

Membership Newsletter
Fall, 2014



Central Sierra Historical Society

PEP PROGRAM CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

BY ROBERT KNAPP



On June 4, 2014, the Partnership in Education Program (PEP) celebrated the successful end of our first year of collaboration with the fourth grade teachers and students from Big Creek, Pine Ridge and Foothill schools at the museum at Shaver Lake. We were proud to watch students demonstrate to parents and other adults their deepened understanding, and excited to see them apply what they had learned throughout the year. Currently, we are planning for the second year of the 4th grade activity.

In addition, we are expanding our program to include an 8th grade science component for the 2014 - 2015 school year. Details of the program are still being worked out, but it will support the current 8th grade science standards and provide hands-on activities, field work and research projects supporting the activities created by the 8th grade science teachers from the three mountain districts.



We are looking forward to another rewarding year at the museum as we continue to provide and support dynamic student learning anchored in the rich resources of the Central Sierra.

SIERRA VOICES 2014

by Dina Young

The fifth season of Sierra Voices has once again been very successful. The word is out, the place to be on the second Saturday of the month (May – October) is at the museum at Shaver Lake listening to presenters who have a deep connection to the history and preservation of the central Sierra.

The Central Sierra Historical Society hosts these presentations at our beautiful museum located adjacent to Camp Edison on the shores of Shaver Lake. The mission of the Society is to enrich the cultural and educational experiences of visitors to the central Sierra Nevada by deepening their understanding of the human and natural history of the area. The museum's exhibits highlight three regions, alpine, forest and foothill, and the Sierra Voices program attempts to cover each region in our selection of presenters.

The fifth season began in May with Steve Harrison and Michael Semus, authors of the book "Postcard History Series: Shaver, Huntington, and Hume Lakes". Steve and Michael not only discussed the creation of their book, but also gave a historical account of the early days of the area. Many of their photos had never been seen before, and they even shared many photos that were not in the book, either because they were found after the book was sent for publishing or because the authors couldn't confirm certain details.

Our June presenter was Brenda Harrison. Brenda enlightened us with some little-known information about the San Joaquin River Gorge. She shared historic and cultural information, as well as information about the learning center which many of us did not know existed. A very interesting tidbit she shared was that an important historical gentleman of the area was her grandfather. She not only shared historical and cultural perspectives of the gorge, but personal ones, too, being a Mono Indian with relatives from the area.

In July, Ron Goode, a North Fork Mono Indian and Tribal Chairman, enlightened us regarding the Native American value of ecological sustainability. He incorporated both cultural and ecological knowledge in his discussion of physical practices on the landscape. He included information about his involvement in efforts to improve the landscape for efficient and long-term use by humans and animals. Ron also entertained us with some legends and stories about his people. He brought several visual aids, and several people spoke to Ron after the program.

Our August presenter was Stephanie Akers, a local native plant enthusiast. Stephanie provided an audience of over 30 people an education about the historical and cultural uses of the area's plants. She went into detail about how Native Americans used plants for food, medicine, basketry, tools, cradleboards, etc., as well as various uses for pitch and pine needles. She explained techniques Native Americans used for harvesting and preparing the plant materials, and creating the final products. She also covered some not-so-common plants and their uses and distributed a handout containing information about 15 plants and their various uses. She brought several plant materials and allowed the audience to pass them around while she spoke, which added to the audience's understanding. This was a very interesting and informative presentation!

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY MAIL OR COMPUTER

If you would like to receive future newsletters by e-mail, simply email your address to: cshsmuseum@gmail.com Please mention "newsletter" in the subject line.

In addition to receiving your newsletter in advance of those through the mail, you are saving the Historical Society many dollars in printing and shipping costs.

Thank you for that.

In September, Sierra Voices had two presentations. On Labor Day, the Davis family from Auberry, demonstrated how the earliest residents of the Central Sierra have used the natural resources to sustain their lifestyle for centuries. On September 13, Jeff Young, a lifelong resident and local historian, told us about the life of Shorty Loveless, the trapper, and enlightening us with local history along the way. Finishing the 2014 series on October 11 will be Steve Merrill, retired special education teacher and long-time train enthusiast. He will be presenting "The San Joaquin and Eastern Railway: The Crookedest Railroad in the World".

Next spring will be our sixth year and we are looking forward to providing more presenters who will continue to highlight the unique qualities of the three regions of the central Sierra. Be sure and check our website sometime in April for the list of presenters for 2015.

CSHS's THIRD YEAR HOSTING SCIENCE DAYS

Our third year to host Science Days was a big success. Working in conjunction with Southern California Edison Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service, over 600 students from all grade levels plus approximately 75 adults attended from Big Creek, Pine Ridge and Foothill Elementary Schools. Docents staffed over 12 stations and demonstrated various aspects of our forest environment. The theme this year was "Fire".

This educational event is held near the end of the school year and is open to the public.



BLACK POT COOKERS DO IT AGAIN!

Once again the High Sierra Black Pot event held at the Shaver Lake Fishing Club on August 3 was a huge success. Guests, musicians, cooks and helpers totaled 250 this year. Heather Sullivan, coordinator of the event, thanks all who participated.

Event tickets, donations, and raffle tickets brought in \$27,510.45 and the costs were low because of generous donations by the Fishing Club and the McDonald Family, leaving \$26,497.91 in net proceeds to benefit the CSHS Building and Exhibit Fund for this year. A special thank you is extended to Bob & Sue Johnson, coordinators of the "cookers".

The Black Pot Cook Off is held the first Saturday in August. Invitations are sent out in July and reservations are a must.

"BARBEQUE, BARN DANCE, BINGO & SEAL THE DEAL" FUNDRAISER DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

*Proceeds of the fundraiser will pay for
the sealing of the museum floors*

The CSHS annual fundraiser dinner was held June 21, 2014. It was a great success as it was an early sell out. Guests were treated to a no-host bar and appetizers before a bbq tri-tip, chicken and pork rib dinner catered by Classic Catering Company of Clovis.

A silent dessert auction was offered throughout dinner, followed by a live auction offering a Sheriff's helicopter ride, use of a villa in Costa Rica, a catered dinner with wine for six, a one week stay at any Marriott Resort in the world, and a one-year subscription of internet service from Ponderosa Telephone.

Circle dancing led by Evo Bluestein followed and many guests joined in to make it a fun evening. Proceeds for the evening yielded a net income of \$12,985.

A special **THANK YOU** is extended to co-chairs Judy Statler and Alice Knapp. Another thank you goes out to members of the Board of Directors and members of v.e.s.t. who volunteered their time and efforts to make the event the great success it was.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

*We hope you will remember the
Society when you are planning your
estate, or as a fitting means of
honoring a departed friend
or loved one.*

Polly Bullock

Larry Duke

Norma Netzer

Virgil Scrivner

H. T. Sullivan

Kenneth Swinger

Lloyd Weeks

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

You can support the Historical Society by giving your friends and loved ones a yearly membership to the Museum. It makes an excellent gift. Call the Museum office for details.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

Mr & Mrs Peter Baumstark of Clovis donated a case of copy paper.

Bob & Linda Berry of R.J Berry, Jr., Inc. of Kingsburg donated work needed on the museum's parking lot.

Gordon Bone of Shaver Lake donated his time and talents to build a beautiful hand carved serving bar for various Historical Society events.

Camp Edison Park Hosts donated proceeds from their annual end-of-summer white elephant party.

Brian & Linda Clague of Shaver Lake donated 500 digital print decals with the CSHS logo.

Gil & Leigh Ann Davis of Big Creek donated life jackets for the Osprey II.

Dr & Mrs Dennis Driggers of Clovis donated several cases of photocopy paper, printer toner & ink.

Patrick Emmert of Prather donated the exhibit posters at the Steam Donkey kiosk.

John & Terri Everett of Clovis donated a 1927 Mack Truck used at Dinkey Creek.

Janet Gillett of Auberry donated hydrograph equipment.

Nick & Terry Grogen of Fresno donated USFS historical record books.

Chris Loether of Pocatello Idaho donated a book he wrote titled *Let's Speak Western Mono.*

Michael Lutz of Redwood City donated a case of his books, *Huntington Lake in the 50's.*

Richard McMahan of Salinas donated record books from the Pine Logging Mill.

Al Meier of Clovis donated his time and talents to build a façade on the amphitheater building and to burn the lettering into the barrel at the SJ&E Caboose.

Steve & Brenda Merrill of Fresno donated parts and labor needed on the Osprey II.

Nathan Mino of Shaver Lake donated time and talents to upgrade the Historical Society's website.

Martha Taylor Robinson of Coarsegold donated her Palmer Twosome worth \$6,000 to the museum. The cart is used to transport people from the museum to the powerhouse or the amphitheater.

Ed & Shirley Selleck of Auberry donated a Peavey Tool for display in the museum.

Neil Simpson of Fresno donated a Mack Truck hood ornament.

Joe Ubbink of Shaver Lake donated his time and talents to build shelves for the museum's gift shop and for a display case to hold the museum's antique phones and typewriters.

All donations, whether it be a cash donation or an in-kind donation, are extremely valuable to the Historical Society.

THANK YOU!



You really need to come see the beautiful serving bar made by Gordon Bone and donated to CSHS

CSHS WEBSITE UPDATED!

Hurray for Nathan Mino, who volunteered to do a makeover of our website,

www.sierrahistorical.org

and to bring its pages up-to-date. The updated site was launched last month. Nathan's special interest in bringing Central Sierra history to the public runs in the family. Nathan's mother, Linda Clague, is Vice-President of the CSHS Board of Directors.

ATTN: CURRENT, RETIRED SCE EMPLOYEES

Southern California Edison Company employees, current and past, can financially support CSHS through the SCE Employee Volunteer Incentive Grant Program. This program is available through Edison International.

Your hours of volunteer service can mean \$600 to CSHS. These hours do not need to be done at the museum. Be sure to log your volunteer hours by the end of the year and submit your grant request. It can be done online, or by phone. We are already in SCE's system as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

OUR THANKS TO CSHS BUSINESS MEMBERS

*Thank you to the following
BUSINESS MEMBERS, who have
renewed their membership in 2014.*

- ◆ Alarmit Security Company
- ◆ All Valley Administrators
- ◆ Big Sandy Rancheria
- ◆ Chandler Farms
- ◆ Cressman's General Store
- ◆ Doug Koerper Construction
- ◆ James Palmer Appraisals
- ◆ John D. Wilson
- ◆ Ponderosa Telephone
- ◆ Walt R. Reinhardt
Insurance Agency, Inc.
- ◆ Satoria Productions
- ◆ Shaver Lake Snow Removal, Inc.
- ◆ Shaver Lake Sports
- ◆ Sierra Forest Products
- ◆ Sierra Marina
- ◆ Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

*Each era is intertwined with
what has come before, and in turn
leaves some legacy for the future.
Our community's future depends on
businesses like yours, supporting
the work of volunteers and non-profit
organizations such as ours.*

**PRESERVE CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORY
~BECOME A MEMBER!~**

**Become a MEMBER of the Central Sierra
Historical Society and Museum, and
explore our unique cultural history.**

Your membership helps to preserve the museum collection, maintain and improve the museum and its exhibits, and provide our community with educational programs, exhibitions and engaging social activities.

Membership begins at \$20! Your membership is tax deductible. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Left to Right
Keith Swinger, Steve Merrill, Marcia Swinger, Alice Knapp, Robert Knapp

The Osprey II Submitted by Steve Merrill

This summer, a dream was realized when the Osprey II began offering interpretive boat rides on Shaver Lake to the general public. On just two weekends, over 30 people took advantage of this unique boat and one-of-a-kind learning experience. This was our 'shake-down' season; no, we didn't 'shake-down' our guests, but we completed our 'sea-trials' to make sure the event was safe, fun and memorable to all who went.

Captains provide a 45-minute ride with narration about 1) the boat itself; 2) its place in Shaver history; 3) the surrounding mountains; 4) the history of the Lake; and 5) the Southern California Edison power projects; plus a view of real live Ospreys diving for fresh fish in the lake!

The Osprey II, a Motor Cruiser, has a cruising speed of 5 knots, and can carry five adults with ease. Original plans were drawn in 1947 and published in "*Boats Anyone Can Build*". The details and equipment in this vessel are top notch in every way. Several volunteers have obtained the 'license for hire' certification from the California Department of Boats and Waterways so it can fulfill its purpose to honor the valiant residents and laborers of the past, even as the Central Sierra Historical Society and Museum does with the loggers, pioneers, builders, and engineers who made Shaver Lake and all of the Central Sierra what it is today.

Interested in becoming an Osprey II Captain? We need a few more volunteers who would be willing to meet the licensing requirement .

Want to go for a ride or become a Captain? Rides are free, but we appreciate donations to the Museum. Simply contact the museum at 559-841-4478 and sign up. Of course, we won't be actually back on the water until spring, when we hope Shaver Lake is full again.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL 2014

"THANK YOU" to ...

400+ Visitors

Norm's Shaver Lake
Coffee & Deli

v.e.s.t. Members

4H Members

Steve Scheline

... for making our
Annual Ice Cream
Social
a GREAT SUCCESS!!



SUMMER-LONG RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the three winners of the Museum's summer-long raffle prizes. Ron Wandel-Smith of Santa Clarita, CA won the Ted Reckas photo worth \$300, Jerry Buckley, also of Santa Clarita, won the Camp Edison basket worth \$200, and Mike & Lynette Mendez and their friends Jerry & Cindy Isaak (Above) of the Valley, won the Disneyland basket worth \$1300! Tickets were \$1/each or 6/\$5 and the winning tickets were drawn Sunday, August 31.

Watch for our Spring 2015 newsletter for the announcement of next summer's prize.



FRIDAY IN THE PINES CONCERT SERIES IN THE AMPHITHEATER

by Katie Blanchard

The Friday in the Pines concert series for 2014 began this past June with an encore performance by Tipperary Stew. A crowd pleaser, Tipperary Stew features Noel on the guitar and vocals, Patricia playing Irish whistles (quite wonderfully), the Bodhran (a traditional Irish Drum) and vocals, with their daughters singing and dancing. As one audience member said, "I could listen to Tipperary Stew every day!"

July's Fridays in the Pines concert hosted an encore presentation by storyteller, songwriter, re-enactor, Jimmy Collier. Jimmy easily engaged the audience with his grass roots good ol'time singing, and storytelling, making it easy to clap along. Jimmy shared his experience of auditioning for Americas Got Talent! We in Shaver know Jimmy Collier is a gifted entertainer and performer.

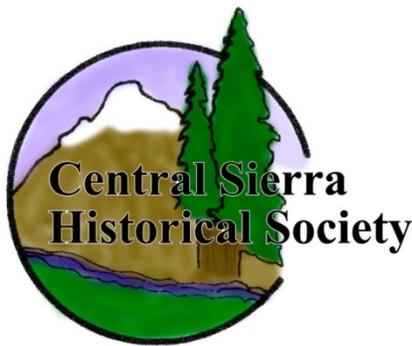
In August, the amphitheater once again welcomed The Excursions band. Filling the amphitheater with its largest audience to date, this newly formed four-member ensemble played Classic Rock, Jazz and the Blues.

"The Steam Donkeys", new to the amphitheater but not new to playing at the museum, concluded our Friday in the Pines concert series. Bluegrass, Americana, classic rock, as well as their own songs were enjoyed under pre-fall skies. The amphitheater presented a perfect venue for picnicking and relaxing, while listening to great music.

The museum is busy planning the Friday in the Pines 2015 concert calendar. Our concerts are marked to be held on the last Friday of June-August (subject to change) with September's TBA. Chairs, blankets, food and drinks will continue to be welcomed. The Board of Directors is continuing to make improvements throughout the museum, amphitheater included. Your kind donations have made this a possibility. Stay tuned for artist performances, as well as amphitheater announcements in the spring of 2015.

Directors

Curtis Blasingame
Linda Clague
Gil Davis
Dennis Driggers
Patrick Emmert
Robert Knapp
Janet Parr
Walt Reinhardt
John Sthol
Keith Swinger
Sean Terrio
Jeff Young

**Interim Executive Director**

John R. Mount
Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Davis

September 2014

Members and Friends of the Museum:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Central Sierra Historical Society and Museum, we would like to thank you for your past support. We are very grateful because, after all, without you, we wouldn't have a museum. This endeavor has been a dream for a very long time.

Due to the commitment of dedicated visionaries, generous private donors, organizations, and numerous volunteers, we have achieved extraordinary success far beyond our imagination of just a few years ago. Phase 1 has been completed and now we need to focus on the future of the Historical Society. **We need your help.**

The first major step is to hire a permanent Executive Director. Applications are currently being received, with a cut-off date of September 30, 2014. A year ago we began a pledge drive to fund the position and we received generous contributions. We are still accepting 5-year pledges. Please contact the museum office for assistance.

As we enter into the next phase, exciting display and program opportunities are on hold until additional funding is secured.

In the world of fundraising, competition for dollars is intense. Without a solid base of either population or location, fundraising for our Society is in an even more difficult position. Your financial contributions are essential to maintain the stability and expansion of the educational programs and displays available to visitors.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors, or the Museum office to request an appointment scheduled at your convenience to see for yourself the progress that you have supported.

A donation form is on the reverse side. Won't you please consider a gift to the Historical Society by completing the form and sending it to the office with your donation?

Thank you again for your past support of the Museum. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Keith Swinger

Keith Swinger
Chair, Board of Directors

CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 617 42642 TOLLHOUSE ROAD SHAVER LAKE CA 93664
(559) 841-4478 FAX (559) 841-4479 E-MAIL: cshs@netptc.net WEBSITE: sierrahistorical.org

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTION

\$ _____

***WE ARE SUPPORTED
SOLELY BY THE
GENEROSITY OF OUR
DONORS***

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 559-841-4478

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Method of Payment: Visa MasterCard Personal Check

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
CSHS, PO BOX 617, SHAVER LAKE CA 93664-0617**

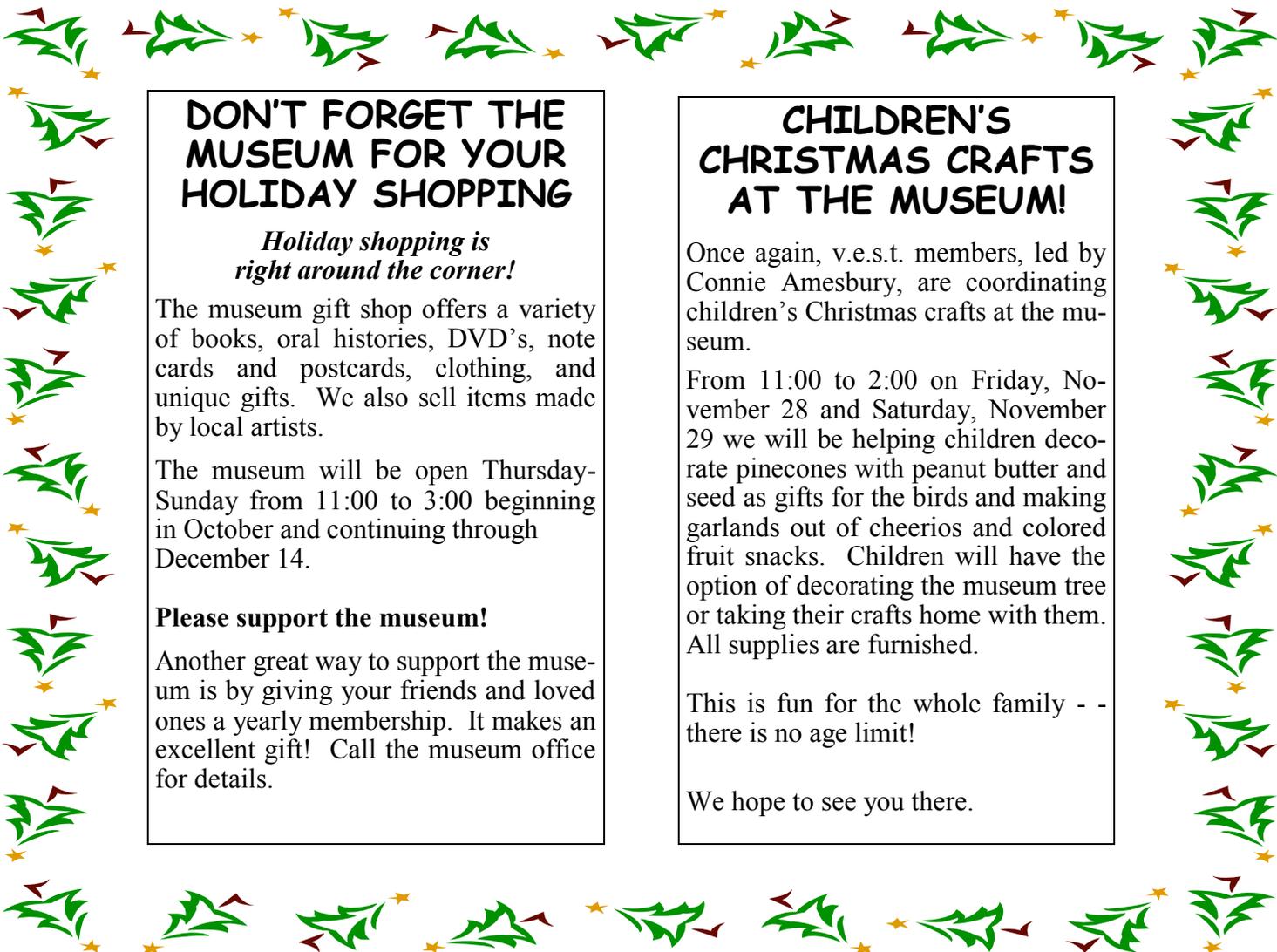
The Central Sierra Historical Society is a California nonprofit corporation formed to preserve the history of the Central Sierra Mountain area. We operate exclusively for public benefit and educational purposes within the margins of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID # 77-0280796

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2014

DATE	EVENT	TIME, LOCATION
October 11	Sierra Voices Presentation	1:00 pm – Museum Media Room
October 19	Steam Donkey Engine Steam-Up	10:00-3:00 – Museum Parking Lot
October 19	Powerhouse Demo (First Come First Serve - Limited Availability)	12:00 pm – Museum Powerhouse
November 29&30	Children's Holiday Crafts	11:00 – 2:00 – Museum

One More "Sierra Voices" Presentations This Season

October 11 – Steve Merrill, retired special education teacher and long-time train nut, will be presenting the **San Joaquin and Eastern Railway: The Crookedest Railroad in the World**".



DON'T FORGET THE MUSEUM FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Holiday shopping is right around the corner!

The museum gift shop offers a variety of books, oral histories, DVD's, note cards and postcards, clothing, and unique gifts. We also sell items made by local artists.

The museum will be open Thursday-Sunday from 11:00 to 3:00 beginning in October and continuing through December 14.

Please support the museum!

Another great way to support the museum is by giving your friends and loved ones a yearly membership. It makes an excellent gift! Call the museum office for details.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AT THE MUSEUM!

Once again, v.e.s.t. members, led by Connie Amesbury, are coordinating children's Christmas crafts at the museum.

From 11:00 to 2:00 on Friday, November 28 and Saturday, November 29 we will be helping children decorate pinecones with peanut butter and seed as gifts for the birds and making garlands out of cheerios and colored fruit snacks. Children will have the option of decorating the museum tree or taking their crafts home with them. All supplies are furnished.

This is fun for the whole family - - there is no age limit!

We hope to see you there.



P.O. Box 617
(42642 Tollhouse Road)
Shaver Lake, CA 93664-0617
(559) 841-4478, Fax 841-4479
Email: cshs@netptc.net

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Newsletter Fall, 2014

CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM HOURS

Open 7 days a week—11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Until September 21
Beginning Sept 25, Open Thursday – Sunday – 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. until December 14 (weather permitting)
December 17 through mid-April (depending on the weather) – closed for the winter

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR CHANGES

How to Reach Us

Central Sierra Historical Society P.O. Box 617, 42642 Tollhouse Rd. Shaver Lake, CA 93664
559/841-4478, Fax 841-4479 E-mail - cshs@netptc.net www.sierrahistorical.org

For rapid response to your questions and to receive information via e-mail, send your electronic address to cshs@netptc.net.

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Curtis Blasingame, Gil Davis, Dr. Dennis Driggers, Janet Parr, Walt R. Reinhardt, John Sthol, Sean Terrio, Jeff Young
Newsletter Editor: Jean Larsen

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Bill Chandler, John C. Harris, Honorable Debra Kazanjian, James M. Krueger, Steve McDonald, Steve Magarian,
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Mission Statement of the Central Sierra Historical Society

The mission of CSHS is to enrich the cultural and educational experiences of visitors to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, by deepening their understanding of the human and natural history of this area. CSHS hopes to inspire future generations by bringing to life the challenges and achievements of the people who lived here.

It is the goal of CSHS to construct and operate a first-class museum and learning center near Shaver Lake that will preserve the heritage of the Central Sierra. CSHS will provide educational programs and activities to the public, it will preserve and protect historical artifacts, and it will work in partnership with other organizations to further the study of the history of this area.