



Beatty Museum and Historical Society

Newsletter for September to December 2007

Yup, we skipped a few

The first thing out of the box is an apology from the Museum in not getting the newsletters out in a promised fashion. Unfortunately, our wonderful Editor and Newsletter Creator has been ill for over a year now. Because of a request by Miss Claudia, I have taken over the Newsletter temporarily. So let's all wish her a speedy recovery so that we can enjoy her stories and updates again. This newsletter is brimming with news and I hope you enjoy a look into Beatty and the Beatty Museum.

Welcome New Members

We have several new members that have joined us this year. Let's make them all feel welcome. Without the support of our membership and the volunteers, we would not have a Beatty Museum. So let's welcome:

Gus Sullivan from Beatty, Nevada

Garland Moore from Santa Fe, New Mexico

Jan Darling-Zech from Fernley, Nevada.

Jerry Hammes from Beatty, Nevada

Raymond Badger from Cathlamet, Washington

George Radomski from Henderson, Nevada

and Gary Buyacheck from Las Vegas, Nevada

If I missed anyone I do apologize. Welcome all to the Beatty Museum Family.

From the President

Hello everyone, and I hope you had a wonderful year. I am so excited about the year we have been having at the Museum. We are looking good with all the new landscaping and repair work that has been done. You have to come by and take a look. Thank you Dave Spicer, Riley McCoy and Chuck Koege. With the new rock and paint, the colors at the Museum are finally starting to match. The lights inside the Museum have all been replaced. We now have light and can see.

I want to thank Claudia Reidhead for all her years working on the Newsletter and we pray that she gets better soon, and takes back the task of bringing us the news. Thank you Suzy McCoy for getting our checkbook to balance and getting artifacts and collections entered into the Museum program.

It is almost time for a membership drive, so think about friends and family as a possible member. Lots of great things are happening right now and we would like to share them. Excitement is high here and we are looking forward to next years progress. When you come by the Museum, bring your laptop. The Museum now has wireless internet. You can check your email away from home.

Our Board meetings are now every third month and newsletters will be every four months. I think this will make things a little

417 W. Main St. - P.O. Box 244 - Beatty, Nevada 89003

775-553-2303

<http://www.beattymuseum.com>

easier to keep up with for the working members in Beatty.

We have some great fundraisers planned, so I will stop talking now so you can get on to the rest of the news.

Since this is the last newsletter this year, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, or any other holiday you may celebrate at the end of the year.

Mary Revert

President: Beatty Museum and Historical Society

More Parking

Thanks to Bill Marchand and David Spicer, some unusable land in front of the Museum is about to become usable. They have secured blocks, labor and equipment to begin making a new retainer wall at the side of the museum. This will give us about 5 new parking spaces. With over 45,000 visitors last year, (this year looks like it will be close to double!) the extra space is needed. Way to go guys! Our heartfelt thanks for all you do for the Museum.

A Flash From The Past

We all know that John Kirchen was involved with the Montgomery Mine near Rhyolite. But did you know that the Kirchen family also had business right here in Beatty? Agreed, in 1905 to 1910 it was common for owners to have business in both places. But, this was in the 1930's. Letter and photograph courtesy of Lynn Vance, the daughter of Ed Kirchen. - Claudia's Contribution

Letter by Ed Kirchen

Floods on the desert -

We've all heard of people camping in a dry wash in the Death Valley area and getting

washed out with a lot of them drowned in a flash flood. Most of the time this water had come from miles away with no clouds in sight.

About 1922, we'd been on a long camping trip in Owens Valley, and coming home in the evening was a big black cloud on our tail. We had dinner and everyone snuggled in their own beds for a change and really slept. In the morning, the basement was full of water, running in the outside door and through a vent on the other side. Firewood, beer bottles and fruit jars were floating against the floor joists.

This was nothing compared to Main St. The cloudburst had hit about where Tonopah Station is now and left a hole about 40 feet across and 4 to 5 feet deep. All of this water funneled down Main St., rolling cars down the street and flooded all of Erie and Main business. It went on down, past the depot and then down the Extension tailings ditch. The rain was also very heavy all over the north slop of Mt. Brougher, coming down every wash. This is what flooded our house which was the fourth on down of the Extension houses and right in the flood path.

Not long after that, maybe two years, another hit Round Mountain. This one hit just east of the Fairview and split. Part of it going down the Fairview tailings ditch and the rest going through the grammar school, grocery store and hotel. All this happened back in the early to mid-twenties and all of these places were in different places than they are now.

In 1931, I was running Dads service station in Beatty, when another one hit. This was up in the 40 mile country and east of the highway. The service station was right by the bridge on the north end of town. Somebody stopped by and spread the word that a flood was on the way. There were two four foot culverts under the bridge where a one inch pipe would take care of



line and by the time the guys got back, was getting a royal chewing out because Carson City would be shut down if he didn't get across right now. When Dan and Dad got there, naturally Dan took offense and offered to whip the guy. Dad stuck his nose into it and made the same offer. With wild threats that he'd have their jobs, he got back in line. About a week later they both got a letter of commendation from

the normal Amargosa river flow, a bunch of Indians camped in the river bed just above the bridge, and here it came. This was under a cloudless sky and a wall of water, the width of the channel and two feet deep, came down. One Indian, trying to crank his Model T, was just about to give up, when the thing started. He leaped over the hood and took off up the hill. By the time it stalled he was out of harms way. That saved one of my best customers. When the water hit the bridge, it filled up the culverts and ran over the top of the road. The bridge at the south end of town was washed out completely.

At the time, Dad was working for the Highway Department at Drumm's Wells or Sarcobatus Flat with Dan Haskins. The flood had apparently split and besides coming down the Amargosa, also flooded the highway north of Stonewall Summit. It was after quitting time when somebody came back to the maintenance station to report the flood. They took off in a World War I four wheel drive, remodeled with pneumatic tire, about four feet off the ground and started pulling cars through. While Dan and Dad were on the other side a state official pulled around the line of cars and was met by Ruth, Dan's wife. She told him to get back in

the highway department as well as a personal, oral, pat from the then, I think, Mr. Roeher, "Good job, guys and don't worry about that S.O.B., he doesn't have any drag."

The Kirchen family have strong ties in this area, having worked in Rhyolite, Carrara, Pioneer and Beatty. - Thank you Lynn, for allowing us a brief glimpse into the personal thoughts of your dad.

130 Years of Technology

How many remember Phonographs? Scratchy records? Even the old 8 track Tape Player? Children today remember CD's and IPODS. Where did it start and how far have we come in 130 years of trying to capture voice to be replayed? That is the journey you can take with the new exhibit at the Beatty Museum. From Edison to the IPod may hold a few surprises for you. Which was invented first? You may be surprised to learn that the cassette was around before 4 or 8 tracks. Drop in and enjoy a new look at technology when you are in Beatty. Did you know that the only phonograph was the Edison Cylinder Player? What we played our vinyl albums on was actually a Gramophone.

New Face Lift



The museum received a new face lift thanks to Dave Spicer, Charles Koege and Riley McCoy. Dave donated rock and equipment to give the parking area at the Museum a landscaped look. The large oleander bushes have been removed to make way for a mining exhibit that will be placed by the front door. Signs have been made for the two tractors that sit in the front identifying them for the public. We have two (count them two) disabled parking spots. The trim on the Museum is now being painted and chips are being repaired. In the back, the glass doors that we have been waiting for are finally installed and they add a whole new look to the Museum. Plans to reset the outside displays are in the works to provide a more comfortable atmosphere for the general public. Thank you Dave, Chuck and Riley for the New face lift.

New On the Website

Some new programs have been posted on the website. You will read more about the new fundraiser "Paving the way to the future" in this issue. Also now available, pay your dues on line

and or make a donation. (those of you (and you know who you are) that need to pay dues, can do so on line or send the renewal that will be

supplied with this issue. Because there were no reminders sent out everyone got a free year. YIPPEE! Nice way to say thank you for your support through the years. But dues are due by Jan. 31, 2008. For those of you that are unsure if you need to renew, call the museum at 775-552-2303. or email us through the website.

E. Clampus Vitus in Beatty

The Queho Posse Chapter #1919 of the E. Clampus Vitus Organization will be in Beatty during Beatty Days. They have manufactured a memorial plaque for the Desert Hill Cemetery and will dedicating it Sunday Morning at 10 a.m. You can visit their site at <http://quehoposse.org> and see other plaques they have placed.

Know any Interesting Stories?

Have any interesting stories to tell us. Have family that lived in Beatty at the turn of the century? Any part of the Beatty history you would like to read about? Just let us know and we will get it in the next newsletter. Anyone can contribute and all contributions are welcome. What is happening in your life, have a new child? Grandchild? Great grandchild? Share the joy with the Beatty Museum family.

Original Beatty Ranch House

The museum has just acquired the Original Beatty Ranch House property and ruins, thanks to the Revert Family Trust. This will be another aggressive project, as it needs to be restored as much as possible and opened to the public per the deed stipulations. Now, here is where we need your help. Send in your suggestions on the usage of this wonderful gift. Rest Stop??? Picnic Area??? Place for a Dog Walk??? Hmmmmmmm, the possibilities are endless. Let us hear what you think. You know the drill. Address to: The Beatty Museum - P.O. Box 244 - Beatty, NV 89003.



Remnants of the walls of the stone structure on the left of the picture is about all that is left. So let's put on our thinking caps and come up with a solution. I know you all can do it.

Another aggressive project that has been started is another expansion to the Museum. Yup, we are going to get our Research Center/Reading Room/Conference or Meeting Room/Special Speaker or Program Room. Wow, what a

mounthful that turned out to be. Below this will be a full basement archival room for the temperature control we so desperately need for some of our collections. Much more on this as time progresses. Now again, how about letting us know what you would like to call this? So far we are looking at the Montillus Beatty Reading Room.

Pathway To The Future

To accomplish all that is to be done, we need money. Several grants are in the process of being applied for or have already been applied for and the waiting begins. But we need to match funds either In Kind or monetarily for some. So let's get ready for the "Pathway To The Future". Be a part of History at the Beatty Museum and buy a brick with your name, in memory of a loved one, make a statement. These bricks are going to be placed in front of the museum as a walkway and patio for public enjoyment. Rest in a shaded area provided by a small gazebo as you read the bricks or just contemplate the course of history. This fundraiser will supply needed materials for the reading room, tables, chairs, books, computers. It will also allow for special programs for the community. So make sure you don't miss your chance to become part of the Beatty History. Because of the area that will be covered, there will be no preferential spots. But what fun to search the bricks and find yours. If you happen to be in Beatty during Beatty Days, come by the Museum Booth in the park and learn more, see a sample brick and join the fun.

Flyer and order form are attached to this newsletter.

ELECTIONS

It is time once again to think about Elections. March is not far away in the scheme of things and nominations must be in by January to be posted in the next newsletter for your vote. With the availability of the Internet, Email and cell phones, it opens up the Board of Directors positions out to anyone that feels that they are qualified, or have a special interest in the Museum. In this issue we will place a small reminder of the responsibilities of the Board and Officers. As you read through these, ask yourself, Could I do that? If you feel that you would like to serve on the Board, please send in your request and reasons to : The Beatty Museum - P.O. Box 244 - Beatty, NV - 89003. Or nominations for those you feel would make a good director. Email stating the same is acceptable, phone calls will not be considered. And remember you must be a member in good standing to serve.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors or Trustees to the Beatty Museum and Historical Society.

It is the Boards responsibility to set the goals and direction for the museum. Using the information from employees and working members, the Board of Directors or Trustees keeps the museum on the right path towards its mission as stated in the By Laws and Charter of the Museum.

The Board Consists of:

2 - One Year Directors

2 - Two Year Directors

1 - Three Year Director

This election there will be an opening for 2 One year directors and 1 Two year director. When replying, please indicate your preference. We also need nominations for all the officers of the museum. It is a good idea to be close enough to the museum to attend meetings. The officers all

serve a two year term.. President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. No nominations have been made as of the printing of this newsletter.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with various duties.

Membership

Docent - Greet and talk with visitors

Displays - Help with displays, idea and labor intensive.

Maintenance - Help with grounds projects, labor intensive.

Research - Help research various projects and collections.

Remember, this is your museum, become active and help support the overall mission. If you live long distance, let us hear from you now and then. Have an idea? Have you learned something interesting? Would you like to share an experience in History with others? There are many, many ways to volunteer without physically being at the Museum.. Let us hear from you, our members, on the directions you would like to see this museum go.

On that note, I would like to thank Barbara Piatt for her excellent work in research and innovative presentations. If you have been in the Museum you have noticed several free standing notebooks with information on several of the collections. These presentations are invaluable to our guests as they browse the museum. They not only give credibility to the display, but add that extra knowledge that our guests are looking for in a museum. Great work Barbara.

Thank You

Happenings in the Area

Beatty Days - Oct. 26th thru 28th, 2007

Beatty, Nevada - Chamber 775-553-2424

Shoshone Old West Days - Nov. 3 thru 5th, 2007

Shoshone Calif. - Chamber 760-786-3200

Death Valley 49'er Encampment - Nov. 8th - 12th

Death Valley, Calif.- www.deathvalley49er.org

Your Opinion

What is your opinion on the following?

Death Valley National Park has approached the Museum for space to house their Information Center for Beatty. It would be located by the front door across from our counter. Their hours are 8.am until 5 pm, ours are from 10 am until 4 pm. It is possible to section off the Museum when we are not present, it has not been answered what will happen when no one is there to staff the information center. So, do you want Death Valley Information Center to share space with the Beatty Museum? _____ Yes _____ No

As you have read, we have acquired the original Beatty Ranch House. Now, what to do with the property. It needs to be open for public use, at the same time preserving the integrity of the site. We also need to look at partial restoration of the stone building that is there. Any suggestions???

The new Research/Reading Room will need a name. Right now we are leaning towards the Montillius Beatty Reading Room. Have any ideas you would like to see there? Let us know your thoughts on this.

Well, that's it for now. Have I forgotten something? Most probably! Will I remember it after the newsletter is mailed? Most definitely. But have filled the quota and time to get this into the mail. This is wishing all of you a wonderful Holiday Season and a great New Year in 2008. Let us hear from you, your thoughts and yes, even your rants. This is your Museum so take a part and have a voice.

The Beatty Museum Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff