

McKnight Acres' first Church. In 1955, the Christian Missionary Alliance Church headquarters started a small Church Sunday School, called Faith Alliance Church, on Napa Junction Road. They were using a small, old building that leaked when it rained. The young Pastor, Rev Robert Reed, was getting ready to go on the mission field. He lived in Brisbane and was employed as a shop mechanic for the United Air Lines. He was in his 4th year at Simpson Bible College in San Francisco.

When Pastor Reed left for the Mission field, he was followed in 1956 by Rev. Spencer and Barbara Sutherland, who, instead of using the leaky small building on Napa Junction Road for services, acquired a home at 311 Donaldson Way. The church was established in the home of the Sutherland's who lived in the house on Donaldson Way. Services started for the American Canyon Alliance Church there. First in the front room, then the kitchen was added. As it grew the garage was opened up as a Sanctuary.

They eventually purchased the property at 233 James Road and started to build its present home. The Sutherland's also left for Vietnam as missionaries in late 1957. The building was started with Rev. Sutherland and finished with Rev. Vernon Erickson. December 22, 1957 was the first service held in the new church. The American Canyon Alliance Church was the first church in this area. (Pastors following the Sutherlands, were the Vernon Erickson's, the Garfield Powell's, the Lorne Jacks, the Bill Jung's, the Joey Alcordo's, with the Alcordo's the name was changed to "Jesus Risen Lord Alliance Church", the David Aquino's served briefly as did the Cliff Lawson's and presently Joey Alcordo has returned.)

A few years later the First Baptist Church in Vallejo, under the leadership of Rev. Stanley Cornils, purchased property at the corner of Thayer and Andrew Road to start a mission church and called to serve as Pastor was Rev. Mike Markham. While the church was being built, the members met at the Pythian Castle Building at the corner of Tennessee St. and Sonoma Blvd in Vallejo. When the building was finished they named it "The North Vallejo Community Church". It is now the "American Canyon Baptist Church". (After Pastor Markham was the Paul Keeler's, the Russell Jackson's, the Richard Reeves, the Mel Stout's and at present the Matthew Real's.)

The next fire, which was during the day, came closer to Highway 29 and burned some telephone poles along Highway 29 so that they fell over and closed the highway until repairs could be made. Our children that were bussed to the Napa Jr. High and High School were held up at the Soscol House. The people were kind to give them food and drinks. This was before Highway 29, at Soscol, crossed over the bridge and before the Soscol House was moved to where it is now it was on that corner where the three way lights are now.

Another sad thing happened in the late 50's or early 60's. Mrs. Davis who lived on Holcolm Road on the East side of the tracks was killed crossing the tracks one day. She had lived there for years and crossed the tracks many times.

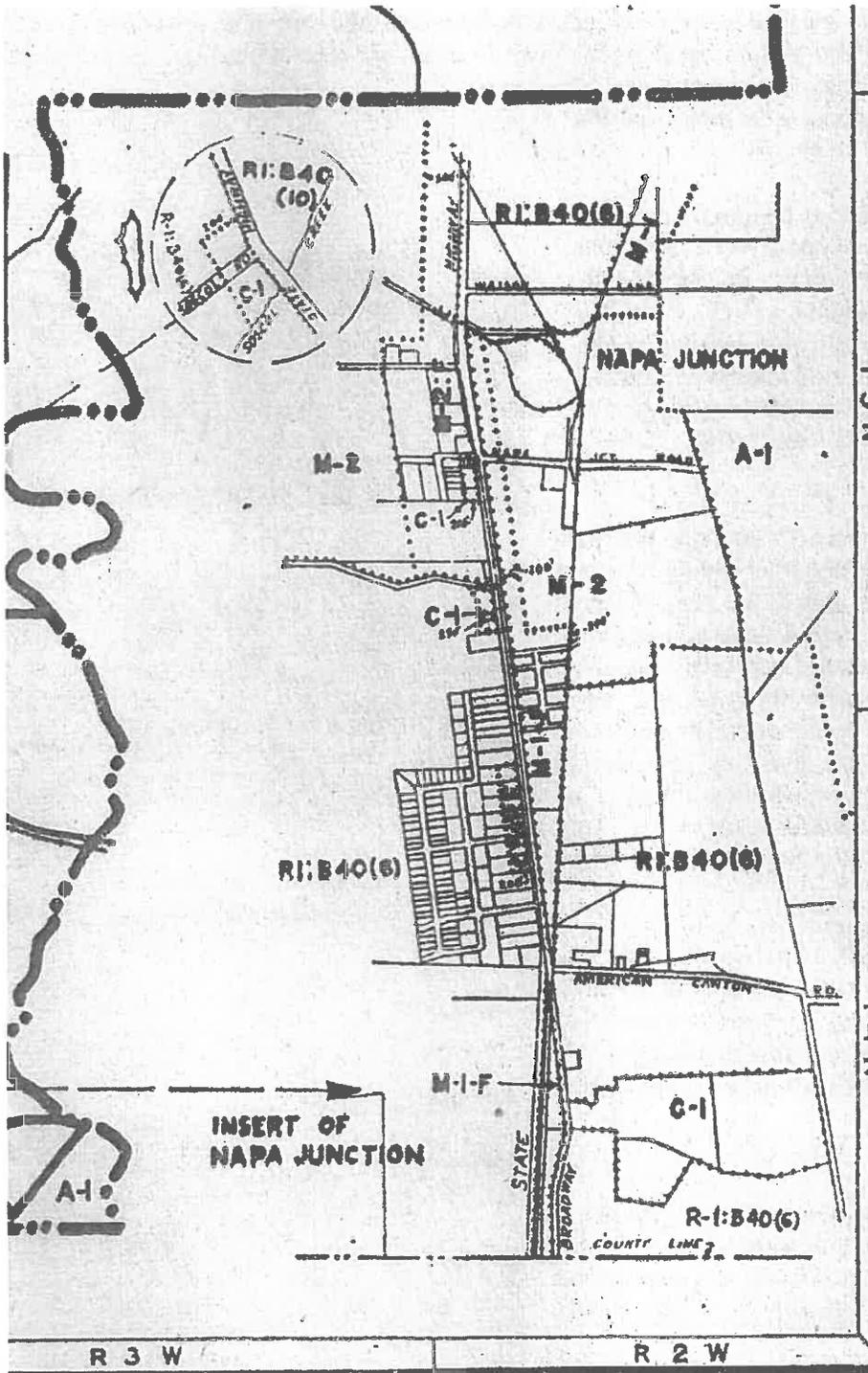
On November 21, 1957, a fact finding committee was appointed at the regular meeting of the American Canyon Community Club to investigate the prospect of forming an area-wide Sanitation District to serve the business and residential sections of Napa Junction. The meeting was held at the Napa Junction School. Residents interested in the development of the neighborhood met to keep informed on the subject. Al Lauritson, Napa Country Supervisor, stated the local residents could help make a survey to determine boundary lines for the proposed District. After which, a cost estimate could be made for facilities. Following these steps an election must be held within the district to approve legal formation of the District.

The American Canyon Water District was formed in 1960. The first Board was made up of Elcana Ellis, Louis Custis, Kelly Barber, Jack Young and Leno Negri. Betty Custis was their first secretary. Robert Zeller was their Attorney and Farnum Kerr was the Engineering firm helping with decisions and Thomas Wales Manager. Betty quit in 1964 and I was asked to take her place. I remained with the district until 1971. With this job, came a desk, telephone, copy machine and a filing cabinet, all of which fit into my 10x10 bedroom along with the bed and dresser, a very "tight" fit. In 1965 when we completed and moved into our "big" house, the room off the garage became the District's first office, where we held our meetings and office business.

After sewer permits were all sold and payments began coming in, the District rented a house owned by Maggie and Gene Fox (previous owner, Raymond Thompson) along highway 29 making it the 2nd office and then finally the 3rd office ended up in the Foxes Business Building right next door until the City was formed in 1992. The old house was torn down and eventually the office building.

In 1969 Paul Waxman was elected to be on the Board of Fire Commissioners serving 1970-1977 along with Ira Trosper and Tom George. Paul's one reason for running was to have the 3 man Board changed to a 5 man Board. After much to do, this was accomplished in 1971. The two new Directors appointed were Elton Peterson and Mark Griffith. On resignation of Tom George, Gary Imhoff was his replacement. Later Marie Manley and Lawrence Crawford were elected to join the 5 man Board. (McKnight Acres in the 50's with extra information from newspaper articles that Pearl Towle wrote)

2ND SUBDIVISION RANCHO DEL MAR



American Canyon Zoning Map

The tentative map of Ranch Del Mar #7, was submitted by Delmar Goforth June 4, 1954. Rezoning of McKnight Acres was the Western Extension of McKnight Acres, City of Napa Junction and subdivision of the Bella Vista Ranch.

The next development in American Canyon was approved by the Napa County Supervisors for the unincorporated area next to McKnight Acres. It was a 600 home section of the first phase starting at Highway 29, going West below Cookie Hill 6 blocks, directly behind McKnight Acres, to a large field on the South about 6 blocks.

It was designed and built by Goforth Company. It was built in 4 stages with different house plans in each stage. The development was named "Rancho Del Mar", honoring the original ownership by General Vallejo, and the land grants that were called "Ranchos". This development was begun in 1953 and continued to its completion in 1956. This subdivision was not completed beyond this point to the original design. The area was covered by vacant fields, the water area by the Napa River and by some of the low hills to the North of it.

In 1955, Louis Wurz sold 200 acres to Goforth Developers for \$600 per acres for the construction of 1440 homes there, in addition to the rapidly growing Rancho Del Mar subdivision in Southern Napa County. The 209 homes in Rancho Del Mar, land transfer originally developed by Goforth, was \$12,000 & \$13,000. \$500 down with \$85.00 per month payments.

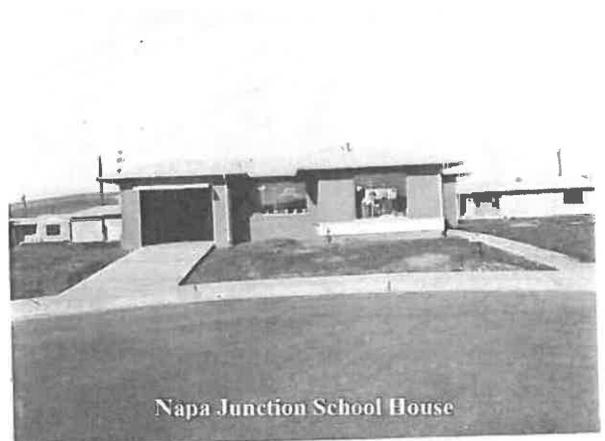
A special unit was installed at the West end of the homes to take care of its sewer needs. The main waterline on through to Vallejo ran along highway 29 and it serviced the section. However the water was sold to the area by a company based in Utah with offices in Benicia, who purchased the water from Napa's Conn Dam area.

This development was bought by men and women who had been in World War 2 and were getting started in their new lives. For most of the families it was their first home to buy. Most had found employment after the war and had young children. This area was 9 miles from the center of the town of Napa and in an unincorporated area that was controlled by the Napa County Supervisors.

It was at the very beginning of Napa County's boundary line and the county was not equipped or ready to be able to be very involved with its needs. Because of this, these young people were very energetic, enthused and loved this area, and wanted to see it meet their needs. They immediately formed a community organization, were active, and involved, and they also had so much in common that they became friends. All knew each other and worked together on many things. They were called the Napa Junction Parents Club.

The first issue before the new residents was the school. 600 families with children did not fit in the new school that had only a Generator House that doubled as the Office, 3 classrooms and a multi - purpose room, and lots of bare land. It was called Napa Junction.

The builder solved the problem by allowing the school to use houses that were being built that were not yet fully complete. Six homes were turned into school rooms on December 19, 1954. As the



classrooms were completed and the new school was ready for occupancy, there was an office and rooms enough to accommodate the kindergarten through 6th grade. Older children were bused by the school district to Ridgeview Junior High School and Napa High School. There were very few at this time. Napa Junction has additions and is still in use in the early 2000's.

SCHOOLS

In the 1900's, as the American Canyon area began to be developed with the cement plant, the railroad, the shipping on the Napa River, and early families being established in the area, the school was one room, all grades included. An early school was on American Canyon Road, close to Broadway which was a main road in those years. The children of the developed area went to the school. Further higher grades had to be furnished from the County of Napa.



Diploma from American Canyon School

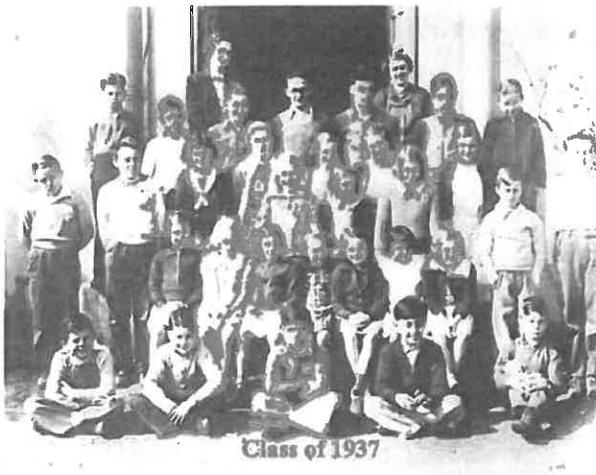


a. School

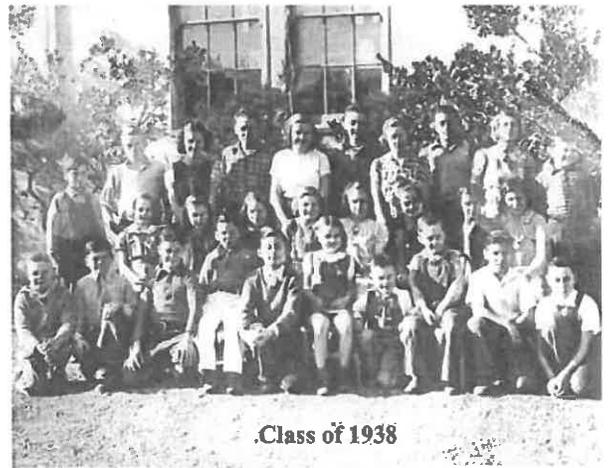
American Canyon School



Class of 1935



Class of 1937



Class of 1938



Class of 1939



Class of 1940

The local area had its own school board elected by the people in the area. The next school was a larger stucco structure on the area next to Highway 29. It had a couple of rooms and accommodated a greater amount of children. Unfortunately there was a fire that made it obsolete. The new school to replace this structure was started at the Napa Junction road and was called Napa Junction School. It was part of the Napa Valley School system. The old school was abandoned when the new school building at Napa Junction went into use.

The old burned out American Canyon School, which was doomed to be burned to the ground by the AC Fire Department, went to its destiny a day before the time it was to be brought down. The blaze in the abandoned one story structure began approximately at 1 a.m. that morning and according to firemen at the height of the fire, flames shot from 75 to 100 feet in the air. Firemen said some youngsters were reported playing around the building about midnight. There was a clean up crew at the scene until 8:30 and it was still smoldering.

When the fire crew arrived at the scene and saw the flames shooting skyward, they didn't try to put it out, just contain it. They were planning to burn it down the next day anyway as part of the spring cleanup campaign on old buildings around there at the time. A TV repair store next to the old School was at no time in danger of the fire. The old school building was a framed stucco construction and it had no value. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



Napa Junction School 1958

The individual School Board was one of 13 in the valley. Each section had its own School Board under the County Board of Education. When the first subdivisions began to be built, there were immediately lots of school children and no place to put them in the new school. The builder of the larger subdivision allowed the school to use houses for classrooms and it solved the problem until the school was completed and they could accommodate the children in the area.



Napa Junction School – Class of 1958

Nov 1958

Wanda Calk	Barbara Calk	Debra Calk	Barbara Calk	Pat Calk	Blair Calk	Barbara Calk	Miranda Calk	Wanda Calk
Barbara Calk	Barbara Calk	Debra Calk	Barbara Calk	Pat Calk	Blair Calk	Barbara Calk	Miranda Calk	Wanda Calk
Wanda Calk	Barbara Calk	Debra Calk	Barbara Calk	Pat Calk	Blair Calk	Barbara Calk	Miranda Calk	Wanda Calk
Mrs Debra Calk	Barbara Calk	Debra Calk	Barbara Calk	Pat Calk	Blair Calk	Barbara Calk	Miranda Calk	Wanda Calk



Napa Junction School Newly Completed

The first principal was Stuart McVitie and he did a very good job of handling the chaos of the changing classrooms and keeping the school running for the needs of the children. At this time the City of Vallejo decided that they would like to take the American Canyon section back as part of their District and the schools would have been serviced by the City of Vallejo.

The people residing in the area were fairly new and were not aware of the shift that was being considered. The School Board President, Mrs. Halterman, was responsible for letting the parents become informed. The process was not approved and American Canyon stayed like it had always been and the County line remained the same.

Over the years the state suggested that with areas having so many School Districts within the same County that it would be better to consolidate them so that the education system would be able to provide a better education. This was accepted and voted on and approved by the County and this area then was a member of the one County Board. Board members were selected by vote by individual evenly sized parts of the County but voted on by the County at large.

The American Canyon Elementary School District was established in 1913 and was the first district in American Canyon.

Eight Classrooms At Donaldson Way School Are Open

NAPA JUNCTION—Double sessions ended here yesterday with the opening of eight classrooms of the new Donaldson Way Elementary School.

This ended a two-year period when pupils were forced into double sessions of the 19-room Napa Junction school.

Meanwhile, outside the building, grading equipment hustled about, taking advantage of the unseasonably clear weather to level and pave the playgrounds and entrance parking area. Offices and kindergarten rooms and the multi-purpose cafeteria are still under construction, with sheets of black protective plastic draped about by plasterers, and carpenters and electricians moving in as soon as rooms are ready. J. H. Vintop & Sons, Napa contractors, are rushing completion.

RESIDENTS PROUD

Residents of the district are visibly proud of the new school, the second designed for the area by Napa and Vallejo architects John Beland and Robert Ginelli. It combines modern educational safety features with economical cost and attractive design. Heated floors and automatically controlled lighting are featured in all classrooms, and waxed-wood cabinets add a homey note to the comfortably subdued colors of pin-up and chalk-board areas.

Although much is left to be done about the classrooms, some teachers took time to pin up bright, basic Christmas decorations to which the children will soon add their own handiwork. Moving was accomplished over the weekend. Custodians started hauling equipment from Napa Junction School during the last hour of school on Friday, "practically moving it out from under the children," accord-

ing to MacVitie, and teachers spent the weekend "sorting up house-keeping." By class-time this morning, the situation was well in hand.

LIST TEACHERS

Teachers at the new school are Leland D. Herzog, sixth grade; Mrs. Mary Davis, fifth; Mrs. Gertrude Wiese, fourth; Mrs. Letta Hinton, third; Mrs. Miriam Topp and Miss Mildred Tuller, second; Miss Elaine Morrison and Mrs. Doreen Wilkinson, first. When the new kindergarten rooms are completed, Mrs. Bonita Wall will move into one room, while the second will be put to various uses as needed until required for class space.

At Napa Junction School, hot lunches will be served again starting yesterday, and children from McKnight Acres will once again have school bus service.



Stuart MacVitie, superintendent of the American Canyon School District and principal of the new Donaldson Way School, sits on a sawhorse and explains to the youngsters that the half completed school is better than none. Pupils began attending yesterday thus

halting the double sessions in the district which have lasted for two years. Charles Allen, school custodian, is seated next to MacVitie.—Times-Herald Photo.

After the consolidation, American Canyon broke ground for a 2nd school in the area. It was called Donaldson Way. The older grades were bused to the City of Napa for their education. As areas grew, the school needs also grew and ground was broken to build a new high school in Napa, Vintage. Students in the American Canyon area were able to go to the new school when it was completed.

THE REPORT CARD

Superintendent's Bulletin ---
AMERICAN CANYON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vol. 7

May 20, 1960

No. 15

GENESIS

A total of 51 Donaldson Way School parents and Friends signed up as charter members of the new PTA at the organizational meeting this week. After adopting a set of by-laws, the group elected the following officers who were duly installed by the President of Eighteenth District, California State PTA:

President: Mrs. Rosemary Putney
First Vice-president: Mrs. Shirley Jensen
Second Vice-president: Mrs. Dorothy Waters
Secretary: Mrs. Julie Donalson
Treasurer: Mrs. Rudena Jensen
Historian: Mrs. Paulette Jones

Let us wish them every success in this their first year of life.

ORIENTATION

Donaldson Way Kindergarten parents are asked to keep next Tuesday evening (May 24) open, and Napa Junction Kindergarten parents the evening of Tuesday, May 31. On these dates, in their respective multi-use rooms, a panel of teachers will explain the difference between Kindergarten and First Grade, and try to answer questions on "what is going to happen in the Fall." You will be hearing more about this soon.

SQUEEZE

When school operating and building money gets a little short, the only way to spread the dollar is to squeeze a few more children into each class. The State Building Aid Program, (our source of building money), in an effort to make the money go as far as possible, provides a classroom for every 35 children. Yet all the research shows that quality of teaching goes down with increased class load. California has the fifth highest statewide average class load in the United States. Proposition 2 on the June Ballot is an authorization for State Bonds to continue financing State Building Aid at the present level, minimum as it is.

SUCCESS

All reports indicate that the Napa Junction PTA Carnival was a great success, as could have been predicted by anyone who saw the immense amount of work put out by Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Curry, and all the other willing helpers who spent many hours in planning and carrying out this important fund-raising event.

INFLATION'S STILL ALIVE AND KICKING

A national survey on the costs of education reveals that school costs continued to rise last year. A large part of the costs, the survey reports, was due to better teachers salaries, although they failed to keep up with other professional salaries generally.

Most households who must pay 27¢ for a quart of milk they bought for 24¢ a year ago accept this as a result of inflation. But there is usually more resistance if increasing school costs cause a rise in taxes.

Yet it is inevitable that school costs must continue to keep pace with other rising costs if we believe in continuing universal public education for all children. And we must be prepared to meet this cost increase in the same spirit that we meet the increase in the price of milk.



Donaldson Way Groundbreaking



FIRE DISTRICT

The Fire Protection for American Canyon as an unincorporated area came from the main office in Angwin, at the far end of Napa Valley, 30 miles away on top of a hill. By the time a call was placed in an emergency or fire problem, the distance would be so great that the problem could not be resolved safely or completely.

The Parents Club appointed a committee to circulate a petition to form a local fire district. Chief Davis from Vallejo's Fire Department and a long time fire consultant came to the club and spoke on what they had to do to apply to become a district. Victor V.V. Lee appointed Lynn White to be chairman of the committee to circulate a petition. He had to be given a special dispensation to live outside of KTF territory.

December 23, 1954. At that time help was being solicited from the Vallejo Fire District, petitions were circulated, and then it went to vote and was approved. The American Canyon Fire District was created July 1, 1955. The First Chief, Jack Hieb, came from the East Vallejo Fire Department and his first Engineer was Lynn White. The volunteer force consisted of: Jack Dingles, Ronald Smith, James Risser, Ray Bernard, Dan Soleska, James Gondola, George Lampro, Milton Eakin, Bob Higgins, John Harmon, George Brady, Wesley Peterson, Jevell Ward, Jerry Garsa, Frank Schram, Art Elite, Pete Indelicato, Dennis Wright, Edward Fevang, William Fox, Richard Wilson, John Mikolajcik, and Joe Johnson.

On August 4, 1955 the American Canyon Fire Protection District was approved for the second time by the voters and was permanently established as a District. The District then became fully funded with its own Board and is in full operation. With 30 volunteers 2 paid men and 3 elected Board Members—Victor V.V. Lee, Russell Waters, and Wally Dahlquist. It was the only Self Special Fire District in the Napa Valley. The first fire truck was purchased on lease for 5 years. Three fire equipment engines were housed at the original Frisbee Lane temporary fire station.



In 1955 the three Fire Commissioners were Frank Waters, Vic Lee and Wally Dahlquist. They were appointed by the Napa County Board of Supervisors. There was a demotion in January 1957, with Jack Heib lowered to Assistant Fire Chief and John Mikolajcik appointed Volunteer Administrative Chief. On February 14, 1957, Jack Heib was reinstated as Chief. Later in 1957, Wilford Russell took Vic Lee's place and Mel Ellis replaced Frank Waters. Lee and Waters resigned for personal reasons.

On June 25, 1956 a 2 year old Rancho Del Mar girl suffered a black out spell and developed respiratory complications due to a cold. She was given

first aid by a resuscitator squad from the ACFD. However the resuscitator was not used on the tiny victim (2 years) Bobby Lynn Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Anderson at 8 Del Mar Court, but fireman gave her 1st aid until a physician arrived. She recovered satisfactorily.

On September 1, 1957, the fire station was moved to a larger building on Donaldson Way (which is now a car repair garage). Later Lynn White took the job as Fire Chief and stayed with it for a long time. They went on to build a third station at the property on James Road. And it stayed there until 2007.



Millers Store as First Fire Dept.



New Fire Truck

NAPA JUNCTION NOTES

American Canyon District Receives New Fire Truck

By PEARLE E. TOWLE

Phone 2-2116
NAPA JUNCTION—The "thrill that comes once in a lifetime" was experienced this week by the American Canyon Fire District Board of Commissioners, when they drove their new fire engine around the streets of Rancho del Mar. Frank Waters, chairman of the board, was at the wheel, and Vic Lee and Wally Dahlquist were aboard. Their delight was matched by the dozens of children who followed in its wake, eyeing the shining engine and its intricate equipment.

"This makes up for all the hours and hours of meetings," said Waters after the truck had been housed in its temporary location at Frisbie Lane and Broadway.

The initial work of forming a populated area in south Napa County was started in November, 1954, and the first open meeting of residents to discuss it was held at the Elementary school on December 4. A petition to request the formation of a district was circulated immediately after the New Year, and presented for formal hearing before the Napa County Board of Supervisors on January 21, at a special meeting of the Board. The signed petition was rushed to Sacramento by messenger to be recorded on Feb. 1, the deadline for application for allocation of tax funds for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1955.

Next step was to present the issue of an increase in taxes to meet the fire district expenses, so another open meeting was held on March 23, to give the public all the available information on cost to the taxpayer, details of the budget, and fire insurance reductions. After this, an election was held on April 4, and a 3/4 majority voted approval of the tax.

Since then, finishing touches and much legal work has been done on final establishment of an active fire department. This fire engine is the first tangible evidence of the local residents' have seen of its Fire Department. The second truck is expected around 30 a.m. on Saturday, but neither can be used until July 1, when the District is legally activated.

Report Issued On American Canyon Fire District

(Editor's note: Following is a report on the American Canyon Fire District, written by Commissioners Dorsey White, August J. McCray and Robert Towle, offering background data on the new fire station now under construction in that district.)

BY DORSEY WHITE, AUGUST J. MCCRAY and ROBERT TOWLE
Board of Fire Commissioners
American Canyon Fire District

NAPA JUNCTION — Thanks to the public-spirited attitude of many individuals, the American Canyon Fire Protection District will soon have a permanent fire station at a much lower cost than if it had had to wait another two or three years to start construction.

Walls of the building were almost completed as this was written, and the remainder will be finished as quickly as weather will allow.

Timing is an important element in this saving to the taxpayers of the district. Property values are soaring here, and costs of labor and building materials are rising fast. The board decided that quick action should be taken, and gained the backing of Napa County supervisors and legal counsel to go ahead at once.

This rapid action has caused some talk among the uninformed, particularly after the publicity given to the terms of the use of the present fire station at 9 Donaldson Way. The case is in the hands of lawyers, and a decision should be reached soon. In the meantime, the Board of Fire Commissioners has been advised by Napa County legal aide Daniel K. York to proceed with construction, so is going ahead with confidence.

Cooperation Noted

The story behind this building is a good example of friendly cooperation and good will toward the American Canyon Fire District and its personnel.

To go way back, \$24,000 was appropriated by Napa County supervisors in 1957 for a permanent fire station, but the land originally chosen for a site, at Rio Del Mar and Carolyn drive, could not be obtained at a cost considered reasonable by the board.

When Lewis Dingman offered to build a more suitable building than the rear half of

prefabricated materials that could be obtained inexpensively, and arranged a meeting with company officials, who have always shown a natural "fatherly" interest in this infant community. The Basalt Rock Co. processing plant in Napa Junction dominates the local landscape, and contributes heavily to local economy.

The outcome was that Basalt architects and engineers helped to design the station to utilize 17 surplus reinforced concrete slabs measuring 42 feet by 4 feet, 14 inches thick, for roof sections. (These may be placed this week, if weather permits.) Plans were O.K.'d by the Napa County Engineer's Office.

Trustee Named

Because the building must be completed before Napa County can advance funds to the district for purchase of the building and property, it was arranged that Al Wanger, former Vallejo city manager, would act as trustee for the building accounts until it is finished. In the meantime, all materials and labor have been advanced by contractors, each of whom have donated considerable of the cost of labor. This is the reason it was unnecessary to call for contractors' bids. By handling the construction in this manner, approximately \$2,000 was saved in advertising bond issue elections, printing and similar items.

Estimates obtained in 1957 for this building totaled costs at approximately \$30,000. Actual cost of the new building would come nearer \$40,000 now, if handled the other way.

Under the present budget, the building would be paid off in five years, with approximately one-third covered by the present rental costs of \$175 per month. A detailed report on actual costs, expected to be less than \$20,000, will be issued as soon as all bills are in. Bills will be paid by a loan from Napa County funds, then repaid by the American Canyon Fire District, without increase in taxes.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

McKnight Acres residents bought lots and built their own homes. The second subdivision, Rancho Del Mar, had 600 homes built by a private contractor, Goforth Construction. They were adjacent. These two developments formed a bond together with groups of residents all active, progressive, mostly new home owners, young married couples with children. Within a couple of years in the middle 50's they formed entities to benefit the area.

The enrollment in Napa Junction School in 1953 was 700. Ridgeview Junior High school was completed in 11/14/1954. It was 100 square feet and cost \$1,600,000.00. The Napa Junction Community Club was formed 9/22/1955. Their first officers were Verna Olson, Ed Fevang, Wilma West, and Hazel Schlingting. Their salary was \$10.00 weekly. It became American Canyon Community Club in September 1960.

The School groups started with The Napa Junction Circle Mother's Club and Community Club in 1953. In 1955 it changed to Parent Education Committee with Wanda Schram as President. In 1960 the clubs became part of the PTA group from both elementary schools. Mrs. Partain was President at Napa Junction Grammar school. These community clubs became the sponsor of many other groups in the area. Blue Birds, started on 11/23/1955 with Priscilla Hedemark and Elaine Daily, were 2 groups affiliated with the Napa 4 H club. Tom Curtin was a leader giving booklets, etc to parents on their role as new members to 4 H in 12/9/1955.

Campfire and Blue Bird groups expanded to the next grades. The Sugar Plums flew up to Camp Fire and new groups formed with new leaders, The Mrs. Ralph Erickson, Martin Mckee, Gerth, Eritano, and Pearl Towle. The community organizations also sponsored a Teen club. Their fee was 50 cents a year. It was called American Canyon Teen Club and was established 7/26/1955. A Pharaoh Car Club for youth was formed in 1960.

At the same time the Cub Scout Pack 162 was formed with 6 beginning Dens with fathers in the area. 12/29/1955. Eventually the Boy Scout Troop 62 was formed to accommodate the Cub Scouts ready to advance in 1959.

On 6/18/1955 the Girl Scouts Troop was formed with Mrs. Willard Kirtz as leader. Forty percent of the school parents were active in the various community clubs with willing leadership to support them. The Napa Junction School addition started 8/9/1955. Classes were held in the Goforth semi finished homes around the tract until its completion.

Before the 60's there was some concern about the area being at the end of the County without much concern from the upper part. The residents decided to ask LAFCOM, a group required by law to bring sections together within the counties, to eliminate undo space and sprawl. Two ladies from the PTA were appointed to present the issue before them. The majority of persons in 1956 were interested in self government. There were 86 people in McKnight Acres and 131 people in Rancho Del Mar. Joyce Simon and Margaret Despotakis were turned down by the LAFCOM BOARD. 12/21/1955.

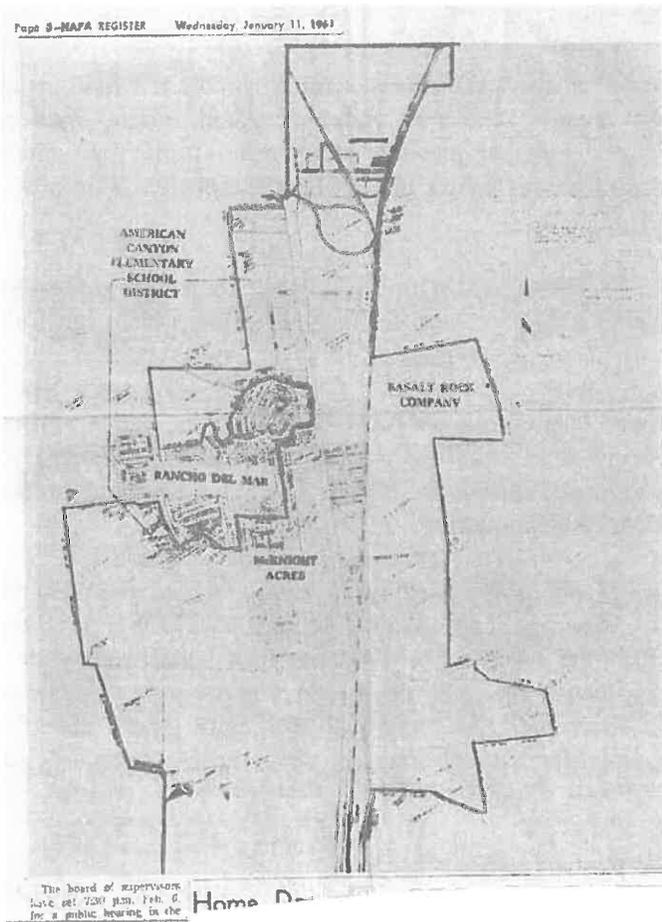
The issue was exactly what the purpose of the board was formed for by the State Legislature. There was no recourse so the community did what they could to solve many of their problems by themselves.

WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Various committees within the community were formed to study the need for a Water District, a Sewer District, a Recreation District, and the need to be incorporated. As the result of these committees, action was taken on their recommendations. The community debated pros and cons on everything and everyone was involved and had a chance to decide before voting was taken. The oversight on these issues that needed votes also were involved with the Napa County Supervisors as the area was an unincorporated part of the County of Napa.



The Water District Committee



The Water District

The Napa Register

and THE NAPA JOURNAL

California's General Excellence Newspaper 1974

113th Year No. 280

Monday, July 7, 1975

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Water Annex Decision Faces AmCan District

AMERICAN CANYON — The board of directors of the American Canyon County Water District will decide Tuesday whether to continue proceedings to annex the 800-home Rancho del Mar subdivision.

Petitions circulated in opposition to the proposal contained the signatures of 34.9 per cent of Rancho's homeowners, ACCWD Manager Gunter Schmoldt confirmed today. According to annexation rules formulated by the Local Agency Formation Commission, only 25 per cent of the homeowners needed express written opposition in order to force the

proposal to an election.

Directors will assemble at 8 p.m. in the multi-use room of Napa Junction School to decide whether to place the proposal on the November ballot or halt annexation proceedings altogether. At the July 1 hearing only one citizen delivered a verbal argument to the annexation proposal. All other opposition aimed at changing the annexation course came in written form registered on petitions that had been taken door-to-door or in letters to the board.

Schmoldt said today he thought there was little chance directors would abandon annexation proceedings. He said there was no campaign, per se, in favor of the proposal but opposition petitions had twice been taken door-to-door through the Rancho area.

"You have to understand that when you deal with the

mass of people there are always a few who are against things. Others are easily influenced and talked into things," said Schmoldt.

If the proposal is placed on the November ballot, it will be subject to a vote of the existing service district plus the Rancho area. Several citizens who oppose the annexation contend this places them at an unfair disadvantage since they will be outnumbered 2-1 at the polls.

There has been talk of challenging the constitutionality of LAFCOM regulations governing the elections, but to date no legal action has been pursued.

The proposed annexation would increase the ACCWD assessed valuation from \$5,780,000 to \$9,310,000, simplify bookkeeping procedures and drop the overall district tax rate.

NAPA COUNTY



Subdivision Water Vote

By JANE SMITH

NAPA — Tuesday, October 28 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for voters in American Canyon to apply for an absentee ballot application for the important November 4 election to be held in the south county area. The place to apply is the county elections department in the Napa Courthouse.

The election will decide whether Rancho Del Mar subdivision should be annexed to the American Canyon County Water District. All voters, within the water district, and in the Rancho Del Mar subdivision, are entitled to vote.

Directors of the American Canyon County Water District have decided to separate the tally, to give Rancho voters a fair shake. Therefore the ballots will be counted separately and the annexation will only be approved if a majority of voters in both the subdivision and the district vote yes.

In addition to the annexation voters will elect members of the water district board and the fire protection district.

Five candidates are competing for two seats on the water board. They are Harry Rutherford, a Napa school employee; Henry Bleile, a chemist; Douglas Perry, businessman; Ralph Leporiere, a statistician and incumbent president of the board; and Robert Glowienke. Incumbent Wade Humphrey is not a candidate.

Terms of office in the five member board are for four years.

There are five candidates for three seats on the fire protection district, including incumbents Lawrence Crawford, Elton "Pete" Peterson, Jeanne Tent, billing clerk, Bill Young, Mare Island fireman and Bud L. Lilley, electrician. Terms are for four years.

Here are some reasons why the water district has proposed the subdivision annexation:

The tax situation would change to the advantage of homeowners in both the district and in the subdivision and would benefit the district.

If Rancho Del Mar joins the water district the assessed valuation of the district will increase from \$5.7 million to a healthier \$9.3 million. It is estimated that the district would be able to reduce its tax rate to \$2.15 from the present levy of \$2.99 per \$100.

Rancho Del Mar homeowners would also have a reduction in sewer service charges from the current \$6 rate to \$2. The flat \$16 water rate they pay now would be reduced to \$12 a month.

The additional cost to subdivision homeowners would be the \$70 taxes per year. From that amount anyone in the 25 per cent personal income tax bracket could deduct on their income tax all taxes and interest payments, thus saving \$17.50.

In addition to the financial savings there are social and community advantages to be gained from the annexation. The water district holds the potential power for increased community organization in south Napa County.

A water district not only furnishes water and sewer services but is also empowered by law to extend recreation services. A long established need for recreation in south county could be provided by voters through the water district.

Rancho Del Mar homeowners have only to annex to the district to gain these voting privileges and to support or oppose water district candidates and issues.

A highlight of the election is the fact that bilingual assistance will be provided at the polls to conform with the federal voting rights act enacted last August.

Barbara Greenslate, county elections supervisor, has announced that Sylvia O'Donnell, a Spanish translator, will be present to aid voters at the Moore residence, 2101 Elliott Dr., phone 644-7184. Other polling places will be able to call there for bilingual services if needed.

The county will provide facsimile ballots in Spanish at the precincts if required.

In future elections starting probably with the March school election and at the following June primary, sample ballots and official and absentee ballots will be made available in Spanish and English.

Polls will be open in American Canyon Nov. 4 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Precincts will be located at the Bakke residence, 119 Andrew Road; the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 240 Rio Del Mar; Moore's, 2101 Elliott Dr., and the Olympic Mobile Home Lodge, 244 American Canyon Road.

SANITATION DISTRICT —

May 18, 1960

Supervisors O.K. Study

BY CHARLES B. JOHNSON
Register Staff Writer

A combined economic and engineering study of the proposed American Canyon Sanitation District has been tentatively approved by the board of supervisors.

The board set May 31 for a meeting with engineer Farnum Kerr and finance expert Edward Burnett of San Francisco to discuss the study.

The board received a delegation headed by E. C. Ellis yesterday. Ellis presented a map of the proposed district extending from north of Green Island road to the Solano County line, and from the Southern Pacific tracks to a line about a mile to the west.

10,000 Foot Line

The long, narrow district would be served by a 10,000-foot long, 21-inch line to sewage disposal works in Solano County.

Supervisor Al Lauritsen, in whose district the area is located, said he favored the proposal but questioned whether the assessed evaluation would support it. He noted that the property of the Basalt Rock Co. opposite Ranch Del Mar had been excluded.

In other business, the board

argued with County Librarian Dorothy Donohoe at length before agreeing to a budget transfer of \$536.50 for books.

Mrs. Donohoe said she had saved the money from her allotment for bookmobile maintenance. She said population growth and "the shabby state of our books" required more expenditure for books.

Original Budget?

Supervisors Julius Caiocca and Andrew Fagiani took issue with her, telling her she should stick to her original budget for books. "You put in a certain amount for books and you should stay within that," Caiocca said.

Chairman N. D. Clark punctured this argument by reminding Caiocca and Fagiani that Mrs. Donohoe had requested \$13,000 for books and had been given only \$6,000. "Without books you have no library," Clark remarked.

"We've got to save the taxpayers' money somewhere," Caiocca said.

"It's just about the only department we ever have saved money on," Lauritsen said, siding with Mrs. Donohoe. Supervisor Dickenson said more

(Continued on Page 6 Col. 3)

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Voters Okeh New Water District Plan

American Canyon Area Will Get Sewer System

By a 100-0 margin, Napa Junction area and McKnight Acres subdivision residents yesterday voted to form the American Canyon County Water District which will result in a new sewer system hooking into the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District's system.

At the same time, the voters elected a five-man board of directors who will start the ball rolling in the hopes the sewer lines will be in operation within the next two years at the most.

The vote on formation of the new district was:

Yes 100 No 0

KAISER

From PAGE ONE:

awards banquet for the five outstanding young men of 1957, young Kaiser had become a director and vice-president of Kaiser Industries Corporation, Henry J. Kaiser Co. and its operating divisions, Kaiser Steel Corp. and Kaiser Center Inc. and a director of Kaiser Engineers International Inc.

He was born at Everett, Wash., and received his early schooling in Oakland. He was graduated from Stanford University in 1939 with a bachelor of science degree.

Young Kaiser's first job was as construction project manager of the Permanente Cement Co. During World War II, he served as administrator with Kaiser-managed aircraft, steel and ship-building industries. Following the war, he was appointed vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Co., Los Angeles office. In 1951, he was transferred to the Oakland headquarters of the firm.

Kaiser had many civic interests. He was active in trying to get more money for schools and in 1950 was chairman of the Oakland Good Schools Committee. At that time he declared schools may have to have more federal money because, he said, "We are faced with an exploding school enrollment, a shortage of teachers, not enough training programs to bring forth good teachers . . . and a

The five successful directors out of a field of eight candidates, were:

- E. C. Ellis 144
- Louis Custis 130
- Kelly Barber 114
- Jack Young 99
- Leno Negri 81

Others who ran were Everett Glasburn, 76; Ralph Miller, 75, and Fred Hopkins, 74.

The new directors will meet shortly to organize and elect a chairman and co-chairman.

They will then retain a district engineer and the services of an attorney, with the engineer immediately beginning an accurate survey of the entire district to determine an accurate cost of installing the sewer system.

Two methods of financing will be necessary.

One will be the formation of an assessment district in which property owners will be called upon to finance lateral street mains and hooking-in lines.

The second will be a general obligations bond issue to finance major mains and trunks.

BOND ISSUE

The bond issue will have to be put up to the people of the district for a vote, but one observer said last night that the results of the voting indicated passage is virtually assured.

A two-thirds majority is required for passage.

It was estimated that financing the project will be in the neighborhood of \$631,000, with the general obligation bonds costing approximately \$3 per \$100 assessed valuation, and the assessment district costs against property owners amounting to approximately \$2.50 per \$100 of assessed value.

The Napa Junction-McKnight Acres area is now serviced by septic tanks, with the exception of Rancho Del Mar, which is not included in the district.

Proponents of the water district were jubilant last night over results of the voting. They pointed out that several studies have been made in the area in the past several years in an effort to bring

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He also championed sharing the profits of automation with workers. Otherwise, he warned the Los Angeles Rotary Club in a talk on March 5, 1960, that employers would face continuing labor-management conflict.

He also was vocal in the need for Americans to help underdeveloped nations, and in an Oakland speech in September of 1960, Kaiser called these nations the "new wilderness" crying for American pioneering.

However, ill health struck Kaiser down not long after that. He was named Oakland's outstanding citizen but was too ill to accept the award Feb. 15 of this year. His 8-year-old son, Henry J. Kaiser III, accepted the honor in his father's name.

A Kaiser company spokesman said at that time that Kaiser was confined to a wheel chair, and spent short periods of time in the hospital.

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Proponents of the water district were jubilant last night over results of the voting. They pointed out that several studies have been made in the area in the past several years in an effort to bring forth a modern sewer system.

The election was the result of studies made by a fact-finding committee elected by the American Canyon Committee for Sanitation which was formed two years ago.

June 7, 1960 Napa Junction, McKnight Acres, Rancho Del Mar, and some early areas not in the more populated sections of the area, went to vote to decide the formation of the American Canyon County Water District and the initial 5 person Board to oversee the district. The vote was held and it carried; the district was formed. The initial board consisted of: Kelly Barber, Louis Custis, Elcana Ellis, Leno Negri and Jack Young. The original fact finding board consisted of: Kelly Barber, Louis Custis, Elcana Ellis, Wade Humphrey, Fred Hopkins, Everitt Glasburn, Ralph Miller, Leno Negri, and Jack Young.

North Bay Aqueduct Plan Pushed But Faces Battle

The proposed North Bay aqueduct water system which would keep four counties, including Solano, in adequate supply into the next century may be turned into reality—but not without a fight.

The Biemond Plan — named for engineer Cornelis Biemond whose concept is turning sea water inlets into fresh water lakes in the tiny, low-lying European countries—would be translated here into the North Bay Aqueduct.

The open, concrete aqueduct, snaking out from Lindsay Slough on the Sacramento River, would take water from the Delta to cities and farms in Solano and three neighboring counties — Napa, Sonoma and Marin. Termination point is Noyo in Marin County—a distance of 60 miles.

The ocean's salt water would be blocked by a system of water control structures, including navigation locks and fishways, across the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and Steamboat Slough.

FRESH WATER would flow across the Delta by means of an isolated channel and the aqueduct would take it out.

Proponents declare the aque-

duct would be capable of meeting needs of the four counties until the year 2010. Seasonal delivery of more than a billion gallons of water is foreseen.

Cost of the entire Biemond Plan is estimated at \$96,600,000, and \$26,800,000 of this would go into construction of the aqueduct.

But although study of the plan—carried out through an appropriation of more than a million dollars by the 1957 Legislature — has already progressed to the rights-of-way stage, its actual construction is a matter of conjecture.

THE MOST formidable stumbling block is the prolonged feud between Southern and Northern California legislators over the water future of the entire state.

A quartet of senators from the counties embraced by the aqueduct plan co-authored a bill to get the money for the study. However, when Senators Luther E. Gibson, Nathan Coombs, F. P. Abshire and J. F. McCarthy sought funds for purchase of rights-of-way during the last session, their efforts were blocked by the Southern California assembly water delegation.

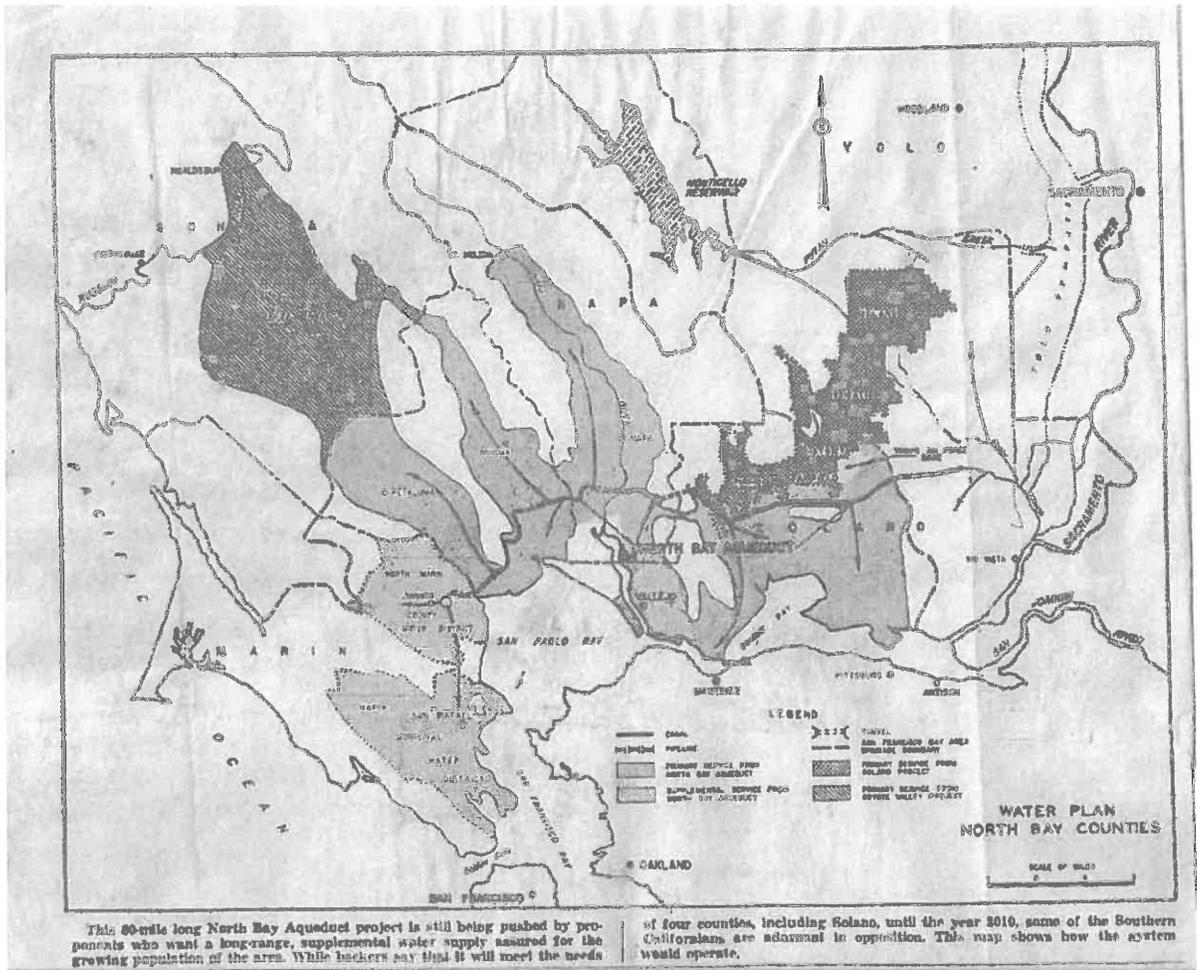
Money isn't the only stalemate. It is generally conceded that all the water in the Sacramento River has already been contracted for even though it is not all presently being used.

THE SUPPLY, therefore, is still to be determined. Alternatives might be the Feather River, diversion of the Trinity River or diversion of the Eel River which runs westward to the north coast from Mendocino County.

Utilizing the latter source would be possible, planners point out, by pumping the water to Clear Lake and then taking it by tunnel to the Monticello Dam reservoir and thence to the Sacramento River where it would be tapped by the aqueduct.

If funds were forthcoming, however, the problem of supply also could be solved with diligent planning, proponents believe.

The need for additional water in Solano County is not now acute — thanks to Monticello Dam.



The formation of the Water District also opened up the ability to do other things in the area through this district. This would allow the district to install formal sewer lines in the area serviced with septic systems. The proposed sewer district cost was 1,125,000.00 to bring it Southward with a 33 inch line to Vallejo's Disposal unit. It included as far as Dutton Landings Road North, excluding Rancho Del Mar because it had its own sewage.

The Basalt Rock Plant, where the original cement works stood, would be covering most of the cost. Basalt was supplying the material to pave Oak Grade in Napa County. It would enclose Rancho Del Mar but it would be excluded. The street that was between McKnight Acres and Rancho Del Mar and connected to the highway was named. It was a short block long and acquired the name "Poco Way". 8/17/1960.

The fact finding committee to study the addition of the new Sewer district took 2 years to complete and be presented to the voters. The bond to indebt the area was \$531, 000.00. It needed a 2/3 vote and it would add \$3.00 per \$100.00 per assessed valuation of each parcel. The area involved 1,400 acres. It went to vote and was approved by a 3 to 1 margin. The area had its own "not in my back yard attitude" 8/17/1960.

HISTORY AND PLANNING

The American Canyon County Water District was formed on May 9, 1961 by a vote of the residents of the district. This climaxed the efforts of the citizens committee for sanitation, chairmaned by Mr. Frederick J. Hopkins, which had been investigating its feasibility since 1959.

The first project of the district was to provide a sanitary sewer system for the area. In May of 1964 the district voters approved a \$275,000.00 general obligation bond to assist in the financing of the system. Other sources of financing were the sale of assessment bonds, a Federal Grant, payment by landowners in lieu of assessments and annexation fees.

After investigating many different types of sewage treatment plants, the board of directors selected a "water stabilization pond" type of sewage treatment system, which had proved successful in other similar areas. Investigations were pursued by the districts engineering staff, and after a careful analysis by experts in the field it was determined that this type treatment, of "waste stabilizations ponds" would be highly adaptable to this area at a significant less cost than the conventional type treatment plant. The Board of Directors then directed the Engineers to design the system for the district.

The system was designed and accepted by the Board of Directors. After the financial planning had been completed a contract for construction was let in June 1965.

Actual construction was completed in December of 1965. Following this the pond "start-up" procedure was conducted with existing homes of the area connected to the system over a five (5) month period in 1966.

During the time construction of the system the existing sewer system of the Rancho Del Mar Tract was bought by the water district and intergrated with the new system.

AMERICAN CANYON COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Established on May 9, 1961

South Napa County

FIRST ELECTED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. K. BARBER
L. R. CUSTIS
E. C. ELLIS, President
LENO NEGRI
JOHN YOUNG

FARNUM KERR ASSOCIATES, Project Engineer
FRANCIS SMIGLE, Civil Engineer
STONE & YOUNGBERG, Financial Consultant
MRS. BETTY CUSTICS, First District Secretary
ROBERT ZELLER, Legal Counsel
ERNEST E. PESTANA, Construction Contractor

PRESENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. A. CAHILL, President
E. C. ELLIS
F. H. FORSEYS
V. J. WATRAS
J. L. YOUNG

FARNUM KERR, District Engineer
THOMAS WALES, District Manager
S. R. MUTCHEK, Plant Manager
MRS. AUDRY WAXMAN, District Secretary
I. C. WARNER, District Auditor

Grateful Acknowledgement to . . . COMMITTEE FOR SANITATION

Formed April 1959

MR. F. J. HOPKINS, Chairman of Committee
MRS. PEARL TOWLE, Committee Secretary

DESIGN CONCEPTS AND PERFORMANCE

NEW ADAPTION OF AN OLD PROCESS

In ancient times (when vacant land was plentiful and cheap) a sewage treatment process similar to the modern "waste stabilization ponds" was utilized with considerable success. However, for centuries the idea lay dormant as more complicated process were invented and used. In recent years, where waste lands were available, the process has again been utilized with good results where certain key conditions are present.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The initial treatment facility consists primarily of four (4) ponds, each 4 acres in size. The raw sewage enters the pond system from the headworks structure in a controlled manner and moves from pond to pond by gravity. During the time the sewage is in the ponds a bacteriological process takes place which converts the sewage to water which is non-harmful and odorless. In addition certain portions of the water evaporate from the surface.

PERFORMANCE

The sewage system has performed very satisfactorily. Regular and periodic test are made and the results reviewed by the State Water Quality Control Board. A significant feature of this type of treatment facility is the minimal amount of odors produced as compared to a conventional type treatment plant.

ULTIMATE SERVICE AREA

The plant is designed and located where it can be easily expanded and serve the south area of Napa County from Soscal Creek on the north, the County line on the south, the river on the west and Highway 40 on the east. The ordinance of the district provided that any expansion will not be borne by the present residents, but by any additional development coming into the area, by annexation and hook-up fees.

COST DATA

PROJECT COST

- 1. Improvement district No. 1 (treatment plant and basic collection system) . . \$686,000.00
- 2. Project "A" (intergration of Rancho Del Mar Subdivision) \$ 59,000.00

SIGNIFICANT DATA

Total miles of pipeline constructed	6 3/4 miles
Total volume capacity of ponds	22,500,000 gallons
Total area presently served	1,200 acres
Total Ultimate Service Area	35 square miles



General Contractor - E. E. PESTANA, INC. of San Jose, California

Special Consultants - DR. WILLIAM OSWALD, Bacteriological Consultant
 MOORE & TABER, Soils Engineer
 ORRICK, DALQUIST, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFTE, Legal Counsel
 ROBERT ZELLER, Legal Counsel
 STONE & YOUNGBERG, Financial Consultants

Engineers - FARNUM KERR ASSOCIATES

When the Water District was formed, because of the foresight of its original committee, it was made with a broader base than just for water, sewer and recreation. Other governing bodies could be formed through the Water District by the vote of the residents. It gave the residents in the area a chance to make their own decisions without the County of Napa supervision. The Recreation district was formed and the parks and open areas got many other uses for the enjoyment of its residents.

16 — Times-Herald, Vallejo, Sunday, May 25, 1975

NAPA COUNTY Recreation For District

By JANE SMITH



NAPA — American Canyon residents made another pitch for recreation to the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday and board members quite rightly booted the issue back to the south county court.

Supervisors John Tutaur (who represents the area), and Gimmy Simms urged the supplicants to organize the resources they have at hand to supply themselves with recreation.

SPECIFICALLY, South County has the American Canyon County Water District, which can become a financing vehicle for recreation. A water district, in fact, has a lot of power. It can supply not only water, but sewer service, fire protection, garbage disposal and recreation.

Rancho Del Mar is always crying the blues for recreation for youth and asking for county handouts for recreation when, at the very door of the subdivision, sits the water district which is a legal, viable government entity that could supply recreation and wants to do so.

If the water district had the support and membership of all the 6,000 residents of South Napa county it could apply for matching funds for parks and recreation from both state and county and make its own recreation decisions.

But Rancho Del Mar subdivision does not belong to the water district. For that reason subdivision residents do not have representation on the water board.

Now comes a golden opportunity for Rancho residents. The water district is inviting them to annex to the district.

The annexation was approved by the local agency formation commission May 14. The proposal now goes to the board of directors of the water district. Public hearings will be scheduled on the pro's and con's.

The annexation will be subject to an election if the protest comes from more than 25 per cent of Rancho property owners holding 25 per cent of the assessed valuation or from more than 25 per cent of the registered voters.

If the protest is less than 25 per cent, the directors can dissolve and annex.

If the protest comes from more than 50 per cent of the property owners or registered voters, the annexation procedure must be terminated on the spot. You can see that Rancho holds the cards on whether to annex.

If the election is held all the district, including Rancho, gets to vote.

Aside from the decision making power, would the annexation benefit Rancho pocketbooks? It appears so.

An economic study by the water district shows that the district now supplies water and sewer to Rancho on a contract basis. The present gross assessed value of the water district is \$5.7 million. Annexation of Rancho would increase the valuation to \$9 million.

This would result in a decrease in the current tax rate of \$3.01 per \$100 to \$2.15 per \$100 to all property owners in the district. It is perfectly true that Rancho residents would be paying a tax for water and sewer for the first time.

But the water and sewer charges they now pay would be reduced. Moreover, homeowners would be able to deduct the district taxes from their income tax for a net savings of \$10 per year over the present service costs they now pay.

Here is the arithmetic: Rancho now pays an annual sewer charge of \$66 and an annual water charge of \$96 but cannot realize any savings in income tax deductions. If annexed, the annual water district taxes would be \$69.56 but the sewer charge would drop to \$24 and the water to only \$15. Homeowners could then save \$17.67 from income tax deductions.

Thus, the annual cost of Rancho homeowners to be out of the water district as they are now is \$102. To be inside the district would be \$91.41 or a saving of \$10 a year.

Rancho Del Mar has complained over the years that it is the stepchild of Napa County.

The opportunity is at hand for Rancho to take control of its own decisions by organizing behind the water district as a governmental entity and using it to its fullest extent.

Decision making on recreation would then become everybody's business in south county, including Rancho.

There is much to gain by having parks and playgrounds for youth in the area, plus a community center that could become a point of pride and identity because the people provided it for themselves in their own time and way.

Sewer District

On the corner of James Road and Crawford Way, a permit was presented to the Napa County Supervisors to use the existing house for a school and boarding house for 10 permanent people with mental disabilities. The County approved the permit and opened up a precedent to allow others anywhere else in the area.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

In the decade between 1947 and 1957 in American Canyon, the vacant land area from the South Solano County line facing East along Fairgrounds Drive (which has since been called Flosden Road) and bordered by American Canyon Road on the North and the railroad track on the West contained mostly fields. There was an outdoor drive-in movie business in the middle, off Flosden, for a number of those years. Also, a race track opened on to Broadway.

This section became over time mostly mobile home developments. After the end of world war two, many of the temporary housing units in Vallejo and

surrounding areas were removed and many of the people decided to stay in the area and needed housing. Some of these parks, as they were called, accommodated families. Some of them were for senior citizens with age limits as to occupancy. Some were made from prefab units placed on the lots within and some were movable mobile homes on wheels placed as semi permanent units.

Each park had its own recreation hall, some with swimming pools and a live-in manager and was contained almost as a special entity by itself. This was a real answer for housing and had many families and elders in safe locations with privacy but also a part of a comfortable group. The first one to open up for people was called Aztec and it was in a flat area toward the South. The next was 244 American Canyon Road for senior citizens. The next was 260 American Canyon which was mostly seniors. 3000 Broadway to the West also housed seniors.

World Marine came much later and was just north of Aztec. The corner location on American Canyon Road did not have enough size to accommodate a park so the land was used for an apartment complex. This section housed many people and was the next largest area to become a part of American Canyon. These mobile home residents were very loyal to the community and were very much involved. At the time that American Canyon became the City of American Canyon, there were 7,710 residents within the city's boundaries.

Subsequent Subdivisions, Napa Square, Napa Meadows and Victoria Faire, were added to the residential section west of Highway 29. These were added at the end of the larger area to become a part of American Canyon.

WORLD ACTIVITIES AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN CANYON

The Continent of America was the last to develop. Other people from other continents came as explorers of the unknown, pioneers looking for new homes, people prosecuted for their beliefs, and Pilgrims. Other established countries wished to add to their holdings. They came from many areas in Europe, Mexico, Asia, Spain, and Russia. They settled in various sections of the East Coast accessible by boat across the ocean. Some crossed further and landed on the West Coast and some just crossed beyond their property line to the next section of land.

As these settlements were developed, the natives and the newcomers had many wars between them to claim their ownership. The original 13 sections of the east coast moved together to become the initial local government in the new world and fought wars with European armies who felt they had government priorities over the area. In 1787 the constitution was signed to start the first government in the United States. As people moved beyond these initial states, some of the migration was after the Civil War which pitted the North against Southern States in a war for keeping the government or dividing it.

As these migrations continued, the natives and settlers continued warring and the areas won by the settlers were added to the United States. Spain and Mexico had a war between them for the control and ownership of New Spain in California. When Mexico won, Spain went back home and relinquished any ownership claim to the areas in the South.

The Mexicans in the North of California joined with the settlers and the Indians, who they had fought with and given their ownership to Mexico, to cede from Mexico and join the United States as California in the late 1700's. They fought all together in the United States and Mexican War with the United States winning and paying Mexico for their holdings, which covered many areas not developed or even part of the states at that time. They were parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. Original settlers in all of these areas stayed as new pioneers and immigrants from other continents started to move in.

American Canyon, as a main hub of activity, acquired many of the new settlers.

Through the 1800's to 1900's this migration built up the section. In 1927 the Carquinez Bridge was built, which opened the land access from South to North, and opened up this main hub to development, giving more reason for people to settle in this section.

In 1917 the United States was involved in the European World War 1. The US Navy and Marine Corps was established in 1775. Mare Island was the military base and boot camp in 1846, which then drew many additional people to the area as it was the main supplier of men and ships to aid in the war. This caused American Canyon to develop more. In 1929 the world depression was in progress and people migrated to all areas of the United States looking for work and the federal projects that were enforced to create jobs for people. This area was again the section that drew migration from other areas. In 1941, Mare Island was a bustling operation drawing thousands to make the items that backed up the services in World War 2.

The European part of World War 2 ended in 1944. The Bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan brought America into the war in 1941 and ended in May of 1945. Many of the people who came for temporary work during the war stayed and added to the many sections of the North Bay area. The Korean War in 1950 and the Vietnam War ending in 1970, was a whole period of great activity in this north part of the state of California for all of the military bases and all of the support activities that were needed because of them.

Because of World War II, American Canyon became a close gathering place. In 1940, at the end of Kelly Road, a large building was erected that was called "The Dream Bowl". It was a large dance hall. Music was so important to people in those days. People got their news and programs from radios only. The "Big Band" time, verbal soap operas, and programs were listened to by all who had radios. The Dream Bowl had a Juke Box and played records for dancing. During the War, Big Bands (and there were lots of them) would play at The Bowl also. People from the local cities would come and dance. They played Ballroom Dancing Music. The last dance of the evening was "Good Night Ladies" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" which was always the one when you danced with your special partner. Music was therapy for the people at home who worried about loved ones overseas, were tired of the long war, and wanted to get on with their lives and be united with their families. American Canyon's Dream Bowl was well known and enjoyed.

10 Years Ago War Flared In Korea As Reds Invaded

Frustrating Struggle Ended When UN, Commie Armistice Draw

By JOHN RANDOLPH
Associated Press Staff Writer

Memories of death and destruction, bravery, misery and blood live in the mind forever. They haunt us like restless ghosts.

That's the way it is with the Korean War, a dirty, obscene—and glorious—war. It began one quiet Sunday morning when Communist tanks roared out of the North on June 25, 1950, and ripped across the 38th Parallel into the South.

For 11 of its 27 months, I was part of that war. I watched its agony and wonder.

Much has happened since then, in the world at large and in Korea where the government of President Syngman Rhee, who had long led his nation in war and peace, was overthrown recently by a popular uprising. But 10 years after, the sights and sounds and feelings of the Korean War still come flooding back.

VIVID MEMORY

My first vivid recollection was in Tokyo, in December, 1950, when I was sent to interview the human wreckage of the 10th Corps in Tokyo General Hospital. There was a man whose hands and feet had frozen while he lay wounded beside the Chosin Reservoir. They were as black as four pieces of soft coal. He was full of penicillin and floating in a morphine fog, but he could still talk. The doctors told me they probably would not have to amputate everything—some fingers and toes would be saved. I remember how a little Japanese nurse, in her white starched cap, gave him another injection while he told me, in a dull, faraway voice, how the Chinese Communists had climbed up on the stalled trucks and sub-machinegunned the American wounded trapped in the icy valleys. He had pretended death—and survived. But he did not look at his hands.

BURNING VILLAGES

Then there are memories of the

Ten years ago on June 25, Communist forces struck in Korea and a bitter, frustrating struggle began. The ordeal was followed by a peace without victory, a peace without elation. In the following article, AP's chief of bureau in Tokyo—who helped cover much of the Korean War—recalls its anguish, horror, and heroism.

no help, no time to pick up anything.

They stood there, five or six of them looking at each other stupidly as realization sank in that they were alone in the middle of Korea, on the edge of no-man's-land, on that twilight winter road, with nothing but the clothes they wore.

There was the old couple walking down the railroad track at Pyongtaek with their daughter, her husband, their two small babies and a boy of about 6. Night was falling, and a wet snow was soaking their quilted cotton clothing. The old woman could walk no more. For her it was the end of the road, the final end, and she knew it. There was a short argument, but she rejected all help. Desperately, fiercely, she gestured them onward. They carried her to the shelter of a railroad shack beside the tracks and started walking south again. But after about 20 steps the old man shook his head, turned around, and walked back to die beside his wife when the deep cold came with midnight to freeze them to death in their wet clothes. The young couple looked at them for a moment with bowed heads, then silently turned and marched on with the children.

FOUGHT AGAIN

Then the army pulled itself together and fought again in its bloody-named "Operation Killer." This was savage, awaying, fighting—stand where you are and die



A typical G.I. is shown here "enjoying" lunch and reading Stars and Stripes during a lull in the fighting during the early part of the Korean conflict which began when Communist troops swarmed into South Korea on a hot June day, 10 years ago.

against less than 90 dead inside the perimeter.

The Eighth Army had become professional.

April and May saw the last great Chinese Communist human sea attacks—the biggest battles of the war. These were real actions—whole armies in motion, roaring tank columns and the thunder of an Allied artillery that at last had enough ammunition.

The 8th Army, and to some extent the green and untested ROK army, had learned how to handle the human sea.

Across the front in April and May the human-sea had been a failure, and the Communists were fighting only light delaying actions north of the 38th Parallel when Soviet Russia suggested an armistice late in June.

CREATE MOOD

To create a mood for peace, we stopped our offensive, and the Communists dug in and brought

like volcanoes as either the Allies or the Communists decided to straighten the line here, or test something there.

These savage hill battles were fought without any hope of victory. No one believed in victory any more—that had been suffocated under the ooze of the Panmunjom armistice talks. These fights were often without any real purpose or even justification. Even worse, they were fought without any relation to the rest of the front that might have spread out and equalized the pain and suffering.

PORK CHOP HILL

The film "Pork Chop Hill" (this was a GI name), shows a slice of the fighting of this period—how men could fight bravely because of their self-respect, their orders, and their duty, and not because it was worth anything, or because they hoped to win. Yet this ultimate courage was strained here and there as this unrelenting

reporting

thru.

This fight partly by but mostly vision and ROK 9th, its defense (ain't a to had prove hard the fight.

This new For more her and N ing down up and det Hill, I of two weeks.

By the front great millions of guns—some slice of by the six est Army

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DRAWN

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All of these things changed the lives of people all over the United States and California. People were uprooted from all over, city populations changed and, when the men came back and life became normal, people started all over again in many different places and life styles. The rebuilding of these areas began again and American Canyon started to change and develop, adding to the history of the area, by all of the old timers, beginners, diversity of life styles, opinions, and ideas, plus greater modern needs to accommodate so many new comers.

PATH TO A CITY

A famous Hollywood movie star, who lost her life in an air crash during World War 2 while on a bond selling tour, was responsible for the naming of a portion of the area in American Canyon. Carol Lombard was married to Clark Gable, also a top named Hollywood Actor. The couple was well known and very much admired by the people in the country at that time. Old timers in American Canyon remember that the famous star stopped at Napa Junction while aboard a Southern Pacific train. They were so impressed by her visit that they named their freight station "Lombard". The place where the station stood is still called Lombard.

On Tuesday August 20, 1963 citizen residents of American Canyon had their first public meeting for the community to consider incorporation of the area to become a city. The main desire to become an incorporated city was because of the distance from the governing source and lack of identity. Vallejo wanted to use the area to expand its control and Napa did not want to admit that it existed. The New City would be called "Lombard City". Following the public hearings by the Board of Supervisors, it was referred to the boundaries committee where more hearings were heard, and boundaries were made.

The issue went to a vote in a special election. A majority vote was all that was required. The registered voters, from the Solano County line to the Napa County Airport, were 3,800. Five hundred signatures were required to put the issue on the ballot. The report indicated that the area included a railroad, highway, gas, water, and except for a deep water channel was ideal for almost every type of industrial development.

One thing that also prompted the desire to become a city was the push from Solano County to annex parts of the Southern part of American Canyon that would have affected changing the school district boundaries and many other things that would complicate the overall functions of the area and lessen the true identity of the section.

The Rancho Del Mar sub-division contained 600 homes, and McKnight Acres 150 residential sites, with 27 businesses present in the area. Basalt Rock company, a Lumber company, Steel supply company, Restaurants, Grocery Stores, the County Airport, a Nursery, Auction House, Rug Company, a Cement and gravel company, and the area had the biggest industrial zone in the county.

An election was held and the issue did not pass. American Canyon continued to be an unincorporated area of Napa County with control under the Napa County Board of Supervisors. Addresses were still from Vallejo, telephones from Vallejo, and taxes from Napa County. Schools



were from the Napa County School District. A “no man’s land” was the gateway to the upper valley.

A CITY CREATED

In 1990 the apparent need to become a city became such an issue that the residents of the area felt it was necessary. Many decisions between Napa County and American Canyon were very controversial, and there was the feeling that the South County area was least considered as important as other districts within the county.

As more residents were added to the area, the need for more services, a greater desire to accomplish more things within the community, along with the diversity of the residents in all situations and the location made having things closer, easier to get to, and having a quicker response an inspiring need for the push to incorporate. A committee was formed and the process was begun.

The Committee had some new and old community people. Incorporating to become a new city is a long and complicated process with legal issues of many kinds and public hearings and many meetings. The final consent still has to go before the County Supervisors and resistance to the happening on that side was very strong. They have control over the boundaries, and have to allow it to be placed on the ballot for vote to be allowed to decide the issue. It finally was approved.



The County did not give the historic boundaries of American Canyon to be used for the new city as they wanted the Napa County Airport to belong to the County and the surrounding area in the upper part of the area by the Soscol Ridge was also taken out of the City’s historic boundaries.

With the County Supervisors’ reluctance to allow American Canyon to become a City with its original historic boundaries, the residents settled for a lesser boundary. The desire to be able to control the Community’s destiny, and have local residents make the decisions for the community, was important enough to feel there was a need to become a City.

The Water District was taken into the City. The Fire Department was still a unit of its own but had the City Council as their Board of Directors instead of having a separate board of its own. The Police Department continued to be under the new City Council but rented from the County Sheriff's department.

The vote was held and was overwhelmingly approved. The City of American Canyon became the newest city in Napa County on January 1, 1992.



The City Council of the City of American Canyon met in regular session on Wednesday, January 1, 1992, in the Multi Purpose Room of Donaldson Way School in American Canyon. Napa County Supervisor, John "Mickey" Mikolajcik (Supervisor of the 5th district and long time resident and nursery owner in American Canyon) welcomed and introduced honored guests, opening the meeting at approximately 2:12 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 62 led the Council and Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was presented by Pastor Morris Curry. The Honorable Municipal Court Judge, Richard A. Bennett, administered the Oath of Office to the City Council members. The following newly elected members were voted on at the same time as the vote for the city was held. City Council Members present were: Benjamin Anderson, Joan Bennett, Richard Mahanay, Tom Orlando and Keith Winters.

Supervisor John Mikolajcik announced that the first order of business of the meeting would be the selection of the Mayor. He entertained nominations. Joan Bennett nominated Tom Orlando. As no other nominations were made, the nomination was closed.

All Council Members were in favor of the nomination, none were opposed. Tom Orlando was announced as Mayor of the City of American Canyon.

Tom Orlando as Mayor, now acting as chairman of the meeting, entertained nomination of Mayor Pro Tem. Ben Anderson nominated Richard Mahanay, Keith Winters seconded the nomination, and no other names were presented. Joan Bennett moved to close the nomination. All members voted to approve the nomination and Richard Mahanay was announced as Mayor Pro Tem of American Canyon.

The third order of business was the process of legislative actions, required of the new City Council by law, that were needed to set the affairs of the new city into motion. Motions were made on each, seconded, roll call, and approved as written by law.

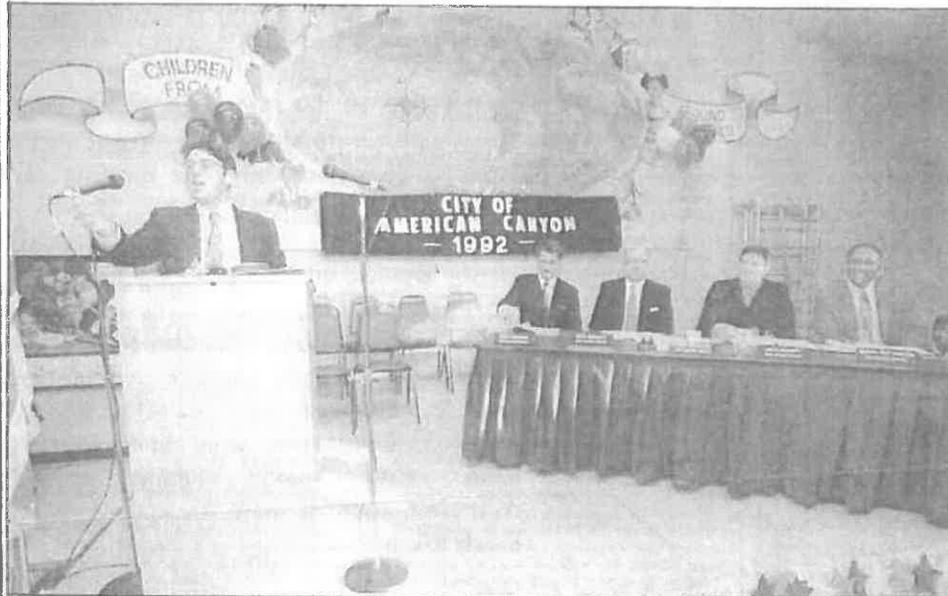
Adoption of the Ordinance No 1, read by Mayor Tom Orlando, which the City of American Canyon Provide that all ordinances of the County of Napa applicable before incorporation, remain in full force and effect as City Ordinances. This was moved to accept by Joan Bennett, and seconded by Benjamin Anderson, roll call, and approved by all members. All resolutions were accepted.

Additional Ordinances through 29 were addressed, approved, roll call, voted on to approve the necessary appointments to the working force of the City to positions that were required on a daily basis to run the city. A complete copy of this first meeting is on file with this report, word for word.

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AMERICAN CANYON
(FOUNDED 1992)



Times Herald/Mike Jory

Mayor Orlando addressed fellow council members and the audience at the first American Canyon City Council meeting.

Growing pains

■ All has not been smooth for fledgling city

By Dan Judge
Times Herald staff writer

Five years ago this week, the city of American Canyon came into the world kicking and screaming for its independence.

The city incorporated on Jan. 1, 1992, signaling the end to the community's long struggle to control its destiny.

"It was a happy day. God, it was a happy day," said 75-year-old John Mikolajcik, known as "the father of

American Canyon" for his decades of work on the community's behalf.

But it took years for the former Napa County supervisor and owner of American Canyon's Mid-City Nursery to see that happy day.

American Canyon, located at the extreme southern end of Napa County, entered the 20th century known as Napa Junction, the name of the train station located there. Ranches domi-

(See AmCan, A10)



Times Herald/J.L. South

John Mikolajcik pushed for cityhood.

AmCan

(From A1)

nated the landscape, giving the area a rural flavor.

By the 1970s, however, many residents of the community had grown increasingly alarmed at the county's apparent plans for the area.

They believed the county intended to put all its undesirable elements — a regional landfill, low-income housing and heavy industrial businesses — in American Canyon while keeping the upper Napa Valley pristine and tourist-friendly.

Other residents, however, felt it was foolhardy to become a city without the population and revenues to support such a move.

The first attempt at incorporation, led in large part by Mikolajcik, failed at the ballot box in 1981. Ten years later, the voters chose cityhood by 59 percent.

"Now they have a city council and the place is full. Thank God," said Mikolajcik. "People can go there and see their representatives. They can complain or pat them on the back, but they have someone to go to."

Public opinion, however, is divided on the issue.

Fred Hicks, manager of the Las Casitas Mobile Home Park, said he believes the city incorporated too soon. Expenses have gone up, he said, and services have declined.

"Right now, I think it's terrible," said Hicks. "Things were better when the county was taking care of it."

Debbie Runkey, a 36-year-old housewife who has lived in American Canyon since 1988, said she believes incorporation has been good for the city.

"American Canyon just always seemed to be the dumping ground for everything," she said. "I think incorporation was the right decision. I don't know about the leadership we have, but I think it was the right way to go."

Harold Barron, a 70-year-old retired Mare Island nuclear engineer and 40-year resident of American Canyon, said he sees advantages and disadvantages

county in 1994, charging the county did not transfer the proper amount of property taxes to the city after incorporation.

The county counter-filed, claiming the city was already receiving 100 percent of property tax revenues generated in American Canyon and that it deserved no more.

Negotiations over the suit continue and remains a thorn in the side of those who want to see an end to the animosity between the city and county.

There has been more than a fair share of controversies within the community as well.

The first major dispute was over Measure A, a controversial beautification ordinance that established minimum standards for the upkeep and appearance of property in American Canyon.

Many residents fought the ordinance, claiming it was an attempt to take away personal rights. A petition drive finally pushed the issue to the ballot where voters approved it in 1994.

The next battle that would pit resident against resident wasn't long in coming.

In February 1995, Paradise Nursery owner Don Colcleaser raised a warning that the city's general plan showed it intended to use redevelopment and eminent domain to uproot businesses along the Highway 29 corridor so new, more profitable businesses could move in.

Despite the city's efforts to quell those fears, the dispute deepened. After a long, bitter battle, the city put the matter to a vote and the redevelopment project was shot down in a landslide defeat at the ballot box two months ago.

The election also saw Colcleaser, the most vocal opponent of redevelopment, elected to the council and Mayor Rick Mahanay, the only supporter of redevelopment in the race, voted out of office. In December, the new council voted to dissolve the redevelopment agency itself.

City staff members haven't

trial users, concealed hidden costs of the city's garbage disposal contract and waged a personal vendetta against foes of redevelopment.

Clarkson also filed a claim against the city charging that Kim Gray, the assistant to the city manager, had sexually harassed him. He said the city manager fired him when he complained.

Only weeks later, Finance Director Mark Joseph was placed on temporary suspension. No reason was given for that action either, but a memo from Joseph to the city attorney was obtained by the Times-Herald that charged the city manager had made unauthorized payments to city employees and, when discovered, had tried to shift the blame to the finance director.

Adding to the city manager's woes, the council discovered that Freedman had spent thousands of dollars more on redevelopment than the council had authorized.

Freedman was dismissed by the council in September. His assistant, Gray, was dismissed in October.

With Planning Director Bill Emlen's resignation in August, the city was left with only two of its six administrative heads.

In December, the council named Joseph the new city manager.

American Canyon's history has not been one of only controversy and debate, however. There have been triumphs, too.

The city successfully lobbied the Napa Valley Unified School District for a new middle school and recently voted to help pay for a recreation center and swimming pool as part of that project. The new school is scheduled to open in the fall.

Mayor Ben Anderson also pointed to the city's acquisition of a secondary water source and sewer services by tying into Vallejo's system. He noted that improved street and sidewalk repairs, street lighting and rent stabilization for the mobile home parks were benefits the community has received since incorporation.

"I think incorporation has been good," said Anderson. "I think it has brought many people into government who had basically said, 'To hell with it'

because their voices had been falling on deaf ears in the past."

Tom Orlando, the first mayor of American Canyon who recently stepped down from the council, singled out increased police protection and the thriving Green Island Industrial Park, with prestigious tenants like Pokka Beverage and Meyer Corp., as other major successes for the city.

He also noted accomplishments like creating the city's first general plan, improving the park system, establishing an infrastructure and producing balanced budgets.

"I think incorporation was very much in the best interest of the community," said Orlando. "I think we're poised very well for the future and I'm very optimistic about American Canyon's future."

Attorney Bennett Lieber, who was recently appointed to the Planning Commission, originally opposed incorporation, but said he has come to see its wisdom over time.

Although he prefers to not view the county as an enemy and wants to improve rela-

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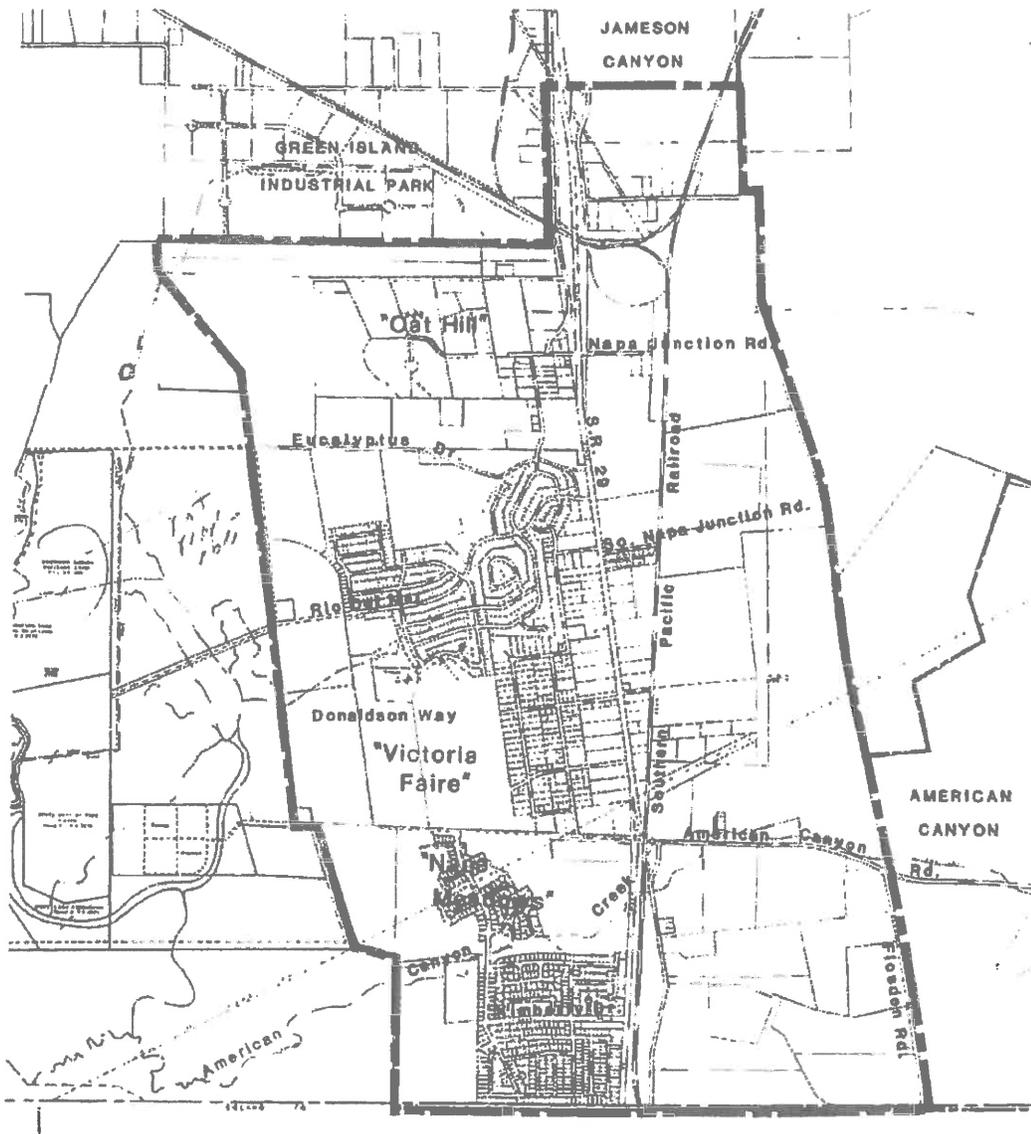
I think it has brought many people into government who had basically said, 'To hell with it' because their voices had been falling on deaf ears in the past.

Ben Anderson

”

tions, he believes incorporation has protected the city from being turned into a repository for the county's unwanted industries and brought the community closer together.

"There's a sense that all of us are in the same boat and want the best for our community," said Lieber. "I think cityhood has contributed to that."



**AMERICAN CANYON
Specific Plan**

Napa County, CA

Community Planning Area

Existing Conditions



End Result Making of the City

Becoming a City was a long steady process. It was the result of a community working together from 1950 through 1991. The original pioneer that came to the area in a covered wagon with his family was established in Junction and owned a large amount of the section. His dream of the starting of a City in the 1900's with a very positive advertisement about what a great place American Canyon was, "*Feel like a hostess of home, Welcome to Napa Valley, it's Beautiful, Gracious, and will make you a lovely home, I hope you will be very happy here.*"

Although the City never materialized, the philosophy was appropriate. Over the years many people have found the area of American Canyon to be the place they wanted to live in. All the many advantages of climate, access to many different areas close by, and a good area to raise a family were contributors. The City of American Canyon has much more than just the visual values.

Over the years, the people who settled in the area have been very progressive, highly motivated, friendly, caring, and dedicated to their families, their country, and their community. They were willing to volunteer for whatever needed to be done in a positive, eager way. Every issue was the issue for everyone. Many meetings and many different opinions were always a part of the democratic process to progress with needed additions. Even if the discussions became a little heated when the vote was cast and the will of the majority was made, the community moved on to the next project.

The greatest asset that the City of American Canyon has received is the people who are a part of it. John Mikolajcik, a long time resident and business man, was declared by vote of the Council as the "Father of American Canyon". He always said, "No one person is the cause of any great development, it is the combination of a lot of people to make things possible." American Canyon had more than their share of great people working together to accomplish so many things from day one. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, 4-H, Camp Fire Girls & Blue Birds, Pharaohs Car Club, Girl Scouts & Brownies, Teen Clubs, Community Clubs for adults, Senior Programs and Meals, Summer programs for kids all ages, Volunteer firemen, Fire District, Water and Sewer District, Recreation District, and all kinds of programs that added to a community, were all by willing, dedicated volunteers that served for the benefit of everyone, giving with their time generously. This was all possible because they served without pay, with the joy of giving to make their home town better.

Many residences grew up in the area and came back to live and raise their families. The following letter is a sample of the kind of things we hear and get all the time.

When we moved to American Canyon in July 1980, it took us around 45-minutes to carpool to work in San Francisco. After the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989, it took us much longer. It was a burden to leave the house at 5:30 AM in order to get to work on time, but we did as we really wanted to retire in a small, peaceful community like American Canyon.

I remember how much I enjoyed sitting on my front porch and looking up on the hill at the beautiful black and white dairy cows {Holsteins, I believe} American Canyon was nothing like San Bruno, Daly City, or San Francisco, where we had previously lived. The streets in American Canyon were incredibly wide for such a small town of only seven or eight thousand folks. It was not unusual to see people riding their horses down the street or seeing cows, horses, and goats out in the

fields along highway 29. On the weekends when I didn't have to go to work, I liked to sit on my front porch, sipping my coffee and enjoying the small town atmosphere of American Canyon.

My Husband enjoyed walking with our dog through the wetlands that existed behind Kimberly Park. Sometimes I would go on these walks with him. It seemed that the wetlands went back a long way before you finally reached the river, and I had to pace myself so that I had enough energy left to walk back home to our house.

One thing that I really liked about American Canyon was that the people were friendly and what I would call "neighborly". This was very different from San Bruno where the neighbors almost always kept to themselves and you didn't get acquainted with the neighbors unless your kids happened to play together or be in the same classroom.

In American Canyon our block was filled with kids of all ages who would play together in the streets since there was very little traffic. Even though my kids were in their 20's at the time I got to know almost all the kids on our block in a relatively short time. There were only a couple of kids that were a little "bratty" and most of the kids were well-mannered and fun to encounter. Most of them really loved our dog, a bearded collie without one aggressive bone in her body.

I loved the weather in American Canyon and I loved the fact that I could plant fruit trees in my back yard. It was so different from the coldness and fog where we had lived before. It seemed like a perfect place for us to retire. Although American Canyon has gone through many phases of home building and development and is no longer that sleepy little town that it was in 1989, I am really glad we moved here. We were right—it was the perfect place to retire. Norma J. Hermocillo

HONORING THE FOOTSTEPS OF TIME

Family Names of the following community activists from 1952 with only family names listed: Verna Olson, V.V. Lee, Buzarello, Gondola, Barrios Kalameras, Clerici, Borges, Pasquali, Collins, Mel Ellis, Elcana Ellis, Wade Humphrey, Ben Leis, Motto-Ross, Dahlquist, Driscoll, Thelma Halterman, Lanphier, Betty Wilson, Ben and Flora Anderson, Mertz, Manley, Waters, Barber, Custis, Bator, Barte, Orlando, George, Lynn White, Peter Indelacoto, Keith, Hedemark, Carterm Curtin, Pat Chapman, Lib Chapman, Avery Humphrey, Hawley, Cypher, Andy Finco, Fanellie Sisters, Makris, Tucker, McKee, Gerth, McKay, Watras, Parish, Bogart, Bryson, Mathews, Melvin Olson, Carson, Bruner, Neff, Hughes, St Clair, Fred Smith, Ewing, R Brown, Donaldson, Matte, Badtke, Grant, Swears, Bushong, Tenty, Knox, Bailey, Connolly, Erler, Miller, Weed, Hagerman, Northrip, Holland, Roberts, Kirby, Puleo, Kakuchka, Mayfield, Harden, Little, Phelps, Trudell, Cole, Lopez, Monthei, Dahl, Steinberg, Wyant, Davis, Trader, Huff, Madison, Wimer, Tombac, Rogers, Fritz, Shuhan, Carr, Curry, Johnston, Borgardt, Katz, Leno Negri, Alma Negri, Atkins, Biddenback, Fairbanks, Jensen, Kluipek, St Pierre, Fleming, Harris, O'Neal, Woods, Holcomb, J. Neely, E. Fox, Edmond, Harper, T. Essy, Purviance, Peak, Bergren, L. Howard, J. Whitt, McCoy, Foskett, Daley, Peterson, Young, Elite, Geinulius, Kokolos, Neely, Harmon, Jennings, Etchison, Owen, Quinlan, Fevang, Michael, Atkinson, Colliums, Hess, Maher, Bennett, Gloss, Tex Martin, Wheeler, Wildman, West, Wentz, Paoli, Les Lawson, Cahill, Amarante, Tuttle, Torres, Tomlinson, Thornton, Thomas, Putney, Papa, Muchmore, Moores, Moody, Mitchell, Crawford, Casten, Andrews, Adams, Strange, Holbrook, Witherow, Sweezey, Sutherland, Sullivan, Watson, Newell, Baude, Grabenauer, Logan, Reed, Madieros, Haveley, Rilinger, Ken Rowe, Minahen, Gish, Cabrera, Tackmeier, Ascherman, Brown, Schram, Silva, Eckelson, Gentry, Colcleaser, Bruce, Mordock, Gregson, Costa, Elton, Iratrasner, Harry Sample, Imhoff, Forsey, Carver, Mark Griffith, Barron, Ben Lei, Demuth, Grubbs, Neilson, Van Ness, Kreska, Several Smiths, Kuicep, Holcomb, Woods, Jerry, Peterman, Quinn, Williams, Lawence, Eva Johnson, Russell, Higgins, Aspe, Tex Martin, Donelli, Klawitter, Hofer

With Special Recognition to the Towle Family: Pearl wrote the columns for Times Herald and Napa Register over the years of 1952 through the early 60's. She saved all of the columns and the history on a weekly basis, which cataloged the daily happenings of the area, and which the family donated in dated binders to the city of American Canyon, giving future generations a chance to see what occurred in the making of the city. A special recognition to the Newell Family and our special Bernice and Jack, stepping up to give much in many ways to benefit children, adults, and the future use of land for the pleasure of residents. Special thanks to the residents of the community from the Mikolajcik family for their confidence and support of John "Mickey", who served for the community's school board and supervisor in behalf of them. We thank Lorraine White LaVoice who served in so many ways and her hubby Pat, Fran Lemos (a special Gold Star) with her sister, Annie, and hubby, Peter, Ray Slater, Bonnie Waxman and Hubby Paul from their first days in the area.

Those serving on early Boards:

Fran Lemos (a special gold star) Pearl & Robert Towle, Lorraine White, Lynn and Jean White, Victor Lee, Wally Dahlquist, Thelma Halterman, Elcana Ellis, Mel Ellis, Wade Humphrey, Frank Forsey, John "Mickey" Mikolajcik, Jack Young, Paul and Bonnie Waxman, Frank Waters, Mertz Manley, Margaret Despotakis, Pat Chapman, Mrs. Quinlan, Mrs. Katz, Leno Negri, Verna Olson,

Kelly Barber, Louis and Betty Custis, Victor Watras, Tom George, Larry Adams, Harry Sample, Ira Trosper, Elton Peterson, Gary Imhoff.

Compiled and Written by the City of American Canyon Historical Committee.

Committee Members:

Florence Frattini Clerici – Born in Napa Junction and still lives in Napa Junction

Lillian Danelli – Born in Napa Junction and lives in Napa Junction

Frances Lemos – Lemos Family were property owners from 1900

Audrey Waxman – First lots in McKnight Acres purchased by them and in-laws

Joyce Simon – First home purchased in Napa Square Subdivision and still lives in Napa Square

Wilma Mikolajcik – Purchased commercial land and opened family business on Highway 29 in 1954 and lives in Rancho Del Mar

Norma Hermocillo – Bought their retirement home in 1980's and lives in Napa Square

Rosemarie Wilson – Family member from Lake County and part time resident of local family

Volume I is dedicated to the City of American Canyon by the Historical Committee, whom have had much pleasure in finding and presenting these results for the information of future generations. We salute the forefathers and the current generation for the efforts so many people have had in being a part of its development. Not one person but the accumulation of many made it possible.

“There has been a calculated risk in every stage of American development. The nation was built by men and women who took risks. Pioneers who were not afraid of the wilderness, brave men and women who were not afraid of failure, scientists who were not afraid of truth, thinkers who were not afraid of progress, and dreamers who were not afraid of action.”

Brooks Atkinson

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Mrs Lober—Historian from St. Helena compiled in 1954

Memoirs of 6th Son of General Vallejo 2 parts

Poem from Army Navy Journal in 1900 by Will Stokes

Letter from John O Dahlgren U S Marine at Mare Island Boot Camp 1896

Recipient of congressional medal of honor for service with Dewey at Manilla Bay
And on the Pekin wall.

Bonnie Waxman, a first lot owner in McKnight Acres, worked with Water District using her home as its
original office.

Florence Frattini, Clerici and Lillian Dinelli born in Napa Junction

Report by Rebecca Yerger Portland Cement Timeline of June 6, 1999

Pacific tourist Henry T. Williams New York 1876

California Supreme Court Trial for Land Rights for General Vallejo of Soscol Area

Shari Gardner-Historical Ecology Researcher – Institute For Conservation Advocacy
and Educational Institute.