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Special thanks to Steve and Sherry Sanchez — Steve for being our new Coordinator of the Miners Picnic — and his talented wife, Sherry, for designing this colorful poster.
The Fourth of July weekend was great fun for the characters and hopefully for the visitors at Empire Cottage. On Saturday, the 2nd of July, we had Maud and Agnes Bourn and Libby Starr in the living room. We all dressed in red, white and blue, or as close to it as we could get, and wore rosettes with American colors on our hats or in our buttonholes. Maud, the only experienced player, nonetheless went along with the other two of us who had done a little research on Fourth of July celebrations in 1905 and came up with a new story line. We discovered that in those times people listened to political speeches, read the Constitution and sang patriotic songs. We worked this into the stories of the dining room furniture and the electricity and Libby’s electric car. In fact, the electric car was taking us to the celebration at the new library, “A Carnegie library, of which we are very proud!” in downtown Grass Valley. We practiced the favorite song of that time, “My Country ’Tis of Thee,” and invited visitors to sing along. Katie even managed to get in a couple of notes. People participated with gusto!

On Sunday, July 3rd, we added a very distinguished Mr. Bourn to the characters, while Maud was off riding for the day. (What kind of horses did Maud ride? We tried to research this and came up without any answer.) So, of course, Mr. Bourn was invited to the celebration as well and, in fact, would gladly give one of the political speeches. We also had a 45-star American Flag which we held up while we were singing. We had a wonderful time, stayed in character and expanded the usual discussion in the Cottage. We’re looking forward to next year’s celebration. Katie will be fixing fried chicken, cherry pie, and of course, larded tongue. Are you coming?
Board Member Recruitment

EMPA NEEDS YOU!

to volunteer for a great cause!

Being a Board Member is a great way to help the Empire Mine State Historic Park. All you have to do is bring your wisdom to a monthly meeting and then get involved from there on as your talents lead YOU toward a positive and rewarding public service experience!

EMPA WILL NEED:

AS MANY AS FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2017

Pick up a Board Member application today at the Park Visitor Center or call me at 530-274-2675.

Submitted by Jim Coe, EMPA Vice President
NEWLY DISCOVERED GOLD!
By Steve Sanchez, Coordinator, Miners Picnic

In the Empire Mine Gift Shop we have on display three beautiful pieces of gold jewelry that will be raffled off at the Miners Picnic. I would love to have everyone's help in promoting the sale of our raffle tickets. The money generated from ticket sales is used to maintain the Park and all of its beauty, so please help me spread the word to your family and friends to come on down and purchase their tickets now. They do not have to wait until the day of the Picnic. The Gift Shop is open every day, so anyone can come by and pick up their raffle tickets now.

I also want to thank Stucki Jewelers and the Levitts for their generosity in donating the gold jewelry. Without wonderful people like them, the raffle would not be possible.

We all are looking forward to a fun and memorable Miners Picnic!

****************************************

Cakes..Cakes..Cakes

We need your help to make the Miners Picnic Cake Walk possible. To-date, I have three cakes promised for August 27th. This is going to make a disappointing event for the many kids that look forward to our zany Cake Walk. Please take the time to donate a cake, cupcakes, cookies, or brownies.

Please call or email me, if you have any questions. There will be cake boxes at the Visitors Center front desk. Cakes need to be delivered to the Clubhouse kitchen the morning of the Picnic. If this is a problem, we can arrange something else.

Thank you for your sugary donations to this fun event.

Lhinman0@gmail.com. (that is a zero behind hinman)
530-273-8266
Editor’s Note: Those volunteers who have worked in the garden at EMSHP and/or given tours of the garden have great appreciation for the beauty found there and the foresight of those who designed it. The following article speaks to both of those features:

Bourn Garden: Considering the care and expense Bourn lavished on his garden and landscaping, the beauty of the estate was also a vital concern of his. Famous landscape architect Bruce Porter may have collaborated with Polk on the planning and design of the garden and grounds. It is not clear if Bourn planned such an extensive landscaping project at the time the Cottage was constructed. All of the more ambitious plans for the grounds (few of which came to fruition) were made around 1905. This was the time of the mine’s most spectacular growth and productivity. What better way to celebrate the success of the mine’s reconstruction than to expand and beautify the estate. The greenhouse was built quite a while after the Cottage was completed, as it does not appear on a 1905 blueprint by Willis Polk. There were plans for a conservatory on the grounds, but the size and shape of this structure on the 1905 blueprint do not match the greenhouse that is there today. The Bourns were very fond of the garden and grounds and had four gardeners working on the estate. The head gardener lived in the residence adjoining the greenhouse. Most of the garden was planted in roses, with a vegetable garden and fruit trees located near the greenhouse.

Historical Sketch of Empire Cottage and Greenhouse

By Frank Lortie, April 6, 1978 - page 2

Photo by Alana Buenz
MUSIC IN THE MINEYARD, BY THE COTTAGE, AND ON STAGE NEAR THE CLUBHOUSE

Submitted by Courtney Ferguson

To add musical magic to this year’s Miners Picnic, a Dixieland Jazz band, the Stampmill Stompers, and Fire in the Kitchen will be playing in the Mineyard. The Stampmill Stompers will also play on the stage near the Clubhouse, followed by the Buffalo Gals. Some of the old-time songs this group performs date back to 1895. Who knows, perhaps these same songs were played at the very first Miners Picnic. To close the event, singer/guitarist Kelly Fleming will perform outside Empire Cottage. With balloon sculptures, magic, donkey displays, a mountain man — and so much more — Miners Picnic visitors will be thoroughly entertained!

A variety of music and entertainment will be featured at this year’s Miners Picnic on Saturday, August 27 (Photos by Richard Bannister and Courtney Ferguson)

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.
From an interview of George Rondon, Timberman/Motorman, Idaho-Maryland Mine, 1938-1942. Interview date 4/15/93.

I was born in Grass Valley and lived here all my life. When I was young I placer mined in the South Fork of the Yuba River. I lived in a cabin with another fellow and his wife near the river.

We would mine all week and come to town on Saturday and sell our gold. We were lucky to make $5.00 for a week’s work. With that we could buy the things we needed for a whole week.

When the water went down we would get down in the channel and we could make $5.00 a day. We would find big chunks of amalgam. The gold/mercury amalgam would come from the hydraulic mines and get caught in the bottom of the river.

There would be men working along the river every quarter to half a mile year-round; mostly single men. You didn’t have to stake a claim. You just worked where you thought you could find gold. You never had a problem with people coming along and taking anything.

From an interview of Harry Odgers, Miner/Utility man. Interview date 1977.

After I came back to work at Empire after being gone for some years, they assigned me on the timber gang at the 6300 foot level. When we unloaded the timber there, the boss told me to go over and get the mule to haul the timber in.

I went over to the corral and here was Babe. She was 31 years old. She would pull the truck to where we would unload the timber. We would turn her around and send her back with the empty truck.

When she got there she would stand there until somebody would come along and remove her harness. She just had to do that one trip a day. It showed you what the mine thought about a mule that had been there all its life.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
HELP WANTED!

By Tom Newmark, Coordinator, Over-the-Hill Gang

With great regret, we are losing our long-time master painter, Al Winslow, who is moving out of the area. Al has been a valued member of the Over-the-Hill Gang and of EMPA for many years. He has served in many volunteer capacities and will be sorely missed by us all.

Due to Al’s departure, the Over-the-Hill Gang is looking for an experienced painter. His/her duties would primarily be to maintain, as necessary, the exterior trim throughout the Park. Hours can be arranged to suit, but 8:00 am—12:00 noon on Tuesday and Thursday is our normal work schedule. If you love the color green, you can find a home with us. Occasional donuts might ease the “suffering” as well! Please contact me at 265-3848, or Ranger Greg at the Park.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

By Lynne Buenz

In recent weeks, I have received a number of telephone calls, as well as e-mail messages and personal contacts concerning the mailing and e-mail distribution of The Empire Star. I thought it might be helpful to explain how the newsletter is produced, and how it gets distributed.

First, my role as Editor/Publisher is to send out a monthly reminder to regular contributors, receive and edit, as necessary, the articles submitted, and then incorporate them into the newsletter format. I convert the finished product to pdf format and send it on for distribution. Those responsible for distribution are as follows:

E-Mail Distribution to Park Volunteers: Park Staff—273-8522 / empiremine@parks.ca.gov
E-Mail Distribution to EMPA Members who are NOT Park Volunteers:
  Margi Nielsen - 273-8241 / margi.nielsen@gmail.com
U.S. Mail Distribution to Individuals Without E-Mail: Frank Herwatt */ 470-9243 / fherwatt@gmail.com

*Mailing list for U.S. Mail distribution is maintained by Park Staff (contact information above). All e-mail and regular address changes should be reported to the Park.
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

Interpretative Coordinators

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<tr>
<th>Tour Guides</th>
<th>Terry Armstrong</th>
<th>271-0126</th>
<th><a href="mailto:terryrarmstrong@gmail.com">terryrarmstrong@gmail.com</a></th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>School Tour Guides</td>
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<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
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<td>Cottage Living History</td>
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<td>Cottage Living History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
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<td>Mine Yard Living History</td>
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<td>Mine Yard Stations</td>
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<td>Mine Yard Stations</td>
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Note: Changes in directory listings on this and the following page should be sent to Lynne Buenz, 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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President, Mark Allen / 916-261-3218 / msallen1976empa@gmail.com
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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