

HEAD TOWER NEWS

# Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

## Head Tower News

A "Boomtown Memories" newsletter

Museum: 1525 Median St., City of Shasta Lake

Museum Hours: 9-1 M/T/W and 2nd Saturday Closed on Holidays: Call 275-3995

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[www.shastalakehistorical.org](http://www.shastalakehistorical.org)— FB Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

Volume 17 #53 Issue1

HISTORY—OUR LOVE, OUR JOB

March 2021

SO MANY PEOPLE—SO MANY STORIES—woven together to create an exciting and colorful tapestry of our community. In this issue, we are focusing on the history of some of the healthcare concerns, personnel and facilities around the Boomtown area—*before and during the construction of Shasta Dam*. We are always so appreciative for the family histories and memoirs from which we can glean these bits of history.

Public Health issues were of primary concern, especially in the early schools. Memoir excerpts here are from **Matt Rumboltz**, first principal/teacher at Toyon, shedding some light on those concerns. Rumboltz refers to the development of the area during the construction of the dam and the lack of water in the overall area. He then leads into the influx of dam workers' families and the new school's water and sanitation problems.



Nov. 1938 Rumboltz 7th/8th grade

*"Toyon, a four-room school, was built in three weeks in September 1938 (by volunteer damworkers and local businessmen) and opened October 10th with 186 children. By the end of the 2nd week, there were 220. As to water and sanitation - the lack of, that is: The carpenters had brought two sturdily built 3-holers and placed them strategically behind the building with neatly identifying signs. No other rural school in Shasta County had any different facilities in 1938. Regarding water: no well, no pump, no sinks, no drinking fountain, nothing. The County Schools Superintendent simply said, 'Do what you can for a week or two until something can be worked out.'"*

*"I bought a large metal garbage can, had a small faucet soldered in the bottom, bought some buckets and lots of paper cups. Paper towels? What for? Nobody washed during the day at that school for the next four months. Older boys carried water from the old farm well 100 yards away. It took 20 minutes for everyone to get a drink of water. A pump, sinks and drinking fountains were installed by Feb.10<sup>th</sup>, (4 months later) and on that day – THE PIPES FROZE! The experiences of the school with its lack of water and simple sanitation was no doubt multiplied a thousand times over in the newly built homes all over the area – with the exception of Toyon Village and Shasta Dam Camp."*

*"We (staff) became greatly concerned about possible epidemics among the children, especially as cold and wet weather approached. My wife and I got together with **Dr. John Kirkpatrick** and worked out a program and campaign to start a school immunization program. The County Medical Association frowned upon such 'socialization of medicine'. 'After all, public health was private business.' But Redding authorities in general wanted little to do with us poor people, and so we did about as we pleased. We loved these people!"*

*"Redding Kiwanis Club furnished the first supply of serum. The County School Nurse and Shasta Dam Hospital nurses assisted in inoculating all the children we could catch in the Shasta Dam area against diphtheria, small-pox and whooping cough. Toyon PTA and then other school PTAs kept the program going in later years. The rest of Shasta County didn't have a health program for many years, but we were determined to have our own."*

*"In the late spring of 1939 we had the worst measles and mumps epidemic I have ever seen, but we had no way to combat those diseases then. We all feared typhoid fever, but were spared this affliction."*

**A**s with any newly formed community, medical professionals played a large part in the history of the Boomtowns and the surrounding area. You will be reading about **Dr. Kirkpatrick** (Physician at Shasta Dam Hospital), and **Dr. Sandholdt** (Physician at Mammoth Hospital in Kennett) and **Margaret Gregory** (midwife in Antlers), all who were shining examples of those who served their communities. For now, following in their footsteps were others who were notable as well:

**Dr. Donald Marchus** built a new facility in Project City in 1937, but had to give it up when he was drafted in 1942. Physicians in those days were paid in commodities, land or whatever anyone had in exchange for their services. Thus, Dr. Marchus didn't have a lot of cash. Barbara Brown Cross recalls, "My mother (Dovie) worked for Dr. Marchus, helping in his office with patients and bookwork. When Dr. Marchus fell behind in her salary, he offered my mother property (two lots) in Project City on Main Street. Dad (Claude) was working at Shasta Dam so they decided to take the property and built their home there.

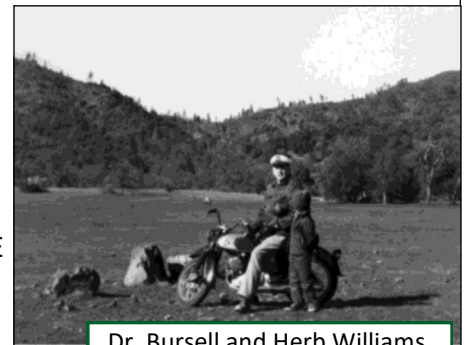


Meanwhile, **Dr. Harold Bursell** had started his practice out of an old two-story building nearby, with an office so tiny he had room for only one patient at a time. After purchasing the building from Marchus, Bursell moved into the newest facility, also taking over the practice of **Dr. Amos Henry**, who had been drafted that same year as well.

A native of Oregon, Bursell was a product of both Pacific Union College and Loma Linda Medical School. He was licensed to practice not only at Sisters of Mercy's St. Caroline Hospital (forerunner to Mercy Medical Center) in Redding, but also at the Shasta Dam Hospital, where he worked occasionally with **Dr. John Kirkpatrick** whom he greatly admired.

Bursell's father, **Dr. Arvid Bursell**, had opened a medical office building in Redding in 1944 and practiced there until joining his son in the Project City building in 1950. The elder Bursell retired in 1961, and the younger changed focus in 1962 to become a bariatritian, helping patients having problems with weight.

It is often said of both doctors that they were the "old fashioned" kind who not only made house calls, *but would stop in to visit other patients in the area just to see how they were doing.* THEY JUST DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE THAT ANY MORE! (Owned by Dr. Bursell and located on 32 acres, was his airplane and airfield; remnants of the small dirt airstrip can still be found in the Pine Grove area.)



Dr. Bursell and Herb Williams

**THANK YOU** to the **Giving Tuesday donors on December 1, 2020:** Charlotte Bailey; Bill & Darlene Brown; Don & Barbara Cross; John Duckett; Mike & Donna Daniels; Rick & Karen Fox; Mary Hale; Del & Gerda Hiebert; Russell & Kory Hoofard; Debra Israel; Joan Jennings; Cherrel Kirkland; Kay Kobe; Scott & Karen Louis; Debra Mills; Pam & Steve Morgan; Nicole & Joe Preston; Nancy Shaw; Rosemary Smith; Don Spurgeon; Christine Stokes; Carla Thompson; Marian Trapp and Deb & Earl West

**Thank you for the "extra" donations:** Charlotte Bailey, Barbara Cross, Justin Jones, and John Reynolds/Madras, OR

**Thank you for the thoughtful and significant Memorial donations:** Larris Dorman/Paradise, "In memory of Pete Rowland" and "In memory of Judy Byers Dorman" and Ruth Ann Kobe/Shasta Lake "In memory of Loene Terry Trubkin".

**For significant extra donations, we are grateful to:** Angel & Anthony Dyer/Shasta Lake; Del & Gerda Hiebert, Redding; Kay Kobe/Shasta Lake and Carla Thompson/Shasta Lake.

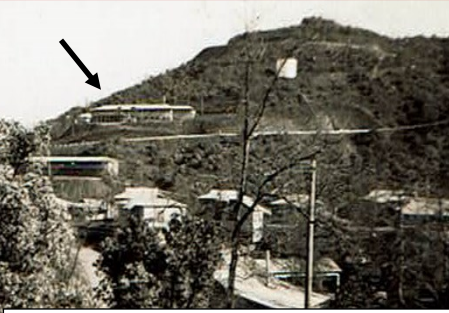


**For "above & beyond" supportive donations we must sincerely thank :** Allen Mancasola/Farmers Marketplace Shasta Lake; Joe & Nicole Preston, Palo Alto and William Polf, Pittsboro, NC.

Seems like a good place to feature *one of our new Benefactors* and a truly supportive member in our community.

**Dr. Ji** took over the dental practice from Dr. J. Russell and when Dr. D. Allen retired, he took over her practice at 4340 Shasta Dam Blvd. - Not only is he a FINE dentist but he is also a caring individual. To celebrate his 60th birthday, he gave a "substantial" donation towards repairing the Veterans Memorial Park. **THANK YOU, DR. JI...**





Hospital on top - below is dormitories

When Pacific Constructors Inc. built the Shasta Dam Village (PCI Camp) in 1938, a critical part of that creation was one of the best built, equipped and staffed hospitals in the northern part of California. The design, its facilities and equipment were the work of **JOHN EDWIN KIRKPATRICK, M.D.** in collaboration with Daniel M. Brown, R.N., director of nurses.

The facility was a modern 25 bed air-conditioned hospital, equipped with the latest devices medical science had produced. It's primary purpose was to serve the needs of the Pacific Constructors dam workers and their families. Dr. Kirkpatrick served the entire 6 years of dam construction as

Chief Physician and Hospital Administrator. We learned more about Dr. Kirkpatrick when photographs arrived from his grandson, John Daddabay, as he was going through his mother's estate. He had lived with his grandparents off & on for many years, so we called John for a little more information:

"My grandfather was born in 1899. He married Mary Catherine Huggins whose younger brother Cyrus, worked on Shasta Dam. John was a medical corpsman in WWI and when asked, wouldn't talk to me about the war. After the war he went to Northwestern University Medical School, followed by residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He fixed up quite a few people there who were involved in mobster shootouts. The doctors were rewarded with great food and homemade booze (prohibition of the 20's) and invited to speakeasies. Also, the MDs would practice delivering babies for gypsies. Newspapers were the cleanest materials available where they lived so the babies were born on newspapers."

Northwestern, is where he met and became friends with Daniel Brown; it was Dan who convinced John to apply for the job at Shasta. Both worked together in Los Angeles before Shasta.

"He filmed the building of the dam from the backyard of their home he had built, which my grandmother loved. Grandpa loved to fly fish and hunt big game, deer, elk and antelope. Duck hunting in Willows was also high on his list of things to do. He was also a Shasta Co. Deputy, why? I don't know."

"Grandpa liked to tell the story of Mondays at the hospital getting guys feeling better after the weekend benders. He prescribed tincture of cannabis, legal then\* for their terrible hangovers. I guess it really helped and got them back on the job."



Kirkpatrick home-view from the back door

The Kirkpatrick's youngest daughter, Jane, was born in the Shasta Dam Hospital.

"The 'Shasta years' were the highlight of their lives and for my young mom growing up. My mom's name was Josephine but used Johanna. She said the teachers at Toyon were wonderful. Mom was brilliant, and went on to Stanford and Yale. *All I can remember growing up was listening to the stories and laughter about the 'Shasta days'.*

(\*Marihuana Tax Act '37 made it illegal for possession except for medical purposes)



Toyon 1940 - Johanna 2nd row, 2nd from right

**W**e are fortunate to have in our research files one such notable memoir - that of **Dr. John P. Sandholt** who began his practice in the town of Kennett during the "glory days" of the flourishing copper mining industry. He served 14 years - from 1905 to 1919 - as a company doctor for the Mammoth Copper Company, as well as the local Railroad Surgeon. With the help of one assistant and two nurses, he cared for a community of up to 4,000 during the busy times. Some of his patients could be reached only by rail with a hand-operated "push/pull tricycle".



Push/Pull Railroad tricycle

In his memoir, Dr. Sandholt paints a vivid picture of life in the mining towns, with plenty of human interest and with an obvious good sense of humor. To wit: *"During a winter with heavy snowfall, there had occurred a tragedy at the Uncle Sam Mine with which I came in contact on several occasions. At one time, the general manager had asked me to try and learn the names of the people who lay buried in a small graveyard that was blocking the company in expanding its slag dump. It contained some eight or nine graves and this made it a legal cemetery, which would require the consent of the relatives to move them. I did locate a few people who knew of the people buried there. One case involved a mother and her two children. It seems the father had left his family and had failed to return to the mine where he had been a caretaker and watchman. Following a heavy snowfall, the mother and children were discovered dead after the roof caved in, and were buried in the small cemetery.*

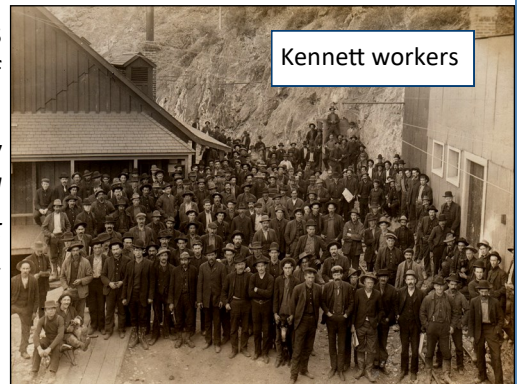


Slag Dump

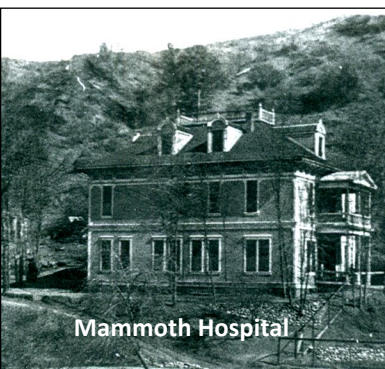
***The husband ultimately returned, but was met by a delegation of men from the town who took him to the next train leaving town and told him never to return to Kennett again. He apparently did, as no one living there ever heard of him again."***

Dr. Sandholt's chronicle of his life as a surgeon reveals what seems to be many experiences leading to his decision to enter the field of medicine. Initially he witnessed the death of his two year old brother. He writes that the cause of death was *"somewhat obscure and my parents questioned the ability of the attending physician. He had told them that the child had pneumonia or diphtheria - two very different diseases. I frequently asked about his death and think it had something to do with my taking up medicine."*

Sandholt then relates many instances of **questionable "home grown" treatments**. One story was that of a family friend whose son had a badly infected leg. He reports that *"the family rose early in the morning, taking shovels to the barn to collect fresh cow dung while still hot - to apply to the leg. Miraculously the leg healed, but I wondered if better methods might be available."* Another lasting memory is that of a young mother who was dying of consumption.\* The family, desperate to try to save her, heard of a person being cured *"by applying the raw surface of the still warm skin of a cat - preferably a black cat - to the patient's back, and left on until it dried out. It was not easy to obtain the number of cats required, but the poor lady died in a month or so, and the cats were no longer sacrificed."* **Again, he wondered if better methods might be available.**



Kennett workers

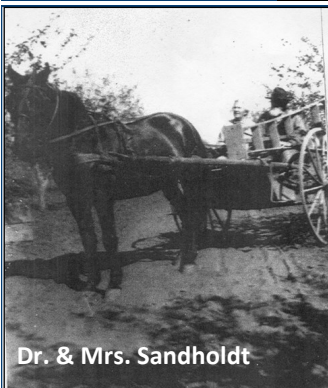


Mammoth Hospital

Having been raised on a farm in Watsonville, then receiving his medical degree at UC Berkeley, the doctor found life in the mountains of northern California a different kind of challenge. At one point, as a side interest, he did try his hand at gold mining, but found that basically unsuccessful.

\***Tuberculosis**, also known as **consumption**, is a bacterial disease that usually attacks the lungs. At the turn of the 20th century, it was the leading cause of death in the United States.





Dr. & Mrs. Sandholdt

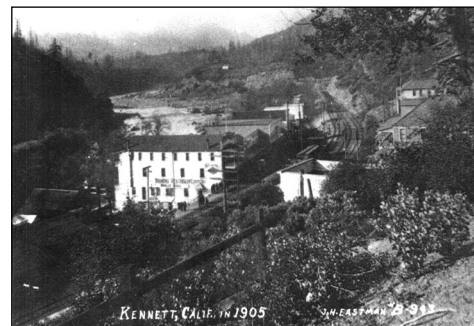
While his medical practice afforded him many stories of the miners and their families in Kennett, it spread to a much wider area. More frequently than he would like, his patients lived in extremely remote areas that could be reached only by horseback or on foot. Often he journeyed by boat across the river to care for his patients. There with help from a local resident, **Martha Gregory**, he learned a great deal about the people and their tribal practices. Not only was she helpful with directions and communication, Gregory was considered an “angel of mercy” by the Indian communities in that she served as midwife, as well as tending to injuries and illnesses. *(More about Martha is found in this issue.)*

Sandholdt’s keen interest in individuals is evident in his memoir - as he devotes many chapters to friends and colleagues prominent in the area. During his 14 years in Kennett, he not only worked through many storms, floods and devastating fires, he also provided care for those affected by the Pneumonia epidemic winter 1906/07 and the Influenza epidemic of 1918 (Spanish Flu). Indeed, the doctor was the first in Kennett to contract that deadly disease, recovering only after being bedridden for six weeks.

When WWI ended, the price of copper dropped dramatically, combine that with the devastating effect on the surrounding vegetation from the Sulphur fumes, everyone knew that Kennett and mining were fast coming to an end. It would become history as part of the great Central Valley Project and the building of Shasta Dam. Sandholdt moved his practice to Monterey, serving there from 1919 until 1941, when he retired from active practice. His memoir was still a work in progress.

In view of today’s situation, it seems appropriate to close this article with some well chosen words by Dr. Sandholt:

***“There has probably never been a period in the history of this world when so many people were interested in one thing: a permanent peace. It seems to me that we have arrived at a cross-roads - either we destroy ourselves or we find a solution for working out a permanent peace. This cannot be done on any type of battlefield, but by sitting down around a table and arriving at the answer by honest discussion.”***



KENNETT, CALIF. IN 1905

This writing covers mere snippets of an extensive work. With his passing in 1956, his daughter, Katharine (Haake) began editing his memoir; her daughter, Mary, completed the task.



One day, Katharine and Mary walked into the museum carrying beautiful Indian baskets. The baskets had been given to Dr. Sandholdt in gratitude for his services. Katharine & her husband, Richard, were leaving the area and Katharine and the family wanted them to be in our collection along with her father’s memoir. Sadly Katharine passed away on 12/15/2020 and Richard on 12/21/2020 - before we finished this article. *This tribute is for their family:*

***Obituary excerpts:*** *Richard and Kay always knew each other because their parents were good friends who had worked together as doctors and nurses in Kennett. Born 8/23/1920 Redding, Richard attended Pine St. school before moving to Sacramento. Kay was born in Monterey 2/12/1922. Both were Army veterans of WWII -*

*Richard saw action as a munitions driver during Battle of the Bulge. Kay was a psychiatric social worker in the Army Women’s Auxiliary Corps. They married in 1946 and moved to Redding where they raised 3 daughters, Irene, Kate and Mary while pursuing careers in education - Richard as the first principal of Central Valley High School then Superintendent for 16 years with unwavering devotion to family; Kay as an elementary school teacher filled with kindness, humility, generosity and always a bright smile. Belonging to the ‘Greatest Generation’, they will be missed and remembered fondly by so many.....*

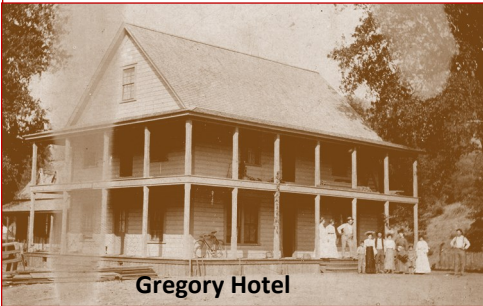




A very tall moniker for a very short, yet powerful, colorful, hard-working pioneer woman of early Shasta County history. Her story would be lopsided, however, if we did not include her husband, JAMES FRANKLIN GREGORY, as well. James married Martha in 1895 and settled in the Stillwater area before moving to Antler (then called Baird Spur) in 1897.

*There the couple purchased 640 acres for (get this) \$600.00 and went into the*

*cattle business. On that property stood the former Smithson Stage Station, located on the old Oregon Stage Road, adjacent to the railroad spur and Sacramento River. While living in the stage station, they built a 14 room house on the east bank which later became known as the Gregory Hotel, a stopping place for cattlemen, sheepmen, fishermen, and travelers to or from Oregon.*



Gregory Hotel



Martha & James

*Visitors could get a bed and all the food they could eat for 50 cents a night. With help from their growing family of nine children, Martha fed them all. Often those meals featured fresh fish, taken each day from the river and streams near the hotel. An outdoor enthusiast, Martha was notorious for her talents as a fisherwoman. It was reported that she never came home empty-handed!*



In 1898 Martha became the first telephone switchboard operator in the Sacramento River Canyon and instrumental in getting telephone lines to Antlers. Martha had a love for those in need. She was well known and respected throughout the Indian communities where she served as nurse, aide to the visiting doctor (**Dr. John Sandholdt**), and midwife to the Indian women. The beautiful Native American baskets in our museum were gifted to her for her services.. We are grateful to Ed and the late Cynthia Preston Glacken (5th generation Gregory) for donating the baskets and enhancing our collection with so many more Gregory family treasures.



Martha

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Shop **LOCALLY** at OUR MOTHER'S DAY SALE!

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY MAY 7TH/8TH 9-1PM**

*Shasta Lake Garden Project* IS JOINING US!

Plants, Flowers, Unique garden gifts, jewelry, cards, homemade jams with scones, pottery, lemon pastries, homemade breads and more.....

WE ARE OPEN! And have new things to sell!

L/r: Ann Morningstar created and donated many lovely pieces of jewelry. Sandy Estes our gift shop manager and Donna Daniels are busy stocking the shelves. Don't miss this sale.....





The Museum is OPEN! Time was not wasted during our shutdown. *Our devoted volunteers continued working in the office and we have received wonderful donations:*



*A treasure*—Mortars and pestles from Ed Fish, documenting the location on Fish property near Stillwater Creek—bringing back the stories told by the late Ella Fish Barbera and how she “played baseball with the Indians and watched them dance at night.”



Al Mancasola and Leo Audia, founders of Farmers market.



FARMER'S MARKET REDDING 1954

Memory Lane! History of Farmers Markets from (son) Allen Mancasola. Allen is remodeling Sentry Farmers Market in our city. He shared his family's story and vintage photos of the family owned chain of grocery stores in Redding, Anderson & more.



*More treasures!* Donated by Mary Zwaga. This October 27, 1938 newspaper and other types, found in the attic of her building - once used by the construction damworkers as “bachelor’s housing”- the building on Flower Street had many small rooms and most important, a place to shower!

In December and February, our volunteers made sweet treats of jams, candy, breads and more for our Gift Shop Holiday Sale—a *huge success*. Shoppers were also surprised to find holiday decorations for sale, such as table runners and gift baskets. Sandy envisions our gift shop to become a place for unique, custom items with a local flair. *To promote the museum, we will also have a booth at the Redding Dirt Riders Grand Prix, up at Shasta Dam, in April.*

In this newsletter issue, we have included a page of all our members and local businesses that support SLHHS. Dues will be in January of each year. (If you paid dues from July to December 2020, we have grandfathered you in for this year.)

***Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a healthy and safe 2021. Deb***

**DEDICATED TO SERVE:** Our city lost a genuinely caring man, **LARRY FARR** who served his community for over 38 years.

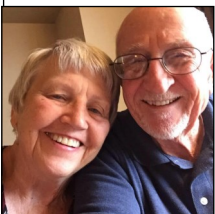


Mayor Larry Farr cuts cake.

Five times as Mayor, he was the first Mayor\* when we incorporated in 1993. Prior to that, Larry served 10 years on the Shasta Dam Public Utility District (PUD) Board contributing his knowledge as a water resources engineer for CH2M Hill and was instrumental in the development of our city. A friend, a neighbor and U.S. Air Force Veteran, Larry participated in the Veteran’s Day Parade, attended many community events and leaves a legacy of service. Loving history and our community, he was an SLHHS Benefactor and always attended our annual dinner. As Mayor in 2018, Larry presided at the opening of the new Visitor’s Center and led the community in celebration with a champagne toast to our new Museum.



**DEDICATED TO TEACH:** **Kaye Fehliman** passed away on January 28th. Kaye grew up around Red Bluff and Paynes Creek






and worked with her father in the almond orchards. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Physical Education at Chico State where as an outstanding student/college athlete, she was inducted into the 1992 Chico State Hall of Fame (basketball/softball & volleyball). But for so many, many of us, we remember Kaye as the beloved PE teacher at Central Valley High School from 1964-1993. Always helpful, always smiling and encouraging, she and her husband, Walt (another favorite teacher) gave so much to their students, not only as teachers, but as being role models for all.

Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society  
P.O. Box 562 Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
Visitors Center: *Boomtown Museum*  
1525 Median St., Shasta Lake  
530-275-3995  
501c3 non-profit organization

### IN MEMORIAM



**Larry Farr**  - 5/28/36- 1/20/2021 (see inside)  
**Kaye Harmon Fehliman** - 3/11/1938 - 1/28/2021 (see inside)  
 **Richard & Katharine Haake** 12/15 & 12/21/2020 (see inside)  
**Leon Rowland**—Feb. 2021 brother to Wayne & Pete Rowland  
**Helen Lindsay Stephenson** - 9/10/1942- 2/3/2021  
CVHS Class 1960. Rode the bus from Montgomery Creek, played  
in school bands, Sr. Class President. Love of music led her to a 30  
year career as a music teacher - 29 years at Bella Vista Elem.  
**Alice Taylor** - 1918- 2/14/2021 (at the age of 103!) Alice & Earl  
Taylor came here in 1939 from S.Dakota. Alice earned \$40 a  
month as a school teacher when they left. Earl earned a \$1.00 a  
week working on Shasta Dam. Story is in "Those Dam Kids" book.  
**Barbara Grove Wilson** 8/6/2020 - CVHS Class 1959.

*"DAM NEWS" without a local newspaper anymore, just a little  
FYI on some happenings...CONGRATULATIONS to **MATT DOYLE**,  
Shasta Lake Caverns Gen. Manager, Veteran, and SLHHS business  
member. Matt is the newest member on the City of Shasta Lake  
City Council. All Council members are SLHHS supporters.* 

*We try to be accurate but please, we are not liable for any additions, omissions,  
errors and/or corrections that may occur in this publication. Any photographs  
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contacting us for permission of use. Thank you.  
Darlene V Brown , Editor Alice Scarbrough, Asst. Editor*

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*We sincerely appreciate your support to keep history alive.*

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