

# Museum Matters

July-August-September 2020

Volume 2020 No. 3



## Douglas County Historical Society

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

Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Phone: 775-782-2555  
Fax: 775-783-8802

Website: [www.HistoricNV.org](http://www.HistoricNV.org)  
Email: DCHS@HistoricNV.org

### DCHS OFFICERS

Linda Lechien, President  
Janice Beerwinkle, Vice-President  
Linda Avance, Secretary  
Guy Proto, Treasurer

### TRUSTEES

Linda Avance  
Janice Beerwinkle  
Dale Bohlman  
Frank Dressel  
Marlena Hellwinkel  
Mike Henningsen  
Linda Lechien  
Pat Maebe  
Tom Mc Manus  
Mary Orr  
Guy Proto

Curator: Gail Allen

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newsletter of the  
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## Honoring DCHS Past President Dennis Little



Portrait of Dennis Robert Little by OPA Master Artist Joyce Pike

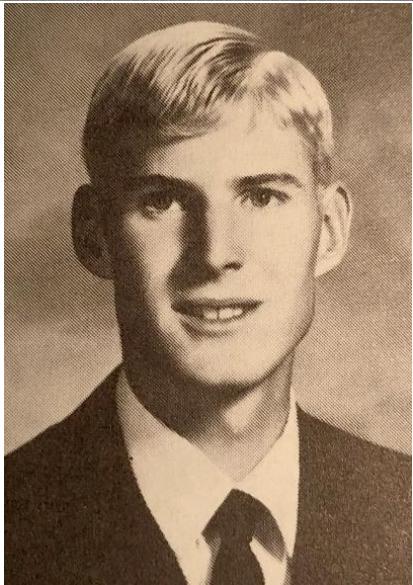
### DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEE MEETINGS

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.

DCHS Trustees' Meetings are 3:00 p.m. the third Thursday of each month,  
July 16, August 20, and September 17, 2020

**Save the Date: E. L. Wiegand Agricultural Exhibit Grand Opening**  
Saturday August 1, 2020



## Honoring Dennis Robert Little for his contributions to the Douglas County Historical Society

Dennis Little has woven his deep love of Carson Valley history, extensive business acumen, and heartfelt dedication into an action-filled path. His leadership has carried the Douglas County Historical Society through tough times with positivity and grace.

Dennis started out in 1991 as part of the volunteer crew of construction workers who were renovating the former Douglas High School building into the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. He has been active in fundraising and special events over the last twenty-four years, and was elected to the DCHS Board of Trustees in 2014. He has just finished his second two-year term as President.

"To hold the office of President for the Douglas County Historical Society is a full-time job!" reports Trustee Marlena Hellwinkel. "And who better than Dennis

Little to have filled this position. His knowledge of running a business, his tenacity to see a project completed, his ability to work with the public, DCHS staff, trustees, and his skill in fulfilling Grant requests has been amazing! His smile and humor are a big part of 'pulling it off.' The Historical Society wouldn't be what it is today, had it not been for Dennis Little. I give him my personal thanks." Marlena says in conclusion.

Coming from one of the founding families of Banning, California, he has always had a passion for honoring what has come before. He is a lifelong supporter of historical societies. He graduated from the University of Redlands with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in geology. We are fortunate that he chose the Carson Valley as his home base. He has been here since 1978.

After graduation, when he was working in the mining industry, he found he really enjoyed exploring the backroads and old remnants of towns. This is what sparked his passion for the history of the buildings related to the mining industry.

He works many more hours than a full-time job, pouring his heart and soul into every project. "I have never seen a more devoted person to any organization than Dennis has been and still is." reports Dale Bohlman. He is very involved in mentoring the Young Chautauqua program, and has been responsible for setting up the more recent meetings online.

Now in its 16th year, Dennis is also responsible for launching the Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest. He has a natural talent in this area, and every year he submits another of his own remarkable creations.

The biggest undertaking at the museum since its inception is the Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching and Agricultural Heritage Exhibit. Dennis has been pivotal, taking the reins and working tirelessly with the trustees to see that this tremendous project was seen through to completion. It has not been an easy task, but like everything else, Dennis stood fast and refused to let anything block his way.

"I really admire our President for all he does for our museums and the historical society." says former past president Patty Maebe, "Dennis is very enthusiastic and gracious in helping with daily museum matters. Running two museums is quite challenging but he has the good fortune of being a great problem solver, working well with committee chairs to keep our museums running smoothly."

Being a Francophone, there is no mistaking that Dennis Robert Little has that certain "savoir faire." He says the fun part of being the DCHS president has been being on the frontlines of the wonderful programs and exhibits created by the Historical Society. Dennis is always "in costume", adding his own special flair to any event. He is pleased with the by-law changes which allow him to stay on, insuring the continuity of programs and the internal operation of the organization. We are all thankful that, as Immediate Past President he will act as an advisor, assisting our board of trustees with his expertise, and his inimitable "snarky" nature.

# Happenings at the Museums

## Young Chautauqua Program Continues Online



We were sad to close our youth education programs at the start of the pandemic; but as they say, “every cloud has a silver lining.” Thanks to a few tech savvy moms, they assisted us in moving our youth programs to an online format. Our Young Chautauqua students are back on track and are now working from home. We hope to present their final performance at the Carson Valley Museum and Dangberg Home Ranch later this summer. And, as the pandemic has forced us into a new age, we are also looking to present their performance through our social media networks.

We will also be moving our Youth Outreach Program to an online format. Later this fall we will present three of our most popular programs: Trail to the Promised Land, The Pony Express, and Early Schools in the Carson Valley. These are events you don't want to miss. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook and watch for the latest updates in Happenings at the Museum.

## Heritage Lecture on Historic Barns by Paul Oatman

Heritage Lecture Series, Thursday July 9. Paul Oatman will speak on the Barns of the Carson Valley. Doors Open 6:00 p.m., lecture begins at 6:30. \$3.00 General Admission. DCHS and local historical society members are free.

Due to social distancing guidelines we must limit seating in our Main Hall to thirty people. Please call us at 775-782-2555, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to reserve your space. Masks must be worn while in the museum.



## Fredericksburg Cemetery Tour



It covers the stories of the original settlers, prominent ranchers, early silver miners, veterans, the first woman sheriff, and other unique individuals who are buried there. Author Dustman says if you are fascinated by Alpine history “These are the people who lived it!”. They all have their own story to tell.

Staff is diligently working to bring you our annual History Comes Alive to be presented at the historic Fredericksburg Cemetery in Alpine County, located just a few short miles over the California Nevada border. We are targeting the date of Saturday, October 17. We will announce additional details as the program develops. In use for over a century, the historic burial ground is still in use today.

In addition, the Fredericksburg Cemetery Self-Guided Walking Tour by Karen Dustman is available for sale at our museum bookstore.

# DCHS Volunteers

## Patty Maebe loves volunteering at both museums



Bubbly and vivacious, her positive outlook is contagious. Patty Maebe was born in Hollywood and worked first for Walt Disney and then for Chevron Texaco before retiring and moving to Carson Valley in 2004. She answered an ad in the newspaper for an Office Manager and was welcomed with open arms into the Douglas County Historical Society.

Her mother has been her inspiration in both attitude and action. Patty has never been one to sit on the sidelines, and dove right in, first becoming a volunteer and then trustee, eventually becoming president for two terms. This is her last year acting as a trustee and member of both the fundraising and accessions committees.

Patty absolutely loves being a volunteer in both museums. Since she likes to keep busy, the front desk is the perfect place to be. She reports "You get to meet people from the past, greet new visitors, and introduce them to the wonders of our unique area." She says it is always interesting and something new happens every day. "She smiles: "That's how history is made!" For her these days are pure joy.

**Call us at 775-782-2555 for more information on joining our wonderful group of volunteers.**

**gadzooks!**  
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(775) 782-9665  
[www.gadzooksnv.com](http://www.gadzooksnv.com)

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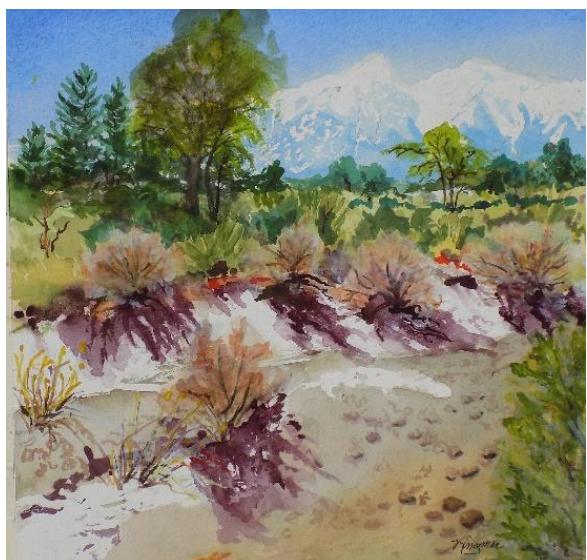
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## Kingman Watercolor Classes at the CVM&CC

The ever-popular watercolor classes taught by Vickie Kingman at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center are being offered again. Vickie lived at Lake Tahoe for 20 years before moving to Carson Valley. She appreciates the beauty of this area, has been teaching watercolor for 8 years. She also does oil painting and photography. Beginning this July and August, the group meets every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each class will have a maximum of seven students. A positive attitude, laughter and masks are mandatory. All artists are welcome, especially folks new to watercolor. Since the class is limited, please call 775 265-0320 for more information, and to save a spot for yourself. The focus will be working wet into wet, but personal projects are encouraged.

*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  
Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214

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**

**Raymond "Ray" L. Tomalas**

**Earl Garrett**

**Dennis Otto Heitman, Sr.**

*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 Virginia & Truckee Railroad 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 Paper Cutter
- Metal 5-Bike Rack



## **Address Update**

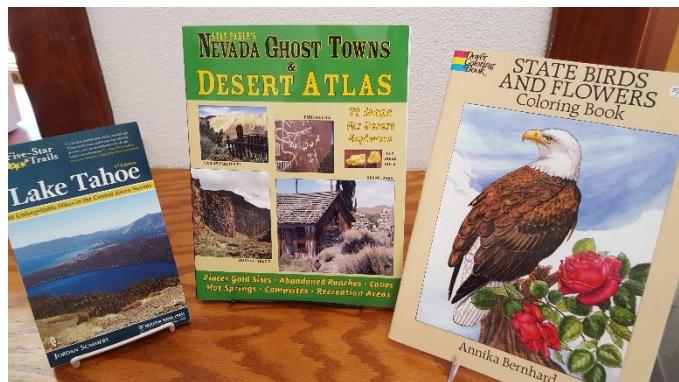


The United States Post Office has advised us we need to use our full street address for all correspondence. Mail not having the correct, full address, will be returned to sender. Please be sure you are using:

**Douglas County Historical Society  
1477 US Highway 395 N, Suite B  
Gardnerville, NV 89410**

# From the Bookstore

Summer is in full swing and there are so many interesting, exciting and historic attractions in Nevada, waiting for you to explore. Stan Paher has several excellent books to help you decide where to go what see. A best seller at \$32.50 is *Nevada Ghost Towns and Desert Atlas*. It includes 71 maps, 265 Vintage photos which capture 20<sup>th</sup> century NV., ghost town ruins, gemstone sites and descriptive information relating the area and pictures. This book is also available at \$16.95 as two books, North and South.



If you are anxious to get out and hike, *Five-Star Trails – Lake Tahoe* at \$15.95 has 40 unforgettable hikes in Central Sierra Nevada. Each is starred regarding scenery, difficulty, etc. and includes a map, overview, route details and directions. Enjoy!

To keep the children occupied we have a beautiful coloring book of *State Birds and Flowers* at \$4.99. Each picture is shown with suggestions of natural colors to use for the accurately detailed illustrations. Information on both the bird and the flower accompany each full-page illustration.

**DCHS Members receive 10% off their purchases from our bookstores.**

## Yard Sale Fundraiser was a Smashing Success



Super thanks to all our amazing volunteers and to everyone who donated their unique items to support the Douglas County Historical Society. Our Yard Sale Fundraiser was a smashing success. The brainchild of new President Linda Lechien, this event brought in over \$1,800.00 to aid in the continuation of programs and maintain structures during this unusual period in our history. Rocking chairs, camping supplies, and children's toys all found new homes. A special thanks is given to Vickie Kingman who brought her original artwork to sell, donating the proceeds to the museum.

## Please Support Our Friends Sponsors:

A Wildflower Florist  
A.B.E. Printing & Copy Center  
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Bently Enterprises / Bently Heritage  
Carson Now!  
Carson Valley Community Theater  
Carson Valley Lion's Club  
Carson Valley Literary Club  
Carson Valley Small Business Services  
C.O.D. Casino, Minden  
Douglas County Elks Lodge # 2670  
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Douglas County High School Class of 62  
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Jacobs Family Berry Farm  
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The Record Courier  
Sierra Chef, Genoa  
Starbucks  
Three Castle Engineering  
Town of Gardnerville  
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

## Historic Barns of Carson Valley



Ben Parmer barn near Sheridan, built in 1868  
by Charles Holbrook

Douglas County Historical Society is continuing to focus on agriculture throughout 2020. One of the most important buildings and symbols of agriculture is the barn. There are numerous examples of the working agricultural barns still visible throughout Carson Valley. Here are a few photographs from our collection of barns; some are still standing and others are now lost to history.

If you want to see more examples of barns from Carson Valley, stop in at the bookstores in either the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center, Gardnerville or the Courthouse Museum, Genoa and pick up a copy of the 2003 book, ["Barns of Carson Valley: A Pictorial History"](#). It contains photographs of many local barns with information about their ownership and construction, as well as tidbits relating to the barns and their owners which appeared in the local newspapers. It is a very enjoyable read.

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 Douglas County Historical Society contact Curator, Gail Allen, 775-782-2555 or Curator@HistoricNV.org.



Dangberg Home Ranch barn circa 1900

## **Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Heritage Exhibit**

DCHS is very proud to have completed the Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Heritage Exhibit. We were unable to hold our Grand Opening in April since the museum had to be closed. What better way to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center than by combining these two big events together.

Please join us Saturday August 1, 2020, to honor the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center 25<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary along with the ribbon cutting of our new exhibit. Museum doors open at 10:00 a.m. with the ribbon cutting at 11:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served. This event is free of charge and open to the community.



**Come and celebrate with us at Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center.**

DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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	\$15	\$50
Quarter page	\$25	\$80

To purchase an ad please contact us at:

775-782-2555

Monday thru Friday 11a.m. to 3 p.m.

or email your information to [DCHS@HistoricNV.org](mailto: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*

### **Heritage Lecture Series**

#### **Barns of the Carson Valley-Paul Oatman**

Thursday, July 9

Doors Open 6 p.m., Lecture begins 6:30 p.m.

#### **Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Heritage Exhibit Ribbon Cutting!**

Saturday, August 1

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

### **Heritage Lecture Series**

#### **The Sheep Business-Ted Borda**

Thursday August 13

Doors Open 6 p.m., Lecture begins 6:30 p.m.

#### **Main Street Gardnerville Wine & Beer Walk**

Third Thursdays

July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, 2020  
from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.