

# Quarry Quarterly



Our History   Our Heritage   Our Community   January, 2025

## President's Message   New year, new projects, new opportunities

### Message



Gloria Beverage

Last year, the Rocklin Historical Society successfully completed three public projects.

- A granite surfacing machine exhibit was installed at Quarry Adventures Park'
- A commemorative plaque honoring the Spring View Dairy was placed at the front of Johnson Springview Park.
- The signage at the historic Huff Spring was updated.

Planning for this year's projects has

already started.

- Final bids for the creation of a **Secret Garden** behind the Rocklin Library are being collected; sizing and placement of historic granite curbing is being reviewed. We hope to break ground later this spring
- We're also planning to add signage marking the foundation of the historic **Spring View Dairy Barn** in Johnson Springview Park.

- Efforts to preserve the historic **Quarry Office** building are underway. The plan is to move the building to historic Front Street, restore it and convert it into a museum dedicated to the history of Rocklin's quarry industry. Preliminary work has started on this project, which will probably take a couple of years to complete.
- An information kiosk explaining the importance of the railroad in Rocklin's early history will be placed in the historic **Roundhouse Park** at Rocklin Road and Front Street.
- Work on our newest museum exhibit focusing on Sports and Recreation in Rocklin has already started. We hope to open the exhibit to the public the beginning of February.
- Finally, the Historical Society is hosting a family-friendly street festival on May 10 on Front Street. The **Rocklin Heritage Street Faire** will consist of booths featuring local history and cultures as well as local public service agencies. The day's festivities will include a wide variety of ethnic music and dance performances as well as ethnic foods offered by local food trucks.

[\(See PRESIDENT, pg. 2\)](#)



By Gloria Beverage

Rocklin City Council members discussed offering financial support to the Clover Valley preservation effort during their meeting on Jan. 14. The council was responding to a plea from William Jessup University, in cooperation with Placer Land Trust, for assistance in raising \$4.2M, the remaining balance due on the \$8.1 million loan covering the purchase of 402 acres in Rocklin's historic Clover Valley.

Jessup has been unable to repay the loan, plus interest, which was due Dec. 31, 2024. The seller has decided not to extend the deadline and

[\(See CLOVER VALLEY, pg. 2\)](#)

## Rocklin City Council considers financial support of Clover Valley



⇒ In 2022, Rocklin-based Jessup University signed a purchase agreement to acquire and protect 402 acres in Clover Valley for \$10M.

- ⇒ Late in 2022, Placer Land Trust, in partnership with Jessup, secured \$2.25M in grant funds from Placer County, the City of Lincoln and the private Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust to be used as the down payment for Jessup to purchase the Clover Valley property.
- ⇒ Jessup borrowed the remainder of the funds (\$8.1M) from the seller.
- ⇒ By the end of 2024, more than \$5.3M had been raised through grants and private donations.
- ⇒ The loan, plus interest, was due Dec. 31, 2024. The seller has decided not to extend the deadline and has filed a notice of default.
- ⇒ In early January Placer Land Trust received a \$1M grant from a private foundation, bringing the total funds raised to \$6.3M.
- ⇒ Jessup has until the end of March to raise the remaining \$4.2M. If the loan is not repaid, the property is returned to the seller.
- ⇒ To donate to the Clover Valley fundraising effort, visit [Critical appeal from the Placer Land Trust](#)
- ⇒ For more information on Jessup's vision for Clover Valley, visit [Vision for Clover Valley](#)

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

When we're not working on projects, opening the museum to visitors or hosting weddings at Old St. Mary's Chapel, you'll find us at events throughout the community, including participating in this summer's Heritage Trail or hosting a booth at the annual Hot Chili, Cool Cars event in downtown.

We're a busy, fun group. Please consider joining us in preserving our community's history. For volunteer opportunities or to support any of our projects, visit our website [rocklinhistorical.org](http://rocklinhistorical.org)



The Rocklin Historical Society has begun the process of saving this historic office. Collections manager David Baker says, "The office is the only original remains of Capitol Quarry (now Quarry Park Adventures); the site and structures were listed on the state and federal historical register.

The building was originally 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."

The plan is to move the building to historic Front Street, restore it and convert it into a museum dedicated to the history of Rocklin's quarry industry.

## Plans to turn Quarry Office into museum

**(CLOVER VALLEY con't from pg. 1)**

has filed a notice of default. Jessup has until the end of March to make the final payment.

Mayor Jill Gayaldo proposed the city contribute \$2 million to the preservation effort. She recommended the funds come from the city's oak tree mitigation fund as well as surplus funds from last year's budget.

Also supporting the contribution were Council members Bill Halldin and Dave Bass.

Council members Greg Janda and Ken Broadway did not support the recommendation, expressing concerns about the amount of money proposed while citing the need for fiscal responsibility. "Are we taking money away from essential city services?" asked Janda.

City staff will address the questions raised by council members and community members and present the proposal for a vote at the next city council meeting.

Once slated for the development of 558 high-end single-family homes, Jessup made a \$2.25 million down payment on the acreage in 2022 as the first step toward preserving the valley's wildlife habitat while protecting its cultural resources and historic sites.

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

In the interim, Tim Lewis Communities has started developing the ridge tops. The

approved project is for 78 homes, ranging from 3,520 to 4,440 square feet, on Park Drive, the ridge overlooking Clover Valley.

Although owned by Jessup, the 50-acre parcel was not part of the proposed preservation area, Jessup President Dr. John 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."

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."

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 holes. Rocklin Historical Society archives show it was part of Joel Parker Whitney's Spring Valley Ranch.

Jessup leaders envision turning the area into a living laboratory for environmental science 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."

Click here to see the [Critical appeal from the Placer Land Trust](#)

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

### **The Institute for Biodiversity and the Environment at Jessup**

#### Proposed Mission Statement

The preserve exists (1) to protect and restore the biological diversity of Clover Valley, (2) to protect, in perpetuity, the cultural resources present in Clover Valley, (3) to provide experiential learning and research opportunities for Jessup students and faculty as well as nearby schools and colleges, and (4) to provide educational and recreational opportunities for all those who live in, and who visit, the Rocklin community.

<https://jessup.edu/academics/schools-institutes/institute-for-biodiversity/vision-for-clover-valley/>



*in  
loving  
memory*

## Margaret Louise Johnson

Margaret Louise Peel was born on February 28th, 1933, in Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada. Her family lived on their farm at Grayburn, Saskatchewan.

Margaret attended the one room Grayburn school and then, Moose Jaw schools where she also trained as an X-ray Technician. Her career led her to Sacramento CA where she was employed by Radiological Associates and where she met her future husband, Gene Johnson.

Margaret and Gene were married on August 8, 1964 and embarked on an odyssey driven by Gene's career that took them to Connecticut (where Marg worked for Travelers Insurance), New York State and, ultimately, to Sunnyvale Ca. where Margaret volunteered for Food Bank and Wildlife Rescue organizations. Upon Gene's retirement Marg and Gene returned to the Johnson Family Farm in Rocklin, CA. where Rocklin Historical Society quickly became their "family". Marg served as docent at the new Rocklin History Museum and always enjoyed being a member of the Finn Ladies luncheon group.

Marg enjoyed opera (and Johnny Cash), antiques and auctions and shared an interest in antique clocks with Gene. Most notably, Marg was a partner in refurbishing the three homes they lived in on their journey.

In August, Marg and Gene celebrated their 60th anniversary. After a short stay for complications related to CLL cancer, Margaret passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends at Kaiser Hospital, Roseville, on October 20, 2024.

Marg loved her family and was a wonderful, loving, faithful, supporting wife throughout our journey. In addition to her love and unwavering support, I will sorely miss her laughter and smiles, and her help as my memory and as my second set of ears.

Predeceased by her sister Alma, Margaret leaves her husband Gene and Otto the Poodle, Sister Anne in Australia, and Nieces Jacqui Wilson and Stephanie Yuke and their families in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada.



Margaret, holding Otto, with sisters Anne, left, and Alma



Celebrating her 91st birthday



"Church Ladies" decorate the chapel for the holidays. Left to right: Patrice Cardot, Linda Wampler, Nancy Us, Carole Durbin, Nancy Lohse, Ronna Davis, Lynda Hammes, Patsy Pattison. Not pictured: Peggy Russi, Sally Huseby

## Old St. Mary's Chapel News

By Nancy Lohse

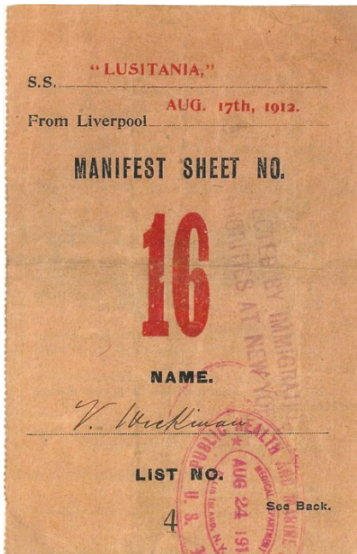
Hurray! Old St. Mary's Chapel has been voted Best of the Best Wedding Venue for Placer County! There are so many beautiful places to be married in the county but we all know that the chapel is by far the best. The hard work and dedication of the Church Ladies a huge part of this success. They work with the clients to make sure their event at the chapel is memorable. Thank you, Ladies!

When the chapel renovations were finished in 2007 we had 3 weddings. In 2013 we went on line and the number bumped up to 38. Since then we average about 56 weddings a year. The total weddings since 2007 is 695. We have also had 120 memorials and 21 funerals. If records had been kept since 1884, I wonder what the totals would be. Old St. Mary's Chapel has established itself as an important part of Rocklin's rich cultural history.



# Citizenship Sparks Visit to Homeland

By Doug Osella



*This manifest sheet has a rather strange story to it. My father went back to Finland in April, 1912, to visit relatives. He had booked passage on the "Titanic" from New York to England, but the Titanic sank on its trip from England to America, so that my father had to sail to England on another ship. On his way back home, he had passage on the "Lusitania" from Liverpool to New York. This ship was sunk three years later in 1915.*

*(Ilona Wickman Osella, youngest daughter of Victor and Otilia Wickman)*

## U. S. Citizenship and the Wonder of It All

My grandfather, Victor Wickman, finalized the process of becoming a U. S. citizen by taking the Oath of Allegiance on April 1, 1912. A few days later, he and his brother-in-law, Paulus Lahdrenpera, boarded the train eastward to connect in New York City with the Titanic, an "unsinkable" ship that was on its maiden voyage westward from Southampton, England. After one of the greatest tragedies in modern history, no family record now exists of the name of the ship that finally carried the travelers from New York to England. Their destination was Honkajoki, Finland, Victor's hometown. After eleven years pursuing the American dream, I believe my grandfather felt a surge of pride at his accomplishments in his new country. Things were working out. By 1912 he was a successful quarryman and family man, had achieved American citizenship, and he owned a comfortable, eight-room home with a spacious yard on High Street in Rocklin. It had been a hard upward journey, and now it was time to take a break and go home to share his successes with his mother, father, and family. So, leaving his wife, Otilia, and four children behind and putting his 1 ½ year old son, Toivo, in charge, pronouncing him now the man of the family, Victor said goodbye and was gone for four months to his homeland of Finland.

## Handstands and Ridge Walking

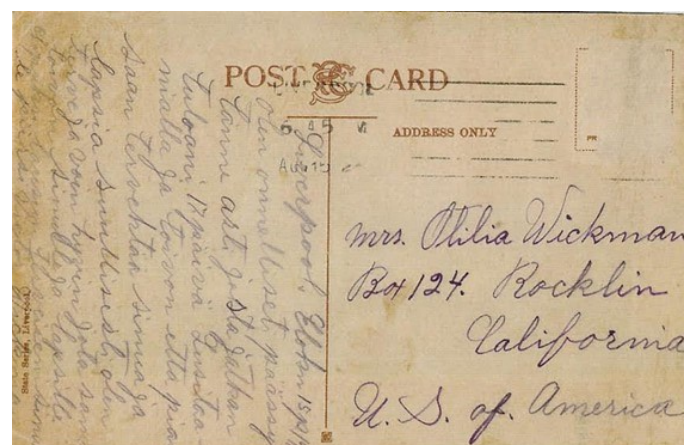
Victor was known for his athleticism. His second daughter (Ila Wickman Davis) in her memoir commented, "Papa was quite a gymnast." He saw an opportunity to show off his talents in his hometown when he noticed the roof of the Lutheran Church under repair. Climbing to the roof on the ladder, he performed handstands on the peak, followed by a walk across the ridge on his hands. It is said he also strung a rope between trees and performed tightrope demonstrations. Growing up I marveled at the story of his acrobatics on the church rooftop in Finland, but could it be true? (His antics were confirmed by the Finnish side of the family at a reunion in 2000, buttressing my already strong admiration for my grandfather.)



Postcard from the ill-fated RMS Lusitania dated 1912, three years before it was torpedoed by a German U-boat

## Good News from Abroad

Back home on High Street, Otilia had her hands full with four kids to care for, a cow to milk, meals to cook, laundry to wash and dry, an eight room house to keep up, and other endless chores. Ila Wickman Davis remembers her mother at that time mopping the floor and crying because she had not heard from her husband. Mail was slow in those days. Yet, it is likely Otilia feared her husband could be lost at sea or drowned like the poor souls in the news when the Titanic went down! What a relief it must have been for her when the postcard arrived from Liverpool, England, dated August 15, 1912:



*I am lucky to have gotten this far and I will continue my trip from here on the Lusitania arriving home in 17 days and I hope that I can soon greet you and the children in person. I am well and feel good and wish the same for you and the children. In closing I write these greetings to you.*

*Victor Wickman*

*(Translated from the Finnish by Ilona Wickman Osella)*



## "Purely" Social

*Museum, chapel, field trip docents, along with board members get together at this fall's social*

By RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks

On November 16th the RHS Membership Committee, which consists of Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann, Royce Ann Ruhkala Burks, Shirley Corral Espley and Cyndy Trumbo Godfrey, hosted a social event at the museum. All volunteers from the museum, old Saint Mary's chapel, and the third grade tours were invited. RHS board members were also included. The beautiful invitation was created by Susan Brooking.

We had a great turnout. It was especially nice to see some of our "shadowing" docents! Tasty desserts were served, along with coffee and tea. The best part was all of the "chatter" going on. Great way to mingle with fellow volunteers!

We hope a good time was enjoyed by all who attended! We sure enjoyed it! We're hoping to make it an annual event.



Docents from the museum, third grade field trips, and Old St. Mary's Chapel joined board members for a fun, engaging social. If you are interested in joining one or more of these groups, look under the volunteer menu at the [Rocklin Historical Society](http://Rocklin Historical Society website) website.



The membership committee, L to R: Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann, RoyceAnn Burks, Shirley Corral Espley, and Cyndy Trumbo Godfrey, set an inviting table for the social

## WELCOME



## Group Hugs at RHS

By Linda Wampler

When I joined the Rocklin Historical Society 6 or 7 years ago, I was a little surprised to realize that there were separate "arms" of the organization—the museum, the chapel, the fix-it team, the field trip docents—and they all had members who didn't necessarily know or interact with each other.

In order to bring these arms together—a metaphorical group hug, so to speak—the Membership Committee, part of the museum arm, began hosting trainings and socials to increase involvement in the society (see articles below and left), providing a chance to bridge the gaps between different parts of our organization.

These socials, added to our other social events, have proven to be a wonderful opportunity for members to mingle, share their experiences, and forge new connections.

Of course, we have other social events throughout the year, including but not limited to the Fall Potluck, our Holiday party (we had a 33% increase in attendees over previous years!), and the Membership Appreciation Luncheon. Is there a favorite social you like or would like to see? Let us know at [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com).

## Membership Committee Success

By Royce Ann Ruhkala Burks

The newly formed Membership Committee has been hard at work this year. The committee is made up of chairman Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann, RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks, Shirley Corral Espley and Cindy Trumbo Godfrey.

As of 2024 our membership has increased by 44 members and we have 18 new docents in training.

We also scheduled docents socials. One get-to-know-you social was with the Fix it team and the second social was with the chapel docents, school tour docents and Board members. The socials were a great way for the museum docents and other groups working with the museum and the Chapel to get to know each other. Both events were very successful.

We are looking forward to organizing more social activities in 2025.



## Documentary brings a full house to Old St. Mary's Chapel

By Linda Wampler

The first Speaker Series of the year got off to a fantastic start with a nearly full house at Old St. Mary's Chapel (capacity: 110). The audience gathered to watch *Gold, Granite and Grit: a Quarry, a Town and the Building of California*, a documentary produced and directed by Dan DeFoe. DeFoe is a retired History professor from Sierra College and former president of the Rocklin Historical Society.

Although created over a decade ago, the documentary endures as it shines a light on the development of Rocklin and the granite industry, from its early days to its peak, and eventually to the closure of the last operational quarry, Big Gun Mining, in 2005.

Extensive interviews with brothers Roy and Ruben Ruhkala bring their knowledge and experiences in the granite industry to life. DeFoe notes, "The name Ruhkala and the town of Rocklin are synonymous, as closely connected as the quartz and feldspar that form granite. This documentary wouldn't exist without the Ruhkals."

While the documentary remains timeless, there has been talk of creating an updated version. "The obstacles to updating the video are money and time," says DeFoe. "We would need to hire a new videographer with editing equipment and an audio facility. Given the original film's age of over a decade and a half, reconstructing the entire project might be necessary—a significant investment of time and effort. However, with community commit-

ment, it could be achieved."

In the meantime, the current documentary is available for viewing on YouTube and will soon be accessible on the Rocklin Historical Society's website.

Organized by society member Patsy Pattison, the next speaker for our series is geologist Jim Wood and the history of lime production in Placer County (see below). What is a lime kiln and why was lime production important to Placer County residents? Find out on Feb. 9!

If you have a suggestion for a future speaker, contact Patsy Pattison at [rocklin-historical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklin-historical@gmail.com).

ROCKLIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Presents

### Lime Alchemy: A History of Lime Manufacturing in Placer County Sunday, February 9, 4pm



Colfax lime kiln prior to 2021 wildfire

Jim is a registered professional geologist in California. He has had a long term interest in the history in the Sierra in the early days following the Gold Rush. He has been involved in a number of nonprofit organizations related to historic preservation and a cofounder of the Placer Sierra Railroad Heritage Society, the California Lime Kiln Conservancy, and the Colfax Lime Kiln Preserve. He currently lives with his family in Colfax.

Jim Wood will present a slide show about the lime manufacturing business in Placer County in the late 19th to early 20th century. The talk will include topics such as the importance of lime to domestic life in the 1800s as well as its importance to agriculture and industrial processes. He'll discuss the different types of lime kilns through time and where these were located in the County. He'll also discuss the importance of the Colfax Lime Kiln and Quarry that dates from 1903 and the archaeology work that is ongoing at that important industrial site that sits on the banks of the Bear River near Colfax.



Where? Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5251 Front St., Rocklin



## Fundraising underway for the Secret Garden

Fundraising efforts for the Secret Garden project have been launched with a challenge from the Placer Friends of the Library to match their \$5,000 donation.

Rocklin third graders will also participate with their annual coin drive. Each year a special project is highlighted. The first one, in 2004, was to help save Old St. Mary's from the wrecking ball. The most recent was for the plaque



You might guess that this is granite, but do you know what it is? Turn to [page 11](#) for the answer.

honoring the contributions of the Johnson family installed at Johnson Springview Park. With that project completed, the students will raise funds to provide a bench for the secret garden.

Constructed to honor Jennie Minkinen, the first county librarian in Rocklin, the garden, together with the *Secret Garden* children's literature connection, its location at the Rocklin library, and the student's enthusiasm for helping with a civic project is a perfect combination.

Would you like to help as well? Donations can be



mailed to the Rocklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Rocklin, CA 95677 or via PayPal on our website ([rocklinhistorical.org](http://rocklinhistorical.org)). Donors will receive an "I helped grow Rocklin's Secret Garden" bracelet.

## New secretary has strong connection to community

By Gloria Beverage

Natalie Bickford, who was elected secretary for the Rocklin Historical Society Board in November, has a strong connection to the community.

She and her husband, Brandon, settled in Rocklin in 2003 to be close to his family, long-time Lincoln residents. His father's family ran cattle in Lincoln, while his mother's family worked in the local orchards and packing sheds after leaving Missouri during the Dust Bowl.

Married in April 1996, the Bickfords have two children – born one year apart.

"We moved to Rocklin after selling our house in South Sacramento, which we purchased through the Officer Next Door Program," she explained. "We had also heard the school system in Rocklin was excellent."

From 2003 until 2023, Natalie was employed as an analyst for the state of California. She is currently a licensed in-home childcare provider for four little guys (ages 2 and 3), including her grandson.

Natalie decided to join the Rocklin Historical Society

after her daughter, who saw Old St. Mary's Chapel during the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony, announced she wanted to be married in the historic building.

Brandon became a member of the Fix-It Team after he retired at the end of 2023.

In addition to serving on the Rocklin Historical Society board, Natalie and her French Bulldog volunteer with at-risk youth through the K9s4Kids group. She is also a CASA volunteer representing children in the foster care system.

The couple are mentors with the Wonder Program for youth who have been or are in the foster care system.

Although she loves her volunteer work, Natalie treasures the time she can spend with their children, now 26 and 27, who were married during the pandemic, and her grandson.

The decision to become active volunteers with the Rocklin Historical Society "keeps us connected to our community now that our children are finished with college and have their own careers," she continued. "We hope to leave a good impact for them and future residents of Placer County."



**Natalie and Brandon Bickford are active volunteers with the Rocklin Historical Society. She is serving as secretary on the board while Brandon is a member of the Fix-It Team.**

# What's Growing?

By Sally Huseby

## Old St. Mary's gets a new look



Old St. Mary's with her new look

It had to happen. Seven dying thuja bushes were removed during this winter, and were replaced with arborvitae, emerald green. Three small bushes are on the south side, and two 24-inch ones replace the two on either side of the front entrance.

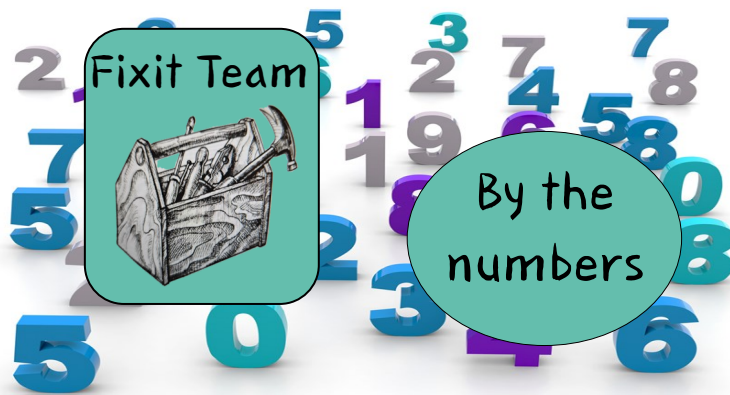
The new bushes are very hardy evergreens that can be pruned to a desired height. The south bushes will be kept at a mid-window height.

Support stakes will need to be in place for a year, but they have been painted green to blend in for picture-taking.

These new plants will be narrow in growth, and will fit nicely between the gothic style windows.



Out with the old, in with the new—these round thuja bushes had served the chapel well, but it was time to go.



By the numbers

By Don Callahan

2024 proved to be a major year for work and renovation on Old St. Mary's Chapel, the Historical Society Museum and the Firehouse on Front Street; as well as for signage and monuments and historic displays. Here is our year, by the numbers:

**48** bulbs, ceiling lights and track lighting replaced in the museum. We switched to LED type bulbs which use one-tenth the energy.

**4** security lights installed new or replaced at OSM and the Museum.

**9** new safety items installed on the Jubilee Train, including new battery chargers, new metal bracing and hitch, new cab flooring, repaired tram hitch-joint, fire extinguishers.

**1** new record for the longest drive for the Jubilee Train to Sierra College and the Maker Faire – thank you Jim Hammes, engineer.

**5** rooms renovated at the Museum. The interior has undergone a major renovation with installation of new display monitors to enhance everyone's tour. It's worth a re-visit to see the new exterior paint job too!

**4** Whitney Estate stained glass windows refurbished, re-sized, repainted, backlit and on display at the Museum and at William Jessup University gallery on the library second floor.

**2** installations of the Surfacing Machine permanent exhibit at Quarry and Informational signage

**1** new Huff Springs/Grinding Rock signage and installation

**28** pop-up tents put up and taken down for various events including the Sierra College tour, Hot Chili and Cool Cars, Heritage Trail, Rocklin Juneteenth Celebration

**364** breakfast meetings or 468,000 calories consumed

**0** Number of times we said "No, we can't do that."

Looking forward to a new year with lots of new work and projects!

## Did You Know?

In 2024 Old St. Mary's had

**60** weddings

**12** memorials

**5** Speaker Series

**700** students who took 11 field trips

**1** Wall of Dedication Celebration

**1** Setting for Movie

**600+** hours of volunteer time for Wednesday open house!





## Rocklin Heritage Street Faire

The Rocklin Historical Society will host the annual Heritage Festival on Front Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 10.

This event, celebrating the rich history and cultures from throughout our region, was started four years ago by Donna Trumbo, one of the leaders of AAPI Placer County. She encouraged Rocklin Historical Society member David Baker to collaborate in hosting the annual event.

The first couple of years the cultural and historical celebration was held in conjunction with the City of Rocklin's Community Festival in Johnson-Springview Park. The decision was made last year to turn the event into a street festival on Rocklin's historic Front Street.

"We want people to be inspired, to gain a greater curiosity and appreciation of Rocklin's diverse and unique history," stated David Baker, one of the founders of the event.

Members of the Rocklin Historical Society are meeting to plan this year's family-friendly event. Initial plans include booths featuring local history and cultures as well as local public services (police and fire) which will line the street. Ethnic food trucks will be on site. The committee is also seeking a variety of ethnic music and dance groups to perform, including Irish and Hawaiian dancers, an African dance troupe, Aztec and Native American performers.

For more information on how to support this event or to participate, contact us at [Rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:Rocklinhistorical@gmail.com)

## Rocklin Historical Society Supports Run Rocklin

*Original Run raised funds for saving Old St. Mary's Chapel*

By Natalie Bickford

The Rocklin Historical Society is excited to participate in the 22nd Annual Run Rocklin community fundraising event on Sunday, March 30th! Join our team and choose from several events, including a flat and fast 5K walk/run.

If 20 or more people sign up for the team—anyone can join, membership not necessary—RHS will receive \$5 for each entrant.

Sign up for the Rocklin Historical Society team before February 28th to take advantage of early bird pricing and secure a team shirt. Click on the link below:

[Rocklin Historical Society Run Rocklin](#)

**Rocklin Run for the Gold**, started in March 2004, was created by a group of dedicated residents who wanted to establish a run/walk event, benefitting local organizations and causes. The first event was themed around St. Patrick's Day and successfully raised funds to help move St. Mary's Church to its current location. In 2006, the event was renamed **Run Rocklin**, and over the years has grown significantly, raising money for various community projects, including the Matt Redding Memorial Scholarship Foundation, which supports education in protective services.

## Donna Ong Trumbo August 28, 1961—December 22, 2024



By Cyndy Trumbo Godfrey

Donna Trumbo, beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother and friend, passed away on December 22, 2024, after a courageous battle with stomach cancer. Though we are heartbroken, we are glad that she is now free from pain. Donna was a force throughout her life, advocating for the defenseless and never backing down from injustice.

Donna's first career was in broadcasting as a TV anchorwoman and reporter in Redding. She later became a pastor at BOSS Church (originally Bayside of South Sacramento), where she ministered to others with compassion, positivity, and humor. She was deeply motivated by racial and social issues and passionate about advocating for the LGBTQ community.

Known for promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, Donna co-founded ABC Equity Consultants and was recognized by the Sacramento Bee and Nehemiah Leadership Program as a Top 25 AAPI Change Maker in 2023. She served on the board of H2O4ALL, led the "Courageous Conversations for Racial Healing" initiative, and was a founding member of AAPI Placer County. As one of the executive producers for ABC Equity Consultants' award-winning series "Taj," she made significant contributions.

Donna was a graduate of Leadership Rocklin and an active member of the Rocklin Historical Society along with husband and Rocklin native Joel Trumbo, helping to organize the annual Cultural Heritage Festival.

"Donna Trumbo was all about diversity and inclusion," says co-organizer David Baker. "Her proclivity for straightforward action led to developing the joint annual heritage festival to recognize contributions of all Rocklin citizens, past and present, in building our community."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Donna's family and friends. We will all miss her and be inspired by her compassion and service to others.

## RUN ROCKLIN 2025



Benefiting the Matt Redding Foundation

\*\*5K - Adult\*\*

\$49.43 (includes \$4.43 fee); (\$38.78: Ages 65-100)

\*Note: Price increases after February 28, 2025\*

# Behind the Scenes

The volunteers who keep us going!

## Carole Durbin



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

I joined the Rocklin Historical Society about five years ago. I became a more active participant following my retirement in 2023.

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

I retired after teaching for 25 years in the Rocklin Unified School District. I taught mostly second and third grades at both Rocklin Elementary and Sierra Elementary.

*(See CAROLE pg. 11)*

## Doug Osella



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

I think the year was 2018 when I joined the RHS. I grew up in Rocklin, and I always had a deep interest in the city's history, mainly because my grandfather, Victor Wickman, was a partner and then sole owner of the Alexson Granite Company, one of the last quarries to operate in Rocklin. I enjoy helping out in the ongoing process of communicating and saving Rocklin's history.

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

I had a 36 year career as an elementary school teacher in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. I taught four years in the Marysville Unified School District and 32 years in the San Juan Unified School District.

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

I first volunteered on the Fix-it Team when there 5 or 6 guys involved. Since the team has grown considerably and I am older, I've stepped back from that. I still enjoy going to breakfast with

*(See DOUG pg. 11)*

## Lynda (Lyn) Hammes

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

I joined the Historical Society as a member probably 12 years ago. George actually enrolled both Jim and myself at a garage sale event at Gene Johnson's house. Why? ... George (Salgado) was relentless in getting us signed up, lol - but true!

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

I spent the majority of my professional



career in residential property management as a site manager for a few different companies and finished as a compliance auditor for my final career position.

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

I most enjoy the people both in our wonderful RHS family and the people we serve as our Chapel customers. It is very rewarding being a part of new life journeys for those who choose our Chapel for their weddings.

### Interesting Story to Share?

My best story is that I met Jim when I rented him his

*(See LYNDA pg. 11)*



[\(CAROLE, Cont. from page 10\)](#)

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

There are so many aspects of the Historical Society that I enjoy. I like to meet new people and hear their stories. I love having a volunteer community that shares a common hope to make our community inviting and a fun place to be. Most of all, I enjoy learning about the history of the place that I call home, and that my dad, grandparents,

and great grandparents all called home as well.

**Interesting story to share?**

I am a fourth generation Rocklin resident! My dad and grandma were born in Rocklin. One great grandpa owned a quarry, which supplied granite to the Auburn courthouse and buildings and curbs in San Francisco. My great aunt, Jane, worked at the California Nursery as a bookkeeper.

My grandpa worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad and worked out the of the Rocklin roundhouse before it was moved.

**My interests:** I love to read, play pickleball, and travel.

[\(DOUG, Cont. from page 10\)](#)

the guys once in a while to stay informed on the cool happenings. I also enjoy helping plan museum displays and writing articles for the [Quarry Quarterly](#).

**Interesting Story to Share?**

In 1969 when we got married in Sioux City, Iowa, my new wife (Hilve) owned a 1965 red Mustang with Minnesota license plates, which we drove to California after our honeymoon in the Black Hills. Our first home was the Rocklin Covenant Church parsonage, which was vacant between pastors. After settling in, we took a ride one day out to the end of China Garden Road because I wanted to show Hilve where I once hunted doves with my father and uncle. We parked the red Mustang along the road and explored the open areas along Secret Ravine Creek, looking for dove flight patterns.

The next evening while driving through town, Hilve was pulled over by a Rocklin

police officer for...**something that had to do with cattle rustling?!?** There may have been an APB out for our car because the officer commented that they (the police) had a bet going that they would never see that red Mustang with the Minnesota plates in Rocklin again.

The officer followed my wife back to the parsonage where I was waiting for her return, and I was stunned when she entered the house followed by the police officer...who proceeded to ask questions and gather evidence. We cooperated. He showed us how perfectly the soles of my tennis shoes, which were sitting outside the front door, matched foot prints found at the crime scene (he had made sketches). Inspection of the Mustang revealed little evidence—only two small purple spots on the front fender that may have been blood stains, according to the officer. The small top freezer of our refrigerator contained only TV Dinners, no butchered steer parts.

No arrests were made.

Immediately after the officer left, we drove straight to the home of Chuck Lucas, Rocklin’s Chief of Police. Chief Lucas was cordial and said to me in a friendly voice, “Why Douglas, I’m surprised to see you involved in this.” After relating the facts and circumstances to him, he commented that the new deputy from the “big city” was only trying to make a name for himself. For us newlyweds, thankfully—that was the end of the story.

**My Interests:** I am on what is called The Agape Team at Community Covenant Church. We provide care and financial support (on a small scale because we are a small congregation) when needs arise for people in our church as well as people in the community. I also enjoy reading in my spare time.

[\(LYNDA, Cont. from page 10\)](#)

first apartment in St. Louis 48 years ago ... and the rest they say is ...History ( sorry I couldn’t resist ) and continues today.

**My interests:** I enjoy reading, walking, Yoga, decorating, and, of course, Kings Games!



The mystery item this issue is the rough hewn granite curbing destined, if all goes right, to be used in the Secret Garden. According to Doug Osella, who is donating the rare stone, “The finished top is 4 inches wide and maybe 2 inches high and appears above ground. The wider heavier part is below ground to give stability.” When asked when it was installed, he said, “I never asked when the edging was installed. I know that my grandparents remodeled the house on High Street in the 1920s, adding a fourth bedroom upstairs for my mother who was the fifth daughter, born in 1917. I think it might have been around that same time, my grandfather added cement/concrete sidewalks and the edging for the sidewalks. And when asked about where it came from, he replied “He was co-owner of the Alexson Granite Co. quarry with Nick Alexson. Alexson fell to his death into the quarry, and then my grandfather became sole owner. I assume the granite edging was made at that quarry. I think the granite fence posts were also added around the property about the same time.”

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**New Quarry Quarterly Publishing Dates**

Publishing Date	Submission Deadline
February 1	January 15
May 1	April 15
August 1	July 15
November 1	October 15





**How many events, projects and achievements can you find on our Parting Shots page?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Halloween Movie Night at Old St. Mary's
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gene Johnson, his restored John Deere, and Santa's Elves
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women Who Impacted Rocklin's History
<input type="checkbox"/>	Best of the Best voted for both museum and Old St. Mary's
<input type="checkbox"/>	Busy Museum Committee meeting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heritage Trail Days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Polishing beloved Jubilee Train
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grinding museum sidewalk to make it safer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum Docent Social
<input type="checkbox"/>	Johnson Springview Park plaque dedication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cleaning Whitney stained glass
<input type="checkbox"/>	A brand new look for our museum!