

Santa's Visit

By Stephanie Ruff

Santa's visit to Camptonville was a great success this year. Children and their families enjoyed cookies, hot cocoa, and a visit with Santa. Children were gifted with stuffed animals, crocheted hats, treat bags and a gift. A very big thank you to Georgette Fowler's Christmas Club, the Camptonville VFD and members of our community that made a difference for the children of Camptonville this holiday season. Approximately 80 children in all were recipients of this holiday cheer!

The editors of the Courier would like to also thank Connie Gross for all the wonderful photos in this issue of the much loved and appreciated event.

Below the Spackman family enjoys an evening with Santa!

Meet Your Neighbor:

Lois Butz

By Stephanie Ruff

Last summer Liam and I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with long time local resident Lois Butz. Liam has an interest in local history and wanted to ask Lois some questions about growing up in Celestial Valley. Here's what we found out.

The Butz family was originally from Bavaria. Lois's great grandfather came to America in the mid 1800's. While living in Ohio he heard all about the Gold Rush in California and wanted to join the masses and seek his fortune. He walked from Ohio to the east coast and took a ship to Panama. Once in Panama he walked across the isthmus, historically known as the Isthmus of Darien, a narrow strip of land that lies between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, linking North and South America. From there he took a ship to San Francisco. Putting on his walking shoes once again he walked from San Francisco to Placerville. Then he walked from Placerville to Celestial Valley. As the story is told –he had a blister on his heel and he said, "I ain't going any further!" That was in 1853.

Lois' grandfather was born in Celestial Valley in 1865, within a quarter mile of where she lives now. Around 1888 the Butz family found out they were living on railroad land as the government had given the railroad all property that was within 20 air miles of Colfax. In 1909, a major update of the Homestead Act called the Enlarged Homestead Act was passed. Grandma really pushed for the family to move to the other side of the creek and homestead. They did.

Continued on page 6



Breaking News!

New Family Day Care Home Approved in C'ville

Community Care Licensing visited Camptonville in December and approved Connie Gross's application to open a child care program. The representative visited and was given a tour of the very lovely and child-friendly site on Cleveland Avenue. Connie would like to announce that "Connie's Critters Family Child Care" is going to be open as of January 4, 2010! She will be serving children ages birth to 12 years old, Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 6 PM. Call Connie Gross for an interview at 288-2884. Her license number is 585405743.



Bryson Miller enjoying his visit with Santa!

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Rebel Ridge Weather Trivia

By Jan Jero

After the recent 19 degree night (12/7/09), there were some questions about whether or not we had had temperatures in the teens before. From daily temperature records beginning in 1988, the following low temperatures were found:

12/28/88....18
2/4/89.....16
2/6/89.....12
12/21/90....11
1/2/93.....18
1/28/02.....15
1/30/02.....19

Ten Resolutions from 123 Grow

By Birdsong Sundstrom

Now is the time of year that we all make great plans to improve ourselves, and 123 Grow also has some New Year's resolutions to share:

1. We will continue to offer a high-quality early childhood education program to our community.
2. Our staff will continue to seek advanced training and will strive to give you state-of-the-art teaching.
3. We will do our best to keep the program FREE of charge and open to anyone in 2010.
4. We will reach out to those who are pregnant in the community, offering them a way to connect with other families and build their skills as new parents.
5. We will continue to offer participating parents opportunities to relax together and get to know each other at our Family Resource Center, located on the grounds of Camptonville School.
6. We will continue to spread the word about how important early preventative oral health is, and to help our families' access dental care.
7. We will offer fun and interesting education programs to our parents throughout the year.
8. We will work together to offer a great selection of started plants at this spring's Annual Plant Sale, helping our community develop more food self-sufficiency.
9. We will do our part in the shared school-123 Grow community garden, where children can learn about nutritious food early in life.
10. We will leave plenty of time to play with the children who attend 123 Grow, since play is how they learn.

CHIEF'S REPORT

By Alan Kinne, Chief, C'ville VFD

I would like to start out by thanking everyone very much for your response to the Toy Drive by the Fire Department. It was very successful. Camptonville's kids benefited greatly from your generosity. My thanks to The Lost Nugget Market and Rebel Ridge Market for allowing us to use them as collection points. We plan on doing this again next year and I am sure the folks of Camptonville will be generous once again. As in past years, the Fire Department delivered Santa to Camptonville School on December 19th; I will report on how this turned out in the next report.

Staying with the Christmas theme, the Fire Department had its Christmas party on December 15. Where to hold it was not decided until the day before the party. We had several locations in mind, but they did not work out.

Chief's Report cont. on page 8





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Good Stuff

By Cathy LeBlanc

Wow! January 2010 and it feels as if we are about to manifest new beginnings. I can feel it almost tangible and ready to burst outward with the exponential energy of us all.

Overly optimistic you say? Oh I am optimistic, enthusiastic, and full of hope, with good reason. It seems a shift is occurring that values the time we are in right now....new beginnings.

As a society, we are truly realizing the value of prevention. We can see what our opulence brings. What we are "doing" right now is, as always, rippling into the future. And the future is upon us.... I want to share some of the good stuff happening in Yuba County which positively affects our future:

An Ad Hoc committee of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors/ General Plan has been formed and is headed by Supervisors Hal Stocker and Mary Jane Griego to look at how obesity prevention in Yuba County can be supported by the General Plan. (I'm jazzed because I'm on the committee too!)

The Yuba County Children's Council has taken to the road sharing the value of building assets (positive factors) in our youth. Members have made presentations to the Board of Supervisors, school boards, agencies and service organizations throughout Yuba County. First 5 Yuba is also sharing the value of building assets with a 2010 calendar to be distributed county-wide.

Friday Night Live has been funded by Sierra Health Foundation to further their work in building a positive youth and teen "voice" in Yuba and Sutter Counties.

As always, if you'd like to learn more or be involved you may give me a call at the Resource Center 288-9355.



Joshua DeLisle telling Santa a Christmas Wish.

Warmest greetings of the Season
and every good wish for the
Coming Year-

The Ruff Family

The Courier Needs Help:

The Camptonville Courier is looking for a person or a couple of people to help the paper with subscriptions. The job takes about ten hours per month. You need to have a computer and some experience with word and excel. All supplies are provided. This is a voluntary position and a great way to help out your community. Interested people please call Joan Carpenter at 288-1616.



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Yuba River Ranger District

By Betty Leffew

Not much to report this time. All campgrounds are in winter status. No amenities and no fees.

Burn permits are no longer needed for dooryard burning. You still need to check the Department of Air Quality for burn day status. During business hours, call the North Yuba Ranger Station for burn status information. After hours or on weekends please call the appropriate county:

Sierra County.....289-3662

Nevada County....274-7928

Yuba County east of Bullards Bar (C'ville) 289-3662
Or 274-7928

Yuba County west of Bullards Bar.....741-6299

Fishing in Sierra County Rivers and streams closed on November 15, 2009. Fishing in the lakes and reservoirs is open year round. Brochures are available at the ranger station.

As of December 18, 2009, the Yuba River Ranger Station has received 12.02 inches of rain. Last year at this time the yearly rainfall total was 9.09 inches, so we are just a tad bit better than last year.

Have a Great New Year!

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Meet Your Neighbor, cont. from page 1

According to Lois, Celestial Valley was named for the 500 Chinese miners who lived there. There was a Chinese Burial Ground in Celestial Valley, but all the remains were dug up and sent back to China to their relatives. Other evidence of the Chinese was the rock stacks that resembled walls that were created from their unique mining techniques. When her father was a boy there was only one Chinese miner still living in Celestial Valley.

Lois's mother, Phyllis, was one of ten children (sadly 2 of the children died very young) raised in Garden Valley, which now sits underneath Bullards Bar Reservoir. The road down to the Dark Day Boat Ramp was the road to Garden Valley. They raised cows and vegetables and made a living selling food to the mines.

Lois's father, Fred, grew up in Celestial Valley and made a living driving a lumber truck for a mill for many years. He also drove a school bus to Nevada Union and worked for the Forest Service for a little while.

Lois was born in 1925. She was not actually born in Celestial Valley but rather Santa Cruz County. Lois's maternal grandparents moved to Santa Cruz County in 1921 because their house burned down in Garden Valley. Lois's mother went there to give birth to Lois and she was 2 weeks old when she came back to Celestial Valley. The Butz family had 3 children. Lois had an older sister, Thelma, and a younger brother named Fred.

When Liam asked Lois what her favorite childhood pastime was she said, "Anything that was work." There was not much to do back then. She did have a horse that she raised from a foal and trained it for riding. Her family raised cows, chickens, and had a big garden. They canned veggies from the garden as well as deer meat using metal cans sealed with wax and processed in the oven. They lived a very self-sustaining life style. They did not go to town (Nevada City) often. The family did have two vehicles- Father's work truck and the town car. The town car didn't go anywhere very much as it always had a flat tire. Sometime in the mid 30's her father was ill for almost a year, so Lois had to patch and pump up the tires herself. After fixing the tire(s) the car usually had to be pushed out of the garage and down the road to jump-start as the car didn't start much of the time. Needless to say shopping was done mainly via

catalogues.

Dances were the popular recreational activity when Lois was growing up. There were no babysitters, so children went to the dances with their folks. They slept under the piano, on benches or where ever. She remembers traveling to dances in Log Cabin, NSJ, Forest, Allegany and Downieville. Lois remembers a time at a dance in Log Cabin- Lois and her siblings were asleep in the car and her brother had to use the restroom. When he came back he accidentally got into the wrong car and went to sleep. An Allegany couple left the dance before the Butz's and luckily noticed they had a stowaway in their car before heading home. The couple went back into the dance to see who was missing a child.

Liam also wondered what the biggest change Lois witnessed growing up here. Electricity (PG & E) coming to Celestial Valley in 1949 was by far the biggest change she recalls. She also remembers there weren't as many blackberries but there was more snow in the old days. In fact she remembers Celestial valley having two feet of snow in the 1930's. With an elevation of only 1870 feet you imagine how much snow was in Camptonville!

Lois also told us that she and her siblings had to hike up to ridge where Hwy 49 is to catch the school bus. The bus was actually an old car so it took awhile to travel the 7 uphill miles to Camptonville where they attended school. The bus driver used to sing really sad ballads to the students. ***Meet Your Neighbor cont. page 10***

Lois (bottom row, farthest to the right) is pictured below in an undated group photo taken at Camptonville School.



News from the School Board

By Ruth Schwartz

We had a look at our first interim budget from Yuba County this month which was pretty much as expected. Then we spent more time discussing the future of Camptonville School and small rural schools in general. The question of how to give the best services to kids while not fighting over small enrollment numbers is interesting and ongoing.

With a number of community members present, we talked further about such ideas as:

- a combined district between N. San Juan, Camptonville and Downieville
- joining with Marysville Unified School District
- Camptonville School becoming a charter
- Camptonville becoming a K-5 school

We also discussed how to bring more young school parents both into the conversation and onto the board.

Fellow Board member Donna Tate and I attended the Sierra County School Board's meeting this month with the intention of inviting them into a dialogue and conversation on the subject of the problems for rural schools, especially in the Sierra and in particular the issue of denying inter-district transfers to Camptonville from Sierra County. We both felt that, while we have no real way to judge the impact we had, a couple of people were happy to hear from us and willing to start discussion and possibly even attend our board meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13 at 6:30pm in the school library. Please join us. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 288-0816.

Jessi's Garden

By Jessi Mullins

Happy New Year to everyone!! I hope everyone had safe and merry travels through the holidays. Good news from Rebel Ridge Organics..... The remodeling is complete. We are very excited and can't wait to begin restocking the barn in a more customer-friendly layout with lots more space for organization and product. The new barn is in the works.

January is the best time to get your bare root fruit trees, berries, and grapes. We are planning on opening on January 8th, Fridays-Saturdays-Sundays, 10-6. We will remain with those hours for the month of January until our new little one comes. We will open with stock we closed with, plus a wide variety of fruit trees, so come get your trees as soon as possible so you have a good selection to choose from.

It is hard to think about working outside in the gardens in the cold month of January, but we are blessed with those few days of beautiful weather. January is the best time to plant bare root trees. Bare root trees are harvested from the growing grounds when all their leaves have fallen and they go dormant for the winter. It really helps their healthy start for them to emerge out of dormancy in their new location. The key is then to replant them while they are still dormant in the winter months; the transition is much less devastating to the tree. A well-prepared hole is important as well. I recommend digging about a 3' x 3' x 3' deep hole for the tree. The hole needs to be at least twice the size of the root ball of the tree. Fill the hole with 2/3 soil conditioner or compost, and 1/3 of native soil that came from the hole. Add a well balanced (preferably slow-release) fertilizer into the mix; some soft rock phosphate (phosphorus for fruiting) and oyster shell lime (calcium) is always a good addition to the mix as well.

Some other important January jobs in the garden include: pruning your established fruit trees (best to do when dormant), apply dormant spray to all your fruit trees before buds begin to swell, plant any summer flowering vines or shrubs, plant conifers and broad-leafed evergreens, and plant fall-blooming bulbs.

Nothing is more rewarding then eating your own home-grown fresh fruit from your own land and then sharing you excess with your neighbors. Planting just a couple of trees will bring joy.

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Chief's Report cont. from page 3

Finally, we got the go ahead to hold it at Tryphon Winery on Mountain House Road. It had been our original choice, but the snow and freeze that we experienced made the road up to the winery too dangerous. Luckily, Mother Nature stepped in and brought us enough rain to take care of that problem. Firefighter Brian Price, who lives at the winery, got us the ok to use it. Two other firefighters, Char Sanders and Brandi Dudek, did the planning and the purchasing for the party. I applaud them for their efforts, especially since we did not have a location until the day before!! Great job. All those present seemed to have a good time. I was pleasantly surprised to see that we seem to have several pretty good guitar pickers in the department, and a couple of singers. Turned into a very enjoyable jam session. Kind of hope we can get these guys together to perform at the Fire Department picnic next year. Will work on that.

We added another vehicle to our Department in November. Without going into great detail, we had a financial setback concerning the registration of our main engine, 6365. When it was purchased in 2006, no sales tax was paid. And upon being placed in service, it was never registered with DMV. So, when I went to DMV to rectify the situation I was informed that we would have to pay \$15,000 to register the engine!! Talk about coronary material!!! This money is called a Use Tax Fee and the Board of Equalization is not budging. They want their money. I applied for a waiver and was denied. State Legislators that represent this area were contacted and asked to intervene on our behalf. They also ran into a brick wall. Looks like we will have to pay. Before all this became known to us, we had considered buying the surplus Rescue truck that Dobbins Fire Department had. They received a new one through a grant. A price had been negotiated, but no commitments made. I had to inform their Chief that because of the 6365 issues, we would not be able to purchase the vehicle from them. I considered the matter closed. However, on the morning of November 8, I received a phone call from the Chief of Dobbins, who asked me if I had a dollar. Seems that he had gone to his Board and explained our situation, and they agreed to sell us the surplus truck for \$1. Of course we paid the sales tax, which amounted to \$.07!! This truck is newer than the one we use and in better condition. Our initial intent is to replace our current Rescue vehicle, but we will do some serious brainstorming

to decide what how best to put the new truck to use. Our thanks to the Dobbins Fire Department, Chief Mike Butler, and the Dobbins-Oregon House Board for their kindness and generosity.

The saga of the Water Tender continues! It had been parked outside since being repaired after the Yuba Fire incident. Didn't much think about it until we went to start it up during the big freeze we had. Turns out that several of the pipes had frozen, so we put it back in the station to thaw out. What we did not know at the time is that one of the valves had cracked on the backside. So, once it thawed out, the water started to come out of that cracked valve. Luckily I had decided to go to the station to check on things, and when I opened the back door, the floor was covered in water. Reacting quickly in Panic Mode, I called two of our drivers who came down and moved it outside. Several other firefighters responded to my call and came down to help get the water out. There is no drain in the floor (design flaw!!), so we had to use brooms and squeegees to push the water out the front doors. I thank everyone involved for your help. Drivers Jim Esry and Chris Dozier began repairs and within two days, the tender was back in service. Lesson learned. Tender will be left inside the station during the winter months. It is a moneymaker during the fire season, so we need to take care of it during the winter.

For the month of November, the Department had 7 calls: 2 vegetation fires, 2 motor vehicle accidents, two medical calls and one dispatch error (address turned out to be on Ridge Road in Grass Valley). Of these 7 calls, 4 of them were cancelled for various reasons before we arrived at the scene. As of this writing, we have had 3 calls in December. All three were motor vehicle accidents. One was cancelled and one we were unable to locate.

At the present time, the Department has 20 members, 19 active and 1 Cadet. Have decided to cap it at that number because of a shortage of equipment needed to outfit each person. Hopefully in the coming year, we can qualify for some grants and get the gear we need. The money for the engine registration put a serious dent in our budget. Want to take this time to thank all the members of the Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department for their efforts in 2009. We have grown tremendously in the last year and improved our skills. I want 2010 to be even better and I am sure we can do it.

Resource(s)/Research Assistance Wanted...

By Judy Morris & Paula Goodman

Our local **CRV** Recycling program @ Rebel Ridge Market is still going strong, thanks to all of you who are helping to 'clean-up' our community as well as 'cleaning-up' (reducing) Cancer in all our lives.

A little history on the program: it started May 2007 at the annual Plant Sale/Flea Market event and has blossomed (no pun intended) into the daily (3) bins. I worked for Nevada County at that time and was able to obtain the Recycle Bins & the Clear Plastic Bags for **FREE**. Economic times were much better then--- now our **FREE** supply of **CLEAR** Plastic Bags, (40" x 46" 1.5 mil) has dried up. We have recycled the bags themselves as much as possible. The time has come that we need to buy them ourselves, which digs into the "donations" of the **CRV** earnings. We need all you computer savvy shoppers/recyclers to assist us in finding an Economical Source for the bags we need.

What Is Needed:

Clear Plastic Bags
Size= 40" x 46" 1.5 Mil

This size fits over the Recycle Bin Frames & Clear allows the sorting process to continue being as efficient as it has been recently---Thank You all for helping with that task. So please, if anyone can find a website or resource of a merchant that carries this product contact us at 288-1228 or email at owlsneagles@inreach.com

Thanks for all your assistance with this program from your Camptonville Buddies.

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Meet Your Neighbor cont. from page 6

Her sister Thelma did not like the songs but Lois and her brother Fred loved the old tearjerker tunes such as "Letter edged in Black." Most of the old songs aren't seen in print.

Other differences Lois remembers was the \$75 bounty on mountain lions when she was a child and also the old farmers' phone line (party line). The residents had to put the phone line in themselves and carry it all the way to Camptonville. The single line was about as thick as your little finger and traveled from tree to tree. It was great having a phone but when ever the line went out (especially in the winter) Lois had to walk the line and find out where the problem was so the men could fix it.

Lois's dad bought her a car in 1943 when she graduated from high school. It was an old '33 Chevy coup with suicide doors. Someone towed it to their place where it sat for several months.....then someone towed it away. It never ran. Lois did overhaul her dad's pick up though. She bought her very own vehicle in 1948- a military jeep that she paid \$500 for. Lois loved her jeep. She claimed it could climb a tree if you got all 4 wheels on it. She ended up selling the jeep in 1975-for \$500.

Lois made her living working at Sierra Mountain Mills for 32 years. For 23 of those years Lois was a log scaler. She measured the length and diameter of the logs to figure out board footage. She did the calculations in her head! She also ran the unloading machine that took the logs off the lumber trucks. Things got easier when machinery advanced and you could take a whole load off the truck at once! Lois retired in 1987.

Despite breaking her back in 1994 from a fall off an orchard ladder Lois is one of the most active people I know. She loves to attend Cowboy Poetry Gatherings and catches the latest performances at local theatres. Always ready with a funny joke or an interesting story Lois is a treat to spend time with. She is an active member of the Camptonville Historical Society as well.

Our visit ended with refreshing lemonade and a tour of her property to view her fruit trees and very large garden. Liam and I want to thank Lois for the wonderful afternoon we spent with her.



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Chicken Chronicles

By Stephanie Ruff

Things here at Rebel Hen Ranch are pretty calm at the present. We found a good home for "FDR," one of our beautiful bantam roosters. Thank you Mimi and Jori! We now have two more roosters to find homes for. Any takers?


Ruby, a bantam hen went broody on a golf ball. You may be wondering why on earth there was a golf ball in her nesting box. Well, after finishing the nesting boxes I wanted the girls to lay eggs in the boxes instead of on the floor of the hen house. Putting an egg shaped object in the boxes will entice them to lay there-I couldn't find any of my wooden eggs so I opted for a golf ball instead. It worked! The eggs were being laid in the nesting boxes. When she went broody I was excited to see how many eggs she was sitting on.....much to my surprise she was sitting on just the golf ball-nothing else. I got rid of the golf ball and decided I really didn't want baby chicks right now-I'd rather wait till it was warmer and drier. She's a determined girl and sits on her empty nest no matter how many times I take her off!

During the cold wet season be sure to keep food and bedding dry! Check your chickens' sleeping areas for drafts as cold drafts can cause illness.

Also, it's a good idea to give a little extra scratch this time of year to add some extra weight to help keep them warm. Not too much though-fat chickens are not healthy!!!! Continue supplementing their diets with fresh greens, garlic and other healthy treats to keep their immune systems strong.

Happy New Year! from the ladies at Rebel Hen Ranch!





CRAIG ROBERTSON
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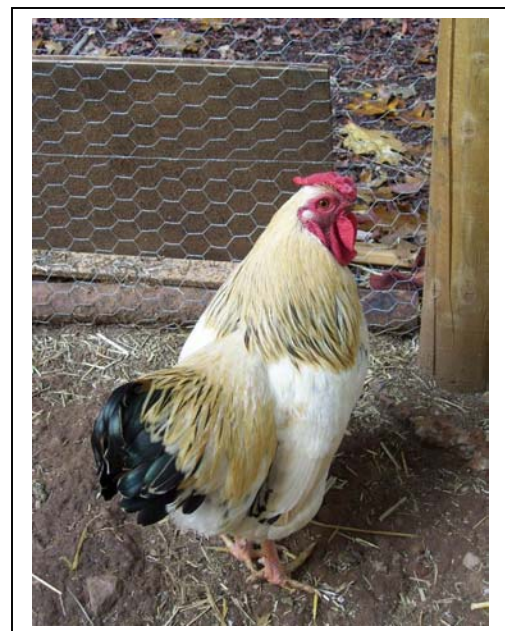


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& perm's



by Jeannie 288-0220



FDR showing off his beautiful cream colored feathers before going to Mimi and Jori's.

January Calendar:

School Board
Courier Deadline
CCSD
Yoga
Food Bank

Wed. Jan. 13th, 6:30pm Camptonville School Library
Wed. Jan. 20th
Mon. Jan. 18th, 7:00 pm Camptonville School
Tuesdays at 5:30 PM at the Camptonville School
Third Thursday at the Lake Francis Grange, Dobbins

Published by the Newsletter Committee of the CCSD Auxiliary.

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The Courier, including back issues, is available at:

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