

Gold Country Living



Red Johnson, Western author, and noted Historian, delivers a lecture at Clark's Corner in Ione, CA. Photo by Tim Dunn

Tales of the Gold Rush

By Tim Dunn
Staff Writer

IONE, CA - Clark's Corner in Ione hosted one of our local famous authors this past November, the Western author Red Johnson. How appropriate we were in Ione, the oldest town in Amador County. We were there to hear Red Johnson speak about the History of the Gold Country (Southern Mines region).

Ione was originally called Hicks. Hicks, Childs and Martin were the first settlers in the Ione Valley. Q Ranch was established, there were two oaks at the entrance, one was used as a hanging tree! John Bogen and Charlie Green formed a stage line in the area.

In the early 1850's, thousands of people were streaming into the area, then part of the San Joaquin District. They came from San Francisco through Stockton and Sacramento. With the establishment of towns such as Jackson, Moke-lumne Hill, San Andreas, Altaville, Angels Camp, and others, there was a determination by many to form their own county and set up institutions to govern themselves.

Calaveras County was soon formed and included what is now Amador County named after Jose Maria Amador who owned ranches in San Ramon and Sunol. The county seat was in Double Springs which was established in 1852. It's about 4 miles east of what is now Valley Springs. Double Springs was also known as Pleasant Valley. Charles L. Peck and H.M. Gills set up a store there.

Some of the movers and shakers of this time are as follows: Charles Boynton known as the Father of Amador County; William Phoenix, First Sheriff; Robert Costner, Sheriff; Billy Sutherland; Benjamin Frank, Marshall in Murphys, was a friend of Joaquin Murrieta who actually looked like a schoolteacher! And George Upton who guided three wagon trains out west received a grubstake, went to the

Shenandoah Valley, poked a hole in the mountain and found gold! We can't forget James Marshall who was the first to discover gold in Coloma on January 24, 1848.

There was an incredible amount of information given by Red. He is a very personable, engaging speaker and highly entertaining. On display were Red's collection of rifles, pistols, and knives, all very old, beautiful weapons. This was a truly wonderful night. Clark's Corner was a charming, comfortable venue for the lecture.

If you ever have a chance to hear one of Red's lectures, you will be amazed by the wealth of knowledge and history he shares and you will have a great time! Our gold country has quite a legend of true stories.

Red Johnson is currently writing a monthly column for the *Gold Country Times*, known as 'Legends of the Gold Country' which follows the story line in his current book, *Hell Will Be to Pay, the True Story of Henry Plumer*, six years in the making. See his ad on page 14 for more information and cost of purchase. Red has written several Western books that bring the excitement, danger and historical facts of the gold rush era alive. For more info on his Western books, visit his website redjohnsonwesternauthor.com. To enjoy past columns from *Legends of the Gold Country*, go to www.goldcountrytimes.com.

The Brewery in Sutter Creek was located where Chaos Glass Works and the STP station are located on Hanford Street today. Sutter Creek had no local brewery until 1861 when German immigrants, Wilhelm Cremer and George Seisser arrived in town and built the first brewery. By 1863, they had sold their operation to Louis Schwarzkopt and Leopold Rabolt. In time, Rabolt would own the brewery outright. The brewery operation shows up on the various Fire Maps for Sutter Creek. Another German immigrant, John Radatz, arrived in Sutter Creek in 1883, rebuilt and remodeled the Rabolt brewery. *Logan's Alley - Vol. V*

Plymouth Elementary School Gardens #16

December 2009 Monarchs in Space

By Michael and Little Amber Spinetta

Amber is too busy writing her letter to Santa and will not be co-writing the column this month. *The Portrait*

Amber went to bed very early a few weeks ago. Dumb-founded, I sprung at the chance and painted until 2:30 a.m., using Star Trek episodes online as my muse. This concluded a multi-media art project you can follow in the column online at www.goldcountrytimes.com.

One better memory happened last December. While building the rock wall around the manzanita, Amber pretended the rows of grapes were shopping aisles – and that I was her baby – and she bought me imaginary candy and milk. Three portraits and paint encrusted photo studies will be on display in the library on Main Street, Plymouth from December through spring.

Monarchs in Space

The November 16th Space Shuttle Atlantis launch carried three 4th instar monarch caterpillars to the International Space Station (ISS) in a small rearing chamber. This chamber was placed in an incubator onboard the ISS and the developing monarchs are monitored with still and video cameras. The most interesting part of the experiment are the 'five major challenges' the monarchs face in the nearly weightless environment. Observers will notice how the monarchs deal with crawling and clinging, selecting their pupation site, emerging from their chrysalis, and more challenges.

A partner in the project, the University of Kansas outreach program Monarch Watch was founded in 1992 by Chip Taylor. (Our gardens are Monarch Waystation #1544 – another Monarch Watch project you at home can join in!) Mr. Taylor answered a few comments some students and I had about whether the monarchs would meet all their challenges. "No, not all five. Space is a challenge and most gravity dependent organisms are going to have difficulty adjusting to conditions in which normal gravity is not present.

The purpose of a project such as this one is to see how the organisms adjust to the near weightlessness of space and how they are limited by these conditions. The final challenge - emergence and full extension of the wings is certainly going to be difficult in space, particularly so in this case, since two of the chrysalids are now free floating."

Happily, on December 3, the first monarch emerged! More will be gleaned from the butterflies when they return in February 2010.

The entire experiment, Commercial Generic Bioprocessing Apparatus Science Insert - 03 (CSI-03) allows the K-12 community to care for and examine the same organisms on Earth that are simultaneously studied in space. Scientific objectives include the comparison of the life cycle of the painted lady butterfly on Earth to the life cycle in micro-gravity. Also looked at is the comparison of the ability of an orb weaving spider to spin webs and catch food on the ground to its ability to perform the same tasks in the microgravity. Educational goals include that students will conduct controlled experiments, practice humane animal handling and experimental procedures, and compare their control experiment results to those obtained in the flight experiment.

Visit Online
www.monarchwatch.org/space
www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/science/experiments/CSI-03_prt.htm

Merry Christmas from Earth

Santa Claus visits the Shenandoah Valley Community Club every year. My job is to go out and take care of his reindeer. I never get a chance to take pictures of Amber on Santa's lap, but Rudolph and company really work up an appetite and get to eat the potluck dinner leftovers! Otherwise, they'd try to look for food in the vineyards, and ten foot fences don't keep flying deer out! Well, and least



'Little Amber Spinetta at Two', Acrylic on Canvas. Painting by Michael Spinetta

when I come back in, Amber tells me all about Santa and how he knew everything that she wanted for Christmas.

Please Help the Gardens

For new playground equipment: write a check to "PEP Club" and send to PEP Club c/o Plymouth Elementary School, P.O. Box 847, Plymouth, CA 95669 or call (209) 257-7800. The school carnival was great fun – Tim's music for Mrs. Carson's Cake-walk took the cake.

Separately, donations for the garden are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Write checks to "Amador Community Foundation"; note in the lower left, "Plymouth Elementary School Gardens Fund", and send to ACF at P.O. Box 1154, Jackson, CA 95642. Thanks, Kelly, for those tools!

Send holiday cheer to michaelspinetta@yahoo.com or you'll get coal in your stocking and grapevine moths in your figgy pudding.

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