Dear Members

This month marks a transition of a first and a last. My first message to you as President comes to you in the last issue of *Echoes From the Past* with Heidi Sproat as editor. Beginning in 2013, Heidi created a gem of a quarterly newsletter, mining the research files and the minds of our researchers for quality historical articles. During her tenure, Heidi published serious pieces of historical research, news regarding activities of the Society, and some funny stories, all reported with professionalism and documented references. Heidi cheerfully communicated well that she wanted not only ideas, but written articles! Many of us tried to oblige. Heidi continues as a vital, active member of the society, continuing her work with digitizing photographic images and making them available on our website.

The Board Members of the Society each deserve their own words of praise:

Our Immediate Past President, Chaun Mortier, served the Society as President for six hard-working years. I am grateful for her example of leadership and initiative as our President. Hers will be a hard act to follow. Luckily for me, she will continue to serve on the Board as Immediate Past President and as Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary position entails fielding and directing the numerous emails we receive containing research or photograph requests. It seems a bit like being a 911 dispatcher, so I expect that Chaun will feel right at home in her new position.

*Presidents’ message continues on page 21*

**ECCHOES FROM THE PAST**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**DECEMBER 2018 ISSUE 4 VOLUME LII**

Celebrating 50 years 1968 - 2018 !!!

Past President and as Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary position entails fielding and directing the numerous emails we receive containing research or photograph requests. It seems a bit like being a 911 dispatcher, so I expect that Chaun will feel right at home in her new position.

*Presidents’ message continues on page 21*

**CALENDAR**

Events will be posted online at our website

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Notice to Members

In 2015, the TDHS Board of Directors approved a change in membership renewal to reflect the Society’s bi-annual renewal schedule - January or July. For specific details, please visit our website.

TDHS Board of Directors will again be amending our Membership renewal schedule in 2019.

We hope you have been continuing to enjoy this quarterly newsletter. We realize that sometimes printed copies are much easier to grab, but we will continue to distribute our Newsletter electronically. As always, the newsletter will be readily available online and accessible on a quarterly basis. If you are a TDHS member, an email will be sent to you advising you of posting.

Editor’s Note: This Newsletter is interactive - it is designed to be read online and contains links to relevant source material and in many cases, links to larger images for easier viewing.

TDHS does not accept 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.

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.
Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Kudos Heidi - and Thank You
By Patricia Featherstone

As this will be my last issue as Editor of Truckee-Donner Historical Society’s quarterly newsletter, Echoes From the Past, I wanted first to express my sincere appreciation to my colleagues. Were it not for their inquisitiveness and information challenges, many of the articles you’ve read through the past 20 issues would not have developed into actual pieces. So, my colleagues, especially Ron Rettig, thank you. And for my proofreading queen, a most emphatic thank you, Patricia Featherstone.

As for the challenging part, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Editor because it bestowed on me a responsibility to get it right the first time. Bitten by the historical bug helps, but it doesn’t write and arrange articles. Researching a topic takes time, patience, and sometimes a fortitude to question and investigate just beyond what you think happened. Remember, we try to write about historical events that relate to the greater Truckee area. However, trying to research some topics is indeed challenging because of the lack of access of certain knowledge bases. On the other hand, we have been inordinately blessed with the recent addition of the early Truckee Republican newspaper issues from 1874 – 1923 on the California Digital Newspaper Collection site. This site has proved to be an invaluable resource. Google Books and some recent additions to the Internet Archive have also been very helpful.

The past five years have flown by and I have gained innumerable insights into the ice industry (March 2014), Truckee Lumber Company archival records (March 2017), Truckee earthquakes (September 2015), the 1960 Donner Ridge Fire (December 2015), Truckee Veterans Memorial Building application (September and December 2017), the schooner TRUCKEE’s 1897 demise (December 2015 and December 2017), concrete arrows and beacons (June 2018), and many more inviting subjects. If you haven’t had a chance to see the articles, I invite you to pick just one and enjoy. You may find our past Echoes issues at this link.

I wish my successor to have as much fun as I have had, and continue to grow and learn about Truckee’s fascinating history.

Respectfully, Heidi Sproat

Passing the Torch

After five years as Editor of “Echoes from the Past”, Heidi Sproat is stepping down. Although we will all miss her magical touch with the Newsletter, we appreciate that five years is a long editorial tenure.

Under Heidi’s stewardship, “Echoes“ has always been published in a timely way despite the Editor having to often remind, sometimes cajole, and occasionally even harangue the writers who had promised articles. As copy editor, I know just how hard Heidi has worked on these quarterly publications. Every three months I’d receive a draft to take home to proof read. Red pen in hand, (yes, red pen, for contrast you understand), I’d set to work.

After proof reading, Heidi and I would sit down together so she could input the changes we agreed should be made. It was always an enjoyable process. Some things made us laugh, for example: “Francis Bacon was a frier”, and “more information can be found on the butterflies’ back sides”. Some things made us groan: were we the only people who understood apostrophes? But mostly, we were impressed by the many interesting and well written articles submitted by our members.

Heidi herself is an excellent writer and proof reader, and is very skilled at converting submitted text to a Newsletter that is attractive, well formatted, and most importantly, fascinating to read.

It is very likely that “Echoes from the Past” will be different when the new editor takes the reins. This will be a good thing. A new format, if there is one, would reengage our members with the news of the Society’s activities and reported research.

So, Heidi, thank you, thank you, thank you. (And on a personal note, it’s always been great fun.)

And finally: while Heidi will no longer be the Newsletter’s editor, you’ll be pleased to know that she will continue as Webmaster.

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Donner Party Spinoffs
By Barbara Czerwinski

In preparation for submission to the California National Historical Landmark Commission via the form NPS 10-900 for historical landmark status of the Truckee Veterans Memorial Building (TVMB) and the Rocking Stone Tower (RST), Barbara Czerwinski and Heidi Sproat prepared a comprehensive list of OTHER references to the "Donner" name and any relationships attributed to the group over time. This list is itemized below. Please be aware that this list accompanied our initial submission to the Landmark Commission for landmark status, but we were advised to remove this section as it was "not-relevant" to the TVMB and RST. So, we include this information here for your reading pleasure.

Guide (discovered to date):

BGN = U.S. Board on Geographic Names
http://geonames.usgs.gov/

CHL = California Historical Landmarks

CPI = California Point of Interest

DMSP= Donner Memorial State Park, Truckee, CA

ECT = E Clampus Vitus Chief Truckee Chapter No.3691 Landmarks

EMC = E Clampus Vitus Meadow Lake/Henness Pass Chapter No. 10 Landmarks

NCHLC= Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

NEV= Nevada County Historical Points of Interest

NGW= Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West

NHL = National Historic Landmarks

NHS= Nevada County Historical Society Landmarks

NRHP = National Register of Historic Places

TDHS = Truckee-Donner Historical Society

TDRPD= Truckee Donner Recreation & Park District

Categories:

Anthropological Studies
Archaeological Studies/Research
Cemeteries & Burial Sites
Collections
Landmarks
Notable Events
Notable Places
Patents
School or other buildings named
Settlements & Settlers
Trails
Websites

Other sources - World Cat or Google Books for the plethora of books and audio visual materials with "Donner" in the title. -

Anthropological Studies or Archaeological Studies/Research

The Donner Party tragic saga has inspired both legend and scholarship ever since the survivors were rescued from the Sierra largely credited to McGlashan reporting the survivors’ stories. Google Search done using “anthropological archaeological studies donner party” found reports as recent as 2018.

+ Original Manuscripts by date with supporting newspaper articles in the TDHS Donner Party files. Many local Truckee residents did volunteer work on these studies.

Studies by date:


+ Lindstrom, Susan G. (1986, February). An archaeologically and historically based rendition of
Donner Spinooffs article continued from page 4


Robbins, Gwen (2010) published a study about the Donner Party that was quickly retracted as not being VALID. See May 11, 2010 Truckee Times article by Frank X. Mullen, Jr. fmullen@rgj.com, “Researcher: Donner Party did resort to cannibalizing the dead.” (Mr. Mullen is an expert on the Donner Party.)


Other Academic Venues

Adult Continuing Education Courses/Seminars

Degrees in Anthropology & Courses

Institute for Canine Forensics, John Grebenkemper, PhD

Society for Historical Archaeology

University Anthology Departments

Cemeteries & Burial Sites

Sierra Mountain Cemetary, ECT, 2001, McGlashan Section is a final resting place of four generations, Truckee, CA

Grave of Eolitha Cumi Donner Wilder, CHL No.719, 12-02-1959, Elk Grove (Sacramento County), CA (Donner Party survivor). Also, the Eolitha Donner Elementary School, a California Distinguished School, is located in Elk Grove, CA.

Donner Spinooffs article continued on page 6

2 Any web links that contain bit.ly or goo.gl are shortened links for the reader’s convenience.
Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Collections
Charles Fayette McGlashan Butterfly Collection
www.tdrpd.org/home
http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/sites/donner
http://wolfweb.unr.edu/homepage/dcurtis/truckee/sh.html
Charles Fayette McGlashan Papers, 1847-1931
www.oac.edlib.org
www.cdn.calisphere.org (Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley)

Cultural Arts
Cultural Arts as spin-offs from the Donner Party 1846-47 experiences. The Donner Party was the most famous tragedy in Western Migration history.
Defined as ...expressions of creativity within a group of people.
Specific classifications follow:

Art Works/Paintings
Lawrence & Houseworth, 1866 stereograph view from foot of Donner Lake, Nevada County original print by Madelin Bohannon
George Mathis (1909-1977), Emigrant train above Donner Lake (four oxen pulling covered wagons with teamsters over Roller Pass). Notes: A print copy from the Joseph Collection hangs in the TDHS Joseph Research Library. Also, another Mathis George emigrant train above Donner Lake print at Donner Summit Historical Society Museum, Soda Springs, CA

Films/Movies (selected)
1991, On the Trail of Tragedy: The Excavation of the Donner Party Site, produced by Tahoe National Forest, USDA, Pacific Southwest Region, a Youtube video. Note: one of the original metal detectors used in the 1991 excavation was recently donated to TDHS by Arlene Amodei, one of the metal detector operators on the dig.
1992, The Donner Party: a documentary film written and directed by Ric Burns
1995, Tamsen Donner: a woman’s journey. Tamsen Donner Film Project, Julie Ince Thompson, choreographer and performing artist, 58 Shepard Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. August 16, 1996 solo dance-theatre performance by Julie Ince Thompson, main tent, California Trail Days Donner Party Sesquicentennial, DMSP, Truckee, CA
2016, The Hunger, a new movie about the Donner Party with a walking dead twist
2018, October, Truckee residents Greg Zirbel and Greg Palmer star in Ghostober, Haunted Road Trips, Travel Channel, an 8 minute story: https://www.travelchannel.com/search/ghostober-
Folk Art

Nevada County Bicentennial Quilt, 42 squares of Nevada County history including the Donner Party and Donner Lake by the Scotch Broom in Nevada City, endorsed by the County Bicentennial Commission Quilters of Nevada County. The quilt was displayed in the DMSP “museum building” in July 1976. Today, the quilt hangs under a plexi-glass cover in the Nevada County Administrative Center Lobby, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959.

Music (Songs)


Gardner, Joe (1947). The Old Donner Trail (dedicated to the inspired and able leadership of the officials of the Nevada-California Old Donner Trail Association). Words by Joe Gardner, music by Marcella Williams. Published by Joe Gardner, Box 111, Truckee, CA, registered U.S. Copyright Office 1947, all rights reserved; Note: TDHS has an autographed copy. Presented at the 1946 DMSP Donner Party Centennial.


Osborn, Alice (2018, Nov.). Stepping into paradise, song about the Donner Party. <Reverbnatin.com> (personal correspondence with the Donner Summit and Truckee-Donner Historical Societies). alice@aliceosborn.com, 9660-138 Falls of Neuse #294, Raleigh, NC 27615

Music Camp

Donner Mine Music Camp, founded in 1989, located on the Emigrant Trail used by the Donner Party Rescue Parties and 1900 site of ‘A’ Quartz Mining Claim, later to become the Zeibright Gold Mine. The Camp’s purpose is to offer a summer week that encourages and stimulates interest and growth in young musicians. DMMC serves campers from the ages of 10-18 years old. https://www.dmmc.org

Photographic Collections

California Statewide Museum Collection Center, 4940 Lang Avenue, McLellan, CA 95652, 916-263-0805 email: SMCC.info@parks.ca.gov Notes: California’s largest collection of artifacts, archival documents, and photographs.

Chico State University, Chico Digital Collection-Truckee, Donner Summit Area - Research only http://archives.csuchico.edu

Donner Summit Historical Society, Soda Springs, CA

Truckee-Donner Historical Society, John Corbett’s Historic Photo Album

**Plays/Musicals**

**Donner** (1970) by Robert Murray

**The Donner Party** (1972) based on the book by George Kethley, Book of Poetry


**Devour the Snow**, by Abe Polsky (1980), a play in two acts. 9780822203049. Notes: Adapted from *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, edited by Otto Frank. Winner of the 1956 Pulitzer Prize, Tony Award, Critics Circle Award, and virtually every other coveted prize of the theatre.


**The Children of the Donner Party**, adapted from *Pioneer Children on the Journey West* by Dr. Emmy Werner, August 16, 1996 performance at the California Trail Days Donner Party Sesquicentennial, DMSP, Truckee, CA.

**Stained Glass**

Dona, Francesco (1985-1986). **The Donner Party State Memorial Proposal**. Murano-Venezia, Italy. Notes: The covering with smalti and golds for artistic decorative byzantine and modern monumental mosaics - the composition with mosaics of the Donner Party State Memorial. Descendants of the James Reed family visited the artist in Italy for approval. Drawings and various governmental agencies reviews were provided. Bottom line was no funding or land site available for such a structure.

**Websites**


**Landmarks**

**Donner Camp Site** NHL 61, 1929 (NGW 29A/NHS 60/ECM 60) (where the Donner Party Camp site tree stumps were threatened when a 1960 fire swept through the area. US Federal (?) employees removed the tree remains in the mid 1960s and then donated them to the California Donner Memorial State Park.) Tahoe National Forest, Truckee, CA

**Donner Monument or Pioneer Monument** (CHL No.134, 01-31-1934), Truckee (Nevada County), CA, (McGlashan donated the land and was a keynote speaker for the 1918 dedication ceremony.) Along the Nature Trail is the site of the Murphy Cabin. There you will find a large stone against which the Murphy family's 1846 cabin was erected. That stone contains a plaque with the names of all of the Donner Party members. Donner Camp plaque, NRHP #66000218. DMSP, Truckee, CA.

**Donner Party Camp at Alder Creek Valley**, ECT 96, 1996, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee, CA

**Donner Party-Graves Cabin Site**, NGW, 1919 and White Cross, TDHS, 2010, Truckee, CA (A memorial cross honoring the victims and survivors of the emigrant Donner Party of 1846-47 has stood in...
Donner Pass Road, Truckee, CA (McGlashan cited for Alder Creek trail to Donner Park Camp site identification.)

Hooligan Rock, ECT 97, 1997, Truckee, CA (McGlashan used rocks from this site to build the 1906 retaining wall around the McGlashan Mansion, McGlashan (1977) and NCHLC (2010) p. 43.)

Rocking Stone, ECT 3/14, 1967; re-dedicated 1977, Truckee, CA

Sierra Sun-Bonanza (newspaper), ECT 9, 1973, Truckee, CA

Schallenberger Cabin Site, NEV 95-01, NCHL, August 8, 1995. The Cabin later provided shelter for the Donner Party Breen Family 1846-1847. DMSP, Truckee, CA

Tamsen & Elizabeth Donner, ECT 96, 1996, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee, CA

Western America Skisport Museum NEV 03, 1973, NCHLC and the Auburn Ski Club, Boreal Ridge Road, Truckee, CA.

Notable Events


Notable Places (Selected)

Donner-Houghton House (NRHP No. 2158, 01-24-2002), San Jose (Santa Clara County), CA, removed July 7, 2013.

McGlashan Street, Sacramento, CA


Donner Pass Road, Truckee, CA

Donner Trail Road, Truckee, CA

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Donner Spinoff article continues from page 8

Truckee since 1887, when the first cross marked the site of the cabin used by the Graves and Reed families during that infamous winter. The cross has since been moved to its present location on Donner Pass Road when Interstate 80 was constructed. It remains there today.)

Donner Summit Bridge Donner Lake, (Nevada County), CA (Overlooks site of the 1846-47 Donner Camps, and by McGlashan Point (BGN, 1986) (photo of dedication plaque) and George R. Stewart Peak (BGN, 1984). McGlashan wrote the first book (1879) about the Donner Party. McGlashan's point is less than a half mile to the southeast. Stewart based his 1960 book, Ordeal by hunger: the story of the Donner Party, on McGlashan’s work). The Lincoln Highway Association placed a monument depicting Travel Modes over Donner Summit. In 1986, the TDHS provided a dedication program for the McGlashan Point Plaque named in his memory by the “people of Truckee.” Two members of the McGlashan family were presenters. The Stewart Peak does not have a plaque. In 2016, the Donner Summit Historical Society placed an interpretive sign at the trail base at the start of Pacific Crest Trail on the north side of Donner Pass Road (across from the old Sugar Bowl Academy). One needs to be a mountain goat to reach Stewart Peak. Donner Peak (elevation 7989 ft.), Placer County, is immediately south of the bridge and named for the Donner Party (James, George Wharton, The Lake of the Sky (1915), and does not have a marker.

Emigrant Trail on Coldstream Road, NGW 29C, September 14, 1929. It was here that the Donner Party missed the trail owing to the early snow, resulting in the tragedy. DMSP, Truckee, CA (McGlashan attended the 1929 dedication.)

Emigrant Trail in the Pioneer Days of California. The trail turned west at this point, NGW 29D, September 14, 1929, Truckee, CA, re-dedicated November 2014 (McGlashan attended the 1929 dedication.)


**School or other buildings named**

Donner Trail Elementary 52755 Donner Pass Road, Kingvale, CA 95728

**Settlements & Settlers**

Marysville, California

Mary Aaron Museum, Marysville, CA. In this house, one of the early residences of Marysville, are a rosary, a tiny brocade coin purse, and an oval framed picture of the sad calm face of Mary (Murphy) Covillaud, one of the few survivors of the ill-fated Donner Party. (Sher, Lynn and Kazickas, Jurate (1994). *Susan B. Anthony slept here*. NY: Times Books-Random House. ISBN 0-8129-2223-9)

In the fall of 1842, John A. Sutter leased the land that would later become the City of Marysville to Theodore Cordua. Cordua raised livestock on the land and in 1843 built a home and trading post. In 1844, Cordua obtained an additional seven leagues of land from the Mexican Government, adjacent to that leased from Sutter. Charles Covillaud, a former employee of Cordua, struck it rich in the gold fields and returned to buy one half of the Cordua Ranch in 1848. The other half was purchased by Michael C. Nye and William Foster in January of 1849. Nye and Foster, brothers-in-law to Covillaud’s new wife Mary, then sold their interest to Covillaud. In October of that same year, Covillaud sold three-fourths of the ranch to Jose Ramirez, John Sampson and Theodore Sicard. During the Gold Rush, the ranch became a point of debarkation for riverboats from San Francisco and Sacramento filled with miners on their way to the dig sites. Due to this influx, in 1850, the four partners (Covillaud, Ramirez, Sampson, and...
Donner Spinoffs article continued from page 10

Sicard) hired French surveyor, Augustus Le Plongeon, to create a master plan for a town. Newly arrived attorney, Stephen J. Fields, purchased 65 lots and drew up a proper deed for the land being sold. Along with land development became government and the name Marysville. The name was chosen in deference to Covillaud’s new wife, Mary Murphy. Marysville was incorporated by the new California legislature and the first mayor was elected in 1851. https://maryaaronmuseum.com/about-marysville-california/ Accessed November 27, 2016. The Mary Covillaud Elementary school in Marysville is named in her honor. The original school was designed by noted California architect Julia Morgan. Mary Murphy Covillaud is buried in the Marysville’s historic Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery. https://bit.ly/2xlt0d2, Accessed February 16, 2017

Trails

Donner Camp Picnic Site and Interpretive Trail https://bit.ly/2xqrPJf

Donner Memorial State Park https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=503

Annual Donner Party Hike

Since 1992, an annual Donner Party Hike is offered in October (2018 in September) within the confines of the Donner Summit area. It is a hike led by knowledgeable local historians to learn more about our emigrant history while enjoying spectacular scenery. Exploring this region on interpretive walks and hikes, you can almost hear the clip-clop of oxen and the rumble of wagon wheels, as countless emigrants scaled the mighty Sierra Nevada in search of a better life. Learn about the success of the Stephens Party; the tragic events the Donner Party endured; and the importance of the transcontinental railroad. http://donnerpartyhike.com/

Donner Lake Rim Trail

This is a Truckee Donner Land Trust volunteer project to build a trail encircling the peaks around Donner Lake. The Land Trust’s mission is to preserve and protect scenic and historic lands with high natural resource values in the Truckee Donner region. http://tdlandtrust.org/

Emigrant Trail

The Historic Donner Trail Committee

This trail organization assures the public’s right to freely use public roads by providing trail maintenance, signage and an educational web-site. http://www.historicdonnertrail.org/

Other Donner Party Resources

Researcher’s Guide to Sutter Fort’s Collections of Donner Party Material McGlashan’s work is noted as follows: The Bancroft Library also houses the C.F. McGlashan Papers 1847-1931, which include correspondence and research materials he used for his book, The History of the Donner Party, first published in 1879. McGlashan was a friend of Patty Reed, a Donner Party survivor. Besides this book, he wrote many articles on the subject, and was instrumental in the creation of the Donner Memorial near Truckee, California; https://bit.ly/2QKtRw0

References cited (for the foregoing Donner / McGlashan Spinoff section)


James, George Wharton (1915). Lake of the sky: Lake Tahoe in the high sierras of California and Nevada. https://archive.org/details/lakeofskylaketah00jame


Nevada County Historical Society Bulletin Collection, Volume 1-67 (1944-2014). Nevada City, CA: Sears Library, 161 Nevada City Highway, 95959. There are 37 “Truckee” subjects in the index including the
Legend of the Snow Plant, “Truckee”, and a Washoe Indian legend of the Rocking Stone of Truckee found in Volume 2, Number 5, 1949


Historical Benchmarks

The Donner Party Tragedy of 1846-1847 has been used to benchmark other Sierra events such as the 1952 snowbound streamliner, the City of San Francisco (Sacramento Bee Editorial Cartoon, 1952, January 16; George Stewart 1960).

California Personalized (Vanity) License Plates seen in the Tahoe-Truckee area:

DONRPTY for Donner Party
DONRLKE for Donner Lake
DNRPTY for Donner Party

School children on tours of the Donner Memorial State Park often ask “Why do you call it a party when such bad things happened to the people?”

Caughey, John Walton (1940). California. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc. © 1940, P-H, Inc.; Page 259 Donner Tragedy “It was the worst western tragedy since the Yuma Massacre.”

http://www.library.arizona.edu/exhibits/desertdoc/massacre.htm


Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 60-8367

Notes: Page 25, The Murphy cabin was built by utilizing the rock wall for one side, thus forming a kind of natural fireplace. The plaques name the members of the Donner Party.

Page 33, 1959 picture of “tall stumps at Alder Creek”

Page 63, the “bad” winters are remembered in the history and folk-take of the pass. The first one to be recorded was that of 1846-47, the year of the Donner Party. Among its notable successors have been 1889-90, 1937-38, and 1951-52.

Page 71, stalled streamliner, January 13, 1952 ... the stranded passengers and crewmen were thus narrowly prevented from becoming another Donner Party.

Page 625 “The stark tragedy of the Donner Party inevitably attracted the special attention of writers and publishers.” Over the years the most widely read account has been C.F. McGlashan....Stewart....etc.

Borden


Institute for Canine Forensics, http://www.hhrdd.org/about.htm
A True 'ECHO' From the Past

On a very grey, overcast, and rainy October 2018 day, my husband and I ventured north from Truckee to visit the westernmost lighthouse in the continental United States, Cape Blanco, near Port Orford, Oregon. We planned to take note of the coastal landscape and what kind of seamanship experiences might have been required to negotiate steam schooners along the Pacific coast in the late 1890s.

Our destination was the Umpqua River Lighthouse at Winchester Bay, Oregon. Why? I was determined to visit the site of the grounded schooner TRUCKEE which went ashore on the Umpqua River sandbar in a ferocious storm in mid-November 1897. [For details about that grounding, please see our earlier ECHOES newsletter from September 2015, pages 5, and 7, including photos.] Owned by the Truckee Lumber Company of San Francisco, and with a load of 342 tons, lumber laden, the steamer TRUCKEE was headed from Tillamook, Oregon, to San Francisco when it encountered a fierce storm.

In spite of the inclement weather, we thought you'd enjoy some of the pictures we managed to get of the area. After visiting the site of the TRUCKEE's destruction, is it any wonder that in such a fierce gale storm, any vessel could have survived maneuvering around the Umpqua "bar"? One of my TDHS colleagues also found a related article from the Los Angeles Herald in the November 19, 1897 California Digital Newspaper Collection. This article is very similar to the other CDNC stories I cited in the initial article.

My personal visit to the Umpqua Bar validated what is likely to have occurred with the steamer TRUCKEE on that fateful evening and morning on 19 November 1897. Assuredly the configuration of the inlet has changed since 1897; however, even an alert, experienced Captain would have found it especially difficult to maneuver around the jutting sandbar in a fierce storm. Notably, reporting of the...
incident was released from nearby Marshfield (Coos Bay area) as the Umpqua River is twenty miles up the coast from Marshfield and it had no wire communications at that time. It is amazing that all passengers - 10 crew and eight (?) passengers, one man, one woman and five children under the age of five - were rescued in spite of the TRUCKEE’s grounding!

*Coastal bars are shallow banks formed by the movement of sand and sediments which build up at the seaward entrance of coastal rivers and lakes. They cause waves to become steeper and, in some cases breaking as they approach the bar.

You may click on each of the images herein about the Umpqua River Lighthouse to see full resolution images. Google Drive link.

State Line Between California and Nevada

In our last issue of ECHOES, we shared with our readers the 1854 map that was declared to be the 'official map' of California by the Legislature. [See this September 2018 link, p. 6 article.] Recall that we mentioned that this 1854 map showed a Lake Bigler (now Lake Tahoe) and that the state line ran differently in 1854 than it did in the later 1872 Von Schmidt Survey. On the Sierra College website, we note that the California-Nevada boundary seems to have been an argumentative point for some time - depending on which state you lived in. Take a look at the map on the Sierra College website to get an appreciation for how the state's boundary has changed over time.

As for the state's border markers, there are some still around, but they are difficult to find. If you read the Verdi 1980 National Register of Historic Places Inventory dealing with the 1872 state boundary marker, specifically Section 8, page 3, which details the significance of the marker. Check out the wikipedia articles as well, particularly the section on the California - Nevada Border dispute, May 2, 2009 article by Henry Brean.

Photos courtesy of Ed Czerwinski, 2016
Concrete Arrows and Beacon
By Heidi Sproat

After writing my article on Concrete Arrows and Beacons in ECHOES June 2018, pp. 3-10 issue, I was determined to see an actual arrow and beacon on my own 'up close and personal.' On a gorgeous bluebird September day, a fellow historian colleague, Greg Palmer and I, decided to take a hike to the top of the Donner Ski Ranch to explore the concrete arrow and beacon. As our earlier article explains, these were erected to provide airmail pilots guidance over the Sierra Nevada - in fact all the way across the country. While it was a very steep ascent, the view was well worth it. And it was exciting to realize that we were standing on the very 'tools' those intrepid early navigators used to find their way across the mountains. Be sure to read about the Donner Summit Historical Society's drone investigations on this same spot. Amazing!

Photos courtesy of the author/editor.
Atop Donner Ski Ranch looking east over Donner Lake (in distance) and Lake Angela in left foreground.

(Top) Beacon atop Donner Ski Ranch.
(Below) What remains of the Concrete Arrow from airmail days.
Floriston Mill, Inn, and Hotel

By Heidi Sproat

Browsing through a donation we found at the TDHS Old Jail Museum, in part donated by Ida Wilson and Lydia Kirby, colleague Ron Rettig noticed several spectacular photographs and information about the historic Floriston mill, Inn, and Hotel. There was an original leather key fob with the imprinted words NEW FLORISTON HOTEL, FLORISTON, CAL., and ‘if taken away, return by parcel post 2 cents.’ On the reverse side it said W.W. Wilcox Mfg. Co., Chicago. There was also a book titled THE PAPER MILL AT FLORISTON by Florence Donnelly dated 1952, and apparently is #1 of only 11 copies.

So we wondered what the Floriston mill, Inn and Hotel actually looked like and what was the story behind the venues. We thought you might be interested as well.

The Floriston mill, built around the turn of the century, was once a huge paper mill whose workers were the town’s inhabitants.

When built in 1900, the mill was the largest paper factory west of the Mississippi. 1 There were about 150 residents living in the first hotel. All of the lumber used in the town’s construction came from the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company’s Hobart Mills. Except by railroad, there was only one approach into Floriston, a swaying footbridge over the Truckee River. Donnelly’s book said that the mill was a “splendid producer for the growing paper demand of Central and Southern California. The workers were happy, well paid and well housed. Living conditions were ideal.” (Donnelly, p. 69).

Donnelly’s book describes the Floriston Hotel and what it encompassed. “The mill hands had both good food and good accommodations. The hotel, an attractive three-story structure of sixty rooms, was built to replace the first hotel, the Floriston Inn, which was destroyed by fire in July 1914. It was soon replaced by a three-story wooden structure of 60 rooms. Lawns and gardens surrounded the hotel. It and all the other buildings at Floriston, with the exception of the Southern Pacific depot, were the property of the paper company. On the townsite of 160 acres were forty-six cottages, three bunkhouses, a schoolhouse, hospital, a recreation hall, a store, the hotel, and the mill - talk about a thriving functional city! The mill consisted of thirty-four buildings, all of them brick construction except the warehouse and wood-room, a covered two and one-third acres of ground. There was available water power of 2,300 horsepower. Daily capacity of the mill was 22 tons of wrapping paper and 10 tons of tissue.” (Donnelly, p. 68)

The large brick Floriston Paper Mill was opened in 1900 and processed “fir billets” harvested from the high country south of the Truckee River, from the western slopes of Mt. Rose east to the high ridge between Coldstream Valley, southwest of Truckee. The billets were transported from the Mt. Rose forests by means of Wooden V-flumes. (Victor Goodwin, retired Forester, undated, unpaginated article entitled THE FLORISTON MILL). Over the 30-year mill life, principal paper products included tissue paper wrapping for shipping California fruit, and the heavy manila butcher paper used as drying trays for raisin grapes. (NOW I understand why my father asked the butcher to wrap fresh cut meat in “butcher” paper. Never understood that as a little girl, but now it all makes sense.) The Floriston mill turned out good paper because of the efficient

© Copyright Truckee-Donner Historical Society 2018  Floriston article continues on page 17
machinery and excellent pulp, but also because the mill employees were exceptionally well skilled and of fine caliber.

A series of mergers affected the Floriston paper mill starting in 1911. By 1914, the company was known as the Crown-Willamette Paper Company and at the time, ranked as the second largest paper manufacturer in the world at that time. (Goodwin). By 1914, however, the company again merged and became the Crown-Zellerbach Corporation, then known as the Fibreboard Corporation. [Of additional interest in the local Dogtown Editorial Quarterly, a map on page 6 shows an area where ice harvesting occurred along the Truckee River and other streams.]

Even in 1922, when low water and resultant loss of power caused an increasing number of shutdowns, the company decided to operate the mill by electricity instead of by water power. (Donnelly, pp. 68-9; Goodwin).

The mill was eventually closed in 1928-1930 when the Crown-Zellerbach Paper Co. ceased to operate for two reasons. Operations ceased in part because the more modern mills in the Northwest could produce more tonnage in less time. The second reason the mill closed is that the mill experienced years of interstate battle because it polluted the Truckee River with refuse and residual acids. The mill was subject to the running levels of the Truckee River which fluctuated wildly over the years and even month to month in the same season. Various attempts to prevent polluting the river resulted in costly and desperate measures. Sadly, however, there was never a resolution. In fact, in an effort to get rid of the acid and pulp wastes, they were pumped to a settling pond across from the mill in hopes the waste would weather, evaporate and disappear. Unfortunately, that did not happen and the wastes eventually seeped through the subsurface strata and into the Truckee River. Even today the area is still known as Acid Flats.

As author Goodwin also noted “Worsening economic conditions in 1930, at the onset of the Great Depression, brought the Floriston paper mill to its final shutdown on Christmas Eve, 1930.” Goodwin concluded that in addition to the worsening economic conditions and the “imminent exhaustion” of timber stands, the “seething chorus of outrage from downstream Nevada communities” fighting against the Truckee River’s pollution finally shut the mill down.

Notably, in the late 1930s, the Forest Service acquired many of the bricks from the 32 Floriston Mill’s structures - some 40,000 by one reporting. Several area structures were subsequently built using these same bricks. Nevada mines purchased most of the heavy timbers. Reclamation/recycling at its finest. (Goodwin).

In 1947, the remaining entire town of Floriston was purchased by Preston L. Wright of San Francisco (see ad below) in hopes of turning the area into housing opportunities for veterans. Unfortunately, in March 21, 1949, a blaze destroyed the Floriston Hotel which had been unoccupied since 1928 when the Floriston mill closed.

So the next time you’re traveling on Interstate 80 east to Reno, take a look on the east side of the Truckee River in Floriston and see if you can spot any of the remaining foundations from the old Floriston Mill or Hotel. Even Google Maps appears to show some remaining foundations of the Mill long ago.

Floriston Mill article continues on page 18
(Left) Floriston and the mill, circa 1900. Interstate 80 now occupies the mill site.

All three undated photographs above are from Floriston Mill donated collection; photographs may be from donor Wilson, or from a collection from Pacific Construction Company of San Francisco (formerly known as Pacific Bridge Company) which built the Floriston Paper Mill.

Nov. 16, 2018: Story update. Apparently a propane explosion on November 15 leveled a house on Spruce Street, which is directly above the site of the old Mill, Inn, and Hotel. Here are two links to that story:
https://mynews4.com/news/local/explosion-levels-destroys-a-floriston-home and
Floriston article continues from page 18

Lastly, we thought you’d enjoy a two more Floriston images from our TDHS Image Collection.

Johan Hultin Donation

Truckee-Donner Historical Society has been extremely fortunate to receive several very valuable donations to our ever increasing collection of artifacts and images.

Our most recent donation was generously given by Johan Hultin and family and includes photographs, slides, negatives, proofs, a book, and a framed map that detail the findings of wagon wheels and tree stumps presumed to be Donner Party related. Sierra Sun published an article on this most recent donation.

We now have a representative sample of these images available for viewing in our online Image Collection database. Keep your eyes open for this Hultin collection and additional images added to our every growing compilation. Note the Pioneer Monument in the background of the first mid 1960s photograph.

Old Jail Museum 2018 Visitors

We thought you'd be interested in knowing some of our visitor statistics for the Old Jail Museum in 2018.

Visitors: 2,768 visitors
Number of organized tours: 11
Number of visitors from foreign lands: 14
Number of docents, including the Regulators who gave tours to the third graders: 16

Ron Rettig Patricia Featherstone
Dennis Cook Gina Solomon
Beverly Cook Norm Justesen
Ron Grove Peter Kolp
Judy DePuy Greg Zirbel
Dave DePuy John McCormick
Karl Pape Richard "Toot" Joslin
Chau Mortier Steve Harris

A very special thank you to Greg Zirbel, our new curator, who rearranged the Museum during the winter to follow the progression of the town of Truckee and the surrounding area.

And a special thanks to Steve Harris who jumped in when there were docent shortages.

In a nutshell, if the door to the Old Jail Museum was open - even if it wasn't a scheduled opening - there were visitors.

This is presumed to be the same tree stump brought from Alder Creek Camp to the Donner Memorial State Park’s Emigrant Trail Museum back in the mid to late 1960s. Today, this stump remains in the older facility, as the new Donner Memorial State Park Visitors Center opened in 2015.

(Left) Photo courtesy Ellen Swensen
Need IT support? Greg makes it happen. Want office furniture re-arranged in the research cabin? Greg moves it, no problem. Are people (such as the new President) running around with their hair on fire (colloquially speaking)? Greg is the calming influence that settles things back down. Greg also is the curator of collections and exhibits at the Old Jail Museum, and oversees care and maintenance of the Community Memorial Garden.

Patricia Featherstone assiduously continues her role this year as Recording Secretary, and has taken on the responsibilities of Membership Chair. These responsibilities are in addition to her serving as a docent at the Old Jail Museum both for summer visitors and for school tours, and to serving for two years on the Nomination and Election Committee. Patricia contributes in many other behind-the-scenes ways, by proofreading the newsletter, editing policies and procedures, and offering good counsel.

Our Treasurer this year is Catherine Holley, of Tahoe Basin Bookkeeping. We are so happy to have someone with years of bookkeeping experience to be in charge of our financial recordkeeping! Welcome to the team, Catherine.

We have one Board Member at Large this year, former Vice President Karl Pape. You may know Karl as our map maven, or as the undertaker (his persona when in costume at the Old Jail Museum). Karl is our Old Jail Museum docent coordinator and scheduler, and personally covers most of the hours that the museum is open during the summer, volunteering about 12 hours per week.

The common denominator among the Board members is a desire to fulfill the goals of our mission: to discover, procure, and preserve whatever may relate to the Native people of this region or to the natural, civil, literary, and ecclesiastical history of the Town of Truckee and surrounding area.

Thank you for entrusting us with advancing this work as your Board.

If you haven't been following the information about the upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration for Truckee in 2019, please see our Donner Summit-Truckee Golden Spike Celebration on our TDHS facebook page for more information.
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
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HOME PHONE: ___________________________ CELL PHONE:___________________________

Enclosed please find my check for: **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES** (please check one)
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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
Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions: