

# President's Message

Gloria Beverage

When you send out your holiday greetings this year, share a bit of Rocklin's history with your family and friends.



The U.S. Postal Service has issued a series of 16 stamps featuring landscapes by noted photographer Ansel Adams, including one of Rocklin's beloved oak trees.

An environmentalist and nationally celebrated landscape photographer, Adams is well-known for his iconic photos of the Yosemite Valley. What many of



you may not realize is that Adams spent several months in the Rocklin area photographing scenic features of the Whitney Ranch area.

In 1960, Sunset Petroleum Company purchased 12,000 acres – the southern portion of Joel Parker Whitney's 20,000-acre Spring Valley Ranch. The company envisioned developing a self-contained metropolis for 100,000 residents.

In an effort to attract potential homeowners, the company hired Adams to capture the natural beauty of the planned development they had dubbed Sunset City.

The photographer arrived in the spring of 1962 and began the months-long assignment of capturing the landscape. While his contract was for 15 images to be used in the company's marketing materials, Adams submitted an additional 7. Eleven of those photos were featured in the company's promotional booklet, "Echo in Spring Valley." Most were displayed in several downtown Sacramento businesses.

Sunset's Assistant Vice President Dale Stringfellow remembers watching Ansel work, wrote Gary Day in an article for the Quarry Quarterly. "He thoroughly loved his work," Stringfellow said. "He would pick a scene and then observe it

[\(See PRESIDENT, pg. 5\)](#)

# Quarry Quarterly

Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

October, 2024

## Fight to save Clover Valley continues



**Clover Valley, an important ecologically and culturally rich area, serves as a natural buffer between urbanized regions. Its 622 pristine acres make it one of the last remaining undeveloped low-foothill valleys near urban areas, home to woodland, grassland, and riparian habitats.**

### By Gloria Beverage

The fight to save a 688-parcel in Rocklin's Clover Valley continues, although a financial deadline is looming, acknowledges Jessup University President Dr. John Jackson.

"Jessup is working very aggressively to continue our efforts to preserve a substantial portion of Clover Valley," Jackson said. "We did receive good strong grants from the City of Lincoln, Placer County and the Evergreen Foundation. Those grants allowed us to secure the slopes and valley floor."

Once slated for the development of 558 high-end single-family homes, Jessup made a \$2.25 million down payment on the acreage last December as the first step toward preserving the valley's wildlife habitat while protecting its cultural resources and historic sites.

"We are actively engaged in a process to pay off the note due this December," he

continued. "We are focusing 100 percent of our efforts to fulfill the remaining approximately \$8.5 million balance on the slopes and valley floors."

Jessup's partner in this venture, Placer Land Trust, has applied – without success -- for several grants to the state of California, he noted.

*"We are actively engaged in a process to pay off the note due this December."  
-Jessup University President Dr. John Jackson*

"At this point, we are working very hard to try and secure the vast majority of the slopes and valley floor for conservation purposes," Jackson said. "I suspect the ridgetops will be developed, but my hope

is that it will be less intrusive than originally planned."

Development of the ridge tops has started with plans submitted in September by Tim Lewis Communities to build 78 homes, ranging from 3,520 to 4,440 square feet, on Park Drive, the ridge overlooking Clover Valley.

[\(See CLOVER VALLEY pg. 3\)](#)



## Memories of Lila Sasaki 1930-2024

By Alfred Corral

On July 23rd a beautiful celebration of life for Lila was held at the Methodist Church in Loomis CA. Her “special person” status was confirmed with the large presence of so many family and friends-- obviously their hearts had been touched by Lila. She was truly a legend, one who leaves behind an unforgettable impression on others. She was part of that exceptional generation that included other Rocklin legends such as Gaynor Morgan, Roy Ruhkala and Barbara Corral to name a few. They were qualifiers of history when I needed information about Life and Times in Rocklin.

Lila Sasaki was born on October 16th, 1930, to Japanese immigrants Shoichi and Yoshi Hanamoto. One of seven children, she grew up on a ranch in Ophir California and attended school in Auburn, CA. While in high school she met future husband Ernest Sasaki.



In the spring of 1942, after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, Lila, only 11, and her entire family were relocated to Tule Lake Internment Camp in northern California. Her family also spent time at other camps in Jerome, Arkansas, and Amache in eastern Colorado. Even after enduring all the hardships of being removed from her home and not knowing what lies ahead or if she would have a home to return to, Lila kept a positive outlook. She has said on many occasions, regardless of what happened right or wrong, “This is my home, this is my country. God Bless America.”

Lila continued with her education, attending Stanford nursing school and receiving her RN and a degree in public health training. She worked for many years at the Roseville Community Hospital both in the ICU and regular wards. Later, she was the public health nurse for the Roseville school district. Lila attended the first Methodist Church of Loomis where Ernest’s father Kokichi Sasaki was a founding member. She was involved and a member of many church groups including the Wonder Woman, a church gardening group.

Lila and Ernest married on December 8th, 1952, at the North Star ranch, Sasaki’s fruit ranch in Rocklin. They had four children: John, Elizabeth, Patrick and Kent.

Having a passion for life, Lila was always supportive of local history, always present at Rocklin and Placer County presentations, and generous in providing artifacts for local exhibits at the Rocklin Historical Society. She has also presented a program on her interment experience. Additionally, Lila is the protector of two front doors that adorn her house that were once part of the Joel Parker Whitney mansion.

Lila’s passion for life included keeping the Japanese culture alive in her home with her cooking, her garden and her collecting of Japanese art.

I believe Lila’s greatest achievements were with her family and friends and her way of making everyone feel so special. Fortunately for us, she leaves a family behind that will carry on her Spirit.



Lila’s memory table included photos, artwork, and flowers from her extensive garden



# CHAPEL NEWS

## HALLOWEEN MOVIE AT THE CHAPEL!

By Nancy Lohse

Old St. Mary's Chapel is known for a perfect place for weddings, memorials and field trips. But you may not know the chapel is a place for fun!

Please join us on **October 29th** for a movie. We will be munching on popcorn and Trick-or-Treat treats while we watch Bette Midler in the hilarious comedy **Hocus Pocus**. Doors open at 6 and the movie starts at **6:30**. Come early for good seats and best pick of the treats!

There will be a free raffle for spooky prizes!

## Fix-it Team fixes sign

The weather is getting cool enough to take a walk down to Huff Spring and the large group of bedrock mortars and the beautiful sign that has been updated and replaced by the Fixit Team.



"We installed heat barriers, as recommended by the sign manufacturer, and repainted the metal frame. says RHS vice president George Salgado. Beautiful job!

### [\(CLOVER VALLEY, Cont. from page 1\)](#)

Although owned by Jessup, the 50-acre parcel is not part of the proposed preservation area, Jackson stressed.

"We were given the property as a gift," Jackson explained. "The proceeds belonged to the university scholarship programs to make Christ-centered education available to the property."

Jackson remains hopeful the university will meet its financial commitment.

According to the Placer Land Trust website, "the resources at Clover Valley include expanse of oak woodland (~27,000 oak trees per a 2006 inventory), grassland and riparian habitats. A 20-acre wetland created by local beavers supports California Black Rail, a

California threatened bird species, and the valley contains Swainson's Hawk critical foraging habitat. The perennial Clover Valley Creek supported salmonids as recently as 1985 suggesting an opportunity to restore the riparian corridor and reintroduce steelhead and Chinook salmon."

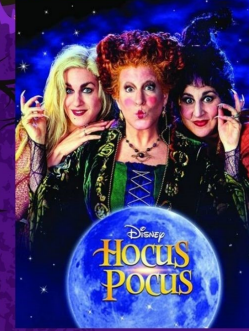
*"It has been home to Native Americans for more than 7,000 years and was a major tribal center"*

The area is considered sacred by the Maidu and Miwok communities. It has been home to Native Americans for more than 7,000 years and was a major tribal center, according to archeologists. Past field work has identified 34 prehistoric sites, including acorn mortar holds.

And Rocklin Historical Society archives show it was part of Joel Parker

THE ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

# HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT



Free!

Treats!  
Raffle Prizes!



TUESDAY, OCT. 29  
DOORS OPEN: 6PM  
MOVIE STARTS: 6:30

OLD ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

*Save the Date!*

Rocklin Historical Society's

*Holiday Party!*

Monday Evening - December 16th



Whitney's Spring Valley Ranch.

Jessup leaders envision turning the area into a living laboratory for environmental sciences students at Jessup as well as other educational institutions in the area.

"We are working hard to preserve the vast majority of the slopes and valley floor," Jackson concluded. "We will do our best to work with the current owners and Placer Land Trust. Keep on praying for us and introduce us to anyone who would like to be part of the project."

For more information on Jessup's vision for Clover Valley, visit [Vision for Clover Valley](#).



# On High Street

By Doug Osella

Chicago has “State Street that Great Street” ...so the song goes. Rocklin has High Street, an ordinary street, with no song. Yet, even sleepy streets in small towns have stories to tell. *The 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Rocklin shows High Street in its present location, running northeast from Granite Street (now Rocklin Rd.), intersecting Oak, Pine, and Cedar Streets—ending at Laurel Street (now Midas Ave.). The map shows wooden frame dwellings on spacious lots scattered on both sides of the street and a slew of out buildings. The house on the west side closest to Granite Street became the home of Victor and Otilia Wickman with their three children in 1907.*



**Victor Wickman  
(Gymnast)**

Victor Wickman arrived in Rocklin in 1901 when everything was burnt dry from the summer sun. He came seeking his fortune in the Promised Land of the United States of America. He traveled from a land of people far away in the Nordic regions, who were known to be hard-working, persevering, and quiet by nature. He adapted well to the Northern California climate, and by 1907 had started a family with his wife, Otilia (also a hard-working Finnish immigrant), and together they had saved \$1000 from their wages: he working as a quarryman and she as a domestic (before marriage).

Victor was into sports. He revered Finnish athleticism as exemplified by the Finnish runners Kolleminen, Ritola, and Nurmi, who dominated middle and long distance running events worldwide<sup>1</sup>. Following Finnish athletes nourished his soul as much as the Saturday night steam bath (sauna).

In 1907 the Finn Hall was two years old and a godsend for the lonely Finnish-Americans in

Rocklin, who missed the homeland. In those early years, the Finnish Brotherhood and Temperance Societies emphasized wholesome community and family activities—and health and fitness were part of the program. For the young men, the Gymnastics Club fit their needs. The Club’s ranks in-



**The Wickman home and family, about 1910. Some of the roses seen along the fence line are still growing wild there today. A few years ago, the author and David Baker dug some up and replanted them in the museum yard.**

cluded Victor Wickman and his brother-in-law, John Maki. In their time off from work in the quarries, they trained together in Victor’s back yard.

Victor and Otilia were married on a stormy winter day in 1903 at the Berkshire in Sacramento. The wedding party rode the train from Rocklin. The young couple made their first home in a small, simple house near the Rocklin cemetery. An old photo shows an unpainted building (maybe once whitewashed) with vertical clapboard siding that gives it a bunkhouse look. The only sign of domesticity are white curtains that appear in a bedroom window. Their first three daughters—Nelma, Jennie, and Ila--were born in that house.

In 1907 with one thousand dollars cash, the Finnish couple purchased from an English couple the one and half story, eight room house with the large yard on High Street. The house had electricity. The outhouse was a two-holer. Otilia certainly found satisfaction in the many windows to adorn with white curtains. And she had a large yard to beautify with a variety of flowers, ferns, and plants. In fact, for years eighth grade graduation classes and church confirmation classes would have their pictures taken in the green oasis of the Wickman gardens.

When Victor signed the papers in 1907, his cherished American dream was being fulfilled. Overall, it was a good year for investing in a home. In spite of the “Banker’s Panic”, which lasted only three weeks, the year was famous for an economic boom that created lots of jobs nationally. Quarries in Rocklin were busy supplying granite needed to rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. It is likely the Wickmans were not deterred by another story unfolding that would greatly impact Rocklin’s future as a railroad town. Citizens were reading in the news that

*(See HIGH ST., pg. 9)*





## Dedication of new installation

A dedication ceremony for the surfacing machine exhibit at Quarry Park Adventures will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 22.

This surfacing machine was saved, restored and installed by the Fix-It team, with David Baker as lead. Nathan Rizo, Basilio Lira and Donny Fullerton made

up the Parks and Rec crew that helped with the installation of this important piece of quarry history.

In the early days of granite quarrying, much of the work was done manually with tools like hammers and chisels. However, as technology advanced, surfacing machines became essential for

increasing efficiency and precision in shaping and finishing granite.

An illustrated sign explains the process of finishing a piece of granite for a variety of uses. We hope you can join us in the dedication of this historic asset to the park.

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

from dawn to dusk, finding the precise sun angle that suited his eye.”

Lagging home sales forced Sunset to give up on its dream in 1965. If it had been built, Sunset’s intended city would have covered what is now Stanford Ranch, Clover Valley, Whitney Oaks and other neighborhoods north and west of his historic downtown Rocklin. Their sales office, located at the corner of Third and Sunset, now houses a small restaurant.

Following Sunset’s decision to abandon the development, Stringfellow gifted Ansel’s photos to the Crocker Art Museum with the proviso of putting them on permanent display. Nearly 40 years later, when the Rocklin

Historical Society inquired about them, the photographs were located in a storage area. In 2007, they were briefly displayed in a downtown Sacramento gallery. They are kept in a private area of the art museum; small groups have been invited to view the artwork. Copies of three of those Rocklin landscapes are on display at the Rocklin History Museum.

Now that you know the story behind the oak tree stamp, add one to your holiday letters and share the story of the famed photographer’s time in Rocklin with your family and friends.

Better yet, stop by the Rocklin History Museum to see the master photographer’s work in person.

## Front Street property declared a surplus

By Gloria Beverage

A vacant parcel of land on historic Front Street has the potential of becoming an entertainment venue.

Originally purchased by the city with the intent of creating the Front Street Plaza, a venue for hosting concerts, cultural events and art exhibits, the parcel at 5240 Front Street was declared surplus by the City Council in August.

Plans for the entertainment venue were abandoned after the city developed Quarry Park, its concert venue next to City Hall, according to a report submitted by city manager Sherri Conway on Aug. 13.

After Quarry Park opened, she reported, developers began expressing an interest in creating similar commercial venues throughout downtown Rocklin.

By declaring the property surplus, which would allow sale of the property to private investors, “development in the area will create an exciting and visible community, capitalizing on the area’s proud heritage,” Conway reported.



**This parcel, between Canto Ao Vinho and The Rocklin House (Jerry Dizon State Farm Insurance) has been designated as surplus by the city council**

Under the Surplus Land Act (AB 1486) and subsequent guidelines, the city is required to declare that the land is no longer necessary, which means it can be sold or leased.

Any negotiations for the sale, lease or disposal of the property will be presented to the council for consideration.



# Troop 29 celebrates its 100 year anniversary

On September 21, 2024, government officials and Rocklin citizens gathered to celebrate 100 years of the Boy Scouts of America in Rocklin and the honoring of Troop 29. "It ended up being a magical evening!" says committee chair Carol Giltner. "In attendance were 125 current scout members and families, and 85 troop alumni. Of the alumni, 25 were Troop 29 Eagle Scouts, and several prior Scoutmasters, Assistants and Committee Chairpersons and community supporters."

Several special guests also attended the festivities including all 5 city council members, Edward Heidig, representing Representative Kevin Kiley, and State Assemblyman Joe Patterson.

Additional attendees were Anthony DeMattei, Placer County District Planning Commissioner; Kosim Latipov, Senior Field Representative for State Senator Roger Niello; Peter Brinckerhoff of the Rocklin Lions Club; Scout District Advancement Chair Jim Holmes; and members of the Ruhkala family, Royce Ann Ruhkala Burks, Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann, and Paul Ruhkala. The event podium was as built by Eagle alum Mike Whistler who was also in attendance.



1955 Eagle Dan Roberts poses with the two most recent Eagles Jason Michaeloff, left, and Jack Palmer, bringing the total number of Troop 29 Eagles to 178.

Two attendees of note were Don Roberts, who, in 1955, was the first Eagle Scout after the troop re-established in 1949, along with fellow 1955 alum Edward Lawson.

"The fact that the 1955 Troop alumni

found us shows how amazing our Rocklin Community is!" says Giltner. "I met Bonnie Neumann at the presentations of the Ruhkala Community Service Award in April. Troop 29, Troop 219, and Pack 29 were the Boy Scouts of America Youth Honorees. Then in September, the two gentlemen were visiting the Rocklin Historical Society's booth at Hot Chili Cool Cars (Both Bonnie and Royce Ann happened to be staffing the booth at the time).

They were talking with Royce Ann about their Troop memories. She introduced them to Bonnie, who then told them about the 100th Anniversary event. They actually came! It was something of

a miracle...the stars aligned!"

Kamil Ahmad and Josh Hall were the Master of Ceremonies for the event," Giltner continued. "Josh Hall and I worked with David Baker to find Ocean Shore Printing who fixed up our old albums. Thanks to Ocean Shore, the albums looked great...no pictures falling out!"

The evening was made complete with the help of videographer Eagle James Holifield along with his friend who volunteered their time to video the event. The dinner was catered by Chinto's Tacos. "We were extremely happy with Chinto's," Giltner went on. "No one went hungry, except our poor Scoutmaster Sean Collins, who was so busy that night that he never made it to the food table."

Eagle Scout Justin Pugh (2010), summed up the memorable evening: "My favorite part of the event was seeing fellow scouts and scout masters/leaders from our era, 2002-2010 who I haven't seen in over a decade as we shared our stories from the past. It was nice to hear about the history, the present success and the future the troop is headed in. It was a breath of fresh air."



Amassed award ribbons over the years from a very accomplished troop!



Greg Goldner (left) Justin Pugh (middle) and Dirk Tiche (right) in 2010 and again 14 years later

See more about Troop 29 on pg. 11

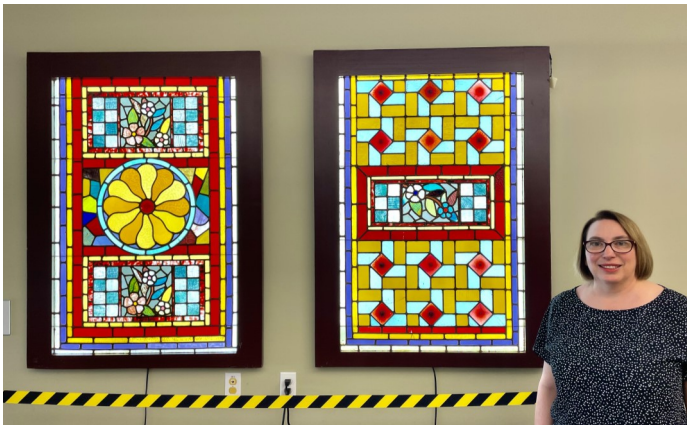
Edward Heidig, representing Representative Kevin Kiley, presented a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol. Representative Kiley made a presentation to the House. To see his address, click the link below.



[Representative Kiley's speech](#)



# Remaining stained glass windows are now installed



Belinda Silva, director of library services at William Jessup University, shows off the newly installed stained glass windows on loan from the Rocklin Historical Society. They join another installation of a 7-panel mural depicting the removal of the roundhouse from Rocklin to Roseville in 1908.

## A Message from:

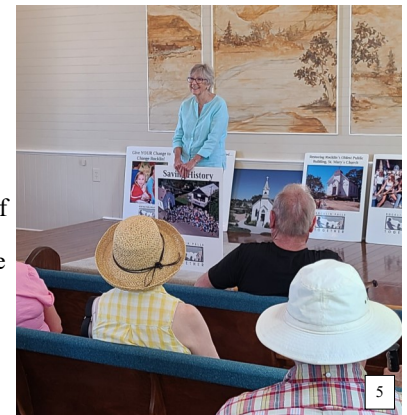
**Belinda Silva**  
 Director, Library Services  
 William Jessup University

Thank you again, Rocklin Historical Society, for allowing us the opportunity to showcase Rocklin History in our University Library. The public is welcome to visit our library when we are open to see the 7 panel mural from Deane Conrad on the Southern Pacific Railroad roundhouse move from Rocklin to Roseville, and now the two stained glass windows from the Whitney mansion, The Oaks.

We would also like to extend a personal invitation to our art show, Autumn, Blend in the library, Friday, November 1, from 6-9pm in the Paul Nystrom Library. Student artwork will be both upstairs and downstairs. This is a great opportunity to hear some great music and see some beautiful art and history. Admission is free.

## OLLIE's first field trip at the museum

RHS President Gloria Beverage thought a field trip for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Sierra College would be a good idea, and it was! The weather was a little warm for October 3rd, but the sell-out crowd of 30 registrants came away with a lot of knowledge about our town, and a refreshing lunch after! Reports from everyone were very positive, and encouraging for a repeat performance next year! **Photos by Ronna Davis**



1. The tour started at Quarry Park, where Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann and RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks told of quarry life in Rocklin.

2. Then, at the museum, the group was split in two 15-person groups. Susan Brooking explained the process of granite splitting before taking the group to the lower level. Upstairs, Cyndy Godfrey and Shirley Espley gave a tour of the entire upstairs. The photo shows Cyndy preparing our new monitor to display pictures of Whitney's Spring Valley Ranch.

3. Next, as if on cue, a train rumbled by as Linda Wampler explained the role of Rocklin as a "rail town" before walking around to the site of Rocklin's Chinatown and telling the story of its demise.

4. At the firehouse, Patsy Pattison told the group about the hazards of fires in the old downtown, and the establishment of the first (volunteer) fire department.

5. The last stop was a respite in cool Old St. Mary's (literally and figuratively) as Nancy Lohse explained the role of the 3rd graders in saving this iconic building.

6. Finally, a well-appreciated lunch from Subway under the cool shade of our pop-ups.



# Behind the Scenes



**Royce Ann Ruhkala Burks**

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

I officially joined the Historical Society in 2017 after I retired. My father, Roy Ruhkala, had been involved with the museum since the beginning of the Historical Society. As one of his 5 children we were always participating in events. We occasionally went to the president's installation dinners, Christmas parties and various other activities. Once each of us kids turned 50, my dad told us that we were now old enough to participate in the "Old Timer's luncheons."

Being an active member of the Historical Society was always something I knew I would eventually do once I retired.

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

My grandfather came from Finland in 1898. He worked in the granite quarries, and eventually owned three different quarries in Rocklin. My father's four older brothers bought what is now Quarry Park Adventures in 1935 and named it the Union Granite Company, Ruhkala Brothers. They retired and sold the quarry in 1978.

In 1953 my father, Roy, bought a granite monument business in Sacramento on 10<sup>th</sup> and Broadway and named it Ruhkala

Monument Co. After I married and had two sons, my husband and I moved back to the area in 1975, and I started working at the Ruhkala Monument Company in Sacramento.

Our company eventually opened another monument shop in Rocklin in the late 1980's. From 1995 until 2017 I managed and ran the Sacramento monument business, while my brother, Paul Ruhkala, managed the Rocklin business.

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

I enjoy chatting with visitors about various historic sites in Rocklin. It is also so fun to meet visitors, who either lived in Rocklin in the past or were raised here in Rocklin and talk about wonderful stories that they know or have heard about from their families.

The history of a town or an area has so many interesting layers to it. You can keep learning new things every day. You are never too old to learn something new.

## Interesting story to share?

I was asked to tell this story because it is so representative of a small town in the 1960s.

When we were young, Rocklin had no trash pick-up service. There was an old vacant quarry located behind Taco Bell and partially under the adjoining hotel on Rocklin Road. This was the Delano Quarry. It was quite big and very deep.

Through the years of sitting empty it had filled up with rainwater. Sometime in the past, the city of Rocklin decided to use this quarry as our city dump. Most people in town would load up their pickup truck with their trash and back up to the quarry hole and either throw it in or just push off their trash into the big pit.

My sister, Bonnie, and I had gone with our dad many times to do this. So, one day after we loaded the truck with trash dad told the two of us to drive the truck to the dump and throw out the trash. We were so proud of ourselves as we drove along to the dump thinking how grown up we looked.

When we got to the dump I turned the truck around and backed up to the quarry

edge, put the brake on and hopped out to throw the trash out. My sister and I were busy pushing the trash out of the bed on the pickup when I noticed how close the back tires of the truck were to the edge of the pit.

I called Bonnie over to look at the tires and we both freaked out because I hadn't driven a clutch that much. I absolutely knew that when I tried to drive out, I would roll back a bit and the back half of the truck would fall into the pit. I couldn't imagine having to go and tell my dad that his truck was hanging over the edge of the dump or had fallen in because I hadn't paid attention.

So, my sister and I talked over ways we could manage this without having to get some guy to come over and help us. We knew it would be reported back to my dad eventually.

Our plan was to have Bonnie get on the floor of the truck and push on the brake. At the same time I would push in the clutch, get it in gear and hit the gas. Thankfully, the plan worked. The truck jerked and we went flying out of there.

Of course, neither my sister nor myself ever mentioned to my dad that his truck just barely missed floating in the quarry dump.



**Jim Hammes**

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

I joined and was elected to the board in November of 2018 by recruitment from ... if you can imagine ... George Salgado.

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



## Behind the Scenes

[\*\(Con't from pg. 8\)\*](#)

Why did I join ... kind of really had no choice ... but always had an interest in history and of course what Rocklin represented.

Was then convinced almost immediately to head up the Fix It Team by Gene Johnson. Then became Vice President under Hank Lohse for a three-year term. Became President when Hank Lohse completed his term. Fulfilled my two-year term as President in 2023.

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

My previous life was primarily in the corporate world of management related to sales and marketing development.

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

What is most enjoyable about volunteering with RHS is the sense of accomplishment through the collective participation and teamwork from all who contribute to the good work and mission RHS embodies.

I remain active with the Fix It Team and am enjoying riding along now with RHS as a passenger. I feel better and fulfilled as a person for what I hope has been a positive and influential contribution to RHS in my past and present roles with our great group.

### Interesting story to share?

I was adopted as a young child and found that I have a half-sister in a small Wisconsin town.

We met at her home a couple of years ago after spending countless hours talking monthly for many years. I came to find out that there were three of us put up for adoption. An older brother who has passed, my half-sister and me -- being the youngest.

The whole experience has been, emotional, enriching, rewarding and giving me a sense of closure for being fortunate as well as lucky to fill a gap in what only those who are adopted can know and understand.

We both share the satisfaction of seeing the circle of life close with more to fill the void that circle surrounds.

## The pleasures of Rocklin were well represented at the Sacramento Archives Crawl

October 5 was the day to be in downtown Sacramento, as four buildings, California State Archives, California State Library, Center for Sacramento History, and the Sacramento Public Library opened up for the annual Archives Crawl. This annual event is held to celebrate National Archives Month. National Archives Month.

During the event, participants collect stamps in their passports as they explore exhibits featuring rare and valuable artifacts from various archives and special collections libraries, as well as exhibits from area museums and historical organizations.

The theme this year was "Pastimes preserved, sports and recreation in the archives."

[\*\(HIGH ST. con't from pg. 4\)\*](#)

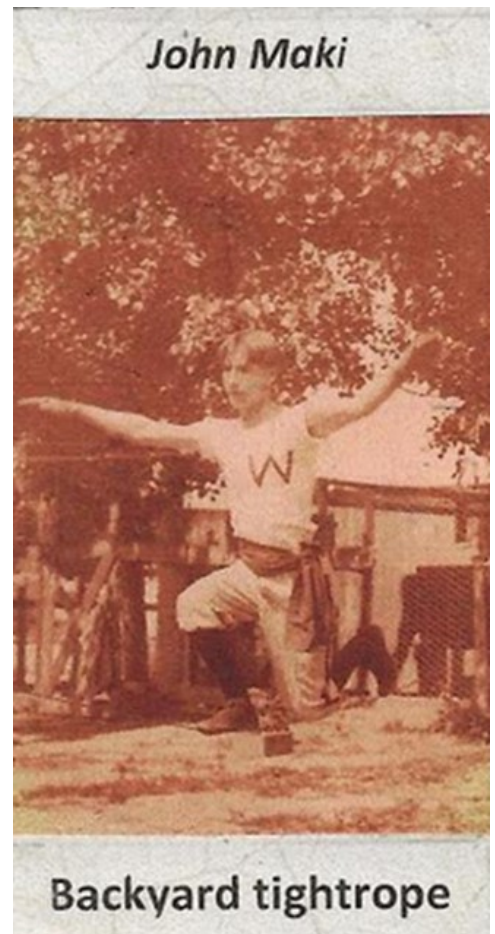
L. L. Simmons, master mechanic of the Rocklin Roundhouse, was building himself a house on property he owned in Roseville. Mr. Simmons saw the writing on the wall that the "shops" would soon be moving from Rocklin to Roseville. Victor, being a stonecutter, not a railroad man, undoubtedly paid little attention.

Now with a yard large enough for a storage barn, chicken yard, cow barn, and even a small wheat field, Victor, true to his love of sports, set up a training gym of sorts in his backyard with bars, rings, and a tightrope strung between two granite posts where he and his brother-in-law, John Maki, built strength and balance--important qualities when the Club performed acrobatics and stunts at the Finn Hall and Finnish picnics. In the front yard, the wrap-around porch added style to the architecture of this already impressive home and welcomed guests, arriving on High Street, through the front gate and up the stairs to the front door.

<sup>1</sup>In the 1924 Paris Games, Paavo Nurmi made Olympic history by winning five gold medals.



**Our archivist, Sharalee Cartier, brought treasures from our archives to the Center for Sacramento History, including information and artifacts from The Stardust, née Pleasure Hall.**





From  
*the desk*  
of...  
Gene Johnson

### Sewer Lines

When RHS member Warren Jorgensen informed me that he would be running for the SPMUD board I felt he should be warned of the challenges he could face.

For example, on two occasions the need for sewer services by developers led to much unhappiness.

During the initial formation of South Placer Municipal Utility District (SPMUD), then known as Rocklin Loomis Municipal Utility District (RLMUD) a person was unhappy that sewer lines were not, at the time, extended to property she wished to develop. She sued all involved including my father, Ray Johnson. He had never been sued before or after and was greatly disturbed by the suit – which, later, came to nothing.

On the other hand, a group of citizens were disturbed by the manner in which sewer services were to be extended by RLMUD to the new Sunset Petroleum development. THIS BECAME A BIG DEAL. The group aka “Government In Action” listed some 30 grievances and managed to obtain a special recall election to replace 4 of the 5 members of the RLMUD board. At the same time the group submitted names of 4 challengers that would assume positions vacated by recall.

A spirited battle ensued. Popular ex-mayor and retired dairyman, Ray Johnson believed the incumbents were doing a good job and volunteered to Chair a committee to retain the four members being challenged. Meetings were held. Petitions were circulated. News articles generated, flyers were flown. And a sample ‘How to vote ballot’ was furnished by the *Citizens Committee to Retain the Present Directors of the Rocklin-Loomis M.U.D.*

The following items of note are included in Mr. Johnson’s files

“Yes, these are the issues presented to you, charges without substance, insinuations without basis. If you really study

these so-called issues, you will be convinced once and for all of the special interest nature of these charges and will help retain the present board. [Committee addressed each of the 30 issues including the claim that elimination of the holding pond for Sierra College sewage was unnecessarily delayed.]

[Candidate Burlison Travails.]

Directing our attention to Mr. Burlison, while this committee is somewhat disenchanted with Mr. Burlison's statement to the press regarding his arrest in Southern California we feel that this information should come from the candidate himself as one of the duties he owes to the people whom he seeks to represent. This committee has not and will not publish any part of Mr. Burlison’s criminal record. It is finally noted that the repre-

hensible act of throwing a rock through his window is deplored by this committee. This committee will assist officers in any manner possible to determine the identity of the individual perpetrating the act whether this person's allegiance is to the incumbent or to the recall group.

[The election was held Feb 25, 1964. None of the 4 directors were recalled]

“I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the citizens who supported our move in the retention of our RL MUD district directors and to those who worked so tirelessly on behalf of this effort,” Ray Johnson.

[Ironically the primary issue, the Sunset agreement, was vacated by Sunset prior to the election.]

## Retain Men of Integrity

AS ROCKLIN-LOOMIS MUD BOARD MEMBERS



HOWARD C. SCRIBNER, Chairman of the RLMUD Board and a director since district formation, has been a resident of the Rocklin-Loomis area almost all his life. He is an electrical contractor and has operated an appliance store in Rocklin since 1931. Mr. Scribner is a former director of the Aero Chamber of Commerce and is serving his fifth year as a director of the Placer County Chamber of Commerce. He is treasurer of the Rocklin Covenant Church and a charter member of the Rocklin Lions Club.



RALPH AITKEN, a life-long resident of the Rocklin-Loomis area, is retired from 31 years as a Southern Pacific Fireman and locomotive engineer. He is one of the state's leading turkey growers, raises dairy cattle and operates a substantial fruit acreage. Mr. Aitken has been a director of Yolo County Reclamation District No. 827 for 21 years, is a former trustee of the Northern California Turkey Growers Association, and a member of the Farm Bureau. He was elected to the RLMUD Board in 1960. Mr. Aitken is a veteran of World War I.



ROBERT BRUCE BARNES has lived in Loomis all his life. He has been an RLMUD director since the District was formed in 1956. Mr. Barnes, who is a history teacher and Dean of Boys at Del Oro High School, holds degrees in history from Washington State University and the University of California at Berkeley. He has been a member of the Board of the First Congregational Church for 18 years, has been active in Boy Scout work, a former Scoutmaster, and currently is president of Loomis Elementary School Board. Mr. Barnes is a veteran of World War II.



EDWARD S. HEBUCK is one of the third generation of his family in the Rocklin-Loomis area. He has been employed by Aero-Jet Corporation for the past 5 1/2 years, and presently is a tooling programmer there. Mr. Hebuck served 4 years in the U. S. Air Force at the time of the Korean trouble. He is a graduate of Roseville High School and Sierra College. Hebuck was elected to RLMUD Board in 1962.

# VOTE 'NO' ON RECALL FEBRUARY 25



# Troop 29 has a long history



There have been 20 scoutmasters since 1923, including Roy Ruhkala, 1950-1954

Troop 29 dates back to 1924, where its charter was drawn up in the Gold Run, Alta and Dutch Flat areas under Scoutmaster Raymond Graham. It operated until it became inactive during the World War II era, 1942—to post-war 1949. In 1949 a new charter was drawn up by the Rocklin PTA, and in 1950 by the Rocklin Lion's Club. Roy Ruhkala served as scoutmaster from 1950-1954.

During the 1950s and 60s, the troop rose steadily in membership. By 1963, 50 boys had registered the largest troop in Rocklin's history. With an addition of 25 Cub Scouts and the plan to establish an Explorer Post, an estimated 100 scouts would participate in a variety of outdoor as well as civic activities. Records show that throughout these decades, skills learned by the scouts came in handy. Case in point, the Troop repaired campsites washed out by winter storms, and were skilled enough to construct a boatswain's chair to cross the flooded streams without getting themselves or their gear wet.

And impressively, in 1966 they participated in a 60 mile campout and hike into the back country of Yosemite, two 20-mile hikes, six 10-mile hikes, four 5-mile hikes, a three day canoed trip down the Russian River, and over 30 overnight campouts including snow camping, a nine-day stay in Lassen National Park, and Boy Scout camp at Pahatsi.

To end the decade, 1969 found scout Bob McCormick presenting the American Flag, along with other scouts, in front of 35,000 scouts and visitors at the opening of the 7th Annual National Jamboree in Farragut State Park in northern Idaho.

In the 1970s and 80s, Troop 29 continued to stay busy, not only with camping and outdoor sports, but with civic and fundraising activities. A large source for funds was the scouts' paper drives, raising money to attend summer camp. And 1971 brought an international flare when Placer County scouts learned how to

mine for gold in preparation for a mining display at the 13th World Scout Jamboree, Mt. Fuji, Japan.

Community events in the 80s included the yearly pancake breakfast at Finn Hall, and in 1987, the troop served approximately 300 Thanksgiving meals at Rocklin's annual Thanksgiving Dinner, free to the community. The 80s was a decade of service, exemplified by scout Doug Brown raising money to purchase books for the Rocklin library, donating nearly 200 children's books and a set each of World book and Child Craft for his Eagle project.

In the 1990s and 2000s, Troop 29 continued to thrive. They continued serving free Thanksgiving meals at the annual community Thanksgiving Dinner, and began helping to serve at the Breakfast with Santa community event.

The 1990s and 2000s brought more civic activities, continuing with the free Thanksgiving meals and covering the cost of 400 meals for the Feed My Starving Children charity.

The 2010s and 2020s took the scouts of Troop 29 to new heights. Not to neglect outdoor activities, Scouts Roberta Bada, Brian Clark, Michael Caseblot and Troy Dickman completed the climbing of Mt. Whitney, the continental U.S. tallest mountain at 14,495 feet. And in 2022 local scientists, including Scoutmaster Mike Thorpe helped establish a program at the McClellan Nuclear Research Center for scouts to earn their Nuclear Science Merit Badge. Staffed by UC Davis, the MNRC maintains one of just five nuclear reactors in California. Scouts learn concepts such as atomic theory, radioactive decay, radiation measurements, uses and safety.

Troop 29 certainly has been an exemplary troop with an outstanding record of character development, outdoor adventures and community service.



1979 award for most active troop presented by Buena Vista District.

"What I found fascinating," says Carol Ditner, "was the reference to "Taco", a character created for sharing local scouting news, from the District level down to the individual scouts, in the *Press Tribune*. The signature, "Ken", is likely Ken Weger, Scout Chairman for the Buena Vista District...I suspect he was also "Taco", but hard to say."



Celebrating Troop 29's anniversary isn't just for boys! From Troop 219, on the left is Eagle Scout Allison Osmond, and on the right is Samantha Springer who is just a step away from also earning her Eagle, hopefully by November.

The sister troop of 29, Troop 219 was established on February 1st, 2019, a historic day in Scouting and in the lives of young women across the country.

February 1st 2019 was the first day female scouts were allowed to join the iconic Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program. Troop 219 became the first all-female Scouts BSA Troop in the Golden Empire Council Discovery District, whose boundaries are spread across Northern California.



## Fall Potluck a great chance to see old friends and make new ones

About 60 people attended the fall potluck on Sept. 16. An ice-breaker game was played that helped kick start memories and conversations. We enjoyed the company of RHS charter members, present and former city officials, new and long-time members alike. The RHS provided drinks and desserts, while an array of delicious main and side dishes were brought by the members, along with a special donation of spaghetti and meatballs from Randy Peters Catering. Special thanks to Susan Brooking, Royce-Ann Ruhkala Burks, Shirley Espley, Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann, Cynthia Godfrey and Linda Wampler for helping with the fun evening.

## Two training classes garner new docents

There's exciting activity at the museum. The Membership Committee has been very busy welcoming 16 volunteers into the museum docent program. Two training classes have been well attended and many of the new volunteers have been shadowing our 'seasoned' docents each weekend. Some are almost ready to assume a larger role in showing the museum's treasures and telling the tales of Rocklin's Rocks, Rails and Ranches!

We are still welcoming new volunteers who would like to help! If you would like more information about docent trainings or other ways to volunteer, email Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann at [bonnie-eneu50@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie-eneu50@gmail.com)

been on 3 or  
re continents

Went to an  
elementary  
school in  
Rocklin

Attended  
Rocklin Jubilee  
parade

Has been to a  
play at Finn

Played golf,  
tennis, swam or  
attended an event  
at Whitney



Went to the  
Christmas tree-  
lighting when it was  
on Front Street

Has ridden on  
a motorcycle

Helped pull Old  
St. Mary's  
Chapel down  
Front Street



Clockwise from top: Charter member LaVerne Splan with Gene Johnson behind, working on his game; Vice-Mayor Jill Gayaldo, husband Dan Gayaldo and Jerry Mitchell; the long queue to reach all the delicious food; long-time member Mr. Bob Aitkin (we have the bottle capper from his family's dairy in our museum), Cyndy Godfrey, Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann, Shirley Corral, and Royce Ann Ruhkala Burks; and last but not least, organizer Susan Brooking

### Rocklin Historical Society

#### 2024 Board of Directors

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

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

#### Members at Large

<b>Susan Brooking</b>	<b>Sally Huseby</b>
<b>Don Callahan</b>	<b>Patsy Pattison</b>
<b>Ronna Davis</b>	<b>Hank Lohse</b>
<b>Kent Dazey</b>	<b>Nancy Lohse</b>
<b>Bonnie Neumann</b>	<b>Linda Wampler</b>
<b>Jim Hammes</b>	

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