

Message from the President CLAUDIA REIDHEAD

Hi folks, it's me again, bending your ear a bit. I really want to say THANK YOU for making 1995 a very good year for us and that I am very proud to be a part of this organization. I hope 1996 will bring us a lot closer to fulfilling our goals. I also want to wish all of you the best possible year. (as you can tell, I'm writing this on New Years day) So I'm looking forward as well as reviewing the past year. We have had some triumphs and some failures, we have accomplished a lot but not as much as we hoped. The terrible disaster of the Rhyolite Cemetery has made us very aware of how far human nature can sink, but like a lot of things that happen, it has brought a few of the warring entities of the State, County and Federal Government closer together, proving that even though there are differences, there is also a common ground that they can work on to the betterment of all. That common ground is HISTORY and RESPECT, and I found that every one involved in the reparation and restoration process respected everyone else. Nye County awarded us help both financial and material, along with moral support. BLM sent us an archaeologist, Miss Pat Hicks, who organized and worked on the archeology part, locating and listing the aid of curators from around the State who could restore the destroyed markers and others who could replicate them. The replicas will go back to the Cemetery, the originals will be held in the museum for the descendants. The Friends of Rhyolite, represented by Linda Green of the National Park Service, David Valentine from UNLV and the State Historical Society, Clint Boehringer of Friends of Rhyolite and *BMHS*, Jeff Taguchi from *BMHS*, Mary Revert from *BMHS*, Eugene Thompson from Beatty and myself representing *BMHS*, worked for two days picking, packing, labeling and boxing every splinter of wood for shipment to the Nevada State Museum, where they will be reassembled and possibly read. The sizes and shapes of the markers will be sent to the Gold Hills Museum where they will be replicated. This process will take two to three years and hopefully by then we will have a plot map of the cemetery, and of the other cemeteries that have faded into oblivion around here. We have been put in touch with the National Cemetery Association of the West and are hoping to hear from them soon. Still on this

subject, the six (count them-six) ugly young people who did this have been apprehended by the Nye County Sheriff and the Nevada State Highway Patrol. (Aided by the reward that we raised!) No court date has been set at this writing, but the cost assessment has run up into the five figures, so this will not be treated with unconcern in our court. I wish to thank Barbara Piatt and her mother for generously sending items for a Bazaar which we hope to have going in the near future. We will keep you updated on this event. We had planned a Presidents Ball for February, but got preempted by the Ambulance Service taking over the Community Center for the whole month of February and the school has the gym booked up for the month. The Presidents Ball is on the back burner and will be considered again in the future. Illness has compelled Ruthiana Green to relinquish her position as Secretary of *BMHS* and this position has been assumed by Vonnie Gray who is now Secretary/Treasurer. Our best regards go to Ruthiana Green for a healthy recovery and a THANK YOU to Vonnie Gray for doing double-duty. Elections will be held at the March 25th meeting and nominations will be accepted at the February 26th meeting. Members will receive election data in time to cast their votes. Things are looking up for us as more and more local people are showing interest in our group. They have decided that we mean business and we will be here for the duration, and are starting to believe that our group is good for the town. More and more people now realize that instead of just talking, we are DOING.

"RIBITS" from the editor....Bullhog Billy

Happy New Year and RIBIT-RIBIT to all. With the New Year comes a few "Newbies" for the newsletter. A new format for the front page and a new format for the membership roster page. Other "Newbies" of interest, a brand new certificate for members joining after Jan 1st (renewing members will also receive a new certificate and consider the old style a collectors item) and an upcoming article from a 1913 Saturday Evening Post that I will convert to either a two or three part feature. We have again been blessed (no pun intended) by the wisdom of Pastor Jeff Taguchi who has a great article in this issue about cemeteries. Also featured is the "Four Aces," "Who's Who in Nevada," as well as the usual assortment of goodies. So enough hog talk, hop to it and until the next time...."RIBIT-RIBIT"

"CEMETERIES ARE FOR THE LIVING"

by
Pastor Jeff Taguchi

If you were to ask the question, "What are cemeteries for?" you probably wouldn't answer it with the title of this article. Most people would probably say that it's the final resting place for the "dearly departed." From a technical standpoint, that's true. Cemeteries are places where we bury or intern those who have passed away. But if that's all they are, then why are so many cemeteries so beautiful? Why are the grounds kept neat and clean? Why do we build such elaborate monuments and mausoleums? Why do we put flowers on graves? The only answer that I can come up with is that cemeteries are for the living just as much as they are for the dead.

Over my lifetime I've been to dozens of cemeteries, both here and abroad. Each one had its unique beauty and elegance. Each one demonstrated to me that there were people who cared enough about their departed loved ones to take the time to decorate the graves with marvelous headstones, wrought iron borders, wood accents and assorted plants and flowers. Some cemeteries have stood for centuries while others have been lost or forgotten. Regardless of this fact, each cemetery deserves respect. There are people buried in the most inconspicuous places who while living, have changed the course of this world.

Take for instance Charles Lindbergh, the aviation pioneer. His grave is located in a century old Congregational Church cemetery on the island of Maui. The cemetery is small, the church is somewhat abandoned and in need of repair and it's difficult to get to even by car. Many of the headstones have been wiped clean by constant exposure to the salt air. Nevertheless it's beautiful and well kept. At this time you're probably asking yourself, "What's the point?" Well, it's simple. The cemetery is cared for not because Charles Lindbergh is buried there. It's cared for because there are PEOPLE WHO CARE. They care about their departed loved ones. They care about history. They realize that because of the people who are buried in the cemetery, they have things like freedom, which is tragically taken for granted today in America. Walk through any cemetery in the United States and I'll bet that there is at least one veteran who has fought for the freedom that I have and you have. That is why history is important to me and that's why I would like to preserve it.

Unfortunately there are those who don't seem to think the same way. They take history for granted and would rather forget the past than learn from it. A classic demonstration of this fact occurred at the Rhyolite Cemetery in Nye County, Nevada sometime in mid November. An individual or group of

individuals invaded the cemetery and desecrated dozens of graves by destroying monuments, some of which cannot be replaced or repaired. Pieces of wooden head and footstones were strewn all over the cemetery boundaries. Wooden and iron grave fences were wrecked and destroyed. The worse damage was not necessarily to the cemetery, but to the memory of those people who are buried within it's boundaries and their descendents. It was the descendents of those people in the Rhyolite Cemetery who took their time, energy and money to erect monuments that would stand the test of time. Not for someone to destroy them 90 years later but for people to enjoy them 90 years later. This total disregard for our history, demonstrates the state of our society and what it deems important. I've heard over and over that those who choose to forget, deny or destroy history are bound to repeat the worst parts of it. And it's tragic to see the truth played out in my own backyard.

I realize that some would say that it's only a "ghost town" cemetery, "What's the big deal?" The thing that they fail to realize, is that the people buried in that cemetery were at one time "real, living and breathing" people who had value. Some of whom have descedents still living in the area. I would like to ask the people who think that way this question, "How many generations do we have to go back before we stop caring?" I still visit the graves of my ancestors out of respect, because that's the way I was taught, and I believe we need to continue to teach our children to respect their elders and ancestors.

What happened in Rhyolite in November is a tragedy. But I have found that tragedy, from a Biblical viewpoint, always has positive results. Though the cemetery has been vandalized, people are banding together from all walks of life to help repair and restore it. Many businesses are volunteering their services as well as providing financial support for the restoration process. And perhaps through this article we can gain support from you the reader. There are still some things that we are trying to acquire.

Somewhere, there possibly exists a plot map of the cemetery. It would give us a better idea of where people are buried, assist us in restoring the cemetery and also help descendents locate their ancestors. There is no question that we need the help of the public to find records, photos and even personal diaries and journals to help us. If you or anyone you know has this information, please help us restore part of our history in Rhyolite. Because you see, not only is it our history but yours too. Thanks for listening. By the way, cemeteries are for the living.

Pastor Jeff

Bullfrog Mining District History



(certificate courtesy of Bullfrog Billy)

Four Aces

by Claudia Reidhead

Early in the Bullfrog Gold Rush, the Four Aces Mine was located near the Mayflower in Pioneer, on October 24, 1904. Although the claims were located in October of 1904, they weren't filed until April 20, 1905. They were recorded by the Johnson family from Colorado. Money being in short supply, stock was issued and sold on the stock exchanges in Rhyolite and across the country. Because of its beauty, this stock certificate is treasured by collectors. On October 25, 1905, one fourth interest in these claims and several others were sold by the Johnson Family (Charles, Augusta, and George) to A. P. Mackey. In spite of the good assays, the Four Aces never shipped any ore. The prospect holes are still visible but no actual mine can be found on this site.

Who's Who In Nevada

by

Bessie Beatty

Copyright 1907



Busch Brothers

Three brothers, count 'em, all true blue, Frank J., Peter A. and J.E. Busch, form a close family corporation which is doing big things in Nevada country. Frank Busch was the founder of Rhyolite, that live town in the Bullfrog District. He, with P.R. Stanley, located Rhyolite and sold the first lot--for \$50. The brothers Busch are natives of Ohio, but are now thoroughly Nevadan. All have had a wide experience in mining and business ventures. Frank Busch gained his first mining lore in Colorado, went to Alaska seven years ago, then tried Arizona for a time, returned to Colorado and came to Goldfield when labor troubles in the Cripple Creek District caused active operations there to be suspended temporarily. The newer camp farther south attracted him and Rhyolite is the result. There he was joined by his two brothers, and they started a business in mining stocks, real estate and mining properties that has grown to large proportions. The pioneer brother in Rhyolite also engaged extensively in Manhattan deals, opening an office there and buying some fine properties. Later he opened an office in Goldfield, where he at once became prominent in the business life of the town. Peter A. and J.E. Busch entered Rhyolite in 1905. The former was superintendent of the Bullfrog Peerless and brought about the sale of the property to a big New York syndicate for \$100,000 cash. J.E. was connected with the Cook Bank previous to the time he went to Rhyolite. He is now secretary of the firm. They are all practical miners, each has worked in the shafts and any one of the three can run an engine or put in timbers with excellent skill. They have interests in Lee, Skidoo, Greenwater, Ibex District, Utah oil fields, Wonder and many other localities. The firm has the record of making more sales of mining property than any other in the district. Peter Busch is director of the First National Bank of Rhyolite, secretary of the Rhyolite Power Company, vice-president of the Board of Trade, and a school director. Two have yielded to Cupid's darts, while J.E. has as yet remained a bachelor. Although the Busch brothers are interested in nearly every camp in Nevada, they still count Rhyolite their home and they are patriotic boosters for the town. Personally there is not a trio of young fellows with more friends, anywhere in the country. Square, generous-hearted, wide-awake, energetic boys, they are rightly loved by all who know them. They can tell many stories of their early days in various mining camps, and all of them love the big free life of the West. A splendid working trio they make. One brother devotes most of his time to the actual business of mining; another to the brokerage end, and the youngest who is a thoroughly trained office man, gives his attention to the inside work.

BEATTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

Minutes---October 30, 1995

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Claudia Reidhead, Vonnie Gray, Mary Revert, Clint & Ellen Boehringer, Bill & Zettia Miller, Ellis & Lynn Vance, Kenneth Lingard, Ruthiana Green, Ralph & Chloe Lisle, Jane Cottonwood, Karen Bohmer

September minutes read & approved

Treasurers Report: \$1,781.36 and non monetary \$135.00 donated by Bill & Zettia (newsletter printing)

Special presentation of Plaque of appreciation to Bill & Zettia Miller

Discussion held about self guided tours (sample from Eureka, Nevada shown with map on back)

Various ideas for walking tour plaques discussed (tabled until Nov. meeting)

Chloe Lisle, Karen Bohmer & Ruthiana Green volunteered to help with fashion show Nov. 3rd (later canceled because of time restrictions)

Main fund raising event for 1996 will be another Picnic in the Park (agreed by all)

Ralph Lisle suggested to apply to the County Commissioner for the Justice Court building for our museum.

Claudia to contact County Commissioner to apply for Underground Church

Bill Miller suggested a fund raising letter to be mailed to members out of the greater Beatty area

Meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes---November 27, 1995

Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Claudia Reidhead, Perry Forsythe, Vonnie Gray, Ralph & Chloe Lisle, Beverly Coffee, Jane Cottonwood, Jeff Taguchi, Mary Revert

October minutes read & approved

Treasurers Report: \$1,830.00

Discussion held about Ruthiana Green resigning as Secretary due to illness. Vonnie Gray volunteered to assume position. Motion by Perry Forsythe for Vonnie Gray as Secretary, 2nd by Mary Revert, motion carried. Motion by Jane Cottonwood to buy flowers for Ruthiana Green, 2nd by Chloe Lisle, Mary Revert will buy flowers and turn in receipt (max \$40.00) next meeting. Walking tour plaques will cost about \$25.00 from Jane Cottonwood. Claudia asked for volunteers to help clean up Rhyolite Cemetery. Mary Revert & Jeff Taguchi volunteered, Perry couldn't because of a conflict of interest with his work. Discussion on local membership fund raiser newsletter.

Meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes---December 18, 1995

Meeting called to order 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Claudia Reidhead, Mary Revert, Vonnie Gray, Jeff Taguchi

November minutes read & approved

Treasurers Report: \$1,846.36

Discussion, Ruthiana Green will volunteer services on the walking plaques. Clint & Ellen Boehringer will donate wood for plaques. There will be a \$1.00 suggested donation for the newsletter from non members. Claudia will write membership letter for the upcoming elections.

Meeting closed at 6:45 p.m. due to Community Center schedule.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Exchange Club, Beatty, Nevada--Photo of ex-lightweight boxing champion Jimmy Gleason, former Exchange Club employee.

Sue Greffin, Beatty, Nevada--\$20.00 donation.

Bill & Zettia Miller, Long Beach, California--Book, "Life in the Ghost City of Rhyolite" by Betsy Ritter, reproduction of 1926 Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad map, stock certificate "Reorganized Pioneer Mines Company."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Robert Revert - January 30
Alan Patera - February 5

Alice Madsen - February 9
Bill Monk - February 26

LAST MINUTE "RIBITS"

Notice to current members. Please ignore the "Donation Requested \$1.00" that you will find in the upper right hand corner of the front page. Additional copies of this newsletter are being made available to the public in an effort to promote *BMHS* and bring in some additional revenue. Also, our Happy Birthday file is not complete, so if your Birthday is missing, please let us know. Right now we do not have Birthdates for Ellen Boehringer, Perry Forsythe, Ruthiana Green, Ray Miller, Boyd A. Reidhead, Gloria Shearer, George F. Taylor, Gary Waddell and Stacey Willing. We'll be happy to wish belated Birthday wishes as our files become updated.

DON'T MISS COMING EVENTS IN BEATTY, NEVADA

FEBRUARY 23 - 24 - 25 Beatty Chamber of Commerce presents!
4th Annual Silver State Cowboy Action Shooting Championship
&
Badlands Bill - "Fast & Fancy Trick Shooting" Demonstration
All proceeds go to " Make-A-Wish" Foundation

MARCH 15 - 16 Friends of Rhyolite presents!
Annual Rhyolite Festival

MARCH 16 - 17 *BMHS* presents!
Building Fund Bazaar
341 Main St. Beatty, Nevada

MARCH 26 Beatty Chamber of Commerce presents!
Culpepper & Merriweather Great Combined Circus
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
tickets on sale at Beatty Chamber of Commerce

BMHS meeting dates - Jan 29 - Feb 26 - Mar 25 - 7:00 p.m. Community Center

BMHS OFFICERS

Claudia Reidhead
President
P.O. Box 393
Beatty, NV 89003
(702) 553-2351

Mary Revert
Vice President

Vonnie Gray
Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Perry Forsythe
Interim Board Chairman

Robert Revert

Gloria Shearer

Jeffrey Taguchi

George Taylor

NEWSLETTER STAFF

William J. Miller
Editor
5120 E. 28th St.
Long Beach, CA 90815
(310) 429-8331

Zettia L. Miller
Publisher
5120 E. 28th St.
Long Beach, CA 90815
(310) 429-8331