

# Docents Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 4

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

May 2010

## Docents program

By Ruby McFarland

“I used to think I knew I knew, but now I must confess, the more I think I know, I know, I now know the less.”

I don't know who said it first but my Aunt Lina said it to me often. I didn't understand it until I was a grown up girl. My problem is that there is so much to learn and too little time left. My fuse is burning down and I keep trying to get it.

I'm leading to the history of Dayton. Just about the time I settle down to what I think I know, someone comes along and pops my bubble. After all, it's just everyone's viewpoint about what is written and I get confused at times. I really try my best to relate the real story. It takes a lot of research and weeding to get it right, or close. Then you get to be called a historian.

But wait, up jumps the devil. Now that I've got all the wonderful knowledge, I've gotten old and forgetful. Makes me mad as hell that I can't remember details when called on. I know the answer but the old brain shuts down and I feel like an idiot that I can't answer.

Now I'm not trying to give any advice, but I sure hope our docent manual is on its way. It's going to help us all and the new people as well. I know everyone is busy but the time has come for us to concentrate on getting the manual to the museum to be used by all. I'll do what I can to generate new interest and get the manual to us posthaste.

**Oodles of Noodles**  
*Saturday, May 15, 2010*  
**Old Town Dayton**

## Jamboree – What a jam!

By Tom Parcells

Many thanks to all who helped, but in particular Morgan Webber and Marty Lewis, who put together the artists and entertainment. Everything was darned near perfect.

What it takes is the best and hardest working volunteers in the State, bar none! From the clean-up crew on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the set-up group on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to all who worked on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, many until 5:30 for the clean-up. How much time, you ask? How about 280.5 hours. All this added up to \$1,850.00.

The food alone brought in \$502.00. If you liked the wieners, see the Sausage Factory on Sage St. in Carson City; buns from Langendorf Bakeries on Highway 50 East in Carson City; beer from Dayton Chevron; ice, tables and chairs from Gold Canyon Steak House; and two \$50.00 dinner certificates from Pioneer Crossing Casino. When you visit these establishments, be sure to thank them for their help.

Have heard many, many positive comments, including artists and poets who all said they would come back for the next outing.

## Depot track laying

By Tom Parcells

The C&C Working Group laid its first 33 feet of track at the Depot on April 24<sup>th</sup> in a manner very similar to its original construction, including temporary ties every eight feet and banked with dirt. A special thanks to Bernie Allen for the donation of the track, and the crew who joined Vic

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Kirby (of "Old Granny" fame) to liberate the track at the State Railroad Museum, and Stony Tennant and Ron Rowe and the crew for laying it.

Watch for further developments.

Crew: Ron Rowe, Stony Tennant, Dietrich Papp, Jack Folmar, Vic Kirby, Tom Hughes, Gene Kinney and Tom Parcels.

## Dayton History Reader Book Club

By Linda Adams

The Dayton History Reader Book Club meets bi-monthly on the first Thursday of the month. We had our first meeting in February and our last meet for this year will be in October. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00-4:30pm at Starbucks, Dayton.

The book we will be discussing is "Comstock Lode" by Louis L'Amour. Louis L'Amour (1908-1988) was a prolific U.S. author of westerns; he was the first novelist to be awarded a gold medal by Congress. At his death, all 101 of his books were in print with about 200 million copies in circulation.

Some might ask why we have book clubs in Dayton. Literary appreciation was and remains a part of Dayton's history. Our Nevada Historical Society Papers 1921-1922, the blue book we sell at our museum with the picture of our 1865 grammar school on the cover, states on page 81, "Dayton had two literary clubs – the Travel Club and the High School Club." The idea of a literary club even at the time was not recent for Dayton. It was noted that, in a Silver City paper of 1876, officers were elected by the Dayton Library Book Club. Today, Dayton again boasts of two literary clubs. The Dayton Library Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month from 10am-12 Noon. This book club reads fiction as well as non-fiction selections. The Dayton History Reader Book Club reads historical fiction and historical non-fiction books that borrow events,

facts, characters and settings from history.

What's most enjoyable about these book clubs is that if you miss reading the selected book for discussion you are very welcome to attend the book club and meet or make friends. Many who attend for the first time enjoy the discussion and even discover a book that they would like to read. There are no dues and if you enjoy reading this is a perfect outlet to discuss with others what you thought of the book and writer.

## Newsletter notes

By Bob Wallace

Several errors crept into the April newsletter. The pony express re-ride does not occur until June 9<sup>th</sup> in Old Town. Dates for monthly meetings were inadvertently moved up one week from their regular meeting date. For the edification of both readers and editor, the Historical Society's general meeting comes on the third Wednesday, docents meeting on the fourth Wednesday. We regret any inconvenience those errors may have caused you.

May is National Historic Preservation Month. The School House Museum will be open each and every day. Weekday hours are 11:00 – 3:00, Saturdays 10:00 – 4:00, Sundays 1:00 – 4:00. In addition to daily openings, a visit to **Genoa** is scheduled for **May 5**, leaving the museum at 10:00 that morning – bring your own lunch with you for this outing, and your camera.

May's Thursday night series of lectures at the Senior Center begin at 7:00. **May 6** features Martin Griffith on Gold Canyon and Dayton; **May 13**, Bob Nysten, curator of history at the Nevada State Museum; **May 20** with Mark Jensen, park interpreter, tells about the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park.

**May 15:** Oodles of Noodles in Old Town.

**May 19:** HSDV general membership meeting at the Library, followed by C&C Working Group.

**May 22:** Firehouse/Jail re-dedication at 10:00 on Saturday, Pike Street.

**May 26:** Docents meeting at the museum, 10:30 that morning.