

# SUMMIT RESTAURANT AND BAR

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Established - 2001

Soda Springs, CA

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**Hours:** Sat/Sun 8 A.M. - 8:30 P.M. MThF Noon-8:30 P.M. Tues. 4-8:30 P.M. The bar is open until the crowd is gone.



1941

## 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 hostelrys along the route over Donner Pass.

The first auto to cross Donner Pass crossed in 1901. The first successful motorized "transcontinentalist" crossed the country using Donner Pass in 1903 on a motor bicycle. 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. In 1913 there were 150 "transcontinentalists" and by 1923 the number had increased to 25,000. 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."

The picture above is from the Norm Saylor Collection as are the two photos on page 6.

## Donner Summit Is Magnificent

People have been saying that for a long time. The Native Americans apparently appreciated the beauty. They kept coming back to summer here year after year, decade after decade, century after century for thousands of years. More convincing though is that all the petroglyph sites have wonderful views of nearby peaks. There is not one site, of dozens, that does not have a spectacular view.

The first diarists with the wagon trains began the tradition of remarking on the beauty. Some visitors were almost rhapsodic in their praise.

In 1846 Edwin Bryant said, "The Alps, so celebrated in history, and by all travelers and admirers of mountain landscape, cannot, I am satisfied, present scenery more wild, more rugged more grand, more romantic, and more enchantingly picturesque and beautiful, than that which surround this lake [Donner Lake.... The view is at the top is]...inexpressibly comprehensive, grand, and picturesque. After congratulating ourselves upon the safe achievement of our morning feat, and breathing our mules a few minutes, we proceeded on our journey."

John Steel, in 1850, said, "A short distance north of the pass I climbed the dizzy heights of a granite peak. The view was magnificent."

In June 13, 1885 the California Spirit of the Times magazine said, "The air has a fresh crispness about it that gives a new life to the visitor whether he has come from the fertile plains or the foggy city. And no wonder...there are seven thousand feet between you and sea level. Seven thousand feet nearer heaven and so much nearer purity. It is a relief to... look up to the stars, nowhere brighter than here, with only the dark pines closing in the distance... The air redolent with the perfume of fresh grass and wild flowers; and aromatic with pine needles. It is a physical pleasure to breathe, a 'delight to exist'... It is small wonder that a millionaire [Mark Hopkins]... should confess to be happier and healthier here than in the handsomest house on California Street. Nob Hill, to the sierras indeed."

Mary Ann Graves was a member of the Donner Party and one of the "Forlorn Hope" which escaped Donner Lake. They slogged through the snow and climbed to the top of Donner Pass. They were starving and exhausted but the view overcame the exhaustion. She said, "The scenery was too grand for me to pass without notice." She remembered another member of the group saying, "We were as near to heaven as we could get."

Thornton Round was 14 in 1914 when his father took him and the rest of the family across the country by automobile: "I don't believe I have adequate words to describe the real beauty of Donner Pass. As we stood looking down I had a floating sensation... I lost all fear as I looked at one of the most beautiful blue lakes [Donner Lake] I had ever seen. Everything below us seemed suspended in shimmering light."

Artists, photographers, print makers, and even advertisers also noted the beauty in their works as you'll see on the next pages.

**Summit Restaurant does catering too.**

**Call 426-3904**

# Breakfast

Served every Saturday, Sunday, & Holiday 8 A.M. to Noon

## EGGS

Good Morning Summit Special:

two eggs any style, bacon or sausage, potatoes and toast 9.00  
without meat 8.00

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

Bacon, Swiss & Tomato 12.00

Chili & Cheese 12.00

Mushroom, Sausage & Cheese 12.00

Salmon, Cream Cheese & Scallions topped with Parmesan Cheese  
& drizzled hollandaise 14.00

Spinach, Avocado & Pepper Jack Cheese 12.00

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

eggs scrambled with / ground beef / garlic / spinach / mushrooms /  
peppers & onions 13.00

Corned Beef & Eggs: two eggs, any style / served on top of fresh roasted  
shredded corn beef / bell peppers & potatoes 12.00

Eggs Benedict 13.00

Steak n Eggs 15.00

Breakfast Burrito: flour tortilla / scrambled eggs / cheese /  
jalapenos / potatoes & refried beans with your choice of  
ham / bacon or sausage 12.00

Breakfast Tacos: two corn tortillas filled with eggs / cheese /  
tomatoes with your choice of veggies / bacon / sausage or  
ham 11.00

Breakfast Sandwich: eggs / cheese and  
your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 10.00

Huevos Rancheros: flour tortilla / beans and eggs any style topped with jalapeno  
/pico de gallo/guacamole/sour cream /cheese & our own rancho 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 appetiz-  
ers, platters, pizzas, entreés, and full meals.

Just give us a call: 530-426-3904



Edwin Deakin, 1876 Donner Lake from the Summit



Wm. Keith, Mountain Cascade near Cisco, 1867  
(You can see the inspiration between the freeway lanes of I-80 at Cisco Grove)



Maryanne North, An Old...Juniper Tree, 1875



Wm. Jackson General's Pool, Soda Springs, 1897

# It Wasn't Just the Men

People have been crossing Donner Summit for thousands of years. The first emigrants crossed it to improve their lives as did later emigrants using the first transcontinental railroad and then the highways.

Once personalized motor vehicles, automobiles, motorcycles and even bicycles were available, people started to travel for adventure and pleasure. It was not easy initially for automobilists, motorcyclists or bicyclists and they were mostly men with lots of testosterone.

In an earlier menu we covered Thomas Stevens who was the first to cross the Sierra, cross the country, and go around the world by bicycle. We covered George Wyman who was the first to cross the country on a motor bicycle in 1903. Alexander Winton was the first to cross the Sierra by automobile in 1901.

There were also women, though, who crossed Donner Summit. Anita King, a movie actress, was the first to cross the country unaccompanied in her car (to meet the rules of the time) but accompanied by a film crew that filmed footage for a 1915 movie, "The Race." She crossed the country in 48 days. The next year Amanda Preuss crossed the country unaccompanied in her car, and unaccompanied by a film crew, in 11 days.

It was the women motorcyclists who were really adventurous. They had no cars to camp in and had even less protection from the elements (the first autos had no windows or tops to keep out the elements).



The Van Buren Sisters

The Van Buren sisters were not Victorian ladies. They boxed, swam, ice skated, canoed, etc. and won awards for their efforts. In 1916 they saw

## OFF THE GRIDDLE

French Toast: fantastic multigrain bread dipped in our secret batter served with bacon or sausage 9.00  
without meat 8.00

Summit Pancakes: two house made buttermilk pancakes served with your choice of bacon or sausage 9.00  
without meat 8.00

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

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

Mimosas 8.00

Champagne 7.00

Tequila Sunrise 8.00

Summit'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 & Dinner

## 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

Calamari: lightly breaded served with dill aioli & cocktail sauce 13.00

Soup Cup 5.00 Bowl 7.00

All of our soups are created and prepared fresh here at The Summit...

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 veggies....

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!

Maria'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 entrée salad and make it a wrap/fries 12.00

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

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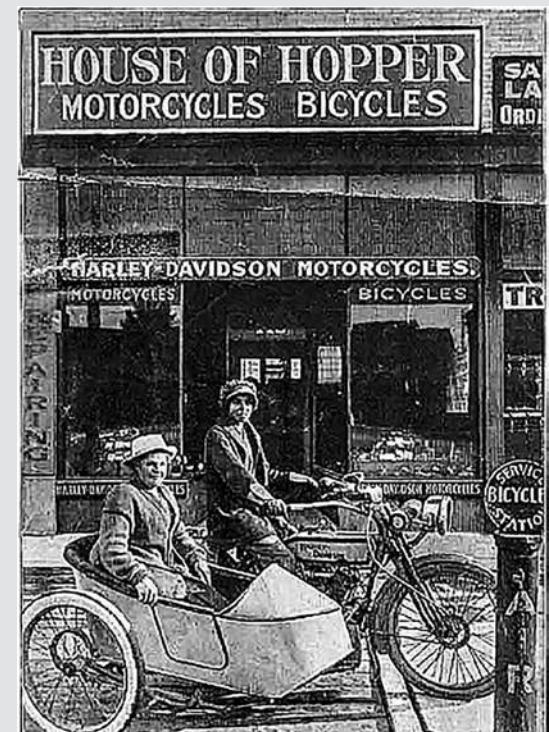
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America heading for war and wanted to be motorcycle dispatch riders for the Army. To get publicity to help ready America for war and to bolster the standing of women for Army duty, they decided to ride across the country. They rode up Pike's Pk, experienced heat, storms, rain, washouts, wrecked bridges, landslides, and sometimes got so tired they fell asleep while riding and fell over in the mud. They crossed the country and Donner Summit. They did not get to be motorcycle dispatch riders in WWI.

Most endearing maybe was Effie Hotchkiss, who must have been a "pistol." As a girl she baked weekly cakes for the neighboring fire dept. who were supposed to be helping her become a lady but the lessons didn't take given her purchase of one mo-



Effie and her mom

torcycle after another and her attempted elopement. Then she got the idea to ride across the country to San Francisco to the Panama Pacific Exhibition in 1915. She decided to take her mother with her in the sidecar of her motorcycle.

Effie's trip was the first round-trip of the continent by motorcycle but it did not get much publicity because it was overshadowed by WWI and the Lusitania sinking.

She needed a pistol for the trip. New York's purchase laws were a bit strict but the salesperson noted that it would be easier in New Jersey. So Effie reflected that New Jersey did not seem to care who got shot as long as it was done in "good clean fun."

Effie's mother drove her crazy with her tatting (making lace). "I loved my mother very much but was often tempted to commit mayhem with that tatting shuttle." A rain storm occasioned, "A resurrected Noah dashing by in his ark would not have

## 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 20.00 For chicken add 3.00

14" Cheese Pizza 14.00

14" One Topping Pizza 16.00

14" Hawaiian Pizza w/ ham & pineapple 17.00

14" BBQ Chicken Pizza w/ red onions / bacon / tomatoes & chicken 22.00

14" Veggie Pizza w/ spinach / mushrooms / artichoke hearts / tomatoes & olives 18.00

Gluten-free crust available 1.75

## PASTA

Spinach & Cheese Ravioli topped with our marinara sauce 13.00

Penne Pasta served with chicken/broccoli & Alfredo sauce 15.00

Fettuccini Pasta served with pesto/ artichoke hearts / zucchini & sun dried tomatoes 15.00

Classic Fetticini Alfredo 13.00

Add soup or salad for 4.00

## The Summit's Famous Burgers

"voted best Burgers in Tahoe"

Teriyaki Chicken Burger with melted swiss cheese 13.00

Tuscan Chicken Burger Italian herb chicken balsamic vinegar and provolone 13.00

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 14.00

Blue Cheese Burger topped with sautéed mushrooms & melted bleu cheese 14.00

California Burger topped with spinach, shredded carrots, avocado & cheese 14.00

Patty Melt grilled marble rye, sautéed onions, and swiss cheese 13.00

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

Half-Pound Sirloin Burger, Chicken or Veggie Burger served with fries 12.00

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

Gluten-free bread available

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



been too surprising. The motorcycle had learned to swim..." Effie did not apparently swim well but her mother did and Effie thought her mother might save her in the deluge if the tating did not get in the way.

When a tire flattened and was ruined Effie stuffed it with a cut up blanket. Effie and Mom were able to get to the next town where Effie was able to buy a tube with five patches on it for the price of a new tube at home. Effie said she'd gotten the better deal because she'd have paid double what she got just to keep going.

In San Francisco Effie ran over a man's foot. Eventually he came to New York to visit her and sealed the deal to marry her by giving her a shotgun. She was impressed he did not try to give her some "frilly feminine" thing. "I wanted him for keeps," she said.

Effie went off to Oregon to live the life of a rancher with her new husband without a motorcycle. She did take her mother along.

## Summit Restaurant Catering

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

426-3904

## California Fresh Grilled Items & More.....

Grilled Salmon on a ciabatta roll/spinach/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 13.00

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 12.00

Traditional Ruben served on marble rye 13.00

BLTA served with loads of bacon & Avocado served on multi-grain bread 12.00

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 11.00

Bringing Back an Old Favorite: Turkey Melt on a multi-grain / cheddar cheese / bacon / grilled onions 13.00

All sandwiches come with fries

Customize your side 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

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



## Before Donner Summit Lodge

Donner Summit Lodge has been sitting alongside Old Highway 40 since 1938. Before the lodge the space was not empty though.

Just across the street from the lodge is a dirt road which used to be the Lincoln Highway. Travelers along the Lincoln Highway and then along Highway 40 needed gas and a gas station was built on the property. At the same time fox furs were popular with women and people began to breed foxes to supply the industry.

George Fraley had come into possession of some Donner Summit land in 1913. In 1925 the State decided to reline the highway and was going to sell off some parcels of land at auction. Fraley and some friends bought the various parcels and then drew papers from a hat to see who got which parcels. Fraley won the best piece, a half section, which had the new highway on it. Fraley ran the Fox Farm and in 1946 opened up the Soda Springs Grocery store which sat across the street from the current store.



Soda Springs Grocery, the large building behind the bus.

The pictures here come from the Norm Saylor Collection at the Donner Summit Historical Society. You can find the museum at the blinking light in "Downtown" Soda Springs, just up the road.

# Dinner

Chicken Marsala 17.00

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 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.

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

## Ask About our Daily Desserts

### 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 6.00

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 miss it! 8.00

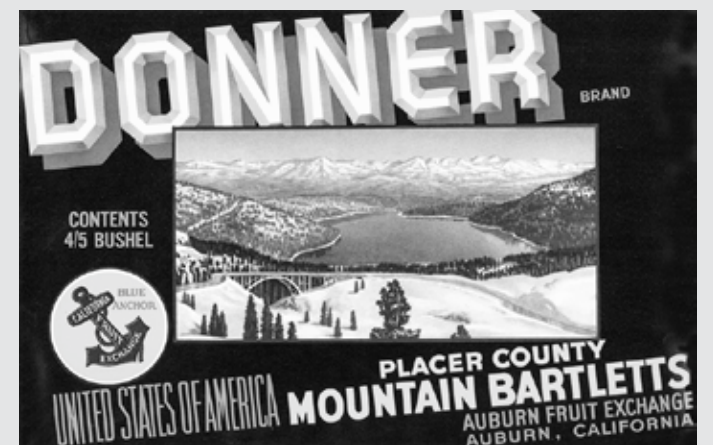
Children's Menu Available on Request



Alfred A. Hart, ca. 1868 Yuba Cascade Today this location is between the freeway lanes of I-80 at Cisco Grove



Eadweard Muybridge, Lake Flora, near Summit Valley, Mt. Stanford in the distance, on Donner Summit. This is actually, today, Crater Lake on Boreal Ridge. Mt. Stanford today is Castle Pk.




Commercial artists and photographers have also been celebrating Donner Summit's magnificence in ads just like painters and photographers. Here is the Donner Summit Bridge on Donner Summit, the first bridge with a rising compound curve, built in 1926.



The top two pictures here are stereos. When placed in a device like the one to the left, viewers had a stereo view.

These were the living room entertainment centers in the 19th Century.

# LOCAL BUSINESSES WORTH PATRONIZING



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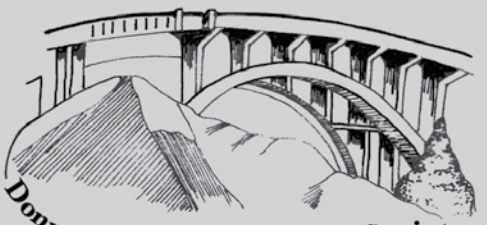
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