

100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION  
OF THE 1922 ARGONAUT MINE DISASTER AND RESCUE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Jackson, CA) A full schedule of memorial and living history events commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the worst mining accident in California history and the subsequent 22-day rescue effort will be held in Jackson beginning August 27, 2022.

In August and September of 1922, the eyes of the country and the world were riveted on Amador County and 47 miners trapped by fire in the Argonaut Mine. As many as 200 men tunneled from the Kennedy Mine in the rescue attempt, and untold community members assisted in other ways.

A collaboration of civic, historical, religious and arts organizations have planned a month of memorial and living history activities in Jackson, August 27 – Sept. 25, 2022.

Planned events include:

- Flags representing each victim of the Argonaut fire arrayed at the Vista Point on Hwy 49/88, just north of the Argonaut Mine property.
- On Jackson Main Street, a timeline of the rescue displayed at 153 Main Street, Black and gold memorial rosettes adorn lamp posts (both on display through Sept. 25).
- Italian Benevolent Society Dinner and historical program on the anniversary of the fire, with Jackson bells tolling at the time of the disaster, 11:30 pm
- KVGC Radio begins broadcasting the “Argonaut Mine Disaster” series, day by day “reporting” on the disaster and rescue as they unfold, by historian and radio personality Cedric Clute. Daily broadcasts, Aug. 29 – Sept. 20
- Memorial services at three of Jackson’s historic cemeteries (repeating 9/22 & 9/24)
- Guided tours of the Argonaut Mine site, Saturday, Sept. 24
- Living History Day at the Kennedy Gold Mine, Saturday, Sept. 24. Experience the 1922 rescue environment with activities for the whole family, costumed characters, lively speakers, live music, cultural food vendors. 9 am - 5 pm. Vaudeville Musical Review re-imagining the 1922 performance by Argonaut miners in Hollywood at Sid Grauman’s Million Dollar Theater, featuring the Easy Winners ragtime string band, 3 pm.
- Dramatic staged reading of “Gold Fire,” that recreates the disaster and rescue attempt using the words of participants and contemporary reporting.
- Closing Concert by pan-cultural musicians Miroslav Tadic (Guitar) & Yvette Halzwarth (Violin), Kennedy Mine Amphitheatre, 2 pm.

The Argonaut Mine Disaster Centennial Commemoration committee would like to hear from anyone who has an ancestor, memorabilia, or other connection to the 1922 Argonaut Mine disaster. Please contact committee chair Linda Gonzales (209-304-0349, [manager@kennedygoldmine.com](mailto:manager@kennedygoldmine.com)) or Cathy McGowan ([kcmcgowen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcmcgowen@sbcglobal.net)).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION at [Argonaut Mine Centennial Event \(visitamador.com\)](http://visitamador.com)

- Invite & media packet schedule 8.22.pdf (*Description and schedule of Centennial Commemoration Events*) [files.ashx \(saffire.com\)](http://files.ashx(saffire.com))
- Argo Comm Fact Sheet 8.2.22 (*Facts and Historical Context*) [files.ashx \(saffire.com\)](http://files.ashx(saffire.com))
- 1922 Argonaut Miners & Rescuers.pdf (*List of Miners killed and known rescuers*) [files.ashx \(saffire.com\)](http://files.ashx(saffire.com))
- 50 Yr Anniversary Sac Bee Mike Dunne.pdf (*1972 Sacramento Bee Article by Mike Dunne*) [files.ashx \(saffire.com\)](http://files.ashx(saffire.com))

PRESS AVAILABILITIES:

**Interviews**

- Frank Tortorich (Teacher/Author/Historian)
  - [Wagon.wheel.1848@gmail.com](mailto:Wagon.wheel.1848@gmail.com)
- Cedric Clute (Author/Historian/Radio Personality)
  - 209-257-1194, [cedricclute@gmail.com](mailto:cedricclute@gmail.com)
- Linda Gonzales (Event Committee Chair & Manager, Historic Kennedy Gold Mine):
  - 209-304-0349, [manager@kennedygoldmine.com](mailto:manager@kennedygoldmine.com)

**Tours:**

- Media Tours of the Argonaut Mine Site and Historic Kennedy Mine & Museum. Linda Gonzales, 209-304-0349, [manager@kennedygoldmine.com](mailto:manager@kennedygoldmine.com)

PHOTOS (all available at [Argonaut Mine Centennial Event \(visitamador.com\)](http://visitamador.com)):

- Argo Mine Disaster Poster 7.27.22 (Event Poster)
- “Bureau of Mines” – Bureau of Mines rescue experts and a Rescue Car rushed to the scene of the disaster on a Southern Pacific train that broke all previous speed records for the 139-mile trip from Elko, Nevada (4 hours, 15 minutes).
- “Breathing Apparatus” -- One of several apparatus teams active in firefighting and rescue efforts at the Argonaut Mine. They wear Gibbs Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus that could provide two hours of oxygen to protect themselves from smoke and gas.
- “Rescuers-in-Kennedy” – As many as 200 men worked almost 3 weeks to reach the doomed miners from the neighboring Kennedy Mine, wheelbarrowing rock and debris through a tunnel too narrow to allow ore carts and too low for the men to stand up. The tunneling was so arduous that the underground crews worked for 30 minutes and then had to rest for 1 hour.
- “Red Cross” -- Members of the American Red Cross, Amador County Chapter at the Argonaut Mine with chapter president Mary Warrington at center. For the purposes of raising morale, the local Red Cross received special dispensation from the federal Prohibition director to obtain 480 bottles of bourbon to issue to the rescue workers (Prohibition banned sale of alcoholic beverages in 1920).
- “Press” -- The rescue was covered by an army of reporters and motion picture crews, arriving by plane, train, automobile and motorcycle. Pilots slept in their biplanes at the tiny Amador

County airport, ready to deliver photos to Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco newspapers.

- “Gas-3-o’clock” – The last messages left by the trapped miners, photographed by Aird MacDonald, indicate that all of the miners were unconscious about 4 hours after the fire began, and would have perished by sunrise.
- “Argo Sunset” -- The headframe of the Argonaut Mine at sunset on the hill overlooking Jackson.

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