

Good and bad of Dangberg family history put into words

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Say the name Dangberg in the Carson Valley to an old-timer and the reaction is not likely to be favorable.

Even though the family is responsible for creating and naming Minden, putting in much of the irrigation system associated with the Carson River that is used today, and having employed hundreds in the area, their legacy is not all good.

Conrad Buedel spoke about the family and the book he co-authored with Steve “Dink” Achard, one of the last of the Dangberg descendants, during a Soroptimist International South Lake Tahoe lunch at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe on Feb. 8.



Conrad Buedel

Achard, who is in his 80s, didn’t open the pile of memories that led to the book until 2004. It took the two men seven years to sort through everything before publishing “Lost Legacy of Carson Valley: The Rise and Fall of the H.F. Dangberg Ranching Empire” in 2011.

The elder Dangberg came to the valley in 1853 via New Orleans, where he had landed by ship from Germany. He grew 160 acres into 33,473 by the time he died in 1904.

Much of what he built stands today as a state park whose

operation has been turned over to a nonprofit because of Nevada's budget woes.

The barn built in the 1870s remains. Buedel says the wood dowels connecting the beams have helped preserve the structure.

"The stone cellar is still there. They bought the stones from the prison," Buedel said.

Dangberg became one of the first in Nevada to grow alfalfa and to later raise sheep. The diversification of business interests helped the family accrue a good deal of wealth – in cash and land.

Dangberg and his wife, Maggie (whose brother created the Ferris wheel), had six children.

It was Fred Jr. who wanted to change the focus of the company, selling off some of the land for development purposes. He also wanted to create a town even though Gardnerville already existed.

First the name Halle was proposed. This is the town Dangberg Sr. had been born in. With the V&T Railway agreeing to have a terminal in the new town, officials were afraid people would think they would pronounce Halle, hell. So, Minden became the name – after the county seat of Halle.

Fred Jr. was able to get the railway to have a depot because he was in the Nevada state Senate and worked out a deal.

Buedel said such shenanigans today would likely land a lawmaker in jail.

By the 1920s the Dangberg company needed to borrow money and sell bonds. The issuance of \$750,000 bonds was secured by all of the family's land holdings. The stock market crashed. More money was borrowed.

Fred Jr., as relayed by Buedel, is making bad decisions. During a poker game with a \$50 pot he offers up the family's 160 acres at Marla Bay. There goes that lakefront property.

By now Fred Jr. is stealing money from the company. He's feuding with his brothers who eventually sue him for the money.

Members of the family who had never had to work have to find employment. Eventually, the ranch and business change hands several times.

The state takes possession in 2004 with \$2 million from the Question 1 Conservation and Resource Protection dollars.

On April 1, 2007, tours of the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park began.

Copies of the book are \$29.95 plus tax and are available by calling (775) 267.6676 or emailing tahoeconrad@charter.net.

Placerville mine owner surrenders to law enforcement

By KCRA

PLACERVILLE – A mining dispute in Placerville came to some resolution Thursday as a landowner turned himself into El Dorado County deputies to face 14 criminal charges of operating without permits and polluting a creek.

Joseph Hardesty was in the middle of a dispute with government

agencies in what officials called one the most egregious cases of illegal mining they have ever encountered in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Hardesty was suspected of operating an illegal mine on 30 acres of land and had already faces fines leading up to his arrest, deputies said.

Read the whole story

2 skier deaths in Colo. this week bring state's season total to 11

By Joey Bunch, Denver Post

A 72-year-old skier from Stonington, Conn., died Thursday from a broken neck and a brain injury after he was found face-down in the snow at Keystone Resort Tuesday, marking the 11th ski season death in Colorado this year.

The Summit County Coroner's Office said William Emberton was wearing a helmet when he was found at about 1:30pm on the expert-level Geronimo Trail.

The incident is still under investigation, the coroner's office said.

A skier fatality in Eagle County Tuesday also is under investigation. Authorities there still have not named the 37-year-old Missouri man who was killed while while skiing on advanced-level Berries trail on Vail Mountain Tuesday at about 10am, according to the Eagle County Sheriff's Department.

Read the whole story

Stateline Showdown

The Stateline Showdown, a three-part slopestyle competition series, will take place at Ante Up Terrain Park at Heavenly Mountain Resort on Feb. 18, March 10 and March 24 from 9:30am-2pm.

The entry fee is \$20.

For more information, call (530) 542.5133.

9th annual Telegrass Festival

Sierra-at-Tahoe's 9th annual Telegrass Festival is April 7.

This homegrown event brings out teleskiers from all over Northern California for a celebration of the free heel life. Morning and afternoon clinics for teleskiers of every ability level, equipment demos from top manufacturers, relays and races, live music from regional bluegrass bands, beer tasting, and endless raffle prizes all combine for a festival that lets people free their heel so their mind can follow.

For more information, go online.

Billabong Flaunt It Finals

Billabong Flaunt It Finals are March 31 at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

The finals of this North American women-only snowboard series is a Swatch World Tour rated event.

Sierra is expecting some of the best snowboarders in the industry to ride. Jamie Anderson, who trains at Sierra is a 2012 X Games gold medalist, is a Billabong sponsored rider and may make a visit to the finals.

For more information, go online.

Rahlves' Banzai Tour begins at Kirkwood

The Rahlves' Banzai Tour returns to Lake Tahoe ski resorts with competitions in February and March. The event is considered the world's premier big mountain freeskiing meets skier/boarder-cross experience and is becoming one of the region's most popular spectator events.

Kicking off at Kirkwood Ski Resort the weekend of Feb. 11-12, participants (18 years and older) will go head-to-head four at a time, top-to-bottom, down a wide-open course over natural terrain and snow conditions. The four-stop event hits North Lake Tahoe Feb. 23-24 at Alpine Meadows.

A solo-qualifying run on Saturday ranks the top 32 men from ski and board and the top 16 women from ski and board to Sunday's finals and a shot at the title. The top two in each round advance through the brackets until the remaining final

four battle it out for the podium and title of Banzai Champ.

The Silver Belt Banzai race first took place in the 1940s at Sugar Bowl. In 2009 and 2010, one banzai race was held each year at Sugar Bowl. In 2011, the Rahlves' Banzai Tour was created. Rahlves is at each event to open up the qualifying runs and assist competitors with tactics.

After the Alpine Meadows race (called the Beaver Bowl Banzai), the tour continues at Squaw Valley for the KT-22 Banzai (March 3-4) and concludes at Sugar Bowl with the Silver Belt Banzai (March 10-11) when Rahlves will compete in the "Super Final" taking on the men ski winners from each stop. The Rahlves' Banzai Tour purse prizes total \$80,000.

Warren Miller Entertainment showcased the 2011 Rahlves' Banzai Tour in the recent film "Like There's No Tomorrow". For 2012, the event will be covered by NBC Red Bull Signature Series, airing nationally March 27.

'Happy' the movie

Tahoe Project and Mo's Place are partnering to host the inaugural World Happy Day, when thousands of people will join together in communities around the globe to watch the award-winning film "Happy".

The event is Feb. 11, 9pm at the South Lake Tahoe restaurant. Tickets are \$12. Doors open at 8:30pm.

The show is for everyone. The after party is for anyone older than 21.

Local musician and entrepreneur Tyler Lewis will play live music after the screening.

“Happy” is a journey from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Kolkata in search of what makes people happy. Combining real-life stories of people from around the world and powerful interviews with the leading scientists in happiness research, “Happy” explores the secrets behind the most valued emotion.

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Junior freeride competition at Sugar Bowl

The Tahoe Junior Freeride Series makes its first stop at Sugar Bowl on Feb. 11-12.

The region's best junior big mountain skiers will test their skills each day in a two-run cumulative score format. Age groups of 10-14 and 15-18 for boys and girls. Points count toward national ranking.

The Tahoe Junior Freeride Series began as a friendly competition between Sugar Bowl and Squaw Valley's Freeride teams and has since become a structured regional event that boasts some of the best junior talent in the country, with teams representing Squaw Free, Auburn Ski Club, Kirkwood Freeride team, Squaw Valley Freeride team, Alpine Meadows Freeride team and the Sugar Bowl Freeride team. Contestants are judged on their line choice, control, fluidity, technique and overall impression.

Competition begins at 10am each day.