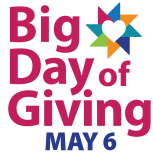


President's Message

Hank Lohse



Please note THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021, is the annual BIG DAY OF GIVING.

The money donated goes to the Rocklin Historical Society to keep the museum open and for special projects. With the pandemic and the lack of chapel revenue your donation is more important than ever.

It looks like we may just be turning the corner on the Covid 19 pandemic in the next two to three months. While we are all ready to jump back to normal, the health or our members takes precedence.

All the board members have had their shots and feel optimistic about the future. Everyone feels that they can see the light at the end of the tunnel and not a train coming at us at full speed.

The Church Ladies are anxious to get the chapel open for weddings and memorials. The museum docents are ready to reopen the museum and greet guests.

The Fix-It Crew is looking forward to seeing old friends at the Tuesday morning breakfast at Oracle.

If any of these sound like something you might be interested in volunteering for, please call. For the Church Ladies, call Nancy Lohse at 916-624-1135. Museum docents volunteers can call Gay Morgan at 916-624-2366 or David Baker at 916-367-3110. The Fix-It Crew contact is Jim Hammes at 916-303-3056. You will become part of an amazing group of friendly people.

On the brighter side, we have two new board members. Dan DeFoe, a prior board member and former president, will be joining us once again. Kent Dazey, a long time supporter of Rocklin Historical Society, will be joining us, too. Join with me to welcome both to the board.

Sad to inform you of the passing of Nathan Quok, Raymond (Pancho) Benitez, Gilbert Carreras, and Robert Kinder. All had longtime ties to Rocklin. Please take time to read about these fine men.

Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Spring, 2021

It All Started At The Rink

*"Softly we glide, smoothly we slide
Softly we dance to The Skater's Waltz"*

By Doug Osella

Back there in the days of my youth in the 1950s, I made sure to keep skating at the Stardust Skating Rink (my family referred to this fun place simply as The Rink) on my list of things to do that "money can't buy" even though it did cost 50 cents for admission plus a little more to rent the skates that would provide the means for the thrilling experience of gliding across the hardwood floor for maybe ten or fifteen feet before staggering and falling down.

Those skaters who could skate both forward and backward with equal ease had no charge for rental because those skilled individuals owned their skates and were on the floor before anyone else warming up. I wasn't that great a skater, but the joy of learning to skate on a smooth hardwood floor on rented skates similar to what the pros wore was almost as much fun as catching crawdads at Johnson's Creek. (Antelope Creek was often referred to as Johnson's Creek.)

For my sister Kathy (Osella) Reisdorf, a Saturday at The Rink began with lessons where she learned to skate figures and to dance to music like the polka. She usually stayed for the afternoon public session where she says: "We skated to music and did the Hokey



Clint Coker, middle son of owners Irene and Barney Coker, skates with other Rocklin youth in the 1950s

Pokey, shoot the duck, and the whip.

There was a ladies only skate, a men's only skate, and a couples only skate when they would turn the lights down and turn on the big ballroom ball hanging over the middle of the floor, and the ball reflected colored lights on the floor, ceiling and walls. Those were good times."

I have a small town bias when it comes to the old skating rink that has been a permanent feature on the corner of Grove Street and Pacific Street since 1930. I consider this structure once known early in its history as Pleasure Hall, then in the

(See SKATE, pg. 2)



(SKATE, *con't* from pg.1)

1950-60s as the Stardust Skating Rink, and in most recent decades as Coker Plaza, to be a historic landmark. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission states that the minimum criteria for a building or site to be a landmark in their city is that it must be more than 30 years old and have historical or architectural significance. The old skating rink is more than 91 years old, and it certainly has developed historical value in providing entertainment, physical exercise, and social interaction for the community for decades. It is disturbing to find out the old rink and dance hall is on its way out—to be torn down to make way for another housing development. An amazing fact is that this solid structure wouldn't be going anywhere if left alone. The walls are built of concrete. This detail was first pointed out to me by David Baker.

The pre-1930s building located on the same land was called the Owl Dance Hall, and it wasn't so solid. Behind the building was a baseball diamond, home to the Rocklin Owls baseball team, sponsored by Steve Subotich and Mr. Tuttle and managed by Uno Hebuck.



Pleasure Hall can be seen in the background adjacent to the baseball field

Sometime around 1928 the hall came under the new name Pleasure Hall. In the early morning hours of June 5, 1930, Pleasure Hall burned to the ground. The news report stated that the fire had gained such headway that the structure was "merely ashes within the hour". The building was owned by Steve Subotich. "Undaunted by the fire", Steve Subotich rebuilt the new Pleasure Hall with walls and foundation of concrete and with a roof of tar and gravel to make the building as nearly fire-proof as possible. This fact was clearly emphasized in the news of the day: The new Pleasure Hall was never to burn down again. With a new hardwood dance floor, "no expense was spared to

make it the most up-to-date dance hall in Northern California," the grand opening advertisement stated. Other features of the new building included a nursery, dining area, a large kitchen with a new Wedgewood gas range, increased ventilation, and new lighting effects.

The grand opening was November 15, 1930 with Peppy Red Ninnis & His Boys providing the music.

During the 1930s, Pleasure Hall featured well-known local and regional bands as well as touring bands from Southern California and the east. Ensuing decades found dances scheduled for Saturday nights, and roller skating took over the hardwood floor during the other evenings of the week and Saturday afternoons.



Johnny Cash, Marty Robbins, and Lefty Frizzell were among the artists who played at the Stardust

Over the years a multitude of social groups and clubs used Pleasure Hall for their special activities. Sometime in the early 1960s Johnny Cash performed at the Stardust Skating Rink. That's another trip down memory lane that needs exploring.

I agree with critics who say that today, the structure is not the most attractive building in the world. To some it might qualify as an eyesore. Perhaps, the essence of this landmark is found in the words of its former titles: Pleasure Hall and Stardust. I like to think of the old building as Pandora's Box in reverse—without dark woes inside—but filled instead with wonderful stories from the past, which bring hope. I heard one such story years ago during lunch with my dad and his friend Lester. Lester told the story of how my mother and father met at Pleasure Hall. This story was confirmed with details added later a little bit at a time over the years by my parents. The magic stayed with them. Here's how their romance started as I pieced it together over time:

Unlike many couples who met on the dance floors of the dance halls so preva-



The author's parents, Pete Osella and Ilona Wickman, stepping out in 1940 at the Golden Gate International Exposition

lent during the era of the big bands, Pete Osella and Ilona Wickman got to know each other on wheels. It wasn't a fast start, however. Ilona was coy, and Pete was a shy boy. Pete was the floor manager at the skating rink in Rocklin at the time. He was the guy with the whistle in his mouth who circled the floor with the skaters to make sure they all obeyed the rules. (He had the reputation of being a good skater.) He asked his boss Lester Bianco one Friday evening, "Do you think that cute blonde would say yes if I asked her to skate?" Lester responded, "Go ahead and ask, you'll never know unless you ask!"

When he was in his eighties, my father finally admitted he was relieved when she said 'yes' and together they circled the rink. They often skated to the beautiful 'Skaters Waltz' during the 'Couples Only Skate' on Friday nights. Gliding with the lights down low, they formed graceful arcs around the rink.

They went on their first real date to the new Tower Theater in downtown Roseville. In August, 1940 they rode the train—Pete had an SP pass—to the International Exposition in San Francisco...

The story goes on, and for Ilona and Pete, ***it all started at The Rink.***



A Look Back in Time:



The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen

By Julia Shohboeian

Many occupations in early Sacramento and Placer Counties depended on their proximity to the Southern Pacific Railroad. This included a large number of 'supportive workers', such as firemen and engineers. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (B of LF & E) began in 1873 as a mutual benefit society for these workers.

Despite the hard labor and dangerous conditions, most railroad firemen earned low wages and had little support for themselves and their families. As a result, B of LF & E became a large, overarching organization that had many chapters in railroad towns across California, with the Sacramento Lodge, Lodge No. 58, being the one local to Rocklin.

This Lodge had some 34 members, which the Pacific Bee deemed to be 'some of the hardest-worked firemen on the Southern Pacific sys-



Firemen's Hall, Rocklin

tem'. Officers of the Lodge, as listed in an 1894 Sacramento Bee article, included: A.C. Thyle, J.H. Penny, Walter Brenton, W.B. Morton, A.R. Walther, A.E. Harter, J.J. Brennan, F.G. Neff, and J.F. Collins.

For several years Lodge No. 58 went without an official building and held its meetings at Rocklin's Masonic Hall (completed in 1882). At this location, the Firemen's Lodge shared a meeting space with a similar organization, Granite Lodge No. 222, which supported local granite miners and other affiliated workers. It

wouldn't be until 1905 that Lodge No. 58 would see the completion of their own building, Firemen's Hall.

An integral part of the benefit society was the wives of the firemen, who hosted a number of

(See *BROTHERHOOD*), pg. 4)



Ladies Society of the B of LF&E

Firemen's Hall still part of our past

By Holly Clark

My Dad, Michael Clark, is known for being very handy, one of the best roofers you could ever find; but building fences was not one of his strengths. We have many different fencings along the Clark properties of Front Street. Last month there were some very violent rainy wind storms. The day after one of the strongest was over, we went outside and found all fencing standing tall, except the front side portion on top of the Firemen's Hall wall. Dad had tried his best to make the fencing sturdy while still looking good and preserving the historical wall underneath. The fence never stood a fair chance against the strength of these storms, though. Hurricane speed winds are no joke!

The history of Firemen's Hall seems short lived but really its legacy has moved in and out through many decades and is one that the Clark Family will continue to honor and preserve.

Throwback Quarterlies (#tbq)

By Holly Clark

In honor all things past and present, below you will see what is to be one of many more #tbq (ThrowBack Quarterlies). Did you know #tbt (ThrowBack Thursdays) is one of the most popular Instagram hashtags ever!? Speaking of social media, make sure to check us out on our social media sites (see pg. 11 for links) for more fun throw backs to Rocklin History.



From April 8, 2013 article on page 5, Front Street archeological find (view [here](#))

Our History Our Heritage Our Community, by Gene Johnson

Mike Clark is unearthing the contents of nineteenth privies on his Front Street property and developing a trove of archeological material, possibly the most interesting finds in the history of our city. Right under our noses and without fanfare Mike has moved an estimated 5000 tons of material, while accumulating a



Mike Clark shows off the stamp he found

small trainload of bottles and rusty artifacts. Recently, Mike made an exceptional find at the site of the circa 1900 Locomotive Firemen's Union Hall. It is the seal stamper used to apply embossed gold seals to documents of the Granite Div. 415 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

The Firemen's Hall burned in 1906. It was not rebuilt because the railroad had announced the move of their roundhouse and related facilities to Roseville that year. Rocklin's Firemen's Hall is the large building in the middle of the picture above.

(BEOTHERHOOD, *Cont. from page 3*)

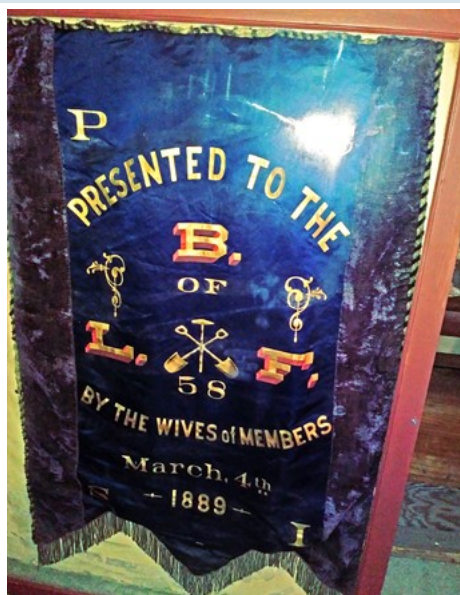
balls and events to raise money for the B of LF & E. These women were known as the Ladies' Society of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers. They are featured in several Sacramento Bee, Pacific Bee, and Placer Herald newspaper articles, wherein authors detailed the impressive events they accomplished.

Some contributing members on the 'Ball Committee' and the 'Committee of Arrangements' are listed in an 1894 Sacramento Bee Article as: D.C. Ederle, J.M. Long, T.J. Farrell, H.W. Nothig, A.E. McCullough, C.M. Dugen, D.H. Pease, E.E. Greefley, F.J. Peacock, and W.B. Meyers. It is documented that they held an annual ball for at least sixteen years.

While these events saw over 250 guests in a single, extravagant night, the Ladies of the B of LF & E also partook in many other meaningful acts of support.

In 1889, they presented Lodge No. 58 with a hand-embroidered blue velvet banner, reading 'Presented to the B of LF '58 by the Wives of Members March 4th 1889'. It probably hung in the Masonic Hall for over 15 years, before gracing the Fireman's Hall in 1905.

The banner was almost lost to Rocklin, however, with the closing of the roundhouse and the destruction of Firemen's Hall in 1906. Located



Banner presented by the Ladies Society

on Rocklin's Front Street, Firemen's Hall cost \$8,000 to build and was known to be an impressive structure for its short time being.

According to the Placer Herald the fire tragedy left nothing of the substantial hall, save a piano. Even the San Francisco Examiner reported on the destruction of the hall, claiming that it totaled \$11,000 in damage.

Rocklin Historical Society member Mike Clark began to uncover the buried wreckage of the hall in 2013, finding a seal stamper used by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, who probably shared the building with the firemen (see page 3).

Recently, over 100 years after the loss of Rocklin's Firemen's Hall, the Ladies' banner for Lodge No. 58 was discovered at Roseville's Carnegie Museum, where it was presumed to be a part of Roseville's local history. This may be because Lodge No. 58 moved after railroad work became scarce in Rocklin, which would have taken place in the same year that they lost their Hall. The Sacramento Bee reported in 1907 that a new Ladies' Society for locomotive firemen was formed somewhere locally. Rocklin's Hall was never rebuilt, because the railroad ceased to provide jobs in the area. Whatever the case, the Board members of the Roseville Historical Society generously donated the banner to the Rocklin Historical Society, with urgings from Sharlee Falzerano.

Now, the banner can reside once again at its true place of origin. This represents a victory in the efforts of several Rocklin Historical Society members to piece back together the 'lost' history of Rocklin's honorable Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.

Rocklin's first female mayor

By Charlene Rhodes

Frances (Fannie) Imogene Smith was born in 1857 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smith (Helen Marie Gates). Samuel was born in England and came to New York as a young man and then moved to San Francisco in 1864. His family joined him several years later and they ultimately settled in Sacramento, where he held the office of public administrator of Sacramento County. Fannie and her siblings, Lillian, Samuel and Nellie grew up in Sacramento.

Fannie attended public schools in Sacramento and graduated from Howe's College. She was a teacher in the Sacramento school system until her marriage to widower John T. Whitney on June 27, 1883. John was a cousin to J. Parker Whitney, owner of Spring Valley Ranch in Rocklin. Their daughter, Helen Beatrice Whitney was born on October 18, 1886. Known as Beatrice, she married Glenn Ross of Rocklin in 1905 and died that year from peritonitis and is buried in Sacramento.

For a while, John was manager of the Spring Valley Ranch but he later acquired two ranches of his own, one was their home. From his nursery came much of the stock planted in the southeastern part of Placer

County. He set out the first four acres of naval oranges, which Fannie and her assistants cultivated and from which the first ripe navel oranges in the county were marketed. John died in 1912 and is buried in Sacramento.

During her marriage, Fannie entered heartily into her husband's business affairs and became an experienced horticulturist. After John's death, she was well prepared to conduct the business of the two ranches they owned. The home ranch was known as "The Gables" in Rocklin and "The Heights" a 35-acre deciduous orchard near Penryn. The Gables was destroyed by fire in 1930 and was located on what is now Third Street across from the baseball diamonds.

Fannie was very interested in the business and political affairs of her city. She was elected Mayor of Rocklin in 1916 and served for four years.

She belonged to the Congregational Church, the Ladies'



Aid Society; was president of the Red Cross and the Parent-Teacher Association of Rocklin.

Fannie died at age 78 on August 18, 1935 and is buried in Sacramento.

WOMAN ELECTED TRUSTEE AT ROCKLIN

ROCKLIN (Placer Co.), April 11. For the first time in its history Rocklin elected a woman for City Trustee yesterday, Mrs. Fannie I. Whitney being the lucky one.

Mrs. Whitney is the daughter of S. E. Smith of Sacramento for many years Public Administrator of Sacramento County.

Mrs. Whitney is a successful orange grower.

The city officials elected are: Trustees, B. Nelson, L. E. Delano and Mrs. Fannie I. Whitney; Clerk, J. H. Gregory; Treasurer, M. B. Moore.

Rocklin stakes a claim in Gold Rush history

Woman instrumental in discovery of gold

By Gloria Beverage

Not only is this the story of Rocklin's connection to the discovery of gold in California, but it is also the story of the woman instrumental in initiating the '49er Gold Rush.

The "Wimmer nugget," believed to be the piece of gold that started the California Gold Rush, was found by James Marshall, superintendent in charge of a sawmill project on the South Fork of the American River in January 1848. Peter Wimmer, head of the construction crew building Sutter's sawmill, and his 6-year-old stepson, Martin Dickenson Bayes (Bays), were alongside Marshall when he plucked the pea-sized nugget out of the riverbed.

Initially, there was a great deal of skepticism among residents of the camp about Marshall's find. Many of the camp's residents scoffed at the discovery, arguing it was fool's gold (iron pyrite).

Wimmer, however, did not agree and he knew who could prove it. He sent Martin back to camp to deliver the nugget of precious metal to his wife. Jennie Wimmer was the only person (indeed, the only woman) in camp who had ever seen a nugget of placer gold. She had first-hand knowledge, growing up panning for gold in Georgia.

When interviewed by the San Francisco Bulletin in 1874, Jennie told the reporter she knew the nugget her son had handed her was gold and explained how she proved it.

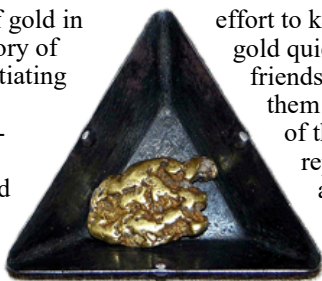
She had just finished making liquid lye soap – a task that involved leaching creek water through wood ashes and adding it to a pot of leftover cooking grease. Jennie knew she could prove that gold had, indeed, been discovered simply by submerging the nugget overnight in a vat of caustic potassium carbonate.

The next morning, when she showed the gold to Marshall and the other camp residents, the superintendent remained unconvinced. He took the nugget to Sutter's Fort where it was subjected to number of tests – in the end proving that Jennie Wimmer had been correct.

Some historians argue that Elizabeth Jane "Jennie" Cloud Bayes Wimmer not only helped start the Gold Rush, but she

may have been instrumental in initiating the Colorado Gold Rush.

Even though Sutter made every effort to keep the discovery of gold quiet, Jennie wrote to friends in Georgia alerting them to the discovery. One of the Wimmer children reportedly told a teamster about the discovery, who in turn, shared the news with a San Francisco newspaper owner.



Wimmer's nugget

Among the first gold-seekers to arrive weeks later was a group from Jennie's hometown in Lumpkin County. Enroute to California, the group stopped to prospect for gold in the Rocky Mountain region. Nearly 10 years later, they returned to the site and made the big strike that started Colorado's Gold Rush.

And the rest, they say, is history. Marshall held on to that pea-sized nugget for years, intending to turn it into a ring. Eventually, he decided to give the nugget to Jennie Wimmer, reported Steven Lavoie in an article "Wimmer's Nugget."

The woman some historians believe should receive credit for the discovery of gold grew up in Georgia and moved to Virginia after her marriage to Obediah Baiz (Bays). Her first born, Martin Dickenson Baiz, was the youngster who delivered the famous piece of gold to his mother.

The Baiz family later moved to Missouri and became farmers. Sadly, Obediah died three years later at the age of 25.

In 1844, at the age of 22, Jennie married Peter LaBoyteaux Wimmer, a neighbor whose wife had died of cholera the previous year. Wimmer had 5 children, while Jennie had two small children.

The blended family left Michigan in 1845 traveling with a party of 84 Missouri immigrants and arriving six months later at Sutter's Fort, just days ahead of the arrival of the ill-fated Donner-Reid Party.

Initially, Peter and his older sons went off to fight in the Mexican War, leaving Jennie and the younger children at Sutter's Fort. After he was severely injured in an accident, Wimmer returned to Sutter's Fort and was hired to oversee the construction of a sawmill.

The Wimmers left Coloma shortly after the gold discovery – moving to different locations throughout California. Peter Wimmer died in San Luis Obispo County in 1892. Jennie, died at age 63 in 1885, and is buried in a pioneer cemetery in San Diego.

Wimmer's nugget is now in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

And Rocklin's connection to the discovery of gold?

Martin Baiz, the child who delivered the first nugget of gold to his mother, moved to Placer County as a young adult. According to www.ancestry.com he resided with the W. Dana Perkins family from 1860 to 1865 and served as deputy tax collector in Placer County's District 1. Dana Perkins was a prominent citizen in Placer County, and owned, among other businesses, an olive ranch in Rocklin. Read more about Mr. Perkins in the [Fall 2020 Quarry Quarterly](#) (pg. 5).

Baiz was 26 when he married Sarah Minerva Rawles on Jan. 14, 1866 in Rocklin. Three years later, he was mysteriously shot to death while standing in the doorway of their Newcastle home on March 27. His daughter, Lucy Bays, was born in August in Rocklin; she only lived for 14 days.



Sarah Minerva Rawles

Baiz's widow was 19 when she married Peter Clark Young in Rocklin in 1869. Their daughter, Minerva Jane, was born in 1873 in Rocklin. Young died at the age of 56 in 1885 in Truckee.

Big Day of Giving
MAY 6

Our town, circa 1947: Bottomley's General Store

By Gene Johnson

Bottomley's General Merchandise store was the grocery store on our West side of the tracks. At some point the venerable Trott's Hotel and the adjacent Newspaper Office had been reborn as a general store. In my time the store was a family affair; Jim and Mary Bottomley ran the store and Jim's father, "Pop" Bottomley, delivered groceries with a small flat bed truck. Aside from groceries, general merchandise included necessities like chicken feed and Levis that were stacked together in the side room.

My Father delivered dairy products to three Rocklin grocery stores. When he arrived at Bottomley's store he greeted Jim with "How are you doing?" Jim's response was always: "Fine and I'm Doing the Easy Ones Twice - know anything new?" Dad would reply, "Price of eggs is up."

That was it. I recall that one of my early tasks was to sit on the store floor and mark prices on canned goods with a wax pencil while Dad completed his delivery.

Some Rocklin fun was not always so innocent. Pre 1950, recycling was serious business - soda and milk bottles were dependably returned to stores in return for deposit money and to be cleaned and reused. Jim Bottomley kept returned empty bottles outside behind the store.

This is not a first-hand account, but it is based on reliable sources: Some of the boys were into recycling - in fact multi-cycling. Practice was to stealthily obtain bottles from their storage area and present them at the front of the store for deposit money. I often wonder if Jim knew of the ploy but let it happen.

As I remember, Mom and Pop Bottomley lived next to the store in a house covered with black tarpaper, I am not sure of Jim and Mary's home but it was likely the second story above the store. Shortly after they added liquor to their offerings*, they built the nicest new house in town - it is now the preschool at 2nd St and Rocklin Road.

(Small world note: By pure happenstance, after arriving from Canada, my wife, Marg, shared a Sacramento apartment with a girl from Rocklin - it was Jim's daughter, Sally - thankfully Sally provided a passing recommendation for me - the rest is 56 years of history.)

*Footnote: Doing background research, our fantastic QQ editor, Linda Wampler, found an article that, now, leads one to the conclude that the most likely source of funds for the new home (and a new liquor display case) was a sizeable inheritance received by Pop Bottomley's wife, Louisa. Sac Bee 8 Feb 1955 article attached. Note: As the groom, in more than one sense of the word, James Bottomley senior (Pop) tended to, his future wife's father's horses.



Above: Mary and Jim Bottomley announce their retirement in October, 1970.

Below: an article appearing in The Sacramento Bee, February 5, 1955 about the surprise inheritance

Woman Spurned By Family Wins Fortune Rights

Superior Judge J. O. Moncur today recognized the right of Mrs. Louisa J. Bottomley to administer the \$101,321 family fortune she was cut off from years ago. The money was left by a half sister she had not seen in 52 years.

Because of her age, Mrs. Bottomley, 78, asked the judge through her lawyer, Albert E. Sheets, to name the Bank of America to administer the estate in her stead. In doing so the judge removed Mrs. Clara Reichmuth as administrator, appointed at a time when it was thought the half sister, Mrs. H. G. Stevenson, Jr., left no immediate heirs.

Climax To Discovery

It was a climax to the chance discovery that Mrs. Bottomley, of Rocklin, Placer County, was living and was the long forgotten sister of Mrs. Stevenson.

Mrs. Bottomley said she was banished from the fashionable San Francisco family circle of her parents and sister when she married her father's groom, James C. Bottomley, now a carpenter.

She never again heard from her sister, a reigning beauty of the day, and her parents whose wealth came from a stable of race horses and a cosmetics firm.

Left No Will

Mrs. Stevenson, a widow, died in Sacramento last July 19th without leaving a will. Two cousins in Milwaukee, Wis., showing an interest in the estate and knowing the whereabouts of Mrs. Bottomley, told her about her half sister's death.

The attorneys for Mrs. Reichmuth, Devlin, Diepenbrock & Wulff, conceded Mrs. Bottomley's right to administer the estate.

Judge Moncur's order clears the way for legal formalities which are expected to result in a substantial part of the estate being awarded to Mrs. Bottomley.

Locals remember Bottomley's Fondly



Bottomley's Store by artist Margaret McDonell hangs in the museum

Jim and Mary were the best ever! My Mother and Dad traded there, My brother and I spent a great deal of time there.

One Saturday Morning, a knock came on the door and it was Jim Bottomley holding my little brother, David, in his arms with a candy bar! He brought him home to 4th St. David was always resourceful and knew where the candy store was and beat it down there while everyone was asleep!

They had the best hotdogs in the cold case and you could eat them raw or cook them on the bonfire! The rustic look and the wood floors were awesome. The Bottomley's yard was always wonderful to walk by as it was always well kept and if Jim and Mary were out there, there were always greetings exchanged. Those were memorable great days in Rocklin!

-Stan Hutala

We boarded our horses at 2nd & C, and would ride down the alley to Bottomley's every Saturday for penny candy. Mr. and Mrs. Bottomley were wonderful to the kids who came in. I remember the creaky wood floor fondly.

-Connie Robbins Nord

When we were kids that was the local hangout for us. We'd ride our horses there and hang out all day. I miss those days.

-Vicky Ruffner

My grandparents lived across the street from them and I remember going into the store and the wooden floor. Every year at Halloween they always had a big chocolate bar for us.

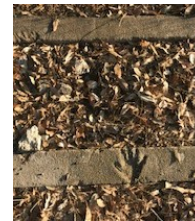
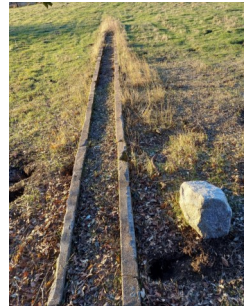
-Patty Batt

James and Mary were wonderful people! We lived just a few houses away on Second Street, so we were in there often. I'm still amazed at all we could get there for \$.25! A soda, package of Twinkies, gum and quite a bit of penny candy.

-Chandra (Darling) Roman

Shopped there for years when we were first married. Later, my three-year-old daughter was mad at me and decided to run away--asked her where she was going. She said "to Mary and Dim's." She couldn't pronounce Jim, and Mary and Jim Bottomley were always nice to her. She had her red wagon all packed.

-Gay Morgan



MYSTERY PLACE



If you have ever walked around Johnson-Springview Park, over by Huff Spring and behind Gene Johnson's house, you may have seen this issue's Mystery Place. It is the remains of the Spring View Dairy milking barn that Gene Johnson's father built in 1940. It burned as a result of a grass fire about 40 years ago. And now you can probably guess that the handprint belongs to a young Gene!

If you have an interesting historical mystery location you would like to share, let us know at quarryquarterly@gmail.com

Where is this issue's Mystery Place?

To find out, see page 12.



The one-hour Historic Front Street Walks every second Saturday have continued throughout the pandemic observing all safety measures. One walk was conducted for one very special lifetime member in December. Only one scheduled walk was cancelled due to inclement weather. Thus, while our museum had been closed we were able to introduce Rocklin history to folks in our "outdoor museum."

We invite you to meet at 12noon any second Saturday at Old St.Mary's Chapel. Invite others. It's fun. It's free. To reserve a place phone or text Jim Carlson at 916-624-0682

Special Lady

By Gay Morgan

The year was 1922 which incidentally was the year Rocklin experienced a 7.3 earthquake, as well as the birth of this cute little girl.

She shares a birthday with Abraham Lincoln so her real first name is Abra. We all know her as LaVerne Willard McGrath Splan. She was one of the founding members of the Rocklin Historical Society and served as our first Treasurer. By now you've done the math and realize she celebrated her 99th birthday last February.

Naturally this very special occasion called for cards, phone calls, emails as well as cake, ice cream, flowers and for some unknown reason, Krispy Kreme donuts.

I've known La Verne all my life (we're cousins) and thought I knew all about her fascinating life. La Verne joined the Marines in WWII, which I thought was very brave. (I was 15 or 16 and pictured explosions and guns.) In reality, she trained as a cook. A good one and she still is.

She married a fellow Marine and subsequently lived in places like San Francisco, Washington D.C, Pakistan, Taiwan, and Greece (I may have forgotten some.) None of those places was anything like her small- town California home, but she was a good sport, smiled and made friends even though she gave birth to one of her sons during a typhoon when all the windows of the hospital were blown out. (I'd say she was a *really* good sport.) When they were transferred to Florida. they arrived in the middle of a hurricane and the police told them it was too dangerous to be out on the road and took them to safety.

I've always thought someone should write a book about the McGrath family and their adventures. Glancing through some of her e-mails, I saw a reference to White House Dinners. I had to know, NOW.

She told me they had attended some receptions and award ceremonies. This time she was seated near the wall enjoying the people watching when a blond lady came over to her and said, "Look at all those 'little black cocktail dresses' you and I are wearing the same shade of blue." They chatted for a while and then Mrs. Nixon said she had enjoyed the visit and they should have lunch sometime. Unfortunately, she never called.

Earlier La Verne had an encounter with first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. She had come to thank them for volunteering and creating opportunities for young women. Laverne said Mrs. Roosevelt was an impressive speaker, gracious, sincere and kind. There are many other stories to tell, Like the nomads on camels taking her young son Joe with them. Luckily his Father was able to get him back.

While in Pakistan, they celebrated St. Patrick's Day. The McGrath's always honored the family's Irish Heritage in a big way and this particular year would be extra special because



Laverne Willard

guests from America were coming to dinner.

Excellent cook that she is, she outdid herself. The guests said it was the best corned beef and cabbage they had ever had. She did not tell them that the corned "beef" they enjoyed was buffalo hump.

While in Greece on their way to attend an Embassy party their car was stopped by an angry group of anti-American protesters who pounded and shook the car. They were rescued by a group of pro-Americans, and LaVerne admits to being really scared.

At long last the family returned to Rocklin and became your typical suburban family. La Verne loved to cook and entertain, and the extended family was treated to some memorable holiday get-togethers. (We still talk about them.) She liked to play Bridge and played in several groups. As mentioned before, she was the first Treasurer of the Historical Society. She seems very content to be back home in Rocklin.



LaVerne Willard McGrath Splan

What's Growing?

By Sally Huseby
Garden Coordinator

The sound of baby birds peeping, the sight of beautiful blooming red bud and pear trees, seeing hummingbirds flitting through new growth of young trees, are all signs of recovery from the past two years. We can now look forward to getting out in our communities, gathering with

friends and family to enjoy the beauty of our second season in the new year, the perfect time to enjoy walks in St. Mary's Chapel gardens, which are filled with color during the spring.



Photo by Holly Clark

New mural inspired by historic photo

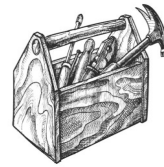


With the help from the Rocklin Historical Society, Rocklin's Parks and Recreation Art Task Force partnered with Wide Open Walls and spray-paint artist John Horton to create the new mural overlooking the Capitol Quarry (now Quarry Park).

The historical society provided several photos and the Art Task Force selected the one below to ensure that the mural's design is true to the history of Rocklin. The mural is based on a historic quarry photo from the late 1800s, but with a modern twist.

The photo, seen below, shows quarry workers loading granite onto a cart at Hathaway's Quarry. This was originally the Brigham and Hawes Quarry, begun in 1864 and located on the west side of Pacific Avenue. Today it is the site of Deer Creek Park.

Identified in the picture are Don Grant, standing on the wagon, as well as Mr. Hathaway and John Lonegran, Sr., who are loading granite onto the wagon.



Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

By Jim Hammes

The Fix It Team remains shuttered as far as group projects or activities.

We will most likely maintain this status until the time comes when there is a more relaxed and approved designation to a safe level of social interactions as advised from those overseeing the Virus environment.

We continue to stay in contact to monitor and address needs brought to our attention as best we can ...

There seems to be more optimism amongst the Health directors with the ongoing and increased use and availability of the much needed vaccine.

So ... for now ... our project planning and scheduling will remain in the discussion phase.

We look forward to the time we can all be together once again doing the work we all enjoy as a collective Team.

Let's All ... Be Well - Stay Safe - Remain Vigilant and Aware of the need to respect the Virus and the conditions it poses to our ability to overcome and get to a New Normal.

Old St. Mary's Chapel news

By Nancy Lohse



After the crazy year we've had at the chapel, Spring is finally here and couples are lining up to march down the aisle at the chapel. Covid restrictions are still in place including limited attendance and required masks. While wanting to continue the celebrations, our priority remains to keep clients and church ladies safe and healthy.

In April, we hope to restart our Wednesday night tours. This all depends on local mandates and vaccinated church ladies.

Some of you have asked about our little Honey Bunny that, if you are lucky, you will see hopping about in the chapel garden. While at the chapel one day, I ran into Linda who lives nearby and has been feeding the bunny on a regular basis. We have no idea where Honey came from but she's found a home at Heritage Park.

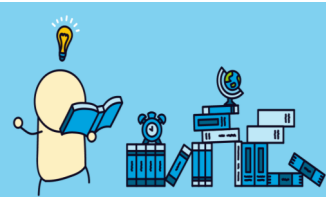
Please take time to visit Heritage Park this spring. Everything is in bloom and the park is beautiful!

Our Fix-it Team will be working with the city to get the fountain rolling again.

On June 19th, Friends of the Library will be having a book sale on the patio. Put it on your calendar! Look out for more information as we get closer to the date.

Research tool added to RHS website

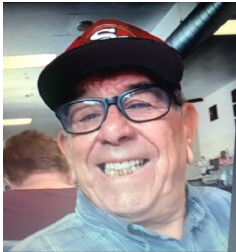
Recently, past issues of the Quarry Quarterly have been added to the website and an index has been developed. This index will be updated every time an issue is published. The index includes the keyword, followed by the issues in which it occurs. For instance, if the keyword is followed by Su12 (7); F20(8), that means it will be found in two issues: Summer, 2012, page 7; and Fall, 2020, page 8. We hope you find this useful! Please contact the QuarryQuarterly@gmail.com if you see an error, omission, or suggestion.





Raymond "Poncho" Benitez 5-22-41 to 2-20-2021

Raymond Benitez was born to Guillermo and Mary Benitez on May 22, 1941 and passed away on February 20, 2021 from complications of Covid-19.



Raymond, more commonly known as Poncho was a life-long resident of Rocklin, attending Rocklin Elementary School and later graduating from Roseville High School in 1960.

Poncho worked at Tardy's Market and at the Tardy family ranch. He worked at Gayaldo's White Spot Laundromat. He liked helping people. For a time, he was a sanitation engineer, and he rode on the back of the truck. He made new friends and learned more about the Rocklin he loved. But most of all he was extremely proud of being a Volunteer Fireman and served in this capacity for many years.

When he wasn't working, he raised birds, tended his garden, went fishing or rode his bike. If anything was going on in town, Raymond and his bike were there. He would usually offer to help. He loved talking with people and had many stories to tell about the Rocklin he loved.

He is survived by sisters and brothers: Betty, Marietta, Linda, Juanita, Herman, Joaquín and Billy. Many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will miss him, as will old Rocklin.

**Big
Day of
Giving
MAY 6**

Gilbert Carreras 6-29-1946 to 2-2-2021

Gilbert Carreras was born to Aurelia and Carlos Carreras on June 29, 1946 in the town of Penryn, Ca. He was their ninth child, the youngest of seven brothers. There were four sisters.

Gilbert, sometimes called "Vet", spent his whole life in Rocklin. He attended Rocklin Elementary School and Roseville High School.

After High School Gilbert worked at many jobs but it wasn't until he devoted his life to God and the Church that he found what he was meant to do. He walked all over town talking to people, handing out Bibles, collecting food and money to help needy people.

As a young boy he and his friends loved swimming in the Quarries, frogging, and wandering the fields and hills in the town.

He liked people, liked to make them laugh. He enjoyed good food, dancing to "oldies", watching sports on television and being with friends. His many sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends will miss him dearly.



Gilbert enjoying a Rocklin Elementary School reunion



Nathan Quok

Nathan Quok, resident of Rocklin (1959-1974) passed away on December 30, 2020 at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Crystal, and their daughters Devon and Kalyn.

Nathan delighted in sharing his childhood stories to explore the area of growing up on South Whitney Blvd. Riding his dirt bike everywhere and exploring endless fields and creeks. The Rocklin of years past was a haven for mischievous boys such as himself, to explore the vast area endlessly.

His parents, Jane and Francis Quok along with sisters Deborah and Yvonne embraced the community, not just as residents but as local merchants. They owned Placer Market on the corner of Pacific Street and Pine for 15 years. The Rocklin of yesterday was a small community of families bonded through work, family life and cultural diversity. A wonderful and memorable impression of a town that Nathan so dearly loved throughout his life.

A celebration of life will be held on June 19th at 4 p.m. 2795 Crosby Herold Road Lincoln, CA 95648

(Our sincere thanks to Crystal Quok who wrote the article above)

Remembering Mr. Kinder

Gay Morgan

Frequently people who grew up in Rocklin back in the fifties, sixties and seventies recall their school days. They talk about the friendliness of the students, teacher and staff. They made life-long friends there. They often tell about their favorite teacher, the one who made a difference in their lives.

Often that teacher is Bob Kinder, who sadly passed recently. He was a soft-spoken, calm man who taught for many years at Rocklin Elementary. I knew him first as a co-worker and later he was my children's teacher.

Math was his main subject but also coached the basketball teams and taught photography. His hobby was flying and he even took some students up in his plane. I am aware of several students who fly as adults and who seriously pursue photography as a hobby.

In retirement Bob still flew and when he reached a milestone birthday, he parachuted from a plane to celebrate and did it again the next year to prove a point. The quiet, serious teacher was now driving a shiny fire-engine red convertible. Who knew? He was such a nice man and a wonderful teacher.



Bob with Barbara Morillas Belche, Charlene Rhodes, Phil Napshaw and Shirley Corral Espley taken at the 2018 Rocklin Reunion.



Keep in touch with RHS

Following us, and "liking" our posts will help spread the word about us. Stay connected!



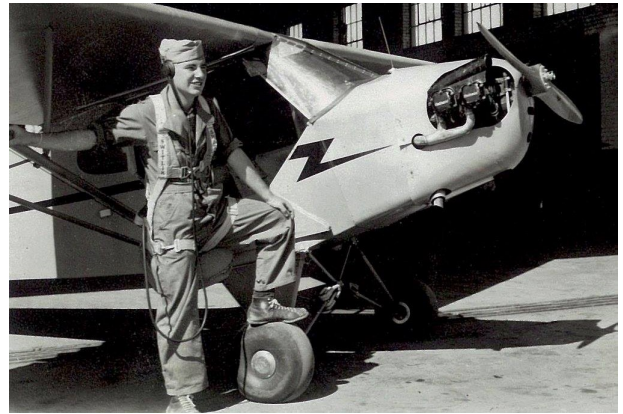
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In 1943 Bob began his service in the U. S. Army Air Corps where he learned to fly and navigate. He taught Science, Math and coached sports at Rocklin Elementary School from 1957 until 1983.

Charlene Rhodes
1961 Rocklin Elementary School graduate

Mr. Kinder was my 7th and 8th grade teacher. He was a great teacher and a very nice person. Years ago we reconnected and I had many visits with him and his wife Natalie. He loved looking at old school photos and talking about former students and staff. I was able to scan some of his school photos and install them on his computer, he loved having the photos to share with others. He insisted I call him Bob and after a while I felt comfortable doing so, we were friends now not teacher/student. He shared stories of his military service and his love of flying. We shared our love of genealogy and he had amazing family stories to share, as a son, father and grandfather.

Kathie Nippert

In 68-69 I had Mr. Kinder for Math and Social Studies at Rocklin Elementary School. I loved to hear his stories and his airplane adventures. It was so nice to see him at our Homecoming Reunions. He was a dear man who will be remembered fondly.



Bob, shown here in 1976 with his father, joined the El Dorado County Sheriff's Air Squadron in 1975 flying search and rescue mission until 1990. He also joined the Flying Samaritans in 1979 and flew doctors, dentists and other medical professionals throughout Baja Mexico providing free medical treatment and setting up a few medical or dental clinics.



What was this Mystery Item from the Winter 2020 Quarry Quarterly? It's PPE for firefighters! This mask can be found in Rocklin's Hose

Company #1 and City Hall on Front Street.



MYSTERY PLACE

The items seen in the Mystery Place on page 7 are the ripened olives scattered on the grounds of the museum. They come from the old olive tree planted there.

According to Shirley Espley, the tree was here long before the house became our museum. She thinks it was likely planted by the Moon family.

Spain is the world's largest producer of olive oil. It is no wonder that the Spanish settlers brought the olive to Rocklin, which remained popular for home processing.

The olives are normally harvested in the fall when they are still green. A few locals still carry on this tradition.

In finding out about the olives on the museum grounds, I came up with more questions than there is room to answer here. Look forward to a future issue to find out more about this transplanted tradition.



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.

The Rocklin Heritage Fund at the Placer Community Foundation supports the Rocklin Historical Society.

Placer Community FOUNDATION

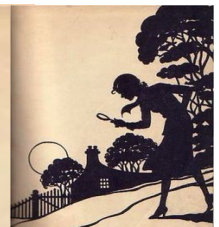
Local giving. Lasting value.



Anna Diaz Rodriguez de Moon in Hawaii, 1912, who likely planted the olive trees after arriving in Rocklin.



MYSTERY PLACE



Stairway to nowhere?

Do you know where these stairs are located? Where do they lead? Find out in the next issue of the Quarry Quarterly.



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