ECHOES FROM THE PAST

DECEMBER 2014 ISSUE 4

DEAR MEMBERSHIP:

It is that time to express for what the Society is Thankful. Above all, we are thankful to all of our members for their continued interest in keeping this a viable society. Volunteers and the donations have made this enterprise a success. So to that point we all say a Major Thank You.

We are thankful to everyone who worked as a docent this year to keep the jail open so many hours. Because of you we brought in over $500.00 more than last year. We also received two major donations directed at just the jail, so we will be continuing our improvements in our displays.

We also have received a generous donation from the McClashan Family to assist in our efforts to professionally preserve our artifacts. Without this type of support we could not possibly survive. We are thankful that we have been blessed with so many artifacts and memories that could not possibly survive. We are thankful that we have been able to preserve our artifacts. Without this type of support we could not possibly survive.

We are Thankful for the chance to preserve artifacts from the construction in Brickelltown. There are so many items and the Drug Store in 1920s, and so many more items.

We also have received a generous donation from the Human Side of the 1952 Snowbound and the model of the USS Donner. We are thankful to everyone who worked as a docent this year to keep the jail open so many hours. Because of you we brought in over $500.00 more than last year. We also received two major donations directed at just the jail, so we will be continuing our improvements in our displays.

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TRUCKEE DOGGEREL *

Have you visited the Old Jail Museum and seen this laminated dedication to the Truckee-ites of yesteryear? Wondered what the words actually said? A link is below to a typewritten version of the plaque. Enjoy. Note the last date - written in January 1, 1917! Photo courtesy of Ron Rettig.

LITTLE KNOWN TRUCKEE FACTS

* In 1968, the New York Times reported that the Soviet Union was secretly trying to acquire three U.S. banks in Northern California, one of which was in the Lake Tahoe region, purportedly to gain access to advanced American technology; see link (http://nyti.ms/1BSFvdX)

* In 1980 a Truckee dispatcher was sent to portray a dispatcher on a “CHIPS” TV episode in a public relations agreement between the CHP and the show's producers.

TRUCKEE HISTORY ALIVE! PROGRAM

If you missed any of the Truckee History Alive! series in March with Captain John Sutter (David Fenimore) appearing, in June with Virginia Reed Murphy (Cathryn Fallee), or in September with Caleb Greenwood (Frank K. Mullen), please take note of photos posted online of these events. Link (http://bit.ly/Wy6D0wy) to some of the photos taken for the Virginia Reed Murphy program; for Caleb Greenwood, link (http://bit.ly/1ryHy2YB). If you would like to subscribe to our TDHS eNews, please visit our website at www.truckeehistory.org and sign up to receive future emails.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15th program, 7 p.m., Veterans Hall
Truckee’s history is replete with stories of the railroads and dealing with the “storm king.” The story of the 1952 snowbound streamliner, City of San Francisco is one of the monumental stories of the Sierra that captured the nation’s attention at the time.

Truckee played a key role in the rescue operations. Dr. Czerwinski will present the highlights of how a successful rescue from the perspective of those who were part of the rescue efforts and/or surviving family members and their stories of passengers and rescue workers.

February 19th program, 7 p.m. Veterans Hall
Did you know at one time you could ride a train from Truckee to Lake Tahoe? At the Truckee depot, you’d board a passenger car nicknamed the “Rattler.” The train would take you up along the Truckee River to a railroad pier at Tahoe City. Upon arrival, you would step off the train, walk across the pier and board a steamer that sailed all the way around Lake Tahoe. Upon your return to Tahoe City, you could spend the rest of your week at the first class Tahoe Tavern resort hotel and casino.

Come hear the fascinating story of how Duane L. Bliss, William Seth Bliss, Walter D. Bliss, Duane L. Bliss, Jr, and Frank Titus built and ran this tourist system laying the foundation for Lake Tahoe’s present day tourist industry.

On February 19, 2015 Jerry Blackwill, also a fellow TDHS member, and also of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society, will give this presentation on the Lake Tahoe Railway and Transportation Company at Veterans Memorial Hall, 10214 High Street, Truckee.

TDHS does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in these articles. TDHS retains the right to republish submitted material. Please contact TDHS for permission to use any content in this publication.

TDHS - FORGOTTEN NAME UPDATE

Update to prior story about town of Floriston. In the Spring 2012 issue of Echoes, Tom Macaulay’s article on Forgotten Names and Ghosts Along the Truckee River, link (http://bit.ly/GO07FK (p. 7), this Editor was curious about the area and found this dedication sign.

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For more information about the museum, see the website http://bit.ly/1yETeur.

*Captured emails from guest register at Old Jail letter for website
*Weeded and consolidated 501(c)(3) IRS determination Nov. 16 (see article at left)
*Met with HPAC anticipating any historical artifacts better appreciate this donation
*Coordinated partnerships with area businesses to accommodate additional plaques in the Memorial Pond); investigating "open space" afternoons which enabled public visitation
*Opened new Jacob Teeter and Law History of Truckee display venue of McGlashan butterfly collection
*Rearranged Old Jail Museum wall hangings to better reflect historical significance (Greg Zirbel, Bar of America and three panoramas, and Alpine Mounting to finish TDHS photo orders
*Remodeled Jail Exhibit with new cabinet
*Redeclared Old Jail Museum opening throughout summer including Truckee Thursdays and Saturdays; on July 5, 2014 there were 99 visitors!
*Participated in Truckee Day parade on July 4th
*Hosted Old Timers’ Picnic in July
*Opened and maintained a presence in the Joseph Research Cabin weekly on Thursdays and on Sunday afternoons which enabled public visitation
*Coordinated visits to sites historically significant venues including “Nick’s Pond” (Wally Gelatt Memorial Pond); investigating "open space" interpretive area and suggesting enhancements to better appreciate this donation
*Met with HPAC anticipating any historical artifacts preceding Spring Street dig
*Facilitated archaeological findings at the Spring Street excavation project (497 pieces) with fragments of apparent Chinese Pottery pieces
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2014 TDHS Accomplishments

Hats off to all our volunteers who have dedicated their time, talents and energies to continue to serve the mission of preserving our rich Truckee history:

* The Donner Emigrant Trail plaque moved back to its rightful place at the Tahoe Truckee High School on Donner Pass Road and monument was rededicated Nov. 16 (see article at left)
* The TDHS Old Jail Museum was restored by the generous contribution from the C.A.T.C. organizations
* Created fillable Membership Application Form for website and consolidated 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter for website
* Republication of Echoes From the Past newsletter
* Issued bi-monthly eNews eblast emails
* Captured emails from guest register at Old Jail Museum delineating visitors home states
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* Cleaned up Schaffer Cemetery
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Editors Note: In the last September 2014 Issue 3 was the start of Tom Macaulay’s Truckee Ice Company article. This is the continuation of that article.

TRUCKEE ICE COMPANY AT MARTIS CREEK

Continuing ice wars had resulted in several attempts at combinations to control production and prices. In 1883 after “ruinous competition” in San Francisco 12 all of the producing companies in the Truckee basin joined together to form Union Ice Company of San Francisco. (This was not The Union Ice Company which came along in 1882.) Officers of the various producing companies held positions in the new Union Ice Company, and Thomas McAulay was superintendent of San Francisco operations. By 1885 he had quarreled with other managers in the company and resigned to join the new Truckee Ice Company.

The winter of 1884 was bad for the ice men. Storms and high water limited the ice harvest. By October of 1885 all of the ice houses were empty. 13 In early January of 1886, the Truckee Republican reported the outlook was for a splendid harvest 14. January was cold with temperatures below zero and ice harvests were pushed. By the end of the month snow had stopped the harvest with rains compounding the troubles of the ice men. 15, 16 As a result of snow and rain only about two thirds of a crop was harvested 17.

The San Francisco Bulletin reported on the Truckee Ice harvest saying that five companies were harvesting ice. Four were in a pool, but the fifth, Truckee Ice Company, was not 18.

Truckee Ice Company participated in the 1885-1886 harvest, although not without some problems. McAulay instituted a new, different pay scale for his crews resulting in a walkout by some of the men. 19. McAulay stood his ground and soon a full crew was at work on the pond.

By the end of 1886 McAulay had left the Truckee Ice Company to help founded the Tahoe Ice Company at Winsted. In November of 1886 he filed suit against the Truckee Ice Company, claiming that he had expended $28,200.54 of his own money in developing the plant, but had only been paid $27,065.30 leaving a balance of $1,125.29. The Truckee Ice Company petitioned the court to move the suit to San Francisco, to McAulay’s disadvantage. The petition was granted. The court records were destroyed in the 1906 fire, so we do not know the final disposition of the case.

In 1887 a telephone line was established between Truckee and the ice works at Martis Creek. It also served the Tahoe Ice Company at Winsted 20.

In May of 1888, A.W. Sisson and C.W. Crocker sold the Truckee Ice Company site to Sisson Crocker & Co., who had succeeded Sisson Wallace & Co. 21. In October of the same year, Sisson Crocker & Co. sold the site to the Truckee Ice Company 22. On March 3, 1902, the Truckee Ice Company sold this land to the Union Ice Company 23.

The Truckee Ice Company continued to operate in the Truckee basin with reports of harvests each year. In 1891 Union Ice Company acquired direct control of the Truckee Ice Company. After that time the plan was referred to as Union Ice Co., Truckee Ice Co., or Martis Creek. Ice harvests were reported until 1985 24, and the property was listed in the Nevada County Assessor’s list until 1904. Note 25. The corporate charter was suspended in 1901 26.

The last years of the Truckee Ice Co. are obscure, as is the case many of the other ice companies. At the end of the annual ice harvests the small companies and their harvests tended to be ignored. The last harvest was seldom noticed because no one realized that if it was the last one. When ice was not harvested in the following season it was not news nor was it considered important.

Truckee Ice Co. was only one of many companies that brought fame and fortune to some and helped to make Truckee basin ice famous throughout the Pacific Coast. When it no longer harvested ice, it was a bit of history of little interest to local people, much to the sadness of modern historians.

Continued on page 4
Truckee Ice Company continued from page 3

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21. Nevada County Clerk, Deed Book 71 p. 327. 5/1/1888
22. Nevada County Clerk, Deed Book 70, p. 477, 10/16/1888
23. Nevada County Clerk, Deed Book 97, p. 351, 3/28/1902
24. Nevada County Mining Review, 1/1/1895
25. Nevada County Assessor list 12/31/1904
26. California State Archives file 14617, 11/30/1909

HAPPENINGS ON SPRING STREET

The treasure hunt on Spring Street starts with changes occurring in the area of Spring Street, Jibboom Street and Donner Pass Road. As a part of the Brickelltown Streetscape project, there are many, many changes happening in the old section of town including the creation of a sitting plaza on the corner of Donner Pass Road and Spring Street. For those of us in the History World this is a modern era return to an old style pleasure. Our beloved Eagle (Victory Eagle) will rest in this area for all to see again and it will draw many to just enjoy the old town feel.

But the most surprising thing to come out of this improvement was the discovery of unexpected treasures we started finding during construction. Having come to an agreement with the Town of Truckee and the construction crew, we have been able to gather over 650 pieces of artifacts to be studied from just the Spring Street Project and what little that has been done at the Old Jail Museum so far.

The intersection (Fig 1) was once the site of part of the original China Town with the first brick and mortar building approximately where Spring Street is today. After the fire of 1868, one intelligent Chinese Man, Fong Lee, built his two stores of Brick while a majority of the remaining business owners still used the cheaper wood. Over the many reincarnations of this area there were also livery stables, and blacksmith shops. In later years there were vehicle garages in this area - the latter being attested to by the Town when they found, not one, but four old fuel tanks buried on Jibboom and Spring Streets (Fig 2). We were also able to chronicle fire evidence at what was the site of the original Donner Garage (Fig 2) and Sierra Tavern (Figs 3, 4 and 5).

All items have been photographed by Greg Zirbel and indexed for further study. But the pride of the excavation work was all the Chinese pottery shards that were located. Many of the manufacture stamps are not ones we have in our current collection. Truckee has a rich history and the Chinese played a very significant part of that history. (Figs 6, 7 and 8)

We look forward to the Spring when the rest of the Brickelltown Streetscape Project continues as we will be on site once again to collect more of Truckee’s History. (Fig 9).

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MONUMENT REDEDICATION
After many years of being stored at the Joseph Research Cabin and after two years of preparation, the Emigrant Trail Monument is back at the Truckee High School. It was originally set in 1929 by the Native Sons of the Golden West to commemorate Truckee’s Past in the passage of Emigrants coming out West.

Representatives from the Native Sons of the Golden West, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Truckee Donner Historical Society, Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, Truckee Tahoe High School District and E Clampus Vitus were all on site along with several members of the public to see this plaque returned to the Emigrant Trail.

We would like to send a special thank you to The Truckee High School District for all their help in seeing that this project was completed.


Photos courtesy of Greg Zirbel.

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Continued on page 4
Board meetings are open to the public.

2:30 p.m. at the Joseph Research Library

fourth Thursday of each month at

Truckee Donner Historical Society

December 2014   Issue 4

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TDHS  eNews

Old Jail Museum Curator,

Chaela Walterscheid

T DHS Honorary Editor: Heidi Sproat

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TRUCKEE HISTORY ALIVE! PROGRAM

If you missed any of the Truckee History Alive! series in March with Captain John Sutter (David Fenimore) appearing, in June with Virginia Reed Murphy (Cathryn Fallette), or in September with Caleb Greenwood (Frank X. Mullen), please take note of photos posted online of these events. Link (http://bit.ly/Wy6Dwh) to some of the photos taken for the Virginia Reed Murphy program; for Caleb Greenwood, link (http://bit.ly/1rHy2YB). If you would like to subscribe to our TDHS eNews, please visit our website at www.truckeehistory.org and sign up to receive future emails.

* In 1968, the New York Times reported that the Soviet Union was secretly trying to acquire three U.S. banks in Northern California, one of which was in the Tahoe region, purportedly to gain access to advanced American technology; see link (http://nyti.ms/1BSFvdX)

* In 1980 a Truckee dispatcher was sent to portray a dispatcher on a "CHIPS" TV episode in a public relations agreement between the CHP and the show's producers.

* Wonder what a "doggerel" is? Crudely or irregularly fashioned verse, often of a humorous or burlesque nature. Here is a link (http://bit.ly/1s3ABGv) to the translation of the Doggerel.

Please get involved with your Truckee Donner Historical Society (TDHS). The only way we can offer programs and events is if YOU, as a volunteer, step up and get involved.

TDHS is an all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) organization so any and all donations are gratefully appreciated and tax deductible. Our mailing address is Truckee Donner Historical Society, P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160.

TRUCKEE DOGGEREL *

Have you visited the Old Jail Museum and seen this laminated dedication to the Truckee-ites of yesteryear? Wondered what the words actually said? A link is below to a typewritten version of the plaque. Enjoy. Note the last date - written in January 1, 1917! Photo courtesy of Ron Rettig.

TRUCKEE HISTORIC PHOTO COLLECTION, Dennis Beeghly

Little Known Truckee Facts

* In 1968, the New York Times reported that the Soviet Union was secretly trying to acquire three U.S. banks in Northern California, one of which was in the Lake Tahoe region, purportedly to gain access to advanced American technology; see link (http://nyti.ms/1BSFvdX)

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FDLSTON - FORGOTTEN NAME UPDATE

Update to prior story about town of Floriston. In the Spring 2012 issue of Echoes, Tom Macaulay's article on Forgotten Names and Ghosts Along the Truckee River, link, http://bit.ly/GO7FIR (p. 7), this Editor was curious about the area and found this dedication sign.

Figure 8 - view looking south towards the two intersections, Jibboom Street and Spring Street, and Spring Street and Donner Pass Road; note the brick building on the left; photo courtesy of Greg Zitel.

Unless otherwise noted, all photos courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society.
Dear Membership:

It is time to express for what the Society is Thankful. Above all, we are thankful to all of our members for their continued interest in keeping this a viable society. Volunteers and the donations have made this enterprise a success. So to that point we all say a Major Thank You. We are thankful to everyone who worked as a docent this year to keep the jail open so many hours. Because of you we brought in over $500.00 more than last year. We also received two major donations directed at just the jail, so we will be continuing our improvements in our displays.

We also have received a generous donation from the McGlashan Family to assist in our efforts to professionally preserve our artifacts. Without this type of support we could not possibly survive. We are thankful that we have been blessed with so many artifacts and memories that could not possibly survive. We are thankful that we have preserve our artifacts. Without this type of support we could not possibly survive. We are thankful that we have have received so many wonderful items this year, the complete time capsule from the Hobart Mills of us. We have received so many wonderful items this year, the complete time capsule from the Hobart Mills and the Drug Store in 1920s, and so many more items.

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We are thankful for the chance to preserve artifacts from the construction in Brickelltown. There are so many items to now be available to other researchers to piece together Truckee’s Past. We look forward to the spring when we, once again, will be on site to gather parts of our history.

So on behalf of the Truckee Donner Historical Society, we say Thank You and please join us on January 15 for the next set of history talks at the Truckee Veteran’s Hall. This new series is titled: Truckee Railroad History Alive! Chaun Mortier

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions:

Contact us at:
(530) 582-0893
www.truckeehistory.org
Join our Facebook page!

Membership Application | Renewal Form

I /WE want to JOIN or RENEW (circle one) MY/OUR MEMBERSHIP in the
TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.truckeehistory.org | info@truckeehistory.org | (530) 582-0893

Make checks payable to TDHS | Mail to: P.O. Box 893 Truckee, CA 96160

Go Paperless* (check here) [___] to receive eBill Renewals* and e-editions of our newsletters
I Prefer Paper Renewals (___)

* (a valid email address is required) **Pay by Check or Credit Card (you choose your payment method)
For Renewals: Check if there are any changes below: [___] If known, your renewal month: _________

MEMBERSHIP NAME:_________________________________________________________________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS:__________________________________________________ CITY, STATE, ZIP:_________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS:_________________________________________________________________________________________
HOME PHONE:__________________________ CELL PHONE:__________________________

Enclosed please find my check for: MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (please check one)
Junior (under 18 yrs old) $10____ Individual $20____ Family $30____ Business $40____
Non-Profit Organization $25____ Sustaining $75____ Contributing $100____ Other Donation $____

SPECIAL DONATIONS: Gift Membership $_______ In the Name of __________
MEMORIAL DONATION $____ In Honor of __________
Other $____ ( ) Old Jail Museum ( ) Joseph Research Library ( ) ________________________________

Contact me on ways I can volunteer (___) Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail Museum? Yes / No

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2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15
Truckee Railroad History Alive! Series,
The Human Side of the 1932 Snowbound
Streamliner, City of San Francisco
Presenter - Dr. Barbara Czerwinski
7 p.m., Vet’s Hall

February 19
Truckee Railroad History Alive! Series,
Lake Tahoe Railway and Transportation Company
Presenter - Jerry Blackwill
Truckee Donner Railroad Society
7 p.m., Vet’s Hall
(More event info on page 2)

March - TBA 
3 day event
Truckee Railroad History Alive! Series
Train Expo and Lumber/Timber & Treasures
Presenter - Nelson VanGundy

Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Joseph Research Cabin open to the public
(also available by appointment)
Old Museum Jail (private tours available by appointment only; wear your jacket - it’s cold)

Fourth Thursday each month, 2:30 p.m.
Truckee Donner Historical Society Board meeting

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