

Beatty



Museum

and Historical Society

Vol.4 No.6

NEWSLETTER

NOV - DEC 98

TRANSVAAL

The short lived Mining Camp of the Bullfrog Mining District



Certificate Courtesy of Richard McCutchan

READ ABOUT THE LITTLE KNOWN

TRANSVAAL MINING CAMP IN THE HISTORY SECTION



A Message from the President Claudia Reidhead

Hi Folks: This is the last time this year that I will be saying that so I want to say that I hope that the Holidays will be wonderful for you and that they will bring you all that you wish for and bring you good health, good fortune, the joy of a special smile and the warmth of good friends. It has been a busy year, what with Railroad Days in June, Miss Beatty Pageant on Labor Day (most of our board belongs to the Lions Club and worked on that as well) and now the Burro Pancake Races. It seems as though we haven't take time for a break. The Picnic in the Park and Auction was in September and wound up in competition with the Harvest Festival. Chaired by Kanna, co-chaired by Laurel and Kim Hickenbotham, assisted by Bev Coffee, Norma and Larry Hamilton, and Pastor Jeff as Auctioneer, we did quite well, clearing \$1,115.00. All who came had a good time and we thank the folks for their generosity. The question of the BLM has been taken over by the County. The MOU will be signed between the County and BLM. When I get the details from the Commissioners, I will pass them on to you. It is my sad duty to report the passing of long time resident Jim Nash. Those of you who live here or have lived here and knew him will miss his smile and his happy greeting. Right now, I know of no coming events currently on the calendar for the coming year except Railroad Days, so I guess that we will get a break for a little while. That won't last long, knowing this town. We don't let life get boring. God Bless and Happy Holidays.

another planet. Perhaps the most important part of our progress, has been the ability to maintain our independence, free from commitments that endanger our ability to function as WE see fit. I have every confidence that we'll continue to survive, grow and remain free of red tape. This issue features Transvaal in our History Section. BMHS member Richard McCutchan was kind enough to loan us his great stock certificate for our front cover. It is the generosity of Richard and many others in the past that help make our Newsletter special. We have brought back the "Who's Who in Nevada" feature for the final installment. Pastor Jeff Taguchi brings you his annual Holiday message to give our year-end issue that special warm feeling. For a change in pace, we are not changing the format of the front page for next year. We are going to do something a little different for the History Section next year. Every day that goes by, history is made and I think it is time to get up close and personal with the people who have made BMHS what it is today. We will feature, (with their undying cooperation of course...RIBIT) the Officers of BMHS, beginning with President Claudia Reidhead. Vice President Mary Revert and Secretary/Treasurer Vonnie Gray will also be featured in upcoming issues. These three ladies have been the driving force of BMHS since day one. They have truly made history happen in Beatty. Speaking of history, Zettia and I have experienced some history this year. Starting with a trip to Bodie this summer, we enjoyed the company of BMHS members Claudia Reidhead, John Slenter and coming out from Ohio, members Roger and Barbara Piatt. Zettia and I enjoyed our first visit to Bannack, Montana recently. Bodie and Bannack enjoy the status of "State Park" where there is funding and on site Rangers to protect and preserve these marvelous ghost towns. Rhyolite isn't quite so lucky. Mother Nature, vandals and just time alone is rapidly taking away another piece of history. BMHS is doing what it can to help alleviate that and you can do your part by recruiting more members so we become a bigger voice in helping to protect our precious history. By the time you receive this, Clint and Ellen Boehringer will be back giving their special brand of tender loving care to Rhyolite for the winter months. Be sure to stop by the bottle house and say hello to those very special people. For the fourth straight year, Zettia and I will spend New Years Eve in Beatty just to get off on the right foot for 1999. From Bodie to Bannack to Beatty, best wishes and fondest regards for the Holidays and of course a very special seasonal.....RIBIT!



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

Hard to believe another year is coming to a close so rapidly. This issue marks the end of Volume four and that is also a little hard to believe. Seems like only yesterday we got started with creating a Museum and Historical Society. If there are any doubters left about our ability to survive and grow, they must be from

Bullfrog Mining District History

Transvaal

by
Claudia Reidhead

The Gold discovered at this camp in August of 1906 caused a small rush, with the people who had missed a big claim site at the other camps, running in a hurry to this newest gold find. The newspapers of the time were flaunting it as the biggest find yet, claiming "The gold dust picked up on the soles of the miners boots would feed him for a week."

In July, the Transvaal Miner published its first and last edition. For although Transvaal remained an active camp, the gold wasn't as plentiful as the prognosticators claimed. Even though it came in as a wild one with all of the exaggerated claims for its wealth and future, it went quietly, with only two of the several mines claimed true producers, and those not real big.

Records and information on Transvaal are very scarce. I have seen no photos of the camp when it was active.

The earliest claims filed that I could find were the transfer of titles for three claims named Favorite, Transvaal and Congo from Albert Johnson and C.F. Nelson to the Transvaal Nevada Mining Co. Then on February 1, 1908, the transfer of title for these claims, Transvaal Girl No. 1, 2 and 3 located 1 mile East from Transvaal and 18 miles North East of Beatty, in the Transvaal Mining District. These claims were formerly known as the Plumas Girl, from R. L. Hampton to Transvaal Plumas Girl Mining Company. On January 3, 1908, the ownership of claims titled Gold Bug, a placer claim about 12 miles North East of Beatty, from George Probasco to the Transvaal Nevada Mining Company. Thanks to Peggy in the Records Office in Tonopah for all of her assistance and patience with me.

Quite obviously since there are no school records, the miners of Transvaal were either all single men or married with no children or possibly the children traveled to Beatty or Springdale for school.

Due to the small amount of information on

Transvaal, this would be a good time to touch on how the miners lived in the camps.

Like miners everywhere at that time, they lived hard, tents or one room shacks, usually made of thin wood, lined with newspapers or cardboard to keep out the wind and weather, or possibly tar paper on the outside, cold or hot as the season came. Tin roofs made of flattened powder cans, or stove oil cans, kept the rain and snow out and made the shack hot as an oven in the summer unless they had enough cardboard and newspaper to insulate the roof. A day in the life of a miner would go something like this. 4:00 a.m. Get up, make breakfast, usually consisting of either sourdough pancakes or biscuits augmented by salt pork and eggs on occasion, sometimes bacon. If he had a wood burning sheep camp stove, breakfast would be cooked right on the lid of the stove. Another means of cooking would be an open fire in the center of the room built in a rock lined hearth with a piece of sheet metal laid across on which to cook. 5:00 a. m. Go to work, where for 10-12 hours he would shovel rock, or blast it loose to shovel, shore up the sides if it were a shaft, or the sides and ceiling if it were a tunnel. Move tons of earth with a wheelbarrow. After 10-12 hours, he would go back to his shack to beans that had been cooking on the back of the stove all day, more sourdough biscuits, cooked in a cast iron dutch oven for dinner, fall exhausted into bed and then get up and do it all over again. Small wonder they found warmth and comfort in beer and whiskey, which was why almost every camp of more than 10 tents or shacks had a saloon, where men could go to find companionship in the evenings and on pay days. Working in the mines, a man would be either freezing cold and wet or extremely hot, depending on the mine and conditions of the ores were found in. Some mines are damp and cold, 45 to 50 degrees and others have temperatures ranging up to 150 degrees. Most desert camps were short on water but the mines weren't, with the camps hauling drinking water up to 50 miles. Deep wells often dug by hand were found by luck or a water witch, sometimes piped 20 to 30 miles to work the mills and supply the camps with fresh drinking water.

“A Gift That Will Last A Lifetime”

by

Pastor Jeff Taguchi

As many of you know, I believe in the preservation of history. It's something that is precious to me and I know many of you share the same view. But as I read the newspapers and listen to the news on television, I am constantly bombarded with crime, violence, destruction and political scandal. And it leads me to ask the question, "Is there any good in the world anymore?" Many people have become discouraged and disgusted with what's going on in society and are reluctant to get involved for fear of harm or litigation.

In reality, the world hasn't changed that much in 2000 years. Oh, the issues might be different but the problems are not. There was crime, violence, destruction and political scandal just the same. But at that particular time nearly 2000 years ago, something special happened. Jesus was born. God was not unaware of what was going on in society, but still provided a Savior in the midst of chaos. For 3 years Jesus ministered among the people. He traveled no more than areas surrounding Jerusalem and Galilee. But yet he had an impact that stretched to every continent on this planet. The consummate servant didn't worry about harm and didn't worry about being sued. What was important to him was the people and their needs. Dying on the cross and being raised from the dead, demonstrated that those who believed in Him would really have life. An abundant life is what's missing from people's lives today. All of the social issues that we face are a reflection of what's going on inside a person.

The gift that lasts a lifetime is the fact that God, even in the midst of chaos, provided hope through Jesus Christ. That's a hope that continues even today. People who trust in him will find an abundant life and a meaningful life that surpasses all understanding. When that happens, crime becomes good works; violence becomes benevolence; destruction becomes reconstruction and political scandal becomes good governing.

It might appear that there is chaos in the world now, but change starts at home. Our greatest effect begins with our families, stems to our community and then beyond. As a historical society, this truth is the only way to preserve our history. Teaching our young people that history is important and that the preservation of that history is a serious issue will insure the protection of our heritage. That's how the truths of the Bible have lived on till today. People took the time to share Jesus with their families and friends and it spread worldwide. It's the same principle that will save our history. I hope that this Christmas you reflect on the Gift that Lasts a Lifetime and also that the "Gift that we give our future generations is the History we preserve today."


God Bless

Jeff

Who's Who In Nevada


by
Bessie Beatty
Copyright 1907

FRANK P. MANNIX

n the microscopic slide of "Who's Who in Nevada" there now rests a new specimen whom we will proceed to examine with something akin to awe. He belongs to that much maligned, sometimes feared, occasionally appreciated, but altogether necessary and useful class known as newspaper men. These individuals, not numerous but generally in evidence, have followed closely in the wake of the pathfinders who blazed the way into the heart of the Western desert.

Frank P. Mannix, editor and founder of the pioneer newspaper, the Bullfrog Miner, is a man who has given of his time and his talents, as few others have done, to make of Southern Nevada something more than a sagebrush waste. He was born in Malone, New York, forty-five years ago. (He does not look it, but the family Bible can not lie.) At the age of eighteen years he was publisher, editor, devil and ex-officio owner of a weekly paper in Degraff, Minn., one of Bishop Ireland's colonies. He served a sentence of six months in Degraff, and then accepted a job of doing nothing on the Diamond Joe passenger steamer running between St. Paul and St. Louis. He could not stay away from newspaper offices and at the time Garfield was assassinated he was "holding down" the telegraph desk of the Omaha Bee. (This is not intended in any way to establish an alibi.) He established the Victor Record, in the Cripple Creek District, and later was elected clerk and recorder of Teller County, serving two terms. He came to Rhyolite in February, 1905.

HARRY G. McMAHON

hrilling experiences on the desert in pursuit of the fickle goddess Fortune have not aged Harry G. McMahon, but they have made him fearless, self-reliant and strongly adherent to a fixed purpose; in all, a typical man from Nevada. His pursuit of this divinity, already mentioned, has not been without a goodly measure of success, and there is none that begrudges him his well-merited achievements.

He is the son of John McMahon, a pioneer of the Comstock Lode, who penetrated South Africa, China, South America, and Mexico in his search for the treasures of the earth. Harry McMahon was born in Santa Rosa, California, not so very many years ago. He wandered through Idaho and Alaska before Nevada claimed him. In the days when Rhyolite was not, Mr. McMahon located 150 claims in the southern part of the state, and has been prominently connected with the development of this great storehouse of wealth.

He was interested in bringing about the Mayflower Consolidation of the Mayflower and Starlight properties, and he has been among the foremost in the advancement of many big and profitable concerns. He is also deeply interested in the Croesus, Banner, and Midas properties. But that is not all, for Tecopa, Greenwater, and Wonder claim a considerable amount of his attention.

Harry McMahon is a practical miner who has learned his lessons from the field, and knows a mine when he sees it. He numbers his friends in every section of the country he has visited, and whether in the corridors of the Alexandria in Los Angeles, or deep underground in a mine, he's the same genial, likeable fellow.

BEATTY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

September 29, 1998-Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m.

Treasury Report-\$7847.25

Museum Visitors/Volunteer Hours-54 / 58

Discussion on rules of meetings. Posting agendas. On September 19, Claudia met with BLM in Tonopah. It was noted that the County Commission will be handling the BLM response to Rhyolite. It was requested to send membership the monthly minutes instead of placing them in the newsletter.

Discussed the hardware bills. Vonnie asked if we should pay the Exchange Club for the extra day Midge Ondes stayed. Andy Gudas said the Friends of Rhyolite will pay half since that was the original agreement. Mary motioned, 2nd by Kanna, carried.

Picnic in the Park: Thank you to Kanna, Bev Coffee, Larry and Norma Hamilton. Thanks to all who donated and assisted. Certificates of Appreciation will be given. Profit of \$1115.70. Vonnie will write a letter of interest to the County Commission for the Sheriff Office and Jail. Kanna motioned, 2nd by Leon, carried, abstained Mary Revert and Vonnie.

New Business-Part time employee: Discussion, no action at this time because of taxes. We also are working with volunteers. (A great big thank you to Larry Hamilton) However, it is worth researching for a later time. Display racks for the oversize maps: Vonnie will bring costs and summary to next meeting.

Museum Displays-Mormon Trail shotgun donated by Jim Nash. Old electric items, bottles and other artifacts found by Joey Gibson. Other: Bev Coffee asked about ordering Nevada Coloring Books. Tabled until later.

Motion to Adjourn by Lorayne White, 2nd by Norma Hamilton.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Anonymous-Three pieces of sheet music copyright 1916

William & Barbara Micklejohn-Scranton, Arkansas - Photo copies of photos and history of Carrera and Hollywood, Nevada. One original photo of Carrera, Official 1912 map of Gold Claims South of Goldfield, One hand drawn map of Howell Mining District for "Insurance Claims" on oil treated brown paper. Prospectus for Pioneer Bullfrog Mining Company. Various paper items pertaining to the Bullfrog Mining District.

Bill & Zettia Miller-Long Beach, California-8 x 10 black & white 1919 photo of Rhyolite.

John Slenter-San Jose, California-post card/Rhyolite Bottle House.

COMING EVENTS

November 30th-BMHS meeting - 7 p.m. Beatty Community Center.

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

For an update on Coming Events, please call the Beatty Chamber of Commerce - (702) 553-2424

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN BMHS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO!

Kim Hickinbotham November 6th

Bob Burns November 11th

Laura Jackson November 17th

Deanna Cherry-Mulock December 1st

Leslie Parsons December 2nd

Gary Morgan December 15th

Bill Johnson December 24th

Lorayne White November 6th

Patricia Schoffstall November 12th

Boyd Madsen November 17th

Chloe Lisle December 1st

Roger Piatt December 9th

Ellis Vance December 17th

Catherine Hammelrath December 27th

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