

December 6, 2007

ELK GROVE SCHOOL CHILDREN TOUR THE SIKHS of WEST SACRAMENTO EXHIBIT

On Tuesday, December 4, 2007, the West Sacramento Historical Society Museum and Visitors Center opened for a tour of fourth grade students from the Ellen Feickert Elementary School which is in the Elk Grove Unified School District. The students were accompanied by their teachers, Nancy Harrison and William Lewis, and some parents. In all almost fifty individuals were on the tour. Dr. and Mrs. Jasvinder Badwalz helped organize and coordinate this event for the children as well as furnished the refreshments and snacks.

Hosting the event on behalf of the historical society were society members, Jeri Hughes Wingfield, Mickey Fausett, Charlotte Dorsey and Jim Brewer. Dr. Badwalz conducted the tour of the Sikhs of West Sacramento special exhibit and Mrs. Wingfield engaged the children with her explanations of the various displays in the main room of the museum. Some of the displays the children found most interesting were the old time tools found in the San Pedro display area and the old player piano which often prompted the question, "Where is the electricity to run it?" Fausett occupied the children with his stories of life in West Sacramento during earlier times and what it might be like during the frequent floods. Ms. Dorsey captured images of the event for publication on the historical society's website and a CD for the school. The expressions on the faces of the children as they learned about West Sacramento, the Sikhs, and early life on the river were testament to their interest. Parents and teachers alike came away with a new appreciation and understanding of life in old West Sacramento and the Sikh culture. Jim Brewer states, "I was impressed how the children were so attentive and interested in what Dr. Badwalz and Jeri Hughes Wingfield had to say. It was a wonderful experience to have so many children enjoy our museum and learn about West Sacramento. The children enjoyed Mickey's observations too."

Sikhism is a religion that originated in South Asia during the 15th Century and is distinct from both Islam and Hinduism. This exhibit highlights their history, religion, customs, traditional dress and musical instruments. The exhibition is made possible by the West Sacramento Sikh temple in cooperation with the West Sacramento Historical Society and will continue through March 2008.

The museum is located at 324 Third Street in the Broderick district of West Sacramento. Hours for the museum are Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Admission is free. For further information call Jim Brewer at 916-617-2288 or Jeri Hughes Wingfield at 916-371-7678 or 916-296-5616 or the museum at 916-372-1849. The website for the West Sacramento Historical Society is www.westsachistoricalociety.org.

The West Sacramento Historical Society and Museum and Visitors Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the history of West Sacramento and East Yolo County.