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Centerville School Bell

September 2025



**Join Your Neighbors for
Dinner and a Movie On Us**
Saturday September 20th
Centerville Schoolhouse

6:30pm - Join your canyon neighbors for conversation, kids games, & BBQ Hot Dogs (+Vegan) with chips and drinks before the show.

7:30pm - Watch the family friendly comedy "**Rat Race**" at our outdoor stage. Six unsuspecting patrons at a casino are randomly selected to take part in a wild dash to get to a locker 560 miles away where \$2 million awaits. With no rules, competitors lie, cheat, and steal to get ahead, leading to a series of escalating comedic misadventures. **Starring:** John Cleese, Rowan Atkinson, Whoopi Goldberg, Cuba Gooding Jr., Wayne Knight, Jon Lovitz, Kathy Najimy, Lanei Chapman, Breckin Meyer, Amy Smart, Seth Green, Vince Vieluf and Dave Thomas.

CALENDAR

Saturday September 13th
Grazing Education Workshop
Learn how goats can help reduce fire risk by reducing excess vegetation. Put on by the Butte Firesafe Council.
9am-1pm at the Schoolhouse

Saturday October 4th
Canyon Cleanup
Meet at the last parking area before the Covered Bridge on Honey Run Road.
8:30am at the Covered Bridge

Saturday October 18th
Potluck
Saturday November 15th
Potluck & Dessert Auction
Get a fantastic, homemade dessert for the holidays.
6:30pm at the Schoolhouse

Sunday December 7th
Holiday Sale at the Schoolhouse

Bring Your Friends & Family
The Colman Museum is Open
Saturdays & Sundays 1-4 pm



Honey Run Covered Bridge ■ Colman Museum ■ Centerville Schoolhouse



**JOIN
US!**



ANNUAL BUTTE CREEK CANYON CLEAN UP

We'll provide trash bags, trash picker-uppers, water, coffee and snacks. Hope to see you then!

10.04.2025

8:30AM

MEET AT THE LAST PARKING AREA
BEFORE THE COVERED BRIDGE ON
HONEY RUN ROAD.



For More Info :
(530) 487 - 1607
COLMANMUSEUMINFO@GMAIL.COM

FRIDAY EVENING, SEPT. 24, 1897.

INCIDENTS OF EARLY DAYS

THE OLD MINING CAMPS OF BUTTE COUNTY.

General Bidwell Conducts the First State
and County Election at the Forks—

Indians Hostile.

From the old Watson flouring mill at the mouth of Butte creek canyon, up to the source of the creek in the Sierras, gold has been found in greater or less paying quantities, and from the Burnham fruit ranch, mining has been carried on for the last 45 years, while the miner is still at work on its entire length, though not generally with such profitable results as in former years.

The town of Diamondville is extinct, entirely blotted out of existence, by the relentless tread of time, and the circumstances attending the depletion of its gold deposits.

The town of Centerville still lives and boasts of an excellent store. John Adams keeps the store, where the miner or any one can get anything they want from a darning needle up to a derrick, from a hand towel up to a bed quilt, from the insignificant sardine up to a barrel of pork. Mr. Adams still buys about \$80,000 of gold dust every year, showing that the ground has not forgotten to yield its mineral.

Helitown the next mining camp above, once so famous for its prosperity and plethoric purses is dead. The noisy crowds that once thronged the Nesbit store and saloon, have subsided forever, the radiant smile of the lucky miner has faded like the leaves of autumn into a forgotten thing of the past; the poker and faro tables have vanished, along with the jostling crowds that patronized them. But the irrepressible summer swallow still sweeps up from the tropics, and claims his heritage in the adjacent cliffs and old tunnels; but on "Boneyard Flat," "Cox's Flat," "Paradise Flat," "Arkansas Flat," "Whisky Flat," "Reeve's Flat," "Cook's Flat," may still be heard the stroke of the pick, the creak of the water wheel, and the familiar boom of the blast.

The distance from Chimney Rock, a well-known land mark, one mile above Helitown, to the Forks of Butte is about ten miles, nearly all of which is a rough, roaring canyon. For ages untold, the winds, rains, sun and storms, have beaten upon the mountain, on each side of the precipitous canyon, sending down into its capacious jaws, millions of tons of gold bearing rock and dirt to be digested through it, as a mighty sluice box; and all the miners had to do was to devise means to clean it up. In 1853, a couple of young men from New York took out \$30,000 from one riffle in three months, and went back home with a Klondyke stake; the riffle has been worked over six times since, the last paying two dollars per day to the man, showing how hard it is to get the gold from a shelly slate bedrock.

In 1851, old man Young and his son, in company with a man called Camp, while prospecting on the West Branch found it to be enormously rich in gold, making as high as one hundred dollars per day to the man. The news soon flew over the country and hundreds of men flocked to the new diggings.

That year General Bidwell opened the polls for the election of State and county officers, the first election held at the Forks. About this time the Indians became hostile, killing several men, and the miners built a log house fort for protection.

Mr. Camp's place was known as Campville. His claim paid big in coarse gold; he and his partners went home with their "piles." In '57 the Forks

was a lively place with several stores, saloons and hotels. P. M. Kelly had a big store there, but sold out to Sam Dewey, Sam had a store at Inskip, bought the big ditch from the West Branch of Feather river to Inskip, dabbled in every thing he could get hold of and finally became bankrupt and died. Many of the old time miners went from the Forks to Frazier river, Idaho and Montana. But the Forks is a good mining country yet; your correspondent was Recorder there from '59 until '62, and of necessity became well acquainted with mines of that locality. Aside from the gravel deposits of the bars, benches, ravines and gulches, it is surrounded by vast mountains of auriferous gravel, and deposited between the lava cap and the bedrock, having been swept there by water currents during the remote ages of the past.

The best claim from which large quantities of gold has been taken, was developed by Mr. Best of Nevada, who discovered the Best and Belcher silver lode at Virginia City. He probed with a tunnel that great colossal mountain west of the Forks, and found underneath it another Cherokee flat, covered up, the limits of which are unknown, but that celebrated old prospector, has run his last tunnel. The friendly old earth that he punctured so often with tunnel and shaft, has opened its mouth and swallowed him forever.

The pick strokes that once made sweet music for him,
Have died into silence, the light has grown dim
In the caverns he dug while seeking for ore,—
He has gone to a place where he'll never want more.

PRES LONGLEY.





Butte Creek Canyon



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Museum Website: CentervilleMuseum.com **Bridge Website:** hrcoveredbridge.org
Phone: (530) 893-9667 **Facebook:** @Centerville Schoolhouse @HRCBA