



Echoes From The Past

Celebrating 42 Years
1968 - 2010

FALL 2010

TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume XXVIII Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

While doing research for this year's Historical Haunted Tour fundraiser, I was finding myself at a loss for where to get some of the necessary information. I depend on the help of Chaun Mortier, our Research Historian, and Katie Holley, our Research Librarian. These women took time out of their busy research schedules to pull the files out and start digging. This is the frustrating part of being a historian: it's fun to dig through files when you have plenty of time, it's absolutely maddening when you're staring down the barrel of a deadline. At this very frustrating fork in the road, Chaun handed me a packet of information about one of the buildings on the Tour. There were dates, names, and copies of the original newspaper articles. . .all in chronological order! She had pulled all this together for me in a few hours, putting her "to do" list aside to start looking for "my" information. At that moment I realized we have jumped to the next level of research.

The Joseph Research Library has come a long way since my first years as President in the 1990s. Having volunteers who staff the library every week has brought in so many people looking for information. We see architects who want to study historic building to use in their designs, families who are searching for information on their ancestors and people who just want to look at some really cool old photos of Truckee. Our staff of committed volunteers work very hard to help our visitors with their research requests and have now moved on to important library archival projects. We now have a Collections Committee and are sorting through, organizing and properly archiving our large collection of artifacts. I am very proud of all our volunteers for their hard work and it is my pleasure to represent the Board as President of the Truckee Donner Historical Society for yet another year. Here's to a productive year!!

Chelsea Walterscheid, Your TDHS President

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR 2010-2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Chelsea Walterscheid
Vice President: Judy Dunlap
Treasurer: Dennis Beegley
Recording Secretary: Barbara Schlumpf
Corresponding Secretary: Billie Cornell
Board Member: Don Colclough
Board Member: Chaun Mortier

Board Members who serve by appointment as Committee Chairs:

Research Library: Katie Holley
Community Memorial Garden: Bob Bell
Publications: Patty Spielmann
Old Jail Museum Curator: Chelsea Walterscheid
Membership: Billie Cornell

Welcome new board members, Dennis, Barbara and Chaun.
Thanks go out to Chelsea, Billie, Judy, Don, Katie, Bob and Patty
for continuing with their dedicated service to TDHS.

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calendar of events:

Oct 2 - 3 Donner Party Hike

Oct 21 - 22 Historical Haunted Walking Tour

Dec 5 Christmas At The Cabin ... **SAVE THE DATE!**

2010-2011

Executive Board

Chelsea Walterscheid
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Judy Dunlap
VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara Schlumpf
RECORDING SECRETARY

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COMMUNITY MEMORIAL GARDEN

Chelsea Walterscheid
OLD JAIL MUSEUM CURATOR

Patty Spielmann
PUBLICATIONS CHAIR

Katie Holley
RESEARCH LIBRARY

Billie Cornell
MEMBERSHIP

Echoes From The Past

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Billie Cornell
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TDHS E-NEWS EDITOR
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Board meetings held on the 4th Tuesday of the Month at 6pm September meeting is the Annual Dinner

SURPRISE GIFT FROM TDHS MEMBER DON TITUS

By Judy Dunlap

Long-time TDHS member, Don Titus, surprised us over the weekend of the Ice Cream Social by traveling up from his home in the Bay Area to work in the Community Memorial Garden. Don spent most of the day on Friday, weeding and cleaning up the garden prior to the festivities. The garden and back yard patio looked wonderful. Don then returned to the Ice Cream Social to participate in the festivities. He contributed to the fundraising by eating ice cream throughout the afternoon. We won't share how much, after all we weren't counting! To top it all off, Don surprised us even further by coming back to the garden on Sunday and sanded and varnished all of the benches, tightened bolts, and purchased new lock chains to replace those that were missing! He also did more garden clean-up and did some new planting. Thank you, Don, so much, for all of the work that you did over the weekend. We at TDHS appreciate your hard work, and all of your support to the organization throughout the year. Don was also one of the winners of the vintage Truckee photo raffle prizes.



Don is a member of one of the early Truckee families, the Titus Family. He is the great-grandson of John C. Titus who was the first member of his family to settle in Truckee. John C. Titus was born in New York City. At the age of 3, he left New York with his parents for the Pacific where his father was to captain a ship. When they reached the mouth of the Sargass River, the party was attacked and his parents were killed. Titus was seized by a captain of a nearby boat and rushed aboard. A crewmember William Brigham adopted the young John. A few years later, John and his adoptive father settled in Sierra Valley. At 13, Titus left home because he was not happy with the ill treatment he received from Brigham. He moved to Nevada and obtained a position as a cowboy for Richard Kirman, the father of the Governor of Nevada who had an extensive cattle business. While he was employed by Kirman, he met and married Julia Williams.

In May 1909, the couple moved to Truckee and made it their home. They became active in civic and fraternal affairs, serving with the Odd Fellows, Encampment and the Rebekah Lodge. Julia and John had three sons — Frank A., John W. and William E.

Frank A Titus (Don's grandfather) married Flora Rasabell Cottrell of Carson City. He was contracted by Bliss Brothers to work on the survey team which was working on the narrow-gauge railroad between Truckee and Tahoe City. He also worked with Wally Gelatt in the first winter sports enterprise in California. Frank and Flora had three children, one of which was Jack, Don Titus's father. We are so lucky to have Don as a member of the Truckee Donner Historical Society and our friend. He has always been very supportive of the work we do, and shares much of the history of his family with us, including great old photographs.

Thank you Don for all of the work you did over the weekend on the Community Memorial Garden, and thank you for your enthusiasm and support of TDHS!

Resources: Truckee Republican Feb 1, 1940 | Truckee Republican Nov 11, 1954 | TDHS Research Library

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome to our Newest TDHS Supporting Members. — Thank You to All Our Members
§ Barbara Schlumpf § Annie Raber § Edmund and Barbara Czerwinski §
§ Bob and Marice Hobbs § Ann McBride § Chet and Ingrid Eccles § Les Atkins §
§ John T. Gallo § Jim and Jeannie Hentz § Truckee Donner Railroad Society §

For membership questions contact Billie Cornell bcornell@truckeehistory.org

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS By Judy Dunlap

As we begin our new year, with a new Board of Directors, I would like to thank everyone who agreed to serve the Truckee Donner Historical Society either by accepting a board position or a committee position. For many years all of the TDHS board members have worn more than one hat; serving in positions where they take care of the administrative duties and keeping the organization afloat. These duties, in of themselves, take a lot of personal time and commitment. In addition, board members serve as Committee Chairs, and in many instances these are “committees of one.” In spite of this core group of dedicated volunteers doing the jobs of many, we have been able to accomplish more than just keeping the organization afloat, we have grown! We have been able to expand our offerings of special events and activities, obtain grant money to put a new roof on and paint the Research Library Cabin, obtain assistance from the Town of Truckee Redevelopment Agency to put a long over-due roof on the Old Jail Museum, obtain a grant to update our technological resources to document our artifacts and acquisitions and move closer to having a history database which is searchable via the internet, realize the goal of our predecessors to create a research library open to the public, expand our photo catalog collection by scanning photos, and offering a greater selection of vintage Truckee photos to non-profit agencies, the Town of Truckee for use in conducting town business, history authors, local publications, and members of our community. In other words, we have come a long way; however we have more to do in realizing our goals of preserving Truckee’s historical legacy.

So, I would like to let you know some of the areas that you, the members of TDHS, can participate in helping us ALL to achieve our goals. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the following committees:

1) **One-Time Events:** Members who are willing to work in the planning and coordinating of the following one time annual events:

§ **Donner Party Hike** – Scheduled for Oct 9, 2010. Work with the committee chair to help set-up and break-down our table, where we sell our history books and photos to the participants of the Donner Party Hikes. Contact: Billie Cornell at bcornell@truckeehistory.org.

§ **Old Timer’s Truckee Reunion Picnic/Ice Cream Social** – Scheduled for summer 2011. Work with committee chair to plan and coordinate this annual event. Next year we will be combining our Picnic with the Ice Cream Social to make this a super-duper fun summer activity. Contact: Judy Dunlap at jdunlap@truckeehistory.org.

2) **Old Jail Museum:** We are looking for at least two volunteers who can commit to working with Old Jail Museum Chair to schedule volunteer docents during the summer months that the museum is open. This requires phone calls to our volunteer docent list, making sure that the museum is fully staffed. We are also ALWAYS in need of volunteers who are willing to work as docents in the Old Jail Museum during our summer season and for special group tours. Contact: Chelsea Walterscheid at cwalterscheid@truckeehistory.org.

3) **Community Memorial Garden:** Members who are willing to work under the supervision of the Community Memorial Garden Chair, and the Master Gardener Volunteer, to help keep our garden clean, groomed, beautiful and thriving. Contact: Bob Bell at bellbob@sbcglobal.net.

4) **Research Library:** Members who are interested in working under the supervision of Research Librarian and Research Historian conducting research in response to requests received from our website and the community. Members who are interested in working under the supervision of our Photo Archive Chair, with our vintage photo collection, to continue the on-going process of scanning and archiving our vast photo collection. Contact: Katie Holley at kholley@truckeehistory.org.

Committee Sub-Chairs:

1) **Press/Publicity** – Working under the supervision of Corresponding Secretary to manage our publicity/press. Issuing press releases periodically, sharing with the community what is happening with TDHS, i.e. sharing the good news, and providing announcements and publicity for our upcoming special events. Prepared Press Kit is available. Contact: Judy Dunlap at jdunlap@truckeehistory.org.

2) **Newsletter** – Working under the supervision of Corresponding Secretary to assist and/or produce our quarterly newsletter, “Echoes from the Past.” This role can start out small, writing news articles, and submitting to the Newsletter Editor, and can be expanded into taking over the editor duties of writing, producing, arranging for printing and mailing our quarterly newsletter. Contact: Judy Dunlap at jdunlap@truckeehistory.org.

3) **Written Correspondence** – Working under the supervision of Corresponding Secretary to send out cards and correspondence to our membership and friends, acknowledging gifts and donations and acknowledging the passing of members and their family members. Contact: Judy Dunlap at jdunlap@truckeehistory.org.

This certainly doesn’t cover all of the volunteer opportunities that are available with YOUR Truckee Donner Historical Society, but I am hoping to give you some ideas of where you can participate. If you would like to speak with me about any of these opportunities for service, or share some of your own ideas, I would love to speak with you.

Please contact me at (530) 582-1178 or at jdunlap@truckeehistory.org.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

CHAUN FINDS A LIVE ONE AT THE CEMETERY!

You never know how a volunteer will come about joining your organization.

Barbara Schlumpf wanted to find the graves of two of her husband's ancestors so that she could have markers placed on them. Her husband, Dennis, is the grandson of Truckee Constable August "Gus" Schlumpf, who served here in the early 1900s. Barbara contacted Chaun Mortier for help in her search, as Chaun not only is the TDHS Research Historian but also is the archivist for the Truckee Cemetery.

Chaun easily led Barbara to the graves she sought, but that was only the beginning. Conversation between the two revealed to Chaun that Barbara had a strong interest in local history and revealed to Barbara that the Truckee Donner Historical Society had a research library. Barbara was especially pleased to find out that she could do further research not only on her own projects but also on requests that come in to the Society.



Chaun wasted no time in letting Barbara know that we could use her considerable interest, family knowledge and skills, and Barbara began coming up from her home on the West Shore every Thursday to volunteer at the Joseph Research Library. She has become a huge asset to the team, pursuing research requests, accessioning artifacts in the collection, and assisting library patrons.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Research Library, or in working on any particular project, contact the research librarian. All volunteer efforts are welcome. You do not have to make a long-term commitment. You do not have to sit through long, dull meetings. You just need to let us know how you would like to contribute and we will match a project to your interests.

Contact Katie Holley, Research Librarian,
kholley@truckeehistory.org | 530-582-0893

SUNSHINE LETTER

The Truckee Donner Historical Society hosted their 6th Annual Ice Cream Social fundraiser Saturday August 21st. Our heartfelt thank you to those who donated toward this event.

We would like to thank Dave Dedman of Curren Distributors, Safeway Stores, Inc. and Coffee And for their donations toward our supplies.

A special thanks go out to Dennis Cook and the Railroad Regulators 601 for donating the ice cream again this year.

A tremendous hurray to Jody Sweet of Cabin Fever who performed a wonderful mix of music for the afternoon. We also thank ToTo the Clown, Toni Mason, for her spirit and enthusiasm and all of the face painting she performed on the children (and adults) who attended the event.

We at TDHS appreciate the support from all of the individuals who came to support the Old Jail Museum and helped us to raise funds for the much needed (ongoing) repairs to this wonderful and treasured piece of our community's history.

TDHS DISCOVERS DOCENT PARTNER!

Les Atkins and his life partner, Angela, having retired, moved to Truckee from the California wine country of Sonoma over a decade ago. Until a couple of years ago, Les had been leading Sierra Club trips, both backpacking and service trips in the Sierra and International trips, mostly to Ireland and Great Britain. Making yet another retirement decision from his Sierra Club work, Les looked for some other involvement. He decided volunteering at the Old Jail Museum would be a great



way to learn local history and to start *giving back* once more.

In the winter months both Les and Angela enjoy cross country skiing, and they round out their retirement by hiking Tahoe's many fabulous trails and enjoy their own travel escapades.

When Don Colclough found himself without his previous docent side-kick partner, Henry Murray (due to full-time personal family needs), he wasted no time in recruiting Les as his new right hand. According to Don, "Les is very enthusiastic, does a great job, and we enjoy working together. We could use *at least* 10 more like him. He's our new Henry Murray for our 3rd graders and Truckee Thursdays as well as other times. Les does a great job as the visitors like his presentation."

During this year's Ice Cream Social, Les was found at both the start and end of the day, guiding the final visitors (with a count of over 180 for the day!) through the jail.

OLD JAIL MUSEUM CORNER

For the third year in a row the Old Jail Museum participated in Truckee Thursdays by having it open to the public from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. weekly. As reported by Don Colclough, who worked with our newest docent Les Atkins, "once it got going Truckee Thursdays were very successful. The last one got us 76 visitors and that was a record." From the docent counting records, the normal number through on Thursday evenings ran between 40 to 50 visitors.

Don and Les worked every week together except for August 12th, when two other dedicated docents filled in their absence. Don also reported, "there were MANY interested visitors along with many verbal favorable comments."

JOSEPH RESEARCH LIBRARY CORNER

2010 Annual Report

Library visitors: 60

Research Requests: New: 101 Completed: 88 Active: 13

Sales/Donations: \$300 (sales include books and photographs)

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES:

Accessioning: We developed an accessioning process to properly document all items in our possession. Twenty-six collections have been accessioned; some collections are as simple as a single item (such as a brick) and some comprise numerous items (such as a photo album with 64 prints in it).

SQUAW VALLEY PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN CORBETT COLLECTION: Chaun culled out photographs from the John Corbett Collection that pertain to Squaw Valley history. Bill Clark, the Executive Director of the Auburn Ski Club and representing Squaw Valley Olympic Museum, took ownership of the photos and signed a use agreement governing the photos.

PAYING IT FORWARD: We sent photos from the John Corbett Collection to the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa. John Corbett worked for the U.S. Ordinance Department during the 1940s.

OPEN HOURS: Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For the year preceding September 28, 2010, the Research Library was open for 4 hours every Thursday; volunteer staff also scheduled additional hours on an as-needed basis for people from out-of-town. Total open hours were no less than 220.

VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Katie Holley: Research Librarian

Chaun Owens-Mortier: Research Historian

Dennis Beeghly: Photo Archivist

Barbara Schlumpf: Researcher and Archivist.


ONGOING WORK:

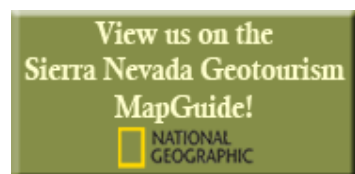
- Organizing and entering data from newspaper/ephemera files into database.
- Organizing and streamlining administrative files, separating archival from active files.
- Cataloging artifacts currently stored in the book closet.

GEOTOURISM NOMINATIONS

TDHS is proud to announce we have three nomination submissions for the National Geographic Geotourism Interactive Map Project. They are the:

- 1) Truckee Old Jail Museum & Community Memorial Garden
- 2) The Donner Cross
- 3) The Joseph Research Library

Please show your support by giving each of our nominations your  THUMBS UP! at the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide <http://www.sierranevadageotourism.org>



We should know by November if our nominations have been approved and will become part of this interactive legacy!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Truckee History Tour

Trails & Vistas, Truckee Donner Historical Society and Sunshine Tahoe present 2nd Annual Historical Haunted Walking Tour — You Won't Want to Miss This Year's Tour

When: Thursday, October 21 and Friday, October 22

5: 30 p.m. check in, first tour departs at 5:40 p.m.

Where: Begin at Moody's Bistro and visit scariest historic haunts in town: The Richardson House, Squeeze In, Old Jail Museum, The River Street Inn and Truckee Book and Bean

Cost: \$25. Includes a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage.

Buy tickets online now at <http://truckeehistorytour.com>

Last year's sold out in advance — Don't miss historic Truckee's haunts this year!

If you attended last year, experience something new in 2010.



The tour is for adults (ages 21+). KidZone will offer Professor Stickeybottom Halloween Science on Thursday, Oct 21 for ages 5+ from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Discounted to \$20 per child (if parents / caretaker have a ticket to the Tour). Call KidZone at (530) 587-5437 for reservations.

Producer: Sunshine Tahoe

Sponsors: Trails and Vistas | Truckee Donner Historical Society



Donner Party Hike

Mark Your Calendar for October 9 & 10

The Truckee Donner area is steeped in history. From ancient petroglyphs, to mountains scarred by overland wagons, tiny clues open these mountains to a world of discovery. Enjoy guided, interpretive hikes showcasing the spectacular beauty of Donner Summit and learn about emigrant history, the building of the transcontinental railroad including a walk through snowsheds, and High Sierra lakes.

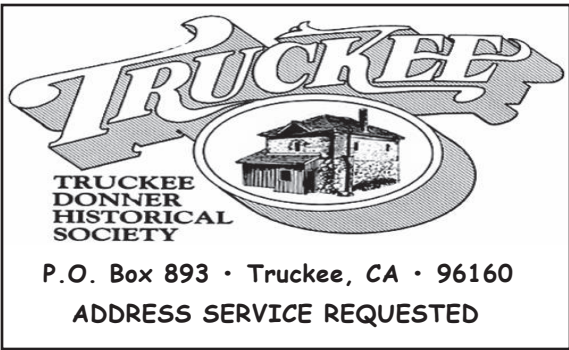
For detailed information about the hikes and the registration forms go to www.truckee.com or call the Truckee Chamber of Commerce at (530) 587-8808.

On Saturday only, TDHS will join the Donner Party Hike where we will sell our books, photos & Truckee Trivia game. Plan to see us at Sugar Bowl bright and early when the hikers check in. We will stay the day so there will be plenty of time to stock up on items for yourself or as gifts for the upcoming holidays. So don your hiking shoes, choose a walk or hike, and delve into Truckee's history.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CABIN

Final details are in the making for the annual Open House Celebration. If you'd like help coordinate this event contact Judy Dunlap. Otherwise, **SAVE THE DATE — DEC 5th.**

Look for details on our website or in future TDHS E-News.



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**SAVE THE DATE
 DECEMBER 5
 CHRISTMAS AT THE
 CABIN**



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:

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 **Go Echo-Friendly - eliminate mail delivery to receive your copy of Echoes From the Past via email
 Membership Questions? Contact membership@truckeehistory.org or call 530.582.0893