

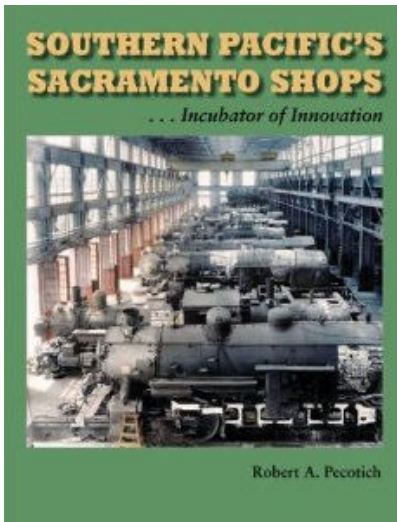
Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL-MAY 2011

SCHS Presents

Bob Pecotich: Sacramento's Southern Pacific Shops
Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 PM
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building
5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento



For our April general membership meeting, SCHS 2010 Publication Award winner Robert Pecotich will give a presentation on Southern Pacific's Sacramento railroad shops, taken from his new Signature Press book on the subject. Robert's presentation will focus on the construction and growth of the shops facilities, from the era of the Transcontinental Railroad through the diesel age, and some of the most significant leaders and inventors who worked there. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

A native San Franciscan and 60-year Bay Area resident, Robert A. (Bob) Pecotich first became interested in steam locomotives through trackside visits with his parents and cab rides from friendly crews. A vacation by train in 1953, and visits to SP shops guided by several shops employees who were family friends heightened his interest in vanishing steam power, the Southern Pacific and Sacramento shops. As a teenager, he photographed the last four years of SP steam, and has been photographing ever since. His book has over 600 photos!

Business travel associated with a 40-year electronics career in Silicon Valley enabled him to photograph throughout the SP system. With Guy and Don Dunscomb, he co-authored the two-volume *Southern Pacific Steam Pictorial*, published in 1991 and 2008, respectively. Besides research and writing, Bob is a member of the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society. He and his wife Donna make their home in Folsom, California, close to the California State Railroad Museum and its Library.



One of the oldest Chicano/a murals in the nation, "Emergence of the Chicano Social Struggle in a Bi-Cultural Society" was painted in the Washington Neighborhood Center gym.

SCHS Presents

Dr. Ella Diaz: Public Art and Urban Change in the Alkali Flats & Washington Neighborhoods
Tuesday, May 24, 7 PM
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building
5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento

The Alkali Flat neighborhood and adjacent Washington Neighborhood are two of Sacramento's oldest neighborhoods and are common ground for many of Sacramento's ethnic histories. In 1950, Sacramento entered into a 30-year redevelopment plan, implemented by City Council and the newly conceived Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. This plan shaped the built environment we enjoy today and also deeply impacted the demographics of our neighborhoods. In the 1970s, for example, following the second phase of the redevelopment plan, Mexican Americans established the Alkali Flat and Washington neighborhood as a major center for culture, community, education and unity. continued →

Ella Diaz, from p. 1

Now in the twenty-first century, “the Alkali” and Washington possess important historical works of art that document the history of urban change in California’s capital city, as well as our local connection to the broader U.S. civil rights movement. Dr. Diaz will present her research on several of the public artworks and community spaces that endure in the modern-day and the importance of preserving them.

Located at 16th and D Streets in the Alkali Flat, the Washington Neighborhood Center (WNC) was an integral gathering place for the Chicano/a community during the 1960s and ’70s, and continues to serve the local community. The WNC also houses the previously mentioned “Emergence of the Chicano Social Struggle in a Bi-Cultural Society.” This piece is a priceless artifact of two interrelated movements in the 1960s and ’70s—both the Chicano Movement and the community mural movement. Designed by artist and former CSUS professor, Esteban Villa, “Emergence” was restored in 1994. Diaz will elaborate on the community mural movement, scholarship on the era and the Sacramento artists that contributed to our local public art history.

In addition to “Emergence,” the Alkali and Washington Neighborhood are home to other significant art works that showcase Sacramento’s history of public art and community-building. Cities like Chicago, Philadelphia and Sacramento were at the forefront of civic-funded art projects in the 1970s. The Chicano/a murals at Zapata Park at 10th and E Streets, as well as the installation of tile mosaic murals at the Alkali Flat/La Valentina Light Rail stop in the 1980s, reveal layers of local history, art and culture. Diaz will discuss these pieces and provide some details on art works from our recent past that no longer remain. A Visiting Lecturer at The San Francisco Art Institute, Dr. Diaz conducted extensive archival research and original interviews with members of Sacramento’s Royal Chicano Air Force artists’ collaborative as part of her 2010 dissertation.

Joint Artisan Shopping Opportunity!

April 16 & 17, 10-5, with combo park entry deal

- **Watch & Support Sutter’s Fort Craftsmen and browse their unique wares**
- **Select from custom jewelry, carvings, baskets, gourds, etc., at native crafts fair “next door”**

Sutter’s Fort SHP and State Indian Museum

Adjacent parks at K & L and 26th to 28th Streets
More info at 916-445-4422 or 916-324-0971

Images from Awards of Excellence Night

Text: Pat Turse, Photos as credited



Above: The Awards of Excellence on display. Photo Tom Myers

Below: Audience enjoying the no-host bar. Photo Robert LaPerriere



SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GOLDEN NUGGETS

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From left: Education Award winners, Old Sacramento Underground Program: Paul Hammond, California State Parks; Catherine Taylor, Chair, Historic Old Sacramento Foundation; Bill Burg, award presenter; Heather Downey, primary researcher; Marcia Eymann, City History Manager; Barbara Bonebrake, City Director, Convention, Culture and Leisure. R. LaPerriere



Above: Folsom's Robert (Bob) Pecotich accepts the Publications Award for his *Southern Pacific's Sacramento Shops: Incubator of Innovation*. Tom Myers



Above: Johan Otto, Carson Development/Otto Construction, Preservation Award recipient, and Roberta Deering, City of Sacramento Preservation Program head, who introduced him. R. LaPerriere Below: Chicken Chasseur with accompaniments. Simply superb. Tom Myers



Above, from left: SCHS Board Member Maryellen Burns; Alice Levine, Friends of McClatchy Library, who received a Special Achievement Award, and Pat Turse, SCHS President. Below: Pat Turse, who presented SCHS President's Award to William Burg, past president and current Vice President of SCHS. R. LaPerriere





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Please deliver by April 12, 2011

See this newsletter in color at the
 Newsletters link on our web pages above.

OUT & ABOUT

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | PLACE & CONTACT |
|---------------------|---|---|--|
| Sunday, April 17 | 2 to 4 PM | Duck Days Past: Tule Lands Before the Causeway. Yolo County Historical Society presents a talk by Dick Hickman adjacent to Vic Fazio Wildlife Refuge | CA Dept of Fish & Game Headquarters 45211 Chiles Rd. (County Rd. 32B) Davis Yolo County Historical Society Phone 530-611-2212 or http://ychs.org |
| Tuesday May 3 | 7 to 8:30 PM | SCHS Board Meeting Open to the public | Sierra Sac Valley Medical Society Bldg 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento Directions: ssvms.org/directions.asp |
| Wednesday May 4 | 10 AM-1:30 PM tours & lunch 2 to 4 PM, symposium | Winters Agricultural Symposium: Farming through the Generations Tour UCD Wolfskill Orchards, enjoy olive oil tasting, Buckhorn lunch & more \$50, or just take the symposium. This fundraiser for the Winters History Project is tax deductible. | Symposium at Winters Opera House , home of the Palms Theater 13 Main St., Winters Orchard tour 4334 Putah Creek Road, Winters Go to agsymposium@eventbrite.com to register or call 530-611-2212 for info |
| Tuesday May 24 | 7 PM | Dr. Ella Diaz: Public Art and Urban Change in Alkali Flat & Washington neighborhood. Details, page 1 & 2. | Sierra Sac Valley Medical Society Bldg 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento Directions: ssvms.org/directions.asp SCHS Message Phone: 916-443- 6265 |