

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2010

MARCH-APRIL 2017, VOL. 7-8

SCHS Presents

**William Doonan: A History of Sacramento City College in 100 Objects**

**Tuesday, March 28, 2017 (Social Time, 6:30)**



Cover art by Gregory Kondos

This month's program takes a close-up view of history, as Dr. William Doonan, chairman of the SCC department of anthropology, presents a history of Sacramento City College (SCC) in 100 objects. The program is both the title of an exhibit of objects rounded up by Doonan to help celebrate the centennial of Sacramento City College and the title of the book he wrote describing the objects. The exhibit was held this October in the Gregory Kondos Art Gallery on campus. Its intent was to help the college Development office, and all proceeds from book sales will go toward scholarships for SCC students. The \$25 book is hard cover with many color photos.

All histories are subjective, and all are incomplete. "A History of Sacramento City College in 100 Objects" is both. But it is also an attempt to tell a story not often told, a story of material culture—about the relationship between people and their things. Founded in 1916 as Sacramento Junior College, this institution became something quite extraordinary along the way. Join us for a unique program and a chance to support young scholars.



SCHS Presents Film Producer Bill George

**Beyond a Miracle: Creating California's Empire of Agriculture**

**Tues., April 25, 7 PM (Social Time, 6:30)**

"Beyond a Miracle, Creating California's Empire of Agriculture" tells the dynamic story of the agricultural pioneers who shaped the state's farm heritage. Battling the weather, isolation and destructive mining, California agriculture rose to become a world leader in food quality and diversity. This historical documentary film takes you to the mountains, rivers and valleys where farmers struggled to plant and harvest crops. You will see how they survived droughts, floods and other disasters to set the world standard for agricultural production. You should also enjoy seeing all this on the SCHS super sized film screen.

A member of the SCHS Board, Bill has been fascinated with culture, history and travel for many years. He was a tour director in Chicago while working his way through college. He became a television journalist, later transitioning to public relations. In 2010 he formed Nimbus Films to tell the story of the building of the first transcontinental railroad over the Sierra Nevada. Bill followed that with a film portrait of Newcastle, California, one of the most important agriculture, railroad and gold rush towns. Next came a documentary film about the Chinese experience in California. Because there are many great documentary films about the west, Bill launched the Golden West Film Festival in 2014 in the Gold Rush town of Auburn, California.



## The Last Days of the Buffalo Brewery Through the Eyes of a Child

Recollections of Dan Winkelman



When I was about 5 years old, in or around 1951, my father took me out to his truck for a ride. We went from our home near Town & Country Village to downtown Sacramento and stopped across the street from a huge brick building that looked like a castle. My father put binoculars around my neck and said to look up to the top of the building. I saw a big buffalo wind vane and dad said that we were at the Buffalo Brewery. The brewery was

about to be torn down and folks who had worked there came back for an open house as one last look at the beloved building.

We crossed the street and entered a door of the brewery that was a small bar room. I can't say if the bar was historic or just created for the day. My dad lifted me to a bar stool and the bartender served me a glass with a tiny bit of beer. I refused, frightened by the idea of alcohol, an adult beverage, so I can't say that my first beer was at the Buffalo Brewery.

Next we went around to the loading dock area and entered. Men had restored the metal box conveyor system that moved into the huge freezer. A box would move forward to a pipe that came on and filled the box with water. After the boxes returned from the freezer, the water had become a block of ice. Dad said that he came to the brewery when he was a boy to buy a block for the ice box at home.

We went through a door that had a zig-zag stair case up a number of floors. When I finally made it to the mezzanine, the men gave me a cheer. I went to a railing and looked down at giant shiny kettles. I asked, "Are they gold?" The men said, "No, copper." Workmen were taking the kettles apart and I yelled, "Stop, they are beautiful." They stopped for a while, but the work had to be done.

Through another door and up more stairs we came to an office that was very near the top of the building. I looked out the window at a wonderful panorama of Sacramento and asked, "Is this where the king lives?" Through a child's eyes, the Buffalo Brewery had all the features of a king's castle.

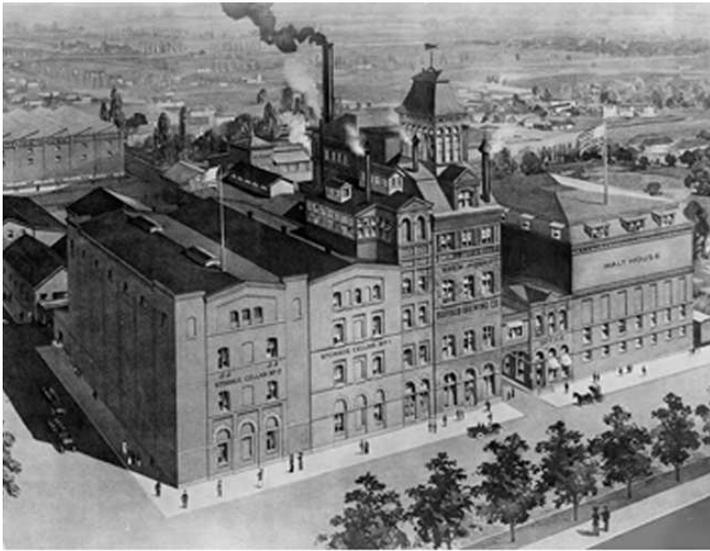
Before we left, the crew gave us a block of ice encased in saw dust that managed to last for several days on our back porch. A man came by one day and gave us a six pack of Buffalo beer that he had saved for decades. Out in our garage, dad opened a bottle and put a little beer in a cup for me so that my first beer would be a Buffalo beer. I remember it as being sweet. All of this occurred about 65 years ago. I'm amazed that I can still remember my tour of the Buffalo Brewery, and my first beer too!

### Editor's Space-Filling Quiz

Senior moments notwithstanding, here is a little quiz testing your recall of some important people, events, and words from our history. Answers follow, but no peeking! You'll probably know most of them.

1. Mining technique that aimed powerful streams of water at sites thought to contain gold.
2. English meaning of the Indian word Maidu.
3. First woman elected to Sacramento City Council.
4. Location of farm where John Sutter hoped to retire.
5. When did the first Chinese language school in Sacramento open?
6. What historic Sacramento jazz club was the "Top Spot of the Hot Spots"?
7. Number of families that have lived in the California Governor's Mansion on 16th & H St.
8. Name the first Sacramento pro baseball team to win a league championship.
9. The "mother of civil rights in California."
10. A little girl whose tragic death led to improved environmental safety in Sacramento neighborhoods.
11. What is Executive Order 9066?
12. Full (original) name of Stanford University

University  
11. The Japanese relocation Act 12. Leland Stanford Jr.  
stepping into an open field of partly incinerated rubbish  
Pleasant 10. Daisy Dias, who died following burns suffered  
total of 17 8. Sacramento Solons in 1942 9. Mary Ellen  
the Steffens, and 15 governors, including our current one, a  
opened July 17, 1908 6. The Zanzibar 7. The Gallatin,  
was in Yuba City 5. The first Chinese language school  
1. Hydraulic mining 2. Man 3. Belle Coolidge 4. Hock Farm



Buffalo Brewery Print, Keith and Maryellen Burns collection

## Basement Brewing in Early Sacramento: (An Homage to Beer Week)

By Dan Winkelman

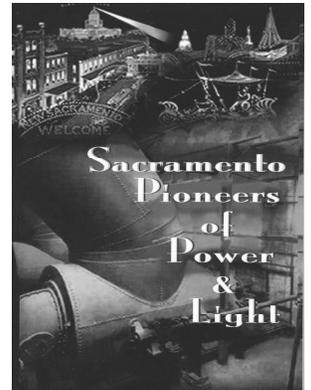
In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, chlorination of public water systems had yet to be discovered as an effective way to purify water. Sacramento's early water supply was barely drinkable. Fermented beer was a safe—and tasty—way to stay hydrated. Using basements to achieve a 75-degree brewing temperature, local brewers produced ale. Since lager beer has a full percent lower alcohol content than ale, people could drink more lager with less risk of inebriation. Consequently, the demand for lager beer far exceeded that for ale.

Unfortunately for Sacramento brewers, lager required a fermentation temperature of 55 degrees, which local basements couldn't reach consistently. With its cooler summer temperatures, San Francisco controlled the ale

market. After the Folsom Powerhouse came online in 1895, the huge Buffalo Brewery began using low-cost hydroelectricity to power compressors to chill lager during fermentation. By the early 1900s, the Buffalo Brewing Company became the largest brewery on the west coast.

### SCHS Publishes Power and Light Book

The above image (but not the text, which didn't quite fit) comes from the latest book published by the Sacramento County Historical Society. Former SCHS treasurer Dan Winkelman is the volunteer historian at the Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park. He recently completed an essay on the significance of technological advancements at the 1895 Powerhouse to the development of modern power grid systems. Winkelman's work is an addition to two earlier works published by SCHS some decades ago on the history of gas and electric power in Sacramento. Collectively, the three works, titled *Sacramento Pioneers of Power and Light*, provide a nice introduction to the history of the local development of early gas and electric power. The book is available free to any member who can pick it up at one of our SCHS meetings. You may have a friend or member sign and pick it up for you. Library members will be given copies. Other member distribution methods may occur in the future when more books are available.



Robert D Livingston, Rowena Wise Day, and Daniel E. Winkelman, *Sacramento Pioneers of Power and Light*, SCHS Golden Notes, volume 54, December 2016, 104 pages.

### Folsom History Museum Quilt Show Spotlights Tobacco Premium Quilts

So what ARE tobacco premiums, you may wonder. And what do they have to do with quilts? Intrigued by the promo for the Folsom Historical Museum's March 25 opening of its annual quilt show, promising "delicate creations of silk and flannel," your editor felt compelled to do a little digging. So here is the short version, with appreciation to the author of a Fabrics.net blog article on textile tobacco inserts used in American quilts.

It begins (of course) with marketing. The practice of inserting advertising or "premiums" in tobacco products began around 1870, when tin tags, cards, ribbons and the like were often placed in envelopes and inserted or attached to the outside of products such as tins of tobacco. Inserts included the tobacco company name. By about 1906, small pieces of textiles began to be used as inserts, a practice that continued for about 10 years, ending around the start of WW1.

Tobacco or cigarette "silks" (often some silk-like mix of cotton and silk, or sateen or just cotton) and flannels (actual flannel) were among the most popular inserts. Often beautifully polychrome printed, the silks came in a variety of popular subjects and themes, including American Indian chiefs, popular actors and actresses, European monarchs, and flags of various countries. The flannels had similar themes and were the most popular textile for quilts, likely because the flannel inserts were larger than the silks. Even so, both textile inserts were small, so quilts made from them are quite often crib or doll furniture size. These quilts are part of a special exhibit, enhancing the larger Home Is Where the Heart Is theme of the show. More show details are on page 4.



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**GOLDEN NUGGETS**



Published at least bimonthly,  
 September to June

## OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACTS
Ongoing through April 28	Mon- Fri 9:30 - 4 Closed 3/31	<b>California Memoirs: William McCarthy Photo Collection</b> Nearly 3,000 photographs provide rare pictorial documentation of the William M. and Grace McCarthy's early 20th century travels through California and beyond. Free.	California State Archives Gallery 4th floor, above California Museum 10th & O Street, Sacramento <a href="mailto:archivesweb@sos.ca.gov">archivesweb@sos.ca.gov</a>
Opens Saturday March 25 through May 16	Tues -Sun 11-4	<b>Home is Where the Heart Is</b> Annual quilt exhibit at the Folsom History Museum centers around home and garden this year. A special exhibit features tobacco premium quilts with "delicate creations of silk and flannel..."	Folsom History Museum, Wells Fargo Gallery 823 Sutter Street, Folsom, CA 916-985-2707 <a href="mailto:info@folsomhistoricalsociety.org">info@folsomhistoricalsociety.org</a>
Ongoing through June 2018	Daily 10-5	<b>Off the Clock: Sports Clubs of the Southern Pacific</b> Engaging photographs, posters, articles & artifacts on the wide variety of sports clubs, teams, and athletic competitions that many SP employees participated in during evenings and on weekends in the early to mid-1900s. Fees	California State Railroad Museum 125 I Street, Sacramento 916-323-9280
Ongoing through May 28	Tues- Sat 10-5	<b>Kokoro: the Story of Sacramento's Lost Japantown</b> If you missed the SCHS Taste of Japantown, see video of once-thriving downtown community devastated first by forced removal during WWII and again by redevelopment	California Museum 1020 O St., Sacramento 916-563-7524 <a href="mailto:museuminfo@californiamuseum.org">museuminfo@californiamuseum.org</a>