Jessie MacKinnon Bequette was born in Fresno, California on September 11, 1906 and passed away on April 9, 2010 at the age of 103. Her history in Three Rivers goes back a long way.

Walter Fry, the first civilian superintendent of Sequoia National Park was Jessie’s grandfather. After Jessie married Bruce Bequette the couple returned to Three Rivers and in 1926 they built their home on land inherited from her mother.

Bruce Bequette was employed by the National Park Service for many years as a propagation specialist. The landscape in the vicinity of the house still contains many plantings from a nursery they ran on the present day site of the Museum. In addition to the nursery they also had a small general store and gas station. The main room of the Museum is the original store.

Jessie Bequette continued to live in the house after Bruce’s sudden death in 1967 until her relocation to a Visalia retirement community in 1993.

This property is important to Three Rivers because historically it was the site of the Adam Bahwell home and the Saloon, the first “public house” in town, the Bahwell Ditch and Mineral King Road both ran through the property. In 1910 Jessie’s parents, John and Edith Fry MacKinnon, built their home and barn on this site. It was consumed by a tragic fire in 1914 which took the life of Jessie’s father, John, while he was trying to save the family piano, a wedding gift from John to his wife Edith.

(page 2 of this newsletter will explain ‘why’ Jessie’s house and property is so important to the Three Rivers Historical Museum).
I could not add any more than what is said in the following article.…

To the Members and Friends of the
Three Rivers Historical Society & Museum

The board of directors of the Three Rivers Historical Society is pleased to announce the purchase of the approximately 2.5 acres of land to the west of the museum. The board has long hoped to be able to do this. It will provide much needed additional land for parking and future development. The purchase includes the 1,200 sq. ft. Bequette home which we anticipate will be used as a museum adjunct site and perhaps for community groups to use.

Unfortunately, this purchase increases the historical society's capital debt to approximately $170,800. This is debt is offset by the current assets of $310,250. This does not include all of the museum’s artifacts and historical items which we feel are priceless.

We are soliciting help from members and friends to retire this debt. There are two ways you can help right away:

♦ One is to make an outright cash donation to the society.
♦ The second is to make a monthly donation to the society. This can be set up as an automatic transfer of funds from your financial institution to the society's account.

All of these funds will be deposited in a separate account from which payments will be applied to the capital debt. The Three Rivers Woman’s Club and the Three Rivers Lions Club have each already pledged $100 per month toward retiring the debt. The first outright donation has been received from Jim and Jeanette Barton and several community members are already making automatic monthly donations.

The purchase was made possible through the generous support of Chan and Elizabeth Wilcox and was expertly facilitated by David Learned of Sierra Real Estate.

We invite everyone to come by the museum and visit our new acquisition. As a board, we thank you for your support of the Three Rivers Historical Society and Museum.

Tom Marshall, President
Nancy Brunson, Vice Pres.
Pat Crain, Secretary
Dody Marshall, Trea, Archivist
Susan Wolff, Vol Coor
Rusty Crain, Director
Isabelle Collins, Director
Janine Chilcott, Director
Bobbie Harris, Director
Gaynor McKee, Director
Jackie Weeks, Director

For more information or to make a donation, please drop by the museum at 42268 Sierra Dr., call 561-2707 or email history@3rmuseum.org.
The Three Rivers Historical Society’s mailing address is P.O. Box 162, Three Rivers, CA 93271
LAST MINUTE SHOPPING

Now is the time to get some great prices on those last minutes gifts for the holiday season:

- Local author’s books
- Children’s books and toys
- Greeting cards
- Photography items from ‘Country Bear Originals’. Cards, photos and mugs.
- Authentic Native-American miniature baskets from local tribe members.
- Lidabelle Wyle pictures and note cards.
- Bearfoot Bears and Folkmanis Puppets
- DVDs, records and tapes
- Used books and much, much more

OPEN SUNDAY DEC 23 & 30 FOR THOSE YEAR END SPECIALS

WHEN IS THE MUSEUM OPEN?

WINTER HOURS: Now through March 2013
Monday—Saturday, 9am to 3pm
Sunday—Closed starting in January until April

SUMMER HOURS: April through September 2013
Daily—9am to 5pm

SPECIAL HOURS:
If you have a family gathering or group in Three Rivers let us know and we would be happy to open the museum for a special occasion.

CLOSED DATES:
Christmas Day 25Dec2012
New Years Day 01Jan2013

We're on Facebook!!
Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/3rmuseum, it’s a great way to stay connected with the Museum and see our latest events and news. We also have exclusive photos you may not see anywhere else, so come check out our page and see what’s new.

Visitor Count At The Museum

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From all of us to our Members & Friends

Happy Holiday's

Museum Board of Directors
Tom Marshall, Pres. / Nancy Brunson, VP
Pat Crain, Sec'y / Dody Marshall, Treas.
Janine Chilcott, Dir / Isabelle Collins, Dir.
Rusty Crain, Dir. / Bobbie Harris, Dir.
Gaynor McKee, Dir. / Jackie Weeks, Dir.
Susan Wolff, Dir.

Additional Finance Committee Members
Mike Little (not pic) / Chan Wilcox

Your Volunteer Docent's
Karen Barnett / Bobbe Haggard
Bonnie McCassy / Naoko Otani
Carla Treuting / Ingrid Ziegenbein

Also Not Pictured
Jen Cortum / Shelby Roberts
Bonnie Nelson / Gene Roberts
Kim Kauling