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New SHAAC Tiles in Central Square

If you were wondering what was going on behind the tent in Central Square recently it was the installation of five new tiles for the SHAAC tile project. The SHAAC places tiles for significant people and places in Auburn's history around Central Square.

For the process see the City's website under SHAAC. The historical tiles put in this time were for Dr. John Engle, Gussie Stewart, and Virginia Bell. More contemporary tiles were for Joann Neft and Monroe DeJarnette.



History News

Coming in the next couple of weeks is another unveiling of Unique Auburn Characters in the display cases at City Hall. James and Gussie Stewart are featured. Second Floor City Hall

The Placer County Historical Foundation is working with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to finally get the plaque for the Stevens Trail in place.

They have also submitted the nomination for the Placer County Domes for National Register status one more time. Seems like all these projects require so much patience. Working with State and Federal agencies is not for the faint hearted!

Progress on the Western States Trail Museum is moving along . The Foundation just honored a grant request for this project.

Perhaps you have noticed that the Dr. Fox property on Auburn Ravine has changed hands. For a while the fate of the large concrete statues was in question but the issue seems to be resolved. The museum was able to take some of the smaller pieces of work and the new owners are happy to incorporate the large statues into their remodeling plans. Another piece of our history saved.

Was Auburn ever the County Seat of Sutter county? It has been accepted knowledge forever but recently a few of us began questioning the legitimacy of the claim. There was so little primary source information. So the digging commenced! Newspaper accounts, deeds, State Archives. The answer is in a forthcoming article by John Knox on the Society website. placerhistoricalsociety.org

Mike Lynch, Secretary of the Foundation, is the proud new owner of one of the smaller Dr. Fox sculptures.



Here is an early photo of the Fox statues with one under construction. Claude Chana and the Chinese worker have since been moved. Chana welcomes visitors to Old Town and the Chinese worker is in front the County Museum on High Street.



Above is a view of the Summit Camp area at Donner Pass with China Wall and a tunnel opening in the background. The big news is that the Camp area has just been designated a National Historic Landmark. This is a huge accomplishment by the 1882 Foundation, the Summit Tunnel Conservation Association, local avocational groups and the Tahoe National Forest who have all been dedicated to preserving the unique historical character of this area.

Between 1865 and 1869, hundreds of Chinese workers lived at Summit Construction Camp while building the transcontinental railroad. This area is still a rich archaeological site. The Forest Service has noted that the “Summit Camp is an exceptional representation of the history of Chinese laborers and their contributions towards the construction of the railroad.”