



President, John Ekman

www.goldfieldhistoricalsociety.com

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We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and we wish you a very Happy New Year. The Society met twice since the last issue.

Membership Dues – Dues are due. Our dues run from January to December. I'll be sending out another reminder with the President's year end letter shortly. We are ending the year with 115 households. Your support is very important to us and we appreciate each of you.

Desk Donation – One of our near-term goals has been to set up one of the rooms in the Goldfield High School as a period class room. To this end, we were in search of old-time school desks. One of our members recommended contacting the **Fourth Ward School Museum** in Virginia City, NV. As it turned out, they did indeed have desks. After a couple of phone calls, they called back and said they were willing to donate 30 school desks to the Goldfield High School! We are absolutely overwhelmed by their generosity. Richard & Edie Koepnick have taken the lead on arranging the transportation of the desks from Virginia City. We hope to have them here in Goldfield early next year.

Photo provided by Fourth Ward School



The Fourth Ward School Museum is what we are striving for the Goldfield High School to look like some day. When you are up that way, please stop in, take a look and be sure to thank them for their generosity. They are located at 537 S. C St. in Virginia City, NV. They are open daily 10-5 from May 1st to October 31st. (www.fourthwardschool.org).

High School Restoration – As reported in the last issue, the southeast inner wall has been rebuilt with reinforced concrete block as well as additional repointing/replacing of mortar on much of the exterior of the building. Additionally, the window openings have been temporarily closed with plywood to keep out the elements. Rebuilding the outer wall of original faced stone will be addressed in the near future. We are currently pursuing another state grant to stabilize and partially rebuild the southwest wall. The application was submitted in early December and we will know if we are awarded the grant in the Spring. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Photos by John Ekman

Sprague House 1910



Fireplace in Sprague House 2015



Restoration – Work has also been happening on other properties around town. The Lyric Theater roof has been repaired. The Sideboard Saloon arch has been stabilized – thanks entirely to private donations. And the fireplace was rebuilt in “The Gables”, 1907 home of Charles and Blanche Sprague, who were publishers of the Goldfield News during the boom years. The fireplace was destroyed with a sledge hammer during the 80’s. It’s wonderful to see these places being restored.

Photo by Jim Price

Goldfield Birthday Party – (Photos and text by Edie Koepnick) The 112th birthday of Goldfield was celebrated on Saturday, October 24, 2015. There were signs posted on both ends of the town to tempt drive-thru traffic to stop for FREE CAKE, punch and a visit. We were thrilled to have folks from all parts of the country (and world) stop by for a bit of cake and a glass of punch. The signatures collected on our Birthday Card shows many, many locals as well as guests from Canada, Turkey, Spain, Switzerland and Australia. Out of state passersby included travelers from California, Minnesota, Oregon, South Carolina and Michigan. A lot of cake, cupcakes, cookies and punch were served. John Ekman and Ruth Lee were our street greeters and they



were dressed in period clothing and waved to the traffic. John Ekman not only waved to folks from the street corner but also provided curb service for cake! (I hope he also included a membership application!)

This party was to help celebrate the October 20, 1903 camp meeting that established the town site and the name change from “Grandpa” to “Goldfield”. This event was partnered with the Goldfield Elementary School’s Community Day and was held in the Community Center. It was a fun time for all.

Historic Property Plaques – Three more plaques have been installed. The Catholic Church on Franklin Ave., a frame house built in 1905 on Franklin Ave, and a frame house built in 1908 also on Franklin Ave. We currently have 74 plaques placed.

Donations – We’ve also received a number of High School Commencement documents from the 1940’s for our collection from Silvia Tyson. Juanita Colvin donated a box of Goldfield Pythian Sisters documents from the 1920’s. These will be added to our document collection and are much appreciated. Thank you Silvia and Juanita!

Historical Society Website - Edie Koepnick reported that she has placed additional information on our website and is enjoying this additional task that she has taken on.

Goldfield Historical Society T-Shirts – The Society agreed to purchase more T-shirts since the first batch sold out so quickly. If you would like to purchase a T-shirt, we’re having more made and there will be some with pockets this time around. They are \$15 each + \$5 for shipping. Just send us the size you need and a check made out to the Goldfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 393, Goldfield, NV 89013.

Please let me know if your e-mail or address changes, so that I can update the membership list and you’ll continue to receive our newsletter. If you can provide an e-mail address for the newsletter, we would appreciate it as it saves us money on postage.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter, please send them to Joan Sieber at jcsie@pacbell.net.