

## President's Message

Kathie Nippert

Many positive changes are occurring in our town of Rocklin. Have you noticed the new Quarry District signs? The city is working around Quinn Quarry and have asked the Society for help in that planning. Fruit trees have been planted



**Quinn Quarry**

on Front Street and the Roundhouse Park is almost completed. Plans for the Fire House replica are on our website and we have received three bids that are higher than we planned and are working on reducing costs with the contractors. The City has been very helpful in that process. They have graded the site, ran electrical and irrigation underground, poured concrete sidewalks and helped speed the permit process for us.

I am pleased to report we have two new docents in training. Dave Britton and Linda Dickerson are studying Rocklin History and shadowing docent to get a better understanding of the Museum. Please stop by the Museum and welcome them. Also, if you didn't get a chance to see the art work of local artist Diane Ruhkala Bell at the Museum on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, you missed a great show. Diane was on hand to discuss her methods and thoughts behind all of her pieces. I estimate 50 people came by and were amazed and fascinated by her work. You'll get another chance to see her work at her home studio during the Artist Studio Trek 2015.

(Continued on page 2)

## Jazz musician, business owner dies at 89 Fred Morgan entertained generations of music lovers

Gloria Beverage

Longtime Rocklin resident Fred Morgan, an accomplished musician who entertained music lovers for more than 70 years, died Feb. 6. The 89-year-old founder of Fred Morgan's Big Band and owner of Fred's Musical Repairs in Rocklin started playing saxophone, flute and clarinet as a youth -- often practicing behind his grandmother's chicken house in Cool.

As a teen, Morgan attended Big Band concerts throughout the Sacramento area -- developing a passion for jazz, particularly the 1940s era music.

Before he could focus on his music career, however, Morgan shipped out, at age 17, with the U.S. Army's 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, fighting in several ma-

major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, and receiving a Purple Heart, said his wife of 63 years, Gay Morgan.

He was also among the first American troops to enter the concentration camps abandoned by the Nazis at the end of the war.

At a dinner party years later, Morgan talked for the first time about what he saw in Germany.

A guest at the party began talking

about a professor at Chico State, who was arguing the Holocaust hadn't happened, recalled Rocklin resident and jazz musician Jim Martinez, who was a member of Morgan's band for several years.

With tears in his eyes, Morgan told the dinner guests that his job after the war in Germany had been to clean up the concentration camps.

"He wished he could take that professor back in time and show him what he had seen," Martinez said. "He told us that not a day goes by that he doesn't think about what he saw and heard. It was something he'd never forget."

After his tour of duty was finished, Morgan returned to Placer County and began sitting in on Roseville High School's band concerts, probably because one of the band members had caught his attention.

His future wife, then 16, was equally interested, but had

concerns about the age difference.

"He was four years older and that's a lot at that age," Gay Morgan said.

Looking toward his future, Morgan decided to attend the Conn Vocational School of Instrument Repair in Elkhart, Indiana, where he acquired the skills that would carry him throughout the remainder of his life.

The curriculum required that students learn to play some notes on each instru-

(Continued on page 11)



**For more than 40 years, longtime Rocklin resident Fred Morgan enjoyed leading the 16-member Fred Morgan's Big Band. The accomplished musician and owner of Fred's Musical Repairs in downtown Rocklin died Feb. 6 at the age of 89.**

Courtesy Dick Schmidt

(Continued from page 1)

Go to [www.artstudiotrek.com](http://www.artstudiotrek.com) for more information.

I want to give a big **Thank You!** to



**Rocklin History Museum**

all of our volunteers. The museum and school tour docents, the chapel committee and all committee members, our beloved fix-it crew, photographers, cookie & desert makers, newsletter writers & contributors, special event booth greeters, yard sale volunteers, Board of Director members, meeting attendees, weed pullers and the list goes on and on and I am very grateful you have chosen the Rocklin Historical Society to volunteer. You are the heart



**Kathie and Diane Bell greeted visitors to Diane's show at the Museum**

and soul of the Society and without you we will not be able to accomplish anything in the future. So thank you for your donation of time, talents and treasures.

We will bring back the General Membership Meetings in May, July and September and have many more exciting events coming up so check the calendar section of this newsletter and let me know if you want to help and thanks for volunteering.

## Please donate your unwanted things for the annual Rocklin Historical Society's Yard Sale.

Kathie Nippert



The Rocklin Historical Society's Annual Yard Sale is scheduled for June 13 from 6:00 am until 3:00 pm at the Johnson residence, the historic white farmhouse at 5200 Fifth Street in downtown Rocklin.

The society needs donations of your unwanted things.

How's your New Years resolution to lose weight going? Donate those too -big clothes to the yard sale.

Are you an empty nester and your kids left their stuff in your garage? We would

love to take it off your hands!

Whether you are cleaning out closets, redecorating or are tired of looking at Aunt Mabel's oil paintings, we can turn your gently used items into cash to help us operate the Rocklin History Museum at 3895 Rocklin Road. Your donations are often tax deductible

Please contact Gene Johnson at [\(916\)624-2378](tel:9166242378) to pick up your items.

The society needs yard sale volunteers on June 11, 12 and 13 to set up displays, price items and bag up purchases. Consider volunteering for a great cause. Call me at [916 630-9073](tel:9166309073) if you can volunteer on any or all of those days.

## Firehouse Project update

Kathie Nippert



**Home of Rocklin Hose Company Number One**

The replica of Rocklin's original firehouse is getting closer to becoming a reality. Your Hose Co No. One Committee that meets on Tuesday mornings at Oracle has been working tirelessly to get the contractor's bids low enough for the Rocklin Historical Society to afford.

We will get the bare shell of the building, but that will give us more opportunity for RHS volunteers to complete the inside details.

We will continue to try to raise more funds to complete the Fire Hose Co No. 1 and make it a show place for Rocklin Fire Department's hose cart and artifacts. You are always welcome at our committee meetings and breakfast at Oracle is fantastic





The Big Day of Giving happens on May 5, 2015

This is your chance to donate to the Rocklin Historical Society

From midnight to midnight on May 5 go to:

[bigdayofgiving.org](http://bigdayofgiving.org)

and donate to the Rocklin Historical Society. The society participates with the City of Rocklin in the development of Heritage Park and operates the Rocklin History Museum and the Old Saint Mary's Chapel in Historic Downtown Rocklin. The society is Rocklin's voice in memorializing Rocklin's unique history and preserving the artifacts of that history.



Available now from Sierra College Press and Heyday:

***Sierra Stories: Tales of Dreamers, Schemers, Bigots and Rogues***

232 pages with 65 historic photos and images

\$17 in paperback at book stores and online retailers

or  
\$8.99 eBook at amazon.com



Author, *Professor Gary Noy*

Sierra College Press  
Journal of the Sierra College History Museum  
Spring 2012 • vol. 4 no. 2

From The Gregson Memoirs, Mrs. Eliza Gregson's 'Memory' and the statement of James Gregson  
Printed at San Francisco by L.R. Kennedy, 1940

Reprinted from California Historical Society Quarterly, vol. XIX, no. 2, June 1940

(Note: Misspellings are from the original text.)

*Eliza Marshall Gregson, a mill-worker, and her husband James Gregson, a blacksmith, were natives of England who married in Rhode Island in 1843 and almost immediately began planning to move West. In 1845, they set out for Oregon, eventually joining a California wagon party. The imperious master of New Helvetia (later Sacramento) John Sutter aided them, and the Gregsons lived at his fort until 1847. James Gregson enlisted in the U.S. Army under John C. Fremont in 1846.*

*After his war service, James Gregson was employed by Sutter and James Marshall to help build a sawmill in Coloma along the banks of the American River in the Sierra Nevada foothills. It was at this mill that Marshall, the co-owner and manager of the sawmill, discovered gold on January 24, 1848, and ushered in the California Gold Rush.*

*James Gregson prospected for gold in 1848 and 1849 while his wife bore and raised their children. To support the family Eliza took in washing and sewing jobs. In 1850, the family settled on a ranch in Sonoma County. The Gregson Memoirs (published in 1940) prints James Gregson's brief "Statement" of the facts of his life and his wife's longer "Memory" of her experiences during the California Gold Rush era.*

*In this passage from her Memory, Eliza Gregson describes her arrival in Coloma in early 1848 and her description of events involving sawmill workers, prospectors and*

*the local Native Americans.*

It was about Dec 1847 when the mill stones were finished the grist mill was being built on the American river about 3 miles across in an easterly direction from the fort. At this time Sutter engaged my husband and I to go to Coloma. My husband to be the blacksmith for a saw mill which was being built by Capt Sutter and James Marshall. Myself to cook for the hands which



were about 15 men. One man by the name of Bennet, the others I have forgotten. Well a day or two before we started which was about the last day of Dec....The weather was rather bad and it took us two days and a half to make the trip. We reached our destination just about 11 A.M. The Indians that were about had

never seen a white child, and it was soon noised abroad that there was a white child on the place and the Indians came from a distance of 40 miles to see her. They would come to the door and look and then they would cover their faces with their hands, and were very much astonished at the sight. they even went so far as to pinch her shoulders & pull her hair to see if she was a real human they were very fond of her one squaw wanted me to swap babes with her.

after a week or two we heard that the mineral that was taken out of the tailrace of the sawmill [was gold] & the hands would occasanale bring in a little gold dust after a while I got tired of seeing nothing but squaws & I wanted to see a white woman again so they took me and my child about 15 miles to a place I think it was the dimond springs to see Mrs Wimmer & her family

stayed two days & nights & then returned home. Well I found her camping out and Sleeping in the wagon. she was very glad to see me and we did not sleep very much, but put in the time talking while I stayed, which was two days and nights, and then I returned home. She showed we while there a nugget of pure gold nearly as large as my thumb. Wil-

liam Scott who had been stopping with the wimmer family had found it the last of January 1848, and there was no gold excitement at that time.

The exact date on which gold was really discovered, I am unable to state as it was some time before we

(Continued on page 5)



*(Continued from page 4)*

could believe that it was real gold. In a few days however after we got settled at Coloma The work hands were digging the tail race at the mill, and one evening they had turned on the water so as to sluice out the dirt. The next morning Jas Marshall and Pete Wimmer were standing on the bank examining the work, when Marshall said to Wimmer, "What is that glittering down in the tail-race?" Wimmer jumped down and picked up some substance, which proved to be fine scale gold, and there was no other kind of gold found in that place, as we afterwards learned. The work hands would occasionally bring in a little gold dust.

About this time there was a man named Humphreys he was a minealoligist [mineralogist] & so [when] the weathre opned out people began to come into the mines one man by the name of turner [came] & brought his daughter Mary

I persuaded him to leave her with me untill he went to bring the rest of his family & he did so which pleased me very much She was about 16 years old. one day as our work was done we went down to the mill which was about half a mile down the hill. & we thought we would wash out some dirt & try to find gold well we saw something shining in the bottom of the tailrace so we got down & gathered some. but turning to my companion I said this is too light & if we take this up to the house the men will laugh at us so we went home no better than we was.

By & by her parents moved into the

mines & camped close by us. I must say here that for about 3 months we our liveing was very poor We had salt beef so poor & salty that it looked like blue flint—& salt Salmon too salty & oily that it was not fit to eat & boild barley sometimes boiled wheat & peas dried



neither bread or Coffee or tea or sugar. 1 keg of Butter strong enough to run away of itself so that is the way we lived for about 3 months.

about this time gold hunters began to arive with pans & in A short time the new[s] began to spread far & wide about the first of May some men came up from Sonoma & told me that my little sister Mary Ann was married to a Doc. Ames an assistant Doc in the N.Y. Volunteers she being only a little past

13 years old.

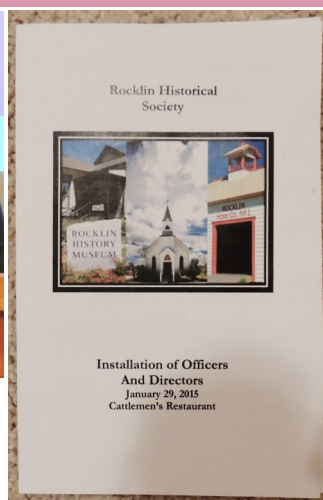
Somewhere about this time old James Marshall & J Gregson went prospecting for gold a little further up the river than they had been and they found plenty of scale gold my husband asked Marshall to divide with him. He very quickly answered no you are working for me. Very well says Gregson I will work no more & I shall gather gold for myself which he did now the people were coming in from all parts of the of Call & chili & by & by the oragononians commencing to arrive early in the gold excitement Mr. Gregson made the first pick & afterwards made a good many picks & drills for the miners. & the men stopt working on the mill every thing was gold crazy run away sailors and solders came into the mines my mother & two brothers & my sister came to hunt for gold. my sisters husband had deserted & she did not know where he was at that time.

## Scenes from the January, 2015 Rocklin Historical Society's Installation of Officers

Ronna Davis



**Dr. Jim Carlson (right ) presented a recognition award to outgoing President Dan DeFoe. Dan's wife Karin assisted.**



**Henry (Hank) Lohse III was installed at vice president and Kathie Nippert was installed as president.**

## Changes at Old Saint Mary's

Nancy Lohse  
Old Saint Mary's Chairperson

Historic Old St. Mary's Chapel certainly has seen change through the years! It was built in 1883 on land donated by James Bolton, the Irish land developer who laid out early Rocklin. It served as a Catholic church for 100 years till 1983. It continued it's religious tradition serving as a Church of Religious Science and a Baptist Church. Though no longer a religious building, the historic church continues to change lives as hundreds attend weddings at Old St. Mary's.



Change continues at the chapel. If you haven't been by lately, it's worth the drive. A sidewalk has been added and the foundation for the history kiosk is in place. Further down the property, the city has planted a beautiful fruit orchard including numerous varieties. Across Rocklin Road, the city continues to develop the roundhouse area into a beautiful park.

I can only hope that people with vision will continue to create the historic area Rocklin needs and deserves.

### 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  
Fixer Chief

You've missed lots of projects in the works, as well as completed, if you've not been by the Museum and Chapel in the last month. The big ones, the Fixer Team cannot take credit for, but get out of your car and walk around. Now you'll begin to see Fixer accomplishments! Our last big job was behind the Museum. We moved two beautifully finished slabs of granite,



each weighing 800+ pounds, by hand to become benches under the olive tree. Just like the

Egyptians moved pyramid materials, we used rollers, muscle, and some good old common sense!! Believe me, we had fun and saved a bundle in unnecessary crane fees.

We always have fun twice a month, on the second & fourth Tuesday mornings beginning around 9:30AM. Light electrical, plumbing, painting, landscaping, and repair of two really old Rocklin land marks that are looking pretty sharp due to the passion and commitment of the RHS Fixers! Come join us; someone is always adding to our "To Do" List!

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.

Hope to see you, and thanks to those volunteers who've already pitched in to help.



### 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 dues, only \$20 yearly for an individual or family, to:

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





## Bill Marble is keeping up with Joel Parker Whitney (1835—1913)

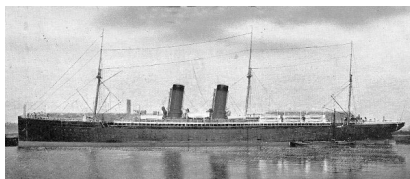
a study of Whitney's personal diaries and writings  
*Whitney was one of Northern California's largest landowners. Western Rocklin is astride 12,000 acres of his 20,000 acre Spring Valley Ranch.*

### Crossing the Big Pond

Bill Marble

Among the many amazing aspects of J. Parker's life is the fact that he was a constant traveler. In *Reminiscences of a Sportsman* he recounts his experiences in the following manner:

*"I established my residence in Boston for a series of years, though I made five round trips to California*



The Umbria

*before 1860, and have since made those journeys over a score of times, besides eighteen round trips across the Atlantic to Europe. I crossed the Great Plains from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains four times from 1865 to 1867, before the completion of a railroad there."*

Only a couple of his ocean crossings are covered in the four volumes of his diaries that are available in the Rocklin Historical Museum. One of these crossings took place in January of 1889 when J. Parker and his young family, Lucy, Parker, Vincent, & Beryl, sailed out of New York City on the Cunard Line's SS Umbria under the command of Captain W. McMickan, who is characterized in the diary as follows:

*"The social sailor is Captain W. McMickan, of the Umbria. A pleasanter companion one rarely meets. You may sit in his saloon and watch his merry eye sparkle while he rattles off tales of the sea by the hour. The wind may shriek and grate through the yard-arms until you think you hear the pinging*

*sound of a skeleton's bones; the waves may rush over the forecandle with volcanic force, and break against his cabin door with a roar like thunder, and still you'll sit and laugh as complacently as if you rested snugly before your own fireside, while Captain McMickan spins his yarns."*

In his diary, J. Parker describes his journey thusly:

*"Steamship Umbria, Saturday, Jan 5, 1889 - After boarding last evening, we passed a wonderful night and arose at 7:30 AM to see the steamer off. The Umbria left promptly at 8. It seemed a very smooth matter with her to back out from the slip, turn and wend her way through the labyrinth of ferry boats and small craft as well as large steamers going and coming, but she did it quickly and cleanly and it scarcely seemed a half an hour before we were at Tecumtine*

*and shortly after off Sandy Hook. At breakfast at 8:30, I had two letters from Col. Nutt and wrote him an answer. We found that Capt.*

*McMickan had asked the steward to have us at his table directly at his right*



Captain  
McMickan

*hand.*

*The morning was overcast with a misty fog and light rain with a moderate head gale but the mighty Umbria treks onward scarcely feeling the wind or rains.*

*The Umbria proceeded to travel across the mighty Atlantic making between 400 and 500 miles each day until reaching Queenstown, England in a mere 6 days 5 ½ hours.*

*"This was its third fastest crossing".*

Whitney entered in his diary:

**SS Umbria at Sea, Jan. 10, 1889**

*Until last night it had been as if on a lake, so smooth and tranquil that of the Umbria from New York to mid-ocean, and not very rough even yet, but on the trough of the waves we rolled a good deal last night making it uncomfortable for all.*

*Pleasant skies until last evening when it commenced to sprinkle and is doing the same this forenoon. There are about 216 passengers which is considered a good number for January. We have two of the most pleasant rooms on the ship, 242 & 243. Large rooms on the Promenade Deck.*

**Queenstown, Ireland, Jan 11 at 8 PM** *where we find the Irish mark in half an hour, not anchoring and proceeding to Liverpool where we arrived at anchor at 10:30 AM on time.."*

One of the reasons for the Whitney family visiting England so frequently was that Lucy was born there and desired to visit her family and friends. J. Parker also had many business interests in both England and mainland Europe. His business successes allowed them to afford this extravagant lifestyle and cross the ocean on a regular basis.

## Downton Abbey in Rocklin

Gay Morgan

I am a fan of Downton Abbey as I'm sure many of you are too. I love the baronial mansion, the beautiful park-like setting, the formal dinners and parties, the fashions of the day and of course the characters, both upstairs and down.

I even like the dog whose name is Isis this season. It was Pharoah in earlier episodes.

As a docent at the Rocklin History museum I often tell visitors about Joel Parker Whitney and his Spring Valley Ranch.

I tell them how he traveled often to England and Europe and how he admired the English lifestyle. I suddenly started to compare Downton Abbey with Spring Valley Ranch.

Here too is a baronial mansion called The Oaks set in a beautiful place. Mr. Whitney loved to entertain many prominent and wealthy guests. For their pleasure as well his family's he installed a nine hole golf course, tennis courts, croquet courts and even a bowling alley.

There was an eight mile drive over twelve stone bridges. Guests were driven

around this in a rubber tired phaeton imported from England. Blooded horses were provided for those who preferred to ride. Sometimes there were fox hunts but the foxes were jack rabbits.

Mr. Whitney loved dogs. A long time favorite was "Paris" a Red Irish Setter who lived at his Camp

in Maine where he spent many summers. Paris was always waiting on the dock when he arrived.

He kept prized Greyhounds at Spring Valley, where he wintered.



**The Oaks**

One of the Greyhounds became a house pet at the ranch. Her name was Penelope.

Formal dinners were part of life at The Oaks. Penelope would watch from her accustomed place in front of the fireplace as the butler care-

fully laid the table. He placed a dinner roll neatly wrapped in a napkin at each place. As dinner progressed one roll was always missing. The butler insisted he had counted out the correct amount.

This persisted for quite a time. Then the butler decided to hide himself after preparing the table. As he watched, Penelope silently went to the table, took one roll and proceeded to another room where she ate it very neatly leaving no crumbs.

These incidents were found in the book "Fortune Built By Gun" written

by Robert Miller. We have several copies at the Rocklin History Museum if you'd like to read more.



**Joel Parker Whitney**

## The rest of the history

Gay Morgan

There was an article in the last newsletter about all the wonderful projects that Nancy Lohse and the third graders in Rocklin Unified School District have done for the Rocklin History Society and St. Mary's Chapel. It explained how she recruited retired teachers and others to provide tours for the classes.

It is all true and works wonderfully well. Nancy is certainly a valuable and hard working docent.

However, as Paul Harvey used to say, "And now the rest of the story."

Shortly after the Museum opened in 2002, third grade teachers asked for study tours. (The third grade studies their home community).

We had three experts on Rocklin History at that time, Roy and Ruben Ruhkala and their sister Ruth Williams. I grew up here and taught school for 35 years and I learned a lot from the Ruhkalas. So we started giving the tours.

Along the way we were joined by others, Alma Anderson and Susan Brookings.

Sadly, we lost Alma, Ruben and Ruth. Susan took copious notes on Roy and the basement room and became the expert. Susan and I continued these two person tours for 8 or 9 years.

Now we have lots of help: Nancy Lohse, Nancy Ustaszewski, Kathy Reed, Pat Woessner, Diane Wade, Patrice Cardott, Patsy Pattison, Leslie McNeill, Angie Goebel, Jerry Farren, Bob Mart and David Baker. Russ McNeill has been known to substitute for his wife.

Just thought you might like to know the rest of the story.

Guided tours of the Museum are available for groups of 10 or more people by calling Gay Morgan at: 624-2355. There is no charge but donations are always welcome.



## About Old Town Rocklin

Gene Johnson

**The City of Rocklin is beautifying** Rocklin's historic downtown granite quarrying area, naming it the Quarry District, clearing vegetation and facilitating close up views of some of Rocklin's historic quarry sites. The city's plan is to draw commercial interest and tourists to the area. The district in-



***New Quarry District signs are appearing on Pacific Street and on Rocklin Road.***

cludes more than seven acres, south of the Big Gun and Quinn Quarries, which the city recently purchased from the Kesti family.

**Discarded granite processing tools** and other artifacts of Rocklin's granite industry have been scattered near quarry pits and in nearby weedy fields for several decades. Rocklin Historical Society Artifacts Collections Manager, David Baker consulted with society members and listed several of these artifacts for the city to put on display near district attractions and along district access ways. New Quarry District signs are appearing on Pacific Street and on Rocklin Road.

**The City of Rocklin is continuing to**

beautify Rocklin's blighted railroad right of way.

They have constructed a grassy park at the site of Rocklin's Roundhouse and opened it to the public.

The park is shaped to recognize features of the roundhouse. The service bays are now a semi-circle of flower gardens pointing to the turntable spot at the center, and there is a covered picnic area.

**The city has planted** an orchard of several types of fruit trees in Heritage Park at C Street, south of the Old Saint Mary's Chapel.

**Our Kudos go to the Rocklin's Public Works** organization for recognizing the importance of Rocklin's unique history as they lead the work on projects for Heritage Park and the Quarry District.

**Rocklin Historical Society member**



***The city has constructed a grassy park at the site of Rocklin's roundhouse and opened it to the public***

**Cris Gerhard** has done a great job for several months as project manager of the project to rebuild Rocklin's original

firehouse, the home of Rocklin Hose Company Number One. (See the status of the project on Page 3.)

**Organ aficionado Ed Stout** gave us a tour of his theater organ business in the former tile store building" on Rocklin Road near the tracks. Mike Bouchard of MJB Construction is expanding the building to house and demonstrate one of America's premier theater organs. Ed says he is designating the building as a private museum.

Rocklin now has at least three museums, The Rocklin History Museum, The Sierra College Natural History Museum, and now, Ed Stout's Organ museum.

How about the railcars on Pacific Street near Yankee Hill Road? They were once a museum of sorts.

**My attention is now focused** on the bucket list of improvements to our home, our 1886 white farmhouse on Fifth Street.

Project one is removal of lowered ceilings installed in the 1940s. We found that piping for the original gas lighting is still in place. We are also finding lots of dust. Meanwhile the yard is suffering from the drought and lack of attention. Maybe we are eligible for blight removal funding. Project two will be a cruise.

**Please note that, contrary to our last report,** the Rocklin entrance point signs reading *Rocklin Established 1893* have not been corrected. We hope that some day the signs will be corrected to read *Rocklin Established 1864*.

RANDY PETERS  
CATERING & EVENTS  
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT .

## The Rocklin Historical Society consults on city plans for Rocklin's Quarry District.

Ronna Davis



Blue shirted Rick Forstall, the City of Rocklin's Director of Public Services enthalls Rocklin Historical Society members with his plans to incorpo-

rate the Quinn Quarry into Rocklin's new Quarry District Project. The project intends to beautify and commercialize properties which were the center of Rocklin's granite processing industry.

Quinn Quarry is the lake filled quarry behind Rocklin's main fire station building on Rocklin Road west of Grove street.

William and Mary Quinn squatted on the property to quarry granite in 1873. William fell to his death from a hoist in 1874 and Mary and her children operated the quarry into the 1890s. Legislation in 1891 concerning squatters' rights allowed the Quinns to assume ownership in 1893. They leased the quarry to new operators and the quarry continued to produce granite until the mid twentieth century. In the 1930s the quarry was the source of granite for the Monterey Breakwater.

Quinn Quarry was one of Rocklin's favorite twentieth century swimming holes.

Quinn Quarry is just a few yards east of the Capitol Quarry, now called Big Gun, which is near the corner of Pacific Street and Rocklin Road.

## Spring Garden Report

Sally Huseby  
Garden Coordinator

I am so glad to see Spring arrive. We were lucky enough to get some rain in early March. Our gardens at the museum and chapel are looking colorful. We had a workday at the chapel a week ago and replaced some plants so the



flowerbeds are filled out now.

The City installed a curved sidewalk at south side of the chapel and it is attractive as you walk beneath the Maple trees as they are leafing out. The City has taken over handling the sprinkler system at the chapel to coordinate with the park. They will also replace grass at the front area.

Stop by and stroll through our gardens and park areas. It is a great time of year.

## Docents needed

Kathie Nippert

The Rocklin History Museum needs docents. If you can volunteer please call me at [916-630-9073](tel:916-630-9073)

## Scholarships announced

Nancy Lohse



We are pleased to announce that the Rocklin Historical Society will now be granting scholarships to Rocklin graduating seniors starting with 2015's graduating class. The scholarships are available to Rocklin, Whitney and Victory High School graduates who are attending any college and are pursuing a degree with an emphasis in the area of history.

Students must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA and show involvement in community service in Rocklin.

They will also need to write a one page essay explaining why they have chosen the study of history and what they plan on doing with their degrees.

A letter of recommendation from a history teacher at their school is also required.

Funding for the scholarships comes from dues (have you paid yours yet?) and various fund raisers such as our annual yard sale and donations at our speakers series.



(Continued from page 1)  
Morgan

ment so they could check their repair work, his daughter, Lisa, wrote in the "Enjoy the Ride" magazine's Winter 2008 edition.

At that time, professional musicians would often visit the Conn factory to pick out new horns, she added.

"We had some wicked jam sessions there," Morgan told his daughter. "We would end up playing all night in the Chinese restaurant down the street. The veteran players invited us younger guys to sit in with them. Man, that was an education."

Upon his return to California, Morgan found the age difference no longer mat-

proved everyone wrong. After the wires were removed from his jaw, Morgan picked up the horn and slowly regained his ability to play.

He moved the repair business out of the garage and into a small strip mall on Rocklin Road where it became a gathering place for Northern California musicians. Customers ranged from local high school band teachers to professional musicians who brought their treasured instruments to Morgan for repair and restoration work.

Over the next 40 years, Morgan also enjoyed leading his 16-piece Fred Morgan Big Band while playing lead alto. In keeping with the traditions of the

"How wonderful it is that he has this great hobby that he loves and also gets paid for it," Gay Morgan told her daughter in 2008. "Other people like to go out and play golf all day, but Fred is happiest playing music all night long."

It seems fitting, then, that the members of his band are asking to host a music tribute in Morgan's honor instead of a traditional funeral.

"Other people like to go out and play golf all day, but Fred is happiest playing music all night long."

Big Band era, band members wore tuxedos at weekly performances throughout the Sacramento region.



tered; he and Gay married and settled in Rocklin.

During the 1960s, Morgan worked the swing shift at McClellan Air Force Base to support his family. Gay had obtained a provisional teaching credential and was working at Rocklin Elementary while attending college at night to earn a teaching credential.

After their children, Lisa and Stuart, were born, Gay remained at home until they were school age. For the next 35 years, she taught at Rocklin and Parker Whitney Elementary Schools as well as Spring View Middle School.

Morgan continued to be drawn to a music career. He set up a music instrument repair shop in the garage of the family residence and played gigs at night and on weekends.

His career plans were temporarily derailed in 1967 when Morgan was seriously injured after the VW bus he was driving was struck by another car and sent spinning into a walnut tree. According to his daughter, Morgan's jaw was broken in several places and his wrist was smashed.

Although doctors doubted he would be able to play an instrument again, Morgan

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.



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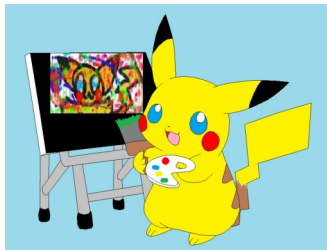
## special collections wanted

Gay Morgan

If you have a special collection you are willing to share, we would be happy to put it on display in the Rocklin History Museum for a limited time.

We have the display cases and lighting to highlight and enhance the look of your items.

It doesn't necessarily have to be of a historic nature. In the past members



have displayed Elephants, Fountain pens and writing materials, China tea cups and linens, old mining era artifacts, clocks, personal grooming items and more. Some visitors come to the museum just to see the special collections. All of our visitors seemed to enjoy them. Call me at 624-2355 and I will help you set up your display.

## Mark your calendar.

**April 12, 2015.**

**Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 2 pm**  
**5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin**  
 Julio Sevilla with *Vaudeville Magic*

**April 27, 2015**

**Springfield History Club monthly meeting 1 pm**  
**at the Springfield Gables**  
 Michael MacFarland with *From Anger to Empathy*

**May 5, 2015**

**Placer Community Foundation *Big Day of Giving***  
 A day to donate to the Rocklin Historical Society See Page 3

**May 16, 2015**

**Kiwanis Founders' Day Parade and Festival**

**May 18, 2015**

**Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 7 pm**  
**5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin**  
 General Membership Meeting AND Ice Cream Social at the chapel & patio

**May 24, 2015**

**Finn Hall**

**Rocklin Homecoming Reunion**

Look for an announcement in the mail.

**May 25, 2015**

**Springfield History Club monthly meeting 1 pm**  
**at the Springfield Gables**  
 Bill Marble with *"Satellites Orbiting the Earth"*

**June 13, 2015**

**Rocklin Historical Society Annual Yard Sale**  
**6:00 am until 3:00 pm**

**At the Johnson residence, the historic white farmhouse at 5200 Fifth Street in downtown Rocklin. See Kathie Nippert's article on Page 2.**

**June 22, 2015**

**Springfield History Club monthly meeting 1 pm**  
**at the Springfield Gables**  
 Kathy Smith with *The Sage of Smartsville.*

**July 20, 2015**

**Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 7 pm**  
**5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin**  
 General Membership Meeting and history presentation by historian Alfred Corral.

### **Note:**

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

### **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 7:15 am in the cafeteria at Oracle, corner of West Stanford Ranch Road and Sunset.