THREE RIVERS.....Stories about the building of the old Colony Mill road to the pine timber by the Kaweah Colonists in the 1880’s with only pick and shovel, and of its extension to Giant Forest by the government a decade later with no other equipment than that drawn by teams, were recounted at the meeting of the Tulare County Historical Society at Colony Mill in Sequoia National Park yesterday.

The more than 100 historically minded persons present were welcomed by Thomas J. Allen, superintendent of the park, who express the hope that more historical data will be collected as a background for the park.

James W. Wheeler, vice president of the historical society, assisted by Harold G. Shutt, editor of the society’s publication, Los Tulares, conducted the meeting.

FORMER RANGER SPEAKS

Guy Hopping, former Sequoia Park ranger and one time superintendent of General Grant National Park, was the principal speaker.

Hopping told of the building of eighteen miles of road by the colonists in four years with an average crew of twenty men. They started in 1886, at the fork on the main Kaweah just below where the new bridge is being built in Three Rivers, and repaired a “cart trail” up as far as the present Kaweah Post Office, then continued with new construction to Colony Mill. “Here a saw mill was started but very little timber was sawed,” Hopping Said, “before Sequoia National Park was created and the government took over.”

The colonists had a flourishing town called Advance, several miles above Kaweah. There was a supply base, a printing press and a school. J.J. Martin and Burnette Haskell headed the colony. Time checks were used as a medium of exchange. On exhibition at the meeting were some of these old time checks, also pictures of the colonists and a copy of the Kaweah Commonwealth, a weekly newspaper—all the property of Mrs. Ida Purdy, former Kaweah Postmistress, who married into a colony family.

A portion of an epic poem on the colony, written by Mrs. Purdy’s husband, the late Will Purdy, was read at the meeting by Mrs. Gladys Stanfield.

Ben Miles, who lived in the colony as a young boy while his father was an engineer on the road, related a tragic incident. He said that four oxen, hitched together with huge, heavy yokes, were used to haul material for the saw mill. One day a bear crossed the road and so frightened the oxen that they ran off the grade and fell to their death down the canyon wall.

ROAD STARTED

In 1900, ten years after the park was created, the government started building a road from Colony Mill to Giant Forest, Hopping recalls. An appropriation of $10,000 was received by the park that year and for each succeeding year, the most of which was used on the road project. The first year the old colony Mill road was repaired and some work done on the extension.

Capt. Frank West, commanding officer of the cavalry troop stationed in the park that year, was in charge. George Welch, pioneer civil engineer of Tulare County, did the surveying and engineering work on the road.

During the succeeding years under Captains L.C. Andrews, Frank Barton and Charles Young, the latter a colored officer, Welch also supervised the construction. Timbers for a bridge across the Marble Fork on this road were hewed by hand by a crew under A.O. Griffes.

The road was completed to a point near the present Coffee Shop in Giant Forest in September 1903 (ed. That coffee shop is now the museum). There was a big celebration, with Capt. Young and George Welch making speeches.

A feast spread on a redwood log was served on shovels to the people sitting about on the ground. Souvenirs of the event were of redwood bark, pine cones and yellow tree moss, each bearing a tiny pick and shovel carved from redwood. This road was used until the new road up the Middle Fork opened in September 1925.

Hopping says that the old section below Colony mill, was frightening to tourists because of sharp turns and narrow road.

He related one incident where two girls were sent ahead of a car ringing cow bells so another car would not come upon them too suddenly. Continued on page 2…….
The first car to enter Sequoia Park was a Stanley Steamer in 1904. The park was not opened officially to motor travel until 1913, Hopping recalls, after serious consideration as to whether cars should ever be admitted.

Miss Frankie Welch was introduced as the granddaughter of the man who built the first road into Giant Forest. She told of finding in her grandfather’s old trunk numerous papers pertaining to the building of the road, among them time sheets bearing the names of men from many pioneer families of the San Joaquin Valley. In those days it was the ambition of every man to get a job on the Giant Forest road and spend the summer working in the cool of the forest.

Among firsts in the history of Sequoia Park are Broder and Hopping, who operated the first tourist camp at Round Meadow where the park village now is, long before the road reached there; Ernest Britten, first ranger of Sequoia Park; and Walter Fry, first permanent superintendent of the park. Charles Blossom and L.L. Davis were among early rangers in Sequoia.

Hopping recounted an incident of the first year of the road work. Capt. West had sent his troop back to the presidio in San Francisco in the fall and moved his camp out to Double Gulch on the new road. Hopping was employed to bring the mail from Kaweah post office, a ride he usually made up and back in one day. But this day a sudden storm brought snow up to his stirrups, putting his horse in a little shack because the barn was crowded with teams used on the road work. But the foreman made room and Hopping moved his animal into better shelter.

The next morning he found the shack in which he had first stabled his horse crushed flat by a fallen tree.

Hopping said the next day his horse fought drifts up to his shoulders. When the animal could go no further he would dismount and beat a way out of the drift. It took the better part of the day to reach the captain’s camp.

After the meeting the gate was opened to the Colony Mill road, used now only as a fire trail by the government, and the majority of the 34 cars assembled formed a caravan with range escort and moved slowly down the historic old highway.

Donations are so important

January through September 2015 Monetary Donations
In addition to the yearly or life memberships

**January:**
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Rachel Caggiano
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Clancy Barlow
- Rachel Caggiano

**February:**
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Rachel Caggiano

**March:**
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Rachel Caggiano

**April:**
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Rachel Caggiano

**May:**
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Rachel Caggiano

**June:**
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Three Rivers Hideaway
- Shivon Lavely and Mike Law
- David Learned
- Geoffrey and Diana Glass
- William Miller
- Richard Olin Lambert
- Peggy and Sam Huddleston
- Richard and Dian Hallford
- Susan and Steve Wolff
- Tom and Helene Keter
- Robert and Mary Hohne
- David Bronzan
- Normita Error
- Betty Luceigh
- Nadine Steel
- Nell Perry
- Rachel Caggiano

**Hot Dog Festival Donations – Received in June/July**
- Comfort Inn
- Debora Kulick/Kaweah Tax Service
- Three Rivers Pharmacy
- Robert McKeller
- Lazy J Ranch
- C.H.L. Ems. Inc (American Ambulance)
- Sequoia Motel
- Bank of the Sierra

**July:**
- Dolores Grunigen
- Connie Lentz
- Joan Thomsen
- Mark and Kristi Tilchen
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Anne and Kirke Wilson
- Carol McGrew
- Charles and Darla Castro
- Doug and Barbara Bodine
- Richard “Barry” Bartlett
- Rachel Caggiano

**August:**
- Three Rivers Lions Club
- Tom & Dody Marshall
- Barbara Wieman
- Rachel Caggiano

**September:**
- Rachel Caggiano
- Tom & Dody Marshall
Running a little late with this newsletter but that’s O.K. because I get to tell you about our California Native-American Days at the Museum. We hosted and supported the Owens Valley group of Native – American tribes while they gave instruction to 4th graders from Lemon Cove, Woodlake, Exeter, Visalia and Tulare. It was a busy time but so rewarding to see those faces light up with each of the 9 different stations giving instruction to about 500 students. This all took place Sept 16-17-18.

The results of this event can be expressed best in the children's own words:
1. One boy came up to me and said “I got to see a real Indian.”
2. One of the girls said “I got to see their houses and how they lived.”
3. Another came to me and simply said “Thank You.”

We receive “thank you” letters from the students and they return with their families to show them what they learned.

**WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS**

**PLEASE THINK ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IF YOUR NAME IS NOT LISTED**

**LIFE MEMBERS**
- Abernathy, Bob & Valerie
- Andrade, Mary & Manual
- Avants, Gerald & Roselyn
- Bartlett, Richard “Barry”
- Bennett, Gail
- Bodine, Doug & Barbara
- Bohannan, Lisa
- Boley, Paul
- Britten, Larry & Kathy
- Britten, Sophie
- Bronzan, David
- Bronzan-Robbins, Martha
- Burris, Doris
- Chilcott, Janine
- Coombs, Judy & Ben
- Crain, Rick
- Crain, Barbara
- Crain, John & Pat
- Dahlgren, Jeff & Wendy
- Doctor, Julie
- Douglas, Edwin S.
- Drewry, Bill & Bev
- Error, Normita L
- Grant, Mike & Sherry
- Grunigen, Mrs. Dolores
- Halford, Richard
- Harrison, Renee
- Helgeson, Barbara
- Hohne, Bob & Mary
- House, Ruth
- Jeffs, Wallace & Gloria
- Jules, Larry & Diana
- Kenwood, Chuck N.
- Lentz, Wayne & Connie
- Lovett, Schatzi
- Lowther, Luella
- McKee, Earl & Gaynor
- Melkonian, Milton
- Morris, John
- O’Neil, Peggy
- Peter, Donald
- Roper, C. Kristina
- Savage, Carol
- Schelling, Joyce
- Schlossin, Chris
- Seligman, James & Kathleen
- Shah, Kris & Gerri
- Smith, Bill & Marcie
- Three Rivers Lions Club
- Tolle, Juanita
- Treuting, Carla
- Wilcox, Chan
- Yates, Maxine
- Ziman, Ron & Kathy

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- Bingaman, Gayle & Bill
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- Briggs, Mark
- Britten-Brunns, Julie L.
- Buckler, Lynn A.
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- Chess, Dr. J. Thomas
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- Dierkes, Dana
- Dixon, Nataliya
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- Glass, Dr. Geoffrey & Diana
- Green, Adrian
- Hammer, David
- Harris, Roberta
- Hawes, Julie
- Haxton, Bill
- Haxton, Bill & Anne
- Hapson, Clifford & Mary
- Huddleston, Stan & Peggy
- Jackson, Louise
- Keller, Shirley
- Keter, Tom & Helene
- Kulick, Deborah
- Laffin, Marjorie
- Lambert, Ollin & Joan
- Lavely, Shilvia
- Learned, David
- Little, Michael
- Luench, Betty

**MEMBERSHIP IF YOUR NAME IS NOT LISTED**
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- Mrs. Dolores & Mike & Sherry
- Normita L
- Bill & Bev
- Edwin S.
- Julie
- Jeff & Wendy
- John & Pat
- Barbara
- Rick
- Judy
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- Pena, Rita
- Perry, Neil
- Peyton, Cory R.
- Reed, Herb & Deane
- Robb, Mark & Dorothy
- Rogers, Jeannie F.
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- Sherwood, Susan
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- Tashiro, Todd
- Tharp, Michael
- Thomsen, Joan
- Tilchen, Mark
- Tilchen, Mark & Kristi
- Turner, Bruce & Patricia
- Vasquez, George
- Warner, Gwendolyn M.
- Whitmore, Tasha
- Wieman, Barbara J.
- Wilson, Anne & Kirke
- Wolff, Susan & Steve
- Zimmerman, Charles E.
# 2015 Historical Society & Museum Events

## LIVING HISTORY DAY
**Saturday, October 10, 2015, 10am to 4pm**
- Buffalo Soldiers * Antique Firearms
- Kids Games * Photography
- Candle Making
- Teachers with things the kids can do
- Meet some of the folks from the 1800’s.
  - Grace Mullineaux Alles 1887-1984
  - Jessie MacKinnon Bequette 1906-2010
  - Guy Hopping 1877-1961
  - Hale Tharp 1830-1912
  - Special appearance by John Muir 1838-1914

## OCT
- 24, Sat 1pm—5pm
  - 15th Anniversary Join us to celebrate our history and our future! Door Prizes & refreshments

## NOV
- 14, Sat 9am-5pm
  - Senior League Holiday Bazaar at Memorial Building Museum will have a booth.

## NOV & DEC
- Nov 15 through Dec 31
  - Holiday Gift Shop time at the Museum. Sale Prices

## DEC
- 12, Sat, 5pm-7pm
  - Three Rivers Community Caroling at the Museum

## Artifact Donations Since June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Donor(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ferris Wheel</td>
<td>Don &amp; Evelyn Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switchboard, Teletype, and many more PacBell items</td>
<td>Jimmy &amp; Charolet Dreo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930’s Black &amp; Lace dress</td>
<td>Carolyn France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Fire Hydrant</td>
<td>David McNair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glass Front Curio Cabinet</td>
<td>Linda Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951 Int’l Fire Truck</td>
<td>Imagine U Interactive Children’s Museum</td>
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Photos from many donors that helps us to put together family albums of Three Rivers