Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local Observances Claim To Be First Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Official Birthplace Declared In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo’s claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan’s order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”

Continued on page 3.....
You can tell its spring, everything, including my sinuses, are in full bloom. All the big events around town have come and gone or is just ahead of us. It is a busy time at the museum also.

By now I find that most people in town have heard about public restrooms and what the Historical Society is trying to work out with Tulare County. That is true. We have been at it for over a year now with meetings and site plans and drawings and who knows what.

We are getting closer but it does take time and the big word MONEY keeps creeping into the conversations.

When all this started we figured it best to not say anything public until it happens but it’s time to get everyone involved in showing support for what we want to do for our community.

The program for the county’s portion of the project is going before the full Board of Supervisors soon and we need letters from everyone supporting the idea of public restrooms in Three Rivers. Not just from the businesses along Sierra Drive but from all of us that support the idea. When visitors come through town and find no restrooms they have a different outlook on our village and we really don’t need that.

The next phase of this BIG plan is our barn and we could really use support here. By joining us for a day at Eagle Mountain and taking part in our events like the Hot Dog Festival or the Drive-Thur BBQ all adds up and be watching for announcement on a major fund raiser for this project very soon. I don’t think you will be disappointed.

Call me personally and let me know how you can help with our community plans.

The unique 1873 New England Tunnel and Smelting Company ore smelter from Mineral King now has a safe, permanent home at the Three Rivers Museum. Thanks to Sequoia National Park for its work in hauling it down the mountain and settling it in the museum’s new outdoor display. More will be coming, including the smelter’s fascinating story.

The Three Rivers Phone Book Is Coming!

This edition is a joint effort of the Three Rivers Historical Society and Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce

The museum board and the new chamber board felt it was time for a new edition. Yes, the current phone book has not been the most popular book in town. A lot of mistakes were made with collections, additions and deletions but that was then and this is now with a whole new group working on it and publishing it ourselves.

It’s important here to know that putting out this book is a very big job and involves a lot of volunteers checking, updating and a lot more to make it something that is so important to our community. Yellow postcards have to put a various places around town so you can provide your information. We are not relying on the postcards only. They are just another source but a very good one to get your information to the joint group doing the book.

Only land-line and/or cell phone numbers will be listed. NO addresses except in the business classified section. Don’t wait for us to call you, turn in your information now!

Yellow Card fill out and drop off at the museum
Email 3rphbook@gmail.com
Write Chamber Phone Book, PO Box 818, Three Rivers, CA 93271

Great Trip Coming Up

EAGLE MOUNTAIN CASINO TRIP
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22
9 AM - 4 PM

DONATION: $25 PER PERSON MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YRS. OLD
EAGLE MOUNTAIN CASINO WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION EACH GUEST RECEIVES $25 FREE PLAY, AN $8 MEAL COUPON AND A TICKET FOR A FREE RAFFLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THREE RIVERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM OR FROM BOARD MEMBERS
Memorial Day, cont...

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today’s observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

To honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation’s wars: “Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men.”

To ensure the sacrifices of America’s fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law “The National Moment of Remembrance Act,” P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission’s charter is to “encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity” by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: “It’s a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day.”

Mr. and Mrs. Hale Tharp

A bit of history excerpt submitted by Mrs. W A Swanson from ‘The Current’ newspaper 1948

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We meet Mr. and Mrs. Hale D Tharp, the first white settlers of the Kaweah Valley, as they are crossing the plains in a covered wagon train coming from the east to the golden state of California.

At that time Mrs. Tharp was still a young widow by the name of Chloe Ann Swanson, traveling to California with her four small sons, her mother-in-law, and an uncle of her late husband, John Henry Swanson.

While the wagon train was encamped for a few days at one place along the route, the widow Swanson was doing a bit of ironing when a man came near and began to get “right fresh.” Mrs. Swanson threw the hot flat iron at him and he fled.

Hale Tharp happened to be standing near by and so witnessed the proceedings, and he decided then and there that he wanted that widow for his wife, and so they were married. The year was 1852.

Their first home in California was in Placerville, where Tharp worked in the mines, but an explosion in which he was working injured his health to such an extent that he was unable to continue the work in the mines.

He came down to Tulare county and into this valley and liked what he saw here. The lushness of nature untouched by any hands but those of the Indians who disturbed it not much. The singing Kaweah river, flowing over rocks, making music. Deer and other animals darting here and there. And, over all, the quiet peace that pervaded the atmosphere.

He went back to Placerville to tell his wife about what he had found and she told him that she would be contented there. He returned to the Kaweah valley and obtained an acreage along Horse Creek, a stream that has its source west of

Big Oak Flat and empties into the Kaweah.

The first house he built on the land was a crude one of logs. The house is long gone but the oak tree under which it stood is still there.

The house he built in 1874 is still on the place but rather fallen in decay. *This was reported in 1948.*

There were many Indians in the valley at that time. Mr. Tharp was always friendly with them. He had fire arms. They had bows and arrows. He shot game and gave them the meat. They like him. He was their “white chief” always.
Established - December 1991
Museum Opened
October 2000
501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

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Did you know that we have garden stepping stones representing each of the services and coming soon are roping and garden stones

We have all services, I wonder why I picked Navy for display

Shop in the Museum
Or
On-line at
https://squareup.com/store/3rmuseum

<table>
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<th>2018 Events</th>
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| **REDBUD FESTIVAL**  
May 12-13  
Arts & Crafts Show At Memorial Building |
| **SENIOR LEAGUE YARD SALE**  
MAY 19, 9am - 3pm  
At Memorial Building |
| **HOT DOG FESTIVAL**  
July 14 - 10am to 4pm  
At The Museum |
| **EAGLE MOUNTAIN BUS TRIP**  
August 22 - 9am to 4pm  
Tickets available at Museum and Board Members |
| **NATIVE-AMERICAN DAYS**  
September 25-26-27  
Public Welcome To Observe |
| **Drive Thru BBQ Dinner Night**  
October 6, 4pm-7pm  
At The Museum |
| **FESTIVAL OF TREES**  
November 28, 3:00pm Preview  
November 29, 5:00pm, dinner & auction |
| **COMMUNITY CAROLING**  
December 1, 5pm-7pm  
At The Museum |