

President's Message

Kathie Nippert

It is so nice to see the seasons change in Rocklin. Goodbye hot weather, hello falling leaves.

In July I lost a dear friend and long time Rocklin Historical Society member, Frances Corral Pulgiese. She faithfully attended General Membership meetings with her sister Connie Noel and always let me

know what was on her mind. We attended fashion shows, Club Española Fiestas, and crab feeds to support her many causes.

She will

have a place in my heart always and I will miss her.

Since our last newsletter, we built the replica of Rocklin Hose Co. No.1! It is just beautiful. PBM Construction of Rocklin did a fabulous job of constructing the trusses similar to the way they were originally built. The attention to detail was evident in their craftsmanship. Now it will be up to volunteers to put on the finishing touches. The Rocklin Fire Department is scheduled to paint the exterior of the building as soon as our firefighters return from fighting California's wildfires.

Rocklin Historical Society member and dear friend Alfred Corral has returned to talk to our membership in July and September. Alfred is a dynamic and interesting speaker and am thankful he could give us

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President Kathie Nippert

Where are the Twelve Bridges?

Revised with new information

Gary Day

Note:

This article was published originally when we knew the locations of only eleven of J.P. Whitney's Twelve Bridges. We suspected that a twelfth bridge was located on the Catta Verdera Golf Course but we couldn't locate it. The article is rewritten to celebrate the location of the twelfth bridge there. It is probable that all of Whitney's Twelve Bridges have now been located.

Much of western Rocklin is astride

ters, from there through the vineyard, and around the back end of the ranch."

Who built these bridges and why? And where are the Twelve Bridges now?

In the early 1870's, Joel Parker Whitney gained control of the ranch from his father George Whitney who had started the ranch in 1857 with a 320 acre purchase west of what is now Downtown Rocklin. George, Joel Parker, and two of Joel Parker's five brothers, had

prospered at the ranch by producing high quality wool from a special crossbreed of Saxony and Australian Marino sheep. The group had added thousands of acres during the late 1850s and 1860s by preemption and by purchasing property from homesteaders and the railroad.

Joel Parker became wealthy during the 1860s, mainly from his investments in Colorado gold and silver mines. Gilpin County Colorado records show



This granite bridge is in daily use at the Catta Verdera golf course in Lincoln but until recently it was obscured by vegetation. It is probably the twelfth of J. P. Whitney's Twelve Bridges.

the southern 12,000 acres of the Spring Valley Ranch of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Parts of Lincoln and Penryn cover northern parts of the ranch.

Historian Richard Miller, in his Joel Parker Whitney biography, *Fortune Built by Gun*, tells us that there were 25 miles of roads on the ranch and that "Twelve granite bridges crossed the creeks on the main road from Rocklin to the main headquar-

ters, from there through the vineyard, and around the back end of the ranch."

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

He traveled to and from Europe often, once famously to the 1867

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Paris Universal Worlds Fair and Exhibition as an ambassador from the Colorado territory, promoting investments in Colorado mines. He



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

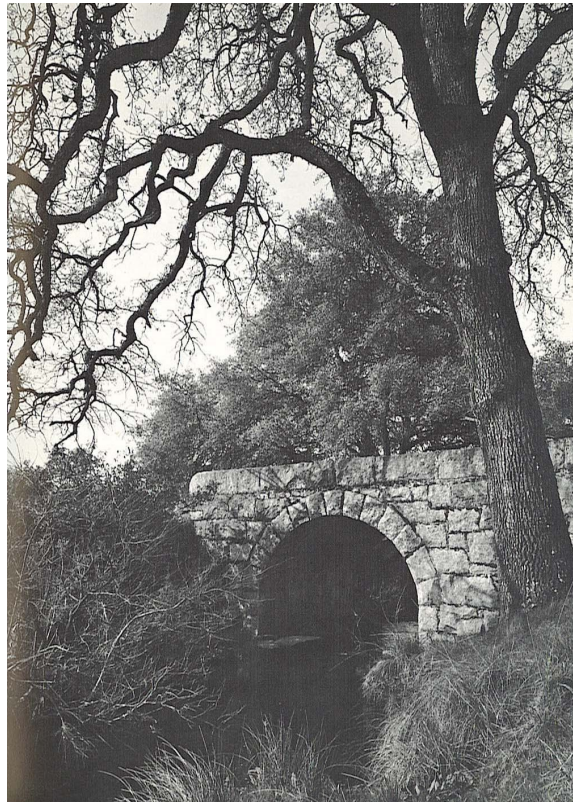
London in 1878. A second son, Vincent Whitney, was born while the couple was in New York in 1880.

By the early 1880s, Joel Parker, now in his mid forties, had been through two childless marriages and was ready to settle down with Lucy and the two children. Although he continued to travel frequently, he decided to establish his permanent residence at his Spring Valley Ranch near Rocklin. He married Lucy in Sacramento in 1881 and embarked on a six year project to convert parts of the ranch into a baronial estate for his family.

Joel Parker and Lucy were enamored of Lucy's English culture and developed their estate with English themes. Later this affinity for things English would motivate Joel Parker to develop the Placer County Citrus Colony, a project to attract Englishmen to the area to buy citrus ranches north and east of the ranch in Clover Valley, Penryn, and Loomis. Joel Parker flattened about 5 acres on a knoll overlooking the ranch's headquarters and started construction of his Oaks mansion in 1884. He built tennis courts nearby and set aside 4,200 acres for English-style fox and rabbit hunts. Later he built a golf course on the lower terrain north and east of the Oaks. 1884 also saw the birth of the couple's youngest child and only daughter, Helen Beryl Whitney. According to Joel Parker's records he spent \$6,826.46 building stone bridges between 1883 and 1888 while he was building the Oaks and his family's estate. This is the only

period during which his records show bridge construction, so there is little doubt that Joel Parker built his Twelve Bridges in the mid 1880s.

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



Ansel Adams' 1962 photograph of Joel Parker Whitney's Clover Valley Bridge

From that map we can estimate fairly closely the route of the road that Miller describes and the possible locations of all of the Twelve Bridges on that road. But where are those bridges now?

There are at nine granite bridges visible in Rocklin's landscape and three in Lincoln. Six of these have keystone arches as might be seen in stone bridges of the English countryside.

There is a bridge on the seventh hole of the Rocklin Golf Club, barely visible in the rough, almost entirely buried there during course construction in the early 1960s. That bridge is closest to Downtown Rocklin and could be the first

bridge on Joel Parker's road to his headquarters and beyond. There is also a mostly-buried bridge on the eighth hole, possibly the second bridge on that road.

The third bridge is the often photographed centerpiece of Clover Valley Park at the corner of Midas and Clover Valley Road. This is the largest and most picturesque of the known bridges. Contrary to a plaque at the site Joel Parker built this bridge in the mid 1880s.

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

There are three bridges in Rocklin's Mansion Oaks neighborhood. One is in Mansion Oaks Park, disassembled block-by-block and reassembled there from a location near where Wyckford Avenue crosses Pleasant Grove Creek. Two bridges are in weedy fields nearby; one of these two shows extensive dismantling. The granite blocks in Joel Parker's bridges are similar to stones used in home landscapes.

There are three granite bridges on the Catta Verdera golf course in Lincoln; none of them have a keystone arch. Two are in daily use; one at the first tee and one crossing the creek on the sixteenth hole.

One is out of golfers' sight, covered by vegetation left of the fifteenth fairway. These three were at the north end of the ranch, out of view of ranch visitors, and not important to the theme of an English countryside.

The granite blocks in all of Joel Parker's bridges show rough but skillful stone cutting. There is no evidence that Chinese laborers constructed the bridges, although it is possible since many Chinese probably escaped to the ranch as they were expelled from South Placer County population centers during the Chinese purges of September 1877.

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Rocklin History Series Presents Rocklin's Carol Gebel



Rocklin's Carol Gebel has been quilting and collecting antique quilts for 35 years.

The Rocklin History Series continues on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at the Old Saint Mary's Chapel in historic Downtown Rocklin with quilting expert Carol Gebel. Carol has been a member of the American Quilt Study Group, an international scholarly organization, since 1988, and has delivered two juried papers at their annual seminars. She began quilting in 1980 and began collecting antique quilts in 1988. Carol will be discussing the development of the American quilt during the twentieth century by examining the influence of several factors upon the "look" of twentieth century quilts. These factors include science, economic disturbances, social developments and military events. Carol will be showing quilts from her collection that were influenced by these historic developments.

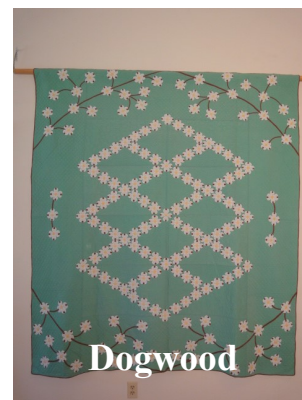
Carol's background includes degrees in Cultural Anthropology and Librarianship. She recently retired from the Sacramento State University Library.



Double Fans



Shoo-Fly



Dogwood

**Sunday
October 18, 2015
2 pm
at
Old Saint Mary's Chapel
5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin**

**Join us after the event across the street
at
Cante Ao Vinho
for free refreshments and no-host wine tasting**

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

The granite in the bridges appears to have originated from several places including possibly a now-backfilled quarry on the ranch near the corner of today's Whitney Oaks Drive and Whitney Ranch Parkway.



generations apart

David Baker



17 year-old Rocklin High School student Emmalie Hopping and 96 year-old Rocklin Historical Society President Emeritus Roy Ruhkala shared docent duties at the Rocklin Historical Society's Rocklin History Museum on September 27, 2015. Emmalie and Roy are the youngest and oldest of the society's docents.

Alfred Corral lectures on Rocklin's history.

Ronna Davis



Rocklin historian Alfred Corral recounted Rocklin's origins, at the society's General Meeting on July 20, 2015. Corral is an expert on Rocklin's granite industry, on Joel Parker Whitney's Spring Valley Ranch and on the history of early twentieth century Spanish settlement in the Rocklin area. He talked about Spanish settlement here at the society's General Meeting on September 21.

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some of his time between travels. His first talk in July was about early Rocklin history, where we celebrated Roy Ruhkala's 96th birthday with cake afterwards and then he shared a personal history of the Spanish migration to Rocklin by way of Hawaii in September. We enjoyed marvelous treats provided by Shirley Espley and Club Española afterwards. I am happy to say both talks were well attended.

Heritage Trail days was held in mid-August this year and we had many visitors to the museum to see Roy Ruhkala split granite by hand. With the help of his sons, Paul and Mike, they were successful in splitting two pieces of granite. We are thankful to have Roy and his entire Ruhkala family continually involved in our Society.

Also in August, the Board of Directors approved the exterior painting of Old

St. Mary's Chapel and the annex by Nippert Painting Company Inc. The Chapel really sparkles now.

In September, the Society had a booth at Hot Chili, Cool Cars put on by the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers handed out information and looked for possible new members to join our group. We also had our annual Welcome Back Potluck organized by Gay Morgan and Susan Brooking (and helpers) attended by about 50 people. A lot of good food was brought and consumed by a cheerful crowd.

The City of Rocklin moved their Food Truck Mania from Johnson Springview Park to Front Street starting on Thursday, September 24th. We had the Chapel open to view and many people were sufficiently impressed. Membership applications and wedding information were handed out.

Once again I am grateful to our many wonderful volunteers, but we can al-

ways use more Museum Docents on the weekends. It is really not hard to be a docent. You can shadow one of the many fine docents on Wednesday or Saturday or Sunday. Better yet, shadow the excellent retired Rocklin teachers who lead the 3rd Grade school tours. It is so rewarding to see the smiles on peoples faces when they feel a connection to their community through their visit to our museum. Please consider helping at the museum, because our volunteers are the best!

about Old Town Rocklin

Gene Johnson

Could Old St. Mary's Chapel be South Placer's most popular wedding venue? I think so. Ninety-five weddings were booked for January 2014 through September 2015. Our kudos go to Chapel Committee Chair Nancy Lohse and her team for a terrific job.

Despite minimal publicity for September 24's Food Truck Mania on Front Street, several Rocklin residents showed up to chow down at the food trucks. The weather and the ambiance of Heritage Park combined to make the evening a big success. Police and fire volunteers Roland and Elaine Phillips held the replica firehouse doors open for peeks inside and historical society volunteers allowed kids to ring the bell at the Old St. Mary's Chapel. Roland and Elaine wore their best starched and pressed uniforms, and we were flattered to find that both are Lincoln residents who love volunteering in Rocklin.

Meet your relatives by hanging out in Heritage Park. My cousins Kathy Reisdorf of Switzerland, Jeanette Wickman of Los Angeles and Sylvia Morse of Placerville all stopped by for a tour.

Williams and Paddon

Architects proposed white, with red trim colors for the Rocklin Hose Company Number One firehouse replica in Heritage Park. But Roger Barkhurst, former Rocklin Fire Chief and former Rocklin Mayor, who as a child, played in the fire house, advised the fire house



committee that the building had originally been painted with Southern Pacific Railroad colors, light yellow with brown trim. So light yellow and brown it is. The

colors closely resemble the yellow and brown theme at the Rocklin History Museum. But red and white will be on display with blue when the firehouse's flagpole is installed next month.

The city purchased the property between the granite Barudoni Building and Jerry Dizon's insurance office. City representatives say that the area will be developed as a park.

The city is also procuring property to improve the Front and Farron Street intersection. As vehicles enter that intersection from Front Street, they are forced to turn right. Also, vehicles cannot turn left from Farron into Front Street. The new configuration will al-

lin's roundhouse moved to Roseville in 1908?

Bob Mart's historical society fixit crew spruced up our C.P. Huntington look-a-like locomotive for a photo op at the Heritage Park roundhouse turntable replica during Hot Chili and Cool Cars. While thousands ate chili about 100 children of all ages rang the engine's bell and blew its whistle. Retired railroader Roger Barkhurst and Gary Day schmoozed among the visitors.

Marg and I are working on our bucket list:

September whale watching in Monterey Bay was awesome. Next we visit a 95 yr old cousin in New Jersey in November. Then we traverse the Panama Canal in December. Happy Holidays!



This C.P. Huntington replica visited the roundhouse site in Heritage Park during Hot Chili and Cool Cars. David Baker photo

low traffic flow in all directions. The two vintage houses near that intersection are slated for demolition by the owner.

Pacific Street near the Rocklin/Loomis border is being widened to four lanes. Will Loomis widen Pacific Street northeastward from that point?

Museum Committee Chairman David Baker received inquiries from Applebee's for historic Rocklin photos. Presumably the photos would decorate a Rocklin Applebee's store. Didn't the Applebee's near Roseville's Costco close? Could businesses be moving from Roseville to Rocklin 107 years after they went the other way as Rock-

help wanted

Gene Johnson.

The Rocklin Hose Company Number One firehouse building is ready for interior finishing. (See Page 11). We are asking for help from volunteers in the Rocklin community. We need people with experience with doors, insulation, lighting, flooring, interior trim and sheet rock. Please call me to volunteer at:

624-2378.

history of Sierra College—a timeline

excerpted from the Placer and Sierra College Timeline on the Sierra College website

<http://www.sierracollege.edu/about-us/history/timeline.php>

Compiled by: Sierra College Staff

1882, Sierra Normal College is established in Auburn at the site of today's Placer High School.

1897, Auburn High School is established in the Sierra Normal College Building. The high school was a direct outgrowth of Sierra Normal College.

1903, Placer High School District purchases the Sierra Normal College grounds and renames the high school Placer County High School.

1906, The Sierra Normal College building is demolished and replaced with a \$40,000 brick structure.

1914, Placer Union High School District is born, stretching from Loomis to Lake Tahoe. College classes are offered at the Placer County High School. The college is called Placer Junior College. It was the indirect descendant of Sierra Normal College, which had given birth to Placer County High School.

1920, Placer Junior College is abandoned due to enrollment loss caused by World War I.

1936, Voters re-establish Placer Junior College in Auburn. 1936 is the date that Placer Junior College, later Sierra College, uses as its official creation date.

1936, Placer Junior College athletes are called "Spartans." The first graduate of Placer Junior College is a woman named Marion Sully. About 100 students are enrolled.

1935-1940, Three wings of buildings are constructed to serve primarily Placer Junior College, but Placer High School students shared many of the facilities, instructors and organizations with the new college.

1939, 282 students are enrolled in the college as World War II begins.

1941, The 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor curtailed male enrollment as men went

off to World War II. Enrollment dropped significantly when Americans of Japanese ancestry were interned. Enrollment dropped to 53 by 1943, and the college eliminated the "junior" from its name.

1945, As the war neared its conclusion in 1945, enrollment edged up to 119. The war's end brought returning veterans, the end of internment, and the GI Bill of Rights. Enrollment in the post-war years exploded as a result. By **1946**, 467 students were enrolled, half were veterans.



**Sierra Normal College and Business Institute
C. 1887**

1949, 856 students were enrolled in 1949 and the Placer College facility was bursting at the seams. By the early **1950s**, the college had reached capacity and efforts to find a new college location began.

Two bond issues calling for a new campus were rejected in the early 1950s. The Bond issues predicted maximum enrollment for the college to be 1500 students. The area's population continued to grow and the need for new facilities grew acute.

1954, Placer College was renamed Sierra College. The college's ath-

letes became "Wolverines."

1957, A bond measure to establish and fund a new Sierra Junior College District was passed.

1958-1960, Thirty-five possible locations for a new campus were considered and the present Rocklin site was chosen. The site was near the new Interstate 80 but the land was largely a bare knob of decomposed granite, the site was quickly nicknamed "Sahara College." Bond issues to fund construction were passed and the Rocklin campus began to emerge.

1961, The new Rocklin campus opened and enrollment reached 1500.

1962 Nevada County joined the huge new Sierra Junior College District. Enrollment boomed in the 1960s. By the end of the decade Sierra College boasted 100 full-time faculty members, nine new campus buildings, and enrollment was nearly 4000.

However, as fast as new facilities could be built, they were filled. The student population increased by 45% in 1962; by 32% in 1963; and by 40% in 1964. By the 1970s, more than 4000 students were enrolled.

1970s, From 1970 to 1980, enrollment jumped from 4000 to nearly 10,000.

1975, Gerald Angove was selected as the president and district superintendent. A Nevada County native, Gerald Angove would be the driving force behind the establishment

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of the Nevada County Campus and in bringing the San Francisco 49ers to train in Rocklin.

1980s, Enrollment from 1980 to 1990 jumped from about 10,000 to nearly 14,000. Sierra College opened a child care center and expanded course offerings in Nevada County and other satellite centers.

1980s, Sierra College instructor, Dick Hilton was the first to discover dinosaur bones in Northern California. In the sciences, Sierra College might have been the first to birth an octopus in captivity.

1981-1997, From 1981 until 1997 Sierra College was the summer training camp of the San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers won five Super Bowls during their days in Rocklin and have not won another one since leaving.

1986 This was the college's 50th anniversary year.

1990s, The student population from 1990 to 2000 swelled from about 14,000 to nearly 18,000.

1990s, Sierra College's scientific experiments rode on the space shuttle Endeavor.

1996, The 105-acre Nevada County Campus opened. Twelve locations were considered in the county until property between Grass Valley and Nevada City was chosen.

1999, Sierra won the state championship in Women's Basketball

Early 2000s, The Football team had a nation-leading 37 straight victories and was nationally ranked.

2000-2005, Sierra College's good reputation continued to grow. The college became a state leader in transfers to the state university and college systems. The completion of two-year degrees and certificate programs increased three-fold. In 2005, Sierra College ranked first in California for awarding of associate degrees and 13th nationally.

Additional centers were opened in the Tahoe/Truckee area and Roseville. And funding was provided for a new library at Twelve Bridges in association with the City of Lincoln and others. Classes were also taught at local high schools and community centers. Bonds were passed to fund additional construction in Truckee and on the Nevada County Campus.

2002, The award-winning Standing Guard project chronicled the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.



Center for Sierra Nevada Studies was formed, with the extensive involvement of Sierra College students, faculty, staff and the community. The Sierra Nevada Virtual Museum website was launched.

2007, Wrestling team wins State Championship and women's tennis wins State Championship

2008, Baseball team wins State Championship

2003-2004, Sierra College won the inaugural NATYCA Cup for national athletic excellence

2005, The

2014, Women's softball wins the State Championship.

2015, Projections of future enrollment top 25,000.

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.

**ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**Placer
Community
FOUNDATION**

Local giving. Lasting value.

Visitors are welcome at Old Saint Mary's Chapel

Nancy Lohse
Old Saint Mary's Chairperson

Ten years ago it was hard to imagine that Old St. Mary's Chapel would turn into one of the top wedding destinations in the area. The chapel had been empty and unused for close to 10 years and was looking more like a site for a haunted house than a beautiful wedding. After it was donated to the Rocklin Historical Society in 2005, it was moved to its location on Front Street. Countless volunteer hours transformed it into what it is today.



Photo: Lauryl Rose

The goal of the historical society was to return the building to its original appearance but to also add modern conveniences so that it could function as a public building. The charm of the chapel along with those modern conveniences is what helps sell the chapel to those interested in using it, whether it is for a wedding, memorial service or a small concert. The addition of air conditioning, heating and a great sound system as well as the sound minimizing insulation add up to make it an ideal spot for events.

The historical society did not stop there. A patio was added giving a beautiful area for public use. The third grade students donated money from their yearly Rocklin Historical Society coin drive for a unique fountain that sets proudly outside Old St. Mary's. The addition of impressive landscaping, chosen by historical society member Sally

Huseby, was just the icing on the cake!

The chapel is open Wednesdays from 5 to 7 pm for bridal tours. Please stop by even if a wedding is not in your future. The chapel committee loves to show off our little gem!

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

916-415-1150

www.OldStMarysChapel.com

email: oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com

The Fixers need your help

Robert Mart

The Fixer's have got a lot done since my last message in July, and we have even more to focus on this Fall. Preparing for a California winter can be a guessing game of how much winter we'll have, if any. But the maintenance & repair tasks never stop, making the list of "Do Now". Add to our



list, our latest project of helping to complete the interior of the new Firehouse and in a flash we've got a really big list!

You say you can paint, nail,

spray, sweep, rake, or maybe do plumbing or electrical, we can use your talent. Maybe you want to learn "how to". We're very good at supervising as well, but most often we jump right in with you on an unfamiliar task.

We meet the second & fourth Tuesday morning around 9:00AM at Old St. Mary's Chapel on Front St. in the Quarry District.

Additionally, mark December 5th on your calendar for our 2015 Rocklin Christmas Tree Lighting from 4 to 7:30. Your Rocklin Historical Society never has enough help for that awesome event.

So please contact me, Bob Mart, at:

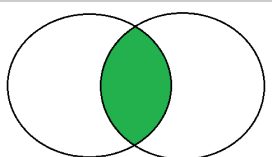
martsplace@sbcglobal.net .

or 916-261-4021,

or just show up!

Why not give us a hand on a scheduled Tuesday? 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.

Sentimental Journey

Dave Britton

Those were Romantic and sentimental times indeed. Friendships ran deep and love for family was primary. Dreams for the future prevailed, yet life beyond was also on the hearts and minds of two Rocklin girls as they climbed the steps of the old Rocklin schoolhouse on Pacific Street more than 100 years ago.

Along with their school books Lottie Waddell and Myrtle Ryan each carried a five inch square autograph album to school.

Those albums were important links to the girls' teachers and family and friends. The albums contained en-

were often used by students who collected signatures of school chums and scholars. Students kept them for many years and sometimes they



Myrtle Ryan's autograph album cover

served as academic credentials, not dissimilar to resumes in today's terms.

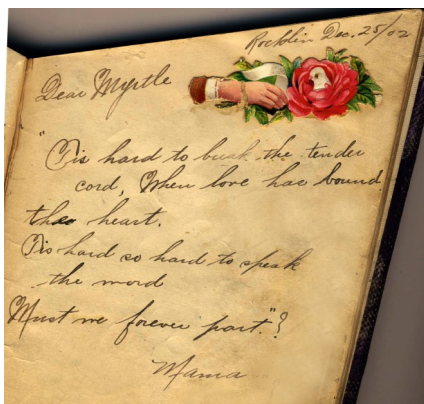
By the mid 20th Century, their popularity faded as school yearbooks became more commonplace.

Lottie Marie Waddell was born on April 23, 1877 and is the daughter of Stephen Clow and Ida Cross. Her father came to California in 1860. Later, her mother re-married James Waddell and they settled in Rocklin. James was born in Pine Grove (Loomis) in 1854 and served as Train Master and Agent for the Railroad at Rocklin and Roseville. He retired after 44 years in 1913. He served twice on Rocklin's Board of Trustees. Ida, Lottie's mom was the long time Secretary of the Women's Improvement Club of Rocklin and a member of the Congregational Church. Lottie married William Peck of Penryn in 1902. There is no record of her children, if any. Lottie passed away in Woodland on November 16, 1951.

Myrtle Ryan was born on September 2, 1891 in Rocklin. She's the daughter of James Ryan, a Rocklin stone-cutter and Mary Ellen Henley of Sacramento. Myrtle had three younger sisters: Edna, Anita and Marie. Edna died in 1902 at the young age of 5. Myrtle's first marriage (into the Trott family) produced 2 sons; Lowell and Byron.



Lottie Waddell's autograph album cover



A note in Lottie's album from her mother

tries during the girls' time in fifth through ninth grades and became treasured keepsakes to the girls for decades to come. Now they are on display in the Rocklin History Museum, snapshots in time for people with a passion for Rocklin History. Autograph albums have been in use since the 16th century, when they



Howard Fox, an early twentieth century Casanova?

Her second marriage to Ronald Watson resulted in no children. Myrtle died in 1981 at age 90..

Myrtle's album includes many photographs of what appear to be family, teachers and friends. Many of these are the size of postage stamps. One of her friends, Howard Fox included a calling card with the humorous inscription "Dealer in love,



Rocklin School on the corner of Pacific and Pine about 1900.

Between 1885 and the early 1980s there were three school buildings on the now-vacant Pacific Street block between Oak and Pine Streets.

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hugs and kisses.” One of the photos is of Mary Freeman, a long time friend. She is seen in many class photos over the years along with her older brother John.

The two story schoolhouse Lottie and Myrtle attended was built in 1885 and was at Pine and Pacific Streets. At the time, it was one of the finest school buildings in Placer County. In 1920, it was demolished and a new brick schoolhouse was opened in 1922.

What is there to learn from the two albums? Simply that the past matters! Without the girls’ families passing down these albums, the Historical Society would not have had the opportunity to make them available to the public and give everyone who views them a first hand glimpse of another time so long ago.

Here are a few notable entries from the albums.

Dear Lottie:

*Some folks are constantly wishing,
I never could get much for a wish;
But should you ever go a fishing,
May your net be filled with fish.*

Your true friend,

Ada M. Grant

Rocklin May 8, 1888

Dear Lottie:

Knowledge is better than wealth.

Mama

Dear Myrtle

*May the pearly heaven,
Far beyond the starry sky,
Open wide dear Myrtle,
To welcome you and I.*

*As ever your friend
and schoolmate,*

Katie Balderson

Rocklin Jan 20, 1903

Dear Myrtle – *Rocklin*
Dec. 25/02

*“Tis hard to break the tender cord,
When love has bound the heart,
Tis hard so hard to speak the word
Must we forever part?”*

Mama

Dear Myrtle -

Rocklin, Calif. Feb. 10, 1903

In the “Book of Life” with a golden

*pen,
May your name dear Myrtle be
written.*

*And when life is o’er, may we meet
again.*

On the peaceful shores of heaven.

Your friend and schoolmate,

Alice Lee

Dear Myrtle,

I wish I was a china cup,

In which you drink your tea.

And every time you take a sip,

You steal a kiss from me.

Your loving sister,

Marie Ryan

Dear Myrtle,

The world is round,

the sky is blue,

and many times I think of you.

Your loving sister,

Anita Ryan



Lottie's headstone



Myrtle's headstone

Roy Ruhkala celebrates number 96 then splits a granite block.

Ronna Davis



Rocklin Historical Society President Emeritus Roy Ruhkala celebrated birthday 96 at the society's general meeting on July 20, 2015.

Roy is the ninth of eleven children of Matt and Eva Ruhkala, born on High Street in Rocklin on July 28, 1919.



In August Roy demonstrated early methods of splitting granite blocks at the Rocklin History Museum during Heritage Trail Days. Roy and four of his brothers operated the Union Granite Company quarry, now called Big Gun, from 1933 until 1977. Roy is the only surviving Rocklin resident who has operated a granite quarry.

Firehouse Project update

A replica of Rocklin's 1894 firehouse is nearing completion

Gary Day



Ca. 1894

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.



The latest

Williams and Paddon, a Roseville architectural firm, donated conceptual plans for a replica firehouse.

Those plans and a funding commitment by the Rocklin Historical Society sparked a project to construct a replica to function as a museum of Rocklin's firefighting history. Work started in May 2015 and PBM, the contractor, had the building ready for exterior paint in September. Rocklin firefighters wielded brushes applying paint donated by Manager Greg Nissen at Rocklin's Kelly-Moore Paints. The original building faced northward but the replica faces westward to fit in with other features of Heritage Park.

The interior is left for the historical society and others in the community to finish. See Gene Johnson's note on Page 5.

RANDY PETERS
CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT .

Mark your calendar

October 18, 2015

Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 2 pm

5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin

Rocklin History Series presents Carol Gebel discussing and showing some of her Antique Quilts. See Page 4.

October 26, 2015

The Springfield Gables, Whitney Room, 1 pm

The treaty of Versailles

A Presentation by historians Bill Marble and Jack McInturff

We'll hear about the many provisions of the treaty ending World War 1 including the War Guilt Clause.

November 16, 2015

Old Saint Mary's Chapel, 7 pm

5251 Front Street in historic Downtown Rocklin

General Membership Meeting and nominations to the Board of Directors.

November 23, 2015

The Springfield Gables, Whitney Room, 1 pm

The JFK assassination—Did Oswald do it acting alone? Bill Marble

December 5, 2015

Heritage Park in historic Downtown Rocklin next to Old Saint Mary's Chapel

4:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Christmas tree lighting

Come celebrate the Christmas Season with *The Annual Rocklin Tree Lighting*. There will be a parade, children activities and of course Santa. There will be food, hot chocolate and cookies, crafts for the kids, horse drawn wagon rides, small train rides, local school and church choirs, jazz bands... and it's all free. Parking will be available at the Rocklin Train Station parking lot and elsewhere.

Volunteers needed for early AM set-up and late evening break down & clean-up. Call 624-2378

December 21, 2015

Rocklin History Museum

3895 Rocklin Rd. corner of San Francisco Street in Downtown Rocklin, 6 pm

Rocklin Historical Society's Christmas Social

Food, fellowship, festivities and folly. ugly Christmas sweater optional

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.



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

Kathie Nippert, President
Henry Lohse III, Vice President
Patrice Cardott, Secretary
Russ McNeill, Treasurer
Ronna Davis, Board member
Sally Huseby, Board member
Nancy Lohse, Board member
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