

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Rocklin Historical Society enjoyed a truly banner year in 2005. A year in which RHS demonstrated to our wonderful community that the rescue of historic landmarks dear to the heritage of Rocklin is a worthwhile, enjoyable and noble cause.

Now in 2006, we must resuscitate St. Mary's and get the old girl back on her feet so she can once again proudly play an active and productive role in the mainstream of Rocklin society. Landmarks such as Finn Hall, The Rocklin Museum and now St Mary's Church give lasting tangible evidence of the heart and spirit of those who built the very foundations of our community. Their legacy is the historic heart and soul of Rocklin, California. The Rocklin Historical Society's mission should continue to be the rescue of Rocklin history before that history is lost in time, apathy and concrete.

Roger Lokey

President

In Memory of  
**Howard George  
Scribner**  
**July 25, 1930**  
**January 2, 2006**

Former board member  
and lifetime friend of the Rocklin  
Historical Society

## PORTER'S SALOON TOKEN BRINGS \$325

On December 19, an unidentified collector paid \$325.00 for a Porter's Saloon trade token at a Western Americana auction in Reno. Dewitt Porter's Saloon was a popular downtown Rocklin watering hole in the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



This trade token, reading "Porter's Saloon Rocklin", brought \$325.00 at a Nevada auction in December

According to "Rocklin" by Leonard Davis, Porter's Saloon burned down twice in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its third and last construction in 1893, near the granite Barudoni Meat Market on Front Street, included a livery stable and a 2,900 square foot meeting hall in addition to the saloon. That complex burned down in 1914 and Porter never rebuilt. He concentrated instead on his "Porter House" in Roseville which he had established in 1908 when the railroad moved Rocklin's

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## HISTORIC CHURCH REAWAKENING IN HERITAGE PARK

### FUNDS ARE SHORT

Rocklin moved its historic Saint Mary's Church to Heritage Park under balmy blue skies on Saturday Sept 17, 2005.

One thousand citizens, aged 3 to 93, tugged on the rope that pulled the church to its new home. Hundreds more attended the celebration

TV Viewers from California to Minnesota saw the event on Fox News Network.

The church now rests on a solid new foundation and it is time to get on with its restoration. With your



The church moves from its 122 year home to Heritage Park  
September 17, 2005

help we can complete the job by Christmas 2006. The need is for people to provide

- .Engineering (\$10,000)
- .Scaffolding (\$4,000),
- .Roof structure (\$20,000)

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## WANT TO SHARE YOUR INTEREST IN HISTORY?

If so, you should consider becoming a docent at the Rocklin History Museum.

Our school tour program provides local third-grade classes with an unparalleled opportunity to learn about daily life in Rocklin in the late 1880's and early 1900's – all about Joel Parker Whitney's huge ranch, the granite quarries and the railroad's strong influence in our city's growth. You will find out about the folks who lived in this area and what their lives were like. We provide a training course for new docents and would love to include you if you're ready to get involved in our program.

Our RHS staff and returning school docents provide comprehensive training as well as strategies for sharing that history with school children. Please let us know if you're ready to get involved.

All you need is a passion for history, an interest in children, a commitment to one afternoon a month (Wed-Sat-Sun), and a membership in the Rocklin Historical Society. Call Barbara Chapman at (916) 415-0153 to sign-up today

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**January 30, 2006 at 7pm** is the Rocklin Historical Society's officer installation dinner at Venita Rhea's,. Look for an announcement in your mailbox or call Gay Morgan at 624-2355

**February 20th at 7pm** is the monthly Rocklin Historical Society's meeting in the Community Room at the Rocklin Library in Johnson Springview Park.

## PENRYN COLLECTOR FINDS POSSIBLY EARLY ROCKLIN PHOTOS

South Placer County memorabilia collector Cliff Kennedy of Penryn recently found sixteen old photos in his stash that could be rare views of early Rocklin.

None of Kennedy's photos are duplicated among the hundreds of early Rocklin images in the Rocklin History Museum's archives. So Kennedy might have made an important discovery.

Historians Roy and Ruben Ruhkala have been unable to positively identify any of the photos as scenes of early Rocklin. Yet photos such as the "Granite City Shop and Garage" photo below seem to point nowhere else. Ruben thinks that the garage could be an early version of Jerry's Auto Repair south of the corner of Pacific and Midas.

What other town in this area would be called "Granite City" in the early 20th century? Possibly Penryn? But Penryn's granite operations were insignificant compared to Rocklin's in those days.

Kennedy dates the "Granite City" photo at about 1915. He said that David Griffith, son of granite industry pioneer Griffith Griffith, closed Penryn's

### Can You Identify This Picture?



Photo donated by Cliff & Jessica Kennedy 2005

last quarry operations in 1918.

Kennedy has accumulated several hundred photos in his 35 years of collecting. One of his photos shows the "Rocklin Beer Garden and Chop House." He feels that two of his photos show people on the front stoop of an ice cream store located on Railroad Avenue in the block between the Southern Hotel and Levison's store. An early photo of the Southern Hotel in the Rocklin Museum's archives seems to support this theory.

Museum Archivist Jean Day scanned Kennedy's photos so that you can view them on the Marie Huson Room's computer while the museum is open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Stop by, have a look and see if you can add information that might help Kennedy and Day identify some of the scenes.



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Roofing (\$10,000)  
Wall repairs (\$20,000)  
Annex (\$46,000),  
Heating, cooling (\$8,000)  
Electrical and Plumbing (\$6,000),  
Steeple (\$16,000),  
Doors and windows (\$12,000),  
Vintage trim (\$5,000)  
Prep and paint (\$5,000)  
Interior & furnishings (\$37,000)  
Hardscape (\$10,000)

Contributions now total \$50,000.  
\$30,000 of this paid for the move  
and foundation.  
\$200,000 more will complete the  
restoration but we have pledges for  
only \$50,000.

**We need you** to help reduce the  
\$150,000 shortfall.

**You can help** by contacting us  
with names of individuals, organi-  
zations or businesses that may be  
willing to contribute funds, skilled  
labor or materials. **You can help**  
by making contacts with potential  
contributors. **You can help** by  
simply spreading word of the need  
to preserve Rocklin's oldest public  
building for community use.

Contact for RHS Front Street Herit-  
age Park Committee: 624-2355,  
624-2378. E-mail gfmor-  
gan@jps.net



The church nears its new home in Heritage park



Mason Jerry Messner completes the granite facing on Saint Mary's foundation.

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to preserve Rocklin's history and I want to join the Rocklin Historical Society.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY AND ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Dues .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00 individual, \$15.00 family)  
Heritage Park Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (See rocklinhistory.org>Saint Mary's/Heritage Park)  
Total Enclosed .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
MAIL TO: P.O. Box 752, Rocklin CA 95677

Dues and donations are tax deductible

ROCKLIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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roundhouse operations there. Davis says that Porter's meeting hall was "the social center of Rocklin" before it burned. Joel Parker Whitney's son, Parker Whitney, ran up large tabs at Porter's saloon while he was managing the Whitney Ranch for his ailing father at the turn of the century. Recently deceased Catherine Whitney, wife of Parker's son Vincent, felt that Parker's forays at Porter's were symptomatic of his affinity for party life and contributed to the demise

of the Whitney Ranch. Dewitt Porter was a member of our City Council when Rocklin incorporated in 1893. Rocklin Museum Curator Ron Petersen collects western memorabilia, including trade tokens, and says that the Porter token was from the trove of recently deceased collector Noel LaDue. "Normally we expect such a token to fetch about \$30.00" said Petersen. "It must have been in outstanding condition. But even that wouldn't explain the high price".

Trade tokens once substituted for small denomination currency in the days before wide-spread circulation of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and halves. For example, they precluded the need to physically chop up silver dollars into "bits" in a system where two bits made 25 cents.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

By Gene Johnson

We moved the church and partied on September 17, We recently set the church on its foundation and made it ready for restoration. Now it's time to recognize you who have contributed and made the effort so much fun. So we say a special thanks to:

**Kent Dazey** who organized move day and chaired the celebration, **Zalgood Company, Randy and Sandra Keller, Valley View Third Graders, Rocklin Run for the Gold,** and the **United Auburn Indian Community** who contributed financially or with professional services,

**The Church of Latter Day Saints, The Crossroads Church, Rocklin Kiwanis and Lions clubs and Zalgood Company** who facilitated the move and the post move party.

The following members of the Wednesday morning Committee members who persevered for 30 months to save the church: **Dr. James Carlson, Carol Powell, Barbara Chapman, John Chase, Gary Day, Kent Dazey, Dan DeFoe, Pete Guisasaola, Bob Habian, Karen Lokey, Roger Lokey, Cal Moreland, Bob O'Deegan, Elaine O'Deegan, Allan Stone and John Wayne.** And finally, the hundreds of you who are unnamed here who worked to save the church and move it to Heritage Park. You contributed ideas, time, funds, labor, materials publicity and moral support. Thank you!



**Rocklin Historical Society President Roger Lokey volunteers to test church crawl space access doors and finds that "diets don't work"**

### **Board of Directors**

**Roger Lokey**, President  
**Jean Sippola**, Vice President  
**Carol Powell**, Secretary  
**Karen Lokey**, Treasurer  
**Sally Huseby**, Corr. Secretary  
**Gene Johnson**, Heritage Park  
**Ron Petersen**, Museum Curator  
**Bill Woods**, Membership  
**Jean Day**, Information Systems  
**Roy Ruhkala**, Past President

**Rocklin Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 752**  
**Rocklin, Ca. 95677**