

Just before Margie died she elicited a promise from our sign production crew that the tri-lodge sign be finished. And just where were they supposed to find the pictures? Margie and her husband Jim, sealed the deal by sponsoring the sign. The crew happily took on the project.

Margie when to Cal and Mark Himmelstein of Serene Lakes wanted a small memorial for his friend, so he asked if we could do a Cal Lodge sign. Mark has connections of his own with Cal since he just retired as the ASUC's (the Cal Berkeley student organization) counsel. We agreed and he sponsored a Cal Lodge sign.

The production crew started work searching for pictures, researching ideas for text and the "good stories" that are on each sign, and then doing layout, sign stand construction (welding and painting), and sending them for manufacture. The two signs went to the manufacturers at the beginning of August and ought to be back for installation in early September.

So now we will have 34 signs up from Nyak to below Rainbow Bridge.

We had been planning on Roller Pass as a focus this month but since the lodges were in our heads so to speak, we thought we'd focus on them and leave Roller Pass and Donner Pass for next month. We think, to expand on the teaser, we will have new information about where the first wagon trains came up the old pass courtesy of an outing our research staff will be making with an OCTA (Oregon California Trails Association) member.

The Lodges of Donner Summit

Today people travel swiftly along I-80 racing to their destinations in the Sierra, many times not even staying overnight. When they do stay overnight it is most likely in hotels or rental houses.

It was not always that way. Before I-80 people traveled much more slowly along Old Highway 40. They stopped at the many lodges, stores, and service stations along the two lane road to rest; stock up on food, water (remember the canvas bags people use to hang on their cars for long uphill climbs?), and gas; or buy souvenirs. If you travel through Cisco Grove on Old Highway 40 today you can see that. The old stone buildings there were a fruit stand and souvenir shop. There still are the foundation ruins of the old lodge, the store, gas station, and rental cabins on both sides of the road just east of the stone buildings. Cisco is the subject of one of our 20 Mile Museum signs and will be the subject of a future newsletter issue. Soda Springs likewise had stores, gas stations, hotel, lodges, and restaurants/bars as did Norden.



In those slower moving days, people stayed in lodges unlike today's motels. Those lodges did not have separate rooms for each family or person with their televisions guaranteed to keep travelers sequestered.

The lodges of the old days had communal sleeping and eating arrangements. Many hotels of the time had dormitory sleeping arrangements as well, such as the Soda Springs Hotel, the Lodge at Sugar Bowl, or the other various lodges along Old 40. On Donner Summit the first lodgings built after the Summit Hotel burned for the second time in 1925, were lodges. First came the Hutchinson Lodge (1924-25); then the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan (1934); the Nature Friends (1931 and then 1947), later to be Heidelman Lodge; and finally, the Cal Lodge (1937 and then 1939). Over the ensuing decades more lodges followed as the ski business and ski clubs became more popular. The lodges all offered communal eating and sleeping facilities. The Cal Lodge, Hutchinson, Clair Tappaan, and Nature Friends are still around and the Cal Lodge, Hutchinson, and Clair Tappaan offer lodging for the public. Nature Friends is a private organization.

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All four lodges are on the north side of Old 40 just west of Sugar Bowl and just east of the old Norden Store building. Slow down as you go by and look uphill.

Hutchinson Lodge

Hutchinson Lodge was built in the summers of 1924 and 1925 by Lincoln and James Hutchinson who were eminent Californians (Lincoln even helped write the constitution of Czechoslovakia) and sons of California pioneers. They loved the outdoors, skiing in winter and mountain climbing in summer. James was a charter member of the Sierra Club.

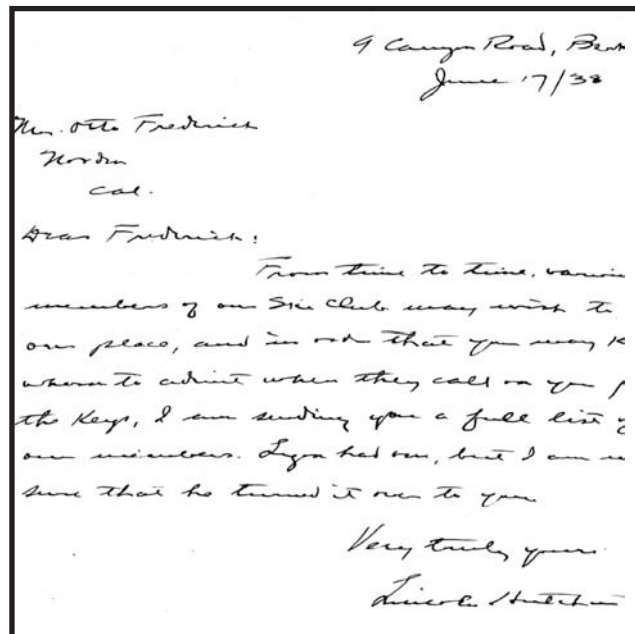
The two men did not like the recreational housing options on Donner Summit so they organized the Sierra Ski Club and built the Hutchinson Lodge using local materials and Sierra Ski Club members' labor. Walter Ratcliff, who was a member of the Ski Club was enlisted to do the plans. His son, incidentally, would go on to design the Cal Lodge 15 years later and Walter would design Clair Tappaan.

The original lodge is one big room with a kitchen off to the side. There was no electricity in the early years and water came from a spring and was piped down to the lodge. Heat came from firewood.

As use diminished with the years the lodge was eventually deeded to the Sierra Club. The picture on the previous page is of a mural in the lodge which is supposed to represent Donner Summit in 1929. It was done by Susan Barry in 2009.

Highway 40 was not plowed in winter until 1932 and even then it was just one lane that was plowed. Travel to Hutchinson Lodge in winter meant a night train ride from San Francisco. The train would arrive early in the morning, still at dark, and travelers might first have breakfast at the "Chinaman's" (see "Fong the Snowshed Cook," February 2011) a restaurant in the Southern Pacific snowsheds at Norden. Full of breakfast then travelers would have to break trail up to the lodge - quite an exertion. But they were tougher in those days.

Today the lodge can be rented by groups and reservations can be made through Clair Tappaan at 800-679-6775.



Sierra Ski Club

December 1st, 1942

The ideal club is one that is used....

A. Regulations.

By unanimous vote of the club...;

1. That during summer months... the facilities of the Club House are open at all times to members, their families, and their friends.
2. That during the winter.... the Club House is reserved for men only, except that on occasion, with the consent of the men present, ladies may be invited to meals.
3. That visitors, except by special arrangement, are not to be given the use of the Club House unless accompanied by members. The keys of the house are in charge of Otto and Lena Frederick, who may be found at Norden Post office and Store. They have a list of members and have been instructed to deliver the keys to any one of them on demand at any time, and to no one else..

Letter above from Lincoln Hutchinson to Herb Frederick of the Norden Store and Post Office sending him a list of members to whom he could give the lodge keys. The letter is dated 1938

Clair Tappaan

Walter Ratcliff, who designed the Hutchinson Lodge, also designed the Clair Tappaan Lodge which was built by volunteers in 1934 (right). The pictures to the right comes from the Clair Tappaan archives which are a set of very large scrapbooks.

In the picture below you can see massive timbers which Walter Ratcliff used to support the lodge. These are in the main hallway of the original structure which has been added onto a couple of times.

The Lodge is open year-round and visitors are welcome to see the classic architecture which consists of huge timbers and natural paneling. The timbers all came from the site.

Clair Tappaan still offers communal sleeping and eating arrangements and reservations can be made at 800-679-6775.

Clair Tappaan was a person and a very active Sierra Club member serving as Sierra Club president and, for decades, as a director. His death came just as the Sierra Club was planning a Sierra lodge. In his professional life he was a lawyer and judge in Los Angeles and was on the faculty of USC.

High up the hill behind the lodge, the Sierra Club built one of the first rope tows on the Donner Summit and that small ski area helped popularize downhill skiing.

A few years ago the Sierra Club was thinking about selling Clair Tappaan. Local members worked hard to make the lodge economically viable and have saved the lodge by broadening the activities and events offered and so increasing usage.



Heidelman or Nature Friends Lodge

Not including the Hutchinson Lodge, the first three lodges built on the Summit were built within just a few steps of each other. They were called the Tri-Lodges. The first one of those three was the Naturfreund or Nature Friends Lodge in 1931. It was called the Sierra Haus and burned in 1943. There are rumors that the burning was a reaction to WWII but nothing has been proven.

The lodge was rebuilt in 1947 and called the Heidelman Lodge, for the founder of the San Francisco Nature Friends. The lodge is pictured at right. One old key is below.

For years the Nature Friends who wanted to go downhill skiing had to climb up to the peak behind the lodge in order to ski down. Ski lifts were coming into being however (see the first Donner Summit ski lift? 3/09 and Johnny Ellis 4/09 and Dennis Jones 2/09) and the Nature Friends and the Sierra Club wanted to join in.

They ordered a modern rope town from San Francisco and had it shipped up to the Summit on the Lincoln Highway. There it was unloaded and hauled up the hill over the tracks, past the lodges to the the ski hill above a quarter mile further on. There is some thought that that tow was the first lift on the Summit but Dennis Jones, who opened the first Summit ski area, Soda Springs or Beacon Hill, claimed in his writings the he built the first Summit rope tow in 1935. He had had a version of the Up Ski or boat sled (3/09) before that. Johnny Ellis followed shortly behind with his Lake Mary rope tows.

Whoever was first, the mid-30's saw more people coming to ski as the equipment had improved, the roads were open in winter, and people did not first have to climb up to ski down.



Inside and outside the old Sierra Haus - pre-1942's fire.



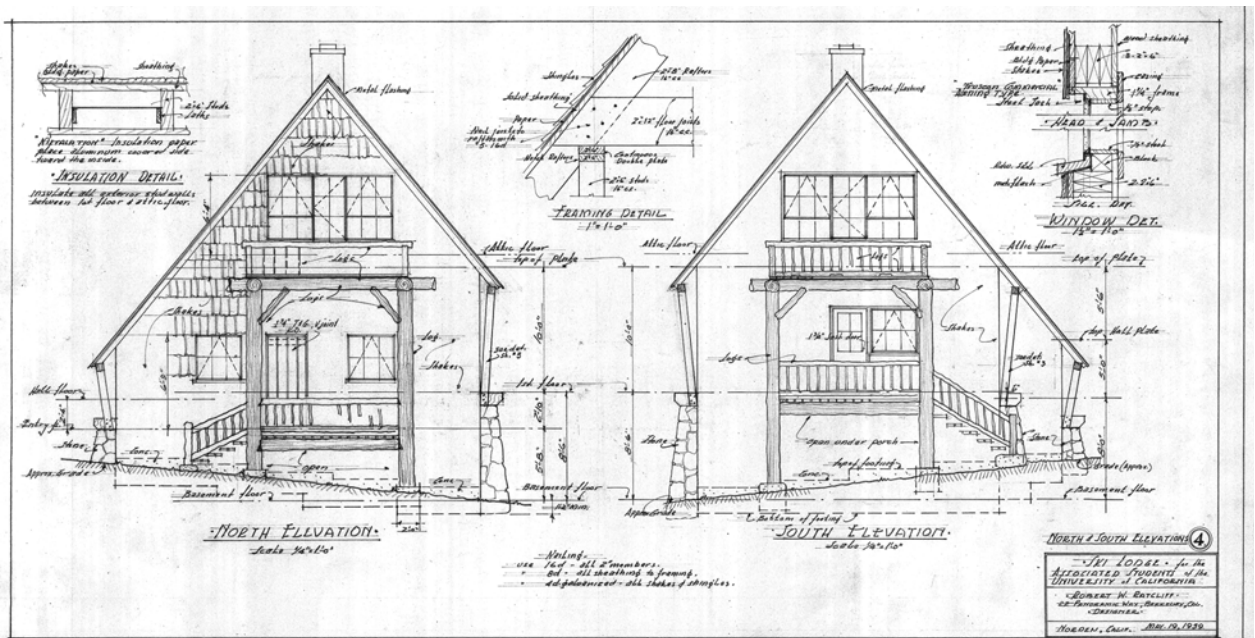
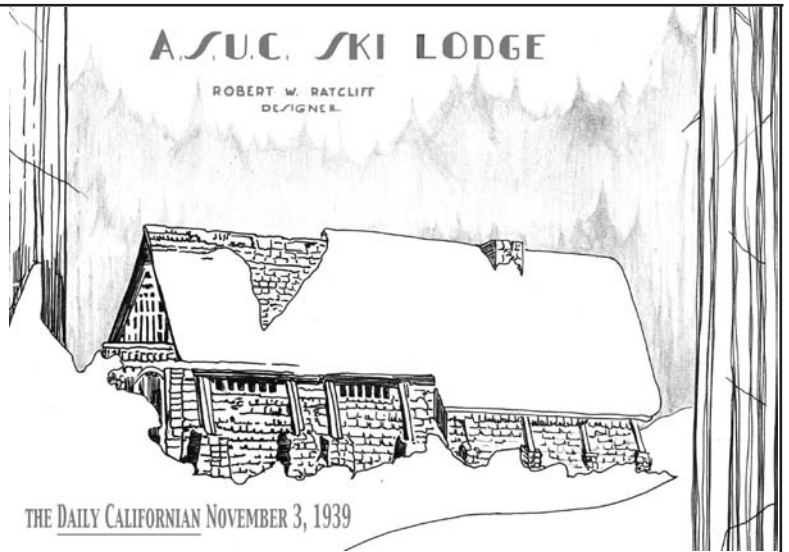
Cal Lodge

The Cal Lodge was not designed by Walter Ratcliff. It was designed by his son, Robert Ratcliff. His original drawing is right and some of the original plans are below.

Here we deserve a slight digression to celebrate the internet. As noted earlier, we had a request to sponsor a sign for Margie Powell, who was a Cal alumnus. Unfortunately there were no pictures to illustrate the sign. Our crack research staff undertook a search and came up with a couple, the students at the Cal Lodge, right, and the the U.C. ski team, coached by Bill Klein (he's on the right side of the picture on the next page). We wanted an historic picture of the lodge however. There were none to be found.

Dan Borges runs the Cal-Lodge for the ASUC (Associated Students) and he found an old Daily Californian newspaper, the student newspaper, from 1939. It had a picture of the drawing above. It was unusable however due to the poor condition and a newly scanned image was scacely better. Photoshop, despite being put through its paces was no use. We resorted to "tried and true" old technology. Our art department redid the drawing. A little PhotoShop added, produced the results above and for Margie's 20 Mile Museum sign.

Before resorting to the "tried and true" however our research staff went to the internet to see if the designer was still around. He's not but his son is an architect and still active the Bay Area. He went to his archives and came up with the drawing below. Technology can be very useful.



A.S.U.C. # 11287	WEEK-END RESERVATION A.S.U.C. SKI LODGE	Week end of Feb 7-9-41
W.S.C. # 120		Bunk Number 214
Issued 1/28/41	Paid \$ 2.76	
THIS CARD ENTITLES <i>Carol Gardner</i>		
to accommodations at A.S.U.C. Ski Lodge as indicated below and is issued subject to regulations on reverse side of this card.		
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
N B L D	N B L	L

REGULATIONS

Reservations issued only to registered students of the University of California.

A charge of 25c will be made on each cancelled reservation.

An additional charge of \$1 will be made on reservations cancelled later than 5:30 P. M. Thursday for the following week-end.

Refunds will be made by check. Submit this unused reservation card in applying for a refund. No refunds will be allowed on reservations not cancelled in advance.

PLEASE OCCUPY THE BUNK ASSIGNED TO YOU

Another digression:
In cleaning out my mother's things I found over and over that she never threw anything away. Her 1940's era skis are in the Historical Society's museum as are our tickets to the 1960 Olympics and the program we had.

Relevant to this story is what was buried in stacks of various documents. To the left is her weekend reservation card for the Cal Lodge for February 7-9, 1941, the year before she graduated from U.C. Berkeley. Having paid her \$2.76 she got bunk 214 and some meals.

My mother was not the only one who saved everything. So did her father. He saved, for example, his leave passes to Paris from WWI and a still wrapped 1931 Sunday S.F. Chronicle

Back to our story:
The first edition of the Cal Lodge was built in 1937 for the Cal ski team. It cost \$1000 and paid for itself in two years. The original lodge was a one room affair with no water or plumbing and was intended to be temporary.

The new building was built in 1939 using student labor and cost \$7000. It was intended to be modeled after the Sierra Club lodge which sits not too many feet away. It has three floors with communal dining below and dormitory sleeping above. There are two big rooms, one for men and one for women, with a few other sleeping rooms besides. The public is welcome and groups can rent the whole facility: www.callodge.org, 530-426-9900, or staff@callodge.org. The lodge is owned by the Associated Students of the University of California at Berkeley, not by the university.

TWO THE DAILY 4

ASUC BUILDS SKI LODGE

Aid Needed in Construction; Work Rushed

By Al de Grassi '41

"Ski Hell!"

Here's another activity worth more than \$10 in which you can participate with that ASUC card!

With funds voted by Executive committee last semester, members of the ASUC are now constructing a new \$7,000 ski lodge in the heart of the Sierra winter sports area at Norden.

THREE FLOORS

When completed, probably at the end of this semester, the three-story building will have sleeping accommodations for 25 men and 25 women. The present building owned by the ASUC will be used to catch the overflow of the majority sex.

Reports from crews who worked on the lodge last week indicate that the basement, first floor, and joist of the second floor are now finished and construction is being rapidly pushed forward.

George Gester '40, president of the Winter Sports club, issued a call for volunteers yesterday to help carry wood, pound nails, and do other odd jobs.

"We can use at least 50 or 60 men at a time up there," he said. "Food, transportation, lodging, and a good time will be furnished. Anyone interested should contact me or a member of the Winter Sports club."

SUMMER WORK

Preliminary work began on the lodge during the summer with work parties of five to seven men going up to the site of construction.

Now being constructed in the heart of the winter sports area at Norden, this \$7,000 building will be completed for use of ASUC members this fall. A large social hall with stone fireplace will cover the entire first floor, level above the snow line. The lodge will be three stories high.

Japan Will Drift Toward Allies **Van Slyck '41 Appointed to**

German-Russ Pact Causes Loss of Japanese Faith



Cal Ski Team, circa 1930's with Bill Klein (see our 11/09 issue), coach right

New ASUC Ski Lodge Nearing Completion

Finishing touches on the new \$7000 ASUC ski lodge at Norden are now being applied with volunteer student labor. George Gester, '40 captain of the ski team and member of the Winter Sports club said yesterday.

Daily Californian Nov. 3, 1939



In March, 2008 the new Donner Party Film was filmed in the backyard of the Cal Lodge (right). During the much anticipated movie premier, a large Sierra snow storm engulfed Donner Summit, similar to when the Donner Party was traveling through. Due to this large storm the filming crew was unable to make it to the movie premiere. This was very upsetting for the 200+ hardened locals waiting at the venue.

The Cal Golden Bear has come to live at the Cal Lodge and is pictured at right. Eventually Dan Borges, the Cal Lodge manager, would like to put him on public display. Pending suitable arrangements he is now consigned to a small storage area - just waiting and very lonely.



Plans for Construction of New ASUC Ski Lodge at Norden Approved by Ex Committee

Plans for the construction of a new ASUC ski lodge at Norden, to house approximately 70 men and women, received the approval of Executive committee last Wednesday.

The architectural design, estimated building costs, and means of payment were drawn up by the Winter Sports club during the past year.

Work on the two-story building, which will cost \$7,000, is expected to begin in June. Kenneth Priestley, ASUC graduate manager, said yesterday. The lodge will be completed in time to be used in the next ski season.

Although plans for the building are still in the formative stage, the structure will probably resemble the Sierra club ski lodge at Norden. The lower floor will include a social hall, kitchen, ski room, and separate dressing rooms for men and women.

The upstairs will be divided into two sleeping sections accommodating 30 persons each.

At the present time the ASUC maintains a one-room lodge at Norden. The new building will be placed upon this site. The lodge was built in 1937 by the Winter Sports club as a temporary structure and has no water or plumbing facilities.

Because the lodge was financially successful, paying for itself in two years, the ASUC decided a larger, more complete building was possible, Priestley said.

"The lodge will not be run for profit," Priestley stated. "Its purpose is to provide facilities for ASUC members interested in Winter sports at extremely low cost."

Situated on the western side of Donner summit, the lodge is at an elevation of 7,000 feet and 84 inches of snow falls yearly on the average.

ASUC BUILDS SKI LODGE Aid Needed in Construction; Work Rushed

ASUC ... now constructing a new \$7,000 ski lodge in the heart of the Sierra winter sports area at Norden....

When completed...the three-story building will have sleeping accommodations for 25 men and 25 women....

Reports from crews...indicate ...construction is being rapidly pushed forward....

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Daily Californian
November 3, 1939

THE HERITAGE TRAIL

Placer County Museums Tour

19 Museums from Roseville to Tahoe!

2011

August
6th & 7th

Heritage Trail

Each year the various Placer County museums hold an open house. Down below the Summit they even have public transportation.

This year, 2011, The Donner Summit Historical Society was included again and people visited on Saturday and Sunday, August 6 & 7.

We had our regular museum going, newly spruced up, and our new exhibits (bottom). People traveling to at least four museums and who got their "Get Up and Go" cards stamped were entered in a county-wide drawing. It will happen again next year in early August. Mark your calendar.



3rd Annual Summit Pioneer Awards



This year's annual Summit Pioneer Awards were presented August 13 in front of the museum.

This year's honorees were Margie Powell and Herb and Lena Frederick.

Margie (below right giving one of her many history talks) worked for decades to improve the community on Donner Summit and was the

inspiration and energy behind the founding of the Donner Summit Historical Society.

Herb and Lena Frederick (left below the Nature Friends' Sierra Haus and below) have been the subject of articles in our newsletter (11/10, 10/10). For decades they ran the Norden Store and Lodge (matchbook cover below left and the building above) and Herb was the Norden

postmaster for even longer. They served all the communities on Donner Summit, supported many organizations, as well as loved the Summit activities.



Other pictures here: Right Art Clark and Janet McMartin (Art has found hundreds of Sierra Ski Ways signs - 12/10 issue) Below are pictures of the Pioneer Awards from left: spectators; Norm and Milli Martin (Herb and Lena's niece); Norm with Bob and Sharon Ruffner, and Ken Masica of Serene Lakes; and Babette Hauensisv (Donner Lake), Starr Walton (Soda Springs), and Pat and Don Malberg (Lake Mary).



Lake Mary Dinner

Sugar Bowl has a marvelous little dining experience at Lake Mary on Friday and Saturday summer evenings, just off the road into Sugar Bowl. A small "A" frame serves as a kitchen and tables are set on the grass and on a deck overlooking Lake Mary and towards Mt. Lincoln. It's a wonderful view.

The food is marvelous and the service is very good.

Friday's during the summer the dinners are dedicated to local non-profits and August 19th was dedicated to the Historical Society. It was well attended with contingents from all over including Lake Mary itself, Rainbow, Soda Springs, Donner Lake, and Serene Lakes.

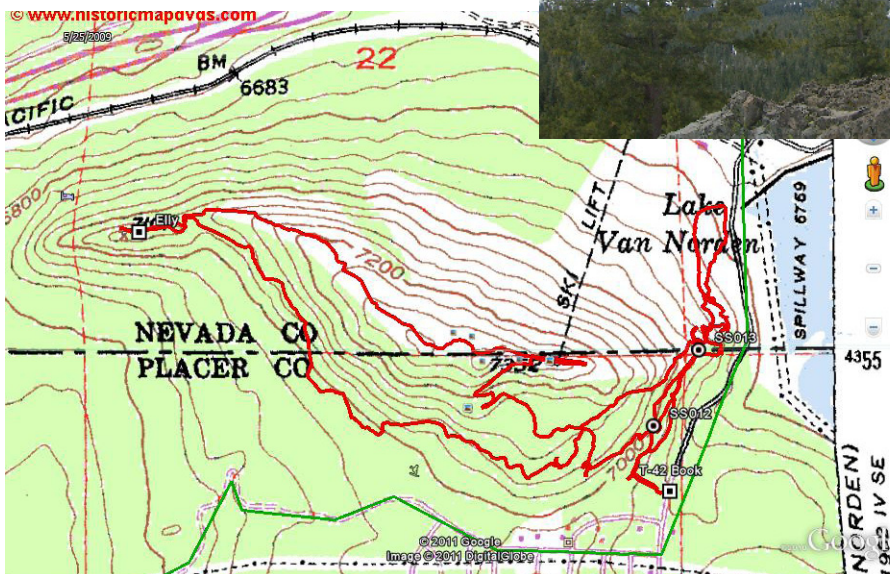
If you'd like to try Lake Mary, even though your experience will not benefit the Historical Society, call 530-426-7002.

You can find the menu at: <http://www.sugarbowl.com/lake-mary-dinner-menu> *Everything* was really good.

Pachyderms on Donner Summit?

In the old days, when elephants roamed Donner Summit, there were little tragedies from time to time.

Art Clark, who you will remember from our December, 2010 issue (and left in the picture on the previous page below Margie), has been searching for Sierra Ski Ways signs which delineate the old cross country ski trails on Donner Summit. He's found hundreds of them. Many are displayed on our website and samples are



in the Historical Society's museum in Soda Springs. Here you can see he found something else and below is a map to guide there so you can pay your respects.

The take off point is on Soda Springs Rd. just about where the Emigrant Trail 20 Mile Museum sign is, 2/3 of the way up the hill from the Soda Springs ski area and Lake Van Norden.

Teaser Two - Soda Springs Valley

From the History of Placer County, 1882 there is a little piece called, "Soda Springs Valley."

"Soda Springs Valley is at the head of the North Fork of the American, about ten miles west of Lake Tahoe. In natural beauty and picturesque scenery, and romantic landscapes it stands out unique and wonderful in all the features that compose it, surrounded by lofty mountains peaks, with their bare, rugged granite sides exposed, and with shaded depressions filled with snow. It is at this point where the great tunnel of seven miles in length, proposed by Colonel Von Schmidt to divert the waters of Lake Tahoe into the North Fork, has its exit to the California side of the Sierra."

Just who Von Schmidt was, why he was famous and of course his tunnel project, will be the subject of a future newsletter. Don't let your subscription lapse.

DONNER SUMMIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

Membership 2011

I/we would like to join The Donner Summit Historical Society and share in the Summit's rich history.

DATE _____

NAME(S) _____

____ New Membership

MAILING ADDRESS _____

____ Renewing Membership

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

____ Individual Membership - \$30

(Please mail this card with your check payable to DSHS to Donner Summit Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Norden, CA 95724)

____ Family Membership - \$50

____ Friend Membership - \$100

____ Sponsor - \$250

____ Patron - \$500

____ Benefactor - \$1000

____ Business - \$250

____ Business Sponsor - \$1000

Donner Summit Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Where else do you find such an eclectic collection of historical ephemera for an area with which you are familiar?

To the right, Old 40 west of Big Bend, east of Cisco where the I-80 overpasses are now. (The overpasses were not PhotoShopped out.)

Remember the old days?



DONNER SUMMIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Volume #1 display 1

Poster Edition

Public Lodges & Hotels of Donner Summit

Spend Your Vacation at The Ideal Mountain Resort

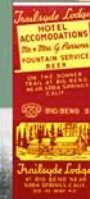
RAINBOW **RAINBOW TAVERN**



Before 1-80 took travelers quickly over the Sierra with no stops necessary, Highway 40 was the route from Sacramento to Reno. It was a two-laned curving highway that followed the contours of the land rather than blasting through them.

All along Highway 40 there were little communities with stores, cabins, and lodges. Above a few thousand feet some communities also had small ski areas boasting rope tows and maybe "J" bars.

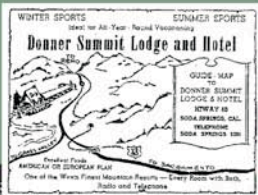
These little vibrant communities with their heavy traffic counts have disappeared or become sleepy little vacation communities. For an interesting couple of hours, take Old Highway 40 from Rocklin to Truckee instead of Highway 80. (see below)



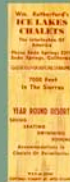
BEACON HILL LODGE
ON HIGHWAY U. S. 40 NEAR DONNER SUMMIT
In the Heart of the Sierra Playground
Soda Springs
GARfield 6-8008
San Francisco Reservations
EXbrook 7-2088
ALL YEAR RECREATION CENTER
Skiing — Swimming — Sports
Winter Rates
(SATURDAY—SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS)
AMERICAN PLAN
Two Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner

	Per Day
Sleeping Bag Dorm	\$ 4.50
Dormitories: Men's, Women's (Two Persons/Room)	7.50
Room Without Bath	9.50
Room with Connecting Bath—2 to Room	10.50
Room with Connecting Bath—3 to Room	9.50
Room with Connecting Bath—Twin Beds 2 to Room	11.00
Room with Private Bath—2 to Room	12.00
Children under 10 in Room with Parents with 2 meals	6.00

WEEKLY RATES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
Deposit of First Day's Stay on All Reservations
Sales tax will be charged on American Plan Mexico
NO REFUNDS NO PETS ALLOWED



Drummond's Lodge on U.S. Hw. 40
1 mi. West of Soda Springs, Calif.



Take Old Highway 40 from Rocklin to Truckee. You can obtain a brochure with turn by turn directions and pictures from the Donner Summit Historical Society in Soda Springs. You can also download the directions as a Word document from www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org



www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org
PO. 1
Norden, CA 95724

Since one of our subjects this month is Donner Summit lodges it's appropriate to include one of our new traveling displays, above. This comes in poster form, 24 inches by 36 inches and is for sale at the Soda Springs Store and at the DSHS. For others that are available head over to our website's poster page: <http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org/pages/Posters.html>