



Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation

April Newsletter, 2020

*In this issue of our newsletter,
we will highlight Sutter Creek's long history of
large community-wide celebrations honoring
special events, as well as patriotic holidays.*

On April 10, 1890 there was a celebration to commemorate the raising of the flag at the new brick Sutter Creek Grammar School. The flag was funded through hundreds of small donations by local teachers, students, and citizens. The total cost of the flag and assembly was approximately \$100. The flag measured 14 by 21 feet and flew 110 feet above the ground. Below is one early photo of the flag.



Note the flag is above the cupola at the top of the picture and is the only known photograph of the full height flag pole and flag measuring 110 feet from the ground.

One curious photo (below) shows two very tall flag poles at the

school, one attached to the building and one in front of it. There is also an elegant plaque honoring the donors on exhibit in the recently restored school.

note position of flag pole... what is the school mounted pole used for?



The April 12, 1890 issue of the Amador Ledger account cites; “The raising of the national flag, 14 by 21 feet, over our school house on last Saturday afternoon was a notable occurrence in the history of Sutter Creek”. The celebration started with “a parade of 300 school children from Howard’s Hall to the school” followed by School Trustee Dr. J.H. Giles’ “eloquent and patriotic speech”, intended to “teach the children to honor and love the flag, not for its mere intrinsic value, as it was only a few yards of bunting, but because it was the emblem of the greatest country and the best government enjoyed by man”.

Further speeches and songs were concluded “with the singing of "America" in which everybody joined and after which three cheers for the flag were given and the crowd, headed by the band, marched back to town”. The brick grammar school was constructed in 1870 - 1871 to replace the earlier school destroyed by fire in 1870. According to the 1870 Superintendent of Schools Report, there were 253

school aged children in Sutter Creek.



The May 21, 1870 edition of the Amador Dispatch recounts a school picnic attended by between 400 and 500 people. Similar crowds were reported for the fourth of July, and admission day celebrations. Such celebrations typically included marching bands, rock drilling contests, parades, rodeos, dances and even tub races held on a temporary quarter mile long lake created by damming Sutter Creek.



Now, 135 years later, the school is back in use with many descendants of the original celebrants still living in the area. The SCCBF is in the process of replacing the flag pole assembly. Much of Sutter Creek appears the same; let us hope that we have retained the community and patriotic spirit of our local ancestors as we face the stresses and challenges of the 21st century.



While the Stay at Home Order is in effect in Amador County, we'd like everyone to reflect on some of the good around us and the positive aspects of our County and Country. The examples that we see daily and the ingenuity that people have shown only strengthen our commitment to support our neighbors and community.

Whether it's a love of our heritage, a special connection to our town's diverse, deeply rooted cultures, or a desire to improve your community, every donor's passion for Sutter Creek is unique. A gift to Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation is the perfect way to fund your passion and watch it prosper. By connecting people who care with causes that matter, we help ensure a stronger, healthier tomorrow. We provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. (Donations to SCCBF are received through the Amador Community Benefit Foundation.)

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