



*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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SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY



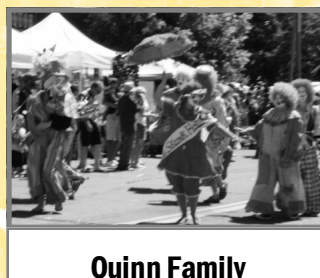
Colfax 3rd July Parade

Jim Nugent Drives the Colfax Lions Club Train



Quinn Family Clowns

On Display in the Museum



Quinn Family

Having Fun In the Colfax 3rd of July Parade



Clydesdales

Anheiser Busch® Clydesdales Joined the
3rd of July Colfax Parade

Photos by Teri A. Murch

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MUSEUM UPDATE

CAHS Heritage Museum
99 Railroad Street
Open: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Daily
CAHS members receive 10%
discount in the Gift Shop
VOLUNTEERS WELCOME
Museum help is always wel-
come, and encouraged
Contact Helen Wayland, or stop
by the Museum
We need you!
Contact Helen Wayland

We continue to see an
increase in visitors to our
museum.
Please stop in & see our
latest exhibits & books

BITS & PIECES

Upcoming Colfax Events

Grand Opening of the
Colfax Library July 17

Heritage Museum Tour
Aug 7, 8

Railroad Days
Sept 25, 26

JULY PROGRAM: COLFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS & COUNTING!



**Saturday
July 24
7pm
Colfax
Memorial Hall
Grass Valley St**

This year we celebrate our 25th Anniversary with our Charter Members, newer members, and guests of the Colfax Area Historical Society.

The celebration will be held on Saturday, July 24th, at 5pm at the Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall.

We'll get a chance to "Rub Elbows" with those dedicated and knowledgeable community leaders who gave this wonderful organization the foundation we continue to build upon.

The evening also includes the always popular ice cream social.

Many years ago I was at fly-in with my old 1946 Stinson 108 airplane. An older fellow walked up to me and asked a few questions about the history of the machine. I immediately proceeded to give him the whole story. As he headed away from me he stopped, turned and said "Great story, I designed and test-flew the first machine! You almost never know who

you're talking to or what they have done and lived through.

The only good history is dead-accurate history.
-Tom Mason

More 25yr celebration events on page 4



RECIPE FROM THE PAST

*A Frozen
Delight is the
Reward for
Those With the
Strength to
Turn That
Churn!*

Philadelphia Ice Cream (late-1800s)

Like Joseph's coat of many colors, this recipe is the source of many shades of ice-cream blendings. The Philadelphia method is to have 1 quart (4cups) of whipping cream, 1/2pint (1 cup) of granulated sugar & 1 teaspoonful of vanilla extract handy. Of the cream, 1/2 pint (1cup) is

heated & the sugar added when the cream is hot enough to melt it: it is cooled, whereupon the vanilla is stirred in and after that, the remaining cream, thoroughly whipped.

Place in the ice cream maker making sure there are many strong children available to turn the churn. When thick and ready, let ripen for 20minutes still

surrounded by ice.

Variation:

Peach: Stew enough skinned peaches to make 1/2 pint (1 cup) pound them to a pulp & add to the cream before freezing..

Strawberry: Mash 1 pint (2cups) & incorporate into the cream before freezing.

Recipes from: *Grandma in the Kitchen* Helen Lyon Adamson



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 into an electronic format for you and send it to Teri via email. A basic .txt file is preferred.

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 Aug 30, 2010.

Thank-you

www.ColfaxHistory.org



TALES FROM THE PAST AS TOLD BY E.L. WALL

During WW2, the train traffic was very heavy thru Colfax. There were troop trains, war materials trains, regular freight trains and passenger trains. Sometimes when a troop train stopped to exercise the men with calisthenics, I would go down and watch them. Occasionally a soldier would ask me to go across the street and buy him a bottle of whiskey. I told them I was sorry but I wasn't old enough to buy liquor.

My high school friend, Jack Campbell and I did a lot of hunting, hiking and exploring around Colfax. We would take our dogs and .22 rifles and go down the Stevens trail or hike over to the Bear river. If the water was warm enough we would go swimming. One day we decided to expand our horizons and ride a freight train up towards Donner Summit and do a little hunting there.

We learned very quickly how to get on and off a moving freight train. All trains stopped at Colfax. We would wait until the train started moving and then run and climb on. The best place to ride was an open gondola or an empty box car. We would ride up to Gold Run or Blue Canyon and bail off there. We would then explore the surrounding area for a few hours and then go back to the tracks and wait for a west bound train. All west bound trains had to stop for brake inspection because of the steep grades. And that made it easy to catch a train back to Colfax. If it was a war materials train and if there was an army 4x4, we would sit in the cab seat for a nice comfortable ride. If the train stopped for brake inspection, we would jump off and wait till the train crews inspected their train and when the train whistled off we would get back on again. One time, when we got back to the tracks at Blue Canyon late one afternoon and it started snowing. We waited for some time and no trains. By this time it was getting dark and we were getting cold and hungry. Finally a light engine (a locomotive by itself) stopped and waited for a signal to proceed. It was a cab in front loco. The engineer asked what we were doing there and we told him we were waiting for freight to get back to Colfax. He told us to climb aboard and sit by the fire box which we were more than happy to do. And he took us all the way back to Col-

fax. To any one reading this article. My advice to you is never ride a freight train. It is a dangerous and foolish thing to do. DON'T DO IT!

One time after school, I missed the bus. It was 18 miles between Auburn and Colfax. The only way I could get home was to hitch hike or catch a freight train. It was a nice warm day so I decided to catch a train home. I got on top of a box car and really enjoyed the ride. That is, until we got to the Applegate tunnel. The Applegate tunnel is about 3000 ft long. The train was moving about 25 or 30 MPH. After we entered the tunnel, it got very hot. I took my T-shirt off and put it over my nose and mouth and breathed very slowly. I laid down with my feet towards the front and my head towards the rear. I realized then why Cab in front locomotives were used in the mountains. I came out of the tunnel and I was wringing wet with sweat. After I got out into the fresh air I was OK. I didn't dare tell my dad about it. I didn't know what the consequences would be. Any way I considered myself very lucky. It was a good thing the train didn't stop inside the tunnel.

In June 1945, I got a job at the Colfax hotel washing dishes and mopping floors. John Kaufman was the owner. He showed me how much wax to put in the mop bucket so I could properly wax the floor. Things went pretty well for about two weeks. I was about to run out of wax so I asked John for some more. He got very angry because I used too much. He bawled me out and I didn't like it, so I hung up my apron and walked out. I was pretty angry about the whole thing so since the war was winding down it was time for me to join the armed services and do my patriotic duty. I left my dad a note and told him I was going to the Bay Area and join up. I figured I could lie about my age and get in. I packed a small suitcase and caught a train to Roseville. I got off in the Roseville yard and waited for another train to the Bay Area. I sat on a bench in the at a herders shack in the shade. As I was sitting there with my suitcase between my legs, A huge man came up to me and asked if my name was Elford Wall. I said no. He said, Oh, I think it is. Come with me. He was an S.P. policeman. He took me to

the Roseville jail and said my father would come and pick me up. After a few hours in a jail cell, my dad came in his 1936 Chevy and took me back to Colfax. He told me I had to finish school first and then I could do what I wanted. Well, so much for my wartime military career. In June 1946, after I graduated from Placer, I decided to join the Navy. Since I was still 17 my dad had to sign for me.

CORRECTION: In my last article about Cisco. The bus drivers name from Big Bend was Jennie Moore. The school teacher at Norden was Jacqueline Woods.

E. L. Wall Signal Engineer UPRR (Retired)



Helper Engine
Near Colfax & Long Ravine 1937
Sent to us by E.L. Wall, Helsinki, Finland
Cab Over Engine



Do you have any stories you would like to share?

Please email them to the editor:

Teri@LiveInColfax.com

Subject line: Cobblestones



IN SEARCH OF OLD MILITARY GRAVES IN COLFAX

PVT. James T. Hill

A random walk through our beautiful, historic cemetery gave us an amazing variety of military grave markers, each with its own distinguishing style. History is all around.

As soon as we noticed "James T. Hill, Co. E 145 Ill. INF" on a vertical marker we thought it belongs to a Civil War veteran. Typical of these markers are the recessed shield, the veteran's name in an arc and the rounded top of the stone. The company and the unit are given. In this case, no other information is shown. We proceeded to examine the unit records (online) and found that Pvt. Hill was mustered in on 9 June

1864 and served until 23 September 1864 as infantryman during the Civil War. He had lived in Bloomington, Illinois. His unit was mustered in for 100 days and had a numerical strength of 880.

After the war, James T. Hill apparently returned to the Midwest and married Lucinda Johnson in 1873. Census records show they had a daughter Laura (b. 1877 in Iowa) and a son Theodore. The Hill family later came west, where James registered to vote in Placer County in 1890. They lived in Sacramento (1900) and later in Colfax, where James was a farmer and his son worked for the railroad.

Cemetery records show four mem-

bers of the Hill family buried in Colfax: Lucinda (1856-1938), their son Theodore (1875-1958), his wife Caroline (1882-1947) and James T. Hill.

If you know this family or are a descendant, let us hear from you for the rest of the story.

Nilda Z. Duffek, CAHS Member



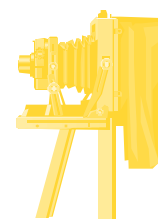
COLFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY 25 YR CELEBRATION DINNER

The Colfax Area Historical Society is celebrating 25 years of service in our area! One of our celebrations will be a GALA DINNER on **Saturday, October 16, 2010**. Tickets will be on sale in early September.

Charter Members will again be honored. We are inviting everyone interested in History or the History of Colfax, or even good food, to mark this date on their calendar.

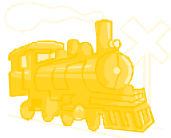
Volunteers are needed to help plan, prepare and work the day of the dinner. Some of the areas we need help with include

someone to design & make the tickets, people to help in the kitchen, plan the menu, cook the food, and we will also need servers & cleanup help. If you are available to help volunteers are urged to call Myrtle Findley (346-2450) as our committee is being formed. Thanks already to Ann Lewis who has volunteered to make the flyers and Tom Mason will collect raffle items, and handle publicity.



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.



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 or-

derly 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 : \$15.00

Family (including children: \$25.00

Junior (not included in Family: \$ 5.00

Business (includes ad in *Cobblestones*) \$30.00

Non-profit Organizations \$30.00

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

My Fifth Grade in School

Starting school in the fifth Grade in Colfax, was to be an learning experience because I had been trying to look through the windows, I tried to get in when the maintenance men were there but nobody would let me in, they all said enjoy the summer, school would start soon enough and I had to live with that but on the first day of school I was probably the first one there.

I had already learned a lesson from the towns people, and that was that I was from the wrong side of the tracks so to speak, at first I didn't understand that because in Chicago the neighborhoods were so large that everybody was the same as far as people were concerned but having said that, my brother and sister and me figured out that if we went north about a block or two, turned left about a block then proceed on to school nobody would know how poor we were and where we lived. We played this game until one morning when something happened that I will never forget, we were walking to school not paying attention to any thing except the bats hanging on the cherry trees along the street, at first you didn't see them but when you went up to

the trees to get cherries to eat on the way to school that was the only thing you saw and about the time I hollered at my brother to look at the bats, he screamed back at me to hold still and not move because there was a snake within a couple of feet of my sister and I, with nobody around to help my brother picked up a stick and threw it at the snake and sure enough he hit the snake and to this day he still has the snakeskin to prove this story.

The one thing that I remember in school was how big it was and we even had a homeroom class which was not a concept that I was used to. My grades were good and the teacher even let me go to a higher grade level for math therefore I got the idea that with so many rooms it had to be the grade school and high school all in one building. I was happy as any kid could ever be in school. I also met my that girl I was talking about earlier and when I found out what her name was I decided that she was going to be my first girl friend because her initials were the same as my. Here name was Linda Lardner and mine was Lamont Lidster, now there's a good reason to like somebody. However one day I was walking her home or as close to it as I was

allowed, she did something that I didn't like so I called her a nasty name that I had heard somewhere, I didn't know what it meant but some grown man driving by did. He stopped his car, got out and proceeded to beat my butt something awful and said, never ever talk to girls or anyone else for that matter ever again. I promised him I wouldn't and have never forgotten that lesson.

By the end of the fifth grade, we moved to Aurora, IL. However I will always remember my year in Colfax, CA.

The things I remember most about Colfax took me many years to sort out, it wasn't the playful things I had done with friends or neighbors. It was the lessons that I had been taught, such as my 5th. Grade teacher was ahead of her time with letting me Excel at my own pace. Or the fact that telling my friends I could swim when I really couldn't, or the man who used his hand on my backside to make his point, it was that there are differences in all of us, whether it is how poor or wealthy you are or where you come from. You can make changes in your life simply by observing what is happening around you and changing the things you don't like, however long it takes. After leaving Colfax, we moved to many other towns and continued my life's learning process.

Thank you to all—Bill Lidster

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



Program Date:

Sat July 24:
CAHS 25 Year
Celebration!
See page 2 for
time & place



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS

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