



Then & Now

TULARE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"PRESERVING THE HERITAGE OF TULARE"

FALL 2017

The Donner Party: A Family Legacy

A rare opportunity for history buffs comes to the Tulare Historical Museum on Sunday, October 15th when Tularean Pat Hillman will present "The Donner Party: A Family Legacy" as part of THM's 'Sundays @ 2' cultural programs.

Guests will have a chance to hear first-hand from a direct descendant of the Donner Party speak about her family's famous journey. Pat herself is the great-great grand daughter of George Donner, Captain of the ill-fated party.

Coinciding with the event, the THM Gift Shop currently has a limited number of copies of the book "The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party," as well as a short historical account of the Donner Party's story, written by Pat herself.

The presentation begins at 2:00pm in the Heritage Art Gallery at the Tulare Historical Museum and is open to the public and free of charge.



The Charades: Tulare's Ambassadors Of Song

If you've lived in Tulare long enough (starting in 1956 to be exact), chances are you've danced the night away to the sounds of The Charades in concert. From school dances, to concerts and package shows, to night-clubs, Policeman Balls, weddings and school reunions, The Charades music has been synonymous with Tulare and Tulare County for over 60 years.

Rhythm & Blues was the music of the day in 1956, when five teenagers from Tulare Union High School decided to form their own singing group, originally known as The Latin Knights. Their first gigs were of course local school assemblies and dances.

The members of The Latin Knights, consisted of Manuel Cisneros, Alfi Quintero, Joe Moreno and brothers Leon and Raymond Baradat. "We sang with a piano player sometimes,"

founding member Ray Baradat reminisced in 1987. During that same reminiscence, founding member Sylvester "Syl" Grigsby, a Latin Knight/Charade since 1957, recalled "We did a lot of doo-wooping. Our voices were basically our instruments." A dance band would play during the school dances, and during the break The Latin Knights would come on stage and sing the Rock & Roll hits of the day.

In 1957, Cisneros, Quintero and Moreno left the group. The Baradat brothers found replacements in new members Sylvester "Syl" Grigsby, Alex Pilkington and Will Johnson, and The Latin Knights continued. In 1958, Ray's older brother Leon left the group in order to work and enter college.

As their singing continued, in 1959 the group realized that they were missing out on many job opportunities not having a band, so the decision was

made to form a band to augment the singers. The Latin Knights band consisted of Easy Pena on guitar, Iggy Perez on drums and Henry King on bass, later adding Eddie Cuellar on guitar and sax.

With a band to back them now, The Latin Knights were able to line up more and more gigs, becoming popular enough to record for both Swingin' Records and Weber Records in L.A. While unfortunately none of their songs were released at the time, they however had "made it," performing in several travelling rock-n-roll shows.

In late 1959, member Alex Pilkington left the group to join the U.S. Army, although he would return to the band in 1961.

(continued on page 4)

TULARE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ADDRESS:

444 W. Tulare Ave.,
Tulare, CA 93274-3831

HOURS:

Thursday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sept-May: 3rd Sunday of each
month open free 12:30 p.m.-4:00p.m.

CONTACT US:

Telephone: (559) 686-2074
Fax: (559) 686-9295
www.tularehistoricalmuseum.org

"Like" and follow us on Face-
book, Tulare Historical Museum.
Follow us on Twitter,
@TulareHistory.



Kudos to...

- Marleen Borges on her retirement as THM's volunteer Gift Shop Inventory Coordinator. Thank You Marleen for your many years of hard work and devoted love for the Museum. You approached every day here with a laugh and a smile. Keep laughing and smiling! We wish you all the best!
- Joyce Bandy on her retirement as a Gift Shop Volunteer. Thank You Joyce for your devoted and loving service to the Museum. As the first face who people see here, you have helped countless THM guests over the years with your invaluable and very personable assistance. We wish you all the best!
- Richard Arenas for his recent thought provoking art exhibition "California History" Campesino Series.
- Linda Hengst for her recent colorful art exhibition "Variety Is The Spice Of Life!"
- New TCHS Board of Trustees member Shea Gowin. We look forward to your ideas and actions that will continue to progress the Museum!



Museum Schedule of Events

OCTOBER

- Oct. 15**— Museum open for free, 12:30-4:00pm.
"Sundays @ 2" program "The Donner Party...A Family Legacy" with Pat Hillman, 2:00pm Heritage Art Gallery.
- Oct. 18** – TCHS Board of Trustees meeting, 5:15pm Audio-Visual Room.
- Oct. 20** - Palette Club meeting, 7:00pm, Heritage Art Gallery
- Oct. 26** – Valley Oak Garden Club meeting, 9:30am Heritage Art Gallery
- Oct. 30** - 27th Annual "Taste Treats In Tulare." 6:00-8:30pm, Ticketed Event
International Agri-Center, Pavilion 'C'

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 4**— Final day "Ginny Wilson...A Blue Ridge Photography Retrospective."

- Nov. 9** —Valley Oak Garden Club meeting, 9:30am Heritage Art Gallery
"Manuel Abad: California Cowboy" art exhibit opens. Reception 5:00-7:00pm, Heritage Art Gallery.
- Nov. 15**— TCHS Board of Trustees meeting, 5:15pm Audio-Visual Room
- Nov. 17** - Palette Club meeting, 7:00pm, Heritage Art Gallery
- Nov. 19**— Museum open for free, 12:30-4:00pm.
- Nov. 23-24**— Closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

DECEMBER

- Dec. 14** – Valley Oak Garden Club meeting, 9:30am Heritage Art Gallery
- Dec. 17**— Museum open for free, 12:30-4:00pm
- Dec. 20** – TCHS Board of Trustees meeting, 5:15pm Audio-Visual Room.

Memorial & Honorary Contributions (as of Oct. 12th)

IN MEMORY OF

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Don & Denise Evans



The Charades: Tulare's Music Makers

(continued from page 1)

Lavern Butler was brought on to replace Pilkington and he continued with the group when Pilkington returned. In 1962, Will Johnson left the group and his brother Johnny "Buddy" Johnson stepped in to fill the vacancy. The year 1962 also brought another recording date, as well as a name change. Anthony Hilder, a well known record producer from Los Angeles, reached out to the group in hopes of recording them. By late 1962, The Latin Knights were in the recording studios of L.A. once again for several sessions with Hilder. It was at this time that Hilder changed the groups' name to The Charades.

The Charades continued to perform and record under their new name. In 1963, Lavern Butler left the group in order to form his own. The year 1963 also saw the recording and release of The Charades' biggest hit, "Please Be My Love Tonight," the song which they are still known for today.

And as they say, the rest is musical history. Over the next 30 years, The Charades continued to perform steadily, cutting records, performing with stars such as The Coasters, Chuck Berry and Connie Francis, even recording songs for a movie soundtrack. And as with most groups, personnel changes continued to happen as well. Ray Baradat took a

two-year hiatus when he was drafted by the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam. More musicians were added to the group, like guitarist Tom Johnston, who later formed the group, The Doobie Brothers. In 1983, Sally Watson became the first female to join the group.

While The Charades stopped performing full-time in 1992, they still regroup several times a year for special functions. In 2008, founding members and best friends Ray & Syl, travelled to New Jersey where they were invited to perform at a sold-out oldies concert. They received a standing ovation when they stepped out on stage and sang their hit "Please Be My Love Tonight," 45 years after first recording the song. To this day it is still a much requested song on East Coast oldies radio.

Earlier this month, they performed for their "2017 World Tour, One Night Only," playing for Porterville High School's Class of 1962 reunion. They released their latest CD, "Echoes Of Yesterday" in 2015, which can be purchased at the THM Gift Shop along with other great Charades recordings.

The Charades and their music are so deeply interwoven into the fabric of Tulare, they will forever be regarded as Tulare's Ambassadors of Song.

DANCE
 MELCO ENTERPRISES Present
THE CHARADES
THE FIVE SATINS
THE PENQUINS
JOHNNY THUNDER
THE DE FENDERS
 SAT. 9 P.M. TO 1 A.M. **AUG. 22**
TULARE
VETS MEM. HALL
 Admission \$1.95 Per Person



JOHNNY (BUDDY) JOHNSON
 LAVERN BUTLER

THE CHARADES
 (1962)
 RAY BARADAT

SYL GRIGSBY
 ALEX PILKINTON

Tulare City Historical Society Membership Renewals

Thank You for your continued support!

Individual

Fern Allen
 Howard Berger
 Ethel Borba
 Sandy Curry
 Peggy DeMuth
 Jane DuPlessis
 Nivia Fernandes
 Mervin Fulton
 Claire Grant
 Theresa Green
 Richard Harrison
 Pauline Hesse
 Karen Hill
 Judy Ivey
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 Patsy Voshall
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Business

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 Greg Hamstra Dairy
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NEW ARRIVALS AT THM GIFT SHOP

Once They Were Eagles: The Men of the Black Sheep Squadron (\$19.95)

Another great account of the men of Pappy Boyington's Black Sheep Squadron. What sets this book apart, is the fact that at the time of its writing, author Frank Walton located the thirty-four surviving members of the fifty-one original Black Sheep, in order to interview them and include their recollections in the book.

The Team That Forever Changed Baseball and America: The 1947 Brooklyn Dodger (\$26.95)

Taken from the book cover, "Of all the teams in the annals of baseball, only a select few can lay claim to historic significance. One of those teams is the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers."

Not only is the book a great account of the Dodgers' (and baseball's) historic 1947 season, it is also the first book to offer biographies of every team player that season. Of special note, is Tulare's own Vic Lombardi.

Stories From Joe Doctor Tulare County's Country Journalist (\$25.00)

Lovingly compiled by Tulare County historians Alan George and Terry Omen, this book brings a select number of Joe Doctor's original articles for the Exeter Sun newspaper back to print for everyone to enjoy. Reminisce once again with 'Tulare County's country journalist.'

Sister Vayda's Song (\$13.00)

Collection of poems from Tulare's Poet Laureate, Wilma McDaniel. Originally published in 1982, this collection was called "a small masterpiece" by Sojourner. By the way, the book's photograph of the author was taken by none other than Tulare's photographer laureate, Mr. Don LeBaron!

A Primer for Buford (\$18.00)

Another great collection of poems from Wilma McDaniel. Taken from the book cover, "...McDaniel's realization that the number of people who can remember the Okie experience and the

life it led to is dwindling rapidly. The book takes the shape of a poetry primer for a young man who needs to learn about his own heritage."

Folk singer Pete Seeger remarked "I wish there were more poets like Wilma McDaniel. One wants to return to her book again and again. Little slices of real truth, to be long savored."

The Last Dust Storm (\$13.00)

Wilma McDaniel's third book of poems from Hanging Loose Press. From the book cover, "Beneath their calm surface lie profound feeling, insight, sophistication, and often a sly humor at the expense of those who would patronize working people."

Borrowed Coats (\$13.00)

From the book cover, "Borrowed Coats, the fourth Hanging Loose collection of Wilma McDaniel's work in the last twenty years, once again demonstrates the understated power of this poet who began writing as a child and has never stopped. Her work fuses the overheard conversation of real people with memories of a Depression childhood, a highly personal spiritual insight, and sharp observations of life in today's San Joaquin Valley."

Down an Old Road: The Poetic Life of Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel -DVD (\$20.00)

2001 film by Chris Evans. Evans does a great job packing a powerful story into a short 34 minutes. As mentioned in the film, "McDaniel's verse can reveal the extraordinary in an everyday scene at K-Mart and finds the sacred in a blowing curtain."

Highway 99: The History of California's Main Street (\$18.95)

Author Stephen H. Provost has done a great service to history by putting together this full portrait of Our historic Highway 99! Taken from the book's cover, "Before it was a modern freeway, California's State Highway 99 was the main street of California, a simple two-lane road that passed

through the downtowns of every city between the Mexican border and the Oregon state line.

Highway 99: A History of California's Main Street turns back the clock to those days when a narrow ribbon of asphalt tied the state's communities together, with classic roadside attractions and plenty of fun along the way." This is truly a fun read!

The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party (\$14.99)

Daniel James Brown, author of the NY Times #1 bestseller 'The Boys In The Boat,' now brings us a compelling and gripping narrative on the Donner Party and their now ill-fated journey.

From the book cover, "...Daniel James Brown sheds new light on one of the most legendary events in American history. Following every painful footstep of Sarah Graves' journey with the Donner Party, Brown produces a tale both spellbinding and richly informative."

Tulare Amvets B-17 Patch (\$5.00)

Get your very own Amvets Post 56 embroidered patch, commemorating "Preston's Pride," Tulare's very own B-17 Bomber.

Tulare F-4 Phantom Military Patch (\$5.00)

Phantom 912 Group military patch for Tulare's very own F-4 Phantom.

Dorothy Warren — Volunteer Spotlight

The Tulare Historical Museum is pleased to have Dorothy Warren as our “Volunteer Spotlight” for Fall 2017. Dorothy volunteers in the THM Gift Shop.

Dorothy Serpa was born in Tulare on July 22, 1929 to parents Manuel and Millian Serpa. Dorothy grew up on the family dairy farm on Cartmill and Enterprise and attended Enterprise School. She then graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1947. Dorothy’s extra-curricular activities did not include school, but rather going home every day and working on the dairy. Growing up a tomboy Dorothy helped out in many capacities, but “thank God, I never had to milk cows though!” Dorothy remarked with a laugh.

Dorothy has one sister, Velma, who is also a Warren. Not only are Dorothy and Velma sisters, they are sister-in-laws as well, because they both married brothers...Ed for Velma and Jim for Dorothy. Jim and Dorothy were married for 62 years until Jim’s passing in 2007. The two families farmed together for 40 years as Warren Bros. Farms. Dorothy and Jim built their home on the same spot as Dorothy’s original childhood home. The farm focused on dairy, cotton, corn and alfalfa.

For 20 years (1949-1969), Dorothy worked for Valley Motor Lines on Cross Street in their office. Then when the business sold to Western Milk, Dorothy continued working there for three more years.

‘Activity’ of any sort has always been a big part of Dorothy’s life. She bowled for many years on both women’s league and mixed league bowling teams, dancing on Saturday nights, and watching a lot of football games with her three sons (Steve, Rick, and Tom) while they grew up. By the way, all three sons still live in Tulare, and Dorothy now has five grandsons, one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter.



*Dorothy Warren
THM Gift Shop*

Dorothy also volunteered for the Ag Show for many years every February, making roughly 50 food trays every day for all of the volunteer offices. She also volunteered at the Ag grounds throughout the year when needed. Dorothy focused her volunteer efforts on the local Cabrillo Club as well.

A dear friend, Bernice Morris, initially got Dorothy interested in volunteering at the Museum. Bernice was already a volunteer in the THM Gift Shop. Once Dorothy began volunteering, the two

would work together on many occasions, even playing a game or two of cards during a lull in business! Dorothy explains, “I don’t remember when I started volunteering at the Museum, but it’s always nice when people come in that used to live here and want to talk about growing up in Tulare. I enjoy that.”

Thank you Dorothy for your great volunteering spirit. You make all our guests feel right at home the minute they walk through our doors and shop in the Gift Shop. We are glad that you are part of the THM family!



***Interested in
volunteering at THM?!**

**Contact us for more
information regarding
volunteer opportunities**

**and help us in our
mission to preserve Tulare
history!**

"LET'S ALL GO TO THE MOVIES!"

TULARE
 ENDS TODAY — Matinee 2:00
 Screens 2:30 - 7:25 - 9:50

TEXAS
 with William Holden - Glenn Ford
 Claire Trevor - George Bancroft

STARTS WEDNESDAY
 THE YEAR'S MOST
 TALKED ABOUT PICTURE!

THE MAN WHO
Startled
 THE WORLD
 ON THE RADIO
 brings you NEW
 and GREATER thrills
 on the screen!

**ORSON
 WELLES**

AS
"Citizen Kane"
 The picture Hollywood said he'd
 never make
 with
 THE SURPRISE CAST
 OF THE YEAR!

PLUS A BIG FUN RIOT!

IT'S THE YEAR'S PAY-OFF OF FUN
 AND EXCITEMENT!

**THE STORK
 PAYS OFF**
 with VICTOR JORY
 ROCHELLE HUDSON
 Maxie Rosenbloom

Dec. 9, 1941

STARTS SUNDAY | **TULARE**
 THEATRE

A Star-Studded
 Musical Hit!

*Two Girls and
 a Sailor*

with
 June Allyson
 Gloria DeHaven
 Van Johnson
 Jose Iturbi
 Jimmy Durante
 Gracie Allen

with
HARRY JAMES
 and his
 MUSIC MAKERS
XAVIER CUGAT
 & HIS ORCHESTRA

—ENDS TODAY—
 Edward G. Robinson in "MR. WINKLE GOES TO WAR"
 Jimmy Lydon in "HENRY ALDRICH'S LITTLE SECRET"

Oct. 28, 1944

★ **TULARE** ★
 THEATRE
 Phone 686-4827

NOW PLAYING

ELVIS PRESLEY in
"CLAMBAKE"
 with SHELLEY FABARES - WILL HUTCHINS
 BILL BOBBY - GARY MERRILL
 TECHNISCOPE TECHNICOLOR

SECOND FEATURE
"MAYA"

Dec. 22, 1967

TULARE
 THEATRE

CONTINUOUS FROM 1:15
 NOW! STARTS
 3:20 - 6:48 - 10:00

MOST EAGERLY AWAITED
 MOTION PICTURE IN YEARS!

**JACK
 WEBB**
 IN HIS FIRST FEATURE-LENGTH PRODUCTION

Dragnet
 in
 Warner
 Color

BEN
 ALEXANDER
 RICHARD BOONE
 ANN
 ROBINSON

PLUS! 2:08 - 5:27 - 8:46

THE Lone Gun
 COLOR
 BLASTING THE FURY
 OF THE WEST!
 — GEORGE MONTGOMERY — DOROTHY MALONE
 RELEASED THROUGH UNITED ARTISTS

Nov. 17, 1954

TASTE TREATS IN TULARE OCTOBER 30th!

Invite your family and friends to Tulare's social event of the season, the annual Taste Treats in Tulare!

This sell-out event, now in its 27th season, is the biggest fundraiser of the year benefitting the Tulare Historical Museum and their mission of local historical preservation and advocacy.

For only \$50 a ticket, you enjoy a wide sampling of some of the finest food and beverages from premier local area restaurants. Along with a hosted bar, both a live and silent auction will be held, showcasing a wide array of unique items for your bidding enjoyment.

Come celebrate with THM on Monday, October 30th at Taste Treats In Tulare!!!

Monday, October 30
International Agri-Center Pavilion 'C'
4500 S. Laspina St.
Tulare
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



To Purchase Tickets:

Fill out & mail the enclosed form

In person at THM or by phone: **686-2074**

Online at www.tularehistoricalmuseum.org

27th Annual Taste Treats In Tulare

A GREAT time for a GREAT cause!
Tickets are \$50.00 (price includes all beverages).

MAIL TO: Tulare City Historical Society, 444 W. Tulare Ave., Tulare, California 93274

Please reserve _____ tickets @ \$50.00 each (price includes all beverages).

I cannot attend but I wish to donate \$_____ in support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount enclosed \$_____

Charge my VISA/MASTERCARD/AMERICAN EXPRESS/DISCOVER card _____

Card Expiration: _____

Signature: _____



**Tulare City Historical Society
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Membership categories are as follows:

- Individual - \$40 annually** *Free admission, Newsletter, 10% discount in gift shop.*
- Family - \$60 annually** *Free admission for yourself, your spouse and your children under 16, Newsletter, 10% discount in gift shop.*
- Individual Patron - \$100 annually** *Free admission, Newsletter, 6 guest passes, 10% discount in gift shop, VIP invitations to receptions and special events.*
- Business Sponsor - \$200 annually** *Free admission, Newsletter, 8 guest passes, 10% discount in gift shop, VIP invitations to receptions and special events.*
- Lifetime - \$1,000** *One-time contribution per individual. Includes all benefit privileges for life.*
- Friend of the Museum - Optional donation.** *Your annual financial contribution helps us maintain our beautiful museum.*
Optional donations may include estate and inheritance bequeaths, and Memorial and Honorary contributions.

Check enclosed. *Payable to Tulare City Historical Society*

Please charge my Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Discover card.

Account number: _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Mail to: Tulare City Historical Society • 444 W. Tulare Ave. • Tulare, CA 93274



FALL 2017

Tulare City Historical Society
Tulare Historical Museum
444 West Tulare Avenue
Tulare, CA 93274



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