

“Rocklin” gets a stamp  
Page 7



Ranch Roundup  
Page 11



Holiday Fun  
Page 6

## President’s Message

**Gloria Beverage**

As we launch into 2024 with a new slate of officers at the helm, I want to offer my gratitude to Jim Hammes for his thoughtful leadership and commitment to the Rocklin Historical Society over the past few years.



Under Jim’s leadership, the executive team (Vice President George Salgado, Secretary Allegra Hakim and Treasurer Kathryn Ripley) with the support of the board of directors sparked a revitalization of projects that focus on protecting Rocklin’s history and heritage.

I grew up in Los Angeles (San Fernando Valley) where so much of the history has either been paved over or is tucked in behind modern buildings. Imagine my delight to discover that history is alive (and often well-preserved) in Placer County. Buildings have been preserved and restored. Museums and monuments tell the stories of the first residents. Local historians offer presentations on the quarries, Highway 40, the early settlers.

And that’s happening because folks are working to preserve history and its stories.

Before joining the society, I was the editor for the Placer Herald. In that job, I got to know many of the “movers and shakers” in the community. Many of those leaders would take every opportunity to pique my interest by sharing stories about Rocklin’s history. And I happily shared them with readers of the newspaper.

Those leaders are the reason I eventually joined the Historical Society. It also helped that Gene Johnson knocked on my door one day and asked me to serve on the board of directors.

Since retiring, I have become an active volunteer -- writing for the Quarry Quarterly (and submitting articles to the Placer Herald), training as a museum docent, joining in developing new exhibits at the museum and continuing to serve on the board of directors.

(See *PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE*, pg. 3)

# Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

January, 2024

## Rocklin area preserved by legendary Ansel Adams



Matthew Nobert

**Note:** Gary Day wrote about Adams and Sunset City for his history series (see our website under Rocklin’s History, or read Gary’s story [here](#)). The topic has been revived by a feature on FOX40.com, reprinted below.

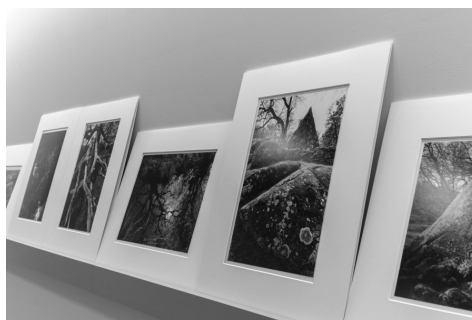
**By Matthew Nobert**

(FOX40.COM) — In the archives of the Crocker Art Museum sit 22 photos of a place that most Placer County residents wouldn’t know today, taken by a man who is legendary in the world of photography and captured at a turning point in the natural landscapes of the Sacramento region.

Southern Placer County in the early 1960s was much like it had been for most of the 20th century, small-town living with seemingly limitless natural spaces where farmers would let their herds graze.

The railroad had brought a fair amount of development to the downtowns of Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln, but on the fringes of these communities, the countryside was still seemingly untouched. This is where famed photographer Ansel Adams found himself in 1962, on the fringes of Rocklin on the land that today is known as Whitney Oaks.

These 12,000 acres were once a part of the sprawling 20,000-acre Spring Valley



Matthew Nobert

Ranch once owned by Joel Parker Whitney. They were purchased in 1960 by Sunset International Petroleum Corporation to develop into a self-sustaining metropolis supporting 100,000 residents.

The beauty of the rolling hills, mighty oaks and unique rock outcroppings drew in the would-be developers as they figured it might be appealing to those looking to escape the life of the city.

However, they needed to get people to want to buy homes, so they hired Adams to capture the natural beauty of what they called Sunset City.

In a 2004 article from the Placer Herald, former assistant vice president at Sunset, Dale Stringfellow, was cited saying, “I introduced Ansel Adams to the property and over the next few days, I came to realize what a very special person he was. Not just a great photographer, which he was the greatest, but the feeling, the tenderness, the passion he had for the land was overwhelming, and that’s why his photographs of natives are still unequalled.”

Adams arrived sometime in the spring of 1962 and began his months-long project of capturing the sprawling landscape of what was planned to be Sunset City.

He was hired to take 15 images but enjoyed the location so much that he added another 7, according to a letter written by Adams to the then-director of the Crocker Museum, Frank Kent.

At this point in his career, Adams had been a professional photographer for 40

(See *ADAMS*, pg. 2)

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

years after making his first photo sale in 1922 in New York.

He had worked with the National Park Service in capturing some of the most stunning natural scenes in the United States to get people outside and have a greater appreciation for the environment.

This work would lead to Adams becoming a well-known environmentalist and a nationally-celebrated landscape photographer.

Adams completed the Sunset City project sometime in 1962 or 1963, but by 1965 a lack of home sales caused Sunset Petroleum to shut down the idea of Sunset City entirely.

How the photos ended up in the archives of the Crocker Art Museum is a bit unclear, but it is agreed by local historians and the museum that they were gifted to the long-standing art collectors.

According to the Rocklin Historical Society, all 22 photos were gifted to the Crocker in 1965 or 1966 by Stringfellow after the failed plans of Sunset City.



Matthew Nobert

Stringfellow is also said to have placed conditions on the photos that they would be permanently on display.

Curators at the Crocker told FOX40.com that it is unlikely that they would accept those conditions due to the need to let the photos rest for some years after being on display for just a few months.

FOX40.com reached out to the Rocklin Historical Society to see if they have any records of the correspondence between the Crocker and Stringfellow.



Matthew Nobert

The historical society said that they do not have a direct correspondence between the Crocker and Stringfellow, but part of what could have been an email sent from Stringfellow to former Placer Herald writer Gary Day for his 2004 article.

The quoted section of Stringfellow's message is a retelling of the alleged agreement between Sunset Petroleum and the Crocker.

The Crocker has the timeline of the gifting moved up a few years and not including Sunset Petroleum. Instead, the images were gifted by Adams to the Crocker.

In their archives, the Crocker has a letter from Adams to the then Director of the Crocker Museum Frank Kent and a second letter from Kent to Adams.

The first letter is dated May 29, 1963, where Adams describes his experience taking the photos and working with Sunset Petroleum.

He said the images were sent via "Rail Express" to the gallery. On June 12, 1963, Kent responded to Adams' letter saying that he received the collection and how pleased he was to add the "quality" images to the Crocker's photography collection.

"They are beautifully mounted and will be a formidable asset to the print collection of the Crocker Art Gallery," Kent wrote to Adams.

Nowhere in the letter does Adams place conditions on how the images are to be displayed and he only suggests they be viewed as a collection with only a few of them meriting a solo showing.

In 2007, the images would be shown for the first and only time as a full collec-

tion to the public by the Crocker.

Curators at the Crocker said that from time to time individual photos from the collection will be displayed to complement other shows.

On Dec. 1, 2023, for the first time in 16 years, all 22 images were brought together to be shown privately for FOX40.com to



Matthew Nobert

take images for this article.

Regardless of how the images ended up at the Crocker or how often they are shown, these images represent a place and time that will never be seen again in Southern Placer County.

Much of Adams' work is of landscapes that have been federally protected and will likely never see development or drastic change for centuries.

The Placer County that Adams captured in the early 1960s would only last for another 30 years or so as suburbia spread from the downtown core into the once-fringe areas of the countryside.

Fortunately, Adams gave as much care and love to this collection of photos as his previous projects and captured a relatively unknown place with such beauty for all to enjoy for centuries to come.

"Once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price."

-Ansel Adams

#### About the Author:

Matthew Nobert has been with Fox40 since May, 2022, after 2.5 years with Gold Country Media, his first job after graduating from Sac State with a BA in Journalism. Matthew got the idea for this story after seeing an Instagram post from the Ansel Adams Trust that was tagged as being taken in Sunset City. "I then found images of the Joel Parker Whitney tomb and knew there was a story there," he says. "It was surreal to then track the images to the Crocker Museum and be able to have my own private showing of the full collection with one of the museum's curators."

In his free time, Matthew is an avid hiker and photographer. "I have been photographing mostly landscapes over the last decade and plan to keep doing so. I also love to drive to new places across our region as there is just so much hidden beauty and history tucked away in every community."

## A mysterious puzzle for you to solve

Are you up for a little mystery? Doug Osella has devised this puzzle for you to solve. The first puzzle starts with the map. You may have a little trouble if you use Google Maps or Apple Maps. The solution to this mystery is on Page 12. Good Luck!

By Doug Osella

*Directions:* From the office with map in hand, proceed on foot south on E. Birch Parkway. Pass 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Block 5 will be on your right. Continue south until you see 3<sup>rd</sup> Street ahead. Two lots before 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, your destination will be on the right. Just on the other side of the granite edging sits a brick-sized, granite block in the ground with letters A.E.B. clearly imprinted on it. By now you might be wondering, "What's going on?" Here are some historical facts



- √ A.E.B. was the wife of J.T.B.
- √ A.E.B. and J.T.B. had a small business together in Rocklin until J.T.B. passed away in 1909.
- √ The couple were remembered for their Victor Talking Machine (one of Rocklin's first), which they played on their front porch on summer evenings. Neighbors stopped by to listen.
- √ A.E.B. continued as a merchant of general merchandise and groceries after her husband's death.
- √ She made her store into a popular candy and ice cream parlor.
- √ Her two-room store sat at the foot of Burchard's Hotel on Front Street.
- √ After the Fire of 1914, she rebuilt her business while others did not.
- √ She acted as the town mid-wife, delivering many babies.
- √ Her home remedies helped many folks in Rocklin.
- √ Young and old called her "Aunt Annie".
- √ Aunt Annie passed away in 1930 at age 83.

## Fix-it Team Nuts and Bolts

The Fix-it team, as its name implies, conducts regular maintenance and "handyman" jobs at the museum as well as at Old St. Mary's. For example, they put up and take down the outside holiday decorations and decorated the Rocklin Rattler for the tree lighting event, installed a lift at the firehouse, and complete minor fixes with the fountain and water misters, just to name a few tasks.

But that is not all the Fix-it Team does! Many major projects get started with discussions at their weekly breakfast meetings. On their to-do list are some outstanding projects that our members may find interested in knowing about and maybe

even helping with.

Here are a few of the projects our society would like to accomplish, with the help of everyone, including the Fix-It Team:

- Headed by David Baker, the installation of a surfacing machine at Quarry Park Adventures is moving full-steam ahead. Soon you will be hearing about a dedication ceremony for this job.
- Install two panels of stained glass from the Whitney estate
- Install monitors at the museum for interactive photo presentations



*(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont. from page 1)*

Now I have made the commitment to serve as president. With the support of the executive team (Vice President George Salgado, Secretary Barb Morris and Treasurer Kathryn Ripley) as well as the board of directors, I hope to find ways to raise awareness about the work of the society as well as expand on programs that educate and entertain the community.

While we approach our efforts on behalf of the society from different perspectives and different perches, we are bound to each other in the pursuit of keeping history alive.

My heart is filled with hope and admiration for those who work tirelessly on behalf of the Rocklin Historical Society as well as our "silent" partners who support our efforts with memberships.

The road ahead may have its challenges, but the resilience and passion of our members means we will continue to flourish.

We are bound together in the pursuit of lifting up our community by sharing our collective history. You are the reason we must continue fighting to protect our history. Thank you for sharing this journey.



David Baker explains the needed work yet to be done on the surfacing machine, and the location details of the setup to Fix-it Team members Gene Johnson, left, and Raul Campos.

- Establish a rose garden with heirloom roses and granite curbing saved by Doug Osella
- Trim the historic olive tree on the museum grounds
- Prepare and install a plaque at Johnson Springview Park for Spring View Dairy

*(See FIX-IT, pg. 5)*

# My Parent's Wedding Night In Rocklin —Christmas, 1947

**Editor's Note:** Betty and RHS president Gloria Beverage met when Betty was donating books to Gloria's other passion, the Friends of the Library. Betty has a long connection to Rocklin through her father's side of the family. Look for more of this connection at a future exhibit on women in Rocklin.

By Betty Latvala-Soininen

My dad and mom got married in Reno on Christmas Day 1947.

Dad, Allen Latvala, was 23 and a 4-year gunner's mate U.S. Navy veteran of WWII (Pacific Theatre). Prior to that, he'd been a high school senior, "majoring in truancy" (his words), with real doubt that he would graduate from Berkeley High School in June 1942.

I believe shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the school district may have told the senior boys, "If you're willing to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces, we'll give you your diploma now." My dad was only 17 at the time (and looked about 12), needed his mother's permission to enlist, but enlisted exactly three weeks after Pearl Harbor, and completed Navy Boot Camp 3½ weeks later.

He told me later that two out of every three of the guys in his boot camp didn't survive the war.

Mom, then Norma Cole Gilbertson, was 33, born and raised in Nebraska, had married at the age of 21, had a full-term pregnancy that resulted in the stillbirth of my brother on Sept. 19, 1938.

Twenty-five months later -- three days before her 26<sup>th</sup> birthday -- her husband Art died of tuberculosis at the age of 36.

In January 1943, Mom moved to California and went to work as a keypunch operator in payroll at Permanente Metals Corp. Shipbuilding Division in Richmond. No, Mom wasn't Rosie the Riveter, but she helped see that all the Rosies got paid!

Later that same year, after Mom's beloved dad died, Mom's older brother and sister-in-law, Orv and Pat Cole, as well as my maternal grandmother Emma Cole, moved to Berkeley from Nebraska. Orv and Pat worked at the same place Mom did, Orv as a marine electrician foreman, and Pat as a scaler.

Shortly before the war ended, Pat and Orv returned to Lincoln, Nebraska, but my grandmother stayed in Berkeley with

my mom for at least another two or three years.

During that time Mom started working for State Farm Insurance Company.

In early 1947, Mom attended a dance at Berkeley's Finnish Kaleva Hall where she met Allen Latvala.

At that time, he owned (with his older brother, Ted) a hat shop in Berkeley. They dated throughout the year, with most "dates" consisting of my dad coming over to Mom and Grandma's place for dinner after work, getting drunk, and falling asleep on the couch. Mom said she and her mom would leave him on the couch when they went to bed, and whenever he woke up during the night, he would let himself out.

They agreed to get married that Christmas (the only day of the year my dad would let himself take a day off from working at the hat shop). Though Mom said when Dad started to get cold feet, she told him if they didn't get married that Christmas, a wedding between them would never happen.

On Thursday, Dec. 25, 1947, Mom and Dad drove to Reno, Nevada with one of my dad's best friends, Vic Vickman. They went to the Washoe County Court House to apply for a wedding license, leaving shortly thereafter to look for a Justice of the Peace. Unsuccessful in this search, they returned to the courthouse, only to find an eight or nine-year-old boy seated at the base of the inside stairs, pointing upstairs and saying, "I tried to tell you earlier, there's a judge upstairs marrying couples today."

The three of them went upstairs to find the judge in his office with his secretary. They were informed that the judge performed marriages for a \$5 fee. His secretary also received a \$5 fee for serving as one (of two required) witnesses. They agreed to the fees, though Mom said at the end of the very brief ceremony, the judge wanted to ensure they remembered by concluding the ceremony with one run-on sentence: "I now pronounce you man and wife we usually get ten dollars." (Mom said some years later the judge who married them was later investigated for income tax evasion!)

The newlyweds and Dad's friend Vic



Allen Latvala and Norma Cole Gilbertson



headed over the Sierras bound for Rocklin, where my parents would spend their wedding night.

My paternal grandmother, Alli Heikkinen Latvala, ran a motor hotel on Pacific Street where Midas Avenue dead ended. The three of them enjoyed Christmas dinner with my grandmother and her live-in boyfriend (something my mom found highly scandalous, though they did marry in 1950), G.W. "Jeff" Osborne.

After dinner, Mom stayed to help her new mother-in-law clean-up, while Dad headed to the cabin they'd been assigned. After finishing the task at hand, Mom retired to the cabin for their wedding night. When she opened the door, however, Mom found the room full of smoke. She didn't see my dad -- only his shoes on the floor.

Rather sheepishly, Mom returned to her mother-in-law's home to say she couldn't find her new husband -- only his shoes were in the cabin that was full of smoke.

Jeff explained -- then fixed -- the smoke problem. He said he'd recently installed wood-burning stoves with attached chimneys in each cabin, but apparently had neglected to hook-up the inside part of the chimney to the outside part.

After that part of the mystery was resolved, Vic went looking for Dad in one direction, while Jeff went up the train tracks in the opposite direction. Mom said she stepped outside to see if she could figure out where her new husband had gone and noticed a bar across the gravel alley. Knowing his drinking proclivities very well, Mom walked over to the bar, opened the door, and found my

(See WEDDING, pg. 5)

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

dad standing at the bar, in his stocking feet, getting very drunk.

A rather inauspicious, if humorous, start to a marriage that lasted seven weeks shy of 31 years, until my dad's death at 54 from lymphoma — a week after Mom's 64<sup>th</sup> birthday and three weeks before I turned 22.

There were obvious problems in the marriage, not the least of which was my dad never grew up. And yet, all Mom ever wanted in life was a baby. When my half-brother was stillborn, she changed that wish to a baby that lived. She lost my brother due to her toxemia, and almost lost me for the same reason during delivery (late 1956). I spent the first month of my life in Children's Hospital in Oakland, as I was 3½ weeks premature, and only weighed 3 pounds 5 ounces at birth.

Delighted to finally be a mother, Mom turned all her attention to me, neglecting my dad for much of the next 22 years. Nevertheless, they remained united in their marriage vows, while Dad remained an alcoholic. (Unless I woke up before he left for work in the morning, I never saw



Josephine (settled in Rocklin in 1902).  
Alli (Josephine's daughter, same).  
Ted (Alli's son, born in Rocklin 1914).



## Honoring a special RHS member

On Veteran's Day, Sergeant LaVerne Splan, USMC, retired, was honored at McBean Park in Lincoln for her service in the Marine Corps during World War II. At the ceremony, she is being congratulated by local Congressman Kevin Kiley.

him without an alcoholic beverage close by.)

Dad spent most of his career as a maintenance machinist in the printing trades, the last 10-plus years working at the State of California Printing Plant in Sacramento.

Mom returned to work for State Farm Insurance a few months before we moved up here, and a few years later started working at San Juan Water District as an accounts receivable clerk, retiring at 70 in 1984. She died in 1993, a few weeks shy of her 79<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### About the author:

Betty Latvala-Soininen still lives on the same Granite Bay street she moved to in April 1967, moving into the same house she's lived in for over 54 years in 1969. Though not continuous, she is the fourth generation of her family to call South Placer County home.

Despite only being second-generation U.S.-- born on her dad's side, her Finnish roots go back to approximately 1300 A.D. (On her mom's side, she's traced her U.S. roots to her 8x great grandfather, born in what is now New York, in 1629.)

Her dad's maternal grandparents, John (Johan) and Josephine (Josefina) Heikkinen, moved here in 1901/1902, with several children, including Betty's then-five-year-old grandmother. They had their last child here in 1903, and Johan died in 1907.

Josephine remarried in 1912, being widowed again in 1914. She lived another 40 years, living to see three (of four) great-grandchildren born (the missing one was Betty).

Betty's uncle, Ted Latvala, was born in Rocklin in 1914. His father Nels spent part of his working life as a carpenter at the train yards in Roseville, though the 1920 U.S. Census



listed his occupation as a stonecutter. He worked for the Ruhkalas in Rocklin. Betty has seen photos of some of the elaborate tombstones he carved. It is her unverified belief that he may have carved the tree with a scroll decorating her great grandmother's grave in the Rocklin Cemetery.

*(FIX-IT, con't from pg. 3)*

- Redesign and place a new sign at Huff Spring
- Complete painting the exterior of the museum
- Save, move and restore the historic office building from Big Gun (Capitol Quarry)
- Construct a kiosk at the roundhouse to display the history of the railroad in Rocklin

If you would like to help the Fix-it team, they are always looking for an extra set of hands. Let us know at [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com).

# Happy Holidays at OSM!



Hank and Nancy Lohse's granddaughters, Makenna, left, and Lainey, help count the socks for the Chamber of Commerce Sock Drop collection. They were able to count all the way to 72! Thank you, members, for your donations!



Silent Night at our beautiful chapel

Nicole Eib is with Carol Gebel. December 20, 2023 at 6:48 AM

Christmas Cheers with Mom!

Spent a fun evening at the Rocklin Historical Society's Christmas get-together and potluck. It was heartwarming to meet some of Mom's new friends while catching up with ones I haven't seen in quite some time.

The Vice Mayor of Rocklin, Jill Graviet Gayaldo, shared inspiring insights into the city's future growth and the importance of community.

Here's to making more memories and celebrating together!

The bonus....Winning at Christmas bingo!

Rocklin Historical Society

#CommunitySpirit #ChristmasWithMom #merrychristmas

The holiday party on Dec. 18 was a complete success, as attested to by the Facebook comment (left). Approximately 60 people attended. There were hors d'oeuvres and desserts aplenty, with lots of good will and cheer. Everyone enjoyed playing Holiday Bingo, even those who did not win any Lindor truffles! Door prizes included bottles of Prosecco and passes to Studio Movie Grill. Looking forward to a great party repeat in 2024!



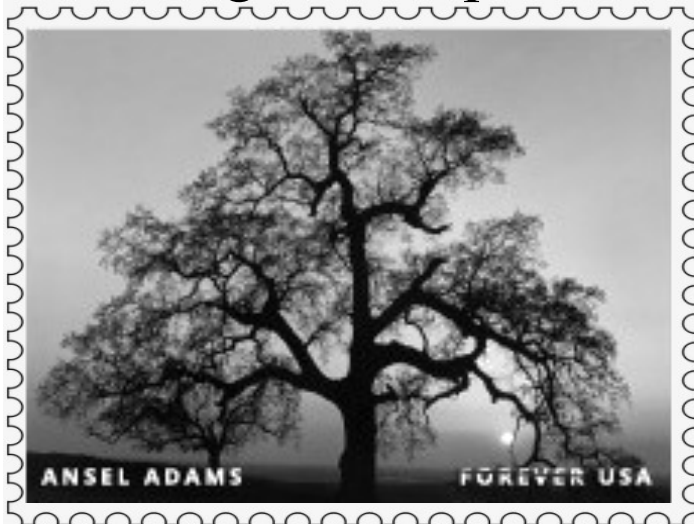
George Salgado captures the moment as volunteers are treated to lunch at Pottery World provided by the society, as a thank you for all their hard work. Treasurer Kathryn Ripley still seems to be working, though! Patsy Pattison savors a moment of pleasant conversation with Patrice Cardott, while Gloria Beverage listens to the conversation of ...somebody!



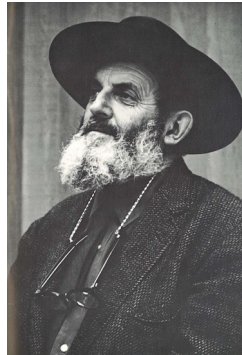
The Tree lighting ceremony was fun even if it's outgrown its former Front Street location. The Rocklin Rattler is always a great addition for the community to enjoy. Smokey Bassett, as J. Parker Whitney is, as always, entertaining and friendly.



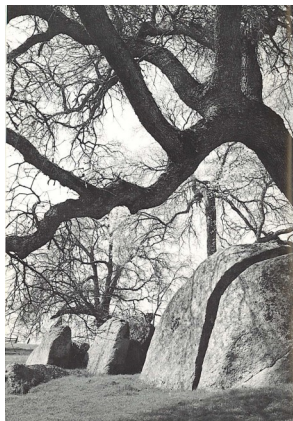
# Rocklin gets stamp



If you love the photography of Ansel Adams and the oak trees that dot the Rocklin area, you might be excited to hear that the U.S. Postal Service is releasing a set of 16 stamps featuring the stunning landscapes of Ansel Adams in 2024, including the photo he took while visiting Rocklin for the Sunset Petroleum Company (see story on page 1). Ansel Adams was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, who captured the beauty and majesty of the



Ansel Adams in 1962



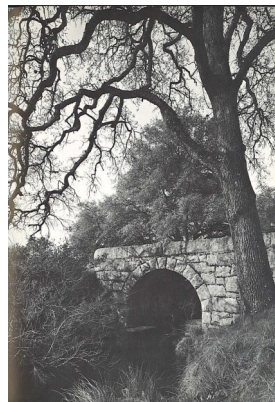
Ansel Adams

American wilderness in his black-and-white photographs. He was also a passionate environmentalist, who used his art to raise awareness and inspire conservation efforts.

Besides our beloved oaks, the stamps will showcase some of his most iconic images, such as The Tetons and the Snake River, Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico, and Clearing Winter Storm, Yosemite National Park. Adams' work was devoted to what was or appeared to be the country's remaining frag-

ments of untouched wilderness, especially in national parks and other protected areas of the American West. He was also a vigorous and outspoken leader of the conservation movement. The stamps will be a tribute to Adams's legacy and a celebration of the natural wonders of the United States.

The release date has not yet been announced, but when it is, we will put it in the Weekly Update.



Ansel Adams

# New officers for 2024



Two new officers have become officers on our Board of Directors. Seated, left, is Secretary Barbara Morris, and to the right is President Gloria Beverage (sporting George's hat). Standing are our returning officers, Treasurer Kathryn Ripley and George Salgado. We are looking forward to a fun and productive year with these talented people at the helm!

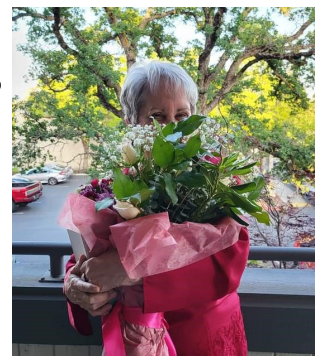
## About our Officers

If you read Gloria Beverage's President's Message, you know she grew up in SoCal, worked as the editor of the Placer Herald, and Gene Johnson recruited her to be a board member. You have probably seen and read many of her features in the Quarry Quarterly and the Placer Herald. But here, in the words of Paul Harvey, is the rest of the story.

Gloria has three passions. Literature, local history, and art. She is able to indulge in an abundance of each as a volunteer with Friends of the Rocklin Library, the Arts Council of Placer County, and, of course, RHS.

A member of RHS since 2010, Gloria has contributed articles to the Quarry Quarterly ever since Gary Day asked her to write for it in 2012.

Gloria scratches her literary itch by facilitating book clubs with Atria Senior Living Community since 2022, and OLLI since 2016. This spring she is branching out to film studies with an OLLI class on Tom Hanks. "My premise," she says, "is that even the most seasoned traveler may hesitate to travel with Tom after seeing these six "adventures" -- Apollo 13, Cast Away, Hologram for a King, Sully, Captain Phillips and Terminal."



Gloria, Rocklin's 2023 Ruhkala Award winner

**Next Issue: Meet Secretary Barb Morris**

# Behind the Scenes

By Gloria Beverage

Each issue we highlight a few of our volunteers in our *Behind the Scenes* feature. It's fun learning a bit about the wonderful people who help keep our Society going!

## Patrice Cardott

### Q: When and why did you join the Rocklin Historical Society?

I think I've been a member since 2011...at least that's what my badge says at the museum. I live next to Gene Johnson; he recruited me.

### Q: What do you enjoy about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society?

Working with the other volunteers is like working with good friends.

### Q: Interesting story to share?

The ladies of Old St. Mary's have many interesting stories to tell, and we're actually working on a book about them, albeit in our heads.

### Q: What did you do in your previous life (before retirement)?

Retired criminal investigator, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office



Patrice and her fur friend Wesley

## Charlene Rhodes

### Q: When and why did you join the Rocklin Historical Society?

I joined in 2004 and became a docent at the museum. My mentors were Gay Morgan and Gary and Jean Day. They were so helpful and great teachers. I grew up in Rocklin in the 1950s and 1960s; being a docent is my way of honoring my hometown.

### Q: What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society?

Meeting new people who share their memories of Rocklin. Sharing my memories of growing up in Rocklin when it was still a small town. Being part of a group that is committed to preserving Rocklin's history for future generations. Last summer I had the pleasure of meeting two of J. Parker Whitney's descendants when they came to the museum.

### Q: Interesting story to share?

One rainy Saturday afternoon, a mother and two young children came to the museum. The son had visited the museum with his third-grade class and at that visit was unable to ask questions. He came prepared with two pages of questions about the railroad, the quarries, Whitney and so much more. Diane Ruhkala Bell was also working that day and we enjoyed the family's visit and his questions. We told the mother that she had a budding historian and that he should come back when he gets older to become a docent.

### Q: What did you do in your previous life (before retirement)?

Started as a file clerk at Roseville Hospital. Later went to work in a law office as a receptionist. After a few years and on the job training I became a legal secretary. I worked in legal offices both private and public until retirement.



## Patsy Pattison



### Q: When and why did you join the Rocklin Historical Society?

I joined the Rocklin Historical Society a little after I retired in 2012. I joined because I was and am fascinated with Rocklin's history. I especially want to save the oaks and old buildings with stories to tell.

### What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society?

I love working at Old St. Mary's Chapel. It is the circle of life. We get to see couples getting married and starting their lives together and then we see memorials as people's lives come to an end. It is an honor to be a part of that circle.

### Interesting story to share?

One of my favorite memories happened at a wedding. As the bride was putting on her gown, she realized the security lock was still on the dress and she couldn't get it on. We had minutes until she was to walk down the aisle. I frantically called the store and sure enough, someone arrived just in time to take off the lock. It was a close call for sure and one that bride will never forget! Nor I!

### What did you do in your previous life (before retirement)?

Before I retired I was a teacher. I taught mostly K and first grade. I loved it, especially that age of innocence and honesty.

*(See BEHIND THE SCENES, pg. 9)*



(Con't from pg. 8)

# Behind the Scenes

## David William Baker

### When and why did you join the Rocklin Historical Society?

I was drafted by Gene Johnson in 2002 to work on fixing up the Rocklin Museum house. The rest is history.

### What did you do in your previous life (before retirement)?

I trained as an analytical chemist at Fresno State and, after graduating, started in 1966 working as a chemist for the US Food and Drug Administration in San Francisco.

Transferring in 1973 to the newly formed US Product Safety Commission, I was appointed Western Regional Laboratory Director.

With the field laboratory system closure in 1981, my next position was chief chemist for the US Bonneville Power Administration in Vancouver, Washington. This was followed in 1988 by a 3-1/2-year tour in Tokyo, Japan as a technical representative with the US Army Materiel Command's Science and Technology Center Far East.

Returning to California in 1991, I served as chief scientist for the Technical Operations Division Laboratory, US Air Force Technical Applications Center, at McClellan until the Sacramento base closed in 1999. My final federal position was as chief chemist for the Alcohol Section, US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, in Walnut Creek. I retired on

April Fool's Day in 2000 and my wife Margaret and I moved into our rental property in Rocklin.

My first volunteer experience was two years as Conservation Vice President with the Granite Bay Flycasters. The next non-profit position was as environmental consultant and volunteer with the Dry Creek Conservancy (from 2002 to present) conducting environmental studies, stream restorations, creek cleanups and annual salmon counts.

### What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society?

Collaborating with our committed volunteers is certainly on top of my list; first as member of the Fix-it Team, a Museum docent, a board member and then serving as Museum Team Leader for several years.

After my wife passed away in 2010 and needing to keep busy, I took on the massive task of updating the Society's processes for collecting, cataloging and preserving our historical objects, and of implementing the Past Perfect database.

Later I appreciated working with Sharalee Cartier, our professional archivist, in standardized database entries and correcting earlier acquisitions errors.

Another area I like is carrying out detailed research into the lives of past Rocklin personalities, such as Martin Bays, who was on hand for the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill; Joseph Fleckenstein, the first elected Rocklin Town Constable, who killed Col Paisley of the Industrial Army in 1894; and George Hoadley, train engineer and later gold dredger owner.

### Interesting story to share?

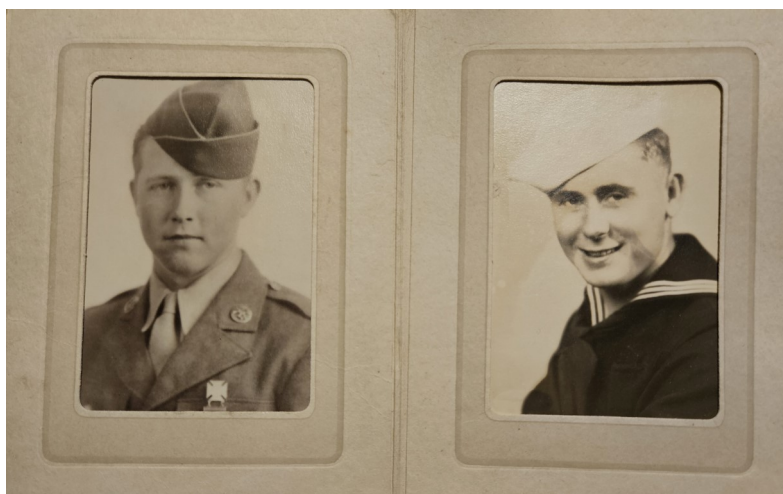
For a half dozen years I worked with Roy Ruhkala in documenting the amazing col-



Roy Ruhkala front, educates David on the set up and use of the surfacing machine

lection of quarry artifacts that his family donated to the museum, recording local stories and preparing museum exhibits.

During the installation of a small surfacing machine in the museum backyard, the society hired a large crane to deliver a 1,000-pound granite stone over the shed into the yard to complete the exhibit. I was horrified when Roy, at 94 years, grabbed the rope used for guiding the dimensional granite. He knew exactly what he was doing and thus perfectly positioned the massive stone. All the while I was worried that if there had been a mishap I would have to flee the wrath of the community by quickly moving out of Rocklin.



## Do you know who these veterans are?

This photograph was in our Veteran's display at the museum, but there is no identification. We would like to find the owner so it can be returned. If you own this photograph or you know who does, please contact us at [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com)

*Thank you!*

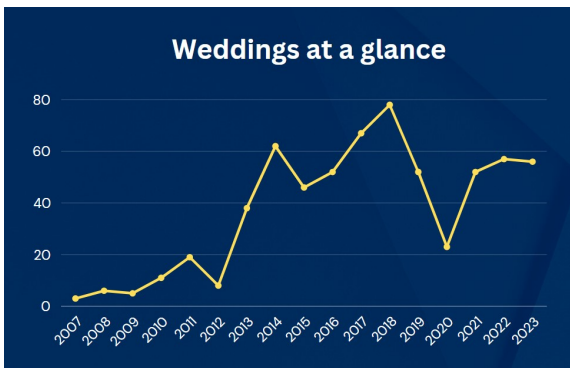
# CHAPEL NEWS

By Nancy Lohse

It's been a busy year at historic Old St. Mary's Chapel. In 2023, 56 couples said "I do" and started their married lives together. We had families say good-bye to family members with 14 memorials and funerals. We also reached a total of 600 weddings held at the chapel since the first one in 2007!

The end of the year is a great time to give a shout out to all the 'Church Ladies' who make chapel events happen smoothly. Without their hard work the Rocklin Historical Society's biggest fundraiser would not function. They, along with the Fix-it Team, are the stewards of the beautiful 140 year old chapel so it will be around for years to come.

## WEDDINGS AT OLD ST. MARY'S CHAPEL AND GROSS INCOME



Relaxing after working hard decorating the chapel are, seated, L-R: Gloria Beverage, Peggy Russi, Sally Huseby, Patsy Pattison. Standing, L-R: Patrice Carrott, Bev, Kathryn Ripley, Nancy Lohse, Lyn Hammes, Linda Wampler, Ronna

### Interpreting a Graph

The graph on the left shows a sudden rise in 2014, and a sudden drop in 2020. What do you think caused this to happen? Find out on page 12

## Old St. Mary's By the Numbers

2007 - 3 weddings, 2 memorials	2018 - 76 weddings, 11 memorials, 4 funeral - \$62,396
2008 - 6 weddings, 1 memorial	2019 - 52 weddings, 10 memorials, 3 funerals - \$37,505
2009 - 5 weddings, 1 memorial	2020 - 23 weddings, 12 memorials (Covid) - \$14,200 (36 cancellations)
2010 - 11 weddings, 1 memorial	2021 - 52 weddings, 20 memorials, 1 funeral - \$60,262.50
2011 - 19 weddings, 1 memorial	2022 - 57 weddings, 15 memorials, 2 funerals - \$57,335
2012 - 8 weddings - \$8116.32	2023 - 56 weddings, 14 memorials, 2 funerals - \$71,504.88
2013 - 38 weddings, 4 memorials - \$25,330	Total: 636 weddings, 109 memorials, 19 funerals
2014 - 62 weddings, 5 memorials - \$39,287	
2015 - 46 weddings, 2 memorials, 1 funeral, movie - \$32,056	
2016 - 52 weddings, 5 memorials, Tesla music video - \$40,355	
2017 - 67 weddings, 5 memorials, 6 funerals - \$56,449.50	



After decorating, lunch at Pottery World was in order. Here is prim Nancy Lohse doing her best to recruit a new Church Lady! Unfortunately, the potential volunteer was a bit too stiff to fit in with this fun bunch! Perhaps YOU would like to join us? Contact us at [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com)

# Rancher's Get-Together

A gathering of ranching families enjoyed meeting and exchanging memories celebrating the museum's temporary exhibit, Rocklin's Ranches. Currently open through February, the exhibit highlights many of the local ranches, farms and dairies. Included are farm tools, histories, anecdotes, and artifacts.



JoAnn entertains Alfred and Connie Corral Noel with stories from the Sasaki's North Star Ranch



Shirley Corral Espley, Gordan Takemoto, Alfred Corral, JoAnn Sasaki Takemoto, and RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burk



Doug Osella, Gene Johnson, and Clifford Boisa

## Third Graders meet Rocklin "Royalty"



One of the services of the Rocklin Historical Society and Museum is providing walking field trips for the school district's third graders. Here, Brenda Parr's class from Quarry Trail Elementary School, is greeted by Gene Johnson, introduced to the students by docent Nancy Lohse as "the King of Rocklin."



Doug Osella and Pat Corral Byrnes



Dave Noel and Alfred Corral

# You've Got Mail

## Announcement:

Our membership currently includes the member plus spouse. However, many couples each have their own email addresses. If you would like both addresses listed in our roster, please let us know. Then you each will receive our updates as well as our Quarry Quarterly! Contact us at:

[rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com)

## Old St. Mary's By the Numbers (from Page 10)

Two events happened to produce the positive and negative spikes on the graph (page 10) in Old St. Mary's Chapel's history. What were they? You may have guessed that in 2020, Covid was the culprit for the decrease in business. Thirty-seven weddings were cancelled that year! The sudden increase of weddings in 2014 was a little more mysterious. But it makes sense when we realize that it was the first year the Chapel went online! Visit the chapel's website [here](#)

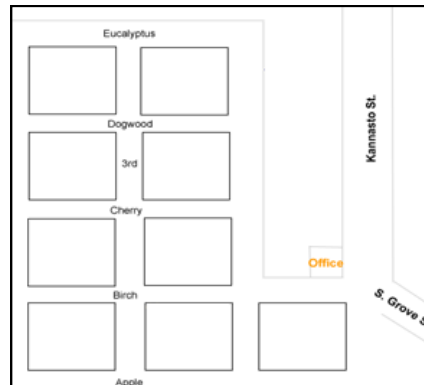
## Page 3 Mystery Solved!



Annie Elizabeth Beasmore, one of Rocklin's colorful pioneers, rests next to her husband, John T. Beasmore, in the walkable—for the visitor—community known as the Rocklin Cemetery. As a reporter for the Placer Herald once proclaimed, "Rocklin Cemetery brims with history".



The "streets" in the Rocklin Cemetery are named for trees, as noted on this map



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Big Day of Giving**

**MAY 2**

**Rocklin Historical Society**  
**2024 Board of Directors**

**President:** Gloria Beverage      **Secretary:** Barbara Morris  
**Vice President:** George Salgado      **Treasurer:** Kathryn Ripley

**Immediate Past President:** Jim Hammes  
**Founding Member:** Roy Ruhkala

**Members at Large:**

Susan Brooking	Dan Defoe	Hank Lohse
Don Callahan	Jim Hammes	Nancy Lohse
Ronna Davis	Sally Huseby	Jeff Stockel
Kent Dazey	Patsy Pattison	Linda Wampler

**Quarry Quarterly contact:**  
[quarryquarterly@gmail.com](mailto:quarryquarterly@gmail.com)  
**Editor:** Linda Wampler