

Docents Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 3

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

April 2009

Docent Program

By Ruby McFarland

Ah! Spring – it comes and goes in Nevada but there are days you can believe it's here to stay. Those snow flakes add to the moisture we need. Even though we live with roller coaster weather it doesn't stop the folks of HSDV from planning what seems like too many things to do. Somehow they all get done. The past couple of years I thought we bit off more than we could do – guess what, we got it done.

This spring there is continuing teaching of docents every Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. Then we will throw in a couple more things to do. Start with dedications, field trips, lectures, weed killing, Chamber of Commerce dinners, and manning the museum every day in May.

We will take a deep breath then get on to summer. A little bird told me it's going to be a busy summer also. I heard tell of more field trips, a rummage sale, and more docent teaching. Wouldn't want us to be idle. Idleness is the devil's work.

It makes me feel so proud to have such a great group of people to work with and plan the future of HSDV. I hope we can get other folks interested in joining in the fun we have.

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

Three weeks into a new program and docent training is really hitting its stride. Everyone was very enthusiastic when this was first announced and the results are already evident. Systematically each of the major displays in the museum are being reviewed and studied so that our docents will be more knowledgeable and well as comfortable when showing visitors around the museum. Each and every one of us has learned something new because of this review. So far we have covered gold discovery and early pioneers. Bob Foster came and took us through the scale display, and last week Del Minor and Laura Tennant provided information concerning long time resident and school teacher Bertha Scott who lived to be 103.

The ultimate goal of the program is to create a printed manual or guide for the museum that will help docents old and new, give more informative tours. The docents are comparing notes and putting together what they consider the most germane facts.

We will be continuing this weekend with a presentation by Armand Arnett on the history of telephone service in Dayton.

Carson & Colorado Railroad

75 years of memories at the Dayton Depot, April 25, 2009. Coffee and donuts at 9:00 a.m.; field trip, 11:30 a.m. Churchill to Wabuska, weather allowing.

Inside this issue:

HSDV School Program	Page 2
Museum Dollhouse	Page 2
Bits and Pieces	Page 4

HSDV School program

By Vicki Kinney

It has been the Historical Society's hope to bring Dayton history alive for the students at Dayton schools. Linda Adams asked Vicki Kinney to contact the schools and see if this program could get off the ground. And off the ground it went! Very well, too, if I do say so myself.

The reception and response has been great. All three principals and the teachers were very receptive. It was decided that we would meet with all the 4th graders in the multi-purpose room at each school. We were scheduled for Dayton Elementary on March 25, and Sutro Elementary on March 27. We still have River-view to do on April 6.

One of our dear supporters said we deserved an academy award. I am not sure about that, but we were successful. I went by Sutro yesterday [first few days of April. -Ed.] to see if the evaluation forms (developed by Dagmar) had been turned in, and was met by one of the teachers at Sutro who told me how good the program had been and how happy they were that we had offered it to their fourth graders. Great validation.

Ruby McFarland introduced us. She has a cute intro, telling [the students] she has invited some spirit friends to tell their tales. She'd met these friends while reading Dayton history. Then she introduced each of us individually, saying a few words about each of us. We went in order of our presence in Dayton.

Laura Ellis Dettenrider, by Laura Tennant
Fanny Nazlett, by Vicki Kinney
Mary Johnson, by Donna McElroy
Frank Bugby, by Tom Parcels
Emma Loftus, by Vivian Smith

We had a great support team. At DES, Pat Neylan, Sheila Hodach, Jack Folmar and Morgan Webber were there. At Sutro, Pat Neylan, Morgan and Dagmar Webber were in attendance. I watched the video Morg made of our Sutro show. It was very helpful and it confirmed what a good job we had done and how much effort was put in to each of our roles by each of us.

Another blessing that happened for us is when Laura invited Barbara Peck to speak at the museum and she learned about our school program. She is a teacher at DES and loves Dayton history. She volunteered to go ahead of us per class per school and explain what a Chautauqua was, and give them some background on Dayton history with the use of a timeline. She mentioned each of our characters as far as where we fit on the timeline, but didn't tell them our stories. That has really helped to prepare the kids for our "show." Speaking of the kids, they have been very attentive and interested. They have had lots of great questions. Mr. Bugby and his dynamite made a bit hit!

This program is a keeper. It teaches and it is great exposure for HSDV. I am sure there is room to grow with this one.

Dorothy "Dixie" Randall Layman and Dayton Museum's dollhouse

By Laura Tennant

The story behind the dollhouse at the Dayton Museum begins in Nevada and Dayton's early history when George Perry Randall immigrated here circa 1875. The Randalls ranched where the Dayton gold course is located now.

A blacksmith and rancher, Geroge was elected Lyon County Sheriff in 1882. When he

- Continued on Page 3 -

retired, his son, Dixie Perry Randall, followed in his footsteps as did his grandson, Dick Clark Randall. The Randalls dominated law and order in the county from 1882-1936, but that's another story.

Dixie and Gertrude Hazlett Randall married, and their daughter, Dorothy "Dixie" Randall Layman lived on the Dayton ranch. (Fanny Hazlett, Dayton historian, was Dorothy's grandmother).

When she was 11 years old, her mother, Gertrude, died from an appendicitis attack, leaving her only female child to live with her grandfather Randall, father Dixie and brothers operating the Randall Ranch.

I'm speculating that raising a young daughter during Dayton's heyday years might have been a tough job for the nearly-all-male family. Anyway, they sent Dorothy off to a private school in San Rafael, California.

But she never forgot Dayton – it was her hometown, she loved it and cherished its memories until passed on in the later 1990s.

And, to confuse historians, in her later years, Dorothy wished to be called Dixie.

Anyway, when I met Dorothy, she lived in Reno; a little bit of a woman, she was 93 years old, and full of vim and vigor.

She had lost her husband, the former Washoe County Justice of the Peace. Her daughter, born with Down's Syndrome, still lived at home. She was in her 60s. Dorothy (Dixie) had three children but lost two of them at an early age.

We got together because she had read a couple of stories about the Dayton Museum and other local history. She saved every Dayton story she found. I think she called Ray, me and another Daytonite, Georgina Quilici Ballom, to her home in Reno. (See a brief rendition of Georgina's history at the end, and, these Quilici's aren't related to those living in Dayton now).

When Dorothy led us to the basement, it was

astounding to see so much Dayton memorabilia. There's a photo in Reflections of her showing us the dollhouse and the miniature figurines and furniture she had created. She had replicated a mercantile from her childhood memories (Braun and Loftus Mercantile on Main St.) along with other special replications of life in early-day Dayton. I immediately ask if I could do a Reflections story on her family. She was thrilled and we had plenty of fun.

A few years later, Phil Earl, Reno Historical Society historian, conducted an historical tour that included Dayton. We opened the Museum. It was exciting – one of our first out-of-town tours. Dixie had told us she was coming to see the Museum firsthand. When she walked in, she said something to me I'll never forget: "Laura, when I die, I want you to make a statue of me and put me right over there." That happened to be where we had a manikin wearing a white dress that had belonged to Bertha Scott. It was placed near the front of the Museum. She loved seeing her family items on display. Those items were labeled then but time has taken its toll.

Before she passed away, Dixie donated so many Dayton items to the Museum that we quickly filled the cabinets. We wrote and got a grant for \$33,000 to have more display cabinets made and to renovate the old Senior Center kitchen, along with new wood floors.

That's where the dollhouse, the Randall family's bedroom furniture, and other family items are exhibited – many displays contain items Dixie donated to us. She actually rented a U-Haul and had the whole set of China and other items delivered to the Museum. These items have been accessioned with some history offered.

Tidbit on the Asuero Quilici family

Georgina Quilici Ballom's parents, Asuero and Pasquina Quilici, owned and operated the Odeon Hall & Saloon during prohibition and

- Continued on Page 4 -

Depression days. They sold it, moved to Sparks selling it, but repurchased it in 1916. A few days later Asuero died of a heart attack and Pasquina had four kids to support. She stayed on, running the Odeon, taking in boarders (accommodations located in outbuildings), bartending and cooking. The family's living quarters were in the rear of the building. Her family's story, "The Spirit Endures," is published in the 1990 "Lyon County Reflections."

Bits and pieces

By Bob Wallace

Computers in this day and age are truly marvelous when they're functioning the way they're supposed to function. Push the start button, wait for the operating system to load up, then allow the user to do any number of things, including the backup function.

Pulling up the System Tools and choosing the "Backup" function, this Linux operating system (similar to Windows, including the graphics interface) brings up a menu that takes one through the several setup modules for making a backup of files throughout the computer so that any malfunction, usually when least expected by the user, can get the user back up and running within no more than maybe a few hours.

In this instance, the menu suggested backing up to the hard drive, then copying all that data to the CD, which sounded good. Limit on the backup to "only" 1,000 megabytes, which in most instances would be no problem, with the data going to the hard drive likely being a little bit quicker than backing up a portion of the system, copying to the CD, backing up some more files and copying until all files have been

backed up. Sounds good so long as all the lights keep blinking, something appears to be going on, until one finally realizes that there is nothing going on!

Dig out the Linux manual and look up that section dealing with the backup function, figure out where the backup files are written, locate that area and delete the file that was fully one-third larger than the 1,000 megabytes the backup program was supposed to stop at, thus freeing up sufficient memory to allow for the Linux operating system to come up again in graphics mode as it's supposed to. Good thing it did, as Ruby's piece had already been put on the front page, the rest of this issue still to be entered.

With the computer up and running again also means having access to several book report files sent earlier this year by Linda Clements that will get in the May issue, that being National Historic Preservation Month. Two full pages of books on Nevada history as recommended by Ron James and Guy Rocha.

Several dates to keep in mind for this month of April. Third Wednesday of each month is the general membership meeting for the HSDV, with the Depot Working Group meeting immediately following. Fourth Wednesday is the docents meeting at the museum. As noted on the bottom of Page 1 in this issue, April 25 is the date for the Depot stories and a trip through Adrian Valley, weather permitting. If it snows or rains just prior to that weekend, we may be hanging out in the Depot for much of the day instead of traveling from Churchill to Wabuska along the railroad tracks.
