

The Donner Summit

Heirloom



History and stories of the Donner Summit Historical Society

July, 2013 issue #59

Art Clark

Finds the Summit Hotel

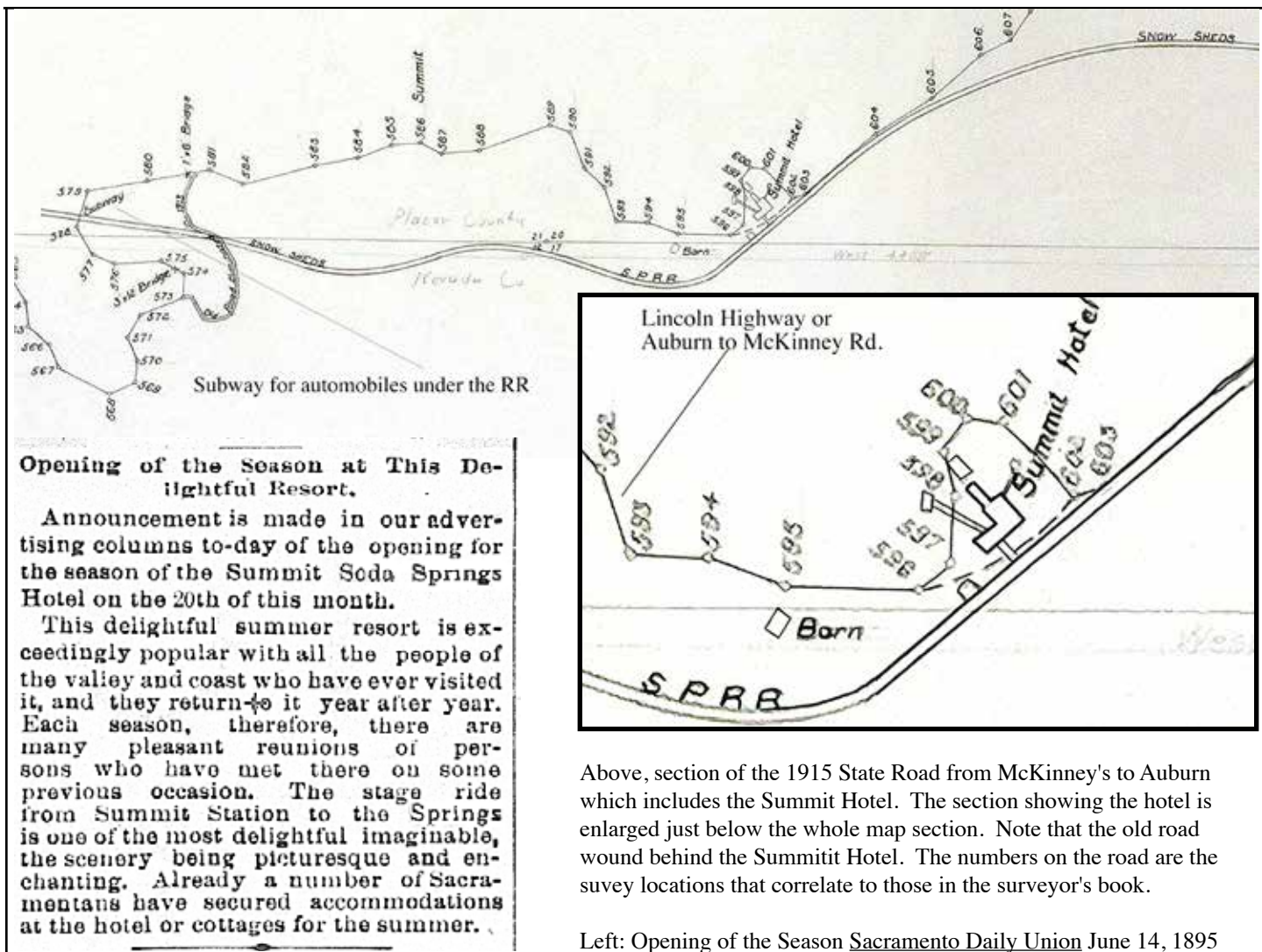
I don't know exactly where it started. Donner Summit is so rich in history and one thing leads to another. Rick Martel (www.historicdonnertrail.org/) has part of a 1915 map of what he said was the Dutch Flat Wagon Rd. that he obtained from the State archives in Sacramento. His portion only covers the portion from Truckee to part way up Summit Canyon.

To the history minded that sounds like a lot of fun, getting a primary source to consider, explore, and admire. So we decided to follow up and see what was on the rest of the map. What buildings or other details could we find on the summit in 1915? That required a field trip to Sacramento and some research and guessing because although Rick had the map section he could not remember the actual name which is not filed under Dutch Flat Rd. or any variation of that. Had we not known Rick got the map from the archives and so knew it was there, we'd have given up. Eventually after many tries we found the map which turned out to be titled, "State Road from McKinneys to Auburn." That road ran from Auburn to Lake Tahoe's west side. This route is interesting because it's mostly the Lincoln



Highway route. The Lincoln Highway was not constructed as such; it was put together from existing road segments in 1913. Our thought was that the 1915 map should show us what was on the summit in 1915. So we wanted it.

The map is many sheets of large paper rolled and tied with a ribbon. If all the pieces were put together it would be 15 feet long. (The Soda Springs portion of the map was in the March, '13 [Heirloom](#).)



Above, section of the 1915 State Road from McKinney's to Auburn which includes the Summit Hotel. The section showing the hotel is enlarged just below the whole map section. Note that the old road wound behind the Summit Hotel. The numbers on the road are the survey locations that correlate to those in the surveyor's book.

Left: Opening of the Season Sacramento Daily Union June 14, 1895

The map is short on detail, showing just the road and a few buildings. In Soda Springs (today's Soda Springs as opposed to the original) it shows the hotel, the dam, a saloon, and some other buildings (you can see pictures of buildings in Soda Springs in the March '13 edition of the [Heirloom](#)). Seeing the buildings, our research staff thought it would be fascinating to be able to pinpoint the location of the original buildings. That's really difficult because there is almost no detail on the map (see an example here above) and little from then is still in existence.

Art Clark, who does our "Then and Now's", set out to see what could be discovered. There is one landmark on the map from 1915 in exactly the same place today as it was in 1915: the Lincoln Highway subway for cars under the railroad tracks next to the China Wall. It's labeled "subway" on the left side of the map above. That's where he started.

There is a surveyor's notebook that accompanies the 1915 map (example page 4). To an amateur it's really hieroglyphics, but not so old. The notebook lists survey points. As the surveyors worked their way along a route with their transits and chains, they noted the bearing from one point to another, the distance, and the elevation change. As they sighted and measured from point to point, they worked their way, in this case, from Lake Tahoe to Auburn, mapping the route.

Art thought he could find each point in the notebook, match them to the map, and end up in Soda Springs and on the way he'd be able to find the second Summit Hotel, the buildings of which are also shown on the map above. No one we knew or had heard of knew where exactly that hotel sat. So this would be a fun treasure hunt into Donner Summit history.

Art loves the field and had traveled the route many times but this time the investigation would happen on the computer. Using Google Earth he used the GPS reading for the subway to mark the point on the computer map. He had already translated all

SUMMIT HOTEL,
FORMERLY **CARDWELL'S,**
 on the line of the C. P. R. R.,
 is now open for the accommoda-
 tion of guests. Tourists will find
 it a charming place to pass the
 summer months. **J. GOLDEN, Proprietor.**
 m29 lm*



Above from the Sacramento Daily Union June 9, 1893



the notebook bearings to compass headings. So he progressed on Google Earth step by step telling the computer the distance and bearing from point to point. On his computer he found each of the points in the surveyor's book. On the map here you can see what the original surveyors did. The thin line with the numbers is the route of the road and the numbers are the points from which the surveying was done. Each numbered point on the map coincides with a numbered entry in the book. Each numbered entry includes the heading, distance and elevation to the next point. You can see examples on page 4.

Once Art got to the Summit of the pass on his computer, and just a ways down the other side, he came to the site on the map of the second Summit Hotel, built in 1893 after the first hotel burned. Success.

Art was excited; now he had something to physically find. He left his computer and took his GPS readings to the field. He arrived at the Summit with his GPS unit and started searching. People in the old days pretty well kept the trees trimmed by putting pieces in their fireplaces or into the locomotives. Today it is really overgrown, but Art was able to find foundation remnants, detritus, a depression where the outhouse presumably sat, and timbers from the barn. The second version of the hotel has also burned, in 1925, so there was not much left.

Here we have the results of Art's work in the field. This year the goal is to find the locations of the buildings in Soda Springs.

The first Summit Hotel was built in 1870 just after the Golden Spike had been driven to finish the railroad in 1869. At the beginning the hotel was called Cardwell House and served the first railroad tourists to Donner Summit. It was on the rail line and was connected to the snowsheds. You can see a picture of the front door through the snowsheds in our January, '09 [Heirloom](#).

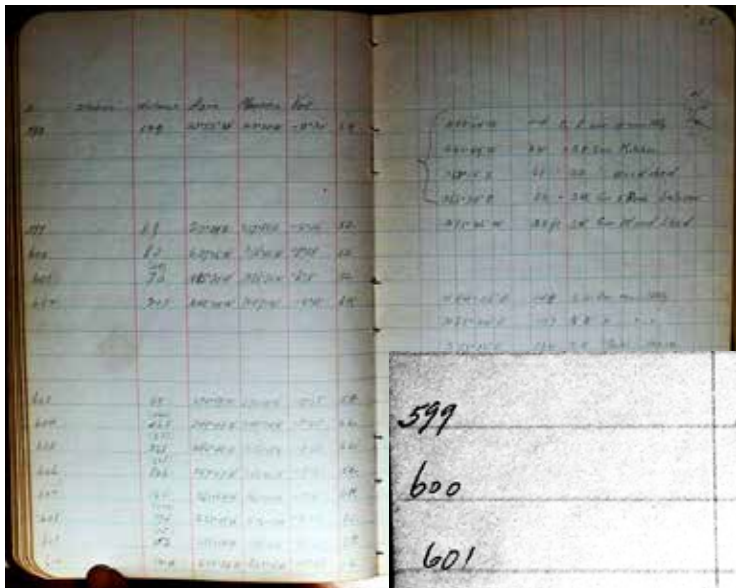
That hotel burned in 1892 and was replaced the next year a few hundred yards southwest. It is that hotel site that Art Clark found. One claim to fame for hotel II was the two story outhouse, but that's another story. You can read more about the Summit Hotel in [The Heirloom's](#) 2/11, 4/11, and 5/11 editions.



Pictured above: the first Summit Hotel which burned in 1892. The snowsheds go right past the front door. The upper picture shows an added wing. The site today is the corporation yard across the street from Donner Ski Ranch

SUMMIT HOTEL,
*At the Summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, on the
 Central Pacific Railroad,*
JAMES CARDWELL, Proprietor.
 This Hotel is the **FINEST SUMMER RESORT** in the
 State of California. The Climate is cool and pleasant in the
 Summer months; the Hotel overlooks "Donner Lake," and is
 about a pleasant drive from the famous Soda Springs.
A FINE LIVERY STABLE
 in connection with the Hotel, at which Fast Turn-outs
 can be had at any time.
**The Table will be supplied with all the
 Delicacies of the Season.**
FOR INVALIDS no better resort than this can be found in
 the World, as the air is always Pure and invigorating.
 33.23

Above from the [California Farmer and Journal of Useful
 Sciences](#) July 14, 1870



Left, pages from the surveyor's book for the State Road from McKinney's to Auburn and a detail enlarged below. The numbers in the left column are the surveyor's successive survey locations along the road followed by the distance and bearing to the next spot along with the elevation change.

599	89	S17°09'E	S17°50'E	-2°36'	5L
600	80	S37°16'W	S36°45'W	-1°08'	5L
601	(69) 70	N85°20'W	N86°30'W	-6°18'	5L
602	201	N45°09'W	N47°W	-0°16'	6R



Two views of Summit Hotel II. The upper photograph is facing east and the photograph on the right is a view toward the north from the back of the hotel. In the upper photo you can see the two story outhouse on the right.



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

Unless otherwise noted, the photographs and other historical ephemera in The Heirloom's pages come from the Norm Saylor collection at the Donner Summit Historical Society



Photograph of Summit Hotel I. The curved snowshed leads to Tunnel 6. The other wing includes the roundhouse (with the small cupola) for turning engines around.

Summit Hotel Debris Field

Although the hotel burned decades ago and the site has been cleaned up there is still lots of evidence that it was there. There are many foundation remnants, broken crockery, old nails, and even some scorched timber. Where a small barn stood some of post and beam timbers still lie on the ground and the imprint of the trusses can be seen. Perhaps of more interest are a couple of Native American mortars. Was the hotel built on an old camping site or did the Native Americans camp out in the hotel grounds?





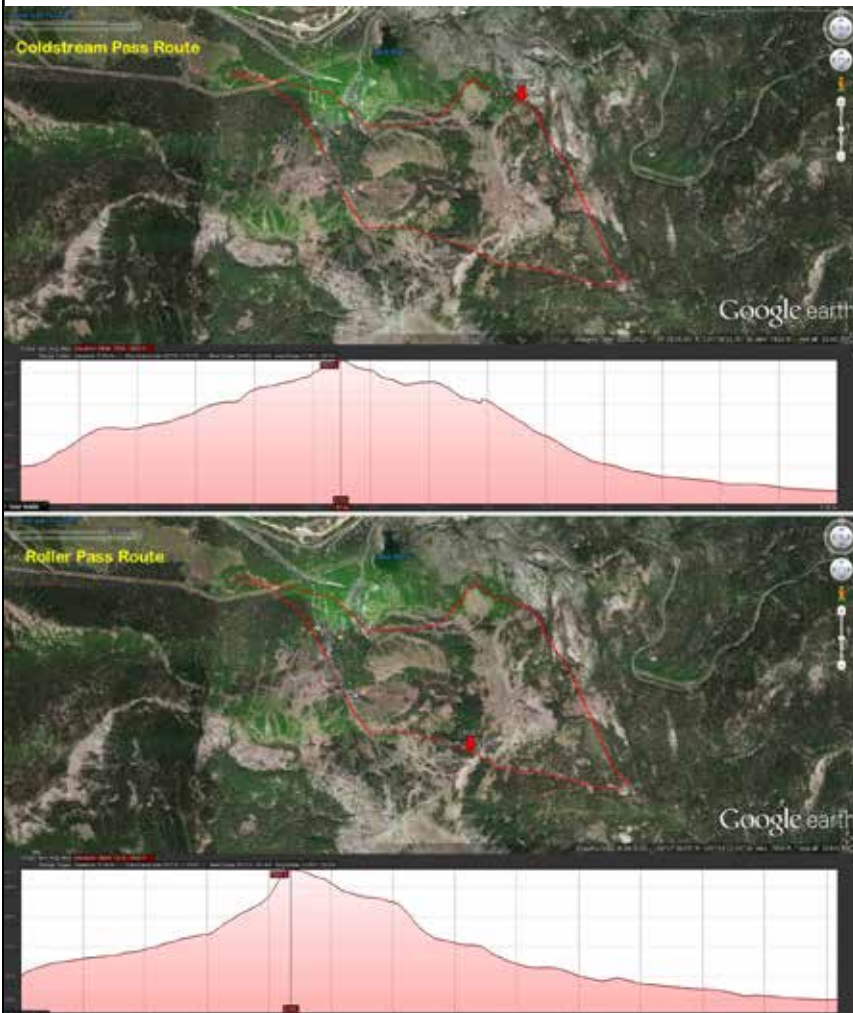
Pictured here clockwise from upper left: brick foundation remnants, crockery, location of the barn and timbers, glass shard, USFS notice, Native American mortar, metal shards, hotel's location in the trees, timbers, old nails nicely displayed by historical artifact display team

Right: [Sacramento Daily Union](#) February 2, 1892

SUMMIT HOTEL BURNED.
Completely Destroyed, With Three Hundred Feet of Snowsheds.
 John Golden's large hotel at the Summit was burned to the ground yesterday afternoon, and with it three hundred feet of snowsheds. The fire started shortly after 2 o'clock, and about ten minutes later the west-bound overland train arrived. It was able to pass, however, before the flames had communicated with the sheds.
 When the fire broke out word was sent to the railroad office in this city, and the fire trains at Truckee and Blue Canyon were ordered to the scene. The fire train at the Summit was also out in readiness to fight the flames, and by 3:30 o'clock the fire was out, though not until three hundred feet of the sheds had been burned.
 About two hours' time was required in which to clean up the debris and repair the track, and no passenger trains were delayed.
 The hotel was a total loss. The property was valued at \$8,000.

MAP Coldstream vs. Roller Pass

BY P. M. WEDDELL, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA
 SEPTEMBER 1924
 JULY 31, 1926
 SEPTEMBER 30, 1927
 AUGUST 31, 1930
 MARCH 31, 1944



George Lamson, Serene Lakes, is a curious fellow. He wanted to see just what the elevation difference is between Roller pass and Coldstream pass routes. If you are a devoted reader you will remember that we have covered the difficulties of Roller Pass including many quotes of the people who used it. It's an article of faith that Coldstream (between Donner and Judah) was easier. George wanted to know how true that was. Here he provides the analysis using Google Earth. The routes are mapped in red with red arrows and the topography shown below. "It's interesting that Coldstream summit is higher and Roller pass actually looks a little easier to me except for that really steep section right at the summit of the pass," says George.

The map above is by P.M. Weddell who marked the route of the emigrant trail over Donner Summit in the 1920's.

Check our indices (on the newsletter pages of our website) for the many references to Roller Pass, Coldstream Pass, and the Weddell trail markings.

From the DSHS Archives



Left is downtown Cisco Grove. This is the old Cisco which is up the hill from the current gas station. This was the end of the track during the building of Tunnel 6 on the Summit. During the building, several thousand people lived in old Cisco. Old Cisco was also the jumping off place for people heading for Meadow Lake, a short lived mining community to the north. Cisco was one end of possibly the first telephone line in California. The other end was on top of Red Mountain. When a snowshed fire was seen from the lookout a phone call was made to Cisco where the telegraph operator telegraphed for the fire train. See our July '10 [Heirloom](#).

When the railroad was finished across the summit the town disappeared. Later, another Cisco appeared along Old 40 but with the coming of I-80 that too has largely disappeared.

Fish Stocking on the Summit

Fish commissioner B.B. Redding took seven or eight thousand Eastern trout from the westward bound train at Summit yesterday. A small portion of them were placed in springs, lakes and streams around Summit valley and the rest were put into Prosser creek, above the ice company's dam, as had been announced. The fish were transported in a large car, and were in excellent condition.

March, 9, 1875 [Sacramento Daily Union](#)

Fish Commissioner B.B. Redding was the brother of the first settler at Serene Lakes. His brother bought the land patent from the U.S. Gov't in 1866 but died later that year. B.B. and friends founded the Summit Ice Co. at Serene Lakes (Ice Lakes) a few years later. The company found that ice making at the Summit was a problem and moved down below Truckee where the weather was colder and the snow fall less.

Among other things, B.B. was fish commissioner for the State of California. He'd been interested in aquaculture at his original home in Nova Scotia. B.B. wrote about catching 200 fish in a day in the American River at the Cedars where his friend Mark Hopkins had an estate. B.B. was C.P.R.R. land agent. His brother, Fitz William, was the first to stock fish in Serene Lakes.

Fish Stocking

Recent Operations of the Fish Commissioners.....The previous week 75,000 young white fish were placed in Donner lake, and 25,000 in Sereno and other lakes at the Summit. At Sereno lake [today's Serene Lakes], although only 1 1/4 miles from the station, the snow was so deep that it took two men and a hand sled six hours to make the distance. The lake being frozen, holes were cut in the ice to put the young fish in.

[Sacramento Daily Union](#) February 21, 1877

From the DSHS Archives



Left is a colored photograph of a snowshed just east of the summit at Andover. Before diesel engines locomotives threw off lots of sparks and this picture shows one solution. Look closely at the tracks inside. This is a telescoping snowshed. The outer tracks enable the snowshed to slide and so make a break in the continuous tunnel and so prevent the common snowshed fires from spreading rapidly due to the tinder dry wood and the chimney action of the snowsheds. Far to the west, at Red Mountain, lookouts kept an eye out for snowshed fires. Even with rapid response, miles of snowsheds burned at a time.

Regarding the coloring of black and white photographs, it was all done by hand. Imagine the concentration and tedium in the "good old days."

"Rusticating" in the Good Old Days

A pleasure party of four young men, says the *Truckee Republican*, from somewhere below, came across the Summit with a two-horse wagon the first of this week. When they arrived at Summit Valley they found the snow so deep they could not get through, and were compelled to shovel snow one entire day. This was rusticating with a vengeance.

Sacramento Daily Record Union July 19, 1882

Camp Douglas at Summit Valley, 1897



CAMP DOUGLASS OF THE THIRD BRIGADE SIGNAL CORPS.

CAMP DOUGLASS, SIGNAL CORPS, THIRD BRIGADE, Summit, Cal., July 29.—The corps rode over to Summit Soda Springs Tuesday. A hard trip was experienced, especially on the way back, and the old adage that "the longest way round is the shortest way home" was well illustrated. The regular wagon road from camp was taken going to the springs, but coming back a blind trail was struck, and then the trouble commenced. First Sergeant Bailey's horse stumbled on a rock, throwing his rider about forty feet down the side of the trail, and to-night the first sergeant is nursing a lame knee as the result. Deep snowdrifts were encountered on the way home and for over two miles the horses had to be led on account of the precipitous road. A squad was sent to Castle Peak yesterday and heliographic communication was opened with camp. Colonel Peeler and Major Douglass went up to Fortyce early this morning and the boys had great visions of a trout dinner, but they experienced the usual fisherman's luck—high hopes and bitter disappointment.

Through the summer of 1897 there were many articles in newspapers about the U.S. Army's Signal Corps camping out at Camp Douglas in Summit Valley. They were practicing their communication skills by using a heliograph to communicate from Castle Peak.

This article comes from *The San Francisco Call* July 30, 1897.

Diligent searching did not turn up any clues as to the location of Camp Douglas in Summit Valley.

Book Review

This month's review is a little different since it's not a book about history. There are book reviews of historical nature just waiting for publication by our book review team but the one pushed to the front of the line. There's a good possibility that many readers interested in the history of Donner Summit are also interested in other aspects. Lingering in Tahoe's Wild Gardens is a fun book which lists a number of Donner Summit hikes and you find it just at the height of the wildflower season.

It's also appropos because Summit Valley is now open for public use (see the Summit Valley brochure at the end of this newsletter) and because our research department found the hike to Donner Peak which is printed on the next page. Next month we'll return to a real history book review.

Here is a book that will provide you with hours of enjoyment while reading and later will provide you with lots of adventures as spring comes. It is indeed, as it says on the cover, "a guide to hundreds of the most beautiful wild flower gardens of the Lake Tahoe region."

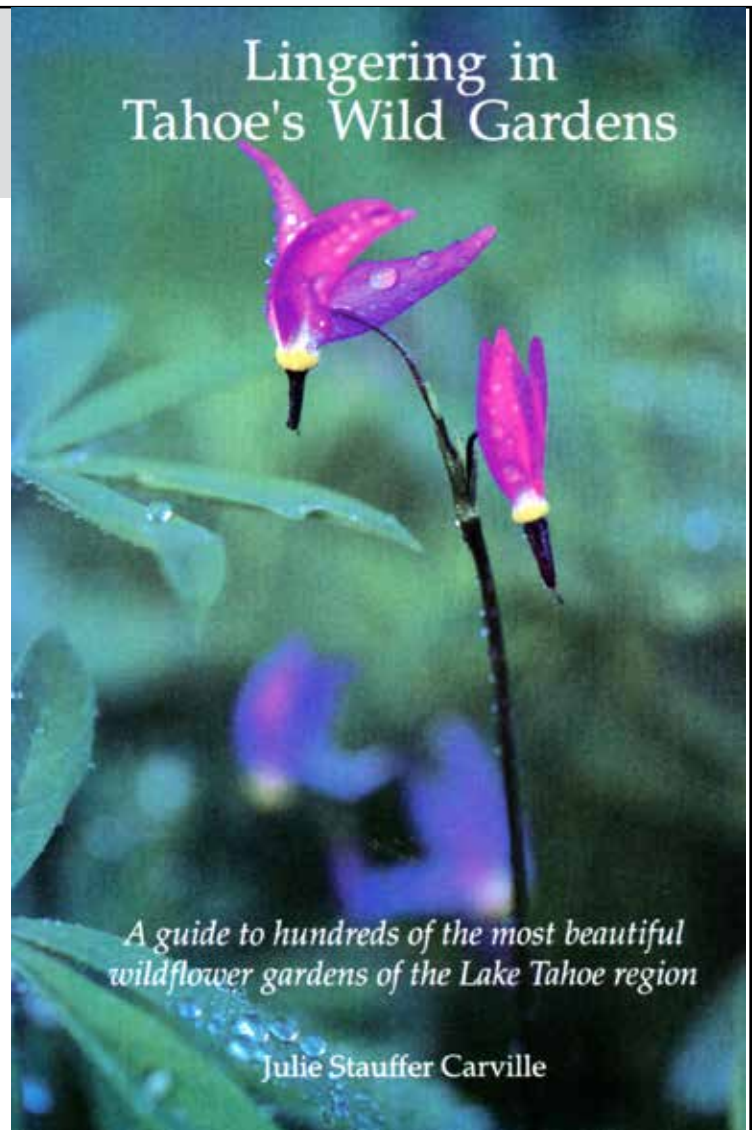
This book is a list of 30 adventures around the Lake Tahoe area, including our Donner Summit. The first page of each hike has a breakdown of useful information: elevation, elevation gain, maps needed, time required, length, and a list of the flowers you can see. Usually there follows a sketch map of the trip and the best times to visit. Some trips require hiking, others can either be hiked or driven. Near us, Loch Leven Lakes, Castle Peak and environs, Donner Lake, and the ridge route to Squaw Valley are covered.

The emphasis is on wild flowers so Ms Carville describes what you'll come across learning when they bloom, where they are found and the differences among flowers. This is common enough in guide books but then Ms Carville gives us extras. For example, Brodiaeas (Prettyface) and Alliums (Sierra Onions) were important food sources for Native Americans. The onions flavored food and the Brodiaea bulbs were roasted in earthen ovens. The Brodiaea seeds were gathered, roasted, and eaten or ground into flour. That might be fun and if you're going to try it let me know.

Buttercups are one of the most ancient flowers. They were named by the Roman naturalist, Pliny, Ranunculul, which means little frog. He gave them the name because they live in wet environments like frogs do. Put in their evolutionary context, Buttercups are fairly primitive and so are pretty inefficient at reproducing. One reason is that they have no elaborate color markings. Therefore they have to have more pistils (30) and stamens (80) than other flowers. The Lilly, for example, has only one pistil and three stamen and so comes later on the evolutionary scale. Buttercup seeds were eaten by Native Americans. They taste, after being parched, like popcorn.

Other flower facts are more general. For example, some plants don't keep the male and female parts in the same flowers but in separate male and female flowers like the Meadow Rue.

The book is not limited fun facts to flowers though; it really is an eclectic collection: water purity in Lake Tahoe, lives of beaver (did you know they're not native to the eastern Sierra but were introduced from the Central Valley?), local birds, sheep grazing (John Muir called sheep "hoofed locusts"), and a day in the life of an ancient Native American.



There's even a little philosophy. The Washo saw plants not as things but as plant people and not any higher than man. That's just the opposite of western man who places all life in hierarchies with man at the top. "Native people do not define life in terms of hierarchies, and have thus lived with greater sensitivity to the earth, expressing themselves more wisely and harmoniously with the earth. I think we would all be richer if we learned from the native peoples that such hierarchies are of the ego.... it will enrich us if we recognize [plants] as separate entities with gifts to give. Our responsibility is to receive these gifts with appreciation, to use our intelligence to put limits on our consumption, to be gentle in our impact." page 237

These kinds of asides are fascinating, but if you just want to rush on to find out about the next hike, you can skip them. I'd sure recommend that you come back to the book after your hike though.

Ms Carville could have made the book a little more user friendly by more prominently listing when each garden should be visited but you can fix that by highlighting the months in each chapter and/or writing the times in the table of contents. The maps/ directions are sometimes not clear, signs have disappeared, houses have been built, but all that aside, it is a good read, a useful book and will provide you with many adventures into our "wild gardens."

People in the Past Were Just Like Us

To go along with Julie Carville's book of wildflower hikes here are two articles about people in the old days enjoying the same activities we do today.

An 1885 Trip to Donner Peak

EDS. Record-Union: Last Wednesday morning a party of sixteen from Donner Lake united in a picnic expedition to Donner peak. Following up the summit road as far as Lake Mary, some engaged gathering flowers, and others admiring the grand scenery of the summit peaks, towering up like some grand castle, far above the snow sheds. After leaving Lake Mary the party proceeded a short distance, when lunch was served out under the pine trees, which aided the mountain air as an excellent tonic for sharpening appetites. The party then proceeded up the mountain trail near the summit of Donner peak, passing over a large bank of snow. Here a gay game of snowballing was indulged in by the entire company. After fully ascending Donner peak some grand scenery was presented to view. In the distance could be seen Truckee, Martis Valley, Tinker's Knob, Castle peak, Summit Valley, Red Mountain, Devil's peak and six lakes. From off this peak fair Donner reminds one of a mirror spread out beneath amid the mountains.

The party, satisfied with sightseeing, returned to former levels, greatly pleased with the trip. The party consisted of James Stuart, Frank Tomlinson, Hector Stromberg, George Mills, Lewis Tomlinson, Joseph Tomlinson, S. Willet, Tom Martin, Albert Harney, Edgar Newkirk, Mrs. James S. Curtis, Mrs. Martin, Ida L. Tomlinson, Mattie Tomlinson, Kate Hyde and Maud Martin. Yours, T.

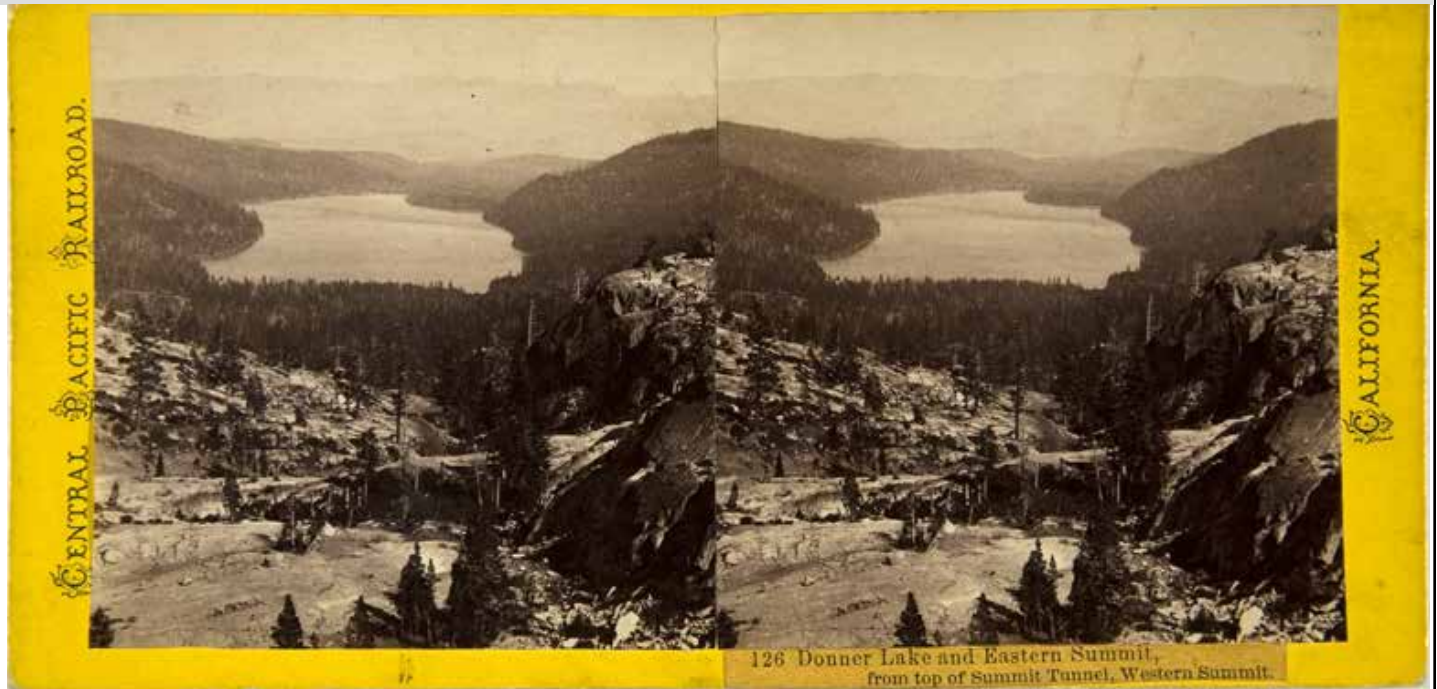
Truckee, July 28, 1885

And Another to Castle Peak, 1874

This peak [Castle] can be ascended to the base of the summit crags on horseback; the remaining climb afoot, up a very steep slope of sliding debris, is arduous but short, and is repaid by a superb view, embracing at least a hundred miles of the Sierra crests., their numerous sharp peaks streaked with snow, and lying between them at intervals the many lakes of the region, including the flashing sheet of Tahoe.... On one side of this characteristic peak the foot-climber stops to rest on a depression where grass and flowers grow luxuriantly, and the swarms of humming-birds hover over the floral feast, their brilliant iridescent plumage flashing in the sun, and the movement of their wings filling the air with a bee-like drone. Above all this beauty frown the bare volcanic cliffs and pinnacles that top the mountain – Eden and the desert side by side. The upper Sierra is full of contrasts and surprises. After tedious walking over rocky barren, or toilsome climbing up slippery gorges, in the very path of recent torrents, one comes suddenly on little bits of wild garden and lawn, where butterfly and bird resort, and the air is sweet with perfume. At the base of cliffs which looked forbidding at a distance, cold springs will be found, painting the ravines with freshest green; red lilies swing their bells; lupins [sic] and larkspurs call down the tint of heaven; ferns shake the delicate plumes, bright with drops of dew; and the rocks offer soft cushioned moss... the delighted pedestrian lingers as such oases, loth [sic] to go forward...

From "Summering in the Sierra" from Outwest Magazine February, 1874

Then & Now with Art Clark



Alfred A Hart 126 - Donner Lake and Eastern Summit, from top of Summit Tunnel, Western Summit. It's almost hard to get a photo from the summit that doesn't show the railroad. Just out of the picture on the right side is Donner Peak and the snowsheds and tunnels.

Today on the bottom right you can see the Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon Road. This section of it was rerouted to avoid having to go through the snowshed east of Tunnel Six.

Photo location 39° 18.986'N 120° 19.477'W

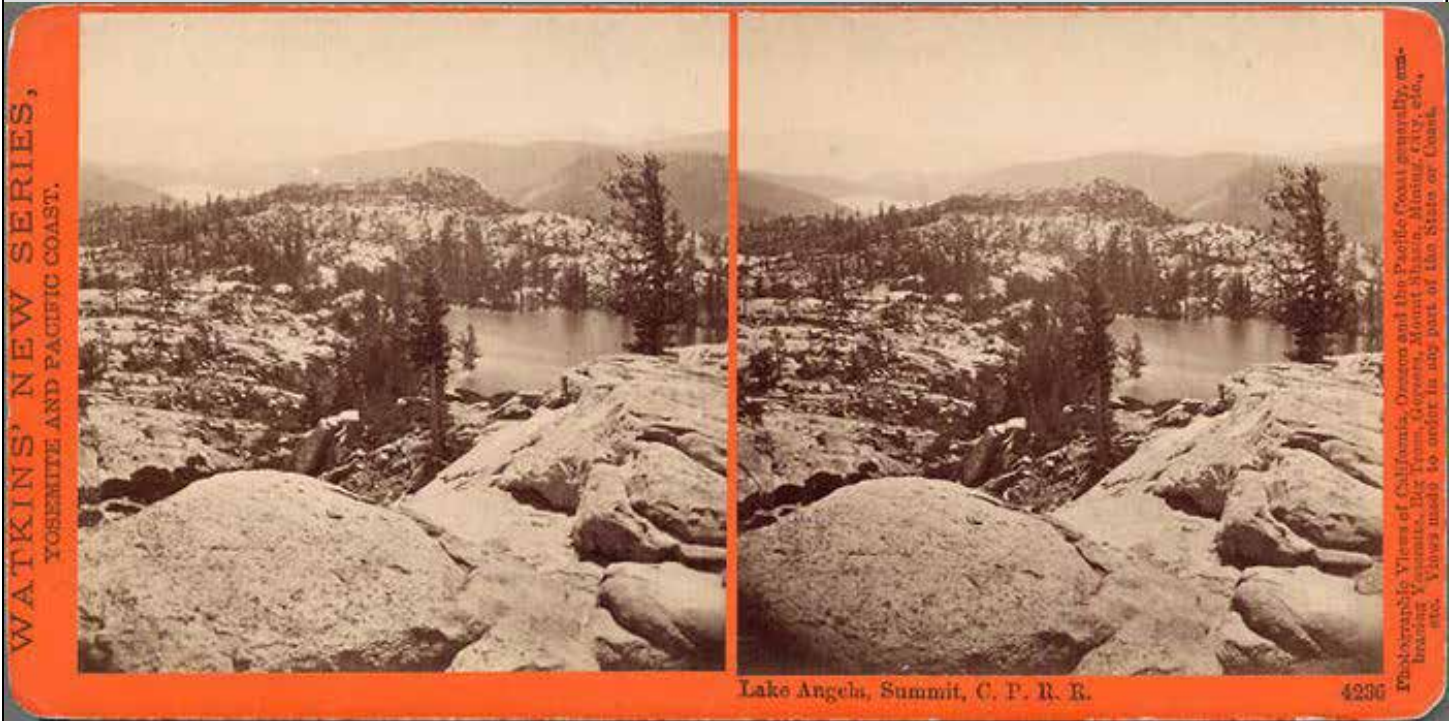
Donner Lk. and Eastern Summit
Compare to C.P.R.R. #126



Art's Sierra Scenes

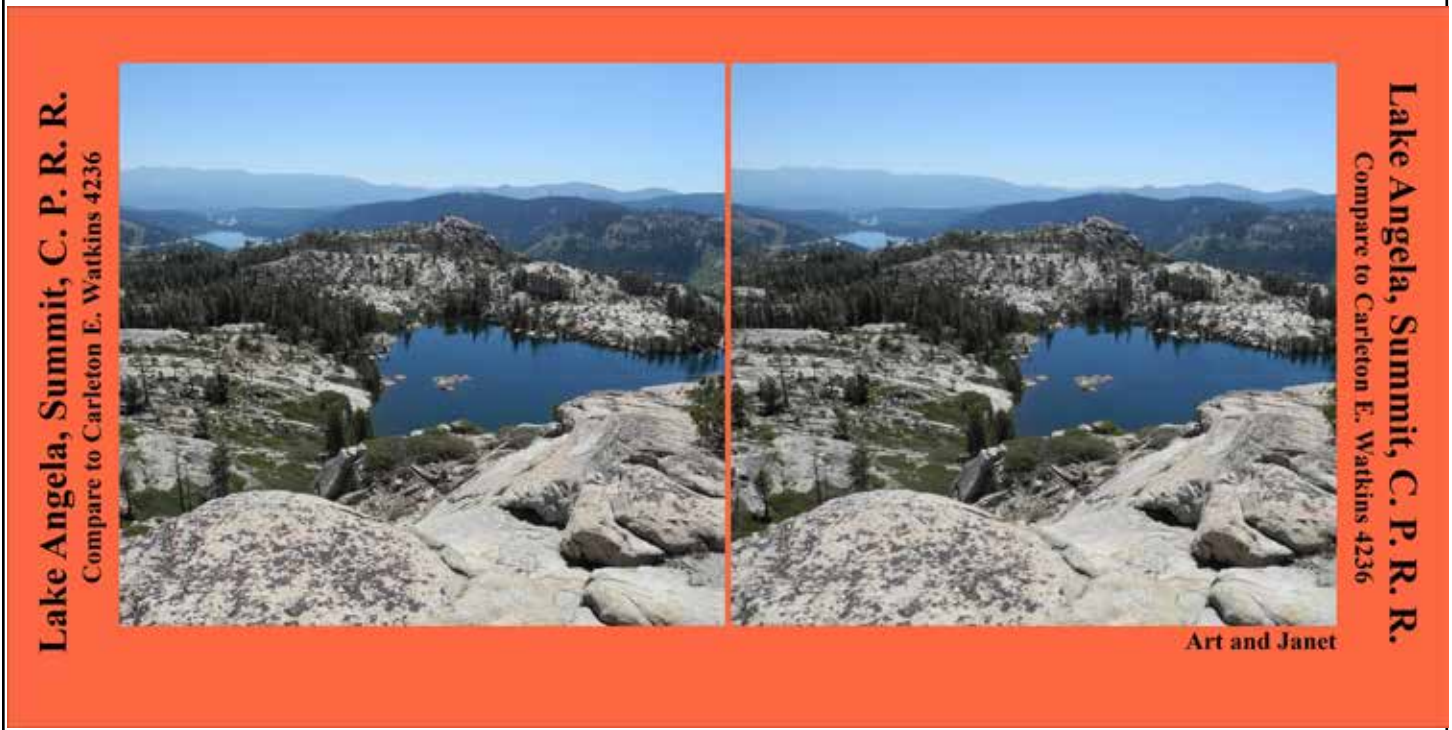
Donner Lk. and Eastern Summit
Compare to C.P.R.R. #126

Then & Now with Art Clark



Carleton Watkins 4236 - Lake Angela, Summit, C.P.R.R. - This view of Lake Angela is looking east from a rocky knoll northeast of Donner Ski Ranch. The lake is larger today after the dam was changed several times. Across the lake is Stewart Peak, and beyond it is part of Donner Lake. Stewart Peak was named for George R. Stewart, who authored many books on the area including a classic study of the ill-fated Donner Party.

Photo location 39° 19.581'N 120° 19.775'W



Another 20 Mile Museum Sign

In the past few issues we've highlighted the new 20 Mile Museum signs for 2013. Just as we thought the six new signs were all, Norm Saylor came up with another idea, a sign to commemorate the building of the Pioneer Monument at Donner State Park and T.C. Wohlbruck who took care of it and built the first tourist facilities there.

Whether this sign actually gets in the ground is a question we'll have to wait to have answered. The Town of Truckee would like it but the land along the road is under the control of the State Park system. That makes things a little harder, to say it nicely so stay tuned.

Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass Pioneer Monument

History

Charles McGlashan, local luminary, historian, and author of the *History of the Donner Party* (1879) wanted a monument to the Donner Party. He wanted to commemorate their suffering, determination, and heroism during their isolation at Donner Lake in the winter of 1846. It took decades for his wish to come true and even then the resulting monument was not for the Donner Party alone.

The effort started in 1898 but fund raising was disappointing.

In 1910 ground breaking was done for the concrete foundation to a monument but there the project stopped again. By the mid 1910's fund raising had been more successful for a monument to the "business who crossed the plains." A sculptor, John McQuarrie, was chosen in 1913. The sculpting and carving took years, but in 1916 the parts of the 18 ton statue were assembled on the pedestal which had been completed the year before. Thousands of people came to the dedication of the statue, dedicated as an inspiration to determination and endurance and to show the "conqueror's soul." The monument had been funded by the State legislature, the County of Nevada, individuals, and the Sons and Daughters of the Gold on West.

The pedestal is 22 1/2 feet tall, the height of the snow in 1846. The monument sits near the site of the Breen cabin. That cabin had been occupied two years before the Donner Party, by 17 year old Moses Schallenberg who was a member of the Stephens Party, the first wagon train to reach California with wagons. Moses spent the winter alone at Donner Lake in 1844. Schallenberg Ridge, just to the south, was named after him. Splinters of wood from the Breen cabin were placed in glass vials and 5,000 were sold as souvenirs to help fund the monument.

A Good Story

Almost immediately after the monument's completion, tourists began removing rock from the pedestal for souvenirs. T.C. Wohlbruck had a novel idea he thought would serve the public in two ways. He offered to lease the site for \$1 a year. In return he would supply a caretaker, a fence and landscaping. He would also build "souvenir and refreshment station." He would sell souvenirs and refreshments to tourists and Red Crown gas for their automobiles. That "casualty service station" was forerunner of today's convenience markets and was the forerunner of the State Park museum that is here now.

Things to do right here

You must go inside the museum here and then walk outside and then take the interpretive trail around the area. After you've enjoyed the history, go and enjoy Donner Lake. Go for a bike ride. Take a boat ride, or go for a hike to the top of Schallenberg Ridge.

THE HERITAGE TRAIL
Placer County Museums Tour
19 Museums from Roseville to Tahoe!

HIT 2013



August 10th & 11th

Get information about the HeritageTrail at www.theheritagetrail.blogspot.com

DONNER SUMMIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

Membership 2012

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

_____ New Membership

_____ Renewing Membership

_____ Individual Membership - \$30

_____ Family Membership - \$50

_____ Patron - \$500

DATE _____

NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

_____ Friend Membership - \$100 _____ Sponsor - \$250

_____ Benefactor - \$1000 _____ Business - \$250 _____ Business Sponsor - \$1000

Donner Summit Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

If you would like monthly newsletter announcements, please write your email address below VERY neatly.

@ the DSHS - Busy Busy Busy

2nd Annual Margie Powell History Hike

Last year's first annual Margie Powell hike, which was in Summit Canyon, was a huge success. We explored the petroglyphs, the Lincoln Highway, the 1914 underpass, China Wall, and the railroad.

This year's second annual hike will be a circumambulation around Summit Valley. We'll explore the mortars and metates and learn about the Native Americans, learn about Summit Valley Ice Co., the Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon Rd. and walk the remnant, learn about the dam first built about 1870, see the sheep industry remnants, see a hotel and cabin site, and more.

This year we will offer the hike on two days,

August
10 & 11
2013

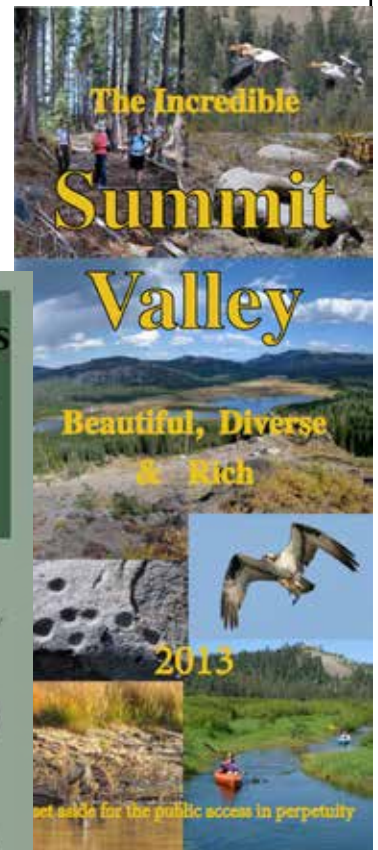
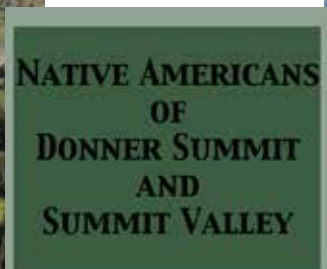
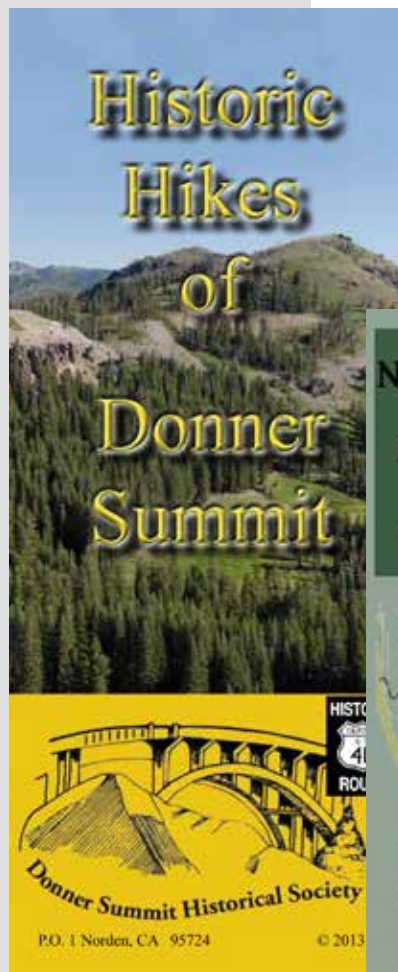
Meet 9:30 AM either day at the Van Norden Dam parking lot opposite Soda Springs Ski Area.

Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, comfortable shoes, and a hat. The walk is a flat and easy four miles.

New Brochures

You will want to pick up our new brochures: "Historic Hikes of Donner Summit," "Native American of Donner Summit and Summit Valley," and "The Incredible Summit Valley." The first and last give you a lot of background and information as well as places to visit. The Native American brochures gives you an understanding of the Native Americans who carved the petroglyphs and made the mortars and metates you can find in many places on the Summit.

They are all available, along with others, at the DSHS in Soda Springs and at the restaurant and the general store. They are also available at the visitors' center in Truckee and the California Welcome Center in Auburn - unless they've run out. Seeing here and on the previous pages what the DSHS is all about you may want to join (form on the previous page) and help support the work of sharing the unique and rich history of Donner Summit. We've got lots more to do.



Sugar Bowl Lake Mary Evening to benefit DSHS



Sugar Bowl's Lake Mary Cabin Dinner Series will return this year with great food by Chef Alan Davis. The Lake Mary facilities sit above Lake Mary and dining is on a deck overlooking the lake. DSHS will be a beneficiary of one of the summer evenings, **August 18**. Seating is from 5:30 to 9:00. Reservations are a good idea (530) 426-7002.

Besides a varied menu selection of homemade soups, salads, seafood, wild game, vegetarian dishes, pastas, wines and desserts, the DSHS will have its new Summit Valley displays on display and the new 2013 DSHS poster.



New 20 Mile Museum Signs Installed

With the acquisition of Summit Valley by the Land Trust in January, we thought that it would be appropriate to commemorate some of the rich history of the valley with 20 Mile Museum signs. There were a lot of candidates for signs but we didn't want to do too many. Five sponsors came forward choosing signs. The signs came back from manufacturing in late May and were installed as you can see here.

The map on the right shows the locations of the new signs. One is at the Van Norden dam, three are along the Lincoln Highway, the dirt road along the valley's north side, and one is just off Old 40 on Sugar Bowl Rd.



Left to right top: George Lamson and Linda Cashion, sponsors of the Van Norden Dam sign; George Lamson and Bill Oudegeest installing the Summit Hotel sign; the Native Ame4rican grinding rocks sign; Bottom, Dutch Flat Rod. sign and the Sheep Pens sign

DSHS 2013 Poster

Our annual poster for 2013 celebrates the acquisition of Summit Valley by the Truckee Donner Land Trust and its opening to the public. The valley is rich in history: Native Americans occupied it in summers for thousands of years, the first wagon trains to arrive in California with wagons crossed it, as did the first transcontinental railroad, first transcontinental highway, first transcontinental telephone line, and the first transcontinental air route. There are so many stories.



Summit Valley Hiking



With the purchase of the Royal Gorge Acquisition by the Truckee Donner Land Trust, there has been more activity in Summit Valley than there's been since the lake was there.

There have been a number of historical hikes one of which was starting in the picture to the left. The items on the easels are this year's traveling exhibits (see the exhibit page on our website). The hike was an outreach hike by the Land Trust which is soliciting advice for acquisition lands.

You can go on this easy, flat, 4 mile, and extraordinarily story packed hike - see page 15 - the 2nd Annual Margie Powell Memorial Hike.

Photo by Janet Zipkin, TDLT