



MINERAL KING CHRONICLE

Preserving the Past for a Better Future

Mineral King Preservation Society Newsletter
Volume 31 Number 1 Spring 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! The new Mineral King room addition at the Three Rivers museum had a successful grand opening in March. I offer a big thank you to everyone involved planning, design, construction, set up, and operation of the Mineral King room. I encourage you to plan a stop at the museum on your travels to or from Mineral King; it is also a good excuse to get some ice cream at Reimer's.

The current focus of the MKPS board is the ongoing operation of the Mineral King room at the museum including cataloging artifacts, scanning photographs, and planning, set up, and periodic rotation of displays (The work behind the scenes that you don't ever see – just the results). There is a great need for volunteers to help with this ongoing work, even if it is only for a few hours once in a while (many hands make light work). If you are interested in the history of Mineral King or in preserving Mineral King for your children and future generations and can help out, please contact the Preservation Society

I look forward to seeing you at Picnic in the Park and wish you a wonderful Mineral King summer!
Stuart Hendricks, MKPS President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

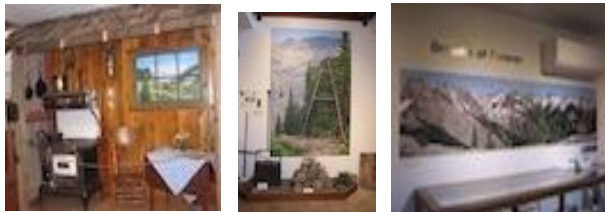
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CONTACTS

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Mail: P.O. Box 286, Exeter, CA 93221: **E-mail:**
preservation@Mineralking.org
Volunteer programs and artifact referrals:
Louise Jackson (559)561-3367: mtnlou@gmail.com
Web-site: www.mineralking.org

THE MINERAL KING ROOM

The room was completed, but empty. Now what? Slowly, the ideas took shape. Dave Phelps created a cabin facade using authentic materials. Jana Botkin painted wall murals to depict Mineral King's history and landscape.



Architect Gary Court, contractor Pete Crandall, consulting curators, designers, hands-on volunteers

from towns and cities both close-by and distant, all lent valuable ideas and spent uncounted hours helping with the room's set-up.

After months of collecting, scanning, copying, creating descriptive texts and mounting photos, the time came to put it all together. More people poured more volunteer hours into meeting the deadline—a grand opening on January 22, 2017.

Through it all, Three Rivers Historical Society's Tom and Dody Marshall, provided untold hours of help, encouragement and resources.

THE MURALS

On October 17, 2016, I began painting murals in the new Mineral King Room of the Three Rivers History Museum. Our vision was to bring color and life to the sort of room that is often full of browns, blacks and grays, and to tie together the past and the present, showing that although much has happened in Mineral King, many things are constant. Each of the three murals has its own story.

The old photo of the tower was so dark that we had to make things up, combining modern photos with what we know about the landscape. It took a few attempts to place a photo's missing leg and to have the steps rising to the top on one side of the tower make sense.

Several additions make it more than just another mural. I added wild blue flax in the foreground. Michael Botkin added a cable to help the viewer understand the tower's function, and Nancy Brunson made little ore buckets at the right scale for the size of the tram tower. The finishing touch is an actual ore bucket sitting beneath the mural.

The second mural is a view of Sawtooth, as if you are looking out through a window in the cabin

facade. This one is 2x3' to fit an actual window that I bought at a yard sale because it is my favorite color but never figured out what to do with it. I planned very carefully to make sure the peak of Sawtooth wouldn't be hidden by one of the wood strips on the window, and it was anyway, so I had to move Sawtooth.

Our last mural is a panorama of Mineral King as seen from Mather Point (to the west of Timber Gap). We spent a long time considering the size and placement of the mural, making it fit beneath the heating unit and over the cabinet. I taped the reference photos to the wall to guide my work and when one fell down in the middle of the night, it set off the alarm. My final touch to this mural was adding some little brown dots in the valley to represent a few cabins.

It was a pleasure to paint a subject I know and love, in a controlled environment with consistent lighting and temperature, all only 2 miles from home. Thank you, MKPS!

Jana Botkin

THE GRAND OPENING

Ribbon cutting, special Mineral King stories, food and wine, over 60 people on a rainy day browsing the displays, chatting, laughing, telling each other their own stories, gathering in the scenes and artifacts and overview of Mineral King's amazing history.



THIS SUMMER IN MINERAL KING

32nd ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK

Past, Present and Future

Stories of 31 years working for preservation.
Our MKPS beginnings, the Disney threat, legislation, and, most important—what’s next?
Told by MKPS members who have lived it.

DATE: Saturday, **July 22, 2017, 12:00 Noon**

PLACE: The Peterson/Davis cabin #16, East MK, at the north end of “Pogue Road” near the Eagle trailhead parking lot.

BRING: A picnic lunch, folding chair or blanket. Drinks and cookies provided.

ANNUAL CONCERT IN THE PARK AND HOEDOWN

DATE: Saturday, **August 26, 5:00-7:30 pm**

PLACE: the old dance floor in east Mineral King above the Eagle-Mosquito parking lot.

Enjoy an early evening listening to the beautiful music of Esther Zurcher and Keith Hamm, perhaps join in a dance or two, and partake of a light meal from 3-Rivers Subs and Salads. Open to all comers. Bring a chair for comfortable listening as well as your dancing boots. Call Michael Botkin for any questions or to help. (559)561-4322.

OUR PARK CONNECTION

Those who work with us.

Mineral King Ranger: Jessica Barr leads the team that man’s the ranger station backcountry desk, front and backcountry trails, parking lots, campgrounds, and law enforcement. If you have any questions, contact the Mineral King Ranger Station 559-565-3768
jessica_barr@nps.gov

Mineral King Interpretive Ranger: Marissa Reis, who worked at Ash Mountain last year, provides the interpretive programs this year and also coordinates volunteer campfire programs and walks. If you have a program, hike or walk you would like to lead, or can do a Sunday Alles Cabin open house, let Marissa know. Mineral King Ranger Station at 559-565-3768.

marissa_reis@nps.gov

The NPS/MKPS/MKDA/ monthly meetings continue. This winter, along with discussing and often solving problems and changes that affect Mineral King, the group has reviewed and updated the Historic District Standards. For copies, contact Stuart Hendricks, (559) 623-3376 or Denise Robertson (559)565-3105.

MKPS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Storytelling in the Mineral King Room

Every month, MKPS hosts a storytelling session that features a person, family or other involved entity who relates the history and/or personal experiences of Mineral King life. For more information or to offer a storytelling of your own, Contact Louise Jackson (559)561-3367. mtnlou@gmail.com

Educational walks in Mineral King

In July of 2015 and 2016, Michael Botkin, Louise Jackson and I had the opportunity to host a group of students from Western Michigan University who were taking part in a summer program called “Walt’s Pilgrimage” - a journey in the life of Walter Elias Disney from Chicago to California.

We took them on a walking tour of the valley and pointed out areas pertaining to Disney’s plans for the ski and summer recreational development. The students stopped in at the Honeymoon cabin and enjoyed viewing the information displayed there. Also we stood, in what is now the parking lot, exactly where Walt Disney gave a press conference in 1965. I had an old photo from a news story from that day for them to see.

This year the group from Western Michigan scheduled their trip in May so were unable to get to Mineral King because of the road closure due to the heavy winter snow pack. However they met at the Three Rivers Museum, where they were able to get a sense of what previous classes have experienced actually being in Mineral King.

On June 4th, Michael, Louise and I met with , Dan Blackwell, and Jessica Barr to tour sites of old pack station sites in the Mineral King valley. The Park is planning, in conjunction with Back Country Horsemen, to create an overnight area for groups to corral their stock and camp before packing into the back country.

The three of us have enjoyed sharing our memories with visitors we meet each summer. We have been privileged, like so many others with family history here, to pass on stories from the past and our own experiences of spending summers here throughout our lifetime.

Cathy Hansen Lean

THE HISTORY CORNER

Arthur Crowley was a 14 year-old boy when, in August, 1872, he first heard of the mines in Mineral King. He and three friends had gone on a fishing trip to Kern Lakes out of Porterville, and on their way home, in a blacksmith shop at Milo, they learned of the discovery of ore at White Chief. Two years later, Arthur made his first foray into Mineral King with his father, mother, and brother. They took a pack train from Three Rivers up the Kaweah River's untrailed east fork. The following account is a portion of an article Arthur wrote for the Visalia Times Delta in June, 1931, describing his memories of the valley's history.

In 1874, Mineral King was booming; a sawmill, two smelters, stores, hotels and other places were running wide open and everybody was already a millionaire in his own mind. The only thing that was thought of at that time was silver. It had a value then of \$1.29 an ounce, whereas it is now hardly worth stealing, being quoted at about 28 cents an ounce.

Soon after the boom of 1873, the camp was almost deserted until in 1878 when Tom Fowler bought the Empire mine from Harry Parole, J.A. Samstag and Billy Anderson. In 1879, my father obtained a franchise for the toll road from the [Tulare County] supervisors. Work was started on the 19th of March, 1879, and the road was opened the following Aug. 20th. He hired from 200 to 250 men for the grand sum of \$26 a month, and could have hired thousands at that price.

There were 100 or more outfits camped as far up the road as they could get, and as soon as the road was opened, a grand rush was made. . .

As soon as the road was opened, machinery began arriving for the 15-stamp quartz mill and the tramway from the mill to the Empire Mine. It was not long until quite a town had sprung up. All kinds business houses were opened. Several two-story hotels and a dozen or more restaurants were started and saloons were started everywhere.

Mineral King was first known as Harry's Bend and then Beulah. But when a mining district was formed, the name, by a majority vote of the miners, was changed to Mineral King, and it has been known by that name every since.

As soon as the road opened, three six-horse stages were started. One of them carried passengers. One carried mail, and one fast freight. Three stages left Visalia every morning and three left Mineral King every morning. Each made the trip in one day. There was a daily mail for a year or more going in by stages, sleds and snowshoes.

There used to be more snow in Mineral King than we have had for several years. One year the snow was more than 50 feet deep on the level where the post office and store are now located. In the state and county election in 1879 there were nearly 500 votes cast at Mineral King. There were nearly 3,000 persons camped there and in that vicinity.

My first trip to Mineral King was in 1874. I arrived there July 4, and have been there every summer since, with the exception of two.



Mineral King in the 1890s

PLEASE NOTE: ALL 2017 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE unless you are a Life Member. MKPS offers two types of Life Memberships – Individual at \$250 and Couple at \$400. If you would like to be a Life Member, please indicate your preference on the **enclosed Membership Form**. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER 501(c)(3) IRS ID#77017430

MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Your donations of articles, historic papers and photographs; donated time for filing, sorting, restoring artifacts; and funding for scanning and cataloguing archival materials, are appreciated. They are an important part of our MKPS offerings that we share with the public. Contact Stuart Hendricks, (559) 623-3376.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Adams, Linda
 Aldine, Charles R.
 Alltucker, Marilyn Pinkham
 Andresen, Robert & Elizabeth
 Barboni, Richard
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 Bennett, Thiry Gail
 Bree, Donn, PhD
 Burdic, John & Elaine McCain
 Britten, Sophronia
 Cairns, Aubrey
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 Conrad, Kristy
 Cosart, Pam Young
 Curry, Donald
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 Devol, Randy
 Devol, Sharon M
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Dobson, Edward Brown
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 Hamilton, Maureen Griggs
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 Hendricks, Stuart
 Hicks, Bob
 Hubbell, Robert & Jill Beckett
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 Tavares, Trevo
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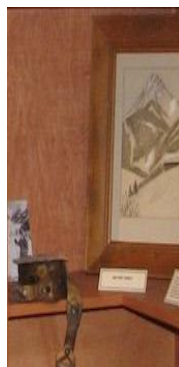
Louise Saurenman
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For a full list of Memorial Donations from 1989-2017, visit our MKPS web site: www.mineralking.org or visit our Honeymoon Cabin museum at the end of the Eagle/Mosquito parking lot in Mineral King.

RECENT ARTIFACTS DONATED TO MKPS



Nielsen family wood stove used in Mineral King 1920s to 2015.



Hasher family seal skins, photo albums, diaries.



Cathy Hansen chair, table, items used in old Mineral King resort. Coughran and Botkin artifacts.



Hart family mule packing equipment used to pack into the back country.



Atwell Mill wood cabinet with MK cabin artifacts.

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date: _____ 20____

Membership Name : _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone () _____ E-Mail _____

Family (Spouse and Minor Children): _____

Membership Type () Send Membership Card

_____ Student (with ID)	\$ 10.00
_____ Individual	\$ 15.00
_____ Couple	\$ 25.00
_____ Family (Spouse and Minor Children)	\$ 40.00
_____ Life – Individual	\$ 250.00
_____ Life –Couple	\$ 400.00
_____ Corporate Sponsor	\$ _____
General Donation	\$ _____
Mineral King Room Donation	\$ _____
Memorial Donation	\$ _____

In Memory of: _____

Family Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

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Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Total Remittance \$ _____

Potential Member Name: _____

MailingAddress _____

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CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MKPS, P.O. Box 286. Exeter, CA 93221
FOR INFORMATION CALL: Stuart Hendricks, President (559)636-3523

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