

If you lived in Quincy in 1948, who can forget the weeks that Hollywood came to town to film the “Green Promise” with a young Natalie Wood, Marguerite Chapman, Walter Brennan and Robert Paige. Some of our local residents were extras in the film. On a hot summer day, the film crew and cameras were parked in front of the Quincy Grocery to film several scenes.

In 1954, the owners of Plumas Rexall Drug, Bud Grover and Alan McClard, purchased the building and remodeled the front with modern large glass windows and two aluminum door entrances. In 1961 Albert & Mildred Brower purchased the drug store and they sold it to Jack & Sandy Reed. Other businesses later operating at this location included the Sears Store and finally The Pizza Factory and Quincy Thrift.

Time marches on, new buildings will be constructed and businesses owners will open their doors to customers once again – but it is not the same.

# Las Plumas

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## Musings of a Small Town Girl - Sandra Lee

A fire that destroys a historical building is like losing a long-time member of one's family. The memories will remain, but, it is not the same. Although the building that housed the Pizza Factory at Main & Bradley had seen many changes over the past 147 years, the foundation of the building remained as a part of the whole and burned to the ground on Sunday, December 15, 2013.

In 1866, a man named A. P. Moore built the original building to establish a mercantile store. Mr. Moore had been a partner with Harlow Pierson, but when that business failed, he struck out on his own.

In that same year Corydon Lee (my great-grandfather) moved his wife, two sons and a daughter to Quincy coming from Marysville. Mr. Lee had been a Judge in La Porte and the name Judge Lee followed him. He established a mercantile store in the Harbison Building which was where Sweet Lorraine's is today.

In 1876, Judge Lee bought out A. P. Moore and relocated his mercantile store known as C. Lee & Sons to Main and Bradley. At the age of 15, the youngest son Clark (my grandfather) started to work in the store alongside his brother Thomas who was 10 years older.

In 1888, an ad in the Plumas Independent read: C. Lee & Sons - The one price store. Dealers in dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, fancy goods, groceries and provisions, cigars and tobacco. Hardware. Agents for Tennessee White Rye Whiskey.

The store was also the headquarters for the U.S. Postal Service. Corydon Lee and later his sons served as Postmasters for 12 years under the Cleveland (1885-1889) and Harrison (1889 – 1892) administration.

After their father Corydon died in 1889, Clark and Tom became partners in the store until 1891 when Clark bought out his brother who moved to Oroville to own a Livery Stable. The name of the store was changed to C. J. Lee Mercantile. Clark later remodeled the front of the building bringing it into the 20th century.

The Lee family operated a mercantile store in Quincy for 51 years. In 1917 Clark felt it was time to retire and the business was sold to Abe Bar. The name was changed to Bar Mercantile and Everything. Abe Bar owned the entire half-block of buildings west of the Clinch Building. The original Lee Store was selling only groceries and became Quincy Grocery Co.

In 1927, the Eckstein Brothers purchased the Bar interests and sold the Quincy Grocery in 1941 to Jantzen & Poston who in turn sold it to Ernie Leonhardt. In 1944 Ernie sold the business and building to J. R. “Rueben” and Vivian

Woods. I knew the Woods and if I was roller skating at the Court House and wanted something to eat, I was allowed to skate inside the Quincy Grocery onto the plank wood floor and purchase an apple for 5 cents. Those were the days!



The Lee Building about 1920, owned by Abe Bar.



From left: Mary E.M. Lee, John C. Lee, Mildred E. Lee & Clark Joshua Lee

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## BOOKS & VIDEOS

Unfortunately, due to the exorbitant fees charged by VISA and several credit card compliance companies, we have decided to pull our online credit card sales option. You can still order books and items from our web-based store, you will simply need to call us on the phone or send an email with your request and we can process your payment over the phone. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but the credit card banks are simply forcing us out of the online business.

For those of you who can come into the Museum, our Museum Book Store stocks many used books for sale at very reasonable prices! With an ever-changing selection of both fiction and non-fiction covering American and California history, Anthropology, Nature and the Outdoors, and much more, there is something here for everyone. Come in and peruse today.

## Art & Artifacts Auction at Longboards

We will be holding our third annual Art Auction at Longboard's Restaurant in Blairsden on Saturday, June 1st. Tickets for this important fund raiser will be available soon, so call to get yours. Auctioneer Wesley Neer?? will present over twenty items for a live auction, while nearby tables will be filled with silent auction pieces. Wine, hors d'oeuvres and great company will make this an event you don't want to miss! If you have any classy artifacts or art in the form of paintings, photos, drawings, sculptures, or other objects, please consider donating them to this worthy cause. This is one of our major events. 530-283-6320.

## Around & About the Museum

This fiscal year (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013) started off even worse than last year when the County:

- *Eliminated Assistant Director Paul Russell's position*
- *Reduced Museum Director Scott Lawson to 36 hour per week*
- *Pulled all operations funding (water, sewer, power, phones, heating, etc.)*
- *Left the Museum Association with the responsibility of keeping the Museum functional*

Leaving the Museum Association responsible actually means that now, more than ever, we need your continued support, so if you haven't already made a tax-deductible monetary donation to the Museum, would you please take the time to do so now? Every bit of help is greatly appreciated. Thank you again to all of you who have stepped up to the plate to support us!

## Volunteers Get Ready!

Our busy volunteer season is almost upon us and we are looking forward to having a great year. Now is the time to consider volunteering at some of our many events or activities at the Museum. Thankfully, we now have a dedicated group managing our gardens in front of the Museum and at the Variel Home. We can always use help keeping our exhibit yard looking presentable, cleaning and weatherproofing the Gifford Cabin, setting up exhibits in the Wagon Shed, and other projects. Major events needing volunteer help are our 4th Grade Living History Days in May, staffing the Peppard Cabin and Pioneer School during the Fair, and giving Variel Home tours on Saturdays in spring and summer. Please call to learn how you can help!

A special thank you to museum members Sally & Ray Nichol for decorating the front of the Museum in Holiday style with evergreen swags and ribbons. Other volunteers working on various projects include Claudia Barnes, Ann Castaldini, Shannon Eccles, JoAnn Filippi, Sherie Grate, Bill, Henwood, Lisa Hopman, Terra Jeffrey, Laura Lazenby, Sandra Lee, Ken Myers, Nancy Nicoles, Keith Nicoles, Carol Paoli, Denise Russell, Virginia Smith and Linda Wallace. Thank you all!

Our Trustees are also volunteering on various functions. Ken Barnard, Charlie Brown, Don Clark, Bob Darling, Pete Dryer, Bob Edwards, Sandra Lee, Jerry Thomas and Diane Uchityl are all pitching in.

# Thank You Corporate Members!

## IN MEMORIAM

The Museum recently lost two of its dedicated docents and one of its Trustees with the passing of Marilyn Britton, Leonard Mosley and Jerry Holland. Marilyn was a dedicated docent, in particular helping with the 4th Grade Living History program and the Variel Home. Leonard was foremost in working on the Spanish Peak Lumber Company locomotive and on the 1922 Studebaker, as well as being our chief hotdog chef in years' past. Jerry was an active Trustee on the Museum Association Board for over 15 years and a staunch supporter of the Museum. We will miss them all and send our sympathies and respect to their families.

We thank the following Corporate Members – their support is important to us, and your support is important to them!

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