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**AUGUST 2012 NEWSLETTER - AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 761, JACKSON, CA 95642**

**ACHS MEMBER MEETING/OUTING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2012, 2:45PM**

Join us on September 16 for this fun membership meeting/outing at the Kennedy Wheels. There will be a presentation by Keith Sweet on the restoration plans on the Kennedy Wheels #1 and also the new kiosk. Ed Arata will talk about some of the individuals responsible for building the Wheels. We will also tour the outside of the Massa Tunnel, ending at Teresa's Place for food, burgers and more!



Please plan on attending this fun ACHS event! You may RSVP by calling (209) 257-1485, or contacting us via email at [info@achs1948.org](mailto:info@achs1948.org).

**DIRECTORS MESSAGE**

Once again the 2012 Amador County Fair was one of the best county fairs in California! ACHS decorated a fair window again and contributed to a unique exhibit.

The Society's fair window display received a Third Place Ribbon. Our thanks for their good work on the window go to Bobby Keeling, Georgia Fox, and her grandson. They put together our wonderful window display of Amador County barns and other Society memorabilia. We started doing a fair window again last year and each of those windows were successful ribbon-winners! I think we've got a good thing going and I would like to see us put money aside for next year's successful fair window. Thanks!

The Amador Central Railroad™ Management Committee (AMCMC) sponsored a County Fair booth promoting the Amador Central Railroad™ (AMCRR), owned by the Amador County Historical Society and the Recreational Railroad Coalition Historical Society (RRCHS). An informative display of the history of the railroad was complimented by three Maintenance of Way vehicles. This was the AMCRR's first fair exhibit and thanks go to Deborah Cook who spearheaded this effort, with help from ACHS and RRCHS members. Thank you, Deborah, and all the volunteers that talked with visitors at the booth!

Come by and see us again next year!

The weather was clear dry and beautiful for the 6 maintenance cars and the volunteer crew that cleaned tracks, and trimmed trees and bushes. Inspections and Function tests for the crossing gates and signals were performed to ensure the safe operations at the Highway crossings. The historic Amador Central Railway was constructed in 1904 and snakes 12.5 miles through the hills between Martell and Lone.

**END OF THE LINE!**

The Martell Amador Central Railroad Depot in Martell is being torn down. Currently under ownership of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), The demolition began this morning with five workers. The dis-assembly of the building is being done so as to salvage as much lumber from the building as possible. The warehouse portion of the Depot came down first.

Built in 1905 and operated under the Eastern & Lone RR, Amador Central RR and the Foothill RR until about 2002, the building has been falling into disrepair. Once a predominant structure in Martell, It served freight and Passenger line service from the Jackson and Sutter Creek areas to the Lone Depot where passengers and freight were linked to the Central Pacific, Southern Pacific, and later the Union Pacific railways for destinations further down the line.

It was through this station rescue teams from the east side of the Rockies traveled in a heroic attempt to save the 47 miners trapped in the Argonaut Mine disaster. The Amador Central Depot will be remembered for its historical link from our Foothill homes and lumber mills to the Cities to the west.



The historic Amador Central Rail line still exists between State Highway 88 at Ridge Road Near Martell to the lone Depot. The line is owned and maintained by a partnership of the Amador County Historical Society and the Recreational Railroad Coalition and Historical Society.

The lone Depot is currently being rescued from demolition in lone under the efforts of the City of lone and the Amador County

### MIDDLEBAR BRIDGE

Originally built in 1912, the historic Middle Bar Bridge is a simply supported, steel-truss bridge that spans the Mokelumne River and links Calaveras and Amador counties. At 204' long and 22' wide, the Pratt Truss bridge links Gwin Mine Road in Calaveras County and Middle Bar Road in Amador County. The bridge's steel was originally fabricated in 1901. First made of timber, the bridge's deck was replaced in 1969 with corrugated metal planking filled with bituminous pavement.



The 1912 Middle Bar Bridge is the third bridge built on this site crossing the Mokelumne River, near Jackson and the historic Gold Rush community of Middle Bar. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The steel truss bridge was restored in 1999 and is open to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. It's a popular spot for fishing.

### AMADOR CENTRAL RAILROAD



On July 20th there was a workday on the Amador Central Railway. Members of the Amador County Historical Society and the Recreational Railroad Coalition and Historical Society Teamed up and performed maintenance to keep the railway Function ready.



Historical Society. The Demolition of the oldest part of the Depot is to Begin Saturday

8/11/2012 in the AM.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2012

ACHS is now in new quarters at 148 Main St. so stop in and have a look. Our photo and artifact displays as well as the walking tour of Jackson are enticing people to come in off the sidewalk and spend some time. Stop by Fri-Sun anytime from 11-3. Also, we are now beginning to sell items such as the Special Mining edition at the office as an ongoing fund-raising effort.

ACHS now has web pages at Amadorgold.net to archive old newsletters and Amadorians as well as post future events. Our next event will be a tour of the Kennedy Wheels and other features in the Jackson Gate area on September 16. Our the last event of 2012 will be an Open House and wine raffle at the office on November 24 as part of the Christmas Delights event on Main St. in Jackson.

Our Fair window featured historic barns of Amador County and we were very pleased to receive a 3rd prize ribbon for the display which was planned and executed by Bobby Keeling and Georgia Fox. The Amador Central Railroad also had a substantial exhibit this year in the outside area near the tractors and diesel engines. Thanks to all of the people who volunteered to man that booth and explain what is happening on that historic railroad.

### 1897 SPECIAL MINING EDITION

This Special Edition was made possible by the Ledger/Dispatch and is being sold to support history projects in Amador County. Pick up your copy at our office on Main Street or order online from [our website](#).