

President's Message



Gloria Beverage

Hindsight is considered a negative understanding of a situation or an event after it has happened.

However, my presentation to the volunteers during our appreciation dinner on June 18th proved that hindsight could have a positive outcome.

Throughout the year, Rocklin Historical Society volunteers work on projects on their own, in committees or groups. As a whole, however, they may not see the big picture.

In an effort to show them what we've done, I compiled a list of accomplishments, wrote them on index cards and asked the volunteers to pick one and read what was written aloud. As each accomplishment was shared, the audience responded with laughter, comments and sometimes applause. We left the dinner that evening filled with pride.

In no particular order of importance, here's the big picture:

- We hosted our first Heritage Street Faire on May 3. Although this event has been held on a smaller scale for the past three years, we launched what we hope will become a signature event for Rocklin. The free, family-friendly event on Front Street showcased ethnic dances, music and food as well as booths offering information about the cultures and history of our community. Mark your calendars for May 2, 2026.
- This will be the second year that we participate in the Maker's Faire in September at Sierra College. Members of our Fix-It Team proudly show off the Jubilee Train while sharing info about what they do.



Quarry Quarterly

Visit our website:



Our History Our Heritage Our Community

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

August, 2025

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner shines light on their accomplishments

- We continued to host information booths at the city's annual Civic Celebration, the Juneteenth Festival, Run Rocklin and at Hot Chili, Cool Cars.



- While our museum was once again featured during the annual Heritage Trail program that spotlights museums throughout Placer County, our docents open the museum every Saturday and Sunday afternoon and proudly share stories of Rocklin's history.

- We continue to host a variety of programs showcasing topics of interest. Perhaps one of our most



popular this past year was the appearance of Dan Bunz, who shared his memories of playing for the 49ers and the years the team held summer training camp at Sierra College.

- Our special exhibit room at the museum continues to draw visitors. Popular displays have featured the history of the ranches followed by a showcase of prominent women in Rocklin's history. The current display, Rocklin at Play, features memorabilia from the Stardust and Sunset Whitney Golf Course as well as popular sports activities. Watch for updates on our next special exhibit.
- Weddings, weddings, weddings! Old St. Mary's Chapel has been the site for 64 weddings this year with more being scheduled. Reservations are on the books for 10 weddings in 2026 and 3 in 2027. We can't forget the chapel is also used for memorial services, renewal of vows and other events.
- Readers of the Placer Herald voted Old St. Mary's as the best wedding venue

in the area and gave a big thumbs up to our museum. We're proud to be The Best of the Best!

- Thanks to Sierra College's OLLI Program, we offered a "Walk Through History" tour to their members last fall. Docents greeted the guests at various historic sites and offered a brief history. We're planning to offer tour again in October.
- Rocklin Historical Society members participated in the annual Sacramento City Cemetery Tour offering insights into Rocklin residents buried in Sacramento as well as the use of Rocklin granite throughout the acreage.
- A granite surfacing machine used in the quarries was placed on display in the Quarry Adventures park.
- A granite marker paying tribute to Gene and Marg Johnson was placed at the entrance to Johnson-Springview Park, originally the site of the Spring Valley Dairy. This project was also supported by Rocklin's third grade students.
- Our newsletter, the Quarry Quarterly, continues to garner kudos from the community. Each issue is packed with fun facts and great stories about Rocklin.



- Twenty-five field trips for Rocklin Elementary School District third graders were offered this year. As part of

(See ACCOMPLISHMENTS, pg. 2)

(ACCOMPLISHMENTS, con't from pg.1)

their local history curriculum, about 600 students (from 9 schools), led by our docents, visited some of the historic sites they had studied in the classroom.

- Our museum got a facelift—new exterior paint and a rebuilt front porch.



- The stained-glass windows originally from J. Parker Whitney's mansion and later installed in the Sunset Whitney Clubhouse were salvaged, cleaned and refinished. Two are currently on display at the museum. The other two are on loan to William Jessup University and displayed in the library.



- Three scholarships were awarded to seniors graduating from Rocklin High schools.
- Historic photos from our archives can now be accessed through the RHS website.
- The sign explaining the history of Huff Springs in Johnson-Springview Park was updated and replaced.



If this list of accomplishments has inspired you, please consider volunteering with us. For more information, send an email to rocklinhistorical@gmail.com. Or attend our monthly board meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Old St. Mary's Chapel, to hear about upcoming projects.

(Return to pg.1)

SPONSORED BY:
ROCKLIN
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rocklin HOMECOMING REUNION

**Long Time Rocklin Residents
 Rocklin Historical Society Members
 Rocklin Elementary School Classmates
 Come on out and visit with friends!
 Cost is FREE
 No RSVP Needed**

**SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 25, 2025
 11AM-4PM
 JOHNSON
 SPRINGVIEW PARK
 5804 5TH STREET
 ROCKLIN, CA 95677
 AT THE PAVILIONS**

**Bring Your Own Food,
 Beverages, & Lawn Chairs**

Families Welcome

Spread the Word!

Park Rules:
 No ALCOHOL,
 smoking, glass
 containers or
 loud sound.
 Animals must
 be on leash

For More Information:

- Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann: bonnieneu50@gmail.com or (209) 747-1970
- RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks: raburks49@gmail.com or (916) 257-6627
- Cyndy Trumbo Godfrey: jackie18@wavecable.com
- Shirley Corral Espley: (916) 412-8260



What is this item? Where is it?
 Where did it come from? Find
 out the answer on [page 12](#)



The Wedding That Goes Wrong: Church Ladies Edition

When vows meet chaos, the unsung heroes step in—armed with duct tape, dove feed, and a whole lot of grace under pressure. From fondant icing in the August heat to doves who missed their cue, And while they can't perform some requested miracles, they've perfected the art of wedding-day triage. This charming behind-the-scenes account shines a spotlight on the real stars of matrimony: the Church Ladies.

By Nancy Lohse

There's a play on Broadway called "The Play That Goes Wrong." It's a hilarious spoof about all the things that could go wrong in a production. I often think that the Church Ladies could write one just as entertaining about "The Wedding That Goes Wrong."

There's the hot August day with a reception on the patio and the fondant icing melting off the cake. Then there's the time where the bride gets ready to don her dress only to find the zipper wouldn't work because the security tag was still in place. Luckily, the Nordstrom salesperson made it just in time for the bride to finish dressing. When the groom decides to wear a new kilt but forgets about snipping the pleats open, one tends to panic. Church lady to the rescue as the bride waited patiently to walk down the aisle. Of course there's always a threat of rain. Undaunted, the couple raced around to find tents big enough to cover the wedding guests and had their reception on the grass in the pouring rain.

Doves are beautiful when they are released at events. Unfortunately, this pair of doves, trained to return to their cage, were left behind by the wedding party. Once again, the ladies stepped up and fed and watered the birds. Eventually one flew off to a new home. Fred stuck around longer and was eventually rescued by a pigeon rescue group.

Then there was the dead cat who was spotted just as the bridal party was showing up. They never noticed the Rocklin animal control officer in the bushes removing the poor kitty.

Our chapel volunteers are true heroes making sure that all goes smooth on that special day. There are some

THE WEDDING THAT GOES WRONG



things we have been asked to do that are not possible no matter how much the couples want. We can't move the fountain off of the patio for your reception nor can we stop the trains from going down the track. Patrice did unhook the *bell rope from one of the chandeliers* and we're getting great at getting spots from real flower petals out of our carpet.


Keep your eyes out for the Broadway opening of "The Wedding That Goes Wrong." I'm sure more scenes will be added!



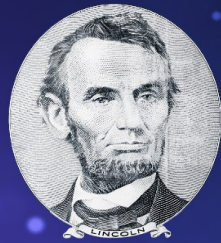
You may recognize our Mystery Place as a former quarry, but is it a mystery where it is or which one it is?

And, do you know its "claim to fame"? The answer can be found on [page 6](#).





Abraham Lincoln
by Doug Bonetti
Old St. Mary's Chapel
August 24, 4pm.



California native Doug Bonetti has a background in Sales and Marketing, having worked for Procter & Gamble for 34 years before retiring. However, his true passion lies in the American Civil War, and he has spent over a decade lecturing on the subject at Sacramento State's Renaissance Society and OLLI at Sierra College. In Spring 2026, he will return to OLLI for his fourth year, continuing to share his extensive knowledge of Civil War history.

Juneteenth Celebration

"Celebrating the Beloved Community"

On Saturday, June 21, Rocklin gathered at Johnson-Springview Park for its fifth annual Juneteenth celebration, sponsored by seeMYchild.

The Historical Society hosted a booth that invited visitors to explore stories from Rocklin's past. While our volunteers remained at the booth throughout the day, we felt the community's warmth in every shared smile, story, and slice of pie.

Generous picnic fare was courtesy of the Roseville Lions Club, and a sweet potato pie contest was held.

A highlight of the celebration was the unveiling of Mt. Crushmore, a 24x8ft mural featuring four influential BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) people—Kendrick Lamar, LeBron James, Ella Fitzgerald, and Claudette Colvin. Led by artist-educator Leon Willis, the student created mural will premier at Blue Line Arts, followed by appearances at regional venues, amplifying youth voices across the community.

Ronna Davis and Janet Currier were able to visit the booths after Ronna completed her shift. "We spent time at the Tuskegee Airman booth, run by their descendants. We also went to the Perseverance Quilt Project booth and were invited to make a quilt square," she re-

ports.

The Perseverance Quilt Project invites visitors to create a quilt square that will be combined into a quilt paying homage to Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." The nonagenarian led the effort to make Juneteenth National Freedom Day a national holiday. The bill was unanimously passed by the Senate and was signed into law on June 17, 2021, making it the 12th federal holiday.

Twiana Armstrong, founder of seeMYchild and visionary behind the celebration, offered a powerful message:

"What a beautiful day to celebrate freedom, family, and forward movement! Today, we stand on the shoulders of those who survived the unimaginable—and still found joy, still built community, and still believed in tomorrow. At seeMYchild, we believe every child deserves to be seen—not just for who they are, but for who they can become. When we invest in their dreams, we are building a future full of hope, purpose, and power."

The Rocklin Historical Society recognizes the power of history to honor diverse voices and strengthen community bonds. As we look ahead, we remain committed to preserving the past—and inspiring future generations through its lessons.



Police Department Captain Chad Morris chatting with J. Parker Whitney (aka Smokey Bassett). Notes Captain Morris, "It was a fantastic event that brought the community together in celebration and reflection. The Historical Society's booth added a meaningful and engaging touch—Smokey's portrayal of J. Parker Whitney was a highlight!"



Ronna's quilt square



Students, working with artist-educator Leon Willis, and after extensive research, selected four influential people, including LeBron James, as the subjects for their mural.

Preserving Finnish Culture on High Street, USA

Editor's Note: Victor Wickman's porch-side storytelling and bedtime rhymes in Finnish reminds us that language is more than words—it's memory, identity, and belonging.

This story resonates in Rocklin's history for many cultures – those from far away and those here at home. Student volunteers at our Heritage Street Faire connect to their heritage by taking

Mandarin classes at school. Children who were Japanese immigrants or descendants attended Japanese School in Loomis, helping to maintain cultural identity but bridging the culture gap by teaching both Japanese and English.

Additionally, local Maidu and Nisenan peoples, whose ancestral lands include Rocklin and the Sierra foothills, are actively reviving their languages,

including efforts of the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP), guided by the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.

These efforts echo Wickman's quiet legacy: teaching children from a kitchen rocker, passing on stories in the language of his homeland. No matter what the language, each word spoken is a thread in the tapestry of cultural survival.

By Doug Osella, grandson

J.R.R. Tolkien upon discovering a Finnish grammar book as a young man later wrote:

It was like discovering a complete wine-cellar filled with bottles of an amazing wine of a kind and flavor never tasted before. It was quite intoxicating.

Upon receiving citizenship in 1912, Victor Wickman of Rocklin started placing two American flags on his front porch every Fourth of July, one on each side of the staircase, facing High Street. Old Glory fluttering out front was extremely important to Victor. Yet, in spite of his new found patriotism, he loved his native Finnish heritage and wanted to preserve it. This paradox is a normal phase in the process of *cultural assimilation*.

Language is vital for culture to survive. The Wickmans spoke Finnish at home as did many families. Victor schooled his children in reading, writing, and speaking the complex language. His pedagogy was fatherly and informal. The rocker by the kitchen stove was the place to hear a Bible story or tale about Genghis Kahn. Victor was a good story-teller. His children say so. His second daughter Jennie—when close to 100 and asked about her mother and father's wood range in the kitchen--responded: "All I can remember is that Dad had a rocking chair by the stove and he would tell us stories...my dad was good to tell us stories." Ila, the third oldest daughter, remembered: "Papa used to read to us. Our favorite story was from the Bible in Finnish about Joseph, his dreams, his interpretation of dreams, his coat of many colors and his exile into Egypt. Papa read it to us over and over again because that is what we wanted."

When the summer moon appeared through the palm branches, the front porch

became the best setting for a lesson. Papa spoke about the wonders of the moon and stars, and the children listened, picking up the amazing wine of a language. In winter with the wind "yooing pitifully" around the corner of the house, he had a cozy bedtime story or poem.

Growing up, Ilona, the youngest daughter, thought her father was the smartest man in the world. She recalled in her late 90s back to when her father recited poems in Finnish. He taught her from an ABC reading primer with pictures. One particular sentence still came back from her youth: *Gu-nil-lal-la on uu-det ken-gat*. Translation: "Gunilla has new shoes". This one sentence had many of the essential sounds (positions of the mouth and tongue) needed to speak Finnish. Another memory: When she was six years old, she became ill just before Christmas and couldn't attend the Christmas Eve program at the Finn Hall. Her father stayed home with her, and with her on his lap by the stove, he told her all the familiar stories from the Bible. She never forgot the contentment she felt then, being with her father at home on Christmas Eve.

Every now and again Papa had a tongue twister: *Mustan kissan pitkat pak-sut posket*. (Black cat's big fat cheeks.). He encouraged his children to use their language properly by writing to their grandmother in Finland. Being silly, he would bounce them (and later his grandchildren) on his knee as fast as he could while reciting this rhyme:

Kolo kolo kolu
Taka reki laulu
Kssan kintaat
Variksen saapat
Yokei ole lumussa
Niin Olkoon lumun
Taka na!



This is a page from the primer Victor used to teach his children to read. "gu-nil-lal-la on uu-det ken-gat" (Gunilla has new shoes) "kaksitavuisia sanoja" means "Two-syllable words"

The poem is a sleigh song, and the translation is difficult. Meaning aside, the rhythmic sounds and the almost out-of-control bouncing made it fun.

Another more subdued rhyme for knee bouncing:

Kerron kerron kirkole
Papilan muorin penkile,
Kukko puuron keiti.
Kana kauhan droppi



(Continued on pg 6)

Translation:

*Rock-a-by, rock-a-by to church
To the preacher's wife's bench
The rooster cooked the porridge
The chicken dropped the ladle.*

Home training and the Finn Hall helped keep the Finnish language and culture alive for several decades, but as Chaucer wrote, "All good things must come to an end." One day in the early 21st Century, Ilona Wickman Osella, still able to push a cart at 90+, and Jack Kesti, another old-timer, happened to meet in an aisle at the Safeway supermarket in Rocklin. With me looking on, Jack spoke up first and said something to Ilona in Finnish. Ilona smiled and said something back to Jack in Finnish. He chuckled, and they passed each other, pushing their carts down the aisle in opposite directions, resuming their shopping. That seems to be how it all ended.

Finnish, the "amazing wine" of a language is of the Uralic family of languages, making it fundamentally different from most other European languages, which are typically Indo-European. Its closest sister is Estonian. J.R.R. Tolkien, the philologist and author, studied Finnish, which inspired him to invent a new language—Quenya—that is spoken by the High Elves in his book The Lord of the Rings.

[\(Return to page 5\)](#)

Our mystery place (page 3) is Copp's Quarry, off Greenbrae Road in eastern Rocklin. An accident occurred that put the quarry in the papers:

MYSTERY PLACE



Press Tribune, May 22, 1919

ENGINE CREW HAS A MARVELOUS ESCAPE Roadbed Gives Way Above Old Copp Quarry Last Friday Afternoon

Engineer Schultze and Fireman Woodbury, in charge of a switch engine, had a narrow escape from serious injury or death itself last Friday evening when the big machine they were driving plunged down an embankment above the old Copp quarry north of Rocklin.

Heritage Trail Day celebrated at the museum



Standing Room Only was the order of the day during the granite splitting demonstration

On Saturday, June 21, the Rocklin History Museum welcomed 93 registered visitors as part of its featured participation in the Placer County Heritage Trail. The day highlighted Rocklin's rich granite history and enduring spirit of volunteerism.

Co-chaired by Don Callahan and Susan Brooking, the museum's event was one of many stops on the regional trail. Callahan's commitment was evident—starting the day at Springview Park's Juneteenth Celebration, and finishing strong at the museum. Now that's dedication! Susan noted. "Long day for him, no doubt."

Visitors were especially captivated by Paul Ruhkala's granite splitting and Susan's commentary, an homage to Rocklin's roots that sparked lively curiosity. The Fix-It Crew added comfort and hospitality, providing shade and seating that allowed guests to linger and learn.

"The kids were really attentive and asked great questions," Susan reflected. "I loved watching the people fascinated by

Kenny's granite splitting demonstration."

Another exciting aspect of the day was the steady stream of museum guests throughout the event—some arrived for the scheduled demonstration, while others embraced the entire Heritage Trail experience. "Many knew the demo timing, but others before and after were genuinely excited about the whole concept," Susan shared.

At least two dozen completed trail cards were collected from enthusiastic attendees. Don transported them to Auburn along with Rocklin History Society's donated picnic basket, hat, and historical book—prizes for the regional drawing to be held just after Labor Day.

Thanks to all who made the day memorable—from volunteers and organizers to curious newcomers and seasoned history lovers. It was a community-wide celebration that brought Rocklin's past to life and offered an inspiring glimpse into its future.

Engineer Schultze felt the roadway collapsing and jumped safely for his life.

Woodbury went down with the machine. Wonderful to relate, the iron monster, after going over the embankment, held for a few seconds, giving Woodbury a chance he seized with lightning-like quickness. He barely was clear when the engine took its final plunge, resting its nose in the ledge of the quarry pool. Two feet off the ledge, the water is forty feet deep.

The engine will have to be lifted out piecemeal, at an estimated cost of \$6,000.

[\(Return to pg.3\)](#)



In Celebration of Rocklin Historical Society Volunteers

President Gloria Beverage shared the “Big Picture” accomplishments of our volunteers over the last year at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. (refer to the article on page 1). The dinner was a great success with a delicious Mexican buffet provided by Mezcalito Oaxacan Cuisine. The activity provided by Beverage lent a fun, interactive atmosphere that really highlighted the things the volunteers have accomplished. For an additional activity, we have designed a crossword puzzle for you to complete. Click on the link or scan the QR code to the right, and enjoy some photos of the festivities!

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to solve our crossword puzzle!



The Rocklin Jubilee began in 1968 as a beloved multi-day festival celebrating small-town spirit with well-loved parades (one year there were 173 entries!), music, and fireworks. By the mid-1970s, unrest and rising concerns brought the original era to a close. After a pause, the community experimented with events like Depot Days and Rocklin Community Day, until a new Jubilee was launched in 1985: "An Old Fashioned Country 4th." With renewed parades, fireworks and a family-friendly vibe, the revived celebration lasted until 2008, when economic constraints led to its final farewell. Here's a look back to the days of the Rocklin Jubilee.

ROCKLIN JUBILEE HISTORY

- 1968–1975 Rocklin Jubilee—Grand 3-4 day event
- 1974–1975 Incidents of youths and young adults fighting; motorcycle gangs show up; Friday night Melee controlled by use of tear gas. Officer injured
- 1975 Rocklin Jubilee 1975, the last year of 3-4 day event
- 1976 Final Jubilee of first series (some events at old skating rink) Theme: Bicentennial Daze
- 1977–1981 No celebration
- 1982–1984 Depot Days
- 1985 Rocklin Community Day—Family Fun
Sponsored by Rocklin Chamber of Commerce
"Oldsters decided it would be fun to bring back the Rocklin Jubilee. We did some brainstorming, put our lan together for a 4th of July Celebration, obtained blessings (with some restrictions) from our Chief of Police, presented the package, including a request for fireworks funding, to the City Council and obtained approval for "An Old Fashioned Country 4th"—Rocklin Jubilee."
- 1986–2008 Fireworks
- 2008 Rocklin Jubilee—1 and 2 day events, parade
The last Jubilee: The event fell victim to economics of the time.



"Rocklin Hussies" Miss Dorothy and Miss Elke wave from the back of the Rocklin Rattler (aka Jubilee train)

When the Jubilee was on Rocklin Road, Police Chief Chuck Lucas was featured in the dunk tank. We all had fun trying to get him in the water! What a good sport! Also, dancing in the street and fabulous carnival rides!
—Shirley Espley



~ JUBILEE HISTORY ~

The First Jubilee

1968 – Rocklin's 75th Anniversary – 4 Days

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Theme: *Gay Nineties* | Celebrating Rocklin's granite mining heritage and railroad history

Jubilee Queen: Joyce Casey General Chairman

"The order of the four days will be, pull out all stops, no holds barred."—and that's exactly what Rocklin did.

Four Days of Festivities

Carnival

"Bucket of Suds" Beer Garden

Beard Contest

Thursday, May 30
Opening Ceremony
Marine Air Group 42
Helicopter demonstration by Major Mike Withers

Friday, May 31
Parker-Whitney School Open House
Sierra College Open House

Saturday, June 1
Granite Rock Busting Contest
Soapbox Derby Parade – 179 entries!
LDS Barbecue
Old Timers Event
Whiskerino Contest

Sunday, June 2
Anierican Legion Parade
Memorial Services
Lions Club Breakfast
Rotary Golf Tournament
Homecoming Reception
Little League Games
Vintage Car Parade
Variety Talent Show
erest Parest Teachers' Club
Old-Fashioned Picnic & Box Lunch Social
(Sponsored by Parent Teachers Club)
Teen Street Dance
Closing Ceremony



My brother was in the parade for many years I was a Rocklin Rockette was in many parades with Leslie Larson great memories —Theresa Quinones





The 1970 Jubilee Queen was second from left Kathy Lopez. Runners up, from left, were Cindy Hughes and Peggy Lawson; Miss Congeniality was Kathy Hauser.

Jubilee's were epic, hometown fun, in late 60s and 70s! One of my best friends met his wife at the Jubilee, married in 72, still married, same person, even!

—Scott Broome

The Scout's pancake breakfasts!

—Joan Marshall McClure



"Bucket of Suds" Lions Club sponsors are (l-r) John Barclay, Ken Weger, Pete Gieck, Chuck Lucas and Don Freeman

The Jubilee was the best of times!! Especially The Bucket of Suds! —Butch Morrill

I drove Placer County Sheriff Scott in a convertible in the parade. Must have been in 1970 or 71. The Jubilee was so much fun! —Cindy Facha Wohl



JUBILEE HISTORY

ROCKLIN'S Ole! Jubilee

(1988)

SUMMER CELEBRATION WITH SPANISH FLAIR

Morning

- Jubilee Fun Run 7:30 a.m.
- Pancake Breakfast 7-10 a.m.
- Booths & Concessions 9 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Afternoon Fiesta

- Karate Demos 1:30 & 1:00 p.m.
- Aerobics Demo 1:30 p.m.
- Print-a-Kid Safety Station 1:00 p.m.

Host: Rocklin Chamber of Commerce
Theme: Ole! Jubilee!—A community fiesta full of rhythm, color and flair

Honorees: Clarke & Mary Domingunz
Miss Rocklin: Carrina Hanaway
Wee Miss Rocklin: Candace Dodge
Coordinators: Sandy Bedwell & Cindy

Afternoon Fiesta

Karate Demos 12:00 & 1:00 p.m.	Suspicion 2:00 p.
Mid-Valley Cad Club Display 12-4 p.m.	Quarry Cats Band Performance
Kids Games 2:00-4:00 p.m.	The Boon 4:00 p.
Quarry Cats Band Performance	Magician Richard Kowaleski 3:00 p.
Fireworks Spectacular	Auburn Associates (Barbershop-Quartet)

"Ole! Jubilee!" brought sunlit joy, high-energy performances, and hometown charm to Rocklin's summer stage.



My mom, Lil Quincey, was the director of the pageant for a couple of years, I know back in 1969. My step-dad was President of the Chamber of Commerce and was President of the Lions Club but don't know what year. We were involved in the Jubilee for the first few years. Lil was President of the Chamber Maids and they hosted a spaghetti dinner. That was so much fun especially with the guys dressing up in the fashion show. If Barber Bill was around, he would have lots of stories.

—Kim Derryberry

My wife drove a small tractor pulling a wagon with our kids and nieces in it. Sometimes they brought a goat or two.

—Frank Alva

Honoring historians of tomorrow

Rocklin Historical Society Awards \$1000 Scholarships to Three Local Graduates

The Rocklin Historical Society continued the tradition of awarding scholarships to the three Rocklin High School graduating seniors. Each of their essays revealed a personal and passionate connection to history. This year's recipients of the \$1000 scholarships—**Jelani Rusfeldt** of Rocklin High School, **Daniel Cho** of Whitney High School, and **Jackson Harrison** of Western Sierra Collegiate Academy—each offer a distinct view on why history matters, and how it can shape both their futures and the world around them.

Unearthing Curiosity: Jelani Rusfeldt, Rocklin High School

For Jelani Rusfeldt, history didn't just inform—it awakened. From Cold War debates to overlooked stories surrounding Laos and the Hmong people, each assignment in high school opened a new door. *"I fell for history and craved to learn all the secrets of the past and what I or anyone else could learn from it,"* she wrote in her scholarship essay. That craving led her to interview elders, reflect on generational memory, and imagine her own role as a future educator or museum historian.

"Excitement fills me as I think about all I do not know and everything that I can learn," Jelani shared. Her journey is driven by a deep respect for untold stories and a desire to ensure history is preserved not just in textbooks—but in people's experiences. *"I believe the past is so important to understand because it can help us work through the present, and make plans for the future."*

Choices that Shape Us: Daniel Cho, Whitney High School

Daniel Cho sees history through the lens of decision-making. In his essay, he began with a compelling line: *"35,000. This is the average number of decisions made by people in one day. History is a record of choices—a sum of all individual decisions colliding together to create what exists today."*

He traced his identity back to the life-altering decisions made by family members—from his grandmother fleeing North Korea before the war to his par-

ents' protests against a military regime in the 1980s. These personal reflections illuminated how history breathes through individual action. *"To me, history is not just a record of events but a testament to the beauty of human choices and their lasting footprints,"* Daniel wrote.

He plans to study history at the university level and ultimately become an educator and advocate, sharing stories across cultures and continents while championing historical truth and empathy.

Learning Through Action: Jackson Harrison, Western Sierra Collegiate Academy

Jackson Harrison's passion for history extends far beyond the classroom. Self-guided and deeply curious, he immersed himself in documentaries, books, and even long-form videos exploring obscure chapters in world history. *"Without the guidance of a curriculum, I have constantly pursued more knowledge of history from outside sources,"* he noted.

But Jackson's understanding of history is also shaped by direct engagement with the present. He participated in political protests, canvassed for a congressional campaign, and connected with people across ideological divides. *"Though our candidate may have lost, I gained valuable insight that has inspired my political and philosophical interest to this day."*

Jackson sees his future in law—where historical knowledge will enhance his ability to build coalitions, navigate conflict, and lead with awareness. *"History has taught me that the people who create their way in the world have always been open to new ideas... to allow compromise when it can be done, and lead people to a better tomorrow."*

Three Perspectives, One Shared Vision

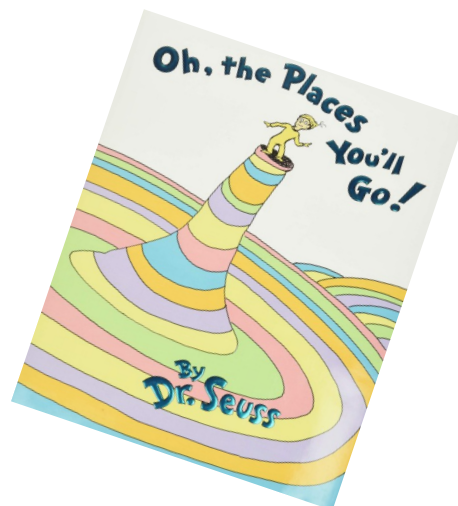
From interviews and research to reflections on family legacy and civic activism, these students show how history is vitally important to them. Each of them has chosen to carry forward the lessons of the



Daniel Cho came to the June board meeting to personally thank us for the scholarship and sit in for a bit to see the inner workings of the RHS. Shown with Nancy Lohse, who heads up the scholarship committee.

past into careers dedicated to justice, education, and service.

The Rocklin Historical Society congratulates Jelani, Daniel, and Jackson for their achievements and for the vision they bring to history's future. Their essays reflect what our community has always known: that honoring the past is an act of hope for what comes next.



Looking Ahead

Round up of Fall Activities

Rocklin Historical Society members will be front and center throughout Rocklin this fall.

Here's a roundup of activities:

Hot Chili, Cool Cars, hosted by Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce, is slated for Saturday, Sept. 20 in Quarry Park and along Rocklin Road. Volunteers will be offering information about the Historical Society in our booth. Other activities include chili cook-off, classic car show, kids area, food vendors, arts and crafts show, and business booths. Admission free. Car cruise will start at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19 on Front Street and wind through downtown area.

15th Annual Sacramento Archives Crawl from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at four locations in downtown Sacramento (California State Archives, California State Library, Center for Sacramento History and Sacramento Public Library. Rocklin Historical Society hoping to have information table. For more information, visit sacramentoarchivescrawl.com.

Walk Through Rocklin History, a guided tour sponsored by Sierra College's OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) Program, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22. Docents will give a guided tour of areas of historic significance in downtown area. Must be members of OLLI to participate; fee is \$25 per year. Membership provides access to all OLLI courses and activities. For more information, visit www.sierracollege.edu/olli.

Rocklin Homecoming Reunion for longtime Rocklin residents and Rocklin Historical Society members will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25 in the Pavilions at Johnson-Springview Park. Bring food, beverages (no alcohol) and lawn chairs. For more information, send an email to Bonnie Ruhkala Neumann at bonnieneu50@gmail.com, RoyceAnn Ruhkala Burks at raburks49@gmail.com or Cyndy Trumbo Godfrey at jackie18@wavecable.com.

Speaker Series: Murder, Mayhem, Mystery Cemetery Tour at the Old Auburn Cemetery presented by Carol Cramer, Placer County Museum Docent and Auburn City Historian, October 20, 6pm at Old St. Mary's.

Cemetery tour planned for Saturday, Nov. 1 (Day of the Dead) at the Rocklin Cemetery. Docents will "appear" as notable residents at gravesites throughout the cemetery offering insights into Rocklin's past and the residents who built this community. Two tours will be offered (10 a.m. and 1 p.m.) Attendance will be limited to 20 per tour. – one at 10 a.m. Must be age 16 or older. Admission will be \$20 per person (or \$15 for members). Proceeds will benefit our Secret Garden project. Watch for registration information.

We hope to break ground this fall on the Secret Garden behind the Rocklin Library, a serenity garden dedicated to the memory of Rocklin's first public librarian, Jennie Minkinen. Donations to fund this project are still being accepted; to donate, visit our website.

We will be tackling three big projects in 2026.



On the Big Day of Giving, May 1, 2025, the Rocklin Historical Society rallied the community and raised an inspiring \$3,455 to support local history programs and preservation efforts. Thanks to the generosity of twenty-five donors, the Society exceeded its expectations, reaffirming Rocklin's strong spirit of civic pride and commitment to honoring its past. From archival initiatives to educational outreach, every contribution strengthens the link between generations and helps ensure Rocklin's story continues to be told with care and heart.

Fixit crew is at it again!

Always at the ready for any job, the Fixit crew brought a new installation for our museum, the wonderful model of the roundhouse formerly housed at the Roseville Carnegie Museum! One side depicts the roundhouse in Rocklin, and the other is Roseville. It is now awaiting its permanent location, likely in the basement at our museum. It will make a great addition to the other railroad-related items located in the lower level.



Our Mystery item is a steam and or compressed air powered drifter drilling cart that could be

rotated to drill vertically or horizontally in a rock surface. According to David Baker, "Roy Ruhkala told me that this type of equipment wasn't used much in Rocklin. The three-wheel pneumatic drifter drill cart was part of the Big Gun (Capital Quarry) artifacts, but it is not clear if it belonged to Ruhkala or Darren Epperson, the last owner of the quarry. It is now part of the displayed equipment at Quarry Park Adventures.

[\(Return to pg.2\)](#)

Help Our Garden Grow

THE SECRET GARDEN PROJECT

ROCKLIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Help turn this scrappy plot of land next to our library into a tranquil garden honoring Rocklin's first county librarian and influential civic figure, Jennie Minkinen. This unique space will also showcase the rare granite curbing once part of her father, quarryman Victor Wickman's gardens, symbolizing both her lasting legacy and the community's historic ties to quarrying.

Please support the Secret Garden by making a donation to **The Rocklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Rocklin, CA 95677**

You can also make a donation through PayPal or with your credit or debit card by scanning the QR code or going to our website (rocklinhistorical.org) and scrolling down to the bottom of the home page. Please indicate that your donation goes to the Secret Garden Project



Scan to Donate



Visit Our Website



Learn more about
Jennie Minkinen,
Quarry Quarterly, pg. 10



www.rocklinhistorical.org

Rocklin Historical Society

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