

Founded July 24, 1968 and
designated a 501(c)(3) in July 1971



Truckee Donner Historical Society
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Truckee, CA 96160
530-582-0893

MARCH 2015 ISSUE 1 www.truckeehistory.org

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well Hello Members!

Some very exciting things on our platter lately. We are currently at 971 Fans on our Facebook Page; we have now partnered in five (5) Historical talks at the Vets Hall; and the storage room inventory at the Old Jail Museum is almost complete.

The Brickelltown Street and Sidewalk Project portion that affects the jail is complete and it does look very nice, even if we had to lose some of the exercise yard in the front. The majority of it still exists inside the covered walkway. We have gained a new permanent bench in front and come spring time, the work will continue on our new driveway and the improvements to the garden. If anyone is interested in being on that committee, please contact us. We will be reinforcing the garden wall with rock from the old fire wall that was located to the East of Moody's. The Town of Truckee has been storing that for us and also the original granite from the Victory Highway Eagle Monument. Those items will be incorporated into the improvements. We have held off doing anything in the garden as we knew the driveway was going to be redone. Once it is finished we will have a larger paved area to hold small functions, and we will have electricity back into the garden. Our goal is to plant those species that bloom and are hardy enough to survive in the garden. There will also be pockets of "instant-color." The design is on hand for viewing. Our ice molds will be moved to the East Side of the driveway to protect them. They were hit early on this winter, apparently by a snow plow, so a temporary planter will be erected in front to bring color to that facade. We now have a beautiful view of the Victory Highway Eagle Monument from our driveway.

We are in the design stage of re-doing the Ice exhibit downstairs at the Old Jail Museum. There will be a replica of the Tahoe Ice Company office and new staging of our ice tools and photos. We are also looking into creating a full display for Hobart Mills and putting the Hobart Mills Time Capsule on Display.

We are also in the process of re-doing our 1981 book, *Fire and Ice*. This involves a volunteer adopting a chapter and subsequent

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 24th 7 p.m.

Truckee Railroad History Alive! Series -
third & last in the series
Logging by Rail: Truckee and the Comstock Load
Relationship among Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber
Company, Hobart Estates, and Incline
Presenter - Gene Rogers, Chief Conductor / Engineer
Nevada Northern Railroad
Special Showing 6 - 6:30 p.m. of the 1898 Hobart
Mills Time Capsule

Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Joseph Research Cabin open to the public
(also available by appointment)
Old Jail Museum (private tours available by
appointment only; wear your jacket - it's cold)

Fourth Thursday each month, 2:30 p.m.
Truckee Donner Historical Society Board meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

TDHS Annual Dinner - Marty's Cafe

* Due to inclement weather, the Mystic Hike originally scheduled for
February 7th was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

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round-table discussions to determine if anything needs to be re-vamped. We will be adding some of the later years to the book to bring about a fuller view of Truckee's History.

These are just some of the projects that we are currently involved in. If you have any time and these sound enticing

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

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to you, please contact us and we will work around your hours.

Events that are currently in discussion for us to represent the Society are: March 24, 2015: *Truckee History Alive - Railroad Series* to be held at the Veteran's Hall, 7:00 p.m. **Gene Rogers** will present a program *Logging by Rail: Truckee and the Comstock Load - Relationship among Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company, Hobart Estates, and Incline*. The Mystic Hike will be rescheduled. Going into summer we will have Truckee Thursdays. We have partnered with **TOAST** (Truckee Open Artist Studio Tour) to hold an Historical Truckee Art Showing on July 18th as an after party from the Old Timer's Picnic. Old Timers will be from 10-3/4 p.m.; the Art Show will be at the Vet's Hall 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. On that note, if you have any paintings done by local artists 1920s – 1980s and would be willing to have them in the show, please contact me at cmortier@truckeehistory.org to discuss. I am

Continued from page 1 **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

An event to remember! On January 15, at the Truckee Veterans Memorial Building, Dr. Barbara Czerwinski, ably assisted by Dr. Edmund Czerwinski, give an oral and slide presentation to over 140 people. It brought to life the human side of the *City of San Francisco* train that became snowbound from January 13, 1952 to January 16, 1952.

Dr. Czerwinski did original research on the event, including the first to assemble an almost complete list of the passengers, listings of Southern Pacific and local personnel, who they were and the roles they played. Photos of that event are available at this link (<http://bit.ly/1wIW17M>).

VICTORY HIGHWAY EAGLE MONUMENT REDEDICATION

On Friday, February 13, the Victory Highway Eagle was rededicated in its new home at the corner of Donner Pass Road and Bridge Street in downtown Truckee. One of only six such bronze sculptures produced, the Victory Eagle was designed to honor the Veterans and casualties of World War I. The statue depicts an eagle with its wings spread protectively over two young eaglets in its aerie symbolizing the United States' protection of its citizens. The six statues were originally produced in the 1920s and were meant to mark county lines along the Victory Highway route crossing the United States from New York to San Francisco, but when the Great Depression hit, private funding dried up.

This statue was originally installed near the California/Nevada border from 1928 to the 1970s before being removed and put into storage due to vandalism; on display at the Truckee Train Depot from 1998 - summer 2011; then on display at the Truckee Town Hall in 2013 until the Victory Plaza was completed in 2015 as part of the Brickelltown Streetscape Project. Please stop by the statue to read the dedication plaque as well.

Photos on page 7; also see this link (<http://bit.ly/1B8twaf>) for the plaque dedication language

SEEKING SUMMER DOCENTS FOR OLD JAIL MUSEUM

Summer is fast approaching (although the weather in Truckee seems like it's already here) and starting Memorial Day through Labor Day Truckee's Old Jail Museum will be open on the weekends, holidays and Truckee Thursdays. We are looking for docents to give visitors jail tours, some of the history of the jail and museum and Truckee in general. You don't have to be an expert in the history, the Historical Society trains and mentors docents.

If you are interested call 530-582-0893 and tell us how to contact you or e-mail the "docent master," Karl Pape at kdpage@me.com.

sure I have left something out of our schedule but we will be posting an update on our website by mid-March. Thank you again for all of your support. This is **YOUR** history and **YOUR** Society.

Chau Mortier

JIBBOOM STREET LADIES GARDEN

Chaun Mortier

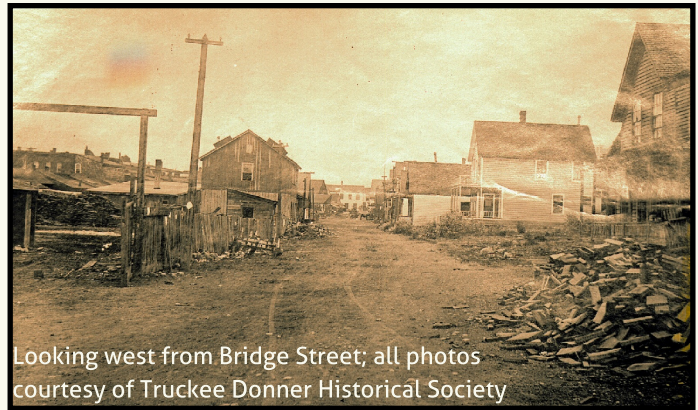
Mary Graney "Cockeyed Frankie"	
Lottie Margaretts Duane	Died Aug. 26, 1886
Florence Cavanaugh, *Gurtie Sikes, Grace Sikes	Died Jan. 14, 1887
Lucy Ettrales	Died Oct. 20, 1893
A. Morrison	
Sally Hammond *Katie Duane	Died Dec. 17, 1888
Adella Comilets Garcia, *Scar Faced Charlie	Died Oct. 24, 1893
Mary Rivers, *Spanish Mary, Mary Salusa	
Child of Mary Salusa	Buried July 17, 1894
Child of Mary Salusa	Died June 6, 1895

These are just names and dates on a piece of paper but at one time they lived and worked the world called Jibboom Street. Well known for its Boarding Houses and "cribs" that held those women whose lives were dictated by the alcohol, drugs and money they could gain in the world of Prostitution, but *who* were they? If one is to go off traditional history written about "Soiled Doves," their lives were harsh, filled with abuse and horrors. But my question is, did they walk the river as we do now; did they sit in the sunshine of a beautiful spring morning in Truckee; did their children play in the snow? All questions that will always remain unanswered but I would like to think they enjoyed moments in Truckee as much as we do.

There is no mention of the names in the census records, only in the burial records. There are no headstones, only the sign placed by those that cared that they are buried there. The names are in the original journal for the Truckee Cemetery District. The burial site was outside the fence at the time of the deaths but they were recorded for all eternity; so they are not totally lost. Women and children living on a street of shame. Does anyone else wonder what it may have been like for the children? Were they forced to follow the footsteps of their mothers?

There are a lot of questions regarding this street up to modern times. The current and persistent question is - was the building at the far east of Jibboom a house of prostitution? To answer that, research would say no, it was not built for that purpose. It was a Motor Hotel for Old Highway 40. The second question, "Was it used for that?" Some say yes; others no. All society can say for a fact is that it was not erected for that purpose. The original cribs were where the dirt parking lot is now and were torn down

years ago. Roy Baker, past president of the Truckee Donner Historical Society remembered the cribs being active in 1954. ** indicates also known as*



Looking west from Bridge Street; all photos courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society



Motor Hotel, unknown year

On the 1885 Sanborn map, the area of Jibboom was listed as "Houses of Ill Fame" (<http://bit.ly/1BRztof>); in 1890, the houses do not show; and on the 1898 map, they are shown as "Female Boarding" Houses (<http://bit.ly/1HRqDiZ>), the most famous being Dot's Place. Dot's Place was the last standing confirmed house but was torn down in 2000. Dot's place was owned by Dorothy E. Lane who owned the building from 1928-1936. She was the girlfriend of Jack (John) Noonan, bartender at the *Pastime*. John was located in the census records as living on Church St. and Bridge St. He is buried in the Truckee Cemetery Masonic Section but does not have a Headstone. Dorothy was located in the 1930 census as living on Main (Jibboom) St. It is interesting to note that she is listed with several other women, all showing no occupation. At this time Dorothy is listed as a head of household, owns her own home and is worth \$2,000. Dorothy was also an active voter showing up in the 1922 Voter registration.

POLARIS AND THE TAHOE ICE COMPANY

Tom Macaulay

There isn't much to see today at the Polaris site: no buildings, no signs and no monuments. The signs for the sites of Proctor, Winstead, railroad siding, and Polaris have been removed. There is a short road from Glenshire Drive to an abandoned railroad crossing which led to the Polaris site which is easily missed. If you look carefully across the Truckee River, you might note a stone wall of native rock from the old Tahoe Ice Company ice pond.

The old Polaris site is more easily seen from the top of the small bluff to its north. A rough dirt road leads from the abandoned site of the US Forest Service Polaris campground, about one mile to the east and previously the location of the California Department of Agriculture "Bug" station, to the hill above Polaris.

The current site tells a colorful story of David vs. Goliath, entrepreneurs, technology, legal intrigues and the always present Central Pacific Railroad.

The story begins with the valuable price of ice prior to the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad. The inhabitants of Virginia City, Sacramento and San Francisco cooled their drinks and occasionally other things with ice that had come from Boston or Alaska ... a very costly commodity.

With the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1868, a new and greater demand for ice arose. Note 1. Ice allowed produce from the Central Valley of California to be shipped to eastern markets and ice could be shipped to cool the miners in Virginia City. But to make these journeys they needed two things: cheap ice, and a year-round supply ... Truckee filled the need.

Starting in 1868 at Boca Reservoir, ice companies began producing ice for the growing market. Other companies joined the competition in the coming years, mostly along the Truckee River.

In 1886, a group of three men and their wives formed the Tahoe Ice Company. John F. Moody, a prominent

businessman, hotel owner and stage line operator was President; Warren Richardson, a prominent lumberman with mills in Martis Valley and Truckee, Secretary; and Thomas McAulay, a self-taught mechanical engineer with a number of patents and twenty years of experience building, harvesting and selling ice at the Summit Valley Ice Company, Superintendent. Thomas was known as "Pioneer Tom." Notes 2, 4.

McAulay was instrumental in using the existing geography to build the necessary ponds at the site. A seventy-five foot dam was built to form the main 80 acre pond that was used to make the ice product and a number of clearing ponds where water was left to stand and sediment was allowed to settle out of the water. In addition, a wagon road was also built over the dam allowing access to the ice pond, stables and warehouse on the south side. On the north side, the Central Pacific Railroad built the Winstead siding.

Although the Tahoe Ice Company was a small operation in contrast to the other ice companies, its efficiency allowed it to compete effectively. Note 3. The largest ice warehouse in the area, 148 feet by 292 feet by 24 feet with a capacity for 20,000 tons was built below the pond level allowing ice to flow from the pond to the ice house by gravity, a major labor-saving measure not so enjoyed by other competitor ice operators. The size of the warehouse was also an advantage allowing for storing ice throughout the year.

Shipping was also an advantage. Horsepower lifted the ice from the warehouse to the top of the dam which was above the railroad siding and gravity again moved ice to the top of rail cars for loading. The Tahoe Ice Company continued to operate in this fashion until about 1922 when mechanical refrigeration displaced natural ice.

The ice operations were a model of efficiency, but management was a different item. There were five lawsuits during the period from 1886 to 1900. Four of the five were Tom McAulay suing the officers of the Tahoe Ice Company, mostly over money and one against the Union Ice Company. There was also a consolidation of ownership until Warren Richardson

effectively controlled the company. In 1900, the Tahoe Ice Company was sold to the National Ice Company. Note 4.

Note 1. To see a sample advertisement for ice from a competitor in an 1894 San Francisco City Directory for "Pure Mountain Ice," see this link ; <http://bit.ly/1vfsqZs> .

Note 2. In July of 1886, prior to the incorporation of the Tahoe Ice Company, John Moody purchased land from the C.P.R.R. (Section 7 of township 17 North Range 17 East) except the C.P.R.R. right of way, for \$630.70. In November of that same year, Moody sold the same land to the Tahoe Ice Company for \$1,000.

Note 3. The *Truckee Republican* and the *Nevada Daily Transcript* routinely reported on construction progress of the Tahoe Ice Company and later, ice production amounts.

Note 4: One of Tom McAulay's descendants eventually inherited familial correspondence and in 1977 produced a book called *Durable Material: the Life and Letters of Emma E. McAulay*. An apparent testy divorce between "Pioneer Tom" and his first wife Emma led to repeated financial difficulties and left him a pauper in later years. Notably, there is also a detailed account of the ice production process in these papers.

Editor's Notes:

If you haven't had an opportunity to explore the Truckee River Legacy Trail yet, you are in for a treat. Be sure to look at the interpretive plaques that have been erected for visitors to learn more about the area and its history. Link, slides 11 & 12; <http://bit.ly/1Fr9muO> .

And, in 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, while inspecting the Martis Creek Dam for structural integrity using technologically advanced LiDAR capability, discovered a new earthquake fault line which the U.S. Geological Survey subsequently named the "Polaris Fault" in memory of the old Polaris mining town. See Link, slide 8; and a *Live Science* reporting link, <http://bit.ly/1vfExWH>. Also see Tom Macaulay's earlier 2012 article, *Forgotten Names and Ghosts Along the Truckee River*; link, p. 5; <http://bit.ly/1lSdFw2>.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society.



Tahoe Ice Company newcomer McAulay

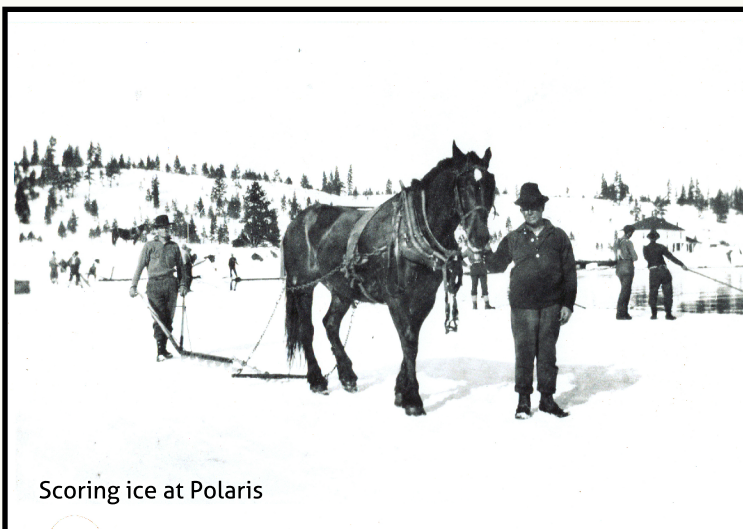


Tahoe Ice Company, Polaris



Polaris, 1976

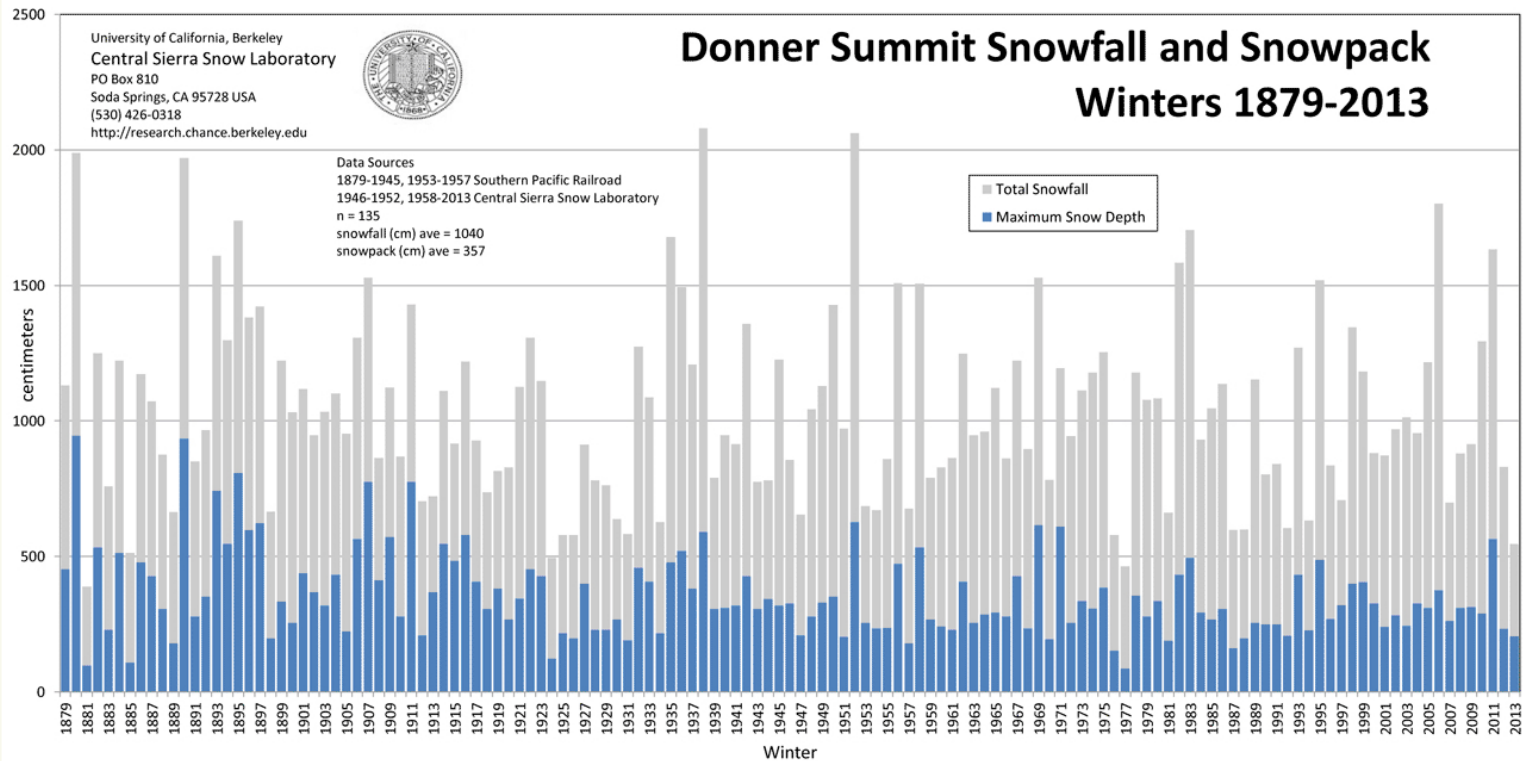
One of our TDHS researchers also happened upon a VHS tape of this article's author, Tom Macaulay, actually demonstrating how ice was harvested in the Truckee area. Link; <http://bit.ly/1zKjoz5>.



Scoring ice at Polaris

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Echoes From The Past Newsletter



Provided courtesy of Randall Osterhuber, UC Berkeley, Central Sierra Snow Laboratory, PO Box 810, 10162 Bunny Hill Road, Soda Springs California 95728. In case you were wondering just how much snow this area has - or hasn't had - over the last hundred plus years, this chart provides a great visual cue as to how much snow the area has actually experienced. See also Mark McLaughlin's recent article in the Sierra Sun.

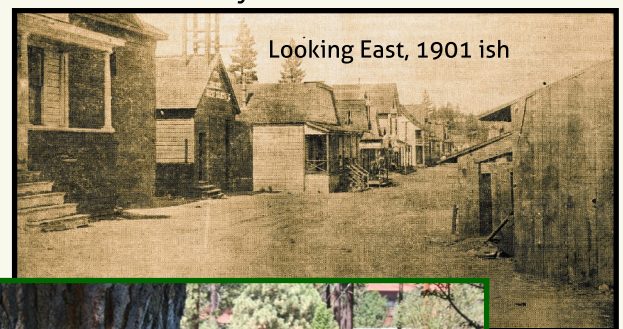
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Looking at a small rundown of the residents of Jibboom Street from the memories of old timers in 1914, there was a fire that destroyed most of the buildings and two dance halls, *The Redlight* and *The Truckee*. In the 1920s, Ethel Marzen McBride related that there were at least 48 ladies living in 6 moderately small houses. In 1928 there were 30 "Magdelenas" and two dance halls, one being the *Sierra Dance Hall*. Frank Titus remembers there being three operating houses in the 1940s. There was also a recollection of the *Tin Can* (10116 Jibboom) being a brothel in the 1940s and a bootleg location during prohibition. Doug Barrett recalled that until at least 1953 there was an operating business on Jibboom. Rumor has it when the big clean up came for the 1960 Olympics that the last of the operation was eradicated.



Dot's place July 2000

Truckee was a hard place to live and even harder for women who had fallen on harsh times. They were not all "Spring Chickens," as Carrie Pryor; many were forced into the life by circumstances well beyond their control. So the next time you want to go for a walk and are not sure where, try the cemetery. Go by and leave a flower or two at the garden. Remember them as the people they were, not the life they lived.



Stay tuned in future issues for stories of these women.

OLD JAIL MUSEUM VISITOR INFORMATION

Just out of curiosity, the Editors decided to review the list of visitors who came to the Old Jail Museum during the last two years. Intrigued, we thought you would be as well.

In the summer of 2013, we had visitors from Addy, WA (great-grandson of E.J. Brickell); Knoxville, TN (great-grandson of Jacob Teeter); Oregon City, OR (visitor searching for ancestor George Middlewood); Lebanon, PA; Surprise, AZ; a member of the Washoe Tribe; relatives of Sam Coburn; a U.C. Davis researcher also related to the Teeter family; Manitowoc, WI; West Salem, WI; a visitor from the Doris Foley Library searching our obituary collection; and from the furthest distance, Holyoke, MA.

In 2014, we had visitors from Eugene OR, Mishicot, WI, Phoenix, AZ, Pleasant Grove, UT, Las Vegas, NV, and Roscoe, IL. The Old Jail Museum also welcomed visitors from the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, a CHP officer looking for information about Truckee constables, as well as various groups.

One of our Board members also compiled a list of visitors from various states. This might be of interest to you.

Unofficial Count per Guest Book of Old Jail Visitors and Origin for 2014 for **USA:**

Bay Area	69	Truckee Area	18	Las Vegas, Nevada	4
Sacramento Area	24	Reno, Nevada	12	Utah	3
Gold Country Area	23	Napa, Santa Rosa	9	Wisconsin	3
Southern California	20	Florida	6	New York	3
Washington State	19	Oregon	6	Connecticut	3
				Texas	3

and from overseas in **Europe:**

England	8	Sweden	4	Germany	3
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Please get involved with your Truckee Donner Historical Society (TDHS). The only way we can offer programs and events is if **YOU**, as a volunteer, step up and get involved. TDHS is an all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) organization so any and all donations are gratefully appreciated and tax deductible. Our mailing address is Truckee Donner Historical Society, P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160.

Number of Docent Hours for 2014 - 116. Number of "clicker" Visitors for 2014 - 2,593. Just in case you didn't know, the Old Jail Museum is one of the oldest jails in California and one of the few remaining original buildings in Truckee. It is presently registered as an official Point of Historical Interest (Nevada004) with the Nevada County Historical Landmark Commission and is considered a Class A Historical Structure. (Link 1 <http://bit.ly/1z8PPY>; link 2 <http://bit.ly/1CUutTO>.)

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Original location of Victory Highway Eagle Monument near the California / Nevada border from 1928 to the 1970s.



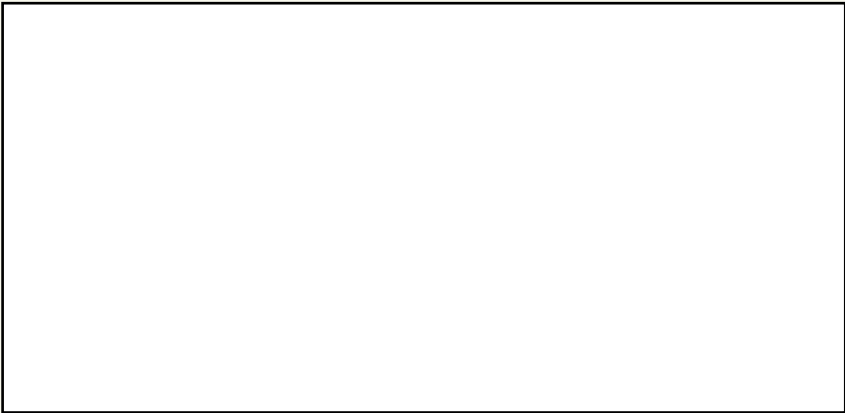
Above and below: Rededication Day, Victory Highway Eagle Monument, February 13, 2015; photos courtesy of Chris Turner.





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Contact me on ways I can volunteer Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail Museum? Yes / No

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions:

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