



AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

KENNEDY TAILING WHEELS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP EVENT

Sunday, September 16, 2012 was a typical California Indian Summer day - glorious from beginning to end.



We gathered at Wheel #4 where Larry Cenotto, filling in as MC for ACHS President Gary Reinoehl, introduced Keith Sweet who told us all about the improvements that will soon be realized at both the View Overlook on the 49 and at the park on Jackson Gate Road. Then we walked across the street and marveled at the structure of Wheel #1 looming above us as Ed Arata told us about the accomplishments of his grandfather, Elbridge Post, in achieving the task of constructing the wheels and keeping them operating 24 hours, 7 days a week from 1914 until 1941. Each day, this operation moved 30 tons of slurry, tailing debris and water, through a series of 4 identical wheels and flumes from the Kennedy mine to across the road where the slurry was deposited on the Oro de Amador property, as it is now called.



Following that bit of nostalgic history, Bill Miller of the Kennedy Mine Foundation afforded us the unusual opportunity of walking the length of the Massa tunnel in hard hats, flashlights in hand. We were awed by the obvious effort of digging a 126 foot tunnel through solid rock with nothing but hammers and pickaxes for tools. As we walked inside, we felt the temperature drop almost immediately from the 92 or so outside the tunnel to the 55 or so inside. It was an experience.

Then, we proceeded through the nearby gate to Teresa's Place where we enjoyed pleasant folk music as rendered by Olia and Andy Fahrenwald, background for lively conversation in the ambiance of a lovely backyard BBQ. As usual, Phil outdid himself at the grill and the food was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, we did not have much of a turnout for this very special event, for whatever reason. Maybe we should consider sending a bus around to pick people up to get them out for this kind of event. But, our speakers and others did an outstanding job and we all enjoyed a really splendid



REMEMBERING LARRY CENOTTO

His preface to Vol. V - Logan's Alley

This volume five ends the series named Logan's Alley whose first volume appeared in 1988 or 16 years ago. But this series' writings, however, date back to 1971 when this fledgling local historian began a column by the same name in the old Amador Dispatch, then published by Dan Barnett. That date followed the writer's local debut as an Amador historian in 1966 while writing and reporting for the Sacramento Bee. In sum, forty years writing and publishing Amador history. Hence, a fitting year for the fifth and final volume. Saying goodbye to Logan's Alley, however, doesn't mean the writer has ended his love affair with Amador history, the researching and telling of it, and the periodic publishing of it. He has other projects in mind. So many in fact, that he dare not be specific for fear of not fulfilling the promise.

Local historians, unlike their academic betters, do not attempt to draw profound general lessons from the myriad incidents and personages that make up their local histories. They're content and useful to let readers know that certain events did happen here - some significant - and to give some salient facts about the events. Still, the writer is pleased that in Logan's Alleys' pages, the reader for the first time, found out about the existence and longevity of John Sutter's pre-gold rush logging camp called Pine Woods, about the awful lynch party known as the Rancheria massacre, and about this legend named Begovich in a mini-biography of the late public servant and war hero. He also is content that history finally got a factual account of the "Celebrated Jumping County Seat of Calaveras County", and learned the facts about the formation of Amador County and its comic-opera split from Calaveras in 1854. While the legend was outlandish, the truth proved even more bizarre. In sum, the writer believes future local historians now have a working base from which to create tomorrow's histories.

The history within these volumes serves no purpose if not used in our everyday living. Countless times, one can read fanciful and foolish facts about houses, buildings, celebrations, anniversaries, as if the truth weren't available. Sponsors of such events blithely employ the readily available hearsay or myth and don't bother to research or ask someone to look it up or even consult someone who may know. For the few who care, these books and others await in the county and individual libraries to let you know what really happened. Having failed at so many things during his three score and 15 years, the writer can look at five volumes of Amador historical writings on his shelf with some satisfaction. At minimum, they certainly help him; he can't possibly remember all that

afternoon in our own MotherLode.

**GENERAL MEETING – OFFICE OPEN
HOUSE CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS, November
23 & 24**

Come in any time from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. and see our new location at 148 Main St. during Jackson's festival on Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. The office has a wonderful display of old photos and memorabilia. We'll also be having a wine raffle of offerings from Amador vintners for which you can purchase tickets but do not need to be present to win.



We'll call the winners and you can come in later to pick up your wine. We'll have refreshments and plenty of stimulating history discussions with some of our local historians available to exchange stories and anecdotes. We are particularly interested in collecting anecdotes about Amador's oldest families because our January fund-raising dinner will be our first annual event to commemorate our pioneer families. So, mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 26, 2013.

information or where to find it. Who to thank? So many from the late Mitch Sheridan of the Bee, Barnett, Ledger Dispatch editor Joe Evans, a spouse or two who endured my pecking away at typewriters and computers, and other editors and publishers and printers who tolerated these writings. And you, the Reader. Without you, what's a history book for?

Someone let me know recently that there's a lane upcountry named Logan's Alley! Dam, not so fast. It was named after a family member! Until we meet again, dear Reader, remember it matters not who gets it right, but that we get it right.

The Society has lost a great friend who has passed from us suddenly and without warning. We will mourn his passing but remember him for his dedication to the Society and for the very large legacy of years of research into the history of this County and its people