

The STAR

August 2014

THE NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

Our Mission: To rehabilitate the Julia Morgan-designed North Star House and its immediate grounds, reconnecting it to the greater Grass Valley area and to restore its place as an active hub of the community.

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County to Consider Future of North Star House and Grounds! Presentation to Planning Commission on August 14

To all of our great supporters of the North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC): Please help us to restore The North Star House and its historic grounds. The NSHC wishes to open this vital piece of our local history to the public. Our vision for The North Star House and property is that it gradually evolves into a cultural event center open to all.

To this end, the NSHC has prepared a master plan for the fourteen-acre property, which not only seeks to restore and rehabilitate The North Star House and grounds, but also allows it to be opened to the public in a phased approach. On January 16, 2014, the NSHC filed a series of applications with Nevada County seeking approval of the master plan and a zoning designation that allows public access to this historic property. If approved, The North Star House and grounds could be used for public or private events including weddings, conferences, educational classes, theatrical or musical performances, and the display of arts. Funds obtained from these on-site activities will be invested into the rehabilitation of the The North Star House. Our applications will be presented before the Planning Commission on August 14, 2014. If you are a member, volunteer, historian, fan of Julia Morgan, neighbor, business or government leader, your support of our proposal before the county would be extremely helpful. You may submit a letter in support to the County Planning Commission or attend the August 14 public hearing to voice your comments. Thank you!

--The Board of the North Star House Historic Conservancy

House Party at The North Star!

A Benefit Concert for The North Star Historic Conservancy

**August 16th,
7:30-10:00 PM**

**Put on your
dancing shoes!**

**Loraine Gervais
and her Love Bombs**

more details inside and on back cover



Historical Notes

by Carole Miller

The historic mining periodical, "Mining and Scientific Press," was first published in 1860 in San Francisco. In the December 25, 1920 issue, the editor, E.A. Rickard published an editorial in "appreciation of the career and character of Arthur DeWint Foote of the North Star Mine." Excerpts of the editorial are presented in this article to grab your interest; the full editorial may be viewed at the North Star House.

A Yankee Engineer: Arthur De Wint Foote

"Among the pine-clad slopes of the Sierra Nevada, on the Pacific side and overlooking the Central valley of California, is a pretty settlement called Grass Valley. It is a community devoted to gold mining, and is distinguished among other Californian mining centres as the locality where was started the first digging into hard rock for gold-bearing quartz in veins or lodes. The North Star Mine is 2500 feet deep, with a shaft



that is 6300 feet long from top to bottom. The North Star has had its vicissitudes, like most mines, but it has been yielding gold almost continuously for twenty-five years. Moreover, it has been a mining school to a number of engineers now playing a useful part in the world. The veteran manager of the North Star Mine is Mr. Arthur De Wint Foote. Mr. Foote is a representative American, in his ancestry, his early environment, his schooling, and the venturesome beginnings of his professional career. He is direct and outspoken, eschewing periphrasis. He speaks of men as he found them, and he has to deal with many kinds, but in all his dealings he asserted the essential manhood and self-respect that we like to consider peculiarly American.

Mr. Foote could look any man in the face, and if necessary, tell him to go to hell; but he did not say it too often, and he never said it without cause. He was always kindly and polite to those with whom he worked, either as subordinate or chief. His traditions and his education alike have given him a feeling of keen responsibility to the men whose work he directs and an appreciation of their troubles and distempers.

Mr. Foote's wife, the author, Mary Hallock Foote, described him this way: 'My husband could do foolish things with money, but he had a long-distance wisdom at times that money cannot buy. When things did not go quite right he would describe them humorously, not being a bitter person.'

We need more engineers like Mr. Foote, alert and sagacious, but also humane and sympathetic to those who work with him rather than for him; in short, the democratic ideal of industry is not serfdom but cooperation."

GOT

Outreach Coordinator skills? Construction skills?

The North Star House is on its way to returning to its former glory and to being a premier community events center for all of Nevada County.

AND

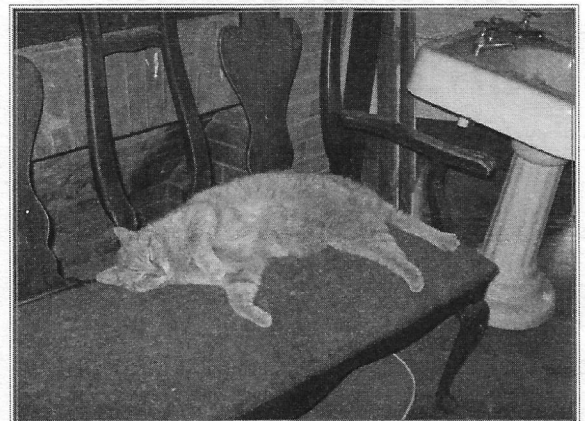
Volunteers are making it happen!

The Resource Development Committee is an active group, working to improve communication with our members, supporter, and to try to spread the news of how The North Star House is changing. We seek an out-going volunteer with the time and energy to contact local service groups to plan and schedule outreach sessions for the coming year.

If you like using a hammer, paintbrush, broom, or just fetching things, join us! We can also use help with demolition, finish carpentry, rough carpentry, or grouting foundation walls. If you have these skills or would like to learn any of these skills, there is no better place than The North Star House to get hands on experience with some really great people.

Come out and learn, teach, or just do. We have crews working on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call Cheryl at 530-205-8793 for more information.

Elvis, The North Star House resident mouser, asleep in the Julia Morgan Room after a long night's work.



The pedestal sink, kindly donated by Patricia Green, will be in one of the new bathrooms

President's Message

By Joe Heckel

North Star Historic Conservancy August 2014

If you stop by The North Star House any day of the week, you may see the many volunteers who are hard at work. From the construction work on the lower or first floor of the house, to the preservation of unique landscape features, to the maintenance of our fourteen acres, our hard working volunteers are doing all of this work. The efforts by these volunteers, along with donations of funds and materials, have advanced The North Star House from a deteriorating structure ready to collapse to a beautiful, sturdy building now on the National Historic Register.

One of the most significant improvements currently underway is a remodel to a portion of the lower floor. When the Conservancy inherited The North Star House, the building was open to the elements and had no operating electrical, heating, water, or sewer systems. Our remodel project will restore heating, cooling, water and sewer to the building. The key change is the installation of a new kitchen along with an ADA accessible restroom for use by the public. This construction work is being spearheaded and supervised by our Construction Committee, a collective group of hard working folks who are volunteering their time and muscle. In addition, a number of local contractors are helping with this project and have discounted the cost of their labor and/or materials in support of our cause. The Conservancy worked with the Nevada County Building Department in obtaining a permit for this remodel and ensuring a smooth transition from a vacant structure of historical value to a safe and code compliant structure open for public use. The Conservancy is anticipating this remodel project to be completed in late summer.

The remodel work is one of many projects being undertaken by our volunteers who are doing these tasks out of their love and respect for The North Star House. It is the vision of the Board of Directors that one day The North Star House and its historic grounds can evolve into a community event center open to all.

Progress at The Northstar House! Construction Update

By Larry Dulmage

We have made good progress on the kitchen and bathroom project thanks to some great volunteers and the amazing work of some of the best contractors in Nevada County: All Phase Heating and Air, Comfort Plumbing, and C.A.S.E. Electrical. When working under an old house that has suffered the indignities that The North Star House has over the years, you begin to understand the meaning of finding creative solutions to problems. These guys have used them all! We had our first inspection and all their hard work paid off with a passing grade. We've begun the task of closing up the floors and completing the rough framing. Thanks to our volunteers Ron Breeden, Dick Vasey, Bob Rhodes, Adam Custock, Doug Young, Don Dumas, Chuck Field, Tim Colbert, and Gary Schlusser. Progress was being made on the foundation walls project, when there was a failure over a doorway which required fast action to prevent the rocks over the door from falling out completely. Thanks to Don Dumas, a local mason, the rocks were removed and in short order re-installed with some steel reinforcement, looking better than new!

Can you identify this



We will
reveal the identity in the next issue of
"The Star"

Fundraiser

presents

Dance Concert Under the Stars

r&b • rock • country • soul • pop

Lawn Seating

on our beautiful grounds!

The North Star Historic Conservancy!

The North Star House Saturdays from 9-12

12075 Auburn Road, Grass Valley, Ca 95945

No coolers or picnic baskets please—great food & drink are available for purchase.

Calla Lily Crepes • Papa Murphy's Pizza • Lazy Dog Ice Cream • FABLE Coffees • Szabo Mines • Sierra Nevada & Budweiser Beers

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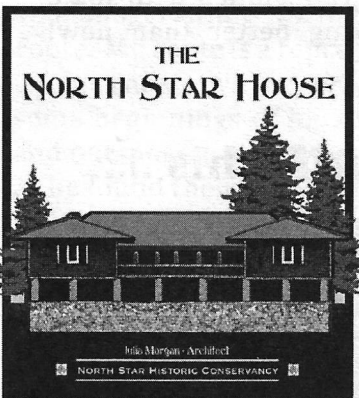
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Dont Miss our House Party Fundraiser August 16th 7:30-10:00pm