

STEPHENS FAMILY CALAVERAS PIONEERS

Few gold rush families are more closely entwined in the history of the Murphys-Sheep Ranch areas than that of the Milton Stephens family. And, through most of those years since gold rush days, Stephens family members have been active in their county's and area's business, social and political affairs.

Today, descendants of the first Stephens who settled in Calaveras County still reside in Murphys and Sheep Ranch. The story of the Stephens family is also the story of those communities in earlier times.

Unmarried, restless and inspired by reports of rich gold discoveries in California, 21-year-old Milton Stephens departed his native settlement of Rabbothash, Ky., as soon as roads were travelable in the spring of 1850.

With his meager belongings stowed in a spring wagon, he traveled light and fast. Upon reaching the Missouri River where companies of emigrants were gathering in preparation for the westward trip, Stephens disregarded the formality of joining any specific wagon train. Instead, he struck out on his own, by-passing the slower moving, organized trains.



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When night came, he camped with or near whatever emigrant party that he came upon, and at times, ignoring possible Indian or other dangers, simply camped alone. Exactly what route he chose in making his crossing is not known, but late summer found Stephens in San Andreas, indicating he had traveled fast.

By early fall he was working a claim near the old road between Fourth and Fifth Crossing. (Fifth Crossing was on San Domingo Creek on what is now the Cosgrave Ranch.)

For several years Milton Stephens continued to mine in the area between Fourth and Fifth Crossing with varied degrees of success. On June 20, 1858, he married Mary

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Local citizens turned out on winter days during 1880s to repair Murphys Main Street. At left, using hoe, Frank Mitchler; facing camera at center, Henry Bessant; at right with shovel, Henry Taylor. *Historical Society photo*

FAMILY, cont. from pg. 1

Melissa Thorpe, 18, daughter of Cap'n Moses Thorpe, owner of the Thorpe Mine, just south of Fourth Crossing. The Thorpes had come to California in 1848, via Cape Horn, and it is believed that voyage earned him the nickname of "Cap'n." Melissa's brother, Edson Thorpe, operated a bakery in Murphys in what today, still is known as the Thorpe Building.

The marriage ceremony, according to an account in the June 26, 1858 issue of the San Andreas Independent, was conducted in the Thorpe home near the mine, by William Tait, Esq. The December 18, 1858 issue of the Independent reported that "Milt Stephens and Hiram Tipton are at work on their gulch claim near Bence's Hill, between Fourth and Fifth Crossing near the South Calaveras River." The local paper also noted in 1859 that Milton Stephens, as manager of the Protection Hook and Ladder Company, of San Andreas, announced the first annual firemen's ball would be held on December 29.

Stephens and his wife were living on Willow Creek, near the mining camp of Lower Calaveritas, when their first son, James Moses Stephens was born in 1860. Between 1860 and 1884 a total of eight children were born to Melissa and Milton Stephens.

In addition to their first son, their children included Benjamin Stephens, 1863; Mary Melissa Stephens (named after her mother), 1865; Agnes Stephens, 1870; Frances Ella Stephens, 1873; Pamela Stephens, 1878; Milton Stephens, 1880, and Lucian Stephens, 1884.

During the late 1860s Milton Stephens had given up his mining activities in the Fourth and Fifth Crossing area and at one point, was employed as a miner in the Calaveritas area by Wade Hampton Johnston, one of the gold rush era mine owners. An 1875 newspaper article placed Milton



Milton Stephens and Mary Melissa Thorpe married June 20, 1858.
Stephens family album

Stephens on the voters register at Independence Hill, near Rail Road Flat.

Sometime during that period, or even earlier, Stephens went to work at the Sheep Ranch Mine, after C.P. "Cap" Ferguson, in 1872, drove a tunnel that opened up its main ledge. Stephens worked there for many years and was considered one of the company's most valued and trusted employees.

James Moses Stephens and his brother, Ben, along with their brothers and sisters, grew up in Sheep Ranch, went to school there, and with approach of adulthood, entered various fields of endeavor. All of the children, along with their father, were musically inclined. The family played at dances and celebrations throughout the county. In addition, for several years, the senior Milton Stephens served as floor manager at the annual Mokelumne Hill Firemen's Ball.

James Moses Stephens married Mary Helen Leonard and Benjamin Stephens married Ann Merchal. Mary Melissa Stephens married Warren Garland and Pamela Stephens married Will Snyder who was to become a prominent Calaveras and Amador county lawyer. Agnes Stephens married a man named Howard and Frances Ella Stephens married a man named Castor. Milton Stephens



Constructed in 1856, this stone and mortar building at the corner of Algiers and Main Street, in Murphys, housed the first Stephens Bros. store from mid-1880s until 1890. Sign on side of building is still quite legible.

married Eva Mercer, whose family had the Mercer Caves and Lucian Stephens married Carmen Raggio. The late Hildred Stephens Mayo Cooper, of Angels Camp, was their daughter.

The elder Mary Melissa Stephens passed away in 1895, at age 55, but her husband, Milton, lived until 1915, passing away at age 86. Both he and his wife are buried in the family plot in Murphys.

The year of 1886 found 26-year-old James Moses Stephens and his brother, Ben, involved in the mercantile business in Murphys. Their first store, one of three they were to own or operate there, plus another one in Sheep Ranch, was located on the northeast corner of Main and Algiers Street, across from the Murphys Hotel. That structure, known as the Jones Building, had been constructed in 1856. The building still stands there and the words "Stephens Bros. Cheap Cash Store" still are legible on its west side, flanking Algiers Street.

Their merchandise, said a grandson still living in Murphys, "included everything from sewing thread to gunpowder and butter churns to barbed wire." The store was immediately successful, but a decade later, seeking more space, the Stephens were to move from the Algiers Street store to the building that presently houses the old Timers Museum, on Main Street, in Murphys.

James Moses Stephens and Mary Helen were to have three children, Raymond Stephens, 1886-1960; Earl Benjamin Stephens, 1889-1957 and Della Ann Stephens, 1895-1976. Earl Benjamin Stephens became the father of the present Earl L. Stephens who presently is a resident of Murphys.

In addition to being a successful merchant, James Moses Stephens as a young man, had taken up photography, and during the years he ran the Murphys store, he also took photographs. Many of the early day photos of Murphys were taken by Stephens, he also made a business of selling post cards bearing photos of the Murphys and Ebbetts Pass area.

Benjamin Stephens married Ann Merchal and they had two children, Gladys Stephens, and a son, Hayden Stephens, still a resident of Sheep Ranch. Hayden Stephens and Earl Benjamin Stephens, the father of the present Earl L. Stephens, of Murphys, were cousins.

In 1897 James Moses and Benjamin Stephens borrowed \$5,000 from merchant and lumber mill owner John Manuel — a large sum of money in those days — with which to purchase the building which today houses the town's museum. The building originally had been occupied by Riley Senter who sold to Manuel and Garland. It was

Please see **FAMILY**, pg. 4



Stephens family at Sheep Ranch, about 1886. Seated (L to R) Anne Stephens, Milton Stephens Jr., Milton Stephens Sr., Lucian Stephens, Mary Melissa Stephens, Mary Helen Stephens, James Raymond Stephens. Standing, (L to R) Benjamin Stephens, Frances Ella Stephens, Agnes Stephens, Pamela Stephens, Mary Melissa Stephens, who was named after her mother, and James Moses Stephens. The two persons on the porch are unidentified. *Stephens family album*

FAMILY, cont. from pg. 3

from them that the Stephens brothers took over operation of the business.

It was also in the late 1880s the brothers opened a store in Sheep Ranch, which with the Sheep Ranch Mine and other mines in the area in operation, was a thriving community.

James Joses Stephens ran the Stephens Brothers Cash Store in Murphys and Benjamin managed the Sheep Ranch Store.

During the 1890s a man known as Austrian John, who lived near the Lost Boy Mine, west of Sheep Ranch, and raised vegetables which he sold in the area, reportedly developed a grudge against Ben Stephens. The Stephens store caught fire one night, burned to the ground, and Austrian John was blamed for it.

But, before the suspected arsonist could be arrested he became increasingly violent, threatened several citizens and then shot the two burros with which he had hauled his

garden produce to town. Sheriff Josh Jones sent his deputy, Emil Schwoerer to Austrian John's cabin to take him in to custody but instead of submitting to arrest, Austrian John threatened Schwoerer with a rifle and Schwoerer killed him.

Benjamin and James Moses quickly rebuilt the Sheep Ranch store and it operated well into the 1920s.

In 1898 the Stephens brothers built the first telephone line connecting Sheep Ranch and Murphys. For years they allowed Sheep Ranch residents to connect to the line free of charge. It was not until 1925 the state Railroad Commission, forerunner of the present California Public Utilities Commission, declared the phone line a public utility and allowed the Stephens to charge the owner of each phone in Sheep Ranch a fee of \$1 per month.

In 1910 the Stephens brothers purchased the old Big Trees Hotel building, which stood at the site of the present-day Nugget Cafe, at the northwest corner of Big Trees Road and Main Street, in Murphys. They had the rambling



Stephens family orchestra, 1907. (L to R) James Raymond Stephens, Mary Ellen Stephens, Earl Benjamin Stephens, James Moses Stephens, Della Ann Stephens. *Stephens family album*

old structure torn down and used the lumber to build a new store at the northwest corner of Algiers and Main Street, directly across from the Murphys Hotel.

At that time the lot on the corner of Algiers and Main Streets was vacant, due to an explosion and fire during the 1890s which destroyed the structures there.

The two-story building, still in use as a store, housed the Stephens mercantile business on its ground floor and the second floor was used by the Earl Benjamin Stephens family as living quarters.

Although his life had been devoted almost exclusively to the merchandising trade, there still appeared to be some of his father's gold mining blood coursing through James Moses Stephens' veins. Not only did he occasionally grubstake some mining claim owner who may have uncovered a promising prospect, he also served as secretary of the Ozark Mining Company.

The Ozark Mine was located between Murphys and

Angels Camp on what was thought to be a part of the gold-rich Cal-Central gravel channel. However, the mine produced few profits and after eight years the company turned it over to Glendon and Gene Mitchler, owners of the Murphys Hotel.

James Moses Stephens' children included James Raymond Stephens, 1886-1960; Earl Benjamin Stephens, 1889-1957, and Della Ann Stephens, 1894-1976.

Earl Benjamin, in 1909, married Beatrice Martell, whose father came from Nova Scotia and worked in the Sheep Ranch Mine in the 1870s and 80s. Her mother, whose maiden name was Clara Davis, was a covered wagon baby, whose parents had come from Indiana in 1861.

Earl Benjamin and Beatrice Martell Stephens had three children; Earl L. Stephens, born in 1910 in his grandparents home at Brice Station. He presently lives on Utica Power House Road, in Murphys, and his sister, Thelma

Please see **FAMILY**, pg. 6



From 1890 to 1910 Stephens Bros. Store in Murphys occupied what is now the Old Timers Museum. Bearded man in buggy is Milton Stephens, patriarch of Stephens clan. Holding horses is Mike Marshall. Others (L to R) "Doc" Roberts, Earl Stephens, George Taylor, James Stephens. *Stephens family album*



Stephens Brothers Store in Sheep Ranch, 1916. Boy at right is Hayden Stephens, son of owner.

Stephens family photo

FAMILY, cont. from pg. 5

Beatrice Ramos, was born in 1914 and lives in Napa. June Lenore Stephens Dallos was born in 1917 and passed away five years ago.

Earl's father, as a young man, was a commercial artist and sign painter, but upon his father's death in 1921, he and his brother, Ray, took over the mercantile store in Murphys.

But, by that time the Great Depression of the 1930s was on a decade away, and when it struck there was little chance of holding the business together.

"Jobs just suddenly seemed to become non-existent, and there was just too much credit on the books. There was just no way of keeping going — the Sheep Ranch Store had already closed — and my Dad and Uncle Ray were forced

to close the Murphys Store," said his son.

By the mid-30s Earl Benjamin Stephens and his family had left Murphys and moved to Oakland where the elder Stephens found work in a steel mill. Young Stephens, still in high school, quit school and obtained a contract hauling mail from the main Oakland Post Office to Alameda. However, it was not lucrative, and in 1939 he went to work at the Mare Island Navy Yard where eventually he was to become a machinist.

But, young Earl L. Stephens never forgot Murphys. He returned whenever he could, and acquired the property, once owned by his uncle, Ray Stephens. Now retired, Stephens and his wife, Bertha, live in the tree-shaded home on Utica Road, at the east end of Murphys. His mother, Beatrice Martell Stephens, who was 98 years old on

PLAQUE AND LONELY GRAVE MARK SITE OF BROWNSVILLE

By George Hoepfer

The two mining camps, each bearing their founders' names, sprang up on rich discovery sites almost within shouting distance of each other.

But, within a decade one already was dying while the other was becoming an increasingly important eastern Calaveras County trade center.

Today the Murphy brothers have a picturesque and still thriving gold rush community to be remembered by. Less than a mile away, on Pennsylvania Gulch Road, only a bronze plaque and solitary grave mark the site of the town once named for George and Alfred Brown.

Brownsville was not one of the first Calaveras gold strikes. It was sometime between 1852 and 1855, probably closer to 1855, that George Brown, a native of New York or New Hampshire, made or became involved in the discovery of valuable placer gold deposits near the confluence of Pennsylvania and Missouri Gulches.

The census of 1852 lists George Brown, 35, of New York, as a miner in the Murphys area, mentioning nothing of Pennsylvania Gulch, Missouri Gulch or Brownsville. But it could not have been too long after the census that Brown began prospecting what was to become known as the Brownsville area. And, apparently some time before 1855, George Brown was joined by his brother, Albert, who was listed in Heckendorn's and Wilson's Businessmen's Directory, as a native of New Hampshire.

By 1855 the flat at the junction of Pennsylvania and Missouri Gulches had acquired the name of Brownsville and become a thriving mining camp. That same year, indicating that their mining venture had met with some considerable success, George and Alfred Brown purchased for \$3,000, the adjoining ranch (Table Mountain Ranch) from Sam Chriswell and Jabel Terhune.

During the next few years the mining operations along Pennsylvania and Missouri Gulch continued to expand, as

September 18, still is living and resides in a Napa County rest home.

As for Earl Stephens, descendant of Calaveras County gold rush families, at age 79, he seeks out gold rush history as his great-grandfather once searched for gold. But instead of searching through dusty archives, his quest takes him afield, along the creeks and into the old mining camps of the Mother Lode.

His main tool is a metal detector, and over the years he has an impressive collection of early-day artifacts ranging from old guns and coins to mining equipment, knives and cooking utensils that would do credit to a museum.



Only a bronze plaque remains to tell passers-by on Pennsylvania Gulch Road that a once thriving mining camp existed here.

did the town of Brownsville, which in 1857 was described by the San Andreas Independent as containing numerous stores and saloons in addition merchants' homes and cabins of the miners. No population figures are available, but it appears that at least several hundred people lived within the town itself, with considerably more in camps and cabins around the area. The road from Douglas Flat followed Coyote Creek to Brownsville, then turned west to Murphys.

However, the Brownsville Mining District was not formally organized until October 24, 1857. The San Andreas Independent described the district as "all that territory lying and being north of a line running even with the northern boundary of Disher and Walker's Ranch, and drained by Coyote Creek and its tributaries. The district's by-laws provided that "each and every miner may own and hold by preemption, each, one wet claim, and one dry claim, and also one quartz claim: . . . no placer claim shall contain more than one hundred and fifty square feet, to each and every person interested therein."

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President of the mining district was listed as John P. Lordon and its secretary was E. Darling, Jr. The committee which drafted the by-laws was comprised of George Congdon, L. Proper, Nelson Card, P. Kerns and George Peoples.

The San Andreas Independent also reported on Nov. 21, 1857, that, "On Pennsylvania Gulch, the mines are similar to Murphys, deep — all the dirt being hoisted out in buckets, by horse-power. George Congdon and others have extensive and rich claims in the vicinity. On the banks sloping from the north, between Pennsylvania Gulch and Coyote Creek, are some extensive hydraulic claims now being worked. Mr. L. Proper has a claim there that pays well; in fact, the mines and mining operations in this vicinity are of a superior order and looked healthy in the firmest sense of the word."

The article went on to say that "fine ranches and gardens line the creek on either side, down to Douglas Flat. Here the 'Ranch Act' is much complained of, and appears to be quite unpopular with the miner — while it is the reverse with the farmers and gardeners. A ranch was offered to us for \$700, while the owner said that if there was no gold in the ground, he would take no less than \$7,000. We laughed at him and remarked that if it was not for the gold, he and his ranch would not have been heard of in these parts. He tacitly admitted the fact and thereby became a convert to the mining interest."

On July 31, 1858, the "Independent" stated: "Our mining intelligence still holds its own. The claims upon Missouri and Pennsylvania Gulches continue to pay extremely well.

The Old Syd Crow claim, upon which a vast amount of work has been done, continues to pay finely. Average wages, \$8 per day to the hand. Proper, Ashley & Co., and many others are making good wages."

But despite the encouraging reports of mid-1858, by 1860 the mining along Pennsylvania and Missouri Gulches was in decline and the town of Brownsville was beginning to experience an exodus of both miners and merchants.

Probably one of the reasons the area was mined out so quickly is that the claims themselves were quite small — each placer claim was little more than 12 feet square, and even though many of them contained relatively deep gravel deposits, they could be quickly worked out. And, each individual was limited to ownership of only two placer claims — one wet and one dry — at any time. They were allowed to hold a quartz claim, but that meant little in a placer mining area.

Another factor which probably added to the rapid demise of Brownsville after the mining activity slowed was



A single granite headstone, burial site of the Stephen Henry Webster family, is the only remaining trace of the Brownsville Cemetery.

that even in its heyday, it was largely a tent city.

The town of Murphys, just over a rise of ground to the west of Brownsville, very early took on an air of permanence. Settlers who arrived there in 1848 and 1849 quickly began erecting permanent buildings of mortar and field stone and cut rhyolite blocks, many of which still are standing today. If there ever were any stone or masonry buildings in Brownsville there is no evidence of them today.

Throughout the late 1850s, as Brownsville flourished, George and Alfred Brown operated the ranch which included land upon which at least a portion of the town was built.

But, on October 29, 1859, Alfred Brown deeded his half of the ranch to his brother for \$1,000. Then, the following year, 1860, George Brown sold the ranch to William Auditt and John J. March for \$5,000.

Well into the 1860s mining continued at some locations along Missouri and Pennsylvania Gulches where deep placers still yielded good pay. But, for the most part, the boom had ended.

Gradually, as miners and merchants moved away, much of the town disappeared, leaving only a single tavern, a school and a store which managed to eke out an existence for several more years. Long before turn of the century vir-

tually all traces were gone.

One of the things that residents of the dying mining camp did leave behind was a cemetery, marked by a scattering of wooden grave markers and carved granite headstones. They were located on land which was a part of the Table Mountain Ranch.

The ranch, during its first 50 years, changed hands a number of times and 1900 found it under the ownership of Ethel Adams, who operated it as a working cattle ranch and dairy. Her foreman was George Hinkston.

Years of neglect had allowed the old cemetery fence to deteriorate to the point that it was virtually non-existent, and cows, as cows will, were quick to find the holes and enter the cemetery to crop the grass. Each time they did, they knocked over at least some of the headstones, and Mrs. Adams each time, instructed Hinkston to go down to the cemetery and repair the damage.

Hinkston, who worked on the ranch for 30 years, apparently was a man of action.

One day, some time after turn of the century, after the cows had once again invaded the old graveyard and knocked down headstones, he decided to solve the problem once and for all. He loaded the entire lot of stones and markers, with the exception of one that was too large to lift, into a wagon, hauled them away and reportedly tossed them down an old mine shaft.

Hinkston, in 1921, after she discharged him, sued Mrs. Adams and was awarded \$10,000 on grounds that she had promised him a share of the ranch.

Today, with the exception of the bronze historic landmark plaque and a single large granite headstone shaded by a huge valley oak, not a trace of the once booming mining camp remains.

Carved in the polished face of the stone are the names,
Stephen Henry Webster, died Nov., 1853
Mary Ann Webster, died Aug., 1854
John Henry Webster, died 1909.

Today the property is owned by Boyd Thompson, of Stockton, owner of nearby Indian Rock Vineyard, on Pennsylvania Gulch Road, who says the old townsite and cemetery will be retained as common area park land.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Additional volunteers to help staff the Calaveras County Museum at 30 N. Main Street, in San Andreas, are being sought by our historical society's board of directors.

Men and women who can donate either a half or full day, or even a few hours a month on either a week-day or week-end in order to help keep the museum open to the public, may contact Louise Greenlaw at 754-3604 or the historical society office at 754-1058. The museum is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THREE BUILDINGS RECEIVE ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

Two historic buildings on North Main Street, in San Andreas, and an ornate replica home in Murphys are winners of the Calaveras County Historical Society's 1989 architectural awards.

Certificates of recognition, a new award category, were presented at the Society's July meeting to the owner of the William Casey Building at 95 North Main Street, and to owners of what originally was John Steele's Boot Makers and Cobblers Shop at 42 North Main Street, in San Andreas.

A plaque and architectural award of merit went to Bob and Joanna Manesajian, builders of the replica Victoria home at 1656 Pennsylvania Gulch Road, at Murphys.

The William Casey Building, better known in recent



Award winning Manesajian home.

years as the Blewett Building and Blewett's Cafe, actually is comprised of two structures dating back to 1887 and 1895. Today it is owned by local attorney Michael Arkin, recipient of one of this year's architectural certificates of recognition. Arkin, who purchased the structure from Howard Blewett in 1988, has completely rebuilt and refurbished the building's interior, turning it into a modern office complex while retaining its 19th century exterior appearance.

The south side of the present building was constructed in 1895 by William Casey who housed a grocery store and offices there. A few years later he joined it to the building on the north side which had been built in 1887. After the grocery store was closed the downstairs portion of the building served as a dry goods store, and later, also housed a pharmacy with tailor and doctors offices upstairs.

Later, the downstairs area of the building was to serve as

Please see **AWARDS**, pg. 10

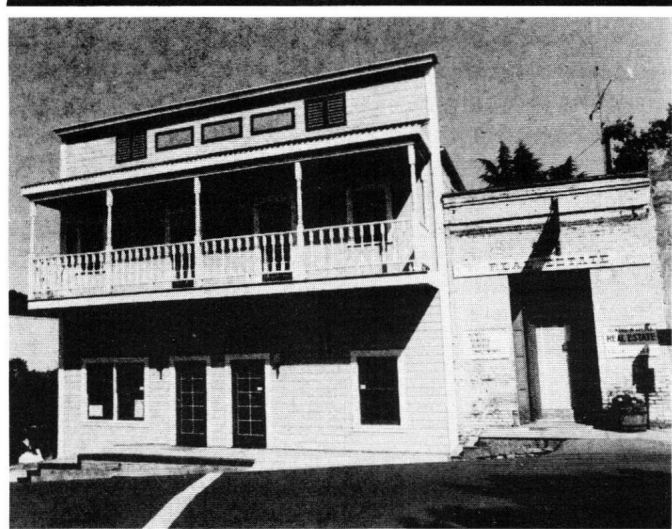
AWARDS, cont. from pg. 9

the first theater in San Andreas, after it was remodeled in 1900. John Halley was the theater operator, and during the 1920s it provided seating for 40 people.

From 1947 until 1988 Howard and Mary Blewett owned the building. They lived upstairs and operated their restaurant in the downstairs area. Over the years, Blewett's Cafe was to become a San Andreas institution.

Today, the old building with its 19th century facade is completely modernized inside, and is the only privately owned building in Calaveras County to contain an elevator to carry people between the first and second floors.

Since the interior of the building has been completely modernized it was impossible for the Historical Society's architectural committee to present Michael Arkin with the customary plaque and architectural award of merit. How-



Award winning Casey Building houses offices.

ever, because he had taken pains to preserve its authentic early-day exterior appearance, the committee headed by Roberta Kenyon, created the "Award of Recognition" category, which was presented to Arkin.

Also presented an Award of Recognition were Joe and Kim Gult and Tom and Carol Sears, owners of the old Steele Building at 42 North Main Street, which presently houses Timberline Depot, a toy shop specializing in wooden toys.

Built by a Joseph Bennett after the fire of 1858, this small, false front structure was first used as a barber shop. The year it was built it was assessed at \$500, but sold in 1862 for \$400. After several changes of ownership it sold in 1895 to John Steele and D. Johnson for \$370.

A native of Germany, where he had learned the boot making trade, Steele had arrived in the U.S. in 1848 and

1861 found him operating a 2,000-acre ranch six miles south of San Andreas. After buying the boot shop Steele continued to run the ranch. He would come into the shop and repair shoes at night, after his ranch chores were done.

In 1935 Delmar "Dell" Tucker took the old building and it became a barber shop once again. After Tucker ended barbering there in the 1960s, Steve Valente ran the shop for several years, followed by a succession of barbers and beauticians, until shortly before it was taken over by its new owners this year.

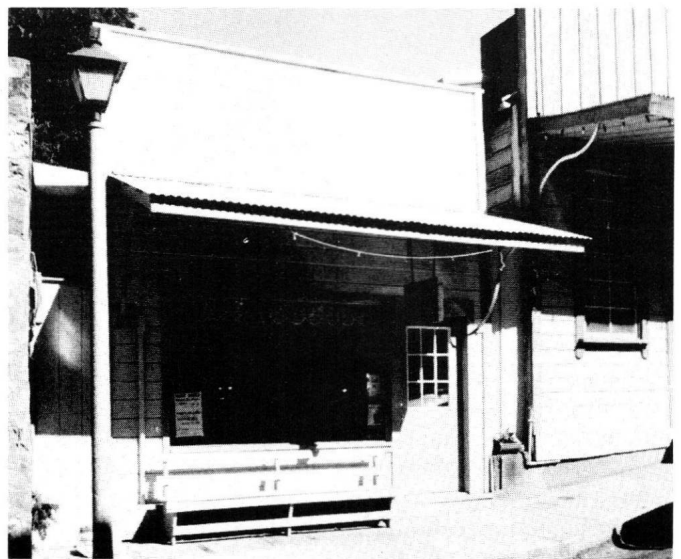
The Gults and Sears have retained the false front and the "gold country" characteristics of the old building, while completely refurbishing its interior. Today, the old building, except for a coat of fresh paint which adds to its attractiveness, appears much as it did 100 years ago.

The Pennsylvania Gulch home of Bob and Joanna Manesajian is an authentic replica in every way, of the palatial homes of the past century. Wherever possible they utilized authentic antique artifacts and material, and where they could not, they painstakingly provided exact replicas of the originals.

For a considerable period of time before starting on their new home the Manesajians looked for an old home to restore, but found so many obstacles kept popping up they finally decided to construct an authentic replica. The result is a two-story wood frame house that is such a true replica it is often mistaken for an original.

Among the outstanding features of the home is a wrap-around porch and wicker furniture, dormer windows, and a stone wall that against a background of pines and oaks, seems to frame the landscape.

Trees which were felled on the property to make room



Steele Building wins recognition award.

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1989-90

Don Cuneo, of San Andreas, a native son whose family history goes back to Calaveras County's gold rush days, took over the helm of the Calaveras County Historical Society at its June meeting in the La Contenta Country Club in Valley Springs.

Cuneo took the gavel from retiring President Gloyd "Bud" Ponte, who had headed the historical society for the past two years. Don is owner and manager of the Black Bart Inn, in San Andreas.

Special guest and installing officer was State Assemblyman Norman Waters, of Plymouth. He congratulated the historical society's membership and its officers for their efforts to preserve local history, including restoration of the 131-year-old Altaville School and operation of the Calaveras County Museum.

Others who took the oath of office to serve for the coming year included Vice President Linda Cline, of Murphys; Treasurer Bonnie Miller, of Mountain Ranch; Recording Secretary John Gomes, of San Andreas; and Membership and Financial Secretary Sharon Eglin, of San Andreas. Directors who were installed included Gail Nordby, of San Andreas; Charles Stone, of Copperopolis; Richard Barger, of Murphys, and Jack Kennedy, of San Andreas. Stone,

for the dwelling provide some of the structural framing timbers. The huge kitchen counter is from one wood slab.

Kitchen cabinets are hand-made, styled to authenticate those that would be found in a home of the past century. The house has hardwood floors throughout, with wide crown and floor molding.

The Manesajians found antique glass door knobs and lighting fixtures, with those in the dining room being of special interest. This fixture has ornate glass chimneys and the entire fixture can be raised or lowered. It came from the ballroom of an old San Francisco mansion.

Bathroom fixtures are either old or true to the period. The wallpaper that has been chosen, as well as the furnishings, attest to Joanna Manesajian's attention to detail and her passion for authenticity.

The Manesajian house meets every requirement and guideline set down by the Historical Society for construction of an authentic replica Victorian home, said members of the architectural committee.

Architectural committee members include Jack Kennedy, of San Andreas; Shirley Huberty, of Mountain Ranch; Winnie Alexander, of Mountain Ranch; George and Lucy Schwoerer, of Valley Springs, and Ozzie Kenyon, of Mountain Ranch. The Committee is chaired by Roberta Kenyon, of Mountain Ranch, and Gloyd "Bud" Ponte, the Historical Society President for 1989, served as an ex-officio member.

Barger and Kennedy also served as directors during the past year.

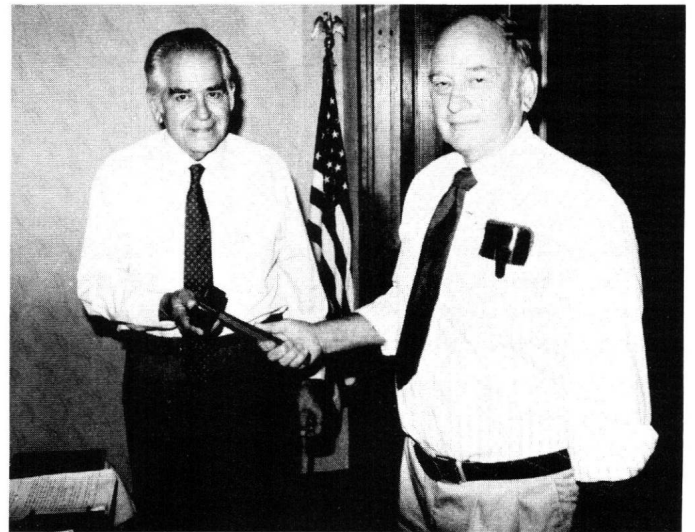
Linda Cline and her husband, Neil, have been residents of Murphys for 12 years. Until last year they were owners of the Cline Piano Company, of Portland, Ore., which had been in the family for 100 years.

Mrs. Cline is a native of Carson Hill and her father, Dominique, once operated a bakery in Murphys.

Please see **OFFICERS**, pg. 12



Our society's officers and directors for 1989-90 include (L to R) Charles Stone, director; Linda Cline, vice president; John Gomes, recording secretary; Gail Nordby, director; Sharon Eglin, membership secretary; Bonnie Miller, treasurer, and Don Cuneo, president. Not pictured are directors Jack Kennedy and Richard Barger.



Don Cuneo (right) Calaveras County Historical Society's president for 1989-90, accepts gavel from retiring president Gloyd "Bud" Ponte.

Calaveras County Historical Society

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Vice President Linda Cline, Murphys
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The Calaveras County Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in various communities throughout the county, locations of which are announced in advance. Dinner meetings also are announced in advance.

The Society's office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00. The telephone number is (209) 754-1058. Visitors are welcome.

EDITORIAL

When, at its July meeting, she stepped down as financial and membership secretary of the Calaveras County Historical Society — a post she had held for the past 10 years — Lillian Filippini was accorded a standing ovation.

And, it was not without due cause that Lillian received that warm round of applause. No one could have been more devoted or responsible in carrying out her duties for our historical society than Mrs. Filippini.

Always pleasant, helpful, filled with concern for the growth and welfare of the society and doing more than their share, Lillian and her husband, Charles, during those 10 years and at the present, are among the stalwarts of this organization.

Every member of the Calaveras County Historical Society owes Lillian Filippini a vote of thanks for a job well done.

NEW MEMBERS

Calaveras County Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

John & Mary Anne Walker, Valley Springs.
Robert Mileslavich, Stockton.
Vincent P. Nowell Sr., Simi Valley.
William & Dolores Tipton, San Andreas.
Mrs. Lewis Mathis, Linden.
Jack Thorbrogger, San Andreas.
Dorothy DeDontney, Los Altos.
Neil & Cheryl Edwards, Mokelumne Hill.
Carmen Sanders, Murphys.
Robert & Barbara Perry, San Andreas.
Dana Dee Carragher, Annandale, Va.
Steve and Gerri Conway, San Andreas.
Joel Jay Ellioff, Castro Valley.
Albert J. Segalla, Twain Harte.
John S. Spears, Murphys.
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Costa, Springfield, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Amos Wilhelm, Rail Road Flat.
James Meikle Eglin Jr., Fairfax, Va.

IN MEMORIAM

Ellis Dragomonovich, San Andreas, June 14, 1989
Margaret Kenfield, Murphys, July 6, 1989
Tone Airola, Altaville, July 21, 1989
Charles Loomis, San Andreas, Aug. 18, 1989
Charles Valente, San Andreas, Aug. 22, 1989

OCTOBER MEETING

The next meeting of the Calaveras County Historical Society will be at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 26, in the courtroom of the old Calaveras County Courthouse at 30 N. Main Street, in San Andreas.

This will be a business meeting and the program which will follow is to be announced.

OFFICERS, cont. from pg. 11

Bonnie Miller, a resident of the Mountain Ranch area, came to Calaveras County four years ago from Modesto. She is employed as an engineering technician with the Calaveras County Department of Public Works.

John Gomes, son of the late Wilfred Gomes of San Andreas, returned to Calaveras County recently and is deeply interested in the county's history. He has been devoting considerable time as a volunteer in the county archives.

Sharon Eglin, another California native, who grew up in San Leandro, came to Calaveras County a decade ago from Washington, D.C. With her former husband, a naval captain, she has spent considerable time in Europe, including Moscow, and cities in England and Spain.