

## HEAD TOWER NEWS

# Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

## "Head Tower News" A "Boomtown Memories" newsletter

BOOMTOWN MUSEUM: 1525 Median St., City of Shasta Lake

NEW - Museum Hours: M/F/S 9 -1PM

Call 275-3995 for Seasonal & Holiday schedule

Email: slhandhs@gmail.com / Correspondence: P.O. Box 562, City of Shasta Lake CA 96019

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

Volume 18 #57 Issue2

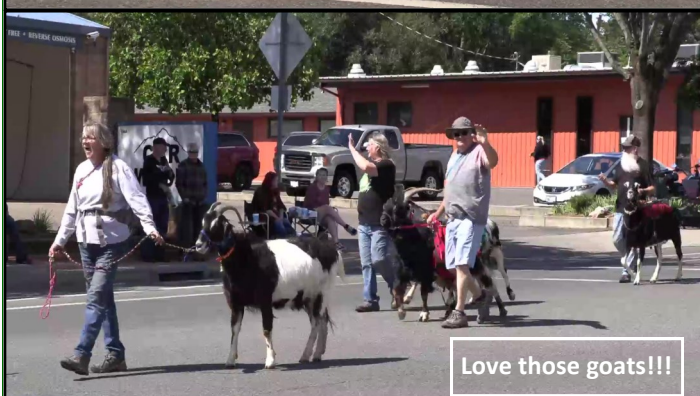
Everybody Loves a Parade!

September 2022



City Mayor Rick Kern riding in front of the CVHS Marching Band

The first Saturday in May every year, our city holds the "Damboree" - a parade and festival recognizing its origin in the Boomtowns in 1938 as the **"Hell's Gulch"** celebration - a fundraiser for the first school, Toyon Elementary, to be built in Summit City for children of the damworkers (existing today as Toyon Learning Center). Why name it **Hell's Gulch**? It was named that by the damworkers because it was so **HOT** down in the canyon during the construction of the dam! How **hot** was it? "Hot enough to fry an egg on a rock" said damworker, Ray Horner. And he did just that! "Pop" Brady owned the popular watering hole, **Hell's Gulch Saloon** in Project City. It was used as a school when Toyon overcrowded until PC school was built in 39/40. Today, PC School exists as Grand Oaks Elementary with a storage area that originally was the one room Union School of 1887.



Love those goats!!!



Photographs by Myra Buteau



City Councilman Greg Watkins and granddaughter Meghan riding on an 1946 Hay rake.....



Live music and more!

"SILVER DOLLAR CLUB" - is open downtown!!!

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.





### WELCOME SHASTA CLASSICS CAR CLUB

An amazing collection of vintage vehicles including two GTOs, a Ford Mustang and a Chevy Bel Aire descended on the Boomtown Museum on Saturday, May 21st. Club members enjoyed the exhibits and learning more about the area while visiting the Museum. They promised to come back in November when it will be transformed with military memorabilia to commemorate Veterans Day.

*If you are a member of a group or organization and would like to tour the museum, please contact us. We love sharing history. On the right are volunteers Gail, Karen and Rick welcoming everyone.*



**August 1958** Family of seven - Mom, Dad and 5 children, moving from Wisconsin to California. Dad driving the moving van with the dog and all the family belongings; Mom driving the station wagon with the five kids ranging in age from 5 months to 7 years and NO air-conditioning. *(Got the picture? Know how hot the Mojave Desert gets in August?)* With the little "air cooler" attached to the front passenger window, it was still plenty HOT in that car, especially in the back areas-making for miserable, cranky children at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Mom's fly swatter positioned on the dashboard couldn't quite reach to the fighting pair in the far back area of the car.



So, after pleading and threats failed to stop the squabble - Mom pulled over- marched to the rear, opened up the back end, reached in and soundly swatted the two fighting culprits. She was not without an audience however. A passing truck driver honked loudly as he whizzed by *(disapproval or celebration?)* All was calm (for the moment). Mom promised to stop at the next air-conditioned opportunity and take everyone inside for a cool drink. She honored that promise. As they sat at a table sipping cokes - *who should walk in but the same "honking" truck driver!* Mom was a little concerned that he might be critical of her actions. But instead of disapproval, he quickly marched up to her and said, "I just want to shake the hand of a woman who knows how to take command!" As further celebration, before he left he paid for their drinks and wished them well. *Hello California (Sept 1, 1958) Alice*

### Did you know...

That the 1954 FORD is the only car in the low priced field that offers these

FINE CAR FEATURES?



It was 1958 or '59, Charlie and I scored a double date. *Crucial issue, what were we going to do?* We liked to go to the pizza parlor on South Market in Redding (sometimes if lucky, we got a beer). We didn't intend to get a beer that night and risk offending our dates, but still the pizza parlor was a cool place to go. *(Charlie & I were there when Eddie Machen personally integrated the pizza parlor by whipping Bucky Stone in the parking lot. But that's another story).* So back to this story.

Transportation was an issue having no car, but somehow Charlie managed to borrow his mother's 1954 Ford Tudor - super clean & neat. The night arrives; good vibes at the pizza parlor. We left in plenty of time to take the girls home (high hopes). Charlie & Kitty Lou in the front seat, Georgia & I in the back. Heading for CV, Charlie did everything right- correct lane, left turn signal on waiting for oncoming traffic, when all of sudden BAMMM! *Rear ended.* Bounced around but no one hurt. Cops came. The night was over. Hopes dashed; thwarted again. The car was drivable; the girls were taken home. *Now to explain to his Mom.* We lived close to each other so...I left that up to Charlie while I walked home; I have always been generous that way. *Pat*

### Who was Wynne Price? Why is WYNN PRICE BALL PARK AND ATHLETIC FIELD named after him ?

*Why indeed: Public places are named after people whose dedication of service "made a difference in their community".*

When people arrived to work at the Dam, many stayed to live in the Boomtowns after it was completed; but the living conditions were unsuitable for permanent residence. Thus the story of the men & women who were dedicated to the improvement of their community. Outstanding among those leaders who "made a difference" was a man named Winfield Stevenson Price. (*Wynn or Wynne for short*).

Price was an Army Veteran of WWI. Born in Washington 1895, he came to the Boomtown area with his family and found work on Shasta Dam. He chose to stay and live here after the Dam was completed and became a prominent businessman who owned and operated the W. S. Price Logging Co. in Central Valley. In our archives is a picture donated by the late Clarence Barger that shows his wife, Wanda, standing in front of the boat shop "C.L. Barger & Son" that was located on Shasta Dam Blvd. (*same building where the Pizza Factory is located today*). Notice that Clarence wrote on the picture "Price Lumber" in the left hand corner - the area enlarged shows lumber racks.



Within our collection are the PUD historical scrapbooks where we found the picture - *on the left* - of Shasta Woods Inc., Central Valley, CA 1948. Penciled beneath the photo was: Wynne Price Mill. In checking with the City Planning Dept., we learned that Wynne owned the property where the current city maintenance yard is but we will need to dig deeper into our research for property listings for the baseball field/park, as prior to 1955, the county records are only available on microfilm. More work forthcoming.

Price was active in the No. California Lumberman's Assoc., Shasta Dam Greater Area Chamber of Commerce, often acting as a spokesman for the Shasta Co. Lumber Industry; a Director on the Shasta Dam Improvement Association (precursor to PUD) and a local Kiwanian. Wynne and his wife, Hazel worked on the Hell's Gulch celebrations (Damboree), raising funds for the community to build schools and make other improvements.

*Perhaps among the many efforts for improvement was the most pressing issue of supplying water to the entire community. A newspaper article reads "In 1945, Price, Jonathan Tibbetts and Bruno Kloss got together and decided something had to be done."* For years, they worked toward this goal, tireless in their efforts to inform the public, get out the vote and ultimately set the stage for the creation of the Shasta Dam Area Public Utility District (PUD). Scrapbook articles describe Price in the 50's as one of the Directors that fought incessantly for water & power. *The story of the community's struggle is chronicled in our archives; therefore, we find the name of the late Wynne S. Price a name that should be honored and remembered for his service to his community.*

### What was the name of the restaurant at the intersection of Lake & Shasta Dam Boulevard in the 50'-60's?

The remains of a cement foundation exist, north west of the intersection - west of the present Toyon Learning Center. We're looking for pictures but haven't located one yet. So far, feedback has been a "chicken" and "hamburger place" called the Red Rooster in the 70's?. Have any info? *Let us know.....*



It was 1953 when my mom, dad, sister and I and my dog, "Trouble", pulled up stakes leaving Costa Mesa, California heading north to the Medford area. Mom was driving her '48 or '49 Cadillac pulling a home-made trailer; Dad was driving a '41 Ford 2 1/2 ton truck with just about everything else we owned. The truck broke down in Anderson. The parts on order were due in about 4 weeks! So....Anderson is where we stayed.

We purchased about 7 1/2 acres from Roscoe Tucker and rented a duplex while we built our new Ranch style house. *What a surprise the HOT summer was!* The duplex had no cooling so Dad improvised and used Mom's "Rocket Ship"-style vacuum cleaner. He removed the dust bag and *put ice cubes in its place*. The air was cooler but not by much. The vacuum was a little worse for wear and rusty after that. Mom was very glad to get a new "used" Electrolux vacuum a few years later. *Rick*

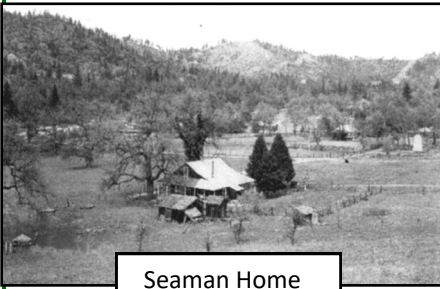






*Here at SLHHS, we are grateful for items and/or stories brought in to our museum for safe-keeping.*

SLHHS benefactor, Bert Boothroyd, recently gifted us with a collection of papers that he found among his mother Hazel's belongings. Hazel led an amazing life considering since age 15, she suffered a hearing loss that worsened over the years. Her story will be in the book we will be producing: *"Why Can't I?" Empowered Women of Shasta County*. Though Hazel has been gone for some time, the memories she journaled will live on in our archives of historical writings, reflecting happenings in *"the days before the Dam."*



Seaman Home

*Some stories were not only brief but interesting in their unusual ways:*

"In all of what was called the Shasta Dam area, including the towns of Summit City, Central Valley, Project City and Pine Grove there were only three dwellings. But the occupants of these homes, all living on dry farms, illustrated the type of people who followed them and gave these towns their character. One such pioneer was Porter Seamans, whose property would later be used by the Bureau of Reclamation and, as Toyon, would become headquarters for the construction of Shasta Dam. Toyon got its name from the bright

red so-called "Christmas berries" which flourished there. Seamans settled in the area during the Gold Rush and his family held onto the property after his death."

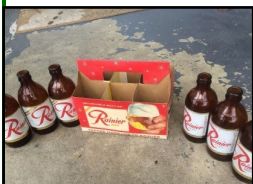
"Another early day inhabitant was George M. Sleezer who came to California after service in the Civil War and built a home on what is now the site of Toyon School (exists today as Toyon Learning Center) near Summit City. These were the days before we had rest homes, and so when illness made Mrs. Sleezer so large she could not care for herself, Sleezer found himself with a problem. Too small to move his wife, he got help from Mrs. Sleezer's aunt. He also built a wooden crib, into which he put his ailing wife. From a rafter, he attached a block and tackle with which he could pull the crib from side to side. There she remained until she died."



Mr. & Mrs. Sleezer

"And then there was Albert Rouge who lived behind the Sunset Inn on the western edge of Central Valley. Rouge was unmarried and had been an officer in the French Army, some said 'a war's end, having survived confinement in a German prisoner of war camp, he returned to Shasta County and his job in the woods. It was said he spent what money he could buying land and once owned almost a full section of Central Valley.'" (Rouge Road is named after him)

*"Stories of the days during the construction of the Dam"*



"According to Lyle Downing, an editor of one of the town's papers, 'There was no electricity or pavement in 1938. Red dust blew over everything.' At that time there were 600 CIO tunnel workers from New Jersey on the job. They were diverting the Southern Pacific railroad around the dam site. I forgot how many saloons there were, but there were plenty.\* Every Friday a fleet of beer trucks would pull up the road and start unloading cases by the hundreds, and on Monday morning the empty cases would be stacked along the road. *One Easter Sunday, the CIO staged an Easter Egg Hunt, but they hid bottles of RAINIER instead of eggs.*"

"Social life at the taverns was not overlooked, according to Jonathan Tibbetts, then a real estate dealer and Justice of the Peace. One tavern owner decided to boost his business by having a wedding performed in his place. Local merchants contributed gifts, the affair was widely advertised, and Tibbetts was chosen to officiate at the ceremony. Since the tavern lacked an altar, a substitute was provided by putting a plank over two beer barrels and then covering it with a cloth. Tibbetts a lover of good music, then decided there should be something appropriate for the bride and groom. He called up the distributor of juke box records for something special. So when the couple walked in, Tibbetts put a nickel in the juke box, and out came *The Wedding March from Wagner's Lohengrin*. At the ceremony's end, another nickel went into the juke box. This time it played the familiar wedding exit, *Mendelssohn's Wedding March*. And since it was wartime [WWII], the crowd sang *The Star Spangled Banner* before bargain' back to the bar."



*\*Note: There was no alcohol allowed within 5 miles of the Shasta Dam construction site.*

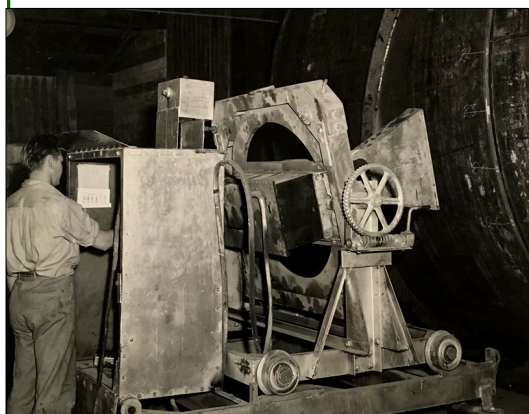
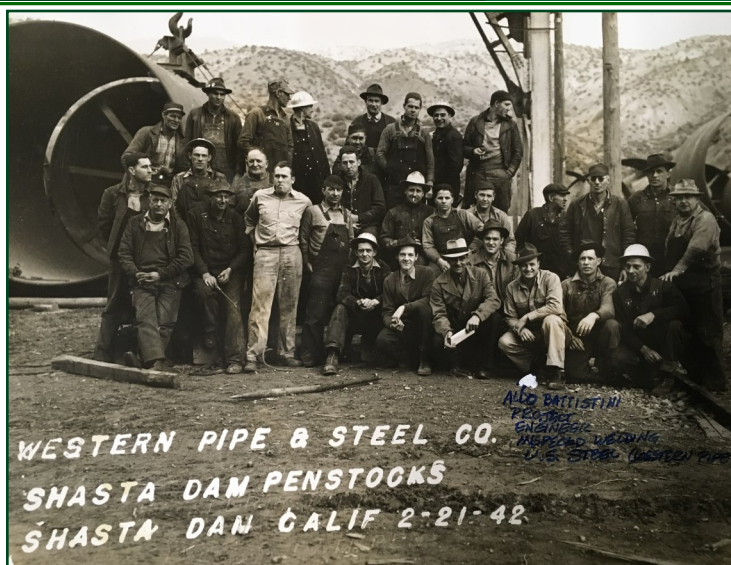




**D**onated to the society by his daughter, Jan Battistini, is an album full of photographs taken by the late Aldo Louis Battistini, who, as part of a team from Western

Pipe and Steel, South San Francisco, CA was a project engineer at Shasta Dam from 1940-43 during the assembly of the penstocks\*.

SLHHS volunteer Rick Fox (electrical engineer himself) was so impressed with the collection of Aldo's personal photos - as well as those taken by Howard Colby - that he added detailed descriptions thus enhancing the album so the viewer has a better knowledge of what the project was and how it was accomplished.



*Aldo & his team tested by x-ray the welds being produced by the welding machines that were assembling the penstocks onsite. Aldo was an electrical engineer, 1936 graduate of UC Berkley. As each weld was x-rayed by a very large machine, the x-ray photos were carefully inspected and eyeballed individually for impurities and imperfections. When they were found, the weld was removed, re-done and re-inspected.*

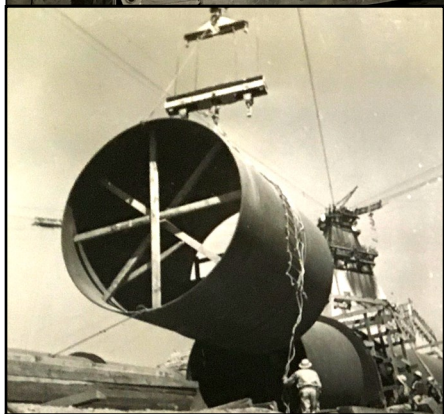
*Aldo married Elizabeth Maffei in January 1942. She accompanied him to Project City where she began her first year as a school teacher at Project City Elemen-*

*tary. She recalled living in a wooden cabin, torrential rain, thick red mud and having an iron pot-bellied stove for cooking and heating.*

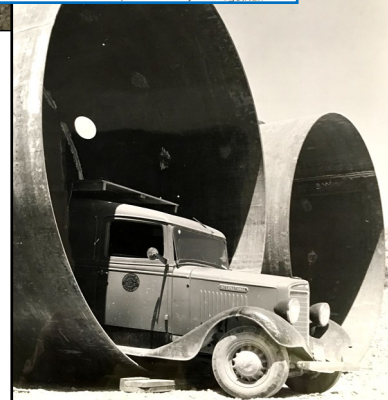
*When WWII began, Aldo & Elizabeth returned to the Bay Area where he continued to work for*

*Western Pipe and Steel (American Bridge). He was in charge of coordinating the installation of all electrical equipment aboard ships being built by the Maritime Commission at WP&S. Elizabeth continued teaching school, primarily in the San Mateo area.*

*\*Penstocks deliver water from Shasta Lake to the power plant where the generators produce clean hydroelectric power.*

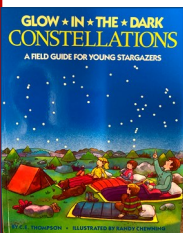


Al and Elizabeth Battistini, Year 2000  
On 58th Anniversary, the last they had together

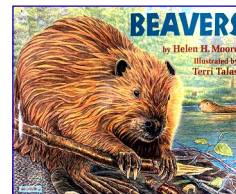




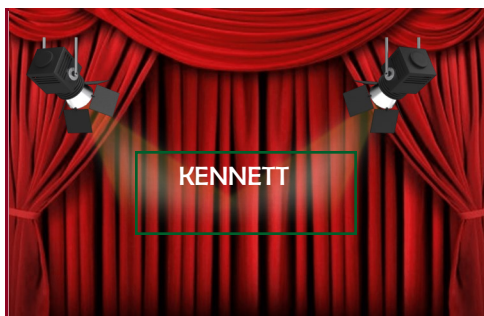
**MRS. FOX'S DEN** will be the location for a free storytelling hour from 10-11am at the Boomtown Museum on the second Saturday each month beginning on September 10, 2022. Karen Fox, a retired schoolteacher from Grand Oaks Elementary School will be reading stories from the Museum's Gift Shop for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade.



Karen acquires and maintains an outstanding selection of age appropriate, fun and educational books on relevant topics for the city's youth. Examples include: *Squirrels Who Squabble*, *Pete the Cat Goes Camping* and *Are you a Snail?* Children and their parents or guardians are invited to attend the fun hour as a public service to the community provided by the Shasta Lake Historical Society.



**Central Valley High School Alumni Association is holding an "All Classes" BBQ on Saturday, September 24th at the Ron Hale Memorial Stadium from 11- 4pm. \$15 for adults/\$7 for children 12 & under. A fundraiser for scholarships and more. Contact CVHSAA Pres. Jean Naylor 530-275-2877 for more weekend details.**



The Bureau of Reclamation, Myra Buteau Films and our Society will be sponsoring a free premiere showing of the new historical documentary, **"KENNETT"- The Town Under Shasta Lake.**

When and Where? Friday, October 7th - 2pm on the big screen in the theatre at the Shasta Dam Visitors Center.

Myra produced the film and a book and will be available after the premiere to answer questions and sign books. We also carry the film and the book in our Boomtown Museum gift shop; Myra is a member & volunteer of SLHHS.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st



Come join us to **"Wine & Dine at the Diamond Saloon"** (was THE most popular watering hole in Kennett)

- 5-9 pm at the SL Community Center. A fun evening promises wine, hors d'oeuvres, music, fabulous dinner and a little historical/hysterical entertainment. Our way of saying THANK YOU to our members for their continuous support - a Special price of \$30 a person, \$50 a couple and \$200 for a table of eight.
- Get a group together and reserve a table or enjoy meeting new friends for an evening of good times.
- Invitations with all the details will be mailed out in September. Limited seating—so please RSVP early.

## 29th Annual VETERANS' DAY PARADE - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH - 10AM

RAIN OR SHINE



**"Honoring Men & Women Who Serve Past, Present and Future"**

**The largest Veterans Parade in Northern California is in the City of Shasta Lake**  
Shastalake@ yahoo.com or contact: Ronda Bishop 530-275-5530 for entry forms  
6-10 am Pancake Breakfast at Fire Hall  
Immediately following the Parade - Luncheon at American Legion Post#720

## VETERANS' DAY TRANSFORMATION AT THE BOOMTOWN MUSEUM

**OPEN - AFTER THE PARADE until 2 pm** - Honoring Veterans of all branches of service with local stories, displays, artifacts and memorabilia. **We are in need of an Air Force and Coast Guard uniform on loan. Please contact us if you can provide one.** Open M/F/S - the displays will be up Nov/Dec/Jan.

Hello All. I hope this finds you all doing well. My apologies for the tardy newsletter. This has been a difficult year for our family with the loss of our brother-in-law Don Cross and his wife, Barbara (my husband's sister). More about them is in the story below. Then, a few medical issues happened; but finally, all seems to be good. I was told that Ruth Fish turned 100 in January this year.



Elmer & Ruth



*Happy Birthday Ruth!* One of our Benefactors, she was married to Elmer. We have several great items on display in the museum from the family thanks to their son, Mike, also a Benefactor.

*\* If you have any photos of Veterans to add to our collection, contact us! \*NOVEMBER 12th - Community Holiday Bazaar \*Seeking help for our dinner, docents for the museum and help at the Bazaar.*

So, give us a jingle and let us know when and how you can help. Thanks and stay cool....Darlene

THANK YOU FOR THE NEW MEMBERSHIPS, RENEWALS AND DONATIONS: **YOU are why WE are.....**

*Memberships are due January each year BUT we gladly accept them at any time - so thank you all for your support.*

NEW gen. memberships: Lori & Jason Lindell/Shasta Lake; Michael & JoAnn Montgomery/Shasta Lake; Andy Thorne/Cottonwood; Scott Stinson/Redding (Scott loaned us Military equipment for our upcoming display); Al & Barbara Cocchi/Redding; Lethia Draisor/Redding; William Brown/Redding; Barbara & Dan Barr/Redding; Cathy Jones/Shasta Lake and Victoria Williams/Redding.

Renewals gen. membership: Jean Nilson/Redding; Georgia Haddon/Redding; K.&Y. Stevenson/Redding; Sammie Wolf/Shasta Lake; Ann Allison/Shasta Lake; Rebecca Butt-VanSickle/Shasta Lake and S. & N. Mercado/Shasta Lake. Renewals & New Benefactors:

Carla Thompson/Shasta Lake; Dwain Harty/Redding; Rod & Debbie Kelley/Shasta Lake; "Junior" White/TX; Joe Hampton/Redding; Lena Locke/Redding; J. & H. Jones/Shasta Lake; Kiwanis Club of Shasta Dam; Jean Naylor/Shasta Lake; Ruth Ann Kobe/Shasta Lake; Pat Coyle/Santa Rosa; Joan Jennings/Redding; J & C Lugo/Redding; Charlotte Bailey/Redding; Joan & Bert Fackrell/Shasta Lake; Mike & Donna Daniels/Redding; B & D Brown/Shasta Lake; Rick & Karen Fox/Shasta Lake and D & G Hiebert/Redding.

Donations: Benefactors: Lena Locke \$1000 on behalf of her mother "Granny Rader"; Bert Boothroyd \$500 "for whatever you need"; Sam Sowards \$200 membership and "more"; Jean Naylor \$100 in memory of Ronnie and K. & A. Barbosa \$500 for mannequins.



**Thanks Lynn Pascoe** for the kudos- the kind words for our museum & volunteers and the new memberships! July 2022 - "Hi There! Thank you for all you have done to make our Shasta Lake Museum a vibrant & exciting place for folks of all ages and interest levels. The rotating displays, hands-on activities, gift store & awesome volunteers are incredible! Because we are interested in your newsletter & want to support your organization, enclosed is a check for five (5) different family memberships: Howard & Jean Peterson/Shasta Lake; George & Cordia Hoyt/Shasta Lake; Barbara Bambauer/Redding; Joe & Karen Pascoe/Hartford WI; and Don Mills & Lynn Pascoe/Shasta Lake."



**Don 11/18/1928 - 4/16/2022 Barbara 8/07/1933 - 5/7/2022**

Don Cross (A Dam Kid) and his wife, Barbara Brown Cross (Another Dam Kid). Don's family story is in our book, as well as Barbara's, but that is only scratching the surface. Between the two of them, they contributed a lifetime of service to the community. Their families both arrived here in 1938 and their fathers worked on Shasta Dam.

Don was a Korean War Veteran then went to work for PUD (later USBR). He served on the Damboree committees and the local School Board.

Barbara was a school nurse and in 2001 co-founder of Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society. Together they worked for the unification of schools and formed the committee for the success of the incorporation of our city. They were chosen as Citizens of the Year together in 2019. We have wonderful photos and stories in our archives thanks to their sharing. Don always had a big smile, Barbara was always most gracious and they were inseparable. They are truly missed by all.....

*Memorial Donations in memory of Don & Barbara Cross: Bill & Darlene Brown; Carol H Taylor & Cynthia Simmons/Roseville; Marilyn Bohn/Redding; Kay Kobe/Shasta Lake; Heritage Plaza Phase1/Redding; Matt & Darlene Rumboltz/Round Mountain; Joan Wilburn/Reno NV; Linda Beaver/Shasta Lake; Connie Strohmayer/Redding; Richard & Judy Smith/Shasta Lake; Ron & Nicki Chambers/Shasta Lake; June Romano/Claudia Steinkamp/ Kamiah ID and Nancy Brewold-Johnson/Medford, OR.*

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**



**Mavis Brock** 2/13/1926 - 4/21/2022 (Husband was Damworker "Jim" Brock). A lovely lady, her granddaughter Carrie Kibler and husband, Matt are SLHHS Benefactors.



**Marylin Chase Landry** 3/1/1944-2/27/2022. CVHS 1961 Father was a Damworker and the family lived in Toyon.



**Margaret Gardner** - 2/5/1929 - 6/6/2022 SLHHS member. Husband Robert Gardner's parents Fred & Fawn built the El Rancho Motel, Fawndale Trailer Park & Motel.



**Henry "Butch" Hurlhey** 7/26/22 - A SLHHS volunteer and Board member since 2008, he called himself the "Help Gorilla". SLHHS nominee and recipient for Damboree's Volunteer of the Year 2018. Butch was a craftsman. He spent most of his life customizing cars and received national recognition. He & his wife Bonnie came in 2000 and our community was enriched. *Memorial donations by Kay Kobe; Shasta Lake Chamber of Commerce and Bill & Darlene Brown.*

**Gloria McGruder** - 7/19/2022 son Bryan/ SL Chamber of Commerce. Memorial donation Kay Kobe; Shasta Lake Chamber of Commerce

**Bill Miller** - 10/4/1947-6/4/2022 Wife, Lynni is a SLHHS Business member - owns Antique Cottage in Shasta Lake .



**Rosemary Walter** 3/4/1933-3/10/2022 Husband, Darrel. SLHHS Business members and owned Rosemary's Antiques/Shasta Lake. Rosemary was a Co-founder of Shasta Lake Garden Project . *Memorial donations- Bill & Darlene Brown*

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NEWSLETTER - check ☐ email OR paper? ☐

Please check the applicable boxes:

Individual ☐ \$10 Family \$25 ☐

Business ☐ \$25 Benefactor \$100 ☐

*We sincerely appreciate your support to keep history alive.*

### **Board of Directors:**

President: Darlene Brown 604-7771  
Vice President: Mike Daniels 275-2672  
Recording Secretary: Rick Fox  
Treasurer: Kay Kobe  
Directors:  
Pete Droesch, Sandy Estes,  
Del Hiebert and Lena Locke