



The Placer

2020 March-April

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Administrator's Notes

by Ralph Gibson, Museums Administrator

The general public often thinks of museums as places where historic relics are preserved and put on display with informative text. This quaint description barely scratches the surface of what we really do.

We educate through public programs, documentaries, and exhibits that interpret our history so that everyone can learn what came before.

We store and preserve historic objects, photographs, maps, and documents so researchers today or in the far future can learn about our past.

In a sense, museums serve as the living memory of our history. Some people today deny the holocaust ever happened; some believe the moon landings were faked; and in Texas, a high school history textbook removed the word "slaves" and replaced it with "workers" – one step toward denying that the institution of slavery ever existed.

Museums have never been as important as they are now. It's up to all of you to tap into the living memory of our past by visiting or volunteering in a museum and to never forget.



Placer County Museums recently received a unique collection.

It already feels like fair season at the Archives and Collections Facility.

The Historical Society is keeping busy this year.

Victorians, seances, and spirits? Come to our Community Education event in April!

What a Relief

by Kasia Woroniecka, Curator of Collections

Some of the objects in our collection tell stories of adventure, invention, or romance while others have stories of true necessity. The collection of bedpans that was recently accepted belongs to the last category.

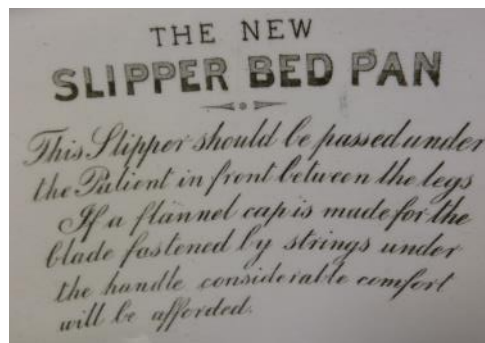
Bedpans, the less glamorous cousins of the chamber pot, have been used for centuries by people who were too weak to get out of bed to take care of basic needs. The “flushing of the bowels” was often the recommended treatment for many ailments and bedpans, the ordinary, everyday objects that tell stories of patient care and human suffering, kept nurses busy.

Most bedpans in our collection are mass produced items without manufacturers labels, making them difficult to date. Old sick room utensils were often made of pewter, brass or glass. Porcelain and china were used in the late 19th century. In the early 20th century many were made of enamel and stainless steel. Since the 1960’s bedpans and urinal basins have been made of plastics and other disposable materials.

Boots “Slipper” bedpan, England, c. 1900-1950

Due to its shape this bedpan is known as a “slipper” bedpan.

Instructions are printed directly on the pan: “This Slipper should be passed under the Patient in front between the legs. If a flannel cap is made for the blade fastened by strings under the handle considerable comfort will be afforded.”



Jones Relax Bedpan c. 1930s.

This metal bedpan is coated in porcelain enamelware and was manufactured by the Jones Metal Products, Co. of West Lafayette, Ohio. It is the seamless no. 500 model, which set the standard for bedpan design, and its size and shape has not changed much since the 1940’s. Jones Metal Products Company began business in 1923, at the site of a former metal stamping and porcelain enameling company in West Lafayette, Ohio. It began producing pots and pans, but soon after shifted to the production of hospital utensils.

Porcelain bedpan and female urinal c. 1890-1930s.

Even empty these bedpans are quite heavy. The one pictured weighs about 5 pounds and is the "slipper" type, later referred to as a "fracture" bedpan. It was used by patients who suffered fractures or had undergone joint replacement surgery.



Ceramic bedpan c. 1900-1930.

Stamped in green inside the rim: "Original 'Perfection' Bed and Douche pan, The most comfortable and sanitary bedpan in the world. For hospital and home". Made in England by Grimwade's Ltd, Stoke-on-Trent. The company started around 1885 and specialized in earthenware and fine bone china.



Ceramic bedpan

Female Urinals (below)

Blue granite-ware bedpan.



Fair Weather

by Kelsey Monahan, Curator of Archives

Despite the chilly weather it's feeling a bit like summer at the Archives and Research Center. Volunteers and interns are busy processing two new collections: The Placer County Fair Collection that came to the Archives in 2017, and the Gold Country Fair Collection which was acquired last year.



Fair Entertainers, 1971, Placer County Fair Collection

These collections include many photographs and slides. Processing them requires looking at every image, creating an inventory, rehousing them in archival materials, scanning, and entering them into our database. It is a time intensive process but in the end these collections be preserved and accessible

to researchers for years to come.

The Gold Country Fair began as the 20th District Agricultural Fair in Auburn in 1889. However, from 1903 to 1936, no agricultural fairs were held in Auburn. In 1937, the State apportioned money to encourage district and county fairs. This enabled Placer County to

hold the first annual Placer County Fair in Roseville, and for the 20th District Agricultural Association in Auburn to obtain state funds and hold a fair again. The 20th District Agricultural Fair was later called the Auburn District Fair, and then eventually the Gold Country Fair.

The material from these collections can tell us a lot about Placer County. They are a glimpse into how we celebrated, the fashions we wore, and how fairs in Placer County have changed over time. We're excited to be caring for these collection and to share a sample of their contents.

Native Sons of the Golden West Meeting

by Dave Allen, Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59

The Native Sons of the Golden West, Auburn Parlor #59 invite you to join in the festivities of their annual 49er Days on Saturday, March 14th. It is an event that moves around the Highway 49 corridor with this year in Auburn.

After an initiation of new members at 10:00am, it is open to the public at 1:00pm with a formal Native Sons dedication of the Historic Women's Jail. This is part of Placer County Mu-

seums, located under the steps of the Placer County Historic Courthouse in Old Town Auburn.

The evening banquet begins at 5:00 pm at the new Springhill Suites located on Bowman Road, with a chicken and Tri Tip BBQ dinner provided by Carol's Market of Ophir. Retired California State Park Historian Mary Helmich, will present her recently published book *A Legacy in Brick and Iron - Sac-*

ramento's Central and Southern Pacific Railroad Shops. This is an all-inclusive book on the innovation and importance of this railroad hub to the United States.

If you are interested in dinner tickets, which are \$30.00 per person, call Dave Allen at 530-401-1000, the Auburn Native Sons Hall at 530-887-1267, or email at dsallen59@sbcglobal.net

News from Placer County Historical Society

by April McDonald-Loomis, President

April400@wavecable.com (530) 823-2128

The Society Board is making progress on several projects. The Digital Lab at the County Archives, which we helped fund, is rapidly approaching completion. It will be a huge asset to researchers. Some maps in the collection are nearly inaccessible due to their size. This will not pose a problem with new projection and zoom capabilities.

We are still working on a plaque for the old Templar's Building at 812 Lincoln Way. We are trying to find something other than bronze, as they tend to disappear these days. It has not been easy finding something affordable and durable. The last few plaques we have placed have cost around \$700 each! We

need something more affordable and less "collectable." If anyone has any recommendations, please let us know!

The PCHS's booklets "Infamous Crimes in Placer County" and "The Placer County Courthouse" have both been rewritten and republished. If you would like a copy for \$5.00 contact us through the website, no charge for shipping.

The Board was floating an idea to help finance a piece of historically significant art for the large pedestal in Central Square but struck out with the Arts Commission. They currently have jurisdiction over any public art in historic

districts after the Salmon Statue controversy. Let's hope they will be more aware of our history for the next piece of art that goes in the historic district.

The Courthouse was the topic of the last general dinner meeting where Judge Garen Horst gave a great presentation. Just a reminder, everyone is welcome to come to the meetings. The dinner is \$16.00 per person, but if you only want hear the speaker, you are most welcome at no charge. The next general dinner meeting will be April 2nd. We don't have a speaker yet but will post it on our website as soon as we do. Hope to see you there!

DeWitt Voice-O-Graphs

by Bryanna Ryan, Supervising Curator

For the past year, we have patiently awaited the opportunity to hear voices from the DeWitt General Hospital which were recorded on "Voice-O-Graph" 45 RPM record discs in 1945. People like Colonel Smith, Colonel Storck, and Lorraine Anderson preserved personal messages, and the opportunity to have their voices come to life was incredible.

These lacquered cardboard discs (seven of them) were originally created in a portable recording booth provided by

the American Red Cross. They were beyond our capabilities to safely play, so we nominated them to be a part of the California Revealed Project and they have now been digitized. The big day finally arrived, and the audio files were sent to us to review!

We gathered, breathless with anticipation to hear the messages contained.

What words of wisdom did Colonel Smith share? Surely, the content must be very special for them to have been recorded and saved for posterity...

The occasion for the recordings was Lorraine Anderson's 20th birthday. From the sounds of it, the crew were really feeling the effects of the celebration by the time they decided to make these recordings. While not quite what we expected, they do offer a glimpse of the camaraderie of the staff and give a little insight to their time here which was otherwise, off the books.

As soon as the files are published online, we will send you all the link.

Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society

Jay McIntyre, President
(530) 346-8599
colfaxhistory.org

Donner Summit Historical Society

Bill Oudegeest (209) 606-6859
donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

Foresthill Divide Historical Society

Troy Simester
(530) 367-3535
foresthillhistory.org

Fruitvale School Hall Community Association

Mark Fowler

Gold Country Medical History Museum

Lynn Carpenter
(530) 885-1252

Golden Drift Historical Society

Sarah Fugate
(530) 389-2121

Historical Advisory Board

Glenn Vineyard
(916) 747-1961

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center

Larry Finney
(530) 305-9380

Lincoln Area Archives Museum

Elizabeth Jansen
(916) 645-3800
laamca.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
sierraskimuseum.com

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

(530) 583-1762
northtahoemuseums.org

Placer County Genealogical Society

Toni Rosasco
(530) 888-8036
pcgenes.com

Placer County Historical Society

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

Placer County Museums Docent Guild

Fran Hanson
(530) 878-6990

Rocklin Historical Society

Hank Lohse
(916) 624-3464
rocklinhistory.org

Roseville Fire Museum

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

Roseville Historical Society

Denise Fiddymment
(916) 773-3003
rosevillehistorical.org

March

April

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| <p>5 2:00pm Placer County Historical Society Board Meeting, Room 10, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn. (530) 906-4901</p> | <p>2 6:00pm Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting - Auburn Veteran's Hall, 100 East St, Auburn. (530) 885-7839, hamiltonjane1@me.com RSVP</p> |
| <p>7 5:30pm "Murder and Mystery," The Pour Choice, 177 Sacramento Street, Auburn. (530) 889-6500.</p> | <p>13 6:00pm Rocklin Historical Society Board Meeting, Parks & Recreation Office, 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-3464</p> |
| <p>9 6:00pm Rocklin Historical Society Board Meeting, Parks & Recreation Office, 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-3464</p> | <p>14 4:00pm Roseville Historical Society Board Meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003</p> |
| <p>10 4:00pm Roseville Historical Society Board Meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003</p> | <p>15 5:30pm Historical Advisory Board Meeting, Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500</p> |
| <p>16 6:00pm Forest Hill Divide Historical Society Business Meeting, Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535</p> | <p>15 6:00pm Loomis Basin Historical Society General Meeting, Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871</p> |
| <p>18 6:00pm Loomis Basin Historical Society General Meeting, Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871</p> | <p>18 1:00pm "Victorian Spiritualism," Bernhard Museum, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd, Auburn. (530) 889-6500</p> |
| <p>26 7:00pm Placer Genealogical Society Meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library, Auburn. (530) 885-2216</p> | <p>23 7:00pm Placer Genealogical Society Meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library, Auburn. (530) 885-2216</p> |

Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

<p>When: April 2, 2020</p>	<p>Program: TBD</p>	<p>95603. (530) 885-7839 or hamiltonjane1@me.com</p>
<p>Time: 6pm dinner, 7:30pm program</p>	<p>We must have all RSVPs by March 31st.</p>	<p>DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL.</p>
<p>Where: Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn</p>	<p>Mail Dinner Checks to:</p>	
<p>Cost: \$16 per person</p>	<p>PCHS c/o Jane Hamilton, 1871 Crockett Road, Auburn, CA</p>	
<p>Menu: TBD</p>		



PLACER COUNTY MUSEUMS

101 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603

