

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JAN-FEB 2016, VOL. 5-6

**SCHS Presents Miles Standish: Galen Clark, California's First Ranger**

**Tuesday, Jan 26, 7:00 PM (Social Time, 6:30)**

**Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento**

Join us for those thrilling days of yesteryear as Yosemite's first park "guardian" Galen Clark returns to show how he protected California's first state park. Come and hear Galen as he talks about what it was like in 1870 taking care of California's – no, the nation's – first large natural park and what it was like being the first park ranger. It was a thrilling time with bad guys, good guys, forest fires, self interests and little help. It was a time of innovation, new ideas and competing ideals. In short, it was the birth of a new idea that would grow to become an ideal that would spread around the world: a large unspoiled natural area for all people to enjoy. It was the beginning of the state and national park movement and Galen was there.

Galen is now personified by Miles Standish (not that one, but supposedly a distant relative) who spent 42 years as a California State Park ranger and has "wildlands in his blood." He is now an attorney but volunteers for State Parks in several capacities, mostly interpreting Galen Clark at living history programs. This promises to be a most entertaining evening! Come early for social time and snacks.

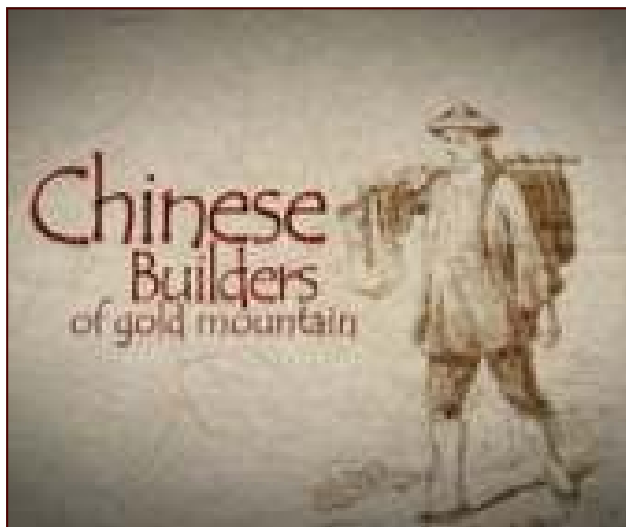


Galen Clark in Yosemite's Mariposa Grove Photo by Carleton Watkins, 1865-68  
Courtesy CA State Parks

**SCHS Presents Bill George: Chinese Builders of Gold Mountain**

**Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 PM (Social Time, 6:30)**

**Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento**



Sketch by Jamie Judd for Nimbus Films

**Gold Mountain** is the name the Chinese gave California during the Gold Rush days. *Chinese Builders of Gold Mountain*, a documentary produced by SCHS Board Member Bill George's Nimbus Films of Granite Bay, traces the path of Chinese immigrants who came to California in the 1850s. The film takes viewers to the places where the Chinese built levees, temples, tunnels, wine caves, stores and homes, tracing the immigrants' paths. It also explores cultural, legal and political issues, and tensions between the Chinese and Anglo communities.

Filming was done in Oroville and Marysville, two of the most important towns for the Chinese in the 1850s and 1860s, as well as Sacramento, Auburn, Locke, Fiddletown, St. Helena, Monterey and Donner Summit. Bill will show selected parts of the video, and answer questions as well. The full DVD will be available for purchase.

## Taste of History Living History Brings Down the House

By Patricia Turse

This year's *Taste of History: SP On and Off the Rails* provided a taste of Southern Pacific railroad food and history. A series of living history readings ably performed by a cast of local actors was very entertaining. The railroad theme was based on the original intent for a holiday launch of the upcoming SCHS publication, *A Legacy in Brick and Iron*, on Sacramento's Southern Pacific shops. The book is close, but not quite ready. A lively account of the extravagant 1868 transcontinental rail line completion ceremonies in Sacramento led off the program and provided a preview of the book.



Richard Pannell serves his version of a tasty SP dish

Maryellen Burns researched and wrote the scripts based on news accounts, oral interviews and a collection of private papers from a family of SP workers. The actors, Chef Richard Pannell (at left), Mattie Parfitt, Destiny Robbins, Melanie Smith and Gary Weinberg, wove the scripts together into a pleasing whole. In fact, a video of the entire event needs some minor editing but will be available online soon.

Pannell, an actual chef, was recruited to play SP chef George Dunlop, of Oak Park, and to whip up and serve the superb Smothered Chicken. Beginning with a scene-setting "lecture" on the evolution of railroad dining by an erstwhile 1930s university professor, the stories rolled on to a young journalist reading from her 1896 Sacramento Union article on the death of a former Sacramento "count", to an SP photojournalist reading his review of the history of railroad dining. Later we heard of a youngster's narrow escape from getting busted by railroad police for bootlegging and a waitress at the Pancake Circus, where SP workers grabbed meals to go. Using a minimum of props and costumes, the cast entertained us with song, poetry and great energy.

Then there was all the food...No simple collection of Christmas cookies here, although there were all manner of tempting sweets to enjoy. There was also ham, beef, chicken, kugel, shrimps, several vegetarian casseroles, assorted cheeses, crackers, and some lovely fresh fruit. (Have we trained you to save room to eat at this event yet?) A big thank you shout out to all of you who planned, purchased, prepared, loaded and unloaded, plated,

served, cleaned up, and otherwise volunteered (or were volunteered) to help this event run very smoothly. We also acknowledge food contributions from V. Miller Meats, Chef Richard Pannell, Maryellen Burns, all the contributing cooks who brought in things, and the kind folks at Shasta Linen Supply, who have been keeping us in table linens at events like this for years.



Yum!

Photo: Dr. Bob LaPerriere

## Name That Sacramentan: A History Quiz

By Patricia Turse

(Answer on page 4)

Although I was not born in Sacramento, I became one of its most prominent voices for preservation. I was a historian for the California Division of Parks and Beaches, taught at Sacramento State College, and consulted on various local and national preservation projects. Some have referred to me as the "father" of the Old Sacramento project. No less than seven books I co-authored are available at alibris.com today.

As a former National Park Service historian, I beat the drum for preserving our historic and natural heritage throughout the western region of the U.S. I originated the idea of historic districts for clusters of significant structures, such as at Old Sacramento, Columbia State Historic Park and Bodie State Historic Park. *Arrested Decay* was a term I created for preserving Bodie's remaining structures as they were found when Parks took over the site (in 1962) only minimally sealing structures to prevent further deterioration. A simple headstone marks my grave in the Old Sacramento City Cemetery.

Editor's note: This quiz may be a little harder than the first one some months back (which was really easy, yes?) because the focus is more on preservation than history. But it is a name many who love history will recognize.

## Gregg Campbell: A Eulogy

By Maryellen Burns-Dabaghian

It is with much sorrow that we note the passing of CSUS Emeritus History Professor Gregg Campbell.



He started his academic journey at the University of Minnesota, coming to Sacramento State in the fall of 1966. In 1968 Gregg finished his Ph.D, a seminal year in his development as a scholar, intellectual, teacher and social activist. That summer he attended a program in African American history in Chicago at the same time as the Democratic Convention. He came back with a renewed passion for illuminating the place of people in modern culture, a commitment to exploring regional and social history, and exploring the forces that drive change.

He taught African American History for a semester, but being white, found it very challenging to teach, and soon turned his energy to advocating for the hiring of more minority faculty and creation of Black and Women's Studies programs.

Long before it became a cliché he was student-centered, meeting students night or day in his office or the faculty dining room, advising the Student Senate, and creating, along with Robert Jones, an Honors program that provided incoming Freshman an opportunity to experience intimate classroom settings that promoted discussion, integrative learning and a global perspective.

He also helped create the Educational Opportunity Program, a program designed to serve individuals from low-income households who have the motivation and potential to earn a baccalaureate degree, but because of economic or educational background need extra support to succeed.

Gregg once characterized the role of the historian to me as bringing lost or forgotten voices from the past into contemporary conversation. He developed one of the most popular classes on campus - History 161, American Vision. His instructive approach was to eschew traditional historic texts and replace them with a blend of folkloric storytelling, the music of the Beatles and Bob Dylan, novels like the Adventures of Robinson Crusoe and Huckleberry Finn, the poetry of Robert Bly, and contemporary essays on Vietnam from Rolling Stone magazine.

Gregg occasionally guest lectured on the interplay between history and memory in a course my late hus-

band, Leo Dabaghian, developed. It was a topic the three of us would discuss often when we met.

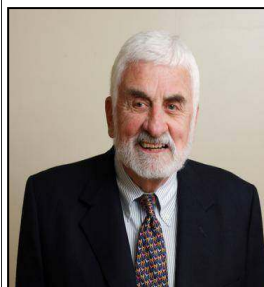
Gregg was proud of the work he did to promote the long running (and now long-gone) very expansive citywide program that was History Day, his time as President of SCHS and on its Publications Committee and his contributions to an exhibit plan for the then newly conceived Sacramento History Center.

Gregg's social history of the Pocket area, tracing the interweaving stories of the Portuguese and Japanese who first settled the area; advocacy for the creation of a Downtown project plan that would animate the central city through cultural programming; and interest in food control and modern agriculture in the Sacramento Valley also provided grist for our occasional conversations and inspired me to join the board of SCHS and begin a third career as a regional historian.

Luckily I saw him just a few weeks before he died, at the memorial service for another great CSUS history professor Peter Shattuck. We couldn't speak because the service was underway but he grabbed my hand and squeezed it. I remembered one of our last conversations. He quoted Steven King. "We never know which lives we influence, or when or why."

He added, "I had that opportunity presented to me every day, something for which I will always be thankful." So are we.

### In Memoriam: Tom Hammer



The passing of Gregg Campbell reminded us of yet another huge loss to the history and civic community we didn't get a chance to acknowledge. Businessman, philanthropist, and civic leader, Tom Hammer, a past president of SCHS and a leader in the California Historical Society, the Sacramento Trust for Historic Preservation, and many other local and state organizations passed away December 1, 2014.

Born in Alabama, Tom moved to Sacramento with his family as a youth, graduating from McClatchy High and UC Berkeley, where he later got a law degree. He taught courses at CSUS on state and national park systems, conservation legislation, and the American wilderness.

According to friend and former Sacramento mayor Burnett Miller, Tom was fascinated by the romance of California history. "He always told me he regretted not having been a native." That surely brings to mind the saying that the best local historians are often those who came from somewhere else. —P.A.T.



P.O. Box 160065  
 Sacramento, CA 95816-0065  
 Message phone: 916-572-9858  
[www.sachistoricalociety.org](http://www.sachistoricalociety.org)

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**GOLDEN NUGGETS**

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 September to June



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

Quiz Answer: Audrey Neasham

## OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Thurs. Jan 14	7PM	<b>Charles K McClatchy and the Golden Age of Sacramento Journalism.</b> Historian and Marquette University Professor Steven M. Avella will speak about his recently published biography on the influential <i>Sacramento Bee</i> editor. Sponsored by Sacramento History Alliance and CSH. \$10, limited seating. Tix online.	Center for Sacramento History 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sacramento 916-808-7072 Tix: <a href="http://shopsachistorymuseum.org/EventPurchase.aspx">shopsachistorymuseum.org/EventPurchase.aspx</a> (eventID1000008)
Ends Jan. 31	Tues-Wed 11-4 Thurs-Sun 11-8	<b>Christmas Dreams.</b> You still have time to catch the grand opening holiday exhibit at Folsom's newest museum. It features a mesmerizing collection of antique Christmas toys, decorations and other artifacts in charming vignettes. Many other galleries of collectibles and antiques too.	Museum of Wonder and Delight 905 Leidesdorff St, Folsom, CA 916-985-4871 <a href="http://museumofwonderanddelight.org">museumofwonderanddelight.org</a>
Saturday Feb. 6	Hours vary 10-5 is common	<b>Eighteenth Annual Museum Day</b> Twenty-six area museums will offer free (mostly) or half-price (the zoo and fairytale town) admission to encourage everyone to enjoy the city's incredible wealth of art, history, science and wildlife.	Sacramento Association of Museums <a href="http://sacmuseums.org">sacmuseums.org</a>
Sunday Feb. 21	11- 3	<b>Annual Black History Month Celebration</b> With live performances, hands-on activities, mini-talks, and a community bazaar featuring artistic creations, this festival is an entertaining and educational celebration of African-American history. Presented in collaboration with the Sojourner Truth Multicultural Art Museum and Sacramento Juneteenth. Free	Crocker Art Museum 216 O Street, Sacramento 916-808-7000 <a href="http://crockerartmuseum.org">crockerartmuseum.org</a>