

DOCENTS NEWSLETTER

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

<http://daytonnhistory.org>

February 2016

THE SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

By Pat Neylan

The schoolhouse museum is the most important asset the HSDV has for teaching and exposing Dayton history to both locals and visitors from far and wide.....but I was a *little* relieved when the season wound down around Thanksgiving. After that the joy of the Christmas Season looms ahead and all our thoughts turn to family, memories and sitting by the fire with a hot chocolate; exactly where they should be. The winter months provide an opportunity for recharging ourselves while making plans for the spring.

Every year this lulls me into a false comfort zone. There is a lot that can be done at the museum. We lay out an important agenda for things we need to accomplish....but what the heck!;....we have all winter to get it done!! Then what? Christmas is gone! New Years is gone! The first HSDV meeting is gone! Lent, St. Valentine's Day and Ground Hog Day are just around the corner....next they will be saying "Spring is in the air!!" But not to worry; this year is truly different!!

This year we have new signups for volunteers at the museum. This year we have an incredible new display ready that highlights the Rock Point Mill thanks to Don and Elaine Bergstrom and it will "Rock" our visitors. This year the docent training manual will be available to all the volunteers who will be sharing the museum with visitors beginning in March thanks to Laura Tennant and MaryAnn Sichak. This year, thanks to new and old volunteers we are *ahead of the curve* for once. As good as all this sounds, we still need additional help making sure the museum is available consistently throughout the visitor season. There will be an informational volunteer meeting at the Schoolhouse Museum on Thursday, Feb 4th at 9am for anyone who *ever* gave the slightest thought to becoming part of the museum staff. We will review every aspect of "sitting the museum" including giving basic tours, gift shop sales, alarm system, heating and AC...everything! If you just want to "test the waters" about learning Dayton history and participating more fully in the HSDV plan on joining us at this meeting. As history has shown, you will be the major beneficiary!! Hope to see you there.

Remembering Tom Parcels

May 28, 1936 to Dec. 9, 2015

By Vicki Kinney

Tom Joined the Historical Society in 2007, and became very active right from the git go. Tom was active in almost all aspects of the society, and remained so until he and Diane moved to Sacramento about two years ago. He loved railroads and so became very involved with the railroad group. He was a director on the HSDV board for 6 years. He was a docent at the museum, and portrayed Frank Bugbee in the school program Chautauqua's as well as during our Dayton Ghost walk (the kids loved him). He always helped with our Nevada Day Floats. He made lists of maintenance issues at the Depot and the Museum and went to great lengths to see that the issues were addressed and corrected. He would put together work groups to work at both places. Tom wasn't always able to do the actual work but would be there and do what he could. I am sure there are many other things Tom did that I haven't mentioned but hopefully this helps us remember the man Tom was and all his contributions to HSDV. RIP Tom.



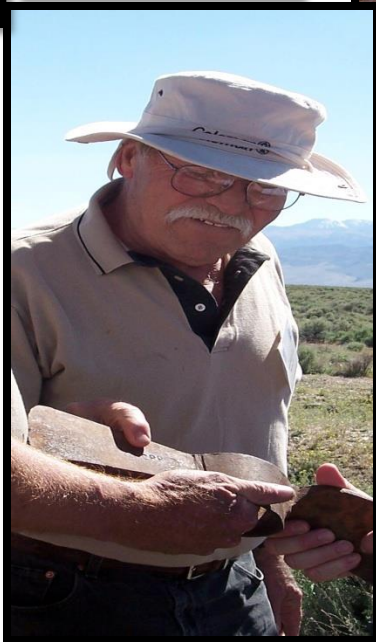
4 pictures of Tom as Frank Bugbee in the schools and at our annual ghost walk



Tom at the Depot



Tom at a RR group meeting at the museum with Bernie, Linda and John



Tom checking out a SP tool in Owens Valley

By Laura Tennant

The Dayton Bugle published DHS basketball news 100 years ago

With the western Nevada hoop season on tap, I wish to reveal a bit of history about the 1915 DHS basketball boys and girls teams.

I did not know until recently that DHS had basketball teams so early in its history because construction on the town's first high school building on Pike Street was not completed until 1918. (This building is now the town community center.)

Finding Dayton high school history is like hunting for a needle in a haystack; yet, over time, I have learned that Dayton's original high school classes were conducted in the back room of the grammar school between 1912 and 1918.

Interestingly, at one time, the Dayton Grammar School was also referred to as the *Dayton Public School*. I am surmising that this name may have originated when it served as a grammar school and a high school.

(Today, the school house, built in 1865, is the Dayton Museum on Shady Lane.)

The fact that Dayton did have a basketball team in 1915 is recorded in a newspaper few folks know exists. The *Dayton Bugle* was a four-page high school student-published newspaper that covered town news too, and appears to have been published quarterly by the *Nevada Press* in Reno.

Denise Hoffman of Dayton donated original copies of the March and July *Dayton Bugle* to the Historical Society of Dayton Valley in August.

Denise was the present Dayton High School's secretary for a couple of decades before she retired. I enjoyed working with Denise when I covered high school events for the Dayton Courier. She was always professional, competent and helpful.

So, thanks to Denise, more pages have been added to Dayton's school history. I am a 1955 DHS grad and my daughters, Melissa and Nicole, graduated with the classes of 1989 and 1991, so recording more of the school history is exciting. (The new DHS opened in 1982. High school was not held in Dayton between 1959 and 1982.)

Teams travelled on the Southern Pacific

The headlines in the March 20 front-page edition of the Bugle report: "Dayton Defeats Reno High, Dayton High Invades Fallon, Dayton Defeats Winnemucca, the Eastern Nevada Champions." The boys' team won more games than the girls. One news article begins: "The combined basketball teams entrained for Reno and Fallon on Friday afternoon on February 20. At the last moment, it was decided to take the girls along. With ribbons flying and high spirits in evidence, more than 20 students and teachers besieged the *Overland Limited* when it drew into the little yellow depot in Dayton and nearly smothered the conductor and train crew. Everyone was in good humor. There were not enough girls to go around but certain members of the team were not backward about making up the deficiency from among the young ladies on the train."

After the game, the teams attended a dance and then the girls were taken to private homes, where they spent the night while the boys stayed at the Overland Hotel.

Saturday morning, they boarded the Atlantic Express in Reno and arrived in the "sugar beet city" of Fallon at noon.

The Fallon team and its supporters met Daytonites at the train depot with a band and the drummers led a parade down Main Street. Dayton won the close game and the reporter mentioned how wonderful the townsfolk treated the Dayton rooters: "After the game, the orchestra let loose and the visitors were shown a royal good time."

The next day, the student entourage toured Fallon's modern sugar beet factory and they traveled in three automobiles during a 19-mile trip to Lahontan Reservoir for an educational tour of the newly built dam.

Home games played in the Odeon

Since Dayton's high school had not yet been built, I wondered where the teams played. The newspaper article clarifies the question, noting Dayton played Winnemucca on February 5 at the Odeon in the upstairs hall.

Dayton had defeated Winnemucca and then Reno in a home game held at the Odeon Hall on Pike Street.

"The red and white put one over the metropolis aggregation," noted the subhead line.

Dayton beat Carson City in a hard fought game and felt they had finally accomplished a longtime goal with the win.

Wrote the reporter: "Captain Casinella's well-oiled basketball machine took the victory by the decisive score of 33 to 13.

When the timekeepers whistle blew its shrill scream at the close of the second half, the Dayton audience went wild."



On January 27, Pat Neylan posed with a group of citizens from Hong Kong who scheduled a tour that he conducted at the Dayton Museum and Old Town Dayton on January 17. From left, Pat Neylan, Tiffany Tiberti, Ric Ruston, Sarah Ning and Denise Cashman. These tourists love Nevada and were on their way to Elko to take it all in. They booked their tour through the HSDV's website, which is, daytonnvhistory.org If you have not checked it out, please do so, you will be impressed. Linda Clements, HSDV member, manages the website. (Laura Tennant)

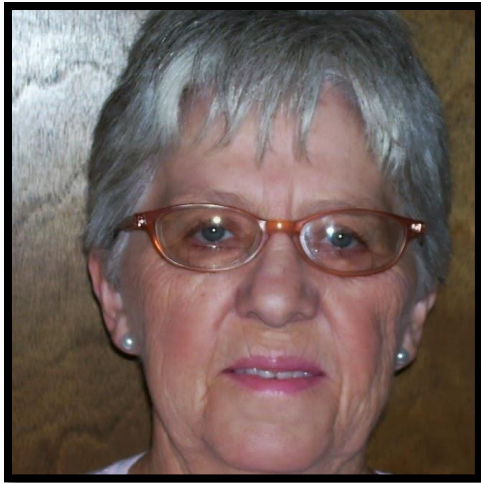
Researching Dayton history: These ladies met at Kay Winters house last fall to reminisce about the lives of their Italian ancestors who immigrated here, ran businesses and ranches and are buried in the Dayton Cemetery. From left, back row, Rita Quilici Selmi, Doreen Mack, Judy Kent and Nancy Sbragia. In front, Kay Winters and Deb Cipriani Lara. Deb is doing amazing research on her family, the Cipriani's, and their connecting relatives, the Parlanti's, Buralli's and more. Deb has donated \$500 to the Society just because I have helped her at the Museum and she is donating the many photos she has collected to us. (Laura Tennant photo)



Welcome to Rita Quilici Selmi, a new HSDV member: Rita's grandfather, Luigi, immigrated from Italy to America and began ranching in Dayton in 1881. The



Quilici-Selmi Ranch is the oldest family owned ranch on the lower Carson River. Pictured here are Rita's two uncles, Salvatore, Smeraldo and her father Rugerri, who kept the Dayton ranch going in the early days. Rita has three brothers, Sal, Ledo and Larry. They attended Dayton schools and raised their families on the ranch.



Gloria Manning
HSDV President

Here is a short synopsis of my life as a Nevada native up to my graduation from high school. I have also included what I hope to accomplish as President of the Historical Society of Dayton Valley. I was born in Silver City, Nevada. My dad was a miner and mill man. When the war started and all the mills and mines closed, we moved to California around the Bishop, California area, where he got a job in a mill. When we first moved there we lived in a tent. I, of course was still just a baby and have a picture of my mother holding me outside a tent in several feet of snow. Next we moved to Getchell Mine, in Humboldt County, Nevada. I am not sure of the year, but I know I was not old enough to attend school and it was still during the war

years. Next, we moved to a small mining town close to Lovelock, Nevada called Standard, where my dad worked in the mill. I also started school at 5 years of age at Standard. Shortly after we moved to Fallon, Nevada and stayed there until I was in the 5th grade and then we moved to Gabbs, Nevada, where my mother and father maintained the Gabbs Hotel. We didn't stay there long, and moved back to Silver City in 1951 where I attended the Silver City Grammar School from 1951 to 1955. Somewhere between 1951 and 1955 my father left us. My mother did not drive, so of course she had no car and had to depend on other people to get her to Carson City so she could work. In 1955 she sold our house in Silver City and we moved to Carson City because school in Silver City was just held in one room (1st thru 8th grade in one room). I was traumatized when I started high school in Carson City and had to change rooms every period. I definitely did not like going to school in Carson City, so in my second year of high school, I got a ride with Mrs. Hunt, a Dayton High School teacher who lived in Carson City. That way I was able to attend high school with all my old grammar school friends. The next year I went back to high school in Carson City, because I did not have a way to get back and forth from Carson City to Dayton. During my last year of high school I came back to Dayton and lived with my sister Laura and her husband, because my mother had moved to Reno. I graduated from high school in Dayton in 1958 at the old high school, now the community center.

I have always been infatuated with history and now the preservation of history for Dayton is my # 1 priority. I share my sister and brother-in-law's enthusiasm for the preservation of history for Dayton and the Dayton Valley.

I have no animosity toward any of our members and appreciate everything they do to help with our events and fund raisers. Our volunteers are the backbone of the Historic Society. Being a volunteer and preserving history for our town is very rewarding, and I hope some of our old and new members will come to our meetings and volunteer to help us out in our endeavor.

I will always listen to and consider everyone's ideas, but in my opinion, I believe that the Board of Directors has the say on all decisions, so everything will be presented to the board for their approval.

I hope to see some of you at our next meetings. BOD is 2/10/2016 at 10:30am at the Community Center and General Membership meeting is the 17th of February at 12:30pm at the Community Center.

Words are mere bubbles of water, but deeds are drops of gold

Docent Letters
By Ruby McFarland

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness
Mark Twain

It seems like it has been colder than usual. Well, according to Emma's accounts of the weather 80 years ago, this is shirt-sleeves weather. For many years she told of the folks in Dayton cutting ice to store in their root cellars. There were several ponds around town where the ice was twelve inches or more thick. Emma recorded the temperature as well as what the weather was like daily. Below 0 degrees weather wasn't that unusual. If you don't think that there is global warming, read her diaries.

Dayton water supply for many years was the Chinese Ditch. Behind Steve Baylor's house is the reservoir that stored water for the town. Sometimes the farmers took the water and the reservoir was empty. However, in the winter it was full and the kids in town ice skated and folks cut the ice for summer use. Emma was one of the first people to have that new-fangled refrigerator. She still unplugged it in the winter because it was cold enough to do without it. She had a home-made cooler on the back porch.

It was always interesting to turn on the water if you lived in old town Dayton. It was unfiltered water so you might get a fish, crawdad, salamander, or anything that may have fallen in the reservoir. Water was delivered in a wooden pipe that went from reservoir to household. There was no community water system until the 1960s.

Morton Stiles lived in Dayton in the 1860s. The photographer was Lawrence Lothrop and it is from the Zenas Walmsley Collection and the information on the back of the photo written by Zenas, Ray's father, says: "Taken prior to July 4, 1905. Morton W. Stiles, known as Grandpa Stiles, step father of the Late John Welk, Jase and Ruel Lothriop and Lucinda Milsap. He was the night watchman of the town of Dayton Nev. for a number of

years - he tolled the fire bell at every funeral as long as he lived and was able - the last time the bell tolled was at Grandpa Stiles funeral." Stiles is buried at the Dayton Cemetery. Notice the loving little cat looking up at her friend. This picture and others like it shows how poor the people in Dayton were then.

