

THE AMADORIAN

Quarterly Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

President's Corner

First of all I would like to thank you for reading the Amadorian. The fact that you are reading it means that you are a member of the Amador County Historical Society and that you support the preservation of our history and the events we put on to raise funds to support our endeavors.

I want to thank Frank Tortorich Jr. for his interesting and informative talk at the Flag Day BBQ at the museum that enticed about 35 folks to bone up on their California history. The food was good and plentiful and I would hope that all of you mark your calendars for June 17, 2016 as the intended date for next year's museum picnic.

We went right to work this summer spending the generous donations from the Spinetta Family Winery and the City of Jackson. The Mine Model building now has a new exterior on the two largest walls and new framing that meets current codes as well as a new heating and air system. No longer do our visitors and volunteers have to swelter in the building during summer tours. Much thanks goes to Phil Giurlani who supervised the job and made sure the Rotary volunteers and I, along with a few ACHS volunteers hammered straight and true. Also thanks go to D&M Contractors who donated the H&E system at cost and installed it for free.

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Summers in Amador County

As I think about the heat index outside and this edition of the Amadorian, I reflect back with a smile on my Summer's growing up in Jackson. As a youngster, we carpooled with neighbors (mom didn't drive) to Detert Park where activities at the Scout Hut filled our time before swimming lessons. We'd return home for lunch and couldn't wait to get back for the afternoon general swim with friends. Sunday family picnics at Detert Park were a regular occurrence for my mother's side of the family that included my aunt Sis (Campbell) and my *many* cousins. We would swim, play games, enjoy BBQ chicken and chili beans.

Every year we would have an opportunity to get away from the heat, traveling up Hwy 88, passing landmarks like "pancake rock" and "maiden's grave" knowing that we were getting close to our neighbors, Frances and George Milardovich's cabin, at Plasse's Resort. We would have a week of exploring on our bikes (we all fought to ride "Big Red"); fishing on "chesterfield rock" and swimming off of "Gilligand's Island". This cabin was very simple, no frills, but rich with memories.

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Summers in Amador County (cont.)

ACHS board member Ed Arata shared some antedotic thoughts and pictures (see below) about his family's summer's up Hwy 88 just past Plasse's Resort. In the 30s, Ed's dad and George Sausmon used to drag an old trailer, tents, etc. up to Silver Lake, just before you got to Kay's Resort and set up a Summer camp for his mom and sister, Aldren; and George's wife, Mary, and his daughter, Susie. Like many working husbands, Ed's dad and George would spend the weekdays in Jackson and then go up to Silver Lake on the weekends. Ed's mother used to say, "we were up there living like the Indians".

Recently, ACHS member Beverly Smallfield was chatting with Phil Giurlani and they got to talking about the history of Kay's Resort. Most of you know that it was recently demolished and now is a simple parking lot and boat ramp.

When William Brewer, member of the state's geological survey team, ambled by in 1863, "a large log house was going up at Silver Lake. While Brewer didn't specify others along the route, he observed "log houses going up al along the road." The revenuers in '64 saw a completed building - a stenograph of that original 2-story, log store and inn is part of the Amador collection. They called it "Wade's Lake House" and reported that Silver Lake was "Amador's pet lake". It was still Wade's in 1866, and later became Fagans and then Caminetti's until some time in modern times, Kay's Resort replaced it." Rose Kay is reported to have developed a resort there in the 1920's; the business was carried on by Dan Derrick and later by John White.* The lease for Kay's Resort was given up by Mona White in 2006. Her husband John passed away in 1995 and she continued the business until that date. For a look at a nice memorial of Kay's Resort, check the U-tube video here.

It has been suggested that the Amador County Historical Society consider a historical landmark commemorating the many years of Kay's Resort. More on this project as it develops. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer here in Amador County or elsewhere!

Best regards, Jeana (Cova) Hultquist, Amadorian Editor



* Cenotto, Larry: Logan's Alley: Amador County Yesterdays in

President's Corner (cont).

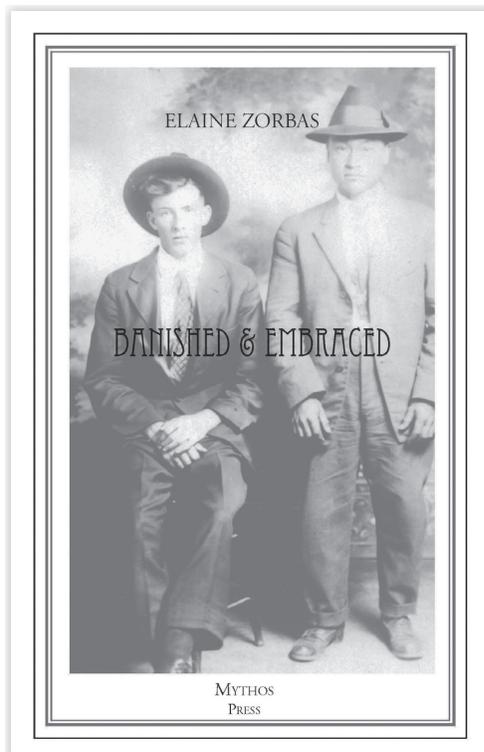
Many of you may remember when the ACHS meetings were held in the cottage in the 70's and 80's. Well, they have returned there at much savings as we have not rent to pay. The cottage will have a new bathroom when you read this and as it is a large room, it may also become a display room for several appropriate museum pieces.

I encourage all of you to come and bring a friend to our September 18th Wine & Cheese pairing event at the museum. You will find more about it in this issue and we encourage you to attend. This is our major fundraiser this year as almost everything has been donated so the ticket sales and the raffle/auction income is just that - income.

Finally, please mark your calendars for November 8th, an early Sunday evening for our annual dinner at Teresa's Restaurant. Our guest speaker will be John Plasse who will talk on some interesting aspects of early ranching and resorting in Amador County. He might even throw in a few family names and stories. We will also honor several members of our organization for their past and/or current efforts on behalf of the ACHS.

See you soon,

Keith Sweet, ACHS President



Banished and Embraced: The Chinese in Fiddletown and the Mother Lode by Elaine Zorbas

Local Author Launches New Book***Banished & Embraced: The Chinese in Fiddletown and the Mother Lode***

The book presents the experience of Chinese immigrants during and after the Gold Rush. Chinese from southeast China flocked to towns and encampments in the Sierra Nevada foothills to search for gold. In the communities they established in Fiddletown and Amador County, Chinese immigrants found support and strength despite prevailing anti-Chinese prejudice. This book gives an insight into their experience as they faced pressures from the greater society, while maintaining their customs and connections with each other and with China. The story of the Fiddletown Chinese community is told through the lives of the people who lived in its still existing Chinese herb store (the Chew Kee Store), especially Jimmie Chow, the last Chinese person in Fiddletown.

Giurlani Bunch Recognized



At the June BBQ, President Keith Sweet presented a Resolution of Appreciation passed by the ACHS Board to Phillip Giurlani, Jenny Giurlani, Joseph Giurlani, Alicia Miller and Teresa Ferrucci, otherwise known as the “Giurlani Bunch”.

As you read the many accomplishments listed in the resolution, you’ll recognize the value of their many contributions to the ACHS. *Thank you very*

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani did collaborate with Larry Cenotto to present a work plan to rehabilitate the Brown House, known as the Amador County Museum, to minimum earthquake standards, to the Amador County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani served as President of the Society in 2013 and 2014; and

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani did, along with the Giurlani Bunch perform the necessary rehabilitation for free during their infrequent spare moments; and

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani did along with the Giurlani Bunch and friends participate in cleaning, repairing, and organizing the exhibits and painting the entire inside and out of the Brown House; and

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani did repair or cause to be repaired at minimal cost to the Society the museum sewer lines; and

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani and friends did design and construct from the bare ground up a new ADA compliant bathroom in a former storage shed, including new plumbing, water lines, hot water heater, heating and lights; and

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani and the Giurlani Bunch and friends made a useable office from a once artifact filled, and un-insulated and drafty room in the Cottage; and

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani and the Giurlani Bunch have gently persuaded members of the community to volunteer their time and labor to sheetrocking, plumbing, sewer cleaning, concrete work, ADA work, painting, etc.

WHEREAS Phillip Giurlani and the Giurlani Bunch have generously donated the cost of several Annual Dinners and other smaller events to the Society, in addition to providing rent free space for these events, thus allowing for the Society to receive 100% of the income for their treasury.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Amador County Historical Society, that a special resolution be adopted in recognition of the contributions provided by the Giurlani Family.

Sutter Creek Fire History Project

One of the primary projects of the history project is to recreate Sutter Creek's first fire truck that was built by local mechanics on a 1920s Dodge Brothers chassis.

The Sutter Creek Fire Department History Project is restoring and recreating vintage fire equipment used in the Mother Lode for the last 150-plus years. Your donation will help preserve and develop these historic displays.

Your donation to support the Fire History Project may be sent to:

Sutter Creek Volunteer Fire Department
PO Box 365
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

SCVFD non-profit, 501(c)4 | ID # 94-2802908

Amador County Historical Society - 2015 Member Events

- *Saturday, Sept. 19 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Wine & Cheese at the Museum*
- *Sunday, Nov. 8th - 4:30 p.m. - Dinner & Speaker at Teresa's Restaurant*

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Amador Central Railroad - 2015 Events

- *2nd Saturday of each month (weather permitting) - Work Day & Inspection Run*
- *Monday, Oct. 12 - Annual History Run*

OREGON~CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



ACHS member, Fourth Generation Californian and Jackson native, Frank Tortorich, Jr., is playing a large role in the 33rd Annual National Convention for the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA). It is being held September 21-25, 2015, at Harveys, Stateline, Nevada.

You do not have to be a member of OCTA to register for the convention. The public is most welcome.

This year's theme is *A Bonanza of Trails - The California Emigrant Trail and Cutoffs*. There are 2- & 4-wheel drive preconvention tours and hikes; all-day bus tours to Donner Memorial State Park - Truckee River Route, to Carson River Route - Johnson Cutoff Loop (Frank Tetrarch is guide on one bus), and third choice to Coloma, the gold discovery town – Placerville with its El Dorado County Historical Museum; Hike both the Hawley Grade/Luther Pass trails.

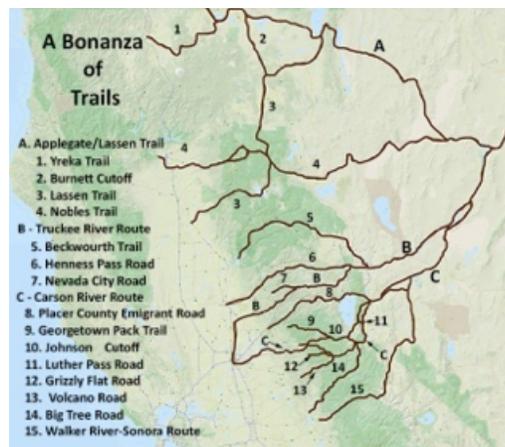
Other activities include presentations on fur traders, pioneer women, the Carson River Route (Frank Tortorich), J. Goldsborough Bruff, Sutter's Fort, Nisenan Indians, Donner-Reed Wagon Party, and the history of people and places on and along the California Trail and its opening and its cutoffs. Add to all that, workshops, special events, book vendors, Authors' Night, exhibits and more.

This year's host is the California-Nevada Chapter. It is one of 11 chapters of OCTA, an organization dedicated to the preservation, appreciation, and enjoyment of all transmigration trails to the west; the trails that made the United States an ocean-to-ocean nation.

For more information visit the chapter website www.canvocta.org for more information, registration booklet, and you can even register online.

Or contact Frank for further information at 209.296.7242 or ftortorich@volcano.net

Like us on Facebook at CA-NV OCTA for updates on convention



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.

The Amador County Historical Society

invites you to a

Wine & Cheese Tasting Fundraiser

September 18, 2015

6 pm - 8 pm

at the

Amador County Museum

225 Church Street, Jackson

\$15 per person

Raffle

Silent Auction

Live Music by Carpe Duo



Proceeds to benefit the Amador County Museum



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 _____

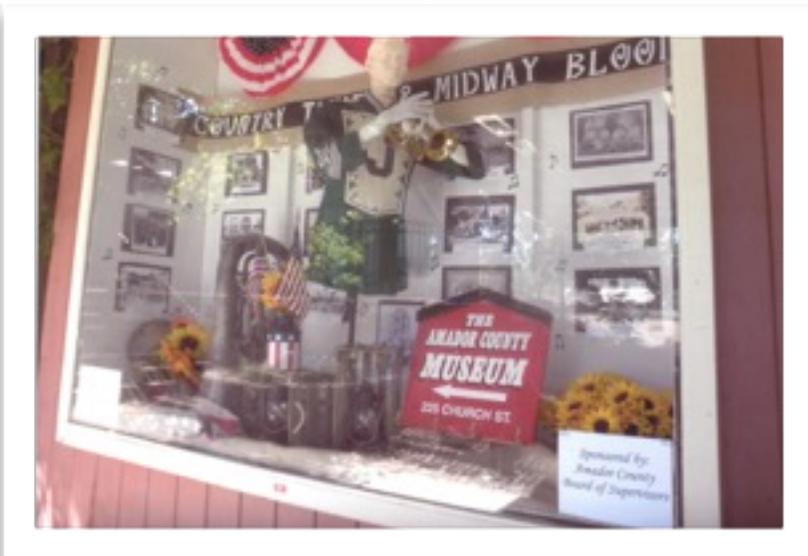
Phone _____ Email _____

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 _____



ACHS Exhibits at County Fair

The picture on the left reflects the outstanding effort from volunteers Teresa and Jim Guidi; Jim Norris; Bonnie Rose and Georgia Fox.

Thank you all for a great job!

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P. O. Box 761
Jackson, CA 95642

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