

Historian

March/April 2025 ♦ Vol. 69, Issue 2

of the
Tuolumne County
Historical Society
Sonora, California

Museum Hours:

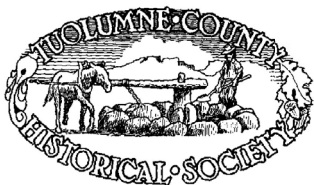
Tues. & Thurs. (10-4)
Wed. (1-4)
Fri. & Sat. (10-3:30)

History Research Center:

Tues.—Fri. (9-4)

Welcome New Members:

Sally Ellis
Gil & Barbara Farkas
John Marrs
Matthew O'Brien
Fred Reynolds
Peter Segerstrom
Paul Prebin—converted to Life membership



Letter from the President

Fellow Members,

You may recall that the traveling exhibition depicting Mexican history, on display in the Museum last April and May, was produced by the California Historical Society. I recently received news from their organization that “after nearly 154 years of collecting, sharing, and disseminating California history, the CHS will be permanently closing its doors.” The CHS office has always been in San Francisco and they cited the recent poor business climate and struggles faced by history organizations and cultural institutions in San Francisco as the cause of their demise. To continue to make the CHS Collection accessible to both academics and the public, the CHS Board has reached an agreement with Stanford University Libraries to steward the Collection. I am sad to see the demise of yet another 150-year-old institution dedicated to preserving and disseminating our unique and very special California history. At one point last year, we were quite pleased with the success of hosting the banner exhibition and began to wonder if we might do it again someday. Now, we have to be content that we at least had the one opportunity to host an exhibit from the now defunct California Historical Society.

For the past several years we have been witnessing the withering of many of our traditional social organizations, such as the Native Sons, the Native Daughters, and the Aronos Club, just a few of the many organizations that have seriously declined in membership. Our Society once had over 600 members, but today counts 263 members. Still, despite our decline, I think we are in a lot better shape than some of the other organizations who are seeing their membership dropping into single digits.

A major strength of our Society is the group of dedicated volunteers I have been proud to work with over the past several years and hope to continue working with into the foreseeable future, a stalwart group dedicated to our mission of collecting, displaying, and preserving local history and the history of California.

Chuck Holland

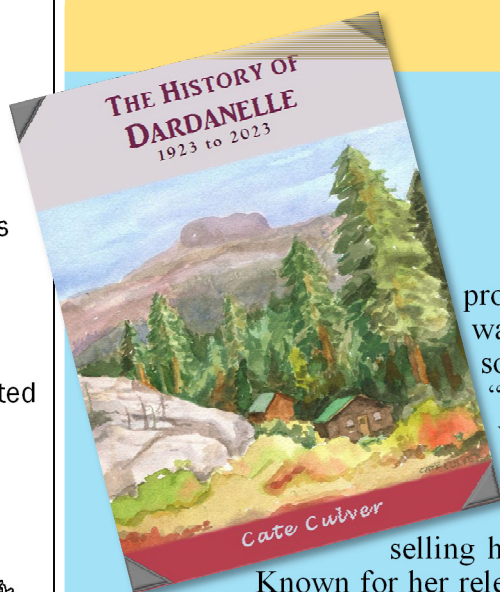
Open Mic & Book Signing

March 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Rd.

Recently the TC Genealogical Society had a program about growing up in Tuolumne County, which was well received. The TCHS has decided to have some of the presenters return to share their stories of “**Memories of Tuolumne County.**” Anyone who would like to participate should contact Chuck Holland (sierra38@sbcglobal.net).

Also, at the program, Cate Culver will be selling her book, *The History of Dardanelle, 1923 to 2023*.

Known for her relentless research and engaging writing style, the book embraces one hundred years of history of the Sonora Pass mountain community. The book is illustrated with abundant early photographs and is a treasure for your history library. Don't miss out on this opportunity to talk to the author.



More Adventures of Puppy Kole

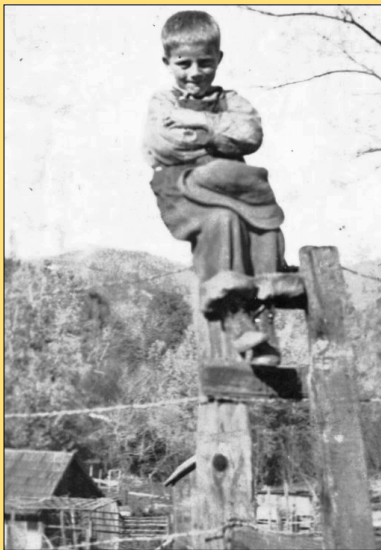
By Jane Kole

The March/April 2023 *Historian* featured the story of how Puppy Kole came to acquire the pony, Marianne. The following story was told to Puppy's daughter, Jane Kole, by Carol Heron Leslie. Carol's father, Jim Heron, was a good friend of Puppy's.

Puppy had won a pony, Marianne, selling newspaper subscriptions. He was able to buy an old pony cart from a nice older lady in town. This story takes place when Puppy's father, Peter Kole, was training Marianne to pull the pony cart. Jim Heron spent considerable time at the Kole place up on Sunset Street. Mr. Kole worked with Marianne and the boys and drove her up and down the road in front of their house many times. He told Pup NOT to hitch Marianne up to the cart unless he was around to supervise. He told Pup Marianne was NOT ready yet and needed more training. He was clear that they were NOT to take Marianne out in the cart alone. Well, Pup did exactly what he wasn't supposed to do. The first time Pup got a chance, he hitched up Marianne anyway! He and Jim hopped in the cart and set off for town.



Tuolumne County Museum, 2021.27.24
Driver is Jimmy Kole; Jack Kole is playing the accordion. The boys won 2nd place in the Mother Lode Rodeo Parade.

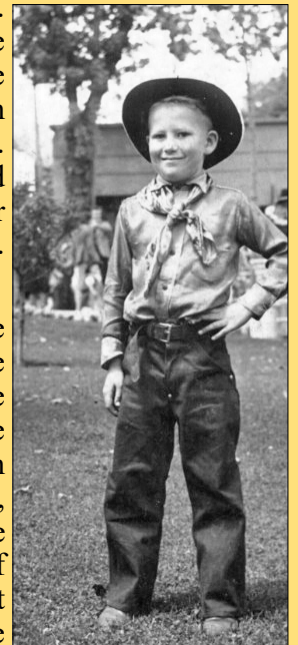


2021.27.13
Puppy Kole

At first things went well. Marianne went up over the little hill on Sunset Street and down the other side. Things still seemed to be under control as they passed the old IOOF Cemetery. But as they headed down the steep part of Lytton Street, their luck ran out. Marianne panicked. Maybe it was the harness pushing with the weight of the cart on her rear end. Maybe her hooves slipped on the steep pavement. What we do know is that she started to run down Lytton. She ran right across Washington Street. Bump and bump! The little boys' behinds bounced up and down on the seat. Marianne raced up the hill on the other side. Puppy pulled on the reins as they bumped along. "Whoa! Marianne. Whoa!"

Then Marianne cut left on Stewart Street. The steep slope on that turn shifted their weight to the downhill side. The uphill wheel was definitely thinking about leaving the ground! Pup and Jim couldn't make her stop! They were whooping and yelling, "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!" She ran three long blocks with the boys pulling on the reins yelling, "Whoa, Marianne, Whoa!" But Marianne still wasn't in the mood to listen. In fact, she wasn't showing any signs of

being interested in stopping at all! She finally cut left on Church Street, and then left at Washington Street. They somehow got her to stop near the Europa Café, across from the Gunn House. Maybe she was finally just tired after her wild run.



2021.27.9
Jimmy Kole

In a town as small as Sonora, you know the story of their wild ride got back to Mr. Kole. My question is why did our dad, Pup, forget to tell US this story? What we can say is that when he trained our pony to pull this same little yellow and black pony cart, he was very, very thorough in the process!

Museum Corner

Aronos Research Club Program

April 9, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Rd.

Ever wonder about the name “Aronos”? **Shelly Stewart**, president of the Aronos Research Club, will explain that the name is Sonora spelled backwards. She will provide the rich history of the women’s club, how it got its origins, and what they do today.



Tuolumne County Museum, TP2954
Aronos Research Club members, 1948



Tuolumne County Museum, P26721
Clubhouse

The clubhouse located on the corner of Elkin and Stewart Streets, was originally the home to several church congregations before it was destroyed by fire in 1898. It was rebuilt by 1902, and in 1936, purchased by the Aronos Research Club.

Come enjoy the history of this downtown Sonora icon.

Monty Youngborg - In Memoriam

Condolences to the family of Lamont “Monty” Youngborg, who passed away on December 11, 2024. Monty was a force to be reckoned with in the Tuolumne County Museum! His skills as an organizer came in handy during the shelving project, getting the catalog cards scanned into a searchable database, and scanning the Pickering Lumber maps.

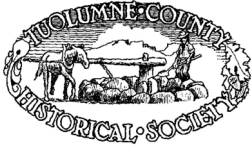


Monty Youngborg

Monty was also instrumental in getting the Wells Fargo stagecoach available for the Society in the Mother Lode Roundup Parade. In later years, he helped get the 1922 Hales & Symons Mack truck ready for the parade.

Monty’s enthusiasm and expertise will be missed!





**TUOLUMNE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

158 Bradford Street
SONORA, CA 95370-4920

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*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.*

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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Permit #15
Sonora, California

Tuolumne County Museum & History Research Center
158 Bradford Street, Sonora, CA 95370
Museum: 209-532-1317—History Research Center: 209-532-4227
<http://tchistory.org>, info@tchistory.org

PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW!

Just a reminder that TCHS membership is from January 1 thru December 31. Your 2025 membership is due now, unless you have already paid. You can send your dues to:

TCHS/Membership
158 Bradford St.
Sonora, CA 95370

Or, pay online:

<https://tchistory.org/product-category/membership/>

Your membership helps to maintain the History Collection, which includes over 35,000 photographs of local people and places; vintage clothing and household items; business and industry-related artifacts; records relating to landmarks, commerce, railroads, logging, mining, water development, architecture, geographical and community history; and biographies of pioneer families.

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