



September 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

September 1

Railtown Ladies Luncheon
El Jardin Mexican Restaurant
In Twain Harte @ 11:30am
Call Dottie: 209-533-8483

September 5

California Statehood Day
Special celebration and parade at Columbia State Park

September 5, 6, 7

Labor Day weekend
'Show & Tell' with our hands on history boxes, caboose visits, and locomotive cab visits

September 8

Special 'Behind the Scenes' Tour, 10am-Noon with Dieter Teschke

September 19

'Working on The Railroad'
A celebration of Sierra Railway Workers

October 3

An 'Apple Harvest Festival'
Theme:
The Sierra Railroad and Local Agriculture

October 17-November 1

Harvest Haunt Express Trains

November 11

Veterans Day Trains @ 11 & 1
Veterans ride free!

December 4-20

Polar Express Trains

Volunteering creates a national character in which the community and the nation take on a spirit of compassion, comradeship and confidence.

— Brian O'Connell

APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL

On October 3d, Railtown will be celebrating its first annual Apple Harvest Festival Day. Plans for that Saturday include interpretive displays, a slide talk, free apples for visitors, and an arts and crafts table for kids. Many of you may not be aware of how many apple orchards once dotted the hillsides of Tuolumne County. Ralph, Macomber, Yost, Abbott, Longeway, Gerber, and Armario, are just a few of the names once associated with apple ranches here. Apple Valley Estates, Gibbs Ranch, Ponderosa Hills, Monte Grande, and other subdivisions were developed on land once covered in apple orchards.

The growth of the county's apple industry can be traced back to one person, Thomas Bullock. Bullock on his early visits to the area, noted the area's climate and soils were perfect for the production of apples. The Sierra Railway promoted the development of apple orchards through continuous advertising, and encouraged people to move to Tuolumne County and grow apples. The railroad offered a bonus to those planting new orchards of ten acres or more, apple saplings free of charge and produced an informative booklet on apple cultivation. The railway's efforts paid off. In 1911 and 1912, Tuolumne County swept the Small Exhibit categories at the Watsonville Apple Show. Demand became so high for Tuolumne County apples that there were few available for locals to buy some years.

The end of the apple boom happened quite abruptly. With the start of World War I, the local mines were shut down. With the consumption of ditch water decreased significantly by the closures, ranchers were no longer subsidized by the mining industry, and now had to pay more money for the same amount of water. In the late 1920s, PG&E consolidated the assorted independent water companies and increased rates again drastically. Water was just too expensive for the apple ranchers to purchase. Further exacerbating the situation, the federal government subsidized the apple industry of the Pacific Northwest and California's Central Valley. The growth of intensive, large scale agriculture was the result. The more expensive mountain grown apples could no longer compete and many, but not all, of the orchards were abandoned.

This new interpretive event offers the chance to share another aspect of the Sierra Railroad's history while have a fun and delicious time. Please talk to Dave Rainwater if you would like to help out. We will also need a couple of people to help Karen with the art table. See me if you want to know what I have planned.



☰ Railtown News

Then No 28 restoration is well under way and scheduled to be completed by mid-November. Extra part time workers are being hired to help move the project along a little faster. Also, the boiler tubes and cab have just been sent to our Sacramento railroad shops where works will be assisting in various aspects of the restoration.

Anyone wishing to become a qualified operator of the turntable should contact Dave Rainwater, who will then help schedule a time for the training either with George or another qualified lead. A simple process but necessary. Kim Baker has asked that in the interest of preservation, we limit demonstrating the turntable to special event days only. This is also true for demonstrating the 'ring of fire'. While we're on the subject, it's necessary to understand that the constant use of the #6 car (visitors walking through) or any of our artifacts such as the turntable, #19 car or others, has an impact on these very things we are trying to preserve. Although we want visitors to enjoy the greatest possible experience, we also need to balance our activities and use of our artifacts with caution. A case in point was the removal of many of the old original depot signs in the movie exhibit. They were being destroyed by weathering and eventually would have been completely gone unless we had stepped in to save them. As a State Park we are charged with preserving, for all time, the very things which are the reasons we became a historical park in the first place.

The Business Membership Committee is dedicated to developing partnerships with Railtown through memberships. Community members are Mick Grimes, Nancy Sikes, John Zach, Patrick Karnahan and our very own Ken Roy. Ken has recently helped sell memberships to the Union Democrat, The Willow Hotel & Restaurant, The National Hotel and the Jamestown Hotel (along with help from Hal Montano).



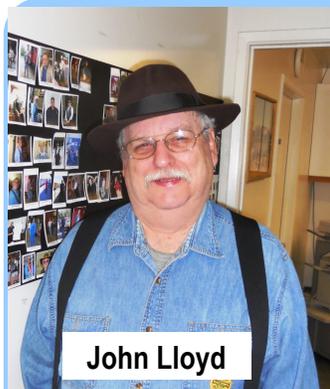
Our mid year volunteer recruitment ended with a welcome party. This year we were joined by 11 new volunteers. Pictured behind me from left to right are: Bob Gerber, Chris Henningsen, Scott Neilsen, Teri Wilson, Kathy Machado and Audrey Munoz. Others not present are: Kim Batanides, Liam Batanides, Mike Nessler, Rebecca Wong and Steve Monroe



What can you say about Dottie Bolander? Wow! We celebrated her 90th birthday on Thursday, August 6th. A gift of a beautiful quilt was presented by Janet Montano and the Railtown ladies to celebrate the occasion. Janet and her daughter Kimberly made the quilt along with donations from many of the Railtown ladies.



Nancy Johnson, as a part of the Storytime in the Little Red Caboose, shows the young ones all about switching. Thank you to Nancy and also Adelle Yonan, who substituted when needed, for doing a fine job with this program



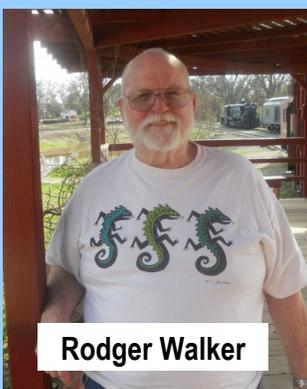
John Lloyd

Mondays



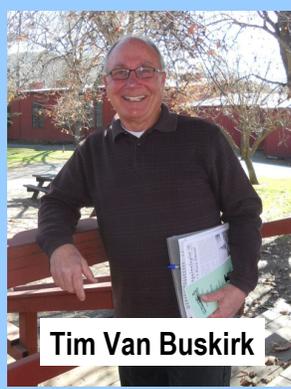
Paul Tremayne

Tuesdays



Rodger Walker

Wednesdays



Tim Van Buskirk

Thursdays



Bill Bossard

Fridays



Ken Vogel

Sundays



Tom Pitta

Weekends



Tom Hull

Weekends



Mike McReynolds

Weekends



Tom Van Horn

Weekends



Joe Sparagna

Saturdays



Nancy Johnson

Storytime in the Little Red Caboose



Dieter Teschke

Behind the Scenes Tours



Joe Yonan

Junior Ranger Program



Bill Baum

Weekends



Paul McNaul

Weekends

Thank You Railtown Tour Guides

Tour guiding is a very special skill, giving our visitors an interpretive experience they'll never forget.



PO Box 1250
Jamestown, CA 95327
Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
Volunteer Desk- (209) 984-4408
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 Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209, except where noted)

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