

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

March 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 **1st 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

Off and Running !!!

It's only March and already CSCMVA has distributed over 500 Camellia corsages to Capitol VIPs and visitors, with the help of 20 of our members. Thirty one (31) CSCMVA members helped visitors experience our amazing Building on Museum Day. We've completed over 2,000 hours of volunteer service to the Capitol by mid-February! (Thanks for the numbers, Diane)

We are in the midst of planning and preparing for **Governor's Day**, on **Sunday, May 4th**. Julie Mallett and Marita Martin are Co-chairing that event, so you might expect a call from them, if you don't call them first to offer your participation!

One group of CSCMVA members has toured the newly re-dedicated State Courts and Library Building, and additional two groups are scheduled for March 25th and 26th. We'll soon be announcing details of a Field Trip to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center on April 22nd – Earth Day – how appropriate. Plan on that one, folks, because there are picnic tables available and a late April picnic sounds great.

In June, we will again have the pleasure of Koren Benoit sharing her expertise about the Building – this time about the historic furnishings. Erin Renfree has agreed to do a Historic Rooms Tour in July.

Probably the week of March 17th, CSCMVA will be delivering new carpet runners for the Historic Secretary of State Office.

If that's not "Off and Running" busy, wait `til we pick a date in August for a social event; serve cake and ice cream for visitors on Admission Day, Sept. 9th; begin planning for our Election Day Living History event in October; make additional improvements to the historic rooms; and anticipate Holidays participation.

A quick reminder: visitors into the Historic Rooms should be limited to 4 to 5 people, unless additional docents join us. Hope you are all involved in our busy schedule. We thank you for your help, and we can still do more. Any ideas?
~ Alex



2014 Board of Directors

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

Back: Randall Williams, Julie Mallett, David Keck, and Christine Tyler

Missing from photo: Connie Clark

2013 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

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bylaws revisions:** Judi Smith, Diane Rich, Bob Dennis and Alex will read the bylaws and standing rules and be prepared to start this project with Bob Dreyer as soon as he returns from vacation.
- **Governors Day:** Julie Mallett and Marita Martin are co-chairs. They will begin planning when Marita returns from vacation on Sunday. [Marylin later emailed Julie the Event Planning Timeline]
- **Publicity:** Barbara Smith has agreed to be Publicity Chairperson.
- **Admission Day (September):** Scotty Hodges agreed to be chairperson.

Highlights of the Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting:

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

March 5, 2014

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Dennis** reported that net income for the month included \$1,740 in membership dues and \$1,610 from the Bookstore. Bookstore expenses for the month included an annual purchase to replenish stock. Revenue and expenses to date are as budgeted.

BOOKSTORE: **Mary Geach** reported that Renato has produced very attractive graphics for the "Restoring a Legacy" DVD.

MEMBERSHIP: **Mary Geach** reported that there are now 102 paid members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Historic room support:** runners for the Secretary of State's office have been ordered and should be received in 4 to 6 weeks. Total was \$887 – approved by Board. Bob Dreyer will purchase additional folding tables before the next living history event.
- **Camellia Day:** a very successful event with approximately 500 corsages and boutonnieres given out.
- **Volgistics and Website:** Randall gave an online "tour" through our webpage. It has to be accessed through the State Park website and has a very lengthy URL. Randall suggests saving the URL to your Favorites or Bookmarks. The website is full of useful CSCMVA information. He demonstrated the online scheduling feature which raised questions from State Park staff. Before starting a pilot group to test the website Randall will talk to Peter Larsen about suggested improvements in functionality. The pilot group will include the entire Board as well as Diane Rich, Patty Wood, Leslie Cooper and Judi Smith.

- **Election Day (October):** Chairperson(s) are still needed.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **State Library and Court Tours:** Two additional dates are available. Rachel will email members and take signups. Space is limited; contact Rachel if interested.
- **Effie Yeaw Nature Center:** Can give us tours on various Wednesdays in April. Nothing planned.
- **Historic Rooms:** Erin will plan a tour in July.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- **Koren Benoit** made handouts with descriptions of the artwork which is hanging in the first floor stairwells.
- Lou Below shares his discovery of the California State Archives website which is full of interesting historical information. Rachel will send out the URL.
- Alex mentioned that a briefcase belonging to Bobby Scoggan was recently discovered in the Tour Office and contained a variety of interesting training materials.
- Scotty Hodges made a presentation to the group of a piece of marble mounted on granite – both items from the original Capitol building which were left from the 1976-82 restoration. This was given to her by an acquaintance. It will be given to Koren Benoit for safekeeping.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly Board of Director's meetings. The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, April 2 at 1:00 PM** in Room 127.

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, a card and flowers have been sent to:

Suzanne Latimer with best wishes for coping with 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 or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.



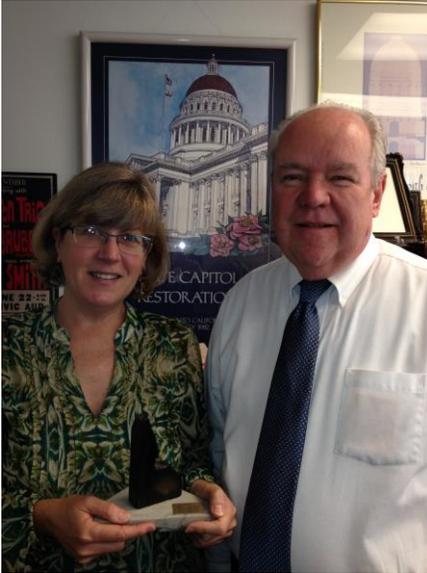
Reminder: Parking Permit Renewal

Our garage parking permits will **expire on March 31** unless renewed with the Sacramento City Clerk before that date. While this process is always a bit time consuming, we need to remember that our discounted parking is a privilege, and if we were unable to enjoy reduced parking fees, our expense for parking in the garage at 10th and L would be substantially more expensive.

Scheduling:

Diane Rich wants to remind us to **call the Scheduling Desk (324-0288)** to notify Erin and Terry with any change in the volunteer times for which we have signed up. That notice ensures that State Parks has sufficient notice to staff important "posts" within the Capitol.

A Piece of Capitol History:



Near the conclusion of the March Board Meeting, **Scotty Hodges** came forward with a gift that an acquaintance shared with her. It is a piece of black granite from the original Capitol building. The piece is beautifully mounted and bears a plaque stating that it was saved during the Capitol Restoration which occurred between 1976 and 1982. Alex King accepted the gift with gratitude and suggested that the best care for this historically valuable piece is in the care of Koren Benoit, Capitol Curator. Not wanting to waste any time, Alex delivered this piece to Koren on March 7. The Association thanks Scotty and her friend for this interesting addition to the Capitol Museum!

Koren Benoit and Alex King with a piece of the original Capitol building.

And Speaking of History...the California State Archives...

...serves as a rich resource for California history. Thanks to Lou Below who recently reminded us of the availability of a wealth of information through this source. The California State Archives, located one block south of the State Capitol at **1020 O Street**, was completed in 1995 and is considered a state-of-the-art facility. Among its contents are the original 1849 and 1879 State Constitutions; over 400 oral histories including those with Ronald Reagan and Edmund G. Brown, Sr.; genealogical materials; and records, maps and photographs of the railroad from the Public Utilities Commission. If you are unable to make a personal visit to the Archives, you can go to their website <http://www.ss.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm> and explore many of their holdings from your keyboard.



Updated Information on Capitol Artwork:

Through an arrangement to loan artwork to the State of Nevada, we have recently learned that the oil painting located on the South Staircase at the second floor landing is a rendering of **Lake Tahoe**, not Donner Lake as previously thought. **Frederick Butman** (1820 – 1871), the artist, was one of the first of California artists to devote himself exclusively to painting landscapes. Mr. Butman, a native of Maine, began to paint without the benefit of any professional instruction. When he came west in 1857, he settled in San Francisco. Within his lifetime his artwork commanded large sums including the sale of one which is rumored to have sold for \$8,000 in gold!

Camellia Pin On Day: February 26, 2013

Thanks to Connie Clark and Marita Martin, Co-Chairs



Photo collage courtesy of Rachel Martinez

Marvin Brienes' "Historical Perspective"

By Randall Williams

During the founding days of CSCMVA, we were enriched with documents contributed by a remarkably informed gentleman. Marvin Brienes was thorough in his California state research, and he possessed impressive writing skills. In 1981 he prepared a document entitled "**Historical Perspective**" and dedicated it to "...an impressively committed staff and the exemplary group of volunteers who assist them." The 1981 publication date is consistent with the conclusion of the Capitol restoration effort.

My docent performance as a rookie was enhanced when I discovered the **Historical Perspective** publication while hosting in the Treasurer's Office. In reading it I was engrossed by the information within and developed a keen appreciation for the living conditions that existed during the first decade of the 20th century. I found it so valuable, I arranged with Erin and Terry to convert the publication to digital format. I am amazed by the research that Mr. Brienes accomplished without the Internet, and I have a profound respect for the patience he evidenced by using a typewriter to record his findings! I invite you to read Mr. Brienes' "**Historical Perspective**" document which is now archived as an attachment to the **Training** page on our CSCMVA website:



California State Capitol circa 1910
– with beautiful East Apse

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

Accessing this resource introduces the reader to a wealth of detailed information for the period 1900 - 1910. In his introductory comments, Brienes entices us with the following questions:

- What was the world power structure in 1900 – 1910?
- What developments, in retrospect, were underway?
- What was the role of the United States in world affairs?
- What were the key domestic trends and influences?
- Turning to California, what was the path of the state's development, and how did that development relate to national and international events?
- What were the thoughts and attitudes of Californians about their future direction?
- How did the state, paralleling the nation, grow during this decade?
- How did people travel, work, spend money, enjoy and worry about...in short, live?

Check out this worthwhile resource on our website. You won't be disappointed and, I expect, you may be fascinated anew by the quality of members who have long served our association. The knowledge and anecdotes shared with us by Clem Dougherty, Bill White and so many others are complemented by this rich written resource of the early 1900s.

Governor's Day Living History Event: May 4

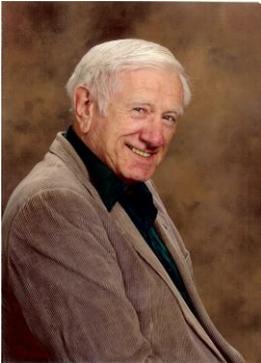
Here is your chance to be Governor (you do not even have to run for office) or the state's First Lady for the day. Join us on **May 4th** at Governor's Day. If you want a more low keyed position PLENTY are available. Please consider volunteering for one of the best Living History Events of the year and make Governor's Day 2014 a memorable event. You should have received an e-mail inviting your participation. Please respond promptly to Marita Martin with a preferred activity or role!

Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

This gracious gentleman with the quick wit joined our cadre of docents in 2012. He is originally from **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**. He arrived in California at the age of seventeen when his father moved his family here to accept a position with the Aerojet General Corporation.

After arriving in California, he served a tour with the California Army National Guard from 1961-1965.



Bill Monahan

Prior to joining the Guard, he began a career with the **United States Postal Service** in 1957. During his career with the USPS, docent **Bill Monahan** provided customer service at the popular service counter as well as interpreting postal rules and regulations. He subsequently moved to Employee Labor Relations and, in 2009, he finally retired.

Bill is the proud father of two adult children. His son is currently a Police Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department, and his daughter holds a position with the California State Lottery. He is also a good neighbor who assists those in need and drives them to errands and appointments whenever he can.

When I asked Bill, how he became interested in the CSCMVA; he said that he always held an interest in History and Politics and felt that: **"being a docent at the Capitol would be both an interesting and educational experience."** And thus far, he says he has not been disappointed, because his experience here at the Capitol has been just that.

He says he really enjoys working at the West Information Desk and loves being able to interact with Capitol visitors answering their questions about the history of the State Capitol. For him, manning the desk is educational and also serves to inform him as to who is visiting and their areas of interests.

Since joining the Capitol docents, Bill has earned his 100 Hour Pin and has volunteered in various Living History Events including the Women's Suffrage Event in 2013. He also shared his vocal expertise with us at the Christmas Sing-A-Long with the Capitol Museum Singers in 2012 and 2013.

Those years Bill spent in Government service are now paying off for the Association as he uses those customer service skills to make our visitors feel welcome and simultaneously educate them with bytes on California history.

Bill's hobbies include sports and surprisingly Karaoke which he says he loves. His Karaoke performances include classic Frank Sinatra standards and the Dean Martin song book. Sounds like he has great fun! Coincidentally, Bill is also one of those whom I was fortunate enough to interview for the 2012 Class. And it's always gratifying to see your judgment confirmed when you look up and notice that the personable, contributing docent on the job is one of those you had a vote in choosing!

Wanted: A Volunteer to Help with Archiving Activity

Marylin Thompson has offered to archive CSCMVA information and records, and she would like a volunteer to assist her with this activity. If you are interested, please contact Marylin at thompson.m@sbcglobal.net



Did You Know....?

By Clem Dougherty

....that the Sacred Expedition led by Don Gaspar de Portola did not recognize Monterey Bay at first? Yes it's true. In a prior newsletter we left the Sacred Expedition, Junipero Serra, and Don Gaspar de Portola at San Diego, having arrived there from Baja in two ships and two land divisions between April and July of 1769. Portola's orders were to found the capital for California at Monterey. Leaving Junipero Serra with a contingent of soldiers to found the mission and presidio at San Diego, Portola on July 14, 1769, started off for Monterey. With Portola were a total of 64 men among whom were Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada as second in command and in charge of 27 soldados de cuera (leather jacket soldiers), Lieutenant Pedro Fages in charge of 6 Catalonian volunteers, Ensign Miquel Costanso (a military engineer and cartographer), Sergeant Jose Francisco Ortega, and 200 mules and horses.



Don Gaspar de Portola

The Spanish relied on longitude and latitude readings to locate Monterey and on a physical description of Monterey Bay that had been made in 1602 by Sebastian Vizcaino, an earlier Spanish explorer. Portola already knew the longitude readings. It would be the latitude readings that now would become problematic. Miquel Costanso was Portola's engineer who with a device known as "the English Octant" was able to measure the latitude by using the sun. Costanso kept a diary of the expedition whereby he recorded the latitude at various places along the route and the mileage in Spanish "leagues" that the party had traveled from San Diego. Costanso also had a latitude reading for Monterey made by Cabrero Bueno, the pilot on the earlier Vizcaino expedition.

The Sacred Expedition under Portola traveled from San Diego up the coast next to the sea to a point just south of present day Big Sur. At this point the coastal mountains came directly down to the sea making it impossible to proceed next to the sea. Portola then cut inland over the Santa Lucia mountain range and came out on the Salinas River two miles south of present day King City in the Salinas Valley. Portola then followed the Salinas River north to where it emptied into Monterey Bay.

Upon arrival at Monterey Bay on October 1, 1769, Portola quickly became confused as to whether he was looking at Monterey Bay. The principal problem was that the physical description of Monterey Bay left by Vizcaino did not match what Portola was seeing. Portola came to Monterey Bay at a point where the Salinas River empties into the Bay. At that point the Bay is shallow, wide, with a sloping, sandy shore. Vizcaino, however, described the Bay as being in the shape of an "O" and as a deep water port where the pine studded mountains came down to the sea. The problem was that Vizcaino had approached the Bay by sea from a point south of Monterey. Portola, however, approached Monterey Bay by land from a point north of Monterey. Historians believe that had Portola approached Monterey by ship from the south, he probably would have had little trouble with Vizcaino's description. To complicate the problem Miquel Costanso was unable to get an accurate latitudinal reading using the English Octant because, as he reported, the coast prevented a clear horizon either to north or south. Furthermore, the earlier Cabrero Bueno latitude reading appeared to be off. Portola was stumped. What to do? Where is Monterey Bay?

(Next article: The Spanish make a surprise discovery)

Upcoming Events:

Training: Tour of the State Library And Courts Building	Tuesday & Wednesday March 25 and 26 10:00 AM
April Board Meeting	Wednesday April 2, 1 PM
Training: Effie Yeaw Nature Ctr.	Tuesday, April 22
Governor’s Day	Sunday, May 4
Summer Social	TBA in mid-August
Admission Day	Tuesday September 9
Election Day	Saturday October 18



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