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ECHOES FROM THE PAST

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

So little space, so much news! The Old Jail Museum has been accepted as a Blue Star Museum. What this means is that we have agreed to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel and their families. It is a small way we can say how much we appreciate what our military does for us.

To see more about this program see the website at: http://arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums/frequently-asked-questions.

I have to thank Karl Pape for his tireless work on keeping the Museum open this season. It is a hard struggle when we have so few active docents. We are open on Thursday evenings and Saturday and Sunday. Financially, it has been wonderful for us. Please become active in this program.

Also, speaking of Museums, we have an announcement. When the McGlashan Butterfly collection was moved from Donner State Park, your president and representative from the Board were asked to join Mr. and Mrs. Bill McGlashan for a business breakfast. At that meeting we were offered a proposal regarding the development of a collaborative committee with the Truckee Donner Railroad Society to pursue the objective of a Community Museum. This proposal was presented to both boards and was approved. There are three members of each Board represented on this Committee. It has been given the name of Truckee Donner Historical Museum Committee and we are pursuing the possibilities of the creation of a combined museum for the two societies and for the further preservation and presentation of our history. This Committee is currently creating a business plan and looking for possible locations to accommodate our mutual needs. We will be developing a citizen SEPTEMBER 2015 ISSUE 3

advisory committee soon and I request if you are interested in participating, please email me at cmortier@truckeehistory.org and I will put you on the developing list. Our Board's concern, of course, was our Old Jail Museum and how this will fit into the grand scheme. If this combined museum goes through, then our Old Jail Museum will be redone as a jail scenario to highlight the history of law enforcement within the confines of our rowdy little town. I have received much positive feedback for this idea and some great suggestions on how it should be done. We are blessed to have the only true museum in Truckee now that the Donner State Park has become a Visitor Center. It is our wish and goal with the new museum that we will be able to accept more delicate artifacts and be able to display them in the safe manner that they deserve.

Continued on page 7

CALENDAR

September 22, 6 p.m. Annual TDHS Membership Dinner, Marty's Cafe, Downtown Truckee - Seating is limited

October - Truckee History Alive! program continues - TBA

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Echoes From The Past, Newsletter Editor Heidi Sproat

TDHS eNews Editor, Heidi Sproat

Truckee Donner Historical Society ("TDHS") Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Joseph Research Library at 10115 Donner Trail Road, Truckee.

Board meetings are open to the public.

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.

Notice to Members

The TDHS Board of Directors recently approved a change in membership renewal to reflect the following bi-annual renewal schedule.

Future renewals will be sent out biannually: January and July.

Members will be given the option to select January* or July** as their renewal month.

The new bi-annual renewal will become effective Jan 2016.

Members may begin to choose their preferred renewal month this year with their 2015 renewals.

For those paying by credit card TDHS requests authorization to cancel their existing PayPal subscription to enable members to set up a new subscription by paying in either January or July.

TDHS will extend any membership renewals that might expire before their renewal month choice. Or the member may elect to pay in advance of their existing renewal month if their new renewal month expires later, with any unused prepaid membership dues being retained and gratefully considered an additional donation to TDHS.

* For those who prefer to pay at the beginning of each year ** For those who prefer a mid-year renewal and have their month reflect TDHS's 1968 incorporation and annual picnic month

DONNER LAKE FIREWORKS

Although Rex Reid passed away in August 2011, he will be well remembered for his inaugural efforts in getting Donner Lake fireworks off the ground. One of our TDHS members found a June 2004 article in the *Sierra Sun* about his efforts. Link ¹. Reid moved here from Los Angeles in 1951 and found that he needed a way to connect to the then Truckee population of 898. Reid wondered what happened on July 4th in Truckee. When he discovered that 'nothing much' happened, he decided to obtain his pyrotechnic license to bring fireworks to Donner Lake. After a grassroots funding effort, Reid launched his fireworks extravaganza at the west end of Donner Lake in 1951. Not unsurprisingly, those residents who initially balked at the original idea soon congratulated Rex on his accomplishment. That was 64 years ago. How many of the fireworks displays have YOU seen?

^{1.} http://www.tahoedailytribune.com/news/3917914-113/news-none

^{*}Census records from 1950 show that the population then was 1,025. Link;

TRUCKEE EARTHQUAKES

Karl Pape and Heidi Sproat

About two million years ago - or so - the Sierra Nevada Mountains made its uplift creating multiple faults which resulted in earthquakes. That uplift continues today in fault systems. Truckee resides in an area where earthquakes are fairly common in geological time, but perhaps seemingly widely spaced by our standard of "time." The last major quake in the area was September 12, 1966.

That earthquake had a magnitude of 5.1 (note the discrepancy in magnitude later in this article) and was felt from San Francisco to Salt Lake City and from Bakersfield to Chico. There was damage including the Farad powerhouse, landslides along Interstate 80 and damage to the Prosser and Boca Dams.

Although there is memory of this earthquake among long time residents of Truckee, it should not come as a surprise to anyone that this is one of a series of recorded earthquakes greater than a magnitude of 4 that have rattled Truckee residents from 1933 to the present day. To note a few:

On June 29, 1933 a "sharp earthquake" reported as the "...most severe ever known in Truckee" and caused damage in Reno and Sacramento.

February 8, 1940 a quake lasting a minute and a half shook Truckee and Floriston.

March 30, 1943 a quake so severe that the seismometer needle at the University of Nevada at Reno "...left its dial." The epicenter was estimated to be near Mono Lake, but the distance did nothing to reduce the effect on Truckee.

December 4, 1980, a 5.1 magnitude quake centered in Soda Springs strongly rattled the residents of Truckee.

Although these are examples of some of the forty-two earthquakes that have been felt in the Truckee/Reno area from 1860 to 2003*, the majority of the earthquakes in the Truckee area were from the Dog Valley Fault.

The fault runs along the Dog Valley, approximately

thirty-one kilometers long beginning around Crystal Peak above Verdi trending southwest through Stampede Reservoir and ending with three branches near Truckee.

One of the branches appears to the north of Interstate 80 at the West end of Donner Lake. Another is a mile north of Interstate 80 at the East end of Donner Lake. And the final branch seems to end near "Gateway." This fault is attributed to the 1966 earthquake noted above.

More recently, however, an aerial survey by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found yet another fault in the Truckee Area. Using a method called LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) they have discovered a thirty-five kilometer long fault that runs underneath Martis Creek Dam, Truckee, and Northstar Ski Resort. It has not been active for 15,000 years, but in geological time, anything within 35,000 years is considered active. This one has a potential for a 6.9 earthquake. Link 1, slide 8, http://bit.ly/1Fr9muO.

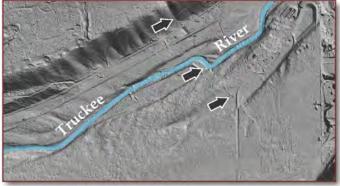
This first image is an excerpt from the March 26, 1902 *The Truckee Republican* noting one earthquake.

Earthquake Sunday.

There was a slight earthquake Sunday afternoon. It was felt by almost everyone in town but most people thought the jar came from snow sliding from the roots as that often produces a shock similiar too siesmic tremor. It was brief and but one tremor was felt.

* This number comes from a review of the early *Truckee Republican* newspapers which included references to earthquakes.

The second image is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which shows this newly discovered POLARIS fault which was discovered using the LiDAR technology.



LiDAR Image Courtesy of L. E. Hunter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LiDAR image of the Polaris Fault crossing the Truckee River. The arrows point to the fault and to a bend in the river caused by earth movement along the fault.

140th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD TRUCKEE JAIL MUSEUM

Chaun Mortier

We know it as the Old Jail Museum but 140 years ago it was a blessing to the residents of Truckee.

In a review of articles in the Truckee Tribune and Truckee Republican it became very clear as to why a jail was needed. In October 1868, an inmate set fire to the then jail, no damage; May 1869, there was a jail break from the Campbell house cellar in which two escaped and one returned. By July 1872, seven out of nine prisoners in the Nevada County Jail were from Truckee. The cries for a jail in Truckee began in 1873. By June of 1873 W.H. Brown escaped from the jail confines via a stovepipe. The Jail was called a rickety affair. Again in November 1873 there was a jail break attempt when two men pried the hinges off the door. By this time the location used for the jail was in a sad state of affairs. Again in December of 1873 there was another jail break by someone prying the door open from the outside and assisting the prisoner to leave.

In January of 1874 there was a renewed cry by the citizens for the need of a proper jail. At this time a petition was sent to the state for a branch jail in Truckee. By December of 1874 the citizens were now appealing to the county for a proper jail. Finally in May of 1875 approval was given and the plans were moving forward. July 10, 1875 Supervisor Frank Pauson (Truckee) was authorized and instructed to construct a branch Jail at Truckee for the detention of prisoners, and those charged with crimes.

The lot was purchased from the Chinese between July 23 and July 28, the contract given to James Stewart in August of 1875, and building materials were delivered. By September 21, 1875 the jail was ready for prisoners.

The first prisoner was William Hart, jailed for assaulting and murdering a female Washoe Indian.

The new jail did not see the end of prisoners escaping: there were two jail breaks in April and July of 1879.

In 1881 the jail suffered from the first fire when the roof burned off. On March 7, 1883 there were five chinamen and two boys being detained. In August of 1889 the "601" took a man out of the jail and tarred and feathered him.

It appears that the first death in the jail was in 1888 when James Dorsey was arrested for what was believed to be drunk in public but in reality was a case of pneumonia. He died in jail two days after being arrested and treated for the pneumonia.

The Jail's second story was added on in 1901. This floor was actively used as a sick ward and infirmary. The next significant change to the jail occurred in 1904 when the steel tanks were added. These were added after George Rogers escaped from the jail and Officer McDougald was able to himself escape within two minutes without the use of keys. The first prisoner in the new steel jail tanks was Frank Curtis, arrested for graft in the Saloons.

In September of 1905, "Dwarf" John Ray was arrested for profanity and was found trying to escape by going down the sewer pipe. The cement had to be cut away to get him out.

In March of 1906, Deputy Schlumpf moved into a new office on Front Street. In 1908, again, because of jail breaks, the rest of the steel walls were added to the bottom floor.

Another tragedy occurred in 1908 when, during an attempted jail break, Fred King, a waiter at Kirk Inn, was shot and killed during a melee when prisoners tried to take Gus Schlumpf's gun. Mr. King was there with Officer Schlumpf feeding the prisoners. The two prisoners involved were Dan Crowley (shot during the scuffle) and Mr. Wilson who were indicted in the death of Fred King. Due to this incident, there was a fence added to the outside in 1909.

By 1939 the Nevada County Board of Supervisors contemplated tearing down the old jail, which did not go through. In 1944 the Jail was again renovated with outside stairs added and the upstairs was now used for women and children.

Article and photos continues on page 7

SCHOONER TRUCKEE

Dennis Beeghly, Ron Rettig and Heidi Sproat

Did you know that there was an ocean-going steam schooner named *TRUCKEE?* Our Treasurer Dennis came across an article in a California Digital Newspaper Collection entitled "Storm King" which intrigued us. We dug a bit further and thought you too would be interested in what we learned.

The original owner, Truckee Lumber Company (originally incorporated in Nevada County May 7, 1886), 1 had the steamer schooner TRUCKEE built by Alexander Hay in San Francisco in 1890, 370 gross tonnage, 168 feet on keel, beam 34', depth 10', with a draft of 13' 6". Various sources refer to her cost as \$40,000 and she was built to carry 400,000 feet of lumber. One of our sources claimed she was a steamer, another schooner, another propeller.2 References to shipbuilding types in that era are used interchangeably, and as we surmise, there was more than one ship called TRUCKEE. We think the first TRUCKEE was wrecked in late 1886, but there is another source that claims it was "ashore and lost at Lompoc" in December 1889.3 (See also Gordon Richards 2005 article 4). The focus of this article is on the second steam schooner TRUCKEE built in 1890.

TRUCKEE reportedly carried lumber between Truckee Lumber Company's Hobsonville, Oregon sawmill, west of Portland, and San Francisco, carrying both freight and passengers. Steam schooner **TRUCKEE** loaded with lumber from the Truckee Lumber Company's mill at Hobsonville set for San Francisco on at least nine trips and on one occasion, loaded with lumber for Mexico. (According to this report, the Truckee Lumber Company also operated two other vessels, **SCOTIA** and **LAGUNA.**) (2, Congressional).

There are a surprising number of articles from past newspapers available at the California Digital Newspaper Collection available online at this <u>link</u>, <u>http://cdnc.ucr.edu</u> about the *TRUCKEE*⁵.

As reported in the San Francisco Call, Volume 67,

Number 172, 11 May 1890, "[t]he Truckee Lumber Company's new steamer *TRUCKEE* was documented yesterday." We also learned that the term "documented" is a nautical reference meaning to provide a vessel with a certificate giving particulars concerning nationality, ownership, tonnage, dimensions and other information. Captain Crawford took initial command.

We found an 1890 report in which a claimant filed suit against the schooner *TRUCKEE* owners for negligence when a foreboom tackle gave way and broke his leg. ⁷

In 1894, San Francisco Municipal Reports for the Fiscal Year ending 1894 ("Municipal") shows the steamer *TRUCKEE* assessed personal property at \$21,000. ⁸ In 1897, the same Municipal Reports show that the steamer *TRUCKEE* was assessed at \$22,500. ⁹ (while the Truckee Lumber Company was assessed personal property valued at \$22,700 in 1893.) ¹⁰

Still owned by Truckee Lumber Company, steamer TRUCKEE was trying to make another trip in mid November 1897 from Tillamook to San Francisco, a distance of about 700 miles, when it encountered a fierce storm. About 12 hours after leaving Tillamook, Captain W. F. Daniels discovered a leak. When he neared the Umpqua River inlet, he was convinced that to save the life of the passengers and crew, he would need to take his vessel over the Umpqua bar - which stranded it. There were 10 crew and eight passengers aboard, one man, one woman and five children under the age of five - all of whom were rescued! The ship and all her cargo were a total loss, but the Captain expressed hope that some of the machinery could be salvaged. (H.W. McCurdy Marine History of the Pacific Northwest, pp. 24-25) 11 In fact, Oregon's Umpqua Valley Museum reportedly has a mahogany table salvaged from the TRUCKEE. 12

We were able to track down a photo of the *TRUCKEE* and it is on display at the research cabin. We also found an early photo of the *TRUCKEE* in a book called *This Was Sawmilling* by Ralph W. Andrews, Superior Publishing Company, Seattle, 1957, p. 103. Note that this source also refers to the *TRUCKEE* as a steam schooner. We'll keep you posted of future developments.

Article and photo continues on page 7

Earthquake article continued from page 3

Of particular interest about the September 12, 1966 earthquake is an impressive scientific analysis (for that time) issued by the Department of the Interior Geological Survey Circular 537 called "Effects of the Truckee California, Earthquake of September 12, 1966" ("Survey") by Reuben Kachadoorian, R.F. Yerkes, and A.O. Waananen, issued from Washington in 1967. The September 1966 earthquake measured 5.4 on the then Richter scale (an absolute measure of the quake's intensity) at 9:41 a.m. P.D.T. Other reports measured the quake to be 6.25-6.5 by the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena and 6.1 by the University of California at Berkeley. Developed in 1979, the Moment Magnitude scale (MW) is now the usual referential model to report on earthquake intensity, replacing the Richter scale.

Anyone who has driven Interstate 80 from Truckee to Reno and viewed the small powerhouse on the Truckee River about 3 miles east of Boca Reservoir can appreciate the following images. The first image (labeled Figure 13) from this Survey is an eastward view of the Farad powerhouse showing the near circular hole punched in a brick wall by a large falling boulder as a result of the September 1966 earthquake. Some of the effects of the 1966 earthquake included damage to Prosser and Boca Dams (Prosser Dam reported up to 6 3/4" cracks in the asphalt pavement at the top of the dam), minor damage to several Interstate 80 bridges, slumps or landslides between Boca Dam and the California-Nevada border, severe damage to the caretaker's house at Boca Dam, damage to the wooden flume which supplies water to the powerhouse, and up to 2" displacement in some of the Southern Pacific Lines in Truckee Canyon caused by the huge falling boulders. (Survey, p. 6). The second image is from John Corbett's Historic Photo Album and this image appeared in a June 23, 1983 newspaper. (Note: this Editor found the Survey report available on google books at this link, http://bit.ly/1faNwB4.)

Equally impressive is an accompanying Plate 1 map which shows the location, effects, and epicenters of earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 and higher recorded between 1934 and 1961 AND major area faults. If you haven't seen this report, it is comprehensive for its time. Figure 1 in that same report shows cities as far away as Prescott, Arizona and Salt Lake City, Utah reportedly felt this September 1966 earthquake.

Numerous newspaper articles refer to the epicenter as Boca Dam just a few miles south of the December 29, 1948 6.0 temblor which became known as the "Verdi earthquake."

And lastly, there is a reference in a December 25, 1981 article to a purported "Truckee Fault" which supposedly runs through downtown Truckee near the Tahoe Forest Hospital's heliport area, but is generally presumed to be an offshoot of the Dog Valley Fault. A 1974 study compiled by Gasch and Associates of Sacramento concluded that an active fault does pass very near the hospital. However, this fault was not documented on a Division of Mines and Geology state fault map at that time.



FIGURE 13.—Eastward view of small powerhouse at Farad on Truckee River 3 miles east of Boca Reservoir, showing nearcircular hole about 9 ft in diameter punctured in brick wall (lower left) by large falling boulder. Boulder fell from slope about 100 ft west of Interstate Highway 80 (behind viewer), skipped across the highway and the catwalk (left foreground), and bounced near base of power pole in center and then into the brick wall



John Corbett's Historic Photo Album

QUAKE, QUAKE...The Boca earthquake came on September 12, 1966. The quake registered 6.5 on the Richter Scale and was felt in San Francisco and well into western Nevada. It centered a little northwest of Boca Dam. The Damtender's house of Ron and Lydia Kirby was virtually destroyed when it was lifted off its foundation and literally crashed to earth. Ron Kirby saw trees nearly horizontal as they swayed during the tremor. Southern Pacific trains were stopped until the bolders were removed from the tracks. The Capitol and Odd Fellows Hall in downtown Truckee suffered cracks in the walls and some stores were forced to close. This photograph, from Cal-trans files, shows one of the two bolders that came down from the hillside above Highway 180 at Farad, one crashing through the power station and this one stopping in the Eastbound lane. Since it broke the concrete roadway you can now see the spot on the highway where it was patched with asphali. was patched with asphalt. 6-23-83

KRUGER ships carried lumber to San Francisco for Truckee Lumber Co. at old Hobsonville. *Left to right:* sea tug *RANGER*, steam schooners *W. H. KRUGER* and *TRUCKEE*, and bay tug *ANARINE*. Courtesy of the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, (Photo WPA #165)

Sidebar: There was also a **USS TRUCKEE** (A0-147), a fleet oiler in the US Navy from 1954 – 1994. After some 25 years in service, the oiler was turned over to the Military Sealift Command as **USNS TRUCKEE** (T-A0-147) and was eventually removed from service in July 1997. ¹³

Notes.

- 1 http://bit.ly/1Ebkl1L
- 2 http://bit.ly/1MPSaD8; 1892 Congressional Serial Set
- 3 http://bit.ly/1P8LGO4; http://bit.ly/1T7DRZi; http://bit.ly/1MPSaD8
- 4 http://bit.ly/1Dtqi4X
- 5 http://cdnc.ucr.edu
- 6 http://bit.ly/1eVwczD
- 7 http://bit.ly/1EbpFrk
- 8 http://bit.ly/10Tunzy, Municipal, p. 86
- 9 http://bit.ly/1UqGZ5c, p. 106 ; 10 http://bit.ly/1JalsWc, Municipal,
- p. 89
- 11 http://bit.ly/1hgS6zx 12 http://bit.ly/1lDtWWC
- 13 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Truckee_(AO-147)



Old Truckee Jail in mid-1960s

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.

President's Corner message continued from page 1

If you have any further questions about this development of the new museum please contact me.

Our membership dinner is September 22 and will be at Marty's Café in Old Town. Seating is limited. This will be the exact 140th anniversary of when the Old Jail Museum was opened for the first time.

We are again collaborating with Friends of the Library to hold our speaker's series. The first will be in October. We will send out notices with the details.

Thank you again for your continued support in our efforts to keep Truckee's History Alive!

Respectfully, Chaun Mortier, President

Anniversary Old Jail article continued from page 4

In 1947 an office was installed for Deputy Sheriff Harold Hodson and the interior was repainted with the lower floor designated for short term prisoners and the upstairs to be used for drunks.

The booking count in 1956 was 456 people.

Once the jail was deemed unsafe by the State Fire Marshall, all prisoners were sent to Nevada City.

July 7, 1976 the Old Jail Museum was opened and dedicated to Tom Dolley.

The Old Jail Museum indeed has a colorful and exciting history and IS the crown jewel for the Truckee Donner Historical Society.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, OLD JAIL MUSEUM!

1. The "601" was a vigilante committee in Truckee in the late 1800s.



Old Truckee Jail about 1908; Photos, *above* and *left*, courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society

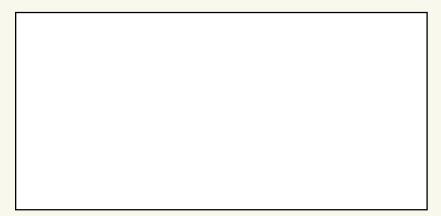


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Contact me on ways I can volunteer (__) Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail Museum? Yes / No Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions: