***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._

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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
2. Computer topo map projection display.
4. Restoration of an Alison Steam Boiler/Engine Mining Exhibit.
5. Flume exhibit and tender’s cabin.
6. Restoration of the Musick Mountain Steam Donkey.
7. Ceiling Fans For Main Museum

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 to make it easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

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

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”.

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 LaCleregue & 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

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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

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 2nd Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. 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 2nd Friday of the month at 10:15 a.m. 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!**
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)

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.
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.

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A FRIEND!