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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1 2006

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We are going to finish the story we started for the Summer edition, hope you enjoy it as much as I have. (From the book: The Greater America by Richard Paine)

**ON THE ROAD TO BULLFROG**

In the last edition they had just left Beatty and had arrived in Bullfrog in the dark:

At the hotel, which at that time was almost the only wooden building in Bullfrog we chanced to meet a sharp-featured, boyish-looking young man, George Wingfield by name. Three years before this he had been a cowpuncher, and tradition has it that he landed in Tonopah with assets of twenty-five dollars. Gambling "looked good to him" as offering an opening for a strong and willing young man who was intent on piling up a fortune with the least possible delay. Millions were being talked all around him and he wanted a few of them. His good luck was so extraordinary that in a few months he was able to buy out a controlling interest in the "Tonopah Club."

Then he was able to stake prospectors in the more fascinating gamble for gold claims. He sent these Hardy pilgrims out to right and left, reckoning that a few "grub-stakes" and burros were worth risking even if only one man in twenty should find gold. Within the year young Wingfield had interests in several of the richest desert claims, and was speeding over the hot sands in the biggest, reddest automobile in all Nevada. Within three years from the time he had been punching cattle he was worth a million. Meanwhile United States Senator

Nixon had become interested in this quiet, shrew gambler, and took him into business partnership. Later, however, the Senator has urged young Wingfield to forgo his proprietorship of the "Tonopah Club," as a feature of his business activities which might cause caustic comment in Washington touching the alliance.

It occurred to me while I was eating ham and eggs in the Bullfrog Hotel that there was romance left even in money getting. Here was a modern buccaneer, if you please, who had dived with fortune and won by means of daring and enterprise as bold as ever sent men to for gold that lay in the hold of tall galleons. He had "made his stake" as a gambler, but in this corner of the West your honest gambler is as respectable a figure as a Standard Oil king of the Atlantic seaboard. I found that young Wingfield was one of the most respected and popular men of the desert not because he is rich,

but because he is square and fearless and generous. I heard not long ago that he has piled up such huge interests in mining operations that his income is two hundred thousand dollars a year. He belongs with a modern generation of "Bonanza Kings" whose beginnings are no more bizarre and rude and lawless than those of earlier Argonauts whose descendants squander the wealth of the Comstock lode.

Inasmuch as a man would have to pack water on his back to camp on this site, the



town of Bullfrog was named by a man of high-powered fancy. The last outpost of the gold seeker. To push on toward the South meant a journey of a hundred and twenty-five miles to reach the nearest railroad, within sight of the Funeral Range, whose ramparts march along Death Valley.

Bullfrog was somewhat in the condition of a man with a thousand-dollar bank note in his pocket who is likely to go hungry before he can break it. The rush was over, and the hills were speckled with claims and the ore was there. The hundreds who tarried to hold down their locations and wait for something to turn up lacked capital to take out the ore; and when they had it on the dump, they were so far from the railroad that hauling it over the desert cut too heavily into the profits. Therefore they sat tight and held on, waiting for the railroad which must come to the in a few months. Meantime there was much gold in the hills and little cash in the camp. But hopes were high, and it was good to see the rows of tents that stood for pluck and courage, on the firing line of civilization. Next day I was invited to lunch at one of the show mines of this district. Bob Montgomery was one of the tribe of desert prospectors when he stumbled upon this bonanza. When I saw it the miners had been crosscutting and tunneling into the white and chalk-like rock only a few months. They had piled up several thousands of tons of ore that was worth from \$200 to \$700 a ton. It was crumbly stuff that looked like lime, and it was costing fifty dollars a ton to ship such ore as this out of the remote desert. Inside the mine, a huge mass of ore had been blocked out which assayed from \$230 to \$1,500 a ton. The experts estimated that three million dollars worth of ore was already in sight. Taking it out was the cleanest and easiest mining imaginable.

The soft clean talc cut almost like cheese, and it was like removing sacks of gold from the vault. After a glimpse of such treasure finding as this, it was possible to understand the exuberant declaration of a wild young citizen of Bullfrog: "Give us time enough and we'll demonetize gold."

The story of one such strike as this lures thousands into the desert, and they paint another and contrasting picture. For many are called and few are chosen by the fickle fortune that directs the trail of the gold hunter. Where these thousands of adventurous men of broken fortunes come from, and where they drift to when the stampede has passed, is one of the mysteries of the "gold strike." They leave behind them, however, cities where there was a desert, they help to redeem the waste places and in their wake is new wealth that flows into every artery of the nation's material welfare.

Twenty thousand people have been already added to the population of Nevada, and many millions in money to her resources. And the hero and creator of it all is the dusty prospector with his hardy burros, his canteen, his blankets and his gold pan and hammer. Behind him comes the army of careless and high-hearted invaders, whose truly American war cry is: "If it looks good to you, get to it."

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Perhaps next time I will print up another story from this wonderful book that Suzy has loaned me to look at. In the mean time I will copy a couple of the photos for your perusal.

(Check out the back page for local activity Ideas)



## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

**For Sept:** There don't seem to be anything happening around here.

**For Oct.:** There is a lot going on (all of it the last weekend!)  
On the 27 - 29 there is Beatty Days.

A list of things that are happening that weekend:

Train Exhibit at the Museum, a must see.

Daily 10:AM - 4:PM

Raffle tickets for train engine (miniature) That is part of train display. Drawing will be December 15th

The Las Vegas Miniature Railway Assoc. will be at the Community Center Friday-Oct.27 Noon-5:PM (with all of their wonderful miniature trains.) On display through Noon Sunday.

Vendors at the Park

6:PM Historical re-enactment  
6:00-8:PM pre-registration for all events

7:PM-10:PM Live Music with the Smokehouse Band.

7:30PM Jr. and Sr. Princess announced.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

8:AM-10:AM Lions Club Pancake Breakfast at Park (also on Sunday).

9AM-5PM Miniature RR at Community Center.

8:45- Parade lineup at Middle School

10:AM-Parade starts.

Horseshoe Tournament starts

Old West Shootouts all day (periodically) In the park.

Small Engine display

10:AM-4PM Wagon Rides starting at the large food pavilion

Arts & Crafts Show at the Senior Center

11:AM- 2:PM Bike Show at Park  
Car Show at Park  
Peoples Choice Chili cook off

11:30-2:30 ICS Sanctioned Chili cook off

1:30-4:30 Live Music by Lampkins Family Band

12:30 Bed Races on East side of Park

2:PM Quick Draw Competition at Basketball Court

2:30-6:PM Bike Games (MC)

2:30 Bed Races winner announced

3:30 Chili Cook off winner announced

3:45 1900's Costume Contest

4:PM Car Show winners announced

4:30-7:PM Liars Contest for adults  
Bike Show & Game winners announced

7:PM -10:PM Live Music with Whitehorse

Sunday

8:AM-10:PM Lions Club Breakfast in Park

9:AM - Noon Model RR Exhibition  
Community Center.

9:AM-4:PM Horseshoe Contest continues  
Small Engine Display cont.



9:30-1:30 Dutch Oven cook off  
 10:AM Historical re-enactment  
 11:am Burro Flapjack Races--(With a twist)  
 11:00-2:00 Live Music with the Lampkins Family Band  
 12:00 Model RR exhibit closes  
 12:00-12:30 Pet Parade  
 12:30- 1:30 Liars contest for kids  
 1:30 Wheelbarrow Races  
 2:PM Dutch oven Cook off winners announced---Flapjack Burro Race winner announced  
 Conclusion of Festivities--Thank You and Come Again.

**NOVEMBER**

12<sup>TH</sup> Lions Club Turkey Shoot at Firing Range

**Happy Thanksgiving** from all of us

**December**

The Lions Club **ANGEL TREE** will be at the Museum, come choose an angel and make Christmas happen for a child.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> will be the drawing for the train. Winner will be announced in our January letter (Engine will be delivered or shipped the 16<sup>th</sup>.)

**Merry Christmas**

**Happy Hanukah**

**Happy Kwanzaa**

**But most of all we wish you a HAPPY and Prosperous NEW YEAR**

**May 2007 bring you the best of times special hugs and joy, and HEALTH.**

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**HELLO FROM MARY**

Hello Every one,  
 We are proud to say **WELCOME HOME** TO Clint and Ellen, who wont be at Rhyolite this year, but will be staying at the Museum this year, and volunteering with us, they will be available to help Sandy in the Museum when needed, and if we can convince them to do it---possibly having a childrens hour with both of them doing the story telling!

The Museum is growing and becoming a truly wonderful place to visit. So come on by.

Don't forget to come by the Museum to check out the train display, & buy a raffle ticket for the miniture train engine that will be displayed there, tickets are \$2.00 each, the drawing will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>, Engine will be delivered or shipped by December 17<sup>th</sup>. (In time for a special Christmas Gift)

Have a wonderful, loving, and peaceful Holiday Season. Mary



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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1 2006  
MEMBERS ONLY

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Hi Folks

Just a brief members only insert for the regular newsletter, I apologize for not getting a Members only out in July, but for some reason my desktop computer just don't work when I'm a hundred miles away from it.

For those of you who are local or visited, the Indian Cliff piece was contributed by the Vances, and I found the ledge that was talked about in the article. The story was taken from a book titled "Untold Tales of Nevada Vol.1; By Raymond M. Smith (pg. 97). As you read it was supposedly taken from an Ely, newspaper. The only real problem with the article is that after thoroughly checking with the locals (both old timers and Indians) neither of which had ever heard of that legend, it seems that it never had happened.--However it would have been a really nice addition to our local lore.

I will try to have a members only newsletter between each of the ones that we reprint to be handed out at the museum. Sometimes like this time circumstances may cause me to miss one or the other and make me a bit late. (If you have a suggestion for members only let me know you can e-mail me at [claudiar2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:claudiar2@sbcglobal.net) or call me.)

I want to say that it is good to hear that Chirlotte Reed is home from the hospital and doing well.

Our condolences to Joe and Lois Strozzi on the loss of Joe's sister Juanita. This was a large loss to both their family and to our community, for a lot of our history was tied to Juanita and her husband Gilbert.

Also our town suffered another loss both Jack and Flossie Paulsgrove have passed on also, I just learned that they both died last winter, and with in 6 months of each other. They were contemporaries of Ralph and Chloe Lisle, both going to school here in the twenties and thirties.

I keep trying to get locals to write down their family histories. Although thanks to Rbt. McCracken we do have some oral histories, the memories of those who grew up here and the stories they were told by their parents and grandparents are a huge part of our history also. Those of you whom I have nagged know who I mean!

We have had some horrendous fires here this year, and the desert has changed a lot from the last time you saw it, and will change more with each rainstorm, so hang on to your photos. (To compare with the next time you come visiting, or go wandering out in the desert). I understand that BLM will be trying to shore up some of the hill and cliffs with bales of straw--The Burros, deer and rabbits will love that. It will be winter feed for them, that has been destroyed by the fires.

**NEW ON SALE AT THE MUSEUM**

Beatty Museum Tee Shirts--Come in and buy one, or call Sandy and see what we



have.

Don't forget that Beatty Days are October--27-29

Come visit the Museum while you are playing here in town. We have a lot of new stuff on display.

You will all be delighted to learn that we got our grant from the County to insulate and put siding on the Museum. So keep hoping that we can get it done before the snow flies, and that cold North wind tears through the walls, and our heating cost go through the roof again.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Received from Suzie & Riley McCoy  
2: local oil paintings (June Sandbakken)  
1: 3D map of the area  
1-Model of Yucca Mountain Depository

From Barb and Roger Piatt,  
1: 5 Gal. Water dispenser  
1: LARGE anvil

Received from Art Ray, in care of Sandy-  
Some old corset stays  
1: old dog license

Received from Keith Kearns, in care of Sandy:  
2: Burro Inn token coins  
2: Exchange Club token coins

From Leon Abrams:  
1 Copy (photocopy) of the Mining Investor vol.-XLIV No. 12 Monday Nov 12, 1906

From Sandy Rowe.:  
1 horse skull  
1 1930's waffle iron

1 old casserole dish  
1 1930's donut cutter  
1 pie knife

From Ray Miller:

2 Edison Rolls  
1 Prince Albert Tobacco still sealed!  
1 Half & Half Tobacco Can (Burley Bright)  
1 Edgeworth Ready Rubbed Tobacco Can.  
1 Sir Walter Raleigh Tobacco Can  
1 Union Leader Tobacco Can (series 124)  
1 Pkg. Clix Thin Blades (double edge razor blades)  
1 Pkg. Smilth Blades (double edge razor blades)  
1 Button hook wood bailey clothing (found near Harrisburg)  
1 corkscrew Pabst Milwaukee from Rhyolite.  
1 Wooden Pen red The Georgian Hotel a Stiles Hotel.  
1 Bottle opener Have a Coke- found in Rhyolite  
1 Bostich Stapler Pat. #584788 Early 1940's or possibly 1930's (late)

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Special Mention: A generous cash donation of \$500.00 from our great friend Anonymous. Thank You.

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Guest Count June, July and August: 387  
Sales and Cash donations have slipped over the summer due to the usual slow down for the hottest months. New member have declined for these months also.

Remember to come by the Museum and see us.



Beatty Museum May 30, 2006  
General Meeting

Attendance: Mary Revert, Vonnie Gray, Cecil Teague, Claudia Reidhead, and Maxine Makinster, Helen Terry, Tom and Earlene Shipman

Called to order: President Mary Revert (Round Discussion

Minutes: Read

Treasure Report: Mary deposited \$547.00 on 5/31/06

Balance:

Audit: Committee needs to be assembled: It is Les Parson, Kay Parson, Earlene Shipman, Riley McCoy, Alternates are Cecil Teague and Tom Shipman. To meet June 1, 2006.

Bills: Have been paid or submitted

Committee Reports:

Grant Writing committee: Need to talk to Sandy about looking and writing grants for upgrading the museum.

Grounds & Building Committee:

Fund Raising Committee:

Old Business

Wild Horse Display: March 1-April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 seemed to be well received

Tee Shirts: Ordered will confirm Wednesday

News letter: Claudia will be trying to send out a member's letter and Summer letter

Siding: 1<sup>st</sup> bid \$29,000.00 from a Las Vegas Siding firm

2<sup>nd</sup> bid from Buddy Perchetti

3<sup>rd</sup> bid from SEARS

Silent Auction: Oct. 28, '06 Earlene will "man" the table for awhile. July will choose a chairman.

New Business:

Public comment:

Volunteer help- train for two weeks to be at the museum when Sandy is on vacation.

Rhyolite Preservation discussion

Motion to adjourn:

Next meeting: June 27, 2006 @ 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Vonnie Gray



Beatty Museum Meeting June 27, 2006

Attendance: Mary Revert, Maxine Makinster, Earlene & Tom Shipman, Cecil Teague, Helen Terry, Vonnie Gray

Called to order again as a round table discussion

Treasure Report: Audit Committee finished the audit and found the books and money to be in proper order.

Vonnie reported that the tee shirts are done and waiting to be picked up

Maxine Makinster said all bills will be paid including the Tee Shirts of Nevada artwork charge.

There was no new information to discuss.

Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next meeting is July 25, 2006

July 25, 2006

Beatty Museum General Meeting

Round table discussion

Attendance: Claudia Reidhead, Sandy Rowe, Earlene Shipman, Cecil Teague, Vonnie Gray

Sandy explained that she would like to change her starting time because of the heat. She would call and check with board members not present to request their vote. She will also be gone on vacation August 18<sup>th</sup>. Cecil agreed to open the museum.

July 18<sup>th</sup> Maxine McKinster resigned as VP

Sandy Harmon donated the handicap poles.

County will put our siding project out for bid in September.

Request to have Suzy McCoy take the role of VP/Treasurer will need to be voted at next meeting.

Submitted by Vonnie Gray

Next meeting is August 29, 2006



Beatty Museum General Meeting  
August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Called to order: 5:32 p.m.

Attendance: Mary Revert, Vonnie Gray, Claudia Reidhead, Helen Terry, Earlene Shipman, Tom Shipman, Cecil Teague

Treasure Report: \$6391.87

Two bills were submitted: Motion to submit and pay bills by Vonnie, Second by Cecil. NV Publication, Track & Field Book Cpm. Mary or Sandy will need to call about our bill from NV publication for the total balance due.

Old Business:

New letter will be printed shortly. Motioned by Helen 2<sup>nd</sup> by Earlene to purchase postage for the new letters. Passed

New Business:

Discussion on letting long time members Clint and Ellen park their fifth-wheel on the museum property to help volunteer for the museum. After much discussion a motion was made by Helen Terry and second by Vonnie Gray to allow Clint and Ellen to park in the back. They would be responsible for any electrical or water bills that were higher than our average expenses. Vote four yes in favor. One no vote and one member abstained.

Discussion on Rhyolite House: Cecil and Tom will check in to the stability of the house.

Siding will be going out for bid first week of September.

Claudia has received permission to print the Jim Statley Beatty Calendar pictures. We will be having a display for our museum.

Train Display during October 27-29

Permanent Train display Claudia is creating. She has a small replica to scale train engine that will be raffled off. Then Leon donated money for a second train to place in the display.

Discussion to re-vitalize Bullfrog Billy for the Beatty Days

We received a \$500 donation from a new member. Thank You

Meeting adjourned 6:19 p.m.

Submitted by Vonnie Gray

In a special Board meeting was called by President Mary Revert to discuss Clint and Ellen's move for the winter season onto the Museum Property. It was brought up that Joanie Eastley believed that this would provide the museum with security. We agreed that Clint and Ellen will pay any money amounts that bring and increase to our regular operating expenses. All were in favor. Decision Stands.