

Docents Newsletter

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Historical Society of Dayton Valley

April 2010

Docents program

By Ruby McFarland

“The secret of all those who make discoveries is that they regard nothing as impossible.” Justus Leibig (1803-1873)

Seems a good thought, however, as I get a little older I find [it] is harder to find new ways to make life easier. I work hard at keeping up with the chores of living and learning.

We, in the HSDV, work pretty hard at making the group interesting and finding new ways to find new people to join our progressive group. We did a couple of goodwill programs this past month and have one more to go in April. The Chautauqua group played to the fourth graders at Riverview Elementary School.

I love little kids and I like to watch their reaction to situations. Tom Parcells, one of the stars of the program, stirs imagination in the minds of the kids. He has them in the palm of his hands – they hang on his every word. Donna McElroy shows her petticoats and high button shoes and the kids have a mixed reaction to her having to wear all of those clothes. The hat pins are of interest also.

Jack Folmar makes a very convincing Adolf Sutro – very dapper. He did a good job explaining the Sutro tunnel with photos.

Fanny Hazlett (Vicki Kinney) just improves with every performance. She has the same problem that everyone of the crew has – too much to tell – so little time. They all feel a little crowded for time.

Linda Adams plays Ola Rollins, a teacher at Dayton High [School]. She assists with props for the other players. She also tells what life was like in the 1920s in Dayton. Also in the cast of

characters is Marty Lewis who plays Laura Dettenreider. She does a splendid job explaining her early days in Dayton.

All in all, with the groundwork set by Barbara Peck at the schools, we had a [very] successful production and hope to keep it up.

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

Spring is in the air ... sort of ... and many of us turn our thoughts to cleaning and doing maintenance at our homes. Fortunately for the Society, Ron Rowe and Tom Parcells thought about spring cleaning at the Museum. It has not been a secret that the Museum, and the Depot, needed some “deferred maintenance,” and soon! Through the coordinated efforts of Ron and Tom, and a number of volunteers, many not members of the Society, Herculean tasks were performed at both locations.

A list of 62 items was presented to the Society at our last meeting. This included, but certainly is not limited to, such things as roof repairs, yard cleanup, temporary roofs over the outhouses, painting, caulking, raking, siding replacement, work on the drip system, tree trimming, in short, everything I am glad I do not have to do later in the year!

All of our members should be grateful to Ron and Tom for all of their efforts! Both sites are in better condition for the coming season, as well as the coming years. All of our members should take pride in the Society's efforts and impact within Dayton.

The really good news is that all of our locations are in really good shape to be showcased in April

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for the Railroad Jamboree on the 24th! Talk up this event and plan to be part of it!

Dayton History Reader Book Club

By Linda Adams

The Dayton History Reader Book Club reviewed our first book, "Men to Match My Mountains," by Irving Stone, on Thursday, February 4th at Starbucks in Dayton from 3pm-4:30pm. We had a small attendance for a big first read. All agreed this was a great starter book for a non-fiction history-based book club. If you are new to the area, not up on the history of the far west, this writer hits all the people you will meet in other books about the far west. Everyone at the book club gave this book; from a rating of 1-5 being the highest a 5 star. It was a very readable history containing wonderful tales of the opening of the American west and how it changed the existing country at the time.

Our March read is "Orphans Preferred, The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legend of the Pony Express," by Christopher Corbett. We will meet to discuss this book on Thursday, April 1st at Starbucks in Dayton, from 3pm-4:30pm. We decided to read and review this book due to April 3rd of this year the history of the Pony Express will celebrate its first ride that took place 150 years ago. "The Pony," as it was known, has more history and folklore than its actual time in business, which was only 18 months.

On Thursday, June 3rd, our Dayton History Reader Book Club will meet again at Starbucks in Dayton from 3pm to 4:30pm to discuss our June book, "Comstock Lode," by Louis Lamour. Louis Lamour is known for storytelling of the American past, bringing history to life in his novels. This book is a historical fiction about our great gold and silver strike. The tale begins in Cornwall, England. A mining family that wants to come to America. "Better to do placer-mining like we tanners used to do before the deep mines began,"

that's what he told his wife in their little thatched cottage in 1849. "We need to make a better life for our son," the husband said. They were among the dreamers, the restless, the builders, and the rest that were lured by the glittering promises of instant riches. Find out what happens and join us with your thoughts about the story.

All of the books that we read and discuss can be obtained from our area libraries. The Dayton History Reader Book Club meets bi-monthly, on the first Thursday at Starbucks in Dayton, from 3pm-4:30pm. For year 2010 our meets are February, April, June, August and October. All are welcome to join us for refreshments and a lively discussion. Please contact Linda Adams at 246-8382 for more information.

Dates to remember

By Bob Wallace

April and May are going to be extremely busy months for the Historical Society of Dayton Valley. April has several celebrations in store for us, and May is **National Historic Preservation Month**, which includes lectures at the Senior Center, speakers and dates to be determined, and keeping the Museum open all month.

April 3: Pony Express ride through Dayton; and Bucklands Station Open House.

April 14: HSDV General meeting at 12:30pm, followed by the C&C Working Group.

April 21: Docents meeting at the Museum at 10:30am.

April 24: C&C Depot Jamboree, 10am-4pm, at the C&C Depot in Old Town.

May 5: Docents visit to Genoa.

May 12: HSDV General meeting at 12:30pm, followed by the C&C Working Group.

May 15: Oodles of Noodles.

May 19: Docents meeting at the Museum at 10:30am.