

# COLFAX COBBLESTONES

COLFAX AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FALL PHOTO GALLERY

### CAHS OFFICERS

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Helen Wayland

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Mel Couchman

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Dirk Gifford



**Central Pacific 1088**  
From glass negative  
Bacharach Estate



**NCNG Bear River Trestle**  
The Walter H. Keck Collection



**Railroad Days**  
Model Train Exhibit



**SP 4001**  
Early Cab-Forward Design  
The Walter H. Keck Collection

### CAHS HERITAGE MUSEUM

99 Railroad Street, in the Depot  
Open: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Daily  
CAHS members receive 10%  
discount in the Gift Shop.

### VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Museum help is always welcome,  
encouraged, and really needed.

Contact Helen Wayland at  
530-346-8599, or stop by the  
Museum.

### PROGRAM IDEAS

Members we need your help! Do  
you have an idea for a program? A  
passion for history you would like to  
share? Would you like to put on a  
program? If so, please contact Walt  
or Bonnie Wilson at 530-878-6640,  
or email them at

[bonwally@hotmail.com](mailto:bonwally@hotmail.com)



*The Cobblestones of Historic Events  
Pave the passing Years' Pathway*

See us on the Web at [www.ColfaxHistory.org](http://www.ColfaxHistory.org)

## BILL JAMES

### Iowa Hill's Pitching Sensation



William Lawrence "Seattle Bill" James was born March 12, 1892, in Iowa Hill, the third of four children of William and Emma James. Bill's father supported the family in the gold-mining industry in and around Iowa Hill. When Bill was 11 years old, the family moved 50 miles north to Oroville, where the senior James took on work as the manager of a dredge mining company.

During his three years at Oroville Union High School, he matured into a 6'3", 195 lb. pitching prodigy blessed with an exceptional fastball. After high school Bill briefly acquiesced to his parents' wishes that he become a mining engineer, like his father, and attended classes at St. Mary's College in Oakland. But when Seattle of the Northwestern League offered him a contract prior to the 1912 season, he left school for good.

The Seattle Giants opened the 1912 season the day after the *Titanic* sank. The Giants floundered in last place for the first two months. Then Northwest baseball legend Tealey Raymond took over as manager at mid-season, and "Seattle Bill" James won 15 games en route to a 27-win season. Taking 27 of their last 31 games, the Giants finished with a 99-66 mark and claimed the Northwestern League pennant.

In Seattle, James added a spitball and change of pace to his arsenal. James

pitching was key to Seattle winning the pennant in 1912, at one point reeling off 16 consecutive victories. At season's end, his 29-7 record and 2.17 ERA landed him a contract with the National League's Boston Braves. It also left him with the nickname "Seattle Bill," a moniker designed mostly to avoid confusion, as the 1912 Cleveland Naps already featured a "Big Bill" James and a William "Lefty" James. Around the Iowa Hill area and in Oroville he had been known as "Big Bill" James.

Going into 1913, the Braves had not enjoyed a single winning season since 1902 and had not finished within 50 games of first place since 1908. With the arrival of new manager George Stallings, the Braves showed modest improvement during James' rookie season, as the club climbed to fifth in the standings.

The critical role James played in the Boston uprising has undeservedly faded into obscurity. From July 9 until the end of the season, he went 19-1 with a 1.51 ERA. His only loss came on August 22 in Pittsburgh, when he was beaten 3-2 in 12 innings. He assembled the best season of any pitcher in the National League. In the World's Series, in a span of three days, James won two games, pitched 11 innings, and allowed just two hits.

He was such a uniquely gifted pitcher that John J. Ward of *Baseball Magazine* predicted, "The further acquisition of experience should [make him] one of the greatest all-round pitchers in history." When he wrote those words, Ward probably never could have imagined that this talented pitcher, who already had 32 major league wins behind him, had but five more in front of him.

James reported late to camp the following spring after a brief, but successful, holdout and it soon became apparent that he was a mere shadow of the pitcher who had dominated the league the previous year. By June, reduced velocity and flagging endurance forced James out of the starting rotation. After a poor relief appearance on July 30, he was shelved for the rest of the season.

The Braves hoped that a long winter's rest would restore strength to James' right

arm, but it was not to be. In the Spring of 1916 the 24-year-old pitcher was placed on the voluntary retired list. In all likelihood James suffered from a torn rotator cuff, a condition the medicine of the day was powerless to correct.

After undergoing numerous shoulder operations, James tried to return to the Braves in 1918 but the comeback was aborted before the start of the regular season. James pitched one game in relief for the Braves in 1919. He spent the next several years bouncing around the Pacific Coast League as a player and coach before Bill finished his career playing with the Sacramento Solons where he eventually became the manager. He retired from baseball in 1925.

In retirement Bill James lived in Oroville with his wife, Harriet Newman, whom he had married in 1924. The couple had one daughter, Janet, born in 1926. James worked as a truck driver for an oil company for several years and later as an assessor for Butte County. He died of a stroke on March 10, 1971, two days shy of his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday, and is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Oroville.

Bill James' Stats	
Pitcher	
<b>Born:</b> March 12, 1892 Iowa Hill, California	
<b>Died:</b> March 10, 1971 (age 78) Oroville, California	
<b>Batted:</b> Right	<b>Threw:</b> Right
MLB debut	
April 17, 1913 for the Boston Braves	
Last MLB appearance	
June 4, 1919 for the Boston Braves	
Career statistics	
<b>Win-loss record:</b> 37-21	
<b>Strikeouts:</b> 253	
<b>ERA:</b> 2.28	
Teams	
Boston Braves (1913–1915, 1919)	

Much of the information come from an article by David Jones. Other sources include the book, "The Road To Iowa Hill," by Sharon Balmain, Wikipedia, SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) and the Baseball-Almanac.



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We are just beginning the fall season and the Society is involved in many activities this time of year.

Our General Fall meeting will be on October 26, at 6:30 pm at the Depot. We are postponing our Fall Dinner because there were several other dinners that evening. Instead, we will have an ice cream social, like our last meeting. Our speaker for the evening will be Steve Coverston.

Our volunteers at the museum continue to aid and advise the traveling public and represent our community in a positive light.

It seems that our work at the archives is never done. We have restarted the

processing of the glass negative collection. Helen has been busy organizing the vast amount of material that has been moved. We have a goal of computerizing our archival records so that it will be easier to find things but that effort is just beginning. We intend to have an open house at the archives soon. The expansion of the archives has been one of our major goals this past year and we still have quite a bit of work remaining.

You will notice that the bull has a new set of horns. More on this further on in this issue.

Your continued participation as a member of the Society is critical to the continuation and growth of the Society. Please be sure to renew your membership and discuss with your

friends our museum and the various activities of the Society.

Thank you for your interest and participation in society projects and activities. If you have any ideas how we can be of service to the community and our local businesses, please let us know.

Please contact Bonnie Wilson (530-878-6640, email: [bonwally@hotmail.com](mailto:bonwally@hotmail.com)) with your ideas for program presentations.

*Swend L. Miller*

*President,*

*Colfax Area Historical Society  
(530-346-6960)*

## RECIPE FROM THE PAST

*Miss Leslie's<sup>1</sup> Pumpkin Pudding*

Take a pint of pumpkin that has been stewed soft, and pressed through a colander. Melt in half a pint of warm milk, a quarter of a pound of butter, and the same quantity of sugar, stirring them well together. If you can conveniently procure a pint of rich cream it will be better than the milk and butter. Beat eight eggs very light, and add them gradually to the other ingredients, alternately with the pumpkin. Then stir in a wine glass of rosewater<sup>2</sup> and a glass of wine mixed together; a large teaspoonful of powdered mace and cinnamon mixed, and a grated nutmeg. Having stirred the whole very hard, put it into a buttered dish and bake it three quarters of an hour. Eat it cold.

<sup>1</sup> Miss Leslie's Complete Cookery was published in 1851.

<sup>2</sup> Rosewater can be bought at Middle Eastern markets or a place like Whole Foods. Be sure to buy "Food Quality" rosewater. While the taste of rosewater was a very common and popular one in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, its perfume like flavor is not always appreciated in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Feel free to use vanilla instead.



*What is life? It is the flash of a  
firefly in the night.*

*It is the breath of a buffalo in the  
wintertime.*

*It is in the little shadow which runs  
across the grass  
and loses itself at sunset.*

*~ Crowfoot Blackfeet*



## \* \* \* MEA CULPA – I AM RESPONSIBLE!!! \* \* \*

Dear Reader,

You are now reading the Fall 2013 issue of the Colfax Cobbles. That's great. But you should have been reading this ten days ago. And that's my fault!

Yes, others contributed to the delays, but that's only an excuse. Oh, I had computer problems and I had to reinstall the software that I use to produce the Cobbles – just another excuse!

Above everything else, I didn't plan well for this issue, nor did I manage

the situation well. And, yes, that's my fault!

I promise you that I will make every effort to prevent this from happening again.

I am going to set a believable schedule and stick to it. In addition, I am going to do a much better job of managing other contributors – I have been a softie.

From now on articles and/or photos that have not been part of the planning for that issue must be in my hands **at least three weeks before**

**the go to printer date** (The go to printer date is three and one-half weeks before our next meeting.), and items that have been part of the planning process must be to me **at least two weeks before the go to printer date.**

I still want to be your editor. I hope you will give me that chance.

Thank you,

Mel Couchman

## BELOVED DOCTOR PASSES



Bacharach died in 2003.

Eells said her grandfather was a physician who emigrated from Germany to New York City. Her grandmother was Swiss, Eells said, and her father attended school for some years in Switzerland but graduated high school in New York. Theodore Bacharach became a physician as well, graduating from Syracuse Medical in 1946, serving in the military for 20 years and retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Eells said that thanks to her father, "We know how to work hard, take responsibility."

In July, a longtime resident of Colfax and a friend to many in the county, Dr. Theodore Bacharach, passed away at the age of 90 earlier this month. He was born in Frankfurt, Germany on May 29, 1923.

Dr. Bacharach came to Placer County in 1964 to practice as a pulmonary specialist at the Weimar Medical Center. Su Eells, now of Lincoln, Neb., said the family – her father, mother, Janet, and sisters, Ellen (already away at college) and Wendy, and herself – lived on the Weimar Center grounds when they first moved here. They later moved to a ranch on Tokayana Way where her father passed away July 10, 2013. Jan

In 1966, Dr. Bacharach was one of the physicians who founded Auburn Faith Community Hospital, now Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital.

CAHS member, Dick Wayland, said he had known Dr. Bacharach since he came to town and the two became very good friends. "He was a tremendous doctor, known all over the county and the northern part of the state for his work in pulmonary medicine," Wayland said. "Ted and I were fairly close and we enjoyed each other's company," talking not only about professional subjects but about the town and community as well.

Doug Farrago, owner and publisher of the web site, [authenticmedicine.com](http://authenticmedicine.com),

said on August 14<sup>th</sup>, "For many, many years I have been publishing the wise words of Dr. Ted Bacharach. What a great guy. His writings defined Authentic Medicine and no matter how simple or long they would be, I would always include them here. In fact, he wrote an entry only a month before he died, at the age of 90. I am saddened by this news. I appreciated his thoughts so much. It helped keep me, and many of my readers, grounded. You will be missed, Dr. Ted."

Dr. Bacharach was also a mentor to many of the young doctors in the community and for many years taught and mentored at the University of California, Davis, to both medical students and residents.

Dr. Bacharach is survived by daughters Su Eells and Wendy Polcher, of Lincoln, Neb., and Ellen Armstrong, of Colusa County; and six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. The family held a celebration of life Sunday, Aug. 4, at his home.

The information and photo come from an article by Martha Garcia, Editor, Colfax Record; Doug Farrago, owner and publisher of the web site, [authenticmedicine.com](http://authenticmedicine.com); and the Placer Nevada Medical Society

## ANOTHER MEMBER GONE



CAHS member Ruth Odetta (Parks) Gray passed away in her home in Colfax, on August 4, 2013, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on July 13, 1924 in St. Joseph, Missouri.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Charlie; children, Jennifer Peatman, Chuck Gray, Alan Gray and Judy Davis; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She worked at the public library and Quaker Oats after high school, and in 1943, met

her brother's best friend, Charlie. They were married in 1947 in St. Joseph and moved to Portland, Ore., Walla Walla, and Spokane, Wash., until 1955. Then a new job took them to Southern California, where they raised their children.

In 2000, they moved to Colfax and attended Colfax Baptist Church. Ruth enjoyed volunteering in the American Legion Auxiliary throughout her life. She will be missed by all.

The above information is based on obituaries in The Colfax Record and the St. Joseph News-Press.

## SAD NEWS



It was recently learned that Mel Henderson, a native of Colfax, has passed away. An article covering Mel, his life, and what he meant to our community

will appear in the next issue of Colfax Cobblestones.



**NEW MEMBERS*****Welcome!!!*****BOARD MEETINGS**

- January 16, 2014
- April 10, 2014
- June 19, 2014
- October 11, 2014

All Board Meetings are on Thursdays at 10 am in the Depot.

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

- October 26, 2013 – Ice Cream Social
- February 21, 2014
- May 17, 2014
- July 26, 2014 – Ice Cream Social

**FALL MEETING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

An Ice Cream Social and general meeting will be held on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Depot.

Our speaker will be Steve Coverston. Mr. Coverston grew up in Auburn and taught drafting and fine arts at Colfax High School for over 30 years. His students produced a calendar every

year with historical drawings. He still teaches at Placer Adult School. He will have some of his own work for sale.

**ARTICLES AND PHOTOS**

Dear Readers,

We need your help with articles and/or photos for the Cobblestones. Several members have supplied me with outlines of articles they wanted to be included the next Cobblestones. They also provided me with photos and additional information, or information on sources where I can obtain these items. This has worked out very well.

I am hoping that this simplified approach will encourage more of you to suggest articles for the Cobblestones. To send outlines, articles and photos you can email them to [melcouch57@peoplepc.com](mailto:melcouch57@peoplepc.com) (subject line "Cobblestones"), snail mail me at 113 Mink Creek Drive, Colfax 95713, or drop items off at the museum and call me at 530-346-2394.

***(Continued on the right)***

**RAILROAD DAYS - 2013****AT THE MUSEUM**

Railroad Days brought people from near and far, old-timers and young families. We thank the Lyrical Locos, volunteers who brought cookies; and the museum volunteers who answered questions, sold books and treats and worked very hard keeping the museum open.

Over 120 came through our doors, some who joined our Society. Our visitors were pleased by our efforts and the museum. Many promised to come back next year.

On another matter, a week or so ago, the Museum's total (2007 – 2013) visitors count passed 71,000.

All non-electronic items will be returned to you, provided you tell me how and where. Next deadline for articles and photos is **January 31, 2014**. Thank you!

**VISITORS**

Two very interesting and friendly visitors to Railroad Days were Frank Baldasar and Shorty Dawes, shown below. Both were foremen at Southern Pacific.

Frank worked there for 43 years and Shorty for 34 years. They both emphasized that it was Southern Pacific and not Union Pacific when they worked there.



## MEMORIAL GIVING TO CAHS

Colfax Area Historical Society  
welcomes gifts and memorials  
in honor or in memory of  
loved ones and friends. To  
make a gift please include  
your check with the form on  
the right and mail to:

Colfax Area Historical Society  
Attention:  
Memorials Secretary  
P O Box 185  
Colfax, CA 95713-0185

### Gift in Honor or in Memory

Of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



## HUBLEY

### COLLECTION PHOTOS



## NEW BULL HORNS

Earl Barrett and Ted S. Krumbach of Colfax noticed that the bull horns had been vandalized and decided that this was an unacceptable and detrimental reflection on the true pride of our community. They took the initiative of designing and making the horns that are now mounted on the bull.

The horns are made from manzanita branches and they look wonderful. The Society is grateful for their generosity and creative idea.



## SUMMER MEETING

Our regular Summer Meeting, which included an Ice Cream Social, was held on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Depot.

Scheduled to speak at the meeting was Mark Fagley, Manager of Operating Practices for Union Pacific Railroad. He was to discuss the recent derailment in Colfax and present a number of pictures of the accident.

However, because of unforeseen work demands, he was unable to join us. Walt Wilson did a superb job, filling in for him.

Walt obtained photos from several local sources and, together with an informative narrative, filled the bill completely. Thank you Walt.

And thanks too, to those who provided the cookies and the ice cream, helped serve and do the clean up.



## PHOTO CREDITS

Photos without attribution were provided by Ken Fletcher, Nancy Hagman and Lynda Couchman.



**CAHS MEMBERSHIP – JOIN US****Objectives:**

To support and promote educational and research activities and interest in the history of the Colfax area; to promote and establish a local museum; to work with other Historical Societies and local groups; to discover, collect and make accessible to the public historical facts and objects; to mark places and buildings of historical interest in the Colfax area and catalog such markers in an orderly manner; to register historical landmarks and buildings; to accept gifts and donations from the public and other organizations; and

to raise funds to accomplish all the above.

**Meetings:**

General Meetings: 4/ year  
Locations will be announced.

Board of Directors: 4/year  
Located in the Depot at  
99 Railroad Avenue, Colfax

**Membership and Annual Dues:**

Regular (single) Member :	\$15.00
Family (including children):	\$25.00
Junior (not included in Family):	\$5.00
Business (includes ad)	\$30.00
Non-profit Organizations	\$30.00

Additional contributions are always welcome.

Dues apply to the fiscal year, July 1 to June 30, and are tax-deductible. Members receive a membership card, quarterly issues of the Colfax Cobblestones, and a 10% discount at the Gift Shop in the Museum.

Make checks payable to: Colfax Area Historical Society. Please send check with your name, address, phone, email address, membership class, and amount enclosed to: CAHS, P.O. Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713, or go to the Museum to sign up.

**THE ARCHIVES**

Much is going on at the new Archives. It looks great (the photo above with Lorraine Simpson and Ken Fletcher) and, although it seems very well orga-

nized, Helen tells me there is still much to do. So, if you would like to help, or just want to see what's been done, there is someone in the Archives from 9:00 am until 11:00 am on Wednesdays.

The Archive staff plans to hold an open house in the near future. In addition, they would like to have the Archives open to the public at least one day a month. And, if possible, would like to have some items available for loan on a lending-library basis.

For laughs I have included a photo of how the Archives looked right after everything was moved in (below).

**FUN LINKS & INFORMATION**

Donner Pass Historical Rendezvous:  
[www.DonnerSummitHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.DonnerSummitHistoricalSociety.org)

Placer Sierra Railroad Heritage Society: [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

Leave a Legacy: [www.snla.org](http://www.snla.org)

Sierra Nevada Virtual Museum: [www.sierranavadavirtualmuseum.com](http://www.sierranavadavirtualmuseum.com)

Historic Hwy 49 Photos: [www.HistoricHwy49.com](http://www.HistoricHwy49.com)

Gold Rush Stories:  
[http://nevada-outback-gems.com/gold\\_rush\\_tales/california\\_gold\\_rush1.htm](http://nevada-outback-gems.com/gold_rush_tales/california_gold_rush1.htm)



Do you have any stories or photos you would like to share?

Please email them to the editor at:  
[melcouch57@peoplepc.com](mailto:melcouch57@peoplepc.com)

Subject line: Cobblestones

See us on the Web at [www.ColfaxHistory.org](http://www.ColfaxHistory.org)



# COLFAX AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 185  
Colfax, CA 95713

Visit Our Museum  
Located in the Depot  
99 Railroad Street  
530-346-8599  
10am – 3pm Daily



## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

American Legion Colfax Post 192 P.O. Box 311 Colfax, CA 95713	Teri Andrews-Murch Realtor w/Lyon Real Estate 1900 Grass Valley Hwy Suite 100, Auburn Direct: 530-798-0215 <a href="mailto:tandrewsmurch@golygon.com">tandrewsmurch@golygon.com</a> <a href="http://www.FoothillsHotProperties.com">www.FoothillsHotProperties.com</a>	Colfax Dental Center 120 Whitcomb Avenue P.O. Box 1080 Colfax, CA 95713 346-6244	Colfax Elementary School District P.O. Box 1080 Colfax, CA 95713 530-346-6244
Colfax Garden Club P.O. Box 1801 Colfax, CA 95713 346-8561 <a href="mailto:forgivenami@cablewave.com">forgivenami@cablewave.com</a>	Kurtis H. Fox, M.D., Inc. P.O. Box 1199 Colfax, CA 95713 346-2281	Pick-A-Flick Video P.O. Box 29 (6 N. Main Street) Colfax, Ca 95713 530-346-8808	Placer County Historical Society P.O. Box 5643 Auburn, CA 95604
Sierra Vista Community Center P.O. Box 88 (55 School Street) Colfax 530-346-8726	Sierra Business Service James and Barbara Kelly 520-D So. Auburn Street Colfax, CA 95713 346-2455 <a href="mailto:barbkelly@foothill.net">barbkelly@foothill.net</a>	VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 2003 P.O. Box 1213 Colfax, CA 95713 (Pres.) 636-4242	