



January - April 2019

# discover Rio Vista

**FREE**

Cover by Jan Vick

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# Tribute on the Promenade Donna Hamilton Remembered

Story & Photos by Jan Vick

On a windless day on September 21, her birth day, a crowd gathered at the promenade to remember Donna Hamilton and dedicate a trio of kinetic wind sculptures in her memory. Donna came to Rio Vista in 1977 as an employee of the Bank of America. She met and married David Hamilton in 1985. Donna loved Rio Vista and wanted to make a difference. In 2015 she spearheaded the RioVision Holiday Home Tour with the goal to raise \$10,000 for the new city boat dock. Sadly, Donna died of a pulmonary embolism that year while on a European vacation with husband David and several friends.

*"No farewell words were spoken  
No time to say goodbye  
You were gone before we knew it  
And only God knows why"*

*Plaque by the wind sculptures.*

Donna was very active in Rio Vista: her sorority, bridge club, Soroptimist and Women's Improvement Club and is greatly missed by her friends and family. Donna also



*David Hamilton and Raye Hansen  
at the memorial dedication.*

loved flowers and studied Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging and created beautiful floral designs that she mostly gave away to friends.

The Home Tour occurred as envisioned and funded RioVision's share of the boat dock. David had asked that remembrances go to the Home Tour in lieu of flowers. In January 2016, RioVision asked the family what they would like to do with the money in the Donna Hamilton Memorial Fund. MaryEllen Lamothe recommended some

sort of art project and

the idea of wind sculptures was born. The three sculptures were designed by famous sculpture artist Lyman Whitacker and capture the spirit of the ever-present Delta wind: Star Dancer, Double Helix Sail, and Single Helix Oval and turn gently in the slightest breeze.

It took 2 1/2 years to obtain all the approvals for the project, but finally it was ready. John Bento created the beautiful landscaping design for the sculptures on the promenade. The dark gray rock is called Mexican blue and represents the river. The design includes lighting at night. Raye Hansen and David Hamilton spearheaded the project, and David and Dean Hansen installed the sculptures, the electrical and the plaque that stands at the foot of the sculptures.

This beautiful memorial is a perfect addition to our promenade and evokes our ever-present wind.

# New City Dock

*From Sinking to Sturdy & Stunning!*

Story by Robie Williams Photo by Jan Vick

August 28, 2018 the Rio Vista City Dock was officially put into service with a grand opening officiated by Vice-Mayor Constance Boulware. Also in attendance were Jack Batchelor, Aide to Congressman Garamendi, Ron Turner, Aide to Senator Dodd, and Katelyn Costa, Aide to Assemblyman Frazier. Members of the City Council, the Planning Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, Dutra Construction and interested citizens were also present.

At 140 feet, the dock is 30 feet longer than the old dock and is ADA compliant. This opens the dock up to use by all of our local residents, visiting boaters and fishing enthusiasts.

The original city dock was completed in 1950 and replaced in 1959. Locals who admit to being around back then believe the old dock came from the Army Base and was part of their floating bridge. Throughout the years the dock enjoyed many a fisherman and boat coming to visit Rio Vista. The little 110 foot dock wasn't always in great shape, requiring frequent repairs to keep it afloat. The dock was taken out of service for a few months prior to 2010 when repairs were made by Lira's Welding in part due to a generous anonymous donation that covered a portion of the repairs, the City paying the remaining share.

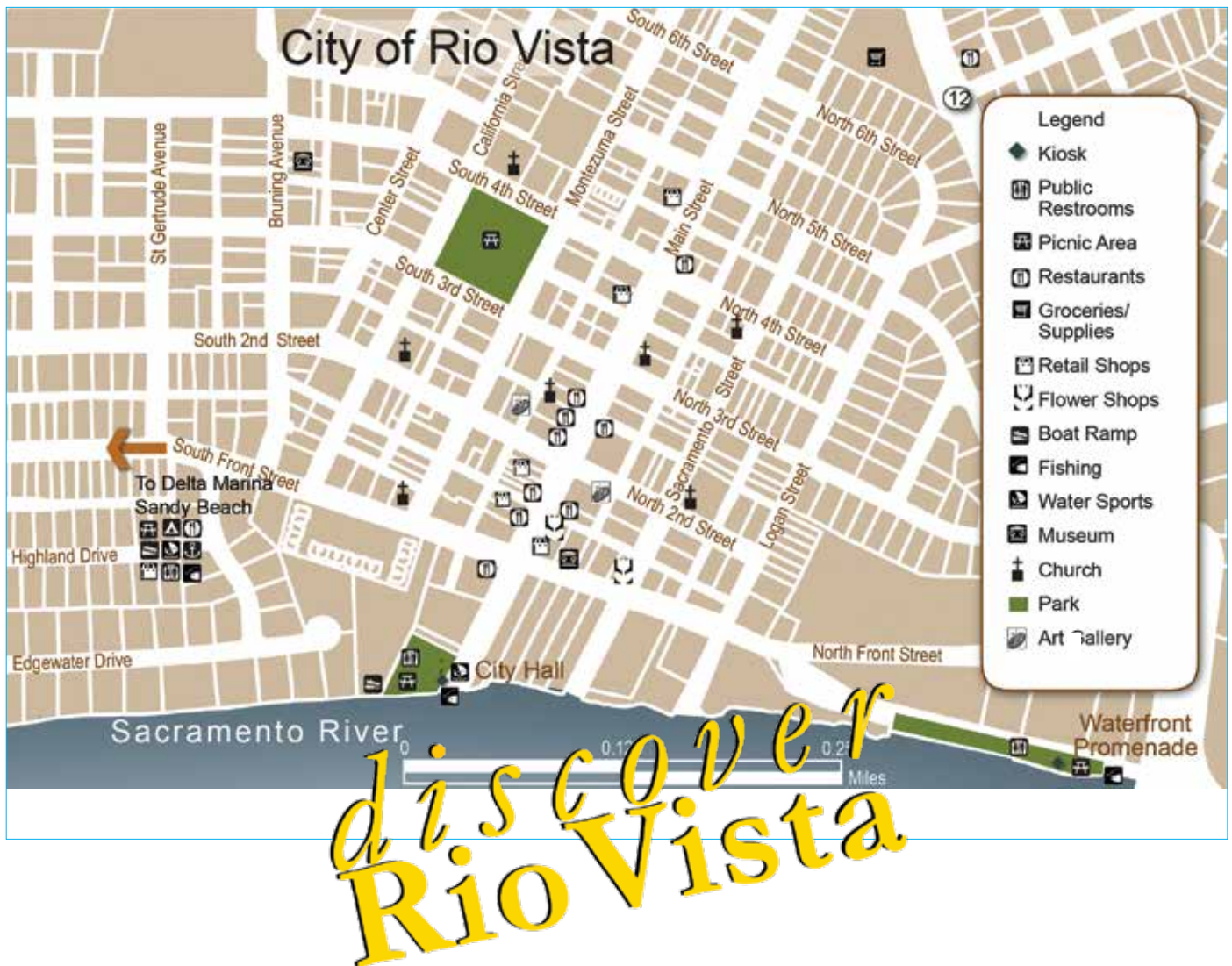
Again, the dock began to sink and the City looked for a long-term solution. Former Public Works Director Dave Melilli applied for a grant from the California Boating and Waterways of \$225,000. That grant required matching funds be provided by the City of \$75,000. RioVision through funds raised from its Holiday Home Tour in 2015 donated \$10,000 to the project on May 16, 2017. Rio Vista also sought matching funds from the United States Geological Survey, other local agencies and interested citizens.

Dutra Construction was awarded the contract and they started the job by removing the sinking dock. They then began building the new longer, stronger dock. Upon completion, the dock was brought down the Sacramento River and put into place July 25, 2018. Later during mid-August the ADA gangplank was brought in and put in place.



*Left to right, Constance Boulware, Rio Vista Vice-Mayor, Jack Batchelor, Aide to Congressman Garamendi, Katelyn Costa, Aide to Assemblyman Frazier, and Ron Turner, Aide to Senator Dodd.*

After many years of hoping our sinking dock would stay afloat, there is now a sturdy and stunning replacement to welcome visitors to our town.



*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.

This magazine is a volunteer effort. We always need distributors who are willing to drop our magazines off to merchants in the Delta area. To volunteer, call RioVision at (707) 360-5244.

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See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at: <http://discoverriovista.com>. For additional information about RioVision see: <http://riovistavision.com> and [www.facebook.com/riovistavision](http://www.facebook.com/riovistavision). RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group. Donations are tax-deductible.

**ON THE COVER:** Photographer and Assistant Editor Jan Vick captures a stunning view of the Donna Hamilton Memorial wind sculptures at night on a full moon.





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# Contemporary

## Scenic river delta

By Beth Ann

While the Sacramento River Delta was a hotspot of early filmmaking, location shooting here didn't end along with the classic studio era; it persisted and continues to the present day! What changed was what draws movie crews to our area. While filmmaking in the early years focused on the river, in more modern times the land, architecture, and downtown businesses with their classic looks won onscreen memorialization. They've often been the settings for tales about journeys, literal and figurative.



### Lorna

At the time "Lorna" (1964) was released, it was Russ Meyer's most expensive project to date and marked his entry into more "serious" filmmaking, relatively speaking. He was moving on from making nudie pictures and beginning to develop his sexploitation style. "Lorna" is a rural gothic about a dissatisfied wife who awakens sexually with a man other than her husband, who discovers her

infidelity and reacts violently. Three states prosecuted the film for obscenity, but it became a drive-in and art theatre success. Scenes were shot in Walnut Grove and Locke. The most recognizable Delta locations are along Locke's Main Street. "Lorna" is available for purchase on disc and viewable for free on the Internet Archive.



### Finian's Rainbow

In "Finian's Rainbow" (1968), Fred Astaire and Petula Clark play a father and daughter who steal a leprechaun's pot of gold and flee Ireland with their treasure. They cross the ocean to America with the leprechaun in pursuit and head to the South. For a moment, fields just outside Rio Vista near Highway 12 become those of Rainbow Valley in the mythical state of Missitucky, and Astaire dances

in them. "Finian's Rainbow" was his last screen musical. Local police officer Joseph P. Machado worked security for the movie, and his daughter Trish Sadler remembers, "He always got a big smile and twinkle in his eye when he spoke about Petula Clark." "Finian's Rainbow" periodically airs on Turner Classic Movies and is available on disc and for streaming.



### Harold and Maude

An essential, mobile location for "Harold and Maude" (1971) still resides near Rio Vista Junction. The Bay Area Electric Railroad Association rented the Western Pacific "Feather River Solarium" Lounge Car #653 for \$250 to the production. For filming, it was moved from the Western Railway Museum to Oyster Point Boulevard near the intersection of Eccles in South San Francisco. Set designers decorated

the interior with eccentric touches to make it look like a place Maude would live. While the furniture and tchotchkes from the movie are long gone, the floral print carpet and the ornate, glass room divider remain the same. You can view the car at the museum or even take a ride in it. There's an excellent Criterion Collection disc release of "Harold and Maude" packed with extras, and it is streamable as well.



### The McCullochs

"The McCullochs" (1975) was written and directed by Max Baer, Jr, best remembered for playing Jethro Bodine in "The Beverly Hillbillies" TV series (1962-1971). To escape the typecasting stalling his career and give himself new opportunities, he tried his hand at independent filmmaking. He plays a featured role in his movie about a highly dysfunctional family.

Rio Vista and other Solano County locales stand in for 1949 Texas. Many locals were extras and watched the filming. Fairfield actress and costume maker Betty McFadden was recorded by the Daily Republic as remembering that if anyone mentioned Jethro, they would no longer be welcome; they would be "gone." "The McCullochs" can be viewed on DVD.



### Bound for Glory

"Harold and Maude" director Hal Ashby filmed in the Delta region proper when he made "Bound for Glory" (1976). The Woody Guthrie biopic was adapted from his semi-fictionalized memoir of the same name, and the movie further fictionalized his life story. Except for Woody Guthrie (David Carradine) and his first wife Mary (Melinda Dillon, later the mother in "A Christmas Story"), all

other characters and events are fictional. In the film, Woody Guthrie abandons his family in Texas after being unable to support them and sets out for California. The storefronts of Isleton doubled for the 1930s downtown of Pampa, Texas.



# Films in the Delta

## *featured in many films!*

Gallagher

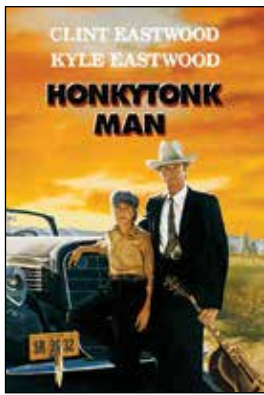
Scenes of a migrant camp were also shot in Isleton and feature locals as extras. The film humanizes the Dust Bowl refugees who sought a better life in California. The movie is available on disc.



### *Swim Team*

“Swim Team” (1979) is a teen exploitation movie. James Polakof wrote and directed this story about a swim team that hires a new coach to break their seven-year losing streak. Stephen Furst plays Bear, a casting attempt to draw in the fans who watched and enjoyed him as Flounder in “Animal House” (1978). Olympic swim champion and B-movie actor Buster Crabbe makes a late-career appearance. Isleton shooting locations include old

Moore’s Riverboat and Perry’s Boat Harbor. “Swim Team” is not commercially available, but excerpts can be found on YouTube.



### *Honkytonk Man*

“Honkytonk Man” (1982) is another locally made film set during the Great Depression. Clint Eastwood directed and starred in a story based on the life of singer-songwriter Jimmie Rodgers. Eastwood plays a singer dying of tuberculosis who has a last chance to fulfill his dream of performing at the Grand Ole Opry. He leaves the dusty family farm with his nephew, played by Eastwood’s son Kyle Eastwood,

and makes it to Nashville. The first part of the movie was filmed in Bird’s Landing, including inside Shirley Paolini’s Bird’s Landing Tavern. The movie was a well-received break from Eastwood’s tough guy pictures but doesn’t seem as well-remembered now. There’s a no frills DVD release, and “Honkytonk Man” can be streamed.



### *The Sure Thing*

“The Sure Thing” (1985) stars John Cusack, playing an unlucky-in-love New England college student named Gib. His best buddy promises to introduce Gib to a woman in California who will be a “sure thing.” Gib ends up crossing the country with a classmate who rejected him, Alison (Daphne Zuniga). After a misunderstanding, he heads to the local watering hole near their motel.

As he walks down the street, he passes the sign for Tony’s Place in Walnut Grove and enters the establishment. A hilarious scene of drunken men commiserating over not understanding women ensues. You can watch the full movie on disc and fan favorite scenes on YouTube.



### *Howard the Duck*

The film best remembered for being shot in Rio Vista is undoubtedly “Howard the Duck” (1986). A crucial chase scene was filmed along Main Street. Through the magic of moviemaking, Howard and his friend Phil Blumburt (Tim Robbins) fly an ultralight aircraft up and then down the street without ever changing direction! The sequence ends with a splashdown crash shot in Petaluma. Local viewers will spot recognizable

downtown buildings and get flashbacks of the former businesses that occupied them. This once-infamous box office bomb has been released to Blu-ray, and can also be streamed.



### *Bird*

Clint Eastwood returned to Bird’s Landing with his tribute “Bird” (1988). In a series of montages, he depicts the life of jazz saxophonist Charlie “Bird” Parker, starting in 1939 Kansas City, Missouri, and ending in New York City. Eastwood also filmed scenes in Locke. Again the local area is utilized to create a rural, Depression-era backdrop. Forest Whitaker plays the musician,

and he and Eastwood won or were nominated for multiple international awards, including Golden Globes. “Bird” is available in a couple of disc editions and from several streaming sites.

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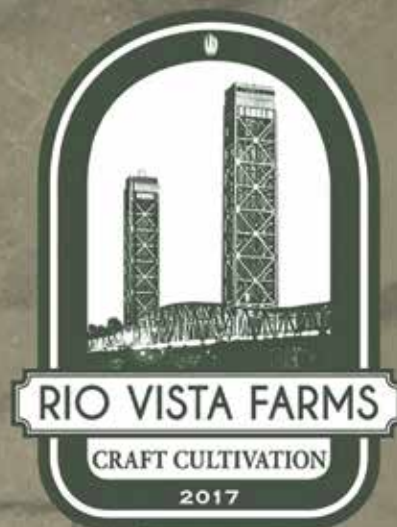
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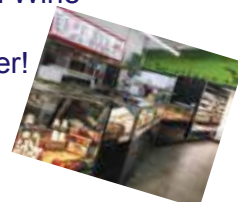
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# Spotlight On Foster's Bighorn

By Laurie Oleksiewicz      Photos by Jan Vick

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

Located at 143 Main Street in downtown Rio Vista, Foster's Bighorn is a landmark bar and restaurant. It houses one of the largest collections of wild game in the nation.

The walls are hung with over 250 huge and varied mounts



*The oft-kissed moose over the bar.*

including an elephant, giraffe, walrus, snow leopard, water buffalo, bison and hundreds others.

The animal collection is the work of Bill Foster, who used the fortune he made in bootlegging to travel and hunt. With his taxidermist, he made 6 trips to Africa and 8 trips to Canada and Alaska in the 30s, 40s, and early 50s. Hundreds of old black and white photos adorn the walls of the bar, showing the hunt and the natives he encountered. Over half of the wall-mounted heads are the work of the well-known taxidermist, John Jonas. Jonas Brothers taxidermy is considered the gold standard and their work appears in the Smithsonian Institute as well as other museums around the world.

In 2000, Howard Lamothe bought the business, upgrading the kitchen and menu, turning it into a feature element of the Delta region. It is not uncommon to see 30 motorcycles parked in front, or a limousine dropping off party goers.



*Foster's Bighorn at 143 Main Street.*

Bison burgers, steaks, and fish and chips are well known favorites. Foster's has been featured as "Best of the Bay," "Top Ten Bars in the Bay Area," films, television, and most recently, in a KQED segment on "Interesting Places to Visit in the Bay Area."

The bar has a colorful history in addition to the animal mounts. Opened in 1933 with Bill Foster behind the bar, it also housed slot machines in the back room and card tables. The men-only patrons were hard working "rough necks"

from the Rio Vista natural gas field, one of the largest fields in the nation from 1936 through 1955. A huge safe in the basement functioned as an after hours bank where paychecks could be turned into cash, poker chips, and drinks.

Howard Lamothe is a fourth generation Rio Vistan who takes pride in being the custodian of this remarkable collection. When asked what he likes best about the business, Howard answers, "The people. We have great employees, fun patrons and we meet new people every day".



*A delicious meal from the restaurant.*

Next time you're looking for a bite to eat, a relaxing drink, or if you are visiting this cute riverside town, be sure and stop in at Foster's Bighorn for a truly unique experience.

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# LUNAFEST Film

## *Short Films By. For.*

Story by Ann Starkie    Photos from LUNAFEST web site

Can't get to the Cannes Film Festival in France or the Sundance Film Festival in Utah? Soroptimist International of Rio Vista hosts the 4th Annual LUNAFEST® March 2, 2019, which may very well give you that same experience while benefiting the lives of women and girls right here in our own community.

LUNAFEST® is the first all-women traveling film festival to hit the screens and amplify the voices of strong women everywhere. Today, there are screenings in more than 175 cities across the country where the work of talented women filmmakers is showcased.

Soroptimist members transform the Veteran's Memorial Building to make you feel like you are attending a movie premier. Eight short films showcase the work of a diverse array of talented women filmmakers with intelligent, funny and thought-provoking themes.

This event is for 16 years of age and older due to sometimes mature subject matter. To accommodate as many attendees as possible there are 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm showings, each limited to 140 people. Purchase \$35 tickets early at Books RV and Pets 4 All, both on Main St., online at [https://lunafest\\_rv\\_2019\\_matinee.eventbrite.com](https://lunafest_rv_2019_matinee.eventbrite.com) or [https://lunafest\\_rv\\_2019\\_evening.eventbrite.com](https://lunafest_rv_2019_evening.eventbrite.com), or contact Stacia Olson at [s.olson@californiadeltaliving.com](mailto:s.olson@californiadeltaliving.com).

Both the 1:00 pm and the 5:00 pm events kick off with a reception including a no host bar, appetizers, swag bags and a raffle for amazing prizes! The matinee intermission features a fashion show by Chico's of Brentwood. The evening intermission honors local women of distinction.

Soroptimist International of Rio Vista proudly partners with LUNA, the first nutrition bar for women. LUNA has always believed in the power of women. From the beginning, LUNA knew women had a role to play in shaping the future of the film industry so in 2000, LUNAFEST® was born. In the last 16 years of LUNAFEST® festivals, \$4.1 million has been raised by LUNA and 100% has gone to charity supporting women!

Soroptimist International is a global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Programs focus on providing access to education, which is one of the most effective ways to end social problems disproportionately affecting women and girls.

The proceeds from this event help fund local Soroptimist projects and scholarships.

Stacia Olson, chair of this year's festival, said, "The amount of money we raised last year made a huge impact in the number of the scholarships we were able to offer. We are excited to make this an annual event."

Don't miss these amazing films, recognizing women and celebrating our community, while having a great time!

## The Lineup

*Flip the Record by Marie Jamora*



In this 1980s coming-of-age story set to pulsing hip-hop music, a Filipino-American teen discovers her identity through a budding talent for turntablism.

*The Final Show by Dana Nachman*



A woman who has lived a long life full of love and loss has to decide, based on all that she has learned, who to take along to eternity.

*My Immigrant Story by Yuriko Gamo Romer*



The hot-button issue of immigration inspired the director to reflect on her own path to American citizenship.

*War Paint by Katrelle N. Kindred*



A young black girl in South Los Angeles experiences a series of events that intersects racism and sexism during the 4th of July holiday.



# Festival *About Women*

*Drummer Girl by Sophie Hexter*



A woman's life changed in the blink of an eye.  
Music set her free.

*Are We Good Parents? by Bola Ogun*



When a couple's 14-year-old daughter says she's going to her first dance with her classmate, they question their preconceived notions of her sexuality and their openness as parents.

*Today, Tomorrow, Yesterday by Jackie Files*



A young woman finds her old diaries while moving out of her childhood bedroom and learns to make peace with herself.

*NR Dead to Me by Ypnoko Li*



A dried-flower delivery woman gets a glimpse into the cycles of love and loss.



## *Fool Crow*

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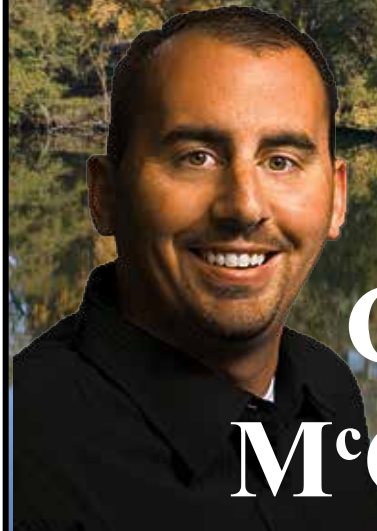
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# Kaufenberg – Historic Builder

By Phil Pezzaglia    Photos from the Rio Vista Museum

There have been only a handful of early builders/contractors whose buildings, ninety years later, continue to beautify the landscape of Rio Vista. One of those prominent commercial/residential builders was Victor Arthur Kaufenberg, who came to Rio Vista during the 1920s.

There have been comparisons of Rio Vista to the mythical town of Mayberry in the 1960's television show "The Andy Griffin Show." In fact, Kaufenberg worked for Mr. Mayberry on the construction of the Mayberry Apartments located on the corner of Second and California Streets.

Soon Kaufenberg took his knowledge of construction and went into business for himself, quickly becoming one of the most outstanding and sought after builders in the area. He went on to build several fine buildings in town, the Liberty Island Schoolhouse, and a few beautiful Rio Vista homes.

## Rio Vista Firehouse (1926)

The Rio Vista Volunteer Fire Department was organized in January 1926. Initially, the town provided an old garage on Third Street to be used as a firehouse, while a structure was erected specifically for the purpose of housing fire-fighting equipment. Victor Kaufenberg was secured to construct the first firehouse in the 300 block of Main Street.

This 1926 firehouse was equipped with a siren, which was placed on top of the building. When a fire was called in, the operator at Rio Vista Telephone Company would blow the siren and then keep a direct phone line to the firehouse open. Whoever arrived at the firehouse first would then be told the location of the fire by the operator, after which it would be written on a blackboard, located just inside the door of the station. This building was remodeled in the early 1940s and continued to be used until 1976, when it was torn down and the current building was constructed.

## Veteran's Memorial Hall (1927)

At a meeting held on July 18, 1927, the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved the construction of a memorial building in Rio Vista. Property was secured on the southwest corner of California and Third Streets for the site of a two-story memorial hall. Architects Mr. Salsberg and Mr. Hoffman were hired to design the new building and Victor Kaufenberg was secured to construct the building.



*Rio Vista Firehouse on Main Street.*



*Veteran's Memorial Building on California Street.*



*Rio Vista Post Office on Second Street.*



*Women's Improvement Hall on the corner of Fourth and Montezuma Streets.*

At the official dedication of the new building there were Solano County delegations of Legionnaires, Spanish and Civil War veterans, veterans of Foreign Wars, and Naval Reservists. Kaufenberg handed over the keys to the architects Salsberg and Hoffman. Mr. Salsberg made a few remarks before presenting the key to Supervisor Thomas McCormack, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, who accepted the building on behalf of the Board and citizens of Solano County. Following the acceptance of the key, Mr. McCormack handed over the key and lease to the representative of the Veterans of Solano County, who then handed the key to Albert Anderson, commander of Rio Vista Post No. 178, who accepted on behalf of the local post.

## Rio Vista Post Office (1928)

The local Post Office relocated several times, operating out of several buildings in the downtown area. The Rio Vista Hotel Company on October 1928 awarded the contract to Victor Kaufenberg for the construction of a new building for the Rio Vista Post Office. The Post Office operated out of this building, located at 30 Second Street, from 1928 to 1967. Since the Post Office moved out of this

building in 1967, several businesses and organizations used the building, including the Church of Latter-Day Saints and a grocery store.

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American Legion was created by Congress to support US veterans.  
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# Where Are The Salmon? - Part 2

## In The Net with Fish'n Dog Drew

Story and photo by Drew Gidlof

The outlook for the 2018 Chinook salmon season, based on information from the State Fisheries Commission, State Department Fish & Wildlife, and numbers from previous Chinook salmon runs, did not look good. Now that the 2018 inland waters Chinook salmon season has ended, was it poor, good, or great?

First, some background about the state's hatchery system, past practices, and what we know about this year's season. The smolts (young salmon ready to migrate to the sea) were released on the lower Sacramento River more than 180 miles away at Rio Vista, Mare Island and San Pablo Bay. Three years ago Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Anderson, California used trucking for the second time to release three inch Chinook smolts near the ocean. Each truck held up to 2,800 gallons of water containing up to 130,000 smolts at water temperatures between 55 to 60 degrees. This method was used to avoid unacceptably high levels of juvenile fish mortality.

Once transported, the smolts were placed in net pens operated by the Fishery Foundation of California for acclimatization and then released. Coleman Hatchery's smolts were typically released on-site into Battle Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River, so they could complete the imprinting cycle during their outward migration to the ocean. This required the young smolts to swim downstream in the Sacramento River, navigating various obstacles – shallow water conditions, pumps pulling water out of the river, striped bass, and other predators.

The February 2018 report from the Pacific Fishery Management Council stated the Fall-run Chinook salmon was "overfished." The most significant change as a result of this report, and subsequent various State Department meetings, was the reduction of Chinook salmon's daily and in possession limits. For the 2018 Inland Chinook salmon season one Chinook salmon could be taken each day and two in possession when fishing the Sacramento River between the Red Bluff Diversion Dam to the Carquinez Bridge.

Throughout the season there were reports from everyday fisherman to hired guides about limits of fish being caught on the Sacramento River. Remember this year had a fifty percent reduction in what was allowed to be caught or in possession. The reports heard should be tempered with that in mind.

The ocean fishing was one of the better seasons over the past several years. There were many reports about salmon limits being caught from the start to the end of the season. An interesting point that needs to be considered with these reports is that the limit of Chinook salmon caught in the

ocean system, or up to the Carquinez Bridge, remained at two each day and four in possession.

Mike Aughney of USAFishing.com was recently quoted when asked about the overall Ocean Chinook salmon season – "It's rare to wrap up a good season with even better signs of the next to come. I will go on the record and say that next season could possibly be as good as 1988."

An interesting situation did occur this year for me while fishing for Chinook salmon on the Sacramento River system. Over ninety-five percent of the salmon caught were wild salmon vs. hatchery salmon. Several other fishing guides experienced similar percentages in the range of eighty to ninety-five percent. If these are accurate numbers throughout the Sacramento River system the next obvious question is, "Where are the hatchery Chinook salmon?"

This is not an accurate statistical sampling for analysis. It is an interesting observation that is worth following up on as reports about this season are released by the State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other Fishery related agencies.

If you look at just the numerous reports of "limits" caught that have been printed in newspapers, on-line at various forums, and stated during weekly radio reports then the answer is, "Yes, 2018 was a good or maybe even great Chinook salmon fishing season."

However, a lot of variables are in play this year when trying to assess the success of the 2018 Chinook season. There was a good amount

of rain three years ago, different limits in areas of our fishery, different methods from traditional techniques for smolt transportation and release, and a year of great water flows and temperatures in the Sacramento River.

A more detailed analysis needs to be done once actual numbers are released from the hatcheries and State Department of Fish & Wildlife to truly determine if the 2018 Chinook salmon season was poor, good, or great.

As to the 2019 season... Historically, our Chinook salmon season is much stronger three years after plenty of rain and run off into our tributaries, rivers, the Delta, and into the ocean. The 2016-2017 rainfall season (July 1-June 30) had nineteen total inches, 4.3 inches above the overall season average. The upcoming 2019 Chinook salmon run should produce one of those strong runs.

Until that time, "Remember to keep those fishing lines tight." Boonie the river dog and I hope to see you on the water this winter.



*Fisherman Chris Bradford holds his catch.*

# Belle Vie

## *Beautiful delta winery & event center*

Story by Diana Graham-Fontecilla

Photos by Diana Graham-Fontecilla & Belle Vie web site

Belle Vie in French means “beautiful life.” A perfect description of the feeling the washes over you at this winery and event center. Belle Vie Vineyard’s is located on 19900 Sherman Island Cross Rd., tucked away on Sherman Island, inside a levee next to the river. The location may seem far away, however, Belle Vie Vineyards and Event Center is centralized approximately one hour from Sacramento, 25 minutes from Walnut Creek, 15 minutes from Antioch and 1.5 hours from San Jose. (The travel time estimates are outside of the San Francisco’s Bay Area typical commute hours.)

Belle Vie is designed to provide a variety of choices for anyone planning an event. Event options may include but are not limited to weddings, receptions, family reunion gatherings, charity picnics, new business venture promotions, new product releases, birthdays, retirement, or anniversaries. This location is designed for making lasting memories.



*Belle Vie, located on the San Joaquin River on the east side of the Antioch Bridge. Photo: [www.bellevievineyard.com](http://www.bellevievineyard.com).*

The middle is enhanced with a walkway perfect for the bride, cleverly designed with a built in dance area.

On the left of this event selection is a nature filled setting of a majestic towering group of very old trees. These trees will provide a natural wealth to the majestic feel within this future venue site. The grounds and the new vineyard provide the touch of class with a crisp newly manicured look and feel.

Available is a large professional restaurant style kitchen that includes a huge freezer and multiple free standing and walk-in refrigeration options, a gas stove, cooling and storage racks and areas that accommodate all possible

culinary needs.

The seating area has a crystal feel, with adjacent areas for presentations, buffets, dancing, a comfortable bar area encouraging guests to mingle. If preferred, there are outside options for seating and enjoying the outdoor ambiance.

The new contemporary designed pier is pristine. It is a must to plan photos around the amazing Delta sunsets. Photographers have many background options that include the beautiful river, Mount Diablo and the infamous arch of the Antioch Bridge.

Why Belle Vie? How different is this event center from most venues? Belle Vie has a selection of venues that are remote and either big or small enough to facilitate any size event.

The multiple options allow for quick changes. Planning an event three or more months in advance does not allow for predicting the weather. As the weather changes, Belle Vie has other beautiful indoor setting options to allow accomodate guests.

Inside or out, good weather or bad, Belle Vie has picturesque event settings to enjoy a “beautiful life.”



*The exquisite and perfectly manicured grounds. Photo: Diana Graham-Fontecilla.*

Belle Vie hosts from 50 guests during the week to 100-350 guests on weekends.

The location is an oasis, 19 acres nestled on the San Joaquin River on the east side of the Antioch Bridge. The newly renovated estate is a hidden treasure that is not apparent to most driving the state owned pasture land with many acres of cattle, sheep and wind turbines.

Event Manager Mara Boone and her team assist in setting up and preparing the venue, the kitchen-selected menu options and the bar.

The seclusion of the event center is spectacular. There is beauty and peace as you



*A painting by Rio Vista artist Linda Solomon hangs at the bar. Photo: Diana Graham-Fontecilla.*

walk the grounds and drink in the surrounding fields. The newly planted vineyard is perfectly staged and photo ready.

One of the possible outdoor wedding settings is equipped with high tech power sources, nestled in a luscious lawn.



*Restaurant style kitchen. Photo: Diana Graham-Fontecilla.*

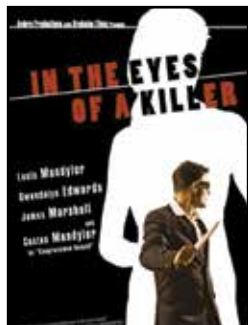


*The picture-perfect pier. Photo: [www.bellevievineyard.com](http://www.bellevievineyard.com).*



## Contemporary Films in the Delta

Continued from page 7



### *In the Eyes of a Killer*

Low budget flick “In the Eyes of the Killer” (2009) explores a transplant gone wrong. In this supernatural thriller, a professor and loving fiancé undergoes a personality change after an experimental surgery restores his sight by replacing his eyes with those of a killer. The most famous performer in the movie acts in a supporting role: James Marshall, star of the offbeat

television show “Twin Peaks”. Elk Grove and Isleton provide scenic backdrops, including some shots along the Sacramento River. “In the Eyes of a Killer” can be purchased on DVD.

### *The Swim Team*

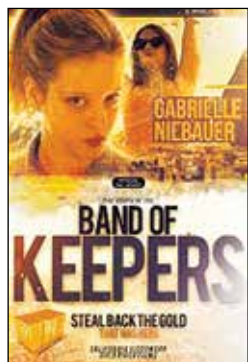
In “The Swim Team” (2009) directed by Amber Crosby, a woman remembers the time she lived in the small town of Belvedere and befriended three elderly shopkeepers. After she hears they can’t swim, she finds a creative way to teach them despite having no access to a pool or other body of water. The short film was adapted from a short story written by indie filmmaker and writer Miranda July. A few exterior shots of the protagonist’s house are shot in Rio Vista. The house’s simple style and lack of immediate neighbors help give viewers the sense of living in a sparsely populated rural town. “The Swim Team” can be watched for free on Vimeo.



### *A Fighting Season*

“A Fighting Season” (2015) is the rare war movie to be shot locally. Two army recruiters feel the pressures of their job and await their own deployment before the 2007 US troop surge. Clayne Crawford (“A Walk to Remember”) and Lew Temple (“The Walking Dead”) star. The movie was filmed in Rio Vista and Isleton in 2012. Rio Vistan Nikki Anderson was part of the filming and production crew. “A Fighting Season” can be

purchased and downloaded from a few online services.



### *Band of Keepers*

In another indie production, “Band of Keepers” (2017), a young woman seeks to recover an inheritance after her father’s passing. She joins a band of misfits during her search and uncovers a secret along the way. Brother and sister team James Niebauer and Gabrielle Niebauer collaborated on the action-adventure film released by their company, California Videowork. He directed,

while she cowrote the screenplay and also stars. It was shot in Locke and Sacramento. “Band of Keepers” can be streamed on multiple platforms.

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## Kaufenberg – Historic Builder

Continued from page 13

### Women’s Improvement Hall (1928)

In September of 1920 the Woman’s Improvement Club joined the State Federation of Women’s Clubs. By 1923 the membership was listed at seventy-five members. During the 1920s that the club raised enough money to purchase the vacant lot on the southwest corner of Fourth and Montezuma Streets. Since Kaufenberg’s work had been well received in the community, he was quickly secured to construct the building.

On March 23, 1928 the Women’s Improvement Clubhouse, was formally dedicated with an elaborate celebration, which included a luncheon at the Hotel Rio Vista. For more than eight decades the hall was utilized for a multitude of meetings, receptions, dances, reunions, dinners, art shows, and haunted houses. Last year a local church purchased the building.

### The Legacy

Victor Kaufenberg’s legacy as one of Rio Vista’s finest builders remains intact. His buildings are a fitting tribute to his skill and craftsmanship.

# CARE Kitchen Royale

## New name, same great cause!

Story and photos by Doris Noriega

King of the Kitchen is a cooking competition that raises funds for Rio Vista Care. In the past four years, 20-25 male chefs have prepared appetizers, main dishes, soups and desserts to be served to over 100 people. At the end of the evening, guests voted for their favorite dish. The winner was then crowned and received a prize. In 2015 Robert McGahey won for ribs. Danny Sibert was the victor with his shredded beef in 2016. In 2017, it was Roger Kohn and his Creme Brulee. Bob Frable took home the prize for his Bread Pudding with Whiskey Sauce in 2018. Second and third place winners were also recognized at the event. Throughout the evening, there were raffle baskets, door prizes, a dessert raffle, music and entertainment. It has always been a fun night for all!



2018 CARE King of the Kitchen participants.

An exciting change to the event takes place this year when the "Kitchen Royale" opens to ladies and gentlemen and both a king and queen are crowned. Those interested in entering are invited to contact the CARE office at (707) 374-5243.

Purchase tickets for \$25 at Rio Vista CARE, 628 Montezuma St., or Pet's 4 All and Books Rio V downtown to help support this valuable resource in our community.

The contest takes place March 9, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 610 Saint Francis Way, Rio Vista.

CARE, a non-profit mental health counseling and resource center for individuals and families

receives the proceeds. Their much-needed services are provided at 628 Montezuma Street in Rio Vista, as well as at local schools of the Delta region. Counselors lead parenting classes, bereavement groups and deal with issues such as substance abuse, bullying and depression. Working with the Food Pantry and other agencies to assist families in financial crisis, all income levels and ages are welcome. Payment for services is made through private insurance or on a sliding scale.

The CARE staff is grateful for the generous contributions of so many individuals, businesses, and organizations that have made its fundraising events so successful over the years. They are currently seeking volunteers to raise funds and increase community awareness and involvement. Won't you share your skills, talents and energy with Rio Vista CARE?



2018 winner Bob Frable and wife Leanne.

# EVENT CALENDAR



Sat, Jan 26, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

## Semi-Annual Children's Clothing Exchange

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

St. Brigid's Episcopal Church semi-annual Children's Clothing Exchange. Exchange your child's outgrown clothing for free usable garments. For more info, please contact Karin Zilla at (925) 351-3771 or [zilla.kzilla@gmail.com](mailto:zilla.kzilla@gmail.com).



Sat, Jan 26, 4:30 PM

## American Legion Crab Feast

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way

Enjoy delicious all you can eat fresh cooked crab. Check the newspaper for additional info.



Sat, Feb 2, 6:00 PM

## Princess Ball

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way

Treat your little princess to an enchanting evening of dress up, dinner and dance. Limited tickets go on sale January 14, 2019 at Lira's.

Sat, Feb 9, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## Isleton Asian New Year Celebration

Asian Historic District, Isleton



Celebrate Chinese and Japanese New Years with Lion Dancers, Taiko Drummers, Ukelettes, Asian food truck, origami demo, calligraphy, wine tasting, grand raffle prizes and more.



Sat, Mar 2, 1:00 & 5:00 PM

## LUNAFEST®

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way

See the article on page 10 for more info.

Sat, Mar 9, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

## CARE Kitchen Royale

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way



See the article to the left for more info.



Sun, Mar 17

## St. Patts Day Dinner

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way

Enjoy corn beef and all the trimmings! Check the newspaper for additional info.

Sat, Mar 29, 4:30 PM

## Vietnam Vets Recognition Day Crab Fest

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way



Enjoy delicious all you can eat fresh cooked crab for a great cause. Check the newspaper for additional info.



Sat, Apr 13, 11:00 AM

## 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

City Park

The Rio Vista Leo Club, a high school community service organization sponsored by the Rio Vista Lion's Club, hosts an Easter egg hunt for children ages 2-13.

Sat, Apr 20

## "Spring Fling" BBQ and Dance

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way



Welcome Spring with a BBQ and dance. Check the newspaper for additional info.



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