



# Echoes From The Past

Celebrating 42 Years  
1968 - 2010  
SPRING 2010

**TRUCKEE DONNER  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Founded July 24, 1968 as a 501 (c)(3)

Volume XXVIII Issue 1

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Chelsea Walterscheid

Well, here we are again. Our membership has seen me fit to be the President of the Truckee Donner Historical Society again. The last time I had the honor of holding this office was before I had children. Jack Douglas is nearing ten and Annebelle Jean is enjoying being seven (and driving her brother nuts!) Our Research Librarian, Katie Holley recently found an article that a certain 11 year old wrote for the Sierra Mountain School newspaper, the *Tahoe Truckee Express* in 1985. I had no idea that it was reprinted in the Truckee Donner Historical Society's newsletter until Katie showed it to me. So, there you have it, I have officially been interviewing Truckee's Old Timers for 26 years! Enjoy the article...

### Special Interest Item

By Chelsea Birch, Sierra Mountain School

The following is reprinted from the pages of "THE TAHOE TRUCKEE EXPRESS", a kids publication serving the Lake Tahoe & Truckee area.

#### Uncle Charlie

Dr. Charles C. Cozzaglio D.D.S., better known as Uncle Charlie was born in Truckee, in 1904. He still lives in the same house he was born in and his house today is the same as it was in 1904. Uncle Charlie lives like they did in 1919, for instance he heats his house with the same wood burning stove his family had.

Uncle Charlie kept himself busy. When he was younger, Uncle Charlie and his brothers and sisters made their own skis out of barrel staves. When Uncle Charlie got older he was a camp's cook helper, he cut ice, and he cut cord wood for the wood mill in Floriston.

After Uncle Charlie graduated from Berkeley, he went to dental school in San Francisco. After he graduated from dental school, Uncle Charlie was too young to practice dentistry in California, so he taught dentistry in Berkeley. Later on, he practiced in the upstairs apartment of the now called "Off-Shore" in downtown Truckee.

Uncle Charlie has a lot of hobbies. He likes to read, fish, hunt, travel, and help ranchers move sheep.

Everyone likes Uncle Charlie because he's fun. People especially like Uncle Charlie because he tells a lot about Truckee history. We're lucky to have Uncle Charlie living in the Truckee-Tahoe area.

## HELP NEEDED

Publicity Chair § Docents § Event Coordinator § Grant Writer(s) § Marketing Strategist § Photo Afficionados  
The list of committee chairs and committee members is non-ending. Each working board and committee chair could use additional assistance to perform the existing duties they have already undertaken *plus* there are more opportunities for you to begin your own projects by utilizing your own unique skills. At this point in time all positions are performed as a volunteer. Maybe one day TDHS may employ staff to operate and staff the Research Library & Old Jail but until then . . . we rely on the heart and soul of You! To reach us, email [info@truckeehistory.org](mailto:info@truckeehistory.org) or call 530.582.0893. :-)

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### 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat, April 24 - Docent Training Day 2-4pm  
Sat & Sun, May 29-30 - Old Jail Open 11-4pm  
Sat, June 12 - Old Jail Open weekends 11-4pm  
Sat, July 17 - Old Timers Picnic 10-4pm  
Sat, Aug 21 - Ice Cream Social 11-3pm

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TDHS E-NEWS EDITOR  
WEB MASTER / WEB SERVICES

**Echoes From The Past**

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Truckee Donner Historical Society  
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Send comments or submissions to  
webmaster@truckeehistory.org

**Truckee Donner**

**Historical Society**

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info@truckeehistory.org

www.truckeehistory.org

Board meetings held on the  
4th Tuesday of the Month at 6pm

**VOLUNTEER CORNER**

We would like to introduce and welcome our newest member, Dennis Beeghly. Dennis is a great asset to the team! He came to TDHS with extensive knowledge of the area and of rail-roading history. He knows about the railroad equipment, the operations, events such as strikes and derailments, and the people of the railroad from the head of the company to the men on the lines. He has been reading and studying railroads his entire life, and his enthusiasm is inspiring.



Dennis visited the research library at the end of October last year and fortunate for us, continues to make the weekly trip from Sparks, Nevada to the library to staff it, to work on the ongoing photo archiving projects, and to assist customers with their photo requests.

He has also accepted the Photo Chair position replacing Judy Dunlap, who continues to work as his mentor training Dennis all the nuts and bolts of this very important position.

**WELCOME DENNIS !!!**

**DEDICATION OF JOSEPH RESEARCH LIBRARY**

at the Truckee Donner Historical Society Cabin

Honoring early Truckee citizen and philanthropist Dick Joseph, the Truckee Donner Historical Society announced the dedication of the Joseph Research Library during the annual Christmas at the Cabin Open House.

Beginning in June 2009 this historical research library has been open to the pub-

lic every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Books, newspaper files, maps, and photographs are available for use within the library for researchers, genealogists, historians, homeowners, and all who wish to study area history.



The Historical Society recognizes the significant contributions that Dick Joseph made to the Truckee community and surrounding area as a businessman, a land developer, an entrepreneur, and philanthropist. An Armenian who escaped the massacre of the early 1900s, Joseph raised a family here and remained close to his two sisters, Roxie Archie and Victoria (aka Azad) McIver, until his death in 1986.

Beginning in the 1920s, Dick Joseph owned Manstyle Barbers, the Donner Hotel, and the Pastime Club on Commercial Row. He purchased land from the Union Ice Company after years of persistent inquiry; the parcel extended from Gateway to Donner Lake. He later donated a portion of that land for the construction of the Tahoe Forest Hospital, which opened in 1952. In 1986 Joseph and his sisters donated more land and \$100,000 to build a skilled nursing facility. In 1996, sister Roxie donated more land, which she'd inherited from her brother, for the hospital's expansion.

Joseph was known as "the Founder of Gateway," because he developed the residential area of Gateway and established the Gateway Motel and gas station in 1938. The very cabin in which the Joseph Research Library is located served as the motel office. He and his sisters operated the motel until the 1980s; following his death in 1986 the sisters carried on until selling the land in 1990 to a developer to make way for the Gateway Shopping Center at Donner Pass Road and Highway 89. Joseph's sisters donated the motel office to the Truckee Donner Historical Society and had it moved to its current location, stipulating that it be used as a research library.

The Historical Society is proud to celebrate the generous spirit of Dick Joseph by bestowing his name on the Research Library. His resourcefulness, persistence, creative thinking, and commitment to the community are ideals that are still admired. All are encouraged to come in and explore the rich history of our area and the extraordinary people, like Dick Joseph, who contributed to it.

The dedication ceremony was held at the Joseph Research Library located at 10115 Donner Trail Road on Sunday, December 6, 2009.

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## JOSEPH RESEARCH LIBRARY NEWS

Come sun, rain, or snow I do not believe there were many (if any) days since the Joseph Research Library opened it's doors to the public in July of last year that at least one of our trusty volunteers failed to have the library open.

Between Katie Holley, our Research Librarian, Chaun Mortier, Research Historian, Chelsea Waltersheid, President, Judy Dunlap, Past President and our newest member volunteer and now Photo Chair, Dennis Beeghly, the library has been regularly open every Thursday between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm.

After Judy (during her Presidency) took it upon herself to begin (with board approval) converting the cabin into a "real" public research library the momentum to sift through every cabinet, box, photo and corner of the cabin started to steamroll.

The internet has made finding TDHS as a resource for Truckee history and genealogy by the public easy. The emails, phone calls and in-person inquiries have been a big motivating factor for our library volunteers to create self-made database computer catalogs and scans of our existing research materials and artifacts. The board realized the need to upgrade the computer hardware so the archival work being performed could be saved and shared digitally for current and future generations.

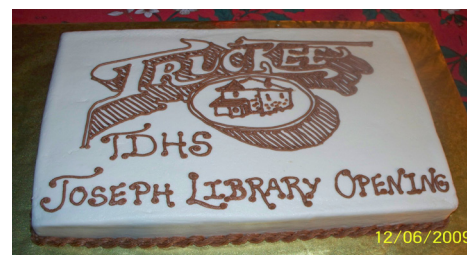
The response from the public has been positive and the thirst for information overwhelming for the few volunteer members who are making a weekly trip to the library, if not a daily commitment to respond to the varied historical and genealogy requests the Society receives on a regular basis, in addition to the archival projects underway.

The Society was established as an "educational" 501(c)(3) way back in 1968. With the official opening and naming of the Old Gateway Cabin, last December, as the Joseph Research Library the Society is putting it's energies into projects and upgrades that will serve it's intended purpose and mission.

Come next month installation of the new computer hardware and utilization of the new software can begin. Getting the cabin, once only used as a storage place for our research materials, fully converted into a modern-day research library open to the public has been a goal of the Society for years.

The TDHS Board would like to thank everyone who has been instrumental in our success: the Truckee Rotary Club with yet another monetary grant, the dozens of individuals who attended and were involved with the successful fundraiser at the 1st Annual Historical Haunted Tour last October, and the board/committee members who have provided their unending energies and time to reach our goal(s).

THANK YOU ALL !



cake prepared and provided by  
Dennis & Linda Beeghly for the Dedication

### STOP ON BY

Check out some of the work our research library volunteers have accomplished to date:

1) An Index has been created for the businesses in Truckee to include the names and type of business that have occupied our historic buildings in downtown Truckee.

#### ALPINE RIVERSIDE HOTEL

- 1960 Chamber of Commerce Roster, shows contact last name of Fowler

#### BESIO'S LODGING HOUSE

- Corner Bridge St. and SE River St., current address: 10009 East River St.
- Owned and Operated by Stephano Besio
- Building purchased in 1920 from the Finnegan Family. (Local Attorney)
- Was a boarding/eating house. Sold in 1969. Became the Stone Cold Inn.

Chaun Mortier has created the Index. She shared this comment about her ongoing work, "And I haven't really gotten into the early years yet as I've been adding in stuff we're finding in the cabin files."

2) The following are recent discoveries (also) found by Chaun.

- Did you know that some time between 1944-51 that George O. Cook had the "Donner Lake Chinchella Farm?"

- Information found in a newspaper article from May, 1884 for Memorial Day

"On the hill south. After the Rosebuds had placed a wreath and flowers on the grave of John Bowker an old soldier buried there, the Trio sang once again, "Dear to the Spot" after which a general decoration followed. After the completion of the decoration at the Schaffer ground the entire assembly repaired to the plaza where a benediction was pronounced by Rev. L. Ewing. This closed the formal ceremonies of the day. A handsome wreath was made by the ladies and sent to the now disused cemetery in Brickell Town, Officer J. Teeter taking charge and seeing it was properly placed. It was absolutely impracticable to attempt to get there with the procession, and this was deemed as an appropriate recognition of the dead there. Later the Rosebuds conveyed by Wm. Irwin, went to Donner Lake and there decorated the three graves that are there. It is hoped that no one's grave was omitted."

If information and discoveries such as these interest you then please stop on by the library on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm or send inquires to:

[history@truckeehistory.org](mailto:history@truckeehistory.org).

Much more work lies ahead of our current and future volunteers to further the recent (exciting) work currently underway.

## 2010 CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION

Conference: Nevada County

The Sierra Nevada: Preserving A Sense of Place  
Wednesday, May 12 - Saturday, May 15, 2010

\*Join the conference. Sign up for the Historic Highway 40, Donner Summit, and Truckee Tour on Wednesday May 12 from 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Trace historic rails, backroads and trails from Nevada City to the historic town of Truckee. The Big Bend Interpretive Center, Donner Center Summit Museum, Chinese Swalls along the historic Lincoln Highway, Maidu Petroglyphs, and a walking tour of downtown Truckee including the Old Jail Museum are featured.

\*Attend Workshops on issues facing California's historic, cultural and natural resources - taught by over 100 expert speakers.

Who should attend?

Preservationists, city and county planners, architects, landscape architects, community leaders, landmark and historic resource commissioners, historians, archeologists, educators, attorneys, realtors, students, historic property owners, Main Street coordinators, members of Certified Local Governments, developers, contractors, craftsmen, advocates of historic preservation, heritage travelers, and involved citizens.

How do I register?

To obtain a registration brochure, please contact the CPF office via email at: [cpf@californiapreservation.org](mailto:cpf@californiapreservation.org) or [ydunkley@californiapreservation.org](mailto:ydunkley@californiapreservation.org) or call (415)495-0349. Or Log onto: [http://www.californiapreservation.org/register\\_conference.shtml#navtop](http://www.californiapreservation.org/register_conference.shtml#navtop)



**From the Editor** — If you are still awaiting your Winter edition of *Echoes* rest assured your local postal delivery person did not abscond with your copy. It just did not get published. Many apologies to anyone who tirelessly waited for it to arrive or who actually realized the lapse in its quarterly delivery. With that said, I will not bore you with the dozen of excuses of how I could have let something like that happen.

For those members with email you may find some duplication of content between the *TDHS E-News* and *Echoes From The Past*. You aren't losing your mind or having déjàvu. But if you are wondering why, it is because many of our TDHS members do not use a computer and *Echoes* continues to be our only means of communication. Many members may remember when our quarterly newsletter was our only form of communication.

It was not so long ago, with the availability of computers and other similar devices, we started the E-News issue to provide our members more timely updates and notices, especially for our annual and/or special events.

Like many other non-profit organizations that are 100% volunteer-based, with every project completed, every goal reached, and every task performed (including publishing a newsletter), it is the enthusiasm and zeal of our members that tirelessly devote their time and energy for an organization they believe to be worthy of their efforts.

TDHS was organized (way back) in 1968 as an 'educational' 501(c)(3) non-profit. I find 2010 to be the beginning of a new era for Truckee and its history. Due to recent support and funding from the local community, TDHS has acquired the resources to further

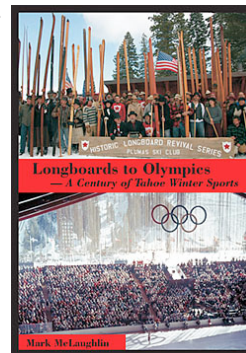
## NEW ITEMS FOR SALE

### LONGBOARDS TO OLYMPICS

**L**ongboards to Olympics is the only book that tells the fascinating story of how winter sports took Northern California by storm and captured the imagination of a nation. From the early exploits of skiing mailman Snowshoe Thompson, through the 1930s, a breakout decade for Skisport when thousands attended ski jumps in Berkeley and San Francisco. These well-illustrated stories conclude with the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, the seminal event that launched Lake Tahoe into the international spotlight for world-class winter sports.

By Mark McLaughlin  
Member Price: \$22.46 Non-Member

Price: \$24.95



### TRUCKEE TRIVIA

**S**ouvenir provides an interesting twist on Truckee Trivia. Are you a Truckee history buff? Let Truckee Trivia put you to the test. Truckee Trivia consists of 50 playing cards with answers and interesting facts about the people, events and history of Truckee and is packaged in an attractive silver tin — a great gift or souvenir for friends and family.

created by Scott O'Connor

Sample questions:

1. What was the name of the small steamship that made excursions back and fourth on Donner Lake during the late 1800s?
2. Jacob Teeter was Truckee's bravest constable during the late 1800s. Although proficient with firearms, what weapon of choice did Teeter prefer to keep the peace with in Truckee?
3. What gift was presented to President Theodore Roosevelt by the Citizen's Committee when he visited Truckee on May 19, 1903?

Member Price: \$11.65 Non-Member Price: \$12.95

Buy yours today! Stop by the Joseph Research Library or order your copy directly from our website.

Locate our Publications page at: [www.truckeehistory.org](http://www.truckeehistory.org)

the important process of digitally recording and cataloging the collections, artifacts and research materials TDHS has been able to acquire for almost 50 years now. The preservation, collection and dissemination of information about Truckee will someday be available to everyone (no matter their location) through the Internet and other technology yet to come.

It may be needless to say, but TDHS is strongly in need of additional volunteer power to help us further our ongoing archival projects, staffing the research library, acting as docents, and folks that (like me) can relate to the computer. Please if you have any passion for the history of Truckee contact us. Let us know how you can help. 530-582-0893 | [info@truckeehistory.org](mailto:info@truckeehistory.org)

Thank you and we hope to hear from you soon.

Billie Cornell, Newsletter Editor





## -A COLD-BLOODED MURDER-

Submitted by TDHS Research  
Historian Chaun Mortier

You can also read the following articles on our website at:  
<http://truckeehistory.org/history.htm>

Article published on April 21, 1877 – Truckee Republican

Wednesday morning, about 7 o'clock, a most cold-blooded and cowardly murder was perpetrated at D. McMillan's camp out twelve miles from town and about two miles beyond the dividing line between Sierra and Nevada Counties. Jack Tallan, a teamster in the employ of Joseph Gray, of Truckee, and one of the steadiest, hard working men in the section was shot in the back, while seated on top of a load of square timber. It appears that all the teamsters at the camp, (three in numbers) were just coming in with their first load, when one of them in front was startled by the cry of "murder" from the man driving the hindmost team. They went back immediately and found Tallan in the last struggles of death. They raised him up at his request, and placed him on a log, but he never spoke afterwards. As none of the men had heard the reports of firearms, they supposed that he had fallen off the wagon and been killed. He was placed in a wagon and brought to town.

Dr. Curless made an examination of the body, when it was discovered for the first time that he was shot in the back with (3) three buckshot. They were all very close together, not being more than three inches apart, and in a triangular shape. One shot entered just below the left shoulder blade, another about two inches to the right, and a third about three inches below and between the two. A number of the number four shot, were also taken out of the back of his head, which makes it look as though the gun was already loaded with shot, and when the assassin got ready to do his work, he poured the bullets in on top of the charge of shot.

The strangest and most incomprehensible part of the affair is, that when the men hearing the cry of "murder" and going to the spot, and finding Tallan dying, should jump at the conclusion that he had fallen from the wagon and broken his neck, and that they should bring him all the way to Truckee, a distance of twelve miles, before it was discovered that he had been murdered. When told that he was shot they were all perfectly thunderstruck and would not believe it till they had seen for themselves. That a hard-working, peaceable man, who was never known to have any trouble with any one, and who did not have any money at all about his person, should be assassinated in this manner, while attending to his work, is perfectly inexplicable.

The affair caused a great deal of excitement in Truckee, and Wednesday and Thursday it was the only theme of conversation. Everybody has a thought of their own, but none have, as yet, come to any satisfactory solution of the mystery. A man claiming to be a tax collector, was at the camp the day before the killing occurred, and he is the only man, save those employed at the camp, that has been seen around in that section for some time. It is said that Tallan had some few words with him, and he made the remark to one of the men at the camp, that he "succeeded in making the fellow believe that was no collector at all."

T.C. Plunkett and James Reed went out to the spot where the killing occurred, Thursday morning, in order to see if they could track the murderer, but about four inches of snow had fallen during the night and of course their trip was useless.

We publish below the testimony adduced at the coroner's inquest.

Jesse Harvey Hitchcock, Sworn.

I knew deceased; I last saw him alive this Morning between six and seven o'clock at the camp of McMillan's, about seven miles from Boca on the Little Truckee River. The next time I saw him he was lying on the road, about two feet from the wagon road, and seemed to be injured. He said "lift me up!" This morning going out of camp Alex Anderson was ahead of him, this being their first load. As soon as Tallan

could get loaded he followed him with his team. A very short time afterwards Jas. Rahl said to me, "Did you hear that; someone bellowed murder!" I said "No." Rahl started in the direction in which he heard the noise. I unhitched my horses and followed him as soon as possible. Hugh McMillian also heard Rahl and started afoot. Rahl went past where the body was lying without seeming to see it; he went on down to the foot of the hill, and there he found Tallan's team; he then came back to where the body was. We both took hold of Tallan, and tried to stand him up, but he could not stand; we seated him on a log; he afterwards asked us to lift him up again; Rahl started for a doctor, but we found that Tallan was dying and called him back. I think deceased was born in Canada; was about 32 or 33 years of age; I never knew of him being engaged in any quarrel; he seemed to be a very pleasant man among his companions; he had gone a quarter of a mile from the camp; deceased was about one hundred yards from his wagon when we found him. It seemed that he fell from the wagon right where we found him; I have never seen any hunters in that neighborhood this Spring; there are no other camps in that vicinity; a man purporting to be a tax collector of Sierra County was out to the camp yesterday and deceased had a talk with him; I do not know the substance of their conversation, but Tallan afterwards told me that he thought he made that fellow (meaning the tax collector) think that he had no right to collect taxes there.

James Rahl, Sworn.

I knew deceased; last saw him alive sometime between six and seven o'clock this morning; I next saw him lying on the road some two or three feet from the side of the wagon road. Some very few minutes after Tallan had left with his team I heard the cry of "murder" and immediately I started in the direction of the cry; I notified Hitchcock of what I had heard and again started; I went to where the team was standing and called him; receiving no answer I returned to where Hitchcock was with the body; I was traveling very fast when I passed the body; I was looking for the team and not thinking of finding a body; I heard no shots fired, the sound of the shot may have been drowned by the noise I was making with my rigging; I am positive I heard the cry of murder, and thought I recognized Tallan's voice.

Jno. A. McMillan, Sworn.

There is a shotgun in the camp, the property of Alex Anderson; I heard that he had given the gun to Tallan; I do not know of his having received any money lately; I never knew of Tallan having a quarrel with anyone except a few words with Jas. Rahl sometime ago, which seemed to engender no ill feeling.

Alex Anderson, Sworn.

I made Tallan a present of a shot gun about a month ago; he always kept it under his bed; when I returned to the camp after Tallan's death, I saw the gun in the same place where Tallan usually kept it; as I went along the road from the camp that morning, I was attracted by the barking of my dogs, which were following behind me; the dogs always bark loudly when there are any strangers near; deceased has a brother living at Reno, Nevada and one at Nevada City, CA; since the quarrel between Rahl and deceased they have been on very friendly terms.

Dr. Curless' Report.

The wounds found on the body of deceased would produce death in a sort time; perhaps from five to thirty minutes. There were no other wounds on the body which could have produced death.

Verdict of the Coroner's Jury

We the undersigned, jurors summoned to appear before T.C. Plunkett, J.P., acting Coroner, in and for the township of Meadow Lake, Count of Nevada, State of California, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1877, to inquire into the cause of the death of an unknown person, found near the logging camp of Duncan McMillan, in Nevada County, having been duly sworn, according to Law, and having made such inquisition, after inspecting the body and hearing the testimony adduced upon our oaths, each and all, do say that we find the deceased was named John Tallan; was a native of Canada; aged about thirty years. That he came to his death on or about the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, in this county, at, or near the place known as McMillan's logging camp, having been killed by gun shot wounds, administered by some party or parties to this jury unknown, all of which we duly certify by this inquisition in writing, by us signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1877.

J.F. Greeley,  
Lee Johns  
D.W. Leach,  
W. Richardson,  
Thomas Helm,  
S.B. Weller,  
Isaac George,  
Frank Rabel,  
H. Davis,  
R.P. Moore.



## A COLD BLOODED MURDER

~ JOHN TALLAN – THE FINAL CHAPTERS ~

A town's outrage at injustice and a plea for reward.

Article published April 21, 1877 — The Truckee Republican  
–Give Us a Reward–

As appears in our local columns to-day, one of the darkest, and most mysterious murders, was committed in this section on Wednesday last. It has formed the constant theme of conversation, along the street and in the household, since its committal. The mystery surrounding it seems to grow deeper and more clouded, instead of becoming developed or cleared up. All sorts of theories and suppositions are advanced in regard to it, but the fact remains unchanged that a quiet and unoffending citizen, was shot in cold blood, and unless immediate steps are taken to ferret out the perpetrator, it is altogether likely that he will forever go unpunished. Had this section become less notorious for actions of this kind, public indignation might be palliated or allieved, by efforts made alone by the local officers in this vicinity, but in this connection, we must call to mind the fact that less than a year ago, the Trout Creek trans-section aroused the blood of indignation in the hearts of all good citizens, not only in this section, but throughout the entire state.

The Governor of the state offered a large reward, several thousand dollars were subscribed by private persons in San Francisco, and the next day after the murder a private circular was circulated along Front Street in this town, and a large amount of money raised. Now whether the true culprits were discovered or not matters little, for the purposes of our argument—this fact is patent; that it had a wholesome effect. It brought the best detectives from the lower counties, it was published and re-published in nearly every paper in the state, and the fact was made known to the world that an outrage of this kind could not be committed with impunity.

Now, we protest that a Chinaman has no more rights than a white man! The human life taken by some dastardly wretch on Wednesday last, was just as sacred and should be as inviolate as that of a Chinaman! The clink of gold is the magic charm that lures men to activity, and stimulates them to energetic perservance. Indeed it could not be expected that our local officers with their parsimonious income, could be called on to spend large amounts in traveling expenses, and scouring the country in what might prove a futile search, and even if their work proved profitable, the income would not equal one iota of the outlay. Let the \$5,000 reward that was offered in the Trout Creek case be held out as an inducement to bring the murder of Jack Tallan before the bar of Justice, and unless she has departed to some far off clime, there can be little doubt of the assurance that before many weeks he would be confined in a murderer's cell. The whole country would be searched, the case would be probed to its very depths, and every official in every city, town and hamlet on the coast would be upon the lookout for some sign or token. Let Governor Irwin be a magnanimous and vigilant for one class of citizens as another, for even if the matter dies out, the fact will forever remain that it was a heartless dark and cold-blooded murder, and unless some such steps as we have suggested are resorted to, it will probably always remain shrouded by the dark veil of mystery than now envelops it.

Article published April 23, 1877 — The Truckee Republican  
–Let Us All Subscribe–

Mr. McMillian, a friend of Mr. Tallan, who all believe to have been so foully murdered, is circulating a subscription among the lovers of justice living around this neighborhood, and is meeting with every success. We believe he has now about \$1200 subscribed for the purpose of bringing the assassin to trial, and there also has been circulated a petition from the Cardwell House, praying Gov. Irwin to offer an additional reward. We do not assert that the poor mortal who was hurried into the presence of his maker was foully murdered, but we firmly believe from all the evidence and circumstances brought to light that such is the case. It is something remarkable that Gov. Irwin seems to take no steps in the matter, and we hope the petition will be the means of awakening him to a sense of his duty.

Article published April 25, 1877 — The Truckee Republican  
–Tallan's Funeral–

On Saturday last at 2 in the afternoon the remains of Jack Tallan, were borne to their resting place. It was snowing very hard at the time, the cold wind blowing the great flakes into the faces of the friends who had gathered to pay their last tribute of respect to their poor and greatly wronged friend. Six carriages were filled with mourners, and a number of footmen followed behind. As the funeral left Plunkett's office, and moved down Front Street, the sight presented a sad and melancholy appearance. Most of the those who followed were personal friends of the deceased, men who had worked side by side with him on the road and in the lonely wood, all men who bore testimony to his personal worth, his peaceable disposition and sober life, and now, they were bidding their last goodbye to him, as he passed into the silent grave, beyond the confines of time. The fact that he had been stricken down without provocation, by the hand of some unknown assassin made the thought dreary indeed. He was temporarily interred in the Catholic burial ground. In this connection it might not be amiss to again call attention to the matter mentioned in our last issue that by all qualities of sense and justice, a reward should be offered for the murderer of that man. We know people are loath to take the initiatory step, but on other occasions they have been forward enough. That such a foul and dastardly act should be committed almost in our very midst, and that it should be passed quietly over reflects little credit on those who have so keen a sense of right and justice. We have heard of no steps being taken in this direction although we have made diligent enquiries as to whether it was probable or not that a reward would be offered. It is morally certain that as matters now stand the wretch who without even a shadow of a motive, shot that man in the back will go unpunished. It is a sad reflection to think that the machinery of justice is so lane and impotent, that when such a monstrous crime as this is committed, no effective steps are taken to secure the perpetrator. It causes for a day a ripple of excitement, but feelings are qualmed and the affair blows over –poor Jack is un-avenged!

## REMEMBRANCE CORNER



Carmen LeBlanc, known lovingly by most as “Memaw” passed away early on Nov. 26 of 2009, surrounded by family at Tahoe Forest Hospital. One of her favorite mottos was “It’s not the number of years in your life, but the life in your years!” She was a well-traveled person, was born in Seattle, Wash. on April 9, 1939; she grew up in Bethel, Conn. and attended BHS. She moved to Danville, Calif. after high school and attended college, got married and started a family. She did a number of things in her life for work and pleasure. She lived in Ventura and worked as a Tupperware Rep. She was an office manager for Target, worked in the medical field, volunteered with the Lioness, The Truckee Donner Historical Society and wanted to volunteer with the local Hospice, as she greatly appreciated the care provided for her late husband, David, and wished to give back to the community.

Carmen and David enjoyed cruises with friends, dancing, camping and golf, to name a few. They frequented the Truckee/Tahoe area, fell in love with it and moved here in 2005. Each day here was “Just another day in Paradise.”

Carmen’s friends at the Historical society miss her infectious laughter and her “I can do that” attitude. She became our Publications Chair, worked as a docent and helped countless times at so many of our special and annual events. We are thankful for the time Carmen was able to spend as an enthusiastic and giving volunteer for TDHS.

To read more of Carmen’s obituary, go to our website at: <http://truckeehistory.org>, click to the “Remembrances” page and locate Carmen’s Memorial plaque.

Philip Stephen Kearney born to Frank F. Kearney and Margaret Elizabeth (Lizzie) (Finnegan) Kearney, youngest of ten, on May, 9, 1920, *born and raised on his father’s chicken ranch on the east end of town in Truckee*; passed February 14, 2010. Graduated St. Mary’s (Moraga) with a full scholarship in 1940, pursuing his teaching credential until WWII (41st Signal Corps, 12/41). He was wounded in Aitape and awarded the Purple Heart. He taught HS science, took electrical engineering classes at Stanford, and received his PE. He married his beloved Eileen in 1948. Hired by DWR in 1961, he assisted with the design and building of the aqueduct. He is survived by his children, Frank (Teresa) Kearney, Mary (Mitch) Berkowitz, and Margo (Gary) Carson; his grandchildren, Kayla, Ian, and Katie; his sister-in-law, Mary; numerous nieces and nephews, and many loving cousins and friends.

TDHS is sadden to lose yet another long supporter and friend of the Society. Our warmest condolences go out to all family members of our members who have passed on.

Published in online issue of The Sacramento Bee from February 25 to March 6, 2010 (*italicized* portion above provided by his son Frank Kearney)

[info@truckeehistory.org](mailto:info@truckeehistory.org)

## DOCENT TRAINING DAY

Come join Museum Curator & TDHS President, Chelsea Walterscheid on Saturday April 24 from 2pm to 4pm at the Old Jail Museum. Learn the trade secrets of our experienced docents as you discover the inside track to Truckee’s notorious and infamous history.

Shifts are only 2.5 hours on weekends, either from 11am to 1:30pm or from 1:30pm to 4pm. The first weekend of operation will be Memorial Day weekend, May 29th and 30th. After that the Old Jail will re-open for the summer season starting Saturday June 12th.

If weekends aren’t your thing, TDHS supports the Truckee Downtown Merchants during Truckee Thursdays by opening the Old Jail from 4-6pm allowing plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the festivities each week.

No prior experience is required. Free training is provided. This is a great event for experienced docents to use as a refresher course and to welcome new docents.

Docents work in pairs for each shift so if you have a friend, spouse, or significant other that may be interested to work with you bring them along. Guaranteed you will meet the most interesting people from all over the world as you spend time at the Old Jail Museum.

So how do I sign up? Call or email Chelsea at 530.305.4231 - [cwalterscheid@truckeehistory.org](mailto:cwalterscheid@truckeehistory.org) If you missed the April 24th training date do not despair, other arrangements can be made for personal training at your convenience.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

(since our last publication)

Dan Warren & Autumn Winston   Reina Markheim  
Catherine L. Squire   Dennis Beeghly  
Suzie McSherry   Amy DePietro   Lindy Yelk  
Patricia Spielmann   The Richardson House  
Donner Summit Historical Society

Members of the Society become part of a legacy and can take pride in their support of Truckee’s invaluable historical resources

— the Old Jail Museum and the Joseph Research Library —

## MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

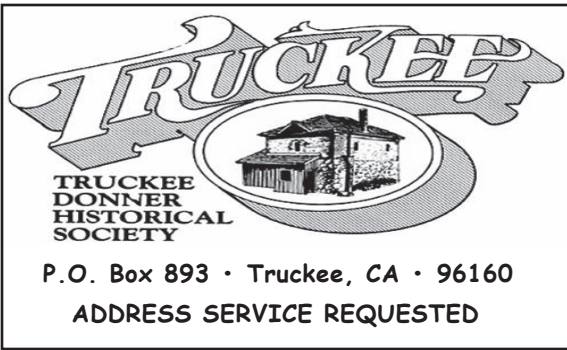
A goal this year is to decrease the number of USPS paper renewals and to increase the number of eBills sent to our members. If you have an email account we are asking you to help us become more eco-friendly by signing up to receive your renewal notice in the form of an eBill delivered to your Inbox. Receiving an eBill does not require you to pay your dues online. You will still be able to pay by check, by downloading and printing the renewal form link found in your eBill OR you can pay online using your credit card.

To sign-up today for your membership renewal eBill notify Billie Cornell by sending an email to: [membership@truckeehistory.org](mailto:membership@truckeehistory.org)

[www.truckeehistory.org](http://www.truckeehistory.org)

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### Docent Training Day April 24

#### Didn't receive your newsletter in time to RSVP?

No worries...Chelsea will be available to make other training date arrangements for everyone who missed the training on the 24th.

### Are your membership dues current?

If your renewal date is past due please renew TODAY.

Thank You!



I/We would like to JOIN or RENEW (circle one) my membership in the

Truckee-Donner Historical Society

Make your check payable to TDHS

Mail to P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160

Founded July 24, 1968  
as a 501(c)(3)

**RENEWAL/MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION**

#### Please check below for any changes:

New mailing address ☐ I want to Go Paperless\* ☐ I want to Go Echo-Friendly\*\* ☐ New e-mail address ☐

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL or WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find a check for:

#### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (please check below)**

Individual \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Junior (18 years & younger) \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Profit Organization \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Business \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **SPECIAL DONATIONS (insert amount and names)**

Community Memorial Garden \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In the Name of \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions:

\*Go Paperless - eliminate mail delivery to receive your membership renewal via email, then

Go To <http://truckeehistory.org/membership.htm> to pay by credit card or personal check

\*\*Go Echo-Friendly - eliminate mail delivery to receive your copy of Echoes From the Past via email

Membership Questions? Contact [membership@truckeehistory.org](mailto:membership@truckeehistory.org) or call 530.582.0893