

President's Message

Hank Lohse



As the Rocklin Historical Society rolls into Summer with multiple 100-degree days and a hopeful belief that Covid19 is in our rear-view mirror, we are excited to get back to normal. The Church Ladies are buzzing right along by reopening the Chapel on Wednesday nights for perspective couples to choose that special day for their wedding. Business looks to be picking up.

The Fix-It Crew is also busy. They had their first breakfast meeting last Tuesday morning going over what was left on their "To Do" list and deciding what needs to be added and what needs to be dropped. If you know of any items that should be added or you would like to join the Fix-It Crew contact Jim Hammes (916-303-3056).

The Museum Committee, who meets on the first Monday of the month, has a new face at the helm. Susan Brooking is taking over control from David Baker. We all know that Susan will do a great job. She is one of the few people that can 'read' the grain of a piece of granite. The museum is always looking for Docents. If you would like to join the team (we train you) call Gay Morgan (916-624-2355).

Coming up later in the summer will be Cool Cars and Hot Chili which is the

(See PRESIDENT, pg. 6)

Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Summer, 2021

Kathie Nippert believes in the importance of volunteering

Recipient of 2021 Ruhkala Pioneer Award

By Gloria Beverage

In the spirit of the classic movie line, "build it and they will come," Kathie Nippert responded to a Placer Herald newspaper article in 2000 announcing plans for a history museum.

"I knew I wanted to get involved," Kathie recalled. "I immediately felt welcomed by Rueben Ruhkala, Roy Ruhkala, Connie Gayaldo, Hortence Morillas and Barbara Corral.

"Roy took me under his wing and taught me a lot about Rocklin history and the importance of volunteering," she continued. "I hit the ground running."

Initially, she was treasurer during the construction of the museum. Over the next 20 years, the 2021 Ruhkala Pioneer Award recipient served as secretary, newspaper editor and vice president. And, Kathie proudly points out, she was president during the construction of the replica of Rocklin Hose No. 1 on Front Street.

Not only did she serve on the board of directors, but Kathie was also one of the first docents for the history museum.

"I loved hearing the stories of early Rocklin and the families that had lived and worked here," she continued. "The quarries have always fascinated me. I remember going to the dump that used to be Delano's Quarry."

In an effort to celebrate the history of the community she has known since she was 10 years old, Kathie participated in annual elegant Ladies'

(See NIPPERT, pg. 2)



The long journey of a new plaque honoring Capitol Quarry



Society's Plaque Team: David Baker, Gene Johnson, Royce Ann Burks, Diane Bell, Joanne Lawson, Bonnie Neumann and Candy Donnell (not pictured)

By David Baker

There is a great tradition of erecting historical markers and plaques in the City of Rocklin. Dr. James Carlson conducted a survey in 2018 where a total of 28 brass and stone markers were photographed with latitude/longitude coordinates documented. Three more plaques, anticipated by Dr. Carlson, including the Alexson-Wickman Quarry, the Wickman-Ruhkala Home Quarry, and most recently, the Capitol Quarry have been added since his survey. The Johnson

Spring View Dairy and the Copp's Quarry are under consideration for future markers.

Our latest project was a long time in coming; it started with an idea by Gene Johnson about the importance in remembering the historic Capitol Quarry cutting shed that was torn down by the City of Rocklin in 2017. Before deconstruction of the shed, the Rocklin Historical Society proposed a historical plaque and City Manager Horst agreed to install the proposed marker on the Quarry Park lawn, overlooking the quarry

(See PLAQUE, pg. 3)

Take a tour of Front Street

By Dr. Jim Carlson

The second Saturday walks began five years ago. They started at Finn Hall, went to the Chapel, and ended at the museum.

For the past two years the walk has changed to the Front Street History Walk. We have had as many as 26 and as few as zero walkers. We were able to continue the walks during covid restrictions with masks and social distancing. So our outdoor museum has been continuously open. We have had an array of walkers - students, new residents, historians, RHS Board members, and old Rocklin family members --all of whom contribute so much to the experience.

I call our Front Street and roundhouse site a treasure chest with Native American, Chinese, Spanish, Finns and Irish immigrants of the 19th century.

On our June 12 walk we had a "bonus". When the tour ended at 1 pm. Those who chose to stay had a wonderful tour of the "mystery building" near the Amtrak station. It is the large, attractive stucco structure that faces Rocklin Road and has no markings. It turns out to be a storage site for numerous theatrical organs. Ed Stout, Dick Taylor and his wife maintain and repair the theater organs, many of which are from famous venues of the past, for example, the Fox Theatre from San Francisco. The stories Ed related of the stars who appeared and played at these venues were delightful. I could almost hear the sounds of the CBS studio organ from old radio days.

Visits are by appointment only. Feel free to phone or text me at 916-624-0682 to reserve a place on our second Saturday regular walks starting at 12 noon at the Chapel.

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

Sunday Teas at the Museum featuring vintage china service, teas and finger foods, played a role in the psychic cemetery tours each Halloween and dressed in period costume for the City's 125th Anniversary parade. She also joined other Rocklin Historical Society women in presenting the popular Voices of the Passed programs that featured prominent women sharing stories of life in early Rocklin.

Nancy Lohse, another longtime Rocklin Historical Society volunteer, admires Kathy's "let's get it done spirit." "She was always there to keep us on task," Nancy recalled. "Definitely the go-to person for proofreading! I miss having her around to count on."

As a young girl, Kathie said she would ride her bike to attend Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Church in its original location on Front Street. As an adult, she became a founding member of SS Peter and Paul Church and joined the Ladies Guild -- modeling at their fashion shows and volunteering at rummage sales, bake sales and dinners.

Rocklin Friends of the Library President Getta Dolinsek first met Kathie through their volunteer work at SS Peter and Paul, then got to know her better while volunteering at city events and her participation with the Rocklin Friends of the Library.

"What impressed me most was her ac-

tive involvement in the Rocklin community even when she was working," Getta recalled. "She was always friendly and positive. You could tell she loved being a part of the Rocklin community."

Kathie graduated from the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce's Leadership program and volunteered at numerous city events, including the Rocklin Jubilee, Hot Chili, Cool Cars annual event, the holiday tree lighting ceremony and the Girlfriends, Glamour and Glitz event at Thunder Valley Casino.

She was a member of the city's Front Street Historic Committee, serving as liaison for the Rocklin Historical Society.

A graduate of Parker Whitney, Rocklin Elementary and Oakmont High School as well as Sierra College, Kathie had a varied work career. She started out with Western Electric, AT&T and then retired from Lucent Technologies in 2001. She became a PE aide at Rocklin Elementary for two years, then drove a rural mail carrier route in Newcastle for two years.

In 2005, she joined Sequoia Pacific Builders, Inc., the company that constructed the building now home to Rocklin's Library.

"I took Carol and John Peterson on tours of the building as it was being constructed," she said. "It was very exciting to see the hopes and dreams of the (Rocklin) Friends materialize into the beautiful library we have."

Since retiring in December 2020,

Kathie now splits her time between Salem, Oregon and Jacksonville, North Carolina so she can spend time with her daughters and two (soon to be 3) grandchildren. And she's looking forward to more trips abroad.

One of her greatest delights is her collection of Hummel figurines. "I have been collecting figures for 45 years and have traveled to Germany to tour the factory where they are made," she said. "Part of my collection has been on display at the Rocklin History Museum."

Kathie's dedication to preserving the city's history while immersing herself in volunteer work is evident in everything she has done for the past 20 years.

"Kathie has helped to make our city what it is today," explained Michele Vass, Rocklin Planning Commissioner and member of the Rocklin Friends of the Library. "That sense of pride we have when we say we're from Rocklin -- that hometown feeling -- that's because of Kathie and neighbors like her. Her passion for our community can be felt in everything she does."

"Giving back to your community is the most rewarding experience you can give yourself," Kathie wrote in her acceptance letter. "It is a great honor to receive the Pioneer Award. Roy and Peggy Ruhkala were friends and mentors. They showed me that family and community can exist together and that is what Rocklin is all about."



Eucalyptus grove at the Roundhouse site

A special thanks to the Fix-it team for using chain saws and sweat to clean up the roundhouse area following the early spring windstorms. And thanks to the Parks Department for picking it all up and hauling it away. The eucalyptus grove now looks attractive and inviting and opens new possibilities for this area. It has been noticed by folks on the monthly history walks as a newly discovered and beautiful place in our city.

-Jim Carlson

(PLAQUE, Cont. from page 1)



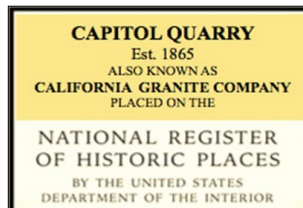
Photo used to produce the ceramic-metal image for recessing into granite

hole. It was thought that a large (5' x 5' x 9") black granite plaque would be needed to adequately complement this expansive setting.

The initial text, developed by Gene Johnson, included a brief history and listing the past quarry owners with company timelines. The plan was to include a large ceramic-metal image (20" x 24") of the historic cutting shed built by Adolf Pernu. Fortunately, an original high definition image was found of the 1910 structure; labels were added to identify the various features of the quarry. Even with this huge black granite slab, the wording had to be reduced as to accommodate the oversized font size required for sandblasted lettering to be readable. We considered adding a plate recognizing the quarry as a national historic place to the plaque, but decided to just mention this detail to honor the contributions of Rocklin quarry workers to the growth of California.

After much discussion on changes to the wording, a cost estimate of \$7,499.00 (including sales tax) was received from Paul Ruhkala of the Ruhkala Monument Company. The plaque was funded by the Historical Society and generous donations from the Pernu and Ruhkala family members. The Society made an initial payment to purchase a black granite "rough-back" slab that is polished only on one side. Paul and I traveled to the historic Raymond Quarry to make our selection.

We were treated to a short tour of the modern Raymond Quarry cutting shed. The nearby granite quarry stone is called "Sierra White," which is slightly lighter than Rocklin's "Sierra Grey." However, the slab that we were after is called "Academy Black Granite" from a quarry east of Clovis in Fresno County. Widely used for cemetery monuments, the stone is known in the industry as black granite, but its geological name is gabbro. Unfortunately we didn't have time to visit the Raymond Museum located nearby in the historic town of Raymond!



Several weeks later the selected slab arrived at the Ruhkala Monument Company for processing into our plaque. Paul's crew removed excessive material with a diamond saw and evened the rough edges on the top and sides of the slab using the traditional masonry technique called stone pitching. Chiseling was used, after sawing the surface, to form a shallow inset for the ceramic-metal image that was eventually cemented in place. Final lettering proof was approved prior to sandblasting the black-polished surface. A dedicated computer with proprietary software and attached cutter was employed to make the rubber-like mask for sandblasting the text. White litho-chrome paint was used to brighten up the lettering before removing the mask.



Large granite slabs for sale at Raymond Quarry, Madera County

Rocklin Parks and Recreation Department picked up the plaque and installed it at Quarry Park. The location selected is readily accessible to both Quarry Park and Quarry Park Adventures visitors, and provides an excellent view of the historic quarry site.

To the many people and organizations that contributed to the success of this project, thank you!

HERITAGE TRAIL 2021



Open to K-12 students, the Student Heritage Trail Scavenger Hunt 2021 is now underway! Visit our museum in person to pick up the form, or you can complete the scavenger hunt virtually! Each of Placer County's 18 participating museums has a question for you to search. Find the answers to at least 5 questions, and earn a chance to win a **Kindle Fire Tablet** or **Samsung Galaxy Tablet!**

For more information and instructions, click on the pull-down menu under "Scavenger Hunt" on our website, <https://rocklinhistorical.org/>. The scavenger hunt ends on September 5th. So get started now!

Good luck!



Note: Julia is a RHS volunteer and recipient of the 2019 Youth Ruhkala Award. A recent graduate of William Jessup with a degree in history, Julia will be attending McGeorge School of Law in the fall to study Water and Environmental Law.

By Julia Shohbozian

I will admit that I drove by the Belvedere several times without a second thought, and when I try to picture it, only a rather small and old white house comes to mind. A house with overgrown foliage that was obviously a remnant of a bygone era in Downtown Roseville. It wasn't until the Belvedere was destroyed that I learned about what it really was, and the story and people behind it. Isn't this sadly the case most of the time?

Thanks to archivist Sharalee Falzerano, though, I was enlightened. The Belvedere was formerly the Belvedere Hotel, built in 1917 by New York natives Alexander and Minnie Bell. Its original structure was of the Craftsman style, identified by its porches supported by simple square posts, long vertical window panes, and gabled roof. This architecture style is reminiscent of an era where California's neighborhoods were still just establishing themselves, welcoming new settlers to small towns. The Bells had this in mind when they built the Belvedere Hotel, so that they could host railroad workers that came to the area. Unfortunately, Minnie's health quickly declined, and she and Alexander only ran the Belvedere until 1920, when it changed hands. It would go through a series of owners, including Celinda Watson (1920-1939), Alice Pearson (1934-1943), and Myrtle Sprague (1943-1946). These owners are referred to as 'Ladies of the Belvedere', and each continued to oversee the Belvedere as both a home and a hotel.

Finally, in 1946, Pearl and Clyde Manring purchased the Belvedere after moving from Washington. The Manring family became a fixture of the burgeoning Roseville community, owning the Belvedere for nearly 60 years, until 2019. Then, daughter Delores, after leaving home for a time, returned in 1972 to help her widowed mother run the Belvedere. Delores never married and never had children, but left a different type of legacy. I think it is profound that she was an activist, planting a rose garden in front of the Carnegie library and

Should it stay or should it go?

The controversy of preservation vs. progress



An Oldsmobile Super 88 sits outside the Belvedere Hotel circa 1960.

fighting to protect the building that she so loved when it was threatened with demolition. It is with sad irony that the Carnegie Museum exists in part because of Delores, but her own historical home has now been destroyed.

Preserving things of historical significance has always been an integral part of the human experience, though we frequently lose touch with the importance of it. Many people in our community find themselves disconnected from the past, having no idea how and from whom Roseville or Rocklin came to be. A great way that the Rocklin Historical Society has combatted this is by offering local history tours to 3rd grade classes, with parents and families encouraged to return with their students to learn for themselves about the community.

I spoke at length with Historical Society member Susan Brooking. "The presence of the historical society is good on multiple-levels, the first level is that it is an introduction to some of the people who are interested in the town, the second is the town itself and what its history is," she says.

This effort is made possible by the existence of the Rocklin Historical Society Museum and other remaining historic buildings in Rocklin. Because they are



Could Whitney's carriage house have been saved? Should it have been?

preserved, these buildings are grounding forces in the community, helping people feel connected to where they are, whether they've lived here for 50 years or 5 years.

It is increasingly important that communities strive to keep and preserve the historic buildings that remain. It is much more difficult and costly to try to recreate history from scratch than it is to revitalize the history that has always been. "Realistically, I think we could do more with what is still here by preserving it," Susan continues.

Sadly, this is something that wasn't possible with the historic Belvedere Hotel for a variety of reasons. The main reason, though, was the inaction of the city council to protect our history, coupled with the financial gains found in new development. Says Susan, "The value of the property is all that anybody saw, and the family was not attached to it. So it's easy to understand what happened, though you wish that it didn't have to."

For those like me, which I'm sure many readers are, this is heartbreaking. Susan takes a more positive outlook, however, taking into the account that because the building was slated for demolition, its history was uncovered and can be saved. "Because the story lives, I'm okay with it," she says.

Because the family related to Delores Manring took no interest in keeping or preserving the Belvedere, it quickly fell into the hands of developers for profit.

This is really something to think about when we want to prevent the destruction of



Only a plaque remains where Whitney's mansion once stood.

things of historical value - who can and will step in to ensure their survival?

In Europe, historic homes and other establishments are intentionally passed on to family that will continue the stewardship of these important heritage sites. Here, however, each generation moves, leaving

(See VIEW pg. 5)

(VIEW, Cont. from page 4)

behind family ties in one area and starting with no ties to their new destination.

With this constant starting over, history is lost, as many have no motivation to preserve what is not connected to them personally. True lovers of history, though, do not discriminate based on personal significance. Take the late Oaks Mansion of Rocklin, for example. Lacking stewardship from family or community, it was razed by the then-owners to avoid paying the taxes! It is money, convenience, and wastefulness that take over when we lack ties to our past. So, we must think to ourselves about what can be done. As Susan says, "Preservation has to be a community effort."

This simple statement couldn't be truer. When historically significant properties aren't passed down to stewards, we have to come together as a community to save them. As a community force, those involved can make their voices heard to city councils and achieve preservation through work and fundraising done together.

One of the main arguments that a community might make in favor of preservation is the fact that historic buildings bring many advantages to the towns they inhabit. As Susan says, "You have to start with the people power and what it's going to do for the community, what value it's going to bring to the community."

Historical buildings raise the cultural heritage value of a town and bring beauty and richness

to the area around them. By doing this, they bring more people and interest to the establishments that surround them. Think- would you rather take a picture in front of the dime-a-dozen, boring, new constructions, or would you rather take a picture in front of a charming historic building? A building that uniquely speaks to where you are? The answer is obvious of course. It's not always development that grows a community. Sometimes it is the depth and richness of heritage to be found there. Front Street with Old St. Mary's Chapel, the Barudoni building, historic houses and the Roundhouse site is a perfect example.

Furthermore, if non-profits can work together in conjunction with communities, the force behind preservation is strengthened. Non-profits can bring stronger lobbying ability to both city councils and



The community pulls together to save old St. Mary's from demolition. Today it is a charming asset to Rocklin's landscape.



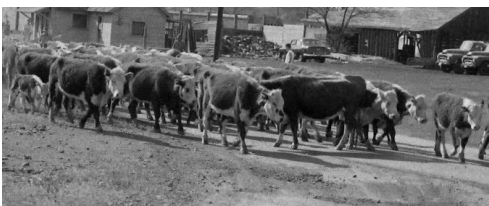
developers. This is because society must respect the initiatives of non-profits to preserve the humanities, which is relevant to things of historical significance.

Finally, shared initiatives like preservation are beneficial because they bring communities together and lead people to support each other. Finding mutual goals within a community helps residents to be interactive with their neighbors in a positive way, which is certainly something that we need more of. History helps us to remember our shared experience. And, when we value those who came before us and what they built and achieved, we find value in our own lives.

Things of historical significance that are preserved are a window to the past, an insight to a different era. They offer a way for us to physically visualize and be in touch with those that came before us. Susan believed that the Belvedere would have been interesting for its insight into the 1920's, and I couldn't agree more. We have so many reasons to continue to look to preserve, and so many reasons to support our historical societies and the amazing, heroic work they do.

Summer rip/ rap By gay morgan

- Years ago most Rocklin kids were told they shouldn't swim in the quarries but most Rocklin kids did anyway.



Rocklin cattle ranchers used to drive their herds down Rocklin Road taking them to mountain pastures. I can hear the dogs yipping at the herd's heels, the shouts of the cowboys and the soft, sleepy sounds of the cowbells. Some would continue all the way up old highway forty making drivers wait impatiently. Later, they would only take the herds to Pacific and Midas where the new corrals

kept them until they could be loaded on board railroad cars to be taken to their summer home.

- Happy 95th birthday to Betty Barkhurst who has been a member of RHS for many years.
- Kathie Rodman Nippert received a well deserved Ruhkala Award.
- Susan Brooking has taken over the leadership of the Museum Committee.
- Randy and Lisa Peters, long-time members and supporters of the Rocklin History Society, have opened a new restaurant at 105 Vernon Street in Roseville. It is called 105 Noshery. Randy Peters Catering Company has been responsible for many of RHS delicious events.



Betty Cullen, far left, with her cousins Gladys Hansen and Franklin & Paul Rethwell, sons of Gertrude Rethwell of Rocklin (c.1940)

105 NOSHERY
EAT • DRINK • REPEAT

Rocklin Montessori Preschool founder is also an author

By Linda Wampler

"The granite drew me to Rocklin." So says Elke McKee, founder of the Rocklin Montessori Preschool. Yes, granite was important to Elke's life, but what actually drew her to Rocklin was something else entirely, the love of children.

Elke opened Rocklin Montessori Preschool in 1995 after working for TWA for nearly 20 years. "During a strike with TWA," she explains, "I was out of work for a year and 3 months during which time I interned at a Montessori School in the Bay Area. I fell in love with teaching the Montessori Method and signed up for the training. Then I also fell in love with the children."

Moving from the Bay Area with her new husband, Tom, she found her perfect spot in Rocklin, a piece of property next to the Johnson home on 5th Street. "I found an ideal spot for a little school next to Johnson-Springview Park with a meadow of wildflowers for the children to play in."



Elke McKee with her new book His Story is My Story



Rocklin Montessori Preschool on 5th Street still thriving

It took quite a lot of labor and the help from Tom to make the preschool a reality. "We started to build an addition and soon found out we had to follow codes by getting the place zoned commercially and adding handicap accessibility. I never could have done it without the help of my husband. When I would say 'This is another hurdle I don't want to jump over,' Tom would say, 'How high do you want us to jump? We can do it!'"

The school, being located next to the

my travel experience by telling the children stories of many different countries and cultures in an effort to create tolerance and understanding for a more peaceful world." Among the many cultures students would learn about included Egypt, China, and countries in Africa.

Not only was Elke's career at TWA a window to the world, her early years also brought a unique perspective to the importance of teaching peace. She was born in 1944 during World War II in the small town of Demitz-Thumitz, near the Polish Czechoslovakian border. After the war, this area became part of Soviet occupied East Germany. At eleven, she and her mother escaped to West Germany, where she met her father for the first time. He had been imprisoned in a Soviet labor

(PRESIDENT, Cont. from page 1)

Rocklin Chamber of Commerce signature event of the year. RHS will have a booth, stop by and say "HI". Also, we are hoping to have our traditional Potluck Dinner in September, keep your fingers crossed.

The Big Day of Giving was May 6th and we received over \$2,000 from over 22 people both members and non-members. Thanks to all who contributed.

I am saddened to report that RHS lost several former members who had volunteered their time and energy over the years. Their obituaries are included in this Quarry Quarterly. They are: Thomas Sippola, John "Bill" Woods, Leland Johnson and George Schwartz.

On a brighter note RHS has awarded \$500 scholarships to 3 high school seniors. They are: Paige Sturgis of Rocklin High School, Ha Rin (Alicia) Cho of Whitney High School and Bita Beheshti of WSCA. Let's all wish them good luck next year as college students.



Children play in the wildflowers

Johnson's and to Springview Park, allowed the children to explore the world around them. Every year the wildflowers and grasses would grow up, sometimes so high the children could roll around and hide! This is when Leon "Shorty" Vincencio would step in. At Easter time, Shorty would mow a path all around the meadow, and the teachers would hide their Easter eggs along the path. It was a fun and exciting activity for the preschoolers.

Traveling the world during her career with TWA allowed Elke to bring the world to her students. "I was able to use



Shorty helps care for the meadow

camp for 10 years, finally being released in 1955. This experience shaped her entire future as someone who cherishes freedom and peace.

Being retired since 2011, Elke has devoted time to her art and to writing (see a

(See MONTESSORI, pg. 7)

...Sounds of Rocklin, *a continuing series*



Rocklin's Notorious Speed Trap

By Doug Osella

One of my memories in the 1950s when growing up in Rocklin was that of U.S. Highway 40, which ran right through town following the route where Pacific Street is today. It was a two-lane road that brought strangers to our town (in cars) from as far away as Frisco or Reno (In my small world these two places were the outer boundaries of the earth).

Rocklin was a quiet town, and when I got bored with the quietness, I would ride my bike to the edge and watch the steady traffic go by. On the weekends it amounted to watching the congestion creep by. (This road after all was the main highway from Sacramento and San Francisco to Lake Tahoe and Reno and back home again.) At a distance the highway gave off a kind of droning, background noise (good vibrations) to life, like bees around a rosemary bush. Closer up, one could hear the distinct sounds of motors humming, the hard to describe sound of tires on asphalt, the squealing of lumbering semis putting on their brakes, and then the revving up of their engines again to go through their gears as they proceeded onward. Once in a while there would be the un-muffled echo of a motorcycle. When I think back, Highway 40 was there when needed—day in and day out—to liven things up with action and sounds.

The reality for motorists when they arrived at our town was they had to slow down, or they'd be apprehended. I love the word apprehended. It reminds me of

the show *Highway Patrol* with Broderick Crawford, which I watched as a kid on our black and white TV. Anyway, the rule of the road was posted on official signs just inside the city limits: 25 mph.

I read in an 1987 newspaper article that Clarke Dominguez when running for reelection to the city council told a story about a truck driver he met while hitchhiking in 1953, who asked him if he knew of Rocklin—a “notorious speed trap”. The driver had been given three speeding tickets by Rocklin police. I also love the word notorious, especially when used to describe our mild, little town. The word brings back memories of old west towns such as Tombstone or Dodge City, which as a kid, I had learned a lot about by watching TV. The notorious frontier towns usually had a marshal and one deputy to keep law and order.

Rocklin had the chief of police and one deputy during the years when I was growing up. Their main duty was to enforce the law on that main thoroughfare, which seemed to need constant supervision. Besides, the officers earned money for the city by writing tickets so that new police cars could be purchased every couple of years, which kept the speed trap economy moving along.

The trap was always the same. Everyone knew the routine. It was a cool scene. The chief was parked by the side of the road with his motor ominously running. And the deputy was ready to haul on the other end of the city. I would ride to a safe spot to observe one of the two. I waited in



Although popular with the citizens and particularly the youth of Rocklin, strangers passing through town might not be so pleased if they were stopped for speeding by Police Chief Chuck Lucas.

anticipation like a fisherman waiting for a bite. It was a blast when the officer stepped on the gas—all fury broke loose—to chase down a speeding tourist. It was one of life's special moments to hear the V8 roaring and the rear tires spinning for traction—throwing gravel and dirt behind—before squealing on pavement. I don't remember a siren. I think it only took a red light mounted on the police car to tell the errant driver to move over, stop, and wait for the ticket.

The action was great on old U.S. 40, and it didn't slow down until President Eisenhower completed Interstate 80, which skirted our town.

(MONTESSORI, *Cont. from page 6*)

painting of her hometown on pg 12). It also led her to record and translate the stories of her father. She wove stories of her own life into his and the end result is *His Story Is My Story*, which is available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble.

So how did granite draw her to Rocklin? The quarries in Rocklin reminded of her childhood home. “It had the biggest Granite Quarries in all of Germany, and my grandfather was Quarry Master. When I saw the granite quarries in Rocklin, I was immediately attracted and I knew I found my forever home.”



Fall is when the children stop by the Johnson's house on their way to Huff's Spring and the Indian grinding stones. Says Gene Johnson, “Elke's, and now Dorothy's, Montessori school has been a wonderful neighbor. I remember my parents Ray and Florence Johnson were especially thrilled when the children came to the front door and sang for them at Christmas time; now we always enjoy seeing the kids playing in the nearby meadow.”



EASY AS 123

The Rocklin Historical Society is composed of citizens dedicated to the preservation of the history of the town of Rocklin and the surrounding area. These people are not just members in name only. They volunteer to do whatever needs to be done. They have renovated old buildings, the History Museum and Old St. Mary's Chapel, and continue to maintain them. They constructed a replica of the old Firehouse. Some portray characters of gone-by-days, others act as docents for school group and the general public. Displays need to be designed and changed for special events and holidays. Some serve as officers on the Board of Directors, another group writes and publishes our newsletter called the Quarry Quarterly. Help is needed with the many weddings and ceremonies held at the chapel. If you like to bake, refreshments are needed for holiday parties and special events. If you are too busy or have other responsibilities, you can help us monetarily. If you are new to Rocklin, join us and make new friends. If you have lived here for a long time, Come and meet old friends.

1 Ready: Choose an area you are interested in

- **Fix-it Team:** Sure, this group helps do maintenance jobs around the museum. But they also are involved in other interesting activities such as planning and installing historic plaques, promoting areas outside the museum (such as the firehouse, roundhouse, and artifacts currently housed at the city's corporation yard). Some ideas this group is interested in are restoring the Jubilee train, designing and promoting the roundhouse site, duplicating the Chinese community at the roundhouse site, and even moving and restoring the Big Gun Office building currently in the Corp Yard.
- **Museum Committee:** This group manages the day-to-day operations of the museum. They plan displays, special activities, docents, educational outreach, membership, communication, and much more.
- **Old St. Mary's Chapel:** Our beautifully restored chapel is available for weddings, memorials, meetings and programs. Volunteers are needed to help oversee this, and to host our fun weekly open houses!
- **Board Meetings:** Want to see what's going on or even get involved with new ideas, policy and decision-making? Attend a monthly board meeting!

2 Set: Make contact

Fix-it Team: Weekly meetings are held on Tuesdays at the Oracle cafeteria. Contact Jim Hammes for more information:

jimhammes@yahoo.com

Museum Committee: Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month. Contact Susan Brooking for more information: sarock4322@att.net. Interested in learning more about being a docent? Contact Gay Morgan at 916-624-2355 or gfmorgan@att.net

Old St. Mary's Chapel: Stop by our Open House on Wednesdays from 5—7 p.m. or contact Old St. Mary's at oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com or Nancy Lohse at nlohse@hotmail.com

Board Meetings: Held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., currently at Old St. Mary's Chapel. For more information, contact President Hank Lohse at hlohse3@yahoo.com or Vice President Jim Hammes at jimhammes@yahoo.com

3 Go volunteer! And thank you!



**Saturday, September 18
10am to 3pm.**

We are in need of volunteers to staff our booth at Hot Chili and Cool Cars this year. We will also be opening the museum early and we need helpers to be on hand from 11:00—1:00pm when the regularly scheduled docents arrive. If you can work a 2-hour shift, please contact Charlene Rhodes at legacygirl14@gmail.com or you can call her at 916-622-9816. Thank you!

ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL POTLUCK!

We're back and we're ready to celebrate!

Monday September 20, 2021 - 6:00 until 8:30 p.m.

Springview Hall Community Center -

5480 Fifth Street, Rocklin

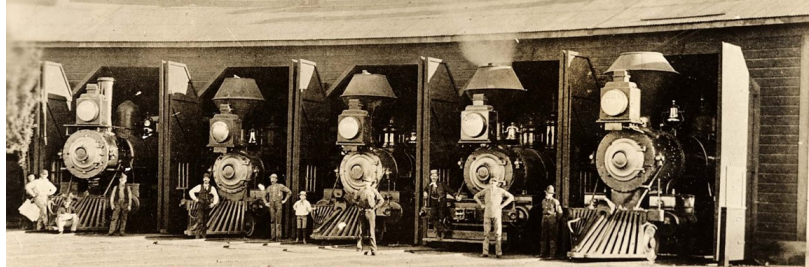
**Look for a postcard just after September 1st
detailing food categories and other exciting news!**



Placer Repertory Theater

NEW BEGINNINGS

July 31 @ Wm Jessup Univ, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.



A new work about the Historic Placer County Roundhouses.

With a post-show Q&A; Audiences are invited to NAME THAT PLAY!

SPONSORED BY ARMROD CHARITABLE TRUST

“New Beginnings,” a love-letter to Placer County history, is coming to William Jessup University on July 31st. This work-in-development theatrical event about the historic Rocklin and Roseville Roundhouses is commissioned by the Placer Repertory Theater and written by Rocklin local Ryan Gerberding, a graduate of the Placer Repertory Theater mentorship program.

Based on true events, this play follows Mast Mechanic L.L. Timmins and the citizens of Rocklin as they deal with the removal of their town’s beloved roundhouse and the construction of the new roundhouse in Roseville. Taking place from 1905 to 1908, this story chronicles the town’s struggle to maintain its prominence in the face of the never-ending march of progress. The actors perform a variety of characters from a script rich with local historical references, to bring this love-letter to life.

The Rocklin Historical Society and Roseville Historical Society will host outreach stations at the event where attendees are encouraged to learn more about their missions and programs. Audiences are also invited to a post-show Q&A where they may ask questions of the performers and director or share local family history and help to NAME THAT PLAY. Purchasing tickets in advance is recommended, as seats are limited due to social distancing. Tickets may be purchased on Eventbrite.com at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-beginnings-a-new-work-about-the-historic-placer-county-roundhouses-tickets-161593782353>

Old St. Mary’s Chapel news

By Nancy Lohse

The church ladies are so excited to be welcoming back couples to exchange their vows at Old St. Mary’s Chapel. We are now able to hold memorials and funerals for families to celebrate lives well lived. Wednesday nights you’ll find us at the chapel from 5-7 working with couples and chatting with visitors. Please stop by and say “Hi”. The garden is lovely and we’ll have the AC on!

If you do visit, it’s hard to not think about all the couples and families that



have used the chapel since it was built in 1883. From weddings to funerals to Christmas celebrations, the chapel has seen it all. I hope that it will be seeing many more thanks to the dedicated volunteers of the Rocklin Historical Society that work to keep it beautiful.



Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

By Jim Hammes

So the past Quarter found the Fix It Team able to once again Safely Meet and participate in project planning and work detail.

It is wonderful to start a New Normal and relish in the opportunity of working together with such Great Friends and Teammates!

The group was able to do some clean up at the Roundhouse Park Grove area (Mr. Johnson’s favorite spot) as our first Team project.

I must say we did a great job in a matter of a few hours creating a clean and inviting site.

We also appreciate the help of the City in removing the many cubic yards of waste we collected from the trimming and raking.

This project also continues to inspire our Team to expand on what can be done at the site to add to the Historical significance of the area.

The ideas to design and create an area for the community to enjoy is a focal point as a “Go Forward Commitment” for our Team along with the support of the Historical Society general board.

So ... let’s hope we have “rounded the bend” on what was a very trying year of adjusting our lives and well being.

I think one thing we all realized is the Quality and Appreciation of our Friends and Family and how much we missed the opportunities to Live - Visit and Work together as a practice of our daily routines.

Finally ... our mantra and goal ...

“ We are ALWAYS Stronger and More Productive when we ALL work Together as a TEAM “



The museum currently has over 80 of these disks and more are in the works. What are they and what are they for? Find out in the next issue of the Quarry Quarterly.



Thomas Andrew Sippola

Tom Sippola was born January 20, 1927 in Loomis California of Finnish immigrant parents John August and Anna Johanna Sippola. He grew up on the family ranch with two brothers and three sisters. They owned a large fruit orchard; later Tom and his brother Bill entered the chicken business raising thousands and thousands of chickens starting from baby chicks, and selling the best eggs. At one time in his younger days, Tom even cut firewood for the railroad.

Tom then went to night school where he studied TV and radio repair and eventually went to work in Auburn repairing television sets and radios. He later worked at McClellan Air Force Base repairing the electronic black boxes in jet plane cockpits, where he retired.

Tom served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed in Germany for three years with the 97th Constabulary.

Tom met his 1st wife Ferrell Jean Arbuckle and raised two fine sons, Alan Thomas and James Larry Sippola. Tom and Ferrell Jean later divorced.

Tom then met Frances Jean Eldridge; the two were married on "the rock" at the family ranch. Tom and Jean traveled the world together and visited many, many countries and made many, many friends. In later years Tom spent countless hours as a volunteer at both the Methodist church in Loomis and the Music Circus in Sacramento.

Tom was preceded in death by his son Alan, brothers Bill and John, sisters Ann and Aune, and grandson Phillip. He is survived by his sister JoAnn, wife Frances Jean, son James, stepsons Richard, Kevin, Alan, eleven grandchildren, and numerous great grandchildren. .

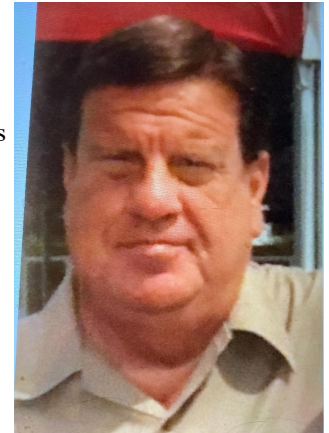
Leland A. Johnson 1961-2021

Leland, more often known as "Mickey," passed away peacefully on April 26th. Linda, His wife of 34 years posted this to their friends. "I am extremely saddened to report to you that my wonderful husband passed away in his sleep this morning. I am empty inside."

Mickey was a kind-hearted man who dearly loved his family and friends. He also loved baseball, to watch and to play. The San Francisco Giants were his favorite.

His job was auto repair and restoration. He liked working with his hands. He enjoyed old things, like history, the restoration of cars and old movies, radio programs and old songs and music. He often said he thought he was born in the wrong century.

Be that as it may, his wife Linda, stepson Frank Lisignoli, sister Lynn Olson, three nephews and two nieces will mourn his loss. His parents and older sister preceded him in death.



John "Bill" Woods

More sad but remarkable news. Bill Woods has passed away peacefully at the age of 103! Think of the history he witnessed in that time. The Flu pandemic, World War I, the Depression, Pearl Harbor, World War II, the Atomic Bomb. Vietnam and Korea and sending men to walk on the moon, to name just a few.

Bill was born in the Oakland/Bay area and spent his childhood years there. He graduated from the University of California in Berkeley and was working at his first job when World War II happened. He served in a Communications unit based in England. After the war Bill moved to Auburn where his parents had moved. He became the Principal of an Elementary School in Lincoln. At that time schoolbooks were processed by The Placer County Library. When Bill came to pick up books, he met a pretty young clerk named Laura. They were married on St. Patrick's Day

in Auburn, Ca. in 1951.

Bill worked at various occupations eventually becoming a Senior V.P. for a successful mutual fund, SIFE Trust Fund.

They moved over 20 times in their 70 years of marriage, three times in Rocklin where Laura was born.

They are survived by three sons, Bruce (Becky), Brad (Marty), and Bill. There are two Granddaughters, Laura and Kayla.



**Above: attending a holiday event
Right: serving in communications
during WWII**

Remembering the Schwartzes

With Kindra Britt, granddaughter

Brigitte Schwartz (Dobler) was born in Regensburg, Germany on April 12th, 1937. She grew up in Germany during World War II and at the young age of 16, made the decision to come to the United States by boat in December 1953. Although she kept in touch with relatives by mail and phone, she never returned to Germany.

She built a beautiful life in California with the love of her life, George Schwartz, raising their children in Newcastle before moving to their home in Rocklin in the late 80's where they bought the historic Ruhkala and Suhonen house on High Street.

Brigitte passed peacefully in her sleep on March 22nd, 2021. She was survived by her loving husband of 61 years, George, but 8 weeks to the day that she passed, George's broken heart got the best of him and they were reunited.

George Schwartz was born in Warsaw, Poland on February 28th, 1929. He was only ten years old when Nazi Germany invaded Poland during World War II. At some point in time, he began working on the railroad in Germany. Whether this was forced labor or not is unknown. His railroad skillset helped get him sponsored by a Lutheran Church in

San Francisco. He never returned.

Upon entering the U.S. he began work as a welder for the Southern Pacific Railroad. He continued this work for over 40 years. During this time he earned many safety awards and was featured in newspapers and magazines. His proudest accomplishment was helping to build the snow sheds above Donner Lake.

George passed peacefully in his sleep on May 17th, 2021 exactly eight weeks to the day after losing his beloved wife. We will miss him greatly, but we find comfort in knowing that he is reunited with his wife

and other loved ones from Germany and Poland that he left behind so many years before.

George and Brigitte are survived by five chil-

dren and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 2002, George Schwartz lent several items to the Rocklin History Museum. After 40+ years as a welder for the Southern Pacific Railroad, he had accumulated many tools, pictures and other artifacts.

Among the 38 items are tools such as wrenches, tie tongs, spikes, magazines, photos including a photo and frame of the 1869 golden spike ceremony. Also in the collection was a train switch lantern and a 1 foot section of rail.

Lucky for us, in 2014 Mr. Schwartz decided to make the temporary status permanent, and they are now part of our collection.

Note: An additional story about Mr. Schwartz can be found in the Fall, 2014, pg. 11 issue of the Quarry Quarterly ([here](#)).



The Schwartzes outside their historic home.



Replacing the wooden snow sheds high above Donner Lake in 1984



Rocklin resident and California's first female Justice of the Peace

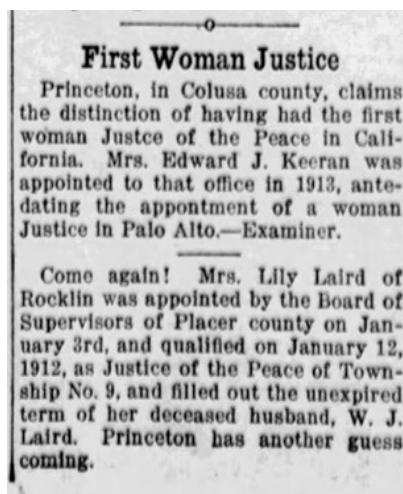
By Charlene Rhodes

Born in 1868 in Grass Valley to Richard and Catherine Alderman, Lily Maria grew up with six brothers and one sister. Lily would marry William Laird in 1889 and they settled in Rocklin where her husband worked as a lawyer and farmer.

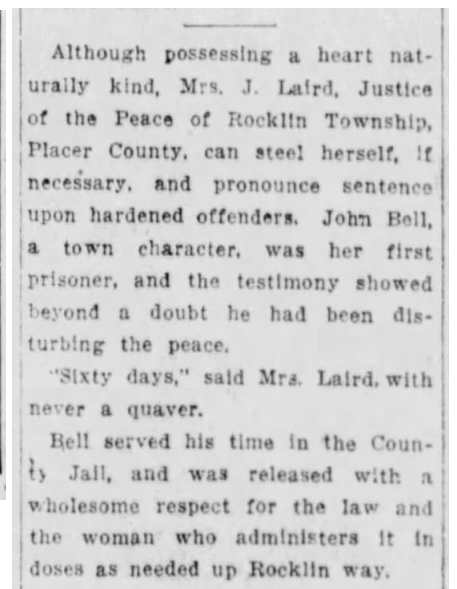
W.J. Laird was born on June 29, 1851, in Clare, Ireland and died December 27, 1911. Surviving him was his wife, Lily, and four young children, Donald, Muriel, Norval and Arleigh. He was also survived by three brothers, James, Frank and Sam Laird.

Working as a Notary Public, Lily must have been a hard-working and enterprising young woman as she attracted the attention of the Board of Supervisors who appointed her to fill out the unexpired term of her deceased husband as the Justice of the Peace for Township 9. When her judicial term ended, Lily became the City Clerk in Rocklin.

Lily married James R. Files (1861-1950) in 1913. They later moved to Ukiah and there is little known about her life there. Lily lived there for 30 years until her death in 1958.



Placer Herald January 27, 1917



The Sacramento Bee, July 12, 1913

MYSTERY PLACE



Stairway to nowhere?

Although not original to the structure, the granite stairs in this issue's mystery place are at the side of what's left of the Rocklin Bakery's oven. Today, there is a parking lot next to the museum where the bakery stood. The oven would be at the rear of the bakery.



Where is our next Mystery Place?



Where would you find this funny looking object from a bygone era? And what in the world is it? Find out in the next issue of the Quarry Quarterly.



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.



Local artist and author Elke McKee's painting of her hometown of Demitz-Thumitz located in what was, in her childhood, Communist East Germany. Her story and that of the Rocklin Montessori Preschool can be found on page 6.

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