



The Clarksville COURIER

Vol. I No. 1

Clarksville Region Historical Society
www.edhhistory.org

Summer 2015



CLARKSVILLE REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS UPDATE

by Betty January,
President

Hello Everyone,

I thought it would be appropriate, here in our first issue of our newsletter, to update you all on what our historical society has accomplished, and what we have planned.

First, it will be at least two years before we can celebrate another Clarksville Day. The main obstacle is the lack of a parking lot at the site because of the construction of the Silva Valley Interchange. We are targeting May of 2017 to resume holding Clarksville Day. Meanwhile, we worry that the ghost town is being neglected.

Second, our main concern in the old ghost town is the preservation of the Red Barn. We are trying our best to protect the barn, which you will recall was the old Union Schoolhouse, by having the roof repaired, and we are thinking of shoring up the outer walls and renovating the tack room. I would like to thank Straight Line Roofing for their invaluable help in replacing the missing tin roof sheets with material kindly provided with a generous discount by Home Depot.

Third, I am happy to say that we raised enough money last year to completely replace the old barbed-wire fence at the Clarksville Cemetery, once known as the old Mormon Tavern cemetery, with wrought iron fencing, and recently we installed a matching gate. Much thanks goes to Linmoore Fencing, who came in with the low bid for the work.

At the moment we are taking bids for restoring the masonry columns that flank the gate entrance. Once this is done, we hope to install a decorative arch over the gate, with lettering that identifies the cemetery as the

“CLARKSVILLE CEMETERY” and the founding date.

The last of our immediate plans for the cemetery is the installation of several decorative concrete seating benches that will be put under the few trees in the cemetery. The decorative benches will be imprinted with donor names.

We have had the grass mown in several areas in Clarksville, and a path mown to and around the cemetery grounds recently, so as to reduce the fire danger.

Now that I have talked about recent developments, let's look at what we have we done during the two years since our last Clarksville Day.

1. The year before last we staged a Civil War commemoration at the Clarksville Cemetery, honoring our own Civil War veteran Corporal Sam E. Kyburz, who is buried in the cemetery. We had a very touching memorial re-enactment by the Cavalry, and a military flag presentation to one of his descendants.

2. We are a regular participant in the Strawberry Festival held at the El Dorado Hill Farms, located at Bass Lake Road and Highway 50, where last year we offered a strawberry treat and children's games. We were there again this year, on the last weekend of May.

3. We are happy to report that Vindler Realty of El Dorado Hills sponsored a tour of Clarksville Cemetery in June of last year, which was most successful.

4. We continue to participate in the Annual Folsom Railroad Festival, which is held every September, by having our booth at the festival. This year will be the celebration of the 150th birthday of the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad, The festival features train rides, antique equipment, model trains, food, music, and plenty to do for the kids.

5. This May we participated in the Folsom Museum “Lollapalooza” Heritage Day celebration with a booth in Old Town Folsom.

6. We teamed with Oak Ridge High School students to successfully create local history projects. CRHS Director Mike Roberts coordinated with ORHS History teacher Matt Hodgins to guide the students' projects.

(continued on page 2)

The effort spanned the semester, as the students dutifully researched their local history topics. At our April General Meeting at the library, three student teams presented the results of their research projects to the Society, and their presentations were enthusiastically received. Selected student papers will be archived in our Society library, as well as several video productions that were completed by the students.

8. We continue to hold our General Monthly Meetings featuring speakers of historical interest. Note that we have changed the monthly schedule. Responding to trends in meeting attendance, we will now meet the last Wednesday of the months of January through May, and the months of August through October.

9. The Society was pleased to be featured in the June issue of *Style Magazine*, with a nice article and a group photo of several board members, including yours truly.

Looking forward, the board is currently taking the time to define our future goals and the direction of the Society.

We have welcomed two new Board members, Jim Vindler and Doug Hus. Both have been great additions to our Board.

We are keeping in touch with the owners of the Clarksville property and arrangements are being made for the installation of a parking lot for the next Clarksville Day.

We are having the Historical Society website, edhhsistory.org, redesigned and updated.

We are developing historical video material for the new icell interactive kiosk installed in the El Dorado Hills Library.

We are investigating the possibility of obtaining grants in order to enable us to realize our Society's goals: (1) To identify and preserve documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest related to historic



Board members Hal Erpenbeck, Mike Roberts, Betty January and Janette Rogers-Booth as they appeared in the June issue of *Style Magazine*.

Clarksville and the surrounding region for its residents and the public; (2) To educate the public and increase public awareness of the historical significance of historic Clarksville and the surrounding region; and (3) To enlist public support for the historical preservation and display of documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest related to historic Clarksville and the surrounding region.

So you see that your Society is keeping busy, both offering you opportunities to learn about history, and taking the opportunity to preserve and protect the history that we have.

In closing, I want to thank all the Society Members and our valued Supporters for all their help in the past, and for their vision of the future.

Sincerely,

Betty January

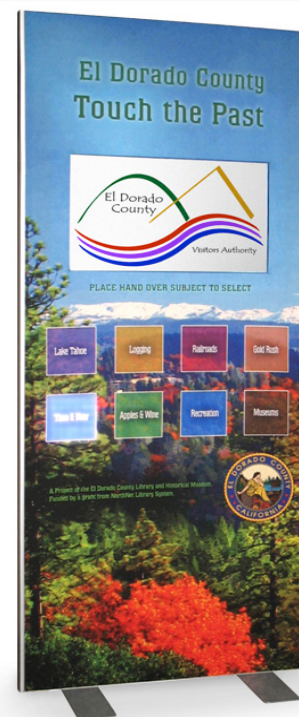


Photo of an icell interactive kiosk. When viewers touch one of the colored squares, which are labeled with a topic name, the related short informational video begins playing on the screen. The Historical Society is developing a "History" video to be installed on the icell in the El Dorado Hills Library.

The Clarksville Courier is published from time to time by the Clarksville Region Historical Society, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.

© 2015 All Rights Reserved.

John E. Thomson, Ph.D., Editor
doctorjet@aol.com