

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

Welcome once again to another issue of the *BMHS* News. The first issue was well received by members and I hope that this issue will exceed your expectations. As I mentioned in the first issue, the number one item on my mind was expanding the membership. To date the membership has grown to 34 individuals and 2 business memberships. That is PROGRESS. As the membership grows, we will move closer to the goals set forth by the *BMHS*. You can really help make *BMHS* grow by recruiting as many people as possible to join. This issue, the "**Original Bullfrog Mines Syndicate**" is the feature for the History section. Also, as an additional feature to the History section, I am adding an ongoing feature on important people of the History of the Bullfrog District. It will be a direct duplication from the very rare book "Who's Who in Nevada" by Bessie Beatty, copyrighted 1907. Keep in mind that it is copied word for word so it may sound at times like it is out of date based on what we know now. I was very fortunate to obtain a copy of this wonderful book and hope that you will enjoy reading about the various people that helped make the history of the Bullfrog Mining District. This issue we are able to print a color copy of the stock certificate that is featured in the History section and hope that you enjoy this added feature. Next issue will feature the "Pioneer Consolidated and the Re-organized Pioneer Consolidated." Also featured in this issue is a color photo reproduction from the 4th of July float that *BMHS* entered in the parade. Zettia and I were unable to be there for the parade, but judging from the pictures we received from Claudia, there is no doubt as to who had the best float in the parade. *BMHS*, who else?? Some good news to share with you concerning memberships. My good friend Alan Patera from Lake Grove, Oregon will be running a FREE advertisement for *BMHS* in his quarterly magazine, "Western Places." Alan is a true lover of history and really puts out one of the best if not the best magazines you'll ever have the privilege of reading. He devoted an entire issue to Rhyolite Nevada last year and will be doing a follow-up to that issue that will include all of the Bullfrog Mining District. If you like to read about history, you can't do any better than subscribing to "Western Places." Subscription rate is \$25.00 per four issues and back issues are still available. Address all correspondence to: Western Places/ P.O. Box 2093/ Lake Grove OR 97035 and be sure to tell Alan, Bull frog Billy sent ya. Enough of my babbling, kick back and enjoy the newsletter and until the next time....."RIBIT-RIBIT"

Message from the President.....

CLAUDIA REIDHEAD

Hi, it's just me again. We would like to welcome the new members to our association, and thank them for joining. I hope that you all will find it as rewarding as I have. Joining us at this time are Bill and Carol Monk, Beverly Coffee and Larry Poag. Also joining is the Central Nevada Historical Society

◆ Mary Revert changed the date and type of fundraiser after the last newsletter was published. It is now a "**Picnic in the Park,**" with music, dancing, food, games and a white elephant auction.

◆ Vonnie Gray did an outstanding job on the *4th of July float*. Assisting here were Jim, Leona and Aaron Benschopf. Perry Forsyth put the ore cart together. It all looked great. **THANK YOU VONNIE &**

CREW. Check out the photo in the newsletter. We also owe a **big THANK YOU** to the *Beatty Water District* for the use of the truck and flat bed, and thanks to driver Jim Weeks.

◆ I would like to express my thanks to *Peggy Sue* at the Clerks Office in Tonopah for helping me with my research on the Bullfrog Mine. She took time from her busy schedule to look up some things for me and I wouldn't have been able to complete the article on the Bullfrog Mine without her help.

◆ I need to correct something on the Diamond Queen article from the first issue. I called the Silveridian the Silverodeon. Bad mistake. I apologize to the Saga Corporation for the error.

◆ Bill & Zettia Miller are working on some designs for cards and blank logo notes for us to sell. You have to understand that where we are, cards are hard to come by, so we feel this will be a good fund raiser for us.

◆ Bill Metscher from the Tonopah Museum has said he will be able to come down and talk to us sometime in late August or September. I am looking forward to his visit.

At this writing we are still waiting for our charter. Mr. Metscher assures me that it takes a long time to get it back from the State and not to worry if it takes longer than we wish.

◆ Most of us like the idea of a walking tour of Beatty that was suggested by Vonnie. Discussion was tabled for another time. We will have to postpone our second August meeting as Mary Ball informs me that she needs the hall for another meeting that was scheduled several months ago. After due consideration at the last meeting, it was decided that we will meet on the last Monday of the month as a convenience to our members.

◆ Finally I need to recap what our goals are, to keep them fresh in our minds. First, we need to acquire ground for a building. Second, the next step will be a building to house the treasures we are accumulating and keep the building up to State Codes. Third, A very

(President's Message continued)

important step, cataloging, recording and displaying the artifacts that we have accrued.

◆ Our main goals are to preserve the history of The *Bullfrog Mining District* and the surrounding areas. Our children and grandchildren deserve the right to know what we started and where we are going. The knowledge of what we have done is what they will use to build their future. So come to the fund-raisers and help us build our museum.

Who's Who In Nevada

by

Bessie Beatty

Copyright 1907

E. A. Montgomery

A long time ago in Canada a little boy looked at the hills and dreamed of gold. He went about his work and his lessons and his play and through it all he dreamed that some day he would put his finger on the spot where gold was hidden, bring it out of the mountain and make him a rich man. It was in Seaforth, November 4, 1863, that the boy was born, and it was in the Bullfrog district in 1904 that the dream began to come true. The boy was E. A. Montgomery, known in every mining camp in the West as "Bob." It was nearly twenty years from the time he dreamed his boyhood dreams of gold until he finally began the life of a miner. In 1885, he was farming in Iowa, when the mining excitement in Idaho broke out, and people from every part of the country flocked in response to the gold cry. Bob Montgomery heard the cry and he exchanged the plow for the pick. From that time until 1892 he traveled over the West, stopping at any section where conditions were at all promising, and in March of that year he located the Montgomery Mining District, sixty miles south of the present site of Bullfrog. He opened up the Johnnie Mine, and at the same time did some work in Death Valley. He staked prospectors who discovered mines in the Panamint District. He grew tired of Nevada prospects and was about to go to Mexico when the Salt Lake Road from Salt Lake to Los Angeles was proposed. In this he saw the beginning of a new era in mining in Nevada, and he

went to work with renewed vigor in his prospecting. In 1902 he went to Tonopah and soon afterward was chosen because of his knowledge of the entire southern part of the State, to act as chief right-of-way agent for a company of Los Angeles men who proposed building a railroad. He traveled for 200 miles without seeing any living thing but an occasional lizard and jackrabbit, and he made a report sufficient to justify the building of the railroad. The route he chose would have touched the present sites of Goldfield, Bullfrog, Lee and Greenwater, and would have tapped the big borax fields. The company sent an engineer over the same route, but the engineer could not see beneath the ground; he lacked the power to look into the future which Mr. Montgomery possessed, and he returned to Los Angeles to throw cold water on the project. If that road had been built, the mines of Nevada would be in a different condition today. Since that time two roads have been built over the route he recommended, though at that time and for nearly four years afterward, the man who crossed the country crossed it on burro-back or by stage. On the strength of a report of rich ore discovered by Ed Cross on the original Bullfrog, Mr. Montgomery made a trip from Tonopah to that new district. He drove from Tonopah, traveling all day and night to get there, and he located six claims. On his way back he stopped at Oasis, owned by John Howell, a Negro, who was a pioneer of the desert and a friend of Mr. Montgomery's. There he met "Hungry Johnny," an Indian, whom he employed to prospect for him. He gave the Indian two notices of location and was again going out of the district when at Thorpes Mill he met men returning from Goldfield with results of assays on Bullfrog ore. He took a saddle horse and went back the next day. On his way he passed the Indian's camp and left word for him to follow and receive a lesson on distinguishing the kind of rock found to be rich. The Indian went to Bonanza mountain, and Mr. Montgomery showed him the Denver outcropping. "I catch him all the same ledge," the Indian said, and he led him to the south end of the Montgomery mountain, where he found a well-built monument in which one of the location notices had been placed. The property is the same that is now known as the Indian Johnny. He then took him to the Shoshone, and Bob Montgomery that day located Shoshone No. 2 and No. 3, the latter claim being the one upon which the rich Shoshone mine was discovered. He worked all day and that night he wrote his location notice in the dark. He located the town site of Beatty and

WHO'S WHO

started a settlement there, at the same time doing preliminary work on fifteen claims. Then he went to Goldfield to consult his partner. The partner, T. E. Edwards, offered to sell his claim for \$100,000 and Mr. Montgomery exercised his option by interesting Malcolm Macdonald of Tonopah to furnish the first \$10,000. The first stock with a par value of \$1 sold at \$2 a share and 25,000 shares were required for the completion of the corporation. The first shipment of forty tons was hauled out by wagon in April. In January of 1906 the famous Montgomery-Shoshone lawsuit was up before the courts, and until it was finally settled in Mr. Montgomery's favor and with greatest credit to him, no ore could be shipped from the mine. Donald Gillies, as manager for Charles M. Schwab, was sent to examine the property, and just one year after the date upon which Edwards had disposed of his interests, the mine was sold to Mr. Schwab. Mr. Montgomery retained one-fifth interest in the mine and is still a director in the Shoshone Consolidated. Mr. Montgomery is owner of the Skidoo Mine Company's properties, is one of the principal owners of the Brown Palace Mine at Rosebud, and numerous other properties throughout the State, in addition to being part owner in a big Idaho mine. If he so willed, Bob Montgomery could retire from active operation in the mining field and live comfortably for the rest of his life on the harvest he has reaped from his operations. Instead he prefers to demonstrate to the world his faith in mining as a legitimate investment, and he is as active now as ever. Since those days when he dreamed of the hidden treasures of Mother Earth he has met many disappointments and has several times been near death. He is a man who has few enemies; his is a gentle kindly nature and if he has a fault, it is his generosity. His word is as good as his bond, and wherever he leads in the mining world there are many ready to follow.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!

B.M.H.S FIRST FUND RAISER HUGE SUCCESS

LOOK FOR DETAILS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

DON'T MISS COMING EVENTS IN

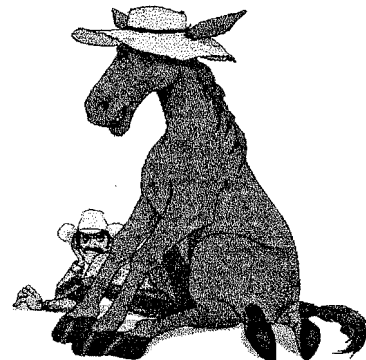
BEATTY, NEVADA



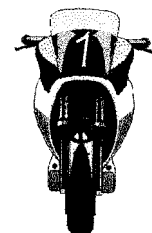
October 26 thru November 5th
Rock and Gem Jamboree
Sponsored by Beatty Chamber of Commerce



October 27, 28, 29th
The Burro Inn will sponsor a
Pitch and Witch Horseshoe Tournament



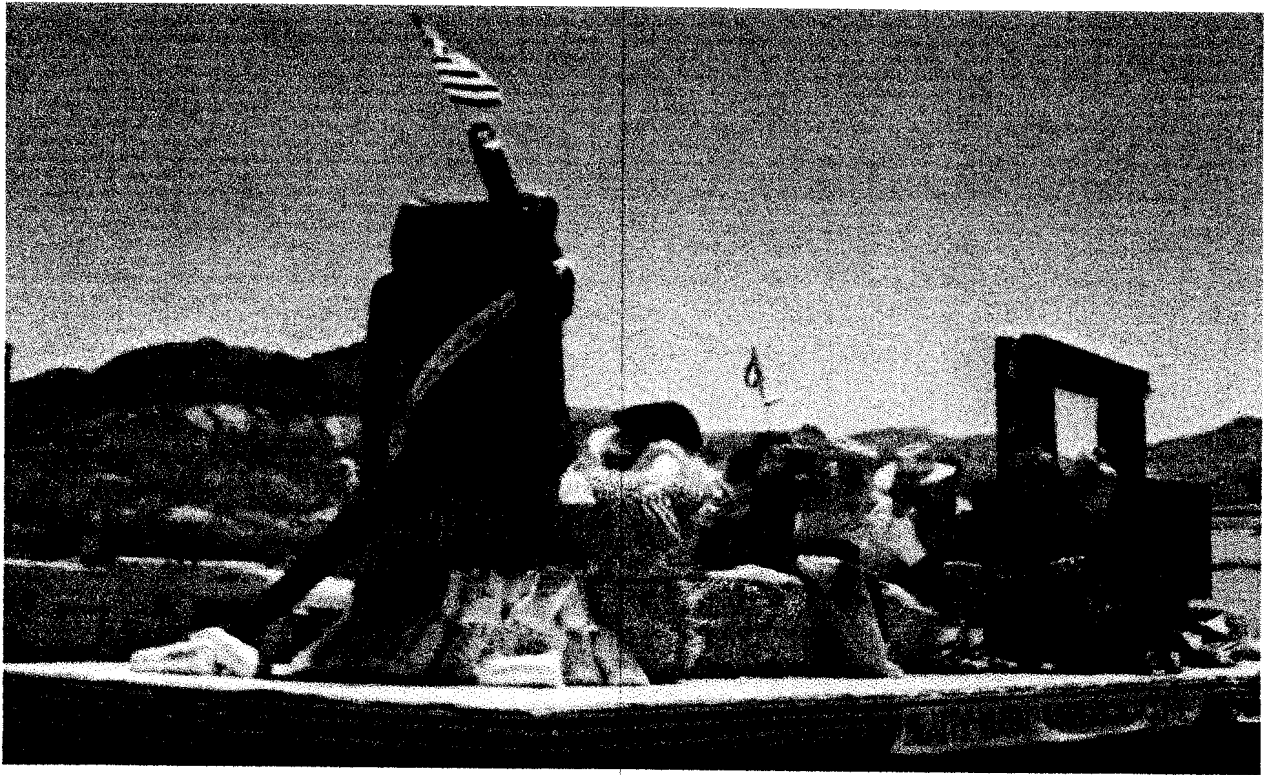
October 28th
Burro Flapjack Races
Sponsored by
Beatty Chamber of Commerce and The Lions Club



October 29th
Rally the Valley Offroad
Motorcycle Races
Sponsored by
Beatty Chamber of Commerce

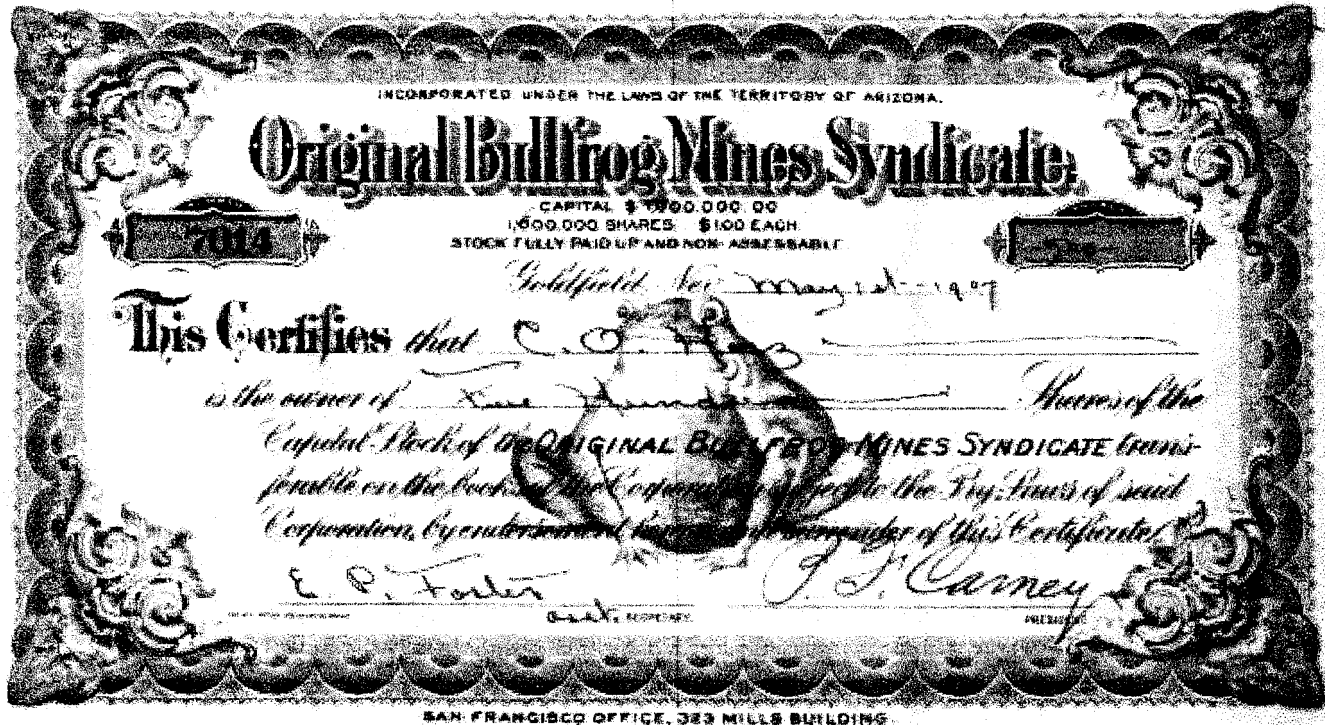
• *BAMHS*

4th of July !!



• Beatty, Nevada

Bullfrog Mining District History



(certificate courtesy of Bullfrog Billy).

The Beginning!!!

by Claudia Reidhead

The original Bullfrog Mine was the first mine in this area. It was located by "Shorty" Harris and Ernest Cross, on August 09, 1904. The claims were registered August 29, 1904. They were prospecting the Funeral mountains, and were walking out from Keane Wonder mine. They camped at a quartz blowout that Shorty remembered seeing on one of his trips into Death Valley.

Shorty and Ernest, staked their claims and walked on to the Beatty Ranch. After spending a day or so at the Beatty Ranch, Shorty and Ernest took off for Goldfield. It took them ten day to walk to Goldfield, where they caught a train to Tonopah. After arriving in Tonopah, the claims were then registered on August 29, 1904.

**This is directly from the records in Tonopah
Bullfrog unknown District**

Notice of location

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned hereby locate and claim the following described piece of mineral bearing ground on a quartz mining claim, from this discovery monument 750 feet in a southerly (West) and 750 on each side Northeasterly direction and three hundred feet on each side of the middle of the vein. Situated about 10 miles North from Daylight Spring and about 7 miles SW. from Beatty's Ranch in the Amargosa Valley and in the Grapevine Mountains. The general course of the vein or ledge is SW. and NE. and the size of the claim is 1500 feet long by 600 feet wide. This claim shall be known as the Bullfrog Mine situated in _____ Mining District, Nye County Nevada Location Date August 9, 1904. Frank Harris 750 feet. Earnest L. Cross 750 feet.

Recorded at the request of E. L. Cross August 29, 1904
W.J. Rice County Recorder

Recorded at the same time was the location for a water claim. Also filed on October 17, 1904 were location notices for Bullfrog #2 and for water claims, under the names of E. L. Cross and W.D. Fry.

By the next day after they had filed their claims, the rush was on and so was the race to see who could make the best and biggest find. Camps began to spring up all over the place, the camps became towns, some of the towns became cities, the towns of Bullfrog, Beatty, Rhyolite, and Gold Center began to grow. All but two of the towns would be gone by 1915.

This mine was the beginning of it all. It was one of the first to issue stock.

The Original Bullfrog mine was named for either of two reasons. Shorty's version of the name was that it was named for the color of the ore. E.L. Cross' version was that he was always trying to sing the song "Twenty Little Froggies went to School".

A third story taken from the Beatty Bullfrog Miner April 28, 1905

Many person ask why the Bullfrog Mine and district were named. There are various stories in reply. One is that the original discoverer of the mine found a piece of ore in the mine in the form and color of a bullfrog; another story is

that the sweet music of the frogs in the Amargosa river furnished the name. Who can furnish the correct explanation for the name give the Bullfrog Mines???"

Which ever story is true, they both agreed on the name. From that beginning the mine became the first and one of the biggest producing mines in the area, with several mines putting the Bullfrog in their names hoping to profit from the glory of the original mine's name.

About a mile from the Original Bullfrog Mine, the town of Bullfrog grew. It was the First---first town, the camp started out close to the mine, and months later after getting the First post office in the area, it moved the first time, about a mile and a half closer to Rhyolite (the third" camp" that began to form and grow.) Gaining the First phone lines here along the way, several months later it moved again to the present site at the Red Barn. Bullfrog town was still First, it had the First jail. Bullfrog had among it's first citizens, Senator William Stewart, one of the first senators from Nevada, who was instrumental in drafting the Mining Laws of 1872, and in getting Nevada admitted to the Union. Rhyolite continued to grow, becoming the third largest city in Nevada at the time. But Bullfrog dwindled, becoming a sort of suburb of Rhyolite.

This quote from the "Tonopah Times Bonanza"
November 26, 1904

"The original Bullfrog Mining Co. incorporated in Goldfield with "a capital of \$1,000,000 divided into one million shares of \$1. each with \$300,000 placed in the treasury." Company directors were J.W. McGalliard, president; F.C. Carlson; vice president; and Milton Detch, secretary and treasurer."

Gold and silver values were assayed at \$17.88 to \$3,085.58 per ton.

The Mine changed hands many times, until finally on March 26, 1937 it was incorporated into the Monument boundaries, when the Nevada Triangle was added to the Death Valley Monument, due to the discovery of the bones of the Titanotherium in 1935. At this time the claims were owned by "Wes" Westmoreland, who held title to them and the Rhyolite town site until his death, at which time his sister inherited them. After Mrs. Heisler died, the title of the claims went to Jim Spencer, who later sold to Angst Inc. Angst Inc. attempted to mine the claims again, however, our newer ways of gold extraction proved to be unfeasible and ownership has changed hands several times and at this point Barrick Gold Company is the current owner.

BEATTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

Minutes---July 10, 1995

Roll Call: Claudia Reidhead-Vonnie Gray-Ruth Green-Perry Forsyth-Mary Revert-Jane Cottonwood-Brian Monk-Carol Monk

Treasurer's Report: Membership total 36. Museum bank account balance \$400.00

Claudia opened the meeting inviting suggestions regarding Mary's idea of a fund raising event. After much discussion back and forth, all present agreed on the following points: The name of the fund raiser should be "Picnic in the Park" and the event will take place on August 12th starting at 6pm. As its name suggests, it will essentially be a picnic in the park. Food will be provided by *BMHS* hopefully through food donations organized largely by Jane Cottonwood. Tickets will be pre-sold at the following rates: Adults-\$5.00, Children up to age 12-\$3.00 and Children 3 and under-\$1.00. A temporary liquor license will be obtained for the duration of the event. Also, there will be music, dancing on the tennis court and a white elephant auction. Perry mentioned that his fiancée Carla may be willing to make a sizable donation of goods required for the white elephant auction though nothing was yet finalized on that matter. To better advertise the event, it was suggested that Darlene would assist in placing flyers in with the newspaper and that signs should be posted around town. Future fund raising events may include a talent show in winter. Claudia reminded members that she has a script for a play originally written in the 1940's by Floy Bates. It was suggested that we may approach Beatty High School's drama coach at some later date to produce the play.

An idea was put forward concerning greeting and occasion cards. It was suggested we need birthday cards for members printed and designed by Bill & Zettia Miller for the Society. That led to the idea of printing occasion and greeting cards for sale to the public in order to raise more funds. Claudia is currently checking to see how viable a proposition this is.

Black & White copies of *BMHS*'s first newsletter became available last week and was well received with a couple of suggestions put forth. First, that a small fee should be charged for the newsletter copies and second, a membership application be attached on the back for new membership.

Brian Monk raised the question of International Membership. A higher fee should be charged somewhere in the \$50-\$75 range per family. For this they would receive a brochure telling them the goals of the *BMHS* together with photographs etc. During the course of the year they would receive updates which hopefully will encourage them to return and to renew.

It was suggested that any donation of either cash and/or goods totaling over \$100.00 should be recognized with a thank-you card and an honorary mention in the newsletter.

The Department of Taxation is scheduled to be at the Community Center, Beatty, NV on July 20th between 9am and 12pm. Since the Society has certain questions it wishes to raise, Mary Revert and Ruthiana Green agreed to attend on behalf of the Society.

Final suggestion, that the Museum should organize a self-guided tour for tourists visiting the area. Again it would be some form of brochure containing a map and a detailed history of the buildings and sites in and around Beatty. To compliment this, the buildings and sites so listed should bear a plaque carrying information concerning it's historical value.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Minutes---July 24, 1995

Roll Call: Vonnie Gray-Mary Revert-Beverly Coffee-Perry Forsyth-Claudia Reidhead

Open discussion on Charter Update.

A special meeting will be held August 7th to finalize the "picnic in the park" plans.

Concerning the "picnic in the park," Richard Dunsterville has volunteered to provide the music. Local jam session with dancing on the tennis court. Society is looking for someone to handle children games. Some items are now available for the white elephant auction including two ink drawings by N. Aleon.

Discussion held on plaques for walking tour. Suggested that Claudia write script for walking tour and approach home owners about purchasing plaques.

Discussion held on placing copies of Charter & Newsletter at picnic.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- ◆ Anonymous-George Probasco bank check, Bullfrog Bank & Trust Co., Beatty, Nevada
- ◆ Ralph & Chloe Lisle, Beatty, NV, Oil painting portrait of Renee Gibson (Postmistress of Beatty for 40 years)
- ◆ Bill & Zettia Miller, Long Beach, CA, Gibraltar Mines Syndicate stock certificate, two photo post cards of Rhyolite train depot, one photo post card of Rhyolite bottle house.
- ◆ Boyd & Norman Reidhead, Las Vegas, NV, 1906 drill press from the Mayflower mine, previously owned by Fred Davies, Beatty, NV.
- ◆ Revert Enterprises, Beatty, NV, Sep 1972 copy of Beatty Burro Express (Burro Races) Newspaper.

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN *BMHS*