not have been preserved as a landmark for historical interest.

Nov. 11, 1954

The Old Porter House

Once stood about 1 ½ miles south of Dixon on old Highway 40.

The old Porter house, 14 rooms, five chimneys and three fireplaces (one of the area's oldest landmarks,) is being torn down. Doing the job is a Woodland firm, with the lumber to be used partly building a house at West Sacramento and another at Woodland, says Clifford Peterson, the owner, who bought the farm 15 years ago. The old mansion was considered impractical for making over for occupancy by himself and wife, so he built a much lesser size house nearby.

Built 77 years ago [this article was dated 1955]. The big house was built in 1878 by James Porter, who would come here with his wife, three girls and two sons whose names were Charles and William.

The 38 x 58 two story house with large basement and 12 foot ceilings was built at a time when big houses were the style by well-to-do ranchers. It was lavishly furnished with costly antique pieces, one of the show places of the Valley, and many were the parties therein. Peterson says he was told that the house, despite its almost 5,000 ft.² of living area, ornate construction and the fact that all materials had to be trucked in via horse team, cost only \$7,000.

William continued occupying the home after the death of his parents. But hard times finally came for the Porter family and it was hard to keep the home and comfortable and attractive condition, so it began deteriorating and he became weather beaten, a forlorn looking structure of better days.

When Mrs. William Porter passed away the family scattered. The girls married, son James died and William Junior moved to Ryer Island, his father joining him and dying there a few years ago.

Of the 14 rooms, six were bedrooms, four upstairs and two down. There was one bathroom which is as good an indication as any as to how old the place is. And it was a small bathroom containing a wash basin and bathtub only. The bathtub was 8 feet long, narrow and high, boarded in around the sides and the top 100% galvanized.

The house was piped, not only for running water, but for carbide lighting. All pipes were of soft-lead and of large diameter. Eventually, of course, the carbide pipes were used for electrical conduits.

Long studs.

One indication of the extraordinary features was the one-piece of 2 x 4's studying on the sides, two by fours which were 26 feet in length. And there were no termites in any of the lumber, says one of the wreckers.

A dumbwaiter ran from the basement to the dining room, mainly for the use of transporting full and empty wine bottles back and forth by the looks of the wine bench in the basement. A large pile of rugs, rather threadbare and thin, is mute evidence of the wall-to-wall carpeting.

The wreckers say the plastering job was excellent, most of it in as good a shape as it was 75 years ago, and some of the original wallpaper still on the walls.

In the basement the records found more interesting items-an old-fashioned, highly polished egg incubator, also a chair with a hole in the seat and at plug to fit the whole.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson bought the place of 160 acres in 1941. They sold 10 acres of it to William Grigsby. Tomatoes, peas and barley are Peterson's farm activities this year.

He said he is not going to fill up the basement, but will retain the old, still strong floor as a perfect if covering.

Few mansions left

There are only a few big old-time ranch homes left, the 23 room house 10 miles south of Dixon built by John Brown from Vermont, now occupied by Jack Parker and Harvey Firchow: the Leo Tuck house, also south of Dixon; and the former Currey ranch home 3 miles north of Dixon.

Dixon POST 208

The American Legion was started in France in Mar. 1919 by Veterans who had served during a wartime period as defined by the United States Congress. Its primary political activity is lobbying on behalf of veterans and service men and women. Its second meeting was held May 1919 in St. Louis, Missouri when it started its first charter.

It was reported that Oct. 5, 1919 Mr. Chester Ballard a representative of the American Legion was to be in Dixon to talk with local soldiers on membership in the American Legion. In Feb. 1920 a meeting was held at the Dixon High School to discuss the joining of this national organization. At this time the President of the Sacramento Post of the American Legion and Darwin Scott of the same group were present. They were here to suggest the Dixon group form their own Post in what was known as the greatest social, fraternal and patriotic organization in America. So the following people were elected officers on a temporary basis, J.M. Cowden President, R.R. Rierson Vice President, O.C. Little Secretary and C.A. Jacobs as treasurer. A committee composed of Dr. Lambert Kumle, Dr. O.P. Floreth and William Briggs Jr. was formed to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the local Post. William Keefe, Raymond Little and Henry Sievers were appointed as a membership committee. The fees were to be \$5.00 per year, payable semi-annually in advance, with no initiation fee. The next meeting was to be held Feb. 1920 at the High School auditorium and all ex-service men were invited to attend. At this time they received their charter and Dixon Post 208 was officially formed. Thirty five people paid their dues and another 7 took applications to join.

At the Sept. 1920 meeting the Dixon Post decided with the cooperation of the citizens of Dixon to build a club building that would serve all the purposes of a community building. Posts were also formed in Benicia, Vacaville, Suisun and Vallejo as well as Dixon, as a group went to the County Board of Supervisors for financial help. The Supervisors said they would cooperate to the fullest extent of the laws governing such matters.

In October of 1923, the Legion building was to be built on a lot donated by the estate of Oscar C. Schulze. The location was on the west side of main Street across the street from the Women's Improvement Club Park. The building consisted of a large room to be used for dances meetings and social gatherings, along with restrooms, a kitchen and a club room. It was completed in 1924 and 700 people attended the opening. In 1927 the County turned the building over to Solano County which in turn turns it back over to the Legion on a technical lease. Some of the uses for the building are as follows, the Dixon Game Club used it for their meetings, two hundred blood

drives, the Rotary Club used it for 40 pancake breakfasts prior to the Mayfair parades, dances, reunions, weddings, bingo games, fashion shows and many other events.

The Post itself helped in military funerals, were involved in Armistice Day activities, assisted in Mayfair parades, decorated graves, organized baseball games, supported the Boy Scouts, assisted in Memorial Day activities, sold Poppies, posted a Color Guard for ceremonies, the Legion Auxiliary put on food sales, Bazaars and card parties, Valentine parties. The Post had a band in the 1935's.

Through the years the local Legion has served Dixon and the community well. Not only have they provided the area with a suitable hall for public use, they have contributed much to the success of the community. The original Legion Hall has since been outdated and a new Legion Hall has been purchased. Its new location is directly north of the old site on North Main Street about a half mile.

Some of the material for this article was provided by Mr. Robert Fletcher, Past Post Commander.

Dixon Fire Department

The following is a letter and history as told by Leonard Ferguson who lived in Dixon and was Fire Chief at one time. He was asked to write a brief history of what went on in Dixon in those early years. He was the grand-daughter of Gill Orr.

Through the Years

Requested by the oldest organization in Dixon for its history as found dating back to Oct. 15 1872.

The following information being accumulated by Ex chief L.E. Ferguson from history of Solano county as printed by Wood Alley & Co. in 1879, Dixon tribune files of 1880 (hand set type) and a biography & personal contact with my father in law, Ex Chief B. F. Newby who was born May 9 1856 in La Porte, Plumas county. In 1860 moved, Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Newby and family, two daughters and son Frank to Virginia City, in the winter of 1861 during epidemic of smallpox. His mother and one sister passed on and were buried there.

In 1865 the father brought his son Frank by stage to Folsom and from there by stream train (Central Pacific R.R.) to Sacramento (Western Hotel) where he and his father parted. Frank being sent by stage to the 20 mile house in Solano Co. knew as the Richard Hall ranch (later McFadgen) from here him to go to Morgan Valley, Lake Co., home of John Dearing and stay. But passing through the Reddick Ranch on foot he was held there as a much needed chore boy, lived there 7 years going to school in Silveyville during the winter. In 1874 he returned to Virginia City and found his surviving sister had married J.P. Woodbury who had quartz mine went to work and saved his money and landed in Dixon in 1876, buying an interest in the Dixon Flour Mill. Married in 1881 to Isabelle Dailey, seven children were born, two surviving Lawrence L. Newby of San Francisco, Madeline Ferguson of Dixon. Mr. Newby served his town well in the Fire Department (Bucket Brigade of 1876) an Ex Chief, organized a band and orchestra, manager of Dixon Ball Club Post Master and as constable solved murder of a brother and sister by their brother who was found guilty and hanged. Mr. Newby retired in 1931 at age 75. In the May Day parade of 1926 Mr. John Lyons Ex Chief of Vacaville and Mr. Newby Ex chief of Dixon, oldest firemen of Solano County rode on the old hand operated Tub that was used in Dixon in the 1880's for fire protection .

On completion of the Central Pacific rail road that passed through the Thomas Dickson ranch 2 ½ miles south east of Silveyville in 1868 Dickson gave 10 acres of his land for a town site and rail road station. Many buildings were soon moved from Silveyville and Maine Prairie. The Methodist church built in Silveyville in 1866 at a cost of \$4000 was moved to Dickson 1871. The Catholic Church built in 1868 still stands by

and used for a recreation hall, hotel built by B. Greining called the Empire. Mr. W. R. Ferguson (no relation) built a hardware store 1st and A Street now Dawsons. A shipment from San Francisco was consigned to him as "Dixon" for short and was adopted as a name for this growing town. Eppinger & Co. general merchandise store, north corner of 1st and B Street brick structure was located where the saving Center markets now., Bank of Dixon located between the Savings Center and the Farmers Exchange, Jasper Kattenberg 2nd and B Street, Wm Van Sant father of Ex Chief B. G. Van Sant groceries located where Willis Simpsons is now.

Town of Dixon incorporated by act of State legislature in 1878. Being a grain farming area surrounding the town fire was a great hazard particularly on dry north winds, many fires caused by coal burning engines would dump the grates anywhere on the track.

Mr. George Frahm an energetic citizen organized a fire company of volunteers installing water barrels and buckets in convenient places on many main streets, those that joined at the time J. Frederickson, Wm Van Sant, Mr. Dashell, E. Wehe & J. Eppinger, Wm Henman, Geo King, B. F. Newby & Owen O'Neil, this group carried on and kept the hazards under control. Water was available from hand pumps used to fill horse troughs & etc. Every home had their own water supply from wells approximately 30 ft. deep.

In 1879 the fire company was enlarged Wm Frederickson as foreman a movement was started to raise funds for better equipment , dances were held,. Dinners and public subscriptions resulting in the purchase of a Babcock engine (hand operated) for pressure and Hook and Ladder with 12 buckets attached.

In 1880 Solano county supervisors adopted a plan of exempt poll tax and jury duty to encourage volunteer Fire Dept. in the county. Dixon Fire Dept. went all out, over 40 men enrolled. George Greuning elected foreman, W.E. Van Sant 1st assistant, Nick Thodt 2nd Asst., Treasurer H. Eppinger, sect. A. Manning. Dues 25 cent a month. Failure to answer roll call after each fire a fine of 50 cents imposed.

There were many large ranches in the Dixon area, one in particular the Mr. B. McKinley ranch which joined the Thomas Dickson ranch on the south where he and his son built a home on a knoll in 1857, he giving 15 acres of his land for a cemetery on his high land as winter floods were quite common in surrounding country. The oldest grave being two children of L.L. Mann and wife Martha one in 1857 and 1862 no record being found.

In 1864 Mr. McKinley was buried under a large black walnut tree in the corner of his corral, cause of his death was on a steam boat from San Francisco to Rio Vista, the

boiler blew up, eleven persons injured or died. In 1879 Dixon's first big fire as reported, burned his home and ranch and later his wife (Catherine) was buried here.

1882 Mr. Abraham Kirby then sheriff of Solano County moved his drug store from Silveyville to Dixon, purchasing a lot from Thomas Dickson 1st and A Street. Where IOOF was located. Fire equipment was kept in most any old building on 1st St. Mrs. Mary Little daughter of Mr. Kirby recalls the Fire Dept. Boys with their red shirts on parade or fire drills pulling the (old Tub) fire engine and Hook and ladder equipment.

1883 Dixon in ashes. Quote- the Queen City a picture of Desolation. The Tribune of Dixon of Nov. 22 , 1883 as printed by Mr. Ed E. Leake editor and pressured by Mr. B. F. Newby an 8 by 10 inch edition two pages. In part Monday eve 6:30 pm Nov. 19th a furious north wind blowing at the time the fire alarm was sounded. The streets were soon thronged with an excited crowd of people, the fire was discovered in the rear of the Pearson House, where Farmers Exchange now stands Jackson and B Street a rooming house of frame structure, before the fire company got in action the house was a mass of flames, fire men stationed across the street on roof (shingle) Union Hall and Tribune office located , the heat was so intense were soon driven off as the C. P. depot took off also ware house and soon eaten up all efforts were directed to saving contents of stores, hotels and etc. in the main city block all of frame structures in all 21 like tinder boxes some stores had kegs of powder on hand blew up the frames reaching high in the heavens, ranchers came to town to help, the mildest excitement prevailed women and children were carried to safety by force, the Kings Hotel located where the First National Bank now occupies 1st Street and B street. And paid some boys to care for them. In the block on the north side of B. Street Bank of Dixon & Eppinger store of brick structure blocked the flames in that direction but to the north a livery stable owned by George Guering was saved, but Pythias castle went down instantly, at Kings Hotel corner 1st. & B men worked desperately but flames spread so rapidly very little was saved. To add to the distress of the deplorable situation it soon became apparent a band of thieves were pilfering in every direction and a drunken mob of Hassling and cursing like demons in less than one hour, not a building was saved of what had been the business center of Dixon saved the brick walls and Post Office building and Van Sant store, Einstein store, Dr. Uphan dentist and Palace Hotel east of 1st Street a & B Street were saved. As the flames neared A Street no heroic effort was made to save Arcade Hotel and livery stable, the flames leaped over and burned A. Fishers barn, the Baptist church caught many times on the roof but was saved as walls were of brick structure but Dr. Trafton's home and stable due south of the church were burned, his horse and buggy were saved and invalid wife carried from the home, the Presbyterian church was also saved on the corner of Mayes & A Street. Embers were blown as far away as the Harry Petersen and Dailey ranches several miles south of Dixon. Mr. Abarham Kirby sheriff of Solano County at the time sent out an SOS for deputies, the

overland brought help from Suisun, Fairfield, Elmira, Vacaville, Winters and Davisville came by teams with men and relief equipment for those who had lost their homes. The CPRR Co. brought in cars for a depot and telegraph equipment. Insurance companies and photographers were soon on the job. Insurance companies paying losses and claims. Much more could be listed in detail but the closing word by Ed E. Leake editor of the Tribune, we are on our backs with a hand full of type but thank god for our lives as one reported.

1884 The reconstruction of Dixon soon took place, brick buildings were in demand for fire protection for the future. Many train loads of brick were delivered from the Sacramento brick yards. Mr. Abraham Kirby sold his lot on 1st & A Street south to IOOF Hall association two story building lodge hall upstairs ground floor used for many purposes through the years. Masonic hall on 1st center of block A & B lodge hall upstairs. Mayes Building adjoining to the south part two story buildings top floor Doctors' offices and Telephone Co. for long distance calls. W.R. Ferguson (no relation) on North corner of 1st and a hardware store, later J.D. Johnson hardware store now Dawson's Cigar store. Kings building next to the Old Corner saloon, later re-modeled as First National Bank building on B Street to Jefferson St. & depot. Mr. Ross built the opera house and joined on the K of P hall two story, post office and Jim Frizzell sheet metal and plumbing on the first floor, Fisher's saloon (married Maud Dawson father) on Jackson Street corner of A Street. John McDermott saloon, city jail and J.W. Pritchard built the sheet iron fire house to house the apparatus Hook & Ladder 12 buckets attached and hand operated engine (old Tub) for more pressure, room in rear for meeting purposes over the jail room for City Trustees. As time went on other brick buildings were added in various parts of the business area.

Jan 10th, 1885

Freight train conductor & engineer were arrested for blocking the north crossing hindering the fire company to a fire. No fires of much importance were found during the construction of the new City of Dixon.

Jan. 15, 1887

The fire company elected George Frahn foreman, P.R. Willot 1st assistant, Con Luney 2nd assistant, George Gruening treasurer, A. Manning sect. Jan. 22nd a pressure pump was added to the water wagon (hand operated).

July 4, 1887 (Dixon Day parade)

Fire department represented by the Old Tub was decorated with bunting and flowers as given by madams Madden and Trafton who furnished the flowers, Mr. Hartman and Mr. Manning decorators of the department, Jacob Rohwer father of Rohwer Bros and daughters handled the ribbons of a dapple grey four horse team and

fire department boys with their red shirts. Above information from Mrs. Mary Little of Dixon

1888 Joseph Enright a construction engineer who had installed a steam water plant in Willows, a special meeting of the town Trustees was called to consider his offer of a well, steam engine, 30,000gallon tank and some pipe lines on 21st Street, the offer was taken under consideration as no funds were available at the time. Jan. 14th, regular meeting of the fire Co. George Frahm re-elected foreman, P.R. Willot 1st assistant, J. Misfeldt 2nd assistant, A. Oberhauser treasurer and A. Manning sect.

Mar 7th 1889 winter hatched a few fires mostly grass, one exception, Milton Carpenter residence next to the Thomas Dickson home, a outhouse and wood shed burned , the fire company save the house and lot with this bucket brigade.

1890 Dixon's big scare. A contract had been let to A.A. Osborne by city trustees for water works and carbon lights on Main Street. a coal burning steam engine, two wood 50,000 gallon water tanks, 50 foot above the ground, 5,600 foot 6 inch pipe, 13 fire hydrants, a whistle on the stationary steam engine to signal fire alarms. A public meeting of citizens held to purchase a hose cart and 2m 1/2 in. hose. George Frahm, A. Manning and Steve Brinkerhoff committee met and decided to hold an old fashion Fireman's Ball on June 4th, a large committee was appointed to put it over @ \$1.50 per couple including a scrumptious supper at midnight, over \$600 was raised, all tickets sold out.

1890 Mr. Frahm and Mr. J.H. Rice went to San Francisco and purchased from the city a hose cart for \$285 , 300 feet of 2 ½ hose had been used but in good condition for hydrant pressure and town purpose 50# or less. May 24 the hose cart and hose arrived all turned out to welcome this first piece of fire equipment .The large gong attached to frame would ring on complete turn of the cartwheel, quite entertaining for the youngsters. The young men immediately organized a hose company: P.R. Willot president, Paul Harlan sect, Ed Freeman treasurer, Travis Norman foreman, A. Parker 1st assistant, Ed Hayard 2nd assistant, trustees U. Upham, J. Eppinger and Bert Burnes. Duties Aculeo Hose Co. (God of the Winds)

1891- First fire house was built on Jackson Street at A & B street contract let to J.P. Pritchard (father of W. Pritchard an ex-chief) a sheet iron building open front and cement floor rear room for meeting of the fire department. M.P. Carpenter built a hose cart to match the one bought in San Francisco only painted red and sold to the city. Immediately another hose company was organized and dubbed the Alert. A.P. D'Artney foreman, delegates to the department, H.C. McKinley, A. Filto and C.C. Donoho. The fire department then consist of 28 members and four units protection No 1 (old tub hand operated for pressure) B.F. Newby, Captain Hook and Ladder and bucket attached. E.

Ferguson foreman and the two cart companies. The department consists of chief C. Harlan. Assistant chief H. Pratt, Sect. A. Manning, Treasurer G. D. Schulze and all unit members.

1891 The city trustees held a special meeting and appointed George Frahm s chief of the Dixon Fire Department, as Mr. Frahm had served the town well for many previous years, the appointment was well received by all.

1892 The Dixonites having served as fireman the past five years, 14 in all out of the 40 that had signed up as volunteers received their certificates from the county clerk for exemption of jury duty and poll tax were , George Fraham, Con Loney, Jacob Misfeldt, F. Reichardt, H.A.Ross, J.M. Garnett, Peter Timm, Henry Peters, Harry Petersen, Peter Peters, George Cadman, Jacob Schroeder, J.P. Kersh, and H.E. McCune, William Van Sant.

1892 Disaster-Earthquake & Fire (Quote) Special edition of tribune Willot & Henry editor's paper size 11 1/2 X 8 inches as presented by Mr. Newby. Tuesday 2:45 AM April 22nd. .the hardest earthquake in years hit central Solano County particularly in Solano County and very severe in Dixon, Winters, Vacaville and Davis from west to east. People were awakened by ominous rumbling followed by terrific shock, the twisting and groaning of timbers, the duration is not known many thought the end of time had come, those in hotels and rooming houses pandemonium reigned, then the mournful tolling of the church bell and the wailing of the fire whistle of the water works. As handed down to me by my father Eugene Ferguson being a fireman left my mother and I in our home at 5th & B Street. Note I was 3 of age. I was carried in a blanket to town and on Main Street (not 1st) covered with mud and rumbled my mother fell with me face down with mouth and eyes full of mud. I was taken to the horse trough on corner of Eppingers store 1st & B and a light rain set in on Wed. evening and without any warning a severe shock at 9:45 PM completed the ruins started on brick and frame buildings on Main street the area being a shambles, every building in Silveyville township were damaged, local firms suffering severely were John Dawson's dry goods store, Brown and Coleman, Goodman and Co., A. Kirby drug, E. J. McBride, bank of Dixon, Eppinger & Co. ,north wall carver out and crushed in building of John Rhemke saloon , Mr. Rhemke and George Harms were sleeping in rear of the frame building and were bruised in the debris but rescued by fire men but cut and bruised. The north wall of Brinkerhoff's & King building 1st & B street (across First National Bank) were badly wrecked also brick wall of Ross building (Opera House) and adjoining K of P Hall on B Street. The IOOF Hall at 1st & A street walls were cracked but escaped heavy damage. Dr. Upham building east side 1st street was badly wrecked, many homes in town and county were damaged as reported in detail, a car load of tents was sent to Dixon, my first christening as a fireman.

To add to the terror two fires had broken out in the main block, Dugan's dry goods store in Mayes building, the south wall of Masonic Hall had fell and caved in the roof of the store, a lamp had been left burning in the rear of the office of building which touched it off. The grocery store of Brown and Coleman was presumably started by a five gallon can of black matches open and fell to the floor ignited the building. The firemen worked heroically with the two lines of 2 ½ inch hose, one at 1st & a street hydrant and 1st & B hydrant. If this equipment hadn't been available the firemen would have been helpless in that business block. Tuesday approached the trepidation increased and another shack hit at 10 PM, followed by a moiré sever at 2 AM. Wednesday which wrecked many more buildings? People walked the streets but kept from brick buildings, 8:45 AM a very heavy shock terrifying school children that had gathered, school was ordered closed by trustees for the week a light rain set in on Wed. evening and without a warning a severe shock hit at 9:45 pm completing the ruins started on brick frame buildings. Local firms suffering severely were John Dugan's dry goods store, Brown & Coleman, Goodman & Co., A. Kirby's Drug, E.J. McBride, and Bank of Dixon. Eppingers north wall caved out and crushed in the building of John Rhemke's saloon. Mr. Rhemke and George Harms were sleeping in the rear of the frame building and were buried in the debris but were rescued by firemen but cut and bruised. The north wall of Brinkerhoff and King building on fist and B Street (now First Northern Bank) were badly wrecked, also badly wrecked was the brick wall of the Ross building (Opera House) and adjoining K of P Hall on B Street. The I.O.O.F. Hall Is tans A Street; walls were cracked but escaped heavy damage. Dr. Upham Building east side of Fist Street was badly wrecked; many homes in town and country were damaged as reported in detail. A carload of tents was sent by the state for use of homeless families. Saturday 3AM a very heavy shock hit winters. The constant danger of fire was closely watched by the firemen on duty day and night, no lamps were allowed in business area. A special train from the Bay area brought photographers, reporters for various papers and insurance companies. The report that the fault was centered in Putah Canyon west of Winters and not Putman Peak an extinct volcano south of that area. July 20, 1892 Rio Vista River View Hotel burned and several blocks of the business district, some of the Dixon firemen drove down to help.

1993. The city had a tower erected on the fire house to dry the fire hose. A special meeting was held by the fire Dept. to elect a chief to replace O.C. Shulze who had resigned; H.W. was elected and confirmed by the city trustees. A baseball club was organized, B. F Newby manager, Four Hulen boys listed, Bill pitcher, Joe Short stop, Left Field Steve, Is base Stephens, 2nd base Sawyer, 3rd base George Darby,

1894 F.B. Newby chief, E. Ferguson assistant chief Okayed by city trustees. Jan. 25, 1895. The fire Department meeting, elected J.P. Pritchard, Dan McKinnon assistant chief, H. Petersen Sect. , George Frahm Treasurer. The city trustees Okayed the

election and also appointed B.F. Newby constable, Eugene Ferguson town Marshall and Joe Staton night watchman. A. L. Henry was editor of the Tribune.

1895 Jan. 22 Aelous Hose Company elected F. A. Hutton, foreman; Harry Stange, Sect; B.F. Newby, Treasurer; Ist Assistant foreman, T.B. Duke; 2nd asst. foreman, J.L. Nagle; Property man M.P. Carpenter; sargent of arms, T. B. Gilespeie, trustee H.F. Duprey, C. D.and J.B. Dale; Delegates to City trustees, T. V. Norman and Wm. Fitzpatrick.

Alert Hose Co. Election, Gilly Jansen, foreman; George Steinmiller, Ist Assistant; C.C. Donoho, 2nd Assistant, H.WE. Timm, treasurer, C. Kirby; Sect; Joe Station, Sargent of arms; J Van Buren, property man; L.B. Higgins trustee.

Jan 25 1895 The Fire dep't meeting elected J.P. Pritchard chief, Dan McKinnon assistant chief, L.H. Peterson. Sect, George Frahm, George Frahm treasurer. The city Ok'd the election and appointed B.F. Newby constable, Eugene Ferguson town Marshall and Joe Stanton night watchman.

Jan. 1896 A. J. Henry and F.A. Hutton editors. Fire Department elected Dan McKinnon fire chief, E.C. Eames assistant, okayed by trustees appointed Joe Stanton night watchman @ \$60 per month and W. C. Rhem Marshall @ \$21.50 per month. Jan. 31, 1896, water 8 feet deep at Main Prairie, highest flood since 1862. May1, Vandome Hotel burned .Jan. 1899, E.C. Eames re-elected chief of fire department and Charles Harlan assistant chief. Oct. 1, 1899. High north wind and big fire at Elmira, help went from Dixon and Vacaville. The city trustees received permission from Rail Road Co. to use their 30,000 gallon water supply tank in emergency for fire only. James Frizzell (father of Mrs. Maude Dawson) made the hookup to city water main. Numerous grass fires in town and north and south of town grain fires off Rail Road right way causes of coal burners of locomotives kept under control with the Fire Department Tub, water wagon and firemen with wet sacks, set by Rail Road freight train, loss to Peter Timm, Brinkerhoff, Bloom and Mrs. Hy Peters. (Henry).

Mar. 18, 1904 Foster Cannery at Tremont burned, a total loss.

Dec. 20, 1900 Charles Harlan Chief , H. Pratt assistant. The Arcade Hotel south side of A Street Main and Jackson owned by Mr. Kumle was completely destroyed by fire , was an old land mark saved from the 1883 fire, consist of bar, dining room and 30 bed rooms upstairs. Arcade stables west on corner was saved, Captain Frank Rustaller of Sacramento donated \$29 to the Fire Department for saving his personal property in the hotel room.

Jan. 1901 Fire Department meeting units representing Protection No. 1 (Old Tub) A. Kirby foreman, Hook and Ladder E. Ferguson foreman Acolus Hose Co., T.B.

Duke foreman Alert Hose Co., A.P. D'Artney foreman, chief Charles Harland assistant Chief, H. Pratt Sect., A. Manning treasurer, G.D. Schulze.

May 9, 1902 Town election and appointed Fire Department committee trustees M.P. Carpenter, A.F. Shangraw and J.D. Johnson. July 25th, Temperature 114 degrees. Fire at M.P. Carpenter's home, back house and wood shed burned. Fire Department saved the lot. Rowland Moss editor Tribune. Large grass fire in local area.

1905. E.D. Lehe purchased the Dixon Light and Water Works from A.A. Osborn. Feb. 10, Department election, E.K. Wilson chief, E. Ferguson assistant and okayed by trustees. Disastrous fire on East side of Main street, 3:30 AM fire broke out in the rear of Upham building burned adjoining frame building of Reichert 7 A.P. D'Artney sop, much credit to the Fire Department and volunteers to save the Dixon Restaurant and Bakery.

1906 Pavilion at the city park (now fair grounds) burned to the ground owned by Tim Horgan, was quite a loss to the Dixon community as for many years dances and picnics were held there, a fine dance floor upstairs, ground floor used for bar, suppers and refreshment stands at May Day. A large five seated band wagon used in parades was stored under the north stairway of the large two story building, an attempt was made to save the wagon but did not succeed, and the heat drove us away no water was available from the wind mill tank that was nearby.

1907 the China washhouse located at the end of 2nd Street was burned also peoples cloths in the building, no alarm was turned in, the Chinamen all ran out in rear alley and nothing was saved and let it burn.

1909 the Alesworth house on 2nd Street and Broadway burned to the ground, no one was living there, saved the lot. E.K. Wilson chief, Eugene Ferguson assistant chief and in the department for many years, "passed on", had served as city treasurer, town Marshall and Deputy, Post Master for E.J. McBride in 1906 on B Street, Ross Building and then went to work in the dry goods department for O.C. Schulze. Ex-Chief B.F. Newby appointed Post Master in 1907, moved the post office to the new post Office when finished in 1908 1st and B Street. Funeral services held for my father Assistant Eugene Ferguson in K of P Hall Dec. 31, 1909 under auspices of Othelo Lodge 31 K of P and court Dixon No. 89 Faristers of Armenia.

1911 The writer returned to Dixon, having lived in Sacramento since 1904 joined the Dixon Fire Department.

MEMORIES

1911 On my return to Dixon I rejoined the Dixon Fire Department, Chas Kirby being requested for a history of the Fire Department it is necessary to acquaint you with

facts, "Quote" in 1929 the tribune office on 1st Street had quite a fire, daily papers were bound each year, the pile was dated to 1880, all the later books on top were burned so those of 1880 were stored in the Old Bank of Dixon vault 1st and B Street in the basement, each book I took out was noted, being hand set type (small) was necessary to use a magnifying glass over each column as nothing was separated to find Fire Department news no doubt some could have been overlooked.

Dec. 12, 1913 My long remembered year (married June 4th) Lovell home burned on second Street being a total loss, had just been over hauled, suspicion that oil rags had been left inside, being about the first on the job (I lived block way on St.) I noted a heavy new front door was vibrating, thought someone was inside, about that time a hose cart pulled up. I called for an axe which Dr. Wrigley brought off the cart, we caved in the door and met with oily smoke, the family had spent the night elsewhere. The German Lutheran church was very close by and soon filled up with smoke. There being a swallow's nest in the tall belfry, it was necessary to put it out. Dr. Wrigley, Virgil Robben, Chester Ballard helped put it out. Smoke was coming through the shingles from the hot fire so close you could not see.

1913 Mr. R. Moss sold the Tribune to Mr. Frederick Dunnicliff Senior.

1914 Our new editor and writer were standing in front of the Bank of Dixon 1st and B Street when the lights turned red and gong rang. Mr. Dunnicliff and I ran to the telephone office and got the word it was the Roy Mayes home on fire we ran around and rang the fire bell two drays pulled for the two hose carts and Hook and ladder and every fireman piled on the two carts of 500 feet of 2 ½ inch hose were put out at P.G. & E. hydrant, 1000 feet in all but was about 1509 feet short of the fire, so a bucket brigade was formed including ladies and fire men and school boys. The home being very well built was slow in burning, everything was moved out, going upstairs with Chief Kirby we came upon Julius Weyand

With a crew in the pool room he had hit three and out went the fine table to a cement walk, broken into 1000 pieces. There was a large switch box with heavy insulation and there our fire was located after using up 500 buckets of water and 2 ½ gallons of fire extinguishers. Heard sometime later Roy was to bring suit against the water Co. or city of Dixon but did not materialize so a home was built south of Dixon.

OPERA HOUSE

Built 1864 owned by Ross Estate. Mrs. Rierson a daughter of Mrs. Ross became the manager of the building that was used for many years and graduation of high school students and road shows in about 1912 a church play was put on, many small children

with paper dresses and carrying lighted candles were on the stage, the building was jammed, I being Assistant Chief at the time managed to get the door and with other firemen brought the fire hose 1 ½ inch to the door (loaded) for emergency, I notified the State Fire Marshall Jay Stevens who came and inspected the building and had a talk with Mrs. Rierson, explained what had to be done and she refused to do what had to be done as three reels of hose on inside of building fire escape on east side to ground all doors to be open out.

Dixon Golf Club

It might not have resembled Pebble Beach Golf Course but the local Dixon Golfers would probably put up an argument. In 1929 Bert LaFountain and Max Cowden, Dixon residents decided to start a golf club. They concluded that golf was good for the health and sociability. The first step was to locate a place to build a course. The then Dixon airfield which was south and east of the present swimming pool and unused, looked to be a logical spot. That along with the slough, would provide good hazard material. The next step was to sign up the golf enthusiasts' and 40 people stepped up to play. Milton Carpenter Jr. was elected president, John Belden, vice President, A.H. Alexander, Sect. and J.M. Cowden, Treasurer. Mr. Charles Dailey owned the airport property and would lease the property at a reasonable price and the city owned the slough.

The course was to be a 9 hole course, so began the project of laying out the course, which was a group project. The course was to be about 15 total acres. The fee was to be \$10.00 with an annual fee of \$10.00, a green fee to be charged others. Along with Dixon building a course, Winters was making plans to build their own course. Consequently the two towns played each other's course.

About 1930 the course was ready to play with 6 greens ready and 3 more to be built. Shortly after that a Club House was acquired, that being a barn located on the Petersen property and relocated just north of the present swimming pool about where the present Senior Citizens building is now located.

Golf remained popular for about the next five to ten years but then enthusiasm dwindled and finally the course went back to nature. This was about 1941. At that time the Club house was given to the Girl Scouts for their Club activities.

June 12, 1959

Dixon landmark coming down

One of the oldest landmarks in Dixon came down last week with the wrecking of the old Presbyterian Church at the corner of Mayes and South First. According to Mrs. Mary Little, was born in 1874, the church was constructed in 1878, several years after the town of Dixon had been moved from Silveyville. Mrs. Little recalls that as a three or four-year-old she used to skip from her home near the present IOOF building to watch daily progress of the church.

Dr. Alexander was the first preacher, and Dr. Evans (he was an MD) he led the singing. Dr. Evans lived in a house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Morris.

As old as the Presbyterian Church was, Mrs. Little says there are two older ones. The Methodist Church was moved along with the houses from Silveyville in 1868 and the red brick Community Church was built in 1878.

The demolished church building has been used in recent years as a youth building by the Community Church but was finally declared unsafe.

Mrs. Little adds a brief picture of the town in this area

A man named Hirsh had a harness shop on the corner where the post office now stands. On the north corner of the block was brewery and between were a number of small houses, some of which were China houses and the rest were houses of ill fame. We called to Barbary Coast.

The senior Mr. Carpenter moved his shop from Silveyville when Dixon was started. Brinckerhoff had a two-story hotel where the Bank of Dixon now stands Bank of America.

May Day picnics were held on the West side of the rare road on Mr. Mayes land.

The first Odd Fellows Hall was built on the lot on the south side of my dad's drug store (Mr. Kirby.) After the fire in 1884 he sold the corner to the Odd Fellows.

There was a Congregational church on a lot where the McDermott house now stands (the corner of Jackson and West A.) It was later moved over near the schoolhouse for a primary school. Then the Protestant church was built.

There was a two-story lodging house back of the depot where the Farmers Exchange nursery is now. That was where the big fire of 84 started which level the town.

The biggest livery stable was worthy frosty driving is. In

Dixon Parks

The park or picnic ground played an important part in early Dixon life and even today. There were picnic excursions to Tamany Grove in Davisville, in 1875. Also picnics held on the Wolfskill property located near Putah Creek which was known as the "Old Camp Grounds". There were also references of picnics in the foot hills west of Dixon.

Dixon started its first Picnic or fair May 3, 1875. This was sponsored by the Knights of Pythias a local fraternal lodge organization, the Othelo lodge. The location of this May picnic was at Frederickson Park which was situated west of the downtown area. A dance floor and band stand were built to celebrate the festivities. Such a wonderful time was had that it was decided to hold another one the following year. Meanwhile the owner of the property Mr. Frederickson who was a horticultural gardener by profession decided to plant shrubs and trees to beautify the park. A refreshment booth was also constructed as well as a 100 foot table that was roofed was built.

By the following year a Pavilion was built and Washington Hall was dedicated. This held the first Grand Ball dance. The following year 1878, the Frahm Brothers local hotel owners leased the grounds for four years. When they became involved they included a shooting gallery and other sports and games were included. This year a picnic was put on by the Odd Fellows lodge on April 26. The lodge had branches located in Capay, Madison, Winters, Vacaville and Elmira who also promised to attend so the Vaca Valley Railroad Co. ran a special train from Madison to accommodate these people who decided to attend. For those who did not take the train, buggies and wagons were plentiful on the streets. The Woodland Brass and String band were engaged for the occasion.

So people today can appreciate the atmosphere of the day I am going to include the next paragraph that appeared in the Dixon Tribune in 1878. Quote, "The advantage of having a fine pleasure ground like Washington Park so near home was appreciated by the public of Dixon last Saturday. They turned out in great numbers to attend the opening picnic and if they failed to enjoy themselves it was their own fault: we do not think, however, that there were any but who succeeded in that respect. The weather, fortunately, was propitious, though in the morning wind was threatened and the sky cloudy: but it all cleared off during the forenoon and was as pleasant as if the day had been made for the occasion---just warm enough to make ice cream and lemonade a luxury and without the disagreeable wind which marred enjoyment of last May Day. At a comparatively early hour people animated appearance. Quite a number came down on the morning train from Woodland and Davisville: a few from Knight's landing: and there were even some present from as far north as Colusa County. During the day there

were people on the grounds from Winters, Vacaville, Elmira, Suisun and Maine Prairie. Altogether, at one time or another, it is estimated that not less than a thousand people visited the grounds. The park was in splendid condition for the picnic, the late warm weather having removed the moisture from the greensward and beneath the trees. A good share of the projected improvements were uncompleted owing to the short time elapsed since the cessation of the rains. But the walks were all in fine condition and the general ornamentation of the grounds much superior in every respect to the same at any previous time. When the grounds were filled with a merry throng of adults and romping children it was a very pretty sight. The music began in the Pavilion at an early hour but at first the dancers were not numerous. Very soon, however, the sweet strains of the band attracted the people in the neighborhood and long before noon the spacious floor was filled. The Woodland Band is unquestionably one of the finest combinations in the State and their performance on this occasion was the theme of universal praise. Underneath the pavilion refreshment stands supplying all kinds of edibles and agreeable drinks were erected and well patronized all day. Some parties preferred a quiet seat under the trees, where table and seats had been sandwiches, cakes, ice cream, etc. disappeared with marvelous rapidity between the dances. But the platform remained the chief place of attraction. Young and old mingled in the mazy with the enthusiasm and energy peculiar to occasions like this. The floor was kept comfortably full all day long. New arrivals constantly took the place of those who wearied with the exercise, through the balmy spring air was so invigorating an element that few did that. We can only say further that the affair was a great success and general enjoyment unalloyed. We are glad to learn that though admission to the grounds and hall was free to all the enterprising lessee and found the affair remunerative.”

There were other uses for the park. In 1879, the Sacramento Military came to the park and leased it for their annual encampment.

In 1880 the park was up for sale by the Bank of Dixon. Mr. J.S. Mayes purchased the Park but had to deed it back to the bank, as he was on the Board of Directors and the law did not permit this. At this time Mr. W.C. Rehm leased the park and proceeded to clean up the grounds and repair the fence. At this time it was also called the Agricultural Park.

In 1885 it was rumored that a gentleman was going to purchase 20 acres of the Peters property and build a race track. The Directors Messrs. Holly, Brinkerhoff Hall and Lyons, laid out a half mile track. The primary use for the grounds was for the park and the track use was secondary. Several other at this time also were interested in developing a park. Mr. H.A. Ross had a beautiful walnut grove about three quarters a mile outside Dixon and was interested. Also about two hundred people met at Hass slough and had a fishing picnic in which Peter Timm and George Framm cleaned and cooked the fish.

In Nov. 1885 the stockholders of the Dixon Driving Park Association held a meeting with Judge Brown to set up a corporation. Two Hundred eighty shares were sold at \$25.00 per share. Of the twenty acres purchased, thirteen were to be used for the track and the remainder to be used for a grandstand, judges stand, stables, tank and windmill. The first races were held October the first 1886. The first race was won by Black Ralph. The next year trotting races were added. The first year it was to be used by Solano county horses but the next year Napa and Yolo counties were added. Now horse racing was part of the May Fair. In 1887 the Maypole dance was started and a parade was also added. The parade was of school children and a brass band.

Also in 1888 the Aetna baseball club used the park for games, along with a July 4th celebration picnic.

In 1889 several private picnics were held at Agee Grove on Putah Creek, Hass Slough and Putah Canyon.

In 1890 the Dixon Driving Association decided to postpone racing due to racing in Sacramento. May Day was still celebrated with the hopes of procuring a merry –go-round .

In 1891 a horseman, Mr. R.H. Nason from Sacramento negotiated with the Driving Association to lease the park, to resume racing. Also an open air concert and moonlight picnic was provided.

The following year a bicycle track was set up at the park. The first winner was a local Charles Harrington who rode the mile in 3:06. A group called the Flying wheelman was started.

IN 1895 the Rising Sun Gun Club held their first club shoot at the Park. May Day was also held with a Mule race, a five mile bicycle race was included in the festivities.

May Day continued each year without interruption and in 1899 Louis Hanke was the lessee and admission remained free with track and athletic events being and without horse racing.

In 1901 something new happened at the Driving Park, the Dixon High School football team hosted the Solano County football Championship against Vacaville. Dixon was victorious with an 11-0 win.

In 1902 as part of the celebration a ball game between married men and single men was provided the fair goers.

The next year 1903 another new adventure took place at the Park. Greyhound racing took place. Sacramento owners provided most of the racing hounds along with

entries from Woodland, Vallejo and Vacaville. The Abott defeated Regal Attire was the first winner.

The next business started at the Park was the Dixon Percheron Horse Association leased a barn to stand a stallion by the name of Pinson for stud.

In 1905 the Women's Improvement Club started the ball rolling for the Park that is still located on Main Street in Dixon. More information on this maybe Park could come at a later date. Also the this year Mr. B.F. Newby manager of the Dixon concert Band completed arrangements for a series of summer concerts and dances to be staged at the Park. Then disaster hit the park when night watchman Filto discovered at three o'clock in the morning the Park Pavilion on fire and it burnt to the ground. It was insured for @2000.00 and plans to rebuild began at once.

Racing was still of great interest this year and a balloon ascension and a parachute jump from an altitude of 1,000 feet by the youngest aeronaut was attempted for fair goers.

The Great San Francisco earthquake took place in 1906 and as a result the May Day Celebration was called off.

In 1907 the Park was again for sale the entire 20 acres, with a half mile track, stable for 33 horses,, breeding pens, grandstand, judges stands, big chicken house and other improvements had a price of \$4,000 on it. Never the less the fair went on in good order with excellent weather.

I'm sure everyone will be interested to know that T.C. Horigan moved the old Ice House that stood back of the Capitol Hotel to the Driving Park where it will be converted to a chicken house.

The 1909 May Day started with a parade, the usual horse racing, picnicking games and a baseball game between a Woodland team and the Golden Poppies of Suisun with Woodland winning 8-0.

In 1911 at the Driving Park a basketball game between the Dixon High School girls team and the girls from Placer County High school was played.

In August of 1911 the Driving Park was deeded to the city of Dixon. The following year a stable was leased to George Watson from Montana to engage in the business of training horses.

The year 1912 offered motorcycle fans the opportunity to watch a ten mile handicap race at the Park as well as a baseball game.

Until 1914 May Day was held on the first of May. This year it was decided to hold the fair on the first Saturday in May. During this year it was suggested by Mr. Weyand that a Park site be used for a new high school. After much debate it was defeated. A permanent bleacher was erected at the fair ground this year with a seating capacity of 450.

In 1915 it was decided that Dixon businesses would build floats for the annual parade.

In the year 1917 the big event was a race between a horse and an automobile. R. D. Mayes agreed to try out his fast Mercer against a pacer from Santa Rosa. The results are missing. During this May Day parade money prizes were awarded to decorated cars and floats.

In 1919 Marine Band from Mare Island participated in the Fair to celebrate the returning of Dixon soldiers and sailors. Three airplanes did stunts to the delight of the fair goers.

In 1921 the Legion ran May Day with the help the Fire Department. May Day continued to do well and prosper. Celebrations still went on every year. In 1923 twenty five people volunteered to help clean up the Park.

In 1923 the Solano County held its annual picnic at the park In Sept. Also a rodeo was held in Oct of that year.

In 1924 due to an infection of hoof and mouth disease and to cooperate with state authorities May Day was not held.

In 1925 Dixon celebrated the 50th May Day. Horse races, ball games and other sports were presented, along with the usual event including the parade and dance. Ten people attended who also were at the first picnic fifty years ago.

In 1928 the Dixon Fire Department took over the organization of the Fair, with the Community Council an advisory group. This year a plane was brought in from Oakland to take fair goers on rides for a nominal fee of \$3.00. In 1930 a seven passenger plane was brought in to take people on rides. The charge was \$25.50 each or a round trip to San Francisco for \$25.00.

In 1930 May Day was almost a wash out. Despite the torrential rain the fair went on and broke even from a financial standpoint.

The following year the weather cooperate and everyone enjoyed Harness and saddle races, mule race, decorated doll buggies a May Pole drill, a golf driving contest and dance. In 1931 4-H kids showed animals and sold them at the end of the fair.

In 1932 the Rotary Club sponsored the Fair and did so for the next several years. This brought cow pony races, motorcycle races, old car races, athletic contests and several new events.

In 1936 another park was open to the public. Dr. & Mrs. L.P. Hall donated the property to the city to build a swimming pool which is still in use.

In 1937 a dirt ramp was built on the north of the grandstand to better enable persons who cannot get to their seats to see the races. Prizes were given this year for flower show participants.

The next big change took place in 1938-39 when the grandstands were torn down and a new grandstand was constructed. During this time Art and Homer Brown held livestock auctions at the fairgrounds.

In the late forty's and fifty's high school football games again were held at the fairgrounds with much success.

During this period of time, Vallejo acquired the title of Solano County Fair and Dixon's fair was named the 36th District Fair Association. It remains the Dixon Mayfair to this day.

Dixon Tribune

The Dixon Tribune has had a long history here. November 14, 1874 was the date of the first Tribune. The first editor was Mr. Robert D. Hopkins and the shop was located on Railroad Ave. near the train depot. The office adjoined the Daniel B. Huff office as he was the train agent for Dixon. In those days the Tribune was published every Saturday. In 1876 it was decided to move the office building closer to the train depot with the aid of screw jacks and block and tackle. This move was handled by Mr. Huff. As a result of the move Mr. Huff offered the use of the land site where the Tribune office was located to the Fire Department for a new truck house and this offer was accepted. (To familiarize you as to where this is today, it was where the parking lot is on the corner of B Street and Jackson street. and where the old Fire house is today and being rebuilt to office space.)

As Dixon was growing, in 1877 a new paper was about to make an appearance called the Dixon Dispatch. The new paper was to be run by Mr. C.L. Minor. One of the first headlines of the paper was "A school teacher horse whips the editor". The school teacher being Mr. A.M. Boggs the Principle of the High School. The origin of the conflict was that Mr. Minor the editor had said in his newspaper that Mr. Boggs was not competent as a teacher. As a result words were spoken and finally blows developed. This developed into assault charges being levied against Mr. Minor, who was charged with assault and fined \$20. As a result the Dixon Dispatch went out of business.

Meanwhile Mr. Hopkins sold the Tribune to Mr. A.B. Nye after owning it for about three years. Mr. Nye started his journalistic career in Vallejo, then joining the Oakland Enquirer before coming to Dixon.

Immediately a new paper emerged and it was to be called the Dixon Bulletin. The new Bulletin was to be published every Thursday. On April 1, 1877 the first issue came out with Alfred Owen as Editor and proprietor. The next month the editor and proprietor had changed hands as Mr. A. J. Patrick took over. Mr. Patrick was for a time publisher of the North San Juan Times. With the new Edition, the Bulletin was greatly improved in appearance and content. This paper also was short lived and another attempt was made with the starting of the Dixon Republic in 1880. By the end of the year the Dixon Tribune reported that the Republic had suspended operation and that one good newspaper was enough for Dixon.

In 1892 it was reported that the following towns were sending correspondence to the Tribune, Dutton's Landing, Davisville, Elmira, Vacaville, Suisun, Fairfield, Maine Prairie, Cordelia, Tremont, Benicia, Vallejo and Winters.

In 1883 a fire broke out in Dixon and the Tribune lost much equipment along with the presses. This was a serious fire to the town as several buildings were lost. The fire started on Nov. 19, 1883 in the Pearson House, the Union Hall, Tribune office, Misfeldt saloon, Kings Hotel, Van Sants grocery and part of Eppingers were lost. (The area which we speak of here was located between Jackson Street and Main Street and on the south side of B Street, notably what is now Main Street). As a result McDermott & Landsburg and George Martin offered the Tribune the use of their workshop until the Tribune could establish a permanent office. Mr. Ed Leake was the next editor at the time of the fire. He was owner of the Woodland Democrat and added the Tribune. The Tribune was back in operation by Jan. 1884.

In 1885 it was published that the Tribune was still being published on Saturday mornings and the subscription price was \$2.50. In 1888 Mr. Ed Hayward, foreman of the Tribune office was watching the machinery and a fire broke out without warning and a flame flashed up in his face and burned it. Fortunately, he was near McBride's drug store and got medication immediately and prevented any disfigurement of his face.

The next Tribune owner in 1892 was Arthur L. Henry and his partner Robert Willott. Shortly thereafter Willott passed away and Louis Peterson bought his interest. Then Fred Hutton bought out Henry's interest, later becoming sole owner by buying out Peterson. This was done in 1886.

Shortly after they took over the paper Dixon was hit by the earthquake and the Tribune office was again a shambles. The Tribune temporarily moved across the street opposite the Old Fellows building and later moved permanently under the Old Opera House. Which was on B Street between Main Street and Jackson Street?

Rowland Moss became editor and publisher in 1905 when he purchased the Tribune from Fred Hutton. Who went into the dairy business and later the owner of the Dixon Lumber Yard. Mr. Moss had done newspaper work in London England in prior years. After selling the Tribune to Mr. H.W. Bessac, Mr. Moss began in the banking business at the Bank of Dixon as this was more profitable than the newspaper business.

In December of 1906 the Tribune moved yet again into the Vendome Hall where it expects to remain permanently. In 1907 new presses were purchased and installed to provide better and clearer print.

In 1911 foundation had been laid for a new concrete block building south of the Odd Fellows building which again was to be the permanent home of the Tribune. (This would be just south of Bud's restaurant).

In 1913, Mr. H.W. Bessac who had owned the Tribune for the past seven years retired and the business was sold to Mr. Fred G. Dunnicliff. Mr. Dunnicliff made a

change in publishing days to Friday instead of Saturday to enable dealers to get their propositions to readers before they leave for town for Saturday trading.

In 1915 the Tribune replaced the old job press with a modern Mergenthaler typesetter one of the finest pieces of machinery ever brought into Dixon. Things ran smoothly for the next few years until a motor got over heated and a fire again broke out resulting in \$8000 worth of damage.

In 1941 Bert Van Sant the former local constable was the possessor of the oldest Tribune, having a copy of the 1876 issue.

For 51 years the Dunniicliiff family owned and published the Dixon Tribune, Fred Sr. followed by sons Dean and Fred Jr. In the following years Gordon Gojkovich was owner of the Tribune, the next owner was the Gibson Publishing Co.

The Dixon Tribune, newspaper that started in business in 1876 remains in business today serving the needs of the local residents.

This article was written with the help of the Dixon Library archives.

Dixon's Oranges

If you were a kid in Dixon in the 1940's and 1950's you would surely remember the Orange juice stands along the state highway. If you weren't let me tell you a little about this business. During this period of time, automobiles weren't equipped with air conditioners, so when you were hot and tired from driving, it was a pleasure to see a round orange building that served cold, fresh orange juice. It was not limited to travelers, as the locals also enjoyed the service. Kids on their way home from the swimming pool or the play ground or after a hot football practice could be seen heading there. It also provided a job for many high school kids.

The first Orange juice stands didn't start in Dixon. They started in the central part of the state and eventually made their way up the hot Central Valley. Mr. Frank Pohl who came from Ohio and moved to Richmond, California opened a Lemonade stand there. From there he moved to Tracy, California where he opened the first Giant Orange stand. Here he served orange, lime, lemon and grapefruit juice along with root beer and colas. This started around 1928. He franchised the Giant Orange name for the Pohl family. The first juice was done by hand but later it was extracted by a hand machine. He expanded from Tracy and went to Banta and then north to Sacramento. His first round orange stand had one window but soon expanded to three windows to serve more people. He also started serving sandwiches and selling candy and cigarettes. Next he started with drive-in service. This juice was served in a 14 once glass and cost 25 cents. Employees were being paid 33 1/3 cents per hour. In 1944 the Pohl's retired and Mr. Oliver Hartman purchase six of Mr. Pohl's stands.

After Mr. Pohl's retirement, his daughter Burnette married Arent Ballanger and they opened a Giant Orange stand in Dixon. It was located on Adams Street which was then Highway 40 where they could take care of travelers, as well as the local community. Valencia oranges were trucked up from the Central Valley twice a week to provide the juice. When Valencia oranges were out of season navel oranges were used. Mr. Ballanger provided the same drive-in service that the other stands provided. Thus it gave quite a few kids a good job for the summer. It wasn't long before other Orange stands popped up. The Great Orange, Big Boy Orange, and Mammoth Orange were examples of this.

While Mr. Ballanger was doing quite well, a local girl was working for him at the Giant Orange. She realized what a money making business this was. So she came home one day and mentioned this to her father and uncle who were in the dairy business. She told them she thought they could make some money, if they invested in their own orange juice stand. One brother liked the dairy business but the other one wasn't that sold on the business. She finally convinced them to help her get started. Joe

her uncle said that if she could make money the first year that he would open up a permanent stand. So the Giant Orange was born, also known as George's Orange. If you go out west A Street, the original Orange stand is still standing. This young school girl had her vision. She not only paid for expenses but made money. Thus, Alda George obviously knew what she was doing. As a bonus she met her husband to be, while working at the Orange. So her uncle Joe set up the business on the South West corner of Adams Street and west A Street. Then when the highway moved west of town they moved their Orange out to the A Street intersection, the now Highway 80. The Great Orange was also know for its juice hamburgers. Mr. Ballanger's Giant Orange move out to the highway also and located just north of the Milk Farm restaurant and had his business on both sides of the highway. This move was in best interests of the business but made it more difficult for the local kids to enjoy the juice. Like so many other business it is a thing of the past but well remembered.

Information was gathered for this article with help of the Dixon Library archives.

Grangers Business Association of Dixon

A few years ago I was given a box containing several property deeds and two large bound books being the complete Corporate Minutes of the Grangers Business Association. These minutes are an invaluable and continuous record of one of Dixon's first and largest businesses and of the life and times of Dixon and its citizens. I thought I'd extract some of the highlights from the minutes so you can get a glimpse of business and economic life in Dixon from 1875 to 1963.

On March 7, 1875 one of Dixon's first businesses was formed. On that date a committee appointed by Chairman of the Dixon Grange No. 19 met at the Bank of Dixon. The committee consisted of the following S.G. Little, James A. Ellis, J.M. Dudley, J.S. Mayes, J.C. Merryfield, H.E. McCune, S.J. McMahan, G.M. Coulter, and F.E. Russell. This was the start of the Grangers Business Association which lasted until Jan. 4, 1963. At the next meeting they elected S. G. Little as chairman and J.A. Ellis as secretary. At this same meeting they decided to Incorporate and solicit subscriptions of stock. The necessary papers were filed with the county clerk. On April 21, 1875 they received their articles of incorporation. At the May 15, 1875 meeting was the day they elected the 9 trustees to the board, numerous names were voted on and the following were nominated, J.M. Dudley, J.S. Mayes, G.S. Garnett, J.Kline, P. Snyder, S.G.McMahan, F.E.Russell, A.Ellis and J.F. Brown. Then officially J.M. Dudley was elected President and J.S. Mayes Vice President. J.A. Ellis secretary, and J. S. Garnett treasurer for the ensuing year.

In the articles of Incorporation it indicated the purpose for which the Association was formed and was as follows: to deal in all kinds of Agricultural Produce, Livestock, wool, Agricultural Implements and General Merchandise. To ship grain and other merchandise to and from foreign and domestic ports, to charter and load vessels to and from foreign and domestic ports, to manufacture all kinds of agricultural Implements, sacks and other articles and to engage in general warehousing, to purchase all real estate necessary to successfully conduct the business, to purchase Bank of America Stock and Stock in the Granger's Business Association of California. The group's first purchase was the Kelly warehouse and land known as the Wilcox tract for \$6000. Then arrangements were made to weigh grain, take care of book keeping and grain hauling. Also arraignments were made to water sprinkle the grounds to keep dust down.

The Directors agreed to meet at 1:00 pm, the last Saturday of every month to conduct business. Discussion was had with the railroad to build a spur to service their yard but was rejected by the Rail road. During the second year of operation the association had a net gain of \$2186.78. In the year 1877 the charge for weighing grain was .10 cents per ton. In 1878 corrals were built along with livestock scales. Mr. B. F.

Kelly was employed as clerk at \$66.00 per month. Grain was hauled at 20 cents per ton. Another item of business was with the Rail Road to discuss a depot grounds and a deed was signed. In the year 1880 the net gain to the Association was \$1495.50. During this period a hay shed was constructed to store hay in. Anyone could store their hay for \$1.00 per ton at the owner's expense.

In 1881 there were 57 delinquent stock shares put up for sale and most were purchased by the Directors. Each year the Board of Directors was voted on and each year the same people were reappointed. The officers did change regularly. In the year of 1883 the business report showed a net gain of \$1926.89. This year the Association paid a dividend of \$1.50 per share. The Board also looked into the issuing of Stock certificates to the share holders. By 1884 profits were up and a \$3.00 per share dividend was paid. This income was mostly derived from the storage of grain.

In 1886 a piece of land was sold to the City of Dixon to put up a waterworks for the city. That is where the present day water tower still stands. The price paid for this property was \$500. A piece was also given to the city if they would provide water to the Grangers Business Association. On a piece of the Association's land was a lumber yard. The owner had constructed a building and wanted to exchange the building for two years of free rent. The sales price was to be \$100, this offer was declined. Eventually this property was leased to the Pudget Sound Limber Co. as there were several warehouses on the property. One was used to store farm equipment in during the winter months. During these past years the dividends remained about the same, paying \$2.00 per share to its shareholders.

In 1894 several citizens came before the board those being, J.M. Bell, J.F. French, G. Jansen and W.E. Newby asking if the Association would grant a Right Way from the Methodist church to the Rail Road Depot. It was decided to do so. Because the City never showed interest in opening a street the Board rescinded their offer. Only a walk way remains today.

In 1896 Mr. H. A. Ross a member of the Board was appointed to contact Mr. Schulze a partner of Mr. Eppinger to see if the Grangers could purchase the Eppinger warehouse which was located on Granger property. The partnership said they would sell for \$400. The Association said to offer \$250 for the building on condition that the partners would not engage in any warehouse activity business in Dixon. It finally settled at the price of \$350.

In 1897 a watering trough, a horse rack and other improvements were authorized to accommodate the patrons. Discussion also took place with regard to building a hay warehouse and also letting others build a hay warehouse on Association property. It

was decided to let Mr. J.S. Garnett lease a portion of land to build his hay warehouse. This was done on south E St. and was called warehouse # 3 or the Hill warehouse.

The year 1898 had its problems, this year produced some crop failures and it was recommended that the salary of the manager be reduced. Of course he objected and said that he promised that if that was a monetary loss he would accept no pay for himself on certain conditions: no repairs be done on buildings no expert fees and no salary and his promise was accepted. The President said he would serve without pay also.

The next year came and it was reported that a quantity of sugar beet seed had been stored over the winter as well as Mr. McCann harvester and the Eppingers had left 38,000 sacks in bales at the warehouse. What should the charges be? It was decided for the present that no charges be made. Construction of a new warehouse was discussed and Mr. S. G. Little, Mr. R.J. Currey and Mr. A. Leigh were to look into a corrugated building to hold 5000 ton. Mr. J.Pritchard submitted plans to build a 60 foot by 400 foot warehouse at an price estimate of \$8740. It was decided not to build at present. Mr. Pritchard was given \$10 for his plans and estimate. Rates of storage were discussed with the Tremont warehouse and Batavia warehouse and it was decided that they should get together and make a uniform rate.

When 1900 rolled around several of the old board for some reason or another were replaced with some new blood. Mr. Ross was President and George Ulsteen was running the business with a salary of \$900 per year. Grain storage and handling prices were set at 15 cents per ton. Because of a surplus of last year's grain and with a new crop about to begin it was decided to build some temporary buildings to cover the grain. By now there were 5 warehouses already on the premises. To build these temporary sheds the cost was estimated to be about \$500 and it would house 14,000 sacks or 800 ton. At the same time discussion began to erect a large warehouse in the spring. Another item that came up was Mr. L. Gottheimer proposed to sell the Association 2300 sacks which he had for 6 ½ cents per sack. The purchase was made. Another item of business was made by the Bay Counties Power Company who wanted to erect two power poles through the Association property. After much discussion and negotiations it was approved. The Power Company was given an easement and right of way for a sum total of \$1.00.

As 1901 rolled around the discussion again came up. Someone had heard about a new warehouse being built in Marysville. As it was to be a modern building it was suggested that someone go up to Marysville and inspect their building. This appeared to be just what they wanted so a new warehouse was built in place of warehouse No. 1. Next discussions took place with the Rail Road to make a change to the track so as to accommodate the new warehouse. As it was going to cost \$650 to change the track the

board decided to move the building so as not to incur the extra cost. Then Mr. J. P. Pritchard was contacted to erect the structure. The warehouse was to be constructed of wood with a shingle roof. Mr. Pritchard was to be paid \$5.50 per day and his carpenters were to receive \$3.00 per day, the helpers were to get \$2.00 per day. After all this preparation it was decided not to build the warehouse but to repair the old one. A decision was made to purchase a corner piece of property from Mrs. J.A. French to give the teams of horses a better approach to the scales. The Board also rented a piece of land to D. McKinnan for a coal and wood yard. A proposition was brought to the board to rent or purchase a piece of the Associations property to build a Fruit Cannery. A motion was made to lease a piece of property for 20 years at \$50 per year or if they wanted to purchase the price would be \$500, it was carried. Another mention was of a party desiring a piece of land to build a new flour mill. It was decided that the group could purchase the property for the sum of \$200 if they would erect a mill of a value of no less than \$5000. Repairs to a warehouse were completed at a cost of \$2271.05 and the bills were reviewed and accepted except for over charge to J.P. Pritchard Jr. of 20 cents.

In the year 1903 an advertising agency approached the Board to erect a sign board on the north end of warehouse #3 at a yearly cost of \$2.50. the Board was called upon to establish a fixed rate for storage of wool, fruit and nuts. The following were the rates, 25 cent per bale of wool for three months, 10 cents per hundred pounds of nuts for four months and 5 cents per hundred pounds of canned goods for four months, to be stored in warehouse #3.

A year later a portion of warehouse #4 was rented to Drayman Winn to use for a wood yard at a rental cost of \$8.00 per year. Another advertising firm from Sacramento, Dodge & Killen became interested in taking over the San Francisco advertiser space and adding to it, at \$5.00 per year. A hog pen was constructed this year also. In the year 1905 the city of Dixon passed an ordinance to compel warehouse owners to pay a license fee of \$10 a year was introduced.

In the year 1907 R.E.L. Stephens rented a small portion of association property to erect a tank house at a rent of \$2.00 per year. Mr. E. K. Wilson leased some property to expand his wood and drayage business with the addition of coal.

In 1908 the By-Laws were amended to elect five members to the board instead of nine, due to the fact the number of stock holders was smaller.

In the year 1909 the city asked the Association to erect a sidewalk on the west side of their property, that being along what was then known as Fitch Street and now known as Jefferson Street.

In 1910 the Board decided to purchase the Cannery building which had sat ideal for three years and to offer a price of \$1000 to \$1500 for the building.

The next few years continued about the same as the years before with the usual repairs being done. In 1914 an electric rail road became interested in locating a spur line on the south end of the property, it was to end on about A Street and run to the south. This ultimately ran south to connect with the O.A. & E. Railway, at Rio Junction, later known as the Sacramento Northern.

In 1917 the Board added a Burroughs adding machine for office use. The following year the Association sold a portion of their land to P.G. & E. for their substation. This was located along side of what is now A Street. This year they started paying the Directors \$25 for services rendered. This was rescinded to say \$10 per month.

In 1922 no dividends were issued due to the street assessments. This held true for the next several years. The year 1924 brought about a change in how things were done as the minutes up to this point we're all hand written. Starting with this year all the minutes were type written. Ben and Edith King purchase a piece of land from the Association to build a house on (this house is still standing today on the north side of A St. west of the railroad tracks next to the Pro Gas building) for the sum of \$ 700 .

It was business as usual. In 1933 the Dixon Lumber Co. leased a shed and cement building for the sum of \$10 per month. They also leased a strip of land to the S. P. railroad for \$10 per year. Charles McGimsey also leased a piece of property for five years for \$100 per year. In 1935 a discussion with regard to a pipe line to the swimming pool was made and passed. Plans to replace warehouse #1 were discussed. This was changed to located north of #2. Finally, it was decided to locate where #1 was and to be built of corrugated iron and have a cement floor.

In 1936 it was passed to extend the lease of the Robben Bros for two years this building was located on the west side of the tracks across from the old train depot and where the new depot stands today. A couple of years later they sold the shed and lease of merit to Carl Muller Jr. for \$10.

In the year 1939 two women were on the board of Directors. It was also decided to change the accounting system from the calendar basis to a fiscal year basis. In this year it was also decided to give full time employees two weeks payed vacation. A piece of property was sold to W.J. Weyand and Ralph Weyand known as the California Mealfalfa Company for \$150.

In 1940 the old #3 warehouse was torn down and the lumber was sold to P. Panizza for \$75. This year it was also decided to cement the floor of # 5 warehouse s

more space to store grain was needed. Mr. J.C. Bateman laid the 5 inch concrete floor at a cost of \$2388. The yearend storage was totaled and 166,640 sacks of grain were stored weighing 18,287,055 pounds or 9,143 ½ tons. The accrued storage amounted to \$11,429.37. By now the original directors were long gone and a totally new board existed and they were W.D. Petersen, Mrs. Matilda Hall, E.D. Dudley, Ray Rohwer and Roland Moss. 1941 looked like it might be a light grain yield year due to a prolonged rainy season so no improvements were done this year. The matter of wool storage came up and it was decided to charge 25cents the first month and 10 cents per month thereafter. The tonnage figures for this year were 5,021.7 tons which were made up of Wheat 782 tons, Barley 3675 tons, Milo 102 tons, and Alfalfa meal 427 tons.

In 1942 it appeared that there was going to be a shortage of sacks for grain and the matter of bulk handling was looked into. At this point there had been no positive demand for bulk storage and with the expense of providing bulk storage, it was not justified at this time. In 1943 the Poultry Producers lease was discussed. This building remains today and it runs alongside the rail road track on the east side of the track just south of the north crossing. It is a long corrugated iron building.

In 1944 Mr. H. Morris & Sons asked to purchase the property north of Mayes Street alongside the rail road track and south of A Street for a manufacturing plant. The purchase was made for \$5000 and was in the name of Penetrator Syphon Company. That building is now in use by Air Perfection System. Also arraignments to charge 12 ½ cents for weighing and use of the yard by the Riverbank Canning Co. was approved. It was decided that 6 ½ cents would go the association and 6 cents to the office staff for overtime and Sunday work.

In 1948 a lot was sold to Charles McGimsey for \$2000. The following year a discussion on the condition of the corporation resulting from increased costs of operation and decreasing volume of storage through bulk handling and field deliveries, resulted in a recommendation to the directors to consider the feasibility of a sale of the business. After discussion it was decided that sale of the physical assets alone, would not be desirable, but that efforts should be made to arrange for a lease rental of the property. Discussion was had relative to the advisability of leasing the warehouse and scales facilities of the corporation to Kerr Gifford & Co. Inc. of California a corporation. It was accepted and subject to the approval of the shareholders. The lease was for ten years with an option of five more for \$6000 per year. They also sold the personal property for \$1500. As of June 1950 the corporation was no longer doing business.

In 1953 with the assets left in the Bank, the Association purchased stock in the Bank of America which was originally the Bank of Dixon, Boston Edison, Home Insurance Company, P.G.& E. Co. and the Southern pacific Company. In 1955 the assets and liabilities were \$81,421.05. By 1957 Cargill Company was leasing the

property. Then the Association asked Cargill if were interested in purchasing the property. In the meantime the association deeded to the City of Dixon certain parcels of land.

In 1961 discussion was had with Cargill relative to the proposal received from Cargill to lease the property for five years at an annual rental of \$12,000 per year , with the option to purchase the property at the end of five years for \$40,000.

By 1963 the property and all assets had been sold and all that was left was cash in hand, this was then distribute to the stock holders and the name Grangers Business association was sold to Ralph Moss a stockholder for the sum of \$1.00. At the time of settlement all shareholders had to surrender their shares in the Corporation. Then came the dissolution of the Corporation and the ending to one of Dixons oldest and important businesses.

In conclusion, for those who are interested in just where the holdings were located I will try and explain. To start as a reference point we will use the S.P. rail road track. To the north, the property bordered E Street. On the south it included what is now the City water tower and the P.G. & E. substation. On the west it bordered what was then Fitch Street and which is now called Jefferson Street. It included a small portion on the east side of the railroad tracks and extended to the south down to what is now the Solex business. At this time a good portion is unoccupied and which the new Train depot is located. Hopefully this helps in locating the property . This article was compiled with the help of the Dixon Library Archives.

Dec. 13, 1962

How Dixon Mammoth was discovered

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schulze, whose home is on Currey Road 3 miles north of Dixon, received word recently that Monticello Dam was about to release water into Putah Creek Sunday, December 2.

For weeks the creek had been entirely dry, permitting the State Highway Department to take out tons of gravel for the six laying of the 7 mile stretch along Highway 40 north of Dixon.

Odd stones exposed

When Sunday arrived, Bob decided to take a hike with his wife to see the water come in. During the stroll along the dry creek bottom he noticed three curious rocks jutting up close together from the sand. On careful examination he noted the rocks had a strange bone structure with cellular formation.

After talking them loose from the saying he felt sure they were fossilized bones of some animal.

They were located near enough together that in such position they concluded they were all from the same animal and, if so, it would be reasonable to assume that there might be many more fossilized bones immediately below.

A job for scientists

He did not want to disturb the area anymore since he felt that only trained scientists should be able to uncover the complete skeleton without damaging some of the parts. By Sunday evening water from the dam had completely covered the spot of discovery, but Bob had made careful notes identifying the position as so as to be able to return to it again as the water in the creek periodically goes down.

University confirms find

To satisfy his own curiosity, he took all bones found to the University California the next day confirmed with Dr. Donald Savage of the paleontology Department there. Dr. Savage identified the Dixon find as genuine fossilized bones of a woolly mammoth. He further offered to carry out further diggings at the identical Putah Creek site for the purpose of locating the mammoth skull, jaw load and other skeletal remains.

Discovery hunt planned

Schulze readily agreed to work with the University in this project that as soon as conditions at the creek permitted, it is expected that the UC crew will go ahead with their Dixon explorations.

Mr. and Mrs. Schulze had recently returned from a trip which took them to Greece, where they saw many relics, some 2500 years old. On returning home to Dixon we take a short hike from our home and find relics which were perhaps 500,000 years old, chuckle. Actually we never saw anything in Europe as ancient as the bones we found right here in Dixon he concluded.

Bob and Barbara Schulze Dixon may have the credit for the opening of a new feels of prehistoric exploration in central California, it appears from University reports on bone discoveries by them in Putah Creek on December 2.

Dr. Donald Savage of the University of California in Berkeley and Mary Elizabeth Shutler, archaeologists from the University of California Davis, agree that the Schulze discovery is the remains of a woolly mammoth and that it is almost certain that other similar bones of prehistoric creatures will be unearthed by an expedition which is planned by University specialists to comb the discovery site for further finds.

A pelvic bone, thighbone, leg boat and knee bone of the mammoth will be on display at Dixon Chamber of Commerce offices during Thursday.

The Dixon discovery has awakened much interest in scientific circles. The Channel 10 news staff under the direction of Bill Wilson of KX TV will arrive in Dixon Saturday to film a news program in corporation with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. The program will give the main story of the Dixon mammoth and is expected to be scheduled on 11 PM program of Channel 10 on Saturday evening, December 15.

June 6, 1930

Below is interesting comment on the vanished Maine Prairie from the "Knave", in the Oakland Tribune & signed O. E. M.:

Who now can remember Maine Prairie in Solano County? At one time it was a greatest shipping point in California, when the state was one of the grain exporting regions of the world. This was before the construction of the California Pacific Railroad from Vallejo to Sacramento before the overland railroad was completed. Now Maine Prairie has disappeared from the list of post offices. The only suggestion remain of what is was once a large four-story warehouse building about 1867 by Capt. Charles Merrithew, who ran the principal steamboat carrying passengers and freight between Maine Prairie and San Francisco. At least, the warehouse was even there seven or eight years ago. There were two other steamers running regularly between these points besides numerous schooners, and scows. Maine Prairie was at the head of Cache Slough a tide channel extending 60 miles back from the Sacramento River a few miles above Rio Vista. It had the appearance of a river. In some places it was more than a quarter of a mile wide. Its banks were vertical in the hard black earth so that vessels could be moored to the shore without the necessity of a wharf. I once saw an oceangoing steamer, the Brother Jonathan, tied up to the bank to rid it of barnacles in fresh water. There is no indication that Cache Slough was ever a part of the Sacramento River channel. Apparently, it was formed when the great inland California Sea drained off through the Golden Gate. In 1866 and 1867, the west side of the Sacramento Valley was one great wheat field. Some portion produced 2 tons to the acre. When the grain was thrashed the production of freighters started. A large portion consisted of three wagon tandems. The bed of the foremost was 5 feet or more in depth. The first trailer was smaller and the rearmost smallest of them all. The team was 12 miles driven by a single line. The driver rode perched high on the projecting fore end of the big wagon, or he rode the near wheeler. The single line was fastened to the ring of the long brake lever and extended out to rings between the ears of the swing mules to the outside ring of the new leader. The off leader was steered by a jockey sticks fastened to the lower end of the hames on the near leader. The other end was fastened to the offside ring of the off leader.

Then the town died

Frequently Jews harp band of iron fastened to the upper end of the hames on each mule carried a chain of four bells these varied the monotony of the long, hot, dusty road. They were smaller outfits with 10 or eight mules or horses, having only two wagons, down to the two horse wagon. Through the day these teams were scattered along the roads from as far north as Colusa County. The regular freighters remain in town overnight and started in the morning. One forenoon I counted over 100 teams coming away from the town and forming, a continuous line. In those days Maine Prairie was a busy place, even between harvests. There were several large warehouses for grain, various stores, hotels, a steam grist mill, a telegraph line and most accessories of such a town. One peculiarity would attract attention, the warehouses and lumber yards were located up on heavy timbered platforms 10 to 12 feet above the ground. This way was in 1886 and 1887 when the spring floods of the Sacramento River covered the country miles back from the channel. In the lower part of town, the water was sometimes 8 to 10 feet deep. The overflow extended a half-mile or more beyond the town. When the California Pacific was

built, the freighting business came to an end so far as Maine Prairie was concerned. Woodland, in Yolo County became the terminal for the Valley to the north. Thus ended a chapter in California history.

June 16, 1916

This pioneer bought ox with savings

W. J. McElwaine, retired rancher, will soon celebrate his 82nd birthday. He was not always a rancher, however, having had experience as a miner, butcher and retailer.

W.J. McElwaine was 17 years old when he came to California, from Illinois, to which state his parents had moved from New York a few years previously. Of course there was no train across the plains other than the ox cavalcade, and he had the usual hardships, as well as novelties of the trip to the west by that way. He had one dollar when he reached Sacramento. The town burned down, and was a most unpromising River town. Soon afterwards he got a job watching the river at night at six dollars a night, and did not know that the regular wage was \$10. Sooner than pay the high hotel charge he got a blanket and slept on the bank of the river, and cooked his meals in tin cans, getting all the vegetables he wanted from the boats as they came down the stream. He saved his wages. Then he went to Diamond Springs, where he worked as miner \$125 a month and board. His first month's pay consisted of two gold slugs, a \$20 slug and a five dollar piece. It was the most money that he had seen before and anyone time in his life. He worked three months, prospecting on Sundays and cleaning up around \$10 and \$20 a day. Tired of working for others he struck out for the South Fork of the Feather River, where, he in company with two or three others they flooded the river. He had \$1500 when he began and quit. Previous to his venture he had made some money in a rather novel way. While in Sacramento with \$300 in his pocket he saw a man coming down front Street with a yoke of oxen. He asked the price, not knowing just why he did it. The fellow said \$300, will you sell one? Yes, how much, \$150. Unyoke that one. He led the ox away, soon realizing that it was a sort a white elephant as well as an ox. He took it to a livery stable for the night and had to pay three dollars for the stabling. Out on the bank of the river he went to sleep, but in reality to figure out what to do with the ox. The next morning he bought 5 gallons of whiskey and 50 pounds of tobacco, which he hung on the cross tree of the crude saddle it started for Hang town leading his ox. On the outskirts of the camp he killed the ox and cut it up to retail meet. He sold liquor for two bits a drink, and retailed the tobacco at a good figure. Before 10 o'clock it cleaned up everything and was \$400 to the good. He asked the stage driver what it would cost for right back to Sacramento, a distance of 45 miles and was told \$25. He concluded to walk and was in the city in a day and a half jaunt. This time he bought two oxen, some more liquor and tobacco, and going back to Hangtown cleanup \$800 by noon.

After this he made a mistake by buying a string of pack mules, for freighting was not as profitable as butchering. He next went to Butte County, where he obtained land and in 1874 came to Solano County where he obtained land and has since resided, rearing six children and accumulating enough to live on comfortably the rest of his days.

Libraries

In the late 1880's idle time wasn't something that people had a lot of. But if there was such a thing reading was about the only other activity. There wasn't television or very many radios to occupy ones time. Thus the importance of libraries was important. The first libraries around Dixon were located in the schools, town as well as the country schools.

The first account of a library was located in the Pitt School district about three miles south of town. In 1879 this country school had 200 volumes while the Dixon district had but 9 volumes. This wasn't a misprint; it was a total of nine. Things remained this way for the next several years; in 1888 there was talk about starting a Free Public Library. A committee met in the Baptist church. Nothing permanent was decided. In 1891 more discussion was had and the idea that with the Dixon Academy closing and becoming the Union High School, perhaps one of the rooms in the school could be used as a library.

The following year the Parmalee Library Company came to town and set up a local library and solicited subscriptions from the town's people. They were given a two year contract. They provided bound volumes and a good selection. During the two years books were added to the library so at the end of the two years there were 400 volumes with which to start a public library. At this time the Baptist church again discussed the possibility of adding on a room to the church for a library but nothing was accomplished.

In 1905 the Women's Improvement Club was formed and more discussion was had concerning a Public Library. As usual nothing was decided but The New Traveling Library came to town and set up a free library and S.E. Morse was the librarian. Things became more serious in 1908 with the Women's Improvement Club secured legislation and funds to establish the Andrew Carnegie Public Library. So the Women's Improvement Club took the initiative and started the project. This laid the foundation for the library. Andrew Carnegie the philanthropist had started the Carnegie Foundation to provide funding for libraries under certain conditions but Dixon was too small a town to qualify. Henry Petersen a local business man had ties to the state legislature and with his intervention received the okay to get the project started. On Feb. 23, 1913 the Dixon library was dedicated on land donated by the Schulze family. The dedication ceremony included the Dixon band and refreshments were enjoyed.

Before the building was finished the County Board of Supervisors decided that the High School District would also be the Library District. Thus the High school Board would manage the new library and Miss Hutchinson was made librarian. As Dixon had

already started collecting books it became a success immediately. By 1922 the value of the library was \$30,000.00.

The next librarian was Miss Della Eggert who took a leave of absence to attend UC riverside to obtain her teaching credentials. Mrs. Eggert Rohwer substituted for her. An incident occurred in 1930 that involved Mr. Ralph Moss. While he was in the library, three women stole his Ford Roadster, which was later recovered on the highway. I guess one could say it didn't pay to be in reading books that day. The next reported incident was someone stole the January issue of Harpers magazine.

By 1939 the library checked out three thousand books in one month. During this year Miss Mary Hitchcock, the librarian gave a talk to the Rotary luncheon. During this period of time reading throughout the United States increased sixty percent. Lack of employment due to the depression turned many people to reading. There were 900 book borrowers in Dixon.

To this day, Dixon has benefitted greatly from the Dixon Library. And we have the Women's Improvement Club to thank for their initiative in getting the library built. Unfortunately there is talk of tearing down the old Carnegie building and replacing it with a new one. Having stood at its present location for almost 100 years it seems a shame to do so.

Mace Meat Company

One of the largest employers in Dixon was that of the Mace Meat plant located north of town, which now is just an empty lot on the east side of Highway 113. C. Bruce Mace came to Dixon from Western Utah as a young man with a few dollars in his pocket and a skinning knife in his hand. His first purchase was the Dixon City Market located down town which was a retail butcher shop. He did this with a partner Mr. Meyers from Galt, this endeavor didn't last too long as he sold his interest for a few dollars. In the meantime he purchased the Hutton dairy north of town and converted this into a slaughter house and concentrated on the whole livestock business. His next purchase was that of the B.F. Newby 20 acres adjoining the property he already owned. His next purchase was that of the old Ice House located near the train depot, which he moved out to the slaughter house. At this time his operation was small, slaughtering a few head of cattle and averaging around ten to twelve sheep per day. This was done with about six men. Along with the livestock they produced about a barrel of tallow per day which was used for soap and this supplemented the income by \$50.00 per day. Besides selling locally they expanded their selling to Davis and Sacramento. Then they purchased a truck and delivered to San Francisco. They would take several carcasses and find buyers until they would sell their load. Dixon was fortunate to have had Mr. Mace locate here as several other communities were after him to locate in their communities. At this time he was helped in his business by his brothers, Alden, Calvin and Dick Leathers. A couple of years later, Del Grieve of Davis partnered up with Bruce Mace and they were partners for 17 years without ever having drawn up any papers, consulting an attorney or even having a witness to the partnership. During all those years they never had a disagreement. Both partners were very good judges of livestock with added to the success of the business. In 1941 when they dissolved the partnership Grieve received \$500,000.00 for his one half interest in the business. In 1928 they had a slight set back when thieves stole 43 pelts from the plant, the thieves were never caught.

In 1931 they expanded and built a building to be used as a woolery, which was a process of pulling the wool from the hide. This was later replaced by selling the pelts.

In 1933 he owned the property across the street from the plant where he had built his home which is still standing (the brick building) and just to the north of it on the triangle which is now occupied by the Dixon rental he built a service station (Associated Oil Company) which was run by Russell Merritt. A restaurant was also located here.

The next expansion took place in 1940 when they built large covered pens to house the livestock. They also added two refrigerated truck to make deliveries between here and San Francisco. Each truck could hold up to 7 ton of meat. As an example of

how things were going in April of 1941 production was processing 15,088 cattle, 99,420 sheep and lambs, 2,760 hogs, and 2,760 calves. Gross sales were \$2,501,464. There were 48 people on the payroll 32 of which were married and lived in Dixon and the payroll for the month was \$80,660. The total land covered was 18 acres, the cooler had a capacity of 350 beef and 1,000 sheep. There were seven trucks in operation that had a capacity to haul 96,000 pounds and they made deliveries every day but Sunday to the Bay Area as well as Sacramento. They also employed 40 sheep dogs to help with the operation.

Business prospered but in 1948 C. Bruce Mace sold his operation to Elmer and Orin Hill of Sacramento, Alden mace bought the interests of Calvin Mace, Eggert Rohwer ,Ralph Kidder and Dick Leathers and became the partner of the Hill brothers. This partnership lasted until and was ultimately sold to Armour and Co. This business was one of importance to Dixon as it provided employment to Dixon's citizens, supplied food and was run very well. Mr. Mace was very particular and strict in his sanitation ways and never caused any problems except maybe when the north wind blew and one could tell there was livestock in the area.

MAINE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

Maine Prairie (Also known as Main Landing) is located about 13 miles south east of Dixon. It like Silveyville was an early settlement in the Dixon Area. This area was a marsh land consisting of tules and wire grass. It was excellent feed for cattle. Prior to its establishment is provided excellent food and cover for deer, antelope, elk, coyotes, rabbits, ducks, geese, beaver and fishing. It was reported that there were grizzly bear in the Montezuma Hills to the south. Farming was attempted but was soon abandoned as the soil was made up of hardpan and alkali. The importance of this area was that it was located on a navigable slough that was connected to the Sacramento River system so it continued to grow. In 1859 Captain Merithew and J.N. Utter settled on the south bank of Maine Prairie Slough and set up a general merchandise store along with a grain and lumber business. The following year H.D. Deck H. Wilcox and W. D. Vail formed a partnership and began a general merchandise business on the north side of Maine Prairie Slough (Maine Prairie Slough is an extension of Cache Slough which empties into the Sacramento River). This was across the slough from the Merrithew operation. In 1960 a hotel was built by George King and other houses were built nearby. In 1860 a great flood took place and nothing remained after the food subsided. It was reported that there was 12 feet of water standing where the town once stood. A few rebuilt but many went a bit further up the slough and built on higher ground. It was estimated that the losses as a result of the flooding amounted to \$25,000. Mrs. Rebecca Lewis started a town about 1/4 mile away and named it Alton, being named by S.R. Perry an old resident of Alton, Illinois. At this time the Cushing Bros. moved in and set up a general merchandise business. Then S.R. Perry and William Palmer moved in and also opened a general store along with dealing in grain. Mrs. Lewis opened a hotel at the same time. The area despite the flood prospered and by 1861 there were 50 people living in the Maine Prairie-Alton area (later on it just went by the name Maine Prairie). Four hotel were built in Maine Prairie, the King hotel, the Cache Slough the Fort Sumpter and the Fort Pinckney. The rate to stay in the hotels was \$1.00 per day. The year 1863 saw a plentiful amount of rainfall thus producing a bumper crop of grain in the area, as a result yields where high, 36,000 pounds of wheat were brought in by one team of mules pulling three wagons a distance of 25 miles from Putah Creek. That same year 50,000 tons of grain was shipped out of Maine Prairie. Wagons from Montecello, Colusa, Williams, Arbuckle and points in between brought their grain here for shipment. The story goes that it was not uncommon to see 180 wagons filled with grain in a single day pulled by 8 or 10 mule teams. The following year was a dry year and grain production was so low only one load of grain was shipped. The schooners that were hauling the grain out brought in lumber and other supplies on their return trips. Along with Captain Merithew's general merchandise business he also built a schooner that was launched at Maine Prairie in 1875. Another business was developed by Beardsley & Dunton of

Maine Prairie who built several kilns to produce red bricks. A blacksmith shop was also built by E.W. Petrus. There were several warehouses in which to store grain built. Also a couple of saloons were built. There was a post office and telegraph office. A school was built in 1862 although the first one floated away during the flood and had to be relocated. A good deal of the houses and businesses were built on stilts after the flood.

In 1868 the California Pacific railroad was built and this changed the way grain was to be shipped. It didn't have to be hauled miles to the dock but could be delivered to the closest railroad station. Although in 1874, seven schooners loaded 635 tons of wheat in one week and shipped it along with bags of wool.

Other things started to occur in the area in 1883, John Lewis a Maine Prairie farmer raised tomatoes and brought them to Dixon for market. An interesting event took place in 1888. It was written "eighteen months ago Joe Etzel lost an open face, silver watch on the Henry Peters farm near Maine Prairie. It probably fell out of his pocket while he was galloping a horse after some cattle. Last Monday, one of Mr. Peters hired hands, while engaging in plowing, found the watch. It was a little discolored but the works were in good order and has been running ever since it was found. The field has been plowed, harrowed and run over with a harvester since the watch was lost." In 1889 Gus Luttgies built a new house near Maine Prairie in an octagon shape which was very unique, he had been a ship builder. Many years later when the house was abandoned it burnt down due to children playing with matches. In 1891 there was another landing just to the east of Maine Prairie one mile called Barnhart Landing where ships could dock. On one trip made from Stockton to bring general cargo it took 40 hours to make the trip due to high winds and rough water. The trip normally took 10 hours. In 1892 James Lewis experimented with the growing of strawberries and was successful in growing large flavorful berries. Schooners continued to bring lumber into Maine Prairie, in 1895 20,000 feet of lumber was brought in for the construction of Mr. Rayn's house. In 1912 twenty five or thirty farmers met in town and organized the Maine Prairie Telephone Company, with C. Parker president, H.G. Brown secretary and the Bank of Dixon as treasurer. The line would start from Kirby & Sons drug store where the exchange would be located and go a mile east and eight miles south and would accommodate about thirty families. In 1919 a group of Hindus operating in the Maine Prairie area planted rice. No plowing was done, just rice thrown on the ground and harrowed in. In 1922 asparagus was planted to the south of Maine Prairie.

About 1930 the Sacramento Bypass system was constructed and this helped the Maine Prairie area from flooding. This didn't stop flooding completely but certainly helped. About this same time the slough was filling up with silt and schooners could not get up to transport goods. In 1931 the old Maine Prairie warehouse burned down. This old building was 200x60 feet and consisted of two floors because of the flooding. This building was built in 1860 by C. Christenson, Ben McKay and G. Luttgies. All the lumber

used in construction was brought in by ship. Lumber as thick as 14x14 inches was used. The last owner was H. Peters. In 1933 the hotel, the last of the old buildings was torn down by W.W. Pritchard. The lumber from the 14 room hotel was used for sheep pens for Elwood Peters. Some of these timbers were over thirty two feet long. The school closed about 1948 when the school districts Unified and the children were bussed to town. Now the Dixon Boat Club has it club house located here.

October 23, 1914

A great bear hunt.

Grizzly got his man before posse brought big Berryessa marauder to death.

While in a reminiscent mood, G. W. Foster, now 84 years old a pioneer across the plains place, told the following bear story:

In the early days great herds of antelope galloped over the plains of Solano in deer and elk swarm the hills. We could go anywhere in the hills for grizzlies, instead of 200 miles, as at present.

One great hunt

The greatest hunt I know of took place in the early 60s, my neighbor, the late John Wolfskill, being one of the chief performers. He went into the hills by way of Putah Canyon to look up the land-grant covering the Valley now called Berryessa after the owner, a Spaniard. This tract of about 1000 acres of wooded land swarmed with bear, but the bear were giving much trouble, especially a giant grizzly, whose tracks stood out above all others to and from the creek.

A boy victim

A boy by the name of Wolfey started out to hunt the big marauder, and he never came back. Searching was made, but no trace of the boy was ever found, save his rifle, the stock of which was marred by their teeth. There was no doubt that the grizzly got him.

Posse organized

A posse of seven settlers was organized by Wolfskill and they set out for the timber. From the top of the knoll they overlooked a small depression in which they counted 14 grizzlies, but not the one they wanted this trip. Each hundred carried a rifle, but not the modern repeating weapon of today. They were single shotguns.

Plans to get monster

It was agreed that when confronted by the monster grizzly all would fire and stop him. And soon they had their fight. The bear came out of a clump of brush and it was a bad looking, even bigger than they expected to see. All fired at about the same time, but the grizzly did not drop. He rushed and got one of the men down. While the bear was gnawing and pawing him a rifle was loaded and a close ranging bullet was sent to the great brute's head, killing him.

While recovery was slow

The wounded man was carried back to camp and his wounds dressed. But the hole in his hip would not heal and gave him much trouble. Acting on a surmise, a couple of the men sought the carcass of the

bear and found one of his tusks missing. A physician was brought to camp and the bears tooth was found embedded against the bone. It was extracted and the young man recovered.

Old brick armory of immune and Civil War days serve beyond time of Binghamton post office

Editors note this article is the fourth in a series appearing in the Dixon Tribune telling the history of six post offices which at one time serve the Dixon area from about 1860 up through 1906. At this time the construction of a new post office for Dixon is in progress. Though the research efforts of Postmaster Jim Kilkenny, this local history series has found much reader interest for old-timers and descendants of northern Solano County pioneers.

The Binghamton office from 1864 two 1906

The community of Binghamton was one the three settlements that made up Maine Prairie Township. The other two were Morning Light and Enterprise. Due to the high water danger at Maine Prairie Landing, Binghamton became the cultural center and social center of the Township.

In 1861, J. F. Brown, J. B. Jamison, Sherman Brown, Albert Bennett, D. B. Brown, James Clark and H. M. Bentley settled in this area.

In 1863 with the country and a hot Civil War, the Maine Prairie Rifle were commissioned as a unit in the state militia by Gov. Stanford. The records show about 60 members of this unit with Albert Bennett as Captain, John Low, A. S. Hopkins and James Bingham, as Lieutenants.

The name Binghamton was eventually taken from Lieutenant Bingham. After the war the unit was disbanded by Gov. Haight and the 35 by 50 foot one-story armory sold to D. L. Munson. The only activity of the Maine Prairie Rifles was to assemble when some strange Indians appeared and started to gather up livestock. The alarm was sounded and the members assembled to fire a few volleys over the heads of the Indians who hastily fled into the tules to the East.

Munson ran a general merchandise store and added a second story to be used as an assembly place and social Hall.

When Munson retired, the building was sold to the school district and the lower floor used as a schoolroom and upper floor as a dance and social Hall.

The first teacher was a Mr. F. M. Righter. In 1865 Methodist Church was established with T. H. Woodard as minister and this area became a strong Methodist community. Even in these early days, there were factions and a group called the Protestant Methodist was formed in Maine Prairie Landing with Rev. T. New, Rev. G. Triplett, Rev. Dustin and Rev. Graves, as pastors. This group survived two years, maybe too many pastors and too few parishioners.

The Binghamton post office was established on July 25, 1864 with Richmond L. Gordon as postmaster. He was succeeded by David Munson, who also ran the general merchandise store, on July 7, 1871, the post office was discontinued on September 29, 1874, and again reestablished on October 16, 1874, with Luther M. Frick as postmaster. He was succeeded by William H Smith, in April of 1876, who served until the post office was finally closed on September 29, 1906. He had served as postmaster for over 30 years.

When the post office closed the records available showed the following people held post office boxes at Binghamton: Ed Sparling, Edward Rayns, J. L. Brown, C. S. Craig, A. J. Brown, J.C. Ninady, Henry Peters, H. G. Brown, C. Bernhart and C. Parker. Long after the post office was closed the old brick armory served as a school and social hall. The older folks may remember the wonderful times they had in that upstairs dance hall.

Again, some regret this building could not have been preserved as a landmark for historical interest.

OLD HIGHWAY 40

Like so many small communities Dixon was linked to larger cities, in our case it was Sacramento and San Francisco. This link was known, at first as the Lincoln Highway, named after President Lincoln. This project started in 1913. Then the name was changed to Highway 40, as it was decided not to name highways after people by the Federal Highways Act in 1921. This highway was to connect the West coast with the East Coast.

It might be of interest to follow the routes that went through Dixon. To do so, we will start west of town where Midway Road goes east from the present Highway 80. Midway makes a left turn and then becomes Porter Road where Porter road runs north into the city of Dixon. Just before Porter crosses Dixon Ave. West (A St.) there is a V in the road where the Dixon Water Tower and P.G. & E. substation are located. The right hand side of the V is Old Dixon road and dead ends at A St. At this point the old Lincoln Highway turned right, crossed the Rail Road Tracks and continues to 1st St. then turned left, went down Main Street and headed north to Currey Road. This construction took place in 1917 and was completed in 1918. It remained this way until 1926 when discussions began to change the route through town. One of the main reasons for moving the highway was to bypass the two Rail Road crossings plus eliminating some of the traffic on Main Street.

The first proposal was instead of turning east and going over the Railroad tracks was to go straight, across A St. and meet up with what was then Fitch Street now known as North Jefferson. It would then pass the Grangers buildings and corrals, continue north and meet up with what is now the V at the Buckhorn. This met with some problems, such as buildings in the road and sewer problems. The next proposal was to go straight north on Porter Road past the left side of the Dixon Water Tower and go straight north on Adams Street and meet at the same V on the north end of town. The first proposal was estimated to have cost \$33,000.00, the second proposal to cost \$54,000.00. Even with the higher cost the Adams Street proposal was selected. This project was started in 1929 and completed in 1930. It remained this way until Highway 80 was constructed, thus ending Highway 40 through Dixon. Highway 80 was completed by 1949.

Some of this information has been gathered with the help of the Historical section of the Dixon Library and other local sources.

Auction Action

Dixon like many other towns throughout the country had its auction and auctioneers. Auctions not only provided for a way to dispose of material goods, it was also a time for a social gathering. More people probably showed up to gossip than to buy anything. In Dixon's beginning they had their own auctioneers. An ordinance was passed in 1890 by the City regulating auctioneers and licenses to be paid by the persons selling by auction.

The first sale attributed to Dixon took place in 1892 according to the Tribune. Newby and Norman announced an auction sale of horses at the Himan stable. Livestock was the usual commodity sold but estate sales, moving sales, ranch sales and retail store sales took place. In 1910 Wm. Van Sant a local grocery store owner disposed at public auction his grocery store. This sale was conducted by Dixon's own auctioneer J.P. Martin. Another item auctioned was the old Dixon High school in 1916 which was purchased for \$210.00 by a local person Mr. Elmer McNair who was a dairyman. The next local auctioneer was Walt Harris who was in the business for the next few years.

In 1939 Art and Homer Brown two local ranchers obtained a permit from the City to conduct public livestock auction sales at what was then known as "The Park" (Now known as the MayFair grounds). They paid the City a fee of \$25.00 a month. A competent auctioneer, who has had experience handling similar sales in other parts of the state, will cry the sales in Dixon. They had found that similar sales had been conducted in Gridley to the north successfully, decided to conduct their own. The sales were to be open to anyone who had livestock, one or many, fat or feeder that the person wanted to sell. So March 15, 1939 they had their first sale. This proved successful so continued at this location for about a year. A few local people decided this wasn't the location that was in the best interest of the city so the Browns moved their sale to the north of town. The new location was on what then was Highway 40 north of town across the street from the Wolfe property. Today there is a welding company located where the old auction yard was. It is half way between Currey Road and Pedrick Road and on Sievers Road. Here a very prosperous business existed. Every Wednesday rain or shine an auction was held. Sheep, cattle, hogs and goats were sold. Sometimes the auction lasted well into the night until everything was sold. A small food bar was present so the buyers and sellers could keep their energy up. There was also an animal pharmaceutical department so ranchers could purchase vaccines and sprays to keep their animals healthy. This was maintained by another Brown, Herb. The book keeper was Stuart Grady who had been the owner of the grocery store on Main Street. Not only did the business sell animals it gave several locals a good job, checking in the livestock, tagging them, penning them and then running them in the ring. This location lasted until Highway 40 was moved to what is now Highway 80. At that time Art Brown purchased the Dudley ranch three miles north of town and along side of Highway 80 where a new Auction yard was built. The new Yard was designed by and built by John Gentry. This is where the present Walmart building is now located. The snack bar was operated by the Dallas family who later were the cooks at Dawson's Bar & Grill. The new Yard was managed by C. F. Baker. Fred Clark was in charge of the cattle

department. Jack Dalby another local was in charge of getting the cattle into the ring. The secretary was Barbara McGrew. The auctioneers were J.D. Robinson and Herb Widger. Elmer Brown another brother was also involved with the auction. The auction started at 1:30 pm which allowed ranchers to get their stock in during the morning for afternoon sale.

The auction yard also provided a public service when they helped the American Red Cross by selling animals for the benefit of the Red Cross. In 1944 the Red Cross netted \$945.00 because of the Auction Yard benefit. One item sold was two bottles of whiskey donated by Joe Dawson and purchased by Bruce Mace, Bob McKenzie, Bob Collier and Howard Vaughn all local lamb buyers, who stipulated the two bottles be accepted by an army officer and sent to Marine flyers in a combat zone (World War II)

Then in the 1950s another Auction entered the picture south of town when the Schene Brothers started selling lambs. Then as business slowed down due to lack of animals, Schene operated the Dixon Yard north of town. Finally, the livestock numbers decreased to the point it was not economically profitable to operate and the yard was closed in the 1990's.

During the time Dixon had an auction Yard, Gridley, Elk Grove, Petaluma, Orland, Galt and Stockton all had Auction yards. One by one most all have closed because lack of animals, due to different farming methods that came to be. A lot of people who now live in Dixon are not aware of how big the livestock business was around Dixon. That is the reason that there is today a celebration called "Lambtown". Dixon was also known as the "Dairy City" because at one time there were over fifty dairies in the area. Then in the 1980's animal rights people were active and they were responsible to have started the Auction yard on fire and it was never rebuilt. At the same time the veterinary building at U.C.Davis was spray painted and torched. No one was ever prosecuted. Thus the era of the Dixon Livestock Auction Yard came to an end. Now yard sales have become popular and only occasionally a ranch auction is to be seen.

Help with some of information was given to me by two local people, Robert Gill a long time rancher and Hank Toulson a long time lamb buyer for Armour & Co meat packers.

CANNERIES

[Several articles from the period of 1896 through 1922 on the subject of canneries in Dixon and vicinity extracted from the Dixon Tribune.]

1896/05/01

From present indications, Foster Bros. will be compelled to largely increase the capacity of their cannery at Tremont this season in order to supply at Tremont the demand for their "Tremont Brand" of canned fruits. They are receiving orders from all parts of the Sacramento Valley, which they cannot fill as last year's output has long since been exhausted. One firm in Vacaville sent in an order for 100 cases of tomatoes. If the boys continue in future as they have in the past they will build up an industry in Northern Solano which will add greatly to the prosperity of the district.

1896/11/06

Foster Bros.' cannery at Tremont has put up many thousand cans of peaches, pears and tomatoes this season. The fruit which is prepared under the name of Solano Chief brand has absolutely no superior on the market and the demand far exceeds the supply. There is scarcely a doubt that the proprietors will be compelled to enlarge their plant until some day they will have one of the largest plants in the State.

1899/11/01

In keeping with the spirit of the times H.W. Timm has installed a new power sausage machine in his meat market. It is driven with an electric motor and is almost noiseless in operation, doing its work much quicker and better than the old style machine. The old machine is now doing service in Foster Brother's Cannery, near Tremont, where it is used for chopping the ingredients of chow chow and other delicacies manufactured at the cannery.

1901/11/01

The cannery proposition is endorsed by everybody, seemingly, and the formation of a company is among the possibilities of the new year. Last Sat. the directors of the Grangers' Business Association held a meeting and designated a nominal sum for a site for the cannery and set forth a lease proposition. Foster Brothers have the removal of their plant to Dixon under consideration and will be able to give the promoters of the scheme a definite answer soon.

1901/12/01

Foster Brothers' Tremont cannery was destroyed by fire last Weds. evening. During the day a portion of the plant had been used in processing but everybody had left the building before the fire was discovered. Mr. Everett Foster, who manages the industry, had gone to another part of the farm and there was no one on the premises except his wife when the fire broke out.

1902/02/01

Foster Brothers received a new boiler last week for their cannery, which they will rebuild at Tremont in the near future in time for the coming season.

1902/03/01

BUILD A CANNERY. SAY THE PUBLIC SPIRITED MEN OF DIXON. Subscription List Being Circulated to Raise Money Sufficient to Build \$10,000 Cannery. FOSTER BROTHERS REBUILDING. Their Tremont cannery will Be Ready for Operation This Season.

1902/08/01

The Tremont cannery under the enterprising management of Foster Bros. is developing a very promising industry. It is now in full blast putting up peaches and tomatoes, about three thousand can's a day being the usual pack.

1902/10/01

Proposition to Have Foster Brothers Cannery Here Regarded Favorably.

1902/10/24

DIXON HAS AWAKENED TO NEED OF ENTERPRISE. A MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS LAST MONDAY EVENING RESULTS IN UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSITION TO LOCATE FOSTER BROS. CANNERY IN DIXON. A Committee of Prominent Citizens Appointed to Solicit the Necessary Funds and Commendable Support Is Manifest on Every Hand. Names of those Who Subscribed: E.D.N. Lehe, Oscar C. Schulze, S.G. Little, H.E. Mccune, J.H. Schneider, Herman Fischer, J.S. Mayes, H. Petersen, WM. Vasant, Clark & Duke, Peter MacHugh, E.J. McBride and G.D. Schulze, A. Kirby & Son, A.F. Shangraw, G.S. Conner, D.D.S., J.D. Grady, H.A. Kerr, J.D. Johnson, J.F. Cowden, Geo. Steinmiller, J.C. Grove, W.O. Landreth. The subscription list is still open.

1902/12/05

TOWN PROPERTY CHANGING HANDS. The Influence of the Cannery Making Itself Felt and Values are increasing. There was quite a stir in real estate circles in Dixon Thursday of last week and locations and values were subjects of general discussion on our streets and in our business houses. The well-known Little property on the corner of B and Second streets was sold to J.H. Rice for a substantial money consideration. J.C. Grove was the same day the purchaser of E.C. Eames' handsome cottage on the east side of south First Street.

1903/01/23

CANNERY COMMENCED. MANAGER E.H.FOSTER HAS PURCHASED THE MACHINERY FOR DIXON PLANT. Plant Will Be Up-to-Date In Every Particular. Preparing to Plant Tomatoes. The cannery will have a capacity of 25,000 cans every ten hours and as arrangements will be complete to work night and day during the busy season it will be seen that a large pack will be made if the season is favorable. Foster Brothers will be better prepared to meet emergencies than any other plant we know of.

They are to raise 100 acres of tomatoes and have a large supply on which to draw when necessity requires. A large hot house 14 x 100 ft has been erected at Tremont and seed will be planted in a few days which will provide 75,000 tomato plants.

1903/02/01

CANNERY TO THE FRONT. COLEMAN BROTHERS, OF ASHLAND, OREGON, GET A LEASE OF THE BUILDING. Work on the Building to Begin Shortly. The Machinery Will Be Ready for Creditable Pack This Season. Coleman Brothers, J.W. Coleman and N.B.S. Coleman, two ex-Dixon boys who have been operating a large canning and packing plant in Ashland, Oregon, are to conduct Dixon's cannery. The fact that we are to have a cannery has brought about the necessity for new lines of industry in the community. Among those who are looking into the new avenues of business is J.A. Kerr. Mr. Kerr will order within a few days a complete electric pumping plant and will devote at least four acres of his newly acquired portion of the Eibe lands to the growing of tomatoes.

1903/02/27

CANNERY TRUSTEES RECEIVE DEED FOR THE SITE, A MOST VALUABLE LOCATION. The necessary instruments were signed this week and passed to record giving the title to the cannery site into the keeping of the board of trustees composed of J.A. KERR, E.D.N. LEHE, Dr. G.S. CONNER, O.C. SCHULZE and J.D. GRADY. The site is one of the most valuable land holdings in Dixon and was acquired from the Grangers' Business Association. The sum of \$500 was paid for the ground. The site has a frontage of 300 feet on the line of the Southern Pacific Company; has a depth of practically 450 feet and is bounded by Mayes and Jefferson streets and Broadway. The property is probably better described as lying just west of the Grangers' Business Associations warehouse No. 3.

1904/03/01

FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE. Dixon Brass Band, an organization of young men who have been under the instruction of Prof. W.N. Hayden for some time, will make their first public appearance this (Friday) evening, April 10th at 7:30 o'clock, in front of the Opera House. The young musicians have generously tendered their services in aid of the cannery fund.

It is proposed to give a ball in the cannery building about the 22d of May for the benefit of the building fund. The building is a spacious affair and a most auspicious social affair could be given before the machinery is installed.

1904/07/01

Coleman Bros. have decided in view of the high price demanded for apricots, not to can any early fruit this season but are getting things in readiness for the late fruits and tomatoes which they have already contracted for. They expect to make a big pack of their popular brands this season. Their cannery was in operation to relieve Foster's cannery whose capacity was overtaxed. The Tremont establishment is running at full blast engaged in turning out a full pack of apricots. Since last season many

improvements have been effected in the machinery and internal arrangements with the result that operations are greatly facilitated.

1904/11/18

THE DIXON CANNERY - Trustees Discuss Alleged Unsatisfactory Conditions
FOSTER'S CANNERY BURNED - Loss Will Total about Twenty Thousand Dollars.

1905/01/06

Jan. 6, 1905 –

Satisfaction has been expressed at the action of the Trustees of the Dixon Cannery at their meeting at the Bank of Dixon on Saturday last in deciding to lease the premises to Foster Bros. The belief is fully expressed that under the new lessee the object of the building of the cannery by popular subscription will be attained. Foster Bros. have built up an enviable reputation for their brand of tomatoes all over the United States and it is gratifying that the local institution will here after be identified with the famous product. After a discussion of the situation during which it was understood that Messrs. Coleman were not financially able to run the cannery for another season, upon motion, the Secretary was instructed to inform Messrs. Coleman of the decision of the Trustees to cancel the lease as the terms of the agreement had not been lived up to.

1905/02/01

The directors of the newly organized Winters Canning Company paid Dixon a visit on Saturday last with the object of inspecting the machinery which has been used during the past two seasons by the Coleman Canning Company. The directors had previously visited Woodland and obtained an option on the machinery at the cannery therein but the very reasonable figure asked for that here induced them to conclude negotiations on the spot. They made arrangements for N.B.S. Coleman to superintend the removal of the machinery and offer him a substantial monetary Inducement to assume charge of the cooking arrangements at Winters as soon as the cannery gets into operation.

1905/06/01

THE DIXON CANNERY. Manager E.H. Foster of the Foster Bros. Co., announces that on Weds. evening June 21st, there will be a grand opening at their cannery at Dixon Visitors will be shown the methods of canning fruits as practiced in the up-to-date canneries of today. This will no doubt be a revelation to hundreds who are not familiar with the rapid strides being taken in this wonderful industry. The raw fruit will be taken at the door, graded, passed to the cutters, packed, scrupled and cooked. The entire cannery force will be on duty and the regular routine of work will be observed.

1906/01/27

THE DIXON CANNERY. Cannery matters seem to be engaging attention at this time. A number of representative business men held a meeting one evening this week to consider the possibility of forming a stock company to run the establishment during the coming season. (Later) Just as we are going to press this (Friday) afternoon we

learn that the negotiations have been successful and therefore the cannery will be run by local capital. The Directors of the Bank of Dixon contribute \$5,000 to the fund and the following have invested \$1,000 each: - J.D. Grady, J.H. Rice, J.H. Petersen, Lehe and Oscar C. Schulze. J.E. Martin will be engaged to manage the business. E.H. Foster who operated the cannery last year has gone to a larger field and is now engaged in interesting capital at Napa in the erection of a cannery there.

1906/02/17

DIXON IN THE LIST OF LOCATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR STATE FARM. A meeting of those constituting the cannery co-partnership was held on Tuesday evening when organization was effected and officers elected. It had already been decided to adopt the title "Dixon Packing Co.," and the engagement of J.E. Martin, who so successfully handled the inside business of the concern last season, as manager was ratified.

1906/05/03

LARGE FUND FOR BUILDING IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE Mr. Jacobs Indorses the plan to advance Insurance moneys to the small manufacturers in order that they may begin operations in their respective lines at once. He says that the hills surrounding the Santa Fe tracts have thousands of women and girls who would be only too glad to secure employment. Jacobs says that his concern will open a cannery at Dixon in two weeks which will give employment to many in that vicinity. The projected cannery in this city is just opposite the factory of the Holman Can Company.

1906/12/01

Having closed up the business of the California Cannery Co. here, Mr. Martin, the manager, has gone to San Francisco, where he will enter the main office of the company. We understand that the company do not intend to operate the Dixon cannery next year. This leaves a good opportunity for some independent man who understands the business, for there is a good cannery here and plenty of stuff to can, especially tomatoes, of which there are no better grown in the State.

1908/01/01

(At the Town Board Meeting) Henry Peterson appeared before the Board and requested that the tax on the cannery building be remitted, which request was granted.

1908/01/01

Negotiations are now in hand looking toward the establishment of the factory of a San Francisco incubator company in the cannery building. If the deal goes through, the company will employ some forty or fifty mechanics, with a suitable payroll. This would prove of great benefit to the town and it is sincerely hoped that the deal will be consummated.

1909/04/17

Dixon has the best shipping arrangements of any place on the line. Considerable fruit of very fine quality is raised right here at Dixon and on Putah Creek. During our run

of 1905 the best apricots packed at the factory were raised in the Bell orchard, in the suburbs of Dixon. I have been asked pointedly why no one has as yet made a success of the business in Dixon, and I will reply in the same light and say that no one has as yet had money enough to handle the proposition. The amount of capital required is tremendous, and it must be had right at the time when it is needed. All but a few articles are cash on delivery. by E.H. Foster

1910/10/01

J.E. Martin of Napa was in town the first of the week trying to interest the farmers in tomato raising, as it is his intention to reopen the cannery here next spring. No very definite arrangements have been made as yet.

1912/03/01

March 1912

AD. DIXON PLANING MILL. In Old Cannery Building. Now Ready For Business. Everything Made in the Wood Line. Sashes, Doors, Mouldings, Screens, Screen Doors, Etc. W.H.Morrill, G.H. Dittmer, prop.

1912/03/01

March 1912

The firm of Spates & Dunstin who have been conducting the Panama Theatre, have dissolved, Mr. Spates retiring. Mr. Dunstin intends to conduct a high grade place of amusement to which he invites the public. An aviation meet is to be held at the Agricultural Park, Sacramento, March 2d and 3d, at which the principal aviators on the Coast will participate. Our suggestion last week that the proceeds of the annual May Day festival be turned over to the Woman's Improvement Club for the purpose of buying books for the new library, seems to have struck a popular chord.

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Dixon was visited by a fire on Wednesday that for completeness of destruction was as hard as has ever visited the town. It was just noon when the alarm was given that the cannery building was on fire and in twenty minutes the building had been completely destroyed. No one seems to know how it started, as everybody employed there had gone to dinner, so that No one was there at the time, but the commonly accepted theory is that the smoke stack had a hole rusted in it through which some sparks fell on the roof setting it on fire. The building was occupied by the steam laundry, whose loss was about \$2,000, on which there was a small insurance. As most of the week's washing was in it was, of course, destroyed. The building was erected about twelve years ago for a cannery by public subscription, but has not been used for the past five years until the laundry started last fall. The worst feature of the fire is that it probably puts out of business the laundry, which was just getting on its feet, and is an industry needed here. We hope Mr. McVey will see his way clear to resume business in the near future.

1918/01/01

1918 - Jan.

J.J. Merritt from Santa Clara arrived in Dixon this week and with his family occupies the Cecil Ferguson house. Mr. Merritt is an experienced cement worker and is going to open a plant on the old cannery grounds for making cement pipe for irrigation purposes.

1922/09/01

September

A cannery has leased 500 acres of the Petersen estate lands between Rio Vista and Maine Prairie for the growing of asparagus.

Binghampton VS. Maine Prairie

It's almost like the Hatfields and McCoy story of old. It wasn't between two families but between two county schools. To set the stage we will begin by telling you the incident took place about five miles south of Dixon where Binghampton was located and about two miles directly east of Binghampton at Maine Prairie. Both had county schools that were involved. These were the days when school kids who lived in the county were unable to get to town to attend school, so the beginning of the one room school was here. The Binghampton school was located in what had been the old Armory building a two story brick structure. The Maine Prairie School which originally was located at the settlement called Maine Prairie which was a loading dock where grain was shipped to San Francisco and other ports. This school floated away in high water and ended up several miles to the north at the corner of Robben and Binghampton Roads.

Prior to 1925 it was being discussed to close one of these two schools with one merging into the other, the reason being there weren't enough students in the area to keep two schools open. The following is the report that appeared the Dixon Tribune in 1925.

"For the time being at least, politics is not discussed in the Binghampton-Maine Prairie districts. A merger of the two school districts recently took place because the number of pupils had fallen off till it was seen that one school could more economically and efficiently do the business. But the merger was considered too one-sided and one thing led to another till appeals have been made to the lawyers, an injunction was threatened, everyone is "sleeping on his arms" so to speak and there has been some talk about a Ku Klux Klan raid and reassembling of the old Maine Prairie Home Guard. James McNeil and Frank Norton stayed up nights, we are told, fearing that Homer Brown and A.M. Robson might swing a cable around the school house and drag it over as a sort of annex to the unoccupied Binghampton School. Anyway, the situation has become tense and if they are singing any song down there it is "Blest be the Tie that binds."

"The consolidation is all right," said a Binghampton man, "but you see Binghampton was merged into Maine Prairie when we thought we were going to have a union district. Our board of trustees was cruelly and with malice after thought wiped out, only one of the Binghampton members being allowed to sit on the merger board, Otto Dannenberg joining James McNeil and Frank Norton as the merger board. Then we had a meeting and talked over the matter of a school house, believing it would be in the best interest of the economy to use the Binghampton school house and took a vote on the matter, which stood 19-13 in favor of Binghampton. But the county superintendent of

schools ruled that it required a two-thirds vote, so there we were high and dry. The Superintendent of the State Board though “ruled that only a majority vote is necessary.”

In the meantime the Maine Prairie school house was moved to the McNeil corner for general accommodation and school will open on Monday. The district attorney has been consulted on the question of whether Binghampton has been really merged into Maine Prairie or the consolidation is a union district with both sections having the same rights and the legality of the vote on school house is also to be determined. Ultimately the differences will be ironed out. A.M. Robson will kick the top back onto the kettle, a new school house may be built, neighbors again sing out of the same hymn book and Dan White (county superintendent) able to go into the territory without a body guard.”

So, the saga of the county schools ended temporarily, as eventually all the county school unified and attended Dixon schools.

COUNTRY CHATTER 1874 and 1875

[Tribune Articles from Maine Prairie, Batavia, Binghamton, Allendale, Tremont]

December 26, 1874

Letters from Maine Prairie

Editor of the Tribune; when it becomes known through your columns, that John Fredrickson duck boat was supposed to be lost with all on board, and expedition was organized here to go in search of it. After days of fruitless search, the laborers of the hunters were last rewarded by finding certain proof of the wreck; is: if you dead animals of strange appearance, one of which, I sent you here with. This is proof positive, inasmuch as a boat which was built with so much care, ingenuity and skill would certainly not go after common game. The animal I send you was known as a held diver, by antiquarians, and something that the fact of finding it is to give again of what direction the boat had gone. Mr. J. Hardie, of your town, is the happy possessor of another of the birds found.

January 29, 1875

Letter from Maine Prairie

My time has been so fully taken up of late, that it has been impossible for me to write anything for your valuable paper, although many an event occurred or in that time well worth mentioning. But you have your ever watchful eye upon us, and we cannot, therefore-like Davisville, complained that you having ignored or forgotten us, for you have made mention of everything worth mentioning, and that has occurred amongst us, during my silence.

As stated at the time, the schooner which Capt. Merithew was building here, was successfully launched, on 24 December, and she is worthy of more than just mere mention. I will try to give some description of her, but as I am not well versed in such work, I cannot do justice to the subject. Her keel is 81 feet long, 12 x 14" in thickness; depth of hold 6 feet clear; being 25'6"; link overall 92 feet; that means 6 x 12", 2 feet apart, the stringers under the deck beams are 9 x 10", fastened frame by bolts running through both; chocks between the beams are all dovetailed, and fastened to frame, same as the stringers; the frames are double, 12 x 12 at the rail; the Kilson is 12 x 14; the ceiling is 4 inches thick, and fastened by bolts and treenails running through and through, are superior to anything I've ever seen on this coast; the deck is late of 4 x 4 time. She certainly reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. Mortenson, the builder, and she will prove a solid investment in more ways than one to the owner.

As she was launched during the absence of the owner, some little disappointment was felt that she should go into the water without a name, but she is

now named after the owner's eldest son, C A. Merithew. The mass are going into her today, and as soon as the rating is set up, she will be ready for sea. Capt. Merithew, although his enterprise, has proven beyond a doubt, that building vessels in the interior, where the proper facilities are, is a success.

We had a variation in the monotony of our daily lives, day before yesterday; Vaca Creek treated us to an extra allowance of local opinion, or as it is generally expressed here, Barker Slough ran all over us. The water came over us in the morning, and raising fast until about five o'clock in the evening, at which time the water was about 2 feet deep in town, and rushing along furiously. In every direction except north of us, as far as I could reach, was one vast sheet of water, carried along with the current with nothing could stem. But yesterday morning, lo and behold! Everything look as green and smiling under a bright sun, when you're correspondent emerged from his domicile, as if such a thing as a flood had never been known here; it looked as innocent of water as if we had entirely thrown all on our the local option laws, which he still adhered to, in spite of the decision of the Supreme Court no harm was done by the flood; on the contrary's, it was it carried away a great deal of rubbish which we are glad to get rid of, and cleaned the slough thoroughly. By the Way, Fredrickson's duck boat suddenly came to life and did good service as a means of communication between up and down town. That boat will yet earned honorable mention in the annals of California!

A scourge has broken loose on the inhabitants of this place, which if no stringent measures are taken to check it, will be because of the death by starvation, of nearly all the male inhabitants of this ancient town. I ask you, Nay, I demand of you, as it was imported from Dixon to open your vials of wrath and with your mighty eloquence break the backbone of this terrible being, this and the you raise it has a Spanish name, is called Pedro, look at in this picture; for respectable citizens of this place were smitten by this mania; the other day they sat down to a table with a deck of cards play a game of Pedro, and to play it chinch. For a bit a game hour after hour came and went, still they played; the noonday meal was forgotten; the afternoon passed away, supper was never thought of; all night long, but still there they sat one intent on catching Pedro. The night passed away and all the next day, while these men still played on, never thinking of sleep, drinking or eating area on the evening of the second day, anxious friends searching for them, found them in an almost insensible condition, still seated at the fatal board, and as each one was shaken, he would just mutter "I ketched" his Pedro or he's cinched; now is it has becomes a general thing, the very air is full of Pedro. At night my dreams are haunted by a huge five spot, the upper spot changing into fiery eyes, the middle one a nose, and the lower two spots a huge mouth; this fearful vision hovers over me, and threatens me with dire vengeance if I do not soon succumb.

Mr. James Hardie of your town became a father to a little girl in our town, last Sunday morning.

No more than this time from your Pedro-there it is again!

February 13, 1875

Maine Prairie

I have no items to insert to of interest to write you this time, I nearly wish to place myself in the proper light in the eyes of the residents of this Township, in regard to a letter which appeared in your last issue, signed "X" and to come from Maine Prairie. Your "Squint" has been justly used of being the author of that article area no, no, my friends, I cannot see that it will be a benefit to any class of the community to enable the poor portion of the retail liquor dealers to sling out fester gut, strychnine, or benzine at reduced rates. However, as asked justly says; everyone has a right to his opinion. I am only glad to be able to state, that his opinions are not those of the residents of Maine Prairie Township, with, perhaps five or six exceptions.

Schooner Tartar, Capt. Stanton, left here last Wednesday, with 110 tons of wheat for Friedlander.

Schooner, C. H. Merithew who having received the finishing touch, was on Friday last hauled up to one of the warehouses, and to get 135 tons of wheat. This was all the wheat ordered to be shipped at the time, or she would have taken 250 tons, a full load. So light is her draft that she can easily float a large cargo at the warehouse, where there is only 7 feet of water. J. C. Merithew is in command to take her to San Francisco.

Schooner "Bartlett Alan", Capt. Bealer, arrived last night with mixed cargo.

George Albert, son of George T. Elliott, was severely wounded in the leg by some careless Hunter, when he was out boat riding on the slough near his home. One buck shot passed almost entirely through his thigh; fortunately the bone was not touched and he e is doing fine.

September 6, 1875

Maine Prairie

At last a little life seems to have sprung up among our sportsmen, and a sporting club has been organized. There are so many good hunters and good shots in this our community that it is a wonder to me, this has not been done before. The club is making preparations for a grand scale pigeon shooting match about Thanksgiving, to which, I believe, all the shooters of repute are invited. 1000 birds have already been contracted for and our citizens are putting up and somebody to help the thing along.

E. A. Beardsley of Maine Prairie has sold out his entire interest to in the Brickyard near that place to J. C. Merithew who will hereby continue the business alone. Mr. Beardsley has purchased his outfit for a journey with his family, to Arizona.

Our young friend Mark of camp meeting fame will take an active part in the coming shooting match. He has purchased a new then for the occasion.

June 23, 1877

Maine Prairie items

G. Luttges is building a two-story frame house for G. C. McRae.

W. D. Vail has opened a lumber Yard at this place and will keep a variety stock of redwood and pine lumber, and all other articles found in a lumberyard. All his freighting being done by water, he is able to sell at such rates as will make it an object for the residents of a large circle of surrounding country to buy of him. He will also carry on the warehouse business-receive, store and ship grading on the most reasonable terms.

Considerable progress has been made with the harvest and summer fallow ground is reasonably good, but winter personas very poor. Much of it will not be cut.

Maine Prairie, though not a large place, boasts two candidates for the honors of assemblyman-Ms.; G. T. Elliott and Capt. Bennett.

The Dixon band is becoming very popular at Maine Prairie, and many more of its pleasant visits are hoped for in the future.

This is a place of cooling sea breezes and mild temperature, but during the recent hot spell the thermometer jump to 105, on Wednesday and 110 on this succeeding.

July 14, 1877

Allendale

At Allendale things look b risk and cheerful, and the prospects are that more grain will be taken in this year than any former one. A ton of sacks will about cover all that has been shipped of this year's crop from that point. Tom Gregory and J. Talbot have stored, both of whom have had very satisfactory crops. Tom Baker is now hauling his crop and placing it in storage. Mrs. Udell is doing likewise. Henry Ayesworth, whose farm adjoins the town plat, has received the largest yield per acre of any in the vicinity of Allendale.

Ike Brinkerhoff's machine is now at work on J. Wilson's grain, which we hear is turning out well. The machine is said to perform satisfactorily. He had over a week's run

at Al Withams and John Emorys. He goes next to Batavia, where he will attack John Duke's wheat.

Batavia

Businesses are very lively at the Batavia just now. Grain is coming in quite freely and the warehouses are filling up with wheat-a fact which makes Coulter smiled over all over his face. Among those hauling and storing, there are Garnett and McCune, who have several large teams at work hauling from their big ranch. As. G. McMahon, of Putah Creek is running two teams in making a trip per day. His wheat is of good quality. Alec Fraser, K. McPherson and J. Johnson, farming on the McMahon track, have several very fine six and eight mule teams hauling and their grain is of the excellent quality. Dan O'Connor has three small teams in motion making four trips daily from his farm on Sweeney creek.

John Brinkerhoff has just finished hauling 2200 sacks, the product of his Batavia form. The yield is considerable way up on 160 acres in a dry year. All the wheat being hauled is going in the warehouse, and not a pound lying in the yard for sale at present acres.

Charlie Porter is around daily pocketing samples and announces his readiness to purchase at the highest price. James Porter started up his threshing machine last week to thresh his own crop and before dismantling he will runs Charles Cushing's through in one and the most approved style of the art.

July 28, 1877

Maine Prairie

Mr. G.T. Elliott informs us that in the stock region between Maine and Rio Vista the Thule feed is good, although all other, of course is very short. Those with feed, was all on the high lands have all either hired pasture on the Thule, or move their stock to some of the islands. Stock is generally looking well.

A public dance was given at Vail's Hall, Friday evening the 20th, by the Binghamton Social Club. The party was advertised to be given at the Binghamton Hall on the same evening, but by the unexpected decision of a member of the board of school trustees the use of the hall for that purpose was refused, and the dance was given here. About 30 couples were present and took part in the dancing, besides a considerable number of more elderly people whose sober ideas did not run to the light fantastic. There were 10 or a dozen Dixon people among the number, and a much larger proportion of Elmira; besides some for Batavia and other places. McCray Brothers furnish the music, and the whole affair passed off very pleasantly, although the late hour at which the change was made in the place of holding it cause some inconvenience; among others the lack of a supper. Mr.'s M. Thompson and J. Freel

acted as floor committee. Dancing was kept up until daylight, when all left for home well pleased with the success of the party.

Batavia

In another column is an advertisement of J. C. Smith, blacksmith, who offers business for sale.

Coulter has been fixing up his scales to make them more convenient for weighing stock.

Mr. F. Tuck" Is one of our well fixed farmers", with his wife left a few days ago for a trip to the East.

Mr. J. M. Bell, the well-known farmer, will move into Dixon in a couple of months, having recently bought a residence there. He will leave the farm in charge of a foreman.

The grain season has given us for a short time quite an appearance of life and business to the station.

We are in eminent danger of losing our accommodating railroad agent and telegraph operator, Mr. Ballard, who talks of shaking the Batavia and dust from his feet at note distant day.

Batavia

From Mr. Coulter's we obtain some facts in regard to the wheat and barley at this station. There is now on store about 2000 tons of grain, and there is also 500 or 600 tons more, as estimated, to arrive. From these figures a good idea can be formed of the relative crop of this area, as compared with four years. In the region around Batavia and that section northwest of Dixon, whence the grain is generally hauled to this station, there has been about one third of last year's crop. The grain is falling far below the farmer's estimates when they began thrashing, though, of course, more than was expected three months ago. To show what mistakes were made, we can mention the case of one man who bought 1000 sacks, fully expecting to fill them all; he used about 290 for his wheat and 122 for his barley, leaving 688 surplus. There is a good deal of variation in the quality of the grain raised on different places. The lightness, average about 120 pounds to the sack; while the best, race on Mr. Isaac Brinkerhoff's farm, weighed as high as 144 pounds in some cases.

The grain raised on the McMahon place, Garnett and McCune's Creek Ranch and in fact all the places in the Putah Creek region, is good. John Johnson hauled in some club wheat, which, being extra good, is selling at \$2.50 per central, for seed. Mrs. Southerners we was also very good, averaging 136- 137 pounds.

Wednesday evening McCune and Garnett finished threshing, up to Monday evening they had all 435 tons and were still at it; but we understand their grain, like everybody else's is not turning out near up to expectations

The warehouse at this place, notwithstanding that all the wheat which arrived goes to storage, will not be in the least crowded. In fact a good deal of space is not likely to be occupied at all.

August 4, 1877

Maine Prairie

The Republican primary election last Saturday, was a spirited affair not nearly the whole strength of the party in this Township. 46 votes were poll. The contest was between Elliott indebted as candidates for assemblyman, and the first named Juan, his candidate for delicate receiving 28 votes to Bennett's 18.

August 25, 1877

Allendale

530 tons of grain are in storage in the warehouse at this place and another hundred held in the yard the largest lots belonging to J. H. Wilson, Antonio, W. Witham and R. T. Baker.

The fruit crop in this vicinity is a partial failure the present year. Most of the peaches are very poor, apparently drying up before they are ripe. The damages attributed to the very hot weather last June.

But little grain has yet been shipped from this point. A few lots have been sent to Vacaville.

Batavia

The private school formally taught by Mrs. Eddy, will not be opened this season as there were not sufficient pupils to make it remunerative.

September 1, 187

Tremont

Mr. James Graham, of San Francisco and Miss Hattie Behrens, daughter of Mr. A. Behren's, one of our most thrifty farmers, were united at altar, at the residence of the bride's parents, on the evening of the 27th. They left on the bridal tour with many congratulations of friends.

1200 tons of wheat is stored in the warehouse at Fosters switch. Four carloads were shipped from here by Eppinger and Co. last Monday.

Not many of the candidates have found time to visit this town is the in the course of their bushwhacking for votes. John Lemon, J. E. Wilton and John Hopkins, however, are among those who recognize the importance of writing around and cultivating friendships amongst our Grangers.

Maine Prairie

The County Bridge over Lindy Slough, near the house of G. T. Elliott came to near total destruction by fire one day last before last Mr. Elliott was sitting in his home, when his boys came rushing in and told him the bridge was burning up. He rushed out and as there was no water in the slough, carried several buckets, and finally succeeded in extinguishing the flames. The bridge is something over to hundred feet long.

September 8, 1877

Tremont

An erroneous impression was given by our item last week in relation to the marriage of Miss Hattie Burns daughter of Mr. A. Burns. In consequence of misspelling the name it was thought to be one of the daughters of Mr. A. Behren's, which is a mistake.

Tremont has been made a regular station instead of merely a flag station and all the trains will now stop there. G. W. Foster has been appointed agent.

Binghamton.

The attendance upon the public school, F. M. Righter teacher, now numbers about 40. Additional seats had to be placed in the building to accommodate the increased number of pupils.

His social dance was given a week ago Thursday evening at the public Hall, but the attendance, owing to the attraction of the cantata at Dixon was small.

Farmers began sowing and running their harrows over summer fallow ground last week.

Candidates were buzzing around the last two weeks of the campaign like bluebottle flies, and some of them were so keen to drum up votes that they visited the school house to election-year with the master and through the children with the parents.

September 15, 1877

Binghamton

A special party was given at the public hall last Friday evening, with an attendance of 15 or 20 couples. McCray Brothers dispense the music, and a supper was served in Smith's shop. It was therefore clock when the party broke up.

October 6, 1877

Maine Prairie

A housewarming was given Friday evening, the 28th at the new home of Mr. G. C. McCray, at which there was a large attendance from Maine Prairie, Dixon and Elmira and other places. It was a very pleasant occasion and everybody went home happy, a big dancing was the principal amusement of the evening.

Batavia

Only about 150 ton of wheat has been shipped from here the present season.

Mr. F. Tuck returned from the East, Monday.

October 20, 1877

Maine Prairie

An auction sale of 1000 head of cattle a part of a log recently received from the northern counties will be held at Lewis Pierce on McCune and Garnett ranch the 31st.

Within the past three weeks five or six of the farmers having wheat stored have sold. But not over 200 tons has changed hands during the whole season. 150 tons have been shipped.

Batavia

The school in the Owens district closed Thursday after a term of three months. 24 pupils were enrolled.

L. S. Cushing is back to his own place at Binghamton them Tuesday. He had been renting and living here the past season.

J. C. Smith, blacksmith, has sold out and will move away to Sacramento. The purchaser is a man named Warner.

No wheat has been shipped from here.

November 3, 1877

Binghamton

Rev. Woodward services are here every Sunday for noon at 11 o'clock.

A week or two ago a sheet and pillowcase party was given at the place of Captain A. Bennett, being participated in by a large number and generally enjoyed.

There will be a little land plowed in the city the present season. Most of the land is volunteer with a little extra seed harrowed in.

A social of the Methodist Church Society was held Thursday evening.

Maine Prairie,

The auction sale of Lewis Pierces 1000 head of cattle came off Thursday. The stock was sold in lots of not less than 100, thus preventing any farmer except very extensive ones from buying. The first lot's brought \$13 a head and some as low as six dollars. Two or three butchers from Sacramento attended the sale.

September 10, 1877

Tremont

A party was given Friday evening, the second, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. Behrens. A few friends from Dixon, and many from Davisville and the surrounding region, were present and spent a pleasant evening.

In a social dance was given Friday evening of last week at the house of Mr. Robert Armstrong, a considerable number of persons being present from the farming region, and from Davisville.

November 17, 1877

Maine Prairie

The party was given here last week Friday evening, by Mr. Rathke, lately of Dixon. Vails Hall was pretty well fill, the total number in attendance. About 90 of whom 20 were from Dixon. McCray Brothers furnished the music.

November 24, 1877

Maine Prairie

Richard Belcher, the murderer of John H. Patton, on Satten Island last summer, under circumstances narrated in the Tribune at that time-and who was found guilty of murder in the first degree at Sacramento, Tuesday, and sentenced to imprisonment for life-was formally a residence of this place; G. C. McCray and others were supposed to testify in the trial to Belcher's character.

Lou Pierce, of Suisun, has had a gang of vaqueros gathering up his cattle from the two leads and driving them off. Some of the animals were very ugly and dangerous.

Binghamton

F. M. Righter closed up his school at this place last week Friday. The term had been expected to last several weeks longer, but owing to the severe weather, the attendance was small and the trustees decided to bring the term to close.

A dance was given last Friday evening at the public Hall in aid of the Good Templars Lodge. 20 out of 25 couples were present and the attendance would've been larger if it had been generally known such an affair was to come off.

CANNERIES

1896/05/01

From present indications, Foster Bros. will be compelled to largely increase the capacity of their cannery at Tremont this season in order to supply at Tremont the demand for their "Tremont Brand" of canned fruits. They are receiving orders from all parts of the Sacramento Valley, which they cannot fill as last year's output has long since been exhausted. One firm in Vacaville sent in an order for 100 cases of tomatoes. If the boys continue in future as they have in the past they will build up an industry in Northern Solano which will add greatly to the prosperity of the district.

1896/11/06

Foster Bros.' cannery at Tremont has put up many thousand cans of peaches, pears and tomatoes this season. The fruit which is prepared under the name of Solano Chief brand has absolutely no superior on the market and the demand far exceeds the supply. There is scarcely a doubt that the proprietors will be compelled to enlarge their plant until some day they will have one of the largest plants in the State.

1899/11/01

In keeping with the spirit of the times H.W. Timm has installed a new power sausage machine in his meat market. It is driven with an electric motor and is almost noiseless in operation, doing its work much quicker and better than the old style machine. The old machine is now doing service in Foster Brother's Cannery, near Tremont, where it is used for chopping the ingredients of chow chow and other delicacies manufactured at the cannery.

1901/11/01

The cannery proposition is endorsed by everybody, seemingly, and the formation of a company is among the possibilities of the new year. Last Sat. the directors of the Grangers' Business Association held a meeting and designated a nominal sum for a site for the cannery and set forth a lease proposition. Foster Brothers have the removal of their plant to Dixon under consideration and will be able to give the promoters of the scheme a definite answer soon.

1901/12/01

Foster Brothers' Tremont cannery was destroyed by fire last Weds. evening. During the day a portion of the plant had been used in processing but everybody had left the building before the fire was discovered. Mr. Everett Foster, who manages the industry, had gone to another part of the farm and there was no one on the premises except his wife when the fire broke out.

1902/02/01

Foster Brothers received a new boiler last week for their cannery, which they will rebuild at Tremont in the near future in time for the coming season.

1902/03/01

BUILD A CANNERY. SAY THE PUBLIC SPIRITED MEN OF DIXON. Subscription List Being Circulated to Raise Money Sufficient to Build \$10,000 Cannery.

FOSTER BROTHERS REBUILDING. Their Tremont cannery will Be Ready for Operation This Season.

1902/08/01

The Tremont cannery under the enterprising management of Foster Bros. is developing a very promising industry. It is now in full blast putting up peaches and tomatoes, about three thousand can's a day being the usual pack.

1902/10/01

Proposition to Have Foster Brothers Cannery Here

Regarded Favorably.

1902/10/24

DIXON HAS AWAKENED TO NEED OF ENTERPRISE. A MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS LAST MONDAY EVENING RESULTS IN UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSITION TO LOCATE FOSTER BROS. CANNERY IN DIXON. A Committee of Prominent Citizens Appointed to Solicit the Necessary Funds and Commendable Support Is Manifest on Every Hand. Names of those Who Subscribed: E.D.N. Lehe, Oscar C. Schulze, S.G. Little, H.E. Mccune, J.H. Schneider, Herman Fischer, J.S. Mayes, H. Petersen, WM. Vansant, Clark & Duke, Peter MacHugh, E.J. McBride and G.D. Schulze, A.Kirby & Son, A.F. Shangraw, G.S. Conner, D.D.S., J.D. Grady, H.A. Kerr, J.D. Johnson, J.F. Cowden, Geo. Steinmiller, J.C. Grove, W.O. Landreth. The subscription list is still open.

1902/12/05

TOWN PROPERTY CHANGING HANDS. The Influence of the Cannery Making Itself Felt and Values are increasing. There was quite a stir in real estate circles in Dixon Thursday of last week and locations and values were subjects of general discussion on our streets and in our business houses. The well-known Little property on the corner of B and Second streets was sold to J.H. Rice for a substantial money consideration. J.C. Grove was the same day the purchaser of E.C. Eames' handsome cottage on the east side of south First Street.

1903/01/23

CANNERY COMMENCED. MANAGER E.H.FOSTER HAS PURCHASED THE MACHINERY FOR DIXON PLANT. Plant Will Be Up-to-Date In Every Particular. Preparing to Plant Tomatoes. The cannery will have a capacity of 25,000 cans every ten hours and as arrangements will be complete to work night and day during the busy season it will be seen that a large pack will be made if the season is favorable. Foster Brothers will be better prepared to meet emergencies than any other plant we know of. They are to raise 100 acres of tomatoes and have a large supply on which to draw when necessity requires. A large hot house 14 x 100 ft has been erected at Tremont and seed will be planted in a few days which will provide 75,000 tomato plants.

1903/02/01

CANNERY TO THE FRONT. COLEMAN BROTHERS, OF ASHLAND, OREGON, GET A LEASE OF THE BUILDING. Work on the Building to Begin Shortly. The Machinery Will Be Ready for Creditable Pack This Season. Coleman Brothers, J.W. Coleman and N.B.S. Coleman, two ex-Dixon boys who have been operating a large canning and packing plant in Ashland, Oregon, are to conduct Dixon's cannery. The fact that we are to have a cannery has brought about the necessity for new lines of industry in the community. Among those who are looking into the new avenues of business is J.A. Kerr. Mr. Kerr will order within a few days a complete electric pumping plant and will devote at least four acres of his newly acquired portion of the Eibe lands to the growing of tomatoes.

1903/02/27

CANNERY TRUSTEES RECEIVE DEED FOR THE SITE, A MOST VALUABLE LOCATION. The necessary instruments were signed this week and passed to record giving the title to the cannery site into the keeping of the board of trustees composed of J.A. KERR, E.D.N. LEHE, Dr. G.S. CONNER, O.C. SCHULZE and J.D. GRADY. The site is one of the most valuable land holdings in Dixon and was acquired from the Grangers' Business Association. The sum of \$500 was paid for the ground. The site has a frontage of 300 feet on the line of the Southern Pacific Company; has a depth of practically 450 feet and is bounded by Mayes and Jefferson streets and Broadway. The property is probably better described as lying just west of the Grangers' Business Associations warehouse No. 3.

1904/03/01

FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE. Dixon Brass Band, an organization of young men who have been under the instruction of Prof. W.N. Hayden for some time, will make their first public appearance this (Friday) evening, April 10th at 7:30 o'clock, in front of the Opera House. The young musicians have generously tendered their services in aid of the cannery fund.

---It is proposed to give a ball in the cannery building about the 22d of May for the benefit of the building fund. The building is a spacious affair and a most auspicious social affair could be given before the machinery is installed.

1904/07/01

Coleman Bros. have decided in view of the high price demanded for apricots, not to can any early fruit this season but are getting things in readiness for the late fruits and tomatoes which they have already contracted for. They expect to make a big pack of their popular brands this season. Their cannery was in operation to relieve Foster's cannery whose capacity was overtaxed. The Tremont establishment is running at full blast engaged in turning out a full pack of apricots. Since last season many improvements have been effected in the machinery and internal arrangements with the result that operations are greatly facilitated.

1904/11/18

THE DIXON CANNERY - Trustees Discuss Alleged Unsatisfactory Conditions

FOSTER'S CANNERY BURNED - Loss Will Total about Twenty Thousand Dollars.

1905/01/06

Jan. 6, 1905 - satisfaction has been expressed at the action of the Trustees of the Dixon Cannery at their meeting at the Bank of Dixon on Saturday last in deciding to lease the premises to Foster Bros. The belief is fully expressed that under the new lessee the object of the building of the cannery by popular subscription will be attained. Foster Bros. have built up an enviable reputation for their brand of tomatoes all over the United States and it is gratifying that the local institution will here after be identified with the famous product. After a discussion of the situation during which it was understood that Messrs. Coleman were not financially able to run the cannery for another season, upon motion, the Secretary was instructed to inform Messrs. Coleman of the decision of the Trustees to cancel the lease as the terms of the agreement had not been lived up to.

1905/02/01

The directors of the newly organized Winters Canning Company paid Dixon a visit on Saturday last with the object of inspecting the machinery which has been used during the past two seasons by the Coleman Canning Company. The directors had previously visited Woodland and obtained an option on the machinery at the cannery therein but the very reasonable figure asked for that here induced them to conclude negotiations on the spot. They made arrangements for N.B.S. Coleman to superintend the removal of the machinery and offer him a substantial monetary Inducement to assume charge of the cooking arrangements at Winters as soon as the cannery gets into operation.

1905/06/01

THE DIXON CANNERY. Manager E.H. Foster of the Foster Bros. Co., announces that on Weds. evening June 21st, there will be a grand opening at their cannery at Dixon Visitors will be shown the methods of canning fruits as practiced in the up-to-date canneries of today. This will no doubt be a revelation to hundreds who are not familiar with the rapid strides being taken in this wonderful industry. The raw fruit will be taken at the door, graded, passed to the cutters, packed, scrupled and cooked. The entire cannery force will be on duty and the regular routine of work will be observed.

1906/01/27

THE DIXON CANNERY. Cannery matters seem to be engaging attention at this time. A number of representative business men held a meeting one evening this week to consider the possibility of forming a stock company to run the establishment during the coming season. (Later) Just as we are going to press this (Friday) afternoon we learn that the negotiations have been successful and therefore the cannery will be run by local capital. The Directors of the Bank of Dixon contribute \$5,000 to the fund and the following have invested \$1,000 each: - J.D. Grady, J.H. Rice, J.H. Petersen, Lehe and Oscar C. Schulze. J.E. Martin will be engaged to manage the business. E.H. Foster who operated the cannery last year has gone to a larger field and is now engaged in interesting capital at Napa in the erection of a cannery there.

1906/02/17

DIXON IN THE LIST OF LOCATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR STATE FARM. A meeting of those constituting the cannery co-partnership was held on Tuesday evening when organization was effected and officers elected. It had already been decided to adopt the title "Dixon Packing Co.," and the engagement of J.E. Martin, who so successfully handled the inside business of the concern last season, as manager was ratified.

1906/05/03

LARGE FUND FOR BUILDING IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE Mr. Jacobs Indorses the plan to advance Insurance moneys to the small manufacturers in order that they may begin operations in their respective lines at once. He says that the hills surrounding the Santa Fe tracts have thousands of women and girls who would be only too glad to secure employment. Jacobs says that his concern will open a cannery at Dixon in two weeks which will give employment to many in that vicinity. The projected cannery in this city is just opposite the factory of the Holman Can Company.

1906/12/01

Having closed up the business of the California Cannery Co. here, Mr. Martin, the manager, has gone to San Francisco, where he will enter the main office of the company. We understand that the company do not intend to operate the Dixon cannery next year. This leaves a good opportunity for some independent man who understands the business, for there is a good cannery here and plenty of stuff to can, especially tomatoes, of which there are no better grown in the State.

1908/01/01

(At the Town Board Meeting) Henry Peterson appeared before the Board and requested that the tax on the cannery building be remitted, which request was granted.

1908/01/01

Negotiations are now in hand looking toward the establishment of the factory of a San Francisco incubator company in the cannery building. If the deal goes through, the company will employ some forty or fifty mechanics, with a suitable payroll. This would prove of great benefit to the town and it is sincerely hoped that the deal will be consummated.

1909/04/17

Dixon has the best shipping arrangements of any place on the line. Considerable fruit of very fine quality is raised right here at Dixon and on Putah Creek. During our run of 1905 the best apricots packed at the factory were raised in the Bell orchard, in the suburbs of Dixon. I have been asked pointedly why no one has as yet made a success of the business in Dixon, and I will reply in the same light and say that no one has as yet had money enough to handle the proposition. The amount of capital required is tremendous, and it must be had right at the time when it is needed. All but a few articles are cash on delivery. by E.H. Foster

1910/10/01

J.E. Martin of Napa was in town the first of the week trying to interest the farmers in tomato raising, as it is his intention to reopen the cannery here next spring. No very definite arrangements have been made as yet.

1912/03/01

March 1912

AD. DIXON PLANING MILL. In Old Cannery Building. Now Ready For Business. Everything Made in the Wood Line. Sashes, Doors, Mouldings, Screens, Screen Doors, Etc. W.H.Morrill, G.H. Dittmer, prop.

1912/03/01

March 1912

The firm of Spates & Dunstin who have been conducting the Panama Theatre, have dissolved, Mr. Spates retiring. Mr. Dunstin intends to conduct a high grade place of amusement to which he invites the public.

An aviation meet is to be held at the Agricultural Park, Sacramento, March 2d and 3d, at which the principal aviators on the Coast will participate.

Our suggestion last week that the proceeds of the annual May Day festival be turned over to the Woman's Improvement Club for the purpose of buying books for the new library, seems to have struck a popular chord.

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Dixon was visited by a fire on Wednesday that for completeness of destruction was as hard as has ever visited the town. It was just noon when the alarm was given that the cannery building was on fire and in twenty minutes the building had been completely destroyed. No one seems to know how it started, as everybody employed there had gone to dinner, so that no one was there at the time, but the commonly accepted theory is that the smoke stack had a hole rusted in it through which some sparks fell on the roof setting it on fire. The building was occupied by the steam laundry, whose loss was

about \$2,000, on which there was a small insurance. As most of the week's washing was in it was, of course, destroyed. The building was erected about twelve years ago for a cannery by public subscription, but has not been used for the past five years until the laundry started last fall. The worst feature of the fire is that it probably puts out of business the laundry, which was just getting on its feet, and is an industry needed here. We hope Mr. McVey will see his way clear to resume business in the near future.

1918/01/01

1918 - Jan.

J.J. Merritt from Santa Clara arrived in Dixon this week and with his family occupies the Cecil Ferguson house. Mr. Merritt is an experienced cement worker and is going to open a plant on the old cannery grounds for making cement pipe for irrigation purposes.

1922/09/01

September

A cannery has leased 500 acres of the Petersen estate lands between Rio Vista and Maine Prairie for the growing of asparagus.

From Tribune of December 4, 1914

PIONEER JAMES MILLER TELLS OF EARLY DAYS IN DIXON AND MAINE PRAIRIE

Mr. Editor: reading some thrilling tales of early days by early pioneers brought back remembrances of a day's experience in this section about 60 years ago.

Bands of antelope and elk fed on the plains with the cattle, which we used to get occasionally. I killed two fine elk one afternoon a half-mile from a house. One of them had his hind legs shot off, and we had to run it him down and lasso him. They weighed 500 pounds each, and sold in Sacramento for 12 1/2 cents per pound. The antelope were rather wild and in order to get one we had to stalk them with an ox. The last of the elk and the antelope was in the years 59 and 60.

We shot coyote from the door at night as they came prowling around. There were no jackrabbits for them to catch. But when the coyotes were killed off the jacks became plentiful.

The geese were numerous. The method was to stalk them with an ox. One kept to windward of the flock to attract attention while the other sneak up behind the ox. My favorite was a big Durham bull, which I could drive with a line attached to his nose, and he would remain on the ground until I picked up the game. When then I would load them into the back and carried him home. Digging a pit was another successful plan.

Speaking of ducks, thousands of mallard used to breed on the marshes east of here, and they were easy prey for our old fashion muzzle loading guns. When the northern birds came and there'll were millions. And I have seen 260 birds gathered in one forenoon from one gun, and that was an old musket -loader. Many a morning I have groped my way to the tule so as to get the morning shoot. I had a good retriever. He could stay in the ice cold water all day. In fact, I lost him one morning and thought he had gone home, but the next morning I hurried back to the tule's and found him waiting, with only his head out of water-just 24 hours later.

WILD HORSE CHASE

But the greatest that we had was a wild horse chase. There had been a band of wild horses running south with a fine white stallion at the head. He had a beautiful long mane and tail, which almost reached the ground. He would come in during the night and steal our mares and so great a nuisance that he become that we organized a party to catch him or ran them off the range. The day before we were to chase them I saw the horses about a mile away and by an ox talk him. I had an old muzzle loading rifle, but

the distance was too great, and my bullet struck him near the shoulder, instead of in the neck. The next morning Sam Snead and Stevens Little started the band and ran them up to our ranch. Then I took them and pursued them to the sink of Putah. Their Jack Adams took them and chase them to old Silveyville, where he turned them east: Adams still pursued and caught the exhausted stallion. Later the boys rendezvous at the ranch to see the horse. He was quite old, but a beauty in form, and could trot a gate that would take a good horse to keep up with. When he was running his main and tail flew out in the wind. We had no Barns then, so we had to stake him out with a rope. That night it rained, and being warm from the effects of the bullet, he died the next day. Mr. Mays set out from Sacramento, with two vaqueros, prepared to give us \$300 for the stallion. He was a noted horse and would have shown well.

Another hunt was for some boys who had stolen 45 head of fine cattle driving them to Coyote Valley. I got one of them, but the other escaped. I recovered all the cattle except three. They were taken from the tule and driven up through Putah Canyon. I rode eighty miles the day before I caught them. One was afterwards hanged in White Pine for horse stealing. The other turned out a good citizen. This is not as good a story as my old friend J. D. J. and Uncle George tell, but it may interest to some of my younger friends. James Miller.

June 12, 1959

Dixon landmark coming down

One of the oldest landmarks in Dixon came down last week with the wrecking of the old Presbyterian Church at the corner of Mayes and South First. According to Mrs. Mary Little, was born in 1874, the church was constructed in 1878, several years after the town of Dixon had been moved from Silveyville. Mrs. Little recalls that as a three or four-year-old she used to skip from her home near the present IOOF building to watch daily progress of the church.

Dr. Alexander was the first preacher, and Dr. Evans (he was an MD) he led the singing. Dr. Evans lived in a house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Morris.

As old as the Presbyterian Church was, Mrs. Little says there are two older ones. The Methodist Church was moved along with the houses from Silveyville in 1868 and the red brick Community Church was built in 1878.

The demolished church building has been used in recent years as a youth building by the Community Church but was finally declared unsafe.

REMEMBRANCES

A man named Hirsh had a harness shop on the corner where the post office now stands. On the north corner of the block was brewery and between were a number of small houses, some of which were China houses and the rest were houses of ill fame. We called this area the "Barbary Coast."

The senior Mr. Carpenter moved his shop from Silveyville when Dixon was started. Brinckerhoff had a two-story hotel where the Bank of Dixon now stands Bank of America.

May Day picnics were held on the West side of the rail road on Mr. Mayes land.

The first Odd Fellows Hall was built on the lot on the south side of my dad's drug store (Mr. Kirby.) After the fire in 1884 he sold the corner to the Odd Fellows.

There was a Congregational church on a lot where the McDermott house now stands (the corner of Jackson and West A.) It was later moved over near the schoolhouse for a primary school. Then the Protestant church was built.

There was a two-story lodging house back of the depot where the Farmers Exchange nursery is now. That was where the big fire of 84 started which levelled the town.

The biggest livery stable was where the Frosty drive in is.

Dixon's Airports

About the time Charles Lindburgh was solo flying across the Atlantic Ocean Dixon was also involved with flying. Dixon's first landing strip was located south of town. It was just south of what is now the Cemetery. In 1928 during the May Day celebration an airplane from Oakland flew here to give fair goers rides. Shortly after that the Aviation committee of the Exchange Club took an option on forty acres of the Peters property south of the present City Hall. It was to have a 1,700 foot runway. The cost was to be \$200 per acre. Here flight lessons were given.

It's not quite clear but by 1930 it was reported to be back south of the cemetery. The airport was run by Justin Lawson who also was a crop seeder along with being the instructor. The cost to take lessons in those days, for a plane, instructor and gasoline was \$8.00 per hour. Mr. Lawson was later killed in a crop seeding incident.

The next airport was located north of town alongside Highway 40. It was on the east side of the highway across from the Milk Farm restaurant and behind the Old Giant Orange juice stand. For those who remember there was also a Giant Orange on the other side of the highway. This air field was owned by Mr. A. Ballenger who also owned and operated both Oranges. The next airport was the Dixon-Vaca airport which was located south of Dixon alongside of what was now known as Highway 80. This was just south of Midway road and alongside of the auto drag track and racing track. The next airstrip which is still used is located south of Dixon on Highway 13 about 4 miles, on what was then the Raycraft Ranch. This was owned and operated by Bill Joslin also a pilot.

It seems only appropriate when talking about Dixon's airports to mention some of Dixon's early pilots. One of Dixon's police officers, Jerry Stearns was one, Pem Burton a local farmer and hay dealer, Pete Murphy another farmer, Ed Dold who worked for one of the radio stations east of town, Dr. Vernon Dutra the local chiropractor and Benn Schmolke who also was employed by the NBC radio station east of town. Watsie Kilkenny Jr. who owned the Farmers Exchange and Al Gondry who owned the Dixon Drug Store were also pilots. There were also two Dixonites who flew commercial airplanes as pilots, John Dawson and Wayne Stark, both served in the service. There were two pilots who gave their lives during World War II and they were Lester Rohwer whose father was Mayor of Dixon and Petty Stearns who's father mentioned above, a police officer. Dixon's most famous pilot was Lyman Phillips who was a local pure bred sheep producer, who served in both World War I and II.

There may have been others, hopefully all have been mentioned.

February 21, 1930

Dixon Had a Haunted House

Some of the residents of the West side of town have had suspicions that the old Casey house, which was originally moved from Silveyville to town a few years ago taken to the C. E. Schmeiser field, has become haunted. Strange sounds have been heard, and there were flickering shadows of the windows. Fred Smith said that he had heard unmistakable moments from the place, and Henry Peter said that all the bats had left.

A cat skull had replaced one of the doorknobs on the inside: but one of the strangest things was that a few days ago Carl Schmeiser, the owner, found one of his missing hats-the one that was taken from the last duck club party. Half burned candles were found in the corner of each room, and an old pair of tennis shoes in the closet. One of the walls of the living room had been fitted with holes, and every pane in the lower windows was shattered. Pieces of shattered cups were found all over the floor. And the floor of the next room and in line with the door between the rooms, a whole had been cut and open tin can place with the top flush with the floor. The stairway door had been broken off and on the steps and the walls were indentations made by some hard object, and some dried human blood was found on to the steps. Every door in every room upstairs was off its hinges and standing in a corner. In each of the rooms was a tomato can hole similar to the one on the lower floor.

Going home around 1:30 in the morning last week, Pat Doyle attention was attracted to the place by the light from the lower and the upper windows, all of which had been covered with newspapers. Somebody was violently waving his arms and swinging backward and forward. The same movements took place in the next room at short intervals, and then upstairs. He said nothing about it for fear as to his condition, what would he saw the same thing the next night he reported the weird affair to the officers, and brought others into collaborate his story.

On the following night the mystery was solved. Watchers saw a short, thickset man with a package on his back shuffling along and you're totally looking backwards. He entered the house and soon lights appeared in first one room and then another. The violent motions, as going unreported, took place with dull, clicking sound and thuds on the wall.

Then a violent commotion was heard on the stairways, with tremendous cussing, some of the profanity trailing off into spooky, nerve shaking hisses. From an upstairs room came the noises that had been heard on the lower floor. Then it was all repeated downstairs and in the lower rooms. For an hour or more this violent acting continued

throughout the house which shook as by an earthquake tremor. A brick clattering down from the chimney, a window crashed intercepting bullet like whistle past the ear of one of the sleuths. Then one final crashing cuss word as terrifying as the after clap of thunder storm-and stillness.

One of the watchers stealthily opened the door, stepped in and saw it formulated against a wall and breathing hard a bit of a light true tremendously glowing from the end of a cigarette.

Throwing on a flashlight, the form of a well-known, highly respected but dejected appearing, citizen was revealed with old tennis shoes on his feet. Some well-known implements were on the floor. So said the man appear that those who trailed him left it undisturbed, quietly went back to town and inform their wives that the mystery was solved and, it was only Bert Lafontaine practicing for the opening of the new golf course. The fragments of China were from the cups which he had inverted for teeing off, the pitted walls were indentations from wild shots, and the blood of the stairway was from barked shins as he laboriously pounded the ball up the stairs.

Dixon's Airways

Early Dixon life revolved around agriculture. Livestock and grain production were the first products followed by dairies and row crops. Not many people knew or realized the importance of another totally unrelated business.

In the early 1930's American Telephone and Telegraph purchased 640 acres of land six miles south west of Dixon on the corner of Midway and Robben road. Here they erected a masonry two story 50 by 100 foot building and put up a huge amount of poles and wiring. In the early days it was known as the "Radio Station". In 1931 the station opened with one supervisor and four technical personal. By the 1950's the personal had increased to 15. The station went into service as part of the Transpacific Communications Company Limited. Dixon was selected because of its geographic location and being situated next to the first Transcontinental telephone cable. The first service began with a one voice circuit to Hawaii. This expanded to the whole Pacific area and was very important during World War II. This station provided vital communications link to General Douglas McArthur in the Pacific theater. During World War II the US Army guarded the station. It remained in use until 1999 and is now a wildlife refuge operated by the US Dept of Fish and Game.

The next station was the NBC relay station started in 1944 and was under their control until 1963. At this time the US government took over the operation and it became the Voice of America. It was quite important during World War II and was used to broadcast news to quite a few foreign countries. Twenty five programs were sent out during sixteen hours of broadcasting per day in Russian, Mandarin, Chinese, Korean and English dialect. This lasted until 1979 and was put into mothballs. From 1983-1988 it was again operated by the government, then decommissioned and closed permanently. At this site there are three towers two of which are 325 feet tall and one 305. Besides these towers there are hundreds of shorter poles all strung with wire. All of these towers had to be maintained and it was quite a site to see a maintance man on top of these towers painting. This station was located in such a place that it had unobstructed wave lengths to the Pacific. The buildings and towers are still visible, located on Radio Station road a mile south of Midway and east of Robben Road.

Because of its location another radio station was started in 1946. This was constructed just to the west and adjoining the Voice of America property. It was finished being built in 1949 at a cost of \$2,500,000.00 and was known as the U.S. Naval Communications station. It was located on 1200 acres. This installation was very powerful and was said to be able to transmit to all parts of the world and ships in all the seas. It was a high/low frequency transmitter facility for the U.S. pacific Fleet. It was

then converted to a contractor facility and operated by the Rome Research Cooptation. Part of it is also used as a migrant housing facility.

Satellite communication soon became used, so these facilities became obsolete. There is still some activity at the naval station but the others stand as ghosts of the past.

February 26, 1915

Trials of early days

Anna Wolfskill, 75 years old, writes of pioneer experiences in Solano County

One of the interesting papers read at the pioneer meeting of the women's improvement club was written by Mrs. Anna Wolfskill, 75 years old, whose husband was a brother of the late John Sweeney. She was also a sister-in-law of the late John Wolfskill who came to California in 1844 and settled at Los Angeles. Following is the story:

My introduction to California proper was on a bright, sunny afternoon, October 1, 1850. Place, Nevada City, right in the heart of the mining district. Though but a child of eight the impress on memories walls of that day was never been effaced. A train of 18 wagons drawn by meek eyed, long-suffering oxen, with perhaps 100 souls, dragging its way up the long hill and down into the quiet vale that was to be our of abiding place for two years. In our family were father, mother, four brothers, five sisters, all grown except one sister, 12, and myself.

On either side of the road men were in digging for gold. Five months of camp life and tramping over mountains, desert and playing, exposed to sun, wind and storm had made inroads upon the most invulnerable. We were sunburned, freckle, tattered and torn, down at the heels and out at the toes, but to those minors away from home we looked good. Hats were doffed, pick and shovel lay down, and from those homesick men came a most royal welcome.

California was young in statehood, having been admitted less than one month before. She was also crude in her methods, using the whipping post and branding iron for the wayward and unfortunate. Bear and bull fights furnished Sunday afternoon amusement for those whose tastes inclined that way. But God had reserved into himself a few names that did not bow the knee to Baal, and while there was no church, as soon as a minister came my mother opened her home and sent me on my first missionary to her to ask the minors to come. And they came, and eat such singing I have never heard since. In 1852 week came to Solano County, pitching our tent halfway between Putah Creek and Vacaville, the Vaca, Spanish for cow, was then in evidence: the Villa came some years later. We were bounded on the north by Uncle John Wolfskill, his brother Mathis, a wife and two sons. On the south by Mason Wilson and family and the Maguires with these exceptions, like Alexander Selkirk, we were monarchs of all we surveyed. Our right there was none to dispute.

Besides, 30 miles away, was our nearest post office, and also grocery, dry goods drugstore. Sacramento was about the same distance, but the river overflowed the land to Davisville in the rainy season and scarcely dried after December so the roads were rarely passible. Save for the inhabitants mentioned not one's house, North, South, East

or West, dotted the level playing where now you have mansions and well improved homes.

Later Mr. Silvey put up his tavern, which was considered quite an event. Mr. Silvey was a violinist and once or twice a year, when by raking and scraping the country you got enough to make it quadrille, we had a dance. We went early and stayed till broad daylight: we had to as everybody was miles from home. We would take our party dresses in a carpetbag hung on the horn of the saddle.

The house my father and brothers build-though not one of them was a carpenter-was unique in the extreme. All the building material was brought from the Benicia, which of itself was no small undertaking. Before the windows were in or the home made doors were hung, my father sniffed a big storm in the air and we must move in. The floors were dirt and to keep down the dust, were sprinkled before sweeping. In the center of the parlor a large hole was dug to serve as a fireplace, around which, with eyes smarting from smoke, many story and hearty laugh was enjoyed. The predicted storm came the night after we moved in. The next morning the hole where the fire should have been was filled with water. Bucket after bucket was bailed out, blankets boards nailed to the places for doors and windows, a fire built, with no alternative but to see the rain come down until the earth was covered with water. For six weeks this storm lasted. Fortunately we had a large cook stove, but with 10 of our own, to visitors spending the winter with us, and the stranded traveler, it's somehow proud of the kitchen, and was a wee bit trying to the cook.

Our lighting system was the latest then, which consisted of a twisted right entered old bowl filled with lard or tallow. Handled with care it gave a sticky light at best, but it was all we had. Later we had candles, which certifies at least to read by and my husband used to say: one more would produce total darkness.

When the kerosene lamp came we thought we were progressing but I, for one, said farewell to the oil lamp with no tears.

Perhaps our greatest luxury was our splendid water system. A 40 foot well operated by a bucket on each end of the rope. Later we have the block and tackle, which was some improvement, and still later the chain pump. The man who invented this pump I presume had been dead these many years but I hope not before he knew, of the broken backs and corrupted morals among the women folks caused by his invention. The pump had to be primed every time it was used and if you stop moving a handle for one instant the work you like done before counted for not, for no matter how deep the well the water was at the bottom. I could hear the groan of that pump land feeling the ache in my back after all these years of trying to forget: the penalty for halting to catch breath.

Ours stationary tubs must not be overlooked for they were neither a thing of beauty nor a joy forever. They were made by sawing into a barrel or cask made of heavy, thick oak staves, bounded together with thick iron hoops and holding possible two hundred gallons. These were naturally heavy but in order to make them hold water

they had to be kept full, which increased their weight tremendously. We could not lift them hence they were our stationary tubs.

But with all our hardships and privations we were happy and contented.

God and mother were my tutors. I love nature and lived much in the open. I hungered and thirsted for knowledge, but schools there were none. Books were few and not easily obtain, but what we had we read and assimilated into the very warp and woof of our being.

By the time I reached womanhood the country was pretty well filled with a good class of people. Strange as it may seem, I scarcely knew the feeling of loneliness-was happy when alone with my books or my own thoughts.

The first railroad built in the state was from Sacramento to Folsom, from capital to penitentiary. I was one of the fortunate, or unfortunate, mortals to avail myself of the opportunity to make this eventful trip to the "pen". However, for good behavior and on account of the influential friends I was allowed to return the same day

Not many of the old guard are left, and perhaps none of those remain will see or hear of this paper. Volumes could be written on the pioneer women who side-by-side with the men, struggled on without murmur or complaint to build up manhood and womanhood and make California a safe place in which to live, a land where all the world the lights to come. And let it not be forgotten that the lot of the pioneer woman was much harder than that of the man, for the reason that men could secure help: women could not.

But before closing let me lay this tribute at the feet of the women who helped to make this great state, the pioneer woman who lived and labored, made brick without straw, suffered and died that the world might be better because they lived in toil, and that the women of today may enjoy the fruits of their labors by all the modern conveniences and improvements, you are repeating your reward. God grant that the lessons of patience, unselfish and independence learned at such fearful cost and sacrifice be not lost on the women of today. The opportunities are great, the responsibilities tremendous. When will you measure up to them? Anna S. Wolfskill.

Churches of Dixon

A good deal of early settler's life revolved around the church and its activities. Silveyville from which Dixon got its start was the first to have church services in the area. That along with Binghampton to the south had its churches. The one to the north, Silveyville was known as the North Methodist church and Binghampton to the south was known as the South Methodist church. In those days travel especially during the winter months was difficult. Residents from as far away as Tremont would make the journey to attend services in Silveyville. It didn't take long before the ladies of Tremont decided that they needed a church of their own. So a group of them got together and formed the Mite Society which was to collect money to build their own church. Mite being the small denomination of a coin. This group was started in 1863. By 1891 services were being held in the new church which was and is still located east of Dixon on Tremont Road.

By 1875 Dixon had several churches in town, The Methodist church that was moved from Silveyville by rolling it along on logs and pulled by horses to its location where services are held every Sunday to this day. The reason it is located on the west side of the rail road tracks was that they were unable to cross the tracks. That location is at the corner of B Street and Fitch (Which is now Jefferson Street). Another church that sprung up at about the same time was the Baptist Church located just south of A street in the middle of the block going south on the west side of the street. This was built of bricks in the year 1875. Prior to the erection of the church Baptist services were held in the Masonic Hall. Another church was the Presbyterian Church which was built in 1891 and located on the south east corner of First and Mayes St. Another church, the Congregationalist Church was built in 1875 on the corner of Jackson and A Street located where the present Police Department stands. Then on Second Street between A Street and Mayes Street the Catholic Church was built. This building was located in the middle of the block on the east side of the street and later moved to the corner to the north. And finally the German Lutheran Church was built directly across the street from the Catholic Church where the telephone company now has their office. These six churches were where the citizens worshiped.

The Lutheran church which was built in 1875 had a bell that was purchased from Cincinnati, Ohio put up in 1876 and was rung for the first time Sept. 6. Members of the first Boards of Directors were, Harry Petersen, Henry Meyer, Peter Peters, Joachim Schroeder, John Sievers, Claus Eggert, and Joachim Jahn. In the year 1925 the steeple was removed because it was too expensive and too hard to paint. In 1940 it closed its doors but no decision at that time was made as to what to do with the building. F.O. Wagner purchased the building.

The Congregationalist Church was built in 1875. Money was gathered to build the church but fell short of the necessary funds at the time. Money was finally collected to finish his church. This building was where the present Police Station is located. This church lasted only seven years. The reverend who preached there became ill and passed away as did the church. The next inhabitant of this building was the Presbyterian Church. Then eventually it was moved to the northwest corner of what was then Third and D Street. It was used for many years as a primary grade class room.

In the meantime the Presbyterian Church was built on First Street. In about 1916 the building on the South east corner of First and Mayes was built and used for a short period of time. In 1916 a movement was underway to unite the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. They all three agreed to sign but the Methodists decided to drop out. In 1923 the Harvey's rented the old church building and tried to convert it into a movie theater but that didn't work out. In 1924 the old steeple was removed for safety reasons and it was used as a Christian Science reading room. In 1933 Ralph Castner purchased the building and was going to tear it down but instead renovated it and it opened as the Full Gospel Church. In 1936 it was used by the Calvary Tabernacle. Then the Baptists purchased the old Presbyterian Church for use as Sunday School class rooms.

In 1866 E.S. Silvey sold a piece of property to the Vaca Valley Missionary Baptist Church for one dollar but there is no mention of any build being put up for a Church. The Baptist Church in Dixon was built of bricks in the year 1875. Prior to the erection of the church, Baptist services were held in the Masonic Hall. A Mr. Henry came down from Sacramento to do all of the brick work and Mr. Love did all of the wood work in the building. The building cost \$7,000 and would seat 500 persons. It had an 80 foot spiral column. The bell was elevated in November of that same year and the first service was held December the first. In 1877 a Smith-American organ was installed. In 1880 the building was remodeled, repaired and repainted. At this time the tower was moved from the center to the corner of the building. The cost of these changes was \$3,400. In 1894 the building was wired for electricity. Then in 1896 the old bell cracked and had to be replaced. The next improvement was new furnace installed in 1902. The following year a parsonage was built.

In 1917 as was mentioned earlier the Baptist and Presbyterian churches joined together and it was known from then on as the United Church and ultimately called the Dixon Community Church. This church was torn down and a new one built on the outskirts of town on East A Street. It was a sad day when this beautiful building was demolished.

Prior to the Methodist church moving into town services were held at a school a mile north of Silveyville and then later moved to a hall above a saloon in Silveyville.

Then a church was built in Silveyville at a cost of \$4,300. Then the church was moved to town when Mr. Dickson gave land for the town to be built next to the Railroad. The group that had been the Congregationalist church moved in with the Methodist Church along with what was known as the North Methodists (Silveyville) and the South Methodists (Binghamton). In 1890 electricity was installed for the convenience of everyone as well as a cement sidewalk from the Rail Road depot to the Church steps. A parsonage was built in 1872 at a cost of \$2,000. This church stands proudly today much like it was when it was moved to town. Recently the bell and tower were installed as it had been out of use for some time for repair. I think it was in the 1940's or 1950's that a group of Methodists broke away from the church and formed the Marantha Church.

The Catholic Church better known as Saint Peters Church was built in 1868 by Father L. Auger and a parish house was built in 1877. Prior to the building of the church, missionary priests traveled up and down the state preaching until Father Deyaert served the communities of Silveyville, Elmira and Rio Vista. He also traveled to Binghamton. The first church was built in the center of the block and in 1915 the present church was built at a cost of \$25,000. This structure had two towers whereas the old church had only one. This had a seating capacity of 400. It also has 17 art glass windows which were donated by leading parishioners. More buildings were put up as years went by.

Along with the church services each church had its Ladies Aid Society. These ladies put on Pot-luck dinners, socials, collected funds for different civic projects and were very important in the community.

This is a brief history of Dixons fine churches. I'm sure there have been more faiths served here in Dixon but these are the earlier ones.

Dec. 13, 1962

How Dixon Mammoth was discovered

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schulze, whose home is on Currey Road 3 miles north of Dixon, received word recently that Monticello Dam was about to release water into Putah Creek Sunday, December 2.

For weeks the creek had been entirely dry, permitting the State Highway Department to take out tons of gravel for the six laying of the 7 mile stretch along Highway 40 north of Dixon.

Odd stones exposed

When Sunday arrived, Bob decided to take a hike with his wife to see the water come in. During the stroll along the dry creek bottom he noticed three curious rocks jutting up close together from the sand. On careful examination he noted the rocks had a strange bone structure with cellular formation.

After talking them loose from the saying he felt sure they were fossilized bones of some animal.

They were located near enough together that in such position they concluded they were all from the same animal and, if so, it would be reasonable to assume that there might be many more fossilized bones immediately below.

A job for scientists

He did not want to disturb the area anymore since he felt that only trained scientists should be able to uncover the complete skeleton without damaging some of the parts. By Sunday evening water from the dam had completely covered the spot of discovery, but Bob had made careful notes identifying the position as so as to be able to return to it again as the water in the creek periodically goes down.

University confirms find

To satisfy his own curiosity, he took all bones found to the University California the next day confirmed with Dr. Donald Savage of the paleontology Department there. Dr. Savage identified the Dixon find as genuine fossilized bones of a woolly mammoth. He further offered to carry out further diggings at the identical Putah Creek site for the purpose of locating the mammoth skull, jaw load and other skeletal remains.

Discovery hunt planned

Schulze readily agreed to work with the University in this project that as soon as conditions at the creek permitted, it is expected that the UC crew will go ahead with their Dixon explorations.

Mr. and Mrs. Schulze had recently returned from a trip which took them to Greece, where they saw many relics, some 2500 years old. On returning home to Dixon we take a short hike from our home and find relics which were perhaps 500,000 years old, chuckle. Actually we never saw anything in Europe as ancient as the bones we found right here in Dixon he concluded.

Bob and Barbara Schulze Dixon may have the credit for the opening of a new feels of prehistoric exploration in central California, it appears from University reports on bone discoveries by them in Putah Creek on December 2.

Dr. Donald Savage of the University of California in Berkeley and Mary Elizabeth Shutler, archaeologists from the University of California Davis, agree that the Schulze discovery is the remains of a woolly mammoth and that it is almost certain that other similar bones of prehistoric creatures will be unearthed by an expedition which is planned by University specialists to comb the discovery site for further finds.

A pelvic bone, thighbone, leg bone and knee bone of the mammoth will be on display at Dixon Chamber of Commerce offices during Thursday.

The Dixon discovery has awakened much interest in scientific circles. The Channel 10 news staff under the direction of Bill Wilson of KX TV will arrive in Dixon Saturday to film a news program in corporation with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. The program will give the main story of the Dixon mammoth and is expected to be scheduled on 11 PM program of Channel 10 on Saturday evening, December 15.

June 6, 1930

The Vanished Maine Prairie

Below is interesting comment on the vanished Maine Prairie from the "Knave", in the Oakland Tribune & signed O. E. M.:

Who now can remember Maine Prairie in Solano County? At one time it was a greatest shipping point in California, when the state was one of the grain exporting regions of the world. This was before the construction of the California Pacific Railroad from Vallejo to Sacramento before the overland railroad was completed. Now Maine Prairie has disappeared from the list of post offices. The only suggestion remain of what is was once a large four-story warehouse building about 1867 by Capt. Charles Merrithew , who ran the principal steamboat carrying passengers and freight between Maine Prairie and San Francisco. At least, the warehouse was even there seven or eight years ago. There were two other steamers running regularly between these points besides numerous schooners, and scows. Maine Prairie was at the head of Cache Slough a tide channel extending 60 miles back from the Sacramento River a few miles above Rio Vista. It had the appearance of a river. In some places it was more than a quarter of a mile wide. Its tanks were vertical in the hard black earth so that vessels could be moored to the shore without the necessity of a wharf. I once saw an oceangoing steamer, the Brother Jonathan, tied up to the bank to rid it of barnacles in fresh water. There is no indication that Cache Slough was ever a part of the Sacramento River channel. Apparently, it was formed when the great inland California Sea drained off through the Golden Gate. In 1866 and 1867, the west side of the Sacramento Valley was one great wheat field. Some portion produced 2 tons to the acre. When the grain was thrashed the production of freighters started. A large portion consisted of three wagon tandems. The bed of the foremost was 5 feet or more in depth. The first trailer was smaller and the rearmost smallest of them all. The team was 12 miles driven by a single line. The driver road perched high on the projecting fore end of the big wagon, or he rode the near wheeler. The single line was fastened to the ring of the long brake lever and extended out to rings between the ears of the swing mules to the outside ring of the new leader. The off leader was steered by a jockey sticks fastened to the lower end of the hames on the near leader. The other end was fastened to the offside ring of the off leader.

Then the town died

Frequently Jews harp band of iron fastened to the upper end of the hames on each mule carried a chain of four bells these varied the monotony of the long, hot, dusty road. They were smaller outfits with 10 or eight mules or horses, having only two wagons, down to the two horse wagon. Through the day these teams were scattered

along the roads from as far north as Colusa County. The regular freighters remain in town overnight and started in the morning. One forenoon I counted over 100 teams coming away from the town and forming, a continuous line. In those days Maine Prairie was a busy place, even between harvests. There were several large warehouses for grain, various stores, hotels, a steam grist mill, a telegraph line and most accessories of such a town. One peculiarity would attract attention, the warehouses and lumber yards were located up on heavy timbered platforms 10 to 12 feet above the ground. This way was in 1886 and 1887 when the spring floods of the Sacramento River covered the country miles back from the channel. In the lower part of town, the water was sometimes 8 to 10 feet deep. The overflow extended a half-mile or more beyond the town. When the California Pacific was built, the freighting business came to an end so far as Maine Prairie was concerned. Woodland, in Yolo County became the terminal for the Valley to the north. Thus ended a chapter in California history.

June 16, 1916

This pioneer bought ox with savings

W. J. McElwaine, retired rancher, will soon celebrate his 82nd birthday. He was not always a rancher, however, having had experience as a miner, butcher and retailer.

W.J. McElwaine was 17 years old when he came to California, from Illinois, to which state his parents had moved from New York a few years previously. Of course there was no train across the plains other than the ox cavalcade, and he had the usual hardships, as well as novelties of the trip to the west by that way. He had one dollar when he reached Sacramento. The town burned down, and was a most unpromising River town. Soon afterwards he got a job watching the river at night at six dollars a night, and did not know that the regular wage was \$10. Sooner than pay the high hotel charge he got a blanket and slept on the bank of the river, and cooked his meals in tin cans, getting all the vegetables he wanted from the boats as they came down the stream.

He saved his wages. Then he went to Diamond Springs, where he worked as miner \$125 a month and board. His first month's pay consisted of two gold slugs, a \$20 slug and a five dollar piece. It was the most money that he had seen before and anyone time in his life. He worked three months, prospecting on Sundays and cleaning up around \$10 and \$20 a day. Tired of working for others he struck out for the South Fork of the Feather River, where, he in company with two or three others they flooded the river. He had \$1500 when he began and quit.

Previous to his venture he had made some money in a rather novel way. While in Sacramento with \$300 in his pocket he saw a man coming down front Street with a yoke of oxen. He asked the price, not knowing just why he did it. The fellow said \$300, will you sell one? Yes, how much, \$150. Unyoke that one. He led the ox away, soon realizing that it was a sort a white elephant as well as an ox. He took it to a livery stable for the night and had to pay three dollars for the stabling. Out on the bank of the river he went to sleep, but in reality to figure out what to do with the ox. The next morning he bought 5 gallons of whiskey and 50 pounds of tobacco, which he hung on the cross tree of the crude saddle it started for Hang town leading his ox. On the outskirts of the camp he killed the ox and cut it up to retail meet. He sold liquor for two bits a drink, and retailed the tobacco at a good figure. Before 10 o'clock it cleaned up everything and was \$400 to the good. He asked the stage driver what it would cost for a ride back to Sacramento, a distance of 45 miles and was told \$25. He concluded to walk and was in the city in

a day and a half jaunt. This time he bought two oxen, some more liquor and tobacco, and going back to Hangtown cleanup \$800 by noon.

After this he made a mistake by buying a string of pack mules, for freighting was not as profitable as butchering. He next went to Butte County, where he obtained land and in 1874 came to Solano County where he obtained land and has since resided, rearing six children and accumulating enough to live on comfortably the rest of his days.

October 23, 1914

A Great Bear Hunt.

Grizzly got his man before posse brought big Berryessa marauder to death.

While in a reminiscent mood, G. W. Foster, now 84 years old a pioneer across the plains place, told the following bear story:

In the early days great herds of antelope galloped over the plains of Solano in deer and elk swarm the hills. We could go anywhere in the hills for grizzlies, instead of 200 miles, as at present.

One great hunt

The greatest hunt I know of took place in the early 60s, my neighbor, the late John Wolfskill, being one of the chief performers. He went into the hills by way of Putah Canyon to look up the land-grant covering the Valley now called Berryessa after the owner, a Spaniard. This tract of about 1000 acres of wooded land swarmed with bear, but the bear were giving much trouble, especially a giant grizzly, whose tracks stood out above all others to and from the creek.

A boy victim

A boy by the name of Wolfey started out to hunt the big marauder, and he never came back. Searching was made, but no trace of the boy was ever found, save his rifle, the stock of which was marred by their teeth. There was no doubt that the grizzly got him.

Posse organized

A posse of seven settlers was organized by Wolfskill and they set out for the timber. From the top of the knoll they overlooked a small depression in which they counted 14 grizzlies, but not the one they wanted this trip. Each hundred carried a rifle, but not the modern repeating weapon of today. They were single shotguns.

Plans to get monster

It was agreed that when confronted by the monster grizzly all would fire and stop him. And soon they had their fight. The bear came out of a clump of brush and it was a bad looker, even bigger than they expected to see. All fired at about the same time, but the grizzly did not drop. He rushed and got one of the men down. While the bear was gnawing and pawing him a rifle was loaded and a close ranging bullet was sent to the great brutes head, killing him.

While recovery was slow

The wounded man was carried back to camp and his wounds dressed. But the hole in his hip would not heal and gave him much trouble. Acting on a surmise, a couple of the men sought the carcass of the bear and found one of his tusks missing. A physician was brought to camp and the bears tooth was found embedded against the bone. It was extracted and the young man recovered.

The Binghamton Armory, School and Post Office.

Old brick armory of immune and Civil War days serve beyond time of Binghamton post office

Editors note this article is the fourth in a series appearing in the Dixon Tribune telling the history of six post offices which at one time serve the Dixon area from about 1860 up through 1906. At this time the construction of a new post office for Dixon is in progress. Though the research efforts of Postmaster Jim Kilkenny, this local history series has found much reader interest for old-timers and descendants of northern Solano County pioneers.

The Binghamton office from 1864 two 1906

The community of Binghamton was one the three settlements that made up Maine Prairie Township. The other two were Morning Light and Enterprise. Due to the high water danger at Maine Prairie Landing, Binghamton became the cultural center and social center of the Township.

In 1861, J. F. Brown, J. B. Jamison, Sherman Brown, Albert Bennett, D. B. Brown, James Clark and H. M. Bentley settled in this area.

In 1863 with the country and a hot Civil War, the Maine Prairie Rifle were commissioned as a unit in the state militia by Gov. Stanford. The records show about 60 members of this unit with Albert Bennett as Captain, John Low, A. S. Hopkins and James Bingham, as Lieutenants.

The name Binghamton was eventually taken from Lieutenant Bingham. After the war the unit was disbanded by Gov. Haight and the 35 by 50 foot one-story armory sold to D. L. Munson. The only activity of the Maine Prairie Rifles was to assemble when some strange Indians appeared and started to gather up livestock. The alarm was sounded and the members assembled to fire a few volleys over the heads of the Indians who hastily fled into the tules to the East.

Munson ran a general merchandise store and added a second story to be used as an assembly place and social Hall.

When Munson retired, the building was sold to the school district and the lower floor used as a schoolroom and upper floor as a dance and social Hall.

The first teacher was a Mr. F. M. Righter. In 1865 Methodist Church was established with T. H. Woodard as minister and this area became a strong Methodist community. Even in

these early days, there were factions and a group called the Protestant Methodist was formed in Maine Prairie Landing with Rev. T. New, Rev. G. Triplett, Rev. Dustin and Rev. Graves, as pastors. This group survived two years, maybe too many pastors and too few parishioners.

The Binghamton post office was established on July 25, 1864 with Richmond L. Gordon as postmaster. He was succeeded by David Munson, who also ran the general merchandise store, on July 7, 1871, the post office was discontinued on September 29, 1874, and again reestablished on October 16, 1874, with Luther M. Frick as postmaster. He was succeeded by William H Smith, in April of 1876, who served until the post office was finally closed on September 29, 1906. He had served as postmaster for over 30 years.

When the post office closed the records available showed the following people held post office boxes at Binghamton: Ed Sparling, Edward Rayns, J. L. Brown, C. S. Craig, A. J. Brown, J.C. Ninady, Henry Peters, H. G. Brown, C. Bernhart and C. Parker. Long after the post office was closed the old brick armory served as a school and social hall. The older folks may remember the wonderful times they had in that upstairs dance hall.

Again, some regret this building could not have been preserved as a landmark for historical interest.

Nov. 11, 1954

The Old Porter House

Once stood about 1 ½ miles south of Dixon on old Highway 40.

The old Porter house, 14 rooms, five chimneys and three fireplaces (one of the area's oldest landmarks,) is being torn down. Doing the job is a Woodland firm, with the lumber to be used partly building a house at West Sacramento and another at Woodland, says Clifford Peterson, the owner, who bought the farm 15 years ago. The old mansion was considered impractical for making over for occupancy by himself and wife, so he built a much lesser size house nearby.

Built 77 years ago [this article was dated 1955]. The big house was built in 1878 by James Porter, who would come here with his wife, three girls and two sons whose names were Charles and William.

The 38 x 58 two story house with large basement and 12 foot ceilings was built at a time when big houses were the style by well-to-do ranchers. It was lavishly furnished with costly antique pieces, one of the show places of the Valley, and many were the parties therein. Peterson says he was told that the house, despite its almost 5,000 ft.² of living area, ornate construction and the fact that all materials had to be trucked in via horse team, cost only \$7,000.

William continued occupying the home after the death of his parents. But hard times finally came for the Porter family and it was hard to keep the home and comfortable and attractive condition, so it began deteriorating and he became weather beaten, a forlorn looking structure of better days.

When Mrs. William Porter passed away the family scattered. The girls married, son James died and William Junior moved to Ryer Island, his father joining him and dying there a few years ago.

Of the 14 rooms, six were bedrooms, four upstairs and two down. There was one bathroom which is as good an indication as any as to how old the place is. And it was a small bathroom containing a wash basin and bathtub only. The bathtub was 8 feet long, narrow and high, boarded in around the sides and the top 100% galvanized.

The house was piped, not only for running water, but for carbide lighting. All pipes were of soft-lead and of large diameter. Eventually, of course, the carbide pipes were used for electrical conduits.

Long studs.

One indication of the extraordinary features was the one-piece of 2 x 4's studying on the sides, two by fours which were 26 feet in length. And there were no termites in any of the lumber, says one of the wreckers.

A dumbwaiter ran from the basement to the dining room, mainly for the use of transporting full and empty wine bottles back and forth by the looks of the wine bench in the basement. A large pile of rugs, rather threadbare and thin, is mute evidence of the wall-to-wall carpeting.

The wreckers say the plastering job was excellent, most of it in as good a shape as it was 75 years ago, and some of the original wallpaper still on the walls.

In the basement the records found more interesting items-an old-fashioned, highly polished egg incubator, also a chair with a hole in the seat and at plug to fit the whole.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson bought the place of 160 acres in 1941. They sold 10 acres of it to William Grigsby. Tomatoes, peas and barley are Peterson's farm activities this year.

He said he is not going to fill up the basement, but will retain the old, still strong floor as a perfect if covering.

Few mansions left

There are only a few big old-time ranch homes left, the 23 room house 10 miles south of Dixon built by John Brown from Vermont, now occupied by Jack Parker and Harvey Firchow: the Leo Tuck house, also south of Dixon; and the former Currey ranch home 3 miles north of Dixon.

Dixon POST 208

The American Legion was started in France in Mar. 1919 by Veterans who had served during a wartime period as defined by the United States Congress. Its primary political activity is lobbying on behalf of veterans and service men and women. Its second meeting was held May 1919 in St. Louis, Missouri when it started its first charter.

It was reported that Oct. 5, 1919 Mr. Chester Ballard a representative of the American Legion was to be in Dixon to talk with local soldiers on membership in the American Legion. In Feb. 1920 a meeting was held at the Dixon High School to discuss the joining of this national organization. At this time the President of the Sacramento Post of the American Legion and Darwin Scott of the same group were present. They were here to suggest the Dixon group form their own Post in what was known as the greatest social, fraternal and patriotic organization in America. So the following people were elected officers on a temporary basis, J.M. Cowden President, R.R. Rierson Vice President, O.C. Little Secretary and C.A Jacobs as treasurer. A committee composed of Dr. Lambert Kumle, Dr. O.P. Floreth and William Briggs Jr. was formed to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the local Post. William Keefe, Raymond Little and Henry Sievers were appointed as a membership committee. The fees were to be \$5.00 per year, payable semi-annually in advance, with no initiation fee. The next meeting was to be held Feb. 1920 at the High School auditorium and all ex-service men were invited to attend. At this time they received their charter and Dixon Post 208 was officially formed. Thirty five people paid their dues and another 7 took applications to join.

At the Sept. 1920 meeting the Dixon Post decided with the cooperation of the citizens of Dixon to build a club building that would serve all the purposes of a community building. Posts were also formed in Benicia, Vacaville, Suisun and Vallejo as well as Dixon, as a group went to the County Board of Supervisors for financial help. The Supervisors said they would cooperate to the fullest extent of the laws governing such matters.

In October of 1923, the Legion building was to be built on a lot donated by the estate of Oscar C. Schulze. The location was on the west side of main Street across the street from the Women's Improvement Club Park. The building consisted of a large room to be used for dances meetings and social gatherings, along with restrooms, a kitchen and a club room. It was completed in 1924 and 700 people attended the opening. In 1927 the County turned the building over to Solano County which in turn turns it back over to the Legion on a technical lease. Some of the uses for the building are as follows, the Dixon Game Club used it for their meetings, two hundred blood

drives, the Rotary Club used it for 40 pancake breakfasts prior to the Mayfair parades, dances, reunions, weddings, bingo games, fashion shows and many other events.

The Post itself helped in military funerals, were involved in Armistice Day activities, assisted in Mayfair parades, decorated graves, organized baseball games, supported the Boy Scouts, assisted in Memorial Day activities, sold Poppies, posted a Color Guard for ceremonies, the Legion Auxiliary put on food sales, Bazaars and card parties, Valentine parties. The Post had a band in the 1935's.

Through the years the local Legion has served Dixon and the community well. Not only have they provided the area with a suitable hall for public use, they have contributed much to the success of the community. The original Legion Hall has since been outdated and a new Legion Hall has been purchased. Its new location is directly north of the old site on North Main Street about a half mile.

Some of the material for this article was provided by Mr. Robert Fletcher, Past Post Commander.

Dixon Fire Department

The following is a letter and history as told by Leonard Ferguson who lived in Dixon and was Fire Chief at one time. He was asked to write a brief history of what went on in Dixon in those early years. He was the grand-daughter of Gill Orr.

Through the Years

Requested by the oldest organization in Dixon for its history as found dating back to Oct. 15 1872.

The following information being accumulated by Ex chief L.E. Ferguson from history of Solano county as printed by Wood Alley & Co. in 1879, Dixon tribune files of 1880 (hand set type) and a biography & personal contact with my father in law, Ex Chief B. F. Newby who was born May 9 1856 in La Porte, Plumas county. In 1860 moved, Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Newby and family, two daughters and son Frank to Virginia City, in the winter of 1861 during epidemic of smallpox. His mother and one sister passed on and were buried there.

In 1865 the father brought his son Frank by stage to Folsom and from there by stream train (Central Pacific R.R.) to Sacramento (Western Hotel) where he and his father parted. Frank being sent by stage to the 20 mile house in Solano Co. knew as the Richard Hall ranch (later McFadgen) from here him to go to Morgan Valley, Lake Co., home of John Dearing and stay. But passing through the Reddick Ranch on foot he was held there as a much needed chore boy, lived there 7 years going to school in Silveyville during the winter. In 1874 he returned to Virginia City and found his surviving sister had married J.P. Woodbury who had quartz mine went to work and saved his money and landed in Dixon in 1876, buying an interest in the Dixon Flour Mill. Married in 1881 to Isabelle Dailey, seven children were born, two surviving Lawrence L. Newby of San Francisco, Madeline Ferguson of Dixon. Mr. Newby served his town well in the Fire Department (Bucket Brigade of 1876) an Ex Chief, organized a band and orchestra, manager of Dixon Ball Club Post Master and as constable solved murder of a brother and sister by their brother who was found guilty and hanged. Mr. Newby retired in 1931 at age 75. In the May Day parade of 1926 Mr. John Lyons Ex Chief of Vacaville and Mr. Newby Ex chief of Dixon, oldest firemen of Solano County rode on the old hand operated Tub that was used in Dixon in the 1880's for fire protection .

On completion of the Central Pacific rail road that passed through the Thomas Dickson ranch 2 ½ miles south east of Silveyville in 1868 Dickson gave 10 acres of his land for a town site and rail road station. Many buildings were soon moved from Silveyville and Maine Prairie. The Methodist church built in Silveyville in 1866 at a cost of \$4000 was moved to Dickson 1871. The Catholic Church built in 1868 still stands by

and used for a recreation hall, hotel built by B. Greining called the Empire. Mr. W. R. Ferguson (no relation) built a hardware store 1st and A Street now Dawsons. A shipment from San Francisco was consigned to him as "Dixon" for short and was adopted as a name for this growing town. Eppinger & Co. general merchandise store, north corner of 1st and B Street brick structure was located where the saving Center markets now., Bank of Dixon located between the Savings Center and the Farmers Exchange, Jasper Kattenberg 2nd and B Street, Wm Van Sant father of Ex Chief B. G. Van Sant groceries located where Willis Simpsons is now.

Town of Dixon incorporated by act of State legislature in 1878. Being a grain farming area surrounding the town fire was a great hazard particularly on dry north winds, many fires caused by coal burning engines would dump the grates anywhere on the track.

Mr. George Frahm an energetic citizen organized a fire company of volunteers installing water barrels and buckets in convenient places on many main streets, those that joined at the time J. Frederickson, Wm Van Sant, Mr. Dashell, E. Wehe & J. Eppinger, Wm Henman, Geo King, B. F. Newby & Owen O'Neil, this group carried on and kept the hazards under control. Water was available from hand pumps used to fill horse troughs & etc. Every home had their own water supply from wells approximately 30 ft. deep.

In 1879 the fire company was enlarged Wm Frederickson as foreman a movement was started to raise funds for better equipment , dances were held,. Dinners and public subscriptions resulting in the purchase of a Babcock engine (hand operated) for pressure and Hook and Ladder with 12 buckets attached.

In 1880 Solano county supervisors adopted a plan of exempt poll tax and jury duty to encourage volunteer Fire Dept. in the county. Dixon Fire Dept. went all out, over 40 men enrolled. George Greuning elected foreman, W.E. Van Sant 1st assistant, Nick Thodt 2nd Asst., Treasurer H. Eppinger, sect. A. Manning. Dues 25 cent a month. Failure to answer roll call after each fire a fine of 50 cents imposed.

There were many large ranches in the Dixon area, one in particular the Mr. B. McKinley ranch which joined the Thomas Dickson ranch on the south where he and his son built a home on a knoll in 1857, he giving 15 acres of his land for a cemetery on his high land as winter floods were quite common in surrounding country. The oldest grave being two children of L.L. Mann and wife Martha one in 1857 and 1862 no record being found.

In 1864 Mr. McKinley was buried under a large black walnut tree in the corner of his corral, cause of his death was on a steam boat from San Francisco to Rio Vista, the

boiler blew up, eleven persons injured or died. In 1879 Dixon's first big fire as reported, burned his home and ranch and later his wife (Catherine) was buried here.

1882 Mr. Abraham Kirby then sheriff of Solano County moved his drug store from Silveyville to Dixon, purchasing a lot from Thomas Dickson 1st and A Street. Where IOOF was located. Fire equipment was kept in most any old building on 1st St. Mrs. Mary Little daughter of Mr. Kirby recalls the Fire Dept. Boys with their red shirts on parade or fire drills pulling the (old Tub) fire engine and Hook and ladder equipment.

1883 Dixon in ashes. Quote- the Queen City a picture of Desolation. The Tribune of Dixon of Nov. 22 , 1883 as printed by Mr. Ed E. Leake editor and pressured by Mr. B. F. Newby an 8 by 10 inch edition two pages. In part Monday eve 6:30 pm Nov. 19th a furious north wind blowing at the time the fire alarm was sounded. The streets were soon thronged with an excited crowd of people, the fire was discovered in the rear of the Pearson House, where Farmers Exchange now stands Jackson and B Street a rooming house of frame structure, before the fire company got in action the house was a mass of flames, fire men stationed across the street on roof (shingle) Union Hall and Tribune office located , the heat was so intense were soon driven off as the C. P. depot took off also ware house and soon eaten up all efforts were directed to saving contents of stores, hotels and etc. in the main city block all of frame structures in all 21 like tinder boxes some stores had kegs of powder on hand blew up the frames reaching high in the heavens, ranchers came to town to help, the mildest excitement prevailed women and children were carried to safety by force, the Kings Hotel located where the First National Bank now occupies 1st Street and B street. And paid some boys to care for them. In the block on the north side of B. Street Bank of Dixon & Eppinger store of brick structure blocked the flames in that direction but to the north a livery stable owned by George Guering was saved, but Pythias castle went down instantly, at Kings Hotel corner 1st. & B men worked desperately but flames spread so rapidly very little was saved. To add to the distress of the deplorable situation it soon became apparent a band of thieves were pilfering in every direction and a drunken mob of Hassling and cursing like demons in less than one hour, not a building was saved of what had been the business center of Dixon saved the brick walls and Post Office building and Van Sant store, Einstein store, Dr. Uphan dentist and Palace Hotel east of 1st Street a & B Street were saved. As the flames neared A Street no heroic effort was made to save Arcade Hotel and livery stable, the flames leaped over and burned A. Fishers barn, the Baptist church caught many times on the roof but was saved as walls were of brick structure but Dr. Trafton's home and stable due south of the church were burned, his horse and buggy were saved and invalid wife carried from the home, the Presbyterian church was also saved on the corner of Mayes & A Street. Embers were blown as far away as the Harry Petersen and Dailey ranches several miles south of Dixon. Mr. Abarham Kirby sheriff of Solano County at the time sent out an SOS for deputies, the

overland brought help from Suisun, Fairfield, Elmira, Vacaville, Winters and Davisville came by teams with men and relief equipment for those who had lost their homes. The CPRR Co. brought in cars for a depot and telegraph equipment. Insurance companies and photographers were soon on the job. Insurance companies paying losses and claims. Much more could be listed in detail but the closing word by Ed E. Leake editor of the Tribune, we are on our backs with a hand full of type but thank god for our lives as one reported.

1884 The reconstruction of Dixon soon took place, brick buildings were in demand for fire protection for the future. Many train loads of brick were delivered from the Sacramento brick yards. Mr. Abraham Kirby sold his lot on 1st & A Street south to IOOF Hall association two story building lodge hall upstairs ground floor used for many purposes through the years. Masonic hall on 1st center of block A & B lodge hall upstairs. Mayes Building adjoining to the south part two story buildings top floor Doctors' offices and Telephone Co. for long distance calls. W.R. Ferguson (no relation) on North corner of 1st and a hardware store, later J.D. Johnson hardware store now Dawson's Cigar store. Kings building next to the Old Corner saloon, later re-modeled as First National Bank building on B Street to Jefferson St. & depot. Mr. Ross built the opera house and joined on the K of P hall two story, post office and Jim Frizzell sheet metal and plumbing on the first floor, Fisher's saloon (married Maud Dawson father) on Jackson Street corner of A Street. John McDermott saloon, city jail and J.W. Pritchard built the sheet iron fire house to house the apparatus Hook & Ladder 12 buckets attached and hand operated engine (old Tub) for more pressure, room in rear for meeting purposes over the jail room for City Trustees. As time went on other brick buildings were added in various parts of the business area.

Jan 10th, 1885

Freight train conductor & engineer were arrested for blocking the north crossing hindering the fire company to a fire. No fires of much importance were found during the construction of the new City of Dixon.

Jan. 15, 1887

The fire company elected George Frahn foreman, P.R. Willot 1st assistant, Con Luney 2nd assistant, George Gruening treasurer, A. Manning sect. Jan. 22nd a pressure pump was added to the water wagon (hand operated).

July 4, 1887 (Dixon Day parade)

Fire department represented by the Old Tub was decorated with bunting and flowers as given by madams Madden and Trafton who furnished the flowers, Mr. Hartman and Mr. Manning decorators of the department, Jacob Rohwer father of Rohwer Bros and daughters handled the ribbons of a dapple grey four horse team and

fire department boys with their red shirts. Above information from Mrs. Mary Little of Dixon

1888 Joseph Enright a construction engineer who had installed a steam water plant in Willows, a special meeting of the town Trustees was called to consider his offer of a well, steam engine, 30,000gallon tank and some pipe lines on 21st Street, the offer was taken under consideration as no funds were available at the time. Jan. 14th, regular meeting of the fire Co. George Frahm re-elected foreman, P.R. Willot 1st assistant, J. Misfeldt 2nd assistant, A. Oberhauser treasurer and A. Manning sect.

Mar 7th 1889 winter hatched a few fires mostly grass, one exception, Milton Carpenter residence next to the Thomas Dickson home, a outhouse and wood shed burned , the fire company save the house and lot with this bucket brigade.

1890 Dixon's big scare. A contract had been let to A.A. Osborne by city trustees for water works and carbon lights on Main Street. a coal burning steam engine, two wood 50,000 gallon water tanks, 50 foot above the ground, 5,600 foot 6 inch pipe, 13 fire hydrants, a whistle on the stationary steam engine to signal fire alarms. A public meeting of citizens held to purchase a hose cart and 2m 1/2 in. hose. George Frahm, A. Manning and Steve Brinkerhoff committee met and decided to hold an old fashion Fireman's Ball on June 4th, a large committee was appointed to put it over @ \$1.50 per couple including a scrumptious supper at midnight, over \$600 was raised, all tickets sold out.

1890 Mr. Frahm and Mr. J.H. Rice went to San Francisco and purchased from the city a hose cart for \$285 , 300 feet of 2 ½ hose had been used but in good condition for hydrant pressure and town purpose 50# or less. May 24 the hose cart and hose arrived all turned out to welcome this first piece of fire equipment .The large gong attached to frame would ring on complete turn of the cartwheel, quite entertaining for the youngsters. The young men immediately organized a hose company: P.R. Willot president, Paul Harlan sect, Ed Freeman treasurer, Travis Norman foreman, A. Parker 1st assistant, Ed Hayard 2nd assistant, trustees U. Upham, J. Eppinger and Bert Burnes. Duties Aculeo Hose Co. (God of the Winds)

1891- First fire house was built on Jackson Street at A & B street contract let to J.P. Pritchard (father of W. Pritchard an ex-chief) a sheet iron building open front and cement floor rear room for meeting of the fire department. M.P. Carpenter built a hose cart to match the one bought in San Francisco only painted red and sold to the city. Immediately another hose company was organized and dubbed the Alert. A.P. D'Artney foreman, delegates to the department, H.C. McKinley, A. Filto and C.C. Donoho. The fire department then consist of 28 members and four units protection No 1 (old tub hand operated for pressure) B.F. Newby, Captain Hook and Ladder and bucket attached. E.

Ferguson foreman and the two cart companies. The department consists of chief C. Harlan. Assistant chief H. Pratt, Sect. A. Manning, Treasurer G. D. Schulze and all unit members.

1891 The city trustees held a special meeting and appointed George Frahm s chief of the Dixon Fire Department, as Mr. Frahm had served the town well for many previous years, the appointment was well received by all.

1892 The Dixonites having served as fireman the past five years, 14 in all out of the 40 that had signed up as volunteers received their certificates from the county clerk for exemption of jury duty and poll tax were , George Fraham, Con Loney, Jacob Misfeldt, F. Reichardt, H.A.Ross, J.M. Garnett, Peter Timm, Henry Peters, Harry Petersen, Peter Peters, George Cadman, Jacob Schroeder, J.P. Kersh, and H.E. McCune, William Van Sant.

1892 Disaster-Earthquake & Fire (Quote) Special edition of tribune Willot & Henry editor's paper size 11 1/2 X 8 inches as presented by Mr. Newby. Tuesday 2:45 AM April 22nd. .the hardest earthquake in years hit central Solano County particularly in Solano County and very severe in Dixon, Winters, Vacaville and Davis from west to east. People were awakened by ominous rumbling followed by terrific shock, the twisting and groaning of timbers, the duration is not known many thought the end of time had come, those in hotels and rooming houses pandemonium reigned, then the mournful tolling of the church bell and the wailing of the fire whistle of the water works. As handed down to me by my father Eugene Ferguson being a fireman left my mother and I in our home at 5th & B Street. Note I was 3 of age. I was carried in a blanket to town and on Main Street (not 1st) covered with mud and rumbled my mother fell with me face down with mouth and eyes full of mud. I was taken to the horse trough on corner of Eppingers store 1st & B and a light rain set in on Wed. evening and without any warning a severe shock at 9:45 PM completed the ruins started on brick and frame buildings on Main street the area being a shambles, every building in Silveyville township were damaged, local firms suffering severely were John Dawson's dry goods store, Brown and Coleman, Goodman and Co., A. Kirby drug, E. J. McBride, bank of Dixon, Eppinger & Co. ,north wall carver out and crushed in building of John Rhemke saloon , Mr. Rhemke and George Harms were sleeping in rear of the frame building and were bruised in the debris but rescued by fire men but cut and bruised. The north wall of Brinkerhoff's & King building 1st & B street (across First National Bank) were badly wrecked also brick wall of Ross building (Opera House) and adjoining K of P Hall on B Street. The IOOF Hall at 1st & A street walls were cracked but escaped heavy damage. Dr. Upham building east side 1st street was badly wrecked, many homes in town and county were damaged as reported in detail, a car load of tents was sent to Dixon, my first christening as a fireman.

To add to the terror two fires had broken out in the main block, Dugan's dry goods store in Mayes building, the south wall of Masonic Hall had fell and caved in the roof of the store, a lamp had been left burning in the rear of the office of building which touched it off. The grocery store of Brown and Coleman was presumably started by a five gallon can of black matches open and fell to the floor ignited the building. The firemen worked heroically with the two lines of 2 ½ inch hose, one at 1st & a street hydrant and 1st & B hydrant. If this equipment hadn't been available the firemen would have been helpless in that business block. Tuesday approached the trepidation increased and another shack hit at 10 PM, followed by a moiré sever at 2 AM. Wednesday which wrecked many more buildings? People walked the streets but kept from brick buildings, 8:45 AM a very heavy shock terrifying school children that had gathered, school was ordered closed by trustees for the week a light rain set in on Wed. evening and without a warning a severe shock hit at 9:45 pm completing the ruins started on brick frame buildings. Local firms suffering severely were John Dugan's dry goods store, Brown & Coleman, Goodman & Co., A. Kirby's Drug, E.J. McBride, and Bank of Dixon. Eppingers north wall caved out and crushed in the building of John Rhemke's saloon. Mr. Rhemke and George Harms were sleeping in the rear of the frame building and were buried in the debris but were rescued by firemen but cut and bruised. The north wall of Brinkerhoff and King building on fist and B Street (now First Northern Bank) were badly wrecked, also badly wrecked was the brick wall of the Ross building (Opera House) and adjoining K of P Hall on B Street. The I.O.O.F. Hall Is tans A Street; walls were cracked but escaped heavy damage. Dr. Upham Building east side of Fist Street was badly wrecked; many homes in town and country were damaged as reported in detail. A carload of tents was sent by the state for use of homeless families. Saturday 3AM a very heavy shock hit winters. The constant danger of fire was closely watched by the firemen on duty day and night, no lamps were allowed in business area. A special train from the Bay area brought photographers, reporters for various papers and insurance companies. The report that the fault was centered in Putah Canyon west of Winters and not Putman Peak an extinct volcano south of that area. July 20, 1892 Rio Vista River View Hotel burned and several blocks of the business district, some of the Dixon firemen drove down to help.

1993. The city had a tower erected on the fire house to dry the fire hose. A special meeting was held by the fire Dept. to elect a chief to replace O.C. Shulze who had resigned; H.W. was elected and confirmed by the city trustees. A baseball club was organized, B. F Newby manager, Four Hulen boys listed, Bill pitcher, Joe Short stop, Left Field Steve, Is base Stephens, 2nd base Sawyer, 3rd base George Darby,

1894 F.B. Newby chief, E. Ferguson assistant chief Okayed by city trustees. Jan. 25, 1895. The fire Department meeting, elected J.P. Pritchard, Dan McKinnon assistant chief, H. Petersen Sect. , George Frahm Treasurer. The city trustees Okayed the

election and also appointed B.F. Newby constable, Eugene Ferguson town Marshall and Joe Staton night watchman. A. L. Henry was editor of the Tribune.

1895 Jan. 22 Aelous Hose Company elected F. A. Hutton, foreman; Harry Stange, Sect; B.F. Newby, Treasurer; Ist Assistant foreman, T.B. Duke; 2nd asst. foreman, J.L. Nagle; Property man M.P. Carpenter; sargent of arms, T. B. Gilespeie, trustee H.F. Duprey, C. D.and J.B. Dale; Delegates to City trustees, T. V. Norman and Wm. Fitzpatrick.

Alert Hose Co. Election, Gilly Jansen, foreman; George Steinmiller, Ist Assistant; C.C. Donoho, 2nd Assistant, H.WE. Timm, treasurer, C. Kirby; Sect; Joe Station, Sargent of arms; J Van Buren, property man; L.B. Higgins trustee.

Jan 25 1895 The Fire dep't meeting elected J.P. Pritchard chief, Dan McKinnon assistant chief, L.H. Peterson. Sect, George Frahm, George Frahm treasurer. The city Ok'd the election and appointed B.F. Newby constable, Eugene Ferguson town Marshall and Joe Stanton night watchman.

Jan. 1896 A. J. Henry and F.A. Hutton editors. Fire Department elected Dan McKinnon fire chief, E.C. Eames assistant, okayed by trustees appointed Joe Stanton night watchman @ \$60 per month and W. C. Rhem Marshall @ \$21.50 per month. Jan. 31, 1896, water 8 feet deep at Main Prairie, highest flood since 1862. May1, Vandome Hotel burned .Jan. 1899, E.C. Eames re-elected chief of fire department and Charles Harlan assistant chief. Oct. 1, 1899. High north wind and big fire at Elmira, help went from Dixon and Vacaville. The city trustees received permission from Rail Road Co. to use their 30,000 gallon water supply tank in emergency for fire only. James Frizzell (father of Mrs. Maude Dawson) made the hookup to city water main. Numerous grass fires in town and north and south of town grain fires off Rail Road right way causes of coal burners of locomotives kept under control with the Fire Department Tub, water wagon and firemen with wet sacks, set by Rail Road freight train, loss to Peter Timm, Brinkerhoff, Bloom and Mrs. Hy Peters. (Henry).

Mar. 18, 1904 Foster Cannery at Tremont burned, a total loss.

Dec. 20, 1900 Charles Harlan Chief , H. Pratt assistant. The Arcade Hotel south side of A Street Main and Jackson owned by Mr. Kumle was completely destroyed by fire , was an old land mark saved from the 1883 fire, consist of bar, dining room and 30 bed rooms upstairs. Arcade stables west on corner was saved, Captain Frank Rustaller of Sacramento donated \$29 to the Fire Department for saving his personal property in the hotel room.

Jan. 1901 Fire Department meeting units representing Protection No. 1 (Old Tub) A. Kirby foreman, Hook and Ladder E. Ferguson foreman Acolus Hose Co., T.B.

Duke foreman Alert Hose Co., A.P. D'Artney foreman, chief Charles Harland assistant Chief, H. Pratt Sect., A. Manning treasurer, G.D. Schulze.

May 9, 1902 Town election and appointed Fire Department committee trustees M.P. Carpenter, A.F. Shangraw and J.D. Johnson. July 25th, Temperature 114 degrees. Fire at M.P. Carpenter's home, back house and wood shed burned. Fire Department saved the lot. Rowland Moss editor Tribune. Large grass fire in local area.

1905. E.D. Lehe purchased the Dixon Light and Water Works from A.A. Osborn. Feb. 10, Department election, E.K. Wilson chief, E. Ferguson assistant and okayed by trustees. Disastrous fire on East side of Main street, 3:30 AM fire broke out in the rear of Upham building burned adjoining frame building of Reichert 7 A.P. D'Artney sop, much credit to the Fire Department and volunteers to save the Dixon Restaurant and Bakery.

1906 Pavilion at the city park (now fair grounds) burned to the ground owned by Tim Horgan, was quite a loss to the Dixon community as for many years dances and picnics were held there, a fine dance floor upstairs, ground floor used for bar, suppers and refreshment stands at May Day. A large five seated band wagon used in parades was stored under the north stairway of the large two story building, an attempt was made to save the wagon but did not succeed, and the heat drove us away no water was available from the wind mill tank that was nearby.

1907 the China washhouse located at the end of 2nd Street was burned also peoples cloths in the building, no alarm was turned in, the Chinamen all ran out in rear alley and nothing was saved and let it burn.

1909 the Alesworth house on 2nd Street and Broadway burned to the ground, no one was living there, saved the lot. E.K. Wilson chief, Eugene Ferguson assistant chief and in the department for many years, "passed on", had served as city treasurer, town Marshall and Deputy, Post Master for E.J. McBride in 1906 on B Street, Ross Building and then went to work in the dry goods department for O.C. Schulze. Ex-Chief B.F. Newby appointed Post Master in 1907, moved the post office to the new post Office when finished in 1908 1st and B Street. Funeral services held for my father Assistant Eugene Ferguson in K of P Hall Dec. 31, 1909 under auspices of Othelo Lodge 31 K of P and court Dixon No. 89 Faristers of Armenia.

1911 The writer returned to Dixon, having lived in Sacramento since 1904 joined the Dixon Fire Department.

MEMORIES

1911 On my return to Dixon I rejoined the Dixon Fire Department, Chas Kirby being requested for a history of the Fire Department it is necessary to acquaint you with

facts, "Quote" in 1929 the tribune office on 1st Street had quite a fire, daily papers were bound each year, the pile was dated to 1880, all the later books on top were burned so those of 1880 were stored in the Old Bank of Dixon vault 1st and B Street in the basement, each book I took out was noted, being hand set type (small) was necessary to use a magnifying glass over each column as nothing was separated to find Fire Department news no doubt some could have been overlooked.

Dec. 12, 1913 My long remembered year (married June 4th) Lovell home burned on second Street being a total loss, had just been over hauled, suspicion that oil rags had been left inside, being about the first on the job (I lived block way on St.) I noted a heavy new front door was vibrating, thought someone was inside, about that time a hose cart pulled up. I called for an axe which Dr. Wrigley brought off the cart, we caved in the door and met with oily smoke, the family had spent the night elsewhere. The German Lutheran church was very close by and soon filled up with smoke. There being a swallow's nest in the tall belfry, it was necessary to put it out. Dr. Wrigley, Virgil Robben, Chester Ballard helped put it out. Smoke was coming through the shingles from the hot fire so close you could not see.

1913 Mr. R. Moss sold the Tribune to Mr. Frederick Dunnicliff Senior.

1914 Our new editor and writer were standing in front of the Bank of Dixon 1st and B Street when the lights turned red and gong rang. Mr. Dunnicliff and I ran to the telephone office and got the word it was the Roy Mayes home on fire we ran around and rang the fire bell two drays pulled for the two hose carts and Hook and ladder and every fireman piled on the two carts of 500 feet of 2 ½ inch hose were put out at P.G. & E. hydrant, 1000 feet in all but was about 1509 feet short of the fire, so a bucket brigade was formed including ladies and fire men and school boys. The home being very well built was slow in burning, everything was moved out, going upstairs with Chief Kirby we came upon Julius Weyand

With a crew in the pool room he had hit three and out went the fine table to a cement walk, broken into 1000 pieces. There was a large switch box with heavy insulation and there our fire was located after using up 500 buckets of water and 2 ½ gallons of fire extinguishers. Heard sometime later Roy was to bring suit against the water Co. or city of Dixon but did not materialize so a home was built south of Dixon.

OPERA HOUSE

Built 1864 owned by Ross Estate. Mrs. Rierson a daughter of Mrs. Ross became the manager of the building that was used for many years and graduation of high school students and road shows in about 1912 a church play was put on, many small children

with paper dresses and carrying lighted candles were on the stage, the building was jammed, I being Assistant Chief at the time managed to get the door and with other firemen brought the fire hose 1 ½ inch to the door (loaded) for emergency, I notified the State Fire Marshall Jay Stevens who came and inspected the building and had a talk with Mrs. Rierson, explained what had to be done and she refused to do what had to be done as three reels of hose on inside of building fire escape on east side to ground all doors to be open out.

Dixon Golf Club

It might not have resembled Pebble Beach Golf Course but the local Dixon Golfers would probably put up an argument. In 1929 Bert LaFountain and Max Cowden, Dixon residents decided to start a golf club. They concluded that golf was good for the health and sociability. The first step was to locate a place to build a course. The then Dixon airfield which was south and east of the present swimming pool and unused, looked to be a logical spot. That along with the slough, would provide good hazard material. The next step was to sign up the golf enthusiasts' and 40 people stepped up to play. Milton Carpenter Jr. was elected president, John Belden, vice President, A.H. Alexander, Sect. and J.M. Cowden, Treasurer. Mr. Charles Dailey owned the airport property and would lease the property at a reasonable price and the city owned the slough.

The course was to be a 9 hole course, so began the project of laying out the course, which was a group project. The course was to be about 15 total acres. The fee was to be \$10.00 with an annual fee of \$10.00, a green fee to be charged others. Along with Dixon building a course, Winters was making plans to build their own course. Consequently the two towns played each other's course.

About 1930 the course was ready to play with 6 greens ready and 3 more to be built. Shortly after that a Club House was acquired, that being a barn located on the Petersen property and relocated just north of the present swimming pool about where the present Senior Citizens building is now located.

Golf remained popular for about the next five to ten years but then enthusiasm dwindled and finally the course went back to nature. This was about 1941. At that time the Club house was given to the Girl Scouts for their Club activities.

June 12, 1959

Dixon landmark coming down

One of the oldest landmarks in Dixon came down last week with the wrecking of the old Presbyterian Church at the corner of Mayes and South First. According to Mrs. Mary Little, was born in 1874, the church was constructed in 1878, several years after the town of Dixon had been moved from Silveyville. Mrs. Little recalls that as a three or four-year-old she used to skip from her home near the present IOOF building to watch daily progress of the church.

Dr. Alexander was the first preacher, and Dr. Evans (he was an MD) he led the singing. Dr. Evans lived in a house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Morris.

As old as the Presbyterian Church was, Mrs. Little says there are two older ones. The Methodist Church was moved along with the houses from Silveyville in 1868 and the red brick Community Church was built in 1878.

The demolished church building has been used in recent years as a youth building by the Community Church but was finally declared unsafe.

Mrs. Little adds a brief picture of the town in this area

A man named Hirsh had a harness shop on the corner where the post office now stands. On the north corner of the block was brewery and between were a number of small houses, some of which were China houses and the rest were houses of ill fame. We called to Barbary Coast.

The senior Mr. Carpenter moved his shop from Silveyville when Dixon was started. Brinckerhoff had a two-story hotel where the Bank of Dixon now stands Bank of America.

May Day picnics were held on the West side of the rare road on Mr. Mayes land.

The first Odd Fellows Hall was built on the lot on the south side of my dad's drug store (Mr. Kirby.) After the fire in 1884 he sold the corner to the Odd Fellows.

There was a Congregational church on a lot where the McDermott house now stands (the corner of Jackson and West A.) It was later moved over near the schoolhouse for a primary school. Then the Protestant church was built.

There was a two-story lodging house back of the depot where the Farmers Exchange nursery is now. That was where the big fire of 84 started which leveled the town.

The biggest livery stable was worthy frosty driving is. In

Dixon Parks

The park or picnic ground played an important part in early Dixon life and even today. There were picnic excursions to Tamany Grove in Davisville, in 1875. Also picnics held on the Wolfskill property located near Putah Creek which was known as the "Old Camp Grounds". There were also references of picnics in the foot hills west of Dixon.

Dixon started its first Picnic or fair May 3, 1875. This was sponsored by the Knights of Pythias a local fraternal lodge organization, the Othelo lodge. The location of this May picnic was at Frederickson Park which was situated west of the downtown area. A dance floor and band stand were built to celebrate the festivities. Such a wonderful time was had that it was decided to hold another one the following year. Meanwhile the owner of the property Mr. Frederickson who was a horticultural gardener by profession decided to plant shrubs and trees to beautify the park. A refreshment booth was also constructed as well as a 100 foot table that was roofed was built.

By the following year a Pavilion was built and Washington Hall was dedicated. This held the first Grand Ball dance. The following year 1878, the Frahm Brothers local hotel owners leased the grounds for four years. When they became involved they included a shooting gallery and other sports and games were included. This year a picnic was put on by the Odd Fellows lodge on April 26. The lodge had branches located in Capay, Madison, Winters, Vacaville and Elmira who also promised to attend so the Vaca Valley Railroad Co. ran a special train from Madison to accommodate these people who decided to attend. For those who did not take the train, buggies and wagons were plentiful on the streets. The Woodland Brass and String band were engaged for the occasion.

So people today can appreciate the atmosphere of the day I am going to include the next paragraph that appeared in the Dixon Tribune in 1878. Quote, "The advantage of having a fine pleasure ground like Washington Park so near home was appreciated by the public of Dixon last Saturday. They turned out in great numbers to attend the opening picnic and if they failed to enjoy themselves it was their own fault: we do not think, however, that there were any but who succeeded in that respect. The weather, fortunately, was propitious, though in the morning wind was threatened and the sky cloudy: but it all cleared off during the forenoon and was as pleasant as if the day had been made for the occasion---just warm enough to make ice cream and lemonade a luxury and without the disagreeable wind which marred enjoyment of last May Day. At a comparatively early hour people animated appearance. Quite a number came down on the morning train from Woodland and Davisville: a few from Knight's landing: and there were even some present from as far north as Colusa County. During the day there

were people on the grounds from Winters, Vacaville, Elmira, Suisun and Maine Prairie. Altogether, at one time or another, it is estimated that not less than a thousand people visited the grounds. The park was in splendid condition for the picnic, the late warm weather having removed the moisture from the greensward and beneath the trees. A good share of the projected improvements were uncompleted owing to the short time elapsed since the cessation of the rains. But the walks were all in fine condition and the general ornamentation of the grounds much superior in every respect to the same at any previous time. When the grounds were filled with a merry throng of adults and romping children it was a very pretty sight. The music began in the Pavilion at an early hour but at first the dancers were not numerous. Very soon, however, the sweet strains of the band attracted the people in the neighborhood and long before noon the spacious floor was filled. The Woodland Band is unquestionably one of the finest combinations in the State and their performance on this occasion was the theme of universal praise. Underneath the pavilion refreshment stands supplying all kinds of edibles and agreeable drinks were erected and well patronized all day. Some parties preferred a quiet seat under the trees, where table and seats had been sandwiches, cakes, ice cream, etc. disappeared with marvelous rapidity between the dances. But the platform remained the chief place of attraction. Young and old mingled in the mazy with the enthusiasm and energy peculiar to occasions like this. The floor was kept comfortably full all day long. New arrivals constantly took the place of those who wearied with the exercise, through the balmy spring air was so invigorating an element that few did that. We can only say further that the affair was a great success and general enjoyment unalloyed. We are glad to learn that though admission to the grounds and hall was free to all the enterprising lessee and found the affair remunerative.”

There were other uses for the park. In 1879, the Sacramento Military came to the park and leased it for their annual encampment.

In 1880 the park was up for sale by the Bank of Dixon. Mr. J.S. Mayes purchased the Park but had to deed it back to the bank, as he was on the Board of Directors and the law did not permit this. At this time Mr. W.C. Rehm leased the park and proceeded to clean up the grounds and repair the fence. At this time it was also called the Agricultural Park.

In 1885 it was rumored that a gentleman was going to purchase 20 acres of the Peters property and build a race track. The Directors Messrs. Holly, Brinkerhoff Hall and Lyons, laid out a half mile track. The primary use for the grounds was for the park and the track use was secondary. Several other at this time also were interested in developing a park. Mr. H.A. Ross had a beautiful walnut grove about three quarters a mile outside Dixon and was interested. Also about two hundred people met at Hass slough and had a fishing picnic in which Peter Timm and George Framm cleaned and cooked the fish.

In Nov. 1885 the stockholders of the Dixon Driving Park Association held a meeting with Judge Brown to set up a corporation. Two Hundred eighty shares were sold at \$25.00 per share. Of the twenty acres purchased, thirteen were to be used for the track and the remainder to be used for a grandstand, judges stand, stables, tank and windmill. The first races were held October the first 1886. The first race was won by Black Ralph. The next year trotting races were added. The first year it was to be used by Solano county horses but the next year Napa and Yolo counties were added. Now horse racing was part of the May Fair. In 1887 the Maypole dance was started and a parade was also added. The parade was of school children and a brass band.

Also in 1888 the Aetna baseball club used the park for games, along with a July 4th celebration picnic.

In 1889 several private picnics were held at Agee Grove on Putah Creek, Hass Slough and Putah Canyon.

In 1890 the Dixon Driving Association decided to postpone racing due to racing in Sacramento. May Day was still celebrated with the hopes of procuring a merry –go-round .

In 1891 a horseman, Mr. R.H. Nason from Sacramento negotiated with the Driving Association to lease the park, to resume racing. Also an open air concert and moonlight picnic was provided.

The following year a bicycle track was set up at the park. The first winner was a local Charles Harrington who rode the mile in 3:06. A group called the Flying wheelman was started.

IN 1895 the Rising Sun Gun Club held their first club shoot at the Park. May Day was also held with a Mule race, a five mile bicycle race was included in the festivities.

May Day continued each year without interruption and in 1899 Louis Hanke was the lessee and admission remained free with track and athletic events being and without horse racing.

In 1901 something new happened at the Driving Park, the Dixon High School football team hosted the Solano County football Championship against Vacaville. Dixon was victorious with an 11-0 win.

In 1902 as part of the celebration a ball game between married men and single men was provided the fair goers.

The next year 1903 another new adventure took place at the Park. Greyhound racing took place. Sacramento owners provided most of the racing hounds along with

entries from Woodland, Vallejo and Vacaville. The Abott defeated Regal Attire was the first winner.

The next business started at the Park was the Dixon Percheron Horse Association leased a barn to stand a stallion by the name of Pinson for stud.

In 1905 the Women's Improvement Club started the ball rolling for the Park that is still located on Main Street in Dixon. More information on this maybe Park could come at a later date. Also the this year Mr. B.F. Newby manager of the Dixon concert Band completed arrangements for a series of summer concerts and dances to be staged at the Park. Then disaster hit the park when night watchman Filto discovered at three o'clock in the morning the Park Pavilion on fire and it burnt to the ground. It was insured for @2000.00 and plans to rebuild began at once.

Racing was still of great interest this year and a balloon ascension and a parachute jump from an altitude of 1,000 feet by the youngest aeronaut was attempted for fair goers.

The Great San Francisco earthquake took place in 1906 and as a result the May Day Celebration was called off.

In 1907 the Park was again for sale the entire 20 acres, with a half mile track, stable for 33 horses,, breeding pens, grandstand, judges stands, big chicken house and other improvements had a price of \$4,000 on it. Never the less the fair went on in good order with excellent weather.

I'm sure everyone will be interested to know that T.C. Horigan moved the old Ice House that stood back of the Capitol Hotel to the Driving Park where it will be converted to a chicken house.

The 1909 May Day started with a parade, the usual horse racing, picnicking games and a baseball game between a Woodland team and the Golden Poppies of Suisun with Woodland winning 8-0.

In 1911 at the Driving Park a basketball game between the Dixon High School girls team and the girls from Placer County High school was played.

In August of 1911 the Driving Park was deeded to the city of Dixon. The following year a stable was leased to George Watson from Montana to engage in the business of training horses.

The year 1912 offered motorcycle fans the opportunity to watch a ten mile handicap race at the Park as well as a baseball game.

Until 1914 May Day was held on the first of May. This year it was decided to hold the fair on the first Saturday in May. During this year it was suggested by Mr. Weyand that a Park site be used for a new high school. After much debate it was defeated. A permanent bleacher was erected at the fair ground this year with a seating capacity of 450.

In 1915 it was decided that Dixon businesses would build floats for the annual parade.

In the year 1917 the big event was a race between a horse and an automobile. R. D. Mayes agreed to try out his fast Mercer against a pacer from Santa Rosa. The results are missing. During this May Day parade money prizes were awarded to decorated cars and floats.

In 1919 Marine Band from Mare Island participated in the Fair to celebrate the returning of Dixon soldiers and sailors. Three airplanes did stunts to the delight of the fair goers.

In 1921 the Legion ran May Day with the help the Fire Department. May Day continued to do well and prosper. Celebrations still went on every year. In 1923 twenty five people volunteered to help clean up the Park.

In 1923 the Solano County held its annual picnic at the park In Sept. Also a rodeo was held in Oct of that year.

In 1924 due to an infection of hoof and mouth disease and to cooperate with state authorities May Day was not held.

In 1925 Dixon celebrated the 50th May Day. Horse races, ball games and other sports were presented, along with the usual event including the parade and dance. Ten people attended who also were at the first picnic fifty years ago.

In 1928 the Dixon Fire Department took over the organization of the Fair, with the Community Council an advisory group. This year a plane was brought in from Oakland to take fair goers on rides for a nominal fee of \$3.00. In 1930 a seven passenger plane was brought in to take people on rides. The charge was \$25.50 each or a round trip to San Francisco for \$25.00.

In 1930 May Day was almost a wash out. Despite the torrential rain the fair went on and broke even from a financial standpoint.

The following year the weather cooperate and everyone enjoyed Harness and saddle races, mule race, decorated doll buggies a May Pole drill, a golf driving contest and dance. In 1931 4-H kids showed animals and sold them at the end of the fair.

In 1932 the Rotary Club sponsored the Fair and did so for the next several years. This brought cow pony races, motorcycle races, old car races, athletic contests and several new events.

In 1936 another park was open to the public. Dr. & Mrs. L.P. Hall donated the property to the city to build a swimming pool which is still in use.

In 1937 a dirt ramp was built on the north of the grandstand to better enable persons who cannot get to their seats to see the races. Prizes were given this year for flower show participants.

The next big change took place in 1938-39 when the grandstands were torn down and a new grandstand was constructed. During this time Art and Homer Brown held livestock auctions at the fairgrounds.

In the late forty's and fifty's high school football games again were held at the fairgrounds with much success.

During this period of time, Vallejo acquired the title of Solano County Fair and Dixon's fair was named the 36th District Fair Association. It remains the Dixon Mayfair to this day.

Dixon Tribune

The Dixon Tribune has had a long history here. November 14, 1874 was the date of the first Tribune. The first editor was Mr. Robert D. Hopkins and the shop was located on Railroad Ave. near the train depot. The office adjoined the Daniel B. Huff office as he was the train agent for Dixon. In those days the Tribune was published every Saturday. In 1876 it was decided to move the office building closer to the train depot with the aid of screw jacks and block and tackle. This move was handled by Mr. Huff. As a result of the move Mr. Huff offered the use of the land site where the Tribune office was located to the Fire Department for a new truck house and this offer was accepted. (To familiarize you as to where this is today, it was where the parking lot is on the corner of B Street and Jackson street. and where the old Fire house is today and being rebuilt to office space.)

As Dixon was growing, in 1877 a new paper was about to make an appearance called the Dixon Dispatch. The new paper was to be run by Mr. C.L. Minor. One of the first headlines of the paper was "A school teacher horse whips the editor". The school teacher being Mr. A.M. Boggs the Principle of the High School. The origin of the conflict was that Mr. Minor the editor had said in his newspaper that Mr. Boggs was not competent as a teacher. As a result words were spoken and finally blows developed. This developed into assault charges being levied against Mr. Minor, who was charged with assault and fined \$20. As a result the Dixon Dispatch went out of business.

Meanwhile Mr. Hopkins sold the Tribune to Mr. A.B. Nye after owning it for about three years. Mr. Nye started his journalistic career in Vallejo, then joining the Oakland Enquirer before coming to Dixon.

Immediately a new paper emerged and it was to be called the Dixon Bulletin. The new Bulletin was to be published every Thursday. On April 1, 1877 the first issue came out with Alfred Owen as Editor and proprietor. The next month the editor and proprietor had changed hands as Mr. A. J. Patrick took over. Mr. Patrick was for a time publisher of the North San Juan Times. With the new Edition, the Bulletin was greatly improved in appearance and content. This paper also was short lived and another attempt was made with the starting of the Dixon Republic in 1880. By the end of the year the Dixon Tribune reported that the Republic had suspended operation and that one good newspaper was enough for Dixon.

In 1892 it was reported that the following towns were sending correspondence to the Tribune, Dutton's Landing, Davisville, Elmira, Vacaville, Suisun, Fairfield, Maine Prairie, Cordelia, Tremont, Benicia, Vallejo and Winters.

In 1883 a fire broke out in Dixon and the Tribune lost much equipment along with the presses. This was a serious fire to the town as several buildings were lost. The fire started on Nov. 19, 1883 in the Pearson House, the Union Hall, Tribune office, Misfeldt saloon, Kings Hotel, Van Sants grocery and part of Eppingers were lost. (The area which we speak of here was located between Jackson Street and Main Street and on the south side of B Street, notably what is now Main Street). As a result McDermott & Landsburg and George Martin offered the Tribune the use of their workshop until the Tribune could establish a permanent office. Mr. Ed Leake was the next editor at the time of the fire. He was owner of the Woodland Democrat and added the Tribune. The Tribune was back in operation by Jan. 1884.

In 1885 it was published that the Tribune was still being published on Saturday mornings and the subscription price was \$2.50. In 1888 Mr. Ed Hayward, foreman of the Tribune office was watching the machinery and a fire broke out without warning and a flame flashed up in his face and burned it. Fortunately, he was near McBride's drug store and got medication immediately and prevented any disfigurement of his face.

The next Tribune owner in 1892 was Arthur L. Henry and his partner Robert Willott. Shortly thereafter Willott passed away and Louis Peterson bought his interest. Then Fred Hutton bought out Henry's interest, later becoming sole owner by buying out Peterson. This was done in 1886.

Shortly after they took over the paper Dixon was hit by the earthquake and the Tribune office was again a shambles. The Tribune temporarily moved across the street opposite the Old Fellows building and later moved permanently under the Old Opera House. Which was on B Street between Main Street and Jackson Street?

Rowland Moss became editor and publisher in 1905 when he purchased the Tribune from Fred Hutton. Who went into the dairy business and later the owner of the Dixon Lumber Yard. Mr. Moss had done newspaper work in London England in prior years. After selling the Tribune to Mr. H.W. Bessac, Mr. Moss began in the banking business at the Bank of Dixon as this was more profitable than the newspaper business.

In December of 1906 the Tribune moved yet again into the Vendome Hall where it expects to remain permanently. In 1907 new presses were purchased and installed to provide better and clearer print.

In 1911 foundation had been laid for a new concrete block building south of the Odd Fellows building which again was to be the permanent home of the Tribune. (This would be just south of Bud's restaurant).

In 1913, Mr. H.W. Bessac who had owned the Tribune for the past seven years retired and the business was sold to Mr. Fred G. Dunnicliff. Mr. Dunnicliff made a

change in publishing days to Friday instead of Saturday to enable dealers to get their propositions to readers before they leave for town for Saturday trading.

In 1915 the Tribune replaced the old job press with a modern Mergenthaler typesetter one of the finest pieces of machinery ever brought into Dixon. Things ran smoothly for the next few years until a motor got over heated and a fire again broke out resulting in \$8000 worth of damage.

In 1941 Bert Van Sant the former local constable was the possessor of the oldest Tribune, having a copy of the 1876 issue.

For 51 years the Dunniycliff family owned and published the Dixon Tribune, Fred Sr. followed by sons Dean and Fred Jr. In the following years Gordon Gojkovich was owner of the Tribune, the next owner was the Gibson Publishing Co.

The Dixon Tribune, newspaper that started in business in 1876 remains in business today serving the needs of the local residents.

This article was written with the help of the Dixon Library archives.

Dixon's Oranges

If you were a kid in Dixon in the 1940's and 1950's you would surely remember the Orange juice stands along the state highway. If you weren't let me tell you a little about this business. During this period of time, automobiles weren't equipped with air conditioners, so when you were hot and tired from driving, it was a pleasure to see a round orange building that served cold, fresh orange juice. It was not limited to travelers, as the locals also enjoyed the service. Kids on their way home from the swimming pool or the play ground or after a hot football practice could be seen heading there. It also provided a job for many high school kids.

The first Orange juice stands didn't start in Dixon. They started in the central part of the state and eventually made their way up the hot Central Valley. Mr. Frank Pohl who came from Ohio and moved to Richmond, California opened a Lemonade stand there. From there he moved to Tracy, California where he opened the first Giant Orange stand. Here he served orange, lime, lemon and grapefruit juice along with root beer and colas. This started around 1928. He franchised the Giant Orange name for the Pohl family. The first juice was done by hand but later it was extracted by a hand machine. He expanded from Tracy and went to Banta and then north to Sacramento. His first round orange stand had one window but soon expanded to three windows to serve more people. He also started serving sandwiches and selling candy and cigarettes. Next he started with drive-in service. This juice was served in a 14 once glass and cost 25 cents. Employees were being paid 33 1/3 cents per hour. In 1944 the Pohl's retired and Mr. Oliver Hartman purchase six of Mr. Pohl's stands.

After Mr. Pohl's retirement, his daughter Burnette married Arent Ballanger and they opened a Giant Orange stand in Dixon. It was located on Adams Street which was then Highway 40 where they could take care of travelers, as well as the local community. Valencia oranges were trucked up from the Central Valley twice a week to provide the juice. When Valencia oranges were out of season navel oranges were used. Mr. Ballanger provided the same drive-in service that the other stands provided. Thus it gave quite a few kids a good job for the summer. It wasn't long before other Orange stands popped up. The Great Orange, Big Boy Orange, and Mammoth Orange were examples of this.

While Mr. Ballanger was doing quite well, a local girl was working for him at the Giant Orange. She realized what a money making business this was. So she came home one day and mentioned this to her father and uncle who were in the dairy business. She told them she thought they could make some money, if they invested in their own orange juice stand. One brother liked the dairy business but the other one wasn't that sold on the business. She finally convinced them to help her get started. Joe

her uncle said that if she could make money the first year that he would open up a permanent stand. So the Giant Orange was born, also known as George's Orange. If you go out west A Street, the original Orange stand is still standing. This young school girl had her vision. She not only paid for expenses but made money. Thus, Alda George obviously knew what she was doing. As a bonus she met her husband to be, while working at the Orange. So her uncle Joe set up the business on the South West corner of Adams Street and west A Street. Then when the highway moved west of town they moved their Orange out to the A Street intersection, the now Highway 80. The Great Orange was also know for its juice hamburgers. Mr. Ballanger's Giant Orange move out to the highway also and located just north of the Milk Farm restaurant and had his business on both sides of the highway. This move was in best interests of the business but made it more difficult for the local kids to enjoy the juice. Like so many other business it is a thing of the past but well remembered.

Information was gathered for this article with help of the Dixon Library archives.

Grangers Business Association of Dixon

A few years ago I was given a box containing several property deeds and two large bound books being the complete Corporate Minutes of the Grangers Business Association. These minutes are an invaluable and continuous record of one of Dixon's first and largest businesses and of the life and times of Dixon and its citizens. I thought I'd extract some of the highlights from the minutes so you can get a glimpse of business and economic life in Dixon from 1875 to 1963.

On March 7, 1875 one of Dixon's first businesses was formed. On that date a committee appointed by Chairman of the Dixon Grange No. 19 met at the Bank of Dixon. The committee consisted of the following S.G. Little, James A. Ellis, J.M. Dudley, J.S. Mayes, J.C. Merryfield, H.E. McCune, S.J. McMahan, G.M. Coulter, and F.E. Russell. This was the start of the Grangers Business Association which lasted until Jan. 4, 1963. At the next meeting they elected S. G. Little as chairman and J.A. Ellis as secretary. At this same meeting they decided to Incorporate and solicit subscriptions of stock. The necessary papers were filed with the county clerk. On April 21, 1875 they received their articles of incorporation. At the May 15, 1875 meeting was the day they elected the 9 trustees to the board, numerous names were voted on and the following were nominated, J.M. Dudley, J.S. Mayes, G.S. Garnett, J.Kline, P. Snyder, S.G.McMahan, F.E.Russell, A.Ellis and J.F. Brown. Then officially J.M. Dudley was elected President and J.S. Mayes Vice President. J.A. Ellis secretary, and J. S. Garnett treasurer for the ensuing year.

In the articles of Incorporation it indicated the purpose for which the Association was formed and was as follows: to deal in all kinds of Agricultural Produce, Livestock, wool, Agricultural Implements and General Merchandise. To ship grain and other merchandise to and from foreign and domestic ports, to charter and load vessels to and from foreign and domestic ports, to manufacture all kinds of agricultural Implements, sacks and other articles and to engage in general warehousing, to purchase all real estate necessary to successfully conduct the business, to purchase Bank of America Stock and Stock in the Granger's Business Association of California. The group's first purchase was the Kelly warehouse and land known as the Wilcox tract for \$6000. Then arrangements were made to weigh grain, take care of book keeping and grain hauling. Also arraignments were made to water sprinkle the grounds to keep dust down.

The Directors agreed to meet at 1:00 pm, the last Saturday of every month to conduct business. Discussion was had with the railroad to build a spur to service their yard but was rejected by the Rail road. During the second year of operation the association had a net gain of \$2186.78. In the year 1877 the charge for weighing grain was .10 cents per ton. In 1878 corrals were built along with livestock scales. Mr. B. F.

Kelly was employed as clerk at \$66.00 per month. Grain was hauled at 20 cents per ton. Another item of business was with the Rail Road to discuss a depot grounds and a deed was signed. In the year 1880 the net gain to the Association was \$1495.50. During this period a hay shed was constructed to store hay in. Anyone could store their hay for \$1.00 per ton at the owner's expense.

In 1881 there were 57 delinquent stock shares put up for sale and most were purchased by the Directors. Each year the Board of Directors was voted on and each year the same people were reappointed. The officers did change regularly. In the year of 1883 the business report showed a net gain of \$1926.89. This year the Association paid a dividend of \$1.50 per share. The Board also looked into the issuing of Stock certificates to the share holders. By 1884 profits were up and a \$3.00 per share dividend was paid. This income was mostly derived from the storage of grain.

In 1886 a piece of land was sold to the City of Dixon to put up a waterworks for the city. That is where the present day water tower still stands. The price paid for this property was \$500. A piece was also given to the city if they would provide water to the Grangers Business Association. On a piece of the Association's land was a lumber yard. The owner had constructed a building and wanted to exchange the building for two years of free rent. The sales price was to be \$100, this offer was declined. Eventually this property was leased to the Pudget Sound Limber Co. as there were several warehouses on the property. One was used to store farm equipment in during the winter months. During these past years the dividends remained about the same, paying \$2.00 per share to its shareholders.

In 1894 several citizens came before the board those being, J.M. Bell, J.F. French, G. Jansen and W.E. Newby asking if the Association would grant a Right Way from the Methodist church to the Rail Road Depot. It was decided to do so. Because the City never showed interest in opening a street the Board rescinded their offer. Only a walk way remains today.

In 1896 Mr. H. A. Ross a member of the Board was appointed to contact Mr. Schulze a partner of Mr. Eppinger to see if the Grangers could purchase the Eppinger warehouse which was located on Granger property. The partnership said they would sell for \$400. The Association said to offer \$250 for the building on condition that the partners would not engage in any warehouse activity business in Dixon. It finally settled at the price of \$350.

In 1897 a watering trough, a horse rack and other improvements were authorized to accommodate the patrons. Discussion also took place with regard to building a hay warehouse and also letting others build a hay warehouse on Association property. It

was decided to let Mr. J.S. Garnett lease a portion of land to build his hay warehouse. This was done on south E St. and was called warehouse # 3 or the Hill warehouse.

The year 1898 had its problems, this year produced some crop failures and it was recommended that the salary of the manager be reduced. Of course he objected and said that he promised that if that was a monetary loss he would accept no pay for himself on certain conditions: no repairs be done on buildings no expert fees and no salary and his promise was accepted. The President said he would serve without pay also.

The next year came and it was reported that a quantity of sugar beet seed had been stored over the winter as well as Mr. McCann harvester and the Eppingers had left 38,000 sacks in bales at the warehouse. What should the charges be? It was decided for the present that no charges be made. Construction of a new warehouse was discussed and Mr. S. G. Little, Mr. R.J. Currey and Mr. A. Leigh were to look into a corrugated building to hold 5000 ton. Mr. J.Pritchard submitted plans to build a 60 foot by 400 foot warehouse at an price estimate of \$8740. It was decided not to build at present. Mr. Pritchard was given \$10 for his plans and estimate. Rates of storage were discussed with the Tremont warehouse and Batavia warehouse and it was decided that they should get together and make a uniform rate.

When 1900 rolled around several of the old board for some reason or another were replaced with some new blood. Mr. Ross was President and George Ulsteen was running the business with a salary of \$900 per year. Grain storage and handling prices were set at 15 cents per ton. Because of a surplus of last year's grain and with a new crop about to begin it was decided to build some temporary buildings to cover the grain. By now there were 5 warehouses already on the premises. To build these temporary sheds the cost was estimated to be about \$500 and it would house 14,000 sacks or 800 ton. At the same time discussion began to erect a large warehouse in the spring. Another item that came up was Mr. L. Gottheimer proposed to sell the Association 2300 sacks which he had for 6 ½ cents per sack. The purchase was made. Another item of business was made by the Bay Counties Power Company who wanted to erect two power poles through the Association property. After much discussion and negotiations it was approved. The Power Company was given an easement and right of way for a sum total of \$1.00.

As 1901 rolled around the discussion again came up. Someone had heard about a new warehouse being built in Marysville. As it was to be a modern building it was suggested that someone go up to Marysville and inspect their building. This appeared to be just what they wanted so a new warehouse was built in place of warehouse No. 1. Next discussions took place with the Rail Road to make a change to the track so as to accommodate the new warehouse. As it was going to cost \$650 to change the track the

board decided to move the building so as not to incur the extra cost. Then Mr. J. P. Pritchard was contacted to erect the structure. The warehouse was to be constructed of wood with a shingle roof. Mr. Pritchard was to be paid \$5.50 per day and his carpenters were to receive \$3.00 per day, the helpers were to get \$2.00 per day. After all this preparation it was decided not to build the warehouse but to repair the old one. A decision was made to purchase a corner piece of property from Mrs. J.A. French to give the teams of horses a better approach to the scales. The Board also rented a piece of land to D. McKinnan for a coal and wood yard. A proposition was brought to the board to rent or purchase a piece of the Associations property to build a Fruit Cannery. A motion was made to lease a piece of property for 20 years at \$50 per year or if they wanted to purchase the price would be \$500, it was carried. Another mention was of a party desiring a piece of land to build a new flour mill. It was decided that the group could purchase the property for the sum of \$200 if they would erect a mill of a value of no less than \$5000. Repairs to a warehouse were completed at a cost of \$2271.05 and the bills were reviewed and accepted except for over charge to J.P. Pritchard Jr. of 20 cents.

In the year 1903 an advertising agency approached the Board to erect a sign board on the north end of warehouse #3 at a yearly cost of \$2.50. the Board was called upon to establish a fixed rate for storage of wool, fruit and nuts. The following were the rates, 25 cent per bale of wool for three months, 10 cents per hundred pounds of nuts for four months and 5 cents per hundred pounds of canned goods for four months, to be stored in warehouse #3.

A year later a portion of warehouse #4 was rented to Drayman Winn to use for a wood yard at a rental cost of \$8.00 per year. Another advertising firm from Sacramento, Dodge & Killen became interested in taking over the San Francisco advertiser space and adding to it, at \$5.00 per year. A hog pen was constructed this year also. In the year 1905 the city of Dixon passed an ordinance to compel warehouse owners to pay a license fee of \$10 a year was introduced.

In the year 1907 R.E.L. Stephens rented a small portion of association property to erect a tank house at a rent of \$2.00 per year. Mr. E. K. Wilson leased some property to expand his wood and drayage business with the addition of coal.

In 1908 the By-Laws were amended to elect five members to the board instead of nine, due to the fact the number of stock holders was smaller.

In the year 1909 the city asked the Association to erect a sidewalk on the west side of their property, that being along what was then known as Fitch Street and now known as Jefferson Street.

In 1910 the Board decided to purchase the Cannery building which had sat ideal for three years and to offer a price of \$1000 to \$1500 for the building.

The next few years continued about the same as the years before with the usual repairs being done. In 1914 an electric rail road became interested in locating a spur line on the south end of the property, it was to end on about A Street and run to the south. This ultimately ran south to connect with the O.A. & E. Railway, at Rio Junction, later known as the Sacramento Northern.

In 1917 the Board added a Burroughs adding machine for office use. The following year the Association sold a portion of their land to P.G. & E. for their substation. This was located along side of what is now A Street. This year they started paying the Directors \$25 for services rendered. This was rescinded to say \$10 per month.

In 1922 no dividends were issued due to the street assessments. This held true for the next several years. The year 1924 brought about a change in how things were done as the minutes up to this point we're all hand written. Starting with this year all the minutes were type written. Ben and Edith King purchase a piece of land from the Association to build a house on (this house is still standing today on the north side of A St. west of the railroad tracks next to the Pro Gas building) for the sum of \$ 700 .

It was business as usual. In 1933 the Dixon Lumber Co. leased a shed and cement building for the sum of \$10 per month. They also leased a strip of land to the S. P. railroad for \$10 per year. Charles McGimsey also leased a piece of property for five years for \$100 per year. In 1935 a discussion with regard to a pipe line to the swimming pool was made and passed. Plans to replace warehouse #1 were discussed. This was changed to located north of #2. Finally, it was decided to locate where #1 was and to be built of corrugated iron and have a cement floor.

In 1936 it was passed to extend the lease of the Robben Bros for two years this building was located on the west side of the tracks across from the old train depot and where the new depot stands today. A couple of years later they sold the shed and lease of merit to Carl Muller Jr. for \$10.

In the year 1939 two women were on the board of Directors. It was also decided to change the accounting system from the calendar basis to a fiscal year basis. In this year it was also decided to give full time employees two weeks payed vacation. A piece of property was sold to W.J. Weyand and Ralph Weyand known as the California Mealfalfa Company for \$150.

In 1940 the old #3 warehouse was torn down and the lumber was sold to P. Panizza for \$75. This year it was also decided to cement the floor of # 5 warehouse s

more space to store grain was needed. Mr. J.C. Bateman laid the 5 inch concrete floor at a cost of \$2388. The yearend storage was totaled and 166,640 sacks of grain were stored weighing 18,287,055 pounds or 9,143 ½ tons. The accrued storage amounted to \$11,429.37. By now the original directors were long gone and a totally new board existed and they were W.D. Petersen, Mrs. Matilda Hall, E.D. Dudley, Ray Rohwer and Roland Moss. 1941 looked like it might be a light grain yield year due to a prolonged rainy season so no improvements were done this year. The matter of wool storage came up and it was decided to charge 25cents the first month and 10 cents per month thereafter. The tonnage figures for this year were 5,021.7 tons which were made up of Wheat 782 tons, Barley 3675 tons, Milo 102 tons, and Alfalfa meal 427 tons.

In 1942 it appeared that there was going to be a shortage of sacks for grain and the matter of bulk handling was looked into. At this point there had been no positive demand for bulk storage and with the expense of providing bulk storage, it was not justified at this time. In 1943 the Poultry Producers lease was discussed. This building remains today and it runs alongside the rail road track on the east side of the track just south of the north crossing. It is a long corrugated iron building.

In 1944 Mr. H. Morris & Sons asked to purchase the property north of Mayes Street alongside the rail road track and south of A Street for a manufacturing plant. The purchase was made for \$5000 and was in the name of Penetrator Syphon Company. That building is now in use by Air Perfection System. Also arraignments to charge 12 ½ cents for weighing and use of the yard by the Riverbank Canning Co. was approved. It was decided that 6 ½ cents would go the association and 6 cents to the office staff for overtime and Sunday work.

In 1948 a lot was sold to Charles McGimsey for \$2000. The following year a discussion on the condition of the corporation resulting from increased costs of operation and decreasing volume of storage through bulk handling and field deliveries, resulted in a recommendation to the directors to consider the feasibility of a sale of the business. After discussion it was decided that sale of the physical assets alone, would not be desirable, but that efforts should be made to arrange for a lease rental of the property. Discussion was had relative to the advisability of leasing the warehouse and scales facilities of the corporation to Kerr Gifford & Co. Inc. of California a corporation. It was accepted and subject to the approval of the shareholders. The lease was for ten years with an option of five more for \$6000 per year. They also sold the personal property for \$1500. As of June 1950 the corporation was no longer doing business.

In 1953 with the assets left in the Bank, the Association purchased stock in the Bank of America which was originally the Bank of Dixon, Boston Edison, Home Insurance Company, P.G.& E. Co. and the Southern pacific Company. In 1955 the assets and liabilities were \$81,421.05. By 1957 Cargill Company was leasing the

property. Then the Association asked Cargill if were interested in purchasing the property. In the meantime the association deeded to the City of Dixon certain parcels of land.

In 1961 discussion was had with Cargill relative to the proposal received from Cargill to lease the property for five years at an annual rental of \$12,000 per year , with the option to purchase the property at the end of five years for \$40,000.

By 1963 the property and all assets had been sold and all that was left was cash in hand, this was then distribute to the stock holders and the name Grangers Business association was sold to Ralph Moss a stockholder for the sum of \$1.00. At the time of settlement all shareholders had to surrender their shares in the Corporation. Then came the dissolution of the Corporation and the ending to one of Dixons oldest and important businesses.

In conclusion, for those who are interested in just where the holdings were located I will try and explain. To start as a reference point we will use the S.P. rail road track. To the north, the property bordered E Street. On the south it included what is now the City water tower and the P.G. & E. substation. On the west it bordered what was then Fitch Street and which is now called Jefferson Street. It included a small portion on the east side of the railroad tracks and extended to the south down to what is now the Solex business. At this time a good portion is unoccupied and which the new Train depot is located. Hopefully this helps in locating the property . This article was compiled with the help of the Dixon Library Archives.

Dec. 13, 1962

How Dixon Mammoth was discovered

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schulze, whose home is on Currey Road 3 miles north of Dixon, received word recently that Monticello Dam was about to release water into Putah Creek Sunday, December 2.

For weeks the creek had been entirely dry, permitting the State Highway Department to take out tons of gravel for the six laying of the 7 mile stretch along Highway 40 north of Dixon.

Odd stones exposed

When Sunday arrived, Bob decided to take a hike with his wife to see the water come in. During the stroll along the dry creek bottom he noticed three curious rocks jutting up close together from the sand. On careful examination he noted the rocks had a strange bone structure with cellular formation.

After talking them loose from the saying he felt sure they were fossilized bones of some animal.

They were located near enough together that in such position they concluded they were all from the same animal and, if so, it would be reasonable to assume that there might be many more fossilized bones immediately below.

A job for scientists

He did not want to disturb the area anymore since he felt that only trained scientists should be able to uncover the complete skeleton without damaging some of the parts. By Sunday evening water from the dam had completely covered the spot of discovery, but Bob had made careful notes identifying the position as so as to be able to return to it again as the water in the creek periodically goes down.

University confirms find

To satisfy his own curiosity, he took all bones found to the University California the next day confirmed with Dr. Donald Savage of the paleontology Department there. Dr. Savage identified the Dixon find as genuine fossilized bones of a woolly mammoth. He further offered to carry out further diggings at the identical Putah Creek site for the purpose of locating the mammoth skull, jaw load and other skeletal remains.

Discovery hunt planned

Schulze readily agreed to work with the University in this project that as soon as conditions at the creek permitted, it is expected that the UC crew will go ahead with their Dixon explorations.

Mr. and Mrs. Schulze had recently returned from a trip which took them to Greece, where they saw many relics, some 2500 years old. On returning home to Dixon we take a short hike from our home and find relics which were perhaps 500,000 years old, chuckle. Actually we never saw anything in Europe as ancient as the bones we found right here in Dixon he concluded.

Bob and Barbara Schulze Dixon may have the credit for the opening of a new feels of prehistoric exploration in central California, it appears from University reports on bone discoveries by them in Putah Creek on December 2.

Dr. Donald Savage of the University of California in Berkeley and Mary Elizabeth Shutler, archaeologists from the University of California Davis, agree that the Schulze discovery is the remains of a woolly mammoth and that it is almost certain that other similar bones of prehistoric creatures will be unearthed by an expedition which is planned by University specialists to comb the discovery site for further finds.

A pelvic bone, thighbone, leg boat and knee bone of the mammoth will be on display at Dixon Chamber of Commerce offices during Thursday.

The Dixon discovery has awakened much interest in scientific circles. The Channel 10 news staff under the direction of Bill Wilson of KX TV will arrive in Dixon Saturday to film a news program in corporation with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. The program will give the main story of the Dixon mammoth and is expected to be scheduled on 11 PM program of Channel 10 on Saturday evening, December 15.

June 6, 1930

Below is interesting comment on the vanished Maine Prairie from the "Knave", in the Oakland Tribune & signed O. E. M.:

Who now can remember Maine Prairie in Solano County? At one time it was a greatest shipping point in California, when the state was one of the grain exporting regions of the world. This was before the construction of the California Pacific Railroad from Vallejo to Sacramento before the overland railroad was completed. Now Maine Prairie has disappeared from the list of post offices. The only suggestion remain of what is was once a large four-story warehouse building about 1867 by Capt. Charles Merrithew, who ran the principal steamboat carrying passengers and freight between Maine Prairie and San Francisco. At least, the warehouse was even there seven or eight years ago. There were two other steamers running regularly between these points besides numerous schooners, and scows. Maine Prairie was at the head of Cache Slough a tide channel extending 60 miles back from the Sacramento River a few miles above Rio Vista. It had the appearance of a river. In some places it was more than a quarter of a mile wide. Its banks were vertical in the hard black earth so that vessels could be moored to the shore without the necessity of a wharf. I once saw an oceangoing steamer, the Brother Jonathan, tied up to the bank to rid it of barnacles in fresh water. There is no indication that Cache Slough was ever a part of the Sacramento River channel. Apparently, it was formed when the great inland California Sea drained off through the Golden Gate. In 1866 and 1867, the west side of the Sacramento Valley was one great wheat field. Some portion produced 2 tons to the acre. When the grain was thrashed the production of freighters started. A large portion consisted of three wagon tandems. The bed of the foremost was 5 feet or more in depth. The first trailer was smaller and the rearmost smallest of them all. The team was 12 miles driven by a single line. The driver rode perched high on the projecting fore end of the big wagon, or he rode the near wheeler. The single line was fastened to the ring of the long brake lever and extended out to rings between the ears of the swing mules to the outside ring of the new leader. The off leader was steered by a jockey sticks fastened to the lower end of the hames on the near leader. The other end was fastened to the offside ring of the off leader.

Then the town died

Frequently Jews harp band of iron fastened to the upper end of the hames on each mule carried a chain of four bells these varied the monotony of the long, hot, dusty road. They were smaller outfits with 10 or eight mules or horses, having only two wagons, down to the two horse wagon. Through the day these teams were scattered along the roads from as far north as Colusa County. The regular freighters remain in town overnight and started in the morning. One forenoon I counted over 100 teams coming away from the town and forming, a continuous line. In those days Maine Prairie was a busy place, even between harvests. There were several large warehouses for grain, various stores, hotels, a steam grist mill, a telegraph line and most accessories of such a town. One peculiarity would attract attention, the warehouses and lumber yards were located up on heavy timbered platforms 10 to 12 feet above the ground. This way was in 1886 and 1887 when the spring floods of the Sacramento River covered the country miles back from the channel. In the lower part of town, the water was sometimes 8 to 10 feet deep. The overflow extended a half-mile or more beyond the town. When the California Pacific was

built, the freighting business came to an end so far as Maine Prairie was concerned. Woodland, in Yolo County became the terminal for the Valley to the north. Thus ended a chapter in California history.

June 16, 1916

This pioneer bought ox with savings

W. J. McElwaine, retired rancher, will soon celebrate his 82nd birthday. He was not always a rancher, however, having had experience as a miner, butcher and retailer.

W.J. McElwaine was 17 years old when he came to California, from Illinois, to which state his parents had moved from New York a few years previously. Of course there was no train across the plains other than the ox cavalcade, and he had the usual hardships, as well as novelties of the trip to the west by that way. He had one dollar when he reached Sacramento. The town burned down, and was a most unpromising River town. Soon afterwards he got a job watching the river at night at six dollars a night, and did not know that the regular wage was \$10. Sooner than pay the high hotel charge he got a blanket and slept on the bank of the river, and cooked his meals in tin cans, getting all the vegetables he wanted from the boats as they came down the stream. He saved his wages. Then he went to Diamond Springs, where he worked as miner \$125 a month and board. His first month's pay consisted of two gold slugs, a \$20 slug and a five dollar piece. It was the most money that he had seen before and anyone time in his life. He worked three months, prospecting on Sundays and cleaning up around \$10 and \$20 a day. Tired of working for others he struck out for the South Fork of the Feather River, where, he in company with two or three others they flooded the river. He had \$1500 when he began and quit. Previous to his venture he had made some money in a rather novel way. While in Sacramento with \$300 in his pocket he saw a man coming down front Street with a yoke of oxen. He asked the price, not knowing just why he did it. The fellow said \$300, will you sell one? Yes, how much, \$150. Unyoke that one. He led the ox away, soon realizing that it was a sort a white elephant as well as an ox. He took it to a livery stable for the night and had to pay three dollars for the stabling. Out on the bank of the river he went to sleep, but in reality to figure out what to do with the ox. The next morning he bought 5 gallons of whiskey and 50 pounds of tobacco, which he hung on the cross tree of the crude saddle it started for Hang town leading his ox. On the outskirts of the camp he killed the ox and cut it up to retail meet. He sold liquor for two bits a drink, and retailed the tobacco at a good figure. Before 10 o'clock it cleaned up everything and was \$400 to the good. He asked the stage driver what it would cost for right back to Sacramento, a distance of 45 miles and was told \$25. He concluded to walk and was in the city in a day and a half jaunt. This time he bought two oxen, some more liquor and tobacco, and going back to Hangtown cleanup \$800 by noon.

After this he made a mistake by buying a string of pack mules, for freighting was not as profitable as butchering. He next went to Butte County, where he obtained land and in 1874 came to Solano County where he obtained land and has since resided, rearing six children and accumulating enough to live on comfortably the rest of his days.

Libraries

In the late 1880's idle time wasn't something that people had a lot of. But if there was such a thing reading was about the only other activity. There wasn't television or very many radios to occupy ones time. Thus the importance of libraries was important. The first libraries around Dixon were located in the schools, town as well as the country schools.

The first account of a library was located in the Pitt School district about three miles south of town. In 1879 this country school had 200 volumes while the Dixon district had but 9 volumes. This wasn't a misprint; it was a total of nine. Things remained this way for the next several years; in 1888 there was talk about starting a Free Public Library. A committee met in the Baptist church. Nothing permanent was decided. In 1891 more discussion was had and the idea that with the Dixon Academy closing and becoming the Union High School, perhaps one of the rooms in the school could be used as a library.

The following year the Parmalee Library Company came to town and set up a local library and solicited subscriptions from the town's people. They were given a two year contract. They provided bound volumes and a good selection. During the two years books were added to the library so at the end of the two years there were 400 volumes with which to start a public library. At this time the Baptist church again discussed the possibility of adding on a room to the church for a library but nothing was accomplished.

In 1905 the Women's Improvement Club was formed and more discussion was had concerning a Public Library. As usual nothing was decided but The New Traveling Library came to town and set up a free library and S.E. Morse was the librarian. Things became more serious in 1908 with the Women's Improvement Club secured legislation and funds to establish the Andrew Carnegie Public Library. So the Women's Improvement Club took the initiative and started the project. This laid the foundation for the library. Andrew Carnegie the philanthropist had started the Carnegie Foundation to provide funding for libraries under certain conditions but Dixon was too small a town to qualify. Henry Petersen a local business man had ties to the state legislature and with his intervention received the okay to get the project started. On Feb. 23, 1913 the Dixon library was dedicated on land donated by the Schulze family. The dedication ceremony included the Dixon band and refreshments were enjoyed.

Before the building was finished the County Board of Supervisors decided that the High School District would also be the Library District. Thus the High school Board would manage the new library and Miss Hutchinson was made librarian. As Dixon had

already started collecting books it became a success immediately. By 1922 the value of the library was \$30,000.00.

The next librarian was Miss Della Eggert who took a leave of absence to attend UC riverside to obtain her teaching credentials. Mrs. Eggert Rohwer substituted for her. An incident occurred in 1930 that involved Mr. Ralph Moss. While he was in the library, three women stole his Ford Roadster, which was later recovered on the highway. I guess one could say it didn't pay to be in reading books that day. The next reported incident was someone stole the January issue of Harpers magazine.

By 1939 the library checked out three thousand books in one month. During this year Miss Mary Hitchcock, the librarian gave a talk to the Rotary luncheon. During this period of time reading throughout the United States increased sixty percent. Lack of employment due to the depression turned many people to reading. There were 900 book borrowers in Dixon.

To this day, Dixon has benefitted greatly from the Dixon Library. And we have the Women's Improvement Club to thank for their initiative in getting the library built. Unfortunately there is talk of tearing down the old Carnegie building and replacing it with a new one. Having stood at its present location for almost 100 years it seems a shame to do so.

Mace Meat Company

One of the largest employers in Dixon was that of the Mace Meat plant located north of town, which now is just an empty lot on the east side of Highway 113. C. Bruce Mace came to Dixon from Western Utah as a young man with a few dollars in his pocket and a skinning knife in his hand. His first purchase was the Dixon City Market located down town which was a retail butcher shop. He did this with a partner Mr. Meyers from Galt, this endeavor didn't last too long as he sold his interest for a few dollars. In the meantime he purchased the Hutton dairy north of town and converted this into a slaughter house and concentrated on the whole livestock business. His next purchase was that of the B.F. Newby 20 acres adjoining the property he already owned. His next purchase was that of the old Ice House located near the train depot, which he moved out to the slaughter house. At this time his operation was small, slaughtering a few head of cattle and averaging around ten to twelve sheep per day. This was done with about six men. Along with the livestock they produced about a barrel of tallow per day which was used for soap and this supplemented the income by \$50.00 per day. Besides selling locally they expanded their selling to Davis and Sacramento. Then they purchased a truck and delivered to San Francisco. They would take several carcasses and find buyers until they would sell their load. Dixon was fortunate to have had Mr. Mace locate here as several other communities were after him to locate in their communities. At this time he was helped in his business by his brothers, Alden, Calvin and Dick Leathers. A couple of years later, Del Grieve of Davis partnered up with Bruce Mace and they were partners for 17 years without ever having drawn up any papers, consulting an attorney or even having a witness to the partnership. During all those years they never had a disagreement. Both partners were very good judges of livestock with added to the success of the business. In 1941 when they dissolved the partnership Grieve received \$500,000.00 for his one half interest in the business. In 1928 they had a slight set back when thieves stole 43 pelts from the plant, the thieves were never caught.

In 1931 they expanded and built a building to be used as a woolery, which was a process of pulling the wool from the hide. This was later replaced by selling the pelts.

In 1933 he owned the property across the street from the plant where he had built his home which is still standing (the brick building) and just to the north of it on the triangle which is now occupied by the Dixon rental he built a service station (Associated Oil Company) which was run by Russell Merritt. A restaurant was also located here.

The next expansion took place in 1940 when they built large covered pens to house the livestock. They also added two refrigerated truck to make deliveries between here and San Francisco. Each truck could hold up to 7 ton of meat. As an example of

how things were going in April of 1941 production was processing 15,088 cattle, 99,420 sheep and lambs, 2,760 hogs, and 2,760 calves. Gross sales were \$2,501,464. There were 48 people on the payroll 32 of which were married and lived in Dixon and the payroll for the month was \$80,660. The total land covered was 18 acres, the cooler had a capacity of 350 beef and 1,000 sheep. There were seven trucks in operation that had a capacity to haul 96,000 pounds and they made deliveries every day but Sunday to the Bay Area as well as Sacramento. They also employed 40 sheep dogs to help with the operation.

Business prospered but in 1948 C. Bruce Mace sold his operation to Elmer and Orin Hill of Sacramento, Alden mace bought the interests of Calvin Mace, Eggert Rohwer ,Ralph Kidder and Dick Leathers and became the partner of the Hill brothers. This partnership lasted until and was ultimately sold to Armour and Co. This business was one of importance to Dixon as it provided employment to Dixon's citizens, supplied food and was run very well. Mr. Mace was very particular and strict in his sanitation ways and never caused any problems except maybe when the north wind blew and one could tell there was livestock in the area.

MAINE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

Maine Prairie (Also known as Main Landing) is located about 13 miles south east of Dixon. It like Silveyville was an early settlement in the Dixon Area. This area was a marsh land consisting of tules and wire grass. It was excellent feed for cattle. Prior to its establishment is provided excellent food and cover for deer, antelope, elk, coyotes, rabbits, ducks, geese, beaver and fishing. It was reported that there were grizzly bear in the Montezuma Hills to the south. Farming was attempted but was soon abandoned as the soil was made up of hardpan and alkali. The importance of this area was that it was located on a navigable slough that was connected to the Sacramento River system so it continued to grow. In 1859 Captain Merithew and J.N. Utter settled on the south bank of Maine Prairie Slough and set up a general merchandise store along with a grain and lumber business. The following year H.D. Deck H. Wilcox and W. D. Vail formed a partnership and began a general merchandise business on the north side of Maine Prairie Slough (Maine Prairie Slough is an extension of Cache Slough which empties into the Sacramento River). This was across the slough from the Merrithew operation. In 1960 a hotel was built by George King and other houses were built nearby. In 1860 a great flood took place and nothing remained after the food subsided. It was reported that there was 12 feet of water standing where the town once stood. A few rebuilt but many went a bit further up the slough and built on higher ground. It was estimated that the losses as a result of the flooding amounted to \$25,000. Mrs. Rebecca Lewis started a town about 1/4 mile away and named it Alton, being named by S.R. Perry an old resident of Alton, Illinois. At this time the Cushing Bros. moved in and set up a general merchandise business. Then S.R. Perry and William Palmer moved in and also opened a general store along with dealing in grain. Mrs. Lewis opened a hotel at the same time. The area despite the flood prospered and by 1861 there were 50 people living in the Maine Prairie-Alton area (later on it just went by the name Maine Prairie). Four hotel were built in Maine Prairie, the King hotel, the Cache Slough the Fort Sumpter and the Fort Pinckney. The rate to stay in the hotels was \$1.00 per day. The year 1863 saw a plentiful amount of rainfall thus producing a bumper crop of grain in the area, as a result yields where high, 36,000 pounds of wheat were brought in by one team of mules pulling three wagons a distance of 25 miles from Putah Creek. That same year 50,000 tons of grain was shipped out of Maine Prairie. Wagons from Montecello, Colusa, Williams, Arbuckle and points in between brought their grain here for shipment. The story goes that it was not uncommon to see 180 wagons filled with grain in a single day pulled by 8 or 10 mule teams. The following year was a dry year and grain production was so low only one load of grain was shipped. The schooners that were hauling the grain out brought in lumber and other supplies on their return trips. Along with Captain Merithew's general merchandise business he also built a schooner that was launched at Maine Prairie in 1875. Another business was developed by Beardsley & Dunton of

Maine Prairie who built several kilns to produce red bricks. A blacksmith shop was also built by E.W. Petrus. There were several warehouses in which to store grain built. Also a couple of saloons were built. There was a post office and telegraph office. A school was built in 1862 although the first one floated away during the flood and had to be relocated. A good deal of the houses and businesses were built on stilts after the flood.

In 1868 the California Pacific railroad was built and this changed the way grain was to be shipped. It didn't have to be hauled miles to the dock but could be delivered to the closest railroad station. Although in 1874, seven schooners loaded 635 tons of wheat in one week and shipped it along with bags of wool.

Other things started to occur in the area in 1883, John Lewis a Maine Prairie farmer raised tomatoes and brought them to Dixon for market. An interesting event took place in 1888. It was written "eighteen months ago Joe Etzel lost an open face, silver watch on the Henry Peters farm near Maine Prairie. It probably fell out of his pocket while he was galloping a horse after some cattle. Last Monday, one of Mr. Peters hired hands, while engaging in plowing, found the watch. It was a little discolored but the works were in good order and has been running ever since it was found. The field has been plowed, harrowed and run over with a harvester since the watch was lost." In 1889 Gus Luttgies built a new house near Maine Prairie in an octagon shape which was very unique, he had been a ship builder. Many years later when the house was abandoned it burnt down due to children playing with matches. In 1891 there was another landing just to the east of Maine Prairie one mile called Barnhart Landing where ships could dock. On one trip made from Stockton to bring general cargo it took 40 hours to make the trip due to high winds and rough water. The trip normally took 10 hours. In 1892 James Lewis experimented with the growing of strawberries and was successful in growing large flavorful berries. Schooners continued to bring lumber into Maine Prairie, in 1895 20,000 feet of lumber was brought in for the construction of Mr. Rayn's house. In 1912 twenty five or thirty farmers met in town and organized the Maine Prairie Telephone Company, with C. Parker president, H.G. Brown secretary and the Bank of Dixon as treasurer. The line would start from Kirby & Sons drug store where the exchange would be located and go a mile east and eight miles south and would accommodate about thirty families. In 1919 a group of Hindus operating in the Maine Prairie area planted rice. No plowing was done, just rice thrown on the ground and harrowed in. In 1922 asparagus was planted to the south of Maine Prairie.

About 1930 the Sacramento Bypass system was constructed and this helped the Maine Prairie area from flooding. This didn't stop flooding completely but certainly helped. About this same time the slough was filling up with silt and schooners could not get up to transport goods. In 1931 the old Maine Prairie warehouse burned down. This old building was 200x60 feet and consisted of two floors because of the flooding. This building was built in 1860 by C. Christenson, Ben McKay and G. Luttgies. All the lumber

used in construction was brought in by ship. Lumber as thick as 14x14 inches was used. The last owner was H. Peters. In 1933 the hotel, the last of the old buildings was torn down by W.W. Pritchard. The lumber from the 14 room hotel was used for sheep pens for Elwood Peters. Some of these timbers were over thirty two feet long. The school closed about 1948 when the school districts Unified and the children were bussed to town. Now the Dixon Boat Club has it club house located here.

October 23, 1914

A great bear hunt.

Grizzly got his man before posse brought big Berryessa marauder to death.

While in a reminiscent mood, G. W. Foster, now 84 years old a pioneer across the plains place, told the following bear story:

In the early days great herds of antelope galloped over the plains of Solano in deer and elk swarm the hills. We could go anywhere in the hills for grizzlies, instead of 200 miles, as at present.

One great hunt

The greatest hunt I know of took place in the early 60s, my neighbor, the late John Wolfskill, being one of the chief performers. He went into the hills by way of Putah Canyon to look up the land-grant covering the Valley now called Berryessa after the owner, a Spaniard. This tract of about 1000 acres of wooded land swarmed with bear, but the bear were giving much trouble, especially a giant grizzly, whose tracks stood out above all others to and from the creek.

A boy victim

A boy by the name of Wolfey started out to hunt the big marauder, and he never came back. Searching was made, but no trace of the boy was ever found, save his rifle, the stock of which was marred by their teeth. There was no doubt that the grizzly got him.

Posse organized

A posse of seven settlers was organized by Wolfskill and they set out for the timber. From the top of the knoll they overlooked a small depression in which they counted 14 grizzlies, but not the one they wanted this trip. Each hundred carried a rifle, but not the modern repeating weapon of today. They were single shotguns.

Plans to get monster

It was agreed that when confronted by the monster grizzly all would fire and stop him. And soon they had their fight. The bear came out of a clump of brush and it was a bad looking, even bigger than they expected to see. All fired at about the same time, but the grizzly did not drop. He rushed and got one of the men down. While the bear was gnawing and pawing him a rifle was loaded and a close ranging bullet was sent to the great brute's head, killing him.

While recovery was slow

The wounded man was carried back to camp and his wounds dressed. But the hole in his hip would not heal and gave him much trouble. Acting on a surmise, a couple of the men sought the carcass of the

bear and found one of his tusks missing. A physician was brought to camp and the bears tooth was found embedded against the bone. It was extracted and the young man recovered.

Old brick armory of immune and Civil War days serve beyond time of Binghamton post office

Editors note this article is the fourth in a series appearing in the Dixon Tribune telling the history of six post offices which at one time serve the Dixon area from about 1860 up through 1906. At this time the construction of a new post office for Dixon is in progress. Though the research efforts of Postmaster Jim Kilkenny, this local history series has found much reader interest for old-timers and descendants of northern Solano County pioneers.

The Binghamton office from 1864 two 1906

The community of Binghamton was one the three settlements that made up Maine Prairie Township. The other two were Morning Light and Enterprise. Due to the high water danger at Maine Prairie Landing, Binghamton became the cultural center and social center of the Township.

In 1861, J. F. Brown, J. B. Jamison, Sherman Brown, Albert Bennett, D. B. Brown, James Clark and H. M. Bentley settled in this area.

In 1863 with the country and a hot Civil War, the Maine Prairie Rifle were commissioned as a unit in the state militia by Gov. Stanford. The records show about 60 members of this unit with Albert Bennett as Captain, John Low, A. S. Hopkins and James Bingham, as Lieutenants.

The name Binghamton was eventually taken from Lieutenant Bingham. After the war the unit was disbanded by Gov. Haight and the 35 by 50 foot one-story armory sold to D. L. Munson. The only activity of the Maine Prairie Rifles was to assemble when some strange Indians appeared and started to gather up livestock. The alarm was sounded and the members assembled to fire a few volleys over the heads of the Indians who hastily fled into the tules to the East.

Munson ran a general merchandise store and added a second story to be used as an assembly place and social Hall.

When Munson retired, the building was sold to the school district and the lower floor used as a schoolroom and upper floor as a dance and social Hall.

The first teacher was a Mr. F. M. Righter. In 1865 Methodist Church was established with T. H. Woodard as minister and this area became a strong Methodist community. Even in these early days, there were factions and a group called the Protestant Methodist was formed in Maine Prairie Landing with Rev. T. New, Rev. G. Triplett, Rev. Dustin and Rev. Graves, as pastors. This group survived two years, maybe too many pastors and too few parishioners.

The Binghamton post office was established on July 25, 1864 with Richmond L. Gordon as postmaster. He was succeeded by David Munson, who also ran the general merchandise store, on July 7, 1871, the post office was discontinued on September 29, 1874, and again reestablished on October 16, 1874, with Luther M. Frick as postmaster. He was succeeded by William H Smith, in April of 1876, who served until the post office was finally closed on September 29, 1906. He had served as postmaster for over 30 years.

When the post office closed the records available showed the following people held post office boxes at Binghamton: Ed Sparling, Edward Rayns, J. L. Brown, C. S. Craig, A. J. Brown, J.C. Ninady, Henry Peters, H. G. Brown, C. Bernhart and C. Parker. Long after the post office was closed the old brick armory served as a school and social hall. The older folks may remember the wonderful times they had in that upstairs dance hall.

Again, some regret this building could not have been preserved as a landmark for historical interest.

OLD HIGHWAY 40

Like so many small communities Dixon was linked to larger cities, in our case it was Sacramento and San Francisco. This link was known, at first as the Lincoln Highway, named after President Lincoln. This project started in 1913. Then the name was changed to Highway 40, as it was decided not to name highways after people by the Federal Highways Act in 1921. This highway was to connect the West coast with the East Coast.

It might be of interest to follow the routes that went through Dixon. To do so, we will start west of town where Midway Road goes east from the present Highway 80. Midway makes a left turn and then becomes Porter Road where Porter road runs north into the city of Dixon. Just before Porter crosses Dixon Ave. West (A St.) there is a V in the road where the Dixon Water Tower and P.G. & E. substation are located. The right hand side of the V is Old Dixon road and dead ends at A St. At this point the old Lincoln Highway turned right, crossed the Rail Road Tracks and continues to 1st St. then turned left, went down Main Street and headed north to Currey Road. This construction took place in 1917 and was completed in 1918. It remained this way until 1926 when discussions began to change the route through town. One of the main reasons for moving the highway was to bypass the two Rail Road crossings plus eliminating some of the traffic on Main Street.

The first proposal was instead of turning east and going over the Railroad tracks was to go straight, across A St. and meet up with what was then Fitch Street now known as North Jefferson. It would then pass the Grangers buildings and corrals, continue north and meet up with what is now the V at the Buckhorn. This met with some problems, such as buildings in the road and sewer problems. The next proposal was to go straight north on Porter Road past the left side of the Dixon Water Tower and go straight north on Adams Street and meet at the same V on the north end of town. The first proposal was estimated to have cost \$33,000.00, the second proposal to cost \$54,000.00. Even with the higher cost the Adams Street proposal was selected. This project was started in 1929 and completed in 1930. It remained this way until Highway 80 was constructed, thus ending Highway 40 through Dixon. Highway 80 was completed by 1949.

Some of this information has been gathered with the help of the Historical section of the Dixon Library and other local sources.

Plunging Into Dixon History

It wasn't until about thirty years after Dixon was started that there was any mention about providing Dixon's residents with a swimming pool for recreational purposes. Prior to this, if one wanted to swim or cool off, one had to head north to Putah Creek. Unfortunately, it was several miles out of town, which made it difficult for the children of Dixon to enjoy. In 1928 Bert LaFountain a local merchant suggested that a plan be made to take a group of children to Putah Creek a couple times a week and give them instruction in swimming. The Phillips family who resided on the Creek offered there beach for the use of this endeavor.

About the same time two Sacramento young men and their wives purchase a piece of property on the curve on Porter Road south of Dixon on Old Highway 40. Their plan was to build a service station, a dance hall and a 40X80 foot swimming pool at that location. The service station and dance hall were built as well as the hole for the swimming pool but was never completed. This project started in 1928 and by 1933 it was over with. The story goes that no one stopped at this station so eventually it was abandoned. So this attempt at a pool ended.

Soon after that a committee was set up to investigate the possibility of a swimming pool in Dixon, the committee consisted of Mr. H. Brown, A.C. Madden, M. Carpenter, Max Cowden, and F. G. Daniel. Now, the problem arose as to how to finance the project. Besides the cities participation, it was suggested the Dixon School system might participate in helping finance the project. The Rotary Club also got involved. There also was an opportunity of some federal aid. PG&E also offered to furnish runoff water from their substation to fill the pool. They would be able to fill the pool in 24 hours. The project was to cost about \$2,000.00. Two locations were being considered, one south of the Arcade livery stable, the other a piece of land north of the City golf course. The property was offered free to the City by Dr. and Mrs. L.P. Hall. This piece of property was decided upon. The Federal representative was present and would provide the labor, with the city to provide the materials.

On Dec. 1, 1934 a meeting was called and Resolution # 6, 1934 was passed, delegating Mayor Kilkenny to sign applications to the State Emergency Relief Administration (S.E.R.A.) for their help. The long awaited swimming pool was about to begin construction. The Southern Pacific was to lay the pipe line to fill the pool.

In 1935 the project got underway and excavation for a 30X75 foot pool was started in what is now called Hall Park. The landscaping was also provided for by Dr. & Mrs. Hall. The labor was done by 17 men provided by S.E.R.A.

The project's final cost was \$3,269.00 which was paid for jointly by the city and the school system for four years. Construction was finished in Mar. of 1935 and was filled by June 1 and formally opening was June 5. 80 Children enjoyed that first plunge opening day.

The swimming pool remains at the same locating today except for the fact it has been renovated twice since that June 5 1935 opening.

Portuguese Picnic

The Portuguese Picnic was a Dixon tradition for twenty four years. During the period between 1930 and 1934 the local Portuguese community held its own picnic to the benefit of the whole community. Dixon enjoyed a large population of Portuguese due to the large Dairy industry in and around Dixon. Once known as "Dairy City" Dixon welcomed the Portuguese people because of their knowledge of the dairy business. It was this group of people who provided the labor to the local dairies. Then a bit later they started their own dairies. During this period of time they started the tradition they brought from the Azores Islands. This was a religious celebration know as the Holy Ghost Festival.

In 1930 Tony Dutra a prominent dairy farmer here in Dixon started the local festivities. One was started in Woodland the year before. The first queen of the festival was Mamie Azevedo a local girl and her attendants were Angelina Mello and Virginia Bello. The celebration began at St. Peter's Catholic Church with mass and then the parade which ended back at the church. After the parade a lunch was served, the first year 3,500 people were served. The meat was provided by the C. Bruce Mace meat plant and the meat was roasted by the Dixon Bakery. Then the celebration ended by a dance at the Fairgrounds. This first festival was such a success it continued the next year with it increasing in numbers. In 1931, 6,000 people were fed, this year they also had great display of fireworks which became a big part of the festival. What made these fireworks spectacular to the kids was that the fireworks not only shot up into the skies but several were attached to a fence and lit up in a progressive manner. The last firework of the evening was of the American flag.

In following parades Queens from other Holy Ghost festivals were invited to participate in the parades. In the second year Gloria Peters was the Dixon queen and her attendants were Alda George local girl that started the Great Orange) and Dorothy Bello. The parade consisted of drill teams as well as bands, decorated floats and people walking with flags participated. Then a carnival was added to the festivities, with a Ferris wheel and various rides. This event continued on through the years and in 1952 almost 7,000 people were fed. This year Dolores Ferrero Garton was the Queen. The following year her sister Linda was the Queen. This was the last year the festival was presented. During the 24 years of existence Tony Dutra who started the festival led every parade.

No one knows exactly why the Holy Ghost festival was discontinued but several reasons might have something to do with it. The parades had begun to get smaller, funding was a problem and the fact that there were hardly any dairy's left in the area to bring new Portuguese families into the area. There are still festivals being held in some

neighboring towns. It might be worth looking into where they are held and attend one yourself.

Post Office

With the development of the railroad the delivery of mail was made much easier as well as being much faster. In Dixon's case mail delivery started before the railroad came to be. To the north of Dixon about 3 miles in the township known as Silveyville the first post office was started in June 1854 and known as Putah. This post office was closed in December of 1858 as someone in Congress learned the English word meaning the Spanish word, Putah and that it did not add any dignity to a federal office. In July 1858 the post office reopened as Silveyville. E.J. Silvey was reappointed postmaster. He was the founder of Silveyville as well as operating a hotel, general store and bar. After Silvey, there were several postmasters in this order, next came William Sinclair in 1862, then Phillip Peck 1864, Robert Murphy 1866, John Cunningham 1867, David Musslemann 1868 and finally Mr. A. Kirby was postmaster until 1871 when the office was closed. In the meantime Silveyville moved to Dixon as the railroad was there and a post office opened there in 1869.

Along with the Dixon post office there were also post offices located at Tremont and Batavia also along the railroad tracks. These weren't actual towns but were centers of populations. In Tremont which was never a town but more of a trade center. There was a warehouse where grain was stored and shipped from, and is now occupied by a fertilizer company and a railroad building, a depot and post office. The Tremont post office was established in 1891 and the first postmaster was Henry St. Dick. This office lasted until 1886 when their mail went to Davis or Dixon. Early inhabitants of this area were Stick, Eggert, Runge, Sikes, Holdridge and Foster to name a few. South of Dixon was Batavia another trade center, a warehouse, stock yards a few stores and a hotel along with a post office were located. Some of their early inhabitants were the Tuck, Buckles, Webber, Byrnes and Sweeney to name a few. Then a little further south was Elmira. To the south of Dixon and not along the railroad was Binghamton which established a post office on July 25, 1864 discontinued September 29, 1874, reopened on October 16, 1874 and operated until September 29, 1906. After that rural mail delivery was used to deliver the mail.

In Dixon a post office started on January 26, 1869. The way mail was retrieved from the trains was by a mail catcher. An arm was located along the tracks and was snatched while the train was on the move. The reverse was done to send out the mail. At one time the arm was north of town but occasionally a bag was ripped apart and mail strewn along the tracks. Later it was moved alongside the train depot. One of the first offices was in the McBride's Drug store. This continued until May 1894 when the mail boxes were removed. Another location was in Kirby's drug store. On October 3, 1908 a new post office was built on the north east corner of First and B Street. This building stands today although some parts were added on to the outside. This would be a great

building to restore back to its original being. It would be a shame to tear it down as it's one of the last original buildings. In its earlier days the down stairs was occupied by the post office and the upstairs was divided into three offices. One was occupied by a dentist and another by an attorney.

Dixon's postmasters over the years were William B. Ferguson, 1869, Augustus F. Colburn, 1873, Cornelia J. Colburn, 1876, William B. Ferguson, 1877, William hall, 1877, Alfred R. Story 1885, Eli J McBride, 1890, James R. Rockford, 1894, Eli. J. McBride, 1898, Benjamin F. Newby, 1906, John R. Sneasd, 1915, Daisy D'Artenay, 1918, George E. McElory, 1919, Leatha Richards, 1920, Melissa B. Wilson, 1920, Brock dickie, 1921, Mrs. Mary Dickie, 1929, J.R. Kilkenny, 1933, followed by James Everitt.

A few things took place during the earlier years in 1901 there was a flood in the Maine Prairie area due to the Sacramento River over flowing. Mr. G.W. Hulen was the rural mail carrier for Maine Prairie and delivered it to the closest land above water but no one from Maine Prairie would come and pick it up. John Norton and Charles Daily volunteered to deliver it by boat they got to within a half mile of their destination but got hung up on barbed wire that was part of a submerged fence that swamped them. They were able to wade back to land carrying the mail pouch. Mr. Hulen brought back to Dixon the mail and admitted that for once he was unable to deliver the mail. Another interesting story was in 1916 they were still using horses to deliver the mail. One horse they were using was noticed by Sam Silvey who had an eye for horses. He found out the horse was a son of Jaybird and sired by Aerolite by James Marshall and bought him from John McDermitt. The horse who started out as a mail carrier went on to race and won twenty first places, three second places, one third place, one fourth and one unplaced out of twenty three races. There are other stories that have some interest. In 1913 the parcel post was inaugurated and quite a few parcels were sent through the local office. Carl Schmeiser had the honor of sending the first package and it cost him five cents, under the old system it would have cost fifteen cents.

Now the new post office stands next to the railroad track and still serves Dixon well.

School Traditions

Most towns have traditions and Dixon had some of their own. Some of the ones of interest deal with the schools, Dixon High School had theirs. Dixon's first school was started by Professor L. Lillard and was located in the Masonic Hall, which was on the west side of the main street up stairs in the middle of the block. The first High school was called the Dixon academy and was built in 1880. In 1891 this became the Dixon Union High School. By 1915 a gymnasium was built as well as tennis courts, a shop and an auditorium. A grassed athletic field was built and traditions started. Dixons first colors were Purple and Gold but after a few years the students decided to change their colors as Armijo High School in Fairfield had the same colors. So Dixon changed its colors by a two thirds majority vote of the students according to the school constitution. They decided that Green and White were flashier. Next a mascot or insignia was needed and a Ram was chosen as Dixon was a large producer of sheep. The next issue was the school annual. Some thought it might be appropriate to call the annual the "Rampager", some the "Rambler" and others the "Dixon Hi Lite". Since the name "Chanticleer", which was designated in the school constitution, required a two thirds majority vote to change the name, it remained the "Chanticleer".

In 1993 out of nowhere Dixons colors changed to Green, White and Black. I'm wondering if the two thirds majority vote as authorized in the school constitution was taken to change the colors.

Some of the information for this story was obtained from a story written by Lois Schroeder in the 1936 school Chanticleer.

There may be more traditions, if you know of any it would be of interest to hear about them.

SILVEYVILLE TOWNSHIP

Before the settling of Dixon, there were several outlying areas that were inhabited. It all began when in 1842 William Wolfskill secured a grant of land from the Mexican government for a tract of land one league in width and 4 leagues in length. (A league was considered equal to what a man could walk in one hour or about 3 miles). William Wolfskill was supposed to have been the first white settler in Solano County. He lived in Los Angeles but when he purchased the land he sent his brother with a herd of cattle north to occupy the newly acquired land. This property was along what is now known as Putah Creek.

Within the next several years a few settlers moved into the area, one of them being Elijah Silvey. In the year 1852 he settled in what is now known as the Silveyville township. It was during this time period that the gold rush began and there were many travelers going from San Francisco to Sacramento and on to the gold fields. So Silvey being partway between, would at night put out a red lantern to alert people traveling that there was a place to stay on route. As this was a pretty desolate and uninhabited area it was a big help to the travelers. As time passed "The Village of Silveyville" was settled, later to be known as Silveyville. There was a hotel, Post Office, a general store, a school, church, cemetery and corrals. Unfortunately, Elijah Silvey lost his life at an early age when he fell from the balcony of his brick house and was killed. In 1867 before this accident Silvey built his own horse race track where he expected to have betting on the races. Silveyville began to grow and along with it Mr. Dryden and Noble established a blacksmith shop. George Gillespie was the owner of the store. Silveyville's population grew to 150 inhabitants. The Post office which originally was called Putah but was later changed upon request of the federal government was run by Elijah Silvey. The church was of Methodist domination and later was moved to Dixon. This church was moved the three miles to Dixon by means of logs and horses. There was also a Baptist church in the village. This building was evidentially torn down and moved to Dixon by Mr. Van Sant and a two story house was built from the lumber. The school was at first north of town but later moved into the town. There was also a telegraph office located here.

As some know and some don't most of Silveyville was moved from its original location to Dixon in 1868, the reason being that the railroad was built to the south east and Mr. Dickson who owned land adjacent to the railroad tracks, gave some of his property to start a town. This was the reason for the exodus from Silveyville. This was the reason buildings and houses were being moved. Dr. Carlyle's house was also moved into town, west of the tracks. The reason for them being left on the west side was because they couldn't be hauled over the

existing tracks. In 1877 the persons interned in the Silveyville cemetery were moved into Dixon into what is known today as the Silveyville Cemetery.

It was reported “that in 1894 there were 64 widows living in the Silveyville township and at least 60 are maintaining themselves without assistance from any source and a majority of the number represent large land owners. No woman in this section has ever taken advantage of bankruptcy laws or evaded payment of her debts.”

That is a bit about the story of Silveyville. In another article we will look into the development of Tremont, Maine Prairie, Binghamton and Batavia.

The Bells of Dixon

Bells played a very important part of early life in Dixon. The most important use was to alert people of fires. When the bell rang it was time for the volunteer firemen to assemble for duty. Another important use of the bell was to announce the beginning of church services or events pertaining to church activities. Then there was the school bell that reminded all the children that school was about to commence, tardiness was not accepted.

Let's start with the fire bell. In 1875 there was a movement to purchase a fire bell. Our bell was from a ship called the "Acuelo" that ended its usage at Point Cabrillo in 1836. This was the time of the gold rush and many ships got to Benicia and everyone jumped ship to head for the gold fields so there was a group of old ships abandoned there and that is where Dixon got their first bell. It was used by the local fire department from 1876 until 1883. At that time it was decided that the Acuelo bell was too small and a larger one needed to be purchased so the sound could carry a further distance. By the way the Acuelo bell can be seen at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento as it was given to them by the Dixon Fire Dept. in 1939. During the interim years the bell was used by Peter Timm as his dinner bell. The second bell was used until an electric bell was installed at the fire station. The home of the old bell was at the Dixon Mayfair grounds until it was taken down and is at its right full place in front of the new Dixon Fire Station. This bell was made in Seneca Fall, NY by the Gould manufacturing Co.

The first church bell in Dixon was the Baptist church bell located on Main St. just south of First & A St. on west side of street. This is according to the Dixon Tribune. Mr. Love (a local contractor) elevated the bell in 1875. In 1876 Mr. Weihe ordered a bell for the German Lutheran church located one block to the east (where present Telephone Co. office is). On Sept. 1, 1876 it tolled its first notes. This bell came from a foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1940 this church was demolished. The Methodist church which is presently standing was moved in from Silveyville to its present location in 1868. The bell that was located in the Lutheran church was given to the Methodist church when the Lutheran church closed. The Methodist church in 1892 reinforced its bell tower. In 1896 the Baptist church bell developed a crack after 30 years of usage and had to be replaced. The Baptist Church later became the United Church and then became the Community Church. The church was moved to the east outskirts of town in 1967 and the bell for a short time was mounted outside of the church and it now located in the vestibule. The Methodist bell was taken down several years ago because of a need to reinforce the tower and is now back in operation. The Catholic Church bell was presumed removed from the first church built in 1868 and moved to its present location. It too required reinforcing and is also back in operation. It is certainly nice to hear once again the ringing of the church bells. The Catholic bell came from the Buckeye Bell

Foundry, Cincinnati, Ohio. As for the Tremont Methodist church, there exists a bell tower but according to a person who actually attend that church years ago, there never was a bell in their tower.

As for the school bells, the first bell that brought youngsters to school was at the Dixon Academy School building. This bell was erected in 1883 with the help of Peter Timm and Mr. Madden. That bell was thought to have been moved to the Grammar School building located on C Street just west of the present Anderson School. This bell was manufactured by the W.T. Garratt Co. Of San Francisco When that beautiful structure was demolished it then went into storage until it was brought out and used to ring touchdowns in at the Dixon High School. Now it sits dust covered in the storage shed at the old High School which in my opinion is a shame. It deserves a more worthy place in Dixons history. Another school bell that needs mentioning is the bell from the Solano-Tremont Country School that was located east of Dixon on the corner of Tremont and Eggert Roads. That bell is located in the Hatti Webber Museum in Davis, Ca. There is also a hand bell used in the Currey Country School located in Davis.

That pretty much covers the Bells of Dixon. Only two of the several bells continue to delight the citizens of Dixon with its charm.

THE CANNERIES

Dixon's early days were mainly centered on agriculture but in 1895 a new industry emerged and that was the starting up of a cannery to preserve the local products. The first cannery didn't actually begin in Dixon but close by in the Tremont area. The Foster brothers who owned property alongside of the railroad track north of town started the first cannery. The building was built on the north side of Tremont Road and on the east side of the railroad tracks. (There is a fertilizer company located there now). Business was such a success that almost immediately there was a need to expand the operation. The cannery canned peaches, apricots, pears and tomatoes. The Tremont brand of products did so well that new orders could not be completely filled. One firm in Vacaville sent in an order for 100 cases of canned tomatoes. It was receiving orders from all over the Sacramento Valley. The fruit which was prepared under the name of "Solano Chief" brand had a bright future.

In 1899 H.W. Timm who had a meat market in town installed a new power sausage machine. It was driven with an almost noiseless electric motor. The Foster Bros. bought his old machine and began using it to chop up fruit for canning.

Next, there was talk about moving the cannery into town. In 1901 the Grangers Business Association put up a sum of money and a lease proposition for them to consider. Shortly after this proposal the cannery at Tremont burnt down. Evidently the Fosters weren't ready for a move yet and proceeded to purchase a new boiler so as to be back in operation for the upcoming season. This did not dissuade the City of Dixon to continue its interest in the Cannery. A group of spirited men of Dixon circulated a subscription list to raise \$10,000 for the building of a cannery in town. Meanwhile the cannery resumed production and in 1902 was putting up about three thousand cans of peaches and tomatoes per day.

The citizens of Dixon hadn't given up in getting a cannery started, so a committee of locals, E.D.N. Lehe, Oscar Schulze, G.S. Little, Herman Fischer, J.S. Mayes, H. Petersen, W. Van Sant, A. Kirby, J.D. Grady and George Steinmiller to name a few, were to gather funds and support for the project. With this interest town property grew in value and some changed hands. A cannery located in town was begun.

In 1903 the Cannery under the management of E. H. Foster purchased the machinery for the plant. As was reported at the time" the operation will have a capacity of 25,000 cans every ten hours and there will be a day and night shift to accommodate the fruits during the limited season. The Fosters will plant 100 acres of tomatoes in the Tremont area along with a large hot house to plant tomato seed to raise 75,000 plants. The cannery will be leased by the Coleman Brothers of Ashland, Oregon. The brothers

are J.W. Coleman and N.B.S. Coleman. The cannery site was purchased from the Grangers Business Association for \$500.00 and lies on the north of A Street, on the west side of the railroad tracks, to the west of the white house presently used as a Trophy store. To aid the building fund the Dixon Brass Band will make an appearance in front of the Opera House and there will be a Ball held in the newly built Cannery building to also fund the cannery. The Ball will be held just prior to the installation of machinery. The first fruit to be canned would have been apricots but the price was so high it was decided to wait until the peaches were ripe to start canning. However the old Foster Cannery north of town did can apricots. Meanwhile the old Foster Cannery burned down and left the Dixon Cannery the lone packer. The trustees of the Dixon Cannery then leased the Dixon Cannery to the Foster Bros. because of their reputation and the Coleman Bros. we're not able to financially run the Cannery for another season.

The directors of the newly organized Winters Canning Company came to Dixon to inspect the machinery of the old Coleman run cannery and decided to purchase the machinery and hire N.B.S. Coleman to run their cannery.

In June of 1905 the now manager and operator of the Dixon Cannery, E.H. Foster, would have a grand opening of the cannery and visitors would be shown the methods of canning fruits as practiced in the up-to-date cannery of the day.

In 1906 a meeting was held and it was decided to form a stock company to run the company and therefore the company would be run with local capital. The Directors of the Bank of Dixon contribute \$5000 to the fund and the following investors will invest \$1000. J.D. Grady, J.H. Rice, J.H. Petersen, E.D.N. Lehe, and Oscar Schulze. E.H. Martin was hired to manage the business as E.H. Foster had moved to Napa to build a similar cannery.

In 1907 the cannery was without a manager as he moved to San Francisco and the cannery closed. The following years the building went vacant. An incubator factory from San Francisco was interested in moving here but that never took place. In 1912 the building became occupied by the Dixon Planing Mill that made wood sashes, doors, molding and screen doors. This was operated by W.H. Morrill and G.H. Dittmer. The next occupant of the Old Cannery building was a steam laundry at which time the building caught fire and burned completely down. That ended the life of the old cannery business in Dixon. Now the only canning business is east of town, the Dixon Canning Corporation

The Dam

This article usually deals with something that happened in or close to Dixon. Today we will look at a project that although was some distance from town, had a larger influence on the town than most any other factor. That project was the building of the dam to the west of Dixon in the Coast Range Mountains. First let's identify the project. It's located in Berryessa valley and covered up the town of Montecello. The dam site is located in what was known as Devils Canyon. That's why it's sometimes called Montecello Dam or Lake Berryessa.

When Dixon was first settled about the only water supply was rainfall or underground water which was obtained by either a wind mill or by a hand pump. Later pumps provided the water. As a result most everything around Dixon which happened to be a farming community was what was called dry farming. This meant that everything grown was grown with available rain water in the winter. Most of the crops were grain or fruit orchards. After the grain fields were harvested what was left was called stubble fields. To utilize everything, animals were put on the stubble fields to eat up the harvested grain fields. This was how Dixon got to be such a large producer of lambs as well as cattle.

Way back in the early 1900's the local farmers and ranchers were looking for additional water to irrigate their land and be able to raise row crops which were more productive. As early as 1907 engineers were investigating several places where a dam site could be located, Putah Creek and Berryessa Valley were one of the sites. This seemed to be a logical place to build a dam. Meetings were held in the neighboring town to discuss such a project. In 1940 the Solano Water Council was formed. There were some in favor of the project as well as some that opposed it. The neighboring counties of Yolo and Napa were against such a project. One of the motivating factors in such a dam being built was the fertile soil around Dixon called the Dixon Ridge. Wells that had been dug were already being depleted and had to be dug deeper and deeper to reach the lowering water table.

In 1945 the Solano Water Council signed a petition to request Federal Aid to construct a dam. Eventually Yolo and Napa counties decided to give up their fight against the dam. The dam project was supposed to be able to irrigate 80,000 acres of area land. Eventually owners of 72,000 acres signed up to participate.

The next step was to condemn the town of Montecello much to the chagrin of the inhabitants, which by the way had a population of 250 people. Of interest today, is that there is a family living in Dixon today that are direct descendants of one of those families. In September of 1953 the ground breaking was started for the dam. First most

of the town had to be removed as well as a lot of the trees and shrubs. A bridge that was used in the Valley remains under water to this day, as it could not be removed. Five years later the first release of water reached the Solano County farmers.

Thus the building of the Dam has had a huge effect on the economy of Dixon and surrounding area. There is virtually no dry crop farming and little or no livestock any more. The two local meat packing plants went out of business with the lack of animals to process. It also raised the water table which has been very important. The other factor of the Dam is that it has provided much recreation for the area.

THE MILK FARM

Most people today are aware of the tall sign along side of Highway 80 two miles north of Dixon. The Milk Farm story started long before it became the popular restaurant. The Karl Hess family came to Dixon in 1919 and began farming a piece of ground just south of Putah Creek very near Currey Road. In 1924 he leased this piece of property and leased six acres of ground on the north side of the road across the road from the Auction Yard. Those who read a previous article know that was located on Old Highway 40 between Sievers and Pederick Roads. Here he set up a service station, refreshment stand and store along with an auto camp grounds, known as the Cypress Camp Grove. He also provided pony rides for those interested. About 1931 he served a chicken dinner for 50 cent that included potatoes and honey and biscuits with all the milk or buttermilk you could drink for 10 cents.

In 1939 in anticipation of the changing of the Highway Mr. Hess purchased a parcel of land where the present Milk Farm sign stands to this day. When the Milk farm was built the new highway was already in service. Patrons to the Milk Farm in the early days only had to pull off the road and right up to the door. It wasn't until a bit later that an over pass was constructed. Until this was done there was only a stop sign at the Currey Road and Pederick Road crossings to assist in crossing the Highway. At this time a fence was put up to keep people from pulling off the highway, as was done earlier. The restaurant became very popular with self serving style service. There were many favorite homemade dishes to be consumed, such as chicken pot pies, pancakes, apple dumplings and delicious pies. Another popular feature among the younger generation was the juke box. In 1946 after a few successful years Mr. Hess sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Homer Henderson, who previously had owned a restaurant in Sacramento. Mr. Boyd Weber became the general manager. An ongoing contest was to see who could drink the most milk and buttermilk. The record was one man drank five quarts of milk in twenty minutes. The buttermilk champion drank six quarts in twenty five minutes.

Along with the popular restaurant, there was a service station and a gift shop. The gift shop was run by Mrs. Henderson who kept it stocked with a variety of gifts. One popular item was the cuckoo clocks. People from all walks of life dined here. From truck drivers to skiers who would stop by on their way to and from the Sierra ski slopes. Dress was casual which made it very practical to stop in. The operators of the service station were the Higby family whose grandson operates the Higby Feed Store not far from the Old Milk Farm.

In the surrounding vicinity were several other businesses, the Giant Oranges were located on both sides of the highway, the local airport was across the highway, as

was the Auction yard. In 1986 the Milk Farm closed its doors. A windstorm caused damage and it never reopened. This brought to end of a very popular restaurant.

Nov. 11, 1954

Once stood about 1 ½ miles south of Dixon on old Highway 40.

The old Porter house, 14 rooms, five chimneys and three fireplaces (one of the area's oldest landmarks,) is being torn down. Doing the job is a Woodland firm, with the lumber to be used partly building a house at West Sacramento and another at Woodland, says Clifford Peterson, the owner, who bought the farm 15 years ago. The old mansion was considered impractical for making over for occupancy by himself and wife, so he built a much lesser size house nearby.

Built 77 years ago. The big house was built in 1878 by James Porter, who would come here with his wife, three girls and two sons whose names were Charles and William.

The 38 x 58 two story house with large basement and 12 foot ceilings was built at a time when big houses were the style by well-to-do ranchers. It was lavishly furnished with costly antique pieces-one of the show places of the Valley, and many were the parties therein. Peterson says he was told that the house, despite its almost 5000 ft.² of living area, ornate construction and the fact that all materials had to be trucked in viral course team, cost only \$7000.

William continued occupying the home after the death of his parents. But hard times finally came for the Porter family and it was hard to keep the home and comfortable and attractive condition, so it began deteriorating and he became weather beaten, a forlorn looking structure of better days.

When Mrs. William Porter passed away the family scattered. The girls married, son James died and William Junior moved to Ryer Island, his father joining him and dying there a few years ago.

Of the 14 rooms, six were bedrooms, four upstairs and two down. There was one bathroom which is as good an indication as any as to how old the place is. And it was a small bathroom containing a wash basin and bathtub only. The bathtub was 8 feet long, narrow and high, boarded in around the sides and the top 100% galvanized.

The house was piped, not only for running water, but for carbide lighting. All pipes were of lead-soft and large diameter. Eventually, of course, the t carbide pipes were used for electrical conduits.

Long studs.

One day the extraordinary features was a one-piece of 2 x 4 studying on the sides, two by fours which were 26 feet in length. And there were no termites in any of the lumber, says one of the wreckers.

A dumb waiter ran from the basement to the dining room, mainly for the use of transporting full and empty wine bottles back and forth by the looks of the wine bench in the basement. A large pile of rugs, rather threadbare and thin, is mute evidence of the wall-to-wall carpeting.

The wreckers say the plastering job was excellent, most of it in as good a shape as it was 75 years ago, and some of the original wallpaper still on the walls.

In the basement the records found more interesting items-an old-fashioned, highly polished egg incubator, also a chair with a hole in the seat and a plug to fit the whole.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson bought the place of 160 acres in 1941. They sold 10 acres of it to William Grigsby. Tomatoes, peas and barley are Peterson's farm activities this year.

He said he is not going to fill up the basement, but we do but will retain the old, still strong floor as a perfect if covering.

Few mansions left

There are only a few big old-time ranch homes left, the 23 room house 10 miles south of Dixon built by John Brown from Vermont, now occupied by Jack Parker and Harvey Firchow: the Leo tuck house, also south of Dixon, and the former Currey ranch home 3 miles north of Dixon.

Tremont Church

Back in 1855 the Solano County Board of Supervisors designated the northeastern portion of Solano County as Tremont Township. (For those of you that don't know where the church is located it is just west of the intersection of Tremont Rd. and Rd. 104 which is Mace Blvd.) There is some discussion as to whether or not the name was started as Tremont or Fremont. Never the less it became Tremont and remains the same today. Most of these settlers in the area were of German descent. The area was dry land farmed raising wheat and barley and several had market gardens. There were also some sheep and cattle raised in the area. As for supplies there was the Solano House which provided basics along with a Post Office, the Solano (Tremont) school and a community meeting hall. If one needed something else it required a buggy ride into Davisville to the north, Dixon to the west or to Sacramento to the east. If a trip to Sacramento was needed it meant an overnight stay plus crossing the Sacramento River on a ferry provided by the Captain "Tule Jack".

A good deal of activity revolved around church but the Tremont area did not have a church for services. The closest church in the area was at Silveyville some 10 miles away by horse and buggy. This trip was made but over time the women of Tremont decided that they needed their own church. So in 1863 the Tremont women formed what is still functioning today as the Tremont Mite Society. The Society took its name from the biblical writings of Mark about a widow who cast her "mite," the smallest coin mentioned in the bible, into their collection box and was praised by Jesus for giving all she had. In this case a 50 cent contribution by each family to the building fund started the church project. Starting in the 1860's the group met in the Tremont Hall (built by Fred Hyde) until their church was built. Cornelia Jane Saunders Hyde was the first president of the Tremont Mite Society. She and her husband donated 2 acres of land on which to build the church. Building materials came from Maine Prairie to the south on schooners, which provided the necessary lumber and materials for the church. With the help of volunteers the church was built. The Gordon brothers and a Justice of the Peace Cloutman built the pulpit as well as other furniture for the inside. Hale's and Breuner's of Sacramento donated furniture also.

In 1871 the church was opened and the name Westminster Church of Tremont was dedicated and services started. First services were conducted by a traveling pastor. The first wedding took place in 1873.

The Tremont Mite Society still meets socially and oversees the upkeep of the church. This makes it one of the oldest continually operated women's organization in the state. The last regular services were held in Tremont in 1912. In 1929 the church and cemetery were deeded to the Silveyville Cemetery District who now maintains the

building and grounds. In 1979 the Society began hosting biennial socials with the celebration of the renovation of the interior of the church with insurance monies donated by local farmers from loss of the old Tremont Hall.

Everyone should take the opportunity sometime to stop and visit the church and cemetery.

Plunging Into Dixon History

It wasn't until about thirty years after Dixon was started that there was any mention about providing Dixon's residents with a swimming pool for recreational purposes. Prior to this, if one wanted to swim or cool off, one had to head north to Putah Creek. Unfortunately, it was several miles out of town, which made it difficult for the children of Dixon to enjoy. In 1928 Bert LaFountain a local merchant suggested that a plan be made to take a group of children to Putah Creek a couple times a week and give them instruction in swimming. The Phillips family who resided on the Creek offered there beach for the use of this endeavor.

About the same time two Sacramento young men and their wives purchase a piece of property on the curve on Porter Road south of Dixon on Old Highway 40. Their plan was to build a service station, a dance hall and a 40X80 foot swimming pool at that location. The service station and dance hall were built as well as the hole for the swimming pool but was never completed. This project started in 1928 and by 1933 it was over with. The story goes that no one stopped at this station so eventually it was abandoned. So this attempt at a pool ended.

Soon after that a committee was set up to investigate the possibility of a swimming pool in Dixon, the committee consisted of Mr. H. Brown, A.C. Madden, M. Carpenter, Max Cowden, and F. G. Daniel. Now, the problem arose as to how to finance the project. Besides the cities participation, it was suggested the Dixon School system might participate in helping finance the project. The Rotary Club also got involved. There also was an opportunity of some federal aid. PG&E also offered to furnish runoff water from their substation to fill the pool. They would be able to fill the pool in 24 hours. The project was to cost about \$2,000.00. Two locations were being considered, one south of the Arcade livery stable, the other a piece of land north of the City golf course. The property was offered free to the City by Dr. and Mrs. L.P. Hall. This piece of property was decided upon. The Federal representative was present and would provide the labor, with the city to provide the materials.

On Dec. 1, 1934 a meeting was called and Resolution # 6, 1934 was passed, delegating Mayor Kilkenny to sign applications to the State Emergency Relief Administration (S.E.R.A.) for their help. The long awaited swimming pool was about to begin construction. The Southern Pacific was to lay the pipe line to fill the pool.

In 1935 the project got underway and excavation for a 30X75 foot pool was started in what is now called Hall Park. The landscaping was also provided for by Dr. & Mrs. Hall. The labor was done by 17 men provided by S.E.R.A.

The project's final cost was \$3,269.00 which was paid for jointly by the city and the school system for four years. Construction was finished in Mar. of 1935 and was filled by June 1 and formally opening was June 5. 80 Children enjoyed that first plunge opening day.

The swimming pool remains at the same locating today except for the fact it has been renovated twice since that June 5 1935 opening.

Portuguese Picnic

The Portuguese Picnic was a Dixon tradition for twenty four years. During the period between 1930 and 1934 the local Portuguese community held its own picnic to the benefit of the whole community. Dixon enjoyed a large population of Portuguese due to the large Dairy industry in and around Dixon. Once known as "Dairy City" Dixon welcomed the Portuguese people because of their knowledge of the dairy business. It was this group of people who provided the labor to the local dairies. Then a bit later they started their own dairies. During this period of time they started the tradition they brought from the Azores Islands. This was a religious celebration know as the Holy Ghost Festival.

In 1930 Tony Dutra a prominent dairy farmer here in Dixon started the local festivities. One was started in Woodland the year before. The first queen of the festival was Mamie Azevedo a local girl and her attendants were Angelina Mello and Virginia Bello. The celebration began at St. Peter's Catholic Church with mass and then the parade which ended back at the church. After the parade a lunch was served, the first year 3,500 people were served. The meat was provided by the C. Bruce Mace meat plant and the meat was roasted by the Dixon Bakery. Then the celebration ended by a dance at the Fairgrounds. This first festival was such a success it continued the next year with it increasing in numbers. In 1931, 6,000 people were fed, this year they also had great display of fireworks which became a big part of the festival. What made these fireworks spectacular to the kids was that the fireworks not only shot up into the skies but several were attached to a fence and lit up in a progressive manner. The last firework of the evening was of the American flag.

In following parades Queens from other Holy Ghost festivals were invited to participate in the parades. In the second year Gloria Peters was the Dixon queen and her attendants were Alda George local girl that started the Great Orange) and Dorothy Bello. The parade consisted of drill teams as well as bands, decorated floats and people walking with flags participated. Then a carnival was added to the festivities, with a Ferris wheel and various rides. This event continued on through the years and in 1952 almost 7,000 people were fed. This year Dolores Ferrero Garton was the Queen. The following year her sister Linda was the Queen. This was the last year the festival was presented. During the 24 years of existence Tony Dutra who started the festival led every parade.

No one knows exactly why the Holy Ghost festival was discontinued but several reasons might have something to do with it. The parades had begun to get smaller, funding was a problem and the fact that there were hardly any dairy's left in the area to bring new Portuguese families into the area. There are still festivals being held in some

neighboring towns. It might be worth looking into where they are held and attend one yourself.

Post Office

With the development of the railroad the delivery of mail was made much easier as well as being much faster. In Dixon's case mail delivery started before the railroad came to be. To the north of Dixon about 3 miles in the township known as Silveyville the first post office was started in June 1854 and known as Putah. This post office was closed in December of 1858 as someone in Congress learned the English word meaning the Spanish word, Putah and that it did not add any dignity to a federal office. In July 1858 the post office reopened as Silveyville. E.J. Silvey was reappointed postmaster. He was the founder of Silveyville as well as operating a hotel, general store and bar. After Silvey, there were several postmasters in this order, next came William Sinclair in 1862, then Phillip Peck 1864, Robert Murphy 1866, John Cunningham 1867, David Musslemann 1868 and finally Mr. A. Kirby was postmaster until 1871 when the office was closed. In the meantime Silveyville moved to Dixon as the railroad was there and a post office opened there in 1869.

Along with the Dixon post office there were also post offices located at Tremont and Batavia also along the railroad tracks. These weren't actual towns but were centers of populations. In Tremont which was never a town but more of a trade center. There was a warehouse where grain was stored and shipped from, and is now occupied by a fertilizer company and a railroad building, a depot and post office. The Tremont post office was established in 1891 and the first postmaster was Henry St. Dick. This office lasted until 1886 when their mail went to Davis or Dixon. Early inhabitants of this area were Stick, Eggert, Runge, Sikes, Holdridge and Foster to name a few. South of Dixon was Batavia another trade center, a warehouse, stock yards a few stores and a hotel along with a post office were located. Some of their early inhabitants were the Tuck, Buckles, Webber, Byrnes and Sweeney to name a few. Then a little further south was Elmira. To the south of Dixon and not along the railroad was Binghamton which established a post office on July 25, 1864 discontinued September 29, 1874, reopened on October 16, 1874 and operated until September 29, 1906. After that rural mail delivery was used to deliver the mail.

In Dixon a post office started on January 26, 1869. The way mail was retrieved from the trains was by a mail catcher. An arm was located along the tracks and was snatched while the train was on the move. The reverse was done to send out the mail. At one time the arm was north of town but occasionally a bag was ripped apart and mail strewn along the tracks. Later it was moved alongside the train depot. One of the first offices was in the McBride's Drug store. This continued until May 1894 when the mail boxes were removed. Another location was in Kirby's drug store. On October 3, 1908 a new post office was built on the north east corner of First and B Street. This building stands today although some parts were added on to the outside. This would be a great

building to restore back to its original being. It would be a shame to tear it down as it's one of the last original buildings. In its earlier days the down stairs was occupied by the post office and the upstairs was divided into three offices. One was occupied by a dentist and another by an attorney.

Dixon's postmasters over the years were William B. Ferguson, 1869, Augustus F. Colburn, 1873, Cornelia J. Colburn, 1876, William B. Ferguson, 1877, William hall, 1877, Alfred R. Story 1885, Eli J McBride, 1890, James R. Rockford, 1894, Eli. J. McBride, 1898, Benjamin F. Newby, 1906, John R. Sneasd, 1915, Daisy D'Artenay, 1918, George E. McElory, 1919, Leatha Richards, 1920, Melissa B. Wilson, 1920, Brock dickie, 1921, Mrs. Mary Dickie, 1929, J.R. Kilkenny, 1933, followed by James Everitt.

A few things took place during the earlier years in 1901 there was a flood in the Maine Prairie area due to the Sacramento River over flowing. Mr. G.W. Hulen was the rural mail carrier for Maine Prairie and delivered it to the closest land above water but no one from Maine Prairie would come and pick it up. John Norton and Charles Daily volunteered to deliver it by boat they got to within a half mile of their destination but got hung up on barbed wire that was part of a submerged fence that swamped them. They were able to wade back to land carrying the mail pouch. Mr. Hulen brought back to Dixon the mail and admitted that for once he was unable to deliver the mail. Another interesting story was in 1916 they were still using horses to deliver the mail. One horse they were using was noticed by Sam Silvey who had an eye for horses. He found out the horse was a son of Jaybird and sired by Aerolite by James Marshall and bought him from John McDermitt. The horse who started out as a mail carrier went on to race and won twenty first places, three second places, one third place, one fourth and one unplaced out of twenty three races. There are other stories that have some interest. In 1913 the parcel post was inaugurated and quite a few parcels were sent through the local office. Carl Schmeiser had the honor of sending the first package and it cost him five cents, under the old system it would have cost fifteen cents.

Now the new post office stands next to the railroad track and still serves Dixon well.

School Traditions

Most towns have traditions and Dixon had some of their own. Some of the ones of interest deal with the schools, Dixon High School had theirs. Dixon's first school was started by Professor L. Lillard and was located in the Masonic Hall, which was on the west side of the main street up stairs in the middle of the block. The first High school was called the Dixon academy and was built in 1880. In 1891 this became the Dixon Union High School. By 1915 a gymnasium was built as well as tennis courts, a shop and an auditorium. A grassed athletic field was built and traditions started. Dixons first colors were Purple and Gold but after a few years the students decided to change their colors as Armijo High School in Fairfield had the same colors. So Dixon changed its colors by a two thirds majority vote of the students according to the school constitution. They decided that Green and White were flashier. Next a mascot or insignia was needed and a Ram was chosen as Dixon was a large producer of sheep. The next issue was the school annual. Some thought it might be appropriate to call the annual the "Rampager", some the "Rambler" and others the "Dixon Hi Lite". Since the name "Chanticleer", which was designated in the school constitution, required a two thirds majority vote to change the name, it remained the "Chanticleer".

In 1993 out of nowhere Dixons colors changed to Green, White and Black. I'm wondering if the two thirds majority vote as authorized in the school constitution was taken to change the colors.

Some of the information for this story was obtained from a story written by Lois Schroeder in the 1936 school Chanticleer.

There may be more traditions, if you know of any it would be of interest to hear about them.

SILVEYVILLE TOWNSHIP

Before the settling of Dixon, there were several outlying areas that were inhabited. It all began when in 1842 William Wolfskill secured a grant of land from the Mexican government for a tract of land one league in width and 4 leagues in length. (A league was considered equal to what a man could walk in one hour or about 3 miles). William Wolfskill was supposed to have been the first white settler in Solano County. He lived in Los Angeles but when he purchased the land he sent his brother with a herd of cattle north to occupy the newly acquired land. This property was along what is now known as Putah Creek.

Within the next several years a few settlers moved into the area, one of them being Elijah Silvey. In the year 1852 he settled in what is now known as the Silveyville township. It was during this time period that the gold rush began and there were many travelers going from San Francisco to Sacramento and on to the gold fields. So Silvey being partway between, would at night put out a red lantern to alert people traveling that there was a place to stay on route. As this was a pretty desolate and uninhabited area it was a big help to the travelers. As time passed "The Village of Silveyville" was settled, later to be known as Silveyville. There was a hotel, Post Office, a general store, a school, church, cemetery and corrals. Unfortunately, Elijah Silvey lost his life at an early age when he fell from the balcony of his brick house and was killed. In 1867 before this accident Silvey built his own horse race track where he expected to have betting on the races. Silveyville began to grow and along with it Mr. Dryden and Noble established a blacksmith shop. George Gillespie was the owner of the store. Silveyville's population grew to 150 inhabitants. The Post office which originally was called Putah but was later changed upon request of the federal government was run by Elijah Silvey. The church was of Methodist domination and later was moved to Dixon. This church was moved the three miles to Dixon by means of logs and horses. There was also a Baptist church in the village. This building was evidentially torn down and moved to Dixon by Mr. Van Sant and a two story house was built from the lumber. The school was at first north of town but later moved into the town. There was also a telegraph office located here.

As some know and some don't most of Silveyville was moved from its original location to Dixon in 1868, the reason being that the railroad was built to the south east and Mr. Dickson who owned land adjacent to the railroad tracks, gave some of his property to start a town. This was the reason for the exodus from Silveyville. This was the reason buildings and houses were being moved. Dr. Carlyle's house was also moved into town, west of the tracks. The reason for them being left on the west side was because they couldn't be hauled over the

existing tracks. In 1877 the persons interned in the Silveyville cemetery were moved into Dixon into what is known today as the Silveyville Cemetery.

It was reported “that in 1894 there were 64 widows living in the Silveyville township and at least 60 are maintaining themselves without assistance from any source and a majority of the number represent large land owners. No woman in this section has ever taken advantage of bankruptcy laws or evaded payment of her debts.”

That is a bit about the story of Silveyville. In another article we will look into the development of Tremont, Maine Prairie, Binghamton and Batavia.

The Bells of Dixon

Bells played a very important part of early life in Dixon. The most important use was to alert people of fires. When the bell rang it was time for the volunteer firemen to assemble for duty. Another important use of the bell was to announce the beginning of church services or events pertaining to church activities. Then there was the school bell that reminded all the children that school was about to commence, tardiness was not accepted.

Let's start with the fire bell. In 1875 there was a movement to purchase a fire bell. Our bell was from a ship called the "Acuelo" that ended its usage at Point Cabrillo in 1836. This was the time of the gold rush and many ships got to Benicia and everyone jumped ship to head for the gold fields so there was a group of old ships abandoned there and that is where Dixon got their first bell. It was used by the local fire department from 1876 until 1883. At that time it was decided that the Acuelo bell was too small and a larger one needed to be purchased so the sound could carry a further distance. By the way the Acuelo bell can be seen at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento as it was given to them by the Dixon Fire Dept. in 1939. During the interim years the bell was used by Peter Timm as his dinner bell. The second bell was used until an electric bell was installed at the fire station. The home of the old bell was at the Dixon Mayfair grounds until it was taken down and is at its right full place in front of the new Dixon Fire Station. This bell was made in Seneca Fall, NY by the Gould manufacturing Co.

The first church bell in Dixon was the Baptist church bell located on Main St. just south of First & A St. on west side of street. This is according to the Dixon Tribune. Mr. Love (a local contractor) elevated the bell in 1875. In 1876 Mr. Weihe ordered a bell for the German Lutheran church located one block to the east (where present Telephone Co. office is). On Sept. 1, 1876 it tolled its first notes. This bell came from a foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1940 this church was demolished. The Methodist church which is presently standing was moved in from Silveyville to its present location in 1868. The bell that was located in the Lutheran church was given to the Methodist church when the Lutheran church closed. The Methodist church in 1892 reinforced its bell tower. In 1896 the Baptist church bell developed a crack after 30 years of usage and had to be replaced. The Baptist Church later became the United Church and then became the Community Church. The church was moved to the east outskirts of town in 1967 and the bell for a short time was mounted outside of the church and it now located in the vestibule. The Methodist bell was taken down several years ago because of a need to reinforce the tower and is now back in operation. The Catholic Church bell was presumed removed from the first church built in 1868 and moved to its present location. It too required reinforcing and is also back in operation. It is certainly nice to hear once again the ringing of the church bells. The Catholic bell came from the Buckeye Bell

Foundry, Cincinnati, Ohio. As for the Tremont Methodist church, there exists a bell tower but according to a person who actually attend that church years ago, there never was a bell in their tower.

As for the school bells, the first bell that brought youngsters to school was at the Dixon Academy School building. This bell was erected in 1883 with the help of Peter Timm and Mr. Madden. That bell was thought to have been moved to the Grammar School building located on C Street just west of the present Anderson School. This bell was manufactured by the W.T. Garratt Co. Of San Francisco When that beautiful structure was demolished it then went into storage until it was brought out and used to ring touchdowns in at the Dixon High School. Now it sits dust covered in the storage shed at the old High School which in my opinion is a shame. It deserves a more worthy place in Dixons history. Another school bell that needs mentioning is the bell from the Solano-Tremont Country School that was located east of Dixon on the corner of Tremont and Eggert Roads. That bell is located in the Hatti Webber Museum in Davis, Ca. There is also a hand bell used in the Currey Country School located in Davis.

That pretty much covers the Bells of Dixon. Only two of the several bells continue to delight the citizens of Dixon with its charm.

THE CANNERIES

Dixon's early days were mainly centered on agriculture but in 1895 a new industry emerged and that was the starting up of a cannery to preserve the local products. The first cannery didn't actually begin in Dixon but close by in the Tremont area. The Foster brothers who owned property alongside of the railroad track north of town started the first cannery. The building was built on the north side of Tremont Road and on the east side of the railroad tracks. (There is a fertilizer company located there now). Business was such a success that almost immediately there was a need to expand the operation. The cannery canned peaches, apricots, pears and tomatoes. The Tremont brand of products did so well that new orders could not be completely filled. One firm in Vacaville sent in an order for 100 cases of canned tomatoes. It was receiving orders from all over the Sacramento Valley. The fruit which was prepared under the name of "Solano Chief" brand had a bright future.

In 1899 H.W. Timm who had a meat market in town installed a new power sausage machine. It was driven with an almost noiseless electric motor. The Foster Bros. bought his old machine and began using it to chop up fruit for canning.

Next, there was talk about moving the cannery into town. In 1901 the Grangers Business Association put up a sum of money and a lease proposition for them to consider. Shortly after this proposal the cannery at Tremont burnt down. Evidently the Fosters weren't ready for a move yet and proceeded to purchase a new boiler so as to be back in operation for the upcoming season. This did not dissuade the City of Dixon to continue its interest in the Cannery. A group of spirited men of Dixon circulated a subscription list to raise \$10,000 for the building of a cannery in town. Meanwhile the cannery resumed production and in 1902 was putting up about three thousand cans of peaches and tomatoes per day.

The citizens of Dixon hadn't given up in getting a cannery started, so a committee of locals, E.D.N. Lehe, Oscar Schulze, G.S. Little, Herman Fischer, J.S. Mayes, H. Petersen, W. Van Sant, A. Kirby, J.D. Grady and George Steinmiller to name a few, were to gather funds and support for the project. With this interest town property grew in value and some changed hands. A cannery located in town was begun.

In 1903 the Cannery under the management of E. H. Foster purchased the machinery for the plant. As was reported at the time "the operation will have a capacity of 25,000 cans every ten hours and there will be a day and night shift to accommodate the fruits during the limited season. The Fosters will plant 100 acres of tomatoes in the Tremont area along with a large hot house to plant tomato seed to raise 75,000 plants. The cannery will be leased by the Coleman Brothers of Ashland, Oregon. The brothers

are J.W. Coleman and N.B.S. Coleman. The cannery site was purchased from the Grangers Business Association for \$500.00 and lies on the north of A Street, on the west side of the railroad tracks, to the west of the white house presently used as a Trophy store. To aid the building fund the Dixon Brass Band will make an appearance in front of the Opera House and there will be a Ball held in the newly built Cannery building to also fund the cannery. The Ball will be held just prior to the installation of machinery. The first fruit to be canned would have been apricots but the price was so high it was decided to wait until the peaches were ripe to start canning. However the old Foster Cannery north of town did can apricots. Meanwhile the old Foster Cannery burned down and left the Dixon Cannery the lone packer. The trustees of the Dixon Cannery then leased the Dixon Cannery to the Foster Bros. because of their reputation and the Coleman Bros. we're not able to financially run the Cannery for another season.

The directors of the newly organized Winters Canning Company came to Dixon to inspect the machinery of the old Coleman run cannery and decided to purchase the machinery and hire N.B.S. Coleman to run their cannery.

In June of 1905 the now manager and operator of the Dixon Cannery, E.H. Foster, would have a grand opening of the cannery and visitors would be shown the methods of canning fruits as practiced in the up-to-date cannery of the day.

In 1906 a meeting was held and it was decided to form a stock company to run the company and therefore the company would be run with local capital. The Directors of the Bank of Dixon contribute \$5000 to the fund and the following investors will invest \$1000. J.D. Grady, J.H. Rice, J.H. Petersen, E.D.N. Lehe, and Oscar Schulze. E.H. Martin was hired to manage the business as E.H. Foster had moved to Napa to build a similar cannery.

In 1907 the cannery was without a manager as he moved to San Francisco and the cannery closed. The following years the building went vacant. An incubator factory from San Francisco was interested in moving here but that never took place. In 1912 the building became occupied by the Dixon Planing Mill that made wood sashes, doors, molding and screen doors. This was operated by W.H. Morrill and G.H. Dittmer. The next occupant of the Old Cannery building was a steam laundry at which time the building caught fire and burned completely down. That ended the life of the old cannery business in Dixon. Now the only canning business is east of town, the Dixon Canning Corporation

The Dam

This article usually deals with something that happened in or close to Dixon. Today we will look at a project that although was some distance from town, had a larger influence on the town than most any other factor. That project was the building of the dam to the west of Dixon in the Coast Range Mountains. First let's identify the project. It's located in Berryessa valley and covered up the town of Montecello. The dam site is located in what was known as Devils Canyon. That's why it's sometimes called Montecello Dam or Lake Berryessa.

When Dixon was first settled about the only water supply was rainfall or underground water which was obtained by either a wind mill or by a hand pump. Later pumps provided the water. As a result most everything around Dixon which happened to be a farming community was what was called dry farming. This meant that everything grown was grown with available rain water in the winter. Most of the crops were grain or fruit orchards. After the grain fields were harvested what was left was called stubble fields. To utilize everything, animals were put on the stubble fields to eat up the harvested grain fields. This was how Dixon got to be such a large producer of lambs as well as cattle.

Way back in the early 1900's the local farmers and ranchers were looking for additional water to irrigate their land and be able to raise row crops which were more productive. As early as 1907 engineers were investigating several places where a dam site could be located, Putah Creek and Berryessa Valley were one of the sites. This seemed to be a logical place to build a dam. Meetings were held in the neighboring town to discuss such a project. In 1940 the Solano Water Council was formed. There were some in favor of the project as well as some that opposed it. The neighboring counties of Yolo and Napa were against such a project. One of the motivating factors in such a dam being built was the fertile soil around Dixon called the Dixon Ridge. Wells that had been dug were already being depleted and had to be dug deeper and deeper to reach the lowering water table.

In 1945 the Solano Water Council signed a petition to request Federal Aid to construct a dam. Eventually Yolo and Napa counties decided to give up their fight against the dam. The dam project was supposed to be able to irrigate 80,000 acres of area land. Eventually owners of 72,000 acres signed up to participate.

The next step was to condemn the town of Montecello much to the chagrin of the inhabitants, which by the way had a population of 250 people. Of interest today, is that there is a family living in Dixon today that are direct descendants of one of those families. In September of 1953 the ground breaking was started for the dam. First most

of the town had to be removed as well as a lot of the trees and shrubs. A bridge that was used in the Valley remains under water to this day, as it could not be removed. Five years later the first release of water reached the Solano County farmers.

Thus the building of the Dam has had a huge effect on the economy of Dixon and surrounding area. There is virtually no dry crop farming and little or no livestock any more. The two local meat packing plants went out of business with the lack of animals to process. It also raised the water table which has been very important. The other factor of the Dam is that it has provided much recreation for the area.

THE MILK FARM

Most people today are aware of the tall sign along side of Highway 80 two miles north of Dixon. The Milk Farm story started long before it became the popular restaurant. The Karl Hess family came to Dixon in 1919 and began farming a piece of ground just south of Putah Creek very near Currey Road. In 1924 he leased this piece of property and leased six acres of ground on the north side of the road across the road from the Auction Yard. Those who read a previous article know that was located on Old Highway 40 between Sievers and Pederick Roads. Here he set up a service station, refreshment stand and store along with an auto camp grounds, known as the Cypress Camp Grove. He also provided pony rides for those interested. About 1931 he served a chicken dinner for 50 cent that included potatoes and honey and biscuits with all the milk or buttermilk you could drink for 10 cents.

In 1939 in anticipation of the changing of the Highway Mr. Hess purchased a parcel of land where the present Milk Farm sign stands to this day. When the Milk farm was built the new highway was already in service. Patrons to the Milk Farm in the early days only had to pull off the road and right up to the door. It wasn't until a bit later that an over pass was constructed. Until this was done there was only a stop sign at the Currey Road and Pederick Road crossings to assist in crossing the Highway. At this time a fence was put up to keep people from pulling off the highway, as was done earlier. The restaurant became very popular with self serving style service. There were many favorite homemade dishes to be consumed, such as chicken pot pies, pancakes, apple dumplings and delicious pies. Another popular feature among the younger generation was the juke box. In 1946 after a few successful years Mr. Hess sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Homer Henderson, who previously had owned a restaurant in Sacramento. Mr. Boyd Weber became the general manager. An ongoing contest was to see who could drink the most milk and buttermilk. The record was one man drank five quarts of milk in twenty minutes. The buttermilk champion drank six quarts in twenty five minutes.

Along with the popular restaurant, there was a service station and a gift shop. The gift shop was run by Mrs. Henderson who kept it stocked with a variety of gifts. One popular item was the cuckoo clocks. People from all walks of life dined here. From truck drivers to skiers who would stop by on their way to and from the Sierra ski slopes. Dress was casual which made it very practical to stop in. The operators of the service station were the Higby family whose grandson operates the Higby Feed Store not far from the Old Milk Farm.

In the surrounding vicinity were several other businesses, the Giant Oranges were located on both sides of the highway, the local airport was across the highway, as

was the Auction yard. In 1986 the Milk Farm closed its doors. A windstorm caused damage and it never reopened. This brought to end of a very popular restaurant.

Nov. 11, 1954

Once stood about 1 ½ miles south of Dixon on old Highway 40.

The old Porter house, 14 rooms, five chimneys and three fireplaces (one of the area's oldest landmarks,) is being torn down. Doing the job is a Woodland firm, with the lumber to be used partly building a house at West Sacramento and another at Woodland, says Clifford Peterson, the owner, who bought the farm 15 years ago. The old mansion was considered impractical for making over for occupancy by himself and wife, so he built a much lesser size house nearby.

Built 77 years ago. The big house was built in 1878 by James Porter, who would come here with his wife, three girls and two sons whose names were Charles and William.

The 38 x 58 two story house with large basement and 12 foot ceilings was built at a time when big houses were the style by well-to-do ranchers. It was lavishly furnished with costly antique pieces-one of the show places of the Valley, and many were the parties therein. Peterson says he was told that the house, despite its almost 5000 ft.² of living area, ornate construction and the fact that all materials had to be trucked in viral course team, cost only \$7000.

William continued occupying the home after the death of his parents. But hard times finally came for the Porter family and it was hard to keep the home and comfortable and attractive condition, so it began deteriorating and he became weather beaten, a forlorn looking structure of better days.

When Mrs. William Porter passed away the family scattered. The girls married, son James died and William Junior moved to Ryer Island, his father joining him and dying there a few years ago.

Of the 14 rooms, six were bedrooms, four upstairs and two down. There was one bathroom which is as good an indication as any as to how old the place is. And it was a small bathroom containing a wash basin and bathtub only. The bathtub was 8 feet long, narrow and high, boarded in around the sides and the top 100% galvanized.

The house was piped, not only for running water, but for carbide lighting. All pipes were of lead-soft and large diameter. Eventually, of course, the t carbide pipes were used for electrical conduits.

Long studs.

One day the extraordinary features was a one-piece of 2 x 4 studying on the sides, two by fours which were 26 feet in length. And there were no termites in any of the lumber, says one of the wreckers.

A dumb waiter ran from the basement to the dining room, mainly for the use of transporting full and empty wine bottles back and forth by the looks of the wine bench in the basement. A large pile of rugs, rather threadbare and thin, is mute evidence of the wall-to-wall carpeting.

The wreckers say the plastering job was excellent, most of it in as good a shape as it was 75 years ago, and some of the original wallpaper still on the walls.

In the basement the records found more interesting items-an old-fashioned, highly polished egg incubator, also a chair with a hole in the seat and a plug to fit the whole.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson bought the place of 160 acres in 1941. They sold 10 acres of it to William Grigsby. Tomatoes, peas and barley are Peterson's farm activities this year.

He said he is not going to fill up the basement, but we do but will retain the old, still strong floor as a perfect if covering.

Few mansions left

There are only a few big old-time ranch homes left, the 23 room house 10 miles south of Dixon built by John Brown from Vermont, now occupied by Jack Parker and Harvey Firchow: the Leo tuck house, also south of Dixon, and the former Currey ranch home 3 miles north of Dixon.

Tremont Church

Back in 1855 the Solano County Board of Supervisors designated the northeastern portion of Solano County as Tremont Township. (For those of you that don't know where the church is located it is just west of the intersection of Tremont Rd. and Rd. 104 which is Mace Blvd.) There is some discussion as to whether or not the name was started as Tremont or Fremont. Never the less it became Tremont and remains the same today. Most of these settlers in the area were of German descent. The area was dry land farmed raising wheat and barley and several had market gardens. There were also some sheep and cattle raised in the area. As for supplies there was the Solano House which provided basics along with a Post Office, the Solano (Tremont) school and a community meeting hall. If one needed something else it required a buggy ride into Davisville to the north, Dixon to the west or to Sacramento to the east. If a trip to Sacramento was needed it meant an overnight stay plus crossing the Sacramento River on a ferry provided by the Captain "Tule Jack".

A good deal of activity revolved around church but the Tremont area did not have a church for services. The closest church in the area was at Silveyville some 10 miles away by horse and buggy. This trip was made but over time the women of Tremont decided that they needed their own church. So in 1863 the Tremont women formed what is still functioning today as the Tremont Mite Society. The Society took its name from the biblical writings of Mark about a widow who cast her "mite," the smallest coin mentioned in the bible, into their collection box and was praised by Jesus for giving all she had. In this case a 50 cent contribution by each family to the building fund started the church project. Starting in the 1860's the group met in the Tremont Hall (built by Fred Hyde) until their church was built. Cornelia Jane Saunders Hyde was the first president of the Tremont Mite Society. She and her husband donated 2 acres of land on which to build the church. Building materials came from Maine Prairie to the south on schooners, which provided the necessary lumber and materials for the church. With the help of volunteers the church was built. The Gordon brothers and a Justice of the Peace Cloutman built the pulpit as well as other furniture for the inside. Hale's and Breuner's of Sacramento donated furniture also.

In 1871 the church was opened and the name Westminster Church of Tremont was dedicated and services started. First services were conducted by a traveling pastor. The first wedding took place in 1873.

The Tremont Mite Society still meets socially and oversees the upkeep of the church. This makes it one of the oldest continually operated women's organization in the state. The last regular services were held in Tremont in 1912. In 1929 the church and cemetery were deeded to the Silveyville Cemetery District who now maintains the

building and grounds. In 1979 the Society began hosting biennial socials with the celebration of the renovation of the interior of the church with insurance monies donated by local farmers from loss of the old Tremont Hall.

Everyone should take the opportunity sometime to stop and visit the church and cemetery.