July 4th celebration attracted parade participants from Downieville, Plumas County and the Washoe area of Nevada.

INTERESTING FACTS OF THE EARLY DAYS OF LOYALTON

In the national election of 1864, the people of Loyalton cast 60 votes for Abe and 28 for Little Mac.

Because the town was loyal to Lincoln, Dr. Doom, who was the storekeeper, hotel keeper, postmaster, Justice of the Peace, physician, Sunday school teacher and minister, changed the name from Smith's Neck to Loyalton.

In 1897 the main part of town ran north and south on present day West First Street. When the B&L railroad was built in 1901, the business section shifted east and businesses grew up along the street running east and west as it is now. Loyalton became incorporated in 1901 and it was declared a 'dry' city. In order to prevent the sale of liquor in close proximity, the city boundaries were set at 50.6 square miles!

At a meeting in November 1903, the carpenters of Loyalton organized into a Labor Union and adopted a scale of $4.00 per day for an eight hour day.

There were five lumber mills in 1903-1909 with 3,000 people in the area. By 1915 most of the mills had closed; the population in 1921 was 442.

The first high school in Sierra County was in Loyalton. Classes began in 1908.
A NEW ROAD TO RENO

"A new road from Reno to Loyalton is taking shape which insures its early completion," This was front page news on June 13, 1873 in the Nevada State Journal. The article continued: "At a recent meeting in Loyalton, and executive committee was named consisting of William Duck and James Burk of Reno, F. Lemmon of Peavine, William Ball of Long Valley, and J.D. Fagg and Joseph Enscoe of Loyalton . . . (The) estimated cost being $3,000 . . . A survey has been made and the route found to be an excellent one . . . This route would be considerably shorter than the road going through Sardine Valley or the Summit City road. (The proposed route is the present day old Staberville road up past the town dump.)

On August 15, 1874 twelve men from Reno, including William Duck who ran the town's largest mercantile store and C.C. Powning, editor of the Nevada State Journal and Nelse Hammond of Hammond & Wilson Stables who handled the reins, set forth on Saturday in a Concord coach to be the first to traverse the new road to Loyalton. They stopped at Lemmon's ranch where Ike Evans was host to a breakfast of fried chicken! The group left there in "excellent spirits" noted Powning and headed for Purdy's ranch in Long Valley where Purdy joined the caravan. They started up to Ball's ranch on the new road and William M. Ball decided to go along for the ride. This made 14 riding in the coach. Although no one thought to bring along a gun, each had a small bottle with them which seemed more important.

Powning noted that the grade in places was too steep and the curves too short and some places could have been wider, but for a new road it was very good.

When they reached the summit, "We were amply repaid by the beautiful vision that was spread before us." The Reno men had a gay time, staying in the Loyalton House for the night, but spending most of their time at Frank Williams' saloon. "We were all treated very courteously by the Loyaltonites, and every hospitality extended," Powning wrote. He toured the town and wrote that it consisted of "one hotel, one store, a saloon, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, church and 10-12 private residences, and contains probably a population of 50."

They returned to Reno through Sardine Valley and Crystal Peak stopping in several places to fish, and arrived home Sunday evening, highly pleased with their excursion and the new road.

(Taken from Nevada State Journal, Nov. 21, 1954; article by Peggy Trego)

THE TOLL ROAD

In 1868 the road was completed from Loyalton through Sardine Valley to the Henness Pass road which went from Marysville to Virginia City.

The toll rates were:
- 1 horse and buggy ..................... 75 cents
- 2 horses and buggy ................. $1.25
- Horse and rider ......................... 25 cents
- Loose cattle .......................... 7 cents

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 Loyalton 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 ............................... Betsy Cammack
Vice President ........................... Rita Bradley
Recording Secretary ................. .Lila Heuer
Treasurer and Membership Chairman .Maren Schoberg
Editors ................................. Leonard Berardi and
Typesetting ............................ Howard Landers

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As outgoing president I want to thank the membership for their support and especially the many volunteer hours spent by so many people in maintaining the grounds, buildings and docent service to keep the museum open. With your help we have been able to keep the museum and amphitheater on a self-supporting basis.

Special mention to Charles Smith and Karen Donaldson for creating the memorial and special donation recognition wall . . . to Karen for overseeing the capital improvements and safety constructions on the stamp mill and amphitheater made possible by the grant money obtained from the State Park & Recreation Department.

I am encouraged by the recent growth and enthusiasm for the membership and look forward to a successful future for the society.

‘Linc' Madsen

NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volunteering to man the Kentucky Mine Museum these past few summers has been fun and rewarding; tourists passing through are always appreciative of its special qualities and of our beautiful Sierra County as well.

As a relative newcomer to the area, one can't help being awed by all that has been accomplished by the membership in years past. The Society has just reason for pride.

A museum can provide a showcase for only a part of the rich heritage of Sierra County, however. Tantalizing, challenging new projects arise every day. As president, it is my hope we can have the fun of taking on just a few of them this year.
KENTUCKY MINE MUSEUM NEWS

Due to the lack of snow flurries this winter there was instead a flurry of activity. An ongoing project since Fall has been the restoration of the Bigelow House sign. Dating back to 1870 it is made from one board two feet by 16 feet. Many will remember it displayed on the outside of the museum building. Sam Girdler of Oroville, who is also the Chairman of the Historic Committee at the Miner’s Foundry, made numerous trips to help – that’s real dedication! Charles Smith and Mike Heuer were a big help, and Sylvia DeChesero lent some fine talent to the lettering. We hope to have it back on display by the opening on May 23rd.

The museum got an early spring cleaning this year to accommodate 40 students and parents from Glorieta Elementary School in Orinda. The students spend a week at Sierra Shangri-La each year learning about the history of our area and their visit to the museum has become part of the tradition.

We are expecting the latest docent training class from the Empire Mine State Park on a special tour before opening day. These groups keep me in practice for the summer tours!

A special thanks is owed to Maren Scholberg for the many trips and much needed office help over the winter months.

We received a surprise visit from Cathy and David Otto who “retired” from the museum 4½ years ago and were visiting the area on spring break. The Ottos live in Corvallis, Oregon and now have three children! It was great to see them and hopefully, they can return this summer and spend more time.

The Museum and Historical Society were represented by new President Betsy Cammack and myself at Sierra County’s 140th anniversary celebration April 16th at the Courthouse in Downieville. It was a fitting occasion to display the Fire Auxiliary quilt and we even signed up several new members.

The Memorial Fund has received a generous donation from George Fournier in memory of his pioneering family who settled near Loganville. The Concert Series has been scheduled with an exciting group of performers and ten shows this year. The 3rd Annual Spring Fever Dance at the Sierra City Community Hall will be held April 25th to get things started for the season.

We have had the assistance of 25 hours community service. The unfortunate local fellow has been a blessing and has made significant repairs to the trestle and supplied much general maintenance. There is always an abundance of projects so there will be plenty left to do when the first work party day arrives on May 9th, however.

A committee has been formed to work with the Department of Public Works to prioritize the grant expenditure mentioned in the last issue. The Downieville Lion’s Club has expressed an interest in contributing some support to the museum. Ever hopeful, maybe this year we can reopen the mine portal!

We have been approached by a gold mining museum in Finland to submit information and articles of interest for their newly formed international exhibits. Educational materials and artifacts will be gathered so that Sierra County and the Kentucky Mine can be represented.

The reprint of Mr. Sinnott’s book, Downieville: Gold Town on the Yuba, has arrived! The books are available at the museum with a percentage of the sales to benefit the museum. They are also available at several local businesses and are selling quite well.

If anyone is unable to make the scheduled work party date but still has the time and inclination to help with a project or two, don’t hesitate to call, I’m sure we can work something out!

THE LOYALTON MUSEUM

The Sierra County gold display, usually housed in the County Courthouse, is on loan to the Loyalton Museum for a year while the Courthouse is having some changes made on the inside. This display is a replica of the original which is housed in the Los Angeles Natural History Museum under heavy security.

There are many other new items both inside and outside plus other interesting features. The public is invited to stop in and visit during the summer.

* * *

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.

LOGGING CHUTES

Horses and oxen were used to skid the logs out of the forest. Logs were loaded into chutes made of logs which went from woods to the landing. A chute team of 10 or 12 horses would be hitched to two or three of the rear logs of a string in the chute and they would shove the entire load down the chute to the landing. A man would ride the head log with a bucket of grease and a swab to grease the chute. Remains of these chutes can be found in the woods today; staves and the wire rims of the grease barrels can also be found.

(From “Early History in Sierra Valley” by C.G. Church)
THE DEPOT

This building was erected in 1901 after the Boca and Loyalton railroad (narrow gauge) was completed. On July 4th of that year, the biggest event of the day was the arrival of the train at the station “loaded with passengers and grandly decorated with national colors.”

The depot building, 28 feet by 128 feet, included living quarters for the station master. Ezra Church can remember boarding the train at the depot in 1907 for a trip to San Jose via Boca and San Francisco.

Attilio Lombardi told of the time in his youth when he and Pete Gottardi discovered a cask of wine sitting on the dock leading up to the depot. This dock stood off the ground about three feet — plenty of crawl space underneath. Being adventurous and using some ingenuity, they measured off the distance that the cask stood from front and side, armed themselves with a container and an auger, crawled under the dock and went to work. That wine cask was mighty easy to move when the time came!

Service was discontinued between Boca and Loyalton in 1916 as freight and passenger service fell into a deep decline. In 1957, the Western Pacific purchased the railroad and put it up for a foreclosure sale. The depot continued to be used for living quarters occupied.

The last station master employed by the W.P. was R. W. Olson. He and his wife lived there until about 1951 had to move when a small fire forced the closure of the quarters. Ray Hartwell recalls having his new Ford, bought from Ed White, delivered in a box car to the depot in 1950.

The original site of the depot was right next to the tracks and behind the present city buildings. The platform or dock, then the depot with the living quarters, were the south end.

In 1952 Bob Lynch bought the building and moved it distance to its present location across the road at south. He used it for a warehouse until he rented it to the city of Loyalton in 1957. Two years later, he sold it to the city of Loyalton. The old depot is now the city maintenance building and more a useful part of Loyalton.

From James J. Sinnott’s “Sierra Valley: Jewel of the Sierras” from Loyalton residents.
HISTORY OF "THE BRICK BUILDING"

The beginning of this building on main street goes back to the first of the century. Joseph R. Enscoc, who was born in Downieville in 1862 but came with his parents to Sierra Valley in 1863, built a two-story brick building in Loyalton in 1903. The bricks were made at the local brick yard which was located on the present Cemetery Lane just north of Steve Weaver's home. The bottom floor became a drug store and the top floor was rented out for offices.

In 1912 a fire gutted the interior and the building was vacant for a few years. In 1915 the building was purchased by the I.O.O.F. Lodge and they rented out the bottom floor to Herbert Huntley and Paul Meroux who opened a general store. The top floor was converted to a lodge hall for a place of meetings for the I.O.O.F. and was used for that purpose until early 1980. The Native Daughters and Rebeccas also used the hall for their meetings.

In 2002 Mr. Huntley bought out Mr. Meroux's half interest and the name 'The Brick Store' came into being with Mr. Huntley as owner until his death in 1930. His son, Ernest R. Huntley, then became proprietor of 'The Brick Store' until his retirement in 1943. The lower floor was then emptied and not in use.

In the late 1940's, Attorney Leonard Wilson had his office in this space for several years. For two years in the mid 50's, classes of the elementary school were held there due to a shortage of classroom space. Both Gertrude Snyder and Florence Huntley taught there.

Joe and Mabel Roberti were the next occupants and they had a successful short order business in the late 50's and early 60's with dances every Friday night for the teenagers. The business changed hands several times from Nancy Gilmore Pasquetti (1962-63) to Ruby Ritter for a year and a half after that. Then the business closed. In 1970 Lowell Wright opened a snowmobile sales and repair shop and he rented the space until 1990, the last occupant. The building had been condemned.

The membership of the I.O.O.F. had dwindled and they disbanded in 1980. At that time they deeded the building to the Rebeccas who later sold it to Douglas Hogue of North San Juan. A finance company foreclosed and the building was then sold to Joseph F. Pindroh of Redwood City, CA, an investor.

The present owners, Bud and Joan Carroll of Loyalton, bought the building in 1991 from this investor. They are refurbishing the entire building and plan to open by July 4, 1992 with handcrafted items, antiques and miscellaneous other merchandise. Staying with tradition, it will be called "The Brick Store".

From James J. Sinnott's "Sierra Valley: Jewel of the Sierras" and from Loyalton residents.

A RAG HOUSE

as told by Edith Huntley

C.G. Church moved his wife and three children to Hobart Mills while he worked there in the summer of 1897 and while there they lived in a tent. When it came time to move back to Loyalton, his twin daughters begged him NOT to get a RAG house to live in. (That is what they called the tent.) He didn't...

HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN WEST HOTEL

The Golden West Hotel was built in 1903 with four bedrooms on the first floor and 16 on the second. (A night's lodging cost 25 cents!) These were flourishing times for Loyalton with five mills in town and a large population. A third story was added to the hotel in 1905 but was removed in 1910.

By 1915, the hotel was closed for the economy had changed and the mills were closing. In 1917 the hotel with restaurant added was reopened by two sisters, Mrs. Jones and Miss Wear. Their best and only customers when they first opened were an occasional drummer who wandered into town and a large group of Indians who came down into Loyalton from Indian Camp every noon for a plate of food which they wanted served on a pie tin. They then would sit outside and visit among themselves as they ate. However, the two sisters soon had a thriving business. From 1922 to 1957, Bing Foo Gee was the colorful Chinese cook for the establishment. Their motto was "Good Meals and Good Beds."

In 1937, after the death of Miss Wear, Mrs. Jones sold the hotel to Axel and Lucy Nasholm, the latter a niece of Mrs. Jones. A bar was added to the east end of the hotel and an additional dining room was added to the north end of the building for use of the Rotary Club. Nasholms remained owners until 1945 when they sold out to Sidney and Adrian (Brick) Westall, brothers of Mrs. Nasholm. In 1947, Adrian bought out Sidney, and Adrian and his wife ran the hotel until 1963 when the dining room was closed. The Rotary Club, however, continued to use their room for many years with the ladies of the Community Church serving their weekly dinners. This ended in 1968.

The old hotel was then stripped of its belongings and much was sold at a public auction. The building was then demolished except for the bar which Adrian Westall continued to operate.

In 1978 Bob Bowling purchased the building from Adrian Westall and added on a kitchen to the bar. In 1984 he added the dining room-lounge and in 1985, a motel was added to the building.

The present business of Golden West Saloon, Restaurant and Motel, owned and operated by Bob and Yvonne Bowling, carries on a tradition of fine food and service established over 75 years ago.

(Written by Edna Gottardi)

THE BANK ROBBERY OF 1921

On Oct. 4, 1921, John Martin, who ran the local store, was talking on the phone to Stanley Sherwood, the bank Manager. Two robbers entered the bank and held it up. Mr. Sherwood hung up abruptly which puzzled Mr. Martin so he crossed the street to make some inquiries. The robbers had the employees face down on the floor and when John walked in, they made him get on the floor too. The robbers left with a large deal of money and headed up Smithneck road in their car. It broke down up the canyon and from there, the robbers took off on foot.

A posse was formed immediately and when they came across the abandoned car, the posse riders fanned out trying to find their trail. An unfortunate accident occurred during the chase when Charlie Beik was accidentally shot and killed.
In the meantime, the robbers got down to the Fred Berry ranch (the present Martinetti ranch of Sattley) and held Fred hostage there all day. That night they made Fred take them up to Yuba Pass and there they locked him in an old U.S.F.S. cabin. Mr. Berry made his escape and told of his ordeal saying he thought the robbers were headed for the Henness Pass road.

A posse, under Sheriff Julius Johnson, took off in that direction, but the tracks came to a dead end near Cisco due to a storm. The robbers were never apprehended. The posse did find the horses which had been staked out for the get-away but were unused.

Of interest to the townspeople was that one of the robbers, a man with a full beard, had worked all summer in and around Loyalton. Of course, he never made another appearance.

(From an interview with Ezra Church in February 1992 by Maren Scholberg)

HISTORY OF THE LOYALTON PHARMACY

The first drug store in Loyalton was opened in 1901 by Joseph R. Enscoe. In 1903 he built a two story brick building (still standing by White's garage) and used the bottom floor for the drug store. Mr. Enscoe sold this business in 1906. Mr. Montague was proprietor of the drug store until 1914 when a fire gutted the interior of the structure.

P.A. Crosby, a registered pharmacist, added to a building which stood on the present site of Leonard's store, and opened a drug store, selling numerous other items. This was in the 1920's. Because of sanitary conditions, he built a new building where Buck's TV and Appliance Store is now and moved the pharmacy into that building. Earnest Spinetti, also a pharmacist, bought the drug store business from Crosby in the 1930's.

Bob and Gwen Lynch moved to Loyalton and bought the pharmacy from Spinetti in 1940 but the building was still owned by P.A. Crosby. Then in 1942, Lynch bought the old building across the street also owned by Crosby, which had been Ed White's first garage and more recently a bowling alley. He remodeled it into two stores, keeping the east end for his pharmacy. Bob and Gwen Lynch owned this business for 30 years until Bob's death in 1970.

In 1971 Bob and E.J. Peeler bought the pharmacy business from Gwen Lynch and continued the store on that same site. In 1980 they built a new building complex across the street and moved their business into that. E.J. is the pharmacist and together she and Bob operate the store, carrying on a fine tradition of Loyalton dedicated business people.

Lewis Mill, built in 1887, was a circular sawmill which cut 30,000 board feet a day. The lumber was hauled to Verdi with horse teams until Cap. Roberts came to their rescue with two steam wagons brought in from Sacramento Valley. These were built with three wheels, the one in front used for steering was an eight foot wheel and two drive wheels in the back were ten foot with a 12-18 inch tread. When empty they could travel 20 miles an hour.

They pulled as many as 14 wagons (four inch axles) and could haul 100,000 board feet per trip. The wagons couldn't start hauling until July or later as the road had to be very dry for these heavy machines.

It is interesting to note that they had to have a boy on horseback ride ahead of the steam wagon to warn the freighters of the coming engine so that they could secure their horses. "I have seen a teamster unhitch his whole team and tie them to trees and his wagons until the engine passed. How those teamsters would curse those steam wagons."

(From "Early History in Sierra Valley" by C.G. Church)

BALING HAY IN THE SIERRA VALLEY

The Sierra Valley ranchers used to bale thousands of bales of hay for the market. The northern part of the Valley would bale what is called bunch grass, the "best beef hay in the world" and also the heaviest. The southern end baled a large tonnage of red top, timothy and wild clover. The market included logging camps which used hundreds of horses and oxen; freight teams; mines in Sierra City and Downieville. In the early days, a Petaluma hay press was used which required four men to work.

"I worked on one of those presses many days," wrote C.G. Church. "We would get up at four in the morning and put out a run apiece before breakfast ... We would bale about 15 tons a day; about seven bales to the ton, according to the hay." Max Dory owned and ran a press called the beater press. He ran it for many years and baled thousands of tons of hay. The beater press was run with a sweep power. One or two men fed the press and a pair of horses went around on a sweep power every beat.

The Loyalton Museum has an early hay press on display.

(Taken from "Early History in Sierra Valley" by C.G. Church)
Lumbering began in the Loyalton area in the mid-1850's with the establishment of several small sawmills, supplying timbers to the surrounding mines and later for the construction of railroad lines. A considerable number of Irish and Swiss emigrated to this area, eventually establishing cattle ranches in the Sierra Valley. This photo shows a steam driven "Donkey Yader" at work in the woods.

The Boca Ice Works supplied ice to businesses and residents throughout Sierra County and western Nevada. Ice blocks were divided with horse-drawn bladers, then cut into sections by hand and hauled to market. Notice the "ice slickers" on horse to the right.
THE BIRTH OF SIERRA COUNTY
Lee Adams

On September 9, 1850, California gained admittance to the United States as the thirty-first state and as such was comprised of twenty-seven counties. From that time of statehood through April 15, 1852 what is today Sierra County was part of Yuba County, with the seat of county government in Marysville.

History relates "the disadvantages of belonging to Yuba County were early felt, Marysville was too distant, and a county government at that place was to the citizens here as useless as one in Kamchatka. The trouble, expense, and time required to send criminals to Marysville were so great that many escaped the just punishment for their acts, while others were severely dealt with by Judge Lynch." During this seventeen month period, Downieville resident "Juanita" became the only women lynched in California when she was hanged from a bridge spanning the Yuba River on July 5, 1851. It is suggested that the only county official that visited the isolated gold camps region of the large sprawling county on a regular basis was the tax collector.

A constantly increasing population rendered a separate county government, with a bill for segregation of Sierra County from Yuba County introduced in the legislature in the fall of 1851, and signed by Governor John Bigler on the sixteenth of April, 1852.

KENTUCKY MINE MUSEUM

The National Association of Counties granted its 1990 Achievement Award to Sierra County, for its work in creating the Kentucky Mine and Museum. The Sierra County Historical Society, which operates the Museum, has been nominated for other awards, to be announced shortly.

Karen Donaldson, Curator of the Kentucky Mine, reported this and other examples of recognition received during the last year, at the Society's spring meeting held last Sunday at High Country Inn, hosted by Calvin and Marlene Cartwright. Sixteen members attended.

She noted that effects of the feature article which appeared in Sierra Heritage magazine last fall won't be felt until this summer, as the museum had closed for the winter by the time the article ran.

"We're acquiring a reputation as a unique place," she added, pointing out that in the new telephone directory's section of events and interesting places, there are only two photos used, one of which is of the Kentucky Mine stamp building, taken by local photographer Sylvia DeChesero.

"Last fall, a busload of 48 Docents from the Huntington Library — one of the most prestigious libraries in the country — came on a tour of the Northern Mines; these docents give talks about the Gold Rush to school kids from all over. After their tour, several said our presentation was the highlight of the whole trip, and that at last they really understood how a hardrock mine worked," she said.

Linc Madsen, outgoing President of the Society, installed the new officers for the year; Betsy Cammack of Sierra City as President, Rita Bradley of Sattley to continue as Vice President, Lila Heuer of Sierra City as Secretary, and Maren Scholberg of Serraville to continue as Treasurer.

A new project to be undertaken by the Society is the creation of a single index for the Society Bulletin, published semi-annually since 1964. "There's a wealth of information there which needs to be easily available to school kids and historical researchers," commented Cammack. Maren Scholberg volunteered to produce the index. Complete sets, including the index, are to be placed in local libraries. Anne Eldred, USFS archaeologist, noted that the various Ranger Districts make extensive use of the Bulletins in researching Forest Service projects.

A work party is scheduled for May 9th prior to the May 23 opening of the museum. Chores include repairs to the amphitheater seats, painting, cleaning and rearranging museum displays. Also needed is help with individual artifact repair and restoration projects.

Bill Long, President of the Sierra County Arts Council, reported that an exhibit of "Rock Art" is to be displayed in the Grass Valley-Nevada City area during May in observation of "National Archeological Week." He hopes to be able to obtain a condensed version of this exhibit and display it next fall at a location in Downieville and in Loyalton. He would like to have the Society join the Council in staffing these exhibits.

Incoming President Cammack stated that she'd like to see more frequent, informal meetings for the purpose of brainstorming new projects. She proposed scheduling these at 2:00 PM on the second Sunday of each month. The first will be June 14 at her home in Sierra City, at the corner of Wild Plum Road and Ostrom Way.

The Kentucky Mine and Museum has a "Wish List," which includes a modern cash register with a drawer that opens (!), a piano bench, and book shelves for storage. by Betsy Cammack.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Thanks are extended to the many Loyalton residents who were contacted and who helped with dates and information for the articles in this quarterly. Thanks to Ezra Church, 92 years of age, who graciously reminisced and answered questions. His sister, Edith Huntlev, helped too.