

DOCENTS NEWSLETTER

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

<http://daytonnhistory.org>

June 2016

MAY IS BUT A MEMORY.....BUT A GOOD ONE!

By Pat Neylan

History Preservation Month has come and gone and there are not enough "Thanks" to pass out to all the dedicated people that made it such a success. The lecture series was a well attended smash hit. The topics were diverse, stimulating and enjoyed by all in attendance. We heard from members of a early Dayton family, the Tallieur's and learned new and exciting facts about their life here.

The museum had brisk traffic on the weekdays with over 100 visitors stopping by for a tour. This added to sales in the gift shop as well as increased donations. That kind of exposure to the public is one of the best benefits the Society could hope for at this time of year. There were guests from all over the country plus the normal amount of locals who "never knew there was a museum in Dayton". Little by little we expand our base and spread the story of our history. The shifts at the museum were short, just long enough to cut the heart out of the day, but the sacrifice and dedication of the volunteers that covered them all should never be forgotten. They are real troupers.

During all this time volunteers also again put on the fourth grade school program, albeit somewhat abridged from those of the past. Five Dayton "characters" took the students and their imaginations through 150 years of Dayton's history and received rave reviews from teachers, parents and students in attendance. The time to put it together this year was short but "plan B" was formed by Vicki Kinney and perfectly executed by her, Gloria Manning and two of our newest and most unsuspecting members, Al and Julie Lucero who portrayed the seldom heard of R.S Raw (e) and the ever popular Bertha Scott. Thanks to all of these great volunteers for their many hours of study, practice and execution. Dozens of fourth graders are talking Dayton history because of their efforts.

Fortunately for all of us there is only one May in each calendar year but we sure made the best of this one!! Thanks!!

You will notice that there is not a Docent Letter this month. Ruby McFarland has decided to retire. I will miss her monthly stories about characters and happenings in Dayton's past, as I'm sure most of you will too. Thank you for all your past contributions to the newsletter Ruby, and good luck to you.

Event honoring Lyon County women set for March 22

Nevada Appeal, March 10, 2015

Historical Society of Dayton Valley is hosting an open house to honor local women who make a difference in Lyon County from 1 to 4 p.m. March 22 at the Dayton Museum on Shady Lane.

Honorees include: Judy Harris, Jannette Hoffert, Mabel Masterman, Bonnie Matton, Ruby McFarland, Grace Ricci, Nancy Sbragia, Ruth Small, Laura Tennant, Lee Vecchiarelli and Kay Winters, all from Dayton, and Mona Reno from Silver City.

Light refreshments will be served at the event, which is being held to mark this month as Women's History Month. Admission is free.

Women of Diversity Productions interviewed women from every county in Nevada for the state's sesquicentennial celebration. Videos are online with biographies that appear in the book "Nevada Women's Legacy: 150 Years of Excellence," a book that will be available at the event.

For more information, call Linda Clements at 775-246-0505, or email clements@775.net, or call Vicki Kinney: 775-246-9396.

From time to time I have included one of these biographies in the newsletter. This month has another one.



Ruth Marie Connolly Allen Small

Dayton, Nevada
Lyon County

Descriptor: Artist, community volunteer, grandmother

I was born Ruth Marie Connolly in 1948 in the small copper town of Anaconda, Montana. My early years were spent roaming Western Montana's pine-covered mountains and swimming in its very cold lakes.

At the age of 14 my parents divorced and I moved to Oakland, California for high school, spending summers with my three younger siblings in Reno. Upon graduation, I attended Carroll College in Helena, Montana.

In 1971 my father was on the Nevada Gaming Commission in Las Vegas and to a 21-year-old it sounded fun. My dad taught me to deal cards on an ironing board in his kitchen and I went to work the 4th of July. Dad stood next to

my table for the three-day weekend, making sure no one took advantage of a rookie 21-dealer.

One year was enough in Vegas, so a year later when the Ormsby House opened in Carson City, I jumped at the change.

I married my first husband in Virginia City in 1974 and we bought land and moved seven miles east of Dayton. My daughter Tamera was born in 1975, a 4th generation Nevadan on her dad's side. The marriage ended, but I was fortunate to re-marry ten years later. David and I remain in the same location outside Dayton.

I started my volunteering with Advocates to End Domestic Violence in Carson City. When Tammy was in 7th grade I started volunteering at her high school, where I met many of the pioneer women of Dayton and began my involvement with Dayton Valley Days. I've done a little of everything for Dayton Valley Days for 26 years now. I've also worked with Central Lyon Youth Connection.

One of my true passions is art and I teach acrylics, oils, and watercolors in the home studio David built for me. But my main love is my family; I've had the great privilege of watching my grandchildren, Riley and Masyn, since they were born. Their many school and sports events have become cherished daily activities and every day is a new adventure as they grow, filling me with tremendous joy.

I've been greatly influenced in my life by strong women. First is my mother Jane in Helena, Montana, Del Minor, Grace Ricci and Laura Tennant in Dayton, and Pat Bertocci, Rowena Jeffery and many more in Carson City. My greatest strength comes from my daughter Tammy. She has taught me how to relate to people without injecting my personal feelings, how to listen before I speak, and how not to give up on something I believe in.

Women of the West are able to be the souls of our families without feeling our only place is in the home. We are able to teach our young women there is nothing they cannot do; their lives are theirs to make the best of!

When it's time I want my body to rest in my home town in Montana, but after 40+ years Dayton is where my soul will lie.