

DOCENTS NEWSLETTER

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

<http://daytonnhistory.org>

April 2016

THE NUMBERS ARE IN

By Pat Neylan

The first 4 weeks of the first month of being open at the museum are behind us and the results are pretty exciting. We had 5 new tour guides and 8 faithful regulars (stayed away from “old timers” on purpose) guide 59 visitors through the museum. It was really great to have members who have not been able to help at the museum in the past try their hand at it with such good results. Early reports show that everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves. No major glitches. Two unscheduled alarm “tests” but that’s nothing out of the norm! The visitors included several families with kids who seemed genuinely interested in history which always makes what we do more worthwhile and satisfying. We stamped 6 Hwy 50 Passports for some cross state travelers; introduced Dayton history to a couple new to Dayton and found two more “lived here for years and never knew there was a museum” people. All in a month’s work for the dedicated, special, people who represent Dayton and its history to the outside world!!!

In years past, during May, Nevada History Preservation Month, the museum has always been open seven days a week. This is a major part of the HSDV’s participation in this statewide celebration and it is our plan to continue this tradition again this year. This was not a decision reached lightly. Last year we had some major problems maintaining adequate coverage at the museum but we pulled it off. After much discussion among the museum staff members it was apparent that we all sense the importance of this decision and will make it happen again this year! Last year’s records indicate traffic on many weekdays exceeded some weekend days so it is very worthwhile. The weekend schedule will remain the same as in other months. Weekdays we will be open from 11-3pm. A good part of the schedule is already covered but we will still need the help of others going forward. Even if you are not a “regular” on the schedule, consider jumping in for a day or maybe two during the month. You won’t regret it.

Again, thanks to all the volunteers who made our kick off month at the museum so successful!!

Kathy and Duncan Lee dressed Old West style for the role the HSDV played when the Sutro Elementary School celebrated their 20th birthday on March 24. The parents and their children enjoyed a large Dayton historical



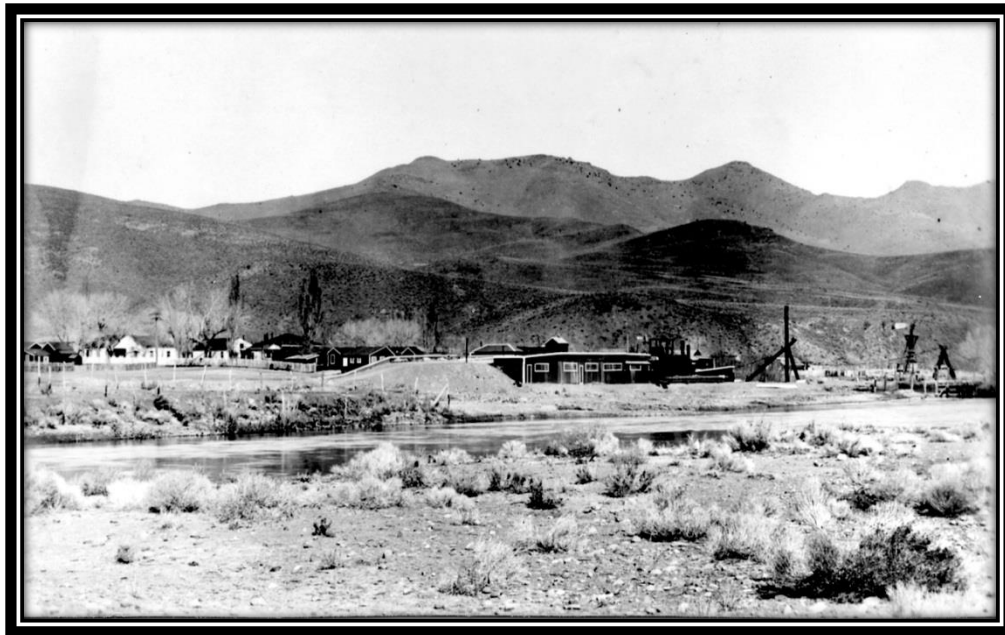
photo display of the 1865 schoolhouse, of students who attended in the early days, and newcomers learned about the Dayton Museum. The Lees also helped set up the displays. (Laura Tennant photo)

Deb Cipriani Lara, Las Vegas, and her Aunt Judy Kent, joined the HSDV Accessioning Committee at the Dayton Museum a few weeks ago to do more research on her family's Italian history and they assisted the committee with accessioning details while they were here. Karen Howe, an HSDV member who is doing extensive historical research on families buried in the Dayton cemetery, enjoyed comparing notes on the Cipriani, Parlanti, Buralli and Giurlani history while Kay Winters liked learning more about Dayton history. (Laura Tennant photo.)



Herman Davis, industrious Dayton entrepreneur, mill owner, inventor, community leader and Dayton Justice of the Peace for eight years. He left home at age 16 and was self-educated to the point his friends believed he had a college degree. Davis was born in Sacramento County, California in 1865 and passed away in Reno, Nevada, 1921. (Submitted by Laura Tennant.)

Nevada's first cyanide mill: Captain Herman Davis constructed Nevada's first cyanide milling plant around 1897. The Davis Chloro-Cyanide Plant site was built approximately where today's Second and Third streets and U.S. 50E are located. Study the photograph carefully to see how close the plant was to homes and not far from Pike Street and the Carson River. Davis and his partner, J.C. Pierson, specifically built this first cyanide plant in Nevada to mill tailings associated with the Douglass Mill on River Street. The earliest mills built in Dayton in the 1860s and the 1880s did not operate efficiently and the tailings contained thousands of dollars worth of gold, silver and mercury. Davis invented and owned three patents on hydro-metallurgical methods to recover the values left in the piles of tailings from Gold Canyon milling operations. Davis began his mining and milling career on the Sacramento River, where he operated a river dredger to recoup lost gold, silver and mercury there. He moved to Dayton around 1893 to supervise the operation of the Carson River Dredge, raised his family of six in Dayton, eventually owned the Rock Point mill and kept the economy of Dayton alive by providing employment around town until he moved to Reno around 1910, when he became a prominent and active charter member of the Nevada Historical Society. (Submitted by Laura Tennant, HSDV historian.)



March 1938 Gold Canyon Creek flood is shown on Main and River Streets. (Submitted by Laura Tennant.)



**Flood through Dayton after rainstorm
broke tailings dam, Late 1930's**

Docent Letters
By Ruby McFarland

"Good, Good, Good, to be alive, right about now"
Song Lyrics

History happened yesterday, some of us making it, some just filling space. I've lived here about 30 years now and there have been people and places come and go. The flea market at Highway 50 and Main Street was on its way out when I arrived. Before I moved here, I spent many pleasant Saturdays picking at the treasures. It was a destination for a lot of people who came from all over.

Some of the people you might see there were colorful locals. Rocky Anderson was the deputy sheriff, and you might see a giant of a man called Bear Claw, a real U.S. Marshall. I used to know Bear's real name.

I used to wonder about the antique junk yard by the museum. It was owned by Bill Anderson, owner of the famous Ponderosa Ranch in Incline, Lake Tahoe. Bill is gone but the junk is still there and getting dense.

There was a little convenience store called Dayton Market. Doug Green ran a very friendly store and knew everyone in town. A pawn shop now replaces the store.

A dredge pond along Highway 50 was a local fish pond and trailer park. Chester Barton stocked the pond when he was alive. You can't find the pond anymore because the Greater Nevada Credit Union sits where the pond was.

The local pizza parlor, and the only pizza parlor, was in the now Sutro Plaza area. It burned and all that's left is a concrete slab.

Art and Lois Storrs had a car wash and RV parts store coming into town. Art and I worked together to get the addition to the Senior Center built. Art is gone now.

Some of the other folks who made their mark in Dayton were Trina Jacobson and Leona Monroe who worked hard to get the library going. Afton Fredricks contributed artwork to the museum.

As the area grows, so does the number of people we lose. The list of people who were important to the area who have passed on grows longer every day. I would have to have a lot more paper to keep up with all the people who were important to our growth. God Bless them all!