IN THE VEIN. . .

I am overjoyed to report that our first major fundraising event, “Mine, Wine, and Dine,” was a huge success! We served 180 meals at the event, thanks to many volunteers who worked closely with Antonio’s Catering. Rave reviews were heard for both the food and service. The night was chilly, but heaters and entertainment made the evening warm and welcoming.

The event was chaired by Steve Sanchez, with help from fellow EMPA Board member Troy Hammer, plus Dan McCarthy (who incidentally came up with the catchy theme, “Mine, Wine and Dine”), and many others too numerous to properly thank in this space. Steve says he couldn’t have made it happen without the professional efforts of our event coordinator, Shanin Ybarroendo, and our publicist, Courtney Ferguson. However, Steve is being humble, because he provided the spirit and energy to make this event happen — not bad for a man who has never been involved with fundraising!

The feedback received from our guests was very positive, with everyone in attendance saying we should do it again next year. In fact, many advance tickets have already been sold for next year’s event, which is tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2018. Please plan ahead to join us for this memorable event.

The “bottom line” is that everyone enjoyed themselves and EMPA netted $7,000 after all expenses were paid. Thanks to our many generous sponsors and ticket buyers. A complete list of sponsors is listed on page 3 of this newsletter and will be posted on our website: EmpireMine.Org. Check it out! The money raised will be placed in a special fund dedicated to Park repairs and improvements. I believe this is only the beginning of EMPA’s goal of raising more funds to assist the Park’s efforts in preserving our historic buildings and the wonderful legacy we have inherited.

Next on the calendar is the Miners Picnic, which is coming up on August 26. Once again, volunteer help will be needed. Steve Sanchez is again chairing this event, which is a reenactment of the welfare fundraiser began over 100 years ago to benefit the widows and families of deceased miners.

Finally, I am happy to announce that EMPA’s Secretary, Brianna Pacillo, has volunteered to act as “Web Master,” and will be the point person in charge of making changes to the website. She has also agreed to stay on as Board Secretary for another year!

We still need help with managing our membership duties. Betty Lucas has graciously assumed this responsibility for now. As always, EMPA relies on people like Betty and Brianna to keep us alive and well. Until next time. . .

JIM COE
A PROFILE OF OUR COTTAGE GUESTS

by Bev Skinner

Gosh – it’s July already! How could that be? That means we’re approaching mid-way in our 2017 “season” at the Park – for the Cottage Living History program in particular. Our new docents have all had three or four chances by now to experience first-hand what it’s like to be a maid for the Bourns – and have had the opportunity to observe the various “slants” our characters take while portraying William and Agnes Bourn, George and Libbie Starr, Katie Moriarty, and various other “personalities” who show up at the Cottage now and then.

There is a guest book placed just outside the kitchen door on CLH days that our guests are encouraged to sign – with their name, city, state, or country where they reside as well as space for any comments they care to share about their experience. We know that many people do not sign it for various reasons, but the entries that are made make for interesting reading. We are open to any suggestions from our guests, of course, but there are a few requests, frequently repeated, that we can’t fulfill – like, “May I live here?” Another one in that same category is, “Can’t we see the entire house?” Oh, and one more – “Can’t the adults have a cookie too?” Since I’ve mentioned food here, I’ll also tell you that some are emphatic when they say, “I don’t like tongue!” Katie often tells them that “cold, spiced, larded tongue” is a favorite meal for Mr. Bourn.

For the “numbers” people out there, I’ll report that in this particular year, we had visitors from 35 of our States plus Washington, D. C., and – get this – we had one guest from “Heaven!” What seems incredible to me is that we also had guests from 19 other countries – some were not surprising, like Canada, Great Britain (one from Cornwall even!), France, and Germany, but visitors from Thailand, Columbia, and Ecuador seemed less likely.

Since I’m fond of history (especially U.S.), it’s always gratifying to know that others share that love. The “best” comment to me was, “Super cool – I love history!” Other remarks were: “Thank you for taking us back to 1905,” “What an amazing learning experience,” “Very informative,” and “Great trip back in time.” One lady expressed an interest in having one of our costumes.

Comments about their impression of our interpretive program are always entertaining to read. My favorite in this category would have to be, “Am crazy in love with this tour!” A more specific remark was, “Liked the rope timeline” (a device dreamed up by one of our long-term docents, Bill Dempsey, when he serves as an Interpreter). One caller is still waiting, six weeks now, for her Kodak pictures! That’s because Mrs. Bourn probably took her picture with the 1905 vintage Kodak camera and promised to send her a copy! Another mentioned that it was her fifth visit!

It’s always fun, and rewarding, to read some kudos expressed by our Cottage guests – like “Enjoyed meeting the family,” “Felt very real,” “Good job, actors!,” “Great to meet you and hear your stories,” “I loved Miss Katie!,” “Actors really make this place come alive!” and, “Your house and staff are fabulous!” One guest mentioned how great Messrs. Bourn and Starr were – and Miss Katie too.

And, finally, I’ll leave you with a few of the descriptive adjectives our visitors used: sweet, cool, great, fascinating, wonderful, fun, awesome, beautiful, wow, bravo, terrific, and amazing – and most were followed by an ! – and, actually I guess, there were a few nouns thrown in there too. No matter what “parts of speech” they are though, they’re the fuel that keeps us going strong – year after year! Being appreciated goes a long, long way!
GOLD 'N' GRATITUDE

by Courtney Ferguson

Your passion for our Park — and your generosity — played a major part in making our first-ever fundraiser, “Mine, Wine and Dine,” a huge success. The Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA) gratefully acknowledges and thanks you so much — and we hope we can count on your support next year!

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Don Adams Antenna Satellite Services
Paulette’s Country Kitchen
Sierra Central Credit Union
Damon Scholl
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Advantage Gutter
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NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS
by Lynne Buenz

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers each year, but it’s oh-so-hard to bid farewell to experienced volunteers whose life’s journey is taking them out of the area. We have recently learned about several long-time volunteers who are moving on. One of these is Margi Nielsen, who will soon be leaving Nevada County and relocating to Oakmont Village in the Valley of the Moon just outside of Santa Rosa, to be closer to her family.

Since the beginning of her docent “career,” Margi has been active in Cottage Living History, portraying both Katie Moriarty, the Bourn family’s housekeeper and cook, as well as one of the maids on their staff. She also served a three-year term on the EMPA Board of Directors and while on the Board oversaw the redesign of the Association’s website. During her last year on the Board, she also served as the EMPA Membership Chair.

Margi, we wish you our very best as you transition to your new home and environment. We will certainly miss you!

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AN INDEPENDENT IRISHMAN BELIEVED IN “GIANT POWDER”

by Gage McKinney

Michael Buckley, a native of County Cork, Ireland, had an independent streak. He was one of the first miners at the Empire Mine to use “giant powder,” an early name for dynamite. He thought it was fine.

Buckley’s confidence in giant powder put him at odds with almost all the other 1,600 miners in Grass Valley. To the mine owners the new explosive had proven its effectiveness in the hands of Chinese workers blasting tunnels for the transcontinental railroad. But the miners complained it was unsafe and its fumes induced headaches, nausea and even “something worse which baffles the skills of the medical fraternity.”

On May 10, 1869 miners at the Empire set down their tools, refusing to work so long as the mine used giant powder. With workers from 30 mines in the district, they formed the first miners’ union in California. At a mass meeting in Grass Valley they denounced giant powder, and while they were at it, demanded higher wages.

The fumes were harmful, as the miners claimed. More significantly, the new explosive changed the patterns of mining. The black powder the mines had always used required a 1-1/4-inch drill hole. The hole was produced by two miners working as a team, one holding and turning a large drill with both hands while his partner swung an eight-pound sledgehammer — a technique called “double-jacking.” But the more powerful giant powder needed only a 3/4-inch hole. This smaller hole was produced by a single man holding a drill in one hand and swinging a three or four-pound hammer with the other — “single-jacking.”

In this reduction of labor, the mine owners saw the lure of efficiency and increased profits. But the miners saw only danger. Working alone without their “pard” beside them to share the dangers, think through difficulties and perhaps run for help, a single miner was vulnerable.

Once the strike was underway, Mike Buckley was vulnerable in a different way. He was one of a few men asserting their right to work. But the striking miners had vowed to prevent the use of giant powder “peaceably if they can, forcibly if compelled.” Two miners who continued to work at the Empire were attacked and bludgeoned. Before he was harmed, Buckley left for Smartsville to work in hydraulic mining.

The giant powder strike revealed, as a newspaper editor wrote at the time: “Grass Valley lives not off the mines but the miners — an important distinction.” The town’s merchants sided with the miners against the owners, and the owners caved. Yet change was inevitable. Within four years all the local mines were using dynamite and better ventilating the fumes.

Mike Buckley returned to Grass Valley where he worked underground until old. In 1922 his large family gathered in a home on Kate Hayes Street to celebrate his 92nd birthday. His story was revealed after great-great-granddaughter Claudia Garrison spotted his name on a list of mine employees in our museum gift shop. The EMPA research team then found his life story in back pages of the Grass Valley Union.

It was shortly before St. Patrick’s Day when I sat down with Claudia and her cousin, Steve Holeman, to hear their Irish family stories around the kitchen table in Claudia’s Lake Wildwood home.
HERE’S TO “MINE, WINE & DINE” HIGHLIGHTS

by Courtney Ferguson

The evening may have been chilly, but the atmosphere glowed with good cheer! Special thanks to Event Coordinator, Shanin Ybarrondo (Immersion Marketing) and Event Chair, Steve Sanchez, for their electric energy that powered a memorable evening. From the delicious farm-to-table dinner by Antonio’s Catering to the fabulous music by Heather McAdam and the George Souza Band, the evening was a masterpiece! So many contributed, including the entire “Mine, Wine and Dine” Committee, all the volunteers who served the meal, sold raffle tickets, and performed many other key duties. Michele Green’s efforts (including those of her family’s) made a huge difference too. Together we produced outstanding results!

Lise Hinman and Carol Bordeau made a fragrant contribution — the lovely little rose-and-lavender sachets that were favors for the ladies. Jay Hansell of the Over-the-Hill Gang played a special part as well. He re-programmed the mineyard whistle to sound at key points during the evening. All our Cottage Living History docents were engaging ambassadors — and reminded our guests just how important Empire Mine remains in our community today. Supervising Ranger Dan Younren and EMPA President Jim Coe opened the event with gratitude and warmth. Also, for those of you who are wondering, “Who came up with the event’s catchy name?” Well, that was Dan McCarthy! As always, kudos to Sherry Sanchez’s “ace” design skills for our event poster and program — as well as to photographers Richard Bannister and Jackie Page for sharing their time and talent with us. Here’s to another successful “Mine, Wine and Dine” event next year!

A LUXURY BREAK IN TAHOE — OR A FUN-FILLED NIGHT ON THE TOWN IN GRASS VALLEY?

by Courtney Ferguson

Our “Mine, Wine & Dine” guests had the chance to purchase raffle tickets and win one of two valuable prizes. First prize was three nights in a large, stunning home at Tahoe — with magnificent views. Kindly donated by owner Damon Scholl, it included dinner for two at nearby Graham’s Restaurant — a Squaw Valley landmark, known for its outstanding cuisine and atmosphere (thanks to owner Graham Rock!). EMPA Board Member Sean Gilleran — who is also the Manager of the Gold Miners Inn — donated a super second prize — a night on the town here in Grass Valley, including an overnight stay at the Gold Miners Inn, dinner for two at The Owl Restaurant — plus two tickets to enjoy Garrison Keillor at the Center for the Arts on Sunday, October 15. Special thanks to each of you for your generosity!
From an interview of George Rondon. Timberman, motorman, Idaho-Maryland Mine 1938-1942. Interview date 4/15/93.

When I was a kid I placer mined in Deer Creek if I needed a couple of dollars to buy something. Later on when I was in my teens I was placer mining in the South Fork of the Yuba River. Most of the time what you found was very fine gold or amalgam. But once in a while you would find a gold nugget. You would pick up a shovel of gravel but by the time you got it out of the river you had lost half of it.

The gold wasn’t pure as it had lead and some other things with it. Sometimes you’d find a black rock that turned out to be platinum. It was worth more than the gold. After we bought groceries and gas there wasn’t much left. If we still had money my partner and I would split it.

When I was about 20 years old I quit the placer mining and went to work for the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Errol Mac Boyle was going to build a big home on the top of the hill. We built a reservoir first. We took the big rocks from the reservoir and broke them up. We used them around the gate and to build a big fountain. I worked there about a year and a half and then I decided I wanted to work underground.

I went to the office and they hired me as a mucker. On my first day underground we went down 1000 ft straight down then another 1000 ft on the incline. Then we went in about a mile on an underground train and then down an incline of about 750 feet. At that time I was just about at the bottom of the mine.

They took me out to the end of the drift and gave me a pile of muck and a car and a shovel and left me there. I thought that I was at the end of the world. I only worked one day as a mucker. I then moved on to being a timberman and a motorman.

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


We used quite a lot of steel fabricating all of the cars that were used underground and for shiv blocks. We bought a car load of steel each month.

Another supply that we used was chemicals. That was one of the major supplies. They were mostly used in the mills. We would get a car load of cyanide that would last through the year.

Another one of our supplies was rubber. We used thousands of feet of air hose and water hose underground. We had quite a demand for rubber in the mill for various purposes.

We used a car load of explosive each month. We got the explosive from the Bay Area. We used Atlas powder, Trojan powder and Hercules powder. Those are the three that they settled on. They came up by truck and stored them outside the city limits.
TRUE DEVOTION TO “DUTY”

Submitted by Lise Hinman

Shown below are photos of Research Group volunteers on Monday, June 12, which shows their devotion to getting our database in shape. Tables were missing, as they had been used for the “Mine, Wine and Dine” event on June 9, and had not yet been returned. Nonetheless, we “carried on”!

(Photos by Lise Hinman)

NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT EMSHP

by Lauren Wilson

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Lauren Wilson. I started working at EMSHP as a Park Aide in May 2016, shortly after moving to Nevada County from my home in New Jersey. I held this position for nine months, and was able to meet a lot of volunteers, EMPA members and Park visitors and to encompass myself in the rich cultural, historical and natural background that the Park has to offer. I have helped at the front desk, presented public tours and helped to plan the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The opportunity to apply for a higher level position within the Park then arose and, after interviewing for it, I was hired as the new Park Interpretive Specialist. Among the responsibilities of this new position, I will be in charge of volunteer management and contributing more to the interpretation aspects of the Park.

My educational background includes a Bachelor’s Degree in Recreation Management concentrating in Outdoor and Park Management. As part of my college curriculum, I had to complete an internship and chose one where I was a program facilitator/counselor at a YMCA sleepaway summer camp. I enjoyed it, however; when the summer season ended, the YMCA transformed into an Environmental Education school, which is where I really found my niche. During the Environmental Education I taught grade school children about ecology, history and teamwork. Leading these activities and connecting people with the information at hand turned my spark for interpretation into a flame.

My vision as the Volunteer Coordinator for EMSHP is to provide volunteers with uniform knowledge and ample opportunities to grow, with training sessions, educational trips, and interpretive expansion. A common theme I see among the volunteers is passion, and I want to make sure that passion is supported, fed, and expanded upon, because that passion is what makes this Park unique, desirable and unforgettable!
# Empire Mine State Park Volunteer Coordinators

## Interpretative Coordinators

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<th>Service</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tour Guides</td>
<td>George Sanford</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:tang62000@comcast.net">tang62000@comcast.net</a></td>
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## Administrative Coordinators

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<td>Trails</td>
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