

Butte County

The Butte County Courthouse in Oroville.
Part 1 of 2: Gridley, Biggs, Richvale, Durham, Chico



Butte County

Butte County Data

Population: 203,171 (Rank: 27)

Land Area (square miles): 1,639 (Rank: 28)

Butte County was one of the original 27 counties created in 1850. It was named for the Sutter Buttes which were originally in the county. The word Butte, in French, means a hill detached from any mountain range.

The eastern half of the county lies in the Sierra foothills and the western half in the flat Sacramento Valley. The western boundary is the Sacramento River. The dominant feature is Oroville Dam and the lake behind it that controls the flow of the Feather River which runs through the middle of the county. Along the Sacramento River are the Sacramento River Wildlife Area and the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area.

Manufacturing, primarily food processing and wood products, leads the economy. The county produces 4.4% of the timber in the state. Rice farming along the Sacramento River is a large-scale enterprise. Almonds, English walnuts, and dried plums are other leading farm crops.

Highways 70 and 99 cut through the middle of the county connecting with Marysville to the south and Chico to the north. Highway 70 cuts on a diagonal through the scenic Feather River Canyon to connect eventually with Highway 395 on the eastern side of the Sierras.

Cities: Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Gridley, Biggs. Towns: Richvale, Durham. Sights: Oroville Dam.

Introduction

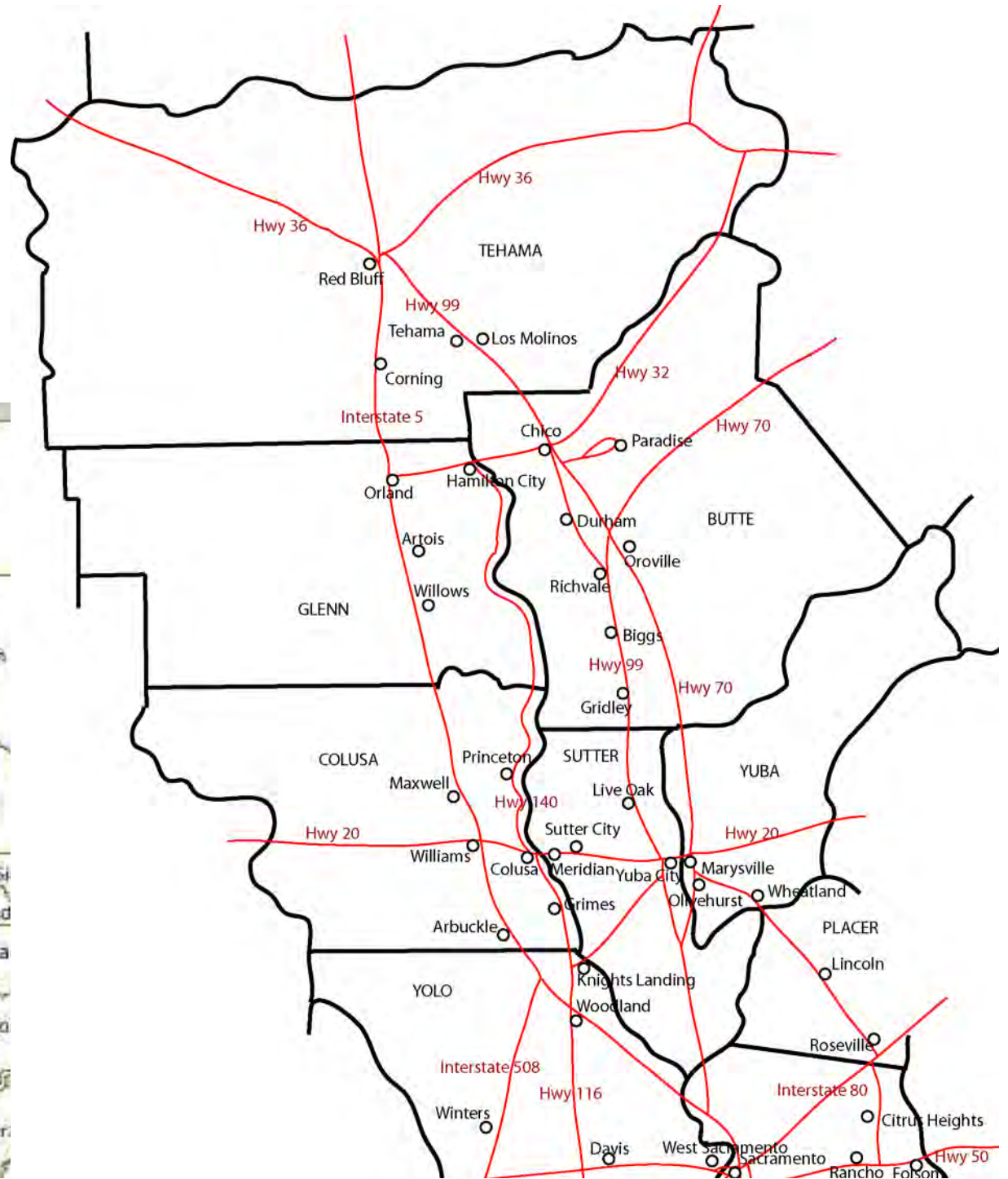
California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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Butte County



Gridley

Gridley's City Hall. (April 2003)





Gridley

Gridley's main street is Hazel Street. (April 2003)

Gridley

(April 2003)



Gridley

(April 2003)



(April 2003)



Gridley

Gridley

(April 2003)



Gridley

(April 2003)



Gridley

The last cannery closed just before we took this picture. (April 2003)



Gridley



(April 2003)

Gridley

(April 2003)



Gridley

(April 2003)



Gridley

The Hazel Street Hotel is on the National Register of Historic Places. (April 2003)



Biggs

The public library on main street.
(April 2003)



Biggs

The population today is 1,700. The city was created in 1871 and incorporated in 1903. (April 2003)



Biggs

(April 2003)



Biggs

(April 2003)



Biggs

(April 2003)



Biggs

(April 2003)



Biggs

(April 2003)



Biggs

(April 2003)



Biggs

(April 2009)





Biggs

(April 2009)



Biggs

(April 2009)



Biggs

A modern house on the edge of town. (April 2009)



Richvale

(April 2003)



Richvale

(April 2003)



Richvale

Richvale was founded in 1909. (April 2003)



Richvale

(April 2003)



Richvale

The soil around Richvale is good for growing rice because it has a clay base that prevents the water from draining into the ground. The Lundberg Family Farms is one of the more famous farms in the area because they emphasize organic methods and use direct marketing. (April 2003)



Richvale

(April 2003)



Midway Highway



(April 2003)



Durham

(April 2003)

Durham

(April 2003)



Durham

(April 2003)



Chico

Chico's City Hall. The city was founded by John Bidwell in 1860. Today the population is 86,000. (June 2006)



Chico

Downtown Chico. (June 2006)



Chico

Downtown Chico. (June 2006)



Chico

The sculpture behind the City Hall. (June 2006)



Chico

Downtown Chico. (June 2006)



Chico

The Sierra Nevada Brewery is not only a functioning brewery, it is also a work of art. (October 2011)



Chico

(October 2011)



Chico

The brewery is environmentally savvy. The parking lot is covered by solar voltaic cells. (October 2011)



Chico

The Sierra Nevada Brewery restaurant. (October 2011)



Chico

(June 2006)



Chico

(June 2006)



Chico

Reconstruction of the town square. (June 2006)



Chico

Main street south of campus. (June 2006)



Chico

The Presbyterian Church next to the CSU campus. (2011)



Chico

Chico State has one of the prettier campuses of the state colleges. The creek and the botanic garden give it a restful quality. The campus is also surrounded by the city and keeps the campus from expanding. The Chico State administration building. (2011)



Chico

The Bidwell mansion which is part of the college campus.
Bidwell's wife donated land for the college which started in
1887. (2011)

