



DOCENTS NEWSLETTER

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

<http://daytonnvhistory.org>

December 2015

THE CYCLE

By Pat Neylan

Here's hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

As the weather turns cold and the wind really icy; with Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas soon approaching, as is our tradition the museum has closed for the season bringing the cycle of wowing visitors and guests to a close for 2015. The entire Society owes a great big "thank you" to all the dedicated docents who worked so hard this year making Dayton's history come alive for the largest ever number of individuals and groups that found their way to Nevada's First Settlement!

Next the hibernation cycle begins, but will not last for long. Once the New Year is upon us the wheels will start turning and plans will begin to come together to enhance the museum experience even more for our 2016 visitors. A new display highlighting the Rock Point Mill is already coming together, an update of the docent operation manual is in the works and other ideas are flying about!

The next major project to be dealt with is increasing the number of people who staff the museum during the season. Over the course of 2015 several of our "regulars" had to curtail their participation at the museum for health, personal, and other reasons, so we will have to attract, inspire, encourage and dazzle some more members of the Society into joining us and having the experience of a lifetime learning and sharing Dayton's history with interesting folks from all over the world!! So here is an invitation to all of our members to start thinking about helping out at their museum. The only commitment required is 3 hrs a month from March to November....how easy is that?

At the general meeting in January we will be asking for anyone *even thinking* about helping out to sign up to attend an orientation/introduction meeting at the museum on the first Wednesday in February at 10am. At that point we will explain all about "sitting the museum" and what it involves, with sample tours of the displays, procedures, the gift shop....the works!! So, think about it and come join us!!!

These are from the Christmas party held the first year that we gave the Gold Nugget Award, December 2006.

Laura Tennant Award recipients: Ruby McFarland, Stony Tennant, Linda Clements, with President Del Minor. Gold Nugget winners were: Mouryne and retired Speaker of the Nevada House Joe Dini [Joe won GN Award], Laura, Guy Rocha [won GN award]. We gave two the first year because it was a new award and both the honorees were long overdue for acknowledgement. (Pictures contributed by Linda Clements)





We also honored Commissioner Bob Milz that night for his role in saving the depot (from sale to become a Rite Aide). He's pictured with his wife Elaine.



From that same night I've also included some pictures of members who are no longer with us. [This also includes Joe Dini.] They are Victor Kirby (Victoria Pradere's son) and his wife Barbara [both deceased], Del's husband Gene Minor, and Dagmar and Morgan Webber [both deceased]. I thought some folks would enjoy seeing them again. I'm sure you know that Morg served as our photographer and videographer for years. Victor was the man who did the diesel work on the 1938 Dayton fire truck, "Granny," that is housed in the firehouse/jail. In fact, Victor got it and kept it running—a state Granny has never maintained since. And Gene, of course, supported Del in her many HSDV activities and was also a founding member. The officer picture is supposed to be showing handing over the gavel. The lineup is me (Director), Grace (Treasurer), Ruby (Director), Laura (VP), Mabel (Secretary), Linda Adams (incoming 2007 president), and Del Minor (outgoing 2006 President).



CHESTER BARTON LOVED KEEPING WILD ANIMALS: Chester had a

"zoo" in his backyard where the old RR Depot is on Main and Highway 50 today. This unique and somewhat scary picture is of Chester's pet bear wrestling his dog! It appears the bear is winning. Chester was a colorful Dayton man from a prominent Lyon County family who was raised in Dayton. He and his wife Helen bought the C&C RR Depot in the mid-1950s and moved it from its original site on RR Street and remodeled it for their residence. He had a "zoo" in his backyard at their home. This picture I just bought on eBay is dated as the "1930s" but I am not sure of the date as I don't know the site where it was taken. If it is a 1930s picture, it was not taken at their homesite on Main and the highway. (Submitted by Laura Tennant, Dayton Historian)



Docent Letters
By Ruby McFarland

Deck the halls with boughs of holly!!!

Last month Laura Tennant wrote of Belle Gates which was very interesting. I have read Emma Loftus' diaries at least five times and some parts over and over again. By the time I had read them enough times to be familiar with her handwriting and the people she was friends with, I felt as if Emma was a friend of mine, a dear friend, I might add. Her friends became my friends. Belle Gates was one of them.

Emma started out living in Dayton on Main Street, but Main Street now is part of the dredge pit. Belle and her mother visited Emma often. I don't know how Emma had time to visit as she was a compulsive house cleaner. Her diaries reflected that compulsion.

Emma, however did record the news of the day. It was a personal view, but a piece of history. Most people say "Oh, her diary," as if it could be covered in a day. There were and are 41 diaries that described her daily life in detail; not only her daily life, but the news of the day. I would love to see her diaries compiled into journals such as was written about Alf Donten. I'm so afraid the diaries will be forgotten and all that history as she saw it will be lost. Just her take of WWII is interesting. Small town Nevada had opinions too.

Emma shopped at the Della Santa store. That was Victoria Pradre's father and mother. Emma enjoyed the fresh vegetables the family grew.

I wish I could read the accounts of early 1900s of Dayton again. I have to live with the memories of her writings.

Emma and her son Chester Barton saw to it that all the children of Dayton had presents at Christmas time with a party at the Community Center.

Merry Christmas to all.

(This is one of the bios featured in the book *Nevada Women's Legacy 150 years of Excellence*)

Mabel Masterman

Currently I'm President of the Historical Society of Dayton Valley (HSDV). I also served as its Secretary from 2004 through 2008 (5 years). HSDV is a self-sustaining volunteer organization, established in 1987. We are currently celebrating our 27th year.

My husband Ken and I lived and worked in Reno for many years before moving to Dayton. While in Reno I was involved in the Reno Balloon Races, crewing for 15 years and serving as Secretary for the Great Reno Balloon Race Aeronauts. Since moving to Dayton I have been involved in volunteer activities including serving



on the Dayton Area Regional Advisory Committee but my primary interest has been the Historical Society. I've been an active participant since I've arrived—helping to protect, preserve and promote Dayton area history, historic integrity, heritage and culture.

I guess my interest in history came to me naturally. I always knew my ancestors first arrived in America in 1635 and that I'm also a descendant of Samuel F.B. Morse (a noted artist and the father of the Morse Code). I've lived over half my life in Nevada, but I'm a third generation native northern Californian. Growing up everyone in my family was very interested in local history. As children I'm sure my sister and I visited every old cemetery in the Mother Lode, Redding, Chico, Stockton and Sacramento areas! That was in addition to going through

lots of historic buildings (including the State Capital), which seemed like my Grandmother's favorite thing to do...and she knew everybody!

Now I find something ironic. When in College I wrote a term paper on Sutter's Mill and Coloma, California where their State's gold was discovered in 1848. Then we eventually moved to Dayton (from Reno) where Nevada's gold was discovered in 1849!

Local history is fascinating and is a wonderful reminder of an era most folks have forgotten—and younger folks can only imagine. Actually, between history and having been part of crews for hot air balloons, I'm hard pressed to know which I like best!

A note from your editor: There will not be a newsletter in January. Here's wishing all of you a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a healthy NEW YEAR

