

President's Message

Hank Lohse

Greetings from your president! Hope that these crazy times find you well and safe.

While the museum remains closed at the present for the safety of our volunteers and visitors, we hope it will be open later in the summer. In the meantime, please take this time to visit our website at rocklinhistorical.org and enjoy reading the interesting stories about old time Rocklin. You can also access past issues of the Quarry Quarterly. They are full of articles written by Rocklin citizens who have lived here for years. The stories they tell! A different world back then.

Hard to tell when or where our next board meeting will be. Our last one was March 9th.

Our board has still been busy. Charlene Rhodes has been busy updating the Rocklin Historical Society Bylaws. Russ McNeill has continued to keep the treasurer's report updated monthly. We will review and vote on these at the next meeting.

We've seen many pandemics throughout history. We will get through this one! Check out the full list of epidemics and pandemics at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_epidemics. Interesting!

Stay safe! Wear your mask when you go out! Keep your distance!



Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Summer, 2020

Apartment complex proposed for original school site



By Gloria Beverage

An apartment complex may be built on the site of Rocklin's first schoolhouse. In a letter mailed to homeowners in the Quarry District on June 5, plans for an affordable housing complex on the vacant lot on Pacific Street between Oak and Pines Streets were outlined.

"The city plans to enter an agreement with an experienced affordable housing developer who would make a significant investment of over \$41 million to build a

multi-family workforce housing project in downtown Rocklin," wrote Community Development Department Director David Mohlenbrok.

As part of the development agreement, the city would sell the property to the developer as well as contribute approximately \$2.6 million (using funds designated for creating affordable housing), he continued.

The project would consist of 94 units (one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments) in two-

(See COMPLEX, pg. 2)

Vacant lot once site of Rocklin Grammar School

By Gloria Beverage

A developer may be eyeing a vacant lot on Pacific Street as the site for a multi-family affordable housing complex. However, many long-time residents see a host of memories.

Rocklin's School District was formed in August 1866 by the Placer County Board of Supervisors; the first schoolhouse was built on the southwest portion of Ray Johnson Ranch – now home to Rocklin's Little League Ball Fields. According to the school district's first annual report, 26 students were enrolled – 17 boys and 9 girls. By 1879, there were 136 students attending the school.

After a fire destroyed the building in 1885, Rocklin Grammar School was relo-



Steps are the only remains of Rocklin Grammar School

cated to a lot on Highway 40 (now Pacific Street). Erected at a cost of \$7,300, the building contained large classrooms and

was rated as one of the "finest and best equipped schools in the county," according to a master's thesis, "The History of Rocklin," written by Lila Harman. In 1922, a brick building was added to the site.

Gay Morgan, a retired Rocklin Elementary School teacher, attended first through eighth grades at the Pacific Street school. "The older white wooden structure had two rooms separated by a sliding door with first grade on one side and second on the other," she recalled.

"There was a little steeple with a bell you rang by pulling on a rope. It was an honor to be chosen to ring the bell."

The brick building had three classrooms

(See SCHOOL, pg. 2)

(COMPLEX, Cont. from page 1)

and three-story buildings, a community center and open space available for both public and private use. Parking would be located at the rear of the project – closest to the railroad tracks.

The developer would be required to provide differing levels of affordable housing based on Placer County's annual area median income (AMI). Housing would be affordable to households earning 30% to 80% of the county's AMI, he explained.

For a one-bedroom, one-person household, for example, the 30% AMI is \$17,600, 31% to 50% is \$29,300 and 51% to 80% is \$46,850. By comparison, a person with a \$15 per hour wage makes about \$31,000 per year.

In addition to providing affordable housing as mandated by the state, Mohlenbrok believes the new development would benefit existing businesses and potentially attract new stores to the downtown business district, he said. The proposed agreement will be reviewed

by the city council in August with final action requested in early Fall, he added. Groundbreaking could be a couple of years away. Once the agreement has been signed, the developer will be required to submit plans for review and approval by the Design Review Committee, the Planning Commission and City Council. Since the project is located within the Quarry Architectural District, plans would also require approval by the city's Architectural Review Committee.

(SCHOOL, Cont. from page 1)

*Old Grammar School
Replaced about 1920*



Rocklin's "High" school, with the new grammar school to the north

with big windows facing Pacific, Morgan continued. Each housed two grades – third and fourth; fifth and sixth; and seventh and eighth. A long open cement corridor faced the playground and the railroad, Morgan recalled. The boy's restroom and a store-room were on one end of the building while the girls' restroom and a meeting room were located on the Pine Street side of the building. Each room was heated by an oil heater.

The playground had basketball hoops, a set of swings, a couple of teeter-totters and a "push-it-yourself" merry-go-round, she added.

School started at 9 a.m. with students, teachers and administrators meeting on the paved playground behind the brick building to raise the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Lunch was one hour, giving some students time to go home to eat. Primary grades were dismissed at 2:30 p.m.; upper grades at 3:40 p.m.

There was no bus service, Morgan continued. Students served as crossing guards – stopping traffic on busy Highway 40 to allow students to cross the road.

Graduation ceremonies and school assemblies were held at Finnish Temperance Hall – with one exception. "On Dec. 8, 1941, I remember they gathered the whole school into two rooms to listen to Franklin



Rocklin classroom in the early 1900s

Delano Roosevelt speak about the 'Day of Infamy,'" Morgan recalled. "Later our Japanese classmates were gone."

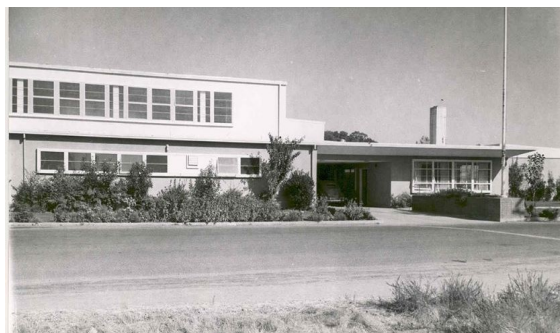
John Kimbrough, who moved to Rocklin in 1948, shared his memories of attending the grammar school in a letter written in 2010 to the Rocklin Historical Society.

"My parents, Louis and Carrie Kimbrough, moved our family from Ventura to Rocklin in 1948 when I was just 3 years old," he wrote. "They purchased the Granite Park Trailer Court on the pie-shaped lot bordered by North Grove Street and Highway 40 and we lived there and operated the trailer court for many years."

He was six when he started first grade in the wood framed schoolhouse while his older sister, Oralee, attended classes in the brick building.

"I have a number of fond memories of attending first grade here, but the one that most easily comes to mind is that during the school year, if there was a thunder and lightning storm, they would release the first and second grades to go home because they were afraid the sound would knock down the old wood structure," he said. "Never mind that we had to walk home in the rain and lightning."

Kimbrough said he and his classmates often spent time at recess eating the pine nuts that



Rocklin Elementary School in 1958

(See SCHOOL, pg. 3)

(SCHOOL, Cont. from page 2)

dropped from the pinion pines growing in the school yard. "Pine nuts are very hard," he said. "We expended more energy busting open the nuts than we got by eating them, but it was fun and made us feel so self-sufficient."

The school was abandoned in 1952 after the new facility, built at a cost of \$407,000, was opened on Meyers Street. It became the new home for 16 teachers and 444 students.

For a number of years, the brick schoolhouse housed an Army Surplus store, which Kimbrough found fascinat-

ing, "It had all sorts of exotic mechanical and electrical things as well as all of the gear Boy Scouts needed to outfit ourselves and make our pack boards," he said.

When it was converted to a pool hall, Kimbrough found a new hangout. "I remember spending some more time than I should have as a teenager in the cool darkness playing pool, making small wagers or playing a free game. It was all harmless fun. We needed something to do to keep out of trouble."

The buildings on the lot were demol-

ROCKLIN ELEMENTARY - 1922
Pacific Street



ished in 1981. All that remains are a set of concrete steps built by Morgan's father, Fred Stuckert Jr. and her uncle, Alex Stuckert.

Remembrances of Rocklin's teachers

By Gay Morgan

Gloria Beverage e-mailed me one morning not long ago and asked some questions about the old Rocklin Grammar School of the thirties and forties. She knew I had been a student there. I was able to answer most of her questions, but, when we finished, I began to remember lots of other happenings and people. This is the result.

I grew up in Rocklin, California, in the thirties and forties and attended Rocklin Grammar School from first through eighth grade. There was no kindergarten. I loved school and remember all my teachers.

It was the 1935-36 school year. My First Grade teacher was tall and slender. She had a quiet, calm voice with a slight Swedish accent and was usually smiling. I loved her because she taught me to read. She read stories to us after lunch and that's where I first heard about the Land of Oz. Sometimes she chose me to pull the rope that rang the school bell.

When I went to Second grade my teacher was an out-going, smiley, round person. She loved to laugh. She took a lot of pictures of what we did in school. She had a boyfriend who was a fireman and he helped her build a store, a bank and a post office right in the classroom. Music was usually part of our day. She



played the big old piano loudly and we sang songs like "Home on the Range". She said it was President Roosevelt's favorite. Second Grade was fun.

When I was in Third Grade I felt quite grown-up because now I went to the big brick school. It was on the same grounds as the little school. This year my teacher was

(See TEACHERS, pg. 4)

Forgotten 8th Grade Notes Jog Civic Memories

By Doug Osella

My mother saved almost everything from our family's past in cardboard boxes. She stashed a very ample supply of the daily schoolwork of her children, who attended Rocklin Elementary, in these boxes. Recently, while going through and throwing away old arithmetic and grammar drills on sheets and sheets of discolored and crumbling newsprint, I came across notes that I had taken in the 1955-56 school year in preparation for the dreaded civics test that was required in those days for graduation from eighth grade. The test required knowledge of national, state, and local governments. My almost lost forever notes on our town's give a glimpse of important leadership roles and procedures that were needed during those sluggish days of 1950s when Rocklin seemed to be marking time for something better to come along.

Note: The content was edited for punctuation, spelling, and clarity. Some enticing details are missing, but remember, the student still had a long ways to go in his education and notetaking ability.

Mayor: Ray Johnson
Councilmen: E. Richens, Andre Gayaldo, Hugo Hebuck, Arvo Minkinen, Frank Basque Jr.
Chief of Police: Ernest Willard
Police Officers: James Wilson, Paul Judd
City Clerk: Alice Park
Treasurer: Nora Stuckert
Police officers are appointed by the City Council. The clerk, treasurer, and councilmen are elected by the people.
Clerk's salary: \$200 per month
Councilmen get \$5.00 a meeting, not to exceed three meetings per month.
Council meetings are held at the City Hall on the first Monday of each month.
Firemen get paid \$1.00 per fire provided they sign the roster.
Firemen are volunteers, and they take orders from the fire chief.
The fire chief is Marvin (Roger) Barkhurst.
The mayor is the chairman of the council and conducts the meetings.
The councilmen decide on city problems and when anything comes to a vote: majority rules.
The city clerk acts as secretary of the meetings and makes out warrants.
The treasurer makes checks from the warrants, keeps books on all financial matters, and deposits all money.
The chief of police is the head of the police department. He helps enforce the laws.

(TEACHERS, Cont. from page 3)

young and pretty. She wore her long hair in a shiny page-boy style and wore a different outfit every day. She charmed all the boys and I think most of us girls wanted to be just like her. That was the year I had chicken pox and whooping cough and missed a lot of school. My teacher came to visit me and brought me books to read, like Bambi (the Disney version) and Kate Seredy's "White Stag." I was astonished when my family went to a fair and I saw my teacher holding hands with a very nice-looking man. They even rode the merry-go-round.

In Fourth Grade I learned a lot of history from a no-nonsense looking lady. She wore her graying hair in a braid across the top of her head. She was wiry and strong. She wore practical, sensible dresses and shoes. I thought she looked like a hard-working farm wife. (Which I found out later, she was.) I was right about the no-nonsense, she kept us on task and we learned a lot. But we had fun times too. Sometimes we wrote plays about the history lessons. I got to be Betsy Ross. She always read to us after lunch, too, and we all could hardly wait for the new issue of the Instructor magazine to arrive because she read the continuing story of a boy named Merton who always got into a lot of trouble. It was funny and always turned out okay in the end.

Fifth Grade was taught by a motherly sort of woman who must have been pretty when she was younger and still was in a different sort of way. She and my Fourth Grade teacher were good friends but very different. In fifth grade we learned about Greek and Roman mythology and I found it fascinating. We had to do a long report about a country. I did Australia and have wanted to go there ever since. She liked art and we did still-life drawing and experimented with different media. We learned about perspective. She seemed to like my drawings and even entered one in the State Fair. We learned about famous artists too and I have continued to love art to this day.



Can you spot Gay Stuckert Morgan in this class photo? She is seated in the third row from the top, last seat to the right. Many of you may also spot Josephine De Fuentes Casey, second row from the top, third from right.

The Sixth Grade teacher was a petite woman with short brown hair. She wore simple conservative clothing and seemed a little reserved at first. She spoke softly but with authority. It took me a while to relate to her but one day she asked me to be the class librarian. I was thrilled, I like being the boss. (Still do.)

She taught all of us, even the boys, to knit, I already knew how because my Grandma showed me. We made long, long scarves out of Khaki colored rough, scratchy wool. She took them to the Red Cross and I think they sent them to England.

She read to us after lunch too but she read grown-up stories. One was written by George Stewart. It was called "Storm" and told about how a furious storm affected Northern California along Highway 40 from Berkeley to Donner Pass. The school and our house both faced that Highway making the book more memorable.

I looked forward to going to Seventh Grade because the teacher was also the Principal. He had been in Rocklin only a short time but he had already charmed almost everyone. He was truly interested in everything that went on. He helped start a Community Theater. It was such fun to see people you knew playing the roles. He had red hair, was loud and outgoing, friendly and helpful. He liked sports and the class found itself doing long-jump, hurdles, pole vaulting and races. I was even on a girl's basketball team. We wrote adaptations of things like "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle." We had a new microphone and so we performed the plays in the Mother's Club Room and "broadcast" it

to the classroom.

One Monday morning the whole school gathered to listen to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt speak of the "Day of Infamy." None of us knew just what we were supposed to do. Not long after, our Japanese classmates were suddenly taken to Internment Camps. Sad and confusing.

Eighth Grade. The new principal was our teacher. He was totally different than our Seventh Grade teacher. He was thin, not very tall, but pleasant looking, calm and quiet. It seems to me he always wore brown. He was serious and committed to his job. He made it very clear that we needed to pass the Constitution test in order to graduate. We all knew this was true and we really worked hard.

The War was always on everyone's mind and we learned first aid, rolled band-aids for the Red Cross, some still knitted those awful scarves. We worked on collecting scrap metal for the scrap drives; there were paper drives too. The sports programs continued. There was the traditional Christmas Program at the Finnish Hall and we spent a lot of time walking over there in the afternoon to practice. These programs were held every year and almost the whole school was involved. (I was a cranberry one year and the next I was promoted to snowflake). In my final performance Marlin Morill and I drove a cardboard snowmobile to the North Pole to help Santa.) Lots of fun.

Suddenly it was Spring. Most of us passed the dreaded Constitution test. There was the all-school picnic, and at last our class graduated in the traditional Finnish Hall Ceremony, 1943.



This issue's mystery item is hiding in plain sight. Where and what is it? Find out on page 6.



Memories in Sound



Many memories are tied to specific sensory experiences. The smell of Chanel No. 9 might evoke the memory of an old girlfriend or your grandmother. A sip of steamy eggnog might bring back a memory of a chilly holiday long ago. Or the sighting of that double rainbow might give you a sense of déjà vu, a memory from days gone by.

RHS member Dr. Jim Carlson suggested that the *sounds* around Rocklin over the years could also generate interesting memories. We agree. He asked several long-time residents, including Marg and Gene Johnson, Gay Morgan, and Gary Day to list some sounds that bring back memories of a long-ago Rocklin. Do any of them trigger memories for you?

Doug Osella suggests anecdotes could be collected for our museum archives. "This is a great list," he says. "It could very

well draw out from those who have lived here a while some really interesting, exciting, mundane, routine, culturally-related, or funny stories that would otherwise be lost forever. Stories passed down in a family might be remembered and shared. We should try to communicate that the Historical Society is welcoming all/any stories...so that we can save them for those who come after us."

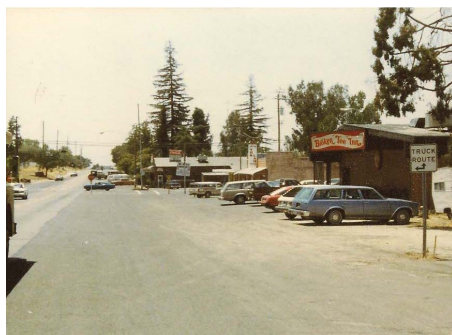
If any of these sounds, or others you can think of, trigger a short anecdote, we would love to hear or read it! Please contact the Quarry Quarterly. You can email the story, or ask for us to contact you so you can simply tell the story and we will write it down. Our oral histories are a window to our past and key to understanding ourselves and others. If you have a story to contribute, please contact us at rocklinhistorical@gmail.com.



Picnic at the Whitney Estate

Around Town

The put-put of Model As
The ping of the service station hose
Buzzing aeroplanes
Grinding snow plows
Kids riding bikes with playing cards in the spokes to sound like a motorcycle
Church bells peeling on Sunday
The saloons on Saturday nights and the late night singing of a happy drunk
Fire alarm siren and volunteer fire dept.
George Nelson's police siren
Greyhound bus station at Scribner's
Jangling produce wagons
Conversations in English, Japanese, Spanish and Finnish
Gun shots
Clothes flapping on the clothes line
School bells for recess and children playing
Artemus and Ruth squabbling again



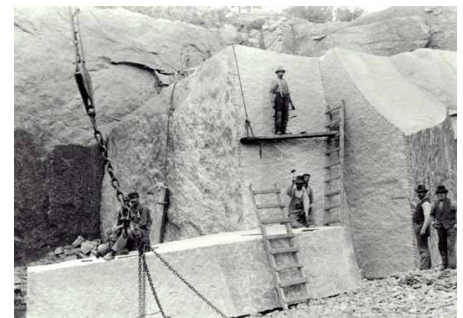
Sports and Leisure

Hjalmer and Ina's accordion and piano at Finn Hall
Dances at Pleasure Hall
Broom handle snapping signaling to change dance partners
Goldsberry's player piano
The Beer Barrel Polka
Midnight dances on a full moon
Singing groups, carolers
The Echo Band
Faint sounds of auto racing at fair grounds
Pinball machines
Illegal slot machines at Frank's Spaghetti House
JP Whitney's fox hunts
The crack of bats



Nature and Animals

Roosters crowing in the morning;
Mooing cows, honking geese and horses
neighing during the day; coyotes
howling, dogs barking and cats fighting
at night
Frogs on Antelope Creek
Doves taking flight
Rattle of snakes
Sheep and chickens in town



Industry

The airy whistle of steam trains and the shrill high whistle of the diesels
Creak of the roundhouse turntable
Quarry whistles, machinery, the blasting, and the cyclic moaning of quarry saws
Accident whistles
The lunch whistle
The canning operations and sawmill
Cow bells and mooing on the dairy
Clatter of milk cows
Clinks of milk bottle deliveries
Tractors mowing hay
The cattle herded through town
The clackity-clack of typewriters



Chicken Ranch on Whitney's Farm
notice the Orange trees in the background

New additions to the museum collection

Thanks to the gracious generosity of Jean and Gary Day, the museum has been able to acquire an Eastlake armchair and six side chairs along with a non-matching kitchen table from the Whitney Ranch. On May 5 Gene Johnson, Hank Lohse and David Baker purchased these items from Tara Atkinson of Newcastle, CA. She said that her mother bought the furniture years ago from a party that obtained them from

an estate auction held at the Whitney Spring Valley Ranch, and that the family used the set for many years.

"With the photos and family record, I believe we have strong provenance for the chairs being from the Spring Valley Ranch, but not so much for the table," says museum curator David Baker. "Perhaps the original dining table went to a Whitney family member and a kitchen table was

substituted to make a set with the chairs for sale," he speculated.

"Our plan is to repair the one broken side chair, reupholster the seats, gently clean and re-glue all the chairs. After re-furbishment, the chairs will replace those in the Museum parlor. The table is on display and currently being used with other antique chairs in the Firehouse cart house office."



The table has found a new home in the Firehouse. Although it is not the same table as in the historic picture to the left, it is of a similar Eastlake style.

Images of the seven chairs closely resemble those in an 1889 photograph of the Oak's dining room, although the table doesn't match the one in the historical image.



Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

By Jim Hammes

The Fix It - Maintenance Team remains essentially in the mode of Social Distancing.

We look forward to when we can all gather and meet Safely once again.

In the meantime we have been keeping in contact mostly intermittently and noting areas of concern that will need our attention when we are able to assemble Safely once again.

Until then we encourage everyone to Be Well and Be Safe ...

"Every day we are apart ... brings us All a day closer to being Together once again ..."

MYSTERY ITEM



The mystery item (see pg. 4) is a decorative rosette block from the trim on our museum! The freshly painted trim gives evidence that our fixit crew is hard at work completing jobs that can be done safely during this crazy time.

WHAT WAS THE EASTLAKE MOVEMENT?

Eastlake Movement was named after an English architect and writer named Charles Locke Eastlake. It became popular during the late part of the Victorian Era (1837-1901). Although Eastlake did not make furniture, he influenced it after publishing the popular "*Hints on Household Taste in Furniture, Upholstery, and Other Details*" in 1869. He believed furniture should be hand made with care, of simple design and easy to maintain. Eastlake architectural style is simpler than the flamboyant earlier Victorian designs. This is true of the architecture, furniture, decor & details.

Eastlake or the more common American Stick/Eastlake style can be seen around Rocklin. An example of this would be the Scribner house, now owned by RHS member Patrice Cardott.



rip rap by gay morgan

Bill Woods, long time member of RHS had a birthday. Yes, I know we all have them. They come around every year. But this particular birthday was really special. Bill was 102 years old in April! Of course a big family celebration was called for. But this year there was this Shelter in Place Quarantine thing that banned large gatherings.

After considering many alternatives, the family came up with a unique plan. They sent out texts and emails to the extended family and friends and celebrated with a Zoom Birthday Party.



Think about it. Bill was born in 1918 (There was a pandemic then too) but he has certainly kept up with the times. Bill now lives in Martinez with his son Bruce and family.

Unforgettable

She was my boss, my mentor, but most of all, my friend. When I heard of her death, I immediately thought of what I would write about her in an obituary. But then a mutual friend reminded me that she was a very private person and had made it very clear she wanted no funeral service and that there should be nothing in the newspaper. I had to respect her wishes.

I can't mention her dedication to education or the profound effect she had on many Rocklin children and adults. She loved history too and in fact wrote the history of Rocklin for her master's thesis.

I can't tell you about her world travels when she retired, or the wonderful journals she shared.

(She rode an elephant, a camel and a Yak and went parasailing but she wouldn't want me to show you pictures.) She loved to read and often shared her books with me and the library. She lived to be

102, and I and many others will miss her. I just couldn't let her slip away unnoticed.

*In Loving
Memory*

A Fun Quiz for You (Answers on the back page)

1. In the early 20th century, quarryman and rancher, Anders Oscar Wickman served as a Rocklin trustee for over 20 years and as mayor for numerous terms. Identify A.O. Wickman.

(Submitted by Gene Johnson)



A. B. C. D.

2. This fuzzy photo, right, was taken in 1962, and it shows two men measuring a nonoperative Southern Pacific tunnel located between Clipper Gap and Applegate. Placer County was seriously considering utilizing the tunnel for a special purpose at that time. What do you think that purpose might have been?

(Submitted by Doug Osella)



3. At the end of the poem for the Sox Social (see pg. 9), there is an added note, but it doesn't say "P.S" it says "N.B." What is "N.B." and how does it differ from P.S.?

2-part question

4a. In the photo below, city officials observe the installation of Rocklin's first traffic light. Around what year was it?

A. 1970 B. 1960 C. 1950 D. 1980

4b. What is the name of the popular burger joint on the corner (now Café Delicias)?

A. Best Burger B. Burger House C. Taylor's D. Ranch Burger



From
the desk
of

Gene Johnson

Life On the Farm

Part 1



The style and final condition of the original barn

Introduction: QQ Editor, Linda Wampler, suggested that readers would be interested in learning of growing up on Rocklin's Spring View Dairy. Some recollections follow, however, first, I have a confession: I never milked a cow! Grandfather and my parents ran the working dairy from 1919 through 1947 when I was 10 years old. Thereafter, Dad delivered milk and dairy products that he purchased from Roseville's Purdy Creamery, Golden State Dairy and Taylor's Dairy of Sacramento. Our dairy was, for some time, used by others including Tom Aitken and, later, Tom Allen. When Tom Allen left, he drove his cows from Rocklin to his new farm near Lincoln on what is now Sierra College Blvd.

There was a large wooden barn with room for horses on the left side, hay storage in the middle and a milking area on the right side. A short distance away was the milk house for preparing and bottling milk and cream.



Dad, the new Milk Barn, and the '38 Chevy Milk Truck.

In 1940, at 3 years of age, I literally had a hand in building the new milking barn. The barn burned the in the 1980's, however, my handprint can still be seen imbedded in the edge of the concrete "slop" gutter.

The original milk house, an 8 by 10 ft

building, was abandoned when the new milking barn was completed. But took on a new life as my place to stay while Dad did the chores. It was a nice cozy place to be in the winter: a wood burning stove salvaged from the big house, a small wooden rocking chair and lots of décor including a stuffed deer head (a gift from game warden Alfred Willard).

In the heat of the summer the cool root cellar beneath the big house was the place to be – also with the rocking chair – and a radio to listen to the serials: Lone Ranger, Tom Mix, The Shadow,

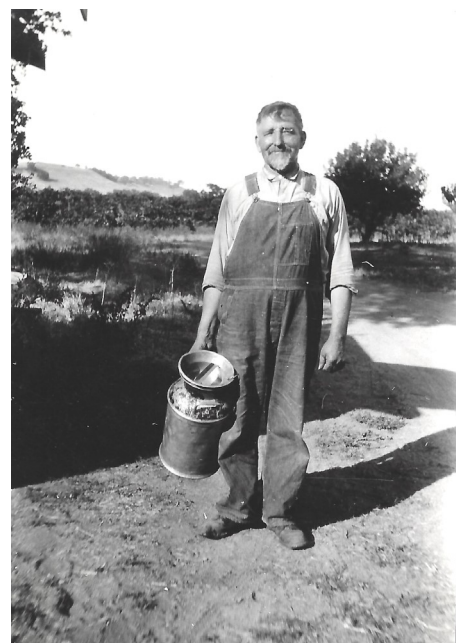
Dad fed hay to the cows in the field behind the barn. He had an old flatbed Dodge truck and in those days the throttle could be set from the steering column. Dad would set the throttle for a slow pace and stand in the truck bed throwing hay to the cows. There were many large holes dug by ground squirrels – a left front wheel would fall into a hole and the truck would turn left – then one on the right side resulting in a turn to the right – the truck weaving through the field 'til the herd was fed.

It was World War II and the end of the depression. My parents were purchasing the farm from my grandfather. We cut names from Christmas cards and resent them, we straightened nails for reuse, Mother worked at McClellan Field and my parents sold building lots \$50 each to make payments for the farm.

The 22 cows each had a name and knew exactly which stall to enter at milking time. My favorite was a smaller Jersey named Popeye. The new milking barn had a refrigeration system to quickly cool milk. The milk ran over an array of cold tubes. The refrigeration tube that fed the array was coated with ice – an enticing item to lick on a warm day. Sadly, I found, like many other dairy kids did, that when your tongue sticks to the supercool tube escape is painful.

In addition to the cows there were chickens, tenant turkeys, sheep, a pig, a horse for a day, and a visiting bull that was tethered to a post with a chain and a ring through his nose.

The farm was on 5th Street at the edge of Rocklin - town in front of the house and farm in back. There were neighbors, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Scribner, to beg cookies from, and there were friends to play with: the Kelseys, Renny Palo, Dan Tyler, Jerry Keenan, Val Koberlein. Barnyard wars were staged with cow droppings (an early version of the Frisbee) as ammunition. We learned quickly to avoid overly fresh ammunition. Inside the barn Dan Tyler and I set up a zip line from the top of the haystack. There was a hill beside the house. We road our carts lickity-split down the hill 'til we hit the fence. In the evenings by the partial light of the street-lamp we played Olly-Olly-Oxen-Free – hiding in the bushes and behind the palm trees.



Granddad, Anders Oscar (A.O.) Wickman

(See FARM, pg. 9)

Old St. Mary's just keeps getting better!



Good,

2007

(FARM, con't from pg. 8)



My 4H project was raising chickens - Rhode Island Reds. One chicken was a favorite and rode on the handlebars of my bicycle. They took ribbons at the County and State Fairs. Part of the 4H project was to track income and expenses. When the project showed a significant net loss, I decided chicken ranching would not be for me. I sold the last of the chickens at Denio's auction in Roseville and purchased my first tool.

With things at Old St. Mary's quiet, we thought we would take a look at how her beauty has developed over the nearly 15 years since she was restored. Thanks to Sally Huseby's green thumb and guidance, the landscape has become full of surprises that has something in bloom all year round. We think a spirit-raising stroll around the grounds is just the thing we need right now!



Better,

2010

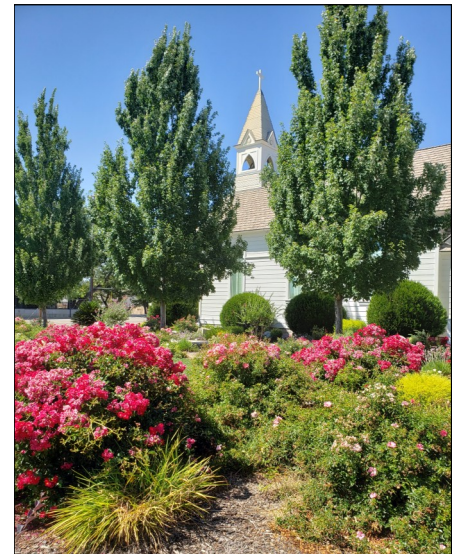


Our Spring issue Mystery item is this cute little homemade sock, which was attached to the poem below as an invitation to one of Rocklin's many dances.



Best!

2021



"Sox Social"

At Rocklin Congregational Church
May 22, 1906

This little sock we give to you,
Is not for you to wear,
Please multiply your size by two
And place therein with care,
In pennies or in dimes, just
Twice the number that you wear
(We hope it is immense)
So if you wear a No. 10
You owe us 20 cents.

"Tis all we ask, it isn't much
And hardly any trouble
But if you only have one foot,
We'll surely charge you double.
Now don't forget the date and place
We'll answer when you knock
And welcome you with open arms
But don't forget the sock.

N.B. If unable to attend, kindly send
the sock to Mrs. Wisner, Rocklin, Cal.

Photographer and RHS member Martin Corona has produced a beautiful virtual tour of the chapel. View it here:

[Old St. Mary's virtual tour](#)



ALL ABOARD! TRAINS IN ROCKLIN

Rocklin is known for its 3 R's— ranches, rocks and rails. There has been an emphasis on the third R recently due to the building of the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center and the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad. So now we are dedicating part of our newsletter to the trains.

In this issue we are highlighting the caboose, now a part of history as this popular little car at the end of the train has been faded out over the years. Where did all the cabooses go? Well, one ended up on new RHS member Bob Church's property. Mr. Church is the editor of the *Western Railroader*, a quarterly publication of the Pacific Coast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. His Chapter was the organization that gave over 40 pieces of very historic RR equipment to the State of California and worked with the

state to build and open the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Learn a little about what started out as "shacks on flatcars" by taking a tour of Bob's caboose below.

Mr. Church writes, "The Central Pacific did not have cabooses during construction of the first Transcontinental Railroad to Utah. Train crews rode with workers in construction worker or passenger cars that went along with supply trains. The CP built its first 20 cabooses in its Sacramento Shops in 1871, after the completion of the line on May 10, 1869, and through trains were operating across the country. The organizers and financiers of the Central Pacific would also gain control of the Southern Pacific of California, and the story of railroad growth in California goes on."



← Bob Church's Southern Pacific caboose No 1063 was built at the SP's Los Angeles General Shops in 1941. These 1000 series cabooses were the first steel cabooses built by the SP and were the first to be fitted with steel wheels rather than cast iron wheels, therefore they could operate on faster trains. The photo shows the stove side, after the car was painted and lettered. The wig-wag crossing guard was from near Shingle Springs on the SP's now closed Placerville Branch. The line's trackage is still in place, and the line from Folsom to near Latrobe has had operating excursion train rides with a small diesel locomotive under direction of the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad in Folsom. This summer they have planned to operate an active steam locomotive, but that has been delayed due to the Coronavirus situation.

The other side shows the cupola well. A brakeman sat up there to watch the train ahead, looking for smoke from a car wheel that would indicate a hot bearing. The brass bearings were just oil lubricated. Another problem they looked for was a derailment that could happen on a car with badly worn wheel flanges. That could cause the wheel to catch on the edge of the railhead and jump off the rail. A car like that could go along on the ties until it came to a highway crossing or switch, where it would then bounce up and completely derail, causing a major wreck of many cars.



Turning around, this photo shows the 1063's coal bunker, conductor's chair and desk, one bunk, and an electric desk light. Crewmen could sometimes have to sleep over in the caboose, so most had bunks. They had an ice bunker to store food in. Usually the youngest brakeman was given the job of cooking. The smart ones would make a terrible dish of food, or he would get the job permanently!

SP Kerosene caboose wall lamps and hand lanterns used by the crew to signal the engineer at night. The 1000 series were the first cabooses fitted with steel wheels rather than cast iron use on the older wood cabooses, therefore they could operate on faster trains, such as the "Overnight" fast priority freight trains between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The steel wheels were then standard on all the new steel cabooses.



↑ Looking at the short end, the coal box is seen behind the conductor's back rest on his built in desk seat. The coal stove is just behind that. Beyond the wall are two storage units, one being an insulated ice box refrigerator for food storage. The vertical handrails on each side back there are for the ladders going up into the cupola seats, on both sides.

(TRAINS, *con't* from pg. 10)

Looking at the long end left side. There were bunks on both sides. This caboose series had a wash sink, a toilet and, overhead above the toilet, was a water storage tank. The stenciled NOTICE up on the water tank end reminds crewmen to drain the system at end of trip to prevent freezing, as this caboose was also used in snow country in California and Oregon. The two vertical white bars from floor to roof, were there for crewmen to grab hold of if they were standing and the track was rough or they were starting or stopping.



← The Southern Pacific ordered its first

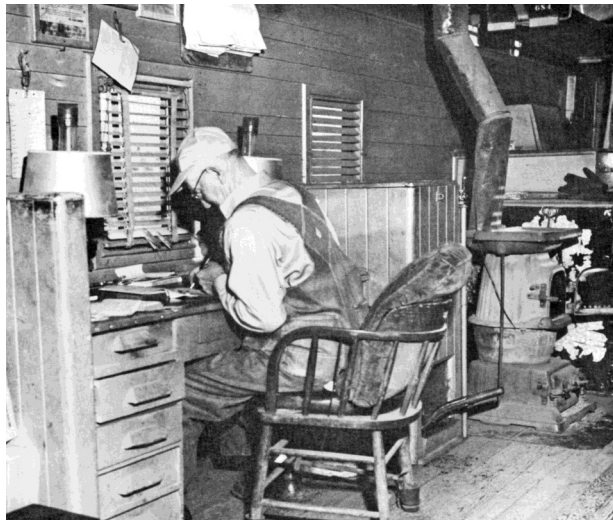
batch of 50 bay window designed cabooses after WWII in 1947, departing from the cupola type after 80 years of their use. They were built in by American Car & Foundry Company. This photo shows why the change by the height of the boxcar, so a crewman could see down the side of the train ahead. The rear car is No. 4100 and another caboose, being deadheaded, to Klamath Falls. Too many trains going in one direction would stack cabooses and locomotives at one end of a division. This train is heading up the canyon out of Dunsmuir, along the siding at Small. By the battery box, you can see the small wheel/belt drive for the electric generator. Bob Church photo, June 24, 1984.



The classic interior of Southern Pacific wood caboose No. 684. Conductor Charles Martin is at his desk, tending to his paperwork. He had to log in all freight cars in his train, where they were to be set out and what cars were picked up.

Often, the same caboose and engine were routinely assigned to such trains. Conductors and enginemen with seniority signed up for such local jobs, as they then worked knowing the time of departure and returning time each day.

The conductor could put in his specific needs in the caboose, and the Venetian blinds seen here were put in by conductor Martin. His standard railroad "conductor's chair" has his own seat and backrest cushions.



Look closely. He has done the practice of twisting on a glass telegraph line insulator on each chair leg. The reason, they allowed the chair to scoot on the wood floor. When a long freight train starts up, slack in the couplers between the cars is needed to allow each car to start on its own. By the time the slack from each coupler gets back to the caboose, the caboose will jump forward in an instant move. The longer the train, the bigger the jerk forward. When the conductor heard that slack coming in, he'd hold on for a skidding ride. If not for the glass insulators, he could be flipped out of the chair. The rest of the brakemen crew would hold onto a metal hand grab

or post, placed in the caboose for just that purpose. Photo by Stan Kistler in February, 1951.

Roundhouse Roundup



Gene Johnson

Progress is being made by the group planning a Southern Pacific Railroad History Center on property next to the site of Rocklin's historic roundhouse.

Scott Inman reports that they have leased the three-acre property from the Union Pacific Railroad and that it is being prepared to receive SP-10, a self-propelled diesel passenger car that operated between Sacramento and Oakland in the 1950's. Scott says the car will be cosmetically restored and then included as a centerpiece within the planned museum.





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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

Placer Community
FOUNDATION

Local giving. Lasting value.



Happy
Independence
Day!



Photo by David Baker

A nice, new flag is flying in front of Rocklin's Hose Company No.1 thanks to a donation by the Rocklin Fire Department!

**MYSTERY
PLACE**



There is a lot of granite in various places around Rocklin, but these pieces create a little hidey hole for a special resident. Where is this issue's Mystery Place? You'll find out in the next issue!



A Fun Quiz for You Answers

1. Correct answer: C. "A" is Gene Johnson, impersonator and grandson of A.O. Wickman. "B" is Victor Wickman, quarryman and brother of A.O. And "D" is Matt Ruhkala, quarryman and friend of A.O.

2. According to the Aug. 14, 1962 Roseville Press-tribune...Placer County was looking into using the tunnel as well as many of the abandoned mines in the county as fallout shelters.

3. N.B. stands for **note bene**, a Latin phrase translated to English as note well. It tells the reader "Please note! This is important!" P.S. (postscript), on the other hand, is simply an additional remark not contained in the body of a letter.

4a. Correct Answer: A. This photo was posted on Facebook's American Car Nostalgia page, and most agree that the car with the hidden headlights is a 1969 Galaxy and the police car is a '68 or '69 Mercury Montego.

4b: Correct answer: D

RANDY PETERS
CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT .