

# ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Save the  
Date!  
See pg. 16

## Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

Summer 2019

### President's Message

Hank  
Lohse

As we cruise into summer we have two important dates in July. First is "Best of the Best Award" to be presented on July 23rd in celebration of Rocklin History Museum being voted as 2019 Best Museum by the Placer Herald. Thanks to everyone that voted for our museum. We couldn't have done it without you!

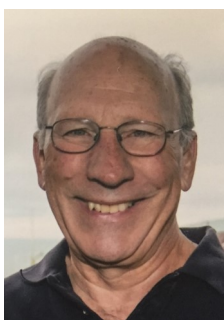
Second, the City of Rocklin has proclaimed Sunday, July 28th, as "Roy Ruhkala Day." The festivities will be at Quarry Park Adventures under the shade structure beginning at 11:30 A.M.. This will be open to the public and we invite everyone to attend to honor this great man.

Rocklin Historical Society volunteers have been busy. Again the Kiwanis put on the Community Festival and Carnival at Johnson-Springview Park in May. It was quite a success. Of course the historical society had a booth at the festival and saw many current members and even signed up some new members. Thanks to everyone that volunteered to man the booth and for the set up and take down.

On May 11th the Rocklin Historical Society celebrated the 150th anniversary of the 1869 instillation of the Golden Spike at Promontory Summit, Utah. A Plaque was unveiled at the Rocklin train station as the Rocklin High School Band entertained and Troop 29 did a presentation on the history of the great day. For more information refer to the Quarry Quarterly page 5.

The 'Big Day of Giving' was on May 2nd. The historical society received 27 donations which amounted to around \$2000. It was a little lower than last year but every bit helps the society reach their goals.

**See PRESIDENT on Page 17**



## RHS volunteers honored with Ruhkala Community Service Awards



Julia Shohbozian, Nancy Lohse and Jean Day were honored by the Rocklin City Council with the 2019 Ruhkala Community Service Awards

### By Gloria Beverage

Three Rocklin Historical Society members, a longtime city employee and a business were recipients of Ruhkala Community Service awards in April. Created to honor longtime community leaders Roy and Peggy Ruhkala, the annual awards celebrate exemplary community service efforts by residents and businesses.

"The city of Rocklin is the great place it is today to raise a family and run a business because of many factors, the most important of those being the willingness of the constituents to roll up their sleeves and work to give back," stated Jerry Mitchell, chairman of the City's Community Recognition Committee.

This year's champions are Rocklin Historical Society members Nancy Lohse, Jean Day and Julia Shohbozian, former city employee Mark Reimer and the Rocklin business, Bach to Rock.

### Nancy Lohse

Nancy Lohse, recipient of the 2019



Nancy receives her award from Councilmember Bill Halldin

Individual Ruhkala Award, began supporting the Rocklin Historical Society while a third-grade teacher for the Rocklin Unified School District. She initially launched the third-grade coin drive to help fund efforts to save Old St. Mary's Chapel. After the historic building was relocated on Front Street, the coin drive continued, re-

**See RUHKALA AWARDS on Page 6**



# Ruhkala: Heart and soul of a small community

By Gloria Beverage

Roy Ruhkala's legacy embodies the heart and soul of a small community.

Born to Finn immigrants in 1919, Ruhkala's childhood was spent around the granite quarries owned and operated by his family, particularly the Capitol Quarry (more recently known as the Big Gun Quarry).

As he grew into adulthood, so did Rocklin. It was a time when the residents pitched in whenever and wherever they were needed.



**Roy and Margaret in 1929**

Ruhkala. "It comes back to integrity and doing the right thing. It's about doing the right thing when nobody is looking."

While Ruhkala spent his days operating the Ruhkala Monument Co. in Sacramento, his evenings and weekends were devoted to his family and hometown.

He served for 10 years on the Rocklin City Council (at the time when Sunset was annexed into the city), seven terms on the Rocklin School Board (advocating for the building of Rocklin High School), the Placer County Water Agency board and the American River Authority.

"It was that kind of community," explained his daughter, Royce Ann Burks.

"Everybody had to be involved." For nearly 60 years, Ruhkala and his wife, Peggy, were at the forefront of efforts to ensure the city's present was protected, its future was carefully planned, and its history preserved.

"He was community service oriented," recalled his son, Paul

He was a charter member of the Rocklin Lions Club and served as a leader with Boy Scout Troop 29.

No task was too big or too small, including organizing countless bake sales to benefit Rocklin schools.

"He felt like he had to give back to the community," said Burks, adding her parents would encourage their friends and neighbors to pitch in. "They made it fun."

His father's proudest accomplishment, noted his son, was the establishment of the Rocklin History Museum. After founding the Rocklin Historical Society along with City Council member Marie Huson, Gene Johnson, Gay Morgan and Carol and John Peterson, Ruhkala began lobbying the city in 1989, asking for the creation of a museum as a way to create a bridge between Rocklin's past and its future residents.

After he successfully negotiated the purchase of the Moon residence (at the corner of Rocklin Road and San Francisco Street) for the city, Ruhkala enlisted the support of the Rocklin Lions Club, who worked side by side with Historical Society members to paint, repair and refurbish the house and garden.

As work on the building progressed, memorabilia donated by longtime residents or their families began filling the main floor and a smaller detached building on the grounds.



**Roy Ruhkala with dogs**



**Touring his property, 2005**



**Ruhkala's granite wasn't just for buildings and monuments!**



**Griffith Quarry park dedication, 1981**

*Continued on page 3*





**Taking out the school cornerstone before the building was demolished in 1981**

Ruhkala's personal collection of granite quarry mining tools and equipment fills the basement, while some of the larger pieces have been placed in the garden.

A treasure trove of memorabilia, photographs and tools, the museum envisioned by Ruhkala pays tribute to the industries that drew people to the area: granite quarries, the Transcontinental Railroad and ranches.

Ruhkala's passion for preserving the city's history gained momentum in the 1960s and 1970s when he began soliciting historic photographs from longtime residents for display during the annual "Old Timers" picnic/reunions. Although he collected pieces of Rocklin's history for nearly 50 years, Ruhkala gathered memories of the community's rich history throughout his life.

He could share stories of residents and events as well as dates with nearly encyclopedic precision, noted his son.

His children recall with fondness the family's camping, hunting and fishing trips.

Ruhkala drew on his studies of forestry to make sure everyone – boys and girls – knew how to respect the outdoors, how to set up camp and clean up afterwards.

"He was a teacher. The girls had to do the same tasks as the boys," Burks explained with a laugh. "He was all about equal opportunities."

And he taught his children other valuable life lessons.

"Think carefully before you speak," Paul remembers his father telling him. "If you're going to get up in public, you'd better think about what you're going to say. Sometimes you can't take it back.

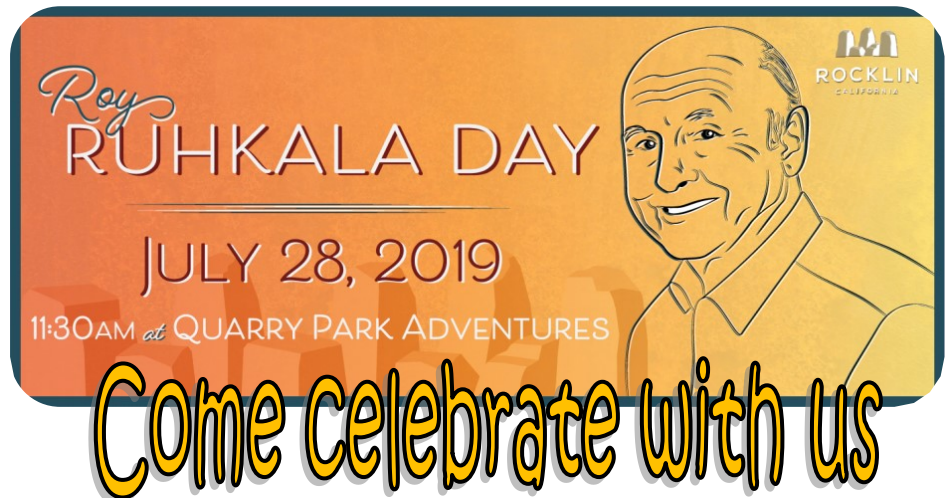
Don't make derogatory remarks about someone else's idea."

The lessons she learned from her father were to be true to herself and have pride in what she did. Most importantly, he urged her to avoid holding grudges.

"He was the salt of the earth – very grounded," recalled Burks.

Ruhkala died March 28, 2019 – just six months shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Perhaps the following quote from Abraham Lincoln best sums up the legacy left by Roy Ruhkala. *"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it is the life in our years."*



**Roy with Ruth Ruhkala Williams, Ben Ruhkala and Ruben Ruhkala at the dedication of Ruhkala Park, 2004**



**Roy presents a check for \$5.00 to then mayor George Magnuson for museum lease, June 26, 2001**





# Annual Homecoming Reunion Luncheon

By Gay Morgan

Rocklin's annual homecoming reunion was held this year on May 26, at the Community Center at Johnson Springview Park. This tradition has been going on for many years, no one is sure how many. We know that it originally was an outdoor event at the Mame and Ernest Willard home. When it became too large for that property, sometime in the early 50's, Roy and Peggy Ruhkala hosted the party. Later it moved to the Finn Hall and subsequently to the Spring View Park Community Hall, where it was held, as always.

Roy always had very definite ideas about just what should take place. "No politics, no speeches. Visit, laugh and enjoy old friendships. The coffee should be hot and there must always be a hot dish."

So that's what we did to honor Roy who passed away earlier this year

Susan Brooking was the chairperson with lots of help from other Historical Society members, Members Lisa and Randy Peters catered the buffet which was delicious as always. (Yes, there were several hot dishes,) Because we recently celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad, the tables were adorned with red bandanas, railroaders caps and golden spikes.

No complaints were heard. There was a lot of laughing, hugging and picture taking.

Sound like fun? Come join us next year.



**ABOVE:** Karen Lokey and Marie Stone welcome guests at the check-in table.

**BELOW:** Dan Gayaldo, City council member Jill Gayaldo, Susan Brooking and Gay Morgan enjoy reminiscing.



**RHS president Hank Lohse and event chairperson Susan Brooking peruse the buffet table laden with delicious dishes from Randy Peters Catering.**



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](http://www.placercf.org).

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

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









## Ruhkala awards

sulting in the purchase and placement of the granite water feature in the patio and funding the placement of historic plaques throughout the city.

"When Nancy retired from teaching, we gratefully accepted her talents and dedication to the Rocklin Historical Society," said past president Kathie Nippert.

Since then, Lohse has been volunteering as a docent leading tours of third graders through the Rocklin History Museum. She also organized an essay contest for students who participate in the tour, giving prizes to the best essay writers in each class.

She oversees events at Old St. Mary's Chapel – working with a group of volunteers who meet brides and families, then clean up the chapel, restrooms and firehouse following weddings and funerals.

As a member of the board of directors, Lohse suggested the Society give back to the community by presenting three \$500 scholarships each year to area high school seniors expressing an interest in history, Nippert explained. Lohse oversees the selection and presentation to the winners.

Her energy isn't limited to the Historical Society, either. She has volunteered with Run Rocklin for the past 15 years and coordinates an annual toy drive at Valley View School to benefit the Placer County Receiving Home.

"There is so much power packed into this lady," Nippert said. "I swear she can convince the sun to shine on a rainy day. I know her dream is to build a barn on Front Street to display farm implements and rent it out for meetings and receptions. I have no doubt we will see this happen – and soon."

### Jean Day

Jean Day, recipient of the 2019 Pioneer Ruhkala award, has been one of the driving forces – perhaps the heart – of the many volunteers who have contributed to the preservation of Rocklin's history, including the creation of the Rocklin History Museum and the renovation of Old St. Mary's Chapel.

After retiring from her job as a medical assistant with Kaiser in 2001,



**Jean Day, accepting her award from Councilmember Ken Broadway**

Day joined her husband, Gary, who was assisting Rocklin Historical Society co-founder Gene Johnson open a history museum.

During the transformation of the historic Moon House into the Rocklin History Museum, Day became one of the most enthusiastic demolitionists with numerous cuts and bleeding arms as proof of her efforts, recalled Johnson.

Once the museum was created, the need for an archivist – someone willing to organize documents and photos stored at the museum – became Day's mission. She started out scanning photos and documents into the computer and creating binders documenting various topics, including pioneer family histories. In the process, she became an expert on the Joel Parker Whitney family history and was "adopted" by the family – attending the Whitney families' annual picnic at the iconic pyramid/mausoleum.

Her research skills didn't stop with the Whitney family, however. Day often helped descendants of Rocklin pioneers trace their family history.

"I would characterize Jean as at the ready – ready with a smile – to help the community members research their family histories," stated former Rocklin History Society president Dr. James Carlson in an earlier interview. "She is dedicated."

### Julia Shohbozian

Recipient of the 2019 Youth Ruhkala Award is 20-year-old Julia Shohbozian.

"I first met Julia when she dropped off some Starbucks for her friend, Emalie Hopping, when we were docents at the Rocklin History Museum," re-

called former Rocklin History Society President Kathie Nippert. "She was very interested in history and loved stopping by the museum when her friend was volunteering."

Shohbozian was awarded a scholarship from the Society when she graduated from Sierra Collegiate Academy the following year, Nippert continued.

That summer she became a docent at the museum and joined the Chapel committee. She designed and sewed a costume to join the Suffragettes parades and participated in the "Voices of the Passed" living history cemetery tours where members portray historically influential Rocklin residents, Nippert added.

She plays a key role in the organization of the Society's Rocklin Speakers Series – designing advertising and introducing the guest speakers.

A junior at William Jessup University, Shohbozian is employed at Pottery World.

"Her youthful enthusiasm gives us hope for the future of Rocklin and keeping our history alive for those who come after," Nippert concluded.

While the youth award is traditionally given to an individual 18 years old



**Julia receives her award from Mayor Joe Patterson**

or younger, the committee decided to recognize Shohbozian's accomplishments and continued commitment to the community and city over the past four years.

### Mark Reimer

Mark Reimer, recipient of the 2019 Pioneer Ruhkala award, "was the leader and creative mind that literally created our parks and recreation pro-

*See RUHKALA AWARDS on Page 7*



# Fix It Team Update



By Jim Hammes

The Fix It Team has been quite busy and active over the last Quarter.

We continue to meet weekly on Tuesday mornings at Oracle for Breakfast and our Team Meeting.

We might mention that Breakfast is open to any and all who might like to join us.

Here is a brief recap of our activities to date. Please note that they are not limited to those noted here but remain active along with any new tasks that might come up or referred to the Fix It Team from the RHS council at large.

- Museum Work Day to finish up on the “To Do” list for the items we addressed as needing attention
- Chapel Patio Project that included the Buffing – Scrubbing and Power Washing of the cement flooring and added lighting

## Some projects completed included:

## Some Future Projects we are working on include:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader Tile Art to be mounted on the Chapel ramp walk at the rear of the Chapel next Quarter
- Roundhouse Walk Event to celebrate the 150 year anniversary of the Trans Con Railroad which we are planning to schedule some time in the early fall
- The Plaque Installation for the Alexson Wickman Quarry site hopefully in August
- Corp Yard tagging of items to catalog the Important artifacts from various sites so as to protect them for future use and displays as needed in the future in the next Quarter
- On going Plaque Development and Video Series as related to the history of Rocklin.

Finally, the Fix It Team is always in need of and would welcome anyone who would like to join or participate as their time and schedules might permit as an active member of our Team.

It is our ultimate goal to Grow and Work in the ideal that there is ... NO – I – in Team ... but that of a collective and satisfying outcome to our efforts to support the RHS and our fair city ...



The Fixit Team is NOT just a handyman group. Besides taking care of maintenance issues, they plan and implement a large variety of RHS activities. Just take a look at the future projects they are working on! They are always 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 every Tuesday at 7:30 am at the Oracle café, or you can contact Jim Hammes at [jimhammes@yahoo.com](mailto:jimhammes@yahoo.com)

## RUHKALA AWARDS

grams and lead the way in creating and implementing a plan to add an amazing 30 parks during his tenure in Rocklin,” said Rocklin City Council member Jill Gayaldo.

As the Director of Community Services and Facilities for the city of Rocklin for 26 years, Reimer was the leader in negotiations to double the size of Johnson Springview Park, which Gayaldo described as “a pretty incredible accomplishment.”

He also oversaw the maintenance of various city buildings and facilitated agreements that allowed limited cell towers on Rocklin park land. The hundreds of thousands of dollars in City revenues generated annually support vital public services.

A long-term volunteer and coach for both Tri-City Little League and the Rocklin Soccer Club, he helped raise approximately \$150,000 for school programs and non-profits leading committees for the Rocklin High School Booster Club and the Rocklin Mayor's Cup golf tournaments, including two benefitting the Rocklin Friends of the Library.

“Mark Riemer played a vital role in the Rocklin Friends of the Library's two golf tournament fundraisers,” said former Friends President Getta Dolinsek. “He not only acquired most of the attendees, but also procured the major sponsors along with organizing the event.”

Reimer's enthusiasm and fundraising knowledge helped the Rocklin Friends raise more than \$25,000 to benefit the Rocklin Library, Dolinsek added.

Riemer now works as a substitute teacher for the Rocklin Unified School District and continues to volunteer within the community.

He serves on the board of the Newcastle, Rocklin, and Gold Hill Cemetery District; volunteers for the Home Aid Golf Tournament; and is a member of the volunteer grant committee for the Arts Council of Placer County.

## Bach to Rock Music Academy

Bach to Rock, recipient of the 2019 Business Ruhkala Award, has been a member of the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce since opening for business in 2016.

“Since their first day in Rocklin,” said Robin McConnell-Trimble, CEO of the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce, “they have been involved and have led the way in being part of the fabric of the community. They have weaved music into every corner of our city – from school functions to Hot Chili and Cool Cars.”

In addition to supporting fundraisers, the business brings music to multiple Rocklin elementary school dances, carnivals, fun runs and family fun nights as well as during the school district's RUSD Rocks event.

The business has managed the sound system for the Rocklin Public Safety volunteers' annual Patriot's Day event.

Bach to Rock also donates to the chamber's annual Adopt-A-Family program and hosts the Sunrise with the Chamber networking event.

“The team at Bach to Rock has been an amazing partner and are so deserving of the Ruhkala Award,” McConnell-Trimble concluded.



# Rip Rap with Gay Morgan

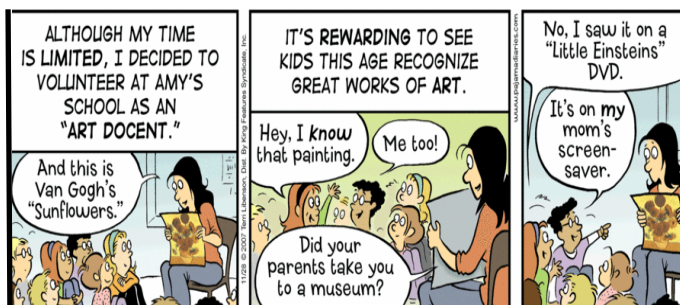
The month of May was very busy for our special docents who guide the Third Graders through The Rocklin History Museum. As you already know, Third Graders in the Rocklin Unified School District study their home community. Most of this group are retired teachers and we are so pleased to have them.

Guided tours are also available for adult groups of at least ten or more. There is no charge but donations are gratefully accepted. Call Gay Morgan at 916-624-2355 (not too early please.)

Two adult groups visited the Museum in June, seniors from the new Ansel Park facility and the fun loving Red Hat Ladies.

Summer is the time for family vacations, fun trips to new locations, entertaining out of town visitors, mountain cabins or those by the shore. But with all this going hither thither and yon, it makes it difficult to fill the docent calendar, especially if a month has five weeks.

Summer is also a great time for the Museum to feature some of your prized collections. In the past we have shown Writing Instruments, Bells, Snoopy, China and beautiful linens, Old Mining Memorabilia, Hummel figurines and Houdini related objects.



There have been others but space is limited. If you have a Collection you would like to share for a month or so, call Gay Morgan 916-624-2355 (not too early please)

Docents work in pairs at the Museum on Sundays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. We REALLY need some new help. Maybe one shift a month. Maybe an occasional substitute. It is fun, you don't have to be a Historian! We will train you and put you to work with an experienced Docent. Try it, you might like it. Call Gay Morgan at 916-624-2355 (not too early please)

## A SPECIAL DAY

Slowly waking up, glancing at the clock—thinking what day is it? Remembering it's Saturday—so no hurry. Oh, it's the first of June, a special day in my memory.

Having lived in Rocklin for all but the first three years of my life, I have accumulated quite a list of addresses. On two occasions I have lived near Rocklin Road on that special day.

It is early, very early in the morning, and it is just getting light; a cool breeze lazily moves the bedroom curtains. I open my eyes and wonder why I am waking before the alarm goes off. Then I hear it. It sounds far away, sort of a low murmur and something musical too. It takes a while to realize that I am hearing cattle mooing and many cowbells softly ringing. Then there are voices, loudly shouting commands.

Quickly I throw on some clothes and hurry down to Rocklin Road. Here they come—a herd of red-brown healthy-looking cows is meandering down the road urged on by real cowboys, and sometimes cowgirls too. They didn't look like movie cowboys; they were real working people. There are a couple of black and white long-haired dogs nipping at the slow pokes.

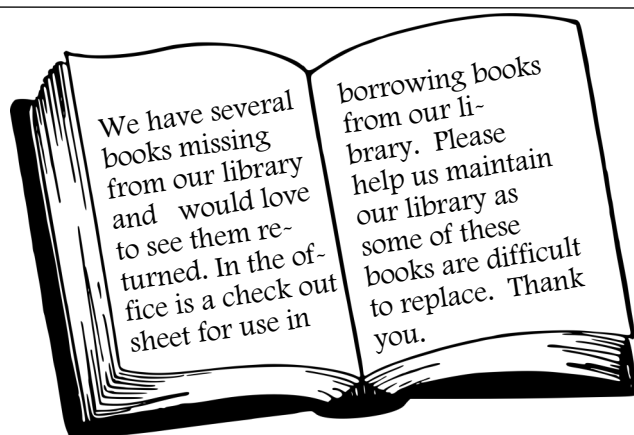


It takes quite a while for them all to pass by. There wasn't much dust because the road was paved and the air was cool, but the road was getting very messy, (I never stayed long enough to see who cleaned up after them).

For some reason, the cattle drive just made me happy. I know there were those who viewed it as a dirty, noisy, smelly inconvenience, but to me it seemed like a magical glimpse back into the history of our town.

The herd continued on their trek, and sometimes they would drive them all the way up Highway 40 to their winter pasture in the mountains. Cars just had to wait for them. Other times they would just go to the corral near Midas and Pacific to be put on a train.

This very special happening went on well into the 50's. I can still imagine the sights and sounds of those special June first mornings.



Join us as we help celebrate....





## By Charlene Rhodes

On Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Rocklin History Museum participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Trail Museums Tour. A fun time was enjoyed by adults and children. The children were invited to take part in a scavenger hunt, which provided many laughs as they looked for the items. All received a stamp on their Heritage Trail cards and at the end of the event, in September, if they fill their card they will be entered into a contest for prizes.

The granite splitting demonstration is always a crowd pleaser. Paul Ruhkala, who is carrying on the tradition started by his father, Roy, entertained everyone with local granite history as he was splitting the granite.

Also, this is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the transcontinental railroad and we were honored to have on display a representation of Rocklin and Roseville, circa, 1869. Rocklin's depiction includes the roundhouse and first operating quarry. This wonderful display was designed and built by the Roseville Roundhouse Model Association, jointly supported by Rocklin History Museum and Roseville Historical Society.

Heritage Trail 2019 continues until September 7<sup>th</sup>, stop by the museum and pick up your Trail Calendar. There are 26 museums opening their doors for visitors this year.



**THE HERITAGE TRAIL**  
Placer County Museums Tour



Paul explains the process as a fine crack is visible and the granite begins to split



The Rocklin side of the double-sided model, currently on display at the Roseville History Museum

RANDY PETERS  
CATERING & EVENTS  
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT.





I was somewhere between the age of 5 and 10 – the years circa 1944. Our near neighbors included the Allens, the Moores and Mrs. Scribner – all were retired. Mrs. Scribner lived in the large Victorian house on our side of 5<sup>th</sup> Street (now Patrice Cardott's home). Mr. and Mrs. Moore lived in the Queen Ann style house with the round front and pointy spire (now George & Kim Salgado's home). The Allens lived in a newer house about 500 feet North of our home.

Mrs. Scribner and Mrs. Moore made really good cookies - I visited them frequently. I remember little of Mrs. Scribner but my first job, that lasted on and off for several years, was for her son, Howard, at Scribner's gas station, bus stop and appliance store. Her grandson, also Howard, headed the chamber of commerce and as an active member of the historical society arranged RHS bus trips to the *historic* Reno casinos.

**The Moores.** Matt Moore had been the Rocklin Stationmaster for the Southern Pacific Railroad. I am not sure, but judging from her appearance and demeanor, Mrs. Mollie Moore must have been a school teacher. On Sundays Mollie was the organist at St. Mary's Catholic church. The Moores had one son, Norton, who became a noted Aeronautical Engineer.



Mrs. Mollie Moore, left, and Mrs. Helena Allen

## Remembering Neighbors at 5<sup>th</sup> St and Rocklin Road



Ford Model A

Norton was among the California Institute of Technology scientists that established the Jet Propulsion Laboratory which, in turn, spawned our Aerojet Corporation. Norton, Ruben Rukhala and I had a couple of things in common: we all attended Sacramento Junior College and we all had the same Physics Professor - the feared Clarence Nash.

My only recollections of Mr. Moore are that drove a Ford Model A and that he helped me fix a bicycle tire flat. Mrs. Moore drove a grey Plymouth. Advanced in age she became very hard of hearing. She would rev the engine up until, finally, she could hear the engine; pop the clutch and rocket backwards out of her garage onto 5<sup>th</sup> Street. I remember lying on the back seat of that Plymouth gazing at clouds as Mrs. Moore and Dad rushed me to a Sacramento hospital with a bone cut injury earned by stepping in front of our field mower.

When Mrs. Moore passed away, my parents purchased the Moore house and contents. A number of items were subsequently donated to the Rocklin History Museum: Dining room table, Haviland China, Norton's baby chair and bed, books; Matt, Mollie and Norton memorabilia – including images of the Moore's grand trip to Europe in 1938.

**The Allens:** It is said that George and Helena met at the 1915 Pan-Pacific Exposition when they sent messages to

one another at a Telegraph demonstration. The Allens lived in a nicely landscaped property and for good reason: George Allen had retired from the Stanford University landscape staff. Helena Allen attended art school in San Francisco and always enjoyed painting, in Rocklin she had a special building devoted to her hobby.

Helena, nee Nelson, was raised in Rocklin and had two sisters that lived in Rocklin. One sister, Tinnie Nelson was an actress and appeared in plays at Rocklin's Porter's Hall circa (1897). Married, Tinnie lived in a house at the corner of San Francisco and Pine Streets. Tinnie's husband Mr. Kuchmeyer was a sheet metal worker



who loved tinkering; his creations included an ingenious "perpetual motion" apparatus that, like others, in the absence of friction may have worked – we will never know. Helena's

**See NEIGHBORS on Page 11**



## NEIGHBORS

other sister was married to a Mr. Flaherty who worked in the office of a Sacramento Oil Company – he commuted in his 1941 Packard Motor Car.

George and Helena Allen had one son who passed away at the age of 10. I remember meeting George Allen one time: he showed his accumulation of gadgets and miscellaneous hardware –

perhaps this led to my practice of “never throwing it out”. George’s sister was the wife of San Francisco’s popular 1930’s mayor, Angelo Rossi. I remember a trip to San Francisco to collect a bed from the Rossi home. The bed was available, and Mrs. Allen thought my parents should have it. Turned out the best part of the trip was the scenery. Years later the nondescript bed was moved on in an RHS yard sale.



**Gene with his dog Shep in front of his dad’s 1938 Chevy with a “truck” bed in the back for delivering milk.**

Mrs. Allen had a significant impact on my life, she gave me piano lessons – and determined I was better at tinkering – and she asked a question that changed me. Uncle Pat had given me a pellet gun and I shot sparrows. Mrs. Allen asked “why are you shooting birds” – I couldn’t come up with a good reason and stopped for life. Subsequently Uncle Pat borrowed the gun – I never saw it again.

Widowed, Mrs. Allen purchased a lot next to our home and had a small house built where she lived for number of years. She inherited Flaherty’s Packard and passed her Model A on to our family.

Mrs. Allen’s penchant for painting did not stop at the easel, she also repainted her Model A - with a brush. After their passing my parents purchased Helena’s and Tinnie’s houses and their contents. Samples of Mrs. Allen’s art and Tinnie Kuchmeyer’s mandolin have been donated to the museum. Mr. Flaherty’s 1941 Packard sits in our garage waiting resurrection.

## Boys of Summer



**Local baseball stars. In 1916, the Placer Herald printed news that uniforms for Del Alexson’s team’s had just arrived, a “very natty gray with green trimmings.”**

In 1869, just four short months after the driving of the golden spike, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, championship baseball team of the day, made the first commercial transcontinental railroad trip to San Francisco to trounce the San Francisco Eagles 46 to 14.

Popularity of this sport, and the formation of baseball leagues spread like a California wildfire throughout Northern California. By 1894 Rocklin had its own baseball team and was holding games on a lot between High and North Grove. They played teams from Auburn, Loomis, Lincoln, Ophir, Roseville, and all points in between.

In 1898, a new diamond was built inside the 1/2 mile racetrack. Here, they had the luxury of a 2-story grandstand, and many fans who would make

a day of it watching a game in the morning and horseracing in the afternoon. They remained at the racetrack until 1911.

Play continued through the years with different Rocklin teams and locations. Then in 1927, pioneer Uno Hebuck organized a new team. From his memoirs: “It was a lot of hard work. A public dance for the benefit of the hall was held in the new Pleasure Hall, which netted about \$500. This writer, along with other players, laid out a ball diamond in back of Pleasure Hall, cleaned out a lot of stones, a netting backstop, also small bleachers. Placer Nevada Baseball League accepted the team—it was called the Owls. Played the years 1927-1928-1929; always ended up second, just couldn’t win the pennant.” In a March, 1933 issue of The Press Tribune, this article appeared:



**The Owls. Front L to R: Stanley Cain, ?, Bob Plo, Arvo Minkkinen, Sulo Hebuck, Larry Hendrickson, Alex Haggman, Emil Suhonen. Back: Wayne Minkkinen, Dave Roderick, Alex Alexson, Steve Sulo, ?, Uno Hebuck, Toivo Niskala**

Under the management of Harvey Hebuck, The Rocklin Cubs defeated Loomis Maradoes to the tune of 19 to 6. A home run and good pitching by G. Ruhkala, Rocklin pitcher, were the main features of the game.

A benefit dance for the Rocklin Cubs will be held Sunday night in the Temperance Hall. Harvey Hebuck and his six-piece Sunset Orchestra will furnish the music. Admission will be 25 cents, ladies free.

The Owls had many good players over the years, including Pete Moon, whose family’s home became the Rocklin Historical Society. Pete went on to become quite an important WWII hero, receiving a silver medal for his bravery behind enemy lines in the Philippines. Baseball teams in Rocklin have

See BOYS OF SUMMER pg. 17



## Old Saint Mary's Chapel News

By Nancy Lohse

When the chapel was first constructed in 1883, I bet few thought that 136 years later it would still be standing, let alone continuing to host community events. Keeping the chapel running takes a dedicated team of volunteers.

Besides the dedicated 'church ladies' who book and work weddings and help with memorials, others keep the place looking beautiful. The Fix-it team is in charge of repairing and maintain of the building. Sally Huseby does a wonderful job of keeping the landscaping looking pristine. Neighbors take

out the garbage and even spend time picking up garbage at the park. It truly takes a village to make our chapel a stand out!

One of the creative art carts that are being placed around Rocklin has been installed in front of the firehouse. Please stop by and check it out. How wonderful to be so talented! We are open Wednesdays from 5-7. Please come visit! While you are there, visit the community garden down the street from the chapel. The fruit is there for Rocklin citizens to pick and enjoy! If you are interested in helping at the chapel, please email me at [oldstmaryschapel.com](mailto:oldstmaryschapel.com).

We love volunteers!



Grapes surround the community garden, which also houses apple, peach, and plum trees, representing the fruit growers in the area.

Artist Ritu Atwal (shown here with council member Ken Broadway) created the ore cart for the "Off the rails" project sponsored by the Arts Council of Placer County and The City of Rocklin that was installed in front of Old St. Mary's.

Inspired by the history of Rocklin, the piece depicts the landmark buildings and quarries of Rocklin, set against a background of greenery and trees.



## Hot Chili & Cool Cars



By Kathie Nippert

Spicy, mild, all-bean, no-bean, vegan, secret family-recipe-handed-down-through-the-generations... How do you Chili? September 21, 2019 will mark Rocklin Chamber's 26th Annual Hot Chili & Cool Cars and the Rocklin Historical Society has had a booth at the event for 20 years!

South Placer's largest one-day event truly offers a day of fun for everyone! There's a Classic Car Show, enthusiastic chili cooks, kids' area, live music at the main stage, and more!

This year's event again takes place on Rocklin Road and Quarry Park. The overall event footprint spans nearly 17 acres and will extend from Rocklin Road to Quarry Park Adventures. Rocklin Road will be closed from Pacific Street to Meyers Street to accommodate the event.

"We are very excited to enhance this year's event! The expanded event layout will allow all elements of the event to feel more cohesive," stated Tiffany Neilson, Chamber VP of Operations and Event Coordinator.

This annual gathering attracts over 12,000 attendees and is a great opportunity for the Historical Society to sign up new members and direct them to the Rocklin History Museum. If you would like to help out at our booth, please contact Hank Lohse or Charlene Rhodes.

  
Many Hands Make **Light** Work  
Please Volunteer!



# Jubilee Train – Time to Say Goodbye?

By Gene Johnson

A replica railroad engine based on the design of the C.P. Huntington was built in 1968 by the Rocklin Lions Club for the city's Diamond Jubilee celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 1893 incorporation of Rocklin and the 100th anniversary of the building of the Rocklin railroad roundhouse. It was known as the Rocklin Rattler.

Near the same time a motorized "trolley car" was built by the Lions Club and used in subsequent Jubilees. Components of both the engine and the trolley car were saved at Pete and Gene Gieck's venerable Deer Creek Lumber Company until they donated the items to the Rocklin Historical Society. In 2003 Society volunteers built a locomotive using the only remaining part of the original locomotive - the great funnel smokestack. The trolley



**The Jubilee Train in 1968—a parade crowd pleaser**



**The Rocklin Rattler—out to pasture**

ley car was refurbished (without its engine) to be drawn by the locomotive. The new "Jubilee Train" appeared a number of times for example: the 2003 Jubilee Parade; Kiwanis Festival parades celebrating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Rocklin in 1864; the 125th anniversary of the City's incorporation in 1893; Tree Lighting parades; the opening of the Quarry Adventure Park.

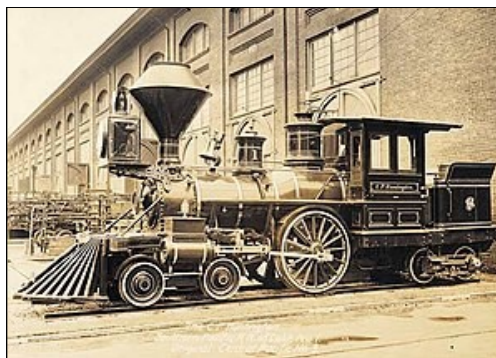
Our Jubilee Train brought smiles and waves as it passed spectators in a number of Rocklin Parades. And, when parked, its bell and whistle were enthusiastically operated by future railroaders while others bounced about and rocked the open sided passenger carriage. But it appears it is time to say goodbye. The Rocklin Jubilee is no more, the Festival Parade was canceled, the new Quarry Park Tree Lighting location does not work well as a parade venue as it necessitates different routes for the marching and motorized entries - aside from City vehicles, there was only one motorized entry last year. As a stationary outdoor exhibit, the train will not stand the weather; it is not durable enough to serve continuously as a play place.

At this juncture there no foreseeable long-term use for the Jubilee Train other than as a static exhibit of "folk art" protected from weather - and this does not appear to be in the offing. Barring a minor miracle the Jubilee Train's last appearance will be later this year at the roundhouse site followed by disassembly. Do you have a miracle?

## What was the C.P. Huntington?

This small steam locomotive was built for the Central Pacific Railroad in 1863. Shipped from New York around Cape Horn, it arrived in San Francisco, March 19, 1864, on board the "Mary Robinson." The railroad wanted to purchase a larger engine but because of the Civil War, the C. P. Huntington and its sister engine, the "T. D. Judah" were the only ones available.

The C. P. Huntington was used in the construction of the transcontinental railroad. In February 1871 it was transferred to the newly reorganized Southern Pacific Railroad and renumbered No. 1. It pulled local passenger trains on the Southern Pacific line between San Francisco, San Jose and Hollister, and was also used on maintenance and construction trains. The locomotive was involved in a head-on collision in 1872 that nearly destroyed it, but was re-



built in 1875 at the Southern Pacific San Francisco Shops. The C.P. Huntington finished its working career as a weed burner, clearing the track in the 1890s, and was officially retired in 1900.

From 1894 on, the C. P. Huntington became a symbol of Southern Pacific and was widely known from its many appearances in station openings and other railroad-related celebrations. It is now on display at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.



**Out in front of Old St Mary's Chapel sits this issue's Mystery Item. What is it? Could it be a stairway to Heaven? The name Downing is carved on the back. Was this Father Downing instead of Father Dowling?**

**For the real story, see page 16.**



# A moment in HERstory

*Interesting tales of women throughout Rocklin's history*

This is the first of a two-part "love letter" to Otilia Wickman (1878-1956) from grandson Doug Osella. A Moment in Herstory will be a continuing series in the Quarry Quarterly. If you know of someone who should be highlighted, please email Linda Wampler at [quarryquarterly@gmail.com](mailto:quarryquarterly@gmail.com)

Dear Grandma,

You passed away 63 years ago, but I still often think about you. You helped create a Finnish outpost in the dusty California quarry town of Rocklin, and that's an accomplishment worth remembering. You were well-acquainted with the commonplace things of Finnish-American life in the early part of twentieth century...and you certainly knew about hard work and tedium. But the day-to-day drudgery didn't dampen your love and resolve to serve your family and friends. It was in the daily grind that you excelled. Sadly, commonplace achievements such as yours are mostly forgotten in today's modern world.

The eight-room, white house

that stood elegantly on High Street, the two-story set behind the palms, was known as the Victor Wickman home. But it was your house, your palace, your refuge, and battleground. You were in charge of its maintenance and beautification, as well as the supervision of the young helpers...your five daughters. Your daughters say you practiced a special kind of magic in the house and garden. You created smoothness and tranquility of living for your family. The window panes sparkled like crystal; the sink and tub porcelain and fixtures shined. The floors were covered with hand-woven rugs. White lace curtains graced the windows.

Outside, you produced an oasis of beauty in the fierce sun. You used the big California sun to your advantage. Plant by plant you brought into being a haven for swallowtails and goldfinches. Diversification was your theme: cosmos, lilies, bougainvillea, lilacs, bear's breech...countless varieties. You planted, watered, and tenderly cared for them all. Color and pleasant smells delighted through the seasons. Church confirmation and school graduation classes sought out your yard for memorable photographs.

Even though it wasn't your favorite day of the week, laundry couldn't stand up to you on "blue Monday". You sorted, boiled, soaked, scrubbed, rinsed, blued,



**Otilia Hosunmaki Wickman was born in 1878 and grew up in Alavus, Vaasan Laani, Finland. Her mother told her to go to America because her cousin had found a good husband there. At age 23, she immigrated to Rocklin, California. While working for the A.O. Wickman household as a domestic, she met Victor Wickman, also a native of Finland. They were married in 1903 in Sacramento, California.**

wrung, and hung it all out on the clothes line to dry. Later, in the 1920s, Grandpa Victor purchased the modern Maytag Gyrofoam washer, the most popular washing machine in America at that time, and that amazing machine saved you some precious time.

Daily, you

*Continued on page 15*



**Otilia's Maytag Gyrofoam washer, which is now housed at the Placer County Museum in Auburn**



## Otilia Wickman

displayed your domestic expertise in ironing, folding, sewing, mending, canning, churning, making the beds upstairs and downstairs, sweeping, cleaning, weaving, feeding the chickens, gathering the eggs, and milking the cow.

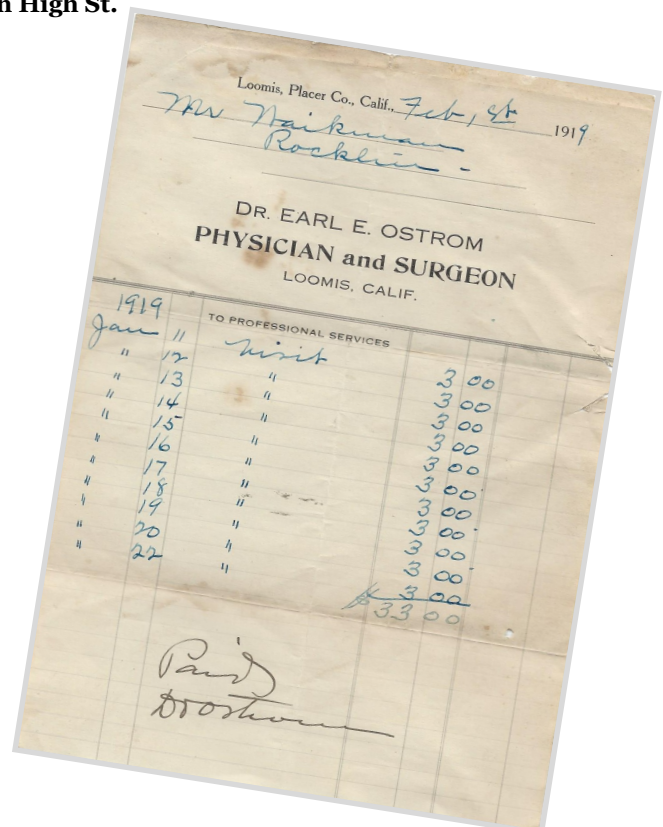
Today, we wring our hands about the threat of seasonal flu, but the worldwide influenza of your day, called the Spanish flu, was a disease that consumed untold numbers, maybe up to 750 thousand people in the USA and millions in the world; and it showed up as well in Rocklin in 1918-1919 to knock you down along with others in the town, nearly taking your life.

Your daughter, Ila, said you were sick for six weeks; that you lost most of your hair; and it never came back luxuriously. A doctor's receipt shows visits to your home for many days in a row. It was a crisis situation. Every family member pitched in to take care of the multitude of chores that had to be done to keep the household afloat. Besides the desperately sick mom (YOU), there was your youngest daughter, Ilona, to look after, barely two years old at the time.

And then there was the cow. She was another member of the family that needed attention. Grandpa Victor tried to milk her and couldn't get a drop. Your second oldest daughter, Jennie, was more successful and took over that chore. Ila walked her to pasture at the quarry site and back home every day. Goodness and mercy must have been following you because after many burdensome weeks, you recovered to the joy of your family, for sure. There were still many years of work waiting you on High Street.



**The Victor Wickman house on High Street, circa 1910. Note the gingerbread trim on the roof, similar to the gingerbread trim on the firehouse built in 1894. Otilia is standing behind the fence in the middle. Her husband, Victor, is on the right. Only two live palms and one tall dead stump are left to be seen today on High St.**



**TO BE CONTINUED...**





## *Save the Date*

Rocklin Historical Society

Presents the Annual

Fall Potluck & Social

Springview Hall Community Center

Monday, September 16, 2019 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

*Look for details on mid-August postcard.....*



## ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Summer 2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE

**July 28: Roy Ruhkala Day, 11:30,**  
Quarry Adventures Park

**September 14: American Heritage Festival, Johnson Springview Park, 9:00—3:00**

**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 Brook-  
ing 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 loca-  
tion to host your next event!

**Rocklin History Museum**  
Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays  
from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Docents always needed. For infor-  
mation call Gay Morgan at (916) 624-  
2355.

**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



**RHS Board of Directors**  
Second Monday of  
month at 6 p.m. at  
City of Rocklin,  
Parks and Rec-  
reation Building  
in Springview  
Park

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

**RHS Planning Meetings (Fix-It Team)**  
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**



## 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



(from page 13) This  
is a carriage step,  
which was in front  
of John Harry  
Downing's house on  
3rd Street. John



was a blacksmith, and later a team-  
ster and farmer. John was married to  
Sarah Ann Clayton, 19 years his jun-  
ior, who died in 1892. They had one  
son, Harold, who, after his mother's  
death was awarded custody to his  
uncle. He was living with his father  
by 1920 and working as a fireman for  
the railroad. John Downing died in  
1925. Ninety-three years later, Mi-  
chael Goodwin, current owner of the  
house, donated the step to RHS.

## PRESIDENT (cont'd from pg. 1)

Thanks to everyone who donated!

Memorial Day weekend we had the  
Old Timers Annual Rocklin Home Com-  
ing Reunion. There was a lot of good  
food and the meeting of old friends. Eve-  
ryone had a good time. A special thank  
you to Gay Morgan and Susan Brooking  
and helpers for putting this traditional  
event together!

Jumping into June, the museum  
hosted Heritage Trail Days. Again an-  
other great turnout from visitors  
throughout the county. A special thank  
you to Paul Ruhkala for his demonstra-  
tion on splitting granite. Impressive!  
Thank you to Charlene Rhodes for or-  
ganizing the day and making everything  
look easy.

The Speakers Series is on hiatus until  
this fall. We look forward to seeing who  
Patsy Pattison has lined up for us in Oc-  
tober!

The Fix-it Crew has a new leader, Jim  
Hammes. Gene Johnson will continue to  
keep his finger on the pulse of the crew-  
but the day to day operations will be  
handled by Jim. While I'm talking about

the Fix-it Crew, a reminder that any can  
join. We have a breakfast meeting every  
Tuesday morning at 7:30 A.M. at Oracle  
Cafeteria. Every second and fourth we  
usually have some work project, weather  
permitting. Come and join us!

WOW!! We have had quite a second  
quarter this year. No wonder it took me  
so long to write my President's Message.  
Looking up all those dates, remembering  
who did what! Looks like the rest of July  
and August will be a little slower pace.  
But get ready for September!

September 14th we will have a  
booth at the 'American Heritage Fes-  
tival' with the Ladies of the Passed  
back in costume. September 16th  
will be the annual Rocklin His-  
torical Society Pot Luck. More  
information will be coming on  
that.

September 21st we will have  
a booth at Rocklin's Hot Chili/  
Cool Cars event. Please let us  
know if you would like to help.  
Volunteers are the heartbeat of  
our organization!

## Boys of Summer cont'd from pg. 11

come and gone, but baseball will always be  
a prized sport in the hearts of Rocklinites.



Game playing behind Pleasure Hall, present day location  
(Pleasure Hall still standing)