We’re Champions!
by Jack Laird

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this year’s 4th of July Parade in Grass Valley. Not only were we celebrating our nation’s birthday, we were also celebrating EMSHP’s 40th anniversary.

Along with having a fun time, we also were awarded BEST OVERALL PARADE ENTRY! This was a big honor in that ours was one of over 75 entries in this year’s Parade.

Special recognition goes out to new VIP’s Jeanette Miller, Suzie Bradanini, and Gary Blum for all of their effort.

Way to go Empire Volunteers!

Editor’s note: we should all be grateful for all the planning, time, and energy that Chair Jack Laird devoted to this year’s Parade Entry. Thanks, Jack!

Check out EMPA’s brand new website – it’s cool! – www.empiremine.org.
Miners Picnic Celebrates 120th Anniversary

Submitted by Courtney Ferguson

Saturday, August 29th promises to be an extra-special occasion, as we celebrate the Miners Picnic’s 120th anniversary. Since 1895, this event has been an integral part of our community’s history and spirit.

Our publicity campaign will cover Nevada County – plus neighboring counties, Sacramento, and the Bay Area. We’re blessed to have professional photographer, Richard Bannister, share his time and talents with us. Here are just a few of the photos that accompany the press releases and articles I’m sending. You’ll also find us featured on the Holiday Markets’ in-store Community Events displays and on NCTV. KNCO will be featuring the Miners Picnic on scheduled interviews the week before the event.

Plans are underway to make this a memorable day. In addition to the dramatic mine-rescue reenactment, the vintage vehicles, and our always-popular Living History docents in costumes, we’ve expanded our entertainment. For example, this year the Stamp Mill Stompers will perform that “new-fangled” Dixieland jazz in the Mineyard. Banjo Man, Richard Caudle will also be performing in the Mineyard, playing old-time tunes.

On the main stage near the Clubhouse, Rush Creek will perform at 1:00 p.m. If you recall from last year, they included some tunes that dated back to the late 1800s. It’s entirely possible that these same tunes may have been performed (or at least hummed) at the very first Miners Picnic. Magician (and owner of Elam Biggs Bed & Breakfast) Peter Franchino will be entertaining visitors with his magic, and colorful Ray Ray the Clown will be doing his balloon sculptures for the children. The Wild Ass Women are scheduled to have their delightful burros with them again – as well as a first-time visit from gals with mini-donkeys in their packing gear. Jack Laird has done a marvelous job of getting donated gold for panning and valuable gold jewelry for our raffle from stalwart supporters Jerry and Goldie Levitt of Yuba City.

With food and drinks for sale by local vendors (pasties, ice cream and more), the old-fashioned cake-walk, and the Search for the Gold Challenge, make sure you spread the word – and join us on August 29th. Let’s welcome a record-breaking crowd, and show everyone just how proud we are of Empire Mine’s gold, grit and glory!
Docents in costume

Will the rescue team get there in time to save the injured miners?

Daisy & Haley Huenergardt with Jack Laird
DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, August 13
Coordinator Meeting
10:00 a.m. in the
Docent Building

Tuesday, August 18
EMPA
Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 a.m. in the
Docent Building

Saturday, August 29
120th Miners Picnic
Annual Park-wide
Special Event
Event Hours:
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 2
Tour at Donner
State Park Museum
Truckee
Time and other
details to follow.

We Need YOU!

. . . to bring your gently used or new donations for the 2015 Silent Auction that is part of our annual, long-standing Miners Picnic on August 29. You must have some interesting item stuffed away in one of your closets that you don’t use any more! Don’t allow it to take precious storage in your home – instead, drop it off at the Smurf Room no later than August 25 – so I have time to make the proper signage for it. EMPA has made as much as $2,000 in previous years from this activity – this is a great way to make a donation and get a tax write-off too! Include your name, address, and phone number as well as an approximate value of the item you are donating.

Thanks so much! Submitted by Carol Bordeau, Silent Auction Chair, Miners Picnic

"Cakes" Needed for the Miners Picnic Cake Walk

We need your donation of "cakes," of every description (think sugary sweet!), for the Miners Picnic Cake Walk on August 29th. Homemade is great, but we also appreciate artful professional efforts. In a very scientific survey, we have found that CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE is the BIG favorite and since we have a lot of kids participating, bright colors and stuff on top is great.

Please call Lise Hinman immediately (before you talk yourself out of it!) at 273.8266 or email me at Lhinman0@gmail.com, if you can donate a sugary creation. Cake boxes will be available at the front desk. All cakes and goodies will need to be dropped off at the Clubhouse kitchen the morning of August 29th. If you need help with drop off, I will be happy to help.
VIP TOUR OF GARDENS AND GROUNDS A SUCCESS!

Wednesday, July 23rd, found 24 enthusiastic Empire and North Star volunteers at the Sierra County Museum and Kentucky Mine. This small and well preserved mine was one of many in this area during the Empire period, with the small museum currently housing a treasure trove of history and artifacts.

Our knowledgeable guide first introduced us to a reproduction of a miner's cabin with many items useful during that time period. Although much larger than most, this cabin reflects the primitive lifestyle and a calm respite at the end of a hard day's work that each miner must have needed.

Next to this cabin was the all-important "Kentucky Portal," containing the gold producing shaft. This building holds the path of water power, the Pelton wheel, the machine shop, and the silent voices of hope and hard work.

We followed the ore cart tracks, placed upon a high trestle, into the upper floor of the processing building. This point began the path of the rock and quartz as it was dumped out of the cart into the stamp mill. It was sorted by size, first hand crushed with sledge hammers as it followed its downward path, as we did by stairway. The stamp mills below were operated by a large Pelton wheel with huge belts, as a small demonstration was given by the docent.

The resulting fine pieces of rock, the size of sand, settled onto the copper plated table below, the final stage of the stamp mill process.

Adding to the very interesting tour was the presence of a colony of Townsend's Big-Eared Bats. These large and fascinating creatures have a hibernation roost in the mill building. They live to be ten years old and have a wingspan of 12-13 inches.

Coming Attractions!!

A tour of the new Donner State Park Museum is being planned and is set for Wednesday, September 2nd. Time will be announced. We will meet in the parking lot at Donner. Your white VIP pass will take care of the parking fee, entry is free. Sign up with Leanne at 273-0704 or Bob at 274-2834 or rw3jennings@yahoo.com. More information later.

Other tours are in the planning stages. Please contact Bob or Leanne for any ideas that you may have.

A Fine Time Was Had by All at the Kentucky Mine!

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Lynne Buenz - VIP Tour Coordinator
Important Volunteer Hours

Nancy Koring asked for a “reminder” to be in the Empire Star stressing the importance of each and every V.I.P. (Volunteers in Parks – that’s us, Empire docents) to record their volunteer hours in the computer in the Visitor’s Center that is dedicated to that purpose. It’s important to the Park, it’s important to the programs for which you volunteer your time, and – it’s important to you as well. If, in the past, you’ve forgotten to enter your hours, don’t despair – you can still enter them retroactively – just enter them on the appropriate date(s).
This $595 Value Gold Jewelry
Could be yours for only

* * * * * $1.00 * * * * *

100% of the proceeds go toward
Empire Mine improvements.

Tickets are $1 each or six for $5

The winning ticket will be drawn on
August 29, 2015 at Empire’s Miners Picnic.

You need not be present to win.

Win Win Win

Jerry and Goldie Levitt generously donated a beautiful gold nugget necklace and earrings to EMPA for us to raffle off. Every dollar we bring in goes directly to EMPA.

Stop by the Gift Shop to see these beautiful items and to purchase your tickets.
# Empire Mine State Park Volunteer Coordinators

## Interpretative Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Other Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Trails</td>
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[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**

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Director, Sean Gilleran / 477-1700 / sgilleran@hiexgrassvalley.com
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Webmaster, Margi Nielsen / 273-8241 / margi.nielsen@gmail.com

Empire Mine State Historic Park
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Return Service Requested

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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](http://www.empiremine.org)