Happy Spring (at least by the calendar)! I hope that everyone is well and will soon enjoy the changing of the seasons. We are looking forward to all of the beautiful blossoms and color that will soon be filling the Park.

In the past month or so, EMPA has funded a project to replace many of the missing or hard-to-read tree and shrub signs in the garden areas of the Park. This specific project has been on the books for many years; however, multiple attempts to complete it have always fizzled in the past. EMPA took on the challenge to complete this project now, with the great help of Board member Steve Ruble. When we started this project, we thought there were only about 45 different identified species in the Park, however, upon further investigation, we identified close to 90! We now have an updated map and list of all the identified species, and the new signs are made. We hope to have all them installed by the end of March.

Please take the opportunity to walk around and look at the new signs (they are green) the next time you visit the garden areas. Take a stroll through the beautiful grounds and try to identify “Pseudotsuga menziesii,” one of EMPA’s favorite species in the Park.

In other news, we are updating the antiquated Gift Shop Point-Of-Sale (POS) system! Merging the Intuit POS system with Quickbooks will eliminate multiple transactions currently required to sell items. It will keep track of inventory, automatically notify us which items sell fastest or slowest, and eliminate the duplicate efforts currently required from our Gift Shop volunteers. It will also automatically report costs and revenues to our Treasurer, which will eliminate the current manual reporting activities. We also will now have multiple computer input capability, even allowing additional transactions outside the Gift Shop during our events. All of this will result in a more efficient sales experience for our guests! Of course, as always, there will be a learning curve to get the new system running; we have access to technical support that will get us quickly into the 21st Century and improve the Park experiences for everyone! Many thanks to all of the Gift Shop volunteers for their amazing effort and hard work. The Gift Shop is always in need of more volunteers. If you are interested in joining this great team, please stop by the Gift Shop to inquire.

Another forthcoming EMPA project, once the weather stays sunny and stable, is the much-needed restoration of the greenhouse. After the tree work around the greenhouse is completed, the partial roof will be repaired and the glass will be replaced. We are expecting this project to break ground in April, weather permitting, but May at the latest.

EMPA has also funded the purchase of a new golf cart for the Special Events Program, which will be a useful addition to assist in shuttling guests during events at the Park.

Until next time...Cheers!

Bri Cosbie
WHITELAW REID: PROMINENT VISITOR AT EMPIRE COTTAGE

By Caryl Fairfull

Mr. and Mrs. William Bourn, Jr. were known to have entertained many visitors when they were in residence at Empire (Bourn) Cottage. Among those known to have visited were Whitelaw Reid and his wife, Elizabeth, who were good friends of the Bourns.

Whitelaw Reid was born in Xenia, Ohio in 1837 into a poor family. As a youth, he attended Xenia Academy and in 1856 he graduated with honors from Miami University. During his lifetime he received honorary degrees from Cambridge and Oxford Universities in England, as well as Yale, Dartmouth, Princeton, and others.

During the Civil War, Reid was a correspondent from the battlefields of Shiloh and Gettysburg. In 1868, he joined the staff of Horace Greeley’s New York Tribune and was named Managing Editor in 1869. In 1872, Greeley ran unsuccessfully for President. He died a few days after the election, and soon after, Whitelaw Reid was named the new Editor of the Tribune. During that time, the Tribune was one of the foremost Republican newspapers in the country.

During the Hayes and Garfield administrations, Reid was offered a diplomatic post in Germany, but refused the offers. When President William Harrison offered him the post as Ambassador to France, he accepted and served in that capacity from 1889 to 1892, thereafter returning to the United States. Later that same year, Reid became a Vice Presidential candidate with William Harrison, but the election was lost to Grover Cleveland.

Reid married Elizabeth Mills in 1881. Elizabeth was the daughter of Darius Ogden Mills, who served on the Board of Directors for the Spring Valley Water Company, which was owned by Mr. Bourn. She was also known as a philanthropist and social activist in her own right.

Whitelaw and Elizabeth were a very social couple known for throwing lavish parties. They were the parents of a son and a daughter. They also became godparents to the Bourn’s grandchildren — the children of their daughter Maud and her husband, Arthur Rose Vincent. When Maud died unexpectedly in 1929, Elizabeth Reid, who was then a widow, took care of Maud’s children in New York until the family could arrange for a private railroad car to travel across country to Woodside, California, where Maud was buried at the Bourn’s country estate, known as Filoli.

In 1905, Reid was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James by President Theodore Roosevelt. He served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom until his death in 1912. Many letters of condolence were received from members of the Royal Family after his death.

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR COTTAGE LIVING HISTORY

Sandy Frederickson and Patty Gizzi have assumed responsibilities as Co-Program Leaders for Cottage Living History (CLH). A HUGE thank you for a job well done is extended to Cheryl Balmain, Jane Bland and Nancy Koring for the many wonderful, successful years they devoted to making CLH the great program that it is.

The annual program Kick-Off Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Docent Building at the Mine. We look forward to seeing all CLH volunteers at this meeting and to the start of another outstanding season at Empire (Bourn) Cottage!

(Editor's note: We are pleased to report that Nancy Koring is now at home continuing her recovery from the stroke she suffered in early January. Our heartfelt good wishes and prayers continue for Nancy, her husband Carl, and their two adult children.)

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH’S QUIZ—”20 QUESTIONS”

1. Term used for very rich gold ore; also means to sneak gold out of a mine. A: Highgrade
2. Poisonous chemical compound used in gold recovery process. A: Cyanide
3. Iron “wagons” used for carrying gold ore out of a mine. A: Ore Cars
4. Entrance or opening down into a mine. A: Shaft
5. The Empire Mine is rich because of: A: Gold
6. George _______ first discovered gold on Ophir Hill. A: Roberts
7. Type of gold recovery from streams and rivers: A: Placer
8. Mr. William _____, Jr. had the Empire Cottage and grounds built. A: Bourn
9. First quartz outcropping found on ___ Hill began the Empire Mine development. A: Ophir
10. A Cornish miner was often nicknamed a: A: Cousin Jack
11. Term for a vein of gold bearing quartz. A: Ledge
13. Large bars poured from molten gold are called gold ______ bars. A: Bullion
14. Type of rock in which gold was found. A: Quartz
15. An underground worker at the Empire Mine. A: Miner
16. The price of gold has gone __ since 1956. A: Up
17. Quartz with gold inside was called __. A: Ore
18. Many persons became ___ from finding gold. A: Rich
19. Town nearest the Empire Mine State Historic Park. A: Grass Valley
20. Legendary “gremlins” said to inhabit the mines. A: Tommyknockers

So...how did you do?
IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

By Rick Sweringen, EMPA Membership Chair

It's time to renew your EMPA membership for 2019! As has been announced, EMPA is now working with the South Yuba River Park Association and the Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins to join forces as a single park association with the intent of maximizing efficiencies and reducing overall costs. This effort is expected to take most of 2019, but does not affect your membership — your membership contributions will stay with the Empire Mine State Historic Park.

The easiest way to renew your membership is by visiting the website at: http://www.empiremine.org If you prefer to pay by check (made payable to Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA)), please mail it to my attention at the following address: Empire Mine Park Association, 10791 Empire Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

As a member, you receive The Empire Star newsletter, which is published 10 times a year. Incidentally, receiving the newsletter by email saves us money. However, if that is not possible for some reason, you may receive it via the U.S. Mail. Just make sure your mailing address is correct.

Members also receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases made in the Gift Shop.

Your continued support is needed and appreciated. We are marching forward with numerous improvements to the buildings and grounds in the Park, which would not be possible without your help! Please encourage your friends and family to become members as well — every dollar counts!

Best regards,
Rick Sweringen

Dates to Remember

- **EMPA Board of Directors Meeting**
  - April 16, 2019
  - 9:30 a.m., - Docent Building

- **Program Leaders Meeting**
  - April 25, 2019
  - 10:00 a.m., - Docent Building

- **Cottage Living History “Kick-Off”**
  - April 11, 2019
  - 10:30 a.m.—Docent Building

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 in some instances due to space limitations.
READING “LINDLEY ON MINES”

By Gage McKinney

A century ago, a young American woman walked into a London book shop and asked for books on mining law. She was asking for her brother-in-law, a young attorney back in San Francisco. The bookdealer pulled from his shelf the volumes commonly called “Lindley on Mines.” “This, madam,” he said, “is the best account of the subject in the English language!” The young woman surprised the dealer when she replied she need not buy the volumes. Her brother-in-law was an associate of Judge Lindley.

Curtis Holbrook Lindley’s A Treatise on the American Law Relating to Mines and Mineral Lands first appeared in 1897 and the three-volume third edition (1914) sits on a bookshelf near the wire map in the museum at Empire. Lindley (1850 – 1920), the son of a Yale Law School graduate, was born in Marysville. He met Bret Harte and Mark Twain when his father was practicing law in Virginia City, Nevada. He worked in a silver mine and did some prospecting. Later he began studying law, and he eventually supplemented his law books with a correspondence course in mine engineering.

While still a young man, Lindley was appointed a judge in Amador County, but then lost a subsequent election. He later considered himself lucky. He kept the title of “judge” and was freed to practice mining law and represent some of the most successful mining companies in the American West. Though he never represented the Empire Mine, in 1901 he won a boundary dispute for the Pennsylvania, which later was incorporated into the Empire. He represented the North Star Mine in 1915 when it avoided a suit by settling a boundary dispute with the Empire.

“Lindley on Mines” was the result of decades of study and practice, and as an associate said, “was the enduring monument of his genius.” Many of the cases Lindley argued, and many documented in his book, hinged on “extra-lateral” mining rights. According to American practice, which Congress codified in 1872, the owner of a vein has the right to follow it from its apex at the surface to an infinite depth below, even if it continues beneath other mining claims.

Extra-lateral rights seem uncomplicated if you think of a vein as a solitary, well-defined structure. In fact, veins commonly branch below the surface and these branches are often intersected by unrelated or “conjugated” veins. Judges and juries have spent countless hours trying to decide when veins are related or unrelated and who has the right to work them. In such circumstances a persuasive attorney with a mine model is essential. Lindley, who was probably the first to bring a mine model into a courtroom, was powerfully persuasive.

Seeing the American example, South Africa abandoned the notion of extra-lateral rights and limited a mine to operating within the vertical lines drawn from its property boundaries on the surface. This approach, because it reduced litigation and uncertainty, gave investors greater confidence. But by the time extra-lateral rights were seen as a discouragement to investors and a disadvantage to miners, the principle was well-established in American law.

In the mining era, the gold mines around Grass Valley always employed hundreds and sometimes thousands of men. These mines employed attorneys, too, including Niles Searls and two generations of his descendants who represented the Empire Mine. Other successful mining attorneys in Nevada County included William Colby, Ward Sheldon, Lynn Kelly and Lloyd La Rue. All were students of “Lindley on Mines.”
2019 WILDFLOWER WALKS BEGIN
AT BRIDGEPORT ALONG THE SOUTH YUBA RIVER

When spring arrives in the Nevada County foothills there is no better way to welcome its arrival than with a walk among the beautiful wildflowers at South Yuba River State Park. Docents will provide guided wildflower walks beginning on March 9 and will continue every Saturday at 10am and Sunday through May 12 at 11:00 a.m. The walks and blooms are at the whim of Mother Nature. Rain may cancel. Call 530 432-2546 for information.

The Buttermilk Bend Trail, which winds above the wild and scenic South Yuba River, is highly regarded for the many species that bloom on its hills and slopes. Each season observers are delighted with an everchanging tableau of spring color. Early season walkers may find Western Buttercups, Zigzag Larkspur, and Shooting Stars. By mid-season, the hills usually turn gold and purple with Tufted Poppies and a variety of lupine. Mid to late season floral treats can include Fairy Lanterns, Chinese Houses, and Birds-eye Gilia. Docents will share facts, legends and the many uses of the flowers and plants along the trail. Docent led hikes last about 1.5 hours. The Buttermilk Bend trail is an easy 2 mile hike out and back. Meet at the trailhead in the South Yuba River State Park north parking lot. Follow Pleasant Valley Road north past the Visitor Center over the South Yuba River. Parking is $5.00. Sturdy walking shoes, hat and water are recommended. A $3.00 donation is requested and appreciated. (Dogs are not permitted on the guided walks as the trail is narrow and the groups can be large.)

To make your visit complete, bring picnic lunch and allow time to take in the park Visitor Center, check out the covered bridge (while it is under renovation) and barn (both built in 1862), and the restored 1920’s gas station.

The Visitor Center is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday through Sunday until Memorial Day and every day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting Memorial Day weekend. Here you can find a collection of wildflower books educational and souvenir items. (And perhaps that bottle of water you forgot to bring for the hike)

For more information, call the park at (530) 432-2546, or go to www.southyubariverstatepark.org.
Tales from the Tapes
by Jack Laird


We could only buy timber in the summertime. About two trucks a day were hauling in timber all summer long. Stope poles and the saw logs for the North Star mill. The inventory of logs would get low in the spring and build up in the summer. We furnished the poles for the Browns Valley Mine and the Pennsylvania.

On gold shipping days after we packaged the gold in sacks and labeled it, I would load it on the pickup and take it to the narrow-gauge express office. Jim Hend would move his furniture around the express office and I would drive right into the building. Then he would shut the front, we would unload it and make out the shipping details. The value part bothered us and two of us would take the gold shipment down. After WWII, they made gold shipments twice a month.

When the mine closed down, it seemed natural that I would be the one to sell stuff as I was the one who bought it. So I had the job of liquidating the machinery and other supplies. I guess New York wanted a little surge in income so they suggested the auction. So I arranged that.

The auctioneer brought in a lot of stock on his own and he devoted a lot of time on that in the two days which interfered with the Empire stuff. It didn’t develop the kind of income that New York thought it would. Only a couple hundred thousand dollars was developed from the auction.

When I saw that they were going to sell off quite a bit of the property, I saw that I was going to be part of that sooner or later. I took six semesters of real estate at Sierra College and got my real estate salesman state license.

I was familiar enough with the accounting department to know that the mine couldn’t continue to exist under the circumstances at the time, with the ceiling on the price of gold being $35.00 an ounce. Our cost was somewhere around $42 to $43 an ounce. Everyone was hoping this restriction would be taken off so it would be on the free market system. Newmont was carrying Empire in those later years hoping there would be a change in the market. It came too late.

From an interview of Phil Keast, Master Mechanic and Mechanical Engineer, Empire Mine 1920-1957. Interview date 11/10/80.

In 1924 or 25, we had a fire at the Empire. Jim Bransgan ran in there and tied the whistle down, so it blew continuously. That was to notify the town of the fire. It was in the dry building right up over the machine shop — the change building in later years. They put in a siren on the hill.

After the fire, we put up a steel structure and the whistle was moved over to the corner of the Blacksmith Shop. Then it was the duty of a blacksmith helper to blow the whistle at 7:00 a.m. and noon. Ed James blew the whistle there at 7:00 in the morning and at noon for years and years and years.

The whistle would get what we called a frog in its throat. It would get clogged by scale in the little air passages. We would have to unscrew the whistle and take it off.

I understood that in the 1890’s a crew of Irishmen that worked at the mine went to San Francisco for the weekend. They took the narrow gauge to Colfax than got on the Southern Pacific. They were ready to come home and they were half lit up.

One of the ferry boats in San Francisco Bay was tied up at the Ferry Building. Somebody said let’s go and get the whistle and take it back to the mine. I never heard the story as to how they unscrewed the whistle, but they took it off and brought it home. The ferry company came to the mine and Bourn paid for the whistle.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
The California State Parks Foundation invites you to use YOUR voice and join us in Sacramento on May 7, 2019 for our 17th Annual Park Advocacy Day. Register today*. And for those who are also able to join us on May 6, we will be hosting a day of workshops to prepare you for Park Advocacy Day.

Together in Sacramento we will learn how to activate our voice for parks and share your park story with state elected officials and Policy staff. The full day of activities will include hearing from legislators and other important speakers, presenting you with tools on how to be an effective advocate, meetings at the Capitol with legislators, and more.

In the months preceding the event, we will host a series of training webinars and on Monday, May 6, we invite you to join us at a workshop to review the many issues affecting state parks, provide you with an opportunity to ask questions about these issues, and hone your storytelling skills for effective advocacy. More information on dates and times will be forthcoming.

This year’s Park Advocacy Day will highlight the importance of parks in our communities, for our collective health and preserving natural and cultural resources. We will advocate for park policies and resources that enhance the health and wellness of youth to ensure they have the opportunity to experience the significant benefits of parks, in order to foster the next generation of empowered parks stewards.

By participating in Park Advocacy Day, you’ll use your voice to send a powerful message to policymakers that California State Parks are important places that need to be protected and that all Californians should have the opportunity to learn, visit and explore state parks.

Join the California State Parks Foundation and park supporters from throughout California on May 7th, and make your voice heard on important park issues!

*To register go to http://www.calparks.org/
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Volunteer Program Leaders

Interpretive Program Leaders

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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!

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**Special Note:** The Board presently has two open Director positions.

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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)