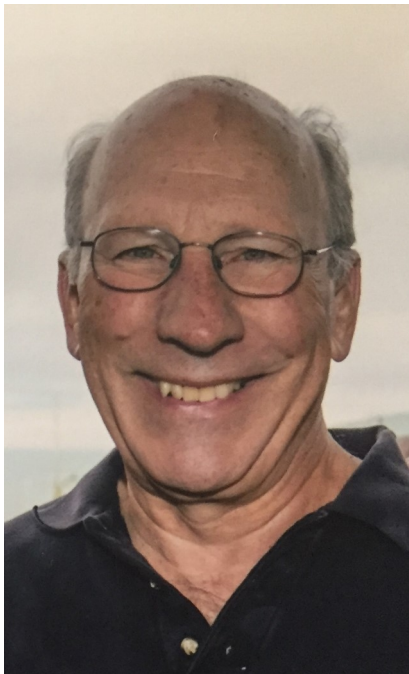


President's Message

Hank Lohse

Spring has arrived and with it comes Big Day of Giving. This is a once a year fund raising opportunity for non-profits in the Sacramento area. It is one of the Rocklin Historical



Hank Lohse

Society's main sources of income.

This year our goal is that all members donate. If each member donated a minimum of \$25, we would raise \$5000. Please take time to contribute. It is also an excellent opportunity for others to learn about our society and to show how dedicated we are to the preservation of Rocklin History. The

(Continued on page 2)

Who were Rocklin's first settlers?

Gary Day

Recent archeological evidence indicates that the Rocklin area was first populated about 7,000 years ago by a culture about which little is known, but about 3000 years ago, perhaps as late as 1500 years ago, the Nisenan, sometimes called Southern Maidu, occupied the area. Although Euro-American diseases reduced their population by two thirds in 1833 and Euro-American atrocities further disrupted their culture and diminished their numbers in the mid-19th century, a small number of descendants of these people maintained some of their cultural ways and continued to reside in Rocklin as late as 1904.

Euro-Americans were probably fishing and harvesting game in the Rocklin area in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. But major Euro-American settlement in the Rocklin area started in the early 1850's as fortune hunters, sluiced for gold in area creeks.

The Irish

According to the Special California Census of 1852 and the national census of 1860, natives of Ireland were the

largest ethnic population among Rocklin's earliest settlers. They were mainly gold seekers who worked the placer deposits in the sunken landform that parallels Interstate 80 on the southeast known then and now as Secret Ravine. Many of these people were



probably from families escaping the Irish potato famines of the 1840s. They had headed west from East Coast cities when news of Marshall's gold discovery reached them in 1848.

Construction of the eastbound tracks of the nation's first transcontinental railroad reached Rocklin from Sacramento in 1864 and the railroad constructed a roundhouse in Rocklin in 1867 to service the extra engines that trains needed to surmount the Sierra on their

(Continued on page 4)

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date this year is May 3rd from midnight till midnight. You can donate online or send a check directly to the Rocklin Historical Society. Watch for an email notification and link coming as we get closer to the BIG DAY!

Part of the money we raise is used for maintenance at the museum, chapel, and firehouse. Along with the money we are also in need of help with various projects that need to be done to keep our buildings and displays in top shape.

Projects include everything from touch up painting to trimming shrubs. We could use your help! Please call me at

916-300-2856

if you are interested in volunteering!

We meet at Oracle every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to plan our projects but welcome your help any time.

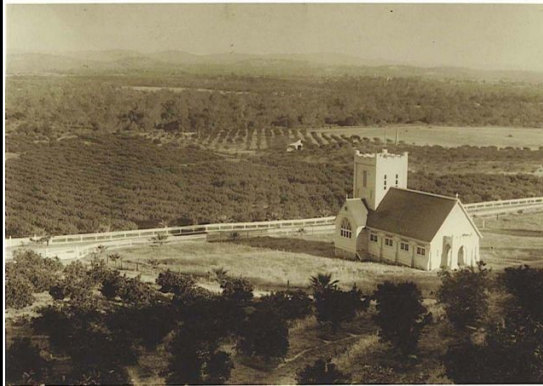
RANDY PETERS & CATERING & EVENTS PLAN. PARTY. REPEAT.

The Placer County Citrus Colony's Episcopal Church

Colonists in Joel Parker Whitney's Placer County Citrus colony used the second story of a Loomis fruit shed for Sunday services until 1896 when they constructed this Citrus Colony Episcopal Church of All Saints on Delemere, now Delmar, Avenue near Rocklin. Whitney donated the land.

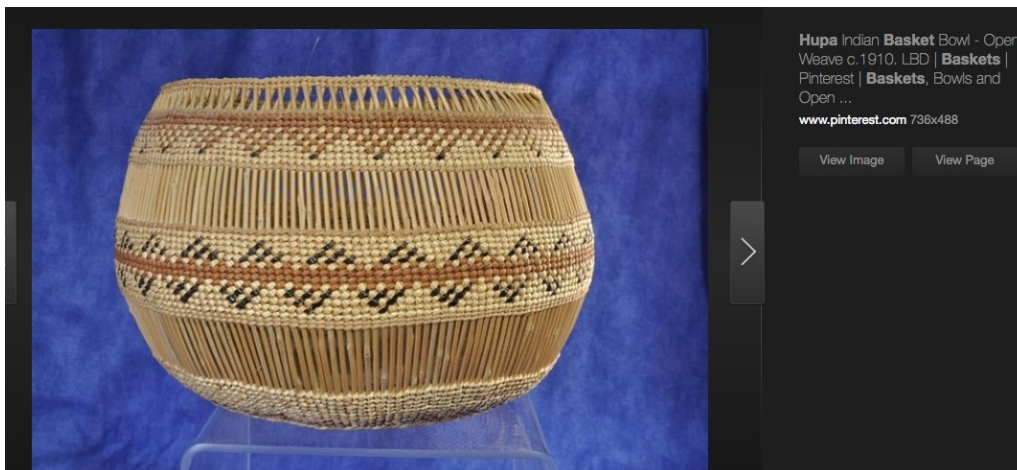
Whitney's colony project thrived until the mid 1890s when citrus sales slumped due to a nationwide economic depression and colonists' fear of malaria.

Today the area is known for production of mandarin oranges and lately for wine grapes.



Bob Wickman makes a Native American basket donation:

Gene Johnson



A Native American basket was recently donated to the Rocklin History Museum by Bob Wickman. The basket had been collected by his brother Boyd who passed away early last year. We were hoping it would be a Maidu basket however, the appraiser

states that it is of Hupa origin (Trinity River, CA area). We can exhibit it but should trade for a Maidu basket if one becomes available - meanwhile insure it for \$500.

Old Saint Mary's Chapel News

Nancy Lohse
Old Saint Mary's Chapel Chairperson



On August 13, 2018, Old St. Mary's will celebrate 135 years of serving Rocklin. I often wonder what the ladies would have thought back in 1883 when the chapel was first built as St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church. It must have been an exciting time for them as they took over the care of the chapel. There must have been pride felt as they cleaned and decorated the church for various occasions. After all, it was their church! Fast forward 135 years and a new group of church

ladies now tends the building. I can tell you we do it with the same sense of pride and love as those church ladies of long ago. I do think the little chapel is slightly busier than in days gone by. Prime wedding time starts in April. Next week starting Thursday we have 3 memorials, a rehearsal and 2 weddings. The following weekend we have 2 rehearsals and 3 weddings. Busy! All the cleaning and coordinating are a lot of work but we like to think we are making those special memories that last a lifetime. Just as the church ladies did 135 year ago! The tradition continues! If you attended the church and have photos

you would like to share, please send them to nlohse@hotmail.com or drop them off at the museum. We would like to put together a collection of photos and memorabilia of St. Mary's to share at the museum in August. Thank you!

Visit us for a chapel tour on Wednesdays from 5 pm until 7 pm
916-415-1150

www.OldStMarysChapel.com

email: oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com

(Continued from page 1)

way eastward. By the mid 1860s many of the Irish Argonauts had abandoned their sluice boxes and went to work for the railroad. Even though the Irish played a significant role in the development of the Rocklin area by their hard work and entrepreneurship, and their role in Rocklin's politics, there are few enduring memories of their culture in the Rocklin area. An exception is the Old Saint Mary's Chapel on Front Street which is a 2007 renovation of the Saint Mary's of the Assumption Catholic church which Irish Catholics built in 1883.

The Chinese

The Chinese were the next major ethnic group to settle in the Rocklin area. There is one Chinese resident listed on California's 1852 special census. He is listed as a miner and was probably gleaning gold from Secret Ravine tailings left by the Euro-American miners. This gentleman could have been among several Chinese immigrants who arrived in California during this period in order to escape political corruption and economic decline in southern China. More Chinese people arrived in Rocklin in the late 1860s and early 1870s. They would probably have been among the 14,000 Chinese who had completed work in 1869 on the east-bound leg of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Records show that by 1877 Rocklin's Chinatown contained 25 dwellings located northwest of Rocklin's

roundhouse site which is at the corner of today's Front Street and Rocklin Road. But in the late 19th century, Chinese immigrants faced government sanctioned isolation and harassment. During the 1870s, a post Civil War downturn in the national economy resulted in serious unemployment problems. Jobs for Rocklin's Euro-Americans were scarce and across the state the willingness of the Chinese to work hard for low wages ignited the ire of Euro-American workers. By 1877 South Placer County was a flashpoint for retribution



against Chinese residents. The upheaval came suddenly in Rocklin on September 15, 1877. The Placer County Sheriff investigated a homicide near Loomis and accused a Chinese cook, named Ah Sam of murdering three Euro-Americans as he tried to recover \$120.00 that he had paid for a phony mining claim. The accusation was enough to incite Rocklin's citizens to action. On the following Monday morning they met and voted

to notify all Chinese to leave town by 6:00 that evening. By 4:00 every Chinese resident had left, even the Chinese roundhouse employees. Shortly after 6:00 several Rocklin men marched into Rocklin's deserted Chinatown and destroyed all 25 dwellings. Citizens in Roseville, Loomis and Penryn also evicted their Chinese residents. About 100 armed men from Rocklin and about 20 from Roseville scoured the countryside, driving out the occupants of various Chinese encampments. Rocklin's census records show that not one China-born person lived in Rocklin until the 1920s.

The Finns

Rocklin's first Finns were among millions of Europeans who immigrated to New York and other East Coast ports in the late 19th century. Finland's harsh political conditions, made worse by a famine in the late 1860's, pushed at least 350,000 Finns across the Atlantic between 1864 and 1920. Most settled in the Great



Lakes States, but others headed west on the railroad. A large group settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, mainly in Berkeley.

Migration of large numbers of Finns to Rocklin started in

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1880 when Finland-born John Mantyla acquired the Capital Quarry and encouraged Bay Area Finns to join him here as quarrymen. The Capital Quarry was the source of granite for the State Capitol building in Sacramento and, according to city planners, will soon feature the zip line attraction at Quarry Park near the southeast corner of today's Rocklin Road and Pacific Street.

By 1887 nine Finn families and dozens of single Finn men had located here as the granite industry boomed. High demand for Rocklin's granite and machine-powered quarrying technology brought the quarries to their peak of activity by 1895.

Finns continued to migrate here in the 1890s, many directly from Finland with the sponsorship of Rocklin relatives. By the early 20th century Finns and their immediate descendants made up almost half of Rocklin's population. They were prominent in Rocklin's politics, business enterprises, especially granite-related ventures, and social life.

As the granite industry flourished so did Rocklin's saloons. Released from the strictures of Finland's state church, and craving relaxation after hard days in the quarries, some Finns developed worrisome drinking problems. Concerned family members established Rocklin's Finnish Temperance Society in 1889. At first the society met in a small building which later became Rocklin's Evangelical Lutheran Church. But by 1900 the society was

feeling the need for a larger building, a hall with a broader purpose, a focal point for Finnish recreation and social life.

Details on the construction of Finn Hall are sketchy. In her 1967 memoirs, Helen Kesti remembers that granite blocks for the steps and foundation were donated by Finnish quarry owners. Kesti's father and his friends could name the source of every block and whose team of horses delivered it. Finn Hall was completed in 1905.

The ability of the Temperance Society to influence and bind Finn culture must have waned during the 1910's with the onset of Prohibition. Also Rocklin's population declined as labor strife hit the quarries and builders opted for cement-based concrete in place of granite. Maintaining Finn Hall was an increasing financial burden for the Society and in 1948 they sold it to the Kalevas.

The Kalevas sold Finn Hall to Rocklin's American Legion in 1959. The City of Rocklin bought the building in 1962 in order to preserve it.

The Capital Quarry was Rocklin's only surviving quarry operation until its owner closed it in 2005. But Finn Hall continues to dominate its space downtown on Rocklin Road, an enduring reminder of Finnish influence on the development of our city.

Spanish

Rocklin's 1900 census includes four Spanish-born adults and 2 of their California-born children. These people no longer resided in

Rocklin as of the 1910 census 10 years later. Their time here might have been connected with the Spanish American War of 1898 when newspapers in eastern cities were rife with anti-Spanish sentiment.

According to *Memories of Spain* by Anne Aguilar Santucci, Rocklin was the center of Placer County's population of Spanish immigrants in the decade be-



tween 1910 and 1920. Most or all of these people had left Spain to work under 3 and 5 year contracts in Hawaii's pineapple and sugar cane fields.

Seven ships, each bearing between 1,000 and 2,200 Spaniards, left the southern Iberian Peninsula between 1907 and 1913 heading around Cape Horn or through the Straits of Magellan on a 15,000-mile, 50 days journey to The Islands. Hawaiian agricultural organizations had recruited the Spaniards in their home country with written contracts and promises of a two-bedroom house, free health care and an acre of land for each family.

The ships were crowded. Bathing consisted of naked groups being hosed down by the ships crews, women

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separated from the men. Lice and Scarlet Fever were rampant.

But more than 8,000 Spaniards survived the voyages. Adult men worked 10 hours per day, six days per week in the fields or processing plants for \$20.00 per month; women received \$12.00 for the same work.

Almost all of the Spaniards left Hawaii from 1910 through 1920 as their contracts were expiring. A few returned home but the majority headed for California because of its reputation for having abundant land and a Mediterranean climate like parts of Spain.

Most headed for San Francisco and by 1920, 64 of these people had settled in Rocklin.

But the Spanish arrived in Rocklin while the city's industries were in decline. Rocklin's roundhouse, which had employed 300 people, had closed in 1908 and half of Rocklin granite

quarries had closed when stone cutters struck for higher wages in 1916. Nevertheless, the Spaniards found employment with nearby fruit processors, owned and operated ranches and orchards and succeeded in downtown businesses.

The Japanese

The events of September 1877 and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 had diminished Chi-

nese employment throughout Placer County and created employment opportunities for Japanese immigrants.

But animosity toward Japanese workers grew as they also took jobs from Euro-Americans and by the early twentieth century legislatures were limiting the rights of both Chinese and Japanese immigrants and their offspring.

According to the 1900 United States census Rocklin's first Japanese citizen was a cook at the Whitney Ranch. This person had probably arrived at the ranch via the railroad's animal loading dock at the western side of the ranch, near today's Thunder Valley Casino. A letter in Joel Parker Whitney's files indicates that, possibly because of the

events of 1877, he wouldn't allow his Asian servants to arrive via Rocklin's passenger station for fear that they would be detained or attacked

there.

Later censuses show that by 1920 only 2 Japan-born people resided in Rocklin's incorporated area and by 1930 there were none.



Important Matters for the Rocklin City Council

Gary Day

From the Placer Herald of April 5, 2007



In June, 1915, Rocklin's quarrymen went on strike against the quarry owners for a raise from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per day. Half of Rocklin's quarries then closed and never reopened.

On November 29, that year the Rocklin City Council met to direct the town Marshal to visit Mrs. Hurley and instruct her to quit dumping her dish water into the street. On December 27 the city council reconvened to hear from the Marshal that Mrs. Hurley was still dumping her dishwater into the street and was now dumping her wash water also.

Rocklin's economy didn't recover significantly until the early 1960s.

How Johnson Springview Park got that way

Gene Johnson



I'm happy to report that, after a 20 year absence, there is a sign for Johnson-Springview Park. The sign can be found at the North-west corner of 3rd and Farron Streets. Folks often ask how the park came about. Many years ago Rocklin purchased 25 acres for a community park including 15 acres of old growth Oak forest that was part of the Johnson's Spring View Dairy property. In 1998 Rocklin acquired an additional 36 acres by a combination of

purchase and donation by the Johnson Trust. The donation included the Native American grinding rock site and sacred mineral spring. Shortly thereafter an additional 40 acres was purchased under favorable terms from Mr. Ganiat to complete the park.

Coker Plaza is expiring

Gene Johnson



Coker Plaza, an historic anchor of Rocklin's Pacific Street's virtual business district is on its way out - to be replaced by a housing development. The building

at the corner of Pacific and Grove Streets was built as the Pleasure (dance) Hall in 1930. Later, it became Rocklin's Stardust Roller Skating Rink and, most recently, Coker Plaza - home to two dance studios. Special note: Johnny Cash performed here in the 1960's. (This year is the 50th anniversary of Johnny's Folsom Prison gig.)

Deer Creek Park is a park

Gene Johnson

There is a small quarry next to spectacular granite outcroppings and near the corner of Pacific and Farron Streets. The site is believed to be Rocklin's earliest granite mining site, possibly dating to 1855. Some years ago I wrote to the owner proposing that the quarry be donated to the city but received no response. By happenstance the quarry was recently donated to the City of Rocklin and will be named Deer Creek Park as it was labeled by the Geick brothers of the venerable Deer Creek Lumber Co. The area will be left in its natural state. The quarry, was first operated as Pacific Granite Company by partners Brigham and Hawes, later operators included Hathaway and partners Degan and Brady.

The historical society prepares for the 125th anniversary parade

Gene Johnson

The Rocklin Historical Society will have a commanding presence in the Community Festival parade celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the



City's incorporation: the cemetery marching gang "Voices of the Passed", a John Deere Tractor and the Jubilee Train. Unless a protected storage place can be found this will be the final appearance of the Jubilee Train after serving at Rocklin's Diamond (75th) Anniversary and for Jubilees and parades over 50 years - don't miss it.

Which way did he go?



Legal left turns can again be made at the corner of Front and Farron Streets. Road work at

that corner is complete. Parking spaces and a meandering sidewalk are located between the street and the railroad tracks at the South end of Front St

"It's never just a game when you're winning."

George Carlin

Help preserve Rocklin's history and support history-related arts projects.



The Rocklin Heritage Fund at the Placer Community Foundation supports the Rocklin Historical Society

Now it is possible to make tax-deductible gifts and perpetual endowments that will support Rocklin Historical Society programs including both visual and performing arts related to Rocklin's heritage. Please contact Veronica Blake at 530-885-4920 to learn how you can contribute, or go to www.placercf.org.



Placer Community FOUNDATION

Local giving. Lasting value.

125th City of Rocklin Anniversary celebration continues in April

Kathie Nippert



The City of Rocklin's 125th Anniversary celebration continues in April with Run Rocklin, a 5K, 12K and Half Marathon benefiting Matthew Redding Foundation on April 8th, 2018. The planning is finalized for the Kiwanis Community Festival in May from the 10th to the 13th. The event is free for the whole family. Look for some of Rocklin's earliest citizens from the Voices of the Passed in the Kiwanis Parade on May 12th and cheer us on. The parade starts at 9 AM from Springview School going down Rocklin Road, making a right hand turn onto Front Street, another right hand turn onto Farren Street and another right hand turn onto Fifth Street, then finishing at the school. There will be lots of good spots to view this event. We hope to see you there.

The City is currently sponsoring an Art Competition for elementary to high school students with the 125th Anniversary Past, Present and Future as the theme. On September 15th there will be an

Anniversary Edition of the Hot Chili, Cool Cars put on by the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce. The final plans are being made for the Rocklin Historical Society Docents to make their presentation of Voices of the Passed on October 28th at the Rocklin Cemetery. More information to come on our website www.rocklinhistorical.org or the City of Rocklin's website www.rocklin.ca.us/125th

Voices of the Passed cast visits the Historic City Hall

Kathie Nippert with photo by Shirley Espley

The City of Rocklin celebrated its 125th birthday on February 24, 2018 with music, speeches, dedications, and birthday cakes. Many Rocklin citizens enjoyed the day including Rocklin Historical Society Docents dressed in period costumes.

Final plans are being made for the Rocklin Historical Society Docents to perform a special 125th Anniversary edition of our Rocklin Cemetery Tour, "Voices of the Passed".



Docents will make their presentation on October 28th, 2018. Attendees will register online at;

www.rocklinhistorical.org,

where they will then pick a tour time and pay a nominal fee. On performance day they will meet at Quarry Park, and be transported by historic conveyance to the Rocklin Cemetery. The performance will be open to those 16 and older. Expect about one hour of walking and standing.

Pictured in front of the Historic City Hall on Rocklin Road are left to right Voices of the Passed actors Jerry Mitchell as John B. Garrity, Marshal Smith as US Holmes, Nancy Lohse as Mrs. Mary Quinn, Nancy Ustaszewski as Mrs. Annie Beasmore, and Hank Lohse as Sam Renaldi.

A donation of pre-World War II Roseville High School yearbooks

Gene Johnson



Yearbooks donated to the Rocklin History Museum by Linda Davis Alldritt

Early twentieth century Quarryman Victor Wickman's granddaughter, Linda Davis Alldritt, and husband Ray are retiring to Helsinki, Finland. Linda was the keeper of a trove of Roseville High School yearbooks that, this month, she donated to the Rocklin History Museum. The books, collected by her mother, Mrs. Ila (Wickman) Davis and her aunt Mrs. Nelma (Wickman) Payne, are from 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1931. Following are a few excerpted comments.

1921: Predictions for Nelma Wickman and Rachael Ruhkala: "Nelma to be a private secretary and falls in love with the boss"; "Rachael, a subtle vamp, will tour the country extolling the virtues of running for fitness".

'Twas in a restaurant they first met,

Romeo and Juliet.

'Twas there he first got into debt,

For Romeo-d for what Juli-et

1923: Officers of the Radio Club included our Rocklin neighbors Norton Moore and Emil Wickman. Norton, known for his boyish tricks and brilliance, took 2nd place in the statewide speed typing contest. He aspired to become a pianist but his predicted destiny was to be a Soda Jerk. Norton graduated from California Institute of Technology and became an aeronautical engineer with the founding team of CIT's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (that later spawned Aerojet). Emil had a business career with Shell Oil Company and invented a special wrench to open tank car valves.

1924: Abner Ruhkala, our

star high jumper, took second in that event and would undoubtedly taken first if he had not had to run the 1/2 mile, in which he placed 4th.

Jokes: Friends of Emil Wickman: How's the girl? Emil: Its all off, I threw her over yesterday. Friend: Why?, Emil: She eloped with another fellow. Q. What is a waffle? A. A non-slip pancake. News item: Rocklin just received a report that prohibition is (to be) enforced (2 years late).

1925: Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson's senior wish: "Here's hoping you live every day of your life!". A politically safe statement for the boy destined to become our US Congressman.

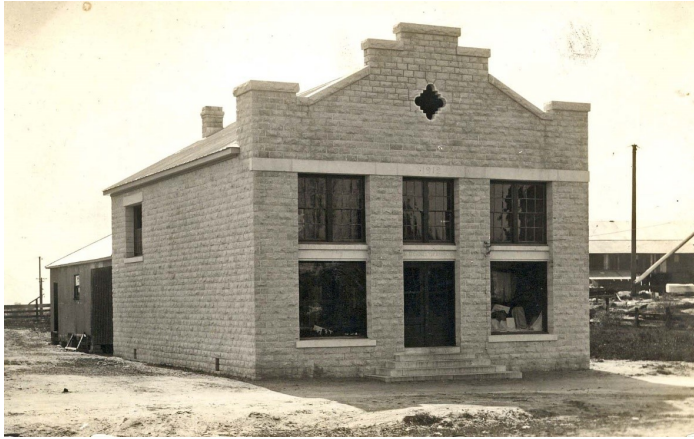
Asides: J.W. Hanson, Vice Principal in 1921, was RUHS principal when I attended in 1950-1954; C. E. Holen was my geometry instructor and not above meting out corporal punishment;

Miss Webster was our librarian. Jack Burns, graduated with the Class of 1924 and was to become my mechanical drawing instructor. Normally a very calm man, Mr. Burns showed another side when I rode my homemade motor scooter into his classroom. I was invited to leave immediately.

Rocklin's Historic City Hall

Charlene Rhodes

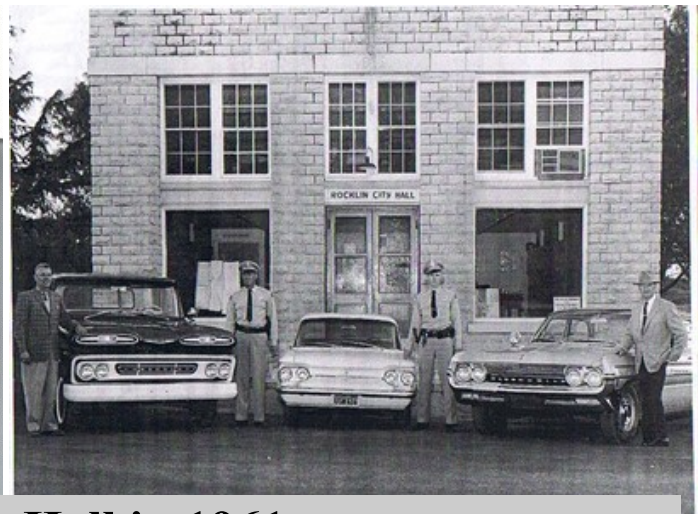
Built in 1912 by Adolph Pernu, owner of California Granite Company, as a company store, using native Rocklin granite. After Mr. Pernu's death, the Moon Family operated a general store on the first floor of the building and lived on the upper level. In 1941 the building was purchased by the City of Rocklin for use as a City Hall.



Adolf Pernu's California Granite Company store about 1912



Rocklin's Historic City Hall in 2018



Rocklin City Hall in 1961

This building in the 1950s and 1960s housed City Hall, Police Department and Library. At right, posing by their vehicles: Jim Flanagan, Chuck Lucas, Leo Caldwell, and Ern Willard.

Mark your calendar

Events Schedule

Old St Mary's Chapel Open for Tours

Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Come take a look at the perfect location to host your next event!

History Walks

Second Saturday of the month

Meet noon at Finn Hall for a 75-minute walk led by Dr. Jim Carlson.

The route is on flat surfaces and covers a variety of historic sites. For more information call or text Jim Carlson at 916-624-0682.

Rocklin History Museum

Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Docents always needed, For information call Gay Morgan at 624-2355.

RHS Board of Directors

Second Monday of month at 6 p.m. at City of Rocklin, Parks and Recreation Building in Springview Park

If you have comments or questions for the board of your historical society, this is your chance.

Fixers and Small Repair Crew

Second and fourth Tuesday of month

Meet at Old St. Mary's Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call Gene Johnson at 624-2378.

RHS Planning Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Oracle on Sunset Blvd.

Museum Committee

First Monday of month at 10 a.m. at Museum

Springfield History Club

Fourth Monday of month at 1 p.m. in the Whitney Room at the Gables' main clubhouse on Park Avenue.

Contact Joyce Marcroft 251-7054.

April 23

Michael Stark

California Places to visit

May 28

Steven Hubbard

Auburn Dam & Gold Country Images

June 25

Dr. Spencer Brown

Lincoln Mysteries

July 23

Sherry Joyce

Mysteries

August 27

Joyce Marcroft

Alexander & Afganistan



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

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Kathie Nippert, Vice President
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Support the Rocklin Historical Society by becoming a member. Annual dues, \$20 a year, can be mailed to Rocklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Rocklin, CA 95677.

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Placer
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Local giving. Lasting value.



From midnight to midnight on
May 3 go to:

bigdayofgiving.org
and donate to the
Rocklin Historical Society



In 2007 the Rocklin Historical Society saved a 125-year-old church from demolition and created the Old Saint Mary's wedding chapel.



This year the Rocklin Historical Society completed construction of Rocklin's original 1894 firehouse with donated funds.



In 2002 Rocklin Historical Society volunteers restored the 100-year-old home and offices of a Rocklin physician to create the Rocklin History Museum.