Hello to all! Well, spring is finally here. YEAH!! Don't blink though, because Summer is HOT on its heels!! Huge MUCHO THANKS to our wonderful hard-working grounds keepers, Jennifer, Joy, and Kyle, the Park is really looking beautiful. Soon, many new blooms will be splashing their colors and the "World's Tallest Wisteria Vine" (until proven otherwise), rising from the Cambodian Jungle will be a cascade of tanzanite colored blossoms. Keep your eyes peeled for a terrific article on the Empire Gardens, by our Master Public Relations Director Courtney Ferguson, soon to be featured in the Union and other local papers. 

Congratulations and welcome to all the new VIP's for 2015. I've heard that this was one of the largest groups to complete the two-day training in years. Now let's encourage them to join EMPA too!!

Your EMPA Board recently approved funding to help DPR with replacing the roof on the Bourn Cottage – to further protect the priceless clear heart redwood and furnishings throughout. Thank you to all EMPA members for your support.

Now, all EMPA members, past and present, I ask your permission to contact each and every one of you personally over the next couple of months, asking you for any comments, suggestions or concerns – positive or negative – to help me/us improve and expand EMPA in the community and beyond. I am really looking for suggestions for a fund "fun" raiser or two. What would you like to attend – and be willing to bring along a friend, neighbor or coworker? Please reach me personally at 916-261-3218 or msallen1976empa@gmail.com.

Thank you all – and come smell the roses with me.

See you at the Park.

Mark S. Allen

COTTAGE LIVING HISTORY
by Bev Skinner

Though the size of this April issue of the *Empire Star* doesn’t seem to reflect it, it IS a busy time at the Park. The Park training for our new Volunteers in Parks (VIPs) was accomplished last month and those new docents are preparing to or are in the midst of additional training particular to the activities in which they’ve chosen to participate. I only have an official number from the Cottage Living History crew – a whopping thirteen with two or three still pending – but I’ve heard that several activity areas in the Park are happy to have significant numbers of new docents. That’s good news to hear indeed!

The Leadership Team for CLH has been conferring, updating rosters, and printing and compiling Manuals for the new volunteers – and most of the costumes have already been laundered or dry cleaned – and the date has been set for the annual “spring cleaning” at the Cottage – April 27 – so Katie’s freshly baked cookies can’t be far away!

Even though CLH’s official season doesn’t start for another month – May 2 to be exact – the planning for the approximately 44 Saturday and Sunday afternoons, from 12 noon through 3 p.m. when our visitors will be entering the Cottage, starts months before. These visitors will find several docents enthusiastically greeting them while portraying various people from the past. They would, of course, include William and Agnes Bourn, George and Libby Starr, and the ever-popular Katie – but from time-to-time you could also meet Maud Bourn, Sarah Kidder, Willis Polk or Phoebe Apperson Hearst. Come visit us soon – there’s always something new happening in the Cottage.

Some of the newest additions you’ll discover there this spring are the thirteen new volunteers who will be playing the Maids and Butlers – important roles now just like they were in 1905. The grand homes of that era would not have existed without an able staff. Can you imagine Downton Abbey without Carson – or Anna & John Bates – or Daisy – or Mrs. Patmore? The “staff” at the Cottage play another “role” too – they provide security while we have visitors in the Cottage – and Carson, while serving drinks in the drawing room, would have certainly served in this same capacity!

And – speaking of Downton Abbey – I can’t resist sharing my dismay over the announcement last week that the upcoming sixth season of this popular show will be the final one! A few of us will be making wagers as to what will happen to each member of this large cast. Some will be more difficult to guess than others – the script writers have pretty much already told us about Mr. Carson and Mrs. Hughes – but what do you think will happen to the Ladies Mary, Edith, and Rose, Tom, Barrows and whoever your favorite character is? It will be an interesting eleven hours next winter.
Our beautiful Park holds a botanical treasure, a renewing oasis of beauty, serenity and history, to be enjoyed by docents and visitors alike. Many of you are drawn to the mine yard, restored with hard rock mining equipment. Some love the gracious buildings with costumed docents with stories to tell. But the magnificent and ever-changing gardens are where the magic is, truly a living and breathing part of history that continues to feed our souls, fuel our love of nature and allow us to absorb the peace and comfort sought by all, young and old.

Docent-led Garden Tours are beginning in April with the arrival of the stunning blooms of the historic "Gold of Ophir" climbing rose on the front of the Cottage. The gardens are "waking up" and every day brings new surprises. Tours begin at 11 a.m. on Saturdays in April and with the addition of Sundays beginning in May.

Our historic roses are being propagated this year by knowledgeable docents. They are from cuttings from pre-1926 historical plants growing in Empire's gardens. Several of the American Beauty variety will be available at our Mother's Day event.

Docents, come and enjoy a glimpse of the past through this botanical and historical experience. The treasures are not only underground at the Empire.
Jeff Herman Memorial Service

The memorial service for Jeff Herman will be on Saturday, April 11, at 1:00 p.m. on the tennis court at the Clubhouse. Plans are being made for about 200 people to be present. Please arrive by 10:00 a.m. if you can help set up. The service and reception should end by 4:00 p.m. or earlier – we will need help cleaning up afterwards as well.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, April 14
Cottage Living History Season Kick-off
10:30 a.m. in the Docent Building
(for all returning and new Cottage volunteers)

Thursday, April 16
Coordinator Meeting
10:00 a.m. in the Docent Building

Tuesday, April 21
EMPA Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 a.m.
In the Docent Building

I didn’t have too much trouble getting a job in the mine after I graduated from high school as my friends, Charles and Bill Jefferie’s, dad, Bill, was the mine foreman down at the Pennsylvania. Charles indicated to me that if I was to talk to his dad I could probably get a job.

So I went down and saw his dad and his dad said yes, he would give me a job. He said I would have to tell a few fibs because I wasn’t old enough to go underground at that time. You were supposed to be 18 to go underground.

To get signed on I went to the Empire office. I then went down to the local haberdashery, an old store in Nevada City called Grizzle and Dolum. We used to call them chisel and roll’em. I bought some boots and a hard hat. Hard hats were just starting to come in at that time. Most people were wearing them. I bought a carbide light and a canister to carry the carbide in. I also bought a pair of overalls, a suit of underwear and a pair of socks. I was ready to go to work.

After the start of WWII, I went to Hawaii to dig underground for fuel storage at Pearl Harbor. I then went to the Haiku Valley on the opposite side of the Ko’olau Range putting up the highest radio aerial.

Eventually there were a lot of travelers over there working for Dole taking the water from the wet side of the island to the dry side. There were tunnel miners and hard rock miners over there from all over the U.S. After the war I came back and worked as a miner at the Brunswick.

From an interview of Helen Stewart, Stenographer. Interview date: 9/18/01.

Empire Mine manager, Fred Nobbs, and Herbert Hoover were in the same mining engineer class at Stanford. Hoover would come to Empire and visit Nobbs.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
Fun Facts From the Past
*A GOOD SUGGESTION*

An Idea That Would Be Productive of Much Good If Carried Out

I would like to call the attention of the miners working in this section to two customs which prevail in the mining camps of Colorado, and I think, could be adopted to advantage in this camp.

Accidents will occur in mines, and the best skilled attendants should be ready at hand and free of charge to subscribers.

By paying $1 per month, a doctor’s services are secured for the subscriber and his family.

By paying $1 per month, a hospital for miners can be established and maintained, where in case of accident, one can have the best of care under a trained nurse, instead of calling on the county for assistance as at present.

A.L. Begbie

*The above suggestion is a good one, and in part is carried out in Grass Valley. The employees in the different mines contribute $1 a month each to an accident fund, and when any of the members are injured in the mine a physician is summoned and paid for out of the club’s funds. In some of the mines, weekly benefits are also paid.*

“SECRETS” OF THE CLUBHOUSE

By Lynne Buenz

Have you ever wondered about what lies within the Clubhouse? The third in a series of educational tours intended to broaden the knowledge and “hands on” experience of Park docents (aka “Volunteers in Parks” or VIPs) will feature this large structure located prominently on the Park grounds.

Known to have hosted many guests of mine owner William Bourn, Jr. and his first cousin and mine superintendent George Starr, the original Clubhouse, which was built in 1905, included a ballroom, billiards room, bar, squash court, and a full-length bowling alley. Guest accommodations included three bedrooms and a bathroom on the top floor and a full kitchen on the bottom floor. All of these areas, many of which are not open to the general public, will be covered in the tour, which is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, from 3 to 5 pm.

The group size for this tour will be limited to no more than 25 persons, and advance reservations are required. Call the Visitor’s Center at 273-8522 no later than Monday, April 13 to reserve your spot!

As the year progresses, future V.I.P. tours will include the mineyard, the Park grounds, and the wildland trails. Stay tuned!
# Empire Mine State Park
## Volunteer Coordinators

### Interpretative Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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### Other Roles

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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!

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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