



Beatty Museum and Historical Society

Sometimes Quarterly Newsletter for July to December 2008

Message from the President

Here we are again with a not so timely but always managed newsletter. I hope you enjoy what we are offering up to you this time. Lots of history and a guest article by our own Stanley Paher. Many thanks Stanley for sharing one of your adventures with us.

The website has been revamped to meet the internet requirements. Go check it out at <http://www.beattymuseum.com> and see what is new.

The Gazebo is finished and the fence is back up around the Museum. Now for the landscaping and outside exhibits. I am so very proud of our staff Maxine, Riley and Suzy with what has been accomplished this year. Just think what next year may hold.

With the holiday season here again, it is time to reflect back and be thankful for how far we have come since 1995. It has been with the support of our membership, Town Board, and the Nye County Commissioners that has allowed us to accomplish what we have. So a big thank you to everyone.

Some of our members or their children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters, are fighting for our freedom a world away. Think about them this year and hope for a safe return. We thank them for their sacrifices and bravery. Hold your family tight during these times of change and we will all pull through like our ancestors before us.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season no matter what manner you celebrate. We hope only the best for you in the upcoming year. Until the next *Sometimes* Quarterly Newsletter, God Bless.

President Beatty Museum and Historical Society
Mary Revert

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<http://www.beattymuseum.com>

A name that everyone is well acquainted with and a friend of the Museum. Stanley has given permission for the reprint of his article written for Death Valley News. Thank you Stanley for sharing your wonderful adventure with us.

A Spring Visit to the Charcoal Kilns of Tybo
by Stanley W. Paher

During May 18-20 of this year, four Death Valley 49'er members traveled 45 miles northeast of Tonopah to visit the 23 charcoal kilns which are located in various canyons surrounding the ghost town of Tybo. After getting some last minute provisions in Tonopah, Doug "Digger" Shearer, Mike Donoho, Danny Ray Thomas and Stan Paher (myself), made camp in Kiln Canyon in the very shadow of two of the 20-foot high beehive shaped kilns of brick construction.

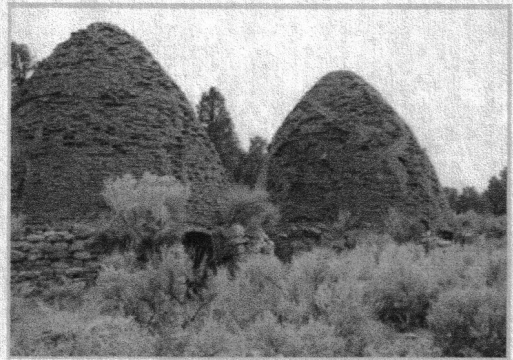


Kiln Canyon Charcoal Kiln. This is where we made camp.

For each of us, visiting charcoal kilns is an outgrowth of our interest in the beehive shaped structures which stand at the head of the pinyon pine-studded Wildrose Canyon in Death Valley National Park. There, operators of mines in the Lookout (or Modoc) district across Panamint Valley to the west erected ten gigantic 25-foot high kilns in 1877 to produce charcoal for use as an agent in the reduction of lead-silver ores of Modoc.

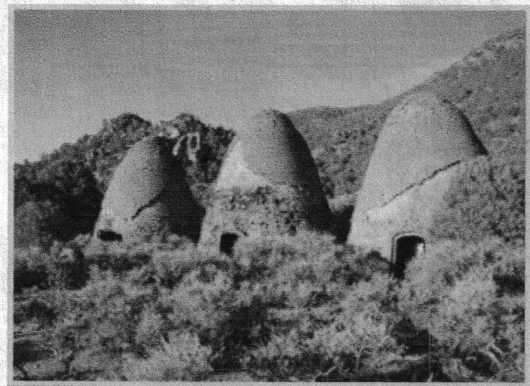
Why the fascination for kilns? They are indeed a curiosity. Kilns from 20 to 30 feet high were built in western lead-silver mining districts, usually in rows of two or three. Each of these "beehives" had a low-arched and a back window with tight fitting iron doors that were sealed after pine logs had been stocked through both openings. Once set on fire, the wood was allowed several days to

smolder slowly, so that charcoal would be made. Small holes around the kiln base provided draft.



Ten extremely well preserved Charcoal Kilns in Wildrose Canyon in Death Valley National Park.

The afternoon we arrived in Kiln Canyon, we explored those found nearby, as well as a set of three about two miles to the south. Evidence of charcoal pits were found there. Soon we were back in camp preparing supper and relaxing around the campfire. As we turned in for the night, the kilns looked ghostly in the moonlight, and in the early morning they served as a welcome to the exploration of the area.



Three Charcoal Kilns three miles south of first set in Kiln Canyon.

Soon we were off on the old Belmont-Tybo stage road, filled with rocks, brush willows extending high into the road, plant life and washouts as we ascended eastward into the Hot Creek Range. My new Jeep Rubicon had wheel locks, so we were able to negotiate the summit with relative ease. Only a few miles later we stopped to look at the two kilns of upper Tybo. They were built of stone shale, but all of the other kilns of the Tybo area were made of brick.

Only a few minutes later we were amid the wooden, brick and stone ruins of Tybo, a

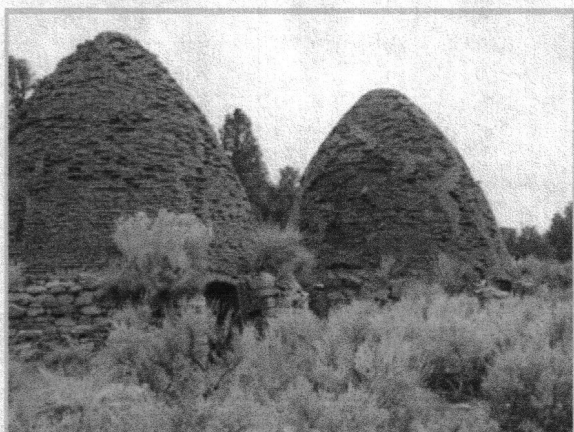
thriving mining camp of the 1870's which had saloons, stores of general merchandise, a brick school, and the weekly *Tybo Sun* which sang the praises of the area's mines. But the composition of the ores was like that of the Modoc mines, so two large three-story silver smelters were built in the lower part of the town. Foundations and walls of each of these still remain today.



Two Charcoal Kilns just above the Old Ghost Town of Tybo. Built from local stone.

In the boom years the mountainsides of the Hot Creek Range had an abundance of piñon pine, and most of the area's 23 charcoal kilns were built in 1874-75, during the height of the boom. Thus the kilns of Tybo are about three years older than those of Wildrose Canyon.

With the sun approaching mid-day, we turned north and headed for Six Mile Canyon, where a total of 14 kilns functioned a century ago to provide charcoal for Tybo. After visiting these sentinels of the past we hastened back through towering rock - studded Hot Creek Canyon to our camp a few miles south in Kiln Canyon.



Two of Fourteen Charcoal Kilns to be found in Six Mile Canyon and Wood Tick Canyon in the Hot Creek Range

The last day of the trip, the four of us hiked two miles north of camp to a remarkable set of two kilns which are not even accessible by 4WD. This diversion took us through a juniper and piñon forest and past a variety of colorful desert flowers and plants. At the head of a canyon stood two pristine brick kilns which still had the window shutters and iron doors. Here we also found stone structures and sites of dwellings. Seeing all of this was the climax of the entire trip. Evidently, these kilns are seldom visited.

After an easy downhill return to camp, we had lunch and then said goodbye to Kiln Canyon and the Tybo district.



Mike Donoho, Doug "Digger" Shearer, Stan Paher, Danny Ray Thomas

*Photographs Provided By
Danny Ray Thomas*

Welcome New Members

A hearty welcome to all the new members the last 6 months. The list is a little long so will just make this one generic to all. We are happy to have you on board with the Beatty Museum and Historical Society. If you would like to see an article printed in the newsletter or if you have had an adventure of your own please send it in or email me with it at the museum's email. beattymuseum1@sbcglobal.net

Museums collected artifacts because they tell stories of our common history. I had been asked a question about one of the sad irons on display that sparked an idea. Why not have an artifact of the month for our quarterly? Why not start with the sad iron on display?

What I found out when I wandered to the back of the Museum is that it is not just the sad iron, there are charcoal irons, gas powered irons, electric irons. OH MY! So our artifact of the month has emerged into an article for your enjoyment. Ladies, dig out those old press boards, heat up the stove and get ready for a walk down memory lane.

Article by Suzy McCoy/Museum Curator



In the first century BC the Chinese were the first to apply the use of heat in pressing clothes. Pans filled with hot coals were rubbed over stretched cloth as seen in the illustration above.

The women of Europe brought many methods for ironing clothes when they came to the United States. But life was to become easier as Mary Florence Potts from Ottomwa Iowa invented the Sad Iron with a detachable handle in 1871

The body of the iron was cast hollow and later filled with plaster of paris or clay. With a detachable handle, one could be on the stove heating while the second was in use. This was necessary as the drawback to these irons were that they cooled quickly. Irons normally were sold in a set of three for this reason. I wonder if

that is where the term of "Too many Irons in the fire came from?" Oh well, off to the next iron to come onto the scene.

Mrs. Pott's Sad Irons.

This cut represents a full set of three irons one stand and one detachable walnut handle.



42775 Extra polished, No. 55: weight per set 15 3/4 lbs. (This price is subject to change of market without notice.)	Per set	\$0.65
42776 Nickel plated, No. 50. (This price is subject to the change of market without notice.)	.....	.70
42778 Extra handles for Mrs. Potts Irons		
Japanned, Price each	.....	.15
Tinned " "	.....	.20
Iron Stands	.....	.05
42779 Mrs. Pott's Nickel Plated smoothing iron, perforated handle, No. 70; weight each, 5 3/4 lbs. Each	.....	\$0.35. Per dozen..... 3.90

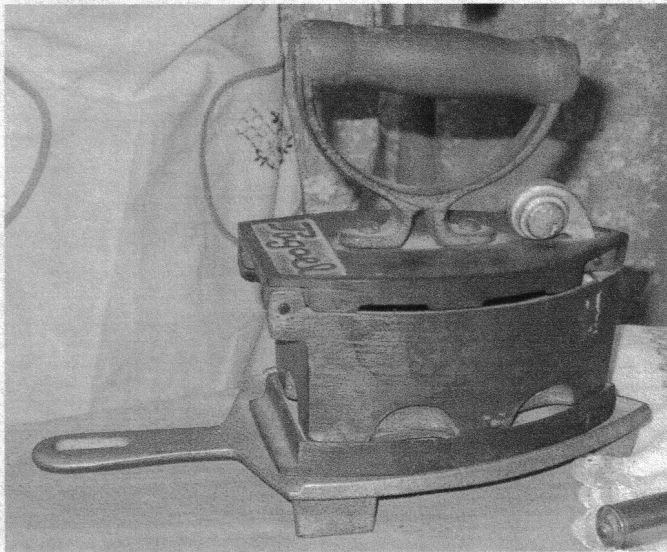


Asbestos Sad Iron's Beatty Museum Collection

Now, I am not sure which came first because all of these methods have been in use for centuries. The next iron I am going to introduce you to is called the "Charcoal Iron" or the "Box Iron"

Simply put, the interior is hollow and filled with hot charcoal to keep it hot. These actually stayed hot longer than the Sad Iron but residue from the Charcoal was a problem. A photograph of the museum's Charcoal Iron on the next page shows a hinged lid and holes in the base to allow the Charcoal to breath or to be fanned to keep the charcoal smoldering. This one does not have a chimney as some did to keep the fumes or smell

of the charcoal from the clothing.



Charcoal Iron Beatty Museum Collection

Next in line is probably the most dangerous of all modern day iron's. Try to imagine yourself using a Gas Powered Iron! These irons were heated by gasoline, kerosene, alcohol, natural gas or carbide-acetylene. Talk about having a dangerous job! Probably the best known of these irons are the Colman gasoline iron such as in the Museum's Collection below.



Gas Iron Beatty Museum Collection

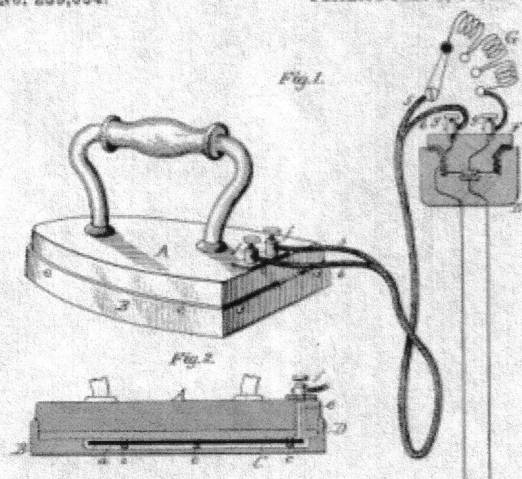
By the 1860's gas iron's were available in several countries Some had rubber tubing that would attach to gas light fittings or canisters. The one in the museum collection is called a piggy back iron because of the self contained reservoir, no tubing

was needed. Now, keeping the charcoal dust away from the clean laundry was no longer a problem. But the smell of gasoline would remain in the clothing for a long time. Even after the electric iron found it's way into many homes, the Gasoline Iron was still one of choice.

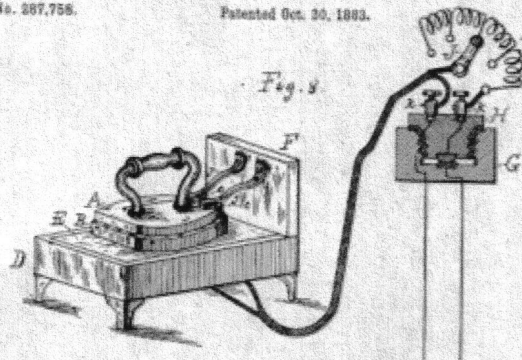
By the early 1880's inventors were working on powering the iron by electricity. H.W. Seely was the first inventor to make the Electric Iron reality. He patented his invention in 1882 and with the help of his partner Dryer patented the "electric flat iron" in 1883.

Not believing that being continuously plugged into electricity, their invention was a cordless

H. W. SEELY.
ELECTRIC FLAT IRON.
No. 259,054. Patented June 6, 1882.



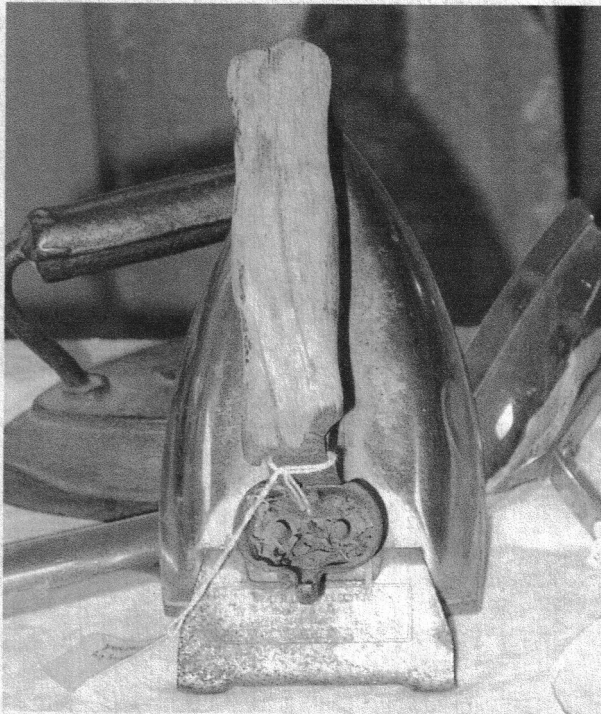
R. N. DYER & H. W. SEELY.
ELECTRIC FLAT IRON.
No. 267,756. Patented Oct. 20, 1883.



electric smoothing iron. Sold with it's own stand as it's predecessors, the stand was heated with electricity.

They didn't make you roasting hot, and they didn't carry soot or ash. As the advertisement says, they were better than three flat irons. And yet, there were still plenty of traditionalists who stuck with sad irons well into the middle of the 20th century.

The Hotpoint Iron by Earl Richardson was created in 1905, but it was not until the 1920's that they became popular in the West. By the 1930's the iron's only rival for the most popular electrical home appliance was the radio.



1925 Electric Iron Beatty Museum Collection

Well, I don't know about you, but I think I will stick to my wash and wear. But when the urge or the need arises for you to dust off that old electric iron. Just think about the ladies and their sad irons and be happy that we have come as far as we have with home technology. Now that we have the ironing out of the way, maybe next time we will take a look at actually doing the laundry.

Donations and Loans

Received from March 2008 to December 2008

1 pr. antique handcuffs (dated late 1860's) from Hall Waltz - They were used by a family member who was in law enforcement here in Nevada in the late 1800's

Research material and articles on antiques from Larkin Seely

Stagecoach Hotel and Casino donated use of their billboard on 3rd and Main. We just had to get the vinyl for it.

Two photographs with history of the Kirchen Gas Station in Beatty by Ellis and Lynn Vance

The Museum now has the papers to the Underground Church (originally a cousin jack storage building built in 1905) thanks to the delegant work of our County Commissioner Joanie Eastley and Eva LaRoue from the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah.

There has been much more donated, but since I am writing this at home and forgot to bring the list. I will have to save it for the next newsletter. But thank you to everyone for your wonderful donations.

AHEAD ONE BLOCK ON LEFT

OPEN 10 AM TO 4 PM

GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY

beattymuseum.com

space donated by:
Stagecoach Hotel and Casino



The mini billboard above is not just a filler. We wanted you to see what the new billboard looks like. Of course, the original is much bigger and in full color.

ELECTIONS

Results from the elections - with a few changes.

Your Elected and appointed officers for BMHS

President: Mary Revert - Until 3/2010

Vice President: Riley McCoy - until 3/2010
(note: Since Riley took over the Maintenance and outside display's he felt that he could not give the office of Vice President justice. Jerry Hammes was appointed to fill that office two months ago by President Mary Revert.)

Secretary Kay Parsons - until 3/2010

Treasurer Suzy McCoy - until 3/2010

Directors Barbara Piatt - until 3/2010
Les Parsons - until 3/2010
Robert Revert - until 3/2011
Helen Terry - until 3/2009

Appointed offices: FYI - These are not elected

Curator: Suzy McCoy

Maintenance: Riley McCoy

Sargent at Arms: Open not appointed

Congratulations to all. This is your new Directors and Officers of the Beatty Museum. Thank you to all that voted,

Visitation has doubled this year for the Museum. Maxine has expanded the gift store and is doing a fine job with keeping popular books in stock. Many of you have heard that the Death Valley Information Center in Beatty is now closed. So we have taken on the extra task of giving information supplied by the Park to visitors.

Now with all that said, let's step back in time to Rhyolite, Nevada. The stories that I have to tell is about Emma Louise (Presser) Moffat and Bessie (Stranton) Moffat. Two different ladies, two different time periods with one thing in common besides their name. They both loved and lived in Rhyolite. So here we go, let me introduce you to the:

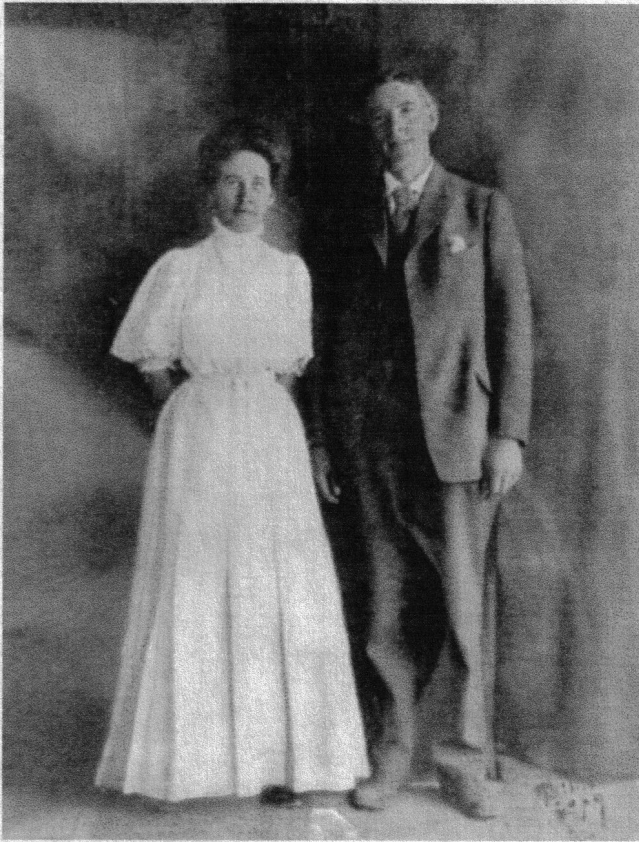
Two Moffat Women of Rhyolite

Emma Louise Presser was a Nebraska farmers daughter when she decided to see a little more of the world. Answering an ad for a teacher in a mining town in Nevada. Emma came to Rhyolite to open the first school in town. From an article written in the Valley Times. Emma tells us that "only 3 students enrolled in that small one room schoolhouse during the first session." But that soon blossomed to over 200 as Rhyolite grew.

The school became overcrowded by 1907 and the County Commissioners donated the use of the County Hospital for classes until a new school could be built. They had one basket social to raise money for the school that was a great success, so now it was time for another. Baskets went from \$10.00 to \$40.00, but when Judge Ray announced that the next basket was Miss Presser's, Rhyolites favorite teacher, the bidding got exciting. All the young men wanted that basket and many tried to go the limit.

The basket was won by John Moffat, an Insurance salesman. John had originally came from England to New York. But came to Rhyolite for health reasons and met his one true love. At the disappointment and broken hearts of many a young man. Emma Louise Presser and John A. Moffat were wed on Nov. 25, 1908 by Rev. Jay

Swanders in Rhyolite.



Emma Louise Presser and John A. Moffat Nov. 25, 1908

With the collapse of Rhyolite, the Moffats moved to California with their son Charles. John Moffat then started a Cattle Business until they retired to enjoy their golden years and remember Rhyolite as it was. A bustling energetic town.



Emma Louise and John A Moffat at 50th Wedding Anniv.

The last picture shows the Moffats in 1958 celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Burbank, California.

Bessie Stranton came to Rhyolite in 1934. She had been a Beauty Operator and had owned her own shops in Boone, Iowa and in San Diego, Calif. During the depression, Bessie lost everything. This caused her to come to Nevada in the hope of regaining her financial independence.

"When I reached nearby Beatty in 1934, I was a widow, 54 years old, upset, bewildered - and I only had \$8 to my name." said Bessie in an interview for the Desert Magazine. "I couldn't find a place to live. Everything was full. Someone said I might be able to find a deserted cabin in Rhyolite....."

She met Louis Murphy who made a living in selling rock specimens and relics to tourists. He told her about the cabin known today as the Moffat House in Rhyolite, and said she could move in there. He even offered her a job for half of what she sold at his shop so he could go into the mountains and collect more specimens.



Bessie Straton at Louis Murphy's Rock Shop

"It had only a single room, and there were holes in the walls big enough for a coyote to crawl through. It was terribly dirty with pack rat litter..... I had always been a city woman, never camped out in my life or done any pioneering, but with a backlog of only \$8 I could not be choosy." Said Bessie.

She cleaned and patched and worked and made the house livable. Around 1955 in steps Jimmie Moffat.who had worked in Goldfield, Tonopah and Rawhide during the mining boom, not caring much for Rhyolite in his words.

Upon arriving in Rhyolite in 1955 he met Bessie and the rest is history. They were married before Christmas in 1956. They lived in Rhyolite in the little adobe home from then on.

Bessie worked at the Bottle House for two decades selling rocks and artifacts to tourists earning enough money for her and Jimmie to enlarge the original adobe cabin with more rooms and a porch.

Although we may never know anymore about Louise Presser Moffat as the 1958 newspaper article was the last that I found on them. We know where Bessie Stranton Moffat and Jimmie are. They were buried in the Southside Cemetery below Rhyolite and rest there today, below their beloved Rhyolite.

Two ladies that met and married the men they would be destined to spend their lives with. Enriching the lives of those they met and leaving a delightful history of the women of yesteryear.

Thank you Pat for sending me the Dessert News, it really helped with this article.



Bessie and Jimmie Moffat in Rhyolite

We are always looking for adventures and articles. Please submit to the Beatty Museum - Atten: Suzy McCoy - P.O. Box 244 - Beatty, NV 89003

Or email a digital copy to beattymuseum1@sbcglobal.net

I know that you all have stories to tell, adventures to share and a love for the Desert life.

Don't forget if you haven't ordered your brick yet, we will still be selling them this year. The memory walk is growing everyday.

Photo Contest coming up, rules and instructions included in this newsletter. Join us March 14, 2009 for a day of fun at the judging and Silent Auction at the Museum. Photographs go on display February 2, 2009.

That's it for now, so Goodbye! Catcha Later! I'm Outta Here until next time the Sometimes Quarterly gets published.

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES

By Claudia Reidhead

I was just thinking - We don't often take the time to honor the people who have worked the hardest for our organization. I am referring to two very special ladies Mary Revert our President who has worked long and hard for us. Giving of her time and love of history continuously since April 1995. She has assumed the Presidents position almost constantly with only a couple of breaks required by law and our by-laws, I can honestly say this lady has captained us through some very tough times. Her very abused spouse Bobby has put in a lot of unappreciated hours also, and almost every member of her family has at one time or another been bulldozed into helping us. I can honestly say bulldozed and be truthful in saying it as she has left them little or nor room to say no.

Vonnie Gray has been a staunch worker for us. Being elected secretary almost constantly from the second year. There have been a few NOTABLE replacements for her over the years and she has been promptly put back in, saving us from going down in a blaze of confusion. All the while teaching third grade, helping her spouse run the store and working with the cheerleaders. Her enthusiasm has been great and is appreciated.

All in all we have had a great central core group of supporters some local and some wonderful friends from out of town. This organization has been very fortunate in the people who have helped us grow!!!!

I guess while we are talking about the people who have helped us since the beginning we better start with the Millers - Bill and Zettia worked on the newsletter from the very first edition until a couple of years ago when circumstances changed for them and they had to leave it in our hands, as you can see it has changed. It no longer has the class and dignity that Bill and Zettia gave it, with their knowledge of publishing and editing. A long and welcome time of sharing knowledge and friendship.

And to the Piatts who put everything on hold twice a year to bring another wonderful piece of research to display in our museum, framed and placed on tables provided by them they explain what people are looking at so nicely that we often get great comments on them.

Our recovering friend Leon Abrams who has given so much to our Museum over the years.

And the Vances who have been avid and enthusiastic support for our group.

Clint and Ellen Boehringer -- Lord how this couple have helped us in every way from day one.

I know that these folks are all from out of town but they have been with us since the first time we started talking of putting this group together. And I truly feel that they deserve the recognition for all of their help and support...

Now we have a newer and more energetic group working to move us on up the ladder, never allowing us to slow up or stagnate. So let us continue on to the next phase of becoming whatever we will become in the future.

Beatty Museum & Historical Society

417 W. Main St. – Beatty, NV 89003 – 775-553-2303

People's Choice Amateur Photo Contest Silent Auction & Membership Drive

The Photo Contest is open to everyone except for the Board of Directors and Officers of the Museum.

Silent Auction held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. March 14, 2009

Categories in both Youth and Adult Divisions:

- 1A. Desert Wildlife - Color
- 1B. Desert Wildlife - Black & White

- 2A. Desert Landscape and Nature - Color
- 2B. Desert Landscape and Nature - Black & White

- 3A. Desert Outdoor Recreation - Color
- 3B. Desert Outdoor Recreation - Black & White

- 4A. Historic Structures – Color
- 4B. Historic Structures – Black & White

- 5A. Miscellaneous - Color
- 5B. Miscellaneous - Black & White
(Any subject matter that doesn't fit any other category)

Divisions:

Youth: 17 years old and under

Adult: 18 years and older

Photo Size Limits (Horizontal or Vertical)

Minimum: 5" x 7"

Maximum: 8" x 10"

Mounting:

Photos cannot be framed and must be matted

Matting size not to exceed 16" x 20"

Multiple matting OK

Entry Fees:

Each entry in Youth Category: \$2.00

Each entry in Adult Category: \$5.00

Entry Limits:

Contest is open to everyone except the Board of Directors and Officers of the Museum

Maximum of 2 entries per contestant per category

Entries may be submitted between January 1 and 4 pm on February 1, 2009.

Any entries not picked up by March 31, 2009, become the property of the Museum

Judging:

Each entry will display only the Category and Division and Entry Number

Ballots and the ballot box will be available from February 2 until 4 pm on March 14, 2009

Votes will be counted during the March 14th starting at 4 p.m.

General:

Photos go on display February 2, 2009

Ribbons and Certificates will be awarded to the winning contestants after 5 pm on March 14, 2009.

Photos must be appropriate for posting within the Museum. Obscene, provocative or otherwise questionable content will not be considered.

By entering the contest, photographers agree to allow scanned images to be posted on the Beatty Museum Website without compensation. Photographer credit will be given along with information of category and Division.

Membership Drive:

During the month of December we are holding a Membership Drive. All memberships (new or renewed or extended) will be discounted 10%.

Join us at the Museum for punch, coffee and cookies during the Silent Auction March 14th

BEATTY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY