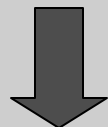


THE PLACER

A Voice of History

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Administrator's Notes

Melanie Barton

In September and October we will commemorate the centennial of the Suffrage Movement with two events: *Characters of California's Suffrage Movement* presented by Lynn Cook, State Capitol docent, on September 17th at the Bernhard Museum Winery from 1:00 – 3:00; and a *Rally for Suffrage!* on the steps of historic Auburn Courthouse at 10:00 on October 1st. California women won the right to vote on October 10, 1911. The amendment passed by a 3,500 vote margin due mainly to male voters in southern California and rural areas such as Placer County.

Organizers of the movement realized that they needed to organize state wide. In early 1911 the Cooperative Council was formed to coordinate all the activities toward passage of a suffrage amendment at the polls. Visibility was a priority in the Council's plan. They campaigned in parades and rallies, street speeches, plays, pageants, door-to-door canvassing and distributed fliers and leaflets. They realized that business and saloon interests were sure to gather opponents in urban areas, so they tried to

make up for this in rural districts.

At our first event marking the Suffrage Movement on September 17th, you will meet the key players in the state who organized the campaign. On October 1st we invite you to attend a Suffrage Rally where you will learn about the events leading up to the October 1911 election. You are invited to come in period attire circa 1848 – 1911 to commemorate the years of dedicated work that started with the Women's Rights Convention of 1848. Sixty-three years later the women of California celebrated their political equality when this great state became the "sixth star" and allowed women to vote.

As with the suffrage movement, those from all walks of life are welcome to participate: from women of wealth to teachers, shop keepers, and farm wives; to men who are fathers, brothers and sons, protagonists or supporters of the cause (Period attire is not required).

I hope to see you at one of these events.



U.S. 40

By Ralph Gibson

There were two alternate routes for the Lincoln Highway over the Sierra Nevada Mountains into California. The northern route roughly followed what is now Interstate 80 and the southern route roughly followed what is now Highway 50. But at the time, both were known as the "Lincoln Highway". Portions of the Lincoln Highway were designated as the "Victory Highway" in the 1920s as a way to memorialize those who fought and died in World War I. Only the northern route over the Sierras, which cuts through Placer County, was designated as a part of the Victory Highway.

Chambers of Commerce for towns along the southern route hoped that the northern route would drop the "Lincoln" designation and be known solely as the Victory Highway. But that didn't happen. Chambers of Commerce along the northern route clung steadfast to the name Lincoln as well as Victory.

Imagine how confusing that must have been. It was something the federal government saw as a growing problem all over the country – not only for confused citizens, but for military transportation as well. In 1926, the federal government put forth the United States Highway System in which highways

would receive number designations. The California Highway Commission approved the federal system and sections of the northern route of the Lincoln Highway became a part of U.S. 40 and the southern route became U.S. 50.

U.S. 40 was also a transcontinental highway, but instead of linking San Francisco with New York City, as the Lincoln Highway did, it linked San Francisco with Atlantic City, New Jersey. U.S. 40 deviated from the route of the Lincoln Highway in the east, but generally followed the route in the western states, though there were a few places where it diverted from the Lincoln Highway in Placer County.

But U.S. 40, like its predecessor, was not a true transcontinental highway in the winter when several feet of Sierra snow covered it. *Placer Herald* articles in the early days of the Lincoln Highway used to highlight the first car over the summit after the winter snows receded. But by the late 1920s the sport of skiing was becoming popular. In 1931, the Auburn Ski Club convinced the state legislature to plow the highway to keep it open year round. They successfully argued that the cost for snow removal, which would total \$635,000, would be offset by the increased revenue from the gas tax collected by more drivers driving more

miles due to the highway being open year round.

By the 1940s, U.S. 40 was paved and open year round. But there was one more major improvement that people began to call for: widening. Traffic jams, usually caused by slow moving trucks over the summit, resulted in the loss of patience and humility in many a driver. It was obvious to many that the highway needed to be widened to four lanes. But like the Lincoln Highway before it, this was a slow process and one that required a huge investment of public funds.

In 1947, to get the ball rolling, the Auburn and Roseville Chambers of Commerce joined forces with the Placer County Board of Supervisors and recommended to the California State Highway Commission that U.S. 40 be made a four lane divided highway from Auburn to Gold Run. This was accepted by the commission and an eight mile section of four lane highway between Auburn and Applegate was completed in 1950. Surveys had been made of the remaining section, but lack of funds prevented further work.

By the mid 1950s, people felt that something more needed to be done. The time was ripe for a huge, federal project, one that promised to

feed our nation's craving for cars and roads.

To be continued in the next issue...

Did you know that number designations for U.S. Highways and Interstate Highways are odd for north-south routes and even for east-west routes?



Trucks on U.S. 40 at Donner Summit



Looking North-East on U.S. 40 between Gold Run and Dutch Flat



Museums Intelligence

Placer County Museums News

Ralph Gibson

We've had a pretty busy summer so far and this fall will be even busier. We are working on two exhibits, volunteer training is around the corner, we have fall Living History and we have our regular slate of Community Education programs. This, of course, means that winter will be here before we know it. I believe Einstein was wrong – time doesn't slow down the faster you go, it speeds up! The Carousel exhibit, *Leap of Imagination*, will come out of the Treasury in the historic Courthouse in late September. To replace it, will be a display of wagons. We will move the Child's Buggy and the restored Doctor's Buggy, which are both currently on display in the Carriage Barn at the Bernhard Museum Complex into the Treasury just after the Carousel exhibit is out. These wagons will certainly catch the eye of jurors, court officials, bailiffs, judges, and perhaps even a few defendants.

Alma Bell graced our Women's Jail once again for this year's Heritage Trail at the historic Courthouse.

Some nuggets of information about Alma were uncovered at the Archives and Research Center that we utilized for this year's event. Of great significance was the transcript of Alma's first interrogation by District Attorney Charles Tuttle, which took place the day after the murder. We re-enacted the interrogation in the Sheriff's Office once each day during the Heritage Trail. Everyone enjoyed it and it is something we will develop for next year.

We also discovered that Alma Bell used the same make and model of gun that Adolph Weber used to kill his family: a .32 caliber Iver-Johnson 5 shot revolver. It was also the same gun Leon Czolgosz used to assassinate President McKinley in 1901. Apparently, this gun was the "Saturday Night Special" of the early 1900s.

Community Education Program: The Characters of California's Suffrage Movement

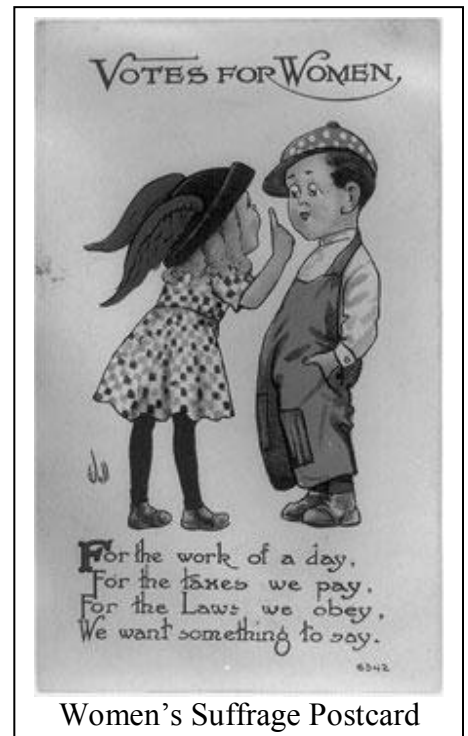
Please join us at 1:00 pm on Saturday September 17th on the second floor of the Bernhard Museum Winery. The Bernhard Museum Winery is located at 291 Auburn Folsom Road. For more information, please call 530-889-6500.

Community Education Program: Rally for Suffrage

Join us at the historic Courthouse in Auburn on Saturday, October 1st at 10:00 am to Rally for Women's Suffrage!

Auburn's historic Courthouse is located at 101 Maple Street.

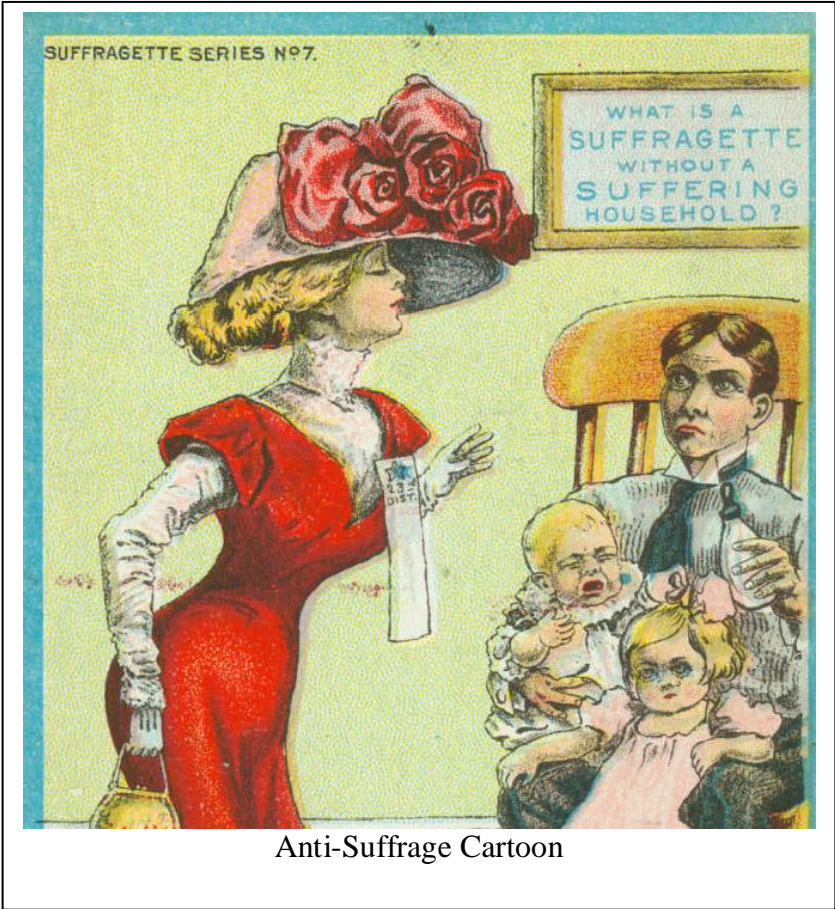
Please call 530-889-6500 for more information.



Women's Suffrage Postcard



Anti-Suffrage Cartoon



Placer County Historical Society News



President's Message

*Michael Otten,
President*

One of the more remarkable comments by visitors to the Benton Welty Historical Classroom during the Heritage Trail weekend in August: "I never knew the Auburn City Hall was once a school house."

State Historic Resource Commission members and staff were delighted too on their special visit to the classroom Aug. 4th as part of their quarterly workshop and meeting at City Hall where the Commission approved six more Auburn nominations for the National Register of Historic Places.

The old Auburn Grammar School, now known as the Auburn Civic Center, 1225 Lincoln Way, is first on the list of nominations for the National Register the Commission will consider at its Oct. 28th meeting in Redlands.

"Built in 1915, this Beaux Arts grammar school was designed by San Francisco master architect William Henry Weeks and was considered a showcase of modern education representing the most contemporary advances in school design and efficiency", is the staff's thumbnail description of the building. The building has been listed as a state point of interest since 1988.

Now, thanks to the many hours of hard work by Carmel Barry-Schweyer, retired Placer County archivist and history author, and Councilman Mike Holmes, the county seat is on a roll in gaining National Register status. The latest listing is the Auburn Public Library, the county's first Carnegie Library which served too as City Hall from 1909 to 1937 and where the Placer County Library started in 1937.

By year end we should hear from the National Parks Service whether the latest six make it. They are: Auburn Fire House No. 2, Washington, Main and Commercial Street, which just celebrated completion of a \$134,000 renovation; Auburn City Hall and Fire House, 1103 High Street, which is expected to house the California Welcome Center by year end; Auburn Hose Company No. 1, El Dorado Street, Highway 49 and Lincoln Way; Auburn IOOF Hall, 1256 Lincoln Way; Auburn Masonic Temple, 948 Lincoln Way, and Placer County Bank, 874 Lincoln Way. Barry-Schweyer prepared all the nominations.

State commissioners and staff said they were very impressed by the historic nature of Auburn and said it may have been the most hospitable host cities they have met in. The PCHS, Mike Holmes and the Placer County Museums co-hosted a reception at the Bernhard Winery; past PCHS President Donna Howell led a walking tour of Old Town and narrated a bus trip from town to the Confluence; and Museums Administrator

Melanie Barton showed them a bird's eye view of the city from atop the historic Courthouse.

*Angela Williamson, who proudly boasted she is 7½, won the children's basket in the kids-only drawing at the Benton Welty Historical Classroom at City Hall during the 4th annual Heritage Trail weekend. A record 319 people – more than the first two years combined – attended thanks to the hard work of Bonnie Parodi and Jean Allender and the many volunteers. Nearly 80 kids entered the drawing. Angie just started the second grade at Bowman School.

* Placer County's exhibit won the Best of Show Award for the second year in a row at the 2011 State Fair in tough competition with 29 other counties.

* Sandy Elder, the state landmarks person for State Parks for more than 40 years and a longtime representative of the history community on the Placer County Visitors Bureau Board, was honored by the State Historical Resources Commission during its meeting here. The commissioners requested and received special autographed copies of the book she produced on State Landmarks. She was also recognized for her role in recruiting E Clampus Vitus assistance in putting up the first landmark plaques. Sandy, wearing her official ECV 1 badge on her red vest, is said to be the only woman ever admitted to that historic fraternity.

**Placer County Historical
Society Dinner Meeting**
Addah Owens, Vice President

When: October 6, 2011

Time: 6:30 Dinner, 7:30

Program

Where: Veteran's Memorial
Hall, 100 East St., Auburn, CA

Cost: \$14 per person

Menu: Chicken Marsala with
Fettuccine Noodles, Caesar
Salad, Garlic Bread and
Spumoni Ice Cream

Mail Check to: PCHS, c/o
Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter
Grade Road, Auburn, CA
95603.

Program: Gary Noy from
Sierra College will return with
his program: "Alonzo Delano:
Nomad Denizen of the World."
The program presents the story
of Alonzo Delano, who traveled
to California during the Gold
Rush and became a prominent
author (who rivaled Mark
Twain and Bret Harte in
popularity) and an important
civic leader in Grass Valley and
the Sierra Nevada region. The
program recounts his
adventures traveling from
Illinois as a 49er and his
fascinating life upon arrival in
the goldfields. It also tells the
tale of the devastating Grass
Valley fire of 1855, an event in
which Delano played a key role
in saving the town from total
physical and emotional
devastation.

Gary Noy is a Sierra Nevada
native. He has taught history at
Sierra College from 1987 to the
present. In 2006, the Oregon-
California Trails Association
(OCTA), a national historical

society, selected Gary as
"Educator of the Year.



Angela Williamson

Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society
Helen Wayland,
(530) 346-7040
www.colfaxhistory.org

Donner Summit Historical Society
Norm Sayler, (530) 426-3376
www.donnersummithistoricalociety.org

Foresthill Divide Historical Society
Donna Coffman,
(530) 367-3437
www.foresthillhistory.org

Fruitvale School Hall
Community Association
Lyndell Grey, (916) 645-3517

Golden Drift Historical Society
Jim Ricker, (530) 389-8344

Historical Advisory Board
George Lay, (530) 878-1927

Joss House Museum and
Chinese History Center
Richard Yue, (530) 346-7121

Lincoln Area Archives Museum
Shirley Russell, (916) 645-3470

Lincoln Highway Association
Norman Root, (916) 483-8669
www.lincolnhwy.org

Loomis Basin Historical Society
Karen Clifford, (916) 663-3871
<http://www.ppgn.com/loomishistorical.html>

Maidu Museum & Historic Site
Glenie Strome, (916) 782-3299
www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59
Dave Allen, (530) 878-2878

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association
Aileen Gage, (530) 885-9113

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society
Ross Carpenter, (530) 885-1252

Placer County Genealogical Society
Alice Bothello, (530) 885-2216
www.pcgenes.com

Placer County Historical Society
Michael Otten, (530) 888-7837
www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Placer County Museums Docent Guild
Sandi Tribe, (530) 887-9143

Rocklin Historical Society
Barbara Chapman,
(916) 415-0153
www.rocklinhistory.org

Roseville Historical Society
Phoebe Astill, (916) 773-3003
www.rosevillehistorical.org

Artifact Highlight

Kasia Woroniecka

When you fill your tank at the gas pump you may notice that you are using unleaded gasoline. The pictured enamel gas pump sign is from around 1930 and was placed on the face of each pump. Curb pumps were equipped with one sign, and island pumps with two. Lead is not something that naturally comes with gasoline. It was added by the oil industry to boost the octane rating, or the measure of how likely the gasoline is to self ignite. Leaded gasoline was developed in 1921 by General Motors. During the 1950s higher octane fuels were produced and lead levels increased. Unleaded fuels were introduced in the 1970s which led to the decline of leaded fuel. In 1990, the Clean Air Act was amended to prohibit the use of leaded fuels and to reduce emissions.



Calendar of Events

September

- Sept. 13th, 4:00 pm** Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum.
Contact: 916-773-3003.
- Sept. 17th, 8:00 pm** Community Education Program: *Characters of California Women's Suffrage*.
Bernhard Museum Winery Contact: 530-889-6500.
- Sept. 19th, 6:00 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Business meeting at the Foresthill Divide Museum.
Contact: 530-367-3535.
- Sept. 19th, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary's Chapel at 5152 Front Street.
Contact: 916-624-3464.
- Sept. 21st, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.
Contact: 916-652-7844.
- Sept. 22nd, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library. Contact 530-885-2216.

October

- Oct. 1st, 10:00 am** Community Education Program: *Rally for Women's Suffrage*.
Auburn's Historic Courthouse. Contact: 530-889-6500.
- Oct. 6th, 6:30 pm** Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Hall.
Contact: 530-885-5074.
- Oct. 11th, 4:00 pm** Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum.
Contact: 916-773-3003.
- Oct. 17th, 6:30 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Dinner meeting at the Foresthill Memorial Hall.
Contact: 530-367-3535.
- Oct. 17th, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary's Chapel at 5152 Front Street.
Contact: 916-624-3464.
- Oct. 19th, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.
Contact: 916-652-7844.
- Oct. 19th, 5:30 pm** Historical Advisory Board meeting at the Bernhard Winery.
Contact: 530-889-6500.
- Oct. 27th, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library. Contact 530-885-2216.