

GRAND JURY

SUTTER COUNTY



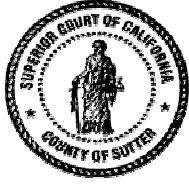
2002-2003 FINAL REPORT

FINAL REPORT
of the
SUTTER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Charles W. Page, Jr.
Foreperson

Robert H. Damron
Presiding Judge

Date



Sutter County Grand Jury
Courthouse
446 Second Street
Yuba City, California 95991
(530) 822-7360
www.suttercourts.com

June 15, 2003
The Honorable Robert Damron
The Honorable H. Ted Hansen
Superior Court of California
446 Second Street
Yuba City, CA 95991

On behalf of the members of the 2002-2003 Sutter County Grand Jury, I present the Final Report to you and the citizens of Sutter County.

It only seems a short time, but it was one year ago at the end of this month that our Grand Jury was impaneled, beginning a process that aimed to ensure that our county had adequate representation in the service of the community on behalf of our citizenry. The initial group of 19 members underwent some changes in personnel over the year, but none was more unexpected than the untimely death of our fellow juror, Harold Helwig, in whose memory this Final Report is dedicated.

After some initial training the Grand Jury chose its plan of action and prepared to begin the audits of specific departments under the jurisdiction of the county, city and/or districts. As a result the Grand Jury conducted inspections/inquiries upon 22 of these publicly funded agencies and/or programs. The timeline for each of these inspections and inquiries had to be adjusted since additional and unexpected responsibilities and tasks arose, including two indictment hearings over several days, consuming over 900 hours of grand jurors' time. During this period the Grand Jury also received, investigated and responded to nine citizen complaints. Overall the members of the jury provided over 4,500 hours of service to the citizens of Sutter County, above and beyond their everyday responsibilities to family and community.

Unanticipated and significant achievements also occurred this year, including:

- The uploading of a Grand Jury web page on the Sutter Courts website, which provides:
 - Citizen and student access to the full text of the Grand Jury's Final Report for review,
 - Responses to the Report from agencies and departments that were the focus of the Final Report,
 - The California Codified requirements for the Final Report and Responses to the report,
 - The definition of the Roles and Responsibilities of members of the Grand Jury, and
 - A downloadable Citizen Complaint form.

- The revision and updating of the Grand Juror Handbook and Manual.
- The revision and updating of the Grand Juror Informational Brochure for citizen and student education.
- A new handbook on the procedures and principles with forms, for conducting inspections of jails, prisons, lock ups and temporary holding facilities.

The members of the Grand Jury spent many hours educating themselves, conducting inspections and interviews, assimilating information, taking tours, and drafting and editing this report. What follows are 22 individual inspection/inquiry reports, with a Continuity Report addressing the required responses submitted by agencies that were the subject of last year's (2001-2002) Final Report.

Many of our jury members were required to put forth much of their personal time and/or adjust their work hours in order to fulfill their duties. I have truly appreciated the commitment they have made and given to our local citizens and governmental agencies, who will never know the personal sacrifices I have seen them make.

On behalf of my fellow grand jurors I wish to thank three specific members of the court staff for their substantial assistance, specifically Laura Estrada, Jennifer Lambert and Eva Todd, without whom we could not have achieved as much as we did. I also know that there were other court staff who were invisible to me as we proceeded, but it was obvious that many others participated in our successful year. They also are appreciated.

Finally, thank you for the trust you placed in me as foreperson; this was truly an opportunity that few receive and it has provided a unique educational experience that will make me and my fellow jurors better citizens of Sutter County.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W. Page, Jr.

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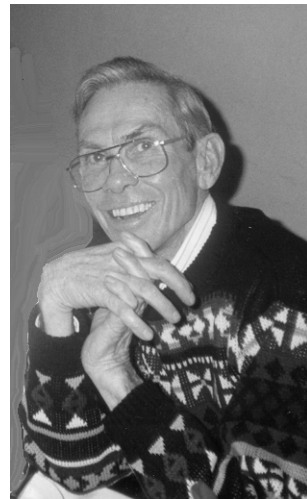
8.8 **CHAPTER 7: HOME-BASED INDEPENDENT STUDY,
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DEDICATION

This Final Report is dedicated to the memory of Harold J. Helwig, our fellow Grand Juror, who unexpectedly died in February 2003. His untimely death was a surprise to us all and his comradeship is and will be sorely missed.



**California Maritime Academy
circa 1952**



1998

**MEMBERS OF THE SUTTER COUNTY GRAND JURY
2002 – 2003**

Charles “Chuck” W. Page, Jr.
(Foreperson)

Timothy D. Adams
(Committee Chair)

Carol Allred
(Secretary)

Sheryl L. Crocker
(Committee Co-Chair)

William Dodson
(Foreperson Pro Tem & Committee Chair)

Daniel D. Fickewirth

Josiah Gilmore

Kimberly Gundrum
(Committee Chair)

Harold J. Helwig

Kathleen R. Hoppin

Robert L. Inman
(Committee Chair)

Katie A. Lee

Sylvia Y. Oakley
(Committee Co-Chair)

Kimberly A. Paine

Ronnie G. Peters

Priscilla M. Rojas

Robert Ryan
(Committee Chair)

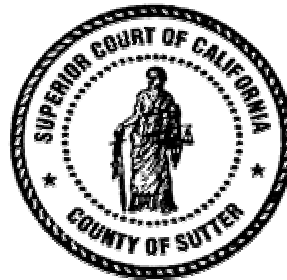
Kay D. Vise

John D. Whiteaker
(Committee Chair)

Former Members

Edward Fletcher

Edward R. Theis



Cover photo and design of Sutter County Courthouse (erected circa 1899) by Chuck Page January 2003.

Sutter County Grand Jury 2002-2003



First Row: Priscilla Rojas, Katie Lee, Kim Paine, Sylvia Oakley, Sheryl Crocker
Second Row: Chuck Page, Kay Vise, Carol Allred, Kim Gundrum, Bob Inman
Third Row: Josiah Gilmore, John Whiteaker, Ronnie Peters, Bob Ryan, Bill Dodson,
Daniel Fickewirth, Tim Adams
Not Pictured: Kathy Hoppin

**COMMITTEES OF THE SUTTER COUNTY GRAND
JURY
2002 – 2003**

Audit & Finance

County Government

Criminal Justice

Education

Fire/Emergency Services

Health/Mental Health/Social Services

Planning & Environment

Edit