

President's Message

Kathie Nippert

I hope you are all trying to stay cool this summer.

I am delighted to introduce a new docent at our Museum, Rocklin High School student Emmalie Hopping. Welcome!

I am very pleased to announce construction has started on Fire Hose Co No 1! PBM Construction is

working hard on the building with historically accurate plans provided by Williams + Paddon Architects. Youngdahl Consulting



President Kathie Nippert

Group is providing our testing and inspections. Drive by Front Street and see our progress.

In May, we brought back the Monday General Membership meetings at 7:00 pm in Old St Mary's Chapel. What better way to kick off those meetings than with an Ice Cream Social. I saw familiar faces and many new ones too.

I am very excited to welcome back retired Rocklin teacher, Alfred Corral, after a long absence. He will talk at the General Meeting on July 20 and if you are interested in Rocklin History, you will enjoy his talk. Please, no recording equipment allowed for his talks. Refreshments will be served in the annex following the meeting.

69 people attend the Rocklin Homecoming Reunion at Finn Hall on

(Continued on page 2)

Rocklin man living his dream

Richard Taylor developing private pipe organ museum

Gloria Beverage

Richard C. Taylor is living his dream. The Rocklin resident is in the midst of building a private museum dedicated to showcasing his collection of historic Wurlitzer pipe organs.

When he was 13, Taylor, then living in the Bay Area, met Edward Millington Stout, III, a world-renowned pipe organ restoration expert. He became Stout's apprentice – learning how to repair the classic musical instrument that became widely used to accompany silent films in theaters – and spent the next 40 years working with him on various projects.

Pipe organs produce sound by driving pressurized air through a series of pipes. The organist opens the valves by playing the keys and stops on an elaborate keyboard. The organ's chambers – sometimes several stories high – contain actual instruments (such as snare drums

and xylophones) as well as a series of pipes that create nearly any imaginable sound, including the tones of a trombone or flute.

While some may believe the pipe organ is a modern musical instrument, its origins date back to ancient Greece. Stout delights in

pointing out that repairing pipe organs can be considered the second oldest profession.

The former Hayward resident now living in Rocklin started his pipe organ maintenance company in 1958. Over the years he has had the opportunity

to work on Wurlitzer organs at the Fox Theater and the Paramount in San Francisco. In addition he has been the curator for the historic organ in San Francisco's Grace Cathedral since 1960.

Inspired by his mentor/teacher, Taylor has been acquiring and restoring Wurlitzer pipe organs and parts for 40 years with the dream of

(Continued on page 11)



Richard Taylor and Ed Stout are developing a private museum in downtown Rocklin to showcase the history of historic Wurlitzer pipe organs

important notice

This issue of the Quarry Quarterly is the last to be mailed to Rocklin Historical Society members. Future issues will be online at Rocklinhistory.org, at the Newsletter button during the second week of each January, April, July and October. Printed copies will be available at the Rocklin History Museum. If you are unable to access the internet we will continue to mail your copy if you notify us. Call Kathie Nippert at 916-630-9073 to request that we mail your copy.

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, May 24th. We enjoyed a delicious lunch buffet provided by Randy Peters Catering & Events, our Co-Sponsors. Gay Morgan and Roy Ruhkala hosted a fun time with old photos, renewed friendships, vintage quilts and many laughs.



President Kathie Nippert awards the Rocklin Historical Society History Scholarship to Whitney High School student Kristina Carroll. See Page 8.

I was fortunate to be able to award the first Rocklin Historical Society Scholarship to Whitney High student Kristina Carroll on June 2nd. The Society is pleased to work with our great community and financially help students who have a passion for history. Kristina and the Rocklin High recipient, Kylee Mebust, attended our June Board of Directors meeting with their mothers, to thank us for their scholarships of \$500 each. Good luck to both of these fine students.

The weather at our Yard Sale at the Johnson's on June 13th was very hot, but a wide variety of items were quickly purchased by many, including return buyers and members! We netted the Society \$3969.00 to go toward the Fire Hose Co No 1.

I want to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who sweated and sorted, priced and bartered, packed up and cleaned up. Please know that I truly love our Volunteers, they are the best in town.

Mystery Picture

Gay Morgan



While sorting through a box of old Rocklin Elementary School pictures I came across this picture and I just had to smile. To me it was a perfect illustration of how life in the 70's, or thereabouts, was for kids growing up in Rocklin. The kids show great smiles, a bike with a speedometer and fishing poles. They even have a fish—probably a bluegill.

I wonder who took the picture. I hope someone recognizes the boys. I'd like to know what happened to them, and that their later life is as much fun as it was on this particular day.

BiGDoG was a big success.

Hank Lohse



Twenty five people gave a total of more than \$21,000 to the Rocklin Historical Society during the Big Day of Giving (BiGDoG) on May 6. BiGDoG is an annual 24-hour opportunity for givers to contribute to their favorite nonprofits in Placer, Yolo, and El Dorado

and Sacramento counties. Contributions to RHS were the 67th highest among the 529 nonprofits participating.

Homecoming

Photo by Ronna Davis



Vice President Hank Lohse (L), Gene Johnson and Jean Day dig in at Rocklin's annual Homecoming celebration. The event drew 69 people to Finn Hall on May 24 for lunch and reminiscing about

old times. The event dates from the mid twentieth century when the Rocklin Diaspora returned to Rocklin each year, primarily to decorate the graves of ancestors in the Rocklin Cemetery.

Annual Yard Sale

Photo by George Salgado



Gates opened at 6 am on May 24, 2015 for the Rocklin Historical Society's annual yard sale at the Johnson residence, the historic White farmhouse at 5200 Fifth Street in Downtown Rocklin. Hundreds of volunteers and shop-

pers braved the heat to net almost \$4,000 for the society. Leftovers went to charity.

See Gene Johnson's article on Page 10 to read about how a crime spree ended at the yard sale.

A new kiosk for Heritage Park

Gary Day

Photos by Ronna Davis

The family of Rocklin Historical Society member Barbara Chapman donated funds for a kiosk describing interesting aspects of Rocklin's historic Front Street corridor in Downtown Rocklin. The Ruhkala Monument Company installed the kiosk in mid June adjacent to the patio of the Old Saint Mary's Chapel.

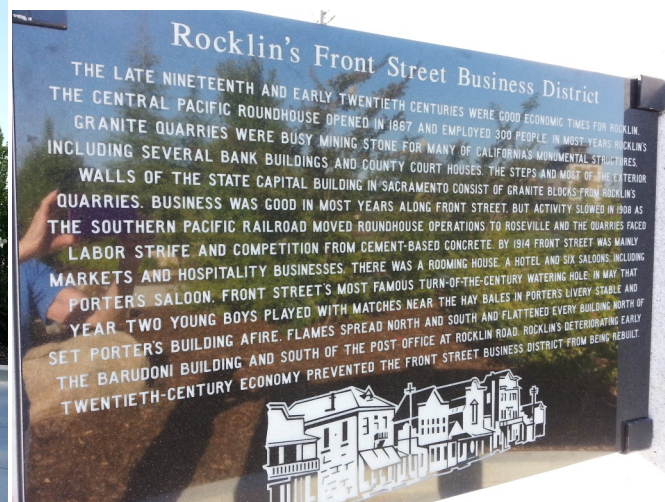
The kiosk consists of four black granite panels suspended on three Sierra gray granite posts. Each panel describes a point of historical interest.

The Rocklin Roundhouse site. Rocklin's roundhouse serviced the extra engines that trains needed to surmount the Sierra from 1867 until the railroad moved roundhouse activities to Roseville in 1908. Remnants of the west facing wall are visible in front of the Crossroads church. The site is now a city park. Roundhouse service bays are outlined with old rails.

The Old Saint Mary's Chapel. The chapel was dedicated as Saint Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in 1883 and moved to Heritage Park in 2005. It has been a popular wedding chapel since it was restored in 2007.

The Barudoni Building. Joseph Barudoni constructed this all-granite building in 1905 for use as a meat market, with an office for Dr. Woodbridge upstairs. Today it is a wine tasting venue.

Rocklin's Front Street business district. This was the center of Rocklin's hospitality and retail business activities in the very early twentieth century. In May, 1914 two boys played with matches in the hay bales in back of Porter's Saloon and started a fire which flattened Front Street businesses from Rocklin Road, southward to the Barudoni Building. The area was never rebuilt due Rocklin's faltering early twentieth century economy.



Rocklin's quarries in 1904

Gary Day

The following paragraphs are excerpted from a California State Mining Bureau publication of 1906 titled *Structural and Industrial Mining Materials of California, Bulletin No. 38*. The State Mining Bureau is now called *California Geological Survey*. The report discusses Rocklin as the main source of Sacramento Valley granite in 1904.

Rocklin (is the) principal granite-producing point in the Sacramento Valley. First quarry opened in 1863, stone used in construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Stone used in construction of the State Capitol in Sacramento, Hibernia Bank and Crocker building, San Francisco. Rocklin quarries lie close together in area less than a mile square on "gently rolling plain. Granite occurs at the surface in most cases. Fifteen quarries in operation in 1904, several idle. Most were small and operated by Finns, Russians, and Italians. Largest and most northerly situated owned by Rocklin Granite Co., "a rectangular pit, sunk in surface of the rolling plain. The opening is about 100 feet deep, 100 feet wide, and 250 feet long.." (1)

Quarry owned by Adolph Penru Quarry 50 feet deep, 50 feet square, 300 years (yards) south of Rocklin Granite Co.'s quarry.

Allen Quarry 300 feet west of Rocklin Granite Co. property.

The Mining Bureau Report credits Rocklin as the Southern Pacific's main source of the granite needed for construction of the Transcontinental Railroad starting in 1863. (It was the Central Pacific, not South-

ern Pacific)

The source of railroad granite was

a source of railroad granite.

The Mining Bureau Report identifies Ira Delano's Rocklin Granite Company quarry as Rocklin's largest. Delano's Quarry could yield granite slabs for monuments that were 16 feet long, 20 feet wide and 12 inches thick.

In 1906, the year of the report, granite was in high demand to rebuild San Francisco after the earthquake and fire in April that year. Delano provided granite blocks to repair the city's monumental buildings, but his biggest shipments were granite curbing to rebuild the city's streets. Some Streets in downtown San Francisco are still lined with Rocklin granite.

Delano's Quarry survived until 1916 when Delano closed his business and moved to San Francisco. Delano's Quarry was south of today's intersection of Rocklin Road and Granite Drive. The City of Rocklin bought the quarry pit in 1941 for \$10.00 and used it as the city dump for about 30 years. Today the pit is backfilled and underpins a parking lot and motel. Gases from the pit were leaking to the surface and into the motel as recently as 15 years ago

Ira Delano's brother, Mansfield Delano, a veterinarian, was the principal owner of Rocklin's race track which operated from 1895 until 1914 when it fell victim to a failing Rocklin economy and a 1909 state law outlawing horserace wagering.

The Mining Bureau Report also identifies a 50'x50' quarry pit owned by Adolf Pernu located 300

(Continued on page 5)



Ira Delano's Rocklin Granite Company Quarry produced curbstone to rebuild San Francisco streets after the earthquake and fire of April, 1906.



The Allen Quarry is in front of Rocklin's Library. It produced granite for the courthouse in Auburn and about 1904 became one of the early quarries of Matt Ruhkala's Union Granite Company, Rocklin's largest mid-twentieth century quarry operation.

the Brigham and Hawes Quarry near the corner of today's Pacific Street and Farron. Evidence is thin that the Capital Quarry, now the Big Gun Quarry, near Pacific Street and Rocklin Road might also have been

(Continued from page 4)

years (yards) south of Delano's Quarry. That quarry is probably the lake behind the clubhouse of the Sierra Lakes Mobile Home Park which is across Rocklin Road from the Rocklin Library. Locals know it as Pernu's back quarry. It is much larger now than in 1904. Pernu operated as the California Granite Company with quarries in both Rocklin and Porterville. In 1907 he bought the Capital Quarry, now Big Gun, and operated it as his largest quarry until he died in 1931.

The Capital Quarry was the source of the granite that built the State Capital building in Sacramento in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Pernu built Rocklin's Old City Hall at 3980 Rocklin Road as a company store for his employees in 1912.

The Mining Bureau Report also identifies Ira Allen's Quarry which is the lake-filled quarry in front of the Rocklin Library at the corner of Granite Drive and Rocklin Road. Finnish immigrant of 1889, Matt Ruhkala, acquired Allen's

quarry prior to the time of the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire and operated it as one of the early quarries of his Union Granite Company. He participated with Ira Delano, and probably with Adolf Pernu, in

until 1977.

Rocklin's granite industry saw a steady decline between 1910 and 1920. Engineers were perfecting the manufacture of cement based concrete during this period and an extended quarry-worker strike closed half of Rocklin's quarries permanently in 1915. Only five or six quarries operated into the mid twentieth century, most were part time and intermittent operations.

The Capital Quarry closed permanently in 2005. It was the last of Rocklin's 62 quarries to close.



This lake behind the Sierra Lakes Mobile Home Park clubhouse is probably Pernu's small 1904 Quarry. Locals know it as Pernu's Back Quarry and it is at least 10 times larger now.

producing curbstone for San Francisco.

Union Granite operated several quarries in Rocklin and elsewhere during the twentieth century including the Capital Quarry from 1933

Whose granite is that anyway?

Gary Day
Updated



The San Francisco Mint at Fifth and Mission, affectionately the city's "Granite Lady", survived the 1906 earthquake intact thanks to her floating granite foundation. And she survived a Federal Government attempt to surplus her in the 1960's. San Francisco's Museum and Historical Society is spending \$80 million to restore her for use mainly as a museum.

Of course Rocklin takes pride in all of this because, as Rocklin and San Francisco historians have been writing for at least the past 50 years, the Lady's granite is a product of Rocklin's 19th century quarries.

"But wait" said Penryn historian and Rocklin Historical Society member Cliff Kennedy, "that granite is from Penryn, not Rocklin"! And it turns out that, according to Rocklin Historical Society President Emeritus Roy Ruhkala, Kennedy is correct. Kennedy's has comprehensively documented that the granite in the Lady actually originated in the Griffith Griffith Quarry in Penryn, and the embarrassed San Francisco restoration group has modified the Lady's

written history accordingly. Kennedy's work is on file in the Rocklin History Museum. Come on in and have a look.

Visitors are welcome at Old Saint Mary's Chapel

Nancy Lohse
Old Saint Mary's Chairperson

Since August 13, 1883, Old St. Mary's Chapel has held its place on Rocklin's historic Front Street. Hundreds of people have walked through her doors for religious services, weddings, funerals and memorial services. One hundred thirty two years later Old St. Mary's continues that tradition. It was moved down the street to its new location in 2005 and updated through the efforts of Rocklin's citizens and the Rocklin Historical Society volunteers. The ambience of the chapel gives today's couples a chance to step back in history and enjoy a simpler type of ceremony but with modern conveniences. One of the latest wedding/reception events occurred on one of our hotter days this summer. Needless to say, I'm sure the air conditioning at the chapel was much appreciated!



The historical society is in charge of renting the building for events. Since its move, the chapel and the adjoining patio have also been the site of the Rocklin Historical Society's Speaker's Series and monthly meetings as well as a great magic show and various musical happenings. The money from these events, along with membership dues for the historical society, goes towards upkeep of the Rocklin History Museum and the chapel. We are open Wednesdays from five to seven for bridal tours. Stop by for a visit.

towards upkeep of the Rocklin History Museum and the chapel. We are open Wednesdays from five to seven for bridal tours. Stop by for a visit.

Call to set up a private tour for your special day!

916-415-1150

www.OldStMarysChapel.com

email: oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com

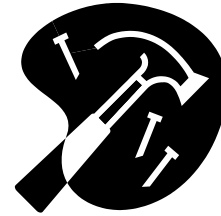
Do you want to join the Fixers?

We need you.

Bob Mart
Fixer Chief

Here comes a sizzling hot summer in the Quarry District in Rocklin! But the mornings are perfect for accomplishing little jobs around our Rocklin History Museum and Old St. Mary's Chapel.

We're asking you to volunteer a couple of hours twice a month. We meet at the Chapel the on the second & fourth Tuesday of each month at about 9:30 am.



It would be great to see some new volunteers. Recruiting has been much harder than I ever expected! I'm certain many of you are just waiting

to be asked. So, I'm asking!

Come out and help keep our museum and chapel, stand outs in the recently designated Quarry District, downtown properties that Rocklin can be proud of.

Oh, by the way, have you seen the firehouse going up next to the Old St. Mary's Chapel? It will be a great addition to Front Street when finished in a few weeks.

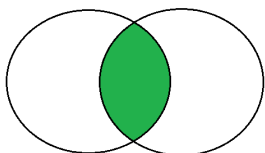
So how about contacting me, Bob Mart, at:

martsplace@sbcglobal.net . or
916-261-4021.

Even easier, just show up at the chapel around 9:30 AM on one of those Tuesdays.

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.

Deer Hunting with J. Parker Whitney Bill Marble

As anyone familiar with J. Parker Whitney would know, he was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed deer hunting in particular. In Volume 3 of his diaries, that covers his time around the turn of the century, he comments on the experience of hunting deer in the woods surrounding his getaway home at Upper Richardson Lake in Maine. It is an interesting monologue on the nature of the hunt and the difficulties contained therein. Here is an excerpt.

"Deer hunting in the woods of Maine, legitimate stalking without dogs or shining, is much more difficult than the average reader would suppose. Deer are not nearly as plentiful as one would suppose they should be where the feed is so good, and where they are hunted as little as they are in this immediate locality. With a number of years' experience, my estimate is that there is not much more than one deer to the square mile of forest here. We see them plentifully in the summer around the small ponds, and here they daily exhibit themselves, perhaps five or six at one time in sight when protected by law, when annoyed by insects and fond of the water and aquatic plants as they are, they seek the shores. Not being disturbed, they seem quite tame, and it is not unusual to see a doe proceeding among the lily pads with her little

fawn paddling along the shore. But these deer have come from some distance to find the water, and take to it readily, but when you hunt for them in the forest during the open hunting season you find them very scarce, and if you depend wholly upon the killing of deer you will soon get discouraged. I've killed a number of deer in this locality, and I say that I have traveled more



Whitney's summer home in the woods of Maine

than 100 miles in the woods for every deer I have taken. In the months of September and October, I presume I traveled more than 200 miles, getting but one shot at a deer, although I jumped—that is, startled away from me—perhaps twenty, some of which I saw and was unable to get a shot at, but the pleasure and satisfaction which I received in those rambles is beyond purchase. I have no enjoyment or healthful recreation that I can think of that I enjoy so much as stalking deer. Still, there are many aggravating features connected with deer hunting, particularly to see a deer bound off which has been in plain sight while you have been approaching without seeing it, for it

will sometimes stand so still and motionless as to defy detection, perhaps only partly visible in the brush, and then bound off with such rapidity and dash around a clump of bushes or trees in such a manner that you are unable to get in a shot. You are hunting for your chances. Sometimes it is very easy to get them, but ordinarily they are difficult to kill. I only had during September and October, with all my traveling, but only one fair opportunity to shoot a deer, and that recollection is by no means satisfactory, for it was so fair and open that I could not have wished it better if I would. The conditions were very favorable, the ground and leaves moist, a dark-ish day, a gentle breeze and myself approach-

ing from the leeward, I was proceeding at the time down an old logging road which I had been on several times and where I had observed the tracks and indications of a very large deer. Proceeding along cautiously, as was my wont, looking at every spot where I was putting my feet, to avoid the cracking of a twig or decayed limb, and still looking ahead, I observed, perfectly motionless, not ten rods ahead of me as I turned an angle of this old road, one of the largest bucks I think I have ever seen, evidently the one whose tracks I had observed. He was standing apparently clear entirely from the timber by the side of the road, broadside toward me, perfectly motionless, with his head and

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

large antlers slightly turned toward me and gazing upon me with apparently the same interest that I felt in seeing him. Mentally I thought he was mine surely. with the rifle in my hand which had brought down several deer before at single shots, and with nothing distracting my view, nor troubled by buck fever, which I have never experienced, but as coolly and deliberately as I would fire at a target ten rods off, which was the distance of this buck, I brought carefully my rifle sights to a level, and without any haste, taking the most deliberate aim which was afforded by the opportunity, I fired. I fired at his body slightly back of the shoulder blades. It was a rough surprise to the buck. He turned, however, quickly taking his back track, and throwing up his signal flag of de-parture, which indicated that he was not hit, or at least had not received any wound of importance, and went off with bounds too rapid for me, owing to the then ob-structing foliage, to get in another shot. Astounded at my failure, I started after him, after having rapidly thrown another cartridge into the barrel of my rifle. I could follow him, owing to the condition of the leaves, without difficulty, but I found no trace of blood, and saw that he indicated no intimation of having been wounded. I returned to the spot where he stood when I shot, and there I found to my mortification and great annoyance a leafless maple sapling of about an inch and a half in diameter, which I had not observed when I fired, and at the level corresponding with the place which I shot at, the sapling was shattered and nearly cut off by my rifle ball where its soft nose had exploded and become diverted from its passage in some direction away from the deer. This was the result of all my stalking, but it could not take away the satisfaction—the daily satisfaction—I had experienced. One must have an object for all exertions that is sustaining, and lends vigor and enjoyment to pur-suits which when aimless are of slight value.” Yes, Whitney treasured his opportunities to get out in the woods and

stalk the deer. He did not kill for sport, as the family always ate any deer they took down, but rather, he enjoyed the hunt immensely and used it to help provide food at the table for his family and their guests at their beautiful Maine getaway.

The Rocklin Historical Society awards two scholarships

Nancy Lohse

The Rocklin Historical Society recently awarded their first scholarships to graduating seniors majoring in history or related areas. The winner for Rocklin High School was Kylee Mebust who will be pursuing a career in foreign



Kylee (L) and Kristina

diplomacy. Our other winner, Kristina Carroll from Whitney High School, will be pursuing a degree in law or teaching. Each winner received \$500 which will be awarded when the ladies enroll in their colleges.

Would you like to put your collection on display?

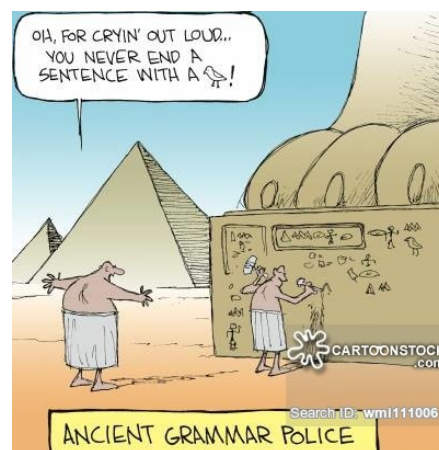
Gay Morgan

Collectors are regularly displaying their caches in the Rocklin History Museum's Gift Shop. The latest exhibit is Geri Wittbrod's collection of Russian folk art. Included are Dumkovo toys, red clay figurines of people and animals, and Russian Lacquer items, such as paper mache boxes and pendants. Please come in and have a look. The museum is open from 1 pm until 4 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays.

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

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

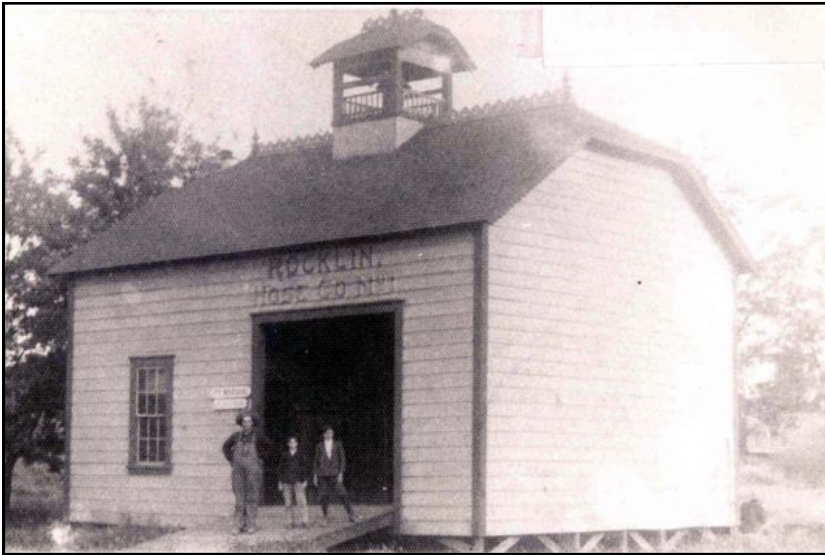
It doesn't necessarily have to be of a historic nature. In the past members have displayed miniature Elephants, Fountain pens and writing materials, China tea cups and linens, old mining era artifacts, clocks, personal grooming items and more. Some visitors come to the museum just to see the special collections. All of our visitors seemed to enjoy them. Call me at 624-2355 and I will help you set up your display.



Firehouse Project update

The replica of Rocklin's 1894 firehouse is nearing completion

Gary Day



Rocklin's first firehouse was on railroad property at the site of today's Old Saint Mary's Chapel, on Front Street. It accommodated the hose cart for Rocklin Hose Company Number one, Rocklin's first fire department. Citizens spotting a fire ran to the firehouse, or rode horseback, to pull the bell rope to summon the firemen. The left-rear of the building was the meeting place of the Rocklin City Council. The left-front was the office of Rocklin's sheriff. The city built at least one other firehouse during the ensuing 50 years and, according to Rocklin old timers, demolished this one in the early 1940s.



Williams and Paddon, a Roseville architectural firm, donated conceptual plans for a replica firehouse to be located in Heritage Park, near the Old Saint Mary's Chapel.

The plans and a funding commitment by the Rocklin Historical Society sparked a project to construct the replica to function as a museum of Rocklin's firefighting history. The society contracted for construction early this year and work started in May.



The latest! The original building faced northward but this replica faces westward to fit in with other features of Heritage Park. Modern construction standards required compromises with historical accuracy. For example the replica's foundation will be a concrete slab. Also the hose cart area of the original firehouse was not secured. The doorway was always open. The replica will have a lockable door.

Construction progress so far indicates that the replica firehouse could be completed by July 31. The contractor will be leaving the building's interior for the historical society to finish. Keep up to date on construction progress at:

<http://rocklinfirehouse.wordpress.com/>

Photo by Jill Quan

about Old Town Rocklin

Gene Johnson

Rocklin Historical Society, Firehouse Project Manager Cris Gerard did a great job. Construction is well under way. Cris has passed leadership to President Kathie Nippert for completion of the project.

The city continues beautification of the central Rocklin railroad right of way. The roundhouse area now includes the engine turntable superstructure.



Rocklin Railroad Roundhouse engine turntable superstructure

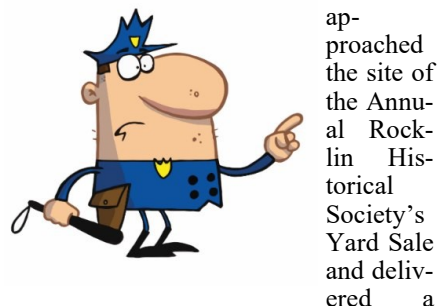
ture.

The new logo appearing on Rocklin City Vehicles is replacing the Railroad themed logo that paid tribute to Rocklin's founding in 1864 and incorporation in 1893. The new logo includes a representation of a group of rocks possibly inspired by the faux granite at Rocklin's 180 gateway.

The firehouse on Rocklin Road might be repurposed to serve as an Arts and Crafts Center two or three years from now. The historical society's artifact collection includes Rocklin folk art and vintage signage, too much to display in The Rocklin History Museum. It seems that the items could be incorporated in a larger arts and crafts center. Historical society items include a 28-foot mural of the railroad move from Rocklin to Roseville in 1908, the Stardust

Skating Rink electric star, Rosy's and Blue Moose restaurant signs, Deer Creek Lumber signs and folk art. If there is no foreseeable home for these items their sale should be considered.

Officer Jantz of the Rocklin Police Department



approached the site of the Annual Rocklin Historical Society's Yard Sale and delivered a citation to me for violation of the Rocklin Municipal Code. Turns out that some of our yard sale signs were on city property. While Officer Jantz and members of the society remained composed and courteous, two shoppers verbally abused poor Officer Jantz for doing his job. The good news is that we were assured that Rocklin police personnel removed all of our signs and would dispose of them, so one less task for Christy Barros. We praise the progress that the city has made in upgrading central Rocklin and appreciate that the sign ordinance is a significant component of the effort. Some felt a warning may have been more appropriate than a fine; however, I paid the \$50. We will get no future citations because the written yard signs of the older generation are history, replaced by social media and GPS coordinates.

The unoccupied stone house between Rocklin and Roseville is the subject of recent inquiries. There is speculation that the house will be removed to make way for highway improvements. The building, of Rocklin granite, was the Purdy family home. The Purdys ran a

dairy farm on the property. Several years ago Amanda Blake, of Gunsmoke fame, owned the Purdy farm and stone house.

The Purdy Creamery on Vernon Street was the source of dairy products delivered in Rocklin by my dad, Ray Johnson.

The museum docent cadre says we need more hands-on exhibits to engage children. The washday exhibit has proven particularly popular with girls. Nancy Lohse suggests an operating whistle for the boys or, possibly, use of levers to lift rocks. We have whistles but how to display and operate them is a challenge. Is there a craftsman out there to accept the challenge?



a whistle to draw boys to the museum

Russ Holland is ailing.

Ronna Davis

Member Russ Holland, who played taps so beautifully at our Rocklin Memorial services for many years, is now in a care home at: A-1 Elderly Care, 103 McClaren Court, Roseville, CA 95661

RANDY PETERS
CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT .

(Continued from page 1)
Taylor

establishing a museum to showcase the classic musical instrument. His collection, which includes parts for five complete pipe organs (including the console for the organ once housed at the historic Palace Theater in Dallas, Texas), was stored at his San Mateo residence and in friends' garages and storage units as well as three airplane hangars.

Taylor also owns the organ at the Castro Theater and has worked with Stout to preserve the classic instrument.

After retiring and relocating to Rocklin eight years ago, Taylor acquired a vacant building on Rocklin Road and Pacific Street. With the enthusiastic support and expertise of his business partner, Taylor set out to build his dream museum.

The exterior of the building has received a much-needed facelift and a 10-foot by 40-foot building was constructed at the rear of the facility. The interior is now undergoing extensive updates, including added insulation to block traffic and train noise and enhance the sounds of the pipe organ that will be the centerpiece of the museum.

In addition to the restored Wurlitzer pipe organ from Taylor's collection, there will be displays documenting the history of pipe organs, a library and an Internet radio station – WTZR Rocklin – to broadcast organ concerts.

"It will not be open to the public," Stout said. "We will make it available to the community by invitation."

Stout estimates the private museum will be completed within five years, however, Taylor is hopeful portions can be made available to private tours or concerts within two years.

Lucy Schimmelman,
12/17/1912—3/5/2015,
Aged 102
**the oldest member of the
Rocklin Historical Society**



In

Photo: Ronna Davis

2014 Lucy rode in Rocklin's Sesqui-centennial Day Parade. Lucy was delivered by Rocklin's Dr. Fletcher at the Sister's Hospital in Sacramento in 1912, the only child of John and Myrtle (Betterly) Sohn.

**former museum worker
Joyce Sherman**

Ronna Davis,

We have learned of the July 2013 passing of former Rocklin Historical Society member Joyce Sherman. Joyce was active as a museum worker and received recognition for her work in the museum's gift shop.

She is buried in the Newcastle cemetery near her husband John Sherman



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



**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.



Rocklin Historical Society
Board of Directors

Kathie Nippert, President
Henry Lohse III, Vice President
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Dan DeFoe, Past President
Skip Gebel, Past President
Roy Ruhkala, President Emeritus

Important Matters for the Rocklin City Council

Gary Day
Updated

In June 1915, Rocklin's quarrymen went on strike against the quarry

owners for a raise from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per day. Half of Rocklin's quarries then closed and never reopened. On



November 29 that year the Rocklin City Council met to direct the town Marshal to visit Mrs. Hurley and instruct her to quit dumping her dishwater into the street. On December 27 the city council reconvened to hear from the Marshal that Mrs. Hurley was still dumping her dishwater and was now dumping her wash water also. Rocklin's economy didn't recover significantly until the early 1960s.

Mark your calendar.

July 20, 2015

Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 7 pm

5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin

General Membership Meeting and Rocklin history presentation by historian Alfred Corral

August 15 & 16, 2015, 10 am until 4 pm both days

Rocklin History Museum

3895 Rocklin Road

Heritage Trail Days sponsored by Placer County Museums

All Placer County museums open extended hours, including Rocklin History Museum.

Former granite quarry operator, Roy Ruhkala, will demonstrate historic method of splitting granite. Docent Volunteers are needed all day Saturday and Sunday

September 15, 2015

Rocklin Historical Society Potluck Dinner, 6 pm

Rocklin Community Center - 4980 5th Street, Rocklin

Bring a guest. Call Gay Morgan for information 916-624-2355.

September 19, 2015

Hot Chili, Cool Cars sponsored by Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce

8:00 am until 4:00 pm along Pacific Street Downtown Rocklin

Rocklin Historical Society has a booth and volunteers are need to set-up, man the booth & tear-down

September 21, 2015

Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 7 pm

5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin

General Membership Meeting and Spanish history presentation by historian Alfred Corral.

October 18, 2015

Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 2 pm

5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin

RHS Speaker Series presents Carol Gebel discussing and showing some of her Antique Quilts

October 31, 2015

Historic Cemetery Tour - Rocklin Cemetery Grove Street

Apparitional Actor will lead you on a merry tour to discover Rocklin's "passed" citizens.

Space will be limited, cost is \$10 per person. Call Gay Morgan for reservations 916-624-2355

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.