

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, September 2010

Gold Rush Days: Here at last!

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

Welcome to Gold Rush Days! This year is packed full with activities and venues old and new. Some of the new venues include the Spanish Ensign here all the way from Columbia State Historic Park and the Saddle Makers Society here to demonstrate on Saturday of Gold Rush.

We also want to give a big welcome back to the Sacramento Ballroom Society who has done a wonderful job of expanding their venue to include new dancers, skits, and activities this year.

In addition to the familiar noise of the cannon fire and train whistles, there will be the unfamiliar sound of steamboat whistles. For the first time the Sacramento River will be a venue all its own with period-appropriate wooden boats on the river. Keep a lookout for informal boat parades as they sail along the river!



DEPP Renewals

It's that time again. Every September and March we need to renew our DEPP cards. If you don't have a DEPP card, pick up a form at the September 11th meeting or ask me for one.

DEPP is a city program that allows volunteers to park at a reduced rate in the I Street Garage. If you are new to DEPP, you will need to fill out a form and take a personalized letter from me to City Hall to activate your card. If you are just renewing your card, you will only need the letter from me.

From the President

Jill Quinn, President

Gold Rush Days have arrived. It seems I look forward to the event all year. Our yearly encampment gives OSLH the opportunity to show off our knowledge and skill. It also allows us to network with fellow re-enactors and share the fun of recreating history for the public. Use this opportunity to step outside your comfort level and try something new... maybe try a few dance steps with the Sacramento Ballroom Society, break out in a song or work in a venue you have never experienced before. You might be surprised what you might learn!

*By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather
And autumn's best of cheer."*

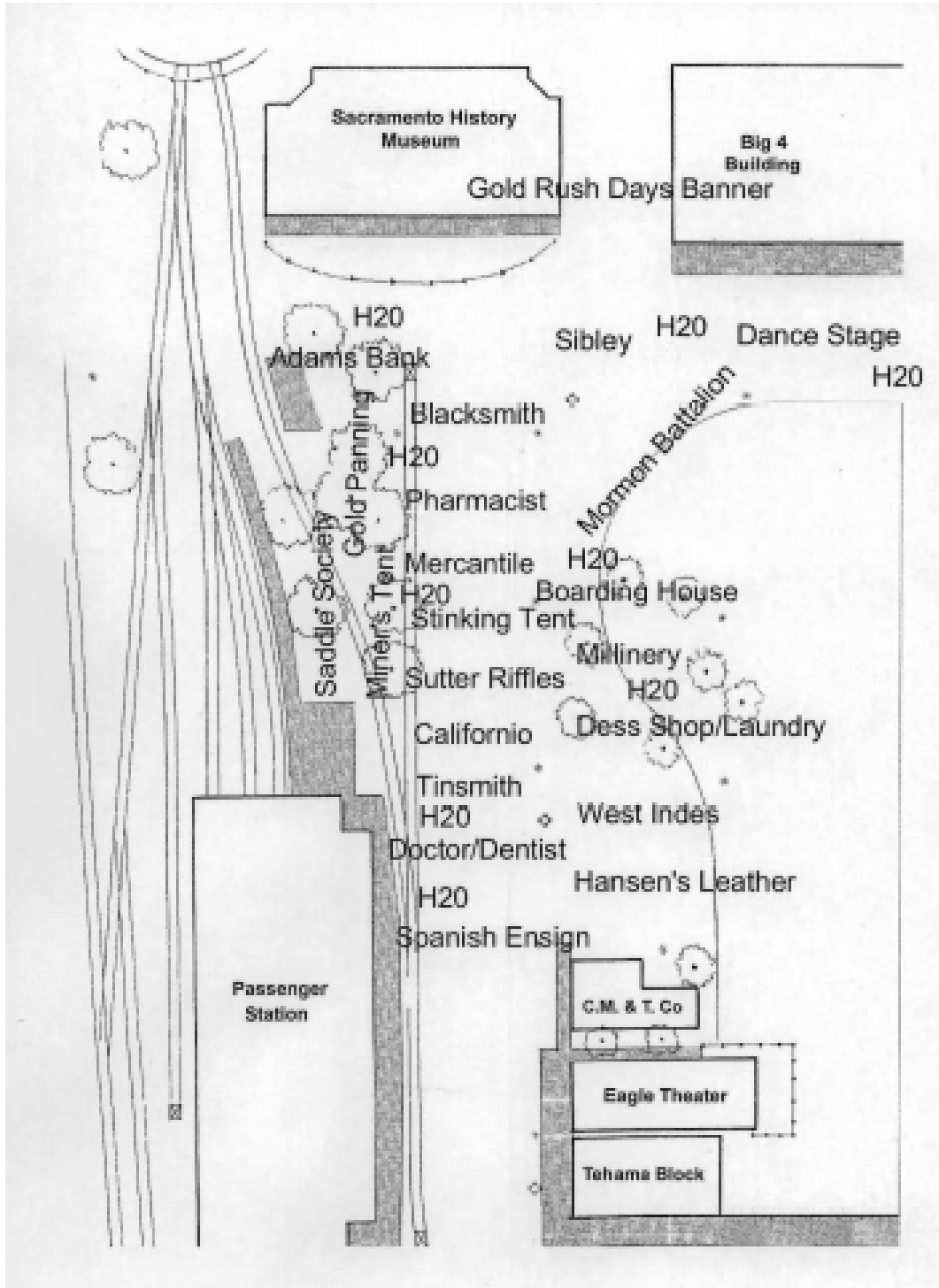
-Helen Hunt Jackson, September



Jim, Ken, and Greg have the squatters on the run, by jingo!

GOLD RUSH DAYS

Tent City Map



GOLD RUSH DAYS

Schedule, 9/1-9/7

We can still use more help with setup and takedown!

Setup

- Wednesday, 7:00 a.m.
- Thursday (furnishing), 8:00 a.m.

Tent City Hours

- Friday-Monday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Takedown

- Tuesday, 7:00 a.m.



Venues & Chairs

- Ladies venues—Penny Adams
 - Mrs. Keys Gold Needle dressmaking and millinery—Donna Fipps
 - Boarding House—Carol Bassoni
- Miner's Camp—Dave Freeman
- Stinking Tent Saloon—Jan Bullard, Doug Peterson
- Eagle Theatre Saloon—Ken Knott
- Doctor's and Barber's Tent—Richard Vincent
- Californio Tent—Yolanda Starr
- Laundry—Barbara Rothermel
- Sutter Rifles/Justice of the Peace—Greg Tracy
- Blacksmith—Dennis Brehm
- Mercantile—Jill Quinn, Terry Eargle
- Embarcadero Stage—Leilani Howard
- Gold Panning—Janessa West
- Adams Express—**Chair still needed!**

Things to know

Food

- Lunch tickets will be handed out each morning. There will be a different color ticket for each day. Friday and Saturday tickets will be handed out by Delta; Sunday and Monday tickets will be handed out by Janessa.
- Lunch is located across from the lawn in the space under the River City Saloon.
- Lunch will be provided each day, but anyone willing to contribute a salad or a dessert to add to the fare is welcome to.
- Snacks will be located in the Stinking Tent Saloon and the Sacramento History Museum conference room

Water

- Water Igloos are located in **9** different locations in Tent City.
- Bring your period cup!
- Keep hydrated!

Emergencies

- First aid can be found in the CMT & Co.
- Janessa and Delta will have walkie-talkies should there be any emergency (lost children, 911, etc.)

Parking

- Use your DEPP card as usual.

Miscellaneous

- Morning notes are available in the Stinking Tent Saloon, 9:30 a.m.
- All of those with guns need to check in with Alan Hope at the Sibley Saloon to have their weapon inspected
- The Gold Rush Economy—the activity where the children gold pan and receive a certificate from the Adams Bank—will be continuing. However, their certificates are only good in Old Sacramento, not tent city

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

The Red Barn Experience

Greg Tracy

Red Barn Productions has provided the historic district an opportunity to do living history that is unprecedented. Old Sacramento was designated a state and national historic site back in the 1960s and has never embarked upon such an ambitious early Sacramento history production. This summer's activities have included rallies/parades, a snake oil musical, street theater, encampments, shootouts, and huge photo opportunities for the visitors to Old Sacramento.

The typical day would begin with the street-raising rally where the citizens paraded through the streets demanding something be done to relieve Sacramento from the floods. Then it would be time for supper, and the meals were always superb. In early afternoon the performances began in Waterfront Park which included jugglers, whip crackers, hurdy-gurdy performances, a string band, and of course the Squatters' riot shootout. These performances would gather a substantial crowd, which then would be directed to visit the Eagle Theatre and see Dr. Cornelius Poindexter's Magic Elixir (snake oil) Show hosted by none other than Sam Brannan. The acts included Lotta Crabtree, Lola Montez, a melodrama, golddigger songstresses from San Francisco, a visit from Uncle Sam, to name a few, and finally a Shakespeare soliloquy by Dr. Poindexter himself.

Overall, the summer has been a blast. (Plus all of the volunteers will be rewarded with Dickens Faire passes.) The Red Barn experience has been very well received by HOSF, Old Sacramento's visitors, but especially by the district's merchants who ultimately pay the bills. Considering all of this, it appears that the Red Barn experience will be back next year, hoorah!



HOSF Volunteer Appreciation Night



We hope the food comes soon!



They gave us wine!!



Jeff appreciates the editor.

Upcoming Events

Ghost Tours

Janessa West

The script is done and parts are available for sign up. Tour dates are October 15-16, 22-23, and 29-30. Tours start at 6:30 p.m. and leave every half hour with the last tour starting at 9:00 p.m.

If you are new to living history and haven't experienced Ghost Tours before, you are in for a treat! This is an annual event complete with new tales of Sacramento's perished citizens. Some skits, such as the Grunette Brothers and Madam Rose, are included every year as they have become a crowd and living history favorite.

If you are shy about learning lines, sign up to help with ticket check-in, shepherding (following a tour group and making sure they stay together), or roaming security. Please take a look at your calendar and sign up for Ghost Tours!

To request a copy of the script, call me. Ghost Tours rack cards are available if you would like to take some to pass around at work or community locations. Rehearsal dates are still to be determined.



Gambling Layouts

Professor Flatbroke B. Dodge

Anyone wishing to purchase a gambling layout or to take a workshop to make one yourself is advised to contact Professor Dodge at timetraveler49@comcast.net or by using that modern device called a fone at (916) 606-3836, to tell him what sort of layout you desire. The gambling layouts available are: Over and Under, Red & Black, Chuck-a-Luck and Faro. Prices available upon request.

Riverboat Casino Night

Janessa West

This is a wonderful event taking place on October 1st from 6:00-9:00 p.m. onboard the Hornblower *Empress*. The event will also feature dancing from our friends from the Sacramento Ballroom Society and music from Claudia's Kitchen.

I am seeking game dealers! The event has been expanded this year and I am hoping to offer more gambling tables. Last years games included chuck-a-luck, shut the box, faro, fan tan, rouge et noir, vantoon, over and under, monte, roulette, and hyronemous. If you would like to participate, but are not familiar with the games don't worry! Gaming practices will be held!

Please sign up with me if you are interested in dealing a game of chance, greeting the guests, singing a song, or dancing a dance!

The Gambler

I staked myself a claim,
tucked up on a hill,
where waters of the snow melt spill.
I dug and dug for gold,
but never found a bit.
At the gambling tables,
I finally got a hit.
Nuggets, flake, and dust,
began to come my way.
Pocket and pouch prospector,
that's what I am today.
3 card Monte, high low, and poker
are the tools of my trade.
I never lift a shovel,
and my fortune I have made.

Harm Wilkinson, 2010

Miscellanea

Member Notes

Yolanda Starr

Our own Christie Cummings and hubby Mike welcomed their new baby girl Nancy on August 9. Baby Nancy arrived at 10:36 a.m., weighed in at 7 lbs., 10 oz., and was 19-1/2 inches long. Both Christie and Baby Nancy are doing just fine.

Proud Papa Mike has been beaming from ear to ear! Seventeen-month-old big brother George is taking it all in, in his usual calm manner. Bigger brother Jimmy is happy as can be. Now he has two siblings to play with! All in all, one happy family. Congratulations, Christie and Mike!

Librarian's Random Pick

Janessa West

Gold Miners & Guttersnipes: Tales of California by Mark Twain

"I have always been rather better treated in San Francisco than I actually deserved."

This book is available for checkout: call number PS 1303 C47



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.



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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
September				
1-2 Wed. – Thurs.	7:00 a.m.	GRD setup	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
3 – 6 Friday – Monday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Gold Rush Days	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
7 – Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	GRD takedown	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
7 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	TBA	Janessa West
11 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	TBA	Jill Quinn
11 – 12 Sat. – Sun.		Civil War event	Nevada City	
25 - Saturday	6:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Taste of History	Sutter's Fort SHP	
October				
1 – Friday	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Riverboat Casino Night	Hornblower <i>Empress</i>	Janessa West
5 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	TBA	Janessa West
9 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	TBA	Jill Quinn
8 – Friday		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	
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



The Back Page

Ruminations by Old Tom Moore

Richard Vincent

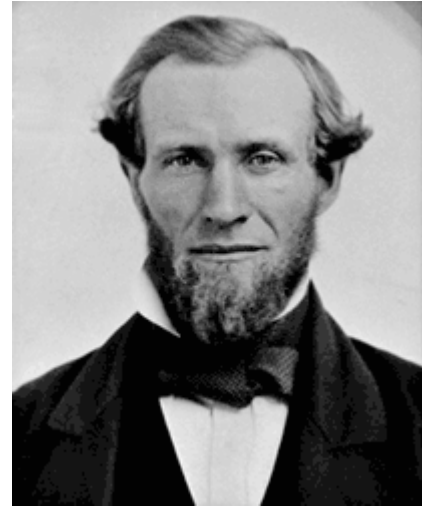
Well, gents – Here it is the 3rd of February, 1857. Some of us have been here for almost eight years, and ain't it a sight—the changes we have seen since those early days! We now have a spankin' new newspaper, the *Daily Bee*, with editor-in-chief James McClatchy. Got the first issue right here.

Talk about changes! Remember back in '50 when the same McClatchy was locked up for rousin' up them squatters who rioted? Now he's one of Sacramento's uppity-ups—a newspaper editor. Can't fault them Irishmen for lack of gumption!

Since some of you fellers might find the print in the paper a little too fine, I thought I'd choose some of the items here and give you the drift of 'em.

I guess the first notable article is McClatchy's salutatory for the *Bee*. He says:

Here begins the publication of the Daily Bee, the closing number of the California American having appeared on Sunday last. The material of this paper is the same, and indeed almost everything connected with what has been known as the California American, excepting its past responsibilities and its dependence on party, and the advocacy of party principles, for its support. Its present conductors have resolved to steer its course far out of the stormy latitudes of mere partisan strife... They believe that a public journal will best serve the interests of the people, at the present peculiar juncture of affairs of this State, by cutting itself free from the shackles of so-called politics, and holding itself ready to denounce or approve, as it may see fit, public measures and public men, without the slightest regard to their political complexion...



James McClatchy

He goes on:

Such a paper, as this is intended to be, has seemed to the publishers to be a necessity of the times, and if it cannot subsist on a pure and exalted public sentiment, they desire to see it fail.

Now don't that beat all? A newspaper not tied to a party! I'd sooner expect a Fox kissin' a Post! But what do I know—maybe this here paper will last a while. That McClatchy is just ornery enough to see it through!

