



# Douglas County Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2009  
VOLUME XXXIII NO. 3

### CARSON VALLEY MUSEUM AND

**CULTURAL CENTER**  
1477 U.S. Highway 395 N. Suite B  
Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214  
775-782-2555  
FAX: 775-783-8802  
Open Mon - Sat 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



### COURTHOUSE MUSEUM In GENOA

2304 Main Street  
Genoa, Nevada 89411  
775-782-4325  
Open May - October  
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



[www.HistoricNevada.org](http://www.HistoricNevada.org)  
Email: [dchs@wpti.net](mailto:dchs@wpti.net)

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hope you are all enjoying the great weather. Genoa is open for the season. There have been many changes over there. The Exhibit Committee has worked really hard. The Museum Store has been redone and there are lots of new things. Go over and take a look. The training sessions went very well and the procedures are making things a lot easier. We can still use volunteers. If you are interested, contact Cindy Rogers, our office manager.

Fundraising activities have begun with the Barn Tour, so we will be busy now until next January raising money to keep the Society running. Please try to attend as many functions as you can. It really helps us.

The lectures have brought in a number of new members. Don't forget there is a charge of \$3.00 for non-members starting in June.

Join the Society and ask your friends and neighbors to join with you. We've had our trustee elections and I welcome those who are coming back and you new ones who are joining us. I look forward to working with all of you.

Voting on the new budget will be at our June 18 meeting. Anyone who is interested can get a copy of it from Cindy in the office. Don't hesitate to call if you have questions or concerns about the Historical Society. We welcome your interest.

**Grace Bower**

### DCHS OFFICERS

**President**  
Grace Bower  
**Vice President**  
Tonja Dressler  
**Secretary**  
Barbara Smallwood  
**Treasurer**  
Kay Wildes

### TRUSTEES

Kathryn Balvin	Bill Lemons
Grace Bower	Dorothy Scossa
Barbara Byington	Barbara Smallwood
Helen Chappel	Terry Capton-Snell
Tonja Dressler	Ted Tiffany
John Henningsen	Lisa Voss
Virginia Henningsen	Gary Williams
Laurie Hickey	

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cindy Rogers

**CURATOR**  
Ellen Martin

**BOOKKEEPER**  
Kathleen Hansen

## The Gardnerville and Genoa Museum Stores

By: The Museums Bookstore Committee

During the year, there are many enjoyable programs offered by the Douglas County Historical Society. One is the popular “Taste of the Towns” being held August 1.



With delectable dishes to look forward to, did you know that in both Museums’ Bookstores we offer some unique cookbooks? To name a few: *Cherished Recipes* contains recipes from many of the residents in Douglas County compiled by a Cookbook Committee, members of which were Dottie Jay, Marlena Hellwinkel, E-Ann Logan, Liz Paul and Lois Storke; *Chorizos in an Iron Skillet, Memories and Recipes from an American Basque Daughter* by Mary Ancho Davis is a cookbook in which the author gives us a glimpse of her family’s personal traditions and history while sharing special memories from her mother’s kitchen. Not only are the Old Country traditional dishes included along with their modern versions but also details of the evolution of Basque cooking in America; *Cowboy Gore-may (from hoof to palate)* by Bob Kinford contains over 90 ranch tested and approved recipes gathered by a true cowboy. A charming addition is the paragraph preceding each recipe that describes how the recipe came to be. Some renditions are true, some are a “little” stretched. Believe what you wish!

For those of you who haven’t checked out the Courthouse Museum Genoa Bookstore yet, there are some new items. There is colorful beaded jewelry – necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and rings – handcrafted by Judy James and Ada Johnson, Washoe Tribal members. There is gemstone jewelry available as well. Also new this year are stunning pieces of wooden art handcrafted by William D. Broderson of Gardnerville, owner of “Art from Nature.” Mr. Broderson is a wood turner who specializes in design and development of wood turned bowls, vessels, vases, and boxes, which he refers to as “Art from Nature.” The art begins with the selection of high quality wood. This wood is often highly figured or exotic. One of his special techniques is the unusual use of inlay such as semi-precious stones, different wood, and color highlights with texturing to make his work unique. As no two stones or blocks of wood are the same, each piece has an individual quality that cannot be duplicated.

In the CVM&CC Bookstore, there is art on consignment by local artists. This artwork displays a variety of subjects, most of which can be found in Douglas County.

In both Museum Bookstores, another new item is the two-CD package “The Most Beautiful Drive in America” by Darin Talbot who lives in Incline Village. Everyone loves the beauty of the Lake Tahoe area, and these CDs contain two hours of information on where to eat, drink, shop, plus cool things to do off the beaten path. There are stories, songs, and legends of the Tahoe lifestyle. All you need to do is insert the CD in your car player and, as you drive around the lake, you will hear which places to stop and listen to an anecdote and/or the history of the particular area. Each shore of the Lake is covered along with the Truckee River and Squaw Valley. Included is a map of Lake Tahoe. What a bargain for \$17.95. *Enjoy your summer!*

S W A P M E E T S T O S T A R T !



The Douglas County Historical Society will be holding their swap meets July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22 and September 12. Booth spaces are \$10.00 for 10 x 10 space in advance. \$20.00 the day of the swap meet.

Hours are 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

We had a great response last year from booth renters and the public. Everyone wants to come back again.

Save up your junque and join us. Sign up applications are available at the front desk of the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center.



# Volunteer Scoop

In their own words!



## Joyce Berglund



I have been coming to Carson Valley since 1949. In those days, Gardnerville had a population of 250. My uncle was a cowboy and in the summer, he would bring cattle to Hope Valley for summer range where I was able to spend many vacations.

Being born in San Mateo and raised in Redwood City, this was a wonderful opportunity for a city kid. I spent my adult life in San Francisco and retired from the SFUSD. 12 years ago I moved to Carson City. I have been volunteering for four years at the CVMCC. I have done many interesting projects and met so many amazing people who help to preserve the history of the valley.

## Shirley Lundergreen Jones



Third generation Carson Valley resident, born in Mottsville. Graduated from Minden Grammar School May 1942. Graduated from Douglas County High School June 1947 with a class of 30 students. After celebrating

our 60th reunion, we have been meeting monthly for lunch. Attended UNR for two years. Worked as a bookkeeper for Douglas Motors Ford Garage in Gardnerville for three years and then for John Doane, the Richfield Oil Distributor for 23 years. Then as a teller for First Interstate Bank for 17 years before retiring. I have volunteered here at the museum every Tuesday afternoon since it opened in August 1995. Also worked with the Exhibit Committee for about three years. Helped build the 1/3 size barn for "The Year of The Barn". Married to Edward W. Jones, (deceased) for 36 years. No children but love my nieces and nephews. Life-long member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

## Judy Conrad



Paul and I retired from "Silicon Valley" in 1997 and moved to Carson Valley because of our love of the mountains. Hiking, quilting, genealogy, traveling and volunteering keep me happily busy. We have 4 children and 4 grandchildren who are scattered around the U.S

I've been a museum volunteer for 11 years, enjoy the work and love the wonderful people I've met. I have two "jobs". Working with curator, Ellen Martin and President Grace Bower. I have computerized and printed 2 books of inventories of the documents and paper artifacts in the museum's possession. This is an "ongoing" process and combines my love of local history and recording the "details". What treasures we have! My other job is as a member of the "museum bookstore committee". I've put together our books and gift inventories on the computer, and we all work together on the many details of keeping two bookstores running and inventories current. It's a good retirement life!!

## THANK YOU!

We have two new pull down projection screens thanks to Ken and Dorothy Gardner's generous contribution. One is in the meeting room mounted on the ceiling over the TV. Thanks to Randy Strawn and his crew. The other screen is mounted on the ceiling in the main room upstairs, thanks to Gary Williams and John Crissaty. Now, when we have speakers who need a projection screen, we are ready for them. Ken Gardner is the author of "Sleepin' in the Bunkhouse, Rhymes From Ranch and Range" available in our museum stores.

## Exhibit Committee Report

By: Irene Marshall

The Exhibit Committee spent this winter in the Courthouse Museum in Genoa re-doing exhibits.

- \* The schoolroom has another desk and flickering flames in the wood stove.
- \* Recorder's Office was also re-configured. The original filing case was brought in from the Annex. Proclamations found in the cases were scanned and photos of the interior of the original Recorder's Office is now part of the Exhibit. You can even meet the Recorder!
- \* A hard working blacksmith is manning the forge.
- \* The Courtroom's old exhibit cases were removed. Visitors now have access to the entire Courtroom. Two smaller exhibit cases, voting boxes, and a display of old typewriters and the Carson Valley Timeline have been added.
- \* The Parlor has new draperies, baby buggy, desk and a Hans Meyer-Kassel painting along with two smaller cases featuring hand-painted teacups.
- \* The Doll Room has been re-arranged for better viewing.
- \* The Snowshoe Thompson Room was re-done to resemble his home and story lines of his placed on the walls.
- \* Genoa pioneers adorn the walls in the upstairs hallway.

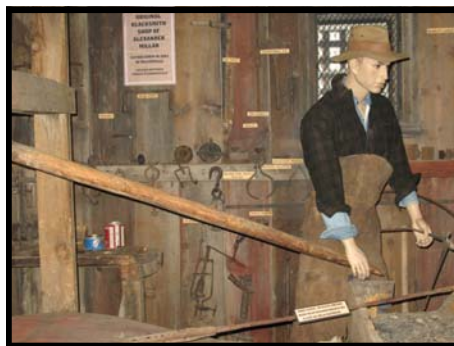
Many thanks to Ted Tiffany for hanging up all of the exhibit board.

We hope all of our work will be an education to all who visit the Courthouse Museum in Genoa.

We also added a few new articles to the CVM&CC Dry Goods, Mercantile Store and the Newspaper Office (Bert Selkirk's typewriter and a paper drying rack) on U.S.A Main Street in Gardnerville. The street has three new street-lights.

There seems to be no vacation for our team. We will be working on the barnyard at CVM&CC this summer. Of course, we always need money, especially for this huge outdoor exhibit. Any help will be appreciated.

Thanks!!!



Photos taken by Irene Marshall.

### TASTE OF THE TOWNS!

Tickets are on sale in the museum stores at Carson Valley Museum and the Courthouse Museum for the Taste, which is August 1 from 5-9 pm. Members are \$20.00, non-members \$25.00.

You will be getting tastes from the Overland, JT's, Woodettes, Two Guys, Bravo Desserts, Papa Murphy's, Grace and Ida's Cookies, David Walley's, Margarita Man and more.

Also, this is your chance to visit Fresh Ideas, Classical Glass, Cheshire Antiques, Anglers Edge, Battle Born Wine, Country Carousel and others along your walk. These businesses are paying for the music you enjoy at JT's and the parking lot at the museum, so try to visit as many as you can. The "Hot Two" will be at JT's and Ben Crocker will be back at the Carson Valley Museum parking lot.

Please thank the restaurants and businesses for participating.

### STUDENT / SENIOR DAY

Sue Smith

The first Saturday of each month activity continues. Seniors and students with the required adult who accompanies them are admitted free. Donations are appreciated. Tours led by costumed museum volunteers are available on request. Presentations are at 11 am and 1 pm unless otherwise announced. Watch for email from DCHS. We have outstanding presentations and low attendance. We hope you will attend and support continuation of the program.

JULY 4: Due to Independence Day observance, there will be no Student/Senior Day. CVMCC will be closed. AUGUST 1: CHICKEN EVERY SUNDAY, the 1949 movie filmed in Carson Valley will be shown at CVMCC at 2:00 pm ONLY. The movie is one hour and 45 minutes. This is a good way to start Taste of the Town festivities. Members will be present to identify locations used in this fun movie with local lure.

SEPTEMBER 5: CVMCC will be closed for the Labor Day weekend. Student/Senior Day will be held in Genoa. It will be a program on the US Constitution. The speaker and time are to be announced. Watch for further details on the website and email.

### MEMORIALS

Hubert Bruns - James Hickey - Delphina Biaggi Baeta

### Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, please let Cindy Rogers know at [dchs@wpti.net](mailto:dchs@wpti.net). Will save on printing and postage.

### MEMBERSHIP

I would like to thank all of our members for their support of the Douglas County Historical Society. Without the help of our members it would not be possible to operate the Courthouse Museum in Genoa, or the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center.

Our community can be proud of all that the members and volunteers have done to promote the education of historical Douglas County, to our children, our residents and our visitors.

New members are always needed: and you can help by asking your friends, neighbors and relatives to join us as members. Bring them to the museums and if they like what they see, ask them to help support us through membership.

### Great Barns of Carson Valley Barn Tour

By: Laurie Hickey

The Douglas County Historical Society's "Great Barns of Carson Valley Barn Tour," is over; we hope the ticket holders and volunteers all had a great time. The Barn Tour would not be possible without the generosity and cooperation of the barn owners. They were great and made my job easy. The delicious ice cream served at the museum following the tour was made possible by Tahoe Creamery. The many volunteers that worked at the barns, we want you to know that we couldn't have done it without you. The other volunteers that made forms, posters, tickets, and all of you that sold them. Those that took care of signs, helped serve, and clean up, everyone of you made the Barn Tour a success. THANK YOU ALL!! Most of all we want to thank all those who purchased tickets, we hope they enjoyed the Barn Tour and will come again next year.

The Third **Thirsty Thursday** put on by Gardnerville Main Street USA went very well. We had about 200 visitors who tasted wine at our table and the Chamber table. Many people had not been in the museum before, so we hope this event will bring them back. Marlena Hellwinkel has generously given us a donation to cover the next four Thirsty Thursdays. If you didn't participate on May 21, the next one is June 18 and then the third Thursdays in July, August and September, from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Sign up and get your wine glass and wristband at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center out front. Coupons are available for \$5.00 off your wristband at participating businesses.

**EDITOR FOUND!** Many thanks to Hollie Giottonini for doing our newsletter for all these years. She has done a wonderful job! We have a new editor, Mary Jane Harding. If you want something in the newsletter, get it to her at [maryjanepete@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjanepete@yahoo.com). Our deadlines are; September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1.

## VISITING NEARBY EASTERN SIERRA - HISTORIC SITES

By Bill Palmer



With summer fast approaching, many new arrivals to Carson Valley (and hopefully, now members of our Historical Society) will be having family and/or friends as first-time visitors. As members, it is suggested they plan on guiding them through our two museums – both of which contain interesting and abundant local artifacts. They might also consider providing them an opportunity to visit nearby historic places like Virginia City, or down to the early gold mining town of Bodie, California.

The inhabitants of Virginia City have retained a well-deserved reputation for sharing with visitors their rich heritage. But, for those who may wish to visit Bodie, it is an abandoned eastern Sierra mining town about 20 miles southeast of Bridgeport, California. Back in the late 1870s, Bodie was a thriving community of over 12,000 people. Today, except for park rangers, the town is deserted, but remains a treasure trove for those interested in a significant element of our colorful Eastern Sierra past.

Now a California State Park, Bodie with its remaining buildings, has been maintained in what Park personnel like to describe as: "a state of arrested preservation." Pamphlets are provided to help guide visitors and identify the various buildings and remains.

However, in order to enhance one's experience, it is strongly suggested that before visiting Bodie the first time, one should read at least one of the many books written about Bodie. That way, the buildings become much more than simply a group of weathered structures. Knowing their backgrounds often enables them to take on aspects of the colorful personalities who once inhabited them.

Both of our local Museum bookstores carry a variety of books on Bodie. "*The Story of Bodie*" by Ella M. Cain is a strong recommendation. It is relatively small and inexpensive, yet provides comprehensive, easy to read, information on details of the town's history.

Not all of Bodie's buildings are available for close-up viewing. For example, the town's former Railroad Station is located on top of the hill at the eastern edge of town. It remains 'off limits.' Another building "off limits" is out of normal sight and may or may not still be standing. Yet, its characteristics make it one of the more imagination provoking of Bodie's structures. It is a small weathered miner's cabin, located east of Bodie's nearby picnic grounds and centered on top of a large tailing pile on the side of Bodie Bluff.

Up a ways from the picnic grounds, the cabin is sited just far enough from the edge of the pile to not be easily seen from below. Out of common sight, it was not considered an integral part of the park and thus hadn't been maintained. So, over the years the deep snows of winter and hot summer days severely deteriorated its structure.

Several years ago, 'backdoor' permission was 'indirectly provided' by one of the Rangers to venture where visitors were not normally allowed to go. A couple of us proceeded to, and through the Railroad Station building then ventured on up to the top of Bodie Bluff, where we could look down on that tailing pile that jutted out from what had once been a mine entrance. That's how we spotted that small cabin. We slowly made our way down the steep slope to the top of that pile and found we could go inside the cabin and look around.

It was a very small one-room structure, resting on a stone foundation. As we entered, we could see two small windows on the north and west sides. Turning around and looking back through the open door, we could see that the former occupant once enjoyed a magnificent unencumbered daily view of the distant snow-capped Sierra.

The room was largely taken up by a central, board-edged 'box' that had been filled with dirt to form a fire-pit, about waist-high. Above this, a rectangular metal flume could be seen, similar to those over restaurant griddles; it funneled smoke up and out through a chimney pipe. This served both as a cooking 'stove' and provided heat for the cabin. A single wooden bunk was built-in along the east wall and shelving could be seen on the opposite side of that raised fire pit. Everything was made of crude lumber – strictly utilitarian.

The years and severe weather had not only deteriorated the cabin structure but also badly warped the floorboards, exposing the dirt below. It was easy to imagine someone having once placed a box or can, filled with gold, beneath one of those loose-floorboard 'trapdoors.' I got down and looked under those boards, but not surprisingly, wasn't able to see anything but dirt.

In spite of those few "off limits" places, a leisurely tour of the town, a visit to the Miner's Union Hall (now a museum), a guided tour inside the Syndicate Mill and a visit to the local cemetery will help assure an interesting, fun-filled day for all.

### Trail to the Promised Land Lecture July 9th

By: Laurie Hickey

The story of the Carson River Route of the Emigrant Trail through Carson Valley to Tragedy Springs is the subject of the July 9<sup>th</sup> lecture.

The lecture will show the trail as it appears today 159 years later. Last summer my husband Dan and I hiked the entire trail from Woodfords to Tragedy Springs filming all the way. The difficulty of sections of the trail is unbelievable. The tenacity of the emigrants that made that journey is awe inspiring. You will see the rope & chain marks on the trees where they hoisted wagons up the Devils Ladder, the groves in the rocks made by the rubbing of chains & ropes. The depressions in the soil can still be seen made by the thousands of wagons, animals and people that traveled the trail. See some of the names written in axel grease on rocks left by emigrants that marked their passage. Diary excerpts from those who made this miraculous journey to the Promised Land.

The Carson River Route of the Emigrant Trail was the most traveled route during the early years of the California Gold Rush. In 1850, alone an estimated 50,000 California bound Argonauts traveled this trail through Carson Valley over Carson Pass and West Pass (9,640 foot summit) the highest point ever traveled by wagons in the nation. The view from West Pass is absolutely spectacular in every direction on a clear day you can see the Costal Mountain Range.



My goal is to stir up some interest in the Emigrant Trail. *Carson Valley lies in the middle of the trail.* To the North of Carson Valley is the Forty-Mile desert the most dreaded portion of the trail. To the South the Sierra that has some of the most spectacular scenery that could be found anywhere. We hiked the trail from the first of July to mid October and saw not one other person hiking the trail. Western migration to California was one of the most important events in American History and no one seems to know about it.

Hope you will attend the lecture and learn a little about the trail and those that built it and those that traveled it to The Promised Land.

### Memorial Mural

By: Miki Trujillo

We are the students from the A.S.P.I.R.E Alternative Education School. Our goal is to pursue integrity and show character inside and outside of our school setting. It even says it in our name: All Students Pursuing Integrity, Responsibility and Education. We participate in many community service projects over the course of the year. For our last project, we chose to create a Memorial Mural outside of the CVM&CC. The reason we chose this project is because over the last several years so many young people have passed away, so we wanted to do something to help family and friends cope with their loss. We are hoping this mural gives comfort and peace to families and friends. We also want it to be a place where people can come and remember their loved ones. There will be a memorial book inside the CVM&CC for people to honor their loved ones they have loved and lost. We dedicated the Mural on May 28th. We were in awe and grateful that over 100 people attended our dedication.

Other community projects we have done include: collecting canned goods for the food drive, a pay it forward type of activity where we went to Wal-Mart with 25 dollar gift cards and gave them to people to help them with their holiday shopping and our most recent project was when we asked Joey Jacobsen to come in so we can tell him how he inspired each of us. We luckily were able to get a box full of Pittsburgh Pirate memorabilia donated by the Pirate organization that we gave to Joey. We also gave him tickets to go see the A's and the Giants play in San



Francisco. We appreciate that we have been able to serve our community and we especially thank the Douglas County Historical Society for allowing us to create our mural on the lawn in front of the CVM&CC.

### **REMINDER!**

Just a reminder that we have **Ancestry.com** in the Van Sickle library. It is available for everyone to use at no charge. Come in and look up your Family tree. Check in at the front desk of the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center.

*Douglas County Historical Society  
1477 U.S. Highway 395 N. Suite B  
Gardnerville, Nevada 89410-5214*

## **DCHS 2009 EVENTS**

July 9	Lecture 'Trail To the Promised Land', CVM&CC
July 11 & 25	Swap Meet, CVM&CC
August 1	Student/Senior Day 'Chicken Every Sunday' movie, CVM&CC
August 1	Taste of the Towns (advance tickets), CVM&CC
August 8 & 22	Swap Meet, CVM&CC
August 13	Lecture, CVM&CC
September 5	Student/Senior Day 'U.S. Constitution', CMG
September 10	Lecture 'Around Tahoe', CVM&CC
September 12	Swap Meet, CVM&CC
October 3	Student/Senior Day 'Hotel Minden' video, CVM&CC
October 8	Lecture, CVM&CC
October 22	Haunted Minden Ghost Walk - 6:30, 7:30 & 8:30 P.M. (CVIC Hall)
October 23	Haunted Gardnerville Ghost Walk - 6:30, 7:30 & 8:30 P.M. (CVM&CC)
October 24	Haunted Genoa Cemetery Tour - From 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
October 25	Haunted Genoa Ghost Walk - 10:30 and 11:30 A.M. (CMG)
November 12	Lecture, CVM&CC
December 5	Holiday Gala, CVM&CC

Watch for additional information in the local newspapers, on the DCHS website at [www.HistoricNevada.org](http://www.HistoricNevada.org) or call the historical society office at 775-782-2555.