



Give us your ideas: Help Design the 20 Mile Museum

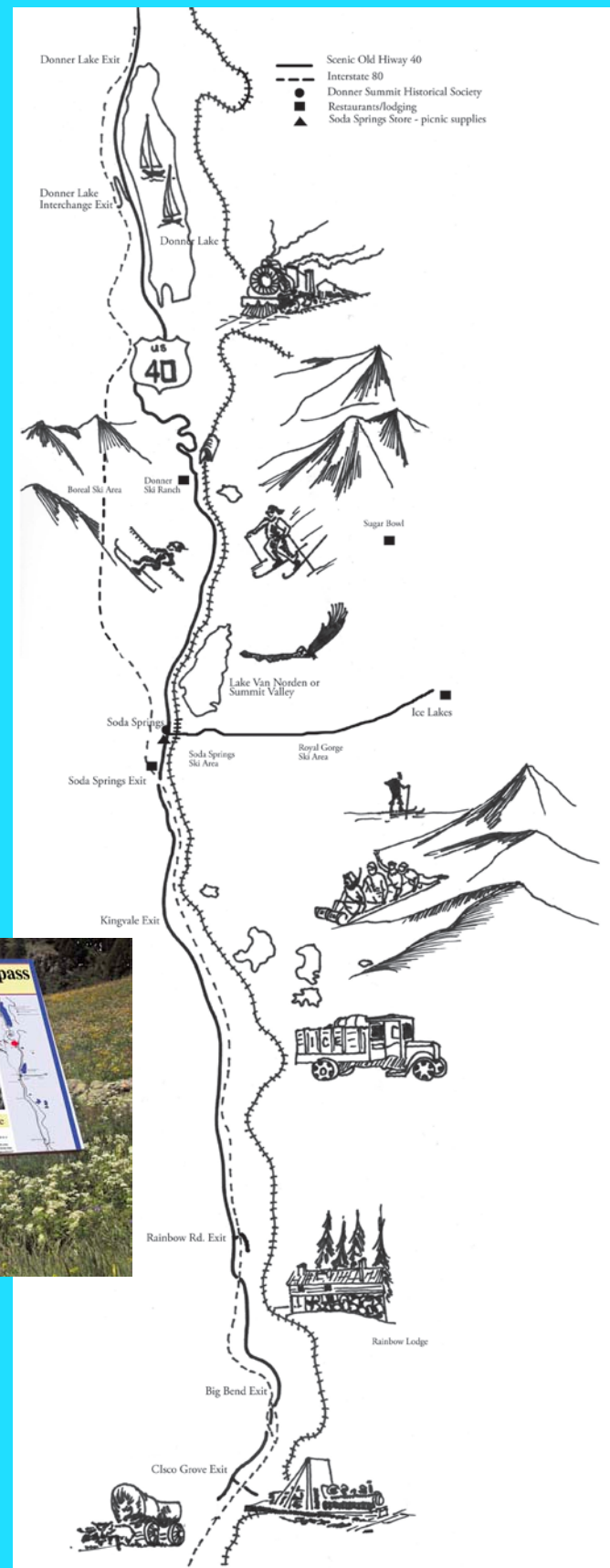
Ever since the coming of the freeway, the economy on Donner Summit has been heading downhill which is not where the Summit community would like it (expressed through surveys and public forums beginning in 2007).

Transportation is the major theme of Summit history: the railroad, the first transcontinental highway, the Dutch Flat Wagon Rd. etc. Let's make Old highway 40, the main road before Interstate 80, into our "convention center" the draw for Donner Summit.

Old 40 will be our 20 mile long museum from Cisco Grove to below Rainbow Bridge on Old 40. It will be "interpreted" with signs like what you see here. Signs will contain: a map of the route, the history of the spot (the wagon trains or petroglyphs), a good historical story (the bank robbers arrested in Soda Springs or the missing gold at Rainbow), old photographs, a nearby activity (hike to Roller Pass or walk along the Lincoln Highway by the river), GPS coordinates for geo-caching, supporting businesses and the business that adopted the sign.

As you can imagine this is a large undertaking: making the couple of dozen signs, fabricating the stands/supports, getting placement permission, working with County governments, choosing photographs, writing text, making and disseminating brochures, and just dealing with the myriad of details involved in the logistics. We need help with our effort to not only pass on our rich history but to improve the Summit's economy.

Here is your chance to help.



Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass

Rainbow Lodge

History

Rainbow Tavern, as it was known, was built in 1927 by Herstle Jones who also built Nyack Lodge. He was the brother of Oscar Jones who built the Soda Springs Hotel. Rainbow Lodge served as a way spot for summer travelers over the Sierra offering meals, rooms, and cabins as well as a trout farm. Visitors could catch their fish and have the dining hall cook them. Once Old Highway 40 was plowed in the winter, Rainbow became a winter destination and way station as well. A rope tow was built out back and skiers were welcome. Later, skiers who were more adventurous were taken by car up to Sugar Bowl. There was a gas station across the street from the Tavern.

A Good Story

One night a man from up the road at Hampshire Rocks or Crampton's lost \$25,000 in gold coins gambling. He was upset. He went "home" for awhile and then came back. The man to whom he'd lost had also left and then returned and returned with wet legs. The loser demanded that the game be continued. The winner refused. The loser took out a gun and shot the winner dead. The gold coins are still presumably in the neighborhood and with a river running for miles in either direction, there are a lot of places to look for where the winner could have gotten his legs wet.

Things to do right here

Go into Rainbow Lodge and admire the 1920's architecture and woodwork. Look at the historical photographs on the walls. Enjoy a meal inside or outside by the river. Take a walk up the road looking at the old houses. Walk up the road a couple of hundred yards and try to figure out what the "chimney" is that's on the left past the last house (pictured here to the right). The "chimney" has no place for a fire or smoke. Nearby on the forest floor is a marker with a "C" on it (also pictured right here). What is it?

- Visit Summit Restaurant at I-80 & Old 40
- Look at the display inside
- Look at the proposed list of historical spots
- Are there spots we missed?
- Are there spots that should be left out?
- Can you help with history for spots?
- Can you help with stories for spots?
- What activities can people do at each spot?

Want to Sponsor an historic Summit Spot?

Sign stand:	\$240.00
Sign:	15.00
UV covering:	40.00
Concrete Anchor:	10.00
Total:	\$305.00
	\$395 after 12/31/09

Volunteer labor installation of signs

To sponsor, info@donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

contact us at:

info@donnersummithistoricalsociety.org