



River News-Herald

and Isleton Journal

Strange Cargo embodies Locke and Delta to the fullest

September 4, 2013

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Editor



When Lisa Kirk opened up Strange Cargo in Locke in 2005, her main objective was to have fun. The store continues to provide just that, and has turned into one of the most informational spots in the Delta to learn about the area and the issues it currently faces.

Kirk, a resident of Bethel Island realized that there was a need for a tourist trade in Locke because of the large amount of traffic that passes through the town on a regular basis. At the time, there was only one art gallery open in town, and she set up shop at the top of the hill.

Now in the heart of Main Street next to Al's Place, Kirk and bookstore manager Tom Herzog have turned the shop into a hub for the latest information on the Delta, wine, farm maps and recreational opportunities.

"This is about people getting the whole Delta experience," said Kirk. "It's not just about Locke – it's about the entire Delta and getting people to see it all."

Kirk explained that she sends folks to learn about all the different places in the Delta, including the ferries, the wineries, marinas and historical sites.

"The most important thing is getting people to realize that this is a place that should be saved," she said.

Photo By Galen Kusic
Strange Cargo in Locke, CA offers a variety of new and old collectables, vintage clothing, art, t-shirts, California historical non-fiction on the Delta and Native Americans. It also serves as a hub of information on the Delta, including Restore the Delta's "Save the Delta, Stop the Tunnels" lawn signs and bumper stickers.

Strange Cargo offers a wide variety of collectable items from old to new, vintage clothing, shirts, records and a wide selection of non-fiction books, posters, art and knick-knacks that you won't just find anywhere. The store's name says it all - "Strange Cargo".

Both Kirk and Herzog agree that one of the most rewarding parts of the shop is meeting so many different people from all over the world. Kirk tries to have items that appeal to all different tastes, and Herzog is focused on providing a rich diversity of books on Native American and California history and the Delta. Kids second grade and under receive a free book just for coming into the store.

Herzog's main goal is to get kids on the right track reading from any early age so they won't just be stuck on video games and computers the rest of their lives.

"It's a plus for the parents and the kids," he said.

Herzog says that Kirk is coming up with new ideas all the time to make the store fresh and exciting. If you go in one day and come back

the next, you're sure to see something new for sale. Kirk loves to sell and buy collectables. She also loves educating people about the Delta and teaching them about the water issues that are in such hot debate presently.

"People can come here and find out what is going on in the Delta," she said. "Half the people that come in don't know much about the Delta or the issues. I started a couple years ago handing out pamphlets. We have to protect the whole area."

Herzog explained that if the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (twin tunnels project) goes through, Strange Cargo and most of the towns and commerce in the Delta will cease to exist.

"It's a very scary situation for people in the Delta," said Herzog. "That's why we're fighting back. The fun part is connecting with people and teaching them about the area. The tunnels would destroy our way of life and natural habitat in the Delta."

Kirk will also be opening up the store Foon Hops Grocery, also known as Delta Dolly's at the end of Main Street. To arrange an appointment to see the historic building and the various collectibles and merchandise within it for sale, contact Lisa at (925) 382-5249.

"Locke is a unique little town," said Herzog. "It has its political problems, but what town doesn't. People come here and ooh and aahh all the time. If this tunnel project goes through, during the construction phase – no way people are still going to want to come down here."

To learn more about Strange Cargo, go to Main Street in Locke and check it out. You'll be glad you did. You can purchase Restore the Delta lawn signs at the shop, and pick up free bumper stickers and signs for your business.

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