

President's Message

Jim Hammes



It's that time on our calendars to say goodbye to the last year and welcome the New Year.

For some of us the New year brings the optimism of better days ahead and new goals and experiences to be planned and with any luck and persistence ... hopefully achieved.

I think we call this ideal ... New Year's Resolutions ...

I, like many of you, feel that setting goals and expectations are a key component to measure the success and value I or we perceive to be realized in this next chapter of time.

Most of us have wonderful thoughts and attention paid to what we lay out as our goals in the New year. The New year gives us all the perceived opportunity to reset and start fresh ...

I know I go into each New year with well-placed intentions to do better, be better and realize my plans to fruition, only to come up short of some expectations. The challenge always seems to be the ability to continue with a focused plan a month or two into the New year to validate the commitment.

Not intentional, but probably just human nature ... we forget it takes work, dedication and accountability to stay the course. We also forget to stop once and a while and review our goals and take measurement of where we are with the objectives we have chosen to pursue.

That neglect along with unattainable goals are usually the main reason most of us fall short of a satisfactory result in our plan.

So, in an effort to recognize brevity to simplify things ... it is my personal intent to pay more consistent attention to my personal goals in 2023 in line with them being a real possible accomplishment.

It is my hope that this observation might help us as a group with our upcoming year's contributions and participation with our Historical Society activities.

"... An idea without a plan is a goal never achieved ..." Wishing us all and our Historical Society a Happy and Memorable New Year.

Until we chat again ...
Giddy Up

Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

January, 2023

Club Español added to Wall of Recognition *Organization celebrated heritage of residents*

By Gloria Beverage

Club Español, the cultural organization founded by Spanish immigrants and their families, has been added to Rocklin's Wall of Recognition.

The non-profit organization served as the hub of numerous events hosted for residents as well as supported projects commemorating the Spanish culture and the history of the Rocklin area, explained Alfred Corral, a member of one of Rocklin's prominent Spanish-American families.

"The immigrants and many first-generation Spanish Americans have passed and with them the soul of the club," stated Corral. "While Club Español no longer exists, you can be sure that its members will continue to support the Rocklin area, especially the Rocklin Historical Society and the museum's events and projects."

According to the club's official history, the first Spaniards "came from beautiful beach towns, coastal mountain villages, cities, and from the dry plains of Spain in the early 1900s in search of opportunity."

Between 1907 and 1913, as many as 8,000 Spaniards accepted offers from recruiters sent by the Hawaiian sugar cane industry and embarked on a 50-plus day journey on one of six ships. The job offer included free housing and travel (one-way).

While many planned on returning to Spain when their contracts were fulfilled, others were lured to California by stories of fertile farmland and the moderate climate.

The first families arrived in Rocklin in 1912 and 1913, finding jobs and saving to purchase property to plant what they had grown in Spain: almonds, berries, cherries, figs, grapes, lemons, melons, oranges, pears, peaches, pomegranates and plums.

Ten families owned and operated fruit orchards. Sierra College's campus is located on the property where the Boisas

ran their dairy farm.

According to Anne Aguilar Santucci, five of Rocklin's earliest retail businesses were owned and operated by Spanish-American families:

- Chung Ah Moon and his wife, Anna Diaz Rodriguez owned and operated a general grocery store in the two-story granite building on Rocklin Road that now houses Rocklin's City Hall. Their former residence has become the home of the Rocklin History Museum.
- A general store, gasoline station and auto shop, known as Fred's Place, was operated by the Fred Basque family at 4865 Pacific Street (at Pine Street).
- Hank and Connie Gayaldo operated the White Spot Café at 5065 Pacific Street (at Oak Street).
- The Nicolas Basque family owned the Basque Market general store and gasoline station at 5015 Pacific Street (at Oak Street).
- The White Front, a bar, café, dance area and motel, at the corner of Pacific Street and Midas Avenue, was owned by the Joe DeFuentes family.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the Spanish residents held social gatherings centered around picnics in a grove near Sierra College.

Eventually, this unique group of immigrants formed Club Español, which held its non-profit status from 1981 to 2018. During its existence, the organization pioneered the gathering of documentation about its ancestors' unique migration, providing information that would help later generations find and visit their Spanish ancestors.

In 1984, Alfred Corral organized a trip to Spain for 47 of the club's members. "Included were five days for everyone to branch out and visit the places where their families came from," recalled Corral's sister, Shirley Espley. "I will never forget how amazing it felt to walk the streets of Fuentesauco where both sets of



Bottle cap from Boisas Dairy, which is now site of Sierra College.
(Courtesy Alfred Corral)

(See CLUB, pg. 5)

4835 Pacific Street — a long business history

By Sharalee Falzarano

Additional research by Delia Kitzmann

To tell the story of 4835 Pacific Street in Rocklin the reader must first get a visual on the location. Think Loree's Little Shack by the Railroad Tracks situated on the corner of Pacific and East Midas also formally known as the White Front. Yep, I kid you not! I'm referring to the long white clapboard building with the low hanging roof that one can drive by without giving it a second glance.

What this seasoned researcher has been able to uncover is what happens at 4835, stays at 4835! Luckily, with the help of newspapers, legal documents and modern technology there really is nowhere to hide.

The telling of this story begins with Joseph (aka Joe) Sanchez DeFuentus who emigrated to Rocklin from Spain by way of Hawaii with his family in 1911, at the age of six. In 1924, Joe married Dolores Leal, a fruit packer from Penryn and also a native of Spain. Together they had two daughters, Josephine and Mary.

In 1928, Joe and Dolores began buying up property along Pacific Street. Thanks to the 1926 Federal Highway Administration's coast-to-coast paved highway plan, the U.S. 40 was built. Both the Lincoln Highway and U.S. 40 covered parts of Pacific Street bringing sputtering automobiles full of adventure seekers looking to spend money for lodging, gas, and food. Joe and Dolores would eventually have all three.

According to the 1930 census, Joe was the owner and operator of an auto court with cabins, and in 1932, he owned a gas station called "Joe's Place." The first sign of a restaurant/cafe appeared in the Roseville Tribune on Dec. 30, 1936 for a New Year's celebration at The White Front Cafe complete with dancing, free turkey sandwiches and bar service. This was only three years after prohibition.

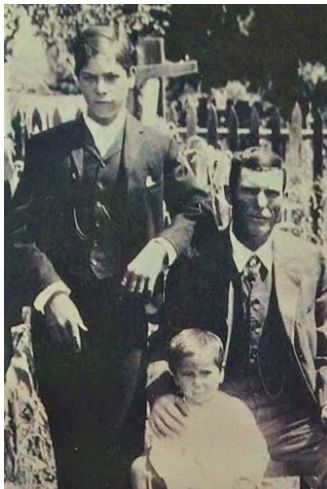
Joe proved to be quite the entrepreneur. According to the Roseville Press on April 15, 1940, he purchased the old Rocklin Depot train station for \$150 in order to reuse the lumber. Is it possible that some of the depot still exists at 4835?

Sadly, this story takes a turn for the worse during the mid-1940s. In June 1945, Dolores DeFuentes filed for divorce from Joseph on the grounds of extreme cruelty. A property settlement was made out of court. It provided for the sale of the White Front for approximately \$18,000, divided between them along with other community property.

On July 7, 1945, Joseph DeFuentes sold to Augustus P. Zimmerman all stock in trade, fixtures, and business known as the White Front Tavern.

Then, on Dec. 13, 1947, Augustus P. Zimmerman filed for divorce from his wife, Avanelle Zimmerman, alleging extreme cruelty and asked for a restraining order to prevent her from removing money from a joint bank account. He accused her of being in love with the bartender, which she denied.

On March 3, 1948, a notice of sale was published in the Press Tribune stating that



Joseph DeFuentus, standing, at age 16, with brother Frank and father Francesco



Joe (left) in front of the White Front, 1937



Avanelle Zimmerman and Augustus Zimmerman, owners of the White Front Café, intend to sell and transfer the stock in trade, fixtures, good-will business and Liquor License to Mildred (Zimmerman) Turnbull and her husband Thomas W. Turnbull and Augustus Zimmerman. Mildred and Augustus were siblings.

In the Roseville Press Tribune on June 29, 1949, Mildred filed for a divorce from her husband Thomas of seven years charging extreme cruelty and on Sept 13, 1949, an interlocutory (provisional) decree was granted.

Thomas and Mildred went on to have two more children (total 4) and continued to run the business as husband and wife until Thomas died unexpectedly, on Feb 15, 1968 at the age of 52.

Thomas was known as an active community member. He was on the Rocklin City Council for 8 years serving as Deputy Mayor at the time of his death.

Mildred Turnbull Schomus Tavis remained active at the White Front. In 1972 she revamped the cafe and motel with a new image, advertising it with all night card games and a pool table. Then, after 28 years, she handed over the running of the café, which featured a "Surf and turf" menu, to Howard Sutton.

From 1982-1996, 4835 Pacific underwent many changes. In 1982, It was owned by John Moncus and daughter-in-law, bringing in affordable prices and American fare. In 1988, for the first time since 1936, it no longer had the name White Front but Michael's Café & Gallery. By 1990, it was serving Greek Food by the Parandes Family with the eventual name of Vangelis until 1996 at which time it became the present day name, Loree's Little Shack by the Railroad Track.

Loree LaMoureaux applied for a liquor license in June of 1996 to serve alcohol at 4835 Pacific Street and giving it the name Loree's Little Shack by the Railroad

(See WHITE FRONT, pg. 5)

A town is born

By Gloria Beverage

The Irish community, Rocklin's earliest pioneers, is the focus of an exhibit that opened at the Rocklin History Museum in January.

The Irish arrived in the foothills in the 1850s and 1860s with dreams of striking it rich in the gold fields. When that dream dissipated, they settled in Rocklin and began working for Central Pacific Railroad. They held a variety of jobs, including switchmen, brakemen, engineers, rail house workers and foremen.

"They are said to be the largest ethnic group associated with the railroad in Rocklin – aside from the Chinese," explained Rocklin Historical Society co-founder Gene Johnson. "And I suppose it can be shown the Irish were among the owners and patrons of Rocklin's saloons."

After a time in the gold fields, James Bolton somehow found his way to Rocklin (then Township 9) in 1849 and made his home in a cabin built near what is now Johnson-Springview Park, said Charlene Rhodes, one of the organizers of the current exhibit.

In 1852 Bolton purchased 160 acres – land that extended from Clover Valley south to Third Street (now the Little League fields).

After he homesteaded an additional 160 acres in 1866, Bolton laid out the original town site, which became known as Bolton Plat of Rocklin.

"He donated the land for the Catholic Church in 1882," she continued. "He died in 1885. At that time he was living with the Clydesdales."

Bolton left his estate to his two brothers, John and Richard Bolton of County Wexford, Ireland.

By 1880, Township 9 had been named Rocklin and a broad base of services to support the new and growing railroad industry became apparent, particularly the need for law and order.

"Research suggests that between 1860 and 1880, the Irish were significant contributors in keeping Rocklin a stable settlement," noted Cris Gerard, a descendant of one of the Irish pioneers.

"They were a majority ethnic group along with the Chinese in 1860 and the majority group in 1870 and 1880. They worked not only in the mines and the railroad, but were farmers, stockmen, carpenters,



Trott's Hotel, built in 1868, rebuilt after a fire in 1869

Early Pioneers of Rocklin 1850-1900

Meet the Europeans who settled here and built the town of Rocklin

Open January 7—March 26, 2023



Rocklin History Museum 3895 Rocklin Rd, Rocklin, CA

Hours: Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 pm

teamsters, machinists, servants, washer women, bookkeepers, boarding house owners, restaurant owners and saloon keepers."

Gerard proudly points out that her great, great-grandfather John Clydesdale, who was born in Ireland and settled in Rocklin in 1868, represented the township in the leadership position of Justice of the Peace.

"His involvement in politics showed up in 1871 as he was named a Democratic Central Committee member," Gerard continued. "There are also news articles of him as Justice of the Peace, summoning persons to appear in court."

After he lost his bid for reelection, Clydesdale remained active in politics, including unsuccessful runs for Placer County Recorder and State Assembly. In 1878, he helped establish the Workingman's Party and was elected treasurer.

Clydesdale and his family owned seven lots – six on Second Street and one on the corner of Front and B Streets. Many other Irish immigrants homesteaded property along Third and Fifth Streets.

Another Irish family, the Lonergans (great-grandson Ken Lonergan became Placer County Superintendent of Schools) were neighbors. Their residence on Front Street remains.

Another well-known

Irish immigrant, Annie Beasmore and her husband, John, settled in Rocklin in 1889 and opened what became a very popular candy store on Front Street.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Beasmore ran the candy store by herself, becoming known throughout town as "Aunt Annie."

In addition to running the candy store, she acted as the town's midwife.

Annie Beasmore died in 1930 and is survived by a daughter and two sons.

Visitors to the museum are invited to take a piece of candy from the jar on display as a tribute to "Aunt Annie."

Rhodes noted that not only does the exhibit pay tribute to the Irish, but it also features many of Rocklin's "firsts" dating back to its incorporation in 1893. Among the items on display are the original seal of

incorporation, the minutes from the meeting when the vote to become a township was held and the names of the first Mayor, Marshal and Treasurer.

Rocklin's earliest pioneers exhibit will be on display through the end of March.



Annie Beasmore

Community Covenant Church

Note: This is Part Four of the history of the Community Covenant Church. Once finished, the entire story will be available on our website.

By Doug Osella

What About Those Sixties?

Some say the 50s were slow moving, a real drag, while others say the 60s were a blast. The decade of the 1960s certainly kept one on edge with the sober events going on in the nation and world: the Vietnam War, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Arab-Israeli Conflict, the Cold War, the War on Poverty, the Civil Rights Movement, the Gay Rights Movement, the Space Race, and the Nuclear Arms Race. Riots and burning cities were leading stories. Leaders who tried to do the nation good were killed—JFK, RFK, MLK—while hippies promoted love and peace (flower power). The decade ended on a positive note for the U.S. when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon, and astronauts became our heroes.

Door to Sunset City

While abiding the agitation of the decade, the majority of society still moved forward in the name of progress. In 1962, a 113 year old pick and shovel from Gold Run, California, broke ground at the end of Third Street in Rocklin for the new development called Sunset City. About 80 people attended the ceremony. The VIPs breaking ground were the president and vice president of the developers, the Sunset Petroleum Company; Placer County Supervisors, Robert Radovich and William S. Briner; and Rocklin City Councilman, Roy Ruhkala.

The first job of construction would be the \$250,000 four-lane overpass spanning the Southern Pacific railroad tracks south of town. The bridge would be the gateway to the new proposed Sunset City, and it became symbolic. At the luncheon (at Grouchy's Log Cabin restaurant) before the ceremony, the bridge was portrayed as the "Bridge from Past to Future".



The Community Covenant Church in the 1970s

"Change is the Law of Life" (JFK, 1963)

About this time Rocklin Community Covenant Church, hoping to take advantage of fresh opportunities, moved forward in planning its next chapter. The winds of change were in the air. Some in the congregation felt the breezes. Some did not. Under the leadership of Pastor J. Edward Peterson, the church officers, and representatives of the California Conference of the Covenant Church, the pros and cons of moving to Sunset were discussed.

It was an exciting and risky prospect to leave the ongoing ministry on Third and Emerson to move to the open spaces of the future urban development west of town. Tensions grew. Some congregants felt they wouldn't fit into the new, "rich" community. And the congregation would be stretched financially; the church had only a modest sum saved in its building fund.

The old church building had been condemned and would be torn down. The value of the church property and parsonage property would not begin to meet the cost of the new endeavor. Financial aid would be obtained from the California Conference, and bank loans would be secured. All that money would need to be paid back over the years. The move boiled down to being a move of faith.

Despite the wariness of some folks, a vote was taken on April 3, 1963 for Community Covenant Church of Rocklin to move to Sunset where "we will re-locate and reorganize."

Changes came at a rapid pace. On August 4, 1963, Rev. Peterson resigned to start a church in Arizona. On May 7, 1964, the present 4.4 acre site was purchased on Topaz Avenue. Due to slow sales, a temporary moratorium was placed on building.

In September, 1964, James Slade was selected by the church to be the architect for the new building. His modern designs exemplified 1960's trends in church architecture. The interior featured a sanctuary with a massive stone wall in front, vertical panes of colored glass, and heavy arched beams supporting the ceiling. The exterior called for shaded, enclosed courtyards with overhead beams. (There would be no steeple for the old church bell.) About this same time, John Swenson of Orangevale was chosen to be the builder of the church and parsonage. The new parsonage would be located on Plumbago Court, only a few blocks away.

On October 18, 1964, the church called Rev. Elmer Pearson to be permanent pastor. Rev. Pearson was an exceptionally good candidate for the job of building the new church. A former missionary to the Congo, his soul was attuned for adventure, and he had a charismatic way of stirring up the courage of the congregation to make the big move. From the pulpit he often included Congo stories that enlivened his sermons and illustrated important points.

One of his first big jobs was to clear the titles of the old church properties so that they could be sold. After many hectic

(See CHURCH, pg. 9)

(WHITE FRONT, con't from pg.1)

Track. There was more information out there on all the previous owners than there was of Loree and Little Shack. The only early information I could find was about an annual Christmas fundraiser held there for the needy.

According to recent on-line reviews "Loree's is a funky place with a honky-tonk bar" and "First of all, how cool and funky this place is- it's like grandma got to decorate one side and grandpa got to decorate the other."

For myself, I decided to eat there to find out what all the hoopla was about regarding the beans and the tacos. They actually serve lobster tacos and flaming artichokes! This is not "dive bar" food! The salty beans were enough to make you want another serving and yes, another beer. Because I was already blowing my diet, I decided to try out the whiskey

soaked bread pudding. Many of the staff have been there for years, which to me, is always a good sign. Just in case you go there with little money, there is a pot of homemade hot soup for the taking with cups and spoons. Do not be surprised if you go there and you see a city official or one of Rocklin's finest. All are welcome.

4835 Pacific Street has a history that goes back to 1932 when the DeFunetes family started with a few bucks and a dream. To this day, it continues to serve the people of Rocklin and out of town visitors making it one of the longest running businesses in Rocklin to date.



The Gang At The White Front

Invites One and All To

ROCKLIN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

☆ Dances ☆ Variety Shows ☆ Contests ☆ Music ☆ Prizes

White Front Motel-Restaurant

OFF SALE & ON SALE

JOHN TURNBULL, OWNER

Rocklin Jubilee, May, 1968

(CLUB, Cont. from page 1)

grandparents left to come to America via Hawaii in 1911."

The best part of the trip, Espley continued, was the opportunity to connect with Spanish relatives and friends.

Members also produced a bimonthly newsletter as well as numerous books, including "Memories of Spain," a book commemorating the lives of early immigrants and their families and "A Taste of Spain," a cookbook featuring family recipes.

During its existence, financial support was given to the blood bank, food banks and charities. Scholarships for high school graduates were established. The non-profit also provided funding for the building of a pergola next to Old St. Mary's and paid for commemorative granite benches at the History Museum, the orchard on Front Street and at the Quarry Park overlook.

When it was disbanded, the remaining funds were



Forty-seven members traveled to Spain in 1984 on a trip organized by Alfred Corral



Flamenco dancers perform during Club Español's "Fiesta de Alegria." (Courtesy Shirley Espley)

designated for use in projects for Rocklin's History Museum. All documents and records were donated to the museum along with a stipend for an archivist to oversee the preservation of the history of Club Español and the Spanish immigrants.

"I look back at this time period and can't help but be so thankful to have been able to experience the love and friendships of so many Spanish families that had settled in Rocklin," recalled Corral.

One of Corral's favorite memories centers around Club Español's "Fiesta de Alegria."

"Dinner usually was followed by entertaining Flamenco dancers from the Bay Area," he recalled. "It was then time for the band to start playing. Immediately the dance floor would be packed with dancers – young and old."

Corral has made it his mission to keep the spirit of these Spanish families alive by sharing their unique story with local historical societies and other groups.

"I would like to see this legacy remembered and sustained," he concluded.

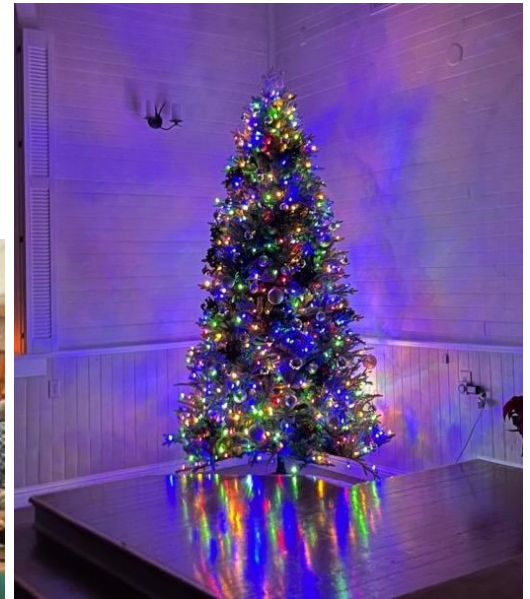
CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS



After a Covid hiatus, our annual holiday party was on again. A lot of good cheer and delicious hors d'oeuvres were on hand on December 19. For a little entertainment, Teresa and Richard Forsyth, with their son, Hunter, led the group in carols, while we played a few fun games of holiday bingo.



President Jim Hammes, with wife Linda, Old St. Mary's volunteer, enjoy the evening with Vice President George Salgado



Old St. Mary's was again beautifully decorated, while Old St. Mary's "church lady" Peggy Russi showed off décor in the firehouse



Lit up for the holidays, our newly restored train made an appearance at the tree lighting ceremony on December 3



RHS collected 92 pairs of cuddly socks for the Chamber of Commerce

George Thomas Hoadley

Connecticut Native and Rocklin Bachelor of Many Talents

By David W. Baker

George T. Hoadley was born Sept 2, 1834 in Plymouth, Litchfield, Connecticut to William Porter Hoadley (1800-1839) and Sarah Ann Welton Hoadley (1814-1837).¹ He had a sister, Sarah Louisa Hoadley, who died as an infant (May 24, 1837-Sept 24, 1837).

Bereaved of his mother and father that same year, George was an orphan at the age of five. He was fortunate that he had many relatives living in the community. Uncle Silas Hoadley (1786-1870) stepped forward and was appointed as George's legal guardian to handle financial issues.

A newspaper article indicates that the child inherited 54 acres of land in Plymouth, valued at about \$1,700, which was to be sold with funds put into an interest bearing account for the child's benefit.

Although no details of George's living arrangements could be found during these early years, it is assumed that Silas and wife Sarah welcomed George into their family. In the 1840 Census there were ten people living in their home; at 6-years he would have been one of the two "Free White Persons-Males-5 thru 9."

George appears in the 1850 US Census, as a 15 year old, living with the David and Sarah Warner in their Plymouth home. His maternal grandfather was Ephraim Warner Welton, suggesting a familial relationship existed with his host family?

George T. Hoadley had a wide-ranging work history:¹

- ⇒ **1852 Apprenticeship to the molding trade in Forestville, Connecticut for two-years**
- ⇒ **1855 Operated a hoisting engine for Mason County Mining Company in West Virginia**
- ⇒ **1859 Fireman for the Mariette & Cincinnati Railroad at Chillicothe, Ohio**
- ⇒ **1860 Steamboat agent and wharf master at Pomeroy, Ohio**
- ⇒ **1861 Owns 60 acres of bottom land where he grew "fine looking potatoes" on 35 acres**
- ⇒ **1864 Bought 469 acres of timber and operated a sawmill near Letart Falls, Ohio**
- ⇒ **1868 Returned to Mason County**
- ⇒ **1869 Went into railroading again as a locomotive engineer**
- ⇒ **1876 Employed by the Central Pacific Railroad in Rocklin and ran**



locomotives over the Sierras for 12 years, 5 on freight and 7 on passenger trains

- ⇒ **1884 Agriculturist with an 80 acre ranch (Rocklin Past, Present, Future First Edition by Leonard M. Davis Pg 42)**
- ⇒ **1886 Purchased a gold drift mine near Rocklin; "Mr. G. T. Hoadley has demonstrated he can manage a mine as skillfully as he did a locomotive." (Placer Herald 4-6-1886)**
- ⇒ **1888 Involved in railroad collision; "Hoadley was badly but not fatally injured" (Placer Herald 2-4-1888)**

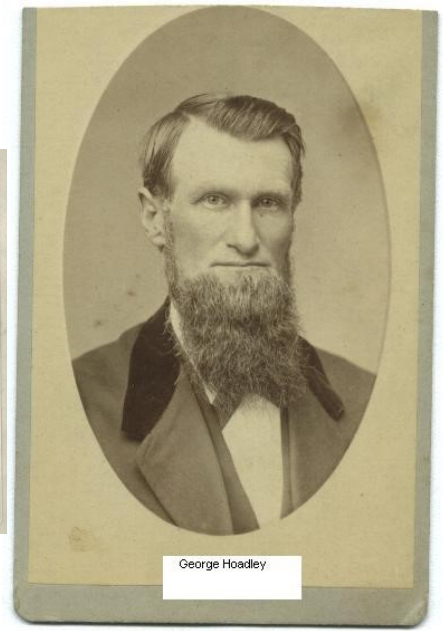
The Hoadley mine, between the Harlow and the Lee mines near the present-day intersection of Rocklin and Barton Roads, was operated by George T. Hoadley in the early '80s. He used a common arrasta (primitive mill for pulverizing ore) and his first shipment to the mint brought back \$2500.00.

It all came up in five dollar gold pieces, and he showed the returns to J. M. Hackett who roomed at the same house with him. Hoadley came to Hackett's room and pouring the gold pieces on the bed said,

"How's that look, Joe? Five hundred \$5 gold pieces."²

Although George was an orphan and a confirmed bachelor, he was not alone; with Rocklin and Roseville relatives having included the Earhart, Soule, Welton Carlton Reihls and Cryder families. Sarah Welton (1844-1931), his first cousin, was daughter of his mother's brother. She was administrator of George's estate which was valued at several thousand dollars.

George T. Hoadley was buried in the Rocklin Cemetery under the auspices of the Masons.



George Hoadley

1. The Hoadley Genealogy: A History of the Descendants of William Hoadley of Branford, Connecticut Together with Some Account of Other Families of the Name Published in 1894 by Trowbridge, Francis Bacon, New Haven, Connecticut; Printed for the author by Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor

2. Quote from a presentation to the Roseville Library on May 22, 1877 by Margaret Sepponen of George Hobson's *Reminiscing on early mining in the Roseville area*



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 noon each 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 WITH JIM CARLSON AT 916-624-0682 BY THE WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

Membership Appreciation Luncheon coming this year!

By Susan Brooking

The Museum Committee met Monday, January 9, 2023 at this chair's home. It was brunch for museum volunteers as a thank you for the past year's volunteer hours during open museum visiting hours, tailoring exhibits and so much more!

The Honoring Our Heritage exhibit - fourth quarter 2022 has been dismantled and items returned to various contributors. Thanks to all who participated in this heartwarming recognition of local heroes who have served in the United States Military in times of peace and of war.

The Early Rocklin Pioneers exhibit is now installed and on display thru 3/31/23. Special thanks to Dr. Jim Carlson, Charlene Rhodes, Gene Johnson, David Baker, Gloria Beverage and Linda Wampler! Many hours of research and staging preparation have gone into this Honoring our Heritage exhibit by featuring many names and families who contributed to the founding of Rocklin. Again thank you!

Honoring Our Heritage hopes to in-

clude the very early Rocklin residents, the Native American tribe - Nisenan Maidu - in the second quarter of 2023. Do you have information, stories or items related to our early residents?

Under consideration for quarter three 2023 is the broad "Agriculture" banner including the Jubilee, fruit, lumber and other subjects to be considered. Start thinking about your recollections pertaining to this land and its ag industries.

If you have any information, stories, or ideas for either of these displays, please come to our next museum meeting or contact Susan at susanbrooking@att.net

Rain and wind have made things a bit damp in the basement Quarry Room. A new dehumidifier has been installed. It doesn't happen often, but neither does this weather. Thanks to Gene Johnson and David Baker for installing it.

Joanne Lawson and Diane Bell have retired as museum volunteers. Thank you both for all you've done for RHS over the years. Know you're still around, and we all hope to see you occasionally as volunteers.

A very hearty welcome to RHS's two new museum volunteers Don Rake and Cynde Godfrey. Delighted to have you join us in telling the stories of Rocklin's history.

Rocklin's annual Memorial Day weekend event has had a variety of names over



the years beginning as "Rocklin Homecoming", when hosted in member's backyards; graduating to "Rocklin Reunion" when at Finn Hall; and coming this year a new designation as "Rocklin Historical Society—Membership Appreciation" luncheon at Springview Hall. Save-the-date: Sunday, May 28th - 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Luncheon provided by Randy Peters Catering.

Many volunteer docents are doing double duty. Please consider volunteering just a 3-hour shift along with a seasoned volunteer! Full training provided! Please email Susan Brooking at susanbrooking@att.net or Gay Morgan: gfmorgan@att.net

You're always welcome at our Museum Committee Meetings - we do serve treats! Next meeting scheduled on Monday - February 6th - 10 a.m. - at the Rocklin History Museum.

The Grinding Stones, a sacred experience

By Twiana Armstrong

Surrounded by the beauty of history, Placer County is home to the preserved testaments of early ways of life and family daily living. Local grinding stones connect cultures, safeguards memories and foretell change.

Nisenan Indians, the southernmost of three linguistic groups of California's Maidu culture, labored over the grinding stones, pounding seeds, nuts and other foods in their meal preparation activities.

These food preparation utensils, also referred to as bedrock mortars, were tools used in sacred experiences. A hallowed experience among many that speaks to families building community. One can imagine older generations deftly showing younger generations how to use the tools, maybe sharing stories while rendering knowledge. Time has chosen to maintain these monuments for our edification about lived experiences.



Bedrock mortar near Huff Spring in Johnson-Springview Park. Preparation of food by the Nisenan was considered a sacred experience. To view these mortar rocks, and read about them and Huff Spring, follow the short path between the houses at 5180 and 5200 5th Street.

(CHURCH, con't from pg. 4)

months of legal negotiations, Rev. Pearson and the former first lady of Rocklin, Eleanor Ricksecker, a former member of the old First Congregational Church of Rocklin appeared in Superior Court and the final results were in favor of Rocklin Covenant Church, and the titles were cleared for sale.

In 1965 when pop song "Wully Bully" and film "The Sound of Music" were top hits in the nation, fervent building activity began on Topaz Avenue. The pioneer builder was the Rocklin Elementary School District. Parker Whitney Elementary School rose up first with two pods (four classrooms each) and the kindergarten room.

John Lehmann, the first principal of Parker Whitney School, remembers opening school in September, 1965 with 9 teachers, plus support staff. It was an exciting time. He remembers the church building going up across the street and homes beginning to pop up here and there around the neighborhood. "It didn't take long to build a house in those days," he says. Around this time the Sunset development became known as Sunset Whitney Ranch.

Working drawings for the new church were approved in May, and groundbreaking took place on July 25, 1965. Shortly thereafter construction began in earnest.

Early trouble surfaced in the form of the ancient lava cap that covers the region. Blasting was required to break through the cap to make trenches deep enough for water and electrical lines. Contractor Swenson allowed volunteer workers to help with construction to lower costs. One volunteer job involved picking up and transporting the roundish lava stones strewn about the property for the construction of the beautiful rock wall in the front of the sanctuary.

In no time, the church was rising, and after only 21 weeks of labor, the smart new church building sat completed on the Topaz Avenue hilltop, ready for the congregation to move in.

The dedication took place on January 30, 1966 with 275 people in attendance. The service was led by Rev. Pearson and included pastors from neighboring churches in Roseville and Loomis, the contractor, local Community Covenant Church leaders, and officials from the California and national denomination.

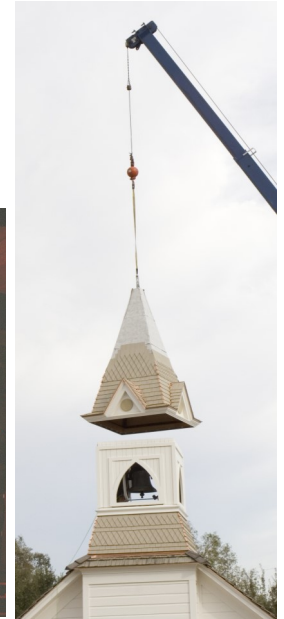
To be continued...



Note: The bell spent some time in the new church patio in two positions: hanging from an overhead beam and sitting on a base close to the ground. It rang on Sunday mornings until concern that it was disturbing neighbors sent it into storage beneath the church. In 2006 the church donated the bell to the Rocklin Historical Society where it found a proper home in the steeple of St. Mary's Chapel.



Volunteers gathered rocks to build the rock wall at the front of the sanctuary



Speaker Series returns

By Patsy Pattison

We have an exciting presentation coming to Old St. Mary's Chapel on January 30th, at 6:30pm.

Teresa Stirling Forsyth, founder and board president of Placer Repertory Theater, will be discussing local history ("uncovered treasures") and their relationship to the development of the play, "Ghosts of Placer County." We are honored to have Teresa share this local history with us!

Our last presentation was held on May 20, 2019, so we are thrilled to have this popular series return. Please join us at Old St. Mary's Chapel on January 30th at 6:30 pm.



rip/ rap

By Gay Morgan

WILD WEATHER WREAKS HAVOC

I thought I had forgotten, as it was so long ago, but this weekend's storms brought it all back. I had never been so scared (maybe *terrified* is a better word). It was a cold, rainy gray day in Rocklin, and I was only 7 or 8 years old.

My dad had gone to work in Sacramento and so my mom, sister and I were the only ones at home. (I wonder why *I wasn't in school*.) We all went about whatever we were doing, but then the sound of the wind got louder, and the trees were bending and swaying frantically. Mom was looking worried, peering out the front windows and then the back. Finally, she quickly herded us into a narrow space beside the oil heater.

We stayed there for a long time, I remember crying as the storm grew louder and the house began to shake and groan. We could see large pieces of debris flying by, but eventually it calmed down and we

looked outside, not knowing what to expect. The two umbrella trees in the front yard had fallen as did the huge Oak in the back yard. We were okay, but now I realize why storms make me so nervous.

According to google research, Northern California experienced a historic storm December 9-12, 1937. The intensity and speed of the storm at that time exceeded previous records. It caused major flooding, devastated highways, wrecked bridges and levees and flooded many homes and ranches.

Sounds like déjà vu all over again doesn't it?

A MOMENT IN TIME

I absolutely love this picture. It was taken in my Grandma's front yard on High Street in Rocklin, sometime in the 20s, that is the 1920s. The cute little tousled haired pixie is my cousin Abra La Verne Willard. The dapper young man with the well-shined shoes is my dad, Fred Stuckert.

He is there to pick up pretty Nora Morys to go dancing. They were great dancers, even winning dance contests sometimes. Nora probably took the picture with her fancy new Fold-out Kodak camera.

Abra grew up to enlist in the women's Marine Corp in the second World War. She later married a fellow Marine, and they lived an adventurous life all over the world.

Presently, La Verne resides at the Pines in Rocklin and is approaching her hundred and first birthday.

Fred married Nora and started a fami-



Laverne Willard and Fred Stuckert Jr.

ly. They lived in Rocklin most of their married life, he being a volunteer fire chief at one time, and a city building inspector.

Nora served as City treasurer for many years and on school boards and various other community organizations. They are both gone now.

The house was built for Annie Lissi and her first husband John Jeffries Morys. He was the owner of the Eureka Saloon on Railroad Ave. After he died, Annie married Anton Matson. She lived in that house until her death at the age of 93.

The house still sits on High Street; however it is unrecognizable due to decades of remodeling and other changes.

Worst Storm Of Century Does Untold Damage

Snow, Hail and Rain Are Bent on Destruction in Auburn Area

Auburn Journal, Dec. 18, 1937

Old St. Mary's news

By Nancy Lohse

2022 has been another busy year for Old St. Mary's Chapel. We had a total of 54 weddings with most of them being in October followed by June.

October and September are turning out to be a very popular months for weddings. The weather is mild and the landscaping is beautiful at that time of year. The quietest time of year for weddings at the chapel is August. We also hosted 7 memorials. Various meetings were held at

the chapel including monthly meetings of the Rocklin Historical Society and the Rocklin History Museum Committee.

The holidays are over, the tree is down, the lights are turned off, but the chapel is still such a special place in all our hearts! Walking into the chapel, you can just feel all the memories it holds. Come by and visit us some Wednesday from 5-7. The Church Ladies will be waiting for you!

And isn't that special.

Love those church ladies!



St. Mary's pew

By Jeff Stockel

I was invited over to Gene Johnson's home to look at some of the relics that both Gene and David Baker had collected and preserved.

Gene, David and I headed down to the garage basement of Gene's garage. When Gene opened the shop barn door, my eyes were staring into the history of our past. I saw an old car, John Deere tractor and outside the barn door was the C.P. Huntington Train replica.

As I gazed around the garage, Gene headed to the back wall of the shop and both David and I followed. I saw against the wall what looked like church pews. There were two pews that were painted and behind those pews was this very old dirty, dark aged pew. I could not believe how I was so drawn to it; I knew I was really staring into the history of our past. Then David and Gene confirmed that this was the original pew from 1883 that was found under Saint Mary's Church. I knew that this had to be preserved for the sake of Rocklin's and Saint Mary's history.

I brought the pew to my home to start work on it. I first started to clean it. As I was cleaning off the dirt and dust, I could not help to think that all this dirt and dust that had collected represented so many years of history. I saw the old rusty square head nails used to hold it together; I saw the toll that cracks, time, and wear had taken on her. The more I saw how fragile she was, I knew that I needed someone with great restoration woodworking skills that I did not possess, being a painting and decorating contractor.

At this very same time, I was having seven chairs from the Joel Parker Whitney estate restored by Mike Szulman of Szulman Woodworking and Antique restoration. I called Mike and told him about

the pew and he said to bring it on in. The next day I headed over to Mike's shop in Carmichael. Mike was inside when I rolled up to the entrance of the shop roll-up door. He peered into the back of my truck and I could tell from the countenance of his face that he fell in love with the pew immediately! We took her out and Mike carefully looked her over to see what she needed. He told me he had to take some time to give me an estimate.

About a week later Mike called me with a detailed list of what she needed! I felt the bid was fair and called upper management — both David and George — with the estimate. They both agreed that she was worth it. I told Mike that he had the job! He told me that he would not be able to have it ready until Christmas! I was ok with that, and I was excited that it would make a great Christmas gift for the Historical Society!

I called Mike before Christmas and asked how it was going and he told me that he would not be able to make the Christmas deadline. I was really disappointed, but he explained why it was going to take longer. Mike had to take many of the old square nails out and reset and glue them in. When I delivered the pew to Mike the back rest piece came off, he had to reattach that. There also were many splits and chunks of wood that had to be secured. Once he put his first coat of finish on, it was revealed that there were many specks of white paint flakes that were on the surface, probably from church volunteers



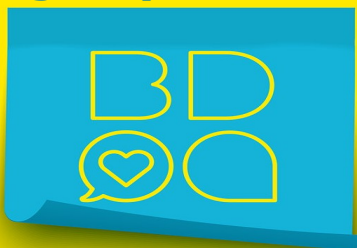
Found in the basement of Old St. Mary's, this original pew from the 1880s has finally been restored to its former glory

painting the ceiling overhead from years gone by. Mike painstakingly removed all those specks of paint.

I finally received the call to come pick up the finished product. I got in my truck and headed for Mike's shop. I could not wait to see it. I got to the front of Mike's shop and there she was glistening in all her glory. She was so beautiful; I could not believe it was that same dirty, dusty pew that I had brought home months ago. I told Mike she looks wonderful! He was so proud of his work!

I never would have believed that I would be able to save a piece of history when I used to ride my green Schwinn ten speed by Saint Mary's church delivering the Sacramento Union as a paper boy in the early seventies! I am now thankful for the timing of the pew getting done for the new year 2023! I needed to learn patience from a pew that waited 140 years to be restored and returned to the front of Old Saint Mary's Church.

Big Day of Giving



May 4, 2023

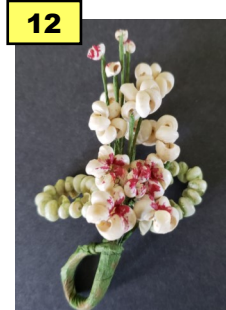
The next Big Day of Giving is Thursday, May 4, 2023, from midnight to 11:59 p.m. RHS raised \$4490.67 last year! So mark your calendars for this year. Here are a couple of commonly asked questions:

What if I can't make a donation on May 4th? Donors who like to plan ahead can make early gifts beginning Thursday, April 20.

How do I get a receipt for last year? An official donation tax receipt is emailed to you within minutes of the donation. If you do not receive the email or you're in need of a duplicate receipt, you can log in to your donor account to access the receipt, or contact us to request a copy at givingedge@sacregcf.org or (916) 921-7723.

The year in review quiz

Even with the pandemic making things difficult, the Rocklin Historical Society managed to have a few fun events throughout the year. Can you identify each picture's event? Answers below



Answers:

- 1: Spring Fling, April 2
- 2: Archive Crawl, Oct. 1
- 3: Holiday sock drive, Dec.
- 4: Honoring our Heritage, Spanish Exhibit July-Sept.

- 5: Annual Potluck, Sept. 19
- 6: Honoring our Heritage, Finnish Exhibit, April-June
- 7: Heritage Trail Day, July 16
- 8: Chinatown Rocklin Cultural Event, May 7

- 9: Holiday Party, Dec. 19
- 10: Honoring our Veterans Exhibit Oct.—Dec.
- 11: Hot Chili, Cool Cars, Sept. 17
- 12: Honoring our Heritage, Japanese Exhibit, Jan.-Mar.

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