

TAPE #50125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF AMADOR COUNTY

Taped: ~~July~~ ^{June} 14, 1979, with Larry Cenotto, editor of the Amador Dispatch, Henrietta Widmer, Pres. Amador County Historical Society, the Board of Supervisors and others.

Reference: The celebration began at 11.00 AM in front of the National Hotel. Participants then marched to the Court House where the dedication began.

(Larry Cenotto)

Resolution from Volcano distributed by the Pony Express: "From the Volcano Business and Professional Association. From Ram's Horn to Stoney Point, Soldiers' Gulch to Clapboard, from Emigrant Street to Plug Street, Saint George and Consolation, from Volcano---birthday greetings to Amador County on this century and a quarter celebration. Old Abe silently roars his salute. Signed, Judy Varley, President, Volcano Business and Professional Association."

This is from the city of Plymouth: "Resolution---79-5. Whereas, Amador County has reached its 125th Anniversary, and whereas, said 125 years has made contributions to the history and development of California, and whereas, Plymouth has been an important part of AMADOR County for many years, and June 14, 1979 will host the Anniversary Dinner Show. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City of Plymouth that it takes great pride in being part of the 125th Anniversary of the County of Amador. Foregoing resolution duly passed and adopted by the City of Plymouth on the 13th day of June, 1979, Signed by Irene Cranford, Mayor of Plymouth.

Resolution from the City Council of the City of Sutter Creek, congratulating the citizens of Amador County, on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the formation of Amador County.

"Whereas, on June 14th in the year of 1854 in the heart of the Mother Lode country, there was created the County of Amador. Whereas, the pioneers and their successors have caused the County of Amador to continue to grow and prosper. Whereas, the citizens of Amador County now, some 125 years later, pausing to celebrate the anniversary of this county's formation. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City of Sutter Creek does, hereby, congratulate the entire citizenry of the County of Amador on the occasion of its formation. The foregoing resolution, #79, was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Sutter Creek, at a regular meeting held on the 4th day of June, 1979. Signed: George Maloney, Mayor of Sutter Creek. "

Resolution from the City of Ione: "Whereas, of June 14th, ~~XXXXXX~~ 1854, electors of Calaveras County voted to divide Calaveras County. And whereas, at that time Amador County was then formed. AND WHEREAS, Ione City has been established as a trade center for the miners since 1852, and the stage route passed through the town on the way to the Mother Lode mines. Whereas, the City Council of the City of Ione now joins in acknowledging the legality of Amador County after 125 years. It resolves the City of Ione does, hereby, congratulate the County of Amador on their 125th Anniversary. Be it further resolved that this resolution shall be printed in the Amador ~~XXXXXX~~ Progress-News a newspaper of general circulation."

From the Fiddletown Preservation Society: "On this 14th day of June

Fiddletown joins in the full support of the government of Amador County in Jackson. And we hereby reject the defunct County of Calaveras, and henceforth give our loyalty to Amador. Signed, Marie Scofield."

River Pines is happy to be part of Amador County. We are also celebrating the County's 125th Anniversary. Signed, Alice Schmidt, River Pines"/

Those are the communications.

Now, a very special part of the program. We would like to recognize some of the institutions in Jackson. We'll try to do this throughout the county as long as the committee is in action this year. And we'll recognize institutions that are also 125 years old this year.

I'd like to have Betty Curilich come forward and be prepared to make these special awards. First of all, in 1854 in this town the Amador Masonic Lodge was organized. Its first lodge hall was right on the corner of 4th and Main Streets, where the drug store is now. And it was on the 2nd floor. That building burned down, this one was built, and then they moved to their present location in 1862. The Amador Masonic Lodge, 125 years old this year, and we'd like a representative to step forward at this time.

(The award is given.)

Another organization founded in 1854 was the Hook and Ladder Company of Jackson. And we've had one ever since. Now we have a very fine Jackson volunteer Fire Department, the heir of that original Hook and ladder Company. Carl, please come forward and accept an award from the committee.

(The award is given.)

The next special award to the city of Jackson---Mayor Spinetti is not here---is Bob Van Nortt about? Well, they're all working men and probably had something to do. Now, as I mentioned the City of Jackson has been the County Seat since July of 1854. It is fitting that we also present them with one of these silver trays commemorating our 125th anniversary. We'll make sure that they get it.

Incidentally, we'll have more of these awards at the dinner tonight. We come now to a very special award that means very much to the members of the anniversary committee, members of the historical society, and the general citizens of the County. We have a fine gentleman, over ninety years of age, with us today. Geoffrey Schweitzer. I think he came to Amador County right after the turn of the century as a mining engineer. He's been active in the County all this time. In the historical society he was principally responsible for the purchase of the Brown Mansion for the Museum, and many, many more things that we can't go into right now. But as a surprise presentation we are very honored. Betty, please come forward again and if Mr. Schweitzer came come up here we want him to have one of our silver trays.

(Geoffrey Schweitzer)

I don't know what to say. I'm surprised. I certainly appreciate having this plate, and will keep it in sight where visitors can see it all the time. Thank you. And I wish everybody here could live as long as I do. Don't think that I'm sick; the trouble is that I was in and out of the mines as dangerous as they may be and never had a scratch. Then I fall down a few feet of stairs and break my hip! That finished me. That's why I have to limp around this way. Sorry, but that's the best I can do.

(Cenotto)

How old are you Jeff?

(Schweitzer)

94.

(Cenotto continues.)

Mr. Clement, familiar leader of the Preston Band for many years, we thank you for coming today. As a surprise presentation I'd like to present to you and the Institution and your fine band, one of our silver trays.

Clyde Berriman, Chairman of the Historical Landmarks Committee, will you step forward and remind the folks about the dedication this afternoon.

(Berriman)

On behalf of the Committee, I invite all of you to attend the re-dedication ceremonies of the new plaque, commemorating the 125th anniversary of Amador County. The ceremony will be held at 2:30 this afternoon, at the same historical marker pointing out the site of the organization of Amador County. This is the monument located on Old Sutter Hill Road. Let's see all of you there at 2:30!

(Cenotto)

We have representatives of the Amador Tribal Council here today. Their ~~forebears~~ ancestors were here before all of us, and we certainly wanted them to be represented and to take part in this program. I am not sure if anyone is prepared to make some remarks, but if anyone is, please come forward. And if not we thank them very much for taking part.

Now, the culmination of our little ceremony this morning, and I'd like to call on Sharon Scott, who is assistant to our Assemblyman,

Norman Waters, who is where he should be at this moment---in Sacramento. Sharon Scott.

(Scott)

On behalf of the State Assembly, we have the following Resolution. It recognizes the legality of Amador County, which was turned in by the Mountain Men. I would like to ask former ~~Assemblyman~~ ^{Senator} John Begovich, to read the Resolution.

(Begovich)

(The ~~following~~ statement by Begovich is un-translatable.)

(Cenotto)

I think what that means is that at last, at last, Amador is legal!

(We are now at Sutter Hill for the re-dedication of the Amador County Plaque.)

(Berriman)

Betty Curilich will say a few words about the re-dedication and the founding of our County.

(Betty Curilich)

Gold! Gold! That was the cry that brought to California the early settlers, and later to the County of Amador. It is not provincialism that prompted an admiration for the historical background which belongs to Amador County, rather, it is the realization that human interest and the interest of those gathered here today, enters into the pleasure of this gathering which marks the re-dedication of this site on the 125th anniversary of Amador County. This is why we are here today, to commemorate an anniversary. The anniversary marks the consumation of an effort of so many everyday pioneers, the board of supervisors, and the members of the anniversary committee.

And those of you who are gathered here for this occasion. The observance today is but a reminder of the success of these combined efforts. Your presence is an inspiration for the work that our public officials have done, and we all appreciate the invitation to join together for this ceremony. This program is certainly in keeping with the preservation of an Amador County landmark. The first plaque was dedicated to the veneration of the pioneers. Today's plaque is dedicated to all residents of Amador County. We gather to dedicate this plaque, and formally present it to the governing body of our County. And so, Mr. Questo, Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the 125th Anniversary Committee takes this plaque and presents it to you, officially.

(Questo)

Thank you, Mrs. Curilich. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Amador County, I very gratefully accept the presentation of the plaque and the re-dedication of this historic monument. Thank you.