

May - August 2018

discover Rio Vista



Cast and crew from "Cameo Kirby," the first silent film made in Rio Vista in 1914. Courtesy of the Rio Vista Museum.

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Cover by Jan Vick

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Recreation on the "Loop"

Boating, RVing, Dining and More!

Story by Linda Jensen Photos by Jan Vick

The Delta Loop is a winding levee road along the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers between the towns of Rio Vista and Lodi. When you drive this 10-mile stretch of Brannon Island Road you'll enjoy scenic views of the waterways and farmland on Andrus Island. Along the way you'll also find almost every kind of fun the Delta offers including fishing, hiking, kayaking/canoeing, boating/water sports, dining and nightlife or just relaxing in the sun.

Resorts and marinas on the Loop offer a wide range of accommodations for vacationers, everything from cabins to camp grounds for your RV or tent. Or you can choose from a number of marina resorts that have guest slips for your private boat. When you stay in one of the cottages at B&W Resort, you'll find recreation features that include a boat ramp and gas dock, snack bar and store. Down the road, Park Delta Bay also has cabins plus an RV Park and tent camping with resort facilities that include tennis and volleyball courts, a swimming pool, and recreation hall. Boaters looking for a day outing or a vacation stay enjoy the guest slips at Korth's Pirates Lair, Spindrift Marina, Willow Berm or the Sacramento Delta Bay Marina.

Korth's Pirates Lair calls itself "the garden spot of the Delta" and has been family owned since 1937. Their facility includes a restaurant open for café dining (breakfast and lunch), a gift shop and picnic area plus a boat launch and fuel dock (gas only).

Sacramento Delta Bay Marina has a mini-mart that sells snacks and drinks plus bait and tackle. Facilities include a guest dock (for day trippers or overnight) and a fishing dock. This marina is located across the street from Park Delta Bay making a combination land/water (cabin or RV and boat) vacation a good option.

Willow Berm Marina and Yacht Harbor has a guest dock (nightly, weekly and monthly rates) with full use of the resort amenities (clubhouse with extensive recreation facilities, fitness/business center, mini-parks with barbeques) plus fuel dock.

Dining on the Loop tends to be casual and delicious and the restaurants all have docks where boaters can pull up for lunch or dinner. Entertainment is offered at all three of the area restaurants. Spindrift Marina is home to Spindrift Restaurant, Bar and General Store with pizza as one of their offerings. The bar offers karaoke and music and dancing on

Friday nights and Sundays. Moore's Riverboat Restaurant is a local favorite for American fare, water views and live music nights. Lighthouse Bar and Grill bills itself as a

Tiki-Rock & Roll bar offering casual dining and a wide range of entertainment including bingo, dancing, karaoke, and live music. Overnight boat parking is offered on Thursday and Saturday nights to encourage safety for those who party into the night.

Rent kayaks, paddle boats and fishing canoes at Kokopelli Kayak Rental during the season (which starts in May). There is a "3-hour blackberry special" kayak rental (comes with gloves and buckets to make it easy to reach the delicious berries on the vines that line the water's edge).

Another exciting recreation opportunity on the Loop is

the Delta Sailing School. They offer sailing lessons and a sailing club that allows you to rent sailboats from their fleet. It's a great way to learn and enjoy a new sport.

The Loop is accessed from Highway 12 at Jackson Slough Road, a few miles east of Rio Vista or via Brannon Island Road near the Mokelumne River Bridge. Below is a list of the businesses mentioned above with their phone numbers. Hours vary, particularly off-season, so it is good to give them a call when making your plans to visit.



The "Loop" sign on Highway 12, a few miles east of Rio Vista.

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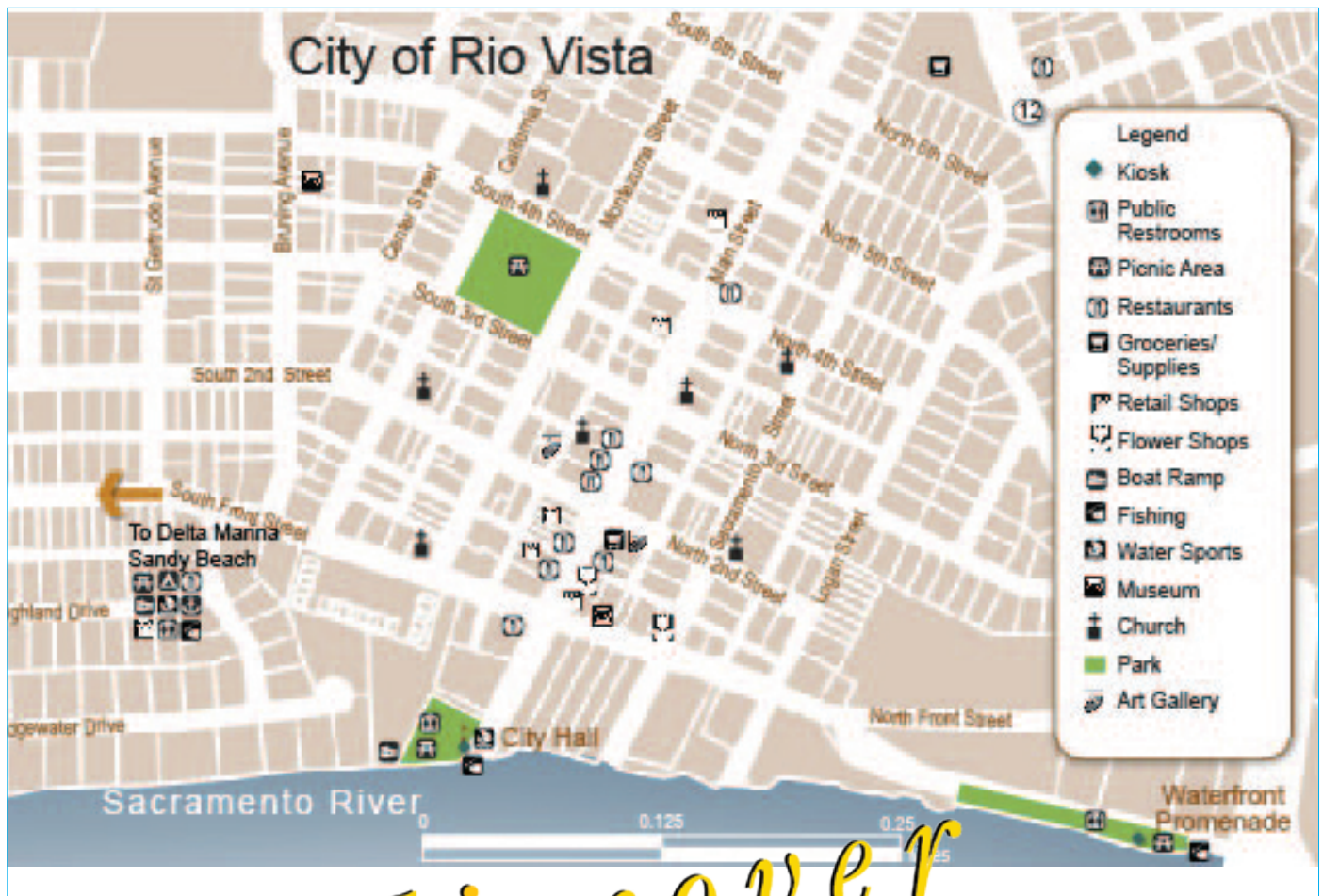
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discover Rio Vista

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ON THE COVER: The cast and crew of the first known silent film shot in the Delta in 1914, "Cameo Kirby." Read more about the many early films shot in the area in the intriguing article by Beth Ann Gallagher on page 10.

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Downtown

Story by Diana Graham

Several unique murals beautify downtown Rio Vista. They are a testament to the many creative local hard-working artists who are generous with their talent and support.

"Big Fish" - 84 Main St

The "Big Fish" mural is rumored to have been painted as a result of Humphrey's visit to Rio Vista from October 10 to November 4 in 1985.

Known as Humphrey the Humpback Whale, a young 40 foot whale was an unusual site in the San Francisco Bay. It was unheard of within the Sacramento Delta. People came from all around to see this phenomenon.

1985 was Humphrey's first trip to Rio Vista. He left his pod (family) as they were migrating from Alaska's icy cold water to the southern warmer ocean's warmer water. Humphrey made a turn at the Golden Gate and swam on by himself.

It's not certain why Humphrey made the turn. After several days, scientists, people on shore and the boats along the waterway encouraged Humphrey to rejoin his pod.

Humphrey again returned in 1990. How did they know it was Humphrey? Whale tail flukes have unique markings allowing identification of each individual whale. Rescued again and sent on his way, Humphrey was last seen in 1991 near the Farallon Islands, outside the San Francisco Bay.

Nick Stiles painted the signs on Hap's Bait Shop. Linda Solomon and Richard Laswell recently refreshed the mural. There is a big painting in the Chamber office, attributed to "Fishback," that appears to be the original basis for the mural. If you know the name of the original creator of the mural, please let us know.

Old Saloon & Barbershop - Main & 2nd St

In 2014 Hale and Sue Conklin, owners of Books Rio V, requested a mural on their outside wall. RioVision, a nonprofit group dedicated to improving Rio Vista, raised the funds for the mural. Additional funding came from donations by those walking by, including some from young children.



The "Big Fish" mural at Hap's Bait, 84 Main Street.

While working and laughing together, artists completed this unique artwork in three months. The volunteers met in the morning to avoid the afternoon sun and sporadic Rio Vista winds.

Linda Solomon and Amy Schmidt shared their delight with this mural along with the challenges that accompanied the creation of this masterpiece. There were 20 artists and helpers that worked on the initial grid lines, setup,

painting and cleanup. An interesting combination of techniques was used. Linda Solomon painted the saloon scene that was displayed on a table for the team to review as they measured and drew the grid lines on the wall. There were ongoing sketches and some changes from the original painting, including the rustic touch of the spittoon at the end of the bar on the floor. The romance within the mural was inserted to give the saloon a PG feel, including the possibility of a love story between a lady and gentleman who, upon

hearing the piano playing, stop in for a dance, maybe the "polite waltz" popular in the west during the 1800's.

Chris and Joan Quan's sweet dog Sly (now deceased) is featured in the painting. What we don't see in the mural: Sly had only three legs. The piano player and bartender displayed were selected from pictures and drawings found from the era depicted in the saloon.

The challenge of ensuring the proportional perspective of the people was met by Linda and Amy who took photos of the people in the original painting to a local printer who enlarged the photos to the 3' by 5' size required for the mural. They held the outline of the enlarged photo up to the wall, dusted chalk around the photo and voilà, they then painted within the chalk lines. Brilliant!

The outline of the saloon mural creates the jaw-dropping illusion of an insert into the wall, including a whimsical



Artists work on the Old Saloon & Barbershop mural at Books Rio V, corner of Main & 2nd Street.

woman from the present gazing in and taking a photo.

Amy Schmidt mastered the barbershop on the right side of the saloon. Its clarity and three-dimensional look and feel make you want to turn the door knob and walk right in.

This work of art reveals an amazing vision and tells a story of this region's heritage, captured by a team of talented volunteer artists.

Murals

Photos by Linda Solomon and Nick Stiles

Pride of Rio Vista - 26 North 2nd St

Ryan Pace, former Rio Vista High School art teacher, was approached by a downtown building owner with a vision for a mural on the side of his building. The owner wanted to capture the unique amenities in Rio Vista, highlighting the impressive drawbridge, and including the flower shop, fishing, farming, the herds and flocks as well as the green source of power from the numerous wind turbines.

Nick Stiles, a local artist, attended school in Rio Vista from middle school through his first year in college. At the age of 20, Nick was recommended to design and paint the mural by his former art teacher, Ryan Pace.

A student wrote about Mr. Pace's impact on Yelp, "Mr. Pace was an influence to me that I didn't understand until I grew up as an artist. He seeks out potential and pushes it to the max... I've watched Pace push people with true talent... Art in high school can be something that can be considered an "easy A," Pace understands this and focuses on students that really have a passion for the arts. I will forever remember my studentship under a great teacher."

Nick, commissioned by the owner of the building, was excited to accept the challenge of the 8.5' by 40' mural.

The young but gifted artist began his first mural. He was tasked to capture the special character of Rio Vista. Nick sketched the mural on paper before he began the painting, using blue tape as the frame.

Wearing a sombrero, Nick began the character outlines on the wall and proceeded to paint "all day." Nick has revealed some of the treasures of our unique community, capturing Rio Vista's numerous farms, cows and sheep and iconic drawbridge and, of course, the flowers.

The building owner paid for the materials and Julie Oakes, a florist at that time, also helped Nick with creative ideas. Nick used only five colors: black, white, yellow, green and blue, completing this artwork in just ten days.

Artist Nick Stiles' wonderful first mural emphasizes Rio Vista's unique character and reveals his amazing creative talent, adding to Rio Vista's vibrant downtown.



Mural by Nick Stiles at 26 North 2nd Street.

911 Memorial - 350 Main St (front)

Allen Hartford, Rio Vista Fire Chief at the time, commissioned the team of Linda Solomon, Amy Schmidt and Richard Laswell to create a memorial mural for the front of the Rio Vista Fire Station. The three worked diligently to meet the deadline in ten days, in time for the fifteenth anniversary of the tragedy on September 11, 2001 and recognize the New York Fire Department's courageous efforts.

The first step was to pour the concrete pad in front of the mural. Then the artists started working around the mounting for the red, rusty steel I-beam – 4 feet long, 16 inches wide, weighing 780 pounds – from the ruins of the Twin Towers. The I-beam is one of about 250 pieces from the World Trade Center towers kept just for the purpose of memorializing that fateful day in September, 2001.

Former Rio Vista Fire Chief Tom Myers remembers the application process: it wasn't difficult but there were a few rules. The I-beam had to be visible to the public. The piece could not be used for fundraising nor could it be placed in a private collection. The City of Rio Vista was not charged for the piece but had to pay for the shipping from New York to California. A local shipping company agreed to transport the piece. When the transportation company learned what they were carrying, they transported it at no charge. The shipment came to Rio Vista through Suisun City on Hwy 12, followed by a convoy of vehicles with sirens blaring.

The beam arrived for all to see – this memorable piece of history.

Tom Myers said, "We wanted everyone to know we were transporting something significant to share." On arrival, they discovered the size was not exactly as expected. What would they do with this I-beam to display it in the best way possible?

Paul Graham Drilling was asked to take a look at the beam and it was decided to place it in front of the fire station with a large post attached to the back of the beam.

A plaque is mounted that commemorates the day of dedication at the fire station and places a piece of history in the community of Rio Vista – history that touched everyone in America.



Artist Amy Schmidt works on the 911 Memorial mural on the front of the Rio Vista Fire Department at 350 Main Street.

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Spotlight On Foster's & Hwy 12 Diner

By Laurie Oleksiewicz Photos by Jan Vick

A unique business can be found on the very highway that runs through Rio Vista, the Hwy 12 Diner. The diner is owned and operated by a well-respected Rio Vista couple, Howard and Mary Ellen Lamothe.

Howard is a fourth generation Rio Vistan. After two years as a submarine sailor during the Vietnam War and with a degree from Chico State University, Howard returned to Rio Vista to raise his family. In 2000, Howard bought Foster's Bighorn, a well-known dining establishment on Main Street in downtown Rio Vista.

Mary Ellen grew up in San Luis Obispo, working in a family-owned restaurant. After graduating from San Jose State, she taught high school for 12 years, with cooking and culinary arts her specialty. A move to Napa Valley put Mary Ellen in touch with fine wines and foods. She owned a wine brokerage and worked as a wine educator at several wineries. In 2005 Mary Ellen moved to Rio Vista when she married Howard Lamothe.

Howard operated Henry's Coffee Shop, a prior name of the Hwy 12 Diner for 22 years. In 2007, he sold the restaurant and it was operated by other owners for several years. In 2015 the restaurant was closed until Howard and Mary Ellen opened it in 2016 under the name Hwy 12 Diner. It opened in January 2016 after a hectic six week restaurant make-over that involved all new equipment and a fresh updated look.

Both Howard and Mary Ellen have excellent backgrounds and experience in the food industry field, which helps make the Hwy 12 Diner a top notch eatery here in Rio Vista. Whether you are just passing through on Highway 12 or are local folks, you will appreciate the diner's top quality food at affordable prices.

As Mary Ellen stated, "We love cooking and we love to eat, so buying top quality ingredients is paramount. We make our own meatloaf and corned beef hash; our chili is a favorite and won 2nd place at the Hog August Bites event last year. People love being able to order breakfast all day long and our omelets are a favorite."

When they opened the Hwy 12 Diner, Howard and Mary Ellen knew they wanted a great coffee. After tasting their way through several coffee roasters in Sacramento, they selected Old Soul Coffee. The Hwy 12 Diner is supplied weekly with fresh roasted coffee beans sourced from Central and South America and Asia. In January 2017 they added an espresso bar, offering a full selection of espresso based drinks, latte, mocha, and iced drinks.

When asked what they like best about their work and business, Mary Ellen answers "the people." Their employees are dedicated individuals who care about the business and each other. One of their employees is Trixy

Malone who started working there when it was Henry's Coffee Shop. At that time Trixy was in high school and both her mother and grandmother worked there too. Now Trixy is the manager and primary cook. Her efforts help to keep the business running smoothly and happily.

And of course the other "people"

Howard and Mary Ellen treasure are the customers. "The patrons become friends and it is like another family here at the diner. Everyone likes to cook, to eat, and to socialize, so this is the perfect place!" states Mary Ellen.

So next time you are passing by, whether on your way to another destination, or on your way to run errands downtown, be sure to stop by the Hwy 12 Diner or Foster's Bighorn to enjoy a good meal and a good time.



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Early Films

Scenic river delta featured

By Beth Ann

In the days of hand-cranked movie cameras, the Delta and Rio Vista in particular became a hotbed of film making. Assets that drew settlers and industry, like the Sacramento River and timeless small towns free of over development, made the area attractive as a background setting for movies. To save on production costs, California filmmakers used the broad and long river as a substitute for large, out-of-state rivers. Numerous early movies, from the silent era into the talkies, used the Sacramento River to portray the Mississippi. The steamships traveling between Sacramento, Stockton, and San Francisco abetted in the illusion. Here are the stories behind classic era films made in the Delta.

Cameo Kirby

“Cameo Kirby” (1914) holds the honor of being the first silent film made in Rio Vista. The Fox Film feature was directed by Oscar Apfel and stars Dustin Farnum, who originated the role on the stage. New Orleanian Kirby, nicknamed for his lucky cameo ring, loses his family’s plantation to debts after his father dies. An encounter with a crooked gambler on a riverboat leads to more tragedy and trouble with the law. The majority of local filming took place on the waterfront. Fox would remake the movie twice, once in 1923 with cinema heartthrob John Gilbert and once in 1930 as a musical with J. Harold Murray. The remakes were shot closer to Sacramento. As with so many silent movies, film historians presume all film prints of the first “Cameo Kirby” have been lost.

A Man of Sorrow

Fox Film’s need of lumber region scenes for “A Man of Sorrow” (1916) made Rio Vista an ideal location. It was common to transport lumber along the river. In the movie, a husband is tricked into believing his wife unfaithful, and he almost commits suicide by jumping off a pier. Motography magazine claims nearly all the inhabitants of the town participated in a mob scene. Motion Picture News says the movie company left behind a “large and imposing” monument constructed for filming as a gift because townspeople had become fond of it. Cast and crew, including director Oscar Apfel, were marooned in the area when flooding severely damaged San Francisco’s railroads. Film historians presume “A Man of Sorrow,” along with the studio’s only copies of silent films, were destroyed in the 1937 Fox vault fire.



Jim Bludso

Two years into his directing career, Tod Browning arrived in Rio Vista to shoot what has been credited as his first feature, “Jim Bludso” (1917). An adaptation of a stage



drama based on a John Hay ballad, the film focuses on an engineer of a Mississippi River packet who returns home from the Civil War to discover his wife has abandoned him and their child. Dramatic sequences feature levee sabotage, a race between two boats, and hand-to-hand combat on board a burning and sinking ship. Moving Picture World highlights Rio Vista’s “picturesque atmosphere” and the

cinematographer’s “unusual close-up views of the sinking vessel.” Browning would achieve everlasting fame with “Dracula” (1931) and cult classic “Freaks” (1932). Film historians presume “Jim Bludso” lost.

Mark Twain Trilogy

Director William Desmond Taylor filmed the river scenes of his Mark Twain trilogy—“Tom Sawyer” (1917), “Huck and Tom” (1918), and “Huckleberry Finn” (1920)—in Rio Vista. He was

so successful in making the Sacramento River look like the Mississippi River, Paramount let the assumption lie that viewers were truly seeing Hannibal, Missouri on



the big screen. The Tom Sawyer for the first two films, Jack Pickford, was a good actor who never fulfilled his potential, choosing partying over a serious career, to the chagrin of his much more famous sister Mary Pickford. Taylor’s talent and career would be overshadowed by his unsolved murder, which along with a rash of contemporary scandals led to morality clauses being inserted into Hollywood contracts. “Tom Sawyer” and “Huckleberry Finn” are available on disc for home viewing. “Huck and Tom” is likely lost.

of the Delta in many vintage films!

Gallagher

The Midlanders

Actress Bessie Love, best remembered for her early film work though her career lasted over six decades, plays one of her wholesome type roles in a melodrama she filmed in Rio Vista. Heading her own movie production company, she brought "The Midlanders" (1920) to the town for exterior shooting. According to Exhibitors Herald, the cast and crew spent a "long period" filming in Rio Vista in the spring of 1920. In adapting the Charles Tenney Jackson novel of the same name set in the "middle west" and Louisiana swamps, Love placed "a special emphasis... on accurate and colorful location work." So



much so, cast and crew waited for bad weather to pass to be able to start filming. Validating the expenses incurred by the delay, the result was "a set of very unusual outdoor scenes." The majority of the feature is lost, but Australian filmmaker and preservationist Robert Hoskin shares the only surviving fragment on YouTube.

The Volga Boatman

When Director Cecil B. DeMille needed a California-based stand-in for a famous Russian river, he brought "The Volga Boatmen" (1926) to Rio Vista. The movie tells the story of the romance between a princess and a peasant during the Revolution. William Boyd plays the male lead, and the role skyrocketed him to stardom overnight. Later he would go on to portray his best-known role, Hopalong Cassidy. An actress playing a supporting role in the DeMille production, Julia Faye, published a letter from the set in Picture-Play Magazine. She gushingly proclaims she "never had a more beautiful trip than going up the Sacramento River by starlight" and praises the Italian cuisine served by the mayor at his welcome party. The film survives for viewing today. Multiple home video companies sell it on disc.



Huckleberry Finn

With the coming of sound, Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" (1931) was filmed once again in Rio Vista. This time Junior Durkin plays the titular role, and Jackie Coogan (Uncle Fester on "The Addams Family") plays Tom Sawyer. The boys hit it off in real life and acted much like their on screen counterparts. Screenland magazine relays their Fourth of July hijinks. Both boys worked on the holiday with no complaints, but once filming was done, they bought a bag of torpedoes and competed to see whose fireworks would explode the loudest. When director Norman Taurog and a crewman exited Hotel Rio Vista at the wrong time, the boys chased the men down Main Street and threw torpedoes at their feet. Hearing all the hubbub, locals lined up on the curbs to watch the show. This version of "Huckleberry Finn" is currently unavailable in an official release, but is occasionally offered through "grey market" sellers.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Only eight years passed before a new "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" (1939) was filmed! The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer crew traveled up and down the Sacramento River selecting Rio Vista, Isleton, Ryde, Walnut Grove, and Hood as background settings. Rio Vista Museum curator Phil Pezzaglia says "filming took place near the Rio Vista Bridge" and "on the river where California Packing used to operate a plant on River Road." Star Mickey Rooney was a known commodity and a draw to local children, who went to watch him perform. Director Richard Thorpe was unable to reign in Rooney, and one critic sniped the movie was "more Mickey than Huckleberry." Judge for yourself! "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is available for home viewing via streaming and disc.

All the King's Men

The last classic era film to be shot in the Delta was "All the King's Men" (1949). Collinsville and Bird's Landing were among the numerous small California towns selected by Columbia Pictures as locations, and the company hired many locals as actors. In this adaptation of the Robert Penn Warren novel, an honest man becomes corrupted as he rides his populist appeal into office. The name of his party and his state are never identified. The movie, directed by Robert Rossen, earned the Oscar for Best Picture, as well as garnering Oscars for leading man Broderick Crawford and supporting actress Mercedes McCambridge (in her screen debut). "All the King's Men" is available for home viewing via streaming and disc.

The next installment of Films of the Delta will concentrate on modern movies, those made after 1965.

Downtown Murals

Continued from page 7

Historic RVFD - 350 Main St (side)

Tom Myers, Rio Vista's Fire Chief in 2013, admired artist Nick Stiles work on the flower shop. He contacted Nick to paint a mural on the side of the Rio Vista Fire House, 16' tall by 60' long, based on a historic photograph taken when the Fire House opened in the 1920s. Nick used the photo to estimate the price to complete the mural. Tom asked Nick, who was 21 at the time, to present his estimate of time and cost for the mural.



Artist Nick Stiles works on the Historic RVFD mural on the side of the Rio Vista Fire Department at 350 Main Street.

Nick created a PowerPoint presentation to submit the estimate to the Rio Vista Foundation, Rio Vista Rotary Club and other community service organizations. This mural was to be created using just seven colors: black, white, tan, green, blue, red and grey. Once approved, Nick started with the picture in Photoshop adding a grid. He then used the cinder blocks on the 16' by 60' wall to begin his sketch. He used sections of the wall cinder blocks to set the specific scenes. Nick would first paint an area the primary color of the scene and then draw the contents of the scene in the area before carefully painting the final details.

Clinton Scholting provided the scissor lift that was essential to the process. Imagine standing on a scissor lift in the heat and our Rio Vista wind... Wow! Nick said that matching the fire engine red was the most difficult task. His father's input while viewing the work in progress prompted further testing of a few different shades of red.

The estimate for completion was three to four weeks when actual completion turned out to be five weeks. Impressive considering the details of 17 portraits inserted into the mural. The portraits are of the actual first Rio Vista Fire Department 93 years ago. There are some relatives of these men currently living in Rio Vista.

Tom, the Fire Chief, had to leave town for a few weeks while Nick worked on the mural. When he returned to Rio Vista, he was delighted. Tom contacted a reporter at Fox News in Sacramento who came to Rio Vista to see the mural, interview Nick and photograph this classic mural.

Nick is now 26 and a successful artist discovered right here in Rio Vista. He is painting on commission in homes in Southern California. He still has family residing in Rio Vista. You may contact Nick for individual commissioned painting. His website is <http://NickStilesArt.com>.

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Norris Millican Bailey House

By Phil Pezzaglia Photos from the Rio Vista Museum

The home located at 128 South Second Street is one of the oldest homes in Rio Vista. The home is located on lot 8, of Block 4, of the original map of Rio Vista, dating from March 1862. The home is historically referred to as the "Bailey Home," for the Norris Millican Bailey family who occupied the home from the late 1800's through the 1920's.

Norris Millican Bailey, of South Carolina, arrived and took up residence in the small township of Rio Vista in the 1880's. For his first several years in town, Mr. Bailey was a bachelor, and then he met Miss Marion (May) Elizabeth James, a native of Paris, Ontario Canada, whose family had relocated to the nearby Morning Light District, just a few miles outside of Rio Vista. After a courtship Norris took Marion as his wife in a ceremony held at the home of J.C. and Agnes James, the bride's parent's, on October 10, 1894. Norris' brother Rev. J.E. Bailey, of Santa Rosa, officiated at the ceremony. From this union two children were born, James Colson and Haidee Agnes. It is known, from a photograph, that the Bailey family was living in the home when the children were very young.

When N.M. Bailey initially arrived in Rio Vista he noted that there were several fine general merchandise stores in town but there were no watchmakers and jewelers. This would be the business venture and service that he would provide for the rapidly growing community. He opened a store in a building on the south side of Main Street, between Front and Second Streets. He shared this building, with his shop in the front while the back portion of the building was occupied by a barbershop.

And a fine shop his was, with its glass display cabinets and ornate clocks hanging on the walls. He advertised himself as a Watchmaker, Jeweler, and Engraver. He was a dealer of watches (Elgin, etc.), clocks, jewelry, diamonds, spectacles, etc. In keeping up with the times, in May 1891, he added a new service to his business, that of silver and gold electroplating. He could plate watch cases, chains, knives, forks, and plates with quality equal to any plated ware that could be purchased in the larger cities of that period.

Mr. Bailey was a very handy man when it came to mechanical devices. He found great enjoyment in

repairing bicycles and other small equipment, which the local townsfolk would bring to him. Besides these mechanical activities Mr. Bailey also acted as an agent for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, as well as insurance agent for German Alliance and Atlas Insurance Companies.

N.M. Bailey was a fair man with an even temper, the type of man who made only friends and no enemies. He was always there to help the local townsfolk with their needs. However, he also believed

in attending to his own affairs, and spent time with his family and around the house, rather than joining clubs and committees.

Unfortunately, on April 8, 1927, while Mr. Bailey was engaged in his normal routine of opening his jewelry store, his first customer of the day, a stranger to him, came up to the counter to purchase a small can of oil. A few moments later, while the jeweler was attending to wrapping the customer's purchase, the stranger attacked him, and while its proprietor lay unconscious on the floor, robbed the store.

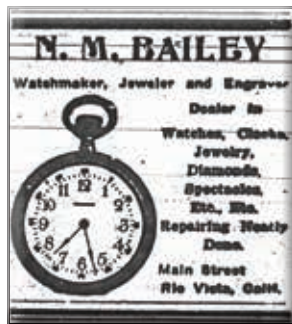
Not long after the attack and the stranger's escape, a young patron walked into the store to pick up a watch, which was being repaired by Mr. Bailey. The young lad was surprised to find the store unattended. He waited for several minutes and then proceeded to open and close the door to ring the bell attached to the door. Within minutes the injured Mr. Bailey appeared in the doorway. Local physician, Dr. L. A. Anthony was summoned, and upon his examination of Bailey, an automobile was brought round,

and the doctor rushed his patient up the river road to Sutter Hospital in Sacramento. Mr. Bailey passed away eight days later at the age of 61. This was truly an unfortunate event and loss in the history of Rio Vista.

Mrs. Marion Bailey remained in the home, for several years. After her passing the home was used for rental property, eventually falling into disrepair in the 1980's. Luckily the home was purchased in 1997 by a contractor, who remodeled the home with a new foundation, shingle siding and a modernized interior configuration. The home was featured on the Soroptimists Home Tour in May 2008.



Bailey house.



N.M. Bailey newspaper ad, 1927.



Interior of Bailey's Jewelry Store.

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5th Annual Hog August Bites Chili & Ribs Cook-off

Story and Photos by Robie Williams

Save the date, Saturday August 18, 2018, for the 5th Annual Hog August Bites Chili & Ribs Cook-off. This popular event is modeled after Dixon's Grillin' & Chillin' Car & Truck Show.



The band, "Senior Edition" at last year's event.

It is a day to enjoy sunny skies and a great venue with the Sacramento River as the backdrop. There are vendors featuring arts and crafts, public awareness groups and local youth organizations. Food! That's right, there is a wonderful variety to enjoy along with craft beers and margaritas in the Beer Garden, plus a car show featuring custom, stock and vintage automobiles displayed on Main Street. Oh yes, and motorcycles too, a new addition for this year! Did we mention music? Several bands return this year and a couple of new ones as well, including bluegrass and country/western music and dancing. Plus fun activities for the kiddos, too! Bounce houses, water slides, a fun photo booth and the Rio Vista Downhill Racers.



The 2017 winner for best ribs.



The Byron family, 2017 winner for best chili.

Winning also gives them bragging rights for the next year! The Byron family came in first in the Chili Cook-off for the last 4 years. Who's going to compete and see if they can take away first place for themselves?

Admission is free for the event, which runs from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. If you're between 4 and 104 there is something fun and exciting there for you! Net proceeds from this event support Rio Vista youth activities as well as the sponsoring organization, RioVision (see www.RioVistaVision.com to find out more about this organization). The co-sponsor is the City of Rio Vista.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or vendor, entering the car show, or chili or rib cook-off send an email to hogaugustbitesrv@gmail.com or visit our website www.DiscoverRioVista.com/.



Kids enjoy the bounce house.

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Food, Festivals & Fun

Check Out the Delta Summer Scene!

Story by Marilyn Nelson

Sure, you can spend “lazy, crazy days of summer” on the Delta, but if you want to have fun, enjoy fantastic food, and experience some great festivals, then the Delta is just the place to be.

Saturday Farmers Market

Saturdays, beginning May 12, 2018 – 9:00 to 1:00 p.m.
Main Street, Rio Vista

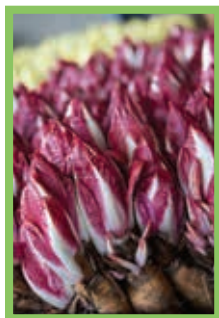


Choose local fresh produce and tasty baked goods. Find crafters offering beautiful hand made goods and jewelry, such as Heidi's EZ Wear. Returning vendors Barton Blossoms specializes in beautiful fresh flowers and Achadinha

Cheese from Petaluma offers a yummy variety of artisan cheeses. A new vendor, Oaxadan Tamales, promises delicious tamales like you've never had before. Come and see the many other vendor offerings at the market.

California Endive Experience

Saturday, June 9, 2018 – 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
California Endive Farms, 15 Poppy House Rd., Rio Vista



This tasty and fun experience returns for the 5th year. California Endive Farms in Rio Vista is the largest American producer and a leading worldwide innovator in the complex process of growing high-quality endives.

This event offers tours of the indoor farm, endive tasting, a delicious dinner, music and entertainment. The ticket price also includes raffle tickets for beautiful prizes. The event is co-

sponsored by the Rio Vista Lions Club and net proceeds go towards erecting a new “Welcome to Rio Vista” sign. Reservations are needed. Individual tickets are \$55; individual reserved seating is \$60. A reserved table for 8 is \$580 or \$700 for a reserved table for 10. Buy tickets at Pets 4 All in town or online at www.Eventbrite.com and search for “endive.” For more info contact Constance Boulware at constance.boulware@yahoo.com or (707) 639-7175.

Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Bazaar

Saturday, June 30 & Sunday, July 1, 2018 – noon to 5:00 p.m.
14105 Pine Street, Walnut Grove



Enjoy a big happening in a small town. Bring your family and friends to the 64th Annual Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Bazaar. Find something for everyone, big and small. There are lots of games, handmade crafts, a beer booth, snow cones, hot dogs, nachos and baked goods, as well

as some of the best teriyaki chicken and other traditional Japanese cuisine. Don't miss out on the annual raffle with a cash grand prize!

Courtland Pear Fair

Sunday, July 29, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
180 Primasing Avenue, Courtland



Celebrate the Bartlett pear harvest! Courtland is only about a 30 minute drive up scenic Highway 160 from Rio Vista. A Delta tradition since 1972, the Pear Fair is full of activities for the whole gang, such as live music, great food, beer and wine, arts and crafts, a parade, and fun rides and activities for the kids

and more. No pets are allowed. Admission is free, but there is a \$10.00 parking fee for vehicles. The official parking lot is recommended to avoid being towed. Various tickets for rides, food items and craft items for sale support the local and regional economy. Come early and stay late to enjoy all that the Fair has to offer! For more information see the website at <http://PearFair.com>.

Hog August Bites

Saturday, August 18, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Downtown Rio Vista



See the *5th Annual Hog August Bites* article by Robie Williams on page 15 for more details.

CARE Wine Pull

Saturday, September 8, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial Hall, 610 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista



CARE Counseling Center presents an evening about wine. A \$30.00 ticket includes a souvenir glass with wine, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and a bottle of very good wine to take home. An extremely knowledgeable Sommelier speaks about wine and wine appreciation. Buy a raffle ticket to win some lovely prizes.

Tickets go on sale in July. Purchase your tickets at Pets 4 All at 167 Main St., the Visitor Center at 33 N. 2nd Street, Books Rio V at 187 Main St., or the CARE office at 125 Sacramento St.



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Event Calendar

Saturday, May 5, 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 10 - Sunday, May 13

Dixon May Fair

655 South 1st Street, Dixon

Experience a small town fair with lots of animals, entertainment, a carnival and more! Don't miss the City of Rio Vista booth. Check <http://DixonMayFair.com> for hours, entertainment, and other fair info.



Saturdays, begins May 12, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Farmers Market

Downtown Rio Vista



See the *Food, Festivals & Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.

Third Saturdays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sidewalk Saturday

May 19, June 16, July 21 & August 18, Downtown Rio Vista

Third Thursday is now Sidewalk Saturday, running concurrently with the Farmers Market from May 19 through October 20. Monthly themes liven things up in our quaint downtown. The May theme is "The Kids of Rio."



Monday, May 28, 11:00 am parade, 11:40 am ceremony

Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

Parade, 7th St. to City Hall, Service, City Hall



Celebrate, honor and remember the men and women who served or died in military service for our country. See www.RioVista.org or call (707) 374-2700 for more info.

Saturday, June 2, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Bark n' Roll

Val de Flores Park on Scott Street, behind DH White Elementary School

Welcome the long-awaited Dog and Skate Board parks at Val de Flores Park.

Participate in the pet parade, thrill to skate board exhibitions, and enjoy food, crafters and fun! There are entertaining activities for kids, both small and large.

See www.DiscoverRioVista.com/events for more info.



Saturday, June 9, 4:30 - 8:30 pm

Endive Experience

15 Poppy House Rd., Rio Vista

See the *Food, Festivals & Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.



Saturday, June 30 - Sunday, July 1, noon to 5:00 pm

Buddhist Church Bazaar

14105 Pine Street, Walnut Grove



See the *Food, Festivals & Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.

Saturday, June 30 - Sunday, July 1

Solano County Fair

900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo



Enjoy livestock, agricultural and horticultural exhibits, loads of entertainment, carnival rides, and more. See www.SCFair.com/SCFair for more info.

Friday, August 10

"Kinsler Cup" Golf Tourney

Rio Vista Golf Club



American Legion Post 178, hosts the 4th Annual "Kinsler Cup" Golf Tournament. Call (707) 374-6554 for more info.

Sunday, July 29, 9:00 am - 6:30 pm

Courtland Pear Fair

180 Primasing Avenue, Courtland

See the *Food, Festivals & Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.



Saturday, August 18, 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Hog August Bites

Downtown Rio Vista



See the *5th Annual Hog August Bites* article by Robie Williams on page 15 for more details.

Sunday, August 19, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

TAG Art Show

Trilogy Vista Club, Diablo Ballroom
1201 Clubhouse Drive

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



Saturday, August 25, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Clothing Exchange

D.H. White School Tapella Auditorium, 500 Elm Way

St. Brigid's Episcopal Church holds its semi-annual Children's Clothing Exchange in the multipurpose room at D.H. White Elementary School. Bring your child's outgrown clothing to exchange for free usable garments. For more info, contact Karin Zilla at (925) 351-3771.



Saturday, September 8, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

CARE Wine Pull

Veteran's Memorial Hall
610 St. Francis Way

See the *Food, Festivals & Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.





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