

# *the ELK GROVE HOTEL REGISTER*

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## MAY MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 12 - TOPIC: GENEALOGY

Jeane Eddy Westin, well-known writer and author, will be the speaker at the May meeting of the Elk Grove Historical Society to be held on Tuesday, May 12. The Society members will meet at the home of Bob and Olga Batey at 9537 Batey Avenue at 7:30 PM. Mrs. Westin is the sister of Reno Dawson who teaches at Elk Grove Elementary School; her brother-in-law is Chester Dawson who is a counselor at Elk Grove High School.

HOW TO FIND YOUR FAMILY'S PLACE IN HISTORY - this is the topic Mrs. Westin has chosen for her talk to Society members. The author of numerous books and articles on a variety of topics, Mrs. Westin is also the author of a book on genealogy. Its title is Finding Your Roots, it was published in 1977, and its forward was written by John J. Stewart, founder and past president of The Genealogy Club of America. Her most recent work will be out soon - a book on the upcoming parent revolution.

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## A BUSY WEEK-END IN ELK GROVE AND SACRAMENTO

Western Festival, heading now for its 25th year of Elk Grove entertainment, has once again thrilled young and old alike with a variety of activities in a fun-filled week-end. It's time to be thinking of next year though for 1982 is the year for the Silver Celebration of Elk Grove's community spirit. Elk Grove Festival began as a way for families, children and teachers to get to know one another better in an event sponsored by the Elk Grove Elementary Mothers' Club. It was so successful that it has continued to be a community affair, much greater than its founders could have ever anticipated. Sue Mikles, member of the Elk Grove Historical Society, is the person who deserves the credit for all this as she was the president of the Mothers' Club way back in 1956-57 when it all started. (For many of us, it wasn't so long ago, was it?) This might be a good year for the Historical Society to research and document the early festival years so that 100 years from now, everyone will know how it all began.

Saturday, May 2, in addition to being a big day in Elk Grove, was also a big day in Old Sacramento with the opening of the 9-day RAILFAIR. The new Railroad Museum is absolutely spectacular, an unforgettable event for anyone who has already had occasion to go through it. Although many members had an early preview in February, a visit to the final version should be a must on everyone's calendar. The temptation to wait until the crowds go away is worth consideration, but one must also remember that many of the great trains to see will be in town only for a short time.

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Lillian Woodward, sponsored by Fran Cumpston

Renewals: Helen Mahon, Mr. & Mrs. Burt Smith, Mr & Mrs. Edward Phippen, Mr. & Mrs. William Cumpston

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## A VISIT TO THE RHOADS SCHOOL

A thank you to all the members of the Historical Society who served as guides for the hundreds of visitors to the Rhoads School over Western Festival Weekend. In talking to Tom Oliver, who handles park activities and events for Sacramento County, there is definitely a need for assistance with the school by an interested group such as ours. Due to a cutback in funds in the aftermath of Prop 13, all that the park folks are able to do is the maintenance on the school. People are always disappointed that they are unable to enter the school, but they just don't have the people to do it. Do we have enough interest among our members to train some volunteer docents so that the school could be open one Sunday a month during the summer? If this can be done, we may even be able to work with high school students as an on-going project. What do