

CHRONOLOGY OF SOME DISASTERS IN SOLANO COUNTY HISTORY

- 1837 Smallpox epidemic. Known as the Miramonte epidemic, infected the Patwins of the area. It raged for two years.
- 1846 Severe winter weather conditions meant near starvation for Rio Vista settlers..
- 1852 California legislature met in Vallejo but because of primitive and muddy conditions moved to Sacramento the next week (came back the next year for a short while).
- 1853 The J. Bragdon (steamer) ran down the Comanche and sank her in Suisun Bay killing ten people. Petition to form a fire department received by Benicia City Council
- 1856 Ordinance passed by the Benicia City Council creating a fire department. The Solano Engine Company No. 1 was organized in Benicia, D.N. Hastings-foreman. Firemen's Ball held in July.
- 1857 The new engine, a No. 1 Hunneman, for the Solano Engine Co. No. 1 arrived in Benicia. Naylor-Vickers fire bell installed.
- 1859 1860 Fires destroyed older buildings in Vallejo including the State House. The State House fire started in apartments that occupied the basement level and spread to the hay that was stored on the upper floor.
- 1859 The citizens of Vallejo formed Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 consisting of fifty-three volunteers. The volunteer department continued until 1912. Blacksmith Jack King built a truck for the company and it also continued in service until 1912.
- 1861 Suisun City Union Engine Company No. 1 formed. (Prior to this the Army was responsible for fire fighting.) The first hand pumper-the S.R. Spinney-was an 1857 Hunneman (#508) purchased from San Francisco Fire Department. That Department sold it because it had run over two fire fighters..
- 1862 The Great Flood in the Davis, Rio Vista. Elmira and Dixon areas. wiped out. Maine Prairie and Binghampton. Residents of both Rio Vista and Maine Prairie relocated onto higher ground.
- 1863 Phoenix Engine Company No. 2 formed in Benicia, E.H. Pfister - president. Michael W. Long - foreman. Fire at the S.C. Hastings home in Benicia in which two firemen were killed, E.D.L. Bryant and T.G. Johnston. Sizable fire in Suisun.
- 1864 The Washoe blew up at Steamboat Slough killing fifty.
- 1865 The Yosemite blew up leaving Rio Vista. 140 passengers, many of them Chinese, were killed. (Numerous steamships blew up from overheated boilers-some due to the desire to outrace others steamships.) The Vallejo Volunteer Fire Department formed. San Pablo Engine Company No. 1 formed in Vallejo. Pacific Methodist

- College burned. The bell was pulled from the ashes and classes continued outdoors.
- 1867 Large section of the business community of Benica destroyed by fire.
- 1868 First major earthquake in the County since American settlement had begun. It measured VII on the Modified Mercalli Intensity scale in the South County and VI in the north and eastern part of the county. Suisun City incorporated.
- 1869 The “Cal P” (California-Pacific) Railroad through Solano County completed. This had both positive and negative effects on the County (Maine Prairie, Rockville, Cordelia etc. cut off; Elmira and Dixon given new life).
- 1871 Rio Vista Hook and Ladder Company organized, R.C. Carter-foreman. Business district in Vallejo damaged by fire\$50,000 loss.
- 1872 Dixon Fire Company organized. Neptune Hose Company formed in Vallejo.
- 1874 Phoenix Engine Company No. 2 formed in Vallejo.
- 1875 Phylloxera (plant lice) attacked early vineyards beginning in Pleasants Valley and spreading southward. Green Valley was spared. This caused many farmers to develop orchards to replace vineyards and wheat fields. (Dixon and Montezuma Hills areas continued to raise grain and livestock.)
- 1876-8 Business Depression. Central Pacific Railroad leased a line from the “Cal-P” (California-Pacific) Railroad. The “Cal-P” shops in Vallejo were closed and the work moved to Sacramento. Property values fell as jobs and revenue were lost.
- 1876 Worst fire in Vallejo’s. history started in a restaurant on Georgia Street and burned fifteen buildings. State Legislature repealed the exempt privileges of firemen from the poll tax and from jury duty service. Members of the San Pablo Engine Company were furious and resigned. The replacement fire fighters were called out to false alarms and arson fires that followed. A vigilance committee formed to patrol the streets until the activities stopped.
- 1877 Vacaville suffered from two fires. The first one destroyed about half of the business district; the second one almost destroyed the town completely.
- 1878 Rio Vista constructed their first firehouse. Fire bell cast in 1852 hung above it. Central Pacific Railroad completed 17-mile link between Suisun and Benicia.
- 1879 Wheat farmers suffered a depression. By now, orchards yielded a wide variety of fruits in the Pleasants, Vaca and Lagoon valleys, as well as the English Hills area. Vineyards continued in Green Valley. Fire nearly destroyed Dixon.
- 1880s Vacaville still led as the fruit district of the county, although the English Hills is area farmers were seriously concerned about soil erosion and tried to prevent it with a variety of methods. Wineries established in the Green Valley and Cordelia areas because the vineyards were able to resist phylloxera.
- 1880 Women of Vacaville initiated a subscription drive to purchase fire extinguishers. Eight Babcock extinguishers were purchased. It is unknown whether a firefighting unit was formed.

- 1881 New firehouse built in Benicia.
- 1883 Fire destroyed much of Dixon.
- 1888 Vacaville had two major fires in the downtown district. The first fire destroyed much of the Chinese District; the second one destroyed most of the business district. Suisun had a major fire. For an eighteen-hour period, the women pumped while the men worked the hoses and buckets.
- 1889 The Pioneer Tannery owned by McKay and Chisholm completely burned in Benicia. The loss had severe economic repercussions. as the tannery had been a major employer.
- 1890s. Expansion of orchards in Suisun and Green valleys because irrigation was possible.
- 1890 Dixon's first waterworks built. Thirteen hydrants installed. Fire in Elmira destroyed many homes. The volunteer Vacaville Hose Company organized. Nathan Holt-foreman. W.C. Donaho-president. (It was not associated with city government.) The first hose cart was ordered. There were three fires in Vacaville- one in which five buildings burned because a new water line was being laid and the water system was shut down since "no one expected a fire to occur". (Together they totaled over \$35,000 in damage.) First firemen's balls held in both Dixon and Vacaville. Nine fire plugs installed in Rio Vista. The Company also had a hose cart, hooks and ladders, and buckets.
- 1891 Yosemite National Park established. First firehouse built in Dixon.
- 1892 An earthquake caused much destruction in the Vacaville area. It is estimated that it was equivalent to a 6.4 measurement on the Richter scale (a IX on the Modified Mercalli Intensity scale) . Dixon also suffered some damage. Two days later another one, equivalent to a 6.2 Richter scale measurement (an VIII on the Modified Mercalli Intensity scale), caused damage in Winters. Fire destroyed entire business section of Rio Vista. Two more hose companies formed in Vallejo-Hartford Hose Company No. 2 and Sheridan Hose Company No. 3.
- 1893 United States sank into the deepest economic depression to date. Building codes established in Vacaville. Starr Flour Mills in Vallejo went bankrupt because of the Depression.
- 1895 Vacaville formed a fire department with a chief engineer (\$58 per year) and uniforms for twenty-five fire fighters. To be paid the chief would submit a voucher. This practice lasted into the 1970s. Three days later the entire north side of Main Street between Dobbins and the Main Street bridge was destroyed by fire, involving 12 businesses, Bowles Opera House, 58 Chinese dwellings, barns and outbuildings. The estimated damage was over \$30,000. When the area was rebuilt, it was done with brick rather than wood. Alert Truck and Hose Company formed in Vallejo.
- 1896 The beginning of a four-year drought in the Vaca Valley area. Fruit production dropped by more than one-half within two years. Vacaville orchardists seriously

- considered irrigation. A second hose company formed in Vacaville when a second hose cart was purchased.
- 1898 An earthquake caused heavy damage to buildings on Mare Island-especially the older brick buildings. The officer's headquarters had to be torn down as a result. It was estimated to rank as a VII on the Modified Mercalli intensity scale.
- 1899 New city charter in Vallejo upgraded city services and provided for a mayor, police and fire departments and a chamber of commerce.
- 1900s Armsby Cannery established in Suisun to can local fruit. Orchards in the Green Valley and Suisun areas still expanding.
- 1900 Police force established in Vallejo. William T. Stanford became the first Chief of Police. Fire alarm system installed in Vacaville. Fire in Chinatown in Vacaville. Bell for Fairfield fire house on Texas Street installed.
- 1901 Fairfield water works burned. It had been built in 1866.
- 1985 New fire apparatus and hydrants arrived in Fairfield.
- 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire-the tremor was equivalent to a 6.8+ measurement on the Richter scale. Benicia hardest hit of Solano County cities (including damage to the Clock Tower at the Arsenal), although Suisun also suffered some damage. Vallejo received some 38,080 refugees. The Vallejo Police deputized 188 citizens to join forces with the regulars to control any criminal activity. Vacaville Company I of the California Guard went to San Francisco to aid in the rescue efforts. The city of Vallejo purchased horses for its fire department. Three men went on salary in Vallejo fire department. (\$85 per month) Suisun City nearly destroyed by fire. First recorded instance of mutual aid among fire departments of the various cities in the county. Vallejo motorized pumper engine arrived on a railroad car, the quickest way, and saved the town. Post fire depression caused the townspeople to give up on the town but civic pride returned and Suisun City was rebuilt. First electric lights in Rio Vista (plant burned the following year).
- 1987 Major flooding to the east and southeast of Vacaville halted railroad travel/shipping. Suisun purchased a horse drawn engine with a motorized pumper for fire fighting. To purchase it "dues" were collected from the merchants in the red light district and other merchants donated the \$1,680.
- 1908 Fire on Blue Ridge Mountains raged for two weeks. Chemical fire extinguishers purchased and placed around Vacaville.
- 1909 The Hotel Raleigh, one of the oldest landmarks in Vacaville, destroyed by fire. The steeple of the Presbyterian Church caught fire and the top part of it had to be cut off to save the church. Major fire in Fairfield burned ten buildings including three stores, four residences, a stable, a warehouse and two barns at Texas and Webster streets. The Capital Hotel was saved.
- 1918 Fairfield's first engine, a Waterous pumper, arrived.

- 1912 Vallejo Fire Department established. The Clock Tower at the Benicia Arsenal burned-rebuilt as a two-story structure as the third story had to be removed. The damage was estimated to be \$1,571,800. The early records of the Arsenal were also lost. Another big fire in Suisun.
- 1913 Waterous engine delivered to Suisun. First motorized piece of equipment purchased by Vallejo.
- 1915 St. Mary's Hall burned in Benicia. Early New Year's Day fire broke out at the Vallejo Brewing Company. The firemen fought it during a freak snowstorm. Union Hotel burned in Suisun Fairfield firemen incorporated.
- 1918 Vacaville purchased its first motorized pumper fire engine. Old Pacific Mail Steamship Company burned in Benicia. First motor driven fire engine purchased by Benicia Fire Department.
- 1917 The United States entered World War I. Fire destroyed parts of Rio Vista. Fairfield Firemen's Club built clubhouse.
- 1918 Influenza epidemic throughout Solano County. (This major epidemic influenced not only the county, but also the entire world. More people died worldwide than at anytime since the plague of the Middle Ages.)
- 1919 At Mare Island, when launching the USS California, the first super dreadnought, a cable gave way and the ship went completely across the channel swamping the boats and wiping out the ferry slip but hurting none of the gathered dignitaries. Buck Company completed first of two packinghouses (second one built in 1928-both eventually burned under mysterious circumstances).
- 1920 City of Benicia became owner of the Phoenix hand pumper. New Seagraves truck also purchased. Vallejo Department purchased a Seagraves pumper. Capital Hotel fire in Dixon-second recorded incident of mutual aid. Citizens of Cordelia established a private fire department.
- 1921 Chemical fire truck purchased by Fairfield. Large grass fire, 25 miles long and 1.3 miles wide, burned from Batavia to Round Hill School House near Rio Vista.
- 1922 No. 1 Magazine at the Benicia Arsenal blew up.
- 1923 Major grass fire, estimated to be 38 miles long and 15 miles wide, from Mix Canyon to Fairfield Cemetery, past Rockville to Napa "Y". Only structural damage was the old Gordon Valley School but 21,880 acres were burned. Fire kept away from Vaca Valley by back firing.
- 1924 Hoof and mouth disease hit four counties (Solano, Napa, Contra Costa, Alameda). Fire protection extended to rural areas around Vacaville. Peach Growers' Association's packing plant destroyed in Fairfield.
- 1925 Last remaining building of Maine Prairie destroyed in a fire. Vacaville built a fire apparatus on a 1925 Chevrolet to be used both in and out of the City. Elmer King did most of the work. (Put into service early 1926).
- 1926 The Dixon Fire District organized to fight rural area fires. The Rio Vista Fire Department organized. A fire house was built on Main Street. Eventually the

- Montezuma Firehouse was built and housed both the Montezuma and Delta District. McKay's Tannery burned in Benicia.
- 1928 Suisun purchased its first motor driven fire engine, a 1927 American LaFrance. Chinatown in Suisun burned. Elmira Fire District organized.
- 1929 St. John Mine. which was closed at the end of World War I reopened bringing disaster to Blue Rock Springs. When tapping the underground reservoir 588 trees were killed. The mine was sealed. New fire house built in Dixon. Armijo High School burned. Even the S.R. Spinney was called into service. Vacaville bought a Seagraves and sold the 1918 engine to Clear Lake. Elmira Fire Department received its first fire truck.
- 1930s The Great Depression. Chain operations forced fruit companies and local shippers to sell out or quit. Government standards also caused fruit growers to quit-leading to the abandonment and decay of orchards. United Prune Growers with federal aid helped growers' cash flow for a while. "Buckskin disease" decimated cherry orchards.
- 1931 Some flooding in Vacaville. Buck Company's second packinghouse mysteriously burned down.
- 1932 Vacaville Riots broke out between members of the Agricultural Workers' Industrial League and pruners. City block burned in Benicia including the Gise Hotel (once named the Palace Hotel), a pool hall, water company, stage line, candy store, and apartments above. Two firemen injured. The Cordelia Fire Department became part of the county system and was renamed Cordelia Fire Protection District.
- 1935 The Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) set up camp (Camp Chester) in Peaceful Glen area. The Corps took the practical approach to conservation. The workers dug diversion ditches, put up dams, laid pipes. Airplane orchard spraying in Vacaville area. Suisun Fire Protection District formed.
- 1937 New truck purchased by Elmira Fire District.
- 1939 Benicia Canning Company and Benicia Fisheries Company burned to the ground. Fire in Vacaville destroyed the Masonic Temple, a hardware store a beauty shop, doctor's office and telephone office. Major fire destroyed most of Cordelia. Rio Vista firemen formed a softball team.
- 1940s Towns faced housing shortage with influx of workers at the Ragsdale air base and the Benicia arsenal. Suisun Fire Department's equipment housed at the Armijo Club.
- 1940 Another flood in Vacaville.
- 1941 The United States entered World War II. Several fires during the summer. The worst one being a grass fire that burned between 1,286 and 1,588 acres in English Hills area. Between 13 and 28 buildings were lost. Vacaville purchased its third motorized pumper. The Japanese Buddhist Temple in Vacaville shot at following the announcement of the attack on Pearl Harbor. (The Japanese-Americans would soon leave for the internment camps.)

- 1942 Blackout and air raid drills held in the various towns. A fire, believed to have begun in the bowling alleys of the Crystal Building in Vacaville, caused considerable damage.
- 1943 A second firehouse built in Dixon. (Eventually the Dixon Fire Department built a Maine Prairie station. The Allendale Fire Department is also a part of the Dixon Fire District.) The Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce and Fire Department bought an ambulance to be maintained and driven by the firemen.
- 1944 Port Chicago ammunition explosion killed 326 men including 282 black enlisted men who were the ammunition loaders. Blast felt throughout the county. Fifty (58) black sailors were tried for mutiny in September for refusing to go back to work loading ammunition. Extensive damage in Benicia and Vallejo. The Charles van Damme, steamer, lifted and stuck into the slick. Elmira fire.
- 1945 Historical landmark, Solano Hotel, burned in Benicia. Fire at the Tannery in Benicia, three (3) more would follow before 1958.
- 1946 The Vacaville Fire Protection District formed. This was the last district formed in the county. A resuscitator purchased by the Vacaville Fire Department. New truck added to Elmira Fire District.
- 1947 Vacaville Fire Department purchased new uniforms. Suisun Fire District moved its equipment from Suisun to Fairfield.
- 1948 Solano Irrigation District (SID) approved. Wetmore Cannery in Benicia totally lost in fire.
- 1949 City of Benicia bought a 1,250 6PM pumper, largest in the county at the time. A grass fire that started in Mix Canyon burned for seven (7) days.
- 1958 United States entered the Korean Conflict. Nineteen (19) persons were killed, including Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis, in a 6-29 bomber accident at Fairfield-Suisun Air Base. Solano County Firemen's Association held its first county-wide field day in Dixon. The Diamond Match Lumberyard in Vacaville caught fire. It flared again a month later causing more damage. The losses were the greatest monetary amount in the history of the town.
- 1951 The Civil Defense Act approved by Congress. After this the first formal mutual aid pacts were signed by the county's cities and fire departments. This act also had a provision for bomb shelters. The Japanese Buddhist Temple in Vacaville destroyed by fire.
- 1952 A local landmark, the Pierce home, at Willotta burned. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area established.
- 1953 Construction began on the Monticello Dam. Old Vacaville High School gym mysteriously burned which led to the razing of the entire structure. -Another, new truck added to Elmira Fire District.
- 1954 Fire Chief Mel Collins of the Rio Vista Department started fire drills in the schools there.
- 1955 The Mayfield Hotel burned in Suisun.

- 1956 Flooding all along coastal counties. Vacaville hired first full-time paid fire chief, Warren Hughes. Volunteers began building the new fire station in Vacaville. Another new truck added to Elmira Fire District.
- 1957 Air tankers first used to help fight Mt. Vaca fire. Lake Berryessa created with the construction of Monticello Dam.
- 1958 Vacaville Fire Station dedicated. Firebelles (Women's Auxiliary) formed at Vacaville. Sirens (Women's auxiliary) formed in Suisun. The Arlington Hotel in Suisun burned. "Operation Chico" a Civil Defense Exercise took place. 1,008 people were moved from Solano County to Chico where they boarded with local families for the weekend. The maneuver was practiced because of the fear that an atomic bomb would be dropped in the county because of its strategic location. It was accessible from both Bay area bridges and the site of Travis AFB and the PG&E substation. The Solano Irrigation District (SID) started the construction of the distribution system in conjunction with the Monticello Dam and Putah Creek Canal. Another new truck added to Elmira Fire District.
- 1959 Vacaville City Employees- Association formed. First full time paid fire fighter hired in Vacaville. Total number of paid firemen in Benicia went to six. The Round House burned in Suisun.
- 1960 Junior Fire Department formed in Vacaville. Fairfield's new white fire truck (Unit 341) arrived-first shown off at the Fiesta Days parade.
- 1961 Direct military aid given to South Viet Nam. Travis Air Force Base a major departure/arrival point. (1965 - 1975) Dead and wounded and later MIs' bodies shipped there. Black Saturday"-Some ninety-five (95) fires reported. The worst ones being: A large grass fire burned in the Allendale area (95,008 acres and 10 homes were destroyed). A second fire burned from Elmira-Travis AFB area to Collinsville involving 40,008 acres. A third one burned from Benicia-Cordelia Hills along Highway 40 to the Carquinez Bridge. Fire departments from throughout the County worked to put them out. Three days later another fire set by an arsonist in Miller Canyon burned 2,808 acres of along Blue Ridge in 40 hours. The rough terrain impeded control. Radio Control Center established in Fairfield serving all fire departments with the exception of Vallejo. Benicia adopted the National Fire Prevention Code and Fire Chief Thomas Gieffels established a fire prevention program for commercial buildings and multiple dwellings. Vallejo had the first all-metal fallout shelter that was designed by the Office of Civil Defense Mobilization and built at the expense of the U.S. Government. As an experiment a Vallejo family spent sixty (60) hours in a fallout shelter. Ulat is Creek Flood Control project started. The members of the Benicia Fire Department built yet another tanker.
- 1962 Solano Project, a 33-mile canal system, completed bringing water into the Vaca Valley. Some flooding in Vallejo due to heavy rains.
- 1963 Fiesta Days uniform adopted by the Vacaville Fire Department. Winters Cannery Building burned in Suisun. Vallejo's Sanitation and Flood Control District (SFCD) crews pumped excess water from heavy rains into the Carquinez and

- Mare Island Straits that prevented the canals from overflowing. Crews also cleared street intersections to prevent drains from clogging.
- 1964 Illegal still fire discovered in Vacaville. Fires threatened Green Valley.
- 1965 “Black Thursday” fire threatened Vacaville. Early morning fires between Dixon and Peabody-Vanden roads kept many fire fighters from the area busy. Around 12:38 another fire broke out, caused by power lines falling and igniting the very dry grass in the English Hills area. There was nothing to stop it before the freeway. Between 288 and 388 fire fighters fought the blaze. Most of the damage was north of Vacaville—6,588 acres burned, 13 homes and 45 other buildings lost, and untold number of livestock (cattle, sheep, and horses) lost. Extensive damage at Travis AFB. Meanwhile the “Kaiser Fire” started in Napa County when power lines fell there and burned 25,888 acres from Soscol Ridge near Highway 29 to American Canyon Road and 1-88 to the south and into Green Valley to the east.
- 1966 Station No. 2 opened in Vacaville.
- 1967 Fairfield Central Fire Station dedicated. First class offered by Vallejo Junior College (later Solano Community College) for those who wished to make fire fighting a career became the Fire Science Department at the college. Vacaville City Council purchased two station wagons equipped them with gurneys, first aid kits and resuscitators for the police department.
- 1968 The 1929 Seagraves retired from service by the Vacaville Fire Department.
- 1978 Earth Day held to focus the nation’s attention on environmental concerns. California Packing Plant in Vacaville burned.
- 1971 Chief Warren Hughes of Vacaville retired. Vacaville Fire Fighters Association elected officers and adopted a Constitution and By-laws. Emergency transportation to hospital transferred to the fire department that was equipped with a modern ambulance. Four firemen enrolled in the 84-hour EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) courses.
- 1972 Suisun ladies won the state championship in the bucket division. The first full-time paid fire fighter, James Pennington, was hired in Suisun.
- 1974 Firemen’s Ball made a come back in Vacaville.
- 1976-77 Drought!
- 1976 Solano County cities of Rio Vista (and Montezuma District), Vallejo, Fairfield, Benicia, and Vacaville went on the “911” emergency line. Dixon followed shortly. Vacaville citizens voted for a property tax to pay for a paramedic program—one of the first in northern California. “Jaws of Life” unit purchased for Fairfield.
- 1977 First rescue unit purchased for Fairfield. Suisun Marsh Protection Act passed state legislature.
- 1978 First paid fire chief in Suisun, James Pennington. Elmo’s Club burned in Suisun. New Rio Vista Fire Station dedicated.

- 1979 Station No. 2 in Suisun built for a \$186,888 raised through the Suisun fire fighting volunteers' self-help program with pledges from the townsfolk. They built the interior of the station themselves. The California State Office of Emergency Services assigned the DES pumper to Rio Vista.
- 1980s Women started as firefighters.
- 1980 City of Vacaville Fire Department and Rural Fire Districts formally split. (Actual separation came in 1981.) Two school fires in Vacaville-Padan damaged twice in February and Will C. Wood in July. Vacaville purchased its second ladder truck.
- 1981 Howard Wood, Jr. became the first full time paid Chief of the Vacaville Rural Fire District and Robert Powell the fourth paid fire chief of the City of Vacaville Fire Department. Atlas Peak Fire in Napa burned nearly 25,868 acres (5% of the land in the county) and caused an estimated \$36 million in damage and threatened Solano County. Suisun Department responded with the COMSTAT unit.
- 1983 A barrage of storms caused damage and extensive flooding in the area. Large grass fire from fireworks caused extensive damage north of Vacaville.
- 1984 KUIC became the emergency broadcast station for Solano' County.
- 1985 MEMS ambulance service began in Benicia. Rio Vista fire fighters called into service for crowd control because of Humphrey, the wayward whale.
- 1986 Heavy rains brought flooding in the Delta area. The Sacramento River overflowed the seawall at Rio Vista flooding part of the city. Major damage was sustained and federal aid was received. The Rio Vista Firemen's Association celebrated its Sixtieth Anniversary.
- 1988 The Shell Oil spill entered Suisun Bay at Simmons Island and Ryer Island. Miller Canyon/Mount Vaca fire raged for several days. A 2,808-acre tidal area in Suisun Marsh purchased as a permanent preserve by Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation. National Landmark status given to the Jepson Prairie.
- 1989 Drought again! Toxic waste cache discovered at Collinsville. Severe earthquake, measuring 6.9 to 7.1 on the Richter scale, hit October 17 at 5:84 pm. Major damage to the Bay Area-especially south bay. It rolled through Solano County-some damage reported. Suisun Fire Department won the Virginia City and the California State muster competitions. New enhanced "911" emergency lines went in for Vallejo, Fairfield, Benicia and Vacaville. Suisun, Travis AFB, and Mare Island also went on their own "911" lines for the first time. The County Sheriff's Department had its own line and was responsible for the other areas on a part-time or full-time basis.
- 1990 Twentieth Anniversary of Earth Day celebrated by millions throughout the world. Concern regarding another drought season. Vacaville Fire Protection District proposed fees levied on rural residences and businesses to provide for upgraded equipment, more fire stations, and the hiring of additional fire fighters. Vacaville Unified School District prepared earthquake emergency kits for each classroom in the district. Some local cablevision stations capable of providing emergency

Information. Programming can be interrupted in case of an emergency. Citizens of affected areas can be given directions on what measures to take.

ERRATA SHEET

- 1877 San Pablo Engine Company House set on fire burning the house, fire engine and hose in Vallejo. (June)
- 1888 (One George Crystal noted in news articles as being fire chief--no records of fire company.)
- 1890 Bell purchased and belfry built.
- 1891 Fire department in Vacaville moved into a station located on Elizabeth between Main and Catherine.
- 1895 Name of hose company formed in Vacaville: Volunteer Hose Company. It was a private enterprise.
- 1896 They moved the equipment to a station on East Main Street. (January-February)
- 1904 The two hose companies in Vacaville consolidated.
- 1906 A fire on Dobbins. Street in Vacaville resulted in subscription for a hook and ladder truck (purchased in 1988) The pumping apparatus was purchased in 1918).
- 1907 The fire department moved its equipment to the new City Hall on East Main Street.
- 1940 The Vacaville fire station moved up Main Street to where the Reporter is now located.
- 1944 Besides causing extensive damage in Benicia and Vallejo, the Port Chicago explosion blew out windows in Vacaville.
- 1946 Gordon Valley Fire Department organized.
- 1952 First fire trails cut in the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- 1954 Faulty tractor muffler set a fire and high winds carried it causing 5,888 acres from California Medical Facility to Travis AFB to burn.
- 1955 Heavy and constant rains caused major flooding in wide area of Nor them California. Levees broke and roads were impassable. Wettest December recorded to date. VanPelt Company 758 GPM pumper, biggest in size and capacity at this time, delivered to the Vacaville Fire Department.
- 1968s Vacaville Fire Department doubled the number of its motorized fleet.
- 1962 Plectrons issued Vacaville fire fighters.
- 1989 The October earthquake caused damage in Benicia (Clock Tower and fire station) and Isleton (City Hall Community Center and fire station) as it rolled through Solano County.