

Beatty



Museum

and Historical Society

Vol.6 No.6

NEWSLETTER

NOV-DEC 2000



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE



MINING DISTRICT

A Message from the President Mary Revert

Hello Everyone:

Well, it's Holiday time again and time to catch you up on what has happened through the year. A lot has been accomplished, but there is a lot more that needs to be done.

We are in our own building now and Kanna has done a lot of work there. We were in by Railroad Days. We had a lot of work to do to get in by that time. The Beatty Chamber took over part of the work for Railroad Days and it came off pretty well. Much better than if the few of us who do most of the work, could have done while repairing and cleaning the building. The building has been fenced and a handicap ramp has been poured. Right now Kanna is installing steel doors on the back of the building. We are getting ready to have a clean up day to finish the yard. A little help would be appreciated from locals as it is a pretty big job.

We haven't heard yet on the grants that we have applied for to help us financially. We hope to hear soon.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season. Mary

A MESSAGE FROM CLAUDIA

Hi Folks:

First I want to wish you all a very Happy Holiday. I hope you like the history section this time.

Things have been moving right along at the Museum. Mary has really gotten a lot done this year. Since she took over in February, we are in the new building and it looks really good. Thanks in large part to Kanna who has done a lot of it alone with little or no help.

We are still open by appointment, but hopefully we can get a few volunteers to help keep it open with regular hours soon. We will be getting the heater in soon, and

now that summer has left us, winter has made it seem very cold in the building.

The new steel doors in the back of the building helps a lot and if things go well, soon we should have wrought iron on the windows. The building is really looking up.

The Museum and Beta Mu have been working together in Rhyolite, and with the help of BLM, are saving a lot of the town. The Bottle House will soon have a new roof if the contractor can find time to come from Tonopah to do the job. After the last rain, when Rhyolite flooded so badly, a lot of artifacts washed up and Suzy and Riley have been busy cataloging the treasures and repairing the damage to the streets and buildings.

From my heart to yours, A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.
Claudia

"THE THINGS WE MAY NEVER SEE"

by
Pastor Jeff Taguchi

Isaiah the prophet wrote "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah ministered from 740 to 680 BC over 700 years before the birth of Christ. The person he was prophesying about he would never meet on earth, neither would the people he was prophesying to. But some of the greatest blessings are those that we don't see. Simply put, because we don't see something, doesn't mean it isn't there.

The holiday season is upon us. Preparations are being made, gifts are being bought and children are frantically putting their wish lists together. (Adults are putting their wish lists together too) But in all of the preparations, there is an unseen One who without Him, Christmas would be meaningless. I don't think the greatest blessings in life are material but spiritual.

The birth of Jesus Christ is the most significant event of history. Though he was born, lived, crucified and raised long before we were born, his love for us is an unseen

blessing for us today. For through a relationship with Him we will never know need. Though we may experience loss we will never know hopelessness. Though we may experience rough times, we will never know loneliness. Though our physical lives come to an end, we will finally know eternal peace.

Throughout this holiday season, there are many people who are living their lives without the unseen blessing of the Lord. The Christmas season has no real meaning. The stress of performing to a standard and meeting a level of expectation is more of a burden than a blessing. I can only quote the words of Jesus when He said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:29,30

None of us witnessed the birth of Christ. We never heard Him teach in the presence of His disciples. We never saw Him heal the paralytic. We didn't witness the resurrection of Lazarus. What we do have is an empty tomb and the potentiality of having a full and meaningful life if we trust in Him. "I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly." John 10:10

The holiday season is upon us, and how you and I spend that holiday can make a difference not only in our lives, but in the lives of others. Though we may never have seen the Lord, we can certainly experience His blessing in our lives. I hope that you SEE that this Christmas.

Merry Christmas

Pastor Jeff Taguchi

HAPPY HOLIDAYS IN THE CAMPS

by
Claudia Reidhead

The Holidays in the camps were rather a bleak time the first year here. Everyone was living in tents and the North wind howled and the bitter rains kept most everyone in when they weren't working the prospects and mines that were beginning to develop. The saloons were the center of social life and they were very

boisterous.

The following year, 1905, things were looking up. Families had begun to arrive and money was flowing. Lumber has started to come in and houses ready to be built. Still most people were living in tents, but most had wood walls which blocked most of the winds and were a bit dryer when the rains came. Churches and social clubs had been built in the various camps. As people prepared for the holidays, things were much different. The stores were selling clothing and small gifts as fast as they could get them in. Jewelers were doing a brisk business. The social clubs set up a few holiday traditions, such as the Christmas Bush. In Rhyolite, there were no evergreen (pine) available and most wood for fires had to be hauled from the grapevines, so they chose a large creosote bush that was still growing near the center of town, and decorated it with ribbons and pieces of yarn or cloth. The ladies made dolls and small toys for the children of the town and Father Christmas gave them out the evening before Christmas. The day was spent going from house to tent wishing each other a happy Christmas and there were dances in all of the club houses. The Miners Union had a large hall and there was a Christmas ball that was well attended. In fact, most everyone in town stopped at least once during the evening. All of the hotels had music and special menus were provided in all the restaurants.

The ladies tried to make sure that every child in camp had a toy or gift and as I said, they made most of the toys themselves. Clothes were a big thing as they were a badly needed item in the camps. Luxuries like jewelry came near the top for the ladies.

The holidays were so much happier this year (1905) than the year before, that even the menus for the previous year were remembered tongue in cheek (see last years newsletter). The food for the hotels and restaurants was becoming more exotic. Along with the simple fare of turkey and ham, pies and cakes, they were serving fresh (?) Oysters, salmon, fresh imported fruits and veggies, and salads were also the order of the day. There were a few people who were struggling and their holiday was a bit less exuberant than was considered the norm that year. But all had a good time. The churches that were being built were very well attended and the Christmas Services were all upbeat and filled with the hope of a continued prosperous time.

Christmas 1906 was really a glorious time. Everyone was doing well, the mines were producing, the LV&T Railroad had arrived, the luxuries from the last year were easier to get and store bought toys were the norm in most households. Tents were no longer the primary housing and the fare at the restaurants was still exotic. But most people had settled into a quieter mode. The exuberance was toned down a bit. There were still balls at the union hall. The social clubs had their separate celebrations. The less fortunate were fed and gifted. This year the creosote bush was decorated with more than bits of ribbon and cloth. There were even some treasured ornaments that had been brought from "home." The hotels had gas heat and although the winds blew from the North, the shelter provided by wooden walls, carefully sealed and plastered in the inside and heated were a great protection. Times really had become much better. The churches were growing in importance, the school was being built to replace the several one room houses that were in current use. The phenomenal growth had slowed down, but was still enough that people were still optimistic, after all, the horrible earthquake in San Francisco hadn't really shut them down as was feared at first. Ore was being shipped out weekly from the mines. Money was still good.

Christmas 1907 found the populations starting to dwindle and money was a bit tighter as the mines were starting to fail. Slowly one mine after another was being forced to close. The celebrations were not quite as wild and the towns were quieter. The creosote bush was still the focal point of the celebration and the ball at the Miners Union was still the one to attend. But quiet celebrations were more the way to spend the holiday, at home with the family. Churches were bulging at the seams, but the frenzied pace of the last few years had slowed. By Christmas 1907, the town of Pioneer had taken on a larger population and was the town of choice for many. Rhyolite was settling down to become the grand dame of communities. Pioneer was the exuberant child.

Beatty was still the travel and supply center and the celebrations here were still boisterous because we had all three railroads and a lot of the miners families were an important part of the holidays. Balls were held in the various hotels around the town. Churches were packed and the celebration centered around the tree that

had been brought in and set up at the park. Father Christmas handed out gifts to all the children of the town on Christmas Eve with the people wending their way to the balls and church services afterwards.

RIBITS FROM THE EDITOR Bullfrog Billy

Greetings once again. Another year is now in the history books. Six volumes of newsletters have now been completed. It seems like only yesterday that the Beatty Museum and Historical Society was in the talking stages. Since the grassroots start, lots of history has been made by the group. The most recent addition to the history books is the opening of the Museum in a building owned by the Museum. As you have read from Mary and Claudia on more than one occasion, keeping the Museum open on a regular basis requires the help of volunteers. That of course will have to be done by locals living in and around Beatty. For the large number of members who live outside the area, and there are a large number of members who live outside the state of Nevada, the best effort you can make in helping BMHS achieve their goals is by recruiting more members. There is strength in numbers, not only by more membership dues but also having the clout of a large membership roster to present to various organizations when applying for grants. There is an opportunity for each member to contribute to the success of the group, even if you can't physically be present for meetings and the various activities the group puts on every year. I urge every member to do whatever they can to help BMHS grow and become as familiar to tourists as the bigger established Museums.

This final issue of the year is presented with the Holiday Season as the focal point. We are delighted to present our traditional seasonal message from Pastor Jeff Taguchi. Thank you Jeff for once again contributing to the newsletter and helping us to get properly focused during the season. Claudia has once again given us a great history section with a trip through time during the holiday season. Great job again by our resident historian. And just for the fun of it, somebody hung a piece of mistletoe over the cute little pin up boy on the front cover. Shucks, that would put a twinkle in your eye, no matter what time of year it is.....RIBIT!