IN THE VEIN...  

I am celebrating the change of seasons! However, while the calendar indicates that Spring has arrived, winter’s rains have returned in recent days. Nevertheless, Park staff has been working diligently to prepare the grounds to show off to best advantage the blossoms and new green growth that will shine to the delight of all Park visitors.

As I mentioned in last month’s newsletter, plans are well underway for a special fundraising event, the theme of which is “Mine, Wine and Dine.” This event is scheduled for Friday, June 9, and all funds raised will directly benefit maintenance of the Park’s historic buildings.

We are hoping to attract at least 200 participants to this event that will feature food, wine, and entertainment, all for a reasonable price. We are also seeking sponsorships from local businesses. EMPA has hired a locally known professional event coordinator, Shanin Ybarrondo, who graciously has agreed to lend her time and expertise at an affordable cost to assist in our cause. She will be coordinating the event and working closely with the dedicated group of volunteers who are willing to assist in making the event a success.

It is not too late to become a part of this effort. You can assist in many ways, e.g. by purchasing tickets, spreading the word, and especially by asking a local business to become a sponsor. Businesses that benefit from tourism would especially be willing to help out. In our daily routine, all of us come in contact with many people and businesses that love the Empire Mine State Historic Park and would be willing to help preserve it for our mutual benefit. The volunteer coordinator for this event is EMPA Board member Steve Sanchez, who may be reached by telephone at 273-8235, or via email at snakeandflower@gmail.com

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the recent effort to recruit new volunteers for the Park was a huge success. This is a very positive sign for the future of Empire as well as our “sister” parks in the Gold Sector – Malakoff Diggins and the South Yuba River State Park. Our challenge now is three-fold: 1) to welcome these new volunteers; 2) to encourage them to get involved in one or more of the many activities available; and 3) to keep them interested for the long run.

Jim Coe
It all started with a gentleman named Samuel Cunard in 1840. From the port at Halifax, Nova Scotia, he had been operating a family-owned fleet of coastal freighters. When coal-fired steam engines became practical, he reasoned that they could make Atlantic crossings reliable and predictable and he began publishing schedules for regular departures. Up to this time, sails had been relied on for long sea voyages—or steam power supplemented by sails—but those crossings were rough, dangerous, and there was no way of predicting just how long a voyage such as this could take.

The Britannia, Cunard’s first steamship, carrying 115 passengers, started a revolution that was to last ‘til the skies (and Pan American Airways!) took over the job of transporting people across broad expanses of ocean—and land—in the 1950’s. During those 100 plus years, however, these ever-increasingly luxurious ships transported millions of people—first across the North Atlantic and later on the Pacific as well. We’re all familiar with the story of the Titanic in 1912, but that disaster had little or no effect on the passenger boom that was prevalent at that time. In fact, just a year later, in 1913, more than 2.6 million passengers were carried across the Atlantic—a number never again matched during peacetime. The sinking of this brand new ship was, however, responsible for much improved safety at sea for future passengers—double hulls, watertight doors, extra life rafts, etc.

Early on, a good balance was discovered—their westbound ships carried immigrants from Eastern Europe looking for a better life in North America, while on their eastbound journeys, professional and business people plus the affluent heading for their European holidays, were the passengers. By later standards, the earliest ships were anything but luxurious or even comfortable. Mark Twain described the cabin on his 1842 voyage on the Britannia this way, a “Utterly impractical, thoroughly hopeless and profoundly preposterous box.” However, these conditions evolved quite rapidly and soon great care was taken to make the first class passengers forget they were even on board a ship—instead they felt as though they were experiencing a stay in a grand, luxury hotel like the Ritz or a regal country house. One line even hired architect Charles Mewes, designer of the Ritz hotels, to design their interiors in the “Ritz style.”

Even the conditions in steerage were improved through the years—at one point, practices were changed so that “each passenger was given his own bedding, knife, fork and spoon, and regular meals!”

William, Agnes, and Maud Bourn, we know, made numerous crossings of the Atlantic over a period of years. Though I don’t have the space (nor do I have my resources available at the moment) to write about those trips in detail, it’s fun to imagine what their journeys must have been like. Supposedly, Maud and Arthur Vincent’s romance first bloomed during one of the Bourns’ trips to Europe and on a sad note, it was on a westbound journey, that Maud became ill with pneumonia that took her life after they reached New York.

Many of the facts in this article were gleaned from an old History magazine—the January, 2007 issue. I found it quite interesting and it made me think of the Bourn family. Cunard currently still has three ships in operation and is owned by Carnival Corp.—a holding company that also includes Holland American, Princess, Carnival Cruise Line, and several other cruise lines—it’s very complicated! These photos are all historic ones of Cunard ships.
A P.S. FROM CLH CO-ORDINATOR NANCY KORING:

Cottage Living History Docents are invited to the "Kickoff" Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on April 5 in the Docent Building. Please come for friendship, updates, and delicious goodies. Remember to bring your calendars and have dates in mind to sign up on schedules for the 2017 season.

GETTING READY FOR THE RUSH

Submitted by Ranger Greg Sherr

“Wow, when the weather is good, we are really busy.” Yes, indeed, we are busy at Empire Mine beginning this time of year! With the recent change in weather, our Visitor Center and trails have become very active. In addition, we just finished our yearly (new) docent sign-up. A big thank you to EMPA and all of our volunteers who assisted with this activity. This year, we had 53 new docents sign-up to volunteer in one of the three local State Parks. While many of the new volunteers will volunteer at Empire Mine, the interest for volunteering in more than one park was high. Volunteer Coordinators are scheduling training sessions for the new volunteers and we are excited to have new energy in the Park. Special thanks are due to Bob Jennings and Troy Hammer for arranging the food and refreshments for the sign-up.

And speaking of new energy at the Park, our newest Senior Park Aide is a former Park volunteer, Terry Gollub. Terry is a great addition to our staff and we are excited to have her as an employee at Empire Mine. She will start working weekends in mid-May as her teaching duties do not end until the 2nd week of June.

If that was not exciting enough news, the roses are starting to add new growth and will be blooming in no time! Please thank Jennifer and Joy who have been doing a tremendous job in the Park! Also, our heritage rose program has over 800 new roses covering more than 20 varieties from Empire Mine that will soon be offered for sale. Bob Jennings and Troy Hammer are spearheading this endeavor. Please talk with them about the different varieties to be offered.

The two-stamp mill is once again operating and has been a great interpretive tool. The Over-the-Hill Gang has spent numerous hours re-engineering the mill so that it safely operates. Thank you to all of the Over-the-Hill Gang members who have put time into this. Also, Tom Bumgarner and Gary Larson have completed and installed two beautiful garden gates, which are currently keeping the herbaceous four-legged creatures from eating the historic gardens at Empire Mine. Great job! The Cornish pump assembly project is on track and the next phase is forming and pouring the cement footings that the components will rest on.

So, with that, let’s roll into the busiest season at Empire Mine!
FACTS FROM THE PAST
Submitted by Barbara Jarvis, Research Coordinator

Silicosis is a disease of the lungs caused by the inhalation of certain dusts, which results in the formation of scar or fibrous tissue. The disease is not infectious or contagious, as it is not caused by a germ. Silicious, or quartz dust, is probably the most dangerous. It is inhaled into the lungs during breathing and finds its way into the various lung cells and tissues, which may result in tubercular and pneumonia germs.

Different symptoms of silicosis occur at various stages in the development. Shortness of breath comes on in the earliest stage, and of 45 men in Grass Valley who were diagnosed, 38 complained of this symptom. Treatment for the first and second stages is to be removed from dust hazards.

Employees should be examined at least once a year free of charge, and any found to have silicosis should be given surface work until completely recovered. 181 men reported for examination and emphasis was placed upon preventive measures such as using water in mining operations, wearing sponges or a mask over the nose and mouth. It was reported that 24.8% of the men were affected with silicosis, with the greatest number of the men engaged in drilling and mucking — all had underground experience.

From: Silicosis Investigation of Miners at Grass Valley, CA by Cleve E. Kindall—Article appearing in “Silicosis—Mining Companies of Grass Valley, California”—1922, pages 89-100
A MINER’S WIFE TAKES A CAREER

By Gage McKinney

Until late in the mining era, miners worked a six-day week and nearly all women worked in their homes. What a miner wanted was a wife who ran an efficient household, regular meals, regular days for laundry, ironing, cleaning and baking, tasty pasties, disciplined children and Sunday dinner. James Cornish, miner at the Empire, never quite got what he wanted.

His wife, Camille Angove Cornish (1890-1959) had a career, and a grumbling husband never deterred her. After her father, a miner and tuba player, had brought a piano into the family home, Camille showed her gifts for music. Later she learned to play the church organ, as she said, “Through the Columbus method — by fearless discovery!” While still a teenager, she accompanied the Grass Valley Carol Choir when the group sang their Cornish songs in local churches and in Sacramento, Stockton, Oakland and San Francisco. During the busiest seasons of the year she was away from home in the evenings to practice with the Choir, and on weekends when the Choir toured. In the cities she was recognized as a first-rate performer.

At about 30, Camille became organist at the Grass Valley Methodist Church and her career accelerated. She was regularly at church, practicing with the choir for Sunday services or for a wedding or funeral. Conflicts could arise at home when Camille needed to work with a soloist and her husband, who often worked nights at the Empire, needed his sleep. For decades she hardly missed a Sunday, and even when “in the family way,” as she would have said, she cinched her corset and played on.

For all her efforts as church organist, Camille earned a mere ten dollars a month. When she played for weddings or funerals — and she played for hundreds — she would generally receive a home-spun gift or a relish dish. (She had a large collection of relish dishes.) But there were other remunerations. When she was troubled or angry or out of patience with her children, she would walk to church and play for 30 minutes and then return home, refreshed and serene.

Few knew Camille suffered from seizures and her daughter, Marian, was especially concerned when her mother performed in church. “What anxiety I felt,” she told me, “when sometimes I would see my mother’s tongue moving oddly on her lips.” One day Camille had a seizure during a service, her fingers freezing on the keyboard and a single chord reverberating throughout the church. The choir director walked over and simply lifted Camille’s hands, and she instantly recovered to continue with the hymn, the service and her career. It never happened in church again.

After more than 30 years, and advancing in age, Camille couldn’t keep up with the demands of her career, and the pastor came to her house to collect the church keys. It was the saddest day of her life. But undaunted, she continued her faithful attendance at church and put her outgoing personality to work greeting newcomers. Like the Methodists of her era, she talked little about the devotional life, but every night before going to bed she prayed on her knees.

(continued on page 6)
A MINER’S WIFE TAKES A CAREER (continued from page 5)

It was only after she was gone (that) her widowed husband recognized Camille’s extraordinary talent. James Cornish, a mining man, never quite got what he wanted, but lived to recognize he had gotten something rarer and finer than the precision of a tightly-ordered house.

TRAILS ASSOCIATION TO HOLD SYMPOSIUM LOCALLY

Submitted by Priscilla Vanderpas

The California Branch of the national Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) will hold its annual symposium/meeting on April 29-30, 2017. OCTA has several hundred members from all over the United States. Each summer the national convention is held somewhere on the Oregon Trail, usually in a state located from Missouri west, along the trails to Oregon and later, after the Gold Rush, to California. (There were many trails into California, none of them easy!) During the 4-day national convention, participants hear talks about trails in the area — including who traveled on the trails — and then have the opportunity to take a bus trip to actual trail sites.

Due to its size and the fact that California had many trails and immigrants, there is a special branch of OCTA. A 2-day symposium is held each spring and this year it will be held in our area. Everyone is invited to attend the program which includes talks on Saturday, April 29, to be held at the Nevada City Elks Lodge from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. (So that visitors will learn about the Cornish miners, a pastie lunch is being provided.) One of the main speakers will be Chuck Simeca, a former ranger at the South Yuba River State Park and also an expert on the Henness Pass Trail, which went from Marysville to the mines in Virginia City, Nevada. Another speaker will be from Brentwood in the Bay Area, where the John Marsh House is located. A group in the area is trying to get the house designated as a State monument or possibly even a park.

Other scheduled speakers and/or topics are “Women of the West” to be presented by Chris Enss, a well-known local person, as well as a presentation on “Alonzo Delano” by a speaker yet to be announced. Delano came on a trail to California in 1849, and ended up being one of the founders of Grass Valley, as well as a Wells Fargo Agent, writer, and comedian. His play “Woman in the Mines,” was produced locally a few years ago by the Community Players, a local theatre group.

Wrapping up the day, local representatives from the Nevada City Firehouse Museum, the North Star Mining Museum and the Railroad Museum will offer information on what is available locally for those who are not going on the tour scheduled for Sunday. (Special Note: This is also an opportunity for someone from the Empire Mine to talk about what is available for people to see there!) Following the day’s program on Saturday, a buffet dinner will be offered at the Elks Club at a cost of $25 per person.

The next day (Sunday, April 30), Chuck Simeca will lead an auto tour on parts of the old Henness Pass route. Only jeeps or vehicles with 4-wheel drive will be able to make it because some of the route is barely passable. Advance sign-up is necessary, as participation is limited.

If you would like more information on the OCTA Symposium, please contact Priscilla Vanderpas, via telephone at 272-5154, or via email at pvanderpas@juno.com. When flyers about the event become available, copies will be left at the front desk in the Visitor Center, or in the Docent Room.
From an interview of Alfred J. Holman, Miner, Mucker, Lessor at the Empire, Golden Center, 21 Brigat and Bullion Mines—1931-1956. Interview date 11/22/85.

I started in 1931 at the Golden Center Mine. At that time I took a lease with a couple of other fellows — a couple of old-timers. We leased a portion of the mine. We got 60% of the gold we got out and the company got 40%. We paid one-half of the expenses and the company paid one-half of the expenses from their share. That was (in) 1931 and 1932.

We didn’t do very well. After a couple of weeks we had our ore crushed and it worked out to about $1.50 per day. In the meantime, I had learned to run the drilling machine so the other two fellows said, “You go ahead and set up wherever you want.” So I set up in a different place in this stope and drilled and blasted around it, and it turned out pretty good. We had that crushed and milled and we started making about $10.00 a day. Day’s wages were only about $2.50 a day at that time, (so) we did real good.

The only thing that happened is that we were at the 800 (foot) level and worked up to the 700 where it had already been worked out. So that was the end of that pay chute. We hired a few more fellows which made seven of us altogether. We worked there for some time, but it was never as good as that original pay chute. It sort of petered out and (since) I had a chance to go to (a) day’s pay, I went to (a) day’s pay with the company.

I drove mules down there and I mined and I mucked and I was a skip tender for awhile. I did what they put me to doing. I was there for a couple of years.

From an interview of Clarence “Lightening” Thomas, Machine Shop, Blacksmith Shop—1935 to late 1940’s. Interview date 1/9/83.

In the machine shop there were about 15 men. There were about 8 actual machinists. For the machine repair there were 2 men, the Harris brothers. In the other side of the machine shop we had 2 pump mechanics. They would go down and bring up the pumps that were broken. We would manufacture the parts there in the shop to repair them.

At the other end of the shop were two carpenters that worked there full-time. They would make all the ladders and the rollers that would hold up the cables in the shaft.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
THANKS TO OUR “STAR” STARS!

Submitted by Courtney Ferguson

Jane Bland and Troy Hammer were good ambassadors for our Pastie Luncheons, which are usually served on the patio area outside the Clubhouse (weather permitting). Thanks to both of them for being such patient models. Photographing inside the Clubhouse is tricky business. John Field’s photographic skills were put to the test, yet his experience and artistry came up with superb results. His photos ran in both The Union (March 8) and in the Territorial Dispatch (March 15). I understand we have already had a few inquiries!

“TOMMY KNOCKERS” AT WORK?

By Lynne Buenz

I recently received an e-mail from Edie Cartwright calling my attention to a letter written to the Editor of The Union that suggested “Tommmy Knockers” might be responsible for creating the now infamous sinkhole that has appeared alongside Highway 49 during this (long!) winter season. Edie thought there might be interest in exploring the legend of “Tommy Knockers,” and their role in mining history.

“Tommy Knockers” were described by early Cornish miners as the spirits of departed miners. Depending on whether or not one had earned their favor, their presence could mean survival or possible disaster for the individual miner.

Thanks to Lise Hinman of the Research Group, the following websites provide further information on these legendary creatures: http://americanfolklore.net/folklore/2010/07/tommy_knockers.html / http://www.legendsofamerica.com/gh-tommyknockers.html

Empire Star Editorial Policy — All articles submitted for publication become the property of the Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA) and, as such, are subject to editing and/or other modification. In addition, articles may NOT be published the same month they are submitted due to space limitations.
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

**Interpretative Coordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour Guides</th>
<th>George Sanford</th>
<th>274-1646</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Tour Guides</td>
<td>Park Staff</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>Cheryl Balmain</td>
<td>273-6087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
<td>Nancy Koring</td>
<td>273-5510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
<td>Betty and John Lucas</td>
<td>679-0310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
<td>Bob Jennings</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineyard Living History</td>
<td>Vince Seck</td>
<td>273-4574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineyard Living History</td>
<td>Frank Hamlin (Intern)</td>
<td>268-5672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineyard Stations</td>
<td>Vince Seck</td>
<td>273-4574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineyard Stations</td>
<td>Frank Hamlin (Intern)</td>
<td>268-5672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>Jane Bland</td>
<td>274-2440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>Troy Hammer</td>
<td>575-9155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Coordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Barbara Jarvis</th>
<th>477-1557</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral History</td>
<td>Lise Hinman</td>
<td>273-8266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
<td>Jennifer Greenfield</td>
<td>205-7469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Troy Hammer</td>
<td>575-9155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHG</td>
<td>Tom Newmark</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>Carol Terrell</td>
<td>878-0050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Propagation</td>
<td>Bob Jennings</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Tours</td>
<td>Troy Hammer</td>
<td>575-9155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Marsha Lewis</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lianne Werner</td>
<td>273-0704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Changes in directory listings on this and the following page should be sent to Lynne Buenz, Editor/Publisher, at la_buenz@hotmail.com
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, Jim Coe / 274-2675 / coejim@sbcglobal.net
Vice Pres., Troy Hammer / 575-9155 / troypheus@yahoo.com
Secretary, Brianna Pacillo / 559-7468 / bpacillo@gmail.com
Treasurer, Betty Lucas / 679-0310 / blucas1208@gmail.com
Director, Jack Conner / 477-5225 / connerqvpacbell.net
Director, Sean Gilleran / 477-1700 / sgilleran@hiexgrassvalley.com
Director, Frank Herwatt / 470-9243 / fherwatt@gmail.com
Director, Steve Ruble / 650-773-0160 / Steve.ruble@gmail.com
Director, Steve Sanchez / 273-8235 / snakeandflower@gmail.com

EMPA Administration & Committees
Assistant Treasurer(s) / Evelyn Allison / 274-1878 / allison141@theunion.net and
Gloria Kenney / 477-8783 / glokenney47@gmail.com
Elections, Troy Hammer / 575-9155 / troypheus@yahoo.com
Holiday Event, Steve Sanchez / 273-8235 / snake and flower@gmail.com
Hospitality, Sean Gilleran / 477-1700 / sgilleran@hiexgrassvalley.com
Membership, Frank Herwatt / 470-9243 / fherwatt@gmail.com
Nominating, Troy Hammer / 575-9155 / troypheus@yahoo.com
Miners Picnic, Steve Sanchez / 273-8235 / snakeandflower@gmail.com
Newsletter: Editor/Publisher—Lynne Buenz / 470-0595 / la_buenz@hotmail.com
Gift Shop, Jennifer Greenfield / 477-2637 / jgardens2@att.net
Sunshine, Pat Coe / 274-2675 / patcoe@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster, Frank Herwatt / 470-9243 / fherwatt@gmail.com

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