

### Museum News (Continued)

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is a proud core partner along with other major cultural groups. We will feature "California Invites the World" coming directly to us from the Capitol Museum in Sacramento. It contains a magnificent display of Panama Pacific artifacts lent to us by the California State Library and private collectors. There is a great color DVD of the exposition and a very funny 1915 silent film featuring two popular comedians of that era who visited the fair.

**On May 14, 2015** at 7 pm in the Danville Library, Laura Ackley, author of a brand new book, San Francisco's Jewel City, will take us on a tour of the exposition using beautiful color photographs.

Do not miss this exhibit or Laura Ackley!

**May 12 - June 28:** Museum of the San Ramon Valley 30th Anniversary - a waiting room exhibit

**June 27 - August 23:** Trains

**August 29 - September 26:** Journey Stories

#### Town of Danville Tours

To schedule a tour, please call Eve/Donna at the museum at (925) 837-3750

#### General

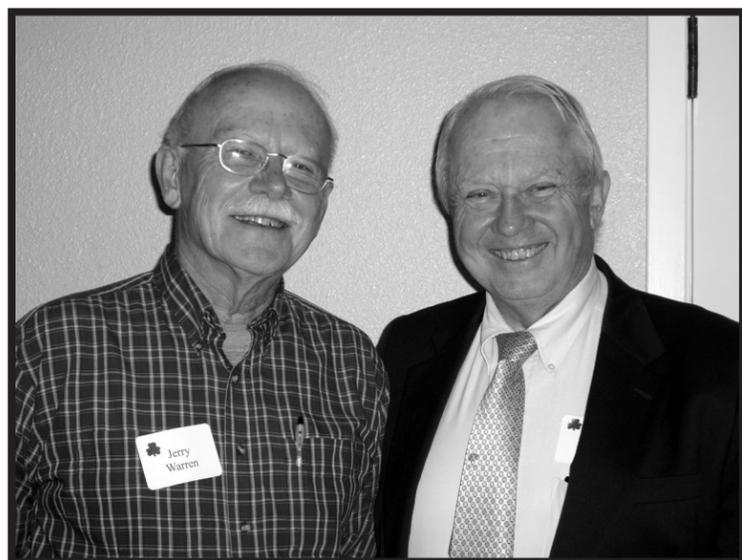
When the Museum is open, a trained docent is always on duty and can provide exhibit tours for visitors who drop in. Reserved tours are available during open or closed hours by appointment. Large groups are encouraged to call ahead to assure that a docent is available specifically for your group.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is located on the southwest corner of Prospect and Railroad Avenues [P.O. Box 39, Danville, CA, 94526, (925) 837-3750]. Hours: 1-4 pm Tuesday-Friday, 10 am.-1 pm. Saturday.



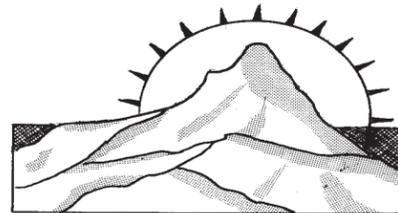
**Need a Ride To The Society Meeting On May 20th? Contact Bill Lloyd.  
Visit — [SRVHistoricalSociety.org](http://SRVHistoricalSociety.org)**

*Over 44 Years Looking Back!*



**Jerry Warren and Arnold Kuntz**

## SAN RAMON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



May 2015

ALAMO · BLACKHAWK · DANVILLE · DIABLO · SAN RAMON

### The "Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln" Was Shared By Arnold Kunst At Our March 19th Dinner Meeting.

Arnold holds an MA degree from Queens University in Northern Ireland. His career includes teaching, freelance journalist, professional musician, business owner, grant writer, house painter, and Hospice volunteer. His students have included adult convicted felons and children of cabinet ministers. He lives in Sacramento with his wife, two children, and two grandchildren.

Arnold's new book is entitled Lincoln 365. The book contains snippets of Lincoln's comments, speeches, and thoughts. His thoughts and problems are explored. Arnold also produced a Compact Disc with information included in his book. The information is presented in random order.

Arnold related several of the snippets and the stories behind them. The snippets and their stories describe a man with a sense of purpose, of humor, and concern for his country. Arnold concluded that Lincoln suffered from chronic clinical depression. Lincoln's seventeen year law partner noted that Lincoln drifted into melancholy.

From his Springfield law office window, Lincoln observed a finely attired matron, complete with feathered hat, slip while crossing the muddy street. The scene that ensued reminded him of a duck.

Lincoln's illiterate father was cheated in shoddy land practices. In their one room cabin, nine year old Abe watched his mother die a slow agonizing death. His sister died in child birth before the age of twenty.

Incidents like these were the basis for his stress. His life's events were usually dark. He chose to cope with the depression with humor. His recall and storytelling ability were legendary.

He was 6'4" tall and weighed 180 pounds. He was known for his stovepipe hat, not for his good looks, a situation he could not correct.

Arnold related some of Lincoln's humor.

The answer to the question of how many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg is still four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### The History Of The Iron Horse Trail — Will Be The Enjoyable Topic At Our May 20th Dinner Meeting

For the last 124 years in the San Ramon Valley, one of our major landmarks was first a railroad line and later a key hiking trail. Known today as the Iron Horse Trail, it was initially the route of the Southern Pacific San Ramon Branch Line Railroad. At our May meeting Jim Townsend from the East Bay Regional Park District will share the history of this fascinating piece of real estate that threads between all the communities of the Valley tying them together in one cloth.

Jim Townsend is the East Bay Parks Trails Development Program Manager overseeing all 32 miles of the trail and learning a great deal about it since assuming this role. He has presented his program for other groups with excellent response. So come learn more about this historic multiuse trail first blazed back in 1891 and repurposed after 1978 when the railroad line closed up shop for good.

**Please note the change of meeting day to Wednesday, May 20, 2015.** The meeting will be held at the San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane in San Ramon. We will gather at 6:30 pm, eat at 7:00 pm, and enjoy our speaker. We hope to see you there.

### The "Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln" (Continued)

Upon hearing the comment that God Almighty and Lincoln are going to save this country, he remarked, 'My friend, you are half right.'

After spending an evening at the White House, an old friend from Springfield asked how it felt to be President of the United States. Lincoln replied by telling of the man who was tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail. The man was asked how he liked it and replied that if it were not for the honor of the thing, he would much rather walk.

When Lincoln ran for congress in 1846, his Democratic opponent was a fire-and-brimstone preacher named Peter Cartwright. The story goes that during the course of the campaign, Lincoln went to one of Cartwright's services. At one point during the service, Preacher Cartwright asked that all who desired to give their lives to God and go to heaven to stand. Everyone stood - except Lincoln. Cartwright then asked those who did not wish to go to hell to stand. Again everyone stood - except Lincoln. Cartwright was aware that Lincoln was in the congregation and pointedly asked where exactly did he intend to go? Lincoln replied that he had come as a respectful listener and did know he would be singled out. He believed in treating religious matters with due solemnity. He admitted that the questions were very important, but he did not feel the need to answer. But were he asked directly by Brother Cartwright he would reply, "I am going to Congress."

Lincoln's two sons, Willie and Tad, held a solemn court martial for a soldier named Jack. Jack was found guilty of desertion, and sentenced to death by firing squad. The boys quickly realized that that would require a burial in the rose garden which would anger the gardener. The thoughtful boys took their problem to their father. On Executive Mansion stationary the President wrote an official pardon for doll Jack. The pardon was signed "A Lincoln."

Lincoln was once dismissed by an acquaintance who said he could not understand Lincoln's speeches. Lincoln replied that there were always some fleas a dog could not reach.

One of Lincoln's favorite quotes was by Buddha, 'He is able who thinks he is able.'

Lincoln once was asked for a comment for a new book. Lincoln responded with, 'well for someone who would like that sort of thing, I think it is the sort of thing he would like.'

In response to a question, Arnold said the Lincoln was a complete and total politician. He ate and slept politics. He loved formulating ideas and writing letters to gain support.

He studied law after he was elected to the Illinois State Legislature at age 25. He was told that he had better be a lawyer if he were going to be in politics. He then did what he had done earlier. He got some books and studied the law. He had earlier taught himself to read and write, Euclidean Geometry, etc.

The Presidency was a late blooming idea. Lincoln was driven to be successful in each undertaking.

### Museum News

#### May 5 - June 20: "California Invites the World: The 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition" - from Sacramento's Capitol Museum

Come celebrate 100 years of innovation and wonder with us! Back in 1915 the San Francisco Bay Area was very excited about the Panama Pacific International Exposition. The Panama Canal had opened in 1913. San Francisco had proudly rebuilt after the 1906 Earthquake. The City hosted a grand exposition that drew nearly 19,000,000 visitors in only 9 months. It happened in what we now know as the Marina District. Visitors rode the enormous Aeroscope, watched aeroplanes soar in loops overhead and dive earthward, saw a phenomenal light show and rubbed shoulders with many luminaries such as Luther Burbank, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, President Theodore Roosevelt. Even the famous Liberty Bell came to San Francisco. Now in 2015, the same region has again mounted a kaleidoscope of attractions to celebrate anew that same spirit of innovation with an equal measure of enthusiasm just as in 1915.

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### The Sales Table — Nancy Ramsey

(Nancy Ramsey)

Packets of cards depicting Mount Diablo, Front Street, Southern Pacific Depot, Tassajara School, "Grand Dames" of San Ramon, Alamo Grammar School 1876, and a collection of assorted historical scenes are available. Each packet contains 8 cards and 8 envelopes. Member price - \$3.50 per packet. Historic scene postcards are \$0.20 each.

Do stop by the Sales Table.

Need a Ride  
To The Society Meeting  
On May 20th?  
Contact Bill Lloyd.

Visit — [SRVHistoricalSociety.org](http://SRVHistoricalSociety.org)

**R E C O R D**

Published by  
San Ramon Valley Historical Society  
Founded 1970  
P.O. Box 521, Danville, CA 94526

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### Member's Memorial Gift

NAMES HONORED BY MEMORIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS, AND NAMES OF DONORS, ARE ENTERED IN A BOOK OF MEMORY AND WILL BE PLACED IN OUR MUSEUM. For tax purposes, we are a non-profit organization. You may make your donation to the Society or to the Museum — Please check box, below.

Make check to: San Ramon Valley Historical Society Memorial Fund.  
 Mail to: SAN RAMON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 521, Danville, CA 94526  
 This contribution to the Society REMEMBERS ( ), HONORS ( ),  
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### Dinner Reservations

\$20.00 per person

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO S.R.V.H.S. (Deadline May 18, 2015)  
 Mail to: S.R.V.H.S., P.O. Box 521, Danville, CA 94526

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Wednesday, May 20, 7 p.m.

San Ramon Royal Vista Golf Clubhouse  
 9430 Fircrest Lane  
 (North off Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon)