In The Vein . . .

Fall has arrived and now we are looking forward to Holidays at Empire Mine to be held the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. I thank our wonderful and dedicated volunteers who make this special event happen. I will mention by name just a few of the people who each year make this event a success: Jane Bland, Nancy Koring, Cheryl Balmain, Bob Jennings and Troy Hammer. There are also many others, and I thank you all.

I also want to acknowledge the Gift Shop, EMPA’s main source of fundraising for the Park. Jennifer Greenfield manages the Gift Shop with great skill and diligence. If you are interested in helping Jennifer, please contact her directly.

EMPA will continue to explore other ways of fundraising by taking advantage of the Park’s beautiful grounds for special events. This will take volunteers with skills and time to plan and execute fundraising events. If you have ideas and are willing to work on being a fundraising leader, please let me know.

The EMPA Board is excited about supporting the Park’s plans for making the Hardrock Visitor Center come alive. Even though traveling down the adit tunnel is on indefinite hold, other options are being proposed. I am looking forward to supporting the Park with constructing new trails, putting the trains into action and staffing the Hardrock Visitor Center with volunteers and tour guides. This project will add another exciting living history experience that should draw many visitors to Grass Valley.

I take great pride in supporting the Empire Mine State Historic Park because our efforts keep the Park alive and that continues to bring much needed economic benefit to Nevada County. It is interesting to note that this fact mirrors the benefits that the past operating mines brought to our county many years ago. I also have learned to respect the original mine owners because of all the good they did for our county, the State, and our country. The history of the Bourn family is understated in our history books and I like educating our Park visitors about their lives.

(continued on page 3)
“WRAP UP” MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCHEON

By Bev Skinner

It was such fun for the volunteers of the Cottage Living History program – plus those from the Clubhouse Living History program too – who gathered together on Monday, October 17, to celebrate the “summer season” just past. The “trio” of CLH leaders – Nancy Koring, Jane Bland, and Cheryl Balmain – planned a festive and fun few hours during which we accomplished a little business and enjoyed each other’s company. In case you’re a “numbers person,” we entertained and informed approximately 2,088 visitors during the season – or about 500 visitors each month.

By chance, has anyone seen any of the missing white “pinafore aprons” that our Maids wear?? We started the season with six – and now we’re down to only two! Maybe take an extra look in your ironing basket, in that mystery bag in your car – or perhaps it’s hanging innocently in your closet waiting to be returned to the Cottage?? We’ll be needing them desperately at the Holidays at Empire Mine event, which is coming up very, very soon!

Our three fearless leaders profusely thanked our “Schedulers” for the summer. For those of you who haven’t tried it, it’s an enormously challenging job! Thanks to Suzy Steele, Barbara Langdon, Arlie Harrell, and newcomers, Kathy Files and Susie Bradanini. Our “Holiday Girl,” Jane announced that the Cottage is scheduled to be decorated for the holiday season on Wednesday, November 16, at 10:30. Call her if you’d like to help!

All of our docents who stepped out of their comfort zone by playing “new” characters in the Cottage were greatly appreciated all summer. It’s not an easy thing to do the first time or two, but it’s also such a lot of fun! Patti Grizzi, our new Costumer and seamstress, has done an outstanding job for us this year. Hopefully she won’t need to be making new aprons for the Maids as it would be a whole lot more fun for her to create a new gown for a lady!

While those present filled out a survey about the coming year, we were royally entertained by a group of four musicians who call themselves “Fresh Picked” – a “sub” group of the famous “Fruit Jar Pickers.” They called their musical presentation “survey accompaniment music,” and it was enthusiastically received and applauded by all! The group was headed up by our own, Courtney Ferguson on the guitar, and included Everette Burkard on the Dobro, plus Janet and Kit Burton, on a banjo and mandolin respectively.

And a holiday note from Nancy Koring …

Cheryl, Jane and I want to extend Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas greetings to all of you exceptional docents. We had a wonderful season and, as always, couldn’t have done it without your enthusiastic support. We value your knowledge and time very much and the holidays give us a BIG reason to be thankful for you and count you among the blessings of Empire Mine State Historic Park. Please remember to sign up with Jane for Holidays at Empire Mine, the 25th and 26th of November. Jane is waiting to hear from you at 274-2440! Thanks again for all you do.
IN THE VEIN (continued from page 1)

Let us not forget to support the two other State Parks in our County: Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and the South Yuba River State Park. They are so important to preserving history in Nevada County. Restoring and preserving the covered bridge at Bridgeport deserves our unified support. I encourage volunteers to also support our sister parks to help them prosper for the benefit of all of us.

If you are a member of EMPA, you are doing your part to support the Park. If you are not a member, why not join? Membership is not expensive and you will get a 10% discount at the Gift Shop that already has low prices. Visit our website at empiremine.org, or go to the Visitor Center for a membership application.

Happy Holidays to all!

JIM COE

EMPA GENERAL MEETING: A REVIEW

By Lynne Buenz

EMPA President Jim Coe presided over the annual EMPA General Meeting, held on Thursday, November 3 in the Docent Building at Empire Mine State Historic Park. Following a short business meeting, which included the election of new Board Director Betty Lucas, local author Gage McKinney was introduced as the guest speaker. Mr. McKinney enthralled those attending with “snippets” of history from his new book, “McBoyle’s Gold,” the story of Errol MacBoyle, one-time owner of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Born in 1880 in Oakland, California, MacBoyle attended Oakland schools. As a young man, he became interested in mining and, upon graduation from Oakland High School, he attended the Hearst School of Mining at the University of California at Berkeley, followed by graduate school at Columbia. In pursuit of one day owning and operating his own mine, MacBoyle became well acquainted with local mine owners including J. D. Hague, owner, and Arthur DeWint Foote, Manager of the North Star Mine, as well as with William B. Bourn, Jr., and George Starr of the Empire.

MacBoyle also had a profound effect on other Nevada County landmarks including the Loma Rica Ranch, where he originally raised Percherons; the Grass Valley Airport, and Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, the latter of which was the beneficiary of the estate of Mr. MacBoyle and his wife, Glendolyn, who was known simply as “Glen.” Both are buried in the endowed section of the New Elm Ridge Cemetery in Grass Valley.
START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN THE GIFT SHOP!

By Jennifer Greenfield, Coordinator

A wide variety of items are available for your selection: mineral specimens of all sizes, shapes, colors and prices including night lights, bowls, candle holders and other decorative and useful items; stocking stuffers like a new item — a ballpoint pen with a floating gold top — bookmarks, pencils, magnets; jewelry; several styles of mugs and wooden coasters — and, as always, books — including the new addition of Molly the Mule Miner, which is a wonderful gift for children. Surely among this selection, the perfect gift can be found.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 and Tuesday, December 20, 2016
EMPA Board of Directors Meeting

November 24-25, 2016
Holidays at Empire

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Coordinators Meeting
FUN FACTS FROM THE PAST
by Barbara Jarvis, Research Coordinator

Electric Railway Will Connect Empire Mines; Surveys Now Underway

Milling of Ore of Two of Grass Valley’s Largest Properties, the Empire and Pennsyl-
vania, Will Be Centralized in a Big Mill of One Hundred Stamps at Empire; Will Be
One of the Biggest in the West.

Surveys for an electric road to connect the two mines now being made mark the first important step in
this big undertaking. The road, which will have a 2.8 percent grade, will lack only a few feet of being a
mile in length, and will be operated by the electric trolley system. Filling in of the roadbed involves a big
task, it being estimated that this work alone will require 30,000 cubic yards of rock and dirt, using waste
rock. Construction work will commence from both terminals and as the roadbed is filled up, the rails will
be laid.

The rails to be used are of the 35 pound type, as heavy as those in use on the Narrow Gauge. These, to-
gether with a big 6-ton electric locomotive, capable of drawing more than thirty tons of ore at one time,
are already on the ground.

The new mill at the Empire will be enlarged from 60 stamps to 100 stamps and plans call for a heavy
type of stamp, a duplicate of those now in operation.

The mill and cyanide plant at the Pennsylvania mine will be dismantled, it being the plan to use the
Pennsylvania solely as a hauling shaft. The two mines will be connected up by means of crosscuts. In
order to accomplish this, it will be necessary to sink from the 2600, the present depth, to the 4600. With
the two properties connected, it will be possible to haul out of either shaft.

Grass Valley Morning Union, 17 Sept 1916, Pg.8, Col. 3-4

NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS
By Lynne Buenz

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Virginia Brunini, long-
time supporter of and champion for the Empire Mine State Historic Park.
An article appearing in the October 19, 2016 issue of The Union newspa-
per detailed Ms. Brunini’s early involvement in the creation of the Park.
She was often seen at the Park, especially during special events, and most
recently served on the EMPA Board of Directors.

Photo by John Hart of
The Union (used with per-
mission)
Everyone’s invited to celebrate

Holidays at Empire Mine!

Friday, November 25th & Saturday, November 26th

Special activities from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Share your gift wishes with Santa & Mrs. Claus in the Clubhouse
- Enjoy lavish decorations and FREE cookies in the Cottage
- Enjoy lots of festive, live music & creative children’s activities
- Try the tasty snacks & drinks available for purchase
- Visit the old Mineyard & taste real roasted chestnuts
- Discover unusual, affordably-priced presents in the Gift Shop, including Heritage Roses
- Be a winner in the FREE children’s daily prize draw (with just a little luck)

With vintage costumes, colorful gold history, and fun-filled surprises, here’s where holiday magic starts.

Tickets: $7 ages 17 & over, $3 ages 6-16
FREE admission for children under 6 – and FREE parking

Empire Mine State Historic Park
10791 E. Empire St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (530) 273-8522 or visit www.empiremine.org

Special thanks to Sherry Sanchez for designing the Holidays at Empire Mine flyer.
From an interview of Frank Knukey, Mule Skinner/Miner 1930’s, Grass Valley Police Chief for 25 years after having a mine accident at Empire in late 1930's. Interview date 11/10/85.

In the 1930’s when you went to Sunday school picnics or Miners Picnic at Lake Olympia, you rode the train or the street car. There were probably 10 to 15 mines working in the area at that time.

I started working at the Bret Harte Inn as a bell hop after high school. My father was involved in a fire at the Golden Center Mine and had to quit working. So I left the Bret Harte to go underground to help support the family.

I will never forget the first day at the Central. It was a vertical shaft that goes straight down to the 8600. Can you imagine me coming from the Bret Harte Inn, putting on a miners outfit, getting in that double deck elevator and going straight down like that? I thought they had cut the damned rope! I only worked there for a year.

Newmont bought the 3 mines: the Empire, the Pennsylvania and the Central. They closed the Central due to some development work, so I had to rustle for a job at Empire. When I say rustle, there are 50 men looking for work and you are one of that 50. After about 3 months, of course, they hired the married men who had families first and I being just a single kid, I was one of the last to get hired out there.

From an interview of Phil Keast, Master Mechanic and Mechanical Engineer, Empire Mine 1920-1957. No interview date.

About 2 or 3 times a week Charlie Bloomtree, who ran the safety program, would go down and check for safety violations. If he saw something he would tell the mine foreman to correct it. Every month we would have a safety meeting upstairs above the machine shop where we had benches. Insurance companies considered mining to be a dangerous industry. Doing these things cut down on our insurance costs.

Every year a state mine inspector would come around here for about a week. He would check the operations here and at the North Star. If he saw things he wanted corrected he would give us about 3 months to take care of it. If something didn’t get taken care of, he would give you a second citation. If it didn’t get taken care of within 3 weeks, he could shut us down.

The State of California had standard hoist bell codes for all of the mines.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
EMPA Members’

Holiday Open House

Friday, December 2, 2016
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Empire Mine Clubhouse
RECOGNITION PRESENTATIONS
Hors d’oeuvres & Beverages

RSVP by November 18th to Steve Sanchez
snakeandflower@gmail.com
510.673.3741 or 530.273.8235

Invitation design and graphics by Sherry Sanchez

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>Role</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
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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