

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

APRIL 2016



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

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Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor

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Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter

PO Box 19956

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President's Message

By **Connie Clark**

I'm beaming with pride over the success of the April 16 Women's Suffrage Living History event.

We have a number of very good actors and actresses. Several who thought they could never do it have become very good thespians. I want to thank them, the latest class members, the Parks staff and all the support staff, with whom we could not do any of these events. And a special thank you to Lynn Cook and Leslie Cooper who researched and wrote the script.

Some comments I heard were:

"A painless history lesson."

"This was a very good teaching opportunity for my teen daughters. They take their rights for granted, not knowing the struggles that came before."

"Very well-written and well-acted play."

"I knew there was a fight for suffrage, but had no idea there were women against the vote or the reasons why."

Another recent event was the North Information Desk training led by Clem Dougherty, Bill White and Bob Dreyer. Besides the basic NI information, they led us on a tour to ensure we know where all the most asked for rooms are located. This was the first of our new almost-monthly training sessions currently being developed.

Last month I mentioned how busy the Capitol Museum volunteers have been with all the past events. Hold on to your hats, Ladies and Gentlemen. There's more on the way!

We have several *new* events you will find on the calendar including two River Cats games, a trip in the planning stages, to Hearst Castle; the Elections Living History event; our CSCMVA 35th Anniversary Celebration; and the Holiday Music Program. If you have never participated in these events, I encourage you to do so. It's like getting into a cold pool – either slip in carefully and quietly or cannonball and make a big splash. Either way, we have tasks for

everyone at any commitment level. These events are always fun and a great way to get to know your fellow Docents.

I would like to thank everyone who gives their time and efforts to the Capitol Museum. Whether it's interpreting, doing living history, serving on committees or "other tasks as needed", you are appreciated. Thank you!

~ *Connie Clark*

Sunshine Corner:

Since our last publication we have learned of two events in our member's lives that prompted an expression of CSCMVA support.

- **Dan Collins** - Get well wishes
- **Bobby Scoggans** – Condolences on the loss of her husband



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 all our membership. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425-1909.

Parking Passes



Despite the good news of last month about the automatic extension of our Parking Passes at the 10th and L Garage, a number of our volunteers have experienced a problem using their passes. It first appears when the pass does not work at the entrance gate. If this happens to you (as it did to us), you need to go to the City Hall and have your pass manually extended. A letter is not necessary. The Parking Office advises that there is a "software problem" with some of the passes. Once validated at the Parking Office, the passes are valid through September.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame....

By Alex King



Where will you be the evening of **May 26**? We hope you will be joining 40, or more, of your CSCMVA friends at the **Sacramento RIVER CATS** baseball game at Raley Field.

Yes, it is Spring, and baseball is in full bloom. Our **River Cats**, the AAA affiliate of the **San Francisco Giants**, are off to a solid start in this new season. Showing a great amount of talent, several of the **River Cats** players seem to be ready to move up to the majors whenever a roster opening occurs.

CSCMVA had so much fun at a game last year that we have reserved two games this year – one in May and another in August. Come join us watch the **River Cats** play the **Colorado Springs Sky Sox on May 26**. Our discount tickets cost only \$19, and our seating is reserved in Section 118, right above the **River Cats**' dugout. Game time is 7:05 PM. Section 118 is one of the first sections to be shady in the evening, so it will be a comfortable and fun event.

Now is the time to sign up for the May 26 game, so that we can give the **River Cats** a count of how many seats we need. Send, or deliver, your check – made out to CSCMVA – for \$19 per ticket times the number of seats you want, to **Rachel Martinez** at the Volunteer Desk. Deadline will be May 15th, so we can give the **River Cats** office time to arrange our seats. There is a \$10 parking fee this year, but the **Cats** have offered a car pool option at no charge. Rachel will have flyers for how to qualify your car pool. See you at the game!

Hearst Castle Excursion:

Co-chairs **Patty Wood** and **Diane Rich** are pleased to have scheduled a bus and contracted with a hotel for the CSCMVA overnight excursion to **Hearst Castle**. The trip is scheduled for **Tuesday October 4 – Wednesday October 5**. The highlight of this event will be a **VIP Tour of the Castle** – a look at the building's beautiful architecture and a glimpse into the famous residents' way of life.

At their May meeting, the Board will make a decision on the specifics of the trip, but it is not too early to **put this event on your calendar!**

Did You Know....

By **Clem Dougherty**

Did you know... that the man known as “the sugar king of the West” started in San Francisco? Yes, it's true. His name was **Claus Spreckels** born in Germany on July 9, 1828. In 1846, Claus emigrated to the United States with only 75 cents in his pocket, and he arrived in San Francisco in 1856 during the hurly-burly days of the early Gold Rush. In San Francisco he first operated a grocery store and then a brewery, but beginning in the 1860s it was “sugar” that became his life's principal occupation, and that made him one of the richest men of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is estimated that at its zenith, Claus' financial empire expanded from sugar to include real estate, railroads, ships, and newspapers amounting to more than 15 billion dollars in today's money.



Claus Spreckels

Claus built his first sugar refinery in the manufacturing district south of Market St. at 4th and Brannan Streets, and soon the refinery outgrew the site. He moved further south of Market to Potrero Point where he built a larger refinery closer to the Bay. The factory needed to be close to the Bay so as to unload the raw sugar cane from ships coming from Hawaii for refining in Claus' factory. Up until his time, grocery stores sold sugar primarily in loaves. But, ever looking for new ways to sell his product, Claus developed granulated and cube sugar at his refinery which he introduced into the United States from Europe. His sugar had a clean appearance of good quality and of a modest price which became an instant hit in the American market place. In an effort to control the entire process from field to market, Claus bought his own 40,000 acre sugar cane plantation on the island of Maui. He then acquired his own fleet of ships by which he brought the raw sugar cane from Maui to his refinery in San Francisco. Later his ships were the first to offer regular passenger service from San Francisco to Hawaii. At one time he controlled the entire sugar cane crop coming from Hawaii, and his San Francisco-Hawaiian based businesses soon made him a multimillionaire. But in 1905 rival sugar cane planters in Hawaii broke Claus' hold on the sugar cane market and opened a cooperative refinery in Crockett, California, which was named: The California and Hawaiian Sugar Company (“C&H”). Despite competition coming from across the Bay, Claus' San Francisco refinery continued in operation until 1951.

By 1905 Claus had begun looking at new ways to grow sugar and experimented with sugar beets rather than sugar cane on a ranch he had bought in Santa Cruz County. Returning from Europe where he studied methods to cultivate sugar beets, Claus then began purchasing land amounting to 66,000 acres in the Salinas Valley where he could grow sugar beets, and in 1896 he built near Watsonville what was then the largest sugar beet refinery in the United States. He also built a railroad to ship the sugar beets from the fields near Salinas to the refinery near Watsonville. Spreckels owned several different named corporations to operate his vast businesses, but it is at the refinery at Watsonville that he first used the name: **The Spreckels Sugar Company** of which he was president.



Spreckels Sugar Company

During the 1880s and 1890s Claus also built several blocks of office buildings in San Francisco. He invested several million dollars to erect the “tallest building west of Chicago” named: “The Claus Spreckels Building.” It was 19 stories high and held 272 offices. Although it was built for the *San Francisco Call*, a newspaper owned by his son John Spreckels, the newspaper occupied only a small portion of the building. The rest was rented to individual office holders. The earthquake and fire of 1906 burned the inside of the building but left the outside structure intact. As a matter of local interest, a photo of the building appears on the bottom left of the 1904 map of California hanging on the inside door of the old Governor’s office in the State Capitol. Claus would invest heavily in rebuilding the city after 1906.

Claus was married to his childhood sweetheart **Anna Mangels** with whom he had 13 children, five of whom made it to adulthood: John Dietrich (1853-1926), Adolph Bernard (1857-1924), Claus August (1858-1946), Rudolph (1872-1958), and Emma (1869-1924). Claus’ family life was tumultuous in that two of his sons Claus August and Rudolph sued him over financial and other matters, and for a while his daughter Emma was estranged from him. Claus tried to restore good relations with his children by giving them gifts during his lifetime and providing for them in his will. All became multimillionaires. However, upon Claus’ death on December 26, 1908, and upon the death of his wife Anna in 1910, the children then sued one another to get a larger portion of his estate. Adolph would become the successor president of the Spreckels Sugar Company.

Claus Spreckels is important in California/San Francisco history in that he represents the type of industrialist that appeared on the American scene after the Civil War and provided the basis for the United States becoming the great industrial power of the 19th and early 20th centuries. People like John D. Rockefeller of Standard Oil, Andrew Carnegie of US Steel, and Stanford, Crocker, Hopkins, and Huntington of the Southern Pacific, these industrialists were strong, determined, sometimes ruthless men, strenuously opposed to government regulation, and willing to take great risks to reach their goals. Such was Claus Spreckels who helped San Francisco in the late 19th and early 20th centuries become the great commercial center of the state.

Today the Spreckels family no longer owns the Spreckels Sugar Company, having sold their interests in 1963.

(Sources: Uwe Spiekermann, Claus Spreckels: A Biographical Case Study Of Nineteenth Century Immigrant Entrepreneurship, Business and Economic History, (on Line, pp.1-21); Claus Spreckels, Wikipedia, (on line, pp.1-4); Spreckels Sugar Co., Wikipedia, (on line, pp.1-2); Spreckels Sugar History, (on line pp.1-3))

Next issue: Alma DeBretville Spreckels

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain “Scotty” Hodges

Prepare to meet a docent with a rare and fascinating personal history. If these first two sketches of the docents in the last class are representative of what is yet to come, I cannot wait to discover all of their personal histories. This member was born in a **DP camp in Aschaffenburg, Germany**. “DP” refers to Displaced Persons, a term widely used after **World War II** to describe the resulting outflows of people from Eastern Europe. The term referred specifically to someone who had been removed from his/her native country as a refugee, prisoner, or laborer.

Her mother who came from **St. Petersburg, Russia** had been caught between the German and Russian front and was brought to Germany as a laborer to work on farms and in factories during the war. Her father was from the **Ukraine**. He had been in the Polish army until the Nazis captured Poland and he then became a Prisoner of War. After the war ended, her mother and father, who met in the camp when they were prisoners of war, were able to marry.

As soon as they gained their freedom, **Erika Rypich’s** family migrated to the United States. They sailed aboard the USS General C.C. Ballou, a Navy troop transport ship named after a famous Army general who had fought in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. After being processed at Ellis Island, Erika says that “We then boarded a train to Kansas where our sponsor lived. After a year in Kansas, we moved to the Bay area and then on to Sacramento. “



Erika Rypich

She graduated from **C. K. McClatchy High School** and continued her education at **Sacramento City College**. While attending college, she worked part-time at the Department of Motor Vehicles and then the **Franchise Tax Board** where she began as a Key Punch Operator inputting data from those testy Income Tax Forms. She continued on in a permanent position serving the public as a Tax Program Technician. After 37 ½ years with the Tax Board, she retired.

She says that she learned about the Volunteer docent position from her friend **Joy Lehmann** who was a graduate of the Volunteer class prior to hers. Because she enjoys history and interacting with people, she felt this was the perfect activity for her. As a docent at the Capitol, Erika says she has met so many people from so many interesting places and simply loves welcoming them to the Capitol, and to the city, as well as the United States. With her knowledge and ability to speak Russian and some German, she feels that she has been able to make a unique connection with many of the visitors.

Since childhood, she has visited the Capitol many times. During her time with us, Erika has volunteered to interpret in the historic Governor’s Suite, worked on Admission Day, made corsages on Camellia Day, and decorated the Victorian Christmas Trees in the Treasurer’s Office. She has even given a ‘private’ tour to friends and a guest from Germany. Erika also enjoys travelling and has been to the Hawaiian Islands, Europe, Russia, and the Ukraine. She has also enjoyed cruising to Alaska and the Caribbean. Additionally, she enjoys singing, attending concerts, painting, and touring museums. She has had the privilege of singing in the **Sacramento Symphony Chorus** for the past 12 years and has even performed at **Carnegie Hall**. When she performed in that beautiful hall, she

was a member of a choir that sang **Faure's Requiem** with the **Annapolis Chamber Orchestra** under the direction of Perla Warren, Professor of Vocal Music at American River College.

In summary, Erika relates that: "There are so many interesting historical things that I have learned from our volunteers that enhance my knowledge of our capitol. And it is such a joy to learn and participate in such an organization." I think the privilege is all ours. Did you know that Erika has a 'connection' to the history of Sacramento? She sang in the inaugural choir (under the direction of John Scott Trotter, Musical Director for Bing Crosby) that performed from the Capitol Rotunda balcony at **Ronald Reagan's inauguration** in 1967. Also her mother tailored some of the drapes which hang in the **Governor's Mansion**.

This is just a brief sketch of Erika's life. I suspect that there are many more fascinating aspects of her personal history that I did not have time to uncover. However, the most important thing to note is that the Association is quite fortunate to have her as one of our members, and we certainly look forward to her sharing her many skills and talents to help make our programs and events even more successful!



Rachel's Reminders:

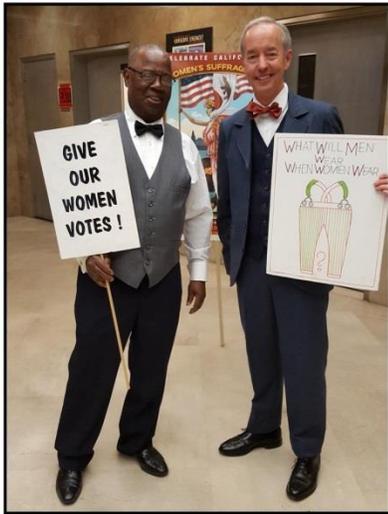
- The North Door Information Desk needs a lot more help! We've had a positive response from visitors, volunteers working the booth & staffers in the building—but we need more volunteers! The position is especially helpful during the weekends, as it is the only entrance open. Please sign up in VicNet if you're interested!
- With more & more visitors coming each day, please pay attention to the number of people in the historical rooms. **One of the WI Desk duties is to act as a back-up**; if more than 4 visitors are in a room, please ask a back-up to join you. Another **one of the WI Desk duties is to respond to any alarms that sound**. Please keep in mind staff & volunteers stationed in Exhibit/Historical rooms are discouraged from leaving the rooms if possible, as they have artifacts to watch as well.
- The **exhibit rooms** will be **closing April 25th** in preparation for the next exhibit, "Out of the Vault: Treasures from Your State Library" which will have a **soft opening on May 27th**. A training for Parks staff will be held **May 11th @ 9 am in the Capitol theater** by Gary Kuritz, and we'd like to invite the volunteers since we'll have some extra seats! **Email sign-up to follow**.
- **Please call Rachel at 916-324-0319 (Mon-Thurs) or the Scheduler's Desk at 916-324-2088 (Fri-Sun) if you need to cancel within 24 hours of a previously scheduled shift. Outside of 24 hours, feel free to remove yourself through the online VicNet system!**

Suffrage Day 2016 – What a Grand Day!

Saturday April 16 was a very special day. Over the course of 15 individual tours capably led by our Tour Leaders and their Back Up partners, interested visitors to the State Capitol enjoyed a step back in time to 1911. They witnessed some lively discussion (some even with drama) by our own actors and actresses, as they recreated the pros and cons of passing Amendment 8 to the CA State Constitution allowing Women the right to vote. Both sides of the issue were presented as historically correct. Thanks to **Leslie Cooper, Alex King, Connie Clark, Julie Mallett and Rachel Martinez** for a well-organized day. Photos on the next two pages are from those taken by **Lou Below** and Rachel Martinez. The collages were prepared by Rachel.



*Women's Suffrage Day
Living History Event
APRIL 16, 2016*



Help Wanted! Given the fun CSCMVA has in presenting CA history, wouldn't you like to act as a **Co-Chair for the October Election Day** event? Please contact **Connie Clark**, with your offer! We are looking for a seasoned member and a new member to work together on this event.

Upcoming Events:

- Board of Directors’ Meeting:** **Wednesday, May 4 at 1 PM**
WID will have information on the room assignment.
- Training: Exhibit “Out of the Vault: Treasures from Your State Library”** **Wednesday, May 11 at 9 AM**
- River Cats Baseball:** **Thursday, May 26 at 7 PM**
- “Soft” Exhibit Opening: “Out of the Vault: Treasures from Your State Library”** **Friday, May 27**
- River Cats Baseball:** **Thursday, August 18 at 7 PM**
- Admission Day:** **Friday, September 9**
- Hearst Castle Field Trip:** **Tues. – Weds. October 4 – 5**
- Election Day Living History:** **Saturday, October 22**
- CSCMVA 35th Anniversary Celebration:** **Saturday, November 5**
- Holiday Music Program** **December 1 - 23**

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