

May - August 2017

discover Rio Vista *first*

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Photo by Diane King

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Delta Houseboating

A Trip You Won't Forget!

By Linda Jensen Photos from <http://www.paradisemarina.com/>

Exploring a thousand-plus miles of inland waterways in a moveable house makes a houseboat vacation on the California Delta

both an adventure and a destination vacation. In 1969, famous "Perry Mason" author and houseboating enthusiast, Erle Stanley Gardner wrote, "The moment you have left the dock, you have arrived at your destination." And the destination is still delightful.

The largest estuary on the West Coast, the California Delta is a combination of rivers, sloughs, canals and tributaries that take you around a series of islands, ideal for a slow-motion tour at a houseboat's top speed of 6-8 mph. Along the way there are deep waters for fishing, quiet areas for watching birds, beautiful scenery, quaint towns to explore, and places for dropping anchor to relax, read and enjoy the sun.

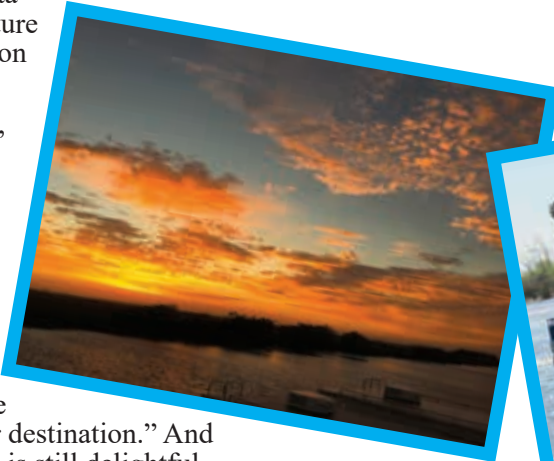
Local attractions include the town of Locke, along the east bank of the Sacramento River that features a place to dock for gas, ice, bathrooms and showers in addition to the opportunity to explore the historical and cultural exhibits in the town which was founded by Chinese Americans in 1915. Further south, Isleton and Rio Vista are delightful small towns with historical exhibits and terrific local restaurants and bars, sometimes all in the same place. Rio Vista's Foster's Big Horn is a café and bar founded in the early 1900's that showcases 250 of avid hunter (and bootlegger) Bill Foster's prized taxidermy collection, specimens of African and North American animals. No, you're not drunk, that really is an elephant looking down at you. Along the river to the north of Locke is Clarksburg, located in wine country with tasting rooms for more than a dozen wineries. Also north of Locke, the Meadows area is an ideal place to set anchor for a quiet day of watching beautiful flora and fauna. Aquatic flower species abound as well as animal life including snow geese, beavers, and swans.

Anyone who can drive a car can operate a houseboat. The rental company provides instruction on all the systems and gives you quick course on how to handle the boat. That said, if you're a novice boater, you'll probably find the trip to be a learning experience. Unaware of the tides that affect Delta waters, many a "landlubber" finds themselves beached on a sandbar with their houseboat at a decided slant. Wind can also be a factor as the boat is like a giant sail. Sailing newbies become quite good at maneuvering

their craft with a little practice, even with a decided breeze. With each mile traveled a lasting memory of the journey is built.

Prime season for houseboat vacations is spring-summer (May through October). The primary resource for houseboat rentals in the California Delta at this time is Seven Crowns Resorts at Paradise Point Marina in Stockton. They also rent other small craft and canoes that might enhance your trip. Their website:

www.paradisemarina.com/houseboats has full information on boat sizes, floor plans and prices plus First Timer Tips on what to bring and how to prepare for a trip you won't forget.



Nonprofits Rio Vista's Backbone

By Edwin Okamura

Despite our quaint population, Rio Vista thrives from community involvement. The Chamber of Commerce, Soroptimist, Rotary, Lions, American Legion Post 178, along with our many churches and community service groups stand ready when a school project needs funding or a family is in need. Those exploring Rio Vista are invited to explore the plethora of social and philanthropic groups that meet regularly in town.

The three largest service clubs meet at The Point Restaurant and welcome guests.



Rio Vista Lions Club

Meets first Tuesday at 6:00 pm and remaining Tuesdays at 12:15 pm.
Call Warren at (707) 374-3477.



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Discover Rio Vista is a tri-annual magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista.

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For additional information about RioVision see: <http://riovistavision.com> and www.facebook.com/riovistavision.

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ON THE COVER: Diane King captures the beauty of the Rio Vista Bridge on a gorgeous summer day. "Diane says, "Occasionally I just come upon a shot that is there waiting to be captured and seize the moment."

65 Years in Rio Vista!

Oilwell Materials & ACE Hardware

Story by Cindy Green, Julie Griffin & Julie McCormack Photo by Monica Giannini

When it comes to the phrase, “the customer always comes first,” Julie (Dole) McCormack, owner of Rio Vista’s Oilwell Materials & ACE Hardware, does not view this as just a mere slogan, it is what the core of the business is based upon. Customer Service is the main priority for the company and employees are encouraged to drop what they are doing and help the customers. “This was how our father operated the store as well,” adds Julie, speaking of her father, Jack Dole, who started the business back in 1952. This summer Oilwell Materials & ACE Hardware proudly celebrates its 65th year in business. The longevity of the company, in a business climate where family-owned businesses are continually swallowed up by larger mega-stores, tells a story that there is something special about this one.

In 1936 the Rio Vista Gas Field had just been discovered. It was the largest natural gas field in California and is still one of the largest in the United States. Jack, with his father’s encouragement, came to Rio Vista to join the Amerada crew, which had three employees at the time.

Upon return from the war, Jack soon realized that the booming natural gas industry was in desperate need of closer, more accessible drilling supplies.

Jack and his wife Norma opened Oilwell Materials & Hardware Company in 1952. The original business was located where the River News-Herald office resides on Front Street today. The business continued to grow and expand with the gas industry and Oilwell Materials soon moved to its current location on Highway 12 in 1955. The ACE Hardware line was added shortly thereafter to provide a more complete hardware store offering to the public.

Jack Dole passed away in 1979 and his son Bill took over the family store, while older brother Bob owned and operated Dole’s Well Drilling business. In 1988, Julie (a graduate of University of Nevada, Reno) put her marketing degree to good use in the challenging business.

Julie and Bill expanded the business in 1992 to a large-scale hardware, home, garden, building and industrial center. The brother and sister team ran the company

together for 15 years when Bill decided in 2003 to solely concentrate on the Oil and Gas Field sales. That same year Julie married Duncan McCormack III, a local rancher/farmer who raises sheep and cattle.

The Oilwell Materials & ACE Hardware business has continued to evolve through the years. Seven years ago approximately 2,000 square feet of sales floor space was added to expand the product mix for the ever changing

inventory. Many smaller size remodels have occurred over the past few years to constantly keep up with the changing times.

A family business it is and the employees are indeed like family to Julie. When asked about the employees, she says “I feel very lucky to have such a great group of people working here. All of the employees bring something special to the business.”



Though running a diverse, busy company like Oilwell Materials & ACE Hardware is a challenging undertaking, when asked what her favorite part of the job is, Julie does not hesitate for a moment: “working with and keeping a close relationship with the customers on the sales floor.” This is always the best part of the day she maintains.

Apart from what you would expect from a typical hardware store: tools and hardware, garden supplies, custom paint service and all types of bathroom and kitchen fixtures, Oilwell Materials & ACE Hardware also offers services and features you may not be aware of: screen and window repair, keying, propane, UPS shipping, Western Union, Fish & Game, office supplies, BBQ’s and accessories, outdoor patio furniture and an expanded pet supply area.

When it comes to life in a small community, the more one store has to offer (without going out of town), the better and the Dole family has continually revamped the store to meet the needs of its residents and businesses. Anyone who frequents Oilwell Materials & ACE Hardware will attest to the high attention to customer service. Undoubtedly, with 65 years under their belt, they are doing something right.

“We were a family owned company back in 1952 and we still are today. Now, more than ever, being a family owned company is a source of great pride.”

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Chau Son Monastery

Hidden Treasure of the Delta

Story by Suzi Cassone Photos by Doris Noriega

Many South Vietnamese immigrants in the Sacramento area have long supported Our Lady of Chau Son monastery in their homeland, but they desired a similar community in the Delta region. Abbot Phan in South Viet Nam felt the time was right to proceed with building in the Sacramento Delta. The mission was authorized and Father Dominic Tran was assigned to the task. When Father Thomas of Chico came to bless the project, he sprinkled holy water on the ground and prayed. Then he exclaimed, "Oh, Dominic! You have a lot of work!" Father Dominic replied, "I have nothing to worry about."

Hidden amid the lush farmland of the Delta, not far from the Sacramento River, is a place created for peace, prayer and serenity. Father Tran is the prior (or administrator) of Our Lady of Chau Son of the Sacramento Diocese. He oversees four priests and one brother at this Cistercian monastery located in Walnut Grove. Stopping to pray seven times daily, they seek to be witnesses to the presence of God. Many have invested prayer and toil in this endeavor for years.

Work progressed as donations of money and materials arrived. Fifty acres of farmland was purchased in 2005. For two years, those in the new order traveled from a rented home in Elk Grove to work the land for nine hours each day. Lawn seeds were scattered. Faithful friends donated one fig tree and several pear trees. Two rows of redwood trees now line the eastern edge of the property to provide comfort and privacy for those who come to pray. These rows are perfectly aligned, though there was no measuring done before planting. "All was done by eye", Father Tran proudly states.

As the monks continue their work joyfully, Father Tran is quick to acknowledge the work of those outside their order. Joey Sanchez is a neighboring farmer who made the entry road, installed power lines and laid water pipes. The first Kubota tractor came from Dolk Tractor of Rio Vista.

The initial holy cross was erected on December 8, 2007 and all the monks have lived there ever since. Plans were sent to a sculptor in South Viet Nam for a 12 foot statue of Christ. Nine packages arrived for assembly at the

monastery. Concrete pipe was set in the ground for the foundation, as rebar was inserted to reach to the top of



Father Dominic Tran

the statue for stability. It was explained that often the arms of such statues reach heavenward, but on this one, the arms are extended as if to embrace and welcome all who come to Him. The goal is for visitors to meet God here.

After Father Tran explained the motto of this secluded order (to pray and to work), an architect envisioned 14 statues to be erected. They depict the last hours of Christ on what we now call Good Friday.

The scenes are known by several names, such as the Stations of the Cross, the Way of the Cross, the Way of Sorrows and the Via Dolorosa. These events were also chronicled in the 2004 film *The Passion of the Christ*.

During Lent, the season leading up to Easter, the faithful from several Christian denominations walk from image to image, stopping to pray at each one. It is a solemn time of contemplation.

Though those who are familiar with the story will recognize each scene representing the stations of the cross, this is a work in progress. There are plans for signs at each station, describing what is represented.

Father Tran has indicated that there will be audio stands to aid visitors in their prayers. He mentioned that eventually there will be a fifteenth statue at the end of the course, representing Christ's resurrection, with roses planted at the base. Someday, car and bicycle paths will wind past the monuments. And then there are repairs to be made. The arms of one of the statues at the eighth station have been broken by the wind.

Though there is still much to be done before completion, many devotees have already visited. Some youth groups from as far away as San Jose have spent the weekend in tents on the grounds of the monastery, as they dedicate themselves to prayer. It is important to note that this is not a tourist attraction, but is primarily for those on a spiritual walk, to pray and seek counsel.



The statue of Christ at sunset.



One of the stations of the cross.

To see the monastery, take 220 West out of Ryde. Turn right (north) on Leary Rd. The monastery is less than a mile on your left. Father Tran can be contacted at (916) 477-0595 to schedule an appointment.

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Spotlight On Delta Marina

By Monica Giannini & Laurie Oleksiewicz Photos by Monica Giannini

Welcome to "Spotlight On," your chance to learn about some of Rio Vista's unique businesses, and the people who own and staff them.

Rio Vista is proud to have a beautiful marina, RV park and restaurant close to downtown and right on the mighty Sacramento River. The Delta Marina was established



1959 by Jack, Richard and Flossie Baumann (their mother). Jack was the President and General Manager from 1959 until his passing in 1997 when his brother Richard took over as President. On June 1st, 2014 Jim Baumann took over as President upon Richards passing.

Jim Baumann was born in Sacramento and raised in Rio Vista and was 6 years old when the Delta Marina was first

established. Of course Jim grew up loving the water and boating. Jim and his sister Nancy attended school in Rio Vista from elementary through high school. After about 15 years of working in restaurants Jim attended the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and eventually took over the Point Restaurant, which is located on the water at the Delta Marina, with his wife Vickie. Vickie and Jim ran the Point for almost 20 years and sold it at the end of 2012. Their three sons Danny, Stephen and Trevor all worked at the restaurant at some point. Jim took about a year and a half off then took over as president of the Delta Marina and shortly after took a Chefs position at a senior facility in Vacaville where he worked for two years. At this writing he is the Harbormaster at the Marina.

There are a few things that make the Delta Marina stand out – first and foremost are the staff.

Jim couldn't be happier with the team they have assembled and the pride they take in delivering first class customer service. And if longevity says anything about a business, Mike Friedel and Monica Giannini have been with the Marina for 40 and 25 years respectively. Secondly, it is their attention to customer service and upkeep of the property. Jim stated, "We want you to not only be happy but ecstatic to be a guest of ours". Delta Marina is a full service marina offering almost anything you may need, such as fuel, supplies, and an extensive gift shop.

Plus, if they don't have something, the Marina is just a short walk from downtown.

What Jim likes best about the work is that he gets to meet a lot of different people in a recreation setting. "I get to be outside quite a bit and on the docks, I get to be involved with the boating industry and the community, I get to live in Rio Vista and I am five minutes from home."

As far as plans for the future and any changes, they are always striving to be the top of people's mind for anyone interested in boating or RVing as their go-to destination for their recreation activities.

In order to do so they are always looking for ways to make themselves better, for example, changes to dock access are being made due to the high water this winter.

"From the entire Baumann Family and the Delta Marina staff the last 56 years and You' for the opportunity

for counting, a big 'Thank to serve you.'" The Delta Marina is located at 100 Marina Drive, and their phone number is (707) 374-2315. Be sure and check out this gem of Rio Vista and the Delta.



Bridges of the Experience the charm of its

By Noel O'Brien

The California Delta has a distinct uniqueness when you begin to explore and identify the overall size and complexity of what actually makes up the Delta. The beauty of it all is that you can travel by car or boat and experience the charm and history of the many bridges, towns, roads, and waterways throughout.

Let's get started with a little more of an overview and understanding of just what makes up the California Delta.

The "Delta" covers over 1,000 miles of waterways. The Sacramento River and the San Joaquin River are the major rivers that help make up the California Delta. Other rivers feeding into them are the American, the Mokelumne, the Cosumnes, and the Calaveras Rivers. Then the many sloughs and waterways contribute to the Delta's character. With that perspective, one can only imagine the wildlife complexity that has developed within this delicate balance many of us call home. The bridges on the Sacramento River and adjoining waterways have a history and a charm that are unsurpassed. It is possible to spend and enjoy many days boating through the best waterways in the country while being transported back in time to a different era. A time when these bridges had a different meaning as they transformed and developed the local communities.

It does not take long to find yourself drifting away from the pace of everyday life exploring the backwaters and sloughs. The lush natural surroundings, overhanging trees and berries, wildlife at every turn, various bird sounds emanating from Sandhill Cranes to Kingfishers and Great Blue Herons, geese, ducks and egrets take over while you move along through the water. Not to mention the outstanding game fish opportunities to be found teeming in the waters. Sturgeon are plentiful, Striped Bass, Salmon, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Crappie, and Catfish can be caught throughout the year.

If you maneuver a boat on the Delta waterways, you are bound to deal with at least one or two bridges. In fact, there are more than 100 bridges throughout the Delta; approximately 30 bridges are found on the Georgiana Slough, Mokelumne River, San Joaquin River and the Sacramento River.

Let's focus on the Sacramento River and its adjacent waterways. It is important to know how to request a bridge to be raised so you can pass through safely. The size, mast height, and maneuverability of your boat must be taken into account. The tide can affect the boat's height clearance for any bridge in question. "Rules of the Road" on the water must be taken into consideration. It may be necessary to contact the bridgetender well in advance of your arrival.



*Birds eye view of the Rio Vista Bridge.
Photo: "Bridge Man" Greg Mitchell*

For example, the Isleton Bridge needs a four-hour advanced notice to the Rio Vista Bridge after normal hours. So, planning is necessary at times. Most bridges monitor VHF Channels 9 and 16. It is wise to hail them on Channel 9 upon visual sighting to request the bridge to be opened. The horn signal is one long followed by one short blast to request it to open. Bridgetenders will respond to a phone call during operating hours. Operating hours are seasonal for California Delta bridges – shorter hours are the norm for winter. There are Bridge guides and references to read before taking to the California Delta. The information on the Delta Boating web site at DeltaBoating.com/bridges.htm is especially helpful. Your preparation can

help you enjoy the time you spend on the Delta.

To get a quick overview, the following bridges are similar in being "movable bridges" but are exceptional in their



Isleton Bridge on a sunny day. Photo: Doris Noriega

own way due to the different construction evolving from 1919 to 1962 and the geographic land structures they are built upon. These bridges are considered historical and unique.

Helen Madere Memorial Bridge, known locally as the Rio Vista Bridge, it is a vertical lift bridge that crosses over the Sacramento River at Rio Vista. It wasn't always a vertical lift bridge. The original Rio Vista Bridge was built in 1919 as a Strauss Double Leaf Bascule Bridge

- two sections of bridge directed towards each other and connected in the middle. When powered, the sections lift up and away from each other to allow ship or boat passage. A counterweight continuously balances a span, or "leaf," throughout its upward swing.

The vertical lift bridge you see today was completed in 1960 and won an American Institute of Steel Construction class IV (movable bridges) award. The bridge was re-named the Helen Madere Memorial Bridge after a

California Delta bridges, waterways & towns

Photos by Diane King, Greg Mitchell & Doris Noriega

former vice-mayor of Rio Vista who served as that city's representative to the Solano Transportation Authority.

The importance of bridges and the connection to our Delta livelihood is reflected in an incident that occurred on 15 January 1967. There was a collision when a freighter, the *Ilice*, rammed the Rio Vista Bridge in heavy fog. It took three weeks to repair the closed bridge and a ferry was assigned to transport traffic across the river.

Isleton Bridge is a more unique historic bridge because of its unusual combination of concrete and steel spans that are both capable of being considered "main spans." The bridge is another Strauss designed bascule span, with a different structural finish. It has two concrete rainbow spans on the east side of the bridge. The visual impact of this bridge outdoes the written word. Both the rainbow arch spans and the bascule span retain historic integrity by way of their lack of alteration of original materials and design. This Isleton Bridge is an outstanding bridge that should receive a high priority for preservation. It's beautiful design and distinctive color make the Isleton Bridge a favorite of locals. Joseph Strauss, the engineer, went on to become the Chief Engineer to head up the design of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Three Mile Slough Bridge was built in 1949 and is similar in design to the Rio Vista Bridge as a vertical lift bridge. It is part of the CA Route 160 connection from Antioch to Sacramento.

Walnut Grove Bridge was constructed in 1951 and is a Strauss Heel Trunnion Bascule Bridge. This bridge connects both sections of Walnut Grove and is another bridge loaded with character. Walnut Grove offers a nice docking facility and many shops and restaurants to enjoy. The bridge literally brings life together for the community.

Steamboat Slough Bridge is another bascule bridge built by Strauss Bascule Bridge Co. It is located over Steamboat Slough near the town of Courtland. Built in 1924, it is a charming old bridge that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Freeport Bridge is an historic bridge built in 1929 and upgraded in 1955. This is another bascule type bridge with counterweights on either side to lift the middle section for shipping vessel traffic. It is a true delight to see these type of bridges in motion.

Paintersville Bridge was built in 1923 and is one of the very few unmodified examples in California of the Strauss Heel Trunnion Bascule Bridge. It was also a link with the Victory Highway, which played an integral part in transportation and agricultural history in the California Delta region. (The Victory Highway was established following WWI as a memorial to those who fought and died in that war. It ran from Kansas City to San Francisco. The western end for the Victory Highway is in South San Francisco.)

Miner Slough Bridge is a swing bridge over Miner Slough connecting Ryer Island to the mainland on CA Route 84, built in 1933 and rehabilitated in 1953. This bridge is located west of the Sacramento River and east of the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel.

Mokelumne River Bridge on Highway 12 between Rio Vista and Lodi is a swing bridge over the beautiful Mokelumne River built in 1942 and had a major overhaul completed in 2016. The total length of this bridge is 1,436.1 feet

and has a vertical clearance of 27.9 feet. That's good to know if you are traveling with an RV and have items stored on the roof.

Georgiana Slough Bridge is a Steel Girder Swing Bridge, built by Duncanson-Harrelson Co in 1962 over the Georgiana Slough on Isleton Road.

The opportunity to share some time on the California Delta is an occasion to be taken seriously and with great pride. Part of your experience is seeing firsthand, how the Delta has created the fabric of the independent people who live here. The agricultural and livestock contributions span the country and have done so for generations. The sport fishing contributions abound with years of development – fetching back when there was a strong commercial fishing industry, one of the best on the west coast. The Delta, right here, is one of the most impressive waterways the world has to offer. It has great expanses, still waters, storms that rival some of the best ones, calm summers and beautiful starry evenings. Then there are the people who make it all happen.

Rio Vista, Courtland, Locke, Walnut Grove, Isleton, Freeport, Paintersville, Grand Island, Ryde, Hood and many more cities and towns are what make up the Delta community. The bridges connect all the roads and afford boaters the opportunity to appreciate the uniqueness of what is here. Whether by boat or by car, there is plenty to do for all, so come on out and enjoy!



End view of the Walnut Grove Bridge. Photo: Diane King

Dixon May Fair

Oldest District Fair in CA

Story by Marilyn Nelson

Come one! Come all! Don't miss the Dixon May Fair May 11 – 14 at 655 South 1st Street in Dixon. This is the 142nd year celebrating the importance of agriculture in Solano County. The Dixon May Fair is the oldest district fair in the entire state of California. The district includes Dixon, Rio Vista, Fairfield, Vacaville, Davis, Elmira, and Woodland.

This year's theme "Farm to Fair" serves as a reminder that fairs have been showcasing and promoting agriculture for over 200 years. Fairs educate the public about agriculture, as well as entertain. Competitions are held while exhibiting the animals. Events have developed into showcases for produce, baked goods and handiwork too.



Carnival rides.



A Rio Vista 4Her with quail.

Fair Schedule – The days and times of the Fair are:

May 11, Thursday	4:00 pm – 10:00 pm
May 12, Friday	Noon – 11:00 pm
May 13, Saturday	11:00 am – 11:00 pm
May 14, Sunday	Noon – 10:00 pm

Gate Prices – Adults 13 & over are \$12.00, children 5 to 12 years of age \$8, and children 4 and under are free. Senior citizen discount for those 65 and over is \$8. Military discount (with an active duty card) is \$8. There is separate pricing for Grandstand events. There is a special entry price of \$5 for everyone 5 years of age and older on Thrifty Thursday, May 11. Kid's Day, May 12, children 12 and under enjoy free fair admission all day.

These are some of the many fun things to do and see:

Grandstand – Friday, May 12 – Bronc & Bull Ride, 7:00 pm. Saturday, May 13 – Truck & Tractor Pull, 7:00 pm. Sunday, May 14 – Demolition Derby, 5:30 pm.

Carnival – Try the classic carnival rides that everyone knows and loves to quench your taste for excitement.

Music – Nine different music groups are performing every day, all day and evening on the Leber Garden Stage.

Animals – Youths exhibit market steers, sheep, goats and swine as well as small animals such as rabbits, chickens, quails and turkeys.

Vendors – Plenty of the usual and unusual treats are available to satisfy everyone's hunger and curiosity.

Come to the Fair and call up some memories of olden times and make some new ones.

For more information go to:

<http://DixonMayFair.com/general-information/>.

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Historic Romildo Pezzaglia Home

By Phil Pezzaglia Photos from the Rio Vista Museum

Romildo Pezzaglia, a native of Switzerland, came to Rio Vista as a partner in the firm J. Stern & Co just after the turn of the century. The company's main office was in San Francisco and the Rio Vista Branch was established around 1886. In 1914 Romildo and his younger brother Joseph established the Pezzaglia Bros. Netherlands Theatre in the 100 block of Main Street. This was the first local movie theater and they operated it until 1923.

The 107-year-old Pezzaglia home at 342 St. Gertrude Avenue began its existence in 1910 when Romildo had a one-story cottage constructed at the corner of St. Gertrude Avenue and Fourth Street. He commissioned the home's construction towards the end of the year, so that it would be ready for him and his bride Bessie Mayhood to move into following the couple's marriage and honeymoon in January 1911.

Miss Mayhood was the daughter of prominent Montezuma Hills' ranchers, James and Emma Mayhood. The story goes that Miss Mayhood fancied Romildo, so she would go into town frequently and stop at J. Stern & Co. to purchase a yard of ribbon, just so she could talk to Romildo while he waited on her.

As the Pezzaglia family grew, the house was expanded. Between 1912 and 1925 there were seven children, Ernestine, Romildo "Braid", Norris Ralph, Jack, Bernice, Bessie, and William born to Romildo and Bessie. Several of the older children were born in the family home.

To the south of the house, along Fourth Street, a garage was constructed with a small yard between it and the main house. There were several chicken coops in the yard so the family could have fresh eggs.

The home was remodeled around 1918 or 1920 by local builder Weston Campbell and his son Charlie. A second floor, consisting of three bedrooms and a bath, doubled the size of the original home. Downstairs, the living room and dining room were extended towards St. Gertrude Avenue. The rest of the first floor consisted of a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and back porch.

Unfortunately, Mr. Pezzaglia passed away in October 1930 following a short illness, leaving Bessie during the Depression a widow with seven children and a large home.

Around 1935 the home's kitchen was remodeled by Louie De Dami, a Dixon contractor. During this remodel the old pantry was eliminated to make room for one of the first modern dish washing machines in Rio Vista. During this period, young Romildo "Braid" was working in the

appliance department of J. Stern & Co. He felt that having a dishwasher in the family home was important and would allow him to acquire firsthand knowledge of its abilities, thereby giving him an advantage in selling them.

In addition to the kitchen remodel, a portion of the first floor was converted into a small apartment to be used

as a rental. The apartment, which had both a front and rear entrance, consisted of a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. A door remained from the bathroom, which led to the back porch, while the doorway just inside the front entrance was covered.

After the death of Mrs. Pezzaglia's father, James, her mother, Emma, moved into the home apartment and resided there until her passing. To receive some additional monthly income, the old garage on Fourth Street was torn down and a duplex was constructed in its place,

providing another two rental properties.

About the time of World War II, the widow Pezzaglia remarried, becoming the wife of Daniel T. Coleman, a local bookkeeper with J. Stern & Co. Around 1940, the home

was remodeled for the third time, when another local contractor, Mr. Kennedy, enlarged the second-floor bedrooms. More room was needed for the two younger Pezzaglia daughters, who were both in high school. For close to three decades the home sustained few changes. Through those years, the home was always considered the family gathering spot, especially on holidays, for Mrs. Pezzaglia's seven children, their spouses, and fifteen grandchildren.

In the early 1970's the fourth and final remodel took place, changing a back porch and adding a downstairs bathroom, after Mrs. Pezzaglia broke her hip and was unable to utilize the second-floor rooms. Also, the second-floor porch off the bathroom was removed.

Bessie passed away on April 14, 1975. Proceeding her in death was her second husband, who passed away in 1959. Her family kept the home and used it as a rental until 1983, when they sold it to the current owner.

When the home was originally constructed it was painted brown with yellow trim. Through the years the home was usually painted white with either black, white or occasionally blue trim. Every year Mrs. Pezzaglia would white wash the trunks of the row of poplar trees on the home's large lawn, making the home very attractive for all to see.



Romildo Pezzaglia home in 1911.



Romildo Pezzaglia home at a later date.

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www.riovistarotary.org

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Rio Vista Grand Slam-June 16th-18th
www.internationalwindsurfingtour.com

Slow Food- June 24th
www.slowfoodriovista.org



For More Information contact the
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Fishing for Spring Stripper

In The Net with Fish'n Dog Drew

By Drew Gidlof

Photo by Jan Vick

Drew Gidlof, owner of Fish'n Dog Drew Guide Service, offers his expertise on fishing the vast waterways of the Delta.

What a crazy winter we had this year! Record amounts of rain in the California Reservoir systems and local rivers, made winter striper fishing almost impossible. Thankfully, we will get a great opportunity to fish for stripers this spring as they migrate north to their spawning locations from the San Francisco Bay, Pacific Ocean, or the winter beds in the Delta.

The previous article discussed some techniques for targeting stripers using a variety of different lures. Lures, jigs, and plastic worms, are still excellent methods for catching stripers in the spring.

Spring is the time to dust off your action tipped fishing rods so you can drift jumbo minnows. This allows us to take advantage of the striper's aggressive attitude and predatory instincts. Fishing with minnows is a great way to target stripers.

Using minnows is a thrill but requires some extra planning and logistics. You need a container to store your live minnows in that has a good aeration system to keep the water oxygenated. Use a simple 5-gallon bucket, with a lid and an air unit attached to the side for under \$20, or go with an elaborate system that runs closer to a \$100 or more. Systems at both ends of the cost scale generally provide the same results. The key is to keep the water clean and to not use untreated chlorinated water. Otherwise, you will lose your bait before having a chance to fish.

Use a medium to light weight fishing pole with a 2500 series bait caster reel and mono filament or braided line. You use fishing rigs for a variety of fishing techniques, species, and methods. With braided line you do not have to worry about changing reels or line when conditions change.

Once the live minnow is hooked through the lower jaw and nose with a number 4 hook, drop the bait rig into the water to drift. Do not run the hook through the eye of your bait or it will become wasted and you will need to change it out. Once the bait rig hits the river bed, reel up a couple of times and let the minnow drift. Use a ¾ ounce in line weight to start with. An in line weight allows you to move it up or down on the line easily. The weight is used to take the minnow down and to hold it in a suspended state while you're drifting. Every couple of minutes, or when you notice a change in the water depth on your depth finder, drop the minnow down again and crank it up a couple of times to keep the minnow close to the bottom. Using a bait caster with a button line release works best. Open face spinner reels can be used as well but require some extra action on your part to let the line out.

Hold your rod steady without a lot of extra movement so the minnow drifts in a natural state. When you notice a lot

of movement, or swimming by the minnow, a predator fish such as a striper is close by. When this happens, hold on, you are about to get a bite! Let the striper take the minnow in, or "feed the striper." Once you feel the striper has taken your bait set the hook if the striper has not hooked itself.

At this time of year target sand bars for stripers. Find a nice sand bar and motor up above it, get your boat lined up, drop your bait into the water and drift past the sandbar letting the current move you along. To make adjustments to the drift, use the electrical motor for changes in direction or movement. This approach keeps the noise level down while enjoying a quiet drift and the beauty of the nature around you.

Never give up on a sand bar after a single drift. Do not be afraid of drifting a section of the river multiple times. When you get a bite, or mark a school, definitely drift through the section a few more times, concentrating on the areas near the river bank as you drift a minnow.

To mix things up to generate a bite, try using a bobber to suspend the minnow as you drift an area. This technique is best when the river depth is consistent so you can set the minnow at a set depth and drift with confidence that you will not get hung up, or worse, are fishing too shallow.

Always have a small container, such as a coffee can, on board to use in between drifts or while motoring to a new location. Put some of the river water in the container and let your minnow rest when you are not fishing.

It is important to check the condition of your minnow in between drifts or after a good strike. If the bait appears marked up or weak you need to change it out. You are using live bait and the minnow needs to swim normally for it to be effective.

In closing, "remember to keep those fishing lines tight", and "take time to take a child fishing..."



Great Coffee in Rio Vista!

Story and Photos by Doris Noriega

When people think of having a great cup of coffee they think of driving to a Starbucks or Peet's. The good news is that there are many delightful coffee establishments right here in Rio Vista.

There is a science to growing, roasting, and tasting coffees just like in the wine industry. Professionals rate coffee by its flavors, aroma, body, which means the way it feels in your mouth, acidity, which is unrelated to pH levels but to the liveliness of the flavor, richness, and smoothness. Flavors can be described as buttery, caramel-like, chocolate-like, earthy, fruity, spicy, and herbal etc.

Hwy 12 Diner has an exceptional coffee bar offering a great selection of coffees. The basic brand of coffee



Hwy 12 cappuccino and cinnamon roll.

they use is Old Soul, an artisan roasting company in Sacramento. Old Soul buys their beans mainly from Central and South America, which are best known for their slightly sweet

taste, clean mouth feel, and lively acidity. The coffee served at Hwy 12 Diner is rich with a buttery feel. Cappuccino with or without added flavor syrups, espresso, Americano, lattes, and mochas are some of your choices.

Rio Vista Market also has a terrific coffee bar. Their coffee supplier is Java City, which is also in Sacramento. The coffee has a smooth taste, full body, and balanced acidity. Java City buys their beans from Central and South America too. Java City uses authentic brick-lined Italian roasters. cappuccino, Americano, espresso, and mochas are among your choices. Java City offers different flavor blended coffees such as dark chocolate, caramel, chocolate cookies, and mint.

There is great coffee at the **Rio Vista Bakery** whose brand is Eco Delight. Eco Delight buys their coffee beans from Costa Rica. It uses artisan roasting methods and equipment designed in Germany. The company originally started in Suisun City but has since relocated to Petaluma. Eco Delight provides wonderful coffees that are farm direct and sells its products in area specialty food stores. The coffee has a balanced and full bodied taste. The bakery offers cappuccino, Americano, espresso, lattes, and white mocha to just name a few.

Last September **Shanny Mac's Espresso Cafe** opened at the Delta Farmers Market. She buys her coffee from White Cup Coffee Roasters in Lodi and her espresso machine is from Barcelona, Spain. White Cup coffees are organic and from all around the world. Mochas, lattes, caramel macchiato and cappuccino are among the coffees served. Enjoy your coffee in the lovely patio and then browse the market.

So come on downtown for great coffee!



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Food, Festivals & Fun

Story by Jan Vick Photos by Constance Boulware, Jan Vick & Susan Whitesell

Warm weather brings lots of outdoor food, festivals and fun to the Delta.

Vista Farmers Market – Begins May 13

Spring is here and that means the Farmers Market opens! Come to the foot of Main Street at the waterfront beginning Saturday, May 13th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to enjoy fresh produce from



Fresh produce at the Farmers Market. Photo: Jan Vick

Rosendo's Farm and Esquivel Farms as well as pastries from

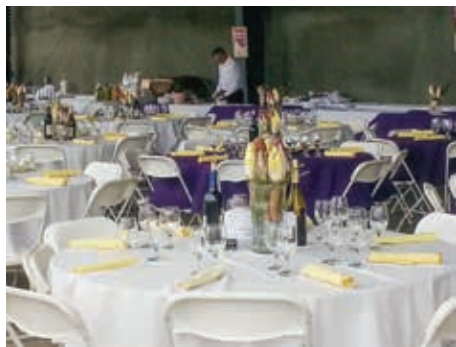
Cobblestone and Bon Ami Bakeries. New this year are hot empanadas. Valley Oak Dairy is back with their special cheeses and other vendors are anticipated.

Isleton 2nd Saturday – Begins May 13

Visit Isleton on the second Saturday of each month beginning in May from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. There is something exciting happening every month, but May 13th is especially interesting. The Mei Wah Beer Bar has its Grand Opening in a restored historic building on Main Street near F Street. Amazingly, they feature 24 available beer taps. Also the F and Main Art Gallery has its summer season opening. There are plenty of restaurants, more art galleries, and antique shops along Main Street.

California Endive Experience – June 10

This enticing, tasty experience gets bigger and better each year! Join the Lions Club at the California Endive Farms,



Beautiful table settings at the California Endive Experience. Photo: Constance Boulware

15 Poppy House Road on June 10th, from 4:30 to 8:30 pm for tours, a delicious dinner, music, comic relief and endive tasting. This year Roger Kohn provides beautiful music and Sandra Risser is there to tickle our funny bone. Cost is \$55 per person, \$60 for individual reserved seating, or \$550 for a reserved table. The ticket price includes dinner and 10 raffle tickets. This is a Rio Vista event not to be missed!

Slow Food Festival – June 24

This gourmet festival is back for its 6th year on June 24th from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. Slow Food is a way of living with wholesome, fresh food prepared to appeal to everyone. Come to Main Street by the Rio Vista waterfront for farm fresh food, wine, art, music and more.



Friendly volunteers at the Slow Food Festival. Photo: Susan Whitesell

Buddhist Bazaar – July 1-2

Sixty-three years ago, the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church began its Church Bazaar. It is held this year on July 1st and 2nd on the church grounds at 14105 Pine Street in Walnut Grove. Entry is free and open to the public. They sell delicious food: teriyaki chicken, sushi, and noodle dishes to name a few. There are bingo and other games for adults and small children. The temple was established in 1927 and is open for viewing during the bazaar. Take the time to travel upriver to see this special event.



Fun at the Buddhist Bazaar. Photo: www.facebook.com/pages/Walnut-Grove-Buddhist-Bazaar

Courtland Pear Fair – July 30

Everything Pear! This long-running festival celebrates the major crop in the Delta: the pear. Journey upriver for a day of fun; beginning with fun runs at 7:30 am, followed by a Pancake Breakfast at 8:00 am. There are arts and crafts, food tents, bands, games, and a classic car show. The Fair closes at 6:00 pm. Of course there are pears – any way you can think of, especially pies, jams, and if you



Courtland Pear Fair parade through downtown. Photo: <http://pearfair.com/gallery>

are lucky, ice cream. There is always a parade ending with the crowning of the Pear Fair Queen. This is one of the oldest festivals in the Delta and continues to be more popular every year.

Event Calendar



Saturday, May 6, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Trilogy Community Garage Sales

Trilogy 55+ community west of Rio Vista

Grab a map at the Trilogy gate to locate hundreds of participating houses. Find furniture, appliances, yard equipment, clothing, housewares, antiques and more!

Thursday, May 11 - Sunday, May 14

Dixon May Fair

655 South 1st Street, Dixon

Enjoy this small town fair with lots of animals, entertainment, a carnival and more! Hours are Thursday 4:00-10:00 pm, Friday noon - 11:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 am - 11:00 pm and Sunday noon - 10:00 pm. See <http://DixonMayFair.com> for more info.



Saturday, July 1 - Sunday, July 2

Buddhist Bazaar

14105 Pine Street, Walnut Grove

Enjoy delicious teriyaki chicken, sushi, and noodle dishes to name a few, then try your hand at bingo and other games for adults and small children.

Wednesday, August 2 - Sunday, August 6

Solano County Fair

900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo

Enjoy livestock, agricultural and horticultural exhibits, loads of entertainment, carnival rides, and more. Hours are Wednesday - Friday, 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday, noon - 11:00 pm. Don't miss the City of Rio Vista booth. See <http://scfair.com> for more info.



Saturdays, beginning May 13, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Farmers Market

End of Main Street at the waterfront

Enjoy locally grown fruits, vegetables, artisan baked goods and foods as you enjoy the spectacular view of the Sacramento River.

Third Thursday, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Third Thursday

May 18, June 15, July 20 & August 17, Downtown Rio Vista



Experience art, entertainment, fun activities and the Rio Vista Museum while leisurely shopping Rio Vista's quaint downtown.



Saturday, June 10, 4:30 - 8:30 pm

Endive Experience

15 Poppy House Rd., Rio Vista

Rio Vista Lions Club and California Endive Farms team up to raise money for the Rio Vista community. Tour the

California Endive Farm facility and enjoy endive appetizers, musical and comic entertainment, and great dinner. Individual tickets are \$55, individual reserved seating is \$60, or \$550 for a reserved table. Buy tickets at Pets 4 All and Visitor Center in town or online at www.Eventbrite.com and search for "endive." For more info contact Constance Boulware at (707) 639-7175.

Friday, June 16 - Sunday, June 18, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

2017 Rio Vista Grand Slam

Sherman Island County Park, 5147 Sherman Island Road, Rio Vista

This fabulous windsurfing competition is back for a third year! View or enter Foiling, Freestyle, Open and Slalom races. Spectator admission is free. Check the website for updates and more details at:

<http://uswindsurfing.org/event/2017-iwt-rio-vista-grand-slam/>.



Saturday, June 24, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Slow Food Festival

35 Main Street, Rio Vista



The Slow Food Festival features musical entertainment, an excellent meal, food, art and craft vendors, information booths, and raffles in an outdoor café atmosphere on the Sacramento River for an all-inclusive ticket price. See www.SlowFoodRioVista.org for current pricing and tickets. For more info call (707) 374-6118 or email slowfoodriovista@gmail.com.



Sunday, July 30

Courtland Pear Fair

Downtown Courtland

Join the fun at the 44th annual Courtland Pear Fair. Enjoy the pancake breakfast, country run, kids area, arts and crafts, parade, live music, quilt show, car show, wine, beer and more! See <http://PearFair.com> for more info.

Saturday & Sunday, August 12-13, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wine & Produce Passport Weekend

Delta Wine and Produce Trail Map Locations

Drive from farm to farm or winery along CA Scenic Hwy 160, experiencing rural delta life.

Join farm tours, taste local wines, see farm equipment displays, and enjoy a wide variety of fresh local produce. Farms are open from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Wineries are open from 11:00 am

- 5:00 pm. For tickets and info see www.SacRiverDeltaGrown.org.



Saturday, August 19, 11:30 am - 4:30 pm

Fire Department Barbeque

Veterans Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista



Support this barbeque fund raiser to show appreciation for local heroes – the firefighters that serve Rio Vista! Ticket price is \$25.00. Purchase tickets at Pets 4 All, Books RioV and at the Rio Vista Fire Station.

Saturday, August 20, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

TAG Art Show

Vista Club, Diablo Ballroom, 1201 Clubhouse Drive

Enjoy a juried art show featuring professional works in various media by talented Trilogy residents.

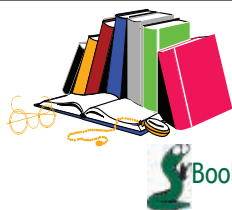


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