



THE AMADORIAN

A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

Greetings fellow members:

You don't have to be a football fan to love a long history of local high school rivalry. Growing up in Jackson, I was indoctrinated at a very early age, participating in "spirit week", the downtown rally and other festivities leading up to the "Big Game". By the time you read this the 101st Amador County Big Game may be decided and either Amador or Argonaut will be holding the "Bell Trophy". Enjoy an excerpt from Larry Cenotto's "Logan's Alley on this football tradition.

Please know that the ACHS continues to work with other nonprofits in Amador County to strengthen our presence in the community and increase our visibility to tourists.

Finally, as 2018 comes to a close, we end the year with our annual dinner meeting on Nov. 4th at Teresa's Banquet Room. Doors will open at 4:30pm. We are excited to have Cedric Clute recount the journey "From China to Gold Mountain; The 7,000 Mile Journey of Sammie Yep". More details in The Amadorian.

I hope to see you there!

Best regards, Jeana Hultquist,
ACHS President

Author June Wood Somerville

"Jenny" - Story of an Immigrant Child



Above: June donates four rusty unusual style plow horse bits for the new ACHS Livery Building. The bits were given to June by Robert Scully from his lone ranch.

Excerpt from June's Sept. 7th presentation as she describes her book, "Jenny" - Story of an Immigrant Child

A child named Jenny E. Hill was my grandfather Coffin's sister in law. Her sister Isabelle; also, a character in this story is grandfather's mother. Isabelle's sketch is from an old photo. Then I decided to draw all my characters. I did not know for sure how the ending would be, so it has two endings. Jenny died in her early twenties. I

Jenny (cont.)

wanted her to live on and have a fulfilled life in Carson Valley. My characters came to me gradually, and I created and included them chapter by chapter. They came into Carson Valley from the East and West on foot, horses, wagons or on the stage coach. The setting is the settlement of Genoa; in 1853, it was famous as Mormon Station.

Relax and close your eyes if you wish. I want to take you back to a Fall day in October 1853. The scene is the porch of the oldest bar, in today's Nevada, presently this is Utah territory. "Listen said one man, stop rocking, and hear the horses whiny and the wheels rolling. We're going to have company."

Up the small rise came two oxen guided by a tall stocky man walking at their side. He drove them into a stockade by a large log cabin. Behind this wagon were two black Morgan horses, on one sat a young girl. "By-gum says the same man I know that fellow. He came through here last year with one of the largest wagon companies driven west, 300 hundred led by three captains, and this man, Doc Caples was one of them. Doc Caples, same one who has the station up at Mountain Lakes. Humbug, how can he come from the East twice, that's a tickler, that is?"

Many townsfolk were gathering, par usual, to find out about the trails, Indians or eastern news though three - four months old. Capt. Caples was asking regarding a family that could welcome and accommodate this young girl. Both parents had died of cholera on the trail.

Wholesome information was gathered quickly. The girl, Jenny, had joined Doc and

asked, "Please could my horses come with me?" A loving home was located with a Spanish basque couple on a large sheep ranch in Mottsville just four miles west.

Jenny's next ten years were engaged with schooling, working at her "new folks" restaurant in Gardnerville. She played teacher with young children. When snowbound, she assisted teaching with "home schooling." She enjoyed visiting her Washoe friends in their village near Woodsfords learning basketry and their language.

A young man, a new character, name Trevor, had arrived in 1855 with a company of German immigrants who were settling on acreage west of Minden with the help of the Dangbergs and Dressler families. Jenny fell in love at nine! Trevor was a journalist, a correspondent for two quarterly books, the Chatterbox and St. Nichols and some Eastern newspapers. He came west to overcome some grief and joined the German company in St. Louis, Missouri. Later he wanted to check in with the editor of the Territorial Enterprise whose office had moved from its beginning at Mormon Station to Virginia City. It will be interesting to have many visits and lunch with Samuel Clemens. Trevor will later exchange occupations to become a miner and be the "Summit City Correspondent" secret writer for the Sacramento and San Francisco newspapers.

In remembrance, I recreated an annual summer occasion when most of the Carson Washoe Tribe migrated through Hope Valley, up Johnson Pass and down into the southern end of Lake Tahoe. This occurred every Spring. Squaws packing bags of pine nuts, the children following with bark sleds full of cooking utensils, cone shaped fishing

Meet New ACHS Board Member***Jeannette Garbarini-Walters***

What brought me to Jackson: Jackson has always held a strong place in my heart. My father, Allan Garbarini grew up here but left as a young man to join the army air corps. He remained in Southern California for thirty years and then retired to his beloved Jackson.

All of our family summer vacations and many holidays were spent in Jackson and Corral Flats near Silver Lake.



My mother and two of my sisters live here which was another draw.

When I retired from the San Francisco Symphony as retail director, it was just natural to make this move to Jackson.

Family Connection: Virgilio S Garbarini was my great grandfather. My grandfather Ralph Garbarini (his son) was a wonderful source on the V.S. mechanical legacy.

What inspired me to volunteer for ACHS: Stopping by the museum one Sunday and meeting Judy Jebian and Cathy McGowen

peaked my interest. Having further conversations about the museum collections with Judy, I realized that I would like to volunteer.

What have I enjoyed about volunteering at the ACHS? I love the museum Brown home and its varied collections that illustrate the historical life of Amador County. It is a wonderful environment to learn about California history! **Colorful stories abound. The visitors are always surprised by the quality of the museum exhibits, the mine model and the beautifully presented galleries.**

Many visitors that come through have their own history to share. I am impressed by a very dedicated volunteer board. The challenge of raising funds for building a new enclosed and much needed livery stable is a huge task .

The Amador County Museum is a jewel!

Thank you Jeannette for your work and support of ACHS!

Jenny (cont.)

baskets and maybe balls for favorite games. The men toted the canvas for tents; tent poles could be made at the lake. Sometimes a small homemade boat would be toted. Campgrounds for different tribes lined the southern end of the lake. Other camps were on the upper Truckee River towards Meiss Meadows (or their name at the time). However, this was bear country, not a comfortable area, but good fishing. The Western Miwok tribes travelled up from Mexican territory, later California, mingled and traded acorns, basketry or sea shells. In the fall, all tribes returned to their villages. To witness this colorful procession was quite an admiration.

When Jenny left for teacher's college in Sacramento, the story gave me a chance to recall those 1930 visits with my folks, either on the paddle wheeler River King or Queen or on Grandpa Hirschey's small yacht motoring from San Francisco up the muddy Sacramento River. The old river, its trees falling on the banks and sandbar traps to avoid. Earlier visits to Sutter's Fort and on up Hwy 49 to see the hydraulic hoses tearing at the mountain.

Writing Jenny, also led me back to early San Francisco. I forgot; imagine, to include the Ferry Boats. Their names on the bow were their destinations to the towns around the bay. They did not go to the East Bay or San Jose, too shallow at low tide. They were fun to travel on especially standing outside in the spray. Inside was a cafe, hot with steam fogged windows. It was fun recalling the presidio and marching soldiers, the beautiful golden gate, sutro baths, the long beach and Chinatown.

While living and schooling in Sacramento, Jenny meets the Crocker family boys, love again? In her senior year, there was a thesis

to write. I am not so proud to say I was the perpetual sophomore in college, I had Jenny do it for me. Jenny, for three years had daily watched the characteristics of the port activity and spent a great deal of time sitting on the river wharf and observing the congestion, the traffic, and some accidents. Her thesis was so respective of the waterfront problems. It was not a subject that could be found in books. She nicknamed it "A Sailors Yarn." She kept a wonderful "field of study" showing where information had been obtained and the forty or more private recorded interviews. It was titled, "Changes and Choices from my input on the Sacramento River." Added at the end... "The Public and Merchant Marines Contribution to Changes and Choices on the Sacramento River.""

After graduation, Jenny returns home and meets again the wonderful character Gilbert Heinz. His earlier chapter came to me so fast, it was hard to type it quickly. He and his mining partner, Oscar, who is a believer in witching from a book called, "The Divining Rod - The Witching Stick-or Dowsing Rod." The story will tell you how witching started searching for minerals not water. That came later. Gilbert had befriended Tully and Hathaway, two minors that would search and locate a canyon with a very high peak on the North side. You will find Chapter X taking you over the Mormon Trail with Gilbert and Oscar to Ramon Plasse's Rock Foundation of his 1853 trading post on Squaw Ridge above Silver Lake. Enough said - I want you to find the unexpected surprises of history.

If you are interested in buying June's book,
Jenny: Story of an Immigrant Child
Contact June at:
5890 Rancho Road
Ione, CA 95640
209-274-4479

Armistice Day Football Traditions^I

Considering the tradition of “the Big Game” and attendant practices... Oldtimers must be pleasantly surprised to discover that this year’s seventy-sixth football game between Amador (successor to Sutter Creek union high school) and Argonaut (successor to Jackson union) occurs on Thursday, November 11, or veterans’ day.

Traditionally, or from 1927 through 1958, all “big games” were played that holiday afternoon at Sutter Creek’s campus, the old Zeile field, or Butte bowl, now on the campus of Jackson junior high school. If the holiday were on Sunday, of course, the game was played on Monday. Thus, in those days, the “big game” might be played any weekday or even Saturday afternoon.



Program cover from a 1930s big game at Zeile field in Jackson. Amador archives collection.

Two traditions were broken in 1959 when administrators scheduled the “big game” for Friday and at night.

Why a veterans’ day date this year? There’ll be no classes Friday, and schools customarily do not schedule athletic events on non-school weekdays. Moreover, according to Argonaut principal Chris Equinoa, the game was so dated to revive the old armistice/veterans’ day practice. In 1954, the holiday became veterans’ day.

Another custom of the “big game” is its status as the last regularly scheduled game of the season. Playoffs, of course, sometimes follow.

In 1923 Sutter Creek and Jackson met for the first time. Their Thanksgiving day game was the last game of the season. That “last game” custom continued for 51 years through 1973.

In the 1970s school officials deemed that pre-game hi-jinx were getting out of hand. Mother lode league administrators tried to restore order and eliminate vandalism by deemphasizing the games. They rotated the “big games” through the five-game league schedule. They would be played the first week, or second, or third, or fourth, or every fifth year, the traditional last week.

But in 1990 administrators restored the old tradition of having the “Big Game” the last week of league play. One reason, said Equinoa: “Schools weren’t paying too much attention to other games.” Hence, in 1991, Amador and Argonaut have resumed playing the “big game” the last game of the year. Now, all games are at night again as Argonaut’s Dan Barnett field has lights.

A typical armistice day “big game” may have been in 1947, waged Tuesday, November 11, at 2:30 at Butte bowl. Nearly 3,000 fans filled the bleachers and crowded the sidelines. Before the game, Amador Legion post 108 presented colors, then planted them on one side of the field. At halftime, of course, the colors were moved to the opposite sideline to equally honor both teams.

ACHS 2018 - Board of Directors

Officers

Jeana Hultquist, President
Ed Arata, Vice President
Judy Jebian, Secretary
Wayne Garibaldi, Treasurer
Keith Sweet, Correspondence Secretary

Board Members

Thornton Consolo
Georgia Fox
Jeanette Garbarini-Walters
Phillip Giurlani
Teresa Guidi
Cathy McGowen
Alicia Miller
Gary Reinoehl
Coni Saracino
Danna Saunders
Grant Vogel
Russ vanVoorhis
Leonard Williams

*Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday
of each month at 3:00 p.m. at 225 Church St.
(Amador County Museum)*

Members and friends are invited to attend.

Amador County Historical Society

Member Events for 2018

ANNUAL MEMBER DINNER

Teresa's Banquet Room

Sunday, November 4th - 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker - Cedric Clute

**“From China to Gold Mountain; The 7,000 Mile
Journey of Sammie Yep”**

\$30/per person RSVP

209-257-1485 or

AmadorCountyHistoricalSociety.org

Pay at door or online through PayPal

Amador Central Railroad

Events & Run Dates for 2018

Second Saturday - Ione Station

Run times: 10am - Noon - 2pm \$10/seat

**For more information, contact Grant Vogel at
(209) 221-5418 or grant@amadorcentral.com**

Kennedy Mine Model Tours

Tours of the Kennedy Mine Model are on-going every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the building adjacent to the museum.... come on down, bring your friends, see how the “Hardrock Miners” brought the gold up from more than a mile from under the earth.

See the headframe, the Stamp Mill and the Wheel in action with mechanized motors.... it is like a little show lasting about 45 minutes, with live narrative and tape presentation. Exhibits refurbished earlier this year!

Tours are at noon and 1:00 p.m. or by appointment any day or time (subject to docent availability). Group tours, schools and organizations welcome! Located at 225 Church Street, Jackson Mine Model building in parking lot next to museum.

For more information, call the Amador County Historical Society at 209-257-1485.



Armistice Day Football (cont.)

The Amador County band performed, as did the Sutter Creek drill team. The national guard took part, too, showing off its new armored car.

Amador and predecessor Sutter Creek union dominate the series, recording 41 wins, 9 ties, and 25 losses. But Argonaut has won the last four and five of the last six.

At this writing¹, both teams are tied with Calaveras and Linden for the league lead. This year’s seventy-sixth “Big Game” could well be for outright championship or a league tie. Moreover, being played on the holiday, it evokes dear memories of over three decades of “Big Game” football, 1927 to 1958.

¹ *A Look Back*, 8 Nov 1993, *Amador Ledger Dispatch*.

The Amadorian
A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society
P.O. Box 761
Jackson, CA 95642

In This Issue

- *President's Corner*
- *June Wood-Somerville - "Jenny: The Story of an Immigrant Child"*
- *Meet New ACHS Board Member Jeannette Garbarini-Walters*
- *ACHS Annual Dinner Meeting - Nov. 4th*
- *Armistice Day Football Traditions*