

# "H E R I T A G E"

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Newsletter of the Three Rivers Historical Society

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At the September board meeting, Janine Chilcott told board members that the society will soon have a sign in front of the property on Highway 198 explaining the rest stop/museum project. This will serve to draw public attention to the project and create a higher level of public awareness.

## Historical Society News:

The Spring General Meeting was held April 21st at the Arts Center. A general election was held and the same slate of officers were nominated and approved by the membership. The program consisted of a panel discussion about the cattle industry from the early days in Three Rivers to the present. Panel members consisted of Bill Wylie, Jim Wells, and Sophie Britten with Barbara Milbradt as Moderator. After the discussion, Blanche Maloy shared a great deal of information about her family and other interesting local historical facts. Special refreshments were provided by Mary Bronzan, Billie Hicks, Pat Lauder and others.

May 26th was the date of the annual Woodlake Class of 1924 Reunion held at the beautiful Chilcott Ranch. Many society members and their guests attended. They were treated to a wonderful buffet luncheon provided by Janine Chilcott during which time the Three Rivers barbershop quartet serenaded the diners with song. After the luncheon, Barbara Milbradt gave a very interesting and humorous presentation about Ben Harris, the local teller of tall tales who lived here years ago. She also read a poem by Earl McKee that everyone enjoyed. Many people brought old pictures and memorabilia that were shared and appreciated by all who attended.

The society's office next to Realty World is struggling to stay open 2 1/2 days a week. However, there are not enough volunteers to quite do the job" PLEASE - we would appreciate your help in this matter. Please contact Peggy O'Neil at 561-3414 and tell her when you can donate some time. Many thanks!

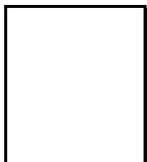
Mark your calendars!! November 10, 1996 will be the General Fall Meeting. This will be in conjunction with the Tulare County Historical Society's Meeting being held this year in Three Rivers. It will be at the McDowall Auditorium and lunch will be from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.; the program will be from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and will feature Jay O'Connell presenting "The Kaweah Colony" In addition to his history presentation, Jay will have dramatic readers in costume helping us to understand more of the character and history of the Colony. It will be a fascinating program, and he has agreed to take those that are interested on an actual Colony site visit immediately following his presentation. A memento of The Kaweah Colony program will be given to each person in attendance.

Reservations must be received by November 1, 1996. Tickets are \$10.00 each and checks can be sent to Tulare Co. Historical Society, P.O. Box 295, Visalia, CA 93279. Make checks payable to Tulare County Historical Society. If you have any questions, call Sophie Britten at 561-4265.

In case you have noticed that your newsletter is somewhat smaller this time, it is because we are trying to do this more than just twice a year. Future newsletters are anticipated for January, May, and October of each year. Your editor hopes that this will meet with member's approval.

There are still some members who have not sent their dues for June, '96 - June, '97. For those members, a reminder notice will be included with this newsletter. We need your support - please bring your membership up to date. Thank you!

One more item to watch for this spring - plans are in the works once more for a spring tour of historic spots in Three Rivers - watch your future newsletters for more information.



### Stories From The Past....

Not long ago, Three Rivers was visited by a Mr. Richard Smith of Manassas, Virginia. While here, he made contact with Thelma Crain and he related to her his experiences at a sanitarium for children in Three Rivers when he was three years old. This prompted the following story about "Kiddie Kamp" Kiddie Kamp was a special children's summer camp that was sponsored by the Tulare County Tuberculosis Association; even though no tubercular children were taken, the work done with them was preventive rather than curative. Although the camp was most likely started in 1921, the following is an article from the Visalia Times-Delta dated May 9, 1922:

### KIDDIE KAMP FINANCES TO BE SUBSCRIBED THOSE IN CHARGE BELIEVE MONEY FOR WORK WILL BE RAISED.

.....It has been definitely decided that The Kaweah Kiddie Kamp, near Hammond, will not be opened this year until July 1 instead of June 1, as had been expected. The Kaweah River waters will not recede

A regular schedule has been worked out by the

sufficiently by June 1 in the opinion of those interested to permit opening on that date.

The Kamp will run two months - one group of kiddies being taken up on July 1 and one bunch on August 1.

Throughout the county there is a growing pleasure in the announcement that the kamp will be open again this season and those in charge feel that the money necessary to carry on the work will be subscribed by the communities of the county interested.

### **Three Rivers**

The site selected some six miles above Three Rivers, on the bank of the Kaweah, lent itself ideally to the purpose in view, the children having the run of about eight acres of sand flat with here and there a group of magnificent sycamores and at the upper end the natural swimming pool, the greatest asset of all.

The very simple equipment installed for this first experiment consisted of a single building, 50x18 feet which served the purpose of mess hall and kitchen. Tents, generously loaned by the Southern California Edison Company, formed the dressing rooms.

The children, organized in squads of about fifteen, each group having a leader skilled in the handling of boys and girls, selected the shade of sycamores or willows in which to set up their cots with military neatness. And great was the rivalry amongst them for possession of the pennant presented weekly to the squad having the best sleeping quarters. Here, too, many of the children congregated for the rest hours, from 1 to 2 daily, and many of them acquired the habit of getting a good nap during this period.

As is so often the case with children suffering from malnutrition, few of them had the milk or mush habit when they came to the camp, but exertion in the swimming pool morning and afternoon soon developed such a hearty appetite that whatever was set before them vanished like magic and milk disappeared at the rate of over a quart a day per child.

Dr. Nice will examine each member of the camp upon their entrance and will keep an accurate record of the gain made by the children while they are here. He will also be on hand to care for any member who has any case of sickness. In this way the children will be kept in the best of health at all times.

The one main attraction of the youngsters, the one to which they look forward to with a great deal of interest is the meals, and the tuberculosis association is seeing to it that they will have the proper variety and amount of food. Mrs. Parker, who cared for the culinary needs last year, will be on hand again this season and will satisfy the hunger of the campers.

authorities, starting at 7 o'clock in the morning when

the children arise and do sitting-up exercises for a few minutes, which is followed by breakfast. A play period lasts till 10 o'clock and then everyone takes a dip in the river. This latter number of the daily program will not be carried out until the weather is warmer. A milk lunch follows the swim and during the remaining few minutes till noon another play period is enjoyed. Immediately after lunch a rest period is taken, during which the children lie down and sometimes sleep for a short time. Another swim is held in mid-afternoon and supper is served at 5:30, with taps being sounded at 7:30.

The sleeping quarters are constructed in such a manner that the boys and girls are in the open continuously. When they retire at night the cool mountain breeze comes through their rooms as the sleeping porches are constructed of screen and fresh air is enjoyed the entire night.

The officials of the tuberculosis association wish to announce that visitors are welcome at the camp at any time and they urge that the people take a trip up there and see how the undernourished children are being taken care of.....

[Ed. Note: Kiddie Kamp operated in Three Rivers for eight years, until the Tuberculosis Association set up a more complete operation in Springville for the County and Kiddie Kamp was closed.]

*Three Rivers Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 162*

*Three Rivers, CA 93271*

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Application For Renewal/New Membership  
Three Rivers Historical Society

Enclosed is my payment for my renewal/membership for the year beginning June, 1996, in accordance with the schedule checked below.

ANNUAL DUES JUNE, 1996-1997:

Active: \$10.00/yr ( )

Lifetime: \$100.00 ( )

This is a new ( ) or renewal ( ) membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    )\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all checks payable to the Three Rivers Historical Society. Mail this application c/o Jeanne Caruthers,  
P.O. Box 651, Three Rivers, CA 93271.*