

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

APRIL 2013

President's Message

By Alex King



The Capitol Clarion is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

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Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:

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Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

April showers and Earthquakes. What a combination. At the April Board Meeting CSCMVA had the privilege of greeting **Dana M. Jones**, the newly appointed District Superintendent of the State Parks Capital District. One of her first observations of us was the incredible “clout” we have as an organization – able to predict earthquakes -- even to the day: “April 21st”.

Obviously, we had been talking about preparations for the coming Living History Day, on the 21st of this month, but it was a fun way to begin to get to know each other. Ms. Jones had an opportunity to hear what an active and dynamic volunteer association she will be working with in the Capitol, and we had a chance to hear her outlook for the Capitol District. It soon became clear that we are all on a positive and productive path toward improving the services and experiences that Capitol visitors might expect. Welcome aboard Supt. Dana Jones – we’re looking forward to working with you and your staff.

A very exciting potential new service for CSCMVA members is being explored. A group is being formed to look into the development of **a website**, for member use, that will allow access to historic room schedules, WI schedules and current dates, times and activities that members may see from home thus eliminating a trip downtown to learn if there is a need for volunteer activity. As it is envisioned, the site would allow a member to check, for example, if there is a need for staffing at the WI, and be able to sign up remotely to fill the void. It will be awhile for this project to come together, but how exciting.

In the meantime, though, we all need to remember that when we sign up to staff a volunteer position, others take that as a commitment and then plan around that slot being filled. If you find you cannot fulfill a scheduled time slot, **please call the Scheduling Desk, at 324-2088**. We all have changes in our schedules from time to time, but being a “no show” causes grief

and last minute efforts to re-fill assignments. Notifying Scheduling goes a long way toward keeping our services to our visitors smooth and pleasant.

Remember last month's **Clarion**, when I asked you folks to contact me, or others, with ideas, thoughts, concerns, suggestions or changes you would suggest to improve what CSCMVA does to offer services to visitors?

This month I'm offering y'all a challenge: I am offering to buy a sandwich, for lunch, at the O`Deli Deli, on the 6th Floor, on May 1st – before our next Board Meeting --- for the first person who tells me how many responses I received. A clue: nobody on the board, or other member, has told me about any response received. So the count will just be how many responses **I** received.

In addition, suggestions and comments are STILL solicited.

Spread the word: The Living History Event – Earthquake Day – April 21 is an eye-opening and informative fun time. Encourage your friends, relatives, neighbors to join us in the Capitol that day.

~Alex



2013 Board of Directors

Front (L to R): Marilyn Thompson, Bob Dennis, Alex King, David Keck; Back (L to R): Gary Stonehouse, Chris Tyler, Marita Martin, Leslie Cooper, Connie Clark, Bob Dreyer

2013 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
David Keck	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marilyn Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
Leslie Cooper	Member
Bob Dreyer	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
Gary Stonehouse	Past President

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

April 3, 2013

By Marilyn Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Dennis** reported that overall the year to date budget is on target. The Bookstore showed a loss of \$2,173 for March, because Mary was replenishing her stock. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Alex King** incorporated his agenda in other parts of the meeting, as reported herein.

STATE PARKS REPORT: **Casey Hayden** introduced Dana Jones, the new District Superintendent for the Capitol District of State Parks. She has worked for State Parks for 25 years in a wide variety of venues, most recently on the north coast. Her priority is to focus on park visitors so they will support the state park system and be return visitors. Her question is "How do we get services to visitors?" She will be added to the *Clarion* mailing list. In response to a question, she stated she will be working on hiring a capitol curator and two more guides soon.

Bob Dennis spoke about the need for good communication between CSCMVA and district officials. CSCMVA is a "cooperating agency," but our contract needs to be updated and renewed. Alex King, Bob Dennis, Dana Jones and Casey Hayden will plan to meet in the near future to discuss how best we can cooperate and plan for future projects.

Interviews are still being held for a new Volunteer Coordinator. There are several very good candidates.

The Dust Bowl exhibit is being worked on, and no plans have been made yet for an opening reception.

Bookstore: The income for March was \$848 less than March 2012. Mary has ordered a very informative book on the Capitol park and also Women Trailblazers of California which includes prominent California women from early days up to Hollywood. It could be a good seller during the Suffrage living history event. Mary clarified that 15% of bookstore revenue goes to pay rent, and that Bookstore income is the only way we have of raising money, aside from member dues.

Membership: Mary Geach and Diane Rich reported there are currently 111 paying members.

Unfinished Business:

Earthquake Day: Marilyn reported that all parts are filled, and the first rehearsal will be Thursday, April 4. No one responded to the plea to organize morning snacks or lunch, so she and Ann will buy treats at Costco and make it simple. Posters and programs are being prepared. The 3D movie (with glasses) will be shown all day in the Theater on the basement level.

Web design: Bob Dreyer and Connie Clark reported the results of a meeting they had with Pageweavers Internet Development Co. which donated an hour of discussion time with them. Pageweavers developed the website for the Railroad Museum and many other prominent Sacramento businesses. They charge \$45/hr. for web development time and \$35/mo. to maintain a website. There are many questions which we need to discuss before further involving them (or another company). Bob and Connie suggested forming a working committee to develop this project with them. Chris Tyler and Marita Martin volunteered. Connie will write up an article for the *Clarion* asking for a volunteer(s) with some “techie” skills to assist. Dana Jones suggested looking at the website for Pt. Lobos, as they have a volunteer association component to their website which is similar to what we are hoping for.

Museum Room Needs: It was mentioned that the lighting in the historic Treasurer’s office is extremely dim and many people just walk past those rooms, not realizing the rooms are open to view. Chris Tyler asked if something can be done to remedy this – perhaps with special lightbulbs? Dana Jones said this would be a question for the new curator who could be on board by early summer.

New Business:

Member comments: It was requested that an article be put in the *Clarion* reminding WI Desk volunteers that it is critical to call in if they have signed up for a shift and can’t make it. It creates chaos with the schedule for the Parks staff when they have to shift people around at the last minute to cover volunteer duties at the WI desk.

Training Opportunities: Alex presented a list of training possibilities as part of the Board agenda which included: a Clem Dougherty Capitol tour; tours of the Folsom powerhouse and Pardee Mansion in Oakland, CA Museum-Hall of Fame and CA Museum-Women’s Museum; a Capitol art tour by Koren Benoit; and historic rooms tour by Erin Renfree. Additional suggestions were: refresher class on duties at the WI desk and historic rooms, tours of the newly renovated Supreme Court Building, Old City Cemetery, and the garden and third floor of the Governor’s Mansion which have recently been improved. **Other suggestions are always welcome.**

Clarion Mailing List: Alex will compile a list of appropriate Capitol staff and legislators as additional recipients for the Association's newsletter. The purpose of expanding the list to include these individuals is to educate them about our activities and the value we bring to Capitol visitors' experience. Alex will give that list to Marti.

Summer Social Event: Venues for this June (preferred) social event are still being researched. Some are too expensive. Leslie will look into availability and cost at the Northridge Country Club. Governor's Mansion is still an option. **Any other suggestions are welcome** and may be shared with Alex.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings commence at 1:00 PM.

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, "Thinking of you" cards were sent to the following individuals who continue to cope with serious medical issues:

Anne Adrian

Christianne Culhane

Ron Lauchner

Nancy Murphy

Karen Rea



Editor's note: And best wishes for a speedy recovery to our own **Scotty Hodges** who, while sending thoughtful messages to our members is herself continuing to recover from pneumonia.

If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of the group. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.

1906 Earthquake Day – Sunday, April 21



San Francisco 1906

Anne Rost and **Marilyn Thompson**, event co-chairs, report that rehearsals are underway for our spring living history event commemorating the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. This event provides a great opportunity to bring the family, including grandchildren, to the Capitol to see and hear how the survivors, aid workers and politicians responded to this major event in California history. There is a full cast, including several of our members' grandchildren, and it should be a fun and interesting day. In addition, a 3D movie (complete with 3D glasses!) of the earthquake will be showing continuously in the Capitol Theater. Living history **tours** run every fifteen minutes between **10:30 AM and 3:00 PM** and will take approximately 45 minutes. See you there!

Calling All Computer Techies...

Your CSCMVA Board is investigating the possibility of creating a website for our Volunteers. It would contain, among other things, an interactive scheduling system where users could sign up from home to volunteer for the WI or a museum room.



We want to form a working committee that encompasses a wide range of skills and ideas and, hopefully, someone who knows about / has had experience with website creation or usage. The committee will work with a professional web designer (as yet not selected).

The website might contain the sign up schedule, the *Clarion*, membership roster, committee reports, "What's New," event photos, and so on. It's up to the new committee members.

This is a "working" committee. Be prepared to spend lots of hours initially – all of which will count toward hour pins! If you have been unable to interpret rooms as often as you would like, this activity might be a good opportunity for involvement.

If you are interested, please contact either **Bob Dreyer** at bobdreyer@comcast.net or **Connie Clark** at cclark610@surewest.net by no later than **Friday, April 26**.

A Capitol Brain Teaser

By Bill White

As we continue to learn more about the museum rooms and the artifacts within them, Bill White has found a clever way to challenge each of us. He refers to this activity as a "brain teaser." The picture below is of a piece of equipment in the 1906 Treasurer's Office. Do you know what it is?



The answer is one of the following:

1. A scale
2. A check canceling machine
3. A check writing machine
4. A cigar rolling machine

The correct answer appears at the end of the newsletter.....

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain Scotty Hodges

Well! "It Is a Small World After All!" This Volunteer was born in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**. She was educated in Catholic schools where she says her love and interest in History was fostered. For her, history is story-telling which she enjoys doing as a CSCMVA Docent. Growing up in Philadelphia, she would often go to town to visit Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Museums and other historical sites. (After 30 years, I finally got to see the cracked Bell last May!) She reports that it was a fun and interesting way to learn firsthand about the formation of America, and I concur.



Bernadette Hicks

Bernadette Hicks views as a privilege the opportunity to have walked in the same places as George Washington, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Betsy Ross. She has also had the good fortune to visit many historical areas including Washington, D.C., Virginia, and other locations in Pennsylvania and California. When visiting **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**, she took a guided tour, and the guide made an indelible impression on her. From that experience, Bernadette realized a good guide is probably more important than the exhibit itself, facilitating a memorable experience or a dull forgettable memory!

In May, 2012, Bernadette was asked to be a Volunteer/Docent for a short period at the California State Museum. There was an exhibit dedicated to the contributions of Catholic Sisters to the United States even before it became a nation. During the Exhibit she met many Sisters and people from different parts of California and the United States. She discovered that she enjoyed meeting people and loved sharing their experiences. Thus, when she saw an advertisement in the Sacramento Bee for Capitol Docents, she applied. She exclaims that it was her good fortune to be selected to serve.

Bernadette worked for attorneys for several years and as the Receptionist/Administrative Assistant, she learned it was important to quickly ‘read’ people upon their arrival. That skill has helped her make a quick study of human behavior, such as knowing how much information to give visitors. She believes it is an important decision affecting the quality of their visit. (I agree; when I was a new Docent, I wanted to share all the interesting information that I had with all who entered the Capitol doors, almost to the point of arm twisting!) Bernadette also realizes the importance of keeping young ones interested, and she tries to involve them and gear her descriptions to their level of interest – an important strategy.

Meeting people from all over the world keeps Bernadette alert and challenged, and when people have questions for her, she views that as a positive sign that she has created interest for them. She is especially pleased when visitors from California come to their state Capitol for the first time. It is important to her that they feel this is **their** place to discover California history. Knowing they can and might see their Assembly or Senate member is often a surprise to them, and she is pleased to provide that information.

Bernadette likes to work in different Capitol museum rooms, and she learns from Parks Tour Guides and other Docents by listening to the facts they share with visitors. The exhibits and her personal efforts to learn our state history have stirred her curiosity to learn more. When visitors appear genuinely impressed with their new knowledge, she feels she has done a good job.

Bernadette is a recent member of the CSCMVA; however she has wasted no time in making herself a contributing volunteer. In December, she seized the opportunity to sing with Erin and other docents at the Christmas tree lighting. She was in period dress and had fun caroling with the entire group. She is also hoping to participate in future training sessions to enhance her knowledge and appreciation of the building.

Photography is one of her favorite past times. Visiting museums and art galleries with her husband, **Robert Torres**, and gardening and time with family and friends also bring joy to her life. In the ‘**Did You Know?**’ category, when Bernadette was familiarizing herself with the Secretary of State’s office, she surprisingly discovered a **political contribution dated 1902 by one of the founders, Frank L. Coombs, of the Napa law firm where she had worked.** She forwarded a photo of the receipt to the current Senior Partner, who, she says, was happy to see and share it with the other partners. No doubt, he had it and the original framed and preserved with the history of the firm!

Interesting stories like **Bernadette's** and those of our other Volunteers previously shared in the Volunteer Spotlight are always informative, sometimes hold a little mystery, and often contain surprising tidbits of personal history. Gathering the information makes writing the column a joy each and every month. Thank you, Bernadette, all who have already been "spotlighted" and those who are waiting in the queue. The California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association could not fulfill its mission without **all** of you. All of you are roundly appreciated whether or not you own one of those little "Domie" awards.

Special Feature: Did You Know...?

By Clem Dougherty

Did You Know..... that **Queen Isabella** was only half Spanish? Yes, it's true. Her father was Spanish-King Juan II of Castile, but her mother Isabel was Portugese. And on her mother's side there had been an English grandmother (Philippa of Lancaster). As a result Isabella seemed to resemble her mother's family in that Isabella had a fair complexion, red-gold hair, and blue-green, sparkling eyes. As an adult, Isabella grew to be moderately tall and had high arching eyebrows enhancing the beauty of her eyes and face.

While other **Clarion** articles on Isabella have dealt mainly with her statue in the Capitol Rotunda, we will focus on Isabella as a person, as Queen, and as one of the most important women in history. Isabella was born in 1451 and died in 1504. Her name in Spanish is "Isabel;" the name: "Isabella," by which the world outside Spain knows her, appears to be the Italian version of her name. Her husband's name was Fernando, not Ferdinand which is the English version of his name. And to round out the trio, the name of the explorer most associated with Isabel and Fernando was Cristoforo Colombo (Italian), not Christopher (English version) nor Columbus (Latin version) (See Sale, Kirkpatrick, [The Conquest of Paradise, Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Legacy](#), pp.10 and 54-55). However, we will use "Isabella," "Ferdinand," and "Columbus" in this article, because we are more accustomed to calling them by those familiar names.



Queen Isabella

In 1469, at the age of 18, Isabella married Ferdinand, a marriage that was a true love match between the two parties, and they became one of the most effective royal partnerships in history. During Ferdinand and Isabella's lifetime, Spain was not a united country as it is today. The principal kingdoms constituting what is now Spain were at the time of Isabella and Ferdinand the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon. Isabella was Queen of Castile. Ferdinand was King of Aragon. As Queen, Isabella was strong, resolute, brave, decisive, very religious, well respected by her subjects, and very determined to be an effective Queen. She was the "Margaret Thatcher" of her time.

In 711 AD, some 750 years before Isabella became Queen, the Moslems invaded Spain and soon controlled most of the Iberian peninsula. Gradually, as the years passed, the Spanish pushed the Moslems back to the south in a national effort referred to as "La Reconquista" so that by 1492 the Moslems controlled only the Kingdom of Granada in the south. Isabella and Ferdinand resumed the Reconquista by conquering the Moslem Kingdom of Granada. Upon making a triumphant entry into the city of Granada on January 6, 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella finally brought all of Spain under the rule of "Their Most Catholic Majesties," a title conferred on them by Pope Alexander VI. Their reign lasted 35 years during which the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon remained separate entities. However, by ruling together most of the Iberian peninsula, Ferdinand and Isabella laid the foundation for a united nation known as Spain to be ruled for the first time as such by their grandson Charles I of Spain, also known as the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

And just as the bombing of Pearl Harbor galvanized our nation into a spirit of national crusade, of national unity, and of a national will to win, so did the campaign and conquest of Granada galvanize all of Spain into a spirit of national crusade, of national unity, and of a national will to win. The Castilians under Isabella provided the dynamism which would impel forward the new union of Castile and Aragon. It was this new dynamism, this new passionate energy, which gave the Spain of Ferdinand and Isabella its most distinguishing characteristic. And it was this new dynamism which Isabella turned west across the Atlantic. Thus was born the Age of the Conquistadors who began their search for Glory, God, and Gold in the New World. After having Columbus investigated by a committee which recommended that she adopt his proposal to sail west across the Atlantic to reach India and China, she agreed to meet with Columbus and reportedly offered to pawn her jewels to finance his operation (There is a question as to whether Isabella ever made an offer to sell her jewels--see Sale, Kirkpatrick, The Conquest of Paradise, Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Legacy, p. 92). In any event, she did not have to do so, having found the money in other ways.

As a result Isabella laid the foundation of the Spanish Empire which would last in one form or another for the next 400 years. At its height, the Spanish Empire would cover thousands of miles and millions of people -- all of Latin America (except for Portugese Brazil), Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and the South Western United States including California. By 1769, the year in which the Spanish began the colonization of California, the Spanish Empire consisted of the Viceroyalty of New Spain centered in Mexico City, the Viceroyalty of New Granada centered in Bogata, the Viceroyalty of Peru centered in Lima, the Viceroyalty of La Plata centered in Buenos Aires, and several lesser political units such as the Captaincies General of Chile, Cuba, Venezuela, and Guatemala. By 1769 California was a frontier province of the Viceroyalty of New Spain ruled by the Spanish Viceroy centered in Mexico City.

Today, Queen Isabella represents the Spanish element in our California identity. That element is found in our history (the Spanish/Mexican/Mission period:1769-1846), our architecture (the Mission Style), our people (now 39% Hispanic and a projected 51% Hispanic by the year 2040), and our use of Spanish as a second language today in California. Several hundred Spanish place names dot the California landscape such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose, and Sacramento (the Blessed Sacrament or the Holy Eucharist in Catholic doctrine). If you are married in California today, the property you and your spouse acquire during your marriage is generally community property. Community property law comes from Spain. All of this never would have happened if it had not been for Isabella, Queen of "Spain."

(Sources: Carroll, Warren H., Isabel Of Spain: The Catholic Queen. Vincent, Mary, and Stradling, R.A., A Cultural Atlas Of Spain and Portugal. Elliott, J. H., Imperial Spain, 1469-1716; Hayes, Carlton J. H.; Baldwin, Marshall Whited; Cole, Charles Woolsey, History Of Europe; Parry, J.H., The Spanish Seaborne Empire; Sale, Kirkpatrick, The Conquest of Paradise, Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Legacy; Kamen, Henry, Empire, How Spain Became A World Power, 1492-1763)

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or visits to other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and/or researched information in this column. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net)*

Brain Teaser correct answer: If you picked number 3, "**a check writing machine**," you are correct. The pictured piece of equipment in the 1906 Treasurer's Office is a "**Protectograph Check Writer**" manufactured by the Todd Protectograph Co. of Rochester, NY circa 1906 – 1915.

Upcoming Events:*

Rehearsals Earthquake Day:	Thursdays, April 11 and April 18
1906 Earthquake Living History:	Sunday, April 21
California Admission Day:	Monday, September 9
Women's Suffrage Living History:	Sunday, October 13
Capitol Holiday Music:	Daily, December 1 through 23
Annual Meeting & Luncheon:	TBD, January 2014

*In addition to the events listed above, the Board of Directors is considering a social event in June for all members.

Volunteer Program website:

<http://capitolmuseum.tem.parks.ca.gov/volunteerprogram>

Capitol Museum website: <http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov/>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-2405

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day