

Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

"Head Tower News" A "Boomtown Memories" newsletter

BOOMTOWN MUSEUM: 1525 Median St., City of Shasta Lake
Museum Hours: 9-1 M/T/W and 2nd Saturday Closed on Holidays: Call 275-3995

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www.shastalakehistorical.org— FB Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

Volume 17 #55 Issue3

IT'S RAINING- IT'S SHINING! LET'S ROLL.....

Nov/Dec 2021

"It's raining, it's pouring,"... what a wonderful sight it is! The parched earth is drinking its fill. The lake is rising, soon those relics of past that arose from beneath the water will once again be covered by the cool rivers feeding Shasta Lake...AND we had a break in the showers for the 28th annual Shasta Lake Lions VETERANS PARADE!



L/R: John Duckett loaned his 1942 Dodge Weapons Carrier for our use. Bill Brown, Earl & Deb West & Joe Hampton at breakfast. Pancakes anyone? Ann Morningstar, Rose Smith & Pam Morgan dishing up food from SLFD, Matt Corbell & wife Lesta. Checking in parade entries, Shasta Lake Lions Joyce Ide & Ronda Bishop. Parade begins with Colors by American Legion; Greg Watkins (Paul Revere), Army helicopter, and what's a parade without the bagpipes of Jefferson Pipe Band, and our Central Valley High School Band! A great day to honor veterans; streets were lined with families waving flags and enjoying over 80 entries.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, VETERANS.....



November 6th

Smart phone? You bet, just ask the operator!

The first WIRE communication system was the Telegraph. A person would go to the telegraph office (i.e. Western Union) compose a short message, pay by the letter, and the telegraph agent would type out the message using the Morse Code (a series of various sizes of dots & dashes) as electrical signals over a single wire. The signals were received by a relay as short & long clicks and translated into the message.



Then, Alexander Graham Bell and others invented the telephone. Unlike the telegraph, the phone system required two wires (tip and ring) and was Voice communication! No more dots & dashes or visits to the telegraph office, the phone was in your own home! Example of early phones were the wooden wall phones and the “candlestick” phones (1890-1940’s). The wall phones had no rotary dials and required an “operator” to place a call. The phone receiver (speaker) was attached by a cord and rested on a holder known as a “hook switch”. You would remove the receiver, push the hook switch several times to get the operator and then talk into the phone. The operator would connect you to another person via a switchboard. The connection ended when you hung up the phone. Later phones



used a hand crank generator which would ring the phone bells to alert you for a phone call. Wooden box telephones on loan from *Del Hiebert & Rick Fox*, used a hand crank to ring the bell and our display shows the inner workings. Rick, “our resident techie” ran wire between two candlestick phones on loan from *Del Hiebert* and *Don Baldocchi* for a “hands on”; our visitors can pick up the receiver and “talk” across the museum floor.



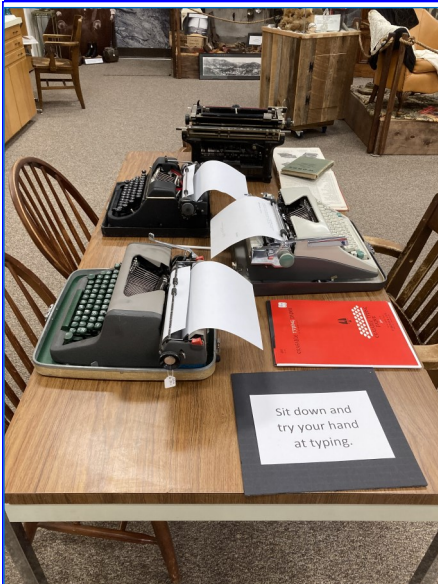
Telephone switch boards for early phone systems were located in the operator’s home who was available 24/7 for the calls. The switchboard used cables known as “patch cords” to make connections. As the number of uses increased, the switchboards were located in phone exchanges with several operators. With the advent of the “Rotary dial”, phone exchanges became automated using “rotary” switches (loud & noisy and located in separate rooms). Operators were still on hand for “Long Distance”, emergency, and directory assistance (*Number please?*)



On loan on display, is a switchboard from Handford, CA purchased at an auction by *Dr. Troy & Andrea Roach of Shasta Vet Clinic*. It is modular in construction in that additional lines can be added 10 at a time, each wooden box of lines can be stacked on top of each other increasing the capacity as customers increased. When many calls would come in at once, it could become a bit hectic. A “cool operator” was a must.

The displays bring back memories to “operators”; many visitors worked for the telephone company in Redding and have stories to share. *And, the more modern “party lines” in the 50’s certainly bring back memories with our green phone and rotary dial!*





New displays are happening all the time here at Boomtown Museum. This time, we thought it would be fun to remember some of the musical "instruments" used back-in-the-day. Some of us "oldies" remember the "clickety-clack, clickety-clack" of the ancient typewriters that used to peck out their own kind of rhythms. This table of hands-on "instruments" includes models of Underwood, Olympia and Royal donated by *Marlys Barbosa, Nancy Johnson and Del Hiebert*. And, there's a special invitation to sit down and type (*yep, they still work*).

Then there are some of the delightful ways that people were finally able to bring "canned" music into their homes. How much fun they must have had to crank up the old Victrola, set the stylus and listen to recordings of music of all sorts; ie, Tenor **Enrico Caruso**, the great **Sousa Marches**, or maybe a **Gene Autry** Western. Thanks to *Don Baldocchi, Darlene Brown & Karen Johnson* for the Victrolas & gramophone in mint condition. Just ask one of us to "crank" them up for a couple melodic tunes....



As the record-playing instruments improved—from gramophone cylinders to the 78 rpm flat discs to the popular 45s—so the music expanded into the decades. Early discs bring memories of Ragtime, Tin Pan Alley, Jazz & Blues, Country stars like **Ernest Tubbs** and **Hank Williams**. The Big Band era brought us such greats as **Glen Miller** and **Benny Goodman**. Most of us "senior folk" remember **Louis Armstrong** and **Ella Fitzgerald**, to say nothing of **Bing Crosby** and **Frank Sinatra**. **AND THEN THERE WAS ELVIS?** (We could go on and on...)

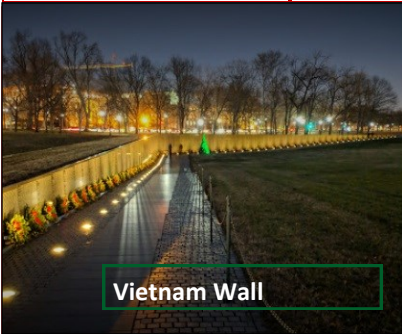


A cozy scene from the 1900's is a reminder of the days of gathering 'round the radio to get the latest news or entertainment. Families would sometimes sit in a semi-circle to "watch" the radio, as if the speakers or entertainers could actually be seen therein. They could "ride the range" with the **Lone Ranger**, solve the mysteries that **Only the Shadow Knows** or **Inner Sanctum**, laugh with **Bob Hope**, **Red Skelton** or **The Great Gildersleeve**. *Pete Droesch* brought in the "big" radio and *Don Baldocchi* the smaller Crosley sitting on top. For laughs, we have the early radio shows playing....

Another display case features vintage items like transistor radios, bongo drums, a "tonette", harmonica, "Red" Frisbee's accordion plus some unusual musical instruments such as a one-piece clarinet, a "Pianoette" zither, and a Violin Uke. Special family treasures on loan from *Mike Daniels, Darlene Rumboltz and Linda Stout*.

Need a program for your classroom, club or organization? We are happy to provide special "in house" tours on request. We can provide a meeting room when available. Just contact us to set up a date. We love to share our history.





In former newsletters featuring Veterans Day, we carried stories on those who served in the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and the “Korean Conflict”; while we thank ALL VETERANS for their service, *this issue we are honoring the Vietnam veterans*. In reviewing the histories of those “wars” and what causes, events and beliefs led up to the firing of the first shots, it is easy to discern the largest common denominator: POLITICS!

Vietnam was no exception to that fact. The conflict in that divided country was a manifestation of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies (i.e. Capitalism vs. Communism). Beginning primarily in 1954, North Vietnam wanted to unify the entire country under a single communist regime, modeled after those of the Soviet Union and China. The South Vietnamese government fought to preserve a Vietnam more closely aligned with the West; by 1965, supportive combat units were introduced by the U.S. and by 1969, more than 500,000 U.S. military personnel were stationed in Vietnam.

Most older Americans remember the newsreels, newspapers, radio and TV commentators’ coverage of that viscous conflict, in which so many of our forces were killed or destroyed in more subtle ways. One famous or infamous news coverage was of movie star Jane Fonda. An anti-war activist, in 1972 she toured Vietnam and earned the nickname “Hanoi Jane” for her comments, radio broadcasts against U.S. and for the photograph of her seated on an anti-aircraft gun in Hanoi. Fonda, now in her 80’s has since apologized to Veterans for her actions; but for many, they say they may FORGIVE but will never FORGET.

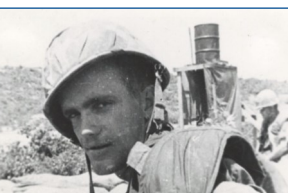


We also remember how deeply divided our own country became over that war. After much dissention at home and continuing defeats in Vietnam, the U.S. Congress and most of their constituents were ready to wash their hands of a long and futile war. All American troops were withdrawn by 1973*, the South Vietnam government surrendered, and in 1975 the Socialist Republic of Vietnam officially united that country.

While the 30 year struggle for control over Vietnam was over, it will never be over for the brave men and women who were sent to that conflict with less than adequate support - both physical and emotional. Many returned home to a lifetime of



Earl West at Vietnam Wall
September 2021



Sam Sowards, company
aid man, Marines '65/66

suffering the effects of that war. ***We remember them all and are grateful for their utmost efforts on our behalf.*** In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled in Washington, D.C. On it were inscribed the names of 57,939 American men and women killed or missing in the war; later additions brought that total to 58,200.

Central Valley High School Vietnam Veterans. Class of: 1959 Dick Terry, Loss White Jr.; 1960 Sam Sowards; 1961 Joe Scheimer; 1963 David J. DeCoste; Ross McFate, Wayne Miller, Gary Scheimer,

Arnie Streetman, Chuck Webster; 1964 Harry Bishop, Mike Bishop, Bob Fernandez, Don Spurgeon; 1965 Steve Cilenti, Ron DeCamp, Ernst Stephenson; 1966 Kirk Bishop, Pat Casady, Ed Hull, Greg Peterson, John Wyatt; 1967 Dennis Ellis; 1968 Jack Miller.

CVHS graduates who died during the Vietnam War. Class of: 1962 Larry Bertagna; 1963 Larry Grewell; 1966 Benjamin Alderson, Paul Black, and 1967 Marion Roach.



Dick Terry - drafted
1967, basic training TX



If you have any Veteran names, any year of service to add to our records, please send them to us for future articles. * The draft ended in 1973 and the U.S. Armed Forces became an all volunteer military.

A well-known “haunt” of all things Shasta Lake, former Shasta County Supervisor, SLHHS benefactor and *U.S. Navy Veteran, Steve Morgan*, shared a story regarding Mare Island Shipyard and the Navy Yard Association.

Steve and his wife, Pam, attended a gala event recently celebrating 100 years of the NYA of the Mare



The Coal Sheds in 2021

Island Shipyard. “The NYA knows how to throw a party and then to say goodbye. Almost all of the remaining 200 members showed up at the *Coal Sheds*. For those in attendance it was also a goodbye to the organization that at its peak had over 5,000 members. After the closure of the Shipyard in 1996, the NYA continued to flourish offering benefits to its members, but as all good things come to an end, so did the NYA. This was a different type of reservation for the luncheon and reunion - you paid \$15 per person and when you attended, you got your money back! So in effect, it was free. How neat was that?!” Memories, mementos and tall

tales were shared by all at the *Whaleboat Room in the Coal Shed Brewery*, which they all felt was a great re-use of one of Mare Island’s nine historic Coal Sheds.



The *Coal Sheds* were built between 1898 and 1906, and date back to the good old days of steam ships and are located along the waterfront near the northern end of the historic shipyard. The coal sheds are significant chiefly as a reminder of how quickly the technology of ship propulsion changed from the late 19th century through the early decades



of the 20th century. The buildings were constructed in 1903 to serve as a fuel depot for coal-burning ships that stopped at Mare Island. However, they served in that capacity for little more than a decade, as the Navy quickly abandoned coal in favor of diesel and other petroleum-based fuels.

During WWII, *the shipyard employed more than 39,000 civilians on Mare Island*. The workers came from all parts of the United States, including many from the *Shasta Dam* workforce. The diverse work force was needed to send back to battle 1,227 ships. SLHHS members *Del Hiebert* and *Gail Clarke* said their fathers worked in the shipyards. *Ann Allison*, 96 years young in December, said her job was the maintenance and cleaning of periscope lenses for submarines and where she met her sailor and future husband, Frank Allison.

In later years, *the Morgans* and *Pete & Merian Droesch* worked in the yard, called NIMSY by all. Pete & Merian worked on related naval activities until 1994; Merian’s father retired from there.

Yes, history gives usIn 1854, Commander David Glasgow Farragut USN took command of Mare Island and *forthwith warned off all of the squatters*. His orders were to build the first Naval Facility and Shipyard on the west coast of the United States. The shipyard was to serve the US Navy for 140 years until its closure in 1994. Farragut later became the first full admiral of the US Navy.



“She didn’t do it, but she was supposed to -- break the champagne bottle on the bow of the *Theodore Roosevelt*, first Polaris submarine built on the West Coast, and launched at Mare Island on October 3, 1959. Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of the late President for whom the ship was named, was the sponsor. She was also the first, and last, sponsor who declined a dress rehearsal for the launching ceremony. She missed the ship when she swung the bottle, and in desperation threw the bottle at the ship and missed again. Fortunately, a member of the crew pulled the bottle up by the attached cable, and quickly smashed the bottle on the bow before the ship hit the water; a fine job as evidenced by the broken bottle held by the tearful sponsor.”

(Shipyard’s newspaper archives article)



Meet **MARCUS HOWARD**, the new barber in town! Marcus, a local guy, grew up in Cottonwood and graduated from West Valley in 2014. An Air Force *veteran*, 5+ years, was stationed in Germany where he met and married his wife, Julia.

Marcus is a new SLHHS business member

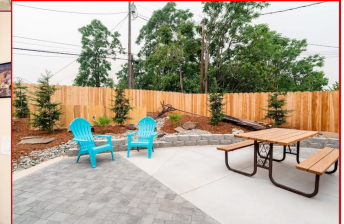
and wants to take part in community events. His barbershop is filled with memorabilia, personal photographs and SLHHS historical photos. He's located in the former Sal's Barbershop. Need a hot towel shave or a haircut? See Marcus at **SHASTA BARBER CO. 5232 Shasta Dam Blvd. 530-782-7305**



"A TOUCH OF CLASS" AND HISTORY - a new B&B in town!

Welcome new SLHHS business members, Mike & Diane Krueger. They have been in Shasta county for 27 years. This year they opened a rental on Shasta Dam Boulevard and the adjacent unit will open soon. Diane wanted to add history of the area to their charming renovated buildings, so

we found mining & dam photos for her décor - the entrance showcases a local mining cart. Looking for a place to stay when visiting or need for family from out of town? This is perfect! Google: *Air B&B "Touch of Class"* for more details.



Community Holiday Bazaar - Nov.13th



Caramel Corn, Mini breads, Apple slices, Jam and 13 different delicious homemade candies in our "Sweet Shoppe"....



Cooks: **DONNA ADAMS, CHARLOTTE BAILEY, DARLENE BROWN, DONNA DANIELS, SANDY ESTES, MARY HALE, PAT HARRISON, PATTI HOLMES, JOAN JENNINGS, PAM MORGAN, ANN MORN-INGSTAR, CONNIE STROHMAYER, DARLENE RUMBOLTZ AND DEB WEST.**

Sweet Shoppe sales at the Holiday Bazaar raised....drum roll please...\$1,245.00. yahoo!



Can you still double clutch Bill? And yes, he could!
Many thanks to *John Duckett*, retired City Manager, SLHHS Benefactor and a "Dam kid" (his grandfather worked on the Shasta Dam, his dad went to Toyon School) for providing a vehicle that Bill drove in the Veteran's day parade! John has a personal museum of WWII memorabilia and restored military vehicles. There were 7 of us riding in his WWII Dodge Weapons Carrier: *Earl & Deb West, Bill & I, Don Baldocchi and Pete & Merian Droesch* - The guys are Army & Navy Veterans.



NEWS: We love it when folks who grew up around here drop by like SLHHS members *Jim & Eileen Church Suchanek* from Sandy, OR. A "Toyon" kid, Eileen is cousin to Steve Morgan. After they left the museum, they headed for Shasta Lake.

We donated a basket of homemade jam to the CVHS FFA dinner - fun event. Raffle winner *Shirley Harrington* of Cathedral City, a guest of SLHHS benefactor, *Connie Strohmayr*, was delighted with her win! She'll be back again....

MORE NEWS: we have a new sidewalk from the museum to the storage building. *Donna Adams* is back as a Tuesday volunteer; *Charlotte Bailey*, a new volunteer.

Welcome to *Steve Morgan, Jim Pope & Greg Watkins* for joining our Financial Advisory Board.

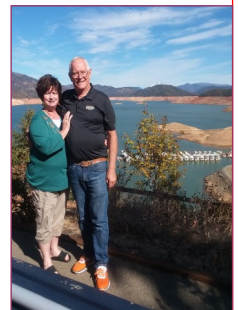
With 7 other non-profits & churches, it was a wonderful showing of community spirit at the Holiday Bazaar. ***Just a reminder***, we changed our *membership dues* to once a year, so for 2022 they are due in January, unless you paid recently - as of course, we gratefully accept your donation anytime.



1946 - Lighting of the Christmas trees in Boomtowns (l) Central Valley (r) Summit City. The tradition continues with the first annual **Lighting of the Christmas Tree at the new City Center Plaza**. Christmas Carols, hot chocolate, Santa, the Grinch & more. **5:30 -7:30pm Wednesday, December 8th** (should it rain it will move indoors).

TO ALL...**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

May the New Year bring blessings of peace and good health. *Darlene*



BOOMTOWN GIFT SHOP and Sandy's news.....



Ann's jewelry, Linda's crochet, Deb's pottery, Darlene's jams, Mary's wine bags & habanero jelly, St. Michael's bean soups, new books and much more!
Stocking stuffers & Christmas gifts




THANK YOU: Joy Corson for the antique big wheel from Mt. Copper Co.; Ann Morningstar- pencil drawings by Ab Burns and jewelry for our gift shop; Lois Goodner - photo of Leona "Noni" Burns. **THANK YOU** for significant "extra" monetary donations: Benefactors Bert Boothroyd, Marlys Barbosa and Roger & Janel Longnecker. WELCOME New members: Anderson Historical Society/Ron Joliff; Jeff Butcher, Shasta Lake; Lisa Grills, Shasta Lake; Brian Hargrave, Redding & Scott Powers, Shasta Lake.
Our sincere thanks to ALL OF OUR MEMBERSHIP, you are the reason we exist.

THE BOOMTOWN MUSEUM will be closed Dec.20-26th

Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society
P.O. Box 562 Shasta Lake, CA 96019
Visitors Center: *Boomtown Museum*
1525 Median St., Shasta Lake
530-275-3995
501c3 non-profit organization

IN MEMORIAM



 **David J. DeCoste**, 8/9/44-4/16/21 CVHS Class 1961, Air Force Veteran. Sister, Lois Goodner.

Betty Lamb Gallegos 10/18/2021 SUHS Class 1958




Matthew Goodman 8/19/81 - 11/10/2021 With a sad heart, remembering talented Matthew. He sang at our SLHHS dinners with the "Cerepa" sisters (his mother, Deb & Aunts, Yvonne & Karen).

Patricia Hayes Hanson 5/31/1943 - 9/16/2021

Barbara Kiedis Hunter 8/28/2021. SUHS. Barbara lived in CV from 1946-56. Her dad owned the Hitching Post, built the lumber yard next door & the bus stop on Shasta Dam Blvd.

Kay Phillips Housdorf - 4/2021. CVHS Class 1960. Sister - Karen Phillips Shadish, SLHHS Benefactor.

 **William "Bill" Pope**—3/22/1942-11/5/2021 Navy Veteran, attended Project City School, grew up in Pine Grove. Brother-James "Jim" Pope, SLHHS Benefactor.

P.K Taylor - 11/2020. Daughter, Andrea. P.K. loved the Damworkers' Reunions; his story is in our "Dam Kids" book. He drove the McColls Dairy milk truck during the dam construction years.

We try to be accurate but please, we are not liable for any additions, omissions, errors and/or corrections that may occur in this publication. Any photographs or material used may not be scanned and/or reprinted or reproduced without contacting us for permission of use. Thank you.

Darlene V. Brown, Editor and Alice Scarbrough, Asst. Editor

Love history? Become a member. Membership dues are renewable in January of each year.

NAME _____

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