

The Donner Summit

Heirloom

History and stories of the Donner Summit Historical Society and the most historically significant square mile in California.

October, 2022 issue #170



Ephemera

Basically, when we're talking about museums, and in this case the Donner Summit Heirloom which is a kind of on-line museum, ephemera is lots of ordinary stuff of every day life. You can imagine collections of menus, tickets, signs, small items, etc. Donner Summit being a high quality historical place, has generated a lot of ephemera over the decades. That ordinary stuff, saved from the old days on Donner Summit, tells us a lot about life in the past here.

Over the decades Norm Saylor has built an amazing collection of Donner Summit materials. The largest part is his collection of thousands of photographs which we've been using in the Heirloom and which are available on line (see page 2). Then there's another part of the collection which comes under the category of "everything else" which is a technical term used by archivists. We've been concentrating on telling the stories of Donner Summit in the Heirloom for 170 issues now and through exhibits on our website. Ironically we've only tangentially delved into the rest of the ephemera in Norm's collection. We've only occasionally printed Donner Summit ads for example. Then, as we prepared for the revamping of the DSHS into a warm, attractive setting with study and conversation space, exhibits that are interpreted with labels, and with all artifacts put into a database, we began to go through Norm's "everything else." At first we despaired of ever coming to grips with the immensity of the collection. The last time we even broached the subject was when we made a poster of just a few examples of just one tiny part of the ephemera collection: Donner Summit matchbooks (reduced here but larger on the exhibits page of our website). That we never revisited the idea is kind of a shame but we'll start to rectify that with this month's Heirloom's main story, "Ephemera."

Norm's "everything else" is housed in binders and drawers and almost all of it about Donner Summit. This month we present just a small taste of what's there. No doubt you'll want to come and see.



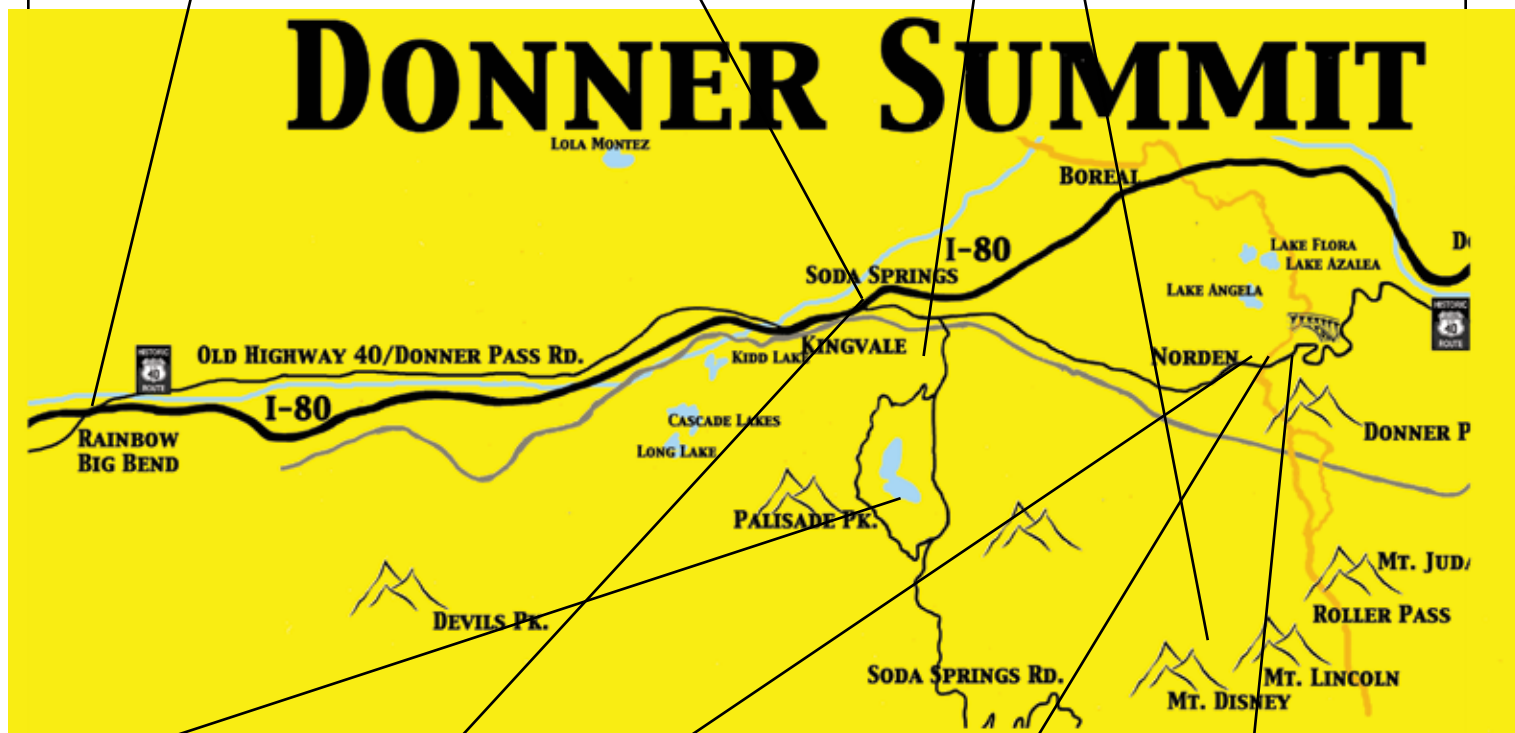
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Finding Your Way Through Donner Summit History

We've now passed 150 issues of the Heirloom: thousands of pages, thousands of pictures, and hundreds of subjects. You've probably begun to realize that you cannot keep all the history in your head. Even if you remember it all, retrieval is difficult.

Fortunately John Albert Index invented the index* and one of the choices we made back at the birth of the DSHS was to index all our Heirloom articles and pictures. We've diligently kept up the indices so that they are many pages long, full of alphabetized titles and subjects. Go to our website and to any of the Heirloom pages (one for each year) and you'll find links to the Heirloom indices.

One of the strengths of the DSHS is the incomparable historical photograph collection of Norm Sayler, our president. The collection is thousands of pictures and again the sheer number makes finding anything in particular, difficult. Avoid the long URL by going to our website and clicking on the "photographs" link and then to the "historic photo collection link." A third link, to the Flickr URL will take you to those thousands of searchable historical photographs of Donner Summit. Have fun.

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*historical society humor

Find us on 

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

Soda Springs Ski Area

SODA SPRINGS SKI AREA
 Rates for 1959-60 Season
 AFTERNOON RATES START AT 1:30 P. M.

	ALL DAY	AFTER-NOON	CHILD Under 12 Yrs.
Chair Lift	4.50	3.00	3.00
J-Bar and T-Bar	3.50	2.50	2.50
Rope Tow	2.50	2.00	1.50

—●—

Certified Ski School

Full Day Lesson	5.00
Half Day Lesson	3.00
Private Lesson By Appointment — Per Hour	7.50

SODA SPRINGS SKI CORP.
 P. O. Box 5 Soda Springs, California
 Telephone GARfield 6-3674
 (OVER)

New Snowflake Restaurant

Now Located on Ski Hill With All Modern Conveniences. A 20-ft. by 60-ft. Sundeck is Provided for Your Pleasure. We Now Will Feature Hot Lunches.

Special Midweek (Mon. - Fri.)

Rates Which Include Soda Springs Lifts, Rooms and Meals May Be Secured by Writing Beacon Hill Lodge, Donner Summit Lodge, Soda Springs Hotel or Woffords Motel.

All P. O. Box, Soda Springs, Calif.



THREE CHAMPIONS—Starr Walton, 15 years old and California's most prominent hope for the United States Winter Olympics team in 1960, is shown with two champion Samoyed dogs that belong to Rudy Talso of Donner Ski Ranch. Milt Avila is holding the dogs.

San Francisco Examiner, January 18, 1958. DSHS board member Starr Walton featured as "our most prominent hope for the United States Winter Olympics" in 1960.

WINTER SPORTS SUMMER SPORTS
 Ideal for All-Year-Round Vacationing
Donner Summit Lodge

RENO TO GRASS VALLEY TO SACRAMENTO

Excellent Foods AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN PLAN
 One of the Wests Finest Mountain Resorts — Every Room with Bath, Radio

GUIDE - MAP TO DONNER SUMMIT LODGE
 SODA SPRINGS CALIFORNIA
 TELEPHONE SODA SPRINGS 2431

Donner Summit Lodge

SKIERS FROM ALL OVER THE WEST COME HERE BECAUSE IT'S "TOPS" FOR WINTER SPORTS ENJOYMENT.

CONVENIENTLY REACHED ON BEAUTIFUL STATE HIGHWAY FROM RENO OR SACRAMENTO.

CORDIAL ALPINE ATMOSPHERE.

CONVENIENT TO MANY SKI SLOPES WITH LIFT FACILITIES.

DONNER SUMMIT LODGE

THE SKI SCHOOL IS DIRECTED BY BILL KLEIN, ASSISTED BY SLIM MABERY.

AND REMEMBER US FOR YOUR SPRING AND SUMMER OUTINGS, TOO. AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN PLAN.

BUD AND BETTY HORAK, MANAGERS

HIWAY 40 POST OFFICE - SODA SPRINGS, CALIF. TELEPHONE - SODA SPRINGS 5



Donner Spitze Inn
 HIGHWAY 40, DONNER SUMMIT
 P. O. BOX 9, NORDEN, CALIFORNIA

The Donner Spitze Inn, just up the road from Vanderford's at the top of the pass had an extra benefit, a large garage that used to house the snow clearing machinery of the Division of Highways. That building collapsed in the 1980's but it must have been a nice amenity when it was still standing.


INSIDE PARKING:
 THE GARAGE IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE DONNER SPITZE INN. DRIVE INSIDE, PARK YOUR CAR AND HAVE NO WORRIES ABOUT DIGGING OUT WHEN YOU ARE READY TO DEPART. TWO MAJOR SKI AREAS ARE WITHIN EASY SKIING OR WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE INN. ALSO SKIING AT BOREAL RIDGE.

cartoon on a Donner Spitze Inn brochure

Donner Spitze Inn

1970

Donner Spitze Inn



Rates and Information
 WINTER SEASON: NOVEMBER thru APRIL
DONNER RECREATION AREA
 P. O. BOX 9
 NORDEN, CALIFORNIA 95724
 Phone: (916) 426-3376
 OPENING NOVEMBER 15

For Your Convenience — All Year Phone
 BAY AREA
 H. L. GARIBALDI — (415) 837-2441

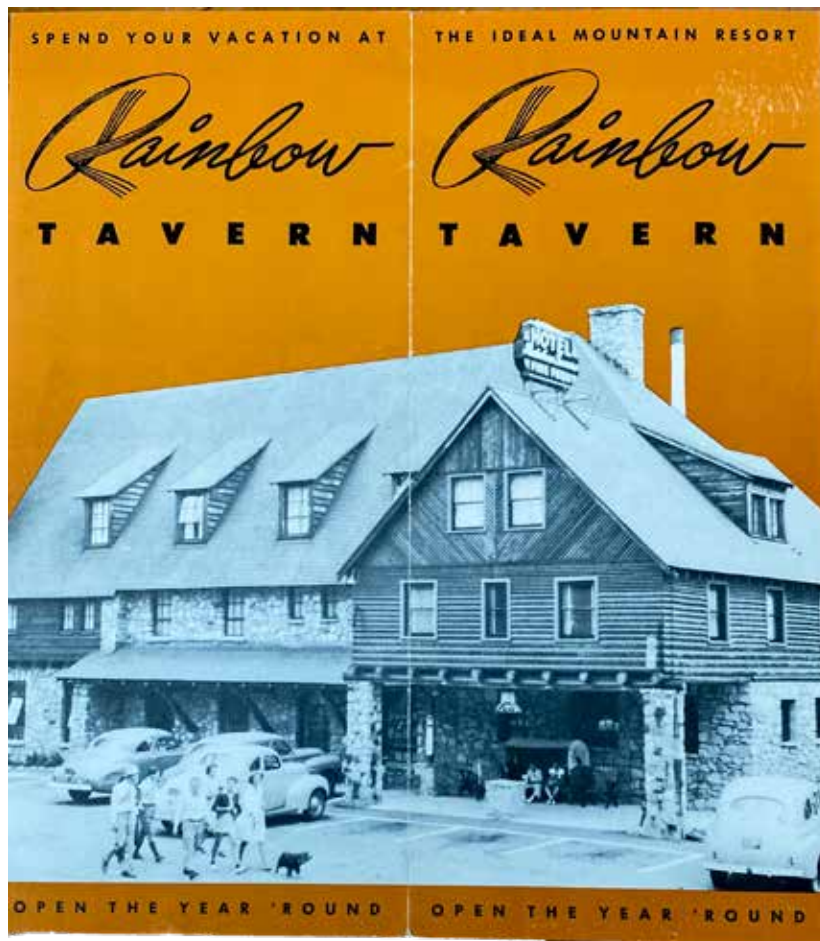


DONNER SPITZE INN
 7080 Elevation
 FUN AREA FOR THE CHILDREN.
 TOP OF THE SUMMIT.



* Sugar Bowl's 3,200 foot chair lift runs to the top of Disney Peak.

Above, Sugar Bowl's original one seater chairlift from a Sugar Bowl brochure. See the next page for the replacement.



Sugar Bowl & Rainbow Tavern

Rainbow Tavern brochure and a lift ticket in case you are so inclined.



The Skier magazine November, 1952 carried the story about Sugar Bowl's new ski lift on Mount Disney and the coming new Magic Carpet. Subsequent editions carried ads for the Magic Carpet. It took skiers from Highway 40, across the railroad tracks and to the Sugar Bowl Lodge. This was more convenient than tractor pulled sleighs.

Sugar Lays Magic

"Popular Sugar Bowl atop Donner Summit at Norden, has broken out in a rash of rejuvenation certain to tingle the hearts of skiers patronizing the Sierra resort. Constructed during the summer was a new Herron double chair lift that will replace the old low capacity lift [See the top of page 5]. It extends to the very top of Mt. Disney, from which point several new runs have been opened. The capacity of the new lift will be 600 skiers per hour and it is hoped this will eliminate any more long waiting lines.

"In addition a long awaited development of better transportation into the Sugar Bowl from Highway 40 is under construction. Under the direction of Hannes Schroll and Jerome Hill, the Magic Carpet Corporation is building an aerial tramway that will start next to Kiski Lodge and the terminal right behind the Main Lodge at the Sugar Bowl. The magic Carpet will have eight cabins. A transportation service between the tramway and the Norden railway station, as well as other resorts in the vicinity, will be run by the Magic Carpet Corporation. For those who come by car, Pratt's Garage on Highway 40 will, as usual, store the car and transport the guests up to the tramway.

"Every effort will be made to give Sugar Bowl visitors a quick and effortless entry to the skiing area, according to Walter E. Haug, new manager of the Sugar Bowl, who many skiers remember from Squaw Valley and Aspen.

"The Ski School will again be under the able guidance of Bill Klein, and Katie Starrett returns again as Sports Director."

Skier's Mid-Week All-Expense Rates 4 nights lodging, 12 consecutive table d'hote meals, Chair-Lift and ropetows, Transportation, Norden to Sugar Bowl & return
Monday thru Thursday

	per person
Dormitory	\$33.00
Room, connecting bath, double occupancy	37.00
Room, connecting bath, single occupancy	42.00
Room, private bath, double occupancy	39.00
Room, private bath, single occupancy	45.00

*Special all-expense rates not effective Christmas-New Year, Washington's Birthday and Easter weeks.

NOW at the world famous

Sugar Bowl

NORDEN • CALIFORNIA

BILL KLEIN'S SKI SCHOOL

The Skier 1-15-51

Ride The Magic Carpet To The Sugar Bowl

Opening December 18th

**New Heron Double Chairlift — 2 Ropetows — 10 Runs From Mt. Disney —
New 2-Mile Beginners' Run — Rooms — Dormitories — Midweek Specials —
Sugar Bowl Ski Weeks — Bill Klein Ski School — 40 Miles From Reno.**

For information and brochures write

SUGAR BOWL

NORDEN, CALIF.

Tel. Soda Springs 2282


The Skier 12-53

Ride The Magic Carpet

from Highway 40

To The Sugar Bowl


on Donner Summit



excellent
snow conditions . . . new Heron double chairlift . . .
two ropetows . . . ten runs from Mt. Disney.

new
2-mile beginners' run . . . Bill Klein's ski school . . .
rooms . . . dormitories . . . reduced mid-week rates.

information
brochures, rate sheet or posters write to:



Norden, California
Telephone Soda Springs 2281

Sugar Bowl's Magic Carpet

The Skier March, 1954

In Norm's collection ski pamphlets are common but buried in one binder, midway through, was the Soda Springs telephone directory for 1946. You can see from the lower left that there were not many with phones on Donner Summit in those days.

The second page was the fun page. It has instructions for using phone.

Here are some hints from page 2 after an explanation of some key vocabulary (dial tone, ringing signal, and busy signal):

to call the FBI dial "operator."
 Call information for numbers you don't know.
 Don't dial out of town numbers.

That's what operators are for
 Listen for the dial tone before dialing.
 After dialing each digit, remove your finger
 and let the dial return to normal
 Don't confuse the zero with the "o."
 Don't confuse the one with the "l."
 If someone is already on the line when you
 pick up the receiver, "announce your interruption,
 replace the receiver and make your call later.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS DIRECTORY
 UNTIL AFTER 11 A. M. OCTOBER 8, 1946**

SODA SPRINGS

TEMPORARY

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OCTOBER 1946



THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE and TELEGRAPH
 COMPANY



SEE INSIDE COVER FOR EMERGENCY CALLS
 AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

For emergencies, dial the operator and say,
 "I want to report a fire."
 "I want the police"
 "I want an ambulance"

85-31
SODA SPRINGS
 TEMPORARY
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
 OCTOBER 1946

35-61

8366
S.S. Corp
2561

A. P. Leitch, Manager
 BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH TELEPHONE CO.
 Telephone Calls, mail payments and correspondence
 The Pac Telephone & Telegraph Co
 Commercial Row & Spring Truckee
 Dial Operator and ask for Business Office
 (No charge for calls to Business Office)

The H. office
Row

Seacon Hill Lodge	2411
Boy Scout Camp Palisade	2331
Cedars The	2273
Central Sierra Snow Laboratory	2351
Chickering Allen L.	2371
Donner Summit Lodge	2301
Faulstich Guy G.	2374
Ice Lake	2391
Johansen John I.	2342
North Fork Association	2372
Pac Telephone & Telegraph Co The	
Business Office Commercial Row & Spring Truckee	
Dial "Operator" for Business Office	
(No charge for calls to Business Office)	
Reynolds Ralph A Dr	2341
Rutherford William	2251
Soda Springs Hotel	2241
Southern Pacific Co Norden	2401
Summit Electric Shop Hwy 40	2271
Walker Stanley V Hwy 40	2291

H. The
Row

24186
Topic 85

<i>SR. Powell</i>	
<i>2275</i>	
STRICKLAND	2261
O.S.C.	2282
Bill Vaul	2262
George Rudolf	2361
<i>PO</i>	2411
H. Pratt	2422
Ice Lake	2391
PROM	2272

auditor code Row 4641



House of VANDERFORD

ATOP DONNER SUMMIT IN THE
SIERRA'S BEST SKIING GROUND!

ONE WEEK VACATION

- 7 days' dormitory lodging
- 7 days' good meals
- 3 days' use of ski tow
- 3 days' ski instruction

\$22⁵⁰

Add \$4.60 for round-trip rail, or
\$4.25 for round-trip bus from S. F.

Drive if you prefer—194 miles on Highway 40 from S. F.

Ski in the West's great skiing center . . . the Donner Summit—Norden Area. The elevation is 7085, the highest of any easily accessible ski resort in California. Excellent meals, home-cooked, served in a new dining room, comfortable, heated accommodations in a new building. Congenial, informal atmosphere—lounge and ski room. Only a short distance from the famous Sugar Bowl . . . a few miles to Donner Lake, Truckee and Lake Tahoe. Slightly over an hour to Reno. Many rope tows in vicinity and chair lift at Sugar Bowl.

SCHEDULE FOR THOSE NOT DRIVING

By Southern Pacific train: Leave San Francisco 8:35 a.m., Arrive Norden 3:20 p.m.
By Pacific Greyhound: Leave San Francisco 6:00 or 8:15 a.m., Arrive Norden 12:30 or 3:20 p.m.
Excellent overnight service also, by rail and bus.

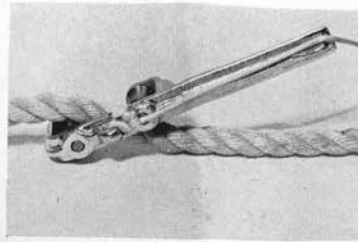
RESERVATIONS

Write, wire or telephone Mrs. J. A. Vanderford or Bill Strickland, Norden, California, or through the agent from whom you received this booklet.



Vanderford's brochure - no date

Cartoon at the bottom of the House of Vanderford brochure, above.



IF YOU HAVE difficulty riding rope tows, "Doc's Loc" is the answer to your prayers. It's safe and easy to operate. No more tired, shaky arms. Rollers do the work. Hold the gripper away from your body in a vertical position, letting rope run over the lower roller while you get proper balance. For a smooth start and gliding ride up the hill, take your time, gradually using body weight for leverage, but letting the rollers do all the work. Instantaneous release by simply removing hand from gripper. For further details: Myron Enterprises, 5446 E. Pomona Blvd., Los Angeles 22.

The Skier November, 1952

Vanderford's



**MORE FUN WHEN 2
RIDE SIDE BY SIDE . . .
MORE PROFIT FOR OWNERS**

Most popular with skiers and owners alike in 57 European and American resorts. More profit because Constam ski lifts transport up to 4 times more hourly capacity than ordinary lifts yet cost less. Investigate these world-famous lifts and order now to assure summer delivery.

ROPE TOWS • SKI LIFTS • CHAIR LIFTS • AERIAL TRAMS

CHARLES VAN EVERA

68 BRET HARTE TERRACE

SAN FRANCISCO

Manufactured by Mine & Smelter Supply Co.,
Denver, Colorado



western Skiing February, 1946



This is the river at our doorstep

FAMOUS RAINBOW TAVERN IS LOCATED ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 80 A FEW MILES WEST OF DONNER SUMMIT NEAR BIG BEND RANGER STATION AT AN ALTITUDE OF 5,800 FEET. A LARGE PARKING AREA OR HEATED GARAGE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.

MILEAGE FROM RAINBOW TAVERN TO:

- Albany 50 miles — Reno 50 miles — Lake Tahoe 28 miles — Squaw Valley 25 miles — Sacramento 85 miles — San Francisco 170 miles — Los Angeles 566 via 395, 472 via 99.

TURN ONTO RAINBOW ROAD AT BIG BEND TURNOFF ON INTERSTATE 80

Baby sitting by appointment

ALL SEASON RECREATION

FISHING IN NEARBY RIVERS, STREAMS AND LAKES IS EXCELLENT. WITH A REGULAR PLANTING OF CATCHABLE RAINBOWS, THE STREAMS ARE GOOD, THE SEASON AND EARLY FISHING OF THE LAKES BEING MOST DESIRABLE.

HUNTING IN THE AREA AROUND RAINBOW LODGE IS EXTREMELY GOOD. LARGE NUMBERS OF BLACK TAIL DEER RANGE THE MOUNTAINS IN THE VICINITY OF THE LODGE AND MANY BUICKS ARE TAKEN FROM THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY EACH YEAR — MANY RANGING IN SIZE FROM 100 TO 250 POUNDS.

EVERYWHERE AROUND RAINBOW TAVERN, THE MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS OFFER A FULL SUMMER'S ENJOYMENT FOR THOSE SEEKING NEW VACATION TREATS. FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY HORSEBACK RIDING, TRAILS FROM RAINBOW LODGE WIND OVER THE BEAUTIFUL HIGH SIERRA. HIKING AND PACK TRIPS IN THE MOUNTAINS MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.



HIGHWAY, TRAILS AND RECREATION MAP OF RAINBOW TAVERN AREA

- 1 HENNESSY PASS. Thousands of heavy wagons traveled this route in the early 1860's carrying freight to the mines at Virginia City. This route across the Sierra Nevada became a forgotten highway when the railroad crossed Donner Summit in 1867.
- 2 MEADOW LAKE. Summit City location in 1865-1866. Scene of the biggest gold rush boom and bust in history... a city of thousands, 13 hotels, a bank, two stock exchanges, and lots at \$2000 each, was built one year and abandoned the next. A stagecoach road was built from just above Rainbow Tavern directly north to Summit City, about 7 miles as the crow flies.
- 3 PROSSER CREEK on State Hwy. 89. Location of the Jacod Donner starvation and death camp in the winter of 1846. Alder houses Stage Station still stands from a more recent time.
- 4 DONNER MONUMENT. Site of George Donner camp. Of the 87 people in the entire Donner party only 46 survived.
- 5 DONNER SUMMIT. The first covered wagons to cross the Sierra Nevada successfully were those of the Stevens Supply Party in 1843. The Donner Party followed the same trail that borell the Donner Party one year later.
- 6 6000 ft. ROYAL GORGE. The American River Canyon is one of the most scenic but more inaccessible recreation areas in this region. It is typical of much of the fine hunting, fishing and recreation areas which may be reached by road or trail from Rainbow Tavern.
- 7 YUBA RIVER and RAINBOW TAVERN. One of the starring groups from the Donner Party made this spot an overnight stop in the deep snow. After further tortuous traveling they made their way to safety at Sutter's Fort.
- 8 CARPENTER'S FLAT. When the Donner Emigrant trail was a busy covered wagon route, this meadow provided a welcome camping place for exhausted pioneers after countless desert crossings and summing Donner Summit.
- 9 SQUAW VALLEY. Fabulous winter sports area - site of the 1960 Winter Olympics.
- 10 TRAVEL THIS WAY for a short loop trip taking you through the famous Mother Lodge towns of Nevada City and Grass Valley.
- 11 EMIGRANT GAP. Legs were lashed to wagon wheels and with the use of block and tackle, covered wagons were towed into Bear Valley on the final lap of the long tortuous trip from St. Louis to California.

map in a Rainbow Tavern brochure highlighting everything nearby.



ONE WEEK VACATION
 Includes 7 days' lodging in room without bath (meals \$18 additional for one week or 75c breakfast, \$1.00 lunch, \$1.25 dinner if bought separately), 1 day's ski tow, 1 day's instruction, 2 admissions to ice skating rink, 1 round-trip to Norden (Sugar Bowl), transportation to and from train if arriving that way.
 Add \$4.60 for the train round-trip from S. F.
 Add \$4.00 for the bus round-trip from S. F.

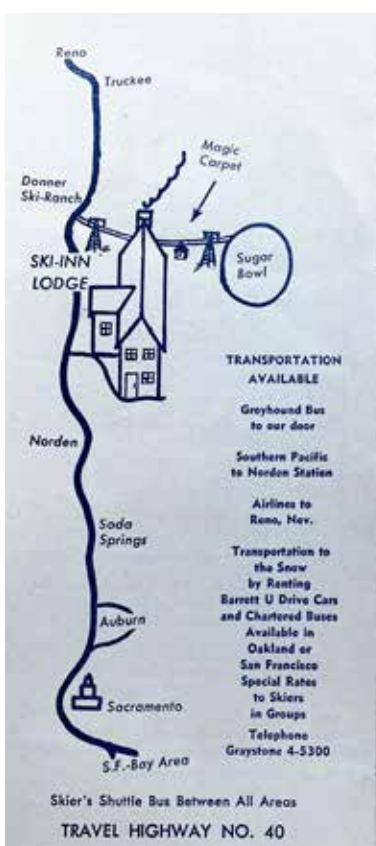
SWISS CHALET
 construction, stone exterior and beautiful knotty pine interior is this splendid, modern ski resort . . . steam-heated bedrooms, colorful dining room and cocktail lounge. One of the West's most attractive snow resorts—beautiful lounge with big stone fireplace all in keeping with the surroundings. Splendid JayBar ski tow outside the door with many downhill runs from its summit 1320 feet high. Outdoor ice skating rink across the way with lights for night skating. Only 8 miles below Norden and Sugar Bowl Area. Ski room and instruction. Very convenient to Valley and Bay Area.

SCHEDULE FOR THOSE NOT DRIVING
 Via Southern Pacific train: Leave San Francisco 8:35 a.m. Arrive Soda Springs-Rainbow 3:15 p.m.
 Via Pacific Greyhound: Leave San Francisco 6:00 or 8:15 a.m. Arrive Rainbow 12:15 noon, 3:15 p.m.
 Mileage from San Francisco: 180 on U. S. Highway 40.

RESERVATIONS
 Herrtle Jones, Rainbow Tavern, Soda Springs P. O., California, or the agent from whom you received this folder.



Rainbow Tavern & Ski Inn



DONNER SUMMIT SKI AREA
 — U. S. HIGHWAY 40 —
 FOR RESERVATIONS
 P. O. Box 7
 NORDEN, CALIFORNIA
 PHONE SODA SPRINGS 2651
 — PRESENTS —
Winter Ski Season
1954-1955
 LODGE OPENS DECEMBER 26TH, 1954
 Managing Owners
 Jergen and Chas. Vind Joe Galcochea



AVAILABLE SKIING AREAS from Ski Inn Lodge
SUGAR BOWL
 New Double Chairlift, Rope Tows
 Transportation from Highway 40,
 Magic Carpet Aerial Tramway
DONNER SKI RANCH
 Constatm Lift, Rope Tow
SODA SPRINGS
 Double Chairlift, Rope Tows
HEATED GARAGE facilities available nearby
SKI SHOP * **FOUNTAIN SERVICE**
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
 Folk Dancing * Sound Movies
SEASONAL EVENTS
 Christmas Vacation New Year's Party
 College Vacation Weeks
 Washington's Birthday Easter Week
SPRING SKIING



SKI INN LODGE
 50% DEPOSIT PER DAY
 Week-ends • 2 Nights Min. • Fri., Sat. Nights
COMPLETE WEEKENDS
 2 Nights' Lodging * 3 Meals
 Friday Night thru Sunday Breakfast
DORMITORIES
 Bedding Supplied, \$10.50
 Year One Sleeping Bag, \$9.00
DORM ROOMS
 (3 to a room)
 Per Person, \$11.50
HOTEL ROOMS
 (Occupancy of 2 People)
 Per Person, \$12.50

5-DAYS MID-WEEK SPECIAL
 Sunday Night Dinner thru Friday Breakfast with 5 nights' lodging
DORMS (Your Sleeping Bag) \$23.75
DORMS (Bedding Supplied) \$27.50
DORM ROOMS (3 to a room): Person . . \$30.00
HOTEL ROOMS
 Occupancy of 2 Persons, \$33.75 Per Person


Ski School Mid-Week Rates AND CHAIR LIFT RATES
 Available at all Ski Slopes
CERTIFIED SKI INSTRUCTORS
 At all Ski Areas
DAILY RATES
 Dorm Sleeping Bag, Per Day \$5.50
 Dorm Bedding Supplied, Per Day \$6.25
 Dorm Rooms, Three to a Room, Per Day, Per Person \$6.75
 Private Rooms—2 People Per Room, Per Person, Per Day \$7.50
 10 DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE IN THE EVENT OF A CANCELLATION

From the DSHS Archives

SNOW OR SUN SWIMMING

Beacon Hill LODGE

ALL YEAR RECREATION CENTER




HIGH IN THE SIERRA ON HIGHWAY 40
Address Soda Springs, California

FUN—HIGH ON BEACON HILL

Beacon Hill LODGE

SKIING—SWIMMING—SPORTS



HIGH IN THE SIERRA ON HIGHWAY 40
Address Soda Springs, California

1970

BEACON HILL LODGE

The "ALL SEASON"
Vacation Playland!

BEACON HILL LODGE WINTER RATES

WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTMAS WEEKS

Sleeping bag dorm	4.00
Dorms with linen	5.00
Room with common bath	8.00
Single	12.00
Double	12.00
Room with connecting bath	10.00
Single	14.00
Double	15.00
Room with private bath	18.00
Double	18.00

Additional persons in rooms—\$3.00 per person.

SPECIAL

Stay Friday and Saturday nights and receive 25% off regular rate for lodging. (except Holiday weeks)

MID-WEEK RATES
(Except Christmas weeks and Holidays)

All accommodations one-half off of regular rate Sunday thru Thursday nights.

SPECIAL MID-WEEK PACKAGES
(Five Nights)

Includes room (double occupancy), breakfast and dinner from — \$30.00 per person.

Special Ski Packages can also be arranged including Lift Tickets and Lessons.

Special Packages available for small and large groups.

Deposit of first day's stay is required on all reservations.

Please inquire regarding summer rates.



DONNER SUMMIT • SOCA SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

(914) 426-7405

Beacon Hill Lodge



YOU CAN BELIEVE IT!

New, stylish, cozy—but here it is—engineered and designed for your pleasure.

Beacon Hill Lodge announces the opening of their year-round open air swimming pool... set amidst in an expanse of cool, green lawn, crystal safety glass for your comfort!

IT'S SURPRISING . . . But the truth is, whether snow or sun is in season, you can enjoy a dip high on Beacon Hill!

Two years—one of preparation, one of construction, were required to build Beacon Hill Pool. Mountain water, clean enough to drink, is warmed, filtered, and circulated to insure your pleasure and your safety.

Walks and walkways are slip-proof, warmed and free of moisture and snow in winter through a unique heating arrangement. The great stone open air barbecue fireplace adds a touch of comfort—a spot of warmth and color.

You can picture colorful lawn furniture for loafing or sunbathing—imagine summer nights under the stars—barbecue dinners spiced by pine-scented mountain air!

WELCOME . . . Every day of the year the big doors of Beacon Hill Lodge are open . . . the magic of the seasons as they touch the High Sierras are never lost; because here are all of the facilities you'd ever wish for. It's easy to get to Beacon Hill Lodge; easy for us to make every minute of your stay full of things you'd like to do.

SUMMERTIME . . . A total of one hundred and forty-seven lakes are to be found within an area of ten square miles adjacent to Beacon Hill Lodge; these, together with countless mountain streams, all within this area, provide the rod and reel enthusiast with an outdoor challenge unrivaled throughout our State.

The hunter, seeking Bear or Deer, will find hunting grounds closed to his quest during open season, all close at hand; mountain trails lure the hiker and rider; pack trips can be arranged at the Lodge for longer forays into the back country.

Just beyond Donner Summit, a half-mile by foot or horse off the highway are Donner Caves; well worth the trip, to Castle Peak, with a grand panoramic view of the High Sierra isn't a difficult climb. Anderson Mountain is easily accessible for a stimulating view of sun-dashed peaks and shadowed valleys.



SKI EQUIPMENT . . . There's a complete Ski Shop in the Lodge. All supplies, equipment are on hand, with rental and repair services available at all times. You'll not miss an hour of fun. There are fully qualified instructors ready to help those who are tempted for the first time, or assist the experienced in putting a little more polish on their technique.

Special Ski Party Groups, not for a single day of enjoyment on the magnificent slopes of Beacon Hill, may secure the use of our fine ski equipment without the usual cash deposit when advance notice can be given to the Lodge a few days ahead of time.

WINTER SPORTS AT BEACON HILL

WINTERTIME . . . Drive on up to Beacon Hill and 80 acres of Winter Sports!

Climaxing 15 years of rapidly growing recognition as a winter sports area, Beacon Hill's superb runs are served today by a new double chair lift. Skimming above the snow, two by two, you're carried up to the top; all the way, 2600 feet, to the summit of Beacon Hill. In



addition, a J-Bar and four rope tows aid the ascent all season long.

From the Lodge's wide view porch or through the wide windows of the cocktail lounge and the dining room, one can view the activity on Beacon Hill; the colorful figures of expert and novice alike enjoying the thrills of a sport now realized to be among the most exhilarating and enjoyable of all.

Breakfast and dinner are a particular treat from our view dining room; and after a day of fun, there's good food here and in the Coffee Shop, too; a fire in the fireplace, floodlights scattering the darkness outside send the shadow of snow-laden pines across the soft, white slopes. And remember . . . Beacon Hill Pool is always ready for a brisk dip!

The San Francisco Chronicle reported on March 20, 1949 about snow conditions on Donner Summit. There was so much snow that a man walking on the ground would need a three foot periscope to see over the snow. The summit along Highway 40 was considered the "finest skiing area in Northern California" and "the Number One ski area in the State" with snow on ski runs at nine to twelve feet deep. Since the weather was so warm skiers could ski and acquire "Palm Springs tan." There would be another month of "fine skiing."

There had been a lot of improvements on the summit with more accommodations, more parking, and new ski facilities. To ease traffic trucking schedules had been amended to reduce competition between trucks and automobiles.

That was the introduction, full of optimism. Then we get to changes wrought over time of the area "30 miles between Emigrant Gap and Truckee." What a difference from today. Everyone had mom and pop ski areas along Highway 40 along with various commercial establishments catering to the skiers. Today, there is none of that thanks to I-80 and the rising in elevation of the snow/rain transition line (the elevation where rain turns to snow.

In 1949 that thirty mile stretch could accommodate 3,000 skiers a week. There were 21,900 feet of cables and ropes on the various ski lifts.

Emigrant Gap had Lakeview Lodge at \$2.50 a day per person. Laing's Pioneer Camp had various accommodations, a ski shop, rental and parking for 150 cars. Rooms were \$2.50 per person and dormitory accommodations were \$2.00 per person or \$5.50 with meals. They had a rope tow that was 500 feet long and gained 150 feet in elevation. Today there's not enough predictable snow at that 5,300 foot elevation.

There was also the Yuba Lodge with prices about the same.

At Yuba Gap there was a rope tow 750 feet long with a 250 foot elevation gain. It cost \$1.50 a day for a ticket and featured a warming hut, coffee shop, restrooms, and a ski school.

Skyline Lodge was also in the neighborhood.

In the Soda Springs area there was: Cisco Grove Store with accommodations. There was a toboggan cable pull 300 feet long providing access to a run of 700 feet. The toboggans were \$1.50 an hour. If you had your own sled or toboggan the price dropped to \$2.00 a day.

Sitzki Club had two rope tows 1800 feet long rising 300 feet. It cost \$1.50 per day and had a coffee shop, rentals, ski shop, and parking for 150 cars. They had "sleeping bag dormitories."

Rainbow Tavern was a step up with a 1250 foot J bar costing \$2.50 per day or 25 cents a ride. There was also a rope tow and ski school.

Crampton's Lodge had rooms and dormitories of various kinds.

Highway 40 as the Skier Sees It

The Donner Area Is Rich In Facilities

By DEREK PARMENTER
TOMORROW is the day for Bay Area skiers to stop and count their blessings.

It is March 21, the first day of spring. The day that on the East Coast sees flowers pushing up in bare patches on the all slopes and in California sees snow so thick a man walking on soft ground would need a three-foot periscope to see where he was going.

According to the State Chamber of Commerce, snow depths along Highway 40, regarded as the finest skiing area in Northern California, are now at their deepest—from 8 to 15 feet on the runs. From now on skiers will be able to take advantage of the kind of skiing California is famous for—snow conditions under a sun warm enough to give you a Palm Springs tan.

Operators of the many resorts along Highway 40, from Emigrant Gap to Truckee, look for another month and a half or more of fine skiing.

This season, aided by the first normal snowfall in several years, Highway 40 has come into its own as the Number One ski area in the State.

Additional accommodations have been put in, greater parking areas have been set out, and new ski facilities have been added. The State Department of Public Works alone put in \$3,000 worth of road work to widen the highway.

Trucking schedules on the week ends have been changed so that trucks do not frequent in better years, are scarce now. A closer watch on road conditions and better enforcement highway rules have been detailed by the State highway patrol.

Here are details on the main resorts in the 30 miles between Emigrant Gap and Truckee. Their aggregate accommodations take care of 3500 skiers every week and their facilities total 21,900 feet of cable and rope, including T-bars, J-bars, chair lift and rope-tows.

EMIGRANT GAP AREA—Elevation 5300 feet, 119 miles from Oakland.

Lakeview Lodge—Rooms without bath, housekeeping cabinet, dormitories, dining room, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, parking facilities. European plan, \$2.50 per day per person.

Laing's Pioneer Camp—Rooms without bath, housekeeping cabinet, dormitories, dining room, coffee shop, ski school, rental, parking facilities for 150 cars. American or European plan. Rooms \$2 per person, housekeeping cabinet \$2, or \$5.50 per person with three meals.

Laing's Ski Tow—Rope 500 feet, 150 feet. Rates \$1.50 per day. Parking facilities for 150 cars. Operates week ends and daily if weather permits. Ski school and toboggan runs.

Yuba Gap Ski Tow—Rope 750 feet, 250-foot rise. \$1.50 per day. Coffee shop, rest rooms, warming hut, ski school. Operates on week ends and for special groups during week. Ski patrol and toboggan runs.

Skyline Lodge—Rooms without bath, dormitories, dining room, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, ski school. Rates, American \$2 per person, European \$2 per day American.

SODA SPRINGS AREA—Elevation 6750 feet, 117 miles from San Francisco.

Cisco Grove Store—11 one-American \$0, including two meals. Midwest, American \$4.50, European \$1.50 per person, mid-week \$1 per person.

Cisco Grove Toboggan Slide—Cable toboggan pull, 300 feet long, 100-foot rise. Run 700 feet with 100-foot drop. Warming shelter. Rates \$1.50 per hour per toboggan party. With own sled or toboggan, 100 ft. of sled and equipment, \$2 per day.



THREE SKIERS LOOK DOWN ON DONNER LAKE FROM THE SUMMIT. Now comes the skiing for which California is famous

Skiers, who either don't have cars or don't want to make the drive up Highway 40, can make the trip easy and comfortably by train. The Southern Pacific has two trains which fit nicely into a skier's week-end schedule.

One leaves from San Francisco at 8:07 p. m. and gets into Nyeon station at 5:40 a. m. It also stops at Emigrant Gap (4:40) and at Cisco (5:07). Following the train leaves Nyeon at 12:51 a. m. and arrives in San Francisco at 8:50 a. m. All stops on Highway 40 are free stops.

The other convenient train is the Overlander which leaves San Francisco at 11 a. m. and arrives in Truckee at 5:40 p. m. Returning, the Overlander leaves Truckee at 12:20 p. m. and arrives in San Francisco at 6:50 p. m.

The coach fare round-trip with lower berth, including tax, is \$21.50. For 40 skis, ski shop and rentals; transportation to ski area; parking for 60 cars. Rates, European, \$10 to non-housekeeping rooms, \$1 per couple, housekeeping rooms \$1.50. American plan \$2.50 per person, housekeeping cabinet \$2, or \$5.50 per person with three meals.

Beacon Hill Lodge—Rooms with bath, dormitories, dining room, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, ski school. Rates, American \$2 per person, European \$2 per day American. Parking \$1.50 per car. American plan, connecting rooms \$2.50 per day per person, private rooms \$3.50, 300-foot rise per day (two meals).

Spring Ski Tow—Rope 250 feet, 100-foot rise. \$2.00 per day. \$1.00 half-day. 25 cents single ride. Four rope tows, each 1000 feet long, varying in size from 255 to 235 feet. \$2 per day with two single rides for 25 cents. Coffee shop, rest rooms and warming hut. Ski school. Group lesson \$2, private lesson \$5. Parking for 200 cars. Daily operation. Ski patrol and first aid room.

NOBBER'S AREA—Elevation 9144 feet, 174 miles from San Francisco.

Ice Lakes—Chalets with bath, dormitories, housekeeping cabinet, dining room, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, ski school rentals. Snow-washed transportation to ski area from Highway 40. Rates, \$2.50 per person in chalets; \$1 in dormitories (two meals); \$4 ski tow lodge—rooms without bath; dormitories; dining room for guests only; coffee shop; ski shop rentals; parking. American plan; rooms, \$2 per person; dorms with bedding \$5, without \$2.25. Weekly rate \$35. Ski instruction. Sugar Bowl—1 1/2 miles from Nyeon station. Transportation from Nyeon to lodge by express on schedule; week ends by tow-down chairlift. Chair lift, 2200 feet long, 1000-foot rise to top.

SNOW TRAIN SCHEDULES

Donner Ski Ranch—Corralville, 1800 feet, 600-foot rise. Rates \$2.50 per day (tickets good on both tows); 25 cents single ride. Rope tow 1000 feet, 300-foot rise; \$2 per day. Tickets good on rope tow only. Coffee shop, rest room, warming hut. Ski school group lessons \$2, six for \$10; private lessons \$5. Parking for 200 cars. First aid room and ski patrol.

Donner Summit Area—Elevation 1215 feet, 145 miles from San Francisco.

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of Mount Donner; rates, single ride \$5 cents, day \$3.50, week \$17.50. Runs vary from 7 1/2-mile to 1 1/2-mile. Two new runs, expert and intermediate. Top rope tows belong to chair lift, each 1000 feet long. Sugar Bowl Ski School, Bill Klein instructing, five daily, two-hour sessions. Ski shop rentals. Accommodations, 40 in rooms, with bath, ski storage, ski guides; adjoining built \$7500 single, \$5 double, 20 dorms, tent \$1.50, wood-shed \$2. Meals a la carte, about \$2.50 per plate. \$1.50 per person at chalet.

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FREIGHTERS

San Francisco, Calif.

17 DAYS JAMAICA * DOMINICAN REP. * TRINIDAD * CURACAO

18 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

19 HONDURAS * GUATEMALA * PANAMA CANAL

20 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

21 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

22 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

23 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

24 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

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28 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

29 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

30 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

31 HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

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NEW AND MODERN PROPERTY. 125 ROOMS. COMPLETELY REPAIRED. SWIMMING POOL. GOLF COURSE. RESTAURANT. BAR. COCKTAIL LOUNGE. SKI EQUIPMENT. SKI SCHOOL. SKI PATROL. SKI LIFT. SKI STORAGE. SKI RENTALS. SKI TRIP SERVICE. SKI TRIP PACKAGES. SKI TRIP INSURANCE. SKI TRIP VOUCHERS. SKI TRIP BOOKINGS. SKI TRIP RESERVATIONS. SKI TRIP CONFIRMATIONS. SKI TRIP CANCELLATIONS. SKI TRIP REFUNDS. SKI TRIP CHANGES. SKI TRIP UPDATES. SKI TRIP NOTICES. SKI TRIP ASSISTANCE. SKI TRIP INFORMATION. SKI TRIP SERVICES. SKI TRIP FACILITIES. SKI TRIP AMENITIES. SKI TRIP PERKS. SKI TRIP BENEFITS. SKI TRIP PRIVILEGES. SKI TRIP PERKS. SKI TRIP BENEFITS. SKI TRIP PRIVILEGES.

SUMMER OCEAN CRUISES FROM NEW ORLEANS

VENEZUELA
LI Quiera, Puerto Cabello, Maracaibo

DOMINICAN REP. * TRINIDAD * CURACAO

HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

HONDURAS * GUATEMALA * PANAMA CANAL

HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

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HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

HAVANA * HAVANA * PANAMA CANAL

SOUTH AMERICA
Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santos, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo

DIVERTI SE VUOLTA
Nautica. 215 S. Market St. Los Angeles 2, Calif.

Kingvale Park had cabins for rent, rentals, a ski shop and transportation to the ski tows.

Donner Summit Lodge had rooms and dormitories, a dining room, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, ski shop, and transportation to the tows.

The Beacon Hill Lodge had rooms, dormitories, a dining room, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, ski shop rentals, and was within walking distance of Soda Springs ski area. Their rooms were \$7.50 a day per person. The dormitory charged \$6.00 and included two meals.

Soda Springs Hotel had rooms with and without baths, dining room, cocktail lounge, parking for 200 cars, garage storage and charged \$7.00 - \$9.50 with two meals for sleeping accommodations.

Soda Springs ski area featured a 2400 foot J bar that gained 450 feet in elevation. It cost \$2.50 per day, \$1.50 for a half day or 25 cents a ride. They had a coffee shop, restrooms, warming hut, and ski school. They could park 200 cars.

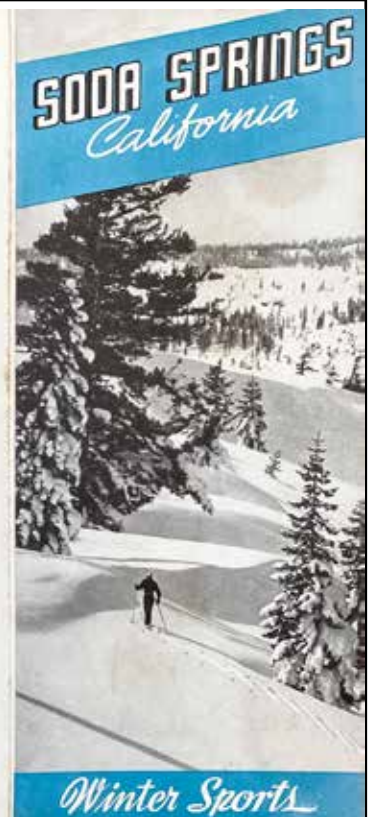
At Ice Lakes there were chalets with baths, dormitories, and housekeeping cabins. There was a dining room, cocktail lounge, ski shop rentals, and "weasel transportation to and from highway."

Ski Inn had no baths in the rooms, a dining room, ski rental shop, and coffee shop.

Sugar Bowl was only 1 ½ miles from the Norden station and transportation to the lodge was by weasel, apparently only during the week, and tractor pulled sleigh on weekends. Their chair lift was 3200 feet long with a 1050 foot rise in elevation. Lift tickets were \$3.50 a day or 35 cents a ride. Runs were up to 1 ½ miles long. There were two 1,000 foot long rope tows and Bill Klein was running the ski school. Rooms in the lodge were \$9.00 for a single, \$6.00 for a double. Dorms were 2.50 for men and \$3.00 for women.

Then on the Donner Summit area there was Donner Ski Ranch with a Constam lift 1800 feet long with a 650 foot rise. It cost \$2.50 a day or 25 cent per ride. Their rope tow was 100 feet long and cost \$2.00 per day. They too had a coffee shop, restrooms, and a warming hut.

Then it was down to Truckee but that's beyond the Heirloom's territory. They featured A, B, C, and D class jumping hills, rope tows, lessons, dog teams, toboggan slide, and ski rentals.



Donner Ski Ranch lift tickets ca. mid-1950's

Book Review

The Mothers Vardis Fisher
1943 reprinted in 1976 285 pages
available new on the internet

One would think that there are no different ways to treat the story of the Donner Party but this book was published in 1943 and, based on the title, The Mothers, should have provided an interesting perspective. That would be the story as told by the women, who have generally been ignored, and highlight their contributions to the survival of the Donner Party. That's the reason I bought it.

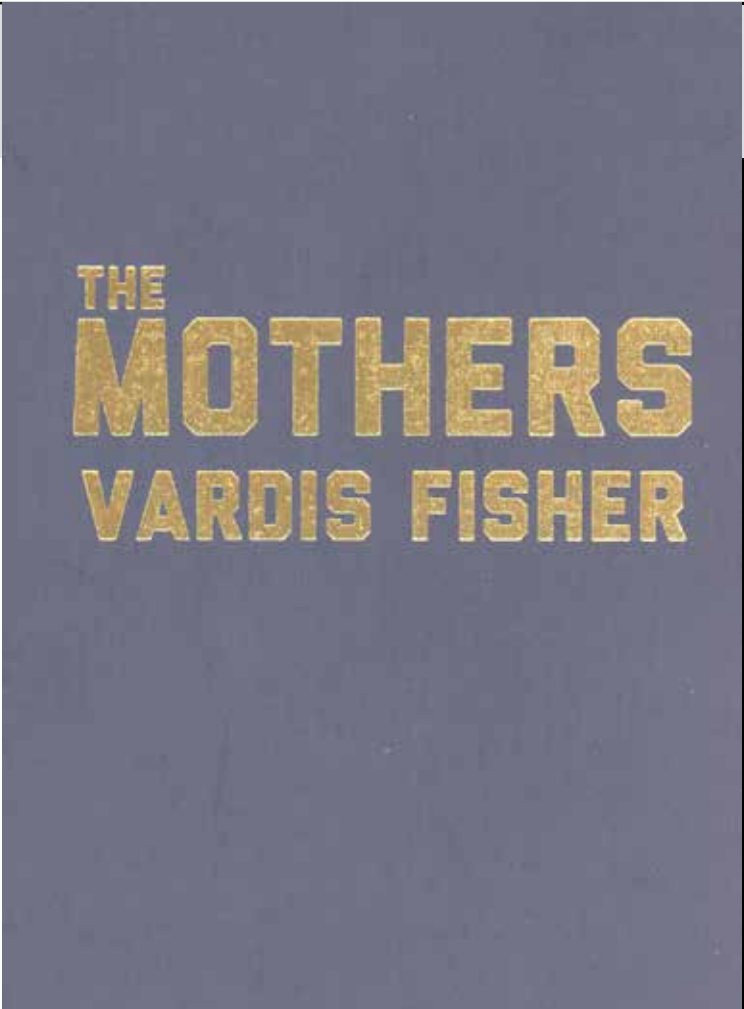
The reader has to understand that it's a novel, meaning that the basic story we all know has been fleshed out with conversation, thoughts and little stories. We'd expect that as the story unfolds a theme would be developed showing the women as the heroes. To develop the theme there would be conflicts to overcome, culminating in a climax and ultimately, the denouement. That's the normal progression of a novel. If you know the story of the Donner Party you can readily imagine those stages of the novel's progression.

Let's see.

The book opens with Charles Stanton ready to head off for help at Sutter's Fort with some of the Donner Party wondering if he will come back. This foreshadows the disunity and dissension of the party. Their hopes rest on Stanton coming back with food but some are cynical about even that. A few pages later James Reed was banished following a knifing. There are several arguments and part of the actual story was changed. The interactions and conversations show the Donner Party to be made up of the nastiest group of people you'd ever want to meet. Even before the party reached the Sierra the members would not share or help each other.

The Mothers does not present the women as heroes. Instead, they are argumentative, fickle, judgmental, nasty, and selfish. We have nasty people confronted with problems, with only a bit of sermonizing at the end about how the mothers' characters maybe enabled them to survive. We never see if there was personal growth, nor how the growth developed to overcome the challenges. The challenges were overcome, of course, but only by the rescue parties, an outside force.

A large part of the book describes the Forlorn Hope episode but then it goes back to the lake camps and suddenly the women come to the fore and save everyone, but there is no evidence. "Mothers in this bitter winter had work



THE
MOTHERS
VARDIS FISHER

to do" and apparently they did it but how or what is a mystery. Vardis stops relating episodes of nastiness but there is no trigger for that to change their personalities.

For example, suddenly there is just a description of people you might like to meet. Philippene Keseburg had more food than the others and she doled some out from her "hoard." Here, "hoard" is the word used. It's a bit perjorative so it's a backhanded compliment to Philippene. That was a "fatal softness in her own character" and was a handicap in her fight against death. The compliment is even more backhanded when Vardis says she did not have the stuff of which pioneer women were made. That's used as counterpoints to Vardis' imagined descriptions of the other women's personalities. Philippene "was no hard, cunning realist like Peggy Breen or Lizzie Graves. She had neither the intelligence nor the clear unfaltering courage of Margaret Reed. She did not have the phenomenal patience and devotion of Lavina Murphy.

"Of the five mothers, the one most like her was Eleanor Eddy. Eleanor was as brave as any other, but she did not have the ruthless fighting heart of Peggy and Lizzie or the mature vision of Margaret... Under her gentleness there was steel but she did not tell herself in the way of Mrs. Graves, that her children must live,

even if everybody else in camp died.” Here we maybe have the theme, that the personalities of these mothers saved the day but it’s never born out by actions. There is one exception when Eleanor Eddy secretly put a pound of bear meat into Wm. Eddy’s pack. Vardis says that meat saved Eddy who then saved the Forlorn Hope which then started the rescue parties.

Maybe the women are the heroes because they were opposite the men. Here is a description of Spitzer who has just exhumed Dutch Charly and taken his clothes. “.. he was a lazy parasite who refused to gather wood or help keep the fire burning. All day he would sit by the fire... Today she was heartily sick of this man. There he stood by the fire, in his own and a dead man’s clothes, staring at the flames...”

The book really celebrated a couple of non-mothers, Milt Elliott and “Bill” Eddy. Just taking Eddy as an example, according to Vardis he was the long suffering hero of the story. He is patient, self-sacrificing, and strong (killed a bear). He shared food even when he didn’t have much. He helped others even after they had rejected him or refused to help his family. He even forgave Franklin Graves for leaving someone to die, “I wouldn’t fret about it... Our job now is to save our families. That’s what the lord would tell us to do. He wouldn’t want us to waste our strength fretting over an old man who is dead. Forget about it Frank; we have a job to do.” In Vardis’ mind this is an attractive characteristic. According to Vardis, Eddy initiated the Forlorn Hope too and he does various acts of heroism.

As a novel the book imagines the interactions and conversations of the Donner Party episodes, for example Stanton’s leaving to go to Sutter’s Fort for help with Wm. McCutcheon. Lewis Keseburg wonders in German, “Will they ever come back?” His haggard wife, Philippine replied in German, “McCutchen should. He has a wife and child.” “Stanton won’t. Why should he?” replied her husband.

One vignette highlights the character of John Snyder by looking at his thoughts just prior to his getting knifed by James Reed. Vardis takes us into Mr. Snyder’s head, “Snyder, accustomed for twenty-three years to flattering attention, had imagined that he alone had been weighed and found wanting. That notion put him in an ugly mood, and day after day the mood persisted and deepened, until it was a bitter corrosive in his mind. The life about him only added to his ugliness.” Since that’s made up, we can wonder why the author chose to characterize Snyder in that way as perhaps a cause for the knifing.

As if there wasn’t enough dissension, the author makes up extra conflict. For example, Vardis has “Charley” Stanton swearing for the first time as the party tries to climb the pass. They won’t leave anything behind. “By the God Almighty!” he roared. “I’ve never in all my life seen such damned people! Here you are facing starvation and death, and you insist on

dragging all your junk along with you!” It could have happened but there was so much drama already that this doesn’t really add to the story. The arguing continues for some time. Certainly if “Charly” was going to swear for the first time it would have been a thousand miles back if the people were as nasty as Vardis portrays them.

Vardis imagines all kinds of things in an attempt to flesh out his characters. Wm. Eddy is impulsive and hot-tempered. His wife was quiet, thoughtful and restrained. “They adored one another.” Philippine Keseburg’s husband abused and flogged her. “She loathed his small greedy soul...” Franklin Graves’ wife “was the real boss of his big family...” William Foster “was a strange man... In some ways he was only a child, credulous and impulsively generous; but in some ways he seemed to be a very wise and thoughtful man. Under his good nature there was a vein of madness...” At times one might think Foster “could be forced to do inhuman and unpredictable things.” Of course, later he shoots two Indians for food.

Other things are made up for no discernable reason. During the Forlorn Hope episode Pat Dolan went crazy which did happen. In this telling everyone is moving easily around under the blankets making the set-up sound like a large tent. Then four people sit on Dolan’s arms and legs. Dolan curses, slobbers and writhes – Vardis’ descriptions. He bites his tongue and lips so that blood flows down his beard and so that no one can understand him. At another point when Wm. Eddy approached the door of a cabin at Johnson Ranch the girl who answered the door is named Harriet Johnson. Her name in real life was Harriet Ritchie. Why change that detail?

In some ways details of the story are accurate, for example floundering in the snow or details of killing an ox but in others it’s bad guesswork. Saying that Stanton and the Indians went to the summit in the snow to see conditions and “An hour later, Stanton and the Indians returned.” The actual effort requires going up and down 1,000 feet in elevation and six miles through the snow. In another story Wm. Eddy went out hunting and stumbled across the Donners which is also not accurate.

There are good descriptions for example of the peril, as the party slept at the bottom of the pass in a storm,

“This storm was heavier than the former one. Within an hour two fresh inches had been laid on the sleeper, and before daylight the depth upon them was almost a foot. Now and then they stirred in their sleep and the new whiteness shuddered above them; but nobody awoke to thrust out an arm or a head. In these strange mountains, far from their goal, with the food almost gone, their strength sapped, and their hope burning faintly like the embers pulsing and darkening in the pine stump, they lay in their beds and were covered by the winter until there was no sign of life here. The beasts were white mounds; and the two silent Indians were swallowed by the deeper night where they sat.”

Finally, there's a bit of 1943 American culture which does not fit well with modern sensibilities. Wm. Eddy is out hunting. Taking his position behind a clump of willows, he peered out, knowing that these naked and snake-eating redskins could not be far from him... Bill supported his rifle... and took careful aim... With a scream that rang over the camp and burst in echoes down the gorge, the Indian leapt high into the air... and plunged headlong over the precipice.

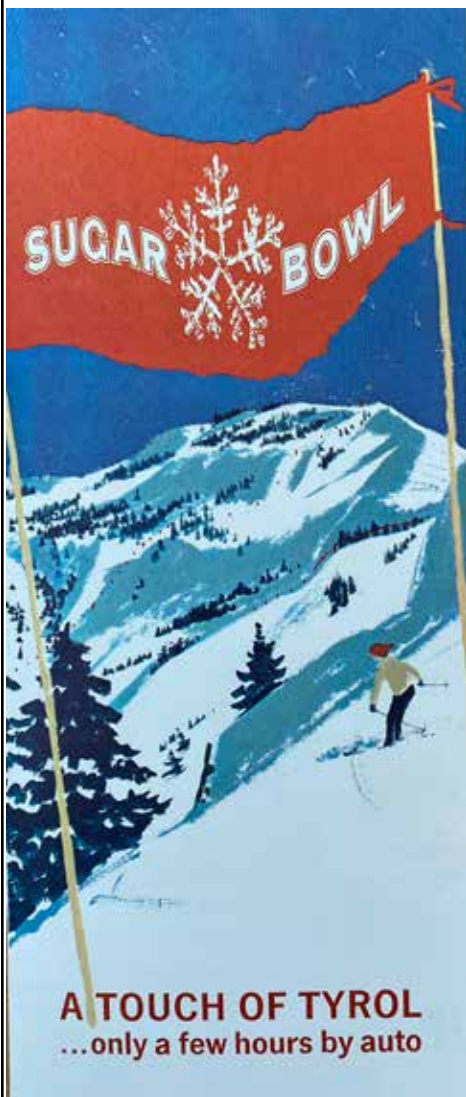
"Bill waited a little while, but he knew the other naked devils would be running for their lives. When he returned to camp, he said he had blown hell and daylight through one of the thieves... This was the last time the Diggers came prowling upon this camp."

Note:

You have noticed our monthly book reviews. You might want to do some reading of your own.

Stop in at the DSHS. Norm Sayler has a large collection of books for perusing, buying, or checking out.

You might even want to do a review for us.



Sugar Bowl brochure from
Norm's collection - no date

Making History Colorful

Today, due to advances in computer graphics technology, there may be a solution to the color limitations of our historical black & white images. It turns out that computers are remarkably adept at manipulating photographic images. In recent years, the algorithms developed for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning have been adapted to image technology to give almost magical results. This includes the colorization of black & white images. Simply put, these algorithms are "trained" by looking at millions of color and black & white versions of photos to "learn" how to add back colors to a black & white image. The algorithms learn how to find a sky and make it blue, find a face and make it flesh colored, find a tree and make the leaves green. They develop highly sophisticated models that can do amazing transformations. Up until recently, this technology was only available on high powered specialized computers, but in the last year, Adobe has made this technology available to a desktop computer running their Photoshop program. The photos here are just a few examples of what this program can do.

George Lamson

WESTERN SUMMIT.



183. Main Street, Upper Cisco, 5,911 feet elevation.

WESTERN SUMMIT.



183. Main Street, Upper Cisco, 5,911 feet elevation.

Cisco when it was "end of track" about 1867

Odds & Ends on Donner Summit

Here we have a chimney and a "chimney." Both are near Rainbow. The one below is part of a cabin that was up the hill on the north side of Donner Pass Rd., Old Highway 40, and on the east side of the river.

The picture to the right is also on the north side of Donner Pass Rd. a few hundred yards east from Rainbow Lodge. It sits in the forest but once when the trees were not yet there and there was traffic on Old Highway 40, the structure held a sign advertising a lodge. We've looked and looked for a picture with the sign but no luck so far. The inset shows the top of the structure where the sign was supported. There is a duplicate between the north side of I-80 and the south side of Donner Pass Rd. just west of the overpass. Can you find it?



This is part of a series of miscellaneous history, "Odds & Ends" of Donner Summit. There are a lot of big stories on Donner Summit making it the most important historical square mile in California. All of those episodes* left behind obvious traces. As one explores Donner Summit, though, one comes across a lot of other things related to the rich history. All of those things have stories too and we've been collecting them. Now they're making appearances in the [Heirloom](#).

If you find any "Odds & Ends" you'd like to share pass them on to the editor - see page 2

*Native Americans; first wagon trains to California; the first transcontinental railroad, highway, air route, and telephone line, etc.

Donner Summit Historical Society

www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

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