

Beatty



Museum

and Historical Society

Vol.4 No.5

NEWSLETTER

SEP - OCT 98

“SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS”

**“GOOD
OLD
FASHION
SCHOOL
DAYS”**



(Rhyolite school -circa 1926, Photo courtesy of Mike Horlick)



nce again in the history section of the newsletter the “Beatty Museum and Historical Society” brings you a segment on the Bullfrog Mining District Schools. We hope you enjoy the story.



A Message from the President Claudia Reidhead

Hi Folks: I hope you had an exciting 4th of July. Beatty was busy as our Fire Department threw a great party for us including a parade, kids games at the park and a wonderful fireworks display. They cooked hot dogs and hamburgers all afternoon, the weather was wonderful as it was the coolest 4th we have had in years. As you saw from the letter that was included in your last newsletter, we were approached to absorb the Friends of Rhyolite, but no one from that organization came to present the suggestions to our board, so we could not act on it. We said good-bye to Suzy McCoy on the 8th of July. She was acting as Chair for the Friends of Rhyolite and she did not make the meeting or the Special meeting as she was out of town and couldn't present for them. We will miss having her at Rhyolite for the summer, but Riley's health is too important for them to take chances by remaining here. Beatty Days is coming up Labor Day weekend and this year there will be a parade along with the Miss Beatty Pageant and a local craft fair. Come one, come all as it should be a great time. Our Picnic in the Park will be September 19th. We hope the auction does well this year. The L.D.S. Church has announced that they will be opening a genealogy center in the church on C Avenue. It will be sometime in late September or early October and will be open two hours a day. It will be open to the public and they invite all who are interested to come and avail themselves of this service. I am sad to report that after being on our Board from the beginning of our group, Pastor Jeff Taguchi resigned this month (July). He requested that we put Lorayne White in as one year Director in his place. He felt that all of his commitments and the election campaign would damage his ability to give us the time that we need. He said that he will still be as active as he can be. Also on our agendas for both meetings were the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from BLM. At this writing we haven't acted on it as we feel it needs a bit more clarifying. There are several paragraphs that we would like to see changed and some suggestions for them that we would like to see included. Until we have a meeting that will deal with the changes needed and get approval from our members, we can't act on it. You will (I hope) have received some mail on this topic requesting your immediate attention.

SPECIAL MESSAGE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has proposed that we as a group sign a MOU to work with them in Rhyolite. Your Board feels this is a bit premature for us to sign right now. We need a few hundred points cleared up before we want to sign this proposal. If you haven't received a letter from us concerning this, what I am asking is that you please write a list of questions that you would like to have them answer and mail it to me or call me so I can write them down and pass them along to BLM. Please do this as soon as you can. They want to have this handled as soon as possible. We the Board want to know why if this is so important, that we weren't asked to do this before. After all, we have been active for four years. They could have talked to us at any time, requested this and we could have had time to work all this out sooner. We don't want to be rushed making this decision, but they seem to have a time frame that it must be done by. We have to keep you informed of what is going on and doing things via the mail takes a lot of time. The proposed MOU defines what can or cannot be done in Rhyolite as to stabilization, "rehabilitation," repairs, clean up, what activities can and cannot be done in the town, limiting of filming, their possible acquisition of the Depot, and making it a toll site with possibly a visitor center and museum there. We look at their record here and find they don't follow through on their agreements with the people of this area, while putting severe restrictions on activity. Controlled deterioration has been their policy up until now and will continue to be.



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

A big thank you to Mike Horlick of Hayward, California for allowing us to use the great Rhyolite School photo from his collection for our front cover. Our history section takes you back to school in the Bullfrog Mining District with the story coming courtesy of Claudia. Work has already begun on our big year-end issue that will feature Transvaal in the history section, the last of the "Who's Who in Nevada" feature, a special seasonal message from Pastor Jeff and perhaps a surprise or two from the frogster himself. Until the next time, stay cool, as I don't want to hear about anyone croaking (RIBIT) in the heat.....**RIBIT!**

Bullfrog Mining District History

Schools of The Bullfrog District

by
Claudia Reidhead

This article in The Beatty Bullfrog Miner dated October 10, 1905, is the beginning of the schools here in the district. "School Districts--Beatty and Gold Center--Rhyolite and Bullfrog" "Through the persistent efforts of Sexton and McDonald the County Commissioners have finally established a school district, which includes Beatty and Gold Center, with the following boundaries: Beginning at the mouth of Montgomery-Shoshone tunnel, thence North 10 miles, thence East 10 miles, thence South 14 miles, thence West 10 miles, thence North 4 miles to the beginning. Trustees are E.A. Montgomery, M.M. Beatty, and Julius Levy. There are 35 children of school age in the above district and arrangements are on foot to provide a school house immediately." Two benefit dances were held at the Montgomery Hotel in Beatty during the month of December 1905, raising a total of \$713.00. From the Beatty Bullfrog Miner 12/23/05 Locals: "Miss Alice Cahill of Goldfield will arrive in Beatty Monday and will begin organizing the school." Soon after a lot was donated and a one room school was opened on the hill by the river, to be replaced later that year by a new building in back of the Exchange Club. It remained there until 1928 when the new school was built.

At the same time, Rhyolite was organizing a school board, incorporating the township of Bullfrog having 5 children of school age in the

two towns. The town board appointed A.G. Cushman and Walter Smith to investigate and recommend solutions to the problem of setting up a school district. Mr. Smith ordered desks, books, etc., on his own responsibility, and the shipment being duly received with freight charges of over \$300.00 being advanced by Mr. Parker, Ed Busch and Judge Ray with no building to house the equipment. Senator Stewart, Tim Gronen and William Parker were then appointed to the school board in January of 1906. The townsfolk generously donated two lots on Cochran and Beatty, and through fund raisers and the levying of a special tax, raised money for a building. The first school in Rhyolite was a one room wooden structure. The first teacher was Reverend Robinson, adding twenty students the first month. Mrs. Iler replaced him as enrollment increased. In December of 1906, a young lady, Miss Emma Louise Presser arrived in Rhyolite becoming the first public school teacher. Both of these schools were private schools as they were not in the public school system until the 1907-1908 school year.

In 1906 a school was opened in Springdale. It too was a private school, operated on donations and fund raisers. The school year of 1907-08 opened with three teachers in Rhyolite: T. L. Brecheen, yearly wage \$150.00, Nellie Holland, yearly wage \$125.00, and Patrick O'Connell, yearly wage \$125.00.

Miss Presser must have been on the payroll as a private teacher, as she is not listed in the official records from the state. Beatty lists only Mrs. Mary McWhirt. Springdale was not listed on the official records, until the school year 1909-10, so though it was a public school, it was still a private facility until that date when the teacher was Mrs. Nora McCabe, yearly salary \$75.00. Pioneer also was listed in 1909-10 with Anna Akesson as teacher with a salary of \$100.00.

The teachers were paid by how many students they had and how high the tax table was for their district. By the 1909-1910 school year, the Rhyolite school had cut back to two teachers, B.W. Gibson and Dutie Sundburg, no salaries listed. Beatty lists only Maude Frasier with a salary of \$100.00. 1910-1911, Rhyolite lists only Mattie B. Nesbitt, salary \$125.00. Beatty still lists Maude Frasier at \$100.00. Pioneer lists no teacher and Springdale lists Bertie E. Lipps at \$90.00.

As you can see, the populations of these mine camps kept changing from year to year. There was still a teacher in Rhyolite in 1916. Margaret Myles who received \$100.00 salary as there were still enough students there to have a teacher as the town had not died out completely. The January 1916 rolls list Carrera as having Geraldine Breen at a salary of \$90.00. Pioneer had Rosa M. Schmalling at a salary of \$90.00 and Beatty had Della Gilbert at \$90.00. School year 1917 still has Rhyolite, Beatty and Carrera schools in operation. At Beatty, Mrs. Gilbert was still teaching with a wage of \$90.00. Gertrude

Saxe was at Carrera, wage \$90.00 and Earl Bullock at Rhyolite, wage \$100.00. By 1919, only Beatty and Carrera were still operating schools. Salaries had come up to \$100.00 at Beatty and \$110.00 at Carrera. Rhyolite had gone the way of Pioneer and Springdale. The schools here that were still operating had come up in wages. I haven't got student rolls to check to find how many students were in each school, but you can be assured they were below twenty students at this time.

In order to appreciate these wonderful teachers who had come to this desert land to teach the rudiments to the children of miners, you must understand that these wages were hardly enough to pay for the staples of life. Imagine the hardship of trying to teach independent minded students who were also full of mischief in buildings that were wooden and not insulated. Of all the schools of that era, the only one insulated against the winter weather was the one at Rhyolite. The dedication and patience of trying to educate the young of the area was commendable. Facilities were "out back," water in some cases was piped in but usually brought in by the bucket. Teachers were expected to dress properly at all times and conduct themselves with propriety. "Be clean of mind and body," was in their contract. With the high cost of all items in mining camps, the wages were hardly enough to keep them, let alone buy any luxuries. Add to this, that a good share of the time, they provided school supplies for some of their students and you must see the devotion to learning they possessed.

BEATTY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

June 29, 1998 - Meeting called to order 7:15 p.m.

Treasury Report - \$8457.08

Museum Visitors - 164

Old Business: Parade recap. Vendor recap included three returning so far, suggested to have a vendor dinner, all events at the park and earlier notification. Advertising recap: Spent \$1200.00 and we need a larger budget. Drama Group: Twelve different people helped Kanna with skits. 154 warrants were sold for \$2.00 each.

New Business: Picnic in the Park - September 19, 1998. Pat McCoy from BLM presented land/care taking five year MOU. It was motioned by Kanna to have the Board meet to discuss the implications. 2nd by Mary Revert.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. by Vonnie Gray, 2nd by Peggy Johnson

July 28, 1998 - Meeting called to order 7:30 p.m.

Treasury Report - \$7562.69

Volunteer Hours - 68.5

Museum Visitors - 32

Old Business: Picnic in the Park: Auction committee is Kanna and Kim. BLM: Commissioner Bobby Revert presented a lot of questions to Pat McCoy, yet she was unable to satisfactorily answer the concerns. Bobby suggested that she meets with the County Commission to discuss the donation of the Railroad Depot and the Bottle House to the County. Pat McCoy did verbally agree to a 3 year MOU. She stressed the fact that we need to go to the state instead of Battle Mountain. We need to request a different district office. On August 4, 1998, many of the BLM "important" people are meeting at Rhyolite. Several BMHS members are looking to go out there also.

New Business: Bev Coffee gave an invitation to attend the opening of the LDS Family History Center. They

have Nye County records on microfilm from the 1880's to 1920.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. by Mary Revert, 2nd by Andy Gudas.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Ralph & Chloe Lisle-Beatty, Nevada - \$50.00 donation in memory of Jacqui McClain

Neil McNeil-Beaumont, California - Framed 1909 map showing mining claims in Nevada

Bill & Zettia Miller-Long Beach, California - 3 early 1900's Beatty Railroad Maps

COMING EVENTS

September 4th - Lions Club cooking Bar-B-Q sponsored by Exchange Club, includes live music

September 5th - Lions Club presents Miss Beatty Pageant and Parade at 9 a.m.

September 19th - *BMHS* proudly presents 4th Annual Picnic in the Park

September 28th - *BMHS* meeting - 7 p.m. Beatty Community Center

October 26th - *BMHS* meeting - 7 p.m. Beatty Community Center

October 31st - Beatty Burro Races

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN *BMHS*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO!

Beverly Coffee September 1st

Jennifer Nagle September 11th

Karl Jordaens September 20th

Norma Hamilton September 21st

B. Norman Reidhead September 22nd

Howard Ames September 29th

Cynthia McPherson September 30th

J. "Larry" Moog October 7th

Jack Hoyer October 15th

Spike Foge October 18th

Carol Stephens September 6th

Ken Woods September 11th

Karen Grover September 21st

Robert Anderson September 22nd

Rosalie Robertson September 23rd

Alpheus Bruton III September 30th

Patricia McCoy October 1st

Charles McManis October 10th

Doug McDonald October 15th

Robert Rufer October 27th

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