



41 YEARS
1968 - 2009

SPRING 2009

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Volume XXVIII Issue 1

Echoes From The Past

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

According to the calendar, it is officially springtime. This is when your Board of Directors begins to come out of hibernation, and get ready for our busiest time of the year. Our Old Jail Museum will be opening for the season next month. In preparation we will be gathering to do our "housekeeping" at the Jail and also begin to assist our garden in "springing" forth.

We will be having our Docent Training and Clean-up day on Saturday, May 9th. We are always looking for docents who would like to spend a few volunteer hours welcoming visitors to our museum. It is a great opportunity to meet people who travel to Truckee from all over the world, as well as the members of our community who bring family and friends to show off our very special piece of Truckee History. If you would like to volunteer to become a docent at the museum, please contact Chelsea Walterscheid at 530.305.4231.

We are also looking for gardeners this year. The economy is affecting TDHS, as it is everywhere in the community. We are not able to continue to pay for garden maintenance, so we are reverting back to our original plan to depend on the gracious gift of time from volunteers. We have received word from our member Patty Lomanto that she would like to lead the effort to keep the garden maintained for the season. If you would like to volunteer to assist Patty, please contact her at 530.582.0726.

On a sad note, I would like to send my condolences to the family of long time TDHS member Joy Horn. Joy was an incredible supporter of our organization. She contributed so much of her time in so many ways to helping

to preserve and promote Truckee's history. Joy was a very active docent in the Old Jail Museum and for many years, served as the volunteer who scheduled the docent's shifts so that we could keep the museum open during the summer months. Joy passed away on March 22, 2009 and she will be missed by many in our community. We would like to honor Joy with a plaque in our Community Memorial Garden, located behind our Old Jail Museum. If you would like to contribute in Joy's honor towards this plaque, please send your donation payable to TDHS at P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160, and designate it to go towards Joy's Memorial plaque honor.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission is made up of two appointees from each Supervisorial District in the County. There is an open Commission seat for District 5, which includes Truckee. This commission considers applications for historical landmark status and recommends adoption of landmark status to the Board of Supervisors.

Additionally the Commission recognizes, promotes and seeks to preserve the historical resources of Nevada County. The Commission meets the third Friday of each month at 9:00 am. Meetings are typically held in Nevada City, but the site can vary and usually includes one meeting a year in Truckee. If you are interested in becoming further involved in the preservation of our local history, and would like additional information regarding this opportunity, please contact Judy Dunlap at jdunlap@truckeehistory.org.

JUDY DUNLAP, TDHS President

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 13 - Jail opens for summer
July 18 - 29th Annual Old Timers' Picnic & Reunion
August 15 - 5th Annual Ice Cream Social
REMINDER: Contact Carmen LeBlanc to reserve a book from our Docent Lending Library
530. 582-5535 ~ cleblanc@truckeehistory.org

2008-2009

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webmaster@truckeehistory.org

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Historical Society**
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Board meetings held on the
4th Tuesday of the Month at 6pm
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WHEN "JIBBOOM STREET" BECAME "MAIN STREET" AND BACK AGAIN

Twenty-five years ago several Truckee citizens organized to request that one of the major streets downtown be restored to its original name. The run-of-the-mill name "Main Street," which runs east-west one block north of Commercial Row, was to give way to its predecessor. In 1983, correspondence with Nevada County resulted in approval being granted in 1984 to return the name to Jibboom Street.

Jibboom Street had been changed in 1953 to Main Street, a name that obscured some of Truckee's authentic past. Jibboom Street was best known in the Town's early days and into the 20th Century as the primary red-light district. One theory holds that the location for the jail at the western end of the street was chosen to serve as a deterrent to prostitution and other crimes that flourished there. Changing the name to Main Street was a way to reduce the focus on a less elegant part of community history.

The way that Jibboom Street juts out at an angle between Bridge and Spring Streets may have inspired the name: a jib boom is a nautical term, referring to "a spar forming a continuation of the bowsprit." The bowsprit is "a spar, extending forward from the stem of a ship, to which the stays of the foremast are fastened." [The American Heritage Dictionary.] Another explanation is more likely, however. Because it was common to have neighborhoods in seaside towns that offered prostitution, and perhaps because of the visual double entendre of a jib boom, "Jibboom Street" was once a nickname for an area of prostitution, just as "red-light district" is today.

In honoring the renaming Main Street to its historically accurate Jibboom Street, we experience again how history in its completeness can be indelicate, even bawdy (another word that derives from prostitution). Truckee never was a shy place in its days of railroads, logging, or ice harvesting. Authentic retelling of our past might even make a sailor blush.



View of Jibboom Street looking eastbound §
Elder Hostel Tour 6.18.07 § Photo property of TDHS

KATIE HOLLEY
TDHS BOARD MEMBER

MAY IS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH

Did you know that May is National Preservation Month? Did you know the theme of the month-long celebration for 2009 is "This Place Matters!?" Did you know TDHS will show its celebration by dedicating an entire web page reflecting the thoughts and opinions of some local Truckee children about Why "This Place Matters!?" If not, read on.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation created Preservation Week in 1971, to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts in America, has grown into an annual celebration observed by small towns and big cities across the nation. Due to its overwhelming popularity, in 2005 the National Trust for Historic Preservation extended the celebration to the entire month of May and declared it Preservation Month to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states and enable more Americans to become involved in the growing preservation movement.

One place that matters to your TDHS Board is the Old Jail Museum. During these difficult economic times, museums such as the Old Jail can provide novel experiences that open up our minds, expose us to new information and ideas, and spark creativity and curiosity. We can all benefit from exposing ourselves to fresh and unique experiences these days.

I personally invite local residents to visit the Old Jail Museum and other museums in our area, including the new Truckee Donner Railroad Museum opening up later this summer. You can experience first-hand how museums nourish minds and spirits by (cont. on pg. 3)

DOCENT TRAINING

On Saturday, May 9th from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Chelsea Walterscheid, our Old Jail Museum Curator will once again be conducting Volunteer Docent Training. This is the perfect time for a refresher or learn for the first time, the tools of the trade to serve as an Old Jail Museum docent. No prior docent experience is needed.



2008 Docent Training, photo by Billie Cornell

The docent work shifts are only 2.5 hours on Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer with Thursday early evenings during the Downtown Merchants 'Truckee Thursdays.'

Work as little or as often as you desire. It is impossible to have too many docents to showcase the gem of the Society. Posted hours for the jail are 11am - 4pm. Help us keep the doors open all summer long.

Docent training will begin at 2:30 p.m. & last about an hour. So come prepared to learn and ask *your* unanswered questions about Truckee's history. Contact Chelsea to sign up.

OLD JAIL CLEAN-UP

For anyone interested to obtain a more hands-on introduction to the Old Jail Museum, on Saturday, May 9 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Chelsea will be organizing all volunteers in helping to dust and clean the displays inside the jail to make them ready for our visitors and our docents-in-training.

Unable to attend the May 9th training? No worries, a personal training appointment can be arranged. Contact Chelsea to sign up for both the Docent Training and Jail Clean-Up or to make a personal training appointment. Chelsea 530.305.4231 § cwalterscheid@truckeehistory.org

(cont. from pg. 2). . . **PRESERVATION MONTH** fostering contemplation, exploration, and dialogue. By stepping away from the television, the computer, and your chores for the day and visiting a museum, you can create a memorable experience that transcends our woes for the day.

TDHS has contacted a few of our local elementary school kids and Cub Scouts to join us in celebrating the importance of our town's heritage by posing the question, *'Why This Place Matters!'* The only requirement was the *place* selected had to pertain to Truckee history. The results of this project will be posted on our website at www.truckeehistory.org. The May TDHS E-News will provide a direct link to this new web page once it is published.

The Old Jail will be open May 23rd & 24th for Memorial Day Weekend.

I hope to see you at our museum soon!
Billie Cornell

REMEMBRANCES OF JOY HORN

The Society has lost a valued volunteer, docent, and friend at the passing of Joy Horn in March. On our website, a remembrance will be added to our Remembrance Page to honor the treasure of a lady Joy was to so many people and organizations.

Her family is creating a website and memoriam for all of Joy's family and friends to access online to share their thoughts, stories and pictures. We will let you know when the family's web pages and our remembrance page have been completed so you too may share in the life of Joy Horn.

In the meantime, here are a couple of remembrances from board members who had the privilege to work closely with Joy as fellow docents and volunteers.



Christmas at the Cabin 2007 § Property of TDHS

With heartfelt condolences to Joy's family,
Billie Cornell

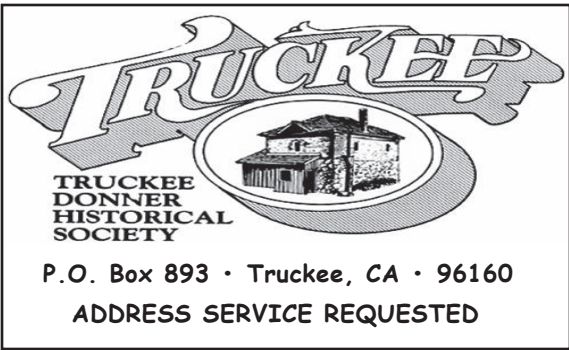
When I took over running the museum, the member who had been, left town. I was given Joy's name as a helper getting docents. Without her perseverance in making calls, the (Old Jail Museum) doors would not have been open as often as they were. She was a dedicated member of TDHS and we considered her a friend. She was a great gal and certainly will be missed
Don Colclough

My thoughts of Joy would be her dedication to keeping the Jail open with Docents all summer. I will so miss her cheerful voice calling for help...which I always loved saying YES to. And I agree with her son's comment that she was able to live her life without knowledge of the hidden illness...a blessing for Joy and her family. My love and prayers for Joy and her family!
Carmen LeBlanc

TDHS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for something to do that pertains to Truckee history? Look no further, TDHS has plenty of opportunities to fill your quest. Are your skills and interest with historical research, or do you enjoy old photographs? Maybe you are a great communicator, know how to raise funds in a challenging economy, or a wiz at grant writing? Or possibly you like to share stories of history with neighbors and visitors from afar? Maybe you are an organizer and enjoy detail? You may be someone who relishes in event planning or thrives behind a computer screen? Or maybe you just love gardening?

Did you recognize yourself above? Research historians, Photo Archivists, Publicity Chair, Fund-Raisers, Grant Writers, Museum Docents, Event Coordinator, Committee Members and Board Members are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to our need for more volunteers! Experience is a plus but time and enthusiasm are even better. Learn about Truckee history as you volunteer for the Truckee Donner Historical Society. Contact us today. Email Judy Dunlap at jdunlap@truckeehistory.org or leave a message at our research cabin 530.582.0893. We look forward to hearing from YOU!



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**MAY IS NATIONAL
 PRESERVATION MONTH**

**2009 THEME
 'THIS PLACE MATTERS'**

Check out our website to read what
 the local kids have to say about their
 favorite local historical Truckee
 'This Place Matters'
www.truckeehistory.org



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

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

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

**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: _____

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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