

Quarry Quarterly

Winter, 2011

President's Message

Skip Gebel

A hearty hello to everyone and best wishes for a joy filled New Year too. Here's a brief recap of what's been happening during the past 3 months.

The last Front Street Friday's event finished up on October 28th. Hundreds of people had talked with us at our information booth and we received quite a few thank yous for all our successes throughout the years. Society members also opened Old St. Mary's chapel for viewing and they received lots of positive comments about the quality of workmanship put into its restoration. As a result, we added 30 new members to our rolls along with a wedding scheduled for next year.

Our work at The Big Gun Quarry stopped at the end of September. Before then we had identified and set aside more than 200 useful story-telling artifacts and approximately 300 cubic yards of debris was removed from the site. The entire site is currently undergoing an Environment

Impact Review which is designed to help with plans for developing the property. Annual elections for RHS Officers and Board of Director members



November and ratified in December. An Installation Dinner is scheduled for January 12, 2012, beginning at 6 PM, at the Whitney Oaks Country Club, where they'll be sworn into office.

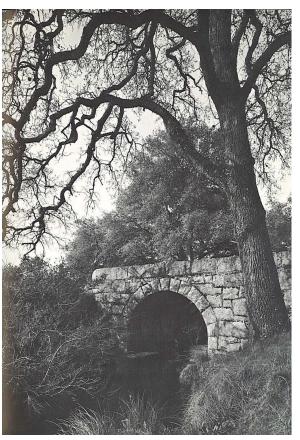
What's ahead for the New Year? Well there are 2 big things. First, our City wants to re-grade and re-groom the barren dirt area bordering Rocklin Road, Front Street and the railroad tracks. They also (Continued on page 8)

Rocklin Historical Society Installation Dinner at Whitney Oaks

January 12, 2012

Social hour and no host bar 6-7 pm Dinner 7 pm

Featuring Professor Dan DeFoe on Rocklin's disastrous Front Street fire of 1914 and Gene Johnson with an update on efforts to save artifacts of Rocklin's Capitol Quarry Call Gay Morgan at 624-2355 for menu selection and reservations.



Rocklin's Clover Valley Bridge, the jewel of Clover Valley Park

Where are the Twelve **Bridges?**

Updated and revised Gary Day

Much of western Rocklin is astride the southern 12.000 acres of the Spring Valley Ranch of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This is property which Rocklin annexed while the city's population grew since the early 1960s.

Historian Richard Miller, in his Joel Parker Whitney biography, Fortune Built by Gun, tells us that there were 25 miles of roads on the ranch and that "Twelve granite bridges crossed the creeks on the main road from Rocklin to the main headquarters, from there through the vineyard, and around the back end of the ranch."

Who built these bridges and why? Where are the Twelve Bridges now? In the early 1870's, Joel Parker Whitney, called Parker then, gained control of the ranch from his father George Whitney who had started the ranch in 1857 with a 320 acre purchase west of what is now Downtown Rocklin.

George, Parker, and two of Parker's five brothers, had prospered at the ranch by producing high quality wool from a special crossbreed of Saxony and Australian Marino sheep. The

group had added thousands of acres during the late 1850s and 1860s by pre-emption and by purchasing property from homesteaders and the railroad.

Parker had become wealthy during the 1860s, mainly from his investments in Colorado gold and silver mines. Gilpin County Colorado records show that Parker was a principal in a mining company that filed ownership on more than 150 gold claims in 1865.

Parker traveled widely and continued to invest wisely in the late 19th century, mainly in Colorado mines and California real estate projects.

(Continued on page 5)

Paul Harney dies at 82

Paul Harney, head professional at Rocklin's Sunset Oaks Country Club in the mid 1960s died in his home state of Massachusetts on August 24, 2011 after a long illness. He was 82

Harney left the Professional Golfers' Tour in 1963 to settle in Rocklin with his wife Patti and four, eventually six, children. Harney opened the club in June and was popular throughout northern California as a spokesman for the Rocklin area and for Sunset International Petroleum's Sunset City project on Rocklin's western border.

He hosted the Sunset Camellia Open, Rocklin's first and only PGA tour event, in October 1964.

Harney was wildly popular with Sacramento



Golf pro Paul Harney was a Rocklin celebrity in the mid 1960s

golf fans after winning the prestigious Los Angeles Open twice during his tenure here, once in January 1964 and again in January 1965.

He was a contemporary of Arnold Palmer and considered his victories over Palmer among his greatest accomplishments. He left Rocklin for a club job in Massachusetts in February 1965 as the Sunset City project encountered financial problems.



Help preserve Rocklin's history and support history-related arts projects.



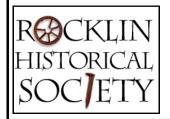
Photos by Ronna Davis

Cookies and a variety of other amenities

were free for everyone.

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

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.





Local giving. Lasting value.

Big Gun Quarry Status Gene Johnson

There is good news to report. Contrary to my article in October Quarry Quarterly, the historic Big Gun structures are <u>not</u> on the verge of destruction. Thanks are due to Elaine O'Deegan and a band of citizen activists that brought their energy and expertise to the effort to save the structures.

On the other hand, actions by the California Supreme Court and the Governor may help or hinder the effort to preserve and rehabilitate the structures.

Rocklin Heritage Committee

The Rocklin Heritage Committee was formed in early October to help prevent demolition and preserve the Big Gun Structures. While some members of the committee are also members of the historical society, the Rocklin Heritage Committee is not a Rocklin Historical Society Committee. The Rocklin Heritage Committee's first action was to request that the Rocklin Redevelopment Agency perform an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) – a step in the Big Gun quarry closure process that had been overlooked. An EIR addresses impacts on features of historical value as well as impacts on terrain, plants, animals etc. As a result of the request, the plan to demolish the Big Gun structures has been deferred. In early December Carol Ellis submitted an application requesting that the California Granite Company (aka Big Gun Quarry) be included in the National Register of Historic Places. With the end of the RDA (see below) and future ownership in question, it is important to get historical designation for the Big Gun as soon as possible The nomination will be considered at the May 2012 Office of Historic Preservation quarterly meeting. Meanwhile letters of support are needed from members and friends. For information contact Carol Ellis at: ellisc1@sutterhealth.org.

The Big Gun Quarry had a number of names throughout its active life from the 1860's through 2005 including: Capitol Quarry, California Granite Co, Union Granite Co, Big Gun Mining Co. "California Granite Co" (ca 1905 thru 1933) was chosen for the National Register of Historic Places nomination. The 100+ year old structures were built and much of the remaining equipment was installed by the California Granite Co. The quarry was exceptionally busy with the rebuilding of San Francisco. It was also a time when products ranged from cut stone curbing and dimensional granite to intricately sculptured building components.

The Governor and Big Gun

On Dec 28 the California Supreme Court ruled that the Governor and the State Legislature have the authority to proceed with the plan to eliminate community redevelopment agencies (RDAs). As I understand it, this means that the State along with a County committee will take control of RDA assets including the Big Gun Quarry. In spite of the fact that quarry ownership will be in limbo for some time, the action could help to preserve the Big Gun structures as State agencies and a County committee may be more supportive than the local agency has been regarding the issue. Also there is a possibility that dissolution of the RDA and changes in quarry ownership will make it advantageous for the City to change course and support preservation efforts.

Enhanced Images of Big Gun

Manish and Shank Ved of Roseville showed up one day while I was working at Big Gun and asked to help by photographing the historic structures and equipment. Interesting tone-enhanced images of Big Gun artifacts can be viewed, downloaded or purchased at their web sites.



Monument Shed structure with Saw Shed in Background



Interior of the Saw Shed with Wire Saw in Background

www.manishved.smugmug.com/Other/RocklinQuarry/19197326 NTfPj9#1496655023 xgLJhWm; www.shankphoto.com/Events/2011/2011RocklinUnionGranite/19193065 GwBtSm#1496217713 QMwNtP5

St. Mary's Chapel

Expenses

Year end financial report Kathy Nippert

In 2011 we saw some very generous friends and members of the Rocklin Historical Society.

2011 RHS, Museum and Heritage Park Income Membership Dues \$3,720.00 Museum/RHS Dona-\$2,552.75 **Memorial Donations** \$275.00 Fire House Replica \$2,830.45 **Donations** Museum Store \$993.45 Museum Donation \$363.50 Jar Rocklin Homecoming Reunion \$1,488,00 Installation/ **Recognition Dinners** \$1,800.00 Rebate/Refund/Bank **Donations** \$680.00 Income from SF Bus \$735.00 Trip **TOTAL Income** \$15,438.15 RHS, Museum, H. P. Expenses \$19,991.99 2011 St. Mary's **Chapel Income** Weddings & Events \$22,500.00 Cleaning/ Cancellation Refunds -\$7,000.00 **Memorial Donations** \$425.00 Mechanics Bank Donation \$76.55 **TOTAL Income** \$16,001.55

Thank you for your support.

Old Saint Mary's Chapel is available for your event.

Gary Day

Old Saint Mary's Chapel is Rocklin's oldest public building It is at 5251 Front Street, near the corner of Rocklin Road.

It is the centerpiece of Heritage Park and a key landmark in the restoration of the Front Street Historic District in downtown Rocklin.

The chapel originated as Saint Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church at 5420 Front Street, dedicated there by San Francisco Bishop Joseph Alemany in 1883.

The Catholic parish vacated the building in 1983 in favor of more modern facilities on Granite Drive. The Rocklin Historical Society moved Saint Mary's to its present location and restored it so it is available for your event. For more information contact:

Roger Lokey Phone: (916)- 415-1150 E-mail: **info@oldstmaryschapel.com**



Know your docents

One of our newest docents is Patrice Cardott. She came to us because she fell in love with a house. She was a competitive runner and was at Sierra College for a meet. She and her son decided to take a drive around Rocklin after the event was over. She saw the house and miracle of miracles it had a For Sale sign. She grabbed a flyer, called the realtor, sold her house in Campbell and soon



Patrice Cardott

became Rocklin resident. She had always wanted Victorian to restore. She also loves garden and began planning the garden to surround this lovely old home. The particular house in question originally built was

for B.N. Scribner, an early merchant. Patrice grew up in San Carlos, the fifth of six children. Her Dad was a policeman and her Mom a homemaker. She married her high school sweetheart and had two children by the time she was twenty. The marriage ended and she found herself raising two kids alone.

Probably due to her father's profession she too went into law enforcement, first as a Deputy Sheriff for twelve years and later as an Investigator for the DA of Santa Clara County.

She retired to help take care of her daughter's son who is now eight. She also has a six-month-old granddaughter, Sophie, who is Patrice' son's daughter. They live in North Carolina.

Her interest in history is evolving, learning more and finding there is so much more to learn. Neighbors Gene and Marg Johnson introduced her to the Rocklin Historical Society and she has become a very active participant. She is not only a member and a docent but she will serve on the Board of Directors in 2012.

We are glad her love of old houses brought her here.

(Continued from page 1)

Parker traveled to and from Europe often, once famously to the 1867 Paris Universal Worlds Fair and Exhibition as an ambassador from the Colorado territory, promoting investments in Colorado mines.

He developed a close relationship with Lucy Chadwick in England in the late 1870's and fathered a son, J. Parker Whitney, by her in London in 1878.

A second son, Vincent Whitney, was born while the couple was in New York in 1880. By the early 1880s, Parker, now in his mid forties, had been through two childless marriages and was ready to settle down with Lucy and the two children.

Although he continued to travel frequently, he decided to establish his permanent residence at his Spring Valley Ranch near Rocklin.

He married Lucy in Sacramento in 1881.and embarked on a six year project to convert parts of the ranch into a baronial estate for his family.

Parker and Lucy were enamored of Lucy's English culture and developed their estate with English themes.

Later this affinity for things English would motivate Parker to develop the Placer County Citrus Colony, a project to attract Englishmen to the area to buy citrus ranches north and east of the ranch in Clover Valley, Penryn, and Loomis.

Parker flattened about 5 acres on a knoll overlooking the ranch's headquarters and started construction of his Oaks mansion in 1884.

He built tennis courts nearby and set aside 4,200 acres for English-style fox and rabbit hunts. Later he surrounded the Oaks with a golf course.

According to records by Parker's own hand, he spent \$6,826.46 building stone bridges between 1883 and 1888 while he was building the Oaks and his family's estate. This is the only period during which Parker's records show bridge construction. So there is little doubt that Parker built his Twelve Bridges in the mid 1880s.

Parker didn't leave a map showing the location of his bridges, but a map of his Citrus Colony developed in the early 1890s shows the roads and creek crossings which the bridges would have to span.

From that map we can determine fairly closely the exact route of the road that Miller describes and the possible locations of all of the Twelve Bridges on that road.

But where are those bridges now?

There are at least nine granite bridges visible in Rocklin's landscape, at least six with keystone arches as might be seen in stone bridges of the English countryside.

There is a bridge on the seventh hole of the Sunset Whitney Country Club Golf Course,

barely visible in the rough, almost entirely buried during course construction in the early 1960s.

That bridge is closest to Downtown Rocklin and could be the first bridge on Parker's road to his headquarters.

There is also a mostly-buried bridge on the 8th hole, possibly the second bridge on that road.

Another bridge is the often photographed centerpiece of Clover Valley Park. This is the largest and most picturesque of the Twelve Bridges.

It shows extensive repairs, possibly due to damage caused by heavy flows in Clover Valley Creek

There are three bridges on the Whitney Oaks Golf Course. One of these is in daily use on the twelfth hole. One is in the rough on the thirteenth hole and one is out of sight, covered with vegetation, on the fourteenth hole.

There are three bridges in the Mansion Oaks neighborhood. One is in Mansion Oaks Park, disassembled block-by-block and reassembled there from a location near where Wyckford Avenue crosses Pleasant Grove Creek.

Two bridges are in weedy fields close to the park. One of these two shows extensive dismantling. The granite blocks in Parker's bridges are similar to stones used in some home landscapes.

There are three granite bridges on the Catta Verdera Golf Course in Lincoln, none of them with a keystone arch. These three were at the north end of the ranch, out of sight of Parker's and Lucy's visitors and not important to the theme of an English country-side

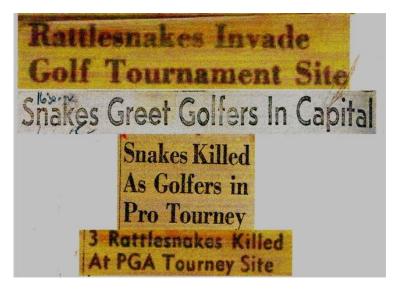
All twelve of Parker's bridges show rough but skillful forming of their constituent granite blocks.

But none appear to contain Rocklin granite. The granite appears to have originated in several places including possibly a quarry on the ranch near the corner of today's Whitney Oaks Boulevard and Whitney Ranch Parkway.

From Parker's notes it appears that he might have contracted for construction of his bridges with a local quarry operation employing skilled stone cutters.

History of Sunset Whitney, part four Rattlesnakes at Sunset

In January 1964 more than 5,000 spectators tolerated snow and heavy rain at Sunset Petroleum's Sunset Oaks Country Club near Rocklin to see top PGA tour golfers and entertainment world stars in a pro am that raised \$10,000 for the Porky Oliver Cancer Research Fund.



In June that year, Sunset sealed a contract with PGA officials for a PGA Tour event during week of October 4. Improving television coverage was popularizing golf in 1964. Telegenic Arnold Palmer won the Masters that year and his dramatic battles for supremacy frumpy Jack Nicklaus were bringing new fans.

Buoyed by this new interest in spectator golf and their big January crowd, Sunset planned confi-

dently for their October event.

During that summer Sunset manicured their course, hand watering when necessary and they built a permanent redwood scoreboard near the 18th green to match the motif of the clubhouse. All was in readiness in October when the touring pros headed here for the \$25,000 first annual Sunset Camellia Open at Sunset Oaks.

But the absence of golf's marquee names worried Sunset's staff. They needed a four-day gate of about 30,000 fans to break even. Some tournaments in those days drew that number in a single day. Palmer was playing in England. Nicklaus and Gary Player were also missing. Chi Chi Rodriguez was the biggest name on-site but he was sick and threatening to withdraw. In the end Chi Chi played but did not make the 36-hole cut.

Also worrisome for Sunset was competition from baseball's World Series. To compensate, Sunset installed two televisions, one in the clubhouse and another on the course. They also set up loudspeakers to broadcast inning-by-inning scores.

But Sunset's concerns about a good turnout were soon to multiply. Tournament play started with a pro-am on Wednesday, October 7. Sunset Oak's back nine was a green ribbon atop undeveloped acres populated by coyotes, field mice and jackrabbits. There were few homes, no fences, and no barriers to wildlife. Attendance prospects turned sour as Associated Press coverage of that pro-am on the morning of the first round hit the newspapers with headlines blaring a warning that rattlesnakes were invading the tournament site.

Next time: Bust at Sunset

Please Help! Jean Sippola

The Rocklin History Museum needs volunteer docents. Without docents we might need to close the museum at times.

Can you volunteer three hours a month for this important job?

The museum is open Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Docents greet visitors and give information about exhibits in the museum and about the Historical Society's projects.

During their three hour shifts docents work with an experienced friendly partner. They never work alone. Please call Jean Sippola on 652-1034 to volunteer.

Do you remember Rocklin's first fire station?

Gary Day

Rocklin's first fire station, demolished in the early 1940s, was on the site of today's Old Saint Mary's Chapel, at 5251 Front Street directly across the street from the granite Barudoni Meat Market.

That fire station housed the office of the town marshal and was a meeting place for the Rocklin City Council.

The Rocklin Historical Society is planning to rebuild the fire station on a Front Street lot about 35 yards south of its original site.



Can you add to knowledge about Rocklin's original firehouse?

A few blurry pictures of the original building's exterior are available and the intent is to copy the original look closely. But pictures, or enduring memories among Rocklin's old timers, of the building's interior are not available.

If you know of pictures of the building, or if you can provide information about its appearance from memory please call project manager Gene Johnson at 624-2378.

Did you know?

Gary Day

Joel Parker Whitney's pyramid tomb is one of very few visible reminders of the 40 acre baronial Estate that Whitney built in the middle of his 20,000 acre Spring Valley Ranch in the 1880s. On March 11, 1985 five teenagers broke into the tomb, smashed the white marble interior, and scattered remains of the deceased in the surrounding fields. The culprits escaped but police later identified them and started prosecutions.

But the case never went to trial because the ringleader was shot and killed during a spat with his girlfriend's father.

Dani's Journal

Danielle Loebs

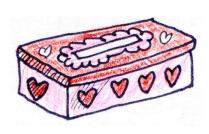


Thoughts for Valentine's Day

Now that the ChristmaKwanzukkah season has come to an end and we've welcomed in the New Year, it seems that every supermarket in the area has pushed past January to that funny little holiday called Valentine's Day. When I think of this mid-February ritual it may be easy to become a touch cynical. Have you ever looked at the greeting card aisle on the evening of February 13th? Visions of stressed, last -minute shoppers come to mind. I've seen them. I've BEEN them.

Sometimes I think that by putting out the Valentine's Day decorations early, the stores are plotting against us. We become so used to the pink and red displays that by the time we should be reminded of the holiday, we don't even see them anymore. It's downright diabolical.

Who do they think they are, anyway? Is Valentine's Day just a dastardly plot to make us all buy things during the post-Christmas retail slump?



Like I said before, it *might* be easy to become cynical... if it weren't for my memories. I remember bringing a shoe box into Mrs. Wall's/Mrs. Oxenham's (they co-taught) third grade class on February 13th, decorating it with construction paper, markers and glitter and cutting out a thin, rectangular hole in the lid on top. This became my very own Valentine's Day desk mailbox, and it would hold all of my treasures. At eight years old, I was unaware of any stress or cynicism to be associated with Valentine's Day. Instead I was filled with a strong sense of community and togetherness with my classmates as we gave notes of appreciation and candy to each other. No one was left out and that sense of goodwill was one I could bring home with me in that sparkly, red and purple shoe box. I don't think any Valentine's Day I've had since the third grade has matched that sense of fulfill-

ment. As I write this, I think I've stumbled upon an important question: why should Valentine's Day be between sweethearts only? What if we spent the day with a spirit of goodwill, spreading small, random acts of kindness throughout the community? Maybe it's time to make this holiday more than a day for sweethearts, and instead celebrate it as a time to be sweet to all.

Before I start spouting political slogans like "take our Valentine's Day back" or "Occupy Valentine's Day" I think I'll close with something simpler: I wish you a shoebox-full of love on your February 14th.

Rocklin History Tour Finn Hall

GPS coordinates N 38° 47.338', W 121° 13.955'

This is stop number three of eighteen in the Rocklin History Tour booklet available at the Rocklin History Museum.



Finn Hall is at the corner of Rocklin Road and South Grove. As the granite industry flourished in Rocklin in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries so did Rocklin's saloons.

Released from the strictures of Finland's state church, and craving relaxation after hard days in the quarries, some Finns developed worrisome drinking problems.

Concerned family members established Rocklin's Finnish Temperance Society in 1889 and the Temperance Society built Finn Hall for social functions in 1905.

In her 1967 memoirs, Helen Kesti remembered that granite blocks for the steps and foundation were donated by Finnish quarry owners.

Kesti's father and his friends could name the source of every block and whose team of horses delivered it.

GPS coordinates by Brian Ignaut Photo by Roy Salisbury (Continued from page 1) President

plan to add some trees throughout the parklike area. We have agreed with and fully support their efforts. There'll be a lot more green grass in Heritage Park after the agriseeding process is successfully finished.

Secondly, fund raising activities will be increased so that we can begin to build a replica of Rocklin's Firehose #1 structure, circa 1904. Our immediate goal is to "break ground" this year sometime between May and July. The fund raising effort is simple; ask every person in Rocklin to each donate \$3.00. How to get that message out to the population will be the challenge. Anyone that's had fund-raising experience please contact me so that we can brain-storm and get going very soon.

Sometime next month, California's Supreme Court will decide whether or not the state's Redevelopment Agency and its function, will be kept intact. At our level, their decision will affect how we, in concert with the City of Rocklin, will be able to proceed with the restoration of the Big Gun Quarry. We'll keep you posted.

We had a good year and I'm sure that 2012 will be a great one. Thanks for all your help and support because we would not be successful without it. And I'm certainly looking forward to meeting you at the Installation Dinner on January 12th.

Rocklin History Museum

The Rocklin History Museum is located at 3895 Rocklin Road at the corner of San Francisco Street. The museum is open from 1 to 4 pm on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Docents are available to escort you and answer questions.

Group tours are available for 10 or more people by calling Gay Morgan at 624-2355.

Dues for 2012 are due.

If the label on this newsletter's envelop shows 2011, your dues for 2012 are now due. Your dues support the Rocklin History museum and programs to entertain and educate Rocklin's citizens about Rocklin's history. Please mail your \$20.00 dues for 2012 to: to:

Rocklin Historical Society P.O. Box 1 Rocklin California 95677



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

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Patrice Cardott, Secretary
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Newsletter proofreading by Allan and Marie Stone

Do you have a collection to share?

Gay Morgan

Many of you have interesting collections of things such as clocks, teacups, watches, fountain pens etc. If you are willing to share those collections with the Rocklin History Museum for a limited time, please call Gay Morgan at 624-2355. Rocklin History Society member Ron LeDoux has spent years hiking in the gold country forests and hills and has acquired a fantastic collection of artifacts such as tools, ceramics, firearms, bottles etc. Some are related to the Native Americans, some from the Chinese railroad workers and many from the gold mining era. The collection is huge and we may have to exhibit it a little at a time.

Come in to the Museum after the first of the year to view the first installment.

Mark your calendar

Jan 12, 2012

Rocklin Historical Society Legacy Dinner Whitney Oaks Golf Club Featuring Sierra College Professor Dan De-Foe on Rocklin's disastrous Front Street fire of 1914. Call Gay Morgan at 624-2355 for menu selections and reservations

Jan 16, 2012

RHS Monthly Meeting History of Rocklin Fire Dept Chief Bill Mikesell

Feb 20, 2012

RHS Monthly Meeting Who is Mary Surratt? The Lincoln Conspiracy Arnold Kunst

March 19, 2012

RHS Monthly Meeting History of Rocklin Schools Kevin Brown

April 16, 2012

RHS Monthly Meeting Quarry Village Plan Rick Horst

Rocklin Historical Society board meetings are held on the second Monday of every month in the Old Saint Mary's Chapel annex.

Rocklin Historical Society planning meetings are held every Tuesday at noon at Oracle, corner of West Stanford Ranch Road and Sunset.

Front Street Fridays Hats off to Bob Habian

Entrepreneur and city planner Bob Habian and his entertainment business, Bomb Entertainment, were the primary sponsors of Front Street Fridays from May thru October this year, with Bounce houses, bands, beer and BBO.

About 250 people attended each evening. Habian's purpose was to promote Rocklin's Front Street Historic District as an entertainment and gathering spot for the city.

Habian's efforts take us a step closer to increasing the commercial interest in Downtown Rocklin. Can we look forward to Front Street events next year?