

# We believe in dreams

## President's Message



Gloria Beverage

While I have been active with the Rocklin Historical Society for many years, the past six months as your President has given me an insight into the true spirit of this organization.

This organization welcomes dreamers and visionaries. Yes, our mission is to generate community interest and support for the preservation of Rocklin's heritage. In order to accomplish that mission, however, we have to support and encourage the dreams of our members.

Here's a sampling of the dreams being developed as well as others that have become reality thanks to the efforts of our members.

- The preservation and renovation of the Capitol Quarry Office building used at the site of Rocklin's last operating quarry is one of the biggest dreams currently on the minds of Rocklin Historical Society volunteers. Currently being stored by the city, volunteers under the leadership of Past President Jim Hammes are working to find a permanent site for the building. The dream is to turn it into a museum devoted to the history of the quarry industry, which served as the backbone of Rocklin's economy for more than 100 years.
- Doug Osella's vision is to create a small public garden in the city to honor Jennie and Arvo Minkkinen. Jennie Wickman Minkkinen was Rocklin's first Placer County librarian, a position she held for 29 years. Her husband, Arvo, was a member of the Rocklin City Council for 24 years, including eight years as mayor.

# Quarry Quarterly

Our History  
Our Heritage

ROCKLIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

July, 2024



**Interior of the Capitol Quarry office building. The Rocklin Historical Society is hoping to save this historic building. Collections Manager David Baker says, "The office is the only original remains of Capitol Quarry; the site and structures were listed on the state and federal historical register. The building was a restaurant purchased and moved by Adolf Pernu, of the California Granite Company, before the devastating 1914 fire on Front Street. Converted to an office and monument design center, the building was part of an important site for the modernization of Rocklin's granite history."**

- A black granite marker to be placed in the next few weeks at Johnson-Springview Park supported by Rocklin third grade coin drives. The marker will let visitors know the park was originally operated by the Johnson family as a dairy farm and pays tribute to Gene and Marg Johnson, who worked with the city to develop its largest, most popular park.
- Another dream fulfilled is the placement of a surfacing machine, used by the Capitol Quarry Co. to polish granite pieces pulled from the earth, on the grounds of Quarry Adventure Park. The project was the overseen by David Baker, who worked with members of the Fix-It Team and the city of Rocklin to develop the exhibit.
- Two stained-glass windows rescued from J. Parker Whitney's historic mansion and displayed for years inside the Sunset Whitney Country Club were cleaned by volunteers and are now lovingly displayed inside the Rocklin History Museum.

Working alongside these dreamers are the doers. They are the volunteers who

devote their time and energy doing what's needed to fulfill those dreams.

⇒ Kudos to the members of the Fix-It Team, who do all the "honey do" projects around the museum, the Firehouse Replica and Old St. Mary's as well as other historic sites.

⇒ Many thanks to the church ladies, who oversee the celebrations at Old St. Mary's Chapel. They are the reason the historic building has become such a popular venue with weddings booked way into 2025. Best of all, proceeds fund the society's dreams.

⇒ And to the docents who welcome guests to the History Museum, a huge thank you. The museum is Rocklin's showcase for telling the story of how this city started. The docents keep those stories alive.

As I said in the beginning, we welcome dreamers, visionaries and doers. For more information about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society, please send an email to [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com)



# Dream realized: Surfacing machine preserved

## *A machine that helped revolutionize the quarry industry*

By Gloria Beverage

Another piece of Rocklin's quarry history has been preserved and is now on display on the grounds of the Quarry Adventure Park. An information sign explaining the history and use of the machine is being designed and will be placed in the next few weeks.

The surfacing machine on display was originally located in the historic Capitol Quarry cutting shed that was on the hill above the granite pit. It was used at the quarry to resurface granite slabs for nearly 100 years, including the resurfacing of sidewalk slabs for the city of San Francisco in the mid-1960s.

The restoration and preservation of the machine was overseen by David Baker, Rocklin Historical Society board member and museum director as well as members of the Historical Society's Fix-It Crew and city of Rocklin employees.

Surfacing machines were first introduced in the granite industry around 1890. Before that time, quarry workers used simple hand tools and animal power to remove the granite from the earth.

In the same manner as the Egyptians, the workers used steel hammers and points to shape the stone. With advances in tool making as well as the introduction of steam and later electrical power, all stages of quarry production improved.

The surfacing machine reduced the amount of manual labor needed to produce flat surfaces in the rough stones. A single pneumatic (air) hammer traveled along a horizontal bar, which could be raised or lowered with a hand winch and rotated around the post while continuing in a flat plane. A pneumatic four-point tooth chisel was initially used



for rough surfacing. If needed, a pneumatic brush chisel created the final stages of surfaced granite.

The quarry industry served as the backbone of Rocklin's economy from the mid-1860s to the early 1920s.

In the January, 2014 issue of the Quarry Quarterly, David Baker wrote, "In the early 1890s, newly invented pneumatic powered granite processing tools accelerated Rocklin's prominence as the major granite producing region of Northern California. One of these new tools was the pneumatic surfacing machine. It smoothed the granite blocks cut from the quarries, preparing them for polishing if necessary. As Rocklin's granite quarry operations closed during the twentieth century, Rocklin Historical Society President Emeritus and former quarry operator Roy Ruhkala set aside two of these machines, stashing them in his backyard among a collection of other antique tools. In August this year, Roy, Gene Johnson and I cleaned 60 years of rust and back yard residue from one of the surfacing machines and put it on display in the granite processing display area near the shed behind the Rocklin History Museum."

And now, after another ten years, the other surfacing machine has found its home.

### UNION GRANITE COMPANY SURFACING MACHINE

IN THE 1890'S ROCKLIN'S QUARRY WORKERS UTILIZED SIMPLE HAND TOOLS AND ANIMAL POWER TO REMOVE THE EASILY ACCESSIBLE HIGH QUALITY GRANITE FROM THE EARTH. IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS, WHO EMPLOYED BRONZE HAMMERS AND POINTS FOR SHAPING STONE, THE FIRST QUARRY WORKERS UTILIZED STEEL HAMMERS AND POINTS.

Surfacing Machine

WITH THE INVENTION OF THE PEEN HAMMER AND BUSH HAMMER, PROCESSING OF STONE WAS ENHANCED. THE INTRODUCTION OF STEAM AND LATER ELECTRICAL POWER IMPROVED ALL STAGES OF QUARRY PRODUCTION. THE SURFACING MACHINE IN THIS EXHIBIT IS THE RESULT OF THOSE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. WITH ADVANCES IN AUTOMATION AND THE ABILITY TO SHIP GRANITE VARIETAL, THE QUARRY INDUSTRY BECAME THE BACKBONE OF ROCKLIN'S ECONOMY FROM THE MID-1860S TO THE EARLY 1920S.

Peen      Bush Hammer

BEFORE THE ADVENT OF POWER EQUIPMENT IN THE QUARRY INDUSTRY, TWO-MAN JACK DRILLING WAS EMPLOYED TO CUT A SERIES OF HOLES ALONG THE NATURAL GRAIN OF THE GRANITE FOR PLACEMENT OF BLACK POWDER CHARGES NEEDED TO FREE GRANITE BLOCKS FROM ITS NATIVE BEDROCK. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY HAND DRILLING OF CAREFULLY SPACED HOLES WITH HALF-ROUNDS AND WEDGES USED TO SPLIT STONES INTO MANAGEABLE SIZES.

Two Man Jack Drill and Sledge Hammer

HORSE POWER WINCHES (WINDLASSES) WERE USED WITH WOODEN DERRICKS TO LIFT GRANITE BLOCKS FROM THE QUARRIES BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE STEAM-POWERED (LATER) ELECTRICAL POWER IN THE 1890'S. THE DRUDGERY AND INEFFICIENCY OF HAND DRILLING WAS ALSO REPLACED BY STEAM OR AIR POWERED DRILLS, JACKHAMMERS.

SURFACING MACHINES, INTRODUCED ABOUT 1890, GREATLY REDUCED LABOR FOR PRODUCING FLAT SURFACES IN ROUGH STONES. A POWERFUL SINGLE PNEUMATIC AIR HAMMER TRAVELED ALONG A HORIZONTAL BAR, WHICH COULD BE RAISED OR LOWERED WITH A HAND WINCH AND ROTATED AROUND THE POST WHILE CONTINUING IN A FLAT PLANE. A PNEUMATIC FOUR-POINT TOOTH CHISEL WAS INITIALLY USED FOR ROUGH SURFACING AND A PNEUMATIC BRUSH CHISEL FOR THE FINAL STAGES OF SURFACING. POLISHING, IF REQUIRED, WAS DONE ON A DIFFERENT MACHINE.

Surfacing Machine

IN ADDITION TO PRODUCING FLAT SURFACES, THE MACHINE WAS USED TO TEXTURIZE GRANITE BY EMPLOYING VARIOUS CUTTING TOOLS: FOUR-POINT CHISEL, BRUSH CHISEL AND CROSS CHISEL.

Surfacing Machine within Cutting Shed

Surfacing Machine

Rocklin Historical Society

Ruhkala Family

City of Rocklin

This beautiful sign, explaining the history and operation of the surfacing machine will be installed at the site at Quarry Park. Text by David Baker, and design by Anelise Bean of Rocklin's Ocean Shore Printing Company



# BE A PART OF HISTORY

## take our docent training class

Does the term “docent” intimidate you? A docent is a valuable museum volunteer who acts as a guide for visitors, so no fear. Without docent volunteers, Rocklin History Museum’s stories will permanently go away.

The solution? Join our new museum volunteer training class. The goal is to present everything you always wanted to know about volunteering at the Rocklin History Museum, but may have been afraid to ask. There will be two upcoming volunteer/docent trainings.

The first training, scheduled for Wednesday, July 24th from 10 a.m. to noon at the museum, will offer an over-

view of what is expected of museum docents along with an introduction to the resources available to the volunteers and the public. A second training is being planned for October.

Both trainings will cover the basics of what is expected of a docent as well as answer questions about the history of Rocklin as presented in the various exhibits. Each docent will receive a handbook that summarizes what is in the museum as well as stories to share about Rocklin’s history. Docent responsibilities include opening the museum each Saturday and Sunday afternoon to visitors, answering

questions about exhibits and sharing stories of the families, individuals who settled in the area and the quarry and railroad history associated with our town.

The training doesn’t stop there, however. After the two-hour training session, trainees will be invited to shadow docents during active museum hours. New volunteers will then be paired with a “seasoned” docent for a regular 3 hour shift - volunteers work in pairs whenever the museum is open to the public.

For more information or to register for the July 24th training, contact Bonnie Neumann— [bonnieneu50@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieneu50@gmail.com)



## Our museum gets a face-lift!

“She’s so fresh and new!” is what we hear from everyone, it seems, who has seen our newly refreshed museum.

“The house does look fresh,” agrees museum director Susan Brooking, “maybe due to the colors evoking its 1905 build date at the end of the Victorian era and the beginning of the Arts & Crafts period.” Colors chosen were Red Barn for the front and back doors, dark hunter green for the trim, and Roycroft Vellum for the body.

She has undergone an array of fixer uppers—the leaning pine tree which had become a safety hazard is gone, the spongy wood porch has been rebuilt, new light fixtures have been installed. And work is ongoing with UV treatment of the windows to preserve items in the collection.



We are very proud of the work that has been done, the museum committee (planning) and especially the fixit team (execution). We hope you visit to see all the upgrades your museum is undergoing!



# Proposed garden to honor city leaders

By Gloria Beverage

Doug Osella isn't envisioning a field of dreams. His vision is simply a small public garden in the city to honor Jennie and Arvo Minkkinen. Jennie Wickman Minkkinen was Rocklin's first Placer County librarian, a position she held for 29 years. Her husband, Arvo, was a member of the Rocklin City Council for 24 years, including eight years as mayor.

"The idea of a rose garden came from Arvo Minkkinen's love of gardening," Osella said. "He had a large rose garden on their property."

Granite edging, which formed the boundary for the sidewalk around Jennie's childhood home on High Street, has been donated

ed by the Osellas to the Rocklin Historical Society. It is his hope the edging can be used in the proposed garden.

While several sites were initially considered, plans for the garden are currently focused on an area at the back of the Rocklin Library building on Granite Drive. Approval from the City of Rocklin as well as the Library administration is pending. A landscape architect has developed plans for the proposed garden.

While roses won't be incorporated into the landscape as Osella initially hoped, the garden will contain many low-maintenance shrubs and plants.

While the final costs haven't been determined, the Rocklin Historical Society has committed to supporting Osella's vision.

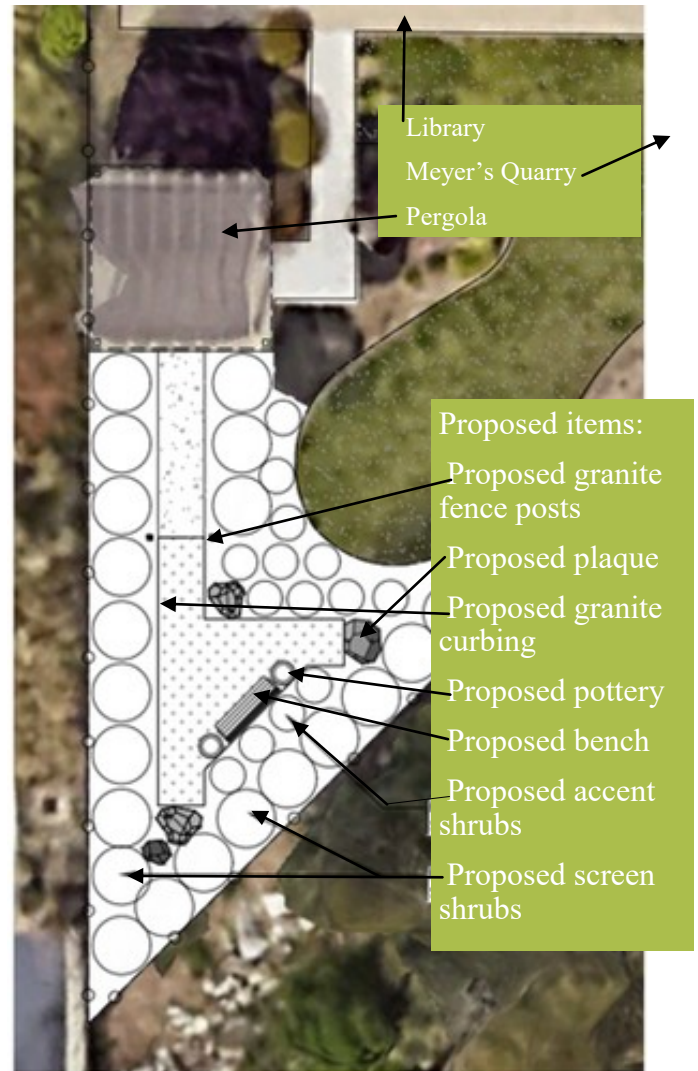


**Left: Jennie and Arvo Minkkinen.**

**Below: The view out the second story window at the library will be greatly improved with the installation of the memorial garden. Rocklin Historical Society and Fixit Team member Doug Osella and his wife have donated granite curbing and gate posts from the Minkinen home, where a beautiful rose garden was maintained.**



**Location of proposed memorial garden**



**The proposed memorial garden, drawn up by the Fuhrman Leamy Land Group. This Roseville firm has done a lot of work for the city of Rocklin, including work at Johnson Springview Park, Willard Park, Pernu Park, and Quarry Park.**



# Brooking receives national award

By Gloria Beverage

Rocklin History Museum director Susan Brooking was presented with the National Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) Community Service award at a meeting of the Gold Trail Chapter in May.

The award was presented in recognition of the service work Susan has performed on behalf of the DAR as well as within Rocklin, particularly her contributions to preserving local history.

"Susan serves as chair of the Hospitality Committee for our local DAR chapter," said Elyse MacKenzie, regent for the Gold Trail Chapter. "Her flair for creating décor and her friendly, upbeat mannerism makes our meetings and special events patriotic and welcoming to all."

In addition to her dedication to the DAR, Susan has devoted countless hours to research, historic preservation, bench dedication, education and tours for school children on behalf of the Rocklin Historical Society.

Susan claims she was "dragged, kicking and screaming" to Rocklin in 2001. However, it wasn't long before she became involved with the Rocklin Historical Society, which was in the process of creating a history museum.

In those early days, she spent hours shadowing Roy Ruhkala, co-founder

of the Rocklin Historical Society. As one of the elders of the Ruhkala family, which had owned and operated the largest granite quarry in Rocklin, Roy had an endless supply of stories to tell. Since Susan loves history, particularly the stories, she took every opportunity to spend time with Roy -- listening to his stories and learning the traditional methods used by quarry workers to pull granite from Rocklin's quarries.

Thanks to everything she learned from Roy, Susan has become lovingly known as the "basement troll" in recognition of her enthusiastic tours of the granite mining display in the basement of the museum as well as explaining the process during our annual granite splitting demonstrations each summer.

Her service to the Rocklin Historical Society doesn't stop with the granite history, however. As the museum director, she oversees the docents who lead tours in the museum and is an integral part of the third-grade history tours of Rocklin.

In her role as a docent, Susan is gregarious, gracious and welcoming to all volunteers and visitors, noted President Gloria Beverage.

And she is one of the primary organizers of the Society's annual events and celebrations. According to RHS board member Linda Wampler, "Susan has a creative vision -- from helping to design and renovate the museum displays to decorating the



tabletops at our social functions. She is well-organized, prompt, and willing to see that things get done -- stepping up whenever there are gaps in the docent schedule."

Nancy Lohse, another longtime board member, describes Susan "as a consummate problem solver. I love picking her brain about new ideas. I love that she is always up for a new adventure."

Susan is a committed member of the Historical Society team. And that says something about someone who didn't want to move to Rocklin in the first place, Beverage noted.



A delicious buffet catered by Lucille's

## A beautiful day to appreciate our membership

What could be better to show appreciation than a picnic lunch on beautiful Front Street provided by the Rocklin Historical Society? Perhaps the wonderful weather and good company to share it!

Thanks to the planning by Susan Brooking, set up by the Fixit team, and the loan of chairs from Cante Ao Vino across the street, the annual member appreciation luncheon was an enjoyable way to say "thank you" to all the members for their support.

The picnic, catered by Lucille's, consisted of barbecued chicken, macaroni and cheese, corn on the cob, salad and biscuits, and topped off with root beer floats. Members were invited to share anecdotes about days gone by.



Member Christopher Nesbitt tells of the time he officiated at the first wedding in the newly restored Old St Mary's Chapel in 2007.



# Behind the Scenes

*The volunteers who keep us going!*



Cyndy, cuddling a lamb in  
New Zealand

## Cyndy Godfrey

**When and why did you join the Rocklin Historical Society?** I have been interested in history for many years and since I have been a resident of Rocklin for over fifty years, it seemed only right that I become a member of the Historical Society. As background, my family moved to Rocklin at the time of the establishment of Sunset Whitney Ranch. I have been here to witness the city as it has grown and prospered and I along with my two brothers have always been captivated by the city's history. We became acquainted with many of the families that have made Rocklin home for generations and with newcomers as well. A longtime resident approached me about joining RHS and I did not hesitate. I have been delighted to meet other individuals in the society with similar interests

*(See GODFREY pg. 7)*



## Sally Huseby

**When and why did you join the Rocklin Historical Society?** My husband, Roger, and I joined around 2000 after moving here to be closer to their daughter, who lived in Elk Grove. I was looking for something to do – philanthropic-wise.

**What did you do in your previous life (before retirement)?** I was a housewife and part-time secretary during my children's school years. For several years, I performed with the Sacramento Valley Concert Choir.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society?** I volunteered as a docent at the museum for 18 years. I loved meeting the visitors. Sometimes I learned more history during their visits. These days I enjoy helping with weddings at Old St. Mary's Chapel. And I oversee the maintenance of the gardens at Old St. Mary's and the History Museum.

**Interesting story to share?** My best friend, Rose, and I were traveling to Alaska in 2013. On the second day of our inland trip (staying at the Denali Hotel), we had lunch before boarding a boat to tour

*(See HUSEBY, pg. 11)*

## Raul Campos

**When and why did you join the Rocklin Historical Society?** I joined/started helping by putting out St. Mary's trash on Tuesday evenings. I live across the street and saw Gene making special trips just for that and I thought, "See a need, fill a need." That was 2013.

**What did you do in your previous life (before retirement)?** I'm still working (I'm 52) at Sutter Hospital in Sacramento. I'm a maintenance painter. Our campus is one million square feet.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society?** I like hanging out with the Fix-It crew. Reminds me of my dad, who has moved far away. The guys are a great bunch.

## Interesting story to share?

Our house is haunted. Four different dogs have had experiences that we've noticed. My wife, Carla, even heard a spirit next to



Raul and Carla, enjoying their time as  
wedding guests in San Diego

her on the couch. It was humming along with the military marching tune that was playing on TV. It was on Memorial Day, years ago.



# Juneteenth celebration

By Twiana Armstrong,  
event coordinator

"Attaining the Beloved Community," this year's theme for the 4th Annual Placer County Juneteenth Celebration, held on June 15th at Johnson Springview Park, speaks to sentiments of those who came out to celebrate the holiday! Juneteenth, a contraction of June 19, 1865, is the annual recognition of the day enslaved people in Texas were told that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the declaration of freedom for almost 3 million slaves.

The event brings the community together ensuring we relentlessly remember our history while building a community that fosters a sense of belonging. Attendees were treated to an educational performance by Martin Ross about the steel drum. In addition to a melodious rendition, Mr. Ross explained how the steel drum made it's way across the diaspora along with the enslaved, representing a connection with the African Motherland and is indigenous to the Black culture.

Fenix Drum and Dance also called attendees to attention as they regaled everyone with African music and movement.

Vendors and booths offerings ranged from books, health information to free



**Martin Ross, steel drum presenter, and Twiana Armstrong, community leader and event coordinator**

clothing. A round of applause for our Sweet Potato Pie contest winners Donna Trumbo and LaReine Pia!

The celebration was capped at the end with a reception honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo Soldiers. Followed by a community discussion moderated by Donna Trumbo, Placer County AAPI Founder, encouraging panelists: Council Member Bill Halldin, Community Activist Murial Moore, Community Influencer James Shelby to share how they are working towards attaining the beloved community. It was a nod towards bringing Dr. Martin Luther King's work about non violence to fruition: "The moral arc of social justice and equality is long and bends slowly. We must relentlessly



nate to travel and have been fascinated by our history here and abroad.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Rocklin Historical Society?** I love learning new and interesting stories about the area. Docents are always sharing stories and facts about the city. Some of these stories were actually witnessed by members of the society in person. There are stories that are amusing, surprising and even sad and tragic, but they all contribute to the character of our community. Some members were actually raised in the area and went to local schools. There is so much to learn and do and everyone contributes in their own way. No one is interested in keeping the status quo, they are all interested in pre-



**Buffalo Soldiers were African American soldiers who mainly served on the Western frontier following the American Civil War. The infantry regiments were created after Congress passed the Army Organization Act in 1866. Their main tasks were to capture cattle rustlers and thieves and protect settlers, stagecoaches, wagon trains and railroad crews along the Western front.**

remember that it does bend. I want to do my part."

**Editor's Note:** The Rocklin Historical Society promotes the importance of preserving and learning from our history. This is a tenet of our outreach at community events. For example, as visitors gather to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, the Society's booth becomes a bridge between past and present. Here, attendees learn something about Rocklin's own history of resilience (think Sisu, the Finnish term for perseverance in the face of adversity), progress, and community. By showcasing local history, the society fosters understanding, empathy, and unity—reminding us that our shared heritage shapes our collective future.

*(GODFREY, Cont. from page 6)*

and a desire to preserve what history that we can.

**What did you do in your previous life?** I graduated from Oakmont High School and attended college at Sierra and Fresno State. I graduated and obtained my teaching credential and was fortunate to become a kindergarten teacher with Dry Creek School District at Heritage Oak School. I adored my students and loved my job, although sometimes exhausting! My late husband, David, was an Agricultural Biologist and we lived in some very remote and historical places. We enjoyed the Bishop area, Mt. Shasta and Dorris, near Tulalake. All these areas were rich in history and culture. I have also been fortu-

serving, sharing and communicating to the community.

**Interesting story to share?** Not giving too many personal secrets away, but in my wayward youth I was occasionally found "TPing" friend's houses, sneaking out on the golf course after hours and getting surrounded by skunks.

I was also seen at the Rocklin Jubilee in my brother's Model A Cabriolet or competing in the local beauty contest. I could be seen lounging about at the clubhouse or around the pool drinking Kool-Aid and eating cinnamon graham crackers with friends or my beautiful mother, Lavern. Those were the days! Not significant history but lots of fun!



### Events to plan for:



**July 24: Docent Training Class. Register by emailing Bonnie Neumann ([bonnieneu50@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieneu50@gmail.com))**

**August 12: Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Old St. Mary's**

**September 16: Annual Potluck**

**September 21 : Hot Chili, Cool Cars (RHS booth)**

**Ongoing: Her Story: Women who impacted Rocklin's early history  
Heritage Trail summer museum tours—through Sept. 3 (see story, page 10 )**



## Old St. Mary's News

By Nancy Lohse



### Yelp Reviews



★★★★★ Anna K. 04/07/24  
Had my wedding ceremony in May 2019, beautiful little chapel .  
Customer service and communication with ladies that run this place was easy .[More](#)

★★★★★ Jennifer W. 06/03/22  
My husband and I were married here last weekend. It was absolutely perfect! The chapel is just lovely, and the volunteers from the Rocklin Historical Society were a pleasure to work with. I was...[More](#)

Even the restrooms look lovely framed by the beautiful flora on Front Street. A shout out to the Church Ladies who continue to show up to meet with clients, clean restrooms and vacuum repeatedly despite the heat. They are the reason OSM continues to get stellar reviews! So far for 2024, we have 52 weddings booked and have had 10 memorials. There are 7 weddings booked for 2025.

"Church Ladies" Patsy Pattison and Sally Huseby are enjoying a reprieve from the 107° afternoon. It's good to have the misters up and functioning. They are greatly appreciated by our couples. Thank you, Fix-It Team!

**Mystery  
Item**



**Where would you find  
this number 2?  
Answer on Page 12**

**MYSTERY  
PLACE**



Where is Nancy Drew now?  
If you think Finn Hall, you'd be wrong!  
The answer is on page 12





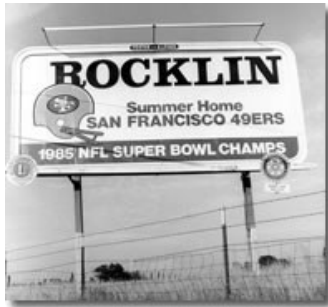
# Dan Bunz entertains at latest speaker series

Former 49er Dan Bunz spoke on June 2 at Old St. Mary's Chapel about his time playing in two Super Bowls and doing his part to bring the 49ers to Rocklin for their Spring Training from 1981-1996.

Dan entertained the audience with tales from his eight years, 1978 to 1985, as an NFL linebacker. Funny, animated, a great story-teller, but always loyal to his Niners, Dan answered questions for an hour.

Many people, and not just Niner fans, remember "The Stop," where, in Super Bowl XVI (January 24, 1982), Dan made one of the most famous tackles in NFL history. His tackle kept the Cincinnati Bengals from scoring, and helped secure the 49er's first Super Bowl win.

Thanks to Dan's sister-in-law, Deborah VanLiew, who videotaped the presentation and posted it on YouTube. To see it, click on [Dan Bunz at Old St. Mary's Chapel](#)



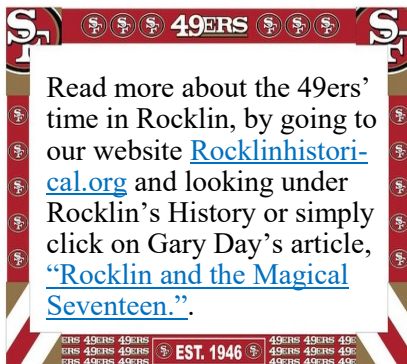
Ronna Davis and Patsy Pattison provided a beautiful red and gold themed refreshment table. They always lay an inviting refreshment table for every speaker.



Dan and his wife Liz, a retired Rocklin dentist, shown here with speaker organizer Patsy Pattison, today spend their "retired" time as owners of Bywater Hollow Lavender, A Bunz Family Farm, in the Placer County foothills.



Introduced by past President Jim Hammes, the two show off the Super Bowl rings Dan earned during his tenure as a linebacker for the 49ers.



Many of you may know what this fruit is. But do you know where this photo was taken? This pomegranate tree is in the community orchard in Peter Hill Heritage Park on Front Street in historic downtown Rocklin. The park features this public fruit tree orchard, along with other attractions like a Train Roundhouse rose garden, the reconstructed firehouse, "Hose Company No.1", and historic Old St. Mary's Church. It's a lovely spot where visitors can enjoy the beauty of the orchard and explore the park's rich history.







Children get a close-up look at the relatively straight crack produced by hammering the wedges and feathers placed in the drilled holes. Susan Brooking poured water over the top as the children watch it run down through the crack.

June 22 was a busy day for the museum as Heritage Trail Day was celebrated. More than 50 visitors enjoyed the Open House, which had extended open hours for the day. Highlight of the day was the granite splitting by Paul Ruhkala with commentary by Susan Brooking.

There were children's activities—coloring pages depicting Whitney's newly installed stained glass and a building block puzzle challenging kids (and adults) to construct a "Roman Arch" used in some of the granite twelve bridges on Whitney's Spring Valley Ranch.

Also offered was freshly popped popcorn, thanks to Jeff Stockel, and, after the granite-splitting demonstration, root beer floats for the thirsty attendees.

Several docents were on hand to share history and stories, and answer questions from the curious group.

The Heritage Trail Museums Tour runs through the summer until September 4. Participants can collect a 'Get-up-and-Go' card at any museum, with a chance to win great gift baskets by collecting stamps at four different museums. Additionally, Students can enjoy a scavenger hunt across the participating museums, with prizes including tablets and school supplies. For more details, visit the [Heritage Trail Museums Tour blog](#)

## Out and About *The Rocklin Historical Society attended community events sporting new pop ups, interesting displays, and friendly volunteers!*

The Rocklin Historical Society is always looking for members to help staff our booths at community events. If you would like to help, contact us at [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com) and we will add you to our list of potential helpers! Thank you!



A nice display was set up at the Rocklin Civic Celebration. Far Right: Kathryn Ripley, Linda Hammes, and Ronna Davis welcome visitors as do Patsy Pattison and Gloria Beverage, near right.



## Another historic gem would pair nicely with library's quarry



**This Canadian goose seems to be looking longingly at the cool water of Meyer's Quarry, outside Rocklin's library**

*(HUSEBY, Cont. from page 6)*

the Bay of Valdez. As I stepped out of the restaurant, to my great embarrassment, I fell and turned my ankle. In our group was a doctor, who was traveling with his family. He stepped up and helped me across the parking lot to the tour boat. Then he acquired an ice pack for me. I had a row of seats to myself for the tour, but couldn't get near the windows so I couldn't take any pictures. At the end of the tour, Rose and I made it back to the bus and headed for the hotel.

The bus stopped at a small building to let Rose and me off. At first, the building was empty. There was no staff. However, the tour company had called ahead for a doctor, nurse and X-ray technician. They finally arrived and the doctor diagnosed a sprained ankle. A brace with Velcro was fastened to my lower leg. We then had to wait for a hotel employee to come and get us. My dear friend stayed with me the whole time. When we finally arrived back at the hotel we were led to a different room than the one we had the previous day.

At that point, my friend turned to me and said, "Thanks for spraining your ankle, Sally. We got an upgrade to our room." We burst out laughing as we hugged. I was able to walk the rest of the trip with hardly any pain, making sure I iced my ankle each night.



**RHS member RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks' grandfather Matt Ruhkala (right), his son Abner (JoAnne Ruhkala's father) and Emma Hytinen, raised by Matt and Eva Ruhkala at the edge of Meyer's quarry, then known as Union Granite Company.**

If Doug Osella's (and RHS's) dream comes true, and the Minkkinen Memorial Garden comes to fruition, it, along with Meyer's Quarry, will be another gem of history among those that dot Rocklin, thanks to dedicated people and the Rocklin Historical Society (see story on page 4).

Along with other historic gems: Front Street, Finn Hall, quarry machinery installed at Quarry Park, and various quarries whose histories are recognized by dedicated plaques, the planned garden, appropriately next to the library (Jennie was Rocklin's first librarian), will share a corner with Meyer's Quarry, which has roots deep in Rocklin's granite business.

The history of Meyer's Quarry dates back more than 120 years. From the plaque donated by Rocklin's 3rd graders: "In 1905, Rocklin quarryman Matt Ruhkala and two partners leased this quarry from Mrs. Augusta Meyer. By 1907 Matt had bought out his two partners. He worked this quarry from 1905 to 1919 under the name Union Granite Company. After 1919 the quarry filled with water from nearby Sucker Creek. The local residents called it Meyer's Quarry, and it became Rocklin's favorite swimming hole for many years."



## Save the Date!!

September 16th - Monday Evening

Rocklin Historical Society  
Annual Potluck

Springview Hall Community Center

Details to follow....



## The Generous Whitneys treat Rocklin's children to a fine spring picnic

When we think of J. Parker Whitney, we think of his wealth, but do we think of his generosity or his connection to the people of Rocklin? Here is an example of the generosity Lucy Whitney planned for the children of Rocklin (about 150 of them!)

*From the Pacific Bee,  
April 10, 1888*

### Mrs. J. Parker Whitney Gives a Picnic for the Children.

Correspondence of the BEE.]

ROCKLIN, April 10.—A grand picnic was given the children of Rocklin by Mrs. J. P. Whitney. On last Saturday afternoon the children, to about 150, met on Church street, secured seats in the numerous wagons provided for the occasion and at 12:30 started for the picnic grounds, situated two and one-half miles from Rocklin. On the route were presented combinations of beauty in panorama and magnificent landscape seldom equaled and never excelled anywhere.

On arriving at the ground the children were heartily welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. J. Parker Whitney, after being introduced by C. H. Cromwell, Principal of the Rocklin school.

The children then entered the various sports which had been arranged for their pleasure. There were grab bags filled with prizes and each child could take one; boxes of oranges, sacks of nuts and cornucopias of candy. Besides the children being liberally helped to all, there were boxes of each thrown over the ground for a scramble until every child had all they could well carry.

A greased pole had five silver dollars on the top. The boys were unable to climb it, and finally one boy stood at the bottom, another on his shoulder, the third boy on his shoulder, etc. The fifth boy reached the prize, which was divided among the five.

After a very appropriate little speech by one of the pupils, which was responded to by Mr. and Mrs. Whitney, the children started home at 5:30.

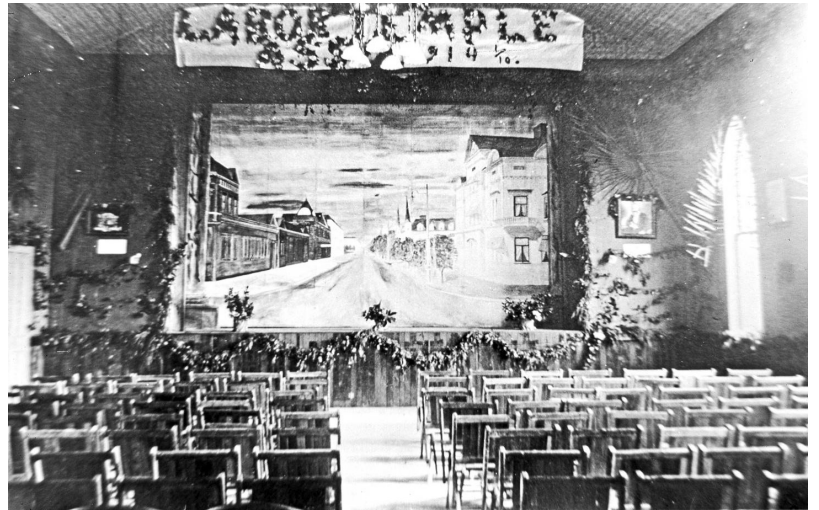
## Mystery Item

From Page 11

Gov. Stanford No. 1 hauled the Central Pacific Railroad's first excursion train, first revenue freight on March 25, 1864 (Granite from Rocklin!) and the first scheduled passenger train on April 15, 1864.

No.2, The Jubilee Train, hauls supplies to pop-up events, a few lucky volunteers, and a lot of good will for the community

We love to put the train on display, and it will be at the Maker faire at Sierra College on October 11!



### MYSTERY PLACE

From Page 11

Uncrop the picture and the location is revealed (top line!) It's the Labor Temple, as seen at the right, which had also served as a church and boarding house



### Rocklin Historical Society

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