

“THE NEW DEAL” TURNS 75!

“... government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side ... the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone. More important, a host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence, and an equally great number toil with little return. Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment.”

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Excerpted and edited from:

California Teacher, April/May 2008,
Malcom Terence, CFT Reporter.

“The flowering of public construction and employment during the New Deal that many people believe saved America during the Great Depression offers lessons for today far beyond architecture,” says Gray Brechin, who has launched a treasure hunt to locate and share the riches of the New Deal.

Roosevelt’s oft-quoted speech from his first inaugural address in March 1933 illustrated the depth of the depression, when he told Americans, “Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

Roosevelt responded to the fiscal crises of the 1930s with the New Deal, creating an alphabet soup of new agencies that hired millions of destitute citizens and built thousands of infrastructure projects, from schools and libraries to public parks, many of them still in use today. In a local twist of fate, Spring Garden area gold miner James J. Elliott at almost the exact same moment discovered an 88 4/5 ounce gold nugget on his claim. He promptly crowned it “The New Deal Nugget.”

For example, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) hired 3.5 million young men “to redeem the land



CCC Camp 989 at Rich Gulch on the Feather River, 1934.



The 989th Company was moved from Quincy to Rich Gulch in October 1933.

and themselves,” by sending them into the woods and mountains to plant trees, build parks and roads – employment that saved many of them from starvation and crime. On the Plumas County level they built roads, trails, fire lookouts, campgrounds, and a host of other similar projects.

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) hired 50,000 unemployed teachers and sent many of them to rural schools whose districts could not afford teachers. Within two months, the CWA put over 4 million unemployed Americans to work, 41 percent of whom were women, a remarkable proportion for the era. In January 1934, nine women were hired in Plumas County as Civil Works Service (CWS) employees to mend quilts, clothing, and similar items.

The short-lived CWA became the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that built schools, colleges, amphitheatres, recreation facilities, roads, airports, public spaces, bridges and dams. In addition, the WPA’s Federal Arts Project put thousands of unemployed artists, musicians, writers, actors, and photographers on the federal payroll, producing public projects ranging from murals to state park guidebooks.

“They built an enormous number of schools, museums, colleges, and libraries, and few prisons,” Brechin said. “They knew it was cheaper to educate people than to punish them. This is not the way we do things today.”

Roosevelt gave immense attention to public education, and he saw that support as the path to an enlightened citizenry. The schools, colleges, and libraries were built to last. Many were part of a large school rebuilding campaign in Los Angeles County following the Long Beach earthquake of 1933.

Unions of that era helped win many gains of the New Deal. Because of the power and the pressure of the unions, Roosevelt went much further than he would have otherwise. Because of the massive wave of strikes, including the 1934 San Francisco General Strike, there was a general feeling that revolution was breaking out. Roosevelt knew he had to take pressure off the system – and the New Deal jobs program did that.

The Roosevelt administration was the best friend unions ever had in the White House. FDR told labor leaders that they had to create the political pressure for his administration to help workers recover from the Depression, and they did.

Reflecting on the remarkable accomplishments of the New Deal, Brechin concluded, “How in far worse economic times could we achieve so much? These guys were not just building porta-potties. They were building a civilization.”

In Plumas County, a perusal of the Feather River Bulletin for the years 1933 and 1934 discloses a number of news articles related to the federal government’s efforts to stem the Depression, and in particular,



Boxing ring set up at Camp 989 Feather River Experimental Station, Quincy, 1933.

articles about the CCC. The “alphabet soup” of agencies included the NRA (National Recovery Act), RFC (Reconstruction Finance Corporation), TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority), NIRA (National Industrial Recovery Act), WPA (Works Progress Administration), PWA (Public Works Administration); CWA (Civil Works Administration), CWS (Civil Works Service). These are some of the more familiar ones. Try your hand at matching the acronyms with their full names on the list following this article!

By the spring of 1933 it was reported that 2200 men would be coming to some eleven camps on the Plumas National Forest. These would house about 200 men each. It was stated the Quincy Camp at today’s Mt. Hough Ranger District was to be the first of 166 camps established in California, but it appears the Challenge Camp was the first built on the Plumas National Forest in May of 1933.



Fire training at Camp 989 Feather River Experimental Station, Quincy, 1933.

Finally, ten camps were established here: Quincy 989 at Feather River Experimental Station, Slate Creek (west of Quincy at Tolles Mill), Rich Gulch 562 (site of the state’s former convict camp for road construction), Skinner Flat 563 at Canyon Dam, Boulder Creek at the head of Indian Creek, Meadow View, Crocker Guard Station, Mohawk at the east end of the Feather River Inn’s boys camp, Brush Creek, and Challenge.

By May it was reported that some 45,792 men would be imported to California. Most of these young men came from the East and Midwest and were between 18 and 25 years old. The Skinner Flat, or Canyon Dam Camp was comprised of 214 boys, all from West Virginia. The Slate Creek Camp was Ohio based.

Plumas County sent off some of her own, with a quota of 25 to meet. Some of the young men were



Barracks at Camp 989 Feather River Experimental Station, Quincy, 1933.

O.A. Ellis, Cecil Pezzola, Portola; A.D. Byington, E.P. Erickson, Delleker; Fred Sapp, Sloat; Robert Beem, Seneca; John Jenkins, Meadow Valley; Howard Atkinson, Keddie; Walter Priebe, Greenville; John Palazzi, David Ralston, George Tanner, Crescent Mills; Jack Cunningham, Greenville; Edmund Hogan, George Mattson, Wilson Hogan, Albert Clark, Clarence Maxwell, Larry Hardgrave, Quincy; Orrel Clary, Taylorsville; Calvin Shaw, Spring Garden; Cecil Warren, Walkermine; Marvin Linnell, Belden; and Plumas Stokes, Twain.

Other locals who worked in or for the

CCC programs were Charlie Steele, C.W. Bellamy, A.J. Watson, and J.C. Lee.

Although the paper reported their many achievements in the woods and along the roadways, there was also a great deal of socializing. “Pie Feeds” were a particular favorite of the boys and the locals, with several hundred local homemade pies consumed within minutes of their arrival at camp. Tennis, baseball, basketball, and in particular, boxing, were also huge favorites. A boxing ring was set up at each camp, and even town teams were invited to participate in the various sports. Besides sports they put on educational programs, skits, and musical programs. The Canyon Dam Camp had a musical group called the “Hill Billies,” while Slate Creek’s boys wowed the patrons of Quincy’s Happy Hollow Tavern with their “Timber Troopers” dance band.

Not all was fun and games though. As with everything, there are always a few misfits. The paper



Building trails on the national forest in the Feather River Canyon, 1934. Albert August Muske at right.

editorialized that despite their behavior the bad apples didn't taint the overall good the program brought. By August 1933, six "Tree Soldiers" showed up in the jail docket. One young man, Guy Garnet, was arrested along with Madge Pauleu, a resident of Quincy's redlight "Hollywood," for robbing a local slot machine. Others found their way into court for fighting, theft, and various other petty crimes. Even so, the paper called for the continuation of the CCC program for an indefinite period.

In October 1933 Plumas National Forest Supervisor D.N. Rogers reported that as of that date 44 miles of new road had been constructed (with 60 to 70 expected by season's end), 165 miles reconstructed, four bridges built, 41 miles of new telephone line installed and 72 miles

improved, 26 acres of public campgrounds refurbished, five buildings constructed at ranger stations, and 9045 snags felled, among other endeavors.

The CWA also had a number of projects going in the county: East Shore Lake Almanor highway, Portola streets, Quincy Cemetery, Plumas County Cemetery, La Porte Road to Nelson Point, Thompson Creek Road, North Valley Road from Greenville to Taylorsville, Quincy to Greenville highway, West Shore Lake Almanor highway, Calpine to Blairsden highway, Quincy to Blairsden highway, and a number of woods projects. Aid was also asked of the CWA for new airports for Quincy, Portola, Greenville and Chester, and for double tennis courts at Quincy High School and the reconstruction of the Belden Bridge.

Albert Muske was a young man who came to Plumas County as a CCC worker. He was one of 110 men at Camp 989 and took a number of snapshots while he was located there. In 1983 he donated them along with

an account of his CCC time to the museum. All of the pictures seen here are from his collection. Today, he is 100 years young, living in Southern California.

Perhaps some of you reading this article and seeing the accompanying photos will know someone who worked in the CCC or has some memories of various New Deal projects that have become a part of Plumas County's history. Please contact the museum if you have any information or photos you would like to share.



Kitchen for the mess hall at Rich Gulch CCC Camp 989, 1934.

**A Few Views From The Albert A. Muske Photo Album,
1933-1934.**



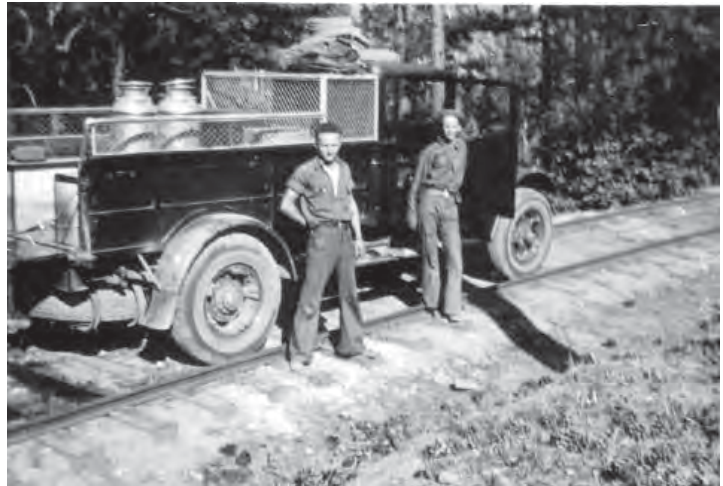
“Chow time,” Rich Gulch Camp, 1934.



“Rich Gulch PX Canteen, 1934.”



“Thomas and gang returning to work after lunch on suspension bridge over East Branch of North Fork Feather River, January 1934.”



“Bringing [lunch] to the gang.”



“Work Gang on way to Portola, 1933.”



Plumas National Forest Supervisor’s Office, October 1947. The front entrance has been relocated to the west. This was built by the CCC in 1933-1934.

FDR's Alphabet Soup Agencies

The "New Deal" was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's effort to help the United States recover from the Great Depression. The New Deal did not end the Depression, but it did relieve the suffering of millions of Americans.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt is better known by his initials, FDR, because his name is long and complicated. The same is true for the government agencies his New Deal created. Jokingly, they became known as FDR's "Alphabet Agencies" or simply his "Alphabet Soup."

Match the names of FDR's Alphabet Agencies with their acronyms:

Civilian Conservation Corps	PWA
Works Progress Administration	NIRA
Federal Emergency Relief Administration	FSA
Public Works Administration	CCC
Civil Works Administration	REA
Social Security Act	EBA
Farm Security Administration	FERA
Emergency Banking Act	SSA
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	TVA
Securities and Exchange Commission	NLRA
National Labor Relations Act	SEC
Fair Labor Standards Act	AAA
Agricultural Adjustment Administration	FHA
Tennessee Valley Authority	FLSA
National Industrial Recovery Act	WPA
Federal Housing Administration	FDIC
Rural Electrification Act	CWA

Match the names of FDR's Alphabet Agencies with their functions:

Civilian Conservation Corps	Provided public-works jobs for many of those needing relief
Works Progress Administration	Provided grants to states for direct relief to the needy
Federal Emergency Relief Administration	Provided public-works jobs on a wide range of projects for many of those needing relief
Public Works Administration	Provided jobs on conservation projects to young men whose families needed relief
Civil Works Administration	Gave federal government power to reorganize and strengthen banks
Social Security Act	Provided public-works jobs for many of those needing relief
Farm Security Administration	Provided assistance to tenant farmers to help them purchase land or cooperatives
Emergency Banking Act	Established pensions for retirees, unemployment insurance and aid for certain groups of low-income or disabled people
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	Established an insurance program for deposits in many banks
Securities and Exchange Commission	Established minimum wages and maximum hours for many workers
National Labor Relations Act	Encouraged cooperation among businesses in establishing production and labor practices
Fair Labor Standards Act	Promoted development projects for the Tennessee River Valley—for example, to improve navigation, produce electricity, and control floods
Agricultural Adjustment Administration	Provided increased government regulation of the trading on stock exchanges
Tennessee Valley Authority	Encouraged farmers to cut production in return for a subsidy
National Industrial Recovery Act	Established the National Labor Relations Board to enforce labor laws
Federal Housing Administration	Encouraged the delivery of electricity to rural areas
Rural Electrification Act	Encouraged for renovating or building homes

Artifacts Donated



We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations:

Archival collection concerning Five Bears Hydro Project, Green Mountain Gazette, Friends of Plumas Wilderness, Kodak camera, wedding dress, lace dress, cotton dress, map of Plumas County, Eliza Adler; Two rifle cases, Andy & Gayle Anderson; Two hornets nests, Khristie Andrews; Lake Almanor recreation map, Anonymous; Guinn's 1906 History of California, Laurie & Randy Beck; Memory books of Camp Wallace-Alexander, Steve Beck; One 7 ½-foot chainsaw bar, Pete Colbert; Army tunic, photos and yearbook for Camp Roberts 1941, reelection material for Larry Dean, Cathryn Dean; Wooden box with roller, built with square nails, found in Spanish Creek near Gopher Hill, Scott Denham; Clevis with chain and swivel used in logging, Derald Detrick; Household items, toys, Rexall Drug items, Quincy business advertising items, Wells Fargo Bank items, Quincy phone books, wood boxes, camera, sacks, knives, doll chairs, Teddy bear, bottles, Tati Erickson; Two panoramic photos of Beckwourth, Maudie Faure; Collection of 20 maps of Plumas and Sierra counties, Peggy Frisen; Plumas Independent newspaper 1904, two Plumas National newspapers dated 1889; Jann Garvis; Sierra Valley Grange ribbon, Edward Grundel; Photo of steam powered sawmill, Ken Henrici; Red & White Cookbook, Becky Herrin; Artist's portfolio embossed "Maggie Keddie," Ann Housley; 1968 Plaque to Tom Addison removed from La Porte Road, Plumas County Historical Society signs, Don Johns; Three war ration books, Roderick Jones; Mountain lion pelt, Sid Kahre; Framed line drawings of Keddie Y and Shay logging engine, Peter Kane; Mustard barrel, 1930 S.F. Chronicle, Dan Knaggs; Indian Valley Bank check from Engles Mine to Wiley Forson, Norman Lamb; Eight railroad spikes from Spanish Peak Lumber Co. railroad, Samuel Lawson; Kerosene lamps, doll cups, tin match holder, timber sale sign, graniteware, bottles, marble, ashtray, powder dish, fruit jar, apothecary jar, spike, Indian Valley Creamery milk cartons, Scott Lawson; Handmade hook for logging, Bob Lowrey II; Nine medical books, Dr. Sharon McIntyre; One small sawmill, John McMorro; Two music books, Gloria Melms; Indian Valley Hot Springs business card, David Murray; Westside Lumber Co. log car 153, Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum; Photos of Masonic Lodge, Quincy, Dianne Forbes Packer; 1915 Pine yearbook, Natalie Peters; 16 bottles from Gopher Hill, Matt Powell; Archival collection of Mary Dunn's clippings, notes, photographs on Plumas County, Ruth Reid; Photo of Earl Morrow in WWI uniform, Ronald & Dorothy Rund; Quincy brochure, Mrs. Thea Seese; Archival collection pertaining to Sparks-Humphrey Meat Co. of Beckwourth, 1907-1916, Ken & Kathleen Smith; Colorized photo of Chris Werner of Buckhorn Brewery, Kent Stokes; National Cash Register from White Sulphur Springs Hotel, Marcia White; Seneca phone list, Alfred Wickman (dec.); Baby booties, Mary Jane shoe, Ellen Wood.



Notes from the Director - Scott Lawson, Museum Director

This past summer and fall was quite busy for us at the museum, despite high fuel prices and two months of forest fire smoke choking the air. We hosted a number of tours ranging from charter bus trips to Model A clubs, school groups, art receptions and several of our own field trips to historic sites.

There have been and are more big changes underway at the museum this year. As many of you know, Assistant Museum Director Lori Simpson will be leaving the museum this January to take office as Supervisor for District Four. Although all of us will miss Lori, we wish her well in her new role, one that is certain to be both challenging and rewarding.

Some of the changes have been the result of severe budget cuts, which continue even now. Because of these cuts, we will be reviewing the services we provide to the public and determining those that we can no longer provide. With the possibility of a cut in staffing, it may be necessary for us to curtail services such as research, public programs, tours, and other similar projects.

On a happier note, Ginger Gramm's First Native Peoples Program was a huge success. Read about it on page 10. Ginger is also our 4th Grade Living History coordinator, among the many things she does.

Since our newsletter in August we have had a number of international visitors from England, Holland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Germany along with quite an assortment of out-of-state visitors.

One project we are excited about that is now in the formative stages is the California Living New Deal Project. This program seeks to inventory and map all of the Depression-era New Deal projects statewide. Plumas County had a number of these projects, mainly constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. If you know anyone who worked on any New Deal projects, please contact the museum. See our feature article for more information.

From all of us at the museum, have a great holiday season!

MUSEUM BOOK STORE

Don't forget the Museum Book Store when you are looking for gifts. We have over 100 titles on local, regional, and natural history, as well as cookbooks, cards, and souvenirs. We also carry an extensive line of handcrafted gold jewelry created by Frank Augugliaro. Frank mines the gold himself right out of the frigid waters of historic Nelson Creek during the summer, then creates his fine jewelry during the winter. We also have local artwork for sale during most artist shows on our Mezzanine Gallery. Be sure to check us out on your next shopping expedition or visit our online store at www.plumasmuseum.org. Store sales proceeds help keep the museum operating.



New books at the Museum include *Logging in Plumas County* by Daniel Elliott & Scott Lawson, and *Indian Valley* by Richard McCutcheon. These two titles feature over 200 photos each portraying the history of the logging and sawmilling industry, and the growth of the towns of Indian Valley. *Saga of a Mountain Meadow: A History of Bucks Ranch & Bucks Lake* by Scott Lawson with over 175 vintage photos documents the history of Bucks Lake; *California Trails*, a guidebook to Northeastern California's backcountry; Tom DeMund's celebrated *Feather River Country Adventure Trails* in its 4th and latest edition, and David Myrick's Volume Three of *Railroads of Nevada & Eastern California*, featuring a large section on Plumas County logging railroads. These books will make wonderful Christmas gifts. VISA and Mastercard are always welcome!

Memorial Donations

When a Memorial Donation is made in a loved one's name, a Museum Memorial card is sent to the family, the person's name and biography is entered into the Perpetual Memorial Volumes, and the donor's name is added to the Memorial. Since the last newsletter, donations have been given to the museum in memory of the following people:

Cindy Barnes, *Quincy*; Elsie Brown, *Quincy*; Bill Cammack, *Quincy*; Jack Dorothy, *Shingle Springs*; Mary Lee Harris, *Green Valley, AZ*; Jerry Howe, *Sacramento*; Huskinson Family, *Quincy*; Margaret Johns, *Quincy*; Marion Pruitt, *Quincy*; Clyde Stockton, *Quincy*; Ardell Waters, *Quincy*.

New Members

Thank you to all our new and renewing members!

Individuals: David Jayne, *Fontana, CA*; Velma Gonzalez, *Hickory Creek, TX*; Greg McBain, *Encinitas, CA*; Gordon Martin, *Redwood City, CA*.

Family: Thomas & Rupasree Brooks, *Reno, NV*; Bill & Angela Elliott, *Quincy*

Patron: Kathryn Hale, *Walnut Creek, CA*

Monetary Donations

We can use all the financial support you can muster, and thank these generous people for donating to the Museum's monetary fund:

Leslie Arnett, Jim & Billie Bequette, Millie Burris, William & Carolyne Burley, John & Susan Campbell, Stanley & Marjorie Chan, Pat & Janna Cook, Francis & Marilyn Dahl, Jay & Nancy Dembosz, Robert & Barbara Emert, Tati Erickson, Rick & Paula Foster, F. Gilchrist Jr., J. Gilchrist, Velma Gonzalez, Joann Hanna, Ted & Betty Hoskins, Pat Kurtz, Andy & Jim Martin, Leonard & DeAnne Mosley, David Myrick, Richard & Carol Neville, Orphie & Kay Pierson, Elizabeth Pruitt, Glen & Jeanenne Ray, Shirley Richardson, Burl & June Rodgers, Thea Seese, Kent Stokes, Altalee Stout, Mike & Keri Taborski, Tom & Diane Uchtyl, Ruth Van Gilder, Valerie Vann, Tom & Tammy White, Stuart & Jackie Yoacham.

FIRST PEOPLES CULTURE DAY

All third graders in the Plumas Unified School District system had the privilege of attending the First Peoples Culture Day in a park closest to their school. With the help of Ginger Gramm, (the museum's Education Committee chairperson), Lorena Gorbet (Mountain Maidu elder and community activist), and Leo Carpenter (the new Roundhouse Council Director), the sessions went well and the children learned a lot.

Stations included archery, Mountain Maidu beliefs and language, grinding acorns and making necklaces, games, stories, and an All Relations Walk. Parent volunteers and even junior-senior high school students helped. Lunch was a lesson in itself ... all students brought natural foods to share with everyone. Respect was the word for the day and knowing more about life as a California Native helped tie in Social Science standards for all the third grade teachers.

Photos by Carol Paoli



Children learn one of many Maidu hand games from a parent volunteer, while Museum Docent Norberta Schmidt looks on.



Ginger Gramm, center, shows attentive students various animal hides and explains how Native Americans used them.



Bill Peters and Mike Nesbit have once again teamed up their extraordinary talents to provide a spectacular showing on the Stella Fay Miller Mezzanine Gallery at the Plumas County Museum. Bill Peters is a retired California Fish & Game Warden who now teaches art at Feather River College. Mike Nesbit is a retired crafts and lapidary teacher from Quincy High School. Each artist's work complements the other's. Peters specializes in pen and ink and watercolor, while Nesbit's forte is wood carvings of waterfowl. A well-attended reception was held for them on Friday, November 7th as a part of Quincy's Art Walk. Be sure to come by and see their magnificent works. Many pieces are for sale, and make wonderful holiday gifts.

Historic Log Car Donated to the Spanish Peak Lumber Co. Project!



We owe a great big THANKYOU to Mike Curran of Quincy for not only transporting the log car to Quincy, but for bringing all our rail over from Susanville as well! Also thanks to Sandy Coats for organizing the move.

The Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum in Nevada City graciously donated their Westside Lumber Co. log car to the Plumas County Museum for use in our Spanish Peak Lumber Co. Railroad project. The car, built in 1942, will require restoration and modification for its use as a passenger car on the loop being constructed at the Plumas County Fairgrounds.

Drop by the fairgrounds any Monday or Wednesday morning to see the progress the crew has made on the locomotive. They love giving tours!

2008 Exhibits on the Stella Fay Miller Mezzanine

January – February: Karin Urquhart, Plumas County scenes, watercolors & oils
March – April: Lori Reynolds, mixed media
May & June: Martha Flynn, photography
July & August: Eric Weber & Feather River Land Trust, Red Barn Series
September & October: Jan Wirtz, watercolors
November & December: Bill Peters & Mike Nesbit, Wildlife Art & Sculpture

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 8-5, closed Sundays and Mondays.

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