

PLACER HISTORY PRESS

Vol. 11

The Placer County Historical Society is embarking on a huge adventure and we need your help.

We have signed contract to rent the Old Town Post Office building to make it into a Welcome/History Center.

This is unlike any project we have ever taken on as a Society!

We have been so concerned that the vintage post office boxes would be removed if the landlord rented the space for a retail business. It seemed like the only reasonable way to make sure that didn't happen was to take it on ourselves. We will need volunteers and donations!



A Very Short History of the Post Office Building

The building that houses the post office was just starting to be built in June 1855 right before the "Big Fire." It was completed shortly after the fire. The post office was here for a short time in 1861. It moved out in 1865.

Various retail stores were here including a butcher shop, a variety store and a saloon. Gridley Lewis bought the building and returned the post office back here in December 1877. Most of the time the post office building also housed a variety store and a book store.

In 1893, Postmaster Frederic Stevens, installed the post office boxes you see here today.

Many times over the years the post office was on the verge of closure. It finally closed officially in 2023.

Since then the building has been vacant. The Society is so very appreciative of the landlords desire to help save the interior of this building.



History News

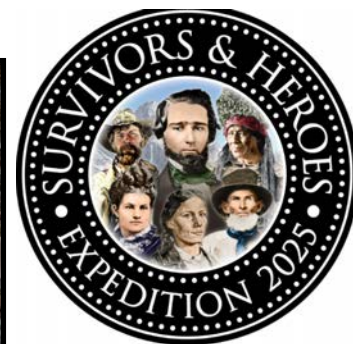
110th Anniversary of Auburn Grammar School/City Hall with lectures by City Historian Carol Cramer continues on October 11 at 1:30 in the Rose Room at City Hall. "Historic Buildings- Our Treasures" Free event.

There are five new National Register plaques on five city-owned buildings. The Placer County Historical Society and the Placer County Historical Foundation (co-sponsors of this humble newsletter) purchased them and the Auburn City crew installed them. Take a look at each of the vintage firehouses, the Carnegie Library, the City Hall (Grammar School) and the old City Hall and firehouse (on High Street).

The Gold country Ghost Tours for 2025 are sold out already! You really have to get this one on your calendar to get tickets. They sell out so quickly. They have added a Ghost Tour Stage Show which is a fun way to see a condensed version. I had the opportunity to see it this year and it was a delight! So much attention to detail and their historical accuracy is to be commended. Founder and producer, Melanie Paul-Hall is due much credit for organizing this terrific community event.



On October 2, at the Placer County Historical Society Dinner meeting, Ralph Gibson, museum director, was presented with the annual History Award. The award was presented by the History Award Committee, Councilman Mike Holmes, Placer County Historical Society President April McDonald-Loomis and Placer County Historical Foundation Secretary Mike Lynch.



The History Expedition crew have just completed another journey back in time. They recreated, to the best of their ability, the route of the advance party of the first wagon train to cross the Sierra, the Stevens, Townsend, Murphy party. The "Horseback Party of Six" were the first to cross the Sierras at what would become Donner Pass. They will tell the story of their expedition at the December 4th Historical Society dinner meeting.

