



*The Cobblestones of Historic Events
Pave the passing Years' Pathway*

C O L F A X
A R E A H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

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F A L L P H O T O G A L L E R Y



Gertrude Paul at Railroad Days Quilt Show

Her Dresden Plate Quilt in the background
Photo by Rebecca Martinez



Railroad Days September 26

Anne Begin watching the model trains
Photo by Teri Murch



Scenes of Colfax Quilt

Hand Embroidered & Quilted By Melba Wren

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M U S E U M U P D A T E

CAHS Heritage Museum
99 Railroad Street
Open: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Daily

CAHS members receive 10%
discount in the Gift Shop

Exhibits for September and
October: are the Lobner, Kneeland,
Kuenzly family collections.
A spectacular gift of artifacts
from Brenton Lobner was received
8/21/09
December Exhibit:
Doll collection

Visitors for Month of September
1,135
Visitors year to date 6,130
Founders Day Visitors 550

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME
Museum help is always welcome,
and encouraged
Contact Helen Wayland, or
stop by the Museum
We need you!
Contact Helen Wayland

**PROGRAM: FIELDTRIP OCTOBER 17 TO
VISIT A VERY SPECIAL MINING MUSEUM**

**Meet at
the Main
Street
Parking
Lot 9am**

In October, we will be going on a fieldtrip on Saturday, October 17, to visit the home of Mike Nevius in Nevada City. This will take the place of our normal Thursday evening meeting. Mike's home is a veritable museum of lovingly restored mining equipment from many of the local mines and mining camps throughout the Sierra Goldfields. Mike has amassed and restored a considerable collection of very important pieces of mining equipment from both underground gold

mines as well as the hydraulic mines that were once a common occurrence throughout our area. Mike restored most of the historic mining equipment on display in public areas throughout Nevada County. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about how the equipment was used to get out that yellow metal! We'll meet in Colfax about 9AM in the parking lot behind Calamity Jane's to distribute maps for directions or to arrange carpools. We'll return about 1pm.

Things to bring: bottle of water and a snack if you wish, sunscreen, hat and your camera!

Call Jim Wood at 320-1276 for more information.



**Old Stamp Mill in
Georgetown**

*Fall Chill in the
Air
A Nice Fire,
A Bowl of
Soup,
Warm Feelings
Inside & Out*

RECIPE FROM THE PAST

Time to start thinking about big bowls of steaming soup to enjoy with fresh baked bread

**Potato Soup
(mid-1800s)**

Boil & chop 1 medium onion. Boil & mash 6 run of the bin potatoes*: Blend the onions & potatoes, then add 1 quart of boiling milk. Work the soup well with a potato masher over

a low fire, strain it through a fine sieve into a saucepan: season with salt, pepper, 2 tablespoons melted butter. If the soup is too thick, stir in hot milk to suit. Serve piping hot with toasted and buttered bread.

Recipe from:
Grandma in the Kitchen
Helen Lyon Adamson

** I have no idea what run-of-the-bin potatoes are (bottom of the barrel?) - Teri*



CALL FOR ARTICLES

Dear Members, We need your help with articles or photographs for Cobblestones.

Please send articles or photographs to our editor Teri Murch at teri@LiveInColfax.com Include "Cobblestones" in subject field.

Articles can be in the most basic of text files. If you do not have email, please ask someone to type it for you and send it to Teri.

Photographs should be at highest resolution for best print quality. Teri can scan

them if you leave them at the museum and call her at 530-798-0215.

Next deadline for articles is January 8, 2010.

Thank-you



www.ColfaxHistory.org

BITS & PIECES

Call for Colfax Photos

Please share your history gems . 2010 is the Colfax City Centennial and CAHS is collecting pictures for a City of Colfax Anthology -100 Years of Incorporation. Please let us know if you have something that could be a part of this effort (we can scan what you have, our place or yours). Stop by the Museum or leave a message with your contact information at 402-9935.

Walt Wilson is working on setting up a speaker for February 2010. The speaker has written a book about his time on a PT boat with JFK. Tentative date Feb 20 at Memorial Hall



More Photos from the 2009 Railroad Days can be found at: www.LiveInColfax.com Go to Events Page Then click on Visual Tour Link

2009 CAHS Program Dates

February 19

April 16

July 16

October 17

2010

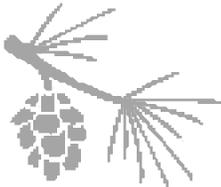
Feb 20- Note a Saturday

Exhibit of Interest at: The California Railroad Museum

THE RAIL SPLITTER AND THE RAILROADS: Lincoln, the Union and the Golden State

May 9, 2009 -Feb 15 2010

www.csrnf.org



TALES FROM THE PAST AS TOLD BY MARILYN TAYLOR

"Shared Memories are the String that Connects Us to the Past"

Story #1

My Father worked for the railroad and one day he was told by his supervisor to take the putt-putt car and go ahead of the train. He wasn't really thrilled about that because the train could go a little faster than the car but he said OK. He was alright going up the grade but going downhill from Truckee got pretty scary and the train was going pretty fast. When he got into Colfax he asked who was on the train. He was told it was Madam Chang Ky-Shek!



Photo by R. Martinez

Story #2

On another day my Father was riding on the rotary engine (it has blades in front that rotate to chew up the snow so the train can get through). They were going through a big snow bank when her father suddenly told the engineers to stop the train. They wanted to know why because you couldn't see anything outside. He said he didn't know why he just felt something was wrong. They stopped the train and when they walked around to the front of the train they found a skier laying just a few inches in front of the blades.



Do you have any stories you would like to share?

Please email them to the editor:

Teri@LiveInColfax.com

Subject line: Cobblestones



MEMORIES OF THE COLFAX HOTEL

Reprint from Vol 1 No. 4
January 20, 1986

An Interview by
Patricia Wilt with Jim
Henry
by Myrtle Findley

*A Place of
Comfort for
Weary
Travelers &
Hardworking
Railmen*

In 1935 Jim Henry came to live with his mother, Irma Grace Thompson, who had suffered a severe stroke leaving her partially paralyzed.

Jim's grandmother, Grace Stone had purchased the hotel that year from Mr. Dill (for \$8,000).

Jim's mother died in 1936 leaving him to the care of grandma Stone. His childhood proceeded with hotel chores and school at Colfax Elementary.

Jim recalls the very successful dining room seated about 100 people. Mrs. Stone's daughter, Bea and "Uncle Harold Smith" helped with cooking and maintenance. People would come from miles around to enjoy grandma's chicken and dumplings and the smell of her yeasty Parker House rolls permeated Colfax! They used oil burning stoves to cook and for heating.

Originally 56 rooms, each member of the stone family and employees had their own quarters, leaving 44 rooms available to travelers, though most rooms were inhabited by railroad engineers and firemen who resided elsewhere, but used the Colfax Hotel as their second home. (At the cost of approx. \$17.50 per week.) Railroaders were "on call" in Colfax to place the helper engines on trains which enabled them to pull loaded boxcars over Donner Sum-

mit. Grandma Stone serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner to this hard working group. When she knew one had an early shift, (say 3 AM) she would have a box lunch ready for him on the kitchen table.

The hotel was kept quiet as could be with respect to the men who worked various shifts and needed their sleep. Even the dining room conversation murmured.

After the Marvin Inn, which was located across the street from the Colfax Hotel, burned down, Mrs. Stone acquired the Greyhound and Burlington bus franchise, serving passengers in the dining room.

In 1944 Mrs. Stone sold the hotel to John Kaufman (for \$18,000).

Jim recalled some owners following Kaufman as: John Purcell, Downey and Roseberry, Henry Whoepner, who was a flutist for the Los Angeles



The Secret Spring House was located eight miles above the Forks House at an elevation of 5,486 feet on the Placer County Emigrant Road. In 1852 the road went from Yankee Jim's via Secret Spring House over the Sierra Nevada to the Washoe Valley in Nevada.

Symphony Orchestra! and the current owner is Carrie Brown.*

Myrtle's note: It was really interesting to talk to one who actually lived in "The Old Hotel".

*2009 Current Owner is Jim Payne

Photos from Images of America
MINING CAMPS OF PLACER COUNTY
by Carmel Barry-Schweyer and Alycia S. Alvarez pages 46 and 47
Available for sale in Gift Shop of Colfax Heritage Museum for \$20.00



On the road between Forks House and Secret Spring House, George West built the Westville Hotel, along with a large barn, a carriage house, and corrals. The hotel had a three-hole outhouse; two for adults and a smaller one for children.



CAHS MEMBERSHIP JOIN US!

Objectives:

To support and promote educational and research activities and interest in the history of the Colfax area; to promote and establish a local museum; to work with other Historical Societies and local groups; to discover, collect and make accessible to the public historical facts and objects; to mark places and building of historical interest in the Colfax area and cata-

log such markers in an orderly manner; to register historical landmarks and buildings' to accept gifts and donations from the public and other organizations and to raise funds to accomplish all the above.

Meetings:

General Meetings: 4/year

Executive Board: 4/year

Location: 99 Railroad Ave

Membership and Annual Dues:

Regular (single) Member :	\$10.00
Family (including children):	\$15.00
Junior (not included in Family):	\$ 5.00
Business (includes ad in <i>Cobblestones</i>)	\$25.00
Non-profit Organizations	\$25.00

Additional contributions are always welcome. Dues apply to fiscal year, July 1 to June 30 and are tax-deductible. Members receive a membership card and *Cobblestones*.

Make checks payable to: Colfax Area Historical Society. Send with your name, address, phone #, email address and amount enclosed to : POB 185, Colfax, Ca 95713

Reprints from Colfax Cobblestones Vol 1 No. 4 January 20, 1986, Patricia Lee Wilt, Editor by Myrtle Findley, past president.

JEAN REGINA PAOLI, serving as Secretary of CAHS:

My life story begins, and will no doubt end in my dear hometown of Colfax. My mother, Ruth Williams' people settled in the Colfax area in the 1860's. Her mother, Sarah Pfeiffer, a native of New Jersey, married John Owen Williams, a Wales emigrant, in Colfax in October of 1879. There ere eight children born of this union, my mother being the youngest. Most of the family never left Colfax and are buried here, including my great-grandfather, Henry Pfeiffer.

When my father, Edwin H. Hutchinson came to Colfax in 1914, it was to visit his great-aunt, Cecilia Hess, whose husband, Whitney, was in charge of the S.P. Company freight depot. My father's mother's people, the Kohl's had crossed the plains by covered wagon and settle in Sacramento in 1851. His father, Edwin F. Hutchinson, was a professional baseball player who hailed from Pittsburgh, Penn., and married my grandmother in Sacramento. While visiting in Colfax, my father got a summer job with the S.P. Company, met my mother, and as a result stayed in Colfax to marry and rear his family, my brother, Jack, and myself.

I attended Colfax Elementary School and several of my grandchildren are the fourth generation to attend that school. I graduated from Placer High, and was a member of the first class to attend Placer Junior College, which is now Sierra College. I had intended to become a fashion illustrator, but reality won out and I settled for being a secretary.

While working as a secretary for the Pacific Fruit Exchange in Colfax, my boss was Frank

Paoli, and as the old story goes, "I married my Boss" in September of 1942. The next month he left to serve in the Navy, but I was able to be with him in San Diego during Boot Camp training. Our first child Janet was bom in October of 1943, and she was over a year old when Frank saw her for the first time while on leave.

After the war, Frank wanted to ranch, and in 1946, we purchased the "Applegate Fruit Ranch", and during the ten years we lived there had three more children, Craig, Gail, and Frank Jr. our lives really became hectic in 1949 when Frank became a Placer County Supervisor, and it continued feverish for the next twenty years that he served the county. Also, during those years, the Placer County Water Agency was formed, and the dams were built — no small accomplishment, believe me! He was serving as chairman, and these were really trying times for our family.

In addition to ranching, being a Placer County Supervisor and Director of the Water Agency Frank became an insurance agent in 1960. I went to work for him in the

insurance office until 1977 when he retired, I then worked for our sons Frank and Craig, in the business, until I retired in 1983.

We are fortunate we have all our for children an their families living near us and that we have been blessed with eleven grandchildren. We have just been informed that the twelfth one is on its way. our son, Craig, owns Paoli Insurance Agency in Colfax, our daughter, Gail, works for him. Our son, Frank jr., is a sales representative for Sierra Chevrolet, our daughter, Janet, is a book-keeper for a contractor in Auburn.

I used to be very active in community affairs a service clubs, mainly The Soroptimist, but these days I have mellowed ad entertain myself attending yard sales —good way to see new areas building up and meeting new an interesting people. I am very excited about our new Historical Society, and pleased to see so many people feel the same. I am hopeful we will accomplish the important task of preserving the history of our area and its people.

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.COLFAXHISTORY.ORG

**COLFAX
AREA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Mailing Address:
PO Box 185
Colfax, CA 95713



Visit our Museum Located in
the Depot
99 Railroad Street

10am–3pm Daily



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS

Bakbraken Acres P.O. Box 193 Chicago Park, CA 95713 530-272-5257	Mike Basich Painting 23850 Spring Valley Road Colfax, CA 95713 346-2466	Colfax Market Main Street P.O. Box 717 Colfax, CA 95713 346-7029	Winner Chevrolet 1624 South Canyon Way P.O. Box 1867 Colfax, CA 95713 346-8313	VFW Ladies Aux. Post 2003 P.O. Box 1213 Colfax, CA 95713 (Pres.) 636-4242	Ann Maurine Frink 309 S. Auburn Street P.O. Box 182 Colfax, CA 95713 320-0160 annmarifri@aol.com
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