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In The Vein . . .

As the year enters into its last quarter, I would like to reflect on what EMPA and the Park have accomplished in 2016.

As most of you know, the year began with the tragic loss of our beloved past President, Larry Skinner. Our challenge now is to carry on his legacy of sound leadership and his deep caring for all the people who work and volunteer at the Park. As President, Larry laid a solid foundation of policies and procedures for EMPA to follow going forward. Larry will always be on my mind as I work at being President.

During the winter, the Park completed the roof replacement project on Empire Cottage, and EMPA was able and willing to contribute funds to help pay for the project. Preserving the Cottage and all the historic sites in the Park is a high priority for EMPA. Future work near the Cottage will include brick walkway repairs.

EMPA funded the introduction of a working stamp mill exhibit, which continues to be a challenge for the Over-the-Hill Gang to keep working properly. The “Gang” loves the challenge, and they will get it perfect in the end. They have put a lot of blood (literally), sweat, and tears into this exhibit, so let us not take it for granted when we see it stamping away.

EMPA has also funded the start of a much needed new irrigation system for the lovely Park grounds. We look forward to bringing more funds to this project that will help Park staff keep our grounds looking beautiful with an efficient and sound irrigation system.

Many people helped make the Miners Picnic a huge success. Special thanks to Steve Sanchez for leading the event and our publicist, Courtney Ferguson, whose publicity skills resulted in a record turnout. Parking space was the limiting factor, so that will be our challenge for next year’s planning for this popular event.

The recent fire on South Auburn Street that affected the Park, reinforces the need to remove dead trees and brush. The good news is that the State has a budget for fuel reduction work, which the Park will utilize to lessen the danger of future forest fires.

Park volunteers have had fun participating in all the activities that make the Park come alive for our visitors. This is important to keep it viable. Recruiting people to join us and to see them having so much fun is very rewarding to me.

Going forward, EMPA will continue to support the Park for the benefit of us all.

JIM COE
LOOKING BACK ON THE 2016 SEASON

Submitted by Bev Skinner

This somewhat abbreviated Cottage Living History season has been over three or four weeks now – ending on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. From what I’ve heard, it was a successful season – even though many of our docents were disappointed that it didn’t continue through September. We’ll see what 2017 brings.

Our CLH Program had a great turnout for the Volunteer Appreciation celebration on the 16th of September. As usual, the Park staff did a tremendous job of putting on a very fun event that evening, so be sure to express your appreciation to them – and it was through your efforts and your dues that enabled “your organization,” EMPA, to pick up the tab!

A highlight was when “one of our own,” Micki Kennedy, received the only 25-year pin awarded that evening! We’re all very proud of Micki – she portrays a great Mrs. Bourn or Mrs. Starr – and sometimes she does so wearing a lovely, white taffeta gown that she has sewed herself – she’s a woman of many talents! We all know that she loves to have – or create – fun. Her friends all know, too, how very fond of “thrift store” shopping she is – she can spot a great bargain from a mile away – and often can spy that one super special item in the entire store. At some point she started a family tradition that they still enjoy – each person is to find and buy one item at a resell store for each other family member – I can just imagine the fun that Micki gets out of that! Micki also enjoys going to movies by herself – but she loves to cook for others and is constantly trying new recipes! If you don’t know Micki, you’re really missing one swell lady!

The annual “wrap up” meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, at the Clubhouse at 10:30. It’s always a fun couple of hours when we talk about the season just past – what worked, what didn’t, funny things that happened along the way – as well as hearing about the number of visitors we entertained and informed as to what the Bourn family’s life was like in 1905. That date has become such a common, everyday term for us, that we tend to forget that it was 111 years ago! Life was different then for sure!

Oh – and we eat on that day too – it’s a fun day to try our newest, favorite recipe on our fellow docents. All Cottage Living History volunteers – and Clubhouse Living History docents too – are welcome and encouraged to attend. You’ll be receiving an invitation soon if you haven’t already – or call one of the CLH Co-Coordinators. Please RSVP to Jane Bland at 274-2440 or janebland16@gmail.com. Be sure to bring your calendars along!
CLOSE CALL AT EMPIRE MINE
Submitted by Ranger Greg Sherr

As most of you are aware, last week there was a fire that burned approximately 40 acres within Empire Mine State Historic Park. The fire was started near South Auburn and Whiting Street by a man who was later detained and treated for burns. I was on duty at Empire Mine when we noticed smoke coming from an area close to the Park. I drove to South Auburn Street and saw the fire entering thick brush and immediately contacted dispatch and Park personnel. I then had the Park evacuated and was given tremendous help from Park Aides Lauren Wilson and Kevin Schmidt to accomplish this task. Within a matter of minutes, we had the entire historic corridor evacuated. As other Park personnel were coming onto the scene, I assisted with the notification of residents within the Park to evacuate and then assisted in road closures and stationing personnel at Park entrances. Firefighters aggressively fought the fire and prevented it from burning any structures within the Park. Evidence of their efforts can be seen on either side of the Hardrock Trail near Penn Gate. Great job by all personnel on this event and I am pleased to say that we have an intact Park for the public to enjoy. The air attack on this fire was impressive, to say the least!

Because there was a possibility of spot fires after the fire was extinguished, the Park trails were closed until Monday morning, September 19. A thank you to our trail volunteers who helped with public information on the Sunday following the fire. Currently, all park trails are open to the public and we have posted signs stating that off-trail activities are prohibited. Cal Fire personnel are checking the fire area daily for potential hot spots. For all of you who volunteer and recreate at Empire Mine, please report any signs of smoke, fire, or suspicious activity immediately. You can call 911 for emergencies and park dispatch at (916) 358-0333 for a Ranger response.

Let it rain!
A SUCCESSFUL MINERS PICNIC
Submitted By Steve Sanchez, Chairman, Miners Picnic 2016

Now that the picnic is over and is a distant memory, I have had time to organize my thoughts on how the day turned out. I am so happy, with this being my first time, that nothing major happened and I felt that everyone who came through that day had a fun and wonderful experience.

With that being said, I want to thank those who were involved in the reenactment of the mine explosion, which was the best one ever, and nothing short of exciting for those who watched it. I also want to thank the many coordinators, volunteers, rangers and park aides, entertainers, and those who brought Model A cars. Without all of YOU, the Picnic would not have been successful.

I know just saying thank you does not seem enough, however, if only you could have seen how my heart was exploding with joy that day. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you and I look forward to next year being even better!

SOS!!! TAKE NOTICE—EMPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Submitted by Troy Hammer, EMPA Vice President

Please join us at EMPA’s Annual General Meeting, to be held Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in the Docent Building at EMSHP. In addition to enjoying an interesting program with noted author Gage McKinney as the featured speaker (see details in last month’s Star), you will have the opportunity to share your ideas and concerns with the EMPA Board of Directors as we move forward into 2017.

Another important item on the agenda is the election of new EMPA Directors. Currently, there are four vacancies on the Board. As I write this article (September 24), NO applications have been received. This is of great concern, as without committed individuals to serve on the Board, EMPA will be unable to fulfill its mission of supporting the Park and enhancing the experience of visitors.

PLEASE give serious and careful consideration to joining the Board. An application form is printed on page 8 of this newsletter, or is available in the Visitor Center at the Park. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact me at 575-9155 (email: troypheus@yahoo.com) or EMPA President Jim Coe at 274-2675 (email: coejim@sbcglobal.net).

See YOU on November 3!
FUN FACTS FROM THE PAST
by Barbara Jarvis
Research Coordinator

MINING CLAIMS

The first meeting of miners was held in Grass Valley January 13, 1851, on Massachusetts Hill, when a size of 30 by 40 feet was allowed for all claims, the boundaries in all cases being perpendicular. Later on, claims 100 feet square were allowed. The form of the quartz claims on Massachusetts Hill still shows the outlines of the earliest locations. Still later, in 1852, a uniform rule was adopted by the quartz miners of Nevada County by which "each prospector shall hereafter be entitled to 100 feet on a quartz ledge or vein and the discoverer shall be allowed 100 feet additional. Each claim shall include all the dips, angles, and variations of the vein." (Ross Browne' Report. Washington, 1867, pg. 235). This was still in force in 1866, and in fact, until the Federal mining laws were passed in 1872, allowing quartz claims to be 1500 feet along the vein, with all the dips, spurs, and angles, and 600 feet wide.

In 1894 the following mines were producing:

NEVADA CITY: DRIFT MINES---East Harmony and West Harmony

QUARTZ MINES---Champion, Providence, Nevada City, Spanish Mayflower, Federal Loan, and Pittsburg

GRASS VALLEY: QUARTZ MINES---Maryland, Empire, North Star, W.Y.O.D, Pennsylvania, Electric, Omaha, Slate Ledge, Osborne Hill, and Orleans

*Gold-Quartz Veins of Nevada City & Grass Valley Districts, CA  Pg. 9*

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**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.
BRIDGEPORT FALL FESTIVAL
SOUTH YUBA RIVER STATE PARK
SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2016
11am - 4pm
Barn Tours * Gold Panning * Hayrides * Live Birds
Children’s Games & Crafts * Food & Drinks * Pumpkin Painting
Live Music * Magic Shows * Root Beer Floats
FREE ADMISSION
Parking $5.00
17660 Pleasant Valley Rd, Penn Valley, Ca  530-432-2546
http://southyubariverstatepark.org
SAVE OUR BRIDGE
YOU CAN HELP
South Yuba River Park Association
P.O. Box 1658, Penn Valley, CA 95946 & www.southyubariverstatepark.org

Jack Mann was the manager when I came to Empire. He was later replaced by Hopkins Fitzpatrick when Jack Mann was transferred to New York to take part in affairs.

Newmont had a way of making requests on the spur of the moment. For instance the mine manager, Fitzpatrick, came over to my house one evening. I was living at the North Star house at that time.

He sat down and we chatted for a while. It got to be after 9:00 p.m. He said, "Will, I made an appointment for you in Leadville, Colorado at 2:00 tomorrow afternoon to close a deal on the purchase of the U.S. Smelting and Refining property. He said, I'll see you later".

I dashed over to my office at Empire and got together all of the flight schedules I could find. I believe I drove to the Sacramento Airport, caught a flight to Las Vegas, transferred to Denver, put in an order to have a car waiting for me in Denver and I drove to Leadville. I arrived in Leadville at 10 minutes to 2:00 that afternoon.

It seems that all of their decisions were sudden like that.

From an interview of Downey Clinch, who worked on the surface gang 1937. Interview date 11/21/85.

You rotated the 50 pound boxes of dynamite so the oldest was being used first. After a period of time, especially if it has been exposed to extreme heat or cold, the nitroglycerin will precipitate out along the bottom of the box and become unstable. You have to avoid letting the dynamite freeze because that also causes deterioration.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
EMPIRE MINE PARK ASSOCIATION (EMPA)

BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION

EMPA MISSION STATEMENT
As a Cooperating Association with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, it is EMPA's purpose to provide an adventure into the history of hard rock mining in California's Gold Country by supporting the interpretive and educational activities and the maintenance of the historical facilities at the Empire Mine State Historic Park.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS
♦ Must be a member in good standing (or be willing to join) EMPA.
♦ Must have a passion for the Empire Mine State Historic Park and agree to commit the necessary time and effort required. (Note: Terms are usually for three (3) years. Monthly Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Docent Building at the Park. On average, attendance at meetings and work on various Board projects requires a commitment of 10 hours per month.)

APPLICANT INFORMATION
Name: ______________________________ Telephone (land line and/or cell): ______________________
Address: ______________________________ City: ______________________________
E-Mail Address: ______________________ (Note: E-Mail is the preferred form of Board communication)
Volunteer/Board Experience: __________________________

Employment and/or Career Background: __________________________

Reason You Would Like to Serve on the EMPA Board: __________________________

Skills You Can Bring to the Board: __________________________

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

Interpretative Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour Guides</th>
<th>Terry Armstrong</th>
<th>271-0126</th>
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<td>School Tour Guides</td>
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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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Grass Valley, CA  95945
Return Service Requested

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