



# Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum

**QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

## **\*\*\*CURRENT MUSEUM HOURS\*\*\***

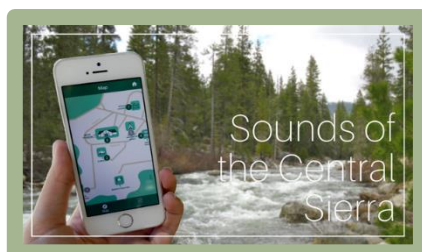
**CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 3, 2020**

**DEPENDING ON WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**PLEASE CALL THE MUSEUM TO VERIFY**

**APRIL 3 – MAY 17 – FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 11-3**

*We can open the museum for special occasions, tour requests, etc.  
Please call the museum at (559) 841-4478 for more information.*



Download our cell phone app at your app store!



Check out our website regarding the tree die off at: [aforestwithouttrees.org](http://aforestwithouttrees.org)



**Follow us on  
Instagram**

[Instagram.com/museumofthecentralsierra](https://www.instagram.com/museumofthecentralsierra)



[facebook.com/cshsmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/cshsmuseum)

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.

### 2019 GRANTS RECEIVED

The Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum is very pleased to announce the award of four grants in 2019.

**SIERRA CASCADE ENVIRONMENTAL & RESOURCE FUND, INC** awarded a \$2,664 grant to CSHS for the Partnership In Education Program (PEP).

**THE BERTHA AND JOHN GARABEDIAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** awarded a \$2,500 grant to CSHS for education purposes related to the 2019 Sierra Voices Program and to the 2019/2020 PEP Program. Including this grant, the CSHS has received grants totaling \$76,000 from the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation.

**ROTARY CLUB OF AUBERRY INTERMOUNTAIN** awarded a \$800 grant to CSHS for the Science Park Development.

**SHAVER LAKE LIONS CLUB** awarded a \$3,000 grant to CSHS for General Operations.

The CSHS Board of Directors, museum members, and the volunteers who have been working on these projects are very grateful for the generosity of the Sierra Cascade Environmental & Resource Fund, Inc., The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation, Rotary Club of Auberry Intermountain and Shaver Lake Lions Club. We **THANK YOU** all for your continued support.

### 2019 IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thanks to many generous donors, our 2019 in-kind donations of goods rendered totaled \$13,488. These are dollars saved which we can apply directly to support the museum moving forward.

### ➤ **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR 2019 ANNUAL APPEAL** ◀

Your contributions help us to further our reach and share our history through innovative programming, thought provoking lectures, and hands-on learning that lead to a better understanding of our forests and our place in history. As we prepare for the 2020 season, we are working on new exhibits and more educational programming for children and adults. As you know, admission to the museum is free of charge and yearly membership dues only cover a small portion of the cost to operate the museum. We look to the generosity of people like you, who share in our belief that the Central Sierra Historical Society is, and must continue to be, an essential part of our community and surrounding forest into the future. Thank you for all that we have accomplished with your past support. You can still contribute to the Annual Appeal and you can specify your gift to many of our exciting programs and projects – Amphitheater Enhancement Fund, Hayden Sawmill Restoration Fund, Partnership In Education Fund, Powerhouse Exhibit Fund, Executive Director Fund, and more. Or you can choose no designation and your contribution will go into the General Fund. Feel free to call the museum for a list of projects in need of funding. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

### -SUGGESTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORSHIP-

*Have you wished you could have a lasting impact on the Museum of the Central Sierra?*

*Here's your chance.... Donations are appreciated to fund the following projects:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Restoration of the Shaver Lake Volunteer Firetruck           | 5. Flume exhibit and tender's cabin.                |
| 2. Computer topo map projection display.                        | 6. Restoration of the Musick Mountain Steam Donkey. |
| 3. Shade awning for the Museum patio.                           | 7. Ceiling Fans For Main Museum                     |
| 4. Restoration of an Alison Steam Boiler/Engine Mining Exhibit. |   |

Please call Laurie Zaninovich at 841-4478 for more information on how you can sponsor one or more of these projects.



Did you know that 0.5% of your Amazon purchases can be donated to CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY when you shop on smile.Amazon.com? When you visit <https://smile.amazon.com> for the first time, you must select a charity to support. In the "pick your own charitable organization" field, enter "CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM" and "Search". Select us from the results and start shopping!

If you have already selected us for your donations, and to ensure all donations go to Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum, you can follow this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0280796>

You may want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

For more information about AmazonSmile, please visit <https://smile.amazon.com/about>

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## WHAT ARE OUR ACQUISITION GUIDELINES?

One morning this summer we came to work at the museum and discovered that someone had left nine large black and white photographs on our doorstep. These striking images of California dams in the 1940's and 1950's are in good condition, beautifully framed -- but outside the scope of our mission here at the Central Sierra Historical Society.

CSHS strives to align with professional museum standards when it comes to accepting donations into our collection. This begins with open communication with the potential donor about what they want to give us; moves along to a decision by the Acquisitions Committee based on whether the object fills a need and can be properly cared for with the resources we have; and concludes with the legal transfer of the artifact into the museum's keeping.

We at the museum appreciate the trust shown by all who have contributed pieces of history to our displays and exhibits. To maintain this trust in a professional manner, we ask you to give us a call or come by if you think you have something that would fit in our collection. Yes, we might tell you about our procedures and policies. But in the end, we all want the same thing: "to enrich the cultural and educational experience of visitors to the Sierra Nevada Mountains".

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## 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.*

-Mary Haungs-  
-Dr Robert Hayden-  
-Ron King-

## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

You can support the Historical Society by giving your friends and loved ones a yearly membership to the Museum of the Central Sierra. It makes an excellent gift. A gift membership is only \$30. Please call Rebecca Davis, Membership Coordinator, with the details.

## OOPS! WE MADE A MISTAKE

We made a mistake in our November 2019 newsletter, page 9, 2019 Special Thank You's. We stated Denise Benelli of Auberry donated 20 books, "*Tales of the Sierra*" for sale in the museum gift shop. The book Denise donated was actually "*Ski Tales, The History of China Peak and Sierra Summit*".

Below is a summary of that book, reviewed by Museum Assistant, Deb Bell.

### Ski Tales: The History of China Peak and Sierra Summit

By James Benelli

Let's get something out of the way right from the start: I don't ski. So, I shouldn't be interested in a book about ski lifts, snow-making machines and the people who make them all go. Right?

Wrong.

I picked up *Ski Tales*, by James Benelli, idly began to read the last chapter — and couldn't put it down. An avalanche of familiar names from my kids' years at Pine Ridge School caught me unaware. Here was an important glimpse of Central Sierra history, captured by one who had lived it.

Benelli, who passed away last year, was a natural writer. He glides effortlessly through the early history of the ski industry in California. He deftly sketches the hard-working visionaries who guided the development of China Peak

from the mid-1950's through the 1970's. Their dreams, challenges, setbacks and successes played out against an elemental variable they could not control: the weather.

In the early 1980's the resort changed hands and was renamed Sierra Summit. Benelli follows the Summit's fortunes with a year-by-year summary of improvements, changes, fads and fashions and, of course, snowpack. Many long-time employees are fondly profiled and featured in b/w photographs.

*Ski Tales* was published in 2009, prior to another change in ownership and reversion to the name China Peak. Thanks to the generosity of Denise Benelli, copies are available for purchase in the Museum gift shop. Members of CSHS may check out this title (and others) from the Museum library. You don't even have to ski.

OUR MAY NEWSLETTER WILL INCLUDE OUR 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OR

CHECK OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR MOST CURRENT/IMPORTANT DATES

## OUR THANKS TO CSHS BUSINESS CIRCLE MEMBERS

THANK YOU to **CAL WEST RAIN** and **WER-STAN ASSOCIATES** who joined the Historical Society's Business Circle since our last publication. Your membership helps to preserve the museum collection, to maintain and improve the museum and its exhibits, and to provide our community with educational programs, exhibitions and engaging social activities. An updated portable banner listing all business memberships will be commissioned in April and displayed at the museum and at other outreach events. If you have a business, please consider supporting us by joining the Historical Society as a Business Member with a **tax-deductible** \$250/year membership donation. Your membership will be mentioned in our quarterly newsletters and advertised on signage at the Museum & outside events.

Academic Gameplan, Jill McBride Baxter	Rolling Hills Estate
Augusto Altamura & Co, Augusto Altamura	Riverdale
Boy Scouts of America, Sequoia Chapter #027, John Richers	Fresno
Cal West Rain, Larry Isheim	Kerman
California State University, Fresno Foundation, Dr. Joseph I. Castro	Fresno
Cressman's General Store, Keith Davis, Vince Wiggins & Jean Kilpatrick	Pine Ridge
Dick's Fishing Charter, Dick & Diane Nichols	Shaver Lake
Doug Koerper Construction, Doug Koerper	Shaver Lake
Emerson Church Law, Rayma Church	Fresno
Equation Quest, LLC, Jeff & Dina Young	Shaver Lake
FACSCO, Steve McBride	Fresno
Fleming & Sons, LLC, Grant & Jennifer Fleming	Auberry
Gold Arrow Camp, Steven & Audrey Monke	Huntington Lake
Golden Empire Electric, Doug & Sharon Tudor	Bakersfield
Intermountain Nursery, Ray LaClergue & Bonnie Bladen	Prather
J Noble Binns Plumbing Co, Don & Carolyn Schimnowski	Bakersfield
J&J Custom Picking, Jim & Judy Errecart	Shaver Lake
James G Palmer Appraisals, Inc., Jim Palmer	Fresno
Jeff Covey, CPA, Jeff Covey	Auberry
Jill McBride Baxter/Sports Law Attorney	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Lite On The Land, Steve & Starla Lawshe and Ryan & Kristen Day	Auberry
McPheeters & Associates, Land Surveying, Katrina Olsen	Clovis
Muir Trail Ranch, Karla Hurley	Ahwahnee
OHM-Mega Electric, Mark & Kerri Elizondo	Auberry
O'Neill Agri-Management, Inc., Tim & Anna O'Neill	Madera
Pine Ridge Elementary School District	Pine Ridge
Pinnacle Real Estate of Shaver Lake, Beth Brown	Shaver Lake
Pius Construction, Brent Pius	Shaver Lake
Ponderosa Solid Waste, Fred Dow	Friant
Ponderosa Telephone, Dusty Gauthier	O'Neals
Reedley Veterinary Hospital, John & Gail Gray	Parlier
Reinhardt Insurance Agency, Inc., Walt Reinhardt	Fresno
Roger E Petersen Investments, Roger E Petersen	Clovis
Shaver Lake Pizza, Rehg & Darla Ronemus	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Pub-n-Grub, John & Raynette Wright	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Sports, Dave Powell	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Trophy Trout Project, Bob Bernier	Shaver Lake
Shorthorn Bar & Smokehouse, John & Raynette Wright	Shaver Lake
Sierra Forest Products, Darren Mahr	Terra Bella
Sierra Marina Inc., Sheldon Sandstrom	Shaver Lake
TB Pump Systems, Thom Boganwright	Madera
Wer-Stan Associates, John Stanfield	Shaver Lake

### DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

You can help us by receiving your donation receipts and your newsletters via email. You can receive these items in advance of those through the mail and you are saving the Historical Society **many** dollars in printing and mailing costs. **THANK YOU FOR THAT!**

**CSHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chairperson: Keith Swinger  
 Vice-Chair: Tom Warner  
 Secretary: Judy Statler  
 Chief Financial Officer: Robert Knapp  
 Executive Director: Laurie Zaninovich

Dr. Allen Clyde  
 Patrick Emmert  
 Ben Kimbler  
 Doug Koerper  
 Janet Parr  
 Rick Reinhardt  
 Walt R Reinhardt  
 Norm Saude  
 Julianne Stewart  
 John Sthol

**CSHS ADVOCATE COUNCIL**

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 Dr John Boogaert  
 Dr Joseph I Castro  
 William Chandler  
 Honorable Debra J. Kazanjian  
 James M. Krueger  
 Steve McDonald  
 Steve Magarian  
 James Palmer  
 Peter Van Vleet  
 A. Emory Wishon III  
 O. James Woodward III

**THANK YOU** for your service to the Historical Society

If you feel that you can contribute to the good works of the Historical Society as a member of the Board of Directors or as a member of the Advocate Council, please feel free to contact [laurie@sierrahistorical.org](mailto:laurie@sierrahistorical.org)



Do you know that volunteering may improve brain health? 8.6 million Americans are expected to suffer from Alzheimer's disease – a fourfold increase – in the next 50 years. Research shows a positive link between volunteering and improved brain health. The Society is always looking for willing helpers. Just in the past year, members and friends alike have lent their talents in many ways. Volunteers generously donated over 5,000 hours of their time in 2019. 2020 looks to be another busy year and help is needed. Or, to put it more appropriately, the Society needs your help! There are lots of opportunities and there is always a place for your particular talent. We need YOU! You will have fun while working to enhance our museum.

Ways to get involved:

- \* JOIN V.E.S.T. and/or become a Docent
- \* Help with an event: Ice Cream Social, Annual Fundraiser Dinner, Children's Holiday and Summer Crafts
- \* Volunteer for the Partnership in Education Program: outreach to schools with local education opportunities

**Docents** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 9:00 am to share ideas and information. Whether your interest is specific to an area like railroads, the steam donkey engine or the powerhouse, or you prefer to greet visitors inside the museum, being a docent has much to offer.

**V.E.S.T. (Volunteer Education Service Team)** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 10:15 am. The V.E.S.T. mission is to create awareness of the Museum of the Central Sierra Historical Society and to facilitate events and educational programs.

**Mark your calendars** for Friday, May 30. We will be having a volunteer recruitment breakfast at 10:00 a.m. Come meet other like-minded people as yourself with the same goal to accomplish our mission.

**DOING GOOD IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND IN A LANDSCAPE, CLASSICAL MUSIC IN THE WILD WITH HUNTER NOACK



We are happy to inform you that on Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18 we will be hosting once again the popular event, **In A Landscape, Classical Music In The Wild Featuring Hunter Noack**. More details are yet to come, but what we can say for now is that Hunter has committed to two shows. The Friday show will be an evening show and the Saturday show will be an afternoon show. Be sure to mark July 17 and July 18 on your calendar. For those that attended last year, we will contact you one week prior to general ticket sales. We do not yet have a ticket sale date. For information about IN A LANDSCAPE please follow this link: [www.inalandscape.org](http://www.inalandscape.org)

## PRESERVE THE CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORY – BECOME A MEMBER!

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

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

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$ 30 - Individual
- \$ 50 - Family
- \$ 150 - Donor
- \$ 250 - Bronze
- \$ 500 - Silver
- \$1000 - Gold

### CIRCLE LEVELS

- \$250 – Business Level
- \$2000 – Patrons (5-Yr Commitment)

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

Please call the museum to join -or- visit our website at [www.sierrahistorical.org](http://www.sierrahistorical.org) & click on **Membership** to join.

### 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES COMING SOON

The Historical Society's fiscal year is April 1 through March 31. Watch your mail for your 2020 membership renewal notice. They will be sent early March.



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www.sierrahistorical.org

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020**

**REFRESHMENTS: 2:00 P.M.**

**MEETING: 2:30 P.M.**

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. GUESTS ARE WELCOME.  
COME AND HEAR ABOUT THE EXCITING PLANS FOR 2020.**

**SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A FRIEND!**