October 2017

President’s Message
By Connie Clark

As I sit down to compose this message, my heart is heavy with thoughts of all the recent tragedy around the world. People both here in the U.S. and in other countries have experienced earthquakes, hurricane disasters, and senseless killings in recent weeks. While these tragic events have not directly touched our region, some of you may have family or friends whose lives have been turned upside down by these events. Even those of us who are fortunate not to have been directly affected by these events have most certainly been moved by the magnitude of misfortune and loss of life to our fellow man.

The docents who share their time and talents at the State Capitol are a very caring and giving people. We enjoy sharing our knowledge and love of history. We care about giving our visitors an enjoyable experience. We welcome visitors from around the globe. I am proud to be associated with such a caring and generous group of volunteers. And it lifts me up to be associated with so many special people.

In light of these tragedies, I ask you to open your hearts to those who are so badly in need at this time. Consider a monetary donation to the cause of your choice. Regardless of any financial help that you may be able to provide, please send your caring thoughts and prayers to the victims of these tragedies. Just as with our volunteer docent work, every contribution by each individual makes a difference. Thank you for making a positive difference in our world!

-- Connie

As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

-- Audrey Hepburn
Sunshine Corner

Within the past month Scotty sent out cards expressing sympathy or wishing a swift recovery to:

- **Dave Kane** who is recovering from knee surgery.
- **Judi Smith** who is in long-term care and continuing her extended recovery from a spine-related condition.

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 hashogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707-425-1909.

Join the Fun for Governors’ Day!

There’s still time to join your fellow volunteers for the Governors’ Day event set for Sunday, November 12, 2017. Additional greeters will be helpful for answering visitors’ questions and providing some orientation to the Living History Program. Greeters are encouraged to wear 1906-era costumes but are not required to do so. Please email Patty Wood atpjwood09@att.net to become a part of this important CSCMVA event.

For those members who are already signed up for this event, here are the dates and times for rehearsals:

- Wednesday, October 25  4:00p.m.
- Thursday, November 2  4:00p.m.
- Wednesday, November 8  4:00p.m.

Please assemble downstairs in the Theater. Actors plus Tour Guides/Backups should plan to attend this and all rehearsals. All participants are encouraged to attend the final rehearsal on November 8.

Anyone needing a costume for this event should email Ann Rost at annrost@gmail.com.

Board Meeting Schedule Change and Monthly Training Cancellation

Due to a Cooperating Association training taking place on November 1, 2017, the next November Board meeting will be held on November 8 at 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. The time change is to accommodate the Governors’ Day rehearsal at 4:00 p.m. As always, all members are welcome!

No monthly training for volunteers will be held in November or December due to an already-full schedule of activities including Governors’ Day and the Holiday Music Program.
Docents Dig Deep into City Cemetery History

A group of 19 CSCMVA volunteers attended the October 2, 2017 training held at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, an outdoor museum rich in California history dating back to the Gold Rush. The cemetery is the resting place for some Sacramento mayors, California governors and many pioneers from California’s earliest days.

Those who attended the tour were visited by “cemetery residents” during the tour. The photo above right shows tour participants posing with “Aimee Crocker” who many agreed bore a remarkable resemblance to CSCMVA President Connie Clark.

Annual Meeting Luncheon Date and Location Set

Make your plans now to join your fellow volunteers for the CSCMVA Annual Meeting Luncheon to be held at Casa Gardens Restaurant on January 25, 2018. Look for more information soon.

Book Club Turns Its Final Page

Following a spirited discussion of John Steinbeck’s *The Long Valley* by attendees at the September meeting of the CSCMVA Book Club, it was decided to discontinue the club due to limited participation. The membership extends its thanks to Leslie Cooper for organizing and leading discussion of books relevant to California history.

Save the Date: May 2018 Trip to Monterey

Make sure to mark your calendars to attend the proposed CSCMVA trip to Monterey on May 9-10, 2018. The CSCMVA Board of Directors is currently considering plans for this trip to include tours of the museums and historic locations on the Monterey Peninsula. More information will become available as plans are developed.
Historic Room Reminders and Status for Volunteers

Please continue to observe the following reminders and updates for the historic rooms in the Capitol Museum. The help and cooperation of all CSCMVA members in preserving the rooms and their contents is appreciated.

✓ No tours in the Historic Governor’s Office Suite including VIP tours.
✓ Please continue to set the alarms when leaving a historic room unattended.
✓ The lamps in the Secretary of State’s Office are on timers and will turn on and off by themselves.
✓ Please do not handle items in the historic rooms that are not specifically identified with a red star.
✓ If you notice any new damage on objects in the historic rooms, please inform the Park Aides: Margo, Jason and Rachel.

Did You Know....

By Clem Dougherty

Did You Know ... that the Port of San Francisco once was “the whaling capitol of the world?” Yes, it’s true. During the time from 1882 to 1908 the whaling industry, facing extinction on the United States East Coast, switched its operations to the West Coast and the Arctic Ocean/North Pacific where humpbacked whales were plentiful. Whaling ships now on the West Coast used San Francisco as their home port. During this time San Francisco waterfront piers hosted whale carcasses drying in the sun from which whale bones were extracted to make corset stays for women’s dresses. But whaling wasn’t the only business occupying the Port of San Francisco.

You may recall that in a prior Did You Know article in the Clarion, it was mentioned that the Port started as a sheltered cove located near where the Ferry Building and surrounding territory is today (see Did You Know, June, 2015 Clarion). In fact the Bay water in the cove ran all the way up to present day Montgomery Street. Beginning with the Gold Rush, a series of long piers were built into the cove. The piers provided places where ships could dock and upon which and in-between which warehouses could be built. The cove was filled in, and by 1860 the cove had disappeared. But San Francisco continued to build piers. The Port of San Francisco became a series of piers starting with Pier 1 at the Ferry Building. Odd numbered piers (1 to 45) began at the Ferry Building and headed north and then west toward the Golden Gate. Even numbered piers (2 to 98) also began at the Ferry Building and headed south along the Bay toward Candlestick Point. (For more on the piers and warehouses, see Did You Know, June, 2015 Clarion).

Using the Port of San Francisco as home base, ships of all kinds and shapes with every manner of goods for import or export plied the waters of San Francisco Bay. Thus, the City’s piers played a central role in
the loading and unloading of goods. From the time of the Gold Rush to the middle of the 20th century, the Port’s piers became the center of the City’s commercial life and the basis for defining San Francisco as one of the great ports of the world.

During the 1850s ocean going clipper ships with huge sails sailed into the Bay carrying goods and passengers anxious to strike it rich in the gold country. The oceangoing clipper ships were built for speed. Gliding swiftly along the top of the ocean water, they sailed for San Francisco’s piers in order to unload their goods and capture the market before the competition got there. A clipper ship could make it from the East Coast around South America to San Francisco in 89 days or 3 months whereas ordinary ships took twice as long or 6 months.

California’s farmers used the Port’s piers to market their produce both at home and abroad. During 1881, 559 ships carrying tons of wheat from the San Joaquin Valley sailed through the Golden Gate for foreign ports. Each morning paddle wheelers sailed from the valleys of Sonoma, Napa-and Sacramento into the Port’s piers with fresh vegetables and fruits for San Francisco markets. (For more on this paddle wheeler activity, see Did You Know, November, 2015 Clarion)

The Port was home to its own fishing fleet. Italian fishermen used their skills learned in Italian waters to build small fishing boats with small sails known as “feluccas” usually painted green and containing the name of a saint painted on their hulls. The feluccas left their berths at Fisherman’s Wharf (Pier 45) to sail inside and outside the Golden Gate. Outside the Golden Gate they trolled for ocean fish and laid down traps for crabs. Inside the Golden Gate they fished for shrimp and local Bay fish. By 1890 there were approximately 1000 feluccas fishing in Port waters inside and outside the Golden Gate.

But the greatest amount of traffic on the Bay occurred on ferries carrying thousands of people from all over the Bay into San Francisco every day. The Golden Gate Bridge and the San Francisco Bay Bridge were not built until the 1930s. Before that time people around the Bay used ferries to reach their jobs in San Francisco. In 1913, 60,000 people crossed the Bay twice each work day. The ferries docked at the Ferry Building at the bottom of Market street, and the 60,000 walked up the gangways, through the Ferry Building (that historian Gary Kamina called San Francisco’s “front door”) and into a street filed with heightened activity. Greeting the people were trucks rumbling along East Street (now the Embarcadero) and railroad locomotives and cars carrying goods from the piers to the warehouses. Cable cars, their bells a-clanging, loaded passengers for ascent up San Francisco’s hills. Longshoremen milled around the pier gates and, for those lucky to get work that day, boarded ships to begin their arduous tasks. People scurried through and around automobiles of every size and make and taxis weaved and dodged other vehicles, all in an unspoken tribute to a great Port alive and central to the life of a great City.
Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting October 4, 2017

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

Meeting was Called to Order at 1:00 p.m. in Room 127 of the Capitol by President, Connie Clark

Board members present: Connie Clark, Marylin Thompson, Diane Rich, Ron Lauchner, Keith Evans, Barry Goleman, Marilyn Folker, Bill Monahan

Board members absent: Bob Dennis, Bob Dreyer

Others Present: Lou Below, Patty Wood, David Keck, Casey Hayden, David Kane, Bob Folker, Sheri Routh

Minutes of previous meeting: Approved as submitted.

Appropriations Committee
Treasurer: July and August rent have been received. Biggest expenses have been Admissions Day and insurance. Barry met with Marilyn Folker, Sheri Routh and Mary Geach to learn bookstore procedures. Mary has ordered more “Rosie” and “Victory Garden” posters.

State Parks: Casey: Guides Larry and Julia have left for other positions. New guides hired are Ryan, Charissa and Alison. Exhibit rooms will be closed for 3 months starting Dec. 31. There is a restructuring process going on in the district. It is a 65-page document. We will wait to see how/if it affects CSCMVA.

Training Updates: 19 people attended the City Cemetery event and learned a lot from costumed docents. There will be no training events in Nov. or Dec. Perhaps cemetery event will be repeated due to popularity and additional information to be learned.

Museum Updates: No report.

Historic Commission Report: No Report

Book Club: Four people enjoyed a spirited discussion at the last meeting but the club has been suspended due to lack of participation.

World War I project: No report.

Small skits: Nothing can be done until access to the museum rooms is clarified.
Monterey Trip: Lou and David presented current price/itinerary details. Motion by Goleman, second by Lauchner to have assoc. cover cost of bus ($2,952) and two $100 donations to Colton Hall and Monterey State Historic Park Volunteer Association. Further details to be in Clarion article and email to members. Email will request preliminary interest in trip by members due to cost.

Governor’s Day: Karen Peart will display her memorabilia in the rotunda. Since we can’t use the Senate Chamber, that skit will take place in the Treasurer’s Office. Rehearsals have been moved up to 4:00 p.m. per request from Renato. Could use some more Greeters.

NEW BUSINESS
Long Range Plan: Committee has reviewed plan prepared by Barry. It establishes several reserve funds and targeted use funds in compliance with Cooperating Association guidelines and best practices. After committee discussion several revisions will be made and plan will be presented at November board meeting.

Contracts Review and Oversight Committee: Barry has been working on bookstore and long-range plan. He will now address an oversight committee and define what its function will be.

Bookstore Contract: This will be a discussion with DDSO regarding space allocation and procedures for stocking shelves. The suggestion was made to ask for a reduction in our rent since we seem to have less space.

Christmas decorations: Mary Spitzer is preparing to put up two trees. The question arises about reason for elimination of third tree and other decorations. Renato was not present to discuss. What will be disposition of excess decorations if they can no longer be used?

Nominating Committee: Committee is Keith, Chuck Shannon and Sheila Bruton. Would welcome more members and suggestions for possible board candidates.

Cooperating Association Meeting: There will be a program in Coloma on Nov. 1 for all member groups to learn how they can work together and how they each interact with their targeted guests/audience. Connie, Diane and several other members will attend.

Annual Meeting: Will be held at Casa Gardens restaurant on January 25th. Cost is $22.37 per person. Diane suggests charging members $10 and guests $23. Monahan moved, Evans seconded. Passed. Lauchner raised question as to why we are collecting dues if we have a large reserve fund. Are we spending more on member subsidies/activities than on our mission to support the museum? Do we need a statement as to what the dues are for and in what amount? Do we need to educate the membership on use of dues? If we eliminate dues, how long will we use our reserve fund to operate? Perhaps the Long Range Plan will address some of these questions.

Lauchner also raised point that amount of dues has not been officially set by board and needs to appear in minutes. Thompson made motion, seconded by Rich to set dues for 2018 in same amount as 2017. Since no one at the meeting was certain as to the exact categories and amounts, motion was withdrawn until amount can verified.

River Cats: Keith has received information from River Cats that CSMVA is a “buyer preference group.” We will be guaranteed the same accommodations in future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8th at 2:00 p.m. The change is due to the Cooperating Association meeting held in Coloma on Nov. 1st which Connie and several members will be attending. Time has been
changed to make it easier for members to attend board meeting and rehearsal on same afternoon. Location to be announced.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Governors’ Day Rehearsal**
  - Wednesday, October 25, 4 PM

- **Governors’ Day Rehearsal**
  - Thursday, November 2, 4 PM

- **Board of Directors Meeting:**
  - Please note date/time change!
  - Wednesday, November 8, 2 PM

- **Governors’ Day Rehearsal**
  - Wednesday, November 8, 4 PM

- **Governors’ Day**
  - Sunday, November 12

- **Board of Directors Meeting:**
  - Wednesday, December 6, 1 PM

- **Holiday Music Program**
  - December – Dates TBD

- **CSCMVA Annual Meeting Luncheon**
  - Thursday, January 25, 2018

To use the Capitol Museum website: Copy the address shown below to your web browser and then save the website to your list of “Favorites” or “Bookmark” it.


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