IN THE VEIN... 

May has arrived, bringing the start of the Living History season in the Empire Cottage. Thanks to Co-Coordinators Cheryl Balmain and Nancy Koring, Cottage docents are organized and ready to begin the season. In addition, docents who volunteer in the Blacksmith Shop, Clubhouse, Mine Office and Mineyard will inform as well as entertain Park visitors. Not to be overlooked, year-around tour guides do a great job of leading tours of the gardens, Mineyard, Cottage and Clubhouse.

May also brings our special Mother’s Day Springtime event, which will be held this year on May 14. (see flyer on page 8). As always Co-Chairs Bob Jennings and Troy Hammer, with the help of many others, work diligently to organize and carry out a very welcoming and fun time for the families in our community -- especially mothers, grandmothers and children. Dad, you will be a hero if you bring your family to the Mine on Mother’s Day!

Hopefully the “Gold of Ophir” roses will be still be in bloom for Mother’s Day. This species of rose was discovered by Robert Fortune in Eastern China in 1845. It covers the arbor leading to the rose garden, and graces the front of the Cottage.

Work continues on organizing our “Mine, Wine, and Dine” fundraiser scheduled for June 9 outside the Clubhouse (see flyer on page 3 — many thanks to Sherry Sanchez for her design). Steve Sanchez is the Chairman of this event, and he has been working tirelessly. Your help is needed — both before and during the event. Please spread the word to friends and family, and support Steve’s efforts. We hope to raise money for much needed repairs at the Park -- especially to the roofs of historic buildings that have taken a beating this winter.

JIM COE
Most of you will recognize the name of Sarah Kidder as the first woman President of a railroad in the world, as far as we know. She was elected President of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad (also fondly referred to as the “Never Come, Never Go” or NCNGRR) in 1901 following the death of her husband, John Kidder, who had signed over all his stock in the company to her—three quarters of the total. He had been the Superintendent during the construction of the Railroad that went between Nevada City and Colfax and then became its President and major stock holder.

He was eulogized as the “most important man to the welfare and progress of Nevada County” at the time of his death—Sarah, stepping in to take his place, had some very large shoes to fill. This was particularly true as she learned that the railroad was in debt which came as a shock to her. He was known as a brilliant businessman and during his 18 years as President he’d expanded the line and paid off $14,000 worth of debt—but he’d never paid a dividend to his stockholders—and he allowed more debt to pile up again.

Up to this time, Sarah had “only” been the wife of this very successful gentleman while she hosted tea parties and other events at their lovely mansion and raised their adopted daughter, Beatrice. She was a very traditional woman of her time believing that she “was not the sort of woman who desired to taste the duties and responsibilities that usually fall to man”—nor did she believe in suffrage for women—she was definitely not a feminist! If you’d have asked any man at that time about a woman running a business, he would have laughed while muttering (under his breath, or possibly even out loud!) that women have no “business sense.”

However, following her years as President of the NCNGRR, which were known as its “Twelve Golden Years” because she made the line more profitable than it had ever been or ever would be, I imagine that those same men would have “soon learned the error of his thoughts.” No one could ever determine how this very traditional woman acquired her business sense or just how she knew how to go about increasing the profits of the business, but she proved herself many times over during her tenure as President.

Nancy Smiler Levinson, in her She’s Been Working on the Railroad, writes that Sarah was shocked to learn of the debt she’d inherited, but it didn’t deter her—she overcame this obstacle and “set out immediately to tackle the problem.” First, she needed to pay off the debt. Then she had to move the company forward by earning higher profits. The most important action she took was to create new business by encouraging additional freight and passenger travel. From all reports, she was praised for doing a remarkable job in accomplishing her goals. In fact, by the end of 1903, hardly three years after her presidency began, the company’s annual report showed “its best profit in its twenty-seven-year history.” Not only did the railroad flourish under her leadership—it thrived and broke all records.

As an aside, while researching a bit for this article, I found a reference that indicated that at Nevada City’s Fourth of July celebration in 1962, a debut of a musical about the building of the railroad, titled “Never Come, Never Go,” took place. It’s the first time I’d heard about it, but it sounds interesting. If any of you can fill me in on the subject, please contact me at bev4411@gmail.com. Thanks!

References:

Bommersbach, Jana, “Railroad’s First Lady,” printed in TRUEWEST, History of the American Frontier, a monthly magazine.
YOU’RE INVITED TO THE FIRST-EVER

“Mine, Wine & Dine”
Farm to Table Dinner • Living History • Summer Evening Experience

Friday, June 9, 2017 • 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Empire Mine State Historic Park
10791 E. Empire Street, Grass Valley

A unique chance to dine outside the famous 1905 Clubhouse - and enjoy:
- A tempting variety of fine, local wines
- An exquisite meal by master caterer, Antonio Ayestarán
- A rare performance by The George Souza Band
- Music by singer/guitarist Heather MacAdam
- Full-moon visits to Empire Cottage & the Clubhouse
- PLUS Living History docents portraying characters from our past

Hosted by Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA) to support Empire Mine State Historic Park

Tickets are $95 each – and are available at the Empire Mine Visitor Center and www.brownpapertickets.com

For further information phone (530) 273-8522 or visit www.empiremine.org
Celebrate the Special Women Who Touch Our Lives at the

MOTHER’S DAY SPRINGTIME EVENT

Sunday, May 14, 2017

Submitted by Courtney Ferguson

(Please see the beautiful poster designed by Sherry Sanchez on page 8 of this newsletter.) This event promises to be a beautiful day!

Have you noticed how each event we host seems to be bigger, better and more fun than the previous one? For the first time, the popular band Step Side will perform live by the mineshaft. That way, people can be entertained while they wait. We'll also welcome award-winning Barbershop Quartet, the Forte Miners — and they’ll perform under the Assay Office porch. Popular duo Backyard Swing will make their Empire Mine event debut in the Tea Garden, followed by compelling guitarist George Souza. Visitors will enjoy the Forever Young Chorus near the Clubhouse. Free juggling lessons, sing-along music by Plinky and Plunky, and the lively Potting Bench (where children can make little living gifts for “Mom”) are some of the activities scheduled for children.

Food, drinks and snacks will be for sale by local vendors — or you can bring your own lunch, blankets and chairs — and picnic near the magnificent gardens.

NEW ADDITION TO THE GIFT SHOP

Submitted by Jennifer Greenfield, Gift Shop Coordinator

Exciting News! We are happy to now have drill cores from the Empire Mine available for sale in the Gift Shop. In the past the selection of merchandise actually coming from the Park was limited to the heritage roses as well as rose and lavender sachets. These cores offer our visitors an actual choice of a mining souvenir.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
EMPA Board of Directors Meeting
Docent Building

Thursday, May 18, 2017
Coordinators Meeting
Docent Building

Friday, June 9, 2017
“Mine, Wine & Dine”
6:00—10:00 p.m.
THE EMPIRE'S WIRE MAP REPRESENTS A VISUAL CULTURE

By Gage McKinney

The wire map at the Empire Mine amazes our visitors. After seeing it they can visualize the mine in depth and grasp the scope of an operation extending underground for miles.

One of the visitors who walked away impressed, as he told me, is Eric Nystrom, a history professor at Arizona State University and author of *Seeing Underground: Maps, Models, and Engineering in America* (University of Nevada Press, 2014). In the book Eric explains how the ability to visualize the work changed mining culture for everyone, and especially for Grass Valley's proud Cornish miners.

In the early days American mines developed according to the knowledge accumulated by miners in each district. This “local knowledge” was greatly enhanced by the arrival of experienced Old World practitioners, and especially men from Cornwall, England, where mining began before King Solomon. Men who had gone into the mines as boys, and learned the trade from their fathers, looked askance at the young engineers who began appearing in the West after the Civil War. To these old Cousin Jack miners, as Eric observes, a professional engineer was merely a “genteel supernumerary.”

But the mining engineer proved more than an extra hand. He brought new practices, tools and vocabulary in order to visualize complex, pitch-dark, three-dimensional spaces. The mining engineer seemingly lit the darkness to make mining more predictable and profitable. The development of maps gave power to the engineer's new visual culture, allowing him to gain authority over operations and create a new professional class. “The influence of their maps,” Eric explains, “gave power to their makers.”

The engineer's power to visualize ushered in new developments in mining, such as the implementing of new safety regulations, the unlocking of geological mysteries, and the settling of high-stakes litigation between competing mines.

The ascendance of the engineer didn’t eclipse entirely the influence of practical miners with local knowledge. William Bourn II dismissed the advice of engineers in 1878 when they told him his mine was worked out. Superintendent George Starr was trained by Cornish miners who always had his ear. But once college-educated engineers were on the job, practical miners were less influential and specialized knowledge of the district was no longer prerequisite. This eventually allowed the mine to hire more miners, employ three shifts and achieve mass production.

Even more illuminating than maps were mine models, such as our spectacular wire map. Models were created originally for courtrooms, to help judges and juries (non-engineers unaccustomed to reading maps) to visual issues of ownership and trespass underground. These 3-D representations soon proved invaluable to engineers in directing the work. They were used also in university classrooms to train students and at fairs to educate the public and broaden support for mining interests.

(continued on top of page 6)
(continued from page 5 - The Empire’s Wire Map Represents a Visual Culture)

In his book, Eric doesn’t discuss the Empire’s museum exhibit—his topic is the emergence of engineering culture, which pre-dates the Empire’s wire map. But as he told me, he loves our park and its map. “It’s what I call a ‘negative’ model,” he said, “where solid wires represent empty space.”

While the mine was operating, the existence of the wire map was a secret known only to the mine management and hidden from competing mines and miners. Today, by contrast, it helps our visitors appreciate history.

SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT
By Dan Youngren, Supervising Ranger, Sierra Gold Sector
(Reprinted from the South Yuba River Park Association Newsletter, April 2017)

Spring is in the air and with spring, change is abounding. We welcome 53 brand new State Park volunteers to the parks family. Dan Roediger, Brooke Betz and Lauren Wilson, our new Volunteer Coordinators, will be busy working with the new volunteers to get them trained and ready to interact with our visitors. We are also welcoming five new State Park seasonal employees that have recently been hired. Also, we are welcoming Ranger Michele Green, who has stepped up for our local Park Associations and is now the Cooperating Association Liaison (CAL) who is our department’s representative working with our Association partners. So, as you can see, we have been busy!!

Our Department is also on the verge of some serious changes that will help make us sustainable for future generations. The committee that was formed to help initiate the findings, the Transition Team, have already made a few organizational changes and recommendations to our department heads and we are now waiting on what changes will be enacted in the next few months that help bring relief to our over-taxed field staff. Stay tuned!!!

For now, let’s get outside and start enjoying this much deserved Spring season!

HELP (BADLY!) WANTED
By Lynne Buenz, Editor/Publisher

The Empire Star needs your help! Each month, most volunteers and EMPA members who are not volunteers receive a copy of the newsletter via email, either directly from the Park, or, for EMPA members who are not volunteers, from the EMPA Membership Chair. A select number of individuals either do not have email, or prefer to receive a “hard copy” in the mail. This involves having copies made at a local copy shop and mailing them via U.S. Mail. The newsletter is held to a total of 10 pages (5 pages back-to-back) so that they can be mailed with one stamp (currently $.49).

Volunteer help is needed to: 1) pick-up copies from Country Copy (where EMPA has an account); 2) affix a mailing label, stamp, and seal; 3) place in the U.S. Mail; 4) deliver extra copies to the Gift Shop. Currently, 125 copies are being made.

Reimbursement for postage is provided by EMPA. Mailing labels are provided by: 1) Park staff (front desk at the Visitor Center) and 2) by the EMPA Membership Chair.

If interested in this important volunteer opportunity, please contact Lynne Buenz, Editor/Publisher at la_buenz@hotmail.com or via telephone at 530-470-0595.

Many thanks to Frank Herwatt, who assumed the above duties roughly a year ago. Thank you, for all your efforts Frank; they are much appreciated!
From an interview of Alice Lowery Estrada. Daughter of William Bourn’s chauffeur. Interview date 6/24/90.
We used to come up to Empire in the summertime. My father would put the Rolls Royce on a flat car on the train and Mr. Bourn himself would get on the train. Then my father would drive my brother, my mother and me up here in the Hudson touring car.

We would stay in a bed and breakfast place in Grass Valley. I think it was around Church Street or School Street. I have never been able to find that house. It had goats around that I would play with. I must have been 4 or 5 years old when we came here.

Mr. Bourn would come up on the train to Colfax. My father would take the Rolls Royce off the flatbed and pick Mr. Bourn up and take him wherever he wanted to go.

We would stay in Grass Valley and I would play with the goats. We never did get over to the mine. My mother just never felt it was the right thing for you to do. That was the way it was in those days. You didn’t mingle.

My father wore a uniform with a visor cap. My father stayed with us in the bed and breakfast. He drove us home in the touring car. It was hot because the car had no air conditioning.

The only thing I remember about Mr. Bourn was that he would be sleeping out in his sun porch at Filoli. We would be playing in the courtyard just below. If we made a noise and woke him up he would get himself over to the balustrade. I would see this older man with a white mustache and he would yell. Boy could he yell. He was crippled. His mind was still sharp and he couldn’t talk but he could yell. If my mother heard that we were in trouble. This was about 1926.


The number 5 quartz ledge was a beautiful ledge. It was from 5 to 7 feet wide but it just didn’t have much gold in it. If you were working down there, especially mucking, you would crack the air valve to get a little air to blow on you.

Unfortunately that would take away the miners air. He would come down and chew your ear off for taking his air so he couldn’t drill. It was a losing proposition.

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

Mother's Day Springtime Event

Sunday, May 14th, 2017
Empire Mine State Historic Park

with special activities from
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Complimentary cups of tea served in the Tea Garden
- Lots of live music, including George Souza
- Lots of creative activities for kids, including juggling lessons
- Food & drinks for sale by local vendors
- Living History with colorful costumes and tales from the past
- Non-stop family fun

The famous gardens should be glorious. Bring food, a blanket, and chairs—and picnic on the historic grounds.

$7 ages 17 & over; $3 ages 6-16
FREE admission for children under 6 + FREE parking

Phone (530) 273-8522 for further details
or visit www.empiremine.org

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.
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

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

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