

Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation

September Newsletter, 2021

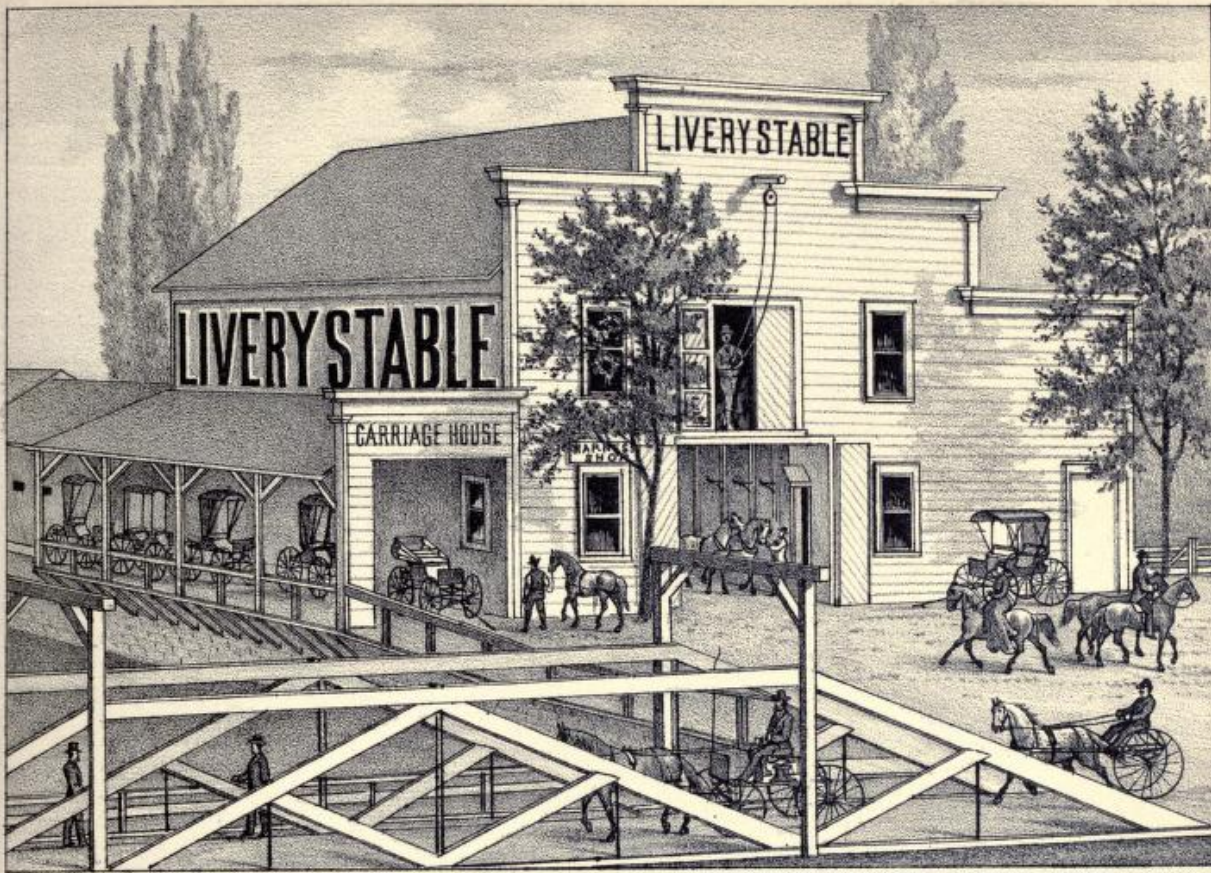
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was on hand for our Flag Raising and tour of the Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School on September 19. More photographs and information of the event will follow next month.



Since much of September was spent getting ready for this historic event, this issue is an update from our newsletter originally published in September 2020. Horseshoes have been discovered!

Sutter Creek Auditorium Life Begins as a Livery Stable

How many lives can one building have? Take a look at the Sutter Creek Auditorium...at least that is what most of us call it. In the late 1870s - 1927 it served as a livery stable. It also served as a War Memorial Hall, skating rink, home of the Sutter Creek Woman's Club, city hall, police station, fire district headquarters, social hall, city council meeting chambers, and site of countless social events. Pretty good for one building.



RESIDENCE AND LIVERY STABLE OF PETER FAGAN,
SUTTER CREEK, AMADOR CO CAL.

LITH. BRISTON & REY. S.

The building began life as the Fagan Livery Stables in the 1870s. The frame work extended over the creek and the remnants are still visible.

The stables were purchased by the Rabb family in the early 1900s and continued to provide livery services until 1927, when the Sutter Creek Fire District bought the property for \$3,000 using funds raised by the Sutter Creek Woman's Club and a note signed by a group of locals to buy the property.

The firemen and citizens worked together to disassemble the livery stable using the lumber from the livery to rebuild the Auditorium...all in less than a year!



Livery stable photo from April 8, 1928. Taken during destruction.



This pile of worn and discarded horseshoes was discovered during the Main Street bridge renovation project, and pre-date the 1928 transition from livery stable/blacksmith to War Memorial Hall. Some horseshoes still contain attachment nails.

December 21, 1928 - From the Amador Dispatch

A large delegation is planning to attend the dance at Sutter Creek on the night of Christmas, December 25th. The affair is being given under the sponsorship of the Sutter Creek Fire Department and will make the opening of the new community hall at that place. The new building is a source of pride in the neighboring town and the committee in charge of the affair Christmas night have prepared to entertain a large crowd at its formal opening.

The enterprise of the residents of the neighboring city in building the new home for public gatherings is a commendable one and the various sections of this county should join in making the affair next week an event long to be remembered.



The Fire District owned the building and the site until 1961 when it sold the auditorium to the Township Four Memorial District for \$15,000. They used the funds from the sale of the auditorium to purchase a 1960 Dodge Fire Truck for \$15,369.77. They also sold a 1933 Dodge Fire Truck for \$501 and a 1942 G.M.C Fire Truck for \$255.

The Firemen continued to use the Hall downstairs until they moved to the new station on Highway 49. The Sutter Creek Woman's Club was granted permanent use of the upstairs space for their club activities in appreciation for their efforts. They remained there until they relocated to the new Sutter Creek Community Building at 33 Church Street.

Township No. 4 Memorial District when the building was sold without any refund to this District, in accordance with the verbal agreement between the two Districts. The 1960 Dodge fire truck is covered by a policy in Fireman's Fund Insurance Co., policy number 221058, for the period January 24, 1962/63. Coverage is as follows:

Bodily injury liability	\$100/200,000
Property damage liability	\$5,000 each accident
Collision	\$250 deductible
Theft	\$15,600

A liability policy with Hartford Accident and Indemnity Co., policy number 57-LAX-73479, for the period May 3, 1961/62 was inspected. Coverage is as follows:

Bodily injury liability - auto	\$10/20,000
Bodily injury liability - except auto	\$10,20,000
Property damage liability - auto	\$5,000 each accident
Property damage liability - except auto	\$5,000 each accident
\$25,000 aggregate operations, \$25,000;	
\$25,000 aggregate contractual	

The new policy is said to be in the hands of the Manassero Insurance Agency.

The Auditorium owned by the District in Sutter Creek has been sold to Township No. 4 Memorial District for the sum of \$15,000.00. A check for \$14,460.00 was received February 8, 1962 after deductions for escrow and legal fees of \$540.00. I inspected the escrow statement.

A 1933 Dodge Fire Truck was sold for \$501.00 and a 1942 G.M.C. Fire Truck for \$255.00 in October 1961.

The 1960 Dodge Fire Truck, Model D 600, Series No. 1680122614, purchased from P. E. Van Pelt, Inc. has had lease payments made as follows:

February 1961	\$3,200.00
January 1962	3,169.77
June 1962	<u>9,000.00</u>
	<u>\$15,369.77</u>

The total purchase price was \$15,391.33 and it is estimated that approximately \$1,000 is still due for interest.

There were no formal minutes kept by the District.

In my opinion, the accompanying statement of cash balances, revenue and expenditures of the Sutter Creek Fire District for the year ended June 30, 1962, presents fairly the cash position of the District at June 30, 1962 and the excess of revenue over expenditures for the period, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to Special Districts applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

The Township Four Memorial District held title to the auditorium until 1966 when their Directors appeared before the Board of Supervisors to propose dissolution and transfer of its assets (land and auditorium building in Sutter Creek valued at least \$50,000) to the City of Sutter Creek. However, according to the official Amador County records the transfer of ownership to the City of Sutter Creek was never completed. Therefore, the property title still remains with the now dissolved Memorial District.

When the bridge on Main Street was replaced, a new plaza gathering area was created in front of the auditorium.



It is impossible to discuss the auditorium without acknowledging the unique collection of murals installed throughout the main room. In 2004, the City of Sutter Creek and the County of Amador celebrated a 150th birthday. As part of the Sutter Creek Sesquicentennial Celebration, a mural project took place in the Sutter Creek Auditorium. The murals depict significant events of local history. The work was directed by Rand Huggett with individual murals painted by local artists and Amador High School students. Below are just a few of the murals on display.



Sutter Creek's Veterans of America's Wars, 1854 – 2004
Artist, William Porteous



Sutter Creek Grammar School, 1870 – 2007, Artists: Elizabeth Tone's 1st & 2nd Grades with Hanna Cahoon & Robert Richards



Sutter Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Since 1905
Artist, William Porteous

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