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Ralph Gibson

Placer County Museums
Administrator
101 Maple St.
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-6500
rgibson@placer.ca.gov

Walt Wilson

President Placer County
Historical Society
P.O. Box 5643
Auburn, CA 95604
bonwally@hotmail.com

Jason Adair

Editor and Staff Writer
(530) 889-7702
jadair@placer.ca.gov

Administrator's Notes

2015 July-August

Volume 18, Issue 4

By Ralph Gibson



The Heritage Trail 2015 (August 15th & 16th) is fast approaching and this year brings some big changes. First, one museum has dropped out (the Western Skisport Museum) but another has dropped in (The Museum of Sierra Ski History and the 1960 Winter Olympics), which brings our total this year to 20 museums.

Another big change is this year we will have two mountain buses. On Saturday, the bus will run to Tahoe City where it will stop at the new Museum of Sierra Ski History, the Watson Cabin and the Gatekeepers Museum before heading up the hill where it will make a final stop at the Donner Summit Historical Society Museum. On Sunday, the bus begins at the Donner Summit Historical Society Museum before heading west to the Golden Drift Museum, the Colfax Area Heritage Museum and the Forest Hill Divide Museum. As always, reserved

seats are \$10 and we ask that you pack your own lunch. If you are interested, please call our office to reserve your seat today!

For the valley, we're trying something different. For Saturday only, we have reserved two Pride shuttles that will rotate between the seven valley museums. One shuttle will begin at the Maidu Museum and another at the Roseville Historical Society's Carnegie Museum. At 10:30 am, they move on to the next museum where they will stop, let passengers off and new passengers on, then head to the next and so on. The shuttles will run until 5:00 pm – one full hour after the last museum closes – to make sure everyone makes it back to their cars. We've never done this, so there are sure to be glitches, but we hope everyone will be patient and willing to give us good feedback so we can improve upon the idea next year.

Opposite is a bakery at street level with a restaurant above, also with a full balcony, plants hanging everywhere.

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Heidi Spearer enticed visitors to learn more about Victorian culture by making pretty little "tussie mussies."

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The American Red Cross was established by Clara Barton in 1881.

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In Search of Self

Her book of published letters, “In Search of Self, Reflections from the Eastern Caribbean” written by Mary Ann Bachman Kollenberg is in print and on E-book.

While serving as a US Peace Corps Volunteer on the Island of Dominica, 1992-1994, Mary Ann wrote home to friends and family and kept an extensive journal. She has recently compiled her adventure in a self-published book.

Born in Nevada County and raised in rural Lincoln, Mary Ann worked as administrative secretary at Lincoln High School, earned two bachelor degrees from Davis and CSUS respectively, worked for Placer County ROP and Sierra College for most of her adult life while residing in Auburn. She was very active in the Placer County Historical Society for many years, and president for two years. Mary Ann’s yearning for faraway places and a lifelong interest in the Peace Corps drew her to join that organization at the age of 58.

Mary Ann vividly describes her

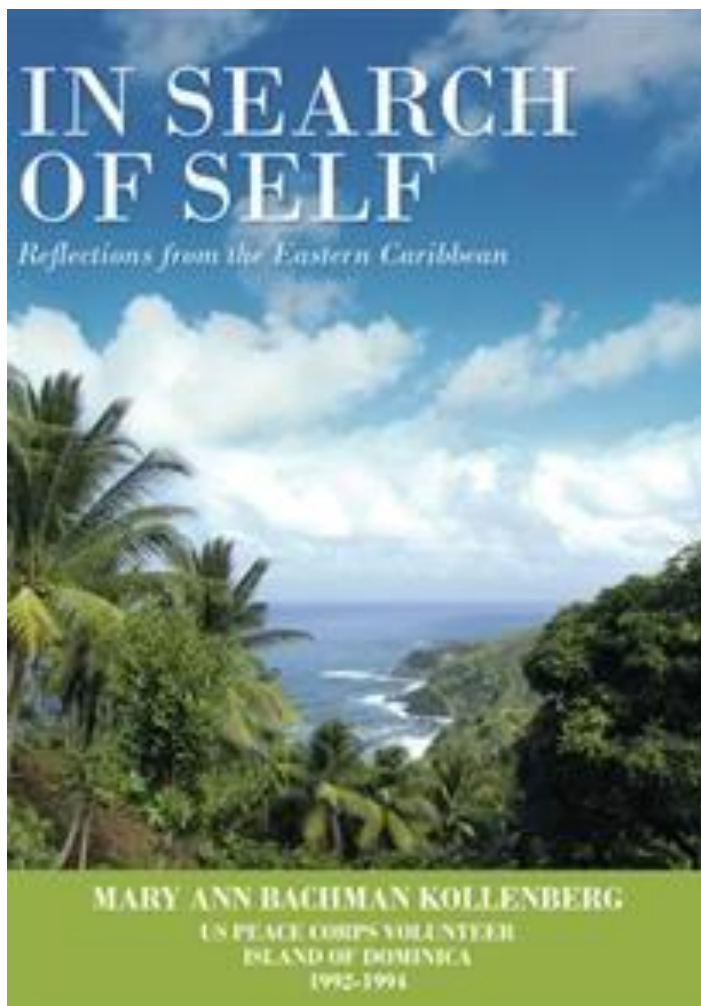
initial observations of surrounding islands, her home stay family and the culture and personality of Dominica. Her everyday life and feel-

August 17, 1992—5:30 p.m. Dominica

“Dear Folks,

I’m in Roseau, Dominica! Sitting on a second-story veranda overlooking busy Cork Street, wires going everywhere, poles, tin roofs of every color (green, orange, red, rusty brown), peaked roofs with gable ends, hipped roofs with dormers. Opposite is a bakery at street level with a restaurant above, also with a full balcony, plants hanging everywhere.”

Mary Ann now resides in Lincoln, but at age 80 is unable to actively promote her book. Due to health challenges, she is not presently available for interviews or discussion.



ings are documented in her letters home describing her tasks and frustrations with teaching safer and newer environmental practices to the islanders. Her descriptions are colorful and interesting.

On page 16, she writes:

To obtain a copy of “In Search of Self” contact Archway Publishing at bookstore.archwaypublishing.com, 1-888-242-5904, or order it on Amazon or Barnes and Nobel. It can also be downloaded to Kindle as an E-book.

The Scoop

Beth Rohlfes

Curator of Education

Bravo to Placer County Museum docents who helped plan and present a delightful community experience last month during the annual ***Jump into Summer*** event at the Bernhard Museum. Their enthusiasm to make history come alive ex-



ploded into an exciting production of authentic 19th century activity for a few short hours on that Saturday morning.

From the docents in their colorful Victorian outfits—layers of prints and lace, bows and sun hats—to the 24 member Auburn Concert Band—brandishing an array of

shiny instruments and fluttering musical scores—everyone was primed to embrace visitors in comfortable reminders of days gone by.

Folks lounged in the leisurely sounds and sites 19th century America. Some lounged in the grass under the giant English pecan tree. A few shared a game of checkers on the picnic tables, while others were simply mesmerized by Bhakti Banning's spinning wheel. Many just relaxed as they tapped, swayed or sang along to the strains of old-time musical favorites performed by Auburn Concert Band directed by Tom Candlish.

Little faces grinned ear to ear as young guests dressed up in period attire for photo sittings in the barn. Boys were as eager as girls to play act with dolls they made themselves from simple fabric scraps and string. And faces like those of 2-year old Vander and his mom, visiting from the Bay Area, showed the pure joy of eating hand-cranked ice cream!

Meanwhile, back inside Mr. Bernhard's 19th century winery, docent Heidi Spearer enticed visitors to learn more about Victorian culture by making pretty little "tussie



mussies." Who knew that the Victorians put together these delightful little flower bouquets to send subtle but meaningful messages to others! Some messages were good, some bad, but all were carefully orchestrated within the strict etiquette of Victorian culture. Hand-picked from Heidi's own gardens, each sprig had its own meaning in Victorian dictionaries of floriography, the language of flowers.

On August 15 and 16, from 10:00 until 4:00 each day we'll be creating similar experiences for visitors to enjoy at the Placer County Museums. The 8th annual Heritage Trail event will require all hands on as we prepare to showcase our museums and welcome visitors into the exciting history of Placer County.

So come join us! If you've been wondering what it's like to volunteer with the Museums, this is a wonderful opportunity for new volunteers to join our docent forces and see what our museums are all about. If you have a few hours to help, call us at (530) 889-6500.

Artifact Highlight

By Kasia Woroniecka



This Red Cross pin was recently added to our permanent collection. It belonged to Norma Darlene Fuller Sterrett who was a Red Cross nurse at the DeWitt Hospital in 1945.



The American Red Cross was established by Clara Barton in 1881. It was modeled on the Swiss Red Cross, which was founded in 1866. Clara Barton worked as a nurse during the American Civil War and became known the “Angel of the Battlefield” for her hard work and dedication. Exhausted by war she traveled to Europe in

1868 where she was introduced to the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. After returning to the United States she became president of the American branch of the Red Cross in 1881.

It was probably that same dedication to help people in need that drove Norma to become a Red Cross nurse.

Norma was born in 1916 in Portland, Oregon. While a student at the Willamette University in Salem, Oregon she traveled to Japan in 1936 as part of an exchange program. She graduated from the American University in 1945 and began work at the DeWitt Army Hospital. Sherry Little and Kim

Sterrett, Norma’s children, remember their mother talking about writing letters home for the wounded GI’s while stationed at DeWitt. When the war broke out in Europe in 1939 the Red Cross became the chief provided of relief supplies. After the attack on Pearl Harbor the Red Cross quickly mobilized a vol-



unteer and staff force. Those who stayed at home served in hospitals, collected scrap, ran victory gardens and programs on nutrition, first aid and safety. At the peak of wartime activity in 1945 7.5 million Red Cross volunteers and 39,000 paid staff provided service to the military.

Norma's next assignment was on the island of Guam. She met her future husband Edwin Sterrett at the Travis Air Force Base cafeteria before they both departed for Guam. They married there in 1950 and eventually moved to Napa, CA where she worked as a librarian. She died in Napa in 1988.

We are still looking for artifacts,

photos and information on DeWitt, its patients and staff from the time it was an Army hospital until it became the Placer County Government Center. Please contact the Archives (530-889-7789) or Artifact Collections (530-889-7705) for donations.



Placer County Historical Society News

*By Walt Wilson,
President*

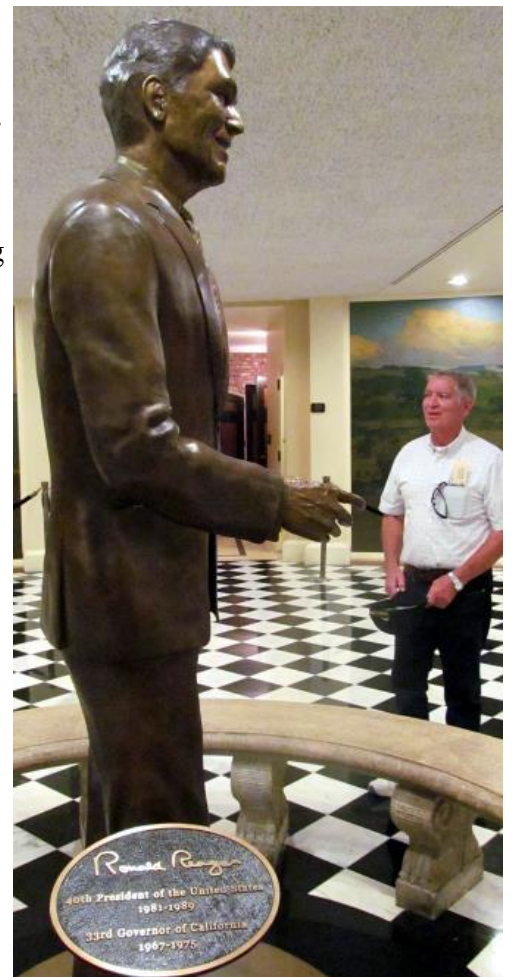
Please join me and others interested in history in a special Placer tour in downtown Sacramento this summer.

We are still working on a date in August and itinerary. Things to explore include the new Ronald Reagan bronze statute by world

renowned artist Doug Van Howd of Auburn, the newly refurbished State Library and Courts Building, the Peace Officers Memorial containing the names of officers killed in the line of duty, including Michael Davis and Danny Oliver of Placer County, a tour of the State Archives, the State Capitol and a picnic lunch in the Capitol's Civil War Memorial Grove.

The plan is to carpool and order picnic lunches from Bistro 103 in Old Town Auburn. If you are interested please contact me. Be sure and provide name(s), phone, email. Thanks.

Walt Wilson, President, Placer County Historical Society. 530 878-6640 bonwally@hotmail.com



Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society,
Chris Miller (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

Historical Advisory Board
Glenn Vineyard, (916) 747-1961

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society

Lynn Carpenter, (530) 885-1252

Lincoln Highway Association

Bob Dieterich,
bobd@iname.com

or lincolnhwy.org

Lincoln Area Archives Museum

Elizabeth Jansen, (916) 645-3800

laamca.org

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center

Richard Yue, (530) 346-7121

Roseville Fire Museum

Jim Giblin, JGiblin@roseville.ca.us

rosevillefiremuseum.org

Maidu Museum & Historic Site

Glenie Strome, (916) 782-3299

roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59

Dave Allen, (530) 878-2878

dsallen59@sbcglobal.net

Golden Drift Historical Society

Jim Ricker, (530) 389-8344

Newcastle Portuguese Hall

Association

Aileen Gage

Placer County Historical Society

Walt Wilson, (530) 878-6640

placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Placer County Museums

Docent Guild

Tom Innes, (530) 888-8969

Rocklin Historical Society

Barbara Chapman, (916) 415-0153

rocklinhistory.org

Roseville Historical Society

Phoebe Astill, (916) 773-3003

rosevillehistorical.org

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Rebecca Phipps, (530) 583-1762

northtahoemuseums.org

Placer County Genealogical Society

Toni Rosasco, (530) 888-8036

pcgenes.com



**Win a Gourmet
Gift Card**

**for your Best-Ever
Homemade Pie!**

1st Prize plus Runners-up

Placer County Museums

**August 16, 2015
call (530)889-6500 for info**

Calendar of events

July

2 2:00pm

Placer County Historical Society board of directors meeting, Room 10, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn. (530)878-6640

13 6:00pm

Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting at Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 415-0153

14 9:00am

Roseville Historical Society meeting at the Auburn Depot, 610 Lincoln Way (916) 773-3003

15 6:30am

Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis library. (916) 663-3971.

20 6:00pm

Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, at the Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535

24 7:00pm

Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, in the Beecher Room, at the Auburn Library. (530) 885-2216

August

10 6:00pm

Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting at Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 415-0153

11 4:00pm

Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum. 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003

15 10:00am

Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting at the Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871

16 10:00am

Heritage Trail Placer County Museums Tour 20 museums from Roseville to Tahoe (530) 889-6500

19 6:30pm

Heritage Trail Placer County Museums Tour 20 museums from Roseville to Tahoe (530) 889-6500

20 5:30pm

Historical Advisory Board Meeting at the Bernhard Winery 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500

27 7:00pm

Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library. (530) 885-2216



HERITAGE TRAIL
Placer County Museums Tour

20 Museums 2 Days

August 15 & 16

FREE! FAMILY! FUN!

The poster features a collage of images showing people participating in the tour, including a man in a suit and hat sitting in a vintage car, and various groups of people at different museum sites.

The Placer County Museums is on Twitter!
You can find us @PlacerMuseums.



Placer County Museums
101 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603

