This week the boy Scouts of America are observing National Boy Scout week as well as the 41st anniversary of the founding of the movement.

Of special interest to all of Three Rivers is the fact that it was a local man, Major Frederick R. Burnham, who through his display of scout craft and wood craft, inspired the British General Baden-Powell to organize a scouting movement for boys.

At the time Burnham was a scout under Baden Powell in the Boer War in Africa, Baden Powell was greatly impressed by the contrast between the skillful Burnham and the inept, city bred British soldier in coping with the problems of survival in warfare. As a result, Baden-Powell started the Boy Scouts in England to provide out-of-door training and experience for boys. The scouts were then brought to America as the result of a good turn performed by an English scout for a visiting American. “Good turns” are a fundamental feature of scouting.

Major Burnham was a self-made scout, having learned wood craft and scout craft through experience in western America. After serving as a scout for the British in Africa, he later established his home on the South Fork, at what is now the Wells ranch. When he discovered this canyon as an area where he wished to settle, he had approached from the opposite side, over the Sierras. An interesting marker in the Three Rivers cemetery gives a pictorial account of the adventures of the well-known scout. His wife, Blanche Blick Burnham, shared his travels to Africa, Mexico and Alaska. The account of his life is one of the longest in Who’s Who, and for bravery in the Boar War he was decorated by the King of England. His book “Scouting on Two Continents” is a standard book in all libraries. Another book, “Taking Chances” contains a chapter devoted to his life at his South Fork Ranch. His writings may be secured from the County Free Library Branch located in Frankie Welch’s home.

It is interesting to note that Phoebe Hardin of Ash Mt. is a niece of this famous man.

Burnham was associated with scouting in America, serving as a National Commissioner, and in honorary capacities in California. His exemplary behavior and clean habits were not dictated so much by set rules or doctrines, as by the conviction that only by maintaining the physique at its highest level could he successfully cope with an arduous life of adventure.

At this anniversary time, there are now more than 5,000,000 scouts in America, the movement grows as people become more aware of its value for training boys in good citizenship, preparedness, and character.

An exhibit in the window of the Three Rivers Market building is the work of the local scouts in celebrating Boy Scout Week. The entire troop will attend the Community Presbyterian Church on Scout Sunday, February 11.

Editor’s note:
Currently there are about 2.4 million scouts registered in the US, compared to the 5.0 million when this article was published.

Frederick Russell Burnham
May 11, 1861 - Sep 01, 1947

Winston Churchill, Judd Blick, John Blick, Frederick Burnham, and the Earl of Kent at Giza, Egypt, 1910
Every year it is our goal at the Historical Society to of course preserve and protect the history of the Three Rivers area, and do our best at being a part of our community.

This Historical Society was founded by a group of people that truly believed that with time the “Museum” and all its parts can make a difference in our community. First it was the Museum building, then came the acquisition of the Bequette property and the 'little white house.’ Next was joining forces with the Mineral King Preservation Society in developing the Mineral King Room. Public restrooms were next, which will open the summer of 2019, followed by a major Barn project and lets not forget the events that we do throughout the year.

All of this is really nice and certainly has put the Historical Society and Museum ‘on the map’, but how did it get to this point? The ‘how’ is simple, people believe in what we are doing and have contributed items, money and time.

In the meantime, we are putting in a new well system that will provide potable water to all the buildings on the property and large tanks for fire suppression. This was necessary for two reasons: (1) The old well would not be able to produce the flow that we needed for all locations and (2) The old well stopped working Nov 22. It has been fun working with bottled water for intake and ditch water the outflow (restroom.) The new system should be on-line by Feb 1st. The money for the well system came from two sources, a grant from the Three Rivers Community Services District (CSD) and our barn build account. We knew we needed a new well and it was too expensive to repair and then disconnect the old well.

Strange Request & Planning for the Future

We have 3 1/2 acres with three buildings, one well construction site, public restroom construction and close-in barn and saloon construction.

Getting items to and from storage, gardening or grounds keeping, requires a lot of time and help.

It would make it a lot easier in hauling, and moving around if we had a vehicle that could move people, haul items from building to building and used to clear and/or mow down our event areas.

So, here is my strange request.... A gas powered small tractor with space for two persons and a cargo area for transferring items.

A donation of this type would be the ideal situation so if you know of one or a company that we can contact for a grant that would be wonderful.

Contact: Tom Marshall  561-4085 or museum 561-2707

Meet Our Docents
Here are the folks that make the Museum a big part of our community

- Carol Berryhill
- Daryl & Julie Bruns
- Nancy Brunson
- Bob Burke
- Deborah Condon
- Rusty Crain
- Laile Di Silvestro
- Louise Jackson
- Rachel Katz
- Kim Kauling
- Janet King
- Shivon Lavely
- Dody & Tom Marshall
- Bill Miller
- Christy Tomi
- Jackie Tuttle
- Susan Wolff

If you are interested in being a volunteer at the museum, join us for an orientation about volunteering.
Wednesday
March 27, 1pm-3pm
If you know any of the folks listed and/or would like additional information call 559-561-2707 or stop by and observe

In Their Own Words

Julie Britten-Brunes and Daryl Brunes

I was born and raised in Three Rivers. Since I retired I wanted to volunteer where I grew up and had family roots.

After Daryl retired he became interested in what I was doing and offered his time as a jack of all trades. He felt he could contribute his knowledge along with my background in the community it was the perfect situation for us.

We enjoy meeting and greeting people from all over the world. Also enjoying sharing stories about the old days growing up as a kid in Three Rivers.
Sights of Santa
Carolining on Dec 8, 2018

Some of our volunteers with Santa. L-R / Louise Jackson, Susan Wolff, Santa, Dody Marshall, Kim Kauling and Nancy Brunson. Bob Burke watching over the campfire.

Santa roasting a marshmallow for his S’more.

Special Thanks To Our Sponsors
Reimer’s Candies & Ice Cream
Riverview Restaurant
Village Market
Comfort Inn
Peter Sodhy & Leah Launey

Down Stream
A short article from ‘The Current’ newspaper Mar 10, 1950

The following information is furnished to the Current through the courtesy of (Sequoia Park) Superintendent E.T. Scoyen and his Secretary, Miss Frances Downs.

Travel for February 1950, showed an increase of 47.5% for Sequoia and Kings Canyon compared with 1949. However, the travel year still is 2.3% behind last year. Out-of-state travel with 1282 people shows an increase over February 1949 with its 349 visitors.

Editors Note: We don’t have park visitor numbers from February 2018 yet but here is our visitor count from February of the last few years at the Museum:

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You can see how February, even at the museum, changes from year to year yet is so much bigger than 1949-50 park numbers. February 2010 was a lot higher even over the next few years because we re-opened the Museum after major water damage was fixed with construction during December 2009 through January 2010. Here is what it is like in July compared to February........

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The Three Rivers Woman’s Club has been a big supporter of the Museum, and their “Thingerie Shop” is a big part of our community.

The new look of the Thingerie is wonderful, and we hope that everyone has a chance to stop by and see it.

Thank You
Three Rivers Woman’s Club
For all that you do for our community

Happy Valentine's Day

Village Market
Comfort Inn
Reimer’s Candies & Ice Cream
Riverview Restaurant
Peter Sodhy & Leah Launey
Handweaving is an art and we now have the first items of Nikki Crain’s in our gift shop and on-line.

Books-Stuffed Animals-Walking Sticks-Photography-Post Cards-Original Art-Games for Kids-NPS Souvenirs and a lot more……..

On-Line Store [https://squareup.com/store/3rmuseum](https://squareup.com/store/3rmuseum)