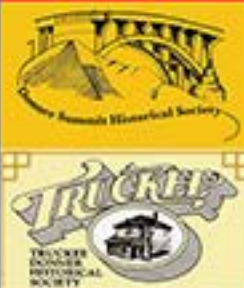


# Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass

## McIver Dairy - Gateway to Truckee



Truckee: "A Dairyman's (and Woman's) Heaven"

### History

Welcome to the McIver Dairy. It was the largest dairy in Truckee, which was well-known for its dairy products, particularly butter. The

McIver Dairy produced 60,000 pounds of butter a year and operated for 45 years until 1944.

The McIver Dairy was founded by the Melvers, immigrants from Ireland. Sarah Molver ran the dairy until 1944 when she got sick. Her husband, James Sr., built a freight business. James Molver Jr. would deliver fresh milk and cream to the town residents early in the morning and worked as a teamster for his father.

James Jr. (see right) was one of the first men in Truckee to enter WWI. When he returned from the war he worked as a Wells Fargo driver, blacksmith, teamster, mailman, farrier, and carriage maker. When the automobile came to Truckee he turned his blacksmith shop into a garage and machine shop to service automobiles.

James married Azad Joseph in 1944. Azad had escaped the Armenian massacre that killed her parents when she was 7, was put in an orphanage, ran away, and came to America with her sister, Roxie. A newspaper ad connected the girls to their uncle in Truckee where Azad met James.

The family donated this and the hospital's land to public use and McIver Arena is named for James Jr.



James Molver used to deliver mail on his "Snow Devil" (see below in downtown Truckee) which he had bought by mail order. Frequent rugged winter storms made the snow machine the only way to travel. On February 18, 1938, James Molver was called upon to deliver mail, food, and supplies to stranded residents in Tahoe City. They had received 17 feet of snow in 18 days. On his Snow Devil, James came to the rescue. It took the Snow Devil 15 hours to go 14 miles.

The Truckee postmistress complained to Washington D.C. that James had been late delivering the mail. They sent an inspector and he met James wearing a light suit and sandals. "Come on, I'll take you with me," said Jim. Molver followed his normal route along the Truckee River. The Inspector proclaimed "There will be no charges filed, Mr. Molver. This [the conditions] is awful."



### A Good Story

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This sign was produced by the British Crew of Sierra Expeditionary Learning School in Truckee, a fourth and fifth grade class, during Spring, 2013.

Truckee Rotary sponsored the sign through a grant to the British Crew. This project could not have been done without the help of the sponsors listed to the right and the Truckee Donner Historical Society which supplied the photographs and research materials.



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