



# ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM

FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

[www.angelscamp.gov](http://www.angelscamp.gov)

### New Gold Panning Experience Station Ready for the New Year

In 2009, Angels Camp resident and museum volunteer Jim Marshall designed, funded, and constructed the original gold panning station. It became a very popular activity with visitors, earning income for the museum from the very beginning. Gold Panning costs \$5.00. This winter, a new gold panning experience station was constructed by the Vallecito Conservation Camp crew. The crew also created footpaths to the outdoor display of farming equipment, located just below the gold panning station. Three full days of work resulted in a station which can now accommodate twenty-four visitors versus the original six. Stations are sectioned at various heights for better access for everyone and there is expanded shade covering. A footpath to the new structure rests on a considerably softer grade to alleviate slipping hazards. The footpaths are covered in hard-packed, decomposed granite and now



have several benches for visitor seating.

Many thanks to Chuck and Suzi Schneider for donating the 10-gallon water pump for the new structure.

From left to right: Wes Kulm, *Angels Camp Mayor*, Elaine Morris, *Vice Mayor*, Tad Folendorf, Ron Rivera, and Jack Johnson, *Museum Commissioners*, visit the new Gold Panning Station

## A Note From the Museum Director

by Kimberly Arth

Springtime is in the air and the Museum is preparing for yet another busy year!

Museum staff is proud to report that we served 7,927 people in 2014, a 28% increase from 2013. We love that you visit this gem of a Museum nestled in the heart of the Mother Lode - Thank YOU!

Of that total number, 528 were schoolchildren who toured the Museum in groups led by the Museum's eight magnificent docents. The docents have volunteered over two hundred hours in the past six months!

In 2014, the Museum staff secured non-school tour groups that not only visited the museum, but also ate lunch in the City and had time to shop. A total of 350 people with tour groups and antique car clubs in ten tours visited last year. The Museum is a destination, and strives to bring tourists to Calaveras County.



Increased marketing and wonderful word-of-mouth recommendations are the reasons the Museum has seen more visitors. In order to make sure that visitors keep coming back, we offer a robust calendar including lectures, education programs, guided tours and a free community festival held in the fall.

Especially exciting is that the Museum Team is working hard on opening new exhibits. So far - with YOUR support - we have successfully raised funds for the Main building rotating gallery that will include an exhibit on the history of Angels Camp. This important new exhibit will help the community to best tell our story, and the rotating gallery will provide a reason for visitors to return to the museum again and again.

Thank YOU for exploring, experiencing and having fun at the  
Angels Camp Museum!

Karen Strand and Jackie Heintz join  
the Museum Foundation.



### FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Kathy Dodge,  
*President*  
Judith Marvin,  
*Vice President*  
Karen Strand,  
*Secretary*  
Lori Bloathner,  
*Treasurer*  
Lee Croletto,  
*Membership*  
Tad Folendorf  
Cookie Hirn  
Jackie Heintz  
Ron Rivera

## Membership News

2014 saw our museum membership continue to grow and retain members! Our 2015 goal is to welcome 25 new members. Your membership helps the Foundation to fund new exhibits and enhance existing exhibits at the museum - we encourage you to visit the museum often to see the changes, like the new expanded Gold Panning area. Upgrade your membership to "Friend" or "Patron" Level and bring extra guests to the lectures for free. Full benefits for each level can be viewed at our website [www.angelscamp.gov](http://www.angelscamp.gov); click on the **museum** link or email [membership@angelscamp.gov](mailto:membership@angelscamp.gov) and we will personally answer any of your questions. Call (209) 736-2963 for information on Lifetime and Business memberships.

We cannot say it often enough:  
THANK YOU for supporting the Angels Camp Museum and helping the museum grow. We hope to see you soon at the museum, and hope you enjoy our six educational lectures in 2015. Information on our programs is posted on the museum website and sent to you via email, as well.

Lee Croletto,  
*Membership Coordinator*



The Angels Camp Museum  
was awarded  
"Most Innovative Attraction"  
in October 2014, by the  
Calaveras Visitors Bureau and received  
a Certificate of Recognition. It is a  
remarkable honor to be recognized by  
the California State Legislature as an  
innovative attraction and a fully  
engaged community collaborator.

## What is it? Can you guess?

When the first gold seekers came to the Mother Lode, they were simply panning for gold in the local streams. Among the earliest miners were men from Sonora, Mexico. They brought with them wooden pans called *bateas*, literally meaning “bowl” in Spanish. These wooden bowls had been in use for centuries by the indigenous peoples of Central and South America to pan for gold. *Bateas* could be used for both wet and dry panning.

Angels Camp Museum is proud to have in its collections two of these *bateas*. They are rare because often the wooden bowls split or broke (or were broken by tax collectors), or were left to rot away as metal pans became available. This one in the photograph is on display in the Museum’s Pole Barn.

*Batea* held by museum staff member Rebecca McCurdy.



It takes a village to raise a museum.  
Your contributions means the world to us and to our community.  
This would not have happened without you and we are so grateful.



Thanks to the Wings of Freedom Foundation who committed \$11,000 towards the Main building rotating gallery and exhibition on the history of Angels Camp, an important and pivotal project for advancing the museum.

Thanks to the following individuals and businesses for donating collections, advertising and in-kind or monetary gifts:

Chris Albasio, Ken Baldwin, Dave & Pat Bird, David P. Johnson, Verne Johnson, Stacy Joyner, Madeline Krska, Nolan & Nancy Larson, Peggy Lucas, James A. Luly, Judith Marvin, Nioma & George Mather, Adrian Nestor, Roger Neuman, Robert L. Petithomme, Betty A. Raggio, Robert & Joanna Reagan, Chuck & Suzi Schneider, Edward Treuting, Mike Tyndall, Tom Tyron, Mark Waelty, Billie Westernoff, and Monica Wood.

## CARRIAGE HOUSE SIGNAGE

The campaign to provide museum-quality interpretive signage in the Carriage House has been very successful, but there are more than ten wagons that still need a sponsor. Your gift of \$350 pays for the metal stand and the printed sign that will help complete the interpretive information for the entire collection in the Carriage House. The information is meticulously researched and written by both Museum staff and Judith Marvin, a local historian. Sponsors' names and business names, as desired, are noted after the historical information on the sign. The donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please contact the Museum at (209)736-2963 for more information on this program.



Studebaker Buckboard Wagon



Steve and Kym Flaigg standing by their sponsored wagon, the Angels/Murphys/Vallecito Mail and Passenger Stage

Many thanks to the recent wagon sponsors:

Art Cutler, the Flaigg Family,  
Jackie Heintz, Jack & Ruth Johnson,  
George & Nioma Mather  
Daniel & Brenda Reidy, Ed & Lila Wolf,  
and the Wood Family.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Lecture Series

Reception at 1:30pm  
Lecture begins at 2:00pm

Sunday, March 22, 2:00pm  
*Sierra Railway's Angels Branch*,  
presented by Dave Connery

Sunday, April 19, 2:00pm  
*Cowboys and their Ranches: Cattle Brands*  
presented by Patrick Taylor

### SAVE THE DATE

**Sat., September 19, 2015**  
**11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Saturday in the Mines: Free. Family. Festival.**

For more information visit  
[www.angelscamp.gov](http://www.angelscamp.gov)

## Get Your SHARES Card and Help the Museum Grow!

The Angels Camp Museum Foundation now has a SAVEMART S.H.A.R.E.S card. 3% of your purchases at SAVEMART is donated back to the Museum Foundation. Proceeds are used to fund museum exhibits and projects.

Easy to use, totally private (no cross marketing to you) and, our card has a label identifying it for the Angels Camp Museum, so if you already have a card for another non-profit, you can rotate them to spread your giving around!

Please email [membership@angelscamp.gov](mailto:membership@angelscamp.gov) and we will mail the card to you.