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Administrator's Notes

by Ralph Gibson, Museums Administrator

The Demons, Ghouls, Witches, and Avengers have all been put away and the stage is being set for the Big Feast, The Big Day and the Big Party. That's right, the Holidays are around the corner. Each year we interpret the season in different ways at each of our museums. At the Bernhard Museum we have Victorian Christmas where we explore the various holiday traditions of the era. This year we have a special surprise that you'll have to see for yourself.



At the Griffith Quarry Museum in Penryn we highlight 19th century Welsh Christmas traditions, something Wales-born Griffith Griffith would have been quite familiar with. At the Gold Rush Museum we have excerpts of letters and diaries that highlight what was happening on Christmas Day 1849 in the lives of four miners. At our Placer County Museum in the historic Courthouse we have our grand Christmas

Tree beautifully decorated with gold ornaments by our staff and volunteers. We also have a community Christmas tree in the Treasury decorated with paper ornaments made by museum visitors.

This year we will add our DeWitt History Museum to the mix. We have an array of 1940s ornaments and lights and will dress the museum up as a war time Christmas celebration. So please stop by and visit one of our museums to

get into the spirit of the holidays this year. The Museums will be fully decorated for the season the Saturday after Thanksgiving. If you're interested in helping us decorate the tree in the historic Courthouse or the Bernhard Museum, please call Renee at 530-889-6500.

I hope all of you have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Some doubted that such an achievement was possible, until the dress was made

Is there a photograph of the infamous Rattlesnake Dick in them?

We'll talk about your interests

You certainly want to get a copy of this new edition

Collection Strategy

by *Kasia Woroniecka, Curator of Collections*

Flapper Dress

This beautiful beaded and sequined flapper dress was recently donated to our collection. It was made in the 1920s which, according to American Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, was a time when “the parties were bigger, the pace was faster, the shows were broader, the buildings were higher, the morals were looser, and the liquor was cheaper.” It was also a time that saw a New Woman emerge who smoked, danced, dated and drank alcohol – she was the Flapper.

Flapper had her origins in the Gibson Girl of the 1890s, who played sports and attended college - activities traditionally reserved for men. Women’s roles were redefined forever by World War I, as they stepped in to fill jobs vacated by men fighting the war in Europe. Their new position gave women financial independence and a strong desire to part with the strict values of their Victorian relatives.

While not every woman was a flapper, by the mid-1920s the short skirt was in style outside the big cities and for women of all ages. To demonstrate their independence in the post-war period, the flappers took off their corsets and shortened their skirts, dropping the waistline



to the hips and leaving the arms bare. The newer, simpler silhouette stressed slenderness and mobility, required for the Jazz Age dances like the Charleston and Shimmy.

It became much faster and easier for women to dress fashionably as mass production and the development of affordable synthetic fabrics gave them access to beautiful clothing and shoes. When announcement was first made in 1923 that Mary Brooks Picken of the Woman's Institute had developed a new plan by which an attractive dress could be made in an hour, it aroused tremendous interest among women everywhere. Some doubted that such an achievement was possible, until the dress was made in a public demonstration in the Grand Central Palace, New York, in 34 minutes. The fact was recorded in the New York newspapers and attested to by officials of the National Merchandise Fair.

Even though the happy-go-lucky flapper lifestyle and look did not survive the hardships of the Great Depression it set the tone for the American popular culture and modern American society. Forced with a challenging reality the flapper lifestyle faded amid soup kitchens and bread lines.

From the Archives: Looking for Clues

by Bryanna Ryan, Curator of Archives

Many of the photographs that make their way into archives and museums are unidentified. Finding clues to help identify the subjects can be daunting, if not near impossible.



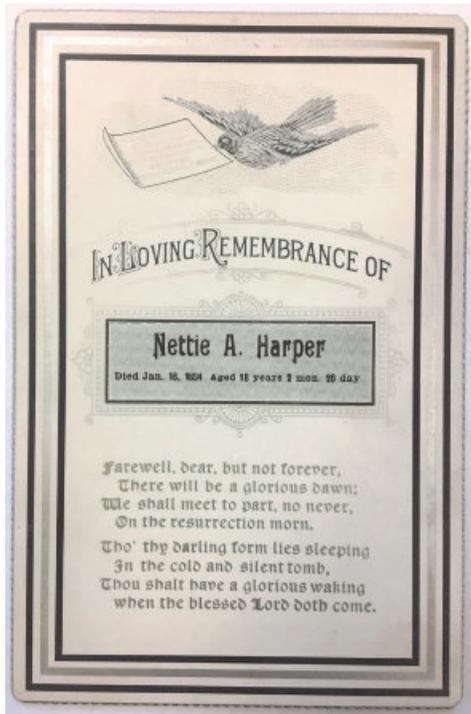
Photo “orphans” happen when names are not written on photographs or in albums and they are eventually distanced from any last remaining relative who could describe their identity. They end up in yard sales, antique stores, and sadly even the trash.

While orphaned images can still provide valuable insight into clothing, hairstyles, accessories and studio props that were once popular, learning the names and details of the lives of these subjects is what we really hope for. Collaborating with other museums offers one possible avenue for institutions to expand their investigations and attempt to put names to these timeless faces.

Recently, the Folsom History Museum brought us a box of orphaned photograph albums they had been storing since the 1960s in hopes that we might be able to shed some light into their provenance.

Could they be from Placer County? Is there a photograph of the infamous Rattlesnake Dick in them? Wishful thinking on that last part and no, they are too late in time period but that would have been fantastic.

A cursory look into these albums starts to reveal clues we will follow in our investigation. A few names appear and this is where we will start our search.



There is also a memorial card for eight-



een-year old, Nettie A. Harper who died January 16, 1894. Does this name ring a bell for anyone?



We may never know if this album has a Placer County connection or why Tom

O’Keefe sent his photograph to Carrie Stein but we are happy to do our part to help our fellow museums. Who knows, maybe we will find a clue that they have made their way to the right place, after all.

By the way, if anyone has a photograph of Auburn’s historic courthouse under construction we would love to speak with you!

Come to Our Home for the Holidays!

by Katy Bartosh, Curator of Education

kbartosh@placer.ca.gov 530.889.6506

The holiday season is a busy time for tours. Out of town relatives visiting, students off school, and time away from work give people free time and the question of how to fill it. Our museums provide the perfect place to spend an afternoon, or two!

through a variety of interactive exhibits. Miners of all ages will then learn the perfect technique to pan for gold in our indoor stream. Mil-

Scheduling a tour is an easy process that provides big results for the individuals who get a one-on-one experience. Call the Museum office at 530-889-6500 and ask to schedule a tour. We'll talk about your interests, where, and when you want to go. If it's something we can do, we'll schedule something for your specific needs.

The Bernhard Museum will be decorated for Victorian Christmas in late November. Schedule a tour to learn the home's unique history and discover the roots of Christmas as we know it today. If you're more interested in a hands on approach, try the Gold Rush Museum. Visitors will feel like they've experienced the history as they're lead

tary enthusiasts and Auburn locals alike will enjoy a trip through our newest addition, the DeWitt History Museum, where a wall length aerial photo of the DeWitt Military Hospital immediately draws your attention.



Placer County Museums are perfect for welcoming tours of 30 or a family of three. Call and schedule a tour today. We have a dedicated group of volunteers to help interpret our great selection of exhibits.



News from Placer County Historical Society

by April McDonald-Loomis, President

April400@wavecable.com (530) 823-2128

The Society is currently reviewing the historical plaques that we have previously placed about town with the idea of making sure they are historically correct. Lots of them were placed a long time ago and based on oral tradition instead of on facts. If you know of a plaque that needs to be placed on our list for reconsideration, please let one of the board members know.

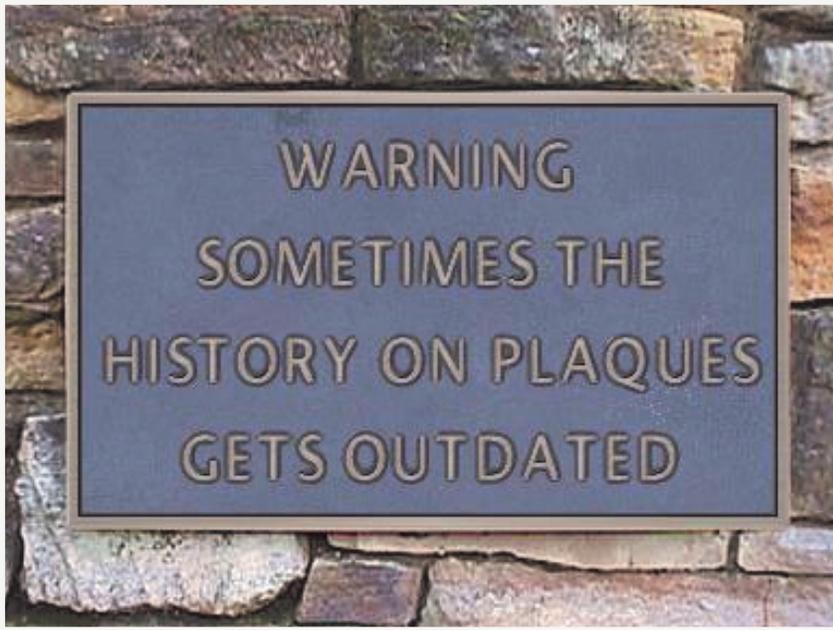
The Society will soon have a completely revamped edition of *Auburn Images*, the book of photographs from the Mel Locher collection. Even if you already have an

old edition, you certainly want to get a copy of this new edition. It is filled with updated and new information

Also in December is the annual end of year raffle. This is always a fun event. So bring some items to raffle off or

just come and buy tickets! This is a major fund raiser for the Society.

The city of Auburn has just launched a new website, www.auburn.ca.gov. Check out the great slideshow of town photos put together by Amy Lind, the City Clerk and the City Historian. Go to the website, then to *Visitors*, then to *Auburn History*.



about scenes from Auburn's past. The books will be available at the next general meeting in December.

Hope to see you all at the December 6th general meeting.

Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

by Addah Owens, Vice President

When: December 6th, 2018

Time: 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

Where: Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn

Cost: \$16 per person

Menu: TBA

Program: The program will be part 2 of Brendan Compton's *Rotaries, Ava-*

lanche on the Mountain Part II. This story picks up where Part I left off, in Truckee, California and takes viewers west over Donner Summit battling the heavy winter snow! Men and machine team up to wage an epic battle against Mother Nature's wrath on the Sierra. This film provides viewers with an inside exclusive look into the rotary plow

operations during the epic snowstorm of March 2011.

DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL.

Mail Dinner Checks to:

PCHS c/o Jane Hamilton,
1871 Crockett Road, Auburn, CA
95603. (530) 885-7839 or
hamiltonjane1@me.com

Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society

Gayle Sorensen
(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

Sarah Fugate
(530) 389-2121

Historical Advisory Board

Glenn Vineyard
(916) 747-1961

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center

Richard Yue
(530) 346-7121

Lincoln Area Archives Museum

Elizabeth Jansen
(916) 645-3800
laamca.org

Lincoln Highway Association

Bob Dieterich
bobd@iname.com
lincolnhighwayassoc.org

Loomis Basin Historical Society

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

Maidu Museum & Historic Site

Kaitlin Kincade
(916) 774-5934
roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

The Museum of Sierra Ski History and 1960 Winter Olympics

David C. Antonucci
(775) 722-3502
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

Marnie Carr
(530) 583-1762
northtahoemuseums.org

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society

Lynn Carpenter
(530) 885-1252

Placer County Genealogical Society

Toni Rosasco
(530) 888-8036
pcgenes.com

Placer County Historical Society

April McDonald-Loomis
(530) 823-2128
placercountymuseumsociety.org

Placer County Museums Docent Guild

Fran Hanson
(530) 878-6990

Rocklin Historical Society

Jim Carlson
(916) 624-3464
rocklinhistory.org

Roseville Fire Museum

Jim Giblin (916) 538-1809
rosevillefiremuseum@gmail.com
rosevillefiremuseum.org

Roseville Historical Society

Christina Richter
(916) 773-3003
rosevillehistorical.org

November

- 1** 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, Parks & Recreation Office, 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-3464

- 13** 9:00 am HOC Meeting, Dutch Flat Community Center, Dutch Flat (530) 889-6500

- 13** 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society board meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville (916) 773-3003

- 17** 1:00 pm "Ladies, Which Story Would Have Been Yours in Gold Rush Days?" Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500

- 19** 6:00 pm Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535

- 19** 6:00 pm Loomis Basin Historical Society general meeting, Loomis Library

December

- 6** 6:30 pm Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting - Auburn Veteran's Hall, 100 East St, Auburn. (530) 906-4901

- 10** 6:00 pm Rocklin Historical Society board meeting, Parks & Recreation Office, 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-3464

- 11** 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society board meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville (916) 773-3003

- 12** 5:30 pm Historical Advisory Board meeting, Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500

- 19** 6:00 pm Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting, Loomis Library (916) 663-3871





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Volume 21, Issue 5

September-October 2018