In The Vein

It’s spring at Empire Mine, and all around the Park the flowers are in bloom! It’s also time for the annual Volunteer Training! And it’s always fun to see what the new “crop” of volunteers looks like!

When you get right down to it, this new “crop” is, in fact, the future of our Park!! These new volunteers are like the seniors in high school who, every spring, are told that they are the “future leaders of the world!” And it’s the truth! These volunteers will be our co-workers and our future replacements (much needed) as we senior-seniors slow down and gradually relinquish our much-loved jobs as tour leaders, garden workers, blacksmiths, etc. to others.

Training was provided on two different weekends this year, and “graduated” almost 50 VIPs (Volunteers in Parks) -- a new record in recent years! I had the opportunity to visit with several of the “graduates,” and I’m happy to tell you that, like Allstate, the Park appears to be in “good hands!” Here’s a \textit{Hearty Welcome to the Class of 2014!!!}

As this issue goes to press, approximately 100 Park Volunteers (who logged 50 or more hours last year) are looking forward to one of the two bus tours going to the Statewide Museum Collections Center in McClellan, CA. Sponsored by EMPA, in appreciation for their dedication to the Park, the VIP’s will be given a guided tour of this new facility.

This Collection Center serves the Park’s goals of “preservation and access to the cultural resources held in trust for the people of California,” storing approximately 1.5 million historic objects and 2 million artifacts. Items include an old stagecoach that ran between Grass Valley and Nevada City, Native American dugout canoes, 3,500 California Indian baskets dating from 1890 to 1930, old barber chairs, Civil War-era canteens, silk dresses and hats worn by California settlers — including an outfit worn by a member of the Donner Party. Sounds interesting!

We wish them a fun, fruitful and safe trip!

\textit{Larry Skinner}
For several years I have been an interpreter for Cottage Living History; therefore, I have had the opportunity to become familiar with some of the people who would have been guests of the Bourns. One of the “calling cards” given to our visitors is “Mrs. George Hearst” or Phoebe Apperson Hearst. She lived near Sarah Bourn in San Francisco, and mining interests of the two families may have been the “connection” that lasted for many years. Traveling to Grass Valley in 1905 might have felt like going home to Missouri.

Phoebe, or Mrs. Hearst as she would have been presented in the Bourn’s presence, was born Phoebe Elizabeth Apperson in Franklin County, Missouri, on December 3, 1842. She loved learning and walked 3 ½ miles to attend a rural school. In 1855 the Appersons were living in a small log cabin, 18 feet by 16 feet, with a very small lean-to kitchen. She was seventeen or eighteen and was teaching school when she met her future husband, George. He was twenty-one years older (born in 1821 in Franklin County). Having worked the mines and farms in Missouri, he journeyed to California in 1850. Ten years later, he returned home to see his ill mother and to attend to his finances in Missouri when he met and fell in love with Phoebe. Despite great objections from her family, Phoebe and George married on June 15, 1862, and they were off to San Francisco by way of New York and Panama. She had no idea of her husband’s financial status at this point!

Back in 1851, George had come to Grass Valley where he and a partner located the second Potosi ledge in Gold Flat between Nevada City and Grass Valley, and in 1854, he began mining the Le Compton three miles above Nevada City in Willow Valley. These mines were quite profitable. He bought and sold claims in western Nevada County and then in the Comstock Lode that had been discovered near Virginia City, Nevada, in 1859—around the same time that William Bourn Sr. was also investing in those areas. George was becoming a very rich man before he met and married Phoebe.

In San Francisco, Phoebe began studying art, architecture, French, history and politics and she was involved in the social life of the city. Her son, William Randolph Hearst, was born April 29, 1863. (William Bourn, Jr. would have been around six years old.) When George was in Sacramento as a State Assemblyman, Phoebe enjoyed the political life. In contrast, when George’s business took him to the mountains, she sometimes traveled with him riding horseback. Their first homes were in the finest hotels of San Francisco – the Lick House and Stevenson Hotel – followed by purchases of a home on Rincon Hill and a farm in the Santa Clara Valley. By 1865, George purchased their Chestnut Street house (near Taylor Street where the Bourns lived). In 1873 she rented out this home and traveled with her ten-year old son to Missouri, New York, Boston, Washington and on to Europe —England, Ireland, Scotland, Paris, Berlin, and Rome. Both mother and son began to cultivate their love of art and architecture. This was the first of many trips to Europe for Phoebe and her son. Upon their return in 1874, George’s finances were in trouble. Phoebe sold their home, horses and carriages, and discharged all the servants. The 1880 census shows the family of three living in a boarding house, the Baldwin Hotel on Market Street, where George was listed as a “Mining Expert.” When his investments turned around once more and they were again worth a fortune, they moved to a mansion on Van Ness Avenue. Others in San Francisco, however, were experiencing poverty, so the Hearsts gave to those in need – George to miners and Phoebe to women and children’s causes. She helped establish the first free kindergartens – and the beginning of many from California to Washington to Montana and South Dakota — wherever George went she followed and started a kindergarten.
In 1886, George was appointed United States Senator. He left his mining endeavors and gave the San Francisco Examiner to his son, William Randolph Hearst, thinking that the property had little value. The Hearst's Washington home was beautiful and interesting and they enjoyed the political and social life. However, five years later, George’s life ended. He died in Washington D.C. on February 28, 1891. This left the young, grieving widow with a great fortune and tremendous responsibility.

Her philanthropic work continued in Washington where she built the National Cathedral School for Girls and refurbished Mount Vernon. She contributed to the establishment of the National Congress of Mothers and became a co-founder of the PTA, the National Parent Teacher Association. Back home in California she became the first woman Regent of the University of California where she served on the board from 1897 until her death. At the University of California, Berkeley, she built the Hearst Building of Mines and Mining in memory of George. She contributed to the beautification of the grounds of the University as well and involved herself in the well-being of the students.

One of the properties George had purchased was in Alameda County in a rather remote area. In the 1890’s, their son, William, decided to build a hunting lodge on the land, but he then moved to New York, and Phoebe took over the project requesting Julia Morgan’s expertise. Phoebe and Julia produced the beautiful Hacienda del Pozo de Verona and this Pleasanton home is where she lived for the rest of her life. Here she invited people to stay and established a young girls’ camp in the back portion of the property. When a permanent place was needed for her newly formed Young Women’s Christian Association, she worked with Julia Morgan to establish Asilomar on the Monterey peninsula.

In 1903, her son married at age 40, and in the next few years Phoebe became the grandmother of his five sons. She loved that role and the children visited her often – traveling from New York. In 1910, Phoebe lived in the “Hearst Castle,” as the hacienda was called in that year’s census, with 31 servants and three grandsons. Sometimes the boys went with their grandmother to Wyntoon, Mrs. Hearst’s magnificent castle on the McCloud River, or to the ranch at San Simeon where they camped, fished, and rode horses.

Phoebe Apperson Hearst died at her Pleasanton estate on April 12, 1919, at age 77, during the worldwide influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. She was buried at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Colma, San Mateo County, California, beside her husband. The Bourns would have mourned her death as a loss of a good friend.

Sources:

- Ancestry.com: various documents stored in the public database, including 1870, 1880, and 1910 censuses & photos.
- “George Hearst: Gold and Silver Miner, Agriculturalist and U.S. Senator,” Timelines, The Union, Thursday, April 21, 2011.
Spring is Here

As I walked in the gardens this afternoon at Empire Mine, I noticed blooming lilac as well as a host of other flowers. The lawns are green and there is a sweet aroma wafting through the park – yes, it’s Spring at Empire Mine! What a magical time of year! And with Springtime officially upon us, we usher in our busy season.

Today, we concluded our Sector docent training for 2014. Our two training sessions totaled 49 volunteers. Some of these volunteers will volunteer at South Yuba River State Park and some will volunteer at both Empire Mine SHP and South Yuba River SP. But, the majority of volunteers in this year’s class have chosen to volunteer at Empire Mine SHP. All of our volunteer groups (i.e. blacksmith, cottage living history, etc.) have multiple volunteers signed up. The volunteer coordinators for each volunteer group have been given their sign-up sheets and will contact interested volunteers to schedule training. This year’s group is very enthusiastic and they look like they are going to infuse positive energy into our park. I look forward to seeing the new volunteers at the park! A special thanks to all volunteers and EMPA who helped with the docent training.

With the Clubhouse porch completed, maintenance staff has started rebuilding the Mine Manager’s porch/deck with the replacement of failing support beams and rotted railings with new lumber. After completion, visitors will be able to safely access this area during their time at Empire Mine. In addition, Beth and Craig James have been mowing lawns, spraying roses, planting and pulling weeds in the gardens at Empire Mine. With the retirement of our groundskeeper, Beth and Craig have taken up the void and provided the boost we need to keep our gardens/grounds in great shape. Finally, the wedding season begins the first week of May and runs until the first week of October. Living History also begins the first week in May and our Annual Mother’s Day event is scheduled for Sunday, May 11.

I look forward to seeing all of you as we begin this exciting time at Empire Mine SHP!

Ranger Greg Sherr

An American Experience: The Gold Rush

At the end of 1853, San Francisco was a city on the fast track. A few years earlier, the seaside town had been a sleepy village of just 800 people. But the sight of gold in the waters of the American River set the stage for an event that would forever change a city, a fledgling state, and the nation. Incorporating rare and exquisite daguerreotypes and original recreations, this film offers a vivid portrait of a seminal event in America’s history.

The above describes an excellent DVD about the Gold Rush which explains the overall impact in the Golden State, not just in what has become known as gold country. It was the first U.S. “media event”! And … it’s available to any of us through Netflix … so check it out soon!

This recommendation comes from Caryl Fairfull who feels that it’s a good background for all docents.
Fun Facts From the Past
By Shirley Bellville of the Empire Historical Research Team

April 16, 1872, Grass Valley Union

Every morning for the last three weeks, Grass Valley has been sending to San Francisco, a lot of gold bricks. Those bricks are worth from 3 - 5 thousand dollars each. The indications are that this district is paying out while it is not played out.

April 16, 1865, Grass Valley Union

Grass Valley in Mourning

When the heart-rendering intelligence was received that President Lincoln had been assassinated, a deep gloom settled upon our town. As soon as it was ascertained that the intelligence was no idle rumor, flags were hoisted at half-mast upon all the principal buildings in town, all places of business were immediately closed, and the town draped in mourning. Bells were tolled at various times during the afternoon, and our people generally testified in unmistakable terms, the deep grief they experienced at the melancholy tidings.

April 10, 1903, Grass Valley Union

Boys Find Gold in City Park

A number of youngsters, in some unaccountable manner, discovered the fact that the City Park dirt contained free gold. For awhile, the discoverer kept the secret to himself, but an unusual display of wealth, chewing gum, and candy aroused the suspicions of his associates. The heavy rains of the past several days had washed loose ground away, leaving upon the hard surface small grains of gold which could be readily distinguished. Old timers report that there was a time in the history of Nevada City when a person could pick up several dollars in gold on the streets after a heavy storm, the nuggets being washed out by the rain. Even to this day, the custom of “looking for color” is continued by the old pioneers, though they seldom meet with any great degree of success.

April 18, 1906, Grass Valley Union

San Francisco Earthquake

Probably no other city in the State will more directly feel the result of the San Francisco catastrophe than Grass Valley. Financially, the destruction of the Golden Gate City deals a hard blow at monetary matters here. It is estimated that three/fifths of all private capital invested by local people has been put into securities in banks at the Bay.

Grass Valley will continue to send daily shipments of 1,000 loaves of bread to San Francisco, and will continue to monitor relief funds for the refugees who may arrive here from the Bay in destitute circumstances.
From an interview of Phil Keast, master mechanic and mechanical engineer. Interview date: 8/13/87.

There were two hay barns that were still at Empire when the mine shut down in 1956. They would go down to the Sacramento Valley and have the hay delivered up to Empire.

The first hay barn was about 25 feet from the end of the safety office. It was about 60 ft. long by 16 ft. wide. In the 1940’s a 12 ft. lean-to was added to the end of the building for equipment storage. The building had two six-foot sliding doors on the front.

About 2/3 of the building was used for hay storage for the mules. The other 1/3 was used for storing wood handles for the tools, storing rock drills and for a paint shop. The paint shop was about 7 or 8 ft. wide. They painted the signs that were needed around the mine.

The walls and roof of the building were galvanized iron. A roof was extended from the eve of the hay barn back to the stone fence for more hay storage. A short wall was built on top of the stone fence to support that end of the new roof. The ends were left open. They would put the hay in the barn first then put the rest under the roof at the rear if needed.

Garages for five or ten employee cars were built on the other side of the stone wall.

From an interview of Robert Cannon, engineer and geologist. Interview date: 6/522/77.

In about 1936, I was working with Frank Hooper in the Empire stamp mill. He was celebrating 50 years of working in the stamp mill.

He couldn’t hear as the noise in the mill ruined his hearing.
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

**Interpretative Coordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tour Guides</td>
<td>Jane Hall</td>
<td>263-4032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Tour Guides</td>
<td>Ehren Pelonio</td>
<td>273-8522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Tour Guides</td>
<td>Marilyn Sakowicz</td>
<td>272-5507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
<td>Marilyn Sakowicz</td>
<td>272-5507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
<td>Bill Blount</td>
<td>477-0317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
<td>Bev Skinner</td>
<td>477-1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
<td>Jane Bland</td>
<td>274-2440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
<td>Pat Speer</td>
<td>272-1160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Yard Living History</td>
<td>Vince Seck</td>
<td>273-4574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Yard Stations</td>
<td>Vince Seck</td>
<td>273-4574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>Jane Bland</td>
<td>274-2440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>Troy Hammer</td>
<td>432-1194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>David &amp; Sharon Anderson</td>
<td>432-2359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Coordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Barbara Jarvis</td>
<td>477-1557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral History</td>
<td>Lise Hinman</td>
<td>273-8266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
<td>Jennifer Greenfield</td>
<td>477-2637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>Tom Newmark (OTHG)</td>
<td>265-3848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Bob Jennings</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Terry Armstrong</td>
<td>271-0126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Garden</td>
<td>Angie Slicker</td>
<td>272-5009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Garden</td>
<td>Ellen Hamlin</td>
<td>272-3248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Tours</td>
<td>Jeanne Powell</td>
<td>271-2138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Lianne Werner</td>
<td>273-0704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[www.empiremine.org](http://www.empiremine.org)
Empire Mine Park Association

Thanks to these folks for taking the lead in making the Empire Mine State Historic Park such a unique and enjoyable experience!

**EMPA Board of Directors**

- President, Larry Skinner  477-1750
- Vice Pres., Jim Coe  274-2675
- Sect., Jennifer Greenfield  477-2637
- Treasurer, Virginia Hamilton  274-5779
- Director, Virginia Brunini  477-8198
- Director, Lynne Buenz  470-0595
- Director, Sean Gilleran  477-1700
- Director, Bob Jennings  274-2834
- Director, Pat Speer  272-1160
- Director, Jim Ward  273-3671
- Director, Margi Nielsen  273-8241
- Director, Bob Lenhard  274-4477

**EMPA Administration & Committees**

- Asst Treasurer  Carolyn Lashbrook  432-9526
- Elections  Jim Coe  274-2675
- Holiday Event  Pat Speer  272-1160
- Hospitality  Jennifer Greenfield  477-2637
- Membership  Jim Ward  273-3671
- Nominating  Jim Coe  274-2675
- Miners Picnic  Jack Laird  478-0999
- Newsletter  Jan Blake  273-0619
- Newsletter  Bev Skinner  477-1750
- Gift Shop  Jennifer Greenfield  477-2637
- Sunshine  Pat Coe  274-2675
- Webmaster  Margi Nielsen  273-8241

Empire Mine State Historic Park
10791 East Empire Street
Grass Valley, CA  95945

Return Service Requested

THE EMPIRE STAR

This Newsletter is a Cooperative venture between the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Empire Mine Park Association.

On the web at www.empiremine.org