

Golden Nuggets

March 2008

SCHS 2007 Awards of Excellence

We are pleased to announce the following 2007 SCHS Awards of Excellence recipients.

Education Award

Myron Piper, Valley High School, Sacramento, for coordination of Sacramento History Day since 1997 and his role advising local entries.

Preservation Award

Karen Jacques, activist, educator and preserver of historic houses in Sacramento neighborhoods.

Publications Award

Kiyo Sato for her newly published memoir, *Dandelion Through the Crack: the Sato Family Quest for the American Dream*, Willow Valley Press, Nevada City, 2007.

SCHS Awards of Excellence

Tuesday, March 25, 7 PM

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Museum
5380 Elvas Blvd., Suite 100, Sacramento

The annual SCHS Awards Night on Tuesday, March 25, will honor three individuals with outstanding—and long—records of contributing to history and preservation in Sacramento County. The event is open to the public, and will include brief historical presentations between the awards. A variety of desserts and beverages will be provided.

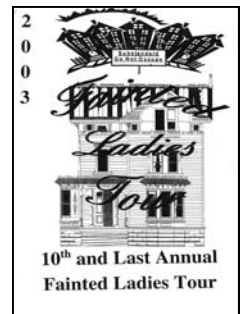
Myron Piper, who will receive the Education award, has run the highly successful Sacramento County History Day Program since 1997. History Day is a nationwide program encouraging students at various grade levels to bring history to life with hands-on projects. The program requires year-round planning and community assistance, and Piper has recruited a diverse and capable group of judges year after year. Under his leadership the program has grown in popularity and success,



History Day memorabilia. NHD.com

and three local teams, including one from Valley High, have gone on to win nationwide awards.

A midtown homeowner, Karen Jacques has long been active in numerous neighborhood, vintage home, and preservation associations. In the early 1990s, dismayed at the number of homes being lost to neglect, she organized a Fainted Ladies Tour of some of Sacramento's deteriorating old homes, hoping to interest people in saving them. After ten years of tours, she instead arranged seminars to help new or prospective owners of old homes learn how to restore them. Along the way, she and her husband found time to rescue and restore ten homes. An early appointee to the Sacramento Preservation Commission, Karen still cares deeply about the city's architectural heritage.



Born in Sacramento in 1923, Kiyo Sato was the eldest of nine children of Japanese American immigrants. The family survived the Depression and the internment, and was fortunate to return to their small farm after the war. Kiyo joined the Air Force, became a captain, and finished her degree in nursing. A public health nurse, she married, and raised her own family. She often speaks to groups about her wartime experiences and has created an educational program for school children about them. It took 40 years for Sato to finally write the compelling tale of her family's quest to "push up through the cracks, survive being stepped on, and bloom." The book, which begins each chapter with haiku and aphorisms written by her father, has been critically acclaimed by experts and the general public.

These are the people who find time to mentor future historians and to help preserve the fabric of our history. They deserve our accolades—and our presence. If you have time for just one meeting this spring, make it this one! And bring a friend. You'll be inspired. A reservation form is on page 3. Directions to site: 916-452-2671.

Sacramento, Birthplace of the Motion Picture Industry

By Pat Turse

Since we just witnessed the 80th anniversary of the Academy Awards, it seems rather appropriate to look back at how our beloved motion picture business began. As a fair number of history buffs reading this already know, we don't have to look very far. It all began right here in Sacramento in 1872 at a race track at Agricultural Park—later the State Fair—near what is now Boulevard Park. Central Pacific Railroad chief executive and former governor Leland Stanford first brought photographer Eadweard (the artist's adapted version of Edward) Muybridge to the track to photograph Stanford's prize trotter horse, Occident.

Muybridge's recent images of Yosemite had made him famous. Stanford hired him to photograph the 8th and N Street home he had just finished extensively renovating and expanding. But as a very serious student of equine anatomy, Stanford also wanted Muybridge to photograph Occident in full trot. He hoped the photos would prove that as the horse trotted, all four of his feet were at some point simultaneously off the ground.

Muybridge had never attempted photographing motion. Stanford had no experience training race horses before buying the cart horse with good bloodlines who became the record-

setting Occident. The photographer and the railroad baron turned out to be a match made for Hollywood. Maybe somebody should pitch this story? Despite Muybridge's misgivings, he shot the photos. They suggested Stanford was correct but were too fuzzy to be sure.

More conclusive photos were taken years later at Stanford's Palo Alto stock farm. By 1880 the technology of photography and projection had finally reached a point where a public exhibition was possible. On May 4 of that year Stanford sponsored what was surely the "World Premier" motion picture exhibition. Held in the San Francisco Art Museum, the big event was promoted in the San Francisco Chronicle theater section. The projection equipment, then called a zoogyroscope, used sequential transparent images placed around the rim of rotating glass disks, then projected onto a screen. Human as well as equine moving images were part of the show.

It was a huge success. The San Francisco Alta called it nothing less than "the foundation of a new method of entertaining people we predict will make the round of the civilized world." The exhibit moved to Paris, the technology was later perfected by Thomas Edison, George Eastman and others, and now we have YouTube. It started here in River City. See Norman & Evie Turorow's **The Governor**, volume I, chapter 11 for extensive discussion and further references on this subject. —PT



SCHS New Membership Form (Please give this to a non-member friend; photocopied forms OK)

Please, circle your membership level

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Please make your check out to SCHS and send with this form to:

SCHS, P.O. Box 160065
Sacramento, CA 95816-0065

Thank you!!

Sacramento County Historical Society Awards Night Dessert Reservation

Tuesday, March 25, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, \$8 per person

Sacramento Sierra Medical Museum, 5380 Elvas, Ste.100, Sacramento 916-452-2671 or info@ssvms.org
featuring

Award of Excellence Presentations and History Day Highlights

along with

An Array of Dazzling Desserts, Fresh Fruits, and other Delights

Sweet! Please sign me up. Reply by Monday, March 18th. No tickets– check in on arrival. cut line

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I need _____ tickets at \$8 each for a total of \$ _____, per my enclosed check.

Place your check and this form in an envelope addressed to

SCHS- Awards

PO Box 160065

Sacramento, CA 95816-0065



From Canvas to Brick: New Tour of Old Sacramento

A new tour program is available from the Old Sacramento Living History Program and the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation. The development and expansion of Sacramento from a water-logged tent city to an established city, home of the state capital, is reflected in the varying architecture of Old Sacramento buildings. "From Canvas to Brick" traces the history of Sacramento through the Gold Rush, floods, fires, and becoming the capital to the 1960s redevelopment. Grab your cameras, join a tour group, and learn. The next tour will be on Saturday, March 15, at 1 PM, beginning at 1101 Second St. For more information or to reserve a place on this tour, call 916-445-3101.

International Film Festival Includes Japanese-American Experience

The International Film Festival coming to Sacramento's Crest Theater, 1013 K St., in the last week of March includes two original short documentaries that present moving accounts of Japanese-American struggles to maintain home and community in California. **Passing Poston: An American Story** and **Crossroads in Nihonmachi** (Japantown) will be shown as a double feature, on Saturday, March 29 at 1PM.

Passing Poston is 60-minute documentary told by four former Japanese internees of Arizona's Poston 'Relocation' Camp. Now in their seventies and eighties, they are still affected by the internment. Sacramento's Kiyoko Sato is one of the four who revisited the desert camp. See a video trailer at <http://passingposton.com>

Crossroads in Nihonmachi, 57 minutes, addresses the 1970s battle to preserve San Francisco's dwindling Japanese neighborhood during a decade of steamrolling redevelopment. Some Japanese saw the city's forced renewal attempts as 1942 revisited. Happily, this year is Japantown's 102nd anniversary.

Festival information is available at 916-475-9616 or www.sacramentofilmfestival.com. Parking at 10 & L garage validated at theater.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 160065
Sacramento, California 95816-0065
www.sachistoricalssociety.org

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GOLDEN NUGGETS
Pat Turse, Editorial & Layout
Email: newsletter@sachistoricalssociety.org
Contributions Deadline: 10th of prior month

Please deliver by March 9, 2008!

Out & About

Date	Time	Event	Place & Contact
MARCH 17 Monday	6 PM	Annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Irish dancers, Tartan clad Highlanders, school bands, floats, Gold Rush re-enactors, and the popular, often wacky Ophir Prison Marching Band. Food and Irish music before and after. Alcohol-free family fun!	Front St., Old Sacramento Staging area & music at Front & K in front of Delta King Old Sacramento Business Association 916-445-3054
22 Sat.	Call for times	Women's History Day & Easter Bonnet Promenade Weather permitting, it sounds like a fun combination of events.	Old Sacramento Living History Association 1101 Second Street, Old Sacramento 916-445-3101
APRIL 5 Sat.	10 AM	Medical Bag History Tour Join Dr Bob LaPerrière to explore Gold Rush diseases and visit the final resting place of the talented physicians who battled them.	Old City Cemetery, 10th & Broadway Sacramento. Free parking in lot opposite. 916-448-0811
22 Tues. 26 Sat.	7 PM TBA	St. Paul's Stained Glass Window Restoration Artisan Richard Graf will show before & after slides of his work at the 15th & J St. church Tour the following Saturday morning.	SAMCC, 501 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sacramento Tour details later