

President's Message

Hank Lohse

The Corona-19 pandemic has put us behind on our monthly board meetings. We missed April, May, and June. Finally on July 29, we had a board meeting outdoors on the patio at Old St. Mary's Chapel. It was hot and noisy with trains going by but we had our face masks on and kept a 6 foot social distance and we made it work! We had tried for our August board meeting but it was too hot and the air quality from the fires was unsafe so it was cancelled. Finally, on September 14th, the RHS conducted our first 'ZOOM' board meeting from the comfort of our own living rooms. Out of 13 board members, we had 11 on line. Not bad for a first time. Big thanks to George and Kim Salgado for hosting the meeting and adding tech support as needed!

While our self imposed quarantine has kept us apart, Charlene Rhodes has been working hard to up date the RHS bylaws and the RHS Standing Rules. The bylaws were approved with changes at our July 29th board meeting. The standing rules were approved with changes at our September 14th Zoom meeting. Thanks to Charlene for all the hard work!



Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

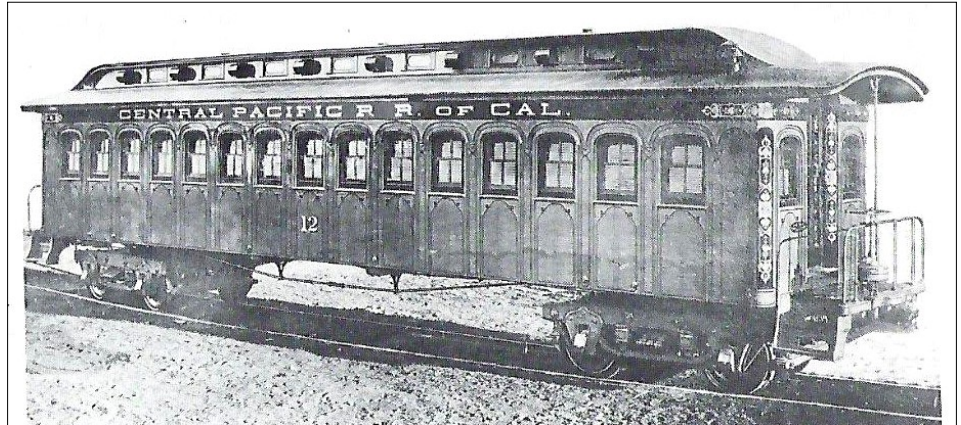
ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Fall, 2020

A new home for an historic train car?

1869 passenger car that witnessed the completion of the transcontinental railroad could come to Rocklin

Contributed by Scott Inman, President, Southern Pacific Railroad History Center



This Central Pacific Coach No.12 was part of the first train to ever cross America. Coming through Rocklin in 1869, the oldest surviving passenger car in California will hopefully return to Rocklin to make its home in the new history center.

On July 20, an informational email was sent to Scott Inman, President of the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center, and several other individuals who are involved in the preservation of artifacts relating to the Southern Pacific Railroad and its predecessor company, the Central Pacific. The email tone was a call to action, somewhat frantic, and almost unbelievable. Central Pacific Coach No. 12 was in danger of being dismantled in Calistoga, California. Many railroad enthusiasts knew this historic passenger car was preserved inside the former Southern Pacific Calistoga Depot in the north end of California's Napa Valley. What we did not realize, was the coach is perhaps the most culturally significant railcar left in existence in the United States.

The email said the owner of the depot had plans to convert the building into a restaurant. The Calistoga Depot is the second oldest surviving railroad depot in all of California, only surpassed in age by Santa Clara. Calistoga's station was built by Gold Rush entrepreneur Samuel Brannan in 1868 to serve the town he lived in. The depot today has been nicely preserved by its new owners, and the email suggesting the many changes that were in progress took historians by surprise.

In order to complete the conversion to a restaurant, Central Pacific Coach 12 would need to be removed from inside the depot where it had sat in preservation since 1978. The car received a very presentable cosmetic restoration in the 1970s, and was well cared for since that time. The call to action stated if nobody from another museum or organization stepped up to save the car, it would likely be broken up into pieces for removal and disposed of (scrapped)! Inman immediately replied to the email and copied many additional historians, institutions, and museums in order to gain awareness.

One of the first replies was from Historian Kyle Wyatt, who retired as the Chief Historian of the California State Railroad Museum. He had amazing information about CP 12. It turns out CP 12 and its sister coach, CP 16, were the first vehicles ever to cross America by any form of machine power! CP 16 was long ago scrapped and lost to the ages, but CP 12 was still here, and we have the builders photo of this very car sitting outside the Wason Manufacturing Company in Springfield Massachusetts in 1869. Its story of survival for 151 years was truly remarkable.

So how was this car the first vehicle

(See TRAIN, pg. 2)



We say "Farewell!" to Bob and JoAnn Mart (Photo by Rona Davis)

Many of you know Bob and JoAnn Mart. Bob was the head of the Fix-it Team helping not only with museum and chapel projects but also being instrumental in getting the chapel and Heritage Park ready for tree lightings. They have decided to pack up and move to Arizona. We will miss seeing them around. Enjoy your new life in the desert, Bob and JoAnn!

As always, we encourage you to volunteer for the Rocklin Historical Society. Hopefully it won't be long before the museum will be needing docents when it opens, the Fix-it team will be busy catching up on projects, and the chapel 'church ladies' will be welcoming couples. To make the historical society viable, we need YOU!

(TRAIN, Cont. from page 1)

across America, from sea to shining sea? Well, it was built close enough to the completion of America's first transcontinental railroad that Central Pacific requested the car be forwarded from Springfield to the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Nebraska. The car traveled south to New York City, and was sent westward. It was barged across the Missouri River between Iowa and Nebraska because there was not a completed bridge at that time!

Once onto the western bank of the river, Union Pacific loaded CP 12 and CP 16 with Union Soldiers, including an Army Band, and the cars headed for the Gold Spike Ceremony at Promontory, Utah, in celebration of America's First Transcontinental Railroad. They arrived at the Union Pacific special train after great hardship to reach the ceremonies. The cars had to be pushed across makeshift bridges and over washouts due to the poor construction practices of the Union Pacific.

When they arrived at Promontory, the two CP cars were set onto a siding and were not part of either train used for the famous meeting of the railroads. However, after the ceremony, the two CP coaches were added to Leland Stanford's train and headed west toward Sacramento. When the soldiers reached Sacramento, they were bound for San Francisco and the Presidio. They finished their journey using Central Pacific's fleet of Delta steam boats. Perhaps the soldiers realized they were the first passengers to travel across the country by machine power, but either way CP 12 is alive to tell their story.

Not only is the car a witness to the driving of the golden spike, it is the oldest surviving passenger car in the State of California. It is also the second oldest surviving Central Pacific car, just one year younger than the Commissioner's Car at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. Unfortunately, that car was so heavily rebuilt by the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, it only has a few pieces of the original framing and cosmetically looks nothing like it did at the golden spike ceremony. CP 12 is much more original.

So what would become of what is perhaps the most culturally significant railroad passenger car surviving in America today? Should it go to the Smithsonian? Perhaps the National Museum of Transportation? Well, a benefactor to the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center project, which aims to build a museum in Rocklin dedicated to the legacy of the corporation that built the Western United States, generously offered to pay for CP 12 to be removed from the Calistoga Depot and



Saved from demolition, CP No. 12 will await the building of the history center in Rocklin.

transported to safety. Inman is also long-time volunteer docent at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, and the museum generously offered the organization a place to store the car while the center is being built. They have also offered to place the car inside the roundhouse of the museum, so it can be seen by the public. Once the museum reopens, families will be able to learn about this important survivor.

Many thanks to all the people who helped with this project, including the Merchant Family who donated the car, Scott Heavy Movers who removed the coach from the depot, and the California State Railroad Museum who is providing a home to this incredible survivor, at least for now. To donate to help secure historic register and protected status for

Below: CP12 description, From the San Francisco Examiner, May 15, 1869

Through by Rail.

The Sacramento Reporter of May 13th says:

The first cars through from the Atlantic seaboard arrived here about 5½ A. M. yesterday, in connection with a special train bringing ex-Governor Stanford and others. The cars—passenger carriages—are of the manufacture of the Wason Manufacturing Works, Springfield, Mass., and the finest in every respect that have appeared on this coast. They are numbered respectively 12 and 16. The interior (both being of the same style) is finished most luxuriantly, the wood work being of birds-eye maple, black walnut and oak highly polished. The seats of which the frames are cast iron, are cushioned and covered with crimson velvet, and are so constructed that they are self-locking, and cannot be turned except under the manipulation of the conductor. There are racks for the reception of valises, packages, umbrellas, canes, etc. The roof is raised and arranged to ensure perfect ventilation. The blinds are double so that the one-half may be raised or lowered at the pleasure of the passenger. Each is provided with a water closet. Aside from the ordinary brake they are furnished with Creamer's patent brakes, whereby the engineer by means of a cord attached thereto can instantly bring a train to a stoppage. The body of the car rests upon elliptical springs, and upon the trucks are friction rollers playing upon a traverse above by means of which the trucks turn independently accommodating themselves to curves. They are fine specimens of railroad carriages and well worthy of inspection. In regard to workmanship, however, they cannot surpass the handiwork of our California artisans.

Central Pacific Coach 12, please send tax-deductible donations to: SPRHC, First Across America Fund, 9462 Middlesboro Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758.

The Gang Saw, Blasts, Flying Granite, and the Kid Across the Street

Editor's Note: In the [Summer 2020 issue of the Quarry Quarterly](#) (pg 5), a request was made for anecdotes based on sounds heard in and around Rocklin. We would still like to hear your stories. Contact us at quarryquarterly@gmail.com.

By Doug Osella

I'm the kid who lived across Granite Street (later Rocklin Road) from the quarry operations which formed the most conspicuous business layout in town because of the tall masts, angled booms, and long steel cables that surrounded a massive hole from which granite had been extracted for almost a century. (Every boy in town had an inborn desire to explore the big quarry, especially its gigantic hole).

The entry to the big operations from Pacific Street was distinguished with a hunk of black granite and the company name: *Union Granite Company* carved into it. The quarry yard also featured a long, two-story high shed with open sides as well as smaller sheds nearby that held the heavy equipment necessary for cutting and shaping granite slabs into useful and beautiful forms. Tucked away in one of the smaller sheds was the gang saw with its addictive sound.

Before Sierra College came to town in 1961 and the subsequent traffic noise on Rocklin Road, quarry sounds from the big quarry dominated the neighborhood around the old city hall, and especially resonant was the cadence of the gang saw.

How can I describe the mantra of the gang saw? To begin with, it didn't strain the ears. It didn't clang, clatter or grate. It didn't usually torment. It had a steady push-pull rhythm. My aunt, Ila Wickman Davis (1905-1994), referred to the sound in her memoirs of growing up in Rocklin as the "...choo choo sound from the Pernu quarry saw as it patiently made its way through granite slabs." As I think back to my time, I agree that the rhythm she described, still going three decades later, echoed a steam locomotive patiently making its way up the grade to Auburn.

The jitter jive of the 50s didn't solely make me the man I am today. It was the combination of Bill Haley, Chuck Berry on the radio, and the regular gang saw beat from across the street that formed the setting for my growing up.

The quarry mantra was more subdued than Chuck Berry. It was background in the same way that a dialogue from a TV could assimilate perfectly into a napper's dream in an adjacent bedroom. It worked its way into the subconscious. I can forget the rock & rollers, but the mantra stays with me even today.

The cadence was consistent. It was there when I rode my bike up the alley on my way back to school after lunch break. (The two-syllable beat got my legs pumping.) And the stroke picked right up again after school for my ride home. It was as dependable as *The Mickey Mouse Club* at 4:00 P.M.

The tempo was the routine that got my dad off to work to the SP in Roseville every workday morning. It was a workday sound, not a Sunday sound. It was reassuring news about the worldwide economy. It was the DOW on the upside. It was the S&P 500 doing well. It was like a contemporary Uno Attack Launcher pumping out dollar bills—instead of Uno cards—into the atmosphere above Rocklin.

The steady pace comforted like putting on a red flannel shirt with a pair of jeans. It was the hum of the family car. It was Rocklin on a rainy day with the klunk, klunk of the wiper blades while waiting for traffic to clear at the corner of Granite Street and Pacific Street. It fortified like a hot cup of instant Ovaltine.

The steady pulse could be interrupted at any moment, though, by three toots on the emergency whistle, warning all those within hearing that an explosion was about to ensue from

the quarry. The toots put me on high alert. If I was inside and heard three toots, I ran outside. If I was outside I ran inside to tell my mom first before running back outside. The anticipation of what was to follow brought excitement to a nine year old boy.

It was always a surprise when the quarry decided to blast because the event didn't happen too often. My mother told us kids to run into the



Taken a little before Doug Osella's time, this photo of the Union Granite Company shows where the cutting saws were housed.

garage when we heard the toots, but I wanted the full outside experience. The black powder explosion was always exciting for us kids, a loud **Ka-Boom** that made the walls of our house shake and the china in the dining room cabinet rattle and clink. I remember seeing simultaneously with the boom, a white plume of smoke and dust across the way, followed immediately by flying rocks in a wide shower, sometimes hearing one or two landing nearby. I thought to myself that this must be just like war!

From our yard I watched for flying rocks, hoping a basketball-size one would fly over and smash into something, but that never happened. If a small rock would zing over my head, that was special. Sometimes it passed over with a kind of whine, curving into the ground. If one landed in our yard, or in the alley, or on nearby property, the search was on. A granite missile once it landed stood out from its surroundings, having a bright, fresh look to it, more white than gray. (After all, it had just escaped to a new life from centuries of captivity beneath the earth.) I liked to imagine I was searching for a meteorite even though I knew enough about geology to know that granite was an earth rock and could never be a space rock.

The usual thing for me to do when I found one of these hot, new rocks—if it was small enough—was to put it into my front jeans pocket along with my favorite marbles to be admired later.

At my naïve age, I loved playing war with my friends and craved action. The occasional explosion from across the road was to me what a piece of cake might be to a sugar junkie on a protein diet; and hearing the zing or whine of a granite missile over my head, well, that was like adding a scoop of ice cream.



Kermit Griffin in the gang saw room, 1939

Women's Improvement Club of Rocklin

Service is the keynote of success - Club Motto

By Julia Shohbozian

It was with a bit of exasperation that I took on the project of transcribing documents from a local, early twentieth century women's club. Of course, I, the young woman of small stature going to a local Christian college with traditional values, would be assigned this. Nevertheless, I pushed on because I am committed to the Rocklin Historical Society and to history itself. I knew I needed to give it a chance and at the least, be of service.

What I uncovered while transcribing the women's club documents was both pleasantly surprising and fascinating, especially within the context of a local, early twentieth century women's club... with a first project listed as "sewing pillow cases". As it turns out, these women were educated and progressive thinkers, who wanted their organization to have meaningful purpose and order. The type of meaningful purpose and order that was only reserved for men of power during their time. In this article I hope to demonstrate to you the wonders that I found in something that I absentmindedly judged to be insignificant. History always deserves a second survey, and I invite you to share in it.

The Women's Improvement Club of Rocklin started in the fall of 1912. Extensive by-laws can be found which outline the hierarchy and rules of the Club. It could be described as strongly democratic (though exclusive, with members admitted only upon internal referral) and based on Roberts Rules of Order, published in 1876 by Henry Martin Robert and Sarah Corbin Robert, offering Congressional style guidelines for non-legislative groups with Boards of Directors.

'Sec. 1- The name of an applicant for membership must be proposed by a member of the Club, and endorsed by one other member of the Club and voted upon by the Board of Directors. Sec. 2- Application for membership may be obtained from the Secretary of the Chairman of the Board of Directors.'

If one was admitted to this Women's Improvement Club, they could expect a one dollar membership fee, and a monthly due of fifty cents thereon. What was this money going towards? Bettering their community, the community we enjoy here in Rocklin today. And, the women of early twentieth century Rocklin were not the only ones making such efforts. Their initiative actually has a much broader historical context. 'Women's Improvement Clubs' and other clubs of the same type were widespread in California during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, due to a lack of legislative actions to improve growing communities. The need for these

clubs is exemplified in Article II of these By-Laws:

'To develop better social and moral conditions by providing encouraging clean and wholesome places of amusement, recreation, and literary culture.

To encourage and work for needed municipal improvements.'

Now that we know what the Women's Improvement Club was, and why it was, we may want to know whom it was.

Each woman that made up the original membership body could be considered as part of the 'founding families' of our town. Membership included Mrs. Moon (of who's home lends our beloved museum), Mrs. Scribner (who's home was built in the late 1800's and stands today with occupancy by a current Historical Society member)*, Mrs. Moore (who's historic home also still stands today near the Johnson House), and many other women who had a part in laying the foundations for our town as it is today.

The most distinct thing about the ladies of the Rocklin Women's Improvement Club is that they were concerned advocates, poets, and the most supportive friends. They also worked with Mr. Whitney himself to launch several initiatives, including procuring special awards of coveted items for those who cleaned and beautified their front yards. It was exciting to learn that such a prominent figure in Rocklin history was a strong supporter of these women. As far as their poetry, please see below. I think that you will be taken by the beauty.

Read by Mrs. Hamilton of Auburn, author.

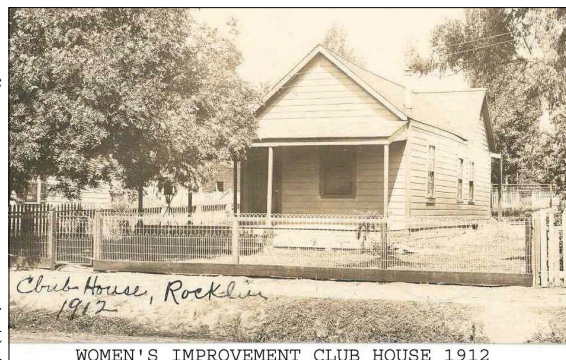


Our Golden Poppy

The music appealed to
The sun and the
Moon to make beautiful
Golden weather, the
Sound was caught
By the golden metal
Under the ground -
So by day and by
Night, with the golden
light, they made the
Golden weather -
then up came the gold
In the shape of a flower
And this is the story of our
Blossom of gold



Of course, the Poppy is the official state flower of California. In addition, when the author says 'By the golden metal/Under the ground' this is perhaps a reference to the natural



resource of gold, which was mined in California during the Gold Rush (1848-1855). The Gold Rush could have very likely been what first brought the families of these women to California, before they found the ample land of Rocklin to settle. So, again we can see broader history intertwining with the intimate poems of these women.

Their concerned advocacy focused on public services and the education of children. In the Club's 'First Report' of 1912, you will find that the women report efforts to raise money and organize events for the interests of school-age children and young adults:

'Served refreshments at school play to help raise funds for play grounds.'
'Dancing club for young people organized.'

In addition, their concerns extended to things similar to the concerns of the Rocklin Historical Society today. According to the Secretary at a March meeting in 1923, a Women's Club member from Loomis:

'Asked our assistance in marking old historic spots.'

And so, the Club proceeded to aid in this effort to mark areas of historical significance throughout Placer County. It's fascinating to think of people one hundred years ago thinking about the history of their area, because they make up what we think of as history today.

Furthermore, these women were the first concerned activists for cleanliness and tidiness- which explains why they partnered with Mr. Whitney to award prizes to diligent landowners. They also helped to establish the public service of trash collecting in Rocklin.

'Held Clean Up Day which was a huge success and which resulted in the Town Trustees hiring a man and team to collect cans and rubbish the last Saturday of each month free of charge to the public.'

(See WIC, pg. 5)

(WIC, Cont. from page 4)

It is my opinion that with efforts like this, the values Women's Improvement Club of over one hundred years ago do not look so different from ours today. In fact, I believe that they are a main reason why our community has a legacy of good education and beautiful spaces. It is because of the initiative and tradition passed down by these women and mothers. And, while they weren't being women of service and mothers, they were being supportive friends for each other. This included encouraging each other and enjoying many afternoons of tea and homemade pastries, accompanied by piano or song entertainment. To sum, the significance of this Club is not to be overlooked, but to be looked back on for inspiration.

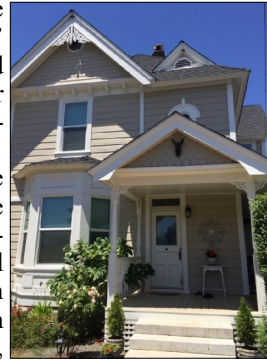
* Another element of the past that became an intriguing surprise to me was a woman named

Mrs. Scribner.

At a weekly picnic lunch with the ladies of the Historical Society, I happened to ask Patrice Cardott to remind me of whom the original owners of her historic home were. I had a suspicion that the owners' name could be one of the ones that had come up in my research, since her house was built even before the establishment of the Club in 1912.

So, when Patrice told me that the original owners were the Scribner's, the lightbulb turned on. I had already re-typed Mrs. Scribner's name several times in my transcriptions. She was an integral member of the original Rocklin Women's Improvement Club, and Patrice now lived in her home. These kinds of coincidences, to me, are amazing and make all of the research worth it. Being able to see history come full circle into today is awe-inspiring and a privilege to witness. When we

Right, WIC member Mrs. Scribner (with Mr. Lehtola). Below, the Scribner house on 5th St.



take a second survey of the past, we can revitalize it. I know that Mrs. Scribner would be proud to now that Patrice is an integral member of our Historical Society and has done a beautiful job of restoring her home to its original glory.

rip rap by gay morgan

When I decided to become a volunteer for the Rocklin Historical Society and the Rocklin Friends of the Library, I found the perfect jobs for me. They kept me interested and busy, but not too busy. I should have known something would come along to change it.

With little or no warning both the library and the museum were closed. We were all in quarantine. For a while I sort of enjoyed having groceries and dinners delivered, sleeping late and not having to be somewhere at a specific time. I missed people. At first there were lots of emails but soon we ran out of things to talk about. Nobody was going anywhere or doing anything. I was bored.

Then one day David Baker told me he had found a document that might change the history of the Rocklin library as we knew it. I wanted to know more and said I would look into it. I did and learned some surprising things along the way.

As I began to look through the documents and pictures a familiar name kept appearing, W. Dana Perkins. All I knew about Mr. Perkins was that he was a pioneer rancher who grew olives. (There is a big black can of Perkin's olives in our timeline display.) I wondered why he was so

Expect the Unexpected

important and started digging deeper.

W. Dana Perkins was born in 1831 in the State of New Hampshire. He arrived in Placer County in 1850. He was primarily interested in mining and began to do so near Rattlesnake Bar. While there he was elected to be Constable of the Mining Camp.

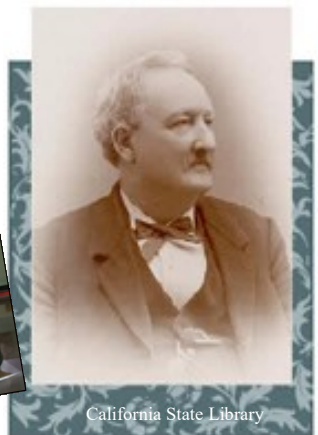
He moved to Pine Grove which was near what is now Loomis. He became the friendly and popular host of the Pine Grove House which was the site of a large dance floor. Dancing seems to have been a very popular diversion.

He later owned the largest saloon in Rocklin. Perkins made many friends and before long was elected Constable. That was his start in politics; he held many other offices in California through the years.

At one time he was a member of Sheriff Johnson's Posse and he assisted in the breaking up of the notorious Ted Bell gang of bandits. It was a bullet fired by Mr. Perkins that felled Ted Conway, Bell's chief Lieutenant.

Perkins and his wife and two sons lived on a Showplace Ranch between Rocklin and Loomis. (It was known more recently as The Aitken Ranch.)

Mr. Perkins was ultimately appointed State Librarian, a position he held until his death in 1896. Was he a friendly rancher, a career politician, or a flamboyant lawman?



California State Library



It's a little hard to make out, but look closely and you may see the difference between the old and the new gateway to a popular Rocklin area ranch.





Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

By Jim Hammes

The Fix It Team continues to maintain our stance of No real group activities and maintenance work during the practice of Social Distancing.

A mention of note would be for the generous effort and contribution of time Gene Johnson has provided for some work at the Museum.

The Museum has been a target for the Team to get some Painting and minor repairs completed from our task planner.

We hope to eventually get the Team working together once the current health situation allows for the ability to do so once again.

For now and the foreseeable future our Team will operate on the basis of the Team contributing as they feel safe and comfortable to do so with no mandatory assignments or expectations.

We recommend that any of our RHS committees still contact myself or the Team for items needing our attention and scheduling for eventual repair or maintenance.

Please provide contact via email (jimhammes@yahoo.com)...

Finally ... we look forward to the time when we all can gather Safely to resume our New Normal ... we all miss our comrades.

Fall at St. Mary's

By Nancy Lohse

While the chapel patiently waits for busier times, weddings are still happening. Circumstances make for smaller, more intimate ceremonies outdoors on the patio. Receptions on the patio include individual boxed dinners, six foot umbrel-

las to mark social distances and, of course, masks. I love seeing the creativity of the couples as they want to keep family and friends safe.

We can start having indoor ceremonies at 25% capacity. I had a bride admit that she was happy with the mandates as it meant a smaller, simpler wedding.

Fall is coming! With it comes the beautiful colors that surround the chapel. Please take time to stroll around our special place. I think Old St. Mary's will enjoy the company!



Photo by David Baker

Walking tours resume on historic Front Street!

Dr. James Carlson is conducting Rocklin history walks along the beautiful historic Front Street. The hour-long walks will begin at 12 noon, weather permitting, on the following Saturdays: November 14, December 15 and January 9. Meet at Old St. Mary's Chapel. Participants will observe social distancing and visit the Fire Hose House, Peter Hill Park, the Rocklin Rail Station, site of the historic roundhouse and more. The walk is all on level surfaces and ends at 1 pm. Reserve your place by phone or text to Jim Carlson at 916-624-0682. Donations to RHS will be accepted.



Dr. Carlson, left, is joined by David Baker and Charlene Rhodes on the doctor's first walking tour of the fall. It's a great time of year for an informative walk along Rocklin's arguably prettiest street.



Last issue's mystery place is home to our little rabbit

friend! He (or she) lives in the garden at Old St. Mary's Chapel. Kathie Nippert, one of our "church ladies" tells prospective wedding couples that seeing it brings good luck!

Garden Report

By Sally Huseby

I always look forward to fall, this year for many reasons. The cooling weather that shows up turns our gardens into beautiful settings reminiscent of scenes in the Eastern states where the trees and foliage are transformed into a profusion of colors. The cooler temperatures also induce us to get outdoors and explore our changed surroundings. Fall is one of the best seasons to walk through the gardens at St. Mary's chapel after months of confinement. It's an uplifting experience to be with family or friends to re-energize ourselves and look forward to an upcoming happier year.

Whitney High grad proposes updating history curriculum

By Gloria Beverage

Diego Leibman, a 2020 graduate of Whitney High School, wants an unbiased view of early California history, particularly the treatment of the Indigenous, Chinese and African American residents, taught in schools.



While his love of history started in eighth grade, Leibman, 17, explained his passion for local history developed after participating in the 2019 Sacramento Archives Crawl, an annual archives and behind-the-scenes tours of archives and special collection libraries.

During the tour, one speaker caught his attention with a description of the infamous expulsion of the Chinese from Rocklin in 1877 and the role landowner Joel Parker Whitney played in the aftermath. Intrigued, Leibman began to do his own research, including reading a history article about the expulsion published in the Placer Herald and researching Whitney's life.

While Leibman claims he found proof of racially justified exploitation of the Chinese residents by Whitney, his primary focus has become replacing what he describes as a sanitized version of local history with more accurate, realistic materials.

In September, Leibman presented a proposal asking the Rocklin Unified School District Board of Trustees to review and adopt curriculum materials that more accurately cover the experiences of Indigenous, Chinese and African Americans in early California. He has also suggested naming a building at Whitney High School after a prominent Chinese American.

In response, District Superintendent Roger Stock formed the Equity for Local History Committee and scheduled the first meeting for Oct. 22. As a member of the committee, Leibman has submitted the names of several experts to Stock for consideration.

In a letter of support to the school district's Board of Trustees, Rocklin Historical Society member Gary Day supported Leibman's proposal to "develop curricula recognizing the role of the Chinese people in the development of this area, including their role in gold mining and development of the Whitney Ranch."

However, the amateur historian takes issue with Leibman's view of Whitney as racist. The claim is derived from what Day describes as "an inappropriate comment, buried in the text of his lengthy autobiographical tome that shows (Whitney) viewed Chinese people as subhuman, animal-like."

According to Day, who has written and published numerous articles on the early history of Rocklin, Whitney advocated for the Chinese – taking in many of them after they were expelled from Rocklin in 1877. More than 14,000 Chinese construction workers were employed by Central Pacific Railroad to complete the eastbound leg of the transcontinental railroad. Many had settled in Rocklin following its completion. By 1877, Rocklin's Chinatown consisted of 25 housing units located northwest of Rocklin's roundhouse at the corner of Granite Street (now Rocklin Road) and Front Street.

Although Chinese immigrants faced government sanctioned isolation and harassment, Day continued, they worked hard for low wages drawing the ire of Euro-American workers.

On Sept. 15, 1877, the Placer County Sheriff investigated a homicide near Loomis and accused a Chinese cook of murdering three Euro-Americans as he tried to recover \$120 that he had paid for a mining claim, Day explained. The accusation was enough to incite Rocklin's citizens to action. The following morning, they met and voted to notify all Chinese to leave town by 6 p.m.



It is thought that Chinese laborers helped build the twelve bridges on Whitney's ranch.

"By 4 p.m., every Chinese resident had left, even the Chinese roundhouse employees," Day said.

Rocklin residents marched into the deserted community and destroyed the homes. Citizens in Roseville, Loomis and

Penryn followed suit, evicting their Chinese residents.

"About 100 armed men from Rocklin and about 20 from Roseville scoured the countryside, driving out the occupants of various Chinese encampments," Day said.

"Rocklin newspaper stories of the time recounted the Chinese expulsions in gleeful detail that doesn't deserve reprinting."

Following the expulsion, the Chinese were not allowed to rent a house or obtain employment.

Day's research shows that "in spite of Rocklin laborers' antipathy toward the Chinese, local businessmen schemed to hide Chinese workers from census takers and continued to exploit Chinese willing to work hard at menial jobs.

According to Joel Parker Whitney biographer Richard Miller, more than 1,000 Chinese worked at the Whitney Ranch through 1880, building water courses and stone fences.

In an effort to protect the Chinese from angry Rocklin citizens, Miller continued, in one incident five Chinese domestics arrived at Whitney's ranch by train via the animal loading gate on the western side of the ranch – out of view of Rocklin's passenger terminal.

"Whitney's diary of 1800 describes his assignment of seven Chinese men to work in the vineyard of his neighbor Otis Brown," Miller wrote. "And Whitney family tradition is that 19th Century domestics are interred on the grounds near the Whitney family's mausoleum on the Whitney Oaks Golf Course."

California's unfair treatment of the Chinese continued into 1879 when the legislature attempted to allow municipalities to remove their Chinese residents to outlying areas, thus giving legal sanction to Rocklin's expulsions, Day wrote. The law was voided by the California Supreme Court in 1880.

Sadly, the Federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 severely limited Chinese immigration and access to citizenship. Congress repealed the act in 1943 in an effort to cement U.S. alliance with China against the Japanese.

"Not to take away from the benefits we have gotten in the development of the land, what Rocklin is, it's more important to remember the people who lived on this land and view history with a critical eye, Leibman concluded.

A sophomore at Sierra College, he works in a dentist's office. He hopes to transfer next fall to a university, finishing his education in law school.

From
the desk
of

Gene Johnson

Note: If you missed reading Part 1 of *On the Farm* you can find it on page 8 [here](#).

At the West end of Rocklin Road, next to our farmhouse there was a dirt road that led down the hill and through the field to a mineral spring and Native American village site - and to Antelope Creek. There was a wide, white, wooden gate at the bottom of the hill through which all were welcome to pass. Dad had only one request of visitors: "Please Close the Gate".

The road angled through a field that had been a grape vineyard but by this time the field was cultivated for hay crops of oats and vetch. At the spring, about 300 yards beyond our house, one could dipper a drink of cool water and visit the nearby Maidu/Nisenan village site with its 88 bed-rock mortars.

The road passed through another hay field and three hundred yards west of the mineral spring the road ended at a parking area overlooking Antelope Creek and a natural swimming pool (or swimming hole, as we called it).

On the north end of the pool there was a deep dark pool and a small tree with a diving platform about 6 feet above the water. The south end of the pool opened to a sandy delta area with water only a few inches deep. There was a very, very small beach on the east side and behind that the higher ground was good for picnicking. A cement pad, that had been used for a pump to irrigate the grape vineyard, served as a fire hearth. On the west side, beyond a steep bank, lie grazing land and "the Whitney Hill"



Summertime by the creek

west bank and, the bravest, from the large tree on the east bank - until one of the Moon kids broke his neck (luckily he fully recovered).

Evenings we gathered around a fire and roasted weenies and marshmallows on sticks we cut from nearby willows. In addition to picnics and play, the pool served a more serious purpose when baptisms were performed in its waters.

In the creek south of the swimming area small children played

On the Farm Part 2: Antelope Creek circa 1940's



Lazy days of summer spent at Johnson's Creek (now known as Antelope Creek, bordering Johnson Springview Park)



Exploring Antelope Creek was fun all year round, even in the winter. Here is Gene with his mom Florence, and his cousins Boyd and Bob Wickman, c 1940.

with the lobster-like crayfish, while older lads fished for perch and catfish; night was the time for frogging with a gig pole and a flashlight to catch the shining eyes of our prey. A few years older than I, Bucky Brashear was my "child sitter" and a right-hand man for Dad for delivering milk and for odd jobs on the farm. Bucky frog hunted with a gig but was also old enough to own a 22-caliber rifle. With no nearby neighbors the creek became a relatively safe shooting range. Valley Oak gall balls made splendid moving targets as they bobbed in the creek's swirling current. Cans tossed in

the air also made challenging targets.

Epilogue: The road still exists but as a walking trail. Changes in land use and climate have also changed the character of the Mineral Spring and the Creek. The spring still bubbles but not with the vigor and clarity of 80 years ago. Asphalted streets have resulted in faster rainwater run-off that has cut the creek bed down to the underlying layer of shale and leaving steep creek banks. Gone are the wide areas, gentle banks and sunlit shallows for child play. On the other hand, without grazing cattle, vegetation and trees have returned to support wildlife. Park trails serve a greater community by providing access to the creek and man has created sunlit splash pads elsewhere in the park to replace the creek's sunlit shallows.

What are gall balls? (besides floating targets)



Galls are abnormal growths in plants, usually caused by insects. Valley oak galls are formed when a tiny gall wasp lays its eggs in the tissue of the oak's flower buds in the spring. The tiny wasp also deposits fluids that cause the plant's cell multiplication process to change, resulting in a gall. The wasp's larvae develop inside the gall until they are fully-formed adults, at which time they depart the gall through an exit hole. Gulls normally do not harm the trees they grow on.

Two great presentations offered via Zoom

By Gloria Beverage

Rocklin Friends of the Library will host a conversation with noted author Christian Kiefer via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 26 as well as a presentation from a Japanese American woman whose family was interned at Tule Lake at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19.

Kiefer will be discussing his latest novel, *Phantoms*, which captures bitter truths of World War II and Vietnam. Set in Newcastle, the story revolves around a Vietnam vet who unwittingly assists the matriarchs of an orchard owner and a Japanese American neighbor in resolving a painful mystery. Kiefer's novels have appeared on best of the year lists from Kirkus, Publishers Weekly and Booklist and have received rave reviews in *The Washington Post*, Oprah.com, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Brooklyn Rain*, *Library Journal* and *Huffington Post*.

In addition to *Phantoms*, he is the author of *The Infinite Tides*, *The Animals*, *Phantoms*, and the novella *One Day Soon Time Will Have No Place Left to Hide*.

He is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize for his short fiction and has enjoyed a long second career in music, under the auspices of which he has collaborated with members of many groups.

Kiefer holds a Ph.D. in American literature from the University of California at Davis and has served as contributing editor for *Zyzzyva*, fiction reader for *VQR*, and as the West Coast editor for *The Paris Review*.

A resident of Auburn, he teaches at American River College in Sacramento and is the director of the Ashland University MFA.

Admission is free; however, registration is required through Eventbrite/Rocklin Friends of the Library.

In conjunction with this year's Rocklin Reads and in partnership with the Rocklin Historical Society, Auburn resident Shari Teal will give a presentation on the Japanese culture, particularly memories of Tule Lake internees, via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19.

Teal will share the significant obstacles – and successes – she has had as a result of the internment years and attitudes towards Japanese Americans.

Her parents and grandparents were among the nearly

120,000 Japanese Americans interned following Executive Order 9066, which called for the incarceration of Japanese Americans at the beginning of World War II. She was among the 1,500 babies born at Tule Lake.

Teal's father, who was a mechanic and professional musician, provided entertainment to the camp residents during those years. As a result, the family was well-loved and appreciated by residents.

She proudly points out that she is the descendent of a long line of royal Japanese Samurai warriors.

Prior to their internment, her family owned a 40-acre pear orchard in Loomis and her grandparents joined other Christian farmers in starting the Loomis United Methodist Church. Unlike many families, they were able to return to a portion of their holdings after release from Tule Lake.

The mother of two successful young men, Teal and her husband, Tom, are founding members of Center for Spiritual Living, Kauai, Hawaii and is currently studying to become a licensed practitioner.

Admission is free; however, registration is required through Eventbrite/Rocklin Friends of the Library.

This is the third year the Rocklin Friends of the Library have hosted Rocklin Reads, a program established to encourage residents to read the same book as well as raise awareness about local history or social issues. Previous selections have been *Kiyo's Story* by Kiyo Sato and *The Eagle and the Crane* by Suzanne Rindell.



Photo by Christophe Chammartin



Shari Teal



Tule Lake War Relocation Center, located near the California-Oregon border.



Many of you may recognize this item. But do you know where it came from? Read about it in the next issue of the Quarry Quarterly!

RANDY PETERS
CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN. PARTY. REPEAT.



75th anniversary is recognized

By Gloria Beverage

The Rocklin Mothers' Club was at the forefront of lobbying for a memorial park to honor the Rocklin men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Their campaign, launched in 1940, was fueled with pride for the service men and women fighting during World War II.

As a result of their campaign, property behind City Hall was purchased for \$1,600 in 1941. It wasn't until 1945, however,

that plans to develop the memorial park and erect a granite monument were approved by the Rocklin City Council. Plans included a children's playground, a tennis court, basketball court and barbecue pits.

"Let's all get together and back this park to the limit," wrote Florence Johnson following the city's action. "It will be a living memorial to your loved ones who are now fighting over the entire globe. When they come home, they will be able to see what you have dedicated to them for

their valor in this great war."

She was joined by her husband, Ray, in donating the first \$5 to launch the fund-raising campaign.

Johnson also noted that elementary school students sponsored a paper drive to raise funds. According to a history compiled by Marie Huson, the Mothers' Club raised \$565.25 through their house-to-house canvass to collect donations as well as proceeds from a raffle.



A search of the Historical Society archives throws the spotlight on some of the service men and women who served during World War II, including:

Corp. Sylvia Jacobson served with the Women's Army Corps (WAC). The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sanna Jacobson, she was the only Rocklin resident to serve with the WACs. Following basic training in Fort Des Moines, Iowa, she served at the Perrin Army Air Field in Texas, then transferred to England where she suffered an injury that resulted in her return to the U.S.

Baker Second Class Robert H. Bottomley, U.S. Navy, was awarded the Bronze Star in recognition of his gallantry in action aboard the USS Abner Read, a destroyer that went down in the battle of Leyte Gulf. The son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bottomley was operating an anti-aircraft gun when his gun was smashed by the Japanese Kamikaze plane that hit the destroyer.

Florence J. Bass, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Johnson, joined the WAVES and trained at Hunters College, New York. Her husband also served in the Armed Forces overseas.

(See SERVICE, pg. 11)

Joseph "Pete" Moon Alamo Scout

Perhaps Rocklin's most celebrated veteran was **Lt. Joseph "Pete" Moon, U.S. Army**. The Rocklin History Museum is housed in his family home, which originally belonged to Dr. Fletcher.

Pete was one of the Alamo Scouts in the South Pacific. The Alamo Scouts was an all volunteer organization operating with six men to a team. Their dangerous and highly secretive missions were to collect strategic military information behind the enemy lines, and to forward information to our forces before any scheduled landings on islands and beach-heads.

For five weeks Moon and a group of soldiers operated an observation post, radioing daily reports to Army headquarters in the midst of enemy troops on Poros Island in the Philippines.

According to the newspaper report, the soldiers were surrounded at one point by approximately 200 Japanese during the night. Rather than risk a fight, they remained quiet and were not discovered. During his tenure, Moon had fourteen amphibious landings and 13 Alamo Scout Reconnaissance Missions.

His many decorations include two Silver Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the Bronze Service Arrowhead, and the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon with two Campaign Stars.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Moon later received permission to mail a number of souvenirs taken from Japanese soldiers, including Japanese carbine and bayonets, a paper cutter with a shell handle, a woman's bracelet, Japanese paper money and a ring made from Japanese airplane parts.



Second Lieutenant Pete Moon on the day he received a battlefield commission, Dec., 1944

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

Gunner's Mate Patrick Thomas O'Connor, U.S. Navy, was wounded during action in the Bay of Seine, France, and awarded the Purple Heart. O'Connor was serving on a destroyer at the time of the injury.

Marine Sgt. Alma L. McGrath, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Alfred H. Willard, worked as a field cook at Camp Elliott, San Diego. She attended cooks and bakers' school at Camp Lejeune, No. Carolina.

Staff Sgt. Tracy Lawson, a gunner on a Flying Fortress, was interned in Switzerland for 10 months after his plane was forced down. The son of Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Lawson made a number of bombing missions over Germany. He was awarded the air medal with three oak leaf clusters.

First Lt. Charles E. Nassi, U.S. Air Corps, piloted a B24 in the European theater, operating with the 8th Air Force out of England. Several of his missions were over Berlin. He received the air medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Private First Class Benny Defuentes, son of Mrs. Carnation Defuentes, was reported missing in action in the western European war area. He had been serving with the Infantry for nearly three years at the time of his disappearance. His brother, **Gabriel Defuentes**, was also in the service.

Sgt. George M. Willard, U.S. Air Corps, was stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi when he returned home on furlough to visit his parents, Capt. and Mrs. A.H. Willard.

Sgt. Oscar P. Laning, U.S. Army 590th Field Artillery, was reported missing over the western European war zone. He was the son of Ruby E. Hardy. His wife, Lois, and 2-year-old son, Richard also resided in Rocklin.



What did we do on the Homefront?

Planting Victory Gardens, collecting scrap metal, saving rubber bands were some of the ways Rocklin residents helped with the war effort at home.

Gay Morgan remembers her 6th grade teacher teaching the entire class to knit scarves. This would have been before the US entered the war. "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."

Doug Osella wrote about Jennie Minkkinen ([Quarry Quarterly, Spring, 2020, pg.10](#)). She volunteered as a civilian plane spotter for the U.S. Army's Aircraft Warning Service.

The Red Cross also saw great support from the Rocklin branch. According to the Roseville Press-Tribune, March 9, 1945, "Mrs. Edith Scribner, chairman; Mrs. Margie Ruhkala, secretary, and Mrs. Jennie Minkkinen, treasurer have given unsparingly of their time to the many duties assigned them. Friends of the Red Cross were gave 50 per cent more to the War Fund this year than they did in 1944."

Rationing was a necessary way of life. Families were issued ration books in which they kept stamps.

The Sacramento Bee published a weekly report of what was available. For the week of March 16, 1944, for example: this is the complicated schedule homemakers had to follow:

MEAT, CHEESE, CANNED FISH, CANNED MILK, BUTTER AND OILS—Brown stamps Y and Z in Ration Book 3 are good through next Monday. Red stamps A8, B8, C8, D8, E8 and F8 in Ration Book 4 also are valid and will remain good through May 20th under the new system wherein tokens are issued as change. Three new stamps will be made valid every two weeks, G8, H8 and J8 becoming useable March 26th and continuing good through June 18th. Each stamp is worth 10 points. Lard will be ration point free through March.

Long after the war was over, does anyone remember keeping a can of used grease by the stove? Perhaps it was a habit started with this incentive:

USED FATS—Each pound of waste kitchen fats and greases rendered and taken to a meat market is good for two extra meat points.

Other items were rationed as well: processed fruits and vegetables, sugar, gasoline and even shoes. Everyone pitched in to conserve what they could.

Finally, a time of celebration

When the war was over, it was time to celebrate and honor those who served.

Rocklin Veterans to Be Honored Saturday Night At Dinner and Dance

City of Rocklin will honor their World War II veterans with a "Welcome Home" dinner and dance tomorrow night, May 25, in Finnish hall.

Mrs. Evelyn Ruhkala is chairman of the dinner and will be assisted by Mesdames Elma Kokila, Ruby Goldsberry, Hazel Peterson, Jennie Minkkinen, Frances Kelley and Mayme Willard.

Mayor Minkkinen will deliver the Welcome Home address and Captain Alfred Willard will be guest speaker at the dinner.

Remoh Nosdivad and his orchestra, popular local group, have donated their services for the dance, which will be free to the public.

And finally, a "proud to be a Rocklinite" moment of community, generosity and goodwill was seen in a time of hostile feelings toward Japanese-Americans:

Cosmo Sakamoto Back on Farm At Rocklin

Thanks to the generosity of Placer county residents, Cosmo Sakamoto, Japanese-American veteran of World War II, is back at his ranch near Rocklin where workmen are putting the finishing touches to a new home which replaces the original residence which was destroyed by fire several weeks ago.

The new Sakamoto home is the result of free-will contributions to a rebuilding fund started by heirs of the late Orrin Lowell's estate.

Sakamoto received his honorable discharge from the United States Army on November 13 at Camp Beale. He had been in service three years, 21 months of which were spent overseas.

In Intelligence

Starting on Saipan, Sakamoto went to Leyte and then Okinawa where he was transferred from a T-3 to an interpreter with the 7th Infantry Division.

He wears the Good Conduct ribbon, the Bronze Star, American Campaign, Victory, Asiatic Pacific and Philippine Liberation ribbons. Two of his brothers are in the armed forces, Cal, who just recently shipped out, and Walt, who is in Italy.

Is Deer Creek Park misnamed?

By Jerry Mitchell

While driving down Pacific Street in Rocklin one may notice the large granite outcrops adjacent to a deep hole with verdant vegetation reaching for the sky. Numerous people and families have worked at, or near this old quarry. Many people today may wonder about its origin.

In times past, hearty pioneer souls played a significant role in California's emergence and its connection to the rest of the country. Among the early settlers to the area were Charles A. Brigham, Levi and Abbie Hawes and Levi's brother Elisha. They settled in Rocklin between 1850 and 1860. They came from New Bedford, Massachusetts, an area with quarries. With the construction of the transcontinental railroad in the 1860's, the demand for Rocklin granite became significant as it was used for drainage revetments for the railroad itself, as well as the foundation and lower levels of the state capitol building. Brigham and Hawes founded this quarry that was very close to the new railroad. This facilitated the movement of massive amounts of granite to the capitol grounds. Later, others would operate the quarry as well.

Being in Rocklin today with its burgeoning population (64K) and expansive development, it is easy to not notice the faded presence of early pioneers. These people faced challenges unknown in our modern lives. We enjoy clean potable water, decent roadways, access to food and a range of ease that was not available to our pioneers predecessors.

Sometimes it seems like Rocklin was

incorporated in 1993 instead of 1893. That is because it took a 100 years of dangerous pioneer work from settlers from around the world to provide a solid foundation for Rocklin's explosive growth. Roughly 80% of our population has arrived in the last 25 years.

As development rapidly increased in the 1990's the City Council wisely realized that a large number of parks were to be built to serve our new residents. The City Council worked with the Rocklin Historical Society and a list of pioneer families was developed so that as parks came on-line their names were selected to honor the early pioneer families. Among those pioneers on the list were Brigham & Hawes, and indeed a neighborhood park on the north-west fringe of town was so named.

The actual Brigham & Hawes Quarry on Pacific street was privately owned by a remote corporation for years. More recently the corporation realized that the nature of the property was not suited for easy development and offered it to the city of Rocklin for free. The city accepted it and named the property as it had been informally known "Deer Creek Park".

Subsequently, the City Council established four districts to consciously set themes for different parts of town. The downtown district is known as the "Quarry District". As the name implies, it honors the historic granite industry of our early settlers. In conjunction with the nearby Quarry Park facility, a more accurately named "Brigham & Hawes Park" across the street would add to the historic theme of this district and facilitate the attractive-



Quarries have always provided recreation for young people. But instead of a swimming hole, Brigham & Hawes Quarry is popular for bouldering, the sport of climbing on small rock formations without ropes or harnesses. A climber would only need slip-resistant shoes, a bit of chalk for dry hands, and a bouldering mat laid out to prevent injuries from falls.

ness of the area to visitors and residents alike.

However, to change the name of "Deer Creek Park" to "Brigham & Hawes Park" a resolution needs to be drawn and approved by the City Council and funds (\$ 22K) provided to fabricate a new sign and move an existing sign from the previously mentioned park in northwest Rocklin. It has been proposed that the name of that park could be chosen by the consensus of the residents of that neighborhood.

Once chosen, it would enhance the theme of Rocklin's Quarry District and help our community prosper.



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