Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History (CLH)</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News of Our Friends</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates to Remember</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vein Glory</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let’s Do the Cake Walk</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tales from the Tapes</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Park Staff Members</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMSHP Volunteer Coordinators</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPA Board of Directors/Committees</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IN THE VEIN. . .**

I am very pleased to report that tickets to this year’s **Mine, Wine & Dine** fundraiser (all 200 of them) were sold out two weeks before the event, which is scheduled for Friday, August 3, 2018. I am humbled by all the support our community has shown for the Empire Mine State Historic Park, as demonstrated by the many contributions that have been received. Marketing Manager Shanin Ybarrondo has done a great job of helping us to spread the word. We plan to place links to event sponsors on the website: [EmpireMine.org](http://EmpireMine.org) to honor those who have helped to make this event a financial success.

I am also humbled by the dedication and positive energy provided by all of our volunteers, most notably Steve Sanchez and Dan McCarthy. I would be negligent if I did not also mention the support of their wives -- Sherry (including her design skills) and Kathy who are the reasons these men can do what they do. There are many other volunteers too numerous to mention by name who have helped with the organization of this event, but Steve and Dan, working together, are the driving force behind the fundraising efforts, which benefit the maintenance and improvement efforts at the Park.

Coming up on August 25 is the annual Miners Picnic. Volunteer opportunities abound for this special event, which is being chaired by Steve Sanchez. Volunteer efforts at the picnic are being coordinated by Lauren Wilson, Park Interpretive Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator. New this year is the re-creation of the historic practice of serving beer at the picnic, with a special “beer garden” event next to the Clubhouse. Music – both historic and modern classics -- will entertain all visitors.

We are sad to bid farewell to Supervising Ranger Dan Youngren, who will be leaving July 31 for a new position as Superintendent of the NORCOM dispatch center in Rancho Cordova. We all wish Dan well in this new endeavor.

I am also sad to bid farewell to volunteer Jennifer Greenfield, who is leaving the area and moving to Ukiah (Ed. Note: See “News of Our Friends” article on page 4 of this newsletter.) Jennifer has provided several years of dedicated service to the Park and to EMPA, both as Board Secretary and as Coordinator of the Gift Shop. It will be a challenge to replace her dedication, skills, integrity, and ability to manage people. As most of you know, the Gift Shop is EMPA’s main fundraiser. (continued on page 3)
HOW DOES THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE AFFECT COTTAGE LIVING HISTORY?

By Caryl Fairfull

This Cottage Living History Season we have a new “wrinkle.” We are now living in the summer of 1906, just a few weeks after the San Francisco earthquake. It changes some of the stories we tell and opens new opportunities for discovery. Mr. and Mrs. Bourn spent an extended time in Grass Valley that summer to avoid the inconveniences of life in San Francisco while the city was rebuilt.

The 1906 San Francisco earthquake struck Northern California at 5:12 a.m. on April 18 with an estimated magnitude of 7.9. It remains one of the top 10 disasters in the U.S. to this day. It was felt from Eureka to the Salinas Valley and the earthquake inflicted considerable damage as far away as San Jose and Santa Rosa.

The total number of deaths is still uncertain, but estimates are between 700–3,000. Tying back to the articles in this column of the last two months, prejudice reigned, and deaths of Chinese citizens were not counted. Between 227,000 and 300,000 San Franciscans were left homeless out of a population of about 410,000; half of those who evacuated fled across the bay to Oakland and Berkeley via an amazingly intact pier. Newspapers described Golden Gate Park, the Presidio, the Panhandle and the beaches as covered with makeshift tents. More than two years later, many of these refugee camps still existed. The entire downtown was essentially destroyed, but the Bourn’s house on Webster Street in Pacific Heights remained intact.

An estimate of 90% of the total destruction was the result of the subsequent fires. The fires burned for four days and nights. The fire following the earthquake in San Francisco, cost an estimated $350 million at the time, now equivalent to $8.97 billion. The devastating quake levelled about 80% of the city.

Property losses from the disaster may have been more than $400 million in 1906 dollars. This is equivalent to $10.9 billion in 2017 dollars. An insurance industry source tallies insured losses at $235 million, the equivalent of $6.4 billion in 2017 dollars.

In his first public statement, California Governor George Pardee emphasized the need to rebuild quickly: "This is not the first time that San Francisco has been destroyed by fire. I have not the slightest doubt that the City by the Golden Gate will be speedily rebuilt, and activities resumed."

Accessing the rebuilding funds was hampered because all the major banks had burned down and required a wait of 7-10 days before their fire-proof vaults cooled sufficiently to be safely opened.

(continued on page 3)
IN THE VEIN (continued from page 1)

Nicholette Granholm, an independent contractor, with many years of experience working with non-profit organizations, has recently assumed the position as Treasurer of EMPA. Betty Lucas, who previously held this position, has provided the necessary training to Nicholette and, I am sorry to say, has now left the Board, earlier than she previously anticipated. We are also sad to lose Bob Jennings, who had temporarily stepped on the Board when we lacked enough members to allow us to transact business.

If you are interested in leading interesting projects, you may want to consider becoming an EMPA Board member, as currently there are several openings. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Docent Building. You are cordially invited to attend if you think you might be interested in Board membership. Or, simply come to the meetings with your ideas on ways to help the Park. You do not have to be a volunteer to be on the Board or to attend the meetings. Becoming a member of EMPA is all you need to do. Until next time...

SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE (continued from page 2)

Reconstruction would require investment from Eastern monetary sources. While the original street grid was restored, many new proposals improved the city. These included a neoclassical civic center complex, wider streets, arterial thoroughfares, a subway under Market Street, a more people-friendly Fisherman's Wharf, and a new monument to the city on Telegraph Hill, called Coit Tower.

The earthquake was also responsible for the development of the Pacific Heights neighborhood. The immense power of the earthquake had destroyed almost all of the mansions on Nob Hill except for the James C. Flood Mansion, which is now the Union-Pacific Club at 1000 California Street. Others that hadn't been destroyed were dynamited by the Army forces aiding the firefighting in attempts to create firebreaks. As an indirect result, the wealthy went west in the city, where the land was cheap and relatively undeveloped. Pacific Heights offered better views and a consistently warmer climate. Constructing new mansions without reclaiming and clearing the rubble hastened the building of new homes in the tent city by the Bay. Reconstruction was mostly completed by 1915, in time for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition which celebrated the reconstruction of the city and its "rise from the ashes."

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

Picture at right is Lotta's Fountain 1905. The cast-iron fountain, commissioned by actress Lotta Crabtree as a gift to the city of San Francisco, was dedicated September 9, 1875.

Since 1915, the city has commemorated the earthquake each year by gathering the remaining survivors at Lotta's Fountain, a fountain in the city's financial district. The fountain served as a meeting point during the earthquake for people to look for loved ones and exchange information. In 2015, the last two survivors died. Since then, people arrive at 5:10 a.m. on April 18 in period dress to continue the tradition.
NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

(Editor’s Note: Upon learning that Jennifer Greenfield was leaving the area, I asked her to submit an article about her time as a volunteer at Empire Mine State Historic Park. What Jennifer submitted is printed below.)

After almost 25 years, I am moving on to a new phase of my life. My plans finalized a lot sooner than expected, but be that as it may, I’m looking forward to the change. I will be moving to Ukiah (a little south of where Highway 20 meets Highway 101) to live with my daughter. Of course, she lived with me as a child, and then again when studying to become a nurse, her current profession. Now, it’s her turn to have me in her home! She has a new home, with an unfinished garden, which becomes mine to design. This project feeds my passion for gardening, which brought me to the Empire Mine State Historic Park in the first place. I worked in the gardens on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings, long before visitors arrived at the Park. There I learned about roses and much more. Which reminds me, my husband, Stuart or “Stu,” was also a volunteer in the mine yard — his specialty was the hoist house. We started volunteering shortly after moving to Grass Valley in 1988.

When garden tours were offered, I participated as a guide, and continued to do so until quite recently. Sharing knowledge with Park visitors and enjoying the beautiful gardens was a true pleasure. My training as a new Nevada County Master Gardener really helped my confidence in doing public tours — a new challenge for a relatively shy person.

Some members of the garden group also helped out in the Gift Shop, and I learned there was a need for someone to do the shift scheduling there. So, that was my beginning in the Gift Shop. By the time the previous Gift Shop Coordinator moved on, I just used my secretarial/court transcribing experience from my previous life and so, by default, became the Gift Shop Coordinator.

I have enjoyed every minute of my time as a volunteer, and will cherish the memories. I will end with a quote by Ernie Harwell, which was shared by Lauren Wilson at the last Coordinators meeting, “It’s time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad, and I’d much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure.”

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.
TWICE WIDOWED IN THE EMPIRE MINE
By Gage McKinney

Annie Baird, a Scottish lass, recognized a good man. She married William Craggs, “a man of refine-
ment and education,” as The Union newspaper described him. “He was a popular man with his fellow
employees and had the confidence of the mine owners.” He belonged to the Order of Foresters.

In 1904 Craggs suffered internal injuries underground at the Empire Mine and died in his home a few
days later. He was 49. Craggs was “a careful man,” the paper said. “The accident, however, was one
which happens to the most observant man underground.” Craggs left Annie to raise their 12-year-old
daughter, Marie. He also left $2,000 in life insurance. An inquest absolved the mining company of re-
sponsibility.

Two years later, Annie chose another good man. Henry Vincent, “one of the most steady and reliable
mine workers of the Grass Valley district,” became her second husband. The Grass Valley native was
“a worthy citizen and a good miner,” the paper said. He also was a Forester.

Annie wasn’t concerned when one night in 1919 Henry was late coming home from the mine. He had
taken an extra shift on a Sunday evening, filling in for a friend. Besides, he was a conscientious tim-
berman and wanted to complete a task. He told Annie he would be late.

About midnight Annie heard a knock at the door of their East Main Street home. Vincent had finished
his shift, a messenger explained, and was rising to the surface when at the collar of the shaft his skip
flipped over a broken rail and he was crushed between the skip and gate. His neck was broken, his
windpipe severed. His widow’s only consolation was that the impact knocked him unconscious – he
died without pain. Vincent was about 46.

Vincent’s accident was one of the “periodical and seemingly unavoidable tragedies incident to mines,”
the newspaper said. Again, an inquest absolved the company.

In 1920, 14 months after her second husband was killed, Annie, 47, suffered a fit of convulsions and
died. Her sudden death shocked her family and neighbors. She left her daughter Marie, already mar-
ried, and a 7-year-old son, Willard.

A recording in the museum at Empire says 27 men died in the Empire Mine. The figure doesn’t include
the other mines, such as the Pennsylvania and North Star, which eventually were incorporated into the
Empire Star Mines operations. Annie may have been one of 26 Empire widows, but in the Grass Valley
district, she was one of scores.

The Research Group at Empire, led by Barbara Jarvis, is trying to document the deaths at the Empire,
the surrounding mines and eventually in the district. Jerry Martini is the lead researcher, supported
by Mike Vasser, Ed Hensley and the rest of the group.

History is what remains and what we can recreate from the surviving documents and artifacts of an
earlier time. In the future, Park visitors may learn more than the number of fatalities in the mines. They
may also read the names and hear some stories. Men like Mr. Craggs and Mr. Vincent deserve it.
The visitors deserve it, too. This research project will enhance the Empire Mine State Historic Park
experience for docents and visitors alike.
LET’S DO THE CAKE WALK

Here is plea number two for help for the Cake Walk at Miners Picnic on August 25. We need donations of cakes, cupcakes, cookies, or brownies – all geared to children and children at heart.

Please call or email me, if you have any questions. There will be cake boxes at the front desk in the Visitor Center by August 1. 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.

Lhinman0@gmail.com. (that is a zero behind hinman)

ANNOUNCING:
A SPECIAL TOUR OPPORTUNITY!

Hi Friends of Empire Mine, EMPA Members, Volunteers and Park Staff:

On September 26, 2018, we are planning a day tour to the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion and Vikingsholm, both located at North Lake Tahoe (entrance fees to both attractions will be waived). Transportation is on your own, and please plan to bring a brown bag lunch. (Special note: Sandwiches at a cost of $8.00 (small) or $13.00 (large) can be ordered ahead of time. Contact Bob Jennings at 263-0523 for further information. Sandwich orders must be placed no later than September 10.)

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Ed Z’Berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, located about 10 miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89. There we will have a docent led tour of the historic Hellman-Ehrman Mansion.

Following the mansion tour, we will venture further up Highway 89 to D.L. Bliss State Park. From there, we will carpool and be led by docents down to Vikingsholm (this beats the one mile hike down and back). Enjoy a brown bag lunch, after which we will tour Vikingsholm. Tour participation is limited to 25 persons, so reserve early by calling Lianne Werner at 273-0704 or Bob Jennings at 263-0523 (email: rw3jennings@yahoo.com). We hope to see you there!
From an interview of Bob Paine, who coordinated the purchase of Empire Mine for the State Department of Parks and Recreation from Newmont Mining Company. Presentation at EMPA meeting 3/1/83.

I was born in Nevada City and have lived there all of my life. I graduated from Nevada City High School. I was one of eighteen students in the class.

When I was 18 I worked for the Wells Fargo Company and rode shotgun with the gold shipment from this area. Later on I worked for the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad where I was responsible for the shipments of gold. I also have worked for The Union Newspaper and for the Nevada City Nugget as a newspaper columnist.

I spent a year working with the State to get them to make Empire a State Park. I owe the wonderful thanks to the people of Nevada County and specifically the people of Grass Valley, because when we asked them for help and the campaign that they entered into. If it weren’t for them, we wouldn’t have the park that we have here today.

I became involved with the project because the State of California asked me to become involved. We had considerable success in the development of Malakoff Diggins as a historic State mine property.

We had a cooperative group of the Lions, E Clampus Vitus, the great cooperation of the newspapers and the Malakoff property owners. With Malakoff, it was almost the first time that the State Parks and Recreation Department was able to make a park without controversy of any kind. The State Parks and Recreation were so amazed by that.

When it came time to think of the possibility of the Empire property becoming a State Park, they wanted the same formula to work with, and I was asked to be that coordinator. I told Parks and Recreation that I would not take on the assignment if I didn’t have the cooperation of the newspapers.

My wife, Ruth, became an Empire widow for almost a year. I was in Sacramento at meetings and she wondered where I was.

From an interview of George Rondon, timberman, motorman. Interview date 4/15/73.

We had rechargeable battery lights. You had a wet cell battery hooked to your belt. I was going up the drift and I caught the battery between a timer and the motor and cracked the battery case. Everybody said I should bring another pair of work pants the next day.

I didn’t listen and the next day I went to change into my work pants and the battery acid had eaten up my work pants. I had to wear my good pants. Everybody harassed me about it.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
NEW PARK STAFF MEMBERS
(Information from an Article in the Volunteer Newsletter, July 2018)

Hello,

I joined State Parks a year and a half ago at Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park and the State Indian Museum. From there, I transferred to the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento before moving to Grass Valley and coming to the Empire Mine State Historic Park.

Prior to my time with State Parks, I was a Cast Member at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim for over 10 years where I wore a lot of different hats.

I have long dreamed about working for State Parks, and the Empire Mine is where I wanted to end up. I could not be happier to be a part of this Park and have the opportunity to learn and grow in the years to come.

I am delighted to be working for Empire Mine SHP and getting to know the history, staff and volunteers at the Park. I started working for the National Park Service in 1990 when I lived in Yosemite National Park. I worked seasonally for the National Park Service from 1991-2004 in Yosemite, Zion, Mt. Rainier, Sequoia/Kings, and the John Muir National Historic Site. I also worked at several State Parks located at Lake Tahoe.

I quit working for the parks in 2004, and from then until 2017, I started and worked with my own house cleaning business in the Grass Valley area. Recently, I decided to go back to working for State Parks part-time, while continuing to run my house cleaning business. I look forward to working with State Parks again!! :)

ALLISON DENTON
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

Interpretive Coordinators

Tour Guides
School Tour Guides
Blacksmith Shop
Blacksmith Shop
Cottage Living History
Cottage Living History
Clubhouse Living History
Garden Tour Guides
Mineyard Living History
Mineyard Living History
Mineyard Stations
Mineyard Stations
Luncheons
Luncheons

George Sanford
Marilyn Sakowicz
Marilyn Sakowicz
Bill Blount
Cheryl Balmain
Nancy Koring
Betty and John Lucas
Marsha Lewis
Vince Seck
Frank Hamlin (Assistant)
Vince Seck
Frank Hamlin (Assistant)
Jane Bland
Troy Hammer

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Nursery
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Security
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Rose Garden
Rose Propagation
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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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Director Dan McCarthy / 615-4354 / mentorcad@comcast.net
Director Steve Ruble / 650-773-0160 / steve.ruble@gmail.com
Director, Steve Sanchez / 273-8235 / snakeandflower@gmail.com
Director Rick Sweringen / 408-202-3470 / rsweringen@cs.com

Special Note: The Board presently has four 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