



## NEWSLETTER

Issue # 2 June, 2002



### WELCOME TO OUR BUSIEST SEASON

**YET.** *George & Pam Morey.*

Ninety percent of last year's group has returned and our family has 23 new members. Special thanks to the volunteers who assisted in training our new members: especially Jane Strong (History); Gerry Reponen (interpretation); and Kermit Eller (gatekeeper). We have some fun things planned for the supersessions and field trips during the season, including: a return visit to dispatch; a live auction planned for June; Q&A sessions covering radio operations and air quality; and a talk by Gerry Reponen about the history of the San Gabriels.

**The Times They Are A-Changin'.** To better reflect and recognize the effort so many of you put into the program, year-end t-shirts will henceforth only be awarded to those who put in at least 24 hours service during the season.

**They also serve.** We are now a non-profit, charitable organization, so contributions are tax deductible. A form has been added to the back of the newsletter so Ric Opalka can do less work this year. Please share this form with your friends and encourage them to assist us in saving our remaining lookouts from deterioration, vandalism, destruction and neglect.

**It's elementary.** ABC Window Company,



our employer, has come to the rescue whenever we needed glass or screens for the lookouts or the Osbornes. Thank you to Whitey Hegwer and Ken Steinmetz for that support and for allowing us to inaugurate a new tradition by displaying for the first time ever in our newsletter the logo of one of our esteemed supporters.

### ON THE ROAD *with Bob Gregg*

In the 1920s plans were made for a highway from Glendora, up the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, over the Blue Ridge and down to Wrightwood. The Glendora Mtn. Road was built from 1926 to 1931. In 1929 work also began from the junction of Cattle Canyon and the East Fork northward along the east side of the East Fork. County prisoners did most of the work and they reached the Narrows by 1938 constructing a bridge across the East Fork and a tunnel thru a ridge on the west side.

Along came the flood of March 1 and 2, 1938 that extensively

damaged the highway and work was abandoned.

Today not much



remains except what has become known as the "Bridge to Nowhere". During World War II the idea of a highway to Wrightwood was revived again. The road this time was to climb the west wall of the East Fork and join the Angeles Crest Highway at Vincent Gap at the 6,600 foot level by 1977. The section between the Crystal Lake Road or Highway 39 to the Glendora Mtn. Road along the East Fork was opened in 1949. Work began on the East Fork road to Vincent Gap at Follows Camp in 1954 by prisoners of a County Detention Camp. By 1969 four miles had been finished to the 3,000 foot level but funds ran out and conservationists wanted the East Fork to remain a wilderness. Work stopped but the roadbed and two long tunnels still remain today.



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**!!GOLD FEVER!!** by Bob Gregg - a 3-part series

**Following** the California Gold Rush of 1849 in the western Sierra foothills, prospectors drifted south, starting a minor rush in the Kern River region. They then moved south again through Cajon Pass and spread westward into the San Gabriel Mtns. They found gold in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River with the first news of a strike coming on September 21, 1854. The rate of return was 2 to 5 cents per pan. Two fellows working near the narrows took out \$800 in 8 days. For the next five years minor placer mining activity took place with miners averaging up to \$7 per day per man.

**In early 1859** new richer deposits were found and by the end of July 300 men were working the East Fork. Tri-weekly stages left Los Angeles at 7am and arrived at the mines by 4pm. Fare was \$6. Almost overnight, a settlement called Eldoradoville sprang up at the junction of the East Fork and Cattle Canyon and hydraulic mining was soon instituted to wash away the hillsides. By 1860, Eldoradoville had three stores and six saloons; but no law and order. Stephen Douglas won the US Presidential election that Fall with Abe Lincoln coming in a poor third. In the Fall of 1861 Wells Fargo reported gold shipments to Los Angeles of \$12,000 per month. A torrential rain on January 17-18, 1862 washed away every single building in Eldoradoville including all the miners equipment. This ended the boom days on the East Fork and most miners moved on to a new strike on the Colorado River. Today one can drive up the East Fork of the San Gabriel River to the road's end and see people panning gold and looking for the Mother Lode.

**Some miners** went to other regions of the San Gabriels. In February, 1864 a strike was made on Lytle Creek just northwest of San Bernardino. Here miners made up to \$6 per day with most work done by hydraulic mining. By 1890 pay was down to \$4 per day and mining came to an end there. *Featured in July: Kelsey,*

*Stanley-Miller, Allison, Baldora and Eagle Mines. Featured in August: Big Horn Mine*



## VETTER SHINES

*written by Pam Morey while George wasn't looking.*

Vetter got a new coat of paint as did the bathroom, the garage and George's arm and shoes.

Despite warnings to Jim Mayfield, Kermit Eller, Ken Ketman Bob Moore and Chuck McFate, George also painted the deck before they were done walking on it



## HAWKINS SOARS

*by Bob Gregg & Pam Morey*

**Kermit Eller,** Bob Gregg and Pam & George Morey got South Mt Hawkins opened. The road is not too good but we made it up ok. The first couple miles are the worst. Getting all the supplies up (*including emergency rations - see below*) was the toughest. Mike McIntyre says the road will be plowed by the time this newsletter goes out.

**The potty** now has a mirror so you can see yourself with the door closed. The kiddy barricade on the west catwalk has been replaced with an iron railing.

**Emergency rations** now being stored in the garage include enough canned food for 2 people for a couple of days and a can opener. Remember: this food is only for emergency use. While we were up there we had 37 visitors (36 humans and 1 dog); including a boy scout group which told us South Mt Hawkins is on their day hike list.

**Since last November** the temperature ranged from 70 down to 10. The Forest Service is now operating the Crystal Lake entry station for the season and, like last year, will also be operating the fire station.



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**Suzanne Bailey, the last paid lookout for Mendenhall Lookout, has contacted us.** Suzanne and her late husband Don worked Mendenhall from 1973 until it burned on November 24, 1975. She has agreed to share some of her stories and photos with us and you may see them in future editions of this newsletter. Suzanne now lives in Texas, but plans to visit her family here in the Fall. We hope she will be able to spend some time with us while she is in the area.

## RANDOM SNAPSHOTS



## Bureaucratic Snafu *a note from Mike McIntyre*

**I want to extend a heartfelt apology** to all those who showed up to Operations Training at the Supervisor's Office in Arcadia, expecting to gain access to the buildings to enjoy a complete training experience. Due to a miscommunication, the Forest Service employee lined up to be present during the training did not show and the buildings were not accessible. From the sounds of it, Pam and the crew did a great job improvising, and the training went on.

**On another note,** it would have been interesting if the Lookout Training was able to be put on in the Large Conference Room as that was the day the Bouquet Fire broke and the Large Conference Room became Command Central for the Information Center. What an opportunity for hands-on training!!!! Again, my apologies and I know the next training will be much smoother.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**June 8.** San Gabriel Canyon clean-up. Coordinated by another volunteer group, PLP, which has asked for our help. Contact Pam Morey for details.

**June 20.** Live auction and potluck at Arcadia Park (near HQ). Watch for fliers with directions & times. Let Pam know if you have ever dreamed of being an auctioneer.

## CONTACT SHEET

**Coordinators:** George and Pam Morey. (909) 338-3923 or 1-800-222-1900 x 236 or [pgmorey@aol.com](mailto:pgmorey@aol.com).

**So. Mt. Hawkins:** Leader: Pam Morey  
**Scheduler:** Bob Gregg. [boblg1@earthlink.net](mailto:boblg1@earthlink.net) or [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org) or 818-249-5052.

**Vetter Mtn:** Leader: George Morey  
**Scheduler:** Chuck McFate. [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org) or [angelesfirelookout@juno.com](mailto:angelesfirelookout@juno.com) or 818-951-0230.

**Webmaster:** Don Kyle. [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org) or [angeleslookout@earthlink.net](mailto:angeleslookout@earthlink.net) or 818-951-7071.

**Newsletter:** Ric Opalka. [opalka@earthlink.net](mailto:opalka@earthlink.net) or 909-629-5111.

Learn more about it: [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org)

# A Message to Our Friends



**Don't have time to volunteer but still want to help? The ANFFLA needs your assistance.**

**We work diligently to preserve and protect historical jewels atop the forest crown. Many items are needed to maintain our 2 operating lookouts atop Vetter Mountain and South Mt. Hawkins. Even more will be needed if we are to be successful in our quest to restore and reopen the Slide Mountain lookout. These items include money, building materials, money and supplies. Did we mention money?**

**We have great goals: restoring and preserving the few remaining lookout in the San Gabriel Mountains, hosting visitors and assisting in the effort to protect our forest; but we must achieve these goals in the real world. We need your help!**

**Don't know how much to give? Consider these options.**

**For \$10, you will get this newsletter for one full season.**

**For \$50, the newsletter and an invitation to our supersessions and field trips for one full season.**

**For \$100, all of the above plus guided tours of the lookouts at Vetter and South Mt. Hawkins.**

**For \$200 all of the above plus the end-of-season t-shirt that is given to our most active volunteers.**

**The most important thing of course is that you make the donation with which you are most comfortable. Any assistance will be deeply appreciated.**

*Please include the lower portion of this sheet with your contribution.*

Enclosed please find my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the **ANFFLA**.

I understand my contribution will only be used to assist in achieving the objectives of the Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (ANFFLA).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (ANFFLA) is a 501c(3) corporation and your contribution is tax-deductible. Your employer may match your donation. Please check with your personnel office.

Please mail contribution with this sheet to:

**ANFFLA  
POB 1409  
Arcadia, CA 91077**