

# Rio Vista Museum

## A California Delta Treasure

By Beverly Bellows and Tom Surh



1967, when an Italian freighter rammed the bridge in the fog and took out a section that took 22 days to repair, meanwhile shutting down the only major highway crossing the Sacramento River below the City of Sacramento. Another exhibit documents the thriving asparagus packing operation that was a major industry in the town, and yet another features all of the



Blacksmith Implements

156 years of Rio Vista's colorful history awaits your discovery in the Rio Vista Museum at 16 North Front Street. Founded in 1975, the Museum has collections of items including

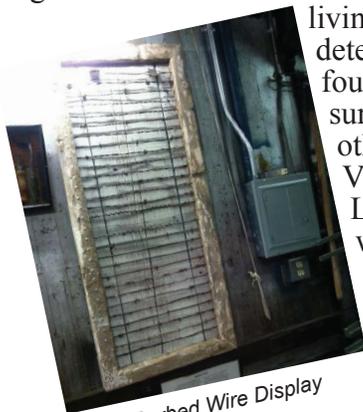
19th century clothing, handcrafts, tools and household implements of all kinds, military uniforms, firefighting implements, farming equipment, carriages and wagons. You will also find many photographs and an archive that includes 100 years of Rio Vista High School yearbooks, collections of historical magazines, obituaries, and newspapers from all around the region. The exhibits are beautifully presented with notes and explanations that bring everything to life. It would take several days to fully appreciate all five large rooms of floor to ceiling artifacts, information, photos and exhibits packed into this largest museum of Delta history. The collection is a



Household Appliances

appliances and equipment that would be found in a turn of the century kitchen and household.

The collection of horse drawn carriages, wagons and farm implements alone is worth the visit. Children are usually quite pleased to be able to climb into and around the old fire engine on display and to ring the very loud bell (just once!) The Museum is in the building that formerly housed a blacksmith shop at 16 North Front Street, and still has the blacksmith tools on display.

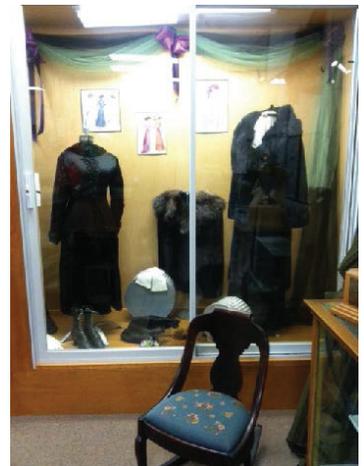


Barbed Wire Display

living testament to the grit and determination of the city's founders and residents, who survived floods, fires and other disasters to keep Rio Vista alive and thriving. Local families, several with roots that go back to the city's founding, donated most of the artifacts.

One unique piece is a part of the current Rio Vista Bridge that was mangled on January 15,

Two publications by the Museum's curator, Philip Pezzaglia, are "Rio Vista" and "Towns of the Sacramento River Delta." These books are available at the Museum and draw heavily on the treasure of historical information located at the Museum. The Museum is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and tours may be arranged at other times. Admission is free, and donations are welcome.



Historical Clothing