



Douglas County Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009 - FEBRUARY 2010
 VOLUME 32, NO. 5 - VOLUME 33, NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - GRACE BOWER

Is everyone ready for winter? This year has really flown by. We have a new calendar of events for 2010. Pick one up next time you are in town. Our lecture series will continue and Chautauqua begins in January. I've been working with the Main Street Gardnerville group and the Genoa Cowboy Poetry people. Both groups have a lot planned for 2010.

Now that Genoa is closed for the winter, remember you can bring visitors to the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, as we are open year round.

You have probably noticed that the State Museum and Railroad Museum are only open three days or so a week. That is because the State does not have the money to keep them open full time, whereas we can be open six days a week because we are mostly run by volunteers and we do not have to depend on State or County money. We raise all our funds ourselves. That is why it is so important to get new members and to keep our old members. Membership money goes a long way to help pay the bills. Our lectures have brought in a lot of members. If each of you could just bring in one new member, think what that could do! I don't know how many of you know that we have a meeting room that we rent out. Our rates are very reasonable. It holds fifty people and food can be served. Check us out the next time you need a place to meet. Our Holiday Gala is December 5th. Come in and see the Christmas trees. They will be up until the New Year. The gingerbread houses will be around for a couple of weeks. On December 5th, candy and cookies are available to buy. No need to bake! We have a great selection. We have some great cooks here.

Have a great Christmas and New Year!



CARSON VALLEY MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

1477 U.S. Highway 395 N. Suite B
 Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214
 775-782-2555
 FAX: 775-783-8802
 Open Mon - Sat 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



COURTHOUSE MUSEUM In GENOA

2304 Main Street
 Genoa, Nevada 89411
 775-782-4325
 Open May - October
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



www.HistoricNevada.org
 Email: dchs@wpti.net

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Come see the herd of willow reindeer grazing on the Museum lawn! These clever works of art were created by local grammar school students under the guidance of Willow Bill.

Santa's magical sleigh and reindeer can be seen flying from the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center rooftop from December 2 through the month of December.

CHRISTMAS TREES AND GINGERBREAD HOUSES

We will be having the Christmas Trees around the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center starting December 5, 2009.

The gingerbread houses will be around again this year. They make the Museum smell so good! This is sponsored by the Carson Valley Arts Council.

Lots of Christmas cookies and candy will be on sale downstairs. They are made by volunteers. No need to do any baking, just pick up your choice of many kinds of cookies and candy. They make great gifts.

Santa will be here too! Get your picture taken with him in our sleigh.

There is no admission charge to come in and see the trees and gingerbread houses.



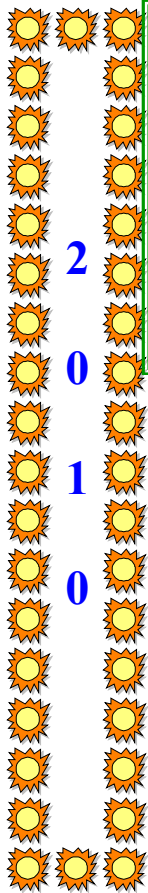
December 10th Slide Show & Lecture

Stan Paher's slide show-lecture, December 10th at 7 pm, is entitled "Ghost Towns and Railroads of Lyon, Mineral, Esmeralda and northern Nye Counties." He will be showing historic pictures of many places along the route of the old Carson & Colorado Railroad, with voice-over comments.

Stanley W. Paher has written a new book, which has to be the last word on exploring Nevada and its many recreational possibilities. It is entitled "Nevada Ghost Town & Desert Atlas" which is a precise companion to his 1970's book on Nevada ghost towns. The new book has 204 large pages and is complete with desert travel and driving hints, and a separate page for additional reading.

For more information please call the Historical Society, 775-782-2555.

Admission to the lecture is \$3.00 per person. Members are free.



STUDENT / SENIOR DAY

The first Saturday of each month activity continues. Seniors and students with the required adult who accompanies them are admitted free. Donations are appreciated. Tours led by costumed museum volunteers are available on request. Presentations will not be every month as they were previously. Watch for email from DCHS.

MARCH 6 PORTRAIT of a PIONEER LADY

Repeat of the popular reading theater presentation of the dialogue written by Bea Feticc Jones and Grace Dangberg . Presentations will be at 11am and 1pm .

Chautauqua To Begin

The Douglas County Historical Society's Young Chautauqua begins January 12, 2010. There will be an information meeting to tell you what the program is about and to register.

This is a program for students 4th through 12th grade who are interested in history, drama, speech or just want to have fun.

The student chooses a character from history and performs this character in the first person. We meet every other Tuesday evening from 6-7 pm for 11 sessions.

Starting around May, the young people go out into the community to perform. We all end up at the Mormon Station Park in Genoa, June 16-17 at 5 p.m.

If you would like to have one or more of our persons in history come to your organization and perform, you can call the Douglas County Historical Society at 782-2555.

Bring your children, grandchildren or young friends and join us. This has been a great program for the Historical Society. We are funded in part by Nevada Humanities.

HOTEL MINDEN II or DIVORCE MILL JANUARY 29, 30, and 31

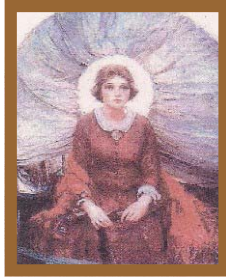
We are proud to announce the fifth annual melodrama written by John W, Smith and directed by Sue Smith. Some of the characters are old and some are new, but the same attitude of frivolity will be present. The title gives you an idea of the main theme. The era has been changed to go with the famous divorces of Nevada. No real characters, of course but ingenious names will appear.

The intermission oleo will feature last year's villain Daniel Gaughan and his son Daniel II with a musical interlude. Remember the jail scene!!!!.

The menu will be the same as past years. Lasagna, salad, bread and Grace's famous peach cobbler on Friday and Saturday night at 6pm [doors open at 5:30] provided by members of DCHS. The Minden/Douglas Elks will again provide hot dogs with all the trimmings for the Sunday matinee at 1:00 [doors open at 12:30].

Tickets will be available January 2. Price for the evening show and meal is \$20 for DCHS members, \$25 for others. Matinee is \$15 for all. All tickets must be purchased at the museum.

Remember, you can now charge over the phone. Last year, we sold out all shows 2 weeks before performances so get your tickets early. See you there.



Women in History to be Celebrated

"Douglas County Women: "Preserving Their Legacy for the Future", is the theme chosen for the Douglas County Historical Society's 10th Annual Women's History Remembering Project.

This has been a very successful project in the preservation of Douglas County history and is held in March to celebrate National Women in History Month.

The Historical Society is asking you to nominate a woman that you feel has made a significant historical contribution to the quality of life in Douglas County. The woman nominated, living or deceased, must live or have lived in Douglas County. The women will be chosen from the nominees at the discretion of the Society's WHRP committee and honored at a public reception on March 20, 2010.

Nominating packets may be picked up at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center starting January 4, 2010. Packets will be mailed upon request by calling the Society office 775-782-2555 or Helen Chappell at 721-7979.

Deadline to submit a nominee is 4 p.m., March 5, 2010.

Helen Chappell
721-7979



Thanks To All Of You,

"Haunted Weekend" was a success thanks to all of you that attended. We appreciate your support for this fun historical event. We especially want to thank the Towns of Minden & Gardnerville and the Genoa Cemetery Association, without your help this event would not be possible. Most important "Haunted Weekend" would not be possible without all the great volunteers and family members that portray a variety of historical ghosts from the past.

"Haunted Weekend" is a weekend filled with fun, historic and haunted events that take place over a four day period. It is not only a fundraising event for the historical society but has become a tourism venue that brings out of the area visitors to Carson Valley. The media coverage locally and out of the area was wonderful and helped a great deal to promote all the haunted events.

Thank You For The Support,
Laurie & Shannon Hickey



The Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center and Genoa Museum Stores

By: The Museums Bookstore Committee

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Are you looking for something unique and out-of-the-ordinary to give to those special people in your life during the holidays, which also satisfy your budget? We can help! In the month of December a pre-Christmas sale offers all DCHS members a 20% discount and non-members a 10% discount on items in the Bookstore not including consignment items, and this discount is not in addition to the 10% discount DCHS members normally receive.

At our Bookstore there are not only interesting and unusual books about our area, the West, and the adventurous trailblazers who came before us, but also items some of which have specific meaning to this area. The very popular 2009 collectible Christmas ornament features the Mormon Station, which can be purchased in Genoa at Trimmer Outpost and The Country Store as well as the Bookstore. There are 2009 calendar photo-entry note cards, most of which are scenes of this valley captured beautifully by local photographers. To mark the spot in a book being read, the delightful designs from the Bookbutton Magnetic Bookmarker fill that need. Some of these designs include bears, cowboy boots/hat, cute black and white cows, etc., and are handcrafted in the USA. Leather coasters with the DCHS emblem hand stamped by a local gentleman, and puzzles of picturesque scenes are also new items this year. Folk art toys, children's Christmas books, paper dolls, a variety of stencils, sticker and story booklets, are great stocking stuffers for the little ones.

For fascinating reading on these cold winter evenings, pick up a copy of Sally Zanjani's award winning biography, Sarah Winnemucca. Sarah was born into a family of Paiute leaders in western Nevada, dedicating much of her life to working for her people and was the first Native American woman to publish in the English language. Noteworthy, in 2005 a statue of her was added to the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U. S. Capitol. Also available is Lone Cowboy My Life Story by Will James. A fictionalized autobiography, first published in 1930, recounts his pursuit of his teenage dream of being a cowboy in the West, which led to time in prison and an unlikely career as an illustrator and author of many published stories about the West. For legendary tales, look for Gold Rushes by Tony Hollihan. The author captures the history of five well-known gold rushes: California (1849), Fraser River (1858), Cariboo (1862), Black Hills (1876), and Klondike (1897). On December 5 at the Museum, after enjoying the Cookie Walk purchasing delectable goodies, come on upstairs and check out these and many other outstanding items that are in the Bookstore.

The support of the members of the Douglas County Historical Society in both Museums' Bookstores during the past year is deeply appreciated.

Happy Holidays to one and all!



MISSION

The Douglas County Historical Society seeks to enrich lives by preserving local history and making it accessible to our communities and visitors.

MEMORIALS

Jesse Bower

Elizabeth Ellis

Northern Nevada Mining Activity

Bill Palmer

Many towns here in northern Nevada were originally founded as a result of gold or silver first having been discovered close by and the towns developed in support of those discoveries. As a result, these towns thrived amid various sounds associated with that nearby mining. Today, many are almost all silent. Wild horses now graze beside stark concrete foundations – all that remains of a stamp mill that once created a continuous din of pounding that could be heard -- around the clock – all over town.

An occasional head frame can also be seen here and there silhouetted against the sky, or partially hidden among trees and undergrowth that sprang up long after mining activities had ceased. Instead of steam whistles that once noisily announced the start and end of each shift -- now, only the wind can be heard gently rattling an upturned piece of tin as it passes the sides of what's left of a building.

Such serene surroundings make it difficult to imagine that often beneath many of these towns there still remains a labyrinth of subterranean diggings, mostly carved from hard rock and expanded into networks of interconnecting tunnels, shafts and winzes. All this work was done by groups of miners who seldom saw the light of day – all in pursuit of gold or silver. Often, the ores didn't last and the mines had no choice but to close down. Equipment was dismantled and sold off, or was scrapped and left. The above-ground structures of the mines were simply left to decay.

Most miners simply moved on – to 'richer pastures' where they could perhaps find jobs in other mines. A few remained in the area and took up "topside" trades, thus helping keep some of these dwindling towns alive.

Eventually, some miners did come back. Not to mine, but to simply retire and quietly live out the remainder of their lives near where they'd spent the greater part of their youth, Virginia City being a famous example. Many miners remained long after mining activities had stopped and the mines themselves had closed down.

Today, mining activities continue, but are largely located near existing towns like Elko and Winnemucca, but separate from the towns. So sounds of mining are no longer prevalent 'in town' and so, for the most part, they are no longer an integral part of a town's 'character.'

Here in Carson Valley, mining activities were, and are, largely confined to placer mining, where gold can be found within the sands of nearby streams. This author was once told of a prospector who, back in the mid-1930s was a "Tramp Miner" during the Great Depression. This man lived – or I should say 'camped' -- in the Pine Nut Mountains just east of here. He would locate enriched stream sands -- even though the streams themselves were dry. He'd gather an ample supply of samples through "dry panning" and, once a week, carry them down into the valley here where he would use waters from the Carson River to 'pan out the gold' from his accumulated sands. Thus, he regularly earned enough to provide himself with another 'grubstake' of sufficient groceries and liquor (not necessarily in that order) to last another week. Then, it would be back to the Pine Nuts to once again, prospect among the sands.

The days of this kind of "Tramp Mining" are all but over because virgin areas available for prospecting no longer exist. Most of these kinds of mining areas have been gone over with a proverbial 'fine-tooth comb.' Or, they are inaccessible because of being located on private property.

Volunteer Scoop

In their own words!



Peggy and David Ausbrook



We have lived in Carson Valley for 5 years. We moved here during the winter of 2004/2005 which was the worst winter in 90 years, so they say. We were living in our motor home--waiting for our house to be built. We were very cold, needless to say, and we were about ready to call it quits! But we made it through and so glad we decided to stay.

We moved here because we already had several friends that lived here, and we were ready to leave the Bay Area. I have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. One daughter lives in Alabama and teaches high school. The other daughter works for the National Park Services. She lives in Helendale, CA, but works at Manzanar - the Japanese Internment Camp.

I enjoy working at the Courthouse Museum very much. I have learned so much about the history of the area, I am still learning!

In 1997 my husband, Tim, and I purchased a house in Gardnerville but continued to live in the Bay Area staying near his cardiologist. In 2004, with Tim's health improving, we decided to sell our Bay Area home of 31 years and make the beautiful Carson Valley our home.

Last year the Lord took Tim home. With a new chapter of my life in front of me, I decided to be a part of what has become so special to me--the history of the Carson Valley. Being a volunteer at the Courthouse Museum Genoa is such a joy, and I'm so blessed that I joined the Douglas County Historical Society.



Diane Moore

Volunteering for DCHS is a great way to get involved in the community helps to keep both the Gardnerville and Genoa museums up and running, gives the opportunity to meet new and interesting people, not only within the community but visitors from around the world.

Committees are always looking for assistance and new ideas. Committees include: Fund Raising, Membership, Short-Long Term Planning, Accessions, Exhibits, and Newsletter/Publicity.

Contact the Historical Society at 775-782-2555 or via email at dchs@wpti.net to volunteer.

Douglas County Historical Society - Trustees Meetings

Douglas County Historical Society Trustee meetings are the third Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Gardnerville.

The Annual Membership Meeting is the third Thursday in May.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



MARGE BAY FUNDRAISING
PAINING DRAWING
“WINDY” or the “WILD BUNCH”
VALUED AT \$1,500.00

TICKETS TO GO ON SALE - DECEMBER 5th

This magnificent painting of the Nevada Desert with a band of Mustangs painted by Nevada artist Alice Cardelli Swett. This large framed painting was appraised several years ago for **\$1,500.00**.

Drawing Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

This beautiful painting was donated by Steve Bay and family from the estate of his mother Marge Bay. This painting and others from her collection were donated to the Douglas County Historical Society to be used to raise funds for the society. Marge Bay was a native Nevada who had a passion and love for Nevada and its History. The Douglas County Historical Society cannot thank the Bay's enough for their generous donations.

The Bay's have also donated several books about Nevada from Marge Bay's large library on Nevada History. The family also donated several artifacts which many are in the “Trail to the Promised Land Exhibit” located in the main Gallery.

About the artist Alice Cardelli Swett; Alice and her husband Bill lived in Dayton for many years. Alice operated a antique store in the “Old Braun” store building. The antique store also became Alice's studio where she painted between customers. Marge loved Alice's Nevada landscapes and helped her market them by displaying them, usually via area banks. Alice and her husband Bill moved to Imlay, Nevada around 1972, where Alice continued to paint Nevada.

Members: the Douglas County Historical Society will be sending every member 5 tickets and a self addressed envelope. All you have to do is fill out the tickets include \$20.00, put a stamp on the envelope and mail them back for a chance to win this magnificent painting. You don't have to bake cookies, you don't have come to an event.

Exhibit Committee Report



The big project finished in November was re-doing the lumber wagon exhibit. The log wagon donated by Frederick Dressler has come alive. The wagon has been exhibited above the entry door in the Main Gallery, but was rarely noticed. Our new handyman, Dan, altered the wall so the wagon is more visible. The back wall is now painted sky blue, Manzanita bushes were added and of course, our hard working lumberjacks complete with saws, are laboring away, cutting down the trees (created in-house) and loading the trees on the wagon.

The “Transportation” exhibit and the “Where We Work and Play” exhibits were moved in the Changing Exhibit Room.

A desk and file cabinet, used by Dr. Hand in the 1930s, replaced the desk in the Doctor’s Office.

The Washo Room has new artifacts exhibited. Sue Coleman retrieved all of her baskets she loaned the Museum. Therefore, artifacts had to be moved around. The Washo Indian dress exhibit was placed in the glass case. Photos were taken for museum’s cataloging program.

The Dat-So-La-Lee basket is now on exhibit in the Gardnerville Museum until the Courthouse Museum Genoa opens in the spring.

Our exhibits are continually changing so visitors new and old will always see some new additions.

PLACE AN AD!

Each quarter DCHS publishes a newsletter sent to society members and selected groups and businesses. To help support printing and postage costs, we are selling ad space to selected businesses in the community at reasonable rates:

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>Cost/Issue</u>	<u>Cost/Year</u>
Business Card	\$10.00	\$ 35.00
Quarter page	\$20.00	\$ 75.00
Half page	\$30.00	\$110.00
Full page	\$40.00	\$150.00

Placing ads in the quarterly newsletter helps support the historical society and your business as well. Another way businesses can support DCHS is by becoming a business member. Membership includes a business card sized ad in each quarterly publication, which is posted on our website. Ads should be scan-ready and submitted in jpeg format, then emailed to Mary Jane Harding, Newsletter Editor, at maryjanepete@yahoo.com.

Checks to be made payable to DCHS and mailed to: Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 1477 U.S. Hwy 395 N., Suite B, Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214.

*Douglas County Historical Society
1477 U.S. Highway 395 N. Suite B
Gardnerville, Nevada 89410-5214*



DCHS 2010 EVENTS

Saturday January 2nd - Student/Senior Day
Thursday January 14th - 7 p.m. Historical
Lecture \$3 (Free to members)
January 29, 30 & 31 - Melodrama

Saturday February 6th - Student/Senior Day
Thursday February 11th - 7 p.m. Historical
Lecture \$3 (Free to members)

Saturday March 6th - Student/Senior Day
Thursday March 11th - 7 p.m. Historical
Lecture \$3 (Free to members)
Saturday March 20th - Women In History

Saturday April 3rd - Student/Senior Day
Thursday April 8th - 7 p.m. Historical
Lecture \$3 (Free to members)

May 1 - 2 / Opening Day of the Genoa Museum
Saturday May 8th - Student/Senior Day
Thursday May 13th - 7 p.m. Historical
Lecture \$3 (Free to members)

Saturday May 22nd - 'Great Barns of Carson Valley'. Historical Timber Framed Barn Tour. Self-guided Tour from 9 to 4. Tickets \$25 per person.

June (Genoa) 'Pony Express Re-ride'. Call 782-4325 for approximate time of Rider and Exchange.

Saturday June 5th - Student/Senior Day
Thursday June 10th - 7 p.m. Historical
Lecture \$3 (Free to members)

June 16-17 (Genoa) 'Chautauqua in the Park' Mormon Station State Park - 5 to 8 p.m. - Free