



RIO VISTA MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

www.riovistamuseum.com

January 2023

Message from Museum President Peter Hamilton

Many of you may have noticed a change at the end of Main Street. Hap’s Bait Shop is no longer in business at that location. Hap’s was started by John Tremeroli, and through various owners Hap’s served Rio Vista locals and visitors for many many years. While I’m sad at the closing of an iconic local business, I look forward to seeing what takes its place.

Rio Vista, like any place, grows and changes. As a kid I checked out toys and bought jellybeans at Shafer’s – which became the gym. I have pictures of my older cousins playing in the “Little Pool” at the city park across from the Catholic Church. Where my cousins waded, kids now play basketball.

Growth and change is inevitable. Luckily we have the Rio Vista Museum to help remember and celebrate what was here. Through our collection of photographs, newspapers, and other memorabilia visitors can see the places many of us go “remember when” about. Awhile back I showed a young man who’s working with the Museum a recent donation – the sign from Rio Video. He excitedly talked about walking to Rio Video to check out the new arrivals. Replace renting a copy of “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” with checking out G.I. Joes, and that young man was me.

Phil Pezzaglia, the Museum’s curator, has put together a collection of “then and now” photos showing places in Rio Vista that have changed over time. Some of these photos are in this newsletter. We will have others on display at various locations around town and in the Museum itself. At our annual meeting, Phil will give a presentation with stories and even more examples of Rio Vista, yesterday and today.



**THE RIO VISTA
MUSEUM
PRESENTS**

**RIO VISTA -
THEN & NOW**



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF RIO VISTA OPENED ON NOVEMBER 1, 1915, IN THIS NEW \$20,000 TWO-STORY REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURE, FEATURING PRESSED BRICK WITH COLUMNS AND ORNAMENTATION OF TERRA COTTA.

AFTER THE BANK OF RIO VISTA PURCHASED CONTROLLING SHARES OF STOCK, IN 1921, THEY MERGED THE TWO BANKS, AND THE BANK OF RIO VISTA MOVED INTO THE BUILDING.

The annual meeting will be held at the museum at 6:30 p.m. on January 30. I hope you can join us.

In this newsletter, you will find an envelope to use when renewing your Museum membership. Thank you very much for being a supporter of the Rio Vista Museum.

Annual Christmas Faire an Enthusiastic Success Despite Soggy Saturday

This year's Old Tyme Christmas Faire took place as usual over the first full weekend of December. The Christmas Craft Faire has become a much anticipated community event featuring local artisans and the ever-popular bake sale. Thank you to the museum board members for making this welcome event happen. Thank you to the many local vendors who always make this a special event. Thank you to those who contributed goodies to the bake sale, and a big thanks to those in the community who supported it. We'll see you next December!



Would You Like to Be More Involved in your Museum?

We are looking for volunteers to “sit” at the museum on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to keep the doors open. This is an opportunity to talk with visitors, locals and out-of-towners alike, about Rio Vista and its history. An extensive knowledge of Rio Vista history or the museum’s holdings is definitely not a requirement. But this is a good way to learn more and to help support your museum.

If you are interested in more information, talk with any current board member or stop by when the museum is open and see what is involved.

Memorials

On behalf of the Rio Vista Museum, we would like to thank those who have made a memorial donation in the past year in honor of their loved ones.

The following were so honored during 2022:

Jeannie Anderson	M. Trigueiro Delouize
Bob Bailey	Faye Emigh
Beverly Bellows	Joe Gates
Azalee Bettencourt	Elaine & Neal Hamilton
Ray Bourdo	Dave Jeffrey
Callaghan Family	Jerry Machado
Joe Camacho	Shirley Paolini
Marci Coglianesse	Mike Parisi
Dora Dana	Connie Woods

1920'S CALIFORNIA PACKING CORPORATION PLANT #22



**RIO VISTA
THEN & NOW
THROUGH
PHOTOGRAPHS WITH
THE RIO VISTA
MUSEUM**

2014



THE RIO VISTA CANNING AND PACKING COMPANY WAS FORMED IN MARCH 1904 AND REMAINED LOCALLY OWNED UNTIL 1918 WHEN THE CALIFORNIA PACKING CORPORATION PURCHASED THE PLANT AND RENAMED IT CALIFORNIA PACKING CORPORATION PLANT #22 DURING THE 1930S THIS DEL MONTE BRAND FACILITY WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE LARGEST ASPARAGUS CANNERIES IN THE WORLD.

THE PLANT CLOSED IN 1945, REOPENED, AND OFFICIALLY CLOSED IN 1949.

BLACKWELDER MANUFACTURING MOVED ONTO THE PROPERTY AND SETUP IN THE VACATED BUILDINGS, REMAINING THERE UNTIL THEY CLOSED.

Picturesque Rio Vista was established in 1858, at the convergence of the Sacramento River, Steamboat Slough, and Cache Slough.

In January 1862, that settlement was washed away under twelve feet of water. Two months later, in March 1862, "New" Rio Vista was established at its present location. In the 161 years since, the town of Rio Vista has seen more than its share of changes. Hopefully that history can become relatable, with a choice of photographs, illustrating how some of the landscape of the town has changed, while in other instances, much has remained the same.

An assortment of historic photographs, augmented with current images, and brief descriptions of the images are being produced on approximately a dozen poster boards, will be displayed in a variety of local businesses in the coming month.

A PowerPoint presentation will be given on this subject of "Rio Vista Then & Now" at the annual Rio Vista Museum Association membership meeting at the end of this month.

2023 Museum Dues

Please return your dues in the enclosed envelope. Remember, the Museum depends on these funds, and there is extra need this year as we have several projects involving capital improvements to our museum building.

*Phil Pezzaglia to Speak at
Annual Membership Meeting
Monday, January 30, 2023
6:30 p.m.*

Come to the museum to enjoy a program with our very own curator and font of Rio Vista knowledge, Phil Pezzaglia, and to elect the 2023 officers and board members. Refreshments will be served. Phil will be talking about the Rio Vista Then and Now posters introduced in this newsletter.



Upcoming Events

Come on down the rabbit hole for our 3rd Annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Rio Vista Museum. Don't miss out on this fun event. Raffle prizes, photo booth, games and delicious food. Saturday, April 15th at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are limited, so act fast! For tickets or information, contact Renee Tingey at (707)374-2455, Nora Crane (707)334-6191, or Dana Lapp at Rio Vista Muffler (707)374-2484.

Check out the Museum on social media!

We have a Facebook page where you can see more pictures from the Christmas Faire and upcoming events. --
@riovistamuseum

We also have a website where you can see pictures and past newsletters.
riovistamuseum.com

Hamburger BBQ June 16, 2023 Save the Date!

