

Shearer Park of Chico

A

Chronology With

Historical Notes

by

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Researching Chico's History

A Publication from

SONS IN RETIREMENT

Bidwell Branch 110

History Group

Chico, California

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SIR Publication Information

SONS IN RETIREMENT (SIR) is a social organization for men. The organization is designed to be a luncheon club composed of men no longer involved in full-time occupations. The purpose of SIR is to promote the well being of men through association of other men interested in increasing their quality of life through developing new friendships, and through activities with physical and mental social involvement.

SIR branches sponsor a variety of activities and the Chico Branch 110 has an active "History Group" which involves exploring topics related to Chico's historic buildings, institutions, businesses and people. Besides enjoying monthly meetings with discussions of topics of interest and some more formal presentations, some members are involved in pursuing original research on topics of historic interest in Chico.

These research projects are driven by individual's curiosity and often result in a significant amount of information which seems worthy of sharing. Besides the desire to share the information, there is often a strong desire/goal of the preservation of this historical information for other interested people.

These desires often lead to consideration of publishing the results of the research. Various options are available but the idea of having a publication crediting the SIR organization with the origin of the efforts leading to publications seemed attractive.

Information on the activities of the SIR History Group and a listing of available publications may be found at the website under "Historical Information".

https://www.branch110.sirinc2.org/sir_branch_110/History%20Club.html

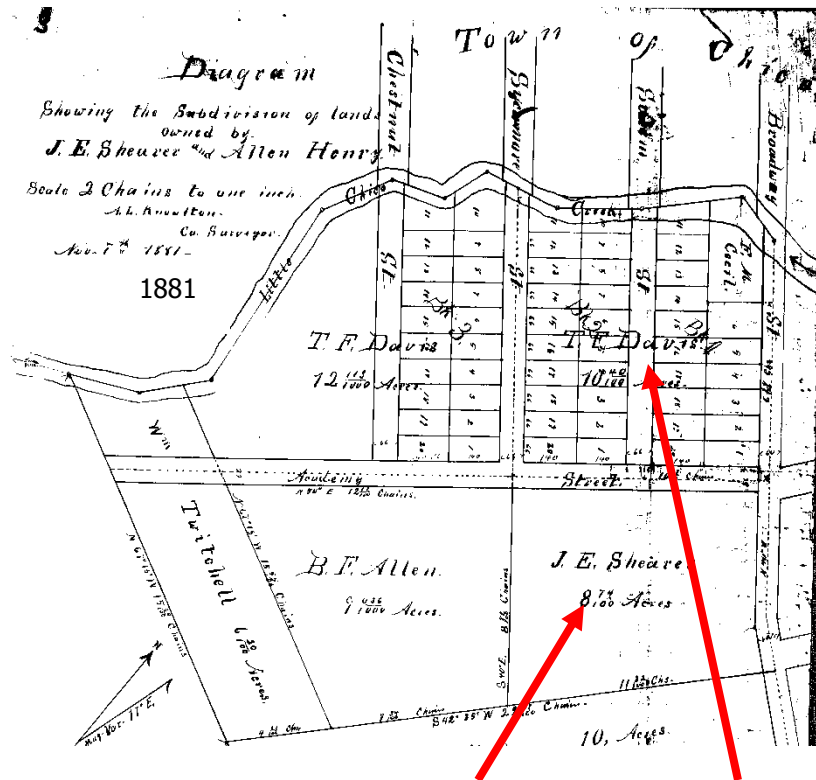
Shearer Park (SP) of Chico Chronology

DATE	EVENT
1881	Map of J. E. Shearer Property
3-19-1907	Chico to enter the Trolley League
3-1-1908	Chico had no plans to participate in the Trolley League
1908	Sacramento Valley Trolley League formed
8-27-1911	Game with Redding
1-07-1913	Supervisors to decide the future of baseball in Chico
1-08-1913	Consideration for opening street (Salem) through Shearer Park
1-28-1914	Petition to Supervisors to Prohibit Baseball at Shearer Park by local citizens
2-18-1914	Colts to play the 1914 season in SP
5-30-1914	Benefit baseball game held at SP
7-18-1915	Roof added to the grandstand at SP
7-14-1917	"Trolley League Deceased"
4-3-1919	Woodman Carnival to be held in SP
6-27-1920	Colts play the Elks at Shearer Park
7-4-1920	Fourth of July Program at Shearer Park
10-23-1920	Roundup held at Shearer Park
6-8-1921	Plans for a baseball season discussed
9-4-1921	Barber team played Oroville at SP
4-5-1922	Grandstand at S. P. declared unsafe
1-1-1926	"SP Soon to be a Memory" (ER article)
1926	Map of SP area subdivided into lots

Historical Notes

Introduction: Shearer Park was a very important part of life in Chico from 1908 to 1922 as the site for baseball games, circus performances among other activities. It was fondly remembered by the many who use to frequent the area in those days. However, it is currently no longer a memory and currently people do not even have an awareness of its existence. This is an endeavor to attempt to preserve a bit of some old Chico history.

1881 Map:



The future site of Shearer Park

Salem Street

1907: Plans to Join the Trolley League

While several people were initially opposed to joining, it was published that "The principal drawback to the baseball project is the lack of grounds provided, and to date no suitable solution has been found".

Colusa Daily Sun, Volume XXXI, Number 64, 19 March 1907.

3-1-1908: Delay to join the Trolley League

Chico Record, Number 51, 1 March 1908.

1908: Trolley League Formation

Despite indications that Chico was not prepared to join the Trolley League, as of March 1, somehow Shearer Park was developed as a baseball field, a team had been organized and the Sacramento Valley Trolley League had been formed with Chico, Gridley, Marysville, and Oroville as the original teams.

1913: Proposal for extension of Salem St.

Hearing on Salem Street extension is set.

Supervisors to hear claims of both sides on January 8. 1913.

Chico Record, Number 285, 6 December 1912.

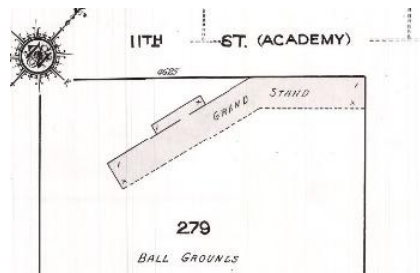
Supervisors voted to extend Salem Street through Shearer Park essentially cutting the property in half.

Sacramento Daily Union, Vol. 169, Number 11, 11 January 1913

It has not been determined exactly when the Salem Street extension occurred; but plans were pursued to play baseball.

1914: Chico Colts played at Shearer Park

Despite an initial belief that it would not be possible to play there because of decreased area, it was decided to continue to use it for baseball. A new grandstand was immediately built at the south west corner of what would become 11th Street and Salem As shown below. The diamond was leveled for early spring practice.



1921 Sanborn Map showing the grandstand
Trolley league baseball continued until 1917.

1917: Trolley League was discontinued

Chico Record, Number 165, 14 July 1917

However, various activities continued to be held at Shearer Park

1919: Carnival held in Shearer Park

1920: Colts played the Elks at SP

1920: Fourth of July Program at SP

1920: Roundup held at Shearer Park

1921: The Barber baseball team played Oroville at Shearer Park

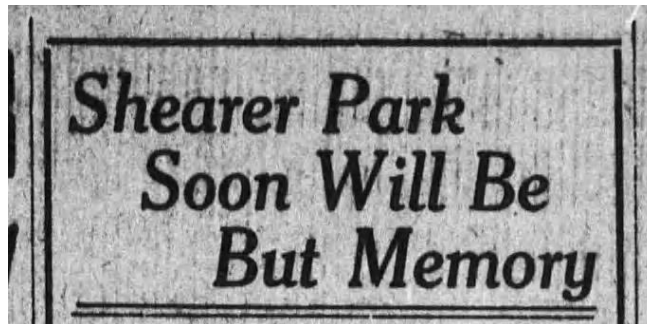
5-4-1922: Grandstand at Shearer Park declared unsafe.

Shearer Park Grandstand

Is Declared Fire Hazard.

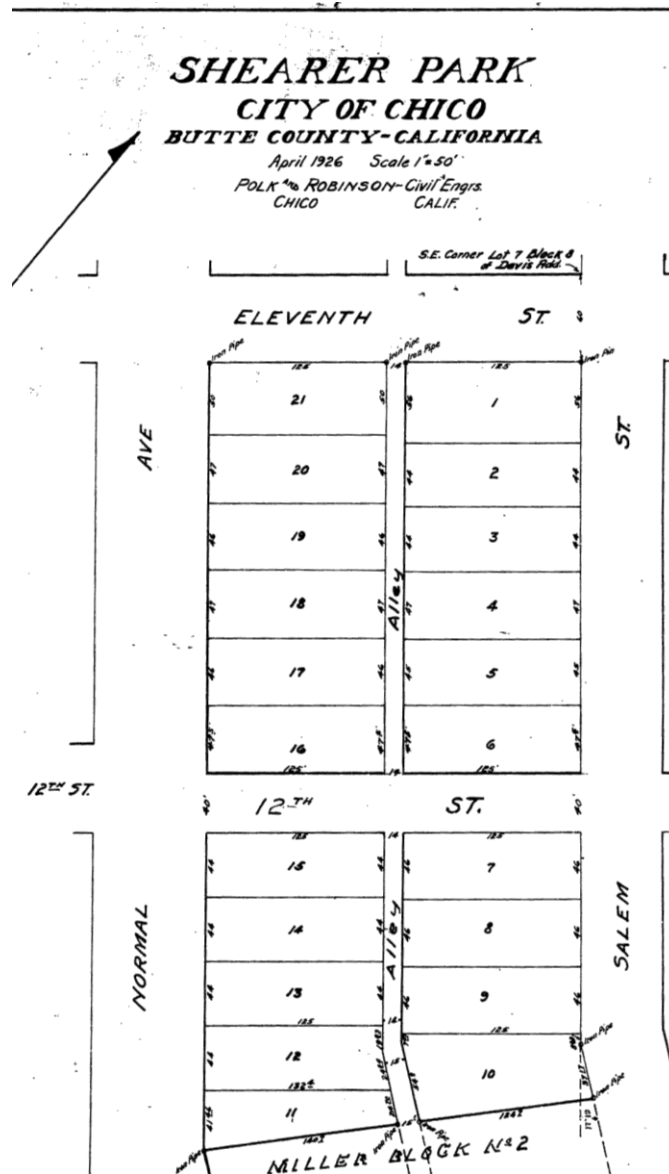
Fire Chief Tovee, after inspecting the high school and Shearer Park bleachers, declared them unsafe. The Shearer property is for lease to anyone who will attempt the repair of the bleachers, so that they will comply with the law.

1926



Enterprise-Record • Friday, January 1, 1926 Page 1.

1926: Shearer Park area subdivided



Following

