

Library Exhibit Celebrates Auburn's 125th

A second marriage generally means you quit celebrating the anniversary of the first one. The City of Auburn is no different. This year marks a century and a quarter since Auburn's two precincts voted overwhelmingly to reincorporate.

Placer County Historical Exhibit can be seen through early October. Photographs, articles, and other items give one an idea what the year 1888 was like. There's even a photograph of Auburn's first mayor in 1888.

1888 was also the year the Ladies of the Auburn Library Association came out with its first cookbook. See what was cooking then. The main object was to establish a public library in Auburn.

The modes of transportation were walking, horseback, horse and buggy, stagecoach and rail. The city's population was about 1,500, one ninth of what it is today. Then about one in 10 of Placer County's residents lived in Auburn, the county seat. Today it is less than one in 27. Mining, agriculture, transportation were major economic driving forces compared to health care and government today.

Few, if any, had any idea how California would change in 125 years. In 1888 the state's less than 1.2 million population accounted for less than 2 percent of the nation's population. It was the 22nd most populated state. Today more than a quarter of the nation's 325 million residents live in the Golden State.

The City of Sacramento, the seat of state government, had a population of about 25,000 within a county of 40,000. San Francisco with nearly 300,000, or a quarter of the state's population, was the most populated and was the first to crack the top 10 most populated cities in the nation.

Celebrating Auburn's 125th Anniversary

--Michael Otten 2013



Group of 22 men and boys with a bear in front of the Freeman Hotel in 1888. Group is standing on a wood sidewalk with the bear standing on its hind feet. Man with mustache holding chain which is attached to the bears collar...man on right side is holding a stick which was used to prod the bear." Written on reverse: "In front of the Freeman Hotel 1888 +Mr. Ambrose Your father." Archival notes.