

# *Mineral King Chronicle*



Mullenix Cabin

This picture, restored and retouched by Bruton Peterson, was taken circa 1902. It features Doc Mullenix, his children, and many of the people who lived and worked at Atwell Mill on the steps and porch of the Mullenix cabin.

From left to right standing on the porch: Luther Mullenix, Ed Sears, Duke Whett, Clarence McKee (Whett?), Robert Sears, Rufus (Molbank?) Colburn, unknown man, Grace Mullenix, Rose Mullenix, Leslie McKee, Helen McKee, Leola McKee. Seated on steps: Doc Mullenix, Mr. Sears, Arnett Steavens.

If you have any information on this cabin that you would like to share with us please contact me at [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org). We are looking to confirm the names with question marks above.



# *Letter From the Director*

LISA MONTEIRO

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. As summer winds down I am happy to share with you the latest happenings at MKPS.

Thanks to your support, we've continued to make strides in preserving and celebrating our shared heritage. The past few months have been marked by meaningful exhibitions, engaging events, and fruitful collaborations. It is heartening to witness the community's deepening connection to the stories we curate and the artifacts we proudly display.

Check out Sandi's Curator Report for a full rundown on the new smelter exhibit. The events leading up to its reveal, and the work that went into the exhibit itself are something we are very proud of. This project is a true example of collaboration.

Our recent video premiered to a sold-out crowd in June. "Packing in the Sierra" delves into packing history and the threads that bind the past to the future. We are incredibly grateful to Bill and Marilyn DeCarteret, Alexandra Rogers, Tim and Dianne Shew, and Jeff and Judy Bedell for their contributions to the video project and the corresponding new exhibit.

None of these endeavors would be possible without your continuous generosity and dedication. Your donations, volunteer efforts, and words of encouragement provide the foundation upon which our organization stands. As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our outreach initiatives, making our exhibitions more accessible, and creating an inclusive space where every visitor can learn about the vibrant history of Mineral King and surrounding areas.

Stay tuned for more information on the upcoming Native Voices exhibit that will be completed in October. We are thrilled with the way this project is coming together and know it will be a wonderful contribution to the stories being told at the Museum.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your insights are always appreciated. We may not be able to be in Mineral King this season, but we hope we keep its spirit alive for all of you in the meantime.

*-Lisa*

# *New Online Gift Shop*

Our online gift shop is now live! You can browse our new collection of book bags and mugs, as well as purchase books, and renew your membership.

The Sawtooth design was created by Three Rivers artist, Dayna Higgins. The marmot design was done by Steve Delgado and the Honeymoon Cabin is by Jana Botkin.

Scan the QR code or visit [www.mineralking.org](http://www.mineralking.org) to shop!



## *Archive Assistant Intern*



Our summer archive assistant, Miranda Morris, wrapped up her internship on August 3. Throughout summer her dedication and passion for preserving history truly shined! From organizing old documents to digitizing precious memories, she has left an indelible mark on our team.

See the next page for a breakdown of all of the contributions Miranda made to MKPS this summer.

## *Archive Assistant Intern cont.*

During her time Miranda processed two collections, the Jean Koch Collection and Jim Wells Collection to prepare them for future arranging, digitizing, and on-line cataloging. She created 'Item Lists', packed storage boxes, and created physical and digital document folders. She also added the first record for each collection on-line with statements that we have materials for these two collections available for research and that will soon be available on our website, [mineralking.org](http://mineralking.org).

Miranda significantly moved forward our MKPS Library project. She processed books donated with intent to allow access in the MKPS Library from the Alan & JoAnn George Collection and the Wells Collection. This included researching call numbers, creating a spreadsheet, and fashioning archival hang tag bookmarks on 54 books. She also spent time adding 'Search Terms' to over 95 MKPS catalog records which are important for those conducting research in our collection.

Miranda and Antoinette, our Archive Assistant, teamed up to create a 'Box Location' labeling schema. They labeled shelves in our Seatrain and at our office and began to add them to our catalog software.

Additionally, she also scanned two 100-page documents for the Hasher-Kaplanek collection and participated in developing important file naming standards.



These photos show some of the re-organized shelving units in the Seatrain with the new collection labeling on the left.

Miranda brought a refreshing breeze of enthusiasm and creativity to the archives, and we'll miss her hard work and commitment. We wish her the best in all her future endeavors back at college in Colorado, and we know she'll accomplish great things, wherever life takes her.

"I am a college student from Colorado State University and a local of Three Rivers. Other than the beauty of Sequoia National Park, I also enjoy learning new things and discovering the past. "

- Miranda Morris



# Curator's Corner

SANDRA STRYD

*The NET&S water jacket finally has a real home!*

June 12-17 was "Smelter Week." Elena Mars from NPS Western Archeological and Conservation Center out of Tucson, Arizona was at the Three Rivers Historical Museum conserving the 1800s-era water jacket that was rescued from Mineral King. This outdoor exhibit not only shows how the water jacket worked within the smelter, but tells the history of the people involved with the NET&S and mining in Mineral King.

On Thursday of that week we had an open house with information and activities at our "Rocks to Riches" station for young and old alike; Elena answered questions from visitors, too.

Saturday was the exhibit unveiling. Laile DiSilvestro treated a standing room only crowd to her wonderful storytelling abilities about "Thieving and Swindling: The History and Mystery of the NET&S." You can watch this if you missed the unveiling in our Youtube channel by searching Mineral King Preservation society or scan this QR code:



NET&S Exhibit at the Three Rivers Historical Museum



"Rocks to Riches"

## Curator's Corner Cont.

Please stop by the exhibit and let us know your thoughts. We so proud of the joint venture with the National Parks Service and Society for Industrial Archeology - Eric DeLony Grant to conserve this artifact. Gary Whitney volunteered to move the water jacket with his crew. What a great job they did, with a little help from NPS. A 500+ pound artifact isn't easy to move, let alone three times! We also want to acknowledge College of the Sequoias welding department for volunteering to donate the labor for the water jacket stand.

Thank you to The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tulare County Historical Society for helping to fund the **cost of the telling the history and creating** a wonderful exhibit space. Gini Krippner donated the wonderful wood used in the exhibit as well as Three Rivers Historical Museum. Julio Barajas and his crew, as well as Gino Rieping, installed the donated wood at no cost to MKPS. Other volunteers that were instrumental in this exhibit are: Louise Jackson, Dave Philp, Fred Reimer, Dean Stryd, Jeff Davis, Jana Botkin, Laurel DiSilverstro and Lisa McEwen.

And especially, Laile DiSilverstro for her unlimited hours of archeological work she performed in Mineral King to be able to provide the precise information on the smelter and water jacket. Laile also spent many hours creating the content for the exhibit and designing each of the panels for print. This exhibit most likely wouldn't have happened had Laile not been instrumental in pushing us to get this done! Thank you Laile.

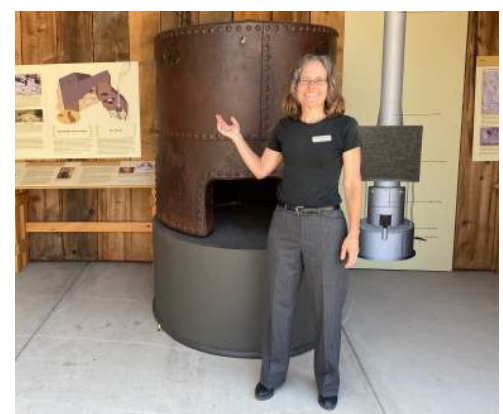
This exhibit was such a labor of love by our community, I can never express my gratitude enough. Thank you all!



Full house for Laile's presentation



Preparing to flip the smelter



Laile after the big unveiling

# Summer Events



## *Picnic in the Park*

Tulare County Historian Terry Ommen speaking on Visalia's many connections to Mineral King at Picnic in the Park. This event was held in Visalia this year due to road damage on Mineral King Road making Mineral King inaccessible to the public. The majority of attendees had been to previous picnics, thank you to those that came out to support this event.

## *Packing in the Sierra Video Premiere*



On June 24th we premiered the next video in our series, "Packing in the Sierra", to a full house at the Tulare County Museum's theater. It was followed by a Q&A with Jeff Bedell, Alexandra Rogers, and Bill DeCarteret. It was wonderful to witness the response to the video and we hope you give it, and the other videos in our series a watch. You can find them on our website and YouTube channel. On the next page you can see the new exhibit we installed at the Tulare County Museum and if you find yourself in Visalia make sure to check it out!

Scan this QR code to check out our YouTube channel or visit [www.mineralking.org](http://www.mineralking.org)



# Packing in the Sierra Exhibit - Tulare County Museum



This exhibit coincides with our latest video and features artifacts donated by Bill and Marilyn DeCarteret as well as Jeff and Judy Bedell. It was made possible with help from the Tulare County Museum.

## Mountain Memories

### Mountain Memories: Brian Reynolds

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The following was submitted by Brian Reynolds. More photos from the Hart/Reynolds Family History Collection can be viewed in our online catalog by [clicking here](#).

0:00 / 7:18

My name is Homer T. Hart. The "T" is for Thomas. I was born near Farmersville, California, in 1898. I was a sickly child, so my parents decided a trip to the mountains might help. My family had been camping in the Mineral King Valley for about ten years. We traveled from Farmersville to Mineral King in wagons drawn by horses and mules, taking three days to get there. In those early days, the Kaweah River Bridge had not yet been built and we traveled the old road, on the north side of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River.



Interested in sharing your story? Our oral history program, Mountain Memories, is now live on our website. Over the next few months more stories will be added.

Thank you to Brian Reynolds for sending this story, recording it for us, and including fantastic photos!

Email [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org) for more info.





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Mineral King Preservation Society

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