

Docents Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 8

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

September 2011

Remembering Morgan Webber



1932 – 2011

Morgan Webber passed away at his home in Dayton, Nevada on August 26, 2011. Our condolences to his family, relatives and many friends. He will be remembered by everyone who knew him. Celebration of life to be held in Dayton on September 10, 2011.

Docents program

By Ruby McFarland

“One never knows what each day is going to bring. The important thing is to be open and ready for it.” Henry Moore (1898-1986)

I'm glad I just live one day at a time. It eliminates a lot of guessing and worrying about things I can't do anything about. I've had a lot of life lessons that have served me well in my declining years. I never did like that sinking feeling I had in the pit of my stomach from worrying about junk.

I understand from the docents that there is a lot going on at the museum. A lot of changes being made. But that's how you learn. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. At least something is being done.

The Morgan Webber wall is spectacular. It's a panorama of photos of the Dayton area most people have never seen before. Better stop by and see those pictures.

The window shades put the back room in a different light. I found I could concentrate on the displays better. It will certainly preserve the historic fabric we have stored there.

The docents have been cataloging a lot of artifacts that have sat around and needed to be recorded before it was lost as to who donated or where it came from. The Chester Barton exhibit profited greatly. There were a lot of artifacts that needed a home.

The other day I had a call from David Allingham who was born in Dayton. His mother was Wilma, one of the children Chester and Helen Barton raised. He lives in Reno, and he just wanted to be remembered. He said he was sending his membership dues for the H.S.D.V., although he rarely

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leaves the house, he still wants to be a part of Dayton.

Please note that volunteers are needed monthly to sit the museum. It's a good way to learn the history and be of service to the H.S.D.V. Step up and have some fun!

Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

If the old adage is true that a picture is worth a thousand words, and I believe it is, then certainly our own Morgan Webber is one of the most prolific as well as most eloquent “speakers” we have ever come across! If you have any doubts, all you have to do is check out the new “Morgan gallery” at your very own museum. It has been a long time coming, but we finally have a vivid view of Old Dayton that just jumps out and “explains” itself to the viewer. Your imagination can now transport you through time and our town's history at the same time. The work Morgan has done over the last few years is at last spread out before you in one grand and breathtaking display. The life of a docent just got simpler. Now all you have to do is point!

It is nice that Morgan finally has something that directs the spotlight he is forever avoiding toward him. His pictures have been the joy of our members for a long time, but that is hardly the only thing he does for us. I have a membership card and Society business cards in my wallet, thanks to Morgan. Remember your renewal notice, Christmas party invite, awards certificate, DVD of our last May lecture, of our last field trip, of the Jamboree, of Oodles of Noodles, of museum lecture series, of depot progress, of the Pony Express, of the Firehouse rededication, of, of, of, whatever it is, it's thanks to Morgan. Then you have the digital saving of so many of the Society's paper artifacts and the creating of a multitude of albums that we can all refer to, such as the [Chester] Barton collection, Sutro, the Allingham family and many others. That brings us to the creation and framing of the prints we sell at

our events that help support the Society financially like the Afton [Frederick] and railroad prints.

If one picture is indeed worth a thousand words, the number we are dealing with is HUGE! Thanks, Morg!



This grouping of Historical Society pictures, in an area of the museum now known as Morgan's gallery, were enlarged and brightened to bring out details not formerly seen in the originals.

Dayton's Past In Photos

Display Created by Morgan Webber



Video and Film Coordinator Historical Society of Dayton Valley

Morgan and Dagmar enjoying one of their many happy moments with the locals in Dayton, Nevada. Morgan had the ability to manipulate historic photographs, bringing them to life for generations of residents from all across northern Nevada. In addition to his photographic skills, Morgan was typically to be found behind the video camera, recording the many lecture programs scheduled by the Historical Society of Dayton Valley over the past several years, those recordings filling several boxes at the museum and available on a loan basis for viewing at home.

Emma Gertrude Hazlett Randall

By Barbara Madison

Hi! Last month my mother, Fannie Hazlett, told you about her life with Dr. John Clark Hazlett. I am their daughter, Emma Gertrude, and this is my story.

I was born here in Dayton in April of 1866 and lived my entire life among friends and family in this bustling little community. An only child, I was probably a little spoiled, but perhaps precocious as well. My father, the local physician, was also involved in state and local politics and possessed a law degree, so education was of primary importance in our household. The year I was born, he was Superintendent of Schools for Lyon County. A petite and feminine blond, I was always called by my middle name and affectionately dubbed "Gertie." I attended school in the little building which now houses the museum, and grew to womanhood in a close-knit and protected but industrious environment.

I had known Dixie Perry Randall, the handsome son of the local blacksmith turned mining entrepreneur and rancher, most of my young life. He had grown up in Dayton, had followed in his father George's footsteps, who also was elected Lyon County Sheriff. Dixie was born in Calaveras County, California, in July 1860, the second of twelve children. The Randalls had moved from Markleeville to the Carson Valley, and then to Dayton. Dixie and I were married in 1888 and started our life together on his property, a mile and a half east of the town where the golf course is now located. As our ranch expanded, so did our family. We grew alfalfa, wheat, barley and potatoes, and raised boys as well as livestock.

Dixie Clark arrived first, a year after our marriage, and he was followed by Roy Frank in 1891 and Arthur Hazlett in 1893. Four years later our little Gertrude came along, but tragically we lost her in 1900. A year later Dorothy was born, a healthy child who lived an amazing life, spanning

one hundred years. In spare moments, she and I played together with the doll house which now resides in the museum. However, Dorothy, who also became a "Dixie," was bereft of her mother's nurturing at an early age, since I failed to recover from an appendicitis attack when she was only eight years old. Not wanting her to be raised in an all-male household, her father sent her to a boarding school in California.

As a wife, mother and helpmate in running our 560-acre ranch, my days were long and arduous. D.P. was also involved in law enforcement and was the County Assessor for multiple terms, so many critical decisions fell to me. We endured through all the seasons of endless toil, heavy snows, floods and scorching heat and yet entertained and enjoyed social events among our many friends in Dayton.

Our family is together again, as we all rest in the Dayton cemetery overlooking our beloved town. We took our place in its history which all of you are preserving. May peace and joy be with you as you walk in our footsteps.

Calendar

By Bob Wallace

September 10: Celebration of life remembering Morgan Webber. Time to be determined.

September 14: HSDV Board meeting.

September 16: Assist in setting up for Dayton Valley Days approximately 4:00 p.m. at the firehouse/jail on Pike Street.

September 17 and 18: Dayton Valley Days on Saturday and Sunday.

September 21: HSDV general meeting at 12:30 p.m. at the Dayton Valley Branch Library, followed by the C&C Depot working group at approximately 1:50 p.m.

September 28: Docents meeting, 10:30 a.m. at the museum.

**Dayton
Where Nevada History Begins**