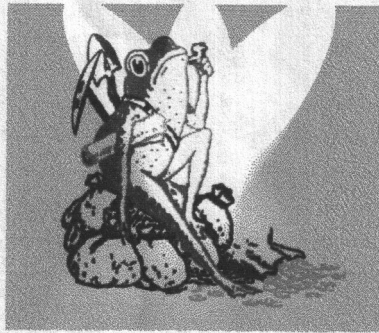


# Beatty Museum and Historical Society News

VOL. 3

NO. 1



JAN - FEB

1997

Preserving the History of the Bullfrog Mining District



Photo courtesy of Bullfrog Billy

Established in 1906, and known throughout the west as a warm and friendly place to stay, the Exchange Club was home to many famous pioneers and prospectors. As the early discoveries of gold and silver developed, the local tavern became known as the "Exchange" by prospectors who could weigh their precious ore, on a scale at the bar, and exchange it for cash. The building has remained a landmark to those in the area and to travelers passing by. Warren and Verlie Doings owned the Exchange Club from 1955 to 1960 and then leased it to the Knights from 1960 to 1980. Murphy and Maxine Breedlove became owners and partners with Verlie Doing in 1981 and have added a motel and the main building has increased from 30' x 100' to 90 x 100' and throughout all the remodeling and new additions the Exchange Club has maintained its friendly atmosphere and pioneer spirit.

## A message from the President

Claudia Reidhead

Hi Folks! I guess it's time to recap our year again, but first I want to say I hope the Holidays were great for you, that "Santa" brought you all the great things you wanted for Christmas, like family, laughter, that special sparkle that glows when the kid's eyes light up. I also hope that the New Year will bring you all the wonders that you wish for. First of all, the small exhibit that we presented in March was well received. We tried to keep the exhibit open the second weekend of each month. With the new building, the exhibit is larger and we are progressing on slowly. I hope those who read Pastor Jeff's Christmas message will enjoy his upcoming article on Israel. Our group has been asked to help with the Rhyolite Festival this year and we will be there in costume and character. Our little Kim was a show stopper at the picnic and also at the Fashion show. She will be at Rhyolite during the Festival so be sure to stop by and see her. Plans are moving along real well for the Railroad Days on June 7 & 8 and we have a lot of good things planned. If you can be here, please come and enjoy it with us. A small engine display, a miniature railroad, food vendors, antique auto show, an outdoor play, a box social and a street dance are part of what we have planned. At this time I want to welcome Mary Ball back. She is our town Secretary and was out ill for a while. We missed you Mary. Congratulations are extended to Peggy Johnson's daughter who was married December 13<sup>th</sup>. As things look well for the museum in the coming year, I hope things will be good for you. Have a truly happy year.

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

Welcome to the first edition of 1997. As promised in the last issue, we have changed the format of the newsletter as we continue to make it as attractive and interesting as possible. Last issue was an oversize issue and in contrast, this issue is a little smaller in content. With the Holiday season keeping everyone busier than normal, and the weather keeping a lot of people under the weather, we cut back just a little to insure a timely delivery of this issue.

Many thanks go out to those who helped in getting the information needed to make the deadline. I had a great conversation with Murphy Breedlove about the Exchange Club and we hope to do a much bigger feature about the Exchange Club in a future issue. I hope you enjoy the front page photo that I was able to acquire recently. Claudia Reidhead came through again with a story on "Beatty" and the great photo sent in by Roger Piatt helped complete the History Section. We want to do more features on "Beatty" in upcoming issues and also do some features on the people of "Beatty." Another "Who's Who in Nevada" is featured and will continue for a few more issues and then we'll begin a new feature, "Who's Who in *B.M.H.S.*" Now is the time to start putting your life history into text because you never know when I'll say "You're Next" in the "Who's Who" feature. I welcome two new members to our growing roster, Lori Taguchi and Vern Potter. For those of you who are interested in learning more about the history of the West and perhaps the Bullfrog Mining District in particular, we now have three members who do an outstanding job in dealing with Western History. Doug McDonald is the author of many great books and also conducts auctions dealing with Historical Documents, Alan Patera does a great job with his "Western Places" magazine and new member Vern Potter deals in Historical Documents. You will find their phone numbers in the membership roster. I have acquired lots of great material from Doug, Alan and Vern and perhaps they have something of interest for you. Zettia and I have been discussing all of the exciting things to see and do in our upcoming visits to Beatty. A new Museum that we will see during our New Year's visit, the annual Rhyolite Festival in March and the Beatty Railroad Days in June. Maybe even a couple of visits later in the year for the "Picnic in the Park" and the "Burro Races." It seems that there is always a good reason to visit Beatty but trying to figure out the best reason to visit is not difficult at all. The very best reason to visit Beatty is **YOU**, the wonderful people of Beatty. We have met so many great people over the past couple of years and with each visit we meet someone new and that makes each visit very special. We delight in being a part of an organization that remains independent with no strings attached. Our New Year's wish is the very best for each and everyone in 1997 and may we continue to work together to make *B.M.H.S.* bigger and better than ever before. Please feel free to contact us at anytime with your ideas to make the newsletter the very best it can be. Until the next time....."**RIBIT-RIBIT**"

# *Bullfrog Mining District History*

## BEATTY

by Claudia Reidhead

In 1904 the only people living in the Oasis Valley was the family of Montilius M. Beatty, who had taken over the Lander ranch. They had moved here in 1898. Their home here was a small stone house with a fresh water spring that never failed. The deep shade of huge cottonwood trees was a welcoming cool after the desert heat. It was a stopping place for all of the Death Valley prospectors. Like Shorty Harris and Walter Scott, "Old Man" Beatty was a garrulous host who delighted in visiting with all comers, and all were welcome in his home. Then in August of 1904 everything changed, Shorty Harris and Ed Cross found the Bullfrog Mine and began the last of the big gold rushes. Beatty's ranch soon became the center of activity here and the town of Beatty began to grow on the banks of the Amargosa River. This small town that still sits on the river bank was to become the supply center for most of the camps in this area. While Rhyolite became a city, Beatty grew slower until in 1906 it had a population of 3000. All of the other camps died, but Beatty only napped waiting for the next "gold rush," which we are now enjoying, but it lacks the excitement of the first one. Beatty is still a supply center for the mines. There are currently three large gold mines operating here, of which the new BULLFROG mine is the largest, employing some three hundred and twenty five workers, all of whom live in Beatty with their families.



Photo courtesy of Roger Piatt

## WHO'S WHO IN NEVADA

by  
Bessie Beatty  
Copyright 1907



Judge J. B. Lindsay

Judge J. B. Lindsay is another man of good old Southern stock, who has sought and found fortune in the West. After you talk to Judge Lindsay you know he is a Southerner; after you talk to him again you know he is from North Carolina. There he was born and spent his early youth. He was educated at Savoy College in Texas and, imbued with the wisdom he had accumulated there, began to impart it to others, teaching school for three years. This occupation was not sufficiently remunerative for an ambitious man, and Mr. Lindsay went to the Great Northwest. While Tonopah was in its swaddling clothes, Mr. Lindsay arrived on the scene. More or less interested in politics he was chosen by the Democrats as nominee for justice of the peace, and his popularity was such that he led the entire ticket. He was the first justice of the peace in the camp. This gave him his title of Judge. Mr. Lindsay entered the Bullfrog District when things began to boom there. He was one of the promoters of the Mayflower, Starlight and many other first-class properties in the surrounding district. He is one of the heaviest owners of mining property in Lee, and is an officer and director in a dozen mining companies. He founded the Rhyolite Mining and Brokerage Company. Judge Lindsay is and will be as long as he lives in the district, one of the leaders. Fortune has smiled upon him and good business judgment and good luck have combined for him. He is prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of the Knights Templars Commandery.

# BEATTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

**Oct. 28, 1996 - 7:15 p.m.**

Minutes read and approved. Motioned by Andy Gudas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen Boehringer

Treasurer report - \$4,216.55

**Old Business:** Museum update - painted, carpeted and outside to be done by Thanksgiving. Need to spray paint for evenness. Jeff Taguchi said he would get the outside done. Fashion Show - Still need more people to model. Set for 7 p.m. Railroad days - June 7 & 8, 1997 - Mining Display and Small Engine Display. Sharon will contact the Chambers in Amargosa and Death Valley and Jim Marsh. A letter will be sent to all businesses soliciting their support. Rhyolite Festival Report - No news.

**New Business:** Donations - Old Miner Union Emblem from Rhyolite (Beatty Community Center) and "Welcome Back" Clint and Ellen Boehringer.

Motion to adjourn at 8 p.m. by Ellen Boehringer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peggy Johnson.

**Nov. 25, 1996 - 7:10 p.m.**

Minutes read and approved

Treasurer report - \$4,241.55

**Old Business:** Museum report - Clean up and work day Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fashion Show Report - It was a great show, but a low turnout. It conflicted with too many other events. We made \$41.00. Rhyolite Festival (March 15-16, 1997) Andy reported the preliminary schedule. They are asking that museum members dress in costume and give history of each building, like the first Festival. They are also planning a parade. Railroad Days - We got a lot figured out for June 7-8, 1997. Mary is going to check on the different places to set up vendors for the Market Fair. She is also finding the judges for the parade. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. Judging will be at 9:00 a.m. Andy will help set up the order for the parade. We will be having ribbons for the best of show, 1 to 3 places for business, organization and individual. Sunday will be a children's parade at 2:30 p.m. with awards given. On Saturday at 4 p.m. we will have the box social. So ladies, start thinking of what to cook and guys start saving your dollars. We will have two performances of the play, one on Saturday and a matinee on Sunday, both in the park. There will be an engine display, mining display and train model display. We voted to pay (or raise) the \$600.00 needed to secure the train model display from Las Vegas. We will be having a kangaroo court and jail if you're caught without a button. Of course you will be given a chance to buy a button for \$1.00. We are hoping to have picture displays of railroads up and around town. We will be encouraging the members of town to dress in costume from the 1900-1920's. We are still looking for people to be vendors and demonstrate hobbies or crafts. We also approved the ordering of Railroad Days buttons from Janda. We will also be ordering ribbons. The advertising person is Peggy Johnson. New Business to be covered at December 30<sup>th</sup> meeting will include Board Members attendance and Museum hours and personnel.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

## DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Frank Kirby, Beatty, Nevada - (7) 6 cent stamped envelopes from Art Cardova, Justice of the Peace, Esmeralda County, Goldfield, Nevada

Boyd & Alice Madsen, Beatty, Nevada - Double handled bucksaw

Bill & Zettia Miller, Long Beach, California - Invoice from Harron, Rickard & McCone Machinery & Supplies, Los Angeles, CA to Bullfrog Banner Mining Co, Beatty, Nevada

Boyd Reidhead, Las Vegas, Nevada - 100 year old Telegraphers key and a round cut tobacco can

*BMHS* Meetings: January 27<sup>th</sup> & February 24<sup>th</sup> - 7 p.m. Beatty Community Center

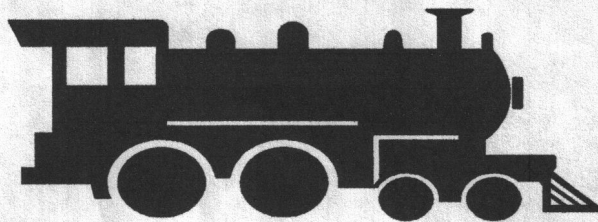
*BMHS* Museum is now located at 401 Main Street - Open weekends and selected special occasions

## COMING EVENTS

Beatty Chamber of Commerce presents "Annual Crab Feed" - Date to be Announced

Friends of Rhyolite presents "6<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhyolite Festival" - March 15-16

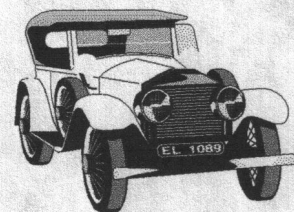
*BMHS* proudly presents "BEATTY RAILROAD DAYS" - June 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> featuring



"Engine Display"



"Street Dance"



"Antique Auto Show"

also featuring

"Parade" "Food Vendors" "Outdoor Play" "Miniature Railroad Display" "Box Social"