This issue of the newsletter includes articles from the 'Current Newspaper' which was the local paper from 1948 to 1956. These two articles are all about the 'new' dial telephones.

Change Over

This article came from the March 25, 1955 issue of the paper.

Three Rivers will switch over to dial telephones on Sat., April 2nd at 11pm, telephone manager W.J. Clarke announced today.

At that time the new Logan 1-numbers will go into effect. A special telephone book with these new numbers was recently distributed here.

"Crews are now making final tests on dial machinery located in the new telephone building," said Clarke.

"Thousands of tiny wires and switches are being hand tested. One at a time. To make sure that everything will be ready the night of the changeover to dial," He said.

Clarke gave these tips in using the new dial telephones after the change:
1. Lift the receiver and listen for the hum of the dial tone. If you dial before you hear it your call cannot go through. 2. after you turn the dial release it. Don't force it back. If you do, you may get a wrong number. 3. If your finger slips or some other mistake is made while dialing, hang up. After a few moments dial again.

(We are looking for a copy of that original telephone book and if you have one or know of one that you can donate, we would really appreciate it.)

Change Over Is Here

Here are some excerpts from an article in the April 1,1955 issue of the paper.

11:01 pm, Saturday April 2, 1955 will mark another era begun and an old one forgotten.... It will be quite a change from the original telephone system which was installed on the old Mt. Whitney Power Company poles. The power company started operation in 1899 and there were only a few phones in operation. One was in the 'Bahwell Saloon' and one was at the Dave Carter home.

(Speaking of the Saloon, the original was on the Museum property and we are putting up a replica of the Saloon on its original site. The picture was taken in the early 1920's.) Now back to the story

In 1903 Frank and Nolly Britten built their own service and the first switchboard was installed in Britten's Store. In the early days, ten bells were rung when an important announcement was to be made and Frank Britten remembers hearing about the San Francisco earthquake through this method.

The dial system may denote progress but nothing could replace or improve the outstanding service rendered Three Rivers by the former service staff which many times functioned beyond the call of duty.

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Ed. Note: A short story...... Friday afternoon I just printed the first page of this newsletter to look it over. The picture I had here was taken off the internet. No joke, two minutes after I printed the page to proof, Jim Wells walked in with this phone from the mid-1950's. Thank you Jim for your perfect timing.
Editor’s Corner
with Tom Marshall

CALFIRE
Most of us know that it is the name for the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection, but do you know that they also run the Mountain Home Fire Camp above Springville?
I bring this up because of the amount of help that this group has given to Three Rivers non-profit groups and in particular the Three Rivers Museum.
It all started for us last November when the crew (16) came from Springville and built our ‘Heritage Trail’ at the Museum.

GATEWAY NOTES
The following article comes from the "Current Newspaper" dated Aug 18, 1954.
The McCoy's thank every one for all the help rendered during the time of the fire which consumed Gateway Lodge last week. They are very grateful no one was hurt worse than Merv who sprained his back moving a drum of gas to safety. As soon as they get rested up and regain part of their composure they hope to clean up the mess and rebuild... a fireproof building. Loss was estimated at $40,000 with very little insurance.
The car the McCoy’s lost is to be replaced but they felt handicapped with no dishes, no cooking utensils and no tools. They also felt the loss of some oil paintings and Merv’s overseas souvenirs.
It is thought that faulty wiring may have caused the fire, since several persons noticed that no night-light burned as it usually did after hours.
If anyone has a drop leaf table and chairs the McCoy’s could sure use them.
Merv recovered twenty cans of beer and he figures each can to be worth $20,000 as they were all that he was able to salvage.
The picture is from a postcard we believe was taken in early 1950’s probably just before the fire in 1954. It is looking towards the Gateway from the Pumpkin Hollow Bridge.

SCHOOL MENU
Here is the Three Rivers School lunch menu for the week of Sept 13-17, 1954. I believe this was the first week of school for that year and that could explain a lot. OH, how things have changed.

Monday Calif. Delight / Popeye Special / Pear Halves.
Tuesday Goody Loaf / Red Cap Salad.
Wednesday Chuck wagon Special / Apple Sauce / Sierra Salad.
Thursday Cowboy Stew / Pencil Carrots / Peaches
Friday Tuna & Peanut Butter Sandwiches / Mixed Veg / Juice Wiggle and cartwheels.

20¢ includes half pint milk and bread & butter.
Couple of notes: Does anyone know what Calif. Delight, Popeye Special or Goody Loaf is? And I am not sure but I don’t remember ever trying a Tuna & Peanut Butter sandwich. I hope that is a ‘or’ and not an ‘&’.

It’s Membership Renewal Time
July 1, 2016–Jun 30, 2017

Watch your mail (not email) for your membership renewal letter. It is so important to get your renewal in early so we can continue to provide the services that we do and continue to work on our projects in ‘Preserving History for Future Generations’ and please think about an additional donation. Life Members, of course your membership is all paid up but that additional
THREE RIVERS WOMAN’S CLUB
On March 20, 2016 a dinner took place at St. Anthony’s Retreat celebrating the achievements of the first 100 years of the Woman’s Club. The history of the club was presented in a wonderful talk given by Wilma Kauling. 

Since our club is celebrating its 100th anniversary, Bettie Powert and I have been reviewing the club history. With the help of Evelyn Stiltz’s personal recollections, we have offered short presentations at each meeting. For the benefit of those who have not been able to attend our meetings, we’ve condensed those presentations to give you a brief overview today.

In March 1916, the Three Rivers Woman’s Club was born and formally federated with both local and national women’s club groups.

The club was dedicated to promoting intellectual pursuits and the advancement of both club and community. At one time, it was the nucleus of both social and civic life in Three Rivers.

There are no minutes in existence for the first four years, so we don’t know if meetings were held during World War I, but the Club had presidents for those years. The ladies were active in Red Cross work, giving dances and other entertainments to raise relief funds. When the necessity for such work was over, regular meetings of the club resumed.

To earn money for our various charities, we ladies of the Three Rivers Woman’s Club held old-time dances and card parties, served meals to many local and out-of-town organizations, held apple festivals and bazaars, presented plays, sold magazine subscriptions, and baked pies to sell. Among the recipients of the funds raised were a children’s TB camp, French orphans (following World War I), the Tulare County Tuberculosis Society, the Near East Relief Drive, and Chinese Famine Relief.

Gift boxes filled with homemade treats were put together for disabled veterans. Money was donated for gates to the Three Rivers Cemetery, and for the restoration of Tharp’s Log in Sequoia National Park. Our efforts were instrumental in bringing both electricity to Three Rivers and a white line on the road through town.

In 1921, along with a community party, we had a Christmas tree for the community, a stocking filled with nuts and candy for every resident of Three Rivers, a gift for every child, and hot drinks and cookies for all. We helped organize PTA groups for both the Three Rivers and Sulphur Springs schools, worked to establish the Chamber of Commerce and, in 1933, were in charge of the Three Rivers booth at the Tulare County Fair.

Meetings could be serious affairs, with discussions of the early Native American inhabitants of the area, the women’s minimum wage law, and progressive education. How many of you have enjoyed a glass of wine here today? This wasn’t always an option at club gatherings. We were firm supporters of Prohibition. A narcotics resolution was endorsed, as well as one to introduce protective and business law for women into the civics class of our high school. We signed a petition urging the reduction of taxes on county libraries and voted unanimously against tipping.

The club was growing and it was becoming difficult to meet in members’ homes. We needed a space of our own and, by 1922, we had a building fund of more than $490. Possible sites for a clubhouse were discussed and each member was urged to help find a suitable location.

The Giant Sequoia had been selected as official emblem at the club’s inception and it was decided that one should be planted at their new clubhouse. A tree was temporarily planted at a member’s home, but it was never moved. Twenty years ago, a plaque was placed beneath the tree. Both tree and plaque are still there today.

In 1924, the building that is now the Three Rivers Arts Center was given to the club to use for as long as they had a need for it. Although happy to have a clubhouse, we were immediately faced with a number of problems. First, in order to own property, we had to be incorporated. One year later, on January 1st - we were.

The building was in poor condition and it was recommended that it be torn down and a new clubhouse built. That was not even considered as an option. Instead, we went happily to work tearing out partitions, laying down a new oak floor and enclosing one end of the porch for a cloakroom and the other for a library. A collection of books had been donated with the building and it was actually the community library until it had to be discontinued because the books were not being returned.

The clubhouse had its inconveniences. There was only an outhouse until indoor facilities could be installed. The foundation was in need of repair and the water system had a way of quitting when most needed, but we always managed to carry on.

With all of its problems, the clubhouse was well used – and not only by the club! When the school ran out of classroom space, the clubhouse was used. Other groups taking advantage of the space included 4-H, Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts, the Lions Club, and a Sunday school. Food was provided for these groups at a charge to help fund the club’s community donations.

Continued on reverse side…….
THREE RIVERS WOMAN’S CLUB, cont....

The club commissioned a wooden memorial honoring the Three Rivers men who had served in World War II. It was erected at the clubhouse and was moved to the Memorial Building where it can still be found today.

The cost of maintenance became too great. In April of 1962, the first mention of holding meetings in the Memorial Building appears. The following year, no meetings were held in the clubhouse and, 2 years later, it was returned to the Hays family.

In 1971, a thrift shop was offered to the club and, with some reservations, we accepted what has become the sole source of money for the many donations the club makes each year.

Only one month after taking over, The Thingerie was in trouble due to both a lack of merchandise and non-cooperation from members. The officers of the club recommended to the membership that the store be closed. Supporters urged that the store be kept open and, for the next six months, it operated on a month-to-month basis. One month, a single person’s vote kept it open.

The Club continued with other fund-raising activities, but within 6 years, the Thingerie had become the primary source of income.

Merchandise was accepted on consignment basis, with the proceeds being divided 50-50 between the club and the donor, but there was a lot of paperwork involved with handling consignment items. Eventually, we stopped accepting new items on consignment and relied solely on outright donations. By November 1982, all remaining consignment items had been inventoried and sales were going well. Among the consignment items still available was a mink stole.

Three months later it became one of the highest-priced items ever sold in The Thingerie when its new owner bought it for $185. (Almost $500 today.)

Not everything that happened with The Thingerie was serious! In June 1980, a mother and her little girl came in. While the mother was looking around, the child spotted a potty chair and, much to everyone’s surprise – used it!

The Thingerie also became the inspiration for fashion shows. They soon became a very popular event and we drafted some unconventional models to show off some of the beautiful clothing. I won’t name names, but would those of you who have participated as models please raise your hands?

Since 1980, the Three Rivers Woman’s Club has been able to donate more than $368,000 to the community. Between 2001 and 2014 over $146,000 has been given in scholarships alone.

The Thingerie has provided funds for the Three Rivers Library, the Memorial Building, and the Historical Society. The Club has for many years made monthly donations to local organizations supplying food and clothing to the needy in the community. Health-related causes to which donations have been made include: Kaweah Delta Hospital, ambulance service, a camp for deaf children, and Comfort for Kids.

Both Three Rivers Union School and Woodlake High School have received money for trips to SCICON and Sacramento, graduation trips and parties, musical instruments and band uniforms, and various athletic programs.

“In Union There Is Strength” was chosen as the club’s motto at its inception and has proven true. In the words of current club president, Peggy Huddleston, today’s members, celebrating 100 years of service, “...follow in the footsteps of dedicated women who served our club and the community...” We hope to do so for another 100 years.

The Three Rivers Historical Society is grateful to the Woman’s Club for their continued support over the years.
10 Reasons To visit a museum

1. Museums make you feel good.

Experiences, such as visiting a museum, can become a meaningful part of one's identity and contribute to successful social relationships in a manner that material items cannot. So consider foregoing an outing for items that you may not need; going to the museum will make you happier in the long run.

2. Museums make you smarter

There is no doubt that a primary role of museums is to engage and educate the community. It becomes nearly impossible to exit a museum without having gained any information or insight during your visit.

3. Museums provide an effective way of learning

Museums are examples of informal learning environments, which means they are devoted primarily to informal education—a lifelong process whereby individuals acquire attitudes, values, skills and knowledge from daily experience and the educative influences and resources in his or her environment.

4. Museums are community centers

Museums are a lot more than collections of artifacts; they allow you to meet with neighbors, discuss thoughts and opinions, and become an active part of the community.

5. Museums inspire

Museums provide inspiration through personal connections with visitors, and not only on-site and through physical community outreach efforts; some even manage to connect through their social networks. These kinds of personal memories created at museums do not expire.

More next issue…………………..

Mineral King Room, update

As you can see by the photos below, the addition to the Museum is moving right along. Next stage is stucco walls outside and work on electric and walls on the inside. We’re still looking at early to mid-June completion.

Feb 19, 2016

May 8, 2016

Did You Now?

The following note came out of the Current Newspaper May 18, 1951

—Robert Nourse placed first at the FFA steer riding events Sunday at the Woodlake Rodeo. The program staged by the Future Farmers is said to have added interest and variety to the regular team roping scheduled by the Woodlake Pioneer Round-Up Rodeo. Robert is active in the FFA, and recently was awarded the FFA heifer by his chapter in Woodlake. He will care for the heifer, and eventually will purchase it.

Pia’s Notes

Pia Martinez
Woodlake High Representative

At the end of April, 18 members from the Woodlake FFA spent four days at the State Convention in Fresno, CA. There the chapter scrapbook, which I have been working on all year, placed fourth at the state level. It was a huge accomplishment for me and my chapter. The Ag Computers team placed first in the state, which was the first time that Woodlake FFA has had a State Champion team. The first weekend in May was the Cal Poly State Finals in San Luis Obispo where Woodlake had 18 members including myself compete on four different teams. Our Ag Marketing took home Fifth in the State, our Ag Issues placed Sixth and our Soils and Best Informed Greenhand teams both represented Woodlake FFA very well. Although the year is almost over, there is still so much to be done. Our End of the Year Banquet will be held on May 26, where numerous members will be recognized for their hard work this past year as well as when the 2016-2017 Officer Team will be installed. I am very excited to see where the 2016-2017 year will take Woodlake FFA.
### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUN 19</td>
<td>Sunday 12noon to 4pm. Let’s celebrate Father’s Day with a “Brew ‘n’ Que”</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUL 9</td>
<td>Sat 10am—4pm. HOT DOG FESTIVAL. Fund raiser for the local volunteer firefighters &amp; Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 6</td>
<td>Sat 8am to 3pm. Treasured Items Yard Sale. $10 booth, 10x10+ or donate item/s to museum to sell</td>
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<td>SEP 14,15,16</td>
<td>California Native American Days for 4th grade students.</td>
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<td>OCT 8</td>
<td>Sat 10am to 4pm. Living History Day 1900-1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 9</td>
<td>Sun 1pm to 3pm. Book Signing. Bill Tweed’s new book, ‘King Sequoia’ will be here for book signing.</td>
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<td>NOV and DEC</td>
<td>Nov 1st to Dec 24th. Open House and Holiday Gift Shop Sale. Holiday cheer included for everyone.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC 3</td>
<td>5pm to 7pm. Three Rivers Community Caroling at the Museum. Campfire, s’mores and more!</td>
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**Museum Gift Shop News**

Our newly expanded shop now includes over 12 local authors.

Additional gift ideas.

Books, games and toys for the children.

And of course Gift Shop Certificates

And Museum Gift Memberships

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**Artifact of the Month**

**May 2016**

Henrietta’s Tatting

Donated by Henrietta Siodmak

**Artifact of the Month**

**June 2016**

PacBell Dial Phone

Donated by Jim Wells

See story on front page