

ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Visit our web-site at:
www.AngelsCampMuseumFoundation.org

City of Angels Camp Celebrates Centennial

ANGELS CAMP: A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP

By: James (Jay) Luly

Jay (JJ) Luly was born in 1943 at the Baratono Maternity Home on Stork Road, Angels Camp (an area at that time called Purdyville.) He lived in Angels Camp until he married Myra Sutton, who grew up on a ranch near San Andreas. They were married in San Andreas in 1967, and lived there a few years, before returning to Angels Camp.

Jay is a former Angels Camp Museum Commissioner and Museum Foundation Director. He was one of the volunteers who helped construct the Mark Twain Exhibit at the museum, and donated the three old type blocks that read "SAM" backwards, from a typeface set he refers to as PT BARNUM, from his old printing business.



1948 Kindergarten Class of Angels Grammar School

Back row, left to right: Jimmie Anderson, Paul Dorroh, Clenn Whittle, Gene Bettger

Center row: unknown, Robert MacDonald, David Knooppi, Tony Albasio, Larry Oneto, Perry Sonke, Malchom Lennox, unknown

Front row: Claudette Airola, Judy Bolton, Mardee Lewis, unknown, Marnell Spence, Jay Luly, Bobby Rader

Teacher: Mrs. Cornelia Stevenot

"Angels Camp was a great place to grow up. Everyone

knew everyone. Mines were closing by the mid '40s, and people were moving on. The established families remained, and the town numbered somewhere around 1,700 folks. All the families lived in similar financial circumstances – no one was really affluent.

My parents, A. James (Jim) and Marguerite Egan Luly, moved to Angels Camp in June of 1938, and went to work for the (then) Senator Mayo family newspapers, the *Calaveras Californian* and the *Calaveras Prospect*. I later worked as the first pressman at the *Calaveras Enterprise* in 1968. In 1969, my father and I bought Calaveras Press, a commercial printing company, from the Petithomme family, in Angels Camp. My mother's grandparents settled in Copperopolis in 1850 and a family member lived on that ranch until 1951.

When I was little, we children looked forward to various events during the year – no television in those days – so community activities were really popular. The County Fair and Frog Jump, together with the Kiddies Parade, were in the spring. In the summertime, we boys played baseball, and always ended up facing off with the Altaville team. This was long before Little League.

Then there was the swimming pool, sponsored by the Angels Boosters Club. It always opened up about a week or so (we didn't hold our breath on that) after school was out for the summer.

Also in the summer, we guys would get together and play cards. This started in early elementary, and we learned to play poker and other games. Again, no TV in those days!

In summer we entered Fireman's Burning Season. The volunteer Fire Dept. would do "burns" around the town to cut down on the fire danger, and at the end of the season, they would go all around Angels Camp and pick up the children and give us rides on the fire trucks! This led to Fireman's Fun Day, which is now about 50 years old.

At the beginning of fall, we looked forward to the unveiling of the new car models at Wilmshurst Chevrolet and the Pontiacs at Carley's Garage.

After all these years, and no matter where I go or who I get to know, I will always think I couldn't have grown up in a better town."



Angels Camp Descendent Makes Modern History Over Iraq

Colonel Rodney Petithomme, commander of the Air Force 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group, and Lt. Col. Jason Plourde, commander of the 79th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron "Tigers," flew the last combat mission over Iraq, December 18th, 2011, providing fighter cover for the last convoy of American troops to cross the Kuwait-Iraq border during our exit from Iraq.

Col. Petithomme's Expeditionary Operations Group descends from the famous Tuskegee Airman Fighter Group, the renowned all African-American fighter squadrons whose aviators and air crews earned great respect for their skill and courage as they escorted bombers during WWII. Their aircraft had uniquely-painted red tails.

"It was fitting for Tuskegee Airmen to be providing top cover for U.S. personnel who were withdrawing from Iraq," said Petithomme. "I feel like we are carrying on the legacy and that it was our job as the most recent Red Tails to protect who we were escorting."

He continued, "I felt very honored to be the last Airman out of Iraq...hopefully, the Iraqis will be able to keep the peace and freedom our sacrifices have given them."

Col. Rod Petithomme is the son of Bob & Clelia Petithomme of Angels Camp, and the grandson of Lou & Miriam Petithomme and Giusto & Katie Schena. Both families were from Angels Camp. Col. Petithomme and his family intend to retire in Angels Camp when he concludes his Air Force career.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Museum Foundation, *THANK YOU*, for becoming a member of the Angels Camp Museum. We gratefully appreciate your support.

The Foundation Directors are excited to be working in conjunction with the Museum Commission, the Museum Director and staff. As with many newly established volunteer organizations, the Foundation has had some growing pains and hiccups. To move forward, the Directors recently revisited their Mission and Vision statements and developed several policy and procedure guidelines to uphold the Foundation structure. This format will organize and clarify our actions and responsibilities and make it easier for everyone to understand the Foundation operations.

At this time, the Foundation manages the monthly Lecture Series, and the annual Gold Rush Day (Museum Open House). In July we will host the first Historical Buildings Tour. These events are intended to develop public awareness and raise money to enhance the Museum. Recently, several large projects have been presented to the Foundation for funding. These projects will require a significant amount of money. In order to raise this money, the Foundation is looking into developing its first Capital Campaign. Although a bit intimidating, the Foundation Directors know that in order to take the Museum toward the vision of being the premier Museum on California Gold Country history, these steps must be taken. More information will follow in the next several months.

It is an exciting time. The Museum is home to an amazing collection that many have yet to fully discover. The Foundation's mission is to raise the necessary funds to support the development and expansion of the exhibits, collections and programs of the Museum. While raising money is never easy, the Foundation Directors have taken on this task to do the best that they can.

If anyone has any comments or questions, or would like to learn more about making a donation to the Museum, please email me at

info@angelscampmuseumfoundation.org

Thank you again for your continued support.

Lori Bloathner-Kautz

President, Angels Camp Museum Foundation



FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Lori Bloathner-Kautz, *President*

Judith Marvin, *Vice President*

Robert Watson, *CFO*

Lisa Jackson, *Secretary*

Susan Sheehan, *Membership*

Bob Petithomme

Tad Folendorf

Kathy Dodge

The Museum Foundation Newsletter is sent to Museum Members. It can be viewed on our website at www.AngelsCampMuseumFoundation.org. To contact the Foundation, please leave a brief message and contact information with Museum staff at (209) 736-2963. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

BECOME A MEMBER
OF THE MUSEUM!

Museum Director's Notes - Craig Hadley

It is going to be one year, this February, that I came to the Angels Camp Museum and it has been an exciting time getting to know the people of the community and exploring the possibilities of the museum and its future.

2012 is going to be an exciting year for the museum! It is the centennial anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Angels Camp, and we will be hosting an antique car rally on Saturday, May 5th to help celebrate. Our Gold Rush Day will be on Saturday, June 9th and will be bigger and better than before with lots of great programs and activities for kids and adults. This is the one day that admission is free to all visitors. Our museum lecture series, which is on the first Thursday of each month, has been a huge success and I would encourage you to look at the upcoming schedule of events on the Museum Foundation's web site, www.angelscampmuseumfoundation.org, to see what topics we will be exploring and presenting.



The museum is currently open only on weekends, for visitors, throughout the winter. We will be open five days a week beginning in March. During the days we are closed, we are organizing our collections and working on new exhibits. We have big plans for the future of the museum, including new and exciting exhibits that we hope will come into being over the next few years.

Currently, we are working on creating artisan exhibits down in the Mining and Ranching building and grounds that include a fully functional early 20th century print shop, a functional 19th century blacksmith shop, textiles area, and carpenter's shop. Working with the various guilds and local artisans, the goal is to have these skills demonstrated and on display to illustrate all of the various talents that were here in Angels Camp and the surrounding areas during both the Gold Rush and later mining eras. We also have some other exciting new exhibits that will be unveiled in 2012. However, we will need to raise funds to make these future goals a reality. We hope that you will help us with these fundraising efforts by giving a small or large donation to the foundation to aid our efforts in bringing new and exciting educational exhibits to the museum.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS' VAULT

By Craig Hadley, *Museum Director*

The Angels Camp Museum recently accepted a generous donation of a 19th Century Chinese Wheelbarrow from the Museum of American Heritage, located in Palo Alto, California. The Heritage Museum had acquired the wheelbarrow earlier this year and did not have a place to interpret it properly. They soon approached our museum to see if we would be interested in adding it to our growing collection of Chinese artifacts.

Constructed of Chinese design and believed to have actually been built in China and brought over to the California Gold Country sometime in the early to mid-19th Century, this wheelbarrow is in remarkably good condition and still has some Chinese characters on it. So far, all we have been able to translate through a Chinese expert is "Property of" while the other characters are too faded to translate, but we hope to translate the remaining characters in the near future and shed more light on its history.

We hope to utilize this wonderful artifact for a new exhibit on Chinese immigrants in Angels Camp and the Gold Country region sometime in 2013.



New Heat & Air System Installed in Main Building

The museum recently received a \$25,000 donation from the *Wings of Freedom Foundation* to be used for purchasing a professional heat and air environmental system for the main museum building and gift shop. None of the three main museum exhibit buildings on the campus had any professional heat and air systems. The extreme heat in the summer and cold in the winter were not just uncomfortable for both staff and visitors, but also harmful to the artifacts. *Angels Sheet Metal* did an outstanding job installing the new state-of-the-art system. A special thanks goes out to Ron Dwelley with *Angels Sheet Metal*, who also donated some of his services to ensure we got the best system and stayed within our budget. We hope to raise the money in the future to install a professional heat and air system in both the Carriage House and Mining and Ranching Building as well. Thank you once again to the *Wings of Freedom Foundation* for their generous support of the museum and its future.



Angels Camp Museum Foundation
PO Box 1385
Angels Camp, CA 95222



Angels Camp Museum **JOIN US!**
LECTURE SERIES

The first Thursday of each month
 6:30pm

\$10 per person - Museum Members are FREE

2012 SCHEDULE

- March 1st** **The History of the Sam Choy Building & Chinese Immigrants to Calaveras County**
- April 5th** **Memories of Angels Camp: A Symposium**
- May 3rd** **The Jumping Frog Competition in Angels Camp: Its History, Memorabilia, and Stories**

Check the web site for lecture locations and speaker information.

Seating for Lectures is limited. Please make your reservation in advance to secure your seat.

For questions or enquiries or to make your reservation,
 please contact the Museum staff at (209) 736-2963
 or email Museum Director Craig Hadley at craighadley@angelscamp.gov

Thank you for your generosity!

Roger Neuman - Golf Cart -

(A very useful tool for events and activities at the Museum.)

Wings of Freedom Foundation - \$25,000- (This money was used to install an environmental heating and air conditioning system in the main Museum building.)

Pacific Legacy - \$600 - (Allocated for the Artisan Exhibit Displays - Print Shop)

Calaveras Community Foundation Grant made possible by a donation from

Sierra Pacific Industries - \$1500 - (Money was used to purchase a laptop computer and printer for the Museum staff and the Foundation.)

