

Celebrating 40 Years
1968 - 2008

Echoes From The Past

WINTER 2008

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

Volume XXVII Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I wish you all a very Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who stopped by our Christmas at the Cabin event last month. It was a great success, with the largest turn-out we have had in many, many years!

I look forward to a very productive 2009 in continuing our Society's *Mission* to preserve and protect the rich history of our community.

We made progress on the Research Library this past year. We were able to purchase new book shelves and move the library from our small back room to the main room of the Cabin. Our goal is to make our archives more user friendly. The next step in this endeavor is to have "open" hours.

Hopefully by the spring time, we will be ready to announce that the Truckee Donner Historical Society's Research Library will be open to the public several hours per week. This would give individuals an opportunity to come to the Cabin, conduct their personal research projects and also peruse the photo archive catalogs. Look for additional information and details in your Spring 2009 edition of *Echoes of the Past*.

In the event you receive this newsletter in time to view this series when aired on American television, I wanted to let you know that the Oxford Film and Television will be broadcasting their documentary series "The American Future" on BBC America. The documentary is in four parts and will air two episodes on Monday January 19th and the other two episodes on Tuesday January 20th.

One part of this four part series is entitled "What is an American?" A portion of this video is filmed in Truckee and covers the history of the Chinese laborers who built the railroad through the Sierra Nevada, and the subsequent boycott of the Chinese residents of Truckee, led by Truckee citizen, Charles McGlashan. The Oxford Film and Television has provided TDHS with a DVD copy of this segment that will be added to our research library collection and also provides us the opportunity to share this television segment as a TDHS community educational event. Stay tuned!

In the meantime,
I hope that you enjoy the winter snows, and remain safe and warm.



JUDY DUNLAP
TDHS PRESIDENT

2009 ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

9th - Docent Training and Jail Cleaning
23rd - Old Jail Museum open for Memorial Day weekend

JULY

18th - 29th Annual Old Timers' Picnic and Reunion

SEPTEMBER

22nd - TDHS Annual Dinner and Election
27th - Old Jail Museum closes for the Winter Season

DECEMBER

5th - Christmas at the Cabin

JUNE

13th - Old Jail Opens weekends for the Summer Season

AUGUST

15th - 5th Annual Ice Cream Social

OCTOBER

10th - Docent Appreciation Luncheon

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2008-09

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Echoes From The Past

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

SNOW, SHOES, AND PLANES

Snow in the Truckee-Tahoe area, whether a lot or a little, has long been a draw for the film industry: winters here provide affordable locations to represent other comparably snowy parts of the world. Having moved here less than a year ago (full time since February 2007) and wanting to indulge my interest in history, I have begun a personal film fest of productions that feature the Tahoe-Truckee area.

I recently watched two movies from my Netflix queue: Charlie Chaplin in *The Gold Rush* (1924) and John Wayne in *Island in the Sky* (1953). In *The Gold Rush*, Charlie Chaplin is a Yukon prospector in 1898 who falls in love, eats a shoe (a weird reference to the Donner Party's desperation in eating the boiled hides of their cattle), doesn't fall off a cliff, and doesn't strike it rich. The opening scene is of hundreds of miners trudging up towards Donner Summit, echoing the great numbers of men who trekked up mountains in Canada to get to the gold deposits. Other scenes that were shot in Truckee ended up on the cutting room floor, but the craggy mountains challenging the men at the start of the movie are our craggy mountains.



THE TRAMP IS CARVING UP A BOOT.

Truckee's Boca Mountain served as much of the backdrop in *Island in the Sky*, representing the windy, heavily forested land of Labrador. John Wayne pilots a plane that he must land in a storm, which he does with no immediate loss of life, but the aircraft's radio is damaged and cannot provide accurate coordinates to the search parties that quickly disperse to locate the crash. The movie cuts between the crash site with the freezing, starving men of John Wayne's crew and the airbase and pilots conducting the search missions. During filming in 1953, Truckee's airport was located just south of where the agricultural inspection station now is on Interstate 80. Features of that old airport may be distinguishable in the movie to someone who had been very familiar with it, but of course our modern airport replaced the old airstrips several decades ago.



PHOTO DATE: 1953

ON LOCATION IN THE HIGH SIERRAS FOR "ISLAND IN THE SKY," WARNER BROS. 1953
IMAGE COURTESY MPTV.NET

My hope is that as I continue to make my way through the many movies available more specific locations will be readily recognizable. Many films remain to be viewed, and how much airtime Truckee-Tahoe gets in each one remains to be seen.

KATIE HOLLEY
TDHS Board Member

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DOCENT LENDING LIBRARY

Hi, my name is Carmen LeBlanc, and I am your Publications Chair, and also an enthusiastic DOCENT at our JAIL MUSEUM. It is such fun to meet the people that come in to visit our Jail from all over the world and even our local residents, who happen by when the music is on and our door is open, visiting for the very first time. We, the docents, learn many new 'stories' as we are getting acquainted with our visitors. I have found that sometimes, the questions our visitors ask may stump us, and it's good to know we have a generous selection of historical books that we sell, and we can find some answers within. I personally have, over time, purchased many of our books, and I know how this has enhanced my experience working as a docent in the jail.

We are starting a Lending Library For Our Docents. I have one copy of each book available for loan. Please see the list of books below. All you have to do is call Carmen at (530)582-5535 to arrange the loan. With the winter season, upon us when the Jail Museum is closed, it's a great time for reading, and learning more of our history, and will also help us sell the books we've become familiar with in the future. The Truckee Donner Historical Society earns a profit on the sale of each book sold, as well as all our terrific professional prints of some of the thousands of historical photos we have available. I hope to hear from you soon!

CARMEN LeBLANC
Publications Chair

DOCENT BOOK LIST

- * Across the Plains in the Donner Party
...by Virginia Reed Murphy
- * A Donner Party Story...Daughters of Destiny
...by Frankye Craig
- * Fire & Ice...by TDHS
- * Give Me a Mountain Meadow...by M. Nona McGlashan
- * History of the Donner Party...by Charles F McGlashan
- * Ordeal by Hunger...by George R. Stewart
- * Patty Reed's Doll...by Rachel K. Laurgaard
- * Sawdust Trails in the Truckee Basin...by Dick Wilson
- * Showdown at Truckee...by M.W. Ficklin & L. E. Romaniak
- * Sierra Stories Vol I and II...by Mark McLaughlin
- * The Donner Party: Weathering the Storm
...by Mark McLaughlin
- * The Fateful Journey of Tamsen Donner...by Frankye Craig
- * To Truckee Trails-the Greatest Adventure...by Celia Hayes
- * Things I Wished I'd Asked My Father
...by Candice Carter & 1980 Class
- * To Donner Pass from the Pacific...by Jack Duncan
- * Western Train Adventures...by Mark McLaughlin
- * Winter of Entrapment...by Joseph A. King
- * Lovina's Song...by Marian Rudolph
- * The Donner Party Rescue Site...by Jack Steed

SHOP FOR MUSEUMS

We continue to participate in the shopformuseums.com program. It's an easy way to do your online shopping while supporting the Jail Museum. Simply visit www.shopformuseums.com and choose us as your charitable museum then follow the link to your favorite store. We receive a portion of each purchase through the participating retailers.

A LOOK BACK - 2008 OLD TIMERS' PICNIC

The 2008 28th Annual Old Timers' Picnic and Truckee Reunion was once again a wonderful event and enjoyed by all in attendance. It was also a celebration of the Truckee Donner Historical Society's 40th Anniversary which included a deliciously large cake enjoyed by all.

There were many past and present residents who came to visit and share stories. A short list among those who came include the following: Dino Digesti and son, Ron, along with Silvana, Gino, Yolanda and Harry; Zeph Rose, Reg Smart, Charles and Adeide (Babe) Taylor were there; Alberta Cooper Schell, George Francschini, Josef Sutter and Mary Ann Haswell; John and Sharon Euer of the Euer Brothers Ranch; Eileen Olson Burbank and her mother, Elsie Olsen who, by the way, was 94 years last February. And among the 'old-time' regulars were Dennis Richards, Dana Scanlon, Jack Hollgate and his wife; Bob Sutton, Jr., Chuck Grigg and Jerry Beck.

Earlier in the year, Chelsea Walterscheid attended a workshop in the Bay area on the use and art of oral histories. She decided to waste no more time and began an oral history project for TDHS that she hopes to continue in the coming years. Thanks go out to everyone that participated in this project that will help preserve the Old Timer's stories for decades to come.

The success of this year's picnic and reunion is a testament to the hard work of all our volunteers and TDHS board members. We all look forward to this coming year's event on Saturday, July 18, 2009.

So save the date and I hope to see you there!

HEIDI EUER MARTIN
Old Timers' Picnic Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chaun & Bert Mortier	Frankye & Howard Craig
Claudia Faulk	John Webster
Richard Hansen	Norm Saylor
Frank Kearney	David McCallen
Carla Stewart Stokes	Truckee Donner Land Trust
Rick Stafford	Katie Holley
John & Sharon Euer	Susan Young
Chuck Kissner	

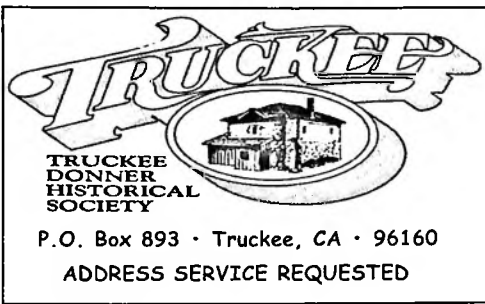
MEMBER SERVICES

If you are receiving this newsletter via the USPS, did you know you now have the option to receive it via email or to download a color-copy from our website? Please send an email to bcornell@truckeehistory.org requesting email service or log on to our website at www.truckeehistory.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have spare time and an interest in Truckee history? We are always in need of more helping hands and have two openings to serve as essential board chairs; Research Historian and Publicity Chair. Please contact us by phone or email to let us know your volunteer passion!

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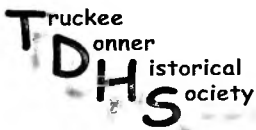
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I/We would like to JOIN or RENEW (circle one) my membership in the

Truckee-Donner Historical Society
 Make your check payable to TDHS
 Mail to P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160

Founded July 24, 1968
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RENEWAL/MEMBERSHIP
 APPLICATION

Please check below for any changes:

New mailing address

I want to Go Paperless*

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 by paying for your membership online.

Log onto www.truckeehistory.org and click to the Membership Pages

Membership Questions? Contact membership@truckeehistory.org or call 530.582.0893