

BEATTY MUSEUM and HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Special Edition December 1995

◆ "RIBITS" from the editor...Bullfrog Billy

Welcome to this special **EXTRA** edition of the *BMHS* news. As 1995 rapidly approaches expiration, I look back to see what a great year it has been. January was quite memorable as I selected a very romantic spot (ribit-ribit) to propose to Zettia. (stock exchange ruins in Rhyolite) She said yes (ribit-ribit-ribit-ribit) and in March we were married in Rhyolite with Pastor Jeff Taguchi presiding. From that day forward, the special fondness for Rhyolite is even greater and has now spread to the entire Bullfrog Mining District. Friends mean more than words can express and many friendships have developed as a result of the many trips to Beatty and Rhyolite. From these friendships, the *BMHS* newsletter began shortly after *BMHS* formed. Who could ask for a better friend than Claudia Reidhead? Her hard work and dedication to preserving the history of the Bullfrog Mining District was the inspiration that led to the *BMHS* newsletter. Claudia spends many hours gathering the data needed to put the newsletter together and that combined with the creative ideas of Zettia Miller help make the *BMHS* newsletter a product to be proud of. Zettia and I attended the Oct 30th meeting of the *BMHS* and were able to meet many members for the first time. We say a big "**THANK YOU**" to the Officers and Board of Directors who presented us with the lovely plaque which is now hanging in our Rhyolite room. We hope to attend more of the meetings in the future. A peek at the membership roster indicates that we are nearly fifty members strong which is a great start. We can make it grow much stronger by recruiting, so lets **ALL** get involved with promoting *BMHS* and see how fast we can say we have one hundred members. Now it is December and that means everyone gets into the Christmas spirit. What happens during the Christmas season? It seems people become a little friendlier, they smile more and they seem happier. But then there seems to be a let-down right after Christmas and the smiles are less frequent and the happy attitudes seem to fade back to the January-November natural order of things. Why is that? Maybe we could try to make that Christmas attitude last a little longer, perhaps all year long. Easier said than done of course, but isn't it amazing how much like robots we seem to be at times? I believe that the members of *BMHS* are a cut above the norm and as much as I tried to come up with a great Christmas message, I couldn't begin to express what needs to be said as well as Pastor Jeff Taguchi's Christmas Wish which is the feature item in this newsletter. **THANK YOU** Jeff for your contribution and we welcome any

future messages that you might have. Now for a comment on some sad news that you will read about in Claudia's column. The Bullfrog/Rhyolite cemetery was vandalized the weekend of November 11th. One thing that everyone encounters in their daily lives is the **MIRROR**. Some use the mirror to shave, some to put on their face or perhaps just to freshen up but no matter what, you will look into a mirror. When the vandal(s) look into a mirror they will know **WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY'VE DONE** and **WHAT THEY ARE!** Right now we only know **WHAT THEY'VE DONE** and **WHAT THEY ARE** and we can only hope that those responsible will be caught and justice will be **SWIFT**. A reward fund is growing and will be offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandal(s) so if you have any information, please contact the Beatty Sheriff's Office. On a happier note, Zettia and I hope you enjoy the last page surprise which should be of special interest to Beatty residents. We look forward to another great year with *BMHS* and will strive to keep the newsletter interesting and informative. We wish you one and all a very **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**. Until the next time....."RIBIT-RIBIT"

message from the President.....

CLAUDIA REIDHEAD

Hi Folks. Since this is the last time this year that I'll be talking (writing) to you, I thought that this would be a good time to update you on how far we have come toward our goal of getting a museum here. We had our first meeting April 28, and have been on an upward move ever since. We have acquired our IRS tax number, and our State charter. We have either received or have the promise of a lot of artifacts pertaining to our history. We have had a couple of fund-raisers. Our picnic in the park was a resounding success. The Fashion Show, although not a stellar achievement, was a wonderful idea and I think we should have it again next year with a little more publicity and more time to prepare for it and that should help make it a more successful event. We currently have close to two thousand dollars in our bank account. From this base we hope to get our building fund going strong and have our land and building within two years. We are on the agenda for the County Commissioners meeting in November to get the Underground Church. We have some **wonderful plans** to make it an outdoor museum so that we don't have to destroy the integrity of the building. We have published three newsletters and done a lot of research. We have a growing membership which seems to be a devoted group. I am very

proud of them and very grateful to them for their faith. I need at this time to acknowledge some very special people and say **thank you** to them. **Bill and Zettia Miller** (ribbit-ribbit & Mrs. ribbit) for all their hard work, dedication and patience in publishing our wonderful newsletters and for their generous contributions of stock certificates and paper memorabilia and being my listening post and wailing wall. Our Vice President **Mary Revert**, my cohort, who not only supports my various ideas and shoots holes in my balloon when I float too high, but pulls rabbits out of her hat when we need a bit of magic. She was a very prime moving force in getting this organization going. She also throws me a line when I feel like I'm drowning. Treasurer **Vonnie Gray**, another driving force that we depend on for enthusiasm, and who was another one who pushed to get us going. Secretary **Ruthiana Green** has done a wonderful job keeping minutes and is another of our inspirational forces. **Jeff Taguchi** needs a huge thank you for M.C.'ing anytime we ask him in spite of a very full plate and for being one of our Board members. **Perry Forsyth**, Chairman of the Board, has missed only one meeting due to an ambulance run. He provides us music on demand and encourages us in our endeavors. **Jane Cottonwood** who has kept us on the right path and never misses a meeting. **Clint and Ellen Boehringer**, for coming back to Rhyolite and us and landing here running. (They arrived just in time to help us with the Fashion Show, a prime example of why you don't let me know you're here because I'll put you to work) **THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!** Don't forget, we will have elections in February for all offices. According to State law we must have elections within six months of our charter date and yearly thereafter. Our out of town members will get ballots and information on and by each person nominated so they can vote with confidence. **We wish to each and all a Joyous Christmas and a full and Happy New Year. Thank you and God Bless you All!**

The above column was written several days before we had some horrible vandalism at Rhyolite. **It is my sad duty to tell you that the cemetery has been almost totally destroyed.** The few remaining markers have been knocked down or moved, the fences broken down and all of the wooden markers either pulled out and thrown or splintered into almost nothing. The Sheriff is working on the case and now it becomes even more imperative than ever that we get a plot map of the cemetery and a list of who is buried there so that we can get markers made. It hurts and makes me furious that anyone could be so callous that they would destroy what little history that we have left here. **(You really don't want to hear my opinion because what I called them, whoever they are, is not printable and the Sheriff agreed with me)**

DECEMBER EVENTS Beatty Community Center

Craft Fair - December 2nd - 10a.m.

Recital - K.T.'s Dance Factory - December 13th
7p.m.

Town Christmas Party sponsored by **Barrick Mine**
December 14th - 7p.m.

Caroling by Beatty High School - December 18th
4-9p.m.

Community Church Caroling - December 24th
4p.m.

GET WELL SOON RUTHIANA GREEN

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN *BMHS*

MY CHRISTMAS WISH

Pastor Jeff Taguchi

Have you gone into your local department store lately? I have. If your stores are anything like ours, they're gearing up for Christmas before Thanksgiving! Every aisle is jammed packed with decorations, numerous gift items and most importantly TOYS!!! Prudent people have already begun to shop for Christmas. As a matter of fact, one of my close friends has already begun gift wrapping. All of this is leading to December 25th, Christmas Day. Dad wants a new Norelco electric razor. Mom wants a new car but will settle for a microwave oven and a food dehydrator. The kids, well they want Mighty Morphin Power Ranger dolls with the assorted accessories.

Christmas has come a long way in 90 years.

Tis the season to be jolly
Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Cook the turkey and make the gravy
Bake the ham and don't be lazy
Spend lots of money, it's not hard
Because you have a Mastercard
And when it's over don't forget
You have next year to pay your debt
So remember this before you pout
Is this what Christmas is all about?

It's a shame that Christmas has become so commercialized. We worry more about the gifts we give and the impression we make than on the real meaning of the season. Sometimes I wish for simpler times when Christmas was Christmas. When a community would gather around a town Christmas tree, drink apple cider and sing carols. People would walk down the streets and say "Merry Christmas" to each other in passing instead of "give me your wallet" as they point a pistol at your head. Have we forgotten what Christmas is? I hope not. Because this is the season to treasure the greatest gift of all. "For unto us a Child is born and Savior is given. His name is Jesus, the Christ our Lord."

It wasn't like that in the early 1900's. Even in a rough and tumble mining town like Rhyolite. If you walk through it's abandoned streets, with most of its buildings and structures in ruin, you can still feel the spirit of Christmas that was once a part of this great community. You can sense the spirit of the people as they sang "Silent Night," as the chilly air nipped at their noses while caroling down the main road. You can see the children playing in the streets having a marvelous time without even the thought of shooting one another. You can smell the aroma of a roasting turkey as you walked down the residential streets. There was a real sense of family. People put away their differences and drew together in a spirit of unity because of a small child, born in a manger two thousand years ago.

We as a people, Americans, need to remember our heritage. This country was founded upon Christian principles and ideas. It found it's strength in it's people who built it into the nation it is today. And it found it's peace and unity in it's Savior Jesus Christ. This is what we must focus on.

The Scripture says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 That's the true gift that was born in a manger. Not an electric razor, microwave or Mighty Morphin Power Ranger doll. That's the gift that keeps on giving, because though Jesus Christ was born 2000 years ago, He still lives today in Heaven and in every heart of those who believe in Him. He can be called upon at any time or from any place to give grace, peace

and comfort to those who seek Him. And most of all, he gives eternal life to all those who have or will receive Him as Savior.

There is no greater gift than to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. For through this relationship, it is possible for us to really enjoy the Christmas season. It is possible for us to really feel the spirit of Christ drawing us all together no matter who we are. It is possible for us to sense the Spirit of Christmas from those who have passed on before us. And it is possible for us to rebuild our society which has turned away from it's spiritual heritage.

My Christmas wish is that during this Christmas season, that we ask ourselves, "What does Christmas really mean to me?" And if it's anything other than celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, the gift of God, I pray that we reevaluate what our lives are all about and return to our spiritual heritage, and worship the God who has given us life.

Christmas has no meaning without Jesus Christ. It becomes an empty holiday without Him. Consider Rhyolite in it's early days. They didn't have all the comforts that we have to distract them. But they did have the real spirit of Christmas that seems to be missing from our society today. So look back into yesteryear and remember, because the same spirit of Christmas that the residents of Rhyolite, Beatty, Pioneer and the other mining towns had, can still be ours today through a relationship with the Child born in a manger in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

God bless you and keep you....

TOWN of BEATTY

Most Prosperous Mining Camp in Bullfrog District, Nevada

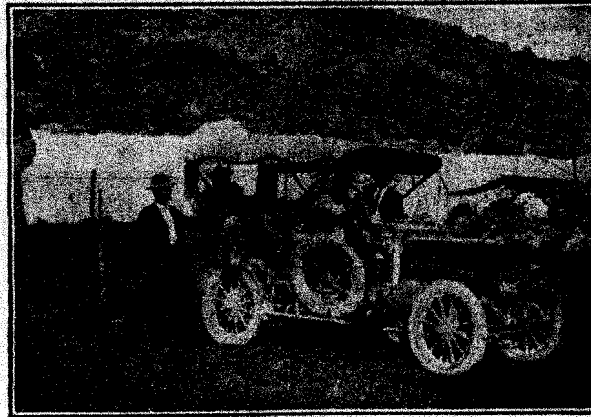
November 1, 1904

Population None

April, 1905

Population 1500

and still growing



HOT SPRINGS BATH-HOUSE, BEATTY

Beatty is the only Town in the Bullfrog District having abundant supply of pure water for domestic, mining and manufacturing purposes.

\$5,000 Bath House at the Hot Springs is now being constructed. Ice Plant, Bottling Works and Electric Plant. Two Mills of 40-stamp capacity, under construction and the world famous Montgomery-Shoshone Mines are at BEATTY.

Beatty has the only established Postoffice in the District.

A
10,000
Dollar Modern
Hotel Under
Construction

Telephone and
Headquarters
for Automobile
Lines and Stages
from Tonopah,
Goldfield, Las
Vegas and
Other Camps



MONTGOMERY HOTEL, BEATTY

Two Railroads
are
Surveying
Toward Beatty
from the
South, and One
from the
North

Those desiring reliable information concerning mines should address Mr. E. A. MONTGOMERY, President of the Montgomery-Shoshone Mines Company at Beatty.

Letters relative to the purchase of Town Property should be directed to

BEATTY TOWNSITE CO.
BEATTY, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA