



## In Loving Memory of Chloe Lisle

Story by Claudia Reidhead



Mrs. Lisle

Chloe Covin arrived in Beatty in 1932, with her Mother Mrs.

Lottie Mills, her Stepfather Walt Mills and her brother Sammy Colvin. The town welcomed this family with open arms, as they did most newcomers. Chloe was an instant hit, with her vibrant personality this fifteen year

old girl soon won the hearts of all who lived here. There were four girls that were close in age and personality, Chloe, her best friend Florence (Flossie) Phinney, her sister "Babe", and Lorraine Thomas.

Chloe, Flossie and the girls would decide, on occasion to have a dance. The town fathers would allow them to use the town hall if the girls could find the musicians for the dance. In the evening after everyone was home from work the girls would talk to people who would play for them at the dance. Once they had the music for the evenings entertainment lined up, they would talk the ladies in town into fixing a potluck dinner. The potluck would be served around midnight. While everyone was eating and just before time to go home they would pass the hat and the money that was collected would go to the musicians. Everyone always had a nice time at the dances and Chloe and her

friends would put together a dance three or four times a year.

Chloe one day decided she wanted to become a hairdresser. The local barber in Beatty gave her hair cutting lessons. Her friends and family became her guinea pigs, she would practice on them all.

Chloe's Father lived in Nebraska, and Chloe lived with him during her senior year in high school. After she graduated she returned to Beatty. When she returned she decided she wanted to become a teacher. Sammy, Chloe's brother, financially helped her through college. When she got her degree from UNR, she returned to Beatty to teach first through fourth grades under principal Ert Moore. Struggling against the pull of the desert to teach us the basics, the three R's, she taught us a few lessons of life also, like sharing, laughing and helping. Chloe did not just tell you to help your neighbor, it was part of her life and she lived it. She was often seen helping the older miners who lived alone, nursing them when they were ill, taking them food when they were low or out of food, preparing a meal for them.

She married Ralph Lisle in 1939. They were lifelong friends as well as mates. They had two sons, Jimmy, and Johnny who became a teacher



in Beatty also.

But for me, Mrs. Lisle was more than a neighbor or my school teacher. She was also a surrogate Mother to me and to most of the kids in town. If we were getting into mischief, you can bet that Mrs. Lisle knew about it almost before it happened and Lord help you if you were involved and tried to deny it. This wonderful lady could talk to you and make you feel about an inch tall. Truth be known, I would rather have been switched by my Dad than have her scold me.

Chloe was the consummate lady, never using foul or rough language. Always polite and courteous to every one, unless of course you did something to get the flat side of her tongue, but she still did not need foul language to dress you down. She taught us as much through example as through books. I remember going to the dances we frequently had in the old town hall. She would dance with Ralph and he would tower over her, literally lifting her from the floor occasionally. She never wore shoes when she danced, she always dance in her stocking feet. She often wore a gray wool flannel skirt and a white silk pongee blouse to the dances. My Dad would always tell me that she was a true elegant lady.

If there was anything going on in town you could always see her diminutive form flitting from here to there. She was always active in the community. She was a member of the Beatty Improvement Association, the PTA, the School Board and the Beatty Business Womens Association.

She often helped organize Box Socials that we had to raise money for different town projects and to help with school needs. In the case of Cherry Looney who had been badly burned in a house fire and Frances Bowditch who had been burned badly by a heater accident, both girls needed skin grafts to heal them. The money's raised over three years helped with their medical expenses.

She was also a leader in getting our town picnics off the ground and we usually had three or four a year either at Renee Gibsons ranch, by the pool or out at the Fleur d'Lis upper reservoir, where there had been an apple orchard and the trees still flourished near the reservoir. On one of these picnics her son Jimmy

was swimming around and got into trouble. She dived in and had him out before anyone else was aware there was a problem. I will never forget the beautiful dive she made that day, clothes and all, arching over some of the kids to come up with him in her arms. Chloe was fleet of foot. When running in a foot race you would always see her running in the lead. Soft ball was a favorite sport of hers and she could out run the fastest. Even Bombo and Spike Cottonwood had a hard time keeping up with her.

Her own two boys were as adventurous as the rest of us and since we lived in the desert there was a lot of space for us to be adventurous in everything from the flatlands to the mountains and even a few water tanks around town for us to climb on, which terrified her as she watched us scramble up on the tank across the street from their house to peer inside or to test the water.

Chloe was always the capable one. Her friend Flossie told me of a time that she was back to visit and she and Chloe were out in the desert and had a tire blow out. Flossie stated that even though she had been driving the desert all her life she had never had to change a tire. Chloe proceeded to change the tire as Flossie looked on. Flossie said that nearly all of their lives this is how it was. Chloe was a doer. There was very little that she couldn't do if she set her mind to it and do it with great honor. Suffice to say that she was a capable, adventurous caring woman and a loving Mother. We miss you Mrs. Lisle.

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## A Message from the President

We are well into the new year and things are beginning to happen at the Museum. We are now open from 10am to 2pm Monday through Friday. We have a new member that has graciously offered to install a new up to date sensor alarm. The cost to the Museum will be \$200 installation and \$35.00 a month to monitor. As you can guess, this is what he does for a living, but he will be donating the equipment that is going to be used. We are getting better and better every day. Kanna has been playing like the Hunchback of Notre Dame, climbing and working in the bell tower at the new Museum. The work is needed to stop the leaks and



protect the building. Thanks a bunch Kanna, we couldn't do it without you.

The Museum is getting ready to jump into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have been promised two computers from the County Commissioners and Internet access is on the way. A web page is being worked on and should be ready within a few weeks.

Our new Secretary/Treasurer is doing a great job. Being drafted, she is taking this all well and dove right into the job. She just about has me and the books straightened out. Of course, she is using verbal force and threats with me. Due to the fact that Claudia is still in Las Vegas and Larry Hamilton has moved away, we have two vacancies on our Board of Directors. Two more draftees to fill these positions are Riley McCoy and Bob Revert. They agreed under protest but decided it was easier to give into their wives than fight it. Aren't they just wonderful? Speaking of Claudia, she says if all goes well, she should be back in Beatty by the end of May. And it can't be soon enough for me, we need you Claudia.

Our next big project will probably be to work on the outside yard. We have found a few sources to get some outside displays at the Museum. Wish us all luck, lot's of work ahead. So when you are in the area, make sure to stop by and say hi and check out the new displays.

Mary Revert, President, BMHS

### BMHS MINUTES

MARCH 27, 2001

Monthly meeting of the Beatty Museum and Historical Society. Meeting called to order for round table discussion at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Mary Revert, President, Kanna Lingarde, Board of Directors, Ellen Boehringer, member, Riley McCoy, member, Suzy McCoy, member.

Quorum could not be met by measure. Larry Hamilton and Norma Hamilton, Secretary/Treasurer not present.

As per last meeting, Suzy McCoy will accept Secretary/Treasurer pro tem until next election. Unable to get

the books from Norma Hamilton for auditing. Mary will try again tomorrow.

In place of Railroad Days this year, discussion on 50/50 raffle to be given. Tickets already made from last year and usable. Beatty Museum will support a 50/50 raffle in place of Railroad Days.

Discussion on buttons to be made for Museum. Kanna suggested similar to Railroad Day buttons as people are asking for them. It was decided to investigate the cost of a button machine and make buttons that state "I Support the Beatty Museum" with ghost train and no date. If purchased from Janda Ribbons they would cost approximately 30 cents each. Kanna willing to make buttons if machine is available.

Mary presented a bill from Servco to be given to Nye County. Mary will send it in. This is a pre authorized function.

Balance of Grant Monies after building and heater is \$6,604.88 from a \$40,000 grant. Mary to get estimate on Alarm System for the Museum. Jeff Taguchi, County Commissioner approves of this expense.

Three new members have joined the Museum, one being Jonie Early, County Commissioner in Tonopah. She is working on getting two computers for the Museum, display cases and shelves and displays from Central Nevada Museum and the Miners Exhibit.

Letter received from the Episcopal Church concerning the building in Beatty. They are interested in letting the Museum take care of the building until sold. Suggested that a letter be written making a proposal of purchase. Suzy McCoy to write letter with approval before sent. Ken Priest was minister there for about 50 years. Possible dedication to him on building and use as archival and research center.

Andy Gudas from the Friends of Rhyolite to put display in Museum is looking good. Andy unable to make this meeting but will try next month. Section in the back of Museum being set up for the Friends of Rhyolite Display.

Kanna and Mary to store statuary to be kept for future exhibits. Suzy McCoy to get proper methods of storage



and cataloging to Kanna. Kanna suggested taking photos for archive album the seal in tissue paper and plastic before crating. Suzy McCoy pointed out the plaster of paris will weep if not properly treated. Riley McCoy suggested powdering first before wrapping.

Discussion about a school exhibit to be done if possible. Need desk and old school books from Beatty school. Mary to talk to the principle about this matter.

With Larry Hamilton leaving Board of Directors and question on Loraine White's attendance or willing to continue, Bobby Revert and Riley McCoy were appointed as Board of Directors pro tem until next election.

Volunteer help still needed at the Museum to keep it open longer hours. Flyers to be post in Rhyolite and in Beatty.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by President Mary Revert.

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### **Ribits from the Editor...Bullfrog Billy**

Let me begin with the best of good news. By the time you read this, Claudia will be back in Beatty. Needless to say, this newsletter has been a long time in the making. Claudia was air lifted to a Las Vegas hospital last November and has been recuperating at her home in Las Vegas since that time. Numerous medical problems needed close attention and plenty of rest was needed to insure her successful recovery and now some six months later we are happy to report that she is back in Beatty and we are finally back in the newsletter business. We will refrain from trying to produce a newsletter at the rate of one every 60 days. The cost of such a schedule in addition to pressure deadlines attached to various people to make this a bi-monthly is prohibitive. Our goal will be to produce a newsletter on a timely basis that informs members of events and items of interest. We have tagged this issue as the summer 2001 issue. We hope and expect to produce one or two more issues this year. Our history section for this issue is actually a tribute written by Claudia on Chloe Lisle that you find on the front page. Not knowing Chloe personally but hearing about her from many people prompted me to decide that she certainly was worthy of a front page tribute. I thank Claudia for writing such a beautiful

tribute to someone Claudia obviously loved and admired and I'm sure many other people felt the same way about Chloe.

As many of you know, another friend of the Beatty Museum passed away late last year. Midge Ondes was one of the earliest members of BMHS and served as our Grand Marshall at Railroad Days. She was born in Rhyolite July 8, 1908. We did a front page on Midge in one of our earlier issues and a story on this person that meant so much to so many people. What fond memories I have of this lady. As time passes on, each of us will fondly remember special people that made an impact on our lives. People like Chloe Lisle and Midge Ondes are truly an inspiration and we are thankful to have known them and to have been blessed with their friendship.

Once again the good people of "Friends of William S. Hart" have offered to publicize any of our functions that are upcoming and that means the "Rhyolite Jamboree" will be mentioned in their newsletter. I have alerted them to the web site [www.rhyolitesite.com](http://www.rhyolitesite.com) for ongoing information and we thank them for their continued support. I will ask that you consider visiting the William S. Hart Museum if you are visiting Southern California sometime in the future. It is truly an outstanding facility and the tour of Bill Hart's mansion is free. You can obtain information on all the activities at the William S. Hart Park by logging on to their web site at [www.hart-friends.org](http://www.hart-friends.org) It is nice to be able to exchange information between organizations with similar interests.

We look forward to the upcoming months that will include all the plans being made for the Rhyolite Jamboree scheduled for April of 2002. It promises to be quite an event and BMHS will be working with all the other groups to insure a great success. One of the pages you can link to from Suzy's great web site tells you all about the great video Chuck Heald has available on Death Valley. I have watched my copy several times and if you don't have a copy, you are missing a real treat.

Looking forward to seeing all our friends in Beatty real soon. In the meantime, stay healthy and remember, two angels, Chloe and Midge, are smiling on us all the time.....**RIBIT!**