PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION PROGRAM 2015
By Robert Knapp

The Partnership in Education Program (PEP), continues to grow as this year we have had visits from KLIP International School in Reedley, Auberry Seventh Day Adventist School and other student groups from the central valley. Coming in November will be students from Quail Lake Elementary in Sanger. The continuing partnership with Big Creek and Pine Ridge schools focused on connecting the 4th graders to the rich history of the central Sierra. It is continuing, and we will have four sessions this season which will include topics and activities focused on local Native American History and Culture, Geology and Mining, Logging and the Drought and finally, Power & Water = Electricity. All sessions are at or around the museum at Shaver Lake. We will have two sessions in the fall and conclude with two sessions in the spring. Currently, weather permitting, 4th grade students will be at the museum for a half-day in October, November, April and May. This program continues to flourish because of the many volunteers and museum support people who share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the students. We are looking forward to another successful season of providing a venue for students to experience the exciting history of the Central Sierra.

This will be the second year of our 8th grade science program. Students from Big Creek and Pine Ridge will continue to focus on strategies to maintain a healthy and vibrant forest. The focus this season will be the bark beetle that seems to be flourishing throughout the forest. Students will be locating and collecting specimens, determining the length of stay in the tree, and the method of transfer from one tree to the other. A special event this season will be a field trip to the American Geophysical Union’s annual fall meeting in San Francisco, where students will observe firsthand what renowned scientists are researching in the field of forestry. They will learn how to record research data in preparation for the following year’s conference where they will

NEW FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY
By Lisa Crain

I am excited to announce a new fundraising opportunity for our organization. Now that our summer season is over most of my time will be dedicated to grant writing and a new fundraising committee. With the formation of this committee we are working to reach out to new donors and to find projects that can ignite excitement and generate funds. We have been offered an exciting challenge of a Matching Donation Program from an anonymous donor. The offer is specific in that the anonymous donor will match $30,000 per year for three years under the provision that we can get other donors to first make a combined donation of at least $30,000 that same year. We have the potential to raise $180,000 over the next three years, outside of grants and fundraising events. This is an opportunity for us to step further into fundraising and move our organization into a more secure future. It is our hope that we will not only meet, but, with your help, surpass the minimum amount raised each year. If you have any questions or would like to help contribute to this new campaign please contact me at lisacrain@sierrahistorical.org or by phone at 841-4478. Thank you for your continued support.

(continued on reverse)
(PEP), Continued from page 1)

present their data on the bark beetle infestation.

The first 8th grade science session at the museum will be October 29. This session will include how to write an abstract, using the microscope, locating and recording the internal damage to trees, and begin to collect data. The field trip will be in December. After the winter break, students will return to the museum for two more sessions, dates to be determined based on weather conditions. All museum sessions will from 12:00 to 2:30. These sessions support the current 8th grade science standards and provide hands-on activities, fieldwork and research projects. A new addition is a science park featuring “7 Simple Machines.” We will begin to integrate this exciting, new addition in the spring.

John Mount is continuing to develop an adult education component, which will include noted scholars in fields of natural resources, forestry, and other critical environmental topics to be presented in our media room. Finally, the PEP committee is working with the Fresno County Office of Education to develop an annual fall education conference to support project-based curriculum and technology in the classroom.

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

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Keith Swinger

Another season has gone by since our last newsletter. As the President of the Board of Directors and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to say THANK YOU to all of our members, volunteers, and staff that have generously contributed over this past year. Without your support, our museum, its exhibits, and the Historical Society’s educational programs would not exist.

As we wind down from the summer season and begin planning for next year, we are currently working on our annual budget. Fundraising is always the necessary backbone of a nonprofit organization and we are requesting your continued support.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit recently, or attend a special event, we are fortunate to offer free admission and docent or self-guided tours of the indoor and outdoor exhibits. The Redinger Powerhouse, the fully restored SJ&E Caboose #50, and the Mack Truck have been enjoyed by many this year. The Donkey Steam-Ups have also been a big hit on weekends. Friday night concerts in the Amphitheatre and the Sierra Voices Speaker Series were better than ever this year.

The Partnership in Education Program (PEP) continues and is growing. As of this writing, the PEP program has reached out to over 1,400 4th and 8th graders as part of their common core requirements. We are working on a future educational program that will reach local, state and federal policy makers in regards to the history of the Central Sierra and how this impacts our future.

Some milestones reached this past year include hiring a full time Executive Director, Lisa Crain. Lisa has taken over the reins and has made huge progress in not just the day-to-day operations, but by leading us into the future. Some other projects completed are the sealing of the concrete floor in the museum’s buildings and archiving our entire collection. We are now in the process of improving signage to increase the awareness of our location.

The Central Sierra has a tremendous story to tell. This area represents the natural resources that were influential in building the nation. We can learn from the past in regards to water, hydroelectric power, forest resources, and the people that lived in this area to better manage these resources for future generations.

As you read the articles in this newsletter, you will see that we have made great strides towards our vision of being an educational center, but there is more to be done. We ask you to commit and continue to support us as you are a part of conveying the story of our past to influence the future.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CSHS

Please note that our email address has changed to: cs@sierrahistorical.org
Our Executive Director, Lisa Crain, can be reached at: lisacrain@sierrahistorical.org
On 5/9 Terry Ogden, a retired teacher and school administrator whose current interests include docenting in the museum, giving nature trail tours, volunteering with the Lion's Club, and selling photographs at the Shaver Lake Art Gallery, presented “The Story of the Sage/Wright Families: A Pioneer Family in the Sierra Nevada” with special guest David Wright. Terry Ogden spent several months restoring an extraordinary collection of photographs that was generously donated to the CSHS by David Wright. At his presentation, Terry took us on a tour of these amazing images, including Yosemite Valley in the 1880s, logging in Eastern Tulare and Fresno County, guided tours to Mt. Whitney, the Shaver Flume in 1892, and a mill in Poison Meadow across from the Fishing Club entrance. Audience members were asked to contribute ideas to locations and items in the photos.

The June 13 presentation was by The Easton Pot Stirrers, who shared their knowledge of “Black Pot Cooking”. This group of folks has cooked for their neighbors and for the museum’s Black Pot Cook Off. They grew up spending summers at Shaver, doing everything outdoors, and were raised not to be afraid to try new things. Thus, they have taught themselves about Dutch oven cooking. Elaine Mehrten, her husband Mike Mehrten, her brother Allan Blacksill (also a Sierra Steamer), and her sister Marlene Phillips gave an informative — and delicious! — cooking demonstration which included all the features of black pot cooking; coals, temperatures, equipment, ingredients, times, etc. It was especially a treat to sample their cobbler, made before our eyes.

July 11 brought Norman Saude, who shared “The Longest Flumes in the World”. Norman Saude is a local history buff who has lived in our mountain community since 1971. He is a local builder, school board member, is active in the museum’s Partnership in Education Program, and is also a Sierra Steamer. He is currently working on the Peterson double engine steam donkey and he plans to build the Hayden sawmill. He showed how the flumes were incredible feats of designing, engineering, construction, and usage, and presented the Shaver flume, along with some tidbits about the Sanger and Madera flumes. Some great slides were included in this historical account, as well as some perspectives on life in the day of a flume tender; the hard and good times.

On August 8, Bud Olson’s presentation “Rod Riggs: Early Mountain Photographer” brought an assemblage of early and some never-before-seen photographs of the area and people. Bud Olson, a retired history teacher with an MA in history from FSU, is a lifelong resident of our mountain community and is one of the founders and workers of the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society. He has spent many years collecting pictures and stories from our rapidly disappearing elders. Bud shared Rod Riggs’ many pictures of places from our early history; Shaver, Tollhouse, Pine Ridge, etc., as well as pictures of the pioneers who settled our mountains and the head shot collage collections Rod Riggs made into postcards. Some of these were stockmen, mill men, teamsters, etc. Bud also shared Rod Riggs’ talents, his colorful character, and many interesting stories about his life. These unique pictures and information took us back in time.

On September 13, Jeff Young’s presentation, “Reading a Sinker Log: Information and History”, treated us to the story of the life and death of a several hundred year old sinker log. Jeff is a lifelong, 3rd generation resident of the area and a local historian. He is a logger, sawmill operator, science teacher, and museum board member, among other things. His expertise taught the audience the meaning behind the growth and scars of a very interesting sinker log which he brought for this hands-on presentation. (During the logging days, sinker logs were those that sank due to density as they were floated across the mill pond.) Jeff also brought a slideshow of unique photographs of lake-bottom artifacts which he described in detail.

October 10 brought Historian Nick Curry of the Huntington Library in Southern California to Shaver Lake. Nick Curry was a mortgage loan representative for 25 years and has spent over 25 years doing research in the Huntington Library. We were privileged to have him travel that distance to our area for his presentation. He brought his incredible work, “A Four Volume A-Z Biographical Dictionary of Big Creek”. He told many stories about the major players in the history of the area and the places named for them - Wishon, Balch, Huntington, Kerckhoff, etc. It was nice to learn about the men behind those place names and their contributions and importance to the area. At the end of his presentation, he generously presented his Four Volume Biographical Dictionary, which was many years in the making, to the museum.
DO YOU NEED A PLACE TO HOLD YOUR EVENTS?

-RECEPTIONS-

-FAMILY REUNIONS-

-HOA MEETINGS-

OUR MEETING ROOM CAN BE RENTED

CALL THE MUSEUM FOR SPECIFICS

MUSEUM OF THE CENTRAL SIERRA
42642 TOLLHOUSE RD
SHAPER LAKE CA 93664
559-841-4478

ICE CREAM SOCIAL 2015

THANK YOU to...

- 400+ Visitors
- Norm Kato’s Shaver Lake Coffee & Deli
- CSHS v.e.s.t. Members
- 4H Members, for Handing Out Cookies
- Steve Scheline, Balloon Artist
- Artists from Shaver Lake Art Gallery
- Keith Crain & Ryan Stewart, Musicians

... For making our Annual Ice Cream Social A GREAT success!!

FRIDAY IN THE PINES CONCERT SERIES

Our 2015 Friday in the Pines concert series was the most successful season to date! We kicked things off a month earlier this year with a relaxing evening of folk music by Keith Crain.

Our June show brought the return of Tipperary Stew from Visalia, California. They are an incredibly talented husband and wife duo that play Irish and Americana music. The audience was even treated to Irish dancing by their daughters.

In July the very talented Steam Donkeys performed their mix of traditional bluegrass music with touches of rock, folk, and country influences. Their music range included something for everyone to enjoy and their banter in between songs kept the audience laughing.

Our final show of the season was in August and featured “Rock Therapy” from Oakhurst California. They certainly lived up to their name! The crowd was up and dancing and they were an excellent finale for a fun season.

We had almost 400 people attend our shows this year and through very generous donations to our Amphitheater Improvement Fund we are looking forward to adding enhancements to get even more use out of this incredible venue. If you are interested in donating to the Amphitheater Improvement Fund or would like to recommended a musical act please contact us at the museum.

A huge thank you must also be given to Katie Blanchard, the museum assistant that coordinates and runs these shows.

Our Friday in the Pines series is a wonderful way to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and music in one evening.

Speaker’s area shown, and there’s room for many tables and chair (see picture on page 6). This spacious room could be the site of your next event!
CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AT THE MUSEUM!

Once again, v.e.s.t. members are coordinating children’s Christmas crafts at the museum. From 11:00 to 2:00 on Saturday, November 28 we will be helping children decorate pinecones with peanut butter and seed and making garlands. They 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 isn’t an age limit! We hope to see you there.

GOLF CART DONATED TO CSHS

It is with great pleasure that we can announce a very generous donation to the Historical Society. We have received a golf cart. This golf cart will especially come in handy to transport people with special needs when we have events at the museum’s amphitheater. This donation comes from the family of Cecil and Jean Wright, in celebration of their lifetimes of living and working in the Florence Lake, Huntington Lake, Big Creek, and Shaver Lake communities. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

CSHS Board of Directors

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Steve Magarian                      James Palmer
Peter Van Vleet                      Joseph Weirick
A. Emory Wishon III                 O. James Woodward III

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, unique gifts, and clothing. We also sell items made by local artists. The museum will be open Friday-Sunday from 11:00 to 3:00 until December 13.

We are currently having a huge blow-out sale on many items! Support the museum, and while you’re there make sure to check out all the new displays recently added.

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.

BEST WISHES TO ED & SHIRLEY SELLECK

This past summer our good friends, Ed & Shirley Selleck, relocated to Southern California. It is an understatement to say they will be missed by many. Ed & Shirley, married over 60 years, made their home in Auberry since his retirement from Southern California Edison Company in 1992. Ed generously donated his time to CSHS as a member of v.e.s.t. (Volunteer Education and Service Team) and was the founder of COrP, the Historical Society’s community outreach program. Through COrP, Ed represented CSHS at many different events throughout the area, including the Intermountain Rotary Club Music Festival, the Intermountain Nursery Harvest Festival, the Clovis Big Hat Days and ClovisFest, and many more local events. It was Ed who spearheaded the Oral History Program at the Museum, wherein he interviewed people of historical interest to the Central Sierra. He recorded the interviews for transcription, thus creating the wonderful books we now have for sale in the museum. He was instrumental in creating the historical DVD’s we currently have for sale in the gift shop. In addition to donating their precious time to the Historical Society, Ed & Shirley have donated many items of historical value to the Museum. We wish you well, Ed & Shirley, and look forward to your visits.
"MUSEUM MAGIC: FIND IT”  
FUNDRAISER DINNER  
A GREAT SUCCESS

The CSHS annual fundraiser dinner was held June 27, 2015. It was a great success as it was an early sell out. Guests were treated to a no-host bar and appetizers before a formal dinner catered by Pardini’s Catering & Banquets of Fresno. There was a silent dessert auction throughout the dinner and a 50/50 drawing. Music was provided by local musician, Keith Crain.

Proceeds for the evening yielded a net income of $6,604. These dollars will fund Museum advertisement signs at Cressman’s General Store, Shaver Lake Liquor Store, and other strategically placed locations.

A special THANK YOU is extended to co-chairs Judy Statler, Alice Knapp, and Mary Warner. 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.

ATTENTION SCE CURRENT AND RETIRED EMPLOYEES

As the end of the year approaches, Southern California Edison Company employees, current and past, can financially support the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum through the SCE Employee Volunteer Incentive Grant Program. This program is available through SCE’s parent company, Edison International.

You can request a cash grant up to $600 per year representing your hours of volunteer service. These hours do not need to be performed at the museum, but you can designate your grant to the Historical Society. Be sure to log your hours by the end of the year and submit your Edison International grant request. It can be done online, or by a simple phone call to them. We are already in Edison’s system as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you need help, please feel free to call Becky Davis at the museum (559-841-4478).

Several current and retired SCE employees have taken advantage of this program and designated CSHS as the receiver of the grant. Please consider it. Remember, giving back also includes volunteering!

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL OR PRINT

Our first effort at sending our newsletter by e-mail proved to be a big success. Approximately 1/3 of our mailing list chose to receive it by e-mail. The feedback was overwhelming. We heard that the newsletter was easier to read, and that those who wanted to read it on paper simply printed it out.

We have e-mail addresses for some members and some non-members. Recognizing that our list is not complete, we are asking for your help. If you would like to receive future newsletters by e-mail, simply send us your address to cshs@sierrahistorical.org. Enter “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.

ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN’S LEARNING CENTER

As reported in our last newsletter, the children’s crafts projects were offered again this summer. Children visiting the Museum of the Central Sierra had the opportunity to participate in four activities. They made Native American necklaces, a Native American headband, a Monarch Butterfly hand puppet, and Monarch Butterfly headpieces. Coordinators of the project were v.e.s.t. members, Shirley Kepler and Judy Statler. Parents and grandparents love the idea that they could visit the Museum exhibits while their children were engaged in challenging and fun activities.
Once again the High Sierra Black Pot event, hosted by the Shaver Lake Fishing Club on August 1st, was a huge success! This year’s event was a record breaker, bringing in over $30,000 for the Historical Society’s Building and Exhibit Fund. Thank you to all who attended this year’s event making it a sellout.

This event would not happen without the time and effort of the members of the Shaver Lake Fishing Club, as well as Sue Johnson and the High Sierra Blackpot Cookers, Steve Gillet and fellow musicians, and Steve and Michelle McDonald. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to making this event a success year after year. Thank you to all who contributed to this year’s event, whether it was money, time or items. A special thanks to the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their donations.

Shaver Lake Fishing Club
Southern California Edison
Brenda and Mark Isaac
Burford Family Farming Company
Cool Mountain Mercantile
Cressman’s General Store
Dani’s Designs at Cressman’s – Susan Piper
Dave and Becky Botkin
David’s Party Plus in Reedley
Deaton Acres Country Products at Cressman’s
Donaghy Sales
Enterprise Car Rental
Hearst Wine
Jason Huskey
Jeannie and Stan Cooper
Jim and Tina Quaschnick
Jim Quaschnick Jr.
John and Ann Good
Knotty Pines Cabins & Gifts
La Boulangerie
Lady of the Lake Designs at Cressman’s – Robin Overmyer
Log & Rustic Woodworks at Cressman’s – Kemp & Susan Piper
Norman Saude
Odds & Enns Creations at Cressman’s – Rick & Sheryl Enns
Patty Holman
Piper Brown
Pizza Factory – Prather

Prather Perk & Gifts
Rebecca Sellers-McDonald
Schimnowski Family
SDM Realty
Shaver Lake Art Gallery
Darlene Meissner Watercolors
Gary Meissner – Shaver Lake Wood Carvings
Linda Clague
Deanna Sue Bristow
Terry Ogden
Shaver Lake Hardware
Shaver Lake Pizza
Shaver Lake Pub & Grub
Shaver Lake Sports
Shaver Lake Watersports
Sophia Elming
Subway – Prather
Sue Golda
Sun Valley Packing
Tagress Family Pottery
The Traveler’s Corner
Thorwaldson Family
Tim and Karin Nora
Tim Messer Construction Inc.
Tiphanie Morning Art – Deborah T. Klose
Trading Post
HIKES FOR HISTORY

This summer we resurrected our Hikes For History program. Approximately 100 people enjoyed one or more of the narrated hikes.

The first hike, held June 19, was along the SJ&E Railroad Grade from Shaver Crossing to Big Creek Powerhouse #1, with a total walking distance of 3 miles. Hikers learned about the 1912 history of the “Railroad That Lighted Southern California”.

The second hike, held July 17, took the hikers on the 1925 construction road to Camp 72 that built the tunnel that fills Shaver Lake, with a total walking distance of 7 miles. Hikers learned about the 3-year construction of the tunnel as well as the biggest construction accident in the history of the Big Creek Project.

The third hike, held August 21, was to visit the dams at Huntington Lake and hike along the tunnel and pipeline that feeds the penstocks providing water to Big Creek Powerhouse #1, with a total walking distance of 3-4 miles. Hikers learned about the Big Creek Project that set world records in 1913 while providing hydroelectric power to Southern California.

Finally, the fourth hike, held September 3, was to fulfill the request of the Auberry Intermountain Rotary Club. Club members and their guests stood at the edge of the 1927 Shaver Lake Dam and learned about the history of Stevenson Creek, construction of the dam, and their 100 year impact upon California. Stories included the secret galleries in the dam, the tunnel under Musick Mountain, and the source of water to fill the lake.

We hope to continue this well-received program in the summer of 2016. Watch our website or our spring newsletter for more information as the summer gets closer.

SUMMER RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the 8 gift baskets of our summer-long raffle. The winners were: M Hamilton, Rick Emerian, Dorothy Hardy, Doug Koerper, Mea Price, Mr. Kampling, Mark Nelson, and Jill Worley. The gift baskets were valued between $300 and $600, with tickets priced at $1/each or 6/$5. The winning tickets were drawn Sunday, September 6. A huge THANK YOU goes to v.e.s.t. member, Debbie Carolan, for her tireless efforts in obtaining the donations, and to all the local businesses or individuals (listed below) who donated to this wonderful fundraiser.

Blue Sky Café          Gordon Bone
Camp Edison Campground  Captain Jack’s Tackle
China Peak Resort      Cool Mountain Mercantile
Dan & Glenn Clayton    His & Hers Hairstyling
Ken’s Market           Knotty Pine’s Cabins
Lakeshore Resort       Rancheria Enterprises
Shaver Lake Coffee & Deli Shaver Lake Liquors
Shaver Lake Power Center Watersports Shaver Lake Pub ‘n Grub
Shaver Lake Sports     Shaver Lake Village Hotel & Cabins
Shaver Stables         Sierra Marina
Tagress Family Pottery  Tamarack Lodge
Ted Reckas             The Chalets at Musick Creek Inn
The Fall’s Restaurant  The Hungry Hut
The Trading Post       The Traveler’s Corner

Watch for our Spring, 2016 newsletter for the announcement of next summer’s prizes.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY BENEFITS FROM RECENT GRANTS

The Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum is very pleased to announce the recent award of six grants.

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY awarded a $5,000 grant to CSHS for educational purposes related to the Partnership in Education Program (PEP). Funding helped finance all costs for transportation, academic planning, and construction of exhibits and projects. Students are getting practical experience in the subjects of science, energy, mathematics and problem solving, enhancing the existing math and science programs at our local schools.

THE BERTHA AND JOHN GARABEDIAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION awarded two grants, one for $2,500 and another for $500, to CSHS for education purposes related to the 2014/2015 Sierra Voices Program and to the Partnership In Education Program (PEP). Including these grants, the CSHS has received grants totaling $61,000 from the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation. We are extremely grateful for their support.

The SHAVER LAKE LIONS CLUB awarded a $3,000 grant to CSHS to offset the cost of a new computer system at the Museum of the Central Sierra.

The AUBERRY INTERMOUNTAIN ROTARY CLUB awarded a $400 grant to CSHS for new cabinet lighting in the Museum’s display cabinets.

EDISON INTERNATIONAL awarded a $1,500 grant for our Partnership In Education Program (PEP).

The CSHS Board of Directors, Museum members, and the volunteers who have been working on these Projects, are very grateful for the generosity of PG&E, The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation, the Shaver Lake Lions Club, the Auberry Intermountain Rotary Club, and Edison International.

V.E.S.T.

v.e.s.t. = Volunteer Education Service Team

Our Mission: To create awareness of the Museum and the Central Sierra Historical Society and to provide events and education

Ways to get involved:
* JOIN V.E.S.T.
* Become a docent
* Help with an event: Ice Cream Social, Annual Fundraising Dinner, Children’s Holiday and Summer Crafts
* Volunteer for the Partnership in Education Program: outreach to schools with local education opportunities

We need volunteers to assist us in accomplishing our mission.

We need YOU!
Meet new people.
Have fun while working to enhance our museum.

Call for more information:
Alice Knapp (855-8277) or Mary Warner (841-8781)
VOLUNTEER/SUPPORTER APPRECIATION EVENING HELD

Tuesday evening, September 8, was a beautiful night to thank all our volunteers and supporters who generously gave their time, energy and talents to the Historical Society in 2015. The evening began at 5:30 with a reception in the Native American Encampment, followed by a BBQ at the Steam Donkey. Ice Cream Sundaes were served in the museum’s media room, where Board President, Keith Swinger, and Executive Director, Lisa Crain, thanked the over 50 people in attendance for their services. The evening festivities were planned by Dona Mount, Linda Clague, and Alice Knapp with the help of the Board of Directors at each site.

Approximately 5,000 hours are logged yearly by our volunteers. Their time and talents truly make a difference in CSHS operations, allowing us to be more efficient and cost-effective. As a volunteer organization we are always in need of volunteers who will help us to carry out our mission in preserving the region’s history. You don’t have to be a Shaver Lake resident to contribute your talent, and no experience is necessary – we will be glad to show you what to do and you will have a good time doing it. Many of our volunteers have been with us for many years and have enjoyed the fellowship of like-minded people.

Please call the museum at 841-4478 to inquire how you can be a volunteer.

-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.

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-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.

By Brian & Linda Clague: Robbie Cranch & Richard Moats
Chris Velez & Jamie Carr

By Larry & Phyllis Isheim: Darren & Vanessa Bishel
Don & Fran Bishel
Bryan & Joy Isheim
Mark & Clare Reid
Gabrielle Rutledge

By Bob & Sue Johnson: John Costa
Betty Falk
Jim & Michelle Lerma
Marty & Kim Nunes
Gary & Susan Revis

By James & Janet Parr: Inez Stillwell
Cindy Stern

By Gary Pitts: Susan Pitts

By Keith & Marcia Swinger: John & Janet Day
Scott & Debra Foth
Bill Morse
Daniel & Vanessa Murphy
HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS NEW WEBSITE

We are very excited to announce the launching of our new website! You can find the site at the same address, SierraHistorical.org. Our new website was created by Nettra Marketing out of Fresno. Their inspiration for the new site is image driven with a focus on modern web-design techniques, solutions for e-commerce to help with our online gift shop, and making it search engine optimized to drive more traffic to our site. The Society’s website receives around 2,000 visits per month and we want to ensure that those visiting the site are able to quickly find what they are looking for, understand our mission, and learn about ways to help us grow.

We are very excited for the launch of our new site and we hope you are too!

A museum without walls

“Museums ought to be the center around which educational institutions should cluster, the storehouse whence they could draw the material examples and illustrations required on the lecture table and in the classroom.”

– J. Patton 1885
BIG CREEK
OLD TIMER’S

Every summer the Big Creek Old Timer’s gather for a picnic at Camp Edison to share stories of their lives growing up in Big Creek during the development of the Big Creek Project. They renew and update many old friendships and begin new ones.

On August 14 the Museum of the Central Sierra hosted 36 Big Creek Old Timer’s to a delicious dinner catered by Julie Falk of Creekside Catering. Beautiful centerpieces were made by Museum Assistant, Joy West. Dinner Placemats were historic photos created and laminated by Merle Glenn. Music was provided by local musician, Keith Crain.

The guests were treated to a slide show presentation, designed by Terry Ogden, of old ‘back-in-the-day’ photos. If you are an “Old Timer” and want to attend next summer’s events please call Becky at the Museum for information.

OUR THANKS TO CSHS BUSINESS MEMBERS

Thank you to the following BUSINESS MEMBERS who have renewed their membership in 2015.

Alarmit Security Company
All Valley Administrators
Big Sandy Rancheria
Cressman’s General Store
Doug Koerper Construction
FACSCO
Golden Empire Electric
Ponderosa Telephone
Walt R. Reinhardt Insurance Agency, Inc.

Satoria Productions
Sequoia Council #027, Boy Scouts of America
Sierra Forest Products
Sierra Marina
Stewart Consulting Forestry
Sun Valley Packing, LP
TB Pump Systems
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.
Wikipedia says rain dances have existed across cultures, from ancient Egypt to the 20th-century Balkans. Why not snow dance? Here is a picture of Angelo’s Bakery (now The Fall’s Restaurant) in 1968 when there must have been many people snow dancing! (The Shaver Lake Visitors Bureau put on a snow dance in 2014, which was wildly appreciated.)

**DANCE FOR SNOW!**

**CSHS BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER**

The Board of Directors welcomes a new member, **Ted Reckas**. Ted was born and raised in Shaver Lake, attended Big Creek Elementary School and Sierra High School. He has been married to his lovely bride Debbie for 29 years. Together they raised three great daughters who also attended Big Creek, Foothill and Sierra High Schools.

Ted’s first job (non-paid) was in his dad’s bakery (Angelo’s in Shaver Lake) when he was 7 or 8 years old. He had to stand on a stool to see over the counter to take money from customers. He’s sure this would be frowned upon in today’s society. Ted tried out the restaurant business for several years and was part owner of the “Dam Pizza Parlor” in Friant. While he can still toss an awesome pizza dough, he found that building and constructing homes and home projects was what he was meant to do. He’s worked in the construction business for the past 35 years. Most of his work has been in the local area; Huntington, Shaver Lake, and Auberry areas. He loves building and doing anything from deck jobs to five thousand square foot homes.

**CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEASONAL MUSEUM HOURS**

Friday – Sunday – 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. until December 13 (weather permitting)

December 14 through mid-April (depending on the weather) – closed for the winter

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR CHANGES**

We can open the museum for special occasions, tours, etc. Call the museum at (559) 841-4478 for more information

**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@sierrahistorical.org www.sierrahistorical.org

For rapid response to your questions and to receive information via email, send your electronic address to cshs@sierrahistorical.org
NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It doesn’t seem possible that this summer season has come to an end, the weather is cooling and we are already looking to winter. What a season it has been! The museum broke attendance records all summer and at the time of this writing we have had almost 9,000 visitors through our doors from April through September! I am tremendously proud of our community, our volunteers, our staff, our local businesses, and the town of Shaver Lake that has continued to believe in the museum and the work being done here.

The impact of your support is evident here at the museum. We have had incredibly generous donations that have helped us continue to operate at our current level. From engaging educational programming and exhibitions, to the care and conservation of the Museum’s permanent collection, your generosity enables us to connect with visitors and our community in new and compelling ways. Your support nurtures the museum’s growth as a center of education, preservation, and wonder.

Because of your support this past year, the Central Sierra Historical Society has experienced tremendous success. We’ve organized dynamic programming including our highest numbers yet at our Friday in the Pines Concert Series, high attendance at our monthly Sierra Voices events, and record numbers of visitors.

Our Needs Are Still Great.

We have important goals to yet achieve, and seek your vital support to foster our positive presence in this community. As we continue free admission, we are working to have a well balanced budget, we have restored the membership tracking process, and we are bringing new artifacts into the permanent collection. We will continue to offer new and exciting exhibitions, and strengthen partnerships with local schools and community groups to provide tours and programming that actively enhance classroom study.

While operation costs have steadily risen over the years, our membership numbers were dropping slowly each year. In January the number of current paid memberships had dropped to an all-time low. Membership dues fund our day-to-day operations and so it is imperative that we increase our numbers. We are slowly building our membership base again but we need your help! You can give the gift of a membership, talk to friends and family about joining, and help to promote all of the work being done here.

With every gift you make to the Central Sierra Historical Society, you reinforce how much the history and preservation of the central Sierra means to you, your families, and your community. Your support makes a great difference in our ability to broaden the museum’s impact. You can have the satisfaction of knowing that your contributions help make free admission to exhibitions possible, allowing ALL individuals, regardless of their economic status, to be welcomed to our museum, outdoor exhibits and learning spaces.

Your gift of $50 or $5,000 goes a long way in helping the Central Sierra Historical Society continue to offer enriching experiences for the entire family. Please help us continue to inspire minds and ignite imaginations by making a generous gift today. Please see the adjacent table of where your donation money can go and examples of the projects your dollars can support.

I invite you to experience firsthand all that your support helps accomplish. I hope to see you very soon as you venture through the doors of your museum.

Gratefully, Lisa Crain, Executive Director

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The following are examples of how your unrestricted donations can be put to use. We have a variety of projects that need funding, please contact us if you would like to talk about turning a wish list item into a reality!</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$75</strong> – Provides supplies for one of many craft stations set up at events like the Fall Carnival and our Christmas Craft event.</td>
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<td><strong>$150</strong> – Supports maintenance of our exhibits and grounds.</td>
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<td><strong>$250</strong> – Sponsors a school trip for a class.</td>
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<td><strong>$500</strong> – Underwrites event artists, presenters, and speakers for educational programming.</td>
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<td><strong>$1,000</strong> – Provides critical conservation and proper storage of historic artifacts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$2,000</strong> – Covers promotional brochures and self-guided tour maps design and printing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$2,500</strong> – Amphitheater Improvements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$5,000</strong> – Sponsor the cost of our new website and additional marketing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$10,000</strong> – Storage Facility Construction</td>
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The summer of 2015 was a dry and smoky summer in the Central Sierra Mountain Range. The Rough Fire, started by a lightning strike on July 31, had burned 151,623 acres of land as of October 6. It is the largest fire of the year in California and one of the largest fires in California history, becoming #13 on September 26. Involving up to 3,742 firefighters, the Pine Logging Camp on Dinkey Creek Road became one of several command posts.

Pine Logging Camp, restored within the last ten years by the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with the Central Sierra Historical Society, is one of the few historical milling camps still standing in the Sierras. In 1937, Robert Grimmett and Jim Rohrbaugh of the Pine Logging Company of California moved their sawmill operation from Mariposa to a portion of the Southern California Edison lands at Dinkey Creek. The company cleared a site for the sawmill and for employee housing on 40 acres located adjacent to Glen Meadow Creek and accessed by Dinkey Creek Road. Housing facilities within the camp grew to nearly 60 structures constructed between 1937 and the late 1950’s, including 41 family houses, 14 single men’s cabins, shower houses, offices, a cookhouse, store, and a one-room schoolhouse.

The sawmill was constructed and initially supplied with logs purchased from SCE. Sawmill and camp operations were seasonal, with spring startups and late fall/winter shutdowns. The green manufactured lumber was hauled from Dinkey Creek to the company’s drying and remanufacturing facilities in Fresno.

Grimmett and Rohrbaugh sold the Pine Logging Company assets including forestlands, the sawmill, and camp to American Forest Products Corporation (AFPC) in 1960. In the 1970’s, Bendix Forest Products Corporation bought out AFPC and continued operations through 1979, when teepee burning of wood waste from the sawmill was prohibited. Bendix closed the sawmill and auctioned off the equipment. The camp was abandoned by Bendix and later rented to Warren Raddatz, a local logging contractor, for housing of his company employees.

The U.S. Forest Service acquired the camp and its buildings in 1989 through a land exchange, and began environmental studies of the industrial site. These studies identified areas of contaminated soil, which were removed to a Class 1 disposal site in the Kettleman Hills. Despite past interest from various organizations, businesses and colleges, the camp continued to remain vacant after becoming National Forest land. Planning for a Forest Service Fire Station at the site prompted the solicitation of public comment in 2001, and the start of a joint restoration project by the Big Creek/Huntington Lake Conservancy, the Central Sierra Historical Society, the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society and the Sierra National Forest.

Restoration efforts in 2002 and 2003 were conducted by volunteers and a small crew of paid carpenters, performing work on the teepee burner, two family houses, 14 single men’s cabins, the store, offices, the schoolhouse and cookhouse, and other associated buildings. Tasks included: building reconstruction, roofing, new walls, pouring of foundations, replacement of rafters, flooring, relocation of the schoolhouse and considerable cleanup of debris and materials.

The project was made possible by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, by funding from the Fresno County Advisory Committee, and by generous donations and volunteer efforts. Copies of Dinkey Creek, a narrative by Darrell Hickman, as well as Pine Logging Company, the Early Years & Timber, a video created from movies taken by Elsie Grimmet between 1937 and the mid-1950’s, are for sale at the Museum’s gift shop.
Remember Bill and Ted? Their excellent adventure didn’t involve a ride on the Osprey II, it was included by many others this summer! Our three Captains, Robert Knapp, Leigh Ann Davis, and Steve Merrill, gave fun and educational tours several times each month between May through September.

The Museum received many compliments on the boat program as an example of the Historical Society’s tireless efforts to preserve Shaver Lake’s past, heritage, and uniqueness. The Osprey II has become an outstanding ambassador for the Museum and Historical Society. We anticipate many more years of capturing the essence of mountain experience and sharing it with those who ride with us.

In case you’re not yet familiar with the Osprey II, here’s a quote from the Museum’s booklet entitled “The Legend of the Osprey II” that might jump start your interest in being aboard next year:

Wooden boats conjure warm images of a bygone era of elegance, charm, and craftsmanship. Simply seeing one, whether older or newer, draws in the viewer, sparks admiration, imagination, and investigation.

“How old is that?” – “When was that built?” – “Did you build that?” – “Is that a Chris Craft or a Riva?” These, and similar interrogatives, have been routinely heard each time the Osprey II has plied the waters of Shaver Lake, whether on a shake-down cruise, an interpretive tour of the lake, or in the Fourth of July Boat Parade.

Plans for this stunning incarnation of maritime heritage and personal pride originated from an unusual source; Boats Anyone Can Build, compiled by the Editors of Popular Science Monthly in 1947. Described as a Motor Cruiser, it promised “anyone” could build it for a mere $100 to $300, and it would deliver superior performance worthy of its handcrafted heritage.

There are a couple of ways you can connect with the Osprey II. First, take a ride on her next season! You might even learn something about Shaver Lake and environs you didn’t already know. Second, become a Captain! We are looking for a few good men and women who will take the safety course offered by the California Department of Boats and Waterways to qualify you to receive the License for Hire certification. Plan on investing 5 to 8 hours of study, take an open-book proctored test, and be checked out on the water by the Department’s Instructor.

We had a great season and will be looking for you to be on the Osprey II next year!
SPECIAL THANK YOUS

✦ **Connie Amesbury** of Shaver Lake donated funds to support children’s programs for many years to come.
✦ **Bob & Linda Berry** of Kingsburg & Shaver Lake donated beverages for the Annual Fundraiser Dinner.
✦ **Mike Brady** of Shaver Lake donated a case of photocopy paper.
✦ **Camp Edison Park Hosts** donated proceeds from their annual end-of-summer white elephant party.
✦ **Mark Elizondo, Ohm-Mega Electric** of Meadow Lakes donated parts and labor to replace the lights in the museum display cabinets.
✦ **Chuck Fleming** of Auberry donated an antique steel oil drum for display at the Steam Donkey.
✦ **Nick Grogen** of Fresno donated the diary of Shorty Lovelace.
✦ **Robert & Alice Knapp** of Tollhouse donated display banners for the Osprey II.
✦ **Roger Maraist** of Visalia donated a stained glass “Edison” sign for the Redinger Powerhouse.
✦ **Darlene Meissner** of Shaver Lake donated a watercolor painting titled “Ruptured Boiler & Cog Wheel” representing items found on the bottom of Shaver Lake in 2011.
✦ **Steve & Brenda Merrill** of Fresno donated parts and labor needed on the Osprey II. Steve also donated a rail road crossing sign.
✦ **John & Dona Mount** of Meadow Lakes donated a drip torch, 6 DVD’s relating to forestry, a photo of Flume Peak, and an old compass used in forestry.
✦ **Lloyd Paine/Val Print** of Fresno donated CSHS business cards.
✦ **Jerry Sandstrom** of Shaver Lake donated his time and talents to build some beautiful oak bookshelves for the library at the Museum of the Central Sierra.
✦ **The Sandstrom Family/Sierra Marina** of Shaver Lake donated a boat slip for the Osprey II.
✦ **Ed & Shirley Selleck** of Cerritos donated many miscellaneous items, including a box trailer and a Bolens tractor/w equipment trailer.
✦ **Billy Smith** of Granite Falls, NC donated a San Joaquin Light & Power sign, a 6.6 street light control box, a porcelain High Voltage sign, a Cardox fire protection box, a Yale lock made for SCE, and a 2400 volt disconnect box. All these articles will be displayed in the museum’s Redinger powerhouse.
✦ **Bud & Mary Spickler** of Fresno & Shaver Lake donated beverages for the Annual Fundraiser Dinner, and a china cabinet for use in the Museum’s gift shop.
✦ **John & Karen Sthol** of Shaver Lake donated their time, effort, and supplies for the Historical Society’s Annual Pancake Breakfast.
✦ **Joe Ubbink** of Shaver Lake donated his time and talents to build an awesome triangular display case, as well as several “odds & ends” jobs, around the Museum of the Central Sierra.
✦ **Dennis Utt** of Bakersfield donated a newspaper article on Nettie Virginia Utt Beall
✦ **Mike Yelinek** of Shaver Lake donated his time and effort to repair the front door of the Museum of the Central Sierra.

All donations, whether it be a cash donation or an in-kind donation are extremely valuable to the Historical Society. We are a nonprofit organization, and with everybody’s support we are able to help our community fulfill their dream to keep the museum moving forward.

**THANK YOU!**
Membership Newsletter
Fall, 2015