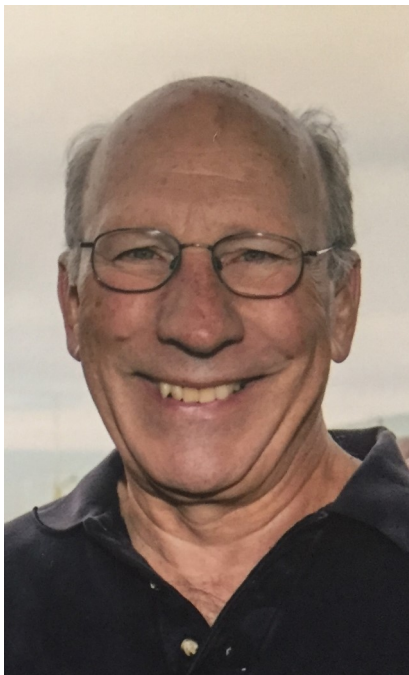


President's Message

Hank Lohse

As summer fades into the past, we look forward to the fall. We had our signs and booths up at Rocklin Community Festival and Cool



Hank Lohse

Cars/Hot Chili. We met many new friends and even converted quite a few into new members. All the while getting good exposure for Rocklin Historical Society. Our annual potluck was in September and I'm pretty sure we had more desserts than main courses! Around

(Continued on page 3)

One of Rocklin's iconic quarries has morphed into a new source of revenue for the city.

Gloria Beverage

Big Gun Quarry (also known as Capitol Quarry) was the largest of Rocklin's 62 quarries that operated from the mid 1800s until mining ceased in 2005. Last month it became home to Quarry Park Adventures, a 6-1/2-acre family adventure park featuring a variety of interactive activities suitable



Contrasting Granite blocks in the columns on the west steps of the State Capitol building in Sacramento tell of the difference between Folsom and Rocklin Granite

for all ages. During its heyday, Big Gun Quarry, located on Rocklin Road behind City Hall, was the primary source for granite used in the construction of California's State Capitol building. The state had started construction using dark-spotted Folsom granite, but

changed to the lighter-colored, spot-free granite found in the quarry opened by J.D. Smith in September 1864.

According to Rocklin historian Gary Day, there were two reasons for the change mid-construction. First, Rocklin's granite had a cleaner look. The second and more compelling

reason may have been that the Central Pacific Railroad offered to ship the Rocklin granite for free.

"The differences in the two granites are most obvious today in the contrasting blocks in the columns at the capital's west entrance," Day noted.

From 1905 until the early 1930s, the quarry was owned and operated by Adolf Pernu's California Granite Company. The Ruhkala Family took over in 1933 and operated the Union Granite Company until 1977. Darren Epperson, the last private owner of Big Gun Quarry, mined the quarry until 2005

(Continued on page 2)

when he sold the property to the City of Rocklin. It was the last of Rocklin's quarries to cease operation.

The processing sheds on the northwest quarry rim, which were built around 1907, were dismantled and moved to the City's Corporation Yard in 2017 to allow for the development of Quarry Park Adventures, the only outdoor recreation park of its kind in the U.S.

Built into the quarry walls, the primary attractions include a three-level aerial ropes course, numerous zip lines, a giant three-person pendulum swing, free fall drops, horizontal walkways traversing the inner-perimeter of the quarry and a kids' zone. Adjacent to the park is Rocklin's 1,500-seat Platinum Living Amphitheater, the site of outdoor concerts and festivals throughout the year.

An "all attractions" daily Adventures Passport ranges from \$40 for adults to \$35 for seniors. For specific information on operating days and hours as well as tickets, visit www.quarrypark.com.

For those interested in learning more about Rocklin's rich mining history, visit the Rocklin History Museum at the corner of San Francisco Street and Rocklin Road. It is open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. A 45-minute film, "Gold, Granite and Grit," written and produced by Sierra College professor Dan DeFoe, is on sale at the museum. It relates the economic and social impacts of Rocklin's mining operations.

We Fixed the Bell of St. Mary's:

Gene Johnson



Tyler Stephansen

St. Mary's bell has been on Gene Johnson's bucket list since its installation 11 yrs. ago when it was observed that the clapper spring was not aligned with the clapper. Gene installed new leather bumpers on the clapper spring but was unable to loosen huge 1-1/2" nuts to adjust the alignment - the task was added to his bucket list.

The bell has been balky at best and silent at worst. Inexplicably the bell's performance worsened when the worn rope was replaced with a new rope - the issue became

critical.

With Tyler Stephansen's help, the immovable 1-1/2" nuts were cut and chiseled off and the clapper spring aligned with the clapper. An Internet search for new nuts led right back to Rocklin's Fastenal Distributor that had several in stock.

Folks say the bell works better than it has for 11 yrs. Note: At the same time church bell experts throughout the country were consulted and recommended that the leath-



ers Gene installed 11 yrs. ago be removed - which was done. Was it the original misalignment or Gene's replacement bumpers that created the problem? Evidence suggests it was a bit of both.

(Continued from page 1) President

50 members attended and the wine did flow! Don't miss this next year!

Cruising into October we will participate in Rocklin's year long 125th Birthday celebration by performing "Voices of the Passed" in the Rocklin



Cemetery. Society members will take the part of various historic figures from Rocklin's

past. There are three performances which are already sold out!

In December, the annual Christmas tree lighting will be at Quarry Park this year instead of Heritage Park. It

was felt that as this event grows we would need the extra space that Quarry Park affords us.

Old St. Mary's Chapel and grounds will still be lighted for Christmas as usual just without the outside Christmas tree.

Finally, we will close the year with our annual Christmas party at the museum on December 17th from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Hope to see you there!

Please be aware that we try to communicate with our members by email blasts on interesting topics and notices of various events.

If you feel you are not getting these 'blasts', please call the museum at 916-624-3464 and we will update your contact information.

Osella SP Clock



The Victor Wickman family (in this case

grandson Doug Osella) comes up with interesting documents and artifacts. This time it's an antique regulator pendulum clock that hung in the Roseville Southern Pacific Passenger Depot. Story goes that when the Roseville Depot was demolished, Doug's father, Pete Osella, asked for and was given the clock. While it would be a welcome addition to our collection, Doug says it will likely be donated to the Roseville Museum in accordance with his father's wishes.

Rocklin Elementary School Photos

Charlene Rhodes



Rocklin Elementary School 1956-57
4th Grade

The museum has a large collection of Rocklin Elementary School photos, some from the school on Pacific but most from the Meyers Street location, dating 1940s to 1970s. They are class photos, graduation photos, special events, sports; they have been scanned into our collection and put into binders for easy viewing. Unfortunately, we do not have everyone identified. We are asking for your help. Please stop by the museum, open Wed. Sat. Sun. 1-4 to take a look at the books and help with identification. If you cannot get to the museum during their open hours, contact Charlene at (916) 622-9816 to arrange an alternative time. The sample photo is from 1956-57, Mrs. Harmon's 4th grade class.

Gay Morgan's Riprap Page

The Mystery Lady



She came to town long before I did. I never knew her well, but as in most small towns you sort of know everyone. She was not pretty, but sturdy and practical looking in a non-pretentious way. She was very involved with the Catholic community—baptisms, christenings, weddings, memorials and funerals. She seemed happy to be of service. This continued for many years. But one day the people were gone—without a backward look they were happily off to a beautiful new place.

Now she stood there alone, no longer needed. It hurt to watch her deterioration, looking so sad and forlorn. This too went on for quite a while.

Then a man in a white El Camino came to her aid, and with the help of the Rocklin Historical Society the lady was rescued. She was moved to a beautiful new home, treated to a real “makeover” and is once again an active part of the community. In fact, she is celebrating her 135th birthday

and Old St. Mary's is looking great. Age is only a number.

Fake News



Chaos at the DMV! You've all heard or read about it. Long lines, rude clerks, waiting for hours even if you have an appointment. My renewal date was approaching and so I was apprehensive. I studied the rule book, took the practice tests on the computer, assembled what I thought were the necessary documents to also get the new I.D. card, and made an appointment.

When the day arrived, I told myself it would be okay but I admit I was nervous. I have been driving for close to 70 years and have only been stopped once, for not having a license plate on the front of the car. I went early and was surprised to find two short lines, one for those with an appointment and the other for those without.

In very short order I was summoned to the window by a smiling lady.

She sorted through my documents and informed me pleasantly that one was missing. My heart sank and I thought I would be turned away or that I would spend all day there doing alternate paper work. I timidly inquired if it would be okay if I went to the bank and got the missing paper and came back. She smiled and said sure and to come back to her when I returned.

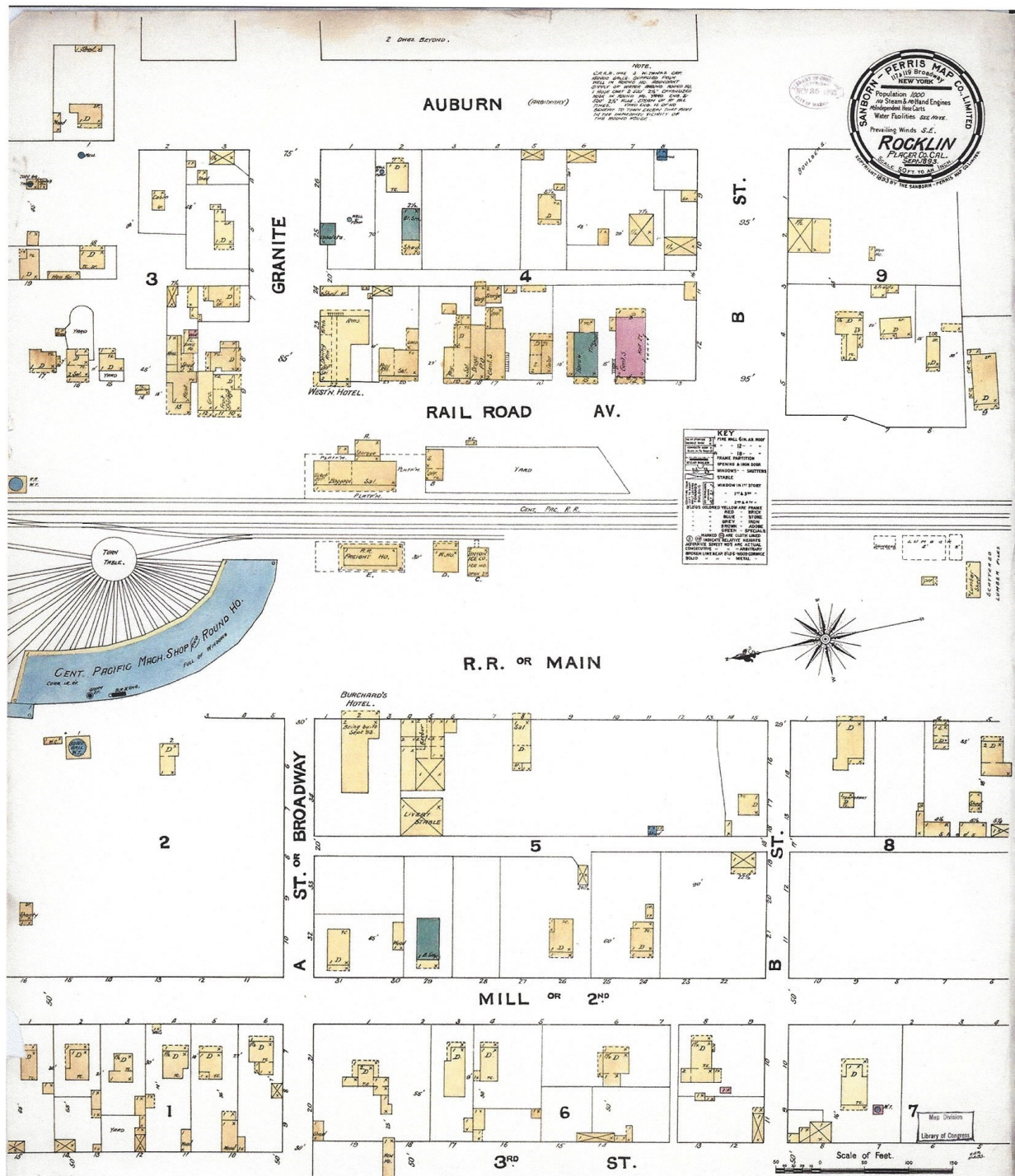
I quickly made the trip to the bank. There I had to wait in line for quite a while because there was only one teller on duty. I finally got to the safe deposit box, opened it and found the envelope I thought contained the document I needed.

The envelope was empty.

When I had convinced myself it truly was not there I went back to DMV fearing what was to come. The smiling lady laughed and said not to worry, I could get a copy and in the meantime I could get my license. She sent me on a journey from window to window and everyone was positive and polite and most smiled even if small problems happened. The young lady taking my picture even took the time to re-take it when the first was awful. I'd like to give the Rocklin DMV five gold stars. (I did get the license and that is pretty important at my age.) I didn't even have time to read the book or eat the snack I brought.

Sanborn Maps will be Displayed in the Rocklin History Museum

For years, city maps created by Sanborn-Perris Map Company Ltd. of New York were used by insurance companies to establish fire insurance rates. The maps show details such as location and size of each structure, its building material, and whether it be a business or dwelling. Also included is a summary of the community's fire-fighting capability. Museum Curator David Baker has obtained e-files for Sanborn maps of 1890, 1893 and 1898 and plans a large panel display. Street names change over time, for example: A St., Broadway and Granite streets all morphed to become Rocklin Road.



Old Saint Mary's Chapel News

Nancy Lohse
Old Saint Mary's Chapel Chairperson

Being an Old St. Mary's church lady, I often wonder how many brides have walked down the aisle since 1883 when the church was dedicated. Although the bridal fashions may have changed through the years, I'm sure the feelings and excitement remain the same. The first year the chapel was open after it's historic move, there were 7 weddings. Since 2007 we have had the pleasure of helping 393 couples tie the knot. This year we have booked 74 weddings so far thanks mostly to our internet presence and to people simply driving down Front Street. We have 18 deposits for weddings in 2019 already!



Ask any of the wonderful ladies who donate their time for these weddings what the best part is and they will all say its when couples walk in the door and are stunned by how beautiful it is inside. Next on the list we will be of a happy day for the couples. What wonderful memories!

All the effort and time put in to renovate the chapel over a two year period after her epic move in 2005 has certainly paid off! Besides weddings, we have hosted 36 memorials and 9 funerals.

The chapel has also had a starring role in a movie and a music video by the band Tesla. You can check out their video for the song "Save That Goodness" on YouTube. It includes a great aerial view of the chapel and park complete with train going by in the background. Also, two of the band members climbed into the steeple to lean out and play their guitars!

Please stop by Wednesdays from 5-7 if you have not visited the chapel. The church ladies will be there to greet you and show off the jewel at Heritage Park!



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

www.OldStMarysChapel.com

email: oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com

Union Granite Company's Black Granite Quarry

Royce Ann, JoAnn, Diane, Bonnie and Margaret nee Ruhkala



Union Granite Company's black granite Quarry

The Ruhkala families, beginning with Matt and Eva Ruhkala, have been in the granite business in Rocklin continually since the 1890s.

In 1933, four of the Ruhkala brothers, Abner, Michael, Benjamin, and Ruben, purchased Adolf Pernu's California Granite Company on Pacific Street and renamed it Union Granite Company.

One day in the early 1940s, Abner, Benjamin, and Ruben were deer hunting in the Auburn Folsom Road area of Loomis. Not only did they spot a large buck in a brushy area, but they also noticed an interesting outcropping of black granite close by. Being good quarrymen, they let the buck go and got a sledgehammer from their truck and took a specimen of the granite back to their Rocklin quarry for further investigation. They found that it was of excellent quality and polished into a beautiful black color.

In 1944, the four brothers bought ten acres of land around the black granite outcropping from the Brown family. They also bought three adjacent acres from the Holpainen family. They then began the process of excavating a new quarry by bringing the necessary equipment to drill and blast the granite. A crew of men from their Rocklin quarry would travel to this Loomis quarry two to three times a month to excavate the black granite and take it back to Rocklin for processing. They named their black granite "California Pearl", and it became a very popular granite for monuments and building stone. Black granite was quite rare, and the Union Granite Company was one of only three working black granite quarries in California. Many of the Ruhkala brothers built beautiful fireplaces in their homes using their California Pearl granite. The black granite quarry closed in the early 1980's and is now a beautiful water feature in someone's backyard.



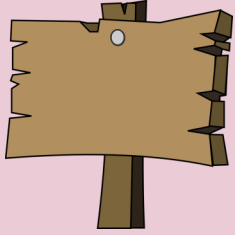
This is what the polished black granite looks like. This is Rocklin Historical Society President Emeritus Roy Ruhkaka's black, California Pearl granite fireplace.

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RANDY PETERS
CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT .

A Proposal to Place Markers at Historic Places in Rocklin

Jim Carlson, BA, MEd, DC



The concept is an extension of the Discover and Explore Rocklin Cemetery pamphlet created years ago as a community service by the Rocklin Historical Society.

Originally conceived as a Boy Scout project, it motivated me to do the footwork to find and identify places for markers at historic places in Rocklin outside of the cemetery.

After my attempts to photograph places for these markers, the RHS Board authorized professional photographer, Jim Thompson, to take excellent, high quality photos.

The result is a digital resource of photos with GPS coordinates that can be utilized by our

membership.

A binder containing the photos and related texts is available as a resource for the community.

We were pleased to have the suggestions and advice of Roy Ruhkala on the Markers Project and like the Cemetery project it bears his name along with mine.

THE WHITNEY LEGACY A Beautiful Place to Live

The famous Joel Parker Whitney Ranch containing 12,000 rich acres of sheer beauty were founded by a man who pioneered the citrus fruit industry in Placer County. From his orchards the first train of oranges were shipped East. In January 1905 on the cover of Sunset Magazine, appeared his daughter in front of his mansion "The Oaks" holding six huge naval oranges each weighing two pounds.

Whitney not only shipped from the Rocklin Station but had his own "Whitney" Station between Roseville and Lincoln (shown below).

Its corrals to the north saw many sheep and cattle loaded for market. In the early '20's the station had a foreman and 4 trackmen stationed there. Always a water tanker was alongside for use as the station's water supply having been filled at either Roseville or Lincoln. The Whitney Station was situated on the line subsequently owned by the Central Pacific Railroad being their Oregon Branch with its initial point for Oregon travel at Roseville (Junction.)



Sketch of re-created "Whitney Station" from memory of two Placer County pioneers — Mrs. C. Fiddymont and Ed Grey.

An Historical Find

by
Charlene Rhodes

The Article at left was published in the 1981-82 Rocklin Chamber Business and Telephone Directory.

Whitney Station was located on the western edge of the Whitney Ranch abutting the rail line near today's Thunder Valley Casino.

The size of the Whitney Ranch varied as the Whitneys bought and sold properties. According to Joel Parker Whitney's biography author Richard Miller, during the times when the Whitney station was used for loading and unloading livestock and agricultural products the ranch was probably at least 20,000 acres, not 12,000 acres.

After the Chinese expulsions from Rocklin in 1877 Joel Parker Whitney arranged for his Asian household servants to arrive at the ranch via the animal loading dock at the station. This was to prevent the servants from being harassed or otherwise harmed at Rocklin's passenger station where they normally would have arrived.

Beryl Whitney appeared on the cover of the January 1906, not 1905, issue of Sunset magazine. Original copies of the magazine were destroyed three months later at the sunset magazine offices in San Francisco in the Earthquake and Fire of April 1906. It's not clear why the Sunset magazine article and this article would say that Beryl was holding oranges. The Whitneys raised several kinds of citrus, including probably grapefruit. The citrus Beryl is holding is clearly more yellow than the orange colored fruit in the background of the Sunset cover.

Quinn Quarry Mystery—Part Two

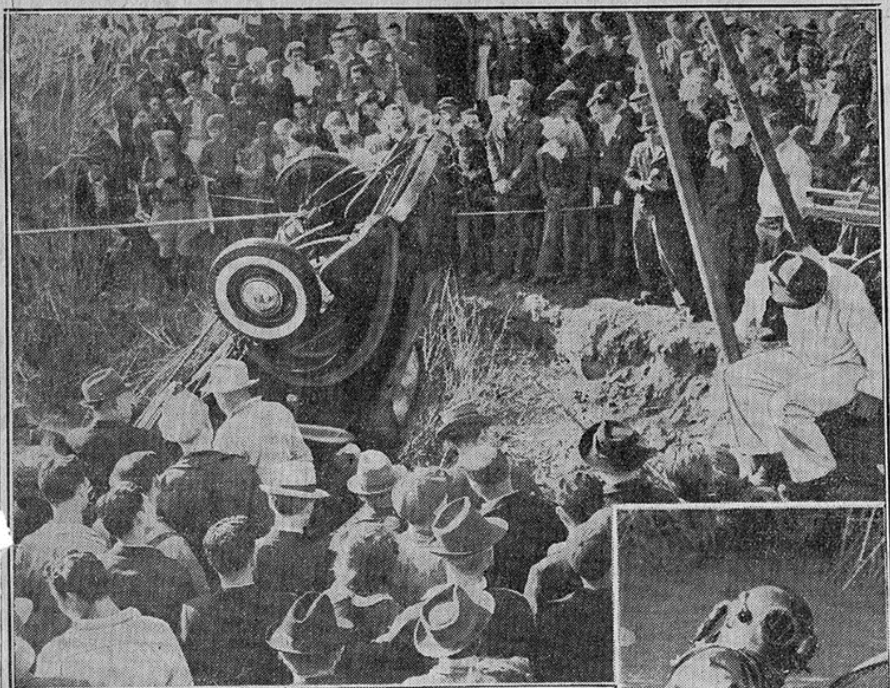
Charlene Rhodes

In the July issue of the Quarry Quarterly we described how a crane was hired long ago to remove a car from the Quinn Quarry. We didn't detail why the car was in the quarry. The 1941 newspaper article below, and its related pictures donated by Joanne Ruhkala Lawson, provides the missing detail.

As the article indicates a stolen car was driven into the quarry to hide it. The photos are Ruhkala family photos. Many of the Ruhkalas were at this event.

The Quinn Quarry is the water-filled quarry that abuts the amphitheater in Quarry Park.

Rocklin Quarry Yields Stolen Car



One thousand spectators yesterday witnessed the removal of the stolen automobile of Anthony (Tony) Fernandez of Penryn from a water filled quarry pit near Rocklin. The removal ended a three day mystery started when tracks were found leading to but none returning from the pit. The officers believe the car, empty, was sent into the pit under its own power. The picture, above, shows it being removed and below is William Reed, diver.

Bee Photos



125th Anniversary Celebrations

Kathie Nippert

The City of Rocklin's 125th Anniversary celebration continues in October with the Voices of the Passed, the Rocklin Historical Society's docent lead cemetery tour. The final plans are being



made for the Apparitional Actors to make their presentation on October 28th at the Rocklin Cemetery.

We have some notable former Rocklin mayors and Front Street merchants making an appearance to share a little of our colorful history with you. The final event for the celebration of the City of Rocklin's 125th Anniversary celebration is the Christmas tree lighting at the new location at Quarry Park on Rocklin Road on December 1, 2018 starting at 4 PM with a parade, Santa, booths, activities for children, cookies and much, much more. Don't miss this Rocklin tradition.

Appreciation for M.S. Clark Roofing



We gained a greater appreciation for the value of professional tractor and fork-

lift work Mike Clark has voluntarily provided for RHS over the years. Time was short as artifacts were needed for the Quarry Park Adventures dedication. Rather than bearing on Mike another time, equipment was rented by RHS members to move the artifacts. We found that cost of the equipment rental alone was far more than Mike's usual compensation that has ranged from a "Thank You" to a case of Corona.

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.



Local giving. Lasting value.

Appreciation for a Star Thistle Volunteer

Gene Johnson



For several years I have seen bags of uprooted star thistles beside trash cans in Johnson-Springview Park - clearly the work of person bent on ridding the park of the terrible weeds. Sections of the park have become mysteriously clear of the thistles while adjacent areas are yellow with star-thistle blossoms. This September the mystery was solved when I met Kevin Daley of Rocklin. Kevin, a retired teacher, who taught Science and Spanish for some 30 years in Alaska and Auburn, admitted to being responsible. For 10 years, once a week during the thistle growing season, he has spent many hours removing and bagging thistles before they drop their seeds. Kevin says it takes about 3 consecutive years of weeding to eradicate the thistles in each section. His results are impressive. Large areas of the park are essentially star-thistle free. Much remains to



be done. Kevin has additional tools and will welcome an additional volunteer. If interested contact Gene Johnson via e-mail: margene99@gmail.com.



Rocklin Cemetery Tour

Voices of the Passed

October 28, 2018

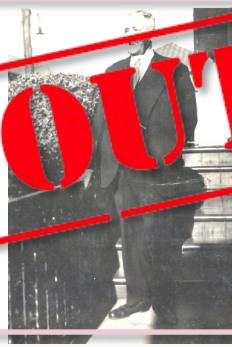


City of Rocklin 125th Anniversary Performance

Rocklin Historical Society President Hank Lohse plays Marshal Renaldi



Gene Johnson plays his own grandfather A.O. Wickman



Nancy Ustaszewski plays Front Street candy store owner Annie Beasmore

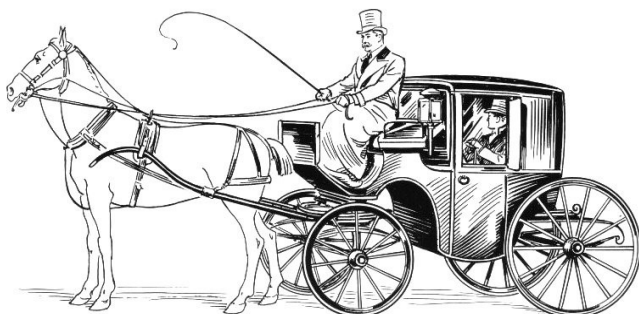


Former Mayor Jerry Mitchell plays Mayor John Garrity

Historical Society Chapel Chairman Nancy Lohse plays quarry boss Mary Quinn

Rocklin Parks and Recreation Chief Karen Garner plays Mayor Fannie Whitney

And other apparitional actors



Admission \$10.00

For tickets go to

Rocklinhistorical.org

ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL EVENTS SCHEDULE

Second Saturday of each month by reservation only
Free History Walking Tour lead by Dr. Jim Carlson
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm starting at The Rocklin History Museum, wear comfortable shoes
Call Jim Carlson for Reservations (916) 624-0682

October 28, 2018
Voices of the Passed Cemetery Tours



November 19, 2018
Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 7 pm
5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin
General Membership Meeting and Nominations to the Board of Directors.

December 1, 2018
Christmas Tree Lighting at Quarry Park
Volunteers needed for early AM set-up and late evening break down & clean up.

December 17, 2018
Christmas Social at the Rocklin History Museum, 6 pm-8:30 pm
3895 Rocklin Rd. corner of San Francisco Street in Downtown Rocklin
Bring finger foods and desserts, drinks will be provided.

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!

Rocklin History Museum
Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Docents always needed. For information call Gay Morgan at (916) 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
Tuesdays, 9 am as needed and on call .
For more information and to volunteer, call Gene Johnson at (916) 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.

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 956

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.



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

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Kathie Nippert, Vice President
Allegra Hakim, Secretary
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