

# Docents Newsletter

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Historical Society of Dayton Valley

February 2011

## Docents program

By Ruby McFarland

“Behold we know not anything;  
I can but trust that good shall fall  
At last – far off – at last, to all,  
And every winter change to spring.”  
Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

It's been a long winter so far, and a lot of folks have had more than their share of everything. I hope spring brings us some relief from the winter blahs. I keep looking down the road at things we can do to make our historical society interesting enough that people want to join us in our fun things. It's one thing to join; it's another to belong to HSDV. “Belonging to” means you want to do projects that are meaningful and you feel important as part of the results.

I don't have the stamina any more to do gigantic projects. I do have some ideas that need strong backs and devotion. Since we have established a precedent with our displays we will have to find places to let them be seen and add to the display to keep it fresh. The more historic pieces we have, the more we can change each display.

I've had a lot of time to think about new pieces this winter. Now, what I'll need are hands to accomplish the task. I'd like to add the museum, a camel, a stamp mill and any other historic things you folks can think of that interest people. And I would like us to have people cutouts for people to take photos with. We could start with pioneer folks and children for people to stand behind and use their heads for the photo.

We have made other historical societies sit up and take notice of how much we do and how many people are active in our society. We have

the ball rolling and with a little effort we will keep it going. As Confucius says, “a thousand mile journey begins with a single step.” We have already taken the first step. Happy journey!

## Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

**New Museum Season, Believe It or Not!** I know we are in the midst of a false spring, but, be that as it may, we still must start considering the real spring and how we will be ready for it. Not pruning your roses or setting out your patio furniture, but making sure the Dayton Museum is ready for the public. Clean and fully staffed. We all know that we have an exciting and active year before us, but ... we still have to start with the basics ... the museum. This is the best and most important expression of Dayton we have at our disposal. Getting folks into the museum is the focus of many of our events throughout the year, so let's be ready!

At the February general meeting, the needs of the museum will be discussed. Sign ups will be requested for cleaning days (inside and out) and a plea will be put forth for new docents to come and sit the museum. Not to fear. Anyone can come and sit the museum with another docent for a learning experience. It is fun. It is important! And your help will make the visitor's Dayton experience more meaningful.

Getting a jump on the season is Jack “Sutro” Folmar who put together the first major display change at our museum in quite a long time. Through his efforts, aided by several members, a totally new display dealing with the Sutro Tunnel will be unveiled to the public when our museum

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opens in early March. Jack coordinated the “temporary” display we have all been viewing and commenting on, but, after universal approval, it will soon be a permanent display. The display wall will have been repainted (by Jack) and all the incredible photos and commentaries (supplied by Jack) will be mounted on a permanent basis to amaze and enlighten our spring visitors. Few with questions about the Sutro Tunnel can leave our museum without answers.

New to Dayton? Curious about “your” history? Join the Society! Become a docent! Buddy up with a current docent and learn! We all learn from each other. You are more than welcome! Call Patrick Neylan at 246-3527, or send email to him: [virginiacitypat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:virginiacitypat@sbcglobal.net)

## New year, new dates

By Bob Wallace

Starting a new year means marking dates in a new calendar. There are quite a few dates to consider in this new year. Beginning with the cleanup in the museum, to the first weekend of opening to the public, lots to do provided the weather cooperates with us. With all that to think about in coming days, behind the scenes a handful of people are getting started on planning several of this year's events.

The first general membership meeting of the new year has already taken place, picking up where we left off with the third Wednesday of the month. Docents held their first monthly meeting the fourth Wednesday of January. Catching up on threads from last year, starting new threads for the current year, all the “usual suspects” are in play.

Following the docent meeting on Wednesday, February 23, some interior or exterior cleaning will take place at the museum, depending on cooperation from the weather; Thursday, February 24 being set to finish off any cleanup not taken care of on Wednesday. Opening the doors to the public with a clean building and grounds is keeping up a tradition started many years ago. If you have some time available to help out, bring

along your cleanup clothes and gloves. As noted a moment ago, cleaning up will be done depending on how the Dayton weather cooperates with us.

The museum will open on the weekend of March 5 and 6, the usual hours: Saturday from 10:00 until 4:00, this shift breaking at 1:00 if we have two volunteers to sit the museum. Sunday begins at 1:00 and goes until 4:00, one continuous shift. Anyone aspiring to become a Dayton docent is welcome to come in on either day and learn from whomever is opening and closing for the day. Each successive weekend will follow this same pattern, open on Saturday and Sunday. The major change in this schedule comes up in May when we make the effort to keep the doors open every day of the week for National Historic Preservation Month.

The end of April brings with it the second annual Depot Jamboree, a railroad-oriented event celebrating 130 years since the depot opened its doors for passengers and freight along the Carson & Colorado Railroad. This event takes place at the corner of Highway 50 East and Main Street in Dayton. Plans are coming together for this year's celebration. The March newsletter will have details of what to expect at this year's event.

May will be the usual busy month. Museum to be open every day, and in the middle of the month Oodles of Noodles in Old Town on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Look for additional details on events this year in upcoming issues of the newsletter, usually out by the first of each month with the exception of January.



Dayton's setup crew for the 2010 display at Reno's *Nevada Territory Wild West Fair*.