

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2012

SCHS February Member Presentation  
Tuesday, February 28, 7 PM  
The Construction of the Central Pacific Railroad  
Revealed by the Photos of Alfred A. Hart  
By Mead B. Kibbey  
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building  
5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento



Alfred A. Hart

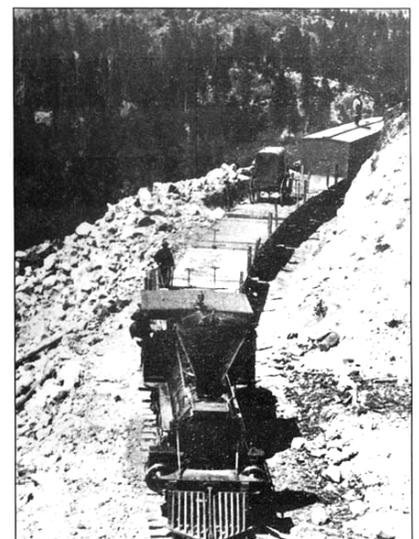
In 1995, the California State Library Foundation published Mead Kibbey's *The Railroad Photographs of Alfred A. Hart, Artist*. The Central Pacific Railroad hired Hart to photo document the construction of the railroad from 1864 to 1869. Lavishly illustrated with over 400 images, the 240-page book featured well-researched text with helpful appendices including reproductions of all 364 of Hart's views, a list of Hart titles, public sources of his views, Glenn Willumson's 1984 MA thesis in Art History on Hart, and an explanation of 19th century stereo photography. A bibliography and index complete the work. The book is long out of print and only available from time to time from various used and rare book dealers, but Mead Kibbey will present a fully illustrated talk on the subject at the SCHS Feb 28<sup>th</sup> member meeting, 7 PM, at the SSVMS building, 5380 Elvas Ave.

A man of diverse interests, Kibbey began his long fascination with the photos and the artist (as Hart saw himself) in the 1960s. Initially intent on gathering images for a talk on the construction of the Central Pacific, Kibbey was given a collection of glass plate negatives by a friend in the CPRR office. Some 30-odd years later, Kibbey's passion culminated with the publication of *The Railroad Photographs of Alfred A. Hart, Artist*.

The late photographic historian Peter Palmquist introduced the book as more than the typical "train" book, instead one that focuses on events and circumstances of railroading that are often overlooked. Palmquist also called it an excellent primer on wet-plate photography and a summary of commercial stereography in the 1860s west.

Mead...has successfully collected nearly every known photograph ever taken by Hart of the Central Pacific Railroad. Moreover, he has made a special point to visit most of the sites photographed by Hart, and has placed his own tripod in the precise same spot as Hart's....Mead experimented with and produced actual stereoscopic negatives with a camera dating from Hart's own era...[He was] particularly conscientious in his attempt to date each photograph, to provide insight into why they were taken, and wherever possible to place *himself* on the scene.

Mead Kibbey's presentation will be an opportunity for SCHS members and guests to see rare historical images that most people have never seen and that are no longer readily available in book format. Hearing what Kibbey has to say about those photos will be as close as possible to hearing Alfred A. Hart himself discuss his work. Come early for a seat and the best parking, as this program may attract a big group!



Portion of Hart No.167, Emigrant Gap looking West. Hart's black photo wagon is on the fourth flat car.

Kibbey, Fig. 40

**"A Night at the Zanzibar"**  
**SCHS Annual Awards Dinner & Fundraiser**  
**Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 6 PM**  
**Dante Club, Address**  
*Featuring*  
*Historians Clarence Caesar and Keith Burns*  
*The Harley White Orchestra*  
*and SCHS Awards of Excellence Recipients*

By Maryellen Burns & Patricia Turse

Every year the Sacramento County Historical Society holds an annual event to recognize contributions to the heritage of Sacramento in education, historic preservation and publications. It's a wonderful opportunity for our members to get together over cocktails and conversation, a sumptuous dinner, and postprandial dessert and coffee.

This year's 2012 awards dinner and fundraiser "A Night at the Zanzibar," features all that and much, much more.

We'll gather at the **Dante Club**, one of Sacramento's most respected social institutions, the evening of Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6 am to 10 pm. Dinner will be followed by a talk by historians Clarence Caesar and Keith Burns about the Zanzibar Club (one of Sacramento's long-lost West End jazz nightclubs,) our awards, and a live performance by the Harley White Orchestra performing classic big-band jazz.

If you're not familiar with the Harley White Orchestra, they are a real treat and a throwback group. From their website, the following description (which reads like a critical review) is quite apt.

The Harley White Jr. Orchestra does it the old fashioned way, presenting classic live entertainment with a swagger and style that harkens back to the good old days. A Sacramento-based Big Band specializing in Prohibition Jazz and Blues reflective of the 1920's-1950's, The Harley White Jr. Orchestra was founded in 1991 by musician & composer Harley White Jr., and presents a highly refined yet free flowing exploration of true musicality and celebration of the genres they present.

They also dress in big band style, and Harley sings with a definite big band flair. It's fun to hear a contemporary group do Ellington, among others, with such verve. You may have heard them play at the Crocker during last October's anniversary event.

Besides honoring outstanding achievement, an insightful talk, great entertainment, and a superb meal, our new venue is large enough for dancing, for those so inclined. The Dante Club is located at 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, between Howe and Fulton Avenue. Join us by purchasing tickets online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/219781>. Brownpapertickets.com (BPT) accepts credit cards, donates part of their profits to communities they serve, and makes our lives easier. If you prefer, you may instead send back the enclosed reservation form with your check to our post office box: SCHS, P.O. Box 160065, Sacramento, CA 95816-0065.

This year's event options include an opportunity for you to help sponsor the dinner and raise a little money for SCHS programs. Options include a discount for SCHS members. There are three dinner choices. They are shown on the enclosed form and as a choice online with BPT. Prices for this outstanding evening follow:

- \$40 person per for members of Sacramento County Historical Society (SCHS) or Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA) and their families.
- \$50 per person for the general public (non-members.)
- \$100 Contributor level: This price includes admission, meal, your name listed in the evening's event program, and a \$50( for non-members) or \$60 (for members) tax-deductible contribution to SCHS, a 501 (c)3 nonprofit.

For more information leave your number at 916-443-6265, and we will call you back, almost always within 24 hours.

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**GOLDEN NUGGETS**

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**Request for Nominations  
Sacramento County Historical Society  
Annual Awards of Excellence**

Each year the Sacramento County Historical Society recognizes deserving individuals and organizations for special achievements, **preferably in the prior year**, that further interest in and preservation of the unique history of the Sacramento Region. You are invited to submit nominations in the categories of publications, education, and preservation pertaining to Sacramento History. You may offer nominations in one or more categories. You may also submit nominations for Special Achievement in an area that does not readily pertain to the categories below, if it can be demonstrated that a significant contribution to history has been made. Primary categories follow. We do not accept posthumous nominations.

**EDUCATION:** For achievement in educating the community about the history of the Sacramento area. Activities may include formal and informal classes; docent and tour programs; and development and installation of exhibits, works of art, and other educational and interpretive displays. Last year's recipient was the Old Sacramento Underground Tour Program.

**PRESERVATION:** For achievement in preservation and restoration of sites, structures, artifacts, documents, and memorabilia of historic significance to the Sacramento area. Activities may include research, physical preservation or restoration, and outreach to the public, organizations or individuals.

**PUBLICATIONS:** For achievement in research, writing, editing, and publishing books, scholarly papers, articles, informational pamphlets and other publications that further interest in the history of the Sacramento area.

Awards Nominations should be submitted with the form below or a copy and must be received by Friday, March 2, at: Sacramento County Historical Society, AWARDS NOM, P.O. Box 160065, Sacramento, CA 95816-0065.

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**SCHS Awards Nomination (copy acceptable)**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(-s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Category (select one):

◇ Education

◇ Preservation

◇ Publications

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe nominee's achievement. Do not exceed two pages.



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

Please deliver by Feb. 23, 2012

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

## OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Saturday Feb. 25	1:00 -3:45 PM	<b>Tracing Your Black Roots.</b> Learn to take advantage of the many resources and tools available with professional genealogist Lisa B. Lee. Locate your ancestors so you can be the family storyteller of your generation.	<b>Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library</b> 7335 Gloria Drive Sacramento, CA 95831 916-264-2700
Saturday March 3	10 AM	<b>Pioneer Women: How the West Was Really Won.</b> Meet at main 10th and Broadway gate, park in lot opposite. Tour is free but donations are always needed and appreciated.	Sacramento Old City Cemetery 1000 Broadway, Sacramento 916-448-0811 <a href="http://www.oldcitycemetery.com">www.oldcitycemetery.com</a>
Saturday March 10	9AM - Noon	<b>Spring Preservation Roundtable.</b> Preservation and community updates; City Council District 4 candidates forum. Juice, rolls and coffee will be served. Requested donation \$5. Metered street parking.	Courtyard Building 1322 O Street, Sacramento kdgreenone@yahoo.com or 916-442-1117
Sunday March 25	1:00 -4 PM	<b>If this House Could Talk</b> Launch of an exciting new community history program involving the Poverty Ridge, Newton Booth and Alhambra Triangle neighborhoods. Come find out more about how to participate.	The Home of Maryellen Burns/Leo Dabaghian, 2014 23 <sup>rd</sup> St., between T and U streets, Sacramento