

MUSEUM MATTERS

September/October 2017

Volume 40, No. 5



Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center

1477 US Highway 395 N.
Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday
Phone: 775-782-2555
Fax: 775-783-8802
Website: www.HistoricNV.org
Email: DCHS@historicnv.org

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Museum Matters is the official
newsletter of the Douglas County
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Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center's 22nd Anniversary Celebration



Dorothy Scossa, Class of 1940, (center) along with Rosanne Coburn and Carol Turk cut the anniversary cake honoring the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center's twenty second year of operation. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and some new faces at the museums' anniversary party. Featured at the event was a sneak peak of the Tahoe Room and Hain's Barn Door.

Built in 1915 the Douglas County High School held its first day of class on January 3, 1916, and continued operating as such until 1958 when it switched to being a Junior High School. In 1983 the building ceased serving as a school house due to new seismic rules and regulations but remained in use for office and storage space. In 1988 a 100-year lease between the then Carson Valley Historical Society and the Douglas County School District was signed and the long progress of restoration began. Through the dedicated work of many volunteers and the support of the community the museum opened its door on August 19, 1995, and has remained in continuous operation since. Thanks to our volunteers and staff we're looking forward to serving the community for years to come.



DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Trustee meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center, Gardnerville. Members and friends are always welcome to attend.

4:00 p.m. September 21, 2017

4:00 p.m. October 19, 2017

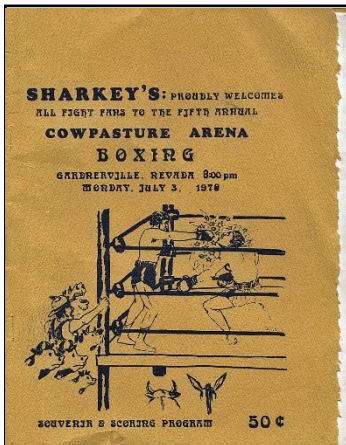
Director's Note...



Since the Anniversary party, the Tahoe Room has been painted and work on the exhibits is now ready to begin. This has been a big project. There was so much that had to be done to open up the room, extend the electrical and install new outlets, repair the walls and floor, pick a paint color (the biggest challenge!) and coordinate all this work with our wonderful volunteers! New furnishing for the Van Sickle Library have been ordered, thanks to a generous grant from a local family. A support frame is being built for the sleigh (according to legend, the Hank Monk Sleigh which has been on our front porch for many years) and will secure the sleigh to the stair-well slope shown in the picture top left. This room will be beautiful and a great addition to our museum.

Our thanks goes out to Thor Teigen, Senior Vice President, Branch Manager at Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. Once again, Thor gave us a "hand" with some heavy lifting and hauling chores. What a hot day it was! We also had help from two of our trustees to get the work done!

Cindy Rogers, Director



Most Popular Post

Our most popular June/July social media post was "Treasures From the Vault: Program from Sharkey's Cowpasture Arena held in Gardnerville on July 3, 1978." with a reach of 730 views. Our collections division is looking for any additional information or picture from Sharkey's Cow Pasture Boxing. If you have a picture to share, we hope you will contact the front office. Also of notable mention, our Second Thursday Lectures Series speaker, Robin Holabird, garnered a reach of 699 with her lecture on "Elvis, Marilyn and the Space Aliens", movies made in Nevada.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/douglascountyhistoricalsociety.

Barbara Smallwood
"Committed to our Community"

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Happenings at the Museum

2nd Thursday Lecture - September 14, 2017

Douglas County Airport Past & Present

Moderated by Debbe Nye, a panel of community leaders will discuss Douglas County Airport's role in shaping our future. Panel guests include Bobbi Thompson, current Airport Manager; and Bill Souigny, former graduate of Ag Aviation. Doors Open 6:00 p.m., Lecture at 6:30 p.m. \$3.00 at the Door, DCHS Members Free

We are holding a drawing for a chance to win a Family Pass to the Aviation Round Up!

Family Day - October 7, 2017

Free Admission & Story Telling

Museum Opens 11:00 a.m. Story Telling led by Nancy Raven and friends begins with a social Meet & Greet at 1:00 with Story Telling at 1:30. Every family has a story to tell!

2nd Thursday Lecture - October 12, 2017

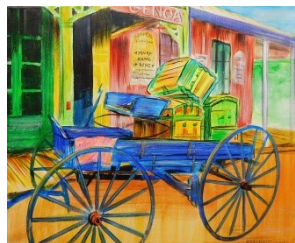
Cemeteries: Lore & History

Cindy Southerland will speak on history and lore of Carson Valley and Carson City Cemeteries. Hear the stories and lore behind the epitaphs and manor of ceremonies afforded the citizens of Nevada. Doors Open 6:00 p.m. Lecture Begins at 6:30. \$3 at the door, DCHS Members Free

Memoir Class - Saturday October 14

Presented by Author Karen Dustman

Learn how to write the history of tomorrow today. Author Karen Dustman will share her tips and methods of creating your memoirs. Leave a legacy for your family to enjoy throughout the generations. Doors Open 1:30 p.m., Class at 2:00 p.m. Fee: \$10. Class size is limited so sign-up early at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center.



VanGo Paint 'n Pours - Saturday, October 14, Paint Your Wagon

Artist Charles Munroe will lead you through a step-by-step method to create your own personal masterpiece.

6:00 p.m. Doors Open, Class at 6:30 Fee: \$40. Class size is limited so sign-up early at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. Visit VanGoPaintnPours.com/faqs

Save the Dates!

- **Haunted Weekend – Garden Cemetery Walk** – Saturday, October 21
- **Old Time Country Fair Pie Baking Contest** – Saturday, November 4. Includes holiday crafts. Learn the tips and tricks to making your own dry snow globe and gingerbread house.
- **Holiday Gala** – Saturday, December 1: Gallery of Trees, Gingerbread Houses, Snow Globes, Selfies with Santa and Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!



*Our sincerest thanks to
our friends at Intero
Real Estate for the loan
of their sign frames and
support of our Barn Tour*

Friends of DCHS: Work Day & Tailgate Parties



Shown: DCHS Friends and Members enjoying the after work barbeque hot dog Tailgate Party from August's work day at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. If you would like to join the crew contact Rick Towner or Cindy Rogers at the Front Office, 775-782-2555.

Our next Friends of DCHS Work Day & Tailgate Party will be at the Courthouse Museum in Genoa at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, September 16. Come help us make the museum look spiffy for Candy Dance! Chores include grounds clean-up, some light maintenance and a bit of cleaning.

Kudos to Rick Towner for his work in cleaning the memorial bricks. The next step in the restoration of the Flag Pole surround is removing the old mortar from the concrete support base and some concrete repair. Once this is accomplished the bricks will be ready to be replaced atop the surround.

We're happy to report the new parking lot improvements behind the museum at the Carson Valley Middle School are now complete. This work was done by the school district to make for a safer student pick-up/drop-off zone.



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Old Time Country Fair Fall Pie Baking Contest



Show off your culinary skill at our Fall Pie Baking Contest, Saturday, November 4. The theme is Fall Pies: Apple, Pumpkin and Pecan. Pies will be judged and ribbons will be awarded. \$5.00 per pie to enter, maximum of three pies per person. After judging the remaining portions of the pies will be offered for sale as part of our fun food fundraiser. Details and entry forms will be available at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center by October 1.



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

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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Free admission to both our 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:

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

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Education News for 2016-17 School Year From Iris Blaisdell

Three educational programs are presented to third and fourth grade school students. These are "Trail to the Promised Land", "Schools in the Carson Valley 1860-1900", and "The Pony Express".

With the help of Kim Harris and my husband, Jim Blaisdell, I was able to present these programs to the students at Jack's Valley Elementary and Piñon Pines Elementary. I presented "Trail to the Promised Land" and "Schools in the Carson Valley" to students at Gardnerville Elementary. I also presented all of the programs to the students in talented education classes. This amounted to contact with about 500 students.

Our sincere thanks goes out to all the teachers who participated in our programing and welcomed us into their classrooms.

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Gifts & Memorials

We gratefully acknowledge memorial donations made in the name of:

Kelly Maebe

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

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*Your contribution helps keep the rich legacy of
Our community alive.*

GREETINGS FROM OUR BOOKSTORE

One of the last Brick & Mortar bookstores in Douglas County



Stories about an “earlier” Carson Valley are fascinating, as well as informative, and in this issue we look at two of those books as well as a couple of our books for children. Come visit our bookstore!

Sleeping with Mae West (and other stories) is a Memoir by Dr. Robert E. Yim. Dr. Yim’s family of parents, 5 children, and several other relatives, lived in Carson Valley at the intersection of Esmeralda Street and Main. As the only Chinese family in the Valley they ran Capitol Dry Goods and Groceries for three decades, with the family living on the premises.

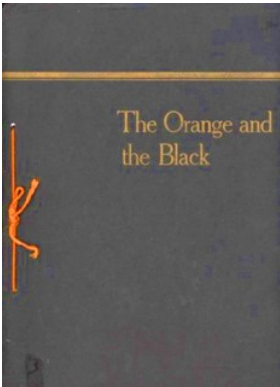
Dr. Yim’s “short stories” about our area take place in the 1930s and 1940s. He graduated from Douglas County High School, class of ’43. He has over 80 stories to tell, not only about our valley, but also about his life in the Navy and as a doctor. You will feel like you’re sitting with Dr. Yim over a cup of tea as he tells stories of his life as a Chinese person over the past 90 years.

Journey to Genoa by Nevada K. Jones is a staple in our bookstore in the “local” section. It is based on the history of her ancestors leaving Wales and eventually settling in Genoa, Nevada. This book follows their wagon trip across this country, all the way to the California gold fields and back to Genoa. If you enjoy reading about the “adventures” of folks on the emigrant trails to the west, you will love this book.

For the children, we have a number of inexpensive, oversized paperback, or as one book puts it – seriously fun, learning books. *Games from Long Ago*, and *Presidents: Facts and Fun Activity Book* are meant for children in the 6-8 year old range.

Treasures From the Vault

We are very blessed to have a great variety of artifacts in our extensive Douglas County Historical Society collection. One group of artifacts in our collection is extensively consulted by researchers and community members. This would be our Douglas County High School yearbooks. The earliest issue we have is from 1917. Over the years we have received a volume here and there and have gathered an extensive collection of issues. We make these readily available to those who are seeking information which is often contained in these volumes. But there are times when we are concerned about what we do not have in our collection. After compiling a list of what years we have and what years are missing, we noticed a large gap with missing volumes 1930 through 1935.



The Douglas County Public Library also has a collection of DC High School yearbooks. We shared our list with them and they with us and noticed that they, too, do not have the issues 1930 through 1935. So where were these missing issues? After much discussion about the worldwide financial difficulties of the 1930s, we thought that maybe there were no issues created during that era. But that was just our best guess and not a proven fact.

Enter our wonderful research volunteer. When we posed the question about the missing yearbooks to her, she started researching and sure enough, she was able to answer our question conclusively. Here is a bit of that she found:

Friday January 23 1931, page 5

YEAR BOOK GIVEN UP BY THE 1931 STAFF

(From The Tiger)

The Annual, which the Senior and Junior classes had planned to issue early in May, has been given up.

Early in the fall the staff was elected, and the business managers made a thorough canvas of Minden and Gardnerville for advertising. While the business men signed contracts that amounted to approximately two hundred dollars, a great deal more funds would be needed to put out an annual equal to the books published by other classes.

Business conditions throughout the state have not been the best, so it has been deemed advisable to postpone the publication of the Year Book, until such time that conditions will be righted, and the necessary support more easily secured.

It is probable that the last issue of the high school paper, the Tiger, will be dedicated to the upper classmen, and published by the Junior class. This will in a small way deal with the year's activities, and will serve as a record for the Senior class.

Friday June 2 1933, front page

JUNIORS TO ISSUE SCHOOL PAPER

A special edition of the Tiger, Douglas high school publication, will be issued June 5th by the junior class under supervision of Miss Elizabeth Johnstone.

The paper will contain twelve pages 16 1/4 by 11 devoted to activities of the school during the past term, together with pictures of the twenty-five graduates; of the basketball teams, Future Farmers of America and the like.

The special edition contains practically the same amount of material usually prepared for a high school annual, but being set in small type, does not cover so many pages.

Lois Darrrough is editor of the special edition, Gordon Drendel, business manager, and have been assisted in their task by all members of the junior class, who aided in the work, one way or another.

So, our search for yearbooks for 1930 through 1935 has come to an end. The good news is that we now know for sure that these issues were never created. The information about these 'missing' yearbooks is now in the Van Sickle Research Library for all those who come searching for information from those years.

With that search over, we want everyone to know that we are still looking for issues from the years 1945, 1953, 1993-1998, 2000-2017. Please search your bookshelves, garages, attics, garage sales and rummage sales. We would love to have a complete set of all issues created by the Douglas County High School for inclusion in our research library.

This search for information about yearbooks highlights the vital role which our volunteers fill in the Douglas County

Historical Society. We are very grateful for the many volunteers who offer their time and skills to work with the collections and exhibits. Volunteers are important to our organization and make it possible to fulfill the DCHS mission. There are a variety of opportunities available at DCHS including working with exhibits, researching artifacts, as well as transcribing documents written in cursive. If you have an interest in working with the collections or exhibits, please call or email me. I can be reached at 775-782-2555 or you can email me at Curator@HistoricNV.org.

Gail Allen, Collections Manager

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