



# The Placer

2021 September-October Volume 24, Issue 5

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## Administrator's Notes

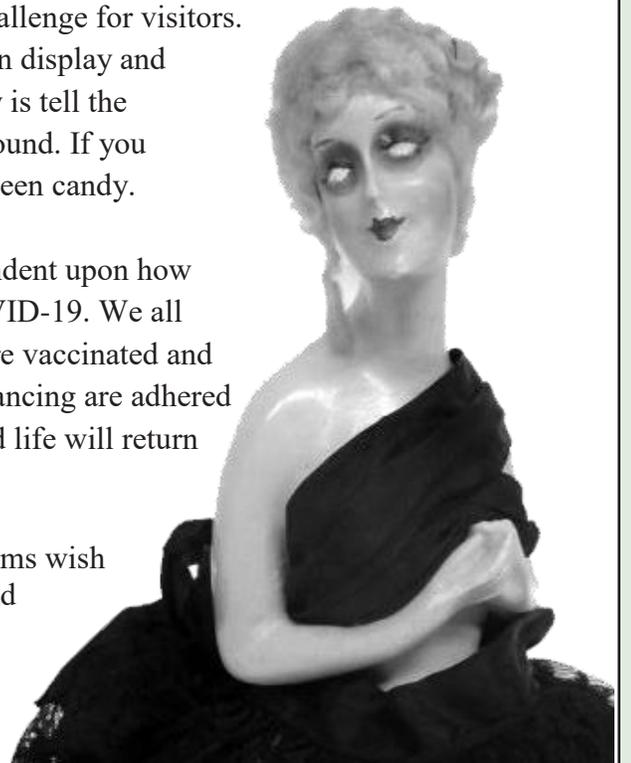
*by Ralph Gibson, Museums Administrator*

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love it when the leaves turn, the pumpkins ripen, and the warm days are tempered by a cooler wind. Okay, okay, and Halloween – you all know it's my favorite holiday. I've been wearing Halloween shirts since June this year. Last year we didn't get much of a fall because of the pandemic. There was no Cemetery Tour, no Ghost Tours and I didn't decorate the outside of my house like I usually do. This fall, though, looks to be a little different. The Cemetery Tour is planned for October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Old Auburn Cemetery. We'll have actors portraying significant people from our history near their plots with plenty of "Ghost Hosts" in the cemetery to help guide you. As always, the Cemetery Tour is free! The Old Auburn Ghost Tours are slated to happen October 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Tickets go on sale soon.

We will also decorate the Treasury of the Placer County Museum for Halloween and once again will have a creepy challenge for visitors. This year, we'll have Creepy Dolls on display and all you need to do to win some candy is tell the docent how many creepy dolls you found. If you found them all, you get some Halloween candy.

Of course, all of this is heavily dependent upon how we navigate the new variants of COVID-19. We all sincerely hope that as more people are vaccinated and mitigation tools like masks and distancing are adhered to, that the virus will finally wain and life will return to normal by early 2022.

All of us at the Placer County Museums wish you and yours a very safe, healthy and Happy Halloween!



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Have you ever heard of ping pong pictures?

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You can walk on the Golden Gate Bridge...in Roseville!

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The historical record isn't always what it appears to be.

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It's that time of year...

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## Ping Pong Pictures

by Kelsey Monahan, Curator of Archives

At the Archive and Research Center we recently received a donation of scanned images of a photograph album kept by Maud Remler, c. 1913. Maud was the daughter of Leonard Remler, who was a pioneer resident of Foresthill, opening his store there in 1864.



Page from the Maud Remler album, c. 1913.

movement the camera would make to capture multiple poses. This style of photography became popular because it was affordable, and often available in penny arcades and photo studios.



In addition to some great photographs of the Remler family and their Foresthill home, there are several pages of photo strips and small stamp-sized photos glued in.

At first glance my assumption was that the strips of photos were photo-booth images, due to their small size and format. However, upon further research, I found that the first automatic photobooth was not invented until 1925, after the c. 1913 date of the album.

It turns out these types of photographs are often called “ping pong photos,” and were invented in the 1890s. The term ping pong comes from the rapid

**AMERICA'S LATEST FAD**

**Ping Pong Photos**

**WHY** Because they are the cream of small photos.  
**WHERE** In every friend's pocket.  
**WHEN** Right now while you are smiling.  
**HOW** By the small price you have to pay.  
**THEN** You won't look cross.  
**STOP** do it now.  
 In on your way down town today and have some taken.

American Photos of Americans made by Americans who know how.  
 Special prices: Small Ping Pongs, 24 for 25c.  
 Larger Ping Pongs, 12 for 35c.  
 Ping Pong Postals, 75c per doz. up.  
 Open Sundays all day.  
 Guaranteed not to fade.  
 918 K Street, Up-stairs.  
 2 Reception Room Girls to receive the Ladies & Children

The accessibility of ping pong photos and other advancements in camera technology made getting a photograph taken more casual than it had previously been. It was around this time that smiling in photographs became more commonplace, and many of the photo strips in this album contain both serious portrait poses and candid smiling snapshots.

It is not hard to see why these types of photos were so popular, and why the later invention of the photobooth was such a success. There is something about seeing multiple snapshots of the same person that almost seems to bring them to life.

*Sacramento Star March 19, 1910*



# Golden Gate History in Roseville

by Christina Richter, Administrative Clerk, Archives & Collections

A part of Golden Gate Bridge history resides in Roseville, but few people could you tell you where it’s located. Hidden in plain sight, the telltale orange beams are part of the beautiful Miners Ravine Trail opened by the City of Roseville in 1992.

Prior to 1992 the Miners Ravine Parkway was inaccessible, as there was no way to cross the creek. The trail was originally built in 1988 as an access road to a sewer line but was otherwise unused. That all changed when developer Nick Alexander came upon a creative solution to help open the trail to the public.

Through his network he was notified of the availability of retired I-beams from the Golden Gate Bridge that could be purchased at a relatively inexpensive cost. The beams were acquired and work crews began to create the concrete abutments for six bridges to cross Miners Ravine Creek along a two-mile pathway.

The actual span of the bridges will be steel-reinforced concrete sections that were retired from San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge about six years ago. The orange paint is still visible on the 1940s-era steel girders, as are the traffic markers on the cement road surface.

At 51-feet long and 25-tons each, three Golden Gate 1940s-era steel I-beams were cut in half and anchored onto the concrete abutments. According to a June 26, 1992 Press Tribune article (above), “the sections were so heavy they burned out a crane that removed them from the trucks delivering them from the Bay Area...” Once successfully moved, the I-beams were cut in half, then each was placed in the pre-engineered area for the six bridges.



One of the benefits of these heavy bridges is that they will withstand a 100-year flood, and that fact was proven in 1997 when Roseville experienced one of its worst floods in a century. The bridges performed beautifully and proved to be a solid addition to the trail.

This portion of the Miners Ravine Trail can be accessed from the back of the United Artist Movie Theater parking lot off Eureka Blvd., and from the trail parking lot off Orvietto Drive.

## Rules for Teachers

by Katy Bartosh, Curator of Education

Rules for Teachers. One, you will not marry during the term of your contract. Two, you are not to keep company with men. And thus starts the list of twelve rules for teachers in 1915, attributed (on this particular poster) to the Carnegie Museum. In the same style is a 1848 “Punishments” poster that lists twenty-four offenses and the accompanying number of lashes that students would receive for breaking them

I found these two lists in the cabinet at our new Fruitvale School Museum. They seemed to be an excellent addition to the new living history and exhibit content I’m creating. It’s not hard to imagine an old rural schoolteacher in Placer County following these rules. “You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.” They’re amusing, and believable, in that “oh, those silly old-time sensibilities!” way.

However, a quick Google search to find more information led to more questions than answers. The “1915 Rules for Teachers” appear verbatim on material from The Little Red School House in Humboldt, “One-room Schools of Knox County,” the University of Hawai’i, and the Portage County Historical Society – to name just a few. And, to further complicate matters, each of these websites quote a different source. Are they from Placer County? Maybe Cabell County West Virginia? Or the Pennington Institute for Young Ladies? Are they even real?

A 2013 article from Open Culture explored this conundrum. According to the author, these rules are generally attributed to Sacramento, but their exact source is still unknown. But I think a quote from the New Hampshire Historical Society captures the bigger issue at hand. “The sources for these ‘rules’ are unknown; thus we cannot attest to their authenticity – only to their verisimilitude and charming quaintness.”

How many times have I had a local *insist* that there are *definitely* tunnels under [insert historic Auburn building or site here]. Our past is full of facts and figures, but urban legends and embellished histories abound. It’s easy to imagine a secret tunnel running under the courthouse. Not only could you quickly rationalize why such a tunnel might exist, but it also makes a great story. But is there actually a prohibition era tunnel from the Historic Courthouse to the White House? No.

Rules for teachers; these could be completely accurate (and I’m determined to track down their origin), but it’s not their veracity that’s spread them far and wide. We tend to like the past to be charming; interesting, but in a harmless, anecdotal way.

These rules serve as an interesting reminder of how we study the past, versus create The Past. I’ll keep you all posted.

## News from Placer County Historical Society

by April McDonald-Loomis, President

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As most of you know, we had to cancel our much-anticipated August Dinner Meeting due to the River Fire in Colfax. The County requested we cancel our meeting so they could use the space for evacuees and their pets. We're glad this space was of assistance to the community and our hearts go out to everyone who was affected by this, and other recent wildfires. We will tentatively plan for the October 7<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting and will let you know via email and newspaper press releases.

Some good news; our plaques are up on Firehouse # 1 thanks to Matt at the City's Public Works Department. The plans for the Bernhard Anniversary celebration are moving forward. This will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Museums' "Smores and Stories" event at the Bernhard. John Knox and Carol Cramer's book the Bernhard family will be available at that time. This is a great piece of work that chronicles the family's history with a mixture of narrative and primary source materials. The Society and the Placer County Historical Museum Foundation are funding a large run of this previously limited publication. This is a great opportunity to add to your local history book collection. It will also be available through our website soon.

The History Award Committee has received nominations for several incredible candidates for this year's award. The recipient will be announced at our December Dinner Meeting. Hopefully we'll be back to our regular schedule soon. Please stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you in October.

## Getting Back to the Bernhard

The Bernhard Museum has been closed since March 2020. We're looking forward to welcoming visitors, and students, back to the property in mid-September. The Museum now has a beautiful asphalt driveway and parking lot. Throughout August, contractors were busily grading, framing, pouring, and paving. There is also a new cement



sidewalk that winds around the lot, up to the porch, and over to the carriage barn.

This paving project will make the museum more easily accessible for all visitors, and hopefully help cut down on dirt and dust within the museum.

## Placer County Historical Organizations

### Colfax Area Historical Society

Jay McIntyre, President, (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

Troy Simester, (530) 367-3535  
[foresthillhistory.org](http://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](http://laamca.org)

### Lincoln Highway Association

Trey Pitsenberger

### Loomis Basin Historical Society

Karen Clifford, (916) 663-3871  
[ppgn.com/loomishistorical.html](http://ppgn.com/loomishistorical.html)

### Maidu Museum & Historic Site

Kaitlin Kincade, (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  
[tahoemuseum.org](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 Association

Mario Farinha, (530) 269-2412

### North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Phil Sexton, (530) 583-1762  
[northtahoemuseums.org](http://northtahoemuseums.org)

### Placer County Genealogical Society

Toni Rosasco, (530) 888-8036  
[pcgenes.com](http://pcgenes.com)

### Placer County Historical Society

April McDonald-Loomis  
 (530) 823-2128  
[placercountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://placercountyhistoricalsociety.org)

### Placer County Museums Docent Guild

Craig Norris

### Placer Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Chuck Spinks  
[Psrhs.org](http://Psrhs.org)

### Rocklin Historical Society

Hank Lohse, (916) 624-3464  
[rocklinhistory.org](http://rocklinhistory.org)

### Roseville Historical Society

Denise Fiddymont, (916) 773-3003  
[rosevillehistorical.org](http://rosevillehistorical.org)

### Calendar:

*Please confirm all meeting times and locations which each organization*

**Foresthill Divide Historical Society Meeting:** Monday, September 21st at 6:00pm

**Golden Drift Historical Society Meeting:** Monday, October 4th at 7:00pm

**Historical Advisory Board Meeting:** Wednesday, October 20th at 5:30pm

**Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting:** Wednesday, September 15th at 6:00pm; Wednesday, October 20th at 6:00pm

**Placer County Historical Society Meeting:** Thursday, September 2nd at 2:00pm, **Dinner Meeting:** October 7th, 6:00pm

**Placer Sierra Railroad Heritage Society:** Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00pm; Thursday, October 28th at 7:00pm

**Placer Genealogical Society Meeting:** Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00pm; Thursday, October 28th at 7:00pm

**Rocklin Historical Society Meeting:** Monday, September 13th at 6:00pm; Monday, October 11th at 6:00pm

**Roseville Historical Society Meeting:** Tuesday, September 14th at 4:00pm; Tuesday, October 12th at 4:00pm



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