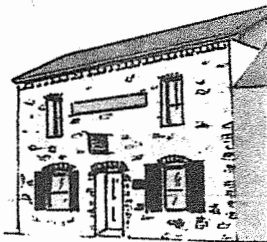


(Provided during meeting
by Kris Payne)

PC 11/10/16
#5
10 pages

EL DORADO COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



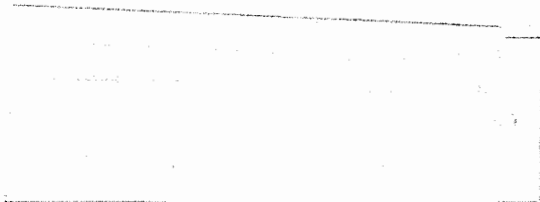
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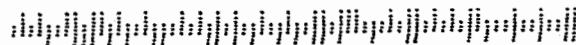
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OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2016



The mission of the El Dorado County Historical Society is to honor the people who came before us by rescuing, preserving, researching and displaying the county's rich history to ensure that its significance will be appreciated for generations to come.

El Dorado County Museum
 104 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA – (530) 621-5865
 Wed-Sat. 10-4 pm. Sun. 12-4 pm.
 Research on Tuesday 9-3 pm.
 By *Mary Cory, Director*

During one week in September, the world (at least the Gold Panning enthusiast's world) visited El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville! We had been anticipating the 2016 World Gold Panning Championships, held September 11 – 18, for years. Staff and volunteers with the County Museum started preparations two years ago by making a list of maintenance and improvement requests for the County Museum facility at 104 Placerville Dr. Working with the County Facilities Division, the Museums Foundation, Volunteers and Library staff, most of the items on that list have been accomplished! If you haven't seen it recently, notice the new iron rail fence (and the old iron fencing freshly painted to match!) The building's exterior has been painted and rotten wood trim removed or replaced. In addition, the wooden structure surrounding the front gate was repaired and painted. Grounds staff tidied up the garden areas, put down bark and moved some artifacts around for better viewing.

Newly painted and re-shingled Fairgrounds end of the County Museum (August, 2016)



El Dorado County Historical Society

Tailings

October—November 2016



Fountain & Tallman
 in the Soda Works Building
 524 Main Street, Placerville
 CA
 530—626—0773
 Open
 Wed—Sunday 11—4 p.m.

By

Marilyn Ferguson

LOOK FOR MARILYN'S COLUMN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE TAILINGS. SHE URGES EVERYONE TO READ KIRS PAYNE'S SUBMISSION ON PAGE 8 OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR AN UPDATE ON THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES.

These items mentioned help to make the County Museum look as it should – well maintained and cared for. Additional improvements really enhanced the visitors' experience. The first was rebuilding the Museum's Waterwheel Exhibit located near the front walkway. The original display's wood beams had rotted and become unsafe. County Facilities staff did a great job in rebuilding the exhibit and moving it to the other side of the walkway. Diamond Springs Crane moved the wheels, and also helped move the narrow gauge flat car into a safer space within the Museum Yard.

(Continued on the next page)

Dee Kobervig, a member of the Fair Association Board of Directors, reached out to us to make improvements to the appearance of the strip of rocky, weedy land dividing Placerville Drive from the County Museum's parking area (aka "berm"). Dee put together a landscaping design utilizing donated plants and Museum Commission-approved items from the Museum Yard. The result is an attractive and interesting garden that enhances the appearance of the facilities along this stretch of Placerville Drive: the Fair Gate, the County Museum, and the Veterans Memorial Building. And – the old County Museum sign was replaced with a new, brighter and much more "visitor friendly" sign.

The artifacts along the outside walkway were cleaned up, a fascinating display of decorated gold pans from Toulumne County Museum were put on display as was a temporary exhibit of everyday artifacts used by Gold Rush-era miners, Bill Gray's Mining History Days, and of course, the new exhibit of Gold Rush Era Clothing, described elsewhere in this edition of the Tailings.

During the Championships, the County Museum was open extended hours. We counted over 1,800 visitors, which included visitors from many countries and about 350 El Dorado County fourth graders! I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone – docents, research volunteers, Commissioners, Foundation board members, facilities staff, library staff, and everyone else – who helped make the County Museum such a nice place to visit!

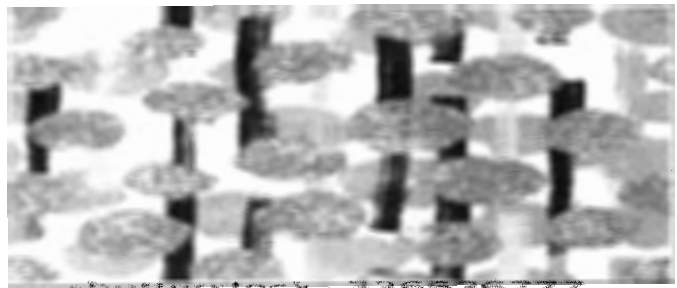


Decorated Gold Pans from Toulumne County Museum on the "Snowshoe Thompson" wall

YES! I want to support the Fountain & Tallman Museum and wish to donate to the Museum Circle with this tax deductible gift.

The El Dorado County Historical Society is a 501© 3 Nonprofit Corporation. 524 Main Street, Placerville, CA 95667. Telephone: (530) 626-0773. Please make your check payable to the El Dorado County Historical Society.

- ___ \$500-\$100 **Golden Circle**
- ___ \$250-\$499 **Benefactor Circle**
- ___ \$100-\$249 **Patron Circle**
- ___ \$25-\$99 **Friendly Circle**





A new exhibit at the El Dorado County Historical Museum called, "FOR FASHION'S SAKE - Gold Rush-Era clothing from the County Museum's Collection." was recently unveiled in time for the International Gold Panning Championships. The exhibit was curated by Heather Burnett, Mary Cory and Pam Hupner. Additional research was provided by Daniel Tirre and Carmen Wiley.

According to Godey's Lady's Book, the famous magazine of the 19th Century, "Fashion rules the world, and a most tyrannical mistress she is, compelling people to submit to the most inconvenient things imaginable, for fashion's sake." During the Gold Rush-era, 1848 to the mid-1860s, fashion was important to many people - then as it is now. Proper up-to-date fashions were known and respected, and were followed as soon as conditions made it possible, even though it was sometimes a year or two before this could happen in newly settled areas, such as the Mother Lode.

During 1848-1865, fashion went through some changes.

In men's fashion, the silhouette depicted in fashion plates was youthful, coats with a nipped in waist and an unnaturally puffed out chest, with dainty hands and feet. This gives way in the 1850s to a more square profile, with wider sleeves and pants. The sack coat, like the one seen in this exhibit, became popular in the mid-1850s, and is less fitted and so easier to offer for sale as a ready-made garment. For children, up until about age five, boys and girls wore the same type of everyday, loose frocks. Little boys graduated into pants, often times buttoned to a white cotton "waist" or shirt. Girls' dresses became progressively longer. The little girl's dress on exhibit shows the gathers and deep hem that could be let out as she grew.



The most dramatic change in women's fashion occurred with the blossoming of huge skirt supports, widened sleeves and flowing wraps. As fashion dictated fuller skirts, "cage crinolines" made with steel hoops became common and were more comfortable to wear, supporting the many yards of skirt and petticoats. Corsets changed from the long, board-like construction that flattened the bosom and compressed the hips in the 1840s to a shorter flaring form that allowed for a more natural shape and relieved pressure from the lower trunk by 1854.



Along with these surviving garments, photographs provide some of the best evidence of people wore. Photographs showing real people wearing the clothes they owned are in sharp contrast to the fashion plates popular in various publications of the day. These fine gowns, the linen suit and child's dress, along with the accessories in the round display case were saved and treasured over the years and eventually donated to the El Dorado County Historical Museum. "For Fashion's Sake" will be on exhibit until June 1, 2017.

Save the Date!

El Dorado County Historical Society Luncheon

Saturday, December 17th at the Cold Springs Country Club.

Buffe -Style Lunch Served at 12 Noon Includes Salad, Rolls, Vegetables, Chicken, Steak, Dessert, Tea and Coffee.

Cost: \$25.00

For Reservations, call Kay Murdock at (530) 626-7073.

Mail checks payable to the El Dorado County Historical Society and mail to Kay at 7220 Quartz Hill Road, Placerville, 95667 or drop off at the County Museum or the Fountain-Tallman

Museum. Deadline: December 12th.



*Join Us – Support El Dorado County History
Annual Dues*

Single \$20—Family \$30—Student \$5

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Would you like to volunteer? Yes No

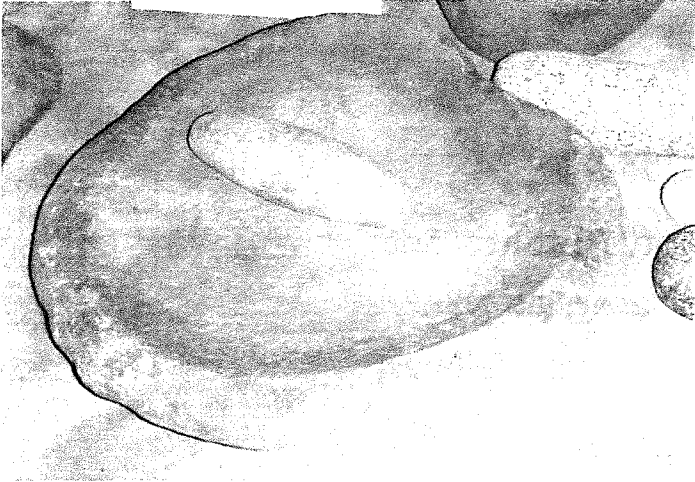
Mail Dues to: El Dorado Historical Co. Society
524 Main Street, Placerville CA, 95667
or drop it off at the
County Museum, 104 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667
(Wednesday through Sundays)
Call 530-621-5865 for information, and our hours

Donations To The Museum Came

Along with Some Interesting Stories

Compiled by Don Uelmen

Bill Putzke, the grandson of El Dorado County Surveyor Henry Lahiff, donated a grinding stone and three pestles to the museum with the following written information about the items.



Grinding Bowl and pestle

Henry Lahiff, my grandfather, homesteaded land in the Silver Fork area which is now divided by Highway 50. As a surveyor, he probably converted most of the land he acquired by dividing it up into summer home lots. This survey process led to the discovery of what I would call a "grinding bowl". He also located the exact location of the Sutter saw mill in Coloma where gold was discovered. Was the grinding bowl found in Silver Fork or Coloma? I will leave this to you as the jurors. In 1948, my mother's mother married Henry Lahiff. He was the only Grandpa my sister and I ever knew. He was the County Surveyor from 1910 to 1954 when he was laid to rest. He had snow white hair and mustache, he wore glasses having one eye, being mostly deaf he talked very loud with a Irish flavored accent. This notable artifact dressed up the fireplace area at their home. Granite often will slab off in natural outcroppings. If it fell some distance it can break up into smaller pieces. Maybe this is how this piece of rock became an artifact. Acorns and other seeds or grains could be ground up in its bowl.

I now surrender this artifact so others may enjoy a piece of world history left behind by Native Americans who were here before us.

Willy O. Putzke

07-04-16

(Second information sheet from Bill Putzke)

Sometimes things happen for a good reason. This must have been one of those times.

When I arrived at Silver Fork Elementary School, my teacher asked where the milk carton halves were for the printing easel? I said, "I guess my mom forgot to give them to me." She said, "After you finish your lunch at noon today, rush home and bring them to me, I need them for an Art Class at 2 o'clock."

Lunch time came and soon I was headed for home. I halted at Highway 50 before crossing as two CalTrans graders were building storm berms along the roadway. One grader would lay up a berm and the next grader would give the berm a level flat top. When the highway was clear of traffic, I ran across it jumping over the berm. As I did so, this grinding pestle caught my eye. I spun around in my tracks, picked up this artifact and took it home to mom. Then I picked up the bag of milk cartons and returned to school. I told the teacher what I found and it became a topic of 'show and tell' at a later time. I also showed it to friends over time as I was with the U.S. Forest Service.

I now surrender this artifact so others may enjoy a piece of world history left behind by Native Americans who were here before us.



HENRY LAHIFF

(1868 - 1954)

16-0660 Public Comment
PC Rcvd 11-10-16

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In 1888 Lahiff went to Bisbee, Arizona, where he was employed by the Copper Queen Mining Company. Later he went to San Francisco, then to various cities from Vancouver, British Columbia, to San Diego, California, and to Idaho. In 1892, Lahiff was with the Thompson Bridge Company of San Francisco. For four years he was employed on the construction of the large wharf for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company at Santa Monica, California, and he was the engineer in charge of the reconstruction of the Sutro Baths at San Francisco. Henry was also with the Southern Pacific Railroad in the reconstruction of the train ferries at Port Costa. After that, he came to the Mother Lode district of California, and was employed by some of the largest and most important mining companies.

Henry Lahiff married Miss Marie C. Renaud, whose father came to California as a pioneer in 1852. They had three children, Marie, Harry and Margaret. He was very popular winning the admiration and respect of all with whom he had come in contact during his active career.



The Election Day Swindle of 1856

by Lisa M. Butler

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On election day, May 17, 1856, the citizens of Placerville, fearful of fraud by the friends of Coloma, took precautions and dispatched two agents to every polling place throughout the county to ensure "that votes cast were votes counted". Colonel L.A. Norton, in his autobiography, *Life and Adventures of L.A. Norton* recalls: "That night before the election I was in Clarksville when a courier brought me a note saying, 'Hasten to White Oak Township; Constantine Hicks is preparing to practice a mammoth fraud upon the ballots of that precinct' . . . The note (said) a man was sent over from Placerville to assist me in guarding the polls."

Indeed, Hicks later jokingly confessed to Norton that he had contracted with Coloma to give them a thousand votes for which they would give him \$1,000. "You may as well keep quiet and let me have the money," he told Norton.

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Veteran's Day Nov. 11, 2016

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