

Beatty



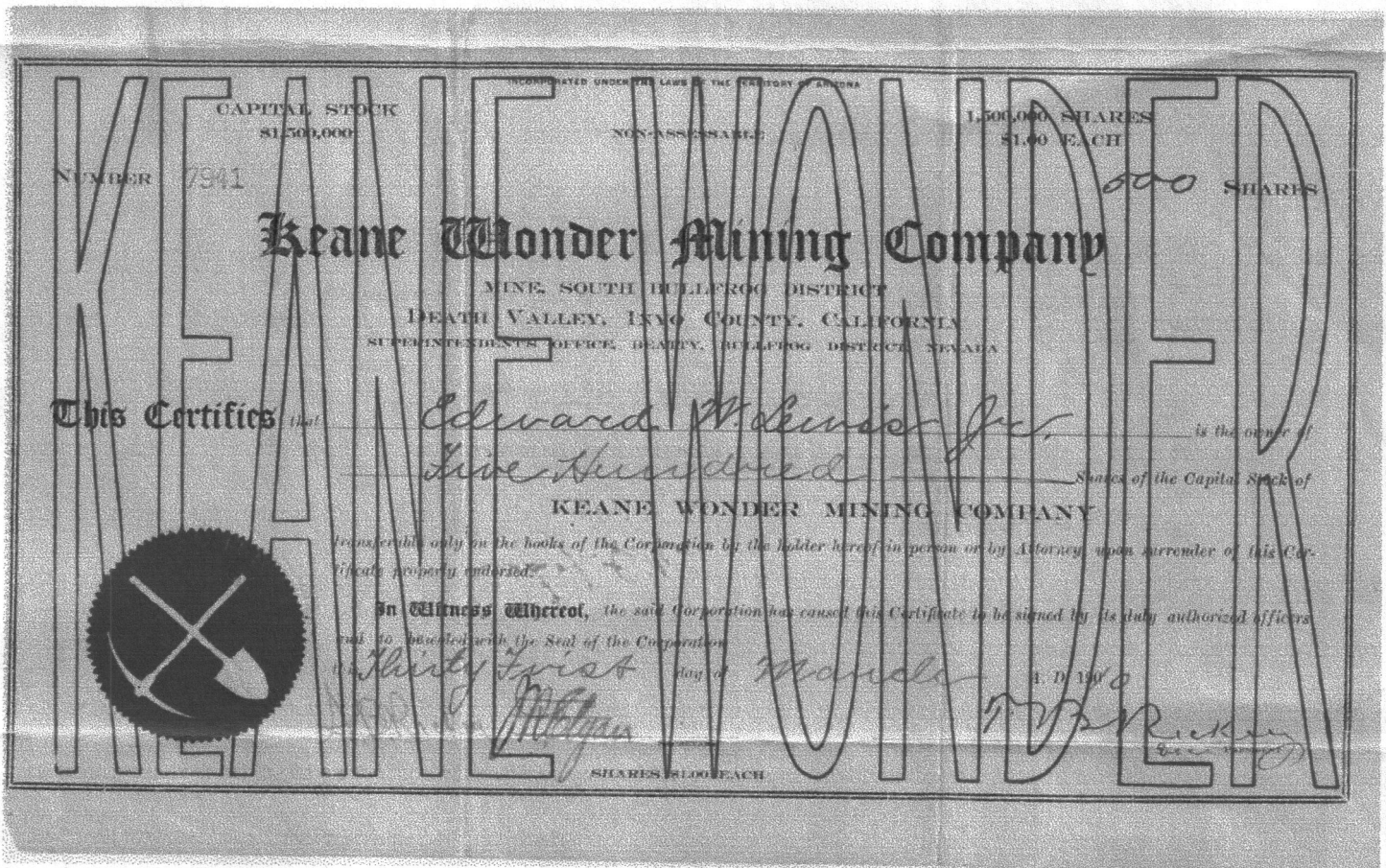
Museum

and Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2003



Certificate Courtesy of Bill Miller

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Revert

Hello Again:

Once again, it has been awhile since I've talked to you. Lots to report.

First, we did get the grant to do the building addition and it has been completed with a move-in target date of March 1st. THANK YOU Les and crew, although Thank You seems so insignificant when I look at what you have accomplished. Thanks also to Bobby, Tom and Erlene for helping set and paint the rails in the new building. The rails and floor look great.

Thanks to new member Mary Ann Medlock for taking care of the front and customers while we have been working in the new building. While we are at it, welcome to new members Richard Medlock, Larry Moog, Daniel Dinsmore, Richard Metz, Robin Flinchum, Margaret Anderson and Kitt Duladen.

I am sorry that I missed seeing Bill and Zettia when they were here for Valentines Day. I was out of town but thanks so much for the photos. It was good to see Leon, even if only for an hour or so.

Claudia is working on entering everything into the new "Past Perfect" program, a slow process, but will be worth the effort when finished. We will be getting the new computers (3 of them) from Valley Electric this March, around the 15th.

We are looking for help in cleaning out and fixing up the back room. We need someone to do some cement work to make the back door access handicap accessible. HELP!

More Thank You's for the labor provided by Hoss, James Riley, Tom Valdez, Tom and Erlene who came to help put the display cabinet in the new room. Dwight "Toby" Tobin is doing the mural for the Indian display in the new addition

At one of two unofficial meetings in February, the Board decided on the exterior paint. It will be moss agate green with green pinion trim. Les has volunteered

to paint it. Purchase of display materials will be made from the \$2,000 left in our building fund. Chamber of Commerce wants us to do a small display at the new kiosk in front of the Chamber office. Ideas Please!

Again, thanks to all who have helped, please come visit your Museum and if you live here, please volunteer to help us. We need you.

Mary

RIBITS FROM THE EDITOR-BULLFROG BILLY

We begin Volume 9 of the newsletter. Amazing how time flies when we think back to Volume 1 Number 1. Claudia has penned an article, "Reminiscing," that will help new members understand the early "grass roots" effort and bring us all right up to speed on progress with the Museum. Claudia also contributes our history section, "Keane Wonder," as well as an article on "Panamint Annie." Claudia is the "soul and inspiration" of this newsletter and all I can say is "Thanks" for all your contributions since day one.

A big Thank You goes to Suzy McCoy for her fine work on Microfilm to CD Project. You will get just a touch of that effort in this issue as we use an article from the Beatty Bullfrog Miner newspaper. Also, great work on www.beattymuseum.com. Be sure to take a look, it is all new and all wonderful.

Zettia and I recently visited Beatty and Rhyolite during the Valentine's Day weekend. In a word, "Marvelous," is the only way to describe the progress at the Museum. We saw the beautiful addition to the Museum. It was complete but empty. Our next door neighbors visited Beatty just 30 days later and the addition was full of displays. That requires hard work, dedication and genuine love for the Museum. Of course, over the years of visiting Beatty and meeting all the wonderful people that live there, we've become quite familiar with what hard work, dedication and genuine love is all about.

Okay, enough croakins from yours truly, enjoy this issue and until the next time, stay well.....**RIBIT!**

KEANE WONDER by Claudia Reidhead

Looking for silver in the Funeral Mountains in the January cold of 1904, Jack Keane and his partner Domingo Etcharren, a couple of Death Valley miners from Ballarat, were prospecting on the Death Valley side of the Funerals. They were sort of heading for Chloride Cliff when they found and located a small claim of silver lead. Etcharren decided to leave and on the way out, spotted a small blow out of quartz. He told Keane to check it out before he left. On April 5th, Keane did take a look at it and finding it to be rich in free gold, made out a claim notice and headed for Furnace Creek Ranch, where he borrowed a horse and headed for Ballarat and Etcharren with the news of the strike. From Ballarat, the word was telegraphed to Jos. De Lamar. He summoned H. Cohen from Alaska to examine the property. Within five weeks of discovery, Keane and Etcharren had De Lamar's check for \$10,000 as down payment for the property with a one year option for \$160,000. Thus began a rush for Chloride that was soon overshadowed by the discovery of GOLD at Bullfrog.

In early 1906, John F. Campbell took an option on the property for \$250,000, forming the Keane Wonder Mining Company, with Keane standing as President, Etcharren as Secretary and 1.5 million shares half as treasury stock. By spring 1907, Campbell had worked the shares up to .50 on the blocked out ore. In August he sold the controlling interest to Homer Wilson, who moved his family to the mine and began to make it work, building a twenty stamp mill and a mile long aerial tramway to move the ore from the mine to the mill. Mr Wilson made the Keane Wonder a paying proposition.

Keane Wonder was a wonder. It survived for several years, was still comfortably supporting the Wilson Family when the tourists started arriving in Death Valley. Operations finally closed in the 1920's.

PANAMINT ANNIE by Claudia Reidhead

Panamint Annie was a woman prospector who preferred the deserts and mountains to the town life, who raised

here children on the desert, in the mining camps and prospecting camps of Death Valley. She lived the life she preferred until her youngest son came of school age. The older ones had gone to school, by living with family in Southern California, when the youngest reached school age and there was no one to take them so she decided they would settle down. They moved into a hodge podge shack on the edge of the desert in the town of Beatty, Nevada. The kids went to school and Annie eked out a living for them selling homemade jelly, crocheted hats, jewelry that she designed and car repair jobs that she could get. Annie was an excellent mechanic. This let the kids go to school and get the education they needed to survive in the modern world.

Summers were spent in the mountains and hills of the Mojave desert around the edges of Death Valley looking for gold and finding the peace of the desert. Mary Elizabeth White, a.k.a. Panamint Annie, was the thoroughly modern woman, thirty years before the modern woman climbed out of the kitchen and went to work in a factory.

Annie, with her colorful vocabulary and independent ways, had often scandalized the staid presses of the era, her wild bohemian ways of freedom from society's mores would send the tongues wagging, but she didn't care about the wagging tongues. She did care for family and friends with a passion few could match. Annie was well educated for a woman of her time and taught her children both the ways of nature and the ways of the book. Scrupulously honest, in all ways, Annie was respected for her habit of calling a spade a spade and for her way of repaying every thing that she owed from a bar for a beer to the people who grubstaked her. If she did not find mineral on a given trip, she would work for and with the person until her grubstake was repaid.

She often fed her children on rattlesnake, rabbit stew or various edible plants when times were hard, as they often were. Annie never once thought of returning to the family she had left in the East. When she arrived here in the desert, Annie was severely ill with TB. Not expecting to live long, she went out into the desert and learned to prospect and find mineral from a group of three old time prospectors who were very protective of her and later of her children. Annie's lungs were slow to heal, but clean dry air and hard work healed them.

Throughout the years, Annie did find a few good mines that would pay her well and the family would live good for a while. Like most mines here, they would often fail after a short time.

Annie passed away from cancer and was buried in the Rhyolite cemetery in 1979. Annie had lived her life independent and free and lived by her own code. Women - Equality? Annie always thought she was equal. She worked as hard as a man, lived as free as a man and never asked anyone to do for her when she could do for herself. She was strong physically and emotionally and carried her rough edged life with an honesty and grace that few have matched.

JUST REMINISCING by Claudia Reidhead

As we enter the 21st century at the Museum and as we enter all the information from the past years into the new computer program, I am drawn to remember all the wonderful things that have happened to us and all the wonderful people who have supported us for a while and moved on, and all who supported us and stayed. The names, each one conjures up a face, or a piece of information that would have been lost if not for this person or that.

We have so much to be grateful for here at the Museum. We have Bill and Zettia Miller, who have been with us producing this wonderful newsletter, first Bi-Monthly and now quarterly. They have published and typeset this newsletter out of their own pocket for all of this time, just because they love the history of the area.

Roger and Barbara Piatt, who travel out here two times a year, just to enjoy the wonders of the desert. Their support at most of our functions has been unbelievable. Traveling all the way from Ohio to help us. Barb's uncanny talents with research and display can be seen in various places throughout the Museum.

Clint and Ellen Boehringer have been with us since day one as we moved from the first little 8' X 15' cottage that we started in, through the water office, to the new building and now as we expand with the new addition. They are still here smiling and encouraging us.

There are so many people who have helped, that it would be nearly impossible to bring up the specifics for each one. When we blend it into a whole, this Museum was really and truly built by the people who care for our history, whether they live here, just pass through or keep returning just to see how far we have come. This is truly a labor of love by all of you, for all of the generations to come. What a beautiful dream this has become.

Mary Revert, founder and current President, has worked very hard being there to keep the Museum open every day the past couple of years. Her husband Bob, has guided us through some pretty murky waters. Dave Lottman joined us about a year ago and is our Treasurer and valued friend. Those of us who have worked for and watched this from the first cup of coffee to the new expansion, are amazed and proud of where we have all come. Thank you ALL for sharing the dream.

BITS AND PIECES

Museum guests since January 1, 2003 - 675

Number of recent new members - 8

RECENT DONATIONS:

Three computers from Valley Electric.

Rhyolite Depot photos from Bill & Zettia.

Silver plate pitcher and candle light from Virginia Goodson.

Smithing tools from Jack Crowell.

Taken from the Bullfrog Miner, November 11, 1905

PIONEER WOMEN

Southern Nevada Home of the Early Days

Much has been written about the pioneer men of Southern Nevada, but the women-wives and mothers and sister-have almost been forgotten.

Perhaps the first white woman to settle in the Pahrump Valley was Mrs. Joseph Yount, who squatted at Manse with her family in 1876. In the spring of that year they had started from Oregon for Arizona. At Ash Meadows the Paiute Indians, under the leadership of the notorious "Horse Shoe EM.," killed their work horses to stop their progress and enable them to kill their cattle for food. Forced to a halt, the Yount family bought the Manse ranch from Jordan Bros., who had settled on it in 1875. Thus Mrs. Joseph Yount became the pioneer woman of Pahrump Valley.

Mr and Mrs Yount now reside in San Bernardino, the husband being 88 years of age and the wife 71 years. The couple were recently visited by Commissioner Fred Clark of the Federal Claims Bureau of Washington, who has been sent to investigate a claim made against the government eighteen years ago for \$700 for the horses killed by the Indians.

About the same date, 1876 Mr. And Mrs. Chas. Bennett came to reside on the Pahrump ranch. They removed to Mexico.

Mrs. C.W. Towner and her husband who accompanied the Younts from Oregon settled at Indian Creek and became the pioneer of that section. They built a home and raised vegetables and other products which they hauled to El Dorado Canyon and sold to the miners. For years their nearest neighbors were more than forty miles distant.

Mrs. Maudie White, wife of Harsha White, and daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Yount, must also be classed with the pioneers, for she came to the Manse ranch with her parents and has resided there ever since. The White home has long been known as a hospitable retreat for prospectors and other travelers, and Mrs. White has played an important part in the up building of Southern Nevada.

At this time, 1876, Mrs Helen J. Stewart resided Pioche with her husband and O. D. Gass and his pioneer wife owned and resided on what is known as the Las Vegas Ranch. Later in 1879, Mr Gass sold the ranch to the Stewart's. They removed to the ranch three years later and have resided there ever since.

Thus Mrs. Yount, Mrs Towner, Mrs. White and Mrs. Stewart became the pioneer ranch women of Southern Nevada.

Among the pioneer women of the mining camps may be mentioned Mrs. W. S. Mills who went to El Dorado Canyon with her husband in the early eighties and lived there several years—Las Vegas Age.



Movie Herald Courtesy of Bill Miller

"The Air Mail" was a 1925 Paramount Picture that used Rhyolite, Nevada and the famous Bottle House as filming locations. Douglas Fairbanks Jr. made his big screen debut in this film. Unfortunately, "The Air Mail," like so many silent films, is classified as "lost." No known copies exist. Three reels of this seven reel film survive, in an unknown condition at the Library of Congress. Perhaps someday, a complete print will surface for all of us to enjoy. Director Irvin Willat also brought Zane Grey's epic "Wanderer of the Wasteland" to the big screen one year before "The Air Mail." "Wanderer" was filmed in Death Valley. No known copies of "Wanderer of the Wasteland" exist.