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**IN THE VEIN**

Bri Cosbie

Happy fall everyone, and welcome to the last issue of *The Empire Star* (at least for now)!

First, I would like to thank Lynne Buenz for all of her hard work these last few years as Editor/Publisher of this wonderful newsletter that we all enjoy so much. It is a lot of work, and would not have been possible without her.

I hope that some of you were able to attend the Miners Picnic this year, and experience all of the fun activities and music throughout the park.

As the season begins to change, I expect that we will be seeing a lot of beautiful fall colors throughout the Park and fewer visitors as the weather becomes colder. Once again, thank you to ALL of the wonderful volunteers who have been helping throughout the Park during the busy season.

The Sierra Gold Parks Foundation (SGPF) is looking forward to starting a new chapter resulting from combining into one the current three existing park associations -- Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA), South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA), and Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins (FNBMD). This effort has been a very long and complicated process, so we appreciate everyone’s patience as we work out the kinks and the details. The intention at this point is to have the new foundation up and running no later than the end of the year. Special thanks to members of the working committee who have put so much hard work into making this new foundation happen.

Since a lot of change is still in process, there is not much else to report at this time. On behalf of the Empire Mine Park Association, I want to thank each and every one of you for loving the Empire Mine State Historic Park, and for all you do to support it.

*Bri Cosbie*

*(Photos by Bri Cosbie.)*
MAUD AND ARTHUR’S PEBBLE BEACH HOME REVISITED

By Bev Skinner

If you’re interested in knowing what a $37,000,000 CA home looks like (no, that’s not a typo – I really mean $37 Million!), continue reading; here’s a fabulous example!

Back in the January/February 2013 issue of The Empire Star, I wrote an article about Maud Bourn Vincent’s home on the 17-Mile Drive in Pebble Beach. There were even a couple of photos published of the interior of that home. Well – I’m eating “humble pie” at the moment, as I wrote about the wrong house back then! Thanks to one of our current docents, Chrysan Silence, who contacted me a few months back – plus a whole lot of additional research – the confusion surrounding the two houses has been resolved! Chrysan had seen an article in The Carmel Pine Cone (in the real estate section of the June 8, 2018 edition) about Maud’s home. When I read that article and followed the “hints” it contained, I was led to discover that it truly was Maud’s former home – and not the one I’d reported on earlier. Here’s how that confusion came about: When Maud and her husband, Arthur Rose Vincent, had this home built on the lot in Pebble Beach that her parents had purchased for her (actually both the building site and the house itself were a gift from her parents) in about 1924, they named it “Asilo de la Estrella” (that’s well documented in several reliable sources). And that is the name of the property I reported on back in 2013. The Pine Cone article, however, claimed that a different house, named “Ville Eden del Mar,” in the same Pebble Beach area, had actually been Maud’s home. When I delved deeply into the online real estate website (Carmel Realty Co.) that had this home listed with the above-mentioned price, I discovered that this home had actually first been known as “Asilo de la Estrella,” but in later years, it was re-named as “Ville Eden del Mar.” The listing Realtor’s website continued on page 3)
now even includes an account of the history of this estate that was written by Rose Vincent, Maud and Arthur’s daughter. Here’s a link to that property if you’re interested in reading more—and/or viewing lots more photographs of this spectacular estate: www.villaedendelmar.com This website also contains a 3-minute video that is well worth your time watching. And, don’t miss the several “tabs” at the top of the page. Each one is interesting and informative: Estate Film (the video), Photography, Estate History, Property Features, and Contact. Under this final tab, I found the four Realtors representing this estate property—all from Carmel Realty. My intention when I first contacted Shelly Mitchell Lynch was to gain permission to use the photographs from their website. I was in contact with both Shelly and Bill Mitchell—and each of them was very generous and seemed genuinely interested in my “connection” to the property.

The current “seller” is the Trust of the last owners, Jack and Eileen Feather, both deceased, but who were widely recognized as fitness entrepreneurs—including ownership in a chain of salons, a mail-order company, and later introducing a liquid diet called the Cambridge Plan International. Through the Mitchells, I was also put in touch with the Feathers’ son who represents his parents’ Trust. He was under the impression that there had not been a “name” associated with the property until the 1970s when his parents purchased it and named it Villa Eden del Mar. He was grateful to learn the history of its original name, Asilo de la Estrella. I was able to share a photo with him of a small part of the home which is in one of the photograph albums that belonged to Billy Vincent—and Billy had written on that page, in white ink on the typical black paper, the name his parents had given the home!

The then-famous architect, George Washington Smith, designed the Spanish Revival style mansion that overlooks the ocean along the rugged shore on the 17-Mile Drive.

This home, in contrast to the home I’d written about back in 2013, is much more lavish—you need only to look at the photos to recognize that. It sits on an impressive 2.8-acre compound that includes four structures: (1) the main house that has 15,418 sq. ft.; (2) an ocean-front Lyceum of 3,651 sq. ft. in itself; (3) a 2-bedroom, 2 bathroom guest house of 1,806 sq. ft.; and (4) another 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom caretaker’s home of 976 sq. ft. I’ve done the math for you—the “grand total” of those four components adds up to 21,851 sq. ft.!!!!

Even if the current “decorating style” isn’t what you’d choose, I think everyone will agree that the home itself—and its setting—is nothing short of spectacular! And thanks for allowing me to “set the record straight”!

(All photos are compliments of the Carmel Realty Company.)
A FOND FAREWELL
By Lynne Buenz, Editor/Publisher

This issue of The Empire Star marks the end of my tenure as Editor/Publisher. I began this volunteer assignment in October 2015, and for the most part, it has been a fun experience that I have enjoyed. Several months ago, however, I had informed the EMPA Board and others that I wished to step down. Some effort has been made to find a replacement, with no success to-date. In the meantime, efforts have also been underway to combine the park associations for Empire Mine State Historic Park, South Yuba River State Park, and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. Those efforts are expected to culminate in the formation of a new organization – the Sierra Gold Parks Foundation – by the end of this year.

At this writing, I do not know the future of The Empire Star, nor of the newsletters issued by the other two State parks. As I’ve mentioned before, it is possible that a decision will be made to have one newsletter for the new Foundation, which could contain news from all three parks. On the other hand, an argument could be made to continue with separate newsletters. If the latter is decided upon, a new Editor/Publisher will be needed for The Empire Star (the job could actually be shared by two people, as it has in the past). I have a file, background information and a computerized newsletter format (in MS Publisher) that should be useful to a new individual(s). In addition, I would be pleased to assist during the transition period. Please give this your careful consideration as we await further word about the future.

Whatever is decided about the newsletter, I am confident that the proud history of the Empire Mine State Historic Park will continue. My very best to all; many thanks for your support these past four years!

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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 in some instances due to space limitations.
HOSPITALITY HAD LIMITS FOR ASIAN MINING STUDENTS

By Gage McKinney

Mining and geology students from Berkeley, Palo Alto and Reno came to Grass Valley every summer seeking jobs and practical experience in hard rock mines. In the industrial era, hospitality was limited if the student wasn’t white. From the time the Transcontinental Railroad was completed in 1869, and its proven Chinese workers were released into the labor market, miners in Grass Valley and across the West feared cheaper laborers would take their jobs. In later decades, it didn’t take much to stir anti-Chinese sentiment among hard-rock miners.

This sentiment extended to other Asians and even to university students who were destined for management positions. In 1912 Sakiyiro Mitenda, a University of California student from Japan, came to Grass Valley via the stage from Marysville. When he couldn’t get a mining job, he wrote to Berkeley for help. At the suggestion of Professor Samuel Christy, Dean of the College of Mining, Mitenda spent his summer in the field working with a consulting geologist.

Before he arrived in Grass Valley, Chinese student H. T. Cheng wrote: “I had been told a great many facts concerning the mines...” Despite what he had been told, he tried to land an underground job. He eventually settled for work above ground in the North Star mill. Sympathetic mill superintendents at the North Star and Empire didn’t share the anti-Chinese sentiments of their co-workers underground and employed Asian students over the years.

As he rode the narrow-gauge railroad to Grass Valley in the summer of 1912, W. F. Wong was encouraged by his conversation with a kind Cornish miner. When he got to town, and couldn’t find a room, a hotel clerk referred him to a Chinese family for lodging. (The Knights of Pythias were holding a state-wide convention in Grass Valley at the time.) Putting the best face on his situation, Wong reported back to Berkeley that it was “inconvenient” for him to work underground. Managing Director George Starr arranged for Wong to work in the Empire Mine cyanide plant with superintendent Frank Vestal.

After graduation, Sakiyiro Mitenda managed mines in Japan. After their graduations, H. T. Cheng took an imperial post in China’s mineral-rich Yunnan province and W. F. Wong supervised the Shanghai mint.

One California-born student of Chinese descent did work underground. In 1924, Lincoln Soo Hoo joined a small crew drilling core samples in the Sultana Mine, which the Empire Mine had recently acquired. The Sultana equipment was in poor condition when the Empire took over.

At the end of a shift and heading for the surface, Soo Hoo was in a skip with another miner when the skip derailed. As the miner got out to replace the wheels on the rails, the cable parted from the skip. The miner yelled for Soo Hoo to jump, but before he could, the skip plunged downward and he was thrown. He died from a fractured skull. There was no suggestion of anything other than cruel fate in Soo Hoo’s death and his mother came to take the body home to Berkeley. He was the only mining student to die in the Grass Valley mines.

Note: UC Student H. T. Cheng is quoted with permission from University of California Department of Mining & Metallurgy Student Reports, UC Berkeley Bancroft Library Manuscripts Collections (BANC MSS C-A 207, Carton 1, Folder 1:49) The Empire Star thanks The Bancroft Library.

(continued on page 6)
NEW RANGER AT EMPIRE — MARY MOYER (GARZA)

Those who attended the recent Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, sponsored by the Empire Mine Park Association, had the opportunity to meet and hear from Mary Moyer (Garza), the new Supervising Ranger at Empire Mine. Following is a bit of biographical information submitted by Mary:

I was born and raised in Nevada County, graduated from Nevada Union High School, and attended Sierra College. I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelors Degree in Sports and Exercise Science from American Public University, a branch of the American Military University.

I worked as an EMT and a firefighter before becoming a Park Ranger for Orange County Parks and Recreation, then finally, California State Parks and Recreation. I love the outdoors and have a passion for people and history of the area. I am finally back in my home town, and don’t expect that I will be going anywhere until I retire. I look forward to meeting all of you!

(Ed. Note: After receiving the above from Ranger Moyer, I received a copy of the Bridgeport News, Fall 2019 Edition, issued by the South Yuba River Park Association. The following is an excerpt from that newsletter, written by Matt Green, Acting Sierra District Superintendent:)

“I want to welcome the following staff to our Sierra District team:

Mary Moyer is our new Supervising Ranger for Malakoff Diggins and Empire Mine State Parks. Mary has been working with us for the past few weeks and has hit the ground running. Mary has a background in county park management with Orange County Parks and Rec, over five years as a Ranger at Lake Perris and two years at San Jacinto State Park. Mary will supervise a future new Malakoff Ranger, Michele Green at Empire, K9 Handler Martin Gilbertson and will act as a lead/supervisor for Sierra Gold Sector Interpreter Jenna Randar. Mary will also be in charge of park operations and interpretive support for Malakoff and Empire Mine.”
From an interview of Nancy Allcon Levensaler, George and Libby Starr’s granddaughter. Interview date 6/85.

My grandfather was a very handsome man. He always dressed beautifully even when he went up to Osborn Hill. He wore those flared britches with boots up to the knee. He always had a silk shirt on with his own initials on the pocket. He always wore a tie and, in the summer, a Panama hat.

He loved to dance. He was a beautiful dancer. He would dance with me. One of the games we played is he would put a glass of whiskey on his head and I would put a glass of water on my head and we would dance and see which glass fell off first. He usually won.

My grandfather thought he would be very sophisticated and make coffee with liquor in it. He didn’t realize that making the coffee with the liquor burned off all the alcohol. He couldn’t figure out why he didn’t feel the effect of his sophisticated coffee drink.

He liked to travel too. He took us all to France in 1925. We lived there for a year. My cousin, Betty, and I stayed in Cannes which was just a fishing village. My grandfather and grandmother and Betty’s mother all went traveling all over Europe. Traveling was hard and you took a trunk any time you went anywhere.

All of the times that I visited my grandparents at Empire, I only saw the Bourns once. As a matter of fact, I really didn’t see them. Will Bourn was an invalid. We knew they were there. My cousin Betty and I were little kids and we were told not to make any noise. One more time after the house burned down, we rented a house in Grass Valley.

From an interview of Phil Keast, Master Mechanic and Mechanical Engineer, Empire Mine 1920-1957. Interview date 11/10/80.

At different times, visitors would be at the collar of the mine at noontime when the whistle would go off. The guys in the shop would go to the windows to watch the visitors jump around and holler when the whistle would go off. It would really deafen you.

At noontime the air pressure was up to the maximum of 90 P.S.I. because there wasn’t anyone using air because they were eating their lunch. The whistle was supplied with air right off the 8-inch main pipe. A 4-inch line that was reduced to 2-1/2 inches supplied the air.

Around the mine there were several other whistles. The cyanide plant had a whistle down there that was used when a certain tank would get full. We also had whistles on the headframe to signal anytime someone was coming up from underground.

The hoistman would blow three blasts. The watchman had to be there at the collar to stop the skip so the men could get off. He would signal the hoistman using a small whistle that was just outside the hoist building. Once the skip was stopped, the hoistman had orders never to move it even though it was below the collar because a man might be crawling out.

That whistle also served the purpose of changing the gates from waste rock to quartz on the headframe. The head gearman would blow that whistle and the hoistman had orders to shut down. Once he had the gates open, he would give the proper signal to the hoistman that everything was clear to go ahead and hoist again.

We also had a small whistle on the headframe that we used when we were working on the rock breaker. Some of the parts on the crusher weighed about two tons. We would send a man with a locomotive out on the tracks toward the waste dump. We would have 6 or 7 or 800 feet of rope out and, of course, you couldn’t see him so we would use the small 3/4-inch whistle on the headframe to signal what we wanted him to do.

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

By Marsha Lewis, Program Leader
Garden Tour Guides

Tours of the beautiful Park grounds will be coming to a close at the end of September. I would like to recognize all of our wonderful and conscientious garden guides who have led tours every weekend for nearly six months. They include: Darcy Briel, Pat Coe, Sandra Frederickson, Kim Lockwood, Jeanne Powell, Kristie Stevens, Priscilla Vanderpas, Kris Vasser and Darlene Ward. We are so blessed to have such knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides who showcase the estate gardens and value their worth when sharing with Park visitors. Currently, the gardens are undergoing their natural transition into fall with over 25 deciduous trees turning beautiful colors and the Virginia Creeper vines as well. The next time you are at the Park, please take a few moments to enjoy the beauty of this transition and remember the importance of these gardens to the Bourn family.

A Fall Color Tree Walk will be held starting at 11:00 a.m. on Halloween, October 31. The tour will meet at the green benches near the Visitor Center. Please join us for a slow stroll among the beautiful changing trees at Empire. An informative, colorful and amazing poster is being created to highlight the fall colors. It will be posted outside the Visitor Center.

Photo by Brie Cosbie.

Photo by Alana Buenz.
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Program Leaders

### Interpretive Program Leaders

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<td>Tour Guides</td>
<td>Kyle Ingram</td>
<td>273-7714</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kyle.Ingram@ca.parks.gov">Kyle.Ingram@ca.parks.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>School Tour Guides</td>
<td>Marilyn Sakowicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
<td>Marilyn Sakowicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
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<td>Cottage Living History</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:entrycreations@att.net">entrycreations@att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
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<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
<td>Nancy Cunningham</td>
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<td>Garden Tour Guides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mineyard Living History</td>
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<td>Mineyard Stations</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:vinceseck@yahoo.com">vinceseck@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Volunteer Aide</td>
<td>Kyle Ingram</td>
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### Administrative Program Leaders

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<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
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<td>OTHG</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
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<td>273-0704</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 lbuenz@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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*Not a voting member of the Board.

Special Note: The Board presently has two 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