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Administrator's Notes

Ralph Gibson

The office is decked with dancing skeletons, smiling Jack O' Lanterns, and a witch who didn't navigate the halls of the Courthouse too well. But by the time you read this, Halloween will be in the past and everything will look like Christmas – even if it isn't Thanksgiving yet.

At the museums we try to keep a historical eye on the holidays. At the Bernhard Museum we celebrate "Victorian Christmas" where visitors to the museum will learn how those in the era celebrated the holiday.

At the courthouse there will be Christmas quilts on display in the Treasury and nearby will be a gorgeous tree adorned with gold ornaments and copies of early Christmas cards from our collection. Both museums will be decorated the week of Thanksgiving.

The Gold Country Museum move is underway and though we initially hoped we'd have a soft opening the first week of December, it's looking more and more like a late December opening at best. We're still trapped in the back and

forth between architects, contractors and the permit process, but things are progressing.

While we are busy with work, we must stop and take the time to say goodbye to a person who has played a significant role for the Placer County Museums: Mary-Jane Coon.

MJ has been with the museums for 22 years and has seen and done it all here. She has been the face of the Placer County Museums for a very long time, both to the public and our volunteers. We wish her the best as she transitions from workforce to retirement. Many happy trails, MJ! You will be sorely missed.



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Eat Drink and Be Merry!

Kasia Woroniecka

Curator of Collections

Food plays a very important part in how we celebrate. November and December are generally the two months of the year when we celebrate the most, enjoying Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas parties, and New Year festivities.

As part of the preparation for the gluttony of the holiday season let us review dinner etiquette and look back at how people used to prepare, serve and celebrate food.

Ritual and formality were very important to 19th century Americans. Correct behavior at the dinner table and other social functions was a way to fit in a society that was rapidly changing. The multitude of etiquette books instructed the middle class on anything from how to set the table, what to wear, which utensils to use and how to behave in polite society. The manuals reminded their readers to never make noise or open their mouths when chewing, never pick their teeth while eating, never spit anything out on the plate, never wipe their fingers on the table cloth (that's what napkins

are for), and never overload the plate. The readers were also reminded to never allow conversation at the table to be anything but small talk, since heated arguments lead to indigestion.



Dinner parties were an opportunity for the wealthy to show off their wealth and became so elaborate that *Godey's Lady's Book* reminded its readers in 1885: "The elegant requirements for fashionable hospitality have multiplied so rapidly of late that people of moderate means have to economize if they want to keep up with society." Until the 19th century formal dinners were served *al fa francaise* (in the French style) in which all of the food was brought out at once. This

changed in the early 19th century when *service a la russe* became popular and the dishes were served in succession. Instead of an entire pig or turkey on the table, they were now carved in the kitchen or at the sideboard and served to

guests after dishes and cutlery from the previous course were cleared. This form of service allowed for more space on the table that would be taken up by elaborate centerpieces, napkins, cutlery, glasses, flowers and lights.

Victorians who could afford it valued good cooking and food. Many found

instruction in Isabella Beeton's very popular *Book of Household Management*, the first book to show recipes in the format used today, listing all the ingredients at the beginning. In addition to recipes the book included tips on every aspect of running a household, from dealing with servants' pay and duties to making furniture polish and doing laundry.

Until the commercial success of gas stoves in the 1880s cooking

was done over open fires and kitchen ranges. It was time consuming and difficult work, and offered little in the way of temperature control for cooking and baking. The era saw the introduction of kitchen tools and gadgets that we still use today, including cheese graters, potato peelers, waffle irons, electric mixers and dishwashers. Since refrigerators were not available and ice chests were the best alternative, food was salted, pickled, dried or smoked. Storage and food preservation changed little until the introduction of canning. Canning, developed during the Napoleonic wars and originally intended for armies on the move, revolutionized food preservation and made new and exotic food widely available.

Raisins, currants, prunes and figs were very popular and added to many dishes, including fish and meat dishes. Brussel sprouts became an important part of the Christmas menu, which along with Thanksgiving were the most carefully planned meals of the year. Puddings took a life of their own. Mrs. Beeton listed 108 recipes in her book. Turkey was the traditional roast for Thanksgiving and Christ-

mas, although roast beef and goose were also served.

As you get ready to polish the silverware and take your grandmothers china out of the cabinet chances are some of the Victorian delicacies like potted lampreys, ox pallets, or sheep rumps and kidneys in rice will not be featured on your Thanksgiving or Christmas menus. One thing is certain and summarized by Lord Byron in *The Island*: "All human history attests that happiness for man - the hungry sinner! - since Eve ate apples much depends on dinner."



How to Cook a Christmas Turkey,
Godey's Lady's Book, December
1885

- a plump young turkey
- half a pound of bread crumbs
- half a pound of suet
- a small bunch of parsley
- three small onions
- one pint and a half of cream
- two table spoons of flour

- seasoning
- a little nutmeg
- one teacupful of milk
- six whole tomatoes and the juice of six
- half a pound of butter

After the turkey has been cleaned, wash it well inside and out, thoroughly dry, and dust lightly with flour. Take the breadcrumbs, suet, parsley and onions, chop finely together. Mix with one pint of the cream, some salt, pepper, and a little nutmeg. Make this up into balls, about two inches in circumference. Take tomatoes that have been canned whole and then place

inside the turkey, alternately, one ball and tomato, until full. Take the juice of the other six tomatoes, half a pound of butter, seasoning, and a teaspoon of flower. Allow this to simmer in a saucepan slowly until thick. When the turkey is first basted, throw the whole of the sauce well

over it. Continue to baste until thoroughly well browned and crisp. The gravy is made by pouring the balance of the cream and milk into the dripping-pan, put back in the oven and stir until it boils well. Place in a sauce-tureen and serve both as hot as possible. A more delicious way of cooking a turkey is impossible to imagine.

The Scoop

Beth Rohlfes

Curator of Education

It's that time of year when Placer County Museums joins in the holiday spirit by adding festive touches to exhibits and celebrating with our community through special events. Not lost in the holiday hub-bub is an important tradition that graces our annual Christmas Luncheon. Every December, as part of this holiday feast and fun event for museum volunteers and staff, we celebrate the graduation

new recruits recently moved to the area and want to learn more about

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. Voting in elections happens once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

-Author Unknown

its history. Others have deep roots in the community and now have time to give. Some enjoy interacting with people. Many are motivated by their love of artifacts and

Scottish American Military Society and an expert in newspaper restoration. Some are employed and others retired.

All of our museum docents complete eight weeks of training at the beginning of their volunteer experience and are invited to return every year for a refresher course. During those weeks new recruits will have considered how Placer County Museums needs their help and the areas that most interest them. They



New recruits receive their certificate of completion at the 2013 Christmas Luncheon

of new volunteers in our Volunteer Training Program. This December we will eagerly welcome 20 new recruits into our museum community.

What inspires people to commit to eight weeks of training and countless unpaid hours into the future?

"I love history!" wrote one of this year's applicants. "I love the smell of museums and learning about anything that has to do with history!"

Besides having that essential love for history and museums, many

archival materials and want to help ensure their preservation. Many are retired and looking for meaningful ways to stay busy and continue to contribute to their communities.

Every one of our current volunteers brings unique personality and experience to their volunteer work. This year's group is no different in their diversity—everything from railroad car inspector to credentialed teacher and pediatrician to experienced history and art museum staff. They include an active member of the

go through a shadowing, or apprenticeship period, when they work alongside seasoned volunteers, before they become full-fledged museum docents.

In good holiday spirit, we say THANK YOU to our many dedicated volunteers, new and seasoned, for their GIFT to Placer County Museums and all those who visit.

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless

-Sherry Anderson

Placer County Historical Society News

President's Message

By Michael Otten

You must see Auburn's new State Theater. It has gone Hollywood.

A great opportunity will be the Nov. 7-23 run of its first major stage performance, the venerable *Fiddler on the Roof* musical by the Placer Community Theater.

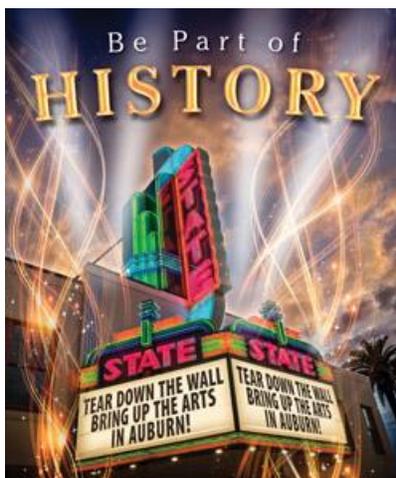
My opportunity came Nov. 4th when Ruhkala Monuments of Rocklin installed a Placer County Historical Society marker in the concrete walkway. The plaque recognizes the theater's heritage since its standing-room-only opening Dec. 6, 1930. It served as the regional entertainment mecca during the Depression and World War II.

Thanks to the Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center, its legion of volunteers and financial contributors the 1972 theater wall is gone. The APPAC crew created a touch of grandeur with its special 355 red seats set up in circular fashion, the circular walls, high ceiling and ornate lighting.

The seating is 1,000 less than the original. But the Art Deco opulence has been recreated taking one back to the time when theaters reigned. The seats are from TCL Chinese Theater on Hollywood's walk of fame. That theater opened as Grauman's Chinese Theater

May 18, 1927, premiering Cecil B. DeMille's *King of Kings* and has hosted three Academy Awards ceremonies.

The State Theater is part of Auburn's own Streetscape walk of



fame that extends to Central Square and the 1937-WPA built, Art Deco City Hall and Fire Station, new homes to the Chamber of Commerce and the Placer County Visitors Bureau.

The theater stands as another Placer County historic preservation collaborative effort beacon. Pioneering that effort in the 1990s were former PCHS president Doris Viera and the late Esther Stanton, a major force in Friends of Auburn Library. Other early pioneers include Monroe DeJarnette and the late William Lipschultz who joined the ladies in creating a non-profit group with former Auburn City Manager Paul Ogden as the current president.

In September I made a special workshop presentation, urging the Auburn City Historical Design Review Commission to recommend the City Council to create an Auburn History Committee to focus on city history similar to other special focus groups such as the Endurance Capital Committee and the Arts and Technology Commissions.

A ceremony was set for Nov. 8th at Central Square of the marker honoring life member Gene Markley.

Please note the Nov. 3rd death of life PCHS member John W. "Jack" Veal, a lifelong Auburn area resident who served as city mayor in 1981. He was 85. In 1996 he was a McCann Award recipient. The Endurance Committee honored Veal for his historic service to the Tevis Cup 100 mile ride and its organization. He ran the blacksmith shop at Coloma Gold Discovery Park and was best known for his enthusiastic leading of the Pledge of Allegiance according to his no funeral death notice in the Auburn Journal.

Happy holidays. For as little as \$10 you can provide a gift membership in the society. See the application at www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

-otten@ssctv.net

Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society

Helen Wayland, (530) 346-7040
colfaxhistory.org

Donner Summit Historical Society

Bill Oudegeest, (209) 606-6859
donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

Foresthill Divide Historical Society

Sandy Simester, (530) 367-3535
foresthillhistory.org

Fruitvale School Hall Community Association

Lyndell Grey, (916) 645-3517

Historical Advisory Board

Glenn Vineyard, (916) 747-1961

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society

Lynn Carpenter, (530) 885-1252

Lincoln Highway Association

Bob Dieterich,
bohd@iname.com or lincolnhwy.org

Lincoln Area Archives Museum

Elizabeth Jansen, (916) 645-3800
laamca.org

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center

Richard Yue, (530) 346-7121

Loomis Basin Historical Society

Karen Clifford, (916) 663-3871
ppgn.com/loomishistorical.html

Roseville Fire Museum

Shari, (916) 538-1809
rosevillefiremuseum.org

Maidu Museum & Historic Site

Glenie Strome, (916) 782-3299
roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59

Dave Allen, (530) 878-2878
dsallen59@sbcglobal.net

Golden Drift Historical Society

Jim Ricker, (530) 389-8344

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association

Aileen Gage, (530) 885-911

Placer County Historical Society

Michael Otten, (530) 888-7837
placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Placer County Museums Docent Guild

Tom Innes, (530) 888-8969

Rocklin Historical Society

Jean Sippola, (916) 652-1034
rocklinhistory.org

Roseville Historical Society

Phoebe Astill, (916) 773-3003
rosevillehistorical.org

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Javier Rodriguez, (530) 583-1762
northtahoemuseums.org

Placer County Genealogical Society,

Toni Rosasco, (530) 888-8036
pcgenes.com

Placer County Historical Dinner Meeting*

Addah Owens, Vice President

When: Thursday December 4

Time: 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

Where: Auburn Veterans Hall
 100 East St, Auburn

Cost: \$14 per person

Menu: Roast Baron of Beef,
 Roast Turkey, Garlic Mashed Po-

tatoes and Gravy, Seasonal Vegetables, Christmas Salad, Rolls, and Apple Pie. Presented by Tom Stout, formally of Mary Belle's Restaurant.

Mail Check to: PCHS, c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Grade Road, Auburn, CA 95603

Program: "Newcastle, The Gem of the Foothills" Bill George and guests explore the 150th anniversary

of the Central Pacific Railroad's arrival and the community's rich history with his popular video.

Christmas Drawing: Bring items for annual drawing.

*** DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL. County directives prohibit it and we can't get liability coverage.**

Calendar of events

November

- 8 1:00pm Contemporary Views of the First Transcontinental Railroad by Prof. Richard Koenig. At the BMC Winery, 291 Auburn Folsom Rd.
- 11 4:00pm Roseville Historical Society meeting at Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln St., Roseville. (916) 773-3003
- 17 6:00pm Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, at the Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535
- 17 7:00pm Rocklin Historical Society Meeting at Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-3464
- 18 9:00am Historical Organizations Committee meeting at the Roseville Carnage Museum. 557 Lincoln St. Roseville. (530) 889-6500
- 19 6:00pm Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis library. (916) 663-3971
- 24 7:00pm Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, in the Beecher Room, at the Auburn Library. (530) 885-2216

December

- 4 6:30pm Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting. Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East St., Auburn. (530) 885-5074
- 9 4:00pm Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum. 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003
- 13 5:00pm Old Town Country Christmas at the Historic Courthouse. Crafts, hot cider & cookies, quilts on display. 101 Maple St.
- 17 6:30pm Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting at the Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871
- 17 5:30pm Historical Advisory Board Meeting at the Auburn Depot at 601 Lincoln Way in Auburn. (530) 889-6500
- 20 5:00pm Old Town Country Christmas at the Historic Courthouse. Crafts, hot cider & cookies, quilts on display. 101 Maple St.

A Letter from the Editor



The GCM is one tough cookie. After many tens of hours we're still swinging hammers. Hopefully we'll be done with this job before you all carve the turkey.

Placer County Museums
101 Maple Street
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