

THE AMADORIAN

A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

President's Corner

Greetings fellow members:

It is amazing to think of all the accomplishments that this organization completed during 2017. *Thank you to all of the members and volunteers that made them happen!* To highlight a few:

- * We participated in the City of Plymouth's centennial celebration
- * Permanent fencing was constructed around the museum grounds to control traffic
- * Participated in the dedication of Larry Cenoto
- * Constructed dedication plaque at Kay's Resort
- * Facilitated the re-dedication of the Bi-Centennial quilts now hanging on display at the County Administration building
- * Awarded a Blue Ribbon at the Amador County Fair window display contest
- * Completely refurbished the Mine Model Exhibit (read more about that later in the newsletter)
- * Continue our support of the Amador Central Railroad

In addition, we began to embark upon a major effort to rebuild the Livery n the Museum grounds.

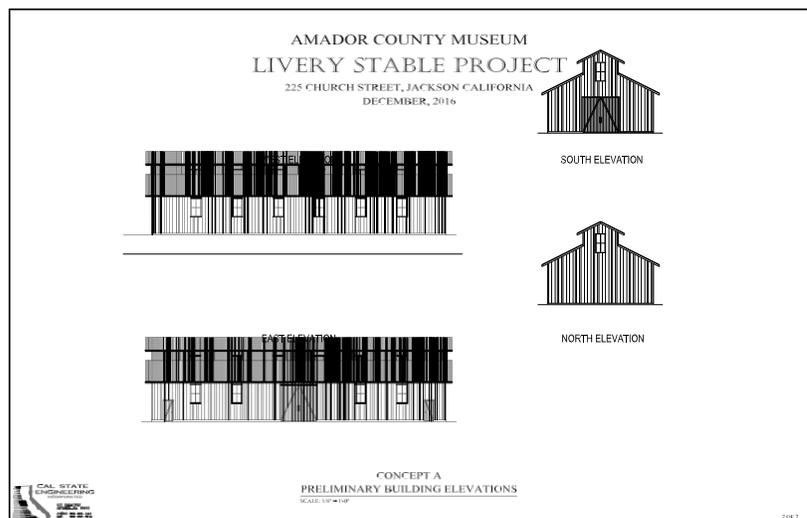
Our preliminary plans are to construct a "California barn" with a

cupola running the length of the building to allow for good natural lighting and ventilation and would be compatible with the rural architecture of existing outbuildings. The increased size will allow for adequate display of current vintage wagons, carriages and other vintage agricultural equipment as well as accommodate visitor access and informational signage.

Like most exciting ideas, there are many, many more details to work through, including the funding of the structure. The ACHS board will be reaching out to our members and the community to help support this project.

With a new Livery, the Amador County Museum will be able to present a much richer understanding of pioneer life in early California. More to come!

Best regards, Jeana Hultquist, President



Author June Somerville Addresses ACHS Members and Guests at Annual Dinner



If you were not able to attend the ACHS Annual Dinner this past November, you really missed out on a treat! Local author, June Somerville captivated the crowd with her stories and musing about life in the Sierras. If you haven't read her books, here is a small taste:

Today is February 28, 2008¹

A word with respect of my author.

Her horoscope, being a "Scorpio," read...

"Even when it seems like you are trapped, remember life's story is not written in stone. You can keep editing and editing until you like the ending."

The best tool for turning a situation around is listening to the strong, inner voice.

As a young child, in the mid 1930s, she discovered and walked upon my ROAD and traversed many entangled trails leading from

mine. She became my friend for life. I had been discovered again!

There were relics she found. A wagon wheel hub in Emigrant Meadow, a cracked piece of crockery and a shriveled black buttoned shoe lying in the rocks on West Pass. She was hooked forever in my history!

As the original old ROAD, I had the most advantageous view of the changing scenes over the years. It was an artist's canvas. The mountains of the Sierra were the background and in the foreground, emigrant wagons were rolling across the meadows. It was also a stage where the characters portrayed the yearly events below me.

As the ROAD, I have brought you readers this far.

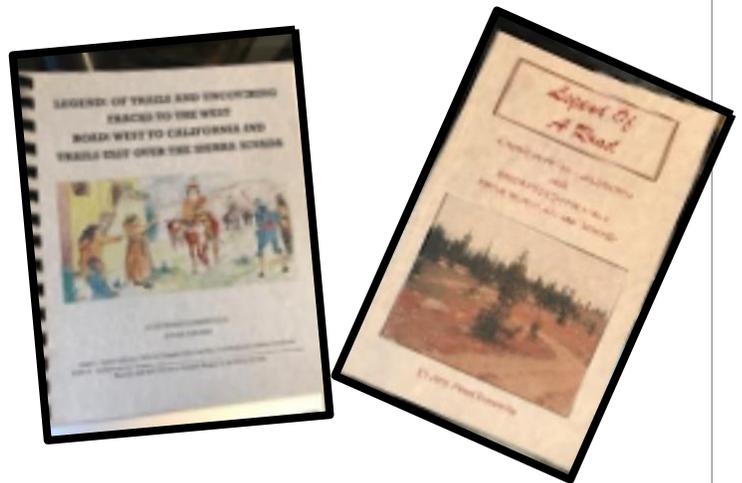
Remember around the campfires, the stories?

Thus the title of this book is Legend of a ROAD.²

¹Legend of a Road By June Wood Somerville 2008

² A legend is a story, one popularly regarded as historical, although not verifiable (factual) ... Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 11th Edition, 2005

To purchase books: Contact June Somerville directly at 209-274-4479



History in Metal: A Perspective in Metal

By: Russ Van Voorhis

I moved to Amador County in 2004 and fell in love with this area; its rich history, its beautiful country environment and its unique, friendly and genuine residents.

When I retired from State service in 2014, I was seeking a spare time activity that would provide meaning and allow me to be outdoors and remain physically active. If that activity could be of benefit to my community that would be even better.

A dear and longtime friend has been metal detecting for almost his entire life and had often showed me items he had found in his endless quest for what lies hidden under our feet.

Having seen some television programs about metal detecting for objects of historical significance, and the value of recovering and preserving those items, gave me the push I needed to invest in a quality metal detector and begin my own search.

This hobby is not for unmotivated or timid individuals. Much more time is spent recovering and disposing of beer cans, pull tabs, auto parts, bolts, screws, nails, wire and foil than uncovering treasures or artifacts. The detectorist has to contend with spiders, worms, bees, wasps, scorpions and the occasional rattlesnake. The detecting environment can be hot, cold, wet, muddy, dusty and downright unpleasant at times but, just like fishing, the occasional reward is worth the discomfort.

Not being a collector, I wanted to put that energy into a meaningful repository for any historically significant items I might locate in the pursuit of my new hobby.

I follow a strict code of ethics as related to this process and expect others to do so as well.

- 1. Ask permission first.***
- 2. Respect the rights and property of others.***
- 3. Observe all laws, whether national, state or local.***
Aid law enforcement officials whenever possible.
- 4. Never destroy priceless, historical or archeological treasures.***
- 5. Leave the land and vegetation as it was. Fill in all holes.***
- 6. Remove all trash and litter when you leave.***
- 7. All detectorists may be judged by the example you set.***
Always conduct yourself with courtesy and consideration for others.
- 8. Remember, all you want to leave behind are your footprints.***

Whether or not you are an advocate of metal detecting, it cannot be denied that this process can reveal areas and items of historical interest and significance that might otherwise be lost forever due to development or just overlooked due to obscure location or lack of evidence of historical activity.

Enter; the Amador County Historical Society.

My wife and I became lifetime members of the Society in the fall of 2015. I decided to attend one of the board meetings to get a sense of the activities being undertaken and to explore the viability of utilizing my new activity for the benefit of the public. I was immediately recruited as a member of the Board of Directors by the wonderful people who steer our Historical Society.

With the support of the Board, our first project

continued on page 4

Metal (cont.)

involved a search of the Amador County Museum property in advance of some yard improvements that were scheduled. We were pleasantly rewarded with some fascinating 19th and early 20th Century finds including US (1907) and foreign (1866) coins, a saloon token from the City of Pinole, a commemorative medallion from the Knights of Pythias (1916) as well as jewelry, a civil war era bullet and many other items. These artifacts are now in the possession of the Museum.

Since that initial project, we have been very fortunate to recover some amazing treasures from our area.

Adequately detecting a property is a process. From conducting an initial search for possible areas of activity, to actually establishing a grid for complete recovery of all metallic objects within a specified area, a detectorist faces a daunting task using a coil roughly twelve inches in diameter.

It is my standard agreement with property owners that anything found on their property is their property. Donation of any artifacts of significance to the Museum is always strongly encouraged, as my purpose is preservation of Amador County History.

Detectorists are always seeking items that can be identified and easily dated such as coins or items from a specific period in history. Some items are more difficult to identify and / or put a date to, requiring research. For me, this is part of the process of understanding our ancestors and their lifestyles and pursuits. I have learned a great deal about early California and Amador County history through the research process.

Whether a horse drawn plowshare, oxen shoe, axe head, kitchen utensil, black powder flask, button or old coin; recovering and holding these items once used and handled by people from an earlier era instills a sense of wonder and provides a glimpse into the lives, hardships and determination of our predecessors, and a connection to our heritage.

I am grateful to the Historical Society, our Board of Directors and our members for their continuing interest and efforts in support of preservation of the rich history of Amador County, the gold rush and the Golden State.



MINE MODEL BUILDING

By Ed Arata (reprinted with permission from The Native Son, Feb-Mar 2018)

The Mine Model Building at the Amador County Museum in Jackson was originally a small barn on the museum property related to the Brown House of 1859 which houses most of the museum's collection. In the 1970s, the County of Amador purchased three large models, 1 – The original Kennedy Mine East Shaft wooden head frame, 2 – The Kennedy Mine Tailing Wheel #4 and 3 – The North Star Mine stamp mill, built by Robert (Bob) Post of Sutter Creek. The barn on the museum property was rebuilt and designated the Mine Model Building to house and display these Amador County mining models. Over time other mining related graphics and artifacts were added to the building, as well as a light show with audio narrated by Cedric Clute that tells the story of the Kennedy Mine.

When the Amador County Historical Society (ACHS) took over the County Museum operation in 2012, the Mine Model Building had fallen into disrepair and the displays had become disorganized and fragmented. Since the Museum has limited space for storage, the Mine Model Building had become a store room for random artifact donations. Under the leadership of then ACHS President, Phillip Guirlani and with donations and manpower from the Jackson Rotary Club the south wall of the Mine Model Building was repaired in 2015 and the building painted. This repair work further scrambled the displays on the interior walls.

At this point the Mine Model Building displays needed a redo and face lift. NSGW member, Ed Arata, and his wife, Mimi, approached the ACHS Board with a proposal to clean up the Mine Model Building and rework the displays to better tell the story of gold mining in Amador County and the Mother Lode area of California. The original budget request was for \$500 with an estimated maximum of

\$2,000..... After seven months and about \$8,000 total expenditures the project was completed in June 2017.

As part of the overall plan to rework the displays, Arata wanted to incorporate some watercolor paintings that the County of Amador had acquired many years before, but that had not recently been displayed. These watercolors of Mother Lode mines had been done in the late 1960s by Marjolaine O'Neill for the history book Gold Mines of California by Jack R. Wagner published in 1970 and appear at the beginning of each chapter of the book. Five of the twelve major gold mines of the Mother Lode featured were in Amador County. When transferring these water colors to the Museum, the County also sent along a large map of the gold mines of Amador County that had been done by local artist, Robert Richards, of Sutter Creek. The transfer of the water- colors and the map were facilitated by then County Supervisor, Louis Boitano (NSGW/Amador #17).

Most of the watercolors are now displayed in one area of the Mine Model Building with a poster telling of Gold Mines of California, the author, Jack Wagner and, the artist, Marjolaine O'Neill. The five watercolors that are related to the major mines of Amador County are then distributed around the rest of the room to high light the Argonaut, the Kennedy, the Central Eureka, the Keystone and the Plymouth mines. Each of these water colors is surrounded with photos, graphs, maps and documents to tell the story of each operation.

The mine map by Robert Richards is now displayed and surrounded by sketches that he did of many of the better known mine sites Amador County and a poster with a photo and brief bio of Robert. Also in this new display area is a recently donated 1903 mine map of Amador County that was produced by the California Office of Mines and Minerals covering all of the known mines with a booklet outlining each site.

In addition to the watercolors and maps, other areas were improved and expanded, including: 1 - The mineral collection was consolidated and displayed in an old Wells Fargo pigeonhole cabinet previously

Continued on page 6

Mine Model (cont.)

an old Wells Fargo pigeon-hole cabinet previously used in downtown Jackson.

2 - A model of a California Dredger used in Amador County is featured with more posters and graphics. 3 - Previously displayed dioramas of Camp Opera and a Cornish Tin Mine are now lighted for better viewing. 4 - Several tool chests are now open and secured displaying the tools used by carpenters and mechanics at the mines. 5 - The existing artifacts and display related to assaying was expanded with more artifacts and posters with the assistance of Mr. Herb Dick of Sacramento.

Finally, Arata and his wife were interested in the people behind all of the mining activity, so they told some of those stories. Primo Ferdani of the Central Eureka mine in Sutter Creek is highlighted with his office desk and artifacts. Bob Post, the creator of the Mine Models, and his father, Elbridge Post, who built the originals are featured with posters and displays. Other mining engineers, mechanics and foundry men are featured in a case dedicated to the trades people who built and maintained the mines and the industries of Amador County.



Model of Kennedy Tailing Wheel #4 - the model is built at a scale of 1 inch equals 1 foot

Major contributors for developing these new displays were Larry Angier – Image West Photography and Graphics, Add Art – Jackson, Ca., Herb Dick, the Post/Bass Family and the Ferdani/Guidi Family. Funding supplied by Ed & Mimi Arata and the Amador County Historical Society (ACHS).

E. Edward Arata, Amador Parlor #17 is currently the Chairman of the NSGW History Committee appointed by Grand President, Erik Christeson. He is involved in a number of history projects in Amador County and he is currently the Vice Pres. of the Amador County Historical Society.



Wooden tool box with a display of woodworking and carpenters tools

ACHS Membership Dues

Have you renewed your 2018 membership with ACHS?

ACHS membership dues can be renewed online at: amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

Or by mail to: ACHS
P. O. Box 761
Jackson, CA 95642

See page 9 for pricing information.

Thank you!

ACHS 2018 - Board of Directors

Officers

Jeana Hultquist, President

Ed Arata, Vice President

Judy Jebian, Secretary

Wayne Garibaldi, Treasurer

Keith Sweet, Correspondence Secretary

Board Members

Thornton Consolo

Georgia Fox

Phillip Giurlani

Teresa Guidi

Alicia Miller

Gary Reinoehl

Coni Saracino

Danna Saunders

Grant Vogel

Russ van Voorhis

Leonard Williams

*Board Meetings are held on the 3rd
Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at 225
Church St. (Amador County Museum)*

Members and friends are invited to attend.

Amador County Historical Society

Member Events for 2018

April 21 - Amador Co Museum - Part of
AAUW House Tour

June 24 - Annual BBQ at the Museum

Sept. 7 - Wine & Cheese at the Museum

November 4 - Annual Membership Dinner at
Teresa's Place

Amador Central Railroad

Events & Run Dates for 2018

Second Saturday - Ione Station

Run times: 10am - Noon - 2pm \$10/seat

April 28 - Photo Run

8am - \$25/seat

For more information, contact Grant Vogel at
(209) 221-5418 or grant@amadorcentral.com



Kennedy Mine Model Tours

Tours of the Kennedy Mine Model are on-going every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the building adjacent to the museum.... come on down, bring your friends, see how the "Hardrock Miners" brought the gold up from more than a mile from under the earth.

See the headframe, the Stamp Mill and the Wheel in action with mechanized motors.... it is like a little show lasting about 45 minutes, with live narrative and tape presentation. Exhibits

refurbished in 2017!

Tours are at noon and 1:00 p.m. or by appointment any day or time (subject to docent availability). Group tours, schools and organizations welcome! Located at 225 Church Street, Jackson Mine Model building in parking lot next to museum.

For more information, call the Amador County Historical Society at 209-257-1485.

Inside the Mine Model Building



Mineral and small artifact display in an old Wells Fargo mail cabinet used in downtown Jackson



Model of the North Star Mine Stamp Mill - the model is built at a scale of 1 inch equals 1 foot

About the Amador County Historical Society

The Amador County Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the research and preservation of Amador County heritage and history.

The organization brings together people from diverse backgrounds to work towards these goals. We invite all interested persons to attend our monthly meetings and encourage your suggestions and active participation in Society events and endeavors.

We also welcome guest articles for our newsletter. Unfortunately, due to limited space we can accept only those pertaining to local history. If you have any questions regarding ACHS please contact the office at (209) 257-1485.

If you would like to become a member of the Society, please fill in the membership form below and mail along with the appropriate dues to the Amador County Historical Society, P.O. Box 761, Jackson, Calif.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please check one of the following Membership:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| ANNUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 or more) \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Students \$15.00 |
| LIFETIME | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 or more) \$400.00 | SPONSOR | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000 up) |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$500 to \$999) |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$250 to \$499) |

ACHS Lifetime Members

Kathy Allen & Frank Axe ~ Richard & July Allen ~ Joseph Aparicio Family ~ Ed & Mary Lee Arata ~ Caryl Arnese ~ Michael Bell ~ Heidi Boitano ~ Mark, Lorie & Matthew Bowlby ~ Ray & Barb Brusatori ~ William Burger ~ Paul & Claudine Burnett ~ Jerry Cassesi ~ Robert J. & Susan L. Chandler ~ D.E. Collins ~ Thornton & Paula Jo Consolo ~ Robert M. & Lorraine M. Cooper ~ Mary Cowan ~ Jeannine & Patrick Crew* ~ Jean Louise Dahl ~ Robert Davis ~ Kathleen Du Bois ~ John Ellyson, MD ~ Carol Emerson ~ Katherine Evatt & Pete Bell ~ Robin Field & Carol Mischer ~ Wayne Garibaldi ~ Phillip & Jenny Giurlani ~ Ray & Cheryl Herndon & Bobby Keeling ~ Curtis & Denise Hollis ~ Patricia Huberty ~ Jeana (Cova) Hultquist & Marshall Cova ~ Ida Ruth Johnson ~ Marilyn Jones ~ Richard & Pat Jones ~ Gretchen Kingsbury ~ George & Joan La Ponsie ~ Gary & Jaimie Little ~ Stan Lukowicz ~ Allen & Karen Martin ~ Jeremy & Shirley McCarty ~ Frances Melusky ~ Marshal Merriam ~ Joe & Alicia Miller (Giurlani) ~ Jean Mueller ~ Ron Oliverro ~ Katherine & William Orescan ~ Hazel, Jeffrey & Amy Powell ~ Marian & Leonard Randolph ~ Jeanne C. Russ ~ Martin Ryan ~ John H. & Patricia Scott ~ Norm Seid ~ Beverly Smallfield ~ George P. Smith ~ Rose Marie Smith ~ John Solaja* ~ Marie-Louise Solaja ~ Audrey Souza ~ Charles J. Spinetta ~ Ray Stacey* ~ Steve & Linda Stocking ~ Suzanne Erickson Stroy ~ Ed & Margaret Swift ~ Russell & Mary Beth VanVoorhis ~ Violich Farms ~ Grant Vogel & Pam Sharp ~ Sutter Creek Promotions Committee ~ Volcano Community Services District ~ Fraser & Teddy West

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

*Benefactor

Join ACHS in support of Main Street Theatre Works At the Kennedy Mine Amphitheatre

Reserve your tickets now by contacting Teresa Guidi at 209-768-2906 or teresaguidi@kvgcradio.com



Fridays and Saturdays
August 10th - September 8th
Escanaba in 'da Moonlight, by Jeff Daniels
The Soady clan reunites at their cabin for Opening Day of deer season. Eldest brother, Rueben, has never brought home a deer, and if he doesn't this year, he'll be the oldest Soady to never "bag a buck." But Rueben's brought more than ammo with him this year. . . This hilarious and heartfelt tale spins out of control as Rueben goes to any and all lengths to remove himself from the wrong end of the Soady family record book.

Fridays and Saturdays
June 22nd - July 21st

Mama Won't Fly, by Jones, Hope & Wooten
From the same people who brought you *Doublewide, Texas*, this ferociously funny, family-friendly comedy will have you laughing your way across country. Savannah's brother is getting married in four days and she's trying to get Mama to the big day ~ from Alabama to California. But things get complicated when Mama won't fly. . .



SUMMER SHOW INFORMATION

Our summer shows are held at the beautiful Kennedy Mine Amphitheatre **MAP IT**. Shows are on Friday and Saturday evenings. Gates open at 6:30 for picnicking and the show starts at 8pm.

RECREATIONAL RAILROAD COALITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY -AMADOR CENTRAL RAILROAD-



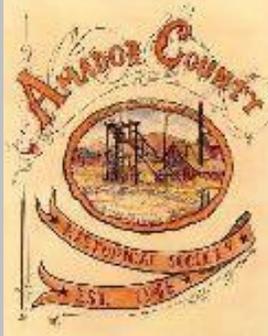
THANK YOU to all members, friends, rail preservationists and anyone who contributed time and or dollars to the "fix the slide" fund these past few months, Your hard work and contributions has made possible the completion of repairs to the problems caused by the storms of last winter. We are wrapping up the repairs by the weekend of the 14th. All in all over 500 yards of fill (rock, boulders, dirt, and gravel) were hauled in ties and track put back in place. It has been a long haul but a very worthwhile endeavor. So once again THANK YOU!



20



17



The Amadorian
A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society
P.O. Box 761
Jackson, CA 95642

In This Issue

- *President's Corner*
- *June Somerville Addresses ACHS Members & Guests at Annual Dinner*
- *History in Metal: A Perspective in Metal*
- *Mine Model Building*