



las Plumas

A Quarterly Publication of the
Plumas County Museum Association, Inc. – Est. 1971
Plumas County Museum – Est. 1964

Volume 41 No. 1 Plumas County Museum Association, Inc. May 2015
www.plumasmuseum.org

100 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING – HISTORY OF PLUMAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AND QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL

by Paul Russell



Quincy Junior-Senior High School, showing the historic main building, junior wing and cafeteria, 1967.

Our story here concerns the centennial history of Quincy High School – and although there was a high school in Quincy as early as 1873 and a much later incarnation of the Plumas County High School (from which Quincy High evolved) in Greenville, we will not dwell on these subjects in depth, but will only offer a short glimpse at this background history before proceeding with our story.

A high school for Plumas County. This had been a dream ever since the town of Quincy was founded and became the county seat in 1854. Newspapers from the mid-1870s tell us that such an institution had been established and was then in successful operation. Conducted out of the newly renovated Town Hall in Quincy,

this privately funded academy never became self-sustaining, and lasted a mere three years. But the dream of a Plumas County High School never died, and when, in 1902, the people of California voted for the State to annually fund high schools, the push for a high school in Plumas County began in earnest.

Although compulsory school attendance for children ages 8-14 had been State mandated since 1874, most children did not go on to attend high school, but after a 1908 proposition to the voters of Plumas County overwhelmingly approved of a high school, it was time for the Board of Supervisors to act – and act they did. In November 1908, the Board of Supervisors passed an order for the establishment of a Plumas County High School to be located at “Dewsbury Park” one quarter mile from Quincy, in American Valley. But even before plans could be made for this school, the Supervisors rescinded that order, and on July 9, 1909, passed another order for the Plumas County High School to be located and built in Greenville.

Temporarily quartered in a warehouse that was remodeled into a two story school with classrooms and electric lights, the Plumas County High School in Greenville opened for the 1909-10 school year in September and had an average daily attendance of 16 students. A few months into its second year, the temporary quarters were already becoming cramped and inadequate as an educational institution, and as other legal issues arose, communities around the county brought forth petitions to have the school relocated to their towns. As the lawyers argued and battled over the high school’s location, legal rights, and tax levies in Superior Court, Plumas County High School in Greenville began its 1911-12 school year, and seniors Luella Quigley and Harry Stouky became its first graduates in 1912.

Shortly after this graduation, a formal decision relocating the permanent site of the Plumas County High School back to the “Dewsbury Park” location in Quincy was handed down by Superior Court judge George Sturtevant, and affirmed by the Board of Education – and thus, we are now back in Quincy, and the (almost) beginning of our centennial story.

“Dewsbury Park” was, at this time, a large wooded and shrub-covered area – its most prominent feature



Temporary Plumas County High School, near the base of China Rock.

being a large granite outcropping. This large rock – called by early students, Echo Rock, and later, China Rock - once played a significant part in the early Maidu creation stories as the sweathouse of Badger and Coyote, and later had become a landmark around which the local Chinese built their community – now it simply lay wild. In September 1912, this land was purchased from Edward and Jennie Huskinson for the consideration of \$10 and officially deeded to the County of Plumas. Soon a temporary frame building was constructed on the site to house students until a

permanent high school building could be built. This small temporary building was divided into two classrooms, a study room, and a hallway, and the *Plumas National-Bulletin* boasted “that both the exterior and interior of the building present a neat appearance. The rooms are very comfortable, and are supplied with the necessary apparatus for successful study or instruction.” Shortly after, the 1912-13 school year opened in this temporary building with an enrollment of nine students.

Meanwhile, planning for a permanent high school building continued. The plans of architect W.H. Weeks were accepted, the site was duly surveyed and mapped, and the contracting firm of Campbell & Turner out of Sacramento was hired to build the new school. By mid-July 1913, construction on the new building was commencing. Working partially on the western slope of the hill, but mainly on the flat at the rear of the temporary high school, workers busily excavated for the foundation and assembled building materials. As

construction continued on the new building, the 1913-14 school year began with students still attending classes in the small temporary high school.

Work progressed on the new high school at a rapid pace, and on February 14, 1914, the Board of Education formally accepted the newly completed Plumas County High School building. This magnificent cream-colored building rose some 41 feet tall, was 137 feet long and 71 feet wide and had an upper main floor and a basement level that was well above the surrounding ground. Fronted by an array of windows facing west to catch the rising sun, this modern concrete building was pronounced “one of the finest and handsomest school buildings in Northern California, perfectly adapted to the purpose for which it was designed, namely a school for the accommodation of a hundred students.” The new building not only contained many spacious classrooms, but also boasted an auditorium, a library, and a museum. And, as the building had been erected and furnished well within the \$41,000 allotted for its construction, there were ample funds to improve the grounds as well.

The structure was like no other in Quincy or Plumas County, and the students couldn’t wait to move in, for by this time the small temporary one-story, three-roomed frame building had outgrown itself. One student later wrote that the old building by this time was “ill adapted to the use of four teachers and thirty students. We were so crowded that the hall had to be utilized for a commercial room; there was no trace of an assembly hall, gymnasium, or fountains, and nothing that provided for the comfort or amusement of teachers and students.”

The students, however, had a few more months to wait as the school’s interior was furnished, classrooms prepared, and the final touches put into place. Finally, after several years in the making, on Monday, April 6, 1914, the teachers and students of the Plumas County High School moved from their temporary building into their new quarters, and the local paper raved that the new building was “as commodious, well equipped and furnished as any high school building in the northern part of the State.” The students finished out the school year in their new building, and on June 19th, at the Quincy Opera House, John Franklin Spooner and Clark Neal Erwin became the first students to graduate from the Plumas County High School in Quincy.

For the 1914-15 school year students returned to their brand new school, little knowing that what they did here this year would set a tone that would reverberate through history – one that continues even today . This year not only marked the first time there was a true, permanent, Plumas County High School to start off the new school year, but also marked the first freshman class to start in the new building and the first senior class to graduate after completing a full year in the new building. This school year was a year of extreme pride in the school, and this pride was marked by producing the first school annual or yearbook.

The students named their annual *The Pine* and this small 10 x 7” book not only gave the school its first unofficial totem or mascot – the Pine – whose symbolism served the school well during its first several years, but also introduced, thanks to the Beaux-Arts movement sweeping America, Classical Greek and Roman imagery such as referring to their new hilltop institution of higher learning as the “Acropolis,” and a student written story entitled, “The Origin of the Plumas County High School,” in which the goddess Minerva convinces the other deities to erect a building to surpass all others in the county. The gods and goddesses each contribute their gifts and talents, the building is raised, and the people flourish! Why, there was even a photo of the Latin Club, “Concordia,” attired in their best Roman garb!

This first full school year in the new building was touted as a complete success, and attendance at the high school greatly increased as students from across the county enrolled there. At times the student body exceeded 50 students, and by term’s end there were 41 students enrolled. The end of the year saw five seniors, Catherine Barrett, Kathryn Donnelly, Martha Spooner, Mark Bell, and Lee Larison become Plumas County High School graduates (although only Martha Spooner had attended P.C.H.S. all four years, starting in Greenville) and thus, here we are at the start of our centennial history.

Over the next few years, improvements were made to the school and its grounds – shrubs were planted, the hillside and grounds were landscaped, concrete pillars and walkways built, and most distinctive of all, a large concrete lined stairway was added that stretched from the front entrance all the way down the long sloping hillside in front of the school. Today, a few flights of these stairs can still be seen on the upper portion of the stairway that leads from the gymnasium to the auto shop parking area.

Through the next several decades, the school site grew as additional land was purchased, new buildings built, and old buildings razed – all of it eventually leading to the Quincy High School we know today. A short examination of some of the more important highlights over the years will lead us onward.

In 1918, Helen Causey, Blanche Erwin, and Mabel Peter became the first graduates to have passed their entire four year high school careers in the halls of the new Plumas County High School building. Joined by two other seniors, this graduating class proved that the high school was here to stay.

The 1920s brought few changes to P.C.H.S., but these changes had a lasting impact on the future of the school. Chief among the changes was the establishment of P.C.H.S. branch high schools at both Portola and Greenville in 1921 and 1922 respectively. These branch schools at first only taught first and second year high school work and only served freshmen and sophomores, but by June 1923 each community was strongly advocating adding third year work and even calling for the establishment of their own four year high schools. For now, the students attending these branch schools were considered P.C.H.S. students and produced their own yearbook sections which were included in the P.C.H.S. annuals of 1923 and 1924. By 1925, these two branch schools were in the process of having buildings built, and shortly thereafter, both Portola and Greenville were not only housed in their own buildings, but also producing their own separate yearbooks (the *Indian Head* and *The Pine Needle*), and on track for becoming four year high schools.

Another important change was that a new emblem was chosen for the school. In February 1927 the student body chose for their athletic symbol, “a Roman helmet crossed by a battle ax” and that the “athletes of P.C.H.S. be known as Trojans.” The 1928 yearbook, adorned with this new symbol on its cover, editorialized:

Last year P.C.H.S. chose a Trojan motif as her symbol to be used as the emblem of our school. The Trojans were a sturdy race in ancient Greece, who immortalized themselves, and whose actions have made history. They were great athletes, great warriors and great people. Sound and firm in body, they kept their minds and their morals equally strong by never wandering, in peace or in war, from the high standard which they had set for themselves. We can learn much by studying the Trojans; much that will benefit in later life. So let us emulate the noble qualities of those people from whom we take our symbol.



The 1929 gymnasium, later known as the Girl's Gym when the Junior High opened.

campus in 1928.

On February 27, 1929 the new gymnasium was officially dedicated with the students presenting a play called, “Captain Applejack” there. Serving both boys and girls of the campus, this gymnasium sat on the flat of

The new Trojan mascot was quickly adopted by the student body, and over time, slowly began to replace the pine tree as the favored symbol on the yearbook cover, appearing there more than 25 times over the next eight decades. Interestingly, it may also have been around this time that the colors of red and white were officially adopted as well, for odes to these colors appear for the next couple of years in the yearbooks. The close of the 1920s also saw the expansion of the school as a new building was added to

the hill next to the high school where the teacher's upper parking lot is now. This gym became the pride of the school and served the students well over the next four and a half decades.

Like the 1920s, the 1930s too brought changes to P.C.H.S. that were defining moments in the history of the school and had lasting repercussions for her students. The first of these was the introduction of a student newspaper. On October 26, 1934, the as yet unnamed bi-weekly paper's first issue was distributed, and a campus-wide contest was held to name the paper. Bob Peckinpah submitted the winning name – *Pine Breezes* – and so it was clear into the mid-1980s, when it disappeared – later to be reborn and rechristened the *Trojan Times* in 2001.

The second of these was the addition of a giant “Q” on the hillside above the school. Built by the sophomore boys during the 1934-35 school year, the addition of the large hillside “Q” was a trend that was sweeping the West during the 1920s and 30s. The “Q” as it is now called, was probably originally built as a class project to identify the town and not necessarily the school –as the high school at this time was still known as P.C.H.S. or simply, Plumas High.

Also by the mid-1930s, the Trojan head began appearing on school basketball jerseys for the first time, replacing the simple block letter P.C.H.S. that had been the norm up to then. The 1935 school yearbook itself signaled the end of an era, as it was the last to be published by “the Students of Plumas County High School,” and with the publication of the 1936 edition stating, “Published by the Students of Quincy High School,” Plumas County High School was no more – Quincy High School was officially born! And, as if to emphasize this fact, the yearbook announced on the boys’ athletics page, “Since the name of the school was changed from the ‘Plumas County High School’ to the ‘Quincy High School’ the team letters were also changed from ‘P’ to ‘Q.’” It is interesting to note that the old P.C.H.S. lettered jerseys continued to be worn by the basketball “C” and “D” teams until 1941 when these teams became the “Trobabes.”

The end of the 1930s brought one more change to the campus of the now Quincy High School – the addition of two new buildings sitting right next to the gym – the music room and shop – still today the music room and woodshop!

During the 1940s, many Q.H.S. boys went off to war and not only was it “all out for the war effort” in 1942, but it was also the re-birth, so to speak, of “Tros,” Quincy High’s version of the Trojan horse. Beginning life as a cardboard effigy first brought to life to add entertainment and serve as a mascot during the basketball season of 1939, Tros had come to a crushing end in the fall of 1941 in a parade accident. During the winter and spring of 1941-42, Tros’ head, neck, tail, and back were removed completely and replaced with new wooden ones. His legs were braced, and he was furnished with four sturdy red wooden wheels. He was painted a gleaming white with a red main and tail and black eyes. Finally, Tros was equipped with a red ribbon, halter rosettes, and a red percale blanket bearing an appliqued white Q. Re-introduced to the school in the spring of 1942, Tros figured largely in student affairs and courtside victories.

The annual whitewashing of the large “Q” overlooking the school became a ritual for the outgoing freshmen classes during the 1940s, and once again, a yearbook was published with a decidedly classical Trojan/Greek theme throughout and a Trojan head on the cover – this designed by student Stanley C. Young, Jr. – later a Plumas County Superior Court judge.

Although no new buildings were constructed on campus, the student body underwent a big change as the high schoolers of Q.H.S. were joined by 7th and 8th graders on campus for the first time during the 1945-46 school year. (Portola and Greenville had already become Jr. /Sr. Highs in 1927-28 and 1937-38 respectively.)

The 1940s were also a time for brain and brawn – a chapter of the California Scholarship Federation was started for the first time, and the hobby club pursued puppetry (1941 and 1947), while competitive boxing and football saw their high school debuts (1942 and 1946), and as the decade came to a close, the *Pine* shed its softbound paper cover to emerge as a hardcover edition in 1949.

The 1950s once again brought major changes to Q.H.S. that had lasting impacts on the way the campus looked and its plans for the future. By 1950, the school, now known officially as Quincy Junior - Senior High School, was undergoing a huge construction project. A large new gymnasium was being constructed just below the old P.C.H.S. building (as was a boiler room), and a six-classroom Junior High wing was being constructed next to it. Finished by 1951, the 7th and 8th graders moved in during that year. With the completion of the new gymnasium, the boy’s athletics were moved there, and the old gym built in 1929 was given completely over to the girls.

A new log and plank sign built by the class of 1953 was added to the lawn of the campus at the corner of Highway 70 and Quincy Junction Road, and it was during this era that the population of Quincy swelled, as did the population of the school. In September 1957, 538 students were enrolled in Quincy Jr.-Sr. High School, and it was expected that that number would shoot past 600 in the following year. The current high school campus was not designed to hold that many students (the senior class alone numbered 77 students), and as the school grew larger, the need for more classrooms was apparent. Thus construction continued into the late 1950s, this time on a new building that would not only house several new classrooms, but also a new library, and cafeteria. This new building, part of the Junior High expansion, was officially dedicated on April 29, 1959 and the campus of Q.H.S. as it stands today, was well on its way to completion.

The 1960s and 1970s, continued to be a time of growth for Quincy High, and with the rise in student diversity, cultural awareness, and new ways of seeing the world and its politics, a plethora of clubs and organizations reflecting these times grew on campus, including the International Club, Black Student Unit, Forestry Club, Ecology Club, Rocketry Club, Political Science Club, Poetry Club, Student Service Society, and the Table-Top Tennis Club, among many others. This decade also saw Q.H.S. students welcome exchange students from Switzerland, France, Chile, Italy, Norway, Greece, Turkey, Finland, and Peru, to their school.

Although the 1960s didn't see any new buildings on campus, it is interesting to note that 1960 was the first year the school had a live representation of their Trojan mascot (always portrayed by a girl), and that the 1966 yearbook made special note of "our Trojan helmet, made in Greece" – today this brass helmet is proudly known as the "Trojan Award" and is bestowed each month on a teacher at the school who is deserving of special recognition

During the 1970s, Q.H.S. continued to grow and prosper, and once again, it was time to expand – upgrade – modernize. The old P.C.H.S. building had long ago exceeded the 100 students it was built for, and it was time to create a new building to take its place. After a groundbreaking in 1971, a new building began taking shape over the next couple of years. This new bi-level building was constructed on what was then the faculty parking lot just east of the lower classroom wing and between the old P.C.H.S. building and the old gym, band room, and shop. The new building not only served as classrooms but as an administrative wing as well. This building was ready to occupy for the 1972-73 school year, and with the moving of the high school students out of the old P.C.H.S. in 1973, it was time to say "farewell" to the old and welcome the new. Also around this same time period, a new girl's gymnasium was constructed directly adjoining the boy's gym, and a new six-sided crafts room was built on a knoll next to China Rock, overlooking the gym.

With the moving of the girls to their own new gymnasium, the old gym sat empty. In March 1975, the old gym was demolished, workers using a huge log in place of a wrecking ball, and in one day, the old gym was gone – making way for the upper parking lot it became (and still is). Next on the chopping block was the old P.C.H.S. building which had sat abandoned on the hill since 1973. In 1976, the building's time was up – and in July of that year, the long and illustrious history of that acropolis of P.C.H.S. came to an end, as it too fell to the demolition crews and wrecking balls. Although today it is only a memory, remnants of stairways, half-buried walkway pillars, and other vestiges of the old school still linger to remind those who truly look, that on this spot stood the mighty Plumas County High School. A new shopping center replaced the lumber mill across the highway, a new sports complex was constructed at the school, and as the decade, like the old school, came to an end, so too, did the *Pine* – at least in name. For although the yearbook still continues to be published every year, the 1979 *Pine* was the last to carry that name (the pine tree symbol had seen its last cover back in 1961). Over the ensuing 35 years the yearbook has only been titled by its theme, *Good Vibrations*, *Youth Gone Wild*, and *Phantasmagoria*, to name just a few.

The venerable name, *The Pine*, or simply, *Pine*, having long been abandoned and forgotten – students today not even realizing that the yearbook had a name.

The early 1980s saw two new additions of technology to the campus – each with their own structures. In November 1980, the new metal shop was completed on campus – partially occupying a space where the old P.C.H.S. building once stood. The new shop building was about a third larger than the old quarters and not only housed the metal shop, but also offices, restrooms, and the auto shop – all still functioning today. The other addition to campus during the 1980s was a large metal silo-like storage bin used to hold sawdust which fed into a new furnace burner. This new \$78,000 saw-dust burning furnace was the first of its kind to be installed in the

western United States, and brought Q.H.S. into the world of modern bio-thermal energy use. With these additions, Quincy High School grew into the modern campus we have today.

Although the next several decades didn't see any new buildings appear on campus, the campus did see the installation of concrete ramps making the campus fully accessible to those in wheelchairs, a large school-wide beautification project that included the addition of the Trojan Terrace with "Q" centerpiece and placement of memorial benches there and around the campus beginning in 2008 (an ongoing project), a major clean-up and rebuild of the area in front of China Rock and its transformation into an outdoor classroom complete with terraced seating, the addition of an area above China Rock dedicated to its history, the remembrance of Q.H.S. veterans, including a memorial bench and new flagpole, and a new half-mile trail up to the "Q" (all finished in 2013). Throw in a brand new sign erected at the entrance to the teacher's parking lot in 2015 in honor of the school's centennial, and Quincy High School is complete.

Yet, although school names, clubs, students, faculty, and buildings have come and gone over the past



Plumas County High School, later Quincy High School, soon after opening for classes.

100 years, Quincy High School is what it has always been – an educational institution filled with teachers and staff dedicated to the job of educating the youth of Plumas County, inspiring them to be knowledgeable and responsible citizens of the World – while at the same time dreaming big and having fun. And so, at last, we come to the end of our centennial history of Quincy High School – but before we start another – it's time to breathe, take it all in and celebrate! Happy centennial, Quincy High School.



OUT OF TOWN CALLERS

International and Out of State visitors since our last newsletter include guests from Australia, Chile, England (United Kingdom), France, and Scotland, as well as Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Donkey Walks: Last year we introduced the unique opportunity to get up close and personal with Plumas County history by joining us on one of our guided Donkey Walks, and this year, we're bringing them back! Our Donkey Walks are day hikes geared for those who like to walk and hike while exploring the history of the local



Snake Lake lunch stop, site of historic ranch.

area. We provide certain amenities, lots of historical information, and a couple of lovable donkeys to carry our water and goodies, so you can travel light and enjoy yourself. We have several Donkey Walks scheduled this year, covering two of our more popular historical areas.

The Jamison Canyon Emigrant Trail & Wagon Road Donkey Walk starts at the Jamison Mine in Plumas Eureka State Park and takes us along the Johnsville-Gibsonville Road, a dirt thoroughfare that once provided access to many old gold camps. We will pass along the flanks of Gold Mountain, now Eureka Peak, and make our way out of the State Park. Along the way we'll see Native American rock art, old growth timber, mining ditches, as well as examples of beautifully built rock walls constructed by early road laborers.

Our turn around point at McRae Meadows affords astounding views of McRae Ridge. This moderately strenuous hike is approximately 10 miles round trip and lasts from 9 AM to 4 PM.

The Snake Lake-Gopher Hill Loop Donkey Walk begins at the Snake Lake Road Bridge on Bucks Lake Road near the site of the ghost town of New Boston. From there, we'll travel through the historic Gopher Hill Mine, traverse sections of the Beckwourth Emigrant Wagon Trail and follow small sections of the narrow gauge logging railroad grade of the Spanish Peak Lumber Company. At Snake Lake we'll see abundant wildlife and waterfowl habitat and the site of an old homestead. You'll learn about the Maidu Indians, gold miners, settlers, and loggers who once lived and worked all over these mountains and the changes they made to the landscape. This moderately strenuous hike is roughly 8 miles round trip and lasts from 9 AM to 3 PM.

All our Donkey Walks are limited to 15 participants each, with a minimum of 5, and cost \$50 for Museum members and \$75 for non-members (includes a 1-year Museum membership). To join one of our hikes into the ecological, historical, and cultural history of Plumas County, contact the Museum or reserve your spot online through our Museum Store.

Donkey Walks Schedule:

Snake Lake-Gopher Hill Loop: June 19, July 24, September 18

Jamison Canyon: July 10, August 14, October 16

Whispering Pines Cemetery Tour: Join us on Saturday, June 13 from 2 to 6 p.m. to enjoy a fascinating afternoon of stories, characters, biographies, history, refreshments, and wine and cheese as we delve into the spirits of the pioneers of Sierra Valley. The event will take place at Whispering Pines Cemetery and adjacent historic Kerby-Ramelli Ranch and Jim Beckwourth Cabin Museum near Beckwourth. Tours of the museum and the historic ranch house itself are a part of this event. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see one of the oldest homes in the Sierra Valley. Tickets are available at the Museum, from Museum Trustees, and our online Store at www.plumasmuseum.org.



A New Grave Occasion: Save the date of September 19, 2015, for our **6th Annual Grave Occasion** historic graveyard character tour, dinner, and fundraiser. This year we'll be at a new venue, the historic Meadow Valley Cemetery. This popular event is not to be missed! In the planning stages now, look for more information in our next issue.

Pioneer Living History Days: Our 4th grade Pioneer Living History Days returned this year during the last week of May. Over the course of three days, May 27 – 29, the Museum will host 4th graders from Quincy, Greenville, and Portola at our site to experience the lives of their pioneer ancestors with some good old-fashioned hands-on learning! Volunteers make this wonderful event happen, so if you are interested in helping out, please contact Lindsay Vert at 394-7348.

Plumas County Picnic: “Hey, did you get a haircut?” “No, I got ‘em ALL cut!” – and YOU can too, at this year’s Plumas County Picnic. Museum member and barber extraordinaire, George Schucehenzuber III of the Downtown Barber Shop in Quincy will be giving \$8 buzz cuts at the Picnic as a fundraiser for the Museum – so grab your grandsons or granddaughters and get them ready for summer by treating them with a new ‘do!



Student Art Exhibition: Now on display through June 30 in the Stella Fay Miller Mezzanine Gallery, are artworks created by some of Feather River College’s fine student artists, photographers, and illustrators. Curated by visiting art professor Peter Whittenberger, this show highlights a wide range of talented students from FRC. Many of the exhibited works are for sale, so now is the perfect time to start your collection of these up and coming, not-yet-famous artists. Thank you FRC for choosing us to host this exhibition!



“Guernica.” Pablo Picasso comes to Plumas County Museum.

Beckwourth Emigrant Trail: Members of the California-Nevada Chapter of Trails West and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) are once again in the area pinpointing the exact location of the Beckwourth Emigrant Trail and the Jamison-Seventy-six Branch Trail. They are doing this under authority of the National Park

Service, U.S. Forest Service and various private landowners. A few of the more significant artifacts recovered will be displayed at the Plumas County Museum and the Jim Beckwourth Cabin Museum. These modern-day trailblazers will be working in the area at least through September.

Memorial Day: As a small tribute to the United States Armed Forces and those who have given of themselves to make our great country what it is, we have a display of various uniforms from all the different military branches, most of which are from local residents. These uniforms complement the great World War One display put up by Museum Docent Calin Turcott last November for Veteran's (Armistice) Day. Come by to see them soon, as we will have to take them down within a month or so.



Train Robbery: Lee Dummel, known to many as our “Black Bart” presenter, is switching from stages to trains to do a presentation on “Big Jack” Davis, a member of a notorious gang of train robbers that pulled off a robbery between Truckee and Verdi in 1872. The local connection here is that one of the gang was Chat Roberts, later namesake for a stop on the Sierra Valleys Railroad and owner of the Clairville Hotel when that institution burned to the ground taking five lives on October 21, 1898. Lee is well-versed in his material and is a very interesting and engaging speaker. Be sure to mark Saturday, August 22, 2015 so as not to miss this event. Stayed tuned for further particulars.

White Sulphur Springs Summerfest 2015: The Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council invites you to attend their 7th Annual Concert Fundraiser for the White Sulphur Springs Ranch on Sunday, June 28, 2015. Tickets for this afternoon and evening of musical entertainment by the Comstock Cowboys, barbeque, and auctions, are available at several locations including the Museum. Visit www.whitesulphurspringsranch.com for more information.

We Still Need Your Help!



No one is more tired of asking for help than we are, but the truth is we still need your help to maintain and operate the Museum. The County still makes no contribution other than the director's salary. They did re-roof a portion of the building and hope to do another section this year, but otherwise it is all up to the Museum Association to raise the money to pay the bills. Please think of us and help us when you can. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Welcome to our newest Corporate Member, Kathy Sholer of *Nataqua News!*

Other Corporate Members: John & Tracy Wixted, Ranchito Motel.



New Members Since Our Last Newsletter

Individual: Salley H. Clarke, Seattle, WA; Doug Ely, Quincy; Diane Forsberg, Cromberg; Phyllis Gery, Clio; Joy Haley, Klamath Falls, OR; April Herzog, Ione; John Kreth, Quincy; Elia Miles, Loyalton; Chris Murray, Quincy; Kay Ritter, Cromberg.

Family: Miesje & Stephen Lee Aldrich, Redwood City; Jeanne & Norm Brovelli, Quincy; Bill & Kimi Coates, Quincy; Dave & MaryLou Cutaia, Benicia; Wade & Martina Lauery, Sparks, NV; Dave Loschiavo & Charlotte Coulter, Chico; Mike & Sue McCourt, Cromberg.

Patron: Claudia Barnes, Quincy; Rebecca Bence, Arlington, MA; Tom & Maureen Forster, Blairsden; Fred & Nancy Pierson, Chico; Ann Wynant & Portola Area Historical Society, Portola.

Corporate: Kathleen Sholer & *Nataqua News*, Virginia City, NV; Ranchito Motel, Quincy.

Sustaining: Tom DeMund, Graeagle.

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

MONETARY DONATIONS

Up to 99: Dennis & Linda Allen; Barry & Peggy Bailey; Dorris Beck; Laurie Beck; Milt & Estelle Beer; Sonny & Marilyn Bergum; William & Larysa Eichenberger; John & Elizabeth Boyle; Kathy Davis; Doug Drebert; Ed & Georgia Dunn; Bob & Mary Edwards; Bill & Angela Elliott; Barbara Ferrerra; Donald & Davney Gasser; Candace Grubbs; Steve & Mary Habeck; Mar & Ellen Hamel; Virginia Haney; Ted & Betty Hoskins; Jim Jenkins; Adrienne Johnson; Marilyn Johnson; Lois Jones; Mike Hardin & Eileen Kortas; Cynthia Knapp; Bill Martin & Susan Christensen; Diane McCombs; Stephanie Mefford; Calvin Mehlert; DeAnne Mosley; Marge Murray; Joan Normington; Toney O'Rourke; Sheryl Painter; Plumas Charter School; Mike & Barbara Price; Dee Reid; Kevin Reid; Kay Ritter; Helen Roberti; James Robbins; John & Betsy Schramel; Joseph & Nan Stack; Maurice & Sue Thompson; Heidi Wakefield; David Wallace; Jeff Wallace; Bill & Ann Zeller.

100 – 199: Peter & Totsy Beck; Lee Dummel; John Ellison; Tati Erickson; Pat Fites; Nancy Gambell; Robert & Sharon Gravert; Bud & Joanne Kibbee; Pat Kurtz; Don Nichols; Patricia Paule; Betty Penland; Brett & Wendy Reid; Elizabeth Lee Hills Robertson; Zeph Rose; Susan Scarlett; Altalee Stout; Linda Wallace.

200 – 499: Jim & Billie Bequette; Marc & Diane Coventry; Edward & Sara Kozel; Valerie Vann; John & Tracy Wixted.

500 – 999: Lawrence Ferderber; Ruth Reid 95th Birthday Event; James & Rhonda Skow.

1,000 – 1,999: Kay & Orphie Pierson.

2,000 – 4,999: Anonymous.

We are stretching every dollar that you give and appreciate all your support!



MEMORIALS

Since our last newsletter we have received Memorial Donations in memory of the following:

Virginia Bozeman, Puyallup, WA; **Millie Burris**, Woodinville, WA; **Arthur Griffin**, Quincy; **Don & Margaret Johns**, Quincy; **April Keenan**, Sloat; **Robert Kayson**, Agoura Hills; **Ken Keller**, Colusa; **Lloyd Lewis**, Quincy; **June McClung**, Reno, NV; **Dude McMaster**, Quincy; **Bobbie Pricer**, Meadow Valley; **Art Scarlett**, Reno, NV; **Owen Windle**, Quincy.



ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Lois Anderson: WWII sailor's uniform; **Bill Battagin:** 1918 Standard Fashions magazines, ephemera, receipt books from Young's Market in Taylorsville, **Millie Burris Estate:** Baby clothes; **George Creveling:** Railroad spike w/pewter stagecoach; **Andrew Elsken:** Set of gold scales used in the Clinch Building, Keddie Store display case, 1885 oil painting by B. Leiss; **Jeff Engel:** Two 1890s beer bottles from Johnsville; **Jo Ann Filippi:** Oval china platter with feather motif used at Feather River Inn; **Pat Fites:** Pine needle basket in shape of a turkey; **Betty Folchi:** Model 1872 Winchester .25-.20 lever action rifle; **Janice Gould, Jennifer Johnson & Marilyn Smith:** Large collection of Gould, Lane, Beatty, & Belden family items, including postcards, journals, letters, printed material, eyeglasses, framed portraits, and many photographs of Plumas County locations associated with these families, 1850s-1950s; **Kristine Heavin:** Six ladies hats from Rosalie Skovgard estate; **Don Johns Estate:** Small dish used in assaying; **Maurice LaMarch:** Early-day light bulb collection; **Samuel Lawson:** Railroad spikes from the Spanish Peak Lumber Co. railroad; **Sandra Lee:** 1910 calendar plate and engraved silver fork belonging to Fay Miller; **Bob Lowrey:** Wooden footstool; **LaRue McCarthy:** WPRR "Midget" cookstove, WWII soldier-made "Bowie" knife with brass knuckles hilt; **Lucille McNamara:** Quincy Community Church Cookbook, 1966; **Barbara Palmerton & Judy Houck:** Burpee home canning equipment including pressure cookers and double boiler; **PG&E:** Large wall photos of PG&E powerhouses; **Henry Pohl:** Collection of antique bottles, ceramic containers, and vials dug at Porter's Place near Twain; **Myron Pugh:** Collection of WPRR and UPRR materials and ephemera, engine keys; **Scott Russell,** WPRR "Midget" cookstove parts, cast iron & porcelain wood cook range from Rich Bar; **Susan Sargeant:** Copies of photos of Ethel Howell family; **Lorie Seitz:** Postcards of Hotel Quincy and county courthouse; **Terry Swofford:** Saw set tool; **Joleen Torri:** 1957 Motorland Magazine featuring the Feather River Region; **Linda Wilder for Gloria Van Doren:** 1914 encyclopedic dictionary; **Robert Will:** Section of trans-continental communication cable with dissected end; **Zatkin family:** Music CD of Quincy Jr./Sr. High School dance band recorded May 22, 1961.



Docent Activities



Lee Dummel cleaning our antique firearms collection.

Although we didn't have much of a winter, spring is now in full bloom and our garden volunteers are busily sprucing up our yards and garden areas. Rose Harrigan, Sally Nichol, Toni Ryan, Faith & Piers Strailey, and Jane Wair have all pitched in to get dirt under their nails and weeds out of the yards.

Now is also the time that we begin opening the Variel Home for Saturday tours. These tours are quite popular with our spring and summer weekend visitors, so we would like to have this opportunity available every weekend. Please consider volunteering for a couple of Saturdays this year – training is available and it is a great way to meet interesting visitors to the area while showing them a slice of Plumas County history.

Lisa Hopman is still immersed in the Superior Court and Probate Court records; Ken Green drops in to help when he can, as does Trustee Al Klem. Nancy Nicoles has been plugging away on the index to Abstracts of Title, while her husband Keith has been working on the photo panels.



Rich Knoettgen with the newly reconstructed wooden ore car, originally used at the Centennial Mine near Spanish Ranch.

Volunteer Rich Knoettgen has been busy rebuilding a historic ore cart in our exhibit yard to match the original that has deteriorated beyond repair. Working meticulously, Rich just finished the car as we go to press. We hope he is ready to jump into another project!

Norman Lambert of Lambert Construction volunteered his excavator to help realign the security fence at the fairgrounds to allow room for our Spanish Peak Lumber Co. locomotive track to be laid. We have constructed a small viewing shed with security fencing for the locomotive near the grandstands, and hope to be laying track soon.

Lee Dummel, a museum member and resident of Magalia, spent two days cleaning and sorting our firearms collection. Lee is one of the most knowledgeable people in the state on antique firearms. On top of his volunteer work, he donated \$100 as a way to help the museum!

Linda Wallace has been keeping up with our acknowledgments for donations, members and memorials, and is planning to start work on accessioning artifacts as well as keeping the Museum open on Sundays.

Marvin Simpson has been mowing the Variel Home yard every week trying to keep ahead of the grass, while neighbor and Museum member Brian Walmer cut the almost waist-high weeds in the Vehicle Barn yard. Thank you both!

Around the Museum



Drying out the back room

Last December, our Industrial History Wing was inundated when a torrential storm poured on Quincy. Floodwaters covered the floor nearly two inches deep, luckily just stopping short of reaching the bottom shelves of our storage and archives rooms! Hardest hit was our Industrial History Wing, which sits at ground level. Once things were dried out, a little (which turned into a lot) of streamlining, reorganizing, cataloging, accessioning, and cleaning were in order, and after almost three months, our Industrial History Wing is now open and ready for visitors once again. If you haven't seen this fascinating wing filled with gold mining and railroad history, now is the time to come in and check it out.

The 50th Annual Wassail Bowl was a popular event with many holiday revelers dropping in to sample the eggnog and view the beautiful red fir Christmas tree donated by the Boy Scouts and decorated by Calin, Lisa & Bob Turcott, Linda Wallace and Sandra Lee.

For the months of January through March we had the no-cost help of a local young man named Santiago Mendez who was tasked with creating and filling a number of indexes to various Plumas County vital records including Coroner's Inquests, early Business Licenses and Superior Court cases.

Pam Bolton has been working the front desk of the Museum since last fall, courtesy of Experience Works, a reorganized version of the former Green Thumb program. Pam has been indispensable in answering the phone, fielding walk-in questions and steadily working away on our archival photograph scanning project. When she eventually finishes the latter project, there will be plenty more projects for

her to dive into!

On Friday, May 1, we had an outstanding turnout of over 200 guests for the reception of the

Feather River College Student Art Exhibit. Art Instructor Rafael Blanco coordinated the effort with help from University of Nevada, Reno's art professor Peter Whittenberger. The exhibition will run through June 30, so be sure to drop in and see it.

This spring we gave a presentation to Quincy Rotary, worked on several projects with Oregon-California Trails Association and Trails West, hosted a number of school tours, and according to the calendar, will be giving a lot more of them before school is out, as well as assisting media personnel, genealogists, historians and archaeologists in our Archival Library.

If anyone out there knows a lawyer looking for a good law office, we just happen to have the oldest continually used law office in the state of California open for rent. Call the Museum for particulars.

As noted, we are still in forward motion with the Spanish Peak Lumber Co. No.2 railroad project. We really need some strong backs for this project so that we can finally drive the last spike in what will be Plumas County's



Norman Lambert clearing the way for rebuilding a fence along the Spanish Peak Locomotive track.

only operating narrow-gauge railroad! Be a part of making history and you can tell your friends you helped build a railroad.

Our old 1922 Studebaker has hit a couple of road blocks: We found a bent valve and another almost burnt valve so we have to open it back up for more work. Otherwise, the Quincy High Auto Shop Class under the able guidance of shop instructor Randy Kelsch has made amazing progress.



Steven Meisenheimer (left) and Josh Greene, two of the Quincy High Auto Shop crew working on our 1922 Studebaker.

MUSEUM BOOKSTORE



Locally crafted Nelson Creek gold jewelry.

Almanor, a pictorial history of Chester and the Lake Almanor Basin.

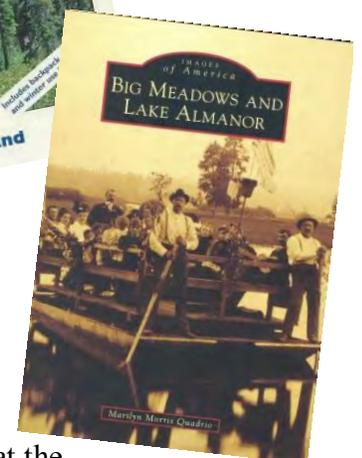
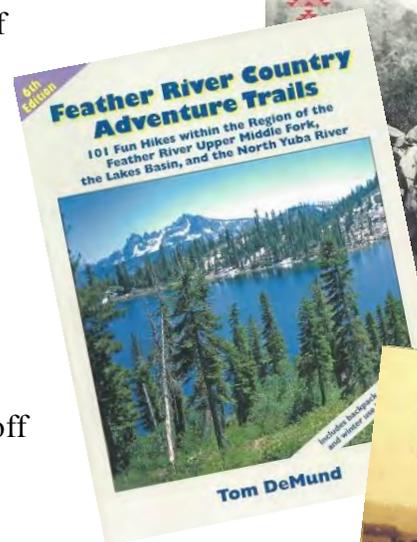
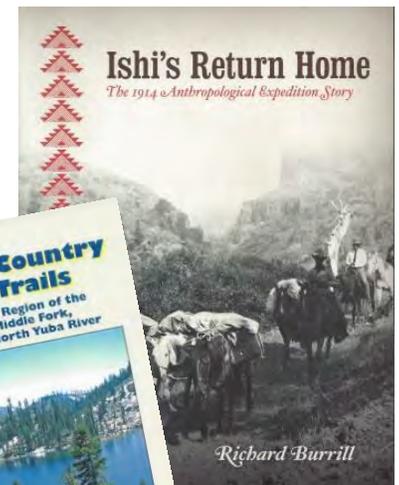
Also available is the popular *Plumas-Sierra Seniors*, short biographies with photographs of Eastern Plumas senior citizens. Remember, as Museum members you receive 10% off on these titles and many more!

Along with our books we now have native local gold jewelry fashioned by the miner himself, Frank "Mr. Gold" Augugliaro. Frank mines the gold in Nelson and Poormans creeks and fashions it into attractive and affordable earrings, necklaces, pendants and rings.

Besides our Museum coffee mugs, golf caps and polo shirts, we also have "Bargain Shelves" with items donated to us to sell for fund raising. Among the items are square nails, mineral specimens, vintage cans and bottles, glassware, postcards, tools, and various nic-nacs. Come browse the shelves and check out our large selection of used books as well. There is something for everyone and you help us out at the same time.

Tom DeMund has finally received his 6th edition of *Feather River Country Adventure Trails* and we now have them in stock.

Also new to our shelves is *Ishi's Return Home: The 1914 Anthropological Story* and a children's book titled *How the Magpie Got His Yellow Bill*, both by Ishi historian Richard Burrill. Marilyn Quadrio of Chester-Lake Almanor Museum now has out her Arcadia book titled *Big Meadows & Lake*





... From the Museum's Past

July 31, 1975, Mary Dunn, a founder of the Plumas County Museum is chosen Parade Marshal for the Plumas County Fair Parade. Mary was born at the Meadow Valley Hotel in 1896 and taught school at Butt Valley, Seneca and Quincy before retiring in 1957. Since that time she was immersed in preserving Plumas County history and artifacts and creating the Plumas County Museum. Mary died in 1989. Continuing the Dunn family tradition, Mary's granddaughter, Linda Wallace has agreed to be a trustee on the Museum Association board. Welcome Linda!

TRUSTEES:

- Ken Barnard, Graeagle
- Charlie Brown, Quincy
- Don Clark, Graeagle
- Bob Darling, Graeagle
- Pete Dryer, Twain
- Bob Edwards, Quincy
- Al Klem, American Valley
- Jerry Thomas, American Valley
- Diane Uchytel, American Valley
- Linda Reid Wallace, Quincy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Appointed by Board of Supervisors):

- Tandy Bozeman, Chester
- Doug Ely, Quincy
- Norman Lamb, Greenville
- Helen Roberti, Beckwourth
- William Tantau, Clio

SECRETARY (non-voting): Scott Lawson

Please Notice This



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

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please let us know at pcmuseum@psln.com

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500 Jackson Street
Quincy, CA 95971

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 U.S. Postage
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IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT
 Plumas County Museum Association Newsletter
 Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.
 500 Jackson Street, Quincy, CA 95971
 A quarterly issue (4 times per year)
 Subscription is by membership
 Issue date: May 2015
 ISSN: None
 Vol. 41, No.1
www.plumasmuseum.org

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