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WETTER BUT WISER YOUR MUSEUM WELCOMES 2017



Sumpin' happening at the Museum.

Following our late tradition, the Museum was closed for the months of January and February 2017 to allow staff and volunteers the opportunity to catalog a backlog of items (some having been donated but not processed back into the 1980s), as well as spruce up existing exhibits and construct new ones.

Unfortunately, in what apparently has also become a tradition, we were flooded again in early January. After spending a full Sunday and part of Monday pushing water out of the building, a hole was finally jack-hammered through the concrete walkway and a sump pump installed to take away the rising waters. This unsightly but effective measure has served to keep our floors dry so far.



Pam Bolton, AARP employee, is processing the historical Court cases handed over to us by the Plumas County Superior Court. Over four thousand cases have been indexed and entered into a database, with somewhere in the neighborhood of six to seven thousand more to go.



Lisa reads the law.

Working in front of her to sort out the cases and create a synopsis of them is volunteer Lisa Hopman. Lisa began this project several years ago, before we had the good fortune to have Pam come on board. Since then, the two of them have made some very substantial progress.



Pam faces the judge.

Linda Wallace would like to have a get-together for volunteers interested in hosting the 1878 Variel Home for tours this spring and summer. She would also like to have an old fashioned ice cream social as a way to bring interest to the home and as a fund raiser. She is planning to have the meeting sometime in late April or early May and the ice cream event in the summer. Interested? Call Linda at 283-2449 or the Museum at 283-6320.



The old home place.



Paul Russell analyzing Indian artifacts brought in by a Plumas County resident.

Late last fall, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors allocated \$15,000 to fund part-time extra help employees. With this funding we were able to retain Paul Russell on Saturdays (he works at Quincy Junior-Senior High School weekdays). Paul has been busy cataloging, accessioning, and updating our accession records for a variety of past and recent artifact donations, including working to gather together our large collection of Plumas County high school yearbooks (many of which were sent to Oklahoma Correctional Industries for free digitization) update their accession records and consolidate them into a central location. Besides helping with labels and exhibits, Paul has also been working to update and expand our Memorial Volumes with a number of entries over the past several years.



Because of this funding, we were also lucky to hire Margie Oropin. Margie has been scanning thousands of photographs and documents from our collection, accessioning artifacts, and helping make things run smoothly all around, especially when it concerns the Internet or our cell phones! She also rearranged and straightened up our Archival Library & Research Room, the kitchen/work room, and the Mezzanine tool room.



Margie making sense out of the reference library.



My trunk runneth over... Linda Wallace.

Linda Wallace, a Museum Trustee and volunteer, has been cataloging a trunk full (literally) of clothing, crocheted items, knitted pieces, lace, bonnets, and other handwork. Linda took many of these pieces and assembled a wonderful display in one of our floor cases. These items, many from pioneer families, were tightly packed in a trunk that was locked but had no key. Upon popping the lock, the lid practically burst open from the amount of material inside.



Ray and Sally Nichol decorated the posts on the front of the Museum for the Holidays this past December, wrapping each post with festive red ribbon, giving it a candy-cane appearance. This tradition was started in 1969 by the late Bill & Gwen Dore of Quincy. Thank you Sally and Ray!

Sally Nichol braves the winter cold to decorate the Museum.



Nancy Nicoles spent an enormous amount of time getting the doll cases right.

Nancy Nicoles spent a solid two months and more cataloging and trying to make sense of our large doll collection on the Mezzanine Gallery. The two floor cases were chock full of dolls, doll clothing and toys. Nancy was able to work through them and figure out what went with what, as well as develop a great new display. Her husband Keith replaced the wood shelves with glass ones and added interior lighting to make the new displays really sparkle and shine. Keith also installed lights in the cabinet Linda Wallace put her display in, as well as the two large Maidu Indian basket cases.



Pam Bolton has loaned her collection of White House Easter eggs consisting of solid glass of deep colors and pastel colored wood. The collection spans from 1995 to the present. The wood eggs were actually used in the White House Roll and are signed by the president and first lady of that event. The Easter Egg Roll at the White House began in 1814 and it was not until 1954 that Black children were allowed to participate



A portion of Pam's White House Easter Egg Rolling Display.



A chance to flip through history.

Keith Nicoles has doggedly pursued completing the upgrades to our Photo Panel Exhibit. We now have complete countywide historic representation with photos, maps and illustrations highlighting the history of the various communities, industries, social, economic, and cultural activities of Plumas County. Topics include Maidu Indians, Chinese, African Americans, towns, gold mining, copper mining, logging, stagecoaches, pack trains, railroads, automobiles, organizations, saloons and gambling dens, celebrations and more. Be sure to come browse these informative and attractive panels.

During January, the Museum was donated a large amount of vintage lumber and tin from a demolition project in Quincy. The building, a 1905 stable and barn, was razed so a new garage could be built. Rather than have the building demolished by heavy equipment, owners Gary & Mary Vogt elected to have it taken down by hand and donated the materials to the Museum for our Spanish Peak Lumber Co. No.2 project. We will use the material for tool shed and workshop construction.



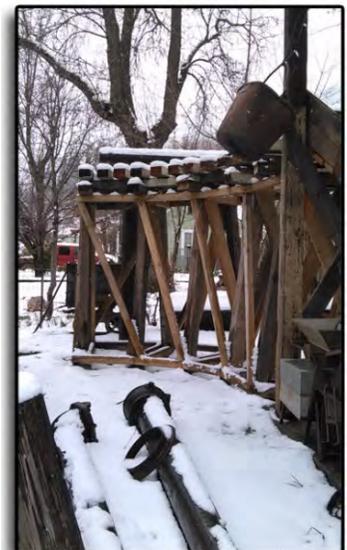
Waste not, want not.

The Spanish Peak Lumber Co. No.2 locomotive project was temporarily derailed last fall due to scheduling conflicts with a couple of our volunteer contractors. Now, with spring on the way, and an edict from the fairgrounds, we must have the locomotive out of the Art Barn and into our new shed by April 1. As of this writing, we have 80 specially cut railroad ties in place on ballast donated by Joy Engineering and transported by the Soper Company. Plumas County Public Works was instrumental in laying out the ballast on the road bed graded by Norm Lambert of Lambert Construction. Sierra Pacific Industries has also pledged to help with this phase of the project. After 16 years of effort, we expect to have the engine running on its own track by late spring or early summer of this year!



Nearly on track...

Rich Knoettgen, with assistance from Jim Boland, constructed a full dimension, seven-foot tall ore car trestle for our gold stamp mill in the Exhibit Yard. Upon completion, Rich decided it needed to be a little longer so he is adding about six feet more in length to the trestle this spring. Rich is a dedicated hand, and has been trying to make headway on the project despite the wet weather we have had.



Gettin' out the gold!



From April 1 through April 30, Quincy Main Street Artist's Cooperative and the Museum are hosting a show titled "Then & Now" - a retrospective of current and vintage local artwork. The Museum is providing about 35 pieces of art from the 19th and early 20th centuries by local artists. Be sure to stop by the Art Gallery for this one-of-a-kind show!

Mrs. Tucker's art class - circa 1900

Trustees:

Ken Barnard, Graeagle
Don Clark, (President) Graeagle
Bill Coates, American Valley
Bob Darling, Graeagle
Pete Dryer, Indian Valley
Bob Edwards, Quincy
Al Klem, American Valley
Dwight Pierson, Quincy
Jeff Turner, Graeagle
Diane Uchytel, American Valley
Linda Wallace, Quincy

Staff:



Scott Lawson,
 Last Man Standing

Supported by,
Paul Russell, Saturdays
Pam Bolton, AARP
Margie Oropin, Temp

Directors:

Tandy Bozeman, District 3
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Norman Lamb, District 2
Helen Roberti, District 1
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Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 - 4:00-Sunday 11:00 - 3:00
closed Monday & Holidays



Flooding in Chester, December 11th, 1937
 Image by Rognon Photo - Westwood, Ca.