

the ELK GROVE HOTEL register

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MAY 12 MEETING TO BE AT SHELDON

Historical Society members and guests will be treated to a special kind of program at the May 12 meeting. It will be held at Steele Realty Building in Sheldon. Mr. Ray Steele will be the host for the evening, as well as the program. He will share with the members his unique collection of antiques which are housed at Steele Realty, and explain how he became interested in the historical aspect of collecting. A number of individual items in Mr. Steele's collection will be shared with Society members. The time for the meeting: 7:30 PM.

For members not familiar with the area, Sheldon can be found by traveling Elk Grove Boulevard east to Grantline Road; proceed left on Grantline to the town of Sheldon.

While spending the evening in Sheldon, it is hoped that member Fran Cumpston will be in attendance, so that she can share her girlhood experiences of growing up in Sheldon.

It is also to be remembered that Sheldon was an active place in the gold mining days of the 1850's. It was in Sheldon that wagons were constructed, and of course, it was wagons that carried the gold ... and everything else.

Sheldon is named for Jared Dixon Sheldon, the man who obtained the Omochumnes Land Grant; shared it with his partner, William Daylor; and, if members will recall from Norma Ricketts' talk, both Daylor and Sheldon married daughters of Tom and Elizabeth Rhoads.

NORMA RICKETTS-A FINE HISTORIAN!

The Rhoads School was filled to capacity at the last meeting of the Historical Society in April. Guest was Norma Ricketts, author of several publications dealing with the pioneers of the Cosumnes River area. Mrs. Ricketts has painstakingly researched the lives of the pioneers who are buried in the Sloughhouse Pioneer Cemetery.

ELK GROVE'S BIG WEEKEND ----- WESTERN FESTIVAL !!!!!!!!!!!

By the time you read this, you will all be recovering from Western Festival, Elk Grove at its finest. This major event continues to be bigger than ever, a time for our community to open its doors to visitors from all over northern California.

I am sure that many of you have your own special Western Festival stories - this may be a project we ought to be considering in the future - a collection of Western Festival memories. Wouldn't it make a nice book to share with future Western Festival visitors?

Having only lived in Elk Grove since 1962, I am continually surprised at all the changes Western Festival undergoes. They are gradual, so one does not seem to notice them, but in thinking back, a lot has happened in eighteen years. The Festival is 24 years old this year; next year it will pass the quarter-century mark! Amazing! And to think it all started with the Elk Grove Grammar School Parents Club having a fund raiser! I'll bet that Sue Morse Mikles all of the committees back in 1957 could not have imagined the great success from their project!

Who remembers when.....?

All the school kids dressed up "Western" on Friday before the Festival?

When Ronald Reagan was parade marshall?

The fabulous cake walks?

You HAD to have a western outfit or you would look "out of place"?

You knew everybody in the parade?

Norma told how she became interested in the field of genealogy which led to her project with the Sloughhouse Cemetery. She has written a play which will be performed soon. The central story is the real drama which took place along the Cosumnes River in the early days of California settlement.