

Docents Newsletter

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Historical Society of Dayton Valley

March 2010

Docent program

By Ruby McFarland

“Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things.”

Glad we have so many characters in our midst. The only problem I can see with our program this year is that we are spreading ourselves pretty thin and I hope we all don't burn out. It's easy to get too much work to do and you want to have another life.

I have to say I'm so proud of the group and hope we can have the best year yet. I've been busy trying to organize a field trip to Genoa. The people at the Genoa Museum and Mormon Station seem enthused about our visit. We have picked the last week of April or first week of May for the tour and picnic. I'll let you know when the date is nailed down.

The Dayton Museum looks great after all the hard work you folks did to get it up and running. It's so nice and clean and sticky. We are one of a very few museums open this time of year. Unfortunately because of budgets, some museums aren't going to open at all this year. Being a volunteer museum, we can open early and hope lots of people want to come visit. Hard times keep people close to home so maybe they will come to Dayton.

Anyway, I'm so glad we have so many committed people in our organization. Many hands make light work, and a lot of characters to carry it through.

Need to say thank you to ABC Heating and Sheet Metal shop for donating metal and time for “closed” sign.

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

Fellow Historical Society members, please feel proud after reading Ruby's article ... because you should be! The Society is fast moving forward and is unstoppable! You are making an impact within the Dayton community ... by bringing minds and thinkers ... to Old Town and “Their” heritage! All of you are planting the seeds that will preserve Dayton history for future generations. Led by our president, Laura Tennant, we all will soon have a user-friendly Docent Manual that will be an aid to current Docents, but also an encouragement to future docents. No one joins the Historical Society who does not want to learn more about the history of our town ... Dayton! Becoming a PAL with a docent at our museum is the perfect way to learn. We have the resources in place for you, as well as the people in place to make it fun and a learning experience. History is an easy way to give back to the community ... while improving yourself ... and then giving back some more. Want to check it out? Call me!

[Pat Neylan can be reached via email at: virginiacitypat@sbcglobal.net or via telephone at 246-3527. -Ed.]

St. Mary's in the Mountains

Author: Virgil A. Bucchianeri

By Patrick Neylan

It is just possible that this may sound like a commercial to those that know me and my connections with St. Mary's, but if you really like local history, this is a must read. The new edition

of this book was made available shortly after the church completed its historic \$3.-something seismic retrofit and update. The book is loaded with vintage photos of the church, people involved with the church and traces its history from the early days of Virginia City, through the boom years, the Great Fire of 1875, the decline of the Comstock, the Mad Monks, the birth of tourism in Virginia City, to the devoted priests and people that saved it from further harm in the last few decades.

Included in this last restoration is a fresh and new look to the museum. All of you are invited to come and take a tour, individually or hopefully in a group in the near future. St. Mary's was part of Virginia City's greatness in history and still reigns today as a monument to Nevada's Glory Days.

To make it simple for you, the book is available for sale in our own Dayton Museum for \$12.00, less your discount! Check it out. You will not be disappointed.

Newsletter notes

By Bob Wallace

Over the next 90 days we will find quite a bit of our time taken up with local meetings, museum time and outside historically related interests. You will find a quick list of dates for the month of March, and a heads-up for early in April, plus an early reminder about National Historic Preservation Month throughout the month of May.

Throughout the month of March the **Dayton Museum** will be open on weekends: Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Other dates to keep in mind during the month include:

March 17: HSDV General Meeting, 12:30 PM at the Dayton Valley Branch Library. The C&C Working Group will immediately follow at approximately 1:45 PM.

March 24: Ghostly Pioneers will perform for

students at Riverview School.

March 31: Docents meeting at the museum, 10:30 AM. One week later than usual due to the Ghostly Pioneers performance.

Coming up early in April, on the 3rd, the first Pony Express Living History Festival at Buckland Station from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the cross-country pony rides that moved the mail across the nation. (A quick search of the Dayton Valley Branch Library via Internet finds 163 hits on the two words "pony express". Not too surprisingly, Wikipedia has its own fairly long page on the history of the Pony Express.)

The month of May brings with it again National Preservation Month. This year's theme is **Old is the New Green**. One local contribution to this annual event is efforts by all the docents to keep the museum open each and every day, not just on the weekends.

One of the reasons for living in this specific area of northern Nevada comes during the summer months when we are quite likely to find lenticular clouds overhead during the day. In the middle of winter, it can be the spectacular sunrises to be seen on days when storm clouds are still moving out of our area. Such was the case this past December when the sunrise photo below was taken from the front door of our home.

