

Kathie
Nippert



President's Message

It is time to bid you good bye as my term as President has ended. Your new president is Hank Lohse; I am sure he will do a fabulous job.

I will now be concentrating on the Chapel Committee working with some wonderful ladies.

I want to take this last opportunity to thank the volunteers who make our organization great. We can only be as strong as our volunteers, so I hope you will step up to help the Society accomplish even more in 2017.

We are in need of two people willing to step into the offices of Vice President and Secretary. If you feel you can help, please contact me or Hank Lohse.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President for the last two years.

Please take care and may God bless you all.



Ronna Davis
Old St. Mary's Chapel's holiday decorations take on a ghostly quality when reflected in the windows of the historic Barudoni Building on Front Street, the center of Rocklin's holiday tree lighting festival.

Memories of Pearl Harbor forever tied to family gathering

By Gay Morgan

In November, someone wanted to know if the Historical Society was planning any sort of special event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. I told him that we weren't, but the question stopped me in my tracks—75 years? How could that be?

I do remember. I guess I'm one of the few who do. But I remember it, but not just the horror of the surprise attack, the loss of life and destruction of property.

My memory is more personal.

It was a lovely sunny Sunday morning in December. Our family was driving to Nevada City to visit with my Aunt and Uncle and their family. The four youngest cousins were going to have their picture taken together. I was looking forward to that, but was concerned that my hair didn't look like I wanted.

The music on the car radio was suddenly interrupted by the announcement of the bombing raid. My Mom was shocked and surprised and asked my Dad what he thought would happen next. Dad had some very choice words about it—I won't repeat them. They continued to discuss the attack all the way to Aunt Rose's house.

I asked questions like "Where is Pearl Harbor?" "Why did they do that?"

But it really didn't seem all that important to me. After all, I was only 12.

My cousins, my sister and I did have our picture taken, then spent the rest of the day having fun. We just didn't understand the impact of what had happened.

The next day the teachers at



Cousins Nancy Stuckert, Laura Willard, Gay Stuckert and Alberta Willard posed for this family portrait on what started out as a normal family gathering — Dec. 7, 1941.

Rocklin Grammar School took all the classes (first through eighth) to a large room where we listened to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the radio. I remember the somber tone of his voice when he said it was "a day of infamy." I didn't know what that was, but I could tell it was bad.

The next day, when the Sacramento Bee arrived in the afternoon, we saw a picture of The USS Arizona on fire in the harbor.

Later we saw what happened in more detail in the Newsreels played before the movies.

I was bewildered. What is war? Would they come here? What changes would happen in our lives? What would happen to our Japanese classmates?

Soon enough we learned about war. War meant rationing food and gas, blackouts, airplane spotters, and scrap metal drives. Some of us, even the boys, learned to knit

scarves for the Red Cross. Japanese families, including those born here, were sent to internment camps. Most jobs became focused on the war effort. Many women who had not worked outside the home now took jobs.

Teenagers worked in the fruit industry during the summer. Picking, sorting, packing, boxing and shipping. I'm embarrassed to say some of us didn't take it too seriously, but it is a great memory.

Finally, the war in Europe and in the Pacific ended. Restrictions were lifted.

One day I was sitting on the front porch on Pacific Street watching the traffic go by when two smiling young men came riding up on a motor scooter.

It was Herb Nitta and Ernie Sasaki. I said something like, "Hi! Where have you been?"

And life went back to normal in Rocklin in 1946.



Walk through history

History walks will be held on the second Saturday of the month. Participants should meet at noon at Finn Hall for a 75-minute walk by Dr. Jim Carlson. The route is on flat surfaces and covers a variety of historic sites.

On our November walk we were joined by a family of four, a couple new to the area and one longtime resident as well as two members of the Rocklin Leadership program.

For more information, contact Jim Carlson at 916-624-0682 either by phone or text. Join us! It's fun; it's free!

Out and About Old Town Rocklin

Gene Johnson

Bob Mart and the RHS Fixit Crew: For about three years Bob Mart has headed up the Fixit Crew and gotten things done whether they be mundane tasks, creation of the granite Chapman kiosk, or completion of interior of our replica Firehouse. Bob is a master coordinator; he kept our team together and focused on tasks, and gained support of the City of Rocklin whenever needed. We owe a big debt of gratitude for the leadership he has provided.

Unfortunately for us, Bob got a real job and can no longer devote as much time to the Fixits. We need another drumbeater – another person who loves to make things happen on Tuesday mornings. Could you be the one? Or, can you help recruit that special person?

Firehouse City Hall Room: David Baker has assumed the lead for completion of the Firehouse interior. For the walls of the meeting room he used material salvaged

from a 100-year-old Front Street house that was once the home of our “infamous” speed trap patrolman George Nelson. A volunteer and experienced carpenter, Bob Enneking, joined us at just the right time to complete the project.

From 1894 to 1942 the room served as the City Hall, Marshal's Office and Library as well as the volunteer firemen's meeting room.

Old Town Rocklin Tree Lighting 2016: The redwood we planted a few years ago has finally reached the height of the sparse and leaning cedar tree that we have been using for the annual holiday tree. The cedar was retired this year. Using a man-lift provided by the City, Jeff Foltz and Scott Rygh went to the top to string lights on the redwood. On Dec. 10, an estimated 1,000 citizens counted from 10 on down. At the signal, Santa “threw the switch,” the holiday lights came on, “snow” floated in the air and cheers went up.

Museum Visitors: In addition to our human visitors, we now have

a skunk that occasionally lets his presence be known. Dave, the Placer County trapper, says the skunk may have taken up residence under the museum shed, but most likely visits several homes in the neighborhood and beds down wherever it is convenient. Dave left a tender trap for our use.

Gayaldo Hitching Post: In 1950 Hank and Connie Gayaldo ran the White Spot Café located across Pacific Street from the Rocklin Elementary School (now a vacant lot). At lunchtime, we would cross the street, order a mug of root beer served by Connie and used a nickel to play the Beer Barrel Polka on the juke box – big time 8th graders.

For years it has been rumored there was a granite hitching post in Connie's back yard – one that could be placed in Heritage Park. Connie passed away in July at age 94. Dan and Jill Gayaldo informed us on a Sunday that the hitching post was available. Two days later, the Fixit Crew installed the post next to the firehouse horse watering trough. Thanks, Connie and family.

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At 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4 volunteers, representatives of the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce and city officials gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the replica of Rocklin Fire Hose Co. #1, Historical Society's latest addition to Heritage Park. Joining the festivities were Rocklin Firefighters in their gleaming hook and ladder truck and several Rocklin Police officers.

Out and About: Neighborhood park honors grandfather

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Wickman Park: A new neighborhood park is being named honoring my grandfather, Anders, and his brother, Victor Wickman in recognition of their contributions both as granite quarry operators and public servants. The park is in the Two Oaks Neighborhood and bordered on the south side by the UNFI warehouse.

Northeast Leaf Peeping: Marg and I said it's now or maybe never. So off we went to Boston for a cruise to Montreal with stops in Maine, Quebec City, and the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. We then drove from Montreal to Boston taking seven days for a trip that could easily be completed in seven hours.

We happened on a small city, St. Johnsbury, VT, the home of the Thaddeus Fairbanks, the inventor of the platform scale. We stayed three days and visited the city's exquisite Athenaeum (combination: museum, art gallery and library) and the equally impressive Natural History Museum. The Fairbanks family donated both the buildings and the collections to the city.

While staying at St. Johnsbury we visited the Rock-of-Ages granite quarries at Graniteville, VT. The deepest quarry was said to be 600 feet deep. Gravestones and memorials are created here on an "assembly-line" basis. The visitor's center welcomes all visitors but, understandably, caters to the elderly.

Our last stop prior to returning to Boston was three days at the 7th Street B&B in quaint Rockport, MA. Like Rocklin, Rockport has a granite quarry park, but at the ocean's edge. A modest quarry museum is located in the park. I bet Rocklin could do better.

Hot Chili and Cool Cars – Now that we've semi-retired from club tasks, we've found time to reward our 1965 El Camino for its years of civic duty. We installed new upholstery and carpet. Ev, at Any Auto Repair, fixed the suspension, eliminated oil leaks, tuned, cleaned and painted the engine. Marg and I disassembled the wheel covers (40 pieces each), cleaned and polished the spokes and chrome. Showed the truck at Rocklin's *Hot Chili and Cool Cars* event as a "daily driver."

While it looked good enough for us, it wasn't good enough to earn a ribbon.



The 133-year-old building on Front Street is open to the public from 5 to 7p.m on Wednesdays.

Old St. Mary's Chapel looking good for its age

By Nancy Lohse

Things change as we age. Just ask our bodies! Old St. Mary's has also changed throughout the years.

Built in 1883, the building is now 133 years old. First dedicated as a Catholic church, it served as The Church of Religious Science from 1986 to 1996.

In 1996 the owner of the building and lot offered it to the City of Rocklin as a gift. The city declined, citing the building's poor condition. It was turned over to the Baptist congregation. However, no one remembers services ever being held there after 1996.

When the next owners, Electri-

cal Maintenance Consultants, applied for a permit to demolish the church, an astute city clerk notified the historical society and EMC agreed to donate the building.

Rocklin's third graders became involved and community interest grew.

In 2005 the chapel was moved down the street and two years of renovation began. If you want to see photos of the move, visit Rocklin Historical Society's website.

The chapel now serves as a community center under the supervision of the historical society.

In 2016, 52 couples exchanged marriage vows in the historic chap-

el. Five families took time to honor their loved ones with memorial services. movie and a music video were shot at the site.

Needless to say, our "church ladies" are being kept busy.

Proceeds collected from these events are used to maintain the museum, the chapel, and now the fire-house replica. It also supplies funds for special projects Rocklin Historical Society undertakes to preserve Rocklin's interesting history.

The chapel, located on Front Street off Rocklin Road, is open for tours from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Please stop by!



2017
Rocklin Historical Society
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At the Museum

The Rocklin History Museum is open from 1 p.m. to 4 on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Tours for groups of 10 or more can be arranged by appointment.

There is no charge, however, donations are appreciated.

People collect all sorts of things, from old rusty tools to fragile angel figurines. Displays of these collections are popular with museum visitors.

The beautiful jewelry collection of Bill and Betty Beigs will be featured in January. In February, stop by to see the incredible sketches of artist Fran Perkin.

If you would like to share your treasures, schedule a tour, or interested in serving as a docent, call me 916-624-2355 or email me at gfmorgan@att.net.

— Gay Morgan

Rip/Rap

Gay Morgan

Sadly, we must report the loss of a dedicated member of the Rocklin Historical Society, **Dave Britton**. He joined soon after he and his wife, Jean, moved to Rocklin to be close to their adult children.



Dave loved history and quickly volunteered to take on the responsibility of coordinating the docent schedule and other duties.

However, medical issues intervened and Dave's time with us was cut short. He will certainly be missed.

Students from **Antelope Creek Elementary** toured the Museum on Oct. 26. Part of the tour included the collection of Houdini memorabilia on loan by Rocklin Historical Society member and magician Julio Sevilla. Julio

also amazed the students with a short demonstration of the art of magic.

The **Johnsons, Marg and Gene**, have returned from another wonderful trip which included land, sea and air travel.

Don and Joan Schuman and their daughters travelled to Zion National Park during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Kathie Nippert, who collects Hummel figures, flew to Germany to tour the factory and visit points of interest as well as do a little shopping. Part of her extensive collection was on display at the during December.

Congratulations to long-time members **Randy and Lisa Peters** on the opening of their new Event Center in Roseville.

How to support Rocklin's unique history

There are many opportunities to support the Rocklin History Society, the non-profit organization that both celebrates the city's unique history as well as preserves the artifacts of its past.

Current opportunities:

* Two positions are open on the Board of Directors: Vice President and Secretary. For more information, call President Hank Lohse at 624-1135.

* Docents always needed at the History Museum, which is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Two

docents are assigned to each shift. There's also a need for substitute docents. For information, call Gay Morgan at 624-2355.

* Fixers tackle small repair jobs around the museum and chapel. They meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month around 9:30 a.m. at Old St. Mary's Chapel. For more information, call Gene Johnson at 624-2378.

Or support the Society by becoming a member. Annual dues, \$20 a year, can be mailed Rocklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Rocklin, CA 95677.