

# Docents Newsletter

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Historical Society of Dayton Valley

March 2008

## Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

The season has begun! The Museum is open! The Training has started! Led as always by Ruby McFarland, we have entered an exciting new season. This is the very first time that the Museum will be operated in great measure by the Docents who have studied and trained over the last year. The dream of a "Docent Program" has become a reality, and it will bear fruit in this Spring and Summer! And it is you! Don't expect crowds in the early days, but as the Museum becomes better known, if you are a visitor expect a quality tour and explanation of "Dayton."

The initial opening of the Museum for this year was on 2/23/08. It was kicked off with a talk on the discovery of Gold in Dayton (Gold Canyon) and how it led to the discovery of the Great Comstock Lode ten years later. It was well attended by about 15-20 folks and especially graced by some of the youth of Dayton in the form of the Stephenson's, Monica, Peter, and Karl, all of whom were not only attentive but asked some very pointed questions.

This is what the docents have to look forward to. Lectures every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Museum. March 1, Ruby and the history of the Chinese; March 8, Stony Tennant and the history of farm implements. Bottles, canning, textiles all to follow. Field trip to St. Mary in the Mountains on March 4, with a no-host

lunch to follow after the tour.

Now the gracious payback comes into effect. At every general meeting of the HSDV the dates for the coming month when docents are needed to operate the Museum will be posted and sign-ups accepted. We are 19-plus strong so there should be no burden placed on anyone. Everyone has time constraints and commitments so as a group no one should be obligated for more than a few hours a month. Please review your schedule before any meeting and be ready to sign up. We have not only a special but honored responsibility during the month of May to keep the Museum open seven days each week during Nevada History Appreciation Month. The theme this year is the New Deal. Study, research and your interests will be addressed in the very near future. Hope you get caught up in the spirit and join us in a look back at a very painful but important part of the history of Dayton and the entire country!

## Name tags

By Donna McElroy

I am happy to report that I have completed the task of making our new Docent (or tour guide) name tags. They are in a bag at the museum desk. I hope that you all like them. I believe that they will help to give us a bit more confidence as we interpret all that we have learned. If you find errors, or do not find your name, please let me know and I will make the

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necessary corrections. We are not to the top but climbing our way to being the best docent program in the Comstock!

## Dates to remember

**Saturday, March 8:** Stony Tennant on farming equipment – 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, March 15:** Dr. Linda Clements on the C&C Railroad – 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, March 19:** General meeting at Makin' Coffee – Noon.

**Saturday, March 22:** Easter weekend – no lecture.

**Saturday, March 29:** Grace Ricci on Life on the Ricci Ranch – 11:00 a.m.

We now have a calendar that will be kept in the museum desk for your use. You will be able to choose the days that you will be able to volunteer a shift. You may add your name to those Saturdays that you are available.

## Newsletter submissions

By Bob Wallace

This marks the second **Docents Newsletter**, which makes a good time to mention that you may have one or more ideas that will be of interest to other docents in our group. You can get your ideas to the newsletter in several ways: directly via email from your computer to me at: [bob-wallace@charter.net](mailto:bob-wallace@charter.net), or hand-written or typed page or two of information that can be handed off to Donna McElroy, Ruby

McFarland, Pat Neylan or me, or leave your submission in an envelope at the museum with "newsletter" on the outside of the envelope. One way or the other, your ideas can get into the newsletter. Be sure to include your name on any submission so that credit may be given correctly.

One additional issue with the newsletter, that being the idea of getting it processed and into everyone's hands before the first of each month. That means getting ideas down prior to the end of a calendar month, then off via one means or another to get to the editor. Keep in mind that some of us do not have computers available, so some copies are going out via snail mail which adds additional time to arrive at one's home.

For those who have attended one of the first Saturday lectures this season, you will have noted that each has been recorded on video for posterity, but also to be processed into a Digital Video Disk (DVD) so that any lecture you miss can be viewed later. The first lecture by Pat Neylan was available on DVD by the following Saturday's lecture on March 1.

