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# CAPAY VALLEY

March 2014

Volume Fifteen

[greatercapayvalley.org](http://greatercapayvalley.org)

The Greater Capay Valley  
Historical Society  
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## Pictures, Stories and Research to reveal and celebrate a very special place--the Capay Valley!

Focusing on the  
Greater Capay Valley,  
including the towns  
and areas surrounding  
and leading to Cache  
Creek and up the  
Capay Valley

Well, it's a new year--and already so much has happened! We celebrated Black History Day and the Almond Festival in the Capay Valley in February and I was able to get the first edition of "The History and Stories of the Capay Valley" published in time to launch it at my festival booths! I always try to have a booth at the Guinda Grange for Black History Day and inside Rumsey Hall for for Almond Festival for *The Greater Capay Valley Historical Society*. I had bound the first 14 volumes of the journal into a softcover and was going to call it *done*--but so many of my faithful subscriber-members encouraged me to continue writing-publishing the journals. So, I am going to create a second edition to this 318-page softcover, writing four more journal volumes in 2014--and then all 18 will be compiled into a *FINAL* hardcover edition in January 2015! Whew! Many of you have pre-ordered this hardcover already--thank you! But even so, I can only afford to create a few of these hardcover editions, so the supply will be quite limited--making them even more valuable! They will be over 400 pages of all 18 full-color journals and much more! If you want to pre-order, see back page or go to [greatercapayvalley.org](http://greatercapayvalley.org) for information.



...sooooo many attics and archives to visit, oh my!!



In a place called Capay Valley where



...the writer never rests!!

It's time we talked  
about the Birds n the  
Bees! OK, and  
Butterflies and Weeds  
and Gardening! --  
Spring has sprung!!

## CONTENTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CITATIONS

Special thanks to: my contributing hobby-ornithologist, Jim Hiatt in Hungry Hollow; Botany Professor-Associate Dean Tim Lowrey at UNM (but *from* Rumsey!); local historians Douglas Nareau and John Gallardo, as always, so generous; and certainly all my faithful subscriber-members, donors and advertisers! I couldn't do this without you! And a big shout-out to my printer-angel, Jane! I also want to thank Carman Nareau for assistance and enthusiasm this quarter, leading her to blog while she was home from college: [cosmicsecrecy.wordpress.com](http://cosmicsecrecy.wordpress.com) -- filled with Capay, gardening, cooking and more!

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Clockwise, top to bottom: Stork's Bill and its dry-spiraling seed or "fruit"; Wild Radish; California Mustard; and Butterfly Milkweed & our local Milkweed



As kids we learned to use the swords on the Stork's Bill to make scissors or pull the seed pods off and watch them spiral right before our wondering eyes! *Cosmic Secrecy of Seed, indeed!*



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<http://hedgerowfarms.com/>  
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 530-662-6847

..one man's weed is another's wildflower--and a bee or butterfly's friend! See our exploratory articles inside!!

## The Birds n the Bees Talk...

NO, not *THAT* talk, but it *is* spring, after all, so time to think about such things...! I recently finished reading Barbara Kingsolver's latest book *Flight Behavior*, a novel about the plight of the magical Monarch Butterfly--a *must* read!! I have spent a lot of time reading about the plight of the essential Honey Bee--and now the Monarch Butterfly--and am alarmed enough to be creating bee and butterfly habitats in my garden and encourage others to do so, too!

In case you have been hibernating on planet Mars, something awful has been happening to kill off the Honey Bee (see my article in volume 6 of this journal series) and now there is something destroying millions upon millions of Monarch Butterflies as well! The current consensus seems to be our eradication of their food supply--the common *Butterfly Plant*, or Milkweed as we know it locally--a "weed" traditionally and efficiently eradicated by farmers and CalTrans with sprays such as Round-Up. Only recently have we begun to see what *efficiency* can wreak! But what is a farmer to do? Well, UCD is among several agencies and individuals who are trying to answer that question--which I will go into in this issue.



Butterfly-attracting Milkweed - *Asclepias tuberosa*

*Butterfly-loving Milkweed above is not the local variety--those can be gotten at Hedgerow Farms.*

*Being a native of the Capay Valley and knowing the dependence we have on pollination of important crops like Almonds—and being a gardener and knowing the importance and joy of the visiting pollinators like bees and butterflies—I am concerned enough to do some research and share it with my readers! During the course of researching, I got even more interested in our local weeds and wildflowers and the movement to create hedgerows and pollinator habitats on local farms and ranches--and gardens! Then I got interested in the invasive weeds that seem to be proliferating here this drought year--thistles and foxtails and stork's bills, oh my! If not poisons to eradicate them, then what!? A danger to livestock and our pets, they are everywhere this spring!! Last spring I took a foxtail out of one cat's eye and I suspect another foxtail got up another cat's nose! If not removed, they inch their way up toward the brain and...my vet said, short of very expensive surgery, I can only treat the allergic symptoms and wait and pray that his body dissolves it before it does serious harm...And now the Stork's Bills are EVERYwhere! With their seed pods drying and spiraling off into fur-entangling coils--by the billions! Pretty little plants, lovely little purple flowers, fun-to-play-with "scissor" or swords--deadly daggers when dried and coiled! Do the bees or butterflies love or need them? I don't know, yet--but avoiding poisons, I am weed-whacking them down to the ground in the yard as soon as they show up, to try to keep them from reaching the stage where their seed pods swords, become dangerous.*



*Stork's Bill above: lovely flower and greens--fun "sword" for kids to play--deadly pest for farmers, ranchers and pets!*

# What is happening to the Monarch Butterfly?

THE MIGRATION BETWEEN MEXICO & CALIFORNIA TAKES 3-5 GENERATIONS TO COMPLETE

**Monarch Butterfly -**  
[Butterflies and Moths of North America](#)  
[www.butterfliesandmoths.org](http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org)

## “Classification

1. Scientific name:  
Danaus plexippus
2. Family: Nymphalidae,  
Subfamily: Danainae

## Average Size

1. Wing Span: 3 3/8 - 4 7/8 inches (8.6 - 12.4 cm)

## Where to Find

1. Habitat: Many open habitats including fields, meadows, weedy areas, marshes, and roadsides.”

AND FROM:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch\\_butterfly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_butterfly)

“The **Monarch butterfly** (*Danaus plexippus*) is a [milkweed butterfly](#) (subfamily Danainae) in the family [Nymphalidae](#). It may be the best known of all [North American](#) butterflies.

The monarch is famous for its southward late summer/autumn [migration](#) from the United States and southern [Canada](#) to [Mexico](#) and coastal [California](#), and northward return in spring, which occurs over the lifespans of three to four generations of the butterfly” --some authorities claim 5 generations.

While some populations of monarchs have begun to appear in all continents where milkweed is becoming more popular as an ornamental plant, many of these populations do not need to migrate, so my focus is on the magical migration of our own commonly seen Monarchs in the western US--and that which is alarming scientists who study their mysterious journey. According to Wikipedia, “Monarchs migrate over hundreds to thousands of miles to overwintering locations in

Mexico” and Pacific Grove, California. Southward migrations start in August until the first frost. There is a northward migration in the spring...But no individual makes the entire round trip. Female monarchs lay eggs for the next generation during these migrations.”

Seen below are the masses clustering as they overwinter in trees in Angangueno, Michoacan, Mexico; below that an individual male on milkweed.



## ...so what's the big deal?

IN THE LAST YEAR, MILLIONS OF BUTTERFLIES HAVE GONE MISSING!

The Monarchs we usually enjoy in Northern California are looking for food in the spring and overwintering in Pacific Grove. According to Wikipedia: "By the end of October, the population east of the Rocky Mountains migrates to the sanctuaries of the Mariposa Monarca Biosphere Reserve within the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt pine-oak forests in the Mexican states of Michoacán and México. The western population overwinters in various coastal sites in central and southern California, United States, notably in Pacific Grove, Santa Cruz, and Grover Beach." The problem seems to be that we are being so efficient with eradicating their food source from this area--the milkweed--that the populations, which travel in clusters for safety and to propagate, are scattering in search of food and as individuals they do not survive as well. Seen in the picture at top right is

a population clustering as they overwinter in Pacific Grove, California. These clusters are diminishing at an alarming rate.

Their unique migration has been studied for years because, as Wikipedia

explains, "The length of these journeys exceeds the normal lifespan of most monarchs, which is less than two months for butterflies born in early summer. The last generation of the summer enters into a non-reproductive phase known as diapause, which may last seven months or more. During diapause, butterflies fly to one of many overwintering sites. The overwintering generation generally does not reproduce until it leaves the overwintering site sometime in February and March." Many theories abound as to how each generation knows what to do. One popular theory is, "The flight navigational



patterns may be inherited, based on a combination of the position of the sun in the sky and a time-compensated sun compass that depends upon a circadian clock based in their antennae. These populations may use the earth's magnetic field for orientation." But as we have removed their food sources, they have lost their sense of direction due to a disruptive search for food. While there are some other plants they can use, for the most part a Monarch depends on a form of milkweed--so many organizations are now trying to encourage Californians to plant milkweed in their gardens and to discourage milkweed spraying.

## Milkweed are not all the same. California Milkweed is *Asclepias californica*...

...MAYBE NOT SO PRETTY AS SOME GARDEN FAVORITES, BUT STILL IMPORTANT!

*California Milkweed is what we are most familiar with-- seen at top right--and if you look specifically for *Asclepias californica**

online you might find that it "is native to California and northern Baja California. It is a flowering perennial with thick, white, woolly stems which bend or run along the ground. The plentiful, hanging flowers are rounded structures with reflexed corollas and starlike arrays of bulbous anthers. The flowers are dull to bright shades of lavender or pink [seen in top right photo].

*Asclepias californica* is an important and specific Monarch butterfly food plant in nectar and vegetation, and cocoon-habitat plant. The alkaloids they ingest from the plant are retained in the butterfly, making it unpalatable to predators". The plant can be toxic for livestock, but the real reason it is sprayed is to keep it

out of the crops. According to John Anderson of *Hedgerow Farms*, only a small percentage of crops can be weed, so farmers are careful to eradicate weeds near fields. For this reason, it has been eradicated at a very efficient rate. Many decorative varieties are now available from nurseries and you can attract happy and grateful Monarchs to your yard with varieties such as the one seen at bottom right:

### **Butterfly Milkweed:**

<http://www.fireflyforest.com/flowers/199/asclepias-tuberosa-butterfly-milkweed>

The Scientific name is *Asclepias tuberosa*; and common names are Butterfly Milkweed or Pleurisy Root

"In addition to being beautiful, Milkweed is a very important plant because it is a host for the beloved MONARCH butterfly. Monarch larvae feed exclusively on Milkweeds. That means if there is no Milkweed, there would be no

Monarchs. It is also an important nectar plant for bees and other insects. The common name Milkweed was given to this plant because of its milky juice. The scientific name comes from Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, because of the many folk-medicinal uses for the milkweed plants."

*Hedgerow Farms carries local varieties like the one below as seedlings and plugs.*



*This attractive plant is a good choice for butterfly and wildflower gardens, and although Butterfly Milkweed does not transplant well, the seeds are widely available. It prefers full sun, well-drained soil, and supplemental water in hot weather.*

## And what about those other Wildflowers and Weeds so appealing to Bees and Butterflies?

One of my local favorites has always been the delicate looking **Wild Radish**--or *Raphanus raphanistrum*, as my botany buddy from Rumsey in the Capay Valley tells me: that buddy would be long-time PhD Professor of Botany at UNM, now Associate Dean, Tim Lowrey. He says it is a "common weed throughout California"--but to me it is beautiful and attracts numerous butterflies! In mid-March our patch had 6-8 beauties happily feeding: large and black they were, with orange spots under their hind wings and white dots along the edges of their forward wings. Web-search revealed that apparently they were Swallowtails.

***Raphanus raphanistrum*, wild radish or jointed charlock**, is a flowering plant in the family Brassicaceae. It is sometimes claimed to be the ancestor of the edible radish, *Raphanus sativus*. Native to Asia (or, according to some authorities, the Mediterranean), it has been introduced into most parts of the world, and is regarded as a damagingly invasive species in many... It spreads rapidly, and is often found growing on roadsides or in other places

*But, alas, being invasive, it crowds out the native grasses and wildflowers, so even John Anderson of Hedgerow Farms suggests spraying or pulling it out...<http://hedgerowfarms.com/>*

where the ground has been disturbed.

In southeastern USA, the pale yellow form is common, sometimes entirely taking over fields in wintertime. It is often erroneously identified as mustard. It is a significant source of pollen and nectar for a variety of pollinators, especially honey bees during the very early spring starting buildup.

Wild radish grows as an annual or biennial plant, with attractive four-petaled flowers 15-20 mm across and varying in color, usually from white to purple but sometimes light orange to yellow, often with color shading within a single petal. It is frost hardy, and even hard freezes only temporarily interrupt bloom. It blooms in early spring to late summer with flowers very similar to those of the searocket, which is found in some of the same regions and is easily distinguished from it by having thinner, non-succulent stems and leaves. It has a single taproot which is similar to that of the cultivated radish but less enlarged.



**Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)**  
Family: Swallowtail (*Papilionidae*) is a common black swallowtail butterfly found in North

"America, also known as the Green-Clouded butterfly *Papilionidae*, or swallowtails, include the largest butterflies in the world. "This beautiful black-bodied swallowtail is black with shiny blue or green wings. It has blue between two rows of orange spots on the

wings and the colors on the upper side of the hind wings have one row of white spots. These butterflies are a pleasure to watch and a welcome visitor to any garden."





CONSULTING, GROWING, SEED AND PLUG SALES, EQUIPMENT RENTAL

**John Anderson founded and now manages Hedgerow Farms south of Madison and Esparto, which, according to their website:** "specializes in producing high quality seed of origin-known California native grasses, forbs, sedges and rushes [and offers] single species, custom seed mixes, plug transplants and native grass straw. [They] are currently developing several species mixtures for various applications. [Their] seed and plants are used in habitat

restoration projects, agricultural revegetation projects, for erosion control and urban and rural landscaping.

**Tours & Education**

Hedgerow Farms offers tours of their seed production fields, habitat areas, facilities, nursery, vegetated swales, canals, hedgerows, and roadsides. They can accommodate small and large groups. Please **contact them** for more information.

Every year they partner with the California Native Grasslands

Association (CNGA) for the CNGA Hedgerow Farms Field Day. The Field Day includes extensive tours and much more (see CNGA's [website](#) for more information)-- this year it will be April 25, 2014 at Hedgerow Farms."

*Since I am curious about restoring rangeland and creeks and streams, but not knowledgeable about it, I called John Anderson at Hedgerow Farms. I am no fan of herbicides or pesticides, so my first questions were whether we can do without them. The good and bad news is that even he sees the need for them to eradicate invasive weeds and non-native grasses, but he referred me to an article he wrote, which included methods for poison-less management of them. See next page...*



*Hedgerow Farms native grasses and wildflowers [both photos from their website]*



*Butterflies love Milkweed!*

## In “Direct Seeding of California Native Grasses in the Sacramento Valley and Foothills”

by John Anderson, Hedgerow Farms

<http://www.hedgerowfarms.com/pdfs/DirectSeedingofCaliforniaNativeGrasses.pdf>

John Anderson wrote:

“A mature stand of California native grass provides a robust, self-sustaining vegetation system with multiple benefits to the environment and land management. Unfortunately, early attempts to establish native grasses did not succeed, often due to inappropriate species selection and inadequate weed control before and after planting. Because targeted planting areas frequently contain high density weed seed banks, weed control is the major challenge during the first few years...**Herbicides are often part of a successful management strategy. Herbicides provide cost-effective solutions to serious weed problems that often plague a grass stand. Appropriate chemicals, especially when integrated with other advanced technologies, provide important tools in the**

**restoration of various altered ecosystems now infested with exotics.** If herbicides are considered undesirable, well-timed cultivations before a planting can greatly reduce the weed seedbank, especially if rain or irrigation has caused a good germination. After planting, a grass stand can be mowed when annual grass or broadleaf weeds are flowering but before seeds are mature. This can eliminate this new set of seeds from the weed seedbank and give the perennials a greater competitive advantage...What follows is a summary of techniques to establish native grasses by direct seeding in the Sacramento Valley and foothills north of Winters in Yolo County. Average yearly rainfall is about 17 inches and soil types vary from Class 1 silty clay loam to Class 4 gravelly clay loam with underlying hard-pan. All areas have undergone continuous or

intermittent tillage over the past 20 years.”

To read the whole article, go to the website above, but for my purposes, his solution to poisonless de-weeding (which I highlighted in green); his explanation for the use of herbicides (highlighted in red); and his information about rain and soil in this area were on point. I had written about John Anderson, former veterinarian, in volume 3 of this journal, while writing about the restoration work John Stephens was doing on the Historic Oakdale Ranch with his help. Quoting from an article I had just read I wrote: *according to an article in the Sacramento Bee March 22, 2011, former veterinarian “John Anderson and Yolo County are at the center of a movement to incorporate wildlife habitat into cultivated farms.” As growers and ranchers become increasingly aware that water and air quality are improved by the hedgerows, and that this and the “prevalence of native plants and animals are just as vital to their yields as soil health,” it is obvious hedgerows--filled with game birds, beneficial pollinating insects and bugs--serve an even greater purpose.*

*Also check out: Yolo County Resource Conservation District: [www.yolorcd.org](http://www.yolorcd.org) & the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)*



*Almonds abound in the Capay Valley -- these orchards seen on the Taber Ranch*



*Almond Blossom*

**BEES--WITHOUT THEM WE HAVE NO ALMONDS! I WROTE ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE NON-NATIVE, INTRODUCED HONEY BEE AND CAPAY VALLEY'S HISTORY OF ALMONDS--AND THE SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO--IN PRIOR ISSUES, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS SOME CUTTING-EDGE NEWS IN THE FARMING AND SCIENCE FIELDS--AND SOMETIMES IT IS GOOD NEWS!**

In a recent issue of "The Progressive Farmer," Winter Issue, 2013, Bill Hairston of Bayer Crop Science says "Honeybees are getting a break. A new technology designed to lower

planting dust is showing promise limiting pollinator exposure...The use of lubricants, such as talc or graphite, is standard recommendation by planter equipment manufacturers to help reduce friction and improve planting uniformity. However, dust emissions during planting of seed treatment with insecticides and fungicides have been implicated in honeybee death and decline...but a new lubricant is made from a type of polyethylene wax...a dry powder, but unlike talc, it has a waxy nature that causes it to adhere to the seed"--not the important foraging, pollinating BEES! Tests are now being conducted on other crops, like cotton and soy--all three are huge, monocrops, to be sure, but one can hope that whatever the farmers and chemists can come up with to reduce the harm to BEES will lead us all to more sustainability...

"More than 80% of the world's almonds are grown in California and, to pollinate them, the 7,000 or so growers hire about 1.4m of America's 2.3m commercial hives. Thousands of trucks deliver the hives in February—from Maine, Florida, the Carolinas and elsewhere—and will soon pick them up again. The bees' job is to flit from one blossom to the next, gorging themselves and in the process spreading the trees' sexual dust. Farmers growing fruit trees, sunflowers, almonds (unlike many other nut trees, such as walnuts) and other crops needing pollination, now pay about \$150 to rent a hive, needing 1-2 hives per acre for almonds.

Some bee-men are local— see next page.

# Capay Valley has a long history of Almonds--and Honey Bees!

WE WON'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER



**Bees & Honey:** the bees are just trying to make honey for their hive and its existence, but according to Susan Brackney's book, *Plan Bee, Everything you Ever Wanted to Know About the Hardest-Working Creatures on the Planet*, "honey is mankind's oldest sweetener. Honey is manufactured in nature's most efficient factory - the beehive. Bees make honey from the nectar of flowers and they will travel as far as 40,000 miles and visit over 2 million flowers to produce one pound of honey. Honeybees have been in Europe

and Asia for hundreds of thousands of years. It was not until the late 1600's that the bee was brought to this country by Europeans. Approximately one half of the human diet is derived directly or indirectly from crops pollinated by bees. Today honeybees are an essential part of a healthy agriculture economy."

**Almonds:** So, in addition to the great honey they give us, they make it possible for us to produce *almonds*--and so much more! As I wrote in prior volumes, "In 1887 several San Francisco investors

incorporated the Capay Valley Land Company, composed mainly of officers of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The company planned to divide several large land holdings into 10- to 40-acre parcels for fruit and nut farming and to establish town sites along the length of the coming railroad"--including the length of the Capay Valley! In the next issue I will be writing about orchardmen and nurserymen who helped create the tradition of Almonds in our special valley!



Visit [bz-bee.com](http://bz-bee.com) [johnfoster@bz-bee.com](mailto:johnfoster@bz-bee.com) or call (530) 787-3044

The Greater Capay Valley Historical Society: PO Box 442, Esparto, CA 95627 vol 15

Now, about those Birds--pest or friend, our local Woodpeckers are interesting! Flickers, Acorns and Nuttall's Woodpeckers abound here!

BY JIM HIATT OF HUNGRY HOLLOW



Acorn Woodpecker on power lines and tree branches in Capay Valley...



...and his handiwork: stowing acorns in tree branches.

Capay Valley is a natural home for the several species of woodpeckers that thrive here, due to our hilly areas with lots of oaks in the lower realms and pines in the higher areas. Where I live in the Hungry Hollow, then over the Capay hills and up the Valley, we have species that are in the hills and valley year-round, like the Flickers and Acorn Woodpeckers and the uniquely-striped Nuttall's Woodpeckers—as well as a couple of others less frequently seen.

The Flickers are partially migratory hereabouts, coming down into the "flatlands" for mid-fall into early spring, and then matriculating back into the hilly areas. They sort of "trade places" with the Kingbirds, who usually leave here about the beginning of Dove season (Sept. 1, give or take), and return, depending on the onset of warmth, from mid-March to mid-April. The page references given for all birds are from *Birds of North America*.

The Acorn Woodpecker (seen in above photos and on page 383 of *Birds of North America*), *Melanerpes formicivorus* is one of the 3 most common Oak woodpeckers of these parts. These are very social and perhaps seen most often in these groves. We used to have these in Woodland as well—when Woodland was closer to 10,000 in population, more of a *large farm town*, and used to have many more Valley Oaks and Walnut trees than at present. They have basically two calls--one is a series of "Crack-it! Crack-it! Crack-it! Crack-it," usually 3 to 5 at a time. Davy Crockett had a rare sense of humor, and he, as in touch with nature as he was, when running for election, would have said--"Listen, friend, even the WOODPECKERS want me to win--just listen to 'em calling out "Crockett!, Crockett!, Crockett!, Crockett!" They also have a slightly slower single "Crrrrack!! Crrrraccck-itttt!!!" rolling their R's nicely, and giving

one at a time several times in a series.

They are very industrious about laying up a store of acorns for later needs, and drill holes in preferably dead-wood (seen above, right), as it's softer, and drills out easier, and they then hide these acorns by the score to be had in non-yielding times. Oaks are not the only trees that these are hidden in; just about anything that's high and has a cavity of sorts---even power pole insulators with a hollow in the top (see photo top left) are storage containers for these. The hole is already drilled out, and with a hollow in the top it saves such wear and tear on their beaks with those ceramic contraptions. Insects and fruits are also dined upon. One may perch at the top of a pole or high branch, peer about, and upon seeing a bug in the air, display aeronautics not unlike Kingbirds or Phoebe's in skillfully twisting and turning to capture a part of a meal.



Above: yellow shafted female Flicker in Hungry Hollow, Nov. 2013



In center: Red shafted male, Nov 2013.

Above: a page on our Flickers in *Birds of North America*

All photos taken in Capay Valley by Jim Hiatt

There are a couple of incredible mechanical features in these creatures not found among others birds. In pecking on trees or under bark, woodpeckers fall into the category of "drummers," making a very rapid fire staccato-like banging, at maybe half a dozen to a dozen strokes a second. As a child I used to wonder how they kept from jarring their little brains into early senility in this process, as each stroke is a "hammer-strike" into solid wood. Turns out that they have a "shock-absorber" built into the base of their skulls that are layers of cartilage which "squish" to absorb the impact, so for them it's all pretty stress free. In addition to drumming, "pecking" at loose bark is another method of rounding up a meal, and Flickers are more ones to poke and pry at loose bark sheets and strips off the sides of Eucalyptus trunks (see photo on page 14). These also have, as do other woodpeckers, a shorter and much stiffer tail than birds in general, which acts as a "brace" that can be leaned back on when climbing and working on the edges of branches. The two toes forward and two backward are also useful for a strong grip as it carries

on its tree activities.

The **Northern Flicker, *Colates auratus*** (above, and on page 400 in *Birds of North America*) is another such feathered neighbor. This used to be called either the Red-shafted Flicker, or the Yellow-shafted Flicker when I was much younger, and refers to the coloration of the undersides of the wing and tail feathers; either a salmon-orange color or a very golden yellow coloration. Later they were "lumped" into the same species name. These may or may not have a "mustache" just in from both sides of the beak. (See the top right photo from BONA showing this.) The Red-Shafteds have a red one in both male and female, whereas with the Yellows, the male has a black mustache and a red crescent on the back of the base of the head, while the female has neither. It's also one of the few woodpeckers that also forages on the ground for food. They have a long, round, sticky 4-inch tongue that they sweep around under bark or into dead wood, and then withdraw the tongue with a variety of appetizers "stuck" to it.

Upon alighting, a call is

issued. Along with a few very rapidly jerking down-and-up deep "bows" is a loud, whining "EEEEEE-RRRR!" repeated a number of times. This is saying: "*I am here; this is now my area! Stay away!!*" It also has a softer "wicker, wicker wicker, wicker" call given when it's hard at work and likely has found enough food-fare to justify its staying a while. Another call is given either as it's nearing its tree or as it's just about to land—it is hard-to-describe unless you just hear it: whiffling or ruffling, "wa-ha-ha-how-how-ho!" You'd know it if you heard it. It is given in flight as it nears where it's going to land, and sometimes as it nears a perch but at the last second changes its mind on that one and goes on to another, hence hearing this same sound intermittently as it nears where it wants to go means: "*I'm about to land, and whether I stay or not, just know that I'm coming in and I don't want company! I'm gonna be not-so-easy-to-get-along-with once I arrive!*" Food is pretty much insects and spiders found under bark or on the ground. The Northern Flicker isn't as much into seeds or acorns

Continue on page 14

Continued: Woodpeckers, Flickers & Sapsuckers are in the family *Picidae*.



A Capay Valley regular: Nuttall's Woodpecker among the oak balls in Nov. 2014; photos by Jim Hiatt

con't from page 13: The eucalyptus are a favorite tree to forage in, as they usually have a bark type that peels off continually in the life of the tree.

*NOTE: Flickers usually nest in dead wood, laying 1 brood of 6-8 eggs in May-June. The parents take turns incubating the eggs. They feed mainly on ants in breeding season--often feeding on the ground; and also fruits in winter.*

Another medium-sized one that is indigenous hereabouts is the **Nuttall's Woodpecker** (seen above and on page 392 of BONA), ***Picoides nutallii***, having a black and white striped back and red upper back of the head. This is one of the few woodpeckers that creeps and works away along the *underside* of branches with their unique gripping ability. The Nuttall is primarily an insect eater, but also sometimes enjoys fruits and berries. Its call is a loud "Chink!" or "Pink!" given singly, or in a rapid-fire series, descending at the end in volume when in flight from one tree to another. It just means: "*Careful, this spot's already taken!*"

hereabouts. Named after Meriwether Lewis, the early American explorer and William Clark's companion. [NOTE: William Clark was also blessed with having a bird named after him, the Clark's Nutcracker--very colorful, but not often seen here.] The Lewis has iridescent-green upper parts and a sort of mauve-maroon coloration on its breast, abdomen and face, as well. It has a slow but steady wing-beat, and is considered rather large. I've seen these just south of Madison many years ago.

Higher up in elevation, on occasion, a Pileated Woodpecker, ***Dryocopus pileatus***, (page 402 in BONA) may be seen. This very large, crow-sized woodpecker is quite a beautiful bird--and the only one featured in *Birds of North America*, other than the Ivory Billed, which may or may not be extinct, and was larger, yet--with a crest, an upturn of feathers at the back of the head. I've seen these along Rayhouse Road, and you're first struck by the size and the lovely red head crest and "moustache," or cheek patch.



Above: Jim pulls away some eucalyptus bark to reveal a Northern Flicker's delight--bugs!

On rare occasions a Lewis Woodpecker, ***Melanerpes lewis*** (page 381 in BONA) can be seen

## A Northern Flicker Woodpecker, up close and personal...

*Jim assured me he did not shoot this one--his feral cats dispatched him! And while the little fella was still in good shape, Jim was able to pick him up and photograph his interesting features for this article. The following text from Jim Hiatt explains the related photos he sent --*

**Northern Flicker:** the Red-shafted and Yellow-Shafted were originally considered different species, as their wing undersides were either a golden yellow or a salmon-reddish--like this one pictured here. I suppose even birders have their reasons for "splitting" species, depending on whether they interbreed and so on. We have both kinds here--and always have had. I used to shoot them for Grandma Goodnow in Hungry Hollow, as they pecked holes in the sides of the house, garage and barn. The old north side of the garage, along the upper gabled part of the wall next to the roof, was a smattering of tin can lids nailed up there, each to cover a Flicker hole. It's how I came to know the difference in plumage, like which ones had a "moustache" on either cheek, and whether it was a dark gray one, a red one, and so on. I learned so much doing things for Grandma like this—clever ol' bird that she was!

These, like so many other woodpeckers, have a "shock-absorber" mechanism built into the back of the base of their skulls so they don't rattle

their brains loose in pecking. A verry long stick-like tongue for sneaking waaay under bark to catch and drag out the bugs that got caught on it, seen below. Note, also, the red "mustache," indicating this one is male, females have no mustache.



The long tail is designed for anchoring the bird to the tree-side whilst working.



The Flickers move more into the valley areas from the Coast Range Hills around late Sept/early Oct, moving in right around when the Kingbirds leave for down south. Thereafter, they'll be here through the winter until pretty close to the time of arrival of our

Kingbirds again. This is called "partially migratory," meaning on a more localized level, as opposed to "migratory," meaning to go to a different part of the world for a time.

*Below, notice the Flicker foot: two toes in front and two in back make it possible to climb on vertical surfaces. But Northern Flickers also hop along the ground, which is unusual for most woodpeckers--and in this fella's case, it was his un-doing!*



At left, look at the lovely, colorful salmon-orange undersides of the wings. Yellow-shafted ones have a beautiful golden color here. When I was a kid all bird books considered these as different species, with the yellows being outnumbered considerably. When I used to shoot these for Grandma, I found maybe 1 yellow for every 7 reds that I "harvested." Now they're both "lumped" as *Northern Flickers*, due to interbreeding betwixt these two in mid-west regions.



# WILD FAMILY ORCHESTRA



Photo by Bob Seltzer

from Zamora, California



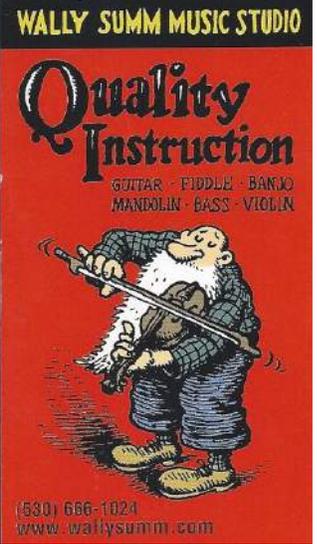
76 Wild Family Orchestra from Zamora, California, Yolo Record, 12" record cover, 1979.

77 Yolo Record, record label, 1979.

78 Shanachie, record label, 1975.



*\*Album artwork by Robert Crumb for this Yolo Records release of "Wild Family Orchestra" Cover art is credited to R, liner notes by Aline Kominsky-Crumb. Yolo County is near San Francisco, California and was home to the Crumb family before the move to France.*



Doing research and hearing and writing the stories is like an amazing tapestry--but you pick at one thread and find everything is so intertwined you can't really follow just one at a time! So sometimes I feel the need to just put up some random treasures I stumble into as I am following another lead. Case in point: I was trying to find out about Andy Summ and the smokehouse in Capay that so many of us grew up calling the "Capay Jail" or "Capay Lockup"—which is a thread I include in this issue--*BUT* it turns out grandson Wally Summ had heard the same legend. But he is, himself, a fascinating guy and shared some treasures with me about his musical interests, including: local old-timey music and artist R. Crumb and the Wild Family of Zamora. Well, without knowing exactly how to use all this, I just want to share it here--for fun! According to their website, Robert "R" Crumb lives in France, having moved there to escape the hubbub of the USA. He lives there with his wife, Aline Kominsky...

*Crumb was the subject of a biographical film by Terry Zwigoff*

*entitled simply "Crumb" ...He collaborated ... to create Zap Comix in the 1960's. He is responsible for creation of such classic characters as the Keep On Truckin' guy, Fritz the Cat, Mr Natural, Devil Girl, Flakey,*

*Schuman the Snoid, MEATBALL, and too many more to mention them all--oh, and Wally Summ's business card art seen above!*

## WILD FAMILY ORCHESTRA from ZAMORA, CALIFORNIA

**FRED - TRUMPET**  
**HAROLD - BANJO, GUITAR & VOCALS**  
**EVA - PIANO**  
**MARGARET - DRUMS**  
**CLAUDE - VIOLIN**

— SIDE ONE —

1. RINZI TWO-STEP
2. LITTLE OLD FANG DOLL  
M.H. COLE PUBLISHING CO.
3. JOHNNY MIND YOUR MAMMY  
M.H. COLE PUBLISHING CO.
4. WHERE THE RIVER SHANNON FLOWS  
WINDMILL MUSIC INC. (ASCAP)
5. SOUTHERN BELLES MARCH
6. ZIG ZAG WALTZ
7. ARLINGTON HORNPIPE  
M.H. COLE PUBLISHING CO.
8. YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS  
M.H. COLE PUBLISHING CO.

— SIDE TWO —

1. PRIZE WALTZ  
S.B. HEALING CO. (ASCAP)
2. SAN ANTONIO ROSE  
WINDMILL MUSIC INC. (ASCAP)
3. HAWTHORNE WALTZ
4. SUMMER DREAMS SCHOTTISCHE
5. NOBODY'S DARLING BUT MINE  
WINDMILL MUSIC PUBLISHING CO. (ASCAP)
6. EVERGREEN SCHOTTISCHE
7. IN THE MOOD  
SHARPE, BERNSTEIN & CO. (ASCAP)
8. HEEL AND TOE POLKA  
LEO PELTY INC. (ASCAP)
9. THE WALTZ YOU SHED FOR ME  
LEO PELTY INC. (ASCAP)

ALL SONGS RECORDED LIVE AT THE WILD FAMILY HOME - SUMMER, 1979

↑ Harold, Claude, and Fred during World War II

↑ The Wild Family in the late Thirties: Claude, Margaret, Forrest, Grandmother, Harold, Eva, Fred, and Fred Sr.

↑ The Wild's Grandmother and Fred Sr. in the old Zamora General Store, which he operated. Then in 1932.

↑ Fred Sr. in his younger days

↑ Zamora Union School Orchestra, Claude Wild, 2nd from left, May 1919.

↑ Fred with his trumpet, in the Army during World War II.

↑ The Wild's mother, Katie

The Wild Family Orchestra has been playing music in Yolo County, California since the early Thirties. Their father, Fred Wild Sr. owned and operated the General Store in Zamora and inspired his children by playing trumpet, fiddle, accordion, harmonica, and other instruments. As a family orchestra the Wilds played for many a Saturday night dance, as well as parties, picnics, and weddings. Fred Sr. passed away in 1949, but the five children kept the band going. Another brother, Forrest, who played saxophone, died in 1940 from a mosquito bite. Today the Wilds still play together in the fine, old-time traditional style and run the family farm as they have since 1931.

— ALINE KOMINSKY-CRUMB

THANKS FOR HISTORICAL ASSISTANCE FROM BRUCE SHANNON, WALLY SUMM AND NICK PEARLE, AND FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM JIM LINDH. COVER ART BY R. CRUMB

...and since we are on the subject of the Summ family of Capay Valley...

*When I was a kid in Capay in the 1950-1960s everyone--even my father--called the building seen here the Capay Jail or Lock-up. And since his father and eldest brother were sheriff of Yolo County for 60 years, I figured he would know. Turns out there is plenty of controversy--ahem, "legend"--around that fact. Having always shared a fascination with that little brick building--now, sadly nothing but a pile of historic Cache Creek brick--I began to dig for facts. My father is gone, as are many of the other possible sources; none of the old-timers I did ask knew for sure--but they all had a theory. Even my aunt Micki Zentner, former Capay Justice of the Peace, said she had always heard that it had been used to lock-up the occasional drunk or such--but she had no proof nor did she ever do so herself. David Herbst (whom I call our "Capay Valley Smithsonian") and the "Yolo County Historic Resources Survey, 1986," the "bible" which I checked at the Yolo County Archives, and which David helped create on the historic buildings in this*

*area say: "Just Andrew Summ's brick smokehouse. Period." Then I met with Andy's great-grandson Wally Summ in high hopes, but he had only the same legends--though a lot of other interesting things to share! [see page 16] Finally, I turned to John Gallardo, the local historian who has been so very generous with his years of research and I got these pictures he took in the 1960s and the old maps of Capay he down-loaded from 1897 and 1907--both of which show both this brick smokehouse and an even smaller building behind it up the steep hill that is labeled "Lock-up"! So, it is my supposition at this point that the two entities got co-mingled in people's minds--thus the legend that stayed with the last standing building., the brick smokehouse...until someone tells me differently!*

"Andrew Summ was a butcher in Capay and built this structure to smoke meat," according to the *Yolo County Resources Survey*. "His butcher shop was across the street. This building was built on his brother John's property where a blacksmith shop was located (now gone)." It remained as "an important remnant of the early pioneer lifestyle" for about 100 years. The current owner of the property fenced off the pile of bricks on the site and would



Andrew Summ's historic brick smoke house at south Main Street/Highway 16, Capay--photo 1960s



**Andy Summ's Smokehouse was approximately 8'-6' with a front door and small window on either side. Built in the 1880s, it sat through the 1980s just south of Main Street/Highway 16 at the west end of Capay until someone hit it with his car--and left the scene!**

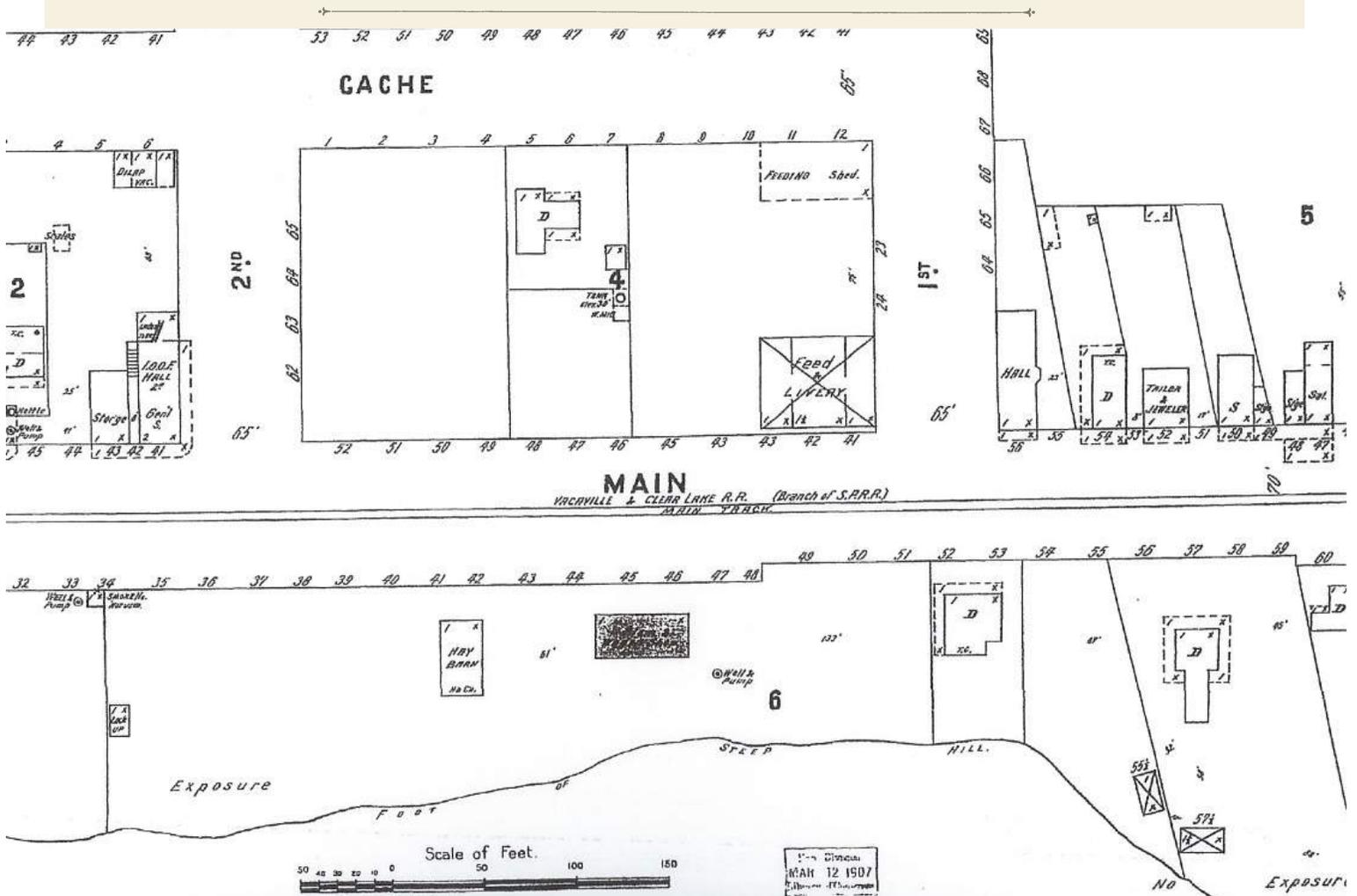
**Ironically, this 100 year old antique "jail" was dispatched by a hit-n-run driver-- Someone call the sheriff!!**

welcome anyone willing to rebuilt this historic building--before any more of the bricks are taken as souvenirs!



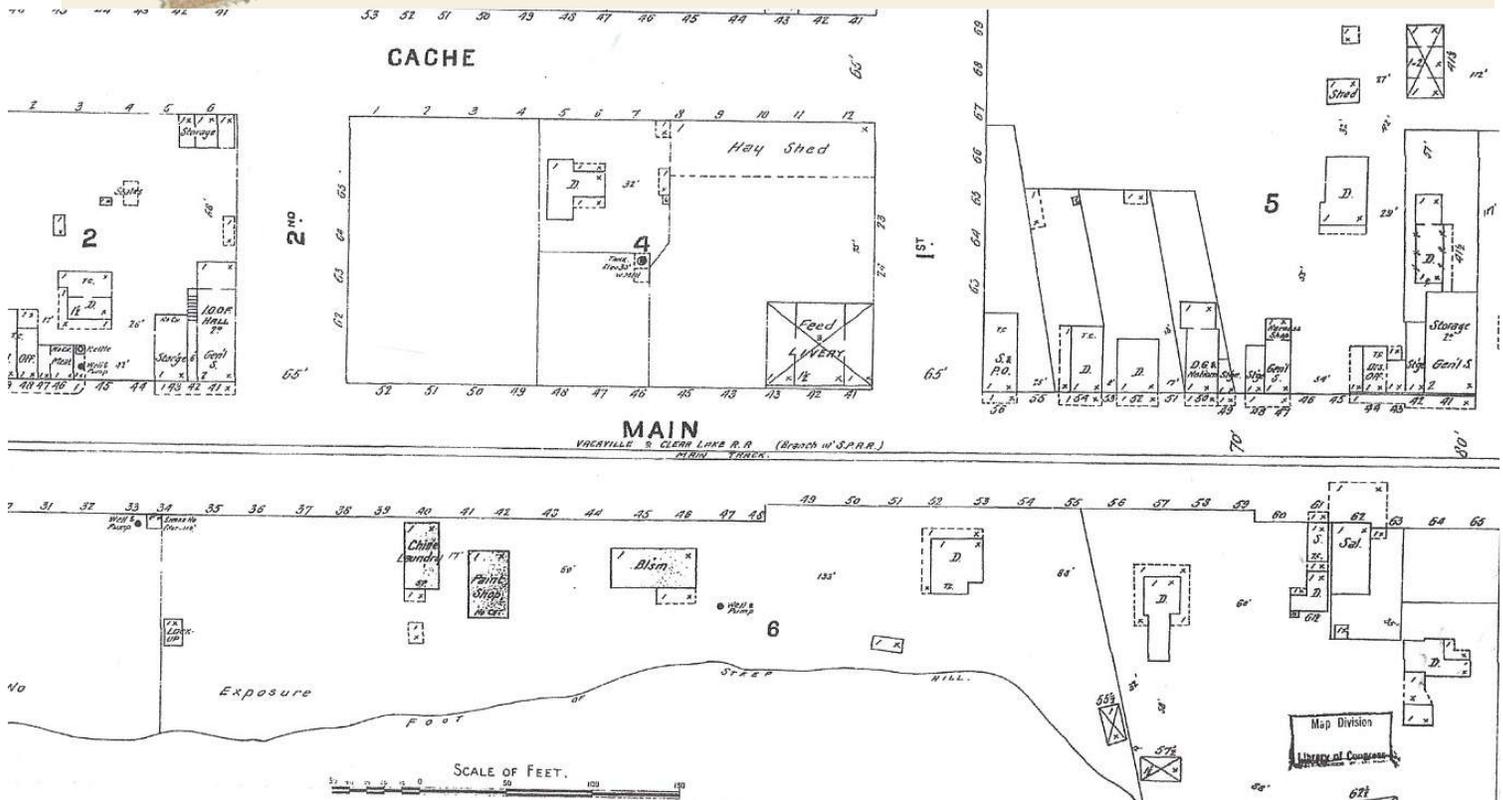
## HISTORIC CAPAY: TAKEN FROM SANBORN MAP COMPANY

The map on this page is dated May 1897; the map on facing page is dated 1907. John Gallardo zoomed in on just the section of western Capay to show me the smokehouse and some other historic buildings--some still standing, some long gone.



Though difficult to read, the notation on the bottom left of both maps says “Summ’s Smokehouse” and behind it, going south up a steep hill is the “Lock-up.”

I will go into more detail about the now-missing buildings in a future issue, but want to note a couple that are of interest at this time. On the 1897 map above, notice the hay barn to the right/east of the smokehouse and lock-up. In the 1907 map, locate this hay barn site and notice it appears to have become a Paint Shop--and added to the left of it is a Chinese Laundry. Many Chinese men helped build the Vaca Valley-Clear Lake Railroad through the Capay Valley in 1888 and stayed to take jobs as laborers of many kinds, often as cooks and housekeepers in the pioneers’ homes and, eventually, some had a large produce garden in Capay, serving the needs of many residents--as did this laundry. I am still doing research on the Chinese of Capay Valley and will write more in a future issue; as it is, not much has been written about them, even by Chinese-American historians. When I asked one author he knew only vaguely about China Peak, at approximately 1,100 feet above and 2.5 miles north of the town of Guinda. To be continued!



One historic building that is still standing is seen on the north side of Main Street-Highway 16 today and seen on map above as one of the block of buildings in section 5, near 1st Street. Sadly, just last month the Strong's house was demolished, which once was owned by Clara Spaulding, who ran her tiny saloon *Clara's Place* next door--both are gone now, but see them in the photos below. Happily, what is still standing is the historic building seen in both photos: built about 1865-70 by John T. Lewis, by 1888 it housed George Tandy's Harness Shop and later Grocery Store & Post Office; where-in he also acted as Wells Fargo agent. None of these ventures proved lucrative, so in 1897 he converted it to a very successful saloon. Like many mercantile buildings of the period, it once had a false-front parapet above the lean-to porch, but it was removed in the 1940s.



Seen in left photo, L-to-R: Clara's home, her small saloon, and the Tandy Store, in front of which was once a gas pump. Below: taken March 2014, the historic *Tandy Store* stands by the now-empty lot, soon to have modulars.



And then there are the people who come by my booths for *The Greater Capay Valley Historical Society* and just give me stuff!

ONE SUCH WAS A DESCENDANT OF THE LOCAL TILLY, WOOD AND BOWLES FAMILIES

In 2013 Bill Grindell came by my booth and after a lengthy discussion, I came home to find pictures and information about his links to several Capay Valley families: "A year or two ago my wife and I met you at an event in Capay Valley, and I kept your card because I have much interest in that area. Joel Wood and Emmarine Clark Wood are my great great grandparents. Their daughter (Myrtle Wood) married William Bowles, and one of their daughters Vera (Bowles) Grindell was my

Grandmother. Vera met my grandfather when he was a young man working for the railroad. A couple of the Tilly's are buried at the Capay Cemetery. Most of the Bowles family is buried there also, under the large oak tree adjacent to Joel and Emmarine Wood. It looks like most of the J.T. Archer family is buried at the Cottonwood Cemetery. I have many old photographs from Capay Valley..." --which he soon shared! Here are some of his photos.

Above, he wasn't sure of the names, but they stand in front of the First Presbyterian Church, erected 1867...in Cottonwood?

Below, the Tilly Hotel, Madison, CA.



Right, L-R: Vera Bernice (Bowles) Grindell, Harry Stanford Grindell, Martha Jane (Nickell) Tilly at Tilly Hotel.



Martha Jane (Nickell) Tilly, wife of George F. Tilly, stands with their granddaughters at the Tilly Hotel, Madison. On the back of this photo Bill Grindell's grandmother Vera had written, "Mrs. Tilly (Lou's mother) and her two darling granddaughters. Harry boarded with Mrs. Tilly all the time he lived in Madison. She was a good cook & very nice to me too."

**More photos shared by Bill Grindell...**

*Though not related to the Tilly family, directly, Bill's family had an early relationship with them in Madison-- thus the great photos he had to share!*

*The Tilly he mentions was son of John Wesley and Martha Jane*

*Hubbard Tilly. He married Martha Jane Nickell and they had several children--many of whom stayed in the valley and married into the local Duncan, Grigsby, Zentner and, no doubt, other families.*

Harry Stanford Grindell in front of JT Archer & Sons Meat Market, Madison. NOTE: John T. Archer had butcher-meat market businesses in Madison, Winters, Esparto, Capay & Guinda, per Tom Gregory's 1913 History of Yolo County.

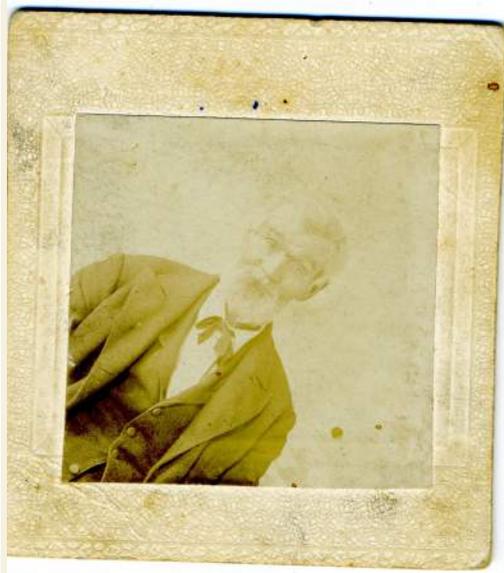


Below are familiar faces--I have written about Emmarine (Clark)

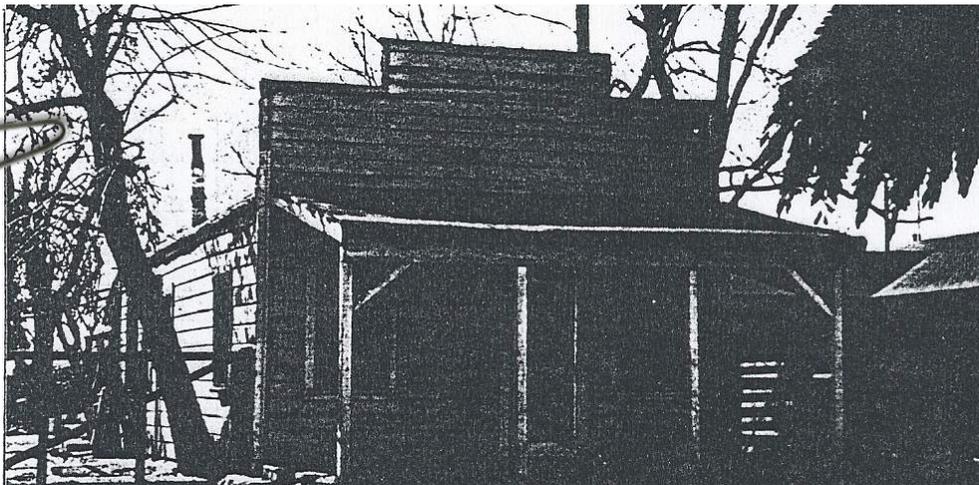
Wood (1839MO-1910CA) several times: daughter of one of the two pioneer Clark families, in 1853 she married Joel Wood (1827TN-1913CA) one of the earliest Capay Valley pioneers and founder of the Wood family of Dogtown. Many of their 12 children stayed in the valley and married other local families-- one being Joel Elmer, who married in 1920 Margaret Bauer; and Marcia May married in 1902 Wyatt Duncan, descendant of Ben Franklin Duncan--whose many children also stayed in the valley and married *many* local families. AND one of Joel and Emmarine's granddaughters (Irene) married one of Ben's grandsons (Iverson), too--continuing the tradition! I have written in prior issues about these connections--but, obviously, daughter Myrtle married in 1893 William J. Bowles, as per Bill Grindell. Their daughter Vera married his grandfather Harry S. Grindell, who: *"was born and raised in Hayward, then joined the Southern*

*Pacific Railroad at the age of 15. He died in 1956 at the age of 65, just before retiring with years of service. My grandmother was born and raised at the ranch house owned by her parents, William Bowles and Myrtle (Wood) Bowles, not too far from her Grandpa Joel Wood's place in Dogtown. Most of the pictures I have are from the Bowles family. They were a bunch of hard working happy-go-lucky people. It's a small world, and I'm hopeful some of the pictures will resonate with the folks up there."*

*Yours, Bill Grindell*



NOTE: Sherrie Barnett at *Junk, Funk & Finery* asked if I would write more about Madison's history--so this one's for you, Sherrie! And for Bonnie Stormont!



The Tilly family didn't just have a Hotel, they had the Tilly Store, as well, in Madison, CA.

**B. HOWELL,**  
 Corner Main and Scott Streets  
 MADISON,  
**Gas-Fitter and Plumber,**  
 DEALER IN  
*Pumps, Pipes, Tanks, Wind-Mills, Hardware,  
 Buggies, Wagons and Vehicles  
 of all descriptions.*  
**Harness, Robes, Whips, Blankets, Gloves, etc.**  
 Which he proposes to sell as cheap as any in the State, as  
 he has no high salaried clerks or rents to pay,  
 which must always come from the consumer.

REMEMBER THE PLACE TO BUY.

A good livery and feed Stable in  
 connection.  
 ALL KINDS OF WELL-BORING  
 DONE ON SHORTEST NOTICE.

A comparison of two early stores in the Capay Valley: one in Madison and the other in Capay. Above is the 1877 George Tilly's Store on 1171 Main Street, Madison, between Scott Street and Railroad Street. At right is George Tandy's Store in Capay, seen in a publication of the Yolo County Historical Society. Their information conflicts a bit from the Resource Survey I quoted on page 21: they claim it was built by John T. Lewis of Langville [later



*George Tandy married Anna Faure in 1887 and had 9 children and just after moving from Madison to Capay he became Justice of the Peace in 1886.*

Capay] in 1865 for a harness and saddle shop "until 1888 when George W. Tandy took over the management of the harness shop." In either case, it became known as Tandy's Store in most memories and historical documents. Typical of the time, when early pioneers had little money and resources, they threw up shops quickly to serve the needs of a booming and wild west--as well as to "take possession of the land and quickly erect rudimentary dwellings and commercial buildings such as these to begin a new economy that would become one of the richest farm economies in the state," per "The Yolo County Historic Resources Survey 1986." A somewhat more elaborate store was the one built by Wolf Levy--who would eventually have stores in Esparto and Capay. [Photos, Ads, etc., courtesy of John Gallardo's collection]

**Madison,**  
 YOLO COUNTY.

Audett Mrs J, dressmaker  
**CHANDLER F B,** lumber  
**FIFIELD W E,** drugs, physician, va-  
 rieties and postmaster  
 Tastic S, bootmaker  
 Haines A, gen mdse  
 Henrich F N, meat market  
 Hill H, blacksmith  
 Hilliker L W, hotel  
 Howell B, hardware and tinner  
 Hudson M, restaurant  
 Hurlbut D B, livery  
 Johnson Wm, wagonmaker  
 Keller J, blacksmith  
 McConley H, saloon  
 McCully J, fruit  
 McKenna J J, blacksmith  
 Milsap M, saloon  
 Paine A S, carpenter

1 believe this should be W. (Wolf) LEVY.

Wooten ?  
 Wooten ?

1041 Main St., S.

Penny John, agt W, F & Co, W U Tel opr and gen freight agt V V & C L R R  
 Risdon A D, physician  
 Sandy John, carpenter  
 Sevey W, gen mdse  
 Stephens J J & Co, warehouse  
 Tandy Geo, harnessmaker  
 Wilber John, carpenter  
 Willard Mrs M A, hotel  
 Wouten S & Son, flour mill

**W. E. FIFIELD, M. D.,**

W. E. FIFIELD, M. D.,  
**MADISON DRUG STORE,**  
**MADISON,**  
 YOLO COUNTY, CAL.  
 Perfumery, Toilet Articles, Cigars,  
 Candies, Etc.  
 Prescriptions Carefully Compounded.

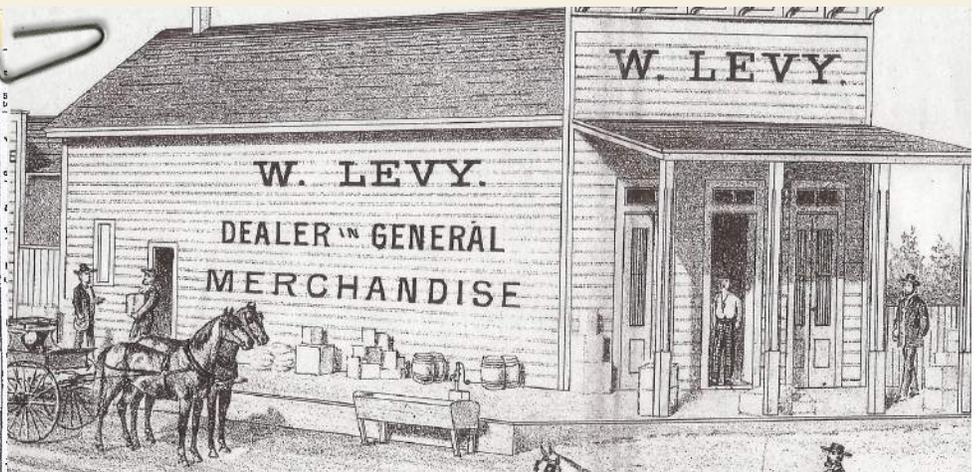
When the RR settled on Madison in 1877 instead of Cottonwood for their Depot and turntable, Madison boomed in the late 1870s! Businesses and homes shot up--and many were actually moved from Cottonwood.

**J. L. DUPREY,**  
 OF MADISON,  
 Having rented the Blacksmith Business formerly conducted by  
**MR. J. KELLER,**  
 Is prepared to do All Kinds of Blacksmith Work common to that trade.

The patronage of Farmers and the General Public kindly solicited.

Wolf Levy was one of the first to create a store in Madison, even though he resided in the Bay Area with his family. He had married Sarah Isaacs in 1874 in SF and she continued to live there, while Wolf split his time between his store ventures in Madison and then Esparto and then Capay. In Esparto, he began with the store that would eventually become "Wyatt's General Store."

**Esparto to the Front!**  
 LEVY & SCHWAB.  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE!**  
 Finest Assorted Stock in Yolo County, California.  
 The Public is Respectfully Invited to Give Us a Call.  
 JUST RECEIVED A FINE ASSORTMENT OF  
**BUGGIES, CARTS, WAGONS!**  
 PRICES REASONABLE.  
 Respectfully, LEVY & SCHWAB.



Wolf Levy's Store, Madison, CA. Etching from *The Illustrated History of Yolo County 1825-1880*

When A.H. Fredson came to Esparto in 1911 to buy up much of the lagging town and revitalize it, he started his general store in the old, empty Levy & Schwab Store, built about 1890 by L.F. Croft--which would later become "Wyatt's General Store" in most of our memories--seen at right in the photo from John Gallardo. Some credit Fredson with building it, but he actually



Date: the newest store in this photo, the Studbaker, second from right.

had it remodeled in 1912 to the store you see directly above in a photo taken in the 1950s, and at right in early 2000s.



Above & Below: Sadly, the old store was falling down and here it is being demolished in the early 2000s; photos from John Gallardo.



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Send a check payable to TGCVHS for \$60 for 2014 to address above



*Wild California Mustard: at right, the blossoms start low and work up to the top; at left above, as they drop off they leave the seed pod--which can be crushed for spreadable-edible mustard—though most people today do not bother with this natural source. BUT WE tried it in our marble pestle and enjoyed it on broiled chicken breasts!*



**California Mustard:**

**Latin Name** *Caulanthus lasiophyllus*,

**Common Names:** California Mustard, Slender-pod Jewelflower

The flowers are on tall, slender, terminal flower spikes. The individual flowers are small and have 4 petals. The flowers are followed by long, slender seedpods that hang downwards on the stems. The leaves are green, broadly lanceolate to oblong, toothed, often sharply-lobed, and mostly found at the base of the plant and on the lower parts of the stems.

In the Brassicaceae Family, blooming between March and June. In the Napa wine region it is encouraged between vines--not only is it lovely against the greenery and gnarled vines, but it serves a "sustainable" purpose--check it out at:

<http://baldacciwineblog.com>

Basically, the mustard helps suppress the harmful Nematode populations when their extra spicy glucosinolate compounds are plowed back into the soil.

FROM:

TGCVHS

PO Box 442  
Esparto, CA 95627

CAPAY VALLEY

March 2014

Volume Fifteen

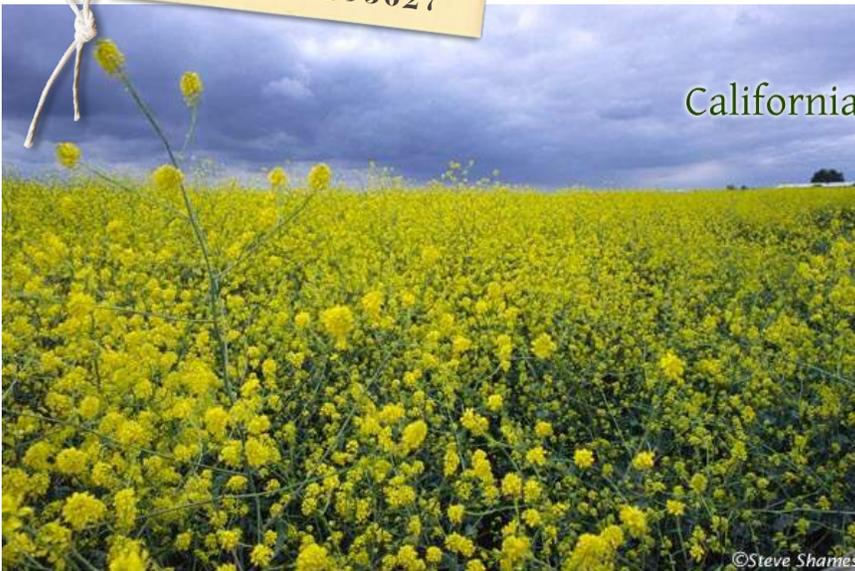


Photo at left taken from the website for:

California Native Grasslands Association

Check out: [greatercapayvalley.org](http://greatercapayvalley.org) and on FaceBook as: *The Greater Capay Valley Historical Society*

**\$60 Membership-subscription 2014; Get the book "The History and Stories of the Capay Valley" for 25% off at \$75 -- a compilation of the first 14 volumes of the quarterly journal for TGCVHS**

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