

# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

April 2015

## President's Message

By Bob Dreyer



Time is just zipping by this year. I've always been told that as you get older, time seems to speed up, and that does seem to be true especially if you have a lot of things you want to "get done" and think you have lots of time to do them.

As I write this message I realize that **this coming Saturday (April 18<sup>th</sup>) is our Earthquake Day Living History Event** and that I'm not sure I know my lines. I'm probably as much a procrastinator as the next person, which is why I am writing this on a Monday morning. Deadlines always seem to help my creative juices flow a bit better.

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

**Marti Dennis, Managing Editor**

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

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](mailto:mdennis1@att.net)**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter

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Keeping that in mind, we need to set some deadlines for the training of **a new class of volunteers**. At the last Board of Directors meeting, I stated that I wanted to get busy with this project as soon as Earthquake Day was over, so I am asking for volunteers to assist with the training. We will need people to help put together the instructional materials, stuff the binders, provide refreshments, share their experiences with our students, interview prospective volunteers, teach a class, and I am sure a few other things I have not thought of yet. The biggest task is to find mentors to help our new volunteers be all they can be. Every member of this organization has some area in which they feel comfortable, and now is the time to let us know what you want to do to assist with the training of the new class. Just send me an email and let me know what you want to do to help.

I am very happy that so many people like the idea of attending a River Cats baseball game. We have requests for over 50 tickets which is a great response!

Please don't be shy about sharing your thoughts with me. My email is [bobdreyer@comcast.net](mailto:bobdreyer@comcast.net).

~ **Bob**

## Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, cards have been sent to the following individuals:

- **Sanmukh Bhatka** – with Condolences on a death in his family
- **David Keck** - Get well wishes while feeling under the weather
- **Alex King** - Get well wishes while feeling under the weather
- **Marti Dennis** – Get well wishes while feeling under the weather
- **Ann Fox Morgan** – Encouragement while managing the care of her ailing mother
- **Barbara Kokonas** - Encouragement while caring for her daughter who is ill, and....

**Happy Birthday** wishes to our own **Scotty Hodges** who so regularly and affectionately ensures that our members are supported in whatever personal situation they are experiencing. Thank you Scotty, and Happy Birthday!



Please remember that 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.

## Earthquake Day: Saturday April 18



Don't miss the opportunity to encourage friends and family to attend our **1906 San Francisco Earthquake Living History event this Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**! This is an ideal opportunity to inform our acquaintances with the Capitol response and events following the worst natural disaster in United States history. As noted in the Cincinnati, OH Post article to the left, this horrific disaster created an incredible burden on California leaders, as they struggled to address the needs of the citizens of San Francisco and their families outside SF who sought

information about the condition of their loved ones. The event runs from **11:00 AM with the last tour beginning at 3:15 PM**. If you are unable to be involved in the event directly, be sure to support all of our members who will re-create CA history! Next month we should have some great event photos to share.

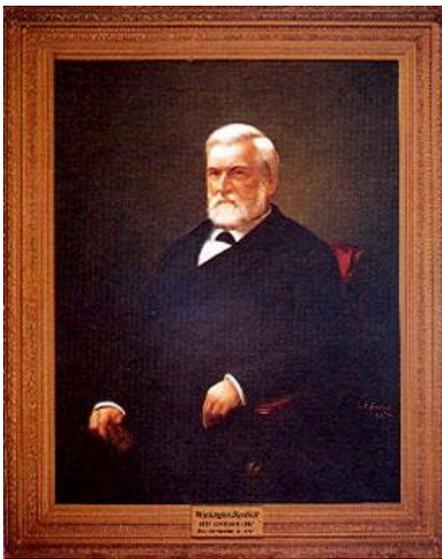
## Did You Know.....

By Clem Dougherty

*In the March edition of the **Clarion** featuring the "Did You Know" column, we ended the Spanish / Mexican / Mission period of California history. In this month's "Did You Know" column, we begin a new series entitled: **the Rise of San Francisco as the Queen City of the Pacific**. We hope that you will find reading this new series as interesting and as*

*enjoyable as it has been to its author, Clem Dougherty, in researching and writing it.*

**Did you know...** that **Washington Bartlett, California' 16th governor**, whose portrait hangs in the old Governor's office on the first floor of the Capitol, played an important role in the history of San Francisco? Yes, it's true. You may recall that in a prior newsletter we reported that both the mission and presidio of San Francisco de Asis were established in the year 1776. There was no city of San Francisco then. Instead, in addition to the mission and the presidio, there was a small settlement adjacent to a cove located approximately where the Ferry Building and surrounding territory stand today. In fact, the Bay water in the cove went up to what is now Montgomery St. to the west, Broadway to the north, and Folsom St. to the south. The small settlement adjacent to the cove was called Yerba Buena ("Good Herb") named after a mint-tasting plant that grew on the hillsides and was used as a form of tea by the native peoples and the early settlers. Whaling ships and other trading ships from the East Coast anchored their boats there because the cove was sheltered from the Bay winds and the strong Bay currents. In addition, Yankee trading ships docked in the cove to trade furniture, shoes, clothes and other goods for cow hides and tallow supplied by the missions and ranchos. The first and leading citizen of Yerba Buena was William Richardson, an English immigrant, who acted as a go-between the Yankee ships on one hand and the missions and ranchos on the other hand. Richardson ran barges sailing the Bay and transported the trade goods supplied by the Yankee ships in exchange for cowhides / tallow supplied by the missions/ranchos surrounding the Bay. By the time the Americans seized California at the beginning of the Mexican War in 1846, there were approximately 850 to 1000 people living in Yerba Buena.



You may recall that in a prior newsletter we discussed how the American military ruled California before statehood from 1846 to 1849, that there were primarily five military governors (Sloat, Stockton, Kearney, Mason, and Riley), and that each of them kept Spanish laws and institutions and some officials. One of the officials kept in effect was the local official known as the "Alcalde" who was like a combination mayor / sheriff / judge. In 1847 the Alcalde for Yerba Buena was Washington Bartlett who had been appointed as Alcalde by the American Military Governor and then elected by the people of Yerba Buena. Afraid that Benicia would steal the name San Francisco in an apparent effort to replace Yerba Buena as the leading port for the Bay, **Washington Bartlett** as Alcalde on January 23, 1847, by proclamation, changed the name of the small settlement from Yerba Buena to San Francisco. Thus, the City of San Francisco as a commercial center was born.

**Washington Bartlett** played another important role in the history of San Francisco. In 1847 Bartlett asked Jasper O'Farrell to draft a street plan for San Francisco based upon a prior plan drafted by Jean Jacques Violet. O'Farrell drafted San Francisco's present street plan with Market Street as the main thoroughfare separating streets on the north side of Market (such as Montgomery St., Powell St., Stockton St.,) from those streets on the south side of Market St. (such as Second St., Third St., Fourth St., etc) coming in at an angle into Market St. and not directly connecting with the streets on the north side. A later traffic nightmare was born! For better or for worse, Washington Bartlett in getting O'Farrell to draft the current street plan played an important role in how the City's streets were laid out.

Approximately 40 years later, Washington Bartlett was elected Governor in 1886 and assumed office in 1887. He died in office the same year: 1887. Until his exploits on behalf of San Francisco recently came to light, his chief claims to fame were thought to be as the first Jewish governor and as the first governor to die in office.

(Sources: Lotchin, Roger W.: *San Francisco, 1846-1856, From Hamlet To City*, pp.7,33,138,164-165; Richards, Rand, *Historic San Francisco, A Concise History and Guide*, pp.37-38,40-46; Hayes, Derek, *Historical Atlas Of California*, pp. 84-85; Kyle, Douglas, Ed., *Historic Spots Of California*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., pp.334-335; Schaechtele, Molly S., *The Governors of California And Their Portraits*, pp. 23 & 50.)

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame! Wednesday, July 29

Our own **Sacramento River Cats**, the AAA affiliate team of the San Francisco Giants, will be playing Las Vegas on Wednesday, July 29 at 7:05 PM. **Bob Dreyer** and **Alex King** have arranged tickets for the CSCMVA membership to enjoy this fun event as a group.

Approximately a month ago, Bob sent out a special announcement soliciting membership interest in attending this event, and he was pleased to receive reservations for more than 50 of our members and friends! Summertime and baseball just seem to be the perfect combination....



## Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

(Editor's note: This article is a reprise of an earlier Spotlight article in our **Clarion** Spotlight series.)

If one were seeking a modest, hardworking volunteer who quietly, but earnestly, advocated for the goals of the CSCMVA, then this volunteer absolutely fills those qualifications! The Spotlight's focus is on a prior president of the Association, **Diane Rich**. Diane has made countless contributions to the CSCMVA and rightfully has earned her moment in the Spotlight.



With her unique background, Diane found the Association a good "fit." She and her husband, Bruce, grew up in the same small town in Iowa. The town, Clear Lake, is also famous as the location of the final concert that Buddy Holly played before his tragic death in a plane crash that claimed the lives of other Rock 'n Roll favorites.

Diane and Bruce migrated to Saint Louis where she completed college earning a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Missouri. After her graduation, she taught kindergarten for a number of years. She and Bruce moved numerous times until they finally decided that St. Louis is where they would settle down and raise their family. They stayed nineteen years before moving to California.

Following her move, Diane was looking for meaningful volunteer activity and happened to see a notice inviting volunteers to the Capitol in the January 2002 issue of the *Sacramento Bee*. It piqued her interest. She applied and was selected to join the training class. With her teaching background, and being a natural "people person," she fit right in and enthusiastically began her volunteer work.

**Diane Rich**

Since becoming a member of CSCMVA it is easier to try to identify activities / events / roles she has *not* participated in than to list her accomplishments! Diane is a dedicated volunteer having given more than 2,500 hours to Association activities including the following: portraying the emotional, poetry reading **Isabella Gillette** for the Living History Event of Governor's

Day; bringing to life **Maude Younger**, a progressive Suffragette who donned pants and dared puff a cigar; regularly hosting the West Information Desk on Wednesdays; assisting with membership maintenance in that tricky Volgistics Program; serving on the Standing Rules Review Committee last year, chairing and co-chairing Earthquake Day on two occasions, as well as chairing and co-chairing Governor's Day three different times. She served on the Board for three years, served as Vice President for two years and President for one year.

Additionally, Diane has been a mentor to new volunteers, a tour guide, and a participant in field trips to Oakland, Benicia and to the Hearst Castle. She says she greatly surprised herself by making her hats and costumes (with the generous help of the Costume Committee).

This year, she will serve on the Committee assembling those hefty binders for new volunteer class members; and will portray a distraught and dismayed **Phoebe Couzins** in this year's Living History presentation of the 1906 Earthquake Day. And after 13 years as a Volunteer, Diane emphasizes that she still loves the excitement of being at the Capitol and meeting new people.

The rewards of being a docent are many, but Diane says for her it has been very rewarding meeting visitors to the Capitol many of whom share some of their life experiences and express gratitude for the information shared with them about the State Capitol and California history.

On the personal side, she is thrilled to have two little granddaughters 2 and 4 years old respectively, and she makes frequent visits to San Diego to dote on them. In the last few years, she and Bruce toured the Baltic States, St. Petersburg, and Stockholm. They even took in England and Scotland via the English Canals on one of those "narrow boats" with Bruce at the stern!

As if not busy enough, she supports (as a season ticket holder), and volunteers at a local Community Theater, continues canoeing and fishing in the Delta and has great fun playing Mah Jongg!

## Update on the CSCMVA Website:

With gratitude we welcome Randall William's return to the maintenance and enhancement of the CSCMVA website:

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

Randall has been able to update the member directory, ensure that all of our Board meeting minutes and recent issues of the *Clarion* are on the website, and he is working on a project to place more recent photos on the site. Thank you, Randall!

## Minutes of the CSCMVA Board

April 1, 2015

By Marilyn Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in room 126 of the Capitol by **President Bob Dreyer**.

**Minutes** were approved as distributed.

**Bookstore Report:** **Mary Geach** reported that net income for March was \$4,534.27 and for March 2014 was \$4,888. The slight drop was due to late receipt of the Pocket Directories. Mary has been busy placing book orders to replace purchased items.

**2015 Board of Directors**

**Membership:** Mary reported we now have 62 active, 30 sustaining, 5 supporting and 2 lifetime members. Nine previous members have not renewed membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Dennis reported that we spent \$1,275 on museum rooms last month. We are on track with our budget. Treasurer's report was accepted.



**Front Row:** Marilyn Thompson, PJ Jones, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis  
**Back Row :** Connie Clark, Alex King, Julie Mallett, Chris Tyler, David Keck

**State Parks Report:** Rachel Martinez reported that State Parks is trying to hire some guide trainees. Guide Kyle, has resigned. There continues to be a desperate need for volunteers on Sundays. Rachel reminded all volunteers to complete their emergency contact information.

**Matt Bellah** reported that the historic room signs have all been replaced. The next project is to replace / refresh the artificial flowers and plants in the museum rooms. The PPIE posters will be delivered to the book store as of 4/1. Price is \$7.50 / poster. The State Library Foundation would like 15% of each sale since they hold the rights to sell them. Bob Dennis moved, and Alex King seconded the motion to simply give the Foundation \$35 which would represent the total amount assuming all posters will sell. This avoids the necessity of Mary tracking the sales, and Bob having to write a number of small checks. Motion passed unanimously. Price will remain at \$7.50 until the exhibit closes when the price will be lowered to \$5.00. The plaque to honor Phyllis Davis will be placed in the Rose Garden in April. The new World War II exhibit will have training classes prior to opening and a one page handout of pertinent information will be shared with volunteers.

**On-going Business:**

- **Earthquake Day:** Due to a lack of sufficient volunteers, there have been some changes to the EQ Day script, and there will only be four tour guide teams. The first tour will depart from the Rotunda at 11:00, and the last one at 3:15 PM. The lunch break for participants will be 45 minutes. Equipment / props will be put in the affected rooms on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Publicity has been handled. Thanks to Erin for helping to get volunteers.
- **Volunteer Training Class:** Rachel has already received approximately 12 applications. An ad will be placed in the Bee several times over the next several months with the goal of achieving enough qualified candidates for a class of 15 to 20 people. The screening process will be more focused. An article in the *Clarion* will solicit members to help with the class.
- **Summer Social:** River Cats game: 40 people have signed up. We will have a block of seats in a "square" rather than strung down the row in order to facilitate member "esprit de corps."
- **Suffrage Day:** Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> No official chairpersons. Alex will help, and Leslie can help with preparations, but will be traveling during the event. She will ask if Lynn Cook is available.
- **Christmas Decoration Project:** Rachel is still awaiting word if our request to reserve the Stanford Gallery in May and June for workshops will be accepted.
- **By-laws Update:** PJ is absent but working on a lifetime membership rules update. She will send a draft proposal to the Board.

**Announcements:**

Koren Benoit reported that the next Capitol Historic Commission meeting will be April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the LOB. They will be voting on the penny smasher proposal and will have an update on the placement of the Reagan statue in the lower level rotunda.

**The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 6 at 1:00 PM.  
All members are encouraged to attend.**

**Upcoming Events:**

<b>Earthquake Living History:</b>	<b>Saturday, April 18</b>
<b>Board of Director's Mtg.:</b>	<b>Wednesday, May 6</b>
<b>River Cats Game:</b>	<b>Wednesday, July 29</b>
<b>New Members Class:</b>	<b>July / August 2015</b>
<b>Admissions Day:</b>	<b>Wednesday, September 9</b>
<b>Womens' Suffrage Day:</b>	<b>Saturday, October 17</b>
<b>Holiday Music Program:</b>	<b>December 1 - 23</b>

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**To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.**

<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**