

"RIBITS" from the editor...Bull frog Billy

Welcome to the first edition of the BMHS News. As editor, I hope you find the publication informative and entertaining. The creative Zettia Miller is publisher and she will make every effort to make the publication appealing to the eye. You might be wondering why we are putting the newsletter together in Long Beach, CA for a Nevada Organization. The answer is very simple. We both have a great fondness for the Bullfrog Mining District. We were married in Rhyolite, Nevada March 18, 1995, and our many visits to the area have resulted in the making of many great friendships. We like people who are friendly and genuine and we can't find a better place than Beatty, Nevada for meeting good people. We feel there is a real need to preserve the history of the Bullfrog Mining District and we want to help. Since we live about 330 miles from Beatty, Nevada, we are unable to participate in a hands-on effort, but we can help by putting together a newsletter and printing the membership certificates and cards. On occasion, there may be a special mailing to inform you of some event where the need to know is urgent and can't wait for the regular newsletter. It is our intention to publish six newsletters a year. In each issue we will feature an article under the heading of "Bullfrog Mining District History," with a feature this issue on the Diamond Queen Mining Company. We hope to expand on this segment of the newsletter as time goes on. This is where you can be a part of the newsletter. If you have photos, letters or anything pertaining to the Bullfrog Mining District, we will be glad to feature them in the newsletter. Naturally, anything you would submit would be returned after we get the data entered into the computer for publication. We want this newsletter to be a member-participant publication. Another regular feature will be a list of the membership on the last page that will include Officers, Board members and the general membership. We will update the membership list as needed, which brings me to the number one item on my mind for this first issue. MEMBERSHIPS! We want this organization to **grow-grow-grow** and you can help by telling your friends to join. If every current member would solicit just five more members and then ask them to do the same and keep it going in that manner, we will grow and be able to accomplish the goals spelled out by President Claudia Reidhead. We have been able to get six people to join in our first effort and we will be trying to get even more people to join. Hopefully the newsletter and the membership roster grow together and help to make this a very successful organization that we can all be proud of. The invitation is open to any and all who would like to be a part of this effort. You may submit your ideas, praises, complaints etc. to the editor or the publisher as follows....

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 Until the next time....."RIBIT-RIBIT"

**Message from the President.....
 Claudia Reidhead**

Hi, I'm Claudia your newly selected President. I'd like to take this time to welcome all of our members to The Beatty Museum and Historical Society. Our goals are both simple and huge. Simple in that we want to preserve the history of the Bullfrog District, and huge because it is such a large district, and so much has already been lost, it is also like the old fashioned scavenger hunt, treasures can be found in old boxes, or trunks, that have been shoved into a dark corner of someone's attic or basement. A lot of it has been lost forever because it has been thrown away and burned.

The Bullfrog District encompasses a very large area as well as being part of an exciting era, the last of the big Gold Rushes occurred here. Included in the area are several large "camps", Rhyolite, Beatty, Pioneer, Crystal, Springdale, Chloride City, Carrara, Transvaal, Bonnie Claire, Gold Bar and several other smaller camps. Just the names, gives ones imagination someplace in time to run to.

From the past the future rises
 The stories untold
 Of the search for Gold
 The many surprises
 The towns that grew and died
 Like the rushing of the tide.
 The storms of life,
 The laughter and strife.
 All, like the Phoenix, rises.
 From the ashes of the old.
 The new must come.
 One of the prizes--GOLD

Life is the real treasure untold.

We are still waiting for the return of our charter from the State, and as soon as it arrives we will ask the county for the Underground Church, and we can begin cleanup there. It has been suggested that we ask the prison for men to help us clean it up and repair it. They would be assigned to us, and we would not be charged for their labor.

We have been invited to put a float in the Fourth of July parade, and we are working on that. The Water Dept. has offered us the use of a truck, trailer and driver. THANKS Jim. Vonnie has enlisted the assistance of some of the local teens to help us get it assembled.

Our Vice President Mary Revert is coordinating a fund raiser for July. She tells me it will be a box social, and dance at the park, using the tennis court for the dance floor.

We have the chance for several properties here if we can get the money together to purchase them, also a couple of the historic buildings, that we could use if we moved them.

We ask for your continued support, and your ideas to help us gain our goals.

Bullfrog Mining District History



The Diamond Queen Mine was established in early 1905, and was a good producer at that time. It was also still working during the twenties, at a very small level. At this time it was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Biddlecombe. After the death of Mr. Biddlecombe, Mrs. Biddlecombe sold the property to Vic Ritter. At this point we lost track of the owners, however when one of us gets the chance to go to Tonopah we should be able to uncloud the waters a bit. It was leased to the Monolith Cement Co. during the fifties and sixties. They mined it for the flourine and flourite that was the richest part of the ores there. It is owned by the Saga Mining and Development Company, who are not currently mining the claims.

This article from the Beatty Bullfrog Miner May 27, 1905 establishes the start of the mine.

DIAMOND QUEEN A Great Mining Property in the Beatty District.

The following article, written by Mr. E. J. Waugh, is very conservative. Assayers have informed the editor that some portions of the ledge yield as high as \$100.00 per ton.

The Diamond Queen group consisting of five claims owned and being operated by Messrs. T. R. Kennick, Jas. A. Gillies and E. J. Waugh are situated on Eastern slope of the Bare Range of mountains of about 6 miles Southeastly of Beatty in a direct line, though it takes about nine miles to reach the property by trail. Running through the claims

thwise are two parallel porphyry dykes, the country rock being the formation, characteristic of this part of the district. The lower dyke of porphyry is in the neighborhood of 500 feet wide and is strongly mineralized over its entire width. For a distance of 900 feet along the length of of this dyke the porphyry is stained with flourine and flourspar and flourine stained water quartz appears throughout the mass.

Small prospect holes have been put down a few feet at the foot and hanging walls and in the center. Gold can be panned at all these points. It would be unsafe to estimate at the present time as to the average value of the ore. Assays range from \$5.00 to \$30.00 across the entire distance and a small chute of talc found on the hanging wall was considerably richer. The upper dyke of porphyry does not show flourine and has received little attention but carries small gold values. From present inclinations the Diamond Queen Group will constitute a big low grade, free milling proposition, with occasional richer Chutes. In the opinion of the writer, water can be developed near at hand for milling purposes. Springs occurring in a canyon about three miles from the property at present furnish water for men at work on the claims.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

From Pearl DeCarr, two Nevada Magazine articles on Rhyolite and Beatty .

Gloria Shearer and Mary Revert, Beatty, NV, donated the \$150.00 IRS fees.

Virginia Goodson, Beatty, NV, early photo postcards from Beatty, Rhyolite, Goldfield, Tonopah, Las Vegas, Horn Silver, and Bonnie Claire.

Allen "Hap" & Mickey Davis, Fallon, NV, petrified log from one of his mining claims with the sap still on it and the log is opalised rather than agatised.

Bill & Zettia Miller, Long Beach, CA, 1906 Prospectus of The Forward Mining and Development CO, 1907 Rhyolite photo, 190_ bank check, Bullfrog Bank and Trust Company-Beatty, Nevada, 190_ bank check, John S. Cook Bankers, Rhyolite, Nevada.

All of the above are donations to our Museum. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. We have been offered a complete mine from the 1909 era, (minus the ore) head frame, ore cars, buckets, rails, engines , etc. but first we have to get the land to put it on. We have been promised much more in the line of contributions and loans from several people when we get set up to handle them. I hope this will give you some idea of where we are and where we need to go to get where we want to be. We are moving along but it seems slow right now, because we all want to see everything happen immediately. If you think back, it is only three months since we started to form. I think we are doing quite well. As you can see from the listings above, we are gathering treasures from various sources and perhaps you have or will find a treasure that you would like to share with us. Claudia Reidhead, President.

MORE FROM CLAUDIA!

In 1904 the only permanent residence in the Oasis Valley (Beatty) was the ranch of Montilius M. Beatty, and his wife, a lady of the Shoshone Nation, and their three children. An Oasis in the desert, he had a small truck Creek in Death Valley, where he raised hay and cattle. Of the many visitors to their ranch (most were prospectors), in August of 1904, were two "Death Valley" prospectors, "Shorty" Harris and E. L. Cross who told Beatty to head out and file some claims, as they had found GOLD in the hills South West of him. On August 9, 1904, in Goldfield Nevada, they filed the first claims in this area. A gold rush started that lasted only six years, giving rise to several "Boom Towns." Rhyolite, which became the third largest city in Nevada, Bullfrog, Gold Center, Beatty, Transvaal, Pioneer, Crystal Springs, Springdale and several smaller camps. Of them all, Rhyolite grew the fastest, and fell the hardest. The rest with the exception of Beatty, faded and vanished on the desert wind. Now there are few reminders of them, some ore bins in Pioneer, some almost there foundations in Transvaal, foundations of the cyanide mill in Gold Center, an abandoned mine here and there. In Chloride City there is the mine and some foundations. The life line that was the railroads that came here in 1907 are now just raised beds across this vast desert land. Only the memories of the busy vital camps remain, and those are fast fading away with the passage of time. Without a museum, this will all be lost, and our children and their children will know nothing of our colorful past and its very strong people, the individualists that made up the tapestry of our area.

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN BMHS

BEATTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

Minutes of the first open meeting---April 24, 1995

An initial vote was taken concerning the organization's name and it was unanimously decided that of all the suggestions put forward, the "Beatty Museum and Historical Society" was the most apt since it best described our eventual goal.

It is known that to become a recognized society, we will need five board members and four officers. The four officer positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. It was asked that volunteers for these positions raise their hands. Jim Gould and Ruth Green agreed that they would have the time required for the task though Jim Gould said he would be unwilling to accept the position of treasurer or secretary. It was also put forward that a final decision on board members should not be made until more people are involved with the project.

An initial agreement was made to meet every two weeks to begin with, though we expect this to change to once a month once the society gets underway. Those two meetings are currently arranged for each second and fourth Monday of every month, the next being May 8th and the one after, May 22nd. The time for each meeting is 7pm.

Suggestions were put forward concerning property that may be available through the County Commission. More information will be available at a later date.

The matter of funding was considered a priority. Someone will be required to invest considerable time in preparing the groundwork so that the society may apply for public funding in the form of a grant. Also ideas were put forward for possible fund raising events though we still need many more.

All those at the meeting were requested to discuss the "Beatty Museum and Historical Society" with others in town with a view to getting them involved with the project.

Just after the close of the meeting, it was suggested that we need a logo for letterheads, pamphlets etc.

Minutes---May 8, 1995

Claudia and Vonnie re-capped the Beatty Museum and Historical Society and its goals.

It was brought up that in the Beatty School, there are students that have never been to Rhyolite, and are unaware of the history that is there.

It was reiterated that this must be a public organization, not a private one.

There weren't enough people present to form a board.

It was suggested that dues be \$15.00 per person. \$20.00 for business membership and \$10.00 for seniors over 65 on a fixed income.

Bill and Zettia Miller will trade out printing costs until dues are covered.

Whitey will donate a stone plaque for museum.

Various sites were discussed for location of museum, large enough to hold mining equipment.

Charter was discussed.

Minutes---May 22, 1995

After a discussion on the slow accumulation of members that we needed to form a board, those of us who were there, selected the officers and directors on an interim basis so that we could apply for our charter and IRS number.

Gloria Shearer and Mary Revert donated the \$150.00 for our IRS fees and we started collecting dues.

The meeting was closed and we had a lively discussion of old days here.

Minutes---June 12, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Claudia Reidhead. Vonnie Gray gave the treasurers report, and informed the board that a bank account was opened May 23rd.

Report on status of tax number by Claudia, discussion of float for the Fourth of July parade. Water Company is providing the truck, 30 foot trailer and driver.

Mary Revert will be absent next meeting, but she is working on a fund raiser for July.

Claudia announced hopes of a better status report on the charter next meeting.