

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

NOTICE:

The February and subsequent meetings will be held at the Senior Citizen Center at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn.

This newsletter reflects the proposed change to a limited monthly newsletter, with quarterly multi-page newsletters.

Please forward any comments, suggestions or ideas for trips or other activities to me for consideration and information.

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In this Issue...

Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held on 7:00PM Thursday February 23rd. in the Multipurpose Senior Citizen Center at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn.

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$20.00
Family Membership = \$25.00

- Monthly Newsletter
 - Member Activities, Presentations and Field Trips
 - Display & Restoration Projects
- PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776
Colfax, CA 95713

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Monthly Newsletter

President's Note: February, 2006

When I checked our Society's PO Box in Colfax last Saturday, I pulled out a letter from Michael Doe in Stillwater, MN. In it was a check for his membership dues. As I was unaware that we had a member in Minnesota, I immediately called the phone number on the check to thank this person for supporting our Society.

I soon found out that Michael had been a member since the middle of last year. As usual another name of a person in our Society that I didn't know. For me that is nothing unusual as I get that same complaint from my children. In talking with Michael, he told me that he had wandered through Colfax on a road trip and ran into Roger Staab who filled him in on bits of information on the Donner Pass Route. Michael's passion is the engineering of the construction of the Donner Pass Route over the Sierras, not railroads per se. Roger directed him to Bloomer Cut which he later sought out and visited.

I told Michael that I share his interest in the construction aspects of the line as I was, until recently, employed as a professional engineering geologist. Michael hopes to return our way again some time so I invited him to give us a heads-up so we can include him on one of our future field trips to one of the many long forgotten locales on the Donner Pass Route.

Thinking who else don't I know, I checked our membership list. I noticed that we now have a few members that live out of our immediate area about three members in the Bay Area and, of course, Dick Whitney who relocated from Applegate to Idaho (what were you thinking, Dick?). It's good to see our membership grow to include people that live far afield but share a mutual interest to preserve the history of the Donner

Pass Route. I wonder how long will it be before we get members supporting our Society from foreign countries? After all, we often get visitors on vacations from Europe photographing the Donner Pass Route. You can always tell who they are, all lined up with their expensive cameras mounted on tripods straddling the mainline track in Colfax waiting for the next freight to come along.

The good thing about people joining our Society from out of the area is that our Society's existence and Mission becomes more publicized. The bad thing is that there are more folks whose names I won't be remembering!

Don't forget the meeting topic of February 23rd. Brendan Compton will share his video taped interview of a long time resident of Blue Canon. Isn't our new meeting location at the De Witt Center great? Thanks to Ron Petersen for lining that up for us.

February Meeting Presentation:

The video is of Brendan Compton's interview of Nancy Longnecker who moved to Blue Canon in 1932. She was of a family of railroaders for the SP. Her great grandfather was an engineer for the Central Pacific Railroad; her grandfather was an engineer and road foreman for the SP and her father an engineer also for Southern Pacific.

Nancy's aunt & uncle bought the old hotel in Blue Canon, the grocery store, bar and her cousin ran the bar there. The family was originally from San Francisco but they learned to be country people.