



Celebrating 41 Years  
1968 - 2009

FALL 2009

# Echoes From The Past

## TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume XXVIII Issue 3

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am writing this message on the morning after our Annual Dinner where I officially "passed the baton" to our new President, Chelsea Walterscheid! It was a great evening, and has been a wonderful experience for me to serve as your President for the past three years. I learned so much, and feel good about the accomplishments of the Board of Directors during my tenure.

One of those accomplishments occurred this past summer with the realization of opening our research cabin to the public! Thanks to Katie Holley, our Recording Secretary/Research Librarian and Chaun Mortier our Research Historian, we have been open to the public once a week, Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM. Members of our community, home and property owners, government agencies and students have been able to stop by and access our research files and photo catalogs.

I am happy to announce the upcoming fundraiser we are hosting in conjunction with another non-profit organization, Trails and Vistas, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Haunted Historic Tour, which will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This event will include tours of several of Truckee's historic buildings; our very own Old Jail Museum, The Truckee Hotel, The Pour House Wine Bar, The Pharmacy and the Krueger White House. In addition to the historic walking tour, we will be having a silent auction event. Our goal is to raise funds to purchase a new computer and software for the Research Library which will allow for easier access to our documents. Additional information on this event and how to purchase a ticket is included in this newsletter and on our website <http://www.truckeehistory.org>. Space is limited, so don't wait until the last minute.

My final GREAT NEWS for the year is the very "real" possibility that we have been able to secure the funds necessary to put a new roof on the Old Jail Museum. This has been on our board's agenda for many years, and hasn't been realized for a variety of reasons, but the primary one was lack of funding. We have applied for funding from the Town of Truckee Redevelopment Agency, and are very optimistic that we will be able to realize this goal in the very near future!

I will continue to participate and serve on the board as Past President, working closely with Chelsea and our other board members during this next year. Thank you to all past board members, my friends, for all of your support and all of the great times we had, serving the Truckee Donner Historical Society and helping to preserve and share Truckee's unique and special history with others.

inside this issue:

JUDY DUNLAP, Past President

#### ARTICLES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Old-Time Donner Summit Billboard for New Whitney   | Historical Haunted Tour 2009: Event & Ticket Info |
| Annual Reports: Treasurer's Report, Research Library Report, Old Jail Museum, Membership, Web Services | Request for Silent Auction Items                  |
| Donation and Remembrance Corner  | What The Heck Does It All Mean?                   |

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Saturday, October 21 – Historical Haunted Tour '09 | Saturday, December 5 - Christmas at the Cabin |
|--|---|

2009-2010

**Executive Board**

Chelsea Walterscheid

PRESIDENT

Bob Bell

VICE PRESIDENT

Katie Holley

RECORDING SECRETARY

Billie Cornell

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lee Schegg

TREASURER

Don Calclough

ELECTED BOARD MEMBER

Judy Dunlap

PAST PRESIDENT

**Chair Directors**

Billie Cornell

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

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Billie Cornell

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Bob Bell

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Chelsea Walterscheid

OLD JAIL MUSEUM CURATOR

Don Calclough

OLD JAIL SPECIAL GROUP TOURS

Heidi Euer-Martin

OLD TIMERS PICNIC

Judy Dunlap

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Carmen LeBlanc

PUBLICATIONS CHAIR

Position Open

PUBLICITY

Chau Owens-Mortier

RESEARCH HISTORIAN

Katie Holley

RESEARCH LIBRARY CHAIR

Billie Cornell

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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96160 | 530.582.0893

info@truckeehistory.org

www.truckeehistory.org

Board meetings held on the  
4th Tuesday of the Month at 6pm  
[return to top](#)

**OLD-TIME DONNER SUMMIT BILLBOARD FOR NEW WHITNEY**

written by Katie Holley

In the mid-Twentieth Century, visitors arriving by car to the Tahoe Truckee area would come over Old Highway 40, a rough and dusty road that would make any traveler weary and bone-jarred. An early billboard painted directly on the granite just below the road past the Summit offered this hopeful reassurance:

**STEAM HEAT  
NEW WHITNEY**



**TRUCKEE  
WE INVITE INSPECTION**

A recent visit to the site by three Society members to take photos of the horizontal "billboard" was not so reassuring: We could hardly read it.

Finding it had been a small adventure in itself. We had parked in the turnout along Old 40, just below the China Wall, where you can read the plaque honoring the Chinese builders who worked on the transcontinental railroad. We began walking west towards the rocks, keeping one of the snow sheds in our line of sight. We passed the petroglyphs and the marker that offers interpretation of them, and bee-lined over to the lowest point of the old road.

We walked east up the road and looked down on the boulders that we had just crossed. Going on the memory of one member's visit 10-15 years ago, when the billboard was still vivid and clear, we expected the image to jump out at us once we were in the vicinity. It didn't.

We scanned the boulders below us, and wondered if we had completely missed the billboard. We hadn't.

We were lucky: Someone had placed a ring of stones around the words, perhaps to call attention to them or to alert people not to walk on them.

People like us, who had carefully walked around the stones on our way to the road and did not notice the words inside the circle.

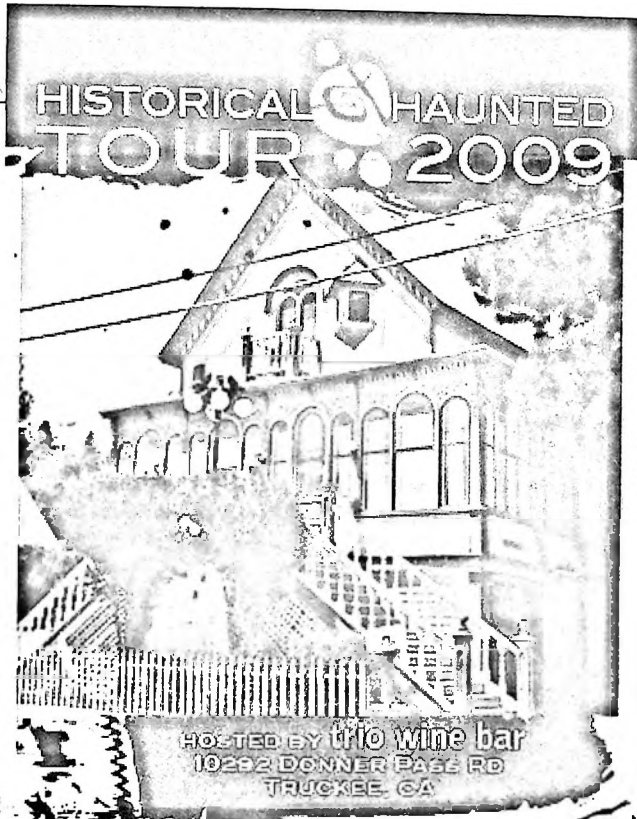
Unlike what had been seen a decade ago, the paint has been worn down, or ground down by the movement of heavy equipment over it to the point that the letters were barely discernable. It took some time to pick out individual letters and get the meaning of the entire sign, but enough of the original is still there to do so. Once we did, we thought about the people who would have seen the billboard in its prime.

This creative advertisement targeted the recreational visitor to the area, one who might spend the day enjoying the pleasures of the Ice Palace by ice skating, or tobogganing on the high slide that had been constructed in Truckee. The challenge of the cold is more easily overcome when the promise of a warm room, with steam heat awaits.

Visitors who stayed at the New Whitney Hotel would recognize it now as the Truckee Hotel, which is located on the east side of Bridge Street, just north of Donner Pass Road. Originally built by Stewart McKay, the Truckee Hotel has borne numerous names: Alpine Hotel, American Hotel, The Blume House, Riverside Hotel, Whitney, and New Whitney.

This clever 'road billboard' advertisement on the very boulders of the roadway into our town reminds us: Our heritage surrounds us, in our appreciation of the beauty of these mountains and in the entrepreneurial spirit that found new ways to make Truckee a place to enjoy year-round.

[return to top](#)



## HISTORICAL HAUNTED TOUR OF TRUCKEE 2009

is a fundraiser for the  
TRUCKEE DONNER  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY and  
TRAILS and VISTAS

### TICKETS ON SALE

**B**uy tickets online for the Historical Haunted Tour of Truckee on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. Come walk with us for tales of the old west, shoot-outs and Truckee's haunted history. This tour starts with a glass of wine at the historic Kruger-White House, home to Trio Wine Bar and fabled phantoms. The evening will include story tours of Truckee's historic favorite places including Truckee's Old Jail, the Kruger-White House, The Pour House Wine Bar, The Pharmacy and the Truckee Hotel. It will be a uniquely *haunting* evening you will not want to miss. Must be 21 years or older to attend.

**I**f you do not have access to purchase tickets online, please contact one of your TDHS Board Members or call 530.582.0893 to purchase your ticket(s) direct from a board member.

Don't delay because ticket sales will be limited.

### WHAT THE HECK DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Have you been confused about what **Go Paperless** and **Go Echo-Friendly** really mean? Well me too. I appreciate your patience as details have evolved the last 15 months after adding a credit card payment option to our website. But now I think I have a handle on what it all means.

Anyone with an email address can opt to **Go Paperless** and **Go Echo-Friendly**. Both options refer *only* to their method of delivery. **Go Paperless** = Membership Renewal billing and **Go Echo-Friendly** = Echoes From The Past. To sign up for either **Go option** you are merely requesting email delivery of your membership dues via an **eBill** and your quarterly newsletter to read online (or download and print at your discretion). Default delivery method for both is by U.S. Mail.

Opting for an **eBill** with **Go Paperless** still allows you to decide your payment method. If you prefer to pay your bills online then utilizing the PayPal subscription method will suit your needs. If you prefer to pay by personal check you still can. Download and print a renewal form from your **eBill** or TDHS website. If you like to read your news online then opt for **Go Echo-Friendly**. Both **Go options** help TDHS save money and help to save a tree. Hopes this helps clear the air.

Thank you,

Billie Cornell, Membership Chair

return to top

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

### SILENT AUCTION ITEMS SOUGHT

**W**e are soliciting Silent Auction prizes for this event. ALL money raised by prizes donated on behalf of the TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY will be returned to OUR organization.

If you would like to contribute a silent auction prize or make a monetary contribution to purchase a prize in your name, please contact Judy Dunlap, Silent Auction Coordinator at (530) 582-1178 or send an email to [jdunlap@truckeehistory.org](mailto:jdunlap@truckeehistory.org).

For ease of making a monetary contribution towards the acquisition of a silent auction item in your name please use the DONATE Button found on the TDHS website <http://truckeehistory.org/eventpix/Haunted-Tour/Haunted.Tour.09.html> Please be sure to use the DONATE button below the Historical Haunted Tour 2009 graphic. (sample shown on this page).

### PLEASE DONATE TODAY

We Thank You for Your Support!



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

## ANNUAL WEB-BASED ACTIVITY REPORT

Billie Cornell, Web Services

I would like to thank Robert Bousquet of New Leaders for his continued free web hosting services since inception of our domain name 'truckeehistory.org' (November 2007).

### WE CONTINUE TO OFFER

- 1) Convenient credit card payment services for online membership payments, eBills, donations, & book sales.
- 2) Our monthly TDHS E-News to our members & web subscribers. We have 267 subscribers.
- 3) Free online way to donate money to the Society, at no cost to you by using [www.shopformuseums.com](http://www.shopformuseums.com). To date you have helped us generate \$97.42 in donations!

### 2009-2010 GOALS

- 1) Add our new and revised panorama photos to our website
- 2) Add online capability to purchase our historic photographs
- 3) Continue to add event photos
- 4) A new updated web design
- 5) Add TDHS Business members the option to link their company to our website, and
- 6) Create research pages and links to access files and information available in our Research Library.

## DONATION & REMEMBRANCE CORNER

Recognition and thanks to the following individuals for their Memorial/Garden donations in memory of our beloved TDHS members. And acknowledgement and thanks to those who made general fund donations.

**Anna Schmidt Parker in memory of Scollay Parker**

**Rick Stafford in memory of Joy Horn**

**Marianne Souza in memory of Jack Souza**

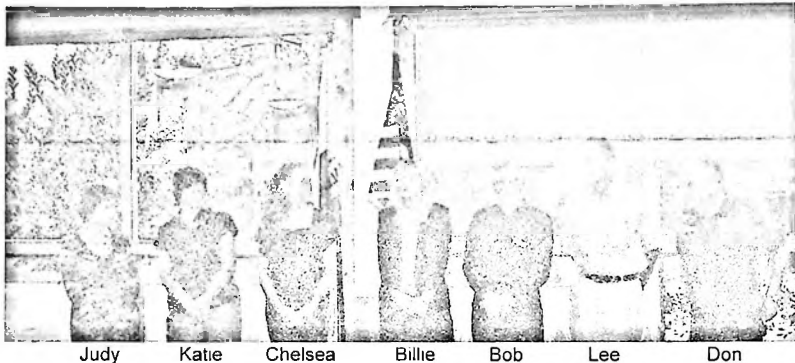
**Susan Young in memory of Leslie L. Smith**

**Jacob Teeter in memory of George Tetter**

**Richard and Linda Ward**

**Suzie McSherry**

**Heartfelt Condolences to the family members of:  
Wally Watkins, John Thomas Rablin, Jack Souza, Frank  
Gaiennie, Beverly Williams, Dan Cooley, William (Bill) Smith  
and Joy Horn**



Judy Katie Chelsea Billie Bob Lee Don

### TDHS BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the new TDHS Board of Directors for the 2009 - 2010 Term

**PRESIDENT: CHELSEA WALTERSCHEID**

**VICE PRESIDENT: BOB BELL**

**RECORDING SECRETARY: KATIE HOLLEY**

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: BILLIE CORNELL**

**TREASURER: LEE SCHEGG**

**BOARD MEMBER: DON COLCLOUGH**

**PAST PRESIDENT: JUDY DUNLAP**

As a returning member of the board it has been a pleasure to work with such a professional and dedicated group of fellow board members this past year. I look forward to another productive year to collaborate with our newly seated board members and committee chairs. I would be remiss not to mention my personal thanks to all of the active volunteers who dutifully serve the Society to keep the Old Jail Museum and Research Library open and who help to insure continued success of our yearly events.

With Much Gratitude,  
Billie Cornell

ANNUAL REPORTS — SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Bell, Treasurer

	As of 9.22.09	As of 9.23.08
Checking Account	\$9,708.04	\$10,754.75
Savings and CD Account - Jail Repairs	\$1,812.31	\$1,775.14
Certificate of Deposit - Fire & Ice	\$2,608.67	\$1,048.80
Memorial Garden Account	\$1,778.80	\$1,775.46
Photo Archive Account	\$1,501.82	\$1,506.74
Outstanding Invoices	(\$460.00)	(\$729.00)
Accounts Receivable	\$292.00	\$1,290.00
<b>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$17,250.64</b>	<b>\$17,421.89</b>
Income for prior 12 months	\$18,999.00	\$19,881.00

OLD JAIL MUSEUM REPORT

Chelsea Walterscheid, Jail Curator

I wanted to say thank you to all the volunteers who worked hard this summer staffing the Old Jail Museum. Forty docents kept the museum open for most of the summer and fall, sharing it with 2,743 visitors from around the world. It's amazing how many different countries are represented in our visitor's log. Although 40 sounds like allot of people helping out, we can always use more! Some shifts did go unfilled, so please consider becoming a docent next season. Details to be published in the Spring newsletter.

A funny thing happened at the Old Jail Museum this summer. While running in to grab something on my way to work, a couple of tourists wandered in. I was upstairs and didn't hear them, so when I locked up, guess who was locked in? The 'jailbirds' looked around for a half an hour, turning on lights to view the displays before they realized what had happened. Thanks to modern technology, the couple was able to call the local sheriff's number on their cell phone and were 'sprung-out' awhile later. I'm sure no other museum they visit will live up to the experience they had being locked-up for real in a real old (Truckee) jail!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Billie Cornell, Membership

Our membership numbers decreased slightly from last year (301 vs. 315) through attrition and fewer new members. Our Membership Totals per membership category are: Business 13; Complimentary 29; Contributing 13; Family 74; In-Kind 15; Individual 103; Junior 2; Lifetime 43; Non-Profit 5; Sustaining 4 for a total of 301 members. Let's hope we see growth in our numbers in the upcoming year. For anyone with ideas how to increase our membership support please let us know.

Interesting stats: Forty three percent (43%) or 130 members use a Truckee address and (4) four or (1%) hail an Olympic Valley, Tahoe City, Soda Springs and a South Lake Tahoe address. The remaining 56% of our membership live in 17 other states that stretch from New Jersey to Alaska and from Florida to California.

info@truckeehistory.org

www.truckeehistory.org

[return to top](#)

Fall 2009 5

RESEARCH LIBRARY REPORT

Katie Holley, Research Library Chair

OPEN HOURS:

The Research Library opened its doors to the public on Thursday, June 25 making available the books, maps, photographs, newspaper articles, and other resources that previously had only been available to board members or others by special request.

Katie Holley serves as Research Librarian.

Chau Owens-Mortier serves as Research Historian, having joined the Library and the TDHS Board in July of this year.

2009	# of Visitors	# of Research Requests
June	3	4
July	8	7
August	10	6
Sept. to date	6	5

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 📁 Policies and Procedures were established for receiving, responding to, and fulfilling research requests.
- 📁 An archiving and database system for the newspaper/ephemera files was established; when complete, the research database will contain every reference held within our files.
- 📁 Entire book collection is archived into a database.
- 📁 Maps are labeled and stored in protective tubes or in metal file cabinet.
- 📁 Resource materials are more accessible on the book-cases.

ONGOING WORK:

- 📁 Organizing and entering data from newspaper/ephemera files into database.
- 📁 Organizing and streamlining administrative files, separating archival from active files.
- 📁 Cataloging artifacts currently stored in the book closet.



NON PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Truckee, CA  
 Permit No. 11

Purchase Historical Haunted Tour Tickets online  
 Go To: <http://truckeehistory.org/>

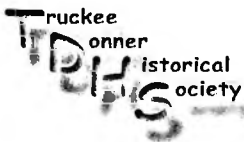
Family July 2010  
 Bruce & Billie Cornell  
 P.O. Box 10828  
 Truckee, CA 96162



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Are your dues current?  
 If your renewal date is past due please renew today.



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 with an e-Bill, 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