

Shoshone Museum Reader

Produced for our Members by the Shoshone Museum Assn.

Fall 2007

Shoshone Museum
Association
P.O. Box 38
Shoshone, CA 92384
(760) 852-4414

OUR FEATURED LOCAL AUTHOR

George Ross



LeRoy Johnson Photograph

Born December 26, 1925 in Shoshone, George has lived most of his life in the Shoshone/Tecopa area. George's father was a Hungarian miner and his mother, Julia Weed Ross, was a Paiute from Manse, NV. Julia's parents, Tom and Nellie Weed, also were from Manse. In 1930, Tom and Nellie's home in Shoshone burned, killing them both. After this, George, his mother and his sister Stella then moved to the oldest house in Shoshone (built by Cub Lee in the 1880s).

George attended school in Shoshone and did odd jobs for Charles Brown, cutting wood and keeping the tourist cabins supplied with fire wood. He also washed cars, built roads, and painted buildings. In 1942 he got a job taking up the rails of the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad (T & T RR) – he made \$.85 an hour! Later he worked in the mines sorting talc and driving ore trucks. In Shoshone, he was the manager of the local base ball team, the Shoshone Indians.

In April of 1944, George was drafted into the Army and did his basic training at Camp Roberts near Paso Robles, CA in the summertime. He then went to Germany and fought in the Battle of the Bulge and Ruhr Pocket Battle (which effectively ended the Nazi war effort). After the German surrender, he was sent to Japan and was among those who entered Tokyo after the Japanese surrender.

In 1946, he married Edith Nellie Drake and they had 3 children, George Allen (who tragically died at age 2 months) and then Steve (1947) and Dixie (1950). In 1971 he married Lois Elizabeth Ross, and they lived together in southern California and Tecopa until she died in 1997. Trained as a heavy equipment operator, he

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FALL MUSEUM HOURS:
Closed Wed. Open 10am-4pm Thurs-Tues

QUILT RAFFLE!
Benefits Shoshone Museum

Tickets \$1 or 6 for \$5
Send a check for yours today!

Drawing Noon Sunday Nov. 4
Do not have to be present to win!

Quilt by Dort Fredericks & Victoria Brazzle



**All Kinds of Fun at
OLD WEST DAYS
November 2-4, 2007**

Museum History Talks—pg 2

Fabulous Mesquite Barbeque
Saturday from 11:30 am on
Bring your friends - Proceeds help the Museum!

Sat. Aft. Music —
Dean West Band

Evening Music —
County Line



(Continued from page 1)

worked for the Inyo County road department and he also worked as a hard-rock miner in many of the local mines and in Idaho. Since his retirement, he has been active in preserving and recording the history of the area.

Books below are available in the SMA Gift Shop, and George will be moderating the History Talks, speaking on Old Time Baseball, and his signing books at Old West Days. Pick one up in the Gift Shop while you visit! See the schedule at right for more information.

Remembering Early Shoshone and Tecopa (with Ken Lengner) (2004) - \$13.45 + post
George and Ken spent countless hours documenting the history of the Shoshone and Tecopa area, largely from the memories of George, supplemented by Ken's historical research.

Oral History of George Andrews Ross (2004) — \$15.95 + postage
Harry 'Button' Ford and Don Hendricks of the Pahrup Valley Museum and Historical Society conducted in-depth interviews with George and produced this book.

The Tecopa Mines (with Ken Lengner) (2006) — \$18.95 plus postage
A detailed account of the mines of Tecopa which date back to 1875.

DVD: The Shoshone Cemetery & Dublin Gulch: - \$10 plus postage
55 Minute guided video tour with George Ross, family and friends.

**11/4 Tecopa Basin Artist Reception
"Equidae: Work Inspired by the Horse"**

Artist's Reception Sunday, from 3 -7 pm. New works by local artist Donna Yarrell. Folks that love Old West Days will enjoy this new series of Donna's work. Gallery at Historic Tecopa Hot Springs Resort at 860 Hot Springs Road.

OLD WEST DAYS HISTORY TALKS SCHEDULE 2007

**In the Mammoth Room, Shoshone Museum
Moderator: George Ross**

Be prepared to relive local history with period dress and hands-on demonstrations. Purchase autographed books from local authors— *wonderful memories for you or Holiday gifts for loved ones, as well as support for the Shoshone Museum.*

Talks will last about 20 minutes, with time for questions. Talks are free, but donations are gratefully accepted. A wonderful keepsake booklet about presenters and sponsors of Old West History Talks will be available. *See you there!*

Friday November 2

4:00 - 7:00 pm - **RECEPTION**

5:00 pm - **Welcome and Presentations**

5:30 pm - **LIFE OF "SHORTY" HARRIS**

One Act Play - Frank King

Saturday November 3

1:00 pm - **WHO KILLED CHESTER PRAY?**

A Death Valley Mystery - Nicholas Clapp

1:30 pm - **WHO REALLY BUILT SCOTTY'S CASTLE ?**

Beth Sennett Porter

2:00 pm - **GRANDMA ANN, A First Rate Woman**

Mary Huff

2:30 pm - **HISTORY OF MINING IN DEATH VALLEY**

Linda Greene

3:00 pm - **MOONSHINE IN SHOSHONE**

Judy Palmer

3:30 pm - **OLD TIME BASEBALL**

George Ross

Sunday November 4

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



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



Echoes from the Archives

The summer has been bittersweet. A highlight of the season was that the Museum of the Amargosa project is moving forward. Thanks to the generosity of Jim Gilliam, Kevin O'Brian, Evan Troxel, and the School of Architecture at Cal Poly, The Studio, an advanced architectural course at Cal Poly, will be dedicated to designing a museum that will be situated theoretically at the intersection of State Highway 127 and State Highway 178, the road leading to Pahrump. The Studio group was here for a workshop and site visit in September. The students enrolled in the Studio will create a set of blueprints of the museum and a model that will be on display, after the class has ended, at the present museum which is housed in the historic Greenwater building in downtown Shoshone.

But the summer also has brought with it a deep sadness. On September 3, 2007, Dr. John Cooper, an internationally renowned and beloved geologist who had used Shoshone as his base over the past thirty years, died of a heart attack while on his morning hike. Dr. Cooper was a leader internationally in the field of sequence stratigraphy. Diane Clements-Knott, a colleague who was quoted in the L.A. Times, described his work in the following way: "by painstakingly studying ancient sedimentary rocks and the fossils they enclosed, he documented how eastern California transitioned over millions of years from a marine environment to being part of the continental land mass".

Dr Cooper was not only a leader and trailblazer on the international scene- he also always gave back to his own community. We were very fortunate that John was the President of our museum from 2003 to 2005 and brought with him a knowledge of professional standards and a passion for the land that was priceless. As President, he also expressed the vision of building a new museum that could display the natural wealth and beauty of the Amargosa region. He will be missed by all, but his memory and his good work will be a permanent part of the Amargosa landscape.

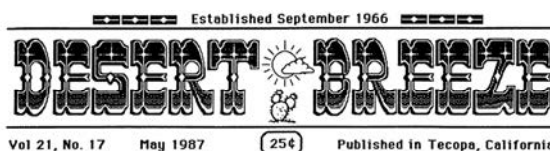
—Susan Sorrells, Board President



Mim Romero—Long-time Desert Activist Passes Away



The desert has lost a long-time advocate. Miriam "Mim" Romero passed away September 17, 2007, in Las Vegas, NV. Mim's special passion was the Amargosa Region. In 1972-1973, Mim spearheaded an effort to save and protect the Amargosa Canyon, which resulted in the designation of the Amargosa Canyon Area of Critical Concern (ACEC) in 1973. Reaching this goal was not easy, after the Bureau of Land Management gave Mim only three months to come up with a reason to protect the canyon. Mim and her husband Ben, with the assistance of 80 scientists, compiled data of biotic, geologic, paleontologic and archaeological resources, and these findings resulted in the designation of the canyon. To find out more about Mim Romero and the Amargosa, log on to www.desertreport.org, Fall 2001 issue.



OLD ISSUES OF DESERT BREEZE SOUGHT BY SHOSHONE MUSEUM

The Shoshone Museum is seeking copies of the old Desert Breeze newsletter, published by Leland Gritzner in Tecopa from 1966 until 1987. It was done on a typewriter and by hand, mimeographed, and usually about 2 double-sided pages.

We have some copies, but would like to complete the set. We will photocopy the originals and return them to you (or if you prefer, send us the photocopies). The newsletter contained local gossips, obituaries and article of historical interest and is a valuable local history resource.

SMA Membership Form

Membership Dues

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Individual | \$ 15 |
| Family | \$ 25 |
| Business/ | \$ 50 |
| Nonprofit | |
| Lifetime | \$ 300 |
| Mammoth | \$ 500 |
| Donation: | \$ _____ |

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) 852-4414

Name: _____

E mail for events: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Returning Member: ___ New Member: ___

Notes To Our Museum Members

Many thanks to those of you who renewed your membership to the Shoshone Museum Association since our May newsletter. We would also like to warmly welcome new members Carl Rook in San Jose CA, Milly Fernald, in Bedford KY, and Barbara Midlikoski and family, from Helendale CA.

Thanks to everyone who signed up for the Albertson & Savon Preferred Card Donation Plan. Shoppers at these stores have donated \$158.67 to our Education Fund since May, without spending an extra penny themselves! Call us for a form or go to http://www.albertsons.com/abs_inthecommunity/ and click on the Community Partners icon. The SMA number is 49001010978.

A special one-time discount membership rate (\$40 or \$60) for joining both the Shoshone Museum and the Amargosa Conservancy will be available at Old West Days. Inquire at either place.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have not renewed your membership for 2 years, this will be your last issue. Due to rising postage costs, we are culling our list by date. We don't want to lose you- please renew now.

The Shoshone Museum Association
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 (760) 852-4414 fax (760) 852-4524
shoshonemuseum@earthlink.net

**All Kinds of Fun ! Come to
 OLD WEST DAYS!
 Friday-Sunday, Nov. 2-4**