



PROCLAMATION

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO TO CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN M. STUDEBAKER WHEELBARROW RACES!

WHEREAS, John M. Studebaker was a wagon maker from South Bend, Indiana with a hankering to head West to the gold fields of California; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 1852, 19-year old John headed west with an emigrant train of wagons, driving a wagon he built with a promise to give it to the train in exchange for three meals a day. Five rugged months later the train reached Old Hangtown; and,

WHEREAS, upon arrival, the blacksmith in town, H.L. Hinds, was looking for a wagonmaker amongst the train folks, everyone pointed to John, but he didn't want a job, he wanted to get to the gold fields!; and,

WHEREAS, an unknown man standing next to John took him aside and suggested he take the job, noting the hundreds that came out of the gold fields empty handed. John accepted the job, and soon the biggest need became wheelbarrows, he quickly earned the name Wheelbarrow Johnny and the Studebaker Corporation began; and,

WHEREAS, in 1939 the first wheelbarrow race was held during the El Dorado County Fair to honor Wheelbarrow Johnny; organized and promoted for 12 years by "E Clampus Vitus" (the Clampers) a club of which John was a member. With a sprint race, an endurance race and usually a costume race of some sort, and,

WHEREAS, the race was halted for 6 years along with the El Dorado County Fair during World War II. Under the direction of the Clampers Noble Grand Humbug Swift Berry, the wheelbarrow race came back in 1948. In 1956, the Kiwanis Club of Placerville was chartered and in collaboration with the El Dorado County Fair Association, took over the coordination of the races; this year marks their 63rd year; and,

WHEREAS, for the first 69 years of the race, Chet Carsten, an El Dorado County High School Graduate, teacher and athletic coach, dominated the race with 8 wins, 1 being a tie, with his final win in 1952. And then, 62 years from Carsten's last win, Brian Veerkamp broke the record with his 9th win; and,

WHEREAS, the County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors recognizes our unique and historical heritage and applaud the continuation of this event, showcasing a significant period of time in our history.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado do hereby celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the John M. Studebaker Wheelbarrow Race to be held on the 15th of June at the El Dorado County Fair!

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting held the 4th of June, 2019.

Attest:

James S. Mitrison

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

by:

Deputy Clerk

Sue Novasel, Chair, Board of Supervisors