THREE RIVERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Est. October 1991
Museum October 2000
501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

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Three Rivers Historical Times
July-August 2016

AMERICAN FLAG FACTS

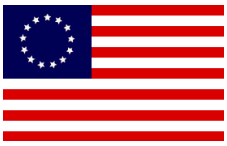
Since this is the July-August issue of the newsletter, we thought you might like a bit of flag facts. This article was taken from the genealogytrails.com website.

The journals of the Continental Congress indicate that Francis Hopkinson, a Congressman from New Jersey and patriot, was the true designer of the flag—Betsy Ross doing the sewing from her upholstery shop on Arch Street in Philadelphia.

Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker.

Official Acts Relating to the Flag

June 14, 1777—the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act stating, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation." In 1949, President Harry S. Truman officially named June 14th Flag Day in commemoration of this event.



January 13, 1794—Act which stated that after May, 1795 there would be 15 stripes and 15 stars.

April 4, 1818—Act signed by President Monroe stated that there would be 13 stripes and one star for each state. New state's stars would be added on July 4th after their admission to the Union.

June 24, 1912—For the first time, flags became standardized with specific proportions and the arrangement of the stars into six rows of eight each according to an Executive Order from President Taft.

January 3,, 1959—An Executive Order from President Eisenhower stated that the stars would be arranged in seven rows of seven stars each.

August 21, 1959—An Executive Order from President Eisenhower resulted in the stars being arranged in nine rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows staggered vertically.

Robert G. Heft designed the current flag as a school project when Hawaii and Alaska were being discussed as possible states. He received a B minus for the assignment because his teacher said it lacked creativity. His teacher told him he would receive a higher grade if it was adopted by Congress, so he sent it on to his representative, where it eventually became the nations flag.

Ed. Note: According to Heft, his teacher honored their agreement and changed his grade to an A for the project.

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Here's a short story from Thelma Crain's Sunbeams and Buzzards

With our Mineral King Room almost finished I thought a nice short story about the area would be good here.

A Trip to Atwell's Mill

We arose early because we faced a two day journey with two stout horses pulling a spring wagon. We were headed for Atwell's Mill. The year was 1917 and because a skirt would have been cumbersome, my mother elected to wear knickers. Fashion at that time had not decreed that women wear trousers, but she decided that if we left before daylight, no one would be the wiser.

Also, along on the outing was the family cow tied securely and trudging along behind the wagon. There were three of us children and we must have milk for the next two weeks.

Continued on page three……..

Editor's Corner

with
Tom Marshall

This is my first time at working directly with a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and I had no idea when I came into this position in 2008 that there were so many government agencies that we have to deal with "all the time."

- Tulare County; Assessors office, Planning Department, Health and Human Services.
- California State; Secretary of State, Attorney General, Board of Equization, Franchise Tax Board
- Federal Government; IRS in so many ways.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the idea of a challenge and *boy is this a challenge.*

I have a chart on a filing cabinet telling me when and who should be getting the next report. Without that chart I would be lost. And why do I have a chart? Because Dody wrote it up for me. She's the organizer and thank goodness for that.

Did you know that the various different departments within the state of California don't have a central computer to look at and that is why we have to report to each one separately even though the reports might be duplicates.

What can I say; it is what it is and we love to make reports to them ALL.

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On a lighter note we thought you might like to know about daily donations in the museum.

Up until May 2016 we had a small jar on the reception desk where visitors coming in could leave a donation. In May we received two large donation boxes from the Park Service that were being recycled. One a bit larger than the other. The smaller box (19"x19"x14" high) was placed by the front door. Here are some numbers that I thought confirmed that "if you build it bigger, they will come."

YEAR	# Visitors Donations MAY	# Visitors Donations JUNE
2011	889 $126.79	856 $160.68
2012	686 $148.49	751 $125.65
2013	576 $92.21	615 $125.36
2014	562 $187.65	612 $190.23
2015	517 $98.75	745 $242.46
2016	747 $298.67	815 $280.00

What all this says is that the numbers will go up, I guess the bigger box gets noticed and used.

Here's a short story about our **Mineral King Room** and our contractor, Pete Crandall and why we could not be any happier with his work.

After putting up the center skyline (which resembles one of the first bridges to Mineral King) Pete looked at the one beam and did not like what he saw. Being a long beam it naturally will often have a slight bend in it. Well this one was less than 1/8 to 1/4 inch at one point and for 2 days it drove Pete up the wall. Yes, he fixed it and all was good again. Standing 20 feet away he noticed that 'imperfection,' and fixed it.

Now that is craftsmanship!

Artifact of the Month

July 2016

Antique Fire Trucks

1951 International

Donation; Visalia Imagine Museum

1947 Chevrolet

Donation; TR Vol. Fire Fighters

Artifact of the Month

August 2016

Antique Kitchen Stove

Located in storage at this time. Will be in Bequette House

Donation; Chan Wilcox

Have you reserved your space for the Yard Sale, Aug 6

10 Reasons to visit a museum, continued….

6. Museums help bring change and development to communities

As museums are functioning more and more like community centers in providing access to current research and new ideas, they've become hot-spots for civic engagement. The promotion of education and the cultivation of conversation that are taking place in museums across the nation shapes and strengthens our neighborhoods.

7. Museums are a great way to spend time with friends and family

A day at the museum often translates to a day spent with loved ones as fathers and mothers transform into tour guides, and the environment provides a shared learning experience.

8. A museum may be your next community partner or business endeavor

It takes a lot of employees to help run America's approximately 17,500 museums and it takes countless businesses and community partners to keep them functioning. Museums need everything from printing services, to video surveillance, to dino-glue– and they are inextricably woven into the web of American government and businesses.

9. Museums are free sometimes but they all need your support to keep their doors open.

Several museums nationwide offer free admission during specified hours or days of the week. Visit the website of your favorite museum to see if they feature something like this. Perhaps more importantly, take a look at museum membership rates. Often, a membership pays itself off in as few as three annual visits to the museum. When a museum does NOT offer free admission, look into your heart. All museums need financial support in order to keep their doors open. If you like a visitor serving organization and you want to keep it around for decades to come (so that you may bring your great-grandchildren), make a donation or fill out that membership card with pride!

10. There is a museum close to you.

According to the American Association of Museums (now the American Alliance of Museums since the original publication of this post) museums average approximately 865 million visits per year or 2.3 million visits per day. That's a lot of museum visits! There is certainly something for everyone.

Pia's Notes…….

Pia Martinez…..
Woodlake High School Rep.

The 2016 Woodlake FFA end of the year banquet was a huge success. Numerous awards and recognition was given to the hard working, deserving chapter members of the Woodlake FFA.

We also had the 2015-2016 California State FFA Reporter Ms. Danielle Diele in attendance to speak on the importance of being involved within the FFA.

At the banquet the 2016-2017 Chapter Officers were installed and they are the following: Sentinel- Anthony Guzman, Reporter- Clarissa Elias, Treasurer- Crystal Sandoval, Secretary- Kiara Benavides, Vice President- Edith Guijon, and President- myself, Pia Martinez. I am so excited to have this opportunity to lead the Woodlake FFA and can not wait to see where my year of service will take me.

The Woodlake FFA is now preparing for the Tulare County Fair which will take place on September 14th -18th. Our members will be showing Beef Cattle, Market Lambs, Market Rabbits, Meat Chickens and Swine this year. I myself will be showing a Market Lamb and a pin of three Market Rabbits.

I would like to invite everyone out to visit the Tulare County Fair.

Hope to see you there….Pia

Atwell Mill, Continued……

I'm sure our parents must have grown weary of our asking, "How many more turns?" for it was a boring trip for my sisters and me and we were impatient to stretch our legs.

Near evening we arrived at the half way point called Oak Grove, where there was a residence and service out buildings. We camped along with other fellow travelers.

One man who had the only automobile was traveling in a Model T Ford about which he spouted its wonderful attributes.

The next morning, much to the enjoyment of the other wagoners, his auto failed to climb the hill and he was forced to engage the help of my father and his two stout horses to proceed.

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Phone: 559-561-2707
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www.3rmuseum.org

Hot Dog Festival
July 9th, 10-4

2016 Historical Society & Museum Events

JULY 9	**HOT DOG FESTIVAL 10am to 4pm**	Hot Dog, Polish Dog or Veggie Dog and all their fixin's; Corn on the Cob and an A&W Root Beer Float. All for just $8.00. Volunteer firefighters are cooking and sharing in the proceeds. Fire Departments and more on display.
AUGUST 6	TREASURED ITEMS YARD SALE 8am to 3pm	Bring your items and sell them, $10 booth space and you keep the proceeds. Donate them to the Museum and the Society will keep the proceeds. Call ahead to make your reservation or to donate 561-2707
SEPTEMBER 14-15-16	CALIFORNIA NATIVE-AMERICAN DAYS	Education program for 4th grade students. Native Americans demonstrate what life was like for the Indians prior to the settlers coming. Invited schools, public welcome to watch.
OCTOBER 8	LIVING HISTORY DAY 10am to 4pm	Learn about our way of life from 1900 to 1935 with displays and demonstrations including a Model "A" Ford club with 17-20 cars.
OCTOBER 9	BILL TWEED RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING 12noon to 3pm	If you have known Bill Tweed, retired National Park Service Ranger and author, you know that his publications are excellent reading. Bill will be here to sign copies and talk about his newest book
NOVEMBER 12	HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT THE MEMORIAL BUILDING 9am to 4pm	The Museum is looking to possibly have a booth with a full line of products and books from our gift shop. We will also have all the same at the Museum at special prices through December 24th..
DECEMBER 3	COMMUNITY CAROLING AT THE MUSEUM 5pm to 7pm	Large campfire, old fashioned s'mores, lots of singing and more at this annual event. Free. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.