



# AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER - AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 761, JACKSON, CA 95642

## RE-OPENING THE COUNTY MUSEUM

We are delighted to report that we now have a signed agreement with the County which will allow us to do safety repairs to the Brown house as well as required ADA work that is necessary to reopening the County Museum. This is a big undertaking, but our Museum Chair, Phillip Giurlani, is rarin' to go. We'll keep you posted on our progress.



We're continuing our fund raising efforts for the museum project and will need your continued support. The Mining Model exhibit has been doing very well since it reopened and we're anxious to get the rest of the Museum reopened.

## OPEN HOUSE CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS NOVEMBER 23 & 24

Come in any time from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. and see our new location at 148 Main St. during Jackson's festival on Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. The office has a wonderful display of old photos and memorabilia. We'll also be having a wine raffle of offerings from Amador vintners for which you can purchase tickets but do not need to be present to win. We'll call the winners and you can come in later to pick up your wine. We'll have refreshments and plenty of stimulating history discussions with some of our local historians available to exchange stories and anecdotes. We are particularly interested in collecting anecdotes about Amador's oldest families because our January fund-raising dinner will be our first annual

**OFFICE OPEN**

MON - WED 9AM - 1PM  
ACHS STAFFED  
FRI - SUN  
11AM - 3PM

A decade ago, Amador experienced maybe the two wettest consecutive years in its history. Over 50 inches fell in 1982-3, and that was topped in '83-'84 with 58.97 inches! In 1852-53 and '53-'54, the rain exceeded 50 inches the first year, and 45 the next. In 1866-67, over 50 inches fell and over 40 the next.

Conversely, the record cites numerous examples where an above average wet year was followed by a dry or below-average year. The winter of 1849-50 ranks with 1862-62 as the wettest ever recorded here. The first was followed by one of the driest years of record; the second by a below-average year. The same occurred in 1884-85 after a wet 1883-84, and '90-'91 after a wet '89-'90, and 1952-53 after a wet '51-'52. Of course, last year's wet year could be the start of a prolonged wet period like 1891 through 1907. In those 17 years, only one was below average.

You divine by now that there is no way to scientifically or empirically predict this year's rainfall. But if my sciatica is any indication, 1993-94 will be, alas, a below-average year!



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Last weekend was a sad time for all of us who came together to say goodbye to our mentor and friend, Larry Cenotto. He will be deeply missed. Our mission now is to try and fill his very large shoes. It's going to require all of us working together to come even close because he wore so many hats in this community. But, most of all, we will miss his big hugs, his friendly smile and his words of praise when we did something he liked. His memory will live on, but even more than that, he leaves a legacy in the County Archive, his writing, the documents and artifacts that he collected over years of scouring e-bay and people who donated through him to the Society. Larry's collection is coming to the Society and we will be displaying many of his pictures at the office. But, boxes and boxes of documents must be catalogued and archived. Then, proper housing needs to be found somewhere in the County so that his collection can be made accessible to researchers and others who are interested in the County's history. That is what Larry was trying to accomplish before his life was cut short, and what his family is most interested in having accomplished in order that the collection be preserved and displayed properly. But, of highest interest to the family is that this collection be made accessible. We must make that our priority as well. Larry's collection is his legacy and is the Cenotto family's gift to Amador County. We are made richer because of Larry's dedication to the County's history and the Cenotto family's generosity.

## 2013 FUNDRAISER DINNER January 26, 2013

The ACHS Board plans to make this event the kickoff for the database of information about our "Pioneer Families" as well as others who have contributed to

event to commemorate our pioneer families. So, mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 26, 2013.

## **OCTOBER: A HARBINGER OR HEX? Logan's Alley - Vol. 5**

Those born to worry about weather look at California's Octobers with two minds. One (the optimist) thinks: abundant October rain is a harbinger of a wet season. The other (the pessimist) thinks: too much early rain will jinx the season and make it below average if not dry. Which schizophrenic does the rainfall record support? Because of this writer's preoccupation and the meteorological software of Les Rohssler of Pine Grove-a registered professional forester - we have a historical profile of rainfall in the Stockton-LodiJackson area from 1849.

What does the data say about October rainfall and can one correlate - find cause and effect - between copious rain in October and a wet or dry year?

Since Jimmy Nettle says he recorded only .54 of an inch in this past October on Jackson's North Main last month, neither mind should be pleased. The approximate 140-year average of October rainfall in this area is about 1.50 inches, more, of course, up country, and less, down. Compare that amount with Jackson's historical seasonal average of 30-31 inches, and you learn that October provides only five percent of the season's rain. Hence, October could be rainless and we could still have a above average rain year.

Look at those years which had above average rain, and you discover that half had wet Octobers, and half didn't. Other years October is wet and the season dry. And still others where October is rainless and the season wet. Our conclusion: there is no apparent pattern or cause-effect relation between October and seasonal rainfall figures.

Perhaps the more pertinent question, now that it's November: is it likely that we'll have two wet, above average rainfall years in a row? Nettle informs us that last year's drought-breaking rain totaled 41.82 inches, over 10 inches more than the longtime average, and about double the amount recorded in each of the six preceding drouth years. What are the chances of another above average rain year? Not good, the record shows.

the County in significant ways. We're hoping to include photos and documents as well as family trees that will show how connected to the County these individuals and families have been and continue to be. Mark your calendar now because space will be limited. Contact us at your first opportunity if you have material you would like us to use.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS - NOV 23,24, 2012
- PIONEER FAMILIES DINNER - JAN 26, 2013

It's once again the time of year where we select our Society officers for 2013. Please contact us if your interested in any of the officer positions and/or participating on the board, including one of committee's. You will receive our 2013 ballot in November, for your vote and submitted prior to December 31, 2012. For more information please [our nominating committee](#), or call (209) 257-1485 with your name and contact number.