

Volume 43

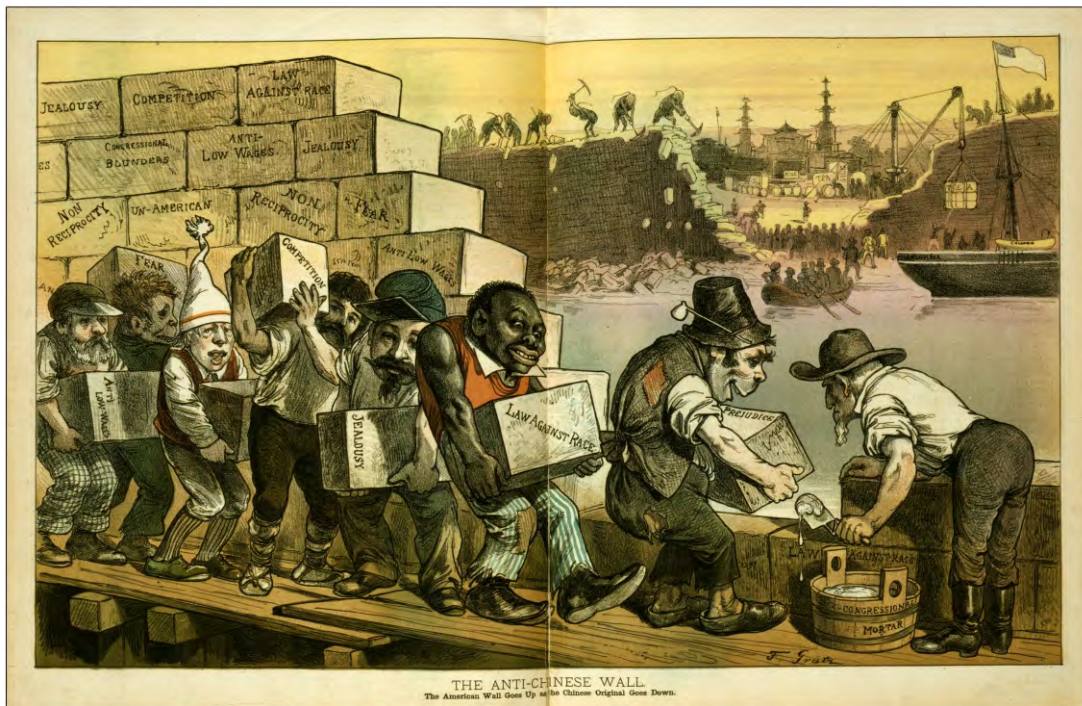
Number 2

www.plumasmuseum.org

November 2017

Racial Justice in Early Plumas County

This article was originally written in 1996 as a presentation to the Plumas County Bar Association by Museum Director Scott Lawson. It is not an attempt to excuse or defend the conduct of the people or the judicial system of the period but simply as a look at another aspect of Plumas County's history.



From Punch Magazine, 1895

In 1850, the California Legislature passed a law prohibiting blacks and Indians from testifying for or against a white person in a court of law. In 1854, a state court decision expanded the provision to also cover Chinese. Not only were non-whites denied legal protection, but so were whites if their only witnesses were black, Chinese, or Indian. In 1863 this “testimony” law was changed to give blacks the right of legal testimony. Chinese and Indians continued to be denied that right until 1872, when the law was superseded by the federal civil rights act.

By 1854, when Plumas County was formed from Butte County as its own political entity, the practice of minority exclusion in courts was firmly established throughout California. Although Indians, blacks, and Chinese were not allowed to testify, this did not necessarily preclude them from all legal protection, however self-serving, biased, or feeble it might be.

Even though the offending law was dropped in 1872, the Chinese in particular failed to take advantage of any new opportunity they were now afforded. This is not to infer that they were physically, or through some stretch of the law, denied the opportunity of testifying. They just naturally found that it was useless to try to defend themselves in court against Americans.

Given all this, there still seemed to be a sense of conscience among at least a part of Plumas County's white population. Several cases that occurred in Plumas County between the years of 1853 and 1877 have been chosen as examples. These particular ones were selected because there is documentation extant, they involve blacks, Chinese, and Indians, and they all indicate at least a modicum of willingness by local whites to testify and/or act on their behalf.

Of course, we must remember the perception of the human animal in 19th century America was somewhat different from that of today. It was taken for granted, by a majority of whites at least, that Caucasians were the superior race, and that people of color or other physically defining features came under them in a descending order. This racism was pushed by the scientific community and institutionalized in schools where it became a generally excepted tenet. Although most whites accepted these teachings as fact, still for many it did not rationalize the exclusion of minorities from equal protection under the law, particularly in Plumas County, where for example a comparatively decent Sino-Anglo reputation was enjoyed.

Noted California historian W. H. Hutchinson articulated the overall racial tenor of this region in his forward to the reprinted 1882 History of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties:

When it comes to ethnocentrism [it is] plain that less opprobrium attached to pigmentation in the earliest days than is commonly supposed. In both Plumas and Lassen counties, the pioneer settlers made treaties with the resident aborigines that bound both races by the same laws and pledged mutual assistance against raids by other tribes against either party to the compact. As settlement pressures increased, these treaties eroded after a pattern not too dissimilar from that which racks urban neighborhoods today. When the rich, easily worked placers that were "anybody's gold" played out, legal discrimination in the form of a special tax on foreign miners, largely Chinese, became state-wide. The record of this tax's application and collection in Plumas County is one of the best extant.

In the earliest days, it was also more a matter of economics driving racism than a generation later when racism became completely institutionalized nation-wide. In early gold rush California the prevalent attitude was to "live and let live" and to "get rich and get out." Within a few short years and the gold pinching out, bigotry developed against nationalities and races. In a short time that conglomerate of influences and attitudes developed into a more regimented and directed force, one that singled out any individual or group that was different. This, coupled with newly arriving emigrants, bringing their prejudices and fears created a change from almost purely economic racism to one that included cultural and physical features. Economics still dictated most of California's racist fears and hatreds, but ignorance and all its baggage played a large part also.

The George Rose Incident

When white miners and settlers reached what is now present-day Plumas County they encountered the shy, retiring Mountain Maidu Indians. Common to most white-Indian relations, these people were forced into submission either through disease, starvation, or violence. Most violent incidents remained localized with no major outbreaks although in the fall of 1853 there was more than the usual trouble between whites and



The Taylorsville Hotel

Indians in north-central Plumas County. A horse theft resulted in the shooting death of one Maidu by pioneer Jobe Taylor. Soon after, Taylor, "... realized the importance of cultivating the goodwill...and confidence of the natives." A convention was held in November, 1853 at Taylor's Ranch to promulgate an agreement between the Maidu and the white settlers.

Shortly after, on the 18th of December, 1853, a German blacksmith named George Rose entered Taylor's hotel to have a drink. At the stove was seated an old Indian. Rose demanded to know what the Indian was doing in the house. Taylor replied that he was there to warm himself, whereupon

Rose pulled his pistol and shot the Indian dead. The following day a posse of settlers arrested Rose and brought him back to Taylor's for trial. A judge and jury were selected and the trial conducted. Rose was found guilty of first degree murder "... for shooting an Indian ..." and hanged before 2 o'clock on December 20th. It is quite possible that Rose was an all-around unsavory character and so was an easy and convenient target to prove the sincerity of the new treaty to the Maidu. However, the brutality and wanton nature of the crime no doubt incensed the whites and therefore only the ultimate sacrifice would be acceptable. In any case, Rose's action did not pass with impunity.

Although a copy of the Taylor agreement no longer appears to exist, it can be surmised that it was very similar in nature to one developed three years later in nearby Honey Lake Valley, wherein there was to be no dispensing of "any spirituous liquors to the Indians; and any person or persons misusing, maltreating, robbing, or stealing from the Indians shall be considered an offender" and the citizens would form a board and determine punishment as they deemed proper. Despite the attempt that was made very early to address white-Indian conflicts, it was a short-lived and futile effort. The best the Maidu could hope for was to appeal to the sense of fair play and common decency of the settlers, which will be evidenced in a later case.

James P. Beckwourth's Stolen Grindstone and Wagon.

On February 18th, 1855, mountain man, trailblazer and emigrant road promoter James P. Beckwourth filed charges against one Fay Gilson for the theft of one grindstone and one small two horse wagon. The alleged theft occurred about November 1st, 1853 (about the same time Gilson was involved in the George Rose case). Because Beckwourth was of Afro-American descent, in order for a warrant for arrest to be issued, the complaint had to be verified in court by a white man. This was done by Patrick Henry Spence with the result that the defendant was arrested and brought to court. Blacks were very rare in early Plumas County, the census of 1860 numbering no more than eight. Racial tolerance also seemed to hinge on the popularity or financial worth of the individual, as in the case of Mr. Beckwourth, a celebrity in his own right at the time. Unfortunately, no resolution of the case has been found to date.



James P. Beckwourth

The "Spanyards" (as spelled on the arrest warrant).

On the night of September 2nd, 1855, while encamped at their gold diggings on the North Fork of the Feather River, a group of Chinese miners were attacked by two knife-wielding Mexicans. The Chinese were rather well cut up during the process of this robbery.

Because the Chinese were not permitted file charges, the charge of assault with intent to commit larceny was filed against Pasquale Borcas and Jose Carmen Sarmiento on behalf of the Chinese by Henry Landt, a local white miner. The defendant's attorney, Tom Cox, was court appointed. In building a defense case, he asserted that the evidence of Chileans Ignacio, Quinones, Jim and Bob and two Americans [was] material to a fair trial.

Although there was great prejudice against Chileans, paradoxically they were allowed to testify in court. Apparently, Hispanics were considered "white enough" to testify. The robbery of Chinese was a fairly common occurrence in the mines, and unless they were killed or badly hurt, as in this case, they usually refrained from reporting the incident to authorities. The Mexicans and Indians in particular seemed to favor the Chinese as targets. This is not surprising given the white dominated social structure. A pecking order was established that resulted in the Chinese at the bottom. Unfortunately, we don't know the outcome of this particular case, but it is interesting to note the various races and nationalities that were all involved.



Illustration from Puck magazine 1886

The Rape of Indian Nancy (as written in the court case).

On January 8th, 1858, in the vicinity of Big Meadows (now Lake Almanor), a Maidu Indian girl of fourteen or fifteen years named Nancy was sold by a group of Indians to Fred Ashton for the sum of \$200. Ashton, and his partner William Dixon, proceeded to force his reluctant purchase to accompany them on their way toward Mosquito Creek some ten miles south. The trio slogged along all day in the knee-deep snow with Nancy occasionally trying to break away.

According to the testimony of miner Samuel Knight, who paid more than a passing interest in the events of that day, "I saw where there had been scuffling ... where they had been down or somebody had ... there was some 3 or 4 places where somebody had run out of the road ... and been caught and brought back. Ashton and Dixon made them for there was no one else that had passed that way that morning." Upon his reexamination he stated that "The tracks corresponded with the tracks of Ashton and Dixon and the squaw." This rather observant individual's testimony was some of the most damning evidence against Ashton and Dixon. Apparently the two men were able to bring Nancy to a public house of sorts in Humbug Valley where they spent the night. It was here the rape of Nancy by Ashton occurred. The owner of the house, P.M. McGregor testified to the following events. Ashton and Dixon "were packing her in, both holt [sic] of her ... by the shoulder and ... by the feet. The squaw was crying. Ashton whipped her with the ramrod of his gun and tore her clothes at the time he took her to the bed. [He] stated that he bought the squaw and she had to do as he said." This rather observant individual's testimony was some of the most damning evidence against Ashton and Dixon.

Before and during the rape Nancy repeatedly said "no" and "no sir." "The squaw could not talk any English. She was fighting him [Ashton] part of the time [and] did not act like a woman that was willing to go off with him." Although McGregor did not actually see the rape, he testified that he heard rustling, panting and Nancy's repeated "noes."

In May of 1858 the Plumas County Grand Jury returned an indictment for forcibly defiling a woman against Ashton and Dixon and bound them over for trial. Throughout the explicit witness testimony was the recurring theme that Nancy was held against her will despite her purchase from Indians.

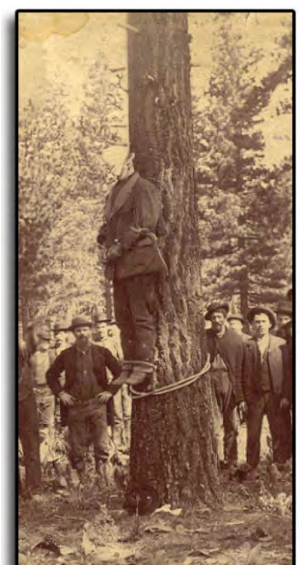
In a typical defense tactic, her character was also put on trial, with allusions to her becoming a "bad" Indian and a prostitute. Van Hickey testified for the defense that "while she belonged to Jo. Halstead her character was generally looked upon by the people in the Indian Valley as very good. After she left for the Big Meadows she was considered a whore but not a public whore." Five other witnesses and their opinions as to her character and chastity were presented but it was all weak and hearsay.

Overall, the testimony and evidence was substantial enough to convict Ashton and Dixon, both being found guilty. They were sentenced to San Quentin Prison for three years and two years respectively.

Unfortunately, they both escaped about a year after their incarceration. This case in particular demonstrates the willingness of the whites to come to the aid of the less fortunate Indian woman. It is clear from the testimony that some were more interested than others in seeing justice served, but even the defense witnesses were vague about their testimony and seemed not interested in defending Ashton or Dixon.

As can be seen by the preceding examples, there was a somewhat strong element of support for justice across racial lines within Plumas County. Even though none of these were earth shaking or precedent setting cases, they show the fact that when it was needed, the everyday man was of enough caliber to come forward and stand up for those who were not legally or physically able to do so themselves.

In closing, some form of justice was finally served for Mr. Ashton, the Quincy Union of April 30, 1864, noted: "Gone. It is reported that one of the individuals 'elevated' by the vigilance committee at Idaho City sometime since, was formerly a delegate from this county to San Quentin, by the name of Ashton."



Long on Justice, short on drop.

Another Grave Success



Some of the 100 participants of the 8th Annual Grave Occasion flow into the Mohawk Cemetery.

The day was spotted with billowy clouds and slightly blustery, so just right for our 8th Annual Grave Occasion, held at the Mohawk Valley Cemetery this year. Over 100 attendees enjoyed stellar performances by Danielle & Bryan Plocki as the Woodwards, Michelle Pfingston as Clarissa Bonta, Wayne Bauer as James Denten and Nancy Gambell as Rebecca King. Afterwards everyone repaired to Cuccia's Restaurant for hors d'oeuvres and a wine tour of the United States with Gina Prince, proprietress of the restaurant. It was a success all around and everyone had a great time. Thank you to all who made it possible.



Bryan & Danielle Plocki as George & Martha Woodward.



Wayne Bauer as James Denten



Nancy Gambell as Rebecca King

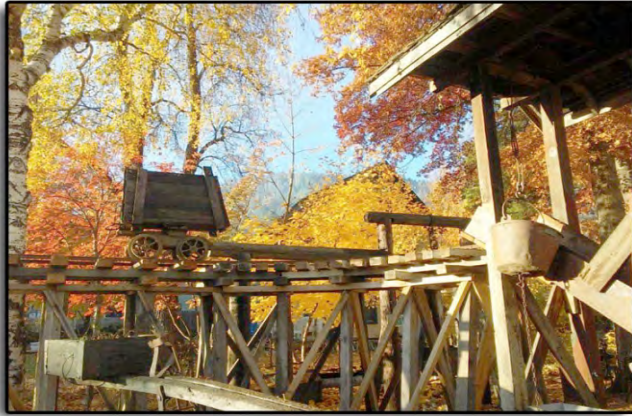


Michelle Pfingston as Clarissa Vanzini Bonta

Photos by Sam Lawson



Volunteer Activities



The ore car is now on its track on top of the trestle to the stamp mill.

In the last issue we noted that Rich Knoettgin had built a 7-foot high trestle for our ore car and stamp mill in the Exhibit Yard. Our neighbor, Nick Polzak, of Mountain Craft Landscaping, provided his excavator to place the ore car on the new trestle.

Along with the trestle, Rich has been refinishing and leveling our two picnic tables, building new jockey boxes for the hydraulic monitors and erected the Huntley-Mercer ranch house bell.

The Gifford Mining Cabin has been completely inventoried, cleaned and redecorated by Margie Oropin. Over the past decade it had become cluttered and rather dusty, so she took on the task this summer, and now it looks much better!

The Variel Home garden group were busy late this summer dressing up the grounds and getting the flower beds ready for fall. Thanks to Sally Nichol and her hard-working crew.

Denise Russell gave a number of tours of the Variel Home to various groups.

The Plumas County Fair just wouldn't be the same without the Peppard Cabin and Pioneer School, and we couldn't do it without the help of volunteers. Pam Bolton, Sue Clift, Eldora Duniphin, Linda Leff, Ray Nichol, Margie Oropin, Kathy Raymond, Helen Roberti, Denise and Paul Russell & Lindsay Vert.

Speaking of the Pioneer School, Fred Surber with an able bodied crew of volunteers replaced the rotted entrance porch and steps to the school just before the fair. Fred plans to replace the ailing back porch this fall, as well.

Lisa Hopman continues to slog away at the myriad court cases in our collection. She is well over two-thirds of the way through and can finally see light at the end of the tunnel.

Young members of Jenny Bennett's One World Creative Learning Preschool & Daycare under direction of Susie Bennett picked cull apples from the yards of the Museum, Variel Home and Hall-Lawry House. The pupils were Audrey Grace Felker, Jake Huynh, Lena Jedra, Connor Sable and Emmett Tompkins. We salute these young community-minded citizens.

Speaking of community-minded, Marvin Simpson mows the yard of the Variel Home every week, free of charge. Thanks Marvin!

And thanks to Rick Becker who volunteered to set up our new point of sale system for our bookstore.

Mr. Woodlee's and Ms. Stiring's Quincy 7th graders came to rake leaves, pull weeds and help clean up the grounds this fall.



The 20th annual Living History program was another marked success. 4th Grade Living History participants enjoy heritage skills.



Spanish Peak Lumber Co. No.2 chugging into its new home.

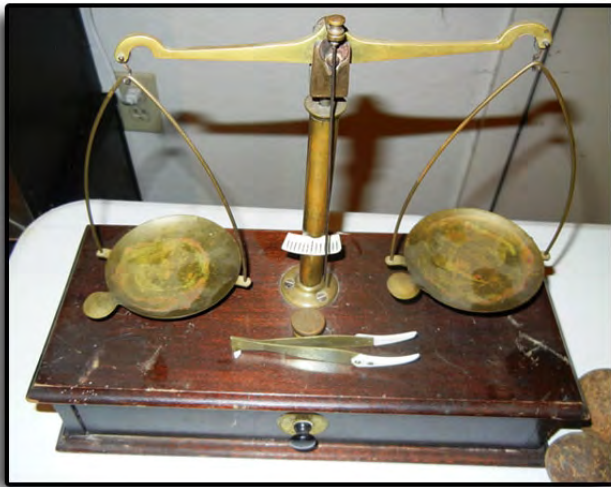
Artifact Donations Since December 2016

Nancy Adrian: One antique Teddy Bear which belonged to Vera Banfield King; Jan Anderson: One map of Meadow Valley, 1913, one Metskers map of Plumas County, one hand-drawn map of Plumas Imperial Mine & Water System; Ann Thieler Arrowsmith: Two community-produced cookbooks, twenty-six bottles from Seneca area dug during the 1950s-1960s by Virginia Thieler and friends; Barry & Peggy Bailey: One Rotary International brooch, one Masonic belt buckle; Nansi Bohne: One oil painting Old Growth Forest, 1975; Chester-Lake Almanor Museum: Research and items pertaining to W.S. Dean family, newspaper articles relating to the Dunn family and White Lily Mine, one T-shirt relating to labor relations between PCTA and school district, one rubber and iron tire, misc. iron pieces and square nails from shore of Butt Lake, iron railroad spikes, one Maasdam Hand Protector Clamp, Seven boxes of beauty shop supplies from Chester Beauty Shop; Don & Nancy Clark: Sixteen antique liquor, beer, wine, soda, mineral water and ginger beer bottles, 1880 1920, one National Geographic magazine featuring Plumas County, one antique wine press used on the Folchi Ranch; William Copren: One Portola yearbook, 1938, four photographs of Portola High School band, track team, and student body, six unused Boy Scout registration cards; Stephen Dembosz: One metal box containing two oil burning flares, collection of misc. clock parts; Dave Duner: United States Marine Corps uniform worn by Richard Duner; Eldora Duniphin: One "Big Little Book," The Lost Patrol, 1934; Coleen Ede: Two photographs of the Dunn family c. 1946, one wool child's U.S. Navy jumper, one folding case with tintype in each side of Beatrice & Queenie Hall, one framed "Certificate of Merit" to the Plumas Independent newspaper, 1922; Marilyn Erickson: One copy of Chilcoot House photograph; Tati Erickson: One Plumas County High School 1929 yearbook, VFW pin, blood donor pin, Phil Bresciani campaign notepad, JFK photo; Pat Fites: One pine needle basket; Joeana Frantz: One antique "Fashion Desk" school desk, c. 1900; Frances Gilkey: Twelve photographs of camping, hiking, fishing Grizzly Creek and Mt. Ingalls, 1912; Rob & Karen Gimbel: One Tonka toy fire engine; Margaret Goodart: One conical stone grinding mortar, two stone pestles; Marilyn Riley Graham: Nine Quincy, Portola, and Greenville high school yearbooks 1930 1936, five photographs of Portola High School band; one photograph of Greenville music students, 1930s; Murry Hammond: Six pages of photographs of Quincy Lumber Co. operations in Quincy and Sloat, early 1930s; Hans Haselbach: One metal punch stamped with "J. H. Variel," one CD of photo scans of Joshua and Mary Variel; Ginger Haney & Sugar Henry: Twenty photographs of Haney family, friends, etc., one matchbook, one pen, all associated with Mt. Tomba restaurant; Mary Lou Holbrook: Ten copies of lumbering and logging photographs, four Quincy High School yearbooks, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1976, three original photographs of logging and Quincy Railroad; Chuck James: One English soda bottle, c.1870; Bob Johns: Two packets of Siebert brand poison fly paper; Norman Lamb: Research by Marilyn Quadrio on William Becraft, the first white male child born in Plumas County, booklet on genealogy of Lucile Dunn family by Brian Westcott; Scott Lawson: four glass doll baby bottles, various doll and children's toy plates, bottles, one Sylvan Dairy milk bottle, one tin lard pail, one handmade butter board, various bowl, plate, and cup fragments with Feather River Inn motif, collection of receipts, documents, bank checks, account books, etc. which belonged to August and Louis Eddelbuttel; Sandra Lee: One watercolor painting of daisies by Carrie Thompson Miller, one oil painting of lake scene, c. 1895, one silver napkin ring engraved, "CTM," two silver napkin rings engraved "SFM"; Estate of Arthur Leonard Lloyd: Collection of menus, history, ribbons, and photos related to Hotel Quincy; Dave Logan: One enlargement of photograph of Paxton, 1919; Dave Loschiavo: One steel felling wedge; Bob Lowrey: One 1957 telephone book for Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Sierra County; Bonnie Madarang: Three books of County assessment rolls 1935, 1936, 1939, two delinquent assessment books, 1933-1934, four Plumas County cash books, 1923, 1930, 1933, 1936; Leland Mansuetti: One book, My Life in a Place Called Sloat from 1942 1953; Gordon Martin: One ladies leather boot, one man's boot, one chunk of petrified wood; Marie Meilan: Collection of eleven E Clampus Vitus envelopes, proclamations, etc., 1973-1982, two Silver Buckle Rodeo programs, 1973, 1975; Oakland Public Library: Nine vintage Plumas County postcards of various scenes; Mark Perkins: One California State Landmark No. 212 sign for Philip



State Landmark No. 212 sign for Philip Linthicum "Pioneer Grave"; Kay Pierson: One "Flying A" vertical gas pump used at the Cotter gas station in Quincy; Victoria Powell: One 1940 Nevada phone book including Plumas County; Bill Powers: Complete tap & die tool set in wooden box, c. 1915; John Probst: One list of musicals and dramas put on by Feather River College, 1973-2007 with accompanying DVDs; Kelly Reeson: Two pencil drawings and one pencil/watercolor by Annie White Soracco, c. 1890; Tim & Kimberly Ringo: One brass hand bell from Meadow Valley School, one 1881 Keddie Map of Argentine Mines, one 1864 Keddie Map of Arlington Town Site; Christopher Seal: One Mojave/Hohokam four spout clay jar; Suzi Schoensee: One postcard album containing various postcards, four Plumas Unified School District newsletters, one notice of Apportionment of School Funds, various newspaper clippings, one Quincy Railroad Co. passenger ticket; Robert Shulman: One Feather River Territorial magazine, 1958; Alice Sigmund: One mounted horseshoe from "Old Maude" c. 1890; Philip Steers: One early 1900s "Handford Soda Works" bottle, one The Ladies' World magazine, 1897; Stan Sugarman: One chunk of obsidian; Marilyn Thompson: One photograph of the La Porte Stage (sleigh) with horses on horseshoes; Transue Family: One 1931 diary from Quincy Drug Store; Russell Turner: Two panoramic photographs of Clover Valley Lumber Co. and employees; Claudia Vickers: Collection of documents pertaining to timber sales in the Bucks Lake area 1958-1959 called Grizzly Sale; Anne Whittaker: Large collection of Western Pacific books, publications, and ephemera, hat, belt and buckle, Zephyr sew-on patch; Dick & Shirley Wiggin: One Grand Dairy milk bottle, c. 1947; Leola Jeanne Maxwell Wilkinson: One stone grinding bowl, three stone pestles; Jay & Judy Wright Family: One cooking school menu, 1928, one paper doll set,

1943, two Kellogg wall mount hand-crank telephones used in the Whitlock-Flournoy-Wright home; Jim Wright: One watercolor painting of the Lily Baker cabin by Pat Kurtz, c. 1980; Sally Zentner: Collection of snapshots from Ribzinki family pertaining to Tobin Resort, Twain, and North Fork Feather River, one photo album of snapshots of North Fork Feather River and various scenes, one Tobin Resort greeting card, one Feather River Country recreation map.



Monetary Donations

Up to \$99: Richard Arnold; Nicholas Becker; Sharleen Bloom; Jack & Bernadette Brumit; Buck's Outboard Repair, Inc.; Barbara Ferrerra; Karen Fraser; Donald & Davney Gasser; Robert & Karen Gimbel; Jill Hanna; Betty Johns; Granville (Bud) & Joanne Kibbee; Jim Wilcox & Diane McCombs; Marge Murray; Joan Normington; Thelma Olson; Susan Payne; Ronald Rund; Rick Stock; Fred & Sharon Thon.

\$100 - \$199: Leslie Arlett; Dorris Beck; Kerry Etcheberry; Barbara Herendeen; Londa Lehman & Marilyn Irish; Richard & Carolyn Kenney; Bud & Joanne Kibbee; Al & Carol Klem; Norman Owen; George A. Poole; George Schucehenzuber III, Dave Truax & Susan Scarlett; Altalee Stout; Linda Wallace.

\$200 - \$499: Tati Erickson; Guy McNett & Linda Batson; Don Nichols; Jerry Pauly; Valerie Vann.

\$500 - \$999: Hal & Cheryl Babb; Marc & Diane Coventry; Thomas & Mary DeMund; Lawrence Ferderber; James & Nancy Hollister.

\$1000 - \$1999: William & Jennifer Seibold.

\$5000: Anonymous.

\$10,000: Heppler Family (David Heppler, Mayli Menesini).

\$20,000 \$30,000: Ellison Family Charitable Gift Fund (Estate of John Ellison); Kay Pierson.




Memorials

Since our last newsletter we have received Memorial Donations in memory of the following:
 Robert Gravert, Sacramento; Alvina 'Zigie' Hedin, Quincy; Ken Kolb, Cromberg; Mike Leavy, Grand
 Forks, ND; Larry "Bud" Markham, Graeagle; Fern Seever, Paradise/Quincy; Art Scarlett, Quincy; Leola
 'Jeanne' Wilkinson, Grass Valley.



Welcome To Our New Members Since Our Last Newsletter

New Members or current members who upgraded their membership:

Individual: Jenny Canty, Sanford, CO; Julie Cassou, Blairsden; Ryan Chegwin, Arden Hills, MN; Afton
 Herndon, Klamath Falls, OR; Tom Smith, Blairsden.

Family: Chris Murray, Quincy; Sam & Jane Knipmeyer, Reno, NV; Danielle & Bryan Plocki, Quincy.

Patron: Steve & Mary Habeck, Quincy; John & Linda Kolb, Quincy.


Sustaining: Jeff & Lynn Turner, Graeagle.

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Las Plumas Del Oro
Number 8
 E. Clampus Vitus
 Quincy California

Out Of Town Callers



International: Australia, China, Costa Rica, England, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Scotland, Switzerland.

United States: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin.



Director's Comments Scott Lawson: Museum Director

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and ready for the coming autumn and winter. As you may have noticed we did not issue a summer newsletter. This was due to a number of reasons not the least of which was all the activity here this past year.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who pitched in to give tours, repair artifacts, clean displays, set up exhibits, catalog items, index documents and a host of other activities. Our Exhibit Yard is looking really nice now with the fall colors and all the work done on it.

We have had some great programs this year as well, Lee Dummel with his 20-Mule Team Borax presentation and the Knights of the Whip program on stagecoaches with impersonations by Lee and Mary Shaefer of famous stage drivers, and Bruce MacGregor on his newly released updated version of Plumas Eureka on Glass. We also hosted a number of tours for RV clubs, school kids, and various groups. We also gave several presentations to other museums and historical groups.

The Mohawk Cemetery Event was a marked success, and it has been proposed that we do a similar event at the Taylorsville Cemetery next year.

We hope to see you soon, and remember us for your Holiday shopping. We have many wonderful books, local gold jewelry and other items in our bookstore. You can also shop the store on our website, www.plumasmuseum.org.

Happy Holidays and warm wishes from YOUR Plumas County Museum.



Gas For 17 Cents A Gallon

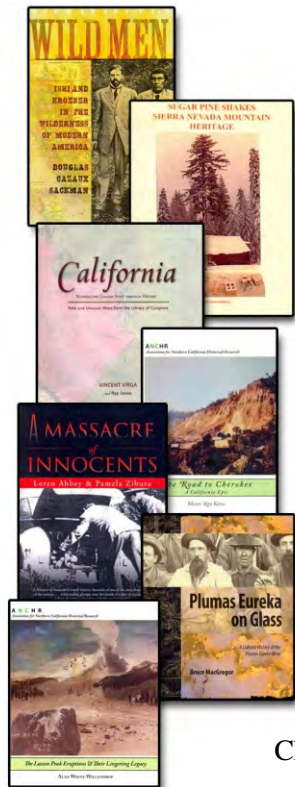


Our readers might recall that a little over a year ago, Kay Pierson of Quincy donated a vertical visible "Flying A" gas pump with the original glass cylinder. The pump's exterior was in very poor condition so Levi and Patty Pence of Hi-Tech Frame & Finish of Quincy were contacted. They generously agreed to restore the pump by sanding and painting it in its original colors. They also restored and replaced many of its brass fittings. Assisting with the move from Mrs. Pierson's to Hi-Tech were Kathy & Leland Cotter and Larry Trotter. Larry also refinished a donated solid walnut table top for a moveable base for the pump. The beautifully restored pump now sits on this base on the main floor of the museum. Moving the pump into the museum was a bit of a job as it had to be disassembled to fit through the doors. Robbie Cassou, Rob Gimbel and Johnny Walker all helped to move it in. Thank you to everyone who made its acquisition and restoration possible!



Shop The Museum Gift Store!

In our efforts to continually update our book offerings, we are always on the lookout for interesting titles that offer local history and that will appeal to our history-loving members and clientele. Since our last newsletter, a few such books have made their way into our inventory, including *Sugar Pine Shake: Sierra Nevada Mountain Heritage* by



local Greenville author Heidi Sheehan-Marsh. This wonderful slice of lore recounts the age old, and now almost forgotten, history of making hand split shakes from magnificent Sugar Pines, as practiced by her family for generations. Profusely illustrated with photos, this is a great tribute to this ancient art. Alan Wayne Willendrup's *The Lassen Peak Eruptions & Their Lingering Legacy*, newly updated, focuses not only on the eruptions, but also on the human-interest stories surrounding the eruptions, including many new previously unpublished photos. Likewise, *The Road to Cherokee: A California Epic* is a recently updated version of Mary R. King's 1947 book, recounting the story of the struggle between the farmers of the Great Central Valley of California and the hydraulic mining interests, as typified by the Cherokee Mine, one of the largest in the world during its heyday, near Oroville. *Wild Men: Ishi and Kroeber in the Wilderness of Modern America* by Douglas Sackman offers a touching, splendid narrative that restores the lives of these two individuals to full immediacy and actuality, exploring their intertwined lives and friendship and their unexpected connections, while Loren Abbey and Pamela Zibura's *A Massacre of Innocents*, chronicles the tragic true-life crime story of the Mountain Murder Mob's deadly rampage up and down the Golden State including the tragic 1952 killing of local Chester businessman Guard Young and his two daughters and their neighborhood playmate. Bruce MacGregor has put out a new edition of his acclaimed *Plumas Eureka on Glass*, this one with color images, and in softcover at a lower price than the similar hardcover version. *California, Mapping the Golden State Through History*, by Vincent Virga, is a collection of rare and unusual maps from the Library of Congress. This hardcover book is a must for California historians.

Check out these titles and over 100 more on our online bookstore at www.plumasmuseum.org.

Fine Local Gold Jewelry



If it's gold you're after, we've recently added some fine examples of specimen gold pendants and earrings to our store. Unlike placer gold, specimen gold comes directly from a matrix material such as quartz. It has not been smoothed or rounded by the action of water as is the case with placer gold. This gold is usually found by hard rock mining and can also be located by using a metal detector or by finding material that has gold running through it in "veins." Luckily for you, there's no hard work involved in finding our nuggets.

You can visit us in person or visit our website museum store to see and shop for these beauties!



Walking out in style: Look sporty in a new Plumas County Museum golf 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 present for yourself or your friends!



Views From The Museum's Past



Museum Open House announcement, October 10, 1968



The early Exhibit Yard as it looked in 1969



Hope you had a... **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



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 or pay online at the Museum e-store: www.plumasmuseum.org