

THE AMADORIAN

A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

President's Corner

Dear Fellow ACHS Member:

Plans for 2019 are starting to take shape. The ACHS board is planning to hold events in various cities around Amador County to promote membership value and an opportunity to share in the rich history of this County. Save the dates and more details on Page 3.

For those of you that attended our annual membership meeting in November heard an excellent recount of the 7,000 mile journey of Sammie Yep from "China to Gold Mountain." We were pleased to have two of Sammie's sons and his granddaughter join us for the evening.

The crowd also received an update on our plans to construct a new livery building on the Museum grounds to house our existing collection of carriages, carts, wagons, and other large outdoor items. Plans are moving ahead and we await dry weather to commence the project. ***We are extremely grateful for the generous donation from ACHS member Stan Lukowicz towards the livery building project. We also want to thank Teresa's Restaurant and the Guirlani family for providing an excellent dinner which allowed all proceeds to benefit the ACHS.***

On behalf of the ACHS board and entire membership we congratulate Keith Sweet and Rick Kretz for their recent award as the 11th annual Margaret Dalton Golden Acorn Award. As many of you know, Keith was previous President of ACHS and instrumental in the successful completion of many projects and continues to Chair the Living History Program. The Program deserves much more attention and was one of the reasons that inspired me to highlight former Sutter Creek artist, Toby Tyler (article begins on Page 5). After Mr. Tyler's passing in 2017, his nephew sent the news article and photos in memory of Toby's life in Sutter Creek.



Cedric Clute: From China to Gold Mountain: The 7,000 mile journey of Sammie Yep

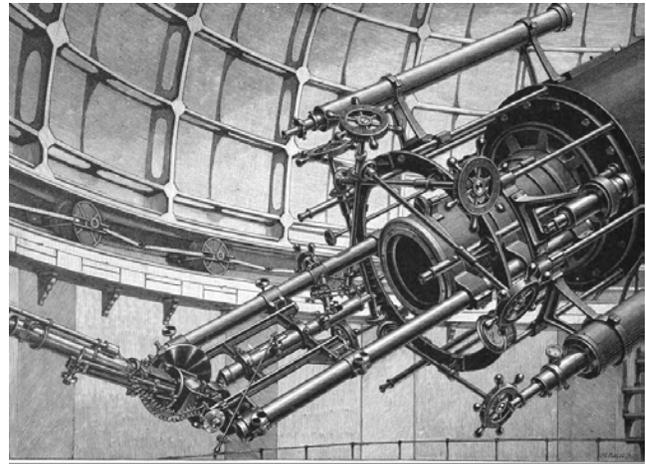
I hope you enjoy the story and check out the visual recount of "Landmarks in Amador County" Tape #37 on the ACHS website. There is a wealth of wonderful stories on the living history site. Individuals who would like to participate or who need more information, please contact Keith Sweet at 209-419-3770 or Jim Guidi at 209-223-1340.

Thank you for your membership and interest in the Amador County Historical Society. Enjoy the Amadorian and I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events!

*Best regards,
Jeana Hultquist, President*



Amateur astronomer **George Madeira**, pictured, influenced land baron James Lick’s decision to build an observatory in San Jose.¹



Top²: Lick Observatory’s 36-inch Lick Refractor was the largest telescope in the world when the Warner & Swasey Co. and optics firm Alvan Clark & Sons built it in 1888. **Above³:** The observatory, which sits atop Mount Hamilton in San Jose, is credited with the discovery of moons of Jupiter and planets outside our solar system.

***How one Amador County miner
INSPIRED***

***the world’s first mountaintop
observatory***

*By Valerie Stimac, as appeared in the February 3, 2019
Special Edition of the SFChronicle*

In the spring of 1843, George Madeira gazed up and saw the bright body and hazy tail of a comet streaking across the night sky. The sight sparked an interest in astronomy that would carry him throughout his life, and ultimately set in motion a

chain of events that led to the construction of the world’s largest telescope, atop Mount Hamilton in the Diablo Range just east of San Jose.

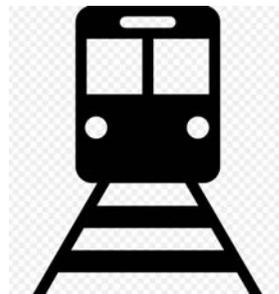
Madeira’s adventure began in 1852 when, at the age of 15, he migrated west with his parents and siblings in an ox-drawn wagon, toward California in search of the gold that brought many others to the region. He brought his interest in astronomy, along with his collection of astronomy books and star charts. “Many times during the latter end of
(continued on page 4)

Amador Central RailRoad

Earlier this fall, Grant Vogel (pictured below) and Tom Correa installed the switch stand that a local man by the name of Bob Long donated earlier in the year. A huge thanks goes out to Leonard Williams for pouring a very nice foundation for it to be bolted to. The installation went without a hitch thanks to Leonard's accurate installation of the bolts needed to bolt it down. This is a very nice addition to our Lane's Station and something that the riders will enjoy looking at while waiting for the speeders to return.



ACHS Membership Railroad Run



Come take a ride on the railroad. Special invitation to ACHS members.

April 20, 2019

Two Runs:

11 am & 1pm

Limited Space

\$10.00/member - \$15.00/non-members

RSVP by Tuesday, April 16th to:

Jeana Hultquist at 916-705-6989;

jhultquist@aol.com or leave message at 209-257-1485.

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your reserved time. The rides start at Lane's Station which is on Hwy 104 -100 yards south of the tracks on the east side. The trip goes 3 miles to Sunny Brook and back covering 3 miles each way.

Light food and beverages will be provided. Food truck will be on sight for purchased items.

Inspired (cont.) the trip ... when the load must be reduced, my books and charts were tossed out only to be returned by myself to the wagon,” Madeira wrote in 1887.

Madeira and his family arrived in Amador County and settled in a town called Volcano, nestled in the foothills in the western Sierra, just one year after the town was formally established and the post office opened. The winding main street followed the curve of a small ravine, past a hotel, saloons and other businesses that served miners and prospectors searching for fortune.

In 1860, at age 23, Madeira set up an amateur observatory on a hillside close to main street in Volcano. Using only heavy canvas and oilcloth covering to protect the telescope from the weather, Madeira began to plot the stars and study the sun through a 3-inch telescope he had purchased and had delivered from San Francisco. He had great timing: On a summer afternoon in 1861, he was observing sunspots and noticed the hazy tail of a comet near the horizon.

“I have discovered a huge comet!” he exclaimed upon arrival at the home of his mentor, a fellow astronomy enthusiast and mathematician who also lived in Volcano.

While Madeira was not the first to discover what would come to be called the Great Comet of 1861, it was still a historic sighting, especially for an amateur. Madeira is mentioned by name in W.W. Campbell’s 1913 book “A Brief History of Astronomy in California”: “Madeira has recorded his discovery of the brilliant Comet 1861 II ... only a few hours following its discovery in Europe.”

After establishing his observatory, Madeira began touring Northern California, lecturing on objects in the night sky and demonstrating the use of his new portable telescope. Following a lecture in

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org



A plaque honors amateur astronomer George Madeira, who built California’s first astronomical observatory in Volcano (Amador County) in 1860.⁴

San Jose in 1860, Madeira wrote that he was approached by an older gentleman who inquired: “Will you accept an invitation to visit my place and remain a few days?” At the time, Madeira did not know the man but accepted his invitation and brought his traveling telescope.

Madeira’s host during the three-day stay was real estate tycoon James Lick. Lick is well known to contemporary Bay Area astronomers, largely because of the observatory near San Jose which bears his name.

Born in 1796 in Pennsylvania, Lick began building his fortune in South America and amassed his wealth through real estate as Gold Fever swept California. (He tried his hand in the gold fields before realizing that the money was in owning the land itself, not mining it.) He was a patron of social services and the sciences, donating to the Humane Society of the United States and supporting senior citizen care. He also helped establish the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. (The details of Lick’s life are best documented through his friends and benefactors. He was not a prolific writer, and there is no official biographical narrative of his life on record.) *Continued on page 10*

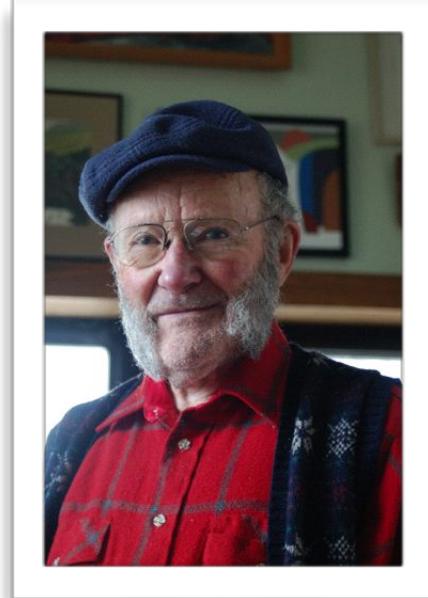
Remembering R.W. Toby Tyler 'Sutter Creek Community Legacy Awardee'

By JEFF TYLER, NEPHEW
With Contributions By MICHAEL ARMSTRONG,
STAFF WRITER, HOMER NEWS January 5, 2017

Many throughout Sutter Creek — and even Alaska — have at least one work of art by R.W. “Toby” Tyler in their home or business. Whether a wildflower painted on a finger-jointed wood scrap from an antique dynamite box, a scene of the Knight Foundry or a pen and ink drawing of a California Victorian home, Tyler’s work is a familiar sight and is honored with a plaque on the Legacy Wall display in the foyer of the City Auditorium.

On Dec. 22, 2016, Tyler, age 89, died at a long term care facility in Homer, Alaska. Despite a stroke in 2014 that gave him “left neglect” — the inability to perceive things on the left side of his vision — Tyler kept on painting and sketching up until the last few months of his life.

“R.W. Tyler did pen and ink drawings of all the historic buildings in Sutter Creek; and his drawings have come to be used to faithfully represent the City,” the City Counsel unanimously declared in their October 3,



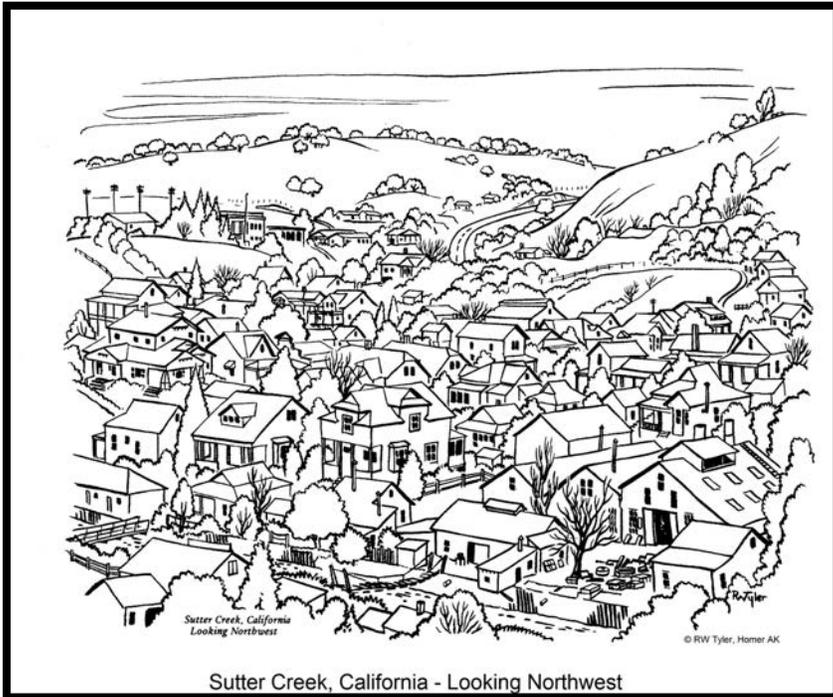
R. W. “Toby” Tyler

July 24, 1927 - December 22, 2016



SUTTER CREEK INN

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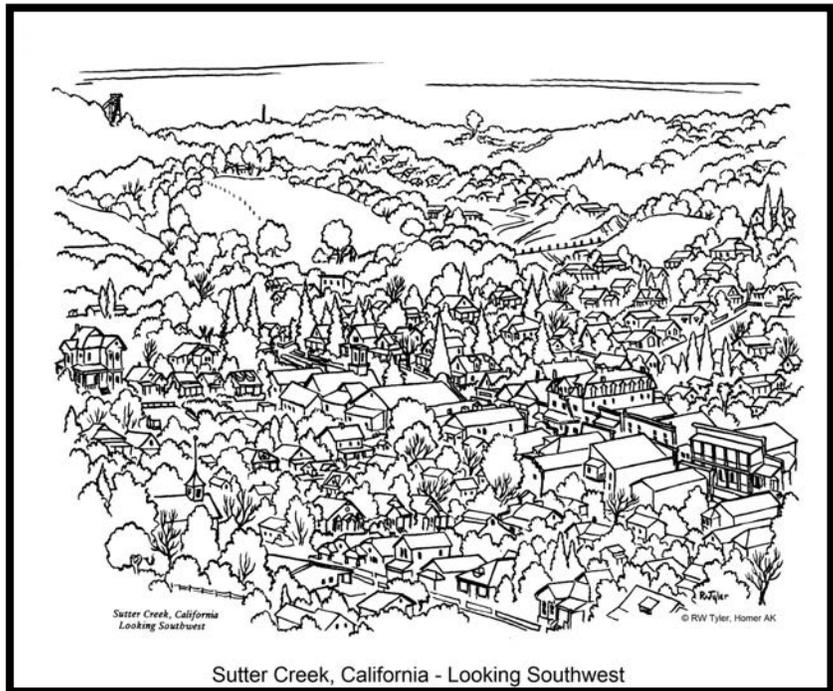


Tyler (cont.) 2011 minutes wherein Tyler was bestowed the City's Community Legacy Award.

In 1964, Tyler opened his gallery downstairs at 32 Main Street, Sutter Creek, Calif. and maintained his residence on the second floor. In an Oct. 22, 2015 interview, Tyler says he would use painting as an excuse to go for long hikes, picking wild grasses that he placed in glass bottles in the left rear room of the gallery and calling it "the weed bar." His faithful Cockapoo dog, Sketch, accompanied Tyler on his hikes and was the unofficial greeter to all who frequented the gallery.

Pen and ink drawings of Amador County's historic buildings, watercolors of many Victorian homes and California wildflowers, linoleum block prints of architectural relics, and charcoal rubbings of historical markers adorned the gallery walls. Most popular though, were the box sets of note cards done in various series which included: panorama views of Sutter Creek, pen and ink drawings of individual buildings (e.g. North Main Street, Eureka Street, Broad Street, series etc.) and the most popular, his 1977 series of California Wildflowers.

Tyler's prolific work included pen and ink drawings of the Sutter Creek Inn (North Main St.), Monteverde Store (Randolph St.), Onetto House (Randolph St.), Mrs. Thrasher's house (23 Main Street), the famous Tonzi House (before it burned to the



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ACHS 2019- Board of Directors

Officers

Jeana Hultquist, President
 Cathy McGowen, 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
 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 2019

- ***April 20- Ione - ACHS Member Run on
 the Railroad (Limited Space -
 See Page 3 for Details)***
- ***May 17 (Tentative) - Sutter Creek
 Schoolhouse***
- ***June 23 - ACHS BBQ - Amador County
 Museum - 5pm***
- ***Sept 20 - Wine & Cheese Fundraiser
 Special Guest Speaker: Scott Harvey***
- ***Nov 3 - Annual Membership Dinner at
 Teresa's Restaurant - 4:30 -7:00 pm***
- ***TBD - Sobon Estates Museum***

Amador Central Railroad -

Events and Run Dates for 2019

Second Saturday - Ione Station (weather
 permitting)

Run times: 10 am - 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 narration and tape presentation.

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.

ACHS Lifetime Members

Eugene & Christina Ammann - Kathy Allen & Frank Axe - Richard & July Allen - Joseph Aparicio Family - Ed & Mary Lee Arata - Caryl Arnese - Michael Bell - Heidi Boitano - Mark, Lorie & Matthew Bowlby - Ray & Barb Brusatori - William Burger - Paul & Claudine Burnett - Jerry Cassesi - Robert J. & Susan L. Chandler - D.E. Collins - Thornton & Paula Jo Consolo - Robert M. & Lorraine M. Cooper - Mary Cowan - Jeannine & Patrick Crew* - Jean Louise Dahl - Robert Davis - Kathleen Du Bois - John Ellyson, MD - Carol Emerson - Katherine Evatt & Pete Bell - Robin Field & Carol Mischer - Wayne Garibaldi - Phillip & Jenny Giurlani - Ray & Cheryl Herndon & Bobby Keeling - Curtis & Denise Hollis - Patricia Huberty - Jeana (Cova) Hultquist & Marshall Cova - Ida Ruth Johnson - Marilyn Jones - Richard & Pat Jones - Gretchen Kingsbury - George & Joan La Ponsie - Gary & Jaimie Little - Stan Lukowicz - Doug & Susan McElwee - Allen & Karen Martin - Jeremy & Shirley McCarty - Doug & Susan McElwee - Frances Melusky - Marshal Merriam - Joe & Alicia Miller (Giurlani) - Jean Mueller - Ron Oliverro - Katherine & William Orescan - Hazel, Jeffrey & Amy Powell - Marian & Leonard Randolph - Jeanne C. Russ - Martin Ryan - John H. & Patricia Scott - Norm Seid - Beverly Smallfield - George P. Smith - Rose Marie Smith - John Solaja* - Marie-Louise Solaja - Audrey Souza - Charles J. Spinetta - Ray Stacey* - Steve & Linda Stocking - Suzanne Erickson Stroy - Keith & Gail Sweet - Ed & Margaret Swift - Russell & Mary Beth VanVoorhis - Violich Farms - Grant Vogel & Pam Sharp - Fraser & Teddy West - Sutter Creek Promotions Committee - Volcano Community Services District

*Benefactor

About the Amador County Historical Society

The Amador County Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the research and preservation of Amador County heritage and history.

The organization brings together people from diverse backgrounds to work towards these goals. We invite all interested persons to attend our monthly meetings and encourage your suggestions and active participation in Society events and endeavors.

We also welcome guest articles for our newsletter. Unfortunately, due to limited space we can accept only those pertaining to local history. If you have any questions regarding ACHS please contact the office at (209) 257-1485.

If you would like to become a member of the Society, please fill in the membership form below and mail along with the appropriate dues to the Amador County Historical Society, P.O. Box 761, Jackson, Calif.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please check one of the following Membership:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| ANNUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 or more) \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Students \$15.00 |
| LIFETIME | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 or more) \$400.00 | SPONSOR | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000 up) |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$500 to \$999) |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$250 to \$499) |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Welcome New Members! (as of 2/22)

Joel & Stephanie Allen
 Peter Bib
 Ron Boeck
 Elizabeth Chapin-Pinotti
 Terry Donigan
 Linda Gonzales
 Heidi Horwitz
 Patricia Martinez
 Marty Mahoney
 Aaron Plunk
 Jeannette McDonald
 Jerry Short
 Kevin & Marni Sparks
 Eugene & Christina Ammann (Life Member)
 Doug & Susan McElwee (Life Member)

Member Survey:

The Amador County Historical Society is always looking for speaker ideas at our events and topics to include in the Amadorian.

We would like to hear from you. Please send your thoughts and ideas to:

209-257-1485 or info@achs1948.org

*Thank you for your interest and support of the Amador
 County Historical Society*

Inspired (Cont.) When he met Madeira, the 64-year-old Lick was a well-connected, wealthy land baron with an estate near the Guadalupe River in Santa Clara County. He and Madeira spent the nights of Madeira's visit stargazing and speaking about the planets and stars overhead. They discussed the value of larger telescopes and how glass technology was not yet able to build the kind of instruments that would unlock the deepest secrets of the heavens above.

In a bold move, Madeira said to Lick: "If I had your wealth, Mr. Lick, I would construct the largest telescope possible to construct," according to a letter Madeira wrote in 1887 to Edward Holden, director of the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton in San Jose.

Those words apparently stayed with Lick through the remainder of his life. In 1874, at the age of 78, Lick suffered a stroke and began planning his legacy.

"He really wanted to be remembered. And so he was thinking of a grand monument to himself," says Elinor Gates, staff astronomer at the Lick Observatory. "He wanted something that would be enduring."

Lick considered several outrageous ideas: a pyramid to rival those in Egypt to be erected at the corner of Fourth and Market streets in the heart of downtown San Francisco; a huge statue of himself and his parents near the Golden Gate. Ultimately, Lick began to consider donating a large portion of his fortune to the sciences.

"Saner heads prevailed," Gates says. "He recalled what George Madeira had said to him previously when he was down in his homestead in south San Jose."

And so Lick wrote into his deed of trust, established in 1875, that his fortune would be

used to build the world's most magnificent lens through which to peer into the heavens — "a telescope superior to and more powerful than any telescope yet made ... and also a suitable observatory connected therewith."

Lens technology had improved since Lick's conversation with the young Madeira, and Lick began to consider how to build the largest telescope possible. Encouraged by friend George Davidson, an astronomer and president of the Cal Academy, Lick organized a search for the perfect location for a year-round mountaintop observatory where his telescope could stand forever.

Lick set aside \$700,000, or over \$20 million in today's money, to establish the Lick Observatory. At the time, it was the largest private donation to science in U.S. history.

In 1876, a location on San Jose's Mount Hamilton was chosen, and construction began. Though other locations had been considered, it's likely that Mount Hamilton was visible to Lick and Madeira on those fateful nights they spent stargazing together. "It may well have been the mountain that George Madeira might have pointed to, saying, 'I would put a telescope there,' just to make a point," Gates says.

Unfortunately, James Lick did not live to see his observatory or telescope completed, in 1887 and 1888 respectively. Lick passed away at his home in San Francisco in 1876, at the age of 80.

For nine years, the 36-inch Lick Refractor was the largest telescope in the world, and Lick's body was moved to a tomb under the telescope that bears his name. In 1892, astronomers used the Lick Refractor to discover Amalthea, one of Jupiter's moons — the first one discovered since
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Inspired (Cont.) Galileo discovered the four largest in the 17th century, according to Holden's "A Brief Account of the Lick Observatory" published in 1894.

Since the 1890s, the Lick Observatory has grown to house 10 refractor and reflector telescopes ranging in size from 20 to 120 inches in diameter. Over the decades, astronomers at the Lick Observatory have been credited with the discovery of several more moons of Jupiter, planets outside our solar system, and the gas and light emitted from several galaxies. Astronomers today use the imaging telescopes to search for more extrasolar planets, brown dwarf stars and even extraterrestrial life through the Optical Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence program.

Though many of the original letters and records have been lost to time, astronomers at the Lick Observatory credit Madeira with his influence on Lick's decision to bequest the largest portion of his fortune to build the observatory. The dreams and discussions Lick and Madeira shared of building larger telescopes materialized because Lick put his wealth behind the idea.

"For those of us that regularly give talks about James Lick's life and the founding of the observatory, George Madeira is mentioned in every one of those lectures because he was so influential and for giving that spark," Gates says. Late in his life, Madeira corresponded regularly with staff members at the Lick Observatory,

sharing his thoughts on the latest publications and discoveries they were making. In the years since his amateur observatory stood on the hillside in Volcano, massive developments in astronomical technology had unlocked great wonders of the night sky.

"All honor to the astroscientists who have accomplished so much in so short a time," Madeira wrote.

"For those of us that...give talks about...the founding of the observatory, George Madeira is mentioned in every one of those

Madeira continued lecturing and writing about astronomy until 1922, when at age 85 he fell ill on a trip from his home in Healdsburg to San Francisco and died.

In 1958, Victor Killick, vice president of the Sacramento Junior College Observatory,

wrote of Madeira: "He engaged in astronomy strictly for the love of it — a true amateur in the exact meaning of the world."

At the main intersection in Volcano, you'll find California Historic Landmark #715, marking it as the "first amateur astronomical observatory of record" in the state, and the final public testament to Madeira's work and influence on California's astronomical history.

Pictorial credits:

¹California State Archives

²Warner & Swasey Co./Science o& Society Picture Library

³John Sebastian Russo/The Chronicle 2010

⁴Sarabeth Maney/Special to the Chronicle

Tyler (cont.) ground circa summer 1976), Brinn home and Soracco General Store (Main St.), Knight Foundry and the planing mill across the street (Eureka St.).

Tyler's work depicting historical buildings, in both art and on Kodachrome slides, developed him into a local expert with a vast knowledge of area landmarks. For example, refer to "Landmarks in Amador County" Tape #37, Toby Tyler, March 1979 on the Amador County Historical Society website. Tyler was also an avid gardener and botanist; he was widely regarded as one of the local experts on California and Alaska wildflowers and plants.

Though Tyler is more publicly known for his art, he was unassuming about his philanthropy and volunteer work. For example, he donated use of his Knight Foundry drawings to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' 12 page pamphlet "Historical Knight Foundry – a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark" to help preserve this only remaining water powered foundry and machine shop in the United States (California Historical Landmark No. 1007).

"He was just so selfless. He would just do what needed to be done and didn't want to make a big fuss over everything," friends would say of Tyler's philanthropy and volunteer work.

Born Richard Wilson Tyler on July 24, 1927, in Bronxville, N.Y., Tyler moved with his family at age 3 to Sacramento, Calif. He was in seventh grade after his teacher read "Toby Tyler, or Ten Weeks with the Circus," when people started calling him "Toby."

"I got the nickname immediately," he said in an interview with the Homer News in 2010. "It's the dullest, most poorly written book put out."

After high school, Tyler enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent a year in occupied Japan. He attended Sacramento Junior College and the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. He got his teaching credentials at San Jose State College.

He taught grade school in California and hated it. It was teaching that brought Tyler to Alaska in 1954. A friend had been in the WAVES — Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service — in Kodiak during World War II and suggested Tyler try Alaska. After his first year teaching in the Aleutian Islands, he fell in love with Homer, Alaska and got a job teaching math at the old Homer School.

He taught until 1961, when he opened his 8x10 studio in the old Homer Post Office building. Soon he made more money from art and quit teaching. After the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, Tyler moved back to California, settling in Sutter Creek. For nearly
Continued on page 13

Tyler (cont.) two decades he traveled around California in his pea-green Datsun pickup from his Sutter Creek gallery, sketching and painting, returning every summer to Alaska to run his Homer gallery. In the early 1980s Tyler closed his Sutter Creek gallery and moved permanently to Homer, Alaska.

Toby is survived by his younger brothers, Bob Tyler of Bend, Ore., and Jim Tyler of San Francisco, Calif.;

nephew Jeff (great-nephew Jacob) Tyler of Southern Calif.; niece Laurie (and great-niece Raivyn) Davis of Phoenix, Ariz.; and nephew, Rob Tyler of Southern Calif. Toby is also survived by his close circle of Homer friends.



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