

Docents Newsletter

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Historical Society of Dayton Valley

February 2009

Docent Program

By Ruby McFarland

It's hard to believe that three years ago I was it, Ms. Dayton Museum. I dreamed of a docent program and enough people to relieve me on weekends. Be careful what you wish for. Not only does the Museum have a docent program but I have to step up quickly to get a weekend to stay in touch with what is going on.

I love the folks who come to the Museum and they register their surprise that we have such a good display of artifacts. The rest of the world needs to know that too. We need to have more people visit. I don't know how to encourage more people. Now we have more people as docents to draw on for ideas. The docents we have are an energetic group of people who have limitless suggestions and lots of muscle.

The assignment I'd like to give you all is to go out there and encourage people to join us. Tell folks how much fun we have (even if you have to fib) on our projects. Tell them if they want to join an active group of people who care about the history of Dayton and Nevada, here we are.

The next assignment would be to bring ideas of people we would like to hear from in future lectures. There you have it – get to it.

Note: For anyone thinking they may have missed a newsletter in January, no newsletter was published that month due to all the holiday activities throughout December. -Editor.

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

Out with the old and in with the new! The Museum ended 2008 with a special tour and is now preparing to ready itself for 2009 with a scheduled clean-up and inventory project.

Organized by Vicki Kinney in conjunction with a totally new school project she is working on, she, Donna [McElroy] and myself brought some early Dayton history to about 15 or so Latch Key children. On December 29th, they walked to the Museum from Dayton Elementary, commendable in itself, and very enthusiastically learned about our early history. Bubbling with questions and comments, the kids tried to take in all the information we had. They delighted in the artifact search we had after the presentation and were thrilled with the candy sticks Donna rewarded them with. Go figure their excitement over outhouses! The final kicker was their being able to ring the school bell on their way out.

This was preliminary to a new HSDV project being begun by Vicki to bring early Dayton history in the form of costumed pioneers to our three grade schools in March. All society members are encouraged to participate. Call Vicki to join the wagon train: 246-9396.

We intend to reopen the Museum on February 28th after a couple of work days. Our docent meeting on February 25th will determine the Museum assignments. Check your schedules now. Ruby is turning over all

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Museum tour times to the Docents this year so step up and lend a hand.

We are on quite a roll and hope to make 2009 even better than years past. Our Museum is a well kept secret and we have to work to change that and gain much more exposure in the coming season, and continue to have fun doing it. Thanks for all your work and support of the Society.

Internet doings

By Bob Wallace

Every once in a while I get on the Internet and search for a word or two, or phrases of one sort or another. Which way I choose to go depends on what's been running through my head for a few days, sometimes a few weeks.

One recent search, conducted on January 24 of this year, was an effort to learn how many "hits" one might get on the Internet for the words "historical society" and "historical societies." Given the results, a difference does exist between the two phrases.

In the first search, "historical society" in its singular form, the Internet came back within a second or two with 27,900,000 hits, meaning pages or sites with that phrase connected to it in one way or another. Somewhere within those nearly 28,000,000 pages one would find the Historical Society of Dayton Valley, and may have been in there for more than one page.

Changing the phrase to its plural form, "historical societies," produced far fewer pages, returning only 778,000 hits. All those groups connected to the Internet with "society" as part of their name may not show up when one does a search with the word "societies" instead unless the webmaster has included that word within the coding for a specific web site.

One of the sites that did show up with the second search was "Directory of Historical and Genealogical Societies," a web site that lists societies such as the Historical Society of Dayton Valley, or groups who spend some of their time researching family lines. A quick jump to this site and search of historical groups in Nevada came up empty – no one had sent in their group name and web site anywhere in the Silver State!

It took me only a moment to send a message to our webmaster, Linda Clements, and relay the message that one web site was available to those looking for historical groups around the nation, that anyone searching for a society in Nevada might think no one in Nevada was concerned with the history of their local area, when in fact we know that there are groups around this state.

We don't know how quickly this web site updates listings of historical societies after it's made available to them, but one day when our information is posted on their site, anyone will be able to search for "dayton valley" and find information on the Historical Society of Dayton Valley.
