



ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM

FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

www.angelscamp.gov/museum

Where would we be now?

Just some food for thought....what if gold was never discovered in California? The United States would still have signed the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2nd, 1848. Eventually the area of California would have undoubtedly become an American state, but the rush of migrants to the area from around the world may never have happened. Our forefathers would never have braved the journey in lure of gold and prosperity....and the Angels Camp Museum wouldn't have an exceptional collection of artifacts documenting this historical period. But gold was discovered in California and now...

**History Comes Alive
at the Angels Camp Museum
with the new Digital Self-Guided Audio Tour**



At least it will as soon as the Museum opens again to the public. So stay tuned and we will invite you to experience our new Museum adventure.



The idea for a self-guided tour, or “digital docent” project first originated with the Angels Camp Museum Commission and in 2019 the Museum Foundation Board researched resources, drafted a budget, and approved funds to move the project ahead. Thanks to Chuck Schneider, Jim Miller and the Museum staff over the years, a excellent docent script had already been developed and served as the foundation for the final script development. Additional scripts written by Bob Hills and others were also included and further research was done to add context and historical perspective for visitors. The result is a 60-minute tour that starts upstairs in the main building and guides guests through portions of the entire Museum grounds. The Foundation worked with New York-based

AcoustiGuide, the creators of the well-known San Francisco Alcatraz Penitentiary Audio Tour. The company pairs character-driven stories with intuitive software and hardware solutions which transforms them into captivating audio tours that transport museum visitors to another time in history.

“Not only does the self-guided audio tour allow us to share more historical content and context, but it allows us to share it with more people,” said Chuck Schneider, Museum Director. “The staff had a hand during each step in development from fact checking to selecting the narrators. It’s really exciting to see our work come to life with background music and special sound effects.”

The Museum was also fortunate to receive six letters from a Massachusetts family whose Italian immigrant friend had moved to Angels Camp in the mid 1850’s. His letters explain what life was like in the small mining town. A companion track on the audio tour tells the story of Andrew Galliardo in his own words with additional historical facts and photos. A real life story!

A bit of history... (Part 1)

The Museum began as the private collection of William and Alice Daniels. They purchased the property and built the main concrete block building. Upstairs was the original museum exhibit and the couple lived downstairs. With the cooperation of the City of Angels, the Angels Camp Boosters and the Lions Club, the museum opened its doors on May 6th, 1951. In 1969, Mr. Daniels passed away and the museum property and management responsibility was deeded to the City of Angels. Harry Polley donated the piece of land which extended the property to the creek, China Gulch. In 1989 the City received grant funds to build the Pole Barn. This building was the original Carriage House. The collection of local artifacts was growing rapidly. In 2005 the City again received grant funds and built the new Carriage House; the Pole Barn became the Mining and Ranching Building. The last 15 years have brought tremendous growth and enhancement to the Museum. In 2006, the City endorsed an Assessment survey of the Museum and recognized that they needed a Museum Commission to offer guidance and recommendations to the City Council. The appointed Commissioners recognized the need for a non-profit element and began the legal process to establish the Museum Foundation. They encouraged the City to hire a Museum director and more staff to organize the artifacts, develop quality exhibits and create student and docent educational opportunities. The efforts of everyone involved: elected City Council, volunteer Commissioners and Foundation Directors, paid City and Museum staff, and numerous financial donors, have elevated the original vision to be *the premier museum on California Gold Country history*.



Picture from
mid 1960



Present day
picture



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you been to the Museum lately? Much has happened in this last year. Thanks to your donations, the pergola is now up in front of the Carriage House, creating a visually beautiful extension and summertime shade. If you would like to rent the Carriage House for your business or organizations gathering, just call the Museum at (209) 736-2963 for details.

A special Thank you, to Dave Shiles for donating the life sized horse statue. Jim Miller, Museum education director, repaired and painted the horse with Paint colors. Staff has given the horse the name, *Apache*.

Back in 2018-2019 our lecture series ended with a presentation regarding one room schoolhouses in Calaveras County. Thank you to Kathy Northington, who attended a one room school in Wallace, and to John Brophy for their very informative lecture. We hope you've been enjoying this years lectures, still more to come in April and May.

There are many projects getting started to update exhibits. Museum staff and volunteer retired geologist Bob O'Neil are in the process of organizing, labeling and re-displaying the gem and mineral collection. There has been interest from a local resident to get the Sierra Railway model train running. Foundation members are creating a Memorial Butterfly Garden for our next major fundraising project.

Of course the Museum is temporarily closed but will hopefully be opening again soon. So stay tuned and please bring your family and friends and come join us to enjoy the history of the Gold Rush.

Karen, *President*
Angels Camp Museum Foundation



A HORSE IS A HORSE...

Two years ago, David Shiles, proprietor of the Sonora Feed and Supply store, wished to find a new home for the weather beaten fiberglass horse that had been stationed out in front of his store for many years. From a past conversation, the Angels Camp Museum came to mind, so he reached out to management and asked if they would be willing to restore it to as original condition as possible and put it on display. Now the funny thing here is that for several years the Angels Camp Museum Commission had placed *a life size model horse* on their long list of things that they would like for the museum. Regardless of the faded paint and damage to the legs and ears, the Museum gladly accepted the historic gift and began the process to bring the horse back to life.



An old photograph was found which showed a multi-hued horse pulling a breaking cart. Using the picture as a guide, the eager repair crew began the painstaking process and restored the sad looking beast to its former glory. Accented by tack supplied by a local donor and aided by informational signage for all visitors to learn from, the “new” Paint color horse has become a reborn image of our history.

Currently on display in the Carriage House, it has no doubt brought old-time splendor to viewers of all ages. In addition, by bringing back to life a piece of local history, the Angels Camp Museum has given horse lovers the

means of recalling their own memories of life in the saddle. Museum visitors will be able to visualize a slower and more relaxed time spent trotting along in a small cart, pulled by this magnificently majestic beast.



A heart felt *Thank You* to everyone who has and continues to support the Angels Camp Museum!



MEMORIAL BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Brick and Tile Fundraiser

The area in the picture will soon be transformed into the Memorial Butterfly Garden. Butterfly friendly plants will be placed in the existing pots, along the wall and in a raised bed.

Etched tiles will cover the ground. Proceeds from the sale of bricks and tiles will be used to concrete the floor of the Mining and Ranching Building. This upgrade will allow more folks access to all the displays. Proceeds will also be used to purchase and install two pergolas: a small one in the butterfly garden, where folks can rest and watch for birds and butterflies and a larger one next to the main museum building which large groups can use to establish as a meeting place before and after their tour.

Bricks and tiles can be used to remember family and friends or even groups, clubs and events. More information will be sent out soon. Volunteers will be working on the garden soon, as spring time is just around the corner and a great time to plant.

MORE INFORMATION ON THESE OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

Mining and Ranching Building SPONSORSHIP SIGNAGE

One of the guiding principals for the Museum is that it will strive to accurately interpret exhibits for the general public by utilizing narrative history. With your help, we have successfully accomplish this in the Carriage House by offering sponsorships for signage for the rolling stock. We have also been able to add signs to numerous outside artifacts and a variety of plants. Now we would like to focus on the Agricultural equipment.

In Memorial Gifts

- A *Memorial Gift* is a wonderful way to express love and thoughtful remembrance .
- Your monetary gift to the Angels Camp Museum helps to ensure the future of our local gold country history. Your contribution is tax deductible.
- A *Memorial Card* will be sent to the family of the person honored with your name as the donor but the amount is not indicated unless requested.



In Memorial Cards are available at the Angels Camp Museum,
at various local churches and Memorial Chapels.