

of the
Tuolumne County
Historical Society
Sonora, California

Monthly
programs
are back!

Hours:

The Museum is open:

Tues. & Thurs. (10-4)

Wed. (1-4)

Fri. & Sat. (10-3:30)

The History Research
Center is open:

Tues.-Fri. (9:00-2:30)

Letter from the President

Fellow Members,

We begin 2023 on an optimistic note as we continue to resume “normal” operations. The Museum has been open on a regular schedule for several months, and the History Research Center again has people doing research and working with the collection. We have reserved the meeting room at the Library, and we will resume our schedule of monthly programs beginning in March. In addition, we hope to have an event or two at the Museum. (See the article below and on page 3 for information about the March and April programs.)

Our website (tchistory.org) has become even more interesting with the a link for easy access to lots of our photographs. Click on the link **Browse Historical Photographs** on the top navigational bar for easy access to a number of folders containing pictures from our collection. We are currently featuring the Thad Waterbury Negative Collection of local photographs, organized into folders by different years. We also have folders containing pictures of local churches, schools, and unidentified people. Perhaps you might recognize a relative in our unidentified files.

The Board of Directors is looking forward to a good year as we restore our level of service to the public and get back to fulfilling our mission of preserving and disseminating knowledge about the history of Tuolumne County. We hope to see you at the Museum or in attendance at one of our events this coming year.

Chuck Holland

Gold Boulders

March 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

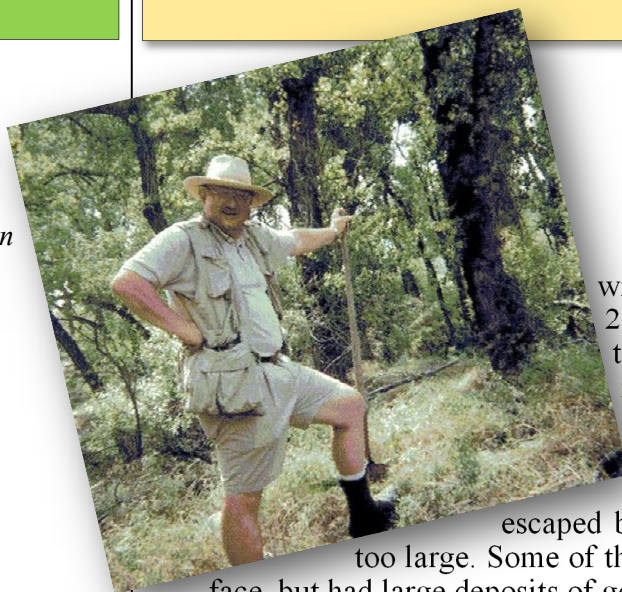
Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Rd.

Rich Lundin, local geologist and archaeologist, will present a program about the Calaveras County 265-pound boulder that was recently sliced in half to expose finely dispersed gold. Using new technology, Lundin and other mineralogists employ a Falcon metal detector system tuned to find hidden gold in quartz placer gold dredge tailings.

According to Lundin, many existing boulders escaped being crushed by early miners because they were too large. Some of these rocks showed no evidence of gold on the surface, but had large deposits of gold inside the stone.

The significance of the findings goes beyond the new sources and high price of gold. The U.S. government is in competition with other countries to locate and produce rare earth minerals, which are often found with gold. Modern technologies are dependent on these rare earth minerals for “clean energy, information technology, defense, and industrial applications,” according to Lundin.

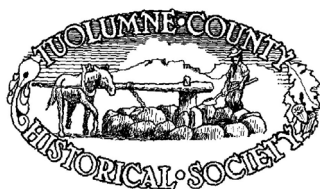
Don't miss the first program since before the pandemic. It is sure to be informative and exciting!



Rich Lundin

Welcome New
Members:

Marty Knight
Constance O'Conner
Edward & Jane Razdale



A Real Cowboy

By Jane Kole

In the early 1920s, Puppy Kole was a real cowboy at a young age in a way that most cowboys, with hats, boots, and the rest of their regalia, just never are.

Puppy's father was well known around Sonora as a thrifty man. He sent his children to herd the cows along the county roads as they grazed all that free roadside pasture. When Puppy was old enough to take over his job, he grew tired of the long walks herding the cows. He was known to be a practical and inventive little boy. He was also good friends with the cows, having spent considerable time with them. So, Puppy made a deal with one friendly cow to let him ride on its back. Around town there was much teasing by cowboys who actually rode horses.

It took some time, but Puppy's practical, inventive approach to life helped him win a pony, Marianne, by selling newspaper subscriptions (see *Chispa* Vol 61, No. 4 for the story about Marianne).

Around the time his legs curiously began to dangle a bit lower than the stirrups on the saddle, Pup and Marianne bumped into an adventure that helped him leave his cow-riding reputation behind.

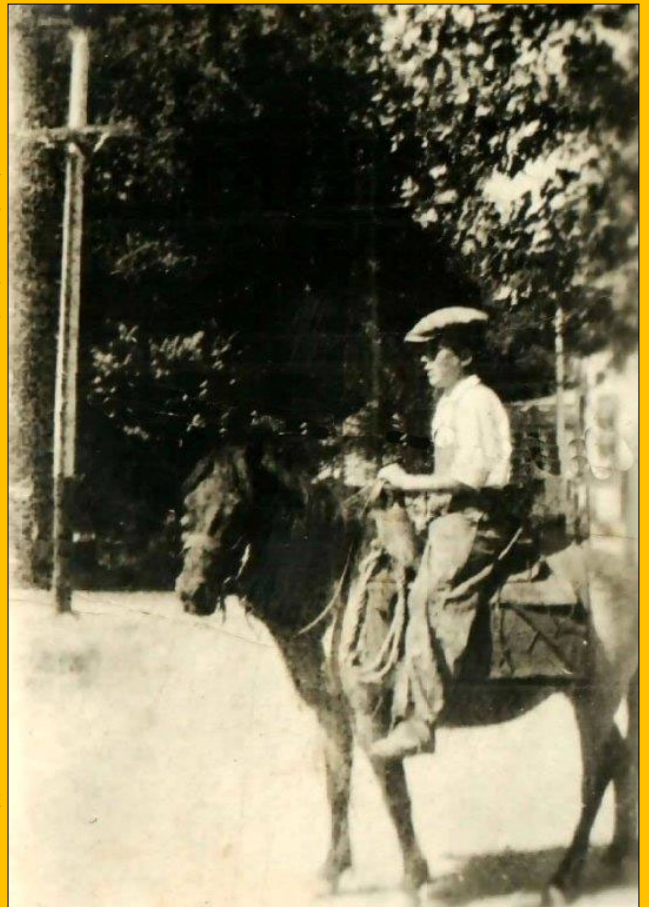
It all started one early summer morning. School was out and Pup and Marianne were down in town, probably delivering papers. The sound of many hooves, the bawling of cattle, and the shouts of drovers filtered along Washington Street. Cowboys were moving a herd up through town on their way to the High Country for summer grazing. Now this was exciting! Pup tagged along with them, Marianne having to take two steps for every one the big horses took. Pup asked lots of questions and profoundly, deeply wished with all his heart that he was a real cowboy.

Miracle of miracles, those cowpokes took a shine to him. One casual offhand remark—"You should come along!"—was all it took for Pup and Marianne to fly up the hill to the home place on Sunset Street. In the face of his breathless, excited pleas, you might think his parents would have a quick answer, "Apzoolootly not? Too dangerous! Vee do not know deese men! No impozzible!"

But those were different times. Puppy's Mama quickly helped him grab some clothes and a little sack of food and rolled them in blankets making a bedroll for the back of the saddle. A canteen for water and he was on his way! Marianne trotted down the hill and they caught up with the herd at Sanguinetti Road as it was heading up out of town.

Pup spent several days in complete bliss, eating dust, pushing the herd up the road to the green meadows of the High Country. He was covered in layers of dirt and ate the grub the outfit shared with him. The fellows were kind and funny. He loved listening to their stories, especially at night around the fire, even when he had to fight to keep his eyes open. He slept like a log on the ground and woke with the sun to the dawn chorus of the birds. The cowboys watched out for him, but he and Marianne pulled their own weight every day.

When the cattle were delivered safe and sound to their summer pastures, it was, to his great regret, time to head back down to Sonora. The journey down out of the pines to the dry yellow hills was much too quick and not nearly as exciting. He arrived home dirty, worn out, and about as happy as a kid can be. He was a real cowboy at last.



2021.27.14

Pup Kole on Marianne

Museum Curiosities



2022.31.140 and 2022.31.141

This month's edition of unique items in our collection features collapsible canvas water buckets. The Duplex Water Pail and Wash Basins were manufactured by the Planet Company in Westfield, Massachusetts. The Water Pail was invented by Albert Mueller in Germany and received a United States patent in 1899. The patent application states: "The present invention has for its object a water pail which can be folded together and is therefore easy to transport. This effect is obtained by the pail being made of two iron rings, one for the bottom and one for the up-

per edge of the pail, the walls and the bottom consisting of some flexible material—such as sail-cloth, leather, or the like—and each ring being composed of two half-rings connected each to the other by hinge joints...the essential ideas of the invention being a water-pail consisting of a frame covered with a flexible material, the frame being so constructed that it can be folded together."



Bottom of bucket

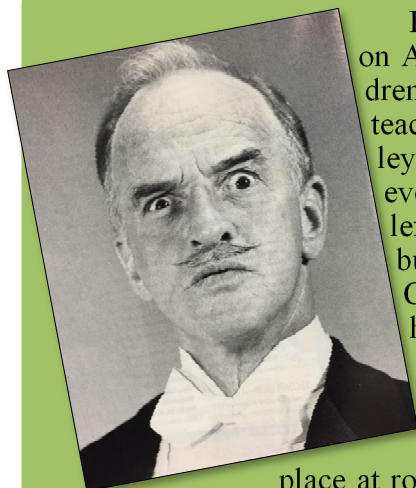
Ruth Pedro

Lord Buckley's Birthday Bash

April 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Rd.

Join us as we celebrate the 117th birthday of American humorist and Tuolumne native Lord Buckley as "Lord Buckley Takes a Whack at the Classics." Local radio host David Simerley will discuss Buckley's work and give examples of some of Buckley's most famous routines. There will also be a display of Buckley memorabilia.



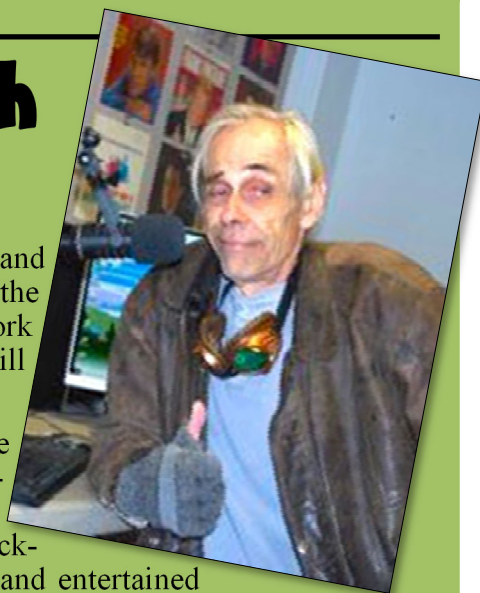
Lord Buckley

Richard Myrle Buckley, born in Tuolumne on April 5, 1906, was the youngest of ten children. Marie Rozier, a longtime Tuolumne teacher and historian, went to school with Buckley. She said he enjoyed playing the ukulele and entertained everyone with his stories. In 1925, at the age of 19, Buckley left Tuolumne to meet his brother for a job in the oil fields, but ended up joining the vaudeville circuit instead. By the 1930s, he was in Chicago. Al Capone declared that Buckley was the only man who could make him laugh.

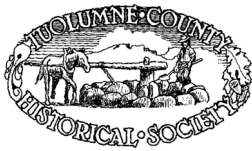
Buckley was a moderately successful performer of comic routines until sometime in the early 1950s, when he transformed himself into Lord Buckley. The beatnik counterculture and Buckley's metamorphosis took place at roughly the same time. He didn't tell jokes, but he is considered the founding father of modern comedy.

The original hipster, beatnik, first flower child, and rapper—all describe Lord Buckley, a persona he lived 24-7. His style of magical language influenced such performers as Robin Williams, Jonathan Winters, George Carlin, Steve Allen, Whoopie Goldberg, George Harrison, Jerry Garcia, and Judy Collins. His monologues have been covered by Bob Dylan and Jimmy Buffet.

Come join the birthday party to celebrate the life of the "King of the Cats!"



David Simerley



**TUOLUMNE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

158 Bradford Street
SONORA, CA 95370-4920

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Mission of the Tuolumne County
Historical Society shall be to discover, collect,
preserve, and disseminate knowledge about
the history of Tuolumne County and
the State of California.*

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Tuolumne County Museum & History Research Center

158 Bradford Street, Sonora, CA 95370

Museum: 209-532-1317—History Research Center: 209-532-4227

<http://tchistory.org>, info@tchistory.org

REMINDER—Your TCHS Membership goes from January 1 through December 31. If you haven't paid your 2023 membership you can pay your dues online at:

<http://tchistory.org/product-category/membership/>

Don't miss any upcoming *Chispas*!

In MEMORIAM



Bob Rogers

Condolences to the families of Bob Rogers and Deloyce "Dee" Green. Bob was a dedicated Museum docent, who enjoyed informing visitors about our rich history. Dee spent her time quietly in the History Research Center cataloging and identifying items in the collection.



Deloyce Green

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Contact Kathy Boone—

cookie48@mlode.com or 209-984-3359