

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

## Rick Spencer Concert at Gold Rush Days, Sunday Sept 5, 4 P.M., Old Sacramento "Tent City" Stage

Don't miss this one! SCHS is proud to sponsor a public historical music program by Rick Spencer, followed by a 5 PM performer reception/discussion for SCHS members in the (air conditioned) Eagle Theater. Rick is known internationally for his work as a historian, researcher, singer, songwriter and performer of music in the American folk tradition. In addition to his work as a musician Rick works as the executive director of the Dr. Ashbel Woodward Museum in Franklin, CT. For more information you can visit Rick Spencer's website at [catfeather.com](http://catfeather.com). The concert and the SCHS member reception, are both near Front & I St. **Gold Rush Days** are quite the party (see [sacramentogoldrush-days.com](http://sacramentogoldrush-days.com)), so come out early for the best parking opportunities. The event runs Friday through Monday, with Sunday's hours from 11 - 7. The city lot at 3rd & I may be your best bet, but it fills quickly.

### SEPTEMBER MEMBER EVENT

#### East Lawn Cemetery Tour (optional) & Talk

THURSDAY Sept. 30, 6 PM Tour  
7 PM Talk by William Pettite

East Lawn Memorial Park  
4300 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento  
See page 4 for entry & parking

### OCTOBER MEMBER EVENT

THURSDAY, October 21, 7:00 PM  
*Local Places Tell Big Stories:  
Developing the Oak Park Walking Tour*  
Dr. Robin Datel, CSUS

Guild Theater  
2828 35th St. at Broadway, Sacramento

The SCHS September program, open to the public, will be hosted by East Lawn Memorial Parks and Mortuaries. A tour of the cemetery will precede stories about local historical figures whose final resting places are throughout Sacramento County.

6 PM - for those interested and able to come prior to the 7 PM lecture, a walking tour led by William Pettite and Dr. Bob LaPerrière of some of the highlights at East Lawn Memorial Park. This will include a visit to the gravesite of an Earp brother, a Hollywood "mystery woman", William Land, B.T. Collins, and the Royal Air Force Veterans. In addition we will visit the New Helvetia Section, where thousands of Pioneers and Early Settlers were moved by the City into a common grave from their "resting place" at New Helvetia Cemetery (now the site of Sutter Middle School).

7 PM - Meet in the Chapel of the Main Building. Presentation by William Pettite who will provide some interesting and stimulating views and anecdotes about some of our other interesting and prominent Citizens of the past who are interred in several of our Sacramento Cemeteries. Mr. Pettite has written guidebooks for several of our Sacramento cemeteries, including East Lawn. He has also written numerous articles, booklets and books and been widely published. Refreshments follow.



Oak Park Arch, 1903

CSUS Professor Robin Datel will present an illustrated talk on how she and her Urban Geography class students developed the new Oak Park

Walking Tour brochure, whose release is being launched with this event. The brochure will be available at locations throughout central Oak Park and will be downloadable from the Center for Sacramento History Website, [centerforsacramentohistory.org](http://centerforsacramentohistory.org).

The 32-page brochure includes historic photographs of nearly forty selected locations with interpretation of their change over time. The tour highlights the development of this early 'smart planned' suburb, racial transitions, the civil rights movement, investment cycles, the arts, redevelopment, and neighborhood activism. These themes are embodied in many historic Oak Park places and structures.

The project was made possible by funding from the Center for Sacramento History, CSUS, and the Sacramento County Historical Society. Free parking is available in a lot adjacent to the theater or on the street. Doors open at 6:30. **NOTE: these programs are NOT on the usual 4th Tuesday meeting night.**

## Notes from the President

By Patricia Turse

### Variable Program Schedule

We're taking advantage of some excellent opportunities this month, and next, to present an extra program—the Rick Spencer historical music program on Labor Day Sunday—and an East Lawn talk with optional walking tour that didn't fit into our usual 4th Tuesday schedule. The folks at East Lawn will provide some light refreshments, and our VP is working on lining up some entertainment, so Thursday, September 30 promises to be a very nice evening.

The Thursday, October 21, CHS presentation at the Guild theater in October will launch an exciting historical architecture brochure created by CSUS students of Urban Geography under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Robin Datel. Changing up the routine is a good stretch for our aging gray cells, so mark your calendars now and come out to some programs that are worth the slight inconvenience.

### Proposition 21, California State Parks Initiative

Upon request from one of the many volunteers working on the above initiative, the SCHS Board of Directors voted to add our organization to the very long list of supporters for this upcoming ballot measure. The measure asks voters to approve adding an \$18 increase to the vehicle license fee in exchange for free day use entry to state parks. The measure will channel fees directly to a State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Fund, which will create a stable source of funding for the parks system.

Local news media have run many recent features on the state of State Parks, which have been chronically underfunded for decades. The backlog of overdue maintenance and repairs has grown exponentially to now total over one billion dollars, and reduced staffing has left many parks subject to vandalism and further disrepair. Crime has more than doubled. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has declared California State Parks one of the eleven most endangered sites in America.

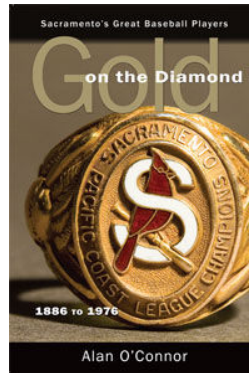
Revenues for the proposed fund will amount to approximately \$500 million each year (based on about 28 million registered vehicles) with 85 percent allocated to state parks and 15 percent to other state wildlife and ocean protection agencies. This will leave about \$130 million in general fund revenues now used for State Parks for other vital needs.

Please consider adding your support to this measure on November 2. See also [yesforstateparks.com](http://yesforstateparks.com).

## The Sacramento Living Library 2010 Series

Hosted by Tim Foster, editor of *Midtown Monthly*, the Living Library is a series of free talks with people who have left their mark on the city of Sacramento.

September 19: Alan O'Connor



Baseball historian and former SCHS Board member Alan O'Connor is the author of *Gold on the Diamond*, the rollicking story of Sacramento baseball. His encyclopedic and entertaining knowledge of the players, their records and their lives marks him as THE expert on this aspect of Sacramento history.

October 17: Richard Simpson

In 1966, as wrecking balls destroyed much of Sacramento's historic downtown to make way for I-5, filmmaker Richard Simpson took his camera to 2nd Street to document the end of an era. The result was "The Marshes of Two Street," a half-hour film that captures life in Sacramento's waterfront district before it was 'Old Sacramento.' We will screen the film and Simpson will speak about the experience.

The *Sacramento Living Library* series takes place at Time Tested Books, 1114 21st Street, Sacramento. All events are free and start at 7:00 PM. Free street parking is available on 21st Street adjacent to the bookstore.

### SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Email: [info@sachistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@sachistoricalociety.org)

## Upcoming SCHS Projects and Programs

By William Burg, SCHS Vice President



Postcard, Christmas Window at Breuner's , 1951  
Center for Sacramento History

### SCHS Holiday Display Project Update

SCHS is working with the Downtown Sacramento Partnership and the Gaffney Display Company to create a Holiday Window Display this winter. We are designing the holiday window and negotiating for use of a highly visible corner of K Street in downtown Sacramento for the display. This display will combine original Gaffney Display Company animated figures with newly designed sets to recreate the department store window displays that were a K Street holiday tradition for generations.

The display is scheduled for construction during the month of November, with a final unveiling on November 26. Once opened, the scene will remain on display until the first week of January. The display will include interpretive panels explaining the significance of Sacramento's holiday displays, and the role of Breuner's and other downtown department stores in Sacramento history.

In addition to contributions from SCHS members over the past year, the project has received financial support from the Sacramento Old City Association and a private donor. This is a start, but the project is still in need of additional support and financing. We are soliciting assistance from city agencies, nonprofits, and private contributors. If you are interested in helping, either financially or with labor, or have suggestions as to organizations or parties that may be interested in contributing to the project please contact William Burg, SCHS Vice-President, at [info@sachistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@sachistoricalsociety.org) or via the voicemail line at (916) 443-6265.



Exposed footings revealed under raised Old Sacramento  
Center for Sacramento History

### Underground Sidewalk Tours

Over the past year, SCHS members participated in the planning and design of Sacramento's new Underground Tour program. This tour officially launched on July 10, and operates every weekend through October 31. The tours are operated by the Sacramento History Museum, California State Parks and the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation. To date, they have been a tremendous success, selling out nearly every tour. Tour groups are immediately identifiable by their green hard hats.

In October, SCHS will send all members an invitation to a MEMBERS ONLY Underground Tour event. This invitation will also include a copy of the newly printed Underground Tour guidebook, and your ticket to attend this exclusive event; the date and details should be in your mailbox next month.



Site of future underground tour? Below 7th & K Street.  
W. Burg

## OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
SUNDAY Sept. 5 Special event	4:00 PM  Gold Rush Days, 11-7	SCHS Presents: <b>Rick Spencer</b> at Gold Rush Days, "Tent City" Stage, to be followed by private SCHS reception and talk at Eagle Theatre at 5 PM.	Old Sacramento "Tent City" Stage Off Front Street, between I & J <a href="http://www.sacramentogoldrushdays.com">www.sacramentogoldrushdays.com</a>
SUNDAY Sept. 19	7:00 PM	Living Library Series: <b>Alan O'Connor</b> Author of <i>Gold on the Diamond</i> , a history of Sacramento baseball, will share stories of local baseball history.	Time Tested Books 1114 21st Street, Sacramento <a href="http://www.timetestedbooks.net">www.timetestedbooks.net</a> (916)447-5696
THURSDAY Sept. 30* *Not usual date	6:00 PM tour 7:00 PM talk	SCHS September program <b>East Lawn Cemetery History Talk</b> by William Pettite, preceded by tour.	East Lawn Memorial Park (cemetery) 4300 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento Enter at clock post at 43rd and Folsom, and follow cemetery road to main building for parking and programs
Thursday Oct. 21* *Not usual date	7:00 PM	<b><i>Developing the Oak Park Walking Tour</i></b> , Dr. Robin Datel, CSUS. Help launch the Center for Sacramento History's Oak Park brochure.	Guild Theater, 2828 35th Street at Broadway, Sacramento <a href="http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org">www.centerforsacramentohistory.org</a>



P.O. Box 160065  
Sacramento, CA 95816-0065  
Message phone: 916-443-6265  
[www.sachistoricalociety.org](http://www.sachistoricalociety.org)

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