

TAPE #37

TOBY TYLER

Taped: March 1979

Subject: Landmarks in Amador County.

(Much of the following tape is of a "visual" nature, as a slide-show was in progress.)

This first house is not in Amador. It is the Carson house in Eureka, and is probably the ultimate Victorian in the United States, if not in the whole world.

Actually, when you come down to the houses of Amador County, Victorian houses are not our forte at all. Sutter Creek's houses, for the majority, go back to before the Victorian era. Our houses are neo-classic. And if you had to pick an example of really Victorian architecture in Amador County, you'd be really hard-pressed. I suppose the Reed house here in Jackson would be the most interesting one. Perhaps a few in Sutter Creek, none of them really outstanding examples.

Now, lets start right here in Sutter Creek. After 100 years of existence they put a steeple on top of the Methodist Church. They did this just a few years back. Built in 1862; it acquired a steeple 100 and something years later! It cost a lot and really adds to the town. The steeple cost more than the original church.

Now, the Knight Foundry and the ~~plan~~ planing mill; in the background is the old grammar school. It is in the process of restoration.

The Foundry has changed very little over the years.

Beyond the Foundry, on Eureka Street, were two old buildings until recently---it was lived in by Chinese, I believe.

(It was the home of Mary Lee and her husband, who had the restaurant in Sutter Creek at the turn of the century.)

Now, the planing mill---it's across from the Foundry.

Up the street, across from Siroccos is a building that is, happily, still standing, although they began demolition on it years ago before our supervisors stopped it. It's right next to the Brinn House.

Here we have a building that is no longer standing; the old high school in Sutter Creek. (Azalea Cuneo---My dad put the cornices on that building, and we bought an Overland with the money!)

#2, Randolph Street, is another lovely house. It's the Onetto house. And is across from the Monteverde store. Before Rose Monteverde died she left that store to the city of Sutter Creek. Hopefully, the city will restore it; as a museum, they said.

As I said before, most of our homes are not Victorian, and this is a good example. It is Mrs. Thrasher's house. There is a beautiful tulip tree in front. (23 Main St., Sutter Creek)

The historic Werner barn is next. It is probably the largest barn in the county. It's on the north-east corner of Sutter Creek.

The next pictures have been taken to show you examples of county neglect. I don't know how you preserve them. One, is the old stone walls which laced the county at one time. They were so well built that many, like this, are ~~exactly~~ exactly like they were when they put the stones up. One of the best examples of these walls is on Tonzi Road, on the back road to Ione.

Another thing we are losing are our beautiful old oak trees. Not many young ones are replacing the old ones, and now that people are burning lots of wood, they will soon disappear. Going down Tonzi Road, here is a picture of the famous Tonzi House. About three summers ago the house, itself, burned to the ground. All that's left are the chimneys. I think the old Victorian privy is still there!

And further down towards Ione you have the place called 4-chimneys, it's the Anderson Road House. Later it was the Gebheart place. So was the Tonzi house, as a matter of fact. They lived a while in that.

This next building is still in Drytown. It was the butcher shop. The old catholic church in Drytown is next. I'm surprised to hear that it's been torn down. The old school is still there, however it has a coat of red paint on it now.

Now, what is this, I don't know. ~~XXX~~ If you go up Quartz Mountain Road and over the fence and follow a road north, you hit this series of ruins. How old it is, I have no idea. (Gladys Spinetti---I think it's the Votah(?) place.) You turn off Quartz Mt. Road just about at the Rancheria massacre place. You head ~~north~~ north; there's a road. You don't go north to Dry Creek; not that far.

Next, past Daffodil Hill is an old ranch home that has been restored. People call it the "movie house". It was the Demming Home.

(No, it's the Demend house.)

(The people who restored it built a house behind it to live in.)

(The movie they filmed was "The Grisson Gang".)

This next one is Forest Home; it was taken long before the new highway went in. The farmer who owned it bulldozed it down because his cows kept falling into the basement.