



West Sacramento Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER — MARCH/APRIL 2006**

P.O. Box 1202, West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone 374-1849 Museum/Visitors Center, 324 Third Street, Broderick 95605  
Open Thurs/Fridays 10 am - 4 p.m. & Sat/Sundays 12 noon - 4 p.m. Visit our website at [www.westsachistoricalociety.org](http://www.westsachistoricalociety.org)

## **Sacramento Northern Railroad Exhibit Opening & First Anniversary of Museum Celebrated!**

**(see insert for more photos and information)**

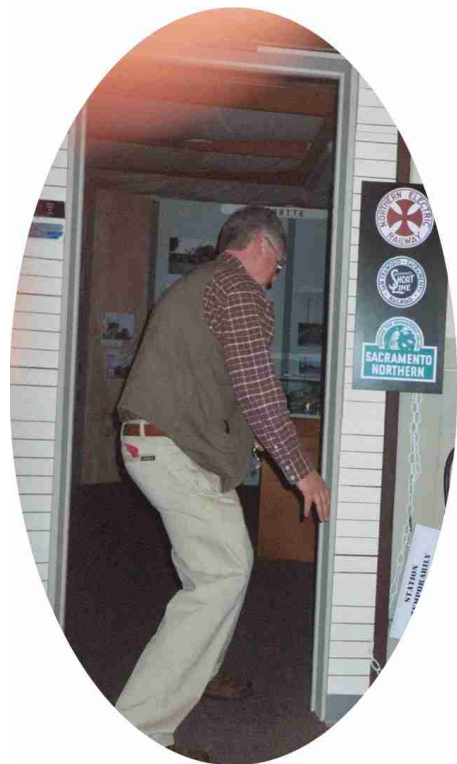
On Saturday, February 11, 2006, a full house of visitors first enjoyed a presentation by author Paul Trimble, followed by the official opening of the excellent historic train exhibit with President Thom Lewis, who announced "All Abroad". Over 70 visitors signed in, with many of them bringing children to view how local families traveled in the early 1900s from the Bay area to Sacramento and even up to Chico on the trains. Paul Trimble, author of the recent publication *Northern Electric Railroad*, shared a variety of stories beginning with his mother's journey as a young child by herself in the Parlor Car of the Railroad from the Bay Area clear up north to spend a summer vacation with her grandparents. After an interesting

question and answer session, a celebration cake was cut and an assortment of fresh fruit and veggies was provided to all who entered the door of the Museum. This exhibit will be open to view until May 31, 2006 with Paul Trimble's book available to purchase at the museum.

A preview event was held the evening of February 3, 2006 with a film about the railroads shown in theater style. Additional viewing of the film will be scheduled during the spring. Check with the museum for dates and times.

Special thanks goes to Interim Director Lana Paulhamus for making arrangements for the above events. Lana announced that she will be taking a short leave from her duties at the Museum to visit family and take a trip to Ireland. Long time museum docent Mickey

Fausett will be filling in as Interim Director with Yvonne Majesko coordinating the docents' schedule. Call the museum at 374-1849 if you want to volunteer!



### **Newly Elected Officers:**

**President**- Verna Ellis  
(jimsgift3@aol.com  
phone 375-0160)

**1st VP** - Lana Paulhamus  
(lpaulhamus@earthlink.net  
phone 372-5117)

**2nd VP** - Mark Johannessen  
(Mfjlaw@attglobal.net  
phone 371-0661)

**Treasurer** - Cecilia Vasquez  
(phone 372-7438)

**Secretary** - Martha Mills  
(Marthamills@charter.net  
phone 373-1892)

**Immediate Past President** -  
Thom Lewis (thoml4@  
earthlink.net, phone 372-7438)

**Member-at-Large** - Joan  
Washburn (phone 371-0981)

Inauguration of the new officers will be at the March 21, 2006 general meeting.

**Historical Society Committee  
Chairs** - Louisa Vessell &  
Thom Lewis

**Museum Committee Chairs** -  
Lana Paulhamus &  
Mickey Fausett

**Programs & Field Trips** -  
Currently vacant

**Membership** - Mickey Fausett  
**Financial & Fundraising** -  
Junia Potter

**Archivist/Librarian** -  
Jeri Wingfield & Thom Lewis  
**Special Exhibitions** -  
Thom Lewis

**WSHS Historian** - Verna Ellis  
**Community Projects** -  
Martha Mills & Jeri Wingfield

**Oral History** - Mickey Fausett  
& Joan Washburn

**Fire Truck/Apparatus** -  
Roger Sorenson, Pat Stanley,  
Thom Lewis

**Newsletter** Sharon A. Freitas  
& Jack Schwab

**Publicity** - Louisa Vessell

**Website** - Martha Mills

**Consortium Representative** -  
Kathy Perrigo

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
SNR Exhibit Opening & Birthday Celebration	cover
Officers & Committees	cover
Special Exhibits report	2
Newsletter Information	2
Year-long Calendar	2
Year-End Museum Report for 2005	3
Consortium Meeting	3
Book Review "Verse By the Side of the Road"	3
Feb/Mar/April dates	back

See special insert with more photos, press release about SNR display and a membership form to give to a friend.

**Newsletter Committee Information**

Newsletter Committee Editor Sharon A. Freitas and Jack Schwab want to thank all of the WSHS members who either emailed or called with comments about the January/February 2006 issue. Both corrections and compliments were received that were very much appreciated. Some of the suggestions included adding the hours that the Museum and Visitors Center is open (see top of front page) and being sure to credit the writers of the various articles. Please feel free to contact the editor at either [safreitas@aol.com](mailto:safreitas@aol.com) or (916) 421-5768 if you have suggestions, comments and/or corrections to any of the issues.



**MEMBER INPUT NEEDED:**

It has been suggested that the WSHS newsletter could be emailed to some members instead of sending a hard copy by post mail. If you want your newsletter sent via email, please respond directly to the Newsletter Editor at [safreitas@aol.com](mailto:safreitas@aol.com) and request that you be made part of an email group and receive future issues via email. No paper copy of the newsletter would be mailed.

Your input is appreciated!

**Special Exhibitions Committee Update**

by Thom Lewis

The exhibit committee's next project will be for the Sacramento Sutter Club, 1200 9th Street, Sacramento. Last year we were invited to develop a display for this private club. It is scheduled from April through the end of May. The topic will be the history of the Port of Sacramento.

The next WSHS Museum exhibition after the Sacramento Northern Railroad Exhibit will be an exhibition on "Influential Women of West Sacramento."

**Archives update:**

A strict policy will be implemented to our 1993 collections management and policy procedures manual. If you are interested in documenting our archives and collections, please contact Thom Lewis at (916) 653-2943 or 372-7438.

**MARCH**

- 03/14/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting
- 03/21/06 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. General meeting

**APRIL**

- 04/11/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting
- 04/18/06 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. General meeting

**MAY**

- 05/09/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting
- 05/16/06 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. General meeting

**JUNE**

- 06/13/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting  
No general meeting
- 06/25/06 Sunday Participate in the San Pedro Association Festa in Bryte. Flyer/details with price, etc. later.

**JULY**

- 07/03/06 Annual BBQ with Lake Washington Sailing Club
- 07/11/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting  
No general meeting

**AUGUST**

- 08/08/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting  
No general meeting.

**SEPTEMBER**

- 09/12/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting
- 09/19/06 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
General meeting - 13th Birthday Celebration

**OCTOBER**

- 10/10/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting
- 10/17/06 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. General meeting

**NOVEMBER**

- 11/14/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting  
No general meeting

**DECEMBER**

- 12/03/06 Christmas Party TBA
- 12/12/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Executive meeting  
No general meeting

## **Museum 2005 Year End Report**

by Lana Paulhamus, Interim Director

- 30 docents volunteered 1,231 hours
- 1,278 visitors signed in at museum
- 306 volunteer hours by 10 San Pedro docents
- 29 community outreach/speaking engagements
- 2,293 estimated number of people reached
- \$343 raised by recycling efforts for museum.

**All of the above numbers would not have been reached if not for the many wonderful WSHS members who volunteer frequently, but more volunteers are needed as more programs are developed. Stop by and sign up today!**

### **CONSORTIUM MEETING HELD IN WEST SACRAMENTO** **JANUARY 19, 2006**

By Louisa R. Vessell

The West Sacramento Historical Society hosted the quarterly Consortium Meeting of local organizations with a luncheon and meeting place. This Consortium comprises the Sacramento regional historical societies and other organizations. The day began at 10:00 a.m. at the Margaret McDowell Senior Center with consortium representatives reporting on what their organizations were doing. In actuality, there were fourteen consortium representatives since several of the attendees reported on multiple organizations. Four guests (Junia Potter, Martha Mills, Louisa R. Vessell and Joan Washburn) attended the meeting which was catered by the Sail Inn of West Sacramento. Kathy Perrigo, Junia Potter and Joan Washburn made all the arrangements for the meeting. They did an excellent job and the attendees were very appreciative of having their lunch served on real plates with silverware (first time) and all commented how much they enjoyed the meal. Organizations represented included:

African American Historical and Cultural Society  
Black Sacramento Cultural Center  
Camellia Symphony  
California Historic Cemetery Alliance  
Delta Alliance  
Elk Grove Historical Society  
Filipino American National Historical Society  
History Day  
Mission Oaks Historical Society  
Museum of Medical History  
Old City Cemetery Association  
Old Sacramento Schoolhouse  
Rancho del Paso Historical Society  
Sacramento Association of Museums  
Sacramento County Cemetery Advisory Commission  
Sacramento County Historical Society  
Sacramento River Delta Historical Society  
Sacramento Pioneer Association  
Sacramento Room of the Sacramento City Library  
West Sacramento Historical Society  
West Sacramento Historical Society Museum/Visitors Center  
Wilton Historical Society

Contact Chairperson Dr. Bob La Perriere at [Drbob@winfirst.com](mailto:Drbob@winfirst.com) for more information.

## *The Verse by the Side of the Road— The Story of Burma-Shave Signs and Jingles*

Author Frank Rowsome, Jr.,  
reviewed by Sharon A. Freitas,  
Newsletter Production Editor.

The Burma-Shave highway signs and rhymes have gone the way of the ice wagon, the steam locomotive whistle and other vanished sights and sounds whose memory sets America's heart strings vibrating with more than ordinary nostalgia. As a young child taking drives with my grandparents, I especially enjoyed first having Grandmamma read these poems to me, later writing them down and even trying to make up new ones. It would be a real catastrophe if one of the four signs happened to be missing but it also provided an opportunity for all riding in the car to fill in the blanks or create a new ending. In the Jan/Feb., 2006 WSHS newsletter, readers were invited to submit either Burma-Shave "couplets" they remembered or to make up some new ones. West Sacramento Historical Society member Yvonne Majesko responded with an entire book written originally in 1965 that not only contained the rhymes rated "top marks" as poetry from the 7000 sets originally planted in 43 states but also provides insights into the effects of automobile travel upon the American culture.

As promised, there will be two jingles in each issue of the WSHS 2006 newsletters:

**SLOW DOWN PA  
SAKES ALIVE  
MA MISSED SIGNS  
FOUR AND FIVE.**

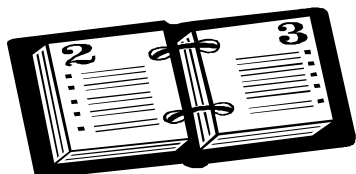
**REMEMBER THIS  
IF YOU'D BE SPARED  
TRAINS DON'T WHISTLE  
BECAUSE THEY'RE SCARED.**

Thank you Yvonne Majesko for sharing!

West Sacramento Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1202  
West Sacramento, California 95691  
Phone (916) 374-1849  
www.westsachhistoricalsociety.org

### DATED MATERIAL

*If a star appears near your address,  
your membership is now due. Please  
renew your membership as soon  
as possible.*



### **FEBRUARY**

02/26/06 Sunday 2 p.m.—Joint meeting of WSHS with the Yolo County Historical Society. A presentation about Yolo County's African American Historical Re-enactments performed by local students will begin the meeting, light refreshments. Senior Center, 664 Cummings, Broderick

### **MARCH**

03/14/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
Executive meeting

03/21/06 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
General meeting & inauguration of  
new officers.

### **APRIL**

04/11/06 Tuesday 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
Executive/Board meeting

04/18/06 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
General meeting

*All meetings are held at the West  
Sacramento Historical Society  
Museum and Visitors Center,  
324 Third Street, Broderick  
unless otherwise noted on the  
calendar. Changes in dates,  
locations, etc. will be added to  
the calendar in each future  
edition of the WSHS newsletter.*