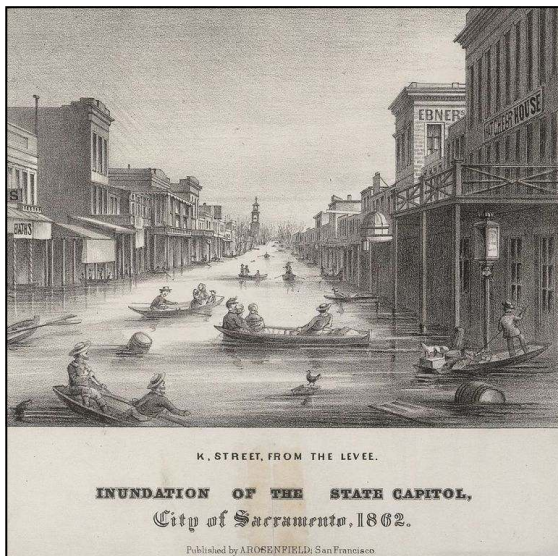


# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPT-OCT 2014 VOL. 1-2

**SCHS Event: Tuesday Sept. 23, 7:00 PM (Social Time, 6:30)**  
**Storms Like You've Never Seen-Yet: A New View of the 1862 Floods**  
**Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento**



K Street, 1862 lithograph. Published by A. Rosenfield, San Francisco.

The opening presentation for the 2014-15 Sacramento County Historical Society program year features Joel Pomerantz, a writer and natural history educator recognized for his work in waterways research, local journalism, public art, and community service. A self-proclaimed “de facto [San Francisco] historian since so many others in that revolving population have arrived in the last few minutes,” Pomerantz is the founder and driving force behind THINKWALKS, an award-winning “nerdy tour” program exploring how San Francisco came to be what it is.

He has done extensive research on the great floods of 1861-62, discovering a previously uncharted 25-acre lake that existed near the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park. His work contributed to a 2013 revision of the Creek and Watershed Map published by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The 1861-62 storm sequence is mostly associated with Sacramento, but it covered the entire west with extreme weather. Pomerantz hopes his program will create a better awareness of these events and improve the human relationship with nature. Join us for an exciting evening! Come early for the best parking and to meet and greet.

**SCHS Event: Tuesday Oct. 28, 7:00 PM (Social Time, 6:30)**  
**Vice and Virtue-Wild Women on the Frontier**  
**Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento**

Chris Enss, a Grass Valley resident, is a New York Times best selling author, a scriptwriter and comedienne who has written for television and film, and performed on cruise ships and on stage. She has worked with award-winning musicians, writers, directors, producers, and as a screenwriter for Tricolor Entertainment, but her passion is for telling the stories of the men and women who shaped the history and mythology of the American West. Her website lists 33 books she has written or coauthored, including her latest, *The Death Row Allstars: a Story of Baseball, Corruption, and Murder*. (See story in Aug. 26, *Sacramento Bee*.)

Many of her books describe an assortment of talented and daring women—from wild west show performers to schoolmarm, from gamblers to gold miners, from outlaws to mail order brides, among others. Her October 28th presentation will cover the ladies who came west, the hardships involved with such a journey, the work women found, and the colorful female characters that made the untamed territory rich. Books will be available for sale and signing. This should be lots of fun—for gals and guys!

Guests are welcome at both talks. Free parking is available in the lot behind 5380 Elvas or on the streets. We think this is a very exciting lineup of programs and they may be crowded. Doors open at 6:30. Mark your calendars!



Chris Enss getting into character. From the author's collection.

**Sacramento Historic Home Tour  
Features Midtown J Street Corridor  
Saturday, September 20, 10 AM-4 PM**



The Amber House B & B is one of the featured attractions of the 2014 SOCA Historic Homes Tour.

Sacramento Old City Association's 2014 Historic Home Tour focuses on the northern end of Midtown Sacramento. Ranging from J Street to N Street north to south, and 20th Street to 28th Street east to west, this neighborhood is known for its architectural diversity. From 21st century infill to the oldest building in Sacramento, Midtown is a true mixed-use neighborhood, combining stunning historic architecture, a lively arts community, a diverse residential neighborhood, and an active business district. This year's tour features private residences with unique histories, including the Kennedy Gallery Art Center, the Amber House Bed and Breakfast, and portions of Sutter's Fort, Sacramento's oldest building, that are not normally open to the public.

Tickets are available online for \$25 (plus a small service fee) at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or \$30 at the event. The tour enables visitors to see how some of the city's architectural treasures have been lovingly restored and maintained for contemporary use. The tour is self-guided; once you pick up your tour brochure and bracelet entry ID from the street fair at 2015 K Street (the parking lot in between 20th and 21st Street on the north side of K), you can visit the homes at your leisure in whatever order you prefer. The brochure also includes information about nearby places to eat, drink or shop.

The tour starts in between 20th and 21st on K Street—look for the street fair just east of the

"Sidetraxx" nightclub building. The ticket booth on K Street will issue the wristband and tour brochure that guides you to each house.

Limited free parking for those attending the Home Tour is available in the parking structure on L Street between 20th and 21st Street; enter via 20th Street near the alley between K and L Street. A second free lot is available at the northwest corner of 21st and L Street. Look for the "Rooftop Alliance" rooftop park on the second story of the parking garage.

If both lots are full, parking is available at the East End Garage, on 17th Street between L and Capitol; parking costs \$2 all day on weekends. For bike riders, a free, monitored valet bicycle parking corral will be available, courtesy of the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA).

**Hare-Raising Tales of Old McClellan Air Base  
By Ray Oliver**

Longtime SCHS member Ray Oliver spent the last eleven years of "what substituted for a career" [his words!] as a historian at McClellan Air Force Base. He also served as the first curator of the McClellan Aviation Museum, now the Aerospace Museum of California. -Editor

During much of the latter half of the 20th century patrons of the McClellan AFB officers' club coming out the front door after happy hour on warm summer afternoons sometimes wondered if they had indulged in too much happy. There on the well-kept lawns would often be several jackrabbits feeding on the grass. The jacks just ignored the sometimes tipsy people staring as they walked by and went about their business with the abundant grass.

Once an Air Force nurse on temporary duty at McClellan heard tapping at her officer's residence window. She was startled to see a big jackrabbit standing on its hind legs and tapping his paw on the window. "We don't have those in Boston," she said later.



The air base, closed in 2001 and now repurposed as McClellan Park, used to have several large open spaces along its runway and even larger grassy spaces of several hundred acres each, called overruns, on each end of the runway. They were intended as possible emergency crash landing areas for aircraft unable to take off. Over the years there were fatal crashes in those areas so it was important to keep the overruns clear.



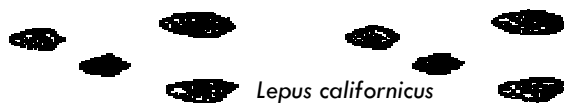
The overrun on the south end of the runway seemed to have the most jackrabbits so—not surprisingly—it was called The Rabbit Patch. One day a base employee was doing maintenance work in the area when he was confronted by a big jackrabbit who obviously objected to the worker being there. The jack chased the six-foot-tall worker back to his truck and then sat outside the door making unpleasant noises until a security patrol came to the worker's rescue and chased the animal away.

A Texas jackrabbit almost got a ride to McClellan in 1982. A rancher in the Lone Star state had a Korean War vintage F-86D Sabrejet fighter aircraft that he wanted to restore and fly. He parked it in his pasture but never got around to the restoration so he decided to donate the fighter to what was then the McClellan Aviation Museum. A crew of McClellan shipment preparation airmen in Texas working on the aircraft to get it ready for the trip to Sacramento

discovered the would-be stowaway and promptly evicted him. The restored fighter jet is currently on display at the museum.

Jackrabbits were a constant problem at McClellan during the base's active duty time. Sometimes the jacks themselves were not as much trouble as the dogs who got onto the base and chased them, all too often across the runways. That could cause delays and even cancellations of aircraft operations while security police chased the dogs.

One partial solution the security officers used to help control the constantly increasing jackrabbit population was to hold occasional hunts. Some would be rather festive affairs complete with barbeques and prizes for the most animals taken. Local animal rights folks were probably not invited.



## California State Parks 150th Anniversary Celebration Continues



Quilt Title: Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, 20x30", quilted by Christine Rohn Hartman, Redding, as part of the Quilt Show at the Leland Stanford Mansion. Image: CA State Parks

On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting 39,000 acres of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Never before had land been set aside to protect its natural state for the public to enjoy. This historic legislation was the beginning of not only the California State Park System, but the national park idea we know today.

To celebrate the sesquicentennial, a great variety of events have been held throughout the State Parks system. While many events were held over the spring and summer, some interesting events in Sacramento are still available. Here are two you won't want to miss.

**Wednesday, September 3rd thru Sunday, September 28th: Park-Inspired Quilt Show, Leland Stanford Mansion SHP, 8th & N St., Sacramento.** The Stanford Mansion gallery quilt show features "painterly" art quilts created by the Quilter's Sew-Ciety of Redding to represent a variety of state parks. On Saturday, Sept. 13, from 10 AM to 5 PM, artists will be present, and a 2 PM appreciation ceremony will be held. Otherwise, to view the quilts you must take a free Mansion tour, offered on the hour from 10-4 Wednesdays through Sundays only. If you can't make it, see them online at [http://150.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=27842](http://150.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27842)

**Ongoing thru December 2014: California State Parks, 150 Years: A Gift from the People,** California State Railroad Museum, 101 I Street, Old Sacramento, Front Lobby. Compelling and diverse historic images of parks along with a variety of cultural and natural history objects of importance to State Parks. Daily, 10-5.

**2013 Board of Directors**

Please deliver by Sept. 6, 2014

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**GOLDEN NUGGETS**

Published at least bimonthly,  
September to June  
Editorial & Layout: Patricia Turse  
Online at [SCHS newsletters](#)

## Out & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Saturday Sept. 6	10 AM	<b>A Dozen More Ways to Die</b> Early Sacramentans met their end in a wild variety of ways. A dozen stories of unexpected death at this fascinating tour that continues a theme started last year. You'll even hear a case of shopping, then dropping (dead, that is).	Old City Cemetery Broadway at 10th St., Sacramento Free parking in lot opposite entry <a href="http://oldcitycemetery.com">oldcitycemetery.com</a>
Saturday Sept. 20	6:30 PM	<b>Feast at the Fort</b> - Fifth annual fundraising gala includes a four-course sit down dinner prepared by Sacramento's top chefs at a beautiful setting inside the walls of historic Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. Tickets, \$78.62 at <i>brown paper tickets</i> , won't last.	Sutter's Fort State Historic Park 2701 L Street, Sacramento 916-723-7626
Saturday Sept. 27	Museum hours  (varied)	<b>Smithsonian Magazine "Museum Day Live"</b> Two free tickets per household for those able to go online to <a href="http://smithsonianmag.com">smithsonianmag.com</a> and fill out a form to have ticket printing instructions emailed to them. Valid at participating museums only. See right.	California Auto Museum, 2200 Front St.: California Museum, 10th & O St.; Cali- fornia State Railroad Museum, 101 I St., State Indian Museum, 2618 K St. <i>Call any unlisted museums you want to visit to see if they are participating.</i>
Friday October 10	7 PM	<b>Cheryl Stapp.</b> Sacramento Book Collectors present SCHS member & author of three area history books: <i>Disaster &amp; Triumph</i> , <i>Sacramento Women from Gold Rush to Civil War</i> ; <i>Sacramento Chronicles</i> ; and <i>The Stagecoach in Northern California</i> . Free, open to all.	Sacramento Book Collectors Arcade Community Library 2443 Marconi Ave., Sacramento <a href="http://sacramentobookcollectors.org">sacramentobookcollectors.org</a>