

Docents Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 7

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

August 2008

Meeting site changes; Special event in Austin

By Bob Wallace

You no doubt noticed we were bursting at the seams at Makin' Coffee for the general meeting in July. As a result of that, a change of venue for the **Historical Society of Dayton Valley's** general meeting has been arranged by Dr. Linda Clements. Our August monthly meeting will be held at Dayton Valley Branch Library, 321 Old Dayton Valley Road, beginning at 12:30 p.m., a slightly later time to allow an earlier group to finish their meeting.

In an email message of July 29, information was provided that indicates those attending the meeting will be able to bring a bag lunch and something to drink. The **Carson & Colorado Depot Working Group** will meet immediately following the general meeting in the same room.

We usually provide information within these pages for events going on within the immediate area, meaning typically Carson City, Dayton, maybe even Reno. In this instance, however, an event has been scheduled in Austin, Nevada, sponsored by Leland House on Sunday, August 24, at 3:00 p.m. in the Emma Nevada Hall (Austin's Town Hall) that some of us will want to attend.

The Historical Society of Dayton Valley has been invited by Elizabeth Rassiga to attend an Edwardian Disrobe, featuring Carolyn Loftis, with High Tea served during the intermission.

Two requests go along with this event: bring your own tea cup, and cookies or other nibbles for the tea table.

For those interested in attending this event in Austin, there are rooms available at several motels and a Bed and Breakfast, and two restaurants are located in Austin. Information on lodgings can be had by contacting the Austin Chamber of Commerce: 775-964-2200 to get name and phone number for rooms. For anyone interested in driving over and back on the same day, Austin is about three hours by car from Dayton.

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

End of an Era. Tuesday the 29th I turned out the lights at the museum at St. Mary's Church and pulled the door shut behind me. It was kind of a sad moment for me. After two and one-half years of doing tours two days a week, the museum and soon the Church itself is closed to prepare for a major restoration. Kind of weird, it should have been a happy moment filled with anticipation for the future. I miss it already.

On the upside this will free up some time that I can use to help out more with the Dayton museum and the depot project, rummage sale, etc.

As a group we have had a good year and should be proud of our gains. One thing that is important to me, and one of the main reasons I joined the Society, is that I have learned a lot

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more about Dayton in the last year. Even more importantly, I have done it with a whole bunch of great new friends. Thanks to all of you.

Historical statistics

By Donna McElroy

I just found some interesting stuff that Morgan Webber sent me from the year 1908. They make for an interesting contrast between that era and the present day.

The average life expectancy was 47 years.

Only 14% of the homes had a bathtub!

Only 8% of the homes had a telephone!

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 miles per hour.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average wage in 1908 was 22-cents per hour.

The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanic about \$5,000.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all doctors had no college education! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost 4 cents per pound.

Eggs cost 14 cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Interesting statistics, and more to come later.

Docent meeting notes for July 23

By Gail Chulick

The Docent meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. and the Docents practiced using the Museum's newly installed key vault and the alarm system. After mastering the system, Donna and Lynn trimmed the roses at the Museum entrance while the other docents familiarized themselves with the alarm system.

Lynn, Vicki, Bob and Sheila took bundles of the new Dayton Walking Tour brochure to distribute. Ruby noted that the brochure does not have a contact phone number. There is room to add the phone number on the back of the brochure. When docents sit the museum they can use their time to add the phone number. The brochures are located in boxes at the back of the Museum. The phone number to add is 775-246-6316.

Ruby and Donna recommended that publicity for the Museum be generated by using the Dayton Courier web and newspaper Community Calendar. A different Museum display can be featured each weekend in August. Gail will contact Karren Rhodes, find out how to place information in the Dayton Courier's Community Calendar, and submit the Museum information.

Bob, Donna and Tom told the group about the workday they took part in at the Depot last Sunday.

Ruby asked for volunteers to find venues that will buy and resell the Fanny Hazlett book. Sheila will check with the Children's Museum, Lynn will contact a woman on the Genoa Museum Board, Bob will contact the Yerington Museum.

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Bob shared information about the Edwardian Disrobe and Tea in Austin on Sunday, August 24. He will email additional information.

The next Docents Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, at 10:30 a.m. at the Dayton Museum.

August calendar

Dayton Museum Days and Hours:

Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. In two shifts (10-1, 1-4) or make a day of it.

Sundays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Keep track of days and hours you choose to sit the Museum, and/or check the calendar put together each month by Donna McElroy.

August 20: General membership meeting at the **Dayton Valley Library**, 12:30 p.m. **Carson & Colorado Depot Working Group** immediately follows the general membership meeting.

August 23 is still open, looking for someone to sit the Museum on this **Saturday**. One shift for the day, 10-4, or split the day between morning (10-1) and afternoon (1-4).

August 24: Edwardian Disrobe in Austin at the Emma Nevada Hall (Austin Town Hall), 3:00 p.m., and sponsored by Leland House.

August 27: Docents meeting at the Museum, 10:30 a.m. Come prepared to pick a day or two to sit the museum.

Looking ahead: September meeting dates:

September 17: General membership meeting and C&C Depot Working Group.

September 24: Docents meeting.

Austin's Leland House

By Bob Wallace

On our way across the state for the July 4 holiday weekend, we stopped for lunch at one of two restaurants in the town of Austin, to break up our drive, and to get a bite to eat. As it turned out, we parked the pickup truck and fifth-wheel trailer right across the street from Leland House. As you will recall, Leland House was the subject of a lecture in Dayton on February 21, as Elizabeth Rassiga detailed the history of the structure and what her plans were for it.

On our way home from Ely, we again stopped in Austin for a lunch break, finding a parking space on the street long enough to hold the truck and trailer. After our lunch, Lois took a walk over to the Leland House to get a photo for Ruby McFarland and found Elizabeth at home in the midst of gardening chores. She graciously interrupted what she was doing and gave us a tour of Leland House, then stepped around to the side gate for a picture. Leland House now looks as seen in the photo below.

