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JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER - AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 761, JACKSON, CA 95642

LOOK FOR OUR NEW SIGN ON MAIN STREET



DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Please visit our new office at 148 Main Street in Jackson. We are now sharing space with the Jackson Business and Community Association and the Amador Community Foundation. Our historic photos adorn the walls and create an attractive environment for visitors and members. The office is open most days of the week and Society has volunteers at the office Friday through Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Feel free to come in any day the office is open.

Our new web site, continues to expand. Please visit us and see what is new. We are adding information and features. For example, the Board meeting agendas and minutes are on a new page and our resource library is now searchable on our site. If you have comments, we would like to hear what you like and what you think could be improved.

1ST ANNUAL COUNTY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

About 60 people celebrated Amador County's 158th birthday on June 17 at our membership meeting. The organizers and volunteers created a wonderful atmosphere at the County Museum grounds. Many thanks to them, our speakers (John Plasse, Larry Cenotto, and Phil Giurlani), Teresa's Place and many others for making this a successful event.



The first such car to visit Amador, three county papers reported, appeared on November 29, 1902. Stockton dealer F. E. Kincaid and a passenger "made the spin to the mining belt to show the style and superior quality of this mode of traveling..." Did Kincaid drive an early Ford, Olds, Velie or Black? No, a "White" manufactured and sold by the White Sewing Machine Co. of Cincinnati!

Kincaid told the Ledger reporter they left Stockton at 8:30 a.m., "came by way of Valley Springs and the Gwin Mine" and reached Jackson about 1. Because they spent 1.5 hours showing the vehicle, the trip up took "only" three hours, therefore averaging 15-20 miles per hour.



The route taken means they passed by the mine via Paloma, crossed the Mokelumne at Middle Bar and drove to Jackson. As the south fork had no bridge, Kincaid and his White had to ford the creek. Since no paper reported muddy roads or unfordable creeks, 1902-3 rain was scant or late. The White got about 10 miles per gallon. With gas 20 cents a gallon, the trip cost \$1.20.

The six-horsepower horseless carriage cost \$1,335.00, much more than most Amador working and business men earned in a year. The Amador County Historical Society is working diligently in getting a agreement with the county, to bring this exhibit back to the public. *Excerpts from Logan's Alley, Vol. V*

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2012

In a short business meeting, the amended by-laws were approved by the general membership present at a BBQ which was held on June 17 at the County Museum in Jackson. This was a very successful event in spite of the very hot weather that day and we raised about \$1,000 for the museum fund. The County's 158th birthday was celebrated with good food prepared by Teresa's Place, and duly commemorated by Supervisor, John Plasse who spoke briefly of the County's long history for volunteerism.

He commended the Historical Society on its success in addressing ADA requirements needed for reopening the Mining Model and stated that similar considerations will need to be made for the museum itself as well as seismic work that needs to be completed to make the building safe for public

MUSEUM'S CARRIAGE EXHIBIT

The Amador County Museum garage houses a horseless carriage exhibit. This early "self-propelled vehicle" was first identified as a 1901 Velie-Black, and is believed now to be a circa 1904 Black, high-wheeled horseless carriage. It seats four, has hard, rubber tires and a steering wheel. You crank to start its one-cylinder engine. Such early 1900's vehicles were improved over the first internal combustion car invented by Karl Benz in Germany in 1885, and subsequent models in Europe and U.S. in the 1890's.

Earliest models were one-cylinder, chain and sprocket-driven, with open carriages, wooden wheels, and a steering lever. When you see the Black at the museum, imagine this vintage car on rutted wagon and stage roads early in the 19th century.

access. Larry Cenotto regaled us with stories about the elusive date of the County's founding on or about June 14, 1854. No one seems to know the exact date, and documents have long since disappeared, but that is the date that is generally accepted. The Society wants to make the County's Birthday an annual event, and we'll be planning for an even better celebration next year, so mark your calendars now.

The other event of note is that we have moved our office from One Main St. to 148 Main St. where we are sharing space with Jackson Business and Community Association and with the Amador Community Foundation. Between the 3 organizations, the office will be open more hours and nearly every day of the week. Historical Society hours will continue to be Fri, Sat, & Sun from 11-3. Stop in and pay a visit.