



Administrator's Notes

by *Ralph Gibson*

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Heritage Trail 2016 will look a lot different than in years past. Showcasing Placer County history through all of its great museums, the Heritage Trail is a terrific event. But it has always had one fatal flaw. Unless you wanted to break the laws of physics and the state by way of speeding infractions, there's no way you could possibly visit all 20+ museums in two days. And with timed events and special tours, museums were beginning to compete with one another.

Instead of just four stamps to qualify, however, now it will take 16 stamps. But everyone who turns in a fully stamped card will get a cool silicone Heritage Trail wristband – plus free access to a website with 50 historic photographs collected by a number of our participating museums.



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This year's Heritage Trail will stretch across the entire summer. Smaller groups of museums will be clustered together on admission-free, Heritage Trail days, from June 11th through September 4th. If Trail-goers can't make it to a particular museum on its Heritage Trail day, they have the whole summer to visit that museum and get their Get-Up-And-Go card stamped to enter a drawing for a Gift Basket.

The new summer-long format allows more museums to participate. This year the Fruitvale School will participate again. The Roseville Public Library, a newcomer to the event, has a History center that will feature exhibits throughout the summer. The Sierra College Natural History Museum and the Donner Memorial State Park have also expressed interest in participating, though we are still working out those details.

As always, I hope to see you on the Trail!

... and we are delighted to open our vault, so-to-speak, and finally introduce the modern age

If someone calls you a phillumenist, don't be upset.

...antique glass souvenirs from the old windows of the historic Placer County Courthouse.

...just one month before the revolution and the start of the "Arab Spring"

Big News from the Archives!

by Bryanna Ryan
Curator of Archives

The Placer County Archive is excited to begin a major collaboration with the County Clerk-Recorder's Office to digitize all 1,479 historic record books which originated in their department and are now largely housed in the Archives and Collections Facility. During the month of May, over one million pages will be scanned as high resolution images from these books. They can weigh up to twenty pounds each! A company that specializes in digitizing historic bound volumes will be working around the clock and using their state-of-the-art equipment to ac-

complish this project, estimated to generate over 1,400 Terabytes of information.

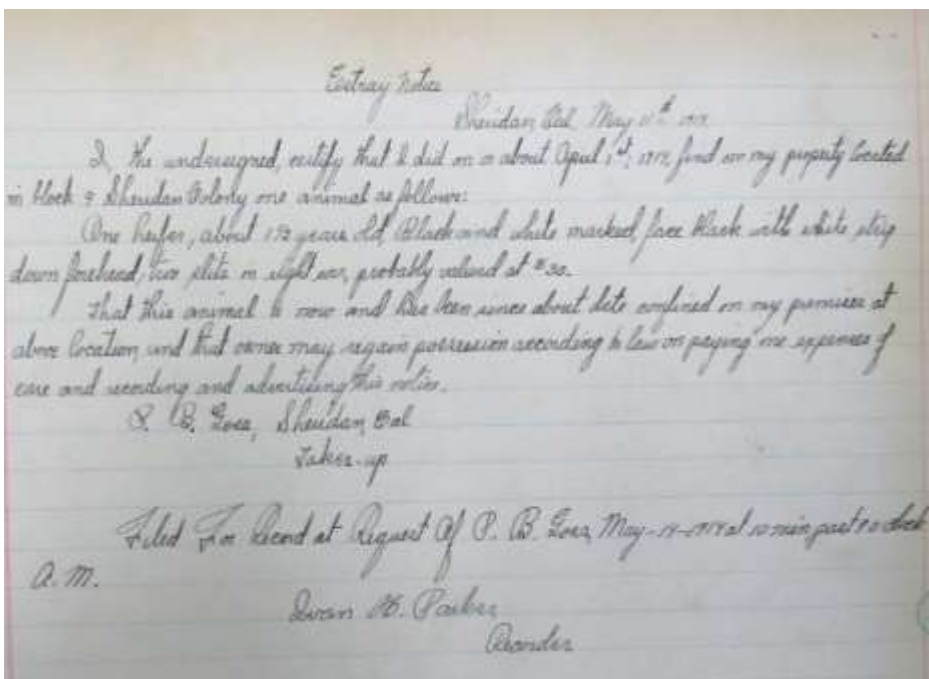
Overall, the books that will be digitized date from 1851-1971 and include records of: Homesteads, Deeds, Military Discharge, Mechanics Liens, Estrays and Lost Property, Record of Stalions, Mining Claims, Water Rights, Personal Chattel, and MORE! These will become searchable online and help in our effort to preserve history



Primary source books dating from 1851-1971 will be digitalized in May for the Placer County Archives.

while also making it widely accessible. The wealth of information held in these primary sources is remarkable, and we are delighted to open our vault, so-to-speak, and finally introduce the modern age to our historic documents.

This project contributes to greater efforts in archives, libraries, and museums across the country to digitize historic collections and advance understanding of our collective past. Here at the Placer County Archive, volunteers work thousands of hours per year to preserve and make our historic collections searchable through Indexes and Finding Aids. As we move forward and continue to grow, we are also adding information to our database and digitizing our voluminous photographic collection. Future goals include digitizing our



1914 notice of a stray animal in the record book of Estrays and Lost Property, which is among the primary sources that will be digitalized at Archives in May.

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massive and historic maps collection, as well our valuable collection of oral history recordings.

Some of the records that will be digit-

ized this May were created 165 years ago. Soon they will become accessible to you online. Ultimately, this project will help researchers near and far to

discover the history of this remarkable county and the place it has occupied in the national narrative.

Close Cover Before Striking: Matchbook Collections

by *Kasia Woroniecka*
Curator of Collections

If someone calls you a phillumenist, don't be upset. It just means you collect matchbooks. While smoking rates have plummeted in recent decades, and cigarettes have been replaced by handheld electronic devices or e-cigarettes, there was a time when smoking was common and collecting matchbooks was a popular hobby. The manufacture of matchbooks peaked during the 1950s and 1960s and then steadily declined because of the availability of disposable lighters and anti-smoking health campaigns.

The history of matchbooks goes back to 1889 when Joshua Pusey patented the idea of paper matches. Filed under "Flexible Match," the invention is described as a "friction match device consisting of a series of splints or strips of thick inflammable paper, wood, or similar material tipped with an ignitable composition and attached

to and enclosed by a suitable cover folded and adapted to be opened and closed as the covers of a book." It soon became evident that the matchbook's value lay outside of the box, and matchbooks and matchboxes became an important advertising vehicle, promoting theatre productions, restaurants, hotels, beer and even anti-Nazi slogans during the 1940s. Pusey sold his patent to the Dia-

mond Match Company. The company's salesman, Henry C. Traute, brought the advertising idea to the Pabst Brewing Company, and it became the first food-and-beverage company to invest in branded matches. Often given to customers for free,



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E-matches became a very cost effective form of advertising. Matchbook design has stayed constant since the late 19th century except for one aspect – in 1962 federal safety laws required that strikes be placed on the backside instead of the front of matchbooks, making the famous “Close Cover Before Striking” phrase obsolete.

Our collection, donated by Mary Sayles of Roseville, consists of almost 100 pieces, advertising mostly California hotels and restaurants. They were collected by the donor’s

brother, Alan Sayles, and include a few local establishments, like the Beavers Trap Saloon in Newcastle and the Country Boy Inn and Motel in Auburn.

Although it might seem that this nostalgic collectible could be hazardous to the rest of the collection, it is very unlikely. Matchbooks and matchboxes can be found in many archive and museum collections. Some institutions prefer the “off with their heads!” approach and cut off the flammable tips. Others, including our collection, keep them intact, separat-

ed and in boxes restricting any movement. Most phillumenists remove the matches from the cover and store the covers flat. Our collection consists of safety matches, which are “safe” because they don’t spontaneously combust. You have to strike them against a special surface in order to get them to ignite. Safety matches were designed in the mid-19th century specifically to prevent accidents. Although we are far from breaking the Guinness World Record (9130 matchbooks), we can safely continue adding to this “light loving” collection.



The Scoop

by Beth Rohlfes
Editor and Staff Writer

Happy Birthday to Living History!

The ever popular 3rd Grade Living History Program at the Bernhard Museum Complex has been providing students with an authentic 19th century experience for 20 years. Kudos to all docents, parents, teachers and museum staff who have nurtured this program over the years!

There is a growing demand for this type of school field trip, and the Placer County Museums Division is proud to be a leader and a model of success.

Check out our [information page](#) for parents and teachers.



News from Placer County Historical Society

by *Michael Otten*

Immediate past president, PCHS



May is State and National Preservation Month

Our state and nation this month are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Preservation Act that created the National Register of Historic Places and the state Historic Preservation Offices. With February's listing of the DeWitt General Hospital, Placer County now has 33 listings on the National Register.

The others: The Carnegie Libraries in Auburn, Lincoln and Roseville; the 1937 Auburn City Hall and Fire House (now home to the Chamber and Welcome Centers), Auburn Fire Houses 1 and 2, Auburn Grammar School (current City Hall), Auburn Masonic Temple, California Granite Co. in Rocklin, Chapel of the Transfiguration in Tahoe City, the Colfax Freight and Passenger Depots, the Dutch Flat Historic District, El Toyon in Auburn, Fiddymont Ranch main complex in Roseville, the Griffith House and Griffith Quarry in

Penryn, the Haman House in Roseville, the Lake Tahoe Dam in Tahoe City, the Michigan Bluff-Last Chance Trail, the Mountain Quarries Bridge, Newcastle's Portuguese Hall, Odd Fellows Hall in Auburn, the Old Auburn Historic District, the Outlet Gates and Gatekeeper's Cabin in Tahoe City, the Placer County Bank in Auburn, Stevens Trail in Colfax, the Strap Ravine Nisenan Maidu Indian Site in Roseville, Summit Soda Springs, the Watson Log Cabin in Tahoe City and the Women's Club of Lincoln.

PCHS Board member Mike Holmes, a former Auburn mayor, is working hard to get the Earl Crabbe Gym at Placer High listed as well as trying to convince the City of Auburn to strengthen its historic preservation efforts by becoming a Certified Local Government.



Betty R. Samson, for most of us, has been the voice and face of the Placer County Historical Society, handling reservations for membership meetings, collecting money and greeting us at the door. Betty is retiring with the June dinner meeting, and we can't thank her enough for keeping us going all these years. It's an important volunteer position. Talk to Walt Wilson at (530) 878-6640 or 863-8224.

New PCHS Officers

elected at annual meeting on April 7, and effective May 1, 2016. President - **Walt Wilson**; 1st Vice President - **George Lay**; 2nd Vice President (programs) - **Addah Owens**; Secretary—**Richard Ravalli**; Treasurer—**Al Stoll**; Immediate Past President: - **Michael Otten**; Board members (Two-Year Terms, 2016-18) - **April McDonald** - **Loomis, Melanie Barton, Karri Samson, Sherri Schackner** (Carry-over elected Board Members, 2015/16 -2016/2017, with additional year remaining: **Jean Allender, Karen Bleuel, Mike Holmes, John Knox**)

Other volunteer needs:

- Take charge of a special fundraising project to create antique glass souvenirs from the old windows of the historic Placer County Courthouse. Proceeds from this and other projects will help fund acquisitions for the Placer County Archives. Contact Walt Wilson.
- Volunteers for Heritage Trail at the Benton Welty Classroom at Auburn's City Hall, June 18. Contact Jean Allender, (530) 885-5334 or jeanallendeNewlyr@hotmail.com.

Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society,
Chris Miller (530) 346-8599
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

Golden Drift Historical Society,
Jim Ricker, (530) 389-8344

Historical Advisory Board,
Glenn Vineyard, (916) 747-1961

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center, Richard Yue, (530) 346-7121

Lincoln Highway Association,
Bob Dieterich bobd@iname.com,
<https://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/>

Lincoln Area Archives Museum,
Elizabeth Jansen, (916) 645-3800
laamca.org

Loomis Basin Historical Society,
Karen Clifford (916) 663-3871

Maidu Museum & Historic Site,
Mark Murphy (916)774-5934
roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

The Museum of Sierra Ski History and 1960 Winter Olympics,
David C. Antonucci (775)722-3502
<http://tahoemuseum.org/>

Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59 Dave Allen, (530) 878-2878 dsallen59@sbcglobal.net

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association, Mario Farinha (530) 269-2412

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society,
Rebecca Phipps, (530) 583-1762
northtahoemuseums.org

Placer County Historical Society,
Walt Wilson, (530) 878-6640
placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Placer County Museums Docent Guild, Tom Innes, (530) 888-8969

Rocklin Historical Society,
Kathie Nippert, (916) 624-2355
rocklinhistory.org

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

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society, Lynn Carpenter, (530) 885-1252

Placer County Genealogical Society,
Toni Rosasco, (530) 888-8036
pcgenes.com

Roseville Fire Museum,
Jim Giblin, (916) 538-1809
rosevillefiremueum@gmail.org
rosevillefiremuseum.org

Roseville Public Library,
Christopher Webber (916)774-5239
www.roseville.ca.us/library

PCHS Dinner Meeting

By Addah Owens, Vice President

When: June 2, 2016

Time: 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

Where: Auburn Veterans Hall, 100 East St, Auburn

Cost: \$15 per person

Menu: Chicken Marsala, seasoned vegetables, salad, rolls and dessert.

Program: Program: Ed Weiss will provide a video presentation highlighting ancient Egyptian historical sites. In 2010, just one month before the revolution and the start of the “Arab Spring,” Barbara and Ed Weiss toured parts of Egypt and sailed up the Nile. They visited many wonderful sites associated with the 3000 years of ancient Egypt’s culture as well as some of

the modern country’s attempts to deal with the realities of living in a very hot and dry region.

Mail Check to: PCHS
c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Grade Rd, Auburn, CA 95603
RSVP to Betty at (530) 885-5074

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

Calendar of Events

May

5 2:00pm

Placer County Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Room 10, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn. (530) 878-6640

9 6:00pm

Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-2355

10 4:00pm

Roseville Historical Society meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln St., Roseville (916) 773-3003

14 7:00pm

Colfax Area Historical Society. Helen Wayland and Nancy Hagman will present "a house with history." Colfax Depot. (530) 346-8599

16 6:00pm

Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535

16 7:00pm

Rocklin Historical Society general meeting & ice cream social, St. Mary's Chapel, Front Street in Rocklin. Speaker, Lila Sasaki, on Japanese Internment.

18 6:00pm

Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting, Loomis library. (916) 663-3871

26 7:00pm

Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076

29 11am-2pm

Rocklin Historical Society, Homecoming Reunion at Finn Hall, light lunch served. Call Gay Morgan for reservations (916) 624-2355

June

2 6:30pm

Placer County Historical Society dinner meeting, Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn. (530) 878-6640

11 10am-4pm

HERITAGE TRAIL 2016

Roseville Historical Society Carnegie Museum and the Roseville Fire Museum

11 6am-3pm

Rocklin Historical Society Annual Yard Sale, 5200 Fifth Street, Rocklin

13 6am-3pm

Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-2355

14 4:00pm

Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003

15 5:30pm

Historical Advisory Board Meeting, Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500

15 6:00pm

Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting, Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871

18 10am-4pm

HERITAGE TRAIL 2016

Bernhard Museum Complex Benton Welty Classroom at City Hall and Gold Rush Museum, in Auburn

23 7:00pm

Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076



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