

LAS PLUMAS

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How We Wound Up With A Museum!

In 1964, the Great Depression was twenty-five years in America's past and the affluent 1950s and early '60s had given rise to wide open progress. So, it wasn't such a far out idea that a small rural county like Plumas could have its very own historical museum.

Stella Fay Miller, a descendant of early Plumas County settlers, passed away in 1964, leaving a bequest that provided for the acquisition of land and the construction of a county museum. William Skaggs and Ward Ingersoll of the Bank of California were in charge of the trust fund, and until they found a suitable site and way for the museum to operate, they would not let loose of any of the money. There was enough money in the fund to acquire the property and to build the museum, but not to operate it. This prompted the idea to combine the museum with the chamber of commerce. Bob Moon, chamber manager, was instrumental in helping make the idea work.

The Plumas County Museum Committee found a site for the future county museum, and with the funding provided by Miss Miller's bequest, acquired a lot in 1965. Groundbreaking ceremonies followed in November 1967.

Construction began in April 1968 and by the week of September 19 that year the new \$75,000 museum became a reality. Chamber manager and the museum's first curator, Bob Moon, moved into the new Museum/Chamber of Commerce facility that week. An open house held on October 26, welcomed county residents to the new building, while a formal dedication ceremony took place on June 7, 1969. During the winter of 1968, displays were constructed, cabinets installed, and a sound-slide show for public presentations was developed. This slide show was created by Joan McIntyre.

So many people had a hand in making the Museum a reality; too many to mention in this short space. Yet all can be proud of the institution they have helped to create, and that we all hope will continue to grow in the coming years, even in the face of economic downturns.

This summer, Ruth Barlow submitted her reminiscence of the actual construction process of the Museum with us, something that will enlighten you about how the building came together. We hope you enjoy it!

Building the Plumas County Museum

By Ruth Barlow

“Invitation to Bid,” the envelope said, “on construction of the proposed new museum building,” in Quincy, California, with money and property donated by the late Miss Fay Miller. It would be built on the site of the old Kaulback home on the corner of Jackson and Coburn streets. The bid forms arrived in January 1968, at our new home on West Goodwin Avenue.

My husband Bill Barlow, and I, had started our contracting business three years earlier. Bill was eager to bid on a project like this. He discovered this would be a small but very sophisticated building, and meeting all the requirements would not be easy.

It is important to note that the cost of the property, the museum, and the Carriage House, (acquired and built at no cost to Plumas County,) totaled \$112,000. The Carriage House was a donation of the Native Daughters and the Native Sons of the Golden West.

Because of the traditional look of the building, some folks have assumed that the Museum is the original Kaulback house that stood on the lot. But another firm was under contract to raze that building and were working on it. Before it was burned down, it was said that they sold off many items as antiques, such as the bathtub, light fixtures, tiles, doorknobs and other hardware, etc., for the Museum, as part of their contract.

The plans called for pigment in the Museum's concrete floor, and for pressure treated, stress-tested construction lumber to also be coated in Albi fire-retardant paint. The framing was painted with this special intumescent paint as it was erected. The only place that could meet those requirements was Kopper's in Oroville. The roof ridge and the mezzanine would be glue-laminated beams made to specifications. Bill located the Summerbell Glu-Lam Company in Santa Rosa, and they agreed to give him a bid price to build and deliver on site when it was ready.



Magnificent historic old Kaulback home that was destroyed to make room for our history museum. To the right of it was a small cottage, and then the 1859 Goodwin Law Office.

Plans called for “piped-in music,” a new thing then, but the sound engineer would handle that. The buzz words were “hi-fi stereo,” and “woofers and tweeters.” It was so state-of-the-art, so modern! And plans included air conditioning, not necessarily a commonplace thing.

The steps on the north end of the porch would have electric elements in them to keep them ice-free in winter. Heaters were also placed in the diagonal front walk. Bill submitted his bid on time for \$75,000, as I recall. He was low-bidder; the contract was ours.

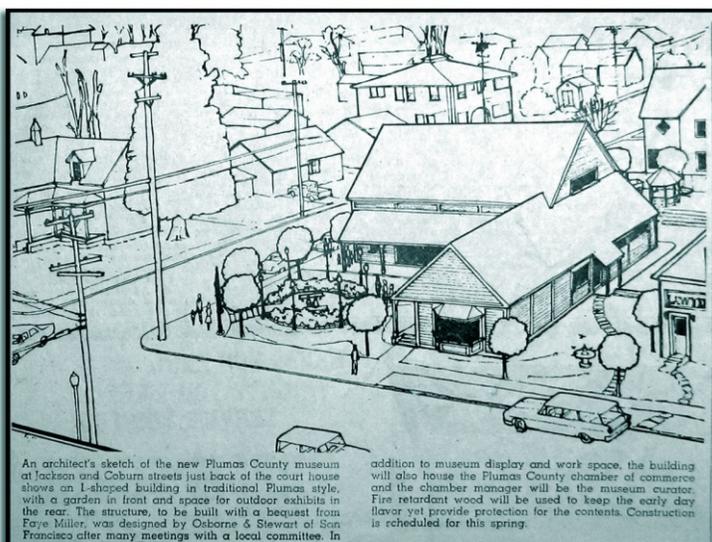
The architectural firm of Osborne & Stewart of San Francisco made a date to come to Quincy to meet with Bill, sign the contract, and go over the fine points of construction. They had become interested in the project through their friend, Taylorsville photographer Philip Hyde. Assisting them were Jeff Gold and Bruce Boyd, apprentice architects, now practicing in Nevada City.

Osborne and Stewart were young men in their thirties, and totally loved being in the mountains. Zachary Stewart had a sturdy build, black hair, and a short, black beard. He wore black jeans with a red and black plaid jacket. He could pass for any of the local lumberjacks. Dan Osborne was tall, with a slight build. His hair was blonde, and his clothes were dressier and more business-like. (Joan McIntyre was the sound engineer's name, but she was in town only briefly when the stereo system went in).

The men spread the plans out over our coffee table, our office was too small, and poured over them for days. I kept the coffee and sandwiches coming.

Ed Seeber of Ed's Hoe began site work on the property now cleared of the old house. Bill noticed that Ed was turning up old bottles; his equipment had broken many, but they salvaged several and gave them to the Museum later. The bottles were discarded from the home during the late 1800s and early 1900s, some of which were old Quincy Drug Store bottles.

Some of the bottles had been made with the words embossed on them. One bottle said it was “For the Cure of Constitutional Humors.” It must have wiped that scourge off the face of the earth. I have never known anyone with that ailment.



An architect's sketch of the new Plumas County museum at Jackson and Coburn streets just back of the court house shows an L-shaped building in traditional Plumas style, with a garden in front and space for outdoor exhibits in the rear. The structure, to be built with a bequest from Faye Miller, was designed by Osborne & Stewart of San Francisco after many meetings with a local committee. In

addition to museum display and work space, the building will also house the Plumas County chamber of commerce and the chamber manager will be the museum curator. Fire retardant wood will be used to keep the early day flavor yet provide protection for the contents. Construction is scheduled for this spring.



Bob Moon and Edna Lee.

Sam Avery, owner of Feather River Materials, Lynn Johnson and Johnnie Youngblood did the foundations and all of the special concrete work. Jim Santoni was the electrician, Jack McLean was the plumber. I can't recall the roofer's name; I thought Al and Wayne Barnes or Frank Davis, but they say no. I hope someone will remember.

Our son Gary drove our big truck to Kopper's in Oroville and brought back the special construction lumber. I rode along to attend to the business end of it. Our crew, headed by our good foreman, Earl Fischer, began framing. Local men who worked for us included Duane and Ivan Lambert, and Bill Penland. If you know someone who also worked on this building, let me know. I would like to add them to the list.

Howard Rehme was the painting contractor, assisted by Ernie Kane, whose wife ran the Ten-2 Tavern in Meadow



The fir tree was a symbol of good luck.



Bill Barlow (in hat) confers with crew.



Winnie Schott, Ruby Jeskey, Mary Lou Ogren and her two children, Mary Dunn, Grace Seeber, Frances Gard, Alta Lee.

Valley, and by Max Knadler from Blairsden. Howard later quit as a painting contractor and worked for the County Assessor's office. Max worked out of the County Sheriff's office.

Summerbell Glu-Lam was nervous; they were sending a young driver up the canyon with an overly-long ridge piece, plus the beams for the mezzanine on his truck.

He had an unfamiliar long, winding mountain road with tunnels, bridges, and underpasses to negotiate. Could he do it? Would there be a crane to off-load onto the roof? They expected he could reach Quincy by 2 p.m. Finally, would there be the *big check* ready to give to the driver?

At 2 p.m. on the scheduled day, the driver arrived without incident, and probably was greatly relieved to see a huge crane by the building. About two hours later, the ridge piece and the mezzanine walls were in place, the check handed to him, and he started back for Santa Rosa..

The painters struggled with the burlap designed to go on certain wall areas, to keep it straight and to get it to pass the architect's inspection. Painting the high walls was a cinch by comparison. We took advantage of their extension ladders to



Summer of 1968.

wash the big windows inside and out. My sons Gary, and high-schoolers Bill, and Randy were my crew as we shined the windows, vacuumed, removed paint and Spackle® off of everything. We cleaned up all our construction sites; they were used to it. The Museum was done.

The dedication ceremony was held on June 7th 1969. The lady heading up the event was Margaret Mason, wife of Buster Mason. They lived near Sloat. It was a true home-town party with Boy Scout Troop 67, Bruce Bidwell, and Rev. Robert Tanner participating. John Robinson of the Placer County Historical Society in Auburn delivered the dedication address. William Skaggs, trust officer of the Bank of California presented memorial plaques for the buildings.

Tall, lanky dark-haired Link Peckinpah, sixtyish, former head of the Plumas County Chamber of Commerce, was the emcee. Edna Lee, owner of the Town Hall Theater, accompanied Link to the event. A crowd of locals including Philip Hyde, Bob Moon, Norma Carr, Mary Dunn, Frances Gard, Fern Jensen, Marguerite Bates, Leolla Schott, and Ray Miller also attended.

After a few short speeches, Duke Aaserude and David Adrian, Quincy High School teachers and Clampers, did their thing: Firing of the Anvil. They set the anvil near the corner sidewalk, loaded some explosives on, another anvil on top, then detonated it. The blast was so loud; it was memorable, all right!



Late summer, 1968.



L to R: Philip Hyde, Fern Jensen, Duke Aaserude
Mary Dunn, Marguerite Bates, Frances Gard,
Leolla Schott and Ray Miller.

I saw one of the ladies of the society in charge, come out the Museum door. Her white hair in a cloud around her head, her dark-rimmed glasses shining, she wore a grey print silk dress, straight to below the hips, then soft pleats came to below her knees. Her stylish shoes had pencil-thin high heels. She was slender, lovely.

She started down the diagonal front walk, then stepped over onto the lawn. Apparently, one of the thin heels slid into a hole between pieces of the sod in the new lawn. She flipped completely head over heels and came to rest sitting upright, her glasses askew, one shoe missing, her legs spread widely apart. But her pleated skirt demurely covered her knees and lay flat on the grass between her legs. Perfect! Rex Reid and another man rushed to pick her up. Nothing was injured but her pride.

There were no bands that played, no one who sang. But for the ladies whose group had been charged with having the Plumas County Museum built, it was truly a day of accomplishment!

The Carriage House

As part of the project, Bill was asked to give Osborne & Stewart a price to build a "Carriage House" beside the Museum. It was not put out to bid; they were satisfied to go with Bill's work. The price was around \$12,000.

The bell that had been in the original county courthouse would go into the unique belfry atop the new Carriage House.

After our contracts were completed, Osborne & Stewart gave us this surprising information: The invitation to bid on the Museum had been sent to twenty-one local contractors in Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra counties. Bill was the only one who tendered a bid. They thought his price was excellent, and the construction was completed smoothly and a bit ahead of schedule.

Barlow Construction is proud to have built the Plumas County Museum buildings, and watched the excellent Museum itself come into being to the delight of so many locals, and tourists, as well.

A New Building at the Museum

The water tank and wagon and the horse-drawn sleigh are now residing in the new wagon shed. With the help of wagon train masters Charlie Brown, Mike Kroencke, Chuck Leondhardt, Bruce Robbins, and John Walker, the wagon was safely rolled into its new home where it will be out of the weather for the first time in a century.



Museum's new pole barn well under way last summer.

2010 First Peoples' Culture Day



Lorena Gorbet shares her knowledge of the Maidu.



Third graders from Quincy Elementary enjoy a nutritious natural lunch at the First People's Day.

October 5 - 8, 2010 marked the Museum's sixth annual First Peoples' Culture Day activities held at four locations throughout the county. Aimed at teaching Plumas County third graders about the lifeways and culture of the Maidu and other California First Peoples, this year's event, despite some inclement weather, was a resounding success. Schoolchildren from Chester, Greenville, Taylorsville, Portola, and Quincy learned valuable lessons about Maidu beliefs, language, stories and legends, history, and life skills through engaging fun-filled hands-on activities, such as archery, an All Relations NatureWalk, acorn processing, and doll and bullroarer making, while the values of sharing and community were taught with a lunchtime experience in which natural food brought by the students was shared by all.

First Peoples' Culture Day is an important part of the Museum's Educational outreach and all activities tie in with the Social Science standards of third grade teachers. We give a big thank you to Ginger Gramm (the Museum's Education Committee chairperson) for once again organizing this event, Lorena Gorbet (Mountain Maidu elder, educator, and culture keeper), for bringing her expertise and knowledge of the Mountain Maidu people, and the many parents, teachers, and community volunteers that helped present this program to the children of Plumas County.

Check Out the Courthouse & Library Displays

The Museum maintains two display cases in the lobby of the Plumas County Courthouse in Quincy, and one in the Greenville Library. The exhibits in these cases are changed periodically to reflect upcoming events, changing seasons, or historical happenings. As these are smaller and change more frequently than the exhibits in the Museum, we are able to do displays on a wide variety of subjects. Be sure to check out the displays in the Courthouse lobby and the Greenville Library - you'll be glad you did!

Haunts, Spectres, and Mysterious Creatures of Plumas County



On the evening of October 29th a small crowd of festive souls braved the chilly autumn night air to gather on the lawn of the Museum's historic 1878 Variel Home to hear ghostly stories and legends of the strange, macabre, and fearsome of Plumas County. Tales of history, mystery, and murder set the factual stage for the night's spooky stories of ghostly intrigue that explored the paranormal realms of Plumas County.

The Museum's Assistant Director, Paul Russell, kept the audience spellbound by accounts of ghosts, apparitions, phantoms, and spectres associated with such places as Keddie Resort, Paxton Lodge, downtown Quincy, the Beckwourth Trail, and the Variel Home Later, anecdotes about extraterrestrial sightings and encounters and tales of mysterious and fearsome creatures, said to be lurking in the dark woods of Plumas County, gave an additional chill factor to the night.

Special guest storyteller, Sherry Kumler, flanked by the grimacing countenances of glowing jack o'lanterns, regaled the audience with three short folktales that added to the supernatural spirit of the season, and while no otherworldly visitors made themselves known that night, the audience, warmed by a glowing fire, hot apple cider, cocoa, popcorn, and cookies, gave their enthusiastic approval for this unusual evening of *Haunts, Spectres, and Mysterious Creatures of Plumas County*.

Thank you to Sherry Kumler, Denise Russell, and all those who shared their stories in order to make this fundraising event a success! If you have stories or tales of strange happenings in Plumas County for next years event, please share them with Paul at the Museum.



Jodi Beynon as
"Birdie" Haun
Curtis Swingle

A Grave But Successful Occasion



Marilu Dillard
dresses
Nancy Gambell



Jeff Bryan as
Maj. James
Whitlock

A Grave Occasion, held at the historic Quincy Cemetery on September 18th was a huge success. We had the best volunteers in the world to make it a memorable occasion.

Terry Gallagher headed up the cast of eleven thespians who portrayed past Plumas County personalities. Terry became Ida "Billie" Hogan Gronvold, Jodi Beynon was Birdena "Birdie" Haun Curtis Swingle, Jeff Bryan brought Major James H. Whitlock back to life, while John Sheehan brought a whole new music sensation to the cemetery with his musical characterization of Arthur W. Keddie. Kim Carroll portrayed Elizabeth Stark Blakesley, Alan Levine, assisted by a flask, resurrected Judge Thomas Edmund Hogan, and John Probst told of the life and times of James Humphrey Haun. David Riley noted the achievements of William Winne Kellogg, Earl Thompson, though no relation, was John Wesley Thompson, and Tim Rhodes played Wilson S. Dean, while Susie Schutt, as Sarah Dean, did a fine job of reminding Wilson of his exploits. Following the main cemetery tour, which lasted just over an hour, a sumptuous dinner hand prepared from historic recipes was laid out by Nancy Gambell, with assistance from Elsa Thomas, Sean Conry, Jan Cook, Mary Edwards, Terry Gallagher, Ginger Gramm, Pat Holland, Gaye Porter, and Denise Russell. Fiddle music played by Leslie Mink accompanied dinner, and wine provided by Don and Nancy Clark, flowed freely under the direction of sommeliers Pete "Pickett" Dryer and Joyce "Lili" Dryer and their two friends. Later, Merilu Dillard of Authentic Victorian Reproductions, dressed Nancy Gambell in handmade period clothing, while "Lili" narrated the delicate operation, and the Footloose Dancers, under the direction of Eileen Cox, gave a short dance presentation.

A silent auction with items donated by various individuals and businesses, including the Plumas County Museum Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, Ray Nichol, American Valley Hardware, Emily's Garden, Quincy Thrift, and Pet Country Feed-N-Tack, produced some spirited bidding and brought a close to the night's festivities. Sound for the event was provided by Ron Trumbo. The *A Grave Occasion* event committee, Jerry Thomas, Charlie Brown, and Don Clark, extend their many thanks to all who made this event such a success and look forward to seeing you at next year's venue.



Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibit

November 6, 2010 marked the 150th anniversary of America's election of a little-known lawyer from Illinois as president of the United States, and also marked the informal beginning of the nation's five year commemoration of the Civil War which will start in earnest in April 2011.

Although California was, for the most part, far removed from the sectional debates and the fighting between Union and Confederate forces that engulfed the states east of the Mississippi, the Civil War did reach across the nation and make itself felt even here. California men were not immune to the feelings engendered by the Civil War and although

some did indeed travel east to join either Union or Confederate forces, the majority of those that enlisted here in California ended up fighting Indians throughout the southwest in modern Arizona and New Mexico.

Throughout Plumas County, communities and towns each had their own ways of celebrating victories and defeats, and while many opted to stay home and continue mining or farming, approximately 60 or so Plumas County men heeded the call to arms and under the leadership of Captain James H. Whitlock, became Company F of the Fifth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers. Others, like John James Haun, joined the opposition and fought for the Confederacy.

As part of the commemoration of the conflict's sesquicentennial, the Plumas County Museum is gathering information and artifacts for an exhibit exploring Plumas County's role in the Civil War. Of special interest for this exhibit are letters and correspondence, diaries, and stories written by those living in Plumas County during the Civil War - and especially by some of the men from Plumas County that served during the war, tintypes, daguerreotypes, or other photos of Plumas County Civil War soldiers, and even veterans medals, ribbons, commemoration programs, and the like. Also of special interest are any flags that were flown in Plumas County during the Civil War and any uniform, arms, and equipment that may have been brought home by Plumas County veterans of the Civil War.

If you have, or know of someone who has, any artifacts, photographs, stories, or history about Plumas County during the Civil War to share, loan, or donate to the Museum, please contact Paul at 283-6320.



Artifacts Donated to the Museum Since May 2010:

Barbara Barnett: Seven photo postcards of American Valley/Quincy scenes; *Chris Bolton:* WWI unit history book, booklet, and handwritten service records; *Gayle D'Arcy:* Photo postcards, 1931 Indian Valley Record newspaper; *Dan Derrick:* Photo album/scrapbook and photo "California Women in Timber;" *John Fuller:* Six holiday postcards addressed to Mary K. Leavitt and Mr. and Mrs. H.P. Wormley; *Estate of Robert and Marietta Seney:* 27 photos from Lester Yarrington, foreman of Mapes Ranch, Beckwourth area; *Jack & Margie Gibson:* Book of early California newspaper reproductions, early Quincy city map and business directory, 1985 Railroad Days program; *Ginger Gramm:* Various educational books, posters, handouts, and teaching aids concerning Indians, railroads, pioneers, California gold rush; *Jack Greenspan:* 18 player piano rolls in original boxes from Feather River Inn; *Jo Hazlett, Piedmont Council, BSA:* One BSA Camp Wallace Alexander shirt patch c.1950s; *Alvina "Zigie" Hedin:* Three Cub Scouting books; *Ken Henrici:* Two timber scales; *Norman Herring:* Hand carved walking stick c. 1923; *Alice Howey:* 1899 children's story book; *Nancy Humes:* 1928 photo postcard of Bucks Lake Lodge; *Bob Lowrey:* 33 matchbooks representing local businesses and politics; one nurses uniform, cap, and cape c.1960, one framed photo, various travel brochures, booklets, three world globes; *Richard Lungstrom:* Six photos of Blairsdan area; *Norman McQuarrie:* Brass eyeglasses and case; *Johnny Moore:* One three-ring binder of Quincy aviation history, 1930-1950, eleven three-ring binders of Sugerpine Aviator's history, 1950-2010, three large plaque boards with first flight photos, various flight instruments, gauges, manuals, maps, etc., one Piper Cherokee propeller, one wood relic propeller laminate piece; *Gerald Pauly:* Two framed resolutions awarded to Judge J.O. Moncur, 1950, 1951; *Plumas Dist. Hospital Bargain Boutique:* One large framed colorized photo of WWI soldier in oval frame; *Ken Roller:* Framed acrylic painting of the Spanish Peak Lumber Co. No2 locomotive; *Linda Thomas:* Fred Borden ledger c.1895; *Pam Trebes:* Two B&W photos of Eastwood Dam Construction, 1912; *San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum:* Historic Plumas County photo postcards and album; *A. R. "Dutch" Scoppwer:* One 1958 primary election sample ballot, one Indian Valley Record newspaper, 1958, 13 Feather River Bulletin newspapers, 1956-1960; *William VanDorn:* Three-ring binder with contents regarding the Galeppi and Mainetti families; *Robert & Pat Wagner:* Collection of personal effects of Douglas Redstreak; *Norma Wright:* Four large bowls and six small bowls from the Feather River Inn; *Yuba Feather Museum:* Photo album and loose photos featuring Sierra and Indian valleys ranch life, c.early 1900s; *Nancy Yeager:* Three carpentry jack planes, one cow bell, one dog collar, one pair of thigh rolls, tortoise shell toilet kit, small toy telescope picture viewer, liquor flask, shaving brush, Jeff-Johnson fight medal 1910, letter signed by Vice-President Richard Nixon 1953, letter signed by Governor Samuel Knight 1954; all from Harvey Yeager family.

Thank you to our Museum Volunteers

Marilyn Bergum for keeping the Museum open on Sundays; Mary Bird for her years of dedicated work beautifying the Museum's gardens; Marilyn Britton and Ann Castaldini for being such great Variel Home Docents during this past season; JoAnn Filippi for staffing the Museum while regular staff were off; Ken Green for being our Monster Candy Man during this year's Downtown Safe Trick or Treat; Carol Paoli for Museum research and staffing our booth at this year's Mt. Hough Ranger District Fall Festival and for museum staffing on various occasions; Jim Shannon for Archive filing and organization, and Kathy Powers for resuming our transcription of past Historical Society Publications.

The Museum was open on Sundays for the entire month of October, as well as the first Sunday in November thanks to docent Marilyn Bergum and directors Betty Folchi, Bill Tantau and his wife Sally, John Weddle, and trustee Jerry Thomas and his wife Elsa. The fall colors this season were spectacular, and the folks who dropped by were very happy we were open.

A Call for Museum Volunteers

In these times when Museum Staff is stretched thin, we rely on our Museum Volunteers to keep many of our projects and programs going. Docents have put in many thousands of hours on behalf of the Museum, and right now we have volunteers doing everything from landscape maintenance to archival research and organization, to article transcription and restoration work on our 1922 Studebaker truck. We thank our many volunteers for their continuing service!

With the departure of three of our long-time volunteers, Mary Bird, who has been our gardener and plant guru for the past 14 years, Chris Bolton, who has been our photo scanning and graphics expert extraordinaire for the past two years, and Ginger Gramm, who served on the Museum Association Board of Trustees for 15 years and headed up our educational outreach programs, the 4th grade Living History Days and the First Peoples' Culture Days, - we now have need for volunteers to take over the gardening duties of the Museum's front gardens and those of the Variel Home and volunteers to continue the scanning of photos in our archive files (Chris will continue to design and do layout for our newsletter). Volunteers are also needed to help staff our ongoing educational programs next spring and fall. Thank you Mary, Chris, and Ginger we'll definitely miss your presence here!

If you would like to volunteer for any of these projects or in any other capacity, please contact the Museum to find out what is available!

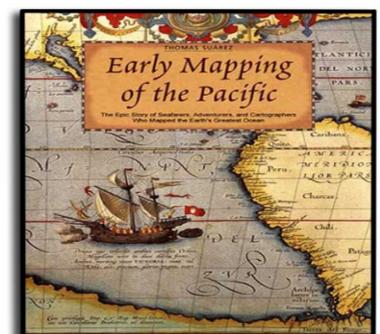
They Came, They Saw, They Enjoyed

The Museum was host to a variety of tours and groups this past summer and fall, including volunteers from Placer County Museums, who spent the day on a "behind the scenes" tour of our collection facilities, students from Lassen Technical Institute from Susanville, who once again participated in assisting Museum docent, Ray Nichol, in making various tools and hand-forged objects in our blacksmith shop, and guests from Plumas County and beyond joined us for a bus trip to La Porte along the historic Quincy - La Porte road. Golden West Travel out of Hayward also brought a bus tour through the Museum as part of their visit to various parts of Plumas County, and students and parents from Quincy's Waldorf school gathered recently at the Museum for food and fellowship before parading downtown and serenading local art venues with songs of light as part of their Fall Lantern Festival. The Museum also hosted groups from Butte College and Feather River College, as well as local Cub Scouts, Jewish youth summer campers, many out of town visitors, and, of course, a plethora of fall leaf peepers in their search for the State's best fall color!

Since the last newsletter we have had international visitors from the following 17 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Panama, Scotland, Spain, and Wales.

Along with visitors from every nook and cranny of California, we also had a large number of visitors from some 36 states: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

International Visitors



President's Message: *by Patrick Cook, President, for Plumas County Museum Association Board of Trustees.*

Since we began our concerted fundraising effort for the Assistant Director position, we have raised \$25,176, making seventy-four percent of our goal. We are very excited and appreciative of the support that our membership has shown since almost all of the money raised has come from you!

Although we are close to our goal, we still need to keep up our effort to raise the remaining \$9,000 as well as additional funding for ongoing expenses and programs. We know that many of you belong to more than one if not many charitable organizations and that you probably hear from all of them with the same message for help. In these tight times, we all have to dig a little deeper and try a little harder.

We hope that you took the time to read the cover story submitted by Ruth Barlow on the construction of the Museum. It illustrates the selflessness and community spirit that went into making YOUR museum a reality. If it were not for dedicated and visionary folks, like you, we would not have the historical showplace of northern California that we can be so proud of today.

Enclosed is a membership renewal form that we hope you will fill out and send back right away. If your membership is current, we would like to ask you to find a friend or relative to enlist as a member, or perhaps make them a member as a holiday gift.

Along with memberships, any donation you can make is also greatly appreciated. If you cannot make as large a contribution at once as you would like, we are happy to accept donations at intervals. Anything that you can do to help will certainly be put to good use and will go toward keeping YOUR museum open. And, remember, donations are tax deductible.

Wishing all of you happy holidays and the best of everything,

Patrick Cook, President

Director's Call For Action *by Scott J. Lawson, Director*

As President Pat Cook has noted, we need your help! It certainly gladdens our hearts when we see our supporters come in to enjoy the museum and when they make a contribution toward support of the museum. Support coming in through the mail is also a welcome sight.

We had a productive summer and fall this year with a huge increase in visitors for the month of October. For Sundays alone, we had 108 people visit the Museum, many of them "leaf-peepers" here to view our spectacular fall colors.

We can always use volunteers so if any of you reading this would like to pitch in and help with one or more of the many projects and programs we have going on at the Museum, please give us a call or stop by. We need people to file and index early records, transcribe local histories, accession artifacts, work in our several historical gardens, give tours of the Variel Home, fix broken artifacts, etc. The list really does go on and on!

In closing, I would like to wish you happy holidays, and remind to you please remember the Museum with whatever donation you can afford.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Lawson



Holiday Ideas from Our Museum Store

As one of our fundraising efforts, we are offering a high quality attractive beverage mug (suitable for hot or cold liquids) emblazoned with the Plumas County Museum's logo. This natural color stoneware mug, with blue lettering and image, has an old-fashioned look coupled with modern durability. We have only a limited amount of these wonderful mugs, so be sure to contact the museum and get yours now, they will make perfect holiday gifts.

We are also offering deep discounts on selected book titles (see the insert), but only until the end of this year, so be sure to make your selections now. You must present the coupon, or if ordering by phone or email, mention it, to receive your savings. The member discount of 10% also applies to this sale, so as a member, your savings are even GREATER!!!



NEW MEMBERS Since Spring 2010

Individuals: Sorrell Bobrink, *Chico*; Georgia Bollinger, *Chester*; Robert & Janet Cameron, *Berry Creek*; Eldora Duniphin, *Quincy*; Jill Hanna, *San Francisco*; Hugh Huntley, *Billings, MT*; Kim Kraul, *Quincy*; Dick Lundy, *Blairsden*; T. Mansell, *Poulsbo, WA*; Betty Jo Marshall, *Graeagle*; Mary McMonegal, *Quincy*; Wes Mead, *Quincy*; Joan Parkin, *Quincy*; George W. Poole, *Homewood*; Nola Robinette, *Quincy*; Jeff Rockholm, *Quincy*; Marcie Sheehy, *Graeagle*; Pat Symons, *Clio*; Susan Trost, *Portola*; Robert Wood, *Sacramento*; Sierra Wood, *Chico*; Norma Wright, *Reno, NV*.

Family: Frank & Lavoun Augugliaro, *Quincy*; Art & Nancy Bartlett, *Blairsden*; Laurie Beck, *Quincy*; Rick & Vonnie Becker, *Quincy*; Jim Biller & Susan Marie Hagen Family, *Pacifica, CA*; Aaron & Katie Bobrink, *Sacramento*; Annette Cate, *Reno, NV*; Mr. & Mrs. Alan Clark, *Moraga*; Edwin & Georgia Dunn, *Moss Beach*; Dan & Nancy Elliott, *Quincy*; Max Ekenberg & Susan Alexander, *Reno, NV*; Richard & Monica Glynn, *Portola*; Kelly Grago, *Chico*; Constance Hagen Family, *Pacifica*; James & Joan Herndon, *Quincy*; Dave & Sandy Hopkins, *Cool*; Marilyn Irish & Londa Lehman, *Quincy*; Larry & Glory Kellett & family, *Meadow Valley*; James & Sara Koskinen, *Quincy*; Ann Krinsky & Family, *Quincy*; Sam Lahey & Family, *Burlingame*; Derek & Marisa Lerch, *Quincy*; Dave & Bev Lindquist, *Vallejo*; Bruce McKay & Sharon Prodywus, *Quincy*; Bruce & Tina Mulligan, *Quincy*; Jim & Della Myers, *Greenville*; Eugene & Marlene Nelson, *Graeagle*; Warren & Thyra Russell, *Oroville*; William & Kathleen Schovajsa, *Paradise*; Joseph Stack & Nam Lee, *Newport Beach*; R.J. & Beverley Thielen, *Cromberg*; Bill & Sue Wickman, *Quincy*; Mike & Yolanda Wood, *Quincy*.

Patron: Laura Ashkin & Christopher Stanton, *Portola*; Duane & Nanci Benedict, *Portola*; Kathryn Hale, *Walnut Creek*; Darleen Lyon, *Quincy*; Loren & Pat Paule, *Lodi*; Gerald M. Pauly, *Sacramento, CA*; Jerry & Elsa Thomas, *Quincy*; Connie Turner, *Quincy*.

Corporate: Flanigan-Leavitt Insurance, *Quincy*.

Membership referrals:

Thank you to all of the following people who have been out rounding up new Museum members! We still need a lot more members to help keep the Museum open and available to the public.

Charlie Brown, *Quincy*, (3); Don Clark, *Graeagle*, (7); Don Dailey, *Quincy*, (2); Pat Kurtz, *Kailua-Kona, HI*, (1); Linda McDermott, *Quincy*, (1); Rachel Ochoa, *Quincy*, (4); Gaye Porter, *Quincy*, (3); Jerry Thomas, *Quincy*, (2); Jeff & Lynn Turner, *Graeagle*, (2); Renee Zimmerman, *Redwood City*, (1).

Memorials:

Memorials made in memory of a loved one are the foundation of the Museum's Archival Library.

The person's name and biography are entered into the Memorial Volumes and the donor's name is added to the Memorial.

Donations have been made in memory of the following people:

Memorials: Randy Beck, *Quincy*; Gertrude & Don Bleiberg, *Quincy*; Norvin Lancaster, *Quincy*; Elizabeth Low, *Houston, TX*; Mary Blair Lundy, *Seascape, Walnut Creek*; Bill Peters, *Quincy*; Herbert, Cora, Roma, Jean, & Mark Porter, *Twain*; G. Robert Woodruff, *Sacramento*.

Memorial Donations were made by: Phyllis O. Baldwin, *Boerne, TX*; Norman & Diana Jacobson, *Salinas*; Robert & Barbara Emert, *San Carlos*; Daniel & Theresa Giosso, *San Carlos*; Richard & Gayle Anderson, *Quincy*; Mt. Hough Employees/Sunshine Fund, *Quincy*; Ted & Betty Hoskins, *Quincy*; Orphie & Kay Pierson, *Quincy*; Tati Erickson, *Quincy*; Shirley Woodruff, *Sacramento*.

In Sympathy

The Museum was saddened at the news of the passing of Mrs. Jean Schoensee of Mohawk Valley. Mrs. Schoensee was a native of Plumas County and a fountain of knowledge on local history. She was a life member and a strong supporter of the Museum. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her husband Bob and their family.

Monetary Donations:

Up to \$99

Dorris Beck, *Quincy*; Rick & Vonnie Becker, *Quincy*; Jim Biller & Susan-Marie Hagen, *Pacifica*; David Brown, *Chico*; Robert & Janet Cameron, *Berry Creek*; Patsy Carpenter, *Oroville*; Arthur & Janet Cronin, *Reno, NV*; Evert Dale, *Redding*; Helen Dembosz, *Quincy*; Bill & Angela Elliott, *Quincy*; Richard Farrell, *Springfield, OR*; Larry & Patricia Fites, *Blairsden*; John & Diane Giller, *Quincy*; Daniel & Theresa Giosso, *San Carlos*; Constance Hagen, *Pacifica*; Jeff Kepple, *Quincy*; Keith Kermoade, *Sparks, NV*; Sandra Lee, *Quincy*; Dave & Bev Lindquist, *Vallejo*; David & Susan Lutz, *La Mesa*; Marna Markham, *Graeagle*; Diane McCombs, *Taylorville*; Donna McElroy, *Meadow Valley*; Barbara McMillin, *Medford, OR*; Wes Mead, *Quincy*; Jim Morris, *La Porte*; Rachel Ochoa, *Quincy*; George A. Poole, *Millbrae*; George W. Poole, *Homewood*; Tim Purdy, *Susanville*; Tom & Sue Rhu, *Sparks, NV*; Margaret Riffel, *Redding*; James & Lois Robbins, *Twain*; Elmer & Helen Roberti, *Loyalton*; Warren & Thyra Russell, *Oroville*; Elizabeth Schwartz, *Venice*; Nat Snyder, *Cromberg*; Kent & Lena Stokes, *Arroyo Grande*; Altalee Larison Stout, *Sacramento*; Doug & Carol Swift, *Verdi, NV*; Carol Tretten, *Walnut Creek*; Donna Vanderwagen, *Bullhead City, AZ*; Bill & Sue Wickman, *Quincy*.

\$100 - \$249

Hal & Cheryl Babb, *Cupertino*; Barry & Peggy Bailey, *Quincy*; Phyllis O. Baldwin, *Boerne, TX*; Nicholas Becker, *Paradise*; Sonny & Marilyn Bergum, *Quincy*; Linda Brennan, *Quincy*; Marilyn Britton, *Quincy*; Richard Carson, *Nevada City*; Stanley & Marjorie Chan, *Quincy*; Don & Nancy Clark, *Graeagle*; Dr. Haworth Clover, *Sacramento*; Bob & Mary Edwards, *Quincy*; Grant & Cynthia Edwards, *Quincy*; Dan & Nancy Elliott, *Quincy*; Richard & Barbara Elsken, *Quincy*; Bob & Barbara Emert, *San Carlos*; Doug & Judy Ely, *Quincy*; Tati Erickson, *Quincy*; John Farris, *Palm Springs*; Betty Gallagher, *Quincy*; Velma Gonzalez, *Hickory Creek, TX*; Bob & Sharon Gravert, *Sacramento*; John & Jeanene Hafen, *Indian Falls*; Ed Hampton, *Reno, NV*; Stephen Harding, *Graeagle*; Rebecca Herrin, *Quincy*; Marianna Hoolhorst, *Berkeley*; Ted & Betty Hoskins, *Quincy*; George Johnson, *Bellevue, WA*; Elise Kroeber, *San Francisco*; Pat Kurtz, *Kailua-Kona, HI*; Patrick & Camille Leonhardt, *Rocklin*; Laura MacGregor, *Chester*; Bill Martin & Susan Christensen, *Quincy*; George & Edith Martin, *Redwood City*; Steve McCallum, *Tigard, OR*; Lawrence Meeker, *Carson City, NV*; Calvin & Nguyet Mehlert, *Camp Connell*; Christopher Murray & Alison Youngs, *Quincy*; Vadney & Jean Murray, *Chico*; David Myrick, *Santa Barbara*; Richard & Carol Neville, *San Jose*; Joan Normington, *Placerville*; Susan Payne, *Greenville*; James & Sandra Pearson, *Susanville*; Betty Penland, *Quincy*; Fred & Nancy Pierson, *Chico*; Nance Reed, *Quincy*; Ruth Reid, *Quincy*; Michael Rodriguez, *Quincy*; Marvin & Norberta Schmidt, *Quincy*; John & Betsy Schramel, *Greenville*; Zach Stewart, *San Francisco*; John & Susan Strobe, *Twain Harte*; Bill & Sally Tantau, *Clio*; William Tate, *Portland, OR*; Jeffrey & Lynn Turner, *Graeagle*; Tom & Diane Uchytel, *Quincy*; William Van Dorn, *San Jose*; Millie Wardman, *Penn Valley*; Marilee Wilber, *Modesto*; Jay & Judy Wright, *Quincy*; Bill & Ann Zeller, *Lake Almanor*.

\$250 - \$499

Charlie & Jill Brown, *Quincy*; George & Judy Buck, *Quincy*; Chester Museum Fund (Marilyn Ormbaun, Marilyn Quadrio, Joan Sayre), *Chester*; Bill Crigler, *Raton, NM*; Jann Garvis, *Nevada City*; Charles & Margaret Goodart, *Quincy*; Kathryn Hale, *Walnut Creek*; Plumas Bank, *Quincy*; Elizabeth Lee Hills Robertson, *Santa Barbara*; Allan & Fern Shields, *Fallon, NV*; Joseph Stack & Nam Lee, *Newport Beach*; Valerie Vann, *Davis*.

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous, *San Francisco*; Cindi Beard, *Sacramento*.

\$1000

Bob & Ann Darling, *Blairsden*; Lawrence Ferderber, *Pleasanton*; Nancy Gambell, *Quincy*; Donald Guidici, *Vinton*; Andy & Joanne Hammond, *Chico*; Norman Lamb, *Greenville*.

\$3000 Plus

Orphie & Kay Pierson, *Quincy*.



2011 Exhibits on the Stella Fay Miller Mezzanine

Jan-Feb: Available
 Mar-Apr: Ryan Willis, "Inventive Creations" Mixed media, sculpture
 May-Jun: Available
 Jul-Aug: Willie Hyman, Fine Art Photography
 Sep-Oct: Available
 Nov-Dec: Malcolm Parkhurst, aka Xan, Paintings, Sculpture



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 Patrick Cook, Graeagle
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 Doug Miller, Chester
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 Open, Greenville, Indian Valley

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Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9:00-4:30 closed Sunday, Monday & Holidays



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