

Quarry Quarterly

Summer, 2012

President's Message

Skip Gebel

Summer time is again gracing us with moderately warm daytime temperatures and cooling breezes at night. It's also the time that our general meetings are suspended so that folks can go on vacations by themselves or with friends and family. The Board of Directors still meets monthly so that our report to you during our September Pot Luck Dinner meeting is up to date.

We've had some really wonderful results from our fund-raising efforts, to build a replica of Rocklin's first fire house, during the last quarter. We started April with just above \$4000 and these were all personal donations from members and nonmembers. An additional \$1686 of per-



sonal donations was added in May and then came June. Additions in June were from peo-

ple, our annual Yard Sale and a professional architect company.

The yard sale took in \$3200, the highest amount ever collected from our annual event. Its success included a number of things. We were open 2 hours longer than in previous years, the weather, though windy in the afternoon, didn't bring any rain and donations of things to be sold were up. The key element of success was teamwork. Everyone who volunteered their time to price the items or helped buyers carry their newly found treasures to their car or who served coffee, cookies and lots of friendliness to buyers and looky-loo's alike created a positive atmosphere for us all. I'm abso-

(Continued on page 2)

The coyote and coyote hunting Joel Parker Whitney

Note:

Joel Parker Whitney's story about his pet coyote and his approaches to dealing with wild coyotes was published originally in the Sportsmen's Review of Cincinnati in 1904.

The following is excerpted from Whitney's auto-biographical Remi-

niscences of a Sportsman published in 1906. This excerpt closely repeats the article 1904 except for a few words in the first paragraph.

Gary Day

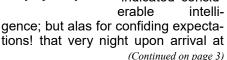
I have {a coyote) in captivity, which was secured in his infancy by being dug from his maternal home, and was brought up with a litter of collie dog puppies at the

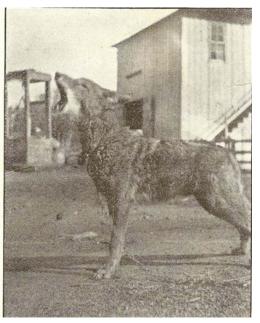
farmhouse, and evinced a most friendly and playful disposition.

The coyote's natural shyness was,

however, shown in a degree over that of his puppy companions, although he would allow himself to be petted by those who gave him care and food. He was allowed to run about the farmhouse free with his young companions, but indicated a much keener appetite, and became somewhat of a nuisance in the dining

room, where he was allowed an occasional privilege. His disposition was very playful, and his gambols and pranks were most amusing. As he grew older and larger he ran freely about with the collie doas. and even rendered aid in driving the sheep with them, and in one notable where a case. large flock were driven some twenty miles to another range. indicated consid-





Dingo was Joel Parker Whitney's pet coyote

Don't miss

Zydeco at Heritage Park August 10, 2012 7:30 pm until 9:30 pm

Bring a cooler, a lawn chair and your dancing shoes.

(Continued from page 1)

lutely sure that next year's event will have even more success.

Pocket change collected for 1 month by 3rd graders from Sunset Ranch Elementary School amounted to more than \$390 while others in the Rocklin Unified School District contributed \$150. Williams and Paddon, a well known architectural firm in Roseville, will donate their time and efforts, which is a \$7500 value, to create the blueprints for the firehouse and its foundation. Once we receive these we'll be better able to revise the total cost of the project. Fundraising activities will be on-going so that we can move quickly from our \$17,000 level to the \$60K plateau. Thanks to everyone so far as your donations are greatly appreciated. Your continued generosity will result in an addition to Rocklin's Heritage Park. It'll also contribute to the City's efforts to have a "Downtowndowntown."

As the old 1950's song said, "See You in September."

Please donate to rebuild Rocklin's first fire station

Structure fires in 1893 flattened at least 25 businesses in Rocklin, along Front Street and on the other side of the tracks along Railroad Avenue. So early in 1894 Judge John Gregory gathered a group of volunteers together in Porter's Saloon and formed Rocklin's first fire department, known then as Rocklin Hose Company Number One. Their fire station was on Front Street in the spot now occupied by the Old Saint Mary's Chapel.

The city demolished that original fire station in the early 1940s.

The Rocklin Historical Society plans to build a replica of that fire station a few feet from the chapel as an enhancement to Heritage Park.

Please donate to the Rocklin Historical Society to help the society rebuild Rocklin's first fire station. Send a check in any amount to:

> **Rocklin Historical Society** Rocklin Ca. 95677

Leaving their mark on Rocklin's history

Third grade teacher Lyn Wheeler's class at Sunset Ranch Elementary recently dressed up in period costumes to visit historic sites in Rocklin. They visited the Rocklin History Museum and then they grouped on the front steps of the Old Saint Mary's Chapel for this pho-

Wheeler's class raised \$395.25 to lead all of Rocklin's third grade classes in a coin drive to



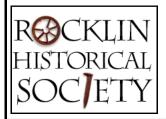
reconstruct the building that housed Hose Company number one, Rocklin's original fire department. In prior years Rocklin's third graders raised funds to purchase the spinning ball fountain on the chapel's patio. Local history is part of Rocklin's third grade curriculum and once again Rocklin's third graders have left their mark on Rocklin's history!

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



The Rocklin Heritage Fund at the **Placer Community Foundation sup**ports 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.

(Continued from page 1)

the destination he signalized himself by visiting a neighboring ranch, and extinguished the life out of sixteen fat turkeys. Not being immediately detected as the destroyer he supplemented his exploit the following night by slaying nearly an additional score. [274]

This escapade led to his discovery, and his being chained up, as altogether a too expensive sheep-herder, and his ignominious return was illustrated with a collar and chain and a free ride in the sheep wagon.

The natural taste for killing and fresh blood, and his great success in the turkey line, were unfortunate for our pet, for as the *salmo salar* fisherman returns with pleasure to the capture of the *Fontinalis*, so did Dingo yield to the attractions of the barnyard fowl at home; and thus forever closed the youthful episode of his free range, and since, with the brief intervals of breaking away from his moorings, he has polished the hard ground from a central stake over an area of some forty feet in width, as his bright chain well attests.

Adjacent, and sufficiently near for a handshaking, lives a large raccoon, similarly attired with collar and chain, and both are on friendly terms, excepting at feed time, when the experience of Jack, the 'coon, has induced him to insist upon having his meals served separately.

This system applies also to the dogs, including a bull-dog and stag-hound, which suffer injury if too intent upon the development of their sniffing qualities about the lunch counter, and the cry of distress which occasionally goes forth from the neighborhood of the cold meats is far more amusing to the looker-on than to the wailing canine musician.

In fact Dingo, now fully developed and most expert in battle, is ready for a scrap at all times. It is his great enjoyment and he exercises his ingenuity to get dogs within the fatal circle of his domain. He will play with those who have the honor of his friend-ship, but woe betide any passing stray dogs, or those he is unfriendly with.

The passing strange dog, be he large or small, is sure to become the matrix of Dingo's cast, and may at exit well murmur the reminding words of Addison: "Nature formed me of her softest mold."

As a scrapper Dingo is the Jeffries of his arena, and will quit his food quickly for a rough and tumble, and although there are many dogs which could vanquish him, he has never yet encountered a canine of his mettle and power.

(note; James Jeffries was the world heavyweight boxing champion at the time of the original article in 1904.)

Almost invariably, when he has broken his chain, he has immediately celebrated his freedom by an assault upon some one of the collies, and, while several will join in mutual defense, he will by his rapidity and dexterous action clear the field in short order. He will then return to the kitchen door for larder filling, and allow himself to be secured.

He has never bitten any person. As to canine antagonists, he has often been seized at the back of his neck by fighting dogs, but invariably upon being so seized has turned his head with wonderful celerity, enabling him to seize the lower jaw of the attacking dog by a grip of his own, which seems to be very discouraging to the latter, judging by the instant hold-breaking.

Only once have we seen Dingo non-plused and distressed. This was on an occasion when, in a night foray, we had secured a very large female raccoon, which was secured alive by noosing out of an old hollow tree where she had a few young kittens, too young for saving. She was wild and ferocious, and had to be bound very securely. [276]

As Dingo was so ready and eager for scraps, the 'coon was brought out to him the following day and staked within easy limit, and when let go, flew for him, who was equally eager, and immediately followed an encounter of sanguinary ferocity difficult to describe. A 'coon, protected by its bountiful fur and rapidity of movement, is more than a match for any ordinary dog, and in weight-in this instance-was much more Dingo's, but the latter was more alert than the 'coon, and provided with larger teeth and probable tenacity. Still, the 'coon was fighting for life and the loss of offspring, while Dingo was fighting simply for fun, and he soon obtained all he wanted, although no white feather existed among his holdings, and he worked himself up into a great fury.

It was soon apparent that it would be a long-drawn contest, and for fear that Dingo might in the end receive serious injury, which looked probable, he was withdrawn from reach, although desperately determined. That night the 'coon broke away, and has since been missing.

Dingo seems never quiet, and is always on the move about his arena, circling around incessantly, and, although having a house of rest and refuge, seems never to occupy it or to be found sleeping.

Often in the night his peculiar wild call breaks out in answer to other distant wild coyote calls, but if he breaks away by the breaking of his chain he is always found about again, and is secured.

The coyotes are the great pest of the sheep business, and our loss from them annually amounts, over a long period, to from 200 to 300 head, although recently, by having a remarkably clever hunter and trapper our losses are less.

We suffer correspondingly from adjoining town dogs, which are constantly shot at sight, and buried without monuments or head-stones. Signs are up warning against fetching on dogs, but the latter pay little heed to it and suffer in consequence. No matter how many coyotes are killed they never cease coming on, and sometimes four or five a week are destroyed.

They are especially plentiful at lambing time in March, and, although they will not then often attack full-grown sheep unless they are disabled and separated from the flocks, are particularly partial to young lambs. The mother will face about toward the coyote, and as soon as she is distracted off a little, the coyote will dash in and carry off the lamb. In the lambing season the ewes are gathered loosely about in selected localities, and herded night and day, when occasional fires are kept burning at night and lighted lanterns are hung about, which excite the suspicions of the coyote, as he is very wary and cunning, and if left to his own free action, will destroy six or a dozen lambs to one of his eating.

The coyotes can only be trapped by

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the exercise of great care, as they are more cunning and suspicious than foxes, but with trap and poisoned meat are tolerably well kept down, and are now of less damage than formerly.

Old Town Tidbits Gene Johnson

On May 3, 2012 The State Board of Historic Preservation accepted the Rocklin Heritage Committee's nomination for the Big Gun Quarry to be included on the National Register of Historic Places. The state board then forwarded the nomination to



Big Gun Quarry

the National Registration Board with the recommendation that the site be included in the register. Expect a decision this summer.

The City of Rocklin has allotted \$50,000 in grant funding to assist in improvement of Old Town business properties located on Rocklin Road and Pacific Street. Barber Bill seems to be in line for some of the funds.

The Ramos family has operated Don Poncho's Mexican Restaurant in Coker Plaza for three generations. And now ill health in that family has closed the Restaurant. The building's owner will convert Don Poncho's to retail space.

The City of Rocklin has leased railroad

frontage from Rocklin Road north to Midas Avenue, including the historic 1867 roundhouse site. The intent is to clean up and beautify the west side of the tracks.

Kudos to City Manager Ricky Horst for landscaping the dirt lot in Heritage Park north of the Saint Mary's Chapel. The historical society contributed \$5000 for sod and the Rocklin Kiwanis planted new trees. Rick Forstall, Rocklin's Director of Community Services, found and installed vintage lights.

Mike Clark of Clark Roofing is thrilled that the city completed installation of a drinking fountain in Heritage Park near the restroom. According to Forstall, the city will next install a fence to isolate park visitors from the railroad tracks.

The main floor of the historic Barudoni Building, across the street from the Old



The Barudoni Building c. 1905 Do you have an idea for its use?

Saint Mary's Chapel, is for lease for \$1750 per month. The building could be a centerpiece in the revitalization of the Front Street Historic District. Can you propose a business idea for the building? Contact me at 624-2378.

The City of Rocklin will soon construct the first of several traffic roundabouts at the corner of Rocklin Road and Meyer's St. (Barber Bill's corner). The historical society's repre-

sentative to the Roundabout Committee, Dr. James Carlson, reports that the historical society's "Rock, Rails and Ranches" theme will serve as the guideline for roundabout design.

The City of Rocklin is constructing 24 commuter parking spaces across Railroad Avenue from the Rocklin train station.

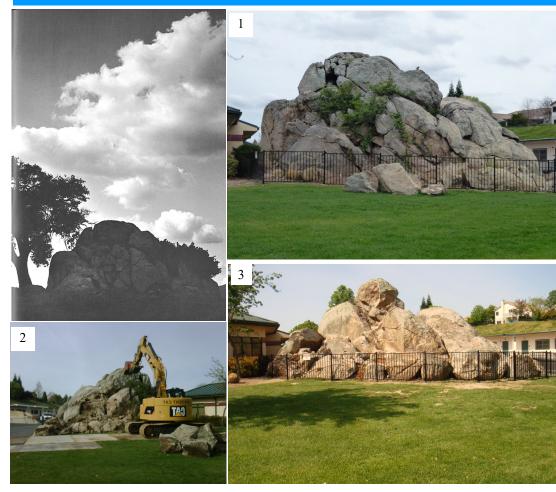
The Rocklin Library is now easier to find. A new granite sign recently appeared on Rocklin Road pointing motorists to *Placer County Library – Rocklin Branch*.

In May, Johnson Springview Park was the site of the Rocklin Kiwanis' Community Festival Leslie Woodman of the City of Rocklin coordinated the event.

Attendance was good but there is a lot of room to grow in future years.



www.RandyPetersCatering.com



rock (2) to prevent pieces from breaking off and damaging the school building. The rock survives (3)in modified profile.

modifying a rock

Gary Day Research by Ken Morrow

In 1962 Sunset International Petroleum Corporation started a nowdefunct project to develop a 100,000 person metropolis on the southern 12,000 acres of Joel Parker Whitney's Spring Valley ranch, property that we know today as West Rocklin. Sunset hired renowned naturalist and photographer Ansel Adams to produce publicity photos of scenic features of the area. Eleven of these photos are published in a Sunset publicity booklet titled Echo in Spring Valley, which is available at the Rocklin History Museum.

One of Adams' photos (upper left) shows the rock which marked a division point on the road from Rocklin to Whitney's twenty-room Oaks mansion about a half mile to the west. Today the rock abuts a wing of the Granite Oaks Middle School near the corner of Wyckford Avenue and Park Drive. Recently historian Ken Morrow photographed the rock (1) duplicating the profile of Adams' photo. About two weeks later the Rocklin School District remade the west side of the

Heritage Trail Days are coming.



The 5th Annual Heritage Trail will be held on August 11 - 12, 2012. Eighteen participating museums from Roseville to Tahoe will showcase history in a fun and entertaining way. Admission is free to all visitors.

Placer County, California, which crosses the majestic Sierra Nevada was home to a thriving Native American culture, the California Gold Rush, the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, and an agricultural paradise, which shipped high quality fruit around the world. The museums, mostly located within 5 miles of Interstate 80 between

Roseville and North Lake Tahoe, are open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both days.

Activities at each museum are varied. For example, visitors to the Placer County Museum in Auburn may meet Alma Bell who was incarcerated in the dingy outdoor granite quarters under the courthouse stairs. You might want to watch a blacksmith in action at the Forest Hill Divide Museum, or listen to Native American stories at the Maidu Museum in Roseville.

Visitors to the Rocklin History Museum will see former granite quarry operator Roy Ruhkala demonstrating a method of splitting granite blocks.

Hands on activities include gold panning, biscuit making, and 19th century games. Trail Guides will be available at every museum in July. For complete information visit theheritagetrail.blogspot.com or call 1-530-889-6500

photo tidbits

Photos by Ronna Davis



Ronna Davis checks out an old time tractor at the Fifth Annual Pioneer Days in Smartsville, California on April 28. The event raises funds for the restoration of the 1871 vintage Smartsville Church, a project similar to the Rocklin Historical Society's Saint Mary's Restoration Project of last decade. *Smartsville and Timbuctoo* co-author and Restoration Group member Kathy Smith shared restoration ideas with the eight RHS members attending the event.

Kathy's book is available at Amazon.com



Rocklin Historical Society President Skip Gebel, talks with Rocklin Theater Company leader Jill Page at the RHS booth at the May 12th Rocklin Festival in Johnson Springview Park.

The booth promoted the society's Firehouse Restoration Project and the festival made about \$8,000 for Rocklin's Kiwanis.



Volunteers Edie Boyd and Dawn Clark set up the clothing boutique for the Rocklin Historical Society's June 9th Yard Sale at the home of Gene and Margaret Johnson. Shoppers swarmed the event all day.

Yard Sale Chairperson Ronna Davis said that the sale raised more than \$3,200 for reconstruction of Rocklin's original fire station near the Old Saint Mary's Chapel on Front Street.



Rocklin Museum docents Ruth Williams, Gene Johnson and Jim Carlson drain the coffee pot at the April 14 Docent Appreciation Brunch hosted by RHS gardening chairperson Sally Huseby.

Docents staff the museum in three hour shifts from 1:00 pm until 4 pm on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

If you like history call Jean Sippola on 652-1034 to become a docent.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Nippert

The Rocklin Historical Society's first quarter balance forward was \$61,294.21. As of the end of the second quarter, we have added 14 new memberships and our Society has grown to 177 member.

The Chapel account has a balance of \$8,015.76.

The RHS checking account has a balance of \$27,295.84 with the following committed funds:

- Third Grade Transportation Fund -\$400.
- Children's Fire House Fund \$9,396.55,
- Rocklin Reunion \$2,564.04 and
- Heritage Park Kiosk \$4,000.

Total Balance in all accounts \$65,994.79. Special thanks go to:

- Donators in memory of Barbara Alva Corral,
- The Finlandia Club.
- SureWest Foundation,
- Marg & Gene Johnson,
- Sally Huseby,
- Jerry Mitchell,
- Carla & Raul Campos,
- Steve & Gina Cress,
- 3rd Grade Classes of Parker Whitney and Sunset Ranch Elementary Schools.

Thank you all for your generosity.

New Members

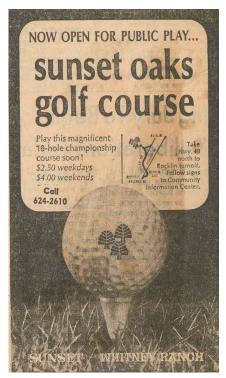
Kathy Nippert

Please welcome the following New members to the Rocklin Historical Society:

- Jewell M Thomson,
- Bill & Karen Marble,
- Peggy Russi,
- Dan & Carole Durbin,
- Bettye & Paul Nippert,
- Barbara A. Morris,
- Joyce Sherman,
- Barbara Farlee,
- Mike Swaney,
- Robert Palo,
- Alek & Nancy Ustaszewski,
- Ron Wong,
- Kent Nickerson,
- Frances Gill Phy.



History of Sunset Whitney, part six Aftermath at Sunset



Sunset Petroleum cancelled Sunset Oaks Country Club memberships in April 1965 and renamed their real estate development project "Sunset Whitney Ranch"

Sunset Petroleum's Sunset Camellia Open at Sunset Oaks during the weekend of October 8th through 11th 1964 was a flop. The event tallied a \$35,000 loss for Sunset and marked the beginning of the end for Sunset's Sunset City real estate development project.

Sunset Oaks' head pro Paul Harney won the Los Angeles Open for the second consecutive time in January 1965, but in February Sunset cancelled his \$20,000 per year contract and gave the headpro job to his assistant Paul Davis. Harney took a job as head-pro at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton, Massachusetts.

Also in February, Sunset cancelled the 110 Sunset Oak's private country club memberships and announced that the club would be semi-private and would be open for public play. Members could elect to rejoin with a pro-rated credit for their \$750 initiation fee. The new initiation fee was \$50. The new monthly dues were \$25, \$15.00 for singles.

Public play started in April with golfers paying \$2.50 for 18 holes, \$4.00 on weekends.

By the end of February some members were incensed about conversion of their memberships and also starting to realize that Sunset did not intend to build the promised nine-hole executive golf course in Clover Valley. They threatened to sue Sunset but eventually accepted their fate. The executive golf course issue would re-emerge later with the City of Rocklin when residents on Clover Valley Road objected to the development of the neighborhoods along Rawhide Avenue, the site of the intended executive course.

In April 1965, Sunset renamed their Sunset City project "Sunset Whitney Ranch" creating a social membership at Sunset Oaks and calling it the Sunset Whitney Ranch Recreational Membership. In time this name attached to the golf course and pro-shop as well, and the club became known as Sunset Whitney Ranch, and later Sunset Whitney Country Club.

In 1967 Paul Harney built his own golf course on Cape Cod. He died in August 2011.

In a biographical sketch in 2005, John Gearan reported in Holy Cross Magazine that Harney, a 1952 graduate of Holy Cross University, was deeply religious, attending mass almost daily at Saint Patrick's Church on Cape Cod and thankful for a wonderful wife and an otherwise fortunate life. In an interview about 4 years ago he expressed pride in his ability to successfully compete with his friend Arnold Palmer, while ruing the time in 1980 when Palmer beat him in a playoff for the Senior PGA Tour Championship. In September 2005, Harney was enshrined into the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame. Gearan reported that Harney chose not to attend.

Rocklin Quarry Tour, stop number three **Quinn Quarry** (N 38° 47.253', W 121° 14.046')



This Quarry is on Winding Lane about 200 yards west of South Grove Street. William Quinn opened this quarry in 1873 when he squatted on open government land and started mining granite. William's wife, Mary Quinn, and her children took control of the quarry in 1874 after William fell to his death from a hoist to the quarry rocks below.

Mary claimed ownership of the quarry in 1893 under an 1891 law which granted ownership to occupants of certain open government lands. The Quinn family operated the quarry until the mid 1890s. In the 1930s the Guy F. Atkinson Company supplied granite for the Monterey breakwater from this quarry.

This quarry was once, and occasionally still is, one of Rocklin's favorite swimming holes.

Gary Day GPS coordinates by Brian Ignaut Photo by Roy Salisbury

$. Rocklin \ \underset{Gay\ Morgan}{History} \ Museum$

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.

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

Ronna Davis

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 down-



town 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 larger and more modern facilities on Granite Drive. The Rocklin Historical Society moved Saint Mary's to its present location at 5251 Front Street and restored it so that it is available for your event.

For more information contact:

Skip Gebel At 916 415-5510

or E-mail: info@oldstmaryschapel.com



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

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Newsletter proofreading by Allan and Marie Stone

Kudos to Rocklin's third graders

Nancy Lohse

Those awesome third graders have done it again! This year the annual third grade coin drive raised \$449.84 for the rebuilding of Rocklin's original Firehouse. A special thank you to Shea Herbert, a former student at Whitney High School, who organized a fundraising drive at Sunset Ranch Elementary. For her senior project she wanted to develop a service learning project that would get the third graders involved in their community. Shea not only organized the coin drive, she arranged for a fire truck to visit the students and worked with the Placer Herald to publish a great article highlighting the historical society's efforts to rebuild the firehouse. History may focus on the past but today's children will honor it

Mark your calendar

July 21, 2012 Trash Bash at Heritage Park from 5:30 to 9:30 PM,

sponsored by Rocklin Chamber of Commerce and Recology. Old St, Mary's Chapel will be open for viewing.

August 10, 2012 Zydeco at Heritage Park 7:30 pm

Bring a cooler, a lawn chair and your dancing shoes.

August 11 and 12, 2012 Heritage Trail Days 10 am until 4 pm each day

Featuring Roy Ruhkala at the Rocklin History Museum splitting granite blocks. See the ad on page 5.

September 15, 2012 All day Hot Chilly and Cool Cars on Pacific Street

sponsored by the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce.

Stop by the Rocklin Historical Society booth and become a member.

September 17, 2012

The monthly Rocklin Historical Society general meeting will be in the form of a pot luck dinner. The time and location are to be announced.

Also:

Rocklin Historical Society board meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 6 pm in the Old Saint Mary's Chapel annex.

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

Give a membership Kathy Nippert

Do you know someone who likes history? How about giving them a gift of a membership in the Rocklin historical society. For only \$20 they will receive four colorful and informative newsletters and much more. They will thank you all year long. Call 624-2355 or go to Rocklinhistory.org and sign up.