

Welcome New Members

A Warm Welcome to our new members joining this past quarter! Our new members include: Charles Dayton, Charles Fowler, Carol Kaplan, Jane Kirkland-Bartley, Kathrine Potter, James Vanek and Kris Vasser. Our new business members include: Bestway Drywall Inc., Broad Street Inn, Ivy Construction, R&R Plumbing Works, Robinson Enterprises, Sierra Insulation and The Lamp Doctor.

Support Our Business Members

All Star Construction, Ric Caravelli
10254 Harvest Way, Grass Valley, 95949
(530) 210-6842 allstar@live.com
Residential & Commercial

Alpine Graphics
Laura McLeran (530) 265-6853
laura@alpinegraphics.net
www.alpinegraphics.net

B&C True Value Home Center
12032 Nevada City Hwy., Grass Valley
(530) 273-6105
"Open 7 days a week"

Bestway Drywall
1113 High St., Auburn, CA
(530) 823-6303

Broad Street Inn
517 W. Broad St., Nevada City, CA
www.broadstreetinn.com
(530) 265-2239

Carl Mautz
Vintage & Fine Art Photography
329 Bridge Way, Nevada City
(530) 478-1610 www.carlmautz.com

Chris Enss
Speaker & author
(530) 477-8859
www.chrisenss.com

Christopher Ward, Archeologist
(530) 575-7750
caward32@yahoo.com

Country Copy Print Shop
1200 East Main St., Grass Valley
(530) 272-4657

Daniel R. Ketcham,
Real Estate Broker/Appraiser
11693 Brunswick Pines Rd., Grass Valley
(530) 477-8056 ketchams@sbcglobal.net

Dave's Auto Repair, Jeff Perilman
747 Zion St., Nevada City
(530) 265-6706

Empire Mine Park Association
10787 East Empire Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 273-8522 www.empiremine.org

Forest Slopes Management,
Douglas Ferrier Cal. Reg. Prof.
Forester No. 1672 P.O. Box 20,
Dutch Flat, CA 95714 (530) 389-2617

Fur Traders, Leather, Sheepskin, Fur
233 & 319 Broad St., Nevada City
(530) 265-3300 (530) 265-3154
www.furtraders.com

Haley & Bilheimer, Attorneys at Law
505 Coyote Street, Suite A
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-6357

Hansen Bros. Enterprises
11727 La Barr Meadows Rd.,
Grass Valley
(530) 273-3381

Hooper & Weaver Mortuary
459 Hollow Way, Nevada City
(530) 265-2429
www.hooperandweavermortuary.com

Ivy Construction, Bruce Ivy
143-A Springhill Dr., Grass Valley
(530) 272-2135
bruceivy@sbcglobal.net

Jeff Dunning, Allstate Financial
426 Sutton Way, Ste. 116, Grass Valley
(530) 273-2292
www.allstateagencies.com/jdunning

Joseph Randall,
Electrical Contractor
P.O. Box 1376, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
(530) 272-7143

Moule Paint & Glass, Inc.
700 East Main St., Grass Valley
(530) 273-4643

Mountain Pastimes
320 Spring Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-6692

Nevada City Rotary
www.NCRotary.org

Nevada County Gold Magazine
(530) 272-3239
info@nevadacountygold.com
www.nevadacountygold.com

Nevada County Virtual Tours
Jennai Patterson, (530) 477-8334
nevadacountyvirtualtours.com
toursandvideo@gmail.com

Nevada Cemetery District
(530) 265-3461
tombstonend@sbcglobal.net

New Moon Café
203 York St., Nevada City
(530) 265-6399

North Star Historic Conservancy
Dedicated to the rehabilitation of the
North Star House & grounds.
www.NorthStarConservancy.org

Oustomah Lodge No 16
P.O. Box 428
Nevada City, CA 95959

R&R Plumbing Works
P.O. Box 2832, Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 274-7473

Robinson Enterprises
293 Lower Grass Valley Rd. #201
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530)265-5844

Rogers Picture Framing
210 Spring St., Nevada City
(530) 265-4248

Shine & Compton,
Attorneys at Law
131 South Auburn St., Grass Valley
(530) 272-2686

Sierra Insulation
880 Whispering Pines Ln. Grass Valley, CA
www.sierrainsulationco.com
(530) 272-7562

SPD Markets
Nevada City & Grass Valley
(530)265-4596 (530) 272-5000
www.spdmarket.com

Sherry Blair, Century 21
901 La Barr Meadows Rd., Grass Valley
(530) 559-3336
www.sherryblair.com

Sperry Van Ness,
Highland Commercial
11300 Willow Valley Rd., Nevada City
(530) 470-1740 www.svnhighland.com

The Lamp Doctor, David Boynton
Lamp & Fixture Repair
12555 Eat Main St., Grass Valley
(530) 477-5777

Treats - Bob & Peggy Wright
110 York St., Nevada City
(530) 913-5819
treatsnevadacity@gmail.com

Underground Gold Miners Museum
356 Main St., Alleghany CA 95910
(530) 287-3330
www.undergroundgold.com

JOIN AT OUR BUSINESS LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

and advertise your business here every quarter and on our website! See page 11 for membership information, or visit the website.

AN INVITATION TO OUR READERS

Authors and/or suggestions for topics are needed for future Newsletters. Members and non-members are invited to submit manuscripts or ideas for consideration to the Newsletter Editors, Nevada County Historical Society, 161 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City, CA 95959, or email: info@nevadacountyhistory.org.

AN INVITATION TO WRITERS

Are you an unpublished author? Or, would you like to share your research work on an historical topic? Our Bulletin Editors are inviting submissions for consideration in future Bulletin publication. Submit ideas or draft articles to the Bulletin Editors, 161 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City, CA 95959, or email: info@nevadacountyhistory.org.

Coming Events

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

are held the first Thursday of each month at Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty 855 Sutton Way, Grass Valley. Meetings begin at 5:00 PM. All interested parties are invited to attend.

SPEAKER'S NIGHT MEETINGS

For 2015 will be held on the third Thursday of the month at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room. **7:00 PM**

Come join us for these entertaining and informative, free programs.

THURSDAY, APR 16TH

Richard Hurley & T.J. Meekins will share Californians Fight for the Union, Stories of the California Volunteers..

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

Richard Johnson will share History of the Nisenan.

THURSDAY, JUN 18TH

Kathy Smith will speak on Mining in Smartsville.

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, MAY 1ST.

Museums open.
See page 2 for Summer hours.

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH

Searls Historical Library Open House Celebration.
See flyer insert.

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD

"The Annual Flea Market"
See flyer insert.



THE NEVADA COUNTY Historical Society

EST. 1944

Celebrating & Preserving the History of Nevada County.

Quarterly Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I pen this message in mid-March, I'm both thrilled and relieved to share the news that the lights just went on in the new Searls Library yesterday. A combination of talented subcontractors and a team of very dedicated volunteers have labored long and steady over the last several months to bring our new library to near completion. As construction is entirely indoors, weather has not caused any delays and thus far, our construction costs remain under budget. Financially, this project has been made feasible due to the combination of generous financial donors and a committed volunteers providing time and services. For example, Sierra Insulation Co. provided the entire building insulation free of charge. Moule Paint & Glass teamed up with Kelly Moore Paint to donate all the needed paint, and a team of volunteers then completed all interior lobby/exhibit area/library painting. It is this type of collaboration and support that is most commendable and must be recognized. See the flyer included herein for details of our planned Searls Library opening dedication ceremony May 9th. I sincerely hope you will be able to attend to help us celebrate our success of bringing this large project and undertaking to fruition. Similarly, Nevada City Realtor, Lee Good helped underwrite the cost of the newest edition of our Society brochure that is distributed locally. This brochure is made available to our local visitors informing them as to the museums and library we operate and invites them to tour. How about you - have you toured any of our museums recently? Searls Library and Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum are open year round and the Mining Museum and Firehouse Museum #1 opens May 1st. Stop by for a visit soon and share our success in preserving the rich history of Nevada County.

Daniel R. Ketcham
President - Board of Directors
Nevada County Historical Society
president@nevadacountyhistory.org
office (530) 477-8056

Editorial Board

Wayne Teague, Daniel Ketcham, Linda Jack

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Laura McLeran, Alpine Graphics

Printing by

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Executive Board

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Executive Secretary - Linda Jack
Treasurer - David Bard

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Finance: By committee
Fundraising - Ric Caravelli
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Programs & Events: Carolyn Jones-Rogers
Nomination: Daniel Ketcham, Wayne Teague
and Madelyn Helling
New Searls Library: Daniel Ketcham, Wayne Teague,
David Bard, Pat Chesnut, and Brian Blair

Special Committee Chairs:

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Volunteer Picnic: Wayne Teague
Affiliate Liaison: Wayne Teague
Sunshine: Brita Rozynski

Comments, questions, queries
or address changes to:

info@nevadacountyhistory.org

Nevada County Historical Society
161 Nevada City Hwy.
Nevada City, CA 95959

The Nevada County Historical Society
Newsletter is published quarterly.

SEARLS HISTORICAL LIBRARY

161 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City, (530) 265-5910
Open 10am - 4 pm Saturdays (or by appointment)

FIREHOUSE NO. 1 MUSEUM

214 Main Street, Nevada City, (530) 265-5468
Summer: Tue-Sun, 1 pm - 4 pm (May 1-Oct. 31)
Winter: open by appointment (530) 265-3937:
(Nov. 1 - Apr. 30)

NORTH STAR MINING MUSEUM

933 Allison Ranch Road, Grass Valley, (530) 273-4255
Summer: Wed - Sat, 10 am - 4 pm,
Sun, 12pm - 4pm (May 1-Oct. 31)
Winter: open by appointment (530) 346-6354
(Nov. 1-Apr. 30)

NEVADA COUNTY NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD MUSEUM

5 Kidder Court, Nevada City, (530) 470-0902
www.ncngrrmuseum.org
Summer: Fri-Tue, 10 am-4 pm (May 1-Oct. 31)
Winter: Sat & Sun, 10 am-4 pm (Nov. 1-Apr. 30)

BOOKS

161 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City
Desmond Gallagher (530) 265-6394
books@nevadacountyhistory.org

BULLETIN, NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Bulletin: Maria E. Brower (530) 272-2119
mbrower@nccn.net

Newsletter: Laura McLeran (530) 265-6853
laura@alpinegraphics.net

Website: Jennai Patterson (530) 477-8334
toursandvideo@gmail.com



Advertisement from the Nevada Journal, October 5, 1855. "First arrival of the Camel Train. Over the Plains-The quickest time on record. Only 12 days and 6 hours from St. Louis, Mo. to Nevada (City). A train of 15 Asiatic camels have just arrived under the direction of Kalib Rabbi an Egyptian camel driver, freighted in part with drugs and medicines, paints, oils, window glass, brushes, etc. for John Lark, wholesale & retail druggist. Fireproof brick, Main St., Nevada and for Potter & Crittenden, wholesale & retail dealers in books, stationery, also crockery & glassware, camphor, wooden ware and China ware."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, 2nd Quarter, 2015

Wayne Teague, 2015 Membership Director

The renewal process is coming to an end soon and last minute reminders have been emailed out. I want to thank you all for renewing for 2015, and for the generous donations; we appreciate the support. Donors and volunteers really stepped up this past year to make the new Searls Historical Library a reality. It's been a lot of hard work by many volunteers who have donated time, talent and treasure to make our 70th year an historic milestone. We now have a real home to enjoy and to grow into over the next 70 years.

We had several new members join in the last quarter. Their names are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Welcome to our newcomers! We now have over 400 members. Our new prominent location will give us better visibility and should generate more members (and volunteers). We would like to continue to add more members each year to help us stay strong and to continue the legacy of those members and directors before us (since 1944!) Can we reach 450 this year?

Our museums are all on their winter hours now, but that will be changing May 1. Mark your calendars to come visit our museums and see the new exhibits and improvements

From the local paper, *Young America*, November 30, 1853.

Submitted by Linda Jack

The commencement of the wet season with us seems to be but the signal for the more profligate of our youngsters, to indulge their propensities for dissipation. And they usher its dawning with nocturnal revellings and boisterous midnight orgies. Moderation "young men," moderation! If your degenerate tastes must take the muddy hue of the weather, and while everything else is soaking with water, you will continue to soak yourselves with whiskey - Why get drunk at home keep to your rooms, and don't make hideous with your howlings.

By following this advice you will save your boots - all the fences in town will stand the more perpendicular - and the more quiet among us find some repose "when we lay us down to sleep."

ARE YOU AWARE OF OUR BUSINESS LEVEL MEMBERSHIP? In addition to receiving the quarterly newsletter and bulletin you can also:

1. Have your business advertised in the newsletter
2. Receive an attractive certificate, suitable for framing and
3. It is now possible for you to have a link to your business website from the Historical Society's website

If you would like to enjoy these added benefits, just send a business card, the 'URL' for your business website, and a check for \$50 to:

NCHS, 161 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City, CA 95959

that have been made over the winter. If you would like to help work on museum upgrades, let us know; it is a lot of fun.

Remember; you can help keep our organization strong by inviting your neighbors and friends to join us. You can start by inviting them to our free speaker's program the 3rd Thursday of every month. Or, take them to see our Railroad Museum on the weekends (10-4), or to visit our wonderful Searls research library in their new location (1-4 M-Sat). The outside exhibits are open all winter at the North Star Mining Museum in Grass Valley; and the Firehouse #1 Museum will be opening in May.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our 2015 Gold Nugget Donors!

Dee Albaugh	Dan & Linda Ketcham
Dan van Alderwerelt	James Ketcham
All Star Construction (Ric Caravelli)	Bryce Lee
Back Porch Market	James & Debora Ann
David Bard	Lukenbill
B&C Home Center	Gage McKinney
Bert & Julie Barker	New Moon Café
Alan & Joy Best	Joseph Paulucci
Brian & Sherry Blair	Steve Pauly
David & Louise Beesley	James Popa
Judith Ciphers	Brita Rozynski
Frank Delfino	Floyd Sam
Robin DeNegri	Dave Tateosian
Al & Marilyn Dittmann	Robert & Sarah Trask
James Fessler	Betsy Tyler
Charles Fowler	Chris Ward
Marlene Fowler	Jane & Phil Yager
George Giumarra	Bernie Zimmerman
Bill & Joyce Haire	
Larry Hannah	

The Gold Nugget Donors listed above have made a donation to the Nevada County Historical Society in the amount of \$50 or more.

TREASURERS REPORT

Submitted by David Bard, Treasurer

I am pleased to present the financial report for 2014. Our Board takes its fiduciary responsibility very seriously and believes that our members and friends deserve to know our financial condition, which I am happy to report is sound. We concluded the year with operating profit of \$4,526 on income of \$106,183 against expenses of \$101,657.

Most of our income comes from membership dues and donations, although a growing portion comes from sales at the gift shops. Most of our expenses are from the operation of the museums and library. As an organization, we greatly benefit from the fact that we operate as an all-volunteer workforce with no payroll. Our museum and library staffs generously volunteer their time, saving the Society significant expense and allowing more funds to be applied to our programs.

The Balance Sheet at the end of 2014 shows assets of \$831,806 and liabilities of \$100,556, resulting in total equity of \$731,250. Significant portions of the total equity are the \$210,000 that we have invested in the purchase of the building to house the Searls Historical Library (the former Armory at 161 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City) and the \$119,055 we have placed in Endowment Funds with the Sacramento Region Community

Foundation. We have developed a budget of approximately \$155,000 for a new roof, gutters, and improvements necessary for the Library at the new building. Most of the funding for these projects comes from the proceeds of approximately \$143,000 from the sale of the old Searls Historical Library building at 214 Church Street in Nevada City. Many generous donors have also helped to make these improvements possible and will be recognized on the donor wall at the entrance to the building. We project that the Library will move into its new and larger space before May 9th.

Although our financial condition is sound, we continue to face a significant challenge in 2015 as we seek funds to pay for additional exterior and interior improvements at the new building. Based on prior experience, we are confident that our members and friends will respond to our appeals for donations in 2015 and allow us to continue to make the transition to an organization better able to serve the communities in which we operate.

If you would like any additional information about this report or any other Society financial topic, please e-mail me at treasurer@nevadacountyhistory.org.



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Ken & Arlene Siprelle

Submitted by Wayne Teague, Membership Director



Ken & Arlene Siprelle are the type of volunteers that all non-profit organizations yearn for. They give generously of their time and talents wherever and whenever needed. They are always among the first to offer help.

I first met Arlene when she was upgrading the modest gift shop at the

N C N G R a i l r o a d

Museum. I watched her transform the store into a beautiful inviting space with a wonderful selection of items related to railroads and the history of our local area. The store has become an important source of income to help support the museum. I encourage you to check it out (Arlene has recently handed management duties off to her successor.)

When the board of directors decided to have vests designed and made for the NCHS Board members, Arlene jumped right in and took control and saw to it that we ended up with a

product to be proud of. She even arranged to pick them up in Sacramento to save us shipping costs. Arlene never misses a detail; she's always dependable and trustworthy.

I met Ken Siprelle through Arlene. I recognized him as a regular jogger in my Morgan Ranch neighborhood. I was a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker at the time and Ken always liked to discuss home values. He knew as much about the current values as I did; another detail person.

Ken always seems to be involved with Arlene in her many projects. I see him at the Railroad Museum frequently; but he also offers to help with other historical society needs. Ken has recently given hours of his time on the remodel of the old Armory building into the new Searls Library. He's willing to put on his work clothes and get dirty if needed.

Ken and Arlene are always offering a helping hand at the many special events put on by the RR Museum and historical society. You won't find Ken or Arlene's names listed as directors, but they are a couple of the most valuable members of the society. The society couldn't function without these important volunteers. Thank you Siprelles!!

If you have time and would like to join in the fun and help to preserve our past, for future generations; please call our President Dan Ketcham at (530) 477-8056 to discuss the opportunities to contribute.

THE SOUNDS OF HISTORY

Oral History Submitted by Wayne Teague



I've heard old timers talking about the constant noise of the stamp mills which were in continuous operation for many years when the gold mines were operating. Younger people would ask; how could they tolerate such constant noise. The reply was that one just got use to it and they were glad that the mines were producing gold and providing a robust economy. If the noise stopped they wondered what was wrong. I started thinking about all the other "obnoxious" noises that we have learned to tolerate as part of our daily lives in Nevada County.

I've read that the sound of hydraulic mining monitors running night & day was extremely loud, yet folks lived in close proximity to them, i.e. North Bloomfield/Malakoff Diggins. Then there were the railroads that hauled the gold and lumber to market. Their whistles could be heard for miles. One can still hear the train whistle from Colfax in the Chicago Park vicinity and beyond.

When I moved here in the early 70's there were numerous loud sounds that are no longer heard. I'm sure many of you remember the sounds of logging trucks rumbling up & down the highways. When pulling a grade in one of the canyons, the engine noise would carry for miles.

A noise that I'm especially glad is gone is the nerve-racking sound of the loud fire whistle that would suddenly go off at noon everyday in downtown Nevada City. Even if you knew it was coming, it would still make you jump.

One noise that was "music to the ears" of some folks was the sound of car races at the fairgrounds. I could hear them 10 miles away when the air was still. There are many other high decibel sounds emanating from the fairgrounds that most people don't object to, such as music events, 4th of July celebrations, monster trucks, etc. The 4th of July celebrations are much tamer than they were in the early days. They use to set off dynamite, firecrackers, fire guns & cannons; can you imagine the noise? New Year's celebrations could be just as raucous.

In the sky we use to hear a lot of low flying aircraft out of Beale Air Force Base. There were huge refueling planes that would rumble low over the treetops as they were trying to

gain altitude. And occasionally there would be low flying stealth jets that would whiz by.

The old fire-bombing planes were a sound that brought alarm to all the rural dwellers during September fire season.

It was never a welcome sound. We would all run outside to see which direction the smoke was coming from.

There are many loud sounds that we still hear regularly; some of which we would like to have cease and others that are always a pleasure to hear. I love hearing church bells, football games at NU, baseball games at Memorial and other parks. When I'm hiking in the high country on some remote mountain top, I can still hear the traffic on Interstate 80 even though it's many miles away. It always raises my blood pressure when I hear the sirens of

emergency vehicles blaring. I know somewhere, someone is suffering. I never can seem to get use to hearing the gun shots from the shooting range in Nevada City. And my dog shakes every time he hears them also. There are mixed reactions to the roar of hundreds of motorcycles every December as they deliver toys for needy kids to the fairgrounds from the government center in Nevada City. And, we still have the continual sound of Hansen Bros. gravel trucks making trips to and from their Greenhorn Creek plant.

After living in the country for 23 years and having to make many trips to the dump/transfer station; it is music to my ears to hear the loud trucks from Waste Management picking up our garbage and recycling waste (however, they are much quieter now that they run on natural gas).

I guess we are always going to be bombarded by loud sounds from somewhere; but it is just a matter of perspective whether the noise is obnoxious and obtrusive, or if it is the reassuring sound of commerce and production providing jobs and income for our local economy.

I'm sure you can add other noises to my list that you like or dislike; and in 50 years local residents will probably have another, totally different list from their time in history.



Stamp Mill

News From...

NORTH STAR MINING MUSEUM Submitted by Rolf Laessig



Restoration of a 1924 Pelton Centrifugal Water Pump

The pump was located outside in the Mining Museum equipment yard for many decades. Since Pelton centrifugal pumps are rare artifacts, the pump was taken into the shop and completely dismantled. Unfortunately the original 5 hp electric motor was completely destroyed. Someone had tried to take the copper windings out of the motor which destroyed the motor without succeeding to take the copper wires out. However, we will use the housing to encase a new motor so that the overall impression of the assembly is conserved. One other flaw was a cracked spiral housing. The rain water had collected inside the spiral housing and upon freezing, cracked the housing. The housing was hard soldered to make the pump functional again. After a complete cleaning and degreasing with denatured alcohol, all parts were painted with a two component epoxy paint. The pump is presently reassembled. A special braided graphite seal material had to be ordered to reassemble the stuffing seals of the pump. When fully assembled, the pump will be used to drive a "Wonder Washing Machine" from 1911 in a closed water loop. We will report on this closed loop assembly in one of the next newsletters.

933 Allison Ranch Road, Grass Valley
Summer: Wed - Sat, 10am - 4pm, Sun, 12pm - 4pm
(May 1 - Oct. 31) Winter: closed (Nov. 1 - Apr. 30)
For Information: (530) 273-4255

SEARLS HISTORICAL LIBRARY Submitted by Pat Chesnut



News from "New" Searls: As I write this article, the new Searls Library is really coming together. Just this week, the painting was done, the lighting was installed and the first test of the new HVAC system was accomplished. Carpeting will go down next week and then we can begin organizing and moving materials into the room.

There is a flyer enclosed with this newsletter announcing the "Grand Opening" please plan to attend. This will be a celebration of completion of one of the largest projects yet undertaken by the Society. Come and see what all of your volunteer help and generous contributions of members, our local contractors and suppliers has been able to create in this once nearly abandoned building.

Most of you remember the "old" Searls. That was 650 s.f. of over-stuffed building with inadequate electrical, heating, cooling and lighting systems. Come see the 2400 square foot "New" Searls. We will have increased computer stations for the public's use, easier access to books, files, maps, County Assessor's records, and Immigration and Naturalization records, and all in the comfort of a modern facility. We are keeping the old "homey" feel of the old library while enjoying the modern amenities. Don't forget that we are on a large level lot with plenty of free parking just outside the door.

There is still much to do to be ready for the opening, but we are looking forward to it and to sharing the new facility with researchers and visitors. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.-Pat

161 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City
Open 10am - 4 pm Saturdays (or by appointment)
For information: (530) 265-5910

FIREHOUSE NO. 1 MUSEUM Submitted by Wally Hagaman



Using a band saw, he cut the medallion and the number '1' from local wood which was especially milled to meet the original dimensions. Jonathan Dowell (now deceased), a local fire department historian helped ascertain that the medallion was probably painted blue and white, the colors of Hose Company No. 1 which was headquartered at this firehouse.

We are seeking photographs, memorabilia and artifacts related to the fire department to be preserved and displayed at the museum. Photographs will be scanned and returned to you. We are also looking for any "old timers" who can help identify people and places in photos we have on hand. If your family was active in the volunteer fire department in the past we would very much like to hear about them. We are compiling a history of the Nevada City Fire Department From 1860-1950.

We are continuing to look for additional fire department items for our display. Please call Wally at (530) 575-1081 if you know of anything or anyone who might help us out.

214 Main Street, Nevada City
Summer: Tue - Sun: 1pm - 4pm (May 1-Oct. 31)
Winter: Open by appointment. (Nov. 1 - Apr. 30)
For information: (530) 265-3937

Our very earliest photograph of Firehouse No.1, taken sometime in the mid 1800s, shows it with a Greek Revival period facade. On the rail of the balcony a large wooden medallion with the numeral '1' can be seen. After the facade was changed to its present Victorian "ginger bread" style in the early 1900s the medallion seems to have disappeared.

Using the original circa 1860s photograph, the medallion was replicated by Jesse Brown of Nevada City.

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NEVADA COUNTY NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD MUSEUM Submitted by Madelyn Helling



As we look back on 2014, we recorded 5,593 visitors from 210 California cities, 41 states, and 9 countries and our Facebook also reflected interest from 9 countries. Our volunteers worked 16,128 hours at their various responsibilities to enable the visitor totals to happen.

During last year three cars (Tankcar #187, Loadingcar, and the Argent's Tender) completed restoration. Loggingcar #253 completed restoration in February 2015. Progress continues on Railbus #97. A major project is underway to re-gauge track (2ft to 3ft) from the Museum to the Northern Queen. For every re-gauging day, approximately 100ft of track is re-gauged. This work will enable a Railbus operation to commence this Summer.

We were again delighted to have New York Times Best Selling author, Chris Enss, introduce her latest book to the Nation at the Museum on February 21st. The book "Wicked Women: Notorious, Mischievous, and Wayward Ladies from the Old West" includes several women from Nevada County. During the book signing, Chris demonstrated the gambling game of Faro; many of the women of the West made their living from this game. We were honored that Chris, again chose the Museum to introduce a new book; this is the third time. You will find copies of this book and others in the Gift Shop.

Too numerous to mention individually are the comments of praise from our visitors regarding our docents. Also we are the recipient of many donations related to past history or of a usable nature for the Shop or for the library. We are most grateful for these enrichments to our operation.

5 Kidder Court, Nevada City
Summer: Fri - Tue, 10am - 4pm (May 1-Oct. 31)
Winter: Sat & Sun, 10am - 4pm (Nov. 1-Apr. 30)
For information: 530-470-0902
Website: www.NCNGRRMuseum.org