

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528

Editor: Dorothy Stanton

Meetings: 10 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA 94526

Volume VII No. 5

November/December 1991

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 19, 1991

PROGRAM: "CHANGES IN GEOGRAPHY:
HOW THEY AFFECT GENEALOGY"

November's speaker will be JOHN HEILBRONNER, who happens to be married to Carol Heilbronner, the owner of "Maps Unlimited". This map store is located at 2005 Crow Canyon Place, #138.

As a child Mr. Heilbronner was interested in geography. He traveled extensively during most of his working years in the shoe business on the international level. This business travel along with his lifelong interest in geography led to his current late-in-life business venture.

The topic he has chosen is a timely one. Historically, changes in political borders and record keeping systems have made tracing ancestors difficult. Mr. Heilbronner will demonstrate how geographical knowledge can assist the genealogist by illuminating long ago searches. More currently, he will share new ideas about the changes in the Eastern European geography.

Thanks to the Heilbronners' generosity, one of our lucky members will win a map in a drawing at the meeting. Do come to test your good luck and to expand your geographical knowledge.

-- From Sandy Aberer & Priscilla Dietrich, Program

LAST MONTH

by Ruth Farrell

(substituting for Ardith Steger - Thanks Ruth!)

October's program was "Swiss Research" with Norma Gessell. Norma greeted us with 'Guten Morgen' (Good Morning) and then involved us in her personal search for her ancestors.

Three very important steps were emphasized: Patience, Perseverance, and Checking all leads. Sometimes a little luck helps.

The most difficult part in tracing Swiss ancestry as well as other European countries

is that no one wants to discuss the past. Most parishes will tell you that records were burned. Perseverance played a major role and, by finally contacting a professional genealogist to trace her mother's roots, it was found that the records were not burned but intact. Be patient.

A visit to the country or place of ancestry is most beneficial in tracing homesteads, cemeteries, villages, etc -- and often a little luck intervenes. Norma took her first trip to Switzerland in 1977 and is still using Patience, Perseverance and a little Luck!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 12 - **Tuesday** 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Av, Livermore. "Research in England" by Bob Ware
- 14 - **Thursday** 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Speaker: Prof. Terry Wilson, Coordinator for Native American Studies at UC Berkeley.
- * 19 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Meeting. Come at 9:30 for "coffee & sharing". 1PM ROOTS III [see page 31 for full information]
- * 20 - **Wednesday** 10AM Irish Interest Group & German Interest Group [see page 31]
- * 21 - **Thursday** Workshop for participants in the IGI card Extraction Program. Call Frances Lloyd or Marilyn Fullam for details.
- * 26 - **Tuesday** SRVGS Library Trip [see page 33]



DECEMBER

- * 3 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting & COOKIE EXCHANGE! There's probably no business this month so come with your goodies and take home an assortment from other members. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr. Danville.
 - 7 - **Saturday** 10AM PAFFers United at Concord FHC 3700 Concord Blvd.
- NO MEETING AND NO NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER -- HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JANUARY

- * 7 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 9 - **Thursday** - 7:30PM CCGGS Meeting
- 14 - **Tuesday** 7:30PM Livermore-Amador Valley GS meeting.
- * 21 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Meeting. Speaker: George Anderson, "Scandinavian Genealogy Research"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



OFFICERS to Contact

President: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Vice-Pres.: Mary McNamara 837-7767
 Membership: Mary Jo Hosteny 932-2244
 2004 Reliez Valley Rd.
 Lafayette, CA 94549-1804

Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Dorothy Stanton
 501 El Capitan Drive
 Danville, CA 94526-4923
 820-3757

Mailing: Barbara Dittig
 735-9610

The Newsletter is published every month except August & December.

EDITOR'S NOTES

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO MARILYN FULLAM for filling in as Newsletter Editor in October when I was called out of town suddenly and had to be gone at Newsletter time. I'm sure all SRVGS members appreciated her willingness to step in at short notice and get the newsletter out.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Now that so many of our SRVGS activities are scheduled for the end of the month, the deadline for the newsletter can be moved later. Please get your items to me on (or before would still be nice!) the day of the Board meeting (first Tuesday). That means that you will receive your copy of the newsletter a few days later than usual. Mark your calendars for the month ahead.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

CALIFORNIA - Carol Glover will contact those who signed up for this interest group "sometime in November".

Call Carol (829-7207) if you are interested and missed the sign-up.

GERMAN - The group will meet 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10AM at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon (829-7787). Next meeting: 10AM November 20. Call Shirley to confirm.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each third Wednesday at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meeting: November 20. Chairperson: Patty Erickson.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the fourth Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: January 22 at Bea O'Rand's, 16 Ashford Ct., Alamo (837-1760). Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867 for future meetings.

ROOTS III - ADVANCED - Meets 1:00PM on the first and third Tuesdays. Next meeting: November 19 at Jane Steiner's, 1010 Hunsaker Canyon Rd., Lafayette. Call Jane (283-0867) for location of future meetings.

ROOTS III - BEGINNING - Meets on first Tuesday 10AM at Cindy Wheeler's, 266 Montego Dr., Danville. (743-1322).

SOUTHERN - We will have a sign-up sheet at the general meeting with the aim of a January start-up. Contact Dorothy Stanton (820-3757) if you are interested but can't be there on Nov. 19.



RESEARCH HELPS

LETTER-WRITERS NEEDED

Genealogists need to write their government representatives on three issues that affect present and future research, says California State Genealogical Alliance Newsletter (Sept 1991).

1. Wendy Elliott, CSGA President, suggests a massive letter-writing campaign to the state legislators about the public's need for **extended library hours and Saturday openings** (e.g. Sutro and Sacramento State Library). Budget cuts have drastically reduced not only hours but services as well.

2. **California vital records** (for research purposes) are no longer available from the state office. Now, it is necessary to know the county in which the event occurred and then order any and all pertinent records from the county rather than through the state facility.

3. Social Security Records Destruction Planned

The Social Security Administration plans to destroy the original 37 million applications for Social Security. The early files include many persons born in the 1860s and 1870s. Many were naturalized citizens. Applications show the address of the applicant, the date and place of birth, father's name, and mother's maiden name. Genealogists and researchers are asked to write the Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235 to ask that these records be turned over to the National Archives for genealogical research purposes. A letter to your congressman may be a more effective method of dealing with this problem.

These records will be in your ancestor's

handwriting (at least the signature) and may be the only source for some of the information. You can currently obtain a copy of the application by writing to Social Security Office of Public Inquiry, 4th floor, Annex Building M., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. Give Social Security number (if known), date of birth and reason for search. The fees for this service are \$7 with Social Security number and \$16.50 without Social Security number. [Orange Co CA GS Sept 1991]

SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICE

SS Administration's Letter Forwarding Service will send a letter from you to the missing person providing the purpose of your search is humanitarian (locating a family member or friend) or monetary (tracing a missing heir). You have to provide the person's date of birth, parents' names, or other identifying information. There is no charge for humanitarian requests; other searches cost \$3. Write to the Social Security Administration, Office of Central Records Operations, 300 N. Greene St., Room 1312, Tower Metro West, Baltimore, MD 21201 [Paradise GS April 1991]



MILITARY & VETERAN'S RECORDS

WORLD WAR I DRAFT RECORDS

The National Archives in Atlanta, GA has the World War I Selective Service Records on file. There are more than 24 million of them! All men born between 1873 and 1900 were required to register. For forms to request information, send to National Archives - Southeast Region, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, GA 30344 [from Antelope Valley GS N/L May 1991]

► HISTORY OF WORLD WAR I DRAFT -

During the first registration men between the ages of 21 and 31 were required by the Selective Service Act of 18 May 1917 to register. All men who became 21 years of age by 5 June 1917 were next. There was a supplemental registration on 24 August 1918, when men who had become 21 years of age since 5 June 1918 were required to "sign up." The third (and last) event called for registration of all males between the ages of 18 and 21, and 31 to 45 years of age after 5 June 1918.

► MEXICAN WAR VETS? - If you are researching a Mexican War veteran, then you should check into the Descendants of Mexican War Veterans, 1114 Pacific, Richardson, TX 75081, Membership is \$10/yr. For information write Steven R. Butler at the above address. [CCCGS N/L Nov 1991]

For more details about Mexican War Records see the article in GENEALOGICAL HELPER May-June 1991.

► U.S. CAVALRY - A drive is now underway to record short biographical sketches of all Cavalrymen from the Revolutionary War to the end of the Cavalry as a branch of the Army. As information is received, it will be placed in the US Horse Cavalry Association's data bank and made available to the public. For more information and to join the horsemen's group, write US Cavalry Association, P.O. Box 6253, Ft. Bliss TX 79906. [CCCGS N/L Sept 1990]

► ROUGH RIDER ANCESTOR? - Do you have an ancestor who fought with the 1st Regiment of US Cavalry volunteers (Roosevelt's Rough Riders) during the Spanish-American War? Graduate student, Karen L. Green, wants to know about these 1,200 men -- especially about their lives before and after their military service. Contact her c/o Sul Ross State University, Box 5048, Alpine, TX 78930 [FORUM Summer 1991]

► MILITARY RECORDS FOUND:

Discovery of partial military treatment records by the National Archives and Records Administration may enable many Army and Air Corps veterans of WW II and the Korean Conflict to obtain disability compensation. Many claims had been denied because no record was available. Veterans and survivors who may be affected should contact the nearest VA Regional Office (1-800-482-5434). The NARA advised that some 10 million Army medical treatment records were destroyed in a 1973 fire at a

federal record center in St. Louis. The newly found records cover the years from 1942 to 1945 and from 1950 to 1954. The records cover personnel who served in other services and were treated in Army Medical facilities. [From CSGA N/L April 1991, condensed from an article in Waldron News, Scott Co AR 1988]

► US CEMETERIES OVERSEAS -

The American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for construction and maintenance of American military cemeteries on foreign soil. They can give you the exact location of a grave, supply photos of the cemetery and grave marker to the next of kin. Write: American Battle Monuments Commission, 20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington DC. [East Bay GS N/L X:4 Nov/Dec 1990]

► COUNTY LEVEL MILITARY RECORDS -

Joe Kimmel, writing in the Paradise GS Quarterly 22:1, suggests that genealogists may be missing out on an important source of military information: the Discharge Record. Each county in the US was required to record the honorable discharge of soldiers and sailors who served in WWI. Some discharge records for the Civil War and the Philippine Insurrection are also on record, as well as some dishonorable and medical discharges. The same requirement was in effect for WWII. It was, however, the individual's responsibility to submit the Discharge Record to the county for recording. The record, besides giving service and personal information, can lead you to other types of military records.

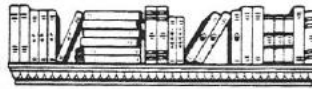


◊ HELPS FROM HERE & THERE

OHIO: You can get, through interlibrary loan, from the Ohio Historical Society, a County History Index to over 450,000 names culled from hundreds of Ohio general and county histories. Write: 1985 Velma Ave., Columbus, OH, for particulars. They will explain how you can order through your library. [Santa Cruz GS, Jan. 1990]

GENERAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS:

Land Records dating from 1788 are now being automated by the US Bureau of Land Management. These records are public lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. This project should be completed in 1993. Send all queries to the Eastern States Office, Bureau of Land Management, Dept. of the Interior, Alexandria, VA 22304 [Solano Co GS Oct 1991]



LIBRARY INFORMATION & REVIEWS



NOVEMBER LIBRARY TRIP

FROM MARY JO HOSTENY: Well, we'll try again! Due to the tragic East Bay fire storm, October's library trip was canceled. We will meet at 9AM on Tuesday, November 26th, behind Lucky's on Diablo Rd. in Danville, for our trip to Sutro Library. A description of the library and its facilities is in your Directory. For those wishing a ride from Walnut Creek or points north, please call Mary Jo Hosteny at 932-2244. We will continue the sign-up sheet at the November meeting as it was most helpful in view of the cancellation. If you signed up to leave from the Danville end and cannot go, please call Millie Freitas (837-2483) to cancel. Call Mary Jo to cancel at the Walnut Creek meeting place.

● FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS

- OAKLAND - The Library at the Temple in Oakland now has the newest update on the CD-ROM catalog from Salt Lake and the Ancestral File. The Library will be closed November 25 through 30 and December 23 through January 6.
- CONCORD - The FHC reports that they are still awaiting the Church of Scotland Parish records (Oakland has them). The new Ancestral File on the computers at Concord have a new feature: the ability to compile and print descendence charts. This capability means the names have to be in the file first, but more names are being added regularly with the total now at 9.6 million names. Another new feature is the ability to make corrections to entries for which you now have later information. Full information, including the types of changes one can make, are available in the instructions at the computer. The Corections feature will allow one to register an interest in researching a specific individual. This feature, to be incorporated on the compact disk system, will eventually replace the Family Registry program, which exists in a microfiche format. [CCCGS N/L Nov 1991]
- SALT LAKE LIBRARY - The FHL has acquired the 1928 German census. It contains all of Germany, including occupied Germany and Poland.
- UC LIBRARY COMPUTER GUIDES
Write to Carol Whitehurst, Room 245, Main Library, UC Berkeley. Ask for "Connecting to

the UCB Library Online Catalogs" \$1, "Guide to GLADIS" \$1, or "Guide to MELVYL" \$1. For all three, send \$2.50. Make checks payable to UC Regents. [CCCGS N/L Nov 1991]

- CGS LIBRARY: California Genealogical Society recently received a gift (from Mrs. George R. Dorman of Fresno) of a California Newspaper Index. The index includes 918,000 cards for 1904-1949 on 699 fiche covering state and local news from the San Francisco Call (1904-1913), the Examiner (1913-1928), plus the Chronicle (1913-1949) and the San Francisco Chronicle Index: 363,000 cards covering 1950-1980 state and local news on 277 fiche. If you are not a member, you're welcome to use CGS's important collection for a \$5 library fee. Or visit the library at 300 Brannan St., SF, on the first Saturday of each month when it's free to all. [CGS N/L Oct 1991]

- SOLANO COUNTY: The Solano Co Genealogical Society Library in Vacaville will be closed from Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day.

- INDIANA STATE LIBRARY: The library at 140 North Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 2320-3693 reports that the Genealogy Division of the Library has completed its statewide "Index to Indiana Marriages Through 1850." For more details see Genealogical Helper magazine Sept-Oct 1991 page 166 or contact Barney R. McEwen, Associate Director/Support Services at the above address.



FROM OUR MAIL BOX

- An announcement of the December 1991 publication of *San Francisco Passenger Departure Lists 30 September to 31 December 1850* by Peter E. Carr. ISBN 0-9631209-2-1. This is the first volume in a series which will index the passenger departure lists as printed in the newspaper, "Alta California". The brochure says, "Though hundreds of thousands would eventually rush to the California gold fields from all parts of the world, many returned home disappointed and broke. The usual way home was by steamer to Central America, by land across Panama or Nicaragua, then via another ship to New York City or

other US East Coast ports. The book is printed chronologically with each ship departure list indexed. This volume contains over 3,000 people bound to Panama. Future volumes will include ports in Nicaragua, the Pacific Northwest, California and Mexico. Send \$12.95 plus \$1 p&h to THE CUBAN INDEX, P.O. Box 11251, San Bernardino, CA 92423. CA residents add sales tax.

- **MORE INDEXES:** All by Virgil D. White: *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files Vol I: A-E and Vol II: F-M; Index to War of 1812 Pension Files; Index to Texas CSA Pension Files; Register of Florida CSA Pension Applications; Index to Indian Wars Pension Files 1892-1926; Index to Mexican War Pension Files -- and more.* Prices range from \$15 to \$247. Look for them in libraries or write for a price list from The National Historical Publishing Co., 109 Greeson Hollow Rd., P.O. Box 539, Waynesboro, TN 38485.



BOOK REVIEWS

The following two books, while not strictly genealogical in nature, provide background and general understanding of the lives and times of our ancestors.



AMERICA, A CULTURAL HISTORY. VOL. I: ALBION'S SEED - FOUR BRITISH FOLKWAYS IN AMERICA

by David Hackett Fischer, Oxford University Press, New York Oxford, 1989. Soft cover, 945 pp. \$17.95

Review by Bea O'Rand

This cultural history is the author's first and only completed volume in a proposed six volume series.

Less than 20 percent of our population today has British ancestors, yet Fischer believes that in a cultural sense most Americans are Albion's seed. "Albion" was the 6th century B.C. Greek name for Britain.

Four major British migrations to this country between 1629 and 1775 were in fact folk migrations which created American regional cultures. The first migration was from East Anglia to Massachusetts, the second from the South and West of England to Virginia, the third from the North Midlands to the Delaware Valley, and the last of more than a quarter-million people from lands bordering the Irish Sea - the Borderlands to the Backcountry. The

Backcountry included southwestern Pennsylvania, western Maryland and Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Although the people who made up these four major migrations spoke the same language, lived under British laws, prided themselves on British liberties and nearly all were Protestants, they came from very different regions of Britain. Each region had different folkways which were nurtured by their regional and cultural history. They spoke different dialects, built their houses differently, regarded power, order and freedom differently.

According to Fischer the legacy of these four British migrations in early America remains the most powerful determinant of a voluntary society in the United States today. For the genealogist as much as for the cultural historian this book holds a wealth of information. It is well documented with plenty of maps and tables, yet it is easy reading and most enjoyable to find out so much more about our family traditions, naming patterns, and other ways of our lives.



COMING TO AMERICA

A HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN LIFE

by Roger Daniels, HarperCollins Publishers, New York NY, 1990. 450 pp. ISBN 0-06016098-5 \$29.95. At Danville Library: call # 973.04 Daniels.

Review by Dorothy Stanton

Coming to America is a very comprehensive but very lively and readable study of immigration to America from 1500 to the present. The book is divided into three parts: Colonial America; the "Century of Immigration" (1820 - 1924); and Modern Times. In each part the author covers the ethnic groups and nationalities (not just European) involved and gives the background of causes for immigration from each country. He tells which areas they came from (sometimes naming exact villages), and the reasons they settled where they did at each time period. The thirteen German "Kre-felder" families who came with their minister to Pennsylvania in 1683 had experiences vastly different from the German "redemptioners" of the 18th century and those of the 19th century flowering of German culture in America.

Along the way, he examines immigration as a worldwide phenomenon and takes a few shots at what he calls the "major immigration myths": the myths of Plymouth Rock, the Statue of Liberty, and the Melting Pot.

Although this is a scholarly study, it makes fascinating reading no matter where you dip into it because the author uses real people and contemporary narratives. Even the illustrations (many published for the first time) are enlightening. A NY port poster promising jobs on the IC Railroad in Chicago may explain why two Stanton brothers newly arrived from Ireland in the 1850's ended up in that Midwest city instead of staying on the east coast.

Mr. Daniels' book is objective history, but as he puts it, it is a "celebration of human daring on the part of those who deliberately chose to become strangers in a strange land."



MORE BOOKS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST:

Reviews by Mary Jo Hosteny
THE MARYLAND CALENDAR OF WILLS
by Jane Baldwin. Wills from 1703-1713, V. 3. Family Line Pub., Westminster, MD. Soft cover, 300 pp. Originally published Baltimore, MD, 1907.

Wills listed for the period described, many with copious details. \$19.50.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES OF THE NOTTINGHAM QUAKERS, 1680-1889 by Alice L. Beard. Family Line Publ., Westminster, MD. 1989. Soft Cover, 296 pp.

Records taken from the Nottingham Quakers' monthly Meeting records held in Marcus Hook area of Chester County, Little Britain Twp in Lancaster County, all in Pennsylvania. Comprehensive index. \$19.50

THE FOUNDERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL AND HOWARD COUNTIES, MARYLAND
by J. D. Warfield, A.M. Family Line Publ., Westminster, MD, 1990. Soft cover, 543 pp. plus index.

A genealogical and biographical review from wills, deeds and church records originally published by Kohn and Pollock in 1905. \$30.00.

[These books (and many others) available from Genealogical Resources. Call Frances Lloyd at 837-9382, or Bette Kot at (707) 554-4814.

JUST PUBLISHED: Supplement to the 4th Edition of Genealogical & Local Books in Print. \$19.95 + \$2 p&h. Send for the catalog that also lists the earlier editions: GBIP, 6818 Lois Drive, Springfield, VA 22150. If you have published a book and would like to have it listed in Supplement II to be published in

1992, the deadline is Nov 30 1991. Contact your N/L editor for a copy of the forms.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA - County maps which include cemetery locations, can be obtained from Penn D.O.T., Public Sales Section, P.O. 134, Middletown PA 17057. Specify the county and ask for General Highway Map #10. [Contributed by Win Kynett]

CALIFORNIA HISTORY CALENDAR:

A wall calendar showing events from 1542 to 1989 & a guide to California History Festivals is available for \$12.95 (includes tax & shipping) from California State Library Foundation, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001. [Contributed by Millie Freitas. Millie also recommends the PBS weekly TV series called "California's Gold", devoted to the history, natural wonders and people of California. Check your local listings.]



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

CINDY WHEELER 266 Montego Dr., Danville 94526 (743-1322).
WENDY HABERMEHL, 3168 Riviera Way, San Ramon, 94583 (829-8339). Researching SCHUMACHER and HABERMEHL.

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Page 1: Officers - Frances Lloyd's phone # is 837-9382.

ADD TO YOUR DIRECTORY:

MARILYN FULLAM's new address: 870 Allegheny Ct., Tracy 95376-9085, (209) 832-0366.
BOB & JEAN F. HEACOX, 23775 S. Olive Ave., Ripon, CA 95366. (209) 599-4256.



CONDOLENCES:

The membership wishes to express its sincere condolences to Dorothy Stanton and her family for the recent death of her mother.





ALL I WANT FOR CHRISMAS IS A NEW SURNAME!

Dear Santa: Don't bring me dishes;
I don't need a new kind of game.
Genealogists have peculiar wishes;
For Christmas I just want a surname.

A new washing machine would be great;
But it's not the desire of my life.
I've found an ancestor's birthdate;
I need now the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring
That would put a real diamond to shame.
What I want is a much cheaper thing;
Please give me Mary's last name!

To see my heart singing with joy;
Don't bring me a red leather suitcase.
Bring me a genealogist's toy;
A surname, with dates and a place!

[Illinois State Genealogical Society via Marin GS N/L]



SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528



FIRST CLASS MAIL