

# Las Plumas

VOLUME 35 No. 1

PLUMAS COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

WINTER 2009

[www.plumasmuseum.org](http://www.plumasmuseum.org)

## **Museum Loses Employee- County Gains Supervisor**

As of January 2009, Assistant Museum Director Lori Simpson is now Supervisor for District Four Quincy-Meadow Valley area. Lori was with the Museum for almost five years before moving on. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor!

## **MUSEUM BUS TRIPS**

As of this date, we have not yet decided if we will be conducting our history-oriented bus trips this summer. Although these outings are very popular and successful, due to a variety of circumstances, we may not have the resources to offer them this year. Please keep in touch, though, as we will be deciding in the near future.

## **Spanish Peak Engine No. 2 locomotive Project**

As noted in our previous issues, the Spanish Peak Locomotive No.2 is in working order, painted beautifully, and waiting for a new building to house her.

The current project is the rebuilding of the log car donated to us by the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad in Nevada City. The car will be adapted to use as a passenger car when the locomotive begins its new job as a passenger train.

Our extremely dedicated group of railroad volunteers continue to meet every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Art Barn at the Plumas County Fairgrounds. If you would like to pitch in on the project the guys are more than happy to have you join them. You really have to see their work to appreciate the distance they have come!

Donations toward the project are also welcome and appreciated and can be sent to "Railroad Project" c/o Plumas County Museum Association, 500 Jackson St. Quincy, CA 95971. We really need the donation, or partial donation, of a large metal building to house the engine and rolling stock. If you know of such a building, please contact the museum at 283-6320. We can travel to get it.

## **MUSEUM MARKS THE PASSING OF A GREAT FRIEND**

It is with great sadness that we note the passing on January 31st of Don C. Johns, 93, one of the Museum's most dedicated volunteers and supporters.

Don was a charter member of the Museum and was instrumental in designing and setting up a number of displays, some of which are still in use.

He was a member of the Museum Board of Directors for many years, and was always willing to keep the Museum open on Saturdays. Without Don, the 1878 Variel Home restoration could not have happened.

He also volunteered for the Museum at the Peppard Cabin and Pioneer School during the county fair and picnic for many years.

Don loved the history and beauty of Plumas County and traveled it from one end to the other, many times.

Don was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Margaret. The family plans a memorial early this spring.



## **New Art Show on the Stella Miller Mezzanine Gallery**

Marilyn Hoffman is our featured artist on the Stella Miller Mezzanine Gallery for the months of March and April. Marilyn has shown her talent at the Museum in the past and we welcome her back again! Her works consist of oils and pencil. She will be hosting a reception on April 3rd from 5 to 7 p.m. in conjunction with the Art Walk. Be sure to stop in and take a look.

# MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS

Due to budget restrictions and staff reduction, the Museum will no longer be open on Saturdays until further notice. Our new hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. We are sorry for the inconvenience. We have heard from several local businesses that the Saturday closure affects them, but until we can hire a full time assistant, we cannot keep the facility open six days per week as in the past.

## *Museum Visitors*

Since last November we have had visitors from all over California, as well as Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. Several visitors from Ireland and Australia stopped in as well.

### **ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND OF THE MUSEUM IS GONE**

Bob Rath, our dedicated lunch time volunteer, passed away this past January. Bob was born on Ellis Island, New York, in 1921. A World War II veteran, he moved to California in the 1950s and to Quincy about ten years ago. He was an active member of the Museum, and a big help every day at lunch. Our condolences go to his family.

## *March is Womens' History Month*

This year's Womens' History program will be held Wednesday, March 25th at the Mineral Building at the fairgrounds. The cost is \$17, same as last year. The featured presenter is Alice Carlton, Plumas National Forest Supervisor. Ms. Carlton will be portraying Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, 1881-1960, early day womens' rights activist and wife of the first U.S. Forest Service Chief, Gifford Pinchot. Call now for your ticket, seats sell out fast! 283-6320.

*Please check your mailing label for your membership EXPIRATION DATE. Due to increased printing and postage costs, we cannot send newsletters to non-renewing addresses.*

Individual \$25, Family \$35, Patron \$100, Sustaining \$1000, Corporate \$150

### ***Remember the Museum in your Estate Plans!***

**Please mail check to Plumas County Museum, 500 Jackson Street, Quincy, CA 95971**

**Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.  
500 Jackson Street  
Quincy, CA 95971  
www.plumasmuseum.org**

## VOLUNTEERS

We have had some great volunteers during the past few months who have helped us tremendously with cataloging and sorting artifacts. Jim Shannon of Meadow Valley has put in copious amounts of time processing early court records, cataloging and accessioning collections of hand tools, and setting up new photograph panels. Julia Hungerford of Quincy also spent quite a bit of time entering artifacts into our computer system. Chris Bolton comes in every Wednesday, sometimes more often, to scan and catalog the thousands of vintage photographs in our collections. Our stand-bys, Marv and Norberta Schmidt are back from their travels and we look forward to seeing them once again. Carol Paoli continues to do research for us on an as-needed basis, and even Lori Simpson has been known to put in a few hours despite her now busy schedule. Tracy Ball has whipped our book sales inventory into prime condition, something it has never been. Bob Lowrey visits us often, lending a helpful hand on a variety of projects.

The "Railroaders," Jay Ricks, Ken Myers, Len Mosley, and Clay Johnson keep plugging away on their project.

A recent article that ran in Feather Publishing's papers has brought us a new crop of volunteers. We are currently updating and organizing a new docent training program to enable us to best utilize our volunteers' time. Please call the Museum if you are interested in volunteering.

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