



# WILSONIA TIMES

Volume 9, Issue 4  
September, 2010

~late-summer edition~

[www.wilsoniavillage.com](http://www.wilsoniavillage.com)

## Cabins with Chandeliers?

That's right, folks. Two of the cabins on the eighth Cabin Tour had chandeliers as an attractive part of their decor. John Wilson's was a lovely crystal one that has been in his family for many years. It is perfect above his dining room table. The Dirks' three story log cabin was a last-minute addition to the tour. The Lowes rent it for two weeks every year and were kind enough to open it so we could count the beds that sleep 20 people. We were also awed by the huge iron chandelier (from a hotel) in the upstairs bedroom. Hey, that light fixture was almost as big as some of our cabins!

The Browns' cabin has been transformed from the "wreck" some of us remember from a few years ago (before they bought it) to now having one of the prettiest bathrooms in all of Wilsonia. The Sutton (Fjeld) cabin is charmingly authentic... with so many "artifacts" from the '50s, '60s and earlier, you couldn't possibly see them all. Barb Hansen, a Home Economics teacher, has added so many touches to the tiny, but neat and adorable Hansen cabin. Norm has also done his part in helping his family add all the clever "small space" additions. The Nicholson cabin had the best homemade goodies and three ladies of the family to show us around. We were all so delighted to see the Edmiston cabin in use again, lovingly cleaned and now used by the family of the granddaughter who grew up in Wilsonia. cont. on page 3

## ANDY FERGUSON OF WILSONIA & THE GOLDEN TROUT

... some history

Submitted by Steve Stocking

Education Chair, Wilsonia Historic District Trust

Andy Ferguson, the developer of Wilsonia, had great respect for President Woodrow Wilson, so our village became Wilsonia in honor of the man who was our 28th president during WWI and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919.

Andy D. Ferguson was born in 1868 on the Kings River in Fresno County. He was the son of Edwin C. Ferguson, an early California pioneer who crossed the plains in a covered wagon. Andy held the position of Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner for the State of California. As such he was responsible for the plantings of not only golden trout but of all other varieties in Fresno and nearby counties. In 1889, he married Miss Arza Patterson and had five children. One daughter, Maude, married Edgar Smith, the chief civil engineer for Fresno County. One of Edgar's cont. on page 2

## Square Dance

The square dance held on August 28 was a surprising success. Over twice as many people participated as had responded. Saturday night square dances in Wilsonia were a tradition that many participants had enjoyed as children and teenagers. The Red Rag Andy Band from Fresno was terrific, and the caller, Penny Crichlowe, who came from north of North Fork, was awesome, not to mention very patient! The Wilson family would like to thank all who participated. It was a fun time!

*Thanks to Margaret Wilson Hyun and John Wilson for hosting the event and bringing back a great Wilsonia Tradition... please read "Memories" on page 3.*

## Upcoming Events:

### September 4th

- Fire Safe Meeting - 10:30 am
- Potluck - 6 pm
- Bingo - 7 pm

### September 5th

- Pancake Breakfast - 8-11 am
- WVI Meeting - 11 am

*see calendar on page 3*



Thanks to Uschi and Charlie Hamm for hosting the annual Campfire Night at their cabin. Over 30 Wilsonia friends and neighbors gathered to enjoy the roaring fire and a great spread of delicious snacks.

## Dogs in Wilsonia

The reasons we have a leash law in Wilsonia are two-fold: 1) to protect other people, our neighbors and friends, from having an out-of-control dog run up to, jump on or possibly bite them, and 2) to protect mountain wildlife. The leash law does not just apply to dog walkers, it especially applies if you leave your dog unattended, free to leave your property.

### **PLEASE be a good neighbor follow these rules:**

- Keep your dog(s) controlled so that it may not run to the edge of your property or beyond, bark at or annoy others who are out for walks, or chase wildlife.
- Please do not leave your dog alone or unattended at your cabin, causing it to bark incessantly.
- Please clean up after your dog when out for walks. Please do not allow it to soil your neighbors' property or do its "business" along the road, where people walk.

Thanks to all those Wilsonians who are diligent in controlling your dog(s). Please be a good neighbor... if there is a problem, talk it over with your neighbors and try to find a solution. If you cannot work it out, contact Tulare County Animal Control

(559) 636-3647

(Tulare County has jurisdiction over dog problems)

### **Andy Ferguson** - *continued from page one*

accomplishments was to survey and lay out the original tollhouse grade.

The Swamp and Overflow Act of 1893 was a law which allowed people to file on U.S. Govt. lands even though these lands had not been surveyed by the government. These lands had to be "wetlands" like meadows and not forests suitable for logging. To file, you needed to hire a surveyor and have him declare, by affidavit, that the lands in question would qualify as Swamp and Overflow lands when surveyed by the U.S. government. Then the property could be entered on the local tax rolls. Sometimes when the final government survey was done it was found that the original survey was not accurate.

I don't believe that Andy Ferguson was the original owner of the section of land which became Wilsonia, but that he purchased it from that owner sometime before 1920. He began to subdivide the lands and built his family cabin where the dumpsters are now. It later became the Dutch themed restaurant, the Kings Canyon Lodge, which was later sold to the government and demolished. The second cabin built was that of his in-laws, the Pattersons. The first several cabins were built by 1920. The first 75' by 150' lots were sold for 75 dollars. The meadow lands were to be left undeveloped.

"The first planting of golden trout in the Blaney Meadows area was made in 1914, with Andy Ferguson in charge of the operation. Ferguson was the grandfather of the current(?) owner of the Diamond D Ranch, Karl Smith. Ferguson would catch the fish in their native waters, put them in cans and proceed east over the crest of the Sierra and into the desert. He would then journey by night and rest the fish by day in cold streams coming down from the higher elevations. By traveling the desert route he would re-enter the Sierra from the eastern slope, taking whatever pass that would lead him into the territory he wished to plant. These fish planting pack trains consisted of a string of twenty animals. It was Ferguson's idea to keep the trout as a high altitude fish. Hence he insisted that all plantings be made in places above the cascades so that other varieties could not come up the stream and mingle or cross-breed with the golden. He also correctly predicted that the species was fixed and would remain so even if moved to other waters.

The following is an excerpt from a letter dated Dec. 10, 1914, which Ferguson wrote to Wm. F. Colby, Secretary of the Sierra Club, relating his trips: "At North Lake we proceeded over Piute Pass, crossing over 50 feet of snow. We planted Piute Creek from its source to its junction with French Canyon. July 26 and 27, going via Blaney Meadows and Shelden Pass, we stocked Heart Lakes (Sallie Keyes) and the creek flowing through them. Also Marie Lakes and the headwaters of Bear Creek. Ten cans of adult golden trout were used in making the plant. Signed A.D.Ferguson, Assistant in Charge of Fresno Division.

*The information on fish planting is quoted from "The Diamond D. Saga" by Earl H. Coleman M.D. (a pamphlet revised in 1967 by the Diamond D Ranch of Blaney Meadows, a resort east of Florence Lake).*

### **WVI August 7th Meetings and Dinner**

The mid-summer meeting of the WVI Board of Directors was held on Saturday, August 7th at the Clubhouse. The annual General Meeting was held that evening. Thanks to Chuck Burgin for preparing the delicious smoked pork roasts served at the Board-sponsored dinner.

Business Discussed:

- Fire Committee Report & WHDT report
- Fundraising Ideas - new clothing items
- Memorial Gifts
- Dog Problems in Wilsonia
- Clubhouse Maintenance and Usage
- Election of Board Members

The final summer meeting of the WVI Board will be at 11 am on Sunday, September 5th at the Clubhouse after breakfast; all are welcome.

### **Verizon Cell Tower Update**

*The latest word, has construction beginning September 1st and the project completed in approximately 30-60 days*

### **Fire Safe Clean-up / Defensible Space Inspections**

I would like to thank all of the Wilsonia residents for their efforts in keeping their properties fire safe. I have finished my defensible space inspections for the 2010 season and I am pleased to see and hear that many residents have received their inspections and are getting to work on the clean up recommendations.

A couple suggestions I would make for residents to help with clearance in the future:

1) Next spring, after the snow has melted, and it is time to do that spring yard work, grab the 2010 inspection notice and head outside. Before you do any clean up, look over section 32 of the notice. If you can check any of the boxes in this section, you have some work to do. When you are finished with your spring clean up, grab your notice again and go outside. If you can look at section 32 without checking a box, you have great defensible space.

2) When the spring clean-up is done, it doesn't mean that your structure will be fire safe for the rest of the season. Many of you had removed the dead and down debris from on top of your structure as well as around your structure during your spring clean up, then received a notice stating you needed to remove the debris again. Raking several times a season will help reduce the chance of a fire spreading through these fuels and checking you roof frequently for debris will also help keep the structure fire safe.

Congratulate yourselves for the efforts you are making to make your homes safe from wildland fire and keeping Wilsonia the special place that it is. If you have any questions about your inspection notice or concerns about your clearance please don't hesitate to contact me at:

(559) 565-4287 or email Georgia\_Etter@nps.gov

Thank you again,

Georgia Etter

Park Ranger- Fire Education, SEKI NP

## ***WILSONIA VILLAGE***

### **2010 Calendar - Final Summer Activities**

All events at the Clubhouse unless stated otherwise

<b>Sat. Sept. 4</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Potluck - hosted by David and Susan Doyle</b>
	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Sun. Sept. 5</b>	<b>8 - 11 am</b>	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b>
		Adults \$5, Children (12 & under) \$3
	<b>11 am</b>	<b>Board of Directors meeting</b>

Potlucks are open to all WVI members and guests – please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert.  
Coffee provided, drinks for sale - Don't forget your table service.

**WATCH THE WEBSITE, BULLETIN BOARD & WVI NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES**

### **Square Dance Memories**

by Jean Gerdes Faszholz

Wasn't the square dance fun? We thank the Wilson family for putting it together in memory of Bud Wilson. He would have been so pleased to see all the laughter and kidding about people who did not know their left from their right. Around 60 Wilsonians and their friends attended and lots of them danced, whether they knew how or not!



The musicians were wonderfully talented and the callers were very patient. To add to the Wilsonia spirit of friendship, some "experienced" dancers were seen helping the more confused squares. Hearing "Oh Johnny" brought memories of decades ago flooding back. I sat next to a friend who remembers coming to the dances as a young teenager. She said she and five girlfriends would beg her dad to drive them up the hill on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Boys would come up from Sequoia Lake, and the 6 girls would sit and "hope" they'd get asked... and they would!

My own experience was much earlier than hers. Walt and Lillian Smith were the callers, as they were for my friend, but we had the good looking BRC boys attending the dances. Were we ever lucky... no girl wallflowers! And now it's gone full circle, Dave Faszholz and Mike Toomey, probably the oldest grandpas there, were in constant demand as partners. They were flattered, of course... but Dave was nursing a bum knee the next morning!

And what about the outfits the ladies and girls were wearing Saturday night? There was nary a full circle skirt or ruffled petticoat to be seen... standard attire in my day. There were some cowboy boots and hats and the shortest skirts we've seen in the village this summer, but most of the females were in long pants... a good decision, since it was one of the coolest nights of the summer.

We understand the proceeds from ticket sales paid the fees for the callers and band and there was enough left over to feed them and still make a small donation to the Wilsonia Memorial Fund. Let's do this again!

Congratulations to Susan Doyle on her election to the WVI Board of Directors. Susan and her husband David own the little red cabins on the corner of Willow and Laurel. Congratulations also to Neal Mixter for being re-elected for another term and Uschi Hamm for being elected for her first term after serving one year as a replacement Board Member.

A big THANK YOU to retiring board member Steve Rudolph who served 6 years on the board. Steve was an active member, including helping with all the auctions and flipping pancakes at the annual breakfast.

### **Cabin Tour - continued from page one**

It was a perfect, sunny day and around 100 cabin owners and their guests enjoyed touring the seven cabins. Gwen Paulus helped with refreshments of Dave's popcorn, cookies, lemonade and water, served on John Wilson's spacious deck, overlooking the meadow that was displaying all its spring "finery."

We hope to have the ninth Cabin Tour in two years, in 2012. Several cabin owners have tentatively agreed to open their cabins. We need at least six, so be thinking about how much fun it is to meet your neighbors... and you can enjoy your clean cabin for weeks afterward!

Thanks again to Neal for all the signs and encouragement... and Dave, my grumbling but willing partner of 53 years.

Jean Gerdes Faszholz



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# *WILSONIA TIMES*

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
**WILSONIA VILLAGE INC**  
C/O 1118 S. KLEIN AVE  
REEDLEY, CA 93654-3720

## ***SERVICE CHANGE REQUESTED***

### **WVI Board of Directors 2010 Contact information**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Cabin Phone</u>
Chuck Burgin	President	chuckpen@gmail.com	(559) 332-2817	335-2509
Del Tiffin	Vice-President	dkttiffin@pacbell.net	(209) 526-1819	335-2819
Sheri Parkinson	Secretary	teebars@yahoo.com	(559) 638-4527	335-2252
Neal Mixer	Treasurer-Newsletter	mixter3@msn.com	(559) 643-8518	335-1144
Karen Carlstrom		wilsonia@comcast.net	(559) 732-1928	335-2539
Uschi Hamm			(559) 643-0807	335-2575
Susan Doyle			(559) 229-6021	335-2460

Grant Grove	NPS Visitors Center		(559) 565-4307	335-2856
Ash Mountain	NPS District Office	www.nps.gov/seki	(559) 565-3341	

**EMERGENCY \*\* CALL 911\*\* and 565-3196 / 3197 NPS Dispatch**

#### **Bear sightings, problems or questions?**



Please contact  
the KCNP  
Bear Tech at  
**(559) 565-4258**

#### **A reminder...**

*The dumpsters are only for kitchen  
garbage and household trash. Please  
NO discards, appliances, furniture,  
building materials...We are now  
charged \$17.50 per yard - please  
help keep the trash bill under control.*

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