



http://summitrestaurantandbar.com

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Summer, 2014

Established - 2001

Soda Springs, CA

Onner Summit Lodge Open Every Day

Hours: Sat/Sun 8 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.

MWThF Noon-8:30 P.M. Tues. 4-8:30 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 hostelries 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 motorized "transcontinentalist" 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."

Snow – Not a Problem on Donner Summit

Volume I Issue 3

That's kind of what Theodore Judah said. Judah was chief engineer for the Central Pacific Railroad and laid out the route over Donner Summit. Mt. Judah is named for him (the Judah Loop is a GREAT hike – the views are spectacular).

Judah had studied the trees on the summit and noted where the moss started growing. He thought that was as high as the snow went and since the snow would not all fall at once he was sure the railroad could just push the few inches that fell at any one time, out of the way.

Donner Summit gets an average of 34 feet of snow each winter. In some years more than fifty feet fall. The first Winter they were building the tunnels, 1866, there were 44 storms and 60 feet of snow fell. The ski areas were probably very happy. Snow falls on Donner Summit in feet, not inches in a normal winter.



Not only does a lot of snow fall but the snow on Donner Summit is affectionately called "Sierra Cement." It is really heavy.

Even before the railroad was completed in 1869, the builders started building snowsheds to protect the track and eventually 40 miles of sheds were built. The sheds became an iconic symbol of Donner Summit.

In the picture above you can see the snowsheds stretching across the center of the photograph, across the face of Donner Peak.

Call 426-3904

Summit Restaurant does catering too.

Breakfast

EGGS

Good Morning Summit Special: two eggs any style, bacon or sausage, potatoes and toast 9.00

Choose from the following - omelets all are accompanied with potatoes § toast Bacon, Swiss § Tomato 12.00 Chili § Cheese 11.00 Mushroom, Sausage § Cheese 11.00 Salmon, Cream Cheese § Scallions topped with Parmesan Cheese § drízzled hollandaise 14.00 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 12.00
- Corned Beef & Eggs: two eggs, any style / served on top of fresh roasted corn beef / bell peppers & potatoes 11.00

Eggs Benedict 12.00

Steak n Eggs 15.00

- Breakfast Burrito: flour tortilla / scrambled eggs / cheese / jalapenos / potatoes & refried beans with your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 11.00
- Breakfast Tacos: two corn tortillas filled with eggs / cheese / tomatoes with your choice of veggies / bacon / sausage or ham 10.00
- Breakfast Sandwich: eggs / cheese and your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 10.00

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

Huevos Rancheros: flour tortílla / beans and eggs any style topped with jalapenos /píco de gallo/guacamole/sour cream /cheese & our own ranchero sauce 11.00

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

Snowshed Stories

The snowheds are, except for the scenery, the most recognized feature on Donner Summit and so there are lots of stories having to do with the sheds.

Circus Train Wrecks

One night in 1904 a circus train decoupled just east of the summit., As the locomotive continued blithely along, not knowing it had lost the circus, the circus cars stopped and then began to go backwards. As they gained speed they derailed and many animals got out. No one knew it had happened until a railroad worker, heading home after work, came across a tiger in the snowsheds. He ran in the opposite direction. A couple of lions were retrieved from the forest and monkeys from the snowshed rafters. A snake charmer had to be brought in to get a boa to come down from the timbers it had gotten into.

Bicycle in the Sheds

Thomas Stevens, the first bicyclist to cross the summit (1884) had started in April, a time when many feet of snow still cover the ground on Donner Summit. He had to push his high wheeler through all forty miles of snowsheds. That's him and his bicycle above.



Stevens said it was not "pleasant going" as he groped his way through the gloomy interior. When he heard a train he'd "proceed to occupy as small an amount of space as possible" against the side, and wait for the "smoke-emitting monsters" to pass. The engines "fill every nook and corner of the tunnel with dense smoke, which creates a darkness by the side of which the natural darkness of the tunnel is daylight in comparison. Here is a darkness that can be felt..." He survived

When the sheds were reconstructed of concrete there was a lot of snowshed timber lying around and a number of enterprising Donner Summit residents collected it and built houses and lodges from them. One Summit resident remembers her mother spending an entire summer sanding the accumulated smoke from their house's new walls. Today the interior of that house is gorgeous, warm and inviting.



First Motorized Crossing

The first motorized crossing of Donner Summit was



done on a motor bicycle in 1903. George Wyman (left) also pushed his vehicle through the sheds.

The Mole People of Donner Summit Snowsheds at one time connected

almost all the buildings on Donner Summit. Kids walked through the sheds to school. The front door of the Summit Hotel connected to the sheds. There were stores, stables, and other businesses in the sheds. "Fong's," a restaurant, was inside the shed at Norden.

There is so much snow in Winter and there were so many sheds that some workers did not see sunlight for months at a time. The San Francisco Chronicle dubbed them the "Mole People" of Donner Summit.

A Job Like No Other

The wooden sheds leaked, a lot. The dripping water would form huge icicles that had very interesting shapes. Thomas Stevens (previous page) saw "whole menageries of animals. all imaginable objects reproduced in clear crystal ice..." no doubt partly due to the boredom of traveling 40 miles through the dark.

The icicles created a hazard for train cars so the railroad employed a person to walk the sheds with a shotgun to blast away offending ice.

Telescoping Sheds

To prevent fires from spreading spaces were needed in the long line of snowsheds and so telescoping sheds were built. In summer one section of shed was rolled into another leaving a firebreak (see below).

French Toast: fantastic multigrain bread dipped in our secret batter served with bacon or sausage 8.00

OFF THE GRIDDLE

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

Bíscuíts § 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 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 3.75

Mímosas 7.00 Champagne 6.00 Tequíla Sunríse 7.00 Summít's Famous Bloody Mary 8.00

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



Taco Tuesday Every Tuesday 4 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Children's Menu Available on Request

Lunch & Dínner

APPETIZERS Mountain Nachos 9.00 Quesadilla 8.00 add chicken/beef or pork 3.00 Sweet Potato Fries 8.00 Beer Fries 8.00 Onion Rings 9.00 Chili Fries 8.00 Wings: Hot n Spicy/Honey Mustard/Teriyaki 9.00

Calamarí: lightly breaded served with dill aíolí & cocktail sance 13.00

Soup Cup 5.00 Bowl 7.00 All of our soups are created and prepared fresh here at The Summít...

Calling all Chili Lovers... Cup 6.00 Bowl 8.00 Ask about our award winning Chili!!

Salads:

House Salad sm 5.00 lg 7.00 Our customers call our house salad "a real" salad, fresh greens and fresh veggíes....

soup and salad combo 9.00

*Add Chicken 3.00 or Shrimp 6.00 to any of our specialty salads... Caesar 9.00 Salmon Caesar 14.00 Spicy Blue romaine lettuce/walnuts/spicy chicken/tossed in blue cheese dressing 12.00 A must for all blue cheese lovers!

María's Salad cranberries/candied walnuts/blue cheese tossed in raspberry vinaigrette 9.00 Spinach Salad feta/ mandarin oranges/ red onions/ candied walnuts tossed in a bacon vinaigrette 9.00

Wrap any salad with chicken Ask for an entré salad and make it a wrap/fries 12..00

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



E-Mail:sue@castlepeak.com Real Estate License #01225766

Snowshed Problems

Snowsheds kept the transcontinental railroad line open and so were a huge benefit. They also had problems.

Snowsheds collapsed regularly under the heavy mountain snows and avalanches. Hundreds of railroad workers were on hand to keep the roofs clear of snow.

Snowsheds had to be continually rebuilt because railroad equipment kept getting bigger.

The biggest problem was snowshed fires.

Snowshed Fires

The snowsheds provided the solution for the heavy snows of Donner Summit but they also were a problem. Today the sheds are all concrete but the first ones were made of wood that would bake all day in the summer sun. The steam locomotives emitted sparks. Sparks and tinder dry wood are not a good combination. In addition the sheds acted like chimneys drawing in air that would just increase a fire's intensity. Conflagrations resulted as miles of sheds burned at a time.

A New Zealand newspaper reporting on the unique snowsheds saying, "...a more convenient arrangement for a long bonfire I never saw." <u>Hawke's Bay Herald January 28, 1870 (the</u> railroad was finished in 1869.)

To combat the problem the railroad built an observation building (below) on Red Mountain (the building is still there and Red Mountain is another marvelous hike with extraordinary views) manned by two observers. From Red Mountain they could see almost all of the sheds. When a fire was spotted the spotters would pick up the first telephone installed in California and call Cisco. Cisco would telegraph the fire trains that were always kept ready with full heads of steam. The fire trains would speed to the fires.



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

Pízza

Create your own 14" pízza by choosing any three toppings: pepperoni / italian sausage / ham / onions / bell peppers / olives / mushrooms / tomatoes / artichoke hearts / jalapenos or pineapple 17.00 For chicken add 3.00

14" Cheese Pízza 13.00

- 14" One Topping Pizza 15.00
- 14" Hawaiian Pizza w/ ham & pineapple 16.00
- 14" BBQ Chicken Pizza w/ red onions / bacon / tomatoes & chicken 20.00
- 14" Veggie Pízza w/ spinach / mushrooms / artichoke hearts / tomatoes ξ olives 16.00

Gluten-free crust available 1.75

PASTA

Spínach & Cheese Ravíolí topped with our marínara sauce 13.00 Penne Pasta served with chicken/broccolí & Alfredo sauce 14.00 Fettuccíní Pasta served with pesto/ artíchoke hearts / zucchíní

§ sun dríed tomatoes 13.00 Classic Fetticini Alfredo 12.00

Add soup or salad for 4.00

The Summít's Famous Burgers

"Voted best Burgers in Tahoe"

Teríyakí Chícken Burger with melted swiss cheese 12.00 Tuscan Chícken Burger Italían herb chícken balsamíc vínegar and provolone 12.00

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 13.00

Californía Burger topped with spinach, shredded carrots, avocado & cheese 13.00

Patty Melt grilled marble rye, sautéed onions, and swiss cheese 12.00

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

Half-Pound Sírloín Burger, Chicken or Veggie Burger served with fries 10.00

Customízíng ís our specialty: choose from cheddar, pepper jack, swíss or provolone cheese, bacon, avocado, mushrooms, or caramelízed oníons all ítems range between 1.25 to 1.95 - go for ít!

Customíze your síde as well: take away your fríes and add sweet potato fríes, beer fríes, oníon rings 3.00 or a salad 4.00.

Gluten-free bread available 1.75

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



Bucker Plows

Although there were 40 miles of snowsheds there were plenty of miles of track that were not protected by the sheds. To remove the snow on that track the railroad used bucker plows. They were huge, up to 40,000 pounds, and would be pushed by up to 10 locomotives. A bucker plow could charge into drifts at up to 60 miles an hour, but the snow, the "Sierra Cement," would still stop it cold. The plow would then back up (assuming it had not become stuck), go forward gaining speed, and smash into the snow again. Eventually the track would be cleared. That's a bucker plow below.



Summit Restaurant Catering

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

426-3904

Californía Fresh Grilled Items § More.....

Grílled Salmon on a cíabatta roll/spínach/shredded carrots and a dill aioli 16.00 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 16.00 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 11.00 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 Traditional Deli Sandwich / Ham / Turkey or Roast beef 10.00 All sandwiches come with fries

Customíze your síde as well: take away your fries and add sweet potato fries, beer fries, onion rings 3.00 or a salad 4.00.

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...

Gluten-free bread available 1.75

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





What's in Your Closet?

Above is an interesting picture of a couple on Donner Summit with the Summit Hotel II in the background. The Summit Hotel I sat almost at the top of Donner Pass. It served railroad passengers as a summer resort for decades. The hotel's front door was attached to the snowsheds.

In 1893 the hotel burned to the ground and Summit Hotel II, in the background above, was built a few hundred yards away. It had 87 bedrooms, a dining room, billiard room, club rooms, a post office, a dry goods store, a grocery, and a meat market. It also had one bathtub and a two story outhouse (women on the second floor and men on the first).

The hotel burned in 1927. If you are clever you can find the site where there are still a few artifacts.

The picture above was found in some old albums by Bill and Diane Kirkham of Serene Lakes. It was a surprise and Bill and Diane decided to let the Donner Summit Historical Society copy the photographs for its collection which preserves the history of Donner Summit. Family pictures like the one above can have all kinds of interesting things beyond the long gone relatives.

The Society is always looking for more history. Maybe you've got some old picture albums tucked away in boxes in the attic. We'll make copies and maybe even some stories to go with the photographs and you'll be helping preserve and pass on the unique history of Donner Summit. Contact the society: info@donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

Looking for a snowshed job?

NEVADA – NEVADA RENO – TRUCKEE- DIVISION Summit, Tamarack, Cisco. Placer, etc. 250 carpenters and carpenters' helpers for work on the great snow sheds, \$60 to \$90 month

FREE FARE – SHIP DAILY

San Francisco Call October 1, 1907

Left: Donner Summit snowsheds. The white building is the Summit Hotel (I). The peaked building is the roundhouse.

Dinner

Scott's Famous Teríyakí Chícken Tender breast of chícken símmered in Scott's teríyakí 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 18.00

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...

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

Thírst Quenchers:

Coffee, Tea & Decafe	2.25
Pepsí, Díet, Síerra Míst, Root Beer, Lemonade and Ice Tea	2.25
Juíces	3.75
Mílk	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	5.00

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 míss ít!

Children's Menn Available on Request

8.00

Great Views Except That....

The views on Donner Summit are spectacular so a train crossing the summit could offer its passengers a won-derful experience.

Unfortunately the original 40 miles of snowsheds shut off the great views to the traveling public. In addition all the locomotive smoke was not exhausted by the shed chimneys and the sheds would fill with smoke.

The <u>San Francisco Call</u> said in 1905 that "THE average passenger journeying over the Sierras usually utters a deep sigh of relief -when his train emerges from the snowsheds. They have formed one bleak, uninteresting section of the journey, relieved only by a monotonous succession of tantalizing glimpses of striking scenery through the breaks and cracks in a dead wall of grimy timbers. The cars have filled with suffocating smoke and life has been made miserable for a time."



Above: the spectacular views of Donner Summit as seen from snowshed interiors. Historians have senses of humor too.

One of the most marked and important works on the line is the great snow gallery on the Sierra Nevada Mountains extending for about 28-miles without a break.

Annual Report made to the Secretary of the Interior on June 30, 1879, by the Auditor of Railroads



LOCAL BUSINESSES WORTH PATRONIZING

