



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

buttecountyhistory.com visit us on Facebook buttehistory@sbcglobal.net

**Alberta Tracy 1938-2023**



We are saddened to share that the communities of Oroville and Paradise, and indeed, all of Butte County lost one of our most active, friendly and creative citizens. Alberta Tracy, known as The Lady of Butte County, passed away on the morning of August 17<sup>th</sup>, a week after her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was the mastermind behind many local traditions and did so much for the Butte County Historical Society that it would take an army of volunteers to match her accomplishments.

Alberta's Memory Party will be on September 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12 at the Gray Nurse Building at 1359 Huntoon St in Oroville. Crystal Patterson from Music & Fiber Arts Studio is going to play the piano and John Ruedy from Alberta's Church will give a reading. We plan to end the gathering with a raising of the flag on the liberty pole and singing the state song.



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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 PROPERTIES**

**Ehmann Home**  
 1480 Lincoln, Oroville  
 (Temporarily Closed)  
 530-533-9418

**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

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

**BCHS Membership Application**

**Check one:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$35)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$55)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$45)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$105)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$30)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$35) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family (\$40) |  |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

# The Research Corner



This month's tidbit concerns a research question that seemed like minutia, but turned out to be more..... "What kind of rice were Chico-San Rice Cakes made of? " ..... This took us into an interesting bit of history in which the Cold War, Butte County agriculture, and changing ideas about nutrition intersected. Two 'refugees' from the Cold War, Dick Smith and Bob Kennedy, came to 'safer' Chico from New York in 1960. They began importing products from Japan and created the now ubiquitous Chico-San rice cakes, using short grain brown rice at a plant on Humbolt St. in Chico. Later the plant moved to Gridley and was bought by Quaker Oats in 1993.

As to the specific question... "What kind of rice were Chico-San Rice Cakes made of?.. A trip to the digital newspaper archives provided this information from the Chico Enterprise Record of June 28, 1971: "All of the rice used by the firm [Chico-San] is produced by WEHAH Farm"

WEHA, as some long time Butte County residents may recall, was an acronym using the first letter of the first name of the four brothers who began the organic brown rice industry in this area; Wendell, Eldon, Harlan and Homer Lundberg. The business continues today, operated by their children and grandchildren, as Lundberg Family Farms.

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

Board Meets at the Butte County History Center the  
2nd Wednesday at 7 pm

### 2023 Officers

President - Larry Tracy  
Vice President - Dale Wangberg  
Vice President, Finance - Larry Mauch  
Secretary - Sandy Brodrick  
Treasurer - Janet Bertagna

### Board Members at Large

Marjorie Daley  
Dixie Hargrove  
Lynsea Wells  
Peggie Adamson  
Daniel Ballard  
Dorothy Lindsay

### Past President

Kent Fowler

### Publications Staff

Diggin's - Nancy Brower  
Slickens - Dale Wangberg

# Welcome!

## New Members

Barbara Graham Woodland

Shawn Webber Oroville

# Save the Date !

**September 9: Movie night at Oregon City**

**October 14: History presentation  
by Mark Karr**

**November 18: Annual Members meeting and  
program. TBA**

**December 9: Holiday Open House**

Join Local Historian Mark Karr as he examines...  
**The History of Rancho Golden**  
*From Showcase Commercial Citrus Grove to Post WWII  
Housing Development.*

**Saturday, October 14th at the BCHS History Center**  
**1749 Spencer Avenue, Oroville California. 2 pm to 3:30 pm**

**Mark Karr will discuss the economic conditions of the late 19th century that prompted local business leaders to seek reliable sources of revenue, leading to the development of Oroville's nationally famous citrus industry and eventually, to development of affordable housing for veterans of World War Two.**

With the 1891 formation of the Oroville Citrus Association and the development of a showcase grove of Navel oranges to demonstrate the crop's ability to survive and thrive in the "thermal belt" micro climate of the area, Oroville became famous for its citrus industry. After 50 years of national leadership in the industry, with thousands of train car loads of Oranges shipped from the area, everything changed.

What triggered the end of the successful citrus industry and the beginning of the Rancho Golden Housing Development?

Mark will partner with the Newton Family, whose grandfather began the development of Rancho Golden, to explore the change from Citrus grove to housing development. A collection of early photos of the Rancho Golden housing tract construction will be shown, this being their first public viewing, thanks to the gracious permission of the Newton Family



**Movie Night at the Oregon City School**  
**Saturday, September 9th**  
**Movie starts at 7 pm.**

*Suggested donation of five dollars.*

Join us at the historic Oregon City Schoolhouse for an outdoor showing of the 80's spooky movie *Children of the Corn*.

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and snacks. We will have bottled water available.

The Schoolhouse will be open to tour from 5:30 to 6:30 pm

*Please remember, the Schoolhouse and grounds are no-smoking areas.*

