



THE AMADORIAN

Quarterly Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

President's Corner

To All Members of ACHS:

You should be receiving this edition of the Amadorian in time to plan on being at our next social event on June 14th at the museum at 11:30-1pm. This is Flag Day and the County's birthday. Our speaker, Frank Tortorich Jr., will give an appropriate for the occasion talk on the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, or as he calls it, "A Silly Little War." The cost will be \$15.00 for a steak sandwich lunch plate with a \$5.00 hot dog plate for children under fourteen (14). Children under five (5) are free.

I continue to tell anyone I can that we are a volunteer organization and that we can use your help if only for an hour or two each month. Some of the things completed since the last issue are: the opening of the ACHS office in the Cottage building, the completion of an ADA compliant bathroom on the property, the purchase of an inventory software program that will allow eventually the access of the inventory online, the pruning and cleaning up of the grounds, and the completion of a Capital Improvement Projects list.

By the time you read this article, we should have received the go ahead from the Board of Supervisors to begin the tearing off of the siding from the Mine Model building and the removal of the gas heating system. With the supervision of Phil Giurlani and county staff, the Rotary Club of Jackson will provide the labor to replace the siding, insulate the walls and install a new heating and air system. Advanced Electric and D&M Contractors will be donating their time for the electrical and system installation. Much of the cost for this project will come from the generous donation from Spinetta Family Vineyards.

Please mark your calendars for September 19th and November 8th. These are the date of our next two functions, a wine tasting/auction and our annual dinner. Until June 14th!

Respectfully,

Keith Sweet, President

Amador City's 1939 Dodge Fire Truck by Ed Arata

In the 1920s and 30s across the United States, many small communities built their own fire trucks as motor driven vehicles become more widely used and available. Sutter Creek lead the way in Amador County with the creation of their first fire truck using an early Dodge Brothers 1920s light truck known as a screen side commercial car. The Sutter Creek Fire District had purchased a 40-gallon chemical cart fire extinguisher in 1910 that was mounted on cartwheels and pulled by



manpower. The chemical extinguisher with hose basket was mounted on the Dodge along with a hose reel for 2-inch cotton hose, a ladder and other fire fighting tools. The truck is shown here on Eureka Street in the 1920's. The only known person in this photo is Fire Chief, J.J. Capetanich, seated center in the truck.



Sutter Creek followed up on this early Dodge with a 1934 Dodge that they purchased new and then the fire body was added at Oneto Brothers Garage under the direction of O. Shirley Clements. That Dodge (shown on the next page) is in front of the original Cap's Garage on Eureka Street. Chief Capetanich is standing at the front of the truck. This truck was sold or given to Fiddletown in the late 50's and is still there today.

In 1939 a need for Amador City to acquire a fire truck was expressed during joint meeting of the Amador City fire commissioners and the city

board of councilmen. This was captured in the Amador Ledger of April 27, 1939:

(continued on page 3)

Fire Truck (Continued)

1934 Dodge - Chief Capetanich (Standing - front)

Amador Ledger - April 27, 1939

The Amador City fire commissioners and the city board of councilmen held a joint meeting in the city hall Tuesday evening in regard to purchasing a fire truck. Summer time is near and there is more apt to be fires than any other time of the year, so if they did decide upon a new fire truck, we think it would be grand! This spring, the city councilmen cut just grass that was necessary so they could put the grass-cutting money toward a new truck, so many property owners are trying to get the grass away from their property along the streets at their own expense.



The fire truck was ordered from Sutter Creek and delivered in

October 1939 as again documented in the Amador Ledger of October 9, 1939.

Amador City Acquires New Fire Engine

Through the efforts and perseverance of its commissioners and city council, Amador City now owns an up-to-date piece of fire fighting equipment. The new equipment is a modern fire truck, built on one and a half ton Dodge chassis, has a two hundred gallon water tank pumped by a direct drive Barton G-150 pump, mounted on the front of the car. The tank's capacity is sufficient to operate the pump for fifteen minutes at ninety pounds pressure without refilling.

The truck is equipped with a 16-foot suction hose, a 250 foot Booster hose and a 12-foot hook-ladder and one 12-foot extension ladder.

The apparatus was designed by Shirley Clements and built by Oneto Brothers, all of Sutter Creek, from specifications furnished by fire commissioners and council men Faust Campini, Wm. Arditto, R. C. Merwin, James Tibbetts, Walter Miller, and Frank Kelly, all of Amador City, who raised the required \$2000 for building.

Congratulations Amador City!

This fire truck still exists today with about 1100 original miles on the odometer. It will soon be housed in the old Amador City fire house which is being developed as a small fire museum by the City of Amador City and the Sutter Creek Fire District and Fire Department which has an ongoing fire history program. The 1939 Dodge is in good running condition and can be used in parades and community events.

Here are photos of the Dodge at the Ione Rail Fair several years ago:



Railroad and Rail Fair - 2015

It was a beautiful weekend for the annual Rail Fair on the Amador Central Railroad of which the ACHS is part owners. We had 12 speeders on the rails with a total of 33 seats available for rides to Sunny Brook and back. All in all we sold 100 tickets for the weekend and judging from the smiles on their faces and comments made, the riders had a great time on this historic icon. Also included in the festivities was an operating HO scale modular railroad that defies description. Each year they surpass the prior year with both the size and beauty of their railroad.

The weather for the weekend was fantastic. The Preston people were there as was the Lone Fire Department, Ed Arata and the 1939 Dodge Amador City Fire Truck, Debbie Cook and her books combined with the ACHS, a free kids painting lesson by our own Pam Sharp, tractors, some old steam driven toys, my 1929 Sheffield Motorcar that used to ply the rails here, and a lot of good hardworking always smiling faces. All of this combined to set the stage for a fun weekend on the rails. There were 3 photographers there to record the event. Larry Angiers took many shots and they are at <http://angier-fox.photoshelter.com/gallery/9th-Lone-Railfair-2015/G0000h8.GbeBSQFk/> and many others can be found at www.amadorcentralrailroad.com

This event is one of our money raising events to help support the railroad so neither of the owners have to dip into their treasuries to fund insurance, electric bills, or weed control for the corridor. We do have projects going on year round to maintain the railroad and keeping it safe to operate on. This does take money and people power so if you are ever inclined to get down and dirty and work on our railroad please let us know. A spare hand is always welcome.

The railroad also needs some help. The ACHS is partnered with Recreational Railroad Coalition Historical Society in ownership and management of the AMCRR. Lately due to work schedules a member or two of the managing committee cannot attend the once a month meeting to help manage the railroad. We are specifically looking for two volunteers that can attend a meeting when necessary. These meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month in Plymouth at 1PM. If this is something you feel that you could contribute to please contact Grant Vogel at grant@amadorcentral.com. Have a great summer! - Grant

Amador County Historical Society - 2015 Member Events

- ***Sunday, June 14 - 11:30 a.m. - BBQ Lunch & Speaker at the Museum***
- ***Saturday, Sept. 19 - 5:00 p.m. - Wine & Chesse at the Museum -***
- ***Sunday, Nov. 8th - 4:30 p.m. - Dinner & Speaker at Teresa's***

Amador Central Railroad - 2015 Events

- ***Father's Day - Sunday, June 21 - History Run***
- ***2nd Saturday of each month (weather permitting) - Work Day & Inspection Run***

Celebrate Amador County!

*Please join your fellow ACHS members
to celebrate
Amador County's Birthday and Flag Day!
June 14, 2015 - 11:30 a.m.
Amador County Museum*



Featuring Speaker - Frank Tortorich, Jr.

The Bear Flag Revolt aka "That Silly Little War"

Steak Sandwich Lunch - \$15.00

Children (under 14) Hot Dog Lunch - \$5.00

Children under 5 years old - free

Meet New ACHS Board Member



Coni Saracino joined the ACHS board in October, 2014. She has been volunteering at the Museum and has officially taken over managing the ACHS office. Coni moved to San Francisco in 1971 and stayed in the Bay area for over 30 years.

Why did you decide to move back to Jackson?

Jackson is where I grew up. It seems like it's always been my plan to move back to the county when I retired.

What has changed the most about Amador County since you've been back?

The geography. There weren't as many houses and retail opportunities back then. The population growth in the whole county.

ACHS 2015 - Board of Directors

Officers

- Keith Sweet, President
- Jeana Hultquist, Vice President
- Judy Jebian, Secretary
- Wayne Garibaldi, Treasurer

Board Members

- Ed Arata
- Thornton Consolo
- Jennifer Farmer
- Georgia Fox
- Phillip Giurlani
- Teresa Guidi
- Alicia Miller
- Gary Reinoehl
- Coni Saracino
- Danna Saunders
- Grant Vogel
- Madonna Wiebold
- 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.

Saracino (cont.)

While growing up in Jackson, what were some of your favorite memories? I think that just being able to be a kid growing up in a real community is a treasure. But you don't fully realize that when you are a kid. That comes much later in life. Kit Carson Days; the Italian Picnic; the County Fair. All the celebrations!

What inspired you to volunteer for ACHS? I followed the progress of the re-opening of the museum on-line. I knew that I needed something to do with my time when I retired. My first thought was to volunteer at the museum. Then I was invited to attend the member dinner ... and the rest is history!

What have you enjoyed the most about your involvement with the ACHS? Reacquainting myself with the history and talking with the people who visit the museum.

Any other words of encouragement to others that might consider volunteering at ACHS? Besides being a docent at the museum, there are at least a hundred different ways to help out with the museum and other projects/activities of the Historical Society. For example, gardening. A person could volunteer one day a week or a month working outside in the museum's yard.

If you are considering volunteering — just do it; try it out. Don't make an immediate commitment; just try a couple of times and then see how you like it, then make a decision. We always need reliable volunteer help.

Thank you!



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 narration and tape presentation.

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.

ACHS Lifetime Members

Kathy Allen & Frank Axe - Richard & July Allen - Caryl Arnese - Joseph Aparicio Family - Michael Bell - Heidi Boitano - Ray & Barb Brusatori - William Burger - Jerry Cassesi - Robert J. & Susan L. Chandler - J.J. & D.E. Collins - Thornton & Paula Jo Consolo - Robert M. & Lorraine M. Cooper - Mary Cowan - Jeannine & Patrick Crew* - Jean Louise Dahl - Kathleen Du Bois - John Ellyson, MD - Carol Emerson - Katherine Evatt & Pete Bell - Phillip & Jenny Giurlani - Ray & Cheryl Herndon & Bobby Keeling - Curtis & Denise Hollis - Patricia Huberty - Jeana (Cova) Hultquist & Marshall Cova - Ida Ruth Johnson - 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 - Jeanne C. Russ - Martin Ryan - John H. & Patricia Scott - Norm Seid - George P. Smith - John Solaja* - Marie-Louise Solaja - Audrey Souza - Charles J. Spinetta - Ray Stacey* - Steve & Linda Stocking - Suzanne Erickson Story - Ed & Margaret Swift - Sutter Creek Promotions Committee - Volcano Community Services District

*Benefactor

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 **Individual \$20.00** **Family (2 or more) \$30.00** **Students \$15.00**

LIFETIME **Family (2 or more) \$400.00**

SPONSOR **Benefactor (\$1,000 up)**
 Patron (\$500 to \$999)
 Associate (\$250 to \$499)
 Other _____

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 Jackson, CA 95642

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