

## President's Message

Jim Hammes



# Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Summer, 2022

A few of us recently had a discussion about creating Value Added Partnerships between other community entities and our Historical Society mission.

During the conversation, the word Heritage came up which got me thinking, (Yes...that actually happens on occasion).

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "Heritage" as property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance, valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations and relating to things of historic or cultural value that are worthy of preservation.

All of which seems applicable to who we are and what we do.

The description to me makes us more than just stewards of our Rocklin history but more of caretakers of our Rocklin Heritage.

A catalyst of participation and education to and for the community have been and should continue as our primary "Go Forward Commitment."

Creating and cultivating new Value-Added Partnerships is and has always been an integral component in our society's efforts to maintain stability, credibility and ensure the longevity of our group.

One area of concern and ongoing focus will be to recruit and engage new membership with an emphasis on reaching out to youth and contemporary generations to add to the veteran core we have in place now as our foundational base.

I am trusting that our initiative to "Recruit-Renew and Recognize" the need to supplement the reach and exposure of our society to the community is viable and essential to our existence today, tomorrow and in to the future.

We all must understand the need to take ownership in advancing, managing and communicating the Heritage we have in our hands and the responsibility of each of us to do so.

There is no "i" in Team but there sure are MANY key people like US!

Together we can realize that Success is achieved by ... Never allowing our grasp to exceed our reach.

... until we gather again.

## Hank Lohse receives Pioneer Award

*Recognized for efforts to preserve Rocklin's history*

By Gloria Beverage

Henry "Hank" Lohse III was presented with the City of Rocklin's 2022 Pioneer Award in April in recognition of his tireless efforts to preserve Rocklin's history.

A longtime member of the Rocklin Historical Society (RHS), including two terms as President, Hank has volunteered countless hours on projects aimed at preserving the city's heritage, including building a replica of Rocklin's Old Firehouse.

"Hank has provided a rudder and firm guidance to the RHS for more than 17 years, recalled past president Dr. James Carlson. "His cool temperament and demeanor have kept our group – what has sometimes been compared to a 'herd of cats' – steady and moving forward."

Gene Johnson, one of the founders of the Rocklin Historical Society, concurred.

"In addition to Hank's great contributions as a steadfast leader for RHS, he has been an indispensable member of the Fix-It Team," Johnson said.

In addition to using his truck to help move materials, Hank has served as the team's heavy lifter when physical strength is needed. Since he is 6'2", Fix It team members also depend on him for completing the tasks unreachable by the shorter volunteers.

Even more impressive is Hank's approach to tasks.

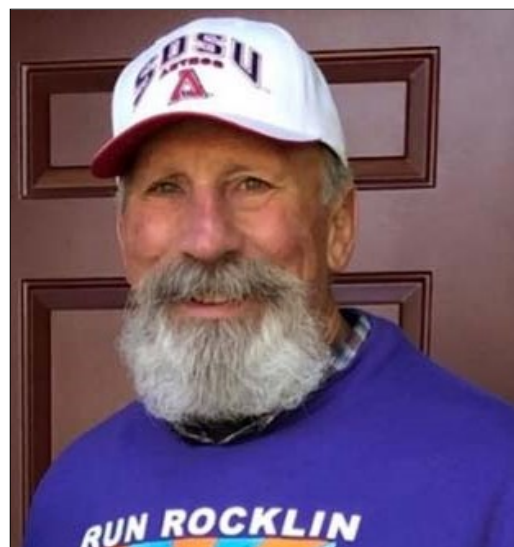
"Unlike the male stereotype that forges ahead without reference to instructions, Hank actually reads the instructions," Johnson said.

Hank acknowledged Johnson's comment with typical humility.

"Reading the instructions has saved me," Hank explained.

At 74, Hank has no intention of slowing down.

Born just outside of Jacksonville, Florida, Hank spent the first 10 years of his life on a dairy farm. After his parents sold the dairy farm, the family turned to boarding and caring for horses.



Two-time RHS president Hank Lohse

Hank attended Admiral Farragut Academy, a four-year military prep school where he played on the football team for three years. He earned a football scholarship (playing guard and tackle) at Florida State. After 2-1/2 years, he left college to join the U.S. Air Force.

During his four years with the Air Force, Hank received technical training in Mississippi and was stationed first at McClellan Air Force Base, then shipped to Saigon, Vietnam, finishing his tour of duty at McClellan.

Hank stayed in California resuming his college education at Sac State and earning a degree in Business with a concentration in Finance and a minor in Economics.

It was during this time that Nancy, a petite blond living in his apartment complex, caught Hank's attention. The attraction was mutual. "He was really good looking," Nancy recalled.

Nancy was finishing studies for her teaching credential, he noted.

They dated for a couple of years and were married in 1971. Hank proudly points out they will celebrate their 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Dec. 20.

*(See LOHSE, pg. 2)*

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



**Hank took on the role of ill-fated sheriff Sam Renaldi for RHS's Voices of the Passed**

Hank started his career as a management trainee for Sears, switching to All-state 10 years later. He became an insurance agent in 1986, retiring in 2011.

Nancy, in the interim, began her teaching career with the Western Placer Unified School District in Lincoln, later moving to the Rocklin Unified School District.

The couple bought their first home in

the historic district of Roseville in 1975. Three years later, they moved across the street from longtime Rocklin Historical Society members Gary and Jean Day. With the encouragement of the Days, the Lohses became members of the Historical Society.

After his retirement, Hank actively began working with the Fix-It team as they built the Old Firehouse replica on Front Street.

He can often be found making repairs at Old St. Mary's Chapel. One weekend while Nancy was preparing the chapel for a memorial service, Hank repaired a broken latch on the door and then went outside to sweep the patio.

"He just gets stuff done," said Nancy.

While he may be the heavy lifter on the Fix It team, Hank also demonstrated strong leadership skills and the ability to achieve consensus during his two terms as President of RHS.

"Hank never complained and has a natural take charge attitude. It was a pleasure to have him take over as President of RHS after me," said past president Kathie Nippert.

Hank has volunteered for Rocklin's "Big Day of Giving," fundraising for the past five years on behalf of the Rocklin Historical Society. During the Pandemic, he worked with the City of Rocklin and the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce to increase membership for the society.

His volunteer efforts are not limited to the Historical Society, however.

He and Nancy function as Run Rocklin moderators at the corner of Whitney

Boulevard and Argonaut each year.

Hank has also volunteered his truck and muscles to assist with the Rocklin Friends of the Library's semi-annual book sales.

Their leisure time is spent skiing and hiking at Lake Tahoe. Whenever possible, they head to New York to visit their daughter, Deborah. With daughter Amanda and son-in-law Preston living close by, they relish their time with their two granddaughters.



**Community volunteerism is a family affair, as Hank, wife Nancy, and granddaughters Lainey and Makena Danielli help direct runners during Run Rocklin**

## 29th Annual Hot Chili & Cool Cars September 17, 10 am to 3 pm



This is always a fun event! But we need your help!

We are in need of volunteers to help staff our booth. We will also be opening the museum at 11:00 instead of 1:00, and we need a few people to help until the regular staff arrives.

If you can contribute 2 hours, please contact RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks at [Raburks49@gmail.com](mailto:Raburks49@gmail.com) or call her at 916-624-5057.

**Big Day of Giving**  
Final Count  
MAY 5

**RHS received  
a total of  
\$4490.67!**

**THANK  
YOU**

## Summertime request reminds us of our connection to Washington

Summer is the time for family vacations, and many families visit our Capitol, Washington, D.C. We received a request for information from a family planning their summer trip there. It just goes to show how our third grade field trips enlighten our community members, and how far flung our Rocklin granite is.

The request came from a mom who had chaperoned her daughter's field trip to the museum. She learned that Rocklin granite was used to create benches that were placed on the Capitol grounds. She asked if she remembered correctly, and asked us for help in finding out more information so that maybe they

could find the benches while there.

We went to our third grade docent and granite guru, Susan Brooking. She told us that in 1968 Congressman Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson commissioned Ruhkala's Union Granite Co. to build 32 benches that were sent to the Capitol, and that they were near the House of Representatives building.

Wanting to be a little more specific, we did some digging and found that they grace the Spirit of Justice Park, a park built over a large underground parking garage behind the Rayburn and Longworth House Office Buildings.

We hope our Rocklin family finds the park and rests a bit on our benches!



One of two identical fountains that make up the Spirit of Justice Park. The benches seem to be holding up well—they are nearly 50 years old! The park sits on top of a large underground parking garage behind the Rayburn (pictured) and Longworth House Office Buildings.



CONGRESSMAN and Mrs. Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson of Roseville, are the first to use the Rocklin Granite benches which have been installed on the Nation's Capitol grounds. Thirty-two benches were made especially for the Capitol grounds by the Ruhkala Bros. Union Granite Co. of Rocklin. The company is operated by

Abner, Ben and Ruben Ruhkala. Congressman Johnson said, "The craftsmanship and construction of the benches has received praises and commendation from many people." The benches are located around fountains in landscaped areas on top of underground garages at the Capitol.

## Coming to America: the arrival of the Spanish in Rocklin

### *celebrating our Spanish Heritage*



Hand enameled plate from Seville, Spain

A new exhibit that looks at the history of the Spanish who made the arduous journey from Spain to Hawaii, finally making their home in Rocklin

Now through September 25th.

The Rocklin History Museum, 3895 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA

Hours: Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 pm

A new exhibit is open through September at the museum. Designed by Edward Corral, Alfred Corral, and Shirley Corral Espley, the display is part of the ongoing "Honoring our Heritage" series.

In 1906, Hawaiian sugar cane and pineapple companies began recruiting immigrants from Spain to harvest crops. From 1907 to 1913 more than 8,000 Spanish immigrants made the long and difficult voyage to Hawaii. Most planned to work hard, save money and then return home when their contracts expired.

But they were drawn to California by rumors of fertile farm land and moderate climate. Over 90% of the immigrants decided to relocate in California instead of returning to Spain. In 1912 several Spanish families began to arrive in Placer County.

This exhibit is a reflection of the culture, journey, and lives of the Spanish families who made their new home in Rocklin.

## The Congregational...Pilgrim...Covenant Church of Rocklin, Pt 2

*“A bend in the road is not the end of the road...” Helen Keller*

By Doug Osella

*When it was suggested I write the history of Rocklin's first Protestant church and longest lasting congregation, I thought of the Beatles' song, "Help!" Rooted as I am since the 1950s in Community Covenant Church of Rocklin (I started in the Sunday School), I knew only two facts: (1) that my church congregation could trace its beginning to Congregationalism and (2) it all started in the home of a schoolteacher named Silas Sweet. A third detail came to mind: this happened a long time ago. With those three clues, I set out on a quest. Here is Part 2 of the history of the Congregational Church. Part 1 can be seen on page 4 in the Spring, 2022 issue of the Quarry Quarterly, [here](#).*

Five years before the 20th century, Rocklin was booming after the devastating fires of 1893 and 1894. Businesses on Front Street and across the tracks on Railroad Avenue were emerging and thriving. The Central Pacific Railroad Company employed a large force of machinists and workers at the roundhouse to prepare the six-wheeled “mountain horses” for their toil up the Sierra inclines to Truckee. The town was celebrated for its beautiful gray granite, being mined in large quantities for use in buildings and monuments<sup>1</sup>.

During this period the Congregational Church of Rocklin felt good about its prospects. The largest church membership in 28 years would be recorded, and the church wanted to move forward, which was its calling.

Described as “an ornament to Rocklin<sup>2</sup>”, the new Church building on Church (Third Street) and Emerson was dedicated on Tuesday, November 12, 1895. The Newcastle News<sup>3</sup> described the dedication as “one of the most pleasing events ever witnessed in Rocklin”. The folding doors of the side room were thrown open to accommodate the “immense audience”. The building itself was described as “not large but thoroughly modern in style and architecture...and the chandelier of four electric lights was beautifully festooned with evergreens and flowers.” The new church appeared among the first buildings in Rocklin to employ the new technology of electric lighting<sup>4</sup>.

The program presented at the dedication impressed the news columnist: the building was “thoroughly modern”; the auditorium was “thoroughly lighted with electricity”, and the choir consisted of the “best voices in the town”. The whole pro-



gram was “excellent”. The visiting pastors gave words of “encouragement and praise”. The Reverend Dr. Henry N. Hoyt from Sacramento spoke as his topic: “*The glory of this later house shall be greater than the former, sayth the Lord of Hosts*”: (Haggai 2: 9)”. The Newcastle News article noted, “...the selection could not have been more appropriate”. This unusual notation without explanation probably referred to the “former” church, which was built in 1883, having subsequently burned to the ground. This new “later church”, now being dedicated, was built on the original granite foundation of the former building<sup>5</sup>. (More research is needed to confirm this fact.)

One can feel the happiness spilling out that evening with the electric lights shining, enhanced by Dr. Hoyt’s “grand discourse”. Even old feuds can melt like wax in such illuminating words and light. It’s not recorded that the congregation raised the roof in songs of praise. Perhaps they did. Records show that a whopping appeal for \$148 (for folding chairs) was made and nearly reached. During the week following the dedication, gospel meetings were held by a visiting evangelist, which built upon the joy of a new church building and generated a comment in the church minutes: “We (the congregation) took up our work with a new purpose, new energy, and greater love...”.

Mountain top visions tend to fade in the

valley of everyday living, and in only a few years church records show financial problems besetting the church. In 1898 to pay bills, the church voted to mortgage the parsonage property for \$500. Better times came in 1906 when the annual meeting highlighted the church's condition to be prosperous with all outstanding bills paid and with \$26 in the church treasury.

A few years later, in 1913, owing to decreasing income, the church could no longer afford a pastor and held only song services on Sunday evenings. In 1914, Rev. W. H. Ogle was called to be pastor for one year. Financial aid was required from the denomination’s Missionary Board to help pay his salary. The parsonage building was lost to fire on April 14, 1915, and the property was again mortgaged (\$250) for financial reasons. The Spanish flu pandemic, which started in 1918 and lasted for several years, greatly reduced the number of Sunday School sessions, which had been the mainstay of the church.

The City of Rocklin began facing problems of its own that bore negatively on the health of the churches in town. In 1908 the Southern Pacific Railroad Co. (formerly Central Pacific Railroad Co.) moved its roundhouse facilities from Rocklin to Roseville, causing a “mass exodus” of Rocklin families to Roseville, reducing the population of the town by approximately 1000

*(See CHURCH, pg. 5)*

*(CHURCH, con't from pg. 4)*

people. Many families took their homes and buildings with them.

In the spring and summer of 1908, an estimated 100 homes and businesses were hauled to Roseville. The fires of 1909 and 1914 destroyed businesses on Railroad Avenue and Front Street that were never rebuilt. The Granite Strike of 1915 closed most of the quarries, never to reopen. Rocklin's glory days as leading railroad center and granite producer ended<sup>6</sup>.

Congregational Church minutes and treasurer's reports record the struggles of the church through these years and beyond until the last entries of September 17 and November 27, 1923. In these minutes, trustees named church member and Rocklin mayor, O. H. Ricksecker to be permanent Church Chairman until the church finally closed its doors. It is not clear when the closure officially took place (The Articles of Incorporation expired on January 22, 1927). The desire for worship at the now empty church building on Third and Emerson did not die with the end of Congregationalism. A flame of hope flickered on due to the persistence of the town mayor and his wife, who for many years became tenders of the embers with only the hope of a future flame.

In a letter to a church member in 1994, former Covenant pastor in Rocklin, Rev. Worth V. Hodgin (1945-52), recalled the faithfulness of Mayor O.H. Ricksecker and Elenor:

*Mr. and Mrs. Ricksecker were among the few members who remained living in Rocklin. (He was the mayor of Rocklin for many years) and was....the only living member of a defunct Congregational Church corporation. Consequently, being*



O. H. Ricksecker and wife Elenor

*a conscientious gentleman, he hoped that day would come when a congregation would again be worshipping in the empty church. He watched over the property, renting out the parsonage, and carefully keeping the books, while trying to keep the parsonage and church building in some kind of repair.*

### The Pilgrim Holiness Church

In 1941, a shaft of light broke through the clouds for Mayor Ricksecker and Elenor when a small Bible study fellowship and Sunday school of six children began meeting in the home of Mrs. Roy Payne in Rocklin. Then, from Sacramento, on their first wedding anniversary, Rev. William Mays and his wife Martha, responded to a call to serve in Rocklin and give leadership to this small group of adults and children. The Sunday school grew rapidly, outgrowing the Payne home, the old town library building, and the Finnish Lutheran Church as well. Reaching a high of 127 students, approval was given by Mr. Ricksecker to renovate the Congregational church building on Third and Emerson for use by the new congregation. The new church was named the Rocklin Pilgrim Church since Pastor Mays was associated at that time with the Pilgrim Holiness Denomination<sup>7</sup>.

The old Congregational Church had an ongoing problem with woodpeckers pecking holes in the steeple. One of the jobs of renovation by the new church, according to Pastor Mays, in a letter to WWII GIs, was to tear down the old steeple and replace it with an "old time mission roof". The workers did not find woodpeckers or bats in the belfry, but they did find seven pigeon eggs. The eggs were removed and ended up "resting warmly under Mrs. Montero's setting hen." The Monteros lived just down Third Street from the church.

Pastor Mays and his wife were remembered in later years for their warm commitment and ability to creatively engage community members, especially the youth, in the life of the church, and they reached out to service men and women during WWII with letters of encouragement and information from home. In 1944, Serviceman's Sunday<sup>8</sup> was planned, and a large assembly of folks from the church and community gathered outside the church building for group photos to be sent to the GIs.

In a subsequent letter to GIs, dated February, 1945, Pastor Bill Mays mentions his success at starting a church orchestra saying, "The first ones to enroll

### What's in a Name? Name changes over the years

1871 The First Congregational Church of Christ

1941 Rocklin Pilgrim Church

1946 Rocklin Community Church

1950 Mission Covenant Church

1966 Evangelical Covenant Church

Today: Community Covenant Church

are the clarinetists Gaynor Stuckert (Morgan), Howard Scribner, Mildren Lane, Norma Payne and Dorothy Mago-vac; Trumpeters Bill Baker and Earl Frank; Trombonists Homer Davidson and Wm.C. Mays; and pianist Laura Willard.."

During that time, the pastor was trying to work up a special number for the Sunrise Service to be held on Whitney Hill. Recalling that orchestra of long ago, Gay (Stuckert) Morgan, an active and long time member of the Rocklin Historical Society, made this comment for this article: "I remember that orchestra and playing at the Sunrise Service on Whitney Hill. Vain creature that I am, I was upset because it was so cold I had to wear a coat that covered my pretty new Easter dress."

On Sunday, April 29, 1945 at 7:45pm a service to honor the roll of 140 GIs from the area was planned at Rocklin Pilgrim Church for dedication of those "serving our country". Mr. J. E. Watson built a large framed, red, white, and blue service roll. A letter of announcement was mailed to the community. During the service, the nearest of kin would step forward, light a candle as the name for the loved one was called, and place it in a receptacle. A special place was made in the service for the honored dead.

*to be continued...*

<sup>1</sup>Davis, Leonard M. ROCKLIN, 2004, 52-54.

<sup>2</sup>Newcastle News, August 21, 1895

<sup>3</sup>Newcastle News, November 20, 1895.

<sup>4</sup>Placer Argus, August 23, 1895. Electric lights were being installed in Rocklin's livery stable, residences, Porter's Hall, Masonic Hall, and Bur-chard's Hotel as well.

<sup>5</sup>This supposition is based on a comment made in a 1994 letter written by former pastor Worth V. Hodgin.

<sup>6</sup>Davis, Leonard M. ROCKLIN, pages 60-70.

<sup>7</sup>"*This is Your Life Community Covenant Church*" (10th Anniversary Celebration), January 17, 1976.

<sup>8</sup>*This Is Your Life Community Covenant Church* (10th Anniversary Celebration), January 17, 1976

# Rocklin Chinatown: A Neighborhood Not Forgotten

May 7 was a special day to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month for the Rocklin Historical Society and the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Placer County Leadership Council, hosts of "Rocklin Chinatown, a neighborhood not forgotten."

The presentation began at the roundhouse site which, prior to 1877, was home to approximately 25 structures occupied by Chinese workers. (To read about what happened to the homes and the Chinese, read Dan DeFoe's article on [pg 7](#))

Dr. James Carlson gave a presentation on the history of the Chinese in Rocklin, and the audience was entertained by hula dances performed by the Halau Hula Pono Dancers and a Martial Arts demonstration by members of the Sierra Chinese School.

Afterward, audience members stayed to see a more close-up look at the site, including the area, marked off by David Baker and the Fixit team, where the Chinese structures were.

The celebration wasn't over yet, however. The program moved to the museum, where special activities were set up. AAPI member Bernadette Diehl described the atmosphere: "The tranquil sounds of Michiyo Koga's koto filled the air," while guests chatted and snacked on almond cookies and green tea and took a tour of the museum. A display of Asian themed books, along with tables with origami and mahjong instruction provided everyone with fun activities.

This celebration was an introduction to the council's ultimate long-term goal. This goal is to build a reproduction of a

Joss House, which would include a small temple and living quarters, and to have a yearly cultural festival to honor and celebrate the cultures that make up the fabric of this area.

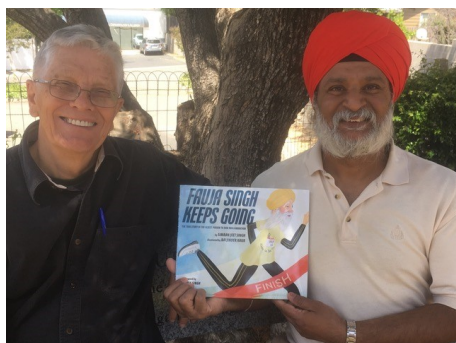
The council wants the Rocklin community to "capture our vision to preserve and celebrate the ethnically diverse laborers... the forgotten people who contributed to the city of Rocklin."

The AAPI appreciates the collaboration with RHS. Founding member Bernadette Diehl says, "As members of the AAPI Council, it was affirming to hold this event and celebrate our history and culture with the community. We thank the Rocklin Historical Society for partnering with us, and look forward to future collaborations!"

## What is a Joss House?

From the Auburn Joss House website:

"Portuguese people living in California saw that the Chinese community centers were also places of worship, and called them "deus" houses, from the Portuguese word for God. English speakers heard the Portuguese speakers using term "deus house" (similar as well to the Spanish Dios) to refer to these buildings, and began to pronounce it "joss." Eventually it was written down often enough that the term "Joss House" has survived and is now the regular term used for these historical buildings, which served as community centers, houses of worship, hostels, schools, and more."



Clockwise, starting right: Professional Koto' (national instrument of Japan) player Michiyo Koga, a gifted recording artist who has played with violinist Issaac Stern and the Sacramento Symphony Orchestra; Sierra Chinese School martial arts demonstration; Marj Truppa teaching Mahjong; AAPI Council members and event organizers, left to right, Bernadette Diehl, Cam Mahon, Cindy Tsang, Vanessa Yajima Wildie (not pictured but part of the organizing team); Millie Yan and Donna Trumbo; David Baker with Kulvinder Singh, holding one of the books available that day, *Fauja Singh Keeps Going*, the story of the oldest marathon runner; and the Halau Hula Pono Dancers



# Chinese expulsion from Rocklin—1877

## *The end of Chinatown in Rocklin*

**Note:** Former RHS president Dan DeFoe is a retired professor of history and communication studies. With 30+ years of teaching at Sierra College, Dan's animated lecture style made him a favorite with students. He earned the Teacher of the Year award nine times.

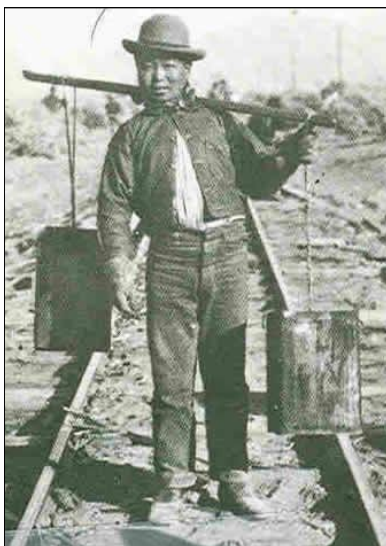
By Daniel DeFoe

They came at sundown on September 16, 1877, a deadly procession brandishing axes, awls and rifles, a vigilante mob filled with terrible purpose. Murder was in the air, and the place was Rocklin California.

The mob marched on the modest Chinatown located near the Southern Pacific Railroad roundhouse, a community of a few hundred people set discreetly away from the rest of the city. The residents had been given an ultimatum: "pack up, get out, or be driven out!" The deadline was 6PM and all afternoon long lines of terrified Chinese, carrying whatever belongings they could manage, had been filing out of town.

Shortly after six, the outraged white citizens of Rocklin fell on the now empty 25 structures and tore them to pieces. An overturned stove ignited a fire that spread quickly and Chinatown disappeared in smoke and ash.

The cause that sent the "good citizens" of Rocklin to drive out the Chinese



Community, many of whom had lived in the region since the building of the Transcontinental Railroad was murder. The awful news had spread of a multiple homicide at the Sargent Ranch in Secret Ravine. On September 15, ranch hands discovered the body of a white woman inside the main house. She had been attacked with an axe and shot twice. Outside they discovered her husband, the ranch foreman Xavier D. Oder, dead of multiple gunshot wounds. Not far from this grisly scene lay a third victim, the ranch owner H. N. Sargent, mortally wounded with bullets in his head and shoulder. Sargent lived long enough to accuse several Chinese men of the crime.

Police called in from Rocklin and Roseville arrived on the scene, and on the dying man's testimony arrested ten Chinese miners at their cabin not much more than a stone's throw from the murder scene. Police found weapons and money on the men. Reportedly, the Sargent house had been robbed and circumstantially this was enough for the officers who hauled off their frightened prisoners, incarcerating them in the Rocklin jail.

Word of the sensational crime passed through the town like a bolt of lightning and crowds gathered outside the jail demanding the prisoners be given up for lynching. The next day all remaining Chinese were driven out of Rocklin. Meanwhile, police investigators were finding no conclusive evidence against any of the Chinese they were holding—a fact that the court of public opinion in Rocklin could not tolerate. New mobs swarmed around the jail demanding they be given the Chinese for vigilante justice.

Realizing that they could not protect their prisoners the authorities in Rocklin opted to move them to Auburn. A cordon of police was able to get the Chinese to the railroad depot but before the eastbound train could pull out an angry crowd attacked it screaming "Have them out!" "Hang them!" Police and railroad employees were finally able to fight off the vigilantes throwing them off the train as it pulled out of Rocklin.

Ultimately, Rocklin authorities made no further arrests and the real murderers were never brought to justice. In the end, the Chinese never returned to Rocklin. By 1879 one local account bragged, no Chinaman



can rent a house or obtain employment in the town."

The Rocklin way of expurgating its Chinese residents – giving them a deadline and threatening violence and fire – became a model for other gold country communities, among them Loomis, Penryn and Grass Valley.

The town of Truckee came up with its own method. Instead of threatening violence, which could have legal ramifications, the city fathers decided instead to "starve them out." The Chinese were offered no employment at all and any white person who employed or used the services of the Chinese would be "publicly shamed and threatened with worse."

The treatment of the Chinese in gold country communities reflected a larger nationwide hostility towards immigrants and foreigners generally. American nativism made targets of the Chinese, Japanese, Italians, Greeks, Eastern Europeans and others who in unprecedented numbers came to American shores in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They came to take jobs in the expanding American factory system and in so doing often encountered the same bigotry and racism long endured by African Americans and American Indians. The diversity of races, cultures, religions and, yes, opinions that many today see as the hallmark of American pluralism was, in our past, something to be feared by the majority of white America.

**Author's Note:** Among other sources, this account relies heavily on one of the more recent works concerning the Chinese in the gold country of California. It is *Driven Out: the Forgotten War against Chinese Americans* by Professor Jean Pfaelzer which is an excellent addition to the genre.



Heritage Trail Days are now underway!

**Get-Up-And-Go cards and information available at the museum!**

Special day of participation:

July 16 from 10AM-4PM

Granite splitting demonstration by Paul Ruhkala at  
11:00 a.m.

On display all day will be the star that sat on the  
top of the Stardust Skating Rink.  
Take a walk down memory lane!



What is this unusual household item? The only way you will find out is by visiting the new exhibit, "Honoring our Heritage, the Spanish in Rocklin," at the museum, weekends, 1-4pm, through September 25.

## Old St. Mary's News

By Nancy Lohse

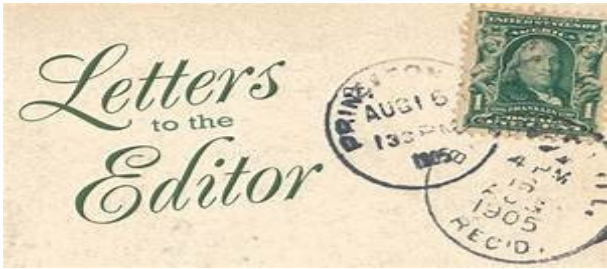
We had a beautiful wedding last Saturday at Old St. Mary's Chapel. The temperature was 103 and the reception was on the patio. We had the air conditioning on inside and the misters on outside. Luckily by the time the dancing started, the temperature had cooled and the fun began.

I couldn't help but think back to August 13, 1883 when St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church was dedicated by Archbishop Joseph Alemany from San Francisco. What was that first wedding like in the chapel? Imagine a world without air conditioning or misters! Ladies would have been in their long summer dresses and decorated straw hats. Men would be dressed in their best suit - probably only suit - complete with the required hat and tie. We have photos of some of these early couples at the chapel.



Dressed in their finery, surviving nerves and heat, no wonder they rarely smiled!

A big shout out to the Fix-it Team for keeping the almost 139 year old building functioning for beautiful weddings and touching memorials. And hurray for our dedicated Church Ladies who dust, vacuum, scrub and make sure everything is perfect for our clients special moments at Old St. Mary's! Here's to another 139 years!



Send your letter to the editor to [quarryquarterly@gmail.com](mailto:quarryquarterly@gmail.com)

Editor:

As a volunteer at Old St. Mary's, I am fortunate to be able to spend time on it's beautiful grounds. It would be wonderful to have a circular bench beneath this sprawling oak to be able to sit and enjoy the tranquil, surrounding area. Benches are often consigned as a way to remember someone; this would be a lovely place to consider, or a great fundraiser for our society!

Patsy Pattison



A circular bench around this oak tree is what Patsy Pattison envisions



You've heard of Elf on the Shelf? Well, now we have Gene on the Shelf!

A group of volunteers were talking about engaging visitors, particularly children, in simple activities at the museum. One popular activity is to hide (in plain sight) an object for children to look for in the museum.

Nancy Lohse came up with the brilliant idea of getting a Gene Johnson bobble head to hide, and that is what she did! Vice President George Salgado was in on the scheme by surreptitiously taking photos of front, sides and back of Gene, and Nancy sent it off to get the 8" statue created.

Children are invited to look for "Gene on the Shelf." and when they find him, report the location to a docent. They are rewarded with a lollipop! Who says museums are stuffy and boring?! No one at the Rocklin History Museum!



Is that Roy up there splitting some granite? We think so, but where is he? Answer on page 12.



Get some fresh air and enjoy learning some Rocklin history on our one-hour guided tours of historic Front Street. Dr. James Carlson leads the tours of our "outdoor museum" every second Saturday of the month.

We invite you to meet at 12 noon any second Saturday at Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5251 Front St, Rocklin. Invite others. It's fun! It's free!

**PLEASE NOTE: PLEASE RESERVE YOUR PLACE IN LINE WITH JIM CARLSON AT 916-624-0682 BY THE WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE EVENT.**

## rip/ rap

By Gay Morgan

FARM TO FORK, you hear it everywhere and people act like it is something new.

People in Rocklin always knew about Farm to Fork. My mother, Nora Stuckert and her best friend Edith Scribner, would pile the kids in the back seat of an old red and black 1932 Chevrolet and off we'd go to whatever farm or ranch that had the best fruit or vegetables available at that time. (Tiny, Howard's dog ran along side the car until he got tired and returned home.)

These transactions involved some polite negotiations, maybe a cup of coffee or lemonade and treats for the kids. Everyone was satisfied, and the farmer usually said to come back when the next crop was ready.

One time, after a blazing hot summer day, we set out in the early evening to visit another ranch. As we approached the ranch on a long, dusty driveway, we could see the rancher preparing his dinner over an open fire outside, without clothes. He saw us coming and dashed quickly into his house and emerged wearing his well-worn overalls. The grown-ups discussed the weather before completing a purchase. We never knew what we might encounter on these trips.

Later, much later when I had a family of my own, we had friends who had a small farm. They had a few cows and always planted a big vegetable garden. Matt had particularly good luck with his corn. He felt that corn should go from garden to boiling water within minutes. He would call and ask if the water was boiling. If I said yes, he would immediately bring us beautiful, fresh ears of corn.



They say we are in a severe drought, but we have had cold temperatures, wind, hail, rain, and snow into the middle of May. Summer (hot) weather will come along as usual. The water agencies say conserve water. PG&E says conserve power from 4 to 9 p.m. (the hottest time of the day). Just think about this for a while, what is your worst-case scenario? It could get ugly. Having lived in Rocklin for almost 90 years I know we have done it before. We are resourceful and willing to help our friends and neighbors and we will get through it together.



Many of us who grew up in Rocklin have fond memories of the old skating rink, a long-time Landmark. New owners want to demolish it so they can build new houses. (There always seems to be enough water for new developments.) They have given the City Fire Department permission to practice firefighting tactics on it. In my memory the walls were made of very thick concrete, and I do not think it burns well. We will see.

I can remember another time when fire was used to burn "old" houses to make room for new. The historic old Willard home located at the back edge of the property in a park like setting, was set ablaze as was the newer Willard home, on Rocklin Road, clearing the way for widening the road and new development. The stately old mansion, The Oaks, on Spring Valley Ranch was also destroyed in a man-made fire, The list goes on, sadly.

Perhaps it is time to take a step back and think about preserving some of our history. Look at how well St. Mary's Chapel turned out.





You may have noticed your email inbox getting a little thicker lately. That's because we are sending out a weekly update with news, reminders, and requests that shouldn't wait until the next issue of the Quarterly comes out, and as a way to consolidate various and sometimes multiple announcements into one email. But the best part, each week there is a little quiz or puzzle for you to solve.

The update comes out each Wednesday (or sometimes Thursday if I am over at the beach or something). Also, it won't usually be sent out in the week leading up to the issuing of a newsletter, since the information will be in the newsletter!

If you are not receiving this update, please send an email to [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com), and we will be sure to get you on the list!

In the meantime, we are sharing a link the latest puzzle for you to solve. We hope you enjoy this added treat—only three people have tried this puzzle so far!

Question: What (make and year) was the first motorized fire engine employed by the Rocklin Fire Department? Click [here](#) to be taken to the puzzle page.

From  
*the desk*  
of...  
Gene Johnson

Attorney Guy Gibson of Roseville knew of our interest in vintage clocks and offered that he had a modified Self-Winding Clock Co. (SWCC) clock given to his father by an SP employee many years ago. Guy donated the clock to the historical society. With the help of Scott Inman of the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center (SPRHC) we verified, based on the text of a yellowed typewritten instruction label, that the clock was, indeed, a railroad clock.

SWCC clocks of this style were manufactured circa 1900-1940 and were typically used in railway and business offices. An electrical signal distributed by Western Union periodically synchronized the clocks to exact standard times based on the US Naval Observatory timekeeper.

The missing original works of the clock would have been an elaborate

## A Southern Pacific Railroad Clock

marriage of a traditional pendulum clock works, a motor that wound the works every hour and two #6 dry cell batteries, the size of hair spray cans, to provide power.

At some point the original works were replaced with a diminutive quartz movement for the hour and minute hands; SPRHC has since added a second quartz movement to power a seconds hand. (Wonderful practical solutions but not at all popular with clock collectors.) The clock is currently on loan to the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center.

The Self Winding Clock Company Was a major manufacturer of electro-mechanical clocks from 1866 until about 1970. Based in New York City, the company was one of the first to power its clocks with an electric motor instead of winding by hand.



Southern Pacific Railroad self-winding clock

Here's another quiz from the Weekly Update  
Put these historic buildings in order from oldest built to most recent. Answers are on page 12. Or you can do it online here



St. Mary's  
Catholic Church



Whitney's The Oaks



Finn Hall



Hose Company #1



Wickman-Johnson  
House



California Granite  
Company store (later  
to be Moon's store  
and City Hall)



The Moore House

HAVE A MINUTE? VOLUNTEER!

## Ghosts of Placer County production gets a boost

Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Placer Repertory Theater's resident playwright and producing artistic director, has been awarded the Gloria Burt Sacramento Region Arts Fellowship for 2022. The fellowship will help defray development costs and support the playwright to bring *Ghosts of Placer County* to its full fruition, including a professional quality digital recording of a production that may be shared with schools and libraries.

*Ghosts of Placer County* is a dark comedy about how individual and community history haunts us and how we haunt history to define ourselves. "It is also about how important it is to document history and pass knowledge down through the

generations," said Kevin Foster, who plays a Trailblazer Guide named Kenny Greene in the show. The play also explores relationship dynamics even as it celebrates the contributions of both indigenous and immigrant populations to Placer County.

The next opportunities to see stage readings of scenes from this play are July 27 and August 24 at CoLLABoration LABs, 401B Vernon Street in Roseville at 7 PM. For more information, contact Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaboration-lab-tickets-242572710507>.

## Answers to puzzles

### Pg. 11 Historic Building Shuffle

1. Old St Mary's, 1883
2. The Oaks 1885
3. Wickman-Johnson House 1886
4. Hose Company #1 1894
5. The Moore Home 1903
6. Finn Hall 1905
7. California Granite Company Store 1910



Curious what this is or to see if you're right? Sorry, you'll have to visit the new exhibit at the museum to find out!

## MYSTERY PLACE, PG. 9



The spirit of Roy can be found on top of this shed at Quarry Park!

## ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL POTLUCK!

SAVE THE DATE:

MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 - 6 until 8:30 p.m.

**Springview Hall Community Center  
5480 Fifth Street, Rocklin**

**Details coming via postcard & email just after September 1st!**



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](http://www.placercf.org).

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

**Placer Community**  
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*Local giving. Lasting value.*



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