

President's Message

Hank Lohse



Fall, 2021

Well, it's only a few weeks away. On Monday, November 8, 2021, all Rocklin Historical Society members will meet at Old St. Mary's Chapel to vote on new board members. The slate will include Jim Hammes for President, George Salgado for Vice President, Allegra Hakim for Secretary and Russ McNeill for Treasurer. Both Allegra and Russ are continuing in their respective offices.

It has been an honor and privilege to be RHS President for these last 4 years. I leave knowing the RHS future is in good hands. The Rocklin Historical Society was the brain child of Marie Huson and Roy Ruhkala. In 1987 they, with some like-minded individuals started to put the pieces together. By May of 1988, they had secured their 501A tax exempt status as a nonprofit and elected their first slate of officers. Marie Huson and Roy Ruhkala were co-chairmen with Geoff McLennon as secretary and Laverne Splan as treasurer. And the rest is history!

As always with a nonprofit organization, we are continually searching for volunteers to continue the RHS mission. If you would like to volunteer, see page 12 for contact information. It's as easy as 1-2-3. Don't worry if you're not up-to-date on your Rocklin history. We will train you! This is also a great opportunity to meet new friends and connect with your city.

BREAKING NEWS

The Community Recognition Commission has just released the honorees for this year's inclusion on the Wall of Recognition. The Ray Johnson family will be honored for their contributions to our community. Also recognized will be the 13 original members of the Friends of the Library.

WHEN: November 1, 3:30 pm

WHERE: Wall of Recognition, Heritage Park (next to Old St. Mary's Chapel)

Watch for a complete story in the Winter issue of the Quarry Quarterly.

Power to the People

How community activism helped shape Rocklin's historic Front Street

This month marks the twentieth anniversary of what was to be a very fateful city council meeting. RHS board member Kent Dazey was presenting his views on the negative impact a proposed cell tower would have on the tri-cities baseball field when, after the meeting, then-Mayor Ken Yorde pulled him aside and suggested a much bigger concern. It was the installation of a huge overhead powerline through the middle of town.

Thus began the David (aka Kent) vs. Goliath (aka PG&E) battle that would save what PG&E termed a "nearly worthless" view of Rocklin from potentially dangerous and unsightly overhead lines and putting them underground. And in 20 years this area has turned out to be not a worthless blight, but instead what many people believe is Rocklin's crown jewel—historic Front Street.

Below is a part of a series of articles on the Power Line and St. Mary's victories requested of Kent by Dr. Jim Carlson, past president of the Rocklin Historical Society.

By Kent Dazey

Twenty years ago, Ken Yorde, then Mayor of Rocklin, urged me to direct my attention to the Power Line battle, in which the City was fully engaged. Along with the City, I was determined not to let PG&E ruin downtown with the massive, overhead transmission power lines.

After some research into PG&E's Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project ("Plan"), a project where badly needed power was to be transferred from Roseville to Rocklin, I contacted three TV news stations. By 6:00 that night, I had a David & Goliath story on the news, and Goliath was winning. We needed to find the flaws in PG&E's plan and prove the value of Downtown Rocklin.

On October 25, 2001, a few days later, PG&E, and their consultants, Aspen Environmental Group, came to town. They held both legal and public Meetings. By that time, my wife and I, along with Dave Rafferty and other neighbors, calling ourselves Citizens for Underground Powerlines, were ready for an uncertain, uphill battle.

At the Legal Hearing, after receiving cautions from the presiding California Public Utilities Commission judge that only legal comments could be heard, I jumped in. Referring to the maps in PG&E's plan, I challenged the judge to find the building in which she was sitting on PG&E's maps. After going off the record three times because the judge was frustrated with my questions, she finally



A pleased Kent Dazey, after the successful media blitz and campaign that thwarted PG & E's plan to install a high voltage overhead powerline through town. Taken from the Sacramento Bee, Jan. 5, 2003, the caption reads: "Kent Dazey stands on the east side of the Union Pacific tracks in Rocklin. Pacific Gas and Electric Co. had planned to string power lines overhead along Pacific Avenue between Sunset Boulevard and Midas Avenue, saying the railroad tracks in the area made the view nearly worthless."

looked at the maps. Discovering that the maps were 40 year-old Geological Survey maps that did not reveal the true impact of the project, she then mandated, in not so uncertain terms, that PG&E identify all buildings within 150 feet of the tracks within a week. This was our first victory.

Later that night at the public meeting, resident after resident objected to the overhead power lines, citing issues with visual, property value, traffic, public safety and map concerns. Terry Richardson, Rocklin's Community Development Director at the time, was quoted in the Placer Herald (10/23/2002) "the turning point was the public meeting at City Hall in October, 2001, (when) PG&E and their consultants were made aware of the serious visual impacts of an overhead power line." This was our second victory.

The race continued and we had only 20 days to file our response. We were on TV news two more times, we provided revealing graphics, canvassed neighbor-

(See DAZEY, pg. 2)

(DAZEY, Cont. from page 1)

hoods, and gathered over 300 letters and over 1,000 petition signatures. The publicity we generated was our third victory.

However, our fourth and perhaps most influential victory was the safety issue we found. PG&E's plan to erect 110' transmission power poles between the tracks and the petroleum tank farm off Sunset, with-in striking distance of the Tanks in event of a train derailment, was the key argument.

In light of the 9/11 event that had just happened seven weeks earlier, safety was a serious concern and represented a potential violation of the California Environmental Quality Act. In the end, you will now see the power pole placed on the opposite side of the tracks, far away from the Tank Farm and then undergrounded up to Midas. This was our fourth and final victory.

As the Sacramento Bee described in its January 5, 2003 article Power to the People, "They held strategy sessions in a neighbor's living room, went door to door with flyers, created a Web page and manned booths in front of supermarkets. In the end, this grass-roots campaign by a small group of Rocklin residents forced utility giant Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to spend \$5.5 million more than it had planned to put up high-voltage power lines underground instead of along 100-foot poles near homes."

It is hard to know what really swayed the CPUC to force PG&E to underground 1.2 miles of power lines from Sunset to Midas. PG&E cited the visual impacts in the revised plan, but rest assured, due to the combined efforts of the City of Rocklin, our Citizens group and other community organizations, the judge made it very clear that PG&E's original plans had to change. This ruling preserved downtown Rocklin's Historical District, and now look at what it has become. I smile every time I think of what the PG&E spokesman said in the caption to the Sacramento Bee article: "that the railroad tracks made the view nearly worthless". As it is said, just because you are big, does not mean you are right. We know better. Look what we have now.



In their 2001 report, PG&E prepared simulations of how the powerline would look if installed. It would carry 65,000 kilovolts, but would be built to 115,000 kilovolt standards to allow for future expansion. Above is the view from Railroad Ave. which today includes the train depot, Old St. Mary's, and Heritage Park. The view below is Front Street, looking toward the firehouse and the community orchard.



"Rocklin Reads" collaboration with RHS culminates in special October 23rd events

By Gloria Beverage

Rocklin Friends of the Library are partnering with the Rocklin Historical Society for this year's annual Rocklin Reads program in October. This year's programs will focus on the Chinese laborers who built the Transcontinental Railroad as well as Rocklin's role during that period of history.

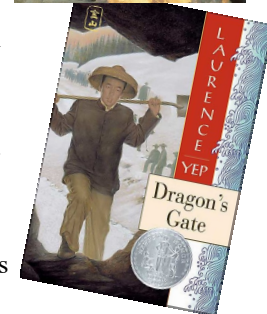
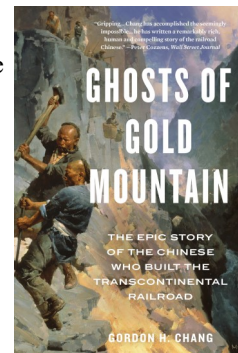
The Friends of the Library are encouraging book lovers to read one of two books. Gordon Chang's "Ghosts of Gold Mountain" is a definitive history of how Chinese laborers did the monumental work of building the Transcontinental Railroad from Sacramento to Utah for Central Pacific Railroad. (see Dr. Carlson's review of the book on pg. 9 of the QQ [here](#)). The second and more family-friendly book is "Dragon's Gate," which targets younger readers and their families. The 15-year-old main character leaves China to join his father at "The Golden Mountain" to work on the Transcontinental Railroad.

A variety of family-friendly events will be offered throughout October:

- Families will be encouraged to find answers to clues on the self-guided scavenger hunt, which will be available from Oct. 1

through Oct. 23 on the websites for the Rocklin Friends of the Library (rocklinfriends.org) and the Rocklin Historical Society (rocklinhistorical.org) or in person at either location. Participants can claim a prize by turning in the completed questionnaires at either the Rocklin Library or the Rocklin History Museum by Oct. 23.

- A presentation on the roundhouse and the site of the Chinese community will start at noon on Oct. 23 at the Historic Roundhouse site (rose gardens) on Rocklin Road. Dr. Jim Carlson and other Rocklin Historical Society members will share maps and memorabilia from the site of the Chinese community. Participants will be invited to view the Native American mortars as well as the Chinese-built granite drainage system.
- Keith Waddell, president of the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association, will give a presentation via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23 on the history of the Transcontinental Railroad and the work of the Chinese. Register for this free event here: [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Birkner's Interesting Tourist Attraction

By Gay Morgan

While growing up in Rocklin the 1930's, my family lived on Pacific Street right across from the Ruhkala Quarry (Union Granite, later Big Gun Mining). Pacific Street was part of historic Highway 40 that stretched from coast to coast. It meandered its way through almost every little town on its way to the Bay Area. Our house was conveniently located next to a Texaco Service Station/bus depot/ice cream parlor/soda fountain where travelers stopped to fill up on gas and ice cream treats. (Gas was only about 20 cents a gallon.)

Our family used to sit on the porch and watch the cars and trucks go by. We knew who got on or off the Greyhound buses. Ladies going shopping in the big city of Sacramento usually dressed up and wore hats and gloves. It was great fun to watch George Nelson, our only traffic policeman, shake his finger at the speeders he stopped. Thanks to George, many people referred to Rocklin as a "Speed Trap".

The Quarry whistle was part of our daily routine as was the "ping" of the hose in front of the gas pumps that alerted the proprietor of a customer's arrival.

Mr. And Mrs. Birkner, (I think her name was Frankie. I don't remember his.) the couple who owned the station lived next door in a Victorian (?) style house that was surrounded by a beautiful garden (The house has since been moved to Front Street across from Old St. Mary's Church.) Water Lilies grew in the two serene goldfish ponds. Magnolia and Fir trees shaded the manicured lawn. Cameli-as grew near the house, A row of tall, fragrant Eucalyptus trees marched along one property line. It was like a small park, a cool and shady oasis tucked along the highway. Travelers would stop for gas, have a soda and tour the little park and mini Zoo.

They had many colorful small birds in an outdoor aviary as well as beautiful, exotic Peacocks that strutted regally around the grounds. At night they made unearthly, screeching sounds. The pens for their pet monkeys were located between the station and the house. Jocko was the biggest meanest monkey and we loved to tease him, knowing he couldn't get to us. He would bare his teeth, rattle the wire of his pen and make loud noises. There were three or four other monkeys in the pen with silky gray-brown hair. They gave off



Eighth Grade Graduation Class of Rocklin Elementary School, 1943. There I am sort of in the middle. I can still name almost all of them; they would be in their nineties now. We had walked a couple of blocks to have our picture taken on the lawn of what had been the Birkner's Tourist Attraction. The property had been sold to H.C. Scribner and his wife Edith. The grounds were still lush and beautiful, and the new owners were pleased to let people take photographs there. The Scribner's ran an Appliance Store, a Texaco Service Station and a Greyhound Bus Station for many years. (some of our members recall working there.) When Mr. Scribner died, the business and the house were sold. Later that house was moved to Front St, and now sits proudly across the street from Old St. Mary's Chapel.

There is another interesting fact attached to this picture. The Scribner's had a son, Howard G. Scribner, who grew up to be a founding member of the Rocklin Historical Society.

a peculiar odor.

One small special monkey didn't live in the pen. Her name was Rosie and Mrs. Birkner treated her like a baby, carrying her around most of the time tucked inside her blouse. Rosie didn't like kids and she bit many of us to prove it. One boy escaped Rosie's wrath. Aldrick Niemi liked Rosie and carried her around as she clung to his neck, Laura Willard Woods said that she and most of the neighborhood girls were afraid of Rosie and just tried to stay out of her way. Homer Davidson clearly remembered some of Rosie's more outrageous behaviors, but I won't write about them here.

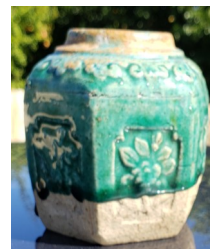
When I asked Ruben Ruhkala what he remembered about the place he said he once helped Mr. Birkner to put out a fire in the gas station and that Mr. Birkner rewarded him with a very fine pair of binoculars.

Later the Birkners decided to travel and they sold the place to H.C. Scribner and his wife Edith. They sold and repaired appliances, and they kept the gas station and the bus depot. The monkeys, all except Rosie, found a new home at the Royer Park Zoo in Roseville. The grounds were still lovely and many a graduation, birthday or card party was held there.

The monkey pens were now empty, but the neighborhood kids continued to play in

the monkey pool and yard. Some of the more creative kids wrote plays and the other kids performed them in the monkey pens for anyone who happened by. This provided a bit more entertainment for the unsuspecting travelers that stopped for a break and got more than they expected at the Roadside attraction.

New items on display



In conjunction with Friends of the Library's "Rocklin Reads" (see pg. 2), Chinese artifacts from Rocklin and surrounding areas will be highlighted in a new display. The collection includes two Joss House signs on loan from the Loomis Historical Society, a collection of artifacts dating from 1875 to 1910 on loan from the Placer County Museum, and artifacts, photos and information about the Chinese who lived in Rocklin.

The items will be on display through December 20.

Olive harvest time! By Julia Shohbozian

Olives reach back into ancient history as a staple of the Mediterranean. In Spain, more olives are produced than any other country. The Phoenicians and Greeks were the first to bring the olive to Spain, where it thrived in the moderate climate. Romans found that the tree grew well in the rockier parts of Spain, where water in the soil drained, so that the trees would remain healthy and not too damp. They established plantations of 'Oliva Europa' around the region of Sevilla. Olives from these trees were used to make 85% of the olive oil Romans consumed, and continue to be used to make the finest olive oil in the world today. Spanish olive oil can be described as having a strong fruity flavor, which is why it is so sought after.



Although it lost a large branch, this olive tree still thrives providing shade for the bench donated by Club Español.

The 'Mystery Place' in the spring 2021 issue (see pg. 12 [here](#)) was the olive tree that sits atop the hillside landscape of the Rocklin History Museum. This tree, probably planted some 100 years ago, stands as a quaint testament to the diversity of the first settlers of Rocklin. The land that it sits on originally belonged to the Moon family, who inhabited the home the museum now occupies. It is likely that Ana Moon, a native of Spain, planted it. But how did the Spanish olive tree get to California?

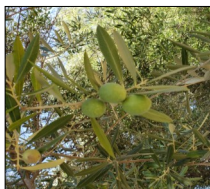
In the 17th and 18th centuries, Spanish missionaries brought olive tree cuttings from their homeland to South America and beyond. This included bringing them as far as the California coast, where they planted them in mission gardens. For these settlers, it would have been essential to bring this resource, which provided the fruit that made up an

important part of their diet and was used to make olive oil.

The first Spanish settlers in Rocklin continued the tradition of transporting and planting olive trees at their new homes. Like in Spain, the trees thrive in the moderate to warm climate and rocky soil of Rocklin. The settlers also continued the practice of curing olives, which made the fruit suitable to eat.

At the museum, you can find a ceramic pot which was used to cure olives. Gala Alva Corral, a descendant of Spanish settlers, even wrote a detailed recipe for the practice. This recipe involves putting olives with water and lye in a ceramic pot like the one at the museum. The olives would sit in the water and lye mixture for 48 hours or longer, depending on the reader's taste.

While few people prepare olives this way today, the trees remain popular in California. In fact, there are varieties cultivated not to produce olives, but rather to simply show off the beauty of their gnarled and twisting limbs and silvery leaves. On the downside, olive trees are actually considered to be an invasive species in California, because they grow quickly and in abundance and disrupt native plants. Nevertheless, Ana's olive tree makes for a pleasant hallmark feature of the museum that has withstood the test of time.



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



A large stone-ware crock like this would be used to cure olives. The process did not require many ingredients, but the olives would last for months or even from one

season to the next, simply by being kept in the stone crock.

Joanne Lawson remembers scooping out a ladle of olives and rinsing them off, keeping them in the fridge for easy grabbing. As long as the brine was changed frequently, the olives would make for good snacks for a long time.

The olives were not pitted, nor stuffed with pimientos, just enjoyed as plain old finger food. Many families in Rocklin grew the trees, but over the years this practice has waned. Now many trees, such as the one on the museum grounds, have too many worms to make picking and curing them feasible.

Fun Facts:

- *Prime season to harvest olives is September.
- *Emperor Hadrian, who was from Sevilla, adopted an olive branch as the symbol for Roman Hispania.
- *There are over 150 different varieties of 'Oliva Europa' that grow around the world.
- *Olive trees can live to be hundreds, if not thousands, of years old. You can tell an old tree by the thickness and knobiness of its trunk.
- *Crete boasts a fruit-bearing olive tree that is dated at 3,000 years old!



The ancient Olive tree of Vouves, Crete



Gene Johnson

We received an e-mail from a person named Steve that owns a circa 1950 vintage Zenith radio. Steve found a sticker on the radio "H. C. Scribner Appliances, Rocklin, California" and asked if we could tell him more about the business. The inquiry triggered an avalanche of memories related to the Scribner family, following are a few of my recollections.

My first contact with the Scribner family was as a young tyke visiting our next-door neighbor Grandma Scribner for a handout of chocolate chip cookies. She lived in the Victorian house, at the NW corner of 5th St and Rocklin Road (Note 1), the house is now owned by RHS member Patrice Cardott. Grandma's husband, B.N. Scribner Jr., operated a general merchandise store on Rocklin's Front Street. Information regarding Mr. Scribner is sketchy, but we do know that he competed in horse races at Rocklin's racetrack and police records show that he



Note 1. The large Victorian home at 5th St and Rocklin Road is located on what would have been high-point on the 160-acre property James Bolton purchased in 1852. (Now, Johnson Springview Park occupies much of the property.) Bolton passed away in 1885 and the property was purchased by William Huff in 1886. We understand that in 1895 the Scribner family paid \$1000 in gold for their parcel of property and built what was, no doubt, the grandest home in Central Rocklin.

Remembering H. C. Scribner Appliances, Texaco Station, and Greyhound Bus Stop

was a bit of a scrapper. Circa 1910, with Rocklin's economy in the dumps, B.N. Scribner reestablished his business in Roseville - it did not thrive and he returned to Rocklin to retire as an insurance salesman.

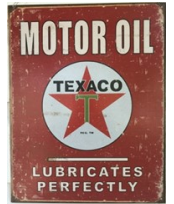
The Scribners had two sons: Benton and Howard; Benton left Rocklin, Howard remained and worked at times delivering granite. About 1940 Howard was able to purchase a Texaco service station and soda fountain from the Birkner family. The property, on Pacific St, included the Birkner home and gardens and a popular stop for Highway 40 travelers. Changes were in store for the idyllic Birkner road stop described by Gay Morgan on page 3.

The service station and soda fountain were converted to an appliance show room, an addition built of terra-cotta tile was added in back for hardware storage and an appliance repair shop. The business became "H.C Scribner Appliances" but was also home of a Texaco Service Station, Greyhound Bus stop, appliance service, plumbing and electrical supply store". (The building, at 5250 Pacific St., is currently occupied by a similar business, SEA Heating and Air Conditioning.)

When in high school, I was looking for summer work and noticed that the hard-

ware and storage area was in disarray. I approached the Scribners suggesting that I could help clean and organize the area. I was hired as a summer and part-time employee - a relationship that lasted years. They were wonderful people and I felt as one of the family.

After some time, I was trusted to open the Service Station at 8 am. The Scribners lived in the house next door (Note 2). I would ring the doorbell that played Westminster Chimes, pick up the cash box from Mrs. Scribner (Edith) and return to the service station to fill the cash register and raise the huge front door that was supported by ropes and pulleys - we were open for business!



H.C. Scribner building

V-belts from short to long hung near the ceiling on three walls, on the counter was the cash register and a large black metal case with panels of springs (like the springs of mouse traps) that held bills of regular gas customers.

After pumping gas, checking water and oil levels, and cleaning the windshield, we would hand write a bill and place a copy under the customer's spring. At the end of the month Edith collected the bills and totaled up each customer's charges.

Howard C. Scribner, known as "Scrib" was a tall man, gold rimmed glasses, and bib overalls - he was a salesman. Scrib always had a story and to evoke comments from his listeners he would invariably ask "what do you think" followed by "eh?, eh?, eh?" - --- "eh?,"

The business crew included: Scrib, the salesman; Edith, the bookkeeper; Paavo Leed, the refrigeration repairman with the blue panel truck; Lee Robinson, service station attendant, and jalopy enthusiast; Chuck Robinson, plumber; Charlie Stoll,



Note 2. The original B.N. Scribner General Merchandise Store on Front St was gone before my time - it had been moved to Roseville's Atlantic Street. However, the site gained new life when Birkner-Scribner house was moved from Pacific Street to 5270 Front Street - the apparent location of the original B.N. Scribner store. The house is now the home of RHS volunteer Raul Campos who every week for more than 10 years has moved the Old St. Mary's trash containers to the street for garbage day.

(See SCRIBNER, pg. 7)

When Horny Toads Still In the Alleys Scrambled¹...

Note: this is Part 1 of a two part series on the flora and fauna of our region.

By Doug Osella

Rocklinites had the wonderful opportunity of living close to nature. Growing up in the 50s, I was curious about nature. I especially wondered about the horny toads² that still could be encountered in the alleys, fields, and yards of our town. More about horny toads later...

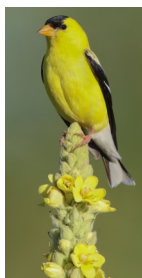
Our home was situated on the corner of Rocklin Road and High Street. Through the years the property became a nature sanctuary. We had a large yard made up of two extra lots inherited from my grandparents. Trees and bushes volunteered to grow in our safe haven because my mother welcomed them with water from a long hose that she dragged around each evening in the summer months. She invited all birds as well by providing them a meal each day of birdseed spread onto the ground. For her, wild birds and plants...the more the better... created an atmosphere that made her soul happy. She especially liked the mourning doves with their mournful coos.

Due to Rocklin's "spaced out" condition with "weed-choked" lots³ and water-filled pits, invading wildlife readily found habitats to occupy. To appreciate the variety of life surrounding us was a matter of being attentive, which was not a strong skill for the Osella kids in the beginning.

For us self-absorbed youngsters, the mockingbird became noticeable on the top of the TV antenna on top of our house only because our mother pointed out the grey bird to us...way up there warbling. The solitary bird gained respect in our young minds because our mother openly marveled at its talent of being able to mimic local birds' songs as it improvised many medleys. She told us that on several occasions, she had even heard the bird mimic the family cat. (She might have related that story on an April first, just to trick us?)

Day after day for years, resident birds and resident humans intermingled, not just

in our yard but throughout the town. Yellow-billed magpies (rare birds because of their yellow bills)⁴ gathered on High Street and other streets to raise a ruckus. In the alley adjacent to our yard, noisy acorn woodpeckers pounded holes in the telephone poles to store their acorns. Goldfinches in spring could be seen along roadsides and fields clinging to the long spiked heads of the common mullein plants, gorging on seeds.

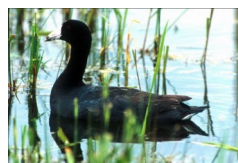


Every evening at dusk, the ghostly white barn owl left the large shed of the Union Granite Co. and silently flew across Rocklin Road toward our property. Our family speculated into which tree it would stop. It sometimes landed in the large eucalyptus tree



in front of the old church/library building, but it usually chose the giant grey pine across the alley close to two vacant lots. It flapped from one limb to another, adjusting its position to begin a bloody night of hunting small rodents.

From banks of water-filled quarries, kids shot bbs from air rifles or round pebbles from homemade slingshots at the strange duck-like birds called coots (also known as mud hens) that often paddled around in the middle of the quarry. No coot casualties were ever reported to my knowledge because these birds were good divers, and when the bombardment got too heavy, they disappeared underwater as if they had never existed. These birds had their nests hidden in the cattails that grew around the edges of the quarry.



Common also around the quarry ponds, were the red-winged blackbirds. Who could ever forget the pleasant *ook-a-lee* calls of these handsome birds with bright red shoulder markings, easily viewed as they flew to and from their nests in the cattails?



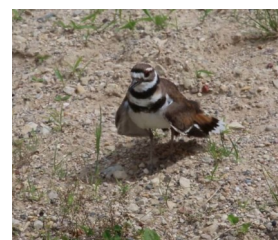
Internal urges during roosting season drove multitudes of Brewer's blackbirds to the country-



side where they flocked together forming long lines on telephone wires like strings of plump apostrophes. When our 1948 Studebaker approached on the county road, the armies of birds often erupted into a black cloud to swirl around and eventually return to their "at ease" positions on the line. Riding with my siblings in the backseat of our family car with my neck craning to see upward, and ahead, I waited in anticipation for the upcoming aerial display.

Walter Sandvick owned the pasture across Rocklin Road by the city park, but in my young mind's eye, it was really in the charge of a clan of meadow larks.

Most neighborhood birds twittered and chirped hidden in trees, but when the head lark of Sandvick's field sang his melody, he perched boldly out front on a fence post, recklessly making a show of his bright yellow chest with the sharp black V. I liked the spirit of this bird, and who could forget the rich gurgling notes of his song? (I often tried to imitate it) To me his fluty call conveyed a subtle warning: "This land is our land, now scram." I've often wondered, though, if the predators specializing in airstrikes, such as the red-shouldered hawk, caught the same warning as I did. The meadowlark clan held the ground for many years.



In the park next door to Sandvick's field lived the killdeer family whose nervous mother, due maybe to some instinctive flaw, faithfully built her nest on the ground too close to

(See BIRDS, pg. 7)



Volunteers Charlene Rhodes, Ronna Davis, and David Baker helped make Hot Chili and Cool Cars a success for the Rocklin Historical Society. Several new memberships were garnered, and all the volunteers had fun talking about Old St. Mary's Chapel and Rocklin's interesting history of ranches, rocks, and rails!



*Yes, the Holiday Season is approaching!
Yes, Rocklin Historical Society is hosting the
Annual Holiday Social!
Save this date for festivities at the
Rocklin Community Center - Springview Hall
5480 5th Street
Monday Evening - 6 to 8:30 p.m. - December 20th*

(SCRIBNER, Cont. from page 5)

electrician; Andy George, radio and TV repairman; Lee Frenken, generalist - I bought a 1931 Plymouth from Lee - the wheels had wooden spokes - we used it in Roseville High School parades. Several of Scrib's employees were members of Rocklin's Volunteer Fire Dept. The fire house was half a block away. When the fire siren wailed - the volunteers ran for the truck and I was left, in charge.

Gay (Stuckert) Morgan lived next to the station, and we share memories of the times: A red metal flag would be raised for the Greyhound bus to pick up passengers. The station road surface was gravel on dirt - the bus would leave with a great noise and cloud of dirt and dust. On the opposite side of Pacific Street Rocklin's only policeman would lie in wait for unwary speeders, when a violator was identified the police car would take off in quick pursuit - again in a cloud of dust.

Beyond Pacific St the granite quarry's great reciprocating saw rumbled day and

night as it cut raw granite to slabs suitable for tombstones and other uses. At times a blast at the quarry was followed by the clatter of granite debris falling on the tin roof of the home across the street.

I do not remember that Howard and Edith's son, Howard Jr., was active in operating the store but he was an active member of the historical society and organized popular bus excursions to Reno in the days before Thunder Valley Casino. Howard Jr. also served as director of the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce.

At some point the Scribner family became owners of the Palace Meat Market building on Front Street - it was located on the small park property at the NW corner of Front and Rocklin Road next to the 180 church building. In my time part of the building was used as an appliance storage area and the Post Office portion was home to Paavo Leed - Scrib's refrigeration repairman.



B.N. Scribner Store General Merchandise



Early Scribner businesses

(BIRDS, Cont. from page 6)

where humans and predators travelled. Believing she and her family were sitting ducks, so to speak, this poor mother bird spent her daily time feigning injury and dragging herself and her "broken" wings along the ground while crying: *killdee, killdee*, to lure potential predators away from her precious eggs or young. Who or what could threaten the home of this devoted trickster?

An ordinary day outdoors brought me more joy than a week with the modern cell phone. Today, Sandvick's pasture is home to a modern fire station, and I haven't seen meadowlarks or killdeer in the neighborhood for many years. Why am I troubled? It's the kid in me yearning to go back. I know progress brings gain but often at the expense of something old and special. Progress conquered the meadowlarks and killdeer in my neighborhood.

The horny toad has since disappeared from the region, which I will discuss later. A Finnish proverb states: "The new is not so good that one forgets the old."

¹Adapted from Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"

²Lizards, 4-6" long with armor-like scales, giving a thorny, fierce appearance

³Davis, Leonard M. *Rocklin*, Pgs. 61, 73

⁴Rare because these birds are found only in the Central Valley and a few coastal valleys of California

Deer Creek Farm is latest *Mystery Place*



By Gloria Beverage

For more than 40 years, Deer Creek Lumber Company presented a distinctive shopping experience.

In theory, it served as a hardware store for DIYers. However, the business was actually an eccentric collection of building materials, custom wood products and junk presented with “tongue in cheek” bravado.

Opened in the 1940s by brothers Gene and Pete Gleick, the storefront was established in what had been the Pilot Rock Café on Highway 40 (now Pacific Street) across the street from the family’s lumber mill.

The family built a sawmill across the street and south of the quarry to harvest the timber taken from their property on Deer Creek in Nevada City, wrote Gene Johnson in a 2017 column for the Quarry Quarterly. The sawdust and scraps were either burned in a large conical burner or dumped into their quarry (filling most of it).

The retail business, named for the family’s timber land, was jam-packed with an odd collection of junk and memorabilia – items that reflected the brothers’ weird and wonderful sense of humor, Johnson continued.

Anyone who tried to pick up a coin glued to the floor, for example, was greeted with the ringing of a prominently displayed brass locomotive bell. Then there was the decaying boat the brothers kept on the premises as a nod to “good times gone by.”

Residents could rent wheelbarrows, Have a Heart animal traps, even Cat Catchers.

And they kept the vending machine stocked with sodas and beers.

In the midst of this outlandish décor, the brothers produced and sold custom wooden signs and dog houses (for any size dog), Johnson said.

They were active members of the Lions Club and participated in community events. Among their most notable contributions was a

locomotive float with a funnel-style smokestack built for the Jubilee celebration marking the 75th anniversary of Rocklin’s incorporation. The following year, they presented the self-propelled Rocklin Rattler, the lone conveyance of Foothill Area Rapid Transit (FART), which the Rocklin Historical Society later refurbished as the coach for its Jubilee Train, Johnson said.

When the store closed around 2007, several of the store’s unique pieces were donated to the Rocklin Historical Society, including the Whitney Estate doors (installed at Old St. Mary’s Chapel), a cast iron laundry stove (now housed at the Rocklin History Museum), a two-legged cowboy boot table, a collection of Super Bowl Lottery boards and a tin and wood bathtub.

Although it is now known as Deer Creek Farm, the new tenants kept the building’s unique history in mind as they established a distinctive gift store and Farmers’ Market offering seasonal vegetables grown in the on-site garden.

During the renovation work, noted Scott Flanagan, executive director of Compassion Planet and co-founder of Deer Creek Farm, showers were discovered in one of the outbuildings. Flanagan speculates motorists stopping at the café could take a break on their trip across the Sierra Nevada to use the showers, have a hot meal and perhaps a cold drink.

And the unique weathervane, installed by one of the Gleick brothers, retains a place of honor on the roof.

Flanagan and his wife, Jacquie, founded the non-profit in 2011 with the vision of providing hope to aged-out foster and at-risk youth, ages 18 to 24 in Placer and Sacramento Counties. Youth trainees receive 1,200 hours of on-the-job training at Deer

Creek Farm as well as life skills training before graduating into the Next Steps Program.

“(The store) is my happy place,” explained the Del Oro High School graduate. “It’s a place where you walk in and there’s a good vibe in the store.”

The Flanagans have taken Deer Creek Lumber Co. to the next level with an upscale retail outlet that not only provides quality merchandise to the community, but also serves our youth.



Every inch from top to bottom was covered



The weather vane is a nod to the old Deer Creek Lumber



Chapel News

By Nancy Lohse

Since 1883 church ladies have been preparing the chapel for special events. Before weddings, funerals, memorials, baptisms and holiday celebrations, the ladies would clean and decorate giving special attention to every little detail. Fast forward 138 years and you will find the church ladies still at work. Although our dress may be different, no long flowing dresses and some of our jobs have changed, cleaning bathrooms and setting the air conditioner, our goal is the same - to make a lasting impression on all who visit.

Since the Rocklin Historical Society opened the chapel to weddings in 2007, we have prepared the chapel for 463 weddings and 102 memorials/funerals. When you add in the speakers series, the early Tree Lighting at Christmas, various musical events, field trips for 700+ third graders and, most recently, a play by the Placer Repertory Theater you can see why those church ladies are so busy. We also have 17 weddings for the remainder of the year and 22 already booked for 2022.

The next time you see one of these church ladies tell them thank you for all the hard work they do. Their dedication to the chapel raises money for all the Rocklin Historical Society projects. Thank you to: Patrice Cardot, Peggy Russi, Patsy Patterson, Linda Wampler, Sally Huseby, Ronna Davis, Nancy Ustaszewski, Holly Clark, Julia Shohboeian, Kathie Nippert and myself.

If you would like to join this amazing group, our next meeting is October 18th. Please contact me at nlohse@hotmail.com for details.



Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

By Jim Hammes

The Fix It Team is undergoing discussion to rename

our group to better reflect what exactly our real focus is and will be going forward. Our group was originated in the past as a "think tank" for projects and plans that can be managed and undertaken by the Team independently or expand to include the Historical Society Team as a whole. One example was the project and plans to save Old St. Mary's Chapel.

Our team has also been instrumental in the research - development and executing the Dedication of Plaque placements to points of Historical landmarks in Rocklin. Community beautification projects like the Eucalyptus Grove we refer to as "Gene's Grove" at the Roundhouse Park is also an example of our civic commitment.

The plans and the successful culmination of the Team leading and including the essential partners and eventually incorporating Community participation remains integral in the work the group strives to achieve.

Recent meetings of our Fix It Team have brought us full circle

back to a function of looking at short term and long term projects that focus on the need to embellish the Historical significance of Rocklin to our community as a whole.

We must be the constant steward of keeping the History of Rocklin ... Alive and Well ... even though time and generations come and go - History should always be in our reach!

We are also looking at developing a more inclusive partnership with the City to make Rocklin a "Destination Point" for the region and beyond based on the Historical Treasures Rocklin harbored and can provide today. We feel our role should be more of an initiator that drives our mutual value-added goal of Community and Civic contributions.

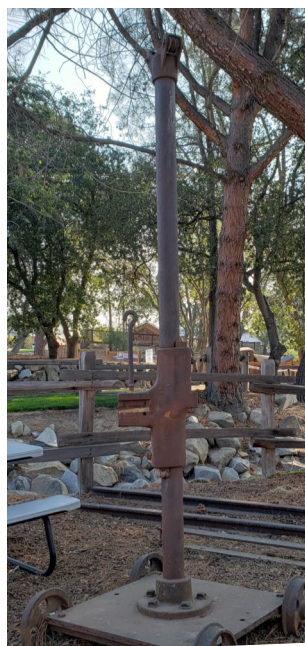
Our obligation and commitment is illustrated by the very name of our Historical Society board and the committee we employ as what has been known as the "Fix It Team" that really does not define our true operating mission. As of now ... we are still deliberating over what our exact new name will be for the Fix It Team ... hopefully that will be decided and published in the next edition of the "QQ".

Simply put ... we have been and

are much more than a group doing general maintenance needs which we will continue to do just under a more comprehensive title.

So ... that brings you all up to date on the current ... "Nuts & Bolts" and our New "Go Forward Commitment."

"WE ARE ALWAYS STRONGER & MORE PRODUCTIVE WHEN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM"



What is this mystery item (in 2 parts), on view at Quarry Park? Find out about it in the next issue of the Quarry Quarterly



It was about 1947 when Roy Uyeda, a cousin of my best friend Ron Okimura, drove us to Elk Grove to participate in a basketball game. I don't know if we won or lost but we enjoyed the ride. Roy was a sewing machine salesman that, later, operated Roseville Sew & Vac until his retirement.

During WWII, as a member of the highly decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Roy participated in some of the heaviest and most deadly fighting in Europe. The accompanying article appeared in the 75 years ago section of a recent issue of the Placer Herald. It was good to read that Roy also was an early activist. Gene Johnson

From "Looking Back, 75 years ago", in *The Placer Herald*

"Roy Uyeda was discharged from the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The unit had fought in France and Italy Roy and his family returned to their ranch in Loomis. They found the fruit trees were practically all dead so they had no income. They had to repurchase the tractor, spray rigs, and plow. An example of dis-

crimination occurred when Roy tried to make a purchase at an Auburn hardware store. A "No Japs Allowed" sign was on the door. Roy tore it into shreds and scattered it around the store. He waited for the police but nothing happened so he left and went to Roseville Hardware to make the purchase."



Richard "Rick" Forstall

The Rocklin Historical Society lost a good friend in August, this year. Rick Forstall, had retired from the City of Rocklin as Director of Public Services in 2017 after 12 years of service. During his tenure, he accomplished many things for the city and for the society.

Included in his significant contributions to Rocklin were developing the Parks & Trails Master Plan, the Quarry Park Amphitheater Design, and the Event Center garden design and interior remodel. He brought cheer to the city with his Christmas and holiday decorations as well.

The RHS is particularly appreciative for his help. During the building of the No. 1 Hose Co. firehouse, Rick coordinated the electricity, and helped transfer the old school bell to the firehouse. He also helped with the landscaping design of it and Old St. Mary's.

He was instrumental in saving artifacts at the Capitol quarry and coordinating their transfer to the corp. yard.

Rick received multiple awards including "Citizen of the Month" from the Kiwanis Club in October 2007 for his work on the refurbishment of Huff Springs and the Rocklin Heritage Park/St. Mary's Chapel's Restoration. He was recognized for his unrivaled efforts and hard work toward capital improvements and revitalization of the "Quarry District" and "City of Rocklin Historic Old Towne."

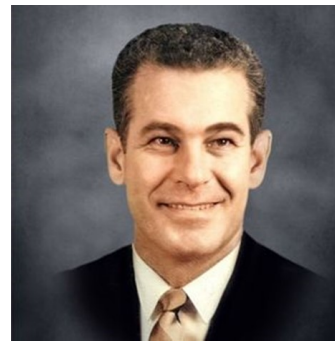
We appreciate his commitment to preserving Rocklin's history, and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held on September 11 for Joseph "Joe" Cullen, a 42 year resident of Rocklin and member of the Rocklin Historical Society. He passed away on March 22, 2020, at the age of 95.

A true patriot, Joe served in the military for 31 years, serving during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. Upon retirement from the military in 1974, he and wife Louisa built their first permanent home in Rocklin.

Joe went on to work for Sacramento County as a mechanical engineer, and he and his colleagues worked together to design his dream home.

Active in social organizations, Joe was a Boy Scout and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1942. He returned to scouting in Rocklin and served as an



Joseph "Joe" Cullen

adult leader for Troop 29. He also helped establish a new troop, Troop 349.

Joe was also a life member of the Rocklin Kiwanis and served for a time as president. He was awarded Kiwanian of the Year for his dedication to helping the children of our community and the world. Gene Johnson recalls that Joe was one of the Kiwanis Club members who joined forces with

RHS for several community projects. "We were able to do much more together – good times, parades, tree lightings, chapel and firehouse projects."

Great entertainers, Joe and Louise attended many social events at RHS. Both Marg Johnson and Susan Brooking remember the effort they put into preparing food and making arrangements for the RHS Tea Parties. As Susan recalls, they were a lovely couple."

Historic trip brings Holy Man through Rocklin

By Jan Merrill

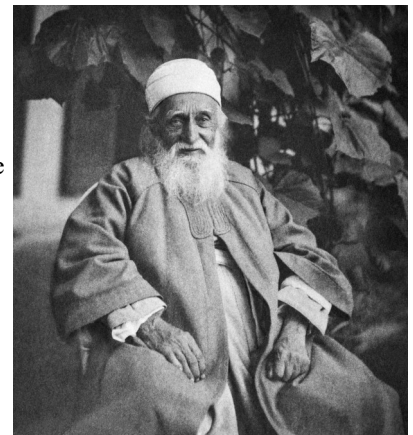
In 2021, members of the Bahá'í Faith from around the world (over 5 million people) will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the son and successor of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh. This illustrious religious leader came to America in 1912 on a 239-day journey to share His Father's teachings. He traveled by train across America and Canada to visit people from diverse backgrounds and to speak to groups large and small. Some of His most significant talks about international peace and the oneness of humanity were delivered in California.

'Abdu'l-Bahá traveled on the same Southern Pacific railroad tracks that border Peter Hill Heritage Park when He rode the train from Denver to Oakland, and later from Oakland to Sacramento and back East.

Traveling all day through Nevada on it's way to California, the train made regular stops but there's no record of 'Abdu'l-Bahá disembarking until his arrival in Oakland. While traversing the Sierra Nevada, he made a reference to observing the snow sheds at Donner Pass and the struggle of the pioneering members of the Donner Party of 60 years earlier to illustrate the progress of the American West, personal endurance, perseverance and dedication.

On October 25-26, 1912, 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave several talks at the Hotel Sacramento in Sacramento. He described the role that the people of California could play in bringing about world peace. He foretold the formation of the United Nations, which held its first conference in 1945 in San Francisco.

In his speech he said, "I have visited your Capitol and its gardens. No other Capitol has such beautiful surroundings. Just as it is imposing and distinguished above all others, so may the people of California become the most exalted and perfect altruists of the world. California is, indeed, a blessed country. The climate is temperate, the sun ever shining, the fruits abundant and delicious. All outer blessings are evident here. The Californians are a noble people; therefore, I hope they may make extraordinary progress and become renowned for their virtues."



© Bahá'í International Community
'Abdu'l-Bahá, July 1912



Step back in time

By David Baker



NEW SAW INSTALLED AT DELANO QUARRY

 FIRST OF ITS KIND IN COUNTY

It is 1909 and times are good in Rocklin. Some eighty men are employed at the twenty-two quarries with granite extracted for building, curbing and cemetery purposes. The Delano Quarry, which opened in 1877, has twenty-five workers on the payroll, and the site has been leased to the United States Saw Company of Sacramento by its owner, Ira Lemuel Delano. Louis Delano, his son, is the quarry manager and Morris Grindell employed as foreman¹.

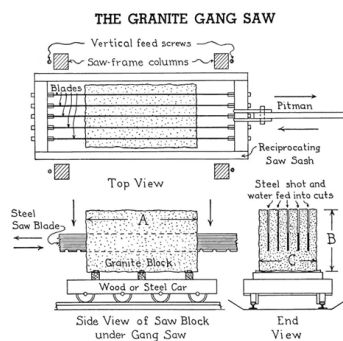
The Delano Quarry is installing a revolutionary granite saw owned by the Lawrence Development Company of Sacramento under license of the United States Saw Company. Some \$50,000 was spent to design, build and install it at the Delano Quarry, which they acquired under a long-term lease.²

The devise, known as a "gang saw," is the first ever to be installed in the county and uses an electrical motor for power.

The stone saw has a horizontal motion where chilled steel shot is drawn across the stone by seven-foot (or longer) metal blades with a series of cut-out "teeth." A circulating water-based slurry system is used to cool the surface being cut and remove stone residue during its operation.

The saw is performing as expected and doing the work of many stone-cutters. It sawed a stone twelve feet long to a depth of a foot in forty minutes, which is before the flywheel broke and the trial stopped.³

After equipment modifications, a fine slab of granite, 10 feet 4 inches long by 2 feet wide and 1 inch thick, was sawed, and highly polished on one-third of its length to demonstrate the quarry's capability, according to Mr. Grindell.⁴ The saw has lowered the cost of cutting and surfacing granite so efficiently that the local quarry



men can successfully compete with artificial stone (concrete) manufacturers⁵. Although the stone saw has been working to the great satisfaction of its owner,⁶ it's reported that the California Granite Company, is moving the stone saw to the Old

John Taylor (Capitol) Quarry and will house it in a separate cutting shed.



California Granite Company Sheds and Office (later Union Granite ca. 1960)

The California Granite Company, managed by Adolph Pernu as President, is building a new Monument shed, this summer of 1909, about 180 feet long at this quarry. Mr. Grindell has been brought over from the Delano Quarry as foreman and Plumb Elliott, a skilled mechanic, hired to take charge of the gang saw.

With contracts for new banks in Salinas and Santa Cruz and expectations to furnish granite for the new Placer County Court House, the company needs a larger facilities for the new machines required and the sixty-two men employed.⁸ The saw and the equipment for surfacing and polishing is costing about \$20,000 to place.

The California Granite Company purchased the Levison building on A-Street (Rocklin Road), formerly used as a restau-



By Susan Brooking

Will the pandemic shadow ever depart?! Due to considerations pandemic related it became necessary to cancel the Fall Potluck originally scheduled for September 20th. Very disappointing to all, though it was the safest option.

This event is usually the kickoff to Rocklin Historical Society's series of meetings, school tours and the speaker series. The hope is that as the season progresses, those events and others will be scheduled.

The good news is that the museum has a few new "docents-in-training" - there's always room for more! Rocklin History Museum has been open on Saturdays this summer. Beginning in October the museum will resume Wednesday hours as well. Please come visit any Wednesday or Saturday between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Masks are required in our small museum.

Interested in volunteering as a docent? Maybe you'd like to schedule a tour? Any other question or suggestion? Please contact either Gay Morgan gfmorgan@att.net or Susan Brooking sarock4322@att.net



California Granite Quarry Office Adjoining Monument Shed Construction (ca. 1909)

rant, and is moving it next to the monument shed, where, after remodeling, it will be used as an office.⁹

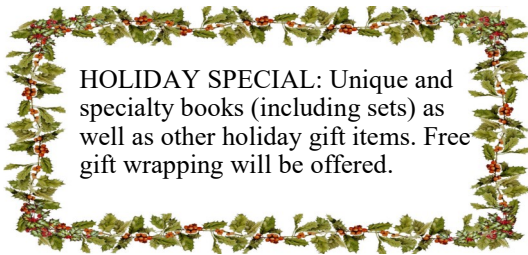
¹The Placer Herald 1-26-1907; ²The Placer Herald 5-4-1907; ³The Placer Herald 5-25-1907; ⁴The Placer Herald 9-28-1907; ⁵The Placer Herald 5-16-1908; ⁶The Placer Herald 7-11-1908; ⁷The Placer Herald 11-28-1908; ⁸The Placer Herald 7-31-1909; ⁹Roseville Register 7-22-1909

Rocklin Friends of the Library Book Sale!

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 6, 9am to 1pm

WHERE: Rocklin Parks and Recreation building on Fifth Street (Johnson-Springview Park).

COST: Hardbacks selling for \$2 and paperbacks for \$1. Collectible comic books (5 for \$1). Jigsaw puzzles for \$1. CDs and DVDs for \$2. Children's books ranging from \$1 to 50 cents.



HOLIDAY SPECIAL: Unique and specialty books (including sets) as well as other holiday gift items. Free gift wrapping will be offered.



Come to Old St. Mary's on Nov. 8 at 6:30 to vote on our new board members!

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.



RANDY PETERS
CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN. PARTY. REPEAT



Get involved! Here are ways you can help The Rocklin Historical Society:

- **Fix-it Team:** Although this group helps do maintenance jobs around the museum, they also are involved in other interesting activities such as planning and installing historic plaques, and promoting areas outside the museum (such as the firehouse, roundhouse site, and restoration projects). Contact: Jim Hammes jimhammes@yahoo.com
- **Museum Docent:** We need docents to help keep our museum open! Docents are thoroughly trained to show visitors around, and where to look if they are doing research. They will always be paired with someone who is experienced and knowledgeable. A commitment of 3 hours once a month is all that is asked. Contact: Gay Morgan at 916-624-2355 or gfmorgan@att.net
- **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. Contact: Susan Brooking for more information: sarock4322@att.net.
- **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! Contact: Nancy Lohse at nlohse@hotmail.com

- **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, second Monday of the month. Contact: Hank Lohse at hlohse3@yahoo.com or Jim Hammes at jimhammes@yahoo.com

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