

# MARK TWAIN ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AND MORE OF HEALTH CARE IN CALAVERAS COUNTY by Bonnie Miller

The history of hospital care in Calaveras County is as diverse as the gold mining that first prompted the need for hospitals. The first hospital in the county was located in Mokelumne Hill in 1851 and had ten beds. From that meager beginning of organized medical care evolved the Mark Twain Hospital District almost 100 years later. In 1946 the Mark Twain Hospital District was formed formalizing the institution that launched the 1951 hospital and care system as we know it today. But the history of our present hospital extends far back beyond the fifty years of service that we are celebrating this year. The Mark Twain Hospital was predated by several other efforts to provide medical care. Las Calaveras is proud to join the hospital district in their celebration of fifty years of service to the citizens of Calaveras County. This issue of Las Calaveras is dedicated to this golden anniversary celebration of the hospital district, and to all of our medical care history.

The evolution of the hospital that we know today was gradual but occurred in four major phases. The first phase of hospital care in this county was a crude response to the immediate needs of the miners. Most acute care was administered to the miner in his own home or near the mine in which he worked. Some mining companies had small hospitals to address this need. In the community of Mokelumne Hill, the French pioneers organized The Mutual Benefit Society to finance and construct a hospital to serve the French, Belgian and Canadian miners. This hospital was the first constructed in Calaveras County and was built for \$375. In reality it was a tent house with ten beds, a stove, and a nurse. This first hospital burned down in 1854. Other organizations subsequently built similar hospitals or provided various forms of health care to miners in the Mokelumne Hill area until 1893, when centralized health care had become available in San Andreas.

Other mining communities had small miners' hospitals as well. Perhaps most famous is the Utica Hospital in Angels Camp. This hospital was born of the miners' strike for better medical care. In the case of an accident, it was generally the practice to have a buckboard deliver the injured miner to his home to secure his own medical care from his family. Concern for safety and continued lack of medical care led to a miners' strike in early 1894. Finally the Utica Mine agreed to construct a twelve bed hospital next to the home of Dr. John Dorroh south of Angels Creek. This two story building still stands today as a private residence. The new hospital boasted all of the latest amenities including built-in wash stands and flush toilets, but unfortunately only served the miners of the Utica, leaving the rest of Angels Camp still without a hospital.

The Calaveras Cement Plant also operated a small hospital in San Andreas near present day Treat Avenue. This hospital also only served employees of the Cement Plant. Other communities throughout the county operated small wards for indigent residents or maternity purposes. Some of these services received financial assistance from the county for their operation. For the most part, medical care was administered in the home by one's family (see *Las Calaveras*, January 1982), or by the doctor who came to the house (see *Las Calaveras*, July 1973).

The next significant phase in hospital care occurred in the late 1860's. The county seat had been moved to San Andreas in 1867, and the citizens of that community lobbied to have hospital care available in the newly prestigious location. The residents of San Andreas donated a house to the county to serve as a hospital. The house was known as the Gold Hill House located near Pool Station Road and Stockton Road (now Highway 49). This house was the impetus behind a centralized hospital for the county.

The Gold Hill House was a two story roadhouse formerly operated by Patrick McAllen. In exchange for board for himself and his family, plus a nominal \$65 per month salary, the former proprietor provided firewood, milk, and the labor to care for the indigents. Medical care was provided by Dr. E. B. Robertson for \$50 per month (see *Las Calaveras*, January 1982). In 1871 the Gold Hill House burned down in a tragic fire that killed two of the patients. The residents of San Andreas rallied again, and a new hospital was quickly built across the road from the old site. That hospital dutifully served the population of Calaveras County for nineteen years.

The next advancement occurred in 1889 when it was determined that the hospital located on the north end of town wasn't large enough to



Utica Hospital - this building served as the Utica Mine Hospital in Angels Camp and remains standing today as a private residence. Photo by Bonnie Miller, 2001.

continue to meet the growing needs of the county. The county purchased 16 acres of land on the north end alongside of town Mountain Ranch Road for \$1000, and in 1870 a new county hospital was constructed. That hospital was located on the grounds where the Government Center lies today.

The "new" county hospital was designed to be as modern, efficient, and self-sufficient as possible. The former Gold Hill House hospital was cut up and relocated to the new site where the old building was reconstructed as wards in the new hospital. The new hospital was a two story building consisting of an emergency room, dining rooms, patients' rooms, offices, and kitchen, laundry and pantry on the first floor, with the second floor housing a maternity ward and nurses' quarters. Nurses worked twelve hour shifts often six to seven days a week. In addition to patient care and midwife services they helped with the cooking, cleaning and laundry and were paid \$40 a month plus room and board (see Las Calaveras, January 1982). Outbuildings on the new grounds included the steward's cottage, a tank house for the water supply, a tuberculosis ward, a ward for patients with contagious and communicable diseases, and a jail-like ward for unmanageable patients. The



Dr. John Dorroh who operated the Utica Hospital in front of his office in Angels Camp. Photo circa 1900, courtesy of the Calaveras County Historical Society.

grounds also boasted a large vegetable garden, pig pens, chicken pens, rabbit hutches, a milk barn, and a barn for the sheep and cows. The big beautiful red barn that served the hospital still stands as a prominent landmark in San Andreas today. All of the products from the hospital grounds were used in their kitchens. Patients who were willing and able helped with the gardening and care of the animals. It should be noted that at that time the county hospital provided all indigent and convalescent care necessary for its citizenry. Today those services have been transferred to other facilities.

That hospital served the county well from 1870 until 1951.

By 1946 it had become evident that the county hospital again severely lacked modern facilities, to the extent that some doctors opened their own private hospitals. Once again the growing county of Calaveras had outgrown its hospital. Citizens in West Point were interested in a modern hospital but lacked adequate funds. Senator Jesse M. Mayo suggested the Local Hospital District Act of 1945 as a possible course of action for the county to consider. That act provided the means by which the citizens could benefit from forming a centralized hospital district and open themselves to possible state and federal funding. The 1946 Grand Jury recommended that the Board of Supervisors take action on the matter. A group of local doctors (Dr. Stephen Teale of West Point, Dr. E. W. Hill of San Andreas, Dr. Paul Noetling of Angels Camp, and Dr. P. R. Allanson of Murphys) petitioned the county as well. Through the vigorous efforts of the Grange and George Poore, the Master of the Grange, the matter of the formation of a hospital district was brought before the voters of the county. In a special election held on August 27, 1946 the formation of the Mark Twain Hospital District was approved by a vote of 1702 to 111. The management of the community medical care thus transferred from the County Board of Supervisors to the new hospital district.

Funding for the new hospital came largely through state and federal grants. In 1947 Senator Mayo's Bill 353 proposed state funding for as much as one third of the cost of constructing and equipping new publicly owned hospitals. Senator Mayo's measure was supported by Governor Earl Warren who signed the bill on May 29, 1947 after it was enacted by the state legislature. The following month on June 10 President Harry Truman signed the corresponding federal legislation which appropriated the additional matching federal funds. The final one third balance of \$350,000 was obtained by a local bond issue approved by the voters of Calaveras County in a special election on June 1, 1948.

The period between 1946 when the citizens of West Point petitioned the county for a new hospital, and 1951 when that dream was realized, proved to be an exciting time in San Andreas. Construction for the new hospital broke ground on the south side of Mountain Ranch Road in early 1950 after almost two years of drawing up the plans, bidding the contract, and then rebidding it when the initial costs ran too high for the available funding. Soon after construction began, it was discovered that the new hospital was being constructed on Native American burial grounds (see Las Calaveras, January 1953). George Poore, who had been a mining engineer and was a retired superintendent from the Calaveras Cement Plant served as the inspector for the hospital construction. An amateur archeologist with and interest in the local Native American cultures, he attempted to preserve as much material as possible. Under Poore's watchful eye, construction was completed in 1951. On August 26, 1951, Governor Warren followed up on his commitment to Calaveras

County and dedicated the new hospital at the opening ceremonies.

The new hospital boasted all of the latest amenities. Patients were moved from across the street and the former hospital was abandoned. The formerly picturesque hospital on the north side of Mountain Ranch Road continued to deteriorate, so that in 1959 the county determined that it presented too much of a fire risk and nuisance and decided to have it demolished. Advertising ran soliciting bids for the demolition of the old hospital and adjacent water tank house. On June 2, 1959 a public auction was held with bidding opening at \$200. It sold for \$325 to James Barger, a contractor from Angels Camp. He was given 120 days to demolish the structure and clear the property. A few years later the Calaveras County Government Center was built on the site.

The "new" 1951 Mark Twain District Hospital had twenty medical/surgical beds in ten semiprivate rooms. The beds all had hand cranks to raise and lower the patient's head. When the hospital became busy, the overflow patients were simply left in the corridor with curtains for privacy. Contagious patients were segregated and everyone just washed their hands a lot! Wards A, B, and C, in their sepa-

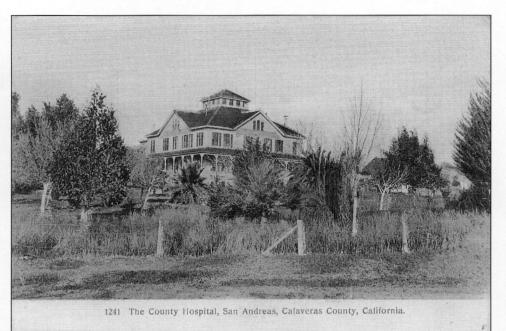


rate buildings were used for elderly and indigent care. The year 1951 was right in the middle of the baby boom so a whole wing devoted to was baby birthings. The wing actually had two nurseries. one for babies born in the deliverv room and one for babies born outside of the delivery room. Anesthesia was provided for mothers that needed it. The department was generally staffed

Calaveras County Hospital - this picturesque Victorian structure served as the County Hospital from 1870 to 1951. The Calaveras County Government Center sits on the site today. Photo taken just prior to demolition in 1959, courtesy of the Calaveras County Historical Society.

with two to three nurses, depending on the census.

In the 1950's surgeries were done in the two "state of the art" suites. Recovery of surgical patients was done in the surgery suite or a nearby patient room as there was no specific recovery room. At that time anesthesia was usually ether and was administered by another surgeon or one of the family doctors, and there was no electronic monitoring of the patient. The "anesthesiologist" manumonitored ally the patient with a blood pressure cuff, stethoscope and by feeling for



Postcard of the County Hospital - This postcard was sent by a visitor named Grace to her friend Mae in Stockton. Apparently life in San Andreas was not to Grace's liking as she wrote "I am gasping for a breath of cool air - it's so hot up here". The postcard was sent in August of 1928 with a one penny stamp. It is a color tinted photograph, and noted as published for J. F. Treat & Sons of San Andreas. These postcards of various scenes around the county were used by local businesses for advertising. Courtesy of Bonnie Miller.

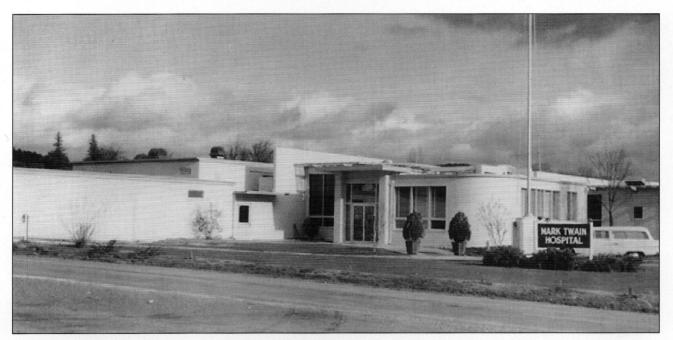
a pulse. There were no outpatient surgeries; in fact, the word "outpatient" hadn't even been heard of.

The laboratory was about the size of a typical bedroom and looked like your high school science class. Laboratory tests were all done one at a time and the technician's best friend was a dishwasher because all of the testing was done in glassware. Fortunately the laboratory was next to x-ray, because the lab technicians also took the x-rays. Processing of the film took about five minutes and it involved dipping films in various chemicals just like processing camera film.

The original emergency department was located just inside the front door. It must have been interesting to bring injured and ill patients right through the lobby! The department consisted of only a single room referred to as the treatment room. There was a physician on call but the department was staffed by nurses who also covered the medical/surgical department from the nurses' station across the hall. There were no radios in the hospital so the ambulances surprised the staff with the arrival of their patients.

Perhaps the most dramatic change to healthcare in Calaveras County came on the heels of

computer technology. When Mark Twain District Hospital opened in 1951, intensive care units were non-existent; patients received the same level of care as medical/surgical patients. Space age technology of the 1960's brought with it biomedical advancements allowing visualization of heart rhythms and the first ICU's. Mark Twain's ICU opened in the May of 1974. The Hospital Auxiliary launched the Marcella Kelling Memorial to fund the three-bed, \$12,000 department (one new ICU bed costs this much today). The department had the hospitals' first isolation room for contagious patients. In the next few years heart monitoring telemetry was added for the entire medical/surgical wing. In the early 1970's the first automatic x-ray film processor was brought on where the technician put the film cartridge in and it came back out processed. Photo timed exposure was also introduced which automatically shut off the x-ray dose when the machine sensed the exposure was adequate. Over the next years ultrasound (first black and white, and then color) was introduced, and portable x-ray equipment for use in the surgery suites. Calaveras County's first computer tomography scanner (CT scan) arrived in the mid 1980's



Mark Twain Hospital - After the formation of the Mark Twain Hospital District, this hospital opened its doors to the citizens of Calaveras County in 1951. Photo circa 1955, courtesty of the Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation.

and was located in a mobile trailer in the parking lot. It was always a challenge on rainy days! Nuclear medicine arrived about the same time as did the first mammography unit.

The 1970's brought the natural childbirth movement. With Lamaze and LeBoyer being taught, there was an emphasis on homelike deliveries and a return to breast-feeding. The mothers wanted the babies with them in their rooms, so the nurseries were not used to capacity. The delivery room was used less and less and the laboratory needed more room so the lab was expanded into these areas. Like all areas of medicine, obstetrics became more specialized, malpractice insurance costs soared and fewer family practice physicians delivered the new babies.

About 1985 the emergency department became a "base station" where they directed the care of patients with the ambulance providers. The department was staffed 24 hours a day with mobile intensive care nurses, and the heliport was added to the hospital grounds. With the advent of vehicle safety belt laws the department saw a decrease in trauma cases and a shift to sick patients vs. emergency care.

In the late 1980's it became apparent that access to healthcare was a major issue for Calaveras County residents. There was a big push toward preventive medicine although the diagnostic tools were just not available within the framework of the hospital. The hospital administration wanted to provide diagnosis and treatment in the early stages of the injury/illness at the community level rather than provide later more costly emergency medicine at the hospital. In response to that community need, the Mark Twain Hospital District opened its first medical clinic for immediate care in Angels Camp in 1988, followed by Valley Springs in 1990, Arnold in 1993, and Copperopolis in 1994.

In 1984 the ever-resilient citizens of Calaveras County once again rallied and formed the Mark Twain Hospital Foundation as a fund raising organization to support the hospital and boost community support. This positive community spirit gained the attention of the St. Joseph's Medical Center of Stockton. In 1990 the Mark Twain Hospital formally became affiliated with the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation. Although the name of the hospital was changed to the Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital, it continued to operate under the local district board of directors. Subsequently they joined the Catholic Healthcare West medical organization which provided the additional benefits and resources that a large organization could provide which

helped to facilitate the expansion to the community clinics.

The mid 1990's saw a great fund drive to show community support toward yet another modernizing expansion project in San Andreas. With Calaveras County's demonstrated support for their community hospital, it was not difficult to obtain the funding for the latest expansion. This project had a twenty three million dollar estimate, certainly a far cry from the original \$350,000 that had been provided by the local bond measure when the district was formed and the Mark Twain District Hospital was built in 1951. This latest "new" hospital opened its doors in 1997, and the original Mark Twain Hospital became the North Wing.

This newest facility provides eighteen more beds, a new medical/surgical department, six private rooms, an isolation room, and the latest in computer facilities. Fully digital x-ray, a new CT scan, and nuclear medicine were integrated into the new hospital. The new patient rooms have showers and handicap-accessible appliances. A sophisticated pneumatic tube system connects the nurses' station with the pharmacy, lab and emergency departments for efficient transportation of specimens, medications and reports. An eight bed intensive care unit offers the latest in patient care environments where each patient has their own private room monitored fully by the critical care staff. The new surgery department conducts approximately 100 surgeries a month where the patients' progress is carefully monitored with state of the art equipment. The comfort of the surgical patient is foremost, right down to their personal choice of music and specially warmed blankets!

In the year 2001 the "original" hospital, now called the North Wing, will be renovated to provide even more programs and services to the residents of Calaveras County. To keep up with the changes in healthcare and the growth of our communities, the renovation is dedicated to outpatient services. Today, over 95% of the visits to Mark Twain District Hospital are outpatient visits, whereas in comparison in 1951 the idea had never even been conceptualized. What will the future bring? There will be a greater emphasis on preventive medicine and more technology which will result in even earlier diagnosis, faster treatments, and better outcomes.

The Mark Twain Hospital District has so much more to be proud of than its fifty years of service. The Calaveras County Historical Society is honored to join the district in celebrating their golden anniversary. *Las Calaveras* is grateful for the extensive research by Glenna Johnston. Additional material for this retrospective was contributed by the Calaveras County Archives, and the Mark Twain Hospital Foundation.



Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital - Celebrating almost 50 years as the hospital district and represently almost 150 years of service to Calaveras County, this expansion opened to the public in 1997. Photo courtesy of the Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation.

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY SAYS GOODBYE TO THREE PROMINENT MEMBERS

The Historical Society is saddened to report the passing of three of our outstanding members. Each of these individuals provided their own unique contributions to the success of the Historical Society. Our condolences are extended to the families of each of these fine people.

### Laurence Getchell of Sheep Ranch, 1903 - 2001

Larry Getchell was born in Sheep Ranch but grew up primarily in San Andreas where he graduated from Calaveras High School in 1922 in a graduating class of four students. At the time of his passing he was the oldest living graduate of Calaveras High. He moved to San Francisco where he remained for the rest of his life proudly carrying the reputation as "the native in exile". Despite the distance between San Francisco and San Andreas, Larry remained in constant contact with activities in his home town. He was an avid sportsman and folk dancer, and he helped to form the San Andreas folk dance club the Mountain Mixers where he taught dancing locally for many years. Larry was the nephew of Clarence Getchell, the 1881 founder of the Calaveras Prospect newspaper. Journalism must have run in his blood, for over the years he contributed many articles to the Prospect, the Calaveras Enterprise, and Las Calaveras as recently as just last year. His humorous articles were always enjoyed by his loyal readers.

#### Dr. Milton "Ben" Smith of Murphys, 1913 - 2001

Born in Payette, Idaho, Dr. Smith had made Murphys his home since 1963. He was a physician who served in World War II in Germany and France. After the war he practiced for sixteen years in Fairfield, California where he also served as that city's mayor. In 1963 he moved to Murphys where he completed his medical career of 40 years. He served as a Calaveras County Supervisor from 1971 through 1974 and was fondly remembered by his constituents and the county staff for his commitment to the county. Other community contributions included long time memberships in the First Congregational Church in Murphys, the Ophir/Bear Mountain Masonic Lodge, the Calaveras Big Trees Association, and the Calaveras Heritage Council. Dr. Smith was also a founding member of the Mark Twain Hospital Foundation as well as having served as the hospital's chief of staff. In 1976 he served as the First Vice President of the Historical Society. As a young man Ben Smith's primary interest had been in geology but he was advised by his parents to pursue a career in medicine where he would be sure to earn a living that could support his family. Prior to leaving public life, Dr. Smith carried on with his interest in rocks and taught geology for twelve years where he was honored by the Columbia College Foundation for his service to the college and community.

## Charles "Sonny" Stone of Copperopolis, 1918 - 2001

Charlie, aka "Sonny" Stone was born in Copperopolis and that is where he returned to upon retiring after 38 years of living and working in the Bay Area. Son of a pioneer Copperopolis family, he kept that spirit alive with his numerous contributions to the community. To name only a very few, he was actively involved as a life time member of the Copperopolis Community Center, served as a trustee with the Bret Harte High School District, was a board member of the Copperpolis Cemetery District as well as the auxiliary board of the Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital, served as president of the Heritage Council, and was a long time member of the Angels Gun Club. Sonny is credited with driving the following historical preservation projects: the Copperolis Armory, the Reed Building, the Copperopolis Congregational Church, and the Calaveras County Museum. It is said that no one knew more about the history of the old buildings in Copper than Sonny. His love of Copperoplis and history came together in the lively book The Tools *Are On The Bar* which he and his wife of 60 years Rhoda wrote together. In 1992 Sonny and Rhoda were named Citizens of the Year by the Agency on Aging and are honored with plaques on the Armory and the historical church. And if all of the above contributions weren't enough, from 1993 to 1994 he served as president of the Calaveras County Historical Society.

Sonny was often referred to as "a modern day Mark Twain" because of his ability to spin a funny story out of any situation. He jokingly referred to himself as "the vice mayor" of Copperoplis; that is, the person overseeing the vice. Sonny claimed that if a person survived a summer in Copperopolis, he would never be afraid of hell. Regardless of where he ends up, his endless wealth of historical knowledge, his humorous stories, and the twinkle in his clear blue eyes will be missed.

# Spring Events

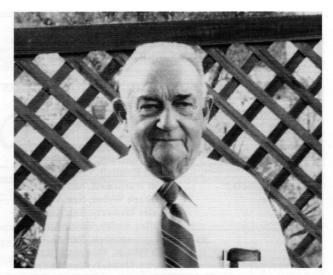
A pril 26 will be a busy spring day for the Calaveras County Historical Society!! Please join us for one of these two exciting events:

#### **Annual Volunteer Luncheon**

Noon on this day will be our annual Volunteer Luncheon. This is the lunch where all of our dedicated volunteers are honored. These volunteers keep the museum and book store open, or help with mailers and other office assignments. Our deepest gratitude goes to these dedicated people who give so much just for the pleasure of the duty. We all look forward to honoring these special people.

#### Monthly Meeting

This evening will be our monthly meeting to be held at 6:00 pm at the Metropolitan in San Andreas. We will have dinner then an exciting program "Remembering the Black Bart Hotel" in honor of the great proprietor Don Cuneo. Our meeting coordinator Joan Donleavy has done a wonderful job assembling a group of interesting people who have worked with the Black Bart Hotel who will discuss the history of this unique establishment and local landmark. Please call now to make your reservation at the Society office at 209- 754-1058.



**Charles Stone**, 1992

# What's in a name?? "COPPEROPOLIS"

he name of Copperopolis imparts an image of a metropolis of copper, which is exactly how the name was derived. In the midst of gold mining communities, this area had the distinction of discovering copper as its primary mineral.. Prior to the discovery of copper, this area of the county was referred to as the Gopher Hills area of western Calaveras County. In 1860 Hiram Hughes, having abandoned his efforts at silver mining in Nevada tried to find silver in western Calaveras County because he felt the area was extremely similar to that of the Comstock Lode. Instead of finding silver, he found an "iron rust" which proved to be copper. The copper immediately became profitable due to the demand of the Civil War. Several copper mines were launched and the area boomed to a community of ten thousand which ultimately proved to be principle copper producing community in the country. The new community adopted for itself the lofty name of "Copperopolis" which is a combination of the word copper plus the word "polis" which is the Greek word for city.

To learn more about the exciting community of Copperopolis and its unique place in our county's and our country's history, readers are urged to read the book *The Tools Are On The Bar* by Charles and Rhoda Stone, or refer to *Las Calaveras*, October 1960 for starters.

# Calaveras County Historical Society

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Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. A subscription to Las Calaveras comes with membership in the Calaveras County Historical Society for \$16.00 per year. Non-members may obtain copies from the Historical Society office. The original historical material presented in Las Calaveras is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source would be appreciated. Contributions of articles about Calaveras County is appreciated and may be submitted to the Historical Society for consideration.

The Calaveras County Historical Society is a nonprofit corporation. It meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in various communities throughout the County. Locations and scheduled programs are announced in advance. Some meetings include a dinner program, and visitors are always welcome.

The Society operates the Calaveras County Museum which is open daily from 10:00 to 4:00 in the historic County courthouse located at 30 Main Street in San Andreas.

The Society's office is located in historic San Andreas, the Calaveras County seat. Visitors are always welcome to stop by the office for assistance with research, and are encouraged to visit the museum while in the area. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:00, and the telephone number is (209) 754-1058.

The Calaveras County Historical Society wishes to thank the following persons who recently made donations to the Calaveras County Museum:

#### December 2000

Glenn Wasson, San Andreas, CA Black Bart Poster framed

January 2001 Lloyd Ames, Glenco, CA Six historical photographs Coco Shearer, San Andreas, CA Various Christmas decorations

# NEW MEMBERS

The Calaveras County Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

#### August 2000

Mr. & Mrs. John McGrathy • Garberville Mary Jane Genochio • Pleasanton John & Erin Burrows • Reno Linda Sousa & David Silva • Mounain Ranch

#### October 2000

Bob & Virginia Belmont • Valley Springs Gail Belmont • Valley Springs Marian James • Angels Camp Pauline Lucier • Valley Springs

#### December 2000

Franchesca Preston • Healdsburg Douglas W. Murray • Altaville Ron Winkler • San Andreas

#### January 2001

Jackson Crooks Clarke • San Andreas David McDonald & Janet Thienes • Lakewood

#### February 2001

Chris Mills • Menifee Marilyn A. Cutting • Livermore David & Linda Rice • Bear Valley Mr. & Mrs A.L. Prindle • Walnut Creek Richard McGhee • San Andreas

#### **Museum Donations**

Sue Smith, Valley Springs, CA 76 Victorian Postcards

February 2001 Barbara J. Lusar, Paradise, CA 5 pictures of early Calaveras County

March 2001

Lloyd Ames, Glenco, CA Pictures of Danielson family Kolbet Schrichte, Washington, DC Cash donation