



Paradise Genealogical Society Newsletter (ISSN 10558632)  
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General Membership Meetings  
Will **not** be held for  
July or August.  
We will resume meetings  
starting on  
September 16, 2021 – place of  
meeting to be announced....

The Board of Directors will also take a  
break and not hold scheduled meetings in  
July and August. Any necessary business  
during this time will be conducted  
electronically. Board meetings will resume  
starting on  
September 1, 2021.

*"Home grown tomatoes,  
home grown tomatoes*

*What would life be like  
without homegrown  
tomatoes*

*Only two things that  
money can't buy*

*That's true love and home  
grown tomatoes."*

*- John Denver, Home  
Grown Tomatoes*

**This Month:**

PGS News and Notes.....	2 - 3
PGS Board 2021.....	3 - 4
Memorial Day.....	4
Admission Day.....	4
Firing of the Anvils.....	5 - 6
Society Calendar.....	6



## PGS News and Notes

**\*\*\*\* CONTACT INFORMATION** - Have you moved during the past year? We have your email - obviously - but do we have your current address and phone number? Please contact Pat Harman at [ernapath@pacbell.net](mailto:ernapath@pacbell.net) so we can update our records.

Public Library Hours at our temporary location - 2683 Hegan Lane, Chico  
Tuesdays 10:00am to 2:00pm **have been Temporarily Suspended!**

For now - we are trying to keep all correspondence electronic. If hard copies are wanted, we are only able to print in Black & White; postage will vary.

Please send research requests to [pargenso@att.net](mailto:pargenso@att.net)

Or Contact Joyce Higgins @ (530) 327-7855  
or (530) 961-3940.

Should you want to stop by, generally Gordon and/or Linda Taylor are available to show you around the library. They can be reached at (530) 896-0964.

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### Update on our Progress...

Gordon Taylor is busy addressing all the issues, getting proposals and scheduling all the work that needs to be done at our new Library.

If you would like to help with the remodel, please contact  
Gordon at 530-896-0964.



Our new (temporary) sign! Courtesy of Beverly George. Thank you Bev!  
Well done!

**Do you need a desk? Or a filing cabinet?**  
**We have extras for sale!**  
If you are interested, please contact  
Pam Crosby at [pjcrosby@hotmail.com](mailto:pjcrosby@hotmail.com).

Books are still being input into our inventory system; we now have about 1,700 books catalogued.

## Progress from Gordon:

The work in the back area by our PGS work parties has been progressing nicely. A lot of the electrical and ceiling fixtures were removed as well as clearing out the debris from prior work. The counters and partitions were removed.



Work of our best PGS destruction crew was accomplished in record time. Thanks to the PGS workers for their help: Pam & John; Bev and??; Pat, Donald Puckett, Joyce, Linda, and others.

Salud to the victors!

Gordon

**Thanks Gordon and our  
PGS work crew!**



## Meet Our Paradise Genealogical Society Board Members for 2021



Marcia Gilmer, Director;  
Pat Harman, 2nd VP &  
Membership; Linda Taylor,  
Recording Secretary; Judy  
O'Neil, Corresponding  
Secretary; Ed Wilhelm,  
President; Carol  
Sutherland, Treasurer and  
Goldmine Editor; Joyce  
Higgins, Director; and Pam  
Crosby, Library Director.  
Absent – Beverly George,  
Director.

**Executive Board Members for 2021:**

President Ed Wilhelm (530) 321-1564  
1st Vice Pres. Open  
2nd VP & Membership Pat Harman  
Library Director Pam Crosby  
Treasurer Carol Sutherland  
Recording Secretary Linda Taylor  
Corresponding Secretary Judy O’Neil  
Purchasing Secretary Open

**Directors**

Beverly George Joyce Higgins  
Marcia Gilmer Open

**Other**

**Nuggets Editor**

Open-Deana Glatz, Acting Ed.

**Goldmine Editor**

Carol Sutherland

**Memorial Day**



Paradise Cemetery – Flags placed at the Obelisk by Paradise Genealogical Society for Memorial Day!  
Courtesy of Joyce Higgins  
Well Done Joyce!



**Admission Day**

In February of 1848, Mexico and the United States signed a treaty which ended the Mexican War and yielded a vast portion of the Southwest, including present day California, to the United States.

Several days earlier, January 24, 1848, gold had been discovered on the American River near Sacramento, and the ensuing gold rush hastened California’s admittance to the Union. With the Gold Rush came a huge increase in population and a pressing need for civil government.

In 1849, Californians sought statehood and, after heated debate in the U.S. Congress arising out of the slavery issue, California entered the Union as a free, non-slavery state by the Compromise of 1850.

California became the 31st state on September 9, 1850.



## FIRING OF THE ANVILS



A prepared anvil. Gun powder is in a chamber between the anvils and visco fuse.

One of the most colorful traditions in the California Gold Rush period was called the "Firing of the Anvils."

The firing or "shooting the anvil" was used to celebrate such events as weddings, the 4th of July, any other day of patriotism or celebration, even as a primitive, but very effective form of communications alerting everyone of a mine cave-in, fire, or other danger in the remote Goldfields.

Typically, the local Blacksmith would place one anvil on top of another with a small charge of black powder in between. When the powder's fuse was touched off by a long red-hot iron rod, the resulting explosion would shake the ground, and, with a deafening sound, send the upper anvil flying into the air.



An anvil being fired.

### BUTTE RECORD.

#### THE PEOPLE REJOICING!

As we write, the booming of Vulcan's artillery, (an anvil) and the shouts of an exultant populace greet our ear; and blazing high in air is a bonfire on the Plaza. Inspiring speeches have been made by Mr. L. C. Granger, Hon. S. A. Ballou, and Mr. Rosenbaum is now addressing the assemblage. We have only time to note this briefly, as our paper is ready for the press. Three hearty cheers for the Little Giant are now making the welkin ring.

*The Weekly Butte Record., Oroville, December 4, 1858, p.1, c.1. Digital Reel – Meriam Library – CSU, Chico.*

Yo SEMITE VALLEY, July 5.  
The Yo Semite Turnpike Road from Chinese Camp is completed to the boundary of the Yo Semite Grant, leaving only seven miles of horseback traveling to Hutching's Hotel...  
The Fourth firing of anvils, space of five came off during the evening. pleasantly by all.

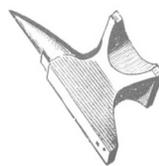


#### YO SEMITE VALLEY, JULY 5.

The Yo Semite Turnpike Road from Chinese Camp is completed to the boundary of the Yo Semite Grant, leaving only seven miles of horseback traveling to Hutching's Hotel...

The Fourth was ushered in by the firing of anvils, the echo lasting for the space of five minutes. Several races came off during the day, and patriotic songs were sung by a party of tourists in the evening. The Fourth was passed pleasantly by all.

*Stockton Daily Evening Harold, July 7, 1871, p.1, c.3. Newspapers.com.*



#### THE CELEBRATION.

**A Grand Success—Full Particulars.**  
At midnight, Sunday, the noisy demonstrations of patriotism warned our people of the near-at-hand Fourth. Cannons, anvils and fire-crackers rendered sleep that hour impossible, and at early dawn the streets were thronged. Busy were the scenes presented before "Old Sol" put in an appearance. In front of every business house, as well as many of the dwellings, nimble fingers were hard at work decorating. The result was that at 6 o'clock look where one might, a bewildering display of flags met the gaze. Many of the decorations were meritorious in a high degree, reflecting creditably upon the taste and artistic qualities of the decorators. A spirit of friendly rivalry set to animate the business men as to should acquire the honorable distinction of having "the best." The Hercules was very elaborately decorated and attracted much attention. Early in the morning the crowd of visitors from the surrounding country began arriving in a delegation of thirty ladies and children came on the Sacramento express from towns along the line of the rail north. At 9:15 Marshal Dustin formed the procession on Virginia street, facing south.

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*Gridley Herald, July 8, 1881, p.3, c.1-3. Digital Reel – Meriam Library – CSU, Chico.*

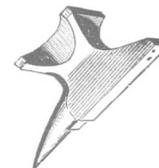
### THE DAILY MERCURY.

THURSDAY EVENING,.....JULY 5, 1883

MULTUM IN PARVO—ALL SORTS.

THE boys had to be satisfied with fire-crackers, torpedoes, bombs and anvil-firing yesterday. No fireworks.

*Daily Mercury, July 5, 1883, p.3, c.1. Digital Reel – Meriam Library – CSU, Chico.*



**NELSON NEWS.**

From our regular correspondent.  
 The Democrats of Nelson celebrated the election of Budd on Saturday night by the firing of anvils, guns, etc.

*Biggs Argus*, November 15, 1894, p.1, c.3.  
 Digital Reel – Meriam Library – CSU, Chico.

Sources & References:  
[ECV1850 Anvil Firing \(mountaincharlie1850.org\)](#)

[How to Shoot an Anvil 100 Feet in the Air - You Have Been Warned - YouTube](#)

[Firing the Anvil - San Diego History Center | San Diego, CA | Our City, Our Story](#)

[Anvil firing - Wikipedia](#)

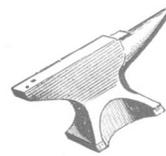
Movie – Sweet Home Alabama



Occasionally, even military posts resorted to the anvil for saluting purposes when artillery was lacking. An officer at Ft. Miller in the San Joaquin Valley (one of the earliest American military posts in that part of California) wrote to a friend on June 13, 1864 when the California Volunteers were stationed there:

“We fire a salute at this post tomorrow in honor of the re-nomination of Uncle Abe — using anvils for want of something better — anything to make a noise and let the Copperheads know we are here . . .”

*San Diego Historical Society Quarterly*, April 1957, Volume 3, Number 2, online, [Firing the Anvil - San Diego History Center | San Diego, CA | Our City, Our Story](#).



### Society Calendar

- July 7, 2021 (1st Wed.) – No Board Meeting.**
- July 15, 2021 (3rd Thurs.) – No Membership meeting.**
- August 4, 2021 (1st Wed.) – No Board Meeting.**
- August 19, 2021 (3rd Thurs.) – No Membership meeting.**
- September 1, 2021 (1st Wed.) – Board Meeting: 9 - 11 a.m. at – location to be announced.**
- September 16, 2021 (3rd Thurs.) – Membership meeting: 3 to 5 p.m. at – location to be announced.**

**Butte County research is our specialty, but research may be available for other areas.**

For more information, please see our website at [www.pargenso.org](http://www.pargenso.org)

All members are welcome to attend our Board Meetings! Held the first Wednesday of the month, from 9:00 to about 11:00 – location to be announced.  
 Our next one is September 1, 2021. Please come!

Thank you all for your continued patience, enthusiasm and support!

