In The Vein . . .

I have recently agreed to assume the role of EMPA President, stepping in for Mark Allen. Troy Hammer has replaced me as Vice President. I sincerely hope that Mark continues to share his passion and commitment to the Empire Mine and all the parks in the Gold Sector. His talents and enthusiasm are valuable and appreciated.

As a dedicated Cottage Living History docent for the last seven years and a long-serving EMPA Board member, I will continue to support the Park and its future. Like each of you, I will do my best to keep our colorful history alive, and will continue to serve as both a docent and an EMPA Board Member. Together, we’ll keep EMPA’s mission moving forward, as we continue to provide funding for the Park’s needs for maintenance and improvements.

As President, one of my important roles is to encourage volunteers to become EMPA Board members or to get involved in any other way that will support our shared mission. We welcome your expertise, vitality and creativity, and right now, need help particularly in the areas of bookkeeping and organizing fundraising events. Are these skills you possess and are willing to share? If so, let’s talk. My telephone number is 530-274-2675. If not, the Board may consider hiring part-time help to fill these roles.

As many of you know, I often portray William Bourn, Jr. Over the years, I have come to love Empire Mine’s history and to respect the risks that the Bourn Family took to make this mine successful. Their vision not only created beauty, but helped create a thriving local economy. In a very different way, Empire Mine continues to support our local business economy today, attracting tourists from all over the United States — and the world. Each year, we welcome around 100,000 visitors.

I’ll bet if I spoke to each of you individually, we’d discover we share this passion for the Park – and I thank all of you for your dedication and drive. Every one of you makes a huge, much-appreciated difference!

For those of you who are interested in joining our fun-loving team, please contact me or stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an application.

See you at the Park!

JIM COE
A Sentimental Journey for Bourn Family’s Seventh Generation

By Courtney Ferguson, EMPA Outreach Coordinator

No doubt, August 5, 2016 would have been a proud day for both William Bourn, Sr. and Jr., as the seventh generation of their family discovered part of their goldmine legacy. Alex Burgh is the great great great grandson of William Bourn, Sr., while Alex and wife Emma’s children represent the next (7th) generation.

Alex Burgh is from England, and his official title is (The Right Hon) The Lord Burgh. The title and seat in the House of Lords (less powerful, but much like our U.S. Senate) was conferred by King Henry VIII in 1529. “Alex,” as he likes to be called, explained his link to the Bourn Family as having started, “… when my grandfather married Rosie Vincent, granddaughter of William Bowers Bourn, Jr. They met when Rosie was placed with my English great grandmother to be presented at the court of King George 5th (Queen Elizabeth II’s grandfather).”

While Alex, the “family historian,” has visited Empire Mine several times before, it was the very first time for his wife, Emma, and their two children, Peter (14) and Charlotte (11). “What a thrill it was to introduce them to a place that has such significance in our family’s history,” he told me. “I am chuffed (U.S. “delighted”) with the warm welcome we received, both here at Empire Mine as well as at Filoli in Woodside, another historic family residence.”

“For years, I’ve heard stories and seen family-photo albums that sparked my curiosity,” Emma Burgh recalled. “Alex has also brought home gold jewelry from the Empire Mine Gift Shop. The mine is much larger than I expected, and exploring the mineyard and museum was like walking through a time capsule.” Son Peter described the experience as, “Amazing! I never expected to see so many visitors. I felt a great sense of pride in my family.” Daughter Charlotte could not get over “How deep the mine is! My experience today was both noisy and civilized … a day I will treasure.”

(continues on page 3)
A Sentimental Journey ... (cont’d from page 2)

For most of the Burgh Family their visit truly was a sentimental journey of discovery. They particularly liked meeting some of the key people in Empire Mine’s history. For example, their tour of Empire Cottage included meeting William Bourn, Jr. (portrayed by Jim Coe) and his wife, Agnes (portrayed by Nancy Koring). Nancy recalled, “It was both special and humbling to get a hug from my great great grandson, Alex, and his family. Sharing stories from the early 1900s was a delightful experience. They seemed to enjoy learning what it was like to have electricity, as well as why we would seat the Cottage’s architect, Willis Polk, so he could see the ornate sideboard throughout his meal.”

As in Empire’s heyday, the kitchen was Katie Moriarty’s “patch.” In her crisp, black-and-white housekeeper’s outfit, Cheryl Balmain explained how Katie would often fix Mr. Bourn his favorite breakfast, waffles. Seeing the old stove and iron waffle maker aroused personal nostalgia, as did the old telephone on the kitchen wall.

A light lunch outside the Clubhouse was hosted by the Empire Mine Park Association. “The Burgh Family will always receive a warm welcome at Empire Mine State Historic Park,” said Board Director, Bob Jennings. “They are part of Empire’s past, present and future – and their connection makes them a permanent part of our community’s family.”

Special thanks to all those who contributed to making the day a memorable one – for the Burgh Family and for EMPA.

Cheryl Balmain, who portrayed Katie Moriarty, the Bourn’s Housekeeper and Cook, explained how Katie used to prepare waffles, “one of Mr. Bourn Jr.’s favorite breakfasts, on this very stove.”

(photo by Courtney Ferguson)

A family visit brought the Burgh family to the heart of their goldmine past (left to right are: Emma, Alex, Charlotte and Peter)

(photo by Courtney Ferguson)
SAVE THE DATE!

**EMPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

1:00 p.m.—November 3, 2016 (Docent Building at EMSHP)

Submitted by Jim Coe, EMPA President (on behalf of newly elected Vice President Troy Hammer)

Everyone is invited to join us at the EMPA Annual General Meeting. We are fortunate to have scheduled a speaker who has written the book “MacBoyle’s Gold.” Thanks to EMPA Board Member, Virginia Brunini, we will have author Gage McKinney speaking who will tell us stories about how Errol MacBoyle (owner of the Idaho-Maryland Mine) owed much of his success to his relationships with Bourn, Starr, Hague and Foote. If you are interested in our mining history and the history of the people who created it, you will be entertained! Plus, everyone is invited to share your ideas and concerns with the EMPA Board of Directors as we move forward into 2017.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, please contact me at 530-274-2675, or fill out an application, which can be found in the Visitor Center. If you do want to be on the Board, you will join up with some fun-loving people like Steve Sanchez, who just recently joined the Board. If you don’t know Steve, he is a tour guide and, he has taken on the duties of coordinating the Miners Picnic.

I hope to see you at the meeting,

____________

FROM OUR “SISTER” STATE PARKS

- **SAVE THE DATE:** Bridgeport Fall Festival at South Yuba River State Park — Sunday, October 23, 2016 — 11:00 am—4:00 p.m. Featuring: Barn Tours, Gold Panning, Hayrides, Music, Root Beer Floats, Children’s Games & Crafts, Food and Drinks, Pumpkin Painting, Live Birds, 1930’s Gas Station, and a SURPRISE ATTRACTION! Free admission — parking $5.00 — 17660 Pleasant Valley Road, Penn Valley, CA; 530-432-2546; http://southyubariverstatepark.org

ALSO:

- **The Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins** are collaborating with researchers and local Francophiles to host a new event honoring the French mining pioneers responsible for much of the early technological and cultural developments around Malakoff Diggins. **Stay tuned for more details and a “save the date” announcement.**
FUN FACTS FROM THE PAST
by Barbara Jarvis
Research Coordinator

GEORGE STARR AND RESTORATION OF EMPIRE MINE

When George Starr began his restoration of the Empire Mine, the appearance of the surface of the property had been the subject of much comment. The collar of the shaft was arched with granite, therefore shaft repairs were no longer necessary. All the buildings were enclosed with No. 26 galvanized iron and built on a rock foundation; no timber rests within four feet of the ground. The floors of the mill are asphalt, laid on a concrete foundation.

The office is built of stone from the mine and contains the usual general and private offices, map, drafting, assay, retort, and melting rooms. A portion of the basement is used for a storeroom from which supplies are issued.

Adjoining the plant is a natural park, beautified lawns, shrubbery, artificial lake, and cottages built for the officials of the company. The plant and park are surrounded by a high stone wall and is protected from fire by numerous monitors.

What appeared as an extravagance is an investment. The lake is a reservoir that received the water used for power and then flows to be used at the North Star Mine and the Allison Ranch Mine.

The mill and buildings have no floors to wear out or timbers to decay; repairs are reduced to a minimum; maintenance and insurance accounts are small, and above all, the influence of the surroundings invite a high class of labor, and system, order, and neatness. A visit to the property by the officials and shareholders is no longer irksome, but more in the nature of a pleasure trip and personal interest by those financially interested is a spur to the administration of any enterprise.

*Article in part, was written for the Mining and Scientific Press in 1900, pg 11*
END OF SUMMER

By Ranger Greg Sherr

Yesterday, we celebrated the 121st Miners Picnic at Empire Mine. The weather was perfect and the public came out in droves. We estimate about 1,300 people showed up this year! From my perspective, this year’s event was one of the best events that I have seen! A huge thanks to Steve Sanchez for his planning of the event. Steve spent countless hours promoting the event, getting donations for the raffle, coordinating new participants and keeping staff and volunteers informed of the details of this year’s event. His communication was excellent and his enthusiasm contagious. Not only did the event run smoothly, there was something for everyone from a mineyard rescue, gold panning, living history, face painting, suffragettes, live music and vendors selling tasty food! Thank you to Troy Hammer and Bob Jennings for their efforts with the rose propagation program at Empire Mine. We had numerous varieties of heirloom roses for sale at Miners Picnic!

As the summer heads toward fall, our living history season also ends. I would like to thank all of the volunteers associated with living history for a fantastic year. We have had numerous compliments on Cottage Living History, Clubhouse Living History and Mineyard Living History this season. I feel that the living history programs at Empire Mine are one of the most important interpretive aspects that are offered at the Park. Great job!

Also, our Cottage, mineyard and garden tours have been well attended. Thank you to all of the tour guides and security volunteers as well as our blacksmith volunteers who have hammered away during the hot months of July and August. Finally, a special thank you to Frank Hamlin and Jay Hansell for their continuous work on the mine model interpretive recording.

Our annual volunteer appreciation dinner is coming up on September 16 at Empire Mine. Volunteers with 40 or more hours will receive an invitation to this annual event. If you have not received an invitation and feel that you have enough hours of volunteer service this year, please contact the Visitor Center. Thank you again for a tremendous summer at Empire Mine!

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 would never lease the upper levels because it was high grade ore. The deeper you would go the lower grade of ore you had. The 7200 (foot level) was the deepest I worked at Empire.

I worked at the 10,400 foot level at the North Star and it was very hot. It wasn’t the heat that was so bad as it was the bad air and the humidity. You would strip down over there and the sweat would just pour off of you. I would take a salt tablet and throw up for a week.

At the North Star central shaft you went down the vertical shaft to the 3700 (foot level). You got off and walked about a mile and got to the number 5 winze. That was the one to the eleven hundred. If you were working at that depth it probably took you over an hour to get to where you were working.

We would spit (light) the fuses at 2:00 p.m. because you had to be at the main shaft station at 2:30 p.m.


At one time they had a so-called professional wrestling team here; once a week or so, something like that. Of course it was just as fake as it is nowadays. One thing about the old Cornish miners is that they could get all fired up at those wrestling meets.

One thing about the old Cornish men was when you get about a half dozen of them together they could sing. They didn’t have to have music or anything. They seemed to be able to blend together and they could sing pretty good.

In fact, my granddad used to sing. He had a voice that you could hear plenty far away. He loved to sing and he would just lay back and let it go. They had some real good choruses here.

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

By Tom Newmark, Coordinator, Over-the-Hill Gang

I am sorry to report that we at Empire Mine have lost yet another long-time dedicated volunteer. Dave Edwards passed away a few days ago in Tulare. He was with us in the Over-the-Hill Gang for around twenty years, but even after he moved south he would come up about once a month and spend a day with us, lending a hand wherever needed. Dave's construction skills were superb and it was truly a joy not only to work with him but learn from him as well. He called himself the “Ol' Cowboy” and speaking personally, I already miss him a great deal.

ALSO -- from Cheryl Balmain and Nancy Koring, Co-Coordinators of Cottage Living History — We are so very sorry to report that we recently lost a CLH volunteer, Pat Elliott, to cancer. Pat loved doing living history and portrayed Mrs. Bourn or Mrs. Starr. She was a wonderful and entertaining member of living history and will be greatly missed. A memorial is planned for Saturday, September 11, 2016. Details are still being worked out with Pat’s family and written invitations will be mailed to those who wish to attend. Contact Mike Contino at Contino@sbcglobal.net. Food will be served, so it is important that Mike knows who will be attending.

(Editor’s Note: The following is a repeat of information printed in last month’s edition of The Empire Star, at the request of Tom Newmark, Coordinator of the Over-the-Hill Gang. Tom reports that there was NO response to the original article.)

YOUR HELP (BADLY) NEEDED!

By Tom Newmark, Coordinator, Over-the-Hill Gang

With great regret, we are losing our long-time master painter, Al Winslow, who is moving out of the area. Al has been a valued member of the Over-the-Hill Gang and of EMPA for many years. He has served in many volunteer capacities and will be sorely missed by us all.

Due to Al's departure, the Over-the-Hill Gang is looking for an experienced painter. His/her duties would primarily be to maintain, as necessary, the exterior trim throughout the Park. Hours can be arranged to suit, but 8:00 am—12:00 noon on Tuesday and Thursday is our normal work schedule. If you love the color green, you can find a home with us. Occasional donuts might ease the “suffering” as well! Please contact me at 265-3848, or Ranger Greg at the Park.
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

Interpretative Coordinators

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tour Guides</th>
<th>Terry Armstrong</th>
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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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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