

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2020



“I keep my ideals, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

Anne Frank
1929-1945

ISSUE CONTENTS

- Tribute to Harry E. Fonseca
- Reminiscing the Rivers area
- The Burgess Brothers and ChurnWaffle
- A.F. Turner Library computer access to past News-Ledger issues
- Articles from the Past
- Why Preserving History is Important
- Collections-History Gallery Update
- Meetings and Events
- Last Minute News from State Parks

Oh no, another change in the newsletter. It was in publishing dates, new design, or both. Sorry, but it's true. Beginning this year, the newsletter will be published quarterly. And yes, a different design. Surely you ask, but don't call me Shirley, but unfortunately the hard drive in the old iMac gave out resulting in losing everything, including the items stored in the backup. Building everything from scratch.

However, we are still looking for a new newsletter editor. No application or drug tests required.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

RHYMES WITH ORANGE by Hilary Price



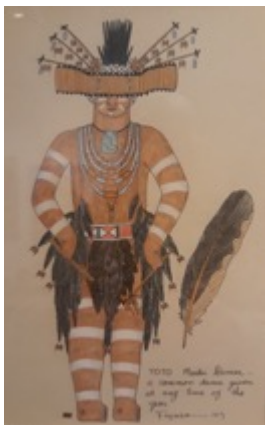
Tribute to Harry Fonseca

California has been the host of many famous activist-artists, but how many had roots from the community of Bryte. The late Harry Eugene Fonseca was born in Sacramento on January 5, 1946. Harry Fonseca was of Nisenan-Maidu-Hawaiian and Portuguese heritage and during his early childhood lived in Bryte. After high school Harry briefly studied art at California State University with Native-American artist Frank LaPena but quit the program to pursue of his artistic vision. His earlier work was influenced by his Maidu heritage of basketry designs, dance regalia, and traditional dancers.



Fonseca is best-known for his depiction of Coyote, the colorful trickster who leaves the “res” (reservation) and re-appears in a variety of non-traditional settings. The Art of Harry Fonseca focuses on Coyote’s role as an avatar for the artist and a metaphor for exploring his creative, artistic, and ethnic identity within the context of the contemporary world. As a gay man and a person of mixed heritage, Fonseca used his art as a vehicle for self-discovery-a means of navigating different aspects of his life and identity during a time when ideas about Native peoples were often driven by outside forces, including commercial markets, tourism, and historical clichés. (source: artandobject.com)

From the early 1990s Harry lived and maintained a studio in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 2003 he started to paint a series of abstract paintings of flowering tree branches, which he called collectively the Four Seasons, a small group of which were exhibited at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York City. He was diagnosed with brain cancer and hospitalized in the Veterans Administration hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico in August and died on December 28, 2006. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.



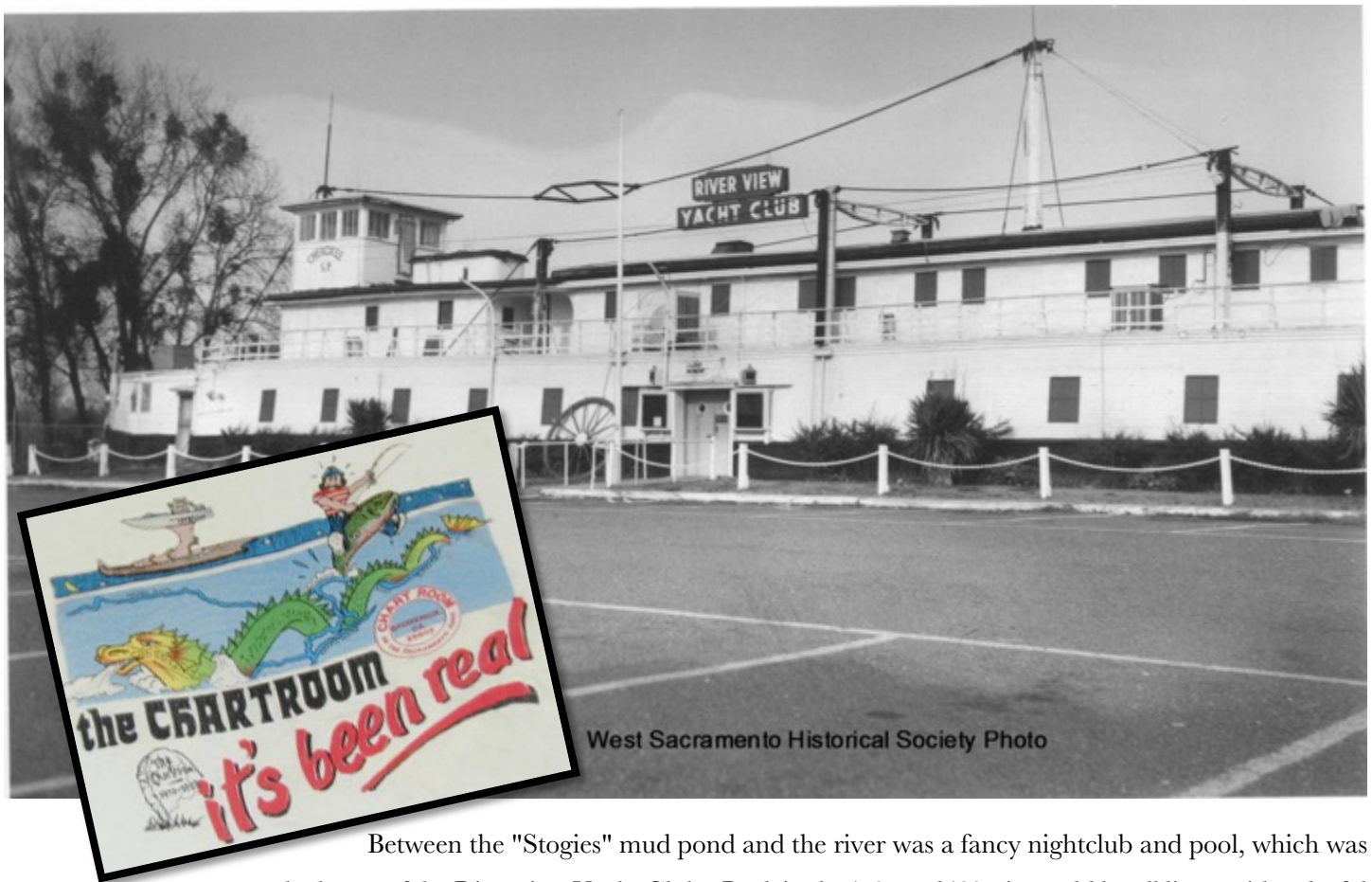
The following painting images were taken from the Folsom Harris Center exhibition, *Native Art Symposium and Cultural Art Market*, on January 12, 2020. A few selected art pieces can be seen in the current Crocker Art Museum exhibition, *When I Remember I See Red-American Indian Art and Activism in California*, now to January 26, 2020.

Reminiscing the Rivers area

By Mickey Fausett

Been hanging out with Mol, my King Charles Spaniel, at the river a lot lately. Yesterday we walked back to where the River Galley was located. For the unknowing eye, it doesn't appear to be much. Upon closer observation, one can still see the parking lot light embedded in one of the many oaks where the parking lot was.

As Mol and I walked along the old road leading down to where the River Galley and old "Showboat" were, I reminisced about hanging out at the old "Stogies" mud pond, where we would fish for carp and have contests to see if we could cast a line all the way across the pond. The carp could get pretty large as they were trapped in the pond after the high water receded. Way down in the southwest corner, the Bracys had their spot claimed, and during our sinker casting contests, we made sure we didn't throw across the pond in their direction. Stogies is gone now - just a big clearing - and the pond was filled years ago when the new pond across the road was dug. "Stogies" was supposed to be a marina and was dug out in the 1940s by a local contractor, Lou Watson. He once told me he didn't want to dig it because with the big horseshoe shape of the land, the river would silt up the opening. The "developers" said they would get someone else to do it, so Lou went ahead and dug it. In 1987, the silted in "failed marina" was filled in when the Lighthouse Corporation dug a bigger hole for a marina that never came. The excavated dirt and sand were used to fill the older, smaller marina and widen the levee behind the "Rivers" development.



Between the "Stogies" mud pond and the river was a fancy nightclub and pool, which was the home of the Riverview Yacht Club. Back in the '50s and '60s, it would be all lit up with colorful lights. Local schools and groups would use the club and pool for graduation parties, and get-togethers of all kinds. I think it was about 1939 when the old and abandoned SP Cherokee "work boat" was hauled up on the land and braced up with pillars to support the old boat from the river's currents. Prior to this, the Wilbur family from North Sacramento was flooded out from its furniture business along the American River across the levee from the Radisson Hotel. They located to the Galley and Showboat area around 1930 before the Cherokee and River Galley and immediately started building hydroplane race boats. Old photos from the Wilbur family show the boat building business along with racing the boats along the river just across from Sacramento's Discovery Park. The levee would be lined up with cars and spectators watching the action.

The old marina and yacht club are gone now. From news articles, a violent wind storm "came up" the river and tore the docks from their moorings and created quite a "logjam" of boats and the docks. The old "Showboat" was loosened from its moorings and began to fall apart. There was a ceremony of sorts as the Washington Fire Department had a training/burning event and the old boat was gone forever. If you know where to look, the cement outlining the pool is still visible, along with the shuffleboard cement slab.

As a side note to the SP Cherokee and Riverview Yacht club history, the club bought the old Elkhorn Ferry off the Old River Road toward Woodland after it was decommissioned around 1968 with the I5 Bridge at Elkhorn Station getting vehicles across the river. The ferry was towed to the Delta where the superstructure was removed, and the remaining "barge" was towed to Cliff's Marina out of Freeport where the Yacht Club had its clubhouse constructed on the remains of the old ferry.

Photo Credit: Pulled from Center for Sacramento History web page.



Not to be forgotten is our beloved Paradise Beach, aka "Bare Ass Beach," or Broderick Beach. Back in the late 1960s, we could drive our vehicles to the little bluff overlooking the beach. Our side of the river would get a lot of silt buildup and would feel "icky" walking in the water. Rivers tend to be treacherous, and the confluence with the American River straight across from our beach was no exception. Everyone had to give swimming across a try at least once, and it was made easy with the sand bars of dredging. Sometimes the water was only a few feet deep and we could stop and rest

on our "journey." I don't know what year dredging was halted, but you no longer see the piles of dredging close to the center of the Sacramento River.

Just a little downstream from the old Showboat and Galley area, one can barely make out the road remnant going down to the Chartroom. Everything is gone now, and the untrained eye would never know what was there. All the docks are gone. I believe Mike Chasteen, the Chartroom owner, sold the barges and docks to the Virgin Sturgeon upstream near Bryte Bend on the Sacramento side of the river. In its heyday, the Chartroom was a local favorite with occasional music entertainment to go along with the burgers Mike served. Fishermen would come in from a morning of fishing and grab a burger or breakfast. Old and young alike would come in their vehicles and "pack" the little parking area. Diners at the outside tables would share the tables with ducks and an occasional cat.

In 1987, developers bought the land for the parking lot, and that, along with the increase in insurance for the parking area, pretty well shut Chasteen out. After a few years, he opened up the "Chart Room" in Crescent City on the Northern California Coast. I would stop in once or twice a year with my parents and say hi. Mike did well in Crescent City. He would say "tell the folks in Broderick I'm doing well up here." He retired and sold the place around 2010 and is living the "retirement" life on the coast with his wife.

ChurWaffle Express Café

Across from the History Gallery is a new café. Owner Jonathan Burgess of ChurWaffle Express Café is the newest resident in the Community Center and the fourth business in this location. Jonathan, who is a Sacramento firefighter, and his twin brother Matthew (a Sacramento police officer) are founders of Burgess Brothers' Burgers (BBB). Both brothers have roots in Sacramento and give back to the community through charitable contributions.



After stopping by the History Gallery take a short trip to the café, say hello, introduce yourself, and order a delicious waffle sandwich or more.

News-Ledger Online Access

For those not connected to the internet, you can still have access to past issues (1964-2019) of West Sacramento News-Ledger newspaper at the A.F. Turner Library computer center. Instructions will be available.

-UC Riverside Newspaper Collection: <https://cdnc.ucr.edu>

-California Revealed: <https://californiarevealed.org>

Articles from the Past

Future newsletters will include articles from past News-Ledgers.

News-Ledger, Monday, November 6, 1972

HISTORY OF INCORPORATION DATES BACK ALMOST 60 YEARS

This is not the first time incorporation has been attempted in the east Yolo area, but tomorrow's balloting will be the first time an election has been held to form a city restricted to the boundaries of West Sacramento.

Formation of a city was actively considered here as early as 1913, when letterheads of the West Sacramento Commercial Club carried the slogan, "A City By 1915."

Several other attempts were made over the years and in 1948 petitions were circulated to incorporate virtually the same area to be voted on tomorrow. That effort failed to come to a vote when industries along the Sacramento River asked to be excluded.

The petitions were found years later in a desk drawer in the supervisors' chambers in Woodland.

Dave Poole of Bryte recalls that most incorporation efforts before 1968 never got beyond the talking stage.

Poole noted that the old Bryte Improvement Club "toyed with the idea of incorporating Bryte alone as a city" in the spring of 1923.

The 1968 effort came to a vote more than 10 years after it was started. The movement dated back to 1958 with the formation of the East Yolo Committee for Self Government Study, Inc. The group became inactive but was revived in 1966 with an expanded board of directors, which solicited

contributions to add to an original \$700 and received an additional \$3,000 grant from the county to order a professional study of the feasibility of self government in the area.

That incorporation proposal — involving Broderick, Bryte, West Sacramento and the West Sacramento farms area south of the barge canal — was voted on November 5, 1968. It was defeated 4,784 to 2,828.

Nearly 97 per cent of the nation's firms employ fewer than 100 full-time workers.

VOTE Yes!

YOUR VOTE FOR CITY IS A MUST!

HENRY KRAWIECKI FOR CITY COUNCIL

Why Preserving History is Important

History connects us to specific times, places, events, and allows us the opportunity to understand our past, which in turn allows us to understand our present. In fact, without that understanding, history can repeat itself. Locally, history provides us a link to the roots of a community and its people where we live.

That's where archives, museums, and historical societies bridge that gap. We provide a centralized place for genealogist's and other researchers. In the past several years, we had received numerous requests for historical images, information, or family history inquiries. Some of these individual inquiries were redirected from the Yolo County Archives, another institution, or organization. We have also redirected inquiries. The point is, we help to provide that link to history.

During the early 1970s, a small group in West Sacramento started an East Yolo Historical Society organization. Although short lived, this organization was the trailblazer for us. They began collecting historical photos and identifying historical sites. Not sure how long we will survive, but hope we collected and preserved enough for future generations to study.

COLLECTIONS-HISTORY GALLERY UPDATE

Collections:

Since December 2019, it has been a slow start returning to the Friday work routine. Where do we pick up where we left off last year? Oh yeah, photograph identifications. New rule, any donated recent photographs taken within the last 10-20 years must have identifying marks of who, when, and where photograph was taken. If not, we will be inviting you to the office for help. If you are interested, have knowledge in local history, available Fridays between 9am to 12, please join us.

History Gallery:

Beginning in May, we will begin showcasing items from our collection for display. Before going on display, research may be required to assist in developing text. If you are interested in researching, please contact us. For all interests please call us at (916) 374-1849.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

DRAG QUEEN

BINGO

Come and join us for our 4th year of fun Bingo games at Mango's on Thursday, March 5, 2020. Proceeds go towards historical society archival supplies and programs.



BIG DAY OF GIVING Sacramento Region

Community Foundation

The 24-Hour fundraising event supporting your favorite non-profit or charity. More event details will come at a later date

2020 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday Board Meetings (members are welcome to attend)

January 26: 6:30 pm President's residence (West Sacramento)

March 15: 6:30 pm Secretary's residence (Sacramento)

April 26:

June 07:

July 26:

September 20:

November 18:

December: Holiday Gathering and Membership Meeting, date, place, and time TBD.

•February 22 (Saturday), Membership Drive and Social from 6 to 8 pm
Capitol Bowl, 600 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento

•October, Sacramento Archives Crawl, date, place, and time TBD.

•December, Holiday Gathering and Membership Meeting, date, place, and time TBD.

Last Minute News from California State Parks

I just got the word this morning, the Bryte VFW Hall landmark cover page was countersigned by the Director of State Parks. We will send a letter notifying you of this decision once the signed document is routed back to our office, but wanted to inform you as soon as possible. Its landmark number is 1057. If you're planning on having a plaque made, we have a list of bronze foundries on our website, and we can discuss plaque language (the specific wording of the plaque is subject to review by this office.)

Congratulations! I know this has been a long and slow effort. Thank you for your patience, perseverance, and work towards this end.

William Burg
State Historian II
California Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento CA 95816
(916) 445-7004

West Sacramento Historical Society Board Members and Chairs.

-Alfonso Voychez, president

-Ileana Maestas, vice-president

-Billi Hanlon, treasurer

-Jackie Rossi, secretary

-Don Schatzel, immediate past president

-Cecilia Vasquez, board member

-Jane Yeung, board member

-vacant, board member

-Mickey Fausett, committee chair

-Thom Lewis, committee chair

Contact Information: phone (916) 374-1849; e-mail WSHistoricalS@gmail.com



West Sacramento Historical Society
2020 Membership Application

A non-profit 501 (C) (3) Federal Tax Id 68-0322388

Membership Categories

Individual-\$25 Senior, Individual (65+)-\$20 Family-\$40 Senior, Family-\$30

Business-\$100 (*Business members receive one complimentary ticket to special events per year, including member wall plaque*)

Basic Membership Benefits

-6 E-newsletters per year, hardcopy newsletter sent by mail, please add an additional \$5.00 for printing and mailing

-Invitations to special events (e-mail members only) and exhibition previews

-WSHS promotional merchandise and special events discounts with membership card

Membership \$ _____ (optional) Newsletter by Mail \$ 5.00 Total: \$ _____

Cash Check Ck# _____

Membership information

New Member _____ **Renewal** _____ **Member since** _____ **Today's Date** _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Please Mail Membership Application to:

West Sacramento Historical Society, P.O. Box 1202, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Date Application Received _____ Date Application Recorded _____