The Tuolumne County Historical Society has a Publications Committee which is charged with producing a quarterly publication with articles relating to Tuolumne County’s history and its pioneer families. Originally, the publication was called “THE QUARTERLY”. The first quarterly publication was produced in September 1961. The name was changed to “CHISPA” in June 1969. Chispa articles may be purchased for $3.00 on line or at the Tuolumne County Museum.

“CHISPA” is a word of Spanish origin which enjoys a special association with the history of the area. It has a variety of meanings ranging from “sparks” or “embers” to “cleverness” or “wit”. Locally it acquired an additional colloquial meaning as it was also used to describe any nugget or specimen of gold, particularly one of great beauty or high radiance. The term was introduced to the diggings of Tuolumne County by pioneer miners from the state of Sonora, Mexico and was quickly adopted into the vocabulary of the many nationalities who mined here.

The CHISPA index of the articles produced can be printed out for your personal use. Note, some articles are continued in other issues.

To search for a word or name, click on the “Binoculars” icon or the “Find” icon box and type in the desired word or name. Then click on the icon to find the desired word or name. You can repeat the click on the search icon until you find all of the words or names in the Articles file.

Two special edition CHISPA publications were produced in addition to the Chispa publications produced every quarter. These special publications are listed below:

CHISPA publication written in 1981: County of Tuolumne 1850 - 1975. The Genesis of Tuolumne County by Carlo M. De Ferrari. It was produced in Honor of the 125th Anniversary of the County of Tuolumne. Reprinted for the Gold Fever exhibit in 2003.

CHISPA publication written in 2001: Walker River-Sonora Crossing by Richard M. Davis.

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831. An Historical Gold Mine by Sharon Marovich (Barbara Eastman, Columbia)

833. The Mother Lode Years of Victor Louis Amy by Mary Grace Paquette
837. Irish Identity in the Mother Lode by Luis Bisceglia, Ph.D., Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties in the 1850's and 1870's.

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841. Sierra on the Silver Screen by Larry Jensen
849. Tuolumne County's Movie Theaters by Carlo M. De Ferrari. "Living Art" took to the Silver Screen in 1901.
852. From the Crimea to the Cimarron by Diana Newington. Films with Tuolumne County locations.
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857. Don't Throw it Away-Give it to Us by Patricia H. Rhodes. History of the Tuolumne County History Collection and the Museums That Have Been It's Home
863. Television has Hit Don Pedro. Television hit Don Pedro with a bang in late December. Just about every family purchased a set about the same time, which inspired Mrs. Madeline Poe and the upper grades of Corner School to write this poem.
864. Chispa’s Silver Anniversary

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865. Society's Awards Programs by Sharon Marovich. Awards programs reward preservation of Architectural Heritage and contributions of individuals.
866. John Pereira of Jamestown by Joan Cunningham Gorsuch
868. Jamestown Hotel by Joan Cunningham Gorsuch

873. The Maine Boys by Carlo M. De Ferrari. A sketch of Columbia’s pioneer Hildreth brothers.
878. Society's Awards Programs by Sharon Marovich, (continued)

881. Tuolumne County School Districts-When and Where by Ed Brockman

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893. The Mystery and Romance of Bower Cave by Mary Grace Paquette
898. The Tuolumne County Bar, 1850-1907 by Carlo M. De Ferrari. Roll of members, 1850-1907 list of Judges to date.

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901. Some Tuolumne County “Ghost Towns” by Ted Wurm. Camps of Hetch Hetchy project - many gone, some still vibrant.

910. The Misadventures of Grizzly Adams by Carlo M. De Ferrari. A brief account of the early California years of John C. Adams, the west’s legendary grizzly bear hunter and trapper.

917. Courthouse Square by Sharon Marovich. Sonora’s first park.

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925. The Trask Family in Tuolumne County by David H. Johnson
928. The Roziers of Tuolumne County by Mary Grace Paquette

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933. Five Generations of French Women In Tuolumne County by Mary Grace Paquette
936. Pioneer Times in Tuolumne County by Hersey Dexter. An account of how Blanket Creek, Rough and Ready creek and Turnback creek were named and a reminiscence of a pioneer Christmas celebration by the author and his friends of Blanket Creek.
937. A Christmas Day, Nockins store at Blanket creek
938. The Columbia Masonic Cemetery by Hart Ralph Tambs, including map and marked burials
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941. The Italians of Tuolumne County by Patricia Hertert Rhodes. During the gold rush.

945. Old Days at Canyon Ranch and Mather by Ted Wrum

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951. Tuolumne County Farms and Ranches, An Album.

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961. A Taste of 'Sugar Pine Memories' by Manny J. Marshall

968. Lingots to Columbia by Mary Grace Paquette

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973. Joel W. Hedgepeth's Memories by Ted Wurm. A boy's life at Mather 1921-1922

976. Agriculture in Tuolumne County the Italian Way by Patricia Hertert Rhodes

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981. The Harry Family at Belleview Mine by June Harry Manly

984. Agriculture in Tuolumne County the Italian Way by Patricia Hertert Rhodes, conclusion

987. A Glimpse of Sonora in 1853, Excerpts from a letter written by Charles P. Clough

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991. Mono Pass by Susan Guhm. Historic southern door to Tuolumne County and Yosemite.

995. Preserving the Mountain Heritage by Carlo M. De Ferrari

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1001. The Pride of the Lyons by Mary Grace Paquette (Lyons Family)

1005. D. J. Oullahan, an Irish Freighter by Parsons Holladay

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1009. Tombstone Tales by Mary Grace Paquette (Casimir Borel and Dr. Francois Canton)

1011. Uncle Tom, Thomas Gilman by Carlo M. De Ferrari.


1017. “Dear Old Shaw’s Flat” by Parsons Holladay

1023. In Memoriam: Frances Mary Germain, 1902 - 1990


1023. In Memoriam: Ruth Mae Clarke, 1900 - 1991


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1025. Hartvig's Corner by Sharon Marovich

1030. Joaquin Murrieta's French Friend by Mary Grace Paquette (Pierre Vinet)

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1033. Belleview-My Home by Janet Husbands Dunlop

1037. Pioneer Medicine

1038. The Tuolumne Rangers by Bob Buckler (Civil War)

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1041. George Ezra Dane (1904-1941) by Diana Dane Dajani

1046. The History of Lieutenant Robert Daley by Bob Buckler (Civil War)
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1049. Tuolumne County's Automotive Pioneer - Charles Goelz by Milton Eisenhauer
1055. The Tragic Bruskey Family by Susan Guhm

1061. Bisordi's: Three Generations of Food and Family Italian Style by Sharon Marovich

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1069. Solomon Henry White by Bob Buckler
1072. The Daveluys of Confidence by Mary Grace Paquette

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1077. The Other Harris Levy by Mary Grace Paquette
1080. Otheto Weston, The Old-Timers and The Resurrection of Columbia by Parsons Holladay

1085. Brief History of the Infant Days of Yankee Hill by John K. Hunter
1090. Wells Fargo & Co. Directory for Tuolumne County, 1865


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1113. The Frenchman Who Would Be King by Mary Grace Paquette (Pierre Casimir Labetoure)
1114. Early Columbia: Prospectors and Presbyterians by Richard L. Dyer
1121. Jack E. Amundsen and "The Story of ‘Papeete' the Best Little Fire Engine in the West” by Bob Buckler

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1129. The Cady House Revisited by Sharon Marovich
1134. Capitan Louie by Carlo M. De Ferrari, Miwok Indian
1136. About Judge Micajah McGehee

1138. The Sonora Fountain by Patricia H. Rhodes
1139. Tuolumne County Gardens, 1850-1899 by Patricia H. Rhodes
1144. The Gardens of Yesteryear by Patricia H. Rhodes
1147. A Look at the Garden Scene Today by Patricia H. Rhodes. Modernization takes its toll of the horticultural profile of the community.
1153. Garden Glories of the Past by Mrs. Charles H. Segerstrom, Sr.

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1160. The Lepape Lineage in Tuolumne County by Mary Grace Paquette
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1165. Western Movies in Tuolumne County by Carlo Gaberscek

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1173. Black Bart by Laika Dajani
1177. The Murphys Hotel Register by Carlo M. De Ferrari. Are the signatures in the Murphys hotel register authentic samples of Black Bart using his alias “C. E. Bolton” or those of some other person of that name?

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1181. Clarence W. Ayers, Architect of Sonora by Janet Irene Atkinson

1189. The Cholez Family in Tuolumne County by Mary Grace Paquette
1193. Wells Fargo at Springfield by William Strobridge

1197. Joseph and Sarah Spier Columbia Pioneers by Thelma Landon
1201. The Memoirs of Jean Péchau Translated and Edited by Mary Grace Paquette

1207. The First 40 Years of the Tuolumne County Historical Society by Mary Etta Segerstrom
1212. Annual Lamplight Dinners
1214. Gold Nugget and Heritage Home Awards
1215. Order of the Wheelhorse
1215. Historical Plaques
1216. The Tuolumne County Museum and History Center by Sharon Marovich
1221. Preserving Tuolumne County's Story in Print by Carlo M. De Ferrari

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1229. Meadow Vale Farm and Its Many Changes by Agnes Harvey Black
1233. The Holden Garden Riot and Some of its Heroes by Carlo M. De Ferrari

1237. Sonora's Old Opera Hall by Kerri Jane Francis McCluskey. A history Established 1872 - 1979

1245. The Caveron Ranch by Edward Rudorff
1248. A Rudorff Family History by Edward Rudorff
1250. The Humbug Mine by Tim Konrad
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1255. When the Railroad Came to Tuolumne by Dave Connery. Creating the Sierra Railway a century ago.
1269. The Power-ful Prince by Dave Connery (Prince Andre Poniatowski)
1270. Newspaper Opposition to a Railroad in Tuolumne County by Dave Connery
1271. The Joys of Travel by Train or Rein in 1899 by Dr. G. Frank Lydston

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1273. The Sky is the Limit by Janet I. Atkinson (Sonora aero club) (Dellschau)
1278. Two Trips to the Yosemite: By Six Horse Stage Coach Forty-One Years Ago, By Automobile To-day by C. H. Burden

1281. Businesswomen of Downtown Sonora, 1930-1945 by Marjorie Coffill
1286. In Memoriam - Mary Grace Paquette, 1941 - 1997
1287. Adolph and Fannie Pinto by Jack Cohen

1289. The Douglas Station by Francis Nelson. One man’s memories of operating an early day mountain resort on the Sonora and Mono highway at the foot of the Sonora Pass.

1299. The Sonora and Mono Wagon Road by David H. Johnson
1307. An Appreciation of The Old Mono Road by Mitch Hrdlicka

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1321. Albert Newman Francisco by Janet I. Atkinson

1329. Rusticating in the Mountains by David H. Johnson

1343. Tuolumne Tales: 1900 In Tuolumne County & Bachich Beginnings by Frederick Andrew Bachich

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1361. Three Years of The Soap Box Derby by Patricia Hertert Rhodes

1369. The Tuolumne County Courthouses by Carlo M. De Ferrari. A brief history of the two courthouses which have served Tuolumne County since 1853.

1377. The Tuolumne County Courthouses, (continued)
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1391. Tuolumne County Library - 1917 Personal recollections by Harriet G. Eddy
1398. Lily Lamb for the Mountains by Edna Holroyd Yelland, memories of a librarian

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1401. A Priest of Old Tuolumne by Hugh Maloney (Fr. Terence Joseph Smith, St. Anne’s)
1407. Hetch Hetchy's Other Dam by Clair A. Weast, Ph.D.

1409. School Daze by Mary F. De Ferrari. A brief account of launching a teaching career at Grovland’s Little Red Schoolhouse.
1415. The Reverend David Palmer by Frances Leonard Rohrbacher

1425. Memories of Jones Mill by Ron Pickup

1431. A Stroll into The Past With Sarah Jane Boyd by Sarah Jane Armitage Boyd. Memories of the business establishments and residences that lined Sonora’s Washington Street in the late 1850’s and decade following.
1438. When Sonora Was Young - A letter written in 1850 by J. Winchester from Union Democrat
1440. My First Sunday in the Mines by Rev. O. P. Fitzgerald

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1443. Summer Homes in the National Forests by Pamela A. Conners and Linda Marie Lux

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1455. “The Good Old Days” As recalled by Marion Kephart Rasmussen (1905 - 1998) (Price, McQuade

1463. The C.H. Segerstrom Estate by Sharon Marovich. A haven for family and friends on Knowles Hill.

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1473. Apple Land, Tuolumne County by Shelly Davis-King and Patricia Perry

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1487. Sonora 1880 - 1884 by Betty Owen Whitehouse (Andrew Judson Sturtevant)

1495. The Sierra Amateur Camera Club by Sharon Marovich. Kodaking comes to Tuolumne County.

1504. Joe Azevedo by Sharon Marovich. A tribute to the first president of the Tuolumne County Historical Society
1507. Old Tuttletown School as told by Joe Azevedo
1508. The Birth of the Tuolumne County Historical Society by Carlo M. De Ferrari
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1511. A Time of Terror by Carlo M. De Ferrari. An account of the enforcement of the 1850 tax on foreign miners, and the bloody era of revenge if spawned. (Joaquin Murieta)

1523. Exoteric by Doris Fletcher-Mills. Art Hender’s columns amused and informed Union Democrat readers for 30 years. (Ghiorso, Ralph Field)

1528. Remembering Gold Rush Jacksonville. A look back by Dr. G. Frank Lydston

1531. Eleanor McAllister Golly, Sonora High School’s Oldest Living Graduate

1532. History of Sonora Union High School July 9, 1903 to May, 1940

1533. Gold Dust by Doris Fletcher-Mills. A flood of reminiscences flowed from the pen of Ora Moss Morgan (Turn Verein Hall, Maggie Fahey)

1539. How Sweet it Was by Mary Etta Segerstrom. The candy makers of Tuolumne County

1547. Early Days from 1852 to 1860 by Mrs. Lee Whipple-Haslam


1563. The Fourth Estate in Old Tuolumne (newspapers) by Helen Rocca Goss

1571. The Solari Family of Columbia by Jerome and Nancy Solari. The grandmother our family never knew. (Lagomarsino)

1575. Romance Links Sonora’s Golden Gate Mine and U.C. Berkeley by Walter Brewster Jones (Musidore Rowntree)

1579. A Rosasco Family Album by Otis J. Rosasco

1591. Church and Civil Justice in Tuolumne County in the 1850s by Russell Chandler. The colorful trials of James A. Cunningham (Caleb Dorsey)

1599. The Peruvian Ranch by Grace H. Ziesing, Mark D. Selvertson and Suzanne B. Stewart with contribution by Elaine-Mayrsol Solori. Life in early day East Sonora. (Valverde, Lewis Granadino Families)

1606. The Groveland Hotel and Annex by Mark V. Thornton. National Recognition for history along the Big Oak Flat road.

1611. Anna Reid, Former proprietress of the Groveland Hotel Remembered the Town’s Early Days
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1614. Brooks/Jeffers Homestead by Grace H. Ziesing, Mark D. Selverstom and Suzanne B. Stewart. More history and archaeology along the New Highway 108

1620. In Memoriam, Jean O’Brien

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1626. The 1906 Earthquake in Tuolumne County by Mary Etta Segerstrom

1628. Promises, Promises “Dogberry” at the Democratic County Convention


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1634. William Daegener, Columbia’s First Wells Fargo Agent by Barbara Eastman

1637. William Daegener, Twenty Years of Business and Family Life in Columbia by Louisa Daegener

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1643. A Lively Contest for Sheriff in 1902. The Supreme Court decides the winner and the loser disappears. (George Adams, William Sweeney)

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1651. The Rodeo Story by Carlo M. De Ferrari. Over a Century of Courage, Dust & Horsemanship

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1663. The Gamble & Bean Kettle Buildings by Mark V. Thornton. Two National Landmarks on the historic Big Oak Flat Road to Yosemite.

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1671. The Emily Letters. Excerpts from the Gold Rush Correspondence of Huldah Emily Carlton Sperry, Shaws Flat Pioneer

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1683. Christmas was a State of Mind by John Starbird Sandoval

1686. Dan Berger, Wards Ferry Pioneer by Ora Moss Morgan

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1691. A Tribute to the “Baker Brothers,” Perry and Ross and their Ancestry by Sanford C. Grover

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1715. Cinco de Mayo in Tuolumne County, 1862-1865 by David E. Hayes-Bautista and Cynthia L. Chamberlin


1723. Two Years’ Adventures of a Dane in the California Gold Mines by Peter Justesen

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1735. Six Latina Pioneers of Gold Rush Tuolumne County by Marianne Schick-Jacobson
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1744. The Sawmill at Sammy Merrill Springs, Part One - The Invaders from Fresno, 1910 - 1914
by Mark Steven Francis  (Mathis Madary)

1756. The Sawmill at Sammy Merrill Springs, Part Two - The Game of Freeze Out by Mark Steven
Francis (D.H. Steinmetz, Mathis Madary, West Side & Standard Lumber Companies)

1764. The Story of an Apple Ranch by Doris Fletcher - Mills (Ralph family)

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1772. Hales & Symons, A Sonora Business Flourished For A Century by Joan Bergsund

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1780. Sonora Youth Center, A Place Several Generations of Young People Have Called
Their Own by Sharon Marovich
1785. The Sonora Inn, An Important Part of Downtown Sonora for 114 Years
1785. What One Man is Doing for Tuolumne County, Capt. W. A. Neville and His
Enterprises (Hotel Victoria)

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1788. Mitch Terzich a Son Remembers his Father by Irving M. Terzich
1795. Shorty Harris by Irving M. Terzich

1796. BEMIS FITCH A Most Unusual Young Woman by Pat Perry and Kim Stam

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1804. 50th Anniversary Chispa, The Story of a Unique Old Jail by Marcy Davidson

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1812. The Two Caleb Dorsey's of Tuolumne County by Lynne Roberts