

Docents Newsletter

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Historical Society of Dayton Valley

November 2008

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

Spirited Ghost Walk! Another major success for the Docents! Job well done. We all studied and made it better. We added some ghosts. That made it better. Mr. Sutro joined us. Emma made the important diaries public. That all made it better. I, Manly Johnson, had new props, and might have missed other gains, but want to thank all the ghosts. We may have had a few less ghost seekers, but we had a greatly increased presentation! I think that was the best combination we could ask for with our new "show"! Next year the event won't be on Halloween and we will get back the kids and families we had last year.

The Society should be proud! Linda Adams, Linda Clements, Mabel Masterman, Laura Tennant, Ruby McFarland, of course, put it all together. The total is the sum of its parts! That's the success of Our Society! The Society is growing. The Society is being recognized by our community. The Society has a part called the Docents! Both the community and the Society have gained by our presence. Pat yourselves on the back and be proud. We have become the visible presence of the Society in our community. That's what keeps the image alive. That's the job we must maintain!

The work of the Society will still be put forward by the Board and general acclaim, but when it comes to public events, it will be the Docents.

We are an important part of the Society, but not the only part. We take the ball and run with

it, but we wait for and express the ideas and wishes of the overall Society.

Tough job. Not really. There is only one Historical Society of Dayton Valley, and we are all part of it. We all want it to succeed, and we all want to make it better. I, and I am sure most of you concur, that within this we want to have fun and make it fun for the others, and learn more about the history of Dayton! Our Society is becoming a force in our community, and the Docent Program is becoming a force within the Society. An important force and an important "part"! A part in the overall presence of the Historical Society of Dayton Valley!

Be proud to be a Docent, be thankful to Ruby, learn your part, do what you can for the Society, be there when you can. All the members guide the Society. Everyone is welcomed to our training meetings. You don't have to be a Docent to come and learn.

Just love Dayton and take part in our history! The Society has many ways to come and learn, help, grow. Want to join, learn, ask questions? Just give me or Donna a call. Pat Neylan, 246-3527, or Donna McElroy, 246-8765.

Book review

'Misfits Country'

By Jack Folmar

This book is about a legendary Movie Director from Hollywood (John Huston), a brilliant but undisciplined director who

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selected a cast of misfits, including an unstable leading lady whose marriage was falling apart, and an aging leading man. Filmed in a very hot and dusty Dayton in 1960, a cynical floozy befriends several cowboys in this western drama. Compelling performances from Montgomery Clift, Marilyn Monroe (screenwriter Arthur Miller's wife) and Clark Gable, were completed in spite of all the problems that had to be overcome, not only by the personal problems the actors were dealing with, but the weather and filming conditions at the time. The book centers on the conversations between filming and time away from the set, much of the time being very turbulent. The author notes that the story is a fictional account, but it becomes easy to believe the conversations happened. Interesting also is the fact that the author of "Misfits Country," was in town during the filming. It is important for those of us living in and around Dayton, as we have the opportunity to actually see the sites that the book describes and that are shown in the movie. It was the last movie made by Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable.

"Misfits Country," by Arthur Winfield Knight. Published in 2008. Tres Picos Press, 2008 <http://www.trespicospress.com>, \$14.95 or bookstores everywhere. [DVD version of the movie may still be available at the Dayton Valley Library. -Ed.]

Docent meeting notes

By Vivian Smith

Docents present were: Tom Parcells, Bob Wallace, Barbara Madison, Jack Folmar, Vicki Kinney, Patrick Neylan, Donna McElroy, Ruby McFarland and Vivian Smith.

Ruby announced she is resigning from the Historical Society Board and that Tom Parcells has agreed to be nominated to fill the vacant position. Ruby urged all to be sure and come to the next general meeting and vote. She also announced that Pat Neylan has been nominated to run for secretary.

Ruby asked if everyone knew whose ghost they would be portraying on Halloween night and discussion followed clarifying the parts to be played. Maps will be available showing where each person is to be stationed. Vicki asked about wedding certificates and Ruby said they would be available. Chuck's Restaurant will be contacted to see if Tom, who is portraying Justice of the Peace Frank Bugby, may be stationed on the porch of the restaurant. Refreshments will be served at the Museum so Ruby reminded us to bring cookies. Dagmar will be bringing coffee around to the "ghost" docents during the evening. Ruby suggested we get to the Museum around 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. and get final instructions and be sure to wear name tags. Also, the Ghost Walk will go on regardless of the weather. Adjustments can be made. If it is necessary to obtain a costume, many can be found at Tuxedo Revelations in Carson City and they will give Historical Society members a 25% discount.

Donna asked for a volunteer to call Docents and remind them of the date they had signed up to sit at the museum. It was agreed they should be called the Thursday before they had signed up to be at the museum. Vivian agreed to do this. Bob Wallace will be emailing the new docent list.

Tom asked about getting more docent "business cards" and Ruby said to call Linda Clements.

Jack asked if there was someone who could contact new Historical Society members and

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tell them about the docent program and invite them to participate if they so desired. Oftentimes new members of the Historical Society are left on their own to find out how to become involved and he felt they should be contacted and welcomed. All agreed and Ruby said she would call Grace and get new members of the last 90 days. Ruby also said she hoped each and every docent will work to keep the enthusiasm of our projects going. Vicki suggested the matter be brought before the board. It was also brought to our attention that the board meeting was open to all members.

Pat Neylan will be giving a tour of the Virginia City Episcopal Church on Friday, October 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.

Lanark museum rivals Dayton as smallest

By Bob Wallace

In September of 2008 we visited Scotland for an eight-day tour, plotting where we would go, what we would see. One of several surprises for all 13 of us on the tour was the stop in "old" Lanark ("Lan-ark") when we visited the museum in that old burgh town dating back at least as far as the 1100's.

Placed in an old house in the town, the space available had been cut in half or less by placing a divider across part of the room, making the remaining space about half what we have for use in the front portion of the Dayton Museum. In effect, we had found a museum smaller than our own!

What they had for exhibits, however, more than made our day on the day we visited the Lanark Museum. The woman hosting us that

day welcomed each of us to her museum, shaking the hand of each of us as we walked in the door, telling us a little bit about the museum and its exhibits, and encouraging us to purchase post cards and small items available for sale.

What is Lanark all about? The exhibits showed us a part of Scotland that was tied to the land in many ways, from the produce grown on the land, to the draught horses (Clydesdales) bred in that part of Scotland many years ago to help work the ground. Having large hooves helped horses pull the farming equipment over the land when it got wet and soggy, rather than sinking in with each step they took.

Like many other areas around Scotland, Lanark has its country fair where the year's produce is judged, usually being awarded one prize or another for the results obtained over the summer months. Ribbons and medals go to those with the best crop in a given category, pictures are taken for posterity and later for the museum's use to show locals and visitors alike that they had a good year at some point in their local history.



Museum in the old Scottish burgh of Lanark