

A SHORT STORY OF A LONG HISTORY

The town of Pulga was born from a rich, colorful history. It was the indigenous Concow Maidu people who once thrived in the Northern Feather River Canyon, feasting off the plentiful salmon, hunting deer, and foraging the lush landscape until the early 1800's when the new American settlers came in search of land and a stake in the gold rush. It was the Gramps and King families that would contribute to the most prolific history of this time. The North Fork of the Feather River was being surveyed for railways, the wagon trail was laid nearby, and the abundance of mining prospects had created a palpable excitement in the region.

In 1904 William King solidified his stake in the region by establishing a company town known as Big Bar on the land that is now Pulga. The enterprising King family founded a post office, followed by a school, and a company store to provide for the several hundred men that had come to live and work the land. In 1914 William King then filed for a homestead of 61 acres of the property; running irrigation, electric lights, a sawmill, cattle, and a 10-acre garden. It was in 1916 that Pulga (meaning flea in Spanish) was christened with its new name. Due to confusion with a nearby town that shared the moniker Big Bar, the Western Pacific railroad gifted the new name in reference to its position at the mouth of Flea Valley Creek.

Pulga thrived on the success of the railway, infrastructure and mining operations, becoming a bustling community that stretched well into the mid 20th century. It wasn't until 1960 that the post office closed, followed by the school when the town was reclaimed for use by the King family who maintained their claim to the land. The cabins were used for family vacations and retreats until the late 60's when in the midst of the counterculture movement, Pulga's close approximation to the Bay area brought artisans, musicians and beatniks to town. The new residents relished its quaint charm and transformed it into an eclectic gathering place. Such famed performers as Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead were said to have come through, as well as many others.

It was in 1994 that the family collectively sold the property passing on the legacy to a new institution. It became Mystic Valley retreat, a sought after getaway for those seeking respite from the city with interests in meditation and hypnotherapy. As the new owners and the property aged many of the buildings fell into disrepair and were in need of substantial restoration.

In March of 2015, ownership changed hands once again and the laborious task of rehabilitating the historic town went underway. A blossoming new mythology has been initiated, accompanied by the friends and artists that have collectively helped breathe new life into the strong roots of the once ramshackle gold mining town of Pulga. Come join us in writing the new chapters of this old town. For the history aficionado or novice alike, please inquire for a full copy of our detailed history during your stay.

ABOUT THE LADIES OF PULGA

Pulga's rich history was born of the indigenous Concow-Maidu in the lush landscape of the Plumas forest, transformed by the men that came in search of wealth and land, and now a new mythology born of the contemporary women who have come to settle in their stead.

The remnants of what once was the vibrant town of Pulga were handed to the women who have come to restore it to its glory in March of 2015. This project was no small task; without the community of friends who took to endeavor with insurmountable dedication and courage, this town would not have come to be. With a small budget and army of allies, Betsy Ann Cowley moved forward with a fortitude that would shame even the most capable. The land needed work beyond measure before projects could begin. Goats and pigs were brought in to remove the gnarled blackberry that had taken over, gatherings of friends were held to discuss the potential, and one by one projects were laid out for completion. There was careful intention to work the land in an organic and sustainable fashion, while this would take more time, the vision to maintain the soil fertility and biological diversity was of the utmost importance. With the land cleared, the existing structures were surveyed for salvage lumber to be reincorporated in the restoration process, working with the budget at hand, and creating a unique style that you can find in every residence.

Many thanks are owed to the eclectic community that donated to the hive mind and generous time needed to breathe life back into Pulga, but it is the pioneering women who have stamped it with its bold authenticity. Much of the particular charm found throughout town was brought to the property by well-known stylist friends Janay Rose and Jesse Brown, whose unique style touched many of the structures and cozy interiors. Jesse Roadkill, renowned San Francisco multi-media artist has placed her stamp throughout the property with her original art and intrepid direction. Betsy Ann Cowley, the mastermind behind the concept has led the way for development oversight, and Natalie Trotta has brought her keen work ethic and business prowess.

Current residents Betsy Ann and Natalie, have weathered the assailing winter storms of 2017 and teamed up to see this project to the finish line. The story of Pulga turns a new leaf this summer of 2017 as we prepare to open the doors and rent the town for others to explore.

The ladies of Pulga invite you to join us in the writing of our next chapter...

THANK YOU

Many thanks are owed to all the friends and community that have lent a hand to our town, with special mention to the following contributors:

Marcus Guillard and One Hat One Hand for their assistance in getting this project off the ground

Marshall Moody of MBM Construction for his dedication and personal commitment to this project

Bristle Bros, Wythe Boward & Josh Powell for their artistic contributions

April Glaser, Wired Magazine for her relentless assistance

Cheetah & Sammy Zangrilli of Turkey Tail Farms for their unwavering support and encouragement

Brittany Cole Bush, BCB Shepherdess for decor

And the Union Pacific Railroad...

The local railway workers were remarkably impressed with the lady leaders of this fledgling new venture. They watched in admiration at the fierce teams of women drawing up plans, managing build crews, and directing the exuberant flow of construction. In this spirit, and throughout the process, they have offered invaluable assistance with time and equipment when needed. For the hard work, encouragement and kindness, the ladies of Pulga offer endless thanks and praise.

RENT THE TOWN

Pulga's exciting mix of eclectic gathering spaces makes town a unique space for your next event.

Renting town is the perfect idea for weddings, large gatherings like family reunions, corporate retreats, or celebrations.

Town sleeps 30 in beds, not including glamping pads and abundant space for camping. You'll have access to every cabin, campsite, gathering space, and activity that can be found around town.

We have a host of services available to help make your stay more relaxing, comfortable, and unforgettable. From in-house catering to event staff to on-site photographers and designers, we're confident we can exceed your needs for a simple weekend getaway or a large-scale event.

Have local, same-day-harvested fruit delivered to your room, feast on a humanely-raised, humanely-processed animals, sample local charcuterie, and much more.

We've also cultivated great relationships with local farmers, caterers, bands, and entertainers.

Please contact us for a custom quote based on your needs.

FAQ

Q: WHERE IS PULGA LOCATED? HOW CAN I GET THERE?

A: Pulga is conveniently located off highway 70 at the border of Butte and Plumas county; 20 min from Paradise and Oroville, 30 min from Chico, 1.5 hours from Sacramento, and 3 hours from San Francisco. You can find us in Google Maps.

Q: ARE THE ROADS PAVED? ARE THEY ACCESSIBLE IN ANY VEHICLE?

A: Yes, Pulga town is situated directly off Hwy. 70, down a one mile paved road.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN WE ACCOMMODATE?

A: The cabins sleep 30 in beds, we offer 4 glamping pads that can accommodate 2-4 campers per pad, and abundant campsites located in and around town

Q: DO WE HAVE A CURFEW?

A: When you rent the town, you are at your leisure to let the party carry on to the hour of your choosing. Keep in mind that several cabins are located in the downtown vicinity, but for night owls the party can be moved to the public space at Whiskey Flats or the School House.

Q: WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

A: Our water comes from a natural spring (tapped directly into the spring head) on our property. It has been tested and referred to as 'sugar water', some of the cleanest water in California!

Q: DO WE HAVE POWER?

A: Yes! All cabins power except for Whiskey Flats and small houses which are outfitted with solar and LED lights.

Q: ARE THE CABINS HEATED?

A: Cabins are heated with wood burning stoves.

Q: DOES PULGA HAVE CELL SERVICE? WIFI?

A: Pulga is a chance to escape and disconnect, however cell service can be reached by a 5 minute drive up the road, or you can enjoy free wifi at Scooter's, the local roadside diner just 10 minutes from town.

Q: HOW OFTEN DO THE TRAINS RUN PAST TOWN?

A: The Union Pacific lines are active and there is no set schedule provided. This adds to the quaint charm of this historical railroad town.

Q: WHAT IS THERE FOR KIDS TO DO, ESPECIALLY FOR THE YOUNGEST ONES?

A: There is a lot to do here for ALL ages. We have different lawn games setup outside during the summer, and board games inside. Playground area can be found in town park and next to the long house deck. We can arrange nature walks, and games throughout the town and customize the experience for each and every family. There are passing trains at times, and a flowing creek that require children to be supervised.

CONTACT US

Betsy Ann Cowley, Natalie Trotta

Phone: 530-534-1096

Email: TownofPulga@Gmail.com