

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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SPRING 2013



Robber's Roost, March, 2013

TERRY HALDEN photo

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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Founded in 1970, 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 M. G. T. P. S.

SPRING 2013

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The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

Your board has been extra busy recently with several things to report. Don Black has been instrumental in putting together our first one-day photo tour. It will take place on Friday, July 26, 2013, starting at 9:00a.m. at the Madison Valley History Association museum, located about three miles west of Ennis on Hwy 287 on the way to Virginia City. It will consist of a guided convoy (maybe some of you would like to double up in one vehicle) to various historical attractions in the Madison Valley. Since the guides will be members of the M.V.H.S., expect to visit some places the regular tourist wouldn't normally get to see. We suggest you bring a picnic lunch, but a barbeque dinner will be provided in the evening. Full details can be found on page 5.

Preliminary details for the convention in Helena on September 6 – 8 have been finalized and can be seen on page 11. An application form for the convention will be included in the next newsletter, but in the meantime keep the dates Sept 6 – 8 free as you don't want to miss this one.

Mike Byrnes is spearheading an idea to assist the Virginia City Preservation Alliance in needed repairs and renovations to their property known as 'Robber's Roost'. Mike, Don and I attended a board meeting of the V.C.P.A. in Virginia City on March 18 2013 and preliminary discussions took place outlining what their thoughts and needs were and what we could do to assist them. The two organizations will work together on this worthy endeavor, this summer.

A rules committee, consisting of Sally, Don and Mike, has been busy drafting up a few changes to our by-laws. We have found that the wording of some by-laws needed updating to incorporate current ideas, whilst other by-laws had been changed, ad hoc, over the years and all too often were in direct conflict with our Articles of Incorporation, which, of course, are cast in stone and unchangeable. A preliminary draft was given to the board at the last board meeting for board members to insert their comments and the final draft will be presented to the board at the next board meeting for final approval.

Finally this issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the pioneer ladies of Montana, with articles on Betty Ann Baldwin of the Madison valley, Nancy Daly of 'Robber's Roost' and Charity Dillon, the 'Old Woman' of the Elkhorn Mountains. Each sustained personal hardships in the oft brutal history of Montana.

Terry

OBITUARY

Bernice DeHaas

Bernice DeHaas passed away on April 4 2013, one week short of her 88th birthday. She was born Carrie Bernice Wallace to Frank E. and Mary M. Wallace in Benbrook, TX. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in chemistry, from Georgetown University and went on to secure her Master's degree from Northwestern University in IL. Returning to Texas she began working at Texas A&M University where she met an architectural professor, John DeHaas, Jr, whom she married in December 1950. Moving to Montana in 1952, where John had taken a teaching position at, what became MSU, and Bernice accepted a job as chemist for the Agricultural Experimentation Station, they built a home on South Tracy. Bernice then took some time off to raise their growing family, Ken and Jocelyn, before returning to work, part-time in 1969. Bernice shared her husband's interest in historic preservation and became a founding member of M.G.T.P.S. Over the years, she was also an active participant in board affairs only recently relinquishing her position. She will be sadly missed by our organization.

New Members

Membership Chairperson Darian reports the following **New Members** have joined our Association since the last newsletter. **Please make them welcome.**

Syd and Joanne Brosten, Bozeman, MT

Jerry Hanley, Lewistown, MT

Margie Peterson, Bozeman, MT

Dan Hill, Bozeman, MT

Vickie Sehy, Bozeman, MT

M.G.T.P.S.

Minutes of the Board meeting, February 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by President Terry Halden. In addition, Board members Darian Halden, Loretta Chapman, Dick and Rosemary Lee, Don Black, Gordon Tracy, Vice President Mike Byrnes, Secretary Sally Griffin, and general member Bill Chapman were present.

Terry proposed that we accept the minutes of the November 3, 2012, Board meeting as printed in the Montana Ghost Town Quarterly Newsletter. Loretta made the motion to approve this and Dick Lee seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer Loretta Chapman gave her report which was accepted by a vote of the board. With respect to our CD that recently came due Sally added that the interest paid at maturity was \$33.80. Sally had checked three sources, and the best option for a new CD was at the Rocky Mountain Credit Union in Belgrade, which was offering a February special of 1% for a 15 month CD. The advantage of a CD in the Credit Union was that there is no \$50 early withdrawal fee, which there would be at a bank.

Terry then announced that Loretta was stepping down as Treasurer. Secretary Sally Griffin said that she would be willing to take on the additional duties, thereby becoming Secretary/Treasurer. Loretta moved that Sally should become the Secretary/Treasurer and Darian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sally then reported that the Pioneer Museum had sent a notice that our membership was due. It was agreed to renew our membership. Don said he had been contacted by a man named Jack Owen who is interested in doing hands-on restoration of ghost towns. He does this for no charge. Don will follow up on this and find out more about the man and his work.

Membership Chairman Darian reported that we now have 191 paid up members and 52 unpaid. She said the unpaid would be dropped from the list. There was a suggestion about perhaps trying to call them to see why they hadn't paid. She also reported that our higher membership categories of Contributing \$25, Sustaining \$50, and Sponsorship \$100 really did not receive any extra benefits for their higher dues. There were suggestions that their names would be listed in the newsletter. Also, certificates, pins, and plaques were suggested. There are about 50 total of the 3 higher memberships. Don said he could do the certificates. He is to be reimbursed for postage costs.

As Recruitment Chairman, Don handed out material outlining plans as they stand at this point for our summer photography trip in the Madison Valley. He is hoping the Madison Valley Historical Society will sponsor the event because they have contacts to get us on private land. It was suggested that we donate \$150 if they agree to sponsor it. We could charge people \$10 to register for the event and an additional \$10 if they want to attend the evening barbeque at Don's place in Jeffers. Don is continuing to work to finalize plans.

Facebook – no report

Webmaster – Our website is in limbo right now. Mike will check with a friend who is a web designer for some information on developing a new website and costs.

Projects Chairman – no report

Conventions – Terry distributed the final Income/Expense Report for the 2012 convention. We made \$221.75. For the 2013 convention in Helena, he has arranged for Ellen Baumler to be a Guest Speaker. Possibly we can have the convention at the Jorgenson Hotel, which has just been renovated. On Saturday there will be field trip to Marysville, and on Sunday we will go to Elliston and possibly another area. On Friday at the registration, we will have light refreshments and a guest speaker.

OLD BUSINESS

Jolene Hintz was not able to do the presentation to the Optimists because of other commitments. We do have a ready-made presentation that anyone familiar with Power Point could do for a group.

Dick said that he had put the old slides on 4 DVD's. Sue Howe had wanted this done as a project at our last meeting.

Sally, Don and Mike told about their work on changing the bylaws of our society. Don pointed out that as Board members we are collectively and individually responsible for the actions of our organization. The bylaws need to be updated and clarified so that we can operate in compliance with them. They gave each Board member several pages listing areas that need to be addressed and some suggestions for doing this. Mike and Don want us to study these suggestions and email Don with our input. It was moved and seconded that they put together proposals which we can vote on at the next meeting.

Mike had a financial statement from Bannack. That organization had \$32,000 in the bank as of 12/31/2011. Therefore, it is so important that if we donate to them or anyone else, we donate for a specific project and get a report on the outcome. We must not just donate to a General Fund.

We discussed the Virginia City Preservation Alliance's request for a donation for their 150th birthday activities. It was pointed out that we need to put money into preservation work rather than just donate to someone else's trust fund. Dick or Mike will talk to the VCPA to pick a specific project for the donation. Robber's Roost was suggested.

NEW BUSINESS

We talked about ways to create awareness of our group. A website which would sell merchandise was an option. This would also raise funds. We could also have videos and promote our photo tours. We need an updated website so that we will know how many hits it gets and where they are from. Mike will look into this.

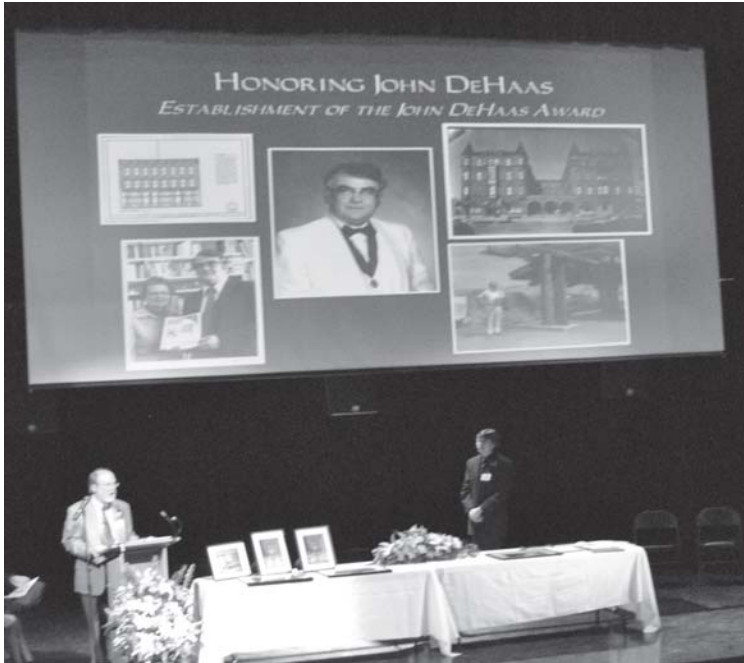
There was a discussion about what to do with the funds from the terminated Stockman CD. Sally moved and Loretta seconded that we put the money in the First Security Savings Account for the time being as interest rates are so negligible. It was approved.

Continued on page 5.....

SHPO AWARDS CEREMONY, Jan 18th 2013

At the Myrna Loy Center, in Helena, at the SHPO biennial award ceremony, our founder John DeHaas was recognized for his preservation work. Below is a copy of the text of the ceremony, which was attended by his widow, Bernice and their children, Jocelyn and Ken.

Also awarded that evening were the following awards: The Outstanding Heritage Stewardship, to Flathead County for restoration of the Flathead County Courthouse; The Outstanding Preservation Rehabilitation Project to the Babcock Theater Building in Billings; and the Outstanding Local Preservation to the Silver Bow Brewery Malt House, in Butte.



Recognition of John DeHaas, Jr.

Today the SHPO is honoring the life of Montana preservation pioneer, John DeHaas, Jr., FAIA. John passed away in 2011. In his life he brought attention to those places that define Montana's early days. Whether or not you ever met John, he was a kindred spirit to anyone who's ever nurtured the idea that our historic places matter; and that in order to save them we must act. Indeed, John dedicated himself to doing just that: writing, teaching, preserving; achieving what few can in a lifetime.

Born on the Fourth of July in Philadelphia, 1926, John grew up in a city known for its classical architecture. He went on to study architecture at Texas A&M where he met his wife, Bernice. The couple moved to Bozeman in 1951 when John accepted a position at Montana State College teaching the history of architecture. He was awestruck by Montana's ghost towns and architecture of the gilded age and recognized that these buildings, some of which were crumbling, needed an advocate.

John worked on preservation's behalf before there was a SHPO, a National Register program, or any clear future for these places.

Working under the National Park Service's Historic American Building Survey program in the early 1960s, John and his students documented high-style and vernacular buildings across Montana. Some of which were in good hands, others in a state of decay. John's immediate goal in some cases was to document the buildings before the elements claimed them. Today, fifty years later many of these places have been preserved. Others we can only experience through the photography and drawings of John and his students.

He believed these places carry our history and taught others the same. As an advocate for preservation John co-founded the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society. He nominated countless properties to the National Register; served on that program's review board; wrote books and articles; spoke publicly, and published award-winning photographs. As the newly formed SHPO took shape in the early 1970s, John was an eager ally volunteering his time and expertise.

Later in life, John lost his eyesight to a hereditary eye disease. Despite this he continued his advocacy for historic preservation and never lost the urge to explore Montana's historic places with Bernice. In 1984, the American Institute of Architects inducted him into its College of Fellows for his services to preservation and for imparting his students, future architects, with that interest.

Today we honor John and his legacy by presenting his family with this token of our appreciation.

To further establish the DeHaas name as a fixture in the story of Montana preservation, SHPO is extremely pleased and honored to establish the John DeHaas Jr. Memorial Award. Consistent with John's pioneering achievements the award will recognize individuals and organizations whose accomplishments take us further along the trail that John began blazing more than 60 years ago.



Gov. Steve Bullock, Jocelyn, Bernice & Ken DeHaas, Lt. Gov. John Walsh

MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Presents

Summer Photo Day Tour – Friday, July 26, 2013

Of the Scenic and Historical Madison Valley

Hosted by: The Madison Valley History Association & The Camera Club of Bozeman

We will start at the MVHA Museum, in Ennis at 9:00 with a private tour of the Museum and Forge Building.

We will then go in convoy and visit the many historical and scenic spots, crisscrossing the valley, led by members of MVHA, gaining access to many places not available to the general public

We will stop for lunch near the Quake Lake area (Bring your own sack lunch) and afterwards continue with the tour, ending in the town of Jeffers at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Rest stops will be available at various spots in the tours.

At 5:30 there will be a BBQ dinner consisting of BBQ pulled pork; BBQ chicken; BBQ burgers, along with salads, rolls, water tea or coffee. (BYOB if inclined)

COSTS:	Tour ONLY	Individual: \$10.00	Couple: \$15.00
	Tour and BBQ	Individual: \$20.00	Couple: \$25.00

Fees will pay for organizational supplies, guides, portable toilets and other materials.

Please confirm participation at the latest Wed. July 10 2013.

Please pay (cash only – no credit or debit cards) on July 26 at the MVHA museum at start of tour.

Contact: DON BLACK, (406) 788-0346 or donblack76@hotmail.com Subject: PHOTO TOUR (to avoid the 'junk folder) to let us know you are coming or if you have any questions.

PRIZES FOR BEST PHOTOS!

M.G.T.P.S. Board Meeting minutes

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Don handed out information on tentative plans for the 2014 convention in Lewistown on September 5, 6 & 7th. We could have it at the Yogo Inn. Since ours is the first request for a convention on those dates, we would have a choice of the best meeting rooms. We could book 10-15 motel rooms at a flat rate, regardless of occupancy, and we could cancel any reservations because the Inn could fill the rooms easily. We also discussed changing the dates because Lewistown's Chokecherry Festival is the same weekend, but it was decided to keep those dates.

Terry read an article from the SHPO Awards Ceremony 2013 honoring the late John DeHaas, Jr. – his life, work, and his legacy.

Don is still working on getting MGTPS bumper stickers made.

Darian would like to update our brochures to include e-mail addresses.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Griffin
Sec./Treas.

BETTY ANN BALDWIN – A PIONEER WOMAN by Don Black

When Betty Ann Baldwin died, at age 89, on September 27, 1941, she was long remembered by her neighbor Luella Pasley as a wonderful homemaker, cook, gardener and friend. "Auntie Baldwin" as she was known to her friends in the town of Jeffers was legendary for her neighborliness and for her going out of her way to do something for others. However, few knew that this lady had survived two marriages and had buried two husbands.

Betty Ann Baldwin, nee Dillon, was born in 1852 in Rocky Mount, Virginia, to William and Eliza Dillon. The family moved to King George County in VA and by 1870 were listed on the census as residing in Gills Creek, Virginia. It was here, in 1875, 23 year old Betty Ann met and married a young Confederate veteran by the name of Daniel Hodges. Little is known of Hodges other than he is listed as a farmer, but within five years of the wedding, he took his own life by hanging himself, for what reason, remains a mystery, lost to history.

Betty Hodges, moved back with her family and in 1890 she and her brother, Lee Dillon, decided on a fresh start in life and moved west to Virginia City, Montana. Four years later she married William R. Baldwin, a Union veteran.

William Baldwin was born on July 1845 in Iowa to Rev. Simeon Edwin Baldwin and Mary 'Polly' Ann Baldwin. At age 19 he enlisted in Company 'L' Iowa 3rd regiment. He saw action in the Civil War, was captured by the Confederates, imprisoned, but escaped. He rejoined his unit and was mustered out of the army in 1865. In the 1870's he was living in Sydney, Iowa where he met and married a lady by the name of Almeranda. U. S. census records next show him, in 1880, as a farmer living in Virginia City, Montana, where his wife soon joined him. There, in child birth, she died, along with the child. Both were buried in a double grave. In the meantime, in 1880, his mother, aged 60, had passed away which resulted in his father, the Rev. Simeon Baldwin joining him in Virginia City. When he met the widow Betty Ann Hodges, it was his father, the Rev. Baldwin that officiated the marriage ceremony in 1884 and the couple took a homestead about 35 miles south of Ennis, on the east side of the Madison River. Their neighbors, about three miles away on the west side of the river was the Nickerson family. The Nickerson ranch was a small community and most notably known as the ranch where the Madison Valley local posse and William Ennis Jr. captured a young German immigrant, John Wolfe, for the murder of Madison County Sheriff, James Summers a few years earlier in 1901.

In 1907, the U.S. Mail was still being delivered by stage to the residents living far from Ennis and Virginia City. Delivery schedules were posted but the mail arrived when the stage actually showed up. It's arrival was of great significance and kept folks in touch with news of the area events and letters from relatives. Usually Mrs. Nickerson would ford the river on horseback to get the mail when it was



Betty Ann Baldwin, in her 80's. Photo, courtesy AUTHOR

delivered at the Baldwin's place, as the Baldwins lived close to the main road. A letter had come for her and she hadn't been over, and since she had asked them to bring the mail over if she didn't show up, the Baldwins decided to take it to her. *Local legend tells that the content of the expected letter was such that Mrs. Nickerson didn't want her husband to read it first.* William Baldwin had a marker stake stuck down near the bank of the river, and went to look at it. He told Betty that the river was very high and they had better go across that day before it got higher. They had a spring wagon and team of horses. Going down to their usual crossing they began to ford the Madison River. When nearly across they realized they had gone downstream too far from the crossing. The horse team got hung up on a big submerged rock which normally stuck well above the surface. The horses were floundering, and one was down in the water. Mr. Baldwin was afraid they would drown, so got out of the wagon and cut the tugs of the harness and freed the horses from the wagon. They got away from him, and went out of the river on the Baldwin Ranch side, and home.

William Baldwin was a good swimmer so he said he would swim out and go for help because they were nearer to the Nickerson side of the river. The last thing he told his wife was "Don't worry, I'll come back and get you, Dear." Betty couldn't swim so she stayed in the buggy, although the back of the wagon was under water, with only the seat above. She watched him as far as she could and as he got near to the bank she saw him raise his arm. Betty thought he was waving to her, but was not sure he was across as there was so much brush along the bank. This was in the morning and when he didn't return she started calling for help. Through the afternoon and all a sleepless night, afraid to go to sleep in case she rolled off the seat, or any movement might dislodge the wagon and send it down river she continued to call out. Hoping someone would see it, Betty tied her handkerchief to the end of the whip and waved it. No one came.

It wasn't until the following afternoon the mail stage showed up with Virgel Clark, a well-known area rancher, the driver. The road was quite a ways from the river and although Virgel noticed something in the river which looked odd, he thought it was a big rock. But driving on to the Baldwin place he saw the Baldwin team standing at the gate with their harnesses cut, and the milk cows were bawling. No one was home. Now he knew something had happened. He drove down to the usual river crossing and saw Betty Baldwin in the middle of the river. He went in to the river to help. She tried to warn him about the submerged rock but was so hoarse from calling all night she could hardly make a sound. Virgel took his stage team into the river and managed to keep them with him and finally got Betty out. Believing Mr. Baldwin had drowned, folks in the area began to look for him. A few days later they found William Baldwin's body near where Blaine Spring Creek enters the Madison River at Varney. His body was very bruised and battered due to the many rocks in the river. Even the toes of his shoes were worn out. William R. Baldwin was laid to rest overlooking the valley in the Evan's Necropolis near Jeffers.

Betty Baldwin eventually sold the ranch to Reinhold Hippe and moved to the town of Jeffers. She lived there for 32 years, and they say from that day until she died her head never stopped shaking.



The Baldwin/Hippe home, now located in Nevada City. Photo, courtesy Author.



The Evans cemetery, with (RIGHT) William Baldwin's grave marker.

Photos courtesy author.



NANCY DALY and the ROBBER'S ROOST by Terry Halden (researched by Don Black & Mike Byrnes)



In this 1919 photo by FORREST CAMPBELL of Robber's Roost, it clearly shows the main Virginia City - Bannack road running in front of the notorious inn

In late 1866, Pete Daly, with square logs provided by the lumber mill on Ramshorn Gulch owned by Orlin F. Gummell, constructed a two story building on his property located on the main road, about half way between Virginia City and Bannack. The building had a saloon, gambling, and eating rooms on the main floor while accommodation for sleeping arrangements which consisted of 'rolling out a blanket on the floor', and on the second story was a dance hall, or 'Hurdy-

Gurdy'. Daly, who was born in Tyrone County, Ireland in 1827, had come to America 1852 on the ship 'Saratoga', and had owned the property since coming out west. He may have had some sort of inn building on his property from the start as Thomas Dimsdale, in his book, 'The Vigilantes of Montana', published in 1865, mentions Daly's Ranch when the vigilantes that had arrested George Ives, rode up to the ranch, where "*Ives' fleet and favorite mare was standing, bridled and saddled, ready for his use*" should he be able to shake the posse. He didn't and became the vigilante's first victim.

Daly, and his inn, which became known as 'Robber's Roost', had an interesting life, but it was his wife, Nancy, whom he married in 1870, when he was 43, and she 56, that had the more interesting background history.

Nancy Tindle was born on April 15, 1814, in Jefferson County, Missouri. She married Jesse Hitchcock in Lafayette County Missouri in 1837. They had two children, Jesse Jr, and Emma Matilda, but when Jesse Sr became 'infirm' and Nancy could no longer care for him, she took the children and fled to Iowa. Old Jesse either died or Nancy got a divorce because in 1851, in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, she married a Tennessean, Frank Parrish. Frank was a farmer by trade and with Nancy he sired two children, Mary Ellen and John. Glowing reports from a relative, a Methodist - Episcopal clergyman, lured Frank out west in the spring of 1863. With a partner, he pooled what little money they had and bought claim No. 36 above Stapleton Discovery in the Alder Gulch area. However, shoveling dirt in a stream wasn't to his liking, so with his profit from his mining activities, he sold his share of the claim and with new partners, Dave Pickett and Bill Bunton, he established a ranch on Rattlesnake Creek. There is an unconfirmed story that Frank was picking up supplies in Virginia City when onlookers inquired where he was located. He is said to have replied that 'he had a big thing' on Rattlesnake. When he left town a couple of dozen of the onlookers tagged along behind him and when he got to the ranch and there was no evidence of any mining, the disappointed group accused him of lying to them. Frank called out to his wife and an Indian woman that one pioneer estimated weighed not less than 250lbs appeared in the doorway of the cabin. Frank is supposed to have retorted, "What do you call that, if it ain't a big thing." Shortly thereafter, with the onset of winter Frank froze his feet and hands so bad that he was left a cripple. On top of his misfortune, Frank became ill and a doctor was summoned from Virginia City whose opinion was that he would not survive more than a few days at most. Throughout all this his Indian wife was tending to him, and as the ranch was on the Virginia City, Bannack road, she was able to eke a livelihood by catering meals to travelers. A bar that was added was being tended by 'Red' Yeager, doomed to be another vigilante victim.

On January 14, 1864, to everyone's surprise, Frank had pulled through his sickness, and as he was feeling strong enough, he rode into town for supplies. When armed men surrounded him in a store, he was more surprised than afraid. He was accused of being a road agent, thief and an accessory to numerous murders and robberies on the highway. In intense interrogation by Paris Pfouts, the President of the vigilantes, it is alleged he finally admitted his guilt, despite the fact that he was a cripple and had been bedridden for several weeks. He was executed along with other vigilante victims, Jack Gallagher, Boone Helm, Haze Lyons and 'Club Foot' George Lane in what became known as the 'Hangman's Building' in Virginia City.

Meantime, back in Iowa, Nancy and her children knew nothing of her husband's sleeping arrangements out west, until she was informed that he had been executed. She then came out west to settle his estate, and as mentioned, married Pete Daly in 1870. As Mrs. Daly, she was caring for Bill Fairweather, one of the original prospectors that found gold in Alder Gulch, when he passed away at Robber's Roost on August 25 1875. Nancy Kindle-Hitchcock-Parrish-Daly died in 1884 at the Daly Ranch.



Built in 1911 by the Olympia Brewing Company founder Leopold Schmidt, the Deer Lodge Hotel was the pride of that city, catering to the early century railroad traffic. It featured sixty-six rooms, each with a window, hot and cold water in each, an elevator, a restaurant and a grand dining room. It was considered one of the best railroad hotels in the west, but in the 1960's the Northern Pacific and Milwaukie Railroad closed its passenger service and as the hotel business slowly dwindled down, the hotel was forced to close its doors twenty years later. With the exception of some street front businesses the hotel has sat empty and slowly decaying for twenty five years.

Last September a group of local people, dedicated to restoring the vitality of downtown Deer Lodge, formed a non-profit Deer Lodge Development Group Inc., and started negotiating with the current owner of the hotel to purchase the property. An evaluation was conducted by a structural engineer and an architect specializing in historic rehabilitation with the result it was found that the hotel was one of the first buildings in Montana to have steel beams and was completely sound with most of the woodwork still intact. The roof was leaking and needed immediate attention, twenty-five years of debris needs to be cleaned out and the interior restored to its former grandeur.



The purchase price was agreed at \$45,000, but the stickler was that the money had to be raised by March 15th, this year. The latest development is an unknown benefactor has loaned the organization the entire amount of money at a low interest rate and the purchase went through on the deadline date. The loan, of course has to be paid back, but the non-profit group is now looking for donations to help them do this and the renovation of the hotel. At this time how the hotel will be used hasn't been determined, and a feasibility study will be conducted to find the most viable and sustainable use to economically benefit downtown Deer Lodge, once the deterioration has been arrested.

THE OLD WOMAN'S GRAVE

by Terry Halden

Last summer I had the privilege of touring the east side of the Elkhorn Mountains with the 'dean' of Broadwater County history, John Stoner. In the mountains just off the old trail between Radersburg and Helena John led me to a gravesite. It is the grave of the 'Old Woman'. The grave marker identifies her as 'Charity' Dillon, who died in 1872. According to legend, 'Charity' came from the States to look for her betrothed in the 1860's. She searched for him in Virginia City and learned that he had gone to the new workings in Radersburg. Following him she discovered that not only was he a successful merchant in that locale, but that he was happily married and had sired a family. Quietly, without letting her fiancée know of her whereabouts, she moved on, and half way between Radersburg and Helena she either built or bought a cabin. As travelers on the much used road stopped by she started making meals for them and by adding on to the cabin, provided a saloon and sleeping rooms. She was known to never turn away a traveler in need, weather he could pay for his meal or not and acquired the nick name of 'Charity'. One day a traveler found her dead and buried her across the road from her 'inn'. The legend is a bit vague here – did she die of a broken heart or was she murdered?



In 1929 two ladies went to the gravesite and erected a wooden cross to remember 'Charity'. Over the years, the cross rotted and fell but in 1946 a group of ladies from Townsend, representing the Broadwater County Federation of Women's Clubs, had a replacement cross made of two inch welded pipe, painted it white and on July 11 held a solemn ceremony at the gravesite. They added a marble marker bearing the current wording, copied from the old marker. It is still evident today.

But who was 'Charity' Dillon?

According to Charles D. Greenfield, who wrote an article on 'Charity' for the *Montana, the Magazine of Western History* she was Priscilla Jane Allen, and just after the turn of the 20th century, old timers in Broadwater County knew this. Whereas the women of the community maintained she got the nickname 'Charity' because she was so kind, gentle and generous, the menfolk had the opinion that at any time day or night you could see wagon trains lined up for miles in either direction as freighters, bullwhackers and travelers lined up for the favors she bestowed on them without charge. His research also indicated that "Charity" did not die in 1872, but in 1870. He backed this up by quoting from the Helena Herald of February 25, 1870: "Found dead – We have received a letter from a well-known citizen of Springville, stating that John Boyce arrived in town on the evening of the 23rd and reported he had found, dead in her home, a woman by the name of Charity Allen. Mrs. Allen for the past three or four months has kept the Summit House that is about half way between Springville and Radersburg on the main road." No description of the cause of death was given and there is no known police action to verify or disprove foul play.



The marker reads: Charity Dillon, died 1872. Known as the old woman's grave.

Where did this lady come from? What was the name of her fiancée? How did she die? How old was she? Very little has been verified about 'Charity' and at this late date, not much more is expected to be discovered about this mysterious lady who lies in her grave in the mountains.

In this case it is advisable to heed the words of the famous Montana author, Dorothy Johnson, in her short story, 'The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance' – when truth and legend collide, print the legend.

TERRY HALDEN
photos

CONVENTION 2013
Friday September 6th - Sunday September 8th
HELENA

BASE HOTEL:
RED LION, COLONIAL INN

Registration, Friday 5:30 - 9:00
JUDICIAL ROOM

Guest Speaker, Friday 7:00 p.m.:
LEE SILLIMAN: 'Treasure State Remnants'

SATURDAY MORNING:
CONVOY TO GHOST TOWN OF MARYSVILLE

Saturday a.m.:
Guided tour of Marysville
by **EARL FRED**, who was born in Marysville

Saturday, 12:30:
Picnic Lunch @ school house/museum, Marysville

Saturday afternoon:
To be announced

Saturday, 6:00, Judicial Room:
Happy Hour,
Roast beef, buffet dinner, & A.G.M.

SATURDAY, 8:00:
GUEST SPEAKER: ELLEN BAUMLER

SUNDAY, A.M.:
CONVOY TO SOUTH OF ELLISTON

Sunday Morning:
Guided tours of 'Charter Oak' mine and mill,
fully restored by U.S.D.A.



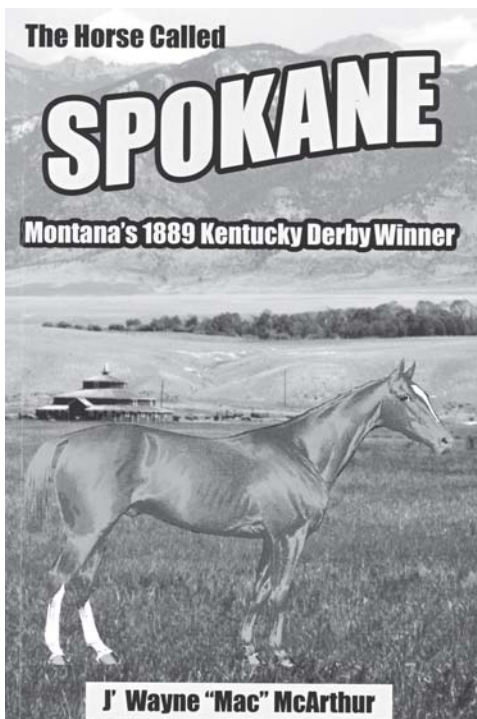
Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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

REVIEW:

The Horse Called SPOKANE Montana's 1889 Kentucky Derby Winner

By J. WAYNE 'Mac' McARTHUR



In 1879, Noah Armstrong, who had made a fortune in the mining district of Bryant, in the Pioneer Mountains east of Melrose, suddenly quit his position as the head of the Hecla Consolidated Mining Company and retired to pursue his passion for raising thoroughbred horses. He had a 10,000 acre ranch near Twin Bridges (his famous Round Barn is still standing) and proceeded to raise a horse that he named 'Spokane' that won the Kentucky Derby in 1889. MacArthur's book is full of the intrigue and nefarious dealings that was horse racing in the 1880s. 'Spokane', a 10 to 1 long shot won the Derby in a time of 1: 34, a record that still stands today, because the track was shortened from 1 ½ miles to 1 ¼ miles shortly afterwards. The book, can be obtained at your favorite bookstore or from the publisher: oldbuttepublishing@yahoo.com

Terry Halden