

# LAS PLUMAS

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In This Issue:

## Northeastern Mountain Maidu:

### Resource Management Through The Use Of Fire

*By Al Klem, Plumas County Museum Association Trustee & Registered Professional Forester*



*Old growth Ponderosa pine with fire scar from a low intensity backing fire. The thick plated bark provided the protection necessary for it to continue to be a healthy tree.*

*Photograph taken by author.*

In 1542 during the first Spanish expedition along the coast of Baja and Alta California, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo took note of the numerous Indian villages along the coast and the burning of chaparral in San Pedro Bay which they called the “Bay of Smoke.”<sup>1</sup> Alexander Rotchev was the last manager of Fort Ross, a Russian outpost established in 1812 near Bodega Bay, and when writing about his 1838 journey to Captain John Sutter's outpost along the Sacramento River he noted the following:

“That was August, i.e., at that time of year when the forests and valleys of California, set alight by the Indians, are the very picture of that drawn by the talented [James Fenimore] Cooper showing the fires in the virgin forests of America. Rain starts to fall intermittently in October and November and puts out these fiery streams running through boundless expanses. Once, while going from California to our colonies [in Russian Alaska], for several hundred miles from the coast in the open ocean I happened to see thick masses of smoke that obscured the sun, and this phenomenon lasted several days!”<sup>2</sup>

As can be seen from these two primary accounts alone, Native Americans intentionally set fires across the western landscape and have done so for a very long time, perhaps since their existence in the Americas some 13,000 years ago.<sup>3</sup> To further substantiate these accounts, evidence also exists through ethnohistorical and ecology studies. For instance, growth rings of various aged trees have shown that prior to the turn of the 20th Century fires occurred on the average of every three to fifteen



years, and in the Sierra fires occurred as frequently as every year or two to as infrequent as every twenty-one years.<sup>4</sup> Another study concluded that prior to the turn of the 20th Century California forests burned on the average of every eight years and “many trees survived twenty or more fires.”<sup>5</sup>

Other than the purposeful setting of fires by Native Americans, lightning also contributed to the frequency of fires, but not so much though as to discredit the amount of burning done by the Indians. As stated above, there were some Sierra Nevada locations that burned every year or two, and it is hard to imagine that lightning would be the cause of so many fires in one locality.

That being said, lightning was certainly the culprit of many of the fires that burned in rugged and high-elevation areas. Perhaps more compelling evidence can be found on the north coast range where there is evidence of “widespread” prehistoric burns in a region where fires are rarely started by lightning.<sup>6</sup>

Native to Plumas County the Northeastern Mountain Maidu have lived in the area for thousands of years and “frequently burned over the country, often annually.”<sup>7</sup> As described by the late Plumas County historian, Mary Phelps Dunn:

“The Maidu frequently burned over the country because they could travel better, have further view, ambushes were more difficult, certain kinds of hunting would be more remunerative, and better crops of certain grasses and forbs used for food and basket weaving could be had.”<sup>8</sup>



*Outstanding Maidu basket maker Indian Molly photographed in Taylorsville.*



*Low intensity ground fire in a stand of mature conifers. Photograph by Eric Knapp*

More specifically, the Maidu were also known to “burn snags and brush in the Fall months” and “Indians used to set fires on ridges during the fall migration of deer. The deer reportedly bedded down in the warm ashes and were then shot by hunters.” Furthermore, “fires were set around maple trees to promote growth of new shoots for basketry.” Prior to the turn of the 20th Century, “a person could see long distances through the park-like forests and was able to walk almost anywhere as few brush fields existed.”<sup>9</sup>

Maidu contact with people of European descent may have begun in 1821 when a Spanish expedition led by Captain Luis Antonio Arguello “reportedly reached the mouth of the Feather River” and met with the River Patwin Indians who shared an ethnographic border with the Kon Kow Maidu. Legendary fur trapper, Jedediah Smith passed through the lower reaches of the Feather River in 1827 followed by a larger trapping party led by John Work in 1832-33.

Following the settlement of John Sutter in 1839, and John Bidwell in 1844, the Northeastern Maidu would experience a wave of ‘49ers who considered the mountains of today's Plumas County as an unmanaged wilderness.<sup>10</sup> The Northeastern Maidu could very well have scoffed at the notion of the landscape being a “trackless wilderness.” In addition to the management of the environment through frequent burning, an extensive trail system existed that would later be used by gold seekers and settlers, and undoubtedly segments of those trails are now used by us in one way or another.<sup>11</sup>

'Ethno' refers to human culture and 'ecology' refers to interactions between organisms and the physical environment, therefore, ethnoecology is the cross-cultural study of how people perceive and manipulate their environments.<sup>12</sup> In regards to how Native Californians managed the environment, renown ethnoecologist, Kat Anderson, has provided a plethora of information in *Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians* and *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*. The late Omer C. Stewart has also provided a substantial amount of insight in regards to Native American burning practices in *Forgotten Fires: Native Americans and the Transient Wilderness*.

While we marvel at Native American basketry, food preparation tools, and weaponry, these authors explain that Native Californians used fire as a management tool to alter the physical environment to their benefit. Strategic burning of the landscape was not done solely to ensure survival, but was done to make every-day life much simpler.

The native vegetation that exists in Plumas County has evolved with fire for millions of years, therefore, the coniferous forests that existed in the Sierra Nevada Mountains prior to the middle of the 19th Century were well adapted to the low intensity surface fires that frequently occurred.<sup>13</sup> Ponderosa pine is a shade-intolerant tree species that thrives in open areas with full sunlight. Following a disturbance when an opening in the forest is created hundreds if not thousands of evenaged pines will occupy the site and compete for sunlight, nutrients, and water.

The young evenaged pine stand will slowly but surely thin out while shade-tolerant species such as oaks, cedar, and fir emerge in the understory. As fires continue in a given area the thick plated bark of the mature pine will protect the tree's inner cambium while the smaller pines, oaks, and fir are kept in check because of their relatively thin bark. Another important adaptation of many of the Sierra Nevada conifers are their serotinous cones which require heat from fire to open and release their seeds.

Native Americans understood the benefits of maintaining an open forest and burned frequently among the giant trees while the smaller understory vegetation was thinned out. Frequent low intensity surface fires prevented excessive fuel loading and high intensity crown fires were rare. The result was an overall uneven-aged forest with a mosaic of evenaged groups of trees within it.<sup>14</sup> Forest succession is a term used by ecologists to describe the encroachment of a prolific species in a given ecotype, i.e. pine encroachment in a meadow. Fire was used by Native Americans to keep conifers in check along the perimeter of meadows rather than allowing the trees to slowly take over the site.<sup>15</sup> The burning of pastures rejuvenated the perennial grasses and as previously described vegetation was burned to allow for new shoots to develop.

Rejuvenation of the grasses and vegetation provided ideal forage for wildlife, and fire would be used to aid



in hunting as it drove game out from hiding and into the open where they would be an easier target.<sup>16</sup>

Upon the arrival of western settlers Native American burning slowed dramatically. Shepherders and cattlemen, however, also understood the benefit of burning and used fire to manage meadows and control understory vegetation. Timbermen also understood the benefits of burning to control unwanted logging slash and vegetation in the woods. This practice continued through the early 20th Century, but in 1910 a significant fire suppression policy shift began taking shape. The deadly Big Burn of 1910 kicked off an aggressive fire-fighting campaign and with it came a change in Sierra Nevada forests as they became overgrown with vegetation.<sup>17</sup> As can be seen throughout Plumas County, “dog hair thickets” of White fir and Incense Cedar exist in many areas, and dead woody material continues to accumulate on the forest floor.



*“Dog Hair Thicket” is a term used to describe overgrown conifer stands such as this one. With the exclusion of fire these types of stands can be found throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Photograph by Author*

In *Tending the Wild*, author Kat Anderson cites two fire scientists who acknowledge that “California’s earliest humans” burned a significant amount, and when adding the acres burned by Native Americans to the acres burned by lightning they estimate that “between 5.6 million and 13 million acres in California burned annually.” To put these acres into perspective it is important to understand that a total of 555,044 acres burned in California in 2014, during a drought year no less.<sup>18</sup> Imagine, if you will, the amount of smoke that must have been generated in the summer and early fall months during those prehistoric years. Although the old growth that existed then is not as widespread, there are still old growth cedar, Douglas-fir, and pine in Plumas County with deep burn scars at the base of the tree. It may be concluded that the scars are from past lightning fires or from a relatively recent human caused fire, but do not rule out whether the old trees may have been scarred from a fire started by the Northeastern Mountain Maidu. They just may have been.



<sup>1</sup> Rose M. Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz. *Chronicles of Early California 1535-1846: Lands of Promise and Despair*. (HeydayBooks, 2001), 32.

<sup>2</sup> James R. Gibson. *California Through Russian Eyes, 1806-1848*. (University of Oklahoma Press, 2013), 461-62.

<sup>3</sup> Scott Weidensaul. *The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery, and Endurance in Early America*. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2012), 52.

<sup>4</sup> Kat Anderson and Thomas Blackburn. *Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians*. (Ballena Press, 1993), 110.



- 5 Omer C. Stewart. *Forgotten Fires: Native Americans and the Transient Wilderness*. (University of Oklahoma Press, 2002), 295.  
 6 *Ibid*, 298.  
 7 James H. McMillan. "The Northeastern Maidu." (*The Plumas County Historical Society, Plumas Memories No. 34, 1969*), 5.  
 8 Mary E. Dunn. "The Indians of Plumas County." (*The Plumas County Historical Society, Plumas Memories No. 8, 1962*), 3.  
 9 McMillan, 6-10.  
 10 Mark D. Selverston. "Historical Maidu of the Feather River." *Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology, Vol. 19, 2006*.  
<http://www.scahome.org/publications/proceedings/Proceedings.19Selverston2.pdf> (accessed July 5, 2015).  
 11 Dunn, 4.  
 12 David Casagrande. "What is Ethnoecology?" <http://www.lehigh.edu/~dac511/pages/research/ethnoecol.html> (accessed July 5, 2015).  
 13 Kat M. Anderson. *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*.  
 (University of California Press, 2005), 17.  
 14 Anderson and Blackburn, 75-76.  
 15 Stewart, 253.  
 16 *Ibid*, 293.  
 17 Anderson, 119-120.  
 18 Insurance Information Institute. "Wildfires." <http://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/wildfires> (accessed July 6, 2015).

# The Museum And The Community

## Volunteer and Docent Appreciation

We once again give a big thank you to all our volunteers and docents who have been busy helping with our Museum programs and functions. You are the oil that keeps this machine running! Leland Cotter expertly welded an attractive frame to hold and display our jail door. Ann Castaldini, Bob Darling, Eldora Duniphin, Bob Edwards, Ray Nichol, Helen Roberti, Paul & Denise Russell, Jerry & Elsa Thomas, and Linda Wallace all worked to greet and talk up guests at the Peppard Cabin and Pioneer Schoolhouse during this year's Plumas-Sierra County Fair in August, and Denise Russell and Ann Castaldini gave several tours of the Variel Home this summer to a wide variety of groups. Lisa Hopman continues to catalog a seemingly endless supply of historic Superior Court and Probate records, and Linda Wallace has not only been making sure all our membership, donation, and memorial records and thank- you's are recorded and sent, she kept the Museum open on Sundays throughout the summer. She also found time to create a wonderfully quirky gold miner scarecrow to adorn our front walkway. Garden volunteers, Dee Brubaker, Rita Christensen, Rose Harrigan, Keith & Nancy Nicoles, Christina Quigley, Toni Ryan, Piers & Faith Strailey, Jerry & Elsa Thomas, Jane Wair, Johnny Walker, and Linda Wallace, continue to keep the gardens and trees around the Variel Home in tip-top shape, while Marvin Simpson continues to donate his time to mow the Variel Home yard, and docent, Ken Green, helps with occasional cleanup of our exhibit yard areas. Our newsletters wouldn't be the same without the help of our printers and folders, Heidi Wightman, Becky Herrin, and Sam Lawson. Thank you to all our volunteers!



Bodie O'Brien and Kai Hostetter volunteer as weed pullers at the Museum this summer. Thanks guys!



QHS 8th grader Samuel Lawson worked over 40 hours this summer to clean up the Exhibit Yard behind the Museum.

# News Around The Museum

## Shoot Out!

Museum Member, Lee Dummel, a historian, reenactor, and Old West firearms expert, volunteered his time and gave several presentations for us this past summer. Back in August, Lee gave an insightful presentation on Andrew Jackson “Big Jack” Davis, the first train robber west of the Mississippi. “Big Jack” and his gang hit the Central Pacific Railroad between Verdi and Reno, Nevada on November 4, 1870 and got away with a small fortune in gold and silver coins! More recently, in October, Lee, along with Pete Dryer, Dave Montanari, Paul Russell, and Scott Lawson, presented the story of an 1852 Plumas County duel between John Morrison and William Leggett, two Plumas County miners from England. The presentation ended with a bang as it culminated with pistol blasts at 10 paces!

## Processing The Ore

Volunteer Rich Knoettgen is once again busy on a project in our exhibit yard after finishing rebuilding a historic ore cart. Rich is now building a tramway trestle for that ore cart that will hook into our two-stamp stamp mill so we can show how the ore was poured into the mill for processing. We look forward to the finished product!

## Upstairs In The Gallery

Now on display on the Stella Fay Miller Mezzanine Gallery at the Museum is the work of artist, educator, and design-builder, J. Damron, who also teaches at Feather River College. His display features a collection of wooden opticons, each featuring a different slide of an object he considers to be a curiosity. Damron's artwork tends to occupy the ground between ritual and play, and in this exhibit the viewer must interact with the art in order to truly see it.

## 6th Annual Grave Occasion a Spirited Success!



On the evening of September 19, history enthusiasts from around California gathered for our 6th Annual Grave Occasion Cemetery Tour and Dinner. This year's event was held at the historic Meadow Valley Cemetery and started off with wine and hors d'oeuvres at the Meadow Valley Schoolhouse before the crowd wandered to the cemetery. At the cemetery, the crowd was regaled with the stories of several of Meadow Valley pioneer's past lives both sordid and sweet. Lisa Kelly and Michelle Fulton told the story of Chinese couple, Mun Gee and Wong Pim Poy who ran a store and freighting business in Silver Creek; Tina Terrazas, portraying Elizabeth Hughes, recounted the story of herself and husband, Thomas Hughes, who together ran the Meadow Valley Ranch and hotel, while Josh Huddleston and Margaret Garcia told the story of the Bucks Road Toll Gate operators, Andrew and Mahala Robinson. Bryan Plocki regaled

the audience with an account of the life of Spanish Ranch owner and operator, Richard Thompson, while Danielle Plocki had the pleasure of portraying his three different wives, Sarah Russell Thompson, Alicia Keough Thompson, and Elizabeth Hyde Thompson. The tragic life and brutal death of John Richard McVay was dramatized by Paul Russell. Later, guests adjourned to the lawn of the Meadow Valley Schoolhouse where they were served a wonderful dinner prepared by Chef Mike Miller, enjoyed bidding on numerous items in a silent auction, and were entertained by local musicians, Leslie Mink and Nathan and Kim Retallack. This event is the Museum's major yearly fund-raiser and we would like to thank the many, many people who helped make it all possible. Thank you all for your generosity and help in organizing the event, selling tickets, folding programs, rounding up silent auction items, staffing the event, and all the other myriad things that need to be done to put on an event like this! Most of all we thank all of those who supported us by buying tickets and attending this wonderful event if you missed it, we hope to see you next year!



# Beckwourth Cabin Museum Improvements

*By Richard Arnold, Jim Beckwourth Cabin Museum.*



The Beckwourth Cabin Museum has seen some improvements this year, and more are planned, which we thought you should hear about. First, with the assistance of Joy Engineering, and \$100, we put down several yards of crushed rock for a new look to our parking area; fewer weeds and fewer ground squirrel hills, and perhaps coordinated parking away from the front of the cabin for improved photo opportunities.

Diplomatic efforts failed again to persuade CalTrans to put any kind of signs for the Beckwourth Cabin Museum on highway right-of-way (we're not staffed sufficiently to qualify as a

museum), so I joined the Adopt-a-Highway program (miles 79 to 82 from Rocky Point Rd. through Beckwourth) and now we have two volunteer recognition signs that may remind travelers of the museum. CRV recyclables are more abundant on my section of highway, so perhaps people feel that littering is one form of donating to the museum. Let us know if you like our signs.

Scott Lawson provided a long table from the Taylorsville school which let us get our display of cabin bunkhouse trash up off the floor at a better viewing height (while still glued to the original plywood squares). The public loves examining our trash, sometimes even using the large 2x magnifiers we provide.

Behind the old displays we found a treasure of old horse and mule shoes which, though newer than the emigrant era, help us tell our story of how steep and rugged was the Beckwourth Trail and how the users of the trail got over it. The Beckwourth Cabin can be dark without lighting, so I've installed a rechargeable LED light fixture above the table which will help us get through leaf peeper season. Another is nearly ready for the front room.

In the works is an enclosed display of emigrant-era artifacts found along the Beckwourth Trail by volunteers of the Oregon-California Trails Association, including Scott Lawson and myself, and Dan Elliott from the Plumas National Forest Heritage Division. For now the collection consists of several ox shoes, horse and mule shoes, and a sailmaker's needle. The items are on long-term loan from the Forest Service. We need to add square nails to the mix since they are one of the most frequently found items on the trail, other than wire bits. Hand-forged wagon bolts are also hoped for. We also intend to display topo maps of the trail to let people see how topography dictated its location.

Seating has been added to the Museum, beginning with a chiropractor's table from the Taylorsville school. I also got lucky in finding three comfortable chairs in Portola thrift and consignment stores. We've finally gotten head docent Betty Folchi out of her folding steel chair and onto something comfortable. And the public can sit and peruse our purchasable literature or read our wall-mounted documents in comfort.

With the assistance and guidance of longtime Richmond Museum director Lois Boyle, we are refurbishing our Beckwourth documents and textual displays in order to make them more legible and let people absorb Beckwourth's story on their own. Lois has a long relationship with a Richmond printing firm that lets us have museum-quality copies of documents, laminated or mounted.



*James P. Beckwourth in the 1860's*

# Out Of Town Callers



**World Visitors:** Australia, Canada, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom.

**United States:** Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington.

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## Artifact Donations

The following artifacts have been donated since May 2015:

*Gayle & Andy Anderson* book, Deep Canyon-Heavy Gold, historical newspaper clippings, handwritten historical sketches, photo postcard of downtown Quincy; *Susanne Bergum* Campbell Scale Models HO railroad kits for Quincy Station, Quincy Engine House, Quincy Crane, and Quincy Oil House; *Dorothy Borneman* Collection of Plumas County letters, receipts, bills, letterhead, stock certificate, 1850s-1940s; *Lou Boschee* photo of Plumas County Fair Parade, c. 1960; *Burris Family* Assorted baby clothes; *John Cullen* Photo postcard of Paxton and bridge, c. 1940s; *Frank Davis* Handmade water shut off valve; *Betty Deller* Two books on geology, 1912, 1915, two postcards showing overview of Quincy 1905-1910, one photo of Hotel Quincy, 1930; *Beverly Donato* Various documents, conceptual plans, and financial records concerning the Sierra Valley Natural History Museum; *Pete Dryer* Men's top hat and bowler; *Don Douglas* Anthropomorphic clay pipe bowl; *Jann Garvis* Collection of newspaper articles collected by Claire Cayot O'Rourke dealing with Plumas County history; *John Gould* Biographical timeline on John Soper Gould including, photos, news clippings, etc., one DVD Leo's Slides 1940-1990; *Ginger Gramm* Living History items cookbooks, clothing books, Indian grinding stones, candle lanterns and more; *Beverly Hammond* Photo postcard of Bucks Lake boat dock, 1940s; *Rob Hanford* Collection of 7 color photographs of "Bill the Logger" operating small sawmill in the woods, c. 1976, 2 B&W photos of Sloat Sawmill and Store, 1943; *Shirley Hathaway* Typed manuscript Walkermine 1947-1948; *Bill Hopkins* 12 milk bottle caps from the Sylvan Dairy in Greenville, c. 1950; *David Keller* Nine books covering local gold rush and Plumas County history; *Ann Kelsey* Collection of 22 fiction and non-fiction books belonging to Smith family of Johnsville, Mohawk, and Sierra valleys; *Elise Kroeber* Photos of the Lee, Larison, and other families; *Samuel Lawson* One ox shoe (left half), tin plate, pick point, and wood chisel; *William A. Lewis* Photo enlargement of photo postcard of Quincy from Radio Hill; *Paul Luiz* Tin tobacco can containing a 1936 placer claim location notice for Cleghorn Bar; *Bob & Doris McArthur* Chinese pottery liquor jugs, food jar, and soy sauce jug; *Donna McElroy* Metal filing box containing scrapbook and documents concerning activities of Quincy Hospital Auxiliary "Pink Ladies" group, 1967-1993, photo book of residents of Quincy Nursing Home, 1990-2013; *Vadney Murray* Plumas County Bank account book for Quincy Electric Light Co., 1909-1914; *Frances Musser* Specimen rock of Engels Mine copper with gold throughout; *Marilyn Quadrio* Collection of newspapers, clippings, various documents concerning Plumas County teachers' strike, 1974; *Phil Ravert* Plumas County Bank ledger, Plumas Chilcoot Copper Co., checkbook, various mining documents, personal and business records of Edward Irving Lane; *Scott Russell* Cookstove parts; tin and porcelain warming plate from Bushman Mine; *Charles "Bill" Steele* Pumpkinseed whiskey flask bottle, c. 1903; *Bruce Walker* Enamel tray and lid containing seven ampules of kangaroo tendon for sutures, 1939-1950; *Mary Willits* 1919 mustard jar, spice shaker bottle; *Rob Wood* Episcopal prayer book belonging to Clyde Beaton, U.S.N., 1913; mining crucible, mining mortar, clay smoking pipes, ore car track gauge, spikes, rail connector, horseshoes, ox shoe, stove parts and cooking pots from Head of Nelson; early Homelite® chainsaw; brass box.





## A Hearty Welcome To Our New Members Since Our Last Newsletter

**Individual:** Lucia Biunno, Quincy; Shelley Buerer, LaPine, OR; Lenora Herndon, Meadow Valley; Mary Kleijunes, Blairsden; Donnal Nichols, Cromberg; Douglas Reeves, Sacramento; Steven Wayne Thompson, Quincy, Tara Turner, Chile.

**Family:** Judy Adamson, Quincy; Heather Alexander, Meadow Valley; John & Rhonda Breaux, Quincy; Kathleen and Chloe Copeland, Greenville; Richard & Sue Harrison, Grass Valley; Steve and Lee Ann Janovick, Blairsden; Sherry Kumler, Quincy; John & Judy Lullo, Clio; Steve & Susan Morris, Meadow Valley; Charles & Bonnie Mueller, Susanville; Bob & Sarah Pahlow, Clio; Kest & Sue Porter, Greenville; Robert & Lisa Turcott, Quincy; Joe Williams & Matt Fisher, Tigard, OR.

**Patron:** Peter & Totsy Beck, Meadow Valley.

Some of our current Members are shown here because they upgraded their membership category!

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### Memorials

Since our last newsletter we have received Memorial Donations in memory of the following: Laurie Beck, Quincy, CA; Sheila Howe Bissell, Pahrump, NV; Millie Burris, Woodinville, WA; Art Griffin, Quincy; Andrew Lynch, Kentfield; Robert L. Murray, Chico; Bobbie Pricer, Meadow Valley.

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### Monetary Donations

**Up to \$99:** Laurie Beck; Nick & Marion Becker; Robert Beckworth; Lucia Biunno; Bob & Lou Boschee; Jim and Diane Brun; Rick Burris; John & Janet Cameron; Pat & Janna Cook; Eldora Duniphin; Gerd Ebeling & Karen Kleven; Bob & Mary Edwards; George & Karen Fraser; Nancy Gambell; Velma Gonzalez; Ted & Betty Hoskins; Syd & Judy Kahre; Al & Carol Klem; Laura Lazenby; Bud & Marna Markham; Ray & Sally Nichol; James Robbins; Jeff & Lani Rockholm; Joyce Scroggs; Kent & Lena Stokes; Janice Thomas; Tom & Diane Uchytal; Donna Vanderwagen; Gordon Watson.

**\$100 - \$199:** Janet Amos; Jim & Billie Bequette; Charlie & Jill Brown; Keith & Nancy Nicoles; Betty Penland; Denise Pennell; George Poole; Robert & Cherry Shipp; Altalee Larison Stout; Valerie Vann.

**\$200 - \$499:** Leslie Arlett; Marc Coventry; Bud & Joanne Kibbee; Elise Kroeber.

**\$500 - \$999:** Michael Rodriquez; John Stolurow.

**\$1,000 - \$1,999:** Julie Cannon; PG&E Campaign for the Community; Kay & Orphie Pierson; William & Jennifer Seibold.

**\$2,000 - \$5,000:** Anonymous; Estate of Millie Burris.

# Wassail Bowl



The 51st Annual Wassail Bowl will be held at 5:00 p.m. on, Friday, December 11, at the Museum. Former Plumas County Chamber of Commerce Manager and Plumas County Museum Curator, Robert G. Moon, started the event in his office on Bradley Street in December of 1965. The tradition then moved to the Museum in 1968 and was held there every year until several years ago when it was moved to the Courthouse. After a short hiatus, it was reconvened at the Museum. Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year will be awarded. Wine, Wassail and appetizers will be served. For more information call the Museum at 283-6320 or the Quincy Chamber at 283-0188.

Boy Scout Troop 151 provided the tree for this year's Holiday Season.



Christmas tree at Illinois Ranch, Thompson Valley.

## Director's Comments

*Scott Lawson: Museum Director*

Another busy summer and fall are behind us at the Museum, and I would like to thank all of the volunteers, docents, trustees and directors for their support and assistance. I would also like to thank you, the membership, for your outstanding support this past year. It is a worn out old saw, but without your help we could not stay open and function in the manner we have been able to.

That said, we have found that even with your support, to stay open on a year round basis and provide the services we do, is causing the Museum Association to operate at a deficit. We are not in trouble yet, but it something we are working hard to address, and we hope to have a solution that works for us, and you, in the very near future.

On a lighter note, I would like to wish you Happy Holidays and invite you to partake of the 51st annual Wassail Bowl to be held here at the Museum. Also, until December 23, members receive a 20% discount on almost all items we sell in the Museum book store and gift shop. Be sure to check out our goodies for the upcoming holiday season.

Although we plan to close for January and February in order to catch up on our backlog of work, I would like to wish you Happy New Year and I hope to see you at YOUR museum soon.

Thanks to our business sponsors. They help support us and we encourage you to support them.

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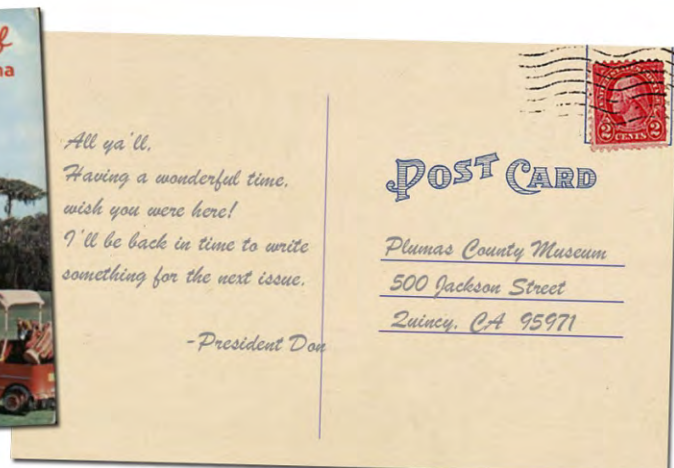
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Nataquanews@digitalpath.net

## President's Message

*Don Clark, President PCMA*





# Shop The Museum Gift Store!

The Holidays are coming quickly so don't forget to do some of your shopping at the Plumas County Museum's book store or online at our eStore at [www.plumasmuseum.org](http://www.plumasmuseum.org). Mastercard and VISA are gladly accepted, along with gold nuggets. Museum Members receive 20% off of almost all store items until December 23rd.



We stock over 110 titles in our bookstore with the majority of them dealing in some way with the local area and Plumas County. So for that nature lover, trail hiker, or local history buff in your family, give our bookstore a visit.

Our newest titles, *Horsing Around a Lot*, *Horsin' Around the Dudes*, *Humor Around Horses*, and *More Humor Around Horses*, all by Stu Campbell, will appeal to the funny bone in all of us and especially to those who love horses and the people who ride them!

We also carry Museum logo coffee mugs, baseball caps, and polo shirts, and stock an eclectic and ever-changing collection of items that have been expressly donated to sell in our store as fund-raisers. At any given time we may stock vintage bottles and cans, glassware, tools, dolls, railroad memorabilia, mineral specimens, and other interesting items, and we always have a wide selection of used books on hand to choose from.

Looking for gold? We not only carry local gold wrested from the frigid waters of Nelson and Poorman's creeks and crafted into fashionable jewelry, but our "gold" Plumas County Sesquicentennial coins are quite popular as gifts for those wanting an inexpensive "golden" souvenir!

Member Carol Bordeaux recently donated eight of her beautiful cross-stitched bookmarks depicting local wildflowers to sell at our store, and they were quite a hit, selling out quickly. If you didn't get one, don't worry, Carol has promised to whip up some more and get them to us soon!

## It's A Great Place For Your Holiday Shopping!



**Walking out in style:** Look sporty in a new Plumas County Museum ball cap, either brown or black bill. It will set off our quality polo shirts. Mens in tan, ladies in plum. Locally produced just for the Museum.



**Waking up in style:** Make your morning coffee taste that much better by drinking it out of our wonderful Plumas County Museum mug.

And at only ten bucks each, they are a steal!  
An ideal Christmas present for your friends this Holiday season!



# From The Museum's Past



In the time honored tradition of progress manifested everywhere, the old Hazzard home on the corner of Coburn & Jackson was burned to the ground in 1966 to make way for the current Plumas County Museum.

## TRUSTEES:

Ken Barnard, *Graeagle*  
Charlie Brown, *Quincy*  
Don Clark, *Graeagle (President)*  
Bob Darling, *Graeagle*  
Pete Dryer, *Twain*  
Bob Edwards, *Quincy*  
Al Klem, *American Valley*  
Jerry Thomas, *American Valley*  
Diane Uchtyl, *American Valley*  
Linda Wallace, *Quincy*

## STAFF:



Scott Lawson,  
Last Man Standing

## DIRECTORS:

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**Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.**  
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