In The Vein

If you've been around the Park, you've seen all the activity. When you scan the rest of the Star, you'll have a chance to read about all the activity. It's that time of year in the Sierra foothills -- we're all enjoying it!

EMPA is busy too -- here's some of what your Association is up to:

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Bourn Mansion Tour: As announced in last month's Star, a tour, in September, under the auspices of EMPA, is being organized to visit Bourn's recently-refurbished home on Webster Street in San Francisco. The good news is that there's still room!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see this beautiful building, which survived the 1906 earthquake and is now privately owned. See the article on Page 5 for more information. Then fill out the application form (attached to this newsletter) to take advantage of this opportunity. See you there!

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New Website: Our website is over 10 years old, and in the cyber world, that's "ancient!" A committee is hard at work developing a new site, from the bottom up! New format, new pictures, new ideas, added features, and new "words" that explain our Park and what it has to offer. Some of the Park's Activity Coordinators, when the right time comes, will probably be asked for their input into the wording explaining their area. It's too early to give a date when the site will be up and running, but it will be announced here -- so stay tuned.

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Gold Raffle: Thanks to two very generous EMPA members, the EMPA Board is able to hold a gold raffle this year. It's being called 'Grab the Gold Raffle,' and, like the new website, is in the early stages of planning. There will be four chances to win: a gold nugget worth $350.00 and three vials of gold, each worth from $50.00 to $150.00. The plan is to start selling tickets at Grass Valley's Gold Rush Days in June, continue through the summer, and announce the winners, with great fanfare, at Empire Mine's 119th Miners Picnic on August 23.

Ran out of room! See you around the park!
Another Exciting Season Ahead!
by Bev Skinner, Cottage Living History Co-Coordinator

It’s hard to believe that it’s already MAY … but I do believe that we’re ready … and up to the task of hosting our hundreds of visitors at the Empire Cottage again this year! Saturday, May 3, marks our first regular “Cottage Living History” day of 2014 … and our guests will see about eight docents, dressed in our lavish period costumes depicting 1905, each and every Saturday and Sunday afternoon from noon to 3 p.m., through the last weekend in September.

If you “do the math,” that’s approximately 64 - 80 “slots” for our VIPs to cover during just one month! And that’s a whole lot of scheduling to do too! Scheduling is truly a huge job and we’re all grateful for the hours that each of our monthly schedulers spend each month trying to fill all those slots … and with a balance of “characters” who can provide an educational and meaningful experience for our guests. In May-through-September order, they are: Barbara Langdon, Suzy Steele, Cheryl Balmain, Nancy Koring, and Arlie Harrell … with Jane Bland & Arlie doing the honors for the Holiday event.

After three years of coordinating CLH on my own more-or-less, we’ve now formed a “team of four” (three musketeers plus one!) and have divided up the responsibilities that the Program entails … a much improved arrangement for all concerned including the Program itself. With titles of “CoCoordinators,” Jane Bland and I make up half of the team and, as “Assistant Coordinators,” Nancy Koring and Cheryl Balmain are serving as the other half.

In their new capacity, Cheryl and Nancy headed up our yearly “kick off” meeting on April 9 when all returning and new docents gathered for instruction and review and to welcome our newcomers as well as renew old acquaintances with people whom we possibly haven’t seen since last September! To start off the day, Nancy and Cheryl organized a very fun and lively “ice breaker” game … each of us had a “name” of someone important to Empire (past or present) stuck on our back and, with partners answering our yes/no questions, our job was to figure out “who” we were! I ended up being Don Schmidt … and my partner was Phoebe Hearst … and a few others turned out to be mules, miners, Libby Starr, the Clubhouse, the stamp mill, and of course, the Empire Mine itself. It generated lots of laughter!

To help fill those 64 plus slots each month, we’re delighted to welcome ten new docents from the Class of 2014: Pat Elliott, Elisabeth and Walter Langford, Jack Lindop, Bonnie Magnetti, Dennis and Georgia Martinson, Janis Meals, Jim Ronka, & Christen Salcedo … plus two of EMSHP’s regular Tour Guides, Dan McCarthy and Ray Shepherd, have offered to join us as Interpreters. Oh … we also welcome back Ann Thorpe who has taken the last two years off. With these additional docents, it brings our total Cottage volunteers up to the wonderful number of 63!

As happy as we are to welcome these “newbies” to our fold, we’re sorry to lose three docents who have retired from CLH … we will miss each and every one: Max McCann, Dave McKeen, and Cal Swanson.

So … come visit us at the Empire Cottage some Saturday or Sunday afternoon … and tell your friends and neighbors to come too! Watch for our new VIPs playing Maids and Butlers early in the season. I know some are already “boning up” to play Wm. Bourn II, his 22-year-old daughter, Maud, Willis Polk and other interesting characters of the past! We all agree … it’s great fun!
Moving Right Along  
By Ranger Greg Sherr

As Spring progresses at Empire Mine, we see the beginning of our wedding season, new docent faces at the park and warmer weather. Our first wedding takes place this coming weekend and the landscape and gardens at Empire are starting to show signs of life. The wisteria is blooming along with several varieties of roses that greet visitors as they walk along the pathway leading to the Empire Cottage. This is a beautiful time of year at the Park.

Our public tours have been well attended and our Tour Guides are doing a fantastic job with many tours having more than forty persons in attendance! Also, our school tour season is going smoothly with many happy faces visiting the park for the first time. School Tour Leaders as well as Gift Shop volunteers should be congratulated for such a great start!

In addition, new volunteers are getting involved in shadowing public and school tours, training in the Blacksmith and Gift Shops, learning about the Bourn Cottage and Clubhouse and walking the trails at Empire Mine.

National Trails Day is June 7, and I will be leading a guided hike on the Hardrock Trail at Empire Mine starting at the Penn Gate parking area on East Empire Street at 9 a.m. My hike will focus on both the natural and historic aspects of Empire Mine and the corresponding mining legacy. There will be various hikes offered on this day in our community and I encourage all interested hikers, bikers and equestrians to participate. More information can be obtained from the Bear River Yuba Land Trust.

Looking forward, our annual Mothers Day Event is just on the horizon and will be held on May 11. In addition, a first time Jazz Festival will be held at Empire Mine on May 10. Cottage, Mine Yard, and Clubhouse History all start in May also. Please contact the Park office for more information.

I hope to see all of you at the Park during this beautiful and exciting time of year!
Dates to Remember

May 10
Empire Jazz Festival
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 11
Springtime at Empire Mine
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 20
EMPA Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 a.m. in the Docent Bldg.

May 15
Coordinator Meeting
10 a.m. in the Docent Bldg.

June 21 & 22
Grass Valley Gold Rush Days

Tales from the Tapes


It was agreed upon that my parents [Arthur Vincent Sr. and Maud Bourn] were to get married. They must have been seeing each other someplace. My father came here in March, 1910 and they were married in San Mateo. They came up to Empire for their honeymoon with Katie in the cottage. My father was very fond of the cottage and Grass Valley.

My father couldn’t go to the war because of his leg so he joined the French army and was an ambulance driver for about a year and a half. He did not particularly like living in California. I suspect it was because of my grandfather. They were both strong willed men. I don’t think they got along too well.

From an interview of Robert Cannon, Empire engineer and geologist. Interview date: 2/3/81.

In 1933, I spent a great deal of time with Mr. Nobs who was the mine superintendent. We were drawing up sections of the mine as there were about 28 different veins in the Empire/North Star area. You had veins going in many different directions.

Fred Nobs thought about making a mine model as it was very difficult to determine where the veins intersected. He had previously made a smaller model. He made up his mind to construct a larger model. The engineering work on the model was turned over to me. We had to decide what the model was going to be made out of. Plastic was not developed enough so it was decided to use brass.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true, however we are relying on the memory of the individuals who had such recollections.
Want to see the Bourn Mansion on Webster Street in San Francisco???

and/or

visit the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine near San Jose???

but

you’re not a current member of EMPA???

That’s not a problem at this point …

there are still a few openings!

There’s just one “catch” … you must already be … or become … an EMPA member

if you want to take advantage of this special opportunity.

You just need to complete these two simple steps:

1. Read and complete the double-sided application form sent along with this newsletter … and mail it, as directed, along with your check. (Note: if you received the *Empire Star* electronically, you need to open the second attachment and print the two pages.)

2. Also, if you’re not already a member, send the completed EMPA membership application below to EMPA Membership Director, Jim Ward, at 10787 Empire Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

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**EMPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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**Annual Dues for Individual or Family:** $20

Please enclose your check with this application and mail as instructed above.
The Place to Shop

The place to visit for Mother’s Day gifts is the Gift Shop at the Park!

Three new books are now available: *Sierra Stories*, a local author’s compilation of stories which offer an interesting read; and two hiking guides, *Hiking the Sierra Nevada*, and *The River*, also by a local author. The latter also includes the unique history of the river area.

There’s also an abundance of beautiful and unique jewelry to choose from ... a variety of styles and price ranges are stocked ... something for everyone!

You’ll also find spectacular minerals including platters, bowls and wind chimes.

Come in and see for yourself!
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

**Interpretative Coordinators**

- **Tour Guides**
  - Terry Armstrong 271-0126
  - Charlene Bumgarner 272-5767
  - Marilyn Sakowicz 272-5507

- **School Tour Guides**
  - Ehren Pelonio 273-8522
  - Marilyn Sakowicz 272-5507

- **Blacksmith Shop**
  - Bill Blount 477-0317
  - Bev Skinner 477-1750

- **Cottage Living History**
  - Pat Skinner 272-1160
  - Jane Bland 274-2440

- **Clubhouse Living History**
  - Vince Seck 273-4574
  - Jane Bland 274-2440

- **Mine Yard Living History**
  - Vince Seck 273-4574
  - Troy Hammer 432-1194

- **Mine Yard Stations**
  - Jane Bland 274-2440
  - David & Sharon Anderson 432-2359 (Assistants)

- **Luncheons**
  - Barbara Jarvis 477-1557
  - Lise Hinman 273-8266
  - Jennifer Greenfield 477-2637
  - Tom Newmark (OTHG) 265-3848
  - Bob Jennings 274-2834
  - Angie Slicker 272-5009
  - Ellen Hamlin 272-3248
  - Jeanne Powell 271-2138
  - Lianne Werner 273-0704

- **Research**
  - Oral History: Lise Hinman 273-8266
  - Gift Shop: Jennifer Greenfield 477-2637
  - Nursery: Open
  - Facilities: Tom Newmark (OTHG) 265-3848
  - Security: Bob Jennings 274-2834
  - Terry Armstrong 271-0126
  - Rose Garden: Angie Slicker 272-5009
  - Ellen Hamlin 272-3248
  - Rose Garden: Jeannie Powell 271-2138
  - Lianne Werner 273-0704

www.empiremine.org
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!

EMPA
Board of Directors

President, Larry Skinner  477-1750
Vice Pres., Jim Coe  274-2675
Sect., Jennifer Greenfield  477-2637
Treasurer, Virginia Hamilton  274-5779
Director, Virginia Brunini  477-8198
Director, Lynne Buenz  470-0595
Director, Sean Gilleran  477-1700
Director, Bob Jennings  274-2834
Director, Pat Speer  272-1160
Director, Jim Ward  273-3671
Director, Margi Nielsen  273-8241
Director, Bob Lenhard  274-4477

EMPA Administration
& Committees

Asst Treasurer  Carolyn Lashbrook  432-9526
Elections  Jim Coe  274-2675
Holiday Event  Pat Speer  272-1160
Hospitality  Jennifer Greenfield  477-2637
Membership  Jim Ward  273-3671
Nominating  Jim Coe  274-2675
Miners Picnic  Jack Laird  478-0999
Newsletter  Jan Blake  273-0619
Newsletter  Bev Skinner  477-1750
Gift Shop  Jennifer Greenfield  477-2637
Sunshine  Pat Coe  274-2675
Webmaster  Margi Nielsen  273-8241

Empire Mine State Historic Park
10791 East Empire Street
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