



MAY 2018

VOLUME VII ISSUE 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
Member's Meeting	2
TAC Update	3
Hamilton Square	3
Social Media in Early Sacramento	4
Hear That Train a Comin'	7
Symbolism Tour	9
Political Tour	9

Memorial Day



Please join us on Saturday, May 26 at 11 o'clock as the Veteran's Affiliated Council will conduct a Memorial Day event. Members of veterans groups from around Sacramento participate and visitors are encouraged. Flags are placed on each veteran's grave by local Scouts and the ceremony includes presentation of the colors, playing of taps and a 21-gun military salute.

The event will be held at the Veteran's area near the Mortuary Chapel. Parking is available on the street.

Cemetery Volunteers

Volunteers, like OCCC members are important to the continued beautification and support of the cemetery. *The Independent Sector* is a national organization which includes charities, nonprofits, foundations and corporations engaged in charitable work. Each year, they calculate the hourly equivalent of volunteer workers in each state. While the national average of wage equivalents for volunteer workers is \$24.69, in California, the figure is \$29.09.

Volunteer hours are recorded by City staff, and last year (FY 2016-17) Cemetery volunteers recorded at total of 9,695 hours. That's an equivalent in dollars of \$185,245.12 or 4.7 full time employees. What a lot of work that represents!



OCCC Board of Directors

Judy Eitzen, Chair
Jeanne Baldwin, Vice Chair
Lin McNamara, Secretary
Connie Bettencourt, Treasurer
Steve Bartel, Anita Clevenger,
Cassandra Musto, Marcia Rog-
ers, Kathryn Tobias, Directors

President's Message

This has been one of the best Spring seasons in my memory as far as beauty in the Cemetery is concerned. Did you know more than fifty individuals spend time volunteering in the cemetery each month? Many volunteers focus on gardening activities; adopting plots, supporting one of the three gardens or maintaining their family plots.

During this last year, City Parks staff has increased staffing and support on site, guiding the Sheriff's Work Project workers to clear weeds, mow lawns and in overall maintenance. In addition, AmeriCorps, and local volunteer groups have spent time working in the Cemetery. Broken headstones continue to be repaired using OCCC funds.

All this effort has resulted in beautiful plots and plants bringing increasing numbers of visitors to the Cemetery—both tour attendees and casual visitors. Carefully researched tours are led by dedicated volunteers and other volunteers regularly answer questions of walk-in visitors.

Many times we've heard a visitor say, "Wow! I didn't know what was here or how beautiful it is, and I've driven by here for years." Thanks to all volunteers and OCCC members for your support. I hope you will all join us for the annual Member's Meeting in June.

Judy Eitzen, Chair
OCCC



Annual Members Meeting



Join us in the Historic Rose Garden on Saturday, June 16, 2016 at 11:30 for the Old City Cemetery Committee annual members meeting.

We will elect members for the Board of Directors, hear about activities during the last year and learn of plans for the fiscal year beginning July first. It's a great opportunity to meet with your fellow members and share a light lunch. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please inform Judy Eitzen or one of the other Board members.

Please park on the street. The meeting will be held on Laburnum Avenue; turn right at the Historic Rose Garden sign.

Technical Advisory Committee Update

The Old City Cemetery Technical Advisory Committee held its second meeting on April 17. It first met in October to begin identification of elements for a plan to implement the Cemetery Master Plan, adopted by the City in 2007. City staff are also developing a layered plot map of the cemetery which will include burial information, headstones, etc. The draft may be seen on the Center for Sacramento History's website. Note that it is a work in progress.

At the April meeting, attendees were introduced to the consultants employed by the city who are working to develop an assessment leading to an overall Cemetery Management Plan. The team includes the firm of L. F. Slone Consulting Group with many years of experience working with historical cemeteries and Doug Nelson, who participated in development of the Master Plan in 2007.

The meeting was collaborative, with participants—cemetery volunteers, city staff, plot owners, local historical advocates—joining in the discussion. All were encouraged to offer suggestions and share information about our observations and experiences in the cemetery. An early focus for the consulting team is to develop a plan for managing irrigation that will eventually replace the use of overhead 'hunter' sprinklers which often waste water and can damage cemetery artifacts. The team also recognizes the historical and horticultural elements that comprise the cemetery and hopes to have an initial draft report ready in 30-60 days.

While the plan is being developed, Lori Bauder of the City's Parks Department will be the lead Parks staff on site. Art Gonzales and Vinnie Marques, Park Maintenance staff report to her.

Hamilton Square Garden

Under the stewardship of Leslie Hurlburt and a cadre of dedicated volunteers, Hamilton Square is filled with perennials suitable for Sacramento's Mediterranean-like climate. Peak bloom is late spring and summer and tours of the garden focus on various blooming plants. Join in on one of these free tours:

What's Blooming in Hamilton Square

- June 30
- July 28
- August 25

Tours begin at 10 a.m. at the Cemetery's Main Entrance and are free. Donations are encouraged.



“Social Media” in Early Sacramento

Judy Eitzen

Social media has become an important part of contemporary American culture, such that, many news reporting agencies now use it to spread the word. Sooner or later, we learn these technologically advanced resources report news from particular points of view, and we must carefully select what to believe is the ‘truth’. The best news reporting places facts in context, which helps clarify things and removes uncertainty. It seems that some things haven’t changed, as a look at 19th century news reporting shows the same difficulties in discerning fact from opinion.

When gold was discovered in California and a sudden influx of people – primarily men – arrived in Sacramento in the early 1850’s, they brought with them the need to know. They wanted to know what was happening in the local community as well as learning the news from the east coast. A surprising number of entrepreneurs answered the call by founding and printing newspapers, bulletins and magazines in early Sacramento and a number now ‘reside’ in the Historic City Cemetery. Prior to the first transcontinental telegraph in 1861 and completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, news was gathered in person or brought by riverboat from San Francisco. News from the East Coast was delayed by the time it took to physically travel from East to West; anywhere from 3-6 months or even longer.

An article appearing the Sacramento Daily Union in 1875 reported that in the first twenty-five years of the city at least 79 periodicals appeared. ⁽¹⁾ Forty of these were published daily and twenty-six were weeklies. That’s a lot of reading for a population which started small before the Gold Rush. Just 9,087 in 1850, Sacramento county’s population grew to nearly 27,000 by 1870. ⁽²⁾ Sacramento’s first newspaper appeared with the Gold Rush.



That paper was *The Placer Times*, first published in April 1849 and was an offshoot of *Alta California*, a San Francisco newspaper founded two years earlier. The printers used an old, repaired Ramage letter press and type discarded by the *Alta* which was shipped to Sacramento on the *Dice me Nana*. An office was built near what is now 28th & K Streets, constructed from adobe, wood and cotton cloth, as were many of Sacramento’s early buildings. Several proprietors shepherded the paper in early days with subscriptions at \$10 per year. The politics of the paper leaned toward the Democratic which made it popular with some and decried by others.

By the spring of 1850, the *Sacramento Transcript* was born in direct competition with the *Times* and was published three times a week to the *Times*’ weekly edition. A number of proprietors were initially involved, and the paper, aimed at literary excellence, was well edited. With good funding, the *Transcript* was enlarged and bought out the competing *Times*, publishing it as *The Times and Transcript*. *The Transcript* had been politically neutral until December 1850 when it came out for the Democratic party.

Most papers came and went. One of these is notable as being an early paper associated with James McClatchy, *The Settlers’ and Miners’ Tribune*. Dr. Robinson, the editor, took an active part in the Squatter’s

(Continued on page 5)

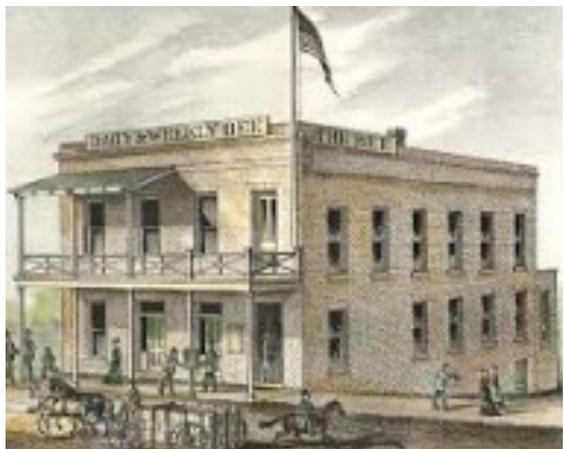
Riots of 1850 as did James McClatchy. The *Tribune* quietly gave up the ghost after less than a year and later McClatchy went on to the *Sacramento Bee* ⁽³⁾. Short-lived papers became the rule rather than the exception as the population quickly grew and printers and publishers discovered stiff competition. During the 1850's, newspapers came and went so fast, it was hard to keep track.

The first Whig paper, the *Sacramento Index*, was published in December of 1850. It was also the first evening paper, relying on the Whig party for support. The paper took a stance against a vigilance committee's action in hanging a gambler – an unpopular position - and soon lost ground, dying in March of 1851.



One paper begun in 1851 survived into the modern era; *The Sacramento Union*, then known as the *Sacramento Daily Union*. In the beginning the paper was sold at 5 cents a copy and the initial printing was just 500 copies. It soon grew into an important paper, despite being burned out in the fire of 1852 and struggling through a series of owners and publishers. Several of those associated with the *Union* over the years now reside in the City Cemetery, however, the story of three early proprietors suggests the job was ill-fated. Alexander Clark, "...subsequently went to the Society Islands and has never been heard of since." ⁽⁴⁾ W. J. Keating died a few years after in an insane asylum. Job Court died in a hotel fire in 1874. Apparently, not an occupation for the faint of heart.

Interestingly, the *Dramatic Chronicle* was published in 1864 by two teen-aged brothers, Charles and M. H. DeYoung. It was primarily an advertising sheet which the brothers took to San Francisco after just nine months in Sacramento. In 1865 it reappeared as *The San Francisco Chronicle*, but that's a story for another time.



The *Daily Morning Bee* was independent in politics and in

(Continued on page 6)

“Social Media” in Early Sacramento

(Continued from page 5)

1857 when it appeared, was much smaller being just five columns per page. The first editors were J. R. Ridge and S. J. May. James McClatchy succeeded Ridge and over some years he purchased a controlling interest in the paper which the family owns to this day.

The *California Statesman* was founded in November 1854. It was straight-out Democratic and supported William M. Gwin⁽⁵⁾ in no uncertain terms for reelection to the US Senate. In March the following year, the publishers sued Gwin and also Sacramento Mayor James R. Hardenbergh, claiming they agreed to pay \$2,500 for the *Statesman*'s support of Gwin's candidacy. When the claim was rejected in court, Hardenbergh then sued for the possession of the paper and it folded. Again, politics...

The *Democratic State Journal* supported John Bigler⁽⁶⁾ while its competitor the *Times and Transcript* advocated for William M. Gwin as the state's Democratic party split over charges of bribery and political maneuvering. So even party factions provided newspaper competition and the *Journal* expired in 1858.

Other papers came and went, nearly as quickly as political winds blew. Those who survived long enough to become profitable were the exception, not the rule, and subscribers had to read carefully between the lines to learn the “facts”.

- 1) Sacramento Daily Union, vol 1, #227, November 6, 1875, page 8
- 2) US Census, population of Sacramento County
- 3) The Daily Morning Bee first published February 3, 1857.
- 4) Sacramento Daily Union, ibid. (French Polynesia)
- 5) First US Senator (with John C. Fremont) from 1850-1855
- 6) California governor from 1852-1856



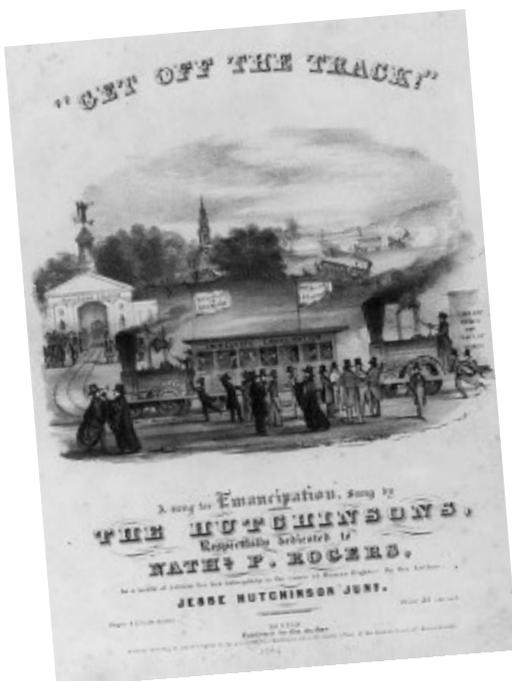
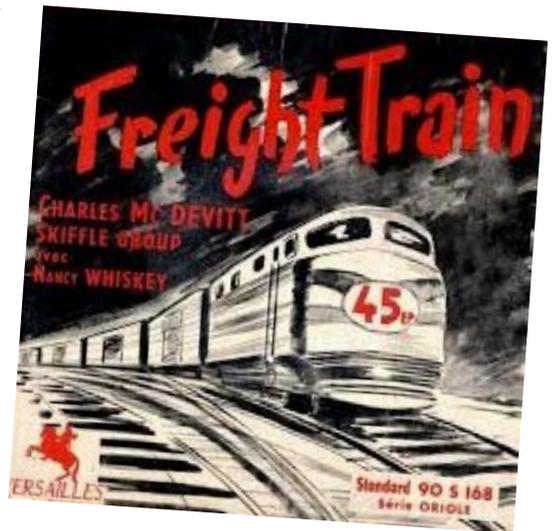
“Hear That Train A Comin” ...

Judy Eitzen

Much has been written about the efforts of Messers Crocker, Hopkins, Huntington and Stanford to complete the western half of the Transcontinental Railroad. The physical labor was brutal and living conditions for workers not much better. Ramshackle towns popped up along the Central Pacific route which became hotbeds of drinking, gambling, prostitution and violence. Workers were hard to find, and Charles Crocker began hiring Chinese laborers. They proved to be tireless workers and some 14,000 were eventually employed. They constructed tunnels, built trestles and laid track through mountains. Many sang to lighten the work as they rhythmically pounded spikes and heaved rails into place.

Leland Stanford drove the last spike, made of gold, with a silver hammer in May of 1869 and California was suddenly connected to the rest of the US. The price for a cross-country trip dropped from around \$1,000 to \$150 and railroad lines began to spread throughout the west, bringing east coast fashion, culture, literature, news, entertainment, politics, lots of people and music. Railroad songs became popular as the nation celebrated this huge achievement.

Railroad songs were at their most popular during the time when the primary method of long-distance overland travel was by rail. 19th century folks grew up knowing the words to these songs and many 20th century people would learn them with the folk music revival of the 1950's and 60's.



Railroad songs were unique among so-called ‘work songs’ in that the trains themselves were perfect partners with their melodic whistles and bells and the natural rhythm of wheels on the tracks. The railroad also came to symbolize freedom in several ways, thus increasing the popularity of railroad songs. The Underground Railroad, though not an actual train line, was an important conduit for those attempting to escape slavery, and a number of train songs depicted freedom for many. Typical of this era was “Get Off the Track” (1844) where a train engine titled ‘Liberator’ and a car labeled ‘Immediate Emancipation’ appeared on the sheet music.

As train lines expanded, many settlers found their own freedom in the new towns that appeared along the tracks. Railroad songs explored travel, departure and arrival, exploration and expansion plus the power of the machine. Some songs likened trains as a method

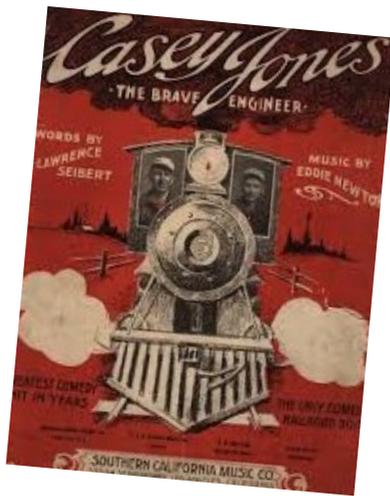
(Continued on page 8)

Railroad Songs...

(Continued from page 7)

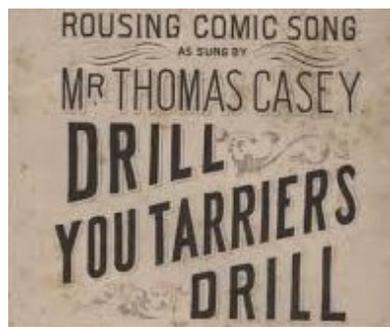
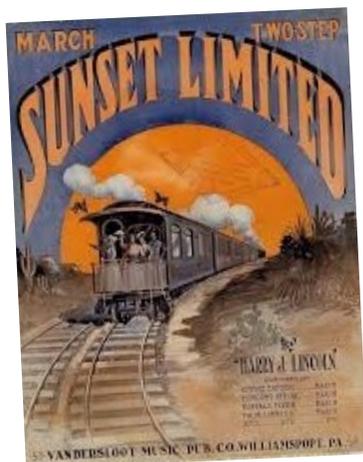
for getting to Heaven. “Get On Board, Little Children,” for example, is a folk-song based in the gospel tradition.

Most Americans learned “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad” as children. The first published version of the song dates to 1894. Interestingly, the part of the song, “Someone’s in the kitchen with Dinah” may be from an older song with a different melody probably from the mid-19th century. This often happens to folk music as different versions are sung in different parts of the country.



Songs such as “Asleep at the Switch” (1897), “Ballad of Casey Jones” (1900), “New Market Wreck” (1904) and “Wreck of the Old 97” ⁽¹⁾ tell of railroad disasters. Work songs include “Ballad of John Henry”, ⁽²⁾ and “Drill Ye Tarriers, Drill”. ⁽³⁾ Many railroad songs continue to be performed simply because they’re wonderful melodies and remind us of days gone by: “Orange Blossom Special”, “City of New Orleans”, “Midnight Special”, “Rock Island Line” and many more. Listen to that lonesome whistle blow...

- 1) A 1924 popular version by Vernon Delhart, set to the tune of an 1865 song, “The Ship That Never Returned”
- 2) 1870’s song about a folk hero who hammered a steel drill into rock to make holes for dynamiting railroad tunnels
- 3) First published in 1888, the song actually refers to Irish workers building the eastern half of the Transcontinental Railroad.



”Symbology and Superstition” - June 2

In the 19th century, folks had a somewhat different attitude toward death that we do today. Life expectancy had increased in the 19th century as science began to find cures for disease and technology improved living conditions for many. Death at a young age was considered particularly tragic, of course, as it is today. When Queen Victoria took grieving for her Prince consort Albert to the extreme, death practices became more elaborate.

A period of mourning was expected as was mourning dress and extravagant burial arrangements became the norm. Symbolism was an important part of the rituals of death. Join the Cemetery docents in a free tour exploring Victorian customs and the symbology of death on June 2 at 10 o'clock.



”Mugwumps, Know-Nothings & Dolly Vardens” - June 9

While today’s politics may be confusing, partisan, silly, strident, comedic, frustrating, or all of these, politics in the 19th Century was just as interesting and entertaining. Join the Cemetery docents as you learn of three well-named political groups which flourished—at least for a while—in the 1800’s. The tour begins at 10 o’clock and is free.



Tours meet at the 10th Street Entrance. Please park on the street for Saturday History Tours. These tours are free to the public. Donations support the OCCC’s mission to repair and stabilize headstones.



**Old City Cemetery
Committee, Inc.**

1000 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818
916-448-0811
historicoldcitycemetery.org

Mission Statement

To join hands with the community to restore, beautify, preserve and protect the Historic City Cemetery, while maintaining access by descendants of the deceased, and to provide educational services to all visitors to the Historic City Cemetery of Sacramento.

Spring & Summer Tours & Events

May 26—Memorial Day observance

June 2—"Symbology and Superstition"

June 9—"Mugwumps, Know-Nothings & Dolly Vardens"

June 10—A special Sunday tour "Capitol Connections"

June 16—Annual Members Meeting

June 30—What's Blooming in Hamilton Square

July 8—"Tourist in Your Own Town" tour on Sunday

July 28—What's Blooming in Hamilton Square

August 4—"As the Cemetery Turns"

August 19—"Sakura-Mento: Japanese Americans in the River City" on Sunday

August 25—What's Blooming in Hamilton Square

September 1—"A Dozen Ways to Die—the Saga Continues"

September 15—"Medicine in the Old West"