

## Mark Twain's 88 Days in the Mother Lode Book Event Time-Tested Books Hosts Regional Author, James Fletcher



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**Location: Time-Tested Books, 1114 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95811**

**Date: Thursday, October 29, 7 PM**

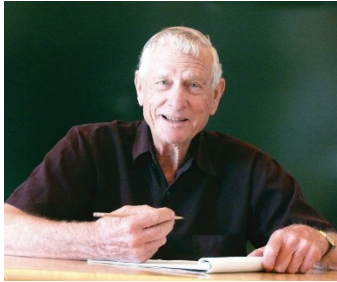
### **Mark Twain's 88 Days in the Mother Lode & Stories of the Gold Rush**

Rediscover Mark Twain's legacy in the Mother Lode. Join author Jim Fletcher and Manzanita Writers Press at Time-Tested Books to share in the celebration of Fletcher's first book. Explore Twain's adventures leading up to his legendary 88 Days in the Mother Lode and how a frog that couldn't jump launched his career. Get your first edition, signed copies and meet the author.

Jim Fletcher presents the story of the 88 Days Mark Twain spent in the Mother Lode, his association with the Gillis brothers, and some of the legendary writer's notes and excerpts from that time period. The book is rich with the adventures and misadventures that led up to Twain's stay in the Gold Country, and his fruitful time spent gathering material in his Notebook Four. The writing is colorful, and full of wit, reflecting Twain's voice and the voice of Miner Jim aka Jim Fletcher, local historian of Angels Camp, who speaks Wednesday mornings at Camps Restaurant in Angels Camp, telling stories of the Gold Rush, Mark Twain and other historic tidbits of the region.

Jim is prominently featured in interviews in the recently released documentary, *88 Days in the Mother Lode, Mark Twain Finds His Voice*, produced by John C Brown and Bert Simonis of This 'n That Films. This documentary is being aired on KVIE Public Television, the PBS station serving Sacramento and northern California, on November 1 at 3pm and Nov. 3 at 11pm. Twain fans will find out more about Twain's low time, a time he contemplated suicide and had to hide out in the hills from the law—a time he was so broke, he had to rely on others, the Gillis brothers, for help—as told in the book and the film.

**Manzanita Writers Press** is launching two new books, and a second regional historical humorist, Glenn Wasson, will be at Time-Tested Books to share his new hardcover collection titled *Too Much to Swallow — The Gold Gastrolith of Calaveras County & Selected Works*.



Glenn Wasson will regale the audience with material from his new hardcover book packed with humorous and fascinating true tales of the Mother Lode and of his military experiences as a pilot in Vietnam. Glenn is one of the last surviving B-29 pilots and has some great stories to tell about his experiences in the Air Force, and about the Mother Lode, which has been his home for the last thirty-plus years. The book is a full collection of tales and poems, including eight new stories and essays and a color collection of photos. The title of the book is inspired by an historical event that occurred in the late 1980s in the Murphys Hotel bar in which a bar patron swallowed a gold nugget showpiece, shaped like a bison and as large as a quarter, after slipping it into his beer. There was quite a commotion as the nugget was absconded in that unusual manner, and retrieving it for the owner proved to be a twisted dilemma. As Glenn relates in his poem inspired by the occasion:

The swallower coughed and inhaled but utterly failed  
To force a timely regurgence  
So they slapped him in jail without any bail  
To wait for the nugget's emergence.

Glenn will tell the rest of the tale for patrons.. He will also share a few more historical nuggets at the event. Glenn is well-known in the Mother Lode for his impersonations of Black Bart, the infamous poet-stagecoach robber of the Gold Rush era.

The event is free. Come meet the two authors and be entertained. Manzanita Writers Press is a member of the Literary League of the Calaveras County Arts Council, publishing writers in our Central Valley and Sierra region, as well as writers across the nation. Visit [www.manzapress.com](http://www.manzapress.com)