



MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

STIRLING CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5, Issue 3

Spring, 2012

President's Note:

Hello everyone! Wow, almost a year has passed since the June 2011 Stirling City Historical Society (SCHS) election. In this past year, the SCHS' Board of Directors, Officers and Volunteers have accomplished quite a bit. The Museum Complex grounds have been cleaned to create a "Defensible Space," the trees have been trimmed and the decaying Maple tree behind the Library has been removed (wood was given away to people who needed it). The Paradise Unified School District (PUSD) is helping us by having students build shelves needed for the south room in the Library. Also, PUSD has given SCHS access to the school building here in Stirling City allowing us to use anything we 'need' for our Museum Complex. In April of this year, Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) donated \$1,000.00 toward a heating system for the museum. We now have enough funding to begin the process of securing bids.

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History and How You Find It

By: Bob Colby, Historian

Sometimes it's almost scary how historical information or an artifact come to light. Almost since CalFire, then CDF, deeded the Stirling City Ranger Station to the historical society, the members have discussed replacing the station sign with one similar to the original. It sat on a concrete block between the Ranger's Residence and the station office. The block is still there, but the original sign is long gone.

Early in 2012 your historian was asked to find an old photo that showed the sign. He didn't remember seeing such a photo in any collection of which he was aware. So he phoned George Morris, Chief of



Courtesy: Glenda Chombeau. Left to right- George Morris, Glenda Chombeau, Bob Colby

CalFire's Butte Unit, to see if his organization had a photo or drawing of the sign. Chief Morris said that he knew of none, but that he thought he knew the whereabouts of the old original sign. In less than a week it was in the possession of your historical society on what the Chief called a "forever loan." The only stipulation was that it never be displayed outdoors to avoid confusing the public who might think that the old Ranger Station buildings were the current fire station.

One might think that this is the happy end of the story. But no, there is "the rest of the story."

Continued page 2...

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS Event March 2012



A sincere "Thank You" goes out to Jerri Heivilin for chairing this event. Ten boxes full of items needed by our troops were shipped to the Military APO in Afghanistan. A few members of Stirling City are currently serving our Country in the various armed forces overseas as well as here. Other members of our village are Veterans, or have worked for the armed forces in different capacities through civil service. Thank you to all who donated products, time, and assistance to make this a successful contribution to our troops. -Mary Schaefer, SCHS Secretary

President's note continued...

The SCHS is looking forward to better serving the community.

Special Thanks to Mike Greer, PUSD Trustee at Large (and SCHS member) for connecting PUSD and SCHS in fostering youth involvement in our community history.

- Marshall

**Thanks for the Visit!**

Calli-Jane Burch, Executive Director of the Butte County Fire Safe Council, received a certificate of appreciation on April 15 from Marshall Schaefer, President, Stirling City Historical Society at the Stirling City Community Hall. Ms. Burch spoke about fire safety, including the wildfire community resources and programs available, such as "Doom the Broom," to eradicate invasive Scotch broom plant throughout Butte County.

- M. Schaefer, Secretary



Calli-Jane Burch, Marshall Schaefer

History and How you Find It continued...

When he delivered the station sign to Stirling City, your historian called Station Captain Art Salinas over to look at it. Captain Salinas has been at the Stirling City Fire Station for 11 years and the thought was that he would be interested in seeing it. He was, but then he said that the original sign for the Bald Mountain Fire lookout was stored at the lookout. That was verry interesting as the Stirling City Ranger Station and the Bald Mountain lookout have always been like "two peas in a pod" when it came to wildland fire protection. Back on the phone with Chief Morris, your historian was told that the society could have the Bald Mountain sign under the same condition. When the snow clears at Bald Mountain, the sign will be delivered to the historical society.

This still is not the end of the story. A month or so after delivering the station sign your historian was looking at the June 2003 edition of Tales of the Paradise Ridge. Back then, he was editor of this publication and wrote a two-part article titled "Fighting Wildland Fire from Stirling City," the first part on the history of the ranger station and the second on the lookout. Guess what was on the cover of the June edition? A photo of the ranger Station office with a clear view of the sign. Oh well, if your historian had remembered the photo a month or so earlier, he never would have phoned Chief Morris and both original signs would still be moldering away perhaps never to see the light of day.

A new Ranger Station sign will be made for the museum complex and probably placed on the concrete block. It will be styled after the original, but done in such a way that causes no public confusion.

**Up Stirling City Way**

By: Horace Brakebill

Perhaps the lowland visitor
 On a Sunday drive through town,
 Sees no antiquated guns or castles
 No marble statues of renown.
 Beyond our homes, the sky high lakes
 Deep clear Lotts and Morris too,
 Sparkle in the midday sun,
 With shades of azure, purest blue.
 Old Baldy stands as guardian
 Over our wooded Sierra land;
 She's a landmark everlasting,
 In her winter's ermine, grand.
 Sixty years, my mountain home
 This little antique place,
 Has shown me life's true kindness
 With love, with joy and grace.
 And Brakey's thought for this beautiful day
 And throughout the year is:
 No monies love ever minted or printed that
 Can purchase the acts of love and of
 Kindness that are born within the hearts of
 Our fellow man.

*Stirling Boiler, Vol. 2 No. 6, January 1987
 (Note: Horace Brakebill was a Teacher and
 Principal of the Brakebill School in Stirling City)*

*"A life spent making mistakes is not only
 more honorable, but more useful than
 a life spent doing nothing."*

-George Bernard Shaw

Date	Time	Upcoming Events 2012	Place
5/26, 27 & 28	12-4pm	Memorial Weekend! Opening of Museum & Library, Children's Art Contest, Bake Sale	Museum/Library
6/10	2pm	General meeting. Vote for your Officers and Board of Directors!	Community Hall
7/7	3-7pm	Classic Car Show/BBQ/Music/Crafts	Museum/ Library

VOTE ON JUNE 10TH!!!

Stirling City Historical Society members, come to the general meeting and cast your vote for 2012-2013 Officers and Board of Directors! This is perhaps the most important meeting of the whole year. The meeting will be held at the Community Hall in



Welcome...

New Members:

Ted & Linda Haddeman
Victoria Wilsey
Linda Clark
Carol Arrington
Bob & Betty Paugh
Betty Vail
Alan Rigg
Sanjay Dev
Mary James
Pauline King

Members Renewed:

Donna Severson
Janet Martin
John Rudderow
Sharon Smith
Bonnie Hembrough
Steve & Carla Kinne
Barbara Hughes
Sue Bone
Marshall & Mary Schaefer
Carol Lewis

Life Members:

Warren & Vivian Kitchen
George & Sheila Scott
Harry Merlo/
Clotilde Merlo Park

Business Members:

Pete Cuming Trucking
Tri-Flame Propane



A Message From Dirk....

It has truly been a joy and pleasure having worked with the Board of Directors (BOD) and Officers of the historical society as Chairperson. The people serving as your Directors and Officers have certainly worked hard this past year and are a hallmark in the history of the society.

Events, fundraisers, guest speakers, potlucks, and truly informative general membership meetings have rounded out the year.

Behind the scenes – financially, we are sound and in the black with membership on the rise. The BOD and organizational officers have prioritized maintenance and upkeep of the Museum/Library complex.

Exciting and innovative displays are planned to excite your (and the publics) interest. Please support those members running for Director or Officer positions. Oh – and bring a friend to our next meeting!

Respectfully,

Dirk Wohlau, Chairperson

Sparkly Clean!

Many thanks to the following people who helped clean the museum and set up displays in preparation for the Memorial Day weekend opening of the museum and library!

Madelyn Henry
Glenda Chombeau
Dirk Wohlau
Marilyn Connor
Carol Lewis
Sherri Castro
Mary James



The Stirling City Historical Society
Newsletter is Published by the:

STIRLING CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 6
Stirling City, CA 95978

President.....Marshall Schaefer
Vice-President.....Marilyn Connor
Secretary.....Mary Schaefer
Treasurer.....Madelyn Henry
Historian.....Robert Colby
Archivist.....Glenda Chombeau

Chairman of the Board.....Dirk Wohlau
Director.....Dianne Wilkinson
Director.....Marcia Avram
Director.....Carol Lewis
Director.....Jerri Heivilin

Editor.....Mary Schaefer
Production/Webmaster.....Pauline King

NOTARY SERVICES

MARCIA S. AVRAM
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“We would love to have you as a member!”

Membership/Renewal/Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Email: _____

Check here for email Newsletter

All memberships receive a quarterly newsletter, and 10% discount on all purchases in the Museum Gift Shop. Business members also receive a free business card size ad in each of the newsletters for the year.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> I will donate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business: \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> I have pictures to share |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (55+): \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> I have history to share |

Please mail to:
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P.O. Box 6
Stirling City, CA 95978

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