

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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To:

## *PSRHS Activities & Events...*

### Editor's Comments

June's field trip to Donner summit was very enlightening and enjoyable. Having member historians Norm Saylor, Jack Duncan and Ken Yeo providing their knowledge of the history of the summit area, roads and railroads over the years made for a memorable trip.

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 at 7:00PM Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. in the Multi-purpose Senior Citizen Center on D Ave. at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn. Call (530) 346-9607 for more info.

### **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 ---July 2007

### *July Meeting Program:*

The presentation for our July 26 meeting will be made by Society member Roger Staab. Roger will show a photographic history of the Colfax Depot through various historic periods of the CP, SP and UP railroad operations culminating with the complete renovation of the building in 2007.

### *June Field Trip to Donner Summit:*

On June 23, 2007, a group of about 20 members of the society held a field trip around the summit. Several members led the discussion about the history of the railroads and the various facilities that existed over the years.

Norm Saylor, who was connected to the Donner Ski Ranch for 20 years or so, shared his considerable knowledge regarding the location of the summit turntable and various building and rooming houses located in this area. Remnants of the turntable pit are still visible.

The group then proceeded through the abandoned Tunnel 6. In the center of the tunnel there is a vertical shaft which was dug from the surface above down to the tunnel so that work constructing the tunnel could be extended outward from the middle. This provided for four working faces during the tunneling operation.

Beyond Tunnel 6, Jack Duncun, a well versed expert on the old roads and highways, pointed out various remnants of the grades of various roads. These included an early wagon road, U.S. Forest road, Lincoln Highway and Old Highway 40.

Also included in the trip was a close view of the old Chinese Wall. This hand laid, random stone wall was constructed east of Tunnel 7 to support the railroad. Another site viewed was the old concrete underpass which was constructed for the Lincoln Highway, allowing it to pass under the railroad. Jack stated that this underpass was the first one built in California.



East Portal Tunnel 6



Chinese Wall

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