



**SPRING & EARLY SUMMER
2012 UPDATES**

VOLUME 9 - NUMBER 1

**HSDV Celebrates its
25th Anniversary!!**

**How did our historical society get
where we are today?**

December 17, 2012 is special.....

Subsequent to the late 1980s, around the time when the old Firehouse/Jail reconstruction project took place, Dayton Historic Society, comprised of town residents interested in preserving Dayton's rich history, was officially established as an organization effective December 17, 1987 by the office of Nevada's Secretary of State.

Additionally, the Bluestone Building was then being renovated by the County for use as the Dayton Township Justice Court, Lyon County Sheriff Sub-station, and District Attorney's offices. Unfortunately, in 1990, preservation activity in old town Dayton seemed to slack off. During 1991 several meetings, attended by many Dayton citizens with an interest in local history, were held at the local high school. At these meetings, several short and long term goals were discussed and agreed upon:

- a) To revive the somewhat defunct Dayton Historic Society, or if necessary, create a new organization following established guidelines of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(3), to oversee the group's activities.
- b) In order to facilitate those interested in gaining some knowledge of the past, it was agreed the group should work towards establishing an "Old Book Library". In this manner those interested could see and read the books available to those in the past (which we subsequently operated during 1991 to mid 1992 in the Community Center).

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

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<http://www.daytonnvhistory.org>

- c) To preserve for all, some of the area's rich history, it was decided to attempt to establish a "Dayton Museum", not only to preserve but educate. The "DAYTON MUSEUM" was then established as a self-directed entity within the Dayton Historic Society.

After the Senior Center moved to its new location the 1865 school house became vacant. In cooperation with the Dayton Regional Advisory Counsel and County of Lyon, the Dayton Historic Society subsequently acquired use of the building and established a museum which was officially dedicated during a 1994 ceremony.

Ever since then the Historical Society of Dayton Valley has kept moving forward in this fast paced world.

When we do celebrate our **50th year "Golden Anniversary"** folks may *not* remember our names... but they will have heard of Dayton, Nevada and its place in Nevada's history!

We're so proud of our members and our stewardships with Lyon County; the Museum, the 1875 Firehouse/Jail, and most recently the original Carson & Colorado Depot. Our intent is to restore the Depot to its original footprint and use it as a cultural and educational site highlighting history of the Carson & Colorado Railroad.

During 2011 we placed a donated original C&C narrow gauge box car on the property. Since securing Grant money seemingly is a little tight right now, the fact that we were able to secure the box car is gratifying.... We're still "on track" and working towards our goals.

(Synopsis courtesy of Mabel Masterman)

Scrapbook updates.....

Thanks **Margy Berthers, Sheila Hodach, Vicki Kinney** and **Diane Parcels** for volunteering as a committee to compile the 2012 scrapbook!

Never the less, FLASH...FLASH...FLASH!!

....PLEASE GIVE THEM SOME HELP!!!

The committee really needs all the help they can get collecting copies of newspaper articles reporting on HSDV activities, etc., plus activity photos for the book. **Especially** copies of photos members take at varied events during the year (you may take some different shots than **Jack Folmar** gets).



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After doing "multiple scrapbook duty" for the past year **Mabel Masterman** agreed complete the 2011 scrapbook; however, she requested someone else step forward and compile future yearly scrapbooks. After compiling 10 books (currently working on the 11th) she simply got burnt out on scrapbooks!

A little history here: after **Laura Tennant** retired as editor, Dayton Courier (2004) she asked **Mabel** to go through numerous filing boxes containing personal records and memorabilia she'd saved over the years. The goal was to determine what should be included in "earlier years" scrapbooks that the two of them hoped to compile. Then, last January **Linda Clements** brought **Mabel** five (5) big boxes of old newspapers going as far back as the late 1990s which really enhanced what they already had. (**THANKS LINDA!**) Laura then gave her more photos!

After a good 3++ months of sorting, clipping and ironing newspaper articles this "back-burner" scrapbook project was (re)started and finally completed during March 2012. These scrapbooks are a treasure trove of Dayton happenings, memories and memorabilia. The goal was to complete books covering our earlier years in time for 25th Anniversary festivities during 2012. "YEA"

...since the last newsletter!!

❖ Pioneer Ghost Walk Halloween event

Our October family oriented "Spirited Event" organized by **Barbara Peck**, assisted by **Laura Tennant**, .was popular again this year. In addition to HSDV volunteers, **Vicki Kinney, Donna McElroy, Marty Lewis, Gretchen Arndt, Margy Berthers, Linda Clements, John Crowley, Dan South, Tom Parcels, Bob Wallace, Lois Wallace, Pat Neylan, Sheila Hodach, Barbara Madison, and Diane Parcels**, the **Dayton Task Force** generously provided volunteers for the event. **Soroptimist International of the Comstock** shared costs for 200 glow sticks given away to all the children. Special coloring books, procured by **Tom Parcels**, were also popular with the children. So were **Jack Folmar's** custom made Halloween buttons! This year children's games were set up arcade fashion along the route. This allowed freer movement rather than having lines back up blocking traffic pattern flows. Upon returning to the museum, children and their families were offered refreshments provided by our Refreshment Committee.

❖ Nevada Day Parade

Theme for 2011 event was "*Recreation in Nevada*". Thanks to **Ruby McFarland** for her design work (again

this year). Under the guidance of **Tom Parcels** the whole process of bringing our float entry to fruition was successful. W-O-W... we even took 1st place in the Historical Category! **FANTASTIC!!** Our singing cowboy was **Dominic Oliveire**, a member of **Boy Scouts of America-Troup 100**, who, through the entire parade route, sang along to one of Tom Zachry's recordings.

A big pat on the back to the whole group; **Diane Parcels** and **Ron Rowe** (who built the mountain and horse), **Gene** and **Vicki Kinney, Gary McElroy, Marty Lewis, Sheila Hodach, Margy Berthers, Bob Wallace, Joe Ricci** (for delivering a truck load of sagebrush!), and **Bob Foster** for use of his trailer. Thanks to the whole crew for a project well done!

❖ 2011 HSDV Award Recipients

The **Laura Tennant Award** is awarded to a member who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding contribution of time, effort and devotion to Dayton history. The **Gold Nugget Award** is for exceptionally outstanding HSDV supporters, i.e., a way to honor over and above acts, long standing, and/or notable backing whether or not they are a member. Nominations were opened at the October meeting, secret ballot voting was done during the November meeting; with recipients honored during the Christmas Party.

We're pleased to announce this year's **Laura Tennant Award** was given to **Jack Folmar** and **Tom Parcels**. The **Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Historical Society** was given the **Gold Nugget Award** which was accepted on behalf of their President by Dr. Linda Clements.

❖ 2011 Christmas Party

Our Annual Christmas Party was held at the **Gold Canyon Steak House** in old town Dayton. We had 72 folks attending this year... a record! Thanks to **Sheila Hodach** and **Lynn Erickson** for being **co-chairs**. **Jack Folmar** printed the invitations and **Bob Foster** designed and made a special "Prickly Pear" wall hanger we used for the door prize. Special mention also to **Barbara Madison, Alice Folmar** and **Linda Adams** for preparing and mailing out almost 100 invitations!

So far this year...

❖ Special HSDV filming by PBS

During 2011 PBS filmed a documentary depicting contributions made to Nevada history by Jews. PBS based their documentary on a book by Reno author John Marshall titled "*Jews in Nevada*", scheduled for release in 2012.

For the Dayton leg of their filming, HSDV member, **Jack Folmar**, portrayed Adolph Sutro just as he does
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during his Chautauqua role in our living history program. Among other things **Jack** explained Sutro's place in Nevada's Jewish History and championed HSDV's Living History Program. (Various HSDV members portray Dayton's early residents, along with town history, which is taken into Dayton Elementary schools each spring.)

"*Jews in Nevada*", a KNPB production, was featured February 16, 2012 on Channel 5 and was an hour long presentation.

You did a GREAT job, **Jack**, now, as they say in "show-biz"...break a leg (or maybe just give us your autograph or ...yea, how about an *ice cream treat*???)!

❖ **Nevada State Museum docents**

We hosted more than 30 docents from the **Nevada State Museum** during their January 11, 2012 field trip to Dayton. Tours started after they had lunch at the *Gold Canyon Steak House*. Subsequently they split into smaller groups. Some viewed the Museum while others visited the Firehouse/Jail first. Not too sure who enjoyed themselves more... us or them! A *BIG* thanks to **Vicki Kinney, Pat Neylan, and Laura Tennant** for not just handling logistics but for hosting the group along with **Gene Kinney, Jack Folmar, Tom Parcels, Marty Lewis, Lynn Erickson, Lissi Williams, Judy Harris, Jenny Dodds** and **Donna & Gary McElroy** at the Museum; and to **Linda Adams** and **Mabel Masterman** for overseeing the Firehouse/Jail portion of their tour (and ringing the firehouse bell so often!!).

OTHER "this'n'that".....

Firehouse/Jail repairs started!

More than a year after a vehicle slammed into the Firehouse/Jail repairs finally started. If you remember, in May 2010, a van, traveling too fast on Pike Street, left the road and crashed into the old 1875 building. Not only was cosmetic damage done, but the building sustained major structural damage which, among other things, knocked building walls significantly (4") out of plumb. The owner of the vehicle did have insurance. Repairs are costly, approximately \$50,000. The building will be re-stabilized and other damage repaired, including the front brick exterior. Hopefully repairs will be completed long before late spring and early summer gets here.

During the past 18 months **Stony Tennant** has worked diligently with the County every step of the way. A special thanks to Lyon County's Shawn Keating and thanks, **Stony** for being our Project Coordinator.

When repairs have been completed we'll also have new exhibit cases to display Dayton's Firehouse related artifacts. In addition to DVFD memorabilia, items

unearthed during our 2008-2009 excavation and reconstruction of the building's first story (actually a basement area) will be included. Gold Canyon Creek flooded at least 7 times in recorded history since the 1860's. This caused the "first story" to fill with silt, sand and other debris over the years. Of note: when rebuilt in 1875 (after several fires in the 1860s) rubble rock, using lime and sand mortar, along with bricks was common. The stucco was added later during the 1930s to stabilize the mortar which was deteriorating, thus helping preserve the building.

KUDOS to all our Docents....

They're involved in everything we do... what would we do without them? Even during the cold winter months (when the Museum was closed) they kept working, and working, and *w-o-r-k-i-n-g*... kind of like the **ENERGIZER BUNNY!** This past winter docents successfully caught up on some back-log accessioning and cataloging tasks. Additionally, some displays were rearranged to make them more complete and/or easier to view. Docents also re-did the back "book room" making it into a research room.... and even painted it! They freshened up several interior Museum walls with new paint. The gift shop area was completely re-designed/re-constructed and looks wonderful. Continuing on outside, using a power washer and their paintbrushes again, they re-did front porch and step areas.

Afterward they resumed updating & freshening signage on museum displays. By the time we opened for the season, "*The Best Kept Secret in Nevada*" was all spiffy!!

A heartfelt thanks to the following members who donated their time and labor to provide a "new look" to the Museum: **Gretchen Arndt, Jenny Dodds, Vicki Kinney, Gene Kinney, Jack Folmar, Donna McElroy, Gary McElroy, Pat Neylan, Barbara Peck, Judy Harris, Laura Tennant, Stony Tennant, Tom Parcels, Judy Kent, Sheila Hodach, Ted Niemi, & Dietrich Papp.** If you like what you see (including the fresh paint!), we certainly encourage becoming a docent. What ever your talents, preferences or *flights of the imagination fall* (or whatever extra time you can spare)....

YOU'RE needed and most WELCOMED!

Want more information? Call either **Donna McElroy** at 246-8765 or **Pat Neylan** at 246-3527

Welcoming new members!

Welcome to our newest HSDV members
Ted Niemi
Lissi Williams

We're delighted to have new members come onboard as part of our historical society group!

*If anyone has knowledge of land in Dayton that was developed due to the **HOMESTEADING ACT, 1862; CAREY ACT; or the DESERT LAND ENTRY,***

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would you please pass that information onto Laura Tennant 775-246-3256 or e-mail her at

L10ant38@gmail.com. Thanks!!

2012 Upcoming Events

Ongoing: C&C boxcar renovations – call Stony at 775-246-3256 or Tom at 775-246-9419.

April & May: “Ghosts” of Dayton present history of old Dayton to local 4th grade elementary school students.

May: 2012 State Historical Preservation month. Theme this year, established by SHPO, is “**THE HOMESTEADING ACT, 1862**”. HSDV’s lecture series opens **Thursday May 3** with local Archaeologist Ron Reno giving a power point presentation titled “**With a Wink and a Nod- Extralegal Homesteading Nevada-Style**”.

Thursday, May 10 – Dr. Linda Clements will do a presentation on land homesteaded by Grace Testolin Ricci’s family entitled “**Homesteading in Fallon, Nevada in 1906**”. **Thursday, May 17** will “be announced”. Lectures begin at 7:00 pm, at Dayton’s Senior Center on Old Dayton Valley Road. Join us for historical camaraderie and refreshments!

May: Museum will be open daily. Monday through Friday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; & Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00pm.

May 5: Celebration - HSDV 25th Anniversary
SEE ATTACHED flier for more details!

May 12: HSDV’s C&C wkg group plans to host a booth at the Golden Spike RR Festival in Reno. Additional info? Call Tom Parcels 775-246-9491

June: Annual Membership renewal time
Chair – Mabel Masterman at 775-246-4457

June 2 & 3: Oodles of Noodles (old town)

June 22 & 23: HSDV Rummage Sale
Chair - Gretchen Arndt, call 775-450-9607

August 18 & 19: Annual Dayton Railroad Days
Chair - Tom Parcels 775-246-9491

September 15 & 16: Dayton Valley Days
Co-chairs for HSDV portion - Laura Tennant 775-246-3256 and Barbara Peck 775-246-9653

October 26: HSDV’s Halloween Ghost Walk

October 27: Nevada Day Parade - 2012 theme is “Our Military and Families”

November: In order to avoid Thanksgiving conflicts, November membership meeting will be held a week later, Wed- NOVEMBER 28th .

December: Annual Christmas Party – date TBD

Thank you... and thanks again!

As we exit one tax year and start another it’s appropriate to acknowledge and thank

Ernie Mayhorn

Mayhorn Financial Services, LLC.

For years, Ernie, one of our *Charter Members*, donates his time preparing yearly IRS tax filings for our organization!

Thanks “TAXDUDE”...

*Thank you, **Brian Miller**, for welcoming new members on our behalf and making them feel instantly like a part of our organization. **Brian’s** initial contact consists of a welcoming letter, followed by recent newsletters or minutes. He’s been doing this for a couple of years now. With all our new members I know it keeps him busy, and it’s appreciated!*

When was the last time you checked daytonnvhistory.org?

(Thanks Dr. Linda Clements for keeping our site updated!)

In Memory

Sadly, three historical society members who diligently worked to preserve Dayton history, historic integrity, heritage and culture recently passed away.

David Allingham

Daniel Boesen

Dagmar Webber

We extend our deepest sympathy to their families and rejoice for having had the privilege of knowing them.

2012 Board of Directors

Vicki Kinney, Pres. – Barbara Peck, Vice Pres.

Patrick Neylan, Secty. – Grace Ricci, Treas.

Directors: Donna McElroy, Tom Parcels, & Laura Tennant

Newsletter compiled by Mabel Masterman
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