

of the
Tuolumne County
Historical Society
Sonora, California

Letter from the President

Linda Emerson and Chuck Holland going over the plans for installing the traveling exhibit— *Telling Stories of Mexican California*.

Special Hours:

Museum:

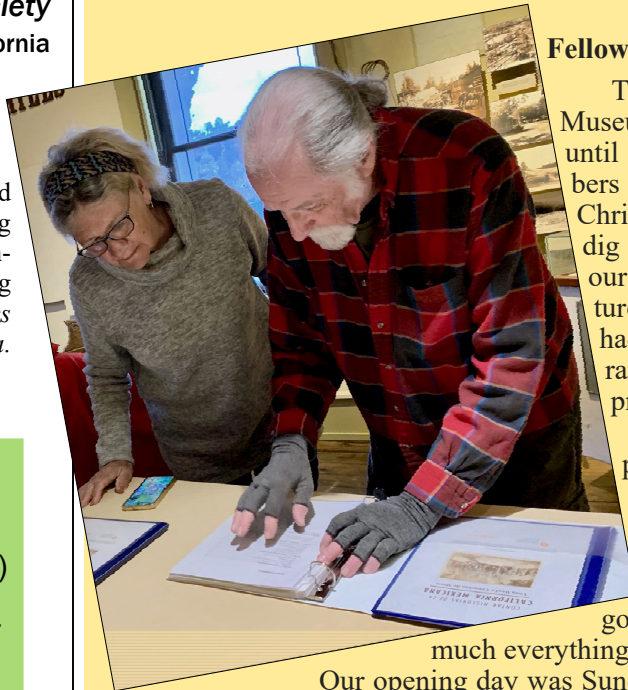
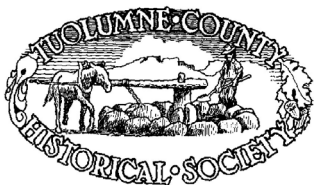
Tues. - Sat. (10-4)
Sun. (11-4) - April
and May only

HRC:

Tues.-Fri. (9-4)

Welcome New Members:

Chuck & Sherry Bradley
Ryan Campbell
Brent & Alisha Carkeet
Henry Collins
Jerold Day
Mat Galvan
David & Linda
Goldemberg
Cheryl Griffiths
Jan Hansen
Larry Jensen
Robert Kleinhans
Nancy Morton
Donald & Sharon
Segerstrom
Brian Sells
Kurt Sinclair



Fellow Members,

The much awaited banners were delivered to the Museum on April 3, but we waited to open the boxes until the next day so that all of our committee members could be present. It reminded me of kids on Christmas morning anxiously awaiting permission to dig into the presents. So, on the morning of April 4, our group was together in the Museum taking pictures while we excitedly opened our packages. We had plenty of capable help and supervision to arrange the banners, nicely filling the area we had prepared in the front of the Museum.

In keeping with the recent changing weather patterns, about an hour after we had completed setting up the banner display, it started snowing. The Volunteer Fair scheduled for later in the day was postponed, as most folks were scurrying around trying to get back home before the roads got bad. That night was the heavier snow and pretty much everything was shut down for the next two days.

Our opening day was Sunday, April 7, and although there were trees down throughout the county, most of the snow had melted and we had fifty-six people visit the Museum, which was the largest Sunday crowd we have had in recent memory. It was a very successful opening day. The weather continued to cooperate with us and provided a beautiful day again on Thursday, April 11, for the VIP reception that was held in the Museum courtyard.

I am keeping a close eye on our attendance and comparing it with the number of Museum visitors we had at this same time last year. So far, in the first eleven days of the Exhibition, we have had approximately four times the number of visitors than we did during those same April days in 2023. I will present a total attendance report at the conclusion of the Exhibition. So far, so good.

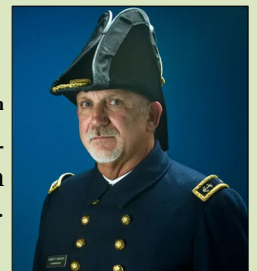
In an effort to reach out to local educators, I have visited every Public School in the county and met with either an administrator or secretary. I told them about our traveling exhibition, gave them a stack of fliers, and asked them to please spread the word in their school communities. Two of the administrators asked if we had any work sheets with questions for students. My classroom teacher mode is still functioning, so I created two pages of questions for middle and upper grade students. I sent them to the administrators who gave me that great idea and have also placed a folder with questions for students on the registration table.

Chuck Holland

Meet Commodore Robert F. Stockton

Bart Bird will portray Commodore Robert Stockton at the **May 8th program** at the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road. The program begins at **6:00 pm**. Bart was interested in why the city of Stockton was named after Commodore Stockton, and now he shares that legacy. He has depicted Robert Stockton for over two decades.

In 2022, Bart moved to Sonora after a fifty-five year career at Peeled Products, Inc. In the mid-1970s, he worked at the CA Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Source: Recordnet.com
Bart Bird in character

Daughters of Two Brothers Came to California via Mexico from Spain

By Sherrin Grout

The current traveling exhibit *Telling Stories of Mexican California* doesn't focus on Tuolumne County, so this article will highlight some of Sonora's early Latina pioneers.

Two of the earliest pioneer families in Sonora were the Cabezuts. They were brothers, Símon and José María Cabezut, well respected throughout the county and active in civic affairs.

Katie Cabezut, born in 1865, was the second daughter of Símon Cabezut and Dominga Elogne Cruz. In 1848, her father drove cattle from Durango through Sonora Territory of Mexico, northward to the Gila River, then to California. Símon and Dominga married in San Francisco before arriving in Sonora.

Símon and Dominga had seven children. Símon became a dairyman and rancher. The family ranch, including orchards, was east of Greenley Road, hence Cabezut Road. They also owned a house on Linoberg Street.

Magdalena Cabezut, born in 1857, was the only child of José Cabezut and María Ramirez, who married in Mexico. The couple took a ship to California. In 1849, José became a miner, traveled to San Jose, then came to Sonora by May 1849. José and María operated a



Tuolumne County Museum PV00260
Katie Cabezut



Tuolumne County Museum PV00266
Magdalena Cabezut Neale

food store from a canvas tent on Washington Street. After the 1852 fire, they purchased a French restaurant on Washington Street and lived not far from the Gunn Family. By 1868, the business was known as Cabezut's Restaurant. In addition to a city block on Washington Street, they owned Cabezut Hill, now known as Knowles Hill.

Magdalena married John H. Neale, a boarder in her parents' house, who was twenty-five years her senior. Magdalena was known as an accomplished pianist and did beautiful needlework in the Spanish-style.

The brothers, Símon and José, registered a brand in the shape of a fleur-de-lis. One of the brands is in the Tuolumne County Museum.

This article borrowed heavily from both a Chispa (Vol. 48, No. 3) written by Marianne Schick-Jacobsen and her master's thesis.



TO4837
Cabezut Branding Iron

Museum Corner

Exhibit Begins!

By Linda Emerson

In the fall of 2023, our History Research Center coordinator, Brad Fisher, received an email from the California Historical Society soliciting interest in housing a traveling exhibit, *Telling Stories of Mexican California*. After bringing the email to our attention, the board agreed that we should apply. Our president, Chuck Holland, responded to the request and indicated that we were the perfect museum to be the first to host the exhibit in California. The timing of the exhibit would coincide with the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Columbia.

In late November 2023, we learned that our application had been accepted and an exhibit committee was formed to coordinate the arrival, assembly, promotion, and social engagement in our community. After months of planning, the panels arrived and the events began.



VIP Reception in the Courtyard

Opening day was promoted in social and print media and became a grand success. Members of both the local and outlying communities spent time exploring not only the panels but also the entire Museum itself. “We’ve lived here a long time and have never been inside” was a frequent comment we heard that day.

Four days after the opening, we hosted a VIP reception in the courtyard for leaders and educators in our community. The weather cooperated and delicious appetizers were provided by Morelia’s Mexican restaurant in Jamestown. We gained a six new members from this event, and various books and *Chispas* were sold.

The planning committee included board members Chuck Holland, Sandy Fisher, Mike Ghiorso, and Linda Emerson. Coordinators of the Cinco de Mayo event in Columbia, Mercedes Tune and Barbara Balen, also served on the committee.

We would like to acknowledge the California Historical Society and the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation for giving us the opportunity to host the exhibit at no cost.



L-R: Linda Emerson, Sandy Fisher, Mercedes Tune (front), Chuck Holland (back), Mike Ghiorso, and Barbara Balen

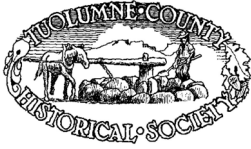


Bret Harte Pageant

To compliment the traveling exhibit *Telling Stories of Mexican California*, the Exhibits Committee added the “Bret Harte Pageant” display. In 1931 and 1932, Hollywood teamed up with local talent in the spectacular theatrical production of the musical comedy *The Golden Trail*, which was held just outside Columbia.

The pageant had all the “Spanish fantasy past” mythology described in several of the banners in the traveling exhibit, only this was Tuolumne County’s version.

Check out: “The Bret Harte Pageant 1931 and 1932,” by Doris Fletcher-Mills, *Chispa*, Vol. 43, No. 4.



TUOLUMNE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
158 Bradford Street
SONORA, CA 95370-4920

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The Mission of the Tuolumne County Historical Society shall be to discover, collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Tuolumne County and the State of California.

Membership is valid January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Have you paid your membership yet?

The *Historian* is published several times a year by the Tuolumne County Historical Society, 158 Bradford St., Sonora, CA 95370-4920 for the benefit of the membership. There is no charge for the *Historian*. (In compliance with Public Law 103-123, 39 U.S.C. 3656 subsection [j].)

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Change in address or contact information?

Contact Kathy Boone—

cookie48@mlode.com or 209-984-3359

June Program at Museum Courtyard

The June TCHS program will be combined with the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society. A “Root Beer Float” event in the Museum Courtyard is scheduled for **Monday, June 10 at 2:00 p.m.** Tours of the History Research Center will be available. Note the date/time/place!



Father's Day Fly-In

On Saturday, June 15, 2024, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the 55th annual Father's Day Fly-In will be held at the Columbia Airport. The theme will be “Honoring WWII Veterans.”

The TCHS will have a display of “The Ruoffs,” father and son who both enlisted from Tuolumne County. Other activities will include airplane rides, Warbird flybys, vintage aircraft and a classic car show. An opening ceremony with Veterans Honors will be at 11 a.m.