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Reserve Today!

ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON
Saturday, December 2, 2017
11:00 am to 2 pm

Shelly's Creative Catering
 2565 Zanella Way, Chico, CA
 (from Hwy 99 take Skyway exit to Paradise, turn
 right on Zanella Way and to the end)

Caesar Salad
 Chicken Parmesan
 Pasta Alfredo
 Garlic Bread
 Dessert
 Coffee, Tea, Water

\$18 per person

Please RSVP by 11/27/2017 using the enclosed
 response card and SASE envelope provided for your
 convenience. We are looking forward to seeing you
 and your guests who are always welcome!



ASSOCIATION for NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Dusted Tomes

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Founded 1971

ANCHR Annual Membership Meeting Newsletter

Fall 2017

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO INVITE you and your guests to the unveiling of our newest book at our 2017 Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Join us as we enjoy *Conversations with the Past*, a collection of 17 oral histories from seven Northern California counties. Don't miss this special book launch! Book will be \$13.50 (+ sales tax) for members at our annual meeting. Reserve your spot today!

When the Association of Northern California Records and Research (ANCHR's predecessor) formed in the 1970s, members spent several years collecting and transcribing a number of oral histories. These histories have languished in storage files for decades. We rediscovered them this year and decided these voices and their stories needed to be heard.

These personal accounts provide a priceless window to a past long gone. But they also show that people did back then what we do now—live.

These memories range from personal accounts about the Bidwells, family cattle drives, early days in Paradise and Chico, hitching canoe rides on riverboat barges, Chico's first aviator, the discovery of Ishi in Oroville, western Colusa County Indian life and John Bidwell's explorations, herding geese, pioneer life in Orland and Newville, memories of Modoc County, the town of Prattville and Big Meadows before Lake Almanor flooded the areas, railroad torpedoes, and President Kennedy's visit to Lassen Volcanic National Park in 1963.

Twelve local museums opened their archives to provide photographs that visually enhance this 256-page book. This has been a labor of love for us, and we hope you will agree.

Conversations with the Past

Vibrant Voices from Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta & Tehama Counties



ANCHR
 Association for Northern California Historical Research

We have been busy this year learning and creating a new and improved website that now offers online ordering. We are still putting some small finishing touches on it, but it's open for business. Check it out:

www.anchr.org

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
Saturday, December 2, 2017
11 am to 2 pm
2565 Zanella Way, Chico, CA

We will have a very short membership meeting where six positions are renewing. Members will vote on continuing the members currently in their soon expiring positions. There are four vacant positions. If anyone is interested in filling one, please let us know.

Chair • Vacant
Vice-Chair • Ron Womack
Secretary • Nancy Leek
Treasurer • Dave Brown
Membership • Dave Brown
Publications/Newsletter Editor • Josie Smith
Webmaster • Josie Smith
Publications Sales • Ron Womack



Steering Committee
(elected in staggered two-year terms)

Continuing members
(terms expiring November 2018)
1. Nancy Leek
2. Charles Copeland
3. VACANT
4. VACANT
5. VACANT
6. VACANT

Members to be elected during annual meeting
(terms expiring November 2017)
1. Dave Brown
2. Ron Womack
3. Josie Smith
4. George Thompson
5. Alan Willendrup
6. Arno Martini

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Top: Cattle drive through Taylorsville (courtesy Indian Valley Museum)
Bottom: Cattle in Clover Valley (courtesy Peggy Roney Arms)



32-mule team harvester on Marten Ranch, Glenn County, c. 1890
(courtesy Willows Museum)

Two Excerpts from *Conversations with the Past*

The Roney Family Cattle Drives, 1931-1976 by George Ulric Roney

Trailing Cattle In The Thirties

“I have been on drives since 1931 when I was eight and that was with my grandfather, Archie Bennett. My last trip was in 1961; thirty years [of trailing]. We had two different drives. One was cows and calves together. We had a chuck wagon drawn with horses and a cook. We used pack horses for dry cattle. Two men went with about 300 head of dry cattle. These were yearlings.

“There was no way of hauling hay, as trucks were practically non-existent. With four or five horsemen [for cows and calves], we had to find grazing along the way; for instance, Archie would rent feed from Lucas in Butte Meadows. We would drive them there, and then we would, hopefully, get in there early in the morning. In the afternoon, cattle would feed out in the meadow.

“Then we’d come over the top and stop at Charlie Ruffa’s. From Ruffa’s on, we had to let them feed along [the trail] and get their feed. At Chester, Charlie Stover

always had a field for us. It was off the causeway on the south side of the park at Chester.” (It was covered by Lake Almanor when the dam was raised in 1964. Chester was the last good meadow before they arrived at Clover Valley (the Roney’s mountain ranch) two days later.)

George’s Son’s First Cattle Drive

“On my own son’s first trip, it snowed, and it rained at Bailey Creek. He didn’t have a slicker or any rain gear, but he did have a coat. At nightfall in camp, he was just so frigid that he couldn’t get off, and I had to lift him off the horse. He was so cold; snow was piling up in front of him—between the horn and his crotch. He says, ‘I have never in my life been as cold as I was that night.’ I just picked him up off the horse and set him down near the fire. A little eight-year-old kid isn’t going to be big enough to step off a big horse easily. I just literally picked him up, set him down by the fire to get warm.”

Pioneer Life in Orland & Newville by Llewellyn Gay

“These muleskinners worked hard, and they worked long hours; I have a picture of an eight-animal plow team taken around the turn of the century and there’s a lantern hanging on the hame of one of the mules. But though they worked hard, they sometimes had some fun.

“There was a story of old Johnny Soul. Johnny was an old Civil War Union veteran who worked for my aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Gawn Murdock. He’d broken his leg during the war, and he walked with a decided limp. But he managed to do the chores and drive the two-horse surrey with the fringe on the top for Aunt Mary Helen.

“Down on the creek was an old rebel by the name of Smart, and whenever those two veterans got together, they’d fight the Civil War all over again.

“Now Johnny loved President McKinley; he though he was a wonderful man. So one day a muleskinner said

to Johnny, ‘*Johnny, you should write the President a letter. Tell him how you broke your leg during the war, and we’re sure that he’ll see to it that you receive a pension.*’

“So Johnny wrote the good President a letter. But the letter never got beyond the bunkhouse, for the muleskinners, they opened it, and they answered it. Well, in due time, Johnny received his reply. The “President” informed him that he had investigated his claim, but he regretted to have to tell him that the investigation showed that he did not break his leg defending his country, but rather he was hiding behind a cannon, and it was the recoil of the cannon that struck his leg and broke it. A rebel by the name of Smart, concealed in a nearby thicket of trees, witnessed the accident and, under these circumstances, Johnny wasn’t entitled to a pension.

“Needless to say the uproar [between these two after this letter] was terrific. . . .”