

Beatty



Museum

and Historical Society

Vol.5 No.1

NEWSLETTER

JAN - FEB 99

Claudia Reidhead



Founder and President of "Beatty Museum and Historical Society"

Read her story in the history section this issue.



A Message from the President Claudia Reidhead

Hi Folks: I hope the Holidays were good to you, that you had all the turkey or ham that you wanted to eat, that Santa left all the goodies in you stocking that you wanted, and that the family was all there to smile with you. I hope that it was the best ever. Christmas on the desert is special this year. It will be the last year that we have Barrick here, so we have tried to make it special with caroling, lighting contest, a hay ride and several parties, just to say we will miss them. December 4th we were treated to a light dusting of snow in the morning but as the sun slipped up over the hill, it melted off. Wonder if this means we will have a white Christmas? Congratulations to Mary and Bob Revert, they have a new grandson. Arthur Robert Trever Revert arrived on November 10th in Las Vegas. Proud parents are James and Robin Revert. Something for you all to put in your phone books, we now have a new area code. It is 775. To call the Museum you now have to call 775-553-2303 or to call me, 775-553-2351. We will start working on Rail Road Days at our December meeting. We hope to make it bigger and better this coming year. Starting with the Car Show, Mary has that well in hand along with all the things she does so well. What are your plans for New Year 2000? Why don't you come here and help us celebrate the turn of the century in Beatty. If all the things people are working on come to be, it will be a great time. As things start to jell a bit more, I will update you. Best wishes for 1999.

"RIBITS" from the editor....

Bullfrog Billy



By the time you receive this newsletter, 1999 will already be underway. I hope each of you had a safe and happy New Year celebration and that the year 1999 will be the best ever for you. This column is being composed about 96 hours ahead of our annual New Years trip to Beatty, so I will update you on the trip in the next newsletter. Claudia mentioned that there are a lot of activities in the planning stages for the 1999/2000 celebration in Beatty. It might sound a little early to

make plans for that occasion, but what great fun it would be to see a lot of people there that we see during Rail Road Days every year. If you want glitter and glamour you can find it anywhere, just like you can find plastic anywhere and find used car salesman anywhere. Me, I'll opt for the warmth and friendship of Beatty. THINK ABOUT IT! The first thing you will notice about this edition of the newsletter is the fact that it is much smaller than most editions. We are leaving the front page the same style as 1998 and leaving the editorial page the same, but we are making some changes as far as the rest of the newsletter. Costs continue to rise at a rapid pace with materials being the big culprit. Postage costs will rise right after the first of the year. In order to keep these costs under control, we have taken some steps to prevent increasing the price of your membership. Gone is the Happy Birthday column, gone is the elaborate listing of Officers, Board of Directors and Newspaper staff, gone is any extensive use of graphics in the general content of the newsletter. Just making these minor adjustments will keep the cost of the newsletter at the same level as previous years. What we will try to do is make the content as interesting and as informative as possible. Due to the Holiday rush that everyone gets trapped in, we were unable to print the minutes of the last couple of meetings in this edition. We hope to be back on track for the next issue. Our History Section is a little different than previous editions. We are featuring in this issue, a person that has made history right here in Beatty. Claudia Reidhead has been writing most of the History Section features since the beginning of BMHS. She is also the person that got BMHS started and is the President of BMHS. I thought it would be a good time to find out a little more about Claudia and make her the feature of the History Section. We hope to feature other prominent members of BMHS in upcoming issues. We also welcome any stories that you might have for possible publication in upcoming issues. Some of the ideas for the History Section this year are a look at the banks in the Bullfrog District during the boom era, another feature on the railroads which would be in conjunction with the BMHS Railroad Days and a feature or two on some of the prominent businesses in the area. Hopefully, you will find the newsletter a source of enjoyment and as I always ask you at least once a year, be sure to ask a friend or two to join BMHS. Remember, there is strength in numbers and I truly want to see our membership grow during 1999. So until the next time, stay healthy, keep smiling, and be thinking about Railroad Days and New Years, 1999.

Bullfrog Mining District History

Claudia Reidhead

Hi, my name is Claudia Davies Reidhead. I am one of three children born at the Pacific Coast Borax Hospital in Death Valley Junction. My Daddy turned over that rock in May 1941 and brought me home to Beatty where I grew up. My life here was good as only life on the desert can be when your a child and have the whole world for a play ground. The population of our town was 225 including kids, cats and dogs. Those of us who were lucky enough to grow up here, were also lucky enough to know some of the legends of the desert. We learned first hand the trials and tribulations of prospecting the desert, of how to survive when the land, man and the hand of God all seem to be against you, or some where you aren't.

To be truthful though, most of the old time prospectors never felt that way. They always had hope that tomorrow would bring them the big strike, or they would look out over the desert and see the hand of God in its beauty. The company of man could be found at any of the ranches, or at the water holes or springs. Occasionally there would be a chance meeting on the trail. They seldom felt alone and rarely lonely.

At any rate, Bill wanted a bio of my life. It wasn't very exciting and being typically a kid and truly adventurous, I was never truly aware of the hard times that I now know they were. World War II was going on and the war to end all wars was happening to everyone and it affected even those of us here in our secluded

little valley. We had rationing and most everything was hard to come by. But I was unaware as a child can be. The most exciting thing that happened was the Friday night movies at the town hall, or a town picnic at one of the ranches. A Saturday evening in the summer when we would close the Main Street off and the Looney boys would play for a street dance or a school play when every kid in town had a part in it, or our annual Fiesta, organized by our Post Mistress Renee Gibson.

I married in 1957, and we followed road construction until 1962 when my daughter was born. We settled in Las Vegas where we raised our children. I came home in 1987 to take care of my Mom, and I'm still here, and glad to be. The desert is the only place I am truly happy. The history of this area is fascinating to me. I hope that I can share some of the pleasure I get learning about it with others, through the Museum and these newsletters. Thank you all for sharing it with me and thank you also to the wonderful and fascinating people who have lived on this desert who have taught me that life without wonder is a very boring way to live and that wonder lies all around you. Mrs. Lisle, who taught me in school, labored very hard to pound the written word into my head, and Merle Welsh also one of my teachers, I thank them especially. Life on the desert is great because of people who care, as all of you do. Care about each other, the area and the history.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Gary Cameron-Asheboro, North Carolina-\$5.00

Larry Hamilton-Beatty, Nevada-Grandmother's 1920's eyeglasses (on loan)

Frank Kirby-Beatty, Nevada-one photo NY City, 7 sheets of antique sheet music including 1919 Salvation Army Music

Bill & Zettia Miller-Long Beach, California-H.D. & L.D. Porter Brothers bank check, Rhyolite, Nevada

James Thalín-Amargosa Valley, Nevada-Lower jaw bone from wild boar, pouch arrow point chipper and several arrow points

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Gary Cameron, Asheboro, North Carolina

COMING EVENTS

BMHS meetings - Last Monday each month - 7 p.m. - Beatty Community Center

Beatty Lions Club - 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month - Senior Center

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