

President's Message Hank Lohse



The lazy days of July and August turned into the crazy days of September.

While nothing was going on in July and August, September was jam packed with work and excitement. First we had the "American Heritage Festival" on Saturday the 14th. We staffed our pop-up tent and met history face to face in period dress. It was a little hot that day but we persevered.

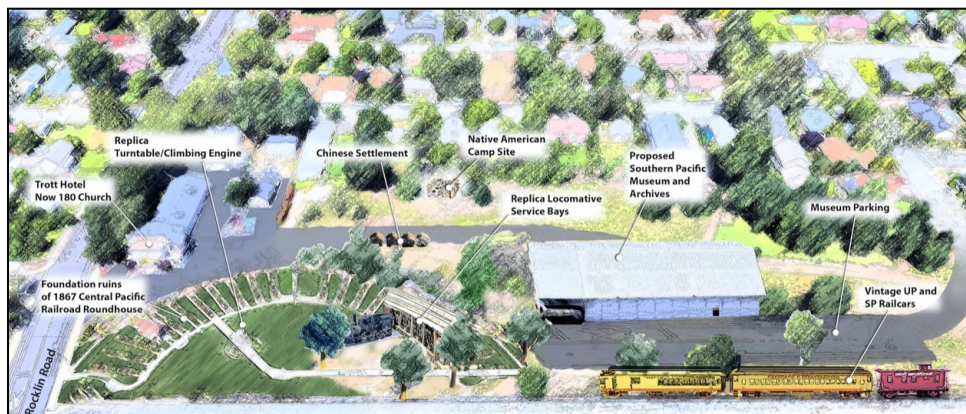
The dust had hardly settled from Saturday's show when RHS had its annual gourmet potluck dinner on Monday the 16th. Susan and Gay handled all the hard work and decision making and Karen and Marie, sitting at the front door, made sure everyone had a raffle ticket and a name tag. All went smoothly. Thanks, Gang!

A couple days later, on Saturday the 21st, the historical society participated in the annual 'Hot Chili and Cool Cars' event. We had a pop-up booth along with the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association and Scott Inman from the Southern Pacific Railroad Research Center. All three of us were promoting the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. We also took the opportunity to promote the Rocklin railroad roundhouse located by the 180 Church on Front Street by giving tours during Hot Chili/Cool Cars.

Joining us there was Ed Kornegay, a member of the Sacramento Valley Garden Railroad Society, displaying his model of a "Connie", a 2-8-0 Consolidation steam engine. Also included in his

(Continued on page 5)

Roundhouse site tours offered during Hot Chili and Cool Cars



Is this the future of the roundhouse at Heritage Park? Artist's conception, by Sam Craig

By Gloria Beverage

Front Street, Rocklin's original downtown district, is slowly coming to life.

Over the years, the Rocklin Historical Society has been instrumental in revitalizing the street, including the relocation and renovation of the historic Old St. Mary's Chapel and the building of a replica of the city's original Fire House and City Hall. The city followed with landscaping, an orchard, and dedication of Peter Hill Heritage Park.

Also, on Front Street is the rose garden, which marks what's left of Rocklin's railroad roundhouse built in 1867, noted Gene Johnson, longtime Rocklin resident and a founding member of the Rocklin Historical Society.

"The roundhouse area contains the only remaining structural evidence of the Central Pacific Railroad roundhouses and now is the site for a proposed museum dedicated to Southern Pacific Railroad history," he added.

During Rocklin's annual Hot Chili and Cool Cars celebration on Sept. 21, the Rocklin Historical Society hosted the second of two events marking the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Its first event was held at the Rocklin train de-

pot on May 11, the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 in Promontory, Utah.

Historical Society member Dr. Jim Carlson conducted several walking tours of the roundhouse site on Front Street throughout the day. He explained the historical significance of the railroad roundhouse as well as described the society's vision for preserving the original sites of Rocklin's Chinatown and Native American camp.

Ed Kornegay, a member of the Sacramento Valley Garden Railroad Society, displayed his model of a 2-8-0 Consolidation, also known as a "Connie" pulling a set of logging cars. Also, on display were models of the Roseville train station, water tower, coaling station as well as a Rocklin quarry building.

"The Rail of Two Cities," the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club's HO scale model recreation of Rocklin and Roseville at the time of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, was set up in the society's booth in Quarry Park.

In preparation for the event, a large contingent of volunteers, including members of Boy Scout Troop 29 and the Rocklin Historical Society, spent one day earlier in the month to clear-

(Continued on page 2)

Cont. from page 1

ing the roundhouse site and filling large containers with 109-cubic-yards of debris.

"The task would have been impossible without the generous donations of equipment and services by Rocklin United Rentals and Auburn-Placer Recology," said Johnson.

Scott Inman, president and chief executive officer of Southern Pacific Railroad History Center, was onsite sharing the non-profit's vision for a world-class history center.

While many of the United States' first railroads have museums dedicated to their preservation, the Southern Pacific Railroad (and its predecessor Central Pacific) does not have a dedicated facility celebrating its 158 years as an economic and political power, noted Inman.

In an effort to fill that gap, a group of committed railroad enthusiasts formed a committee in 2016 and submitted a concept plan for a history center to the city of Rocklin, which was approved. The non-profit was formed two years later with the vision of developing a railroad history center with support from the City of Rocklin, the Union Pacific Railroad, the Rocklin Historical Society and other sponsor-

ing organizations.

Construction of the 35,000 square foot pre-engineered steel fabricated building won't begin until negotiations for lease of two parcels of Union Pacific land are finalized.

"Depending on Union Pacific, we could start building next year," said the Elk Grove resident.

The center will be built using volunteer labor, donated materials and services, Inman said. Planned attractions include a model railroad diorama, exhibits featuring artifacts from Southern Pacific as well as collections currently owned by sponsoring organizations, a restored passenger car, archives for historic documents and artifacts as well as a gift shop.

Inman anticipates the center could draw as many as 50,000 visitors each year, including school groups, travelers, railroad enthusiasts and historians.



Left to right: Volunteers Ronna Davis, Linda Hammes, Charlene Rhodes and Shirley Espley visit with Shirley's granddaughter Madelyn Wilk.

The committee has already received pledges for construction materials, physical assets as well as financial contributions. A capital campaign will cover the remainder of the costs.

"A steering committee will support the volunteer board of the center and help to raise awareness in the community and bolster our capital campaign," he concluded "Anyone interested in joining the Steering Committee can contact me at tighttrains@hotmail.com."

A message from Scott Inman



This past Saturday, Jim Elliot and I promoted the organization and our plans to many people in Rocklin and the surrounding area. Jim manned the booth at City Hall which was at the center of the activity. I helped the Rocklin Historical Society give tours of the site and promote our vision for the future center. Ron Swehla, Mark Brown, and Bob Zenk (from Seattle) also attended.

It was incredible when I pulled into the Roundhouse Site on Saturday morning to find the hundreds of hours of volunteer labor the Rocklin Historical Society put into cleaning up the eucalyptus grove and Indian grinding rock site. Also to my amazement, the historical society unearthed a granite culvert, built by Chinese Laborers sometime after the Transcontinental Railroad was completed (ca.1870). The main theory is this was a former creek bed the Indians used next to their grinding rocks, and the water needed to be diverted. CP built a granite culvert which extended from Midas Road past the roundhouse and out to a

field further west. The society also put up two pop up tents with informational brochures and a large board showing an artist rendering of the site.

Ed Kornegay brought a diorama in F scale depicting garden size railroading. He and local resident Bill Iwan, who is a skilled craftsman modeler, have offered to lead the effort to develop a ride on train at the site. Many members of the public said they want something like a ride on train that will take them past the various exhibits. Bill has said he could create it to look much like the Thunder Mountain Railroad at Disneyland. I'll ask these fellows to provide some concept information to add into the master plan.

My sincere thanks to the Rocklin Historical Society for their invitation to attend the event, and our ties have grown stronger as a result. We must plan to participate in this event every year to showcase our progress and development. Perhaps next year we can show off SP-10.



Ed Kornegay's steam engine is a 2-8-0 Consolidation, also known as a "Connie". From its introduction in 1866 and well into the early 20th century, the 2-8-0 design was considered to be the ultimate heavy-freight locomotive. Its forte was starting and moving "impressive loads at unimpressive speeds." The railroads had found that the 2-8-0 could move trains twice as heavy at half the cost of its predecessors. The rail cars are typical of a logging operation. California logging railroads were some of the most prolific operations found anywhere in the west.

Take the tour!

Follow along on Dr. Jim Carlson's guided tour

1. Rocklin roundhouse (1867-1908) site at Rocklin Road and railroad tracks now built over as a city park with rose gardens planted in historic bays.



12. Trott's Hotel plaque



13. Transcontinental railroad plaque placed near intact granite foundation in 1969 -the Centennial year by the Placer County Historical Society.



2. Turntable replica with a plaque dedicated by the city.

11. Site of Chinese settlement with houses identified from 1875 map. Ginger pot found at site by neighbor Tully Brackett.



9. Native American camp (c. 1000 - 1850) with bedrock mortars.



10. 19th-century storm drains/ granite culverts recently uncovered.



3. Center of original roundhouse turntable. The roundhouse was semicircular.



4. Sixteen cords of wood were required to power engines to ascend the Sierra summit. To illustrate, here was the frame of just one cord (8'x4'x4')



5. Eucalyptus groves likely planted by the Southern Pacific Railroad.

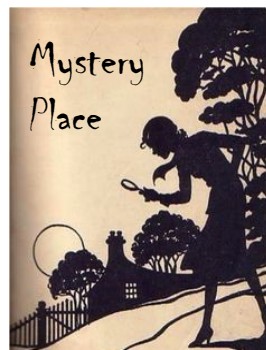


6. Locomotive boiler foundation providing steam power to machine shops.



7 & 8. Site of 19th-century cattle corral and loading platform (1869 - 1908). Not only did the Transcontinental make the cattle business possible, but also the shipment of granite and fruits and vegetables from the area. These along with the railroad itself became the mainstays of the Rocklin economy into the 20th century.

8. Location of the Southern Pacific museum and archives (proposed site)



This issue's mystery is a place. Do you know where to find this wheel? Answer on page 14.

Bonus: who is in our vintage title above?

RHS named Best of the Best!



Rocklin Historical Society was honored as Rocklin's best museum at the Best of the Best awards celebration held at Strikes Unlimited on September 23. Representing RHS to receive the award were Charlene Rhodes, President Hank Lohse and museum curator David Baker.

As President Hank Lohse said, "Congratulations to all the members of the Rocklin Historical Society of our deserved win as "Best of the Best" by the readers of the Placer Herald in the "Best Museum" category.



David Baker looks on as a young Sac Freedom Run participant chats with Abraham Lincoln at the American Heritage Festival held on Sept. 13-14.



Freedom of the press, revolutionary style



While not working at the booth, Ronna Davis was able to tour the site, capturing scenes of the camp, nestled among the oaks at Springview Park. Historical reenactors from the Mayflower to the Civil War retold stories and demonstrated the arts, crafts and sciences of the period.



RHS volunteers Jerry Mitchell, Linda Wampler and Ronna Davis meet with Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Ed Lawsen.



Celebrating the Alexson-Wickman Quarry

By Doug Osella

In a newly developed residential tract just off Winding Lane, there is a pond of greenish water more than half covered on the surface with algae and enclosed on the perimeter by a tall iron fence. A casual passerby might stop and wonder about the origin of this body of water because of its appearance of a well-worn past. The casual observer doesn't have to wonder too long because close-by, embedded in a large, granite rock is a newly installed brass plaque with an embossed photo of derricks, booms, and old sheds with engraved lettering below the picture, telling a brief history of the site.

In 1916, Nick Alexson and Victor Wickman formed a partnership, and they named the business the Alexson Granite Company, but no one knows the complete owner-operator history of the old quarry site going back into the 1800s because in those days business partnerships were sometimes formed with only a handshake. Nor can anyone say how many tons of fine, grey-white granite were extracted, cut, and shipped from this site by rail and sometimes barge to projects throughout the west. Records have been lost. There are many quarry sites hidden around Rocklin with similar vague histories.

On August 23, 2019, the Rocklin Historical Society held a ceremony of commemoration for the Alexson-Wickman quarry site and a dedication of the brass plaque now mounted there. Dr. Jim Carlson spoke on behalf of the Historical Society, reading a summary of Victor Wickman and Nick Alexson's involvement called "The American Dream," written by a Wickman family member. There were old photos of the quarry site on dis-



L to R: Kathy Reisdorf, granddaughter of Victor Wickman, museum curator David Baker, Doug Osella, grandson of Victor Wickman, Leah Young, niece of Nick Alexson, Megan Anderson, great-granddaughter of Victor Wickman, and Rocklin mayor Joe Patterson

play. Mayor Joe Patterson also spoke on behalf of the city, sharing his support for establishing historic sites in Rocklin such as the Alexson-Wickman Quarry.

It was a fine morning for remembering and dedicating. Not yet too hot at 10:00 A.M., attendance was good for August. Several in attendance sat in rickety, wooden chairs, handed down probably from the old Finn Hall. No one fell over. Even the old chairs seemed appropriate on this day of remembering.

Both the Alexson and Wickman families were represented, and there were positive comments from family members on both sides afterwards. Leah Alexson, niece of Nick Alexson, shared her appreciation for those in the Historical Society who persevered and saw the plaque project

through to completion. Also in attendance: Kathryn Reisdorf, who resides in Switzerland, granddaughter of Victor Wickman, stated: "Having grown up in Rocklin, hearing the family history of the quarry and exploring the site, it is an honor to see the plaque commemorating my grandfather's quarry."

Linda Alldritt, granddaughter of Victor Wickman, who now resides in Finland, said: "Many thanks to the City of Rocklin for recognizing the contributions of its early residents. As one of Victor's grandchildren, the dedication reinforced for me the respect I have for our grandfather and his participation in the building of California." Both expressed thanks to the Rocklin Historical Society.

It was a very good day for remembering!

President's message, cont. from pg. 1

display were models of the Roseville train station, water tower, coaling station as well as a Rocklin quarry building. Michael Stark also had a display of "before and after" photos of the job the society's volunteers did to transform the site.

This area has the last remaining remnants of the Southern Pacific Railroad Roundhouse. This area also has historical importance as a Chinese camp during the building of the railroad. There are also grinding stones used by the Native Americans prior to 1850. Please take time to visit this area.

Without our amazing volunteers

none of any of these events would have been possible. Please consider volunteering for the Rocklin Historical Society! Up coming events: October 26th - Sacramento Archives Crawl - If you are interested, contact Ronna Davis.

A moment in HERstory

Interesting tales of women throughout Rocklin's history

This is the second of a two-part "love letter" to Otilia Wickman (1878-1956) from grandson Doug Osella. Part One can be seen in the summer issue of the Quarry Quarterly here: [Summer 2019 Quarry Quarterly](#). 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

Part 2:

Grandma, I can conjure you up even today in your kitchen long ago and your wood-burning stove... working endless hours. Getting up while it was still dark to renew the fire, you sweated over that iron fixture of household technology: cooking, baking, browning, broiling, and roasting. You mixed the creamy batter for your *leipaa* (bread) to rise in the soft brown loaves inside its belly. Exquisite aromas of brewing coffee and baking bread greeted the early morning risers.

Other masterpieces came forth from your skillful hands... aromatic pies and Finnish coffee cakes... savory smells drifted through the neighborhood. All the Finnish kids in town bragged that their mothers made the best *nissua* (Finnish coffee cake also called pulla), but if there had been a real contest, you would have been the winner hands down, according to your youngest daughter, Ilona. And you made the most delicious doughnuts in hot oil on the stove. Your children loved their milk and fresh doughnuts after school.

One of your most popular dishes in the family, called *laksilauta*, was a fish and potato casserole. When the fish man came to town from Fort Bragg, you used fresh salmon in the dish. Otherwise, you used canned salmon or tuna from the local O.W. Pekuri Store.

On any Saturday, in preparation for the next day's Sunday dinner, you would have to chase down a hen or two in the chicken yard. With mixed reluctance and determination in your eyes, you gripped the red-handled

hatchet tightly in your right hand. A one-year-old bird had about the right plumpness for the Sunday spread, or you might go after an older hen that had stopped laying. You were such a gentle soul. How did you manage that task with all the squawking and flying of feathers? After the finishing whack, the real work began: plucking the feathers and cleaning the bird. It was customary for you to serve whole

roasted birds, but sometimes you cut them up into parts. In addition to the main dish, there might be shrimp salad and other side dishes to prepare: sometimes apple pie, or a yummy vanilla cake. You often served a soup-like treat with raisins, or you might

be sent to the butcher shop in the Barudoni Building.

Your cooking was Americanized out of necessity. You learned American dishes while working in boarding houses before you married Grandpa, and you continued to have hungry boarders throughout the years, who often preferred American food.

Favorite American recipes came from popular cookbooks such as *The Calumet Baking Powder Cookbook*. One of your daughters would translate the ingredients for you from the English to the Finnish.

You knew the way into the hearts of the men in your life. It was by way of their stomachs, of course. Victor loved the daily dishes of boiled potatoes and some kind of meat. Sometimes it was cubed beef in gravy, which was one of his favorites. Rich odors to give any heart delight permeated your house, especially on Sunday afternoons. In later years, you expected your daughters,

and their husbands and kids to show up for Sunday dinner. The way your sons-in-law heaped up their plates was a testimony to your talents.



Otilia's woodburning stove after many years of hard work



Restored to its original beauty, now the focal point of the museum's kitchen



Otilia Wickman

Continued on page 7

Cont. from page 6

You cooked food to drool over; and there was a crazed joy around the table when the green light finally came: *Go ahead and start eating.*

You always had mint candy in a bowl on the dining room table to offer your grandchildren when they came for a visit. If you were out of the expected candy treat, you brought out the back up sugar cubes. More often than not, the eager grandchild took more than one of whatever sweets were offered.

As a matter of practice, you kept the mysterious *filia* (soured milk) in a dish inside your ice box, later refrigerator...and that was an ongoing project for just you and your closest friends. Your offspring had a fascination with this custom. All you had to do was add a little milk to the fermentation once in a while, and the stuff grew in the cold darkness like “the brain that wouldn’t die” from that old horror movie. In some parts of the country this concoction was called clabber or clobber. In other places it was known as crud... but, Grandma, you and your Finnish lady friends enjoyed a couple of spoonfuls every now and then, and that was the important thing.

For Christmas, you prepared the traditional, smelly *libija kalaa* (lute fish), which took days to make ready, soaking the cod in a lye base. It became customary in the family for only you and Victor to eat it since your girls wouldn’t touch it because of that polarizing smell and the slimy texture of the fish. I guess to eat it was a special tradition for you and Grandpa alone that reminded you both of the old country. In later years we grandchildren only remember a big, brown turkey on the dining table for holiday meals with mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and gravy.

Grandma, you brought Finnish traditions as pictured in the *Kalevala* (The epic poem of Finnish folklore) to the rough, little town of Rocklin, and you skillfully blended in the new American ways as well. You were always busy with a hundred tasks, but

Try some home baked Pulla, the traditional Finnish holiday bread from Doug Osella’s family recipe. Recipe submitted by Linda Davis Alldritt (granddaughter of Victor and Otilia Wickman). Makes about a dozen loaves.

Alice Ylilammi’s Pulla Recipe

1 Litre Maitoa/milk (4 cups of milk)

100 grams huvaa/yeast (approx. 3.5 ounces of yeast)

4 eggs

4 decilitres (dl) sokeria/sugar (approx. 2 cups of sugar)

½ teaspoon suolaa/salt

1-2 rkl (tablespoons) kardemummaa/cardamom

300 – 400 grams voita/butter (melted) (approximately 3 cubes of butter)

2 kg vehnäjä (vehnäjäuho)/wheat flour (approximately 4.4 pounds of all purpose flour)

(LDA’s note: add one extra cup of flour and divide dough into 12 equal portions for 12 loaves)

Directions:

Dissolve yeast into handwarm milk. Add eggs, sugar, salt & cardamom. Add flour little by little and mx well. Add melted butter, and knead until dough is smooth and butter is incorporated.

Let dough rise 20 minutes under linen in a warm place. Shape dough into loaves or individual buns. Place on lightly greased baking sheets – cover with linen.

Let loaves rise under linen for 5-10 minutes. Brush with beaten egg & milk mixture. Sprinkle with sugar.

Bake individual buns in 440 F/225 C for 10 minutes. Bake loaves in 400 F/205 C for 20 – 25 minutes



you had time to sit down for a cup of coffee and a visit with a friend, who happened to stop by. How did you do it all? You must have been blessed with that special Finnish quality of endurance called *sisu*.

Oh, but Grandma, you won’t believe this: Your old, wood-burning stove is now in the Rocklin History Museum! And the Rocklin Historical Society even had a tea party a few years back in your honor. They called it, “Aunt Tillie’s Tea.” Of course you remember that your nephew, Gene Johnson, always called you Aunt Tillie.

Your loving grandson,
Douglas Victor Osella

What is...

Sisu

Finnish/n./si-soo
Extraordinary determination and courage in the face of extreme adversity. It is an integral element of Finnish culture

Two exciting speakers this fall

Rocklin Reads takes flight in October

By Gloria Beverage

This year's Rocklin Reads program will feature Suzanne Rindell, author of "Eagle and Crane," on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Old St. Mary's Chapel on Front Street. Set primarily in Placer County in the years before and after World War II, the mystery centers around two stunt flyers performing with a barnstorming troupe.

While admission is free, seating is limited. For reservations, visit rocklinreads.eventbrite.com

This event is being co-hosted by the Rocklin Historical Society.

Rindell is also the author of "Three Martini Lunch" and "The Other Typist," which has been translated into 15 languages



and opted for film by Fox Searchlight Pictures. She is at work on a historic mystery set in 1906 San Francisco.

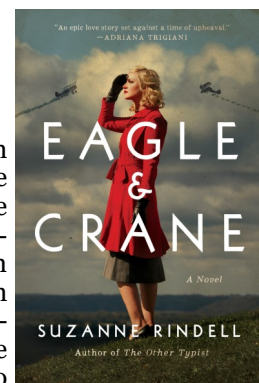
Currently a resident of San Francisco, she grew up in Placer County, earned a B.A. degree from University of the Pacific and a Ph.D. from Rice University in Texas before spending a number of years working in the New York City publishing field.

Eric Just, chair of the Art Department at Del Oro High School, will display his paintings of vintage aircraft in the gallery area of the library throughout October.

Just, who grew up in Auburn and attended Sierra College and Sac State, teaches two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. His preferred medium is watercolor, though he has done a number of works on canvas. Several of his works are on display in private collections in the U.S., Germany and

Japan.

The Rocklin Friends of the Library are hosting the annual Rocklin Reads program as a way to encourage the community to read as well as raise awareness about local history and social issues.



Artwork by local artist Eric Just

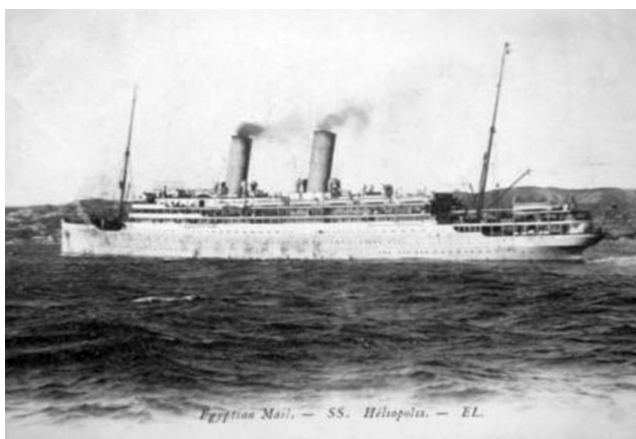
Coming to America in November

The arrival of the Spanish in Rocklin

On November 18, at 6:00 p.m., Rocklin resident and Historical Society member Alfred Corral will speak on the Spanish arrival in Rocklin.

These Spanish were part of a large group that left their villages in Spain around 1910. They traveled around South America by ships to Hawaii, to work in the sugarcane plantations. They satisfied their contract after two years and then came to California. After enduring many hardships, they settled in the Rocklin area, hoping to seek a better life. The slide show will cover life in Spain and why and how did they traveled to America. Life on the plantations and their decisions for traveling to California will be also discussed. What did they find when they arrived to Placer County? What challenges did they overcome? Life on the Ranch in Rocklin. This engaging presentation will include stories of how they fit into the local life, such as school, politics, and general daily life such as shopping for supplies and social activities.

Be sure to attend this fascinating look into Rocklin's past, and the stories of the people who lived it.



Was this the ship that brought Alfred Corral's grandparents to America? Attend November's Speaker Series to find out!

About Alfred Corral

Alfred Corral is a native of Rocklin. His grandparents settled in Rocklin in the early 1920's. They were a part of a large Spanish community that arrived in Placer County about 1915, after leaving Spain and traveling around the horn to Hawaii. Both sets of grandparents had fruit ranches in Rocklin. In 2008, the city dedicated the CORRAL-ALVA PARK, recognizing my father and mother's parents.

Mr. Corral is retired after 37 years of teaching, 33 of those in the Rocklin Unified School District. Both of his parents attended Rocklin Elementary, as he did from kindergarten to 8th grade. "Rocklin has always been home to me," he says. "I have a passion for preserving and sharing the history of Rocklin."



This 5.5 acre park was dedicated in 2008

YOUNG HISTORIANS



Rocklin fourth graders drew their ideal railroad museum and park and wrote persuasive paragraphs in favor of preserving and expanding the historical roundhouse site. They were on display at Hot Chili and Cool Cars.

Students were enthusiastic about being able to give their input into the project.

At left is Taylor Schweikert, a fourth grader at Rocklin Elementary School, next to the drawing she created along with classmates. At right, this young engineer enjoyed ringing the bell and blowing the whistle on the Rocklin Rattler.



Dear Rocklin
Community,

I think that we should have a railroad center because the original roundhouse was in Rocklin. When it is built everyone can enjoy the center because you will learn about the roundhouse and play in the park. I also think we should have the railroad center because it will show the history of the railroad. In fact, I even think that they should rebuild the roundhouse. All in all, that is why we should have the railroad center.

Sincerely,

By Caleb Gard
Antelope Creek

Sincerely,
Kamryn Begley
Sunset Ranch

Rocklin History

Rocklin has a rich history that includes immigrants working on the railroad system. Rocklin had a quarry. The railroad system went through Rocklin to help carry out all the Granite from the quarry. Rocklin built a roundhouse to store the extra engines that got the railroad over the mountains, I would love to go to a history center in Rocklin to learn more about he history of the railroad in Rocklin.

By Caleb Gardner
Antelope Creek Elementary



Taylor Schweikert, Emelynn Miller, Ella Val collaborate on their vision

New history club at William Jessup

By Julia Shohbozian

William Jessup University has a new history club, Jessup History, with members that are excited to support local historic conservation initiatives. This group was founded by the president, Julia Shohbozian, vice president Audrey Lokteff, Peyton Stewart, and History Department Professor Richard Ravalili. Julia is also a member of the Rocklin Historical Society and the Committee for Old Saint Mary's Chapel.

The members are passionate about making history relevant and exciting through education and preservation projects. It is a small club with a lot to offer.

Looking for fundraising or volunteers for your historic project? Contact Julia at

julia.shohbozian@jessup.edu.



**Audrey Lokteff, Peyton Stewart, and
Julia Shohbozian of Jessup History**

Southern Pacific Railroad
History Center

It is important for Rocklin to build a railroad history center. People should learn about the railroad history in Rocklin, and there is currently no center to go to. It would be a fun way to learn about history. The center could be a place where families from all over can go to enjoy their day. Rocklin has been without a railroad history center for too long. Let's build one today!

By Kimberly Coyoy-Perez
Antelope Creek Elementary

From
the desk
of...
Gene Johnson

Roundhouse Cleanup Reminiscences

The Roundhouse Walkabout, spearheaded by Dr Jim Carlson, was the 2d of two events by RHS celebrating the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Transcontinental RR. Articles elsewhere in this Quarry Quarterly address the event; the following are a few notes regarding pre and post event.

The roundhouse rose garden has been a wonderful enhancement to Front Street. However, the immediately adjacent properties remained as dumping grounds occupied by transients. RHS obtained permission of the Union Pacific Railroad and the City of Rocklin to clean the area in preparation for community walkabouts at the roundhouse site. Fixit Team leader Jim Hammes organized the overall clean-up. With David Baker's direction Jeff Foltz cut trees and undergrowth; Kent Dazey removed years of dumping within the rock outcropping area. Hank Lohse, David Baker and Gene Johnson

volunteered for the sit-down job of driving the skid-steer and backhoe loaders provided by United Rentals. Meanwhile, Jim Hammes and Linda Wampler headed the Scout Pack 29 raking crew

and Doug Osella helped. Dr. Jim tackled an overgrown rose bush that, by the end, got the best of him. Michael Stark, Linda and Ronna documented the activities. Large concrete blocks were placed to mark the extent of the original round house which measured about a football field from tip to tip. The remaining concrete plus dumped asphalt and granite spall were removed from the site to Recology bins. Sleeping bags, carpets, and the usual litter were removed from transient camp sites. We were fortunate that there were no transients to disturb, in fact there was no evidence of recent camping.

David Baker satisfied his curiosity by uncovering a portion of 19th century storm drains covered by 4 ft slabs of granite. The drains are thought to have been constructed by Chinese laborers pre 1877. Legitimate artifacts were few. For example, just when we felt we had gone deep enough to find arrowheads in the Native



Troop 29 taking a well-deserved break



David Baker helps unearth pre-1877 storm drain

American area - we found a pc board. It seemed some litter would never go away - pieces of a blue plastic swimming pool surfaced from day 1 thru day 20.

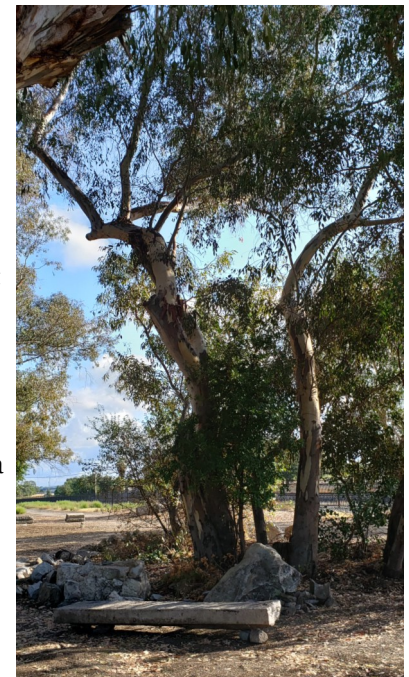
In the weedy field we found 3 large granite slabs, probably steps for a building but suitable for sitting benches. We moved the stones to the cool of the eucalyptus grove.

A 6 ft railroad track drag towed by Gene's 1947 John Deere tractor did a credible job of leveling the large humps and bumps - but turned literally thousands of granite chips or spall to the surface that then needed to be removed by hand. His garden tractor and yard cart were used to collect the small rock and debris. The total tire and wheel count for the event: 1 flat garden tractor tire, 2 broken wheels and 1 flat on garden cart, 3 flats on the Jubilee Train passenger car (one tire twice).

Neighbors appreciated the cleanup and came out to tell us so. One neighbor, Devin Ardon, said his great grandfather lived in a tent near the roundhouse when he worked for the railroad. Devin's grandfather, conductor Cliff Lawson, was in charge of the train sent to rescue travelers when the City of San Francisco Streamliner was stranded at Donner Summit in the Blizzard of January 1952. Hundreds were trapped on the train. Snow tunnels were dug to evacuate passengers. Two members of the rescue team died but, all 226 passengers and the crew survived their three-day ordeal in the snowbound train. Record Blizzard: Nearly 13 feet of snow had blasted the region that week. The storm of January 1952 dumped nearly 65 feet of snow

on Donner Summit and the snowpack itself reached 26 feet deep, the greatest depth ever recorded there. US Highway 40 was closed for 30 days.

Another neighbor, Tully Brackett,



One of the benches set up by the work crew



Gene Johnson behind the wheel

Continued on page 11

(Roundhouse Cleanup Cont. from page 10)

brought objects found at the Chinatown site. She is related to the old time Aitken family that ran Rocklin's Aitken Dairy on property fronting on Pacific Street. The Yankee Hill Subdivision is located on the land.

Lost and found. Jim Hammes spent hours searching for a vintage bar

he had found only to conclude that it walked away (with someone). Gene lost a rake but found a check book that is back in the owner's hands.

We found the Eucalyptus Grove within the roundhouse site to be a particularly pleasant, cool place except on the warmest day - that was when the temperature hit 106 F and Jim Hammes sent us home. Another day a family was picnicking in the grove. Hope-

fully the city can fully integrate the total roundhouse foundation and the grove with the rose garden area.



Can you identify this item? Several were found at the Roundhouse cleanup. Ask a railroad enthusiast! The answer will be in the next issue of the Quarry Quarterly.



Jubilee Train RIP 2019

The Jubilee Train's origins are traced to the Rocklin Lions Club - the year 1968 - Rocklin's first Jubilee celebrating the city's 75th anniversary and, the following year, the 100th Anniversary of the Great Transcontinental Railroad. The Lions' parade entry, was inspired by the locomotive CP Huntington and built on a Jeep. Police Chief Chuck Lucas was an enthusiastic volunteer. Shortly thereafter a self-propelled trolley, built on an English car chassis was added. The trolley "system" was christened "Foothill Area Rapid Transit" (FART); the trolley moniker was "Rocklin Rattler".

The original multiday Jubilee (and beer fest) attracted many visitors to Rocklin but after several years the Jubilee became a victim of its own success and was terminated in 1976 due to the rowdiness of visitors and citizens alike. The trolley and key components of the locomotive were stored by the Geick brothers at their Deer Creek Lumber Company and subsequently donated to the historical society.

In the 1980's the Rocklin Jubilee was restarted as a one-day family-oriented event. The 2003 Jubilee celebrated Rocklin's railroad heritage. Utilizing the smokestack (the only part saved from the original locomotive), RHS members Don Schuman and Gene Johnson designed a wooden locomotive to fit Dan Hernandez's 1947 8N Ford Tractor. RHS volunteers removed the trolley engine and refurbished the trolley to be pulled by "CP Huntington No. 2" in the Jubilee parade.

The train appeared in subsequent parades and events and was popular with children. Again, about 2009 the Jubilee was terminated, the cost of public services scuttled the boat.

The final appearance of the train was at Rocklin's historic roundhouse site September 21, 2019 at the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad. As noted in the last Quarry Quarterly, with no foreseeable parades the train will be put to rest in pieces - RIP.



Photo: Lions member Chuck Lucas shown with Sam Andrews assembling the CP Huntington inspired parade locomotive - Roseville Press Tribune, 1969. For a number of years Chuck Lucas was Rocklin's larger-than-life police chief. He was a tall person with a presence that could be likened to that of Marshal Matt Dillon. Lucas was a fervent promoter of Rocklin, perhaps too much so for his own good. In 1971 Lucas was temporarily demoted from police chief to the rank of sergeant. City Manager Freeman stated: "He's a good public relations person but some police work needs to be done, too." * A story that sheds some light on Lucas's approach to policing: Lucas came upon several boys that had built a small fire not far from buildings; the underage boys also had beer. Lucas: *You boys be careful with that fire, keep a real good watch on it.* Boys: *Yes sir, yes sir we certainly will.* Lucas: *Good, a fire can be dangerous if not carefully watched.* Boys: *YES SIR!uh, what about the beer?* Lucas: *You bought it to drink - carry on!* The boys were probably careful to watch fires the rest of their lives.

*Placer Herald Jan 14, 1971

rip rap by gay morgan

It has been a long hot summer and I for one am ready for falling leaves, cooler weather and maybe even a little rain Whoops---it came down pretty hard a couple of days after I wrote this. Maybe Fall is on its way.

One sure sign of Fall is our annual Historical Society Potluck on September 16. There was a lot of good food, talk and laughter and wonderful desserts, We'll do it again next year.

The Chamber of Commerce Leadership group visited the Rocklin History Museum as well as St. Mary's Chapel and the Firehouse replica.

I am pleased to report that we have two new docents in training, Erica Pope and Lisa Peters. Welcome ladies. Two other ladies have also volunteered to be docents. They have been active with the third-grade school tours, both are former teachers. Welcome Pat Woessner and Linda Wampler. As I've said before, it is fun, and you learn history too. You only need to commit to

three hours once a month (or more if you want). Some of our docents have been serving since 2002, (My hairdresser and dentist etc. know not to schedule me on the third Wednesday of the month.)

Sadly, I must tell you that long-time member Geraldine Wittbrod passed away on July 12th. No services were held per her request. Jeri was a talented painter who loved art. Music too was another of her loves. She sang with the "Springtones," a vocal group in her home community of Springfield here in Rocklin. She lived in many different places all over the world because of her job with the State Department. She retired to Rocklin and became involved with The Rocklin Friends of the Library and the Rocklin Historical Society. Her beloved cats are in new loving homes. Jeri is survived by a niece in Illinois. Of course, she will be missed by many.

Delores Laura (Alva) Martin grew up in and lived in Rocklin for many years. She was a member of a unique group—the Alva sisters. There were six of them, beautiful Spanish señoritas. They were: (married names) Barbara Corral, Julia Lopez, Irene Manno, Gala Corral, Carnation Silva, and



Back (LtoR) Barbara Corral, Laura Martin, brother Frank Alva, Front (LtoR) Gala Corral, Julia Lopez, Carnation Silva, and Irene Manno

Laura Martin.

They all went to school in Rocklin, but Laura had a special friendship with Roy Ruhkala, (Roy, as you know was one of the founders of the Rocklin Historical Society). They went in the same class year after year and had birthdays in the same month, they joked about living to 100.

Sadly, Roy didn't quite make it, but Laura did! The picture below is from a couple a years ago, but don't they look great?

Delores Laura (Alva) Martin
July 17, 1919-August 5, 2019

By Gay Morgan

She was born in Newcastle, California, but soon moved to Rocklin where she and her five sisters and a brother were raised on the family ranch. The Alva family was part of a group from Spain who had traveled first to Hawaii and then to Rocklin, Ca.

Laura and her sisters and brother attended Rocklin Grammar School which was located on Pacific Street between Oak and Pine Streets. Her summers were spent packing fruit on the family ranch.

During the war years she worked in the war effort at Benicia, Ca, she later returned to Rocklin and continued to work in packing sheds.

In 1951 she married Claude Martin. They had two sons, Gary and Steven. The young family relocated to Southern California for a time and then back to Rocklin where they raised their family.

Once again Laura and Claude returned to Southern California and she continued working in the food packaging industry. After Claude passed away, she retired and traveled to Portugal, Spain, Hong Kong and Hawaii.

She continued with close ties to family and participated in holiday celebrations and Club Español activities. She was especially delighted to be named Queen of Club Español one year.

Her later years were spent living with her sisters. Then she went back to live with her son, Steven. She reached her 100th birthday but passed away shortly thereafter. She is survived by her sons Gary and Steven and her daughters-in-law Nettie and Marci.

This beautiful, vivacious lady will be missed by many here in Rocklin.



Transcontinental Railroad has local connections

During this sesquicentennial year we take a look back

50 YEARS AGO

Reprinted from *The Press Tribune*, Friday, May 2, 1969

Descendants of the man who delivered the dedicatory address at the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory, Utah, will be aboard the "Golden Spike Special" when it participates in the railroad centennial anniversary next week.

Aboard the train will be Mrs. Ruben Ruhkala of Rocklin, the great granddaughter of John Hogan, who delivered the principal oration at the ceremonies on May 10, 1869, completing the first transcontinental railroad.

In fact, the descendants, in the fourth, fifth and sixth generations, are residents of Placer County.

With Mrs. Ruhkala will be her husband, daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Stewart and grandsons Lance and Mark of Roseville, and grandson Robert Peterson of Roseville.

Pointing to a photo of her great grandfather hanging on the wall of her Rocklin home, Mrs. Ruhkala recalled how her mother would often mention of grandfather Hogan's participation in the Golden Spike ceremony.

A preacher, pioneer and state man, Mrs. Ruhkala's great grandfather participated in more than one railroad spike ceremony.

Reading through old newspaper clippings gathered by her mother and a book written about Hogan by his daughter, Mrs.

Sophia Hogan Boogher, Mrs. Ruhkala told of an excursion train which was taking her great grandfather and several leading citizens of St. Louis to Jefferson City to mark the completion of the Missouri Pacific Railway.

For several days there had been heavy rains which had weakened the piers of a bridge over the Gasconade River. Twenty-eight persons were killed and more than 30 injured.

Hogan, who was to have been the orator of the evening at Jefferson City, was sitting in the third car talking to three ministers who were killed in the wreck. He suffered only a slight injury to one of his knees.

He had also participated in the driving of the last spike in the Ohio and Mississippi Railway at Vincennes, Ind.

Emigrating from Ireland with his parents, Hogan became a circuit rider, president of a bank, postmaster of

St. Louis and a member of Congress under President Lincoln's administration during his lifetime, Mrs. Ruhkala recalled.

While in Congress he served on the Ways and Means Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Congressional Library. Having served in the Illinois State Legislature with Abraham Lincoln, Hogan was a close friend of Lincoln as well as of John C.



John Hogan



Mrs. Lillian Offer Ruhkala, with two of her grandchildren, Paige and Robert, at the old Rocklin Roundhouse granite wall remains. Members of Bachelors and Bachelorettes are also pictured.

Calhoun and Henry Clay.

An extensive traveler, one of Hogan's last trips was briefly mentioned in his daughter's book: "My father's last important trip was to the celebration of the completion of the Union and Pacific Railroad near Ogden, Utah, in 1869 where he made the principal oration."

The Ruhkala family will be among a group of Rocklin residents who have chartered a car on the "Centennial Plaque Special" participating in the 100th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike.

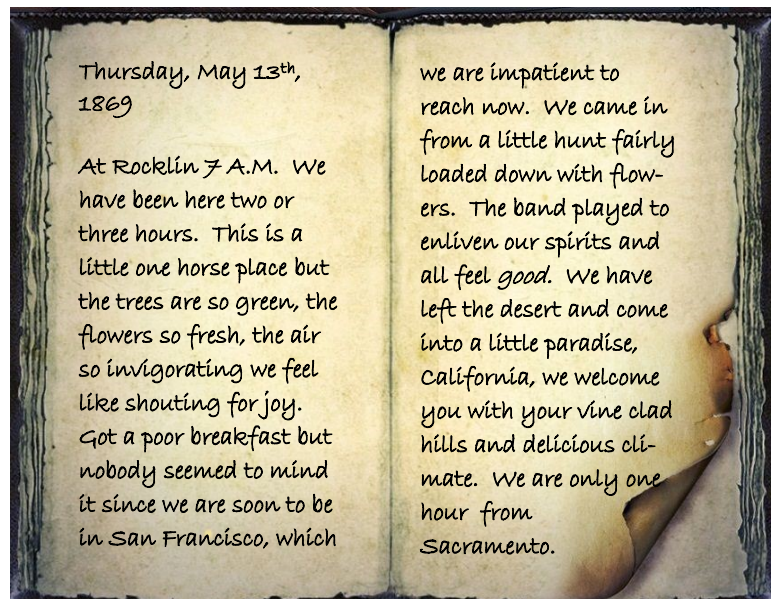
The train, one of two special trains participating in the event, will leave Sacramento next Friday with stops planned at Roseville, Rocklin, Auburn, Colfax and Truckee.

100 YEARS AGO



Planning to go to California to the Presidio at San Francisco with his new wife, Captain John Curier received orders to proceed at once to Omaha, Nebraska to wait for the completion of the two great railroads which were the first to join the east and the west; so instead of sailing around Cape Horn, they were among the observers who were at the "joining of the ties" of the transcontinental railroad in 1869.

After the ceremony, they continued on to San Francisco, where, for the last leg of the trip, they sailed down the Sacramento River. Here is an excerpt of his journal about his stop in Rocklin, reprinted from the Sacramento County Historical Society's "Golden Notes."





Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

By Jim
Hammes

The highlight of the Quarter was our planning and execution of the Roundhouse Walking Tour.

It was our final recognition of the year long celebration of the 150 Year Anniversary of the completion of the Trans Continental Railroad achievement.

It capped off our earlier Railroad Depot Plaque Dedication this past May at our Rocklin Train Station.

If we clean it ... they will come ...

And they did !

Our Fix It Team spent some extensive and exhausting hours at the Roundhouse site preparing for our Walking Tour event on September 21st.

It was the responsibility of our Fix It Team to initiate and spearhead the efforts.

The team moved and discarded 110 cubic yards of vegetation, waste and debris from the historic Roundhouse site over about 6 straight weeks!

We also recognize the help from various individual volunteers on the Clean Up Kick Off on Saturday- August 17th that included Scout Troop 29, High School students and some of our own Board Mem-

bers.

United Rentals in Rocklin graciously donated the use of a Bobcat and Back Hoe Loader on two separate occasions to assist in the large clean up project.

Placer Recology also supplied up to 6 dumpsters as there part to help our civic efforts to clean up the Roundhouse site.

The fruits of our labor were realized with what was a successful event on Saturday- September 21st.

We tapped into the large amount of visitors to the annual Hot Chili and Cool Cars Event which was held in close proximity of the Roundhouse site.

The Roundhouse Site Tour commenced that morning at 9am with a VIP Tour attended by several members of our Rocklin Chamber of Commerce.

Our vision and reminder of the sites significance were discussed and visually illustrated by our Tour docents ... Dr Jim Carlson and Kent Dazey.

Ed Kourneghy provided a Wonderful scale model Train Display from our request to be a part of the event.

Plans for an interactive museum were also presented by Scott Inman representing the Railroad Historical group to which he outlined details of what could eventually be added to the Roundhouse grounds.

Our next steps now are to keep the vision alive and momentum going to further the hope of adding another key landmark for the community to enjoy and cherish our history and heritage.

So ... as always ... our work is never done ... the Fix It Team will continue with new projects and assist in the needs of our co-committees to assure that our Historical Society grows with Quality and Credible representation as our ... continued ... Go Forward Commitment.

One more Big Thank You to all who lent a hand - in any way in the Roundhouse project ... we could not have done it without you!

Fix It Items completed this Quarter ... for our Quarterly update ...

- * Chapel Patio Power Wash Clean
- * Museum Porch Repairs
- * Firehouse Inspection Repairs
- * Grade School Tile art placed on Chapel Walk Wall

Finally... we end with our appeal for anyone interested in joining in full or part as a member of the RHS - Fix It Team.

We openly welcome and invite anyone interested to join us when we meet every Tuesday at 7:30 am at the cafeteria located at Oracle in Rocklin.

We are Always Stronger when we work Together as a TEAM ...

Mystery Place



The mystery place is the replica turntable at the Peter Hill Heritage Park rose garden, location of the last remaining evidence of on-line roundhouses built for the transcontinental railroad in 1867. If you haven't been here lately, take a stroll around the grounds and the newly refreshed historic site.

And, many of you may recognize from your youth, the person in our illustration is our favorite sleuth, Nancy Drew!



*Yes, the Holiday Season is approaching!
Yes, Rocklin Historical Society is hosting the
Annual Holiday Social!
Save this date for the festivities at the
Rocklin History Museum
Monday Evening - 6 to 8:30 p.m. - December 16th*

Old St. Mary's Chapel

By Nancy Lohse

Change is in the air! Mornings are nipper and the leaves are slowly changing.

The trees at the chapel are getting ready to show off their beauty! There is still fruit to pick in the community garden. The whole park is looking beautiful right now. Not that anything can outshine our little chapel!

Imagine in 1883 when the chapel was first built. Just think of all the changes she's seen through the years. The biggest being the move in 2005.

How quickly 14 years have passed! I'm sure every couple that walks down the aisle appreciates all the hard work put into making their day special. Not only the move or the renovations but also the work of our dedicated volunteers known as the 'Church Ladies.'

We are always looking for volunteers to help at the chapel. If you are interested in joining the 'Church Ladies', please contact me at 916-624-1135. Our next meeting is on October 24th at 6:00 and we would love to have you come. Call for more information.



Stroll by the community orchard arbor laden with grapes and newly installed tiles on Old St. Mary's ramp.

What's Growing?

By Sally Huseby

Finally, the heat of summer seems to be tapering off into lower temperatures. As we enter a new season, it will be refreshing soon to enjoy the fall colors around the gardens at St. Mary's Chapel and the History museum. If you have out-of-town visitors, our chapel grounds are a beautiful area to take a leisurely and relaxing walk under our clear, blue skies here in Northern California.



Could it possibly be 20 years since I first met Gay Morgan? We were new in town, curious to know more about this place and knew no one to ask. Then a sign appeared on Rocklin Road - "Future Home of the Rocklin Historical Society". The perfect opportunity. Next came docent classes at the historic Placer County Courthouse, then the completion of the museum, and a new title was conferred on each of us - Docent!

Everyone encountered on this journey was welcoming and filled with historical knowledge of our new hometown. One person took me under her wing and became my mentor, yes Gay. When Gay initiated the 3rd grade school tours, she asked me to join her. When it was time to honor the various celebrations, she was the go-to person. When it was time to have a regular docent schedule, we ended up as partners. What a pleasure to watch her wearing each of her "hats" with such grace and charm.

Gay is also the master at delegating. No one feels they've been asked to do more than they're able, and whomever is

asked feels they are the key to an event's success. That's a talent!

Nancy Lohse says it best, and I second each thing she says, "Gay is the matriarch of the RHS. She feeds us, makes sure we stay connected, keeps us organized and shares the 'family history'. She's one of the big reasons I became involved with the museum and third grade tours. Her calm demeanor in any situation is inspirational! It's a pleasure to know her!"

No longer a community 'newbie', Gay Morgan is the reason we're still involved 20 years later! On the occasion of her 9th decade, it seems appropriate to honor all that she's done for RHS, and each of the individuals to whom Gay's presence in their lives has made such a positive difference. Happy Birthday, Gay!

From Susan Brooking and everyone at RHS!



ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Fall 2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE

October 19, 2pm
Rocklin Reads speaker Suzanne Rindell
Old St. Mary's Chapel

October 26 10 am—4 pm
Archives Crawl
Downtown Sacramento
Contact Ronna Davis

October 26, 11:00 am
Dedication of Willard Park
Painted Pony at Lazy Trail Drive

November 18, 6pm
Speaker series featuring
Alfred Corral
Old St. Mary's Chapel

December 7
Tree lighting at Quarry Park

December 16, 6:00—8:30pm
Holiday Social
Rocklin Historical Museum

Rocklin History Museum
Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays
from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed: 11/27/19, 12/25/19, 1/1/20

Docents always needed. For information call Gay Morgan at (916) 624-2355.

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!
Closed: 11/27/19, 12/25/19, 1/1/20

RHS Board of Directors
Second Monday of month at 6 p.m. at City of Rocklin, Parks and Recreation Building in Springview Park
All members welcome

RHS Planning Meetings and Fixit Team
Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Oracle on Sunset Blvd, For more info, contact Jim Hammes at jimhammes@yahoo.com

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

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CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN. PARTY. REPEAT.

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

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Local giving. Lasting value.



Want to know
more?

Would you like to see more news and photos? Beginning with the Winter 2020 issue, The on-line version of the Quarry Quarterly will have an expanded version! View it by clicking on the Newsletters tab on our website!

www.rocklinhistorical.org

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