

## ◆ "RIBITS" from the editor....Bullfrog Billy

Here we go with issue #3 and judging by the response from the first two issues, we must be doing something that everyone likes. I have sent out a couple of issues as bait for new members and I believe that will contribute to the growth of the membership. Zettia and I offer a big "CONGRATS" to all the people who participated in the first fund-raiser for *BMHS*, the "Picnic in the Park." You will read the details in Claudia's column. It is that kind of community spirit that makes all the work on the newsletter worthwhile. We were inspired by the success of YOUR effort on the "Picnic," to make the decision to add a special bonus issue for the Holiday season. This will arrive prior to the first issue of 1996. This special Holiday issue of the *BMHS* newsletter will not be the regular format as it will be three or maybe four pages compared to the usual number of pages. A very special feature will be a Christmas message from Pastor Jeff Taguchi. We hope you like the extra Holiday issue. As for this issue, I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to member Gil Schmidtmann of Mentone, CA for loaning his Pioneer Mine photo to us for use in the History Section. If any of you have photos, documents or stories concerning the Bullfrog District, we would appreciate hearing from you and we can discuss using them in the newsletter. Naturally, your material will be returned once we get the information in the computer. Another "Thank You" is extended to Doug McDonald of Helena, Montana for mentioning *BMHS* in his "Gypsyfoot Enterprises, Inc." auction catalog. If anyone is interested in obtaining documents from the old west and/or the Bullfrog District, you can write to Doug at P.O. Box 5833, Helena, MT 59604. We hope you enjoy the story of "Pioneer" this issue. Another chapter from "Who's Who In Nevada" is also featured. Our next regular issue (Jan-Feb 96) will feature the "Four Aces Mining Company," so until then....."RIBIT-RIBIT"

## Message from the President..... CLAUDIA REIDHEAD

Hi, it's just me again. A big WELCOME to all new members and we are all proud to have you join us. Slowly but surely we are growing a little each month, and as we grow so does the chance to save a bit more of our history.

◆ We received our charter on the 15th of September which means we are an OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION!!! Now we can begin to get things done that we have planned. We have applied to the Nye County Commissioners for the Underground Church, which was willed by Renee Gibson to any non-profit museum. In the meantime, Norman Reidhead has made one trip from Las Vegas to work on the cabin located on my property which will be used as a temporary site to display artifacts. Plumbing and electrical work is needed to get the cabin up to State standards.

◆ We have our first fund-raiser under our belt, and it was a huge success. The weather cooperated beautifully while Las Vegas was under flash flood warnings. We didn't have a cloud and a gentle breeze was just enough to keep us cool and comfortable. I knew it was going to be a great evening when we were setting up. While Vonnie was putting up Mr. Bullfrog, a young man of about seven years of age walked up to Vonnie and said, "That's a green frog, where is the white elephant? I heard you were having a white elephant today." The food was great and a huge thank you to all the people who contributed the delicious dishes. The Burro Inn contributed a huge pan of broasted chicken. The Exchange Club provided fried chicken. The Stagecoach gave a pan of chicken baked in sauce. Jane Cottonwood brought a very tasty ham and her own great Ranch dressing. (share the recipe Jane?) Revert Enterprises donated a keg of beer. Rick Johnson donated 50lbs of ice. Carol Stephens brought a tortilla bake. Carol Monk provided baked beans. Mary Revert contributed salad greens, potatoes, macaroni and three bean salad. There were many more great dishes donated by various individuals. The auction donations included pies, cakes and cookies from the ladies of the town as well as numerous items from Lost River, Mary Revert, Bev Coffee, Chloe Lisle, Vonnie Gray, Virginia Goodson,

(President's Message continued...)

Opal Revert, W.O.W (silk floral arrangement) and several others that slipped things in at the last moment. Brenda Neighbors from Reno, Nevada was "volunteered" by Mary. The auctioneer, Jeff Taguchi was working under a handicap as the band kept borrowing back their microphone but Jeff hung in there till his voice gave out. The kids loved the piñatas, and the band played on till about 11 p.m. The music was good and those of us who worked were grateful as the music made our tasks a lot easier and the people who listened to the music said "they could have stayed all night." The band members who volunteered their services and talent were Perry Forsyth, Richard Dunsterville, Gary Senior, Wade Smith and Scott Harris. **THANK YOU GUYS!** Also a big **THANKS** to the Beatty Community Center for the tables and chairs and the guys that were "volunteered" to help with the set up and the ones we snagged to help return the tables and chairs.

◆ Two more fund-raisers are scheduled to benefit *BMHS* and we hope to see all of you at both events. We will have a 1909 fashion show Nov. 3rd at the Beatty Community Center and a talent show Nov. 25th at the Beatty Community Center. A detailed "Just-Gotta-Be-There" ad appears for both events elsewhere in this newsletter so we look forward to your kind attendance. And on that note folks, I look forward to any suggestions you have on fund-raisers etc. that will help us attain our goals and I've just put on my running shoes as there is much to do so I'll say bye for now.

### Who's Who In Nevada

by  
Bessie Beatty

Copyright 1907

**Matt Hoveck**

A little German lad not more than eleven years of age stepped up to the big superintendent of the Anaconda Mine in Butte, Montana, one day a good many years ago, and asked for work. The foreman looked him over, smiled to himself, and asked the boy what he thought he could do. "There is nothing in a mine that you could do, my lad," said the superintendent. But the boy was not so certain of that. He convinced the miner that even an eleven-year-old boy might make himself useful if he chose so to do. And the superintendent sent him away promising to see him again later in the day. At the second meeting he sent the boy to the foreman who looked at him, laughed, and sent him back to the superintendent. The latter had taken a fancy to the plucky little chap and recognized in

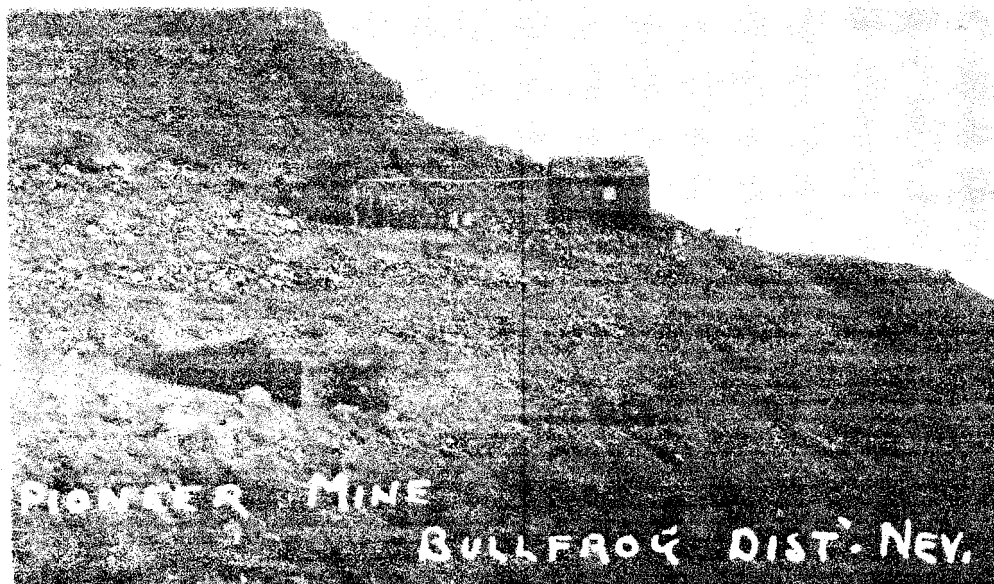
him the kind of material that men are made of. "Sit down a minute, and I will take you to the foreman myself," said the superintendent. And the next day the boy went to work in the Anaconda Mine. At first his duties consisted of carrying water to the men in the stopes. Then one thing and another, until there was little about a mine that the boy did not know. At the age of eighteen years, Matt Hoveck, for it was Matt Hoveck, was made foreman of the great Anaconda Mine. Men many years his senior took orders from him willingly. His small beginning had grown to be something large and ever since then Matt Hoveck has been forging to the front among practical mining men. Born in Germany, he came to America when he was about ten years of age. His family settled in New York, and there the boy received his first knowledge of the English language. Before the gold rush into Nevada, Mr. Hoveck mined in various districts, and had charge of some of the important mining properties of Arizona. He was in Tonopah at the time "Bob" Montgomery went into the Bullfrog district, and he met Mr. Montgomery when he was returning from his second trip into the field of the new excitement. "Things look pretty good down there, you had better come back with me," advised Mr. Montgomery, and Matt Hoveck went. He became superintendent of the Montgomery-Shoshone Mine, and put the first pick into Shoshone ground. Under his supervision a prospect became a mine, and he was still in charge when the property was purchased by Charles M. Schwab. When Mr. Schwab took over the Montgomery-Shoshone, there were four million dollars in sight, and 1,700 feet of development work had been done. Mr. Hoveck also had an interest in this mine, which netted him a nice little fortune. He resigned his position as superintendent in May, 1906, to take charge of Bob Montgomery's interests at Skidoo. As Matt Hoveck made a mine in Bullfrog, so he has been doing at Skidoo and he has built a town around this mine. What the Montgomery-Shoshone mine has done for Bullfrog, the Skidoo mine will do for this new section, and "Bob" Montgomery and his superintendent form a team that is sure to win. Matt Hoveck is a great big good-natured, open-hearted, generous man. His kingdom is a mine, and the world he really loves best is the world carpeted with sand and sagebrush, bounded on four sides by hills of gold and peopled with miners.

# Bullfrog Mining District History



(certificates courtesy of Bullfrog Billy)

# Bullfrog Mining District History



(photo courtesy of Gil Schmidtman)

## PIONEER

by Claudia Reidhead

Pioneer is about nine miles Northwest of Beatty. It came into being in 1905, with the discovery of GOLD on the Bi-Metallic claims. The Tobin brothers, William J. and Richard F., promoters from Denver, Colorado, purchased the claims in late 1905, re-naming them the Pioneer Mine. These claims were some of the largest producers in this area of the Bullfrog Mining District, second only to the Montgomery Shoshone. The other large claims in this area of the District were The Mayflower, The Conservative, The Bullfrog Indiana and The Bullfrog Pioneer. These and several other claims were the basis for the formation of this productive camp.

On May 7, 1909, the main business street burned but the bank and red-light district were spared. By July 4th, it had been re-built and was open for business as usual.

At one point in 1909, Pioneer excelled Rhyolite in population, but litigation within the main consortium caused the production to slow and finally halt. Pioneer, like Rhyolite was a rich camp for a short time, with all the trials and tribulations that goes with a "Boomtown," the barroom brawls, the street fights, but mostly the dreams of the people who worked the mines.

Pioneer town site slowly disappeared by 1911. Only 300 people remained to try and entice the desert hills to give up her treasures. By May of 1915 all but a few hardy souls had left for greener pastures, on to a different life, quieter and more peaceful, with the lingering memories of the search for gold and the excitement of a boomtown life.

Pioneer Consolidated Mines Company purchased 12 claims in 1909, Incorporating in May of 1909 under the incorporation laws of Wyoming and listing William Tobin as president. The ore assayed up to \$20.00 a ton gold and silver mixed. In 1913 the company built a ten-stamp mill and a 30 ton cyanide/amalgamation mill. The mine partially collapsed in December 1914 and closed down along with the mill.

Reorganized Pioneer Mines opened in May 1918. The mines continued working until 1931 and produced over \$500,000.00 in gold and silver during this period of operation.

The Mayflower Mine which was a part of the Pioneer Gold rush days, has been in production off and on all through the years. The latest was in the 1980's when the D&D Mines leased it for about two years, but found it not feasible to mine it further as it was not cost effective.

One of the sadder points concerning Pioneer is that the cemetery has been completely obscured by time and the desert. There is no trace of it and no one remembers where it is located. We have several names of people who were buried there, but we can't locate the graves.

### DATES TO REMEMBER!!

#### 1909 Fashion Show



**November 3, 1995**  
Beatty Community Center 7:00 pm  
for the benefit of *BMHS*  
\$2.00 donation requested

#### Talent Show



**November 25, 1995**  
Beatty Community Center 7:00 pm  
for the benefit of *BMHS*  
\$5.00 donation requested

## BEATTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

### Minutes---August 28, 1995

Meeting was called to order at 7:40p.m.

July minutes read and approved

Treasurers Report: Picnic and Auction brought in \$1243.00  
Expenses \$61.69  
Account Balance \$1691.31

Roll Call: Vonnie Gray, Mary Revert, Jane Cottonwood, Perry Forsyth, Beverly Coffee, Jeff Taguchi, Claudia Reidhead

Picnic Discussion: Everything was great with the exception of needing a cordless mike for next year. Auctioneer Jeff Taguchi wore out his voice. Suggestion made to buy time on local TV channel next year.

Variety of *B.M.H.S.* cards & appreciation certificates approved.

Suggestion of having information booth for Burro Races.

Claudia to pursue cost of plaques for walking tour.

Float to be included for Homecoming Parade in October and Veterans Day Parade in Amargosa Nov. 11.

A birthday cake was served for Jane Cottonwood.

The meeting closed at 9:15p.m.

### Minutes---September 25, 1995

Meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m.

August minutes read and approved.

Thanks to Perry for new post office box number 254.

Acknowledge receiving charter and by-laws from state of Nevada.

Contribution receipts approved.

Mary suggested petition for underground church. Claudia suggested a committee of 3 to attend petition meeting Oct. 17th.

Claudia suggested sending a representative to the school board meeting as Howard Pead owns property near the school. Chloe Lisle will be the representative.

Claudia conducted discussion on historical plaques.

Perry suggested selling menus to the clubs in town similar to the ones at the Station House.

Claudia's cabin will be used as a temporary property to house museum artifacts.

Meeting was adjourned 9:15p.m.

## DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Tamaria Anderson, Las Vegas, Nevada--Books, "Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps" by Stanley Paher, "Ghost Towns & Mining Camps of Nye County" by Shawn Stewart, "Ghost Towns of Nevada" by Donald C. Miller, "Lost Mines & Buried Treasures of the West" by Thomas Probert, "Las Vegas, the Way It Was" by George Lewis.

Virginia Goodson, Beatty, Nevada--Four 1950's post cards.

Bill & Zettia Miller, Long Beach, California--Book, "Rhyolite, Death Valley's Ghost City of Golden Dreams" by Harold & Lucile Weight, Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad foreign baggage tag.

---

**We would like to Welcome back Clint and Ellen Boehringer, of Veneta, OR as caretakers of Rhyolite. They will be in Rhyolite until the end of March. Stop by and chat awhile. They'd love you see you.**

**Glad to have you back !!**

MARK your calendar, *BMHS* General Meeting Dates:

BMHS meets at 7:00 pm at the Beatty Community Center last Monday of the month. Next two meetings are:

October 30th

November 27th

December meeting will be : December 18th

**Plan to attend and bring your ideas with you.**

**Happy Halloween  
And a  
Happy Thanksgiving !!**

**ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN *BMHS***