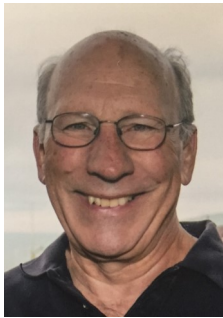


Abandoned quarries meant fun for Rocklin youth

President's Message

Hank Lohse

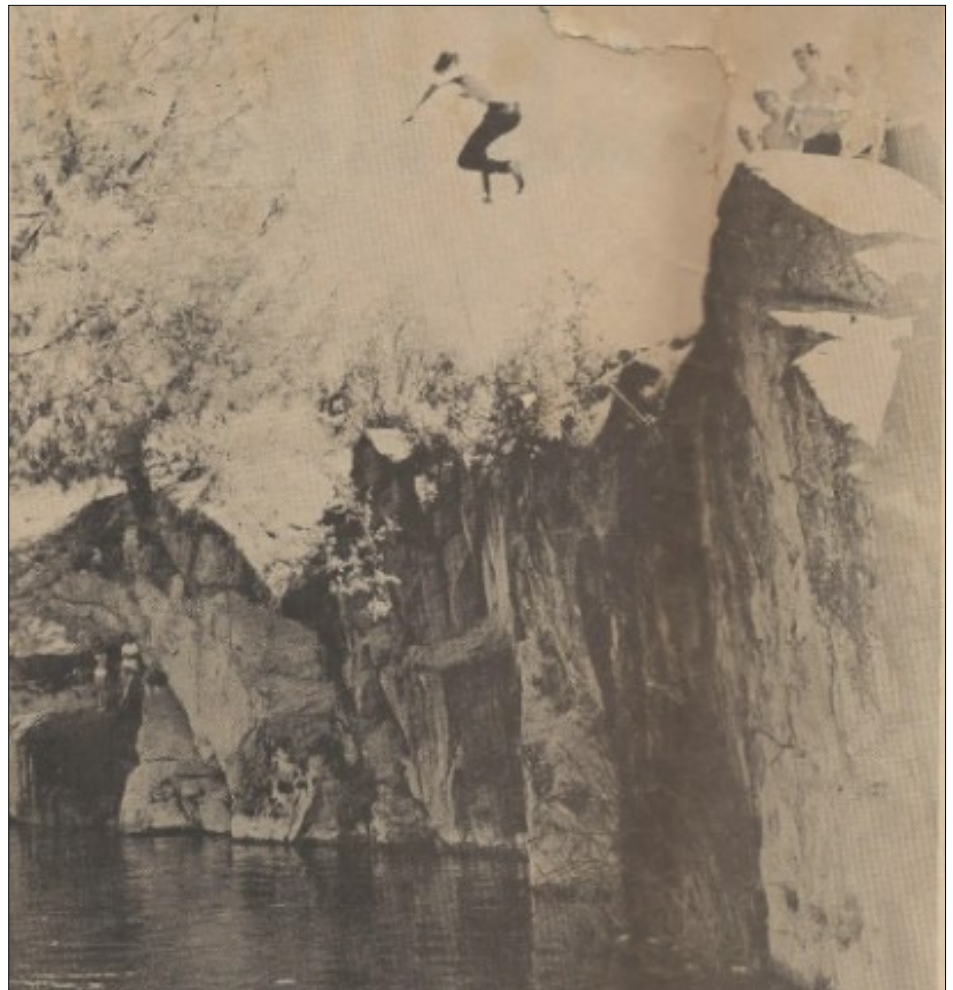


It is with great sadness that I have to report the loss of two of our long time Rocklin Historical Society members. Roy Ruhkala passed on March 28, 2019 at the age of 99. Leon 'Shorty' Vicencio passed on January 25, 2019 at the age of 87. Both will be missed.

Roy was not only a member but also one of the founders of the Rocklin Historical society in 1988. He was a member of numerous City of Rocklin and County of Placer committees and various social clubs. Please take time to read the obituary and remembrances in this newsletter. And look forward to a special story about 'Roy Enoch Ruhkala - His Life and Times and How He Shaped the City of Rocklin' in our July newsletter.

Shorty was a long time resident of Rocklin and resided in the small, white cottage on the Johnson compound. He was also known as the keeper of 'Shorty's Garage', a storage facility for the historical society's overflow of historic treasures. He also helped on just about every cleanup or rebuilding group, from the digging out of the basement of the Rocklin museum to the rebuilding of Old St. Mary's Chapel. Please see his obituary in this newsletter.

See **PRESIDENT** on Page 5



Most Popular Place in Rocklin during last week's excessive hot spell was a century old water filled quarry hole. Photo shows a teen aged lad jumping off a 40 foot cliff while his companions await their turn. (From the Placer Herald, August 23, 1967)

By Doug Osella

Before the arrival of Little League and youth soccer, the numerous water-filled quarries lying quietly in vacant areas across Rocklin offered recreation and adventure for young people in the community. In their free time,



kids liked to fish for the hungry perch that sought their livelihood near the top of deep-water pits. No dwellers of the deep, these small fish would bite at anything. (They were easy to catch...all that was needed for bait was a leaf on the hook.)

See **SWIMMING** on Page 3

Remembering two great Rocklinites

Roy Ruhkala

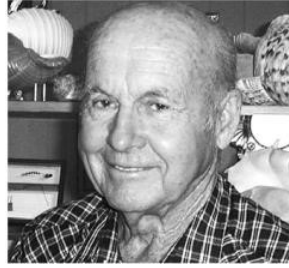
Surrounded by his family, Roy Ruhkala passed away on March 28, 2019. He was 99 years old.

Roy was born in Rocklin on July 28, 1919, in a house on the corner of High and Pine

Streets. He was the 9th of 11 children born to Matt and Eva Ruhkala, immigrants from Finland, and the last living member of his family. Roy attended Rocklin Elementary School and Roseville High School. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1942 with a degree in Forestry, and while there he met his wife, Peggy. They were married in August of 1942 in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where Peggy grew up.

Roy served in the Army during WWII as an instructor in the Field Artillery Unit and attained the rank of Captain. After the war, Roy and Peggy returned to Rocklin, and Roy began working again in the family granite business, Union Granite Company, on Pacific Street in Rocklin.

In 1953 Roy and Peggy returned to Rocklin, and Roy bought a monument



company in Sacramento. That business, Ruhkala Monument Company, became their lifelong livelihood, and it is still run by his son, Paul.

His love for the City of Rocklin is apparent by his many years of service and accomplishments. In the 1950's and 60's, Roy's community service work started in earnest. He became the Boy Scout Master of Troop 29, and a member of the Rocklin School Board. Roy was a charter member of the Rocklin Lions Club which started in 1955. Roy and the early Lions' members put up the first street signs, helped establish the post office numbering system, and helped name the city streets.

In 1960 Roy was elected to the City Council where he served a term as mayor. He was also instrumental in continuing the

Old Timers Reunion held annually on Memorial Day weekend. In the 1970's and 80's Roy became the first chairman of the Placer County Water Agency, a board member of the American River Authority, a member of the Rocklin-Newcastle Gold Hill Cemetery Board, and chairman of the Restoration Committee for restoring the Rocklin Finn Hall. He also helped establish the Rocklin Historical Society in 1988 with Marie Huson. He remained an active docent until he was 98 years old.

Roy was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing with his family and friends. Much of his family time included many camping trips in the summer and skiing trips in the winter. He also had a love for traveling and he and Peggy explored much of the United States in their well-used motorhome. International travel included numerous trips to Finland and Sweden where they visited many relatives.

Roy was preceded in death by his wife Peggy, on November 10, 2000. He is survived by his five children, Michael (Punky), Royce Ann, Bonnie (Bill), Margaret (Bill), Paul (Rhonda), and 15 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Leon "Shorty" Vicencio

By Gay Morgan

Leon "Shorty" Vicencio 1/25/32 - 2/15/19. Those are the basic cold figures but there is much more.

Most of the Historical Society knew him only as Shorty, a hard-working volunteer who was always willing to help. His nickname suited him and no one called him Leon. He lived in the little white house across the driveway from Marg and Gene Johnson, thus beginning a relationship of more than 21 years, funny, scary, sad and enduring.

The Historical Society stored things not in use at the museum in Shorty's garage. We knew that he was proud to have been a Marine and he greeted fellow marines with a hearty "Semper Fi!" But there is more, much more.

He was born in Ophir, California and attended Placer High School. He joined the Marines and was stationed at Camp Pendleton and the Marine Air Station at Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii. He served in the Korean War.

He returned to Placer County and worked for many years as a groundskeeper at the Sunset Whitney Golf Course.



Shorty enjoys cake and coffee, prepared by member Ronna Davis, after installing carpet at the museum (photo by Ronna Davis)

When he retired, he became a very involved volunteer at the Rocklin Historical Society, putting in long hours and much effort into turning the Fletcher/Moon House into the Rocklin History Museum. He applied himself just as diligently to the restoration of St. Mary's Church.

He never married and had no children but Shorty has many young people who refer to him fondly as Pa or Grandpa. Brenda Heiser is one who recalls him taking her and her sister and their cousin to Coloma, Clear Lake and Great America.

His neighbor Patrice Cardott and her family have included him in their family celebrations. Her daughter and grandson think of him as Pa. She remembers that he always had stories to tell about how cold it was in Korea and how he fell asleep on the warm sand of the beach in Hawaii and got a terrible sunburn.

Shorty liked to sing Roger Miller songs like "King of the Road" and he had little sayings he used often like, "Don't take any wooden nickels" when he was saying good-bye. The Rocklin Historical Society and many others will surely miss him.

Don't take any wooden nickels, Shorty. Semper Fi.

Swimming

Continued from Page 1

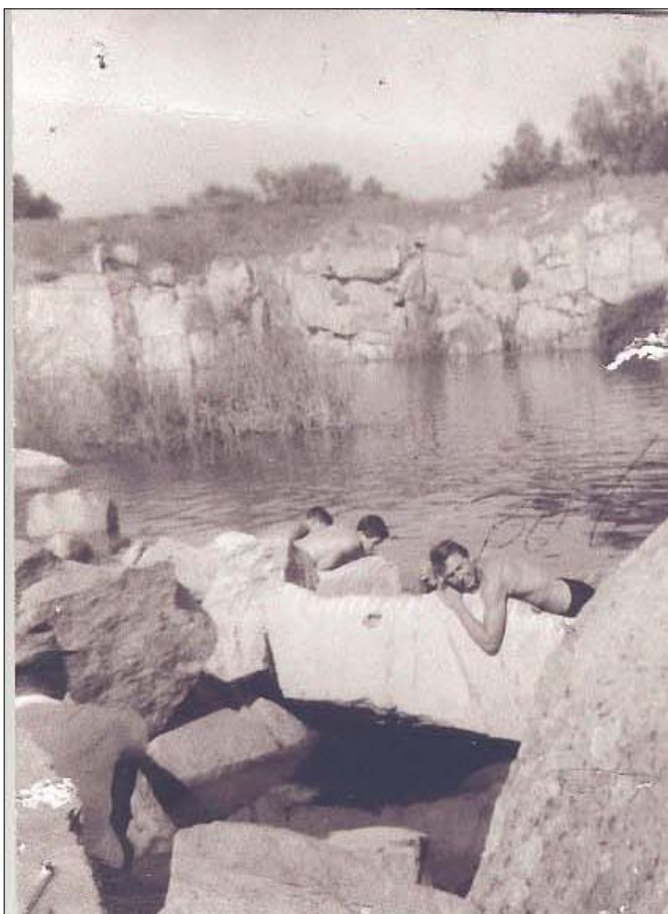
Armed with bb guns or slingshots, boys hunted the bullfrogs with deep rumbling voices that inhabited the cattail marshes around the margins of most quarry ponds. A young “frogger” of the day might use a bamboo pole up to 18 feet long onto which he attached a line and a 3-barbed hook. For bait he stuck a small piece of red cloth onto the barbs. The long pole could reach far out from the rim of the quarry. As the 3-barbed setup was dangled over a marsh, the red color became an irresistible attraction. Rather than retreat to safety, the voracious bullfrogs swam toward the fatal bait eager to gulp it down.

Household trash thrown into the smaller quarries provided target practice for boys skilled with the slingshot. Over the years, untold numbers of glass bottles were sunk into murky waters.

With the arrival of summer, the warm California sun brought thoughts of swimming; and it was the convenient quarry hole that had the best chance to replenish body and soul.

Sadly, many kids missed out on this refreshing experience because their parents laid down the law, declaring something to the effect: *Under no circumstances are you to swim in any quarry hole. You don't know what's growing in those places! Just look at that yucky green water with that disgusting green scum on the top! Who knows what diseases are living in there.*

The undeterred swimmers of the day—those youth who either had lenient parents or never listened to



Youths enjoy the summer sun laying on the granite slabs surrounding the quarry. Beneath the rocks tunnels and caves are formed where adventurous boys would dive, emerging at another spot in the quarry.

their elders and did their own thing—found two quarries suitable for swimming: Copp's Quarry and the Quinn-Anderson Quarry. Even with their greenish water and somewhat gamey smells, these two swimming holes proved to be the best to be had for cooling fun, especially when there was nothing else to do and sweat ran down one's back.

The deep quarries such as these tapped into springs, which created circulation and better quality water for swimming.

Of the two quarries, the Quinn-Anderson Quarry came out on top as being most popular for early swimmers. It wasn't a serene, blue pool in front of a streaming waterfall, but it served its purpose.

The biggest attraction was its great cliff jumping and diving spots, and the realities of the day speak for themselves. The city was not adjacent to a lake, and it was far from

the ocean. There was no municipal swimming pool. Very few homes had air-conditioning, let alone a backyard swimming pool. And the creeks were too shallow for serious jumping and diving. The Quinn-Anderson Quarry was a swimming hole born of necessity. Today, the old swimming hole is known as Quarry Park Pond.

Kids generated their own names for quarries. The several, small pits south of the Quinn-Anderson Quarry, hidden in the oaks, were referred to as the *Moss Quarries*. The Wickman/Alexson Quarry on Winding Lane was called the *Black Quarry* because of its eerie deepness. (No one wanted to swim there.) Likewise, young swimmers had their own name for the Quinn-Anderson Quarry—their favorite swimming hole.

They called it the *Fenced-In Quarry*, or simply *Fenced-In*. (Kids might say upon meeting one another on a summer's day, “Are you going swimming at Fenced-In today?”)

Certain points around the perimeter of Fenced-In Quarry had more picturesque names, such as *Eagle's Peak* (the highest pinnacle above the water), and *Devil's Peak* (a crag close to Eagle's Peak, but not quite as high), or *The Slanted*, a sloping granite monolith where one could get a running start before lofting oneself out over the waters.

Fenced-In was a swimming hole where kids knew how to have fun. The water level in the quarry was much lower than what is found at Quarry Park Pond today. Diving or jumping from its peaks and ledges seemed a little risky.

Those who preferred jumping mastered the cannonball. Diving from the peaks quickly taught the lesson that the belly flop was to be avoided at all costs.

Then there was the even more

Swimming

reckless experience made possible by the pine tree that rose upward to even more daring heights from the edge of the quarry, not far from Devil's Peak. Every now and again, a charged-up jumper or diver would climb up into the branches of the pine tree, going as far up as possible and then sitting for a while, building up courage. The other swimmers would stop their play in anticipation of something big about to happen, sitting down on nearby rocks or ledges. During the sometimes lengthy sit, they might yell words of encouragement or perhaps words of mockery to the one above. When least expected, the daredevil would leap and fall from the dizzy heights—whooping and hollering—crashing down through the branches into the water below with a tremendous splash. The whole affair was worth the wait for the spectators.

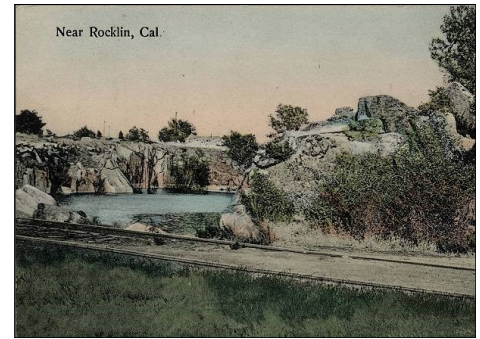
Fenced-In wasn't a swimming hole reserved only for the boys. Girls also regularly showed up to cool off. There were ledges to perch on and flat rocks to lay on to soak up the sun.

On the west side, a cascade of

large granite rocks descended into the water, which was advantageous for those swimmers who wanted a gentle approach into the water. These large rocks as they continued their descent into the water created what the kids like to refer to as "underwater caves." Swimming above these submerged rocks was pleasant and relaxing. The rocks nearby and below were a comforting reference point. Kids brought inner tubes for floating.

Diving down and swimming through the tight "caves" was a challenge the adventuresome swimmer might seek. The more cautious cave diver—because of the fear of getting stuck in the rocks—wanted a friend in the water close-by, who could grab a leg and pull in the case of trouble.

Swimming at Fenced-In was all part of growing up in Rocklin, according to Gilbert Carrerras. He relates that kids looked out for one another, and it was a learning experience. Gilbert...who now resides in Roseville but for 70 years was a true Rocklinite...also recalls that the kids who spent a lot of time at the quarry were referred to as *Quarry Rats*. He thinks this was a fitting title. Remembering the hot, dreary days of summer, he laughs, "What else



On sweltering summer days, it was hard to resist the cool waters of an old quarry

you gonna do?"

He had his best times playing "tag" for hours—in the water swimming frantically, dodging and leaping on the ledges, and then jumping off into the water below—all to avoid the dreaded tag. "It was fun!" he says.

He likes to tell how kids spent the whole day swimming, fishing, or just goofing off there. When they didn't show up at home after dark, concerned parents sent siblings out looking, and they usually found the "lost" ones at the quarry hole.

In early fall or late spring when the weather could still be hot, Gilbert adds (laughing some more) that cutting school to hang out at the town's favorite swimming hole wasn't that uncommon.

Kids of Rocklin knew how to stay cool

Doug Osella

In the early days of the 20th Century, Secret Ravine Creek, which bordered Rocklin on the east, was called *Sointula* Creek by the Finnish population. *Sointula*, in Finnish, means "place of harmony." Children loved swimming in the cool waters of the creek on hot summer days. One year at an early age, Ilona Wickman nervously stood on the bank and dipped her toes into the chilly waters of *Sointula* Creek. She began her swimming lesson wearing water wings. Her sister, already in the water, encouraged her to jump, assuring her she'd be safe. The adults in town weren't concerned about drownings because the older kids, who knew how to swim, accompanied the younger ones to the swimming holes.

West of town there were the cool waters of Antelope Creek. According to Ilona, practically every kid in Rocklin



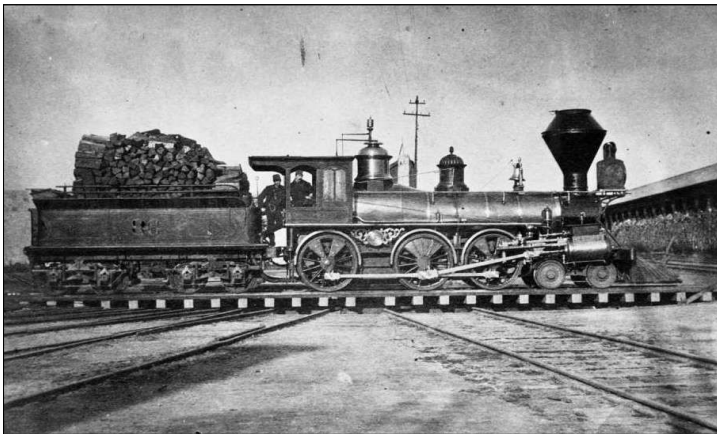
Swimming hole at Secret Ravine Creek

walked out to the country swimming holes on the terribly hot days of summer; and they didn't return until late afternoon, hot, and ready to splash around again. They only needed their swimming suits and maybe something on their feet for the long, hot walk. As they grew older, many Rocklin youth graduated to the quarry holes for their swimming. Ilona remembered the summer when neighborhood boys discovered a near perfect swimming pool had

been created at the bottom of the Pernu Quarry (California Granite Company) right across Granite Street (now Rocklin Road) from the Wickman home. The bottom, sides, and deck of the pool were smooth, sheared granite. Only the kids in the immediate neighborhood knew about this splendid pool. For one magical summer, Ilona and her friends regularly climbed down the rocks to the pool, swam, lay out and baked on the sun-drenched deck.

Memories from Ilona Wickman Osella (1917-2016)

Celebrate Rocklin's train history on May 11



Central Pacific locomotive #86, "Gorilla," at Rocklin roundhouse, 1869

By Gary Day

May 11, this year will mark the 150th anniversary of the 1869 Golden Spike ceremony at Promontory Summit Utah which celebrated completion of the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad. The westbound tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad Company had met the eastbound tracks of the Central Pacific Railroad Company and linked the economies of the East to the American West.

The Rocklin Historical Society will honor Rocklin's participation in building the transcontinental railroad and commemorate the naming of our city with a ceremony at the Rocklin Train Station at 11 am on Saturday May 11. The society will place a plaque which will include a facsimile of the June 1864 time table. Everyone is invited to attend.

In 1863 the Central Pacific had started the east-

bound rails near the waterfront in Sacramento and by April 1864 they had crossed the Sacramento Valley floor preparing to ascend the western Sierra. A Sacramento Union article that month told of State Legislators and their families who had traveled 22 miles by rail to an unnamed spot where there was a new quarry at the end of the tracks. *Continued on Page 16*

President's Message

Continued from page 1

On a more cheerful note, I am proud to report that the Ruhkala Awards have been announced. There are four categories - business or group, individual, youth and pioneer. Rocklin Historical Society was able to snag 3 of the 4 categories. The pioneer award goes to Jean Day. Nancy Lohse won for individual and Julia Shohbozian won for youth award. The business/group award went to Rock to Ranch.

The awards will be presented on April 23, 2019 at the city chambers at 6:00 P.M. I'm sure you join me in congratulating these deserving winners.

The Speakers Series continues to roll along. We have two coming up soon. April 15th is Barbara Leak presenting 'A History of the Placer County Fruit Industry at 7:00 at Old St. Mary's Chapel on Front Street. On May 20th, Bill Bailey, The Good News Newsmen, will be telling happy stories guaranteed to make you smile.

It's that time of year again for the BIG DAY OF GIVING. This year

is will be held on Thursday, May 2nd. Last year we had 27 donors and received \$3000. This year we are setting a goal of 50 donors (that's out of a membership of 225) and \$5000 in donations. So talk to your friends, neighbors, and family. Let's see if we can make our goal.

A little over a week after the BIG DAY OF GIVING we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the placement of the gold spike signaling the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. We will be unveiling a plaque at the Rocklin Train Depot. Please see article in this newsletter.

Old Saint Mary's Chapel News

Nancy Lohse
Old Saint Mary's Chapel Chairperson

We recently held a memorial for Leon 'Shorty' Vicencio, one of the volunteers that spent hours and hours working on the chapel to make it what it is today. It was a wonderful service and such an honor to celebrate one of our own. Shorty left his stamp on every part of Old St. Mary's.

I spend a lot of time at the chapel showing it to perspective clients, telling the history to classes of third graders, opening and closing for various events and, of course, cleaning. Shorty's memorial was the first time I actually attended a special event there. Looking around at all the people who came to honor this wonderful man, listening to their stories, smelling the beautiful flowers, made me realize the extent of the history of this place.

I couldn't help but reflect on all the couples who have walked down the aisle, all the families and



friends who have said goodbye to loved ones, and we can't forget babies who have been baptized. Old St. Mary's Chapel has certainly been part of our heritage since 1883 when it was built. Let's make sure it remains part of Rocklin's heritage for years to come!

Visit us for a chapel tour on Wednesdays from 5 pm until 7 pm

916-415-1150

www.OldStMarysChapel.com

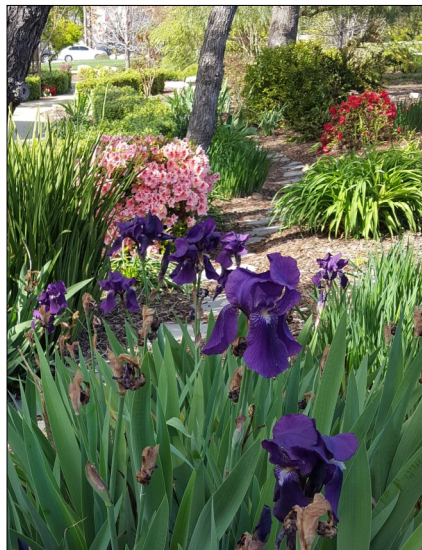
email: oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com

What's Growing?

By Sally Huseby

As we enter the spring season, the gardens of the Rocklin Museum and St. Mary's Chapel are ready to show off after our winter rains have nourished the soil for new growth. The mature flowerbeds at the museum have held up well over the past decades and you can visit them on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

In January at St. Mary's we made some changes, moving some plants to take advantage of more sunlight and added a few new ones. On the north we took out vines with invasive sucker roots and planted lavender trumpet vines under the pergolas. Our camellias have been in full bloom. We have received numerous compliments on the chapel's attractive site, hosting seventy-six



weddings last year. We are very proud of our town's historic gardens.



Take a stroll around the grounds of Old St. Mary's Chapel and enjoy all the beautiful flowers beginning to bloom.

Rocklin Elementary School photos need tagging!

By Charlene Rhodes

The Rocklin History Museum has a large collection of Rocklin Elementary School photos, early photos from the first school on Pacific but most from the Meyers Street location. 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 a 1960 Christmas program.



Can you identify anyone in this picture? People in this and other photos are waiting to be identified at the Rocklin History Museum

History Series

By Patsy Pattison

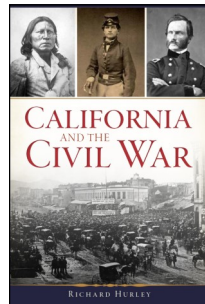
Don't miss it! On the third Monday of each month, the Rocklin Historical Society Speaker Series has you sitting on the edge of your seat! Talented authors and educators take us on historical journeys into the past.



There have been many interesting speakers in the series. Our latest speaker, on April 15, was Barbara Leak, who came to us from the Loomis Basin Historical Society. She presented the most interesting "History of the Placer County Fruit Industry."

Rocklin Local historian Michael Stark has shared fascinating and surprising stories surrounding the bridges in Placer County and the stories behind local names such as Yankee Jim.

Author Richard Hurley gave an informative and riveting talk about California during the Civil War. He has authored two books, *California and the Civil War*, and *Queen of the Northern Mines*, which was a



finalist for the Independent Book Publisher's 2012 Ben Franklin Prize for historical fiction.

Karen Ann McNeill, daughter of member Russ McNeill had us captivated with her presentation on Julia Morgan, famed architect of Hearst Castle, the first licensed woman architect in the state of California, and, in 2013, the first woman to be awarded the most prestigious Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects.

Our next speaker is Bill Bailey, "The Good News Newsman." Bill is the creator of "The Good News Newspaper". He is a journalist with a mission to find and share the good in the world in the face of the bad news we confronted with every day. He will be speaking on May 20 at Old St. Mary's Chapel on Front Street in Rocklin at 7pm.

We are always on the lookout for speakers to fill our calendar. If you have some interesting stories or know someone who does, or have suggestions for a local speaker, please contact Patsy Pattison at patsypttsn@gmail.com.



Rip Rap with Gay Morgan

Wet, windy, cold, gloomy and gray. That certainly describes this winter. Yes. I know as I've discussed it with friends. "Well we certainly needed the rain." "We won't need to worry about the drought." All of which is true, but it seemed endless. Night after night the various weather persons on TV told us about floods, mud slides and roads closed due to the record snowpack in the Sierra. I don't think I was the only one suffering from "cabin fever".

I thought of other snow storms like the one that trapper the Donner party. We all know that tragic story in early California history.

In the winter of 1952, (most of you weren't born) an epic storm trapped the gleaming new Streamliner called The City of San Francisco near Donner Pass for three days. More than 220 passengers and crew were aboard. Heroic rescue attempts were covered extensively by both local and national news media. Most of the public was fascinated by the story, anxiously waiting for good news. Employees of the railroad, Law enforcement and firemen were successful after extremely hard work in dangerous conditions and ingenious methods.

People in California have long been determined to travel over Donner Summit to get to summer recreation areas and can do so with



ease now, but winter brings problems. Most of us have seen how they try to keep the road safe and clear with plows, snow blowers and chain controls. George Stewart wrote a book called "Storm" about earlier methods. (1940's) I plan to read it again.



How many of these second graders (along with teacher Gay Morgan) do you know? Gay saw five former students at Roy's memorial: Bottom row: Fourth from left: Alfred Corral; Inset: David Ruhkala; Middle row: Eighth from the left: Candy Donnell; Standing: First on left: Joanne Takemoto; Sixth from the left: Mike Flannagan

I was teaching second grade at the then new Rocklin Elementary School in the '50's. I was very lucky it was one of those vintage years when there were no serious problems to deal with.

I loved that class. Over the years I kept in touch with many of them. One became my aide when she was in college. Another was my fourth

grade teaching partner. I thought that was pretty unusual.

But on Saturday at the lovely Memorial Service for Roy Ruhkala, five of those "second graders" were in attendance. I really don't think this happens too often except maybe in small towns.

Rip Rap with Gay Morgan

Remembering Roy

If you have lived in Rocklin for any length of time you know Roy or at least you know of him. You know he was part of the family of Matt and Eva, Finnish immigrants, who had eleven children. You know that Roy ran the quarry that has become the center point of Quarry Park.

But that is not the whole story. As a young boy he became interested in the history of Rocklin. He said he used to go to the bench downtown where some older men would gather and talk about the old days and Roy absorbed the stories. He joined the service in World War II, went to college and married a pretty, vivacious girl he met.

Peggy and Roy were a wonderful pair, involved in many community ventures. They were parents to five children. He started a Boy Scout Troop. She joined the Parent Teachers Club. There were service clubs, The Lions, Kiwanis, etc. They worked tirelessly to get a new library. The couple were seen at almost every event. Roy became Mayor and was responsible for the restoration of our beloved Finn Hall. He never lost his love of history.

Roy and several others formed the Rocklin Historical Society with the goal of perhaps someday having a

Shortly after the Rocklin History Museum opened in 2002 we began offering tours to the third graders in the Rocklin School District. (They study their home community,) Ruben Ruhkala, Ruth Williams, Susan Brooking and Gay Morgan took on this task. None of us had ever been tour guides before but because we were so proud of our new Museum, we were successful.

Ruth and Ruben passed away but Susan and Gay continued the tours. Susan became the quarry and granite expert thanks to Ruben, Ruth and Roy.



Roy shared his love of Rocklin history often at museum activities

museum. He began collecting old photographs that were being discarded by young people clearing out their parents' homes. He kept them under his bed.

That dream came true when the Moon family graciously donated their house. The Rocklin Historical Society had a museum. The pictures under the bed had a new home.

The Society continued and continues to do remarkable things—moving and restoring Old St. Mary's Chapel, as well as recreating the old City Hall/Firehouse. There are many plans for the future.

All of this is thanks to one man and his love of history and his hometown. We all owe a debt of immense gratitude to him. He certainly will be missed.

Not all the schools came in those early years. There was a problem funding buses but the Kiwanis Club generously helped to solve that problem.

Today there are eleven elementary schools in the district and ten of them visit each year. Boy Scouts, Home Schoolers, Church groups and Senior Groups also take advantage of museum tours.

Recently a group of retired teachers have become involved and we are certainly glad to have them. They are: Nancy Lohse, Nancy Ustaszewski, Kathie Reed, Patsy Pattison,

*this
AND
that*

Perhaps you are wondering how Roy came in possession of the old family photographs. You know, the ones he kept under his bed for all those years. The manager of the dump saved them for him. (Yes, there was a dump on Rocklin Road, an abandoned quarry)

May 26th is the Rocklin Homecoming Reunion. Remember to save the date. More information later.

Art Studio Trek 13 is April 27 and 28, always fun. Member Diane Ruhkala Bell's studio is on the tour.

May will be the month to celebrate the railroad and the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Does anyone else remember seeing men in striped overalls and caps with red bandanas? Our town was full of them.



Nancy Lohse, field trip docent and Old St Mary's expert, shares entertaining and educational stories about Rocklin's history with rapt third graders.

Leslie McNeil, Jane DeLuery, Pat Woessner, Gerry Farren and Linda Wampler.

Gay and Susan are still there; nobody can tell about the basement like Susan.

Ladies of the Passed

Sequel to the popular Voices of the Passed

By Kathie Nippert

The Rocklin Friends of the Library partnered with the Rocklin Historical Society for Women's History Month in March to bring you the Ladies of the Passed. Eight of Rocklin's passed residents were resurrected to show the large crowd a glimpse of life in Rocklin's early days.

A raffle held by the Friends of the Library and refreshments were served after the speakers.

A hearty thank you to everyone from the Friends and RHS who helped put the evening together. We look forward to more partnering with the Rocklin Friends of the Library.



Above (left to right): **Nancy Lohse** portrayed the charming Mary Quinn, squatter, quarry owner and mother of five. **Nancy Ustaszewski** took on the role as candy store owner and well-loved midwife, Annie Beasmore. **Shirley Espley** portrayed her grandmother Marcelina Alva, who made her way to Rocklin from Spain via Hawaii. **JoAnn Lawson** portrayed her grandmother Finnish immigrant Eva Ruhkala who traveled alone to Berkeley from Finland before making her way to Rocklin. JoAnn was joined by Diane Bell (not pictured), who played Eva's younger sister Mary.

Right (left to right): **Sarah Novo**, Rocklin Parks Service Manager, enacted Fanny Smith Whitney, business woman and the first female Mayor in Rocklin, elected before women nationally were given the right to vote. **Gay Morgan** portrayed her grandmother, Annie Lissi Vietala Morys Matson, who, at the age of 14, made her way to Rocklin from Finland. Eventually marrying a saloon owner, she was never allowed to attend any of the social events at the Finnish Temperance Hall. **Kathie Nippert**, organizer and emcee, played schoolteacher Molly Moore, and **Charlene Rhodes** played Lilly Trott, married to railroad man Charles Trott.



Over \$5000 was raised for the American Cancer Society with the help of two Rocklin Historical Society members and breast cancer survivors, Gary Day and Nancy Ustaszewski.

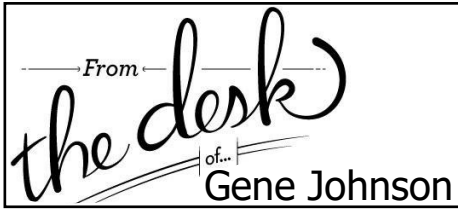
Heels for Hope, a fundraising fashion show and luncheon was held on April 7 at the Spaghetti Factory in Roseville.

A friendly competition was held for the most outrageously decorated high heeled shoes, which were used as centerpieces. There was also a raffle and silent auction.

The sold out audience was treated to a fashion show with outfits purchased from the Discovery Shop, The American Cancer Society's thrift store. The highlight of the show, however, was Gary Day, sporting his handsome pink suit.

Two RHS members show off at charity fashion show





It's not just Granite: Largely as a result of Dr. Carlson's outreach related to the 150th Anniversary of the Great Transcontinental RR we have come to realize there are a number of groups interested in Rocklin's railroad heritage: The Roseville Roundhouse Model RR Club, the Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society, The Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society and the Roseville Historical Society.

Doug Osella and I visited Ed Kornegay's, extensive garden RR layout right here in Rocklin. Ed is adding a replica of the Capitol Quarry to the layout and his Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society plans to assist in Rocklin's RR celebration with an exhibit at the Rocklin Community Festival – on May 11th.

Four members of the Fixit Team

visited the Roseville Roundhouse Model RR Club. The club is developing a layout of Rocklin and Roseville at the time of the completion of the Transcontinental RR - a time when Rocklin ruled the rails and Roseville was primarily a farming community. The "The Rail of Two Cities" model will be on display at the Rocklin RR Depot plaque dedication on May 11 and at the Rocklin History Museum through the month of June.

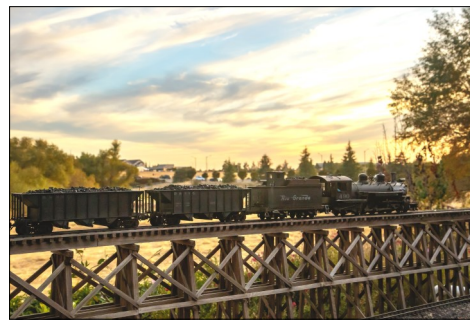
The Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society has proposed a RR museum and archive facility to be located on the site of the Rocklin Railroad Roundhouse. Scott Inman of the society informed RHS that Rocklin is



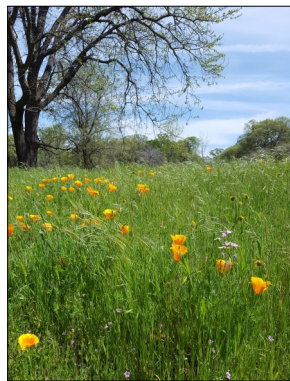
A locomotive passes by a Rocklin quarry in Ed Kornegay's garden RR

very special as our roundhouse foundation and service pits are the only remaining remnants of the 19th century Central Pacific Roundhouses. Scott noted that archives exist for the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads and that there needs to be a similar facility for the Southern Pacific RR.

The proposed 40,000 square foot museum and archive is an ambitious project but there appears to be enough interest and support for RR heritage to make it happen. The initial proposal document will be available at the May 11th depot plaque dedication and at the Festival.



Ed Kornegay's Rocklin backyard railroad



On my mind: Recently we were informed that a City vehicular traffic consultant has proposed that Rocklin Road be extended through Johnson-Springview Park to connect with Whitney Blvd.

Certainly, there are valid arguments for the street extension, but is the community willing to sacrifice park open space and historic character of Old Town to create an artery between two residential neighborhoods? The thoroughfare would pass between two historic 19th century homes – ours and Patrice Cardott's. It would occupy about two-thirds of our north yard assuming the sidewalk would be extended in a straight line

from the existing street. The street would then wind through the park to a stub of Farron St. that joins Whitney Blvd.

The proposed route would split the park into two pieces. Current walking, running, biking paths would be interrupted by the thoroughfare in at least four places; a proposed walking and bike path from Peter Hill Heritage Park to the Sunset-Whitney Recreation Area would have to cross the thoroughfare; areas of the park where no houses are visible (when trees are leafed out) will have, instead, a busy noisy thoroughfare passing through. There would be an impact on the wild animals. Much of the semi-wilderness walks along Antelope Creek would be affected by the noise and visual impact of the thoroughfare. The historic Nisenan Native American bedrock mortar site and sacred spring would no longer offer an uninterrupted view of the parklands.

It was a relief when the City removed the extension from the City plan in 2012 but the proposal is clearly is back in contention. The extension of Rocklin Road is prevented by an open space agreement until 2028 but now is the time to urge the planning commission and the city council to permanently dedicate the area to open space and recreation without motor vehicles. The upcoming Planning Commission hearing on the Circulation Element Update is April 30, and the tentative City Council hearing is May 28.



Proposed road would encroach on the front and side yards of two historical homes.





Fixit Team is hard at work

By Gene Johnson

Hanging pictures, fixing door-knobs, checking fountains and security systems, moving artifacts donated by the Fire Department, returning the orphaned Jubilee Train to 5th St from Quarry Park.

It all comes with the territory. However, much of our energy was spent recently in supporting Fixit member Dr. Jim Carlson and the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental RR.

David Baker led us around the site of the Rocklin Roundhouse that is much larger than it appears from the landscaped area. Meetings took us to the Carnegie Museum in Roseville and the Roseville model RR facility at "The Grounds"



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.



The Fixit Team is looking for volunteers to help out for a couple of hours twice a month. Help keep our museum, Old St Mary's Chapel and the historic firehouse in tip-top shape and the jewels of the Rocklin Quarry District.

Planning meetings are held each Tuesday at 7:30 am at the Oracle café, or you can contact Gene Johnson at margene99@gmail.com



RHS celebrates twenty years as Chamber of Commerce Members

By Kathie Nippert

Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year and Rocklin Historical Society has been a member of the Chamber since 1999 for 20 of those years!

Chamber CEO Robin Trimble is a lover of Rocklin History and is a Lifetime Member of the Historical Society.

As members of the Chamber, the Society has many opportunities to volunteer and/or participate in their many events and activities. We have participated in Hot Chili, Cool Cars in September of every year. There, we met our neighbors, signed up memberships, sold history books and made many new friends at our booth.

The Business Excellence Dinner recognizes the best of Rocklin, of which the Historical Society has been nominated several times as Best Nonprofit.

The Chamber sponsors the Leadership Rocklin class (from which I myself have graduated) beginning in August, once a month for 10 months. The first class is on Rocklin History and the entire class walks over to the History Museum and then to Old St. Mary's Chapel and Firehouse to learn more about Rocklin history from our docents.

The Chamber provided a ribbon cutting on the morning of October 4, 2016 for the dedication of the Fire Hose Co. No.1, attended by Rocklin's finest, many City dignitaries, our wonderful Fix-It crew, volunteers and generous donors.

The State of the City held at Sierra College Dietrich Theater will be held this year in May. Tickets can be purchased on line at the Chamber website

www.rocklinchamber.com and as members we pay the discounted rate.

Other Chamber events include



Rocklin
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presents
Cape Cod & the Islands
featuring Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket & Newport

October 6, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 Nights at One Hotel
- Nantucket Island Visit
- Nantucket Whaling Museum
- Boston City Tour
- Plymouth Plantation
- Plymouth Rock
- Hyannis
- Martha's Vineyard Tour
- Newport's Ocean Drive
- Breakers Mansion Tour
- Heritage Plantation
- Sandwich
- New England Lobster Dinner
- Faneuil Hall Marketplace

INCLUDES

- Roundtrip Airfare- SMF
- 6 Nights First Class Hotel
- 9 Meals: 6- Breakfasts & 3- Dinners
- Daily Sightseeing
- Admissions per Itinerary
- Professional Tour Director
- Deluxe Motorcoach
- Baggage Handling
- Hotel Transfers

chamber explorations

TOUR RATES

Booking Discount*: \$2425 pp double
Regular Rate: \$2525 pp double
Single Supplement: +\$725

*See Notes for Booking Discount details

Booking Discount - Save \$200 per couple!*

Contact Information
Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce • Attn: Tiffany Neilson
3700 Rocklin Rd. • Rocklin, CA 95677
916.624.2548
tiffany@rocklinchamber.com

Booking #124300 (Web Code)

Sunrise with the Chamber-breakfast at Thrive Fit Club on Granite Drive, Chamber Mixers located throughout the city, and new this year is a week-long trip to Cape Cod in October! Call Tiffany Neilson at (916)624-2548 for more information and if you are interest-

ed in taking a trip with us!

As you can see, there are many things about the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce that you never knew about and probably are interested in. Check them out, you won't regret it.

COME ONE COME ALL!

SUNDAY - MAY 26, 2018

Rocklin Homecoming Reunion

Everyone is invited - Bring a Friend

Bring some pictures or mementos

Especially this year to honor the event's founder

Roy Ruhkala

11a.m. 'til 2p.m.

Luncheon Buffet

\$15.00 minimum donation requested

Fifth Street Community Center

Johnson Springview Park

Sponsored by Rocklin Historical Society and
Randy Peters Catering & Events

Must receive RSVP by May 16th

Gay Morgan 916-624-2355

gfmorgan@att.net

Some of you remember when "Rocklin Pulled Together" and we brought Old St. Mary's church down the street to where it sits today. We spent several years getting Old St. Mary's Chapel up and running. Much love, sweat and giving went into making the chapel the useful public building it is today.

A small group of people in Smartsville, a small town about 25 minutes west of Grass Valley, were also restoring the large church in their town. They were working on the former Church of the Immaculate Conception. We invited them down to share ideas and experiences. We had many things in common in our two restoration projects. One of their historians, Kathy Smith, has published two books and has spoken at two of our History Series. She had many good stories to share about some of the early residents of the Sierra Foothills.

Smartsville's project still continues. Recently the Smartsville Church Restoration Fund, Inc. team, or "Scruffies" as they are known, were assisted by Historicorps, a non-profit volunteer group of builders that donate their time and building skills toward historic restoration projects. A donor offered matching funds toward the project.

Our historical society contributed \$300 to their restoration fund. They were grateful and wanted to express their appreciation to our members.

Janet Burton, the editor of the Scruffy Post shared information about this year's Pioneer Day.

"Every year in late April, the whole town turns out for a day of celebration," she reports. "There are tours inside the Immaculate Conception church. You can also ride in a wagon to tour Blue Point Mine and Sucker Flat. Many musical groups will pro-



Scaffolding shows the ongoing progress of the Smartsville preservation project.

Smartsville restoring their 1871 church

By Ronna Davis

vide good live music. There are games for kids, craft and food vendors, etc. Some dress up in pioneer style clothing and celebrate all day. This year, the 12th annual Pioneer Day is Saturday, April 27th from 9 -4 PM."

Father Daniel Madigan, who wrote "From the Emerald Isle to the Sierra Nevada Foothills" about the early priests from Ireland, will conduct a Pioneer Mass at 9 am Saturday morning in Smartsville's 1871 church. Father Madigan's great uncle, Daniel O'Sullivan was one of the earliest priests to serve at the church of the Immaculate Conception in Smartsville. A film by the same name as Fr. Dan's book will be shown throughout the day in the church.

Many RHS members have been to Pioneer Day and know it is a lot of fun. Check it out the last Saturday in April! For more information, call 530 701-2639 .

Benches commemorate Club Español

By Shirley Corral Espley

In the early 1900s, immigrants from Spain traveled by ship to America. They were in search of a better life. They were contracted to work in the farming industry of Hawaii. They worked hard and saved their money. After contracts were fulfilled, many Spanish immigrants continued on to California. Many families settled in the fruit farming communities of Placer County: Rocklin, Loomis, Penryn, and Newcastle. Stressing the ethics of hard work, many tilled the soil and established businesses. Friends and family always made time to gather together and celebrate their heritage. These early settlers never forgot their Spanish roots, but appreciated their new life in California.

It is the spirit and ethics of this remarkable group of immigrants that formed Club Español, in an effort to perpetuate their culture. Club Español was officially organized in 1981, with elected officers, by-laws, yearly dues, monthly meetings and many social events. Originally, there were more



Rest awhile on this beautiful bench at the Rocklin History Museum.

than 400 members. Membership was comprised of those who had been born in Spain, Hawaii and California. In the beginning, the club was referred to as Club Español of Rocklin.

Club Español had many wonderful years, spanning 1981-2018. Unfortunately, in later years membership dwindled, as the older generation of members passed on. It was agreed upon by the remaining members that the history of the club must be commemorated

somehow. It was decided that three inscribed granite benches be placed in the city of Rocklin, to perpetuate the history of Spanish immigrants.

One has been placed under the olive tree at Rocklin History Museum. Many of the club's members were also members of Rocklin's Historical Society. A second bench has been placed in Quarry Park, overlooking Quinn Quarry. The third bench can be found at Peter Hill

Heritage Park, next to the orchard on Front Street.

It is the hope of the club that these benches allow visitors a chance to enjoy the historic and beautiful landmarks our town has to offer for many years to come.



Left: One bench graces the entrance to the orchard next to the historic firehouse. Above: Another bench provides a view of Quarry Pond.

ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Spring 2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE

April 23, 2019, 6:00 pm
Ruhkala Award presentation
City Council Chambers

May 2, 2019, 12:00 am to 12:00 pm
Placer Community Foundation Big Day of Giving
Donations to RHS will be accepted on line or by mail.

May 9 - 12th, 2019
Kiwanis Community Festival at Johnson Springview Park
Volunteers are needed.

May 11, 2019, 11:00 am
Plaque dedication ceremony
Rocklin Train Depot

May 26, 2019, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Rocklin Historical Society Old Timers Homecoming Reunion
Rocklin Community Center - Springview Hall 4980 5th Street, Rocklin, \$15 Minimum Donation for light lunch. Call Gay Morgan for Reservations (916)24-2355 Volunteers needed for set-up and break down & clean up.

September 16, 2019, 6:00 pm
Rocklin Historical Society Potluck Dinner
Rocklin Community Center - Springview Hall 4980 5th Street, Rocklin
Bring a guest. Contact Susan Brookings or Gay Morgan for information (916)624-2355 Volunteers needed for set-up and clean up.

September 21, 2019
Hot Chili, Cool Cars sponsored by Rocklin Chamber of Commerce
Rocklin Road & Pacific Streets
Volunteers needed for AM set-up and late evening break down & clean up.

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.
Contact Joyce Marcroft (916)251-7054



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

Henry Lohse, President
Kathie Nippert, Vice President
Allegra Hakim, Secretary
Russ McNeill, Treasurer
Ronna Davis, Board member
Sally Huseby, Board member
Nancy Lohse, Board member
David Baker, Board member
Patsy Pattison, Board member
George Salgado, Board Member
Jim Hammes, Board member
Roy Ruhkala, President Emeritus

Big Day of Giving
May 2

Continued from Page 5

That quarry was probably the now trash-filled pit near the corner of Pacific Street and Farron street which, according to State of California records, is the oldest of Rocklin's 62 quarries. The quarry provided the railroad with granite blocks for culvers and chunks of waste granite, called riprap, for hillside railbeds that allowed water to pass easily under the tracks.

Two months after the legislators'

train trip, in June 1864, the Central Pacific published a time table which listed Rocklin as a passenger stop between Junction, now Roseville and Pino, now Loomis. That time table identified the Sacramento Union's unnamed spot as Rocklin. It was the earliest known use of Rocklin's name.

Rocklin's name probably originated in the Irish culture of Rocklin's earliest Euro-American settlers.

Irishmen were the most numerous of

the Argonauts who had sluiced for gold in Secret Ravine in the early 1850s and were probably on hand for granite industry work as the gold petered out.

They named their new home "rock" for the granite and the Gaelic "lin" for the pools of rainwater that accumulated in and around the quarry pits. Rock-lin is an apt description of Downtown Rocklin's water-filled quarry pits even today.