

SUMMIT RESTAURANT AND BAR

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Established - 2001

Soda Springs, CA

Volume I Issue 2

Summer, 2013



Donner Summit Lodge Open Every Day

Summer Hours: Sat/Sun 8 A.M. - 8:30 P.M. MTTTH Noon-8:30 P.M.
Taco Tuesday: 4 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. The bar is open until the crowd is gone.

Donner Summit Lodge, A Short History

Ever since the Dutch Flat Wagon Rd. was built in the early 1860's to service the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, there have been hostleries along the route over Donner Pass.

The first auto to cross Donner Pass crossed in 1901 and the first motorcycle in 1903. The first successful "transcontinentalists" crossed the country using Donner Pass in 1903. With the arrival of the automobile, lodges began to spring up to service automobiles and provide relief for the "autoists".

By 1913 the first transcontinental highway, the Lincoln Highway, was in operation and auto traffic increased considerably. Small lodges and service stations were built along the route and early automobiles would have gone right past what is now Donner Summit Lodge. Once the highway was open in winter the lodges offered accommodations for snow sport enthusiasts.

Donner Summit Lodge was built in 1938 to take advantage of the growth of traffic over the, by then, year-round Highway 40. The lodge was expanded twice from the picture above, first just after World War II and then in the 1970's. Additions were made to both ends of the original lodge. The sign on the lodge above says, "Donner Summit Lodge Fine Food Ski Dormitories Cabins.."

Summit Restaurant does catering too.

Call 426-3904

Summit Valley Sierra Jewel

"Descending the rocky ravine a few miles, we emerged from it and entered a beautiful level valley, some four or five miles in length from east to west, and about two miles in breadth. A narrow, sluggish stream runs through this valley, the waters of which are of considerable depth, and the banks steep and miry. A luxuriant growth of grasses, of excellent quality, covered the entire valley with the richest verdure. Flowers were in bloom; and although late in August, the vegetation presented all the tenderness and freshness of May."

That is how Edwin Bryant saw Summit Valley in his 1848 book, What I Saw in California.

Then Alonzo Delano some years later said, "...we reach the pleasant opening of Summit Valley, which lies nestled at the western base of the great wall and backbone of the Sierra Nevada. A charming glade... presents in summer an interesting contrast in its green bosom to the great wall of everlasting snow which rises on its eastern border, the apex of which is more than eight thousand feet."

Donner Summit is the richest historical area in California and maybe the entire Western United States. Summit Valley is the richest part of Donner Summit. Native Americans occupied the valley for thousands of years. The first wagon trains to reach California with wagons came through Summit Valley as did the first transcontinental railroad, highway, telephone line, and air route (beacons sat around the valley). The rescuers of the Donner Party came through as did the first automobile, motorcycle and bicycle to cross the Sierra. There were hotels, stores, saloons, train stations, and stage stations. There are a myriad of stories to go with each of those.

Summit Valley is also the richest biological area of the summit with many different habitats hosting more than a hundred bird species, 116 species of butterflies, 16 amphibian species, dozens of mammal species, and loads of wildflowers. There is even a beaver living in the lake.

Summit Valley is indeed a jewel and with the purchase of Summit Valley by the Truckee Donner Land Trust in 2013, it is now open for public inspection and enjoyment. This menu will explore the richness of Summit Valley.

After you read, go visit.

Breakfast

EGGS

Good Morning Summit Special:

two eggs any style, bacon or sausage, potatoes and toast 8.00

Choose from the following - omelets all are accompanied with potatoes & toast

Bacon, Swiss & Tomato 12.00

Chili & Cheese 11.00

Mushroom, Sausage & Cheese 10.00

Salmon, Cream Cheese & Scallions topped with Parmesan
Cheese & drizzled hollandaise 13.00

Spinach, Avocado & Pepper Jack Cheese 12.00

Joe's Special: (a San Francisco Tradition comes to the Summit)

Scrambled eggs / ground beef / garlic / spinach / mushrooms /
peppers & onions 11.00

Corned Beef & Eggs: two eggs, any style / served on top of fresh roasted
corn beef / bell peppers & potatoes 11.00

Eggs Benedict 12.00

Breakfast Burrito: flour tortilla / scrambled eggs / cheese / jalapenos /
potatoes & refried beans with your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 9.00

Breakfast Tacos: two corn tortillas filled with eggs / cheese / tomatoes
with your choice of veggies / bacon / sausage or ham 8.00

Breakfast Sandwich: toasted ciabatta / eggs / cheese and
your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 8.00

Machaca Con Huevos: carne asada / onions / jalapenos /
scrambled eggs served with refried beans & tortillas 11.00

Huevos Rancheros: flour tortilla / beans and eggs any style
topped with jalapenos / pico de gallo / guacamole / sour cream /
cheese & our own ranchero sauce 10.00

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%

Take-out

After a full day outdoors save yourself the trouble
of cooking - We can prepare appetizers, platters,
pizzas, entreés, and full meals.

Just give us a call: 530-426-3904



Historic photographs courtesy of the Norm Saylor Collection at the Donner Summit Historical Society at
the blinking light in Soda Springs www.donnertsummithistoricalsociety.org

Summit Valley

Native Americans

The first known residents of Summit Valley were the Martis, arriving about 2,000 B.C. They traveled in summers from both sides of the Sierra Crest to the high meadows following game and better summer climate. They first arrived just after the climate became wetter and game more plentiful. The change filled Lake Tahoe and caused it to overflow into the Truckee River.

The Martis left evidence of their presence in many places on the Summit: petroglyphs, mortars, metates, and basalt flakes left over from knapping projectile points (center drawing here).



No one knows for sure from whom the Martis were descended or who their descendants are.

No one knows what became of the Martis either. The evidence of their occupation just stops about 500 A.D. That was also a time of more climate change.



Maybe more importantly, simultaneously, the bow and arrow came into use by the area's Native Americans. The new weapon had more power, greater accuracy, and greater range. It must have changed hunting methods & the kinds of food that could be acquired. It may have changed culture. Maybe new prayers were needed. New skills were certainly needed. Maybe values changed.

The Martis stopped using Basalt for projectile points and adopted obsidian. Coincidentally, the closest obsidian source is the Yosemite area and it was just at that time that the Martis' distinctive projectile style appeared there.

The Martis lived in houses built over depressions dug into the earth and covered with skins and bark like the one above. They used water tight baskets to carry things. Heated rocks were placed into the baskets to cook.



The Mortars and Metates

There is evidence of the Martis Culture's presence in many places on Donner Summit and although the petroglyphs are maybe the most attractive, the mortars and metates are more impressive. There are dozens of mortar sites. Some have just one mortar and others, many. There are also metates, large grinding slicks like the one below. Manos, like the one sitting on the metate, were used to grind foodstuffs.

Both were used to grind seeds, insects, plant materials, nuts, and berries. Food is soft and the local granite is among the hardest rocks on earth.

Imagine how long it took to grind the depressions into the granite.

At the mortar sites women passed on important lessons to the young girls. Generation after generation little bits of culture passed on with each meal ground into the mortars.



Nearby the men and boys knapped basalt stone into projectile points They too passed on cultural knowledge to the boys, summer after summer, generation after generation, until the basalt discards littered the ground in thousands and thousands of pieces. Scattered around the mortar below are basalt flakes.



Map Key

- A. Site of the Summit Valley Ice Co.
- B. Site of the Lytton Hotel
- C. Site of the sheep corrals
- D. Remnants of the Emigrant Trail
- E. Old shepherd's shack
- F. and G. Mortars and metates

Pick up a copy of "Summit Valley an Introduction" from this restaurant, the Historical Society or the general store.

OFF THE GRIDDLE

French Toast: fantastic multigrain bread dipped in our secret batter served with bacon or sausage	8.00
Summit Pancakes: two house made buttermilk pancakes served with your choice of bacon or sausage	9.00
Snow Park Special: we call it the works! Two piping hot pancakes / two eggs any style served with your choice of bacon or sausage	11.00

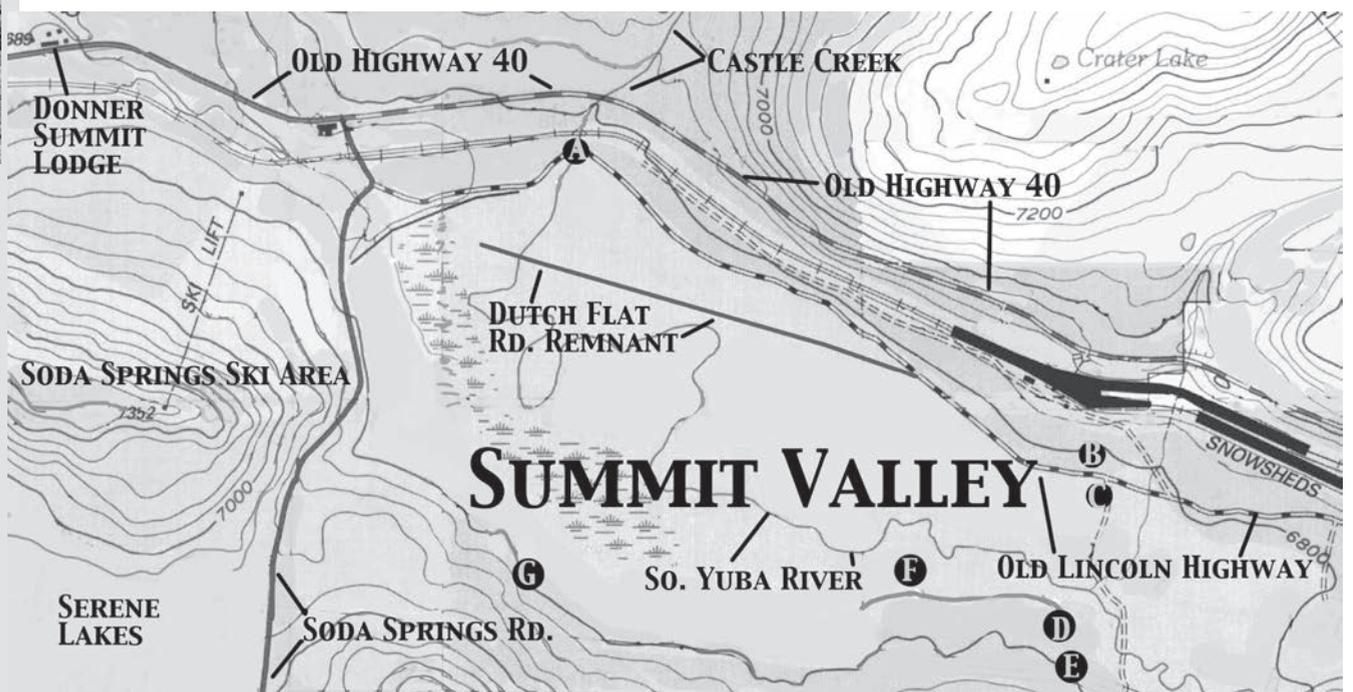
A LA CARTE

Biscuits & Gravy	7.00
Half Order	5.00
Two Eggs	3.00
Country Potatoes	4.00
Hot Oatmeal served with milk / brown sugar / nuts & cranberries	6.00
Bacon or Sausage	4.00
Turkey Bacon	5.00
Toast	3.00
Bagel & Cream Cheese	4.00

MORNING BEVERAGE TREATS

Orange Juice / Cranberry Juice or Apple Juice	3.75
Milk	3.75
Coffee / Tea or decafe	2.25
Hot Chocolate	3.50
Mimosas	7.00
Champagne	6.00
Tequila Sunrise	7.00
Summit's Famous Bloody Mary	8.00

All Bloody Marys are made with our own secret recipe...



California Fresh Grilled Items and More.....

Grilled Salmon on a ciabatta roll/ spinach/ shredded carrots and a dill aioli	14.00
Fish n Chips	13.00
Pesto Melt on a ciabatta roll/ turkey/ pepper jack cheese & pesto sauce	13.00
Seasonal veggie Delight: seasonal veggies/ avocado and your choice of cheese	11.00
French Dip created with our own brined roast beef	11.00
Steak Sandwich grilled to perfection topped with mushrooms & onions	15.00
Philly Cheese Steak grilled roast beef/ mushrooms/ bell peppers & onions	11.00
Traditional Ruben served on marble rye	12.00
BLTA served with loads of bacon & Avocado served on multi-grain bread	10.00
Grilled Cheese filled with tomatoes/ avocado/ swiss & cheddar cheese	12.00
Grilled Ham n Cheese served with a spread of honey mustard and all the fixin's	11.00
Chicken Cesar Wrap served in a spinach tortilla	11.00
Traditional Deli Sandwich / Ham / Turkey or Roast beef	10.00

All sandwiches come with your choice of soup/ salad or fries!!

Sub Beer Fries/ Sweet Potato Fries or Onion Rings for	3.00
Add Avocado to any sandwich for	2.00

We purchase all of our breads from a local bread company containing no preservatives or additives, it's a little more work on our part but well worth the flavor! Enjoy...

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%

Pizza

Create your own 14" pizza by choosing any three toppings: pepperoni / italian sausage / ham / onions / bell peppers / olives / mushrooms / tomatoes / artichoke hearts / jalapenos or pineapple

	16.00
For chicken add 3.00	
14" Cheese Pizza	12.00
14" One Topping Pizza	14.00
14" Hawaiian Pizza w/ ham & pineapple	15.00
14" BBQ Chicken Pizza w/ red onions / bacon / tomatoes & chicken	17.00
14" Veggie Pizza w/ spinach / mushrooms / artichoke hearts / tomatoes & olives	16.00

PASTA

Spinach & Cheese Ravioli topped with our marinara sauce	12.00
Penne Pasta served with chicken/broccoli & Alfredo sauce	13.00
Fettuccini Pasta served with pesto/ artichoke hearts / zucchini & sun dried tomatoes	12.00

Add soup or salad for 4.00



Royal Gorge



The rock in the lower part of the picture must have been one of the most important to the Martis.

It is one of the few mortar sites not on the edge of the meadow. It has five mortar holes ground into as you can see below. At the eastern end of the rock there is also a large metate. Many generations of women must have worked preparing meals around this rock, sharing stories, and passing on the culture to the young girls.



Summit Restaurant Catering

We offer catering year-round for big or small events here or at any location in the Tahoe area.

426-3904

The Summit's Famous Burgers

"voted best Burgers in Tahoe"

Chili Burger served open face with our award winning chili and the works	14.00
Western Burger topped with BBQ sauce, bacon, cheddar cheese & onion rings	13.00
Blue Cheese Burger topped with sautéed mushrooms & melted bleu cheese	12.00
California Burger topped with spinach, shredded carrots, avocado & cheese	12.00
Patty Melt grilled marble rye, sautéed onions, and swiss cheese	12.00
Teriyaki Chicken Burger with melted swiss cheese	11.00

All burgers come with our house made fries!
See below for customizing options...

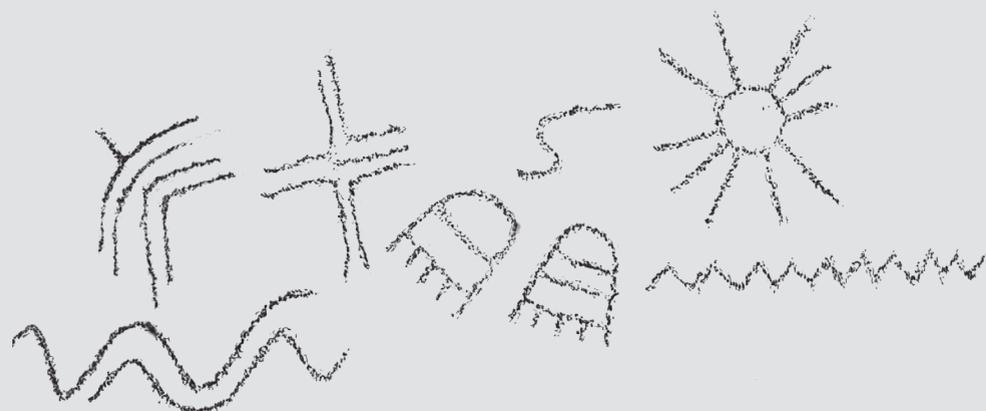
Go for our original and create your own customized burger...

Half-Pound Sirloin Burger, Chicken or veggie Burger served with fries 10.00

Customizing is our specialty: choose from cheddar, pepper jack, swiss or provolone cheese, bacon, avocado, mushrooms, or caramelized onions all items range between 1.25 to 1.95 - go for it!

Customize your side as well: sub your fries for sweet potato fries, beer fries or onion rings 3.00
or sub a salad 3.00

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%



Native American petroglyphs on Donner Summit. You can view the petroglyphs by taking Old Highway 40 over the top to the first turn below Rainbow Bridge. There are two interpretive signs there.

Summit Valley Views from the Old Days

No sooner did the European Americans "discover" Summit Valley than they went to work "taming" it. They built roads, cabins, hotels, sawmills, an ice company, a railroad, and a dam. There were dairy cattle, an orchard, sheep, and stage-coaches.

The Dutch Flat Donner Lake Rd. saw so much activity that in 1867 85 train car loads of freight were unloaded per day at Cisco to be taken on wagons across the pass.

Once the railroad was finished to Truckee in 1868 traffic fell off and except for tourists to the Summit Hotel, the valley returned to a more peaceful existence.

The photographs here are half of stereopticon slides (see below). The top is by Alfred A. Hart from what is now Soda Springs ski hill. The next two show wagons on the Dutch



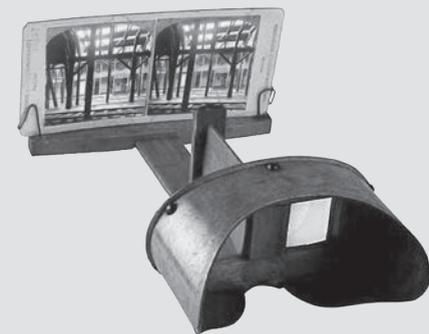
Flat Rd. where it crossed Castle Creek (see "A" on the map). You can still walk that stretch of the old road now that the lake is gone.



This "earie" tree is in Summit Valley. Can you find it?
39° 19.185'N 120° 22.019'W

In the old days when there were no televisions, video game consoles, MP3 players, etc. people got enjoyment by passing around stereopticon viewers like the one here. The double pictures like the one in the viewer here, were 3D!

With these viewers people could experience the wonders of the world before the internet. The slide in the stereopticon here shows a view through the snowsheds to the front door of the old Summit Hotel which sat at the Summit on the railroad route.



Dinner

Scott's Famous Teriyaki Chicken
Tender breast of chicken simmered in Scott's teriyaki sauce
accompanied by rice 16.00

Chicken or Egg Plant Florentine
Seasoned chicken breast or egg plant topped with a spinach &
fresh vegetables sautéed / house red sauce / melted mozzarella
accompanied by pasta 17.00

Marinated Grilled Shrimp served over a Beurre Blanc pasta 17.00

Grilled Steak Selection
Ask your server about our hand-cut steak selection Market Price

Grilled Seafood Selection
Ask your server about our fresh seafood availability Market Price

All dinner entrées come with a seasonal vegetables and your choice of
soup or salad...

Last Friday of the month is Prime Rib Night!

Parties of 6 or more will have a gratuity of 18%

Thirst Quenchers:

Coffee, Tea & Decafe 2.25

Pepsi, Diet, Sierra Mist, Root Beer, Lemonade and Ice Tea 2.25

Juices 3.75

Milk 3.75

From the Bar
Ask to see our Specialty Drinks Menu, which includes our Wine List

Coors, Coors Light, Bud, Bud Light, Miller Light 3.50

Choose from our wide selection of Premium Drafts 4.50

We also have a full bar so let your imagination go wild....

Don't forget to try "Our Famous Bloody Mary" you don't
want to miss it! 8.00

Summit Valley

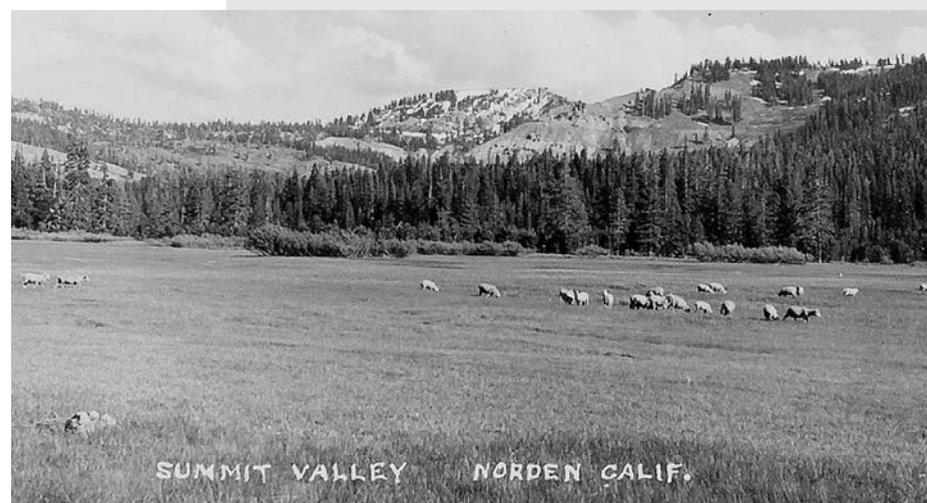
The Sheep

"The sound of bells when it was quiet was magical to hear." The bells were on the lead sheep of the many-flocks that grazed Summit Valley. Soda Springs was a top sheep shipping center for a long time.

Mostly Basque shepherders would start with their flocks in the Spring in the Central Valley and as the summer progressed they would move their ways up the Sierra canyons and rivers to the high mountain meadows. They arrived late in the summer for final fattening before getting on trains and trucks for their final journeys.

During the summer P G & E had been letting water out of Van Norden Dam to even out the flow in the Yuba River to the Drum Forebay power plant. As the water left, grass grew and was ready to nourish the sheep when they arrived.

There are still sheep pens and an old shepherd's shack in Summit Valley attesting to their presence and flocks of sheep still arrived in the valley as late as the 1970's.



Old timers can still remember a time when the Basque shepherders' wagons dotted the valley along with their sheep. The photograph above is of the valley in 1956. Those are cows on the left.

Shhh

Few people know this secret but there is an underpass that goes under Highway 80 that was used so flocks of sheep could get from Summit Valley to the meadows around Castle Peak.

Don't tell.



Children's Menu Available on Request

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Donner Summit Historical Society
 www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org
 P.O. 1 Norden, CA 95724


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