

# Golden Nuggets

May 2008

SCHS Presents Roberta Deering  
**Identifying, Protecting and Preserving  
 Sacramento's Historic and Cultural Resources**

Tuesday, May 27, 7 PM

→ **Sierra Sacramento Medical Museum** ←

5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento

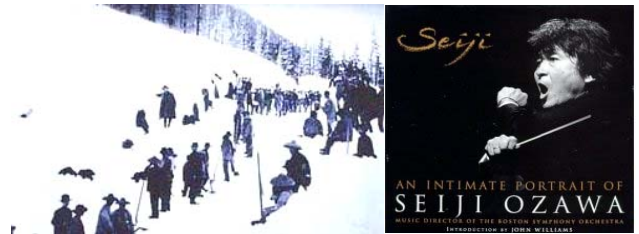
Former City Preservation Director Roberta Deering will present a special Preservation Month slide program. Deering currently oversees the City of Sacramento's Certified Local Government preservation program, including project and environmental review, historic resources survey, and designation incentives programs. Incentive programs include a million-dollar Historic Places Fund to provide grant assistance for historic rehabilitation projects. She also serves as the executive staff for Sacramento Heritage, Inc., a public/private non-profit organization chartered by the City, and serves on the City's General Plan Update Technical Advisory Committee.

Deering has thirty years experience in historic preservation planning, public policy, advocacy, fundraising, consulting and administration. She has worked in both the public and non-profit sectors, including five years as Executive Director of the California Preservation Foundation and the Director of the Chicago Office of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, among other positions. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California Davis, and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Oregon.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the preservation process. Please join us for what is sure to be a highly informative presentation. There is ample parking behind the medical museum, located at 5380 Elvas Ave, 1/2 mile north of H St. on 56th St., which becomes Elvas. See page 4 for map link.

## Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

By Pat Turse



Left: Chinese railroad construction workers. Wikimedia Commons. Right: Photo-biography of Boston Symphony Orchestra's Seiji Ozawa by Lincoln Russell. Houghton Mifflin

In addition to being Preservation Month, May is also Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. California Congressman Norman Mineta and Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii sponsored the legislation. Signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978, it authorized the first ten days of May as a national celebration. In 1990 the celebration was extended to a month.

As of July 2006, 14.9 million citizens, or about 5% of the U.S. population, described themselves as Asians, or Asian and something else. Of those numbers, 3.6 million said they were Chinese; 2.9 million, Filipinos; 2.7 million, Asian Indians; 1.5 million, Vietnamese; and 1.2 million, Japanese.

California has 5 million Asians, by far the largest Asian population, either alone or in combination with other races. New York is a distant second with 1.4 million, followed by Texas (a bit of a surprise) with 882,000.

Here's a quick quiz to test your knowledge of (mostly) area Asian Pacific American history:

1. What nearby site, soon to become a state park, was an early Japanese settlement?
2. What local Sacramento midtown inn was once the home of a wealthy Chinese businessman? (continued, page 2)

3. What area Buddhist Church is one of the oldest in the country?
4. The earliest Filipinos in the United States were a) agricultural workers, b) students, or c) missionaries?
5. The first Asian Indians arrived in the Sacramento Valley around Folsom, Orangevale and Loomis in 1907. What were they doing?
6. Who were the first Asian Pacific Americans to come to the Sacramento area?

Quiz Answers at bottom of page.

**Places to Go, People to See and Hear?  
We'd Like to Know about Them!**

- ◆ SCHS Seeks Ideas for Member Programs  
September 2008 through June 2009

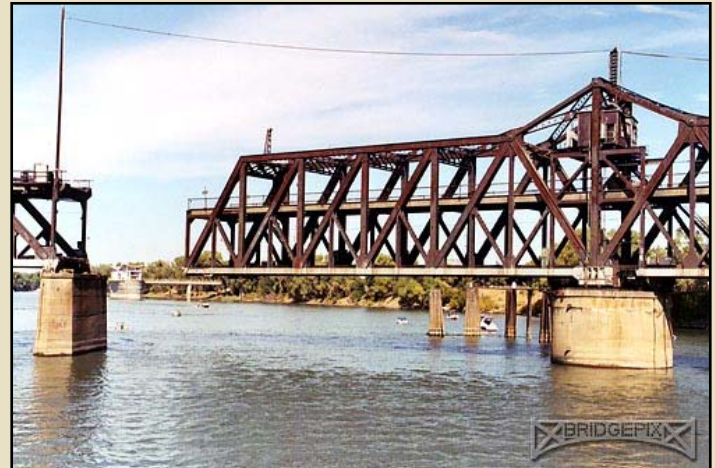
**Wannabe Social Maven?**

- ◆ Hospitality Team Sought

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



I Street Bridge - Jiboom St. exit ramp, 1912.  
California State Railroad Museum



Side view of today's I Street Bridge partly open.  
[www.bridgepix.com](http://www.bridgepix.com)

**The Bridges of Sacramento County, Part 1**  
By Pat Turse

The I Street bridge, seen above left looking east with the Southern Pacific rail yards off to the right, was built in 1911 by the American Bridge Company for the Central Pacific Railroad. It's far more recognizable to most as the two-level swing bridge connecting Sacramento and Yolo counties shown in the contemporary photo at the right. It opens by swinging ninety degrees to the side on a central axis to allow river traffic to pass. The upper level is for autos and pedestrians, the lower one for trains. Originally part of Legislative Route 6, it was later part of California Highway 16 and has one remaining post mile sign with 16 stenciled on it. This is actually the fourth span at this location.

The first bridge over the river, a wagon and pedestrian bridge, was built in 1858. It too was a swing bridge, perhaps the oldest swing bridge in California. It was followed by a wooden truss swing bridge, built in 1870 by the California Pacific Railroad (known as the Cal-P) to enable their trains to come from Vallejo to Sacramento. This version was washed out and replaced in 1895 by a two-deck metal swing bridge. It too was eventually replaced by the bridge seen in the images above.

Quiz answers: 1. The 1869 Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony site in Gold Hill will become a State Park. 2. The Inn at Parkside was the home of prominent Chinese businessman Yuepo Fong. 3. The Sacramento Buddhist Church, now at 2401 Riverside Ave., founded in 1899. 4.(c) Students on scholarship or *pensionados*. 5. They were harvesting, sorting and packing fruit. 6. The 10 Hawaiians who arrived with John Sutter in 1839.

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[www.sachistoricalociety.org](http://www.sachistoricalociety.org) (a work in progress; page scaled down to fit here)

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Preserving Sacramento's Past  
for the Future since 1953

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News & upcoming historical events not in newsletter; highlights of past events or meetings you missed

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### Welcome to the Sacramento County Historical Society

#### Help Keep History Alive!

Join the Sacramento County Historical Society and greater Northern Sacramento County and greater Northern California in raising public awareness of local and regional history through varied programs, publications, and advocacy. The Sac Area Network, a committee of the Society, encourages the ongoing exchange of information and ideas among the region's historically-oriented organizations.

#### Benefits of Being a Member

As a Society member, you will receive **Golden Nuggets**, the Society's informative newsletter, featuring articles of interest and news about future Society meetings focused on the region's history. In the past, meetings and events have included guest speakers, movies, special tours, and dinners. Our publication, the **Sacramento History Journal**, presents scholarly research about our region's past. Members receive the **Journal** as a benefit of their membership, as well as exclusive access to online PDF copies of out-of-print **Golden Notes**, as they are scanned and added to our website. Members are also eligible for discounts on the purchase of past publications.

#### An Outstanding Journal

After publishing over 100 Golden Notes, the Society launched its new, larger-format and higher quality Sacramento History Journal, featuring documents, photographs, ephemera, and articles never published before or very rarely seen and usually unobtainable. It is a fine publication of which the Society is quite proud.

A large and growing list of links to web pages of area organizations, societies, cemeteries, cultural or ethnic groups, archives, and other things history-related

### News

As all Americans once again celebrate the month of March as Women's History Month, Senator Boxer wishes to honor her fellow Californian, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the first ever woman to be elected as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our website is undergoing improvement. Some features may not yet be available.

SCHS members register or log in here for full use of these pages.



Downloadable membership application

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Sacramento's Front Street in the 1860s



SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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### Golden Nuggets

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Pat Turse, Editorial & Layout  
Email: [news@sachistoricalociety.org](mailto:news@sachistoricalociety.org)  
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Please deliver by May 12, 2008!

## Out & About

Date	Time	Event	Place & Contact
May 21 Wed	7:00 PM	<b>Physicians Lives from 19th Century Letters</b> Pat Shrader presents an entertaining evening of talk and excerpts from letters. Prescriptions, finances, even hopes for a wife are revealed. Free BUT reserve a seat at 916-452-2671	Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Museum of Medical History 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento <a href="http://www.ssvms.org/directions.asp">www.ssvms.org/directions.asp</a> or see p.1
22-25 Thurs to Sun	Varies, all-day & some evening events; see contacts at right	<b>Mormon History Association Conference</b> Scholarly papers, exhibits, tours, and discussion about the role of Mormons in the Gold Rush and the wider world. Register for all or pay by day. Student rates available. Join MHA & save.	Red Lion Hotel 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento Register at 801-521-6565 or at <a href="http://www.mhahome.org">www.mhahome.org</a>
June 20-22 Fri to Sun	7 AM to 5 PM some nights	<b>The Best Show on Tracks</b> One-time antique farming equipment spectacular with lots of live demos, music, and fun- even for city kids.	Dan Best Ranch, County Road 14 and County Road 101, Woodland. Phone 530 666-9700 or <a href="http://www.bestshowontracks.org">www.bestshowontracks.org</a>
24 Tues	Talk 6 PM  Walk 6:30 PM	<b>Gladding Cladding Talk &amp; Walk</b> State Library Director of Special Collections, Gary Kurutz will present a slide talk on Gladding McBean decorative architectural elements followed by a tour of downtown examples	Talk at (Old) Library & Courts building, 914 Capitol Mall., Suite 500, Sacramento. Walk begins outside at about 6:30. More details next month. Save the date.