

Shoshone Museum Reader

Produced for our Members by the Shoshone Museum Assn.

Fall 2011

Shoshone Museum Association
P.O. Box 38
Shoshone, CA 92384
(760) 852-4524



"IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK"

a series on the historic buildings of Shoshone

Historic Tonopah & Tidewater Building (Café C'est Si Bon)

Since lumber is a scarce commodity in the desert, it was common to move buildings when they were no longer needed in their original locations, such as the present Shoshone Museum, which was moved from Zabriskie to Shoshone about 1922. The present home of Cafe C'est Si Bon originally served as the section boss's house in Evelyn, a stop on the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad (TTRR) about 12 miles north of Shoshone (the site is still marked by a large athel tree on the west side of the highway). Inyo county tax records indicate that it was built sometime before 1930. It was moved to Shoshone about 1946 after the end of World War II. The porch was added after the building came to Shoshone.

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OLD WEST DAYS 2011

Mammoth Room, Shoshone Museum

Moderator: George Ross

Friday 28 October

5:00- 7:00 pm - RECEPTION -
Shoshone Museum

6:00 pm - Welcome and
Presentations & Keynote Address
NYE COUNTY TOWN HISTORY
PROJECT - Robert D. McCracken

Saturday 29 October 1:30 pm

1:30 pm: Opening remarks
- Richard Cervantes, Inyo County
Supervisor

1:45 pm: THE GOLDSTONE MINE
- Amy Noel

2:15 pm: THE TIMBISHA TRIBE;
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
- Barbara Durham, THPO

2:45-3:00 BREAK

3:00 pm: AMARGOSA FLOODS
- Ethel Messer & George Ross

3:30 pm: WESTERN TALC MINE
- George Ross & Judy Palmer

Sunday 30 October

10:00 - 12:00 - Speakers and
authors available for book
signing in the Museum

Followup to the Crowbar Story

As so often happens, shortly after readers get the newsletter, they remember stories or photographs of their own! So, we are grateful to Milly Fernald for sending us copies of her mother's photographs and to Ethel Messer for sending us the following photographs of the Crowbar in the early days.

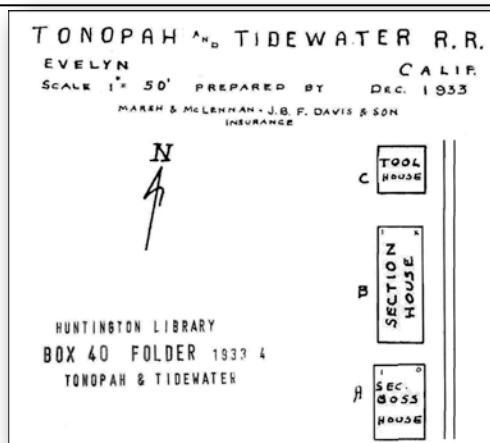


Crowbar under construction



Interior of Crowbar

Ethel Proctor (right) and Geneva Kelly (center)--behind the counter. Charles Brown (back) and next to him (right to left) are Muriel Winfield, Patsy Kelly and Roy Kelly. Levi Noble (front). Note the clips on the back of the chairs for men to hang their hats

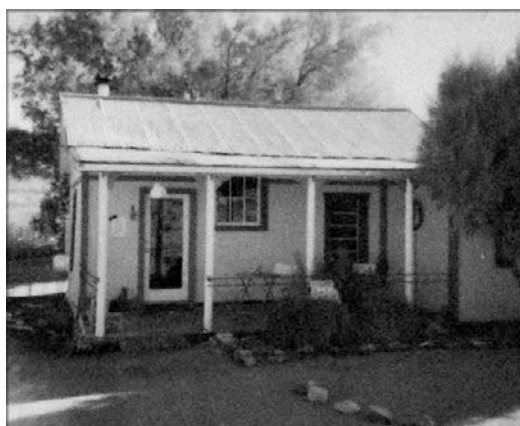


Map of Evelyn in 1933 showing the buildings

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Historic Tonopah & Tidewater Building (Café C'est Si Bon)

During most of its time in Shoshone, the building has served as a residence, often for employees in the town. Ethel Messer and George Ross recall that Isabelle Farmer (who worked in the store for many years) and her husband, Clarence (who also worked in Shoshone) lived there in the early 1950s into the mid 1960s. They were followed by the Tanners who lived there after their house in Tecopa had burned. Later, other families lived there until the building became the home of the Death Valley Chamber of Commerce in 1991. Since 2001, David Washum has operated Café C'est Si Bon, specializing in crepes and other delightful light meals.



Photograph of T&T building about 1950

Echoes from the Archives

by Susan Sorrells
Museum Board President

Fall greetings to all our friends and supporters. As the long, hot days of summer fade into the cool days of fall the communities of the southern Amargosa are abuzz as the residents make final preparations for a busy social season. Please check our Upcoming Events on the last page of the newsletter that lists many of these activities.



The village of Shoshone is especially busy preparing for Old West Days. These celebrations have been a tradition in our communities for over sixty years. They always have been a time when friends return to the communities of Tecopa, Tecopa Hot Springs and Shoshone to share memories of the past and create new memories. Old West Days also has drawn new visitors to the area to join in on the festivities and to learn more about the region's history. Please note the schedule for the History Talks. I should like to give a special thanks to Judy Palmer and George Ross who spend many hours organizing these fascinating talks.

The weekend will kick off with the reception and the keynote speaker at the Shoshone Museum at 5:00. After the keynote address there will be entertainment at the Crowbar and the traditional campfire. On Saturday the festivities will continue with the traditional deep pit barbecue, craft show, bird walks, music and dancing on the patio of the Crowbar, demonstration crafts and more history talks. Old West Days also has become an important fundraiser for the Death Valley Academy, and this year we hope to expand the activities that highlight the school. Please join us for a weekend filled with fun, entertainment and an opportunity to support the important organizations in our communities.

WINTER HOURS

Open daily (except Tues) from 9 am to 4 pm

The Mission of the Shoshone Museum Association is to tell the unique story of the Amargosa region and to preserve its cultural and natural history.

NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE

The museum now has two interesting series of books-- nine vintage cookbooks by Barbara Swell, and five books about women of the early west by Anne Seagraves.



We also have a selection of books by local authors including George Ross, Mary Lou Walberg, Ken Lengner, Bennie Troxel and Lauren Wright. We also have a updated guide to the Shoshone cemetery and video tours of Shoshone and Dublin Gulch by George Ross (all proceeds benefit the museum).

Death Valley School Alumni Reunion

The Death Valley High Alumni Association will be holding a reunion during Old West Days (October 28-30) in Shoshone. The event will feature live music and a fund raiser for school programs

Anyone with stories and/or pictures of the mining days in Shoshone are invited to bring these to share with others. The Museum will be open to scan any photographs, clippings, or documents. A special RV and camping area will be set aside for alumni, and a commemorative T-shirt for the reunion will be available. Please visit Facebook <<http://tinyurl.com/3ge7s7x>>

Shoshone Museum Association Membership Form

Annual Membership Dues
(Please circle one)
Individual \$15.
Family \$25.
Business/Nonprofit \$50.
Cougar \$100.
Mammoth \$500.
Building Fund _____

Name: _____ Date _____
Mailing address: _____

Email _____@_____

Returning Member ___ New Member ___

Amount enclosed _____

We are grateful for your contributions.
This is your museum and we hope to
make you proud to be a member.

Make checks payable to: Shoshone Museum Association.
Mail to: P.O. Box 38, Shoshone, CA 92384
or Pay by phone using your Visa or Master Card! 760-852-4524

Upcoming Events

Sep 24 Stewardship Saturday: Cattail Cutting, Ash Meadows
Oct 8 Let's Explore: Wild Birds! - Ash Meadows
Oct 15 Bird Walk with Red Rock Audubon - Shoshone †
Oct 15 Plant Native Plants & Trees - Ash Meadows
Oct 16 Bird Walk with Red Rock Audubon - Shoshone †
Oct 28 OLD WEST DAYS, Shoshone (through Sun 30 Oct)
Nov 4-6 DVNHA History Conference - Beatty
Nov 5 Stewardship Saturday: Cattail Cutting, Ash Meadows
Nov 19 Southern Amargosa Hike †
Nov 19 Let's Explore: Quest for Bighorn Sheep!
- Ash Meadows
Dec 3 Stewardship Saturday: Cattail Cutting, Ash Meadows
Dec 10 Let's Explore: Backcountry Expedition!
- Ash Meadows
Dec 16 Big Solar; pros and cons †
Jan 28 Ryan Mine Site Tour †
Feb 25 Willow Creek Hike †

please call the Shoshone Museum
for more information 760 852-4524
(*Shoshone Museum events)
(†Amargosa Conservancy events)

The Shoshone Museum Association
P.O. Box 38, Shoshone, CA 92384
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