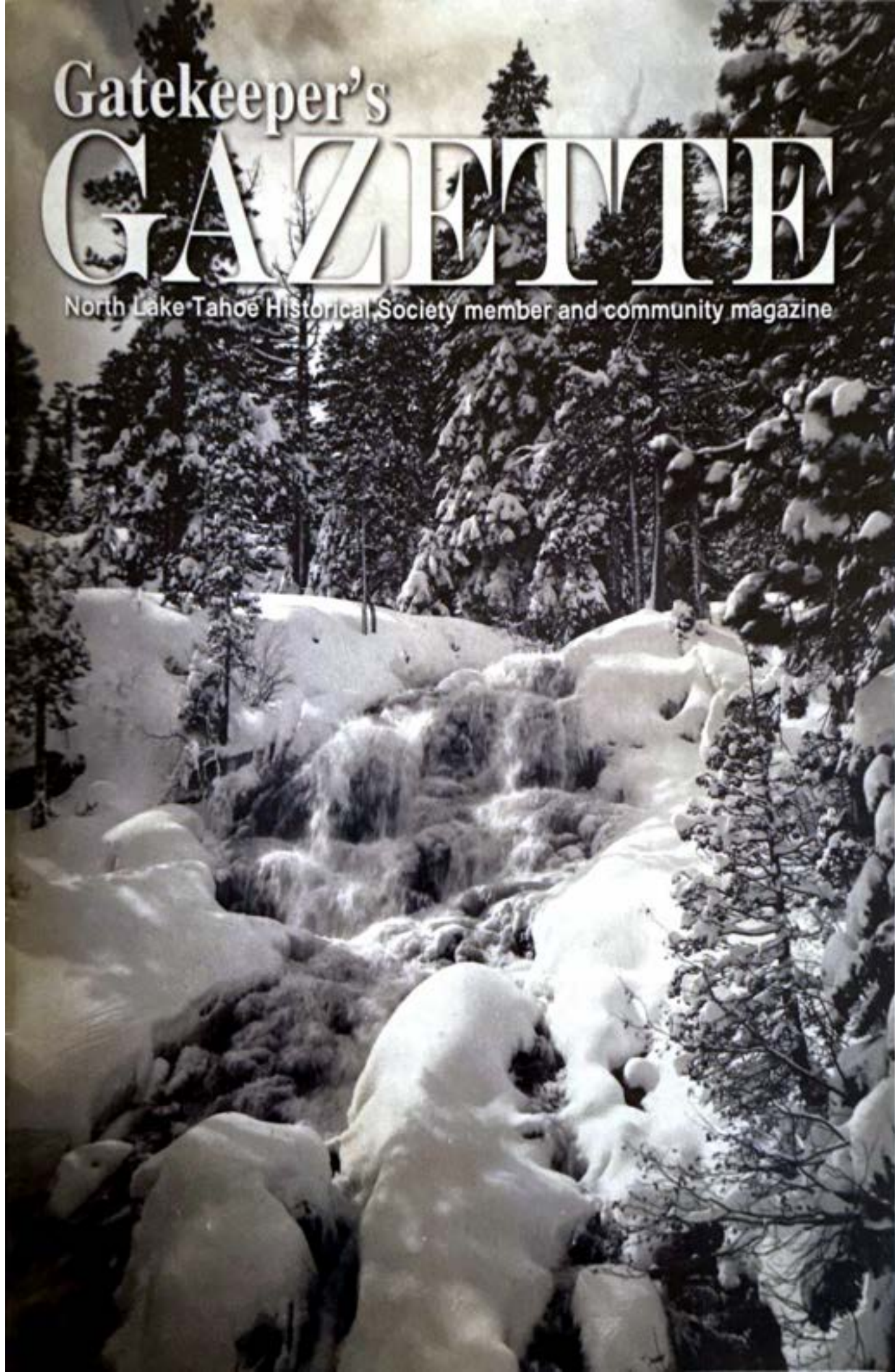
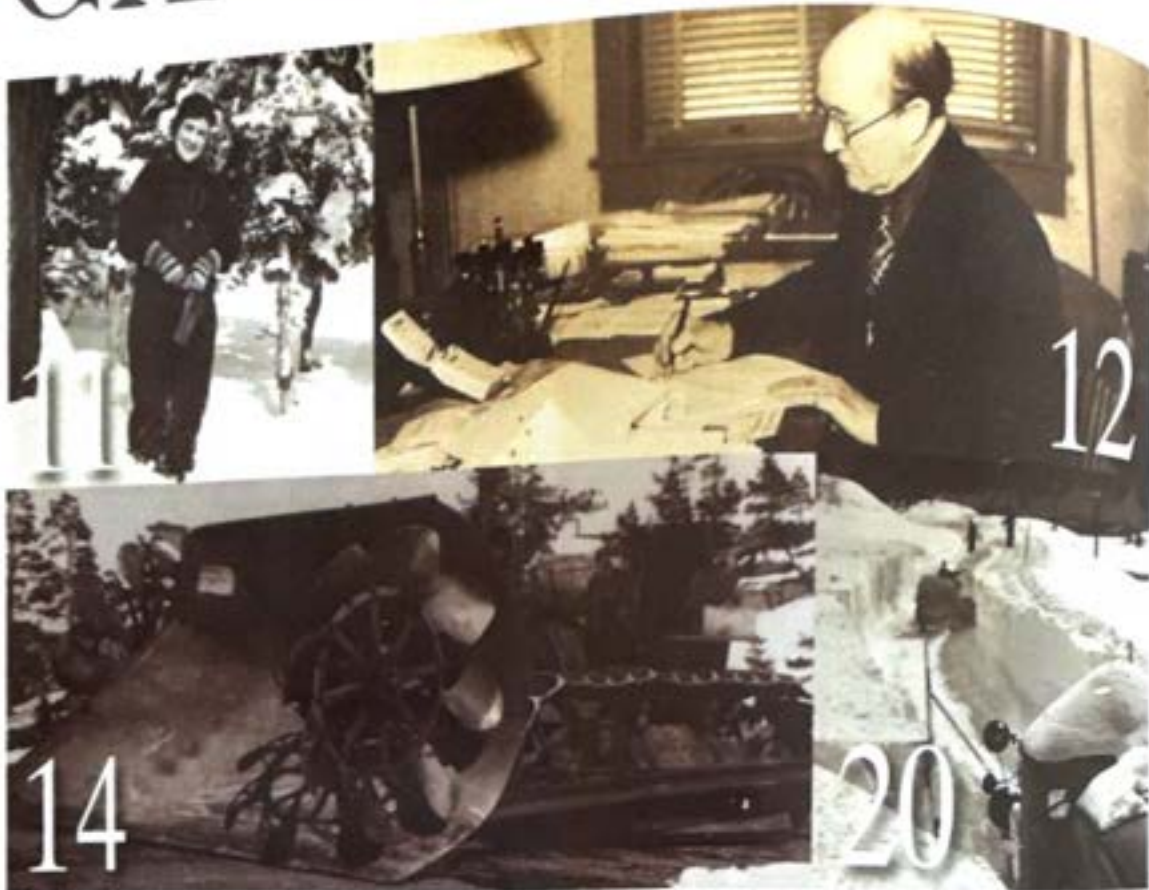


Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society member and community magazine



Gatekeeper's GAZETTE



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President's Message *By Jim Phelan*

Summer has come to a close and fall this year has been a typical Tahoe Indian summer, maybe even a little warm. Visitors to the Gatekeeper's Museum and William B. Layton Park continue to be quite steady. Beginning November 1, 2015, the Museum will be open to the public from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM each Wednesday through Saturday. Remember our Gift Shop as you think about holiday shopping!

As usual it was a busy summer season. We hope you were able to enjoy some of our unique fall events such as the Labor Day Dinner Cruise on the Tahoe Gal. It was fun, the food was great and fellowship among the Board and other volunteers was enjoyed. The Baby Face Nelson Dinner at the Blue Agave in October gave us information about the outlaw's stay at what was then The Tahoe Inn. Everyone enjoyed the informative talk, tour, dinner and the red eye shots! Thank you to Steve Topol for partnering with us. The lucky winners of the Basque Shepherders' Dinner, which was auctioned at the July Gathering at the Gatekeepers claimed their prize on October 11. The NLTHS Board and staff provided, prepared, and served a Basque dinner for ten at the old Wheeler Sheep Camp in Kyburz Flat between Truckee and Sierraville. The wine and food were amazing and the weather was perfect. Board member Paul Ackerman once again offered

his walking history tour of the area. We plan to repeat this event so watch for your opportunity to bid on it.

We continue to be a sought after venue for weddings and family reunions and other events. Our grounds were in use by a variety of individuals and organizations all summer and culminated with a final event, the well-attended Oktoberfest.

On October 1, the NLTHS Board and staff attended a retreat to identify goals for some of our programs and events to help them become more vibrant and consistent with member expectations. We considered input from our membership and will implement some of your ideas in the future.

Finally, we thank all of the people and organizations who continue to support us. Renewing your memberships, giving end-of-year donations, and remembering us in your will is crucial as we strive to accomplish our mission. And to our volunteers: we can't do it without you! Many thanks!

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GATEKEEPER'S MUSEUM & PARK

TAHOE'S EXCLUSIVE HISTORIC
Lakefront & Riverfront
GATHERING PLACE

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Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

Fall/Winter 2015

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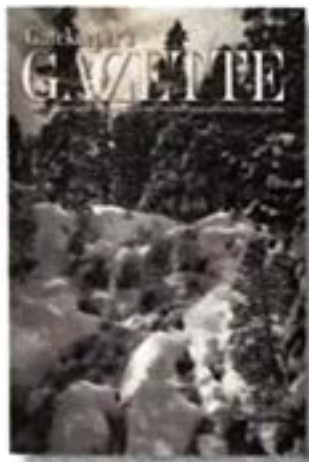
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Volume VI, Issue III

The *Gatekeeper's Gazette* is published three times a year by the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society and is free to all members. We welcome your comments and suggestions at info@northtahoemuseums.org. All images are from the collections of NLTHS unless otherwise noted.

About the cover
Photographer Arthur
Clarence Pillsbury
(1870-1946) titled
this 1906 photograph
"Eagle Falls in
Winter". It is part
of a compilation
entitled *Portfolio of
California Views*.
Pillsbury began his
photographic career
in 1894 and is best
known for his images
of Yosemite National
Park, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and time lapse
photography of flowers.



Executive Director's Message By Rebecca J. Phipps

Winter is my favorite season. In fact, in choosing a place to relocate, a large snow amount was one of the top requirements on my list. I do not participate in winter sports; I am a more passive lover of winter. I love coats and wearing layers of clothing, hot tea and cider, rib-sticking comfort foods, multiple quilts on the bed, flannel pajamas, the Nutcracker, and the festive holidays. I feel satisfaction in clearing the driveway and walks and stepping in freshly fallen snow where no one else has walked. Snowmen and snow angels, forts and snowball fights still beckon me. And I dream of the day I finally get to ice skate on a frozen pond!

While snowfall has been lacking here, Kansas and Missouri had record-breaking snowstorms and I wasn't home to experience them! Tahoe! Please make my snow dreams come true this year! But perhaps not as extreme as the winters of 1890 and 1951-1952! We have two hair-raising tales about these snowy winters in this issue. Mark McLaughlin recounts the storms of 1890 that left train passengers stranded and tested the new





WINTER SLED AT LAKE TAHOE TAVERN STUDIO Photo

invented rotary snowplow. Bud Jones tells of a frightful boat trip across the lake to obtain much needed supplies.

Winter and snow are obviously major aspects of life and culture in Tahoe. As a museum we collect artifacts to preserve and illustrate how our ancestors lived and how we currently live in our mountain communities. In our collections we have skis, ski poles, dog sleds, as well as images of storms, winter athletes, and snow covered houses. We also have a water bottle and scientific instruments belonging to Dr. James E. Church, Jr., the Father of Snow Surveying. You will also learn about him in this Gazette.

We are actively collecting winter artifacts. Barbara Clifford Colvin recently donated two Olympic records and Elinor Zappettini donated postcards depicting early 20th-Century snow storms. You too can donate! We particularly need winter outer and ski wear, boots, skates, children's sleds, ice harvesting implements, photographs, resort brochures and posters. Please search your basements, attics and trunks for items dating between 1890 and 1975.

I'm wishing for a real winter and hope to see you at the museum soon!

Volunteer Needed To Catalog Photographs

Help us make our photographs
available to researchers & students

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

Ability to use a computer & scanner

Strong attention to detail

Enjoy data entry

Commitment to a long term project

Interested? Contact Rebecca!

rebecca@gatekeepersmuseum.org | 530.583.1762

Oral Histories of North Lake Tahoe—

An Eagle Scout Service Project *By Graeme Duncan Hugo*

"From the start, I knew I wanted to find an Eagle Scout Project that would have a lasting value to my community. When it was suggested to me by former North Lake Tahoe Historical Society Board Member Judy Friedman that I consider working with the Historical Society to interview members of our community to record their personal Lake Tahoe histories, I was immediately intrigued. I was particularly interested in capturing the stories of a generation of individuals that might otherwise be lost. I have always appreciated history, and I also enjoy speaking with people of all ages and learning about their lives. Thus my "Oral



Histories of North Lake Tahoe" project was born. Originally hoping to find four to six willing interview subjects, I discovered that there were numerous candidates who could contribute marvelous stories of Lake Tahoe, so my project instantly doubled in size. I ended up conducting Oral History Interviews with nine people. And this is just the tip of the iceberg! It is my hope that with this project there will be a renewed interest and commitment to preserving the Oral Histories of our North Lake Tahoe community and that others will join me in collecting the stories of our past from neighbors, friends, and colleagues living among us."

Project Goal

Creating an archive of oral histories in my home community will contribute to the historical record of our area. This collection of recorded interviews with business and civic leaders, longtime residents, and other notable members of the community includes detailed accounts of the individuals' personal experiences in North Lake Tahoe as well as historical anecdotes. Their stories are unique to Lake Tahoe and help define the character of our community.

The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society has agreed to incorporate the original audio recordings and video footage of my interviews in their permanent oral history archives. In addition, a recorded DVD with highlights from my interviews can serve as a short documentary for public viewing and as an educational tool for local elementary school students to teach them about the personal stories and

experiences of some of Lake Tahoe's notable residents. It is my hope that this project will benefit the public and serve as a reference for education, learning, and research. Any member of the community will be able to view or listen to my oral history interviews by contacting the Gatekeepers Museum and requesting access to their archives.

Special Thanks

This Eagle Scout Service project would not have come to fruition without the assistance, guidance, and support of a number of people. I would like to acknowledge the following individuals for the help they provided me to complete my Eagle Scout Project.

Rebecca Phipps
Gordon Shaw
Judy Friedman
Melinda Barton
Carol Van Etten
Kurt Heisinger



Osvaldo Ancinas

*Born March 26, 1934,
in Bariloche, Argentina. &*

Eddy Starr Ancinas

*Born September 17, 1936,
in Oakland, California.*

Eddy and Osvaldo met in 1960 when they came to Tahoe on two very different paths to the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley. Eddy was a guide for the International Olympic Committee while Osvaldo came as a downhill ski racer for the Argentine Olympic team. Eddy remembers first meeting Osvaldo as he played his guitar and sang in the bar at Sugar Bowl Ski area during the Silver Belt Race in 1960. They married after the Olympics. In the following years Eddy and Osvaldo raised three children, ran a ski and clothing business for 30+ years, and were involved in a host of community organizations and activities from helping to organize the community's first ski swap to introducing the Argentine Asado to Lake Tahoe and coaching several generations of local ski racers and future Olympians.



Mary Jane Soll Dewhurst

Born January 21, 1924, in Sacramento, California.

Daughter of Danish immigrants who came to Lake Tahoe in the 1920s and lived at the Ehrman mansion where her father was caretaker. The first news her father had of her birth was that he had a son. He had always wanted a boy and continued to call her Bill for the rest of her life. She went by Bill until someone said that couldn't be her name. At that point her mother said her name was Mary Jane. It was not until she was a teenager applying for a Coast Guard boating permit during World War II that she discovered the name on her birth certificate was in fact Mary Louise. Bill (Mary Jane) grew up at the Ehrman Mansion family estate. Her earliest Tahoe memories were in the late 1920s through the early 30s. Bill fondly remembers fishing, swimming, and hiking at Lake Tahoe, as well as playing with her pet deer, Mary. She attended Tahoe Lake School in the 1930s when it was a one room schoolhouse and graduated as Valedictorian of her class of four students. She attended high school in Truckee before heading to College at UC Berkeley where she met her husband, Norman Dewhurst.



Bill MacLean

Born March 2, 1937, in Evanston, Illinois.

A graduate of Yale University, Bill headed to California after college, originally on his way to the Far East. He ended up coming to Squaw Valley instead in search of employment right after the 1960 Olympics. He met the Newsome family and in 1961 was given a job at the cafeteria in the old Olympic Village where he earned \$48 a week plus room and board. Similar to many enterprising Tahoe residents, Bill worked a wide variety of jobs from serving as a goal judge and cleaning up the locker rooms at hockey tournaments at Blythe Arena, to building septic tanks, snow shoveling, and providing janitorial services in Tahoe City. Bill learned to ski and enjoyed social cross-country skiing with friends as well as playing on the community baseball teams. Eventually Bill founded his own successful roofing company, married his wife, Nancy, and raised three children who were among the first students to matriculate at Rideout Elementary School. His son Matt continues to operate the family roofing business today.



Pete Perata

Born June 20, 1936, in Oakland, California.

Pete Perata moved to Lake Tahoe from his Oakland home just four hours after he graduated from high school in 1953. Pete was hired by Alex Cushing as a bellboy at the Squaw Valley Lodge and remembers making \$70 a month, including room and board. Pete later worked construction on much of the infrastructure for the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley including the ski jump and ice rinks. Later Pete established his own excavation business, and he completed projects at the Tahoe Tavern properties, Rocky Ridge, and Rideout Elementary School. He is also locally famous as the "Pete" in Pete n' Peters, a bar he opened with his friend Peter Payne. One of Pete's fondest memories is the effort both he and his colleagues contributed toward establishing recreational league softball in Tahoe City. Considered the "Godfather" of Tahoe City Softball, Pete has truly left a lasting and impressive legacy for Tahoe City Recreation.

—Continued on page 8



Don Williams

*Born November 16, 1929,
in San Mateo, California.*

His grandfather first came to Tahoe for summers with his family in the early 1930s. His first Tahoe memories include fishing and visiting the Washoe Indian encampments along McKinney Creek, waving at the Steamer Tahoe from Chamber's Landing, and later, as a teenager, "aquaplaning" on the lake, and attending dances and going to the movies at Meeks Bay. Don met his future wife Shirley at the Meeks Bay pier when they were in high school. She also spent summers at Lake Tahoe, traveling from her home in Los Angeles. Both attended Stanford University in the 1950s; they married after college and built their first cabin in Rubicon in 1956. Don and Shirley moved to Tahoe permanently with their daughter in 1962 when Don developed his first Real Estate Project at Moana Beach in Tahoma. Don went on to work on a number of residential development projects in the Tahoe area including Tahoe Tavern properties, Tahoe Marina Lodge, and Chinquapin.



Marie Sluchak

*Born March 26, 1920,
in Streator, Illinois.*

Marie first came to Tahoe in 1960 when she and her husband discovered the lake in their retirement years as the perfect sporting and recreation destination. At age 95 Marie is still an active community advocate, public speaker, volunteer, and champion of her West Shore Tahoma community. Marie has been honored for her years of dedicated community service with the naming of a park she created in Tahoma. Marie still vividly remembers constructing the park with her own two hands along with a truck full of potato chips and beer and a whole community of eager volunteers who wanted to turn a town dump into a park that families, kids, and the community could enjoy. Throughout her time at Tahoe Marie has enjoyed fishing and hiking as well as spending time as a volunteer, park steward and proponent of civic organizations. Today the Park stands as a testament of how a big effort by a small community can turn a dream into a reality.



Park Bechdolt

*Born January 28, 1945,
in Reno, Nevada.*

A true Tahoe City local, Park grew up playing golf and working on his family's golf course in town. Park's grandfather, Carl "Pop" Bechdolt, was the first of the family to come to Tahoe City. He worked as a butcher and later bought the Tahoe Inn. Park started at Tahoe Lake School in 1950 in the first grade with Mrs. Butterfield, his favorite teacher. He fondly remembers pulling pranks like throwing snowballs at cars off Eagle Rock and ski jumping with his classmate and future Olympic Bronze Medalist, Jimmy Heuga. In the summers Park hung out at Meeks Bay and set pins at the Tahoe Tavern bowling alley for 10 cents a game. The winter of 1952 brought 35 feet of snow to Tahoe City, and food had to be air dropped onto the Tahoe City Golf Course. At the 1960 Olympics his dad was the ski jump judge, and Park remembers getting Jean Claude Killy's autograph. Park started his own snow removal business in the 1960's, later worked in Real Estate, and served in the fire department and as a board member of the Tahoe Public Utilities District (TCPUD) for 25 years. He was



a founding member of the Tahoe City Recreation Association and helped create Fletcher Field, Pomin Park, and other amenities for Tahoe City. Park raised five children with his wife Lynette and now has 14 grandchildren and four great grandkids.



Randy Pomin

*Born April 7, 1943
in Berkeley, California.*

Randy is a 4th generation Lake Tahoe local and remembers growing up on Main Street in Tahoe City during the 1940s and 1950s. His great

grandfather Ernest Pomin was the first white child to be born at the Lake in Glenbrook, NV. He was the Captain of the Steamer Tahoe that delivered the mail around the Lake after its launch in 1891. As a boy, Randy recalls learning how to fish in the summers with his grandfather and playing out- doors all day. The only rule was to come in before dark! Randy also remembers his father Robert's stories of having just five kids in his class when he attended Tahoe Lake Elementary School in the 1920s. Robert only had to convince two of his friends to cut class to drop enrollment below 50%, and the whole school day would be canceled! As a teenager Randy recalls that he didn't see much of the 1960 Olympics because he was working double shifts (16 hours a day) as a busboy and dishwasher at Conger's Coffee Shop. He did, however, get Walt Disney's autograph when he came into the restaurant.

Randy went on to raise a family and establish a successful hot tub business in the 1970s which he runs to this day in Tahoe City.



Winter Museum Hours

Gatekeeper's Museum

November 1 – May 31

Wednesday – Saturday

10am – 4pm

Weather permitting.

Museum may close when
Tahoe City schools close.

Watson Cabin

Closed for the Season

May open for special
community events.



Photo Identified— Maybe

By Rebecca J. Phipps

Thank you to Mike Schnabel and Judi Hachman who submitted their thoughts on this picture.

Mike thought photograph was taken at the end of Bristlecone in Lake Forest looking west/southwest. Judi thought it was at Glenbrook, taken from the road leading north from the lodge toward the golf course.

Would you like to weigh in?

Contact Rebecca at rebecca@gatekeepersmuseum.org.



Volunteer Spotlight— Steve Durand *By Marnie Carr*

Q: How did you become involved in the NLTHS?

A: I just came in one day in May and talked to Rebecca to see if there were any jobs available – paid or un-paid. She said that there was plenty of volunteer work and she put me to work right away. My first task was to help pour wine at the opening party for the Julia Morgan exhibit.

Q: What projects have you worked on for the NLTHS?

A: My main task over the past 4 months was keeping the Watson Cabin open during the summer months. Since then I have done several different tasks including: assisting with the Home Tour, selling raffle tickets, preparing baskets for storage and other small organizational projects.

Q: What do you like most about Watson cabin?

A: I like the cabin itself. It is such a great piece of architecture. It

is amazing to me that it is still pertinent to today's building standards - it was built 106 years ago and could still be lived in today! It was that well made. However, if I were to live in it, I would definitely add some insulation for the colder months!

Q: What other museum experience do you have?

A: I worked at the De Young museum for 5 years in San Francisco. Initially I started out as a public service aid; my main duties were to help direct visitors

through the museum, explain where the particular items were located, check tickets – basically it was general customer and information services.

When the King Tut exhibit came, I decided to apply for a job as the Floor Visitor Services Manager. It was the same type of duties, but I was now responsible for a team of staff and controlling the flow of crowds throughout the exhibits. Sometimes we had queues totaling more than 200 people to see certain exhibits.

Q: Where did your interest in museums come from?

A: The first time I went to a museum I was about 8 years old. My cousin, Betty, who at that time was a real beatnik, took me to a Picasso exhibit at the Legion of Honor museum in San Francisco. It was either etchings or pen drawings, at that age I couldn't decipher, but from that moment on I was hooked. I thought the building was fantastic, the art was magnificent – and I didn't even know who Picasso was! I thank her from showing me the first of many museums that I have visited throughout my lifetime.

Q: What other hobbies do you enjoy?

Watson Cabin

Located at
560 North Lake Blvd

CLOSED
FOR THE WINTER

- 1909 log cabin
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

FREE ADMISSION
Donations Accepted.



A: I bred and showed Bouvier des Flandres for over 35 years. While doing that I accumulated some associated art objects from a local artist in California and from an artist in Europe – mostly work from the 1930s – 1950s. I also commissioned art of my dogs, including one portrait that was painted in Europe. I donated my entire collection to the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog, home to the world's finest collection of art devoted to the dog, in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Q: What is your favorite Tahoe winter memory?

A: I still remember the first winter I spent in our new home. I looked out at Sugar Pine Point Park and realized how beautiful snow covered trees are. I just marveled at the sight.

Steve is one of many wonderful volunteers at the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society. If you would like to learn about the volunteer opportunities available please complete and return the Volunteer Interest Form.

Friend Winter

Poem by Ethel Joslin Vernon

When morning breaks in the stormy east
And the blizzard shouts through the swaying trees
When the grey lake rolls like a tortured beast,
And the waves on cold rocks freeze.–
Then wise folks all to their warm beds cling
While the wild dawn into the
chill day blends,
But I watch the woods where
the storm winds sing –
For Winter and I are friends

When the west wind drives
the stinging sleet
Down from a threatening
storm-blurred height,
While the snow's white wings
like a winding sheet
Enfold the frozen night.–
Then Wise folks sit by the
fireside warm
While the White
King's Fury the forest rends–
But I was created of sun and storm
And Winter and I are friends.



Ethel Joslin Vernon
Christmas 1932,
not catalogued

Volunteer Interest

Yes! I'm interested in helping make history happen!

- Story & Activity Leader
 Special Projects
 Watson Cabin Docent
 Gift Shop Merchandiser
 Program Host/Hostess
 Gift Shop Attendant
 On-Call Volunteers

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Send to: P.O. Box 6141, Tahoe City, CA 96145



HAN
 A farewell toast
 from Moscow to Fa
 host at Yakutsk, O
 "To the"
 Sci
 To our
 To the
 In bel
 Reno, Nevada
 New Years, 1946

Hand Over Heart
 New Year's 1946
 Greetings



2001.002.0001
 Hot water bottle
 Dr. Church used to
 warm his sleeping
 bag on an expedition
 to Iceland.



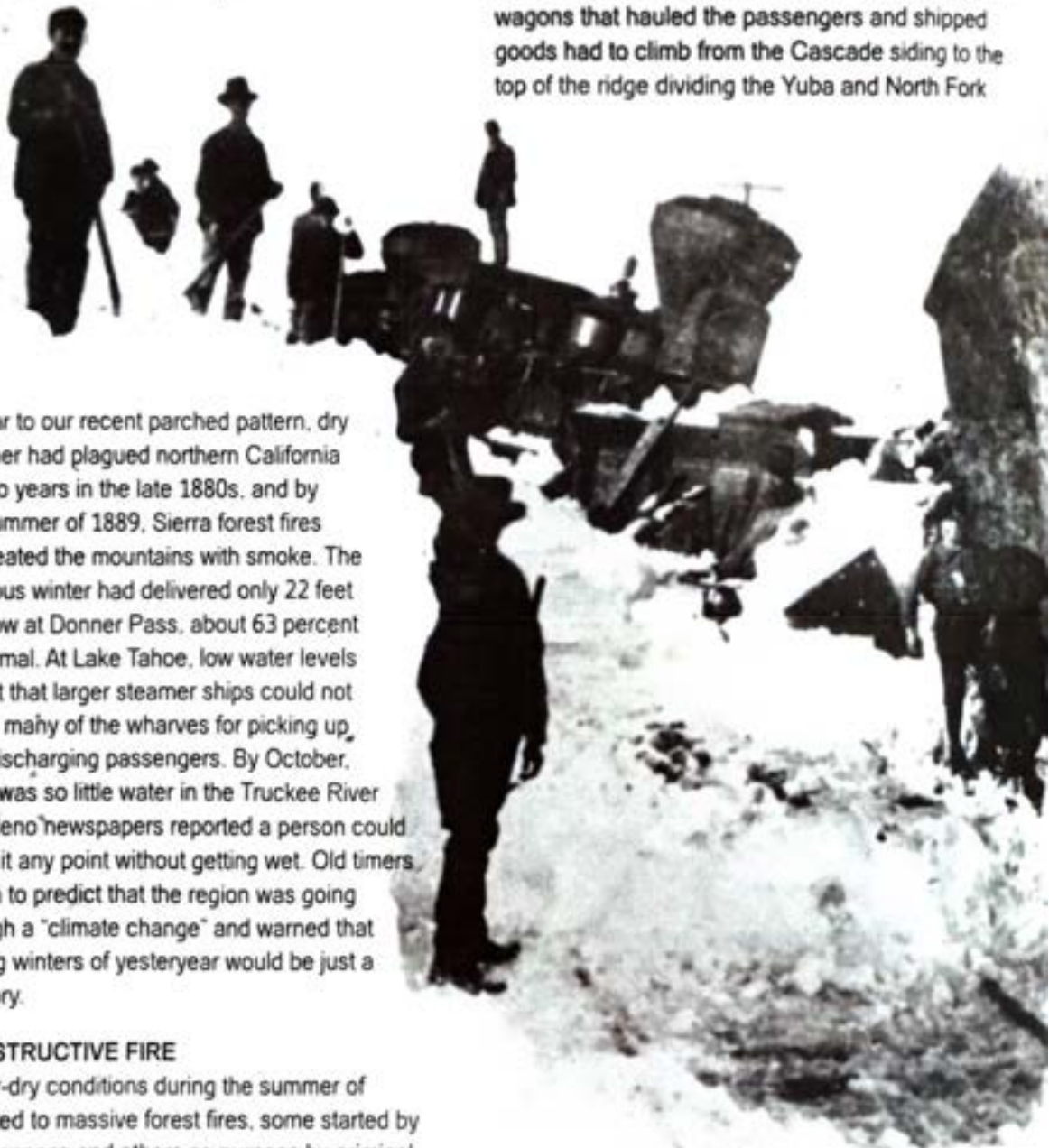
Snow Surveying
 Its Principles
 and Possibilities
 published in The
 Geographical
 Review, 1933

Sierra History— The Epic Tahoe-Truckee Winter of 1890

By Mark McLaughlin

This article first appeared as a three part series in the Sierra Sun March 23, 30, and April 15, 2015.

As winter 2015 slides ever so quickly into one of the least snowy seasons on record, a look back 125 years to 1890 can serve to remind us the Tahoe Sierra endures the flip side of the coin as well.



Similar to our recent parched pattern, dry weather had plagued northern California for two years in the late 1880s, and by the summer of 1889, Sierra forest fires permeated the mountains with smoke. The previous winter had delivered only 22 feet of snow at Donner Pass, about 63 percent of normal. At Lake Tahoe, low water levels meant that larger steamer ships could not reach many of the wharves for picking up, and discharging passengers. By October, there was so little water in the Truckee River that Reno newspapers reported a person could cross it any point without getting wet. Old timers began to predict that the region was going through a "climate change" and warned that the big winters of yesteryear would be just a memory.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Tinder-dry conditions during the summer of 1889 led to massive forest fires, some started by carelessness and others on purpose by criminal miscreants. In August, a camping party near Cisco lost control of their campfire, which started a major burn in mountain timber. By September 12, this fire had reached a canyon near Cascade Creek, about

6 miles west of the summit, and spread upslope to the Central Pacific Railroad line.

A large wooden bridge was destroyed in the firestorm and well as nearly a mile of valuable snow shed. Unfortunately, three fire trains were caught on the wrong side of the break and were helpless in suppressing the flames. The destruction resulted in a near-total suspension of railroad traffic, as all passengers and express freight had to be transferred around the lost bridge. The detour was only 1 mile long, but because the horse-drawn wagons that hauled the passengers and shipped goods had to climb from the Cascade siding to the top of the ridge dividing the Yuba and North Fork

of the American rivers and then back down to the tracks, the journey took most of a day. Central Pacific deployed more than a thousand men to the site, including 500 carpenters who worked

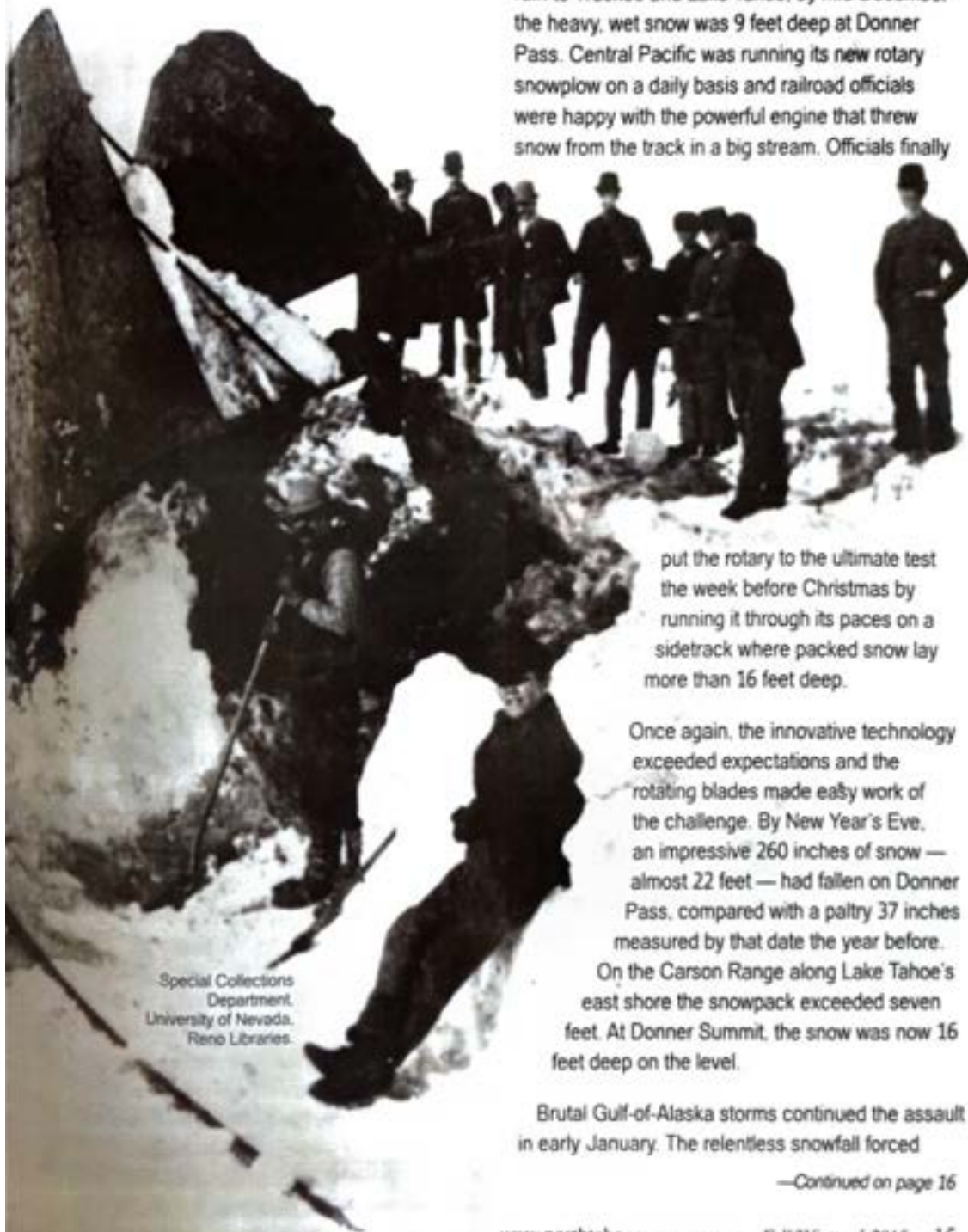
night and day rebuilding the bridge and repairing destroyed track.

The energetic army of workmen was able to re-open the line in about a week. The railroad officials decided not to reconstruct new snow sheds at the site because they felt that their newly acquired rotary snowplow would make sheds unnecessary in the future. The railroad was confident that in a few short years, snow blockades would be a thing of the past and the long shed system that blocked scenic views of the Sierra would be eliminated.

It was a dream of optimism that would be sorely tested just a few months later.

A MAJOR CHANGE IN PACE

For Truckee residents afraid of losing their homes to flames, and commercial lumbermen alarmed at the loss of valuable timber, heavy rain in October finally extinguished the forest fires. In November cold Pacific fronts began to hit the region, each contributing significantly to a swiftly accumulating snowpack at the higher elevations. Despite fluctuating snow levels that sometimes brought rain to Truckee and Lake Tahoe, by mid-December the heavy, wet snow was 9 feet deep at Donner Pass. Central Pacific was running its new rotary snowplow on a daily basis and railroad officials were happy with the powerful engine that threw snow from the track in a big stream. Officials finally



Special Collections
Department,
University of Nevada,
Reno Libraries.

put the rotary to the ultimate test the week before Christmas by running it through its paces on a sidetrack where packed snow lay more than 16 feet deep.

Once again, the innovative technology exceeded expectations and the rotating blades made easy work of the challenge. By New Year's Eve, an impressive 260 inches of snow — almost 22 feet — had fallen on Donner Pass, compared with a paltry 37 inches measured by that date the year before.

On the Carson Range along Lake Tahoe's east shore the snowpack exceeded seven feet. At Donner Summit, the snow was now 16 feet deep on the level.

Brutal Gulf-of-Alaska storms continued the assault in early January. The relentless snowfall forced

—Continued on page 16

westbound trains to wait in Truckee, just east of Donner Pass, so Central Pacific workmen could clear the tracks over the higher elevations. Swirling, wind-driven snowflakes built up impassible drifts in the streets of Truckee. By January 6, almost 24 feet of snow had fallen on the town so far.

Between storms, nighttime temperatures plunged to 35 degrees below zero. The severe weather forced many Truckee stores and businesses to close, but a few enterprising men dug tunnels under the snow like gophers in order to reach their favorite saloons on Commercial Row.

A series of dry winters in the late 1880s generated serious drought conditions in the Tahoe-Sierra as regional water levels fell and wild fires raged through mountain timber. Truckee residents began to wonder if the big winters of yesteryear were over for good, but it turned out that the Storm King was just teasing them. The winter of 1889-90 came on fast and furious and by early January nearly 24 feet of snow had buried Truckee. Day after day, hundreds of railroad men labored mightily to keep the tracks over the Sierra clear. Avalanches piled snow up to 40 feet deep on the wooden snow sheds that protected the tracks, which required extra crews to shovel off the heavy loads.



Donner Summit Plow. 1981 005 0026

Central Pacific Railroad mobilized 1,600 more men, a dozen more snowplows and 45 additional locomotives. Each wedge-snowplow required six to ten engines for motive power. The battle for Donner Pass had quickly escalated into all-out war.

RELENTLESS, RAGING STORMS

Central Pacific utilized its new rotary snowplow to cut paths through 15-foot drifts to keep Donner Pass open. Three 600-horsepower engines powered the rotary's spinning blade, which cut through snow and tossed it aside. To awed onlookers, these roaring behemoths seemed invincible. The machine threw tons of snow hundreds of feet into the air, which forced residents in nearby houses to board up their windows for protection.

During one rotary test run in downtown Truckee, a snow plume broke the second-story windows of the Whitney Hotel, 200 feet from the tracks. The battle against the relentless storms raged for weeks. For a while, the sheds held, and despite delays and sporadic closures, freight and passenger trains continued to wind their way safely through the storm-ravaged mountains. On January 15, CP's hopes of keeping the line open were dealt a mortal blow when a string of cattle cars from Nevada derailed in a snow shed. The lurching train ripped out hundreds of support posts and the long wooden structure came crashing down. The "Great Snow Blockade of 1890" had begun.

HEROIC WORKERS EARN \$2 A DAY

Central Pacific rushed more men up from

Sacramento and Reno to dig out the buried tracks. The men worked rotating eight-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, trying to keep up. The snow grew so deep that it became impossible to throw it over the canyon-like snow banks bordering the tracks. Three tiers of wood planks had to be built into the sides of the banks. A shoveler standing on the tracks at the bottom pitched

snow up to a second, who pitched it up to a third, who would finally throw it over the top. At the height of battle, there were 2,500 shovelers fighting the relentless storm. Augmenting regular railroad crews, these "flatlanders" risked their lives and toiled heroically for \$2 a day. On payday, many of the men crowded Truckee saloons in their quest for refreshments and a good time.



Lucia Zarate January 2, 1864 – January 15, 1890

The snow continued to fall heavily on an almost daily basis. An avalanche mid-month near Cisco wiped out a stretch of telegraph poles shutting down communication between the railroad's mountain division and Sacramento. In western Nevada, where 52 inches of snow had fallen in Reno so far, all the trains of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad had been abandoned on the tracks.

TWENTY-FOOT SNOW DRIFTS

By mid-January, the depth of snow at Truckee ranged from eight feet on the level to drifts of 20 feet deep. Residents spent much of their time shoveling snow off their homes and buildings. In Tahoe City, the snowpack approached nine feet. Lake Tahoe had risen 15 inches and the spring melt was still months away. At Cisco, a blanket of white 15 feet deep covered the countryside with up to 20 feet in higher terrain.

Meanwhile, Truckee's doctor watched helplessly as a contagious influenza called "La Grippe" spread among passengers on the stranded trains. One car was transformed into a hospital where the patients

were cared for as well as possible by fellow passengers.

Temperatures in the minus 20s, overcrowded conditions and a lack of medicine combined to take several lives. One woman died of diphtheria despite her surgeon husband's best efforts. Among the victims was Lucia Zarate, famed as the world's smallest human, who was on her way to San Francisco for an exhibition where she would earn \$1,000 per week for a 10-week engagement. Only 20 inches tall, Zarate weighed less than five pounds as an adult woman. She had appeared with P.T. Barnum's Great London Circus in 1886, but her life of showbiz ended in a Truckee blizzard. Zarate's manager claimed her death by gastric fever was



Elizabeth Jane Cochrane, pen name Nellie Bly

caused by eating canned food, furnished by the railroad's Pullman buffet, and exposure caused by the snow blockade.

The winter storms that ravaged the Tahoe Sierra 125 years ago in 1890 were unprecedented for the region. For two months straight, the weather was unrelenting. Residents at Emerald Bay on Lake Tahoe's western shore recorded fresh snow every day from December 2 to January 30, with an incredible total of 40 feet. Avalanches, crushed snowsheds, and train wrecks closed the vital transcontinental railroad over Donner Pass for 15 days.

—Continued on page 18

The extended railroad blockade nearly foiled popular New York newspaper journalist Elizabeth Jane Cochrane, best known by her pen name Nellie Bly, in her attempt to circumnavigate the world in order to beat the fictional voyage portrayed in Jules Verne's wildly popular book, "Around the World in Eighty Days." In November 1889, she traveled by steamer to Europe, crossed Asia by train, and reached San Francisco in January 1890. The bold 23-year-old adventurer had used 68 of her 80 days. Speed was of the essence, but news from the mountains warned of a protracted snow blockade. "Railroad crews and the army of hired shovelers battled a grand total of 776 inches — nearly 65 feet — of snow in their herculean efforts to keep trains rolling through the High Sierra."

AROUND THE WORLD IN 72 DAYS

It seemed to Nellie, that after circling most of the globe, a California snowstorm was going to ruin her mission. A delegation of Bly's New York associates heading for California to meet her was stuck in Reno by the blockade. One of Nellie's editors John Jennings, however, had been traveling two days in advance of the delegation. Jennings convinced Central Pacific officials to let him ride with a rotary snowplow, but they had not gone far before the plow was buried under an avalanche. Every window in the cab was shattered, but luckily no one was hurt. The rotary was out of commission, but Jennings bought a pair of skis and hired a guide to lead him out of the mountains. The two men traveled all night in bitter cold amid crashing avalanches. The next morning, Jennings broke past the blockade and boarded a California-bound train. Still carrying his new skis, Jennings stated, "I have seen snow and blizzards in New York, but the people back there don't know what snow is." Jennings and Bly met near Stockton, California, and took a train south into Arizona. Fear that the altered train route would ruin Nellie's tight schedule cropped up in newspaper headlines, but she arrived back in New York City on January 25, having traveled 72 days, 6 hours, and 11 minutes in her epic, world-encircling journey.

ANOTHER STORM'S A COMIN'

Meanwhile, back in the Tahoe Sierra, after 15 days of nonstop operation, Central Pacific's recently purchased rotary snowplow broke down with only 200 yards of track left to clear the blockade. Snow

shovelers were deployed to finish the final stretch. At last, on Jan. 31, the railroad was finally able to open the road. Some 1,000 stranded passengers cheered the blue skies and heroic efforts of the workmen as the trains headed to the Golden State. The incessant snowfall had taken a severe toll on man and machine, but the Storm King wasn't finished yet.

On February 16, a crashing barometer indicated another monster storm was on its way. Once again, thick clouds enveloped the granite crags of the Sierra as gale-force winds piled more snow into the freshly plowed train cuts. Hundreds of men were still working in the mountains removing icy cornices over-hanging the tracks. The new storm quickly overwhelmed them and the exhausted shovelers soon surrendered in defeat. Just two weeks after the lifting of the blockade, all train traffic over the Sierra was again halted.

NINE FEET OF SNOW IN 48 HOURS

Incredibly, this storm was the worst of the season. Railroad crews estimated that nine feet of new snow fell on Donner Summit in just 48 hours, while Truckee residents were stunned by another five and a half feet. As if that wasn't bad enough, this enormous Alaska-bred cyclone stalled over the region, generating blizzard conditions for more than a week. The storm's far-flung circulation drew in polar maritime air that dropped snow levels below 2,000 feet across Northern California. At Emigrant Gap, a massive avalanche trapped a train packed with anxious passengers who subsisted on crackers and coffee for 50 hours until they were rescued. The famished travelers crowded into the nearby Emigrant Gap Hotel stumbling through a 25-foot-long snow tunnel that led right into the hotel's second-story windows. At last, on March 6, two and a half weeks after the storm began, the tropical jet stream shifted northward, and warm, moist air streamed in from the Pacific Ocean. The rain was the beginning of the end for the Great Snow Blockade of 1890. All in all, rail traffic over Donner Pass was shut down for more than two months that memorable winter.

Meanwhile, railroad crews and the army of hired shovelers battled a grand total of 776 inches — nearly 65 feet — of snow in their herculean efforts to keep trains rolling through the High Sierra. The winter of 1890 ranks fourth in snowfall since 1879.



Tahoe Realty Company at the wye in Tahoe City, winter 1951-1952
1985.001.0017

Tahoe Memories— My Most Memorable Experience: Lost in Lake Tahoe

— By Bud Jones, written in early 1990s

The 1951-52 winter season was the most severe for snow fall on record in this Sierra region.

An indication of things to come commenced about October 15th of '51 when an 18" snow fall occurred. Following the October storm an additional 2 feet of snow fell at lake level over the Thanksgiving holiday. Light snow storms continued through December into January of 1952 when a major storm carrying massive snow depths commenced about January 9th and continued day and night for nine consecutive days, closing the road along the north and west shores with approximately 10 feet of snow on the road.

My small family and I had moved into our cabin in Carnelian Bay the first week of October 1951 and following the huge snow storm in January we were snowed in without a road for four full weeks.

It was about the end of the fourth week that we began to run out of most of our stored provisions and since I had the use of an old broad beamed wooden fishing boat with a one cylinder, four cycle Wisconsin inboard engine, a decision was made between one Walt Speeter, Charlie Rich and I, all of Carnelian Bay, to take the boat to Tahoe City to get food supplies for those families in the community that were just about out.

About noon of the day of decision the three of us loaded the boat at the Carnelian Bay lake front

20 North Lake Tahoe Historical Society member and community magazine



C. W. Vernon clearing snow from the windows of his house, winter 1951-1952. 2014.019.0009

boat house of Dr. Edward W. Davis with fuel, life jackets, a 2 cell Eveready flashlight, snow shoes, and a gallon coffee can for bailing if necessary. We departed in relatively calm water with what could be considered a broken ceiling cloud cover. Our time to Tahoe City in the old boat was about one hour.

Arriving in Tahoe City we tied the boat up at the Tahoe Boat Co. boat harbor and made our way on snow shoes over 20 foot snow drifts to Jack and Dinty's Grocery store, now Rosie's Bar and Restaurant, which was open in spite of an amazing amount of snow on the ground. We found Dinty Moore shoveling a path from the plowed street to the store porch, talking to himself about the need to do all this shoveling, his aching back, and other more explicit remarks.

Needless to say, Dinty was shocked to see the Carnelian Bay contingent, and more than happy to sell us all the supplies we could buy with the \$100.00 we had to spend, including a pint of Bourbon whiskey to keep us warm on the trip back to Carnelian Bay. While Dinty was making up our order, the three of us went next door to Congers

Restaurant, now known as The Family Tree and ate a great steak lunch.

It was about this time that the town baker, Leonard Bury came into the restaurant and upon learning that we had come for supplies by boat and having heard that the snow plow had broken through Carnelian Bay, he volunteered to haul the provisions in his panel delivery truck, with one of us going with him and the two remaining to take the boat back, along of course with the pint of whiskey.

To be fair we agreed to the toss of a coin to determine who would go with Leonard. Walt



Tahoe Boat Company, winter 1951-1952.
1985 001 0018



Plowing the road to Brockway Hotel, winter 1951-1952.
2014 019 0008

Speeter won the toss and Charlie and I were left to get the boat back home. We left the boat harbor for Carnelian Bay about 4:00 PM with an ever increasing wind and menacing dark clouds in the southwest. Our plan was to steer a course away from Tahoe City to clear Dollar Point and then back into the shelter of upper Carnelian Bay. However, before we knew it, the sky had turned as dark as night and a full blown blizzard had engulfed us, with wind in the 60 mile an hour class, blowing snow at horizontal level with the lake, creating 4 to 5 foot waves that constantly broke over the boat. We held the course to clear Dollar Point but didn't realize we would not be able to see any shore line lights northeast of the point, due to the huge snow drifts covering any lights that might have shown us our way into Carnelian Bay.

After a couple of hours of not knowing when and where to change course, a touch of whiskey now

and then, and bailing the boat with the gallon coffee can, I decided, since Charlie was steering the boat, to stand up in the rocking boat and at the top of each wave, to blink our 2 cell flashlight toward what we perceived to be the north shore in the event someone might be trying to signal us, since by now we were long overdue into Carnelian Bay and our boat house. After what seemed more than an hour of flashing our light, we picked up a tiny light returning

our signal. With great relief we elected to steer to the far off blinking light even though it might land us beyond Carnelian Bay. Charlie changed course to steer crosswind to the light signal and after about 1 ½ hours we found ourselves being guided into the shelter of the Davis breakwater and pier, whence we came. It just so happened that a friend of mine who came to stay and ski with us over the holidays and had stayed too long to avoid being snowed in with us, had gotten a neighbor to lend him a surplus Navy battle lantern, and made his way to the Davis pier, where he stood for more than three hours in the blizzard, blinking the lantern in hopes of our being able to spot it.

Our time of arrival from Tahoe City was 1:30 AM. A hair raising journey of 9 ½ hours. We gained a healthy respect for Lake Tahoe and her winter storms from that day forward. Surely, my most memorable experience over 40 years.



P.O. Box 6141
Tahoe City, CA 96145

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The steamer pictured here is the *Happy Day*. If you have any information about her, please contact Rebecca Phipps at rebecca@gatekeepersmuseum.org.

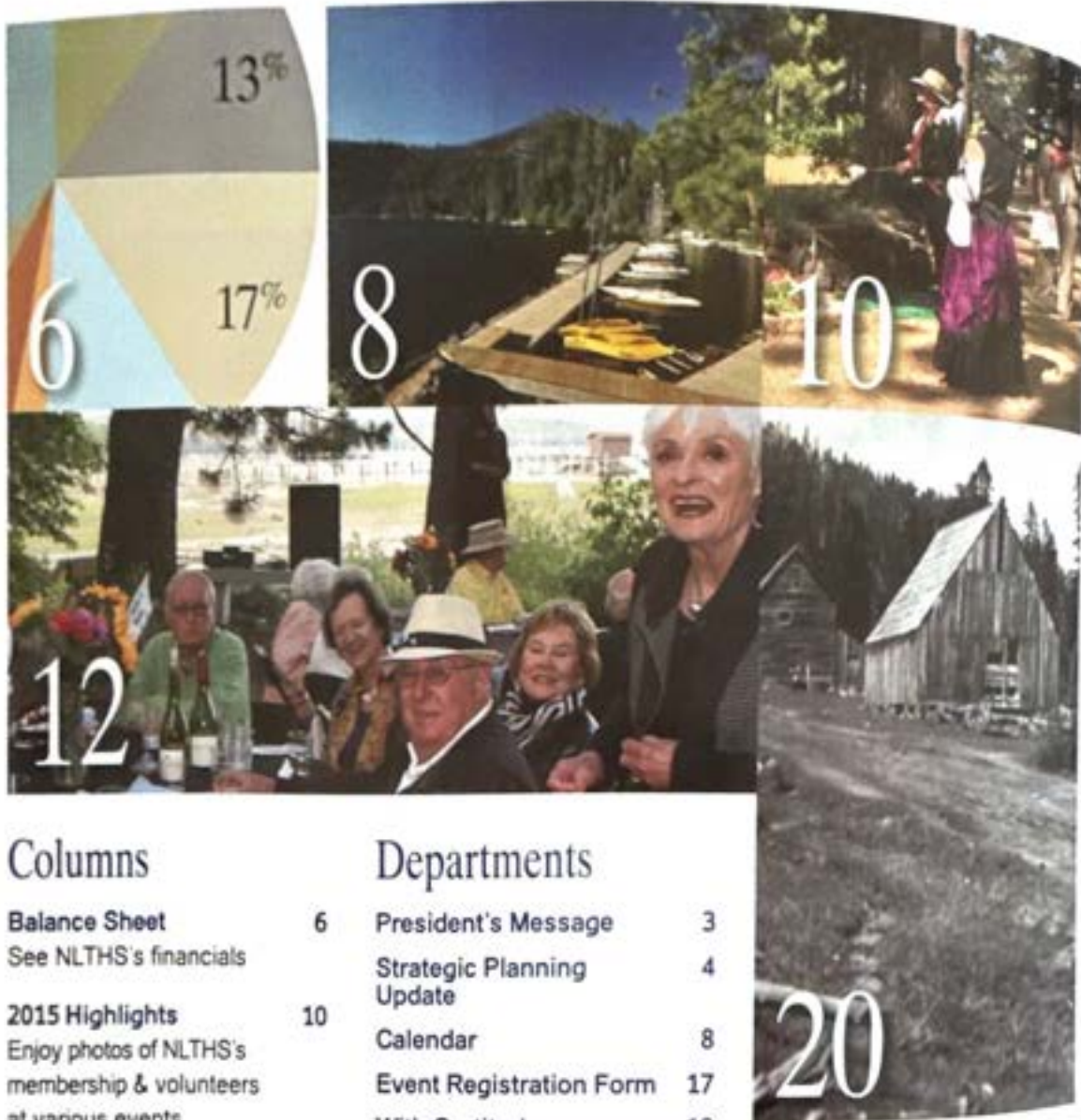


Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society member and community magazine



Gatekeeper's GAZETTE



Columns

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President's Message

Happy New Year to all! Tahoe and California are experiencing a wet winter which will help reduce the impact from our long drought. As of February 1st, the lake has come up a little over five inches since its low point in November. We are currently a little less than a foot under the natural rim (6222.1) so I anticipate the river running through the dam again by March, or sooner if we get another big rain-on-snow event.

Fiscal year 2015 was a challenging year for us as there were several unanticipated costs. California State Parks required payment of two years of previously unbilled fees both to them and to the TTSA (sewer district). Inspections revealed some deferred maintenance items at the Gatekeepers (especially the fire suppression system) that needed to be brought up to date. These items are in our budget going forward and increase our annual funding needs by about \$10,000 a year. The one positive outcome is that the State Parks has agreed to keep the restrooms open throughout the winter, something we have been asking for years.

As of early January, our Executive Director, Rebecca Phipps, is no longer with the organization. She brought a considerable amount of knowledge and experience concerning exhibits, artifacts and collections as to their care and acquisition. She helped the board understand the importance of the NLTHS's stewardship of these items. It is our hope that we can carry forward these high standards of stewardship into the future. Marnie continues as the Events Coordinator and in addition is

responsible for membership and managing the wedding venue. She has also agreed to act as the Interim Executive Director.

We have an exciting new year planned. I feel the highlight will be the Squaw Valley home tour, so when the invitations come out make sure to purchase your tickets. The Gathering is anticipated to be a great success with the Live Auction featuring the Basque Shepherders' Dinner, one or two other items and a reformatted silent auction. We will conduct a general membership meeting as always. The theme for the Gathering will highlight the 35th anniversary of the opening of the Gatekeeper's Museum. If you were involved in the creation of the Gatekeeper's Museum, please give us a call or write to us. We'd love to hear your stories!

I wish to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who contributed to the Year End Appeal. Your response exceeded our goals and shows how much you care for the organization. Your continued support is very much appreciated!

Best wishes to all. Jim Phelan



You're Invited to the Gathering
at Gatekeeper's Museum

**Celebrating the
Gatekeeper Museum's
35th Anniversary**

Sunday, July 10, 4-8pm

Silent & Live Auction
Annual NLTHS Meeting

Member \$60 | Non-member \$65

Please RSVP by July 1

Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

Spring Annual Report 2016

Board of Directors

Jim Phelan	President
Carol Shaw	Vice President, Development
Malcolm Duniap	Vice President, Finance
Joanne Domingue	Vice President, Governance
Paul Ackerman	
David Antonucci	
Mary Ann Duniap	
Trudy Lesem	

Staff

Marnie Carr	Interim Executive Director & Event Coordinator
Deborah Hanna	Museum Associate

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

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Volume VII, Issue I

The *Gatekeeper's Gazette* is published three times a year by the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society and is free to all members. We welcome your comments and suggestions at info@northtahoemuseums.org. All images are from the collections of NLTHS unless otherwise noted.

About the cover

Construction of the Gatekeeper's Museum in 1980. The NLTHS received one of the last permits to cut down trees on the West shore. Cutting the trees was the only thing that power tools were used for. Everything else: the peeling of the bark, scribing of the logs and construction of the building used only hand tools. Block and tackle was used to raise the beams and roofing. The museum opened to the public in 1981, this year marking its 35th Anniversary.



Strategic Planning

As an organization matures and its value to the community increases, it can no longer be operated solely by volunteers. Volunteers remain important, but professional staff provide the day-to-day consistency and expertise to carry out the mission and vision of the founders. At this stage, the Board of Directors provides the oversight to insure that the mission and vision of the founders is at the heart of all programs and activities. The role of the Board changes from managing daily operations to insuring that the organization has the capacity to achieve its mission and vision.

Strategic Planning is a tool that can help a maturing organization re-examine its mission and vision and choose to go forward or backward. During the Strategic Planning process of 2012, the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society refined our mission, purpose, and vision:

Mission

The natural and cultural histories of Lake Tahoe inform who we are and define our sense of place and our heritage. The mission of the NLTHS is to hold these histories in trust by collecting, preserving and presenting them for all people, keeping them safe and accessible now and for future generations.

Purpose

The NLTHS accomplishes its mission and fulfills its vision through collections and exhibits and a variety of programs and events including: education, exhibits, presentations, interpretation, preservation, and facilitation.

Vision

NLTHS is a valuable cultural asset that serves, appeals to and attracts members, residents and visitors. Exhibits, programs and events excite people about Tahoe history and strengthen the sense of community and place by offering experiences that enhance the region's value.

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

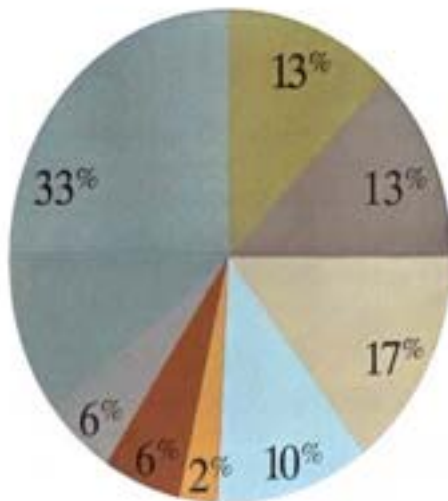
Balance Sheet— As of December 31, 2015

Dec 31, 15

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · El Dorado Checking	15,664.07
1020 · Bank of the West Dedicated Fund	5,496.48
1050 · Gatekeeper's Cash in Drawer	200.00
1080 · Petty Cash Office	75.00
1090 · RBC - Business Account	133.00
Total Checking/Savings	21,568.55
Other Current Assets	
1300 · Prepaid Expenses	6,044.50
1350 · Accrued Bond Interest	156.25
1410 · Inventory	
1411 · Interpretive	15,250.86
1412 · Publications	8,583.62
Total 1410 · Inventory	23,834.48
1500 · Undeposited Funds	333.34
Total Other Current Assets	30,368.57
Total Current Assets	51,937.12
Fixed Assets	
1710 · Property	522,403.00
1720 · Software	4,057.20
1730 · Equipment	2,014.49
1791 · Accumulated Depreciation	-303,694.00
1792 · Accumulated Amortization	-4,057.20
Total Fixed Assets	220,723.49
Other Assets	
1800 · Deposits on Account	1,113.00
1820 · Quasi Endowment	
1821 · RBC MM Fund - Checking	17,163.94
1822 · Investment - Securities	831,009.38
Total 1820 · Quasi Endowment	848,173.32
Total Other Assets	849,286.32
TOTAL ASSETS	1,121,946.93
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2410 · Deposits Received	15,000.00
2460 · Payroll Liabilities	2,604.70
2461 · Paid Time Off Liability	316.80
2480 · Sales Tax Payable	400.67
Total Other Current Liabilities	18,322.17
Total Current Liabilities	18,322.17

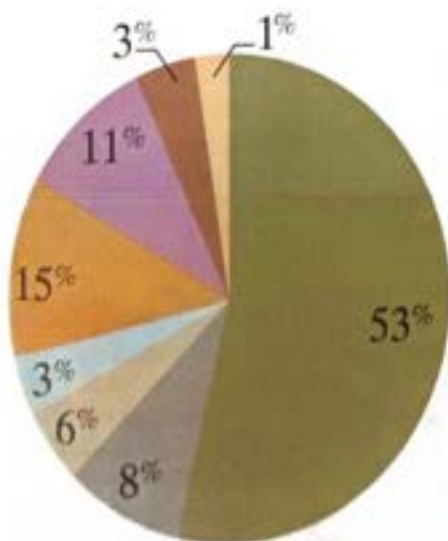
Total Liabilities	18,322.17
Equity	
3100 - Unrestricted Net Assets	291,390.78
3200 - Restricted Net Assets	12,904.00
3310 - Board Designated	560,125.00
3320 - Endowment Permanently Restricted	304,000.00
Net Income	-64,795.02
Total Equity	1,103,624.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,121,946.93

Income & Expenses



Income

Donations	\$22,523
Grants	22,300
Membership	30,591
Admission	17,156
Registration	3,892
GS Sales	11,448
Fundraising	11,579
Facility Rental	58,900



Expenses

Salaries	\$102,278
Supplies	15,787
Insurance	11,097
Bank Charges	6,282
Independent Contractor	28,387
Facilities & Equipment	20,759
Advertising & Publicity	6,502
Other	1,903



Archival Collections

To access our Archival Collections please call Gatekeeper's Museum to schedule an appointment.

Thank You.

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

530.583.1762

Spring Museum Hours

Gatekeeper's Museum

November 1 - May 28

Friday-Monday

Noon - 4pm

Weather permitting.

Watson Cabin

Closed for the Season





Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

Spring | Summer 2016 Calendar of Events



May

28 | Gatekeeper's summer hours begin

June

10 | Lake of the Sky Images—
The Photographs of Harold A. Parker
This Exhibit opens with a Members-Only opening reception 4-6pm Gatekeeper's Museum.

The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society/ Gatekeeper's Cabin will host an exhibit of Lake Tahoe region images taken by Harold Parker, a Pasadena photographer (1900 to 1930) who summered at the Tahoe Tavern in Tahoe City and ran a photographic studio and newsstand. Exhibit runs through September 5.

14 | Volunteer Kick-Off Brunch
Join us and all of our wonderful volunteers for the volunteer welcome and orientation day. Meet and greet other volunteers and learn about all of our volunteer opportunities. 11am-1pm. Gatekeeper's Museum. Free and open to the public Please RSVP by Friday, June 10.

28 | Lecture: Unique 19th Century Tahoe Glass
A look at some unique glass objects used by both residents and industry in the Tahoe Basin in the latter half of the 19th century. Free and open to the public at Gatekeeper's Museum.

30 | Watson Cabin opens for the summer

July

10 | Gathering at the Gatekeeper's \$
Celebrating the Gatekeeper's Museum 35th Anniversary. 4-8pm Reservations required by July 1. Please see registration form on opposite page.

12 | History Hike Summit Canyon \$
While hiking down the old Dutch Flat/Donner Lake wagon road, we will discuss the early

transportation history of the Donner Summit area. Members \$5; Non-members \$10. Meet Gatekeeper's Museum parking lot at 9am. 9.15am sharp departure. Bring a bag lunch, water, camera, sunscreen & wear good hiking shoes. Please see registration form on opposite page.

27 | Lake Tahoe Dance Festival \$
The Lake Tahoe Dance Festival is a Dance Collective, whose mission is to promote classical, modern and contemporary dance of the finest quality in the Lake Tahoe area through performance, education and outreach. Event ends July 29.

August

11 | 43rd Annual Home Tour
Join us for our annual tour of unique and historic Tahoe homes. This year features houses in Squaw Valley. Please see registration form on opposite page.

15 | History Hike Fallen Leaf Lake
We will hike the east and north shores of Fallen Leaf Lake, while discussing some of the unique personalities who spent time living there. the hike will involve a visit to the Anita Baldwin estate ruins. Meet Gatekeeper's Museum parking lot at 9am. 9.15am sharp departure. Bring a bag lunch, water, camera, sunscreen & wear good hiking shoes. Please see registration form on opposite page.

September

11 | Watson Cabin closes for the season

October

1 | Oktoberfest at the Gatekeeper's Museum
Hosted by the Tahoe City Downtown Association. Noon - 6pm located at William B. Layton park

Stay tuned! More events to be listed in the 2016 Summer Gazette.

2015 Events & Activities





BUSINESSES

Bloom Investment Company
 Coffee Connexion
 El Dorado Savings Bank
 King Construction Inc.
 Mic Mac Publishing
 Mike Menath Insurance Inc.
 Mitchell & Associates
 Pomin's Hot Tubs
 Prudential Real Estate
 Rotary Club of Tahoe
 Sierra Boat Company
 Tahoe Center of
 Natural Medicine
 Tahoe City Marina
 Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal
 Company, Inc.
 The Cobblestone
 The Gary Davis Group
 The Store
 Val Strough Interiors
 Westshore Realty
 Willamson Engineering
 & Boat Lift Inc.
 Tahoe Dave's Ski Shop

INDIVIDUALS

Bill & Jeanette Abbott
 Paul & Judy Ackerman
 Marion L. Adams
 Lisa Adams
 Karen McBride & Fil Aguirre
 Beverley Allison
 Diana Alrich
 Nancy & Michael Alvarez
 Osvaldo & Eddy Ancinas
 Forrest & Alice Anderson
 Paul Anderson
 Anna Anderson
 Janet Angell

Jenny & David Antonucci
 Margy Arthur
 Jordan Atzeff
 Mary Babayco
 Virginia & James Balsdon
 Kim & Kevin Bacon
 Virginia & James Balsdon
 Marjorie Bartlett
 Christine Basile
 Bruce & Phyllis Bassett
 Coreen & Stephen Bauer
 Natalie & Keith Bayne
 Dr. Robert Beart
 Betty R Beck
 Sharon & William Becker
 Craig Beckstead & Bert Stortz
 Michael & Tootie Beeman
 Donna Benner
 Carol Bennett
 Tyler John Bennett
 Ann & Jay Benton
 John Bergmann
 & Cathy McClelland
 Hal & Sue Bernheisel
 Muffy Betker
 Lory Billeter
 Miriam & Louis Biro
 Jerry & June Bishop
 Colleen Bissell
 Dr. & Mrs. W. E. Bittner
 Elizabeth Bittner
 Jennifer Bolentini
 Karen & Neil Bonke
 Hal & Barbara Bonnett
 Norman & Nancy Bouton
 Laura & Tom Box
 Gary & Patti Boxeth
 Janice & Thomas Boyce
 Jeanne Boyden

Barbara Braker
 Tom & Polly Bredt
 Barbara Briggs
 Bill & Fritz Briner
 Jan Brisco
 Jan & Jim Brougher
 David Brown
 Doug & Carolyn Brown
 Mary Ellen & Arnold Bruni
 Betty & Skip Brust
 Donald & Marilyn Bryant
 Carol Franc Buck
 Joan & Michael Buckley
 David & Diane Buckman
 Joseph & Maxine Burns
 Larry & Anise Burns
 Janet Butera
 Gloria & Melvin Calegari
 William C. Callender
 Sue Campbell
 Bev & Scott Candrian
 Albert Capovilla
 Patricia & Richard Carlson
 Finette & Jim Carpenter
 Col. Bruce
 & Mary Alice Carswell
 Georgine Casella
 Pat Castellucci
 Claudia Cate & Branden Bickel
 Joan & Terry Caughell
 Barbara & Stan Chaconas
 Richard Hoyt Chamberlain
 Philip & Sally Chapman
 Pat Chappell
 Michelle Cherry & John Schei
 Terry & Carol Clapham
 Kay Clegg
 Barbara & Frank Clifford
 Jack & Marilyn Clifton
 George Clifton

NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP



Jim & Nancy Cline
 Jo Ann & Daniel Cobb
 Neal Cobb
 Jeff Collins
 Barbara Conley
 Joelle & James Conn
 Betty Conti
 Douglas & Diane Cooper
 Ralph & Carol Coppola
 William C. Corbett, Jr.
 Ken & Emilie Corcoran
 Betty Corison
 David & Linda Coward
 Warren & Gael Craft
 Roy & Gay Crawford
 Lorie & Paul Cress
 Anna Cronin
 William & Janet Cronk
 Helen Crump
 Darrel Cruz
 Karyn & Bruce Crytser
 Nancy Cunningham
 & Wes Schimmelphenning
 William & Greta Curtis
 Sisi & Bert Damner
 Charles & Carol Daniels
 Daniels Family
 Melinda Daugherty
 Charlotte & Ritch Davidson
 Gary Davis & Jimalu Gott
 William & Gail Dawson
 Brian & Janis Dawson
 Mr. Rohit De Souza
 Antoinette
 & Ralph de Vere White
 Kathy DeiRossi
 Robert & Joanne DeNigris
 Elizabeth & Robert Devlin
 Susan & Dave DeVoe
 Mary Jane Dewhurst
 Michael & Lynne Dittmore

Lewis & Debra Dobbins
 Dallas Dodson
 Dagmar Dolby
 Bobbie & Bob Dolton
 Joanne & Art Domingue
 Anne & Dan Donahoe
 James & Dolly Donahue
 Clarissa & Mike Donnelly
 Leland & Celia Douglas
 Heidi Doyle
 Joy Doyle
 Theresa May & Eugene Duggan
 Sherry Dumke
 Sharon Duncan
 Malcolm & Mary Ann Dunlap
 Marji & Phil Dunn
 Robin Dworkin
 Jeanne S Eber
 Chet & Ingrid Eccles
 Jane Edginton
 Dave Edwards
 Pamela & John Eisele
 David & Susan Elliott
 Jack & Joanna Emerson
 Bill & Cathy Erickson
 Frank Ericson
 Gayle & Jim Etienne

Jerome Evans
 Jacque Fabian-Brown
 Randall & Sharon Faccinto
 Charlotte Farber
 Kristen Farrall
 Mike & Ruth Faulstich
 Domenic & Joan Favero
 Christine Feibusch
 Jackie Fenton
 Susan Fernandes
 Harold & Nancy Fick
 Diane Filice
 Michele Finch
 Walt & Ann Fisher
 Rob Fisher
 Judy Ford & Pim Brouwer
 Jane & Paul Foster
 Hal & Dorie Fox
 Kay Fox
 Ray & Beverly Franceschini
 Judy Friedman
 Virginia Furth
 John Gage
 Fred Gartrell
 Marice & Fred George
 Frances & Louis Gerhardy
 Jim & Mary Germain



Do you have Lake Tahoe Memories you'd like to share?

Please write them down and mail or email them to us. We'd love to hear from you!

Please include a photo of yourself along with photos to illustrate your story. Your story could be in the next Gatekeeper's Gazette!

P.O. Box 6164, Tahoe City, CA 96145
 Rebecca@northtahoemuseums.org

NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP



Julie Ginocchio
 Sharon Giroux
 Steven M. Glazer
 Kathy Goldstein
 Erla & David Goller
 Nancy & Dave Gotschall
 Larry & Lanae Gralla
 Ellen and Edward Graves
 Ronald & Dorinda Gregg
 Paul Groman
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**Thank You For Contributing To Our 2015 Year-End Fund Drive!
We passed our goal of \$8,000 and raised \$11,130**

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Thank You For Your Memorial Gifts

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GATEKEEPER'S MUSEUM
CELEBRATING

35

— YEARS —

How Can You Help?

HELP US SAVE BY DONATING

Forever stamps
Plain white copy paper
Colored copy paper (any color)
Cardstock (white or light colors)
Avery 5160 or 8460 labels
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Plain white paper napkins
Coffee filters
Keurig single brewing K-cups

DONATE ITEMS FOR EXHIBIT CONSTRUCTION

Philips screwdrivers
Flat head screwdrivers
Wood putty knives
Belt sander

ASK YOUR COMPANY IF THEY HAVE A MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

These companies do:

Visa
Chevron
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Avon
AT&T
Bank of America
CitiBank
Coca-Cola
Del Monte Foods
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Qualcom
Kaiser Permanente
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PLEASE CONSIDER
a bequest to NLTHS in
your estate or trust.

Home'16 Tour

Join us for the
Annual Home Tour
featuring unique and historic
homes in Squaw Valley,
some built specifically for
the 1960 Olympic Games.

August 11, 2016
Noon - 4pm
Catered Reception

Seeking Harold Parker Images of Lake Tahoe

A retrospective exhibit of
Parker's work is coming
Summer 2016!

We'd like to include your images,
postcards, and ephemera. Search
your collections and look for
these identifying clues:

-Tahoe Tavern Studios
(full name, not Tavern Studios)
-Copyright H.Parker

SAVE THE DATE! 2016 Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events brought to you by NLTHS!
More information to come!

Saturday, May 21

Annual cottonwood Trail Clean-Up Day
Join us from 9am-Noon. Enjoy a spring
cleaning day with refreshments and a tube
steak lunch to prepare the trail for summer.
For more info please call Dave or Sue DeVoe
530.546.5120 or 925.398.8774

Sunday, June 19

Mary Summers Celebration of Life
Mary, a devoted volunteer who began the
Educational Programs at the museum, passed
away in November, 2015. Please join her family as
they host a celebration of life at the Gatekeeper's
Museum on Sunday, June 19, 2016 at 1pm. Please
RSVP to Marnie 530.583.1762 before May 1.



P.O. Box 6141 | Tahoe City, CA 96145

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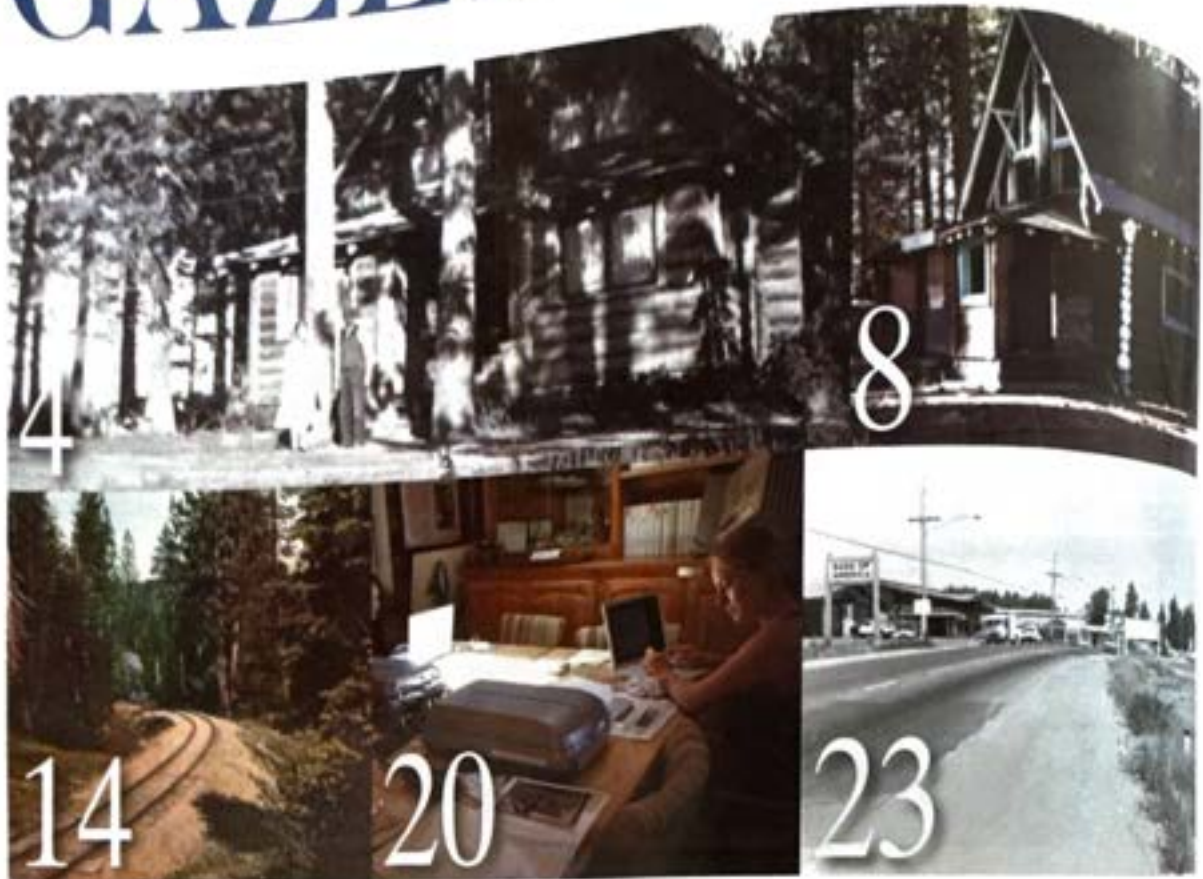


Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society member and community magazine

GATEKEEPER'S MUSEUM
CELEBRATING
35
— YEARS —

Gatekeeper's GAZETTE



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President's Message *By Jim Phelan*

Here we are at the beginning of April looking forward to a busy summer. Water level in the lake is improving and is within half an inch of the natural rim. I walked down to the channel above the dam on April 5, and water has begun to trickle all the way to the dam, AND there is still snow in the mountains. Those of you who are boaters should have a good year even though the water level will remain low.

We are just now finishing rebuilding the Museum website, and it should be up and running by the beginning of May. One feature is an interactive calendar. You will be able to use the website to renew your membership, make donations, and buy home tour and other event tickets on line. Soon we will also offer a way for you to make monthly donations for an easier and greener way to support the NLTHS. We can maintain the new website ourselves which will make it easier to keep it up to date.

The NLTHS and the University of Nevada are co-sponsoring a North Lake Tahoe Digitization Day on June 26, 2016. This event will give anyone an opportunity to bring old photos, cards, letters, and other print material and learn how to properly digitize them. You can actually perform the process and go home with your original material along with a digitized copy for reference. Stay tuned for further information which we will post on our website as there will be some restrictions of time on the site in order to allow everyone an

opportunity to digitize their material. This is also a golden opportunity for the NLTHS, as a grant recipient, to acquire some very nice equipment to keep so that if anyone misses the event we can still provide opportunities in the future.

Also in June the museum will open the Harold A. Parker photography exhibit that will feature photos from the early 1900's. It is my understanding that many photos will feature the area around the old Tahoe Tavern just south of Tahoe City. We are looking for a couple of sponsors for this event to help defray some of the costs. This is a golden opportunity to help!

Get your volunteer thinking caps on. We will be needing many volunteers this summer and into the fall to make our events happen. One time we will need help is when we need to move and/or cover our collections while the sprinkler heads are replaced. We are anticipating this event sometime in November. If you are interested in helping anytime, call 530.583.1762 or email Marnie at marnie@gatekeepersmuseum.org.

I look forward to seeing you all this summer.



You're Invited to the Gathering
at Gatekeeper's Museum

**Celebrating the
Gatekeeper Museum's
35th Anniversary**

Sunday, July 10, 4-8pm

Silent & Live Auction
Annual NLTHS Meeting

Member \$60 | Non-member \$65
Please RSVP by July 1

Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

Summer 2016

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Jim Phelan	President
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Malcolm Dunlap	Vice President, Finance
Joanne Domingue	Vice President, Governance
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David Antonucci	
Mary Ann Dunlap	
Trudy Lesem	

Staff

Marnie Carr	Interim Executive Director & Event Coordinator
Deborah Hanna	Museum Associate

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Contact Information

Phone	530 583 1762
Fax	530 583 8992
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Volume VII, Issue II

The Gatekeeper's Gazette is published three times a year by the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society and is free to all members. We welcome your comments and suggestions at info@northtahoemuseums.org. All images are from the collections of NLTHS unless otherwise noted.

About the cover

The Lady of the Lake gazes serenely across Lake Tahoe during summer 1908. Can you spot the famous silhouette? This iconic rock outcropping, as photographed by Harold A. Parker, is taken from D.L. Bliss' Glenbrook, Nevada compound. The hand colored image features Cave Rock,

the snowcapped Sierra Nevada, and our pristine waters. This image and many other favorites are part of the Lake of the Sky Images: The Photographs of Harold A. Parker on exhibit at the Gatekeeper Museum this summer.



Lake Tahoe's Gatekeeper— John Sutter *By Marnie Carr*

John Sutter has been a resident of the Tahoe City area since 1974 and the Gatekeeper/Bridgetender for the Lake Tahoe Dam for over a quarter of a century!

The dam was built between 1909 and 1913 and stands 18.2 feet high and 109 feet long. Outflows from the dam are regulated by a gated spillway with 17 bays and a maximum release capacity of 2,100 cubic feet per second. After four years of severe drought, Lake Tahoe has now met and is slowly surpassing its natural rim of 6,223 ft. Whilst the lake level is nowhere near average the river is trickling from the dam outlet at approximately 3 cubic feet per second, a significant feat given the fact that it has been completely dried up since October 2014.

Recently, Marnie Carr, Interim Executive Director, talked with John Sutter.

How long have you lived in Tahoe?

I have been fortunate to be the Gatekeeper/Bridgetender for the Lake Tahoe Dam for 26 years starting in 1990, when the previous Gatekeeper, Jim Miller, retired. At that time I was employed by the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID), which held the license to operate Lake Tahoe Dam. In 2000, the Bureau of Reclamation assumed the control and operation of the Dam (as it was an original part of the Newlands Project), and I became an employee of the Bureau. As part of my duties, I also operate Prosser Dam, Stampede Dam, Stampede Power Plant, and also work to maintain Derby Dam and the Marble Bluff Fish Facility at Pyramid Lake. Our local dams are maintained by the Operations and Maintenance Division out of the Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office in Carson City, NV.

How many days a year do you have to tend to the gates?

I maintain the Lake Tahoe Dam on a daily basis much more in the summer season (washing fingerprints off the windows!)

Can you take us through, step-by-step, a typical day operating the gates?

My typical day starts at the Coast Guard Station I measure the daily lake level at the USGS gage on



Today's Gatekeeper, John Sutter



Ida and W. A. Simmonds standing in front of gatekeeper's cabin, circa 1925-1930

the pier, then to the USGS river gage downstream of the Lake Tahoe Dam to measure the discharge from the Dam. I also measure the readings at the historical NOAA weather station located behind the Tahoe Marina Lodge tennis courts (located by the inlet to the Tahoe Dam). At 8:00am I contact the Federal Watermaster in Reno, to relay the day's readings and receive instructions on any changes to be made on the release from the Lake Tahoe Dam into the Truckee River.

Have you ever seen the water so low before?

The lowest lake level was on November 30, 1992 at a gage height of 6,220.26' (approximately 2.74 feet below the rim.

The highest lake level ever recorded was 6,231.26 in July 1907. The maximum level I recorded was in January 1997 at 6,229.40'. This was a result from a "warm rain on snow" scenario which increased the lake level quite rapidly and caused flooding downstream from all the tributaries flowing into the Truckee River. This event caused the largest discharge from the Lake Tahoe Dam into the Truckee (as I had all 17 gates open to their maximum position) with the flow measuring 2,690cfs (cubic feet per second) or approximately 20,121 gallons per second.

What should we expect for this summer?

The lake level should come up approximately one foot above the rim this spring depending on future weather and evaporation. A few weeks of rafting are possible this year. We store as much water as possible until storage water is required downstream. We also have to discharge 70cfs for fish and wildlife whenever possible during the spring and summer.

What do you love most about being the Gatekeeper?

It is a real pleasure to be the Bridgetender/ Gatekeeper. Being able to live in such a beautiful area and see the changes on a daily basis during the seasons is quite rewarding. I have the best "job" at the lake!

Home'16 Olympic Tour

Join us for the
Annual Home Tour
featuring unique and historic
homes in Squaw Valley,
some built specifically for
the 1960 Olympic Games.

August 11, 2016
Noon - 4pm
Catered Reception



Event Coordinator's Message *By Marnie Carr*

Wow, what a great winter! We finally got the snow we've all been waiting for. For many of us, winter is a natural time of rest and reflection, for me, it was a time for development and planning preparation for our busy upcoming summer calendar of events!

On Friday, June 10 we will welcome a temporary exhibit *Lake of the Sky Images: The Photographs of Harold A. Parker*. Member, Volunteer and Historian, Carol Jensen, has been working around the clock to put together what will be an outstanding exhibit including photographs, postcards and ephemera relating to Harold A. Parker, resident photographer at the Tahoe Tavern from 1905 to 1913. In addition to the exhibit we plan to host lectures, programs and events about Harold A. Parker and early 20th Century photography.

One program to look forward to aligning with this summer's "photography" theme will be the Digitization Day on Sunday, June 26 which we will be hosting in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Reno. The goal of the event is to host a Digitization Day during which community members can bring in historical photographs and other materials to be scanned and digitized. They'll take home a copy of the scans on a USB drive, and, if the participants sign a consent form, the NLTHS will keep a copy for its collections and eventually make those materials available online, bringing these materials to a wider audience. The day will also include educational programming about topics such as how to care for personal archives, and the ways different researchers (historians, photographers, etc.) may use photographic archives. This is a rare and wonderful opportunity for the public, to visit the museum for free and digitize their personal photographs to ensure their longevity. So start looking through your old images and be sure to add this event to your summer schedule!

We have sold a record number of grounds rentals for weddings and events this summer! With over 30 events booked including weddings, memorials, dance & music festivals, Oktoberfest, quilting groups, and corporate picnics & meetings. Our rates are set to remain the same for 2017, so, be sure to get in early and book your next event with us!

With summer just around the corner, I am getting really excited for our vibrant calendar of events, which means that it's time for you to start making plans for your summer schedule. To register for one or all of our events, please complete the registration form on page 13 and mail it the museum at P.O. box 6141, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

Thank you to all members, volunteers and visitors for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you at the museum soon. Happy Summer!



Do you have Lake Tahoe Memories you'd like to share?

Please write them down and mail or email them to us. We'd love to hear from you!

Please include a photo of yourself along with photos to illustrate your story. Your story could be in the next *Gatekeeper's Gazette!*

P.O. Box 6164, Tahoe City, CA 96145
info@northtahoemuseums.org

Celebrating 35 years—
 Significant events for the North Lake Tahoe
 Historical Society and Gatekeeper's Museum



1970

The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society (NLTHS) was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit, public benefit corporation. Harold Tiller was the CPA; Edmund S. Barnett was the Board Attorney. Gardner Mein was the first president.

Betty Layton (North Lake Tahoe Chamber Member) and Gardner Mein (President of the North Lake Tahoe Chamber) along with David Stollery (Historian, Author), and Judge C.W. Vernon (Historian) started the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society. ▼

1969

1971

The first Home Tour was held as a major fundraising event. The Tour received publicity in the San Francisco papers and locally.



1969-1978

The NLTHS Board negotiated with Sierra Pacific Power Company, owners of the park and the original gatekeeper's cabin, to purchase the land and building. The purpose was

to preserve the building as a museum and to open the park to the public. Sierra Pacific Power would not allow the NLTHS to care for the building during negotiations, and it was boarded

up. During this time there were many break-ins and in 1978 three teenage boys burned the building to the ground. It took over 12 minutes to destroy the cabin.





1978

The NLTHS began fundraising efforts to rebuild the cabin. Contractor, Art Thiede, was hired.



1979

The Watson Cabin was purchased from Mildred Watson Collins through the efforts of the NLTHS and the PUD. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places that same year. Betty Layton rented the cabin and operated it as the Potter's Wheel until 1989. ◀

1980-1981

The Gatekeeper's Cabin was re-built. The NLTHS received one of the last permits to cut down trees on the West shore. The cutting of the trees was the only thing power tools were used for. Everything else; the peeling the bark, scribing the logs, and construction of the building used only hand tools. Block and Tackle were used to raise the beams and roofing.





1981

On July 9, 1981, a dedication ceremony was held and the Gatekeeper's Museum was opened to the public. Miriam Biro (Board Member) began volunteering as a museum associate and was hired as curator later that winter.

1982

◀ In May the park was named in memory of William B. Layton. The first full summer of operation saw 5,000 visitors. A lecture series was offered on Monday evenings, and Miriam Biro supplied coffee and cookies for all visitors. Historical items were donated by Lillian Farr, Al Henry, Marian Steinbach and many others. Betty Layton was president. Board members and supporters included such locals as Ellen Attardi, Lillian Farr, Ginny and Ed Barnett, Martha Snyder, Bernie Bechdolt, Marjorie and Earl Marr and John Fulton. Miriam and her husband Louis did a great deal of work on the building and grounds. The first annual dinner was held with 75 people in attendance. ▼

1985

Restrooms were built with the support of the State of California

1987

Ellen Attardi died, and the Board voted to build a library addition to the Gatekeeper's Museum in her memory. Fundraising efforts were successful, and the library opened the following year.

1991

Marian Steinbach was unwell and contacted Miriam Biro about the possibility of adding on to the Gatekeeper's Cabin for a basket museum. She urgently wanted to make sure that her Indian basket collection would stay together and be on display for the public.



1992

The board worked with Henry Steinbach toward a mutual agreement to build a suitable building for the Indian baskets. Rosemary and Larry Lindsay,



Co-Presidents and friends of the Steinbachs, were a driving force behind this undertaking. Dick Munday was the architect, Syd Bartlett was the contractor, and

Ray Jones, a retired engineer, was also very involved. Chris King made the cabinets, and Randy Faccinto, Board Attorney, worked with TRPA on permits



1992-1995

The Indian basket building fundraising and construction continued.

1993

The Eva B. Buck Gallery (now the museum store) was named in appreciation for the significant memorial donation received from her daughter, Carol Buck.



1995

The Edmund S. Barnett Building/ Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum opened in June. The museum owns and is home to the entire collection with the exception of baskets given by Marion to her daughter Cathy Sage of Anchorage, AK.



1999

Membership of the NLTHS grew to approximately 710. Over 400 students came to the Gatekeeper's Museum for school tours.

2001

Marion Steinbach arranged the baskets for the panorama display in the basket museum during her last year of life. She passed away in September within a month of President Ed Barnett. ▲

2002

The Bridgetender Restaurant located between the Museum and the Truckee River was demolished and replaced with picnic tables.

2003

The new park and exterior restrooms were completed, and the Museum began charging admission. The Museum store and entrance were moved to the basket side of the building, and sales improved dramatically!

2016

Thanks to members, volunteers and visitors, the Gatekeeper's Museum remains open to the public year-round, this year celebrating its 35th Anniversary.



Gatekeeper's GAZETTE

Summer 2016 Calendar of Events



May 28 Gatekeeper's summer hours begin

June 5 Watson Cabin Clean Up Day

Join us from 10am-4pm for a spring cleaning day to prepare the cabin for summer.

June 10 Lake of the Sky Images—
The Photographs of Harold A. Parker

This Exhibit opens with a Members-Only opening reception 4-6pm Gatekeeper's Museum. The NLTHS and Gatekeeper's Museum will host an exhibit of Lake Tahoe images taken by Harold A. Parker, a Pasadena photographer (1900 to 1930) who summured at the Tahoe Tavern and ran a photographic studio and newsstand. Exhibit runs through September 5.

June 14 Volunteer Kick-Off Brunch

Join us and all of our wonderful volunteers for the volunteer welcome and orientation day. Meet and greet other volunteers and learn about all of our volunteer opportunities. 11am-1pm. Gatekeeper's Museum. Free and open to the public Please RSVP by Friday, June 10.

June 26 Digitization Day

This one-day event invites community members and visitors to bring in their historical Lake Tahoe photographs and images for free professional-quality scanning, with the option to donate a digital copy for inclusion in the NLTHS's database. Contribute to the shared visual history of Lake Tahoe. Gatekeeper's Museum 10am-4pm. FREE & open to the public.

June 28 Lecture: Unique 19th Century Tahoe Glass

A look at some unique glass objects used by both residents and industry in the Tahoe Basin in the latter half of the 19th century. Free and open to the public at Gatekeeper's Museum, 4pm.

June 30 Watson Cabin opens for the summer

July 6 Mark McLaughlin, Lecture and book signing

An illustrated presentation about McLaughlin's newest book, "SNOWBOUND! Legendary Winters of the Tahoe Sierra" SNOWBOUND! profiles the Top 10 biggest winters since 1879. Dramatic stories and compelling weather facts will entertain and inform. Storytelling at its finest! Gatekeeper's Museum, 5pm. FREE & Open to the public.

July 10 Gathering at the Gatekeeper's \$

Celebrating the Gatekeeper's Museum 35th Anniversary. 4-8pm Reservations required by July 1. Please see registration form on opposite page.

July 12 History Hike Summit Canyon \$

We'll hike down the old Dutch Flat/Donner Lake wagon road and discuss the early transportation history of the Donner Summit area. Meet Gatekeeper's Museum parking lot at 9am. 9:15am sharp departure. Recommended: lunch, water, camera, sunscreen, good hiking shoes. Please see registration form on opposite page.

July 21 Lecture and Book signing with Gary Noy

Sierra Nevada Native and author of Sierra Stories: Tales of Dreamers, Schemers, and Bigots. Gary Noy will discuss his upcoming book: Gold Rush Stories about the wining and dining during the California Gold Rush. Gatekeeper's Museum. 4pm. Free & open to the public.

August 5 Historic Bus tour with Mark McLaughlin \$

The 2016 Historic Bus Tour includes a visit to Truckee's historic town jail; the Donner Memorial State Park tour includes an interpretive walk and visit to the new Visitors Center; Last, travel historic Donner Pass Road along Donner Lake, up to Rainbow Bridge and the transcontinental railroad tunnels. Tour includes easy walking. Recommended: comfortable walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, water and camera. Picnic lunch is included. Please see registration form on opposite page.

August 11 43rd Annual Home Tour \$

Join us for our annual tour of unique and historic Tahoe homes. This year features houses in Squaw Valley. Please see registration form on opposite page.

August 15 History Hike Fallen Leaf Lake \$

Hike includes the north and east shores of the Lake, discussion of some of the unique personalities who spent time living there, and a visit to the Anita Baldwin estate ruins. Meet Gatekeeper's Museum parking lot at 9am. 9:15am sharp departure. Recommended: bag lunch, water, camera, sunscreen, good hiking shoes. See registration form on opposite page.

September 11 Watson Cabin closes for the season



Tahoe Tavern, west side facing the mountains. Although rustic in appearance, it was a full-featured resort hotel built in 1901-02. Hand-colored colliotype. H.A.Parker © April 10, 1911

One hundred years later, Mr. Parker's photos and postcards are sought after by an appreciative league of collectors.

Be sure to visit the retrospective exhibition this summer at the Gatekeeper's Museum.

Harold A. Parker, Tahoe Tavern

By Frank Sternad and Carol Jensen. Reprinted with permission from the San Francisco Bay Area Post Card Club

At or near the top of everyone's short list for most beautiful scenery in the High Sierra is the Lake Tahoe Basin with its sapphire blue water, alpine forest and majestic peaks. Mark Twain promised in 1872 that visitors to the mile-high lake would enjoy an atmosphere "bracing and delicious...the same as the angels breathe." Photographers agreed and reveled in the clean air and pristine beauty. Eadweard Muybridge (1830-1904) visited Lake Tahoe that same year to capture romantic landscapes that were published as stereographs by Bradley and Rulofson of San Francisco. Robert E. Wood, editor of the *Tahoe Tattler*, advertised himself in 1881 as a "well-known landscape photographer" and set up a small studio next to the Grand Central Hotel in Tahoe

City. He produced stereographs and cabinet photos titled "Views of Lake Tahoe and vicinity."



Harold A. Parker

Timber to Tourism

At turn of the century, access to the lake and availability of comfortable lodging for extended stay visitors improved dramatically. The person largely responsible for transforming Lake Tahoe into a tourist mecca was an historically obscure gold rush 49er and Nevada banker who in 1873 became president and general manager of the Carson and Tahoe Lumber

and Fluming Co.—the largest lumbering operation in the Tahoe Basin. Duane Leroy Bliss (1833-1907) provided timbering for the Comstock silver mines, lumber to build Virginia City, and firewood to fuel steam-driven machinery. The firm owned logging railroads and several steamboats that moved rafts of logs to the company sawmill at Glenbrook on the Nevada side of the lake. Estimates in 1899 and 1902 determined that about 60% (170,000 acres) of the Lake Tahoe watershed had been clear-cut—750 million board feet of old growth jeffrey, sugar and ponderosa pine, and a half-million cords of firewood. But even at the height of demand for timber, Bliss took steps to preserve some of the basin's natural beauty, ordering trees under 15 inches diameter to be left standing and hundreds of acres of forest on the west side of the lake to remain untouched. After 25 years of logging, Bliss determined timbe:

supply and demand had run its course and although wealthy enough to retire in luxury, he opted to focus his efforts on tourism. A magnificent stand of trees near the lake's river outlet at Tahoe City had been spared, and it was from this preserve that D.L. Bliss and his capable sons initiated their new program for transportation and recreation.

Key to bringing large numbers of people into the basin was construction of a narrow gauge railroad from the Southern Pacific main line at Truckee up to Tahoe City on the lake's northwestern shore. In December 1898 the Lake Tahoe Railway and Transportation Co. (LTR&TCo.) was incorporated to operate the enterprise. Two narrow gauge Baldwin locomotives were acquired from the Glenbrook lumber business along with torn up rails and the remainder of its rolling stock, and everything was barged across the lake to Tahoe City. Excavation in the Truckee River canyon began in April 1899, and by May 1900 fifteen miles of track had been laid. Regular scheduled trips began May 15, 1901. Materials necessary to implement the second phase of their ambitious plans could now be quickly shipped to the lake.

Tahoe Tavern

"D.L. Bliss was here yesterday," reported the July 13, 1901 issue of the *Truckee Republican*. "He is going to build a hotel at Tahoe City. It is said its construction will cost \$150,000 which means a fine hotel." The bureaucratic struggle which today would paralyze a similar undertaking was no such impediment to the Bliss company. Duane Bliss son, Walter Danforth Bliss (b.

1872), an MIT graduate and architect, was commissioned to design the resort a half mile south of the river on a branch of the railroad overlooking the lake. By late September framing was underway, and a crew of 70 men had the first story structure enclosed and covered before the end of October. In May 1902 the new hotel, called TAHOE TAVERN, announced it would formally open for guests on June 12th as the "finest mountain hotel west of the Rocky Mountains—good room and board starting at \$3 per day." A 60-room annex was built in 1906, and the next year another floor was added to the hotel, and a spacious hall called the Casino was completed at water's edge just north of the Tavern.

George Wharton James in his 1915 *The Lake of the Sky*, pens an irresistible invitation to the casino:

The interior finish is the work of a nature artist. Its porches overlook the lake, and when one has wearied of dancing, there is a witchery as rare and subtle as it is delightful to sit in the subdued light overlooking the ripples of the moonlit water, sipping liquid refreshment, eating an ice or chatting with a suitable partner.

Tourists who caught the 7 a.m. train in Truckee arrived at the Tavern an hour later in time for breakfast. For those ready to take a 72-mile, 8-hour trip around the lake, the locomotive maneuvered cars out onto a pier extending 660 feet into the lake just north of the casino. It was only a few steps to board the steamer *Tahoe* tied up alongside the pier. The sleek 169 foot steamer, also owned by the LTR&T Company, was built at San Francisco's Union Iron Works in 1894. It was transported in pieces by rail to Carson City then by wagon to



HAROLD A. PARKER

Lake of the Sky Images

The Photographs of Harold A. Parker

On Exhibit June 10 - Sept. 11
 Gatekeeper's Museum
 130 W. Lake Blvd, Tahoe City, CA
 Open Daily 10am-5pm
 May 28 - Sept. 11

Watson Cabin
 560 N. Lake Blvd, Tahoe City, CA
 Open Thurs. - Sun, 12 - 4pm
 June 30 - September 11




SUMMER 2016
 GATEKEEPER'S MUSEUM

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 northtahoemuseums.org



A Lake Tahoe railway locomotive steams through the Truckee River canyon near Tahoe City. Harold A. Parker ©February 14, 1911.

Glenbrook, reassembled, and launched June 24, 1896. At the end of the cruise, passengers could take the 6:30 p.m. train back to Truckee or stay overnight at the hotel.

Harold A. Parker

Postcards showing the western and eastern façades of Tahoe Tavern were published as early as 1905 by commercial photographers Putnam & Valentine of Los Angeles. Similarly, Abbott & Caldwell of Pasadena made both photographic and printed postcards that were mailed from the lake during the summer of 1907. A recently discovered bill of sale filed in the Placer County courthouse reveals that Lenwood Abbott and Charles W. Caldwell operated a photo studio within the Tavern complex; and on April 10, 1908 they sold their equipment, merchandise and leasing privilege in "the room known as the 'Studio' in Tahoe Tavern Casino." The buyer and new concessionaire was yet another Pasadena photographer, Harold A. Parker.

The photo studio was located on the ground floor of the casino building, and was leased to Parker by the LTR&T Co. for at least five summer seasons, 1908 to 1912. During that period he created a legacy of images picturing the luxury hotel and its spectacular surroundings, all celebrating Lake Tahoe's reinvention as a popular vacation retreat. Glass plate and nitrate film negatives made on his travels around the lake produced photographic prints ranging in size from standard postcards to 58" panoramas he framed for sale in his Lake Tahoe and Pasadena shops.

Harold Alexander Parker was born in the small railroad town of Parkersburg, Iowa on August 14, 1878. When he was fourteen, his father, a retired banker, moved the family to Pasadena, California. Parker spent his high school years at Throop

Polytechnic Institute (later known as Caltech) where he acquired skills in photography. His first job in the business was with view photographer Charles J. Crandall in 1902. The following year he was running his own studio at 54 East Colorado Blvd. in the original commercial center of Pasadena now called Old Town. In 1905, the year he advertised himself as a "Maker of Photographs," he moved to 112 E. Colorado between Raymond and Broadway, and relinquished his old stand to Abbott & Caldwell. In 1907 he established his Pasadena "Foto Supplies and Picture Framing" store at 200 E. Colorado where he remained for over a decade.

Parker found time to venture outside Los Angeles County with his camera, photographing the California missions, desert, and mountain scenery in the southern part of the state. Parker's photos appeared in commercial brochures, the Pasadena Star-News, illustrated books and school yearbooks. Standard size and panoramic scenic views were a staple in his Pasadena store, as were hand-colored postcards and Tournament of Roses souvenir booklets.



The casino, built near the Tahoe Tavern pier in 1907, featured a six-lane bowling alley on the second level of the wing at left. Mr. Parker's studio was on the ground level of this building. Photo captioned, Harold A. Parker imprint.



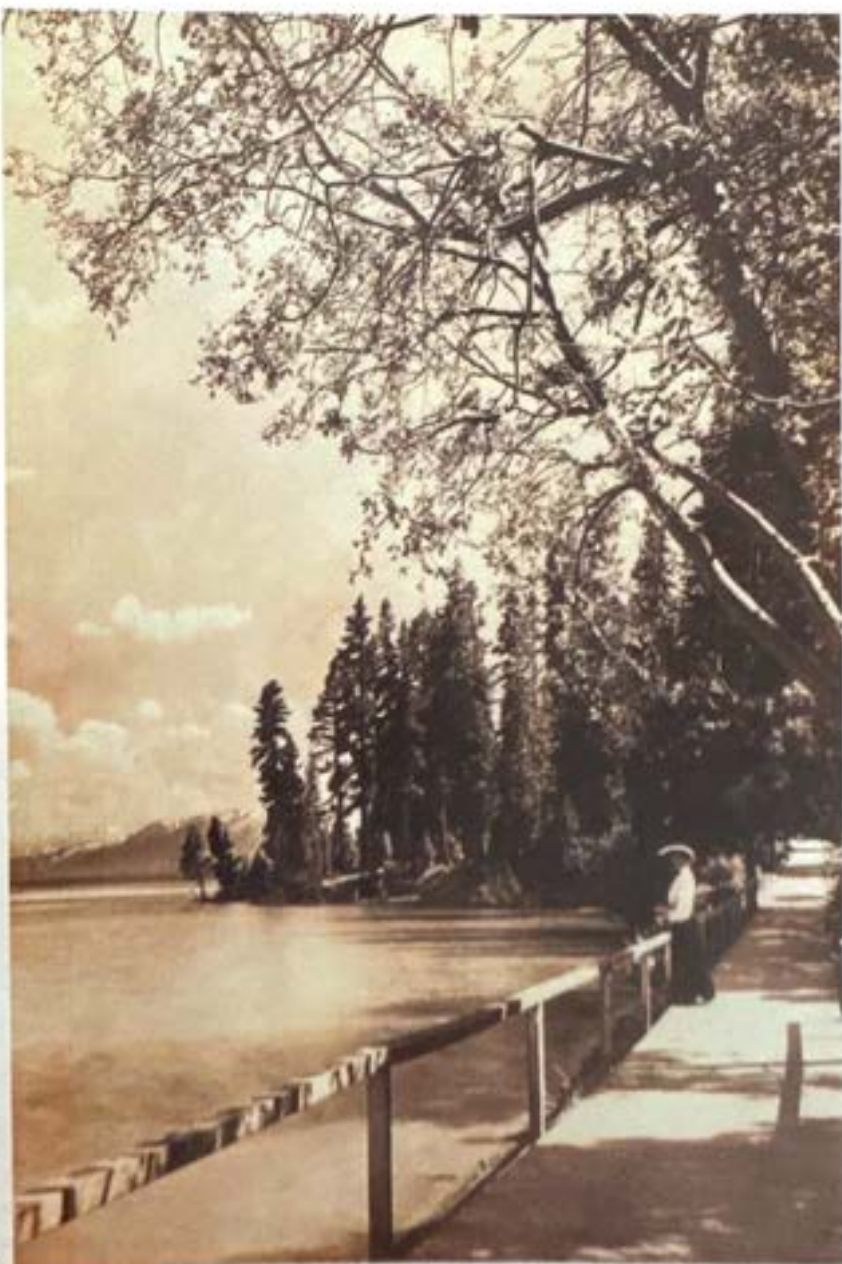
The railway ran adjacent to the west side of the Tavern for convenience of guests. Here locomotive no. 5 is stopped by a service building on the grounds. Detail from a 57' panoramic photo. H.A. Parker ©1910.

It was probably during the 1905 rail trip to Northern California that Parker extended his travel to Lake Tahoe.



Parker label. Circa 1915.

It was probably on a rail trip to San Francisco or Sacramento that Parker extended his travel to Lake Tahoe, stayed at the Tavern and became acquainted with the Bliss resort management. Letterpress printed postcards suggest Parker's classic pictures were created years before he got around to registering copyrights and having them reprinted as real photos and color cards in 1910-11. Some of the halftone printed cards were mailed from Tahoe City as early as August 1905. Abbott & Caldwell ran the Tahoe Tavern studio during 1907 and part of 1908, with Parker stepping in sometime in the summer of 1908. The three of them were obviously acquainted from dealings in Pasadena. If Parker's March 1912 exclusive contract with LTR&TCo. can be regarded as typical, he made annual rental payments of \$750 for the studio, which included sale of curios and anything pertaining to photography and art work, \$250 for operating a newsstand (daily papers from San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles).



Boardwalk at Tahoe Tavern 1905. Photo produced Harold A. Parker imprint.



Six passengers in the basket of the balloon American just before ascending March 20, 1909. Harold A. Parker is the man in the right front corner inside the basket.

and \$250 for a steamer privilege (season pass for traveling around the lake on photo shoots, and providing on-board services).

In 1909, before the summer season started, Harold A. Parker took another adventurous trip that landed him in newspaper columns throughout the state. Donald L. Parker, Harold's son, relates the exciting and near tragic March 20, 1909 Pasadena balloon ascension in his 1993 book, *Perilous Voyage of the Balloon 'American'*. Parker was one of six men aboard an exhibition flight that was supposed to float east toward San Bernardino, but instead was blown north, landing on top of snowy, desolate Strawberry Peak (elev. 6,164 ft.)—the highest point in the front range of the San Gabriel Mountains. Parker was carrying a roll-film, folding Kodak camera and photographed the three-day ordeal while the hapless aeronauts trudged back to civilization.

Commercial view photography could be keenly competitive in



If this young woman in buckskins was from a local tribe, she would be a Washoe. The center of the world for the Washiw was Lake Tahoe, both geographically and spiritually. Photo postcard, Harold A. Parker imprint.

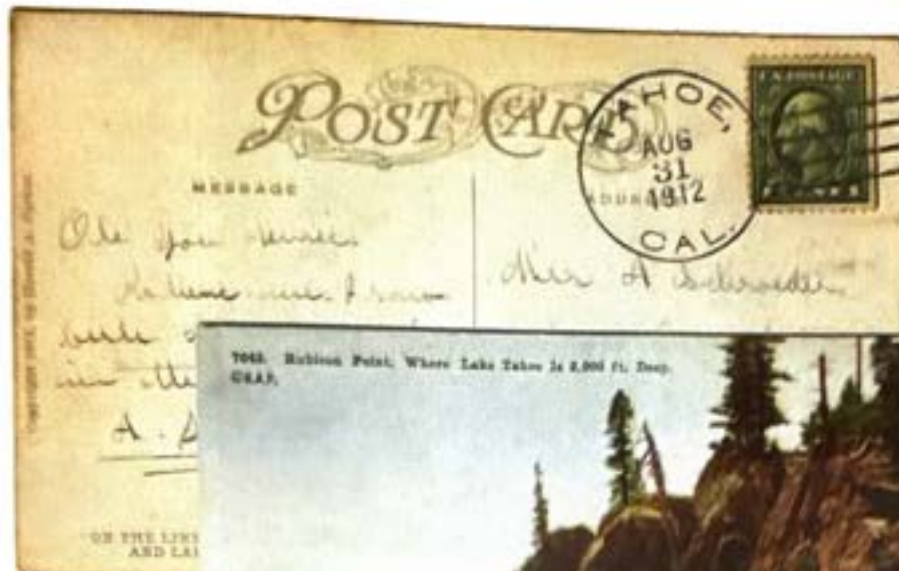
certain markets as there were many postcard publishers vying for salable images. Success for a photographer required a diligent work ethic, marketing skills, and legal protection of creative property. Parker became more meticulous about personalizing his postcards when he acquired the Tahoe

Tavern studio business, imprinting his photographic postcard stock. "Lake Tahoe Souvenir/Harold A. Parker, Tahoe Tavern, Lake Tahoe, California." In 1910 he started registering copyrights for his images; and when postcard publishers such as E.H. Mitchell, Pacific Novelty, M. Rieder, Curt Teich and E.C. Kropp used his pictures, they were usually marked "Copyright by Harold A. Parker" or "© H.A.P." But copyright ownership did not guarantee control, especially in the postcard industry, and over the years popular images were copied, often without legal assignment. Parker did publish some postcards himself, printed by the Albertype Co. of Brooklyn, NY.

Marjorie MacCourt, a young woman hired as a counter clerk in 1906, eventually learned to operate the photo lab at the Pasadena shop as well as the Tahoe Tavern studio. She became Harold's wife in 1910, and it seems possible that complications associated with Marjorie's second pregnancy explain why Parker gave up the Tahoe Tavern concession after 1912.

In 1921 Harold A. Parker moved his photography business into a new building at 576 E. Colorado Blvd., part of the property his parents had owned at the southwest corner of Madison. Nine years later, on a crisp Sunday morning in February, while playing a round of golf at the links in Altadena, Parker suffered a fatal heart attack. He was five days short of his 50th birthday. Marjorie struggled to continue the business for 10

Parker began registering copyrights for his images in 1910; and when postcard publishers used his photos, they were usually marked "Copyright by Harold A. Parker" or "©H.A.P".



Rubicon Point, Although the caption claims depth of 2,000 feet, official measurements have never found the Lake to be more than 1,645 feet deep. Color lithograph, H.A. Parker ©February 14, 1911.



Eagle Creek drops 140 feet over rocky ledges to form lower Eagle Falls as it cascades its way to Emerald Bay. Photo postcard, postmarked August 1908.

years, then sold to commercial photographers Ernest G. Dickson and Alvin R. Thurber who moved the shop a block west. Parker's archive of 35,000 film and 6.5" x 8.5" glass plate negatives passed through several owners before his son Donald managed to acquire them. By that time the number had dwindled to less than 5,200. Donald Parker in turn donated the collection to the Huntington Library for proper storage and scholarly study

Carlton O. Valentine (1872-1970), commercial photographer and member of the Los Angeles firm of Putnam & Valentine, appears to have assumed the Tahoe Tavern photo concession, at least during 1917-20, and perhaps as early as 1913. He marked his

photographic and printed cards, "Tavern Studio." Valentine moved permanently to Lake Tahoe about 1934 and opened his own resort and photo studio just south of the Tavern property.

Contributors: Huntington Library, John Freeman, Art Sommers.



Harold A. Parker's photo studio. Circa 1929. Southwest corner of Colorado and Michigan in Pasadena, California.



University of Reno, Nevada Research Experience for Undergraduates interns, Codi Leitner and Hayley Mollen, scan historical photos at the Gatekeeper's Museum. The Digitization Day will provide UNR photography students the opportunity to work with historic photos and apply their training in professional digitization practice. Photo by Margo Jane Duvall.

Community Digitization Day at NLTHS

Do you have any historical photographs, posters, or other memorabilia documenting the Tahoe area? The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society holds tremendous resources documenting the visual history of the Tahoe basin and the North Lake Tahoe community in particular, but there are always gaps to be filled, and your materials could help fill them! This summer, we're holding a new event inviting participants to donate not your original materials (though in many cases, those would be welcome, too), but a digital copy of those materials. The NLTHS, along with the University of Nevada, Reno Photography Program, are co-hosting this digitization day, funded by a Common Heritage grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This one-day event invites community members and visitors to bring in their historical Lake Tahoe photographs for free professional-quality scanning, with the option to then donate a digital copy of materials for inclusion in the NLTHS's

databases, contributing to the shared visual history of Lake Tahoe. There's no commitment required from participants—the donation form is an optional step—but we hope many will be inspired to share their history with the community. Throughout the day a variety of education programming will be offered to provide information about how to care for historic visual materials and to provide insight into how these materials are being used by researchers.

What to bring

Original visual materials documenting Tahoe's history—preferably materials created prior to 1970.

Some examples include

- Photographs (prints or negatives)
- Posters
- Brochures
- Postcards
- Stationery with logos of local businesses
- Scrapbooks
- Sketches
- Paintings
- Maps

Because carefully handling and scanning your materials takes time, we may not be able to digitize all the resources you may have during this event. We suggest that each participant select five high-priority items (or pages, if bringing in scrapbooks or other multi-page items) for scanning; if there are no other participants waiting for scanning, we'll be happy to scan additional materials beyond that amount. All staff and volunteers will be trained in proper handling procedures, but our scanning set-up won't allow us to digitize extremely fragile materials, and we won't be equipped to perform conservation on materials, so please take this into consideration when selecting materials to bring. If you have additional physical materials that you'd be interested in donating to the NLTHS, staff and board members will be on-hand to talk with you at the event, or can be contacted at info@northtaohemuseums.org.

What you'll take home

Participants who bring in materials to be scanned will be given free high-resolution digital files of scans on USB drives. For those who bring in prints or negatives in standard sizes, we'll also have free archival-quality enclosures to place the originals in for preservation purposes. If some of the scanned materials are glass plate negatives, volunteers will be on hand with supplies to demonstrate how to create an archival enclosure for glass plates.

All participants will be invited to sign a form donating a digital copy of their materials to the

NLTHS, for potential inclusion in the NLTHS's database and use in future exhibits and research. For participants who select this option for their materials, UNR photography students trained in metadata creation and standards will do further research on these materials and create captions and subject headings to make these images more easily accessible by researchers.

Scheduled events

The event will kick off with a welcome address from NLTHS Board President Jim Phelan. Photographer Peter Goin will then present on the use of historic photographs in his rephotographic projects. Historian Carol Jensen will speak on her use of historic photographs in her research, and particularly on her research on 20th-century photographer Harold Parker's work at Tahoe, the subject of her exhibit at the NLTHS this summer. Photograph archivist Katrina Windon will discuss how to preserve personal photographs, while Photograph Curator Kim Roberts will provide instruction on the interpretation of historical images. Docents will also offer two tours of the Museum's collections.

Who's invited

NLTHS members as well as the general public are encouraged to attend—the event, and admission to the Museum, will be free to the public. Even those without materials to be digitized will find an opportunity to learn more about the NLTHS's collections, archival resources, preservation, and use.

When and where

The event will be held Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Gatekeeper's Museum, 130 W Lake Blvd, Tahoe City, CA 96145. Parking will be available in the Museum's lot and nearby at the Bank of the West at 150 W Lake Tahoe Blvd. For those without a car, the Tahoe Area Transit Center is within walking distance, just south of the Fanny Bridge.

Scheduling an appointment

We'll have four digitization stations open to drop-ins throughout the day. We hope you'll be able to stick around all day to enjoy the programming and learn more about the history of the North Lake Tahoe community—but if you need to be in and out, with no waiting in line, we have a limited number of half-hour digitization appointments available at a fifth digitization station. You can register online for one of these slots at <https://calendly.com/digitizationday/digitizationsession/06-26-2016>.

Due to limited scanning hardware for oversized materials, this pre-registration option is available only for materials 8" x 10" inches or smaller.

Further information

For a schedule of events and more information, see <http://tahoedigitizationday.splashthat.com>. If you have any questions about the event, or would like a promotional poster to display at your business or workplace, please contact Katrina Windon at kwindon@unr.edu.

If you have questions about the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, please email Marnie at info@northtahoemuseums.org

Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this article do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



This photograph from the NLTHS's collections was taken as part of the U.S. Reclamation Service's 1916 Lake Tahoe Photographic Shoreline Survey, and shows photographer H. I. Cowling with his camera equipment on a pier at Tahoe. This photograph is one of several NLTHS images that photographer Peter Goin has used in his books on the history of Lake Tahoe. The Survey images taken to demonstrate the lake at its highest water level, and used by property owners in their discussion with government organizations about regulating the lake level—are an example of historical materials created to serve one purpose are now being used in other contexts.



THEN (1964) Carl Bechdolt, Jr.'s Tahoe City Golf Course came all the way to the edge of Highway 89.



NOW (2007).

Bill Briner's 1964 Tahoe City Survey

By Carol Van Etten

In 1964, to mark the 100th anniversary of Tahoe City's "birth," a local women's group enlisted the services of photographer Bill Briner to make a visual record of the community for posterity.

In the wake of the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, the Tahoe region was experiencing a period of unprecedented growth, though it still retained much of its rural flavor.

In November 2007, 43 years later, I attempted to recreate the views captured by Briner. This post includes views taken at the Tahoe City "Wye", where Highways 28 and 89 intersect.

Keep in mind that some of the views were impossible to duplicate exactly, since the "Wye" actually used to be a virtually flat "Tee", with



THEN (1964) Somebody must have called that number.



NOW (2007) For more than 40 years, the site has been occupied by a supermarket. Originally, it was a Lucky's, then Albertson's and now...well, that's not history yet.



THEN (1964) Lakeside Boulevard. Briner wrote on back of photo: "1964 Far left: Kilner Bldg - (phone office) (apartments), Berghol's Pizza Parlor. Background - Swedish Farmhouse Motel, Donaldson's Coffee Shop, Ted Lewis Shell Station"

two broad crescent-shaped medians and no turning lanes - there just wasn't enough traffic to justify them!

Today, a photographer would be flirting with danger to stand where Briner stood to take some of these photos, even at 7 a.m. on a snowless day-after-Thanksgiving!

All of the "Then" photos in this post were taken in 1964 and appear here courtesy of William S. Briner.

Thanks, Bill!



NOW (2007) Lakeside Boulevard. A few yards of topsoil have obscured the former view. Just to the right of the stoplight is a blue spruce donated by Tahoe City pier builder James W. Williamson, David D. McBride and Tahoe Tree Company, plus others unknown, contributed to the landscaping.



THEN (1964) Briner has written on the back of the original photo: 1964 Shell Station - Ted Lewis, Ralph Burger, Tahoe City World offices



NOW (2007)



THEN in 1964, on the now-vacant lakeward edge of the Wye, sat an Orange Julius stand, while across the Outlet was the massive log structure built by Loren Holmwood to house his Viking Gift Shop (which was later the home of Fanny Bridge Inn and still later of the original Bridgetender location). Across Highway 89 was Jac's Left Bank (later La Cuesta and today the home of the Bridgetender) and on the northwest bank of the Truckee was the steelwheel Shopping center, now River Grill. Charles Beardsley's Real Estate office is now the home of The Dam Cafe.



NOW 2007



Photo Unidentified—

It was suggested that the photo might be located at the Brockway corrals but unfortunately we did not find enough information to confirm.

If you can identify the location please email Marnie@gatekeepersmuseum.org.



P.O. Box 6141 | Tahoe City, CA 96145



This is a Harold A. Parker image but we don't know where at Lake Tahoe this was located. We estimate the year was probably 1906 -1913. If you can identify the location, the name of the hostelry or resort, owner's name, or any other details in this photo please contact Marnie Carr at info@gatekeepersmuseum.org.

