

# SLV Book Review

by Rachel Wooster

In June Santa Cruz MAH released their seventh book in their History Journal series. Titled *Redwood Logging and Conservation in the Santa Cruz Mountains - A Split History*, which catalogs the history of the San Lorenzo Valley in 34 articles and 128 illustrations. It is the combined work of 21 authors from all over our valley and is 267 pages long. The articles discuss things such as the name of our valley and how it was almost renamed, local Native Americans, the logging industry, conservation, redwood surfboards, albino redwoods, and some of the fascinating people who have lived here.

The book cover is in color and the illustrations inside are black and white. Each article starts off with the title and author, then combines text with illustrations to further understanding. Under each illustration is a description of what it is and where it came from. At the end of each article are the footnotes detailing the source materials used, many of them being first source documents, but some are other books which allow the reader to do additional research. The book itself is laid out like any good reference book with a table of contents, list of illustrations, the articles, followed by the appendix which includes insurance maps, measurements, short author bios, and an index for quick and easy reference. This book has not shorted you on anything and the quality of all of these sections is very high. The illustrations which include maps, graphs, drawings and photographs are also high quality in resolution and print quality. The text of the book is a good size, and easy on the eyes.

Now onto the articles themselves. One of the things that has connected our valley in the past was the flume and Lisa Robinson does a great job of explaining its purpose and history in the article titled *The San Lorenzo Valley Flume Chronicle*. Including the illustrations and footnotes it is 10 pages long and is a good condensed version of her 70 page book *The San Lorenzo Valley Flume*. It is a quick and easy read, and still explains the major points and highlights in her book. One of the things it is missing is the illustrations diagramming the construction and functionality of the flume. Regardless, this is still a wonderful article.

The book starts off with a poem titled *Summen - Redwood*. Summen means redwood in native American and really gives you a glimpse into how they viewed these wonderful trees. It is then followed by two articles by Mark Hylkema regarding their culture which furthers this understanding and gives you an idea of what life was like for them.

My current favorite articles in the book are by Zane Moore and are about albino redwoods. These articles are towards the back of the book and they give you some insight into the diversity which exists in our forests.

I still have not finished this book yet, but I have enjoyed every article I have read so far. I am looking forward to finishing it over the summer and highly recommend it to anyone interested in our valley. You can purchase the book for \$24.95 at the SLV Museum in Boulder Creek or Santa Cruz MAH in downtown Santa Cruz.