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IN THE VEIN...

As I write this, yet another rainstorm is raging outside and I am thinking, “Will it ever end?” Well folks, take heart. Winter is already half over and soon we will be planning spring and summer events at our lovely Park!

Despite all the rainy weather, Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA) volunteers have been busy working on a fundraising effort, which is scheduled for this coming June. The theme for this event will be “Mine, Wine and Dine,” and proceeds will benefit all the buildings at the Park that are badly in need of maintenance and repair.

We are planning to hire a professional event coordinator and, in addition, will be depending on volunteers to step up to make this event happen. If you want to have fun raising money for our beautiful Park, please contact EMPA Board Member Steve Sanchez at 530-273-8235 (home) or 510-673-3741 (cell phone – text or call). I promise you will have a fun and rewarding time!

All of our wonderful parks contribute to the tourism industry in Nevada County. Please think about how you can make a difference. One way would be to contact your State representatives asking them to restore the depleted maintenance staff at our parks. Since 2010, local parks have lost over 20 paid positions. The result of this loss is very apparent, as we see more plastic covering the roofs of historic buildings. Ignoring routine maintenance only results in more expensive repairs in the future. Routine maintenance is cost effective and important for preserving our historic treasures.

As mentioned in the January/February issue, an “Open House” for prospective volunteers was held at the Park on February 18. Training for new volunteers is scheduled on two alternative dates — March 4 or March 11 starting at 9 a.m. in the Docent Building at the Park. This training is for ALL new park volunteers, including those interested in volunteering at the South Yuba River State Park, and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.

Congratulations to the South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) and to its ad hoc committee “Save Our Bridge” (SOB). SOB has been successful in convincing the Governor to include over 3 million dollars in this year’s State budget to save the bridge. Now, the challenge is to get the Legislature to approve this budget. You can help with this effort. To find out more, log into the SYRPA website at www.southyubariverstatepark.org. The EMPA Board is very impressed by how a small group of dedicated volunteers has been able to influence our State Government. I hope to learn from SOB’s experience.

Jim Coe
Some Changes the Edwardian Age Brought
by Bev Skinner

Most of us are aware that there was an Edwardian era, but maybe few of us realize the importance of several major shifts in our society that started during that period of time. These shifts resulted in marked changes in so many lives – past and present. The Edwardian age is most accurately defined as the nine-plus years that Edward VII of Great Britain reigned as King (from 1901 when his mother, Queen Victoria, died, through 1910 when Edward himself died) – though it is sometimes extended in both directions to include the long-term trends from the 1890s to the First World War.

Some of you might be wondering by now just why I chose to write about this period of time in our history. I’m sure that all participants in the Cottage Living History (CLH) program are well aware of my reason, however. Many years ago, 1905 was selected as the year that the Cottage docents would portray the Bourns, their family, and their acquaintances – it’s right in the middle of the Edwardian period. The Cottage was even constructed during the expanded time period – 1897. Our current CLH volunteers, as well as those in the past, have tried to educate themselves (and our visitors) about this decade-plus in our history. This influenced, of course, the costumes that both our women and men docents wear, the demeanor of all participants, the relationship of servants in the home – and so many other aspects of “life for the Bourns.”

As for the nobility in Great Britain, this era was described by Samuel Hynes as a “leisurely time when women wore picture hats and did not vote, when the rich were not ashamed to live conspicuously, and the sun really never set on the British flag.” But prior to the late 1890’s, life was quite different for anyone below that upper class. Some dramatic shifts, however, had their beginnings during this time period for people beneath that upper class – people, such as common laborers or shop keepers, had formerly been excluded from any power. Prosperity was highly visible in parts of Europe and the U.S. and the working classes were beginning to protest politically for a greater voice in government.

The earlier Industrial Revolution had created new technologies that had begun to change the way people lived and these changes multiplied during the Edwardian era – possibly especially for our “fairer gender.” Gender roles had started shifting as women made use of the new technologies to upgrade their lifestyle and their career opportunities.

The invention of the sewing machine was responsible for the availability of ready-made clothing as well as making it easier for women to sew their own clothes. According to Barbara Burman, “home dressmaking was sustained as an important aid for women negotiating wider social shifts and tensions in their lives.” Literacy in middle class women increased dramatically which also enabled women to raise their standard of living. Other inventions, such as the typewriter and telephone, offered these same women more career opportunities which further supported their rise. They even experienced sporting events for women – partially made possible by the new, lighter weight, and less confining fashions. The bustles of the Victorian age were gone; they still wore corsets – but they were the last decade of women to wear them in everyday life!

This relatively brief era seems to have seen more than its share of changes for a whole lot of people!
EMPASAYS “THANK YOU” TO
THE UNION, TERRITORIAL DISPATCH AND KNCO

Submitted by Courtney Ferguson

Our successful publicity over the last five years is largely due to the cooperation and support that EMPA receives from The Union, the Territorial Dispatch and KNCO. Each medium helps us to spread the word to our local community — as well as to neighboring counties.

Perhaps prompted (at least in part) by my constant praise and appreciation, Bob Jennings suggested we have three plaques from EMPA made to express our gratitude. Keri Brenner (The Union’s Features Editor), John Mistler (Publisher of the Territorial Dispatch), and KNCO presenters Rita Stevens and Tom Fitzsimmons do an outstanding job of highlighting our events and news. Each one is a stalwart, highly valued ally, a true professional, and a joy to work with.

ATTRACTION TO ACTION – INVITING THE PUBLIC TO OUR OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by Courtney Ferguson

Special thanks to our "poster boys," Ranger Greg Sherr and Vince Seck, the Territorial Dispatch (February 8 edition) and in The Union (February 11 edition). In addition to the many online Event Calendar postings, Jim Coe and Marilyn Sakowicz did a stellar job on Tom Fitzsimmons' KNCO interview (February 7). Sharing your personal experiences of volunteering at Empire Mine was fascinating, and, no doubt, interesting to those listeners thinking about volunteering. Phone-ins from Jennifer Greenfield and Park Aide Lauren Wilson added spontaneity and extra enthusiasm. Park Ranger Greg Sherr was one of Rita Stevens' guests on her morning KNCO interview on February 15. Sherry Sanchez’s colorful design was displayed on Holiday Markets' in-store Community Events. You are all outstanding ambassadors for the Park!

Who could refuse an offer from Vince Seck (L) and Park Ranger Greg Sherr (R) to volunteer at the Park?

Their photos ran with articles in

Hands up!
Who wants to be a State Park Volunteer here in Nevada County?

Put your talents to good use – or learn new skills – and get touched. Learn what it takes.
Information, inspiration and snacks provided – plus news of training coming up on March 4th & 15th.

Open House for Prospective Volunteers
Saturday, February 14th, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Empire Mine State Historic Park • 10401 E. Empire St., Grass Valley
For prospective volunteers

Colorful creativity by Sherry Sanchez was an attention grabber on the Holiday Markets' in-store Community Events displays.
Editor’s Note: The following information was extracted from information received from the South Yuba River State Park Association:

FACT SHEET

History

Constructed in 1862 by David Wood as a part of the Virginia Turnpike

Granted National Historic Designation July 14, 1971

California Registered Landmark #390, listed August 26, 1947

American Society of Civil Engineers Historic Civil Engineering Landmark #14-1970

Built to move supplies and people along the Virginia Turnpike toward the gold and silver fields during the late 1800’s, a vital link to California’s Gold Rush and transportation history

It is the longest single-span wooden covered bridge remaining in the world.

Over the past 155 years the Bridge has suffered from aging and extreme weather conditions creating dry rot of the structural supports, twisting of the arches, and misalignment of the end supports with the possibility of total collapse of the entire Covered Bridge.

An engineering survey conducted in 2011 found structural problems so severe that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) determined that the Bridge had to be closed to all visitor traffic.

What You Can Do:

Communicate with your State elected officials expressing your concern and requesting their efforts to ensure that this iconic Bridge project is fully funded and that the Bridge is fully restored.

Please Contact:

Governor Brown website: https://govnews.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail/mail.php

Senator Nielsen website: http://district4.cssrc.us/

Senator Gaines website: http://district1.cssrc.us/

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
EMPAA Board of Directors Meeting
Docent Building

Thursday, March 23, 2017
Coordinators Meeting
Docent Building
A STUDENT MEETS “THE LAST BONANZA KING”

By Gage McKinney

In the early 20th Century, when Professor Samuel Christy headed the mining school at the University of California, Berkeley, he required students to work in their chosen field during the summer. In their senior year, students reported their experiences in oral and written reports.

Many of the reports, especially from young men who already knew their way around a mine, were factual and technical. But other students had no experience with mines or mining camps, and these novices sometimes described their initiation into a way of life they had only heard about in their course of studies. One of these was W. A. Petress, who became a senior in 1913.

Professor Christy liked his students to “rustle” a job in the mines, which meant lining up in the morning with other men seeking a job, and when their turn came, responding to questions from a foreman in an impromptu interview. In principle, the college men received no preferential treatment over the working men who lined up beside them. But, in fact, because they arrived with regularity every May, the management had little difficulty recognizing them. The Empire had a reputation for hiring mining students.

Perhaps the professor thought young Petress needed extra help getting hired. In any event, Petress arrived at the Empire with a letter in hand, and rather than “rustling” for a job, he asked for George Starr, the superintendent. In his later report, Petgress gave the following account:

*Arriving in Grass Valley one evening in May, I hastened out to get a job at the Empire Mine, but Mr. Starr was not in sight. Wandering around the park hunting for him, I came on a rather old man dressed strictly negligee,* and asked him where Mr. Starr was. He happened to be hunting for Mr. Starr, too, so I went along making remarks about how well he kept up the garden, and (asked) whether he liked work above better than underground, etc. We soon found Mr. Starr. He greeted the gardener cordially as Mr. Bourn, read my letter, and told me to come around the next morning ready for work at 6:30 a.m. I hoped the work would be well underground so I would have no further opportunity of discussing the relative merits of mucking and gardening with Mr. Bourn.

(*By “negligee,” Petress possibly meant he found Bourn in old clothes, as the mine owner went to Grass Valley partly to rusticate.)

(continued on page 6)
Many of the students who graduated with Petress in 1914 went on to careers as metallurgists, geologists, and mine operators. Petress, according to a 1936 listing of Berkeley graduates, pursued a business career in New York City. Still, for the rest of his life, at business lunches or dinner parties, he had entertaining stories to tell about his days as a hard-rock miner.

**NOTE:** W. A. Petress’ account of meeting William Bourn comes from the University of California, Department of Mining and Metallurgy Student Reports, U.C. Berkeley Bancroft Library Manuscripts Collections (IBANC MSS C-A 207, Carton 1, Folder 1:53). The Bancroft Library gave me permission to quote it.

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**NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS**

By Lynne Buenz

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of David (Dave) McKeen, longtime docent at the Park. Dave and his wife Jean shared a mutual interest in California history, which led to their becoming volunteers at the Empire Mine State Historic Park. Dave was involved with several activities including school tours, Cottage Living History, and guiding visitors through the mine yard, especially the refinery area. I fondly remember working with Dave as Interpreters in Cottage Living History, and also remember how “dapper” he looked portraying William Bourn, Jr., alongside Jean, who portrayed Bourn’s wife Agnes. We will fondly remember Dave for his warmth, kindness and generosity.

Memorial services for Dave have been planned for **Sunday, March 26, 2017 from 2:00—4:00 p.m. at the North Star House (12075 Auburn Road, Grass Valley).**

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**NEW BOOK AVAILABLE IN THE GIFT SHOP**

Submitted by Jennifer Greenfield

*MacBoyle’s Gold* by author Gage McKinney is now being offered in the Gift Shop. It is an excellent source of information about Mr. MacBoyle’s ownership of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, as well as his friendship with William Bourn, Jr. It also covers the source of the large cores similar to the one in the Empire Mine parking lot, and other information about mining in Nevada County — a book well worth reading!

The Gift Shop has now refreshed its mineral selections with new arrivals from the Tucson Rock and Mineral Show. Come in and take a look!
From an interview of Nancy Nicon Levensaler, George and Libbie Starr’s granddaughter. Interview date 6/85.

My grandmother had a gazebo or tea house built under the big fir tree. It had a peaked roof with lattice sides. Later on they screened it in. Sometimes Grandma had ladies over playing games in the gazebo in the afternoon. Because it would get so hot on the second floor of the house in the summertime we would sleep in the gazebo or on the grass with mosquito netting over us.

My grandmother loved to give parties. She was a great cook. Men would come from all over the world to meet with Grandpa. They would sit in his study and talk about mining. So my grandmother never knew how many she was going to have for dinner — whether one extra man or six extra men.

My mother was born in 1896 in Johannesburg. After their house burned down in 1935, my grandparents were designing plans for a new house. They lived for a year at the Bret Harte Inn in Grass Valley. Then they decided they were too old to start building again there. Why not just move to San Francisco? They lived in the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, then moved into the Cathedral Apartments on Nob Hill. That is where my grandfather died.


Hardly any of the Cornish miners ever had a measuring tape or ruler. They would use their fingers or thumbs or “spline” of their hands and then get an axe or pick and measure off for a “stole” as it was called. It was a piece of timber.

They would take their carbide light off and mark the timber with a black flame. They would then saw it off, put a timber in it and drag it back into the stope. They would pull it all the way into the stope.

Then they would get their axe and they would “pencil it” — they would sharpen the bottom part of the stole. It would make you think of a pencil. The old timers said they would do that because it would take more weight and collapse more slowly.

They didn’t have to worry about that in most cases here. The big reason was because the foot wall was hard and they had to cut a flat place by hand in the rock for the piece of timber to sit on. Because the timber was pointed, they could cut a smaller flat spot.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
SPRING IS ON ITS WAY (HONEST!)
Submitted by Ranger Greg Sherr

It may be hard to imagine, but it will soon be springtime at the Empire Mine State Historic Park (EMSHP). And with the days becoming longer, we welcome our annual (new) docent sign-up. This year, prospective docents will attend one of our sign-up days, either Saturday, March 4 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., or Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., both at EMSHP. We expect another great group of new volunteers this year!

In addition, the Over-the-Hill Gang is finishing modifications to the two-stamp mill and it should be up and running in early spring. The “Gang” is also working on the assembly of the Cornish Pump in the mine yard. A crane will move pieces of the assembly and electricity will enable Park visitors to see how this amazing piece of mining history worked.

A big thanks to the Over-the-Hill Gang for all of their efforts! Also, they are completing custom gates that will protect the historic roses in the garden!

My role as Volunteer Coordinator at EMSHP will change when Lauren Wilson comes back on board as the Park’s Interpretive Specialist. She will handle future volunteer sign-up days, volunteer paperwork and recruiting, volunteer awards and recognition, coordinator meetings, etc. I have all the confidence in the world that she will do a great job in her new role! Currently, we have re-advertised for the Park Interpreter position and this position will hopefully be filled in the next several months.

Finally, please say hi to our new Senior Park Aide, Shelley Romriell. Shelley comes to Empire Mine from a previous position in Brisbane working for the Office of Emergency Services. She is currently training on Empire Mine operations and is enthusiastic about getting to know the Park, visitors, staff and volunteers!

I look forward to having an incredible spring and seeing everyone at beautiful EMSHP!

ATTENTION: ALL VOLUNTEERS
Submitted by Steve Sanchez

We are BADLY in need of someone to coordinate the silent auction for this year’s Miners Picnic. The principal responsibility of the coordinator is to contact merchants from the Grass Valley/Nevada City area asking them to donate items for the silent auction. Funds are needed to support EMPA and to help preserve the Cottage, Clubhouse and beautiful grounds (501-C3 tax deductible).

The Silent Auction Coordinator who has served in recent years is stepping down, but is willing to pass the torch and teach all that is required of this fun and rewarding position. Please contact Steve Sanchez by telephone at 530-273-8235 or via email at: snakeandflower@gmail.com

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

Interpretative Coordinators

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>George Sanford</td>
<td>274-1646</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tang62000@comcast.net">tang62000@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>School Tour Guides</td>
<td>Park Staff</td>
<td>273-8522</td>
<td><a href="mailto:empiremine@parks.ca.gov">empiremine@parks.ca.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Tour Guides</td>
<td>Marilyn Sakowicz</td>
<td>272-5507</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emsako@sbcglobal.net">emsako@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
<td>Marilyn Sakowicz</td>
<td>272-5507</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emsako@sbcglobal.net">emsako@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
<td>Bill Blount</td>
<td>477-0317</td>
<td><a href="mailto:willie5311@gmail.com">willie5311@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
<td>Cheryl Balmain</td>
<td>273-6087</td>
<td><a href="mailto:balmainiacs@gmail.com">balmainiacs@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Cottage Living History</td>
<td>Nancy Koring</td>
<td>273-5510</td>
<td><a href="mailto:seekoring1@suddenlink.net">seekoring1@suddenlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
<td>Betty and John Lucas</td>
<td>679-0310</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blucas1208@gmail.com">blucas1208@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clubhouse Living History</td>
<td>Bob Jennings</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rw3jennings@yahoo.com">rw3jennings@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineyard Living History</td>
<td>Vince Seck</td>
<td>273-4574</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vinceseck@yahoo.com">vinceseck@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineyard Living History</td>
<td>Frank Hamlin (Intern)</td>
<td>268-5672</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frank@hamlin.net">frank@hamlin.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mineyard Stations</td>
<td>Vince Seck</td>
<td>273-4574</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vinceseck@yahoo.com">vinceseck@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>268-5672</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frank@hamlin.net">frank@hamlin.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>Jane Bland</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Janebland16@gmail.com">Janebland16@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheons</td>
<td>Troy Hammer</td>
<td>575-9155</td>
<td><a href="mailto:troypheus@yahoo.com">troypheus@yahoo.com</a></td>
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Administrative Coordinators

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<td>Barbara Jarvis</td>
<td>477-1557</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbaraj@nccn.net">barbaraj@nccn.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral History</td>
<td>Lise Hinman</td>
<td>273-8266</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lhinman0@gmail.com">lhinman0@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
<td>Jennifer Greenfield</td>
<td>205-7469</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jgardens2@att.net">jgardens2@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Troy Hammer</td>
<td>265-9155</td>
<td><a href="mailto:troypheus@yahoo.com">troypheus@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHG</td>
<td>Tom Newmark</td>
<td>265-3848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rajotom@fsaccess.net">rajotom@fsaccess.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Bob Jennings</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rw3jennings@yahoo.com">rw3jennings@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Terry Armstrong</td>
<td>271-0126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:terryrarmstrong@gmail.com">terryrarmstrong@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Garden</td>
<td>Carol Terrell</td>
<td>878-0050</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bluesycarol@gmail.com">bluesycarol@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Propagation</td>
<td>Bob Jennings</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rw3jennings@yahoo.com">rw3jennings@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:troypheus@yahoo.com">troypheus@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Tours</td>
<td>Marsha Lewis</td>
<td>274-2834</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rw3jennings@yahoo.com">rw3jennings@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Lianne Werner</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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Webmaster, Frank Herwatt / 470-9243 / fherwatt@gmail.com

Empire Mine State Historic Park
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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