

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



NCGS DINNER MEETING

The adventures of Clarence King (First USGS Director) and his survey of the 40th parallel

Wednesday May 30, 2007

Speaker: **Dr. James G. Moore**, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park (Retired)

6:00 pm at Orinda Masonic Center

(Reservations are required by May 25, 2007)

We are sorry but we will not be able to accommodate "Walk-Ins"

The **Northern California Geological Society** is pleased to announce that once again we will be stepping out of our normal meeting routine. Come join the **NCGS** at this *special dinner and evening* with **Dr. James G. Moore**. Step back in time with us and come listen to Dr. Moore speak about the adventurous time of geologic exploration by Clarence King and the survey of the 40th parallel. Jim reports that he will have a supply of books on hand for purchase (And since he wrote the book, we think he might even consider autographing them!).

For this special event, planned for our normal monthly meeting date, but **starting one-half hour early**, we will be in typical NCGS style, with a delicious entrée of **Teriyaki sesame chicken**, with garden and Caesar salads, rolls & butter, and cheese ravioli with a Fettuccini Alfredo sauce. For vegetarian dinners **Vegetarian Lasagna** will be served in place of the Teriyaki Chicken. Desert will include cookies, brownies, fruit bars/carrot cake. Early reports are that we may again be blessed with wines from **Rosenblum Cellars** of Alameda. Please note that a vegetarian option is only available if notified ahead (see attached form).

Abstract: *The adventures of Clarence King (First USGS Director) and his survey of the 40th parallel*

"King of the 40th Parallel—Discovery in the American West", was published in 2006 and chronicles the adventures of Clarence King, the founding director of the USGS. The book recounts the life and achievements of Clarence King, widely recognized as one of the most gifted Americans of his era. King's genius, singular accomplishments, and near-death adventures unfold in a narrative centered on his personal relationship with his lifelong friend, James Gardner. The book covers the adventurous aspects of conducting geological fieldwork in the West, much of it documented by letters written by King and Gardner. The book is copiously illustrated with 150 historical maps, etchings, and historic photographs showing localities and people important to the story. (For more details see: http://www.sup.org/book.cgi?book_id=5222%205223)

Clarence King was fascinated with volcanoes. Through the close association with two of his Yale professors, James Dana and George Brush, he was captivated by stories of Mount Shasta, and this motivated him and his friend James Gardner to cross the continent by wagon train. He climbed Mount Lassen twice in 1863 and seven

years later climbed Mount Shasta. He found there the first active glaciers discovered in the nation. Because of this discovery he sent geologists Samuel Emmons to the unclimbed Mount Rainier and Arnold Hague to Mount Hood. They also discovered moving glaciers. In 1872 King studied the active lava lake in the fire pit Halemaumau at Kilauea volcano.

At the age of 25 he commanded the Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel, a survey program that mapped a 100-mile-wide strip across the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains on the planned railroad route. King's leadership and the series of landmark maps and monographs that he prepared and edited set the standard for excellence in earth science practice and publishing. When the existing four federal surveys were combined in 1879 to create the U.S. Geological Survey, King was the clear choice for Director of the new agency.

Biography: Dr. James G. Moore, now retired from the U. S. Geological survey, received his BS in geology from Stanford University, MS from the University of Washington, and Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

He has conducted geologic studies for several decades in the central Sierra Nevada with the U. S. Geological Survey, and this familiarity with the area motivated him to write a book published by Stanford University Press titled, "Exploring the Highest Sierra" (see: <http://www.geotimes.org/feb01/geomedia.html#review2>). The book weaves together the history of exploration and mapping of the range with the development of pioneering geologic concepts, such as the glacial origin of the giant Sierra canyons, and the magmatic origin of the granitic rock that dominates the range. Another recently published book: "King of the 40th Parallel—Discovery in the American West" recounts the adventures of Clarence King who became the first director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Jim served as Scientist-in-Charge of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory and has gone on to investigate about 20 on-going volcanic eruptions world-wide. He has participated in about 25 oceanographic cruises and in 50 dives in research submarines mostly to investigate volcanic rocks on the submerged flanks of young volcanoes.

***** Dinner Logistics *****

Meeting Details: Social Hour: 6:00 – 7:00 pm; Dinner: 7:00 – 8:00 pm Presentation: 8:00 – open

Time: May 30, 2007, 6:00 pm, Orinda Masonic Center 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA.

Cost: \$ 20/person

*****REGISTRATION FORM (Dr. James Moore Dinner) *****

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone (day): _____ Phone (evening): _____

Dinner: Regular: _____ Vegetarian: _____ (Please check one); Check Amount: _____

Please mail a check made out to **NCGS** to: **Tridib Guha**
5016 Gloucester Lane,
Martinez, CA 94553

Questions: e-mail: tridibguha@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (925) 370-0685 (evening - PREFERRED)
(925) 363-1999 (day)