

# Docents Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 9

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

October 2008

## Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

Remember the old TV show, "That Was The Week That Was"? Well I think the docents just lived through it! But we get better reviews! Details of Dayton Valley Days, the numbers and the facts, will appear elsewhere in this newsletter. But three years ago none of this could have happened. Mabel and Ruby would have had to be on roller skates to cover all of the area that the docents covered this year. The parade was covered (in costume with major info being distributed), the museum, the fire-house/jail, and for the first time, the Depot.

Not only did we raise some funds for the Depot, but we told dozens of locals that "That" was the depot. I think the Society, the Museum and the Depot are some of the best kept secrets in Lyon County. The Society broke with the iceberg of History! The Society and, within it, the Docent Program, is on a roll. Look in the mirror and congratulate yourselves! Find a blackboard and write on it 500 times: "I am a docent and I make a difference!"

Time to rest? Bet your Washoe Canary...not! October is upon us. The teaching sessions will resume on Saturday in October and all of us must start to prepare for the Nevada Day Ghost Walk. Third year for this event. Much anticipated. Should be bigger and better than ever. I hear Adolph Sutro will make an appearance for the first time this year!

Being a member is having fun. It is learning. It is helping the community. It is striving to

save every scrap of our fast-disappearing heritage. Every member, every moment counts. Be among the counted. Any questions, doubts, fear of not being knowledgeable, whatever! Come, meet, join, ask ... or just hang out! We are all working for the same goal: Learning and saving the history of our town: Dayton, Nevada!

## Dayton Valley Days and Rummage Sale

By Donna McElroy

Our deepest appreciation to Stony Tennant for his work on making the land parking safe! Also to Ron Rowe, Ruby McFarland and the team for the clearing and marking of spaces. Thank you to our Docents who worked the gate and passed out our information. Our earnings from this event was \$318.00.

It is my honor and pleasure to humbly and sincerely "Thank" all of my co-workers for a job well done! As I write this notice I try to focus on one or two people who did an outstanding job on our "Rummage Sale"! In my opinion it is a difficult task! Everyone who came and helped did an outstanding job! We all worked hard to make this event a wonderful success. We all had a very important part in making this happen to benefit our community. It is an honor to work with such dedicated folks

- Continued on Page 2 -

who are so enjoyable to share a goal with. Thank you all for allowing me to be your leader of sorts. I hope that my leadership has met our goals. Any suggestions for further events is greatly appreciated.

Our earnings from this event was \$2,117.81.

---

## Nevada Then

By Gail Chulick

We want to add a book review section to the newsletter. Pat has agreed to write the first review this month, and I will organize the reviews for the months to come. I am counting on Docents to provide reviews of books that relate to Nevada's history. The reviews can be as brief or as lengthy as you desire – no set format. You can email your book reviews to me at [gchulick@charter.net](mailto:gchulick@charter.net) or you can mail your reviews to me (Gail Chulick, 527 Cypress Point Drive, Dayton, 89403). If you are one who likes to read but hates to write, call me and give me the pertinent information and I will be your scribe!

---

## Comstock history book review

By Patrick Neylan

### **The Rocket of the Comstock**

Ethel Manter  
Caxton Printers  
Caldwell, Idaho 1950

This is a fascinating and easy to read account of the life of John W. Mackay. Mr. Mackay left the Comstock as one of the wealthiest men in the world and then created an entirely new and

different empire in communications.

It traces his early history of failure in the mines of California and his entry into Nevada. He came to Washoe in poverty, but was studious, determined, self educated and tenacious. It follows his jobs from miner to superintendant, stock holder to owner. It also explains the formation of his partnerships with Fair, Flood and Obrien. It gives insight to his conflicts with Wm. Sharon and the Bank of California. It also relates his falling in love with Marie Louise Hungerford Bryant. She was a young widow on the Comstock. As they grew in wealth and importance, it explains her reluctance to remain on the Comstock and her move to San Francisco, New York and eventually Europe. Well, for the rest of the story ... ask Paul Harvey, or read the book!

---

## Possible church tour

By Patrick Neylan

Since the museum at St Mary in the Mountains has been closed for a major renovation, myself and another docent, Jacquie Obos, have volunteered to open St. Paul's Episcopal Church for viewing and touring. In the past 40 or 50 years, it has been rare that this piece of Virginia City history has been made available to the public. The two of us will keep it open three days a week: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Catholic Church will be using the facilities of St. Paul's for their Sunday worship services until St Mary's is ready to reopen. The docents felt that as a partial "Thank You," we would offer to open the Episcopal Church for viewing and tours and try to continue to explain the fact that religion, faith, organization, etc., existed in Vir-

- Continued on Page 3 -

ginia City during the boom. It was not a cowboy, shoot-em-up town.

Virginia City was "The Most Important Town" in the west for a long time and all aspects of life existed. If interested in seeing this landmark, please come up for a visit on a Friday, or make your interest known at the Society's next meeting and we will set up a group tour. This time the trip, the experience, is well worth it!

---

## Docent meeting notes

By Gail Chulick

Wednesday, September 25, 2008

Ruby and Donna reported that the Depot parking for Dayton Valley Days was a success. The parking donations for both days was \$305. Ruby and Donna gave many thanks to all who helped with the parking.

Ruby and Donna went over the plans for the rummage sale September 27 & 28. Most of the meeting time was spent finalizing arrangements for the rummage sale.

The historical Dayton Spirit Walk will take place Friday, October 31, from 5:30 pm until 9:00 pm. Ruby asks that you contact her if you do not have a spirit persona for the Spirit Walk. She has ideas for you!

Ruby showed the Docents a notebook that is kept on the desk at the Museum. A Docent on duty at the Museum may be asked an historical question by a patron and not know the answer. The notebook is used to record the question and the patron's name and phone number. Other Docents working the Museum can check the book and contact patrons with correct answers.

Ruby stated that in the first part of November Lois Hill, the only person in the Dayton class of 1947, will talk to the Docents about the

Walmsley family and their Canadian connection.

Saturday, October 11, at 11:00 am, Pat will kick off the fall/winter Docent lecture series at the Museum. He will talk about the discovery of gold in Dayton.

The next Docent meeting will be Wednesday, October 22, at 10:30 am at the Museum.

---



Dayton's Depot the way it looked about 1910, a decade into the **Southern Pacific** era for the former **Carson & Colorado Railroad** station.