The following article was found lost in a sea of newspaper clippings. Although it was not clearly identified such as the date and newspaper it appeared in, it makes up for it in humor and personality. The article was written by John Holden and appeared in the Kaweah Kaleidoscope column.

There are a few that are older’n me around here. But none of ‘em are so forward, so prominent, y’might say. After all, I do sit here on the North Fork lookin’ across the bridge to the south, like I been for years. Even with the old ‘34 fridge, I was lookin’ across that to the south, too. I guess I was always attractive to bridges. In little old Tres Rios, anyhow.

There was a time it was just ol’ Missus Hayes an’ me. I wasn’t so big in them times, but I did have a handsome porch on the richer side which made me look more formal and open, maybe, than I got to be later. Ol’ Missus Hayes, used to tickle me, she did; had to carry her water over from the Thorn Property just west of us. Didn’t seem to bother her a lot. She was livin’ with me til almost before she died.

I was passed on to her family, but they never cared to come back to me to live. I was too small, I suppose, or too old-fashioned. Oh, her grandson Bill, he used to come by now and again from the Bay area, just to check up. But he always looked me over like some sorta poor relative.

I don’t know if you’re to that stage where you got shingles loose here and there, an’ your wirin’s getting threadbare, and you feel the termites are mobilizing to storm the foundations. But that’s where I am and I can’t always rightly recall how things were when I was a sight younger and prettier. But it seems like after Missus Hayes left, they used me for a Chamber of Commerce for a time. And then came my heyday.

The Woman’s Club has always been the most active group of so-and-sos you ever saw around here. And when they took me over, I was in my heyday. They added a room on my back, along kind of diningroom with windows all around the side and slanting roof. An’ they spruced up my kitchen and my sanitary operations till I was a first-rate classy joint, I’ll tell you. Oh the dances and the elegant dinners those folks used to throw at my place! I’m no good at dates, mindya, but I think it was somewhere in the early or middle 60s when some of the local bigshots, along with some Woodlake city-slickers decided to put up a Memorial Building. And that one, with her modern shape and fixtures, she thought she was really hot stuff, didn’t she now? So the Woman’s Club had to get holt-toity and move over there for their high society affairs. Well, let’em go, I said. I wasn’t hurt. Just kindly offended, don’tcha know. Back in those days, I thought it was the beginning of the end. Nobody’d want me any more.

First thing I know, a bunch of artist-types are moving in. They bring looms, and easals and kilns. At first I thought it was kindly effected and silly, but I got to say I ended up enjoying how they made all that bright cloth and glazed clay figures and goofy pictures. But just when I was used to them, they moved out. This time I was sure it was the end.

But no. Some, even stranger than the last, began coming to me to read books and give talks and perform little plays. They were usin’ me for their childish make-believe! Then they’s havin’ exhibits of their crafts along with readings and lectures. One time they had a Fall Fair, they called it. For a while there, I thought they were makin’ fun of me. Finally I decided I didn’t mind none. Old age makes you kindly accept a few embarrassment’s.

Then, I guess it’s about eight years ago, Missus Hayes grandson dropped me completely, and I figured this time I’d really had it. Then after a year or two, another bunch of actor-people took me over (for a disgustingly low fee, I might add), and came to me to practice their little plays. An’ they began having classes here – some lively bouncey dance they call aerobics, and for a while a slow, oriental dance they called Tai Chi. And there was Greek dance, too. (Now that’s a strange thing, if you never seen it.) An’ there are piano classes in the afternoon, very popular, it seems. And – oh yes – there are special groups called Hospice and the Kaweah Coalition that show movies at meetin’s in my hall. Lately, I got people comin’ for classes in drawin’ – on paper, that is, not from a pump.

I thought I was gettin’ fairly venerable and dignified, until I realized my backside was fallin’ off. They took the old dining room and cabinets down – well, they was rottin’. But I don’t feel at all decent or dressed with my north side bare and scarred, like it is.

Everybody’s wonderin’ if I’m gonna last out this crisis. Oh yeah, Me an’ my little scranny white cat that’s adopted me, we hear ‘em gossipin’ about it all the time. Sure I got a facelift with them porticos of river-stone an’ eucalyptus that Robin Beard did fer me, but I’m still hurtin’ in the rear. Just the other day I heard ‘em talkin’ about plans to rebuild my backside, make it into a nice little classroom gallery-like. But then they said the County Plannin’ Board, whoever they are, was thinkin’ that I’m in the wrong zone – I got to be rezoned – before I can get my backlift.

Continued on page 3
Editor's Corner
with Tom Marshall

2016 was quite a year around the Museum and for the Society. Lots of events, building projects, restoration projects and of course the daily upkeep on the buildings and reports to government agencies.

Would we have it any other way? NO, we would not. We work at our best when we are challenged.

2017 looks to be another banner year for projects.

♦ It’s time to open the addition and the Mineral King Preservation Society is working hard to have the Mineral King Room ready for January 22. See story in NL.

♦ Finish up on Bequette House restoration. (so close right now, taping, texturing and painting.) In fact we want to have a painting party with community volunteers.

♦ Research Barn project.

♦ Make sure annual events are on schedule.

♦ AND, of course keep the doors open 7 days per week so everyone can enjoy our history.

As usual we have needs which can only be accomplished with your memberships and donations.

The Bequette House project needs about $3,500 to open it to visitors. We have furniture from the house in the 1930’s just waiting. It is a lot of money but we have already invested over $10,000 that has come from donations and the house is looking so much better and we are so close we can’t quit now.

The letter sent out in December asking for year end donations is coming in and has helped a great deal and we really appreciate the support that we have received from the community.

Included in this newsletter you will find a list of our membership and donations.

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The Bequette House project needs about $3,50 Volunteerism
An article from Dody Marshall

Three Rivers may be a typical small town or village, but to a person who was raised in a much larger town Three Rivers is very unique. It appears that there is a larger number of artists, talent and volunteers per capita then any other town, and to me that is remarkable – especially the volunteer part.

There might be towns with more artists, but the number of people who give of their time to help others is remarkable. It is said that this is a community made up primarily of seniors and retirees with a few young and middle age families in the mix. That may be why the number of volunteers is so high – however, that also raises the question, “why isn’t the number higher?” Some of the volunteers (both senior and young/mid-aged adults) work for a living, but still find time to volunteer in their off hours.

Many of the seniors are retired and volunteer because they want to help the community or just do something useful. Even though there is a goodly number of volunteers already in service there is still a need for more volunteers, and there are still many who could volunteer but don’t. Reasons? “I don’t know what to do;” “I don’t know how to do it;” “I don’t know who to talk to;” “I’m not knowledgeable enough;” “I’m too shy around people;” or “I don’t want to be bothered. It could interfere with my plans should I decide to travel, etc.” Been there, done that. Personally, I was volunteered for what I do. Yes, in reality I am basically a shy person. Then I thought, “If these visitors were guests in my house what would I say and how would I treat them.” This seemed to make the ‘job’ a little easier.

At the Museum we had a teenage volunteer who was quiet and meek when she started her community service here, and by the time she graduated from high school and moved away, she was outwardly friendly, relaxed, and confident. I can’t say enough good things about the volunteers of Three Rivers. Some of course are more dedicated then others, but they all have the same interest at heart – to help others and the community.

Many of the non-profit organizations are in great need of volunteers. The Three Rivers Historical Museum is one of them. So, if you would like to meet interesting people and learn a little more about the area while helping the community, please consider being a volunteer.

You can contact Dody at the Three Rivers Museum: Ph. 559-561-2707 or history@3rmuseum.org

FINALLY

Have A Great New Year!
I know we are at your Historical Society & Museum.
Three Rivers Historical Times

The Cookbook is Coming!

Over 110+ Recipes
Kitchen Tips &
Three Rivers History
April 2017
Pre-Publishing orders taken starting in February

Who Keeps The Place Running?
A dedicated group of volunteers are responsible for keeping the doors open and we have some of the best.

Donating just a few hours each week they greet our visitors from around the world and help us keep the Museum looking like it is brand new.

Carol Berryhill
Daryl & Julie Britten-Bruns
Bob Burke
Nancy Brunson
Deborah Condon
Rusty & Pat Crain
Louise Jackson
Rachel Katz
Kim Kauling

Shivon Lavely
Tom & Dody Marshall
Bonnie McCasy
Gaynor McKee
Bill Miller
Nadine Steel
Jackie Tuttle
Susan Wolff
And all the folks that help with events!!!

MINERAL KING ROOM CELEBRATION

Mineral King. The very name speaks of its importance. From its unique place as a microcosm of the Southern Sierra Nevada’s geology and natural history, to its story of mankind’s place in a mountain ecosystem. Of our human dreams and exploitations, ownership, governance, conservation and preservation. Of the importance of community, its history, and the stories that preserve that history: of miners, packers, families and old resorts, of Disney and the involvement of the U.S. Supreme Court of fishing and climbing, camping and characters, disasters and ghosts, and perhaps a tall tale or two.

Come celebrate the opening of the Mineral King Preservation Society’s Mineral King Room with shared stories told by old-timers who lived them and new-timers who have collected them.

Open House at the Three Rivers Museum, Sunday, Jan 22, 1pm to 4pm
Stories will be told throughout the afternoon
Refreshments and drinks included on the house

If The Three Rivers Arts Center Could Talk, from pg. 1

An’ then there’s the money. I’m trying’ to improve my language because they call me the Arts Center now. I know a lot of regular folks think I’m acting uppity an’ artsy; maybe I attract too many weirdos to some of my functions.

But if I do say so myself, I think Three Rivers can still use me. I mean, artists aren’t such awful folks after all, and I’ve always felt this town attracts artists like horses to a salt-lick. If I could just get my new back, and some new wiring’ and plumbing’, why, I bet people wouldn’t mind coming’ to see me at-all. Would you now? Think about it. And tell those actors to do right by me, by golly!

That’s enough from Mother McArtsenter. She does shelter the meetings and rehearsals and readings of the Three Rivers Players. And the Players are now scheduling their new season of three productions, which ma be rehearsed at the Center, but will be produced at the hoity-toity Memorial Building. In the fall the group will present “Bell Book and Candle,” John van Druten’s sophisticated comedy of witches and warlocks, opening October 30 and repeating the following Friday and Saturday. The winter production will be a play with children from Three Rivers school, And in April, the Players expect to mount “Thurber Carnival,” favorite stories of James Thurber in dramatic form, with music. The latter even has tentative plans to tour to Lindsay.

We trust, Mother McArts, that you approve that your backside and plumbing will be in sufficient repair to keep your morale high for a few more vicissitudes in your very varied life.
Donors of Artifacts during 2016

John Burke
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Chrstal Chang
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Bill and Ann Haxton
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American Ambulance
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Reimer’s Candies & Gifts
Sierra Subs & Salads
Three Rivers Village Market
Anne Lang’s Emporium
Comfort Inn
Riata Ranch
Three Rivers Drug
Antoinette’s Coffee & Goodies
Culligan Water, Lindsay
River View Restaurant
Three Rivers Mercantile
Todd’s Pizza Factory
Bank of the Sierra
Lazy J Ranch Motel
Sequoia Motel
Three Rivers Post Office
Staples, Visalia

A special Thank You to all the businesses and organizations who continue to support us each year

Including, but not limited to, Mike Little (CPA), Mid Valley Disposal, CalFire, the CalFire Mountain Home Crew, Tulare County Fire and Sheriff, and the Three Rivers Volunteer Firefighters.
**Individual Memberships**

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**Yearly Memberships Run From July 1—Jun 30**

Life Memberships Are For The Life Of The Member

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**Thank You**
Three Rivers Historical Society & Museum
P.O. Box 162
42268 Sierra Dr
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Phone: 559-561-2707
history@3rmuseum.org
www.3rmuseum.org

Established - December 1991
Museum Opened - October 2000
501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

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Woodlake High School and F.F.A.

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Nancy Brunson
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Rusty Crain

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| JAZZAFFAIR 2017 |
| April 7-8-9-10 |
| Jazz Memorabilia On Display At Museum |

| LION'S TEAM ROPING |
| April 27-28-29-30 |
| Roping & Western Displays At The Museum |
| Programs & Photos From Years Passed |

| REDBUD FESTIVAL |
| May 13-14 |
| Arts & Crafts Show At Memorial Building |

| HOT DOG FESTIVAL |
| July 8 - 10am to 4pm |
| At The Museum |

| NATIVE-AMERICAN DAYS |
| September 20-21 |
| Education Program For 4th Grade Students |
| About Native-American Life In Our Region |
| Public Welcome To Observe |

| HOLIDAY BAZAAR |
| November 4, 9am-4pm |
| Senior League, Arts & Crafts Show At Memorial Building |

| LIVING HISTORY DAY |
| November Date To Be Announced |
| At The Museum |

| COMMUNITY CAROLING |
| December 2, 5pm-7pm |
| At The Museum |