



THE AMADORIAN

Quarterly Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

President's Corner

To All Members of ACHS:

Greetings: I am honored that you have chosen to elect me as your new president. There have been many distinguished individuals in this position over the years and I look forward to trying to fill their shoes.

Our recent President, Phillip Giurlani, continues to serve in the same hands on manner that he led this organization with over the past several years. At present he is constructing a new ADA compliant bathroom on the back of the Cottage that will be directly across from the entrance to the Mine Model. This has been funded from a grant from the City of Jackson. No more unsightly blue outdoor toilets in the parking lot very soon.

As most of you are probably aware, we have moved from our location on Main St. to the Cottage building on the museum grounds. This was done shortly after we lost our volunteer office manager and web master but several folks have stepped up on keeping the

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Charles Spinetta Generosity Shared with ACHS

Amador County native, Charles Spinetta recently made a generous contribution to the ACHS to assist in capital improvements to the Museum.

"I've known Phillip Giurlani for a long time and have been impressed with what he has done these past two years as President of ACHS. I also know that Phillip doesn't waste money", says Spinetta. "When you are dealing with old, historical buildings, and trying to improve the visiting tourist experience, it takes a substantial amount of money to make those improvements. The funds from Charlie's contribution will definitely help make some of those "wishes" a reality. On behalf of the entire ACHS Board of Directors, THANK YOU!" remarked Phillip Giurlani.

The Spinetta family has farmed in Amador County since 1852. Growing up in Amador County, Mr. Spinetta is keenly interested in preserving the history for future generations to enjoy.

President's Corner (cont.)

office running. We also welcome Wendy Carrington (Fishcharmer.com) as our new web master.

A number of folks have transformed the Cottage from a warehouse of uncatalogued items into a functioning office and soon to be a display room for many previously unseen items. Judy Jebian and the entire Giurlani bunch have certainly been foremost in these efforts.

The main focus this year will be that of installing a software system specific for museums that will be user friendly and that will also allow access to the Museum pieces via the internet. This focus will also be directed towards completing the inventory of the many items that have been stored or placed on the grounds awaiting just such an effort.

We are also working to gather funds and assistance to re-side the Mine Model's south side and install a new heating and air conditioning system for the comfort of the hundreds who tour this facility each year. Special thanks to Georgia Fox, Tom Consolo and Gary Flunker who give of their every week end to keep this model open.

You must have noted that all of the above has been or will be accomplished through volunteer labor. Can you spare an hour a week or even an hour a month to help with the myriad of things we have to do to keep the Museum open to the public. Most jobs only require a willing heart and a smile. Please think about it.

While we have no longer an active role in the lowering of the Ione train depot to the ground, it is safe to say that without the effort of board members Wayne Garibaldi, Phil Giurlani and Leonard Williams this project would not have been completed. Leonard led the work force that designed and built the foundation for this facility to set on. ACHS and our sister organization the AMC will continue to provide leadership and assistance to the City of Ione as they work towards creating a magnificent RR park in their city.

Lastly, many of our efforts require the expenditure of funds and so I would hope that you respond positively to the emails you have received or will receive regarding the payment of your annual dues. Please also note the events we have scheduled for the coming months. Mark your calendar and come and join us and others as we promote and cherish our county's history.

Respectfully,

Keith Sweet, President

Amador County Historical Society

2015 Calendar of Events

- *3rd Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. – ACHS Monthly Board Meetings/Cottage*
- *4th Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – Monthly Museum Committee Meetings/ Museum*
- *1st Monday, 10:45 a.m. – Oral History Committee Meetings/Cottage*
- *1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – Monthly AMC Committee Meetings/Ranch*
- *Wednesday, April 15 - 7:00 p.m. Membership Meeting – Refreshments & Guest Speaker/Museum*
- *Saturday, May 16 – “Mother Lode Cruise” - Vintage Transportation Exhibit/Museum*
- *Sunday, June 14 - 11:30 a.m. County Birthday - BBQ Lunch & Speaker/Museum*
- *July 23-26 – Amador County Fair – “County Tunes & Midway Blooms”*
- *Sept 17-20 – “Days of 49”*
- *Saturday, Sept. 19 – 6:00 p.m. – Membership Meeting – Refreshments & Speaker/Museum*
- *Sunday, November 8 – 6:00 p.m. – Annual Dinner/Teresa’s Restaurant*
- *November 27-28 – “Christmas Delights”*

ACHS Lifetime Members

Kathy Allen & Frank Axe ~ Richard & July Allen ~ Caryl Arnese ~ Joseph Aparicio Family ~ Michael Bell ~ Heidi Boitano ~ Ray & Barb Brusatori ~ William Burger ~ Paul & Claudine Burnett ~ Jerry Cassesi ~ Robert J. & Susan L. Chandler ~ 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 ~ Robin Field & Carolyn Mischer ~ Wayne Garibaldi ~ 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 ~ Rose Marie Smith ~ Charles J. Spinetta ~ Ray Stacey* ~ Steve & Linda Stocking ~ Suzanne Erickson Story ~ Ed & Margaret Swift ~ Grant Vogel ~ Fraser & Teddy West ~ Sutter Creek Promotions Committee ~ Volcano Community Services District

*Benefactor

Railroad to Honor Larry Cenotto by Grant Vogel



The old interchange track in the Ione yard where the photo of Larry Cenotto and Larry Bowler was taken shaking hands across the rail was taken shortly after the two gentlemen handed SPI two checks for .50 each to purchase the old Amador Central Railroad from them.

It was decided when Larry Cenotto passed away that this rail would be named the Cenotto Siding. A steel plaque has been made to be placed on a tie and the last spike (given to me by Larry Cenotto many years back) will be driven in by Larry Bowler. Please join us on Wednesday, April 22nd for the ceremony. He was loved, admired, and respected by all that knew or know of him.

A Brief History of the Amador County Archives

The Amador County Archives is a local history and genealogical research center and the repository of many of the records of Amador County. The original archives collection came from those records stored in the basement of the museum in the late 1940's when the museum started, until the early 1980's. The papers were mostly Amador County records circa 1954 to 1890. Also in the original collection were the Armstead C. Brown family papers. Mr. Brown was an early Amador pioneer who build and owned the house which is now the museum.

Amador Central Railroad 2015 Events

- Wednesday, April 22 at 12:30 p.m. - Dedication of Bryant Station and Cenotto Track
- Saturday, May 23 & Sunday, May 24 - RailFair
- Father's Day - Sunday, June 21 - History Run
- 2nd Saturday of each month (weather permitting) - Work Day & Inspection Run

Amador County Archives By Teresa Guidi

The first settlers in Amador County were the Miwoks; they chose to live here because of the mild climate, with plenty of water and an abundance of wildlife. Amador County has 5 incorporated cities and several smaller towns. Amador County is a community rich in California History, known for gold mining of all types, panning, hydraulic, and especially hard rock. The Kennedy mine located in the picturesque city of Jackson was the deepest mine in the northern hemisphere. A unique feature of the Kennedy are its tailing wheels; four 75' tall wheels built to move hazardous waste away from the population. The Argonaut mine located just up the hill from the Kennedy was the location of the largest mining disaster of its time. In 1922, 47 miners were (continued on Page 7)

With the recent opening of Daffodil Hill in Volcano prompted look back at a little of its history. Please enjoy an excerpt from Logan's Alley – Volume IV by Larry Cenotto

McLaughlin's Daffodil Hill (A Look Back, April 1996, Amador Ledger Dispatch)

We boast of Daffodil hill, that delightful six-acre garden in Amador's middling, 3,000-foot hills. But we should call it McLaughlin's Daffodil hill, after that pioneer family which has owned and fostered it for over a century. What started in 1880 as a quarter-section on Shake Ridge road is now a 540-acre ranch with, among other things, 1,500 bearing walnut trees. Yet that number pales before its half million daffodils, in 300 guises, whose trumpets sound a golden epiphany each spring. To "hear" the show, thousands come and have come to this remote Eden for over half century.

The writer elsewhere has observed that Daffodill hill is more than a congregation of blooms on a sun-bathed hillside. It is a time machine to a simpler rural life where people and nature are in harmony. The urban cacophony is mostly shushed on the narrow county roads amid lush spring hills leading to the place.

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Thank You Beverly Smallfield

Over the past several years, ACHS member, Beverly Smallfield, has donated several nice additions to our museum. Most recently, Beverly donated a silk parasol, which belonged to Hilda Poggi, dating back to the early 1900's. The barber chair (pictured below) which was brought from Italy, was used by Paul Poggi in his shop on Main St., Jackson.



McLaughlin's Daffodil Hill (cont.)

From Ohio, in the 1870's, came Arthur Burbank (cq) McLaughlin to Amador. He married the winsome Lizzie van Vorst in 1877 in Volcano, justice of the peace C.B. Goodrich officiating. From their daughter Mary and husband George Lucot came Mary Lucot Ryan, and Arthur Lucot, (then) present owners.

In 1987 "centennial paper" on Daffodil hill, proprietress Mary Ryan wrote that Daffodil hill "originated in Arthur and Lizzie's garden." They purchased a ranch, she said, from "an old Dutchman" who had planted, around the homesite, daffodils from his native land. Those "yellow blooms were Lizzie's most prized possessions," granddaughter recalled, which Lizzie divided and replanted each year.

Perhaps only neighbors or wayfarers who tarried or slept at McLaughlin's station communed with Lizzie's daffodils in those days.

Our 1927 women's clubs' history – published 15 years after A.B. McLaughlin's death – described the fine ranch on Ramshorn road above Volcano, then owned by the widow Lizzie, who resided with Mary, and son-in-law, then sheriff Lucot, in town.

Apparently, it no longer was a wayside inn, nor was it yet that tranquil tourist attraction it would be. Since this is the hill's "56th season," the family traces its beginning as a public attraction to 1941.

The 1927 history says the old McLaughlin inn once had 18 rooms. Adjacent to it was an enormous barn whose loft accommodated Saturday night dances and parties for upper Shake ridge folk. But that old home, it said, burned to the ground three years before, and the family build a smaller place for summer retreats. Then, the ranch was 720 acres, and planted to fruits, walnuts and almonds. Even sheep were husbanded.

The family in '27? The widow Lizzie, daughter Mary and the sheriff, and their Arthur and "baby Mary Elizabeth." Also, daughters Vannie McLaughlin Wheeler, and Anna, sons Arthur, the eldest, and Jesse.

Most likely the family memorial daffodil garden started becoming an attraction in 1935 after the death of Lizzie. Honoring her memory, son Jesse and daughter Mary planted more daffodils. "Soon," Mrs. Ryan wrote in 1987, "people began to stop to look at the blooms."

By then, automobiles were more common, the history of the gold country was rediscovered, and tourists sought out beautiful bucolic sights, however remote. In 1961, a bay area newspaper feature boasted that Daffodil hill had 200,000 bulbs and for 25 years – or since 1936 – had been a memorial to Arthur and Lizzie McLaughlin.

In later years, after Jess and Mary died, grandchildren Mary Lucot Ryan and Arthur Lucot inherited the trust to the family ranch and garden.

Each spring's golden bonanza at the McLaughlin family memorial, Mary Ryan wrote, reminded her of Easter and the resurrection, Got at work. Or at play? Not golden chispas but blooms kept the ranch alive and perpetuated a memorial to the generations who went before. Shake Ridge is a historic route on which the Robinson family seems to have been the first to settle. They and other came before the McLaughlins. Among them was Peter Denzer, probably "the Dutchman" family tradition remembers.

ACHS 2015 - Board of Directors

Officers

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

Board Members

Ed Arata
 Tornton Consolo
 Phillip Giurlani
 Jennifer Farmer
 Georgia Fox
 Alicia Miller
 Gary Reinoehl
 Danna Saunders
 Grant Vogel
 Madonna Weibold
 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 Archives (cont.)

trapped due a fire in the timbers several levels above where they were working. The entire community chipped in during the rescue effort and after 3 weeks of backbreaking work the rescuers broke through from the Kennedy to reach the trapped miners. There were no survivors. Because of this disaster mining safety regulations changed.

Logging was also a major industry in Amador County as well as some less traditional industries like gambling and prostitution. As the story goes, one day Bugsy Siegel showed up in Jackson. Sheriff Lucco met him on the street and told him he could visit but he would be watching him and Siegel would have to leave town.

The Archives reflects this unique history with photos, maps and documents. In April of 1980 a local historian and author, Larry Cenotto started the Archives. Larry ran the Archives as a volunteer until December of 1984. Larry wrote a 5 book series "Logan's Alley" which is a compilation of history, stories and observations about Amador County. Larry worked for the Sacramento Bee in the 1960's, was Field Administrative Assistant for California's 6th Assembly District, then managing editor for the Amador Ledger Dispatch. In 1975 he started a private publication "Scenic 88 Fun Times" a monthly paper devoted to Amador County history. In researching information for this publication Larry put together a large collection of historical documents and photographs; with this collection he started the Archives. Larry was known as a "hands on" type of historian often heading out into the field to track down a lead and took many photographs. One such time he was questioning the route Kit Carsan took over the Sierras into Amador County.
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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 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! The Jackson Mine Model building is located at 225 Church Street, in the parking lot next to the museum.

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



Amador County Archives (cont.)

He hiked, documented and photographed the route and was able to prove that the original route needed updating. Sadly, Larry passed away, but his children felt his legacy should continue and they generously donated his private collection to the Archives.

Many famous outlaws frequented Amador County, like Joaquin Murieta and “three finger” Jack, as well as Black Bart.

The Archives contains so many stories, photos and information about Amador County’s colorful settlers and what their lives were like. These days in Amador County you are more likely to drive through a vineyard than hear the sound of a stamp mill but, the evidence of Amador County’s mining history is everywhere. The Archives is a place to learn about that history. If you are looking to fill your time, with an interesting and educational past time, the Archives is always looking for volunteers to help with research and cataloging the collection.

The Amador County Archives is located at 12200-A Airport Rd., in Jackson, CA. We are open on Mondays, from 10 a.m. – 3p.m.

Please visit our website at www.co.amador.ca.us/services/archives

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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