

Sierra County Historical Society

Member of California Conference of Historical Societies

Vol. XVIII, No. 2

Fall 1990

GEORGE FOURNIER AND LOGANVILLE

June 16, 1990, a celebration of two 100th birthdays was held at the home of Amy Westall Bowman in Loganville.

George Fournier and Amy Bowman's home were the two centarians feted with an Open House. These two special events prompted this article about George Fournier, the family ranch and the Bowman home in Loganville.

George Fournier was born to Mary Ann and Felix Leon Fournier June 16, 1890. He had one sister Evelyn, two brothers, Edward and Andrew. The Fourniers lived on one of the largest of the several early ranches of the Sierra City area. The place was early settled by Leon Felix Fournier, who before turning to ranching, had lived at Goodyears bar where he had mined.

The original acreage of the ranch was 160. Through the years Leon Felix and his son, Felix Leon, cleared additional land, mainly at the eastern end, and raised a vegetable garden which was among the finest of the area. Products of the ranch were sold in Sierra City, with the deliveries being made in a wagon and fresh vegetables were packed to the mines. Hay was raised in sufficient quantity to supply several head of cattle, mules, and horses maintained at the ranch and to have some for general sale. Water for the cultivation was entirely supplied by a ditch from Ladies' Canyon. Water for the Fournier home came from a spring across the river, being brought to the dwelling in a cable-pipe-line spanning the river. For many years a picturesque old wooden watering trough existed near the entrance gate to the ranch and was the place where the animals of stage and freight teams had their fill.

The Fournier children attended school at Loganville. Evelyn became a school teacher and taught for several years at the Loganville School. George, his brothers and sister took part in many Christmas programs. The school started in 1896 with from 25 to 30 children in attendance and was active until the 1920's.

The home of Amy Westall Bowman in Loganville was built by August Kaiser 1880-1890. While the Kaiser's were in

residence the home was an Inn as well with the front room used as a card room and bar. It was purchased by Ed Westall in 1902 and has been a private home ever since. What is now the garage was at one time a bowling alley.

Loganville developed into a complete living center having a general supplies and grocery store, school, a hall for public meetings (Avignone's Hall) and several ranches. In the late 1860's and 70's Alfred Smith had a lime kiln at Loganville and in the same period, clay of the area made possible having a brick yard. The school building was located about 100 yards east of the present home of Amy Bowman.

The principal mines in the vicinity of Loganville were at one time or another the main economic support of the community. They were: The Keystone, the Margueritte and the Cleveland as lode mines and the large hydraulic operation of the Dutch Company and the Romanos. Other mines have been the Northern Belle, the Queen Mine, the Old Roman Ledge, the Celinas and Mercer, the Martini Mine which became part of the Keystone, the Bolivia, the Slavonian, the Snow Slide, the Avalanche, the Quirillo claim and the Lucky Boy. The Colombo Mine is only about a mile and a quarter airline distance on the side of the Sierra Buttes mountain. Directly across the North Yuba from Loganville can be seen the extensive hydraulic workings of a mine which was early owned and worked by the Dutch Company.

THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGERS of September 29, 1888 and of November 5, 1890 and April 27, 1901 contain the following items of news relative to the school at Loganville. "There will be a social dance at Loganville on Friday evening, October 14th, for the purpose of raising money to build an addition to the school house." "The people of Loganville School District raised a flag pole on their schoolhouse a few days since. The pole is 40 feet long and the flag nine feet long. Miss Mary Yore is the teacher. The number of scholars is 20." "There will be an entertainment given in Avignone's Hall on Friday, May 4 (1901) for the purpose of raising funds for repairs on the school building."

These school programs and the character of these several notes reveal and reflect the close-knit relationship of the community, a certain civic pride and efforts at sustaining the welfare of the settlement.

We note that George Fournier, his brother Eddie and sister Evelyn were an important part of the programs that were put on by the school.

Loganville is a beautiful place to live and to spend a vacation. Catering to this appeal of the area, the Bomans in the 1950's constructed several housekeeping tourist cottages amid the black oaks and pines of their land, and Mr. Carley built a motel known as Carley's Cabins, now Shannon's Cabins. Loganville has for many years been associated with wild plums – that distinctive and delicately-flavored wild fruit that so appeals both to native and city folk alike – for one of the largest patches of wild plum bushes lies about a mile west. It is true that this patch was more productive of fruit years ago, and though other types of bushes are slowly displacing the wild plum plants, still this area is one of the best places in the country to pick them.

(I wish to thank James Sinnott for allowing me to use the text of his book, "Sierra City and Goodyears Bar" for this write-up. Billie Madsen.)

The Sierra County Historical Society now has its first video history tape taken at the 100th Birthday celebration at Loganville. The video was taken by Jim Johnson, his son and narrated by Billie Madsen. As more historical events occur, we hope to add to the collection for future generations to view.



Amy Westall Bowman on the occasion of the 100th anniversary celebration of two centenarians!

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a Museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, is affiliated with the Loyaltown Museum, holds quarterly meetings, publishes a newsletter and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of society activities, receive the newsletter and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour.

If you would like to become involved in these activities or would just like to give your support, please join!

OFFICERS and STAFF

President	Lincoln Madsen
Vice President	Rita Bradley
Recording Secretary	Georgene Copren
Treasurer and Membership Chairman	Maren Scholberg
Editors	Leonard Berardi and Karen Donaldson

MEETING NOTICE

The next Historical Society meeting will be held October 21 in Sierraville at the old Fire Hall at 1:00 P.M. It's a potluck! For further information call 862-1116 or 994-3480.

MEMBERSHIP

As of August, 1990, there are 117 paid members of the Sierra County Historical Society. We thank each one for their support. The membership funds are used primarily for the publication of our semi-annual Bulletin, "The Sierran."

Under a new policy, membership due notices will be sent out in January as a reminder.

Categories are as follows:

SENIOR	\$ 5.00
INDIVIDUAL	10.00
FAMILY & INSTITUTION	15.00
BUSINESS & SUPPORTING	25.00
SUSTAINING	50.00
LIFE (per individual)	100.00

Dues are to be sent to the Treasurer and Membership Chairman:

Mrs. Maren Scholberg
P.O. Box 141
Sierraville, CA 96126



KENTUCKY MINE MUSEUM NEWS

We are nearing the close of the 1990 season which has been a smooth and successful one. We were fortunate to receive two students through Golden Sierra Job Training Agency in Grass Valley. One did not work out and the other one was just great. Chris Mithell of Downieville and Chico State helped give tours of the stamp mill most of the summer and was a real asset in the museum with the visitors as well. Chris' family has an interest in mining near Downieville so he came with background knowledge and experience.

The loyal and dedicated volunteers deserve a big THANK YOU! for keeping us going with our minimal staffing. Jack Hawkins is most appreciated for giving tours of the stamp mill. In my eight years here, this is unprecedented so it is a real bonus. The following volunteers have been a great help in the museum:

Amy Bowman
 Frances Brett
 Betsy Cammack
 Charity Clover
 Linc and Billie Madsen
 Brad Mead
 Ruth Neubert
 from the Sierra City area

Rita Bradley
 Margaret Burelle
 Georgene Copren
 LaVerne Monico
 Maren Scholberg
 from the Sierra Valley.

Thanks again to a great group!

The following donors are greatly appreciated for adding to the museum collection:

Paul Bettencourt	Marjorie M. Noga
Frances Brett	Roger Patterson
Kenneth Edwards	Lois Sawyer
Elva Eggars	Robert Sennett
Carlton Hansen	Sophie Tschopp
Delia Leveroni	Kenneth Turner
Robert Jayne	William and Mary Voris
Dave Kappler	Corinne Zaro
LaVerne Monico	

The Kentucky Mine Museum Memorial has been officially dedicated. Charles K. Smith has been instrumental in getting it established. We currently have three plaques with a promise of more to come. Mr. John Berger was the initiator of the Memorial as it exists today and with his donation we have displayed a bronze plaque to honor the memory of the Theo Berger family who were pioneers in Sierra County. Mr. Berger was also acknowledged by his family with a plaque on the occasion of his 90th birthday. The third plaque was donated by Charles Smith in memory of his brother Mark R. Smith, a Sierra City native. Mr. Smith was kind enough to bring Mr. Berger from Reno to the Museum to view the Memorial this summer. We intend to get an article with photographs published in the Mountain Messenger as it is quite newsworthy.

The Amphitheatre is being used and enjoyed more each year. The graduating class of Downieville High School chose again to hold their commencement ceremony here. The Kentucky Mine Summer Concert Series was well received with nine performances this year. We are gaining a reputation for producing quality entertainment. Since we gave away a season's pass to next year's program, I guess we'll be doing another one! We are also working on bringing Swing Fever back for a dance at the Sierra City Community Hall in November. The group was our season finale to a sold-out crowd and got a most enthusiastic response from the audience. Dennis Messa, Karen Donaldson and Liz Fisher worked hard to put these programs together and were given a standing ovation for their efforts and time which was all volunteered. Frank Carter, Reg and Marilyn Littrell and Carrol and Renetta Hayes also deserve a warm thanks for their outstanding support of the concerts. It could not have been done without them. Judge Littrell will be officiating at the Fall wedding of some long-time friends at the Amphitheatre.

I was somewhat premature in announcing that the Museum was going to be a celebrity. The Sunset magazine article is scheduled for October and will be focusing on the Fall colors in the area. Weather permitting, the Museum will be open weekends only in October and then closed for the Winter to re-open Memorial Day 1991.

Note: We are in need of more volunteers to draw from. Please contact me at the museum if you have any free time and like working with the public. This can be a lot of fun as well as gratifying to support our worthy cause.

THE MINES IN THE VICINITY OF LOGANVILLE

THE KEYSTONE MINE

The Keystone Mine is probably the oldest of the lode mines of the Loganville area, being discovered in 1853 when the outcroppings of the ledge were worked with arrastras by either Spaniards or Mexicans. The Keystone is located in Keystone Ravine, a ravine which heads at the Henness Pass Road two miles south of its juncture with the Yuba, and across the river from Loganville and about a quarter mile southwest of Loganville.

Through the years the Keystone Mine developed its operations extensively, coming to comprise not only the Keystone proper, but acquiring the Martini mine and opening up Extensions No's one, two, three, four and five. The ground of the mine takes in all of the lode from the mouth of the ravine to the summit of the ravine at Keystone Gap at the Henness Pass Road. The out-croppings proved very rich and shortly a two-stamp mill was installed and by February 1860, a four-stamp mill powered by steam had been built. In 1861 and again in 1866 four additional stamps were added to the mill.

Through the 1860's the Keystone produced handsomely. In 1861 some especially rich ore was taken out, and in 1867, a six-weeks run of the mill resulted in a cleanup of \$10,000.00. The body of ore was proving so extensive as well as of good quality, that in the fall of 1871 a new 20-stamp mill was built. This larger mill took the place of the other mill that had been destroyed in the avalanche of 1868. In 1871 the expansion operations necessitated the building of a sawmill, which was built near the quartz mill to supply lumber for additional buildings and for mine timbers. This new 20-stamp mill was powered by a 50 horsepower steam engine and a run of 30 days yielded \$18,000.00.

The ledge at the Keystone descends, and so as the years went by the workings of the mine became deeper, requiring expensive machinery to carry on the sinking. For several years in the late 1870's the output of the mine declined, and the mine came to be operated by a company of which James Sheridan, who later became a resident of Downieville, was one member. This company took out about \$72,000.00 and found the vein so rich that they decided to run a still lower tunnel, — the ledge continuing to go down. The tunnel was begun and was run to within about forty feet of the estimated position of the vein, when the company ran out of funds and was obliged to discontinue its work.

H. Scamman, who later operated a banking business in Downieville, entered into negotiations with the Keystone Company and an agreement was reached in which Scamman would run the balance of the tunnel in exchange for a one-quarter interest in the mine. He did this and struck the ledge in about the estimated forty feet at a cost of about a thousand dollars. The vein proved to be very rich and in a few years Scamman reaped a fortune. Subsequently the vein was stopped and a 250 foot shaft was sunk but water gave trouble. The expense of pumping was judged to be too great and as Scamman was satisfied with what he had already taken out, the work was discontinued and the shaft was allowed to fill.

Following Scamman's work the mine remained idle for several years until M. H. Mead purchased it in early 1890. Lack of capital prevented him from continuing the operation of the mine. The mine remained inactive until 1900 at which time Mead was able to interest others in the mine and so make capital available for the resumption of work. There followed three years of hard work and the running of a 3,000 foot lower tunnel, a project which cost over \$100,000.00. This work was rewarded by the striking of a rich pay body of ore, but the ore did not continue rich and the consequences of further work in the following year did not result in a yield commensurate with the costs, and so Mead operations ceased.

Up until 1899 the Mine had produced about \$900,000.00 with the ore averaging about \$10 per ton. In 1948, Miller and Manly had a lease from Mr. Marr. A 2-stamp mill was erected with the mortar weighing about a ton being hauled up the road to the mine by truck by Henry Tschopp who also erected the mill.

THE MARGUERITE MINE

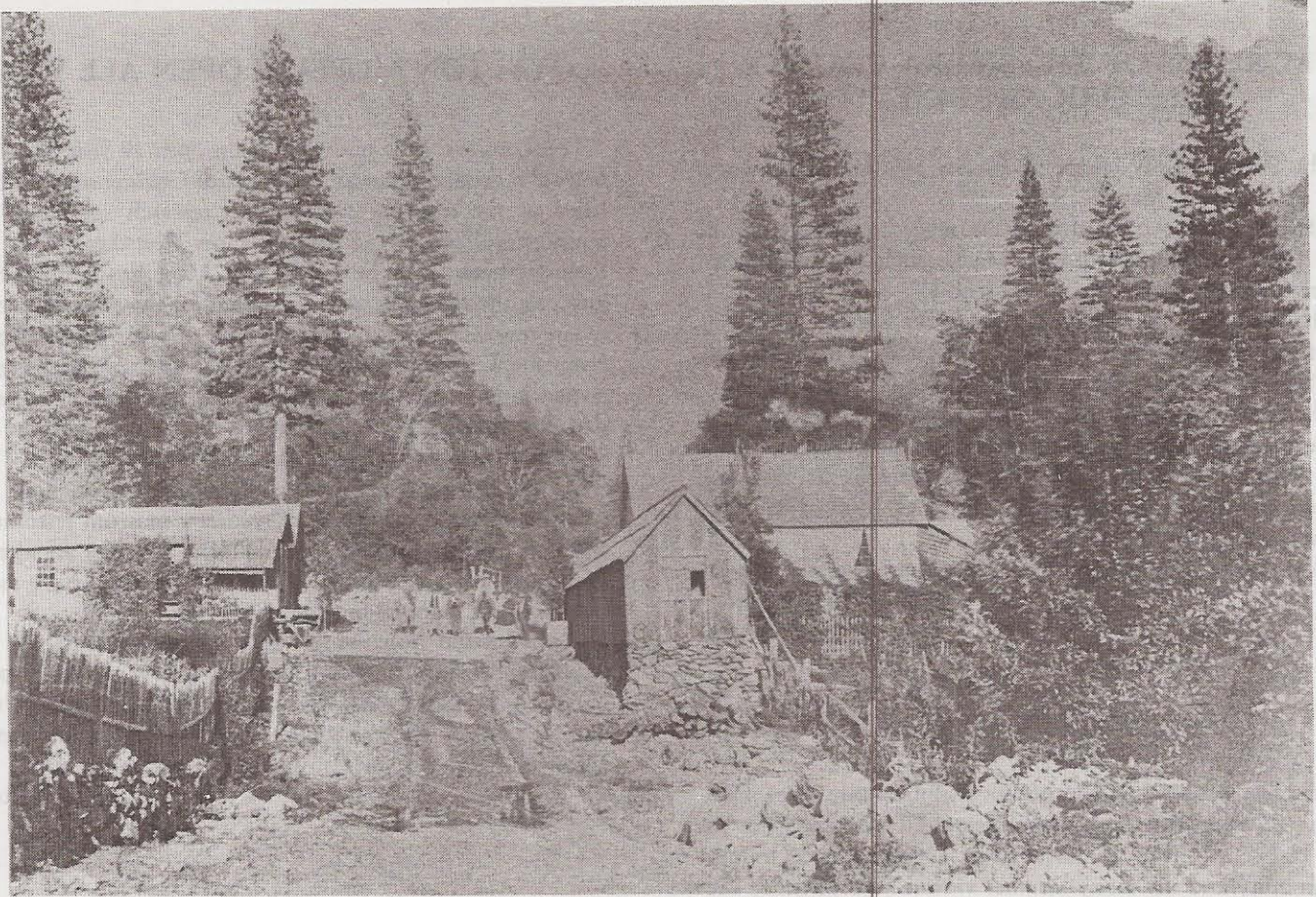
Another significant lode mine of the vicinity of Loganville was the Marguerite, the site of which is located adjacently east of the mouth of Keystone Ravine and on the south side of the North Yuba. Up until the 1940's the remains of the old mill building of the mine could be seen. The Marguerite Mine is not as old a mine as the Keystone, for it was not until 1881 that A.C. Busch, Martin Carroll and others with them, while working gravel near the bedrock, discovered a vein of quartz which prospected well. Busch wanted to turn from working the gravel to developing the ledge but his partners felt that they should continue mining the gravel. The result was that Busch undertook the work alone.

Assays that were made in Virginia City of the rock proved it rich enough to merit development of the vein and interested Philip Deidesheimer and others in forming a company, raising capital and purchasing the ground of the mine for \$24,000.00. In 1881 a mill was built, a dam was constructed and a flume laid out. However, the hoisting works did not make use of available water but instead was run by steam. T. Berger and Deidesheimer were the Superintendents of the mine at this time.

The above Company sank a shaft, which in the spring of 1882 was down 190 feet, exposing a ledge 5 feet wide with "gold visible all through it." In 1883 things were prosperous for the cleanup of February of that year yielded \$25,600.00 worth of bullion.

Though the mine at this time was paying, it was evident that the costs of operating the hoisting machinery by steam was much more expensive than water power would be and it was a puzzle to many why, with abundant water available, steam power would have been resorted to in the first place. So, down the shaft a new pump had been installed which was the invention of the mine superintendent. The new pump proved to be a failure and this venture in engineering cost the company about \$100,000.00 and led to new management of the mine.

From 1884-1886 the yield of the mine fell off drastically but the mine continued to operate for most of this period. But as a result the mine became heavily in debt. By September of 1886, a state of bankruptcy was reached and the mine was sold for \$50,000.00 to satisfy creditors.



Above photograph of Highway 49 at Loganville was taken about 1880. The long building on the right was a bowling alley. The structures on the left were removed when August Kaiser built the present day Bowman residence.

Fred Morris became the next operator and a member of the Company so operating. A new pump was purchased, the shaft was cleared of water and increased in depth another 100 feet. However, at this greater depth the new pump proved inadequate to handle the increased flow of water. The operation was so discouraging that the Company refused to put up any more money. Morris continued for a time to try and keep the mine open spending his own money to the point of almost all of his means. He died a short time after these efforts. In the spring of 1891 there was another change of ownership and as the sign of a new start the mine's name was changed to "The Tecumseh" after the late General Tecumah Sherman.

In 1904 James E. "Ed" Westall purchased the Northern Belle Mine from the Rosenfield Company and secured a bond on the Marguerite Mine, an adjoining property. He employed several men and planned to crush the rock from both mines in the Marguerite Mill.

THE CLEVELAND MINE

The site of this lode mine, which was operated by the Cleveland Quartz Mining Company, is about two miles west of Loganville on the south bank of the river opposite the Fournier Ranch. It dates from 1881 in which year a 10-stamp mill was built. The best clean-up of this period being for the month of January in 1887 when 275 ounces was obtained. In the spring of 1893 the Company cleaned up better than \$2,000.00 for a

21-day run of the mill with 20 men working. During 1894 the mine ceased to produce milling ore and for a time there were only six men employed. But in the early spring of 1895 developed work resulted in uncovering a good body of ore.

The mine yielded marginal returns for another two years which were not sufficient to assure continued operation and the destruction of the mill by fire in May of 1897 brought work to an end.

Bartolomeo Tomolo, the father of Mrs. Tony G. Costa of Downieville, worked at the Cleveland Mine during the 1890's. Later the three girls of the family, Theresa, Josephine and Rena moved to the Tomolo Ranch on Goodyears Creek.

Directly across the North Yuba from Loganville can be seen the extensive hydraulic workings of a mine which was early owned and worked by the Dutch Company. Later in the 1880's and 1890's the mine was worked by a group of Italians and at this time the diggings and the small settlement became known as Tony town. Early in December of 1899 records show that Joseph Gutgens, while working this claim found a two and a half pound nugget which value then was about \$600.00.

(Our thanks to James J. Sinnott for giving permission to use the above text which was taken from his book, "Sierra City and Goodyears Bar." Billie Madsen)

MINUTES OF THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sierra County Historical Society held its annual work day on Saturday, May 19, 1990.

After a morning of hard work cleaning the picnic grounds and the museum, President Linc Madsen called the meeting to order. Eighteen members were present.

The Treasurer's report was accepted. We have \$1,597.55 in the treasury and 73 paid up members. Tim Beals helped us get the \$20,000 grant money to improve the mill.

The mill has all new windows. There is still much work to be done on the amphitheatre. We need a new stage for the shell, new steps on both sides, metal railing on both sides, dressing rooms, a roof for snow, and more electricity. Most of our new money will go for electricity.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Georgene Copren
Recording Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have just finished another successful concert series. I am happy to report that both the museum and the society are "in the black." I believe we have given a good service to our community and the many summer visitors who attended the concerts and visited the museum. We had some tour guide help this season but we could use more. We were successful in obtaining another \$20,000 state grant to finish our capital improvement projects and the safety projects required by the Board of Supervisors. A move was made to deny us this grant, but the majority of the Board saw it our way for which we are thankful. The move to replace us with a State park also failed.

It will be over by the time you read this, but we are sponsoring a class in doing family genealogy studies at the Community Hall in Sierra City on Tuesday, August 28 by Mr. Ronald Bremer from Salt Lake City, Utah.

I want to thank those who turned out for the pre-season work party, also the concert series committee and my special thanks to you faithful few who volunteer for docent duty at the museum. We couldn't make it without you!

Sincerely,
President 'Linc'

P.S. We need more new, younger members! Some of us old folks are getting tired.

LOYALTON MUSEUM OPEN ALL YEAR

The Loyalton Museum will remain open all year. With the help of a Federal program, Mrs. Carol Christenson has been hired as the museum curator and research specialist. The museum will be open to the public on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ms. Christenson is busy indexing the materials at the museum for the research center.

The museum received a set of snow sleds for winter logging from the California Park Service. These sleds are a great acquisition for they are reported to be the only logging snow sleds left in northern California. They were used in the Truckee-Hobart Mills area at the turn of the century.

Mr. Bill Harnack, instructor at Loyalton High School, has incorporated into his course of studies a museum restoration and construction project. Students from his class are already restoring the above mentioned logging sleds and have many great projects planned for the school year.

The Museum received a state grant to copy its old photographs. This has been done and now the Thompson photos, plus many other photos of historical interest, have been copied. A 35mm slide and a black and white regular negative of each photo is on file in the research center.

Milt Gottardi

THE SIERRA VALLEY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

This museum has recently received a \$30,000 feasibility study grant and is in the process of selecting consultants to do the study. The grant was made possible through the help of John Sheehan and the Plumas Community Development Program. Fund raising is necessary in order to match the grant funds.

The purpose of the museum will be to educate the children and adults concerning the natural history of Sierra Valley thereby helping them to appreciate and preserve it for the future. Proposed exhibits include wildlife, geology, biology, botany, history and pre-history of Sierra Valley and nearby areas as well as other related natural history subjects.

The Board of Directors is made up of county, district and county school representatives from both Sierra and Plumas counties as well as people from the community serving at large. The members are Anne Eldred (Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District), Michael Moore (Sierra County Office of Education), Bill Copren (representing the Sierra County Board of Supervisors), Jim Smith (Plumas County Supervisor), Floyd Warren (Plumas Joint Unified School District), Dr. Donald Donato (President of Feather River Community College), Helen Roberti and Gary Romano (community members).

HISTORY OF KENTUCKY MINE MUSEUM

By Jack Hawkins

The Kentucky Mine Museum in the "Bigelow House" is an eclectic collection of mining artifacts, local memorabilia, and paraphernalia used by early settlers. There are also samples of rock found in Sierra County and wild flowers in season, collected by Karen Donaldson, the curator. There is an ancient safe, a square grand piano, a bear trap, and some pipe made from gravel. Visiting the museum is an education in mining and how people lived at that time.

Naturally, money is also needed by the Sierra County Historical Society to maintain the museum. To encourage monetary gifts the Kentucky Mine-Museum Memorial Fund has been established to recognize contributors. A plaque will be placed in the museum naming the donors and their gifts.

Charles K. Smith has been instrumental in getting donations and enhancing outdoor displays. The Theo Berger family donation has been commemorated in the museum.

In the museum is a miner's lamp. This was the soul source of light underground. It consists of a small reflector attached to a cylinder which is filled with carbide. Water is dripped into the container and combines with the carbide to form acetylene gas which is lighted when it comes through the vent in the reflector. The miner carried additional carbide in a small metal flask to recharge his lantern.

The mine, stamp mill, cabin, and museum are open all summer and tours of the stamp mill are conducted four times daily. There are also concerts every Friday in the amphitheater.

Perhaps the best way to describe the gem Sierra County has in the Kentucky Mine and Museum is to quote Don and Betty Martin who wrote *The Best of Gold Country* published in 1987 by the Pine Cone Press in Walnut Creek. They toured route 49 from its start in Oakhurst to its end in Vinton, recommending places to stay, to eat, and to visit. In their ten best attractions they rate the Kentucky Mine number one:

"Sierra County Historical Park, Sierra City: This is a dark horse winner because other historical sites — particularly the state parks — are more elaborate, and several Gold County Museums are more professionally done. But this is the ideal mix of attractions: an intact mine and stamp mill that give visitors the complete picture of hardrock mining, plus an interesting museum and amphitheater for summer concerts, all in a pretty hillside setting."

Our story would not be complete if we did not mention the new amphitheater and the Friday night concerts during the summer. Len Kinzler was the chief organizer in getting the programs started. The entertainment ranges from opera to blue grass, and includes comedy and drama.

Reprinted with permission from the Mountain Messenger, Thursday, August 9, 1990