In the early days of the park service, new summer rangers in Sequoia National Park were subjected to an "initiation" which consisted of two vastly different experiences - equally discomfiting to the victim. During and for a few years after World War 1, the only public campground was at Lodgepole; of course, there was a commercial camp at Giant Forest. There were also private cabins there which were later used as ranger's homes. Later, a campground was established at the General Sherman Tree where the upper parking lot now is and the first public campground in Giant Forest was established at Hazelwood. The latter served as a day-use picnic area for years, into the 1950's after other campgrounds (Firwood, Paradise, and Sunset) came into existence at Giant Forest. Anyway, the. first of these experiences to which a new ranger was subjected was the "missing camper" drill, at the Lodgepole campground.

Ranger John Grunigen, probably the instigator, was the leader in conducting these "rites." The new ranger would be informed that a camper was lost, a search was being organized, and that his job was to remain in the campground in the event that the missing man, for whom he had been given ample description, would return to camp. In that case, he was to notify the search party by firing a large shotgun which was given to him for that purpose. Ranger Grunigen and company would then go off, ostensibly to search. Shortly thereafter, the "missing man," in reality a veteran camper in on the shenanigans, would amble into camp and the unsuspecting new ranger would fire the gun which had a tremendous "kick." It had been known to knock a man over, but invariably, left him bruised. John Grunigen and the others would reappear and enjoy the poor victim's discomfort and pain. However when this was tried on my father, Harry Terstegge, it "backfired." Realizing what would happen, he located a tree in the crotch of which he placed the gun and pulled the trigger from one side where he was safely out of the way of the awful recoil! When he was subjected to the second "initiation" prank, he turned the tables in a manner which had a lasting effect on the park.

The second "initiation" experience consisted of sending the new ranger on an "all day" hike which materialized into an unexpected, unprepared for overnight ordeal. This hike was from Lodgepole to Twin Lakes. Today that would be no big deal, but, at that time the Twin Lakes trail went up Tokapah Canyon and over the top of the north rim through a very small gap into the basin of one of the Twin Lakes. Of course, that route was steep, strenuous and exceedingly dangerous. The novice ranger would be sent to Twin Lakes on some pretext and Ranger Grunigen and his confederates would connive to insure that their victim got a late start. As a result, by the time the young ranger reached his destination, ate his lunch and carried out his "assignment," the afternoon shadows had fallen to the extent that the gap through which he entered was veiled.

..........................continued on page 3
Usually in this space I talk about upcoming things happening with the Museum, but instead I would like to pass on a personal happening since this May 26th is Memorial Day. It’s a good story, hope you like it.

It is 1965, and I am on the USS Taluga off the coast of Viet Nam. I work in the ship’s office and was known to do things when someone tells me “you can’t do that.”

The Taluga would refuel other ships at sea. Being a photography hound I was always trying to get pictures of the other ships that we refueled. My station during refueling was a ‘ship to ship phone talker’ so our Captain could talk with the Captain on the aircraft carrier along side. OK, you have the background.

I mailed a letter to the photo department of every aircraft carrier in the area and asked for a picture of us refueling them. I received several pictures of various ships, but the USS Midway was the best. The photographic officer wrote to me and said we are due to refuel from you and we will send up a helicopter to take pictures. I wrote back and thanked him and mentioned that I would like to get a few copies to pass around the ship. About 3 weeks later I received a package with 350 copies of the picture below to pass out to every one on our ship.

You can’t help but think on holidays like this about the men that came before me on the USS Taluga (commissioned in 1944) and what they went through sitting in this same spot, but during WWII. When they transferred off the Taluga did they go to a ship that went down? I guess that is why I enjoyed the photos from the Midway, because it made me stop and think about the service men AND women that gave their lives so I could be sitting here enjoying freedom and writing this newsletter.

**JUNE 21-22, 2014**

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

We are looking for good quality items donated to the Museum to go into our Silent Auction & Sale. Yes, I said sale also. We will have two areas to pick from; (1) Tables with items that are ready to go home with you or (2) the silent auction items that everyone can fight over.

If you have large items, we can arrange for pickup.

We’ll will auction baskets to put together so if you would like to just donate cash we will put it to good use.

**JUNE 1-30, 2014**

**CARROLL BARNES COLLECTION**

In December 2013 we had the opportunity to obtain about 100 pieces of metal and wood sculptures (finished and unfinished) of Carroll Barnes work from the Sonoma County Historical Society. This collection will be on display for the month of June.
The poor novice ranger either would fail to find the gap before darkness fell or, if he did locate it, it was so close to nightfall he didn't dare attempt the treacherous climb down into Tokapah Canyon until the next morning. In either case he was obliged to spend the night at Twin Lakes without provisions - until they tried this on my father! When my father, Harry J. Terstegge, was ready to leave Twin Lakes and observed how the shadows concealed the gap, he realized the trap he'd been led into.

Rather than waste time and energy scrambling over the granite boulders in a vain attempt to locate the gap, my father decided to find another way back. He followed the outlet stream down below timberline then climbed up to and across a saddle on the west ridge. Because of his knowledge of the general geography of the surrounding mountains and his excellent sense of direction, he was able to report back at Lodgepole well before dark!

Needless to say the other rangers were astounded, and wanted to know how he could possibly have returned so quickly. In short, Harry Terstegge had simply returned by the route which the current trail takes! Because it was so much safer and easier, the trail has followed the route he pioneered ever since.

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**Bequette House Community Paint Project**

*SATURDAY*

*May 17, 2014*

*9:00AM*

Help us preserve a piece of Three Rivers History.

We are working to finish the house as a part of the Museum and available for small group use.

We have the materials, we just need YOU!
Here’s your May—June 2014 Newsletter

**Artifact of the Month for MAY**

Cloth Covered Rocker
Donated by
Rusty & Pat Crain

**Artifact of the Month for JUNE**

Carroll Barns Work

**Volunteers Always Needed!**

The Museum is open every day but to do that we need additional docents to greet our visitors.
If you are interested or know someone that is, let us know.
Stop by any day, check out your Museum, and talk to a docent!

**Membership Annual Meeting**

Saturday,
June 21, 2014, 11am
Three Rivers Museum

Followed by
Silent Auction & Sale