

Book Review of Book published by the Placer County Historical Society
***Egbert, Sisson, Wallace and Crocker: Merchants, Lumbermen and Chinese Railroad Labor Contractors* by John Knox**

Those of us who have become familiar with John Knox's latest book, *Egbert, Sisson, Wallace and Crocker*, have been impressed with the depth of research and new insights into the men from Placer County who were instrumental in supplying Chinese labor for building the transcontinental railroad but little did we know that the book has had an even broader significance in the academic world.

Acclaimed historian and noted expert on the Chinese experience in America, Sue Fawn Chung, Professor Emerita -UNLV, has recently reviewed the book. In a three page evaluation, she notes that Knox's book contributes a great amount of new information about Chinese and the building of the railroad. She specifically mentions his evidence that many of the very first Chinese hired by Crocker came from the Dutch Flat-Auburn area. She also acknowledges Knox's challenge to the popular belief about Crocker hiring Chinese out of desperation. She is especially impressed with Knox's ability to discover hard to obtain facts through his use of local resources. She writes "His coverage of Sisson, Wallace & Co. is very important because there is little known about the company." She ends her review with "The strength of this study is Knox's access to local and regional material that are difficult to locate. This is why community historians are so valuable to our understanding of what transpired. I highly recommend this fascinating book to the general public and thank the Placer County Historical Society for publishing it.

Sue Fawn Chung, Ph.D.,
Professor Emerita, UNLV,
Advisor Emerita, NTHP

