

# Settlers' Gazette

## Fall/Winter 2023

### President's Corner

by Kerri Esten

It seems like we just finished our summer activities and it's already time to start preparing for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and all the other winter holidays. I don't know about you, but I haven't even begun my Christmas shopping. I've got THREE ornament exchange parties to attend next month, and need to shop for those too. Whew! My first stop this year is definitely going to be the gift shop at the Tehachapi Museum. Our gift shop manager, Donna Dieterle, has done such a great job stocking unique things. I'm sure I'll find what I need at fantastic prices there.

To get us all in the Christmas spirit, the City of Tehachapi is planning the 2nd annual Tehachapi Hometown Christmas prior to the Christmas Parade on December 2. Check out page 2 of this newsletter to see how we're planning to participate. Come join in the fun!

And as always, we'll have our winter volunteer open house at the Errea House. It's scheduled for December 1. Details will follow.

### Women of Note in Tehachapi's History

by Del Troy

**EMMA WILLIAMS** Harold Williams' Great Grandmother, born in 1870 and died in 1950. Emma is the basket maker in the "People of the Mountains" mural on West F Street. Emma represents the transition from the pre-historic to historic culture of the Indigenous Kawaiisu or Nuwä. They prefer the name Nuwä, which means "people", as Kawaiisu is the name given them by anthropologists and used in anything written about them. It was picked up from neighboring tribes. Emma did not speak English but with her granddaughter, Elsie Garcia, serving as interpreter, she provided anthropologist, Dr. Maurice Zigmond with information about the Kawaiisu language, culture and myths in the 1930s. Zigmond praised Emma as being his best informant. It must have been very difficult for Emma and all of the Kawaiisu People to make the transition to a strange culture and language.

**RAMONA GREENE** Andy Greene's Mother—born May 1889 and died November 7, 1976. She also provided information to Dr. Zigmond in the 1930s and again in the early 1970s when Zigmond returned

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### Kids Day at the Museum

by Dixie Coutant

On Sunday, September 17, dedicated presenters and THL volunteers pulled off the most successful Kids Day ever! Over 200 kids plus their parents and friends filled Green Street, both museums and the garden, participating in a wide range of fun and educational projects.

The day started at 9 with Kevin Coté bringing THL pop-ups and extra chairs from the storage unit and Donna Dieterle bringing donuts. Joan Coté, Donna, and Barbara Schnirel set up and decorated the Welcome Table/Command Center. The Tehachapi Frosh Football team came at 10:30, and was put to work carrying tables and chairs, erecting pop ups and helping presenters under the supervision of Kevin and Rich Erdman.

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# Hometown Christmas at the Heritage League Museums

The City of Tehachapi and downtown businesses are excitedly planning a very festive “Tehachapi Hometown Christmas” on Saturday, December 2 from 1 to 5. The Errea House and the Tehachapi Museum across the street will be beautifully decorated for Christmas and on that



## ERREA GARDEN REPORT

by Mary Cunningham

Fall has arrived and the garden in starting to show major signs of the change. Leaves are changing color and beginning to fall so we are doing less weeding and more sweeping. The first frost hit the vegetable garden and our squash has seen better days. Tomatoes are still available and in the herb bed pineapple sage is showing a blaze of red flowers. Check this one out for use as a bedding plant. The garden is still a beautiful place

to bring a lunch or a book so enjoy the changing of the seasons.

We still have quite a few plants available for free so please take some and just return the pots. Day lilies, nepeta, hardy violets and society garlic are looking for a home and you can have a bit of history growing in your garden. Thursday morning elves are working in the garden so if you have questions please drop by and meet Cara, Dennis and Mary.

day you'll get a warm welcome to a 1930s Christmas at the Errea House. We will be serving hot spiced cider, cookies, and gingerbread to enjoy as we gather around the player piano singing Christmas songs. The Tehachapi Museum will also be open with restroom facilities. The Museum store will have delightful gifts for sale including local jams, coffee, BBQ sauce, and books by local authors; children's crafts and toys; antiques and old-fashioned candy. Tickets for the annual Christmas Raffle including paintings by Judith Campanaro and a handmade afghan will be available.

The Museum is located at 310 S. Green Street and the Errea House at 311 S. Green Street.

## Heavenly Bamboo

by Dennis Foss

Opening the gate and walking into the Errea House garden, especially during the spring/summer growing season one's vision is flooded with the colors of perennial plants and rose bushes, it's a panoply of color and texture. Upon closer look the observer begins to piece together an arena of plant forms of which whose color rests not only in flower color

but leaf and fruit. At the Errea there are four ornamental plants known commonly as Heavenly Bamboo or Nandina domestica. (These plants are not true bamboo's) They are located against the fence adjacent to the Totem pole. These interesting plants have a leafy, somewhat lacy texture, upon first emergence the leaves can be coral-bronzy colors which in time can turn green, t h o u g h

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### The Tehachapi Museum

**ADDRESS:**

310 South Green Street  
Tehachapi, CA 93561

**HOURS:**

12 noon to 4 pm  
Saturday, Sunday,  
Special Occasions & By Appointment

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# 2023 Kids Day was the best ever

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** By 11:45, the booths were ready and visitors started to trickle in. Kids who visited the Welcome Table were given a numbered sticker and encouraged to complete the Scavenger Hunt. Soon Green Street was filled with kids petting the camel, coloring posters, talking to the EMTs, carving soap, beading necklaces, designing quilt squares, holding a corn snake, playing games, weaving, painting rocks and more. Kids were making baskets in the museum, pumping the player

piano in the Errea House, and picking tomatoes in the garden.

Activities were presented by Hall Ambulance, Rising Star Riders, Have a Heart Humane Society, Wind Swept Ranch, Lauren James Therapy Dogs, Basketmaker Liz Block, The Tomo Kahni Volunteers, The Beeman, Audubon Tehachapi, Tehachapi Mountain Carvers, Tehachapi Area Radio Association, The Well Music and Art Foundation, Quilter Colleen Cazier, Friends of the Tehachapi Depot, Weaver Dayna Wells, Susan Palm, Jodi Stauffer, Tim Turmezei, and Player Piano man Stan Coutant. Darlene's Real Swell Toys, Carlos' Donuts, and Hitching Post Theaters donated prizes for the Scavenger Hunt drawing.

Clean up started at 4 with the return of the football players. One hour later there was no sign of the

Kika, 8, was one of the kids at a painting table.



Tim Turmezei and his collection of insects from the Tehachapi area.

amazing event the museum had gifted to the Kids of Tehachapi.

Kids Day takes a lot of work; months of planning, days of preparation, the physical labor of the set up and tear down, and four solid hours of working with kids. It's a labor of love and would not be possible without dedicated volunteers, presenters, and the support of the Tehachapi Heritage League Board.





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# Eldon (Don) Kordes

**D**on Kordes passed at his home in Bear Valley Springs at the age of 98 on October 3, 2023. He was born in Parkville Missouri growing up on a farm. As a senior in high school, he was drafted to serve in WWII. He entered the Navy's V-12 program at Notre Dame University to become an engineer. After graduation from Notre Dame, the war ended and he went on to Purdue University for his Master's degree where he was hired by NASA, formerly called NACA. This started his journey as an aeronautical engineer. NASA sent him to Virginia Tech for his PhD in Engineering. Don spent his 32 years with NASA, starting at Langley in Virginia and in 1960 transferred to NASA at Edwards Air Force Base,



where he worked with the X-15 program. He met his wife, Phyllis, on a blind date while a student at Notre Dame and they were married in 1947. They had three children, Kenneth, and twins Richard and Janice. Phyllis died suddenly in 2012.

Don was inquisitive and interested in many topics, forever seeing what needed to be done and lending a hand. He built shelves for the museum and did a number of repairs. As an accomplished wildlife wood carver, he donated many carvings to the Tehachapi Heritage Society. Each Christmas he carved a sled filled with Christmas gifts and toys pulled by different animals.

his last wildlife carving of a polar bear on an ice flow. His carving of a replica of the Errea House is in the Errea garden, which this year housed a family of finches.

He was an avid and accomplished horseman. Don stopped riding at the age of 94 when his beloved horse Ben passed away. He loved trap shooting and hunting for many years. He was also a Sargent in the LA Sheriff Posey and flew for Civil Air Patrol.

A full Military Service will be held on what would have been his 99th birthday April 3, 2024 at the Bakersfield National Cemetery. A reception will follow in Tehachapi. Details to be announced.

Many of Don's carvings will be on display at the Tehachapi Museum beginning in March 2024.

April he carved

"Someone asked me, if i were stranded on a desert island what book would I bring... 'How To Build A Boat.'"  
—Steven Wright



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# Water In Tehachapi

by *Del Troy*

On November 14, 2023 the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District will commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the initiation of water delivery into the J.C. Jacobsen Reservoir and the naming of the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District State Water Project Importation System in honor of Robert J. Jasper. The following is the history of bringing water to Tehachapi:

**W**hen the Troy family came to Tehachapi in 1958 there was a Tehachapi Resource Conservation District that had been formed in 1947. By mid 1948 they were aware of a potential underground water supply shortage and by 1961 met with the purpose of addressing the future of Tehachapi's water. Bob Jasper, a brand-new Cal-Poly graduate, was hired to study the soil and water resources, the main ground water basins and watershed of the entire Tehachapi Area.

Jasper's first progress report to the TRCD board was in March 1962 and stated that Tehachapi was overdrafting the three groundwater basins in Cummings Valley, Brite Valley and Tehachapi Valley. He recommended forming a "Citizens Advisory Group" who

formed The Tehachapi-Cummings Water District who had the studies continued by Jasper. In March 1965 the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District (TCCWD) was formed by a 91 percent majority vote of the community. The first members of the board of directors were Ben Sasia, Jake Jacobsen, Don T. Carroll, Karl Backes and Fred Patterson. Bob Jasper remained the watermaster. Some of the board members had been active in the Tehachapi Resource Conservation District.

In 1966 the TCCWD signed a



contract with the Kern County Water Agency for annual acre-feet of Agricultural Water and 15,000 acre feet of Municipal and Industrial Water. Extensive studies and analyses were prepared by the engineers for submittal to the Bureau of Reclamation to verify the feasibility of the project water users to pay the charges for water and ultimately repay the loan from

the United States, plus accrued interest. The studies proved the feasibility and a loan was negotiated which provided for a loan of \$6.5 million.

The TCCWD entered into contract with the Federal Government in 1970 for a \$6.5 million loan repayable over a 40 year period. In 1971 the Tehachapi voters approved the \$6.5 million loan and a \$2.5 million bond issue for total project funding of approximately \$9 million. The project consisted of constructing a pipeline aqueduct from the Edmonston

Pumping Plant to Tehachapi. Four pumping plants, three have a lift of 1025 feet each and the fourth plant has a lift of 350 feet for a total pumping lift of 3425 feet. Construction of the storage reservoir in Brite Valley and delivery structures

at various locations in Cummings, Brite and Tehachapi Valleys to deliver water to customers. A ground breaking ceremony was held June 17, 1972 at the site of the storage reservoir in Brite Valley. The Board of Supervisors approved the Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Parks Department to maintain the facilities at Brite Lake.

M o r e **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

# Pioneer Cemetery Cleanup

**O**n Wednesday, October 4 Tehachapi Heritage League Board members Donna Diet-



erlie, Dixie Coutant, Joan Coté and Rich Erdman provided the labor to help spruce up the Pioneer Cemetery in Golden Hills.

After about five hours of work a dent was made in the upkeep, but more work is definitely needed. If you would like to help in our next "upkeep party," drop an email to Kerri Esten at [TehachapiMuseumEvents@gmail.com](mailto:TehachapiMuseumEvents@gmail.com). We'd love your help!



## Heavenly Bamboo

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2** not in all cases In early summer beautiful pyramidal shaped panicles of small cream-white flowers with prominent yellow colored anthers rise above the foliage. The flowers fade and in their wake are produced green berries that in autumn turn to a maroon/rich red which persists through winter into spring. These plants are found growing naturally from India to Japan and in both China and Japan are favorites to grow. Nandina's, variety dependent, will grow from 3 to 8 feet tall and as wide, after establishment they become drought tolerant, can be grown in full sun to full shade, though full sun produces the best colors. The berries can be toxic to some wildlife and some domestic animals yet not to humans. In some Southeastern states they

have become invasive pest. There are cultivars that produce little to no berries which will be helpful to those who would like to introduce them to their yards. A few cultivars with no berry production, examples are AKA and Firehouse both grow to about 2 to 2.5 feet in height and Gulf Stream growing to about

3.5 feet.

This plant is quite a popular landscape plant in California and with their known negative qualities their positive beauty and attractive appearance and their cultural adaptabilities are a few reasons they have been planted so often. Enjoy your garden journey.



**CHECK OUT THIS NEWSLETTER IN FULL COLOR  
ON OUR WEBSITE AT [TEHACHAPIMUSEUM.ORG](http://TEHACHAPIMUSEUM.ORG)**

# Women of Note in Tehachapi's History

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** and gathered more information to write his books on the Kawaiisu that preserves the Nuwā history. Ramona spoke both English and Kawaiisu and was one of the last Kawaiisu basket makers. Ramona too lived at a time of great transition for her people.

**MADGE QUICK SCHLOTTHAUER, M.D.** born 1905 and died February 8, 1998. Dr. Madge came to Tehachapi with her husband Dr. Harold Schlotthauer. They rented a large house at Curry and E Streets where they lived and had a medical office. In 1933 they purchased a two story house on E Street and in 1934 opened the renovated building as the first hospital in Tehachapi. After the 1952 earthquake which damaged the hospital beyond repair, they built a new hospital which opened for patients in 1957. January 1, 1969 they sold the hospital to the Tehachapi Valley Hospital District which today is the Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District. Dr. Harold then retired but Dr. Madge continued her practice for several or more years. Dr. Madge never had any children but she delivered many Tehachapi babies, established a well-baby clinic and started a school health program in Tehachapi. In recent years when the Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District leased the new hospital built in Capitol Hills to Adventist Health.

**ELIZABETH ERBEL CUDEBACK R.N.** born 1887 and died in 1983. In 1907 after graduating from

nurses' training she worked with a doctor who did home birth deliveries. Four years later she moved to Kern County, married William Cuddeback and continued her nursing career in the Tehachapi Area. During times when no doctors were here, circa 1914, she took care of the medical needs of the people and home delivered many babies. She recalled making one house call on a motorcycle and one time rode horseback eight miles to deliver a baby. The Schlotthauers hired Elizabeth as their nurse when they came to Tehachapi and she worked for them for thirty-five years until she retired at age 80.

**GRACE MELIA ERREA** born 12 July 1911 and died December 17, 1989. Grace was born in a hotel in Tehachapi when her Spanish Basque family was living in a tent at the Summit Lime Company where

her father worked as a wood cutter. The family later inherited the Errea House on Green Street from Mrs. Errea's uncle and Grace lived in this house most of her life and died there. She never married and worked as a nurse's aide at the TB sanitarium in Keene to help support the family. When the TB sanitarium was moved from Keene to Kern General Hospital in Bakersfield Grace rented a room near the hospital where she stayed during her work week and would come home to Tehachapi on her days off. Grace never owned a car but always got to work by train, bus or riding with a fellow employee. Although she had meager means, she made every effort to take good care of the oldest house in the Tehachapi Area that today is The Errea Museum and part of the Tehachapi Museum.

## Water in Tehachapi

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5** than 350 people attended the dedication ceremonies for the water importation project of the TCCWD which were held June 1, 1974. Tours of the \$9 million water project were offered during the day, along with a rib steak barbecue, sponsored by the Tehachapi High School Future Farmers of America. The dedication plaque was unveiled by Board Members Karl Backes, J. C. Jacobsen, Pete Vukich, Nick Sarilo and Ben Sasia. General Manager Bob Jasper was also on hand for the ceremony.

The project represents many years of hard work by many individuals in the Tehachapi Area. The TCCWD encompasses approximately 266,000 acres. It provides an imported water supply, water resource management and flood protection to the public in a safe, reliable and environmentally sensitive way. It is because of its formation and good groundwater management that the Tehachapi Area is able to have the growth, development and agriculture here in the Tehachapi Area in 2018.

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# Baked Spaghetti

*from the bachelor recipe box of Chris Esten. It was always one of his most favorite.*

Serves 4-6

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <b>PREHEAT OVEN TO 350° Grease a 9x13" casserole.</b>   |
| 12 oz. spaghetti   | Cook according to package directions minus 2 min..  |
| 1 lb. ground beef<br>1 c. chopped onion<br>1 c. chopped red bell pepper  | Brown together. Drain meat and set aside.   |
| 1 can (28 oz.) tomatoes with liquid<br>1 can (4 oz.) mushrooms, drained<br>1 can (2¼ oz.) sliced olives, drained<br>2 tsp. dried oregano | Add.<br>Add the meat mix and simmer for 10 minutes.<br>Layer half of the spaghetti on bottom.<br>Put half of meat mix on top. |
| 1 c. cheddar   | Layer cheese on top.<br>Layer remainder of spaghetti and meat mix.  |
| 1 c. cheddar   | Layer on top.   |
| ¼ c. water<br>1 can cream of mushroom soup   | Mix together. Pour over top.  |
| ¾ c. grated parmesan   | Top.<br><b>Bake uncovered 45 minutes.</b>   |