Hello EMPA faithful,

What a GREAT turn-out we had for the new VIP training in early March. We are really looking forward to working with all you “newbies,” no matter at which Park(s) you choose to volunteer. I personally work at all three area parks — Empire, South Yuba River (Bridgeport), and Malakoff Diggins, and find it extremely rewarding.

I was fascinated by last month’s article on page 6, ‘Fun Facts from the Past’ (Empire Mine Robbed) by Barbara Jarvis, Research Coordinator. "WOW," what a great piece of history! Perhaps the Research Group can provide a follow-up article on “the rest of the story,” about the solving of this incident or possible similar incidents, for inclusion in a future issue of The Empire Star? Alternatively, are there any “Nancy Drews, Hardy Boys or Colombos” out there who know about this?

Be sure to save Friday, September 23 for a scrumptious dinner and loads of entertainment to be held at the Empire Clubhouse and sponsored by EMPA. This First Annual Fundraiser, “Dinner with the Bourns and the Starrs,” will feature VIPs in costume giving private tours, a yummy catered dinner with local wine and beer, live music, silent and live auctions, and perhaps even dancing!! WaaHoo!!

If you had planned on watching the roofing crew working on the Cottage roof — it’s TOO LATE!! It’s done, and it looks beautiful! I wish we could keep that beautiful cedar color forever. But knowing Mother Nature, she has other plans. So get a look and snap those GREAT late afternoon “pics” to catch that color while you can.

A really HUGE thank you to the hard working CAL-FIRE crew(s) that have been clearing underbrush below the Visitors Center for defensible space and greater safety from wild fires — last year there were too many close calls!

Oops, outa space!

See you in the Park. 

Mark S. Allen
Governor and Mrs. Pardee Join us at the Cottage

Submitted by Caryl Fairfull

If you visited Empire Cottage last season, you may have had the pleasure of meeting Governor and Mrs. Pardee (aka Janice and Michael Meals). They catch your attention immediately, as they cut striking figures.

To better understand Governor Pardee, I thought it would be interesting to review his 1903 Inaugural Address to see how the challenges of 1903 resonate with the challenges of more than a century later. When Governor Pardee took office, California was a prosperous state due to increasing industry, mining and agriculture, but had many familiar challenges, some of which are noted below.

- When Governor Pardee, a physician, took office, he immediately tackled the Bubonic Plague, which had been present in San Francisco since 1900 and had imperiled its economy. The disease was under control by 1904.
- He saw the importance of preserving the forests and watershed at a time when forests were starting to slip into private ownership and were being clear cut. Pardee was instrumental in creating the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Park District. His Board of Forestry evolved into the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- He also saw the importance of revising irrigation laws and water rights -- still cogent topics today.
- Education was the most important charge of the State, and 50% of taxes were expended for education. California taxpayers cheerfully spent $7 million, or $5.00 per student. Pardee thought Californians should be educated and intelligent. Education was being challenged by child labor, so in 1905, Pardee enacted a Child Labor Law enabling children to go to school for at least 6 years.
- Pardee also authorized a special state tax for high schools. There were 139 high schools in the State in 1903, and California paid 45% of high school costs vs 16% in other states. Pardee investigated the use of school bonds for high school funding.
- The University of California was a top institution of learning in the U.S., if not the world, in 1903. The Berkeley campus was overcrowded with 2,400 students. Pardee challenged the Legislature to remedy this situation and to make sure the University remained a top institution of learning.
- Agriculture was king in 1903. In 1905, the Legislature drafted a University Farm Bill to promote irrigation and the growth of farms. In 1906, Pardee opened Davisville College to agriculture students; this is now the UC Davis campus.
- Prisons were a concern – 2,500-3,000 prisoners were supported on $400,000 a year. Pardee’s main concern was to separate new and hardened criminals for optimal rehabilitation.
- Mental hospitals served about 5,000 people, some of whom were known to be inappropriately placed.
- Pardee planned harbor improvements for busy San Francisco, as well as the San Diego, San Pedro, Oakland and Eureka harbors.
- The General Fund of California was $2.5 million in 1903 and would be depleted before year-end. A general property tax was considered, though private property had been decreasing according to tax assessors. Agriculture was easily taxed because of visibility, while other assets were hidden. Pardee faced a challenge of fair assessments.
- The State Legislature met for only 60 days a year in 1903, a brief time to get important work done. Pardee warned against political strife and wasting time. “He who serves his country best, serves his party best,” so challenging politicians to pay less attention to party lines was already an issue.
- Pardee was Governor for only 4 years, but his accomplishments made California a better place to live, for which we can all be grateful.
Invites You To

Celebrate Spring

Saturday, May 14
From 4:00 to 7:30 pm
At Historic Bridgeport

Buffet Dinner by Antonio Ayestaran Custom Catering
Entertainment by McAvoy Layne as Mark Twain
Wine, Beer & Beverages Provided

$60/person

RSVP & Payment Deadline is May 10
Mail Check to S.Y.R.P.A.:
P.O. Box 1658 Penn Valley, Ca 95946
Or use PayPal on the SYRPA Website:
www.southyubariverstatepark.org
Inquiries: syrpa.publicity@gmail.com

Proceeds contribute to the support of ongoing activities at South Yuba River State Park
Reminder About the Filoli Trip!!

Submitted by R. W. (Bob) Jennings

The trip to Filoli is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2016. The bus will leave the main parking lot at EMSHP promptly at 7:00 a.m.!

Our tour with the Filoli docents is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., and will take about 2 hours. After the tour, you will have time to visit the grounds and the gift shop. Lunch is on your own. There is a nice café there, or you can bring a brown bag lunch. However, if you do bring your lunch, you will have to eat on the bus as there is no food allowed on the Filoli grounds.

The bus leaves for home at 3 p.m., arriving at approximately 6:00 p.m. IMPORTANT! Those who have not paid, please send checks ($57.00) to Bob Jennings by April 10. The address is 12505 Oak Circle, Grass Valley, CA 95945. If you have to cancel, contact Bob as soon as possible so we can fill the seat. The telephone number is: 274-2834 or e-mail address rw3jennings2@yahoo.com

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, April 19
EMPA Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 a.m. in the Docent Building

Thursday, April 21
Coordinators Meeting
10:00 a.m. in the Docent Building

Thursday, May 19
Bus trip to Filoli
(sign-up deadline is April 10)
NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

By Lynne Buenz

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to docent Mickey Springer who, along with her husband Bud, is moving from Lake Wildwood in California to southeastern Wisconsin in order to be closer to family, especially their grandchildren. Mickey describes the location of their new home as being “...a small community with fewer than 2,000 people, and rural with corn fields and a protected reserve around us.” She added that “We’ll still have to contend with some deer, but not as many as in Lake Wildwood”!

Mickey and I were “classmates” in the new docent class of 2007 and, while sitting next to each other, discovered that our paths had crossed previously when we both were living in different parts of the San Francisco Bay Area and were members of the same professional organization!

Mickey has been a very active docent at EMSHP — participating in Cottage Living History (CLH) — portraying Katie Moriarty, the Bourns’ Housekeeper and Cook — and serving as a CLH Interpreter. Other activities she has been involved with are serving as a garden tour guide, and assisting with the luncheons held at the Clubhouse. She and Bud were also active docents at the South Yuba River State Park, as detailed in the most recent issue of Bridgeport News.

We will miss Mickey, and wish her and Bud many happy years in their new home!

CaringBridge Site for Larry Skinner

As most of you know, Larry Skinner, a long-term Park volunteer and recent Past-President of EMPA, is ill, and is now under hospice care.

A CaringBridge site has been created as a way to keep friends and family informed:

www.caringbridge.org/visit/larryskinner

Larry and his family appreciate the support they have already been receiving.
FUN FACTS FROM THE PAST

Submitted by Barbara Jarvis, Research Coordinator

THE HOIST

To hoist rock, men, and material, 40,000 ft of cable are in use at all times. These must be watched with painstaking care as hundreds of lives are dependent upon their strength. They are wound around massive spools in the hoist house. The hoist engineer sits at his levers amid an array of signal devices and telephones. He is directly responsible for the safety of every miner. He does not actually see the skips and cages, but must rely on signals that are given him by men at the shaft.

Great air brakes operated by power at the operators bidding clamp down on the drums to hold the cars motionless. Up before the operator are two large disc, lilly controls, with figures around the edges. These denote the various stations along the shaft. Revolving like the minute hand of a clock, a pointer shows exactly where the skip is at any moment. The cable from one skip winds over the top of one drum while the cable from the other winds under the bottom of the adjacent drum. In this way, both drums revolve in the same direction as one skip is lowered and the other raised. They are then coupled together so the descending car will act as a brake for the former.

From the Recollections of Jack Wolff, 1932-1933 pg 13
From an interview of Downey Clinch, who worked on the surface gang in 1937. Interview date 11/21/85.

In the 1930's there was a big push for unions in the U.S. The mines were big employers in this area. The national union organizations were trying to get a foothold here. They made the law that you had to have a union contract if you were in interstate commerce.

Fred Searls, along with other Newmont executives, were of the idea that Empire and the other California mines did intrastate commerce meaning that everything they bought and sold were within state lines so they didn't have to abide with federal regulations. It was difficult for them because many of their supplies and machinery originated outside the state.

So Fred Searls came to my Uncle Roy Premrow and asked him to build a warehouse with Newmont financing in California, preferably in Grass Valley. They needed another company that was domiciled here that they could buy from.

My grandfather closed Clinch Mercantile in 1929, so it was easy to reopen Clinch Mercantile with new officers. Newmont gave him a $50,000 letter of credit to build a warehouse on Bennett Road with a narrow gauge siding. (Ed. Note: Currently Rexel Supply 10662 E. Bennett Rd, G.V.) After that, Newmont purchased supplies for their local mines through Clinch.

From an interview of Gerald Ducotry, Machinist until 1938. Interview date 8/26/86.

If we had work to do underground, we would put our tools and equipment in an ore car and ride it down. We would come out the same way.

All of the machinists wore bib overalls, a cap and a denim coat. At first we used carbide lamps underground, but later they switched to rechargeable lights which were a great improvement.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
A LITTLE CLARIFICATION
(and more Tales from the Tapes)

Submitted by Jack Laird

There has been some discussion regarding the number of miles of “tunnels” that were part of the Empire/North Star complex.

In an interview on April 20, 1989 (tape #95) Fred Whitford, who was the chief engineer at Empire at the time of the shutdown, states, “They measured the underground maps and discovered that it showed over 500 miles of underground workings.” He also states, “The model doesn’t include stopes, intermediate drifts, raises, etc. The model only shows main line horizontal workings. I had engineers working for months on 80 scale maps when they needed something to do. The 367-mile figure Newmont used is wrong. They didn’t figure everything.”

I am not sure that the model room recording needs to be changed to state that the 367-mile figure is only what is shown on the model and is not the correct figure for all of the underground workings. However, we probably should use the correct 500-mile figure when talking to our visitors.

If you can’t believe the chief engineer, who can you believe?

SPRING/SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS TO BEGIN SOON!

The volunteer programs that are active in the spring and summer months will soon begin their season(s). Following is an announcement for one of those programs:

*The Rose Garden Volunteer group will start back for this season the first Thursday morning in May (May 7) from 7:00 to 9:00 am.*

Photo by Alana Buenz
Empire Mine State Park  
Volunteer Coordinators

**Interpretative Coordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tour Guides</td>
<td>Terry Armstrong</td>
<td>271-0126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:terryrarmstrong@gmail.com">terryrarmstrong@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour Guides</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Tour Guides</td>
<td>Ehren Pelonio</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
<td>Betty and John Lucas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mine Yard Living History</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:frank@hamlin.net">frank@hamlin.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Yard Stations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Yard Stations</td>
<td>Frank Hamlin (Intern)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>Troy Hammer</td>
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**Administrative Coordinators**

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security</td>
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<td>271-0126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:terryrarmstrong@gmail.com">terryrarmstrong@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Garden</td>
<td>(Vacant)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Tours</td>
<td>Marsha Lewis</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rw3jennings2@yahoo.com">rw3jennings2@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Lianne Werner</td>
<td>273-0704</td>
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Note: Changes in directory listings on this and the following page should be sent to Lynne Buenz, Publisher, at 1a_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, Mark Allen / 916-261-3218 / msallen1976empa@gmail.com
- Vice Pres., Jim Coe / 274-2675 / coejim@sbcglobal.net
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- Director, Sean Gilleran / 477-1700 / sgilleran@hiexgrassvalley.com
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- Director, Bob Jennings / 274-2834 / rwjennings2@yahoo.com
- Director, Bob Lenhard / 274-4477 / rclenhard@comcast.net
- Director, Pat Maule / 272-0317 / Patmaule0800@att.net
- Director, Margi Nielsen / 273-8241 / margi.nielsen@gmail.com

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- Hospitality, Sean Gilleran / 477-1700 / sgilleran@hiexgrassvalley.com
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- Miners Picnic, Steve Sanchez / 273-8235 / snakeandflower@comcast.net
- Newsletter, 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, Margi Nielsen / 273-8241 / margi.nielsen@gmail.com

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

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)