

Beatty



Museum

and Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2002

GREENWATER



Inside this issue..... Brief History of Greenwater
Suzy's Jamboree Report
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and much much more.....

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Revert

Hello Everyone,

There has really been a lot happening around the Museum lately.

I want to extend my thanks to Barbara and Roger Piatt for the all their hard work researching the history of the Comfort Stove that we have in the Museum. Barbara's wonderful presentation was very well done and made it easy for all to understand. Thanks again

Thank you also to Tom and Erlene Shipman for the mannequins to display the vignettes in front of the museum and for the collection of antique clocks ranging from the 1884 to 1924 time period.

If you haven't been to see the museum in a while it would be well worth the trip. New members and old are bringing treasures from our past. Jack Crowell placed in the museum a telegraphers key with the international code. Jack's friend, William Hall's Grandfather worked as ticket master for the LV & T in 1906, right in Beatty. Jack donated a switch box key from the T & T and a very rare stock certificate from Beatty. We have stock certificates from Bull Moose Mining Co., Beatty Mountain Mining Co., Indian Springs, Gold Coin Mining Co., Gold-Subway Mining and Milling Co., also copies of the original deeds for the purchase of the Cook Bank property, and the sale of the property a few years later. Jerry Lease, a long time resident of Beatty, who also is involved in mining here, brought another stove, it is a Bridge Beach & Co Stove, St. Louis, style Mohawk, enameled front legs and back either blue or gray depending on who you talk to; I say it's blue, Claudia says it's gray, so we comprised and will call the color blue-gray.

Some more special contributions to our Museum was a Beaded Buffalo Coat that belonged to "Buffalo" Charlie Utter, who lived in Deadwood, South Dakota, and was a friend of Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane. When you view the display look closely for the two bullet holes in the coat, they were expertly patched long ago. This generous display was contributed by Richard Crane. Richard also contributed a suspender clip he found in the desert.

Leon Abrams brought a collection of National Geographics as a donation to our resource center.

Thank you for all the fine Items you have donated to our little museum, you are making our little museum **GREAT**. Thanks again.

Remember your donations are tax deductible.

It was great to see our out of town members, Lynn and Ellis Vance, Barbara and Roger Piatt, Bill and Zettia Miller, Leon Abrams, Mr and Mrs Jim Walling, Sally Dennett and the Hoffmans. Also making the pilgrimage for the Rhyolite Jamboree, was Ted Faye, Ted is working on another Death Valley, Rhyolite project.

The Rhyolite Jamboree was a success, lots of people, food, and fun. Kim's "Fashion Through the Ages" show, was marvelous, she did

a great job, we are so proud of her.

Dave is back from the hospital, and on the job weekends at the museum. Our student curator Greg, puts in one hour a day, five days a week and could use some help if you have some spare time. The museum is now open seven days a week. Just for everyone's information, we had just over a thousand visitors from January 1st to May 1st. Volunteer hours were 392+ PUT IN BY FOUR PEOPLE. We need local volunteers to help us out. We should be open 6-8 hours a day, instead of four. Lately we have been there about 6 hours a day. Our Secretary, Julie Bowman puts in uncounted hours as does our Treasurer. These people, like all volunteers give their time and their labor because they love our town, our Museum and the study of our history.

We would like to invite you to come in and see our gift shop. We have just added a line of books and videos of Death Valley, Rhyolite, Beatty and the surrounding areas. We also have some videos brought in by Ted Faye on this area.

We welcome new members, Stanley Paher of Reno, Marjorie Bailey of Santa Barbara, CA and I.R. Systems of North Carolina.

The Museum extends our deepest sympathy to John and Libby Bass on the loss of Sheila, Wife and Mother. Although she wasn't a member, she supported our Museum from the inception and if we needed anything, she was first in line for a donation. We will miss her dearly.

Take care until next time.....Mary

RIBITS FROM THE EDITOR-BULLFROG BILLY

Are you ready for the most RIBITacious bafflefest ever? I didn't think so, but such is the life of the editor. Here goes: Let me start by adding a late piece of sad news that I received after Mary had written her column. I'm sure the Museum and all members will allow me to offer on their behalf, our heartfelt sympathy to Suzy McCoy, whose Dad passed away recently, and also to Riley McCoy. Suzy, you are a trooper deluxe. Getting the Jamboree organized and also having to care for your Dad has been a big job but I'm certain a labor of love beyond what any of us can comprehend. You gotta know how much we all appreciate what you've done and also admire your diligence during this most difficult time. Riley, you gotta know what a lucky guy you are to have a partner like Suzy.

This issue contains a great article by Claudia on Greenwater and I thank you Claudia for another fine job. Claudia also contributed another set of newsletter tidbits for us to enjoy. Dave Lottman gives us the latest treasury report and Suzy McCoy checks in with a Jamboree report. To keep right up to date on the latest news, please visit both www.rhyolitesite.com and www.beattymuseum.com as Suzy continues to do a great job with those web sites.

Zettia and I truly enjoyed our visit to Beatty during the Rhyolite Jamboree. It had been 10 months since our previous visit. Let me tell you something, the progress made at the Beatty Museum in that 10 month interval is nothing short of amazing. If a 10 scale were a measure of progress, then the Museum was a 5 in June of 2001 and as of April 2002 it is a 9+ and at the current rate of progress and the firm plans in place for the future, it will go over the top in the not to distant future. If I had no other reason to do this newsletter other than seeing the progress at the Museum, that alone would be more than plenty of a reason. However, there are a lot more reasons than the Museum. Those reasons are people. Every trip to Beatty allows us the opportunity to meet either new people involved with the Museum or actually have some time to visit with long time friends. This recent trip allowed us the privilege of both. We got to meet Dave Lottman who has done so much for the Museum and his recent surgeries have done nothing to stop his work or enthusiasm. We also got to do something other than say "hello, how are you?" to a long time friend, Mary Revert. We actually had time to spend visiting with Mary at the Museum. Mary's enthusiasm, warmth and kindness is a real inspiration. Mary will be the first to tell you about how others have been such a big help, but we also want all the members to know that Mary is a big part of the reason why BMHS is a success. I salute you Mary, not only as a friend but also for all you've done for the Museum. My own personal motto for telling people about the Beatty Museum: "The Best Little Museum on this here Planet, period."

The 2002 Rhyolite Jamboree was really a treat. The "just the facts, Mam" report is provided by Suzy, but you also need a "just the Ribits, buddy" report, so let me start by saying **THANK YOU** Suzy for a magnificent job. I know you had help from a great many people that need recognition also, but you were the Captain(ette) of the great ship "Jamboree." What great music provided by a wide variety of performers, starting on Friday night along with the great Lions Club Bar-B-Q. Lots of vendors provided a variety of items for sale and a variety of food and beverages. Gunfights, dance exhibitions, fashion shows, gold panning contests, movies at the Depot and so much more. In fact, there was so much to see I never had the opportunity to visit Vonnie Gray, who was the "school teacher" at the Rhyolite School. Hi Vonnie, I know you did a great job. Next time, I'll be sure and visit the School House, but I have a legitimate excuse (RIBIT) for this time. I stopped by the "Kiss A Chick, Save A Depot" booth on Golden Street and my oh my, the Angel Ladies held me hostage and I just couldn't get away. (RIBIT) Of course Zettia took some incriminating photos of me trying desperately to get away, which means next year I'm not allowed on Golden Street. I finally got to meet Ted Faye at the Jamboree. We've communicated for a long time by telephone and actually live less than an hour apart and it was great fun to finally visit with Ted. Ted presented all 3 of his videos in the Depot over the Jamboree weekend. All 3 of these videos **BELONG IN YOUR LIBRARY**. Ted is currently working on a major project for Public Television and rumor has it (and it came from me, so it is a good rumor) that he also plans on doing a video on Beatty & Rhyolite. So go to www.goldcreekfilms.com and get all the details on how to obtain all 3 of the currently available videos. Nothing like a bowl of popcorn, a tall glass of your favorite beverage and watching a Ted Faye video on a warm summer evening. You can also email Ted from his web site if you have questions and be sure to tell him

the Frog sent ya. Nice to see Alan Patera again. He had a booth displaying his great publication, "Western Places." If you are not a subscriber by now, might just as well get started by contacting Alan at P.O. Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035. You can also contact Alan by email: patera@teleport.com or by phone (503) 635-1379 for subscription information. The latest issue is "Funeral Mountains, Mining Camps and Mines." Back issues are available at a discount to subscribers and you'll have some great reading for the summer. Sharing the booth with Alan was Norm Wyers, who has authored a great book, "Just Nosin' Around with Gus, A Common Man's Odyssey." I've read it, you'll want to. A nice section on Rhyolite with some great photos. You can order this book through "Western Places" at the address above.

So there you have it. All the information you'll need for enjoyable viewing and reading this summer and now I'll let you get started with this latest BMHS issue. Stay healthy and cool this summer and Zettia and I look forward to seeing you soon, but of course we'll wait until the triple digit weather passes.....RIBIT!

RHYOLITE JAMBOREE 2002 by Suzy McCoy

The Beatty Museum and Beta Mu hosted the Rhyolite Jamboree on April 6th and 7th 2002 that brought more than 5000 visitors into the townsite. Visitors enjoyed over 50 vendors, good food, bluegrass music, country music and we even had a train that ran up and down Golden Street. The Bureau of Land Management was there helping out wherever they were needed. Ted Faye conducted the Railroad Symposium to the delight of everyone who viewed his new film "The Great Desert Railroad Race." Ted is currently working on a documentary for Rhyolite and Beatty, an idea that developed at the Jamboree. We accomplished what we set out to do. The purpose was to bring National attention to the townsite. I have since been informed that the funds are being processed for the rehabilitation of the Bottle House and the Railroad Depot. Of course that does not mean that it will be done tomorrow, but we are on our way. Thank you to all that helped and attended. We could not have done it without you. I have been asked about a Jamboree for next year. I can't answer that right now as I'm not sure this will be an annual event.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT by Suzy McCoy

The Beatty Museum is now a 501(c)3 organization! This means that your donations are tax deductible. So for those of you that need tax deductions in the future, setting up a living trust or gift trust is a possibility. You receive deductions on a yearly basis and the Museum benefits as well and will be able to grow and carry on their mission to the community and visitors from out of state. For more information on gift trusts or tax deductible gifts to the Beatty Museum, contact Suzy McCoy or Mary Revert at the Beatty Museum and Historical Society.

Visit me at:

<http://www.rhyolitesite.com>

<http://www.rhyolitejamboree.com> or

<http://www.beattymuseum.com>

GREENWATER - DEATH VALLEY, CA

BY

CLAUDIA REIDHEAD

It has been said many times that the desert mining camps are intertwined. Take Greenwater for instance. Although the first claims filed on the copper ledges there were in the 1870's, the camps (there were several of them) didn't come into being until 1901-1909 and the financiers were many that were backing Goldfield and Rhyolite. Charles Schwab, the "Copper King" Patsy Clark and "Borax" Smith. Also several big names from Alaska and Wall Street in New York.

The most important part of Greenwater was its strange history. Like a lot of the history of the desert, these towns were very dry (water-not alcohol). There were a few very wealthy financiers who were adept at reading the land and a whole lot that were adept at reading the labels on the bottles of hootch that were available. Patsy Clark was one that was adept at reading the land as were the people hired by Charles Schwab. Both of these financiers were able to read the mood of the market and were wonderful promoters. Another financier for this area was E. A. "Bob" Montgomery, of the Shoshone-Montgomery Mine of Rhyolite and Beatty, Nevada.

Greenwater was a town so far from water, that it was charged as high as \$17.00 a barrel for water and had a population of nearly 1000, and like several of the camps, had two or three locations. In fact, Greenwater itself had two locations the first six weeks. Old Greenwater and new Greenwater were about a mile apart. It was said that you walked a mile uphill in the morning to get your mail and a mile downhill in the evening to get a clean pair of socks. One enterprising gent set up a couple of barrels with a plank across and sold whiskey at night and coffee in the morning to appeal to the people moving from one town to the other. Greenwater Valley became the home of several towns: Greenwater, Furnace, Greater Greenwater, Copperfield, Greenwater Willow Creek and a couple of others. All were promoted on both the San Francisco and New York Stock Exchanges. The copper frenzy lasted from 1904 til 1909 with promoters always touting the riches of the copper ledges. In truth, over the years there was very little actual ore production. The total recorded ore production was \$2,625.09. But millions were made and spent on the promotion of the mines of the area.

Ralph "Dad" Fairbanks, who owned a spring in the Ash Meadows area and some ground in Amargosa Canyon, moved his family to Greewater in 1905. He moved back to Amargosa Canyon in 1907 and started the town of Shoshone, which became known as the metropolis of Eastern Inyo County. Along with his future son-in-law Charles Brown, they made a comfortable life along the T & T rail lines.

Another interesting personality that settled in Greenwater for the duration (almost) was Diamond Tooth Lil who arrived there in late 1905 and left in late 1906 with the one day editor of the infamous Death Valley Chuck-Walla, Billy Robinson. Because it was a slow news day, Billy took the event of a large society ball in New York City and put the names of the local society elite in place of the New York City elite, thereby incensing the local matrons and their spouses. Billy was sentenced to hang for this transgression, and

escaping, ran to "Lil's" house and she realized that the locals thought no more of her than of him, so she hitched up her carriage and they left town in the dark of the night. Just as a point of interest, Diamond Tooth Lil came by her name honestly. She had a table cut diamond mounted in an upper incisor that really flashed when she smiled and she smiled a lot, just to show it off. Lil was a much larger than normal woman who had the corseted wasp waist of the turn of the century. A striking lady to behold, so it is said. She was a renowned lady of the evening (prostitute) of the mining camps of Southern Nevada and the Death Valley District.

Most of the miners and citizens of Greenwater were also citizens of the Rhyolite, Bullfrog and Beatty area of Southern Nevada. Shorty Harris of Bullfrog was also involved in Greenwater as was Death Valley Scotty and several other of the more notorious prospectors of Death Valley and the Amargosa. The most interesting ones were always the independent ones like Shorty, Billy, Diamond Lil and Scotty, but the most prosperous ones were the enterprising ones like Bob Montgomery and his brothers, Charles Schwab, Patsy Clark and Borax Smith. These men were wealthy to start and finished even wealthier, but being true gamblers, managed to build and lose several fortunes in the wastes of the Mojave Desert. It is said of Greenwater, that in a western land of mining stock swindles, it was "the monumental swindle of the century."

The people and the mines are what made the mystery of the desert so appealing to the world and the mystery remains. The wonder at how these enterprising miners performed the logistical feats of making the monumental mines and mills that litter the desert, in the various mining camps. How did they discover the treasures of the desert in the first place? How did they figure the depth and amount of the ores that were in a specific area? How did they get the huge timbers that were used to shore up the walls of the mines and to make the huge crusher bins? The metal that was used for spikes and drills and all the other necessities of life out here where there was very little of the elixir of life, water. Where a man requires 2-4 gallons of water a day just to live, and a burro, mule or horse needs 5-15 gallons per day to survive. The wonder of it all is as glorious as the marvelous desert sunrises and sunsets.

TREASURY REPORT by Dave Lottman

We started the year with \$1163.48 and all bills for 2001 paid and current. February: \$1202.00 all bills are current. March: \$2233.55 all bills are current. April: \$1342.23 all bills current. During the first four months of the year we purchased a new fax machine and printer: \$494.14. We purchased books on Rhyolite, Death Valley and Beatty for \$1017.00 which we have sold about one half. VCR tapes on Death Valley and Beatty were purchased and the books and tapes have a good 40% profit margin. The membership drive in February was a success which added new members and money to our coffers. The sign downtown was repaired and repainted at a cost of \$150.00, looks great and should add to our attendance at the Museum. Donations have been up from last year and are helping to pay our monthly bills.

BEATTY BULLFROG MINER TIDBITS

Beatty Bullfrog Miner, May 13, 1905

FIRST DEATH IN BEATTY

Last Monday May 8th, Captain E. G. Keogh Dwyer died suddenly of heart failure. He had been ailing for some years. The Captain was an Englishman who had seen service in the British Army in Soudan and India. He came to this country about 14 years ago. During the Spanish War, he served as an officer at the New York Recruiting Station. Captain Dwyer had been in Beatty about six months and was very well liked. In that time he invested capital in the camp and had he lived, would have gone East to dispose of some property among friends in New York and Boston. Mrs. Dwyer was notified of his death and she telegraphed to have the interment here. The short Episcopal service was read by Judge Sexton while the ladies of the town furnished the music. He was buried in a plat one mile south of Beatty. The Captain was 45 years old and besides a wife, leaves two children, a boy and girl who are in England. His home was in Brooklyn, New York, where his wife resides. Mrs. E. A. Montgomery is entitled to much credit for aid rendered in making preparations for the funeral.

Beatty Bullfrog Miner, June 6, 1905

DECORATION

The Sunday School Children and those interested in the Sunday School of Beatty, met at Mrs. Gibson's and marched in a body to the cemetery and grave of Captain E. G. Keogh Dwyer, which was handsomely decorated with native flowers. Several views were taken by Mrs. Wooding, some of which will be sent to New York to Mrs. Keogh Dwyer.

Beatty Bullfrog Miner, May 20, 1905

BEATTY BRIEFS

J. R. Marshall is building a residence to the west of Montgomery Street. The new school house will also be used for church purposes.

Bruss and Clark of Beatty Meat Market will build a new "dobe shop"

Put your want ads in the Miner—two lines for 25 cents.

Sexton and McDonald are building an addition to their office on Main Street.

A tent on Main Street burned early Monday morning, igniting from the stovepipe.

A town hall 30X40 feet will be built on Montgomery Streets, Beatty.

Mr. H. Jeffery arrived here Saturday, from San Francisco to visit his

son who is interested here.

Look at the cool green trees around Postmasters Beatty's house, then plant a few yourself.

Post Office Inspector D. C. Chance of Reno has been in this district a few days on business.

Good prospecting outfit for sale reasonable—inquire Gold Center.

Part of the lumber has arrived for The Beatty Hotel and it will be open for guests in about thirty days.

S. N. Johnson says the baseball uniforms have arrived and a game will be arranged for Sunday.

The Beatty Mercantile Co., R. M. Potter, manager, has opened a store on the corner of Third and Watson.

During the months of June, July and August, travel over the desert will be done mainly at night to avoid the heat.

R. T. Culpepper sold the North half of lot #7 to Garrison and Flake, who are building an assay office.

Beatty will celebrate July 4th in the green river valley under the trees near Postmaster Beatty's residence. All other camps are invited to join.

The new Montgomery residence will be 50X50 feet constructed of stone and contain nine rooms. The site on Main Street has already been graded.

A reliable stone mason has informed the Miner that there is a great quarry of good building rock one mile North East of Beatty, which should be used in erecting permanent buildings.

Mr. Floyd Brock departed for Las Vegas this week, to devote his energies in the interest of J. E. Green & Co. toward hurrying up several large shipments that have been for some time due.

The Bishop Creek Power Company will soon furnish electric power to the camps of the district. Messrs. Gilford Wood and C. M. Hobbs of the company have been looking over the field during the last week.

Mrs. Herring, recently the successful manager of the Watson Hotel in Goldfield, has erected a tent lodging house 30X60 on Montgomery Street between First and Second. Mrs Herring states the "Argyle" will contain 30 cots.

Beatty Townsite Company have had eight men and a team at work repairing the road between Beatty and Gold Center. Six other men are at work grading the streets of the City. Montgomery street has been graded for automobiles.

MORE TIDBITS NEXT ISSUE