

ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM FOUNDATION



Winter 2021 Newsletter

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President's Message

Well, 2021 has been a remarkable year on many levels. The Museum reopened and forged full speed ahead on new exhibits and a major reimagining of the Mining and Ranching exhibits (aka the Pole Barn). In support of this the Foundation launched a [new website](#) and a \$25K campaign in support of the exciting new reorganization of artifacts and how people experiencing and learn about the history of Mining and Ranching. An exciting addition is a new living history exhibit on Blacksmithing.

Our grant team (Marilyn Smith and Gina Milani) pursued six grant opportunities at the Federal, state and local level, were granted two and one is still pending. The Calaveras Community Foundation funded our request for support in building an exhibit focused on our volunteer fire department, and the State of California granted financial relief for lost revenue due to the pandemic. We also received some very valuable grant writing training thanks to the Sierra Conservancy! The team is anxious to put these new skills to work on bigger grants in 2022.

Everything we do at the Foundation is intended to support the development and expansion of the collections, programs and resources of the Angels Camp Museum to establish it as one of the premier local history and educational museums in Northern California.

Karen

Karen Strand

Congratulations are in Order!



Photo Credit: Calaveras Enterprise

Congratulations to the Angels Camp Museum for taking first place in the Light Up the Night competition for 2021 in the Business Category. There were quite a few business entrants, and at the Angels Camp Museum, voters were treated to a dancing polar bear and penguin waving at cars driving past from the curb. A "Santa's Workshop" photo booth sat out front, while Christmas favorites were blasted from a stereo system loud enough to be heard across the highway.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, which was also quite spectacular, came in second, with Angels Memorial Chapel in third place.

Pole Barn Campaign Update 44% of our \$25,000 Goal

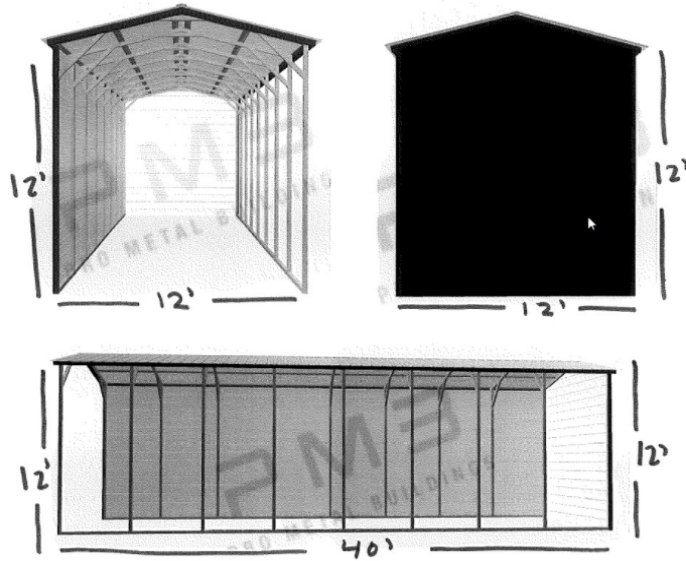
The entire foundation board would like to thank you for your ongoing encouragement during 2021 – you have been so generous in your response to the foundation's very first email campaign (The "What the Heck is That?" and "Bet you Didn't Know" series.)

The purpose of the campaign is to raise \$25K to reorganize, and add to the exhibits in the Pole Barn (Mining and Ranching building) and to make these exhibits more navigable. If you haven't visited the museum lately – you should come see the new exhibits in gem & minerals, farming/ranching and our new Blacksmithing Artisan exhibit! **Community support has been instrumental to our achievements thus far; still, we're only 44% of our \$25K goal.**

We're excited to have landed sponsors for all of the first set of exhibit signs:

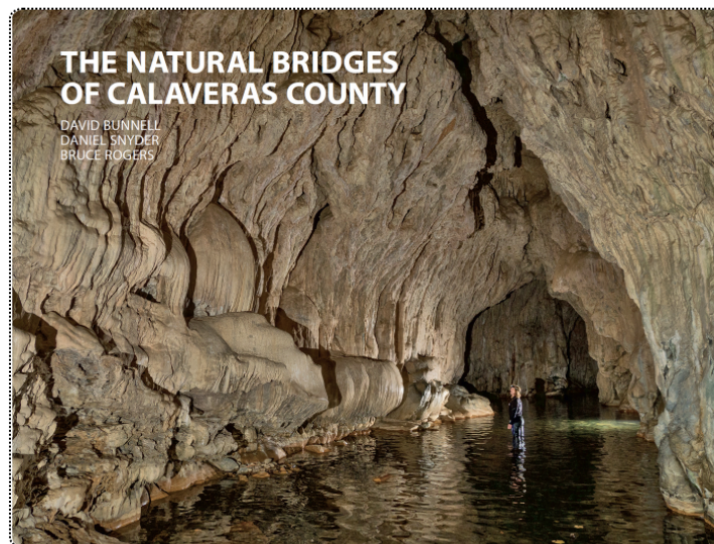
1. **Moline Monitor Seed Drill** – Horse drawn planting machine, adjustable for different seeds - sponsors **Tom and Connie Pitta**
2. **Flop-Over Hay Rake** – (Baker & Hamilton, San Francisco) – Used to gather and roll up cut hay – sponsor **Angels Camp Museum Foundation**
3. **"Hit & Miss" Engines** – Used for farm and ranching chores – sponsor **Donn Marinovich**
4. **Reaper Self-Raking** (Whiteley's Champion) – Horse drawn harvester – sponsor **Thullen Family (Jim and Kathy Dodge)**
5. **Two Horse Mower** – (B.F. Avery & Sons "Champion Draw Cut) – Horse drawn mower – sponsors **Ron and Sue Rivera**
6. **Thresher** (Heebner & Sons "Little Giant, 1905) – Used to separate grain from chaff - Sponsor **Nancy Burton**
7. **Clod Crusher**, 3 wooden rollers – Sponsor **Ebbetts Pass Moose Lodge**
8. **Horse-drawn plow collection** – Sponsors Abigail and Natalie Overton, **(Karen Strand)**

THANK YOU!



One of the larger items we are seeking to fund is a shelter for the back of the Pole Barn. Museum visitors expect their cultural institutions to rotate their artifacts and exhibits, and museum staff love doing that. The challenge is storage and preservation of the overall collection. One requirement in the execution of exhibit rotation is a protected space within which artifacts can be temporarily stored. Directly behind the Mining and Ranching building (aka Pole Barn) there is a 12 x 40 graveled space where concrete anchors can be sunk so a metal carport-type protective structure can be anchored to serve such purpose. At any given time, the space will be serving as both storage and staging.

The foundation did try to obtain a \$10K grant for this but were unsuccessful. If you can help, please visit our website, angelsmuseumfoundation.org. It's easy to donate on the website and all donations are tax deductible!



Dave Bunnell gave an awesome talk on the numerous caverns both publicly accessible, and those that are not, that exist here in Calaveras County

Couldn't Make a Lecture? Watch it On CCTV!

Oct 2021

Joel Metzger, Utica Water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mWMN46oUA0>

Nov 2021

Michael LaSalle, Wagon Trains of 1848/Thomas Corcoran

<https://youtube.com/0vklG-7amPs?>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laRxwWpFc1Y>

Dec 2021

Dave Bunnell - Cavern Photography

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laRxwWpFc1Y>

The Museum Foundation Lecture Series is part of our campaign to raise money for the Mining and Ranching Building exhibits. Admission fees go directly to the campaign.

February lecture change: We will be rescheduling the Historic Trees lecture as something came up in Mr. Skenfield's schedule, and in it's place Rurik Kallis will be delivering an interesting lecture with photos of Eastern Sierra Mining Towns (many of which no longer exist). Join us!

2021-22 Museum Foundation Lecture Series
2:00 pm Sundays - \$10.00/person
Angels Camp Museum Carriage House

October 3 Joel Metzger - Utica Water & Power System
Nov. 7 Micheal E. LaSalle - Wagon Trains 1848 Thomas Corcoran
Dec. 5 Dave Bunnell - Cavern Photography

January No Lecture in January

Feb. 6 Michael Skenfield - Historic Trees of California Gold Rush Towns
March 6 Frank Tortorich - Big Tree Carson Valley Wagon Road
April 3 Lynn Downey-Levi Strauss



Staff Profile: Jordan Campbell

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

When you visit the Angels Camp Museum, you may find a young woman working in one of the buildings. Jordan Campbell is the "jack of all trades" who moves equipment, works with the displays, cleans, inventories the artifacts and who may be found helping on all the projects at the museum.





Jordan is an Angels Camp resident who began working for the Calaveras Visitors Bureau about three years ago. She loves history and started working on museum projects when the CVB took over managing the museum. Recently, she completed her AA in history at Columbia College, and plans to attend a California State University to complete a BA in History or Museum Studies, after a short break to get married.



Jordan and Museum Director Martin Huberty worked on a donated handmade Bear Coat, circa 1890. They hung it on an antique clothing rack from the Old Timers Museum in Murphys, using a pool noodle to help the coat hang properly. It is currently in the Artifact Room but will eventually be displayed in the Carriage House.





One positive of the closures due to Covid is that she and others were able to concentrate on cleaning and organizing the Archive Room for four months, and it looks terrific – when you visit the museum, ask to see the Archive Room, it is amazing! The museum bottle collection is pictured here.



Update: Sierra Railway Restoration Project

We have a project plan, we have a budget. Now we're trying to put the team together who will do the work. The foundation is prepared to fund the labor to get our Sierra Railway exhibit back into operation and we are actively seeking qualified train enthusiasts to help! Stay tuned and if you know anyone with the skills we're looking for, get in touch with [Gina Milani](#) who is spearheading this effort on behalf of the Foundation.

The model located at the back of the Museum's Mining and Ranching Building (aka the Pole Barn) replicates the unique switchback design which was required to descend some 700 feet in elevation from Jamestown to Melones and then back up to Angels Camp. The daily passenger train ran from September 10th, 1902 until March 1939 significantly shortening the travel time between these towns. When the last train traveled the route, the crew picked up the tracks behind it.

Grant Writing Team Update

Since our last newsletter, the Grant team has landed two grants:

1. Funding from the Calaveras Community Foundation for the Volunteer Fire Department building and artifacts; and
2. A grant from the California Association of Museums for Arts/Cultural institutions that suffered during the pandemic. The grant has some flexibility so we are able to deploy funds where they are needed most.

MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEER DOCENTS: If you love history and you like meeting new people, you'd be a perfect museum docent to share our history with museum visitors! Training is included and it's a lot of fun - the museum

attracts visitors from all over the world! For more information contact:
jessica@gocalaveras.com

MUSEUM HOURS: Open 7 Days a week, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
\$15.00 Adults, \$10 Children 6-17, under 6 (free)
Audio Tour: \$5.00 Additional

Discounts:

- Veterans, Active Duty, Seniors, First Responders and Calaveras County Residents receive a 20% discount (\$12.00)
- Families of 4 and above (same family) \$40.00 flat fee



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