

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, October 2010

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

Gold Rush Days: Here and Gone!

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

We made it! We have another successful year behind us. Thank you to all of you who helped set-up, tear down, make props, and participate in the event. Our wonderful new venues—the Clowes Grocers, the Millinery Shop—and the wonderful 19th century boats really brought new life to the event. Thank you for all your hard work!



From the President

Jill Quinn, President

My favorite OSLH event has crept up on us. Engaging with the spirits that walked the streets of Sacramento City is certainly in keeping with the tradition of Halloween.

Dressing in costume for Halloween has both European and Celtic roots. Hundreds of years ago, the winters, with their long dark days, were frightening. It was uncertain whether food supplies would last through the winter. On Halloween people thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. After dark, to avoid being recognized by wandering ghosts, people wore masks when they left their homes so the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. To keep spirits away from their houses, people placed bowls of food outside their doors to appease the ghosts and prevent them from entering.

Rather than appeasing the ghosts, I encourage you to leave your home and come to Old Sac to encounter the ghosts.

Wanda Joyce Leventin
1947 – 2010



More on page 5.

GOLD RUSH DAYS



Both parties approve of the bride price.



"I recommend ordering the ball gown now for next Gold Rush Days!"

Arrival of the French Brides

Leilani Howard

Ever the crowd pleaser was the colorful (and occasionally comical) arrival of the French Mail Order Brides took to the Sacramento Ballroom Society dance floor, along with one enterprising French auctioneer and eventually one disapproving sheriff. The French language flew about the stage, even enveloping some French-Canadian visitors, but apparently something got lost in translation for the lucky or perhaps surprised few who might have gotten more than they bargained for.

Justice of the Peace Darius Fry was on hand for some on-the-spot marriages, as were some female boarding house owners in the event the ladies needed a second opportunity to meet some more gentlemen.

Thanks to members of Old Sacramento Living History, the Sierra Nevada Mormon Battalion and 3rd Battery Artillery who provided some bidders, or that is, bridegrooms to compete or rally with the public visitors. Special thanks to various members of the Old Sacramento carriage industry for generously providing wagons that the brides may arrive in style and with much ceremony. As this was a joint effort with several recruiters, the author regrettably does not know all the names of the drivers, but they include Jerry Bespitch and Ann Tatum as well as the owner of Top Hand Ranch.



Kari demonstrates the finer points of doll making to young 49ers.



"What in the dickens is going on now?"

GOLD RUSH DAYS

Stinking Tent Saloon

JD Borthwick

You lot certainly can toss down the sarsaparilla! Mr. Lee's Stinking Tent was, as ever, highly profitable for all concerned. We harvested the gold-seeking suckers in shoals and released them little the worse for wear. The "Drunkard's Progress" demonstrated to all the results of over-indulgence, while the campaign banner for President Fillmore reminded all of the Whig platform.

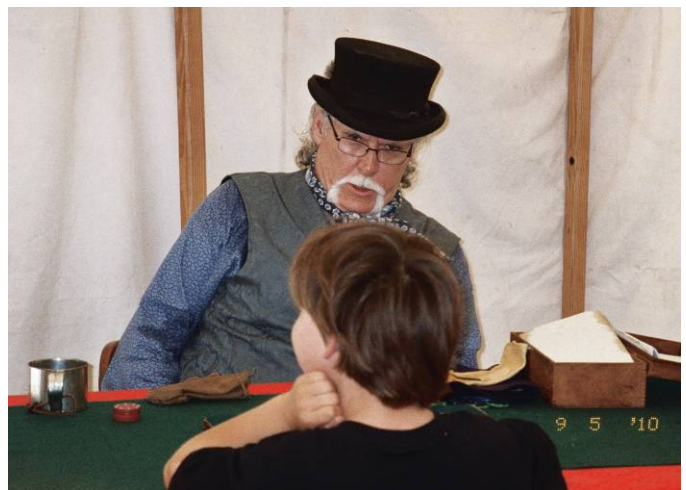
New gamblers, hostesses, bartenders abounded. Hardly ever were the tables empty. Mr. Lee's rents were collected with less effort than ever before as his portrait bore mute witness to the glories of the establishment. No fewer than five musical performers graced us with their talents. We had lessons in card marking, bottom dealing, and deck stacking. And most of the punters were actually able to count all the pips on the chuck-a-luck layout. For Americans, they were quite well educated.

Winchester graced the Church of the Naked Lady with his presence. Services were better attended than ever before.

No deaths or maimings this year either. Maybe next year.



"Now ya see it; now ya don't!"



"Ya shore ya want to bet it all?"



Mary and Addie have a scandalous new bottle opener!



This punter seems to have had quite enough of Professor Dodge.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD



Doug feels right at home at the Old City Cemetery.

Graveyard Shift

Lindol French

Originally published in the Sacramento Press 8/9/2010

[Edited for space]

From the time I was very young, I found myself drawn to cemeteries. It is not a creepy or morbid infatuation that lures me, but the palpable sense of history they provide.

The Old City Cemetery offered a "History of the Railroad" tour on Saturday morning, and I was there, with bells on.

Our tour guide, Evan, was all decked out in period train engineer garb. Along the way, he introduced us to several other visitors from bygone days. We met Edwin Crocker, of Crocker Museum fame along with his second wife, Margaret, and their daughter Aimee. The three of them regaled us with fascinating tales of early Sacramento, and the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

One of my favorites involved my people: the Irish. Irish immigrants laid most of the westbound track for the Union Pacific. Nipping at their heels was "Hell on Wheels," a collection of gambling houses, dance halls, saloons and brothels filled with "ladies of easy virtue" who catered to the workers' every indulgence.

Apparently, it had a negative effect on productivity.

The Central Pacific Railroad skirted the problem by recruiting workers from China, who were far less inclined to get into drunken knife fights over hookers at gambling houses.

The tour takes about an hour and a half, winding through one of the most beautiful cemeteries I've ever seen. City Cemetery is Sacramento's oldest. It was founded in 1849, covers 44 acres and is the final resting place for more than 25,000 individuals. In recent years it has been lovingly restored by volunteers to its present state, which is nothing short of spectacular.

They offer a wide array of guided tours, each dedicated to different aspects of the venerable old graveyard. Check out oldcitycemetery.com to find the schedule.

The Cemetery is open for self-guided tours from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday through Wednesday.

I highly recommend the tour to history buffs, Sacramento lovers, cemeteryphiles or anyone else who's looking for a fun, interesting and educational way to spend a couple of hours.

I'm already looking forward to the next one.

http://www.sacramento.com/headline/34513/Graveyard_Shift



"There's one last plot available in the Bellefontaine Lawn!"

In Memoriam



As Charley Parkhurst at Women's History Day, 2009



With Jim on a stroll, September 2008.

Wanda Leventin

Ken Knott

My dear friend Wanda passed away. She was a loving soul and a good friend. I met Jim and Wanda when we were in the same OSLHP training classes in spring of 1999. Jim wears such wonderful hats; I was curious where he obtained them. Wanda told me she did hat work: hatbands, sweatbands and liners. I had recently acquired a silk floss top hat that needed a new sweatband. Wanda put in a white kid leather sweatband; it was beautiful and made the hat brand new again! So we became friends.

I hung out with Jim and Wanda, and we went camping and traveled around like a band of gypsies. It was fun being with Wanda because she was always cheerful and enjoyed being around us, and she had such a wacky sense of humor.

She loved cats. She must have had 10 cats; one had to be careful where to step. They came and went through a window. I named a new calico kitten Picasso because its markings resembled a cubist painting.

We would watch Deadwood and Wanda would fix dinner. We would sit and talk for hours, drinking wine. And now she's gone, and the world has forever changed. I miss her.

Remembering Wanda

Please join us at the Sacramento History Museum on November 6th at 6:00 p.m. to honor and remember our friend Wanda. Bring your memories and a dish to share with everyone. Let Janessa know if you need a serving utensil or access to an outlet.



Charley Parkhurst, stagecoach driver, Gold Rush Days, 2008.



At the séance, Ghost Tours, 2007.

Upcoming Events



American Civil War Association's Grand Ball and Social

*Saturday, November 6, 2010
5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.*

*John Muir Building
Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 South Gate Drive
Sonora, CA 95370*

*Buffet Dinner & Dance – Adults - \$30.00
Children 5 – 12 years - \$15.00
Dance only – Adults - \$20.00
Children 5 – 12 years - \$10.00*

Dessert Potluck at 9:00 p.m.

*For more information or ticket purchases, contact:
Mary Aye
maryaye73@gmail.com*

Riverboat Casino Night Postponed

Janessa West

Due to low ticket sales, casino night has been postponed to April. Thank you to all of you who had a role in planning for this event. We will start planning again after the first of the year. Thank you for your continued support!



“Did anyone remember the rum?”

Hawaiian Chieftain

The tall ship Hawaiian Chieftain is scheduled to arrive on its annual visit to Old Sacramento October 15 and offer two months of educational programming for K-12 students and home school groups. The vessel is expected to arrive mid-afternoon October 15 and fire a cannon salute to the city before welcoming the public for visits from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The walk-on tours are the first on its schedule of dockside events. The ship is scheduled to remain at Old Sacramento through December 14.

The Hawaiian Chieftain will be open to the general public for walk-on tours from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Crew in period costume will welcome visitors. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated. An on-board store will be open during walk-on tours. The ship will be closed to the public on Thanksgiving Day. The Hawaiian Chieftain will not offer ticketed three-hour sailings to the public due to new rules issued by the City of Sacramento.

What Came West for Eat'n on and Cooking!

Janessa West

Our very own tinsmith Bill Brown has offered to present a lecture about tin ware in either November or December after our monthly meeting. Please let me know if you would like to attend and which month is best for you.

Upcoming Events

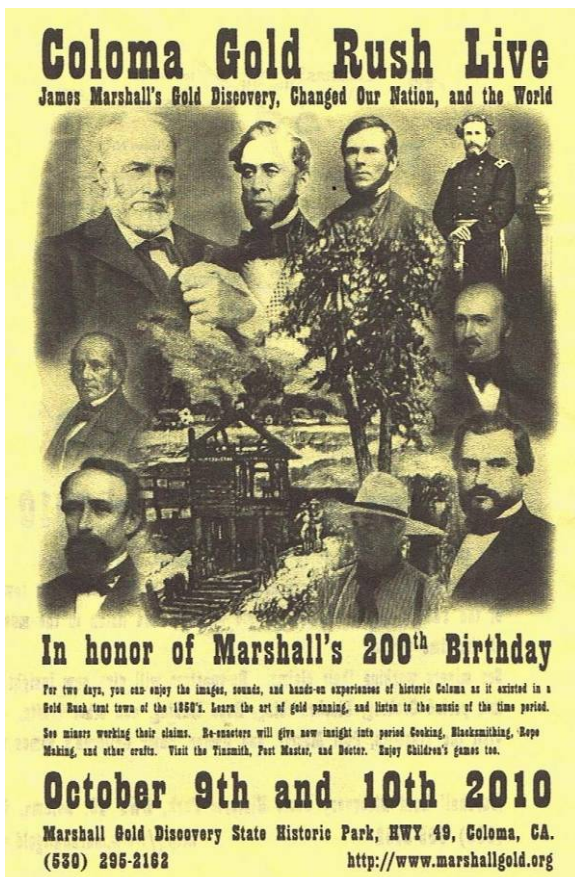
Coloma Gold Rush Live!

Ken Knott

This is one of the biggest and best Gold Rush living history events of the year, and it is only a 45-minute drive away. The weather is always wonderful in Coloma this time of year. The site is most appropriate—it is where gold was discovered in January 1848 by James Marshall.

The tent camp will be in a grove of oak trees, with other living history camps across the highway and down by the river. It is a family event and children love it, especially the gambling. Miss Flora, the Lily of the West, Ol' Clancy, Mr. Wong, and Professor Flatbroke B. Dodge will be happy to corrupt... er, instruct the little darlings on the finer points of losin... er, playing exciting and stimulating games of chance. Justice of the Peace Fry will be on hand to ensure that the tables are square and honest.

C'mon up and enjoy the Gold Rush atmosphere! There will be a birthday party for James Marshall on Friday, October 8th.



Coloma Gold Rush Live!
James Marshall's Gold Discovery, Changed Our Nation, and the World

In honor of Marshall's 200th Birthday

For two days, you can enjoy the images, sounds, and hands-on experiences of historic Coloma as it existed in a Gold Rush tent town of the 1850's. Learn the art of gold panning, and listen to the music of the time period. See miners working their claims. De-specters will give new insight into period Cooking, Blacksmithing, Rope Making, and other crafts. Visit the Tinsmith, Post Master, and Doctor. Enjoy Children's games too.

October 9th and 10th 2010

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, HWY 49, Coloma, CA.
(530) 295-2162 <http://www.marshallgold.org>



Ghost Tours

Janessa West

The cast is set for this year's Ghost Tours! There are still spaces available for anyone who wants to be a shepherd, help with ticket check in, or distribute and retrieve the orange lanyards from the tour goers.

A rehearsal is set for October 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagle Theatre. Please come prepared to deliver your lines. If your costume is ready, feel free to wear it!

If you would like some expert advice on makeup for your ghostly character, come to the rehearsal early. Donna Copeland-Fuller will be on hand to offer suggestions for quick makeup application and ideas for your characters. Let me know if you would like to meet with her between 6:00 and 7:00.

Tours begin on the 15th for the public. Please remember to check in at the Eagle so that we know that the whole cast is present and accounted for!

The Haunted Fort

Sutter's Fort, once a portal for weary pioneers, again serves as the gateway to their restless spirits, who return to tell the tales of their lives and melancholy deaths at this special event. Tour guides will take visitors on approximately 1-hour tours filled with ghostly tales of intrigue, memorable lives and bizarre deaths. Spooky and creepy in the dark, you never know who you might meet at the Haunted Fort! October 29-30, 6:30-9:00 p.m. www.suttersfort.org or 916-323-7626

Holiday Events

Volunteer Holiday Potluck and Decorating Party

Janessa West

It is time to put the annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck and Decorating Party (fondly called the Vol Hol Pot Dec Part by the staff) on your calendar. Each year the front façade and interior of the Sacramento History Museum goes festive with themed Christmas trees, garlands, bows and ribbon.

This year the decorating event and potluck will take place on November 19th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. This is a fun way to welcome the holiday season with good cheer, good company, and good food! Please sign up now for this annual event!



Santa Parade

Janessa West

The date is still uncertain, but traditionally this event is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. If you are interested in joining this downtown holiday parade, please put on your thinking caps for this year's theme. Themes in the past have included Booth's mercantile store, caroling in the park, trimming the tree, and Christmas 1851. All themes will be discussed at our October meeting.



Possible Holiday Ball

Janessa West

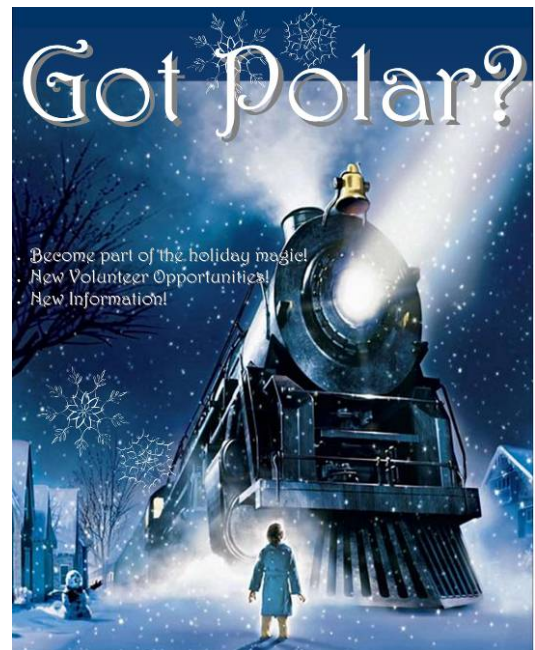
Plans are underway for a holiday ball on December 11th. Last year's holiday dance took place in the Sacramento History Museum, and it was well attended by Living History, the Sacramento Ballroom Society, the Cavalry, the Pony Express Association, and Claudia's Kitchen Band. Plans for this year are for the ball to be in a different building in Old Sacramento with more room for the dancers and most importantly the band!

Polar Express Looking for More Santa's Helpers!

Janessa West

Many of you have seen, heard of, or been on the Polar Express. If you are interested in joining this holiday tour team, the Railroad Museum is looking for some extra helpers. A training and orientation is available on October 2nd at 9:00 a.m. in the East Theater of the Railroad Museum. But if you can't make it to that and still want to participate, please call Delta Mello at 916-322-7112.

If you plan to stay local for this holiday season and want to get more involved in programming in Old Sacramento this may be a great option for you!



Miscellanea

Our Relationship with HOSF

OSLH Executive Board

The relationship of Old Sacramento Living History to the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation has not been clear to all. Here's a quick summary:

1. HOSF is the legal entity, the artificial person if you please, the corporate entity that acts to promote the Old Sacramento area.
2. HOSF keeps the lights on, as it were, for several entities. These include the Sacramento History Museum, OSLH, Underground Tours, and other things. Keeping the lights on means that they take care of obtaining permits, talking to the city and State Parks, buying insurance, getting grants, accepting funds from the city, filing tax returns, keeping a bank account and so on. They also are Janessa's employer. If we didn't have them, we'd have to find a way to do all that.
3. OSLH does not have any legal existence, in the sense that we are not a corporation, partnership, or foundation. As such, OSLH cannot own anything. It is technically correct to say that HOSF owns the props, costumes, even OSLH's logo and name. It is also true that anything donated to OSLH with the understanding that it would be controlled by OSLH is a contingency on the donation that must be obeyed by HOSF; they should have refused the donation if they did not accept the restrictions. This is just like a church that takes a donation for its youth group—the donation would have to be used for that group. So HOSF owns the costumes and props, but they are there for OSLH's use.
4. There continues to be confusion about whether HOSF is the same as the Museum. The Museum is a subsidiary of HOSF in the same way that OSLH is a subsidiary of HOSF. If HOSF intended us to become part of the Museum we would clearly know that. Regardless, our street work is to benefit OLD SACRAMENTO (which is HOSF's goal as well) and not the Museum.

5. HOSF has changed over the years. Two years ago the Museum came under HOSF management. More recently two exciting programs—Street Theater and Underground Tours—were added. Change can be difficult, especially in volunteer organizations like ours.
6. The OSLH Board is committed to keeping the relationship working for us all.



"If you buy an outfit, you can be a soldier too!"



*"Sarsaparilla is Nature's tonic elixir.
It stimulates the brain, improves circulation,
diminishes flatulence, solves women's problems,
and works on insect bites!"*

Miscellanea

NSGW Presenter Needed

Janessa West

I was recently contacted by a member of the Auburn group of the Native Sons of the Golden West. They would love for a Living History member to come and do a presentation at one of their upcoming meetings. Their meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month, and they are looking to schedule this for one of the spring meetings. If you are interested, please let me know!

Wonderful Photo Site

Donna Fipps

A photographer gave me his card GRD weekend. He has several years of Gold Rush Days with wonderful photos of most of us. Go to www.pbase.com/billphoto.

Librarian's Random Pick

Janessa West

The Family Nurse or Companion of the American Frugal Housewife. Written by Mrs. Child.

"Toast and Water. West India molasses and water, with a little lemon juice, and a piece of toasted bread soaked in it, is a nutritious and grateful beverage in fevers."

This book is available for checkout: RT61 C486 1837.

From your Editor

Catherine Hanson

All OSLH 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.



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

Editor: Catherine Hanson
Photographer: Sophie Flaherty

Old Sacramento Living History Center

Located in the Eagle Theatre
Front Street, Old Sacramento

Mailing address

Sacramento History Museum
Attn: Living History
101 I Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Janessa West, Program Coordinator
jwest@cityofsacramento.org, (916) 808-4980

www.oldsacramentolivinghistory.com

2010-2011 OSLH Officers

Jill Quinn, President
Doug Peterson, Vice President
Greg Tracy, Past President
Jan Bullard, Secretary
Yolanda Starr, Member-at-Large
Candi Zizek, Member-at-Large

OSLH is sponsored by
the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
October				
5 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
8 – Friday	6:00 p.m.	Ghost Tours Makeup Tips	Eagle Theater	Janessa West
8 – Friday	7:00 p.m.	Ghost Tours Rehearsal	Eagle Theater	Janessa West
8 – Friday	2:30 p.m.	James Marshall 200 th birthday party	Marshall Gold Discovery SHP	
9 – 10 Sat. – Sun.	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Coloma Gold Rush Live!	Marshall Gold Discovery SHP	Ken Knott
9 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Eagle Theater basement	Jill Quinn
15 – 16 Fri. – Sat.	6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Ghost Tours	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
22 – 23 Fri. – Sat.	6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Ghost Tours	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
29 – 30 Fri. – Sat.	6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Ghost Tours	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
November				
6 – Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Celebration for Wanda	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
9 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
13 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Eagle Theater basement	Jill Quinn
19 – Friday	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Holiday Potluck and Decorating Party	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
24 – Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Tree Lighting and Theatre of Lights	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
27 – Saturday		Santa Parade	Downtown Sacramento	
27 – 28 Sat. – Sun.	11:00am - 7:00 pm	Dickens Fair	Cow Palace, San Francisco	www.dickensfair.com
December				
7 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
11 – Saturday		Holiday Ball	TBA	Janessa West
Saturdays & Sundays	11:00am - 7:00 pm	Dickens Fair	Cow Palace, San Francisco	www.dickensfair.com

The Back Page

More Ruminations by Old Tom Moore

Richard Vincent

Let's look some more at the first-ever edition of our Sacramento Bee.

Here's what's been goin' on in the State Assembly. Looks like the usual shenanigans. It says here that many members were absent at roll call. That's not surprisin', given that load of French cognac that landed here last week.

On the other hand, the Assembly Sergeant-at-Arms is authorized to hire an assistant at \$8 per day. Must be tough to keep order among all them legislators who aren't there.

The Assembly voted to allow San Joaquin Co. to audit the account of one J. A. Tyler. That account amounts to \$71, while the expense to the State in handling this matter is \$300. If they want to get rid of \$230, why don't they pay Mr. T. Millman for his work on the Insane Asylum, whose bill they are ignoring?

Maybe they don't want the asylum—a place where people who do imponderable things might be sent!

It says here that the Legislature thus far appears to get along very well without chaplains. Makes sense, doesn't it? Who needs obstacles like morality thrown onto the path toward the public good?



"This here ain't no petting zoo, lady!"

An Eyewitness Account of Sacramento City, 1849

Ken Knott

As we approached Sacramento City from the river, we noticed a long line of ships cabled to tree trunks and exposed roots along the bank. On the riverbank above we could see big sign boards advertising goods for sale. A man in brilliant and grotesque costume—evidently employed by some company—greeted strangers before they landed. He extolled the wonders of the town, named the best shops to visit for bargains, and told them the date of the next auction sale.

A little over a year ago there had been only four houses here. Now the tents and houses of 10,000 inhabitants sprawled under the shade of a square mile of great, gnarled oaks and sycamore. Along the main street parallel to the river, ships' galleys and deck cabins, evidently lifted from river craft, served as places of business. Farther up the street, behind grandiose false fronts, stood shops, restaurants, a newspaper office, and a daguerreotype gallery. Signs printed in large letters on flimsy facades and swinging shingles announced business locations of lawyers, exchange brokers, overland stage agents, contractors and realtors.

Among the stores a barnlike structure, operated by Sam Brannan a year ago, appeared to be the largest. Goods overflowed the shelves and were piled in pyramids on the floor. From the low, wide ceiling hung buckets, lanterns, log chains, horse collars and hobbles. On the counters scales stood ready to weigh gold dust. Beside each one lay a magnet for removing particles of iron.

Based on *Australians and the Gold Rush: California and down under, 1849-1854* by Jay Monaghan (University of California Press, 1966)