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Biography

The California legislature created the ARBC of California in 1966. Its purpose was to assist, sponsor and promote state-wide and local celebrations, exhibits and publications in commemoration of the bicentennial of the American Revolution (1975-1983). The commission acted in an advisory capacity. It had a membership of twenty and an operating budget of $1 million. Wood was the only member who was a professional historian.

In its plans the Commission sought to emphasize California’s unique heritage as it related to at least one of three themes established by the national ARBC: “Heritage ’76;” “Festival USA;” and “Horizons ’76.” “Heritage ’76” represented history,
art, and educational exhibitions. "Festival USA" denoted California's unique contributions to the United States. "Horizons '76" emphasized some aspect of California's future. The Commission chose to focus here principally, though not exclusively, on the Gold Rush. Projects included: reenactment of the DeAnza trek from Sonora, Mexico to San Francisco (1776); planting of California poppies; and, a California history time-line (1771-1783).

Scope and Content

The collection consists of correspondence, notes, proposals by California counties for Bicentennial events and other Bicentennial project ideas of a more general nature.

BOX 1: Correspondence & Memos; Minutes & Agendas; Budgets, etc.

1.1--Membership lists
1.2--Executive Director: Log of Activities, [12/74-3/76]
1.3--Budgets, [7/73-12/75]
1.4--Corresp. & Memos, 1972
1.5--Do., 1973
1.6--Do., 1974
1.7--Do., 1975
1.8--Do., 1976
1.9--Policies & Procedures
1.10--Notes
1.11--Minutes & Agendas, 1968-70
1.12--Do., 1973-74
1.13--Do., 1975-76
1.14--Clippings
1.15--Events: Programs
1.16--Misc. Commission business
1.17--Forms, letterheads, etc.
1.18--Bibliography
1.19--Workshops
1.20--State-wide project applications
   -'Parks & Rec. Activity Calendar," 3/77
   -Hist. Environmental Living project/State Parks, 9/73
   -"Revolutionary Times"/Amer. Educ. Services, 9/73
   -"Indian History Through Art," 7/74
   -"The American Freedom Train Foundation," 8/74
   -"John A. 'Snowshoe' Thompson Tournament," 9/74
   -"Pacific Business Magazine's Bicentennial Issue," 10/74
   -"Bicentennial Youth Debates," 4/75
   -'(Grand Land Singers) Discover Your America," 8/75
   -"Bicentennial Nordic Ski Tournament," 11/75
   -"The Invisible Citizen (A Citizen w/ a Handicap)," 11/75
   -"Around the World Auto Race," 2/76

1.21--Calif. Bicentennial Quarterly & Calif. Bicentennial Dispatch, 1974-76

BOX 2: Project Applications by County, A-L

2.1--Alameda
   -"Americans on the Go: A Cultural Panorama of the First Two Hundred Years," 9/73
   -Calif. Heritage Center (Dublin), 3/76
   -Spanish Calif. Performing Arts Co. (Oakland), 10/74
   -Camron/Stanford house restoration (Oakland), 2/75
   -Merritt College Anthropology Museum Project (Oakland), 8/75
   -"Jubilee 200" (San Leandro), 3/75

2.2--Calaveras
   -"Fifes & Drums of old Calaveras," 6/75
2.3—Contra Costa
- Pleasant Hill School restoration, 12/74
- Ellinwood Nature Center (Pleasant Hill), 1/75
- Pleasant Hill War Memorial relocation, 1/75

2.4—Del Norte
- Crescent City lighthouse display & museum rehab, 3/76

2.5—Fresno
- Battle of Cowpens reenactment (Fresno), 1/75
- Jedediah Smith Day observance (Fresno), 6/75
- “Light up Old Glory” (Sanger), 8/74

2.6—Glenn
- Permanent marker for Swift adobe (Orland), 12/75
- Museum project (Willows), 10/74

2.7—Inyo
- Indian Cultural Center (Bishop), 9/74

2.8—Los Angeles
- Burbank city application [incl. celebrations, decorations], 12/73
- Pacific Nations Trade Conference (Century City), 2/74
- Compton’s All-American Nation’s birthday embrace, “(Compton), 2/75
- British Invitational Rifle Match (Covina), 3/76
- “Actors on Americana” (Encino), 11/75
- Musart Singers (Encino), 11/75
- American Music Abroad (Granada Hills), 12/75
- American Heritage Square (Hollywood), 5/75
- American Hall of Aviation History (Inglewood), 4/75
- Restoration of Reed home (La Puente), 4/75
- Masonic Grand Lodge Bicentennial (Long Beach), 4/76
- Bicentennial Black Achievement Exhibit (LA), 9/73
- Roy Harris’ 14th Symphony (LA), 9/73
- LA City application [incl. restorations, clean-ups, exchanges], 12/73
- International Assn. for Volunteer Education [IAVE] (LA), 1/74
- LA Unified School Distr./“USS Bicentennial” (LA), 7/74
- “Patriotic Exposition ’76” (LA), 7/74
- “Calif.: The State of the Nation”/Calif. Museum Science & Industry (LA), 10/74
- Raul Esparza’s mural “Calif.’s Mexican Cultural Heritage”/Calif. Museum Science & Industry (LA), 10/74
- “Old Ways in the New World” /Smithsonian Inst. (LA), 2/75
- “Stamp Expo ’76 Bicentennial” (LA), 8/75
- “Economic Awareness ’76”/Security Pacific Natl. Bank (LA), 9/75
- Cultural Heritage of Minorities (Paul Robeson Players) (LA), 10/75
- Young Saints Academy Public Affairs Project (LA), 10/75
- Bicentennial Golf Tournament (LA), 11/75
- “Our Religious Heritage in Southern California,” (LA), 11/75
- “America Dreams On.../Calif. Museum Science & Industry (LA), 12/75
- LA City Schools history & memorabilia mobile van project, 3/76
- “Women & the Law: 5th Annual Conf. at UCLA,” (LA), 3/76
- Bicentennial Memorial Fleet (Marina Del Rey), 2/75
- Japanese Memorial Gardens (Marina Del Rey), 2/75
- Bicentennial Tour of the US” /Girl Scouts (N. Hollywood), 2/76
- Practical Ecology Program (Northridge), 4/75
- National Miss Bicentennial (Norwalk), 6/75
- “Badman’s Roost” [motion picture] (Pasadena), 4/75
- Local Govt. Study Tour/Calif. Contract Cities Assn. (San Marino), 3/76
- “Young America for ’76” (Santa Monica), 8/74
- Calif. Rancho Easter Fiesta & Miners’ dance suites/Aman Dance Ensemble (Sherman Oaks), 4/75
- American Indian Art & Cultural Exchange Inc. (Tujunga), 2/75
BOX 3: Project Applications by County, M-Z

3.1--Madera
-Projects contest among 340 clubs; Seniors planting poppies; Women's history tapes; Time-line, 3/75

3.2-Modoc
-Applegate/Lassen/Nobles Trail marking, 9/75

3.3-Monterey
-DeAnza Expedition reenactment, n.d. [c1973]
-St.-Galy tiles of Williamsburg (Carmel), 9/75

3.4-Nevada
-Gold country stage historic tours; Posting Emigrant Trail; Nevada Co. Hist. Soc. Mining Museum, 4/75

3.5-Orange
-"Contemporary California Issues," 11/75
-"Project Sail/Pilgrim" [sailing ship] (Costa Mesa), 3/76
-"American Host Program" (Garden Grove), 2/74
-Historic artifacts display case (Huntington Beach), 2/75
-Conversion of historic landmark to arts & cultural center (Monterey Park), 1/75
-Dr. Howe/Waffle house & carriage house restoration (Santa Ana), 4/76
-Antique fire engine museum (Seal Beach), 12/74
-"The Songsmiths" (Torrance), 7/74
-Cavalier Youth Band Bicentennial American Tour (Whittier), 3/76

3.6-Riverside
-"A Salute to our 13 American Colonies" (Palm Desert), 12/75

3.7-Sacramento
-"Sound Express Sees America" (Carmichael), 4/75
-Bicentennial Run (Carmichael), 3/76
-Revolutionary War Color Guard/Civil War Skirmish Assn. (Fair Oaks), 2/74
-Galt Chabolla Park Community Bldg. (Galt), 10/74
-"The Ninety-Nines, Inc." (Roseville), 11/73
-Sacto. Science Center & Jr. Museum, 11/73
-Civil War Encampment, Old Sacto./Civil War Skirmish Assn., 2/74
-Old Eagle Theatre restoration, 2/74
-Drake's Calif. Landing: Bolinas Bay, 3/74
-Old Sacto. Historic Area; Sacto. Museum, 5/74
-"Charles C. Nahl: Gold Rush Painter"/Crocker Museum, 7/75 & 2/75
-Old Sacto. film 'Sacto.--A Place to Remember,' 2/75
-Calif. Index of American Design, 3/75
-Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks of Calif., 3/75
-"Bicentennial Ball"/Mercy Hospitals Guild, 7/75
-"Philadelphia '76"/JFK High Band, 9/75
-"200 Years of Technical Progress"/Calif. Engr. Fdtn., 10/75
-Catalog: Calif. Heritage Murals/DMV, 11/75
-Historic Old Sacto. Docents, 11/75
-Black Oral History Project: Sacto. Valley, 1/76

3.8-San Benito
-Community Dynamics Committee, 10/73

3.9-San Bernardino
-Harvey House preservation (Barstow), 11/75
-"Trek of the Centuries"/Old Mojave Trail, 8/74
-"The Beautiful Mystery of San Bernardino" [film], 4/75
-"Rancho Cucamonga" [book], 6/75

3.10-San Diego
-Independence [Tidelands] Park (Coronado), 4/75
- Kit Carson Park (Escondido), 2/74
- "Calif. Cavalcade of Bands" (Escondido), 8/75
- "Indian World" (Fallbrook), 1/76
- La Mesa Bicentennial Community application, 1/74
- "Men of Vision" [statue] (La Mesa), 1/76
- Western States Bicentennial Music Tournament (La Mesa), 2/74 & 3/76
- "T.R.E.E.S." (San Diego), 8/73
- City of San Diego omnibus application [incl. celebrations, exhibits, concerts, conferences, etc.], 1/74
- Pacific Southwest Railway Museum exhibit, 1/74
- "The 40 Documents of Our American Heritage"/Military Order of the World Wars, 2/75
- Natl. Square Dance Convention (Vista), 8/74

3.11-San Francisco
- "Vicar of Bray" (ship), 11/73
- "Nightingale of the Gold Rush Days" [concerts], 5/74
- "Women: History of Contributions to the US"/Change for Children, 1/75
- "The California Contribution to the Visual Arts: 20th c."/SF Museum of Art, 2/75
- "Town Meeting '76"/Institute of Cultural Affairs, 5/75
- "Musical Visions of America"/Standard Oil, 9/75
- "Noted Californians of Polish Descent," 9/75
- Marine Corps Tree Planting Program, 11/75
- Natl. Council for Geographic Education Annual Conference, 11/75
- "Spirit of '76 Convention, Gem & Mineral Show"/SF Gem & Mineral Soc., 11/75
- Polynesian Cultural Center of Samoa, 1/76

3.12-San Joaquin
- Monument to dead soldiers; Red, white & blue flowers in park; Trees, etc. (Escalon), n.d.
- "Junipero Serra, Pioneer of the Cross" [book], 6/75
- Floyd J. Locher Tool Collection/SJCoHist.Museum, 3/76

3.13-San Luis Obispo
- University Singers/Cal Poly, 7/74

3.14-San Mateo
- Declaration Independence in Brass/Historic Designs Intl. Ltd. (Burlingame), 3/74
- Sastra Institute restoration (Daly City), 8/74
- James Johnston house restoration (Half Moon Bay), 12/74
- Sanchez adobe investigation (Redwood City), 12/74

3.15-Santa Barbara
- "New Glory"/Sta. Barbara Museum of Art, 8/74 & 1/76
- Sta. Barbara Presidio restoration, 3/76

3.16-Santa Clara
- Calif. Youth Symphony project (Palo Alto), 7/73
- Peralta Adobe restoration (S. Jose), 12/74
- Historic S. Jose, 12/74
- Bicentennial sculpture court (S. Jose), 12/74
- American composers series (S. Jose), 12/74
- "Filatelic Fiesta" (S. Jose), 12/74
- "Center for Tomorrow" (S. Jose), 12/74
- American Art Series (S. Jose), 12/74
- The Liberty Belles & Boys (S. Jose), 11/75
- OUTREACH for Women Inc. (S. Jose), 11/75
- Black Theatre Workshop Productions (S. Jose), 12/75
- Allensworth Film Project (Stanford), 2/75

3.17-Siskiyou
- Weed Historical Museum (Weed), 4/75
- Greenhorn Park Project (Yreka), 3/76
3.18-Sonoma
- California's Literary Heritage/NCTE, 2/75 & 11/75
- Cloverdale RR Depot restoration (Cloverdale), 4/75
  - "Saga of Sonoma" (Sonoma), 9/75
3.19-Tehama
- "Camping Around California" [book], 3/75
- "Tehama County Nostalgia Cavalcade," 6/75
3.20-Tulare
- Porterville HS Panther Band, 7/75
3.21-Tuolumne
- Columbia Pageant, 10/75
3.22-Ventura
- Simi Valley Bicentennial Arbor & Amphitheatre, 6/75
- Stagecoach Inn Museum (1000 Oaks), 4/75
- Sunny Second Annual Open Horse Show (Ventura), 3/76
BOX 4: Misc. Plans, Proposals & Printed Matter
4.1--Projects
- ARBC. "Bicentennial Parks: A Nationwide Network of Leisure Centers," 12-5-72
- "Johnny Horizon '76" program, 2/73
- "California Plans for the American Revolution Bicentennial Commemoration," 5/25/73
- Dept. Parks & Rec. Press Release on "Liberty Tree" plantings, 5/1/74
- "A Publication program to produce a series of county histories of California," 5/16/74
- "A History of Whaling Operations on the North Pacific Coast, 1770s to 1970," 5/16/74 [displays, film, etc.]
- "The American farm: An exhibit of photographs on the history of American agriculture," 5/21/74
- "Major themes and programs approved to date," n.d. [c6/75]
- "Liberty Tree" plantings, 6/1/74
- California Medallion Program, 9/10/74
- Devault-Noble Fine Chinas Calif. Bicentennial Commemorative plates, 10/1/74
- "Summary of preliminary edition of Festival USA..."
4.2--Proposals
- "A Musical Tribute to our Presidents"/Promote the Vote Fdtn., 5/73
- "Fly the Flag"/New Spirit of '76 Fdtn., 8/73
- Indian Campgrounds, Inc., 2/74
- US Internatl. Univ. "We the People, 1776, 1976, 2076"
- America the Beautiful Fund. "Rediscover America Program"
- ARBCC. "California Film Festival"
- Hugh A. Moran. "Person Centered Education"
- Jedediah Smith Society. Postage stamp & redwood park for JS, 9/12/74
- Resolution from State Bd. Education in Commemoration of Revolution Bicentennial, 9/27/74
4.3--ARBCC California Plan Drafts
- "The California Plan," 4/70
- "California Plans for the American Revolution Bicentennial Commemoration," 5/25/73
- "California Plans for the American Revolution Bicentennial Commemoration," 7/13/73
- "California Plans for the American Revolution Bicentennial Commemoration," 5/74
4.4--Historical Background
-Rawding Distributing Co. "Boston Ancient & Modern in Picture & In Story," n.d. [map]
-"Outline: 'Governors of California,'" LA Breakfast Club, 9/8/71
-"200 Years Ago in Colonial America," n.d.
-Do. [draft], 11/10/73
-US Public Information Office. "The Old Guard: The Army's Ceremonial Unit & Escort for the President," 1972
-"California Capitol," n.d.
-Mexicana Airlines. "The DeAnza Expedition: A Historical Celebration, Mexico, Mexico City, August 13-18-1975"
-"El Viaje de Juan Bautista DeAnza y la Fundacion de San Francisco, 1775-1776; An Official Bicentennial Historical Reenactment, 1975-1976"
-Santa Fe Railroad. "1876 Timetable"
-Do. "Santa Fe is a 108-year partner in our Nation's 200 years of progress," 1976
-Unident. Timeline of American Revolution, 1771-1784 [photocopy]

4.5--Misc. Printed Matter & Ephemera
-Media Research. "The Destructive Program of the People's Bicentennial Commission"
-"Alameda County Bicentennial Projects"
-"The American Freedom Train Official Commemorative Program"
-Natl. Audiovisual Center. "Media for the Bicentennial"
-Santa Fe Railroad. "Toward a Better Way"
-"Patriotic Expo '76"
-San Diego Union. "Official Calendar" [bicentennial events in San Diego Co.]
-"San Diego County Bicentennial Calendar, Unincorporated Communities"
-Time (7/5/76)
-Calif. Engineering Fdtn. "200 Years of Technical Progress"
-"San Joaquin Delta Community College History & Government Classes Celebrate the Bicentennial, 1776-1976"
-Misc. flyers, badges, etc.

4.6-Bicentennial Bulletin, 1973-74

4.7-Bicentennial Times, 1974-76