

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

SEPTEMBER 2013

President's Message By Alex King



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
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Sacramento, CA 95819

The Fun Never Stops ...

More than 20 CSCMVA members recently visited the Historic Folsom Power House State Park. They were enthralled by Park Docent Dan Winkleman's description of how this new source of hydroelectric power came to be in the early 1890s. Electric power arrived 22 miles downstream from the power house in mid-July 1895, at the power station near the old railroad yards in Sacramento. Soon after, other needs for electric light were served, including the State Capitol.

Members were intrigued by the fact that earlier sources of electricity, particularly coal-fired steam, were replaced by our nearby hydro plant as the first source of inexpensive electricity in the World.

To celebrate, the City of Sacramento organized and held a **Carnival of Lights** on September 9, 1895, that attracted over 30,000 visitors to the event. The dazzling display lit downtown buildings, vehicles, floats and streetcars in the parade and outlined the dome and the entire Capitol building. Twelve arc lights on the Capitol dome were so bright it is said their glow could be seen for 30 miles. So brilliant and successful was Sacramento's Carnival, that dignitaries from the so-called "City of Lights" (Paris, France) came here to study our event before hosting their famous lighted events. Even Disneyland, much later, used the Carnival of Lights as the inspiration for the Main Street USA Parade of Lights. Sacramento led the World!

CALIFORNIA – 163 YEARS YOUNG

September 9, California Admission Day, once again found CSCMVA members handing out cake and ice cream to Capitol visitors outside the North Doors to the building. With the California State Seal on the sheet cakes and wonderful Leatherby's ice cream being served, the lines were sometimes long. A group of fourth graders delighted in sitting on the lawn with their "goodies"; public visitors; building staffers; horse-mounted California Highway Patrolpersons and even a few lobbyists were served by our members to celebrate California's 163rd Birthday.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Participants are still needed to assist Capitol visitors appreciate the valiant efforts of women fighting for the vote in our "Living History" event which will take place October 13th. Again, let your willingness to help be known. Join us in this fun re-telling of the significant campaign victory of the early 1900's.

~ Alex



2013 Board of Directors

Front (L to R): Marylin Thompson, Bob Dennis, Alex King, David Keck; Back (L to R): Gary Stonehouse, Chris Tyler, Marita Martin, Leslie Cooper, Connie Clark, Bob Dreyer

2013 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
David Keck	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marylin Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
Leslie Cooper	Member
Bob Dreyer	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
Gary Stonehouse	Past President

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

September 4, 2013

By Marylin Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Dennis** reported that net receipts and expenses are on track with our budget. Net income for the Bookstore was \$2,400. Income was down over the summer but should pick up when school classes commence visits to the Capitol. A question was raised about offering "rovers" or any volunteers in historic rooms the opportunity to wear Stae Park polo shirts or some attire which would identify them as "official." The official polo shirts are very expensive, but State Parks patches are available, and these can be sewn on to generic blue shirts. Chris Tyler made a motion, seconded by Bob Dreyer, that we purchase 10 State Park patches for people to sew onto generic blue polo shirts or other attire.

STATE PARKS REPORT: **Rachel Martinez** reported that **Matt Bellah** is out on paternity leave. He and his wife had a baby girl. **Richard Getz** has not been at the Capitol recently due to family illness. There is a new State Park Guide named Amber who has previously worked at Sutters Fort and the Railroad Museum. Amber will be working part time. There is a contiunuing need for volunteers on Saturdays to keep both galleries open. There are also opportunities for volunteers to interpret the historic rooms, and there is an opening on the WI desk on Wednesday afternnon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Web Design: **Randall Williams** reported that the website is up and running. The scheduling feature is not yet operative, but the **Clarion** and the Board Minutes will be archived on the website. By posting the Minutes and the Special Features column on the website, it is possible to save print space in the **Clarion**.

August "Mingle and Munch": **Marti Dennis** distributed a final report on the event budget, timeline, resources, and menu for reference for future social event planning. The party was under budget, and the committee was congratulated on a successful and fun event. Marti's report will be saved on the website for future reference.

California Admission Day (September 9): **Alex** reported that he was able to procure donated ice cream from Leatherby's. There are enough volunteers to ensure an organized and well-staffed event.

Suffrage Living History Day: There was no report, but the event is on track.

Treasurer's Office Coins: **Rachel** reported that there are actually three types of coins in the Treasurer's Office: Morgan silver dollars, Liberty double eagles and commemorative coins made especially for the 1982 renovation opening. The commemorative coins are not historic replicas and

are primarily used to demonstrate the weight of a silver dollar, so replacements do not need to look historic. Alex and Marylin will continue to check with vendors (including local coin shops) for a means to safeguard the more expensive replicas of the Morgan silver dollars and the Liberty double eagles.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

A WI Desk refresher “course” is scheduled for **September 18**. All those who currently work on the desk, and those who wish to, are encouraged to attend.

Clem Dougherty’s training on significant governors will resume on Wednesday October 16th. He will cover Governors Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, Ronald Reagan, Jerry Brown and Gray Davis.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Opportunities: **Bob Dreyer** suggested that in order to provide skills and manpower to the CSCMVA that not all volunteers need to go through formal docent training. Such volunteers would not be qualified to serve as docents or to staff the WI desk or historic rooms, but they could be actors, costume makers, graphic artists etc. They would pay dues and would receive the *Clarion* and advance notice of future training classes. A discussion of the pros and cons ensued with no action taken.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on October 2 at 1:00 PM.

Sunshine Corner:

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

- Ann Rost** – Continuing wishes for a timely and complete recovery
- Mary Stockdale** – Get well wishes
- Pat Rodoni** – Get well wishes
- Christianne Culhane** – Get well wishes
- Family of **Caesar Abate** – Condolences on his passing on September 15



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.



Have You Been on the CSCMVA Website?

If you have not already done so, you need to copy the web address below and paste into your web browser and have some fun looking at all the information that Randall has moved to this online resource. On Mondays, he updates the schedule for the West Information Desk so you can view it from home. In addition, there is a complete membership list, photos of past events, Minutes of the Board meetings, and past issues of the *Capitol Clarion*. Once you are on the site, be sure to save the website on your list of “Favorites.”

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

California Women's Suffrage Living History Day: October 13

There are 51 volunteers who will be fulfilling many roles in this fun and exciting event for both participants and the public. To ensure an accurate (and humorous) portrayal of the historic events surrounding the success of women's right to vote in California, there are rehearsals commencing September 26 which are detailed below.

Rehearsals, all at 5:00 PM, are as follows:

Thursday, September 26
 Thursday, October 3
 Thursday, October 10

Actors, actresses and lead guides need to attend all three rehearsals. All participants need to attend the last rehearsal.

Bernadette Hicks and Barbara Smith, publicity chairs, will be contacting various publications with essential event information, but don't neglect the value of telling your family and friends about this event!



Parking Pass Renewal Time!

Yes, it is that time again.... **September 30** is the end of our preferred parking rate status in the Capitol Garage at the corner of 10th and L streets. To ensure a more favorable parking rate for the next six months, be sure to pick up a letter at the Volunteer Desk, complete it, and take it to the Sacramento City Hall for extension of preferred parking privileges.

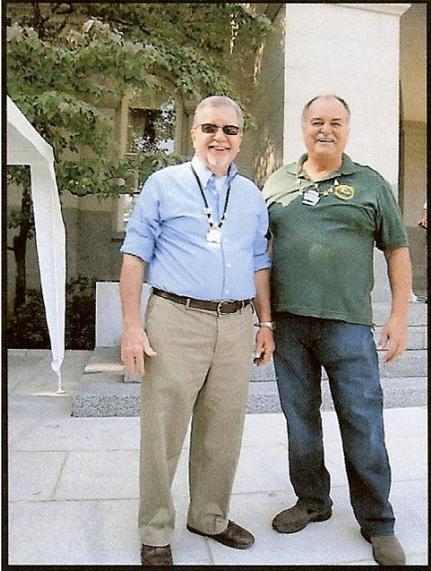
Admission Day: September 9

By Alex King

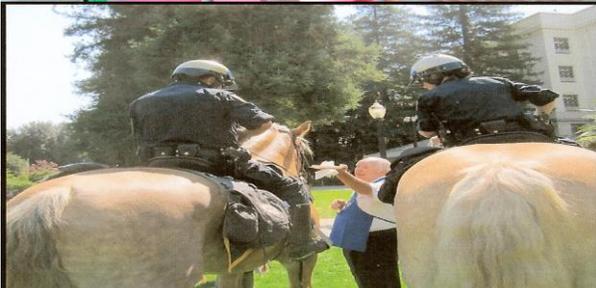
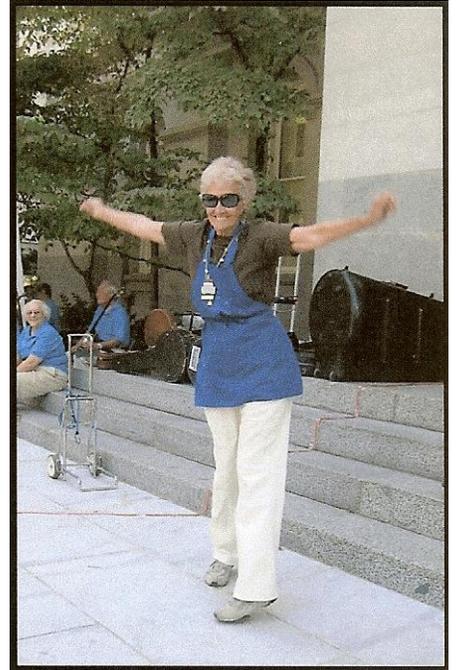
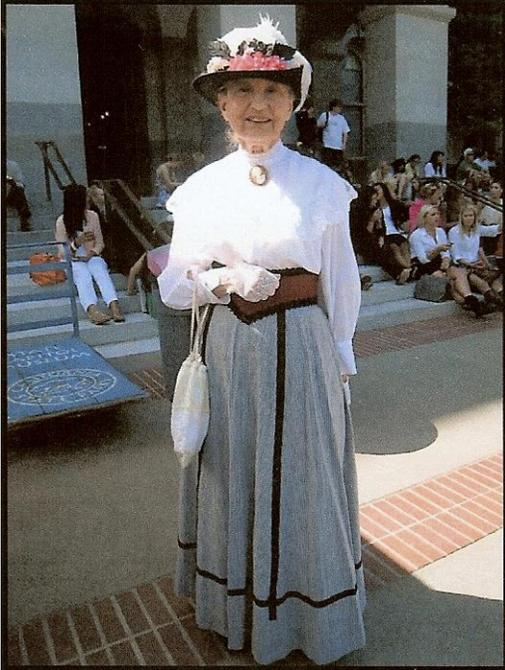
What a party!!! Over 600 people were served Leatherby's Famous Ice Cream and cake with the California State Seal from Raley's along with happy music by the Sacramento Banjo Band during the **163rd** recognition of **California's Admission Day**. The varied crowd of party goers included a group of school children -- who will probably not remember their tour of the Capitol but will definitely remember their cake and ice cream on the lawn! Random visitors to the Capitol were surprised by CSCMVA hospitality. Horse-mounted California Highway Patrolpersons, legislative staffers and even a few lobbyists enjoyed the festivities.

Chairperson **Sheri Routh** had the party well organized. Cake and ice cream servers included: Pam Werner, Scotty Hodges, Verna Magennis, Marti Dennis, Mary Spitzer, Marianne Bruening, Bob Dreyer, Earl Boynton, Alex King, Bart Carlson, Dave Keck, P.J. Jones, Bob Dennis, Lynn Cook, Sheila Bruton, Karen Peart, Bob Chan and Barbara Kokonas. Bill White came by to ensure everyone was working hard, and Parks Volunteer Coordinator Rachael Martinez provided incredible logistics support. Dave Leatherby personally delivered his wonderful ice cream. Thank you to the entire group of participants.

It is rumored that some needed more than one hand washing to remove the dried, sticky ice cream and cake, but definitely a good time was had by all as evidenced by the following photos.....



Admission Day – September 9, 2013



Admission Day – September 9, 2013

Rover? What is a “Rover?”

By Alex King

Very soon a change is coming to the volunteer sign-up sheet at the Volunteer Desk. The volunteer opportunity called “ROVER” will be added.

Being a “ROVER” gives a volunteer a chance to personally interact with visitors to the Capitol that are not involved in more formal tours or may not have time to see the entire building. Frequently one or two people might enter the Legislative Galleries without being part of a tour. That’s a great chance for a ROVER to greet them, offer a few small facts about the Chamber and, by paying personal attention to them, make the visitor know they are welcome in California’s Capitol.

Possibly travelling the third floor, between the galleries, a visitor might enjoy a ROVER pointing out the detail in the redwood State Seal, or mention something unique about the Governor’s portraits. The historic rooms are obvious chances to greet a visitor and give them some added insight into what they are seeing. The basement Matthews murals are opportunities to share our knowledge with visitors – another ROVER opening.

All of us have had training on the building, its history and its features. Being a ROVER gives us the chance to share that knowledge with visitors in what would seem to be a spontaneous, impromptu and informal greeting, but really is a planned and organized chance to share our information in a casual, less structured meeting. Being a ROVER gives us an opportunity to make our visitors feel special and important – that they are welcomed in our Capitol

Profile in Courage Award Exhibit

The California State Legislature has installed an exhibition in the East Annex entrance honoring the 2010 recipients of the Profile in Courage Award.

The award, named for President John F. Kennedy’s 1957 Pulitzer prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*, recognizes political courage in public servants. It is presented annually to those who choose the greater public interest over partisanship, to **do what is right rather than what is expedient.**



The Profile in Courage Award, designed by Edwin Schlossberg (Caroline Kennedy’s husband) and crafted by Tiffany & Co., is fashioned after a ship’s lantern to symbolize that a courageous person “finds his own path despite the darkness of outside pressures.” The **John F. Kennedy Library Foundation** presents the award annually to a public official or officials at the federal, state or local level. A bipartisan committee named by the Foundation selects the recipient(s) of the award.

The Kennedy Foundation awarded the 2010 Profile in Courage Award to
Karen Bass (D), Speaker of the Assembly
David Cogdill (R), Senate Minority Leader
Darrell Steinberg (D), President pro Tempore of the Senate
Michael Villines (R), Assembly Minority Leader

in recognition of the political courage each demonstrated while working with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to address California’s severe financial crisis.

For additional information, please contact Koren Benoit, Capitol Curator, at 916-651-1504 or Koren.benoit@sen.ca.gov.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain Scotty Hodges

This lady with the sparkling personality was born in **Evanston, Illinois**. As the youngest of three children, she was 'the baby in the family'. She grew up with her mother and one brother in a small, hot, desert town (as she describes it) on the Colorado River. That was the result of her parents divorcing when she was very young, and her father's move to Atherton, California.

Jan Geiger graduated from **Cal Poly, Pomona** with a degree in **World History** and a double minor in Political Science and English. As a typical young person, Jan says that after college she was

uncertain about what career she wanted; so she earned a standard Secondary Teaching Credential and taught for a year at Sonora Union High School in Sonora. In 1976 she was hired by **IBM's** Sacramento office. As the Higher Education Specialist, she disseminated grants to the University of California-Davis, and Sacramento State as well as Los Rios Community College District. In 1992, she left IBM for Wilcox Miller & Nelson. There, she served eight years as the **Career Transition Specialist**. She was also the **Director of Corporate Education** at the College of Continuing Education for California State University – Sacramento



Jan Geiger

Jan has been a volunteer most of her life and has served on a number of Boards of Directors, including WEAVE and the Arts & Business Council. For 12 years, she was a Commissioner on the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and then Chair of their fundraising affiliate. She has a keen interest in history and politics and is currently a docent at the **Crocker Art Museum** as well as a "**Crocker Talker**" who visits various businesses and makes presentations about the Crocker. She is also on the Board of the **Harry S. Truman Club** and is a new Board member of the **Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus** where she holds the unique position of being the only woman on the Board, and says that meeting all those great men has been a wonderful experience.

Thanks to **Lynn Cook**, (our unofficial ambassador, and Jan's fellow docent at the Crocker Art Museum) for encouraging her to become a Capitol docent. Jan is a perfect fit. She is comfortable conducting tours, and really enjoys the give and take with the public. She particularly likes interacting with our foreign visitors and sharing experiences about their home countries and helping them to understand the unique history of California and the United States. Her goal, as a new docent, is to get more hours under her belt in a way that allows her to maximize contact with our great Capitol visitors.

Jan is single with very few relatives, but her family does includes a great nephew who happens to be Swedish and lives in Stockholm with his two beautiful children. Her 'family' in Sacramento includes two cats.

When I asked what we might be surprised to learn about her; she responded that: "I have a totally useless skill I can write backwards as well as I can write forwards. This is called "**Mirror Writing**," and Leonardo Da Vinci wrote his notes in this manner. I will say that I have been given free drinks by displaying this skill!"

In the future, Jan looks forward to the development of the Volunteer Website and the ability to schedule her volunteer hours from home. She believes that will allow her to increase the amount of time she volunteers. She is looking forward to the opportunity to conduct more tours. We are fortunate that Lynn convinced her to join us, and we look forward to her spending more time at the Capitol welcoming visitors and building up volunteer hours!

The **Special Feature** column is not included this month due to the inclusion of photos from Admission Day. It will return next month with an interesting article about the history and commencement of Russian trade with the State of California.

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

Upcoming Events:

Rehearsals for Womens' Suffrage Event:	Thursdays, Sept. 26, Oct. 3 and 10 at 5:00 PM
Board Meeting:	Wednesday, October 2 at 1:00 PM
Women's Suffrage Living History:	Sunday, October 13
Governors' Portraits Training:	Wednesday, October 16 at 10:00 AM
Capitol Holiday Music:	Daily, December 1 through 23
Annual Meeting & Luncheon:	TBD, January 2014



Capitol Museum website:

<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