The Mystery Of The Little Grave

This article, written by Dan Alles, came from the Sequoia Sentinel, Nov 29, 1978 and a version was in our Heritage Newsletter of September 1992.

Among the first families to settle in the Three Rivers area was one by the name of Sheppard who, true to their name, ran sheep on the north side of the middle fork in the area that we now know as Riverway Ranch and the Old Clarence Dineley property. Although the Sheppards left the area before our family came in 1885, they left landmarks behind like Sheppard’s Cove and Crossing, the latter a wide shallow place in the river where wagons could cross to go on up to Buckeye, a point now used for housing for Park employees. This crossing came down through the present Rinaldi and Latshaw properties and crossed to the Riverway Guest Houses. The old road is still visible in some places.

There was no highway on the south side of the river and to the park until 1925, and Power House #3 at the park entrance was constructed in 1915 and it took twelve horses to pull the huge generators to the new plant. Sheppard’s Spring is at the gate entering Riverway Ranch and near the late Charles Hammer’s cabin.

In 1906 I was working for the Mt. Whitney Power & Electric Co. [later purchased by the Southern California Edison] helping to build the flume to supply water to Power House #2 across the river from our present Presbyterian Church. To get materials for this project, rock, sand, gravel and cement, it was necessary to make a tramway from below the job. In searching for a stout tree above the ditch to anchor the cable to, I came across a small mound of earth with a weather-beaten and rotten headboard. There was no doubt it was the grave of a child. At that time I placed a large river boulder at the spot.

Many times I asked those who were here before I came, and finally Edgar Washburn [of Washburn Cove] told me it was the grave of a little girl of the Sheppard family. A few years ago Hugh Cox and I hiked to the area and found nothing but the river boulder I had placed there years ago. It is my hope this boulder is not disturbed and can remain a mute testimonial to a tiny pioneer who made a short but significant part of the Three Rivers history.

Thankful For A Home In The U.S.A.

Here is another item written by Dan Alles and published in the Sequoia Sentinel, November 29, 1978.

Tonight we are thankful indeed for our home in the U.S.A.
Thankful we do not live in a nation where dictators have the say.
Thankful for good old America, the land of the free and the brave.
Thankful for the stars and stripes long o’er our land may it wave.

Thankful to men who have fought for liberty and freedom of speech.
Thankful to those who have died, a solemn vow we make to each.
That we will fight to protect this land they gave their lives to free.

And teach our children to love and respect, the right from the wrong.
Yes we are thankful for a nation that does not crave to rule the world.
A world that was given to us from a million in the good book we are told.
A world where peace and happiness should rule instead of hate and war.
Where our fellow men should seek to help instead of our way to bar.
So tonight we lsp a prayer that someday love will victorious be.
Over hatred and greed and strife then nations of the world will be free.
A prayer we also express for our friends who have gathered tonight.
To celebrate Thanksgiving Day, long may their lives be bright.
May we again when the year rolls around meet for another repast.
Of turkey and all the good things that from our daily menu are cast.
This has been a very busy year at the Museum. Let’s take a look at 2016:

- Feb 6  Book signing, Clancy Barlow.
- Apr 8-10  JazzAffair displays.
- Apr 21-24  Team Roping displays.
- May 7-8  Red Bud open house
- Jun 19  Father’s Day Brew n Que.
- Jul 9  Hot Dog Festival
- Aug 6  Treasured items yard sale.
- Sep 3  Lidabelle Wylie Exhibit
- Sep 14-16  CA Native-Amer. Days.
- Oct 8  Living History Day.
- Oct 9  Book signing, Bill Tweed
- Oct 16  Aging in Community event.

Events in November—December
- Nov 12  Holiday Bazaar at Memorial building. We’ll be there.
- Dec 3  Community Caroling.
- Dec 11  TRHS—25th Anniversary reception at the Museum.

Non Event Items
- Opened our Heritage Trail behind the museum. Built by CALFIRE and the Mt. Home Fire Camp crew in Nov 2015. They returned two more times in 2016 for additional work.
- Inherited a fire truck. This one from the volunteer firefighters.
- Added a 40 foot sea-trans behind the Bequette house which now holds wagons and artifacts that will be put into our barn project.
- AND, OH YES!
  Added 800 sq. feet of museum space generously constructed by a benefactor of the Mineral King Preservation Society. As part of this we enlarged the parking lot and added a great sign to the front of the building.

Is it possible that in addition to the non-event items our team of volunteers has kept the museum open 7 days a week (most of the time) and put on or participated in 15 different events?

I look forward to 2017 and all that it brings to our community and everyone’s Museum. Without your memberships, donations (money and artifacts) and our dedicated volunteers we wouldn’t be here today.

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**The Bequette House**

**Built in 1926 by Bruce and Jessie Bequette**

It seems it has taken forever to do some work on the Bequette house but the week of October 10th was a great beginning with de-construction which will lead to restoration. Two phase restore:

**Phase I**
Clean-up, demo, foundation, framing, electrical and plumbing.

**Phase II**
Insulation, drywall, cabinets, flooring repair and more.

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Here’s Jessie on the front porch in 1995

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**Museum Life**

"And this over here" croaked the 90 year old museum tour guide, “is a fossil 4 million and 69 years old, on it’s left you can see another fossil that’s 2 million and 69 years old.”

"Wow! That’s really fascinating,” said a fellow in the audience, "how can you age it so accurately to the year?"

"Well that’s simple" answered the old chap, “It was two million years old when I started volunteering here 69 years ago.”

The message here is simple. Help us at the museum by becoming a docent and see how much fun it can be!
Woodlake FFA is preparing for our Greenhand and Chapter Degree Banquet on November 10th to honor our first and second year members. To kick off the Holiday Season, Woodlake FFA will be having several fundraisers. Our first event will be our annual Drive thru BBQ. Tri-tips will cost $30 and pre-sale will be from October 24th to November 4th. Pick-up will be November 11th from 3:00pm-6:00pm at the Woodlake High School Agriculture Department. Our next event will be our Poinsettia Sale. Poinsettia's will cost $15, pre-sale will be from October 31st to November 10th, and pick-up will be December 5th from 3:00pm-5:00pm at the Woodlake High School Agriculture Department. For more information please contact Lauren Moss at (559) 564-3307 x 362.

THREE RIVERS DIARY by Margaret Stoppel

This short story has an unknown origin and date. Found it in our museum archives.

One of my brilliant ideas has backfired. We have a chandelier which we planned to use in the dining room. It is delft-blue ceramic and has six candle-type bulbs. It is pretty but the light it sheds is not adequate. My brilliant idea was to take the ball-shaped centerpiece off the chandelier and replace it with a small reflector which would hold a downlight.

We took it to a place which does such things and the young man said, “No problem.” However, when our electrician installed it there was a problem. It shorted out. The electrician took it down and we planned to take it back to the fix-it man, or should I say the non-fix-it man.

Actually the change we had made spoiled the appearance of the chandelier so I exercised my prerogative as a female and suggested to my husband that we have it put back the way it was.

My husband thought he could do that himself. He tried. This simple chandelier is put together with 29 different nuts, bolts, washers, and “things.” They are all nesting in a plastic bag waiting to go back to the fix-it shop to be reassembled into a chandelier.

My husband had gotten the chandelier apart, replaced the original component, tested it and blew out something so that we have no electricity in either the dining room or living room. This, of course, happened on Friday night. Everything always happens on a weekend.

Dynamic Lives, Oral Histories from Three Rivers

On Sunday, October 16, 2016 an event was held at the Museum that was long over-due! The ‘Aging in Community’ non-profit group presented oral histories from long time residents of Three Rivers. It was to honor the beloved older citizens who have gifted us with their life stories.
Established - December 1991
Museum Opened - October 2000
501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

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2016 Historical Society & Museum Events

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT THE MEMORIAL BUILDING
The Museum will have a booth with a full line of products and books from our gift shop.
November 12, 9am-4pm, Saturday

COMMUNITY CAROLING AT THE MUSEUM
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.
December 3, 5pm-7pm, Saturday

HISTORICAL SOCIETY 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
Join us in celebration of our 25th year. Reception and displays on our first 25 years.
December 11, 1pm-4pm, Sunday

DATES THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED
Thursday, November 24th, Thanksgiving Day
Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day
Sunday, January 1, New Years Day

Holiday Greetings