

August/September 2004 News Letter

Traffic Tie-ups & Delays On Rts. 58 and 107

WLAD Traffic Reports said *“There are long lines of cars and long delays at Rts.58/107”*. Anybody going by the main park entrance during the past week has probably sat in a traffic jam. Many different projects are happening all at once in front of the main park entrance. Construction of a new intersection, a new parking lot, and a new park entrance all in *addition* to the retrofitting of the historic 1893 Pavilion into the new park Visitor Center.

Work crews have been busy taking down trees, installing storm culverts, grading roads, and digging a huge cellar hole for the new visitor center. Tons of crushed stone and millings are being trucked in to prepare the bases for road beds and the new parking lot.

All this must be coordinated with the police department so traffic can move through with as little disruption as possible. The good news is that all this mess will soon start to evolve into the finished products.



New intersection coming soon



New parking lot coming soon



New park entrance coming soon



Watch monthly News Letters for progress updates.

September FAN's Meeting

The September meeting of the Friends group was held on Monday, September 13th at the Redding Town Hall.

Discussions held included:

1. Progress on the 1893 Pavilion Project.
2. Summer Craftsmen Program, held at the museum, needs better planning for next year. Publicity and signage will be critical. Signs should be used outside park entrances.
3. Budget update by Treas. Payne. Two large outlays: Lighting for the museum; and, Artifact restoration by P.A.S.T.
4. A meeting will have to be lined up with DEP personnel to plan on needs and estimated costs for furnishings and display materials for the new visitor center. We are not sure what is in state budgets.
5. Nominated slate of officers for fiscal year 2004/05. Election next meeting.



The Lone Sentinel

The landscape in the area surrounding the park's main entrance looks like a war zone. The picture at the right shows the one single structure from the past The Old Guard House. The hut is very close to the size and appearance of the huts used by the Continental Army enlisted men who used the camp as winter quarters in 1778. The "New" pavilion/visitor center will rise right behind the green dumpster.



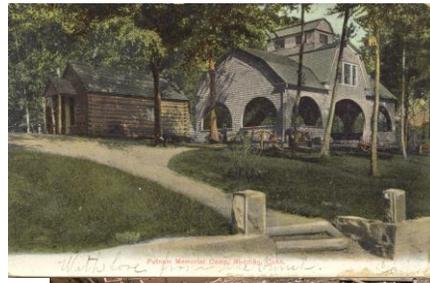
North Gate Is Hidden

The "hidden" entrance was a topic of discussion at the last FANs meeting. While visitors coming down Rt. 58 from Bethel can see the new temporary entrance, drivers coming up from Fairfield on Rt. 58, or coming in from Wilton and Georgetown on Rt. 107 from the west will probably see the closed-down main gate and go elsewhere. There should be a large (even portable) sign at the main entrance which directs visitors to the North Gate.

The Pavilion-Visitor Center

The one project that is literally out-of-site to the passer-by right now, is the re-birth of the old pavilion. Everything that is happening is down in a big hole!

The old pavilion was taken down piece by piece. Each piece was numbered and has been saved under tarps to be reconstructed at a later date like a giant puzzle. Careful measurements had to be taken to assure the exact size of the new foundation. Some of the posts and beams of the original 1893 structure were damaged by water leaks over the past 100+ years. Replicas have been made to be used in the reconstruction phase. The new foundation has just emerged from the metal forms. Now the fun part will begin.



Guard House & Pavilion in 1907



August 2004. Laying the footings.



September 2004. The forms being erected. These will be filled with poured concrete. The measurements had to be exact, because the old pavilion will be re-constructed on the new foundation using the original beams.



September 2004. The foundation, just uncovered from the forms. This view is of the rear (toward the reflecting pool). The doorway will lead to the public restrooms in the cellar level.

Next Meeting



The next FAN's Meeting will be on Monday Evening **October 11th** at the Redding Town Hall. The meeting will start at **7:00pm**. Please come and join with us in the planning of events and projects at Putnam Park. Annual elections – next meeting.

