



# las Plumas

A Quarterly Publication of the  
Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.  
Plumas County Museum, dedicated June 1969

Volume 38 No. 4

Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.  
[www.plumasmuseum.org](http://www.plumasmuseum.org)

November 2012

## Museum to Rely on Your Good Will

### President's Message

You might have noticed that the format and content of your quarterly newsletter is not its usual self. You are right. With the adoption of Plumas County's fiscal year 2012-2013 budget, the Museum lost its Assistant Director Paul Russell, all of its Services & Supply funding, and saw its Director reduced to 36 hours per week. This will affect certain operations such as the newsletter. As interesting as it is to research and write historical vignettes on Plumas County history, provide historical programs and research services to our patrons as well as the many other services we have provided in the past, we will be forced to reduce or eliminate many of them. Therefore, when time permits, we will try to assemble a historically oriented newsletter. In the meantime, until we can grow a strong core of volunteers to assist with the many aspects of running the Museum we will have to trim back things such as this publication.

The County of Plumas now expects the Plumas County Museum Association (Association) to cover all the operating expenses of the Museum, as well as provide volunteers to assist Director Scott Lawson in keeping the Museum open four days per week. The County also determined that it wants the Museum open Saturdays, so set the schedule at Wednesday through Saturday.

This puts the Association in the position of really having to ramp up its fund raising activities, as it costs in the neighborhood of \$30,000 per year to cover all operating expenses such as electricity, propane heating and cooling, security, minor repairs, office supplies, telephones, internet, water and sewer, in-county travel, archival supplies, display supplies and so forth. On top of these basic operating expenses, we have our Spanish Peak Lumber Company Railroad project, the restoration of our 1922 Studebaker, the 4th Grade Living History program, the 1878 Variel Home, oversight of the Peppard Cabin and the Pioneer School at the fairground, and the 1864 Taylorsville School. We also provide what technical and material support we can to the Beckwourth Cabin Museum and other local museums when requested.

I realize we have been saying this over and over, but we definitely need our members' support to make it through these fiscally troubled times. If our county wants to continue to enjoy the kind of service and programs the Museum has been able to provide in the past, they are going to have to help foot the cost. Of course many of you have been doing this for years, but with the County's current financial condition, there seems to be no alternative and we sincerely hope we can count on your continued support. The Museum has been serving the county's residents and visitors for over 45 years and we wish to continue to do so indefinitely.

One way to make sure you are helping is to renew your annual membership. Give the Museum a call or email to keep your membership current. If your dues are current, please do what you can to ensure we can keep the Plumas County Museum open by making a tax-deductible contribution. Also, if you have friends or family who are not yet members, encourage them to join, or buy a membership for them as a gift.

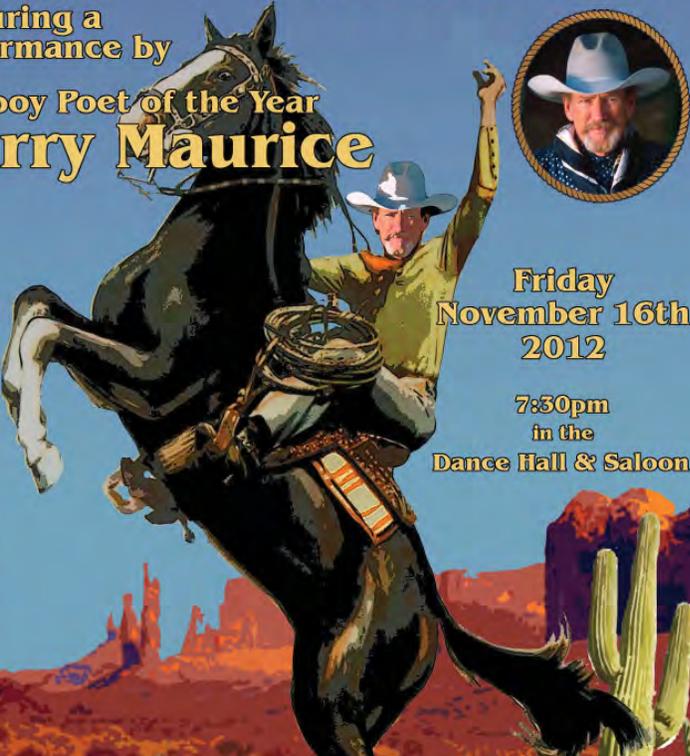
If you would like to volunteer at the Museum as office support, we have a number of projects that are always on-going such as accessioning artifacts, cataloging historical records, scanning historic photographs and documents, editing historical book projects, designing and setting up exhibits, greeting visitors, operating our bookstore, and more.

Again, we thank you for your support and understanding and look forward to your continued support.

**Donald C. Clark, President**  
Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.

AN EVENING OF  
**Cowboy POETRY**  
 AT THE  
**GREENHORN RANCH**

Featuring a  
 Performance by  
**Cowboy Poet of the Year  
 Larry Maurice**



Friday  
 November 16th  
 2012

7:30pm  
 in the  
 Dance Hall & Saloon

Show Only: \$10.00 Adult - \$ 7.50 Juniors (under 12 years old)  
 Dinner & Show Package - \$27.50 Adults, \$19 Juniors (under 12 years old)  
 Dinner: 6:00pm Reservations requested.

Menu: Ribs and Chicken, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, Caesar salad,  
 garlic bread & brownies served buffet style in the Chuck House.

No Host Saloon.

Accommodations Available at the Ranch  
 For reservations call 530-283-0930 or 1-800-33HOWDY

For more information call 530-283-6320  
 or get your tickets online at [www.plumasmuseum.org](http://www.plumasmuseum.org)

Hosted by Plumas Co. Museum Association & Greenhorn Guest Ranch  
 to benefit the Museum.

Partial funding provided by a grant from  
 The James Irvine Foundation/Poets & Writers, Inc.



Don't miss this upcoming fun-filled event! **Cowboy Poet of the Year Larry Maurice** will perform at the Greenhorn Guest Ranch on Friday, November 16, 2012 as a benefit for the Museum. Greenhorn Guest Ranch is also offering a show-dinner packet and has a great price on accommodations at the ranch. Reservations are recommended. Please come out and support the Museum!

Information: 530-283-6320 or 530-283-0930 or 1-800-33HOWDY

**Check us out on Facebook for current  
 Museum news.**

**We need a volunteer to manage our Facebook page!**

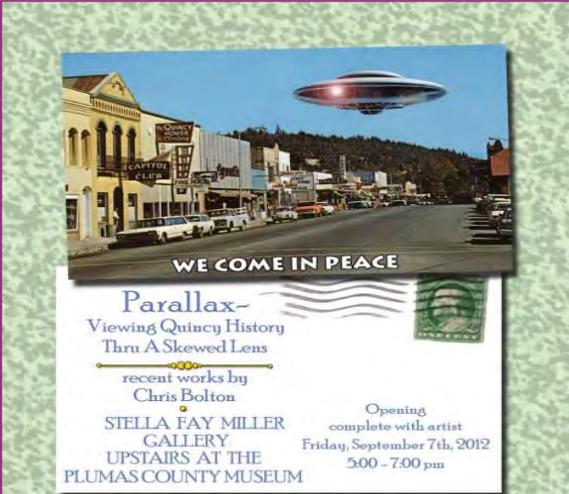
## Off the Shelf

Our newest books on Plumas County and regional history are *The West Branch Mill of the Sierra Lumber Company - Early Logging in Northeastern California* by Andy Mark; *The Humboldt Road*, by Marti Leicester is a pictorial book on that important road stretching from Chico through Plumas County to the Nevada and Idaho mines, and *My Gold Rush Adventure 1853-1857* by John Carruthers Bates is available in hardcover.

With a large selection of both historical fiction and non-fiction covering American and California history, cooking, hiking, anthropology, nature and the outdoors, and much more, there is something here for everyone. We also have DVDs, VHS tapes and a huge selection of used books for sale at very reasonable prices!



530-283-2265 [www.RanchitoMotel.com](http://www.RanchitoMotel.com)



**WE COME IN PEACE**

**Parallax -**  
 Viewing Quincy History  
 Thru A Skewed Lens

recent works by  
 Chris Bolton

Opening  
 complete with artist  
 Friday, September 7th, 2012  
 5:00 - 7:00 pm

STELLA FAY MILLER  
 GALLERY  
 UPSTAIRS AT THE  
 PLUMAS COUNTY MUSEUM

## FANTASTIC ART SHOW & RECEPTION

On Friday, September 7, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Museum hosted celebrated artist Chris Bolton's show, "*Parallax - Viewing Quincy's History Thru A Skewed Lens.*" Chris generously donated all proceeds from sales of his art to the Museum, amounting to over \$1000 on opening night!

# Another Successful Grave Occasion

The 3rd annual cemetery event was a great success, with all 100 tickets being sold. Everyone had a wonderful time, the actors did a superb job, the entertainment was exceptional and the catered dinner over the top.

We are very lucky to have such a supportive group of people as those who step up to help the Museum, particularly in these financially troubled times.

While we can't thank everyone we would like to here, we do want to thank Bill & Sue Wickman for catering; Terry Gallagher for providing the acting talent; Ron Trumbo for the sound system; all the great actors who portrayed passed personalities; and everyone who chipped in to helped make the event such a decided success.

Right: Denise Russell tells the story of Billy "Swift Feather" Epperson at the "Grave Occasion."



## Docent & Volunteer Appreciation

We would like to thank all of our docents and volunteers who are pitching in to help keep the Museum one of the premier destinations in Plumas County. Jo Ann Filippi, Lisa Hopman, Al Klem, and Carol Paoli work in our archival records helping with public inquiries. Elder Domonick Bell, Elder Patrick Carver, Elder Delgado, Ken Green, and Sally Nichol have been keeping up the grounds and outdoor exhibits, while Ann Castaldini, Melissa Kroeker, and Denise Russell provided tours of the Variel Home on Saturdays. Awhile back we placed a cardboard sign in front of the Museum asking for volunteers to weed the gardens. Lo and behold, almost immediately we had helpers! Gail McDowell, new to Quincy was the first to chip in, Gerald Gillam put in a couple of sessions and Sherie Grate and Cinda Leonard pitched in as well, also giving the Variel Home Rose Garden a nice refreshed look. Thank you to all of our great helpers!

## Thank You from Assistant Museum Director Paul Russell

As many of you know, my last day as the Assistant Director of the Plumas County Museum was October 4, 2012, and I want to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to everyone who made my time working there such an enjoyable experience over the past 3 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the Museum's many dedicated volunteers and overseeing its educational programs, putting together exhibits, and greeting our many visitors, and will truly miss the "every day is a new adventure" atmosphere of the Museum. I would especially like to thank Museum Director, Scott Lawson for his tireless championing of the Museum and his trust in me as "second in charge" and to volunteers, Carol Paoli, Ann Castaldini, Johnny Walker, and Jo Ann Filippi, who I saw at least weekly, if not daily! Thank you also to ALL our wonderful volunteers for making the Museum a special place to be, and the Trustees and Directors who are dedicated to keeping the doors open.

I would also like to thank and truly appreciate all our Museum Members who over the past several years have given generously to support the Museum and my position there, and would like to encourage you to support the Museum now more than ever. As you all already know, museums matter, but if you need more proof, I invite you to type, "Why Museums Matter," into your internet search bar and there you will find a plethora of articles by scholars, museum professionals, and just plain bloggers, with richly articulated reasons why we need museums in this day and age and why they, indeed, do matter. I invite you to make sure the Plumas County Museum matters! Thank you all.

So, with a wink and a nod to author and satirist Douglas Adams (although it's not the end of the world), I say, "So Long, and Thanks for all the Fish!"

# MONETARY DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following generous monetary supporters of the Plumas County Museum:

**Up to \$99:** Judy Adamson, *Quincy*; Andy & Gayle Anderson, *Quincy*; Phyllis O. Baldwin, *Boerne, TX*; Nicholas Becker, *Paradise*; Brian Branagan, *Vacaville*; Leland & Kathy Cotter, *Quincy*; Lucy Curnow, *Quincy*; Marcia Detrick, *Quincy*; Ray & Martha Donnenwirth, *Portola*; Bill & Angela Elliott, *Quincy*; JoAnn Filippi, *Meadow Valley*; Sheila Freed, *Reno, NV*; John & Diane Giller, *Quincy*; Velma Gonzalez, *Lake Dallas, TX*; Ken & Jennifer Heck, *Keedysville, MD*; Ron & Stephanie Horton (Les Schwab Tires), *Quincy*; Norman & Diana Jacobson, *Salinas*; Eileen Kortas, *Healdsburg*; Barbara McMillin, *Susanville*; Betty Monroe-Cobb, *Quincy*; Joan Normington, *Placerville*; Betty Penland, *Quincy*; Santiago & Peggy Peralta, *Twain*; Lee Riffel, *Victor, MT*; Marvin & Norberta Schmidt, *Quincy*; Joaquin & Sheila Vargas, *Quincy*; Almeda Ward, *Eureka*; Jay & Judy Wright, *Quincy*.

**\$100-\$249:** Robert & Judy Baalman, *Quincy*; Beta Sigma Phi, *Quincy*; Charlie & Jill Brown, *Quincy*; Donald & Nancy Clark, *Graeagle*; E Clampus Vitus No.8 (Clampers), *Quincy*; Richard & Paula Foster, *Quincy*; Nancy Gambell, *Quincy*; Daniel & Theresa Giosso, *San Carlos*; Robert & Deborah Givens, *Overland Park, KS*; Robert & Sharon Gravert, *Sacramento*; Michael Hardin, *Santa Rosa*; Lynn Huntsinger, *El Cerrito*; Bud & Joanne Kibbee, *Quincy*; Mary McMonegal, *Quincy*; Carol Neville, *San Jose*; Ray & Sally Nichol, *Quincy*; Patricia Paule, *Lodi*; Ruth Reid, *Quincy*; John Sheehan, *Quincy*; Valerie Vann, *Davis*; John & Tracy Wixted (Ranchito Motel), *Quincy*.

**\$250-\$500:** Anonymous, *Yuba City*; Kendall & Grace Smith, *San Francisco*; Joe & Nam Lee Stack, *Newport Beach*; Trails West, Inc., *Reno, NV*.

**\$500-\$999:** Pete & Joyce Dryer, *Twain*; Kathryn Hale, *Walnut Creek*; Pat Kurtz, *Lake Almanor*; Bill & Jennifer Seibold, *Quincy*.

**\$1000-\$4999:** Chris Bolton, *Aptos*; Kay & Orphie Pierson, *Quincy*.

**\$5000-\$10,000:** Elise Kroeber, *San Francisco*; Linda Wilder, *Quincy*.

## MEMORIALS

Donations have been made in memory of the following individuals since our May Newsletter:

Joan Lee Bedell, *Sparks, NV*; Leda Brown, *Quincy*; Troy Clark, *Quincy*; Mary Dovi, *Quincy*; Betty Fenton, Scott Kelly, *Quincy*; Richard Neville, *San Jose*; Susan Ward, *Quincy*.

## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to thank our renewing members and welcome our newest members:

**Individual:** Peter Hentschel, *Quincy*; Laura Lazenby, *Quincy*; Denise Pyper, *Quincy*; Gary Semans, *Walnut Creek*; Sherilyn Schwartz, *Greenville*; Marc Shipp, *Quincy*.

**Family:** Stephan & Nancy Barrett, *Graeagle*; Paula & Stan Buus, *Quincy*; Elizabeth Coleman, *Sacramento*; Susan Gutierrez, *Meadow Valley*; Keith & Nancy Nicoles, *Quincy*; Thomas Rose, *Portola*; David & Virginia Windle, *Quincy*; Phil & Betty Young, *Quincy*.

**Corporate:** E Clampus Vitus No.8, *Quincy*; Ranchito Motel, *Quincy*.

**Patron:** Steve Downing, *Yuba City*; Joshua Lawson, *Quincy*; Carol Prentice, *Quincy*; Michael Schott, *El Dorado Hills*; Louise Young, *Quincy*.

# National & International Visitors

**Since our last newsletter we have had enthusiastic visitors from the following states:**

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin, as well as a group of Pacific Crest Trail hikers.

**International visitors stopped by from the following countries:**

Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Spain, and Switzerland.

## LITTLE KNOWN HISTORICAL FACTS ON PLUMAS COUNTY

In November 1850, Peter Lassen and a party of six men built a log and brush trading post along present-day North Valley Road several miles northeast of today's Greenville. They took with them horses, oxen, and wagons. After spending a short time, they left for the winter. The following year, Lassen planted a large garden from which he sold vegetables to the area's miners and immigrants. He also completed the roof on the trading post, making it the first built-structure in Indian Valley. One of the party's original members, William H. Hough, Sr. had named the beautiful valley "Cache Valley" that fall of 1850. But the next year, another group passing through noted the large numbers of Maidu Indians living there, and renamed it "Indian Valley," a name it has held ever since. William Hough's name is still with us, gracing the 7,323-foot Mt. Hough on the south side of Indian Valley.

It was a common practice 100 years ago and more to name a new town out west for the old hometown back east. For years the folks living in Big Meadows (now Lake Almanor) relied on the weekly express for their packages and mail. Time went on, the area grew, and in 1894 they were given a post office. However, they also needed a name for it. Bert Johnson owned a hotel and the property where the post office was located near today's North Shore Campground. Oscar Martin was a pioneer rancher and landowner in northwestern Big Meadows. No one is sure who suggested it first, but Johnson, from a small town in Missouri, and Martin, from a small town in Vermont, both agreed that the name they proposed was the perfect choice for the new post office. Johnson, from Chester, Missouri, and Martin from Chester, Vermont gave the name to Chester, California.



Fenton B. Whiting, was a well-respected citizen of early-day Quincy, even though his business went to the "dogs." Whiting came to Plumas County in 1851 during the height of a snowstorm and remained the rest of his life. He followed mining at various locations throughout Plumas County but found this an unproductive pursuit and soon turned to working as a messenger for an express company. He became a proprietor of the company the next year then formed the "Feather River Express" in 1858. Because snow travel was so slow by conventional methods, Whiting hit on a novel idea. He procured three large dogs of the Newfoundland and St. Bernard breeds and hitched them to a \$75 sled built for the purpose. It was a magnificent success! The dogs would haul up to 600 pounds with ease on the route from Buckeye at the Butte County line to Meadow Valley, on today's Bucks Lake Road, a distance of 22 miles. Whiting dispensed with the business in 1865 when snowshoes for horses were invented and sleighs could then make the trip.

# 2012 EXHIBITS ON THE STELLA FAY MILLER MEZZANINE

January: Malcolm Parkhurst, aka Xan - H2ommmmm  
February: Christine Lillard - Drawings  
March & April: Carole Jackson - Photography: *People & Places of Plumas County*  
May & June: Harry Reeves & Linda Blum - Mixed Media: *Wings, Water, Wildflowers*  
July & August: Willie Hyman - Fine Arts Photography  
September & October: Chris Bolton - Parallax-Viewing Local History Through a Skewed Lens  
November & December: Joe Willis - Photography, Drawings: *Seldom Seen Delights*

**Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 8:00 - 5:00, closed Sunday-Tuesday, holidays.  
PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE TO CONFIRM HOURS**

## TRUSTEES:

Ken Barnard, Vice-President, Graeagle  
Charlie Brown, Quincy  
Don Clark, President, Graeagle  
Bob Darling, Graeagle  
Pete Dryer, Twain  
Bob Edwards, Treasurer, Quincy  
Betty Folchi, Portola  
Jerry Holland, American Valley  
Al Klem, Quincy  
Sandra Lee, Quincy  
Gaye Porter, Quincy  
Jerry Thomas, American Valley  
Diane Uchytel, American Valley

## DIRECTORS (Appointed by Board of Supervisors)

District 1 - Helen Roberti, Beckwourth  
District 2 - Norman Lamb, Greenville  
District 3 - Tandy Bozeman, Chester  
District 4 - Doug Ely, Quincy  
District 5 - William Tantau, Clio

## STAFF:

Scott Lawson, Executive Director & Gofer

***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.***

Individual \$25, Family \$35, Patron \$100, Sustaining \$1000, Corporate \$150  
Please mail check to Plumas County Museum, 500 Jackson Street, Quincy, CA 95971

*If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please let us know at [pcmuseum@digitalpath.net](mailto:pcmuseum@digitalpath.net).*

**Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.  
500 Jackson Street  
Quincy, CA 95971  
[www.plumasmuseum.org](http://www.plumasmuseum.org)**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Quincy, CA  
Permit No. 38

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: November 2012  
ISSN: None  
Vol. 38, No.4  
[www.plumasmuseum.org](http://www.plumasmuseum.org)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED