



Donner Summit Historical Society

May, 2010 issue #21

Newsletter

## Ending Winter's Isolation

In May it starts getting warm on Donner Summit and people start to talk about summer, wishing that the remains of a 35-40 foot snowfall will soon melt. There is still lots of snow however, some of which can last into July. In the old days May meant winter isolation was coming to an end. Last month we included in a short article how Highway 40 came to be an all-season highway. Before the winter of 1931-32 the Sierra crossing was closed after the snows fell. That isolated communities on the east side of the Summit and prevented the people down lower from enjoying what Sierra winters have to offer. Imagine how as winter became spring each year the people of the Sierra Summit and beyond longed to end their isolation. What could they do to speed the opening?

In the "good old days" people mostly waited months for the snow to clear by itself and the smallest bit of news occasioned front page attention in the newspapers. Placer County tried to get things moving early by sending up snow shovelers every spring to clear the Lincoln Highway. They could clear 1500 feet of drifts in 2 days said one 1921 article. The road was open completely by June 4 in 1920 after shovelers finished their work. In 1921, they were a little quicker with the first car making it over with a family of 7 and 500 pounds of camping equipment in May but that was just on the old and more rocky road ("steep and has a rocky roadbed" 6/2/21). The modern 1921 road opened a month later.

There was an annual carnival of cars that traveled the road to Reno with drivers clearing the remaining snow as they went. Then there was always a celebration of the first car to make the journey to Reno. It took 5 hours from Auburn in 1921.

3000 pounds of salt and ashes were sprinkled on the Lincoln Highway in 1923 to hurry things along. When that didn't work as fast as impatient Truckee-ites with cabin fever wanted, they dug a trench through the snow so that air could get to melting the snow from all sides. The Summit Hotel helped out by spreading ashes and putting up the Placer County snow



Although this is a 1938 picture and it's of railroad crews shoveling off snowsheds, this is what it must have looked like as people of the Sierra Summit, and east of the Summit, worked to open the roads just a little sooner than Mother Nature would have if left to her own devices.

shovelers. Annually there were articles about hoped for opening dates, opening plans, and there were announcements of yearly committees of prominent citizens who would oversee the clearing operations and openings.

Snow was a big deal in those "good old days." Trans-Sierra travelers and people on the Summit have it easy today. Some new Summit residents complain if the berm in front of their driveways lasts just a little too long before the guys who clear the driveways can get there. In the "good old days" there weren't even driveways. The isolation must not have been as attractive as it might sound now to those tethered continually by cell phone, voice mail, and email.

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce, working with the Placer County Auto Trades Association, is planning to conduct a snow shoveling bee which will take place on May 22 and 23 and they hope to secure a large delegation of snow shovelers. Leaving Auburn on train 22 on Saturday night the party will arrive at the Summit approximately four hours later. Accommodations will be provided at Summit Hotel, which has recently changed hands.... The owners plan to make an all season resort of Summit Hotel...the region of the Summit is particularly well suited for sport the year around. An eminent Swedish traveler recently remarked that no place in Sweden equalled the Summit as a winter pleasure spot....([Auburn Journal](#) 5/19/21)

## Salt Sprinkled on Summit Road

"...the Truckee Chamber sent twelve men to Summit on April 1, together with 3000 pounds of black cinders and 1500 pounds of rock salt. The men spread the cinders and salt over the road from Summit hotel [sic] to the head of Donner lake [sic], and also shoveled out a deep drift on the sharp bend just this side of the subway.

...there is 12 to 15 feet of snow on the road from the Summit hotel to the subway and from the latter point to the head of Donner lake the snow will average from 2 to 4 feet in depth.

A stretch of new road on the Truckee side of the subway under the sheds, and over 1000 feet in length is covered with from 30 to 50 feet of snow. It is probable that little work will be done on the new stretch at this time but instead all efforts will be concentrated on the old road." (4/7/21)

editor:  
Bill Oudegeest  
209-606-6859  
info@donnersummithistoricalsociety.com

## News in the 20's

Donner Summit wasn't very popular in the early twenties. The [Truckee Republican](#) had articles and gossip relating to Cisco, Donner, Blue Cannon [sic], Auburn, fruit growing in Placer County, railroad doings, but nothing on the Summit - except some mention of snow each spring. They had snow on the Summit?

Still old time stuff is pretty interesting and perusing the old newspaper issues can be fun as the modern reader vicariously relives life. There were interesting ads: "Laundry all high class work" at the Truckee Steam Laundry; a new idea - banking by mail; some substance that saved people in comas, who had indigestion, rotten teeth, etc.; Lucky Strike makes you a man; Prince Albert; restaurants; grocers; heating oil; a weekly Optometrist [sic] ad; and all kinds of things guaranteed to make life better, teeth whiter, and clothes cleaner. There was a lot of business going on in Truckee. It wasn't so different from today - except for the costumes.

There was also a lot of news to wade through. California cities were growing rapidly. L.A. was up to 575,480, up 80% over 1910 in the 1920 census. An inventor in the midwest had gone 80 miles on 15 cents worth of hydrogen fuel. He had also invented a rotary engine for cars. Prohibition was coming and there were ads, along with the news, for the last of the liquor - so people could stock up. Then after prohibition began, there were raids that uncovered illicit booze. There was the problem of stopped-up Truckee sewers in 1920. The cause was corn mash flushed by unknown bootleggers. Finally, there was the seamy side of the news, at least in our eyes. In the "good old days" there was an anti-Japanese league in Truckee and the financial contributors were proudly listed by name. "Chinamen" were being murdered, apparently not unusually, down in Newcastle too.

## More from

### Stories That May or May Not Be True About Donner Summit

# The Madman of Donner Summit

One nice day Norm Saylor was riding his motorcycle outside of Truckee by the old airport. A Piper Cub flew down low and the pilot leaned out of the cockpit window. It was hard to hear and took a couple of tries but Norm thought he heard, "Water skiing.... I'll pull you." The pilot then banked away heading for the airport.

Dick Buek was the pilot and quite a daredevil, hence the nickname, "Madman." His various stunts earned him many injuries including two broken backs. He was a champion skier who became the national downhill champion in 1952 and was a member of the U.S. Olympic team. He once won a Nationals race with pins in his shoulder and with a knee that would not fully bend.

Dale Strickland ran the boat concession at Donner lake beach and he had the fastest boat on the lake, the Contessa so he was enlisted in the adventure. Dale drove the boat and his friend, Red Harris sat inside watching. Norm stood up in the back of the boat.

Time after time Dick Buek flew overhead dangling a rope but he couldn't go slow enough for Norm to make the grab even as the fastest boat on the lake accelerated under the airplane. It just didn't look like the boys' daring was going to work.

Finally, Dick circled around and leaned out yelling he had to return to the airport. He was low on gas. Just then the engine coughed and spluttered, and then it died. The plane went into the lake.

All the boats on the lake headed for the plane. Maryann Tonini was riding with Dick. She got cut on her forehead and was bleeding profusely. One rescuer yelled, throw her a life preserver. Dick's colorful language countermanded the order and can be translated as "forget that....save the plane" (this is a family publication after all.) Dick's priorities can be excused; there are no sharks in Donner Lake and Maryann could probably float better than the plane.

A rope was attached to the plane's tail and it was towed to the edge of the lake. It stayed afloat as it was towed but when the towing stopped the plane sank and the rope broke. Both Norm and Dick dove down but could not get close enough to see anything but a yellow blob because it was so deep.

Thousands of cars on Old 40 stopped to gawk at the spectacle but by dark the traffic jam had cleared up.

The next day Dick came back to dive for the plane and found a rope tied to a tree near where the plane had sunk. The plane was now attached to the other end.

The plane was not too badly hurt it was taken apart and the wings were put on Norm's truck and the fuselage on Dick's. All of it was taken to Lodi where it was restored to operation. Then it was flown back to Donner Summit and landed on Soda Springs Rd. Dick lived at the Always Inn in those days, which is the building just across the railroad tracks as you leave Soda Springs and go towards Soda Springs Ski Area and Serene Lakes.

The plane lived to fly over Donner Lake again. It was in another plane flight over Donner Lake that Dick Buek was killed when the plane's wings iced up and went into the lake. Dick was two days shy of his 28th birthday.

Dick Buek was inducted to the National Ski Hall of Fame in 1974. His character was played by Beau Bridges in the movie, "The Other Side of the Mountain" which is the Jill Killmont story. Dick will be recognized as one of three Donner Summit Pioneers on August 14 at the historical society's building Soda Springs. The other two to be recognized are Hannes Shcroll who founded Sugar Bowl (and who coached Dick Buek) and the Auburn Ski Club, which had a tremendous influence on the development of skiing on Donner Summit and was instrumental in making Old 40 open in winter.



# 2010 Heritage Trail Museum Tour

The Donner Summit Historical Society is maturing. The letter here acknowledges our entry to the Placer County Heritage Trail Tour of 19 museums in Placer County. 2010 will be the fourth annual tour of museums from Roseville to Lake Tahoe and being selected to participate says we are doing something right.

In Mid-March Melanie Barton, the Heritage Trail chair and Placer County museums administrator, made an "inspection" of the Historical Society in Soda Springs. She liked what she saw and liked more the plans for improvement of the museum and the development of permanent exhibits. She left behind advice, reading materials, and software suggestions, all of which were encouraging and helpful.

This coming August, 2010 we encourage you to take the Heritage Trail tour and stop by the Historical Society in downtown Soda Springs.

Also in August, on the 14th, we will host our second annual membership event which this year will recognize Hannes Schroll, Sugar Bowl founder; The Oakland Ski Club, ski pioneers of the Summit; and Dick Buek, the "Madman of Donner Summit" (see page 3). That follows our Grand Opening and first annual Summit Pioneer recognitions last August of Bill Klein, Johnny Ellis, and Dennis Jones. They were all ski pioneers on the Summit. Several hundred people helped celebrate our opening and pioneer recognition. Save the 2010 date and stay tuned for details.



March 18, 2010

Donner Summit Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1  
Norden, CA 95724

Dear Board of Directors,

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming a Museum Partner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Heritage Trail museum tour. After visiting the museum on Saturday, March 13, 2010 and discussing your plans for developing the museum, we would like to welcome you as our newest partner for this event.

With this acceptance, we suggest that you continue to move forward with the ideas discussed. Based on the Heritage Trail Museum Partner Criteria, the DSHS museum is especially weak in the area of Permanent Exhibits. I encourage you to develop a transportation exhibit by August if possible. This event will be an excellent opportunity to let visitors know of your future plans and to interpret the objects in your collection.

I look forward to working closely with you in the next months to come.

Sincerely,

Melanie Barton  
The Heritage Trail Chairperson  
101 Maple St.  
Auburn, CA 95603  
530.889.6504  
[mbarton@placer.ca.gov](mailto:mbarton@placer.ca.gov)

## Winter's Over, Get Back to the Canyon! May 1 Event

Join North Fork American River Alliance for its second annual kick-off to spring event on May 1, 7:00 PM at the Dutch Flat Community Center, 933 Stockton St.

The event will feature a special showing of the KVIE documentary, Above the American. This film takes you on an aerial tour of one of California's most picturesque waterways. The journey begins at the confluence with the Sacramento River and travels the North, Middle and South Forks of the American River. Included in the film are Old West history, wildlife, Native American artifacts, and a thrilling ride down some of America's most famous whitewater rapids. Producer Kelly Peterson of KVIE Channel 6 will introduce the film and present background on the making of the film.

In addition to the film, local favorite band Down Home will entertain us with their special blend of doo-wop, country and bluegrass music.

NFARA board members will give updates on current projects and recent successes. This is a great opportunity to learn about NFARA, meet board members and discover more about the area's spectacular natural resources. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers, and for socializing.

This event is free and open to the public. Home-made desserts and beverages will be served.



**...Lake "Angela." - A beautiful lake just discovered in the Sierras, five miles from "Donner Lake," is named "Lake Angela" in compliment to Miss Angela Starr King, who visited the locality, August 29th.**

**The Golden Era of San Francisco 9/10/65**



## How Lake Angela Got Its Name

When Europeans first arrived on Donner Summit it was a clean palette in terms of names for features. People probably began naming things as soon as they saw them. Of course the people who came later had the opportunity to rename things. American Peak became Mt. Lincoln. Hemlock became Red Top which became Disney. Others maybe kept their names until modern times. Mt. Judah, named by Johnny Ellis is still Mt. Judah.

There are quite a few lakes on Donner Summit and as one passes them by, admiring their beauty and the surrounding scenery, one might wonder who named them and why. Who was Mary of Lake Mary? Who were Sybil, Serena, and Dulzura, the original three Serene Lakes? Who was Kidd of Kidd Lake? Van Norden was named after a PGE engineer. Of course Lola Montez lakes were named after the famous entertainer and "spider dancer," Lola Montez (see <http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org/PDFs/stories/lolamontez.pdf> on our website).

Lake Angela is another one which sits right at the top of the Summit. Originally it was small but with the dam built by the railroad to supply water for the steam engines, it grew by quite a bit.

Lake Angela is named for Angela Starr King who followed her brother, Thomas Starr King, to California.

Thomas Starr King was a famous personality who ended up in the Hall of Statues in Washington D.C. which sits under the Capitol's rotunda. He sat there until Ronald Reagan replaced him in 2006. Thomas Starr King was a famous Unitarian preacher and abolitionist who came to California in 1860 to be a minister in San Francisco and ended up helping to save California for the Union. Mr. King died in 1864, only 40 years old. We might just take it for granted today that California was for the Union in 1860 but there were pro-secessionist newspapers in California and Lincoln only won in California by 700 votes. Lincoln, in appreciation later called King, "the orator who saved the nation."

The plaque on the sarcophagus of Thomas Starr King reads, "Apostle of liberty, humanitarian, Unitarian, minister, who in the Civil War bound California to the Union and led her to excel all other states in support of the United States Sanitary Commission, predecessor to the American Red Cross. His statue, together with that of Father Junipero Serra, represents California in the national capitol. His name is borne by a Yosemite peak. 'A man to match our mountains.'"

His sister also came to California, arriving in 1865, a year after her brother's death perhaps drawn by letters to her. She was an entertainer who gave dramatic readings and traveled the state to wide approval. At one point she visited Donner Summit and the lake was named for her. One can imagine that she was drawn by her brother's almost spiritual writings

about the Sierra (see page 7).

If you would like to read about Thomas Starr King, the book, [Thomas Starr King Patriot and Preacher](#), is available on the internet for free.

Angela Starr King...be it said in passing – was a woman of brilliant parts, and later displayed rare gifts as a dramatic reader

[Thomas Starr King Patriot and Preacher](#) pg 97

Angela Starr King, sister of the lamented preacher and patriot, has met with warm personal greeting here from the public, and had large audiences in several readings from the poets and dramatists but her ability, as a reader is but indifferent, and fails to equal her charms as a woman. S. B.

[Sacramento Daily Union](#) 10/26/65

**POPULAR AND SELECT  
ENTERTAINMENT.  
NEW PROGRAMME.**

**THE TALENTED AMERICAN READER  
MISS ANGELA STARR KING,**  
Will give a Second and LAST SELECT ENTERTAINMENT, consisting of Patriotic and Miscellaneous Pieces, at the SIXTH STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
**On Wednesday Evening, Sept. 20th,**  
The Programme including the following gems:  
**Pled Piper,  
General Scott and the Veteran,  
As You Like It,  
Sheridan's Ride,  
The Cumberland,  
Union and Liberty,  
Etc., Etc., Etc.**

**TICKETS .....ONE DOLLAR**  
To be had at the Book and Music Stores.  
Doors open at 7½ o'clock—to commence at 8, [s13-3t8p

[Sacramento Daily Union](#) September 20, 1865

## A Trip to Lake Angela - 1865

The next day we visited the surveyors' camps : and a little lake recently christened "Angela." in honor of the sister of Thomas Starr King. It was like picnicing at the North Pole, for snow lined the higher ravines and icicles hung from the water tanks on the stage road. On this route, last Winter, two laborers were engulfed by a snow slide. Seeing it approach, they stepped behind a tall rock, but it buried them fifty feet deep. There, in Spring, their bodies were found, standing upright, with shovels in their hands.

[Sacramento Daily Union](#) 12/18/65

## A Review of an Angela Starr King Reading

Angela Starr King's Entertainment. — The sister of the lamented Starr King read selections from the poets at the Congregational Church last evening. The audience was not so numerous as it should have been; for the lady has talent enough to command public favor, besides having a claim upon our sympathies as the sister of an eloquent champion of liberty and Union, whose memory is cherished in California. In the full bloom of womanhood, with a robust physique, her personal appearance would not remind any observer of the slender and delicate preacher, but she evidently possesses the same cultivated taste, refined intellectuality, quick and keen perception of an author's meaning, and excellence of elocution. Her voice is clear, musical and under complete control, and her enunciation distinct. "Sheridan's Ride" was rendered with much energy, fire and patriotic enthusiasm. Boker's "Ballad of New Orleans," a very vivid metrical description of the naval victory on the lower Mississippi, won by Farragat, was also interpreted with more of the battle... so to speak, than we should expect from a feminine reader. The scene from "The School for Scandal" was read in a manner to prove the lady's possession of strong dramatic talent. The readings were heartily applauded. Miss King merits the commendation bestowed at the Bay.

[Sacramento Daily Union](#) 8/2/65

# Thomas Starr King's Sierra

To a wearied frame and a tired mind what refreshment there is in the neighborhood of this lake [Tahoe]. The air is singularly searching and strengthening. The noble pines, not obstructed by underbrush, enrich the slightest breeze with aroma and music. Grand peaks rise around, on which the eye can admire the sternness of everlasting crags and the equal permanence of delicate and feathery snow. Then there is the sense of seclusion from the haunts and cares of men, of being upheld on the immense billow of the Sierra, at an elevation near the line of perpetual snow, yet finding the air genial, and the loneliness clothed with the charm of feeling the sense of the mystery of the mountain heights, part of the chain that links the two polar seas, and of the mystery of the water poured into the granite bowl, whose rim is chased with the splendor of perpetual frost, and whose bounty, flowing into the Truckee stream, finds no outlet into the ocean, but sinks again into the land.

Thomas Starr King from Page 306 Christianity and Humanity a Series of Sermons from a sermon: Lessons from the Sierra Nevada

**Readings from the Poets.**  
—  
**The Second Popular Reading, by**  
**MISS ANGELA STARR KING**  
WILL BE GIVEN AT  
**Maguire's Academy of Music**  
OR  
**Tuesday Evening, July 25th, 1865.**  
—  
A change of Programme will be presented, including many new Patriotic Pieces.  
**TICKETS, ONE DOLLAR.**  
No Extra Charge for Reserved Seats.  
Box Office open on and after **MONDAY**, when seats can be secured. jrl

## The 20 Mile Museum

“...inexpressibly comprehensive, grand, and picturesque. After congratulating ourselves upon the safe achievement of our morning feat, and breathing our mules a few minutes, we proceeded on our journey. A mile brought us to a small dimple on top of the mountain, in the centre of which is a miniature lake, surrounded by green grass.”

What I saw in California Edwin Bryant 1849 upon reaching Donner Summit

Donner Summit *is* grand and unique and the Donner Summit Historical Society has embarked on a project to highlight the history and beauty of the Summit.

Initially the 20 mile museum will consist of twenty-six interpretive signs placed on private commercial property and along Old Highway 40 from the Eagle Lakes exit to over the Summit and below Rainbow Bridge. Each sign will highlight the history of the location, display historical photographs and quotes, tell a good story, and list activities for that location.

Not only will the signs share and so highlight the unique history of the Summit but through the listed activities, they will share the beauty of Donner Summit, encourage visitation, and help revitalize the Summit economy which has been on a down hill slide for decades.

The project will also include a booklet listing all of the signs along with additional locations and historical information and stories. Eventually, over subsequent years, the project will grow to include a dozen or more additional signs.

The project has met with overwhelming community approval and support. Each sign, for example, is



sponsored by local businesses and individuals who are paying for the construction and placement of the signs. Some of the participating businesses and organizations are: The Summit Restaurant, Royal Gorge, Soda Springs Store, Sugar Bowl, Boreal, Soda Springs Ski Area, Donner Spitz, Clair Tappaan, Donner Summit Area Association, and the Serene Lakes Property Owners' Association.

Below and on the next page are two of the signs, greatly reduced in size. The signs will each be two feet square and will sit about three feet off the ground. The Charlie Chaplin sign below will go in Sugar Bowl somewhere around the base of Mt. Lincoln where "The Gold Rush" was filmed. The Red Mountain sign will go at the Eagle Lakes turnoff from I-80. Next month we'll print a couple more signs. Meanwhile you can go to our 20 Mile Museum webpage and see what all the signs look like: <http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org/pages/20milemuseum.html>



# Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass

## Charlie Chaplin's Gold Rush ●

### History

Love – Excitement – Pathos – Humor. It's all in "The Gold Rush" which was filmed at Sugar Bowl (and Truckee).

"The Gold Rush," written, produced, directed, and starring Charlie Chaplin was one of Chaplin's most famous movies and was the film he is quoted as saying for which he most wanted to be remembered. The 1925 silent was the highest grossing silent comedy.

Charlie Chaplin had read about the Donner Party and the Klondike gold prospectors. He combined elements of hardship and the search for gold in "The Gold Rush." Charlie, the Little Tramp, headed for Alaska where he found himself in a cabin with a criminal, Big Jim. There was not enough food and they were reduced to eating one of Charlie's boots. The cabin teetered precariously on a cliff edge. Charlie fell in love with a dance hall girl and danced the dance of the "dinner rolls." Charlie, the character, later became a multi-millionaire and met his dance hall girl again. The film is wonderful and still available.



### A Good Story



As Paul Harvey would say, "the rest of the story:" During the winter filming, many of the cast caught colds and Charlie caught the flu. The movie was finished on the sound stages in Hollywood and much of the Sierra footage ended up on the cutting room floor. For the Klondike scene over the Chilcoot Pass, the Truckee Ski Club cleared a path in the snow up the mountain at what would become Sugar Bowl. Six hundred extras were brought by train from Sacramento to appear as miners going up the pass. The boot Charlie ate to stave off hunger was made of licorice. There were so many retakes requiring so much licorice eating, that Chaplin became sick and had to have his stomach pumped.

### Things to do right here

From here you can hike to see some great scenery. You can hike up directly from here to "conquer" Mt. Lincoln. The Mt. Judah Loop Trail takes you across the top of Mt. Judah and down to the pass between Judah and Donner Peak. Scramble up the granite slabs of Donner Peak to the top and see straight down 1000 feet to Donner Lake. A really ambitious person can go from here all the way to Squaw Valley or just go to Mt. Anderson or Tinker Knob on the Pacific Crest Trail.

This sign sponsored by Sugar Bowl



photograph of the filming above from the Sugar Bowl archives.  
 Artwork courtesy of Nancy Oudegeest  
 copyright 2010 Donner Summit Historical Society [www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org](http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org)





# Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass Red Mountain ●



## History

“The view from the look-out station is something grand.”  
August 8, 1889 Sacramento Daily Union

Fire! Fire at Cascade! Call Cisco.

Snowsheds solved one problem and opened up an industry of snow shovelers, maintenance workers, carpenters, line walkers and fire lookouts. 24 hours a day, high on Red Mountain, lookouts scanned the snowsheds from Donner Summit to Nyack looking for fires. Steam engines emitted sparks that lodged in the sun-dried pitch filled lumber. Fire could “spread with lightning like rapidity along the line of sheds, as if it were a train of powder. The long line of sheds acts as a huge chimney with a powerful draft, and not much time is required for a small blaze to develop into a fire of ugly proportions.” San Francisco Call, October 15, 1905

On spotting a fire, the lookouts called Cisco and Cisco telegraphed the fire trains which were always ready to go. Each had an engine, pumper, tender and tank cars and could direct three streams of water at once.

The views, at the lookout 2000 feet above you, are spectacular in every direction. Pictured here are the panorama of the snowsheds at the end of the 19th century (the black line is the snowsheds), the building at the top of Red Mountain circa 1910, the building today, and a close up of the snowsheds in modern times.



## A Good Story

The telephone was invented in 1876. Not even a year later it was installed on Red Mountain.

Red Mountain is named well. When you look at it from a distance, it's the red mountain top with the radio antennae. Sixty five million years ago Red Mountain was an island in the Pacific Ocean. Plate Tectonics put it where it is today.

## Things to do right here

- Indeed the 360 degree views from Red Mtn., 2000 feet above you here, are grand. The 3 mile hike is long and steeply uphill the whole way. The trail leaves from the back of Indian Springs Campground, just down the road here on the right.
- Walk the old Highway 40 between the east and west bound freeway lanes along the river.
- Walk the old Lincoln Highway on the south side of the freeway and up the hill. The intersection there with the road going east-west, is the old Lincoln Highway (1913).

This sign sponsored by Sugar Bowl



Historical pictures courtesy of the Norm Saylor Collection at the Donner Summit Historical Society  
copyright 2010 Donner Summit Historical Society [www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org](http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org)

At right you can see some of the stand welding being done by David Greenberg at the historical society's Serene Lakes experimental labs where, among other things, we experiment with history (What if there'd been no transcontinental railroad? What if California had not stayed in the Union? What if there had been no Donner Party or 80 year old Caleb Greenwood had not guided the Stephens Party in 1844?)



## A Guide to the California Gold Rush

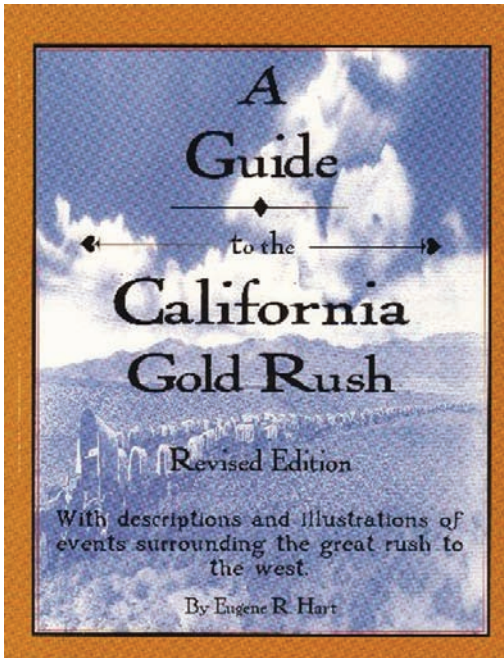
by Eugene R. Hart

This is a very comprehensive, well researched history-activity book. If you want to know the what, where and why of the California gold rush this is the book for you; or more probably for your children. The book is easy for third through sixth grader readers, although I found it informative also.

Each section explores a different aspect of the history, geography, transportation, mining technology of that era. Pictures, illustrations, maps and a glossary guide the reader through self tests (with answers in the back of the book).

You might want to buy this book for your fourth graders, but I bet you'll be peeking over their shoulders to read it.

Margie Powell



Save the Date-----**August 14,**  
**2010**

## 2nd Annual Summit Pioneer Recognitions

2010 will recognize:

**Hannes Schroll -**

(Oct./Nov. 2009 newsletters)

**Dick Buek -** pg 3 this issue

**Auburn Ski Club -** stay tuned

Stories  
refreshments  
displays

## Interested in the Lincoln Highway?

### This Could Be Your Chance

The Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway, put together in 1913 and it ran right over Donner Summit.

The California chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association hosts annual tours of the Lincoln Highway and one of those tours, the northern and longest, covers the Lincoln Highway from Sacramento to Verdi. The 2010 tour will be on Saturday August 28.

The tour information page is: <http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/ca/tours/>