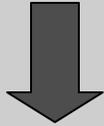


# THE PLACER

A Voice of History

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## In this Issue



1. Administrator's Notes
2. Bath
4. Museums Intelligence
5. PCHS News
6. Historical Organizations/Did you know that...?
7. Calendar of Events

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## Administrator's Notes

*Melanie Barton*

Did you know that April 15-21 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week? We're excited that a week is designated to recognize volunteers everywhere but if it were up to us, it would be a year round event! To mark this special week, the Placer County Museums volunteers were invited to a festive dinner on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. On this occasion, we celebrated the many bench mark achievements of our volunteers including years and hours dedicated to museum programs.

This year, we recognized many remarkable volunteers. Although all our volunteers are invaluable, certain achievements deserve special recognition. Five special ladies who volunteer at the Golden Drift Museum in Dutch Flat are deserving of special mention. They were in the same docent training class and have volunteered there for 20 years! What a remarkable feat. Congratulations to Jean Binder, Peggy Ewing, Kathryn McGinis, Sally Pansegrouw, and Sally Towle.

There were several people who reached bench marks for the number of hours volunteered. Three, Elsa Erickson, Barbara Fernald, and Daphne Lake, were recognized for 1,000 hours of service. Four others including Doug Brown, Leona Harrington, John Knox and April McDonald volunteered 1,500 hours. And amazingly, we recognized six

individuals who volunteered 2,000 hours. Congratulations to Hap Arnold, Frances Hanson, April McDonald, Art Sommers, Sandi Tribe, and Jerri White Turtle for your dedication to PC Museums. All of these people volunteer in different capacities. Some provide visitor services in our museum; others volunteer at the Archives & Research Center or at the Collections Management Facility while still others give tours, assist with special events, and/or serve on boards.

Every year Museum staff selects one or two people to receive Outstanding Achievement Awards. Because so many volunteers contribute so much, it is always a challenge to single out just a couple of people for this award. However, each year someone stands out as outstanding or makes a contribution above and beyond all others. This year we are delighted to recognize two individuals for Outstanding Achievement.

**Sandi Tribe** became a museum volunteer in 2001. Since that time she has fulfilled many roles including being a docent at the Bernhard Museum, the Placer County Museum and as a Walking Tour docent. She also routinely volunteers to help with museum tours. She strives for perfection and has a keen interest in history which drives her to study and learn more about our past. She not only interprets history to the public and to fledgling new docents, she teaches the Walking Tour to

docent recruits during Volunteer Training. Sandi represents the Docent Guild on the Historical Organizations Committee and she is the Guild representative for the Heritage Trail event. She is always willing to help and is a pleasure to work with. She is a dependable, driven and outstanding volunteer.

Our other recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award is **Art Sommers**. Art volunteers at the Archives & Research Center where his hard work and friendly disposition have helped us serve the public both by organizing the collection and by answering research questions. Art has accomplished so much that it is impossible to list all he has done to help the PC Museums. Some of his achievements are: organized a trunk load of fire-damaged surveyor maps in the Lapp Map Collection; created a keyword index of our Oral History collection; numbered and organized the photo collection recently donated by the Placer County Historical Society; created a database for cemetery notes; created a database for the Homestead Claims; inventoried each item in the Archives and created computer drawn plans of each shelf to assist us with the upcoming move; authored three Arcadia books on Placer County history – *Auburn, Placer County*, and *Donner Summit*. Art also volunteers in capacities other than at the Archives. He has served as a volunteer host for the Heritage Trail where he greets guests as they enter the historic Courthouse and gives them a brief, enthusiastic

history of building. His love of history is infectious! I know you will join me in congratulating Sandi and Art for being the recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Awards this year.

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## **Bath**

*By Kasia Woroniecka*

Some towns change their minds as to what they want to be called. Bath, CA is one of them. It was established in 1850 after miners who moved into the area during the Gold Rush named their settlement Volcano. There was another town across the Middle Fork to the south that also took the name of Volcano. The miners must not have been very attached or inspired by their town's name, because in 1851 it was changed to Sarahville, in honor of Sarah, the wife of a man by the name Blaze. Since only 2% of California bound immigrants were female, the miners honored their settlement with the name of the first woman at the site. In 1858 a petition was signed and sent to the Post Office Department asking for the establishment of a post office. When the post office was approved the town changed its name to Bath.

John Bradford, a merchant doing business at Stony Bar, a rich bar on the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River, was one of the first men in the area. He built a cabin and fenced in a large pasture for his livestock ranch. Sometime in 1850 a group of miners from the Middle Fork of the American River purchased the Bradford place for a small sum. Among them were D.P. Marshall and Thomas Creagh, who later resided in Forest Hill. They settled there for winter and planned on hunting deer and mining in the dry gulches. They were successful in finding paying amounts of gold and as news of the discovery spread miners began moving into the area.

For many years Bath was an important gold mining town. Beginning with 1852, the Bath claims next to the Forest Hill district included the San Francisco, Oro, Rip, Golden Gate, Rough Gold, Paragon, Greek, New York and Sebastopol claims. A 2-stamp mill was built at Paragon Mine in 1864. In 1869 there were two steam-driven mills with thirty stamps and one hurdy-gurdy-mill with five stamps. According to the Mining Bureau, the total yield to 1868 has been estimated at 2.5 million dollars.

Bath experienced a steady decline as the importance of its neighbor, Forest Hill, grew. By 1870 only about 100 people resided in Bath. By 1882 it remained a small village with one or two stores, a hotel, butcher, a blacksmith and a saloon. The post office remained active until 1899, when residents of Bath had to go to Forest Hill to pick up their mail.

Miriam Rains Oreno, who was interviewed in Foresthill in 1978, remembers that “as soon as school was out, we’d all walk to town, up to Foresthill and get our mail at the Post Office, about three miles [away] ... It was the only excitement we had, getting the mail.” Miriam was two years old, when her family’s house in Bath burned down around 1907. She remembered that Bath “had been a big community in that day, however, one by one the fires would come along and take first one house and the other. They kind of stopped mining and the town kind of diminished bit by bit.”

**Bath is located 1.5 miles (2.4 km) northeast of Foresthill. It lays at an elevation of 3,442 feet (1049 m).**



Bath School, 1893



Minnie and Frank Locher’s first home in Bath, circa 1878.



## Museums Intelligence

### Placer County Museums News

Ralph Gibson

I think we're going to be in for a warm summer. Things at the museum are certainly warming up. Living History is in full swing and by the time you get this newsletter, we'll be in the home stretch toward the completion of another successful year of this wonderful program.

Also by the time you read this newsletter, we'll have a new exhibit, *What Killed the American Hat?* in the Placer County Museum. The exhibit, which entices you to help us find the answer to the question posed by the title, will be up for about a year.

We're also gearing up for our big Archives and Collections move. Sometime this June, we will be moving all the objects, documents, files, photographs, and furniture that make up our entire collection into a new facility. The new facility will be located at 11526 C Ave. Plans are well underway for this year's Heritage Trail event. Please save the dates 8/11 and 8/12 so you can "ride" the trail. Just as last year, there are 18 museums that will participate from Roseville to Tahoe and each one will be open free of charge from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

On a final note, I have been the editor of *The Placer* for the past seven years and have greatly enjoyed the challenge of putting each issue together. But now it's time to pass this task on to another staff member. Kasia Woroniecka, Curator of Collections, is the new editor of *The Placer*. She is a great researcher and writer and she will do a terrific job as editor.

### Community Education

#### Program: *Petroglyphs, An Archaeologist's Perspective*

Please join us on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm the second floor of the Bernhard Museum Winery for our next Community Education Program: *Petroglyphs, An Archaeologist's Perspective*. Tahoe National Forest Archaeologist Nolan Smith will treat you to a series of images of petroglyphs recorded by archaeologists working near all three main forks of the American River.

What are petroglyphs? They are the patterns of lines and images carved into stone.

Unlike pictographs, which are images drawn or painted onto a rock's surface, petroglyphs are created by removing part of the rock itself.

Who created them? Why were they created? What do they mean? We don't have all the answers to these questions, but Nolan will share his knowledge and insights about petroglyphs through an informative PowerPoint presentation.

Reservations are required for this program.

This program is FREE!

### Community Education Program: Jump into Summer ~ 19<sup>th</sup> Century Kid's Games

It's almost summer! Help us kick off our favorite season with a fun romp through history! Bring your family on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to the Bernhard Museum anytime between 10:00 and 12:00. We will have period games, Living History crafts, kid-friendly tours of the Bernhard House, and hand-cranked ice cream.

Take a step back in time with your whole family for a taste of yesteryear's summertime fun! This program is FREE!

The Bernhard Museum is located at 291 Auburn-Folsom Road in Auburn.

For more information about either of these programs, please call 530-889-6500.

### Placer County Historical Society Board for 2012- 13:

Michael Otten, President;  
George Lay, 1st Vice  
President; Addah Owens,  
2nd Vice President  
(programs); Bonnie Parodi,  
Secretary; Al Stoll,  
Treasurer. Board members:  
(2012-13 to 2013-14)  
Sherri Schackner, Walt  
Wilson, Penny Watson,  
Karri Samson (2011-2012  
to 2012-2013) Karen  
Bleuel, Jean Allender, John  
Knox, Appointed: Barbara  
Burdick, membership;  
Donna Howell and Mike  
Lynch, books; Betty  
Samson, oral history/dinner  
reservations.

## Placer County Historical Society News



### President's Message

*Michael Otten,  
President*

Quasquicentennial. What a term! I guess it is time to start getting used to this six-syllable word that would give most spelling bee contestants pause. Councilman Mike Holmes has started bandying the term about to gain support for the city's first official roster of historic places, a better historical preservation ordinance and ceremonies to formally recognize the increasing number of local listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

Committees are forming to observe the 125th anniversary next year of the reincorporation of the City of Auburn by a vote of 167 to 62. If life is not better the second time around, at least it is longer. The town of Auburn was incorporated the first time in 1860. John R. Gwynn, John Russell and Henry Hubbard served as the first city commissioners. Alas, the first time around was only about six years. The city had also voted a \$50,000 subsidy to help build the Sacramento, Placer and Nevada railroad. A much better deal came our way in the form of the Central Pacific Railroad pushing its way through Bloomer Cut. City fathers decided to disincorporate. But like April showers bringing May flowers, city incorporation was reborn on May 2, 1888. So

it seems fitting that May 2013 would be a grand time for Auburn's quasquicentennial parade.

Since the Mountain Quarries Art Contest and Show was a surprising success story, we can start work on an even grander call to artists, featuring works based on the City's Landmarks, particularly those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We could have monthly unveilings of special NRHP markers with tours of our special buildings. We could develop a Quasquicentennial logo, featuring the Bud Pisarek designed city icon in the middle.

Interested in researching a special history edition of Auburn, the state's only city to be the county seat of two different counties and to be incorporated twice? Let us know and we can put you to work. And who knows, Auburn could even be a "charter city" by then.

In March the 1915-built Auburn Grammar School became Placer County's 30<sup>th</sup> listing on the National Register. The building at 1225 Lincoln Way, currently our City Hall, Civic Center and Community Center, is the city's third city hall to make the register. In December, the previous City Hall and Fire Station was also listed. The Fire Station Bay portion is about to reopen as the Placer County Visitors Bureau and California Welcome Center once work on the fire alarm system is complete. In March 2011, the Auburn Public Library, whose basement doubled as City Hall from 1909

to 1937, was listed. Other recent Auburn listings are Auburn Hose Co. No. 1, Auburn Fire House No. 2, Odd Fellows Hall, Masonic Temple, the Placer County Bank, El Toyon and the Mountain Quarries Bridge.

In case you missed it, David Allen, who finishes his term this month as grand president of the Native Sons of the Golden West, presided over the historical dedication on March 10<sup>th</sup>, of the Native Sons Building at 301 Commercial St., home of Auburn Parlor #59. Allen is the first 59er to serve as state grand president.

[otten@ssctv.net](mailto:otten@ssctv.net)

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### Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

*Addah Owens, Vice President*

**When:** June 7, 2012

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

Program

**Where:** Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East St., Auburn, CA

**Cost:** \$14 per person

**Menu:** Barbecued ribs and chicken, campfire beans, potato salad, green salad, rolls and dessert.

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

**Program:** Jack Duncan will present a program on nuclear testing in Nevada. Jack graduated from UC Berkeley in 1951 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He spent 29 years at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 13 of which were directly associated with nuclear explosives.



Auburn Grammar School, now  
City Hall

## **Placer County Historical Organizations**

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Colfax Area Historical Society  
Helen Wayland,  
(530) 346-7040  
[www.colfaxhistory.org](http://www.colfaxhistory.org)

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

Foresthill Divide Historical Society  
Sandy Simester,  
(530) 367-3535  
[www.foreshillhistory.org](http://www.foreshillhistory.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 Area Archives Museum  
Shirley Russell, (916) 645-3800

Lincoln Highway Association  
Bob Dieterich, [bohd@iname.com](mailto:bohd@iname.com)  
[www.lincolnhwy.org](http://www.lincolnhwy.org)

Loomis Basin Historical Society  
Dot Shiro, (916) 663-3892  
<http://www.ppgn.com/loomishistorical.html>

Maidu Museum & Historic Site  
Glenie Strome, (916) 782-3299  
[www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum)

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

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association  
Aileen Gage, (530) 885-9113

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

Placer County Genealogical Society  
[www.pcgenes.com](http://www.pcgenes.com)

Placer County Historical Society  
Michael Otten, (530) 888-7837  
[otten@ssctv.net](mailto:otten@ssctv.net)

Placer County Museums Docent Guild  
Sandi Tribe, (530) 887-9143

Rocklin Historical Society  
Jean Sippola,  
(916) 652-1034  
[www.rocklinhistory.org](http://www.rocklinhistory.org)

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

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society  
Javier Rodriguez, (530) 583-1762  
[www.northtahoemuseums.org](http://www.northtahoemuseums.org)

### **Did you know that...?**

There are at least 17,500 museums in the United States.



**The Official Museum Directory** (OMD) is the most comprehensive directory of museums in the United States, with more than 8,300 entries. Published annually, this reference book lists participating museums by state as well as alphabetically.

**The International Council of Museums** (ICOM) website lists print and online directories of museums. The list includes publications that are available for sale as well as those that are part of ICOM's Information Center.

## 2012 Calendar of Events

### May

- May 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm** Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum. 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville  
Contact: 916-773-3003.
- May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm** Community Education Program: “*Petroglyphs –An Archeologist’s Perspective*” at the Bernhard Winery.  
Contact 530-889-6500. Reservations required.
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.  
Contact: 916-663-3871.
- May 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 pm** Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting at the Forest Hill Divide Museum.  
Contact: 530-367-3535.
- May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary’s Chapel at 5152 Front Street.  
Contact: 916-652-1034.
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library.  
Contact 530-885-2216.

### June

- June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting at the Veteran’s Memorial Hall. Contact: 530-885-5074.
- June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm** Community Education Program: *Jump Into Summer -19<sup>th</sup> Century Kids’ Games*. Bernhard Museum  
Contact: 530-889-6500.
- June 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm** Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum. 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville  
Contact: 916-773-3003.
- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm** Historical Advisory Board meeting at the Bernhard Winery.  
Contact: 530-889-6500.
- June 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm** Forest Hill Divide Historical Society Dinner meeting at the Foresthill Memorial Hall.  
Contact: 530-367-3535.
- June 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.  
Contact: 916-663-3871.
- June 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library.  
Contact 530-885-2216.

**Placer County Museums**  
**101 Maple Street**  
**Auburn, CA 95603**

