

January 2012 Newsletter of the Consortium of Southern Yosemite Museums

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www.southyosemitemuseums.org

Fund Raiser for MARINE CORPORAL CHANCE

GAAL: Chance is a Yosemite HS grad, basketball player and Marine who was injured in Afghanistan in June. He lost both his legs and is now recovering in Palo Alto. Oakhurst & Madera Elks and Marine Corps League are sponsoring this fund raiser for Chance. Food, raffles, silent auction and entertainment abound. **Saturday, February 4, noon to 4 p.m. (\$10)** at the Elks Lodge, 42484 Hwy 41. Information: 559-683-2717. Tax deductible donation (Non-profit tax #431798). Donations may be mailed to the Elks Club, PO Box 2569, Oakhurst 93644. **Mark your calendar!!!**

ARE YOU A STAMP COLLECTOR? Call "Florence" at 209-966-2732 for a windfall of stamps and First Day Covers dating back several years!

2012 TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE:

District 5—Supervisor Tom Wheeler. 6 to 8 p.m.
Feb. 16, Raymond, Elementary School on Rd. 600
March 29, Oakhurst, Community Center
April 19, North Fork, NF Rancheria Comm. Cntr.
June 28, Ahwahnee, Wasuma Elem. School on 49
July 26, Oakhurst, Community Center
August 23, Bass Lake, Pines Resort, Rd 432
October 25, Coarsegold, CG Community Center
November 17, Oakhurst, Community Center

CALIFORNIA STATE MINING and MINERAL MUSEUM

is located in Mariposa at the fairgrounds and exhibits the State's collection of gems and minerals. You **MUST** see the state's largest chunk of pure gold. Amazing! Open hours are Thursday thru Sunday from 10 to 5. \$4 for adults; 12 and under enter free.

But, you have to hurry! *The State of California, in its wisdom, is set to CLOSE this museum on July 1, 2012. This newsletter editor recently sent out a plea for everyone to CALL, WRITE, EMAIL, FAX—whatever—your STATE REPRESENTATIVE to get this closure stopped. This museum is one of the GEMS of all California museums.* Call 209-742-7625. Rock museum@sti.net.

WILD WONDERFUL KING VINTAGE MUSEUM

is located at 40680 Hwy 41 in Oakhurst, 559-658-6999. ***The Flapper Age: the 1920s.*** This is a **MUST SEE!!!** Imagine a place where you can catch history in a pair of ballroom slippers from

1790 or see 200 years of fashion. The museum is a treasure-trove of sequined dresses, accessories and memorabilia. Learn some fun facts—do you know where the "Flapper" name came from? How many people lived in the US in the '20s? How long did it take to get from New York to California? Enjoy the men's military collection including fun facts about the flight of the "Spirit of St. Louis." Call for special tours or email kingvintagemuseum@sti.net
*The museum is supported by the Wild Wonderful Treasures Thrift Store and Collectibles Shop and is a 501(c)3 (donations tax deductible); 40671 Hwy 41, across from the museum and Days Inn.

LITTLE CHURCH ON THE HILL

coming events: **Friday, April 27, will be our "almost annual" spring DINNER held at the Lutheran Church on Rd 426. Please mark this date on your calendar.** The church has history dating back to 1892. It was then known as Christ Church and sat on Chapel Hill at the junction of Road 426 and Road 425B in "Fresno Flats," as Oakhurst was known in the old days. On July 14, 1957, the church was moved to Oakhill Cemetery. The church is generally open from 7 to 4 on weekdays; weekends for special events. For more information about holding special events, call Barbara at 559-674-8826. www.southyosemitemuseums.org/lcoh

COARSEGOLD HISTORIC MUSEUM:

MUSEUM Winter hours: Mon. 9-11:00 until March 17, then Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4. Docent-led or self-guided tours are always available by appointment. Visitors can have fun with the new "Search and Find" contest. Free to the public...donations appreciated. Now we're adding a **blacksmith shop** and **asking for donations of blacksmith items**. Call 642-4448 to let us know if you can help. Thank you! Also, there will soon be an expansion of our **mining and ranching displays**--the museum will be looking for new equipment, pictures and materials for these ventures.

The E Clampus Vitus Chapter 49 has produced a very special historical marker under our highway sign. The dedication will be announced—watch for it in the *Sierra Star*.

CHS' 6-hour "Stage Route" Bus Tour (\$40/person) includes lunch and special dessert. The guides explore the history of the Coarsegold,

Raymond, Wassama Roundhouse & Oakhurst areas at the turn of the century. Now taking reservations for the **October 13th, 2012**, tour. Reservation: send *nonrefundable deposit* of \$10 per person with your name, address and phone number to CHS, PO Box 117, Coarsegold, 93614. 559-642-4448. (Must be able to walk on uneven surfaces.)

chs@sti.net www.coarsegoldhistoricmuseum.com

FRESNO FLATS HISTORIC VILLAGE AND PARK, School House Rd (427) & Indian Springs Rd (418). The Park recaptures the flavor of 19th Century life in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

The Ragtime Festival will come to the Fresno Flats Museum Feb. 10-12. A Ragtime concert and dinner will be held **Friday** at 5:30, \$10. **Saturday** at 2 p.m. a Ragtime event at the school, \$5. An evening dinner and open piano event will occur at 5:30. **Sunday** at the Lutheran Church will be the final concert. This event celebrates the 100th anniversary of Oakhurst, 1912-2012. Call **559-641-2272** for information about the events.

THE MUSEUM OF THE CENTRAL SIERRA is located at 42642 Tollhouse Road in Shaver Lake at the entrance to the Edison Campground.

On June 11 CSHS proudly dedicated its *new Amphitheater*, an ideal spot for a wedding or anniversary celebration, a concert under the stars or theatrical production. There is seating for 150 with chairs or more for a casual event with blankets on the ground. Electricity and water are available. Website: www.sierrahistorical.org

The on-going lecture series called **Sierra Voices**: Free talks are held in the media room at the museum. Information: 559-841-4478

THE SIERRA STEAMERS operate the fully functional **Dolbeer Steam Donkey**. It was used to move large trees from where they were felled in the forest to the mill. For information: chs@netptc.net,

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE SIERRA This museum is a delightful discovery museum for young people ages 2 thru 12 and their families. Hands-on exhibits and programs designed to encourage visitors to learn by doing, imagining, creating and making choices will keep youngsters—as well as oldsters—enthralled. The museum is open at 49269 Golden Oak Drive (Oakhurst) on Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 to 5. \$4 for those age 2 to 59; under 2—free! Information: 559-658-5656. Have a birthday party there!!! www.childrensmuseumofthesierra.org

RAYMOND MUSEUM: The Charles Miller House
The Big Raymond Parade will be bigger and better

than ever this coming year—mark your calendar for the 3rd Saturday in April—**April 21st!**

Weddings at the museum have become a popular venue for the lovely setting on the museum grounds. The museum features exhibits about the train coming to Raymond for 60 years and why “All roads led to Raymond!” Photos displayed tell the history of the area. Raymond was the terminal for the railroad that carried passengers to Yosemite from Madera from 1886 to 1906. Passengers changed there to horse-drawn open stages to proceed to their destination over rough and narrow mountain roads. The museum was the home of the railroad station master. Information: call 559-689-1886. Free, donations appreciated. Roads 600 & 608. Open Sundays, 12 to 4.

SIERRA MONO INDIAN MUSEUM found in North Fork, houses an impressive display of traditional Indian arts and dioramas of North America. Enjoy exploring local native culture and history, a nature trail and an Indian Village. The museum is open from 10 to 3:30 Mon thru Fri. Information at 559-877-2115. www.sierramonomuseum.org

THORNBERRY HOUSE MUSEUM AND YOSEMITE MOUNTAIN SUGAR PINE RAILROAD

offers an exciting four-mile railroad excursion at Yosemite Park's south gate (Fish Camp) on Hwy 41. Ride into turn-of-the-century history where powerful Shay Locomotives once hauled massive log trains through the Sierra Nevada mountains. Visit the Thornberry Family Log Cabin, over 100 years old, where the actual tools used by lumberjacks are displayed. Have fun at the gold panning operation. Info at 559-683-7273, www.ymspr.com

THE GOLDEN CHAIN THEATRE coming event: ***How Fresno Lost Its Name!*** This play will celebrate the 100th birthday of Oakhurst/Fresno Flats. The theater presents 19th Century Historic and Melodramatic Theatre productions where “good triumphs and evil is vanquished”!. Call for information. Find the theater north of Oakhurst at 42130 Hwy 41. \$12; seniors \$10; students and active military \$8 children \$6. Info: 683-7112. Call 559-683-7112 for tickets & information. www.goldenchaintheatre.org

SIERRA VISTA SCENIC BYWAY *Learn from the Experts*: Contact Doug Waltner: 559-877-2760 dwaltner@netptc.net; sierravistascenicbyway.org. The Scenic Byway is closed in the winter because of snow. Plan a summer trip now!

THE COARSEGOLD HISTORIC VILLAGE located at the NW corner of Hwy 41 and Road 415 is an

area with a history that goes back to 1841 (and, perhaps, before that!). This is the site of the old St. Charles Hotel (1884 to 1928) and subsequently the Coarsegold Inn (1930 to 1958). When this inn burned, the coffee shop and bar known as the Coarsegold Inn was built (1959 to 1989). Today the visitor will find many small businesses on the property including a flea market area.

The Tarantula Festival is celebrated on the last weekend in October, the time of year when the tarantulas come out of their homes to mate. Lots of fun activities take place at the Historic Village all day long—especially for the kids.

Peddlers' Fairs take place on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Literally hundreds of peddlers converge here to sell their huge variety of wares and every food imaginable. Make this a stop any time of year! Information: 559-683-3900 or dianeboland@aol.com.

DID YOU KNOW that the **Coarsegold Market** is the oldest continuously-run business in Madera County? It's true!!!

THE FOSSIL DISCOVERY CENTER IS LOCATED OFF EXIT 164 ON Hwy 99 just outside of Chowcilla at 19450 Ave. 21 ½. Blake Bufford manages the discovery center and dig site with the largest Pleistocene fossil bed in the western United States. Visit online at www.maderamammoths.org.

COOLWATER RANCH CONCERTS: Outstanding talents! in Nippinawasee (food included!). \$25 suggested donation. Information: Robin: 559-760-1134. Info: Robin at 559-760-1134. info@coolwaterconcerts.com

TO YOSEMITE BY STAGE; Raymond to Wawona; Remembering Cedarbrook Inn: Zelda Dubel, once owner of the Cedarbrook Inn, has written a detailed new book to delight the local history buffs. It is 461 pages, 11 x 8.5". Order from <http://lulu.com/spotlight/zeldadubel1886>

THE MARIPOSA SENTINEL has a new section titled "Mariposa Family History." If your family had a historical settler, please send them a short story (1,000 words or less) about your family's contribution in Mariposa County. Send to mmhc@sti.net and put "Mariposa Family History" in the subject line.

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS! There is a wealth of material on the history of Eastern Madera County. CG Historic Museum and Fresno Flats have available *As We Were Told, Vols. I & II; Following the Bells; High Odyssey; Little Church on the Hill; Miners, Lumberjacks & Cowboys; Mountain Memories* and *Scenic*

Byway. CG Hist. Museum now has Lee's *Walking Where We Lived* and a new book on the Chukchansi language titled *Picayune Rancheria: Chukchansi Language and Stories*. For those who want some insight into the language, this is definitely the book to purchase.

THE COARSEGOLD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

will hold its 2012 Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers on Thursday, February 2nd 2012, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Sunrise Room (Chukchansi Buffet). No-host dinner (\$15.21). Program: Supervisors Frank Bigelow and Tom Wheeler and Sheriff John Anderson will tell what's happening in Coarsegold and Madera County. RSVP by Jan. 27 to Shelle, 642-2265 ext 1. www.coarsegoldchamber.com.

THE MADERA WINE TRAIL EVENTS: Looking for something to fill one or two days? You can sample current and newly released vintages while indulging in delicious food, local art and live music. Wine lovers may purchase tickets to receive a Passport Wine Glass online or at participating wineries and locations. The 2012 lineup (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.): February 11 & 12, Wine and Chocolate; May 12 & 13, Meet the Winemaker; November 10 & 11, Holiday Spirit. Please drink responsibly—have dinner at a nearby restaurant to make the day complete!

THE YOSEMITE SIERRA VISITORS' GUIDE 2012

is available at the Visitors' Center, 40637 Hwy 41 in Oakhurst and at all museums. It is absolutely LOADED with maps and information on anything and everything you would want to see and do in this area. Plus, the photography makes this a coffee table book!

THE EXACT CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

is in our back yard. Take a drive to North Fork, follow the Scenic Byway to Italian Bar Road, Rd. 225, travel 2.7 miles to the site. It is marked by a permanent survey plate. A monument was constructed and dedicated by the North Fork History Group in 1998.

THE COARSEGOLD RODEO

is an annual event over the first weekend in May. The rodeo brings in competitors from throughout the United States who follow the rodeo circuit.

EVENTS! EVENTS! EVENTS!

This newsletter is dedicated to (1) non-profit museums and (2) non-profit organizations in the Eastern Madera County area that are having events and/or being a "place-to-go" for YOU! If you know of an event coming, please do email CHS@sti.net with the information for the next newsletter—probably in April.