

Las Plumas

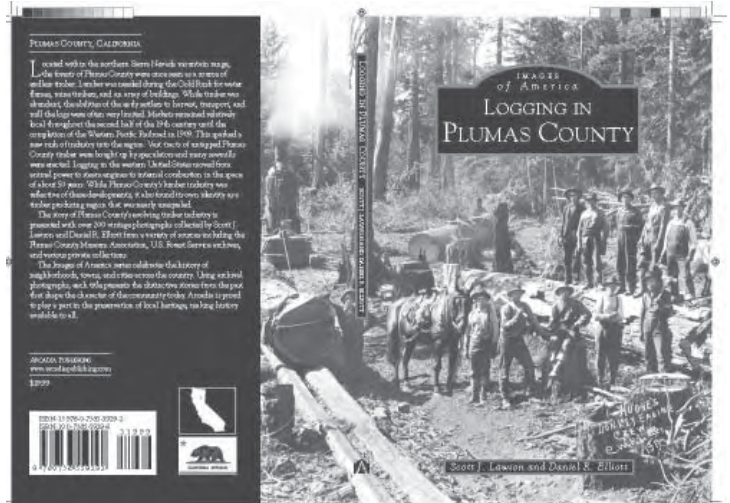
VOLUME 34 NO. 3

PLUMAS COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

SUMMER 2008

New Local History Books Debut!

We are very excited to announce three new local history titles available this summer. Already out and quite popular is *Saga of a Mountain Meadow: A History of Bucks Ranch & Bucks Lake*. Two Arcadia publications that became available August 18th are *Indian Valley* by Taylorsville resident and native Richard McCutcheon and *Logging in Plumas County* by Daniel Elliott and Scott Lawson. Book signings are planned for August 23rd at Epilog in Quincy; September 12th at B&B Booksellers in Chester, and September 20th at Margie's Book Nook in Susanville. Indian Valley Museum will also be hosting book signings in September. Be sure to call the museum at 283-6320 to reserve your copies of these great new books!



MUSEUM BUS TOURS

Our scheduled bus tours are as follows: **Sierra Valley Ranches**, Saturday, September 27th and **La Porte**, Saturday, October 18th. Our planned tour to Chester had to be cancelled due to several factors. We apologize for any inconvenience. These trips fill quickly and as seating is limited, be sure to call to reserve your spot soon.

The Red Clover Valley Tour on July 26th was a huge success. Daniel Elliott, former Beckwourth Ranger District Archaeologist co-hosted the tour with Museum Director Scott Lawson. Our intrepid stage driver Frank Augugliaro from Plumas Transit negotiated the narrow route. Sites visited included the Indian Valley Museum, Genesee Valley, Red Clover Valley, the Snake Tree, Clover Valley Ranch, Crocker Guard Station, and the Jim Beckwourth Cabin Museum. The weather was perfect, with no smoke for a change!



The forest fires that have been ravaging our county and California as a whole are unprecedented in human memory. This got us to looking back at past fires in Plumas County's history. Prior to about 1900, not much in the way of recorded material is available, usually just vague newspaper reports about how smokey it was because of wildfires in the area or that a fire had consumed a mining company's operations. With the creation of national forests and the Forest Service in 1905, active fire suppression efforts became a priority. Too many huge fires to list have blackened many acres of Plumas County. Some of note were the Nelson Point Fire of 1921 that consumed massive amounts of timber and the historic Nelson Point Hotel; the White Cap Fire of 1934 that burned

from Nelson Creek over into Poplar Valley, and much of which just re-burned this past June and July; the Mt. Hough Fire of 1934 that blackened the entire ridge north of Quincy as well as the fire between Crescent Mills and Greenville of like size; the 3600-acre Virgilia Fire of 1960, caused by a youth who wanted to be a firefighter; the Mosquito Creek Fire at the same time took out over 4,000 acres with the 1960 season declared the worst since the 1930s. The 1980s saw large fires near Antelope Lake, Portola, and Cromberg. And, most of us remember the long string of fires from 1999 through 2001 in the Feather River Canyon and Bucks Lake areas, as well as the recent Antelope and Moonlight Fires.. Let's all be careful with fire!

Spanish Peak Engine No. 2 Locomotive Project

The locomotive is in working order, painted beautifully, and waiting for a new building to house it. Still there is always something to do on it, so the 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. 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.

New Art Show on Display on the Stella Miller Mezzanine Gallery

The Heart-K Barn Photo & Artifact Exhibit is winding down now. Thank you to Eric Weber, Feather River Land Trust, and Bill Tantau for their cooperation. Jan Wirtz will have her watercolors on display September and October, and Mike Nesbit & Bill Peters will have a combined show in November and December.

International Visitors

Since last May we have had many out of state guests, as well as a number of international visitors, traveling from Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Holland, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, England, Spain, Scotland, Canada, and Belarus. Most came as individuals or as families rather than tour groups.

PEPPARD CABIN & PIONEER SCHOOL

Thank you once again to all our volunteers and docents who put in their time to host the Peppard Cabin and the Pioneer School. Fair-goers are always very appreciative of these generous folks for keeping these two historic attractions open. Don Johns, Sr. made it here from Oroville to help, as he has done for the past 62 years since 1946! Thank you again.



*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

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