

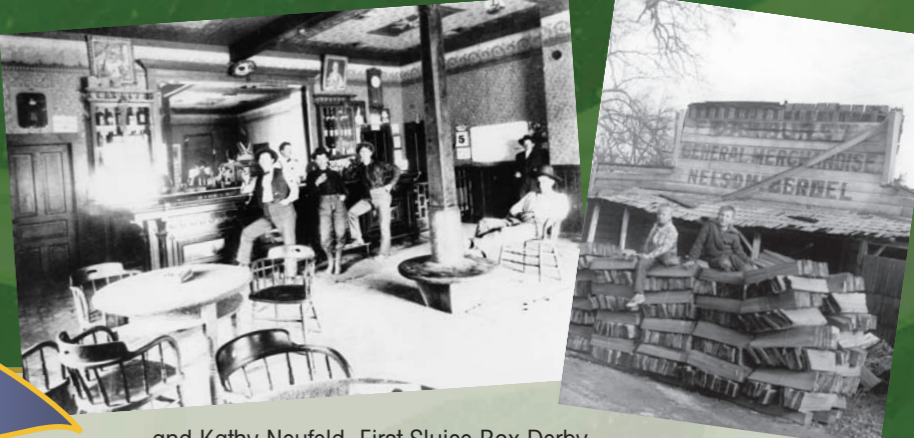
100th Anniversary OF OAKHURST

1912

2012

Oakhurst Timeline

Compiled by Sierra Historic sites Association



and Kathy Neufeld. First Sluice Box Derby.
November: Historic 1891 Chandler & Price printing press is added to the exhibits at Fresno Flats Historic Park, donated by Tom Fletcher of Bass Lake

1910s

- Feb. 28, 1912: Fresno Flats changes name to Oakhurst
- 1911-1933: Virginia Nichols served as the area's first librarian
- 1913: Cunningham School built

1930s

- 1930: In the 30's there are only about 50 people living in Oakhurst
- 1931: Sugar Pine Mill closed, Oakhurst population down to four families with children in school
- Highway 41 between Oakhurst and Yosemite National Park is completed
- 1936: Highway 41 between Oakhurst, Madera and Fresno is completed
- Holiday Village Motel and cabins are built

1940s

- 1942: The post office, grocery store, service station and saloon move to Highway 41 where the Purple Cow is now located
- 1944: Raymond Telephone purchased by Harry Baker Sr.
- 1946: Sierra Sky Ranch converted from working cattle ranch to guest ranch
- 1948: Holiday Village Motel is sold to the Burnett family who owned it for 22 years and expanded it to include a restaurant

1950s

- 1950: Current Oakhurst elementary school built
- 1953: Raymond Telephone changes name to Sierra Telephone
- 1957: November 7th: first issue of the Sierra Star
- Little Church is moved to the cemetery (built 1895, refurbished 1995)
- 1959: Post Office is located on Road 426
- Lisle Sierra Chapel, first funeral home in Oakhurst opens
- Tops Drugs, Oakhurst's first drug store opens
- 1959: Chamber of Commerce is founded

1960s

- 1960: Oakhurst is the Chinchilla capital of the world
- 1960: July: Harlow Fire
- Bank of America Opens, first bank in Oakhurst
- November 12th: Oakhurst Community Church is dedicated
- 1964: Sierra Ambulance Service is established with first ambulance
- Community Center is built
- May: First Mountaineer Days
- 1965: Talking Bear installed at Crane Valley Road (426) and Highway 41

- 1968: January 11th: Sierra Historic Sites Association organized with 40 members

1970s

- 1973: Laramore-Lyman House donated to SHSA by Dr. H. H. Baxter (who purchased it from Lyman's heirs)
- 1974: Golden Chain Theatre opened in the old bowling alley on Highway 41
- 1975: Laramore-Lyman House (built 1867) moved to its current location and newly created Fresno Flats Historic Park
- Fresno Flats Historic Park created
- 1976: Community Center mortgage burned
- Current Sierra Telephone building erected on Crane Valley Road (426)
- September: Yosemite High School opened
- 1977: Library / Firehouse open doors, dedicated at the Oakhurst Civic Center
- The 103 year old library and court rooms, originally the Fresno Flats Schoolhouse (and later referred to as Oakhurst School Building) is moved to Fresno Flats Historic Park.
- The building was gifted by the Madera County Board of Supervisors.
- 1978: Fresno Flats Historic Park receives a \$10,000 Parks & Recreation grant for the landscaping at Fresno Flats Historic Park
- 1979: Sierra Meadows Convalescent Hospital Built
- Danny's Red Devil Pizza opened
- May: first open house of the Laramore-Lyman house at Fresno Flats Historic Park and ground breaking for 2-1/2 acre park where Fresno Flats school will be moved to become the Nathan Sweet Museum.

1980s

- 1980: Raymond Jail is moved to Fresno Flats Historic Park
- 1981: Taylor Log House, oldest home in Eastern Madera County, is moved to Fresno Flats
- General Box Co. (a division of American Forest Products), Mill closed (opened in 1945), sold at auction to the Zenzen family who dismantled the mill and donated the photos to the Sierra Historic Sites Association
- October 18: Nathan Sweet Museum dedication ceremony and opening at Fresno Flats Historic Park; water fountain at Fresno Flats Historic Park is donated by E. Clampus Vitus is dedicated
- November 25th Raley's opened

- 1982: December: Cunningham School, 71 years old, opens for use as meeting place and event venue at Fresno Flats Historic Park
- 1983: Fresno Flats Historic Park receives two donations, the first, the Old Fresno Flats Jail and the second, the Teddy Roosevelt Cabin which was donated by and moved from the Gateway Village (formerly Holiday Village)
- 1985: June: Formal dedication of the Taylor Log House. Sierra Historic Sites Association receives statewide recognition for preservation of the Taylor Log Home.
- 1986: MET Cinema opened
- September: 1914 Dupzyk Homestead Log Barn is moved to Fresno Flats Historic Park by Harry Baker and Sierra Telephone employees
- 1987: Oakhurst Community Park opened
- 1988: Midway Market destroyed by fire
- 1989: Taylor Family Reunion held at Fresno Flats Historic Park

1990s

- 1990: State Center Community College opens Oakhurst campus
- With a county grant of \$21,000, restoration of the Laramore-Lyman house, a \$30,000.00 project, begins.
- 1991: Erna's Chateau de Sureau opens
- The Beulah Mills Memorial Rose Garden is dedicated. Local garden clubs donate rose bushes and Sierra Historic Sites Association donates memorial stepping stones.
- 1992: April: Gazebo at Fresno Flats Historic Park is dedicated to the memory of Alice Coleman and built from bequests made in her honor
- 1993: June 19-20: Heritage Days celebrate the 25th anniversary of Sierra Historic Sites Association and the Madera County centennial.
- July: Fresno Flats Historic Park hosts 100 historians from the Conference of California Historical Societies.
- 1997: September 19: Dedication of new Fresno Flats Research Library
- September 20: Heritage Days Parade, Grand Marshall, Harry Baker
- E. Clampus Vitus dedicate a monument to Fresno Flats on Road 425B.
- 1998: September 19, 20: 2nd Annual Heritage Days, Grand Marshall Rowena Wright
- 1999: July: State honors Fresno Flats Research Library: Sierra Historic Sites Association is awarded the Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 1999
- September 18-19: Heritage Days, Grand Marshalls Frank

2000s

- 2000: January: Soroptomists International of the Sierras donates recording equipment for Sierra Historic Sites Association's oral history program
- September: Heritage Days, Grand Marshall, Dwight Barnes
- 2001: January 7: Harry Baker is honored by Sierra Historic Sites Association as the "Man of the Millennium"
- February 23, 25: Fresno Flats Ragtime & Vintage Music Festival
- Wells Fargo Bank donates \$1,000 to Sierra Historic Sites Association along with a \$1,500 donation from the Fresno Regional Foundation to finance the construction of eight outdoor display cases
- September 15, 16: 5th Annual Mountain Heritage Days, Grand Marshalls, the Gaylen Lee Family
- 2002: KAAT Radio broadcast for the 21st year as local station
- Sidewalks installed along Highway 41 in Oakhurst
- 2003: Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau moves into old Forest Service Office
- First annual Sierra Art Trails Show
- 2004: Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce changes name to Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce
- 2005: Yosemite High School Performing Arts Center holds first concert
- Madera County approves changing numbered streets to actual names
- Dedication of final renovation to the Little Church on the Hill
- 2006: Ahwahnee Park plans approved by county
- True Value breaks ground
- 2007: Operations closed in Yosemite due to flooding
- Golden Chain Theatre celebrates 30th birthday
- 2008: New "Welcome to Oakhurst" sign installed on Deadwood
- Sierra Telephone celebrates 100 years of business
- 2009: Erna's Elderberry House celebrates its 25 year anniversary
- Ground broken for Central Valley Community Bank
- The Amgen Tour of California with Lance Armstrong goes through Oakhurst
- 2010: New Madera County Sheriffs Substation and Fire Station 12 completed
- "Carved Bear Capitol of the World" trademark requested for Oakhurst
- 2011: Opening ceremony held for Dept. of Veterans Affairs Clinic
- March 20 storm leaves portions of Oakhurst without electricity longer than any area in California
- 2012: 100th Anniversary of Oakhurst - February 28, 1912

* 2002 - 2012 Compiled by Lucinda Sweet/Fresno Flats Historical Research Library