

Willard Family Honored

President's Message

Hank Lohse

It is with great sadness that I have to report that former Rocklin Historical Society member and past president Skip Gebel passed away earlier this week from complications of pneumonia. A memorial will be at Old



Saint Mary's Chapel on Sunday Jan 19, 2020, at 2:00 P.M.. Interment will be at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon on



Skip Gebel

Wednesday, Jan 22, 2020, at 11:00 A.M.. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol and her family.

As we close 2019 and open 2020, it's time to reflect on how a non-profit works.

We have almost 250 members of which 40-50 are active in volunteering with their time. For us to survive, we need a constant flow of volunteers so no one group or person gets burned out.

If you are a member or even thinking about becoming a member, I urge you to get involved now and volunteer your time. There are several different groups that need your help.

Be a **DOCENT** at the museum. It only takes 3 hours once a month. No special knowledge is required. We will train you. Interested? Call Gay Morgan for more information at 916-624-2355.

(Continued on page 2)

By Gay Morgan

The City of Rocklin honors long-time residents by naming parks after them. The thirty-seventh park is called Willard Park. This park is unique in that it includes "inclusive" playground equipment and is wheelchair accessible. Another new feature is a "Little Free Library" which was a joint project of the Boy Scouts and The Friends of the Library.

The Willard family started many years ago with an adventurous young man named George C. Willard. He was born in Maine and sadly his mother died in childbirth. His father was a stern, quiet man. At the age of seventeen George decided to leave home and seek his fortune. Riding his horse, George travelled across the country for six years. He finally arrived in



LaVerne Willard McGrath Splan cuts the ribbon for Rocklin's newest park

Truckee with a broken leg. Little is known about how he broke his leg or his adventures during that journey.

George found work in the grocery business. In a short while he also found a young lady living in Dutch Flat. Her name was "Bertie" Millett. Bertie's father had been one of the

(Continued on page 2)

Roundhouse Project: Full Steam Ahead

By Dr. James Carlson

Several tours of the Rocklin roundhouse site have been conducted since the cleanup was completed in fall 2019. The community and its leaders have a great interest in developing and utilizing this neglected area of Rocklin. (for more information, refer to the archived Fall, 2019 issue of the Quarry Quarterly on the RHS website).

On December 14, visiting representatives of the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society shared the good news that plans are proceeding to establish an archives museum at this location. Attending this special tour were RHS members Kent Dazey and Linda Wampler, along with railroad notables including President and CEO of the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center Scott



Scott Inman of the SPRHC leads a tour of the roundhouse site

Inman, retired SP Engineer John Cockrell, SP Historian Brad Lomazzi, and Author and Photographer Dick Dorn.

Russ McNeill is well acquainted with this group and has agreed to be

(Continued on page 2)

(Willard, Cont. from page 1)

original forty-niners.

The couple married and moved to Rocklin where they established their home on what is now Rocklin Road.



Chief of Police Ernest Willard

George worked in the quarries and the railroad and eventually became the town's first Marshall. He also farmed on his property, growing fruit and vegetables and raising livestock and poultry.

Bertie and George had four children, Hazel, Alfred, Ernest and Laura. Laura was often called Lolly or Lol. Hazel married Assembly-man Lee Gebhart. They had three children, Beth, Jacqueline and Buddy (Lee Jr.) Alfred married Rose Elizabeth Morys and they raised four children, LaVerne,

(both she and Laura were born on Abraham Lincoln's birthday), George, Alberta and Laura Mae. (Incidentally, LaVerne is one of the founding members of the Rocklin Historical Society. She also is one of two Rocklin women who joined the military forces in WWII. She was and is proud to be a Marine.)

Ernest married a girl from Roseville, Mayme Cohoe. Their children were Lester and Barbara. Laura married "Butch" Neff. They had no children. His badge is on display in the Firehouse/City Hall replica.

The Willard family continued to grow. As the girls married they no longer carried the Willard name but Lester, son of Ernest and George, son of Alfred did.

Lester and his wife had two children, a boy and a girl. Lester's sister Barbara married Robert Aitken. George married Pearl Strauch and they had two children, Michael and Paula. George's sister Alberta married John Stassi. Laura married John Wilbur Woods. La Verne married Dean McGrath. Her second husband was James Splan. Michael married Carol Park and they

had a son named Christopher. Christopher married Christine and they have a son and a daughter.

Many of the large extended Willard family live in the area and most were excited and proud to attend the dedication. The actual ribbon cutting was performed by the eldest member, LaVerne Willard McGrath Splan assisted by Christopher Willard and his son and daughter, the youngest Willard.

Rocklin is fortunate to have leaders who embrace the new and innovative aspects of the park as well as recognizing the importance of our history.



Barbara Willard, left, along with friends Margo Ruhkala, Evelyn Davidson and Ruby Sargent

(President, Cont. from page 1)

The FIX-IT CREW meets at the Oracle cafeteria on Sunset every Tuesday morning at 7:30 for breakfast. Every other Tuesday we do minor cleanup or repairs. No special training needed. If you are interested, call Jim Hammes at 916-303-3056.

Perhaps the CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS (The Church Ladies) would be more interesting for you. The ladies rotate on phone duty and working at the chapel's open house on Wednesdays from 5-7 talking to prospective couples about dates and reviewing the contract. They also prepare for upcoming events at the chapel. If you would like more information, call Nancy Lohse at 916-624-1135.

If you are interested, call one of the above leaders of these groups for more information. Help us have an even brighter 2020!

(Roundhouse, Cont. from page 1)

RHS representative for this enterprise.

"Russ McNeill is a welcome addition to the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center, and it is my pleasure to congratulate him to a three-year appointment to the Board of Directors," says Mr. Inman. "His passion for the Rocklin community and railroad preservation is a perfect pairing to further our mission and help the organization bring its goals to fruition. It's exciting to have an official liaison to the Rocklin Historical Society, and we look forward to working with Russ."

In Russell's absence Kent Dazey attended a Board meeting of the Southern Pacific (SP) group with a luncheon at Whitney Oaks on December 14. At the meeting it was decided to have a kick-off BBQ in early spring - April 18 as a tentative date. Jim Hammes noticed coincidentally, that April 18 would mark the 112th anniversary of the demise of the Rocklin

roundhouse and when Rocklinites held a mock funeral for the sad event. Jim suggested we use this as a theme. Kent also reported that Teichert Corp. has made a generous offer to donate excavation services in developing the property.

To sum this up, it would appear plans for development, with our input to keep Rocklin history alive, are full speed ahead for the roundhouse site.



RHS Treasurer and new SPRHC board member Russ McNeill

Two exciting speakers coming!



Hearst Castle is Julia Morgan's most famous commission. Known for its grand scale, opulent decor, magnificent location, and as a playground for Hollywood's rich and famous, it was also a ridiculously challenging project for an unpredictable client, in a remote location where few people

Julia Morgan, Hearst, and the Building Trades

Presented By
Karen McNeill, Ph.D.

**January 27, 6:00 p.m.
Old St. Mary's Chapel**

wished to work.

How did Julia Morgan get the job done? And what does this tell us about her unlikely career in architecture? These questions and more will be answered in an exploration of Julia Morgan's work for William Randolph Hearst.

Karen McNeill, Ph.D., is the leading expert on Julia Morgan and has published multiple articles on the

subject, including, most recently, "Gender, Race, and Class in the Work of Julia Morgan," in *Forum Journal*, a publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Her work focuses on women and gender in the architectural profession as well as how Progressive Era women used the built environment to expand their roles society as consumers, reformers, educators, and professionals.

Dr. McNeill is completing a biography of Julia Morgan (forthcoming). Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Autry National Center, the Bancroft Library, and the University of California Humanities Research Institute.

Beyond her work on Julia Morgan, Dr. McNeill has taught history and architectural history at colleges and universities in the San Francisco Bay Area and has been involved in historic preservation, authoring several context statements for major surveys and successfully nominating a range of buildings to the National Register of Historic Places.

Harpist Lauren C. Sharkey

presenting

Romance in Music: The History of the Harp

**February 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Old St. Mary's Chapel**

Enjoy an evening of music and history with professional harpist Lauren C. Sharkey. Ms. Sharkey will play and share, through words and music, the history and roots of the harp in various cultures, the development of the modern instrument, and why it is so closely tied to expressions of the heart.

What better place to enjoy this presentation than the lovely, historic wedding venue of Rocklin's oldest public building, Old St. Mary's Chapel!

Ms. Sharkey has been playing weddings and events for over twenty years. Classically trained with a B.A. in Applied Harp from Simpson University, and M.A. in Music from Chico State University, Ms. Sharkey currently teaches at Sierra College and the Academy of Art University.



Happy Holidays at the Museum

By Susan Brooking
Photos by Ronna Davis

The RHS Museum looked very festive for the month of December thanks to Gay Morgan, Diane Bell, Shirley Espley and Charlene Rhodes. The final decorating and preparation in advance of the Annual Holiday Party was accomplished by Gay, Susan Brooking, Kathie Nippert and Alice Swift.

It was cold outside the evening of December 16th, but joyful and Christmassy inside the museum. The convivial gathering of about 40 members and friends pro-

vided a chance to catch up with one another and exchange holiday wishes all the while enjoying tasty treats, warm cider and cool punch. The “potluck” appetizer and sweets selection was outstanding this year! Thank you to all who contributed. Compliments were also received on the punch and warm cider to the extent that they’ll be repeated next year.

Vice president Kathie Nippert presided over a very brief “business” meeting welcoming everyone to the museum and an-

nouncing that the museum and chapel would welcome new volunteers! Jerry Mitchell then proudly proclaimed that three Ruhkala Award winners in 2019 were RHS members - Julie Shohbozian, Nancy Lohse and Jean Day. Congratulations to each of them!

It has been my pleasure to help organize this event the past couple of years following the traditions set by Gay Morgan, Ronna Davis and the wonderful Sippola’s. (They always made the punch!) We all look forward to sharing the holiday spirit with you in December 2020 too!

Mr. Fixit, Climbing ladders to make repairs and install holiday lighting are tasks left for Jim Hammes’s Fixit Team. A small mechanical Santa climbing a ladder appeared at the society’s Christmas Social to help decorate the tree. Below are Susan Brooking, Royce Ann Burks, and Shirley Espley



Carol Gebel and Gay Morgan look over the lovely and appetizing spread

The Wonder of Christmas Eve at Finn Hall

By Doug Osella

My aunt Ila Wickman Davis in her memoirs of the early days says: *Christmas Eve at the Temperance Hall was always very special. The huge candle lit tree, whose decorating we were privileged to watch because Papa was doing a lot of the work. That evening Santa Claus came and gave each child a bag of hard candy and an orange. Times here remind me of Mr. Friberg making the welcoming speech. Mr. Liljequist playing the violin and Mrs. Liljequist singing “Silent Night” in Finnish. So many wonderful Christmas Eves at Finn Hall.*

When December rolled around in old Rocklin, special preparations had to be made. Someone from the Christmas committee was assigned a shopping list: Candy and nuts, coffee, sugar, sacks, napkins, and 2 boxes of apples. That came to a subtotal of \$9.76. Then before the big night, the shopper needed to buy milk and cream, lights and globes from Wolf and Royer in Roseville, boiled ham and butter from Skaggs, bread and cakes from Quality Bakery, tree decorations and cotton, crepe paper, pins, thumb tacks, light reflec-

tors and tinsel. Also, for the price of \$1.50, the Christmas tree had to be picked up. Mrs. Suhonen would purchase the oranges. The grand total for all these supplies as recorded on a typed expenditure statement for the Temperance Society in 1909 was \$31.44, a sizeable sum in those days for one night’s fun.

On the big night of enchantment for the over-excited kids, the wafting smells of coffee from the big pot—and the thought of fresh bread, boiled ham, butter, and cake for dessert—must have pulled the adults into The Hall as well. It’s common knowledge that Finns love their coffee. December rarely brought snow to Rocklin; there were no icicles hanging from the eaves and no snow drifts. The most wintery weather might be rain or chilly fog. So, where could be found the magic of Christmas for these anxious Finnish kids? It had to be the possibility Santa Claus himself would show up. Well, as Gary Day has documented from eye witness accounts, a miracle did take place at a critical point during the evening: *Santa Claus climbed down a ladder from an upstairs trap door to deliver candy and Whitney Ranch oranges.*



This Finnish Christmas card shows Joulupukki wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! (in Finnish, of course!)

From the desk of... Gene Johnson

Steve Paul, chairman of December's Tree Lighting requested information regarding the start of tree lighting event 12 years ago. Following are my recollections:

In December 2006 there was a precursor to the Front Street tree lightings when Historical Society volunteers celebrated progress in restoring Old St Mary's Chapel. Scaffolding was inside and outside of the building, kids loved it, carols were sung – a memorable celebration – but no tree to be lit.

Near the same time, at the suggestion of councilman Scott Yuill, the Chamber of Commerce hosted a series of meetings entitled "Rediscover Rocklin" to consider what might be done to revitalize downtown. Jill Gayaldo, Dan Gayaldo and Gene Johnson, felt a tree lighting on Front Street next to the Old St. Mary's Chapel would be a fun way to bring people together.

With Jill, Dan and Gene as co-

chairmen planning was under way for the 2007 Tree Lighting. Rocklin Historical Society members assisted with event organization and Chapel decoration. Kiwanis Club of Rocklin agreed to be the legal sponsor providing liability coverage, and over the years gave away thousands of hot dogs. (Everything was free: food, wagon and train rides, face painting, etc.)

Kiwanis, Lions Club, Rotary Club, merchants and businesspeople donated funds and food. Clark's BBQ and Roofing cooked ribs and chicken, Jerry Dizon's State Farm provided desserts.

A mini parade signaled the start of the event at 5 pm. A school band led the parade that included Rocklin Residents United For Fido (RRUFF) decorated pooches, floats and the big fire truck with Santa Claus. Crossroads Church (now 180 Church) reminded us of the *reason for the season* with a live Nativity scene. Professional Voice led carols in the Chapel. LDS volunteers decorated trees and delivered them to needy families after the event.

The Tree Challenge: A tree was donated for the first tree lighting – when delivered we found it smaller than expected – but the price was right. The tree was placed on a five-foot stack of wooden pallets to make it visible to attendees at the lighting ceremony. Some parents expressed disappointment with the tree; we soon went shopping for a more suitable centerpiece. Nitta's Nursery donated an adolescent redwood tree that in six years grew to an acceptable size. Meanwhile, a Deodar Cedar with its spindly top strapped to iron pipes, served the purpose. The Front Street tree lightings had another homey touch – folks won't let us forget that, twice, the tree lights did not come on at the end of the crowd's 10 count. Very, very bad!

Weather was good for most years. One year the crowd-filled street shrouded in a gentle, misty fog, was a particularly memorable scene. Attendance at the Front Street Tree Lighting grew from a few hundred to an estimated 4000 over the 10 years.

When the Tree Lighting moved to Quarry Park, I was disappointed. I missed the mini parade and Old St Mary's. But, when Marg and I attended Quarry Park these last 2 years we felt that, all in all, the new venue and format works very well. The large, permanent stage is a big asset. And, the city purchased and planted a very, very large live tree for the event – no 6-year wait. A very, very good thing!

Left: Lots of lights on the patio pergola, bushes and the chapel itself accompanied the beautiful tree of the past.



Above: Gene and Marg Johnson enjoy the festivities at Quarry Park.

Below: Not sure which is lovelier, the tree or Marina Breitbart and Ronna Davis!



Finnish Sisu

Marg and I took a short vacation and parked the rig at Emma Woods State Beach near Ventura CA. At the campfire we learned that our neighbor (Hax) was Finnish by birth and very up on Finnish history. Hax inspired me to learn more about my Finnish roots and recommended I read "Frozen Hell" about the Russian Finnish war of 1939-1940. The story is about how greatly outnumbered, the Finns held out for 100 days, lost the battle but showed the world their *sisu** and ultimately retained their independence.

**Sisu* is a grim, gritty, white-knuckle form of courage that is seen typically in situations where success is against the odds. *Sisu* is often considered representative of the Finnish national character.



Many people turned out for the festivities at Old St. Mary's before the ceremony was moved to Quarry Park.



Rocklin's landmark, Finnish Temperance Hall

By Doug Osella

HOLD ON TO YOUR SEATS

SETTING: Circa 1930, Finn Hall, Rocklin. Saturday Evening: 8:00 P.M. A young girl, dressed as an older woman—her name Lydia Bumpershoot on the playbill—struts out in front of the curtain and addresses the audience: *Ladies an' gentlemen: Before startin' our show to-night there is somethings I have to tell you so's you won't get all mixed up an' not know what's what.*

This blond teenager, playing a haughty woman of 50, goes on to explain the scenes to follow, before bowing and strutting off stage: *Now, if you'll just wait a minute the show will start right off.* There is a stir of anticipation among the audience seated in rows of folding wooden chairs.

Live performances such as this were possible because of Finn Hall. The teenage girl, who portrayed the older woman in the play, grew up, married, and in later years became shy about her hamming-it-up-on-stage. She had no aspirations of becoming another Ilona Massey, the sultry and famous Hungarian actress. Instead, in 1943, Ilona Wickman Osella gave birth and became my mother.



Ilona, Elvie, Elsa, Syl, Lorena

Ilona shared another experience on stage while in high school. She played the lead role in a melodrama at Finn Hall entitled, *And the Villain Still Pursued Her*. Her friend, Syl Kesti, played the villain. Other friends filled out the cast. Dressed in dark clothes and beard, the villain chased the heroine all over the stage. It was a big hit. The following week Roseville High sponsored "Dress-Up Day", and several of the cast wore their costumes to school.

The Wickman family was immersed in the activities of Finn Hall. My mother said throughout the years, but more so in the early days, there was always something going on at "The Hall". During the day women met in sewing and quilting groups and to plan events.

In the evenings, members of the Rocklin Echo Band met to rehearse, tuning up for future dances.

Social events included dances, plays, speakers, parties, recitations, variety shows, gymnastic demonstrations, school plays, and graduation ceremonies. The Finnish Brotherhood Lodge also held their meetings at The Hall and used the building for their events. My mother recalled her father (Victor Wickman) frequently participating in the shows. Talent and variety shows were popular, and plays were the order of the day, especially in the early days with titles in Finnish such as *Sulhanen Vanjukasta (The Groom in Prison)*. As the decades hurried by, titles in English such as *The Hightones Buy a Car* became more common.

Victor was often asked to recite a poem entitled *Amerikalaistunut (Going to America)*. Fittingly, the poem—written in a combination of Finnish and English called by the Finns *Finliska*—is about a Finnish immigrant, who has several humorous experiences in the new country. He gets a job in a mine and is called "pitdigger", a derogatory title. He meets his sweetheart, is dumped by his sweetheart for an Irish boy, goes into a bar, drinks too much and ends up in jail.

As the years passed by, the Finn Hall was often rented out to other community groups as well.

A HOUSE FOR ALL ROCKLINITES

Even though the structure was built by George Gilmore of Loomis, it has been mentioned that Finnish hearts and souls were put into the construction of Finn Hall in 1905. Finnish quarrymen had a big part in the construction. As has been documented, the curved, finished granite steps as well as the stones for the porch and foundation were quarried and crafted at nearby quarries.



Finn Hall—the pride of Rocklin

Katie Palo who lived on the corner of South Grove and Winding Lane remembered that the workers used sleds and horses to pull the large, granite blocks from neighboring quarries to the building site. Helen Kesti reported similar memories.

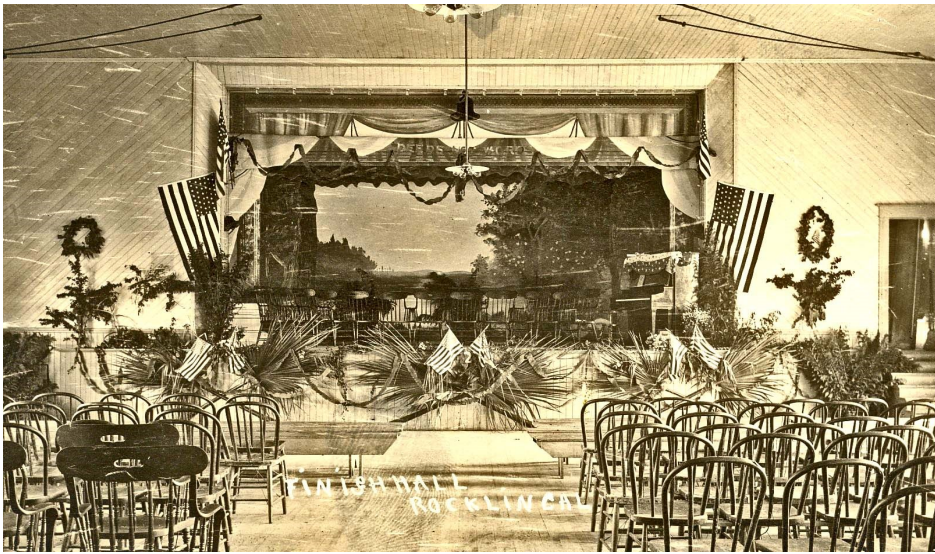
Leonard Davis in his history of Rocklin says, "By far the most impressive addition to Rocklin during this period was Rocklin's beloved Finn Hall..." It is a building of simple lines and yet, even today, it stands rather arrogantly at the

(Continued on page 7)



Finn Hall 1904 Given by George Gilmore's granddaughter Halls Builder
Construction on Finn Hall in 1905. Each tier of the steps was provided by a different Rocklin quarry operating at the time.

(Finn Hall, continued from page 6)



Inside Finn Hall, in preparation for a 1907 graduation

intersection of Grove St. and Rocklin Rd. Inside the building, the main floor is an assembly hall with a stage and hardwood floor. Below the hardwood, there were once dressing rooms. At the front of the building is an upstairs. The most impressive part of the building is the sweeping second floor balcony that projects over the large, entryway porch and steps that follow the same arc as above. The balcony is supported by four ample columns and is enclosed on the top by an ornate balustrade.

The building was planned by the Finnish Temperance Society. The question arises: Why temperance? It's true, there was an overabundance of saloons in Rocklin in those days, but the Society's purpose was more than "dryness" as research on the national movement sums up: *the Finns had a temperance society not because they were so temperate but to hold the people together.* The idea worked well for several decades in Rocklin.

Growing up in the 1940s and 50s, I recall my mother taking me to The Hall. I remember the stage, the hardwood floor, the folding wooden chairs, and the dressing rooms downstairs. I don't remember going upstairs. The Finn Hall was designed for plays and performances. Today, Rocklin's Community Theater continues this well-established Finnish tradition.

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

Marie (Marttila) Ojala in a 1980s letter to a friend described dances at the Finn Hall: *The big doings were held at the newly finished white building (1905), Finnish Temperance Hall. The dances were grand. The ladies were dressed beautifully and proudly marched the promenade. Between dance sections, the gentlemen walked their ladies in a large circle around the hall, ladies in the outside circle. I still think that will remain a most beautiful*

picture in my mind. The Rocklin Echo Band played.

Helen Kesti remembered the waltz and jig, the polka, Virginia reel, schottische, and quadrille as being popular dances. Aunt Ila wrote this in her memoirs: "Saturday night dances for which it was so often quoted: *Dance tonite at the Temperance Hall, ladies free on the hardwood floor*". And, with a midnight supper break, the dancers would polka and waltz until 3:00 A.M.

My mother, the youngest of the five Wickman daughters of Victor and Otilia, came along in the late 1920s and early 1930s to enjoy the dances as well. She liked the lively dances with the young men, such as the polka and schottische. The older men often asked the young ladies to dance the fast dances because their wives were no longer willing or able.

Even though Finn Hall dances were fun, my mother added that to experience the latest dance crazes and music, the young people would find a way out to Allen's Dance Hall, which was located in the country near where Auburn Folsom Rd. crosses present day Douglas Blvd.

A LASTING HERITAGE

I'm beginning to believe Finn Hall has a long-term permanence in our city. I hope so. Growing up in Rocklin, I never had any real awareness of the specialness of our landmark. But it has survived the moving of the railroad roundhouse from Rocklin to Roseville in 1908, tragic fires on Front Street, the Granite Strike of 1915, and many other "booms and busts" throughout the decades, both locally and nationally. Quite a history! And to its glory, even today, community events and plays continue to be held in its old hall and on its old stage. "Bravo to Finn Hall and its legacy!"



Gene Johnson, David Baker, and president Hank Lohse help reveal the Rocklin Historical Society's place on the Wall of Recognition

Rocklin Historical Society honored at Wall of Recognition ceremony on November 7

ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT THE FOUNDATION OF ROCKLIN AND WORKS TO SHARE STORIES OF THE PAST WITH CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS THROUGH PRESERVATION OF PRICELESS ITEMS AND BUILDINGS. SUCH AS OLD ST. MARY'S CHAPEL AND THE ROCKLIN HISTORY MUSEUM.

Know Your Docent: Shirley Corral Espley

By Gay Morgan

Soon after the Rocklin History Museum opened, I began writing about our wonderful docents. Many of these first volunteers had connections to early Rocklin's history, but this is a first. Shirley is a second generation docent!

Shirley grew up in Rocklin. She is the daughter of Barbara and Frank Corral whose parents were part of the group who came from Spain to California by way of Hawaii.

I first met this charming young lady when she was about four years old. She would accompany her mother as she delivered her son, Alfred, to Rocklin Elementary School where he was in my second grade. Shirley insisted on having a lunch box too, even if she didn't go to school yet.

Shirley's mother Barbara was one of the original members of RHS, always willing to help, filling in gaps in the history from her memory and always bringing delicious treats for the socials. She loved to bake and share her recipes. She kept a meticulous scrapbook of RHS members and activities. (She even ironed newspaper clippings before she put them in the book.) In 2002, when the Museum opened, she became one of the first docents.

Shirley attended Rocklin Elementary School and Oakmont High School and graduated from Sierra College with a degree in Accounting and went to work at the Citizen's Bank in Roseville.

Peter Espley was home on leave from Viet Nam when friends introduced him to Shirley (just 16 years old). They have been married for



Shirley with her brothers Alfred, left, Gene, and Edward, circa 1958.

almost 50 years and are the proud parents of son Sean and daughter Sarah. They are equally delighted to have four grandchildren.

Shirley worked at the bank, off and on, for many years. She retired from the City of Roseville



Shirley Corral Espley

and now has more time to devote to the Rocklin History Museum. She says even though she has lived in Roseville for most of her married life, she truly feels that Rocklin is her home. She took



Shirley's mother and first generation RHS volunteer, Barbara Corral

over the RHS history scrapbook in 2015, taking photos, clipping (and ironing) newspaper articles the way Barbara did. She has created displays of her Spanish culture and has a wealth of knowledge of the history of this special group and Club Espanol. She is vivacious and outgoing and proud of her heritage, but best of all, she, like her mother, loves to bake, much to our delight. Drop by and meet this lovely lady.

The passing of a Valued RHS member

By Gay Morgan

Long time Rocklin Historical Society member Paul Hietala passed away on June 11, 2019. He was born in Sacramento and spent the first five years of his life in Rocklin. After moving to Sacramento he spent summer vacations in Rocklin with his grandparents Matti and Marie Hietala.

Paul worked in Sacramento County law enforcement for many years. Later he had his own investigating agency called "The Thin Blue Line".

He always attended the Rocklin Homecoming on Memorial Day



Rudolph Paul Hietala

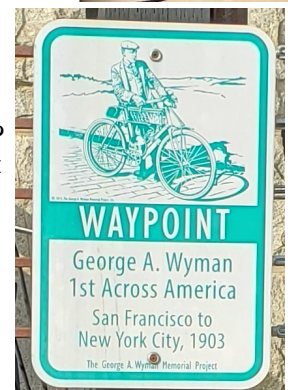
Weekend. He was also a member of the Finlandia Club.

Ursala and Paul were married in 1961. They have three children and five grandchildren. He certainly will be missed by many friends and family members.

Where is the mystery place this time?

The sign below is posted somewhere in Rocklin. Do you know where?

And what is the story behind this sign? Read all about it in the next issue of the Quarry Quarterly!





By Dr. James Carlson

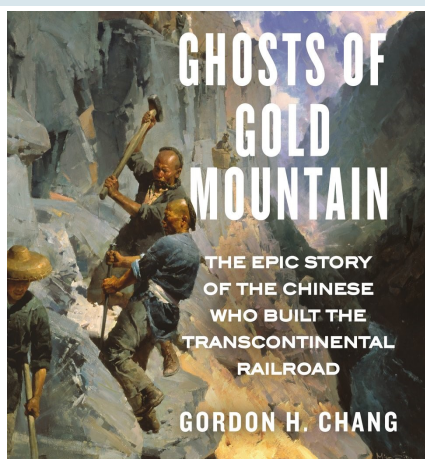
Ghosts of Gold Mountain by Gordon H. Chang.

Lotus Fong, from the Chinese Historical Society of America, who visited Old St. Mary's Chapel early in November brought with her copies for purchase of this book which tells the story of the "Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad." The "ghosts" can be interpreted in many ways. The Railroad Chinese have been neglected by history for their contribution to constructing the Transcontinental.

Even at the time of completion the Chinese are not seen in the iconic photo of the Golden Spike in 1869 Utah. The ghosts could also refer to the many who perished here, far from their home in China. When deaths occurred it was incumbent on the survivors to return their compatriots' bodily remains to the land of their birth. Staggering amounts of remains were returned by ship. However, due to the circumstances of explosions, avalanches, and other tragic events the remains were often unrecoverable and according to their belief system the ghosts of the departed remain at Gold Mountain as they called California. Even in 2019 occasionally the remains of a Railroad Chinese are discovered in locations along the line.

The book relies a lot on the photos of the time which illustrate the book. One wishes they were larger. However it is possible to see Chinese workers who never seem to be the main concern of the photographer. There was in fact very little interest by the majority population of these strange and exotic "Celestials" from far away. Most of these workers were contract workers headed by a native group leader. They were not "Coolies" or in servitude and in fact there was a brief strike near the end of their work to surmount the Sierra at Donner Pass by blasting tunnels through hard granite. Black powder was the explosive of choice. TNT, newly invented by Alfred Nobel was tried but found to be too unstable for this type of work.

This reviewer has had a long sim-



mering question "too afraid to ask". Why not tunnel from the higher foothills under the summit to the high desert of Nevada? On page 125 there was reassurance this is not such a crazy idea. There was consideration of a single tunnel all the way through the Sierra! It would have been "five miles in length" and as much as "one thousand feet below the surface of the route." "It would have cost as much as one \$1 million a mile in mid-nineteenth-century U.S. dollars." The company eventually opted not to do this.

The living habits of the Chinese were modest. They honored their ancestors and had a strong work ethic. They bathed regularly, ate their native foods provided by contractors who they paid for this service. They were not inclined to using "spirits" (alcohol) as were the Caucasians working the road. Some likely would have used opium and played games of chance for relaxation. The Chinese were not as prone to water-borne diseases such as dysentery because of their habit of boiling water for tea.

Since most of the Chinese were illiterate there remains no written record of their daily life of what can only be called drudgery working sunrise to sunset six days a week. There are few if any artist's rendering of life on the road far from home.

The author ends the book by stating "One day a hungry ghost seeking resolution might lead a researcher to that elusive prize, the diary of a Railroad Chinese."

With recent work and modest excavations by Rocklin Historical Society volunteers, one wonders if we might find such a diary from the Railroad Chinese at the historic roundhouse site where they resided. Especially since these folks had "24 hours" to get out of town. In their haste, it is possible they left many artifacts to be found.



Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

By Jim Hammes

Well, what a Final Quarter and year it has been for our handy Team. This article will be a reflection and look ahead as a recap from the past year.

I am actually completing my First year with the Historical Society and leading the Fix It Team as our navigator of projects.

Our Team has had a focus of creating project visions which lead to Quality results that added to the ongoing agenda of our Historical Society goals to enrich and endure the Past – Present and Future of our community.

It has and will remain our mission on the Fix It Team to also provide our Rocklin residents with information and points of interest to encourage them to feel more enlightened and maybe even motivated into becoming a part of our Award Winning Rocklin Historical Society.

The past year recorded many hours of hard work, sweat and countless hours of dedication to getting all of our planned projects to the finish line with credible and quality results.

We will be embarking on a new year ahead ... actually a new decade lies before us all. How will Rocklin be recorded in upcoming years?

We have already been planning for our participative efforts with the Fix It Team to continue projects that will add and inspire not only our Team but all our fellow Rocklin community members.

So ... I want to Thank our Team and ALL of the additional volunteers and groups we called upon for their Time and Efforts whenever we needed the extra hands and minds.

We always invite and encourage anyone to join our ... Band of Brothers (Editor's Note: and Sisters!) known as the Fix It Team in the New Year ahead.

We meet regularly every Tuesday morning at the Oracle Café here in Rocklin at 7:30 am for breakfast and planning sessions.

On behalf of the Fix It Team we wish all a Happy and Prosperous New Year and look forward to once again adding what small part we can to creating an enduring mark on the history of our wonderful Rocklin community.

A moment in HERstory

Interesting tales of women throughout Rocklin's history

Editor's Note: To coincide with the park honoring the Willard family, we are sharing an excerpt of Hazel June Willard's memories about life in early Rocklin. "Donated from Laura Woods written by our Aunt during WWII to Laverne Splan"

The day I was born, my father, George Chester Willard, was driving oxen at the Delano Granite Quarry on Rocklin Road. It was June 28, 1888. This was long before concrete put granite out of business and the heavy granite slabs were hauled by carts pulled by oxen.

The oxen were faithful creatures. They turned left and right according to the holler of Gee and Haw. They moved them along with a sharp brad in the end of a stick which our Dad was able to use.

One time the cart backed too far and went into the quarry hole and Mother said the oxen just dug their feet into the ground and held with all their might until the men could get braces enough to pull it up from the ledge. She said that they were so dumb looking but realized the danger.

They always gave Dad a day off to buy the oxen since they had such confidence in his judgment in animals. The horns of the oxen were usually sawed off and brass clamps put over them so they couldn't hook anyone. Mother said Dad would spend most of his Sunday currying and brushing the old oxen who never looked any better when he finished.

Our neighbors included Mrs. Moore who came with her husband during the 49er gold rush. They took up a section of land in the wilderness so remote that it took Mr. Moore two days to reach Sutter's Fort for provisions. During these times, she was left alone with only two dogs for protection. She lived in a log cabin and once during Mr. Moore's absence a rattlesnake came onto the clearing. She had to kill it when an axe for if she had not it might have gone under the house and come up through the logs in the floor. In those early days Mrs. Moore had kept bags of gold for the miners since there were no safes or banks.

The Moores owned all the property around the quarry which Delanos operated for them on a percentage per carload basis. Mrs. Moore always wore a sun bonnet and Mother and I made her many as it was the only gift we could give this very old lady who never told her age. Mrs. Moore had chickens and guinea hens running around. The guinea hens were peculiar fowls and quite useless, but my mind's eye recalls the stone cellar where the milk and fresh butter were kept, which we bought from her, and the ten gallon jar of vinegar setting on the porch in the sun since they had to make their own.*

Another neighbor was Mr. Fletcher, an old man, who had his house on Rocklin Road. He used to buy granite from the quarries and cut it, then sell it in San Francisco. He was known to cut stone all night in order to get money to send to his son Henry who was in medical school. Henry was our family doctor until his death.



Hazel June Willard

Mr. Fletcher used to buy milk from us and visit with my brother, Alf, a lot. We never saw big boxes of matches as we have them today and in those days they came in blocks and we pulled short stems off the blocks. Everyone used them. Mr. Fletcher got some like we use today and since they were very new Alf asked many question about them, so Mr. Fletcher gave him a box. I thought it

was so nice of him, but Mother said to Miss Rice, "The very idea of a man giving a kid matches!"

When his son Henry came, he used to give us nickels and dimes. I remember Dad telling Mother that when he settled up for the doctor bill he tried to return some of the money given to us kids, but Doc wouldn't hear of it.

Across the road from the Finn Hall, you can see

a huge piece of granite. I remember that Mr. Fletcher hauled it there with a team and a funny little wagon he had made himself. It was quite the talk of the town since no one knew just why he



George Willard with his team of oxen at Delano Quarry, c.1890.

Hazel Willard, continued from page 10



Block matches were used before Mr. Fletcher brought some boxed matches, much to the delight of Hazel's brother Alf

hauled it there, and worse still they don't know yet. But the rock is still there.

Before my brother, Alfred Hinkley Willard was born, I was such a lonely little girl of five years roaming around a five acre field with no other children around for miles, or so it seemed to me. For pleasure I used to rush all my dolls to the window and set them in chairs, take my drum and watch train engines go by to the quarry to get granite for big buildings. My dad said that I played around every stone that was put into

the Stockton courthouse.

Every morning around ten, I used to take about two quarts of coffee and a piece of cake through the field to the quarry to Dad. Once I became afraid of a cow and another time the horses bothered me. I chatted it over with Mrs. Moore and I can still see that old lady with a cane telling me they wouldn't hurt me and laughing all the while we talked.

There were many chores to do in those days. One of our tasks was to keep the lamps clean. The chimney had to be washed and wiped without streaks until they shone. Then they were filled with coal oil. On wash day we all had our job to do. Everyone had to rise early for the occasion. First the water was carried, then the clothes were washed on a board with soap, then put in a boiler of soap and boiled. The clothes were then put into rinse water and then put through a hand turned wringer. I've seen all the lines filled and all the way round the fence covered with overalls and long heavy underdrawers.

Often we would be playing in the yard and look up on the porch to see Mother with a big chunk of *pull candy** to surprise us. We often had our own little chunks to pull. It was particularly delicious.

During the winter evenings, Dad would take two pieces of wood and pretend to play the violin as we walked back and forth going through the popular *quadrilles** of the day. Sometimes neighbors would come in and watch us.

Something that we looked forward to was Mother and Dad taking us to town to hear political speeches. They would have a big fire in the middle of the street and the town would rush there to hear the talks. On other occasions, there was a photographer who came to town and he had a tent where the little school stands today. There was straw on the bare ground and this one chair. I remember feeling very beautiful because my hair was hanging loosely as all the rest of the time I had to wear it in braids. We had to wait for good weather to get the picture developed as they

had no artificial light. If it was a good day you got your pictures quickly otherwise we waited for the sun's bidding. I recall seeing the little glass frames sitting all around the outside of the tent containing the pictures developed in the sun. The Fourth of July

celebration was the big occasion of our childhood days. We all had to be outfitted for the race at the track. This is when I got my new summer hat. The boys had blouses tucked with lace collars like little Lord Fauntleroy. It was the event of the town. We could drink water out of a tin cup at a barrel, buy soda and candy. Then everyone would scream for their horses. After months of preparation a good time was always had by all.

Dad got up dances for the old folks of the town. I think he named it the North Wind Dance. They served refreshments and had lots of fun. Dad being the leader of all good times in which no liquor was ever thought of, because everyone had so much fun without it.

When automobiles came in they were a great joy to our Dad. He never minded going fast, in fact he rather liked it, but most of all he could get where he wanted to go without worrying about tiring a horse. (Incidentally, I was about fourteen before I ever saw a car and then we ran for miles to see one going down the road. It wasn't until I was twenty-one that I had a ride in one).

A tragic house fire—The community responds

In 1906, our house burned. There were many fires in Rocklin at this time. Dad had made a water trough that led from the water tank up to the house as we had no other means of getting water. The water emptied into a barrel sunk half-way into the ground. After work Dad would pump water into the tank which came along the trough into the water barrel. Later he built a *windlass*.* He used to hitch the horse and walk him around and around to pump the water. He thought it was a godsend when we got city water at last, but the water system had just been completed when the house burned and no one knew where the hydrants were at the time of the fire so it was of no use.

After the house burned and the furniture was scattered all over the field, Dad slept out in the field to watch over it. He was terribly discouraged, but our stalwart Mother said, "It's summer and we can stay right here until we can get another house." So they cleaned out the barn and we slept there. I remember coyotes howling at night and the beautiful full moon that smiled in on us. But we weren't on a camping trip. Everything had to be clean.

Mother cooked in the wood shed and we ate under the old oak tree. Everyone in town offered to help us get another house. Bill Thomas so unselfishly did the dirtiest work of tearing out the burned wood and thereby saving the foundation for us, for which we owed him much in gratitude. The boss of the roundhouse let all the carpenters he had in the roundhouse come and help. The men from the quarry did all the rough work on our house. They didn't need a real carpenter. They worked Sundays and after working in the quarry all day until dark and not one of them would even eat a meal with us.

When the new house was nearly finished before the partitions were put in the folks decided to have a housewarming. They asked the Anabal family to play, she played a little organ and he played the violin. They played all evening, had quadrilles and everyone had such a happy time. When it came time to serve dinner Mother got so embarrassed because she didn't have enough plates or hadn't borrowed enough, but Dad went out and gathered the new clean shingles and served on them. Everyone thought it was such a cute idea that they forgot to mention the good food Mother served.

Right from the beginning our house became a home built on unselfishness, goodwill and love.

It was wonderful growing up in Rocklin, California.

*see page 15 for further explanation



Travelling photographers would set up a tent, hoping the weather would cooperate



Rocklin Elementary School Photos

By Charlene Rhodes

The museum has a large collection of Rocklin Elementary School photos, some from the school on Pacific but most from the Meyers Street location. They are class photos, graduation photos, special events, sports; they have been scanned into our collection and put into binders for easy viewing. Unfortunately, we do not have everyone identified. We are asking for your help. Please stop by the museum, open Wed. Sat. Sun. 1-4 to take a look at the photos and help with identification. If you cannot get to the museum during open hours, contact Charlene at (916) 622-9816 to arrange an alternative time. The sample photo is from 1953, the first 8th grade graduation at the "new" school on Meyers. Middle row, far right is Principal Glenn Smith. Online version: zoom in for a closer look at the students!

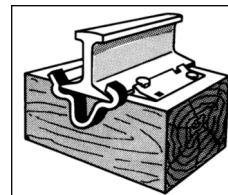


Can you identify this item?

From the Fall issue: Several of these mysterious items were found at the round-house cleanup. What is it?



Called "rail anchors," they are used to clamp onto the base of **rail** snug against the cross-tie on both sides. Its purpose is to eliminate the track from sliding or expanding or contracting.



Our new mystery also has to do with the railroad. Do you know what it is from? You can read all about it in the next issue!



Old St. Mary's Chapel

By Nancy Lohse

Another incredibly busy year at Old St. Mary's Chapel! For 52 couples, our little chapel will always be remembered as their special location for their wedding day. While each ceremony is unique, some stick out in our memories. For example, one couple reached out to us at the last minute as their venue was closed due to rain. They had just lost their home to fire, too! The 'Church Ladies' stepped up to the plate and donated the chapel to make sure their day was perfect!

For 13 families, they will remember the chapel as the place they said good-bye to their loved one. A memorial service for Leon 'Shorty' Vicencio will be a special memory for the Rocklin Historical Society. Shorty spent countless hours working on restoring the chapel and it seemed the perfect place to honor him.

Not only did the chapel host weddings and memorials, it also opened its doors to various community events. In addition to the historical society's speakers series at the chapel, the Friends of the Library invited the public to hear speakers, the Placer County Historical Society held their meeting, and the William Jessup History Club also met at the chapel. For 17 days throughout the year, the chapel hosted third grade field trips, welcoming over 600 students to hear about her history and ring the bell. We even had a tour by the Red Hat Society.



The outside was once again used to film a short movie.

If you haven't seen Old St. Mary's all decked out for Christmas, put it on your to-do list! The Church Ladies opened her doors to the community for the first annual Old St. Mary's Chapel Christmas Open House complete with yummy treats and beautiful music. See you next year!

The Church Ladies are the heart of the chapel. Without them none of these events would happen. If they continue to work as hard as they did this year, a trip to Hawaii may be in order!

Thank you, Ladies, for all your hard work and volunteer hours you put into this special place! You are truly appreciated.





At the January 8 Museum Committee meeting, David Baker shared RHS long-range goals and aspirations for 2020 and beyond. Among the projects RHS would like to complete include

- Seeing the roundhouse site restored and preserved
- Complete the inventory of historic items at the Corporation yard and in the museum house
- Build a barn near Old St. Mary's to hold receptions
- Document historic houses in Rocklin and install markers
- Continue and expand research on historic ranches and the placing of vintage farm equipment
- Continue to place historic plaques at sites (currently in progress: Home Quarry and the Capitol Quarry. Upcoming: Johnson Springview Dairy)
- Develop exhibits to interpret Rocklin's quarry legacy at Quarry Park and its

100 YEARS AGO

ROCKLIN BECOMING LIVE CITY

Our sister city of Rocklin is to the front once more. The large contract obtained by the California Granite company is bringing many people to the town.

For the first time in years the hotel is again open and doing a fine business.

A restaurant has been opened by an enterprising individual who sees many men coming, who must be fed three times a day.

Two new grocery stores have opened for business, and a pool parlor has opened for business.

The California Granite company has the contract for furnishing all of the granite for the new Bank of Italy to be built in San Francisco.

railroad legacy at the roundhouse site

- Preserve Club Espanola collection
- Help determine what should be done with Sunset Whitney clubhouse

What would you like to see added to this list? Do you have something you

What was on the minds of Rocklin citizens one hundred years ago? Fires, for one thing! And the good economic news coming at the heels of the moving of the roundhouse. Reprinted from *The Roseville Register*, 1-8-1920 and 1-15-1920

ROCKLIN DOES NOT HEAR FIRE BELL FOR ENTIRE YEAR

With the closing of the year 1919 Mrs. J. Scanne of Rocklin writes *The Register* that during the entire year of 1919 the Rocklin fire bell has not been called upon to sound a warning of fire.

Rocklin has a disastrous fire six years ago when an entire block was destroyed and the people of that now thriving town appreciate the fact that the Fire Demon has left them unmolested for the entire year.

Rocklin will soon be teeming with industry as a contract for thousands of dollars worth of granite has been let to one of the granite quarries in that city, and men will be out to work soon to bring it out of the big quarries.

could contribute - knowledge, resources, skills, interest - in one or more of these areas?

Please send your thoughts and ideas to the Rocklin Historical Society:
rocklinhistorical@gmail.com

Fact or Fiction? History of "Hello Matson"

Many years ago, Rocklinites would greet each other by saying, "Hello Matson!" The term might have faded as Rocklin grew, but where did it come from? Here is the story, told by Gay Morgan:

My grandmother, Annie Lissi Morys became a widow with seven children when her husband, John, died of appendicitis. John Morys was

the owner of Morys' Saloon and had once been mayor of Rocklin. Being a strong determined woman, Annie decided to take over the operation of the business. However, public opinion was that a woman should not run a saloon. (The Finnish Temperance Society?) So Annie had to put the daily operations in the hands of a handsome young bartender named An-

ton Matson.

As with many bartenders he had a gift of gab and would often speak of his time in the Spanish American War and his connection to Theodore Roosevelt. Most thought he was embellishing his war record.

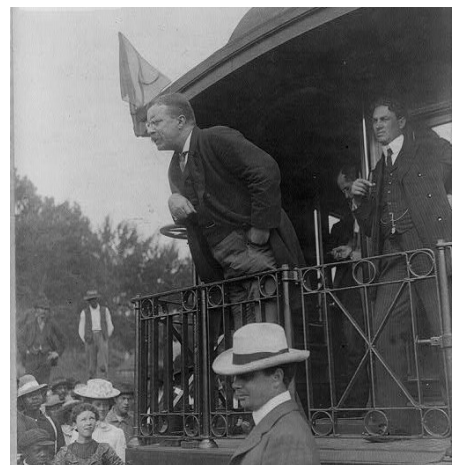
Then one day Theodore Roosevelt came to Rocklin in his private train. He stepped out on the rear platform and called out, "Hello Matson. Are you here? Where is Matson?"

That is where the family tale ended. I always wondered if it was true. I don't even know if Anton responded. I have searched military records from that war and found no Matson. I could find no newspaper account of Roosevelt visiting Rocklin.

But just the other day I was looking through some personal reminiscences at the Rocklin History Museum and found this recollection from Marie Ojalla. She wrote, "It wasn't until about five years ago that I heard the story of President Ted Roosevelt's stop at Rocklin. I never questioned the greeting—"Hello, hello Matson" I always heard it and used it to greet friends. I never heard anyone say

"Hello Fred, John, or Ned"—friends greeted friends with "Hello Matson. I thought it was the proper way to greet friends."

Now you know as much as I do—did it happen? Did Theodore Roosevelt know and call out to Matson? I like to think he did."



Teddy Roosevelt made several stops by train sometimes for a short 15 minutes. Was Rocklin one of them?

YOUNG HISTORIANS



Third grade coin drives help raise funds for a variety of projects

Third grade students learn about their local history in California. The Rocklin Historical Society offers free tours of the museum, Old St. Mary's Chapel and the Firehouse. Many classes include a trip to Huff Springs and the roundhouse site, or to the cemetery or Whitney's tomb. After the field trip, students are invited to conduct a coin drive for the museum and enter an essay contest. One essay from each participating class is selected, and are displayed at the museum. Something new this year is that they will all be published in our online newsletter!

Third graders are also instrumental in raising funds for historical plaques with a coin drive. Beginning with Nancy Lohse's third grade back in 2004, the students first raised money to save Old St. Mary's. The class then helped pull the church into its current location. Since then, the third graders have helped purchase the beautiful fountain on the patio, a plaque for Joel Parker Whitney's tomb, and the historic plaque at the library. A few years' collections went to building the firehouse, and one year their coins were used to purchase the gingerbread trim on top of the firehouse.

This year the third graders are collecting coins for a plaque honoring the Johnson family, and their contributions to the city, including Johnson-Springview Park. All the museum field trip docents enjoy the time spent with these special Rocklinites!



At the Turntable by Kate

The third graders who have visited so far this year participated in the annual essay contest. Below is one of the winning entries, along with some wonderful artwork. See the rest of the essays on the online version of the Quarry Quarterly by visiting our website rocklinhistorical.org



Our Museum Trip by Kai Young



Rocklin Historical Museum by Tristan McCoy



Old St. Mary's Chapel by William Kigart

By Arya Rocklin Elementary School

On Tuesday, October 15, 2019, I went on a field trip to the Rocklin History Museum. First, we went to a church. I got to ring the bell. Guess what we found out that third graders made a fountain called "The Third Grade Fountain."

After that we went to the museum itself! We went to the dining room/timeline room first. Then the living room and we learned about Joel Parker Whitney. Joel owned lots of land.

The next room was about the quarry. The people had to wear pants in 110 degree heat! They did that to prevent getting hurt.

Then we went to the basement. A lot of tools they used were in there and LOTS of granite.

Then the shed. We learned that women did the most work.

Lastly, we went outside. We learned about the Moon family.

When we were walking back we went to Quarry Park. We all thought it was amazing! We went back to school and that day I will never forget!

Essay Contest Winners

By Kai Young
Rocklin Elementary School

Today I learned many things on the Rocklin tour. I learned that women only did the laundry on Mondays and they went through a hard process. Rocklin had lots of granite and they used big tools to cut the granite. The story of Rocklin burning down. Two boys were playing in the hay with matches and then the hay caught on fire. People used tools in the quarries and there were blacksmith tools. As you can see, it was fun and historical.



By Tallie
Twin Oaks Elementary School

The recent field trip to historic Rocklin was really fun! First, we went happily to the bright church and we got to ring the old bell and when my group went, we were able to ring it! I learned that Rocklin got burned down by two kids playing in hay with matches.

Next, we went loudly to the Rocklin History Museum and we learned a lot! Then, we went to Quarry Park to eat and play fun games. Finally we went to some Maidu Indian grinding rocks. In conclusion, as you can see we had a really fun time at our field trip because we got to learn all about Rocklin.



Nisenan grinding rocks at Johnson-Springview Park

By Takeo
Antelope Creek Elementary School

At the Rocklin History Museum we went to the dining room, the kitchen, basement the Moon's family's house, and the washing shed. We learned that women had lots of responsibility, Pete Moon played baseball and he was a silent warrior in World War II. He lived in the house by himself and did not have any children, and his parents meet in Hawaii. At the basement, we saw a lot of quarry tools and blacksmith tools. We saw a timeline in the dining room. As you can see, at the Rocklin History Museum we had lots of fun.

By Naomi
Sierra Elementary School

On my field trip, first I learned that the library only had one bookshelf. I also learned that two kids at the age of eight and six were playing with matches and burned down Rocklin's stores! Two other facts I learned is that St. Mary's top fell off and the bell was stolen by several people. They figured out that only women did the laundry. And they only did laundry on Mondays. That was the most unusual fact I learned. And finally the last two facts that I learned is that one man fell in a quarry and landed on two feet, and that one brick of granite was enough to build a house. Those were all the facts that I learned about Rocklin's history.

By Grace C.
Antelope Creek Elementary School

Interesting things I learned in old Rocklin were that woodpeckers ate the steeple on St. Mary's Church and also, as a matter of fact, someone even stole the church's bell! The bell was very important. When a couple were engaged in St. Mary's, before they left they must ring the bell.

Matt Rhukala fell 45 feet down into the quarry.

How? The claw rope snapped and he fell. But because he was so athletic, he was able to turn his body and land on his feet. At the bottom of the quarry. Was he hurt, I ask you? Yes, he was hurt. In fact, he broke his ankle landing, though. The Rhukala family were blacksmiths is what I learned.

Joel Parker Whitney left his state, age 17, with one dime in his pocket and was okay. After that, he owned 27,000 acres and soon was richer than anyone in Rocklin. He even owned a mansion called "The Oaks."

Another interesting fact about Whitney is he loved golf! He also built a mausoleum to bury his family in. When he died he was buried there with 17 other family members of his.



J. Parker Whitney, his wife and daughter playing golf on his private golf course.



Whitney's tomb

Essay Contest Winners



Quarries were deep and dangerous!

**By Willa
Sierra Elementary School**

Rocklin has a very unique history. But there are some things that really interested me. Before 1860 when Rocklin was not a town, Only the Nisenan and Maidu lived there. But when it was finally 1860 there were only 440 miners working on Secret Ravine. In 1861 the first quarry was found. It was called Brigham and Hawes Quarry. In 1864 the Central Pacific Railroad took a switch stop in Rocklin.



J. Parker Whitney's mansion, "The Oaks"

This brought more people to Rocklin.

Joel Parker Whitney was a very important person in Rocklin history. In 1884 he built The Oaks (a mansion in Rocklin) and Joel Parker Whitney took over the ranch and owned a lot of Rocklin.

In 1885 the first schoolhouse was built. Now we have 17 schools in Rocklin.

In 1905 the Finn Hall was built. In 1908 the Central Pacific Railroad moved to Roseville. In 1914 a fire destroyed lots of businesses in Rocklin. In 1958 Interstate 80 began to be constructed.

Rocklin is a great city today that went from 440 miners to thousands of people living here today.

**By Anna
Sierra Elementary School**

This is my paragraph about the two things that were my favorite part of the field trip and the facts about them.

My two favorite were the St. Mary's Chapel and the

story of the fire that burned most of Front Street. Let's start with Old St. Mary's Chapel One thing was that I felt proud of being a third grader. I felt proud of being a third grader because another third grade class had helped St. Mary's chapel by doing a coin drive. The third graders raised 881 dollars because a man wanted to tear it down and make the space where the church was a parking lot. The third graders did not have enough money to move the church all the way.

So the truck left it in the middle of the road. Some of the people in the community were interested. So some of the community and all the third graders pulled the chapel on wheels to the place that it is today.

Another thing was that because of woodpeckers and wind, the steeple fell off! But it gets worse.... The 600 pound bell fell off and some people stole it! The Rocklin history society never found the bell so they replaced it with another one. My favorite part was that 5 people including me pulled the rope and the bell rang!

Now it's time to talk about the story. I loved this story because it teaches you a lesson. It all started off with a windy day and there were to boys, an 8 year old and a 6 year old. They wanted to go play in the basement where the horses were kept. That meant there was hay. The boys wanted to go play in the hay... with matches.

Almost the whole front street burned! But you know what the funny thing is? A few years ago a woman called and said her dad was not feeling well and said that he was one of the boys who burned down the street! I loved this field trip! The story taught me a lesson and the St. Mary's Chapel was beautiful! This was a great experience of education and fun.

**By Serenity
Rock Creek Elementary School**

There are many amazing, wonderful, and fun history to learn about in Rocklin, California. I'm going to start out with how Rocklin's name first appeared in 1864. "On the Central Pacific Railroad line card #1 printed

sometime shortly before June 6th, 1864, the name of the Rocklin station first appeared." Also the first church was built in 1883. The back story to that is, according to Ruben Ruhkala, in early 1881 a St. Patrick's Day dance was held to raise funds to build a Catholic church in Rocklin. St. Mary's of the Assumption was erected in 1883.

Some more facts are a huge fire destroys a business district in 1914. Sunset Whitney became a part of Rocklin in 1969. Rocklin had its 125 year anniversary in 2018. And that is where I stop but there are many more amazing wonderful and fun history to learn about in Rocklin, California.

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD.									
No. 1, TIME CARD No. 1									
To take effect Monday June 6th, 1864, at 5 A. M.									
TRAINS EASTWARD.					TRAINS WESTWARD.				
From	Time	From	Time	From	From	Time	From	Time	From
San Francisco	10:30 A.M.	San Francisco	10:30 A.M.	San Francisco	San Francisco	10:30 A.M.	San Francisco	10:30 A.M.	San Francisco
Stockton	11:30 A.M.	Stockton	11:30 A.M.	Stockton	Stockton	11:30 A.M.	Stockton	11:30 A.M.	Stockton
Yuba City	12:30 P.M.	Yuba City	12:30 P.M.	Yuba City	Yuba City	12:30 P.M.	Yuba City	12:30 P.M.	Yuba City
Rocklin	1:30 P.M.	Rocklin	1:30 P.M.	Rocklin	Rocklin	1:30 P.M.	Rocklin	1:30 P.M.	Rocklin
Newcastle	2:30 P.M.	Newcastle	2:30 P.M.	Newcastle	Newcastle	2:30 P.M.	Newcastle	2:30 P.M.	Newcastle

The first use of "Rocklin"

A Day in the life of a field trip

Over 600 third graders will go through Old St. Mary's Chapel, Rocklin Hose Co. No. 1, and the Rocklin History Museum this school year. Some classes also go to Huff Springs, Finn Hall, Quarry Park, the city cemetery, or Whitney's tomb. There is a lot of history to see in Rocklin. On this page you will see what it's like to go on a fun, educational field trip, thanks to the volunteer docents who conduct the tour.



1. At the Firehouse
2. In Old St. Mary's Chapel, Nancy Lohse tells the story of how the historic building was saved.
3. Everybody gets to ring the bell!
4. The third graders marvel at the beautiful "third grade fountain."
5. At the museum, students go from room to room where an expert docent tells about each room. In the parlor, students learn about Joel Parker Whitney.
6. Gay Morgan tells engaging stories about all the items in the kitchen.



7. After the museum tour, students see the roundhouse site with the replica turntable.
8. This group was lucky on their way to Huff Spring to have Gene Johnson come out and visit with them!
9. The Nisenan grinding rocks at Johnson Springview Park are so cool to the third graders.
10. Lunch at Quarry Park!



What is that? How did they do that?

Terms from Moments in Herstory, "Memories of Rocklin," by Hazel Willard

What is a windlass?

Hazel's father George built a windlass to pump water to his house. Windlasses were used in small quarries that did not have steam engines to hoist the granite out of the pit. Also called a whim, it was powered by a horse. As the horse walked around in a circle, he turned a boom to which a cable is attached. The cable winds around a spool and lifts the granite (or in George's case, the water).



A windlass being used at Copp's Quarry

How did they make vinegar?



Why buy it when you can make it?

Vinegar was a very versatile product probably made by many Rocklinites besides Mrs. Moore. It was an antiseptic, used for food processing and canning, a household cleaner, a topical antibiotic for cuts and scrapes, and a flavoring ingredient in many recipes like vinegar pie and salad dressings.

Vinegar is surprisingly simple to make. It can be as easy as allowing some sweet apple cider to stand in a warm place in an open jar for a few weeks, and it will gradually turn into vinegar.

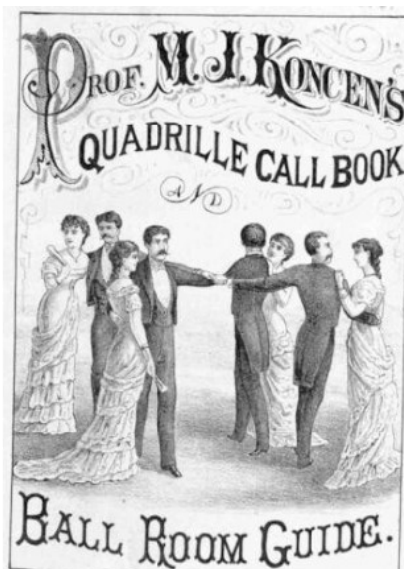
According to Beatrice Trum Hunter of *Mother Earth News*, "The tangy liquid can also be made from apple wastes, should you be baking a lot of pies or canning peeled apples. Simply put the peelings, cores and bruised fruit into a wide-mouthed jar or crock and cover with cold water. Store — covered — in a warm place and add fresh peelings, cores and bruised apples from time to time. When the batch tastes sufficiently strong . . . strain, bottle and cork."

The thick sludge that forms on top is called the "Mother." Rather like a starter for sourdough, the mother can be scraped off and used for a new batch or shared with a neighbor.

What are quadrilles?

Quadrilles are dances somewhat like square dances, made up of four couples following a set of directions by a caller. Quadrilles were performed by students and adults alike. Another popular dance, according to Helen Kesti, was the schottische.

The schottische is a slow polka done as a line dance or with couples. Fiddles and accordions were popular instruments that accompanied these dances held at Finn Hall or on community picnics.



Library of Congress

What is pull candy?

Pulled candy, or taffy, was a favorite of children like Hazel Willard. Candy pulls were a popular activity at parties as well. The simple ingredients made it easy to make at home.

A simple recipe calls for 2 cups sugar (or part sugar and part molasses), 1/4 cup vinegar, 1/4 cup water, and very buttery hands.

The fun comes when, while still warm, the candy is pulled and twisted to form sticks and ropes.



EVENTS SCHEDULE

January 27, 6 pm
Speaker Series featuring
Karen McNeil on Laura Morgan
Location: Old St. Mary's Chapel

February 17, 6 pm
Speaker Series featuring
Harpist Lauren Sharkey
Location: Old S. Mary's Chapel

April 18, time TBA
Reviving the Roundhouse BBQ
Location: Roundhouse Park, future
location of the SP Railroad History
Museum, across Rocklin Road from
Heritage Park

Docents always needed. For infor-
mation call Gay Morgan at (916) 624-
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Old St Mary's Chapel
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RHS Board of Directors
Second Monday of month at 6 p.m. at
City of Rocklin, Parks and Recrea-
tion Building in Springview Park
All members welcome

RHS Planning Meetings and Fxity 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
the 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

Visit our websites:
Historical Society:
RocklinHistorical.org

Old St. Mary's Chapel
OldStMarysChapelofRocklin.com



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Would you like to see more news and
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