



Upcoming Events

January 1, 2016

Happy New Year
Park Closed

January 23

Volunteer Recognition Dinner
At the Black Oak Casino
Resort

January 30

New Volunteer Open House
10am—2pm

February 2

Railtown Ladies Luncheon
11:30 @ My Garden Café
(next to the Alladin Hotel)
Call Dottie @ 533-8483

Brakeman Academy Dates

January 30
January 31
February 6
February 7
February 19
February 20
February 21

GCOR Class

March 12
March 13

Fire Patrol Class

May 14
May 15

Interpretive Training

'Telling the Railtown Story'
February 13
February 20
February 27
March 5

Tour Guide & Car Host Class

Marcy 19
March 26

NOTE : If anyone is interested in helping to work on the No 2 Shay Locomotive please contact David Ethier at 209-471-1728. The object is to get it operational by the summer of 2016.

A little something different to start the New Year. I hope you have fun and learn something new. (from Karen Kling/ Interpretive Specialist)

A Tuolumne County Trivia Quiz!

1. What does the word Tuolumne mean?

- a) Cluster of stone houses, b) Land of mountain lions, c) Straight up step, or d) Squirrel place

Answer: Take your pick! - The origin of the word Tuolumne is unclear. The first recorded use of the name "Tuolumne" was by the Spanish explorer Gabriel Moraga in 1806, who may have named the Tuolumne River for the nearby Native American village of Tualamne or Tautamne. This may in turn refer to the native word talmalamne, or "a group of stone huts or caves". Father Pedro Muñoz, a member of the 1806 expedition, noted in his diary that "we came upon a village called Tautamne. This village is situated on some steep precipices, inaccessible on account of their rough rocks. The Indians live in their sótanos [cellars or caves]" Another possible origin of the name Tuolumne is the Central Sierra Miwok word taawalimi, meaning "squirrel place", referring to a Native American village on the nearby Stanislaus River. Mariano Vallejo, in his report to the first California State Legislature, said the word is "a corruption of the Indian word talmalamne which signifies a "cluster of stone wigwams."

2. The town of Long Barn got its name from:

- a) The barn that Michael Fahey built to store hay for his cattle, b) A long barn like building used to lodge early emigrants traveling over the Sonora Pass Road, or c) A large barn built to hold animals

*Answer: c) - The area was a wagon stop in the 1800s where travelers could restock their supplies and rest. During Bodie's boom years , a **long barn** was built so that miners could house their animals over the winter. An apple orchard was planted near the long barn so that travelers could have fresh food. The orchard remains, but the barn was torn down in the early 1970s.*





True or False – The Miwok were not considered American citizens till 1900.

Answer: False - On June 2, 1924, Congress granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States.

The first steam-powered sawmill was built when and where?

Sawmill Flat in 1851 Sonora in 1849 Cherokee in 1850

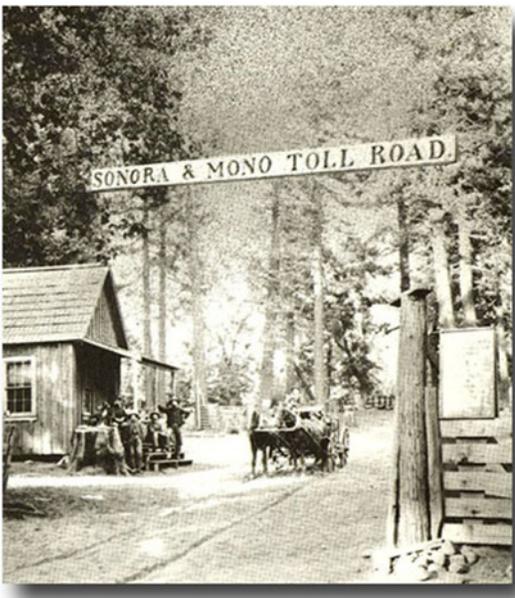
Answer: b - The first steam-powered sawmill was built by Major Henri Charbonell in Sonora, across from where the Opera House stands today.

What year did the Sonora Pass Road open?

1864 1855 1870

Answer: a - The oldest trans-Sierra emigrant trail to California crossed near Sonora Pass. On October 18, 1841, the Bartleson-Bidwell Party crossed the summit about 8 miles south of the present-day Sonora Pass road. The crossing was not attempted by wagons again until 1852 when the Clark-Skidmore Party made it over the pass to Columbia. Their crossing prompted citizens of Sonora to send a delegation in 1853 to divert emigrants from the more northerly routes leading to Sacramento. Sonora residents provided provisions for sale at Relief Camp and soon several thousand emigrants had followed the route. During the late 1850s, ranchers, farmers, business owners and teamsters were anxious to revitalize Tuolumne County's sagging economy by establishing trade between the county and Aurora, Bodie and other areas on the eastern side of the pass. In 1861, the U.S. Congress authorized construction of a road to run from the foot of Twain Harte Grade over Sonora Pass. It was completed in **1864**. Credit for the discovery of today's Sonora Pass route has gone to Andrew Fletcher, Superintendent of the Columbia and Stanislaus River Water Company who discovered the route in 1862. Of course, the Native Americans had long crossed the Sierra Nevada crest near Sonora Pass and it was an important trade route for obsidian, salt, soapstone and shell beads. Flakes of obsidian from the Mono Craters area can still be found on Highway 108 west of Sonora Pass.

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The Sonora Road was a toll road with stations in Twain Harte and Sugar Pine



There was a Michael Fahey and he did have a summer cow camp outside of Long Barn. You can still visit his cabin



News

San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Show

Thanks to Paul Tremayne, Barbara Roehrick, Dave Hendricks and Tom Hull who represented our park at the annual San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Show which was held December 5th and 6th at the Stanislaus County Fair Grounds in Turlock.

Paul reports back to us there were large crowds and many showed a great interest in our booth. Some even expressed an interest in volunteering at Railtown. Yeah!



This month we are saddened by the passing of two outstanding volunteers. Curt Gunderson from Fresno passed on December 16th due to multiple strokes. He was an excellent tour guide serving our park since 2008. Rose Agerter shocked us all with her sudden passing on Sunday, December 20 due to complications of cancer. An outstanding volunteer at 83 she logged in over 435 hours in 2015 alone. We'll miss them! When we receive more notice from their families about services we'll let everyone know.



Columbia was originally called:

- Dry Diggins
- Hildreth Diggings
- American Camp

Answer: All of the above - Thaddeus Hildreth and a group of friends and relatives left New York for the California goldrush on the steamship SS Oregon and traveled by way of Cape Horn, arriving in San Francisco in November 27, 1849. His party went immediately to Tuolumne County and struck a rich claim on March 27, 1850, one day after watching the success of some Mexican Miners. The area came to be known as Hildreth's Diggings or Hildreth Diggins. The news of the rich strike spread fast and soon over 6,000 miners were seeking their fortune at Hildreth's Diggings. The locale changed names several times and was called American Camp and Dry Diggins before it finally received the name Columbia. Thaddeus was part of the committee that laid out the new town in 1851 and named Kennebec Hill and Maine Gulch. Although prosperous, he, unlike many who came to California, returned home in 1854 to complete his medical education. He subsequently became the surgeon of the Third Maine Regiment during the Civil War.



Thaddeus in 1853



Thaddeus served in the Union Army during the Civil War

The Mine with the richest tunnel under Table Mountain was:

- The Harvard Mine
- The Humbug Mine
- App-Heslep Mine

Answer: b - The Humbug Mine began in 1880 and continued until 1913. Nuggets the size of hens' eggs were said to have been found in the tunnel. Humbug, by the way, means "deceptive, false talk or behavior."



Table Mountain
Photo by Frank Diggle



Nuggets
The size of hen's eggs



A message from photographer Dan Ryan: *The Polar Express is over for another year and on behalf of the photographers I want to thank Kim, her staff, and the many volunteers for allowing us to participate in this GREAT community event and to photograph them bringing joy to so many children and of course their parents as well. I think I speak for all of the photographers when I thank Kim for allowing us to shoot faces this year. We have been able to capture so many great shots of children.*





PO Box 1250
Jamestown, CA 95327
Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
 Railtown Website- www.railtown1897.org
 Volunteer Website- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>
 Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com
 Newsletter Editor— Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
 Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



Railtown 1897 & The California State Railroad Museum Foundation thanks our following business members:

The Union Democrat, Black Oak Casino Resort, The Willow Steakhouse and Saloon, The National Hotel, The Jamestown Hotel, The Twain Harte Rotary, The Tuolumne County Economic Prosperity Council, Tourism Tactics, Pizza Plus, Buck's Auto Body, Yosemite Title, Sierra Nevada Communications



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209, except where noted)

Kim Baker , Park Superintendent	984-4622	Kim.Baker@parks.ca.gov
George Sapp , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov
Lisa DeLacy , Museum Curator I (DER)	984-3119	Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov
Karen Kling , Park Interpretive Specialist	984-8703	Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov
Vacant Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-8702	Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-8702	Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Senior Park Aide & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Lew Barnard , Fire Patrol Coordinator	916-343-2667	wa6esa@sbcglobal.net
Karen Ethier , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-7525	kmethier@gmail.com
Ron White , Stationmaster Coordinator	551-7087	rbarryw@att.net

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request