

Museum Matters

January-February-March 2020

Volume 2020 No. 1



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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Curator: Gail Allen

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newsletter of the Douglas County
Historical Society ©2020*

Salute to Agriculture



IN 1946 Marlena Neddenriep Hellwinkel raised two calves, Queen on the left and King on the right.

DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Trustee meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center.

Members and friends are always welcome to attend.

3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 2020 – DCHS Trustees' Meeting

Save the Date for our upcoming Membership Meeting

Our annual DCHS Membership Meeting will be held 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. Election of trustees and bylaw updates will be voted upon.



My Salute to Agriculture by Marlena Hellwinkel

During the year of 2020, the Douglas County Historical Society will be celebrating agriculture in Douglas County. Agriculture certainly influenced my growing up years in Carson Valley. My brother, sister and I were raised on a cattle ranch, ten miles from town. So, what does a young girl who lives out in the country do to occupy her time at home? Join 4-H!!

Needless to say, since I lived on an operating cattle ranch, I had a 4-H baby beef project. I wanted to raise a cute lamb for my project, but Father said, "No, we are cattle people." THAT SETTLED THAT!

My 4-H career consisted of raising 16 home grown calves from the family herd, except for one year when I purchased a purebred calf from my well-known cattleman uncle. I was awarded mostly blue ribbons, and a few reds during my 11 years as a member of the 4-H Livestock Club. The purebred calf "Hans" placed champion at the local Douglas County 4-H Livestock Show. A year or so later, I entered "Rex" into the show and sale at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

My Father and I would get into the old pickup or the Army surplus Jeep and drive through his herd looking for the perfect calf. Dad had a keen eye for a winner and picking out two, we brought them into a corral with a protecting stall constructed for the purpose. Now, the rest was up to me, with a lot of Dad's help. Not only did I have to tame the animals, teach them to lead and set up, place their feet for good posture with a showmanship stick (the show judges looked for that and how well I handled my animals), I was also responsible for feeding them twice a day, making sure they had water, a clean stall, and my full devotion. They had to be checked and doctored for lice and back grubs, shampooed and hair combed the right way to show off their best features (or to hide the poor ones). I braided the hair at the end of their tails and when dry, brushed them out into a big beautiful fluff. If the calf had horns, they were scraped, sanded, and polished, as well as all four hoofs. Weights were put on the horns to turn them down into a graceful curve. If they were turning too fast, we would use lighter weights.

Each calf had a name, like any other pet. A few of them were Curly, Cupid, Tom, Jerry, Ike and Mike (Mike should have been named Trouble). Their feed consisted of hay and grains. Hay came from the family ranch but the grains were purchased in town at the flour mill that is now Bently Heritage. I had to keep records of all purchases, including grooming tools, halters, etc., always keeping economics in mind. At the end of the project, after the Nevada Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, we were required to turn in a record book (scrapbook optional) showing expenses, profit, and loss. I would purchase a "War Bond" with any profit I received from each project. They supplemented my college expenses.

My last beef project was "Jeff." I didn't sell him at the Nevada Jr Livestock Show: the judge felt I could go farther with this beautiful animal, so I went on to the National Polled Hereford Show in Sacramento. This was a home-grown steer that brought a smile and look of pride to Dad's face when I placed Grand Champion. Next came a trip to Arizona for the sale (as none was held in Sacramento). I did not place a winner in the Arizona competition, but when the auctioneer heard my last name, he said, "Why, I know her father." The selling bid for Jeff exceeded the selling bid for the Grand Champion of the show. What a way to end my years in 4-H!

Looking back, I think I took agriculture and all it stood for, for granted. I imagine quite a few of us still do today. It feeds and clothes us. If my parents were ever financially struggling, I never knew it. I had all the opportunity of a young girl who loved agriculture and could participate not only in 4-H, but after school and community activities as well. If it hadn't been for the back bone of ag and coming from an ag family, I really don't know where I would be today!

I attended the University of Nevada, wanting to become an extension agent, with a degree in Ag. That goal was interrupted when I married into a local long-established auto sales and service family and moved to town. While raising a family and putting to use what I learned about ag, I grew multiple vegetable gardens, preserving the harvests, along with guiding my son and his friend with their 4-H baby beef projects. I don't pretend to know it all, but with the knowledge at hand, once again agriculture in Douglas County was part of my life when my car salesman husband, "wanna-be cowboy," started raising, with my help, a small herd of cattle.

Happenings at the Museums



Who's That in Our Photo?

The Douglas County Historical Society has numerous historic photographs in their Roberta McConnell collection, but many of the people in the pictures go unrecognized. The museum needs the help of all old-time families, their friends, relatives and those with a good eye for history to stop by and help identify these lost legends. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 29 at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center, 1477 US Highway 395 N, Gardnerville. The museum is offering free admission and complimentary light refreshments. Information at 775-782-2555.

Community Exhibit Case

Do you have a collection you wish to share? We are looking for parties who would like to share their photos, collections or memorabilia associated with the history and culture of the Carson Valley vicinity. If you have something to share from vintage valentines, antique collectable sheet music, or historical Douglas County photos, please contact our front office at 775-782-2555 to reserve a place in our Community Exhibit Case. Each exhibit runs for two months.



Currently on display is the work of the late Carson Valley artist Ron Kwiek. The exhibit includes originals and prints of his watercolors. Featured is his well-known "Carson Valley Collection". Kwiek suffered from MS, and as the disease progressed, he painted holding the brush in his mouth.



Clampers Host Snowshoe Thompson Chautauqua

Members of ECV hosted Steve Hale performing as our legendary mail carrier Snowshoe Thompson to a packed house on Monday February 18th. Thompson carried the mail between Genoa and Placerville over the treacherous Sierra Nevada passes in the deep winter, keeping citizens of Douglas County informed and in touch with relatives living in California from 1856 to 1876. He crossed on wooden skis, or "snowshoes" as they were then called. This Chautauqua presentation gave the audience a glimpse into the life of Snowshoe and the hardships he faced as a homesteader, husband, father, miner, and representative on the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

DCHS Volunteers



A New Year for DCHS Volunteers

We will have two volunteer orientations for returning and new volunteers at our Genoa Courthouse Museum in Genoa on April 14th. You may choose either the 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. class. Please call Volunteer Coordinator Linda Lechien so she can put your name on the list. Each class should last only about 1 ½ hours.

All Genoa volunteers are required to attend orientation. We have new exhibits and a new and much improved cash register to learn. Our museum in Gardnerville also has several new exhibits and we are working on the descriptions of each room to be added to your volunteer handbooks.

Lisa Selcer has been volunteering for three years at both museums. Besides sitting at the reception desk, she is on the Exhibit team and the Membership team. Lisa tells me that she especially enjoys participating in the weekly art class held downstairs in our conference room. **Call us at 775-782-2555 for more information.**

Women's History Month

March is National Women in History Month and this year the Douglas County Historical Society will be recognizing women for their significant historical contribution to the agricultural development of Douglas County. DCHS has reached out to the community asking for nominees that fit this category. The women honored will have their history archived at the Carson Valley Museum & Culture Center in the Van Sickle Research Library and with the Women in History Project in Reno, joining a long line of outstanding women. Future generations will have access to their amazing stories, allowing them to appreciate the efforts it took to develop our beautiful Douglas County. The Remembering Women in History project theme coordinates with the DCHS year's theme Agriculture Development in Douglas County. This is one of many programs designed to celebrate and honor Douglas County's rich agriculture history and the families that gave their all to make this valley the beautiful and unique place we enjoy today.

Come on down to check out all the exciting goings on at YOUR museum. Events are open to the public so please invite your family and friends.

Join us on Saturday, March 21. Doors open at 1:00 a.m., program begins at 2:00 p.m. There is free admission and light refreshments provided.

The Douglas County Historical Society wishes to thank the following organization for their continued support of Women in History program: Harrah's-Harvey's Resort Casino, A Wildflower Florist, the Record Courier, and our staff of DCHS Volunteers.

A Legacy for the Eight of Us

*A Story of Family, Faith and Farm life
during the 1st half of the 20th Century*

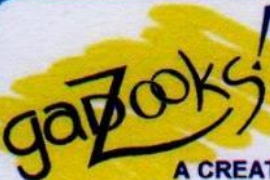
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Author: Catherine M. Cavanaugh

ISBN 9781456754587

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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.

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:

E-mail Address:

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

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

Kay Sanders

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

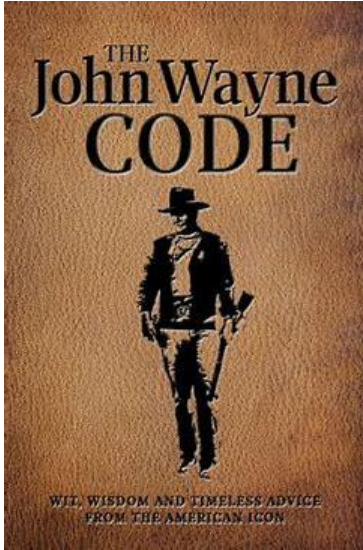
DCHS is seeking V & T related artifacts, ephemera and paraphernalia in addition to cash donations for our new exhibit. If you have an item or donation to contribute, please contact our front desk. You can reach us at 775 -782-2555.

DCHS Wish List – Can You Help?

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



From the Bookstore



The second edition of "NEVADA – MYTHS & LEGENDS" has just been released. From the mystery of a U.S. Senator's death to a haunting of the Governor's Mansion, these stories from Nevada's past explore some of the Silver State's most compelling mysteries and debunk some of its most famous myths. It is a local favorite.

"JOHN WAYNE CODE – WIT, WISDOM AND TIMELESS ADVICE" from the American Icon is wonderful. Get the unvarnished real-life perspective of the Duke himself, in this faux-leather bound photo journal (with full page photos) and compilation of his sayings from movie history, as well as from his personal life.

We have wonderful activity books for the children like "FUN CROSSWORDS" to fill in and then color the pictures. We are featuring many small paperbacks like the "GLITTER SNOWFLAKE STICKERS."

***Members of the Douglas County Historical Society
receive 10% off their purchases from our bookstores.***

DCHS Youth Education Outreach

For the sixth year the Douglas County Historical Society is offering a series of three classroom presentations about Carson Valley history to the third and fourth graders in Douglas County. Third and fourth grade are targeted because that is where most Nevada history is taught. The three programs are: Trail to the Promised Land; The Pony Express; Schools in the Carson Valley. Each program is about 50 minutes long and includes a Power Point presentation with pictures, handouts to study in class and then take home, and some form of hands on activity. Sample comments from last year's teachers were: "The students were engaged, I believe they did learn and are more prepared for fourth grade Nevada history," and, "There was a lot of question and answer discussion setting. It was very interactive, they loved the games too!" If you are interested or know of anyone who is interested please call the museum or email irisblaisdell@yahoo.com.

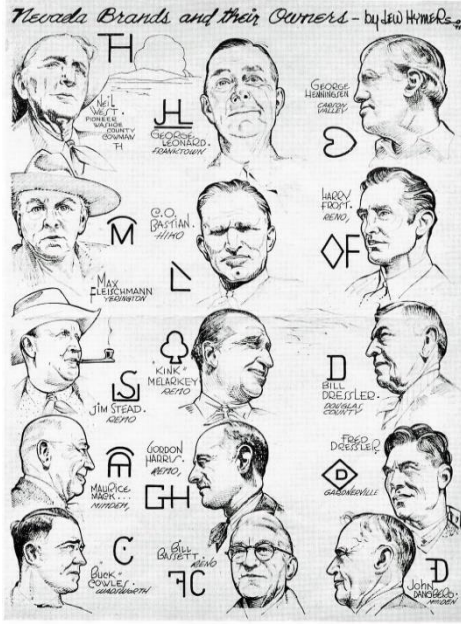
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The Record Courier
Sierra Chef, Genoa
Starbucks
Three Castle Engineering
Tumblewind Antiques
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Minden
Western History ALIVE
Woodett's Diner

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

TREASURES FROM THE VAULT



Brands & Carson Valley Agriculture

Much of the focus of the Douglas County Historical Society in 2020 will be about the tradition and history of agriculture in our community. We have numerous branding irons from several ranching families in our collection, as well as Nevada State Brand Books and photographs of branding in process. Our Second Thursday Lecture on March 12th will discuss brands. We will have speakers who will explain how brands are used and how to 'read' them.

In addition, we will have on exhibit examples of various Douglas County brands and branding irons. We will be pulling from our vault brand-related artifacts for everyone to see. You are invited to join us as we learn more about this agricultural practice which dates to ancient time and is still in use today.

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.



Dedication of the **Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Heritage Exhibit**

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Join us for the dedication of the most significant exhibit since the opening of the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center. The DCHS Board of Trustees and honored guests will host a Ribbon Cutting of the Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Heritage Exhibit on Saturday, April 4. Museum doors open at 10 a.m. with the Ribbon Cutting at 11:00 a.m. This event is free of charge to the entire community.

Keeping with the theme of our new exhibit, DCHS has proclaimed 2020 as the "Year of Agriculture" and will provide programming throughout the year showcasing the many aspects of ranching and agriculture in the Carson Valley.

CARSON VALLEY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
1477 US Highway 395 N, Suite B
Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214



DELIVER TO:

*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 (6 Issues)
Business Card	\$10	\$ 50
Quarter page	\$20	\$100

To purchase an ad please contact us at:
775-782-2555
or email your information to DCHS@HistoricNV.org

*Please give us a call if you wish to
sponsor or host a DCHS event or activity.*

DCHS Highlights

Don't miss a moment of fun

Who's That in Our Photo?

Saturday, February 29, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Family Day

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Heritage Lecture Series

Wally Adams and John Laxague on

The History of Branding

Thursday, March 12, Doors Open at 6 p.m.

Bed Turning

Saturday, March 14, Turnings at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Women in History

Saturday, March 21, Doors Open 1:00 p.m.

Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural

Heritage Exhibit Ribbon Cutting!

Saturday, April 4

Doors Open 10 a.m., Ribbon Cutting at 11 a.m.

Spring Art & Wine on the Green

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 – 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.