

# Docents Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

March 2013

## Remembering John Westbrook



Photo courtesy of Jack Folmar  
1936 – 2013

John passed on February 9, in St. George, Utah. He was a very recent member in the HSDV, and the C&C working group. His talents and stories will be missed by all who knew him in the brief time he was in Dayton.

## Docents program

By Ruby McFarland

“With rushing winds and gloomy skies,  
The dark and stubborn Winter dies:  
Far-off, unseen, Spring faintly cries,  
Bidding her earliest child arise: March!”  
Bayard Taylor, 1825-1878

I agreed to sit the museum in the afternoon-opening day, March 16th. It's been awhile since I've been available to sit, but now I can get back into doing what I enjoy. I'm sure I'll be able to step right up and do a good job. I got rid of most of my aches and pains with a hip replacement and gall bladder removal and I'm feeling like I can do a good job relating history to our visitors.

The best part of sitting is the folks who come looking for answers about what makes Dayton a great spot in Nevada history. When asked, my reply is “How much time do you have?” I have been studying the history for about 20 years and I feel like I have only scratched the surface of all the wonderful stories told. There are so many sources of information it would take a lifetime to digest it all. My old memory has a hard time remembering all the details sometimes, but I try hard not to give out any bogus information. History has a way of getting twisted up and wrong answers get spread about. I learned early on to tell folks I don't know the answer to their questions, but I'd be happy to look up the answer and get back to them. Part of growing up is being able to admit that you don't know everything. My aunt used to say to me, “I used to think I knew it all but now I must confess, the more I think I knew it all, the more I knew the less.” Very wise lady who taught me a lot.

All you gardeners should know that you should have peas planted on the 15th of March. So says Ray Walmsley and Grace Ricci.

Hope to see a lot of you on the 16th of March.

Dayton

Where Nevada history begins

## Docent doings

By Patrick Neylan

For many the surest sign of Spring arriving is the first buds on the trees or the first tiny green blades of grass sprouting up in the yard, but for the dedicated Dayton docent, the first sign of Spring is the opening of our museum. Well, Spring is only about two weeks away! The museum will officially open on March 16, so start checking your calendars and setting aside the weekends you can help sit the museum. The other good news is that "Ruby is back!" Anyone wanting to get up to speed quickly with their knowledge of Dayton history can come and sit the museum with Ruby, or any other veteran docent until they feel comfortable in the museum setting. This is the most fun way to meet people, learn history and become active in society activities.

Winter from the standpoint of the cold has just dragged on endlessly, but from the standpoint of society activities it has flown by. During the winter last year we devoted many hours to updating and improving the displays in our museum. This year we devoted an equal number of hours to equally important projects although they were somewhat less glamorous. It was the hope to streamline and improve some of the procedural needs of the society and most of our goals have been accomplished. By the time the museum opens there will be available to all members a ready supply of all essential forms needed to run an event, attract a new member; submit an expense report or any other necessary function. In addition an improved procedure for accessioning future museum items will be tested as early as next week when we attack the contents of the JohnD barn.

As Al Jolson always said, "You ain't heard nothing yet!" (Ruby always opens with a quote, so I thought I should try one too!) For the coming year we have exciting new events planned. The May event recognizing Fremont Lookout; participation with the Pony Express Territory to

create a special Dayton-based promotional video, a combined Railroad/Dayton Valley Days celebration and much more. It looks like 2013 will be an active and fun year. So fasten your seatbelt and come join us for the ride of your life.

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## Closing notes

By Bob Wallace

First up on the list for this month go thanks to Jack Folmar for providing the picture of John Westbrook. Despite a lengthy search of his database of pictures, Jack was unable to find a photo of John without his cap. To Pat Neylan for getting Ruby's piece transcribed and down the electrons as well as his own. Were it not for the availability of email, this process would be far more complex than it is.

One of the questions I had regarding the start of weekends for the museum was answered by both Ruby and Pat. Add to it the events throughout the year which involves members of the HSDV and you'll have some idea of how busy this society can be from month to month. Linda Clements has sent information on another event coming up in June, that celebrating the 150th anniversary of Warren Engine Company Number 1, this on June 15 at the Carson City Fire Department on South Stewart Street. More details will be coming later, but consider adding this one to your calendar.

Railroad museums have been visited over the course of our travels since early October of last year. Among other things, each visit included looking at how someone else had put together their way of thanking donors, both artifacts and funds. Whether plaques on the walls, bricks in a patio setting with individual names on each brick, to the "track" on the floor with names printed on ties, each of these ideas have been sent back to Dayton as suggestions for C&C members to think about when the depot is reconfigured one day, and that box car made ready for display.