

MINERAL KING CHRONICLE

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY
VOLUME 40



SEPTEMBER 2021



Letter from the Director

LISA MONTEIRO

I would like to start with a thank you. By reading this you are showing your support for the Mineral King Preservation Society and the work we are doing. We wouldn't be where we are today without the support of so many of you, both financially and with your time. We have spent the last two years laying a strong foundation for our organization. What does that mean? We have created core documents, like our Collection Policy, Code of Ethics, and our Fundraising and Communications Plan. We are in the third year of the 5-year Strategic Plan that we revisit and use as a guide when looking at projects and programming. All of this planning and work give us the foundation and direction we need to be a successful non-profit.

We are entering a new phase though, one where we can begin to see the benefits of this planning. I am incredibly excited for what 2022 has in store for MKPS! We will be working with local tribal members of the Wuksachi and Tule River tribes and the Three Rivers Historical Museum to completely redo the Native American exhibit in the Mineral King Room. MKPS has received a grant for \$20,000 from Cal Humanities and we are providing matching funds from our Mineral King Room fund for this project. Sandi is also working hard on exhibit upgrades in the Mineral King Room to the geology and Disney exhibits. Her Curator's Corner report shares those exciting details.

I am also looking forward to launching our oral history project, but we need your help. You have the stories to tell! If you are interested in sharing a Mineral King story please reach out to me to schedule a time this spring or summer. We can meet in person in Mineral King, at our office, around the Valley, or via Zoom. It can be a more general family history, a tale of a specific event, a harrowing journey along the road, and more. The stories don't have to be specific to only Mineral King, but our mountain communities in general. It is so important that we document these tales and preserve them for future generations.

I am looking forward to 2022 with big plans, a lot of hope, and an immeasurable amount of appreciation for all of you.

In this Issue:

Letter from the Director

PAGE 1

Fire & Grant News

PAGE 2

Curator's Corner

PAGE 3

Anniversaries

PAGE 4

Tale from the KNP Complex Fire

PAGE 5

Honoring Louise

PAGE 6

Board & Wishlist

PAGE 7

Lifetime Members & Memorials

PAGE 8

Thank yous

PAGE 9



KNP Complex Fire

It was an incredibly stressful few months as we watched and waited while the KNP Complex Fire burned in Sequoia National Park. We wanted to extend our heartfelt appreciation for those that worked so tirelessly to protect Mineral King, the Park, and surrounding forest.

We also want to thank the volunteers that helped us evacuate our collection from our office and artifacts from both our collection and the Three Rivers Historical Museum. Everything has been returned and put back together, and we are grateful to everyone that helped protect our community.



GRANT NEWS

Since our last newsletter we have been awarded two new grants:

Cal Humanities Project Grant - \$20,000

California Cultural Institutions Program - \$15,000





Curator's Corner

SANDRA STRYD

Why do people visit museums? Findings indicate that what visitors discover once they are in the museum is more important to their satisfaction with the visit than their expectations or motivations for going in the first place. This suggests that the things that museum visitors value from their experience are derived less from what they expected and more from what they encountered and learned. In the coming year, the Mineral King Room will be focused on making the museum's collection more interactive and visually stimulating (to create excitement), more informative (to promote learning), and more accessible (including online tours for those who cannot see our collections in person).

As I mentioned in the previous Chronicle, "Plans are in the works to revive the Disney era exhibit in the Mineral King Room". We now have a team in place for the project; Greg Glasgow and Kathryn Mayer, writers and journalists from Colorado, are working on a book about Disney's Mineral King project. They will join Amie Rangel, COS Art Gallery Director, and students that will be enrolled in the spring Art 112 Gallery Intermediate Exhibition Class, Lisa Monteiro, Director MKPS, and of course yours truly. The ideas are flowing and exciting, I can't wait to update you soon.

I am moving forward with a similar upgrade to our Cabin Exhibit. Our exhibit goal is to tell a story that helps the visitor better understand our cabin history, create a space that will allow interaction, and have exhibits that will attract kids and promote learning.

We are working with Laile Di Silvestro, M.A., RPA, and Historical Archaeologist to help tell the Cabin histories and plan changes to the current exhibit. I think our plan will please everyone and add a bit of interaction with the past.

And finally, for 2022, we will be upgrading the Native American Exhibit that resides in the Mineral King Room, which is owned by the Three Rivers Historical Museum. We have a team put together which we will be talking more about in our next newsletter. This upgrade is very exciting. Lisa and I will act more as facilitators while our Native American community will determine the story that is told, and experts in museum exhibits will determine the exhibit structure.

I am still looking for Mineral King artifacts for our exhibits. Should you have any artifacts from this area that you think might interest our visitors, please feel free to visit us at our offices in Three Rivers or call us to set up a meeting. I know sometimes it's hard to part with historical artifacts, but we can take your artifacts on 'loan' if you don't want to donate them permanently to Mineral King Preservation Society. This alternative allows so many others to enjoy what you have preserved while you keep ownership of the artifact.

- *Sandi*

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!
IT'S THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE THREE RIVERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
&
35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY



JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE AT THE MUSEUM IN
APPRECIATION OF OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18, 2021
10 AM - 5 PM

TRHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

Thank you for being the key to our success over the years!

Tale from the KNP complex Fire

This month, in place of a cabin profile, we are sharing a story from two of our members that evacuated from Mineral King during the KNP Complex Fire.

We received this in the mail from Kay and Chris Ogden with their membership renewal this year and knew we had to share it with our readers.

“On Sunday, Sept. 12, we hiked to the second Mosquito Lake, taking our time to enjoy the scenery as we ate our lunch. On our return hike we noticed some smoke creeping into the valley and assumed it was coming up from a faraway fire. There were only a couple of cars in the trailhead parking lot which was odd. Driving down from the parking lot, we spotted a huge scary plume of fire in the northwest. Stopped at the ranger station and there was a handwritten note: Voluntary Evacuation. Driving further we stopped at Ranger Mary Cochran’s cabin and talked to her about the fire. It was sad to have to cut our annual weeklong stay in MK, but decided that it would be best to voluntarily evacuate.

Back at the Woodshed, we quickly began to gather our belongings and then we got a phone call from cabin owner, Glenn Cunningham, telling us the evacuation had been designated as mandatory. It took us until 7 PM to complete our packing and the cabin closing as best we could, before we began to drive down the mountain.

The smoke was getting quite thick, and day had turned to night. Although we had driven up and down that road many times, we had only driven it in daylight. This would be a new and different and quite intense driving experience navigating ruts, potholes, and tight curves under a cloak of darkness. As we passed through Silver City, the black smoke weighed heavily above us. We saw all the lights on at the store/restaurant, and the owners/employees were busy packing up. The party lights above the deck cast an eerie, surreal glow on the surrounding forest.

In Cabin Cove we passed a sheriff’s pickup truck with all its red, yellow and blue flashing lights on, and we assumed the sheriff was making sure all folks there were aware of the evacuation mandate.

As we approached Atwell Mill, the smoke seemed like a heavy blanket and ash was falling which we could see in our headlights. Also, there were many bugs and birds flitting and flying around, perhaps drawn to our lights or disturbed and confused in the smoke. Below Atwell Mill, we encountered several Park Rangers in pickup trucks coming up the road. They pulled aside to let us pass by, and every other law enforcement and ranger truck did the same for us as we made our way downhill. We felt like they were making sure we could get to the bottom of the hill as quickly and safely as possible. A small kindness and much appreciated.

Once we passed the ranger house/public restroom we could see an orange glow in some areas above the ridge. Past the bridge we caught sight of a fire high up in the hills across from Three Rivers. We knew this was serious and needed to get out of the way.

At 8:45 PM (Normally, we are able to drive this road in 90 minutes, but under these stressful conditions it took us much longer.) we finally reached the end of the MK Rd., drove through Three Rivers and settled into a room at the Visalia Hampton Inn at 10 PM. We were exhausted and hadn’t eaten since our lunch stop at Mosquito Lake that afternoon. Luckily, we had our cooler with some leftovers inside, and we dined in fine style in our hotel room. We did, indeed sleep well that night!”

Honoring Louise Jackson

On November 8th we presented a beautiful oil painting by Jana Botkin to honor the work Louise Jackson has done to preserve and promote the history of Mineral King and beyond. This was in partnership with the Mineral King District Association. We are all so thankful to know Louise and wanted to honor her for the impact she has made on our organizations. MKDA President John Crowe, artist Jana Botkin, and myself met at the MKPS office to surprise her. It was a lovely morning honoring an incredible woman.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael Botkin
Louise Jackson
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If you are interested in joining our board of directors please contact Lisa at
Lisa@MineralKing.org

Our WISHLIST is now Online!

We have an Amazon wishlist that can be viewed by visiting the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p5znvm7!>

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 educating the public about the historic and natural significance of these areas through programs and displays.

Lifetime Members

Though MKPS no longer offers the Lifetime Membership level tier, we are grateful to the following couples and individuals who have signed up for a Lifetime Membership through the years. Thank you to all of our members for your continued support!

Adams, Linda E.	Doctor, Joseph E.	Megalli, Mary Dungan
Aldine, Charles R.	Dungan, Vincent & Toni	Mitchell, Annie
Alltucker, Michael	Edgerton, Bradford & Louise	Newman, Robert & Betty
Alltucker, Marilyn	Elliot, John & Sarah	Off, Tracy
Andresen, Robert & Elizabeth	Gravelle, Gordon & Molly	O'Neill, James & Louise
Asay, Lyal D., M.D.	Gregg, Mignon	Peterson, Bruton
Barboni, Richard	Hack, Sherry	Peterson, Edward (Jock) & Ora Kay
Barboni, Richard C., DDS	Hamilton, Maureen Griggs	Peterson, Jay & Betsy
Bennett, Thiry Gail	Hansen, Jack & Barbara	Peterson, Michael B.
Bickett, Jill	Hansen, William & Jinx	Pinkham, Charles & Lindsay
Bree, Donn, PhD	Hawthorn, Roy	Pinkham, Donald R. & Helen W.
Brewer, Chris	Hastrup, Louise	Pinkham, Judee B.
Britten, Sophronia A.	Hath, Kathy Tavares	Pinkham, Patrick & Mary
Brodhead, Loren F.	Hawthorne, Roy	Queirolo, Annie Lowson
Burdic, John & Elaine McCain	Hendricks, Stuart	Reid, Harold & Torri
Bungay, Robert	Hengst, Robert & Linda	Runciman Jon
Cairns, Aubrey	Hicks, Bob & Jerry	Runciman, Jere Jr.
Cairns, David & Carol	Holden, John	Saurenman, Louise B.
Cattanach, David & Shirley	Hubbell, Robert & Jill Beckett	Sauve, Julie Chandler
Cluck, Rosemary	Jackson, Bruce & Marge	Seaborn, Margaret
Conrad, Kristy	Jackson, Louise	Shephard, Sonie Gay
Cosart, Pam Young	Jacobsen, Richard & Patricia	Sorenson, Louise B.
Cunningham, Glenn	Kelly, Bradford James	Stansfield, Jeff & Tracy
Curry, Donald	Kelly, Douglas	Steiny, J.D.
Curtis, John & Linda	Koch, Richard & Jean	Steiny, Susan
Davis, Alta S.	Kuhn, Janet L.	Sweet, Ardeen
Davis III, Jeff & Sally	Lean, Cathy Hansen	Tavares, Trevor
Deitz, Steve	Ledford, Merl & Diane	Vassar, Daniel & Barbara
Devol, Nicole	Ledford, Joy	Voelz, Daniel & Kim
Devol, Randy	Livermore, Norman B., Jr.	Weldon, Marilyn K.
Devol, Sharon M.	Luxenberg, Diana	Whitendale, Marjorie
Devol, Shirley	Martin, Helen	Wills, Mary Bree
Di Silvestro, Brian	Martin, William	Wollenman, LaWanda
Di Silvestro, Laurel	Matthews, Susan	Young, Pam Cosart
Dixon, Evander	Mauritson, Blake	Zurcher, Esther
Dobson, Edward Brown	Maze, Bill & Becky	



MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED:

In Memory of Jim Ingram
In Memory Paul Bissiri
In memory of Kris Conrad

Memberships and donations are the lifeblood of our preservation and education efforts. Your donation of historic documents, photos, and artifacts, are also deeply appreciated. They are an important part of what MKPS offers so that we may share the wonderful history of this area.

MKPS CONTACT INFORMATION

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STAFF

Lisa Monteiro - Director

Sandra Stryd - Curator

THREE RIVERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Thank you to the TRHM for printing our newsletter at a discounted rate.

If you would like to receive your newsletter via E-mail please let us know.



THANK YOU!

- Long time MKPS supporter and lifetime member, Bruton Peterson donated his time and talent to edit a collection of photos, most by photographer George D. Smith. The quality and detail of the photos are incredible and we are excited to work with these images on our website, social media, and in our exhibits. Thank you Bruton!

- Thank you to Jill Tovey for donating the Richard and Jean Koch collection of archives from the Disney era. We are excited to include some of these articles in our upgrades to the Disney exhibit in the Mineral King Room at the Three Rivers Historical Museum in 2022.

MOUNTAIN MEMORIES - AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In 2022 we will begin our new oral history program, Mountain Memories. In an effort to preserve the legacies of those that have lived, worked, and recreated in Mineral King and surrounding mountain communities we are seeking funding to move forward with this project. We will collect firsthand accounts through in-person and Zoom interviews. We will then be making the transcriptions of the interviews available for free on our website. So many of you have, or know someone that has, an incredible story of their time in Mineral King; we would appreciate your assistance in helping us make these connections so we can begin to schedule interviews. If you have a story to tell, or would like more information, please email me at lisa@mineralking.org.

MKPS, MKDA, AND THE NPS

Did you know 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.

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