



VOLUME 41

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

FALL 2011

The mining town of BASIN



This old photo of the mining town of Basin has come to us and we were wondering if anyone can date this picture. Note there are no paved roads in the photo, no automobiles, but the railroad and mining stacks are evident. Our guess would be 1890 - 1904. Can anyone narrow it down?

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

The *Montana Ghost Town Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1861, Bozeman, Montana 59771. Phone: 406-522-3856 e-mail: mtghosttown@yahoo.com http://ghosttown.montana.com Copyright © 2011, all rights reserved.

Founded in 1969, the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public to the benefits of preserving the historic buildings, sites, and artifacts that make up the living history of Montana.

Opinions expressed in the bylined articles are the authors' and do not necessarily represent the views of the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society.

Fall 2011

President: Terry Halden

Vice President: Mike Byrnes

Secretary-Treasurer: Margie Kankrlik

Immediate Past President: John Ellingsen

Board of Directors:

Loretta Chapman, Sue Howe, Dick Lee,
Rosemary Lee, Tom Lowe, Meg McWhinney,
Jan O'Brien, Marie O'Brien, Gordon Tracy.

Newsletter Editor: Terry Halden

Website Administrator: Dick Lee

Facebook Administrator: Meg McWhinney

2012 Convention Co-Chairpersons:

Tom Lowe and Terry Halden

The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

Your Convention Chairmen, Gord Tracy and Mike Byrnes produced an extremely good convention, bearing in mind the last minute problems that arose. On the Monday before the convention, the guest speaker cancelled for unknown reasons and the next day the café where we were scheduled to have lunch closed down as the owner passed away. Another setback was the vintage bus that was scheduled to take us on tours of Anaconda broke down on the Thursday and was in the shop for repairs. On the Saturday the three guides in Philipsburg that were supposed to meet us as the bus pulled in were nowhere to be seen, but other than that it went off pretty smoothly. Next year, as you were informed at the convention, we will be holding our annual meeting, ONE WEEKEND LATER, September 14th, 15th and 16th in Dillon. This is so we do not get entangled with the Masons who traditionally have their annual convention on the second weekend of September in Bannack, and, in addition, we can coincide with Bannack which is planning to hold its 150th celebrations on the third weekend. Tom Lowe tells me that Bannack is planning to have a history based weekend and not the family orientated 'Bannack Days' that it holds in the summer time.

On page 10 of this newsletter you can read an article on the Montana Site Stewardship Program that is run by MSU and the Bureau of Land Management. Since their interest and ours are similar your board has recommended that we canvas our members to see if anyone is interested in taking their two day training session that will be held in Dillon next May and thereafter monitoring a historical site of your choice. The cost of the training course is \$25 which your association will reimburse you, but your overnight stay in Dillon would be at your own expense. If anyone is interested, please write us, or e-mail me at terryhalden@hotmail.com.

A few people have asked about getting the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society i.d. pins with the map of Montana in wood tone. High Country Gifts in Bozeman still has the template and if you want one we would suggest you call them at 1-800-953-3991 and order one for yourself.

You can add two lines to the pin, your name and city/state. The cost is about \$6.00, plus postage.

Getting back to something I said in the last newsletter, I am still looking for articles for future newsletters, or any photos that you may have taken this summer of any ghost towns or mining sites that you may have visited. So far I have received an excellent photo of a mill site from Nonda Beardsley, which you will find on page 5. Anyone else want to contribute?

Until next time,

Terry

New Members

Secretary Margie Kankrlik reports the following **New Members** have joined our Association since the last newsletter. Please make them welcome.

Loren Lilley, Snohomish, WA.	Darian Halden, Lethbridge, Alberta.	Ken Caron, Boyle, Alberta.
Bernie and Janet Allestad, Florence, MT.	Mike and Bonnie Pascucci, Billings, MT.	
Sara Losing, Clancy, MT.	David Sellars, Chico, CA.	Susan Stordahl, Corte Madera, CA.
William and Linda Helmer, Eugene, OR.	Richard and Willa Clark, Anaconda, MT	

M. G. T. P. S. BOARD MEETING

July 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Halden at the Pioneer Museum in Bozeman, MT. Board members in attendance were: Mike Byrnes, Loretta Chapman, Terry Halden, Margie Kankrlik, Dick Lee, Rosemary Lee, Meg McWhinney, Jan O'Brien, Maria O'Brien and Gordon Tracy. Board members unable to attend were: John Ellingsen and Tom Lowe. Guests included Crystal Alegria from the Montana Site Stewardship Program, Bill Chapman, and Karin Ludeman representing Fort McGinnis Cemetery.

Minutes of the April 9, 2011 board meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Secretary/Treasurer Margie Kankrlik gave her financial report, that was accepted and advised that as of June 30th we had 238 members.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of a donation of \$2,500 to Fort Connah Preservation Association was made at the last meeting. A thank you email was read at the meeting by Terry Halden. In addition, they have requested that Terry be available to have his picture taken with the President of their Association presenting a check for publicity purposes. Terry will try to be available for that event.

Karin Ludeman then gave an update of her progress concerning Fort McGinnis Cemetery near Lewistown, MT. A concern for this cemetery is public access. She has found someone has already worked on public access and she is trying to get in touch with them. Gordon Tracy mentioned if public access was available across private land and there was a change in ownership of the private land, there is a certain amount of time allowed to reestablish the access. Karin will look into it. Terry Halden handed Karin a list of grants that were available and suggested Karin use this list to see if any could assist with funds to help with the restoration.

Gordon Tracy and Mike Byrnes gave an update on this year's convention. The base plan is in place but there may be a few little surprises added prior to the event.

Terry announced the 2012 convention will be held in Dillon. He is asking for someone to take the lead in organizing the event. Tom Lowe offered to help but cannot be in charge of the event.

Mike Byrnes has been unable to make progress on the Coolidge Cabin activity and stated he will look into it again after the convention.

Terry Halden then stated he had a copy of "Hanging the Sheriff" produced by Meg McWhinney. Meg has given us permission to copy and sell this documentary. The board agreed it could be a minor fund raiser for us. Meg stated she needed to get permission from a couple of musicians if

we were going to sell copies. She agreed to talk to them, Margie was asked to get pricing on reproducing the DVD, and 50 copies would be made in time for the convention.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry Halden stated the Montana History Convention will be held in Missoula on September 22nd through the 24th. In the past, MGTPS has approved \$300 to assist the President with expenses in attending this event. Mike Byrnes made the motion that the club, once again, provide Terry Halden \$300 for his attendance. Rosemary Lee seconded the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Terry then announced that the President and Vice Presidents' term of office expires in September of this year. He is willing to continue as President. Gordon Tracy, Vice President, announced he will have to resign as Vice President due to health issues but would like to remain on the board. Gordon then suggested Mike Byrnes to replace him as Vice President. Gordon made the motion that Terry Halden again run for President and Mike Byrnes run for Vice President. Dick Lee seconded the motion, a vote was taken, all agreed and the motion passed.

Next, Terry Halden suggested that new members joining in April be granted a 15 month membership in the year they join. Former Secretary/Treasurer, Rosemary Lee, stated the club has always done this. After discussion all agreed there was no reason to change the practice.

Meg McWhinney then suggested the MGTPS be on Facebook. She is a frequent user of Facebook and said it was a free way to communicate with younger people and might result in new members. Meg volunteered to set up the page and to maintain it. Everyone agreed this was an excellent idea and asked Meg to proceed.

Crystal Alegria from the Montana Site Stewardship Program made a presentation to the board. She explained the organization's purpose and suggested that MGTPS members might want to join her group as the two organizations have similar interests. Terry suggested she write an article for our newsletter and we would see the response.

Terry Halden then reported his progress on a new book, Reflections 2. The first book, Reflections 1, consisted of reprinted articles from the newsletter from 1972 to 1986. This book would reprint selected articles from 1987 to 2001, along with pictures of the subject matter.

Margie Kankrlik announced that membership renewals would now be confirmed via postcard instead of a letter, small membership card, and the use of an envelope. This will save the club money. The board thought this was a good idea and instructions were given to proceed with the printing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Margie Kankrlik,
Secretary/Treasurer

M.G.T.P.S. Board Meeting September 9, 2011

Board convened at 7:20 p.m. All Board members were present: Terry Halden, President; Mike Byrnes, Vice-President; Margie Kankrlik, Secretary-Treasurer; John Ellingsen, Immediate Past President; Loretta Chapman, Sue Howe, Dick Lee, Rosemary Lee, Tom Lowe, Meg McWhinney, Jan O'Brien, Maria O'Brien and Gord Tracy.

Terry H. asked for approval of the July 16, 2011 minutes e-mailed to board members. Rosemary L. moved and Loretta C. seconded, minutes approved.

Margie K., gave the treasurer's report and stated current membership is 237. Dick L. moved and Loretta C. seconded; treasurer's report which was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Karin Ludeman's request for assistance with the Fort Maginnis cemetery cleanup was discussed. Although the project is very worthy, monetary assistance was denied. Access is limited with right of way problems in particular. However, Jan O'Brien proposed that the family do a news article for the newsletter to give background and request assistance for a work party or whatever they think would be of help to them. Dick Lee so moved and Maria O'Brien seconded, motion approved. The Board applauds their dedication to this task and getting the word out.

The Montana Site Stewardship Program is having a BLM training session on May 7, 2012 in Dillon. Crystal Alegria, the Program's Co-ordinator will have an article in the next newsletter about this preservation course. Interest can be monitored and discussed at the next board meeting.

Meg McW. has created a presence for MGTPS on Facebook in August, 2011. Dick L. will make a link on the MGTPS web page. Photos can be posted on it. Check it out!

Terry H. announced that Nick Shrauger emailed his resignation from the Board on August 30. The board accepts his resignation with great regret and thanks him for his service. As well as his other interests, Nick has been working on the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo which usually coincides with this convention. Nick reminded the Board that signage for the gold mining towns up the gulch from Virginia City would be a helpful project. They include Highland, Pine Grove, and Summit where the Christenot Mill is located. John E. will look into the legality as all the sites are privately owned although there is a county road up the gulch. In addition, John E. announced that Dan Thayer of the Heritage Commission is now able to install previously ordered Virginia City signs following a lawsuit settlement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Terry H. proposed amending the bylaws regarding election of President and Vice-President in order to correct a conflict between the bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation. The bylaw in question, to be deleted, reads :

Bylaw II – Election of Board Directors

A) The president and vice president shall be elected by majority vote of the current members of the general membership present at the annual meeting.

He stated that the bylaw is in direct conflict with the Articles of Incorporation which state:

Article IV 1. That no member of the corporation is entitled to vote

Article IV 2. That the directors shall have the sole voting power.

It was moved by Mike B. and seconded by Tom L. to delete the above described wording. Motion approved. Jan O'B. noted that the amended bylaws need to be filed again with the State.

The Board is always interested in names of members who would be willing to serve on the Board.

Terry H. stated that next year's convention will be housed in Dillon, featuring a trip to Bannack. The Masons convene in Bannack the second week in September so Terry proposed that MGTPS meet the third weekend next year only. In addition, Bannack's 150th anniversary celebration will be on the third weekend. John E. moved, Gordon T. seconded, motion passed. The dates are September 14, 15, 16, 2012.

The Board would like to thank Mike Byrnes and Gordon Tracy for all the work they did on the Philipsburg convention. A listing of all the unforeseen problems would number on both hands, and yet they persevered. Thank you.

Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

M.G.T.P.S. General Meeting September 10, 2011

Terry Halden, President addressed the membership at the banquet. The September 11, 2010 Annual General Meeting minutes were moved by Tom Lowe, seconded by Loretta Chapman and approved. Margie Kankrlik, Secretary-Treasurer gave the Treasurer's reported and Mike Byrnes moved, Loretta Chapman seconded it. Motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shannon Gilbert has resigned from the Board due to a promotion at her job that takes her out of state. Nick Shrauger has also resigned due to other business duties. Many thanks to them for their work on the Board and wish them well in their endeavors. Susan Howe has rejoined the Board. Gordon Tracy has resigned from the Vice-Presidency for health reasons and Mike Byrnes has agreed to serve in his place. Both Gordon and Mike have done an excellent job on the convention. Please consider being a Board member; let Terry know if you are interested.

New members, attending their first convention were asked to identify themselves, and received a 'thank you' round of applause.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

\$2500 was given to the Fort Connah Restoration Society formed in 1975. Fort Connah, as you remember from Polson, is a Hudson's Bay 1846 fur trading post. David Steindorf reported on progress at the site, which also includes two 1860's trapper era cabins being moved to the site, rebuilt and renovated. They are hoping to complete the project next year. This is an amazing site and the Restoration Society has done a wonderful job.

\$500 was given to Meg McWhinney to assist in her creation of a DVD on the hanging of Henry Plummer. It is on sale for \$14.95 and is 37 minutes long. Mike Byrnes reported that it is excellent and well up to PBS standards. Contact Mike if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Bannack-Dillon 2012 convention will be on September 14,15,16, the third weekend in September. The Masons meet at Bannack on the second weekend in September so there would be a space conflict on that weekend. Also, Bannack celebrates its 150th anniversary on the third weekend. Please note the change in weekends for your planning!

The Fort Maginnis Cemetery cleanup funds request has been declined but it is hoped that the family would place an article in the newsletter so that anyone interested in assisting them in the clean-up could participate.

The Montana Site Stewardship Program is having a BLM training session on May 7, 2012 in Dillon and they will have an article in the newsletter as well so interest in this project can be assessed.

In response to an audience question, Terry responded that he had given the yearly convention donations to the Opera House Theatre and Granite County Museum & Cultural Center.

The Deer Lodge tour will meet at the Old Works Golf Course at 9 a.m. Sunday morning and caravan to the Territorial Prison and Grant-Kohrs Ranch for self-guided tours. The Rialto Theatre will be open at 12:30 a.m. for a tour for the group.

Mark Reavis; Architect, Community Preservation Design; then gave the keynote address. He gave a humorous presentation on preservation and also addressed the current situation at Southern Cross and St. Timothy Memorial Chapel.

No further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

In the last issue of the newsletter, I asked members who were visiting ghost towns or mining locations this summer, to take a photo and send it to me. The photo below was sent to me by Nonda Beardsley and is of the Yellow Jacket mill, near Shoup, Idaho, just over the border from Montana. Thanks Nonda - editor.





BELOW: Guide Jim Jenner imparts some of his knowledge about Philipsburg to the members, before taking them on a tour of the city.

RIGHT: Another of our guides taking other members on a descriptive tour of Philipsburg.

FAR LEFT: Registration.
 LEFT: Members enjoyed a guided tour of the famous Washoe theater.
 ABOVE: Board meeting.



LEFT: Lunch at the Silver Mill Restaurant and Saloon.



BELOW LEFT: The Philipsburg Museum's photo gallery.

RIGHT: The museum's mining exhibit.



CONVENTION, 2011

RIGHT: A tour of the old Opera House Theater



BELOW: Some of the signatures and dates of past performers in the Opera House Theater



RIGHT: Our Head Table, from the left: Mark Reavis, guest speaker, his wife, Nichole, Loretta Tracy, Gord Tracy, Terry Halden, Darian Halden and Barbara Halden.

BELOW & BOTTOM: Banquet.



RIGHT: Our Guest Speaker, Mark Reavis, pulls a Jackolope out of its cage to illustrate his talk.



More photos on page 11

OLD CENTER CITY, CEDAR PLAINS MINING DISTRICT

by JOHN STONER

Place names of obscure early mining camps, and particularly their exact locations, have a way of slipping through recorded history to be lost forever. Old Center City nearly met that fate.

It was by the chance discovery of a dust covered map, dated 1906, and located behind some filing cabinets in the vault at the Broadwater County Clerk & Recorder's Office during a 2001 cleaning spree, that the name and location of Old Center City came back to life again.

The map in question, measuring nine by nine feet, and hand drawn with ink on linen, is titled "Map Showing Crow Creek, Ditches, and Irrigated Lands—Broadwater County, Montana." The map is drawn to a scale of 600 feet to the inch, which allows for great detail to be shown. The original purpose of this map was probably used as an exhibit in a water right lawsuit case involving the old Riverside Livestock Co. in 1906.

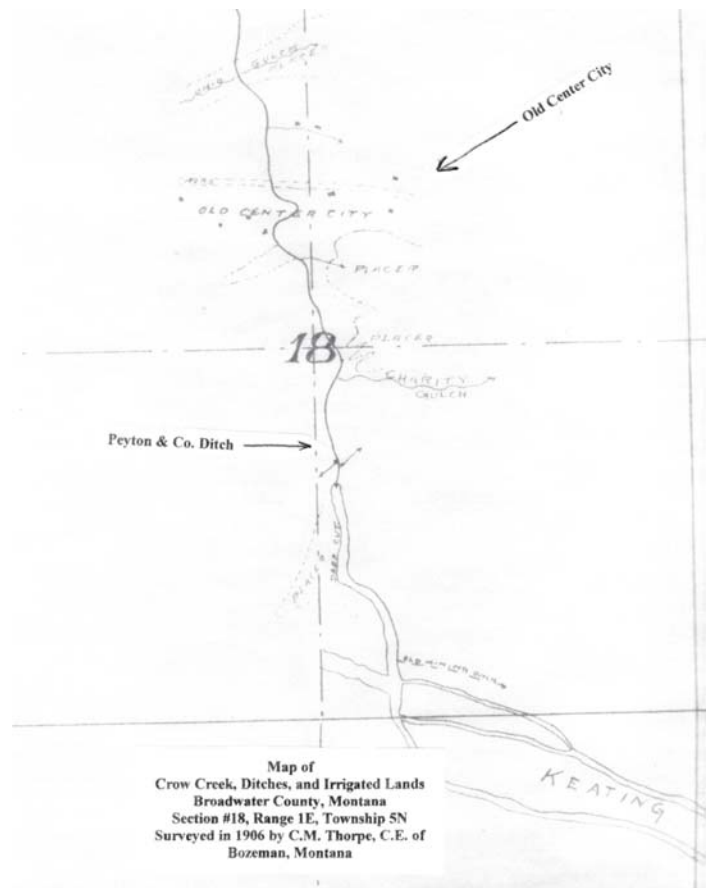
The map was given to the Broadwater County Museum, where it was professionally restored, and now is on permanent display. For the historian, this map is a time-frame stopping image of what the Radersburg and Crow Creek area looked like in 1906... not only for the locations of the various water ditches for irrigation and mining purposes, but gives a birds-eye view of every man made structure.

It was upon the close inspection of this map that Old Center City was found. Nearly being missed altogether as it was on the very fringe of the map, and in all probability would not have even been included at all if the old "Peyton & Co." water ditch had not run through the middle of it.

According to the 1906 map, Old Center City was located in the north central area of Section 18, Township 5 North, Range 1 East. This would be approximately one mile west south west of Radersburg. Understandably, the use of the word "City" is somewhat misleading as the map shows only a loose cluster of eight dwellings, but not all that uncommon as the word "city" was attached to many early mining camps to promote their imagined importance. Whether or not Old Center City with its eight dwellings represent its peak of development is hard to say ... we only know what it looked like on the map in 1906.

Its proximity to Charity Gulch is understandable, as this gulch was mined for gold starting with the earliest gold strike in the Radersburg area, and even today Charity Gulch has at least one active mining claim staked out where Old Center City once stood. The "Peyton & Co." water ditch that is shown on the map, and which the old mining camp appears to straddle, was originally called the "Upper Crow Creek Ditch." The road shown on the map (dotted lines) that passes through Old Center City is the same one in use today that runs from Radersburg to the Keating Gulch area.

Old Center City was, at best, just a mining camp where miners were inclined to band together for mutual protection and companionship. Supplies, booze, and entertainment could be had just a scant mile away in Radersburg.



While the old 1906 map shows eight dwellings... or buildings of some sort... nothing remains standing today, however at least one twelve by twelve foot foundation outline made of native field stone can be found. Off and on mining activity throughout the 1900s, and more recently, recreational use by motorcycles and ATVs, have destroyed much of the evidence where Old Center City once stood, but a careful search today will turn up old square nails, purple colored grass fragments, and rusty tin cookware.



Peyton & Co. ditch, looking north.

Site of Old Center City, looking east. The large cottonwood trees follow the course of Charity Gulch



William Augustus Sherlock, early day Radersburg/Crow Creek Valley pioneer, makes mention of the rich placer gold bearing gulches of Charity... and sister gulches Hope and Faith... in hand written narratives now part of the Broadwater County Museum Historical Library archives. He writes of Chinese miners who lived in little huts in these gulches... which undoubtedly they did ... but Old Center City was not Chinese because nothing of Oriental substance was uncovered by this writer at this particular location. Mr. Sherlock also notes that by the year 1920 the placer grounds... which would include Charity Gulch adjacent to Old Center City ... were pretty much worked out.

The total lack of any information regarding Old Center City... other than what was indicated on the 1906 map, would seem to indicate that it didn't last long as mining camps tended to be, however it was more than just a "tent camp." The 1906 map clearly shows eight permanent structures, some square, some rectangle, and some with more complex designs. The building material, of course, is unknown, but it's probably safe to say the structures were of frame construction. The abundance of nails, both square (cut) and round headed, found at the one known dwelling foundation site definitely point to dimensional lumber as opposed to logs.

C.M. Thorpe, the civil engineer from Bozeman who did the surveying... and is presumed to be the 1906 map's cartographer... was meticulous in his attention to detail, and without doubt Old Center City was just where he placed it.



Outline of twelve foot square native fieldstone foundation of Old Center City dwelling.

All photos, courtesy JOHN STONER.

The MONTANA SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

By Crystal Alegria (MSSP Coordinator)



In - class instruction.

To participate in the MSSP program, volunteers attend a two-day training session. The first day of the training consists of an “in-class” session that involves lectures, guest speakers, and discussions. The content of the first day parallels the MSSP manual. The manual is divided into eight sections covering volunteer duties, code of ethics, field and training. Volunteers learn how to identify artifacts, archaeological sites, and learn appropriate state and federal laws concerning cultural resources.

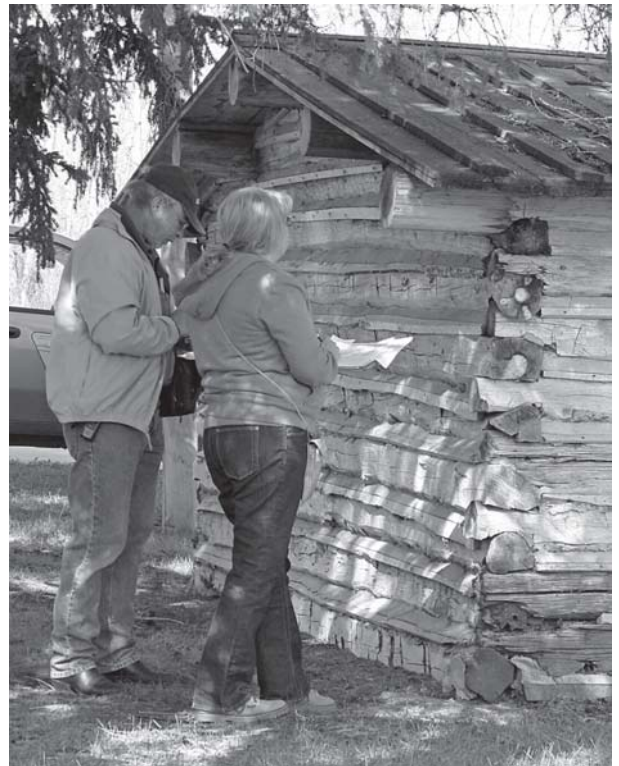
On the second day, volunteers go into the field to visit two types of archaeological sites, preferably a historic structure site (homestead cabin, mining structure, etc.) and a pre-contact site (tipi ring, buffalo jump, etc.), so the volunteers have experience with both types of sites. Volunteers learn about each site and then practice monitoring the site. At each site, the trainers are available to answer questions and explain monitoring methods such as mapping, photography, and GPS.



Site inspection and reporting, on your own.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Montana State University (MSU) have partnered to develop the Montana Site Stewardship Program (MSSP). This program promotes public awareness of both pre-contact and historic era cultural resources in Montana. Program volunteers monitor archaeological and historic sites, including historic structures, rock art sites, buffalo jumps sites, and stone rings.

The MSSP is an organization of volunteers, overseen by public land managers in Montana, who are committed to cultural resource protection and preservation activities that will reduce degradation of archaeological and historic sites due to human, animal, and environmental impacts. Trained volunteers regularly visit sites on public lands to monitor for damage with the hope of deterring vandals or catching natural or environmental impacts at an early stage.



On - site instruction

The Montana Site Stewardship program is adding valuable information to the archaeological and historical records. Stewards not only monitor their sites, but they also record new information and document changes over time.

The next Site Steward training is scheduled for May 18-19 in Dillon, MT. For more information, or to register for the training, please contact Crystal Alegria at (406) 994-6925 or email at calegria@montana.edu. For more information on the program, please visit our website at http://www.projectarchaeology.org/MT_Stewards.htm.

SUNDAY MORNING AT CONVENTION. TRIP TO DEER LODGE



ABOVE & ABOVE RIGHT: Montana Territorial Prison

RIGHT: The Grant-Kohrs Ranch house.

BELOW: Ron Shirley serves coffee.

BELOW RIGHT: The Blacksmiths' shop at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch

All photos on this page and on pages 6 and 7, thanks to DARIAN HALDEN, GLORIA HARDIN, MIKE BYRNES, & TERRY HALDEN





Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

REVIEW:

Death of a Gunfighter The Quest for Jack Slade, the West's Most Elusive Legend by DAN ROTTENBERG

In 1859, as the United States careened toward civil war, the federal government's only northern link with California was a struggling stagecoach line plagued by outlaws and hostile Indians. Jack Slade, a former soldier and teamster, was hired to clean up the line's most dangerous division. Slade kept the stagecoaches running and helped launch the famous Pony Express, securing California and its gold for the Union. In doing so he earned the nickname 'the Law West of Kearny' and a reputation, which even Mark Twain remarked about in his 'Roughing It' book. But afterwards, Slade's life descended into alcoholism, transforming him from a courageous leader and devoted husband into a trigger-happy drunk, who eventually lost his life at the hands of Virginia City's vigilantes. Dan Rottenberg's book delves into the life of Jack Slade, separating the truths from the myths, and also gives a detailed history of the stagecoach lines spanning the continent in the 1850's and the politicking and financing that had to go into their being in existence. His writing style is excellent and although he relates a lot of historical facts, he does not bog the reader down with dry history. The book is available at the Bannack State Park store or your local bookstore.

Terry Halden

