

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

1968~2008
Celebrating 40 Years

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 1

Published Quarterly
TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2008

Board Meetings 6:00 p.m.
4th Tuesday of the Month

Executive Board

~ President ~

Judy Dunlap

~ Vice President ~

Chelsea Walterscheid

~ Recording Secretary ~

Carmen LeBlanc

~ Treasurer ~

Bob Bell

~ Corresponding Secretary ~

Billie Cornell

Directors

Don Colclough

~ Henry Murrery ~

Committee Chairs

~ Publications ~

Carmen LeBlanc

~ Membership/Web Services ~

Billie Cornell

~ Museum Curator ~

Chelsea Walterscheid

~ Photo Archive Co-Chairs ~

Gordon Richards

Judy Dunlap

~ Memorial Garden ~

Henry Murrery

~ Research Historian ~

POSITION OPEN

~ Newsletter Editor/
Publications ~

Judy Williams

~ Old Timer's Picnic ~

Heidi Euer-Martin

~ Election Committee/
Special Group Tours ~

Don Colclough

~ Archaeologist ~

Carrie Smith

~ Web Master ~

Marilou Finklin

~ Publicity Chair ~

Pat Gibbons-Johnson



PRESIDENTS CORNER

~ Judy Dunlap President & Panoramic Photo Chair ~

Although the Old Jail Museum is closed for the winter, and our special events are scheduled for spring and summer, your members of the Board of Directors have been busy this winter taking care of Historical Society business and shoveling snow at the Cabin!

Carmen LeBlanc, our Recording Secretary has taken on additional duties, working as Co-chair with Judy Williams on our Publications Committee. She is now responsible for making certain that our local vendors receive their orders for local history books from our collection. Thanks go out to Carmen and Judy for their consistent hard work on behalf of our Publications Committee.

Billie Cornell, our Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chair works tirelessly on behalf of the Society. She keeps our membership records up to date and responds to our email correspondence on a daily basis. Billie also manages our website along with our Webmaster, Marilou Ficklin. Billie has updated our on-line purchases so that we are now able to accept credit card payments for membership dues and book purchases through Paypal. Thank you Billie for all that you do.

Chelsea Walterscheid, Don Colclough and Henry Murray are busy planning for a new season at the Old Jail Museum and Community Memorial Garden. We will be opening on Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. If you have considered becoming a docent at the museum or are interested in helping out with the Community Memorial Garden, please let any one of these individual know your interests. Heidi Martin will be planning the Old Timer's Picnic/Truckee Reunion again this summer. Hold the date of July 19th; it was a great success last year.

Gordon Richards our Research Historian worked tirelessly throughout the winter responding to requests for historical research and historical photograph reprints. Sadly, he has resigned his position in this capacity, and we are looking for more volunteers. Please see article inside the newsletter if you are interested. Bob Bell continues his duties as Treasurer, taking care of the Society's business every month and Pat Gibbons-Johnson, as Publicity Chair, is working on our Calendar of Events for the 2008 season.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

~ Billie Cornell, Membership Chair ~



I'D LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST SOCIETY MEMBERS

MARTIS CAMP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	Business Membership
PAUL THOMPSON	Individual Membership
ROBERT & JENNIE BOUSQUET	In-Kind Membership
C.L. RYAN	Individual Membership

Thank you for becoming a part of our Society and Thanks to everyone who continues to renew your yearly dues. We are only as strong as the members who help support us.

DUES CURRENT? It is easy to tell... just look at the mailing label on your newsletter. It shows the month and year of your renewal if you are paying yearly dues.

DID YOU KNOW? TDHS IS SELF-SUPPORTING. The Society relies solely on membership dues, revenues from our book and photo sales, grants, and private donations to enable us to pursue our Mission. *Disclosure of personal information from our membership records are confidential and are never shared or sold to outside sources.*

Only current board members and committee chairs in the process of conducting Historical Society business have access to the Society's membership list.



WEB SERVICES NEWS

~ Billie Cornell, Webservices Chair ~

Just a reminder we now have our own domain name so our new web address is www.truckeehistory.org. Plus we also have new email addresses:

1. Our general information email address for any and all questions and comments is info@truckeehistory.org
2. Our address to use if you want to order or request information on our publications (books) that we sell please use: publications@truckeehistory.org
3. Our address to use if you want to join or have questions on your membership please use: membership@truckeehistory.org

Please update your computer with our new info if you have not already done so.

PayPal - We now have PayPal services available through our Website. You can order any of the books we sell online using a credit card or PayPal account. Of course you still have the option to order by check using the interactive Order Form, printing it and sending your order and check via the mail service. Since we have begun taking orders online we have received book orders stretching from Ellis Kansas to the California towns of Sacramento, Portola Valley, and Carmichael. Definite book sales we would not have made otherwise. And you don't need to be a member to order online...although as a member you do receive 10% off member discount on non-sale items.

On-Line Donations – Making donations to the Society just got easier! You can now donate on-line. On the upper left hand side of our website www.truckeehistory.org you will find an area that looks like this:

Donate

In the Box where the zero appears, just replace it with any dollar amount that you would like to donate to the Society. Once you click the Donate Button you will be directed to PayPal where you can use a credit card or a PayPal account to make your donation.

Membership Renewals – Sometime this summer we hope to have added the ability to make online membership renewals or the ability to join the Society as a new member again using the PayPal services. So keep checking our website to see if this is set-up yet when it comes time to renew your annual membership. I will be sure to let you know in my renewal letter (sent to you via USPS) to you when this option is up and running...thereby saving you from writing a check, saving the cost of a stamp, and possibly saving you gas on a trip to the post office. So stay tune...

ShopforMuseums.com – We finally received our first quarterly donation check from everyone who began their online shopping by utilizing www.ShopforMuseums.com. If you haven't tried it yet it, it is easy and free to use and the best part is your purchases automatically earn donation dollars for TDHS. All you need to do is
Step 1: Go to www.ShopforMuseums.com,



Squaw Valley Institute Civic Engagement Series
And
Community Involvement Fair

Thanks to a generous grant from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation, Squaw Valley Institute will host a series of events about civic engagement. Professionals in the fields of community leadership, volunteerism and philanthropy, as well as **California's Secretary of State** will make thought-provoking presentations on three successive Thursday evenings at Resort at Squaw Creek.

Come see us! We will have an exhibit at the Community Involvement Fair! The Fair features 40 non-profits, clubs, and other organizations that contribute to the well-being of our region. See the complete list of exhibitors on www.squawvalleyinstitute.org/events

Thursday, March 27

Speaker: **Mike Howe**, Chair, National Task Force On Community Leadership *and* Interim Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance

Topic: **"The Importance Of Civic Engagement For A Healthy Community: Rebuilding New Orleans."**

Resort at Squaw Creek

6:30PM Socialize at no-host bar; Program begins at 7:00PM

Online tickets (\$10 donation to Squaw Valley Institute/no charge for children or students) and details on www.squawvalleyinstitute.org or call (530) 581-4138

Thursday, April 3

Event: **Squaw Valley Institute Community Involvement Fair**, Meet the leaders of Truckee/North Tahoe community organizations and discover what resources are available in our community. Learn about opportunities for membership, volunteering, and financial support.

Speaker: **John Chapman**, Founder, Livable Communities Initiative and Board Member of Green Belt Alliance, Local Initiative Support Corporation, Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust, Great Communities Collaborative, Diablo Valley Masterworks Chorale, and East Bay Community Foundation

Topic: **"Finding Your Passion--Philanthropy And Volunteerism."**

Resort at Squaw Creek

6:00 PM Community Involvement Fair

7:00 PM John Chapman's presentation

There is no charge for these April 3 events, thanks to a grant from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation!

Thursday, April 10

Speaker: **Debra Bowen**, California Secretary of State

Topic: **"Participation in the Political Process"**

Resort at Squaw Creek

6:30PM Socialize at no-host bar; Program begins at 7:00PM

Online tickets (\$10 donation to Squaw Valley Institute/no charge for children or students) and details on www.squawvalleyinstitute.org or call (530) 581-4138

Please contact Janet Zipsper Zipkin at jzipkin@squawvalleyinstitute.org if you would like further information.

HILLTOP WINTER SPORTS AREA HISTORY

The winter sports industry in California and much of the Western United States got its start in Truckee in the area now known as Hilltop. This area includes both the slope below Hilltop which was the toboggan and jump slope and above Hilltop which was a toboggan and downhill ski run. It has gone by many different names. Sources for this brief history of Hilltop are the Truckee Republican, the Reno Evening Gazette and the Nevada State Journal.

1860-1900: In the late 1860's the area was logged by George Schaffer. The first mention of snowshoers on the hill was in 1880, although both the upper and lower hill had been in use for cross country skiing since the founding of Truckee. Sledding was popular and occurred on both the upper and lower hills. The Great Truckee Ice Carnival was held with cross country and short distance ski jumping. Charles McGlashan and Stewart McKay were the leaders of the community effort. The Burckhalter family's Pacific Wood & Lumber Company operated a narrow gauge railroad through Hilltop to haul logs from Martis Creek for the Truckee Lumber Company which maintained an engine house on the eastern side of Hilltop.

1909-1919: The Great Truckee Winter Carnival began. Winter sports activities were held at "Snow Peak" as it was then called. The Norwegian Chlepp Brothers gave ski jump exhibitions and taught local men the sport of jumping. They also formed the Sierra Ski Club. Tobogganing was the most popular sport and thousands participated. The Southern Pacific Railroad ran the first of many years of excursion trains. Cross country skiing was in its infancy. Charles McGlashan organized, promoted, and managed this event. Winter Carnivals continued to be held at "South Hill" as it became known. Averages of 250 people attended each weekend. In 1910 the land was leased from the Truckee Lumber Co by the Carnival Company. In the fall a steam powered toboggan lift was built by J. Kirchner on the upper hill, and a toboggan run was cleared. It ended about where the bottom of the ski run is now. This lift is generally believed to be the first mechanical lift in the west, possibly the U.S. The railroad engine house was used as a warming hut and dance hall. A new commercial era in Truckee had begun. In 1912, The Truckee Chamber of Commerce took over the Winter Carnival operations and by 1913, over 700 people attended each weekend. Swiss guide Emile De Choudens began ski lessons on the upper hill and a new 500' long toboggan lift was built from the lower hill to the top of the upper hill. A 3/4 mile toboggan run was also built, and a new wooden Ice Palace was constructed for ice skating at the bottom of the lift. In 1913 the "Fiesta of The Snows" was held, attracting Hollywood. This would lead to Truckee becoming the winter film mecca of the West through the late 1930's. Wally Gelatt took over management of the Winter Carnival Company. The Truckee Ski Club formed to hold jumping and cross country races and was the first to do so on the west coast. This led to other ski clubs being formed. In 1915 over 500 attend Winter Carnival each weekend. The Ice Palace burned down. Gelatt continued to manage the Winter Carnival. The Southern Pacific Railroad began funding much of the publicity and running regular Sunday excursions to Truckee.

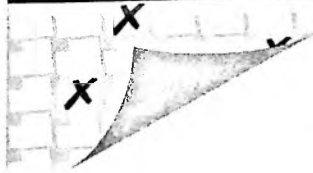
1920-1929: Wilbur Maynard, of the Southern Pacific Hotel, got involved in the Winter Sports Snow Carnival. An average weekend will see 800 visitors. Filming of snow scenes in the Truckee area brought hundreds of cast & crew to Truckee. By 1922, Truckee, an old pioneer town, is now famous as a winter recreation resort, all of it centered on the Winter Sports Hill as it was now called. While Prohibition dried up the rest of California, Truckee's open sales of alcohol attracted a fun loving party crowd. In 1926 the Tahoe Tavern sponsored the construction of a toboggan run and began winter sports activities, competing with Truckee. In 1928, 1000 visitors attend most weekends. Pullman railroad cars are parked in the Truckee yards for the visitors. Improvements in downhill ski equipment opened up the sport. Wooden jump ramps were built at various points. The Sierra Dog Derby Association was formed and took over the Winter Sports operation. In 1929 the Pavilion opened and the upper hill is now called Pavilion Hill. Both hills are still in use for tobogganing, although the sport of skiing is increasing. Wilbur Maynard interests the Auburn Ski Club in Winter Carnival.

1930-1939: The Sierra Dog Derby Association returned the Winter Sports to Tim O'Hanrahan for use by the Truckee Ski Club & Chamber of Commerce. A 140' tall ski jump scaffolding is constructed under the direction of professional jumper Lars Haugen by Jack Wolert. Jess Maxsom, Pete Passinetti, Johnny Rablin, Earl McKay, Orland Sanders, and Bud Owens are among several Truckee jumpers who gained state recognition. The California Ski Association was formed, with Wilbur Maynard & Cecil Edmunds representing Truckee. Copying Truckee, the Auburn Ski Club built a jump hill at Cisco in 1931. Tim O'Hanrahan & Cecil Edmunds assisted in the formation of the Reno Ski Club. In 1932, Earl Edmunds was the State Ski Jump champion. California began plowing snow on U.S. 40 over Donner Pass, allowing more people to attend Truckee Winter Sports. In 1935, 3000 visitors attended the American Legion Snow Frolic at the Winter Sports Park. The Truckee Chamber of Commerce formed the Truckee Outing Club to take over management of the Winter Sports operations. C.B. White, Jim McIver Jr., Judge C.E. Smith, William Englehart, and Cecil Edmunds led the Club. In 1936, The Truckee Donner PUD, using federal depression relief funding, built an ice pond at the bottom of the lower hill. Truckee ski jumpers included Tony Besio, Bud Campbell, Frank Titus, and Bob Bowers. Professional jumpers Sig Ulland, and Roy Mikkleson, boost Truckee Winter Sports. With U.S. 40 open, lodges began to open on Donner Summit, and Johnny Ellis built the first rope tow near Lake Mary.

1940-1959: The Outing Club completed the installation of the first rope tow up Pinnacle Point as "top of the hill" is now called. Downhill skiing became one of the largest participant sports. The toboggan lift and slide were no longer in use. In 1943 most of Truckee's young men were at war, the Truckee Outing Club was broke and the Truckee PUD took over the Winter Sports Park and operations. In 1945, C.F. Tollefson bought Winter Sports Park, built a dormitory and converted the Pavilion to a restaurant. One year later, the Crandell Brothers bought the property and called the resort Hilltop. They opened a ski shop and added a second rope tow on the lower portion of the ski run. Truckee jumpers included Herb Copeland, Bill Campbell, and Frank Titus. In 1950 the ski jump scaffolding was torn down and by 1959 the Truckee PUD took back the Hilltop property briefly, before selling it to Harry Herzog.

Calendar of events

2008



2008



Saturday 10th 10a-3p
Docent Training & Jail Cleanup
Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th 11a-4p
Jail Open (weather permitting) for Memorial Day Weekend



Saturday 14th 11a-4p
Official Jail opening for the summer



Saturday 19th 10a-4p
Old Timers Picnic
Truckee River Regional Park



Saturday 16th 11a-3p
Ice Cream Social
Old Jail Museum Garden
Sunday 21st-Old Jail Museum season close



Tuesday 23rd time TBA
Annual Election Dinner
The Lodge—Tahoe Donner



Saturday 11th 1p
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Gateway Research Cabin



Saturday 6th time TBA
Christmas at the Cabin

WEB SERVICES NEWS-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Step 2: Register/Sign In (optional but this will allow you to track the donation monies you have earned for the TDHS).
Step 3: Select Truckee Donner Historical Society as your Museum Partner
Step 4: Use their retailer links to start shopping at over 400 online stores.
 That's it! A win-win for everyone. To watch an instructional video on how it works go to the TDHS website, www.truckeehistory.org and click the link shown on our Home Page.

Are you receiving your **Free Online Newsletter--TDHS E-News?** Use the link on our website **HOME PAGE TO SIGN UP**. You will find it near the bottom of the page.



Any information provided with this link will not be used by any other source than TDHS in our pursuit to provide updates and information about the Society.

Privacy by SafeSubscribeSM

We hope you enjoy using our new services and visit us often. To share your ideas, suggestions, and comments please contact us at info@truckeehistory.org. The world is (literally) at our finger tips helping to keep us abreast of the present, a way to discover the future and to keep us grounded with the *Past*.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

As many of you are aware, Truckee has experienced tremendous growth and development over the past several years, and it is continuing on a grand scale. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of two additional major development plans for our community and encourage you to become informed about the scope of these two developments and the impact they will have on our community.

The Hilltop Master Plan: Information about this development plan is available at <http://www.truckee2025.org/devel/hillmp/hillmp3.htm>. Please take time to visit this site. Information on proposed development is on this website as well as upcoming hearings by the Planning Commission and the Town Council.

The Railyard Master Plan: The Town has the complete Draft Railyard Master Plan available on their website at www.townoftruckee.com. There were three initial public meetings in February and another one was held on March 13, 2008. The topic of the most recent workshop was "Mass and Scale of Buildings in the Railyard Master Plan Area." The EIR report is being completed and should be published in the spring. The Town of Truckee will post upcoming hearings on their website.

As community members who are interested in preserving and protecting the history of our community, we encourage you to learn about these projects and share your views, opinions, concerns and vision for our community.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, July 19th 10-4:00 PM—Annual Old Timers' Picnic at the Truckee River Regional Park. Details to follow in a future newsletter.



OLD JAIL MUSEUM

~Chelsea Walterscheid, Museum Curator~

The Old Jail Museum on Jibboom Street in Downtown Truckee is open on weekends during the summer months. Volunteers give tours to visitors who come from all over the world. The museum is full of artifacts, photos and documents from the local area. The Memorial Garden out back will be in bloom and is a nice place to sit and reminisce. You will notice something new has been added to the garden...you will have to come down and see for yourselves. Whether you have been many times before, or never have had the chance to see it, please come by and visit the Old Jail Museum and Memorial Garden this summer. If you would like to be one of the volunteers who helps keep the museum open, please contact Chelsea at 530-305-4231. The shifts are 2 1/2 hours long, you can work as much or as little as you can. The museum is run 100 % by volunteers. Training will be provided.

Saturday, May 10th

12-2:00 PM—Spring Cleaning at the Old Jail Museum.

2-3:00 PM—Docent Training. Anyone interested in training to work at the museum is invited to join us. Please RSVP to Chelsea at 530-305-4231.

Saturday & Sunday, May 24-25

11:00-4:00 PM—Jail open Memorial Day weekend.

Saturday, June 14th -Sunday, September 21st

Old Jail Museum opens for the season. Weekend days from 11:00-4:00 PM

The museum is available for special tours. For details please contact Don Colclough at 530-587-1343.

HISTORIANS AND PHOTO ARCHIVERS NEEDED

The Historical Society is in need of volunteers who are interested in getting involved in our Research Library and Photo Archive Project. For many years, our community, via the Truckee Donner Historical Society, has received donations of photographs and historical documents which represent the valuable history of our area and town. One of the goals of the TDHS Board of Directors has been to create and expand our Research Library, making it more accessible to individuals and organizations who are interested in Truckee's history.

In recent years, we have added to this goal, to develop a search mechanism, whereby researchers can locate particular photo subjects via our computer system. This is a long-term goal which will take many years and many volunteer hours to achieve. The first step in this long process is to scan and identify our photographs. We need several able and willing volunteers to work together so that we can move closer to our goal of preserving and archiving our photo collection. The amount of time and effort needed to move this project along is far more than could be expected for one volunteer to provide.

Also, on a daily basis, we receive requests for historical research from members of our community and beyond. These requests range from historical research for local publications, authors working on history books, real estate developers, and genealogists working on their family trees. Due to lack of volunteers, we are currently unable to respond to these requests. In this regard, we also are in great need of researchers to prepare research materials, so that we are able to keep the Town of Truckee, Real Estate Developers and the community educated about the historical significance of the areas in our community that will be developed in the future.

We are asking for volunteers who possess knowledge of local history and it would be a real plus if they also have experience in research and historical preservation. If you are interested in either of these two project areas, please send a brief summary of your experience and interests to Truckee Donner Historical Society, Attention Judy Dunlap, at P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160.





OLD JAIL MUSEUM
JIBBOOM STREET
DOWNTOWN TRUCKEE

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



**TRUCKEE DONNER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
Founded July 24, 1968

P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160
Phone (530) 582-0893
E-mail: info@truckeehistory.org
Website: www.truckeehistory.org

TDHS MEMBER APPLICATION

NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

~~MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES~~

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00 _____ FAMILY \$30.00 _____ BUSINESS \$40.00 _____ JUNIOR (18 YEARS & UNDER) \$10.00 _____

SUSTAINING \$75.00 _____ NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS \$25.00 _____ CONTRIBUTING \$100.00 _____

MEMORIAL OR MEMORIAL GARDEN (CIRCLE ONE) \$ _____ IN HONOR OF: _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR: _____

AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AND/OR COMMENTS: