

the Goldfield
Historical Society
Goldfield, Nevada



John Ekman, President
www.goldfieldhistoricalsociety.com

4th Quarter 2023, Issue No. 46
Joan Sieber, Editor

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and will have a prosperous New Year!

Our membership ends the year with 217 paid members, our most ever. We welcome our new members listed below:

Fred Carlson, NV
Rosie Cevasco, NV
Maggie Cotton, CA
Maurizio Di Cicco, NV
Mark & Rosie Desrochers, CA
Dr. I. Feldkamp IV, CA
Gloria Geil, NV

Jim Geil, NV
Effie Lantia, NV
Gigi Living History, NV
Karen Stoldal Laumbach, NV
Brett Walker, CA
Joseph Woznicki, MA

Dues are due - Our dues run from January to December. Our members are our most important asset – we need all of you. If you've already renewed, thank you and if you haven't, would really appreciate your taking the time to send in your renewal. You can either renew on line at www.goldfieldhistoricalsociety.com using Paypal or through the mail – P.O. Box 393, Goldfield, NV 89013. We don't have a renew button on line but check your level of membership and use Paypal – the system will let us know.

High School Update – The steel roof covering replacement project is well underway. The scaffolding sub-contractor, Vertical Access, completed the scaffolding installation on October 26. Our general contractor, Spectra Company, removed the original 117 year-old standing seam steel roof covering and completed installing new plywood sheathing over the existing 1"x 6" wood plank sheathing on December 15. The roofing sub-contractor, Cooper Roofing, completed installation of the underlayment synthetic sheeting on December 19. Spectra will complete the rebuilding of the chimneys and rain gutters in early January, after which Cooper will install the original-style standing seam metal roof covering. Baring inclement weather, the work should be complete and scaffolding removed by Vertical Access by the first of February. After 15 years of structurally stabilizing the building to prepare for a new roof, the Society is very close to having that non-leaking roof!

The CCCHP awarded the Society an additional \$37,629.49 under the FY19-20 Grant and an additional \$154,462.33 under the FY 21-22 Grant. This may look like a lot of money but it cost over \$50,000 just to have the scaffolding put up. We are very grateful for these grants as we would not be able to continue the work needed to keep the High School standing and protected.

Photos by Jim Price



Scaffolding Installed



Removing the Old Roof

Photo by Edie Koepnick



New Plywood Installed

T&G BoxCars – We received a grant that has allowed us to do some work on our box cars. Basically, we're replacing three of the doors. It has taken awhile to assemble all the pieces and parts required. In July, Jim and I drove to Pahrump to acquire the lumber required for this project. Then we had to get the metal parts manufactured. They turned out great and they have since been powder coated. Still need to acquire the nuts and bolts. This all took awhile and now it's winter and we'll have to wait til next year, to build and hang the doors.



Photos by Jim Price



Parts from the Foundry

Goldfield Birthday – Goldfield’s Birthday was celebrated on October 21, 2023. It was the 120th and was held at the Community Center. We had the usual cake and punch as well as historical displays – particularly by **Gigi** of Gigi Living History. It was quite an impressive historic display. Quite a few people attended. **Patty Huber-Beth** graciously stood out front drawing people in which was a great success. **Bill Beltz** set up his faro table and everyone had a good time. Thanks to **Edie Koepnick** for organizing the Party once again.



Cake and Punch



Photos provided by Edie Koepnick

Guests Enjoying the Cake



Patty Huber-Beth Dressed for the Party



Gigi Living History Display

In Remembrance – **Fran and Terry Terras** sent a check for \$100 in remembrance of Gwendolyn Breen Slabotsky, December 16, 1943-August 20, 2023.

Marilyn Seay also sent \$100 in remembrance of Gwendolyn Breen

Donations – **Richard & Elizabeth Clauser** sent in a check for \$50. Thank you.

David and Karen Cullens donated \$100 cash. Thank you

Kim & Philip Henrick donated \$250 to be divided between the general fund and the high school fund. Thank you for your support.

Jeff Fitzgerald & Joan Sidell contributed \$125. Also wanted to mention that they volunteer for the cemetery upkeep which is much appreciated. Thank you.

Dave Mull contributed \$500 to the Historical Society. Thank you.

Brian Norden sent along \$1,000. Really appreciate these year end contributions. Thank you

Jim Price & Joan Sieber also contributed \$500 to the Historical Society.

John Rudderow & Deana Glatz have donated \$3,500 to the Society. \$2,500 will go to the General Fund and \$1,000 will go for the Preservation Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

An anonymous member donated \$250 for the building fund. Thanks to all who are able to make additional donations – it really helps. It's a great morale booster for us volunteers!

Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide for Winter 2023-24 published an article on page 40 named "The Glory of Goldfield" Remembering Nevada's last great boomtown 100 years after its almost complete destruction. Nice history from the beginning to the fire in July 1923.

Looking Back on 2023 - This past year has brought an almost complete rebuilding of the High School roof. The flat roof has been replaced and the sloped roof is in process. This has been a long-awaited improvement.

We've also received many generous donations from our members throughout the year which is greatly appreciated. **Coleen Garland** donated part of her book collection.

We obtained a grant from the National Railway Historical Society to build the missing doors on the boxcars. I'm hoping that project can be reported as complete this next year. It has taken awhile to get all the hardware.

We had our first Goldfield Historical Society Social in June, thanks to **Edie Koepnick**. In July, **John Ekman, Edie Koepnick, Jim Price and myself** represented the Historical Society at the 2nd annual Mining Park Soiree. It was well attended and we signed up 9 new members! We participated in the Goldfield Days parade and gave tours of the High School. We celebrated Goldfield's 120th Birthday with cake and punch – again Edie spearheaded that event. We sold the two lots that were owned by the Society at Crystal and 5th St. And we received the Preserve Nevada Organization Award for our efforts in preserving Goldfield's history. Not a bad year.

However, we did lose a dear, dear friend – **Richard Koepnick** in January. There isn't an event that happens in Goldfield when we don't think about Richard. He was always there and with a smile on his face saying "How can I help".

We also lost **Lee Boblet**. He was a member of the Blue Canyon Gang and was always in the parade during Goldfield Days.

Goldfield Historical Society Meeting – The next meeting will be held on January 9 at 7 p.m. at the Goldfield Chamber building.

Our President, **John Ekman**, wrote an article that appeared in the July/August 2023 issue of the AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association) magazine which is reprinted on the next page. I thought you all might enjoy it.

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. For those who continue to receive a printed newsletter, if you can provide an e-mail address we would appreciate it as it would save us money on postage to send you the newsletter by e-mail.

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

The Goldfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 393, Goldfield, NV 89013

The Goldfield Historical Society is a tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501©3 and under Nevada State Law. Tax Id. #88-0192171

Letters to the Editor

Welte Cottage Orchestration and Goldfield, Nevada

BY JOHN EKMAN

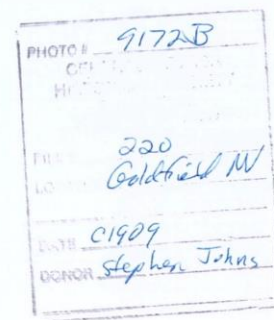


The Music Trade Review excerpt mentioning Goldfield, Nevada reminded me of a photo (attached) that I have of a Welte Cottage Orchestration in that mining boom town of the first decade of the last century. The inscription on the back of the photo says that the occasion is the Goldfield Newsboys' Appreciation Luncheon. It's dated c. 1907-08. The machine is in the left, rear corner of the room and appears to be a Style 2. The town, once the largest city in Nevada at 20,000 population in 1907, has been almost completely stripped of artifacts over the last 100-plus years and there's no longer any sign of the Welte, or any other automatic instrument from its early days.

The inscription at the top of the photo, added later, indicates that the photo was taken in the Goldfield Hotel. That's incorrect, as that building still exists and the room's never-remodeled interior structural details don't match the photo. The photo may have been taken in the Ramsey or the Watson, the other two large hotels in town, but not sure as they no longer exist.

Goldfield, Nevada is an interesting place - part of the last great American gold rush and the end of the western frontier. All the Old West characters not yet dead, such as Wyatt and Virgil Earp, were there. Wyatt owned a saloon in Tonopah, Nevada (27 miles north) and Virgil was an Esmeralda County Deputy Sheriff in Goldfield and died there in 1905. Most of the place burned down in 1923, but a few buildings remain. Goldfield was declared a National Historic District by the National Park Service in 1983.

I'm president of the Goldfield Historical Society and split my time between Southern California and Goldfield. My wife and I own five Boom Era(1902-1910) homes and I'm working on restoring the long disused 1907 Goldfield High



School. I've spent 15 years and \$750,000 in federal / state / private foundation grant funds and private donations so far. It would be done, but the funds come slowly. Once completed it will become a community / cultural / interpretive (museum) center. However, at the rate I'm going, I'm not sure if I'll live that long.

The newsboy photo is a scan of a copy of a Goldfield Chronicle (long defunct) file photo and has lost some resolution along the way. It was found in the photo archive of the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah.

Here is also a photo of a Regina Sublima in the gambling room of the Merchants Hotel in Columbia (suburb of Goldfield).

Recently, a Canadian mining company has found additional gold deposits that the old-timers missed and has started development work. I plan to hit them up for a donation and see if I can't move things along a little faster!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

John Ekman's memory was jogged, and he was prompted to write after reading the article on Phillips, Wurlitzer, and Welte orchestrions in the January February 2023 AMICA Bulletin. The featured photo is a little grainy, and one might have to look carefully to find the mentioned orchestrion and other artifacts, but its interest and importance override its graininess. John is a long-time acquaintance, southern California resident, and historian. Astute readers might recall a previous article that featured John Ekman, among others, on a midnight raid at the Los Angeles RKO Movie Studios that removed and saved a Wurlitzer Mandolin PianOrchestra Style 33. Contact John at jekman2@verizon.net.



Regina Sublima in gambling room of Merchants Hotel in Goldfield, Nevada. Can you find it? Only top of case is visible, but the Regina Sublima rolls on top confirm identity.

Advertisement

1931 Aeolian Duo-Art Pipe Organ – Opus 1560

From the Estate of Harry Garfield Steele, Pasadena, CA
Residence donated in 1988 to California Institute of Technology

Console

3 Manual Console; 48 Ranks
Good Condition: One location 1931-2010
32 Note Pedal Board
Stop Tabs Both Manuals
Pedal Division, Couplers and Player Controls
Player Spool Box has 176-Note Fully Automatic
Duo-Art Rolls or 116-Note Pipe Organ Rolls

Percussion Instruments;- (Playable from Great, Swell, and Choir Keyboards); With F & P Control; with/wo Dampers

Pipes

Great, Swell, Choir, Pedal; Enclosed 48 Rank
All Stops 73 Pipes; Harp 61 notes and Chimes 20 notes
Manual Compass 61 Notes; Pedal Compass 32 Notes Rocker
Pedal Compass 32 Notes: Restored by Dave Junchen 1990
New SS Relay System – Original Preserved
Truoudale Digital Performance System Added
Moved from Location by Organ Clearing House & American Organ Institute to my home in San Antonio, TX

Spencer Steel ORGOBLO

Great – 11 Ranks

8' Diapason
8' String F- Gamba
8' String P- Gemshorn
8' Flute F- Gross Flute
8' Flute P- Dulcinea
8' Flute Vibrato
8' Quintadena
4' Octave
4' Flute (high)-Harmonique
8' Trumpet
8' French Horn Tremolo



Choir – 11 Ranks

16' Dulciana
8' Diapason
8' Dulciana
8' Dulciana Vibrato
8' String P
8' Concert Flute
8' Flute – Spitz
4' Flute (high) Harmonique
2' Piccolo
8' Clarinet- Free Reed
8' Vox Humana Tremolo



Swell – 21 Ranks

16' Flute (deep) Stopped Bourdon
8' Diapason
8' String F – Gamba
8' String Vibrato F – Gamba Vox
8' String MF – Salicional
8' String Vibrato MF – Vox Celeste
8' String PP – Aeoline
8' String PPP – Aeoline
8' Flute F
8' Flute P- Stopped Diapason
4' Flute (high)- D'amour
2' Flute (acute) String Mixture (V)
16' Trumpet (deep) – Fagotto
8' Trumpet
8' Vox Humana Tremolo

Pedal – 5 Ranks

16' Flute F (deep) Bourdon
16' Flute P (d) – Lieb. Gedeckt
16' Flute PP (deep) – (SW)
16' String F (deep)- Violene
16' Dulciana (deep) (CH)
8' Flute
8' String (ext.)
16' Bassoon
16' Trumpet (deep)- (SW)



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Contact: Ken Long **Email:** daltex@hotmail.com **Phone:** 214-991-1009 **Price:** Best Reasonable Offer