

Museum Matters

April – May - June 2020

Volume 2020 No. 2



Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center

1477 US Highway 395 N. Suite B
Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214

Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

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A Message from your Board of Trustees:

We are deeply saddened that it was necessary to suspend operations at both of our museums. Conforming to the direction given by the Office of the Nevada State Nevada Governor, the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center formally closed its door to the public on March 16. As it currently stands the board has postponed all programs until May 1. At that time, we will evaluate the current situation. The anticipated seasonal opening of the Courthouse Museum (April 29) has been put on hold with no specific opening date announced.

The Douglas County Historical Society is aware that our bylaws have specific duties and timelines. However, given the nation-wide emergency that we are now operating under, we may not be able to meet all of these obligations. In good faith, the DCHS will proceed with critical elements of work and will continue to fulfil the requirements of our bylaws as time and the situation allows.

We appreciate your support and understanding during these uncertain times, and are looking forward to the time when we can return our programs and events.

DCHS Board of Trustees



Though we are disappointed that current conditions prevent us from hosting our April Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, we are extremely pleased to announced that we have completed the Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Heritage Exhibit. Once we return to a normal routine we will reschedule the exhibit dedication.

Again, we extend our sincerest thanks to the Edwin L. Wiegand Trust, the Henningsen Family and all of our friends and members who made this exhibit possible.

DCHS Trustee Elections & Bylaw Revision

This edition of the DCHS Newsletter is being mailed to all DCHS Members in good standing. It contains your ballot and voting instructions, see Page 2 for details.

DCHS Membership Meeting: Trustee Elections & Bylaw Revisions

Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center, 1477 US Highway 395 N, Gardnerville, NV

5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21

NOTE: IN THE EVENT THE GOVERNOR'S STAY IN PLACE ORDER IS EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 21, THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE CONTINUED TO 5:00 P.M. JUNE 18.

The Nominating Committee has put forth four nominations to fill the four vacancies on the 2020-2021 Douglas County Historical Society's Board of Trustees.

Incumbent Trustees Mary Orr and Frank Dressel are running for a second term.

The new nominees are Linda Avance and Mike Henningsen

Mike Henningsen

I am 64 years old and was born in Reno, on November 14, 1955. I am a twin and my twin brother is Marshall and he lives in the Valley along with my sister Caroline and older brother Bob. My oldest brother lives in Twin Falls Idaho. All of us were raised on my parent's dairy ranch which is located on Waterloo lane. The ranch sits across the street from the original Douglas County Creamery. This ranch has been in the family since my great grandfather Carsten Henningsen acquired it in the early 1870's. My sister Caroline and her husband Don Frensdorf are living and working the ranch today. I am interested in history because it's been a integral part of my extended family forever. The heritage of my family goes back to the 1870's and I had the fortunate opportunity to live it first hand and learn all about the history of Carson Valley as seen through the eyes of 3 generation before me. I feel its vitally important that we do preserve history and share that history with those around us so others can understand how Carson Valley's rich heritage came to be. My parents are still alive at the ripe old age of 91 and 94 and have been instrumental in shaping the Carson Valley and helping the museum. I look forward in my retirement to helping the museums.

Linda Avance

After growing up in eastern Michigan, at 19yo, I embarked on the adventure of my lifetime by moving to Fairbank, Alaska. I found a job working for the Fairbanks Daily New Miner as an apprentice printer and grew to love hiking and camping. Twelve years later, with a husband and two children, I moved to Las Vegas NV. In 2016, widowed and retired from over 28 years working at Clark County Social Service, I moved to Gardnerville. I had grown to love the area after driving through there to visit my daughter in Meyers, CA. Fortunately, I was befriended by a local resident, who introduced me to the museum life in Gardnerville and Genoa. I volunteered at the museums at the front desk and events for over a year and loved learning about the intriguing history of the Carson Valley. When the former director retired, I was encouraged to step in to become the office manager at the museums. I have since retired from that position but still remain active in volunteering at the museum. I believe my experience and knowledge of the museum operations and its position in the community make me a good candidate for the position of Trustee.

DCHS Summary of Key Bylaw Changes for 2020

1. Creates the non-voting position of Immediate Past Present to serve as advisor to the Board of Trustees.
2. The duties of each Standing Committee is clarified. Further, new standing committees have been created to better reflect the level of duties required by the Society.
 - NEW: Bookstore Committee
 - Collections Committee
 - NEW: Exhibit Committee
 - The Finance and Endowment Committees will be combined as the Finance Committee
 - Development Committee will be split into: Marketing Committee and the Fundraising & Special Events Committee, Grants Committee
 - New: Education & Community Outreach
 - Human Resources Committee
 - Planning Committee continues with Strategic Planning, but will also include Building & Grounds

A full copy of the bylaws may be picked in person at the Front Office of the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. You can also request an electronic version via email.

Happenings at the Museums



V&T Exhibit Coming Together

Artifacts and ephemera from “the train that changed the town” are being brought together in a new exhibit in the Main Gallery. DCHS is still seeking items relating to the famous Virginia and Truckee (in addition to cash donations) to enhance the installation. If you have an item or donation to contribute, please contact our front desk. You can reach us at 775-782-2555. All aboard for history!



Heritage Lecture Series on the Brands of Carson Valley

With the assistance of Marlena Hellwinkel, Brand Inspectors Wally Adams and John Laxague shared stories about their experiences and the history of brands and branding in Carson Valley. The audience now knows how to interpret a branding mark, the significance of different locations on an animal for the brand to be placed, the way an animal is branded, and how the symbols are monitored by inspectors. Our new exhibit case has examples of the branding irons and marks used by some of our local ranches.

New Exhibit Honors Local Dairies

Come and see our new entrance exhibit that highlights the history of our award-winning local dairies. Tools of the industry including jugs from Windmill Dairy and Minden Butter Company, and a hay knife used by field workers circa 1860 to 1890 are displayed. There is a model of the amazing hayfork along with photographs of how it works. Nevada State Fair Blue Ribbons are presented along with a very special Official Ribbon given to Douglas Creamery at the California Midwinter International Exposition in 1894. It contains real gold in its' fabric and fringe. These dairies played a big part in our agricultural heritage here in the Carson Valley.



WOMEN IN HISTORY REMEMBERING



Pictured Left to Right: Lois Rabe Sarman, Barbara Sarasola Indiano, Elizabeth Schultz Rabe, Tonja Dressler

At such time that we return to our normal operating schedule we will present our recognition program honoring National Women in History Month. – DCHS Staff

March is National Women in History Month and this year the Douglas County Historical Society will be honoring women for their significant historical contribution to the agriculture development of Douglas County.

The women honored will have their history archived at the Carson Valley Museum & Culture Center in the Van Sickle Research Center and with the Women in History Project, Reno. They will have the honor of joining a long line of outstanding women. Future generations will have access to their amazing stories and appreciate the efforts it took to develop our beautiful Douglas County.

Lois Rabe Sarman was the only child of William and Lizzie Rabe. Horses were her favorite part of ranch life. She majored in History at UNR. Lois must have wished for siblings because she and husband Edwin, raised seven children, most of whom became ranchers. She and her husband took over the Cattle operations in both the Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe in 1954.

Barbara Sarasola Indiano, a “town girl” and known as a tom boy growing up, Barbara spent her youth with her family on Mission Street in Gardnerville. She was very active in many activities at Douglas High School and graduated in 1949. Business school drew her attention and she attended in Sacramento and Reno, but Douglas County was home. She married John Indiano in 1952 and quickly became a true ranch wife and rancher in her own right, which included lambs and calves in the warm kitchen during winter months. It was haying in the summer for the young woman brought up in town.

Elizabeth Schulz Rabe, a Nevada native, born December 1, 1888, grew up on the family ranch in Clear Creek, Nevada. Elizabeth, (Lizzie) held a teaching degree from UNR. While teaching at Centerville School, Lizzie met William Rabe. They married in 1917 and lived and ranched on the Rabe ranch on Mottsville Lane. She loved being at the Tahoe cabin, where she could see the cattle and her beloved horses, Pinto and Queenie, grazing in the meadow.

Tonja Dressler: Born into a ranching family with roots in Douglas County for several generations, Tonja became an agricultural spokesperson in her own right. She quietly ensured that agriculture and its importance would be explained to the youth of Douglas County and all of Nevada. Tonja served as an ambassador of 4-H and the Nevada Junior Livestock Show, Nevada State Fair, Future Farmers of America and the kids involved. Her participation in Ag in the class room guaranteed that all kids learned where their food came from.

The Douglas County Historical Society seeks to enrich lives by preserving local history and making it accessible to our communities and visitors.

**Help keep your history alive!
Join the Douglas County Historical Society**

Membership Benefits:

- Free admission to both museums
- 10% discount at Museum Bookstores
- Bimonthly DCHS Newsletter & member updates
- Invitations to special events
- Discounts on special programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Free admission to our DCHS Lecture Series

Annual Membership Dues:

____ \$20 Student
____ \$30 Individual
____ \$40 Couple
____ \$40 Family - Parents & Children under 17
____ \$20 Senior Individual (60+)
____ \$30 Senior Couple (60+)
____ \$ 500 Lifetime Individual
____ \$ 750 Lifetime Couple

Name(s):

Mailing Address:

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Return this page along with your dues to:

Douglas County Historical Society
1477 US Hwy 395 N, Suite B
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I am interested in volunteering at the museums.
Please call me.

To All Members:

Please make sure that the Museum has your correct address, phone number, and email. Thank you!

The Membership Committee

Gifts & Memorials

In Memory of

Andy Aldax Lois Brooks

The Douglas County Historical Society accepts monetary gifts and memorials in honor of loved ones. Please earmark your donation for a specific purpose, General Fund, or for our Endowment Fund. To make or discuss a donation please visit our front office. Donations may also be mailed to:

*Douglas County Historical Society
1477 US Highway 395 North, Suite B
Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214*

V&T Exhibit Funding Campaign

DCHS is seeking V & T related artifacts, ephemera and paraphernalia in addition to cash donations for our new exhibit. If you have an item or donation to contribute, please contact our front desk. You can reach us at 775 -782-2555.

DCHS Wish List – Can You Help?

- White Printer Paper
- Forever Postage Stamps
- Good Cutting Board
- 12-foot Aluminum Step Ladder



DCHS Volunteers



Meet a Volunteer Couple

I'd like you to meet this month's volunteer couple John and Lana Simons. These two special volunteers have been helping at the Genoa courthouse Museum for the past four years and at other special events at our Gardnerville Museum.

John and Lana met while John was in the Airforce. They have two children that they raised in Colorado for forty years. John was a salesman and Lana taught medical assisting after getting her RN degree. They volunteered at the Rocky Mountain National Park for five years before moving to our area. If you happen to stop by the Genoa Courthouse Museum

on a Wednesday morning, you will see yourself how well this married couple represent our historic area to our guests. **Call us at 775-782-2555 for more information.**

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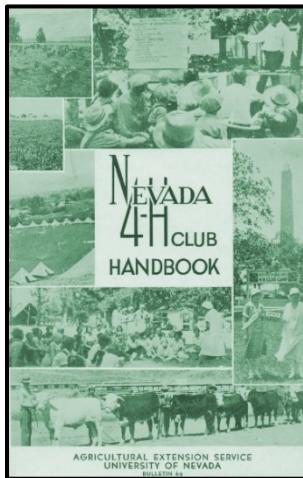
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Contact the DCHS at 775-782-2555 to advertise in our newsletter or for other sponsorship opportunities.

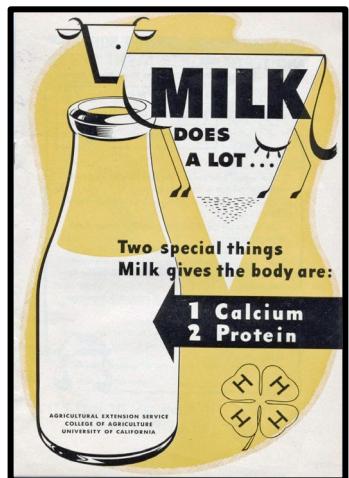
TREASURES FROM THE VAULT



4-H & Carson Valley Agriculture

Douglas County Historical Society is continuing to focus on ranching and agriculture throughout 2020. One important organization which has been integral in continuing the traditions of agriculture in our community has been 4-H.

This is a national program which has been in existence for over 100 years and has been a vital part of our community for just about as long. The organization's emblem of four leaves of a green clover, each containing an 'H' which references the original motto – "HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH."



Undated photograph of local kids at 4-H Camp, circa 1935?

On April Heritage Lecture Series focusing on the 4-H will be rescheduled once we recommence museum operations.

The artifacts in our collection are donations from members of our community. These donations permit us to continue our commitment to our organizational Mission Statement, which reads, ***"The Douglas County Historical Society seeks to enrich lives by preserving local history and making it accessible to our communities and visitors."***

If you have artifacts that you would like to donate to DCHS, contact the curator, Gail Allen, 775-782-2555 or Curator@HistoricNV.org.

Community Exhibit Case



Would you like to share your photos, collections, or memorabilia associated with the history and culture of the Carson Valley area? Perhaps you have your own 1950s Christmas village, your Grandfather's finish carpentry tools, or your Grandmothers antique lace collection that you would like to put on display. Please contact our front office at 775-782-2555 to reserve your place in our Community Exhibit Case.

CARSON VALLEY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
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*The Douglas County Historical Society
seeks to enrich lives by preserving
local history and making it accessible
to our communities and visitors.*

Advertise in This Newsletter

Advertising space is available to the community for promoting businesses, services and special events. Not only will you be helping support the Historical Society, but your business will benefit as well. Funds received from this effort help defray costs of printing and postage for this newsletter.

AD SIZE	ISSUE	YEAR
Business Card	\$15	\$50
Quarter page	\$25	\$80

To purchase an ad please contact us at:
775-782-2555

or email your information to
DCHS@HistoricNV.org

Programs & Events

Keeping with the governor's directive, all programs at both the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center in Gardnerville, and the Courthouse Museum in Genoa have been suspended until May 1. At that time, we will evaluate the current situation and government directives.

Please follow us on Facebook for updates and articles of interest:

www.facebook.com/douglascountyhistoricalsociety

Anyone needing to conduct business with the Historical Society should contact us by email at:

DCHS@Historic.NV.org