MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Linda McBeath-Van Gundy

Wow! What a month-you will see by the articles that follow that we have been very busy this past month. The Society was called on and participated in many celebrations of the 150th anniversary of California’s statehood. In addition we will be continuing the trend with a tour and wine tasting in October, and the annual membership luncheon in December. It is great to see our members out and about and participating in the celebration of history. Please join us in our up and coming events-we would welcome you and your friends and relatives. Also consider the opportunity to become involved by joining the board of directors. We can use your help!

GREGORY FRANZWA AND THE GOLD RUSH TRAILS
Hardly an empty chair could be found in the County Planning Commission Chambers on September 15, when the Society hosted Gregory Franzwa as our Fall, 2000 speaker. Franzwa gave an informative presentation including slides on his recently published book, “The Oregon Trail Revisited and Maps of the Oregon Trail.” The well known author told stories of the hardships suffered by pioneers during their trips across the plains to reach California and Oregon during the late 1840s and early 1850s. His attention to detail and thorough knowledge of the subject was greatly appreciated by the audience. The author offered his book for sale and gladly autographed editions for those interested!

BELL TOWER CELEBRATION
On September 9, Society President Linda McBeath-Van Gundy and County Museum Director Mary Cory joined local and national dignitaries at the Bell Tower on Placerville’s Main Street to celebrate California’s 150th anniversary of admittance to statehood. In addition to Placerville’s mayor, city council members and representatives from the U.S. Post Office in Washington, D.C. the high school band joined a good number of local citizens to witness the birthday party! McBeath-Van Gundy accepted, on behalf of the Society, a plaque with the first day issue of the commemoration Admission Day stamps released the morning of the celebration. Cake and ice cream was served to all and a great rendition of “Happy Birthday to California” could be heard throughout Placerville!!!!

SACRAMENTO’S STATEWIDE CELEBRATION
The beautiful stage coach which is housed at the County Museum was front and center during the three day statehood birthday
celebration at the State Capital in Sacramento, September 8, 9 and 10th. The stage, owned by the NSGW Placerville Parlor #9, was used during the opening ceremonies to transport dignitaries from Old Sacramento’s waterfront to the Capital grounds where the celebration was held. The setting was a time capsule of the history of the state, from Native Americans, explorers, pioneers to various industries (automobile, space, movie) and a peek into the future. Numerous groups from throughout the state attended to present their living history programs, offered most often only in their areas. During the 3 days of activities El Dorado County’s stage coach could be seen parked directly in front of the Capital Building.

EDCHS RECOGNIZES THE CARY HOUSE HOTEL
A certificate of recognition was presented to Sue Russell, manager of the historic hotel, during the recent gala celebration of the newly decorated establishment on Placerville’s Main Street. The Society officially recognized “the owners, staff and volunteers of the Historic Cary House Hotel” for “their time and effort to restore the “JEWEL OF PLACERVILLE” that it may once again proudly grace Placerville’s Main Street.” Many Society members and museum volunteers were evident at the reception finely attired in period dress offering a feeling as to having stepped back in time one hundred and fifty years ago when the Cary House Hotel was a regular stop for the stage lines bringing travelers to Placerville and picking up millions of dollars in bullion for transport to the mint in San Francisco. It was a grand celebration and the Society was proud to be a part of history again.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION
Ballots will be mailed at the end of October for electing seven members of the Society to positions on the BOD. If you are interested in serving a three year term, please call Linda McBeath-Van Gundy at (916) 392-2326. The BOD meets once a month (1st Tuesday of the month) from 4-6 P.M. at the Diamond Springs Firehouse. The BOD is responsible for planning the course of events and activities for the Society. New faces and ideas are always welcome.

FROM THE MUSEUM
By Mary Cory

Autumn is here, and that means the holiday season is not too far away with a new Christmas exhibit to be installed by the beginning of December. The wonderful clothing exhibit curated by Jo Ann Alsup has been taken down. Since clothing is damaged by light, individual articles of clothing should not be on exhibit for too long. Jo Ann sounds willing to do another clothing exhibit on the scale of this one, maybe next year. We may be able to put individual dresses on display in the Parlor and Bedroom areas in the meantime.

Right now, Bev Herzog and new volunteer Mari Conroy are working on a temporary exhibit on John M. Studebaker. This exhibit coincides with our wine tasting fund raiser scheduled for Oct. 27 which will raise much needed funds for the restoration of the Studebaker covered wagon donated by the
Historical Society to the Museum in May of 1999.

Come check out some of the new items in the Museum’s shop. We just got in a new shipment of tee shirts, magnets, and other fun stuff. You just may find the perfect stocking stuffer! We also have Admission Day caches for sale at the shop. These unique envelopes have the commemorative California stamp and first day cancellation mark. Printed on the envelopes are the new County Seal and the Great Seal of California. The caches sell for $4.00, and stamped envelopes are also available at $.50 a piece.

We had several events in September that were very successful. Harvest Fair, held on September 16 and 17, was a lot of fun. We had about 600 people through the museum on those two days. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped those days. We celebrated the County’s Birthday on Admission Day, September 9, at the museum with cake, music, and speeches. Everyone had a great time.

And lastly, as Linda said, our speaker, Gregory Franzw, on September 15, held his audience spellbound about the trials and tribulations of the California Trail. He has a new book out, The Maps of the California Trail, and 10% of the proceeds from book sales that night were donated to the wagon restoration fund.

WAGONS AND WINE
We are working hard on the October 27 fund raiser, called Wagons and Wine, it will be a wine tasting with food, live music, history “conversations” with members of pioneer families, and door prizes. Tickets are $25 and are on sale at the County Museum.

Please join us! It should be lots of fun, and all for a good cause. Pass the word and with Historical Society members’ support, we will have a truly successful event. If you are interested in helping us with the event, or participating in the history conversations, please call Mary at the Museum, 621-5865.

STILL WANTED!
DOCENTS
RESEARCH PEOPLE
Have fun! Meet people! Learn History!
(530) 621-5865

MUSINGS
By Arlen Peterson

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings Helen Tyron and I go through the artifacts belonging to the museum and write them up to be entered into the computer. It is like a treasure hunt, except we don’t have to hunt-
--we just look in the boxes. There are wonderful things, and I will tell about them from time to time.

From the vast Stella Ralston Tracy estate there are many things of great interest. She particularly liked fine china and glass. I have been a collector of old glass back in my salad days, and so I perhaps appreciate the dishes more than some folks might.

One day we came across a fine Wedgewood pitcher. It was perhaps 6 inches tall. Of course it was done in the beautiful Wedgewood blue. Just below the rim was a raised ring of white flowers. At the bottom was a raised ring of Roman Gods and Goddesses, deer, trees and shrubbery in magnificent fine detail. This was never an inexpensive piece and we handled it in awe of its beauty. Inside was a note that said, "This pitcher was given to Stella Ralston between 1895 and 1898 by an old beau named Edwin."

So! Stella Ralston had suitors who had both money and good taste, did she? If you have any interest in the male-female equation as I do, wouldn't you have liked to have been a little mouse with big ears hiding in a corner when Stella told her Mama that she was going to marry a mandolin playing cobbler from Old Hangtown?

**Nautical Weddings**

From Earl Perry

Vital Records From The Argus and Spectator of Newport, New Hampshire-18 April, 1841.

A souther(SIC) exchange paper under the head of a "Regular Fleet," chronicles the marriages of Martin BRIGGS to Louisa SCHOONER; Everand BOATMAN to Margaret SCULL, and George SHIP to Phebe CUTTER. The same paper adds "they should all belong to the Navy Department."

In the great voyage of life, they will doubtless experience many squalls. Mr. BRIGGS will occasionally be taken in tow by Miss SCHOONER (that was), and Mr. BOATMAN may unfortunately be SCULLed through oceans of hot water - Mr. SHIP will probably suffer some from the artillery of Miss CUTTER, and frequently be compelled to "heave to"!

Miss Cutter's broadside
(pardon the pun).

'Tis an unusual family that hath neither a "Lady of the Evening" or a thief!

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The Proposal

On June 11, 1910, 12 AM, a letter was mailed from Placerville to Master Myron Madden, 3838 Jackson St., San Francisco.

The letter read as follows:

Dear Mrs Madden:-

I would like to call you "Mother" but perhaps it might appear bold - so I will reserve it until by actions you shall know that your "dear little girl" is being properly cared for.

Please don't look upon me as an "invader" - I love "your Jess" with an honest Catholic American affection - so try to believe you are giving her into the arms of one of whom you never shall be ashamed - into the care of one who will make her really happy.

We all have our faults - we are human - but there is one characteristic of your personality that has always impressed me and that is "your real Mother's love for your children" that is the reason I never even thought of losing dear Jess as my "good and fair halfmate through life". She is a good girl Mrs Madden the best girl I ever knew - Beauty is pleasing still it must take a back seat to "goodness" especially in the intimacy of married life. I don't want to write page after page - words are too often abused in this world - just let my actions speak - let them prove to you that the love I bear for your daughter is real.

El Dorado County is beautiful now so please give Jess your permission to pay us a visit - Maybe I am bold again Mrs Madden but is there anything unconventional in her coming?

She knows all of my family and I do want her to come - My sisters love her and will make her visit a "pleasing one"

I know Mrs Madden you trust me and when I say that my actions are governed by "Catholic American standards" I want you to believe me and that your dear good little girl is as safe in my care as she would be in yours - Do try to love your girl's "future husband" he wants to be open - frank - and loving with you all - If you can't give me your love truly - naturally - don't say you are giving it to me - if "my little Jess" and I can't win true affection we don't want it at all - But this can't be with you - I feel you love us both and know we are all - next to our God - to each other.

Good bye and do try to love your son -

Please tell me when Jess can come.-

Fred

The above letter was given to the museum by Mrs. Maureen Storck of Sonoma. Her son-in-law was renovating a house at 3838 Jackson Street, San Francisco.

When he removed a plastered wall and reached the studs he found the envelope containing this letter.
The letter could raise a couple of questions.

1. Did Tess's Mama let her "little darling daughter" come to Placerville?

2. Master Myron Madden didn't particularly like Fred and when he received the letter - he stuffed it behind the wall!

3. Fred and Tess were married and lived happily ever after.

Harry Houdini died in 1926 and every Halloween Mrs. Houdini would hold a seance to contact her late husband. Harry had said that if there was a hereafter he would contact her on Halloween night. She religiously held that seance, but Harry was a no-show.

This is really unfortunate - - I really have a few hundred questions I'd sure like to pose to some of my "long-gone" relatives. Now I really don't care if they're a "shade" of their former selves, I want to know if Grandpa really stole that horse. Was Aunt Matilda really "The ugliest woman in town?", or did Uncle Henry really marry his 1st cousin?

Oh well, maybe the only way I'll finish the Perry Tome is to have that seance.

Thanks to Carol Damerval for being an IBM retiree and Mary Cory for joining Carol to create a grant request to produce a new IBM computer for the museum!

It's on its way and we should receive it in about 8 to 10 weeks.

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