

# Golden Nuggets

MARCH 2007

**SCHS Awards Night Dinner Program**  
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Museum  
5380 Elvas Avenue #100, Sacramento



Henrik Jul Hansen

**Tuesday, March 27**  
featuring  
**Henrik Jul Hansen**

5:30 PM Tour Medical Museum  
6:30 PM Dinner is served  
7:15 PM Awards & Program

This year's SCHS Awards of Excellence recognize a diverse group of people and programs—an engaging fifth grade living wax museum; a longtime grassroots promoter of Natomas history; a volunteer group that operates a historic railroad; an accessible history of City College; and a government servant who has served her constituents and their heritage well.

Popular Sacramento conductor and interpreter of music history Henrik Jul Hansen will highlight the SCHS 2007 History Awards with an audio-accompanied talk on European music in vogue during the Gold Rush. Trained in his native Denmark, and in Sweden and London, he has won numerous international awards. He conducts the Gold Country Chamber Orchestra, the Sacramento Ballet Orchestra, and the Merced Symphony, as well as other special engagements.

A sumptuous Asian Pacific buffet dinner from the Gaesorn restaurant will include four entrees. Save room for dessert! This will be a festive event that will make you proud to be a member. Tickets are \$19 and are limited. (Details in insert.) Please join us!



Right: Mission Avenue Open School live wax museum. Photo: Lisa Wire

## SCHS 2007 History Awards

We are pleased to announce the Society's Award of Excellence recipients:

### Education Awards

Kelly Timpson and the Mission Avenue Open School, Wax Museum of American History program

Anne Ofsink  
Natomas Historical Society

### Preservation Award

California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento Southern Railroad program for 25 years of demonstrating and interpreting historic railroad equipment

### Publications Award

Jan Haag and Ann McHatton, editors, for *Celebrating 90 Years: Sacramento City College, 1916-2006*

### Special Achievement Award

Illa Collin, Sacramento County Supervisor for 28 years; lifelong advocate for Sacramento County heritage



Well-trained volunteers operate Sacramento Southern's vintage railroad equipment.

## SCHS Board Elects Susan Ballew President



Susan Ballew models some of her costume jewelry collection at the January SCHS Collectors' Night.

Photo: Bob LaPerrière

Former Board Secretary and Hospitality Chair Susan Ballew has been elected

President of the Sacramento County Historical Society for the 2007-2008 term. A Carmichael native, Susan is a graduate of CSUS, and has worked in the Office of the Legislative Counsel for a number of years. She was co-founder and remains an active member of the Sacramento Bungalow Heritage Association. She also served as a docent during the pre-restoration "house detectives" discovery phase of the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park. Not surprisingly, she lives in a partly restored Craftsman Bungalow.

## SCHS Board and Officer Elections

New Board Members elected include:

BranDee Bruce, former Board member, who moved to Southern California but returned to Sacramento this fall. BranDee will serve as Vice President and Programs Chair

Dan Winkelman, member at large

Re-elected to the Board were:

Claire Ellis, member at large

Bob La Perriere, who continues as History Consortium liaison

Alan O'Connor, continuing as Treasurer, and Pat Turse, who continues as Newsletter Editor

Recent appointments to the Board this past fall and winter include Lisa Calloway-Wire and Jenan Saunders, members at large.

## Mark Your Calendars!

The SCHS April Member Meeting  
Has Been Rescheduled  
To Allow Members the Chance to Attend  
Ken Burns' Talk

Sage LaPena's Presentation  
on  
California Indian Culture  
Will Take Place  
Tuesday, April 17, 7 PM at SAMCC

Member Opportunity to Hear Ken Burns  
Tuesday, April 24, 8 PM  
Community Center Theater



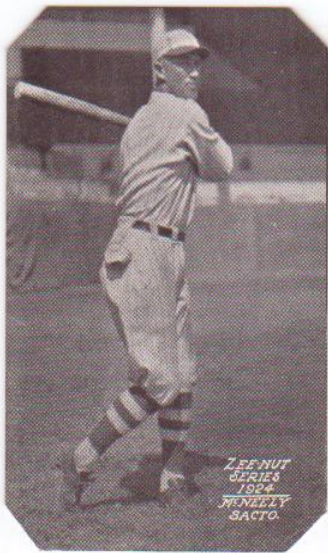
Ken Burns

Society members will have the rare opportunity to attend a one-time presentation at the Community Center Theater by foremost American historical film producer Ken Burns. In town for the Sacramento Speaker Series, Burns will be sharing details about his forthcoming fall PBS series on World War II and how it touched the lives of everyday families. Burns will recount stories from Sacramento area residents featured in the film including Burnett Miller, Burt Wilson, Earle Burke, and Robert Kasiwagi.

The Sacramento Speaker Series does not sell tickets for individual lectures. However Society members are being given the special opportunity to order tickets by phone for \$50 at this toll-free number: 866-773-2535. Please identify yourself as a Society member. This should be worth what may be a splurge for some, but we hope to see you there. -Editor

**Earl McNeely and the Senators**  
1930s Sacramento Baseball  
By Alan O'Connor

The Great Depression had taken hold of the country in the early 1930s and Sacramento baseball was in a slump. The Senators, our home team, had finished third out of eight teams in 1930. June 10<sup>th</sup> proved to be that season's highlight, with Sacramento hosting the Oakland Oaks for the first Pacific Coast League night game. From 1931 through 1936, the Senators finished no higher than third place, but in the midst of the Depression, Sacramento produced some of baseball's best talent.



One in particular, Sacramento native Earl McNeely, began his career playing organized baseball after he returned from service in World War I. Lew Moreing, the Senators owner, prided himself on discovering and developing good local talent. McNeely was one of his best finds. The 5'9", 155-pounder played second base, third base and the

outfield for the Senators from 1922-1924. Regarded as one of the fastest men in the Pacific Coast League, McNeely usually played center field. His stellar performance brought about his sale to the Washington Senators for what was then, a hefty price of \$35,000, and three players. This gave the Sacramento team another period of solvency.

McNeely contributed to Washington's 1924 World Series Championship. Long-time doormats of the American League, the Washington Senators captured their first World Series when McNeely's bouncer hit a pebble and hopped high over Freddy Lindstrom's head, producing a 4-3 win—one of the most exciting moments in World Series history. For Hall of Fame manager Bucky Harris and the Washington Senators, it was their only World Series championship and Hall of

Fame pitcher Walter "The Big Train" Johnson's only World Series victory.

Eight years later, in 1932, McNeely returned to his hometown Sacramento Senators. He played in 100 games and then replaced Buddy Ryan as the team's manager. In 1933, McNeely appeared in 94 games and had a batting average of .308. During his last year as a player in 1934, he appeared in just 26 games hitting .289 and ending his Sacramento career with a lifetime batting average of .294. In his two years as manager, the team compiled a winning percentage of .534

In 1934, Lew Moreing was unable to make his loan payments on the team. The banks took over the Senators and named McNeely as both the team president and manager. The next year McNeely turned the managerial duties over to Kettle Wirts. The team's poor performance led to Wirt's dismissal, and McNeely once again became manager and president. The Sacramento Senators team continued its losing ways and in due course was purchased by the St. Louis Cardinals. McNeely was fired, but moved on to finish his 15-year "senatorial" career as a coach for the Washington Senators in 1936 and 1937.

Upon McNeely's return home to Orangevale, he became involved in real estate, investments, farming, and cattle raising. Always community-minded, McNeely served two years as a member of the Orangevale Volunteer Fire Department in the early 1930s. He later became director of the Citrus Heights Fire District and the first president of the Sacramento County Fire Directors Association. He also served as a trustee for the Orangevale Elementary Schools and American River College, was President of the Sacramento County Fair Board of Directors, and active with the Granite Soil Conservation District. McNeely even ventured into politics, but was unsuccessful in his run for county supervisor.

It was Earl McNeely's fate to be a fine player on a mediocre team. But the second half of the 1930s would bring some excitement to the Sacramento team. Future articles will fill you in.

*Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, an extensive exhibit of Alan's memorabilia continues at the Folsom History Museum through April 1. Information 916-988-7288.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**2007 Board of Directors**

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**GOLDEN NUGGETS**

Pat Turse, Editorial & Layout  
Email [newsletter@sachistoricalssociety.org](mailto:newsletter@sachistoricalssociety.org)  
Contributions Deadline: 20th of month

**Please deliver by March 6, 2007!**

## Out & About

Date	Time	Event	Place & Contact
<b>March</b> ending 21 Wed.	10–5 Tues-Sun. 10–9 Thursdays	<b>Without Words:</b> The Sacramento Bee's Most Powerful Photographs. History in news images. General admission, \$3-6. Free to all Sunday mornings from 10-1.	Crocker Art Museum 216 O St., Sacramento Phone 916-264-5423. <a href="http://www.crockerartmuseum.org">www.crockerartmuseum.org</a>
27 Tuesday	5:30 PM medical museum opens 6:30 PM Dinner 7:15 PM Awards & Program	<b>SCHS History Awards Dinner &amp; Program</b> Multiple awards to diverse and deserving individuals, fine Asian Pacific cuisine, and the always charming musical raconteur, Henrik Jul Hansen. \$19	<b>Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society</b> , 5380 Elvas Ave. #100, Sacramento. Ample free parking. Phone 916-452-2671 <a href="http://www.ssvms.org/directions.asp">www.ssvms.org/directions.asp</a>
<b>April</b> 17 Tuesday (moved up one week)	7:00 PM	<b>SCHS Program by Sage LaPena</b> Native Californian Ethnobotanist, Poet and Teacher More details TBA	SAMCC, 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sacramento, off Interstate 5 at the Richards Blvd. exit. 916-264-7073
24 Tuesday	8:00 PM-9:30 PM	<b>Ken Burns: Sacramento Stories of WWII</b> SCHS members by phone reservation only More details on page 2.	<b>Community Center Theater</b> 1301 L Street, Sacramento Tickets, \$50 at 866-773-2535.