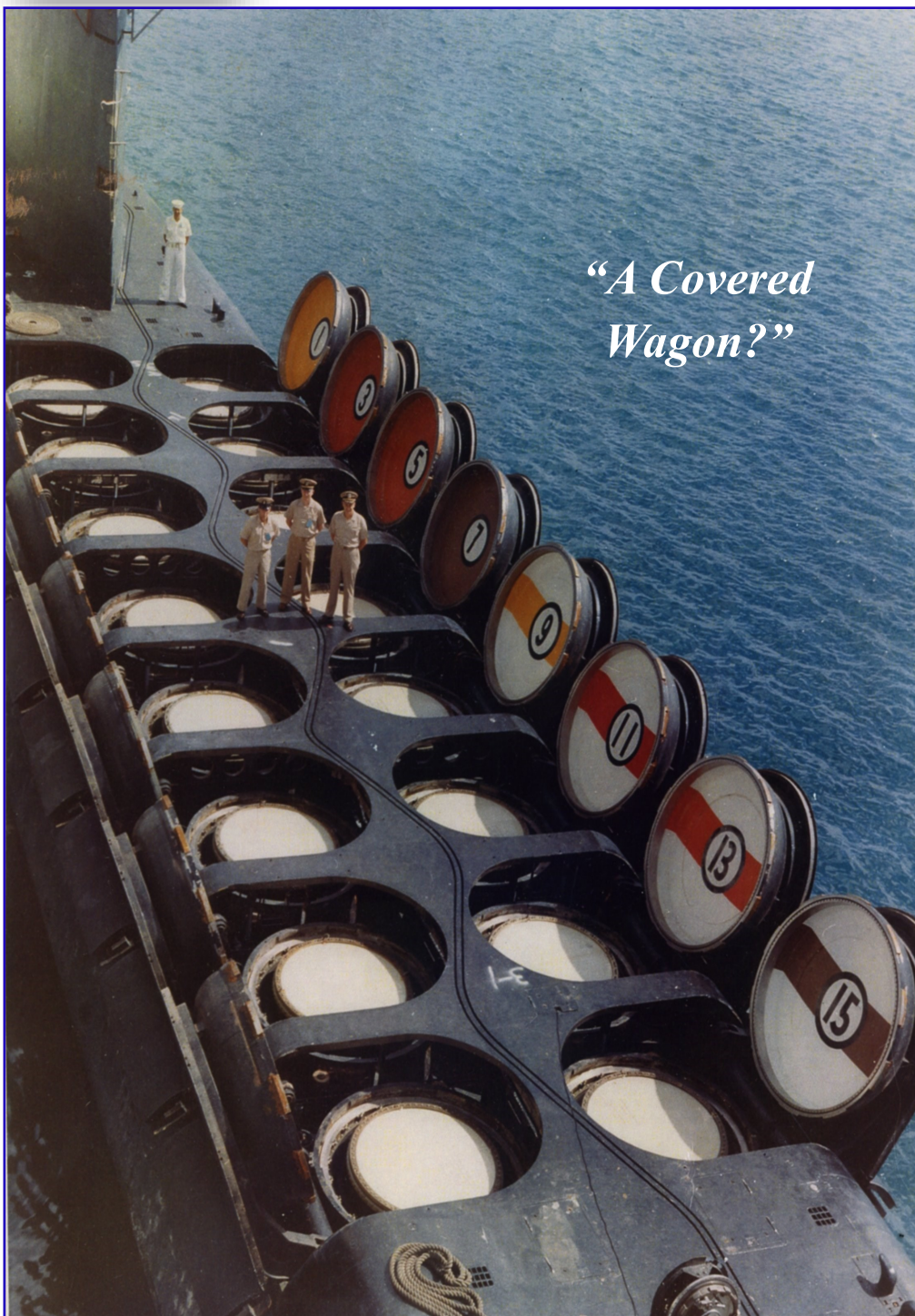


HEADTOWER NEWS

BOOMTOWN MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
by the Shasta Lake Historical Society
Volume 19 #60-3 November 2023



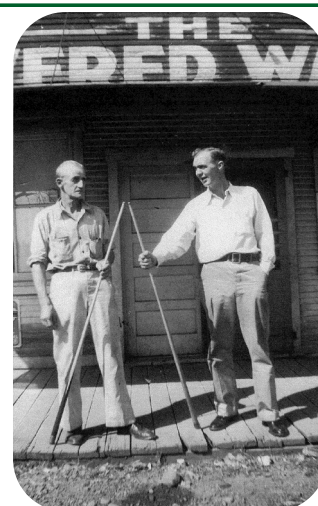
*“A Covered
Wagon?”*

The Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine USS Tecumseh c1960. Chief Bruce Tavey had the tube hatches painted like pool balls!

The Cue Ball was directly across from #15. The even numbered balls were on the left side and cannot be seen in the photo.

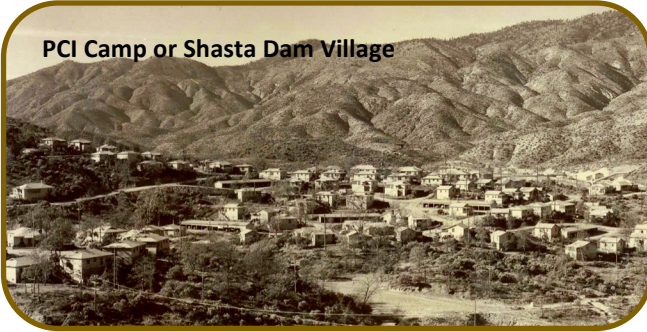
The late Bruce Tavey, an SLHHS Benefactor, named the compartment “*The Covered Wagon*” after his fond memories of the pool hall where he learned to play pool while growing up in the Boomtown of Central Valley.

Below is Morton Cross & Carl Burns, son of the *Covered Wagon* owners c1940



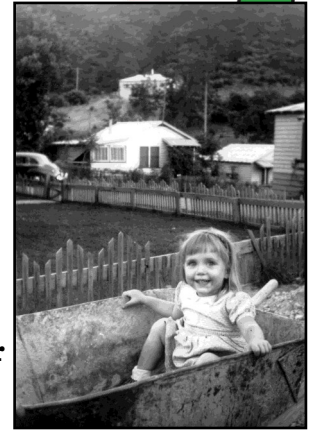
We try to be accurate but please, we are not liable for any additions, omissions, errors and/or corrections that may occur in this publication. Any photographs or material used may not be scanned and/or reprinted or reproduced without contacting us for permission of use. Thank you. Darlene V. Brown, Editor and assistants Charlotte Bailey, Pete Drosch and Linda Stout.

So, more ABOUT THOSE DAM HOUSES...

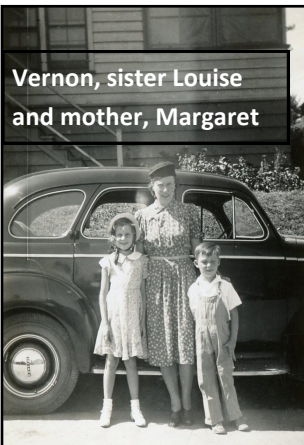


PCI Camp or Shasta Dam Village

We received a phone call from Betty Trapp Felch, one of our Benefactors, after reading about the dam houses in our last newsletter. Betty's dad and relatives worked on the Dam and lived in Shasta Dam Village; she has many fond memories about her childhood days there. That's her sister,



Barbara, getting a ride in a wheelbarrow. Does it bring back memories for any of you? If you have any memories to share, let us know...



Vernon, sister Louise and mother, Margaret

We have a binder from Vernon Schuette containing photos c2007 as he toured Redding and Anderson looking for Dam houses. Vernon's father, Wesley, worked on Shasta Dam and the family lived in Shasta Dam Village. A few of their neighbors in 1940 were:

Troy & Merle Jones • John Trisdale • Val Allen, father of Marion and Joy, Neal and Ed • Bud & Leta Trapp, daughters, Betty and Barbara. They bought one of the houses at 2457 Waldon St. • George Tripp, Mechanic Shop Foreman. George bought a Dam house 872 West St. in Redding. • Gus Trapp and his family • Edith & Dave Grove, ironworker and Chief Cable Splicer.

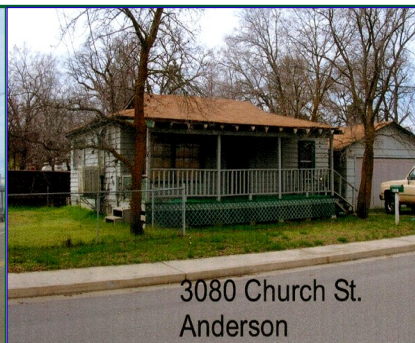


2457 Waldon

"All of the SDV homes had a hip roof with a small gable at the top of the narrow side for a vent, which is what makes them easy to distinguish. When these houses were new, the roofs had a silver coating on the seams. Our house had 13 steps in the front and only one in the back. It depended on which side of the hill the house was facing—the long steps could be in the back of the house. Our house was heated with a tin wood stove. We had a homemade plywood swamp cooler. The front yard had a 4 ft. high retaining wall made out of basketball-size quarry rock. There was a lawn from the top of the yard to the retaining wall. There was a power pole with an open bulb street light on the street in front and since the house was built on a steep hill, the street lamp was the same height as the screened porch that was the bedrooms. *My father gave me a Red River BB gun for Christmas, but it's main purpose was to shoot out the street light! It interfered with my father sleeping when he worked swing shift...."* V. Schuette



W. Center St. Anderson



3080 Church St. Anderson



5 Room House in Shasta Dam Village in 1940



5 Room House in Anderson, CA on Deschutes Rd. c2007

Taken c2007, "the large store above was originally built at Shasta Dam and used as the Recreation & Mess Hall—its first use in Anderson was as a grocery store."

VISITORS BEARING DAM GIFTS.....

In walked Perry Linde carrying the tool - the shotcrete gun and a custom cement trowel, both made in the Shasta Dam Machine Shop during the construction of the Dam. Last issue, we showed you the tool. Well, you know there had to be a story to go with it and here it is:



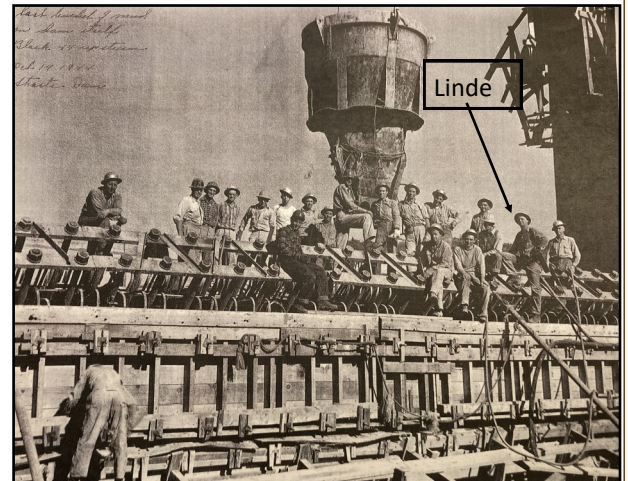
Perry's dad was Arnold Linde, a concrete finisher who worked for Pacific Constructors Inc. during the construction of Shasta Dam. In a Record Searchlight article from 1996, it talked about Linde and many other dam-workers who were attending the Shasta Dam Workers Reunion held in the American Legion Hall in Central Valley.

Linde was a farmer in Montana but had a hard time at farming so he went to the Farm Bureau in Sidney to see what other work was available. He got a job in the tunnels on the Fort Peck Dam as an air tool operator.



Feb.1942 - Arnold Linde with shotcrete gun.

When he finished working with the Army Corps of Engineers in 1939, he was asked to stay on in a maintenance position but that would have meant a cut in pay from \$1.25 an hour to 75 cents an hour. He decided to head to a job in CA on the Sacramento River that was just getting started.



On right: Drum Gates - top of the Dam. Last bucket of mud. Block 44 upstream - October 19, 1944

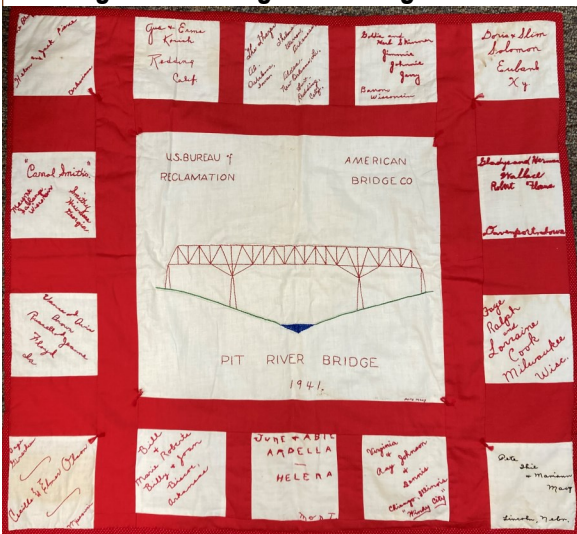
Linde estimated that of the 5,000 feet of gallery tunnels that exist inside Shasta Dam walls, he worked on 3,500 feet of them doing concrete and finish work.

It's a Dam Quilt! A 1941 Pit River Bridge piece of memorabilia

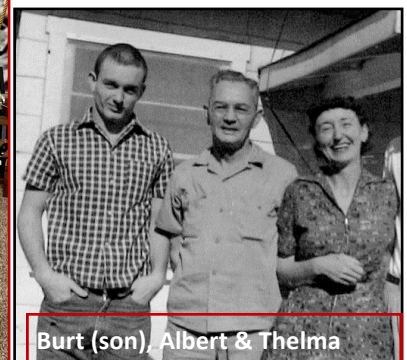
Thanks to Aldea Fuller who emailed the society asking if we were interested in having a quilt made by her mother, Thelma Tharp, we now have this wonderful treasure - a piece of history and we will be framing it for display.

Thelma made the quilt while her husband, Al was working on the Pit River Bridge. Many of the families of the men working on the Bridge became good friends. Thelma made the quilt to keep those memories, and she had each of

the families sign and stitch over their names and where they were from originally. Places such as: Indiana; Wisconsin; Kentucky; Illinois; Iowa; Montana, Missouri; Louisiana; Georgia; Arkansas; Nebraska; Oklahoma and California.



ALDEA AND BOB FULLER



Burt (son), Albert & Thelma

WWII 1943 Willys MBT 1/4 Ton Jeep Trailer



You're looking at a World War II 1943 Willys MBT Jeep Trailer. One of the rugged unsung heroes of WWII. Have you ever wondered how the United States Army soldiers moved around their personal gear and equipment during the war? Probably not. Nonetheless, there wasn't a great deal of room in a WWII jeep to hold equipment. Along came the jeep trailer. During WWII (1941-1945), more than 150,000 jeep trailers were built by over ten different companies for US forces. American Bantam built some 75,000 of their T-3 jeep trailer with Willys-Overland building more than 60,000 of their MBT jeep trailers. The Willys jeep was designated as an MB (Military, Model B). Therefore, the Willys jeep trailer was designated MBT. T designating trailer. Pretty clever, eh?

The WWII jeep trailers were virtually identical between manufacturers. The trailers weighed 550 lbs. and were rated to carry 500 lbs. of cargo for a total gross weight of 1050 lbs. They were also designed to float with 500 lbs. of cargo. The bolts for the reflectors have lead washers on the inside to seal the water out. This allowed a jeep to cross a stream and the trailer would float behind with the cargo staying dry. Of course, this is why the WWII jeep trailer does not have a tailgate. The trailers also used the standard jeep wheel and tire, the standard military lunette/pintle hitch towing system, and had a hand parking brake to allow the trailer to be disconnected on uneven terrain and not roll away. All of the trailers operated on 6



volt as all jeeps had 6 volt electrical systems. The trailers used the standard military taillights which allowed black out driving operation in conjunction with the towing vehicle.



The trailers ended up being used by all United States Allies for a multitude of tasks. Like the venerable jeep, the jeep trailers were pressed back into service during the Korean conflict starting in 1950. They were taken from post-WWII storage areas to rebuild facilities where they were reconditioned and sent to join the war effort all over again.



The trailer on display in the Boomtown Museum has been restored back to its original condition as delivered by Willys-Overland to the US Army in March of 1943. It is marked as used by the United States Army Air Forces, 8th Air Force, 91st Bomb Group, 322nd Bomb Squadron, trailer number 2. It has "CAUTION LEFT HAND DRIVE" stenciled on the rear as it was used in England where the automobiles are right hand drive not left hand drive like United States automobiles. It was to warn the English drivers that hand signals, since lighted blinkers were not common, would come from the other side of the vehicle.

from the other side of the vehicle.

By John Duckett



John Duckett, owner of the Willys Trailer

Thank You for Your Service to Our Country



Carl aboard the USS Astoria

WWII - Guadalcanal

Denis Benoit visited the museum one day and as we were talking, he mentioned his father, *Carl J. Benoit* who turned 100 years old in May, had enlisted in the US Navy after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Carl was assigned to the USS Astoria and was on board when it was sunk by Japanese torpedoes. He survived the tragedy and swam to another ship. He was then assigned to another ship, a destroyer that was also hit.

At the end of his tour, he tried to get stationed to submarine duty (It paid more) but his vision wouldn't pass the tests – the instructor told him to call it quits – he'd served his country long and hard enough.

Carl met his wife, Lila, in Sparks, NV about a year & half before the war ended. After getting out of the Navy at the end of the war, Carl came to this area because his dad was working on Shasta Dam and he was able to find work on the Dam in the final stages of construction.



The USS Astoria was one of four Allied cruisers lost in a night engagement with the Japanese off Guadalcanal.



Carl & Lila had 8 children: Terry, Patricia, Carla, Bill, Rita, Denis, Lila and Marcee. Family members brought Carl in for an interview in 2020. Stories from that interview will be in another publication. We thank Denis and Terry for sharing this story with us.

The "Ride of Pride" trucks - rolling memorials to remember all who have served



Do you know of the Montford Point Marines in North Carolina? Perhaps not, but one of our Benefactors, Janeen Rowland Jones and husband Al, live in NC and shared this story with us.

In the Veterans Day Parade in Charlotte, Al drove a Western Star truck built in Cleveland, NC at the Daimler Trucks North America Plant. As shown on the left, the truck was detailed to honor the service of the Montford Point Marines, the chosen theme for the parade this year.



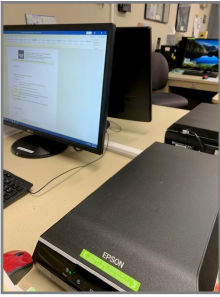
It took an executive order #8802 in June 1941, from President Roosevelt (urged by his wife, Eleanor) to prohibit racial discrimination in the defense industry or in government. In June 1942, Montford Point started with 900 African-Americans recruited to serve as Marines in WWII. By 1944, 18,000 black Marines were serving. They and those that followed paved the way for our present integrated armed forces.





Happenings....

Shasta Lake Chamber of Commerce hosted a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for members. Thanks to Executive Director Janice Powell, and helpers: Gary Ramsdell, Val Cantwell, Cindy Lindsay, Jean Naylor, Bradley Hewitt, Alicia Pizano and Jantina Ingraham, what a feast! AND, the Boomtown Museum's Almond Roca was awarded First Place for the Peoples Sweet Choice Award!



Thanks to Redding Rancheria for choosing us as a grant winner in 2022 allowing us to purchase the new scanners, screens and printer this year. Our volunteers love the big screens and faster technology!



Another sell-out crowd for our Annual Membership Dinner in September! THANK YOU all for coming. Outstanding was Max Gandy on piano, The Northern Gateway Chorus singing and Smokin' Joe's BBQ dinner. Many Thanks: FFA students and SLHHS helpers/raffle donors: Donna Adams, Charlotte Bailey, Darlene Brown, Karen Butler, Valerie Cantwell, Mike & Donna Daniels, Diana Evans, Bert & Joan Fackrell, Nancy Farr, Karen & Rick Fox, Mary Hale, Rick Hargrave, Larry & Cherrel Kirkland, Kay Kobe, Maureen McClung, Pam & Steve Morgan, Ann Morningstar, Connie Strohmayer and Tena, Cheryle & Becky - Shasta Lake Garden Project. Our raffle made over \$1400!



The Annual Community Holiday Bazaar. WOW! Amazing! Our candy booth sold out. The gift shop & candy booth made over \$1800. THANKS TO: Donna Adams, Charlotte Bailey, Darlene Brown, Nicki Chambers, Melody Christenson, Donna Daniels, Sandy Estes, Joan Fackrell, Karen Fox, Mary Hale, Kay Kobe, Maureen McClung, Pam Morgan, Ann Morningstar, Rhonda Ramsel, Darlene Rumboltz, Judy Smith, Connie Strohmayer & Leanne Westphal.



We have a new business member: Specialty Wood Signs Owned by Harlan & Sandy Sater. Sandy donated one of the signs you see on the left and has many more for sale for the holidays. She is listed on FB; 530-945-1593; sandysater14@gmail.com Short bio: her parents - Linley & Vivian Ellis and although she was born in Redmond, OR,, she grew up in Central Valley on Ashby Rd. and is a CVHS '67 grad.

Come visit our Gift Shop—we have BOOMTOWN CALENDARS 2024, Boomtown Note cards—New books like Al Rocca's "WWII in Northern California", hand crocheted items, coffee, mugs, hats and so much more! Or give us a call and we will ship to you!



**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE - Rick Fox**

Welcome to Fall, for me I am a Spring and Summer person, bring on the sunshine! Ahh, those summer projects. With our Fall season we have Halloween, Veterans' Day and of course Thanksgiving. If you haven't been in to see our



Veterans' Day displays, come in to see Uniforms, Medals, Memorabilia and lots of pictures. We honor our Vets and the sacrifices they have made - Freedom is certainly not free.

Speaking of Halloween's past, if any of you have great stories, share them! My favorite: from the Dam Kid's book and Boomtown days, was the owner who got tired of having his outhouse moved, so the next year he moved it. You guessed it, *the future movers fell in that year.*

Come on by for a visit, "Chew the Fat" or just to say "Hi". We are open F/S/M 9-1 pm.

Rick

THANK YOU FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS THIS YEAR - YOU ARE WHY WE ARE.....

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Benefactors: Gary & Linda Hays/Shasta Lake. Individuals: Kati Cattanach/Redding; Rick Somers/Redding and Jill Ward/Redding. Families: Joseph & Lynette Shaff, Shasta Lake; Dennis & Virginia Tavey/Shasta Lake and Michelle, Kyra & Jeffrey Thum/Redding. Business: Specialty Wood Signs

THANK YOU FOR RENEWALS: Benefactors: Gary Bohn/Omaha NE; Bert Boothroyd/Salinas; Tom & Sally Tenny/Shasta Lake; Larry & Cherrel Kirkland/Shasta Lake and Pete & Merian Droesch/Redding. Individuals Myra Buteau/Lakehead; Ed Van Vynckt/Redding; Mavis Higdon/Redding, Rick Kern/Shasta Lake and Alice Scarbrough/Redding. Families: Karen Butler/Shasta Lake; Greg & Pam Halcomb/Redding; Phil & Carolyn Peterson/Shasta Lake; Eileen & Jim Suchanek/Sandy OR; and Businesses: Shasta Lake Physical Therapy and Pizza Factory/Shasta Lake.

Thank you for *above & beyond* monetary donations from: Gary Bohn/Omaha NE and Bert Boothroyd/Salinas....



MARIAN TRAPP 6/32-8/2023 Born to Wesley & Minnie Endicott, Marian lived in Kennett as a baby. The family (4 brothers) then moved to what was known as the "Endicott Ranch," located a few miles North of our city and West of I-5. She attended Bass Elementary School and Shasta High School and continued her education majoring in Real Estate, retiring after 23 yrs. of Federal Service. Marian & her late husband, Jack, were founding members of our society and were always present at our events. Many of our treasured photos and stories are of their memories from living and growing up in this area. Before her passing, Marian established an Endowment Fund for the society to continue in perpetuity. We are grateful to the family—sons Larry & Jeff, and daughter, Barbara for choosing us as the recipient of memorial donations.

Memorial Donations by: Bill & Darlene Brown, Deanna Charlton and Betty Felch Trapp.

Donated by American Legion Post#720



Anybody know what year this is? Names?

We Sponsor
**Shasta Dam Area
LITTLE LEAGUE**

From ALL OF US: Merry Christmas & A Happy Year!

Please join us for
OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Thursday, December 14th

11 - 1 pm

Visitors Center

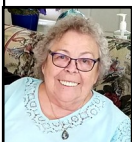
1525 Median Ave.



We'll have the Ham, drinks and utensils... you bring the side dishes and fellowship.....

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



PAT HARRISON - 6/1941 - 9/2023 SLHHS member; retired Nurse. A devoted Catholic and founding “Bazaar Lady” member. A beautiful caring soul, donating goods and help to our Holiday candy booth.



PHIL LEAS 9/1940 - 10/2023 - husband to Betty Crampton Leas CVHS'60 for almost 64 years. Phil's childhood was in Iron Mtn; graduated SHS '58; belonged to a “Studebaker Club”, mechanic; woodsman; retired 2003 Mt. Shasta- Cal Trans equipt. operator.

MARIAN TRAPP 6/1932 - 8/2023 (pg.7 inside)

Thank you for memorial donations from:

Betty Leas/Weed in memory of CVHS classmates: Marlys Barbosa; Sandy Elsemore, Roger Longnecker and Verne Charlton.

Gary & Marylin Bohn/Omaha, NE, Bert Boothroyd/Salinas and Nancy Johnson/Medford, OR in memory of Marlys Barbosa.

Love history? Become a member.

Membership dues are renewable January of each year.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

NEWSLETTER - email OR paper?

Please check the applicable boxes:

Individual \$10 Family \$25

Business \$25 Benefactor \$100

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Del Hiebert

BOOMTOWN MUSEUM: Hours: M/F/S 9 -1PM

Email: slhandhs@gmail.com

www.shastalakehistorical.org

FB Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

Have an article or photo to share? Save those memories so all will not be lost for future generations. Contact us.