

# Museum Matters

July August September 2021

Volume 2021 No. 3



## Douglas County Historical Society

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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official newsletter of the  
Douglas County  
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## Historic Wagon finds a new home on display at the Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Exhibit



## The Long Life of a Horse-Drawn Hay Feeder Wagon

Twenty feet in length with wheels four-foot high, our newest donation to the Douglas County Historical Society is an impressive addition to our Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Heritage Exhibit. According to a local dairyman, this horse drawn Hay Feeder Wagon continued to be used on the James Canyon Ranch as late as the 1950s. The ranch was likely among the early land claims of 1852-53, homesteaded by John James. This artifact made getting through the harsh winter months easier on both the farmer and the cattle. *Continued on page 7.*

### DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Trustee meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center at 3:00 p.m.

Members and friends are always welcome to attend.

Upcoming Meetings: July 15, August 19 and September 16

Special thanks to outgoing Board of Trustee Members

**Patty Maebe and Marlana Hellwinkel**

A warm welcome is extended to incoming Trustees

**Clint Celio, Judy Farrell, and Alicia Main**

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

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## Happenings at the Museum

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It's been a hectic start of the year trying to get things back on track at the museum. Surprisingly, the biggest issue we're facing is getting enough volunteers to run the events and front desk. Even with limited staffing we're happy to report that our launch of spring events has been highly successful. Program highlights include (from left to right): Ladies Sunday Tea, Community Flea Market, and Art & Wine on the Green.



An extra round of applause goes to "The Men of the Museum" for their help serving the tea. Combined with our popular "Best Of" awards and the services of Bella Vita Bistro & Catering of Carson City, it made for an enjoyable afternoon of visiting with friends, delicious food, and fun.

All these events are part of the fundraising efforts needed to keep our two museums running, and help us fulfill our mission statement "To enrich lives by preserving local history and making it accessible to our communities and visitors." You can be part of our team by volunteering or attending upcoming events and programs. We are looking forward to seeing more of you as the year happily opens to more possibilities.

### Letter to the Museum

*Dear Trustees,*

*We had a great time at the museum Flea Market on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Although the crowd was smaller than we had hoped, we met some very nice people. Our booth had a selection with items priced for a donation to the museum, and we are pleased to donate the \$122 we raised at the sale.*

*Pamela Johnson*

*Pat Jordan*

*Our deep appreciation is given to Pamela and Pat for their support in helping us to preserve our local history.*

*– DCHS STAFF*



Super thanks to all who attended "Giant Bubbles on the Green." We're not sure who had the most fun, the kids, the parents, or our staff. Giant Bubbles is part of our Family Day programming.



**Family Day** is held the first Saturday of every month (except January & July) at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. Puzzles, games, scavenger hunts and more. Programs and special events run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Best of all its FREE ADMISSION. Follow us on Facebook or visit us on line for the latest information.

We're pleased to announce that "Grandma's Trunk," an exploration into the past, will return this fall.

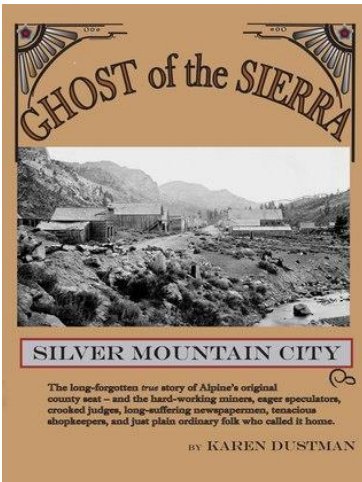


# Happenings at the Museum

**Our first in-person Heritage Lecture of 2021 was very successful!**



Generations of Carson Valley residents knew the Nishikida family as owners of a popular laundry on Main Street, Gardnerville. During his lecture, Dave Nishikida traced his family roots as members of the Samurai in Japan through their struggle during World II, and finally their successful business years in early Gardnerville. We are working with processing the video taping of the event and plan to post it online.



## Heritage Lecture Series

Local historian and author Karen Dustman will speak on *The Ghost Town of Silver Mountain City: The Boom (and Bust) of the "Comstock South."* These are true tales from Silver Mountain City, Alpine County's "wanna-be" version of the Comstock Lode. Hear stories of the miners, the eager businessmen, the scandals, and the magic of Silver Mountain, Alpine County's earliest county seat. The lecture will be Thursday July 8 at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Presentation starts at 7:00 p.m. \$3.00 at the door. DCHS members and members of adjoining historical societies, FREE. This year the talks will be presented in person and via a Zoom link. Make sure we have your current email if you would like to attend virtually. Call us at 775-782-2555 or email us at [DCHS@HistoricNV.org](mailto:DCHS@HistoricNV.org).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Join our staff for coffee, tea, and breakfast pasties at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center while learning about the many diverse activities needed to keep our museums up and running. 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. Thursday, July 15.

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## DCHS Volunteers Guy Proto and Dale Bohlman

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As President of DCHS, I would like you to become acquainted with two very loyal and talented volunteers being honored in this issue of our newsletter. ~Linda Lechien, President Board of Trustees



### DALE BOHLMAN

Dale Bohlman was born to long-time Carson Valley parents and grew up on Douglas Avenue right here in Gardnerville, in fact, he was delivered in that same house by Dr. Hand. There's a display of the doctor downstairs at the Gardnerville Museum. Dale's mother was born in Markleeville and his dad was born in the Carson Valley. As a youngster, Dale was on the first Little League team in the valley and hit the first home run. Dale graduated from high school in what is now our Gardnerville Museum. He excelled in football and basketball, and he was enshrined into the Basketball Wall of Fame in 2012.

Dale was a clerk at the Gardnerville Post Office from 1967 to 1970 when he was appointed Postmaster and served as such until 1992. During his time as postmaster, he went well past the normal duties required. He was known to take it upon himself to deliver mail after hours to several older ladies that could not walk the many blocks to pick up their mail. And any packages that looked like they were Christmas presents, he would put them in his car and deliver them. Dale has been honored by the Kiwanis Club, Sertoma Club, Douglas County Town Board, and the Douglas County Sportsman's Club.

He served on the Gardnerville Town Board, as well as the Gardnerville Town Water Board.

After all of that, most recently he has been a member of the Douglas County Historical Society since 2013 and was elected as a Vice President while a Trustee. Even now, any time there is a need for someone to take on a task at either of our museums, you can count on Dale to help.


### GUY PROTO

Guy was born in Providence, Rhode Island but spent most of his years in Southern California where he attended UCLA majoring in Engineering. He served in the U.S. Airforce during the Vietnam conflict where he wrote software programs for weapons research and development.

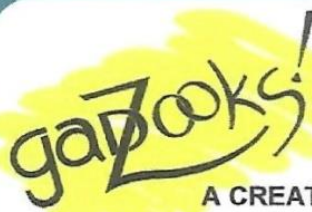
Following his years in the military, he spent his business career in the technology side of the banking industry and ending his career as Senior Vice President and Manager of both Information Technology and Purchasing/Facilities.

Guy and his wife Carolyn moved here when he retired. They had been visiting relatives in the area for many years and fell in love with the Carson Valley. They both feel it is important to be actively involved in our community and help keep it the wonderful place that it is. Guy is involved with the Backpack Buddy Consortium and has a therapy dog that visits patients at the Carson Tahoe Hospital and nursing homes in our area.

While being a long-term Trustee, he has been the chairperson of the Endowment and Planning Committee, Finance, Fundraising and Human Resources Committees. Guy was also the organizer of the last three Historical Barn Tours. Guy is currently the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees and keeps himself very busy overseeing the Museum's finances.



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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
- 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):

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Return this page along with your dues to:

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- ☐ I am interested in volunteering at the museums.  
Please call me.

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**In Memory of**

**Virginia Henningsen  
Rosemary Laird  
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Shirley & Mark Thomas  
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Contributions to a 501 (c) 3 Domestic Nonprofit Corporation like the Douglas County Historical Society are tax deductible. Check with your accountant to find out the full scope of benefits. You can get your own reward when you support our Nonprofit while helping to preserve the history of our area at the same time.

**DCHS Wish List – Can You Help?**



Forever Postage Stamps  
Metal 5-Bike Rack

Please support us on

**amazon**smile

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# From the Bookstore

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## BOOKS FOR SUMMER

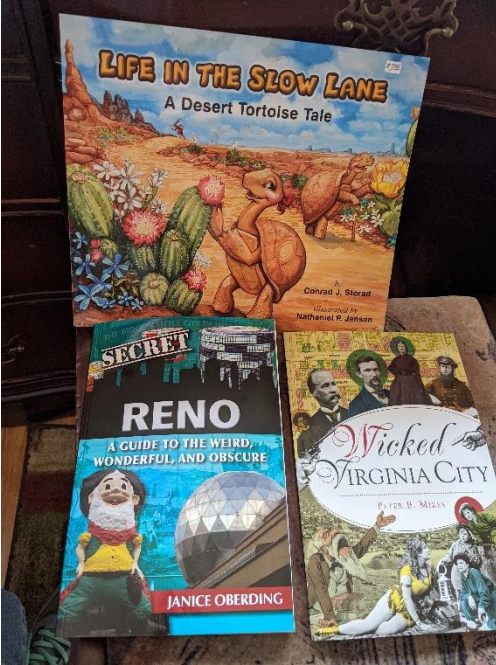
by Judy Conrad, Bookstore Manager

Summertime is here and day excursions to Reno and Virginia City are beckoning. Read these two new books from our museum bookstore and enhance your visits!

***Secret Reno: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure*** features over 80 places to explore in Reno. Each two page description includes a photo, "key information" inset, and great "facts" every Nevadan will enjoy.

***Wicked Virginia City***, newly published, is a great summer read and you'll mark plenty of sights that you'll want to explore. With lots of old time photos, *Wicked Virginia City* picks up where Twain left off, providing a close look at the seamier side of this vibrant boomtown!

A new edition to the children's section is ***A Desert Tortoise Tale*** called ***Life in the Slow Lane***. The illustrations are delightful, large and colorful, and the story is in rhyme, making it fun to read out loud. It is sure to be a favorite!



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

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**JACK ZA**  
P.O. Box 31624 - St. Louis, MO 63131  
Tel: (314)973-5099  
Email: jzamusic12@gmail.com  
[WWW.JACKZAMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.JACKZAMUSIC.COM)

Jack Za is creating a historical musical about the Carson Valley  
For more information [jzamusic12@gmail.com](mailto:jzamusic12@gmail.com)  
[www.JackZaMusic.com](http://www.JackZaMusic.com)



## COURTHOUSE RESTORATION

Repairs at the Courthouse Museum in Genoa are progressing nicely. The museum will remain open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during construction. These renovations were made possible through a generous grant from the Nevada Historic Preservation Office funded with the assistance of the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation. Our appreciation goes out to these organizations and our DCHS Members for stepping up to help preserve this historic landmark.

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# TREASURES FROM THE VAULT

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## The Long Life of a Horse-Drawn Hay Feeder Wagon

*Continued from Front Cover*

The James Canyon Ranch had a border four miles east of Cave Rock, came up over the ridge, down the James Canyon, and then into the valley below. Early documents show the feeder wagon was purchased from a Carson Valley Ranch Bankruptcy Auction in the 1960s by Bill Anderson of the old west amusement park known as Ponderosa Ranch, located in Incline Village. When the Ponderosa closed its doors, both the feeder wagon and a seed thrower were acquired by Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society. As time went on, the ranch was acquired by Peter Heitman, who eventually passed it on to his son-in-law Fred Cook.

In 1945 Joe Campbell, who was owner of the neighboring ranch, died. That property was purchased and added to the James Canyon Ranch. Interestingly, the barn doors from the Campbell Ranch are also on display in the Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching & Agricultural Exhibit.

About 1949-50, a story circulated that a Washington DC socialite, known as "the hostess with the mostess," purchased the ranch at a cocktail party. Pearl Mesta and her nephew Bill Tyson built a home across the road. Bill Tyson enlarged on the old dairy business by building a creamery and operating a fleet of milk trucks. Several local dairymen sold their milk to James canyon Dairy. It was a major operation in Carson Valley for a little over ten years.

Bill Tyson fancied himself a political figure and made an unsuccessful bid for U.S. Senator from Nevada. Somewhere along the way a bankruptcy was declared and a series of owners, including Bing Crosby's widow and in 1963 Harvey Gross of Harvey's Wagon Wheel, Lake Tahoe, became the owner.

Harvey raised Charolais cattle and had a nice herd of buffalo, which were quite the tourist attraction. As things were cleaned up around the ranch an auction was held with unwanted items sold. The feeder wagon along with the seed thrower (that was originally purchased in Minden) were among those items. The only place in Minden to purchase farm equipment was Lou Faletti's store. It is nice to know that the wagon and thrower can once again make their home in Carson Valley.

~ by Linda Reid, Collections Committee Chairperson

***"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 or documents that you would like to donate to DCHS that support our mission statement, please contact us at 775-782-2555 or [Curator@HistoricNV.org](mailto:Curator@HistoricNV.org).

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*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 the fun!*

### Heritage Lecture Series

Karen Dustman

"Silver Mountain City"

July 8 Doors open at 6:30, Lecture at 7:00

### Volunteer Opportunity Open House

9:00 to 11:00 A.M. Thursday, July 15

Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center

### Family Day

August 7

September 4

### Agricultural Heritage Day

Saturday, August 7

### Holiday Gala

Saturday, December

### "The Big Celebration" June 2022

Watch for Details!