

# ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, June 2009

## Summer's here!

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

*In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them.*

- Aldo Leopold

Thank you to all of you who came to the election at the last meeting. Thank you to our officers for 2008-2009, and welcome to the new officers who will begin serving in their positions in July 2009. This has been an interesting year full of surprises, changes, and new collaborations. Thank you for your patience and support.

This year is moving right along and before we know it **Gold Rush Days** will be here. It's time to start thinking about our venues and what we want to do this year. Typically we have set up the saloon, the justice of the peace's office, proper ladies, bathhouse and laundry, blacksmith, doctor's and dentist's office, and a phrenology tent. Please let me know if you have a new venue in mind. Gold Rush Days is late this year, September 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>.

I will be on vacation from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Eagle Theatre Update

Things are moving along! The HVAC is currently being installed, and the bathrooms were being painted the last time I walked into the building.

We should be able to have all our classes and meetings in the Eagle come July. For June, the general membership meeting and the classes will take place in the Museum while the work on the Eagle is finishing up. Thank you for your patience and flexibility!



## The President's Quill

Greg Tracy, President

Jolly June! We start the month with Riverboat Casino Night aboard the Delta King on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Punters and Gamblers will be out in force as this is a big fundraiser for Historic Old Sacramento Foundation. Come on out and lend your support to this important event.

This month also has three training sessions. The first class on June 6<sup>th</sup> covers language, customs and etiquette; this one is not to miss because most everything studied so far will come together with this class. The next class is on the 13<sup>th</sup> and covers material culture, plus it includes a tour of the Sacramento History Museum. What makes this class so interesting is to see how our culture has changed and see what items were at the height of technology. The third class on the 27<sup>th</sup> covers Gold Rush art, music and photography, a profound session of instruction showing it was not a cultural wasteland here during the Gold Rush.

We are already at the end of another living history year. The past year has been activity full indeed, and the next year promises to be just as full. June marks the end of my service as president. The past two years have been interesting and a great deal of fun. Thank you again for the opportunity.

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## Upcoming Events

### Riverboat Casino Night

*Janessa West*

It's almost here! Please plan to arrive at 5:30 p.m. aboard the Delta King if you are one of the game dealers, greeters, or auction helpers. Currently signed up are the following people:

- Greeters: Eileen, Ruth, Friends from Coloma, Penny, and Randy
- Silent Auction Helpers: Jill
- Ambiance Helpers: Terry M., Ray, Biscuits, Carol
- Musicians: Dale, Rudy, Richard
- Dancing: Sacramento Ballroom Society

Game Dealers:

- Chuck a luck- Jim, Glen, and Jan
- Roulette- Lizzy
- Faro- Ken and Catherine
- Hyronemus- Jane and Jason
- Rouge et Noir- Donna
- Vantoon- Roger
- Monte- Greg
- Over and Under- Alan
- Shut the Box- LaMonna and Janessa
- Fan Tan- Terry E.

I apologize if I left anyone out, but I would love for you to attend, please let me know!

### Museum Weekend Programs

*Janessa West*

The next series of weekend programs in conjunction with Old Sacramento Living History will include:

- June 27<sup>th</sup> - Sacramento History Jeopardy. I am taking sign-ups for contestants now!
- July 4<sup>th</sup> - Independence Day Picnic and annual croquet tournament
- Lyceum in the Eagle Theatre

### Old Sacramento Street Scenes

*Janessa West*

The following events are scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays in June:

#### June 6th

- Drum and Fife Band -12:00-3:00 in Waterfront Park
- A day with Mark Twain - 3:00-4:30 in the Eagle Theatre
- Shakespeare Lite - 4:00-6:00 in Waterfront Park

#### June 7th

- Storytelling – 11:00-2:00 in Waterfront Park
- Blue Canyon Gang – 4:00-6:00 in Waterfront Park

#### June 13th

- Bucket Brigade – 12:00-1:00 1849 Scene
- 19th Century Dancing – time TBD in the Eagle Theatre
- Shakespeare Lite - 4:00-6:00 in Waterfront Park

#### June 14th

- Storytelling – 11:00-2:00 in Waterfront Park
- Blue Canyon Gang – 4:00-6:00 in Waterfront Park

#### June 20th

- Juggling – 11:00-2:00 in Atlantis Park
- Shakespeare Lite - 4:00-6:00 in Waterfront Park

#### June 21st

- Storytelling – 11:00-2:00 in Waterfront Park
- Blue Canyon Gang – 4:00-6:00 in Waterfront Park

#### June 27th

- Burros! – 11:00-2:00 strolling in Old Sacramento

#### June 28th

- Storytelling – 11:00-2:00 in Waterfront Park
- Blue Canyon Gang – 4:00-6:00 in Waterfront Park

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## Miscellanea

### Election Results

*Catherine Hanson, Nominating Committee chair*

The results of the election held on May 9 are as follows:

President	Jill Quinn
Vice-president	Penny Adams
Secretary	Jan Bullard
Treasurer	Bob Flaherty
Member-at-large	Terry Melau
	Richard Vincent

Congratulations to our new and continuing officers, and thank you to everyone who consented to run. The term of officers is July 2009-June 2010.

The vote on whether all General Members meetings should be on Saturday mornings, or if we should continue to alternate them between Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, resulted in a decision for Saturdays only. This change will go into effect in July 2009.



### Jazz Festival Parade



### Editorial

### A Question of Autonomy

*Catherine Hanson, Editor*

At the May 9 General Members' meeting, it was announced that OSLHP's volunteer appreciation luncheon, typically held in June, had been cancelled by the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation board due to budget constraints. A volunteer appreciation event with the Sacramento History Museum volunteers would be scheduled at a later date.

Many members in attendance at that meeting were angered by this news. In the following week, 25 members added their names to a petition protesting the appropriation of the funds that we had raised, through Ghost Tours and sarsaparilla sales, for our own volunteer appreciation event.

I think the issue is bigger than money, although of course, the money issues are important. I think that OSLHP members are upset that HOSF seems to be folding us into the Sacramento History Museum without even asking us if that is what we want.

OSLHP has been an independent organization for 15 years. We have our own bylaws, our own executive board, our own schedule of events, and we are accustomed to our autonomy. We do not want to be absorbed by the Sacramento History Museum, and we do not want to become a program of the museum.

I see no reason why the Old Sacramento Living History Program and the Sacramento History Museum cannot be independent and equal organizations under the umbrella of the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation.



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## Miscellanea

### The White Indian Man

*Ruth Chambers*

*[Chapter 25 from the soon to be published book, The Weight of Gold]*

On the streets of Sacramento City was a marshal strange to see. He was of the plains and mountains and the Gold Rush with furs, and beads, and fringe. He wore Mountain Men and Indian attire. His name was G.K. Powers.

Mr. Powers was also known as Raccoon Eyes of the Arapaho Tribe – the Buffalo Followers (Plains Indians). G.K. Powers appeared to be a white man, but like many, he had mixed blood. There was a disproportionate number of men to women on the frontier from earliest times, and many a white man married an Indian woman.

Because of his charm and historic quaintness, he became the Honorary Town Marshal. Mr. Powers had learned a doctor invented rubber gloves in 1851. Mr. Powers used this information to evolve the next step in rubber inventions: balloons. Mr. Powers, in one of his fanciful outfits, would meet the Sacramento City trains to entertain families with these delightful balloons.

On a clear evening after the day's work, and the dinner was over, we'd build an outdoor fire, and sit around the fire telling stories. Mr. Powers had some of the best. He had lived with Whites, and he'd lived with Indians.

His family had a mercantile store in the East and came West with the Gold Rush to open another store. They had wagons full of merchandise and were cheerful with optimism for the future. It was on a sunny day full of hope when the Indians rode over the top of a rolling green hill, and started attacking the wagon train. The Powers family had Indian blood but dressed and looked White. The Indians had no idea they were attacking their own kind.

Of course the wagon train had all the items on an Indian's shopping list: mirrors, beads, yardage, and wonderful food such as dried fruit, cured ham, hard tack, flour, sugar, and best of all, some whiskey and rum.

An arrow ran through Mother Powers. G.K. reached for her as she started to fall. G.K.'s head

was struck by an arrow causing a bad gash that bled into his face, but he was not killed, just thrown back. As he fell he hit his head on a rock that knocked him senseless and cut him open in a second place. Mother Powers died as she fell. Her body landed on top of G.K. Father Powers nearby was struck by several arrows and fell dead.

G.K. was hazy and confused, but even in that state, he knew enough not to move. He whispered to his Father who did not answer. His Mother's limp body lay on top of him and he knew she was dead, too. Her dress covered part of him so he could breathe without being seen. His head and face were visible and were very bloody.

From this position he could see the Indians killing the other people in the Wagon Train. Then the Indians started going through all the merchandise. They took hats and shawls, and put them on. Some of the Indians had men's tall hats, and others had women's hats with feathers and bows. The scarves and shawls were worn over shoulders, around waists, and even tossed over horses. Then they went through the yardage – tossing the bolts so the cloth flew out full length.

One Indian tied a length of yardage to his horse's tail and started riding about shouting with the yardage flying out behind. Other Indians did the same. Soon the Indians were trying to ride over each others long cloth tails trying to pull the yardage off. This exciting game of riders and horses and fabric went on most of the afternoon.

G.K. did not move. He was hurt and bloody, but he did not move. All afternoon he lay there by his dead Father and Mother – Mother protecting him even in death with her body and full skirted dress.

Finally the Indians took whatever merchandise they wanted, the horses, and oxen, but left the wagons. When G.K. was certain they were gone, he struggled out. He was still stunned and had lost a good bit of blood. He stood up and looked around at the mess that was left. Yardage, pots and pans, clothes, bedding – all scattered and mixed in with dead bodies. All eight men were dead, including his Father.

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## Miscellanea

### The White Indian Man (continued)

G.K. found a water canteen and washed his face and head. He could feel where the arrow had creased the side of his head. He could also feel the bump where his head hit the rock. The skin was broken here, too. Both gashes were drying. He wrapped cloth around his battered head to cover the wounds, and stop any bleeding that might start again.

He found a low place between two rolling hills and laid the bodies of his family and friends there. He put his Mother and Father together, and the other men together. He shoveled dirt over them all to a depth of three feet. Then he put rocks on top to stop animals from digging up the bodies. He worked into the night – his sweat mixing in with his tears. He was only fourteen years old.

When he was done, he fell to the ground and closed his eyes. His head was throbbing. He was not sure if he fell asleep, or went unconscious. When he opened his eyes again, the sun was high in the sky. He had to rub the sleep, dirt, and blood from his eyes to see. The day wasn't a nightmare. It was all true.

After all these years, G.K. could still wake with a start when dreams of that day on the trail came back. Once awake with the shock of those dreams still in his head, he could smell the scent of cooking food that reminded G.K. of his Mother. But it was more than a memory; it was as though someone was there beside him, even though no one was there. This feeling that someone was there lasted until he calmed down from his dream.

Even now without a bad dream, G.K. (played by Reenactor Kevin Powers) can be at the Train Station making balloon animals for children, and seeing the children laugh enjoying the fanciful balloons, when that special scent of cooking food floats by on a breeze. Soon that same feeling that someone is there comes over G.K., and he knows his Mother is with him again. She visits to share the joy her son brings to children at the Train Station in Old Sacramento.

### Jazz Festival Parade



## Miscellanea

### Model Boys

Submitted by Jim Lundsten

The Model Boy of my time—we never had but the one—was perfect: perfect in manners, perfect in dress, perfect in conduct, perfect in filial piety, perfect in exterior godliness; but at bottom he was a prig; and as for the contents of his skull, they could have changed place with the contents of a pie and nobody would have been the worse off for it but the pie. This fellow's reproachlessness was a standing reproach to every lad in the village. He was the admiration of all the mothers, and the detestation of all their sons. I was told what became of him, but as it was a disappointment to me, I will not enter into details. He succeeded in life.

- Mark Twain

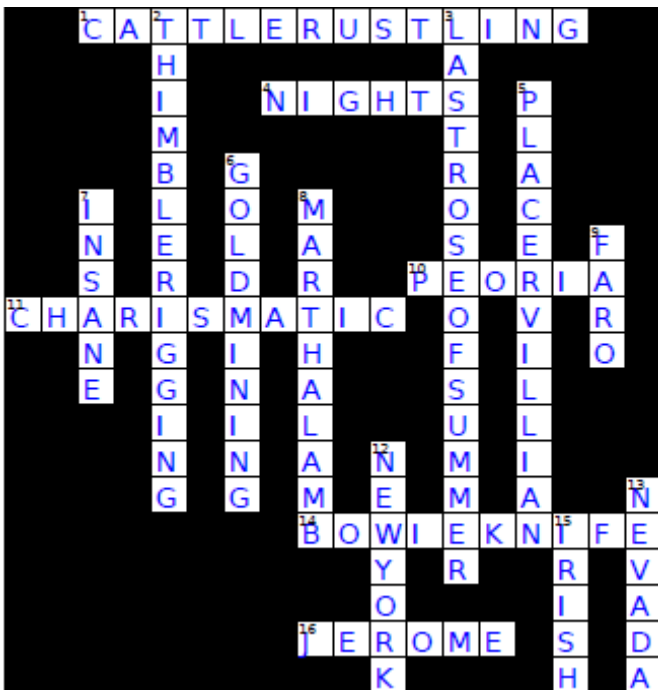
(from *Life on the Mississippi*, 1883, chapter 54)

### Jazz Festival Parade



### Lucky Bill's Story

Answers to previous puzzle



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## Letters to the Editor

### A Little History of the Old Sacramento Living History Program

*Ken Knott*

The Old Sacramento Living History Program is 14 years old. Not a very long time, but it has been through a lot of changes during that time.

When the OSLHP got started it was under the benign supervision of Old Sac Management and Ed Astone. OSLHP monies were mixed in with Old Sac Management's and all went well until the City decided to install parking meters in Old Sac. The reasoning for the parking meters was that they would provide a stable income that would fund the Living History Program.

The first meters were too confusing to operate, so they had to be replaced. The replacement costs were so great that Old Sac Management went in the hole financially and had to use OSLHP's money just to keep operating in the black, sort of. We at OSLHP got mad that they were taking money that we had raised ourselves.

When Ed Astone retired, the Old Historic Old Sacramento Foundation (HOSF) was formed, and Steve Huffman was the Director. The City provided 'seed money' for the Foundation and the OSLHP was transferred from Old Sac Management to the Foundation.

Also under the Foundation was the Merchants Association, a contradictory mix of Living History and promotion of Old Sac businesses. The mixture was doomed to fail because the Board of the Foundation was composed of business owners whose primary motivation was how much money they could make. The Board fired Steve Huffman and he was not replaced for several months. Finally they hired Vicky Baxter but she only lasted a few months and then she flipped out. The new Board fired all of the office staff, and the Merchants Association was made into a separate entity.

The City placed the Sacramento History Museum under the Foundation and all new Board Members were selected. During all the shake-up things were sort of disorganized. When the dust settled, The Old Sacramento Living History Program survived, Janessa, our Program Coordinator got assigned a lot of other duties, such as running programs for the History Museum when they fired Joey and running the Summer Programs that Vicky Baxter used to run. The money that we raise for our Volunteer Appreciation Day is run through the Foundation's account. They say history repeats itself, and now the Foundation is funding the operations of the History Museum.

Fundum absquatulatum. Need I say more?

### A letter from Sacramento City Dry Goods

Greetings everyone!

Mr. E. P. Figg and I wish first to thank you all again for your patronage. We have the best customers in the known world.

Secondly, we would like to announce the store is situating to a larger space in Old Sacramento. Some time in July we will be moving to 110 L Street in the Stanford Brothers Warehouse. The new space is just down L Street from the Schoolhouse and Waterfront Park. There is more square footage, it is on the first floor (most of it), it has skylights and windows on two sides, and there is a loft suitable for classes and speechifying. We will apprise all when the date is firm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Mrs. E. P. Figg (Hattie)  
[aka **JoAnn Peterson**]

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## Miscellanea

### Librarian's Random Pick

*Janessa West*

*The Family Nurse* by Mrs. Child revised by a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society

“If not as well as usual, eat nothing; fasting and cold water are the best physicians, nineteen times out of twenty.”

This book is available for checkout in the OSLHP library, call number RT 61 C486 1837.

### News from the Sacramento Ballroom Society

There is a new Victorian dance series every Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m. hosted by our home studio, the Ultimate Dance Sport, 9181C Kiefer Blvd., Sacramento. Each month features a different dance popular in the United States from 1840 to 1870, taught by world-class ballroom champion Danny Lerer.

The cost is \$11 per person to drop-in, \$5 with a monthly studio card. This is the studio's class, not the Sacramento Ballroom Society's, so please contact Ultimate Dance Sport for studio card questions.

June's dance is the polonaise/Grand March. It is a walking/promenade style dance.

### From your Editor

*Catherine Hanson*

All OSLHP members are invited to submit items for inclusion in the *Argonaut Gazette*. Articles, letters to the editor, calendar items, and personal news announcements are welcome. The submission deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication. Submissions may be modified for length and readability at the discretion of the editor.

E-mail articles to me at:

[chanson@library.ca.gov](mailto:chanson@library.ca.gov)

For those without e-mail access, submissions can be mailed to: 1179 Theo Way, Sacramento CA 95822.



The *Argonaut Gazette* is published monthly by the Old Sacramento Living History Program.

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#### 2008-2009 OSLHP Officers

Greg Tracy, President  
Jason Hollingsworth, Vice-president  
Ken Knott, Past President  
Jan Bullard, Secretary  
Bob Flaherty, Treasurer  
Terry Melau, Member-at-Large  
Richard Vincent, Member-at-Large

OSLHP is sponsored by  
the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>June</b>				
5 – Friday	5:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Riverboat Casino Night	Delta King	Janessa West
6 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Language, customs, and etiquette class	Sacramento History Museum	Ken Knott
9 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	River City Saloon (tentative)	Greg Tracy
10 – Wednesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	General Membership meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Greg Tracy
13 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Material culture class/ History Museum tour	Sacramento History Museum	Ken Knott
27 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Gold Rush art and music, photography class	Sacramento History Museum	Ken Knott
<b>July</b>				
4 – Saturday	TBA	Independence Day Picnic	TBA	
7 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Eagle Theatre	Janessa West
11 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership meeting	Eagle Theatre	Jill Quinn
11 – Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Guns, Gold Rush medicine class	Eagle Theatre	Ken Knott
18 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Men’s and women’s costume class	Eagle Theatre	Ken Knott
25 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Influence of woman class	Eagle Theatre	Ken Knott
<b>August</b>				
1 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	New Member Presentations and Graduation	Eagle Theatre	Ken Knott
4 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Eagle Theatre	Janessa West
8 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership meeting	Eagle Theatre	Jill Quinn
15 – Saturday		Lyceum	Eagle Theatre	Richard Vincent
<b>September</b>				
4 – 7 Friday – Monday		Gold Rush Days		Janessa West