

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, October 2009

Happy Hallow!

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

The leaves are beginning to turn colors and will be falling to the ground in a few more weeks. It is time to say goodbye to summer and hello to the fall. Ghost Tours, our major fundraiser, is already underway. We have a LIVE dress rehearsal on the 2nd at 7:00, and then tours are the 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, and 30th.

If you have time, make your way up the hill and visit Coloma for their version of gold rush days taking place on October 10th, 11th, and 12th. Enjoy the beautiful weather and tour the gold country!



Gold Rush Days Review

What a tremendous success! The new doll-making activity at the ladies venue was immensely popular, as was the new dress-making venue. We sold out of sarsaparilla in both the Stinking Tent Saloon and the Eagle Theatre. Even the notorious gambler Lucky Bill was successfully found and arrested in the middle of the fashion show!

Thank you to everyone who worked during the event and to those who helped with set-up and tear-down. We should all be proud of ourselves and the wonderful venues that represented OSLH.



From the President

Jill Quinn, President

October has descended upon us along with Ghost Tours. The weather will start to cool down and the leaves will start to fall. This is the perfect time to put on your costume and go out into the night and play. Jan has written an excellent script for us to re-enact the ghosts of Old Sacramento's past. Ghost tours is truly a fun event that you can just relax and have fun with.

In keeping with the Ghost Tours theme for October, our enrichment session for October will be a program on the underground in Sacramento. This program was shown on KVIE and shows actual footage of the underground. Until I saw this show, I did not know how extensive the underground is and that it still exists today. I think you will find it very interesting.

Gold Rush Days was wonderful again this year. Our venues were better than ever. I would like to thank everyone from OSLH that participated in the event and contributed to making it so successful. I would also like to thank the Sacramento Ballroom Society, the museum workers and volunteers, Winnie, and all the other volunteers from the various organizations that showed up from set-up to tear-down to make our tent city what it was.

GOLD RUSH DAYS 2009

Mrs. Keys' Golden Needle

Penny Adams

What a great time we had at Gold Rush Days! It was the first year for the seamstress/millinery venue, and from what I heard and saw, it was a great success. Not only were we blessed with good weather, we were blessed having our new member, Donna Fipps, whose idea it was for the venue, take on such an important role in furnishing it and making the props. Thank you, Donna.

The venue was always busy with guests, some even wanting to buy some of our wares but sadly, we had to tell them the bonnets and frocks were not for sale. We also had wonderful attendance with members who always kept a sewing project going, much to the interest of the public.

We were sandwiched between two other ladies venues: the laundry and spinning area on one side—where the children could help with the laundry and get some handmade soap—and Frink's Boarding House on the other side, where they were demonstrating the making of pin lace and making dolls with the children. The doll-making was a very popular event with the children, and we were fortunate to just squeeze by with enough fabric squares to get through Monday. All in all, the ladies' area was very impressive and well attended. The ultimate compliment came on Monday as we were tearing down. We were asked if we could bring our "store" to Coloma for their event in October.

Thanks to everyone for all of their hard work in making this venue such a success.



GOLD RUSH DAYS 2009

We have a winner!

Carol Bassoni

Doll-making at the ladies venue this year was huge—almost overshadowing the boarding house activities of lace-making and spinning. Jane and Leslie are to be commended for the hours they spent standing or sitting in the heat to help children and adults make almost a thousand dolls. Also, a special thanks to the young ladies who showed up on Sunday to help: Brittini Newman, Madison Newman, and their friends Sierra and Tyler! The crowds around the table were constant.

Mary and I paid homage to lace-making in the 1800's with the narrow edgings commonly made in America for embellishing handkerchiefs, caps and baby gowns. This activity is always a crowd pleaser with many sitting and sharing stories of needlework done by their ancestors and still stored away. With new appreciation for the art, many went away with the idea of getting the heirlooms out of storage.

Barbara from Sutter's Fort interested many with her spinning prowess, and she made several skeins of beautiful yarn. Many people had never seen these crafts done and were so impressed!

After Hours

Finally, something should be said for the after-hours fun that most people missed for going home early. The hardy bunch that stayed over to help with security was treated (?) to my outdoor cooking in Dutch ovens over an open fire. I served all who were brave enough to try pheasant (read chicken) stew with dumplings, lasagna, corned beef hash, buffalo meat with beans, and dump cake! Not all at once, of course! Ask anyone who tried it, they'll tell you it was really good! We had a crowd of nine or more each night including several from the Mormon Battalion. This after-hours activity drew its own crowd of onlookers from the late arriving public. They thought it was part of Gold Rush Days and wanted to stay and eat! Cris, our security guard every night, was tremendously helpful and friendly. What fun after-hours can be!



GOLD RUSH DAYS 2009

The French Connection

Terry Eargle

Eugenie Dumas thoroughly enjoyed her recent employment dealing Fan-Tan at the popular Stinking Tent Saloon in Sacramento City. The famous French gambler touted to each visitor hers was the only card game where counting cards was “legal”! Mme. Dumas gained quite a reputation speaking in many tongues during the games and happily showing how often “the house wins!”

Mme. Dumas, as emcee, enjoyed the impromptu atmosphere of the first annual GRD's fashion show at the Eagle Theatre. The visitors enjoyed seeing many fine members in their various attire with quick repartees of description. It was a nice break from the hustle-bustle outside. Considering the little preparation time and the shortage of participants due to the demands of the venues, it was still entertaining. Mme. Dumas would be happy to emcee again, at a future fashion show which could be the centerpiece for spring, perhaps.

Alas, Mme. Dumas regrets not being able to participate in the wonderful dance programs sponsored by the Sacramento Ballroom Society. Hoping for their presence in a Spring Fling, too!

One last note, Mme. Dumas would like to thank Winnie for his fine donation at the Reverend's Sunday Revival at the Stinking Tent Saloon. It brought a whole new meaning to the saloon's namesake!



Eugenie plies her trade.



The doctor and his helper check the instruments.

Medical Matters

Richard Vincent

Once again, the doctor's/dentist's tent was very popular, as a steady stream of people satisfied their morbid curiosity. Wide eyes and shudders were a dime a dozen.

Strangely, despite the sign "Thomas M. Logan, MD" above the tent, many people thought that Terry Melau's surgical tools were the dental tools. “Why would a dentist use a saw like that?” Of course, the amputation tools drew the most attention, but the extracted teeth on the dentist's table were a big draw, too. (“Are they real?”)

We could not find any volunteers for demonstrations of 19th century surgical techniques (although many people suggested their companions as subjects). But many parents did thrust forward their children with loose teeth. We suggested tying one of Winchester the donkey's tail hairs to a loose tooth and then slapping Winchester's rump.

Yours truly almost made a major social blunder. One talkative fellow walked up with the ugliest set of teeth and gums I have ever seen—even on the Halloween aisle at Walmart. I was sure they were fake. Words like “Hey, Mister, we're runnin' a special on extractions today. Wann'a get that ugly smile fixed up?” were on the tip of my tongue. Fortunately, I held my tongue until he was close enough for me realize that those were his REAL teeth and gums!

Upcoming Events

Ghost Tours

Janessa West

Live Dress Rehearsal 10/2 at 7:00!

The cast has been set, but we are still looking for a few more shepherds to help follow the tour groups around and a few more people to help with check in. If you are new to ghost tours, come on out and join us for this much loved event.

Tour dates are the 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, and 30th of October and tour times are 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, and 8:30 with the last tour ending at 9:30.

Thank you to Jan for writing another terrific script and leading us on the walk-through!

An Evening of Fine Wine & Cheese

Janessa West

Join the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation and Old Sacramento Business Association for "An Evening of Fine Wine & Cheese" on Thursday, October 8th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the fabulous Firehouse Restaurant.

Come and enjoy gourmet wine and cheese graciously sponsored by the Firehouse Restaurant. Browse the wonderful items in the silent auction and mingle with great company. Tickets are only \$49. If you would like to contribute to the event's silent auction or purchase tickets, please call me. Any and all support is greatly appreciated. We hope to see you there!



Dave Freeman and Winnie chat with Janessa.

Historical Dancing Lessons

Robert Barchfeld

Member of the Sacramento Ballroom Society continue to teach weekly lessons in historical ballroom dancing at the Ultimate DanceSport studio. Dances include rotary waltz, Viennese waltz, polka, mazurka, polonaise, set dances, and a few others. If you have ever wondered how modern ballroom came to be, come out and join our lessons.

Lessons are every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at 9181C Kiefer Blvd., Sacramento, for the foreseeable future. Regular studio rates apply at \$7 for drop-in classes. The dances are easy and fun to learn. No partners are required.

History Museum Programs

Janessa West

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

- October 10th: Widow Chamber's Gold Rush Puppet Show

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

Four weekends
including the Friday after Thanksgiving!

Friday Nov. 27 thru Sunday Dec. 20, 2009

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Cow Palace, San Francisco

www.dickensfair.com

DEPP Renewals

If you have not yet renewed your DEPP card, it is not too late. If you have not picked up your letter please let Janessa know and she will send you a letter and an application.

DEPP is a city program that allows volunteers to park at a reduced rate in the I Street Garage.

Miscellanea

Membership

Penny Adams, Vice President

I am pleased that we continue to receive interest in Old Sacramento Living History membership. At the meeting on September 12th, Cat Goolsby turned in her membership application. She will not be able to be active until after the first of the new year, but please be sure you welcome her as a new member if you have not already.

Delta Mello, our story-telling lady, is also officially joining us. We look forward to having Delta as a new member. In addition, we have had inquiries from Lee Machado, Mona Salimi, and Barbara, last name unknown, in the last two months. We hope we see and hear more of these people in the very near future.

Librarian's Not So Random Pick

Janessa West

Ghost Towns of the West, photography and text by William Carter

"We're a young, restless people. America's momentum toward an ever-new frontier profoundly affected our outlook, our habits, our communities. Among the most visible signs of this restlessness are the hundreds of ghost towns strewn across the western states."

This book is available for checkout in the OSLHP library, call number F591 C37 1978.

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 25th 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

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



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2009-2010 OSLHP Officers

Jill Quinn, President
Penny Adams, Vice President
Greg Tracy, 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

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
October				
2 – Friday	7:00 p.m.	Ghost Tours dress rehearsal	Old Sacramento	Jan Bullard / Janessa West
6 – Tuesday	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
10 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership meeting	Eagle Theatre	Jill Quinn
10 – 13 Sat. – Mon.	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Coloma Gold Rush Live	Marshall Gold Discovery SHP	Ken Knott
16 – 17 Fri. – Sat. 23 – 24 Fri. – Sat. 30 – Friday	6:00 – 9:30 p.m.	Ghost Tours	Old Sacramento	Jan Bullard / Janessa West
November				
5 – Thursday	6:00 p.m.	HOSF Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
10 – Tuesday	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
14 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership meeting	Eagle Theatre	Jill Quinn
21 – Saturday	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Candlelight Tours	Sutter’s Fort SHP	Call (916) 375-5966 for reservations
23 – Monday	5:00 p.m.	Holiday Decorating Party & Potluck	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
25 – Wednesday	6:00 p.m.?	Christmas Tree Lighting	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
27 – Friday	10:00 a.m.?	Decorate Santa Parade float		
28 – Saturday	10:00 a.m.?	Santa Parade		
December				
8 – Tuesday	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
12 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership meeting	Eagle Theatre	Jill Quinn
		OSLHP Holiday Party?		
		Caroling?		



The denizens of the Justice of the Peace tent



Frank at the Adams Express

GOLD RUSH DAYS 2009

The Eagle Theatre

Ken Knott

The Saloon of the Eagle Theatre is a “natural” as a place to do gold rush gambling, and since that building is OSLHP’s new headquarters, it seemed imperative to utilize it. With Dave Dutton and Dick Adams as bartenders selling sarsaparilla, and Rudy Rodriguez and Bob Flaherty adding their snappy patter, the venue was a smash hit.

When I showed up on Thursday to set up my gambling tables, I found the lobby in a state of disarray, with all sorts of historically inappropriate paraphernalia scattered about. Once the saloon was properly outfitted, it proved to be a very lively gambling venue.

Having a variety of performances in the theatre brought families into saloon, which provided the opportunity for interaction and historic interpretation with Professor Flatbroke B. Dodge and Flora, the Lily of the West. We used all of my gambling games throughout the four-day weekend: Rouge et Noir, Over and Under, Chuck-a-Luck, Hyronemous, Faro and Four-Card Monte with a Spanish Deck. Parents gladly brought their children for me to corrupt; I would always ask the age of the youngest, and upon being informed that a child was, say five, I would say “Just over the limit!”, but then warn the little ones that the age limit for smoking segars in the saloon is eight years old!

The best part of being in the Eagle Theatre was being inside an air conditioned building with a ready supply of sarsaparilla and hygienic conveniences just downstairs. At last the Ol’ Professor has found a home.



The Ol’ Professor shows his hand.



Dave sells libations to the ladies.



That’s what you get for making him those handcuffs, Biscuits!