There are three licensed real estate brokers in Three Rivers, and there are two Visalia brokers who have resident representatives here. For a long time this seems to have been enough, and sometimes more than enough. But the time is approaching when more real estate brokers and agents will be doing business in the Kaweah Valley.

Real estate prices have been gradually rising for the last three or four years. The rate of rise is increasing in proportion to the pressure which is being felt from the overflow of populations from the major cities.

The biggest single factor has been the starting of the Terminus Dam and plans for the eventual development of the Kaweah Valley into a major recreational area. As his happened above nearly all other dams, the land prices above the dam site have leaped up and up. Not only are more people wanting sites for summer, and for permanent, homes, but there are businesses and services entering the area, each demanding space.

The biggest real estate deal of recent months, and one of the biggest in many years, was the sale of River Way Ranch by John and Sue VanLeuven. A partnership consisting of four men, together with their wives, purchased the 3,000 acre ranch for $250,000. The ranch is now being operated by Roy and Doris Metcalf, one set of the partners (in 1960).

The most exciting real estate deal was the purchase of approximately three acres along the highway and fronting on the new lake of the Forrest Homer ranch for $25,000. John Webb paid this highest per acre price ever paid in the Kaweah and started immediately to build a motel on it. One thing the Webb-Homer deal has done is to suddenly boost land prices. Lots which sold for $2,000 a couple of years ago (1958), sold for $3,500 this year. Within a couple of years these same lots may well jump to $5,000, and particularity if they are choice lots. There are very few lots with river frontage available. A choice river-front lot of 1-1/2 acres is currently listed for $15,000.

Most of the land available at the present moment is in large pieces. Subdividers and investors are active in the larger-plot market. A plot of 200 acres, which may be good home site property a little later, is available for $1,000 per acre. The best offer for this piece up to now has been $500 per acre. However, there is a 30-acre plot along the highway with a view of the river which is listed at $55,000, and is considered a good buy.

One of the nicest pieces of home property on the current market is a three-bedroom, three-bath house on 10 acres of river frontage for $45,000.

Among businesses there have been a number of deals. Dick and Nancy Nelson bought the Three Rivers Motel and Trailer Park. Mel Atkins of Visalia bought the old Mid Breeze Motel and is renaming it. The McCoy's came back to Three Rivers to buy the Sequoia Cider Mill. Milt and Steve Yeager's, young men from Kansas, took over the Mobil Station, and the Fawkes Brothers acquired the Noisy Water Service & Garage. The Bewleys have opened Custom Cottons, and Treasure Cove, a rock and bottle shop, has the space formerly used by the Baptist Church. Edwardson has moved his business from Lake Tahoe, and is opening The Village Market in the building where the Old Buckaroo was, and which he owns. Town and Country Properties of Visalia has acquired Lake Elowin. One of the nicest new businesses is Trailer Isle on the North Fork, opened a few months ago by Darcey and Clayton. Dick Lang has installed a coin-operated ice machine on the edge of the property of Dixon’s Market. Dixon’s Market and Hart’s Frozen Food Center are remodeling and installing an Old Western type of front. McBride’s Kaweah Barber Shop has moved from the Wylie building to the Dixon’s Market building.

E.R. Moore of Exeter has turned what was the Skyline Drive-In into the Skyway Liquor and Sporting Goods Store.
After 3 months and 4 days we finally have running water in the museum and Bequette house.

As I have reported before, our old well #1 stopped working on Nov 22, 2018. Our new well #2 started working on Feb 26, 2019. The rest of the well #2 construction is piping and filling the two 7,750 gallon tanks used for fire suppression.

The California Water Board inspection will take place soon and all of our water quality testing is being done now. Bacteria tests have been done and they are clean!

Here’s a couple of photos of the water grand opening..

On the left is Dody at the break room sink. On the right is Susan Wolff at the restroom sink.

The local phone book is still in the works. The last book, three years ago, had some problems and we are re-writing the entire book. It is a joint effort of the Three Rivers Historical Society and the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce. I am formatting the written word, Darleen Mayfield solicited the ADS, Nancy Brunson is formatting ADS and Sheila Stone and volunteers from both groups have been calling for information. No publish date has been set yet, but soon.

When Dody and I arrived 26 years ago it was a blue card with lots of numbers. This years addition will come in around 50 pages. Oh how our little town has changed!

So You Think You Know Your Trees
Here’s a short quiz to see if you can tell where these Sequoia trees are located

1. Black Chamber - An example of the vitality of the big trees. Although all but 15% of the tree is burned it is still living and putting forth new growth.
2. Chief Sequoyah - It was named in 1928 by Colonel John R. White, Superintendent, and was dedicated in July, 1931.
3. Four Guardsmen - Also called the Four Guardians and the Gateway Group.
4. Lincoln Tree - With a weather-beaten, rugged appearance, this great tree, at all heights above 30 feet, is greater in diameter than the General Sherman Tree.

Now can you find them on a map?

1. On the Crescent Meadow Rd about 1/2 mile east of the Parker Group.
2. On the Congress Trail about 500 feet south of the junction.
3. Two miles below the Giant Forest Village.
4. On the Generals Highway, 1/2 mile east of the Parker Group.

In Their Own Words
A short note from one of our Docents

I was born in the Los Angeles area during an era when neighbors knew one another, and the houses were purchased on the GI Bill. Husbands were either former military or active military reserves, and wives were stay-at-home moms who enjoyed frequent kaffee klatschs. Our phones were on a party line; homework required books, thinking, and researching our brain. No TV, just radio programs, playing outside, and using our imaginations.

As a docent at the Three Rivers Historical Museum, I enjoy listening to the visitors discuss the different eras, and watch the amazed looks on both young and old when they examine the old phones, business machines, kitchen items and hear the stories about our encounters with the bears, and other animals. The World War I newspapers from England and the Fresno newspapers from 1926 fascinate many visitors from Great Britain. They enjoy hearing about the animals that freely roam through Three Rivers, and visitors enjoy hearing about the neighborly and civic attitude that still exists among the citizens of Three Rivers.

Dody Marshall
LIDABELLE WYLIE
March 18, 1915
December 16, 2005


Lidabelle grew up on a homestead in the mountains of California.

In 1935, in the Cuyama Valley, she married a rancher and cattleman, William Wylie, and together they farmed about 1000 acres of wheat and raised a small herd of cattle.

In 1946, they moved to Three Rivers, bought 3000 acres of land on the South Fork, and about 350 head of Black Angus cattle.

In 1953, she opened “Lidabelle’s Beauty Salon.” It was open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. six days a week for twelve years before she sold it.

After the beauty salon, she turned to her first love, painting.

Lidabelle excelled in everything she attempted. She had trophies for golf, bowling, hair styling, state champion in archery, first place trophies for muzzleloader shooting, both rifle and pistol, sharp-shooter, tomahawk, “Best of Show” and “Judges Choice” for her paintings and sculptures.

In 1972, she was accepted into the prestigious art organization “Women Artists of the West.”

In 1990, she organized and managed the first international art show in the L.J. Williams Theater in Visalia.

In 1991, did the same when it was held at the Chinese Culture Center.

In 1999, she helped to found the Arts Alliance of Three Rivers and revive the Redbud Festival.

Lidabelle had her studio gallery at her ranch located at South Fork Drive and Blossom Drive in Three Rivers. It had special hours – “Open when she’s there, and not when she’s not.”

Over the years Lidabelle was a very active member of the Three Rivers community by being a member of the Three Rivers / Lemon Cove Business Association [forrunner to the current Chamber of Commerce] and the Three Rivers Historical Society.

Lidabelle passed away December 16, 2005 of natural causes, her husband William died January 6, 2005, and her daughter Sandy Ware died in 2006. Lidabelle’s granddaughter, Sherry Ware, currently lives in Exeter, California.
Established - December 1991
Museum Opened
October 2000
501(c)3 Non-Profit
Organization

Board of Directors

Tom Marshall,
President
Nancy Brunson,
Vice-President
Dody Marshall,
Treasurer/Secretary
Susan Wolff,
Docent Coordinator
Rusty Crain,
Director
Bob Burke,
Director
Shivon Lavely,
Director
Jackie Tuttle,
Director/Facebook
Kim Kauling,
Director
Louise Jackson,
Director
Julie Britten-Bruns
Director
Daryl Bruns
Director

Finance Committee
Nancy Brunson
Mike Little, CPA
and Rusty Crain

New items coming in
every month.

Watch for new catalog
coming soon!

On-Line Store
https://squareup.com/store/3rmuseum

Mar 27, 1pm to 3pm "JOIN US"
Docent / Volunteer Orientation
Overview of what volunteers do at Museum

Apr 6, 9am to 4pm
Celebrating the art of Lidabelle Wylie
Original Art, Prints, Sculptures
Bake sale from 10am to 2pm
Wine & Cheese 3pm to 4pm
Special Exhibit and Sale with Raffle

Apr 11-14
JazzAffair throughout Three Rivers
Memorabilia displays at Museum

May 11-12
Redbud Festival in Three Rivers

Jul 13, 10am to 4pm
HOT DOG FESTIVAL
At the Museum