



# Las Plumas

VOLUME 34 NO. 1

PLUMAS COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

WINTER 2008

## 11th Annual March Is Women's History Month "Ina Coolbrith, California's Poet Laureate."

This year's *March Is Women's History Month* presentation will be made by Will Lombardi of Quincy and will be on Ina Coolbrith, California's Poet Laureate. The program will cover Ina's Mormon background, her time in Plumas County, her importance in literature, and her connection with other 19th century California literary giants such as Bret Harte, Gertrude Atherton, Joaquin Miller, Mark

Twain, Jack London and Edward Markham. Ina came into California over Beckwourth Pass at age 11 in 1852 with her family's wagon train.

The event will take place at the Mineral Building at the Fairgrounds, Wednesday, March 26. Seating will start at 11 a.m. with luncheon served at noon. The program will wrap up by 1 p.m. Back Door Catering will cater the sit-down luncheon. Tickets are \$17 per person. This year there will be only 60 seats available with absolutely no more after that. Tickets are available from the Museum at 283-6320 or [pcmuseum@psln.com](mailto:pcmuseum@psln.com) and must be paid for at the time of purchase. We accept checks, cash, and credit cards.



Ina Coolbrith.

## WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS RANCH UPDATE

The response to our White Sulphur Springs Ranch article in the last *Las Plumas* newsletter was very supportive. It appears that many people, both county and out of county residents, are extremely concerned about the poor stewardship the current owner, Stephen Luczo, and his employee Jack May, are exercising over the property. A *Feather River Bulletin* article by Victoria Metcalf spurred a *Sacramento Bee* article by Jane Braxton-Little, which in turn was picked up by the

Associated Press and made its way statewide to numerous other papers and at least one television station. Not surprisingly, this has angered Messrs. Luczo and May, but in view of the fact that they refused any meaningful dialogue on ways to protect and preserve the historic hotel-ranch house, and have basically professed a desire to demolish the building, concerned locals believed public notice of their intentions was the only recourse. So far, the building continues to deteriorate with no apparent action on the owner's part to alter his present course of activity.

An article on the plight of the White Sulphur Springs Ranch is scheduled to appear in the Western Division of the *National Trust for Historic Preservation Newsletter*. It is available online at <http://www.nationaltrust.org/western/index.html>.

Letters of concern are encouraged and should be addressed to: Mr. Stephen Luczo, P.O. Box 67249, Scotts Valley, CA 95607-7249. Please be brief, to the point, and civil in any correspondence. It is not our intention to be antagonistic; we hope that he will see the benefit of a positive response to the public's concern over this issue.



## New Books Available from the Museum

Three new books will soon be available from the Plumas County Museum. The first is *Saga of a Mountain Meadow: A History of Bucks Ranch & Bucks Lake*. This 100-page book features over 175 vintage photographs of Bucks Ranch through its transformation into Bucks Lake with its recreation facilities. The others are *Logging in Plumas County*, a history of the logging and sawmilling industry in Plumas County from 1850 to the present. Co-authored by Daniel Elliott and Scott Lawson, this Arcadia publication contains over 230 vintage photographs and a

wealth of information on the logging industry. It will be available in April 2008. Richard McCutcheon of Taylorsville is authoring *Indian Valley*, also an Arcadia publication. It should also be out by late March. New books currently on our shelves include David Myrick's volume 3 of *Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California*, showcasing many of Plumas County's logging, shortline, and common carrier railroads, and *Genesis of a Duck Cop* by Quincy native Terry Grosz. The City of Portola will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2009 and so the Portola Area Historical Society would like anyone interested in helping them write the history of Portola from 1959 to 2009 (1909 to 1958 is completed) for their upcoming book to please contact them at 530-832-0671. They welcome all interested persons to participate in this historic project.

**Spanish  
Peak Engine  
No. 2  
Locomotive  
Project**

The locomotive is in working order, but there is still always something to do on it, so the railroad volunteers continue to meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Art Barn at the Plumas County Fairgrounds. If you would like to pitch in on the project the guys are more than happy to have you join them. Donations toward the project are also welcome and appreciated and can be sent to "Railroad Project" c/o Plumas County Museum Association, 500 Jackson St. Quincy, CA 95971. We really need the donation, or partial donation, of a large metal building to house the engine and rolling stock. If you know of such a building, please contact the museum at 283-6320. We can travel to get it.

## *New Mezzanine Art Show on Display*

Karen Urquhart is our featured artist for January and February. Karen specializes in oil and watercolor scenes. Her exhibit was featured as a part of the Quincy Chamber's Art Walk on February 8th and was well attended. For March and April we have Quincy's Lori Reynolds and her color photography. There will be an opening for Lori on March 14th from 5-7 p.m. Martha Flynn will also show her photography during May and June, and a collaboration between the Museum and the Feather River Land Trust and Eric Weber on an exhibit featuring the Heart-K Ranch and other Plumas County barns will take place in July and August. Jan Wirtz will have her watercolors on display September and October, and Mike Nesbit & Bill Peters will have a combined show in November and December.

## **Museum Book Store Finds Volunteer Manager!**

Tracy Ball has graciously stepped in to build and maintain an inventory system for our bookstore. "Dinosaur Don" Dailey had also been helping with the store inventory for a time prior to Tracy's involvement. We have over 100 titles on local and regional history, natural history, ethnology, cookbooks, children's books, a used books section, natural gold nugget jewelry, souvenirs, post cards, note cards, special occasion cards, railroad items, and much more. Think of us when you are looking for that special or unique gift. All proceeds from museum store sales go toward museum programs and projects.

## **HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY NIGHT**

For the past 15 years the Heritage Division of the Plumas National Forest and the Plumas County Museum have teamed up to produce History & Archaeology Night, presenting various topics on the history and archaeology of Plumas County. That will change this year, due to several reasons. Co-presenter Daniel Elliott, District Archaeologist at the Beckwourth Ranger District has accepted a position on the Shasta National Forest and will be leaving Plumas County in March. Our sincere thanks go to Dan for his years of enthusiastic collaboration on History & Archaeology Night, as well as his concern and passion for the preservation of historic sites in Plumas County. We wish Dan and his family the best of everything in their new adventure! The other reason is that *Historic Preservation Month* was moved from May to October several years ago, so we will try to work with that schedule. Although we will not be presenting History & Archaeology Night as in years' past, we will continue to present public programs and appreciate the support from our audiences these past 15 years.

## **2008 Museum Field Trips**

Our *tentative* 2008 Field Trip schedule is: **July 26**, Beckwourth-Clover Valley-Indian Valley Road Trip; **August 23**, Chester-Lake Almanor-Westwood Lumber Trip; **September 27**, Sierra Valley Ranches Tour; **October 18**, La Porte Trip. Trips are limited to 30 people, lunches, snacks, water, guides, transportation are provided. We need full signups at least two weeks in advance of each trip and reserve the right to cancel or change a trip at any time. It is strongly recommended you make your reservation early! 530-283-6320.

*Please check your mailing label for your membership EXPIRATION DATE. Due to increased printing and postage costs, we cannot send newsletters to non-renewing addresses.*

Individual \$25, Family \$35, Patron \$100, Sustaining \$1000, Corporate \$150

**Remember the Museum in your Estate Plans!**

**Please mail check to Plumas County Museum, 500 Jackson Street, Quincy, CA 95971**

**Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.  
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www.plumasmuseum.org**

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