

Beatty



Museum

and Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

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Card Courtesy of Claudia Reidhead

Christmas Card Circa 1909

A Message from the President Claudia Reidhead

Hi Folks: I want to take time to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season. You will find the History Section a bit different this time. I hope you enjoy it. Many of you will remember our very first newsletter and my first column. That poem is even more true today than it was then, for every year we lose more of our history. With the passing of time and people, each story fades away. We need to ask each of you who remember the stories your parents and grandparents told, to write them down and send them to us along with copies of those precious photos of the times and area. As you know, most of the camps have drifted away on the desert wind and are no more. So the records that are in family albums are all we have to tell the stories of the desert towns and the people who gave each town its own personality. Please, if you can do this, send them to us at P.O. Box 244, Beatty, NV 89003. Also, if you would like to see your families stories printed in our newsletter, indicate this too. We would be honored to print these stories of our past in our History Section. If you choose not to have them printed, we will put them in an album in the Museum, thus preserving our history for the future. Don't forget to visit our Museum when you're in town. Give a call at 775-553-2351 and we will be sure that the doors are open for you at your convenience. There was an omission in the last newsletter that I did not catch until Bill sent it to me. I would like to rectify that now. Thank you all for the cards and calls, they were deeply appreciated. Now on to happier topics. The local bank donated a large copier to the Museum. Also a gentleman gave us a galley copy of his grandfathers biography. A large section of Gus's travel included time in Rhyolite and Beatty in 1905. Seeing this book and reading of Gus and his stories of the desert is what got me thinking about asking you for the stories of your families. It is at least a better way than I have been doing, stumbling along studying the newspapers and record books. Have a Happy Holiday! Enjoy your millennium celebration. Talk to you next century.

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

Greetings and welcome to the final edition of this century. This issue we continue the tradition of presenting a message from Pastor Jeff Taguchi for the Holiday Season. We appreciate Jeff's contribution and extend an invitation to Jeff to submit a column at anytime. Our History Section is different, unique and by golly, makes me hungry. Thanks to Claudia for her efforts on putting it all together. Members only will receive the annual year-end membership roster along with the newsletter. Claudia mentioned how important it is to preserve history. That reminds me of a recent discovery I made that is just a one hour drive from home. Zettia and I have joined the "Friends of Hart Park & Museum." William S. Hart was the first big western movie star in the silent era of film. The William S. Hart Park & Museum is a wonderful place to visit. The "Friends of William S. Hart" puts out a quarterly newsletter and have said that they would mention the BMHS annual Railroad Days in their newsletter as they are interested in promoting anything connected with the history of the west. If you have access to the Internet, be sure and visit their web site at www.hart-friends.org/ and from there you can surf around and gather all the information you need to learn more about Bill Hart, his home and the wonderful park. If you are in Southern California you would really enjoy a visit to this wonderful place and the admission is FREE! The William S. Hart Park & Museum is located at 24151 San Fernando Road, Newhall, CA. You can call (661) 245-4584 for information. Recently I acquired more 16mm films and have had the film transferred to video using a process including digital video, 3/4 tape and VHS. The video runs approximately 30 minutes and has a 1980 production "Death Valley" containing footage that I presume is 1970's footage including a brief look at Rhyolite. "Ghosts of the Golden West," which is not the same film as my first video, contains footage of Rhyolite with views from various time frames. To offset the cost of acquiring the films and the cost of transferring them to video, I am selling the video with "no rights known, given or implied" at a price of \$21.20 including priority mail postage. I will be bringing a few copies with me on our next visit and those will be sold at the price of \$18.00. Speaking of our next visit, we are breaking tradition this year and visiting during the Thanksgiving Holiday rather than during New Years. What better place for a frog to break bird than Beatty with good friends. Zettia and I wish you all a very joyous Holiday Season and please stay safe during the New Years celebration. Until the next century.....RIBIT!

The Christmas We Can Have

By Pastor Jeff Taguchi

It's hard to believe that it's that time again. The holidays are rolling around faster than we'd like them too. Hopefully, most of you have already completed your Christmas shopping, however, if you're like me, Christmas Eve is a perfect time to shop. Everybody is out in force, the lines are long, the shelves are empty, the tempers are high and road rage is just a polite way of saying hello. Many at that time will be proactive about their New Year's resolution by swearing to either shop early or to learn how to purchase goods over the Internet.

Well aside from the humor, let's talk about this Christmas. Though it's not here yet we still have time to prepare for it. And since this column will be in production long before that blessed day, there will be plenty of time to think about what I'm going to say.

I know that we can get caught up in the spirit of Christmas and it can be a very stressful time. How much money can I spend on gifts? Who gets a gift? When do I have time to send Christmas Cards? What about Christmas Dinner, who's going to make it? When do I have time to shop? I really have to put lights on the house this year. Where am I going to put the Christmas Tree? These and many other questions are probably running through your mind right now, but is that what we really need to be worrying about?

The answer to that question is no. If that's true, then you should ask, "Then what should I be concerned about?" The answer to that question is simple, "The Real Spirit of Christmas." Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ. The day in which the Savior of the world was born. The day that afforded the opportunity for those "who would believe in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 paraphrased.) The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:8) And that gift is more precious than anything we could ever conceive.

As we share the message of Jesus Christ this year we must also consider what else can we give besides the message of the gospel. There are things that some of us have that we take for granted. For the most part we live our lives to make a living, pay our taxes and raise our families. However, one thing that we have that others this season may not have is FAMILY.

There are so many people today in our communities who don't have the benefit of sharing the holidays with their families. Perhaps they are away from home, perhaps they are estranged from them or perhaps they have no family. What better gift can we give this season than sharing our families with those who may not have the same opportunity.

The ministry of Jesus Christ created the Family of God, which for the most part is the missing piece in many people's lives today. We have the opportunity this Christmas to share our family of God with those who may not be able to experience it or have that quality of life. How do we do that? Do you know someone who is without family this holiday? Invite them over for Christmas Dinner. Invite them to a Christmas Eve Church Service. Invite them into your heart and perhaps they may see Jesus in you. For if that's the reason for the season, then that's what we must do. Invite someone into your home this Christmas, it might be the most important thing you can do for someone this season.

Bullfrog Mining District History

BY

Claudia Reidhead

The October 21, 1905 edition of the *Beatty Bullfrog Miner* ran this column header,

**"The Montgomery Grand Hotel Opening
Saturday Evening October 21st"**

Then on December 9, 1905, this was run.

**"Thanksgiving Dinner Given at Beatty in
the Years 1904 and 1905."**

Thanksgiving day 1904, Bob Montgomery, Mat Hovec, Judge Sexton, J.R. McDonald and Charles E. Watson enjoyed a prospectors banquet in the little old tent on the corner of Main and Second Street, Beatty.

Following is a copy of the Bill of Fare:

MENU

Bean Soup / Boiled Beans and Bacon / Baked Bacon and Beans

Entrees: Mulligan a la Scraps

Dessert: Flap Jacks / Coffee / Dog Leg

In one short year, the little tent settlement has grown into a thriving town, the little beanery has given place to the magnificent Montgomery Hotel, and the prospect on Montgomery Mountain has made Bob Montgomery a multi millionaire. Thanksgiving 1906 will find Beatty a prosperous city, with the greatest mine on earth, busy mills, railroads from the North and South and flourishing industries.

1905 Dinner at the Mine

Supt Mat Hovec of the Montgomery Shoshone Mine cheered the hearts of his men with a four o' clock Thanksgiving dinner at which 35 were present. Bob Brogelman prepared the dinner and the boys say it was a great spread.

Following is a copy of the bill:

Hotel Shoshone Soup: Cream of Chicken
Raw Oysters New York Count

Roasts: Prime Rib of Beef / Roast Turkey stuffed with Oysters / Cranberry Sauce / Loin of Pork with Applesauce / Boiled Ox Tongue with Creole Sauce

Vegetables: Mashed Potatoes / New Asparagus French Peas / Sweet Potatoes

Entrees: Pine Apple Fritters with Wine Sauce Braised Chicken with Mushrooms

Dessert: S.W. Sliced Peaches / English Plum Pudding / Brandy and Hard Sauce / **Pies:** Pumpkin / Lemon Creme / New England Mince / Apples / Oranges / Mixed Nuts / American Cheese Cake / Assorted Cakes / Roman Punch Cigars / Teas / Coffee / Chocolate

Thanksgiving Dinner November 30, 1905

**The Montgomery Café
Casey and Arden Props**

Blue Point Oysters

Soup: Chicken Soup a la Montgomery

Fish: Amargosa Trout a la Tammy

Salads: Lobster Salad a la Mitchell / Potato Salad

Boiled: Boiled Chicken a la Parky

Entrees: Calf's Brains Porter Sauce

Roasts: Roast Young Turkey a la Malcolm MacDonald / Suckling Pig

Relishes: Olives / Pickles

Vegetables: Green Corn / Stewed Tomatoes

Dessert: C. & A. Hot Mince Pie / Pumpkin Pie a la Hovec / English Plum Pudding / Hard and Brandy Sauce / Nuts / Cheese / Manhattan Cocktail

Wines: St. Julien / White Seal / Mumm's

Cigars: Egyptian Cigarettes / Café Noir
Compliments of Mr. And Mrs. E. A. Montgomery.

I think that was a great change of fare, don't you? Read on for another great menu served.

Christmas 1905
This one at Howells Ranch.

Chief Bobs Dinner

At Howells Ranch, near Beatty, Chief Robert A. Bagley entertained many guests, among them, Chief Long Hair, H. Jeffery, Chief Hot Water, G. F. Hicks, ex chiefs Knight and Joe Murphy, Panamint Joe, George Burt, B. Eppstein, Firewater Bill, Frank Miller, Three Fingered Jim, Robert Petty, James Dee, Tired Sam and T. C. Blair. Chief Bob A. Bagley, in eagle feathers and peace paint, presided over the potlatch at the Howell Wickiup. Many of the guests were toasted to a brown, but their lacerated feelings were healed by a generous variety of soothing concoctions. Following is the menu as nearly as we can learn:

Annual Bath: At Hicks Hot Springs / Firewater Table Spread at Howell's Ranch

Decorations: Maidenhair Fern and Feathers / Cactus Blossoms / Manhattan Cocktail

Soup: Greasewood Soup / Cuckawalla Frazzled Beer in Tin Mugs

Salads: Wild Onion and Alfalfa / Martini Cocktail

Fish: Amargosa Trout and Suckers / Oasis Dairy Punch

Boiled: Jack Rabbit Mulligan / Stewed Desert Rat / Gin Fizz

Pastry: Wild Oats - Freely Sown / Pine Nut Bread / Mesquite Beans / Rum and Gum
Entrees: Gophers Larded with Toadstools
Jesse Moore Straight

Roasts: Groundhog Stuffed with Sage Brush
Picon Punch

Broiled: Jacksnipes stuffed with Lizzards
Vermouth

Delicacies: Original Bullfrogs / Creme de Menthe / Blackbird Pie / Mesquite Berry Sauce
Bass Ale

Relishes: Salt Grass and Tulle Roots / Pousse Café

Fruits: Amargosa Oranges a la Pumpkins / Hi-Hi Bitters / War Songs / War Dance
Benedictine / Bucks Laid to Rest / More Benedictine

Dessert: Pipe of Peace / Wheeling Stogies and Cigarettes / Flowers of the Desert / Hunyadi Water / Martini Cocktail / D. C. Probasco Chef

This menu is presented now as it was then a bit tongue in cheek. It was in the December 30, 1905 *Beatty Bullfrog Miner*, along side a very elaborate Christmas menu from the Montgomery Mine and Hotel (The dinner at the Mine was attended by 65 miners and guests) perhaps to poke fun at how inflated their egos had become or just to remind them to laugh at themselves, for life was still quite hard here on the desert, especially when the North winds did blow.

BMHS MEETINGS

Beatty Community Center

7 p.m.

November 29th

December 27th

**HAPPY
Holidays**

