

# Docents Newsletter

Historical Society of Dayton Valley

<http://daytonnvhistory.org>

July 2014

## DOCENT LETTERS

by Ruby McFarland

*Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young.*

*Fred Astaire (1899-1987)*

Little is said about children in Dayton history. One thing that may be said about that is, in the old days "Children are to be seen and not heard." And the kids better well know to say "Please" and "Thank you." And God help you if you sass your elders. That attitude towards children continued thru my generation. Then I don't know what happened.

Historians don't have too much to say about kids in the old days. There was a reference as to how many children folks had, how many lived and died. Little is said about what children did or didn't do. Somehow childhood games, songs and sayings survived from generation to generation.

Fanny Hazlett did write about a couple of people who were in contact with the youngsters in Dayton in the early days.

Isaac Cohn was one of those. He owned a wagon that served many purposes. The two horses that pulled the wagon were loved by the kids. The wagon was used for picnics, parties, and funerals. He referred to his wagon as his "Bleasure Vagon." Almost daily he would wait for the children to come out of school. He then could be seen with

twenty or thirty children all laughing and screaming going down the street.

Big Nick was another who took an interest in the children in town. There were kids who grew up in Dayton who related the kindness of Big Nick.

There was one evening he closed up his saloon and gave the children in town a party. There was music and games. Then ice cream and cake. Ice cream was very special in those days.

I'm sure children of early Dayton had the opportunity to learn how to read and write. Our museum was the first school built in Dayton in 1865. I'm sure the kids played some of the games I played when I was a kid. Hop-scotch and marbles were big in my day as I'm sure it was in 1865.

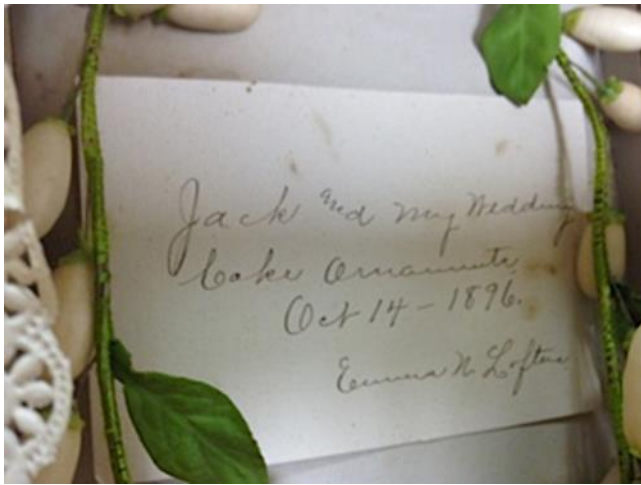
Wish I had more information about the children in the early days.

## July General Meeting

In order to accommodate numerous requests/suggestions by members regarding changes made to meeting times and their parameters this year, our July General Membership Business meeting will be a DAYTIME meeting on **July 16, 2014**, Dayton Valley Community Center, **12:30 PM**. (August meeting will be an evening one.) Hope you'll be attending!

## Museum Open House

**July 27** – the Museum will have an open house from 1-4, hosted by Vicki Kinney. Bring a friend and enjoy the afternoon.



### Emma's 1896 wedding memorabilia are home

By Laura Tennant

There's usually something exciting that happens when you work at the Dayton Museum on weekends.

First, thanks to Pay Neylan, Museum Curator, for "rigging" the summer schedule so volunteers only sign up for one day a month. Since the Museum opened in 1994 until this year, many of us spent most every weekend at the Museum for the love of Dayton's history.

It was a blessing for the earliest few members, when, about ten years ago, we rented the little office space to the Chamber of Commerce and made enough money to hire Ruby McFarland to give loyal volunteers a time to spend with their families on weekends. When the funds expired, Ruby volunteered her time too; also writing a column for the Nevada Appeal on Dayton's history.

### A May Heyday at the Museum

The last weekend in May, I had a chance to pick up an extra shift and I'm happy I did.

I received a phone call from a Jeane Hardesty who said she had a donation for the Museum. I've learned to be cautious about automatically accepting donations - you never know what kind of

white elephant is coming through the door when a donor arrives!



I explained to Jeane, there are a few rules regarding our acceptance of donations.

She replied: "My Mother's had this for the Museum for years and my husband and I are on our way out," adding something about a lady's wedding in Dayton. Skeptical, I figured the item

probably wasn't used in Dayton, as is often the case.

Bob and Jeane arrived and handed me an old-fashioned box with a possible gold leaf decor and a lovely lady illustration on front. Inside, there was a small card with a handwritten note and floral decoration. It said: "Jack and my wedding cake ornaments, Oct. 14 – 1896. Emma N. Loftus". And there was the pair of off-white heavy stockings she wore on her wedding day in the box.

Wow, I couldn't believe my eyes. I practically jumped with joy. I thanked and thanked them.

If you don't know, Emma is a Dayton historic piece herself, having documented a moment in our history in her diary every day between 1917-18 until 1958-59. She spent the last years of her life living in the cute little house on Pike Street in the heart of Old Town. Later, Barbara Peck owned and lived there, and then sold it to Julie Minor Workman. Indeed this donation is a true Dayton treasure.

It also turned out that I knew Jeane's mother, Anna, who'd bought and saved this Dayton relic for us. Anna knew Stony and son Matt well since she worked for Ann Groso, Wellington Bookkeeping, whose husband worked for Stony for years. Ann was our bookkeeper then.

And, a copy of the current Docentt Newsletter with a story by Ruby McFarland about Emma was at the Museum so I gave the Hardestys a copy for Anna who has always wondered who Emma Loftus was. It's a small world after all.

### **OLD SAYINGS/EXPRESSIONS FROM PAST YEARS**

**Submitted by Mabel Masterman**

Earlier this year (while showing off our Firehouse/Jail) a very stately senior citizen expressed quite an interest in our Fire Truck, Granny's, history and was asking me all sorts of

questions. Especially after I told him Granny, purchased in 1936, that she was the first mechanized firefighting equipment for Dayton and the first that was not "second hand" equipment. The gentleman exclaimed "I'll be a monkey's Uncle"! Boy... did that bring some memories flooding back to me.

Remember some of the old sayings your mother or father used to say? Occasionally I've used an expression from my childhood that was familiar to me... but low and behold, folks just stare at me!

My mother used to say "conniption fit". That's one I use often. I always knew it meant a fit of anger or temper, but more folks seem to have heard about having a "cat fit". Some of my father's favorites were "holy mackerel", and "holy mowlee". I knew he used them to express surprise; however....on the flip side, whenever he was totally disgusted with someone he referred to them a "donkey grave"! Another one my mother used to say she was "just flabbergasted". Always liked that one!

Other old sayings, like mind your own "P's and Q's", someone was "having a field day", "I may be cabbage looking but I'm not so green" (meaning she knew what was going on and we "couldn't pull the wool over her eyes"), which, we naturally changed to "don't pull the sheep over my eyes". Others were "I didn't just fall off of the turnip truck", "hold your horses", "I'm at the end of my rope" (which sometimes you hear today), "too many cooks spoil the broth", "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush", "don't air your dirty linen in public" or "a person is known by the company they keep", and..... last but not least, you've just "cooked your own goose" (which I remember hearing fairly often when I was in High School)! Now that I think about it, both my mother and grandmother were full of all types of sayings.... so of course, there were more....for every occasion!

Occasionally one of their sayings will just pop into my head at the oddest moment! Right now one just did, so I better get going... as I "need to make hay while the sun is shining" (meaning I better finish this up and email to Carol for the Docent Newsletter or my name will be "mud")! Kind-of miss hearing some of these old sayings....for my folks generation, the old truisms' were mighty forthright and so full of inherent character!



**Vicki making posters at the rummage sale**

### **HSDV Membership**

**By Vicki Kinney**

Your membership is vital to our society. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership, and I look forward to receiving memberships from those of you who haven't renewed yet.

I sent the renewal notices out electronically to those who have and use their emails. So far it seems to have worked out pretty well. If any of you haven't received your renewal notice, please let me know and I will get one out to you. I will be sending your new cards and receipts out this week.

This year's rummage sale has come and gone. We did pretty well this year, taking in \$2,484.30, not including antique books, railroad books and parking. This is our main fundraiser so is very

important. THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU who helped out in any way. That includes sorting, pricing, working the sale, making donations, and shopping the sale.

### **DOCENT DOINGS**

**By Pat Neylan**

Three months into the 2014 season and all is going *really* well at the museum! At a recent docent meeting, it was agreed that the current scheduling method was working smoothly and efficiently. In addition to the normal weekend slots many additional demands have been made on our volunteers and they came through admirably. We have had special tours, the NV150 celebration, Oodles weekend and the daily demands of the month of May. Many thanks to all who have given so generously of their time and talents and kept the best museum in Nevada open to one and all!!!

### **DVD LENDING LIBRARY**

Adolph Sutro's lifelong dream was to create a world class library and make it available to every citizen of San Francisco. Alas, he was never able to pull it off. In Dayton however, his protégé, Jack Folmar has and it is about to debut! Working for many, many months Jack has been able to reassemble the original collection as put together by our own beloved Morgan Webber and in addition refine, edit, rerecord, title, inventory.....whatever it took!! On top of all of this, he has also created many, many new titles that chronicle and will preserve all of HSDV's major events and activities for the last several years. Few comprehended the extent of the program; the work that it would take to accomplish the feat. No plan was created, no blueprint laid out. Jack just did it and soon the fruits will be available to every citizen of Dayton!

The grand unveiling of well over 100 individual DVD's, jam packed with Dayton history, past and

present will take place at our museum on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. Every member of the HSDV will find something of interest or a refresher for their memory and is encouraged to utilize this amazing new asset. Any member will be able to “check out” any of the DVD’s and view them at their own pace in the comfort of their own home. Non-members too are encouraged to take advantage of this resource but various logistical issues will require them to view them at the museum, during regular museum hours. The docent sitting the museum will monitor the checking in and out procedure.

Everyone is urged to stop by the museum on the 27<sup>th</sup> and “check it out” and thank Jack for topping the original Adolph Sutro yet again!

