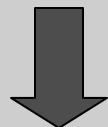


THE PLACER

A Voice of History

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Administrator's Notes

Melanie Barton

Across the nation, April is the month when volunteers receive special recognition and appreciation. The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for Placer County Museum volunteers was held at the Memorial Hall in Forest Hill on Sunday, April 25th. All of our volunteers are valued for the many contributions they make, however at this dinner we recognize significant benchmarks such as hours and years served. I would like to thank the following volunteers for their dedication to museum programs: For 2,000 hours, **Coralee Arnold**; 2,500 hours, **Carol Cramer** and **Carla Shimkowski**; and for 4,000 hours, **Bob Balmain**. For 15 years, **Donna and Steve Coffman**, **Gloria Bilotta**, **Edna Boltman**, **Joan Frink** and **Gerda Percival**; 20 years, **Jo Anne Cuff**, **Kay Haslop**, & **Mike and Pat Moffet**. Thank you all!

The award for **Outstanding Achievement 2010** was presented to three volunteers – **Daphne Lake**, **John Knox** and **Troy Simester**. **Daphne Lake** volunteered 262 hours in 2009 at the Placer County and Bernhard Museums as a docent and she volunteered for the

Living History Program. She attended many of the Community Education programs. Daphne consistently asks staff to check her information and is always open to constructive criticism of her tours. She went a step further when she, along with two other docents, portrayed Alma Bell in the Women's Jail during the last Heritage Trail event. **John Knox** spent 540 hours as a researcher at the Archives & Research Center where he focused on the Bernhard history and as a docent at the Griffith Quarry Museum. He has singlehandedly shed new light on a family and building history we all thought we knew and has erased years of misinformation. Because of his ongoing work, fact has replaced legend. In addition to being the president of the Forest Hill Divide Historical Society for the last 2½ years, **Troy Simester** has lead the construction of the barn that houses the vintage fire truck. Troy also helped guide the reorganization of the Blacksmith Shop and often can be found volunteering at the forge. One thing these three volunteers have in common is a love of history. We certainly appreciate that they have chosen to volunteer for the Placer County Museums.

We are excited to invite our readers to visit our newest

exhibit at the Placer County Museum located in the Historic Courthouse. This exhibit, entitled *For the Love of California*, celebrates the 135th anniversary of the Native Sons of the Golden West and the 125th anniversary of the Placer County parlors. The NSGW are unsung heroes for their dedication to preserving the history of the formative years of California. We are proud to be their partners in promoting local history. The museum is open daily from 10:00 – 4:00, excluding holidays.

May is Museum Month in California. Please encourage your friends, family and neighbors to visit one of the museums in the county.

Bootleggers and Speakeasies

Ralph Gibson

In the 1920s, Prohibition was the law of the land, but alcohol was still being consumed thanks to bootleggers and speakeasies. Bootleggers illegally manufactured, transported and sold alcohol. Many people chose to drink in their own homes, but some visited speakeasies to have a drink. For every legitimate saloon that closed during Prohibition, at least two speakeasies sprung up to replace it. Because of their secretive nature, we don't know how many speakeasies were in Placer County, but local law enforcement was quite busy during the "Roaring Twenties" arresting proprietors of

businesses that sold alcohol. The following is an article that appeared in the March 26, 1921 *Placer Herald*:

A report was made this week by a private detective, hired by the Board of Supervisors and the District Attorney's Office, dealing with gambling and booze selling in the cities of Roseville, Lincoln, Auburn and Colfax. The investigation was made in these cities because of complaint from the city authorities, and the detective's report has been filed with the several Board of Trustees. Already action has been taken in Roseville, and several have pleaded guilty and paid their fines. The detective's labors consumed about a month in time, and his bill as filed against the county amounts to about \$750.00, for services and expenses. District Attorney Landis and Sheriff Gum and Deputy Dependener made several arrests in Roseville last Saturday night upon information contained in the detective's report.

As I read that, I wondered what "expenses" the detective wanted to be reimbursed for.

It's often difficult to tell if a location busted by Sheriff Gum is simply the site of manufacture or if it is truly a place where folks can sit down and have an illicit drink. Sometimes the line was blurred by the fact that some places

served both functions. The following *Placer Herald* article from January 26, 1924 may reveal one such place:

Sheriff Gum and Deputy Dependener have been very busy this week, arresting violators of the Wright Act. They have knocked over a couple of wine cellars in Roseville, and Thursday night they arrested two fellows who were operating a bootlegging joint at the old "Chicken Coop" in Lincoln.

I love the name "Chicken Coop". Of course, they could have just manufactured booze there to be transported and sold elsewhere, but the thought of going to the "Chicken Coop" for a drink is somehow appealing. Part of the confusion regarding speakeasies is that the term was not universally used during the era. It seems that all locations where liquor was being sold in any form in Placer County were referred to as a "bootlegging operation" in the newspapers. The next article from the January 12, 1924 *Placer Herald* mentions another possible speakeasy:

Four charges against Rudolfo Giraladini, proprietor of the Stone House, an alleged bootlegging establishment on the Grass Valley highway, have been filed by District Attorney Orrin J. Lowell, following a raid conducted recently by an operative for the district attorney's office.

Separate complaints charge Girdalini with attempted mayhem, sale of liquor, having firearms in his possession, permitting a gambling game to be operated in his resort and possession of a slot machine in his place of business.

Most speakeasies were hidden in plain view. A speakeasy could be in the back room of a laundromat, a store, or any other reputable business. From the outside, many people would not have guessed that they could gamble or have a drink in the Stone House. If the establishment was like most speakeasies, one would have to have a special password or knock to gain entry to the secret part of the building where they could drink and gamble. Besides gambling, entertainment such as vaudeville acts, torch singers and jazz could be found in some speakeasies.

Before Prohibition it was extremely poor taste for a woman to be seen drinking in a bar, but women, mostly flappers, smashed through this cultural barrier in the speakeasies of the 1920s. The flapper was a free-spirited young woman who could vote, smoke, drink, and wasn't afraid to express her sexuality. In many ways, the "Roaring Twenties" were like the "Wild Sixties". Of course, not all women during Prohibition were flappers and many would not dare enter such an establishment unless they were on a particular mission, like the woman in the

following January 1, 1931
Auburn Journal article:

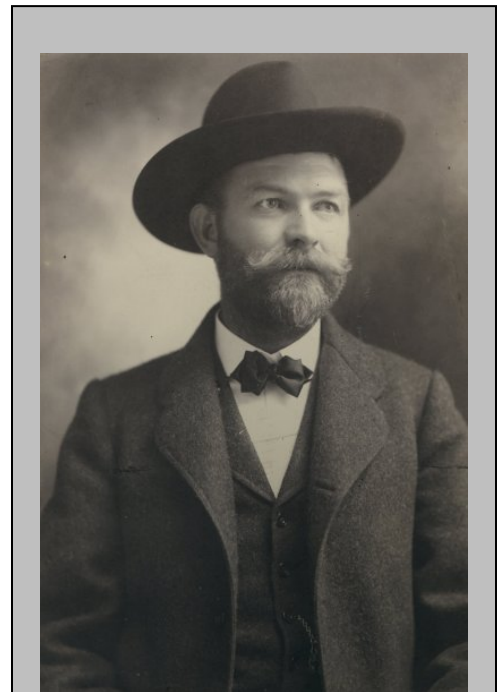
Demanding a jury trial, G. Bianchini, proprietor of a road house on the Auburn-Newcastle state highway, yesterday entered a plea of not guilty to a charge of assaulting Mrs. Harriet Hawk, wife of Earl Hawk, well known orchardist of the Mt. Pleasant district, at his road house last Saturday night...Before swearing to the complaint, Mrs. Hawk told District Attorney O.J. Lowell she called at a road house...while searching for her husband, Earl Hawk...Finding Hawk inside the resort conducted by Bianchini she upbraided Bianchini for selling liquor to her husband and keeping him away from home since December 23rd. Bianchini denied selling liquor to her husband, whereupon she produced many cancelled checks made out to Bianchini by her husband. According to her story this angered Bianchini and he slapped her violently across the face... Bianchini's resort, known as the Watch-Maker, had been abated for one year because of illegal sales of liquor. It reopened several months ago after the abatement instituted by District Attorney Orrin J. Lowell had expired.

With the passage of the 21st Amendment in 1933, the era of Prohibition came to a close and

speakeasies and flappers faded into history. Herbert Hoover called Prohibition the "noble experiment", but most called it what it truly was: a failure.



Sheriff Elmer Gum



Deputy Sheriff Frank Dependener



New York City Speakeasy, the 21 Club, which was frequented by Earnest Hemingway, Humphrey Bogart and Frank Sinatra



Secret Passage into the 21 Club



Museums Intelligence

Placer County Museums News

Ralph Gibson

The promise of clear skies and warm sun usually accompany the month of May, but the storms of March and April have given me pause. It's been a pretty wet spring so far, but not even Mother Nature can dampen the Living History Program. The students, parents, teachers, museum volunteers and staff have endured buckets of rain, stinging hail and raging winds, and yet smiles abound at the end of the day. The program has been very successful thus far and will continue to be, no matter the weather.

The weather was perfect for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in Foresthill. Cowboy Hay entertained better than ever and the food, catered by CowCamp, was terrific as always. I hope everyone who attended had a great time.

We just opened a new exhibit, *For the Love of California*, which tells the story of the Native Sons of the Golden West with particular emphasis on the local parlors. The next exhibit we're working on will display our collection of flapper dresses. This exhibit will replace the wedding dress exhibit currently in the Placer

County Museum sometime this summer.

Curator of Collections, Kasia Woroniecka and I attended a California Historical Records Advisory Board commission meeting in March. The meeting was really a workshop on records management for archives and museums. The instructor brought up a very important state assembly bill that became law on January 1st of this year: AB 1245, *Recovery of Public Records*. This law gives state and local governments the authority to repossess public records (historic or contemporary) from private collectors. The purpose of the law is to make all public records generated by state or local governments public again. The instructor recounted a recent trip to an antique store where a dealer was selling a Folsom Prison Mug Book for \$1,800.00. Once informed of the law, he balked at turning over the book. But soon after, he acquiesced and the book was returned to the state. The law requires that the state or local government offer a digital copy of the record or book to the possessor of the item. The man who had the Mug Book declined to receive a copy. It's an interesting law; one that I'm sure will be challenged in the coming months.

Community Education Program: *Jump into Summer ~ 19th Century Kids Games*

Summer is around the corner! Help us kick off our favorite season with a fun romp through

history! Join us at the Bernhard Museum for the next Community Education Program: *Jump into Summer ~ 19th Century Kids Games*. Bring your family on Saturday, June 19th anytime between 12:00 and 3:00. We will have period games, Living History crafts, kid-friendly tours of the Bernhard House, and hand-cranked ice cream. Take a step back in time with your whole family for a taste of yesteryear's summertime fun! This program is FREE! The Bernhard Museum is located at 291 Auburn-Folsom Road in Auburn.

For more information, please call 530-889-6500.

PCHS 2010-2011 Elected Board Members

Michael Otten, President;
George Lay, 1st Vice
President; Addah Owens,
2nd Vice President
(programs); Bonnie Parodi,
Secretary; Al Stoll,
Treasurer. Board members:
Sherri Schackner, Walt
Wilson, Penny Watson,
Karri Samson, Jean
Allender, Larry Moll, and
John Knox.

Placer County Historical Society News



President's Message

*Michael Otten,
President*

That old adage that "when the going gets tough, the tough get going" is exemplified by the service from Placer County by those of Japanese ancestry during World War II. They gave their all on behalf of a fearful country that had forsaken them.

In December the Placer County Board of Supervisors unveiled the first phase of a memorial honoring 102 Placer County residents who served. Only seven still survive, according to Auburn's David Unruhe, the guiding force behind the book, *"The Japantowns of Placer County"*. The Japantowns referenced are Loomis, Penryn, Newcastle and Auburn. The 102 (and there could be more) is a remarkable number out of the 1,500 Placer County residents of all ages that were rounded up in May 1942 and evacuated against their will.

Supervisor Jim Holmes gave a moving tribute at the dedication of the memorial to the heroic Japanese American soldiers of World War II, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. Some 14,000 men served. Their valor is reflected in the 9,486 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor and an unprecedented eight Presidential Unit Citations. The more than 18,000 awards

bestowed include 4,000 Bronze Stars, 560 Silver Stars, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 22 Legion of Merit Medals and 15 Soldier Medals.

The Placer County Japanese American Citizens League (joined by the Florin JACL) will host a premiere of a World War II documentary, "Valor with Honor," at 4 and 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, at the State Theater in Auburn to raise funds for the rest of the memorial. It will be a bronze sculpture by noted artist France Borka of Applegate. More information is available at www.placerjacl.org. Event sponsors include Holmes, Assistant District Attorney Scott Owens, Tokutomi & Caruthers, Dr. Rod Kihara, Kevin Eckard and Bill and Georgia Flake.

Unruhe, who continues his research, said the seven veterans still living are Shig Doi, Yutaka James Iso, Frank Kageeta, Ken Kashiwabara, Alfred T. Nitta, Harry H. Ohnoki and Shigeo Yokote. The list of 102 from Placer County was developed from Veterans Bureau records. It would be wonderful to compile a biography of each man to have when the memorial is completed and to make sure all are mentioned. Unruhe can be reached at davicki@wizwire.com.

The memorial is near the Santucci Justice Center in Roseville and the Go for Broke Road named in honor of the 442nd by the Supervisors in 2007.

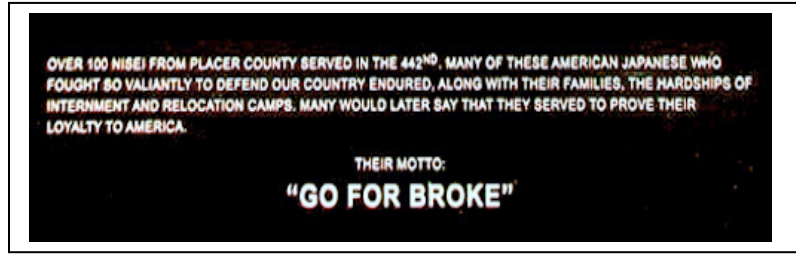
President Franklin D. Roosevelt called Dec. 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor as the Day that Will Live in Infamy. And Feb. 19 each year is recognized as a Day of Remembrance of the date in 1942 that Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which resulted in the forced removal of 120,000 Japanese Americans from their homes and incarceration in internment camps from which this special unit of brave soldiers were recruited.

Unruhe's book details much of what happened in Placer County. It noted a heavy-handed Board of Supervisors' resolution at the end of 1944 unqualifiedly opposing the return to California of those of Japanese ancestry excepting those in the armed services. One supervisor would even exclude the soldiers. The book calls the board action "an historical barometer of the racist atmosphere in Placer County" at the time. Prominent citizens in Auburn formed an Anti-Japanese League with its first meeting (more than 250 attended) at Veterans Memorial Hall. Some shopkeepers posted signs saying "we don't serve Japs."

It was a sad chapter in local history that the Board of Supervisors and many prominent citizens are going all out to rectify.

I'm indebted to Unruhe for solving a mystery for me. When my wife and I were in Death Valley in December a couple of old barracks were

pointed out to us as being where some "troublemakers from Manzanar" were housed temporarily during World War II. I looked up information about the Manzanar War Relocation Center in Inyo County and the internment and could find no substantiation.



Unruhe seemed surprised I knew about it because he just made the same discovery when he picked up a booklet as part of the 41st Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 24. The little-known impoundment of 65 Japanese Americans in Death Valley lasted less than two and a half months and stemmed from what became known as the Manzanar Riot, the most serious incident at the camps. To quell a protest of 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners over an arrest, military police had fired into the crowd, killing a 17-year-old boy, fatally injuring a 21-year-old man and wounding nine others.



Sculptor France Borka with plaque

The booklet, "Death Valley: Its Impounded Americans," says the 65 were transferred "for their own protection." They were housed in the Cow Creek Civilian Conservation Corps camp that had been empty since the start of the war because the CCC workers were among the first to go. Their stay ended on Feb. 15, 1943, ending what one termed a deserved footnote for those Americans of Japanese ancestry in the history of the region.

--Michael Otten, otten@ssctv.net

Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

Addah Owens, Vice President

When: June 3, 2010

Time: 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

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

Cost: \$14 per person

Menu: BBQ, Tom's Award Winning Beans, Salad, Rolls and Dessert

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

Program: What made Lincoln unique? What was his secret? This program gives an interpretation of this most enigmatic of Americans.

Arnold Kunst, the author of *The Lincoln Minute*, holds an MA in history from Queen's University in Ireland. He has been a teacher, school administrator, professional musician, free-lance journalist, business owner and Hospice volunteer. His speaking engagements have extended from San Francisco and Los Angeles to Scottsdale and St. Louis. He is a veteran Toastmaster. Be prepared for a scintillating and engaging presentation!

Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society
Ed & Nilda Duffek,
(530) 305-3209

www.colfaxhistory.org

Donner Summit Historical Society

Margie Powell, (530) 432-4015
www.donnersummithistoricalociety.org

Foresthill Divide Historical Society

Merilee Reed, (530) 367-2430
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
Dot Shiro, (916) 663-3892
www.ppgn.com

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

Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59
Tom Potts, (916) 412-3910

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

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society
Donna Howell, (530) 885-2891

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 Worniecka

The popular contempt for the Prohibition forced the saloons to go underground and become speakeasies. This period of social and political struggle redefined women's roles and created a new breed of women called flappers. Flappers went to jazz clubs and speakeasies, smoked cigarettes, drove cars and drank openly. They also worked outside the home and advocated women's rights. Flapper fashion embraced all things and styles modern. A fashionable flapper had short sleek hair, make-up and a shorter than average shapeless shift dress. This beautiful handmade beaded flapper style dress from our collection was made sometime during the Roaring Twenties.



Calendar of Events

May

- May 17th, 6:00 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Business meeting at the Foresthill Divide Museum. Contact: 530-367-3535.
- May 17th, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary's Chapel at 5152 Front Street. Contact: 916-624-3464.
- May 19th, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library. Contact: 916-652-7844.
- May 27th, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library. Contact 530-885-2216.

June

- June 3rd, 6:30 pm** Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. Contact: 530-885-5074.
- June 16th, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library. Contact: 916-652-7844.
- June 16th, 5:30 pm** Historical Advisory Board meeting at the Bernhard Winery. Contact: 530-889-6500.
- June 19th, 12:00 pm** Community Education program: *Jump into Summer ~ 19th Century Kids Games* at the Bernhard Museum. Contact: 530-889-6500.
- June 21st, 6:30 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Potluck meeting at the Foresthill Memorial Hall. Contact: 530-367-3535.
- June 24th, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library. Contact 530-885-2216.