

## President's Message

Dan DeFoe

Midsummer. And what better way to mark the solstice than a yard sale. The Rocklin Historical Society's annual yard extravaganza came on the high point of summer 2014, and Rocklin town seemed in a buying



*Rocklin Historical Society President Dan DeFoe is a Sierra College history professor*

mood. The numbers prove it. As the temperature rose into the mid-nineties the RHS gross rose to \$4,285.22. A mighty shout out to all who made the event such a success. While our intrepid volunteers worked to achieve that success I had the honor of representing the Rocklin Historical Society as a speaker at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez California. The event's theme centered on the importance of preserving California's heritage and history which echoes our mission statement. Preservation of heritage and history is precisely what the Rocklin Historical Society does, as no other organization can, for our community.

Speaking of heritage and history, we are very close to financing the work that will restore Rocklin's original firehouse, the Firehouse Company #1. The structure will join beautiful St Mary's Chapel in Rocklin's historical district. As many of you know, because of the hard work of

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Note: Bill Marble will be the keynote speaker at the Placer County Historical Society dinner meeting in Auburn on Oct. 2. Call 530-885-5074 to reserve*

Bill Marble likes answers. He has had a lifelong fascination with science and math – exploring and successfully solving mathematical problems. Now in his retirement years, Marble has turned his inquiring mind to unraveling the history of one of Rocklin's founding fathers.

A visit to a mobile science exhibit hosted by General Electric sparked Marble's love of science and math at age 10. "They demonstrated a prototype microwave oven by cooking an egg," he recalled. "As I walked out (of the exhibit), I knew I wanted to be a scientist."

Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Marble earned a degree in chemical engineering from Cornell University. His first job was in Massachusetts, but when he was offered a job in northern California, Marble didn't think twice. He headed for San Jose.

"I love science and math," he said. "In a sense, it's like being a detective."

His inquiring mind led to the invention of the Zinc Injection Process, a method that inhibits the corrosion of steel pipes and reduces the level of radiation exposure to employees at nuclear power plants. When his compa-

## Bill Marble:

## Unofficial expert on the life of Joel Parker Whitney

Gloria Beverage

ny was given the task of reducing the corrosion of the pipes, Marble said, he took on the assignment of reviewing the historical data provided by nuclear power plants. He spent months analyzing the data.

Initially, he determined that some power plants were different in design. His "Eureka!" moment came on a holiday weekend in 1983 when he realized the plants that used water with small amounts of naturally occurring zinc

had lower corrosion and therefore lower radiation levels.

"I pretty much concluded that zinc (in the water) was a good thing," he said, adding that his boss wasn't as excited to hear about his discovery as he was. "He told me, 'couldn't this

have waited until Tuesday?' My mind was going a million different directions. I was just so excited that I had to share it with someone."

Marble then designed a lab experiment, which proved his theory. The process has been implemented by more than 100 nuclear power plants around the World.

"It was the high point of my career," he said.

Since retiring and moving to Rocklin, Marble has found new outlets for his detective skills. For ten years, he was active with the computer club at

*(Continued on page 10)*



*Bill Marble, with his wife, Karen, has become an unofficial authority on the life of Rocklin pioneer Joel Parker Whitney.*

*(Continued from page 1)*  
*President*

RHS volunteers St Mary's has become one of northern California's premier wedding destinations.

Of course, summer's long days will shorten and this Autumn we hope to restore another Rocklin tradition. Mark your calendars for October 5th, the evening that will bring back the Firefighter's Ball at the Rocklin Community Event Center on Sunset Avenue. This gala event will aid in the building of our original firehouse and mark the new beginning of an annual event for our community.

All the good news is no "midsummer night's dream." It is because of the hard work and dedication of our member volunteers that we grow and build upon the heritage we love. If you're not a member, join us! As Margaret Mead sagely observed: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

### **Please send me your email address!**

Christy Barros

Your historical society uses email for notifying members of upcoming events. If we don't have your correct email address you are not being so notified. We use email addresses only for RHS purposes. So if you want to ensure that we have a correct email address for you please send a message to me at: [christy@inetinc.net](mailto:christy@inetinc.net)

Also, RHS is expanding the email address file to include non-members who have an interest in Rocklin's history. If you know of such people please send their email addresses to me or ask them to send me a message and I'll add them to the list.

## **State resolution commemorates Rocklin's 150th anniversary.**

Gene Johnson



Assemblywoman Beth Gaines and State Senator Ted Gaines joined to create State resolution RN 14 51337 congratulating the City of Rocklin on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the community. The resolution plaque was presented to Mayor Scott Yuill, left, by Senator Ted Gaines. Beth Gaines, who initiated the resolution, missed the presentation due to an extended airline delay.

## **Help needed for Heritage Trail Days.**

We need your help



The weekend of August 2nd & 3rd is when all Placer County museums will be open. Many special events are planned and we need docent volunteers at the Rocklin History Museum. There will be a morning shift from 9:30 a.m. to noon. and afternoon shift from noon to 4 p.m. on both days. Last year we hosted 200 guests.

To volunteer please call:

**Jean Sippola 652-1034**



## Rocklin Founders Day parade honors Rocklin's old timers

Gene Johnson



On Saturday May 17 the Rocklin Founders Day Parade brought hometown color to the Rocklin Community Festival.

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Rocklin, the Whitney High School Color Guard led the parade down 5th St. from Spring View Middle School into Johnson-Springview Park. Eleven long-time Rocklin residents shared Parade Grand Marshal honors: **Lucy Schimmelman**, 101, traveled by horse and carriage to Rocklin's St. Mary's Catholic Church about 95 years ago.

**Roy Ruhkala**, 95, US Army WWII, Rocklin Mayor, Rocklin Lions Club, Rocklin Historical Society.

**LaVerne Splan**, 92, US Marine WWII, Rocklin Historical Society.

**Earl Chinnock**, 92, US Air Force

WWII, Rocklin Mayor, Rotary, VFW and American Legion, 40 years of golf on Rocklin's great golf courses.

**Roger Barkhurst**, 84, US Navy, Rocklin Mayor, Fire Chief, Southern Pacific Railroad

**Connie Gayaldo**, 91, Parent Club President, President Chambermaids,

**Phil Freer**, 90, Rocklin Postmaster 35 years, Chamber President,

**Bertie Nevarez**, 87, Bertie and Mel Nevarez were the soul of their 2nd St. neighborhood.

**Fred Morgan**, 88, WW II veteran, Rocklin Musician 70 years, Fred Morgan's Big Band and Musical Instrument Repair and still going.

**Gay Morgan**, 84, Rocklin teacher 35 years, Friends of the Library, Rocklin Historical Society,

**Jerry Darling**, 86, railroad 43 years, Southern Pacific Master Mechanic, bicycles about town.

New Rocklin Historical Society member Chris Gerard whose Rocklin roots go back to 1868, headed the parade committee with help from Robert Mart and Jeff Foltz.

## Rocklin Historical Society ladies rock the Founders' Day parade



Seven historical society ladies gussied up in 1890's finery, walked the parade route alongside a replica of Finn Hall showing their temperance attitude, and won the first place prize in the Founders' Day parade's On-Foot Division.

From left:

**Patrice Cardott,**  
**Ronna Davis,**  
**Kathy Nippert,**  
**Carol Ellis,**  
**Nancy Ustaszewski,**  
**Carol Peterson and**  
**Nancy Lohse.**

Photo, David Baker and Ronna Davis



## a new treasure from the Roy Ruhkala historic mining equipment collection

David Baker  
Photo by David Baker



***Former granite quarry operator Roy Ruhkala donated a Jenny Lind granite polishing machine to the Rocklin History Museum. The machine is on display in the museum's backyard next to the granite surfacing machine which Roy donated last year.***

chine was employed. Before the invention of polishing machines, the only way to polish stone was to rub one stone against another, using sand and water mixed together as an abrasive. Polishing machines were introduced in the early nineteenth century. Flat iron rings were turned by hand over the granite's surface, using sand and water as an abrasive. Steam power for turning the iron rings was introduced in the 1830s. In the 1880s the

In the January 5, 2014 newsletter we discussed the steam-powered surfacing machine that we moved from Roy Ruhkala's backyard to the display area in the backyard of the Rocklin History Museum. Surfacing machines smoothed blocks of quarried granite. Some of that granite then went on to a polishing machine on the way to becoming finished products. Recently Roy dipped into his back yard treasury of historic granite processing equipment and donated a hundred plus-year-old, belt-driven polishing machine. It is on display next to the surfacing machine at the museum now, but it had been in Roy's backyard collection for 60 years. Several companies manufactured polishing machines a hundred-plus years

ago. The machines came to be known as Jenny Linds, after a popular Swedish singer of the era because, while in use, they sounded like her voice. Preparing a block of granite for use is called dressing it. The dressing was usually done in a cutting shed, rather than in the quarry itself. The block to be dressed was cut to the appropriate size and its sides were roughly smoothed-off with the surfacing machine. Prior to the invention of that machine the surfacing had been done with hand tools, including blocking hammers, dressing picks (peen hammers), and chisels. Later bush hammers, patent axes, were used. Surfacing of the stone leaves a flat but uneven surface. If a smooth and shiny surface was required the polishing ma-

Jenny Lind was invented for large flat-surface polishing and was subject to a number of patents, including one issued to Medad and Prentiss Wright of Montpelier, Vermont in 1878. Roy's Jenny Lind used iron shot and water as abrasives but finer polishing stages used carborundum and emery. Together the surfacing machine and the polisher were the innovations that brought Rocklin to prominence as a major producer of granite building materials and monuments at the turn-of-the-twentieth-century

## Make history at Old Saint Mary's Chapel

Nancy Lohse  
Photo Martin Corona

Setting regally in the middle of Heritage Park on Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin, Old St. Mary's Chapel is a shining example of what can happen when a community plans and works together. It began in 1882 when James Bolton, the developer who plotted out Rocklin's original footprint, set aside a lot for a church. He donated it to the Catholic Church who then built



St. Mary's of the Assumption Church and dedicated it in 1883. That was the beginning of a long story for our chapel. When the Catholic congregation outgrew the small church and moved to a larger facility, other denominations called the aging church home. Eventually it was sold to a private party who applied for a permit to demolish the building. Thanks to an astute city clerk notifying the historical society about this move, the society decided to step in and move the church down the road to what is now Heritage Park. Once in place a dedicated band of volunteers went to work not only bringing the building up to code but also making it the stunning centerpiece it is today.

The chapel continues to be a labor of love as members of the historical society volunteer their time to keep the grounds and building beautiful. Couples now have a wonderful environment in which to exchange vows. Whether it is simple bows on the pews, runners to cover the red carpet, trees in pots, elaborate contraptions to hide the mural in front, couples get very creative on their wedding day. For a few hours, the chapel is theirs and they always make it a special place just for them.

Please visit the Old St. Mary's Chapel website or stop by on our open house night on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Call to set up a private tour for your special day!  
916-415-1150

[www.OldStMarysChapel.com](http://www.OldStMarysChapel.com)

email: [oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com](mailto:oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com)

## Do you want to join the Fixers?

Bob Mart

WOW!! Sure gets hot in Rocklin!! But don't worry, The Fixers don't work past noon. We don't get up early either, so I guess you could say we take



it easy. You're right. In the summer It's easy & steady for about 3 hours on the first & third Tuesdays of each month. We could use some help with

plumbing, painting, power washing, irrigation, and weed spraying, to name a few of the soon-to-do jobs. If these might be some of your talents, or you simply wish to help and learn a handy trick or two in the process, why not join us?

Contact me, Bob Mart at: 916-435-9360 or [martsplace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martsplace@sbcglobal.net). Even easier, just show up at the Chapel around 9:30 AM on a work day.

You've got nothing to lose. fresh air, blue skies, good friends, PRICELESS! Hope you can help, and thanks to you volunteers who've already pitched in to help.

Bob Mart:

916-435-9360 or

[martsplace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martsplace@sbcglobal.net)

## docents needed

Jean Sippola

The museum needs docents. If you can volunteer to be a Rocklin History Museum docent please call me at

652-1034



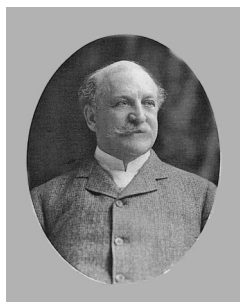
## If you are not a member of the Rocklin Historical Society, please join.

Your Rocklin Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization which conducts projects to educate citizens concerning Rocklin's unique history and to preserve artifacts of that history.

The society needs your financial support. Please send your name, address, email address, and a check for the \$20 yearly membership dues to:

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





## Whitney takes a pleasure trip

Bill Marble

With the ending of the Civil War in 1865, J. Parker Whitney decided he wanted to take a “pleasure” trip to Pennsylvania. He had divested himself of his commercial interests that kept him very busy during the war and needed to “get away” for a few days. An associate of his heard of Whitney’s plans and pleaded with him to check out an oil option which he had to decide on that was near the town of Titusville, PA. Titusville is a small town in the western part of Pennsylvania north of Pittsburgh.

Whitney’s timing could not have been worse. He took the train from Boston, but when he reached the Titusville area they had been having torrential rains and flooding was rampant. Ultimately the train was forced to stop because the tracks were under water. Local residents assembled makeshift rafts from fence posts and paddled out to the train to evacuate the passengers. The train had been fully loaded with people and thus it is not surprising that the rafts became overloaded and this led to the raft that J. Parker was on breaking up and depositing all of the occupants into the flood waters. Fortunately, the water was only about waist deep and so he was able to make his way to muddy ground and subsequently to the local hotel which was grossly overloaded with far more visitors than it could accommodate.

The next day, after spending the night on the floor next to a potbelly

## Keeping Up With Joel Parker Whitney (1835—1913)

### A Study of His Personal Diaries and Writings

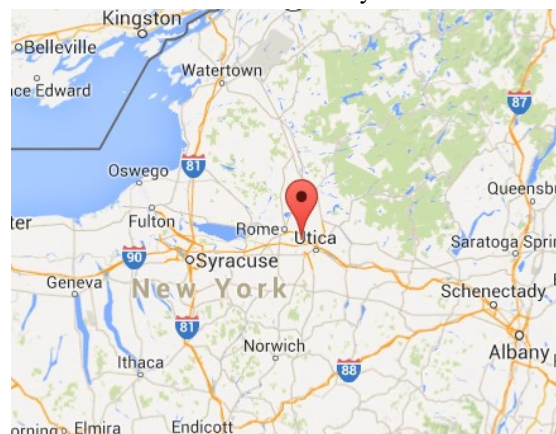
*Whitney was Northern California's largest landowner. Western Rocklin is astride 12,000 acres of his 20,000 acre Spring Valley Ranch.*

stove, he purchased a horse and ventured out to examine the oil property for his friend. The horse did a great job of negotiating the flood waters until finally it reached an area where the water was too deep to do anything but swim. J. Parker grabbed the horse’s mane and laid down on



*Whitney survived floodwaters near Titusville Pennsylvania*

its back and somehow they made it



*And a train crash in Oriskany New York*

through to the property. Happily, the drillers had just recently struck a gusher and so Whitney had great news for his associate. After telegraphing his news and getting a

night’s rest, he was able to board a train headed back to Boston. But his trials were not over.

As the train was approaching the town of Oriskany, NY, J. Parker was riding in the foremost car, which was reserved for smoking. He concluded that the engineer was driving

the train entirely too fast given the flooding conditions. With incredible timing, he decided to move to the last car on the train, a fully occupied sleeping car. He had to “bribe” the porter with \$5 just to get into it. He was there not more than 5 minutes when the train derailed and had a terrible crash. The sleeping car that he was in was the only car in the train that was even partly still on the tracks. All the other cars were derailed and mostly overturned. Thirty passengers were killed in the crash and a total of over one hundred were either killed or severely injured. J. Parker assisted as much as he could with the injured and then realized that there was no way to get the eleven miles to the next town, so he hiked the entire distance just following the tracks.

The following day he caught another train back to Boston while contemplating about the incredible “get away” weekend he had just been through.

■

## "The Trouble Will Begin at Eight" - Mark Twain's Lectures in Grass Valley and Nevada City

From the Sierra College Press,

Snowy Range Reflections Vol.1 no. 3

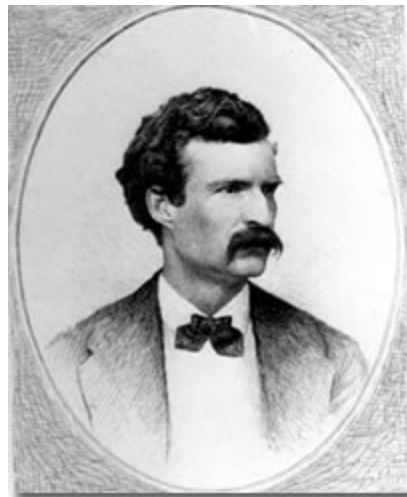
Edited by Dan DeFoe and Gary Noy

The story of Mark Twain as the world-famous author of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn are well-known. Almost as familiar is Twain's more than thirty year career as an amusing lecturer. However, it is little reported that among Twain's very first appearances as a lecturer were in Grass Valley, Nevada City, and environs in 1866.

In 1866, Samuel Clemens (who had adopted the pen name "Mark Twain" a few years earlier) was a promising but struggling reporter who had yet to publish a major work. He was best known for his articles in the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise and some travel articles for Sacramento and San Francisco newspapers. In 1866, however, he had traveled to Hawaii, then called the Sandwich Islands, and had provided correspondence of his adventures to California newspapers. Twain's writings sparked public interest, and, upon his return to the mainland, Twain was engaged to give a lecture about his experiences on October 2, 1866, in San Francisco. It would be the first of hundreds of public presentations. By Twain's own account, he was terrified. As Twain wrote about his first lecture in his book *Roughing It*, "I thought of suicide, pretended illness, flight .... I was very miserable and scared." However, the lecture was a great success and a multiple-city lecture tour was hastily arranged. The schedule included appearances in Grass Valley on October 20, 1866, and in Nevada City on October 23. Twain would also speak in the nearby communities of Red Dog and You Bet.

For the Grass Valley lecture, it was briefly proposed to link Twain's appearance with a tightrope act simultaneously appearing in town. The circus act may have been that of Rosa Celeste, who, a few days earlier in *Rough and Ready*, had seen an unfortunate and thankfully harm-

less accident. For her act, Rosa Celeste walked on the rope pushing a wooden wheelbarrow. Briefly losing her balance, it appeared that she was about to fall. A miner in the audience rushed forward to catch her. Rosa Celeste did not fall, but the wheelbarrow did. The wheelbarrow fell on the miner's head. His head poked through bottom of the wheelbarrow, and he ended up with the bottomless wheelbarrow draping his shoulders. As the 1880 Thompson and West History of



Nevada County recounted, "The man suffered no injury but what ... a few drinks of whiskey could repair." Twain wisely declined to be a double bill with a street carnival attraction.

Each 1866 lecture focused on the Hawaiian Islands. Twain recounted, in comical style, the characteristics, customs, habits, vices and virtues of the Sandwich Islanders. An additional highlight was a serious description of the volcano Kilauea. Upon conclusion, the theaters rang with thunderous applause. At his curtain calls, Twain jokingly apologized to the audience for inflicting his lecture upon them, explaining that he needed the money.

Mark Twain was not a professional

entertainer, and his delivery left something to be desired. But, as a critic in the San Francisco Evening Bulletin commented at the time: "He displayed not the polish of the finished lecturer—nor did he need it; the crude, quaint delivery was infinitely preferable." As another contemporary critic remarked of Twain's performance, his "method as a lecturer was distinctly unique and novel. His slow, deliberate drawl, the anxious and perturbed expression of his visage, the apparently painful effort with which he framed his sentences, .... All this was original; it was Mark Twain." Audiences loved his folksy, comical commentary presented with such a serious demeanor.

The Grass Valley and Nevada City lectures were widely praised. It was in Grass Valley that Twain experienced one of the first inadvertently funny introductions that Twain would mention in many subsequent lectures. The unprepared introducer said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the celebrated Mark Twain from the celebrated city of San Francisco, with his celebrated lecture about the celebrated Sandwich Islands." A few days later at Red Dog, a mining community near Dutch Flat, the introduction so tickled Twain that he frequently used it to introduce himself for years to come. The speaker said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall not waste any unnecessary time in the introduction. I don't know anything about this man; at least I know only two things about him; one is that he has never been in the Penitentiary, and another is that I can't imagine why not."

Twain realized a profit of about \$1200 from this 1866 series of fifteen or sixteen lectures that consumed about ten weeks of his time. This was a not inconsiderable sum for the time. It provided Twain with the promise of a brighter future. As

*(Continued on page 8)*

## about Old Town Rocklin

Gene Johnson

(Continued from page 7)

historian Fred Lorch stated, this first lecture tour “not only catapulted him suddenly from poverty to comparative affluence, [it also] ... opened for him a new vista of activity and destroyed his fears about how he might earn a living.” And Nevada County gave him an early boost.

Soon after this lecture tour, Twain published *The Innocents Abroad*, an account of his travels in Europe, and his writing career and fame became established.

Twain continued to lecture and in April 1868, he returned to Nevada County. At Nevada City on April 20th, he characteristically advertised that “the doors will be surrounded at 7 o’clock and the insurrection will begin at 8.”

**The California Dept of Finance** has accepted the city’s proposal to dispose of the Big Gun Quarry properties. The Quarry pit will become city property, but the city will sell the property facing Pacific Street for commercial purposes. The granite processing sheds and granite processing equipment are located on that Pacific Street property. We lobbied intensively, but with only limited success, to limit commercial use of the Pacific Street property in order to ensure preservation of artifacts of Rocklin’s heritage as a major producer of the granite products that built California in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The city values the property at \$600,000 and city staff have indicated that they will give special consideration to purchasers who agree to maintain the historic value of the site.

The entire Big Gun property, including the quarry pit and the Pacific Street property is on the National Register of Historic Places. Big Gun’s first contract provided the granite to construct the State Capital Building in Sacramento.

**Patsy Aitkin of Winnemucca**, Nevada has written many times of her family and how she and Tom Aitkin managed to populate Nevada with about 68 progeny. Tom’s family ran a dairy on Rocklin’s historic Perkins Olive Orchard property across from Meek’s Lumber Co. Patsy is the daughter of our one-time garbage collector, Mike Dougherty. In a recent letter Patsy, 96, suggested that we acknowledge Lena Brashear on her 101st birthday. Lena worked for the Aitkens and, at times, for my mother. Lena’s son, Buck, was my “baby sitter”. Buck taught me things like how to go froggin, how to dig backyard dirt tunnels, how to shoot a shotgun and how to plink oak galls floating in Antelope Creek with a 22. We had good times together, my sitter and I.

I visited Lena in an Antelope care home and had a good talk reminiscing about earlier times. Lena enjoyed remembering our dances at Pleasure Hall, now Coker Plaza, where her husband Howard played the guitar and dance partners changed with the drop of a broomstick.

**Marg and I will be celebrating** our wedding anniversary on August 8th in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada where we started our journey 50 years ago. Following the celebration our focus will be on enjoying our retirement...with Otto, our loyal dog.

## Firehouse Project update

**The project needs publicity and a leader**

Gene Johnson



Following a few false alarms, Rocklin Hose Company No. 1, aka the Fire House Rebuild project, is back on track. At Skip Gebel’s request the RHS board reviewed available funding. Considering funds on hand and St. Mary’s rental income, the board voted to commit a total of \$70,000 toward approximately \$115,000 needed to build the fire house. An additional line of credit is making it possible for the project to start without additional delay. We are soliciting donations of funds, materials and services with the objective of reducing or avoiding the use of the line of credit. Mike Brouhard, owner of MJB Homes, has quoted services far below cost. Whitney High School may assist with labor and supervision. The Firefighters’ Ball fundraiser, scheduled for Sunday, Oct 5, is being

spearheaded by Skip Gebel of RHS and A J Vidaurri of the Firefighters Association. Historical Society volunteers are needed to make this an outstanding community event. Call Skip on 630-9240.

Beyond the funding we need to coordinate the construction. Jeff Foltz has agreed to consult and assist by coordinating with City of Rocklin staff. We need a publicity person to give individuals and organizations the opportunity to participate by donations of funds, material and services. Most importantly we need a leader to keep the project on track. If you can help publicize the project or provide leadership please call me on 624-2378.



## Rocklin, Calif., awarded membership in Union Pacific's Train Town USA Registry

Excerpted from Union Pacific Public Relations material

Rocklin, California, has been awarded membership in Union Pacific's Train Town USA Registry as part of Union Pacific's ongoing efforts to highlight cities with a historical connection to the railroad. The city received an official Train Town USA resolution signed by Union Pacific Chairman Jack Koraleski in a special presentation next to a Union Pacific safety train on Saturday, May 17. Union Pacific launched its Train Town USA Registry as part of the railroad's 150th anniversary celebration in 2012. "We are proud to recognize Rocklin as we celebrate our growing up together," said Lisa Stark, Union Pacific's director, Public Affairs for Northern California and Nevada. "Union Pacific was founded to help connect the nation from east to west. Part of the original transcontinen-



**Scott Moore, Vice President of Union Pacific Public Relations (left) presented the Train Town USA designation to Rocklin Mayor, Scott Yuill (center) with congratulations from State Senator Ted Gaines**

tal route conceived by President Abraham Lincoln, the rail line in Rocklin later became part of Southern Pacific Railroad which then merged with Union Pacific in 1996. The rail line in Rocklin is a crucial part of the Union Pacific network today and is a key corridor for the delivery of agricultural products flowing out of California's Central Valley to interior portions of the U.S.

## Delano's Quarry was Rocklin's biggest in the nineteenth century

Gary Day

Rocklin was the largest granite producing area in the Sacramento Valley in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Rocklin's largest and most financially successful 19<sup>th</sup> century quarry operation was Ira Delano's Rocklin Granite Company. Delano acquired his quarry for \$13,000 from the estate of Welshman quarry operator G. Griffith in 1889 and quickly benefited from the easy accessibility and high quality of the quarry's granite. According to state records Delano's quarry could yield granite slabs that were 16 feet long, 20 feet wide and 12 inches thick. The heyday of Delano's business came after San Francisco's April 1906 earthquake when his operations supplied curbstones, some of them 20 feet long, to line San Francisco's rebuilt streets.

Delano's Quarry survived the 1915 quarry worker strike that closed half of Rocklin's quarries permanently, but Delano closed his quarry in 1916 and retired to San Francisco.

Delano's quarry pit was 100 feet deep and covered an area of about one acre at the surface.

The City of Rocklin bought the pit in 1941 for \$10.00 and used it as the city dump for about 30 years. Today it underpins a parking lot and motel on the south side of the intersection of Rocklin Road and Granite Drive.

RANDY PETERS  
CATERING & EVENTS  
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT .

(Continued from page 1)  
Marble

Springfield. Then a friend got him interested in Rocklin's history. He was introduced to Jean Day, then the archivist at the Rocklin Historical Society Museum, who showed him the diaries of Joel Parker Whitney.

He offered to take on the task of transcribing the diaries of the Rocklin pioneer and spent two years poring over the spidery, handwritten words of the millionaire rancher/businessman. And he slowly and carefully transcribed Whitney's thoughts and observations – printing out the transcripts for the Rocklin historical Society Museum archives.

With the transcription of the diaries completed, Marble has become an unofficial authority on the life of Joel Parker Whitney. Based on what he derived from the diaries,

Marble created a presentation on Whitney's life, including photos from the Rocklin historical Society's Museum archives. His mission is to share what he has learned about the man whose name is tied to Rocklin's early history.

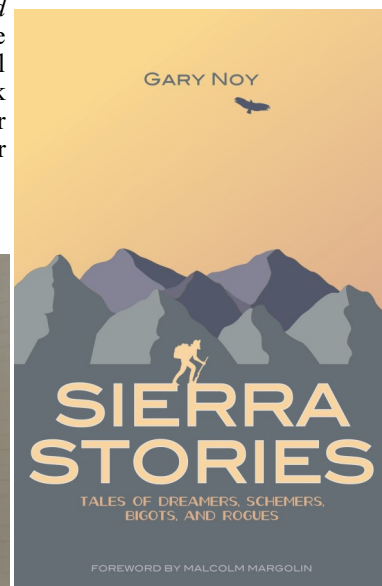
"I've become infatuated with most things related to him" he said. "As I got into the diaries, He wasn't just a rancher who lived here. I discovered he was a world traveler. He didn't stay anywhere for long. He was an entrepreneur. During his life – he was 77 when he died, he went everywhere. He did everything. He wasn't afraid of anything."

When he's not sharing details of Whitney's life, Marble travels with Karen, his wife of 25 years, and has a renewed interest in photography. A football player in high school and college, Marble is an avid fan of the San Francisco 49ers. Still, Rocklin history, remains a passion.

## The Rocklin History Series continues

Photos by Ronna Davis

The Rocklin History Series continued in April with Sierra College History Professor Gary Noy, at the Old Saint Mary's Chapel on his new book, *Sierra Stories, Tales of Dreamers, Schemers, Bigots and Rogues*. The series is in hiatus through the summer, and in September for the annual Rocklin Historical Society's Welcome Back Pot Luck. We will announce the schedule for late this year and early 2015 in the October newsletter.



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



## 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](http://www.placercf.org).



Local giving. Lasting value.



## Bill Marble presents Joel Parker Whitney diary transcriptions to the Rocklin History Museum.

On May 18, Bill Marble delivered four volumes of transcribed diaries constructed from scanned copies of the original hand-written diary volumes of Joel Parker Whitney, one of the principal developers of the Rocklin area and Placer County. Starting with a modest 160 acre sheep ranch with just a couple hundred sheep, Whitney's property in the Rocklin area grew to over 20,000 acres and held over 10,000 sheep. J. Parker's impact grew even larger and involved mining, citrus farming, land reclamation, and real estate. He was one of the wealthiest pioneers of California, Colorado, and New Mexico.

While he wrote diaries throughout most of his adult life, the four are the only volumes known to have survived. His almost illegible handwriting made the task of transcribing the diaries a true challenge and the Rocklin Historical Society is grateful to Mr. Marble for his dedication to this very



**Bill Marble, left, and museum coordinator David Baker show pages from the transcribed diaries.**

large and challenging task.

The diaries are rich in their descriptions of the day to day life that J. Parker lived. They describe his penchant for travel, his love of business and his even greater love of his family as well as his hunting and fishing hobbies. He married 3 times although the diaries cover only a period when Lucy Chadwick was his wife. They had 3 children.

The diaries are on display, and can be read, at the Rocklin Historical Museum at 3895 Rocklin Rd.

## The Rocklin Historical Society's Annual Yard Sale was a big success

Gene Johnson

Thanks go to the committee that made this year's yard sale the most successful to date. The early 6 am start attracted dealers from Auburn, Newcastle, Rocklin and Roseville. Vintage items went quickly at our asking prices.

David Baker deserves special mention. With dual membership in Kiwanis and the historical society, he spent most of



**Robert Mart and Skip Gebel wrestle with a folk art likeness of John Wayne at the Rocklin Historical Society's annual yard sale on June 21, 2014**

two weeks preparing the yard and materials for the sale. In order to provide storage room for items we allowed David use of our garage. Marg and I parked our cars outside in the shade of oaks for two weeks. Unfortunately birds made use of the same trees.



## EBay assistance needed

The board of The Rocklin Historical Society is proposing to raise funds by continuously soliciting donations of used items and marketing them on EBay. The plan is to recruit a person to conduct this activity and possibly to compensate them with a percentage of the net proceeds. If you are interested in helping the society to raise funds in this way please contact Neil Davis at:

[segmentedwoodturner@gmail.com](mailto:segmentedwoodturner@gmail.com)  
cell: 916.616-0923



**Rocklin Historical Society**  
**Board of Directors**

**Dan DeFoe, President**  
**Kathie Nippert, Vice President**  
**Patrice Cardott, Secretary**  
**Russ McNeill, Treasurer**  
**Ronna Davis, Board member**  
**Jean Sippola, Board member**  
**Sally Huseby, Board member**  
**Gene Johnson, Board member**  
**Nancy Lohse, Board member**  
**Jeff Foltz, Board member**  
**Dr. Jim Carlson, Board member**  
**Skip Gebel, Past President**  
**Roy Ruhkala, President Emeritus**

## Heritage Trail Days are scheduled for August 2 and 3

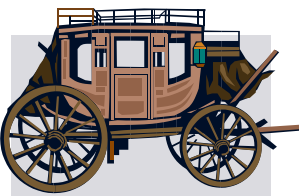
Jean Sippola

Twenty-two museums in Placer County will be open on Saturday and Sunday August 2nd and 3rd from 10 am to 4 pm.

The Rocklin History Museum will be open on both days

Roy Ruhkala will be demonstrating his granite splitting technique at the museum on Sunday at 2:30

Two historic pieces of granite mining equipment will be on display at the museum, a surfacing machine and a polishing machine. Roy and David Baker will be on hand to explain how these machines were



used.

Bring your friends and support your Rocklin Historical Society.

For more info call Jean Sippola at 652-1034

## Mark your calendar

**July 13, 2014**

**Club Espanol Picnic**  
**11 am at Johnson Springview Park**  
**\$6.00 for non-members**  
**Call Merilee Burns at 342-1375**  
**All are welcome**

**July 28, 2014**

**Springfield History Club monthly meeting**  
**1 pm at the Springfield Gables**  
**Free admission**

**Dr. Philip C. DiMare**

A lecturer in the Department of Humanities, Religious Studies and History at the University of California, Sacramento,

Dr. DiMare's presentation on July 28th concerns The Constitution of the U.S.

**August 2 and 3, 2014**

**Heritage Trail Days**

**Free admission**

10 am to 4 pm both days at the Rocklin History Museum, 3895 Rocklin Road. Admission to all placer county museums will be free and they will be open for extended hours.

**August 25, 2014**

**Springfield History Club monthly meeting**

**1 pm at the Springfield Gables**

**Free admission**

Sharon Stenger will present " Staying Mentally Young"

**Sept. 22**

**Springfield History Club monthly meeting**

**1 pm at the Springfield Gables**

**Free admission**

Michael Stark - "The Amazing Sierras"

**September 15, 2014**

**Rocklin Historical Society Welcome Back Potluck at the community center in Johnson Springview Park.**

Watch your mail in September for more information.

**September 20, 2014**

**Hot Chile and Cool Cars on Pacific Street**

**10 am until 4 pm**

Sponsored by the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce.

Rocklin Historical Society Members are needed to staff the historical society's booth. Call 624-3464

### 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. If you have comments or questions for the board of your historical society this is your chance.

and

Rocklin Historical Society planning meetings are held every Tuesday at 7:30 am in the cafeteria at Oracle, corner of West Stanford Ranch Road and Sunset.

**Note:** For access to the Springfield Gables dial 631 at the Springfield gate, then hit the "Call" key and the gate will open.