## THE PLACER

### A Voice of History

March-April 2013 Volume 16, Issue 2



# In this Issue

- 1. Administrator's Notes
- 2. Care of prints, drawings and photos
- 4. Museums Intelligence
- **5.** PCHS News
- 6. Historical Organizations/ Artifact Highlight
- 7. Calendar of Events

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#### Administrator's Notes

Melanie Barton

I hope you visited the Archives & Collections Facility for our Open House on February 28<sup>th</sup>. If you did, you will have noticed the exhibits in the entry to the building. The exhibit featuring the Centennial of the Mountain Quarries Railroad and Bridge is an example of Contemporary Collecting.



Centennial of Mountian Quarries Railroad and Bridge exhibit at the Archives and Collections Facility

The Placer County Museums Division defines contemporary collecting as accumulating material belonging to the present time and that which reflects Placer County today. Contemporary collecting records current history and builds our collections for future generations. It also will provide material for exhibitions, research and learning about the lives of people in Placer County. Our goal is four fold: 1) to reach out to people of Placer County and represent their lives and stories; 2) to develop lasting partnerships; 3) to improve the quality of museum collections; and 4) to make collections more accessible and relevant to different types of visitors.

All materials collected must have relevance to a significant event or local project of importance that occurred in Placer County, a local business or school activity or local individual or group. These materials can be threedimensional objects, photographs and archival material, oral history and sound recordings, film and video and electronic media. The objects collected must fit the criteria for acquisition of the Placer County **Museums Collections** Management Policy.

Our collecting strategy is to increase awareness and understanding of contemporary collecting by writing articles to local newspapers and newsletters and by meeting with leaders of business or community groups to get their input. In the future we will create contemporary themed exhibits.

Ongoing evaluation of the program is critical. We will review the collection for weaknesses and strengths in terms of contemporary material. Then we will design contemporary collecting projects around identified gaps in the collection. To fill those gaps we will identify potential sources of donations. And, finally we plan to conduct surveys to help identify social trends.

I hope this new program sounds exciting to you! We are poised to move forward this year and look forward to working with many of you. Please feel free to contact me or Kasia Woroniecka, Curator of Collections, with your ideas or suggestions.



Going paperless? Interested in receiving *The Placer* newsletter electronically? It's fast and convenient.

Please e-mail me at <a href="mailto:kworonie@placer.ca.gov">kworonie@placer.ca.gov</a> and start receiving yours today!

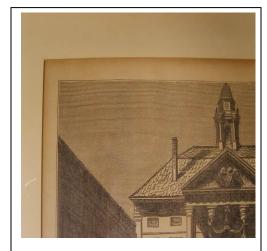
## The care of prints, drawings and photos

By Kasia Woroniecka

Paper as we know it traces its roots back to China about 2,000 years ago. It was made from hemp, old cloth, and mulberry bark mixed with water. Today, paper is made of industrial wood, paper waste and paper pulp, although cotton, flax, sugar cane and other fibers are used for special papers.

Paper replaced parchment as a perfect material for writing and drawing. Since the majority of paper is made of organic materials like cellulose fibers, it is susceptible to many internal and external sources of deterioration. Poor quality pulp is one of the internal sources of deterioration. Wood pulp contains lignin, which often becomes chemically unstable and acidic, causing the paper to break down and deteriorate. This often happens to newsprint and cheap novels, which begin to yellow and become brittle. Another internal cause of problems in paper includes chemicals left over after bleaching, which decreases the color of pulp. The process of bleaching contains chlorine which can form hydrochloric acid. Sizing, the process of reducing the paper's tendency to absorb liquids, also uses chemicals that in combination with poor quality pulp can affect paper quality and longevity in a negative way.

Externally, paper is also affected by acid, as well as light, fluctuations in temperature and humidity, water damage and careless handling.



Notice the dark border (called mat burn) around the corner of the matted print from our collection. It's brown and a lot darker than the rest of the paper, a sign of acid damage that migrated from the matting to the paper.

To avoid similar problems use only acid-free matting and framing materials, since very often it is the colored matting and the backing that cause problems to the artwork on display. When in doubt I use a pH testing pen. It can be purchased where archival materials are sold. The paper is marked with the pen in an area that will not be damaged by a small mark and upon contact the mark turns blue, meaning the paper is acid free, green for some acid content or yellow for high acid content.

Works on paper like prints and drawings are very susceptible to light damage. Light damage is cumulative and irreversible and causes rapid fading and embrittlement.
It is important to minimize exposure and protect any work on paper from direct sunlight.
Consider displaying a copy instead of the original.



A window mat of this print shows how discoloration occurred only to the area exposed to light. Light staining, or the gradual discoloration of paper, occurs gradually and is often unnoticed until the matting is removed. PCM

Temperature and humidity are also very important factors, because rapid fluctuations can cause changes in shape and size of paper and as well as cause chemical reactions that lead to its deterioration. The greatest danger caused by high humidity is mold growth.

Mold spores are present everywhere and only need the right conditions to develop into mold. Some molds can cause serious health problems, so wearing disposable gloves and a mask is advisable if mold is present. Storage areas should maintain the temperature between 65°F-75°F and relative humidity between 45% - 65%. Use acid free archival matting to prevent the print from touching the glass, as humidity

gets trapped between the glass and paper creating conditions for mold growth.



Example of mold growth on the edge of this print. Mold can take a variety of forms, in this case small round black spots. This print was framed and water damage caused mold growth under the frame. PCM

Water damaged paper is usually fragile. Because of possible leaks, floods and difficulty in maintaining proper conditions storing any works on paper in attics and basements is not advisable. When faced with serious water damage, place the papers individually on a flat surface and air dry. Freezing is a recommended technique for delicate paper that will have to be treated by a paper conservator.

Careless handling can sometimes cause the greatest damage to collections. Handle works on paper wearing gloves or carefully with very clean hands. When transporting even a short distance, use support to limit bending and flexing. Use only pencil and not ink to make any necessary marks and do so on a flat, hard surface. Do not try to force apart paper that is stuck together. It might be a job for a paper conservator.



**PCM Archives Collection** 

Photographs should also be handled with gloves or very clean hands, making sure that the surface of the photograph is not touched and is fingerprint free. Use both hands. Photographs benefit from a relatively dry, cool and stable environment. Like other works on paper, they should be kept out of direct sunlight as they crack and fade. Store photographs only in archival quality albums, envelopes or clear Mylar sleeves. Broken, torn or cracked photographs should be placed in sleeves with archival board support. Don't rush to remove photos from old photo albums just because they are not archival. Taking photos out of albums with decorative matting can cause unnecessary rips and tears. Older family albums often have valuable inscriptions that would be lost with the replacement. High humidity and water damage can be devastating, especially to photos that adhere to glass or frame materials. Do not touch wet photos or try to pry a stack of dried photos apart. Do not mark the photographs, even on the back side, as the pressure put on the paper can damage the surface of the photo. Any improper treatment can result in irreversible damage, so consult a conservator when in doubt.



### Museums Intelligence

#### **Placer County Museums News**

Ralph Gibson

Spring is on the horizon and Living History has already blossomed. Over 2,400 students will visit the Bernhard Museum this season and immerse themselves in 1889 farm life. This successful program does more than address third grade curriculum standards for local history, it introduces students to the past in a real, tangible way that books and lectures fail to do. The students who come through the program perform some of the same chores children their age performed in 1889. But they learn much more than how laundry was done or how butter was churned. The Living History program gives them context about the people who lived in that era. They now have a better idea of what life was like on a farm in 1889 by having experienced small aspects of daily life. The next time they watch a movie or read a book set in that time period, they'll have a deeper understanding and appreciation for the people portrayed on the screen or on the page. The students who come through our Living History program touch history and that close interface with the past opens their minds, fuels their interest and creates lasting memories.

I've met many 20-somethings who still fondly remember their Living History experience at the Bernhard Museum. Will all of them grow up to better appreciate history and take up the mantle of preservation? I don't know, but I'd like to think they will.

#### **Community Education Program:**

Many women who traveled west during the Gold Rush, found they could make good money by cooking meals or doing laundry. But not all women sought to earn a living performing domestic tasks. They came out west for the same reason men did: Gold! Join us on the second floor of the Bernhard Museum Winery on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm for Women Prospectors of the Old West presented by author Chris Enss. She has written over 25 books, many focused on the lives of women in the west. This program is FREE!

#### **Community Education Program**

From gold mining and quarrying to bridges and dams, the American River Canyon is rich with history. Join us on the second floor of the Bernhard Museum Winery on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm for *The* American River Canyon. Authors Mike Lynch, Superintendant with the California State Parks and historian Rodi Lee will present the research that provided the basis for their book of the same title.

The Bernhard Museum Winery is located at 291 Auburn Folsom Road in Auburn. For more information about either of these programs, please call 530-889-6500.

#### 2013-14 Nominations for the Placer **County Historical Society:**

President: Michael Otten 1st Vice President: George Lay 2nd Vice President (programs): Addah Owens

Secretary: Bill George Treasurer: Al Stoll

Board members (Two-Year Terms, 2013-14 to 2014-15): Jean Allender,

Karen Bleuel, John Knox (Carry over Board Members from

2012-13 with additional year remaining: Sherri Schackner, Walt Wilson, Penny Watson, Karri Samson.)

Respectfully submitted, Walt Wilson, Chair, Nomination Committee, Winona Virgil, Smith Virgil, Betty Samson, Karri Samson

Officers for 2013-2014 will be elected at the annual membership dinner meeting on April 4, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East St., Auburn, CA

At that time the Nomination committee will make its final report. Additional nominations may be made at that time and a vote taken. If a candidate is unopposed, election to that office may be made by voice vote. Should there be more than one nominee for an office then there shall be an election by ballot for that office. Those elected will assume office May 1, the start of the fiscal year.

### Placer County Historical Society News

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#### **President's Message**

Michael Otten, President

What a difference a century makes. Look back to 1913. For me, it was the year Dad was born. It was at home on a ranch on land where the Maidu once flourished. The ranch became known as El MoVoJo, my grandparents' novel way of honoring their three children, Marjorie, Virginia and John Otten. In short El MoVoJo stood for the Ottens. The ranch is now part of the Sierra Gardens subdivision off Douglas Boulevard in Roseville.

If any of the Ottens then were able to take a look today, they would be dumbfounded at what they would see. Placer County's population grew from about 18,335 to more than 355,000 in the last century. Auburn's population grew from less than 2,400 in 1913 to 13,468 as of last year; Roseville had shot from some 3,000 residents to more than 122,000, Colfax went from less than 600 to 1,977: Rocklin, from under 800 to 58,296, and Lincoln from less than 1,400 to 43,572. In 1913 Placer County seemed like THE train and agricultural county USA. Six passenger trains passed through Auburn daily. There was seemingly unbounded growth in the Southern Pacific yards in Roseville, still accused by some

in Rocklin of "stealing" its roundhouse in 1909.

W.B. Lardner, a primary founder of the Placer County Historical Society, wrote in the Placer County Republican in 1913: "We have a fine water system, under heavy pressure, a good sanitary sewer plant, and plenty of electric lights." Gambling was prohibited wherever liquor was served. An Auburn Taxpayers League was organized to assist in opposing prohibition on moral and financial grounds. The city and county continued the \$5 poll tax with portions of the proceeds dedicated to road building and health care for the poor. The Women's Improvement Club of Auburn placed garbage cans all over the city, took care of Sierra Park and planted a rose garden at the train depot. The club also installed a drinking fountain in the plaza in front of the Shanghai Restaurant dedicated "to the memory of Placer County Pioneers: Lest we Forget, 1848-1913." Alas, the fountain was torn down in 1950.

In 1913 it was unlikely that anyone could fathom what was ahead, including two World Wars, the Great Depression, the shape of inventions and conveniences to come and a host of other changes, including computers and the digital age. Yes dad, 1913 was quite a year.

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To discover more go to our ever improving website: <a href="https://www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org">www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org</a>. Look for news about the death of William W. Freeman, a life PCHS member

and cofounder of the Lincoln Area Archives. Learn about the Auburn Historic Design Review Commission.

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We are looking for volunteers to work on Auburn's 125th anniversary and a display case exhibit at the library. We are also looking for volunteers to conduct historical research. Please contact me.

otten@ssctv.net

Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting Addah Owens,

Vice President



**When:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 **Time:** 6:30 Dinner, 7:30

Program

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

Cost: \$14 per person

**Menu:** Glazed ham, scalloped potatoes, roasted asparagus, green salad, dinner rolls and carrot cake.

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

Program: Gene Lorance, the Hawver Cave Project Manager, with an update on the plans to open the Hawver Cave to visitors. His program will include the discovery of new animal fossils in the cave, recent donation of artifacts by the Hawver family and well as discussion of three ice age caves in California.

## Placer County Historical Organizations

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

Donner Summit Historical Society Bill Oudegeest, (209) 606-6859 www.donnersummithistoricalsocie ty.org

Foresthill Divide Historical Society Sandy Simester, (530) 367-3535 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 Glenn Vineyard, (916) 747-1961 Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center Richard Yue, (530) 346-7121

Lincoln Area Archives Museum Shirley Russell, (916) 645-3800

Lincoln Highway Association Bob Dieterich, <u>bobd@iname.com</u> www.lincolnhwy.org

Loomis Basin Historical Society Karen Clifford, (916) 663-3871 <a href="http://www.ppgn.com/loomishis">http://www.ppgn.com/loomishis</a> torical.html

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

Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59 Dave Allen, (530) 878-2878 dsallen59@sbcglobal.net

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association Aileen Gage, (530) 885-9113 Old Town Auburn Preservation Society Lynn Carpenter, (530) 885-1252

Placer County Genealogical Society www.pcgenes.com

Placer County Historical Society Michael Otten, (530) 888-7837 otten@ssctv.net

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

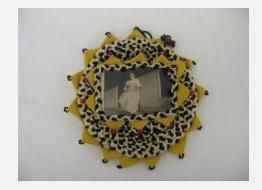
Rocklin Historical Society Jean Sippola, (916) 652-1034 www.rocklinhistory.org

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

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society Javier Rodriguez, (530) 583-1762 www.northtahoemuseums.org

### **Artifact Highlight**

Picture frame with photo



This handmade fabric picture frame with a black and white photograph of an unknown woman was made in the early 1900's. Crafts were very popular during the Victorian period. People made decorative items that would beautify their homes and satisfy their need for a practical and inexpensive hobby. Victorians made use of the simple materials they had at hand, like scraps of fabric or shells, seeds, dried plants and hair for more elaborate creations.

#### 2013 Calendar of Events

#### March

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm Community Education Program: Women Prospectors of the Old West presented by author Chris Enss,

Bernhard Museum Winery, 291 Auburn Folsom Rd, Auburn.

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society meeting at Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville.

Contact: 916-773-3003

March 18th, 6:00 pm Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting at the Forest Hill Divide Museum.

Contact: 530-367-3535.

March 18th, 7:00 pm Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin.

Contact: 916-624-3464

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.

Contact: 916-663-3871.

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library.

Contact 530-885-2216.

#### **April**

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm. Placer County Historical Society Dinner meeting at the Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street,

Auburn. Contact: (530) 885-5074

**April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm** Community Education Program: *The American River Canyon* presented by Mike Lynch and Rodi Lee.

Bernhard Museum Winery, 291 Auburn Folsom Rd, Auburn.

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society meeting at the Carnegie Museum. 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville

Contact: 916-773-3003.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm** Forest Hill Divide Historical Society Dinner meeting at the Foresthill Memorial Hall.

Contact: 530-367-3535.

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin.

Contact: 916-624-3464

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm Historical Advisory Board meeting at the Bernhard Museum Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Auburn.

Contact: 530-889-6500.

**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.

Contact: 916-663-3871.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library.

Contact 530-885-2216.

Placer County Museums 101 Maple Street Auburn, CA 95603

