

President's Message

Jim Hammes



... 140 Years of "Goin' to the Chapel"...

... If those walls could talk what they say?

A familiar phrase we all hear or even mention ourselves in conversation. It seems quite appropriate and perhaps essential among discussions members of our group share from time to time as it relates to the historical significance of structures still present in our community.

First let's define the importance of what walls provide.

They are the extension of the foundation that surrounds and ultimately carries the load of the roof that represents the existence of the structure and what is housed within.

What is housed within can be tangible and speculative depending on the specific topic of discussion.

The ones though that are not visible are the countless conversations, prayers and sentiments that took place in the chapel over its long history of existence.

True, the chapel sat dormant and nonessential for some time until it was noticed and appreciated for what the building represented.

Old St. Mary's Chapel represents history, legacy, dreams and a focal point to rally the spirit of our community to unite in saving this piece of our past. Somehow the chapel withstood the test of time.

Even the many fires that erased much of what Rocklin was could not take that building to its demise. She carried the marks of all those years inside and out but at the end of the day managed to stand upright because those walls ... the ones that wish we could hear talk to us ... held fast until we committed to help those walls to a rebirth of pride and respect.

Old St. Mary's Chapel stands as a testament to what can be done when a vision becomes a plan and the plan becomes a developed reality. It's plain to see and say that Old St. Mary's Chapel is the cornerstone of the heart of Rocklin.

Many people over the years contributed to the resurrection, far too many to mention here without risk of forgetting anyone who might be missed with the good intentions of respect and appreciation. What we can say with confidence is a Thank You and job well done ... One More Time!

(See PRESIDENT, pg. 12)

Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Summer, 2023

Remembering Gay Morgan

By Gloria Beverage

"Martha Stewart doesn't live here." The sign prominently displayed in Gay Morgan's kitchen reflects her wry sense of humor. Gay wasn't interested in fancy meals (unless someone else cooked them) or the latest trends in home furnishings. Rather, she believed in giving back to the community she considered her hometown.

A resident of Rocklin since 1931, Gay died April 20 at the age of 93. Her legacy of community service started with the Rocklin Elementary school district. She taught for 35 years at Rocklin and Parker Whitney Elementary Schools as well as at Spring View Middle School.

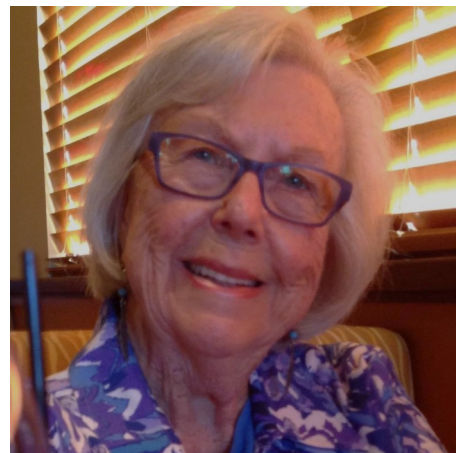
Favorite memories from her teaching years were tied to the fourth-grade curriculum that explored California history. She loved joining the students for field trips to Coloma, the California State Railway Museum and Sutter's Fort as well as touring Old Sacramento and the Empire Mine.

After retirement, Gay turned her focus to sharing Rocklin's history. One of the founding members of the Rocklin Historical Society, she served on the board for several years. At the museum, she coordinated the docent schedule, organized new displays and was the point of contact for queries about Rocklin's history.

She was also instrumental in organizing the student tours of the museum because she wanted students to understand how and why Rocklin evolved and encouraged the young visitors to bring their parents to the museum.

An avid storyteller, she authored numerous articles sharing her memories of growing up in Rocklin for RHS' Quarry Quarterly.

And she loved connecting with her friends in the community. For many years, she organized the Finn Ladies and Friends' monthly luncheon at local restaurants. She wanted to give residents of Finnish (and honorary Finnish) descent a time to gather and reconnect with their friends. Although COVID temporarily stopped the gatherings, they resumed earlier this year



with the last one held a month before she died.

Gay joked that she must have lived in about 100 places all over Rocklin. "My grandmother was a Finn immigrant who married a saloon keeper," she recalled in a 2013 QQ interview. "My mom, who was born before the Depression, grew up in Rocklin, got married and moved far away – to Sacramento."

After her father, Fred Stuckert, lost his job, the young family moved in with Gay's grandparents. Eventually her father found another job and the family moved into the first of many homes in what is now considered the historic district.

She attended Rocklin schools and

played in the Roseville High School band where, at age 16, she met her future husband. Fred Morgan, 20, had just returned to the U.S. after serving with the U.S. Army's 44th Infantry Division, landing in France shortly after D-Day. A saxophonist, Fred, began participating in the high school band's concerts.

Although there was a mutual attraction, Gay was concerned about the age difference.

"He was four years older and that's a lot at that age," she recalled. After Fred graduated from the Conn Musical Instrument



Gay's senior portrait—age 17

(See GAY, pg. 2)

(GAY, con't from pg. 1)

Repair School in Elkhart, Indiana, Gay said the age difference no longer mattered. They were married in 1951 and settled in Rocklin.

Fred worked at McClellan Air Force Base, working a swing shift so he could keep up with instrument repairs in his garage workshop and play gigs nights and weekends. In the 1970s, he opened an instrument repair shop on Rocklin Road; Gay kept the books for the business. He later formed the 15-member Fred Morgan Big Band, performing not only traditional swing, fox trot and waltz, but also Latin dances. Fred's music legacy continues as band members play local events.

Before the arrival of their children, Gay obtained a provisional teaching credential and worked for six years at Rocklin Elementary School while attending college (Placer College and Sacramento State) at night, eventually earning a Bachelor of Education with honors. She quit teaching after Lisa and then Stu were born – returning to work nine years later when they were school age.

In addition to her passion for history and teaching, Gay loved books, particularly mysteries and biographies. She joined forces with others in the community to raise funds to build a permanent library building (on Fifth Street). She hosted story time at the library for many years.

An active member of the Rocklin Friends of the Library, she oversaw the children's and young readers' section of the used bookstore in the Granite Drive location until 2020.

On the home front, Gay created a nature preserve in her backyard, which abuts Antelope Creek. She took pleasure in watching the turkeys, deer, quail and ducks that lived along the creek bed. Her favorite critters were the raccoon and possum families -- noting that the possums were particularly fond of noodles and pasta.

Her years of community service didn't go unnoticed either. The City of Rocklin presented her with the Citizen of the Year and the Roy and Peggy Ruhkala Community Service Awards. She was presented the Community Service Award by the Gold Trail Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution in 2010.

She is survived by her daughter Lisa Morgan (Mick Lancaster), son Stuart Morgan and her cousin, Laverne Willard McGrath Splan, one of the charter members of the Rocklin Historical Society. Her husband of 64 years died in 2015.

Susan Brooking and Alfred Corral hosted a celebration of Gay's life during the May 28 Historical Society's annual homecoming event. Since it was Gay's favorite gathering, one she organized for 20 years, the day was a fitting tribute, Susan noted.

"Gay would have loved being there, seeing everyone, talking to everyone and hearing the stories," Susan said. "The fact it was about her would have gone against her desire not to be the subject of the story, but to be the storyteller."

Memories

"My memories of Gay Morgan are numerous. This friendship began in 1955 at Rocklin Elementary, when I was in her 2nd grade class. Fellow classmates included; Candy (Pernu) Donnell, JoAnn (Sasaki) Takemoto, and Mike Flanagan. What has made this introduction to Mrs.

Morgan so special, is that all of us had maintained a relationship with her over the years. I taught 4th grade along side her, beginning in 1973, followed by years of working together at the Rocklin Historical Museum. Having grown up

in Rocklin, she was able to help me understand and was always able to fill in the blanks in regards to Rocklin history. "Mrs. Morgan" was truly a very special individual, she was like family and a friend."

-Alfred Corral



"Loss of such an amazing woman who influenced so many Rocklin children over the years as a teacher. She was a faithful friend, historian, storyteller and mentor to so many. We will miss her."

-David Baker

"Gay was remarkable and one of a kind, on the job 'til the end. Such a huge loss for Marg and I, RHS and the community."

-Marg and Gene Johnson

"Her presence will be greatly missed! She was such a contributor to so many aspects of our community. Such a lovely lady."

-Carol Gebel

"So deeply grateful that she was my teaching mentor and that she called me friend."

-Pat Woessner

"Gay was one of my mentors when I started as a volunteer at the museum. I'm so happy I was able to see her at the last Finn Ladies lunch. She will be missed."

-Charlene Rhodes

"May her memory be a blessing to her family and all her friends near and far. We now have an empty chair at the table we all call home. May her spirit fill the hearts of those of us who shared in her life's journey."

-Jim Hammes

"My heart is broken. My favorite teacher. My good friend. I wanted her in my life forever. I will miss her so much."

-Candy Donnell

Old St. Mary's celebrates 140th anniversary

By Nancy Lohse
Photos by Ronna Davis



The "old" in Old St. Mary's Chapel is there for a reason. It is Rocklin's oldest building, having been built in 1883. That is the same year the Brooklyn Bridge and the first Carnegie Library were built. I think our chapel wins in the beautiful building category.

On Friday, June 30th, we celebrated the chapel's 140th birthday complete with birthday cake! Linda Wampler put together a great slide show showing the changes that the chapel has gone through. The 'Church Ladies' were there to answer questions and Susan Brooking opened the firehouse for tours. The Fix-it Team brought over the Jubilee Train and rolled out the historic fire hoses. The chapel's real birthday is August 13th but we thought it would be too hot then. HA! Mother Nature fooled us! It was 105°! **Editor's note: The author failed to mention the importance of her own actions—taking her third graders on a field trip which helped gain community support in saving the chapel**

So many people volunteered to save this chapel from destruction that I would list them but I'd fear leaving out important names. There were a couple of people who spearheaded the effort.

Gene Johnson contacted the Keller family about donating the chapel and Holly Clark convinced the family it was a good idea. The third graders raised funds for the effort and their support sustained the society through the process.

In preparing for the move, Gene reached out to a moving company but they would only do so if heavy 1 inch steel reinforcement rods were installed across the interior of the building. Gene obtained and installed the rods while Marg, his wife, listened for creaking noises - ready to warn if the building started to fall.

Councilman Peter Hill recognized funds would be required to complete the project and arranged for the City's purchase of the building to provide those funds.

Without the numerous volunteers and donations, the fate of the chapel would not have turned out as well as it did. The chapel is beautiful inside and out. Just ask the 600 couples who have married in the chapel since 2007!

Want to give a big shout out to the Church Ladies, the Fix-it Team, and Susan Brooking. All their help made the birthday celebration a success. Volunteers are the heart of the Rocklin Historical Society!



Clockwise, starting top right: Gene Johnson speaks to the celebrants about the renovation of Old St. Mary's while Nancy Lohse listens; Karen Lokey enjoys a piece of the beautiful (and delicious) cake; Hank and Nancy's grandchildren take a spin at the "Wheel of Fortune;" Fix-It team members brave the heat to show off the fire equipment housed in Hose Co. #1; Church Ladies Peggy Russi and Nancy Lohse wield dangerous looking knives; J. Parker Whitney (A.K.A. Smokey Bassett) pays a visit



Two RHS members honored

Ruhkala Award winners receive Pioneer Awards

Gloria Beverage Pioneer Award Honoree

Special to the Quarry
Quarterly
by Michele Vass

Gloria Beverage is a prime example of what it means to love the community you live in. After moving to Rocklin in 1987, she wrote Rocklin-based articles for the Placer Herald. She currently serves on the board of the Rocklin Historical Society (RHS), designing rotating displays and publishing articles for their newsletter, the Quarry Quarterly.

Gloria has also served as a member of the Rocklin Friends of the Library (RFL) for many years. Not only does she assist with day-to-day projects at the Rocklin Library, she also helps manage the Little Free Library program in Rocklin. She founded the "Rocklin Reads" program, which supports and promotes local authors and bridged a partnership between the Historical Society and the Friends of the Library.

Through her efforts of storing, pricing, and managing inventory for book sales, Gloria has succeeded in helping to raise thousands of dollars for the Rocklin library, all on a voluntary basis.

"Gloria's commitment to the Rocklin Historical Society has helped to make our history come alive and reach more residents in our growing city every year," Michelle Vass, President of the RFL, explained. "She has invested in Rocklin's past, present, and future, and is wholly deserving of this recognition."

Museum Chairperson Susan Brooking concurs: Gloria's contribution to whatever museum project is underway always adds valuable information, insight, a bit of humor and the initiative to make it all happen."

From Quarry Quarterly editor Linda Wampler:

Working on the Quarry Quarterly takes many contributors, especially Gloria. Among the emails I have received from Gloria are these first lines:

"I'm at your command...send me your ideas, contacts."

"Attached are stories on Friends' anniversary party and the Whitney chairs"

"At last, we have the story!!" (Clover Valley)

"Here it is! I want to call him RHS' Gary Cooper. You know—the strong, silent type!?! What a guy" (Hank Lohse)

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Gloria's skill in writing is only matched by her enthusiasm and willingness to provide entertaining, prolific content that helps make our Quarterly so enjoyable. Wearing many hats as teacher, author, leader, Gloria is the epitome of a volunteer who gives so much to the community.



Daniel Taylor Pioneer Award Honoree

Daniel Taylor received the Pioneer Award for his strong leadership skills within community groups and his dedication to bettering his community through volunteerism.

Daniel has been a member of the Rocklin Historical Society since 2017 and served on the Placer County Grand Jury for two

years. He wore many hats at Rocklin High School, assisting the varsity baseball and basketball teams by running games and keeping score. He coached teams at Rocklin High's summer camps and published Memory Books for coaches and teammates for nearly twenty years. To add to these efforts, Daniel also served as the Lion's Club President (twice) and treasurer, and has been a member since 1972.

Daniel's son, Stephen Taylor, attests to his father's endeavors. "I don't think there are many people that have lived in Rocklin for as long as he has and have given so much of their time to so many different groups and organizations. He is certainly deserving of this award and the recognition that comes with it. He loves the Rocklin community and this award would be very meaningful to him at this point in his long life."

Today, Daniel is ninety-one years old and has been a proud resident of Rocklin since 1968.

Courtesy City of Rocklin



30th Annual Hot Chili & Cool Cars

September 16 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 just 2 hours, please contact

RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks at Raburks49@gmail.com or call

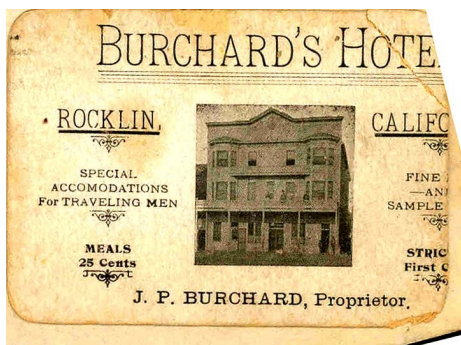
her at 916-624-5057.

Burchard and His Hotels on Front Street

By Doug Osella

Stumbling across a sketch from the 1890s of the Burchard Hotel caused me to wonder about those Old West days in Rocklin when Burchard ran his hotels on Front Street near Porter Hall and the livery stable. I decided to dig deeper to find out what the chroniclers had to say about the man and his hotels.

I found out that James Philo Burchard, a native of New York, arrived in Rocklin in the 1860s when the new town was just taking off with 40 to 50 buildings springing up due to the roundhouse being built and the budding granite industry. In 1867 he married Mary Waddell of the pioneer Rocklin family. The 1870 U.S. Census lists him as a yardmaster for the railroad. Later, he adopted the life of a saloon keeper, which is documented in the 1880 Census.



In March, 1887, fire broke out in the Mullinix Saloon and spread quickly on Front Street until it reached the stone building of the Levison Brothers. Seven buildings were destroyed, including J.R. Burchard's saloon, billiard hall and barber shop. Imagine the ruin and distress. As for rebuilding, our saloon keeper decided to look to the future and become a hotel keeper. Rocklin needed a first class hotel, and he made arrangements to build a two-story structure on the site of the just burned-down Rocklin Hotel. The builder was selected and lumber ordered from Towle Bros. and Company.

In 1888 the new hotel was described as "one of the nicest hotels in the county," and business on Front Street had returned to normal. The 40' X 125' building with two floors contained 27 rooms with hard-



wood finish throughout. The furniture was cherry and maple wood. The finely furnished parlor opened up to a balustrade, which provided guests with a view of the business part of town. Imagine the view of lively Front Street where horse and wagon still prevailed and beyond to the busy depot and thriving Rail-

road Avenue.

Everyone knows that wooden buildings and fire make for a recipe of disaster.

Early in the morning of May 25, 1893, fire again struck Front Street, consuming 25 businesses, including Burchard's fine hotel, only five years old. Arson was suspected, and you never get used to this magnitude of devastation. Most businesses would eventually rebuild, but Burchard would build

"immediately" and "larger and better" than his hotel recently burned down. The assessment of the day was that our particular owner—whether harvesting new potatoes or building new hotels—led the way in whatever he undertook. Described in voting records as only 5' 6" in stature, James Burchard was at the top of the charts when it came to risk-taking on fire-prone Front Street.

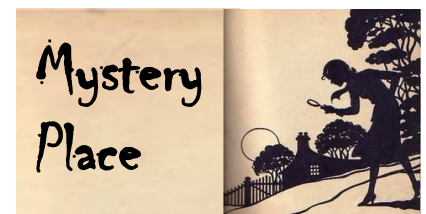
His new hotel was even more upscale: the three-story building boasted 40 well-ventilated rooms, a bathroom with hot and cold running water, a roomy corridor, a cloak and baggage room, a comfortable dining room, and a "splendidly kept bar." And business was booming. Picture the busy lobby with well-dressed guests coming and going. The "genial" Burchard was famous for his hospitality. In the language of his day: "...his table was always well-supplied with the best to be had in the market" and his guests "made their departure with satisfied stomachs and grateful hearts."

Recounting some important dates: In

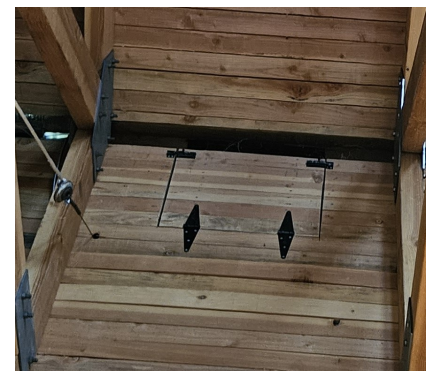
1905 James P. Burchard passed away at age 62, leaving a wife and son, and like a mist vanished from the Rocklin scene; in 1908, the railroad facilities relocated to Roseville taking with them a major number of homes and businesses, leaving the town with an abundance of vacant lots; in 1909, fire destroyed much of Railroad Avenue, never to be rebuilt; and in 1914, fire again broke out in a wind storm and most of Front Street went up and away in smoke. This is a roundabout way of pointing out that after 1914, there no longer remained one solid reason to rebuild on Front Street.



Burchard Hotel, right, and Porter Hall, circa 1905. In the center at this Fourth of July celebration is Rocklin's famed Echo Band



Where is this mysterious trap door?
Find out on page 12!



Play Ball!

By Gloria Beverage

It's summer and cries of "play ball" can be heard throughout neighborhoods as families gather to watch Little League games.

Although Little League has been a mainstay in Rocklin since 1960, baseball was a popular pastime dating back to the 1890s.

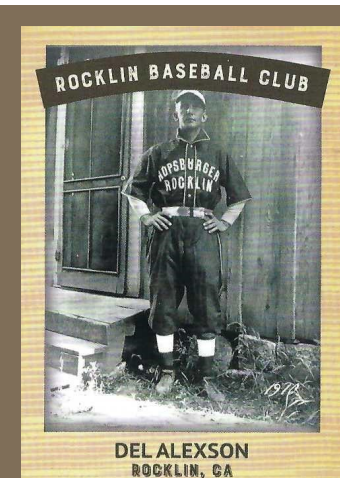
An exhibit celebrating Rocklin's long-standing love of baseball opened July 2 at the Rocklin History Museum and will remain through the end of September.

Featured in the display are pictures of Rocklin's first baseball teams, scorebooks painstakingly compiled by longtime Rocklin resident Uno Hebuck, memorabilia from the Tri-City Little League and related ephemera.

Starting in 1894, Rocklin's team, drawing from prominent, old-time Rocklin families, played games on a diamond between High and North Grove Streets.

A playing field was built inside Rocklin's horse racing track in 1898. Attendees could sit in the two-story grandstand and watch a baseball game in the morning and the horse races in the afternoon.

Then in 1913, the Rocklin team leased vacant land behind the roundhouse from



Boys of Summer

Rocklin baseball through the years

Now through September

Rocklin History Museum

Hours: Weekends, 1-4pm

the railroad company and built a field. Games were played off and on at this location until a new one was laid out in back of the Pleasure Hall in 1927, wrote Hebuck in his memoir.

According to Rocklin Historical Society co-founder Marie Huson, there's a rumor that "home plate," a triangle of granite, was buried somewhere on the railroad property.

Hebuck organized and managed a Rocklin team in 1922. With the financial help of two other prominent residents, the Rocklin Owls, joined the Placer Nevada Baseball League.

Over years, Rocklin's baseball team played against teams from Auburn, Newcastle, Loomis, Rocklin, Roseville and

Lincoln.

"The outstanding performance was when Rocklin defeated the strong Roseville Tiger team at Roseville," Hebuck wrote. "The score was 2 to 1 – yes, Roseville took it on the 'chin' that day."

From 1933 on, the team played games in a field adjacent to the residence of Ira Allen. In later years, the City of Rocklin laid out a playing field in City Park.

While adult recreational baseball leagues slowly disbanded, Little League became the mainstay for junior players in 1960. The Tri-City Little League Association received its charter in 1960 followed by the development of the Harold Peters Field adjacent to Johnson-Springview Park.



What is this unusual item with a square center? Where do you think it came from?



Find the answer on page 12.

Calling all retired teachers!

Become a volunteer!
All the fun without
conferences, report
cards, staff meet-
ings, or observations!

Do you miss being with kids?
Consider volunteering to help
with our 3rd grade field trips!

Do you miss doing cute bulletin
boards? Put your creativity to
use helping with displays!

Do you miss planning the fun parts of science and social studies?
Help design and prepare children's activities!

Do you like history as a learner and a teacher? Become a museum
docent!

If you would like more information, send your questions to
rocklinhistorical@gmail.com



Bronze art of the past and present at museum

By Gloria Beverage

Longtime Rocklin resident and RHS member Gerald Farren displayed 12 of his bronze sculptures, *Bronze Art of the Past and Present*, on July 7 and 8 at the Rocklin History Museum.

Farren explained that his artwork reflects his passion for capturing historic figures and native culture.

A self-taught sculptor, Farren's interest in history, particularly the Native American culture, developed at a young age. Raised in Santa Barbara, the family discovered their home was built on an ancient Chumash tribal campsite. That discovery sparked an interest in the Native American culture. He began visiting museums and listening to folklore told by the local elders as well as exploring historic sites throughout the West.

Farren graduated from California Polytechnic State University in 1973 with a major in education and a minor in art. He taught art at Loomis Elementary Schools for 30 years.

Although he taught art in school, Farren said he didn't recognize his talent for sculpture until after he retired. He said he was inspired and encouraged by renowned Montana sculptor David Lemon and has been honing his skills in Western Bronze

Art since 2010.

He describes his creative style as "primitive" or "rustic" – using a variety of sculptural elements and textures to capture the essence of his subjects.

"I take pleasure in creating pieces that are familiar," Farren said. "People can connect with them through their own experiences or dreams."

His bronze sculpture of Rocklin Police Officer Matt Redding as well as Rocklin Marshal Sam Renaldi are on display at the Rocklin Police Department.

While many of his other pieces are in private collections, Farren was excited to learn that one of his sculptures was recently accepted into the permanent collection of the Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada.

RHS member Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann was impressed with Gerry's display. "I saw Gerald Farren's sculptures for the first time last weekend at the RHS Museum. I could see immediately that he is a very gifted artist. His sculptures of the Old West are beau-



Jerry Farren explains his process from clay to bronze to Bonnie Neumann and Lynda Hammes

tiful, inspiring, and historically detailed and accurate. I feel so fortunate to have met Gerald and to have heard some of his stories about his artistic passion."

You can follow Gerry on his Facebook page at G Farren, Bronze Artist.



Above: Titled "Wah She Sho" is translated as "The People of the Tribe." These people lived around Lake Tahoe. Today they are known as Washoe.

Below is "Marshal Sam Renaldi," Farren's sculpture in clay. the Bronze is owned by the Rocklin Police Department. Sam Renaldi was killed in a "Shoot Out" in 1914. He was Rocklin's first Officer killed in action. Matt Redding, right, also on display at the police department, is hopefully the last, having been fatally injured by a drunk driver in 2005.



Right: "Maidu Dancer"
"The Maidu are the Native People who lived and still live in the Rocklin area," says Gerry. "This photo shows my representation of a dancer before contact with European settlers."



"Coyote Dancer" was inspired by a dancer seen at a Miwok "Big Time" event near Placerville. Coyote is a "Trickster" but he is also part of the Maidu creation story. He also teaches the children the norm standards of how to behave in their community.



Rocklin's 130th Anniversary

Historical and Cultural Celebration

Planning started over a year ago, a collaboration between the Rocklin Historical Society and the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islanders) Placer County. Surely, in setting the date of May 6, the planning committee felt the weather would be clear, sunny and warm, perfect for a celebration of Rocklin's culture, past and present. But everyone knows that Mother Nature had other ideas, and the day started out with rain—a lot of it—lasting until the moment the late afternoon activities began. But then the sky cleared, and all in all it turned out to be a beautiful afternoon, with a wide representation of the pioneers who settled here as well as the variety of cultures making Rocklin their home today.



Left: Doug Osella with his excellent display on the history of the granite industry.



Below: kids could play and adults relax on the Jubilee Train. Ken Clark explains "feathers and wedges" to Susan Brooking



Above: at the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ the night before, organizer Donna Trumbo (see Donna's letter on page 9) honored the extensive work done by Gene Johnson and David Baker.



Above: Marlyn Burns, who has worked for years trying to save Clover Valley from development, and RHS member Jeff Folz at the Clover Valley display

Right: Ed Corral and Pat Burns's display chronicles the emigration of families from Spain to Rocklin



Finland's descendants Royce Ann Ruhkala Burks and Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann put on a fine display of Rocklin's Finnish history



Above: Taiko Dan Sacramento Performs as the clouds clear

Right: Members of the Placer Repertory Theater perform scenes from "Ghosts of Placer County"



Pakistani Cultural Festival dancers

From
the desk
of...
Gene Johnson

OSM RENOVATION MEMORIES/
ROGER LOKEY

For the 140th anniversary event Nancy Lohse asked that I provide a few notes regarding the restoration of Old St Mary's - while making the notes it was clear that we sometimes fail to recognize the many key contributions made by one person - Roger Lokey - RHS President at the time. The following are highlights that I remember:

- Roger Lokey recognized the potential of OSM as a wedding venue and, as RHS president, led the effort in that direction.
- Roger arranged for the build of the Steeple's internal metal structure and

the metal cross.

- Roger, Ronna and others? joined in promoting the chapel as a wedding venue by way of magazine publicity and appearances at events dedicated to wedding preparations.
- Roger had the donated pews refinished and the floor refinished (a second time). Gene says it was Roger's Pristine Chapel.
- Later, Roger worked with Nancy Lohse to obtain the patio rolling ball fountain with funds collected by 3rd grade classes. The fountain is considered by some to be Rocklin's first significant public art project.
- Roger continued as RHS president for an additional term to help guide the OSM project to completion.

Nancy announced tonight [at the Board meeting of July 10] that, this weekend, the 600th wedding was performed at OSM. Quite a Legacy!

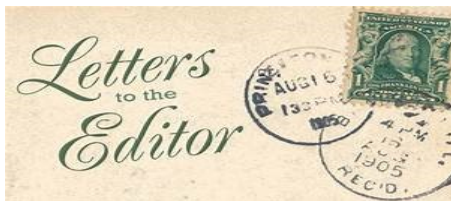


**Roger to Gene, 2005:
You are going to need this!**



**Left: Roger was
always able to get
out of a tight
spot!**

**Right: Roger
looks on as the
"Rocklin Pulls
Together" framed
artwork is ad-
mired.**



July 14, 2023

To the Wonderful People at Rocklin Historical Society,

On behalf of the Asian American Pacific Islanders of Placer County, I want to thank Rocklin Historical Society for your amazing partnership with us these past two years. Thanks to RHS, our new non-profit

organization has collaborated with you to bring more awareness in celebrating the rich history and culture of the Asian communities in Placer County.

In May 2022, you graciously supported our event, "Rocklin's Chinatown: A Neighborhood Not Forgotten" The wealth of historical information you shared inspired us to begin raising funds to build a replica of a Joss House (Chinese spiritual temple) in the old Chinatown area. The Joss House will help to recognize the tremendous contributions that the Chinese made in building the Transcontinental Railroad.

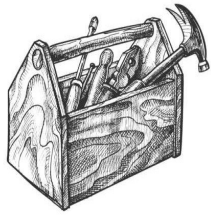
Your incredible team of volunteers soon inspired us to partner again for Rocklin's 130th Celebration in May. Thanks to RHS, we were able to dream even bigger, providing historical and multi-cultural

awareness, activities and entertainment. The city joined in with us by providing food trucks, vendors and culminated with a beautiful fireworks celebration. Despite the heavy rain during the morning, people came out to the event and had a wonderful time with their friends and family.

We hope RHS and AAPI will continue to partner in the future to bring additional historical and multicultural awareness to Placer County. It has been our pleasure to work with such a dynamic team of historians. We appreciate all of you and the endless hours you dedicate to preserving the history of Rocklin.

Sincerely,

Donna Ong Trumbo
AAPI Placer County Board of Directors



Fixit Team Nuts and Bolts

The Fix-it Team has been very busy with lots of projects this summer. Two that stand out are the renovation and placement of a picnic table at the museum, and the refinishing of the doors at Old St. Mary's.

The idea for the picnic table came about at a museum committee meeting as members discussed ways to honor Gay Morgan. She was such a big part of the children who visited the museum, it was discussed that there be a space where children could gather and do interactive museum-related activities. Coincidentally, Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann suggested that she had a picnic table, needing repairs, that she could donate in honor of her father Roy, who was also an advocate for the children who visited the museum.

The crew diligently and lovingly restored the table and installed it at the museum. The next plan for the table is to create a plaque to honor both Gay and Roy.

Raul Campos and Jeff Stockel spent hours refurbishing the beautiful Whitney Oaks doors at Old St. Mary's. "All we did was sand off the old clear coat, says Raul Campos. "The old 15+ year clear was cloudy due to time & the sun. Mother nature & father time are undefeated!"

Raul continues, "We think that veneer is mahogany or similar exotic wood."

His final words: "Jeff did most of the sanding."



The doors of St. Mary's seem to be nice in their Christmas wreaths, but until the Fix-it Team applied their magic did the real beauty show through (right)



Did you know....



Perhaps you have seen "On Time," in our museum. One of two that Gerry Ferran made is on long-term loan for all to enjoy. "On Time" is one of the first pieces Gerry made when starting out around 2010.

The inspiration for this piece comes from a story Roy Ruhkala told about his father, Matt.

When Matt needed to go to Sacramento, he would find a newspaper, stand by the tracks, light the paper and wave down the oncoming train.

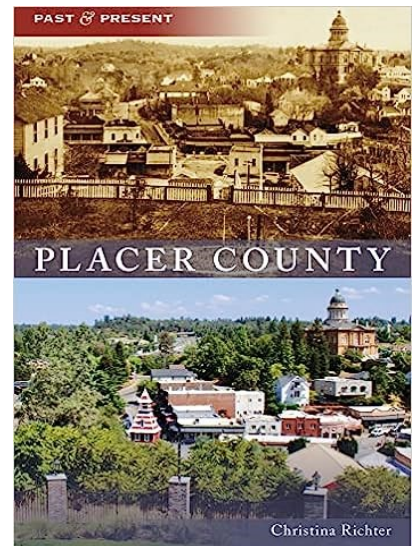
In this representation, though, the conductor is holding a lantern while checking his pocket watch to see if the train is "on time."

What about the other statue? Thanks to Gay Morgan, it can be found at the Rocklin library!



David Baker, Raul Campos, Don Callahan, and George Salgado finish installing the beautiful and functional picnic table

New book published



Arcadia Publishing, an American publisher of neighborhood, local, and regional history, just released a new book by local historian and writer Christina Richter. Placer County is part of Arcadia's "Past and Present" series, which juxtaposes historical photographs with their current locations. The book provides readers with a look at the rich history of Placer County, and the variety of towns and cities that populate it. Rocklin is represented in the chapter titled "Original Roundhouse Place."

Christina has donated several copies of the book to the museum, a few of which are available in our bookstore and reference library. It is also available at local museums and bookstores, or online at

www.arcadiapublishing.com

Thanks to the crew of the Fix-it Team who do so much for our many buildings and projects!

The Fix-It Team is not just for guys! Susan Brooking, Linda Wampler, and Nancy Lohse are three members who also frequent the meetings. If you would like more information about helping, contact George Salgado at george@kkaplanproductions.com

Don Callahan
Dan Durbin
David Baker
Doug Osella
Dr. Jim Carlson
Gene Johnson
George Salgado

Hank Lohse
Jeff Stockel
Jim Hammes
Kent Dazey
Raul Campos
Jeff Folz
Thad Francis

Heritage Trail Day had something for everyone

From granite splitting to building a Roman arch bridge to snacking on popcorn and drinks, and spinning a wheel to win a prize, the Rocklin History Museum was the place to be on Saturday, July 8.

Jeff Stockel and Susan Brooking did a great job organizing the event. Jeff was sure to include things that would please the kids, and Susan was sure to engage the granite-lovers in the crowd. They made it a fun day for all.

The crowd was light, and we are speculating that the July 4th holiday had something to do with it. But the crowds picked up as the day went on. We even got a few new memberships in the deal!

The weather was perfect, and a new exhibit (on baseball) and Gerry Farren's outstanding display made the day extra special.



Above: Karen Lokey and Lynda Hammes were able to construct their Roman (also known as Keystone) bridges without the use of mortar or even scaffolding! This type of bridge can be seen at Clover Valley Park.

Right: Susan Brooking looks on as long-time Ruhkala Monument employee Kenny Clark explains the process of splitting granite.



"Deer Dancer" is another of Gerry's representation of a Maidu / Nisenan Dancer before contact with European settlers. Tied to the ends of the staffs he holds are deer hooves, which he uses to stamp imprints of the hooves into the mud floor as he impersonates the walk of the deer.

Who was Hank Monk?



Hank Monk

Hank Monk was a famous stagecoach driver in the 19th century who drove a stage between Carson City, Nevada and Placerville, California in the 1870s. He was known for his daring, reckless, and humorous personality, and he became a legend in the West. He also had some encounters with notable figures of his time, such as Horace Greeley, Mark Twain, and Rutherford B. Hayes.

Hank Monk was a master of his craft, a charming storyteller, and a fearless adventurer. He left behind many anecdotes and memories that have been preserved by writers, most notably Mark Twain. He also inspired some fictional characters such as Whip Hoxworth in James Michener's Hawaii and Hank Morgan in Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.

(PRESIDENT, con't from pg.1)

We find the chapel today in the capable and caring hands of the Chapel Team who are the steadfast stewards and keepers of the keys, figuratively and literally to keep breathing the life and spirit of Old St. Mary's today, tomorrow and into the future.

... If those walls could talk ... I have to believe they would say "Thank You" in unison with all of the past visitors that sat in her domain.

... If those walls could talk ... I have to believe they would say how lucky it was that people saw that it was important to revive and preserve and breathe life into the foundation of this icon of local and national history.

... If those walls could talk ... I have to believe they would love to sit and chat with all of us and share stories we will never have the privilege to know.

... If those walls could talk ... I have to believe they would assure us that what we say today, tomorrow and for years to come will be recorded subliminally like the ones already there.

... If those walls could talk ... I have to believe they wish they could ...

... until we gather again.



This is a trap door can be found in Fire Hose Co. #1. It leads to the firehouse belfry. Many people don't realize that Old St. Mary's isn't the only structure with a bell!

SECRETARY NEEDED!

By Allegra Hakim

Secretary, RHS

Are you a good listener who can distill conversations to their salient points? Like being 'in the know' about the wonderful efforts to preserve and showcase our local history?

The Rocklin Historical Society is looking for volunteers for the office of Secretary on the Board of Directors beginning in December 2023. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining written records of the RHS, including minutes, bylaws, and resolutions. Mostly, it's taking monthly meeting minutes and knowing the bylaws, so members know our plans and our successes.

As an officer of the Board, your term is only two years to start, but we know you'll keep renewing!

If you are interested in learning more, contact Allegra Hakim, Secretary, Jim Hammes, President, or George Salgado, Vice President, at rocklinhistorical@gmail.com



Says David Baker: "It is a millstone that I found buried at the Rocklin Roundhouse where there was a bakery at one time according to an old map. The stone was a pair at one time."



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

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Immediate Past President: Hank Lohse
Founding Member: Roy Ruhkala

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