



2017 May-June Volume 20, Issue 3

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## Administrator's Notes

*by Ralph Gibson*

Summer is here and this year welcomes the 10th anniversary of the Heritage Trail which starts on June 17.

We hope each of you takes time this summer to explore our County's rich history by visiting at least one of the twenty- one participating museums.

Like last year, the event is spread throughout the summer with small geographic clusters of museums hosting their Heritage Trail day. This way you can take your time to explore everything they have to offer.

For a full Heritage Trail summer schedule, please visit our blog at: [theheritagetrail.blogspot.com](http://theheritagetrail.blogspot.com) or look

for one of our posters that will be popping up at every museum.

History surrounds us—get out there and explore!



Join us for some good old-fashioned fun and games, crafts, hand-cranked ice cream and more at the Bernhard Museum. Gold pan at the Gold Rush Museum, and stop in to see the historic Benton-Welty School Room.

[theheritagetrail.blogspot.com](http://theheritagetrail.blogspot.com)

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## Museums News

The Gold Rush Museum has been progressing along and we are working on the last few big installations on the second floor. This summer, renowned muralist Derrel Fleener will be painting a large 1849 gold mining scene on the first floor. This gift to the museum is being generously donated by the

Placer County Historical Society—thank you PCHS!

Later this year, our exhibit team will transition to working in the DeWitt History Museum. I will keep you abreast of our progress in future issues of The Placer. Have a great summer, everyone!

"if women care to wear carrots and roosters on their heads"

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Hatpin defense tactics are illustrated in this 1904 article

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stolen apricot pies

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and giving away some prizes

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## Hang Onto Your Hat

by Kasia Woroniecka, Curator of Collections

The popularity of enormous hats reached its peak during the Edwardian era. The creativity of milliners saw no boundaries with hats made of taffeta, silk bows, flowers, artificial fruit, bird feathers, and—in some cases—fully stuffed birds.

Women's fashion took on a new opulence with design trends that revolved around the ideal "S-curve" standard of beauty.

Created by corset, this figure was formed by forcing the hips back and the bust forward with the hat becoming an essential and increasingly larger element needed to accomplish this look.

To secure these huge creations to the head, hatpins—sometimes as long as eighteen inches—were skewered through the hair and the hat. The more elaborate the hat, the more pins it required.

Prior to John Howe's 1832 invention

of the first practical machine for manufacturing pins, they were made by hand and were very expensive. Early factories produced fewer than 5,000 pins a day but, by 1835, Howe's machine was producing 70,000 pins daily.



PCM: Helen Reed.  
Circa 1905.

The first hatpins were simple metal skewers. Later, these were made of silver studded with topaz, garnet, amethyst, pearl, seashell, ivory, and porcelain.

The Arts and Crafts movement, Art Nouveau, Egyptian

Revival, and Orientalism all influenced the many elements of hatpin design.

Besides being functional and often beautifully designed, hatpins were also controversial. In 1908, fearing suffragists might use their hatpins as weapons, laws were passed limiting



PCM: Unknown Women. Circa 1900.

the legal length to nine inches. By 1912, additional ordinances were passed all over the United States requiring hatpin tips to be capped to prevent accidental injury.

During a city council meeting in Chicago in 1910, an ordinance supporter was quoted as saying: "If women care to wear carrots and roosters on their heads, that is a matter for their own concern but when it comes to wearing swords, they must be stopped."

In 1913 Milwaukee, breaking the hatpin length ordinance in city limits was subject to arrest and a fine of one dollar (\$23 today).



PCM: Vincent P. Gianella Collection.

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PCM: Unknown Woman. Circa 1910.

At the turn of the 20th century, women’s role in society was slowly changing. Technologies like the bicycle and new work opportunities in retail establishments and offices offered them a level of independence and the ability to move around unchaperoned.

Any man who attempted an unwanted advance soon discovered that a hatpin made a formidable

weapon.

Hatpin defense tactics are illustrated in this 1904 article featured in the *San Francisco Sunday Call*.



By 1913, hats were becoming smaller and less elaborate. Enormous plumes and stuffed birds had fallen out of vogue and smaller brims foreshadowed the cloche hats of the 1920s. Today, hatpins are collectible items. Genuine examples are not easy to find and, since hatpins are fairly easy to make, the market is flooded with fakes and reproductions.

## Saving “Station A”

by Bryanna Ryan, Curator of Archives

The Station A Post Office in Old Town Auburn is in danger of closing its doors and with it, shuttering a very significant part of local history. This is not just any Post Office. The building dates to January of 1878, although the U.S. Postal Service had occupied the lot as early as 1861.

Stepping into this space is to stand where 139 years of postal activities have taken place. Patrons can still send and receive mail and packages, and even rent one of the historic P.O. boxes adorning the interior.

The Old Town Business Association pays rent for the space and is working to keep this historic establishment operating for the U.S.P.S. but cannot do this without help from the community. Stop in, buy stamps, send your mail through here, or even think about renting one of historic P.O. boxes. Please help us save Station A and be a part of history!

PCM: Station A Post Office. Circa 1910.



PCM: Auburn Post Office. 1909.



# The Scoop

by Beth Rohlfes, Curator of Education



**Don't miss Heritage Trail Opening Day – Saturday, June 17th, 10:00AM – 4:00PM!**

This year's summer-long Heritage Trail kicks off with



Bhakti Banning at 2016 Heritage Trail

a day for whole families to enjoy old-fashioned learning and fun together. Mrs. Bernhard herself will greet visitors to the Bernhard Museum as she shares stories of stolen apricot pies and encourages guests to explore vintage wagons, toys, games, and crafts.

There will be hand-cranked ice cream and fresh produce, live music, seed spitting contests, and more!

Real life gold miners at the Gold Rush Museum will teach novices some gold panning tricks. And the day will round off nicely with a visit to the historic Benton-Welty School Room.

So stop in for a visit, or make it a whole day. Bring your picnic lunch and spread your blanket on the

beautiful grounds of the Bernhard Museum. Refreshments will be provided.

Follow the details of this great summer-long event at [theheritagetrail.blogspot.com](http://theheritagetrail.blogspot.com).

Would you like to volunteer to help with activities at the Bernhard Museum on June 17th? If so, contact me at 530-889-6506 or [brohlfes@placer.ca.gov](mailto:brohlfes@placer.ca.gov).



Daphne Lake at 2016 Heritage Trail

## News from Placer County Historical Society

By April McDonald-Loomis, President

[April400@wavecable.com](mailto:April400@wavecable.com) (530) 823-2128

### Calling All Docents!

On June 2nd the Auburn Streetscape History and Art Committee will be joining with the Art Walk folks for a gala evening. The Art Walk will feature local artists as well as several music venues. The SHAAC will be unveiling several new tiles in Central Square and giving away some prizes for a "tile contest."

SHAAC is in need of docents, in costume, to be in

Central Square and talk about some of the people featured on the historic tiles. A docent would only need to attend from 6:00pm-8:00pm and be responsible for about three personalities.

We will hold a briefing before the event and pass out information. This should be a great evening! I hope you can help! Please contact me if you are interested.

### In Other News

The Placer County Historical Society has just elected the new board for 2017-2019. I am proud to be the new President of the Society. It is quite an honor!

I look forward to an exciting year. We have some ideas for some new projects and hope that if you have ideas, that you will contact me and share!

Mike Holmes is the new First Vice-President, Addah Owens will continue as the Second Vice-President, as

will Secretary, Richard Ravalli, and Treasurer, Al Stoll.

Board Members are Jean Allender, Karen Bleuel, Delana Ruud, John Knox, Melanie Barton, Karrie Samson, and Sherri Shackner.

Walt Wilson will leave as President but we certainly hope he will stay involved. He is owed a large round of applause for the fine job he has done for the last two years.

## Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

By Addah Owens, Program Chair

**When:** June 1, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

**Where:** Veterans Hall, 100 East St, Auburn

**Cost:** \$16 per person

**Menu:** Summer Barbeque

**Program:** "America's Best Female Sharpshooter, the Rise and Fall of Lillian Francis Smith"

Author, Julia Bricklin from the Los Angeles area will be discuss-



ing her new book about sharpshooter, Lillian Francis Smith. Of special interest to Placer County, Lillian owned a shooting

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gallery right in Auburn for a short time.

Books will be available for purchase for \$24.99.

Mail Dinner Checks to: PCHS  
c/o Jane Hamilton, 1871 Crockett  
Road, Auburn, CA 95603.

(530) 885-7839 or  
[hamiltonjane1@me.com](mailto:hamiltonjane1@me.com)

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

## Placer County Historical Organizations

**Colfax Area Historical Society,**  
Chris Miller (530) 346-8599  
[colfaxhistory.org](http://colfaxhistory.org)

**Donner Summit Historical Society,**  
Bill Oudegeest, (209) 606-6859  
[donnersummithistoricalsociety.org](http://donnersummithistoricalsociety.org)

**Foresthill Divide Historical Society,**  
Sandy Simester, (530) 367-3535  
[foresthillhistory.org](http://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](mailto:bobd@iname.com)  
<https://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/>

**Lincoln Area Archives Museum,**  
Elizabeth Jansen, (916) 645-3800  
[laamca.org](http://laamca.org)

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

**Maidu Museum & Historic Site,**  
Mark Murphy, (916)774-5934  
[roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://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](mailto:dsallen59@sbcglobal.net)

**Newcastle Portuguese Hall Associ-  
ation,** Mario Farinha (530) 269-2412

**North Lake Tahoe Historical Society,**  
Rebecca Phipps, (530) 583-1762  
[northtahoemuseums.org](http://northtahoemuseums.org)

**Placer County Historical Society,**  
April McDonald-Loomis,  
(530) 878-6640  
[placercountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://placercountyhistoricalsociety.org)

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

**Rocklin Historical Society,**  
Kathie Nippert, (916) 624-2355  
[rocklinhistory.org](http://rocklinhistory.org)

**Roseville Historical Society,**  
Phoebe Astill, (916) 773-3003  
[rosevillehistorical.org](http://rosevillehistorical.org)

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

**Placer County Genealogical Society,**  
Toni Rosasco, (530) 888-8036  
[pcgenes.com](http://pcgenes.com)

**Roseville Fire Museum,** Jim Giblin,  
(916) 538-1809  
[rosevillefiremueum@gmail.com](mailto:rosevillefiremueum@gmail.com)  
[rosevillefiremuseum.org](http://rosevillefiremuseum.org)

**Roseville Public Library,**  
Christopher Webber (916)774-5239  
[www.roseville.ca.us/library](http://www.roseville.ca.us/library)

# Calendar of Events

## May

- 4** 2:00 pm Placer County Historical Society Board meeting, Room 10, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn. (530) 906-4901
- 8** 6:00 pm Rocklin Historical Society Board meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-2355
- 9** 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society Board meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003
- 13** 7:00 pm Colfax Area Historical Society, program with speaker, Steve Porten on the history of the Folsom Powerhouse and its relationship to Folsom Prison. At the Colfax Depot.
- 15** 6:00 pm Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535
- 25** 7:00 pm Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076
- 17** 6:00 pm Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting, Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871
- 27** 12:00 pm Foresthill Divide Museum opens for the season, operating on Saturdays and Sundays from 12-4 through Labor Day. (530) 889-6500

## June

- 1** 6:30 pm Placer County Historical Society dinner meeting, Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn. (530) 885-7839
- 2** 6:00-9:00 pm Art Walk, featuring music, local artists, games, prizes and tile unveiling by the Auburn Streetscape History and Art Committee. Central Square, Old Town Auburn.
- 12** 6:00 pm Rocklin Historical Society Board meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-2355
- 13** 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society Board meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003
- 21** 5:30 pm Historical Advisory Board meeting, Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500
- 21** 6:00 pm Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting, Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871
- 22** 7:00 pm Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076
- 22-24** Conference of California Historical Societies, 63rd Annual Meeting, Best Western Orchid Suites, 315 N. Sunrise Blvd, Roseville. [Californiahistorian.com](http://Californiahistorian.com) (909) 480-3964



PLACER COUNTY MUSEUMS

101 Maple Street  
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