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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  
 Saturday 11 am to 3 pm  
 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

**New Exhibits**

**Open Museum Weekend**

Saturday and Sunday

March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

10 am to 4 pm

BCHS Museum-1749 Spencer Avenue in Oroville

**“Lets Have Some Fun”**

**Leisure Time and Entertainment In  
 Early Butte County**

Featuring magician props from the trunks of Revello the Magician-also a nationally known ventriloquist and puppet maker

Exhibits will include many other forms of entertainment-parades, expos and fairs and social entertainment such as dancing and table games.

*Please come and see these ‘entertaining’ exhibits.*



## Reminder

Memberships end on December 31st. Last year we began sending renewals via e-mail for those members who have provided us with their e-mail address. If we don't have one for you, it will come via USPS as usual. With the increasing costs of postage, we are attempting to be more fiscally efficient. If you aren't sure of the status of your membership, the expiration date appears on your mailing label. We thank those who have already renewed for 2025.

**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

### 2025 Officers

President - Larry Mauch  
Vice President - Daniel Ballard  
Vice President, Finance - Open  
Secretary - Lucy Sperlin  
Treasurer - Janet Bertagna

### Board Members at Large

Marjorie Daley  
Peggie Adamson  
Dale Wangberg  
Kent Fowler

### Publications Staff

Diggin's - Nancy Brower  
Slickens - Dale Wangberg

## In Memoriam

### Marilyn Cochran

We learned recently of the passing of Marilyn Cochran, a good friend and long time member of the Butte County Historical Society. Marilyn had reached the age of 100 years.

Marilyn came to Butte County in 1947 with her husband Noel Newton Jr., where Noel's father had begun the building of the Rancho Golden Subdivision in Thermalito.

Marilyn had chosen a career in nursing and over the years she worked in Curran Hospital, Butte County Hospital, Oroville Family Health Clinic and for the last 22 years of her career she taught in the Certified Nurse Assistant Program at Butte College.

She was always willing to share her knowledge of mid-twentieth century history of our area with local researchers and she will be greatly missed.

# Welcome!

## New Members

**Sarah Mauch and Lane Owen -  
Magalia**

# Save the Date!

Volunteer Appreciation: February 22

Museum Opening: March 1&2

Wildflower Weekends: Sundays,  
March 30th through April 7th

Olive Festival: June

## Volunteer Appreciation Program

On Saturday, February 22 at 1 pm., the BCHS Board of Directors will be hosting a volunteer appreciation program at the Ehmann Home in downtown Oroville. A light luncheon will be followed by a report on work accomplished on our various facilities and activities at the Museum and Archives. Recognition of outstanding volunteers for their work at our facilities and events will complete the program. We hope to see you there.



## The Research Corner

By Nancy Brower

Occasionally an intriguing item shows up at the Archives that seems to demand further investigation. In this case it was a photo postcard of an elegant Spanish style building with the words "Feather Lodge" and "Oroville District" printed on it. The questions were "where was this building located" and "does it still exist." A quick check in Newspapers.com unearthed an article indicating that Dr. Rufus David, a physician from Los Angeles, purchased the Feather Lodge in April 1932. The article further revealed that the property had previously been owned by Associated Realty Owners and consisted of 32 acres which were planted with hundreds of Washington navel orange trees. The property was described as being located on a bluff overlooking the Feather River. Further investigation showed that it was utilized as a location for special parties through the 1930s.

This was all intriguing, but led to questions about who the Associated Realty Owners were and why they had built the Lodge. Nancy Negri kindly checked the records at the Butte County Hall of Records and located the deed for the sale to Rufus David and additional information about the property. The Associated Realty Owners were a real estate group from Los Angeles who decided to purchase land in the Oroville area and then promote it to Southern California citrus growers. Consequently, they obtained all of the unsold lands of the J.M. Ward Estate in the Oroville Wyandotte Fruitlands. This area is on the east side of Olive Highway in the vicinity of Lake Oroville.

One of the major figures in the Associated Realty Owners was Rolden Borden. In 1929 he stated "We have faith in the growth of the Oroville District as a citrus producing district, and we want to see it grow and help it grow." The Feather Lodge was built in 1928 for the comfort and entertainment of the would-be investors. Additionally, Borden and his associates hired a pilot to ferry investors from Los Angeles to Oroville. Among these was Brother Isaiah, who subsequently decided to relocate his colony to the area. The realty group promoted the Oroville area with a film called "Golden Streams" that was widely shown. They also produced an extensive booklet that extolled the value of planting citrus and avocado groves in the Oroville foothills and distributed 20,000 copies.

Unfortunately, the Realty group had apparently created a financial quagmire for themselves. Either they were unable to sell enough property or else they had grossly underestimated their finances. This was likely why they decided to sell the Feather Lodge to Dr. David. By the end of 1932, the group appeared prominently in legal notices related to unpaid taxes and delinquent mortgages.

The Lodge became a private residence, and various people lived there over the years. It was purchased by Harold and Barbara Hund in the early 1960s and remains in the family. So, the answers to the earlier questions are that it still exists and is located just off Canyon Drive.

