A Time to Plan, a Time to Remember

City of Sonora Walking Tours

WE WANT YOU! WE NEED YOU! WE APPLAUD YOU!

It's time to sign up for the Historic Downtown Sonora 4th Grade Tours!

A joint effort between the Tuolumne County Historical Society (TCHS) and the City of Sonora, these tours are a wonderful opportunity to teach our children about their home-history—their heritage. Under your guidance, our young people discover that using their eyes, ears, and mouths—to look, to wonder, to listen, and to inquire—can be as much fun as those buttons on their cell phones!

We are now requesting all those interested in helping with this program contact us with your date availability. Our major requirements are that volunteers love Sonora, love Sonora's history, and love kids. However, guides and trailers must also be physically able to usher 20-25 4th graders and their accompanying adult chaperones from the Opera Hall to the Red Church, with stops at the Sugg House, County Courthouse, County Museum, the Fire Museum, then back to the Opera Hall.

Tour dates are Tuesday, October 10th; Thursday, October 12th; Tuesday, October 17th; and Thursday, October 19th. We ask that all guides/trailers be at the Opera Hall on the date of the tour no later than 8:30 a.m. Tours culminate at the Opera Hall by noon.

The Pre-Tour meeting date is Monday, Sept. 18, 2017, at the Opera Hall, at 10:00 a.m. It is important that all volunteers attend this meeting.

If you wish more information, or just want to get signed-up (Yea!), please contact Linda Clark or Sandy Fisher. Now is not too soon!

Linda Clark…..hardlucklin@mlode.com…..586-1577
Sandy Fisher….fisher@goldrush.com…….532-3306

Our volunteers are truly the backbone of this educational program. Each volunteer, from guide to trailer, from stationary presenter to “thank-you writer,” is equally important, and we need each and every one of you to make this another successful season.

And for the young at heart....

To end Sonora's Farmers Market season, the City of Sonora and the Historical Society will again host a family walking tour of Historic Downtown Sonora, Saturday, October 14th. The tours will commence at the corner of Theall and Steward Streets, right across from the Sugg House. All ages are welcomed for this free event. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes for the 2-plus hour tour.

Anyone interested, please contact Sheala Wilkinson at 209.532.7725 or swilkinson@sonoraca.com. The tours are free but reservations are necessary due to space restrictions.

Thank you!
Linda Clark and Sheala Wilkinson
Dear members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the breeze that we have at night. The fruits and vegetables have been so yummy...the smell of the BBQs as we prepare great meals...getting our children back in school. Course, I could go on and on.

When you have a chance, come down to our Museum to see what the County has done to the front of the building to make the basement windows available for a new exhibit. New windows, siding, and paint have replaced the old, not only for a new exhibit area but also for the safety of the building. I want to thank the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors, CEO Craig Pedro, County Facilities Manager Ed Hoag, and Historical Society volunteer Allan Bryant for their oversight of this project.

We are also planning other activities. The end of September always brings our Museum Day event while October promises to be busy with a book sale program as well as Historic Sonora City Tours—for our 4th graders and for adults on the last day of our downtown Farmers Market.

Thanks to our Museum Curator, Billie Lyons, our Facebook page Motherlode Memories is gaining membership, now over 3,500 members.

As much as it is encouraging to look forward to new events, it is also very sad to think of the loss of longtime Historical Society volunteers, such as Doris Fletcher-Mills and Bill Dunlavy. Doris and Bill were great supporters of the Historical Society as well as other organizations in our community. They were great role models for all of us.

On a personal note, I am almost done with my treatments and will be ready to hit the pavement to encourage more bricks to be sold. Help us complete our wall and please volunteer when you can.

Thank you,

Angela Brown

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Mark Your Calendars: September/October Events

Smithsonian National Museum Day
Saturday, September 23, 2017

Once again the Tuolumne County Museum will host an Open House during regular visiting hours on Saturday, September 23rd, to commemorate Smithsonian Magazine’s National Museum Day, an annual event celebrated by the Smithsonian National Museum.

Tuolumne County Museum Day visiting hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Museum docents will be available to guide you through the Museum, or you’ll be able to take a self-guided tour at a more leisurely pace.

The Tuolumne County Genealogical Society will also be staffing the Museum desk, so if you have any questions relating to your genealogy, please feel free to stop by and visit.

TCHS Museum Book Sale,
Thursday, October 12, 2017

The Tuolumne County Historical Society (TCHS) has scheduled a Museum Book Sale for Thursday night, October 12, at 6:30 p.m., in the Tuolumne County Public Library Community Meeting Room, 480 Greenley Road, in Sonora. The book sale is our program event for October.

As many as five hundred books will be displayed on several tables around the room. Books will be priced to sell, and customers will be treated to two-for-the-price-of-one deals.

Please understand that the items for sale have been reviewed for their historical value and for ownership by the Historical Society’s Accession/Deaccession Committee. Book sale items are not a part of the Tuolumne County Collection, but from the TCHS private collection in the History Research Center. Some books are duplicates or in disrepair:

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In Memory and Gratitude

Doris Fletcher-Mills
(December 29, 1918-July 23, 2017)

Doris was born and raised in Tuolumne County and she loved to see the county grow, especially Jamestown and Sonora. She wrote seven books on Sonora and Jamestown as she experienced their changes and growth. She also served on the Publications Committee of the Tuolumne County Historical Society for many years, which along with her history program presentations earned her the Order of the Wheelhorse Award in 2008.

Doris was also an artist whose paintings of county buildings and places sold to many people and a competitive tennis player into her 80s. She was a working woman all of her life—as a reporter (Stockton Record, Modesto Bee, Union Democrat), in a doctor’s office, as a manager of a local clothing store, in the District Attorney’s office and in law offices around the county.

She also had six children, loved to play the piano and sing, took her children and grandchildren to the theater in the county and in San Francisco, toured Europe, traveled on cruise ships, and exercised at the Senior Center almost every day. She was always busy planning something, and enjoyed life and learning new things.

I experienced Doris’ enthusiasm when she married my dad, Bob Mills, and she got me interested in loving history. When I retired, I knew just what I was going to do—join the TCHS and the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society. I was able to see Doris write a few of her books and how thrilled she became. She even used my picture of the new Chinese Camp School in one of them and my cousin’s sketch of Sonora on the front cover of another. Her children helped mostly by publishing and editing her books. I loved talking to her when I’d take her places, and I always learned something new about the county.

I wouldn’t be able to do all the things she has done, but her children and grandchildren might!

~~Kathy Mills Boone
TCHS Finance/Membership Secretary

Bill Dunlavy
(August 24, 1928-August 3, 2017)

Tireless, persistent, good-natured, dependable—Bill treasured his Tuolumne County roots and retired to Sonora in the 1980s after a career with the Union Carbide Corporation.

Bill was a graduate of Sonora High School, whose Dunlavy Field was named after Bill’s father, Vernon, a former football coach, teacher, principal, and superintendent of the Sonora Union High School District.

Joining the Museum Board of Governors in 1993, Bill was inducted into the Order of the Wheelhorse in 1997, with special attention given to his “perpetual motion”—maintaining the Museum’s exhibits, painting interior and exterior fixtures, changing light bulbs, pruning roses, brushing away cobwebs—all done with a sense of pride, not of self so much as place.

Like many of the Historical Society’s super-seniors, Bill seemed to have boundless energy and enthusiasm for civic involvement. A Korean War veteran, Bill helped found the local chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, a group that assisted with the creation of Sonora’s Veterans Memorial Museum and the Korean War monument in front of it. Other organizations included the Columbia College Foundation, the Lions Club, Sonora’s Methodist Church, the Elks Lodge, Sons in Retirement, and the local Cal Alumni Club.

As longtime friend and equally dedicated TCHS volunteer Win- nie LoVine stated: “You will be missed by SO MANY. Bill, peace to you.”

Two of our late super-seniors, Bill Dunlavy on the left and Leonard Ruoff on the right, at volunteer work among the roses, in front of the Tuolumne County Museum. Photo courtesy of Leonard’s daughter, Sandy Fisher.
As a volunteer at the Carlo De Ferrari Archive, adjacent to the Tuolumne County Library, and with textile preservation experience dating back to my work at the Autry Museum in Southern California, I was recently asked to assist with the preservation of a quilt made by Catherine Delaney Condron, circa 1880, for her great-great grandson, late Tuolumne County Historian Carlo De Ferrari.

The pictured 58"X80" wool and cotton quilt fragment was created in the Crazy Quilt style. (The Japanese Pavilion of the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, launched a Crazy Quilt craze that lasted for years.) Wool squares were made from suiting fabrics, and the embroidery is in cotton floss. This quilt fragment was cut down to fit as a coverlet for Carlo’s small bed when he was a young boy. Because Carlo lay on top of the quilt, often with his dog, playing with his toys, the embroidery on many of the squares had worn off. When the back of the quilt was removed for conservation—it was tied to the face of the quilt with embroidery floss—the designs of the original embroidery could be seen through the remaining threads. With permission from Carlo, I followed the original designs with cotton floss embroidery stitches in the original colors. The quilt was then lined with cotton muslin with a hanging sleeve, and the original backing fabric was re-tied onto the quilt. The edges were left raw to showcase the elaborate embroidery along its edges and to maintain the history of the piece.

In his memoirs, *The De Ferrari Family: Memories of Times Past*, Carlo described his quilt: “I would like to note that in her old age my great-great-grandmother, Catherine Delaney Condron, made a quilt which was divided into small squares, each of which depicted some incident of her life. It was given to my mother later and often used to cover me at night when I was a small boy. At one time I knew the story back of some of the squares but can only recall one now and that contained a horseshoe which related to hitting the Union officer with one.”

More than one square contains a horseshoe and many squares contain Masonic symbols. This quilt is in the Carlo De Ferrari Collection at the County Archive, and due to its age, is only occasionally on display.

On Sunday, August 20, 2017, the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West celebrated the restoration of the west wall of Sonora’s Hebrew Cemetery.

Emcee for the event Fay Levinson thanked many from the local community for their support in protecting and preserving the cemetery. John LaTorre was the project manager, David Dumas was in charge of the wall restoration, and Marsha Lyons provided financial and other assistance.

Mayor Pro-tem Jim Garaventa acknowledged the historical significance of the cemetery to Tuolumne County, and thanked the Commission for preserving the cemetery and restoring the wall. City Historian Pat Perry gave a short presentation on the history of Sonora’s Jewish community and the cemetery.

The highlight of the presentations was when Joe Drabkin shared some of his memories of growing up in Sonora in an orthodox household.

After the presentations, many of the attendees visited the Tuolumne County Museum to see the new Jewish display.
Tuolumne County Historical Society
Commemorative Brick Information Sheet
www.TCHistory.org

The Tuolumne County Historical Society (TCHS - founded in 1956) and the Tuolumne County Museum are offering an opportunity for the community to contribute and place a personalized laser-engraved commemorative memorial brick-paver in the newly remodeled Tuolumne County Museum Courtyard and Garden located at 158 Bradford Street in Sonora, CA.

This is a chance for you to become a permanent part of Tuolumne County History by ordering commemorative bricks for yourself, your family, your special friends, or to acknowledge a special occasion or to honor prior family generations. Your contribution not only provides needed financial support for the Tuolumne County Museum, it also allows you or someone in your family to become a part of history at the Tuolumne County Museum.

The commemorative brick-pavers are made of quality material and are known for their beauty and laser-engraved permanence. They do not fade or wear out and are a natural and permanent process. Sample commemorative bricks are available for touch-and-feel viewing at the Tuolumne County Museum desk during visiting hours or may be viewed on the TCHS website at www.TCHistory.org.

The Tuolumne County Museum Courtyard and Garden commemorative brick area is limited, so be sure to order your bricks as soon as possible. We also offer gift certificates to give to friends and relatives as a birthday or holiday gift.

Commemorative bricks come in only two sizes: a 4-inch by 8-inch brick with up to three (3) lines of centered text, or an 8-inch by 8-inch brick with up to six (6) lines of centered text.

To order your brick, please use our special order form on the next page.

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Suggested examples for commemorative laser engraving:

In Memory of
J. David Hamilton II
1901-1999

George Donner and
James F. Reed Families
1847

The William Sugg Family

Bertha Marie Farnsworth
TCHS Life Member

The Smyth Family
Danny, Linda, Cookie, Angelina
Queenie & Sparky

In Memory of
Donald Rodrick McEachin
1907 – 1985, R.I.P.
United States Army
“This We’ll Defend”

Old Old Timers’ Club
Sonora, CA

South Fork Retirement Center
Loving Care
In Memory Of

In Loving Memory
Professor Albus Dumbledore
Tuolumne County Historical Society
Commemorative Brick Order Form

www.TCHistory.org  (209) 532-1317

Your Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________

PRINT E-Mail (for confirmation): __________________________________________

Telephone: ___________________________ Amount enclosed: $____ Make checks payable to: TCHS

You may pay cash, check, or use your credit card at the Museum Desk. You may order on the TCHS website at www.TCHistory.org for a "PayPal" or a credit card sale.

Thank you. We appreciate your continued support for the Museum Collection.

You may order more than one brick. But please use a separate order form for each brick. CA sales tax and professional installation by TCHS is included with price of your commemorative brick.

TCHS is a California 501(C)(3) non-profit organization - TCHS EIN#: 23-7001880

- Please PRINT clearly - spaces and punctuation are counted as one character - Only one type size and type style are available. >Copy will be centered.< Color is Admiral red. No logos.
CHECK ONE BOX> 4" x 8" brick (3 lines of text) $60 OR 8" x 8" brick (6 lines of text) $100

One form for each brick paver. All lines will be centered.

3 LINES 4" x 8" $60 PRINT CLEARLY > Only 23 characters and spaces per line <

6 LINES 8" x 8" $100 PRINT CLEARLY > Only 23 characters and spaces per line <

Mail this completed order form with your full payment to:
Tuolumne County Historical Society
Attention: Marketing Committee
158 Bradford St. Sonora, CA 95370

For Office Use Only:

02-238
they may be soiled, missing pages, or have damaged bindings. Book sale proceeds will be directed towards the continued conservation and restoration of the Museum Collection.

Please do not bring your own books for sale! This is not a fundraising project. However, please do bring your own shopping bag. You may come early, but doors will not be opened till 6:30 p.m. The sale ends at 8:30 p.m. Please bring cash, check, or a credit card with I.D. Generous monetary donations will also be accepted and may be a tax deduction for you. We pay the sales tax.

The Library is handicap accessible, and parking is free. Light refreshments will be available.

Glory of the Sierra: A Hit with Reviewers

The most recent book to be published by the Tuolumne County Historical Society, *Glory of the Sierra*, by Chuck Holland, is garnering some outstanding reviews.

This 120-page book blends photographs, artwork, and articles from past issues of *Chispa* to provide an interesting look at the Sierra Railroad and the Jamestown maintenance facility that exists today as Railtown 1897 State Historic Park. The book includes 21 digital images of oil paintings by artist Patrick Karnahan and 135 never-before-published color photographs by 9 photographers. All proceeds go to the TCHS.

What others are saying:

It’s been awhile since a new book has been published on the standard gauge Sierra Railroad—and this one is a beaut!

**Bob Brown, Editor**

*Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*

This book provides an unparalleled look at the Sierra Railroad and the Jamestown maintenance facility preserved today as Railtown 1897 State Historic Park.

**California State Railroad Museum**

*Glory of the Sierra* is available at the TC Museum, at local bookstores, and online at TCHistory.org.

A Treat of a History Program

The TCHS Thursday Evening History Program on August 10, 2017, at the Tuolumne County Public Library in Sonora, was a “sweet success.” Janice Nelson from Nelson’s Columbia Candy Kitchen, located on Main Street in Columbia State Park, took time out from her busy schedule to present a very interesting and informative program.

Nelson’s Columbia Candy Kitchen has been a five-generation, family-owned candy store since Rex Nelson began making candy in the 1930s. Janice Nelson gave us all a brief history of candy-making and a short lesson about the history of Columbia.

The audience certainly enjoyed devouring all the assorted free samples of Nelson’s hand-made candies during the break. If you were not there, you missed a good time with friends.

Nelson’s Candy Kitchen also has a store in Murphys and in Sonora’s Junction Shopping Center.

Enthusiastic presenter Janice Nelson is pictured on the right. Her attentive audience listens below.

Thank you once again, Sandy Fisher, for the photos!
The Mission of the Tuolumne County Historical Society shall be to discover, collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Tuolumne County and the State of California.