



# Nuggets from Paradise

July 2026

Volume 46 #3

Paradise Genealogical Society Newsletter (ISSN 10558632)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1043, Paradise, CA 95967 Email

address: [pargenso@att.net](mailto:pargenso@att.net)

## New Library Hours

**Every Saturday 11 am – 3 pm**

**The Second Friday 11 am - 2 pm**



## July events:

July 4, Saturday – closed

July 10, Friday – **PASSAGES**

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP 11 – 12:30**

Library open from 11 – 2

July 10, Saturday – 11 – 3

**Game day**

July 25, Saturday – 11 – 3

**Brick Wall workshop – 12 - 2**

Remember that we are here to help you wherever you are in your research journey. Come spend time with people who understand your love of genealogy and family history. Butte County research is our specialty, but we have rooms full of books from the counties of all the states and many other countries. You can also access family research sites from our computers. Come visit us to see how much we now have.

If you have friends interested in learning about their family histories, please let them know about us. It's a good indoor project during these hot months!

## **PASSAGES SUPPORT GROUP**

**Please Join Us!**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

**Friday, July 10, 2026**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm, 1499 Wagstaff Road, Paradise**

### **Family Caregiver Support Groups**

The most valuable support a family caregiver can receive is from a peer-- Someone who has been through what they are going through and can truly understand what it is like to care for a loved one. Family caregiver support groups are facilitated by trained staff. Caregivers learn strategies and skills to solve problems; to maintain their own personal, physical, and emotional health; and to provide the best care they can for those who are dependent upon them. Support groups provide a supportive atmosphere to share experiences and ideas as a way to ease the stress of caregiving.

**If you or anyone you know is in need and would like to join us,  
PLEASE COME!**

### **Additional PASSAGES Support Groups**

**Friday, August 14**

**Friday, September 11**

**11:00 am– 12:30 pm**

### **PASSAGES Caregiver Resource Center Provides:**

**RESOURCES** to build confidence in caregiving skills, and decision making.

**EDUCATION & WORKSHOPS** to get informed on a variety of topics including self-care and how to manage a loved one's behavior.

**SUPPORT GROUPS** to share experiences, ideas, and to ease the stress of caregiving.

**SHORT-TERM COUNSELING** to provide emotional support to caregivers coping with the strain of the caregiving role.

**Contact Information:**

**Chico: 530-898-5925**

**Redding: 530-221-1900**

## Society Calendar for August & September



Saturday, Aug 8--Library open from 11 to 3

Friday, Aug 14--Passages Support Group 11 to 12:30

Library open from 11 to 2

Saturday, Aug 15 --Library open from 11 to 3

Game day

Saturday, Aug 22—Library open from 11 to 3

Saturday, Aug 29—Library open from 11 to 3

Brick Wall workshop 12 to 2

Wednesday, Sept 2—Board meeting 9:30 to 11:30

Saturday, Sept 5—Library open from 11 to 3

Friday, Sept 11—Passages Support Group 11 to 12:30

Library open from 11 to 2

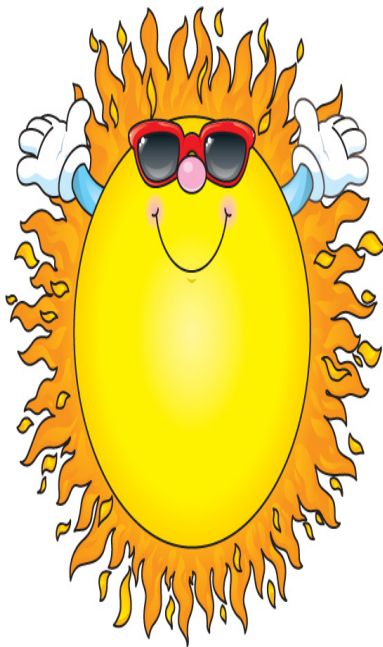
Saturday, Sept 12—Library open from 11 to 3

Game Day

Saturday, Sept 19—Library open from 11 to 3

Saturday, Sept 26—Library open from 11 to 3

Brick Wall workshop 12 to 2



### Executive Board Members 2025-2026

President

Pam Crosby

1st VP & Membership

Pat Harmon

Library Director

Kathy Dimas

Treasurer

Beverly George

Recording Secretary

Linda Taylor

Corresponding Secretary

Judy O'Neill

### Directors

Joyce Higgins

Kathleen Boyne

Marcia Gilmer

### Other

Nuggets Editor

Kathleen Boyne

Goldmine Editor

Open

**Don't forget! Dues were due in January!!**

**Please note our new PO Box is 1042**

# **The Man Who Named Paradise**

*By E. F. "Gene" Sylva*

*Written about 1996*

*There has been much controversy on how Paradise got its name. I hope the following article will shed some light on the subject.*

WILLIAM PIERCE LEONARD, more affectionately called "Uncle Billie" Leonard, was my great-great grandfather. William was married to SARAH FINLEY LEONARD, and they had three children: JOHN, DAVID, and SARAH.

William was born in 1808 in that portion of the wilderness in Ohio where the City of Mount Vernon now stands.

The Leonard family moved from Ohio to a farm near Galena, Illinois, in 1840. William exchanged the ranch for a store and carried on the business until leaving for California some three years later.

In 1852 the little caravan started for the distant *El Dorado* (the gold fields of California), and while on their way were obliged to stop for some while at a trading post not far from the town of Council Bluffs, Iowa. While there, William Leonard and three friends located and surveyed the site now occupied by the city of Omaha, it being quite apparent that it was a favorable site for a town. William gave away his interest in it in 1853 to come to California.

On arriving in California, they chose a settlement in Sierra County as their destination. They remained there for three years, with William working at both mining and lumbering. In 1856 they moved to Butte County.

That same year, William built the first steam-driven sawmill in Butte County at the head of Spring Gulch. This was about one hundred yards west of the spot where the big pine tree stood in the middle of Clark Road near the intersection with Elliott. Today this is in the center of Paradise.

According to Butte County records, this area became known as "LEONARD'S MILL." The greatest output for one day was about five thousand feet of rough lumber, and I do mean "rough lumber." Some of the boards were six inches wide at one end, eight inches at the other, and the thickness also varied considerably.

William homesteaded eighty acres at the mill site and built the mill of heavy timbers that would stop an Indian arrow or tomahawk. MANDY WALKER remembered being locked in the mill with other children and womenfolk while the men were out fighting Indians.

In 1865 William Leonard had a contract with Butte County. The trail over Table Mountains, as the Campbell Hills between Oroville and Wick's Corner was called in those days, was not graded and improved until 1865 when William Leonard put in Clark Road to haul lumber and materials to and from Oroville under this contract.

As to the naming of Paradise by William Pierce Leonard, the story goes that on a summer day in 1864, after a very hot and dusty ride up from the Sacramento Valley, he arrived at the big pine tree where his mill crew was taking a break. After dismounting his horse, he remarked how cool it was and said to them, "BOYS, THIS IS PARADISE." The name has stuck until the present time.

Sarah Finley Leonard died in 1872 and is buried in the Paradise Cemetery. In 1876 after the mill burned, William sold the land to MILES STRONG of Paradise. He then moved to the Central House area and after that lived in Red Bluff, California, for the remainder of his life.

The naming of Paradise by "Uncle Billie" Leonard is vouched for by the following people: MRS. FANNIE STRONG BREESE (her father was Postmaster of Paradise) who lived in Paradise all her life; ANNA WHITE of Chico; ELLA COREY, deceased; and CORNELIA BISHOP, granddaughter of the saw-filer at Leonard's Mill.

The story of the naming of Paradise after the PAIR 'O DICE Saloon is a figment of someone's imagination.

*ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Gene Sylva was born in Oroville April 6, 1924. His mother was also born in Oroville. He grew up in that "City of Gold," delivering newspaper as a boy. He was very proud of his ancestry, and they would have been proud of him. He not only was a president of the Butte County Historical Society, but also was Mayor of Oroville, Exalted Ruler of the Elks, and president of the Kiwanis. The walls of his office were filled with plaques and awards he had received through his years of service to the community.*

***This article was printed, with permission, from the Butte County Historical Society's DIGGIN'S magazine Vol. 40, No. 4, Winter Edition, 1996.***



# Paradise Genealogical Society

## Membership Application



Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse (if applies) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State or Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Membership

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Student (Under 20)                  | \$ 15    |
| Individual                          | \$ 30    |
| Family (same address)               | \$ 35    |
| Gold Miner (Individual/family)      | \$ 50    |
| Gold Miner Plus (Individual/family) | \$ 75    |
| Life (50 or over)                   | \$350    |
| Add a spouse to Life                | \$100    |
| Additional Donation                 | \$ _____ |
| Total Amount Submitted              | \$ _____ |

### Please do not send cash

Make Checks (US\$) payable to:

Paradise Genealogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 1043

Paradise, CA 95967

(530) 762-7105

1499 Wagstaff Road

P. O. Box 1043

[pargenso@att.net](mailto:pargenso@att.net)

[www.pargenso.org](http://www.pargenso.org)

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Memberships are for one year, January to December, except for Life Memberships.

New [ ] Renewal [ ] Correction [ ]