



 NEWSLETTER WINTER FEBRUARY 28 , 2006

While skimming through the book "Nevada's Sixteen National Banks and Their Mining Camps", (a book that was donated to our Museum several years ago, by Bill & Zettia) again, I was struck by this poetic opening to the Rhyolite section, written by Nell Murbarger:

"Wailing across the desert of the Amargosa the night wind draws mournful music from a thousand greasewood lyres—and thin gray ghosts keep rendezvous down Golden Street." (This beautiful tribute was actually used in her book "Ghosts of the Glory Trail")

But on to the reason I was nosing around in this interesting book—Rhyolite and the Bullfrog District- (including Beatty , and Pioneer) had three banks -- The John S. Cook Bank which was in Tonopah and Goldfield, had a branch in

Rhyolite. The Bullfrog Bank and Trust, which speaks for itself, in Bullfrog, Rhyolite and Beatty and the First National Bank of Rhyolite.

The John S. Cook Bank of Tonopah , opened in Rhyolite in 1906. After building the wonderful building on Golden Street in Rhyolite, operated and almost flourished until it closed in 1908. Interesting to note that the listed officers were George S. Nixon, President; George Wingfield, Vice President; John S. Cook Cashier; H.T. Cook, Assistant Cashier; I.J. Gay, Assistant Cashier; J.A. Small, Assistant Cashier, Rhyolite.

A very interesting list of very important men in the banking and investment field. Most of them millionaires on their own. But if you will note that there is only one assistant cashier for Rhyolite. (It is also interesting that cashier

back then was an officer of the bank, not the person that you dealt with at the counter)

The Bullfrog Bank and Trust also opened in 1906, lasted only a year longer, closing in 1909. (I don't have the officer list at this time, but will re- do the article at a later date and will have them and a lot more info as I have suddenly found this to be a fascinating part of our history).

The First National Bank of Rhyolite, Organized on May 7, 1907 with a capital of \$50,000.00

The First National Bank was originally housed in the Overbury Building and was opened in May of 1907, with a base capital of \$50, 000.

Purchasing in 1909 the John S. Cook Building in Rhyolite, and moving operations there.

It was placed in receivership March 3, 1910. Capital of \$50,000.

Reason for failure:

Defalcation of officers.

Officers: President-Oscar J. Smith(1907-1909 reports).

Cashier-F.H. Stirling.

Total amount of circulation paper issued \$30,640.

Amount outstanding at close

\$12,500.00. Amount

outstanding 1915 \$295.00.

(Note; none of the \$30,640.00 worth of circulating money issued to this bank have turned up.) The last on the scene lasted until the last.

Just as the T&T was the last in and last out of the 3 railroads.

Welcome new members :

Sandy Harmon, of Tonopah, and Sandy Rowe of Beatty.

At the January meeting Max appointed a nominating committee to elect new officers and directors. She pointed out that her two years were up and that although she has enjoyed the two years she has served she feels that the job requires some one more conversant with the local

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history than she is. (In her own words). I personally feel that she has done a good job. We could use a few more with her drive in our organization.

given, won't be making that mistake again will research it a lot more than I did this time. Like I have said, this is a learning process, PLEASE bear with me I will get better with time. I do learn from my mistakes.

I wish to thank Cecil for being a part of our organization, he serves us as a handyman (on occasion)—and frequently gives me the time I require away from the Museum on weekends. I know that he rarely gets the thanks that he is due. So THANK YOU Cecil., until we can find a better way to say it.

Donations-

1 War Ration Book from WWII distributed by Amargosa Land and Cattle Co. (AKA Revert Mercantile) From Ann Marchand 9/3/05

Also thanks to Janet from the Town Office, we now have a copy of the names in our cemetery. And a plat record of who is there, and who is there that we don't know. (in other words we have no names for the graves,)

2 Cine Kodak reels—1970 Wild Burro Races
1 Book Desert Ecology of Death Valley
2 Burro Figurines 1 Burro White Pack 1 picture Burro Races
1 pitcher
1 set crystal salt and peppers set card holders
From Mel Eads 9/17/05

Correction to contributions in Sept. Newsletter:
\$100. Contributed in Memory of Bill Sullivan, was received from Pat Shoffstall, not Francis' brother, Pat is Francis' cousin and a member in LONG standing to our museum . MY deepest apologies to Pat. I Printed what I was

From Bill Davis Donated from FOR
1 Mounted RR Spike from B&G Railroad.
1 Hayseed Mine Stock Certificate
9/17/05

Received from Bombo,
delivered for Mel Eads; 1
mounted photo of Beatty,
Main street from 1950's
showing Andres Store, the
Post Office, The Gateway
Café, and the Exchange Club.
This donation was received
three days after Mel Passed
away. 10/16/05

From Bill Davis for FOR
Donation- 1 Trunk and seven
boxes costumes, antiques and
newspaper to be itemized
(we're working on it now)

From Jolene at the Amargosa
Toad, 1 stapler 11/13
THANKS for the rescue
Jolene.

From Leon Abrams
1 older dial phone

2004-2005 United States
Quarter sets
1 2004 nickel set
1 US Mint Lewis and Clark
Centennial Dollar,
3 California Historical Society
Quarterlies

3 Nevada Historical Society
Quarterlies
\$100. Donation. (received
Sept.) 11/12/05

Received from Perfect
Produce: Several Books, a
1919 Power Through
Repose(?), Self and Self
Management, Fallout
Protection and What To Know
and do About Nuclear Attack,
Six personal and family
survival civil defense adult
education student manuals.
10-05-05

From Beatty Lions Club:
Three antique dolls. Jan. 2006

Visitors to our Museum from
September Through December
2005: 1,327

he brought us some goodies
for the Museum also.

I really appreciate you all
having the patience to stay
with me through this learning
process. I will improve with
time (I hope!!!!)

I look back over eleven years of growth here at the Museum and it amazes me how far we have come, we started in an 8'x15' room and now we have our own land and building plus an expansion . We still need a lot of the things we have needed all along, display cabinets, better insulation , display cabinets, new lighting, display cabinets Also more volunteers.

We look forward to bigger and better things for the future, as we say grateful Thanks to all of you who have supported us and encouraged us through the years. Have a Prosperous NEW YEAR.

It was my privilege to attend with Leon the BOOMTOWN Conference held in Amargosa Valley at the Longstreet. There were some wonderful papers presented, by a number of people including Jim Price, (on the Railroads of the area). Sally SanJani, Phillip Earl(of Nev. Museum & Historical Soc.), both presented papers. Brian Brown(Great grandson of Dad Fairbanks), did a

wonderful depiction of his great grandfather.

One on Kitty Tubb, grandmother of Virginia Goodson and Judy Trenary, Presented by, Judy Palmer.

There was also a paper on Helen J. Stewart, Beautifully costumed and presented by Carrie Townley-Porter, of Nevada Women in History Project.

And wonderful costumes worn by several of the ladies and gentlemen that attended.

Sue Rigby also presented a paper on what BLM plans for Rhyolite. and the Partnership that is working on preserving the buildings and history.

Also in conjunction with the conference the Clampers placed a plaque at Fairbanks Spring in honor of "Dad" Fairbanks. If you wander that way you should stop and see it..

The Museum will be showing Honest Horses an exhibit on

loan from Nev. Arts council
from March 2, 'til May 2

Sandy has said that she would like to say a few words from the Museum, so here are notes from Sandy:

Greetings from the Beatty Museum—It's been a great three months that I have worked here, and I am in love with this place. We had 394 visitors in January, and the sun and wind are bringing them in for February.

If you haven't stopped by recently please come in and see the new additions to the Museum, from Vanderbilt Minerals, and others. We receive oodles of compliments on our collection. Some say they've never seen a better collection in a small town museum.

I took a class on grant writing and am anxious to see if I can make it work for us. In most cases we need to match funds, so please become involved with us. We have a raffle going on right now, the prize is a beautiful crocheted rug

and bowl made by Virginia Goodson. Tickets can be picked up at the Museum or from Mary or Max. Thank You. Until next newsletter ---
SANDY

That is it for now-new letter soon (to make up for it being so long between them this time.)

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

Did you know that for 60 years the Nev. State flag was not the design adopted by the 1929 legislature?

It all begins in 1926 with a contest to design a new flag, as the one in use was too detailed and too costly to produce.

The prize winning design by Don Shellbach III, was the winning entry, but politics reared it's ugly head and a heated debate caused it to be come the last item on the agenda and the design that was signed was not the corrected version, it remained in use until 1991 when the corrected design was approved. (Reference Nevada State archives-Guy Rocha)

December 2005

Our little Museum has gone through a few small up -heavals lately, and we are trying to get our feet back under us. We had to dismiss Kristy, although we were sorry to see her go it was a good move for the Museum.

Of the eight applicants to fill her job, we selected Sandy Rowe, a native Beattyite, whose family has four generations living here, and whose knowledge of the history of the area is a real benefit. Her voice is the one you will hear now when you call the Museum.

We have received some wonderful new exhibits for the Museum, and are in the process of assessing them into the records, prior to exhibiting them. SO come by soon and see where we have changed once again. We are always evolving.

The Angel Tree is in the front of the Museum again this year, come by and pick an angel off the tree and give a child a Merry Christmas!!!!

Right after the first of the year we should be beginning to start on a few fundraisers, we desperately need some more display cabinets.

I am always astounded when I go into the Museum, it is so hard to think that we are only eleven years old, and for eleven years we have struggled, working through and around a great many obstacles, some we never even had an idea that we would have to deal with, we have had some pretty wonderful highs, and a few really low, lows. Always keeping our eye on the future of this wonderful little Museum, and what will aid us in keeping it fresh for the future, while preserving the past.

The comments of the people who come through, are always complementary some are amazed at what we have done, and all are impressed that most it

has been done through VOLUNTEER work, and paid for by donations. The county grants that we acquired have allowed us to remain open free of charge, sharing the rich, wonderful history of our area with all who wish to learn it.

All of this is a treasure that we share among us, starting with Mary and Vonnie. Who have worked all these years with very little credit given them that was their due. Mary working tirelessly in the Museum day after day, for five years. Vonnie always there when we needed her. It has been my privilege to be a part of this group.

I spent time with some other members who have given generously of their time and work. Bill and Zettia Miller were here for a few hours the week before Thanksgiving. They edited and published our news letters for ten years. Thank you for supporting us for all these years.

Barb and Roger Piatt also came for a few days, these generous

people come all the way from Ohio to help us here, Barb does wonderful research on different items in the Museum, and creates great displays telling about the items on exhibit. Thank you Barb and Roger for all you do.

Another who came to visit was Leon Abrams from Berkley, who comes as often as he can to the desert and supports our Museum wholeheartedly.

To all of our members---

Thank you all for being a part of the Museum, and PLEASE come visit us soon.

Claudia
(This page was planned for a Dec. edition)

HONEST HORSES

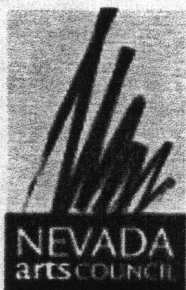


Paula Morin, © **The Phantom and
The Broomtail**, 2000, Giclee Print
made from handpainted, black & white
photograph, Collection of the Nevada
Arts Council, gift of the artist.

AN ARTISTIC PRESENTATION IS PROUDLY
SPONSERED BY

BEATTY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

WILL BE ON EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM
FROM
MARCH 2 UNTIL MAY 2



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS