

# Shoshone Museum Reader

Produced for our Members by the Shoshone Museum Assn.

Spring 2022

## SHOTGUN KITTY TUBB of DEATH VALLEY JUNCTION



Kitty Tubb sat in a rocking chair on the porch of her Ash Meadows ranch chatting with the game warden. When she asked him what he'd like for dinner--chicken, duck, or goose--and he didn't immediately reply, she picked up her ever-present shotgun, took aim, and fired! She then announced: "Well, guess we'll have goose." She was called "Shotgun Kitty" because she never went anywhere without her shotgun.

Little is known about Kitty's early life. She was born Kitty L. Marbaker in Tuscarora Twp., Bradford Co., in northeastern Pennsylvania, probably about 1885. Kitty was one of 11 children born to Edward and Almeda Wedge Marbaker. When she was young, the family moved to Virginia.

Kitty's father was primarily a farmer, but also operated a small store and served as postmaster. About 1895, when Kitty was 10 years old, her parents separated. Her mother returned to Pennsylvania, but Kitty remained in Virginia with her father and some of the other children.

According to family legend, at about age sixteen Kitty ran away from home to Philadelphia, where she advertised herself as a "Mail Order Bride." Robert Montgomery Tubb responded to the ad. Tubb was a tall, lanky Texan, twice her age, who operated a freighting business. Also according to the family, he was an ornery fellow who could only occasionally be persuaded to take a bath.

Kitty and Bob married and traveled west, spending a few years in Arizona Territory where the first 2 of their 4 sons, Leon and Robert, Jr., were born in 1905 and 1906 respectively. The freighting business took Robert to Las Vegas and to Death Valley Junction, CA, where he located the property they would settle.

About 1906 the Tubbs moved to Nevada. They traveled by wagon, and Kitty apparently arrived ready for life in the West with a

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Shoshone Museum Association

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO KEITH ROSENBERG Winner of This Year's Raffle

Keith has been a staunch museum supporter, and we are delighted to announce that he had the winning ticket! Thanks to everyone who



participated and made this a hugely successful fundraiser and to our local artists who contributed their work: Marlys Skarry, Sue Palmer, Vicky Rega, Izabelle Nuckle, Kathy Goss, Judyth Greenberg, Kathleen Rosenberg, Judy Dillman, and Susan Sorrells. Keith is a cousin of our Ethel Messer and the grandson of Harry Rosenberg, developer of the Tecopa Hot Springs Resort. He has been a generous contributor to the museum, and, in 2019, was our featured speaker, presenting many fascinating details about our history.

## SHOSHONE MUSEUM HOSTS GIRL SCOUT TROOP 207

Seven members (and 3 dedicated mothers!) of Girl Scout Troop 207 from Pahrump visited the Shoshone Museum on March 10 to work on the requirements for their Junior Adventure Trail Badge. Judy Dillman, Mary King

(museum curator), and Sue and Judy Palmer discussed map reading, compass use, hiking and camping, and archival procedures. We sure enjoyed having them here and hope to see more of them in the future!



Girl Scouts (wearing cotton gloves) carefully examine one of Marta Becket's ballet slippers in the museum collection

### MUSEUM HOURS

Open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 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

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marble-topped dresser, a roll-top desk, an ornate bed, a clock, a coffee grinder, and a stove. This is probably also when Kitty's early culinary misadventures nearly caused a disaster when the explosion of an overfilled rice pot startled their team of horses.

Bob worked with the Tonopah & Tidewater RR while its tracks were being laid. By 1907 the rail line reached the Junction where the Tubbs operated a saloon, hotel, store, and brothel out of a tent, with Kitty doing the cooking, running the hotel, and managing the brothel.

In 1908 Kitty traveled to Los Angeles to give birth to George. The following year, their youngest, Danny, was delivered prematurely at the Junction. Sickly and fussy, by 4 years of age he was crippled and required crutches. The family acquired land in Ash Meadows. Kitty held 240 acres in a patent issued in her name in 1914. At this time domestic difficulties developed, and the Tubbs divorced.

Both Bob and Kitty remarried, Kitty three times. She worked in Tonopah as a waitress and cook, purchased a house, and held title to at least one mining claim. Bob's health deteriorated, and he died in 1944.

By the 1940s, Kitty was back in Ash Meadows where she remained until her death. On her ranch she raised horses, cows, and other animals. All of her cows had names and would come when called. She also raised chickens. Once she placed a dead bobcat in her chicken coop, scattered feed around the corpse, and bragged she had trained the bobcat to protect the chickens!

She was a good cook and always preferred her old wood stove to the newer gas models. She used her treadle sewing machine to make her own clothing and patchwork quilts for herself and others.

Although she was a rowdy individual and a skilled poker player, she participated in local civic life and often served as an election inspector and as a member of the Nye County Central Committee for the Democratic Party.

She maintained her skills as a sharpshooter, and it was reported she once waited for 3 geese to line up and then got them all with a single shot.

On one occasion some kids from Shoshone were frogging at night up a creek. When they crossed onto her property, she fired a warning shot, and they hastily identified themselves. Only once did she actually shoot someone, wounding a trespasser in the leg.

In 1957 she succumbed to the complications of her lifelong obesity. At the time of her death in Tonopah, she is said to have weighed 280 pounds, which she carried on a 4'11" frame.

She is buried in the Tonopah cemetery. Her colorful story will always be an important part of the history of Death Valley Junction.

Kitty Tubb's story was presented at the Nevada Boom Town History Conference at the Longstreet casino in the Amargosa Valley in 2006. Family history information and photographs were generously contributed by Kitty's granddaughters Judy Tubb Trenary, Virginia Tubb Goodsen, and Nancy Tubb Peterson.



Kitty and Bob Tubb with Robert and Leon, about 1907

## Shoshone Museum Welcomes Our New Deputy, Tim Plunkett

Originally from San Bernardino, Tim was inspired by a police officer, who was the father of a friend, to enter a career in law enforcement. In 2012 he joined the Kern County Sheriff's Office. In 2014 he moved to Ridgecrest where he served as a canine handler until this summer, when he joined the Inyo County Sheriff's Office. Enjoying a challenge, he specifically wanted to work in a remote area where he would have to be resourceful and use his critical thinking skills. He also likes being part of a small, friendly community. Tim and his wife, Rebecca, live in Shoshone with their 3 dogs, 2 cats, and one lizard. A warm welcome to Tim and Becca. We sure do appreciate your important service.



## Echoes from the Archives

By Susan Sorrells



Although it has been another tumultuous year in the Amargosa as a continuing result of the COVID shutdown, the Shoshone Museum is getting back to normal. This winter the museum has been open seven days a week for our many visitors, and its knowledgeable staff--Mary Burke King, John Muccio, Carla Perkins, and Toni Kizzia--have answered most of the diverse questions visitors have had about the Death Valley and Shoshone/Tecopa areas. For those questions that they could not answer, they were able to direct the visitor to experts or to publications where they could find the needed information. As a result, at a time when visitation in the area is very high, the Shoshone Museum continues to be a hub of activity and information.

Another popular and informational activity the Shoshone Museum is resuming is the Speaker Program. This program is usually organized by Toni Kizzia and Robin Flinchum, but this last event was a group effort. At the last museum board of directors meeting, Carla Perkins mentioned that many of the visitors stopping by the museum had commented on the large number of showy birds they had seen in the area and had heard about the "Birdman of Shoshone" who had a reputation for leading fascinating bird walks. They wondered if any such walks, or talks, had been scheduled. The board and staff agreed that it would be a timely event because bird migration is in full swing, so the staff went into action. Len Warren, the Birdman of Shoshone, generously agreed to give a presentation, and the event was planned for Saturday, April 9. It was a tremendous success, and planning for the Speakers Program this fall has begun!



SIFPD is looking to hire a part-time chief for the growing rural volunteer fire/EMS fire district in Tecopa/Shoshone/Charleston View area. Respond to calls, recruit, train, oversee capital improvements and fleet. Experience preferred. Help us protect our desert community.

Call 760-852-4130.

Email [sifpd@yahoo.com](mailto:sifpd@yahoo.com).



Kiosk Committee: (L to R) Mike Jerry, Larry Levy, Danny MacMahon, Angie Sinohui, and Sarah Jane Woodall, AKA Wonderhussy

## KIOSK PROVIDES DRINKING WATER FOR TECOPA

Robin Flinchum

The citizen's committee overseeing the operation of the community drinking water vending kiosk in Tecopa wishes to extend a hearty thank you to the Shoshone Museum Association for its generous support. The kiosk, located on Furnace Creek Rd. in Tecopa, first began dispensing clean, filtered drinking water in 2016 as the result of nearly a decade of cooperative efforts between a variety of nonprofit and governmental organizations. Prior to that time, residents traveled to Pahrump to fill their drinking water jugs because the water in Tecopa does not meet state standards.

Now the project is the sole responsibility of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District, the only local entity available to take on its oversight. It is funded entirely by the sale of potable water at .25 cents a gallon, with no contributions from Inyo County, the State of California, or the federal government. What we collect, however, falls short of covering ever-increasing fees for monthly water testing, licensing, cleaning, repairs, and maintenance.

The kiosk survives because a team of dedicated volunteers keeps it going and because our community has rallied around the project. This year we received a \$2,000 donation from Susan Sorrells and the Shoshone Museum Association that allowed us to recover from a hard pandemic setback. We were also the lucky beneficiaries of a GoFundMe campaign started by the Amargosa Conservancy. Once our neighbor Sarah Jane Woodall (also known as Wonderhussy on YouTube--check her out at Wonderhussy Adventures) gave it a shout-out on her channel, the campaign raised over \$6,500!

Thanks to these friends who understand the importance of the kiosk and have used their talents to keep it alive, we can breathe a little easier. However, survival is far from guaranteed, and we hope to find more permanent funding streams for our project, which, they tell us, is the only one like it in the state. If you'd like to join our fundraising team, call 760-852-4130 for meeting information.

To make a donation, go here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/ftecopa-water-project>

### Shoshone Museum Association Membership Form

(Annual Dues)

Individual	\$25	Name: _____
Family	\$35	Mailing address: _____
Business	\$50	_____
Nonprofit	\$35	_____
Mtn Lion	\$100	Email: _____
Mammoth	\$500	Phone: ____ (____) _____
Senior/	\$15	Donation: \$ _____
Student	\$15	Amount enclosed: \$ _____

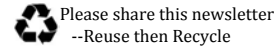
New  Renewal

Make checks payable to Shoshone Museum Association  
Mail to: P.O. Box 38, Shoshone, CA 92384 or  
pay by phone using VISA or Master Card 760 852 4524

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 22 Tecopa Artist Group Show, Tecopa Hot Springs Resort  
"Things We Love & Coping with Change"  
(weekend & by appointment until end of season)
- Ongoing Tecopa Hot Springs Resort: Fri & Sat night music with  
Pablo and friends weather permitting, Sunset - 10pm
- Death Valley Natl Park events: <[www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva)>  
Get Outdoors Nevada volunteer opportunities  
<[www.GetOutdoorsNevada.org/](http://www.GetOutdoorsNevada.org/)>
- Road Scholar Program, Death Valley Natl Park  
<[www.dvnh.org/programs-events/road-scholar](http://www.dvnh.org/programs-events/road-scholar)>
- Ash Meadows Natl Wildlife Refuge events information  
<[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ash\\_Meadows/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ash_Meadows/)>
- Tecopa Hot Springs Campground (music, hikes, and more)  
<<http://www.tecopahotspringscampground.com/>>

Please contact the Shoshone Museum for more information  
[shoshonemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:shoshonemuseum@gmail.com) 760 852-4524  
(\* Shoshone Museum events)



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Eligible for smile donation

Shoshone Museum \$334.06  
has received as of June 2021

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