

## Repair the Bear Campaign

Dear TCHS Supporter,

If you've been following the news in the *Historian*, you know about the creation of the new Gun Shop, opened to the public for the first time on Museum Day. Although we are happy to be showcasing more of Carlo De Ferrari's wonderful firearms collection, several items previously stored in the Gun Shop cell have been displaced—none more sadly in need of repair than the Museum's historic bear, long hidden away in a corner of the old cell.

Although we can't give a full genealogy report on the bear's history at this time, Oral Historian Winnie Lovine has discovered that it was first donated to the State Agriculture Commission located on Washington Street, landing in the office of Ruth Anne Newport. However, most longtime Tuolumne County residents now in their sixties remember the bear in its next home in the Veterans Memorial Hall. After moving to the current museum on Bradford Avenue, the bear became even more a figure of fondness for touring school children who couldn't resist plucking a few hairs in passing. Now, besides missing hair, an arm needs reconstruction, and sawdust is appearing at its base, so we know it's time for a trip to the taxidermist if we want to preserve our historic bear.



Trouble is, in addition to the repair, the bear needs a pedestal and a glass enclosure to ensure its longevity. All this work is likely to total about \$800. The Exhibits Committee believes the bear deserves our attention, but our current budget for next year has already been directed toward our ambitious plan for a Clothing/Textiles cell, followed by the installation of an interactive Law and Justice exhibit.

That is why we are writing to ask for your support. If you think we should move forward with "repair the bear," please send us your tax-deductible donation. Your donation of \$20 or more will tell us that this furry artifact is still meaningful to our current membership.

Thank you,  
Linda Mellana, Audie Buckler, Bea Sutherland  
Exhibits Committee

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to TCHS and mail to:  
TCHS – Repair the Bear  
PO Pox 695  
Sonora, CA 95370

Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.  
Tuolumne County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

You may also make your contributions to to "Repair the Bear" via our online store using  
a credit card

<http://tchistory.org/shop>