

Beatty



Museum

and Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

MAR-APR 99



Photo Courtesy of Mr. William Meiklejohn

Carrara  
&  
Hollywood

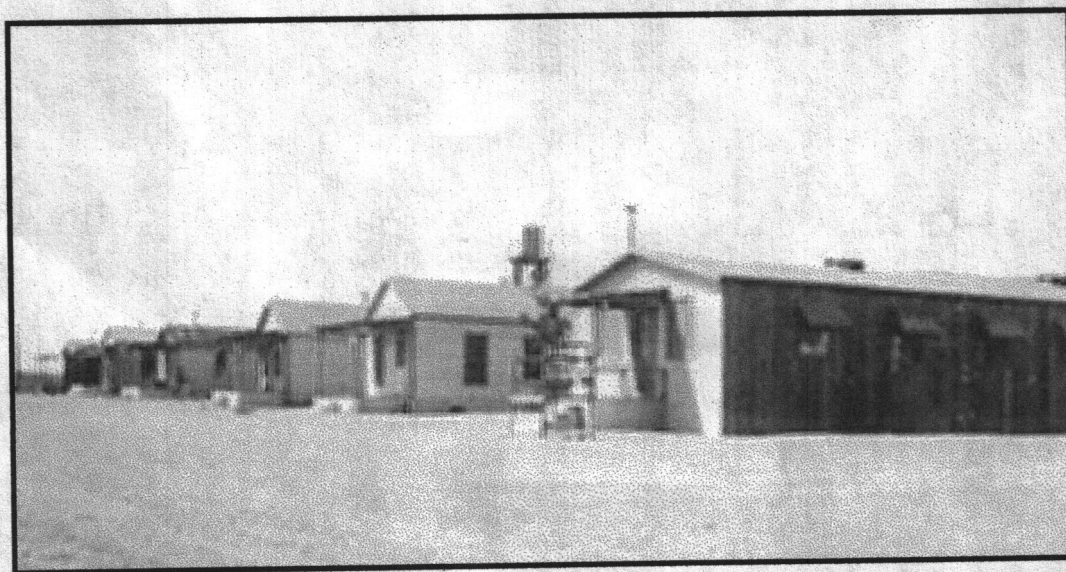


Photo Courtesy of Mr. William Meiklejohn

STORY ON CARRARA & HOLLYWOOD, NV. IN THE HISTORY SECTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER

## A Message from the President Claudia Reidhead

Hi Folks: First things first--I owe all of you an apology because the first two newsletters this year have been late. Days and time slipped by and I just plain goofed. I'm truly sorry and will make every effort to be back on track for the next issue. Bill & Zettia came up for New Years Eve and we had a good time. Member Leon Abrams came down from Berkeley and we went exploring the War Eagle Mine. We were looking for a bridge, but we turned left instead of right and missed it. I took a whole roll of photos without any film in the camera. Dumb huh? I was suppose to go with a friend on a flyover near the bridge, but it was canceled, so now I get to go looking again, on the ground, with film in the camera this time. Very little happened at the last two meetings. Illness forced cancellation of the December meeting and no quorum for the January meeting. However, work has started on Railroad Days. Mary will be handling the car show and the vendors. Hopefully Norma will be able to help her. All the rest of us have our assignments from last year. We have some new exhibits in the Museum. If you're in town, you should stop by to see them. Don't forget to call me if the Museum is closed. I will open it up for you and we will have a visit. We should be able to start having regular hours again very soon. Hope to see you soon.

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### "RIBITS" from the editor....

#### Bullfrog Billy

This issue we focus on Carrara and Hollywood, Nevada. Thanks go to Claudia and William Meiklejohn for the article and photos. And now, a letter from BMHS members Roger & Barbara Piatt.

**CAN YOU HELP?** We are trying to find out what happened to my great, great uncle, George Edward Mosher. George was born November 15, 1881, in Ashland County, Ohio. He left Ohio in October, 1905 and went to Tonopah. Thirty years ago my mother and I hand copied three of the letters that he sent to his parents in Ohio and these letters have been the basis for our research. We have no idea what happened to the letters themselves and are so glad that we at least have these hand copies. Sometime after March 22, 1907, something must have happened to him as the letters

stopped coming, and he was never seen or heard from again. The first letter, dated December 22, 1905, is postmarked Sparks & Tonopah and states that he was working for the Western Ore Purchasing Company in Tonopah. We understand that it went out of business in the 1920's. The second letter is postmarked Reno & Goldfield T623 and is dated February 6, 1907. It was written February 2, 1907, in Tonopah. He states that he "succeeded in getting a new hearing in a suit about some mining property in the Greenwater District in Death Valley." He thought he had lost all his property until that date but said things looked better now. His case was not to come up in court until some time late next summer (summer of 1907 or 1908?) He was leaving for Greenwater on the same day that the letter was written "to take a position at \$175 a month for a mining company interested in my case - to hold me here until the case comes up in court." He gives his address as G.E. Mosher, Box 121, Tonopah, Nevada and says he can have his mail forwarded to his new address. The third letter is postmarked Tonopah, Nevada, March 23, 1907, 7:00 p.m. The return address on the envelope was Gold Miners Company of Goldreed (this part was crossed off), Box 121, Tonopah, Nevada. He states "conditions here are bad at present on account of labor troubles. I sent you a copy of "The Tonopah Daily Sun" so you can see for yourselves. Everyone is guarding their property here at present because anyone that can drive a man off his property and take possession it belongs to him. I keep mine guarded day and night. I expect that all trouble will be settled by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April or perhaps a few weeks later as the Federal Government is taking a hand in adjusting all differences. I have \$3,500 invested but will get \$1,000 refunded if I do loose the property." We have checked at the Court Houses in Tonopah and Independence, California. Greenwater is in Inyo County with the county seat at Independence. We come to Nevada and Death Valley at least once a year and have checked the grave markers at every cemetery that we have found. We have written a number of letters which did not provide any information. We realize that there may not be any information available for anyone to find but we're hoping that George's name might ring a bell in some reader's memory. Our names, address and phone number is listed below. Please don't hesitate to call collect if you have some information or a lead that we might be able to follow from Ohio. Roger & Barbara Piatt / 15 Belle Avenue / Ashland, Ohio 44805 / (419) 289-8926

# Bullfrog Mining District History

## CARRARA & HOLLYWOOD, NEVADA

BY

Claudia Reidhead

In late 1907, a young man from Marion, Ohio came to visit the goldfields of Bullfrog. While riding on the train a few miles from Beatty, he saw an interesting rock formation on the side of the Bare Mountains. After spending some time in the various camps, he felt that all the good ground had been claimed, so being a practical young man, he decided to go look at the rock formation he had seen as he arrived. Having experience in the marble and granite quarries of Maine and Ohio, he was not surprised that the formation was marble. He interested a few of the local men in it. They went out and filed several placer claims, then he left for Ohio and points East to secure financial backing.

In 1910, William Stanbury returned to the District with his financiers and the local people who had supported him. They formed the American Carrara Marble Co. They immediately went to work setting up the mine. The first transaction I could find recorded with American Carrara Marble was a quit-claim deed from Park V. Perkins to American Carrara Marble Co. On Oct 7, 1911. It took 13 years and over a million dollars to find that the marble was so fractured from the volcanic action when the area was formed that they couldn't use it. In the process of discovering this, they went down 13 floors, (a floor is between 12 and 18 feet deep) removing huge blocks of marble 4 foot square and up to 12 feet long. They seated their own three mile long cable assisted railroad, to help haul the marble from the mine to the railroad. They had their own siding from the LV&T.

They also created their own town, aside from being know as "The Marble Town," Carrara had another claim to fame. That most rare of things in the desert, a fountain in the park (it also had

two parks). The Carrara Obelisk stated that the fountain sprayed a beautiful arc of water twenty feet in the air. (However, a detractor described it as a rusty pipe that only worked fitfully with a spray of 2 feet, and it's only beauty lay in its cooling affect on a summer day)

The town of Carrara was laid out with straight streets, with such exotic names as Pompeii, Verdi (short for verdigris) Scicillian and other Italian names. While the quarry only shipped one load of marble, the town thrived. The Obelisk, mostly a newsletter for the stock holders, was printed bi-weekly until 1917. Meanwhile the next canyon over, gold was being mined at both the Bullmoose and Gold Ace mines.

In the twenties, they tried to save the company by cooking the marble and breaking it up to make cement. This work continued under Portland Cement until in the forties, leaving the foundations that you see on Highway 95 South of Beatty.

## HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood was a small camp on the side of the railroad, that until we received some information on from Mr. William Meiklejohn, I had only heard rumors of and was almost unaware that it had existed. It was on the highway and consisted of a large garage with two gas pumps and four or five cabins in the back, with a small mill to process the gold from the gold mines on the hill. Not very profitable as gold was only selling for \$32.00 an ounce and the population could not won gold at the time. Only the American Government could own gold. William Meiklejohn's family lived in Hollywood from 1933 until 1935.

# DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

**John & Sharon Boehringer**-Eugene, Oregon-Copies of A.E. Holt photos of Rhyolite

**Sue Boschert**-Beatty, Nevada-1979 color photo of Death Valley from Dante's View

**Jim Hays**-Amargosa Valley, Nevada-4oz liquid extract senna bottle (1920's), arrowhead chips, Indian knife and 4 Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad spikes

**Bill & Zettia Miller**-Long Beach, California-Frank P. Kerns bank check(s)-Rhyolite, Nevada

**Ert Moore**-Fallon, Nevada-\$100 donation in memory of Fred & Grace Davies

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Peter Knight, Las Vegas, Nevada

## COMING EVENTS

**Mar 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** - Swap meet - Exchange Club parking lot

**June 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** - **BMHS** presents 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Railroad Days

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

Beatty Lions Club - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month - Senior Center

### OFFICERS:

President:  
Claudia Reidhead  
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Vice President:  
Mary Revert

Secretary/Treasurer:  
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