

# Membership Newsletter Spring, 2012

## Central Sierra Historical Society

### CELEBRATING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SJ&E RAILROAD



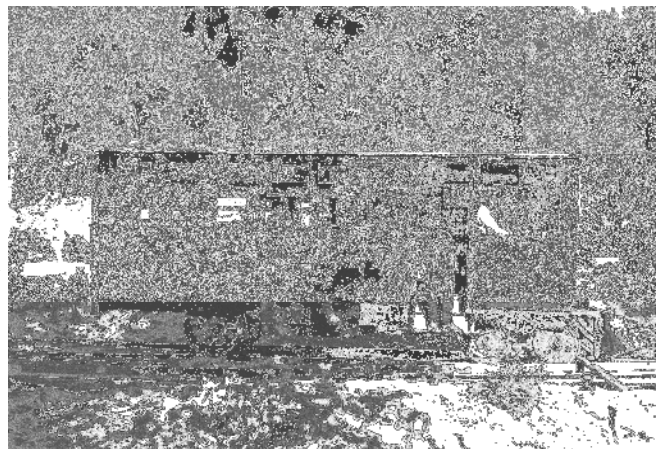
CSHS is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the SJ&E railroad as well as the completion and dedication of the restoration project of Caboose No. 50. Come join us on Saturday, July 15 for the party in conjunction with our Ice Cream Social.

The San Joaquin & Eastern railroad was built in 1912 to furnish transportation for the construction of Southern California Edison's Big Creek Project, the largest hydroelectric project in the world at that time, located in the High Sierra, in northeastern Fresno County. The railroad opened up the rugged wilderness of the Si-

erra and its story is inextricably tied to the development of electricity in Southern California.

Construction began on February 5, 1912, and was completed 157 days later on July 12. Traversing just over 56 miles, complete with 1078 curves, 255 grades, and 43 wood frame trestles, the "crookedest and steepest" railroad known as the SJ&E was fully operational. The railroad's nickname was soon known as the "The Slow, Jerky & Expensive."

In March of 2000 the Harry W. Ball Family donated an original caboose used on the SJ&E (Caboose No. 50) to the Central Sierra Historical Society. Harry Ball's father acquired the caboose in 1933 when the SJ&E ceased operations. The entire physical assets of the railroad were sold for \$50,000 to a group of Bay area scrap dealers. A public



auction was held in Auberry in October 1933 to dispose of SJ&E assets. Harry's father took Caboose No. 50 and moved it to his ranch to use for an office. His uncle moved Caboose No. 52 to the Leshner Ranch on Copper Avenue where it remains today. The third caboose was also saved and is now the property of the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society and on display next to Sierra High School.

*(continued on page 4 )*





### REPLICA OF FLUME IN THE MUSEUM

The next time you visit inside the museum you will see an exact replica of the Shaver Flume, superbly built by Shaver Lake native, and member of the CSHS Board of Directors, Jeff Young. Jeff donated his time and talent to the project. **Thank You, Jeff!** The funds to build the flume were provided by a generous grant from the Sierra Searchers #1305 of Questers. **A Special Thank You** goes out to them, especially members Shirley Kepler and Judy Statler, who were instrumental in obtaining this grant.

### CORRECTION TO FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

There was an error in the Fall 2011 Newsletter article titled "Black Pot Cookers Do It Again". It stated the proceeds from the event held on August 7, 2011 were \$34,824, and the net proceeds were \$23,882. It should have stated the proceeds from the event held on August 7, 2011 were \$26,855.86, and the net proceeds were \$25,198.29. We apologize for the error.

### MUSEUM IS OFFERING A SUMMER LONG RAFFLE

Come into the museum between April 12 and Labor Day Weekend for your chance to win an original Garden Out-house by John Maggini of Cambria, CA worth \$500. Tickets are \$1/each or 6/ \$5.00.

The winning ticket will be drawn Monday, September 3 at noon. You can buy as many tickets as you like and you need not be present to win. The Garden Outhouse is on display at the Museum.

### 2012 STEAM DONKEY "STEAM-UP" SCHEDULE

The Sierra Steamers can be seen in action in the parking lot at the Museum of the Central Sierra. The Steam-Ups are always from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

May 27	July 1
July 15	August 18
September 2	October 21

***For great family fun,  
bring the children and  
let them blow the whistle!***

### S.H.A.R.E.S. CARDS BENEFIT THE MUSEUM

You can help support the educational programs at the Central Sierra Museum by swiping a S.H.A.R.E.S. Card. S.H.A.R.E.S. stands for Supporting Humanities, Arts, Recreation, Education & Sports. They can be used when you shop at Save Mart, Smart Foods, FoodMaxx or Lucky Stores. Each time the card is used, 3% of the qualified purchase earns a S.H.A.R.E. point. Each S.H.A.R.E.S. point equals one dollar. Points accumulate as soon as the card is used. CSHS receives a quarterly check for the amount earned up to 3%.

CSHS joined the program in March, 2009. To date we have received over \$4,400. What a great way to support the Museum's education program! Thank you to all who remember to swipe their card. If you want to participate in this program please call the museum and we'd be happy to send you a card. Or pick one up the next time you're here..

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

*We hope you will remember the Society when you are planning your estate, or as a fitting means of honoring a departed friend or loved one.*

Francis Emmert  
David Putnam  
Walter Page  
Margaret Gurland  
Johnny Traugher  
Mr & Mrs William Miles  
JoAnne Thaxter  
Bill Schmidt

Robert Crider  
Brooke Boogaert  
Barbara Gillett  
Rachel Cottingham  
Edith Puckett  
Janet Pitts  
Frank Hansen  
Helen Grossman

### GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

- ◆ From Scott & Sue Howarth to Butch Gist
- ◆ From Linda & Bob Glassman to the Sequoia Council,  
Boy Scouts of America
- ◆ From Brian & Linda Clague to Courtney Clague & Scott Ostrow





## MUSEUM RECEIVES MONETARY GIFT FROM EDISON COMPANY BIG CREEK EMPLOYEES

In January members of the CSHS Board met with representatives of Edison Company to receive a check for \$6,115 from the Big Creek Employees. The money was raised through a lottery for available seats on a tour of the uncovered archaeology sites at the bottom of Shaver Lake, a tour organized by the Edison Company. A big **Thank You** goes out to Big Creek Employees of Edison Company, especially Christy Crimm and Don Dukleth, who were instrumental in organizing the tours. And **Thank You** to all the generous people who went on the tours.

## WILLIAM H HANNON FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO THE CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

The Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum is very pleased to announce the award of a grant from THE WILLIAM H HANNON FOUNDATION.

David W Burcham, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, chose The Central Sierra Historical Society to be the beneficiary of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the Director's Fund.

The Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum members, the volunteers, and the Board of Directors are very grateful for the generosity of the William H Hannon Foundation.

## LOCAL SERVICE CLUBS COME THROUGH FOR THE MUSEUM

In November the CSHS was awarded a very generous donation of \$3,500 from the Shaver Lake Lions Club. Per their request, \$2,000 was applied towards the Building Fund, \$1,000 was applied towards the Operational Fund, and the remaining \$500 went towards the purchase of a new scanner and printer needed to archive historic photos. In March the Auberry Intermountain Rotary Club awarded \$600 to purchase three digital photo frames. The scanner was needed to scan the pictures that went into the digital frames. The next time you come to the Museum you will see the frames with rotating photos. One will be in the Foothill Section, one will be in the Forest Section, and one will be in the Alpine Section, each with photos from their specific region. Thank you to the Big Creek Elementary School's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Dina Young's Technology Learning Center who separated the pictures into the three sections and downloaded them onto the digital picture frames. It was a pleasure to work with Dina Young in this joint endeavor. A special thank you is given to the Shaver Lake Lions Club and the Auberry Intermountain Rotary Club to make this project a great success. Not only will it serve the museum's needs, but the students learned about community service and the history of their area. We are very grateful for everybody's wonderful support.

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

July 15 2:00 – 4:00 PM

At the Museum

It's Free! Sponsored by v.e.s.t.

Thanks to Foster Farms,  
Shaver Lake Coffee & Deli  
Sierra Steamers, and S.C.E.

## *Museum Benefits from members of the* **SAN JOAQUIN FINE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

Members of the SJFWA visited the museum last fall to view the museum and the contributions made to it by members of the SJFWA, Gordon Bone and Jim Crockett. Gordon was their tour guide.

Gordon's work is greatly appreciated at the museum. He is responsible for some display cases, a surround to the museum's video display, and a picture case.

Jim is the builder of the wooden runabout boat currently on display in the Museum's Media Room. Named the Osprey II, it is built primarily out of Honduran Mahogany. When Jim completed the boat and gave it to his patron, William O. Woodward III, Mr. Woodward eventually donated it to the Museum.



## 2012 SIERRA VOICES PRESENTATIONS

This summer will be the third season of our successful Sierra Voices series. Presentations by experienced and knowledgeable speakers will continue to highlight the unique qualities of the Central Sierra. The series is held in the Media Room at the Museum from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on the second Saturday of every month from May to October. Below is our “tentative” schedule of speakers for this season:

**May 12 – Gene Rose** – “Reflections of Shaver Lake”

Central Sierra Historian and Author of “Reflections of Shaver Lake”. Meet the author and celebrate the reprinting of his book which commemorates Shaver Lake’s rich and colorful past.

**June 9 – Russ Westmann** – “The Dawning of the Hydroelectric Age”

Russ will be focusing on the foothills and mountain areas of the Central Sierra.

**July 7\* – Michael Adams, MD** – “Ansel Adams, A Son’s Perspective”

Photographer, Scholar, Son of Ansel Adams

**August 11 – Jeff Young & Norm Saude** – “Shaver’s Colorful History Revealed with the Draining of the Lake”

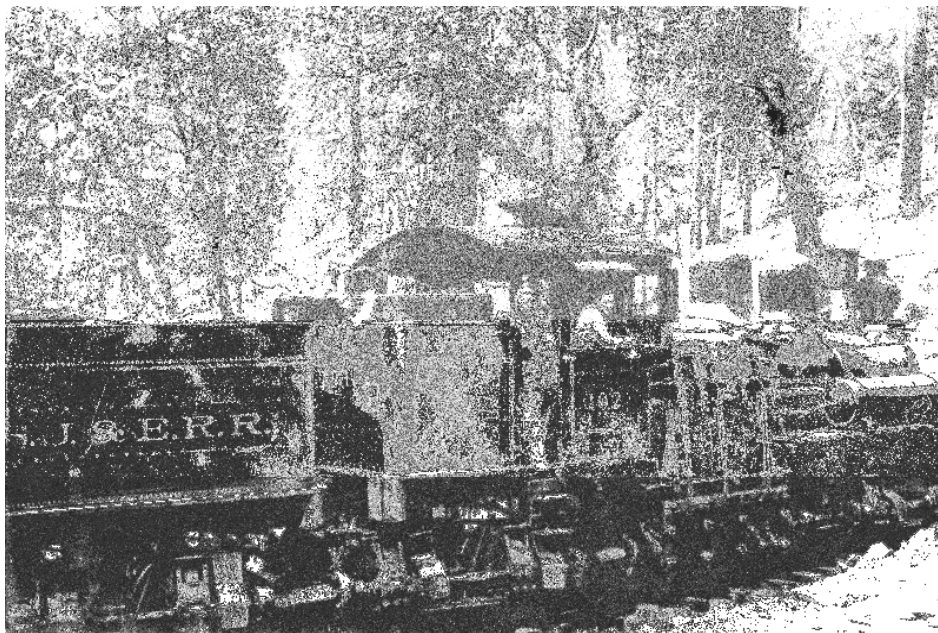
**September 2 (Labor Day Weekend) – The Davis Family** – “Native American Life in the Central Sierra”

**September 8 – Steve Marsh, Forest Service Archaeologist** – “The Cultural History of the Central Sierra”

**October 13** – TBA

**\*Adjusted date due to speaker availability**

(continued from front page)



The restoration project of Caboose No. 50 was initiated in September of 2004. The project was spearheaded by Major Brooks Wilson, who collected a team of volunteers to work on the project. The Board of Directors of the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum wishes to extend a hearty thank you to the many volunteers who devoted their time to this project.

A *special thank you* is extended to those who have made cash and in-kind donations to the restoration project. The Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum members, **v.e.s.t.** members, the Board of Directors, and the volunteers of the

Caboose Restoration Committee are very grateful for the generosity of all the support.

**Watch our website for more detailed information about the Caboose No 50 restoration project.**

**Mark your calendars, July 15, for a great and festive day. The Sierra Steamers will fire up the Steam Donkey at 10:00 AM, followed by a dedication ceremony for the caboose, and concluding with the Ice Cream Social at 2:00 PM.**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
May 12	Sierra Voices Presentation	1 – 3 PM	Media Room at the Museum
May 27	Steam Donkey Steam-Up	10 AM – 3 PM	Museum Parking Lot
June 9	Sierra Voices Presentation	1 – 3 PM	Media Room at the Museum
June 20	Photography Class	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Media Room at the Museum
June 23	Shaver Lake Wine Tasting	12 – 4 PM	Media Room at the Museum
June 27	Photography Class	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Media Room at the Museum
July 1	Steam Donkey Steam-Up	10 AM – 3 PM	Museum Parking Lot
July 4	Photography Class	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Media Room at the Museum
July 7	Sierra Voices Presentation	1 – 3 PM	Media Room at the Museum
July 8	Pancake Breakfast	7 – 11 AM	S.L. Community Center
July 8	Guitarist Anson Brown	6:00 PM	Amphitheater at the Museum
July 9	Watercolor Class for Beginners	10:30 – 12:30 PM	Media Room at the Museum
July 11	Photography Class	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Media Room at the Museum
July 15	SJ&E 100 Year Celebration	10 AM – 3 PM	Museum Parking Lot
	Steam Donkey Steam-Up	10 AM – 3 PM	Museum Parking Lot
	Ice Cream Social	2 – 4 PM	Museum
July 16	Watercolor Class for Beginners	10:30 – 12:30 PM	Media Room at the Museum
July 18	Photography Class	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Media Room at the Museum
July 21	Pine Logging Camp Picnic	1 PM	Pine Logging Camp
July 23	Watercolor Class for Beginners	10:30 – 12:30 PM	Media Room at the Museum
July 25	Photography Class	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Media Room at the Museum
July 30	Watercolor Class for Beginners	10:30 – 12:30 PM	Media Room at the Museum
August 4	Black Pot Cook-Off (Tickets in Advance)	TBA	S.L. Fishing Club
August 6	Watercolor Class for Beginners	10:30 – 12:30 PM	Media Room at the Museum
August 11	Sierra Voices Presentation	1 – 3 PM	Media Room at the Museum
August 18	Steam Donkey Steam-Up	10 AM – 3 PM	Museum Parking Lot
	Old Timer's Picnic	TBA	Edison Campground
	Fundraiser Dinner (Tickets in Advance)	5:30 PM	S.L. Community Center
September 2	Steam Donkey Steam-Up	10 AM – 3 PM	Museum Parking Lot
	Sierra Voices Presentation (Native American Culture)	11 AM – 3 PM	Museum
September 8	Sierra Voices Presentation	1 – 3 PM	Media Room at the Museum
October 13	Sierra Voices Presentation	1 – 3 PM	Media Room at the Museum
October 21	Steam Donkey Steam-Up	10 AM – 3 PM	Museum Parking Lot
Nov 23 & 24	Children's Holiday Crafts	11 AM – 2 PM	Museum
Dec 1, 8, 15	Chamber Holiday Crafts	11 AM – 2 PM	Museum

**DATES AND TIMES MAY VARY – PLEASE CALL THE MUSEUM FOR CONFIRMATION**

*See following pages for details on specific classes*





# 2012 OUTDOOR ART CLASSES

*Classes are open to adults, children 12 years and older,  
and younger children accompanied by adult*

*Cost of each class is \$15 for each two hour session.  
Additional \$5 for Photography Class critique.*



June 20	Photography Class – 9:30 am – 11:30 am Instructor – David Hunter	Media Room at the Museum (Bring your own digital camera)
June 27	Photography Class – 9:30 am – 11:30 am Instructor – David Hunter	Media Room at the Museum (Bring your own digital camera)
July 4	Photography Class – 9:30 am – 11:30 am Instructor – David Hunter	Media Room at the Museum (Bring your own digital camera)
July 9	Watercolor Class for Beginner's – 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Instructors – Deanna Bristow and Mary Street	Media Room at the Museum (Supplies are provided)
July 11	Photography Class – 9:30 am – 11:30 am Instructor – David Hunter	Media Room at the Museum (Bring your own digital camera)
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**DATES AND TIMES MAY VARY**

**PLEASE CALL THE MUSEUM FOR CONFIRMATION**

**Call (559) 841-4478 or (559) 855-8277 to make a reservation. Please leave a message  
stating your name(s) and a phone number where you can be reached.**

**CSHS Board of Directors**

**Executive Director, President: John R. Mount Vice-President: Linda Clague**

**Secretary: Patrick Emmert Chief Financial Officer: Patricia A. Towne**

**Curtis Blasingame, John Boogaert, Gerre Jones, Robert Knapp,**

**James G. Palmer, Walt R. Reinhardt, John Sthol, Jeff Young**

**Newsletter Editor: Jean Larsen**



## CSHS VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS 2011 & BEYOND

*As we move into the 2012 Museum Schedule,  
we would love to share some highlights  
of the way that volunteers have served the  
Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum in 2011.*

Volunteers generously donated well over 5,000 hours to CSHS in 2011. This is equivalent to nearly 2 full time staff!

As a volunteer organization we are always in need of volunteers who will help us to carry out our mission in preserving the region's history. No experience is necessary – we will be glad to show you what to do and you will have a good time doing it. Many of our volunteers have been with us for years and have enjoyed the fellowship of like-minded members.

Among the *many* great volunteers that generously donate their time to us are the following:

**Norm Kato**, owner of Shaver Lake Coffee & Deli. Norm is an absolute asset to the Shaver Lake community and supporter of the Museum. When CSHS needs catering Norm is always willing and ready to help. Not only does he prepare a wonderful spread for us, but he donates his time and expense. Thank you, Norm, from the bottom of our hearts.

**Bob Conry** is the master woodworker who is putting up the paneling in the museum. He is also one of the volunteers on the Caboose No 50 Restoration Project. Bob lives in San Diego but twice a year he brings his 5<sup>th</sup> wheel to Camp Edison and stays for a month at a time to work on different needs at the Museum. His work is invaluable to us. With the completion of the Caboose, and the last of the paneling going up this spring, we hope we will continue to see Bob make the trip up from San Diego to help us with other projects. We would certainly miss him!

**Dave Nehring** is the volunteer extraordinaire of the area. We are very lucky to have him on board. Dave is what you would call a “jack of all trades”. If we need him, he'll be right there. He is one of the volunteers on the Caboose No 50 Restoration Project and assists Bob Conry with the paneling in the museum. Like Bob, we hope Dave will continue to volunteer his services to us.

**Volunteers truly make a difference in supporting our staff. Their contributions of time and talent allow CSHS operations to be more efficient and cost-effective. We are looking forward to 2012 as we focus on providing the best services to our community. Please call the Museum at 841-4478 to inquire how you can be a volunteer.**

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY MOURNS DEATH OF HELEN GROSSMAN

Helen Grossman, long-time resident of Shaver Lake and one of the most ardent supporters of the Central Sierra Historical Society from its very inception, died February 21, 2012 at her daughter's home in Three Rivers. She was 89. Those who knew Helen will miss her ardent spirit and always-positive attitude towards everything; as well as her little blue Jeep barreling over Kaiser Pass.

One of Helen's last requests was for donations in her name to the Central Sierra Historical Society and Museum!

## CSHS WEBSITE UPDATED!

Hurray for Nathan Mino and Brian Clague, who volunteered to do a makeover for the CSHS website, [www.sierrahistorical.org](http://www.sierrahistorical.org), and to bring its pages up-to-date. The updated site was launched on March 11. Nathan & Brian's special interest in bringing Central Sierra history to the public runs in the family. Nathan's mother and Brian's wife is Linda Clague, Vice-President of the CSHS Board of Directors.

We encourage you to check out  
[www.sierrahistorical.org](http://www.sierrahistorical.org)!

## MUSEUM WISH LIST

The Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum received In-Kind Donations worth over \$10,000 in 2011. These are dollars saved which help us to preserve our region's heritage and the donations are greatly appreciated. The donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Here is our current wish list if you would like to make a donation for 2012:

- 1 A projector for events at the Amphitheater
- 2 Patio Furniture
- 3 Office Supplies:
  - Laminator
  - Case of paper for printing projects
  - Postage Stamps
  - Toner for printer





P.O. Box 670  
(42642 Tollhouse Road)  
Shaver Lake, CA 93664-0617  
559) 841-4478, Fax 841-4479  
Email [CSHS@netptc.net](mailto:CSHS@netptc.net)

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U.S. Postage  
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Shaver Lake  
Permit No. 35

## Newsletter Spring, 2012

### 2012 MUSEUM HOURS

#### THE 2012 MUSEUM SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

April 12–May 20 – Thursday-Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting)  
May 24–September 9 – 7 Days A Week from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
September 13–December 16 – Thursday-Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting)

*STOP BY THE MUSEUM TO SAY HELLO TO BECKY, KATIE AND PAMELA*

#### How to Reach Us

Central Sierra Historical Society    P.O. Box 617, 41777 Tollhouse Rd.    Shaver Lake, CA 93664  
559/841-4478, fax 841-4479    E-mail - [cshs@netptc.net](mailto:cshs@netptc.net)    [www.sierrahistorical.org](http://www.sierrahistorical.org)

*For rapid response to your questions and to receive information via E-mail,  
send your electronic address to [cshs@netptc.net](mailto:cshs@netptc.net).*

#### *Mission Statement of the Central Sierra Historical Society*

*The mission of CSHS is to enrich the cultural and educational experiences of visitors to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, by deepening their understanding of the human and natural history of this area. CSHS hopes to inspire future generations by bringing to life the challenges and achievements of the people who lived here.*

*It is the goal of CSHS to construct and operate a first-class museum and learning center near Shaver Lake that will preserve the heritage of the Central Sierra. CSHS will provide educational programs and activities to the public, it will preserve and protect historical artifacts, and it will work in partnership with other organizations to further the study of the history of this area.*