

Golden Nuggets

January 2008

SCHS Collectors Night
Tues. Jan. 22, 7:00 PM, SAMCC
 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sacramento

Accumulating treasured objects from times past can be fun—if not downright addictive—and a great way to develop a deep knowledge of a very small segment of history. Come visit with our 2008 collectors and their prized possessions at our monthly members meeting. Bring a friend! It's one of our most enjoyable events.

Steve Abbott will exhibit Sacramento whiskey flasks from the 1870s through Prohibition. His collection includes embossed flasks from the Arcade Hotel, Casey-Cronan, Hugh Casey, Hall, Luhrs, Booth & Co., A.H. Powers, Wilcox-Powers, George Chesley, and Ebner Brothers. Several paper label and leather-covered flasks and one Sacramento bitters bottle with contents intact will be shown with the collection of nearly 40 pieces.



Photo S. Abbott

Steve has been collecting Sacramento whiskey-related material for about 20 years and has published a *Directory to Sacramento Whiskey Dealers*, *California Whiskey Registrations*, and a number of other related articles.

Mary Helmich and Walter Gray collected mementos of their vacations in ruby flashed (or stained) souvenir glassware. They only purchased pieces identified with the name of a place they had visited etched in the red glass.

Historically this glassware came in a variety of forms, sizes, and patterns and was popular from the 1890s to the 1920s. Most were dated. The glass shapes included cups, toothpick holders,

pitchers, plates, and candy dishes. Mary will show more than 30 examples from her collection on Tuesday.

SAMCC archivist Dylan McDonald will be showing off his collection of ephemera, books, photographs, and collectibles relating to reclamation in the American West—dams, canals, ditches, farms, land development, and water. Dylan has been gathering these items for a little over five years.



Last year Susan Ballew dazzled you with Lerner-designed pieces from her assorted vintage costume jewelry. But she is still pondering what to bring this year. Multi-strand beaded necklaces and matching earrings? Her rhinestone brooches? Or the Renoir copper items? Decisions, decisions! Whatever she brings, prepare to be dazzled again. Remember to wear a piece of your favorite jewelry. Some of you did last year, and it was a great way to share special treasures.

It wouldn't be Collectors Night without something from 'Mr. Baseball,' Alan O'Connor, who will be sharing memorabilia from the early 1950s when the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce adopted the slogan, "Sacramento, the Heart of California." It found its way to postcards, engendered a song, and even had a run as part of the Solons' baseball logo. In the end, "Everything is about baseball," says O'Connor.



Longtime Old City Cemetery preservation advocate Dr. Bob LaPerrière will be showing his

"Cemetery" T-shirts. They represent almost all of the shirts that the Old City Cemetery Committee has produced in its 20-year history. Be prepared for some delightful and rare examples of wearable funereal art.

Jenan Saunders will bring her first edition (and some not-quite-first edition) books from the Wizard of Oz series. An extremely voracious reader as a young girl, Jenan loved reading these books time and time again, and they represent many years of Christmas and birthday presents.

Also joining the exhibitors is Board member Illa Collin, who will bring some toys passed down from her mother and some Star Wars collectibles. Dan Winkelman will share his Volkswagen "bug" model cars, and who knows what else may show up. Come share your own collecting passions as you marvel at what others have put together. It's bound to be entertaining for everyone.

Sustenance for Those Long Winter Nights

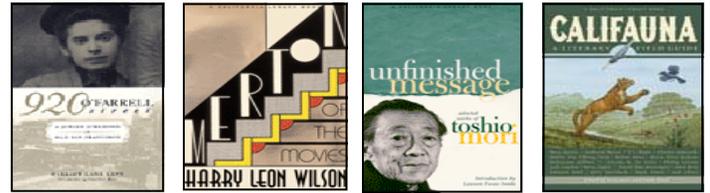
By Pat Turse

Now that the fog, rain and cold weather have come to northern California, some of us are feeling an urge to curl up with a good book. A number of new publications might help those chilly nights pass quickly.

The autobiography of Sacramento native, Lincoln Steffens (1866-1936), America's first "celebrity muckraker," has just been reprinted as part of the California Legacy Project. Steffens' early childhood home at 16th & H St. in Sacramento later became the Governor's Mansion.



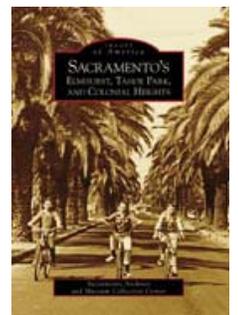
A collaboration between Heyday Books and Santa Clara University, the Legacy Project produces paperback trade editions of out-of-print books and anthologies of authors that illustrate California's diverse and lively literary past. Readers will find Steffens "inspiring, entertaining and lyrical" according to Heyday. Victor Navasky, publisher of *The Nation*, says Steffens' memoirs "ought to be assigned reading."



Heyday has quite an impressive list of books in this series, including "essential" writings of Ambrose Bierce, John Muir, William Saroyan, Mary Austin and others. Titles also include California-related works of Mark Twain, Upton Sinclair, Jack London, and George Stewart. Works represent every epoch and ethnic group making up the tapestry of California culture. Natural history titles are also intriguing. You may view (and order) a catalog and books online at www.californialegacy.org, www.amazon.com and www.booksense.com. Select titles are available in some book stores.

Closer to home, *Sacramento's Elmhurst, Tahoe, and Colonial Heights*, written and researched by staff at the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center, will be out in early February. It's the latest area local history from Arcadia Publishing.

This 128-page table top history begins with the early 1900s connection of these three early suburban neighborhoods to the rest of Sacramento via interurban passenger service. It takes readers through postwar growth, and the neighborhoods' recent resurgence. You can buy it on or after February 11 at SAMCC or online at www.arcadiapublishing.com.



Membership Renewals

Are coming soon by first class mail
More details on membership benefits
with renewal information

Board Member Election Ballots
Will Be Included

**Request for Nominations
Sacramento County Historical Society
2008 Annual Achievement Awards**

Each year the Sacramento County Historical Society recognizes deserving individuals and organizations for special achievements 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 (see below), if it can be demonstrated that a significant contribution to history has been made. Primary categories follow.

EDUCATION: For achievement in the education of the community, encompassing students of Sacramento area history. Activities may include formal and informal classes; docent and tour guide services; and development and installation of exhibits, works of art, and other educational and interpretive displays.

Past recipients have included Kelly Bitz and the California Museum, the Japanese American League, the CSUS Archives, Elk Grove School District, & the late Mary Tsukamoto for "Time of Remembrance" (2006); Kelly Timpson and the Mission Avenue Open School, Wax Museum of American History program (2007).

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. In 2006, this award went to California State Parks and the Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation for the restoration of the Stanford Mansion. Earlier this year the Preservation Award went to the California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento Southern Railroad program for 25 years of demonstrating and interpreting historic railroad equipment.

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.

The Publications award had multiple winners in 2006, when Dr. Norman and Evie Tutorow (*The Governor*) and Dr. Richard Orsi (*Sunset Limited*) were recognized along with Jody & Ric Hornor for their development and publication of historical calendars. Jan Haag and Ann McHatton, editors of *Celebrating 90 Years: Sacramento City College, 1916-2006*, received the 2007 award.

Clearly, more than one award may be given in any of the categories. **Awards Nominations must be received by Monday, February 4, 2008.** The awards ceremony will be held in March. Nominations should be submitted on the enclosed form or by electronic mail to:

**Sacramento County Historical Society
Awards Nominations
P.O. Box 160065
Sacramento, CA 95816-0065**

Gold Hill-Wakamatsu Project

By Pat Turse

The Florin and Placer chapters of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the Fukushima Kenjin Kai, California State Parks, and the American River Conservancy recently formed a working partnership which seeks to acquire the historic 303-acre Veerkamp property at Gold Hill, a rural area between Placerville and Coloma in El Dorado County.

The property was the location of the 1869 Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, the first sizeable settlement of Japanese immigrants in the United States. It lasted for only two years, hampered by insufficient water and problems with finances and labor. The grave of a young Japanese woman who served as a nursemaid to owner's children remains. Cooking utensils, swords and a large banner bearing the crest of the Aizu Wakamatsu clan are in the hands of State Parks. The partnership intends to resurrect the Wakamatsu Colony as a State Historical Park and a tribute to these first colonists and to the contributions that Japanese Americans have made to the State of California.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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GOLDEN NUGGETS

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

Please deliver by January 10, 2008

Out & About

Date	Time	Event	Place & Contact
Jan 26 Sat	10 AM to 5 PM	Gold Discovery Day. Historic demonstrations, tours, speakers, and Gold Rush music highlight the annual commemoration of the discovery of gold in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill.	Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park Hwy 49, Coloma 530-295-2162 or 530-622-3470 www.marshallgold.org
27 Sun Exhibit thru Feb	2:30 PM lecture Museum entry 10 AM to 5 PM daily	History of the Wooden Boat. Lecture by Bruce Adair highlights ongoing "Woodies of the Water" exhibit of pre-fiberglass watercraft from the 1920s-1950s. Sponsored by Sierra Boat Co. Lake Tahoe; \$5-7 entry includes wine, light fare.	Towe Auto Museum 2200 Front Street, Sacramento 916-442-6802 www.ToweAutoMuseum.org
Feb 2 Sat	10 AM to 5PM	Sacramento Museum Day. Free entry to 25 Sacramento area museums and historic sites. Free shuttle busses from 11th & O St. light rail stop.	Sacramento Association of Museums www.sacmuseums.org (Museum Day link) 916-808-7777, business hours
26 Tues	7PM	Sacramento's Club Zanzibar. Historian Clarence Caesar and collector Keith Burns will shed light on Sacramento's 1940s era African American entertainment entrepreneur, "Nits" Jackson.	SAMCC 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sacramento 916-264-7072