

MARCH 2020

MINERAL KING CHRONICLE

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 1

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY



President's Message

BY STUART HENDRICKS

Greetings! I hope you have had a great winter and are ready for a new season in Mineral King; it will be on us before we know it. By current conditions, the season will come early, but who knows what Mother Nature will bring in March and April.

The MKPS has been undergoing growth and improvement over the last 18 months or so. In August we welcomed new Director, Lisa Monteiro. Lisa was previously Executive Director of the Central Sierra Historical Society in Shaver Lake and we are excited to have her on board. With a new staff getting settled, a lot of work is happening at a much faster pace. Staff is in the process of creating a new website; the first phase should go live on March 2nd. In the second phase, visitors will have the ability to research archives online as we begin to digitize all of our collection. Many educational programs are being developed for various locations in Tulare County. We have also begun to build a stronger foundation for MKPS to ensure long term sustainability. Our staff and board have been hard at work creating a 5-year strategic plan, code of ethics, employee handbook, and applying for grants. The staff moved from the Seatrain into a new office in Three Rivers and is able to use this space to process donations, meet with potential donors, and give MKPS a larger presence in the community.

MKPS still needs volunteer help for various projects and ongoing operations. If you are able and interested, please contact the MKPS at (559) 561-1000. Additionally, if you have any artifacts, correspondence, stories, etc. that you would like to donate or loan, please contact the MKPS. We also rely on your generous donations. Thank you so much!

I encourage everyone to stop at the Three Rivers Historical Museum on their way through Three Rivers and take a look at the exhibits. I look forward to seeing you at Picnic in the Park and wish you a wonderful Mineral King summer!

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Letter From the Director

BY LISA MONTEIRO

Hello! I hope you enjoy this edition of the Mineral King Chronicle, inside we hope to give you a preview of all of the exciting changes, projects, and programs that we have in the works. I began my role as Director of MKPS at the beginning of August in 2019. It has been quite a ride the past 7 months and we are making so much progress! It feels great to be involved with such a passionate group of people in a wonderful community. The common thread in the work we do are the connections we make. You can see this in the power of a good photo, exhibit, or event. Connections are at the heart of what makes an organization like MKPS. Connecting people to each other by connecting them to the past, to objects, stories, to generations, facts, ideas, and feelings. We see our role in the community as connectors to history, and we can only be successful through engagement and working together.

In order to better engage with those interested in the history of Mineral King and surrounding communities, we have created a new website. We are now able to take donations and sign up members online! Once we have raised all funds for the archival software we need, we will then link our collection to our website, and visitors to the site will have access to view artifacts, photographs, and archives that have been donated to MKPS. This accessibility is incredibly important to us and we will be sure to update our members as it progresses. There will be history about cabins, the historic designation process, ways to get involved and more! The site can be visited at www.mineralking.org.

As we entered into 2020 we also hit a milestone: the Mineral King Room celebrated its 3rd year of being open to the public on January 22nd! The legacy of Mineral King is being exhibited to visitors from all over the world, and we look forward to updating and rotating exhibits regularly. We are grateful for the partnership with the Three Rivers Historical Museum and everyone that volunteered, donated, and supported this project.

It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you over the past few months and I look forward to meeting even more of you and spending more time in Mineral King this summer. We have an exciting calendar of events in 2020! Thank you for your continued support; here's to another year of making history!

Visit our new website
at:
www.MineralKing.org



STAY UP TO DATE!

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK AND
INSTAGRAM!

SEARCH FOR "MINERAL
KING PRESERVATION
SOCIETY".



Membership Changes

So many of you receiving this newsletter are doing so because at some point you have supported MKPS through membership. Our membership numbers have substantially lowered from year to year. Our Board of Directors has approved a change to the membership tiers. Below you can see what changes have been made. The biggest changes are the removal of the "Lifetime Memberships" which were \$200 for an individual and \$400 for a couple and the addition of the "Preservationist" levels. We have just over 70 individuals and couples as Lifetime Members. Their one-time membership donation has made many things possible throughout the years and to honor that role we will be placing a plaque in the Mineral King Room in appreciation. We will rebrand this group as the Historic Benefactors, a name well suited for such an incredible group of people.

Our membership drive under the new breakdown will begin in March. We hope you consider joining MKPS, renewing your membership, or choose to renew at one of the new "preservationist levels". Our membership income is used to cover expenses other than payroll; this includes programs, collection supplies, new exhibits and exhibit maintenance, utility expenses, rent, and more. I would be happy to go over the changes with you if you have questions. You can renew or sign up to be a member of MKS by visiting our website and filling out the application online or by downloading the application and mailing it to us at PO Box 86, Three Rivers, CA 93271

Annual Membership Levels:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Student | \$15.00 |
| Individual | \$20.00 |
| Family | \$40.00 |
| Business | \$200.00 |

Annual Preservationist Level Members:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Farewell Gap Friends | \$250.00 |
| Crystal Falls Champions | \$500.00 |
| Sawtooth Supporters | \$1,000.00 |



Curator's Corner

BY SANDRA STRYD

A digital museum, unlike other forms of media such as print or microfilm, is a specialized form of library that encompasses a collection of digital assets. Such digital objects can be in the form of visual material, text, audio or video that are in electronic media forms. It also has features to organize, store and retrieve media or files that make up the collection. Content in a digital museum may also be stored locally or accessed by users over a computer network. Such digital museum collections have many advantages in that they can be updated on a daily basis and can be accessed instantly by users.

Converting our collection from physical preservation to digital preservation will enable more people to access the information and protect the collection from other hazards. Although they exist to protect and preserve the priceless objects inside them, museums are not invincible. Theft isn't the only threat. Artifacts also can be lost to time, terrorism, vandalism, weather, and even idiocy: an Egyptian artifact, King Tut's gold funerary mask was damaged in 2015 by a botched cleaning job.

Students will be able to research our collections, researchers can quickly find information otherwise cumbersome, and the average person across the globe can get a glimpse of Mineral King and the surrounding Southern Sierra through our digital collection.

It is our goal in 2020 to begin a multi-year digitization of our collections. The storage system will enable us to build a comprehensive digital archive that can be used to engage outdoor enthusiasts around the globe, encourage online learning and research, and build new programs that inspire future generations. Please donate today to allow us to provide you and future generation with our collections.

"It is our goal in 2020 to begin a multi-year digitization of our collection."



WISH LIST

As a growing organization our needs are many, but you can help! Here is a short list of some of the items on our wish list.

- OFFICE DESKS
- ACID FREE STORAGE BOXES
- OFFICE SUPPLIES
- ARCHIVE SCANNER
- PRINTER PAPER
- AN OUTDOOR SIGN FOR THE OFFICE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Hendricks - President

Jim Ingram - Vice President

Keith Cosart - Treasurer

Cathy Lean - Secretary

Forrest Jones

William Martin

Daniel Vassar

Kate Pinkham-Wu

Emeritus:

Michael Botkin

Louise Jackson

Marilyn Weldon

STAFF

Lisa Monteiro - Director

Sandra Stryd - Curator

Melissa Davis - Assistant Curator

Visit our new website at: www.MineralKing.org



From the Archives

TAKEN FROM MKPS FILES BY ASSISTANT CURATOR, MELISSA DAVIS

DID YOU KNOW..... The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake that destroyed or burned 28,000 buildings and caused 700-800 deaths in San Francisco, also devastated Mineral King as well? No lives were lost in Mineral King but the 7.9 earthquake severely damaged almost every cabin, hotel and outhouse in the area. Avalanches of snow came roaring down from every peak and mountain, smashing everything in its wake.

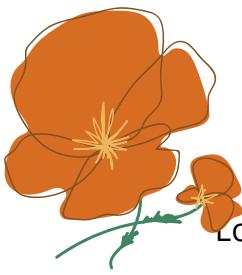
In the book "Beulah: A Biography of the Mineral King Valley of California" by Louise Jackson, Len Cutler, the Mineral King Resort handyman, could not get up to the MK valley until July 4th to assess and report on the damage. "I never saw houses torn, twisted, ground and smashed as they are here. I wish you could see them". He worked for weeks trying to get cabins and the hotel open to the sun to melt all the snow that was inside. Cutler said if you were lucky enough to not have your cabin severely damaged, then your cabin was unfortunately broken into. Doors were ripped off their hinges, glass broken, others had chains cut. When owners arrived to see their cabins, there was such extensive damage, and so much to repair that they shook their heads in dismay at the sight. Many cabins became abandoned. Yet those abandoned cabins became repair wood for all those cabins needing lumber. Here are some of the notes that Len Cutler took on the condition of some of the Mineral King cabins:

1. Hein Cabin – demolished – floor fairly good
2. Shake Cabin – complete wreck
3. Rock Chimney Cabin – walls only standing
4. Meat Shop – in a heap
5. Smith Hotel – turned roof half way around and now stands about 30 ft west of building
6. Kinkler Cabin - roof gone entirely. See no signs of it anywhere. Walls badly wrenched.
7. Samstag Cabin – total wreck
8. Mt. Whitney Cabin – total wreck

It was many years later before the cabins were finally finished being rebuilt, as most cabins use the late 1920s and early 1930s as construction finish dates. Though some cabins were abandoned, this unique and majestic valley and all its storied residents and families would not give up their special heart home that is Mineral King to any earthquake. It was worth rebuilding in 1906 and is worth seeing Mineral King today in all its wonder and beauty.

2020 EVENTS

April



Saturday, April 25th – Stories of the Sierra
Storm and Floods of Mineral King Valley and Mineral King
By John T. Austin

Location: Tulare Public Library Counsel Chambers 475 N. M St. Tulare
Time: 2:30 PM

May

Saturday, May 30th – Stories of the Sierra
Women in Mining by Laile di Silvestro

Location: Three Rivers Historical Museum: 42268 Sierra Dr. Three Rivers, CA
Time: 2:30 PM

June

Saturday, June 27th – Stories of the Sierra
Across the Range by Lee Turkelson

Location: Tulare County Museum, Theater in Farm Labor and Agri. Building - Visalia, CA
Time: 2:30 PM

July

Saturday, July 18th - 33rd Annual Picnic in the Park

Location: Mineral King
Time: 12:00 PM

Saturday, July 25th – Hike to White Chief Mine & Stories of the Sierra

Geology Fireside Talk by Dr. Jade Star Lackey

Location: Mile 24, Sequoia National Park, Mineral King Rd.
Hike: 9 AM Talk: 6:00 PM

August

Saturday, August 8th – Music on the Mountain

Location: Mineral King
Time: 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Saturday, August 29th – Stories of the Sierra

Incident at Atwell's Mine by Jay O'Connell

Location: TBD Time: 2:30 PM

September

Saturday, September 26th – Stories of the Sierra
Ansel Adams, A Son's Perspective - Dr. Michael Adams
Location: TBD Time: 2:30 PM

Stay tuned for updates on the locations and times for all events on Facebook, Instagram, and our website:

www.MineralKing.org

OUR MISSION:

THE MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY OF MINERAL KING AND SURROUNDING SOUTHERN SIERRA COMMUNITIES, AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE HISTORIC AND NATURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE AREAS THROUGH PROGRAMS AND DISPLAYS.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

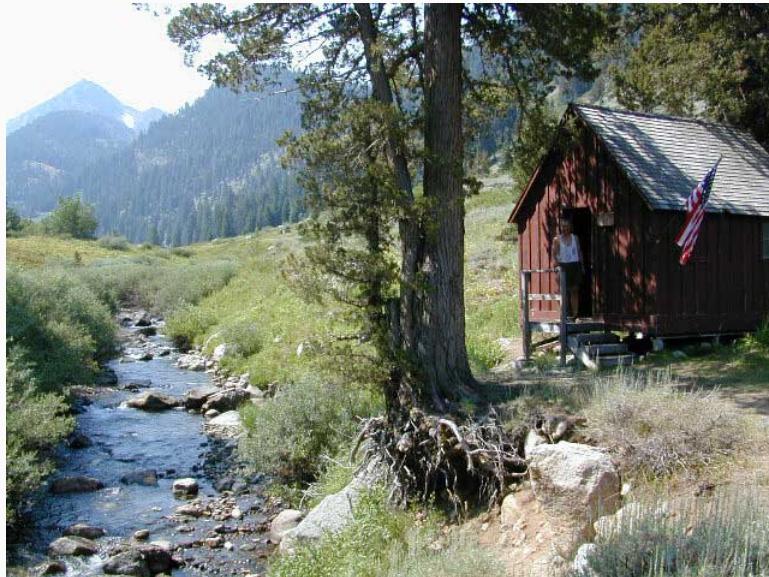
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EMAIL: LISA@MINERALKING.ORG

THANK YOU TO THE THREE RIVERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOR PRINTING OUR NEWSLETTER!
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL AND SAVE ON PRINTING AND SHIPPING COSTS
FOR MKPS AND TRHM PLEASE CONTACT US AT LISA@MINERALKING.ORG



MKPS, MKDA, AND THE NPS

Do you know that the management of the historic district happens by a cooperative effort between the National Park Service at Ash Mountain, the Mineral King Preservation Society, and the Mineral King District Association?

Representatives from each group have been meeting monthly for several years to discuss and resolve issues affecting preservation, permits, and the NPS.

It is beneficial that each of these groups bring their own perspective to the table. It has resulted in cooperation, compromise, and building trusting relationships between the entities, as well as benefitting all users of Mineral King.

One aspect of the management process includes cabin owners filling out the cabin maintenance forms and submitting them to the NPS each year along with permit fees. The purpose of this is to have an ongoing maintenance record of the historic district as required by State and Federal historic preservation agencies. Thank you to the cabin owners who have submitted the forms with their permit renewal. Please submit the maintenance forms if you have not yet done so.