

# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

April 2014



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

**Marti Dennis, Managing Editor**

Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1<sup>st</sup> of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:  
**mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter  
PO Box 19956  
Sacramento, CA 95819

## President's Message By Alex King

### Movin' Right Along...

The CSCMVA year is well under way. Within the past month, we have completed tours of the beautifully restored State Library and Courts Building. A "nature tour" at Effie Yaew Nature Center is planned. Governors' Day is scheduled for May 4, with rehearsals scheduled for later this month. Tentative plans are underway for additional activities in May, June and later in the summer.

A personal sub story: My wife Sharon and I, and my brother and his wife have been planning a vacation trip to New York and Washington, DC, with stops in Pennsylvania Amish Country and then on to Williamsburg, Virginia.

About four weeks ago, while at my usual WI "stand" on a Friday, two Amish couples approached the desk and asked the normal "information" questions. My father's family originated in Eastern Pennsylvania, with some solid roots dating to the 1700's, and as one of the visitors and I began chatting, he asked about our family names. I gave him one, and his immediate comment was that's a very familiar name in their area.

As we more formally introduced ourselves, it turned out that one of the couples also had the surname "King." As our conversation continued, including our plans to be in Lancaster, PA in just a few weeks, they very graciously offered to see us in their neighborhood. Since that chance encounter, we have exchanged additional correspondence including information about our travel plans and the sharing of some genealogy. NOW the "Small World" result: it turns out **Eli King** and **Alex King** are, in fact, related, and we will be visiting Eli and his wife Sarah while we are in New Holland, PA!

Bottom line is that with all the wonderful people we all meet during our service in the Capitol, how often might we encounter an actual, and heretofore unknown, relative? We are lucky to meet some nice people in the course of our CSCMVA docent activity. See you when we get back – with "the rest of the story."

*~ Alex*



### 2014 Board of Directors

**Front (L to R): Marylin Thompson, Alex King, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis**

**Back: Julie Mallett, Christine Tyler David Keck, Randall Williams, Connie Clark**

### 2014 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
Bob Dreyer	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marylin Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
David Keck	Member
Julie Mallett	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
Randall Williams	Member

## Highlights of the Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting:

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

April 2, 2014

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** **Bob Dennis** reported Book receipts for February were \$2,600 less than book expenses, but noted that Mary has recently made a lot of one-time-only purchases. Insurance premium has been paid, parking/light rail expenses are average. Camellia Day receipts have not yet been submitted, but the treasury continues to be in good shape.

**BOOKSTORE:** **Mary Geach** reported gross income for March was \$4,888.29. Mary has ordered Haunted Hotels of the Gold Country which might be a popular title. **Connie Clark** reported that 200 DVDs of *A Legacy Restored* have been ordered. **Sherri Routh** will be giving Mary more assistance with bookstore tasks. Mary presented a binder that had been prepared by **Bill [Geach]** which includes news articles and photographs of an historic Capitol event. The binder will be included with the association archival records, and is one of many Mary has promised to bring in for the CSCMVA archives.

**MEMBERSHIP:** **Mary Geach** reported that there are now 103 members of the Association.

**STATE PARK REPORT:** **Rachel Martinez** reported that she is clearing up the area around the Volunteer Desk.

**Matt Bellah** reported that he is working on approvals for descriptive signs to place in front of the Matthews murals in the basement rotunda. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of California State Parks will be recognized with large murals of some of the most popular parks in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor rotunda starting in September. In late May, an exhibit honoring the 1915 Pan Pacific International Exhibition will be opening, replacing the current Dust Bowl exhibit. Volunteer training will be given later in the month of May, and will be of approximately 2 hours duration.

### ONGOING BUSINESS:

- **Historic Room Support:** Runners for Secretary of State's office have been installed.
- **Volgistics and Website:** **Randall Williams** reported that has been a little more traffic on the website. The online scheduling feature is still not functional but he is working on it.
- **Governors Day:** **Julie Mallett** reported that the activity is progressing well and that participants will all be notified of their roles / responsibilities.
- **By-laws Committee:** The full committee will meet soon and report at the next Board meeting.
- **Archives Committee includes Marylin Thompson, Diane Rich, Ann Rost, Lynn Cook and Marti Dennis.** They will meet on April 3 to identify the location of all association records, both paper and electronic, and subsequently determine what should be kept, and organize all materials into an accessible format.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Election Day (October):** A chairperson(s) is still needed.
- **Mid-year Social: Matt Bellah** will check on the availability of the Stanford Mansion for this event in mid-August.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- **State Library and Court Tours:** There is a possibility of scheduling one more tour for those who were unable to participate in the two previous tours. Contact Rachel if interested.
- **Effie Yeaw Nature Center:** will be on Tuesday, April 22 at 10:00 AM. This includes the option of bringing a brown bag lunch and remaining for a picnic after the two hour tour.
- **McClellan tour of the State Park Archives:** Matt will see if this can be scheduled for Tuesday, June 10.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

- Capital District State park passes were distributed by Rachel to members present with the qualifying 2013 hours.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly Board of Director's meetings.  
The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, May 7 at 1:00 PM.**

**Sunshine Corner:**

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, a card has been sent to:

**Elizabeth Giordano** – Thinking of You

**Suzanne Latimer** sent a thank you for the "lovely" flowers she received, as she continues to battle a long term health issue.

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 our membership. Scotty can be contacted at [hashhogg901@yahoo.com](mailto:hashhogg901@yahoo.com) or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.

**Governor's Day Living History Event: May 4**

**Marita Martin** and **Julie Mallett** have been busy selecting actors, actresses, tour leaders and support personnel to re-create memorable moments from the lives of 20<sup>th</sup> century CA governors. The cast will assemble on **Sunday May 4** for our next living history event: **Governors' Day**. Of course, there are rehearsals and other preparations for this event. Please be sure to attend the rehearsals listed below, so that our production can be staged accurately, and we can transport Capitol visitors back in time....

If you are an actor or tour guide you need to attend **all** three rehearsals between **5:00 and 7:00 PM.**

**Thursday, April 17** (actors and tour guides)\*

**Wednesday, April 23** (actors and tour guides)\*

**Thursday, May 1** (all participants welcomed)\*

*\*For all rehearsals meet in the theater before dividing to go to your individual staging sites.*

## Training: Effie Yeaw Nature Center Tour: April 22

We have an opportunity to tour the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael, part of the 77 acre nature preserve along the American River Parkway. The tour will commence at **10 AM on Tuesday, April 22** and will last approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours with a brown bag lunch in the picnic area following the tour. This is described as an active walking tour. If you would like to participate, please contact Rachel Martinez at [Rachel.Martinez@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.Martinez@parks.ca.gov)) no later than **April 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## Volunteer Library

By Marylin Thompson



Just a reminder: books borrowed from the volunteer library (in the Volunteer Office) may be kept for **30 days** and can be extended another 30 days by making a note on the check-out card. After 60 days, they need to leave your personal library and make their way back home to the Capitol so others can use them. Some books were checked out last year and are still MIA (Missing in Action)! If you have returned a book and forgotten to replace the check-out card in the book, please let me know or put the card back in the book on your next trip to the Capitol. If you really want to add a book to your personal reference library, think “Amazon” or “Kinko’s.” I will soon be sending personal reminder e-mails to those who may be savoring one of these books past their due date. Do some spring cleaning and please return those books! Thanks!

## CSCMVA Keeps on Contributing to the Museum!

We can be proud not only of our California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association (CSCMVA) commitment to interpretation of the history and historic features of the Capitol Museum, but also to our pledge to assist the State in improving and protecting this valuable asset following the successful historic Capitol restoration of the early 1980’s.



Refinished Counter and new chair  
Treasurer’s Office

Without much fanfare, we recently completed the **resurfacing of the countertop in the Historic Treasurer’s Office**. In addition, we purchased **new seating** (replacing old and failing cane seating) for volunteers working in the Historic rooms. And we have just completed replacing the **carpet runners in the Historic Secretary of State’s Office**.



New carpet runners  
Secretary of State Office

There are a few new projects under consideration. In the meantime, take a moment to look at, and appreciate, these enhancements: the refinished countertop, the chairs and the floor runners.

**WE made these improvements.** Your membership and continuing support of CSCMVA allow us to continue to protect and improve the Museum portions of our beautiful California State Capitol!

## Website Update:

By Randall Williams



There has been a bit of confusion regarding the status of the Association's development of a website. The reality is that our resources now include (literally at our fingertips) a fully functional and increasingly informative site. Several weeks ago our focus shifted to that of efficient maintenance and ongoing enhancement of the portal that we now occupy on the Parks' system. You are encouraged to access this new tool at:

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/capitaldistrict/capitolmuseum/capitolmuseumvolunteers>

Yes, this is an unusually long URL address, but once you access it, simply save it to your "Bookmarks" or "Favorites," and it will be readily accessible for future occasions. There are a number of tabs (Events, Committees, Training, Photos, Roster) to reference after entering our home page. Touring through the various tabs provides considerable detailed information about CSCMVA's activities and history.

It is anticipated that within the next few months through our work with Peter Larsen, we will make adjustments to the *Volgisitics* member data system that will enable us to sign up from home for our volunteer assignment, i.e., historic room, "roamer," WI desk. Training on this feature will be provided when system implementation is finalized.

In the meantime, enhancement of the existing website is inevitable as members access it and pose questions and offer recommendations related to its content. Please contact me at [1stunderstand0413@gmail.com](mailto:1stunderstand0413@gmail.com) with your input.

## Archiving our CSCMVA History:

By Marti Dennis

Recently and wisely, President Alex King initiated an effort to consolidate and organize an association **Archive** to capture our organizational history and related Capitol events. **Marylin Thompson** was selected as Chair due to her professional experience as an Archivist, and a committee including Diane Rich, Ann Rost, Lynn Cook and Marti Dennis was organized to help her with this project.

To successfully locate, evaluate and organize relevant historical materials requires the generosity of our members to share relevant information that might be in their possession. It also necessitates a number of hours searching through records in the tunnel and in the Costume Closet.



Mary Geach was the first person to step forward with a binder that included a number of articles about the **January 16, 2001** major incident when a **big rig (18 "wheeler") truck was intentionally driven into the south side of the Capitol**. Bill Geach had carefully documented this event, and the subsequent major renovation required to repair the extensive damage to the Capitol. Bill and Mary have longevity with the Association, and their devotion to capturing many events will be a priceless addition to this archival effort. **Please let Marylin know of any documents or photos you** have which will be a valuable asset to this new effort. Marylin can be contacted at

[thompsona.m@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thompsona.m@sbcglobal.net)

What follows are some of the highlights of the January 2001 event as recorded in *Sacramento Bee* and other newspaper articles:

At approximately 9:30 PM on January 16, 2001, a mentally disturbed parolee drove his big rig loaded with cans of evaporated milk into the south entrance of the state Capitol causing a massive fire and major structural damage. The driver, a 37 year old employee of the Dick Simon trucking firm, was killed in the accident.

Witnesses report that the truck circled the Capitol several times before heading north on 11<sup>th</sup> street at speeds of up to 70 mph and crashing up onto the granite steps. He was blaring his horn when the vehicle crashed into the entrance doors.

At the time of the accident, the Assembly had just voted 60 – 5 in favor of an emergency measure to help solve the state's energy crisis. The scene that ensued with the immediate evacuation of the building was described as "surreal." Legislators and employees reportedly grabbed their coats, ran down the stairs and were yelling into their cell phones. The flames shot as high as third floor windows, and the event was recorded as a four-alarm fire involving 10 engines and seven fire trucks. The fire was caused by diesel fuel seeping from the truck.

Since this event occurred after the Oklahoma City terrorist event, the FBI was brought into the initial investigation. (9/11 occurred nine months subsequent.) The driver, Mike Bowers, had a lengthy criminal history and was sent to prison at least six times. He spent time in prison prior to being transferred to Atascadero State Hospital. He was, apparently, disgruntled about his treatment at that facility and had written to Governor Gray Davis in 1999 with his complaint. There was, however, no concrete evidence that he was targeting Gov. Davis in this incident.

The damage to the Capitol was to the historic Governor's office and to Room 113, "a conference room where the Senate Rules Committee meets." In fact, the radiator of the truck landed inside the committee room window. The cafeteria, in the basement of the building, was closed due to smoke and water damage, and there was an immediate assessment of damage done to the art work and other historic pieces displayed in some of the seven museum rooms on the first floor.

*The record of this event is visually and narratively presented in the materials that Mary has shared. It is the intent of the Archive Committee to develop a way to catalog this, and other information of CSCMVA history, into a system that will allow for member access.*

## Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

**Arbuckle** is a very small town located in Colusa County some 20 miles southwest of the city of Colusa, the county seat. According to Google, Tacitus R. Arbuckle established his ranch in the area in 1866. Subsequently the area was named for him. The Railroad came through in 1875, and their Post Office was established the following year in 1876.

Why the interest in Arbuckle? It's important, because this month's Spotlight showcases a gracious lady, **Volunteer Sharyn Holland**, a *third generation Californian*, who was born and raised in this quaint historic California town.

She remained in the same area, graduated from **Woodland High School**, and married her high school sweetheart. She also lived in **Weimar**, originally named **New England Mills**, an unincorporated



**Sharyn Holland**

community in Placer County, another small historical area. From Weimar, they moved to Elk Grove; then they eventually settled in Sacramento.

Beginning in 1977, Sharyn had a long career in Real Estate. In 2005, she finally decided to retire. Her immediate family consists of her husband, daughter and son-in-law, and a little Grandson who is fifteen months old. Needless to say, she and her husband cherish him, and love spending time with him.

Sharyn not only volunteers at the Capitol, she also volunteers for the **Heart Association**. Her husband is a volunteer at Sacramento International Airport. When I asked how she learned of the Capitol Volunteer Program, she said that she saw an ad in the *Sacramento Bee*. Since she loves meeting new people and conversing with them, she was excited to join the circle of volunteers. She adds, as well, she has loved politics all of her life. And because she and her husband have travelled extensively, she feels comfortable conversing with visitors from any of the fifty states. That is a plus, because she says that people especially love to talk about their own city or state.

What she also loves about being a Docent is meeting new people. Working at the West Information Desk certainly gives her that opportunity. At times, she admits that she doesn't know the answer to some questions, but she enjoys reading and researching to find the answers. She also enjoys sharing the history of the beautiful Capitol with visitors, as well as relating interesting information about the State itself, other interesting places to visit, and even good restaurants at which to dine.

Because she and her husband set aside time for travelling and for grandparenting their grandson, she declines to get involved with many other activities at the Capitol at this point in her tenure. She wonders if Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's portrait is up yet, as she is asked 4 – 5 times daily about it!

Sharyn and her husband sold their home in June 2006, and bought a **5<sup>th</sup> Wheel Trailer!** Doing so allowed them to travel for 18 months and during their literally "on the road" travels, they visited every one of the 48 continental states except for Louisiana. (They missed Louisiana, because they missed that important 'Turn Sign'!) Sharyn confesses that her daughter fully expected them to 'kill one another' in the course of this trip; however, she feels it was the very best thing the two of them ever did -- besides having their wonderful daughter. We are certainly happy that they did not murder one another because Sharyn's welcoming presence at the Information Desk and around the Capitol would leave us at a definite loss!

## Did You Know....?

By Clem Dougherty

....that San Francisco Bay was discovered by land and not by sea? Yes, it's true. In our last newsletter we left Don Gaspar de Portola and part of the Sacred Expedition at Monterey Bay in a great quandary as to whether they had indeed discovered Monterey Bay. Portola was ordered to found the capital at Monterey. Not realizing that he had indeed discovered Monterey Bay, Portola thought the "illusive" bay was further north. The Sacred Expedition once again headed further north.

In proceeding north, Portola followed the rim of present day Monterey Bay to present day Santa Cruz and then northward up the present day San Mateo County coast. On October 31, 1769, the party stopped at where the coastal range (Devil's Slide just below San Francisco today) drops directly into the sea and prevented the party from proceeding further north along the coast. Thus, on November 1, 1769, Portola sent Sergeant Jose Ortega along with some scouts to the top of the coastal ridge above the



camp to investigate a story told by Indians that a ship was anchored somewhere to the north. (There was no ship.) On the next day, November 2, 1769, some members of a deer-hunting party left the main Spanish party and climbed to the ridge above the camp and then returned to the camp reporting seeing a large estuary to the east from the top of the ridge (later named Sweeney Ridge). Sergeant Ortega and his party then returned to the camp and confirmed the sighting of a large estuary to the east. By accident the Spanish had now discovered San Francisco Bay. It is unclear as to whether it was Ortega's party or the second hunting party that were the first Europeans to discover San Francisco Bay. In all probability it was Ortega's party leaving the camp earlier on November 1, 1769, that became the first Europeans to discover San Francisco Bay. In any event, on November 4, 1769, the rest of the party traveled to the top of the ridge where, for the first time, the entire party including Portola beheld San Francisco Bay. This site is currently aside Highway 280 in the coastal range west of present day San Bruno. Thus, San Francisco Bay was discovered by land and not by sea. A huge surprise!

Portola knew right away that San Francisco Bay was not Monterey Bay, because San Francisco Bay sits inland away from the ocean whereas Monterey Bay was described as adjacent to the ocean. In time the Spanish would regard the discovery of San Francisco Bay as their greatest discovery, because in their estimation the Bay could hold all the ships of the world in the Bay at the same time. And because it was their greatest discovery and because the religious order founding the missions was the Franciscan Order, they gave to the Bay the name of their greatest saint - St Francis of Assisi, or, in Spanish, San Francisco de Asis (sic), a name given earlier to Drakes Bay but now applied to the greater Bay inland. But where was Monterey Bay? Portola remained confused.

(Sources: Rawls and Bean: California, An Interpretive History, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., pp. 36-39; Carner-Ribalta: Gaspar De Portola, Explorer of California, pp.153-155;185-191; Douglas Kyle.Ed.: Historic Spots in California, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., pp.4-5;174;214;334;368-369; Miquel Costanso, Peter Browning, Ed: The Discovery of San Francisco Bay. The Portola Expedition of 1769, the Diary of Miquel Costanso, p. 89.)

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or 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, Editor at [mdennis1@att.net](mailto:mdennis1@att.net).)*

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## Upcoming Events:

<b>Training: Effie Yeaw Nature Center</b>	<b>Tuesday, April 22 10 AM</b>
<b>Governors' Day Rehearsals</b>	<b>Thursday, April 17 5 – 7 PM</b>
	<b>Wednesday, April 23 5 – 7 PM</b>
	<b>Thursday, May 1 5 – 7 PM</b>
<b>Governors' Day</b>	<b>Sunday, May 4</b>
<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday May 7, 1 PM</b>
<b>Training: McClellan - State Park Archives</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 10*</b>
<b>Summer Social</b>	<b>TBA in mid-August</b>

**Admission Day**

**Tuesday, September 9**

**Election Day**

**Saturday, October 18**

**\*June 10 date is tentative pending confirmation from Matt Bellah**

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**Final Chuckle:**

**Seen on a truck in Carson City, NV -**

**Site of Nevada State Capitol and a future feature article.**



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**To Use the Capitol Museum website. Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites"**

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319  
Rachel Martinez**

**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**