The Anxious Leaf
A short story for children from the ‘Child’s Story Garden’
Author unknown

Sometimes it just feels good to sit back and dream, like a little leaf.

Once upon a time a little leaf was heard to sigh and cry, as leaves often do when a gentle wind is about. And the twig said, “What is the matter, little leaf?”

And the leaf said, “The wind just told me that one day it would pull me off and throw me down to die on the ground!”

The twig told it to the branch on which it grew, and the branch told it to the tree. And when the tree heard it, it rustled all over, and sent back word to the leaf, “Do not be afraid. Hold on tightly, and you shall not go till you want to.”

And so the leaf stopped sighing, but went on nestling and singing. Every time the tree shook itself and stirred up all its leaves, the branches shook themselves, and the little twig shook itself, and the little leaf danced up and down merrily, as if nothing could ever pull it off. And so it grew all summer long, till October.

Then the little leaf began to want to go, too, and grew very beautiful in thinking of it, and when it was very gay in color it saw that the branches of the tree had no bright color in them, and so the leaf said, “O branches! Why are you lead-color and we golden?”

“We must keep on our work-clothes, for our life is not done - but your clothes are for holiday, because your tasks are over,” said the branches.

Just then a little puff of wind came, and the leaf let go, without thinking of it, and the wind took it up and turned it over and over, and whirled it like a spark of fire in the air, and then it dropped gently down under the edge of the fence, among hundreds of leaves, and fell into a dream, and it never waked up to tell what it dreamed about.
Folks have been asking, “what’s next for the Museum Complex?” The first thing that comes to mind is ‘rest’. It has been another busy season for the Museum with ever increasing numbers of people coming for a visit.

How do we know the numbers? Each month we start a chart showing each hour of each day by using hash marks for each person coming in the front door. At the end of the month we tally it all up. We have hourly charts going back to 2007. I look at that chart and cannot believe we have gone over the 10,000 visitor mark and it is only September.

There are many factors that contribute to our increase:

- Visitors tell friends and relatives
- Increase in visitors to Sequoia
- Locals wondering “what’s next”
- Our events are popular here & there
- The Sequoia Shuttle stops here

So many visitors have commented about the welcome they get when they come in and how clean the Museum is and how informative and friendly the docents are. This can only be because we have the best group of docents who certainly enjoy our visitors.

Now that the busy season, April through August, is over we look forward to the quiet fall-winter seasons. You know.......
- 4th graders 9/19-20-21
- 1st Saturday 10/7
- Drive Thru BBQ 10/14
- 1st Saturday 11/4
- Holiday Sale Event 11/4
- Living History Day 11/11
- Holiday Caroling 12/2

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The strange part of the visitor count is that we had just under 800 less visitors in August than we had in July. Of course most of that July count is the Hot Dog Festival. Yet our donation box at the front door made more than any other month, EVER. Who knew!

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Speaking of switches, October 1st we will be going to our winter hours 9:00am to 3:00pm daily through March 31, 2018.

Yes, we are having another fund raiser with the fire fighters. This one should be easy on all fronts. You don’t even have to get out of your car.

Tickets are available from any volunteer fire fighter and at the Museum. Cash or check with the firefighters, cash, check or credit card at the Museum. You can also pay at the event.

Finally, we have a pond that holds about 12,400 gallons of water and we have to get it ready for sculptures to be placed in it in October. That means we have to empty the pond, pull all the plants out and put in barrels and clean it.

WE NEED HELP! If we can get enough people to help it should only take a few short hours (that’s a 59 minute hour vs. 60 minutes.)

Become a Docent at the Museum. Call 561-2707 for details
Native-American Life For Children

Each September the Historical Society, working with the Owens Valley Career Development Center of Visalia, hosts a program for 4th grade students to learn about the life and times of the local Yokuts.

This is a very rich cultural program that speaks directly to common core learning through hands-on and historically accurate presentations from people that have these traditions handed down from generation to generation.

September 19-20-21, 2017 will be the dates and the public is welcome to observe and learn about our Native-Americans.

THE LIFE OF A YOKUTS BOY AND GIRL

An article by Louise Jackson

It was all about school. 360 days a year, 24 hours a day, everything was geared to learning. A boy or girl could have the same teachers for years. The entire world and the unknown beyond it was their classroom. Learning the lessons taught was a matter of belonging and survival.

Up at dawn, whatever your age, your day would be filled with home chores, wood and water hauling, food gathering and preparation, taking care of pet animals, little brothers and sisters, old people and the sick. At night you were expected to learn from your dreams.

There was constant training in your family’s place in the tribal structure, and for your own calling given to you by the gods. Daily lessons through story telling by your community teachers and elders, shamans, chiefs, and parents. Training in social customs, spiritual beliefs, conformance and obedience. Never-ending lessons in wilderness survival.

Lessons in math, the foreign languages and dialects, of other tribes, money handling and commerce. Specialized skills such as trading negotiations or shaman training. Hunting, fishing, trapping. Rock mining, home construction and repair. Basket weaving. Trap, spear, bow and arrow, and tool making.

Even the fun activities were learning experiences. Hand games, doll playing, swimming and exploring. Games of hide-and-seek, running races, wrestling matches, and field game competitions. Gambling games. Dances, celebrations, and coming-of-age ceremonies.

Life was not easy for a girl or boy. But it was good, meaningful, often exciting, and filled with the love, guidance and teaching of a caring community.

Here’s What The Kids Think!

Spelling left just the way they wrote them

I liked the handmade baskets, there awesome!
I learned how the Yokuts made acorn mush!
I enjoyed the storyteller. He taught me a lot of valuable lessons! I also enjoyed the huts.
You guys are really nice because you blessed us with the smoke!
I liked all of the stations. I liked the drums because when I got to other stations, I had that beat going in my head.
First, I loved how you made the ducks and the best part was going in the hut. Can you put one in my back yard.
My favorite part was the museum because I loved seeing the old stuff that the Indians use back then.
My favorite part was the dancing.
My favorite part was the drums, I also like the pond and the stream.
My favorite part was everything!

We have received so many letters from students over our first eight years, I feel it is best said from a 4th grader from Exeter in a letter to our senior Native-American that blessed the first few years;

And to Eddie Sartuche, you are the most encouraging person I ever met. I loved how you did that blessing. It made me believe in myself. I smelt like smoke for a while! You are so kind, generouse and gentle.
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Established - December 1991
Museum Opened - October 2000
501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

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2017 Historical Society & Museum Events

NATIVE-AMERICAN DAYS
September 19-20-21
Education Program For 4th Grade Students about Native-American Life In Our Region. Public Welcome To Observe

1st SATURDAY
November 4, 9am—3pm Museum hours
Artists studios throughout town

DRIVE THRU-BBQ
October 14, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Joint Fundraiser: Three Rivers Firefighters and Three Rivers Museum
Full meal to go: DEEP PIT BBQ, Beans, Rice, Roll.
All for just $10.00 donation/tax ded

HOLIDAY BAZAAR
November 4, 9am-4pm
Senior League, Arts & Crafts Show At Memorial Building

1st SATURDAY
November 4, 9am—3pm Museum hours
Artists studios throughout town

LIVING HISTORY DAY
November 11, 10am-4pm, Veteran’s Day Celebration, honoring military
At The Museum

FESTIVAL OF TREES
November 16, doors open at 5pm, $25.00 per person
St. Anthony’s Retreat, Three Rivers

COMMUNITY CAROLING
December 2, 5pm-7pm
At The Museum