

# *Beatty Museum and Historical Society News*

Vol 2 No5

September - October 1996

Donation requested \$1.00

## **Message from the President....**

CLAUDIA REIDHEAD

Hi Folks! It's just me again. I sure am glad to be here too. I guess your waiting for an update on what is happening, so here goes. Our float in the Fourth of July parade was great though different than what had been planned. Instead of the ore bucket and the need for a fork lift, we used people. Thanks must go to our flirtatious bathing beauties Kim Hickenbotham, Christina Gazewood and Amina Anderson who did a good job of flirting with "BULLY." Vonnie and Sara Gray, Mary and Mandy Revert, Karley Rust, Bev Coffee and Vanessa all graced our float. Pastor Jeff with his Bible was a welcome addition and Jay Anderson made a great prospector. Thanks also to Janda Ribbons for the ribbons that added so much color to our float, not that color was needed as the quilts that covered the bales were great. Thanks go to Virginia Goodson for the trunk used on the float and now sits in our museum exhibit. The parade this year was bigger and better than last year. We all appreciate the efforts of our local Volunteer Fire Department and all that they do. Everyone enjoyed the fireworks, they get better every year. The only thing missing this year was the firemen's water barrel contest, but with the water shortages due to the drought, we understand. A majority vote of our board agreed that we should work against the passage of the museum tax simply because of the way it is worded. We need to remind our commissioners that there are other towns in Nye County besides Pahrump and Tonopah. We feel the wording of this law discriminates against the rest of the County, even though the museum in Tonopah is a wonderful one and an important part of the educational attractions of the area and needs to be funded by the County. We also have a museum exhibit here and should be allowed the monies raised here under such a tax. We would be unable to change the wording for two years and not be able to get the money from our own town taxes until the wording is changed. So local

residents, read the tax question very carefully, then vote no. Our July meeting brought some changes in our board. We sadly say good-bye to Gloria Shearer. She resigned from the board as a two year director because she is moving from our town. She appointed Peggy Johnson in her place upon approval of the board and we welcome Peggy whole heartedly. She is a very active person and will be a good addition to our board. She has a lot of skills and a lot of drive. Gloria, we will miss you!! I want to say thank you to the members who renewed their membership, we truly appreciate you and your support. At this point I need to say thanks again to Peggy in the Nye County Records office for research work. You saved me again girl. Also a huge thanks to Lynn and Van Vance for taking time from your busy schedule to do research for our history article. Without the help from these great people, this history section wouldn't have gotten past the thinking stage.

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

This issue we feature "Gold Center" in the history section and another "Who's Who" as well as the usual assortment you are so fond of by now. (ribit-ribit) So don't you all just love politics? The real barking and yelping begins now for the November vote, but a better form of barking and yelping begins right here, right now. It might be just a touch early to campaign for what I believe will be the biggest event in the history of this organization, but lets get started now promoting the Beatty Railroad Days coming next June 7th and 8th. For the members that live outside the Beatty area and out of the state of Nevada, MAKE PLANS to be a part of this historic event. You will be kept up to date as plans develop over the next few months. Our Graphic Arts Designer Mike Feuerstein will be lending his talents with flyers etc. and of course yours truly will have to be there shaking hands, kissing babies and offering the usual....."RIBIT-RIBIT"

# Bullfrog Mining District History



(certificate courtesy of Bullfrog Billy)

## The Gold Center Mining and Development Company

By Claudia Reidhead

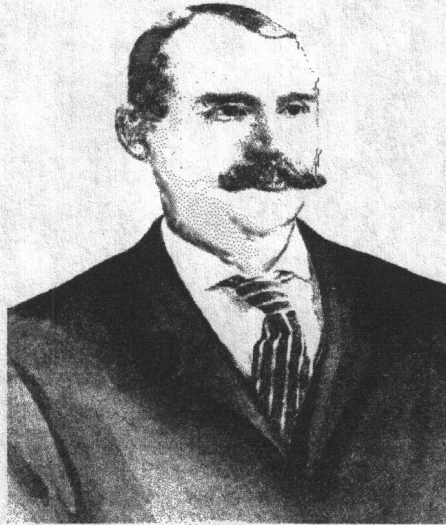
December 2, 1904, a quit claim deed was filed in Tonopah, Nevada between Samuel C. Adams and The Gold Center Mining and Development Company for the sum of one dollar and other valuable considerations, giving the Gold Center Mining and Development Company title to The Lu-Lu, The Black Jack, The Jacky-Jane, The Valley View, The Valley View Extension, The Valley Queen and The Humbug, claims all situated in the Bullfrog Mining District. Then on February 9, 1905, a quit claim deed was filed in Tonopah, Nevada, between Gold Center Mining and Development Company and E.A. Montgomery of Beatty, Nevada, giving Gold Center Mining title to the "Surprise" claims on Beer and Jones Hills in the Bullfrog Mining District. The Surprise was bounded on the West by The Keystone, and on the East by the Ziger claims. They paid \$10,000.00 for these claims. Gold Center, platted in December of 1904, was one of the longer lived towns in the Bullfrog District, the Post Office being sanctioned January 21, 1905 and closed November 23, 1910. It's claim to fame was the first brewery in the area, built underground to maintain a cool temperature, with the service above ground. Gold Center also had its own newspaper in 1907. Gold Center was a very busy town for most of its life. It was a stage stop on the way to both Rhyolite and Beatty. Built on the Amargosa River, it had a sufficient supply of water to build two mills, and a ice house plus plenty of water for its residents while selling water to both Rhyolite and Carrera. In fact, part of the water line to Carrera can still be found in places. All three railroads ran through Gold Center. This little town was actually the first to have rail service. The only traces of the town left, are part of the cement base of one of the stamp mills and the tank foundations of the cyanide plant on the side of the hill, to show that people lived and dreamed here. (Continued next issue)

# Who's Who in Nevada

by

Bessie Beatty

Copyright 1907



Judge L.O. Ray

There is a big little man in Rhyolite who has a friend in almost every inhabited block in the southern desert. A long time ago, or rather a short time ago, when Tonopah was very young, he was justice of the peace and they called him judge. His name is Lorin O. Ray but he is Judge Ray wherever he goes. A mining excitement in Southern Nevada would not be the real thing if Judge Ray were not there, for he has had a share in all of them. He tried his luck in Tonopah and then he prospected off to the north and located the present camp of Ray. He went to Goldfield, but that was also out of his streak of luck. He sunk the first shaft on the Mohawk ground but missed the ledge which was later worked as the Kalfus lease. He struck Bullfrog just at the right time and has lived there ever since, one of the most respected of respected citizens. Judge Ray was one of the four locators of the Tramps, Denver, Victor, Peerlesses and Eclipse; and with his associates realized a comfortable fortune from the sale of these. Nye county sent him to the legislature as one of her three representatives for the last session and Rhyolite has made him president of her board of trade and given him a first place among her citizens. He is of small stature, keen eye, and industrious and fearless nature; as open hearted and patriotic as they can be found. Judge Ray is president of the Rhyolite Mining and Brokerage Company and has heavy interests all over the state.

## BEATTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

**June 24, 1996 - 7:00 p.m. - Attendance:** Claudia Reidhead, Chloe Lisle, Mary Revert, Bev Coffee, Peggy Johnson, Andy Gudas, Vonnie Gray.

Minutes read and accepted - Treasurer report-\$2885.57

**Mail Room:** B & B Taylor sent pictures. Bill Miller wrote about keeping the county out of our museum since the county places a low regard for museums.

**Old Business:** Picnic in the park...Adults 11-105yrs/\$5.00 - Children 2-10yrs/2.50. Mary and Vonnie in charge of games and discussion on White Elephant Auction. We will have the help of the Millers, Vances and Barb Piatt. July 4th parade: Reverts will donate use of a flat bed. Janda donating gold and silver foil and decorating on Wednesday night.

**Railroad Days:** Ideas shared included Antique cars, small engines, train collections, Saturday Square Dance, fiddle contest, dutchoven stew (\$10.00 entry fee, sell bowls of stew for \$2.00), vendors \$35.00, Bazaar & Craft Sales. Games: Train whistle contest, Burro Doo Shot Putt, Costumes worn in business in town, walking tour, wagon rides and museum open.

Grant money: Need to write to Nevada Tourism, make banners for lights and Welcome to Beatty. We will need to have many workers to make this a success. Start thinking how you can help. Motion to adjourn at 8:45 by Bev, second by Chloe.

**July 29, 1996 - 7:05 p.m. - Attendance:** Sharon Horton, Dan Kump, Andy Gudas, Mary Revert, Peggy Johnson, Claudia Reidhead, Gloria Shearer, Jane Cottonwood, Jeff Taguchi, Norman Hamilton and Vonnie Gray.

Minutes read and accepted. Treasure report - \$2885.57 from June and \$90.00 membership renewal for July total of \$2975.57.

**Mail Room:** Letter from Ruthiana Green and pictures shared of her little boy Beatty Jason Green, born June 3, 1996 weighing 6 lbs 4 oz.

**Old Business:** Fourth of July float looked great and we had fun. We discussed the picnic and the set up. We also agreed that if people would like to dress up they sure could. All committees were working on their jobs. Rhyolite update: Dustin Haze has worked 67 hours and paid 1/3 of his fine. Members of the *BMHS* have been invited to attend the Friends of Rhyolite meeting set for August 14th to discuss the Rhyolite Festival in March 1997. In regard to the 2% tax: when it is in place we will then ask for the funds raised by Beatty. A letter is to be drafted to Mr. Bradshaw. He met with Claudia and Mary two weeks prior to the deadline for rewording and never gave a copy to *BMHS*. It was suggested to write letters to the editor of the local papers. Railroad days was tabled until the August meeting.

**New Business:** Gloria Shearer resigned her board position. Peggy Johnson agreed to be the replacement member. It was voted and accepted. The reward fund for Rhyolite is being closed and ear-marked for cemetery funds or secret witness. We did not receive grant money for advertising. It was agreed to pay \$70.00 for display cases. Mary motioned, Jeff second. Membership: We have heard from many but need to increase our membership. We also discussed collecting oral histories. Underground Church grounds will be cleaned up on Friday August 2. Motion to adjourn by Mary, second by Vonnie. Next meeting August 26, 1996.

## DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Tamaria Anderson, Las Vegas, Nevada - Books "Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday" by Don Ashbaugh, "Restless Stranger" by Wilbur S. Shepperson and "Ghosts of the Glory Trail" by Nell Murbarger.

Maxine Breedlove, Beatty, Nevada - 13 antique bottles.

Virginia Goodson, Beatty, Nevada - old trunk.

Bill & Zettia Miller, Long Beach, California - bank check "M.M. Van Fleet, Trustee" - Bullfrog Bank & Trust Company, 23 copies of 8x10 b&w photo of Rhyolite, Nevada

Boyd Norman Reidhead, Las Vegas, Nevada - commercial coffee maker, arrowhead collection, local mineral collection, Rhyolite money order stamped Rhyolite 1915, milk bottles, Beatty carbine lamps, Beatty miners candles and Beatty purple door knobs.

Rene' Younghans, Beatty, Nevada - old trunk.

## COMING EVENTS IN BEATTY, NEVADA

Beatty Chamber of Commerce presents - "Beatty Days" - Aug 30 - Sep 2

The Miss Beatty Beauty Pageant contestants will serve lunch Saturday from 11am - 1 pm at the Beatty Park - The Lions Club will serve breakfast and lunch Monday at the Beatty Park - There will be a volleyball tournament at the Exchange Club parking lot plus many more activities - **JOIN US!**

Beatty Lions Club presents - Miss Beatty Beauty Pageant - October 5

Beatty Chamber of Commerce presents - Burro Pancake Races - Oct 26 - Beatty Arena

Beatty Railroad Days - June 7-8, 1997

## *BMHS* MEETINGS

September 30 - 7 pm - Beatty Community Center

October 28 - 7 pm - Beatty Community Center

**COME VISIT THE BEATTY MUSEUM - 2ND WEEK-END EACH MONTH**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO!

Beverly Coffee - September 01

Ken Woods - September 11

Robert Anderson - September 22

B.Norman Reidhead - September 22

Rosalie Robertson - September 23

Howard Ames - September 29

Doug McDonald - October 15

Robert Rufer - October 27

### *BMHS* OFFICERS

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