



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

buttecountyhistoricalsociety.org visit us on Facebook buttehistory@sbcglobal.net

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*Joining the Butte County
 Historical Society*

BCHS is primarily supported by memberships and donations from the people and the friends of Butte County and receives no direct government funding. Membership in BCHS is open to all.

Members receive:

- Slickens (monthly newsletter)
- The Diggin's (quarterly publication)
- 10% discount on museum store purchases
- Early notice of BCHS programs and activities

BCHS Membership Application

Check one:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$40) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family (\$35) | |

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Mail with your check to: BCHS, P. O. Box 2195, Oroville, CA 95965

BCHS PROPERTIES

Ehmann Home
 1480 Lincoln, Oroville
 Saturdays — 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 530-533-5316

Museum - Archives
 Corner of Spencer and Baldwin
 Oroville
 530-533-9418

Museum
 Friday from 9 am - Noon
 Saturday from 11 am - 3 pm

Archives
 Thursday and Friday
 9 am - Noon

Oregon City School
 2100 Oregon Gulch Road
 Oregon City, CA
 Saturday & Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm
 530-533-9418

Bangor Church
 5730 LaPorte Road, Bangor, CA
 Noon to 2 pm on 1st & 3rd Saturday
 Closed: Dec., Jan., Jul. and Aug.
 530-679-2112

The New Year Brings Some Magic to Our Collections
 by Nancy Brower



There is a fairly constant flow of new donations into the archives. Sometimes a new acquisition really catches the interest of the volunteers. This was the case recently when we received two trunks with **Revello the Magician** painted on their lids. They came from the estate of a woman whose father was a magician and also the manager of the Empire Theater in Oroville. Roland Petee, also known as Revello the Magician, was primarily known as a ventriloquist, but the trunk also contains standard magician's props like a rabbit and a telescoping cane. A scrapbook, photos, and other memorabilia along with flyers listing



movies then being shown at the Empire Theater and Mesa Drive-In, are among the treasures. After a complete inventory of the contents is completed and cataloged, you can expect to see selected items presented in an exhibit, most likely on our website.

Temporary Closure of BCHS Facilities

The Executive Committee of the Butte County Historical Society voted recently to suspend in-person committee meetings and close our facilities to the public for the month of January. This action will only effect the Ehman Home and the Lillian Pinkner Archives as the Museum and Bangor Church are closed for the winter season and the Oregon City School is closed for repairs. The necessity for these closures will be reviewed before the end of January and a determination will be made for re-opening dates at that time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we encourage you to continue to call or email us with your research needs and we will assist to the best of our ability.

More info on page 2



This and That

As noted on page one of this issue, action was taken by the BCHS Executive Committee to close public access to our facilities and suspend in-person meetings for the month of January. This is not how we had hoped to begin the new year but the rapid spread of new variants of the Covid virus and some uncertainty as to their virulence create a situation that calls for some caution.

Planning for our 2022 Spring events will continue via email and Zoom meetings. Our calendar, with the event dates approved through June of 2022 will be published in the February newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who has already paid their dues for 2022. If you aren't sure, check your Slickens mailing label for your expiration date.



NUGGETS from the Archives by Lucy Sperlin

Collections are the 'Long Term Memory' of Local History

It's a new year and the Accession numbers for our collections change to 2022- numbers! For those of you who donated in 2020 and 2021, we are working hard to get caught up on processing and cataloguing after losing most of 2020's work hours at the Archives. Many of our donors will have already received acknowledgements from us, and others soon will. If you itemize tax deductions and need it sooner, please let us know. Next month we hope to have a complete list of donors for both years published in Slickens. For our many newer members who might be wondering – our collection policy focuses our collection on items that originated or were used in Butte County. Always feel free to call or email if you have objects, photos or documents that you believe would add to the historic record. You might be able to fill a gap in the collections. For example, we recently were given a substantial collection of Butte County 4-H materials... a 'gold mine' for us because previously the 4-H program had been represented in our collections by only a few items. Similar examples are a major collection of material from the now closed Feather Falls School, and a teacher's photo collection from the Pleasant Valley School District (now part of Chico Unified). Collecting history means also being a Futurist, foreseeing what, that is commonplace now or in recent past, will evoke interest or even astonishment 100 years from now.

PRESERVING EVERYONE'S HISTORY By Lucy Sperlin

I recently came across a note that I'd like to share with Slickens readers....

"Thank you so much for sending that little Keepsake book back to New York State. I recognized most of the last names right away. Even some of the first names. I could tell by the assortment of names what area of the town the book came from. I'm so glad you sent it on to us." ...

*Signed: Lorna Spencer,
Town of Freedom Historian.*

This referred to a small late 19th century Keepsake book someone donated to us a few years ago that was filled with many locks of hair, each with their names, rather like an autograph book. (Think of the DNA potential!) On investigation we discovered that all the people lived in Cattaraugus County, New York, and so we sent it 'home' to them. It was a great example of how historians are aware of the importance of local history not just to their own community but to the entire country. Also interesting was a handwritten note written on the back, reading... *"In New York State, by law, every town, village, borough or County must have a Historian. It is a paid position, has training sessions, etc., just as other official positions.* Wouldn't it be wonderful if every state did that!

Our caretaker position at the Oregon City School is open and we invite those with an interest to contact us for more information:

buttehistory@sbcglobal.net
or
530-533-9418

Welcome!

New Members:

Jerry Odell - Oroville
Jeff Wilson - Oroville
Phil Filbrandt - Chico
Andrew Fuller - Custer, WA

Upcoming BCHS Events

Coming in early 2022:
Art Show
Museum Speaker Series
Spring Yard Sale
Oregon City BBQ (tentative)
Olive Festival

Watch for dates and information on our website, Facebook page and the Slickens.

The BCHS Mission
is to preserve Butte County's rich and varied history, making it engaging and meaningful for all.

Board Meets at the Ehmann Home the
2nd Wednesday at 7 pm

2022 Officers

President - Larry Tracy
Vice President - Dale Wangberg
Vice President, Finance - Larry Mauch
Secretary - Sandy Brodrick
Treasurer - Dorothy Lindsay

Board Members at Large

Marjorie Daley
Dixie Hargrove
Phil Ravert
Lynsea Wells
Jim Holt
Peggie Adamson

Past President

Kent Fowler

Publications Staff

Diggin's - Nancy Brower
Slickens - Dale Wangberg
Museum Director - Lucy Sperlin
Ehmann Home - Alberta Tracy

Spring is on the Way!

Our Fall and Winter rains are setting us up for an outstanding Spring wildflower season on Table Mountain and the Sierra foothills. Though the Oregon City School House is still undergoing repairs, BCHS is hoping to provide interpretive tours of the grounds and buildings during the peak weekends of the wildflower tourism. If you are interested in volunteering as a docent please contact us via email. March through May is generally the busiest time for wildflower tourism. We will provide information and training.

Email: buttehistory@sbcglobal.net Subject: OC School

