

las Plumas

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Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.
www.plumasmuseum.org

Winter 2006

8th ANNUAL "MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" PROGRAM FEATURES WOMEN IN THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT

This year's March is Women's History Month Program will feature Margaret Goodart speaking on *Women on the Overland Trail, 1840-1870*. Goodart states, "Thousands of women went westward on the Overland Trail and left a remarkable record of their pioneer journeys. They wrote letters, kept journals, and reminisced about their travels in memoirs penned long after their adventures were over. Thus historians who are interested in this subject have rich sources of primary materials from which to work.

The result has been an abundance of books and articles that focus on this aspect of the history of American women. Another outcome has been the development of a major controversy among historians as to whether or not women were liberated by their western experiences." Goodart proposes to describe the conditions faced by these pioneer women, discuss the evidence used by historians on both sides of the controversy, and explain her conclusions.

She continues, "I think this is an issue that will interest people of Plumas County because most of the first female settlers of this region were veterans of that overland trek. I hope this presentation will give people greater appreciation of the courage, stamina, and resourcefulness of women who traveled west in the middle of the nineteenth century."

Margaret Goodart retired and moved to Quincy in 2002 after teaching in the History Department at California State University, Sacramento for 35 years. As a child, Margaret lived with her grandparents at Camp Wallace-Alexander and attended school in Quincy.

The Women's History Program is Wednesday, March 29, 2006, 11:30-1:00 p.m. at the Mineral Building at Plumas County Fairgrounds. Lunch will be catered by Cafe Le Coq.

Reservations and tickets are available at 283-6320. Seating for the program is limited, please reserve your spot now.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

This winter, while the museum was somewhat quiet, museum staff have been rearranging exhibits. First, the Elizabethtown & Butt Valley Archeology Exhibit was removed and a large display case out of the Archival Library was moved onto the main floor in its place, along with another large case to hold various pistols, fire-fighting apparatus, and military objects. The staff have also been busy cleaning out other display cases, changing artifacts, and adding new ones. As this process moves along, Museum Registrar Laure Gage has the responsibility of cataloging each and every artifact in the museum's collections as they come across her work station. Come by and check out all the great new changes at your museum!

DOCENTS NEEDED

The museum is seeking volunteers to help in various museum docent activities. Assistant Museum Director Lori Simpson notes that the Annual 4th grade Living History Program needs volunteers to help with educational activities that reenact pioneer living. These activities include gold panning, cooking on a wood stove, doing pioneer chores like laundry, and school house lessons. This is a fun event that the children love, but it can't happen without volunteers. Docents are also needed to conduct tours of the Heritage Walk and of historic buildings such as the Variel Home, the Pioneer School House and the Peppard Cabin in summer. Training will be provided. If you would like to volunteer as a museum docent, please call the museum at 283-6320. You will have the opportunity to meet lots of great visitors to the museum, as well as work with some wonderful volunteers.

SPANISH PEAK ENGINE NO. 2 RAILROAD PROJECT

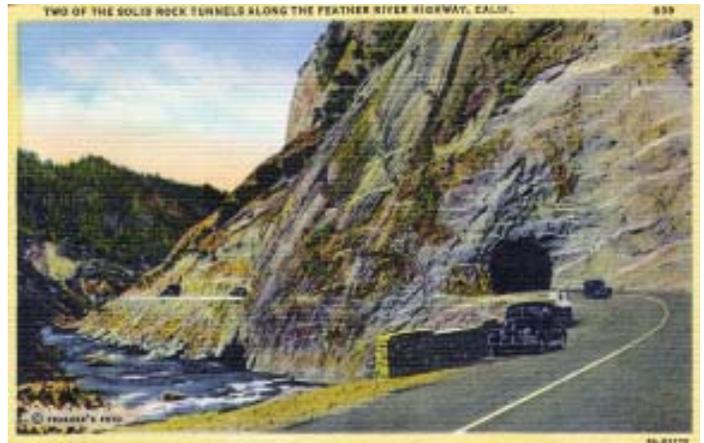
The restoration of the Spanish Peak Engine No. 2 continues with great progress. The crew hosted the Quincy High School Auto Class, showing them how to hot rivet the cab walls together. We are anxiously waiting for the locomotive engine to be fired up any day now. The railroad volunteers continue to meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Art Barn at the Plumas County Fairgrounds. Any motivated persons who would like to pitch in on the project are more than welcome. 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.

New Mezzanine Art Show on Display

Currently on display for the months of February and March are the historic sketches created by Margaret (Keddie) Kahrs. Margaret was the daughter of pioneer Plumas County surveyor Arthur W. Keddie. A talented artist, Margaret took art classes at a prestigious art college in Canada where as a student she specialized in landscapes, mastering watercolor, pen & ink, and charcoal. We invite you to take the opportunity see Margaret's wonderful sketches, still fresh today after 100 years. Archival quality framing was provided by the Eagle's Nest, Quincy.

HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY NIGHT

Daniel Elliott of the Heritage Division of the Plumas National Forest and Scott Lawson from the Plumas County Museum have teamed up once again to present History and Archaeology Night for communities in Plumas County during the month of May. In recognition of "May is Museums Month" and "Historic Preservation Month," the Museum and Forest Service have been making presentations on the history and archaeology of Plumas County for the past 13 years. This year's topic will be "*Emigrant Trail to All-Season Route; The History of the Feather River Highway.*" Presentations will be held in Portola and Quincy, on Wednesday and Thursday, May 17 and 18. The presentation will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call the Museum at 283-6320 for information and reservations.



Museum Registrar Wins Scholarship

Museum Registrar Laure Gage was awarded one of five very competitive nation-wide scholarships from the American Association for State and Local History to attend a workshop on Museum Collections Management and Practices in May in Birmingham, Alabama. Laure is very excited and looking forward to the opportunity to expand her museum skills.

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