



The Goldfield Historical Society

Newsletter, Goldfield, Nevada

John Ekman, President
www.goldfieldhistoricalsociety.com

1st Quarter 2026, Issue No. 55
Joan Sieber, Editor

A warm welcome to our new members:
St. Barbara Grotto & Gardens, NV
Frances DeWitt

Welcome back to our returning members. Really appreciate everyone sending in their dues in a timely manner. And a big thanks to all who were able to send in a little extra—it really helps. **I also want to remind all members that if your e-mail address or physical address changes, please let me know.** We've been getting several returns of the membership cards. We want to make sure that you receive the newsletter. Which reminds me if you haven't received your membership card and postcard, please let me know. A few just sent in their dues and probably don't have them yet but should be coming soon. Thanks.

Meeting Change—After several months of the new meeting schedule, the Board has decided to return to its “original” meeting time. They will meet the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on April 14 at 7 p.m. They are also returning to their summer hours.

High School Update – High School Sloped Roof Restoration Project:

- a. The FY 23-24 State grant-funded project for repair/replacement of metal eaves/soffits and gutter downspouts on East and North elevations will begin April 6, starting with erecting the work scaffolding. Fabrication of missing sections will also begin.
- b. Restoration of eleven exterior windows on West face under Centera grant to begin soon.
- c. FY 25-26 State grant application period for installing the bead-board underside of the gutters and fabrication/installation of gutter downspouts on the South and West elevations is open until April 30. We will apply.

Donations—

We want to acknowledge all donations given during the membership renewal process

\$5-\$50

Bergman
Coleson
Garcia
Gross
Hooker
H&R Block
Kenzevich
Keyes
Kinnaman
Loizos
Metzner
Vandelden

\$50-\$100

Brownell, J.
Brownell, C.
Laub
Southwick
Stretch

Light Solutions Inc. donated \$120
Hohlt donated \$140
Walker donated \$180
Adair donated \$500
Cullens donated \$200
Seay donated \$500

Deana Glatz donated \$1,500 and **John Rudderow** donated \$1,000 in support of our display room.

Gloria & Jim Geil donated \$100 in Kim Henricks name to celebrate her birthday.

Jim Price & Joan Sieber donated \$800 to refinish window casings in our display room.

Amy Raymer recently purchased the 1905 Loftus-Loncar House and is beginning some restoration work on it. She generously donated \$4,000 in memory of the Loncar family and their many contributions to the Goldfield community. Thank you so much Amy.

Bonnie Loizos sent in a \$300 donation in honor of her husband, Nick Clapp. She previously donated all of his Nevada books and his collection of Goldfield memorabilia. Thank you Bonnie for your generosity.

Display Room— As mentioned in the last issue, we're planning to set up a display room next to the school room. We're still working on a "needs" list but have a few items to share that are listed below. The dollar amounts shown are all estimates—we may need more or less depending on how it goes.

Refinishing Window Casings— This includes repairing the woodwork as needed, stripping the old finish, sanding, sealing, staining and clear coating. Cost per window is expected to be **\$600**. At this point, we're only planning on doing the first floor classroom and our display room.

Posters for Display Room— At the moment, we've only come up with 3 poster boards needed. These shouldn't cost more than **\$50** a board plus a retractable banner at approx. **\$160**.

Archival Pages for Photos—We've received photos from various individuals and its time to put them in something protective. We'd like to buy some acid free photo pages and binders. For **\$400**, we could get started on preserving our photo collection.

Spindle Installation—Awhile back, we bought spindles for the railings inside the High School. We're now ready to have them installed. The cost for this effort is expected to be **\$8,000**. This includes fitting the spindles, sanding, sealing, staining and clear coating them. Plus the top floor needs to have the railings installed. As with most of these projects, there will no doubt be unforeseen work necessary.

So, if you wish to contribute to any of these projects, please feel free. Checks can be sent to:

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

Gas Station/Mini Mart— The gas station/mini mart is now open. It opened in early March and is most welcome.

Our Story Inc.—Our Story is a member of our society and have a very interesting website. They've recently added a tab called Goldfield Heritage Park. It is well worth a look:

<https://www.ourstoryinc.com/goldfield-heritage-park>

It is very well researched.

Just For Fun—One of our members, who lives on the East Coast, sent me this winter photo from his backyard. With his permission, I'm sharing it with you. It just looked so peaceful and beautiful. I realize that this has nothing to do with Goldfield but thought it was worth sharing.



Photo by Clair Cordes

Joni Eastley, a former member of ours sent in this story which we thought you might enjoy. The illustrations are AI-generated.

Jack Madigan

According to the January 30, 1901 edition of the Albuquerque Tribune, gambler and gun-fighter John “Jack” Madigan—thirty years old and a native of Illinois—left for Congress, Arizona Territory, intending to open a saloon. By September of that same year, the Reno Evening Gazette reported that Madigan and two companions were instead bound for the new camp of Tonopah, where they planned to open what was euphemistically described as a “sporting house.” En route, the stage overturned on a grade fourteen miles from Sodaville, breaking Jack’s arm. In retrospect, he might have taken that mishap as an omen and remained in Reno.

When he eventually arrived in Tonopah, Jack distinguished himself by helping open one of the camp’s first saloons at the corner of Brougher and Main Streets, The Butler, in June 1902. His partner was Winfield Elliott—better known as “Ole.” The Tonopah Bonanza reported approvingly that “both proprietors are very popular men and understand their line of business.” Four short months later, Jack sold his interest in the saloon to George Cole and moved on to other pursuits, which almost certainly involved gambling and troublemaking. He also carried with him a deep and enduring grudge against Ole. Ole saved his earnings and built a stake; Jack, true to form, gambled his away.

By 1904, Ole Elliott had relocated to Goldfield, where he became involved in the Combination Mine and opened the Combination Cellar Saloon. Advertising “straight goods and case goods,” Ole promised patrons they could “draw your drink straight from the barrel.” Well known and widely respected, he quickly established himself as a solid businessman. By July of that year, he was constructing a hotel and had signed a lease with the State Bank and Trust Company of Carson City and Tonopah to open a branch in the front of a building he owned on Main Street.

Meanwhile, Jack Madigan’s resentment only deepened.

As midnight approached on August 13, 1904, a heavily intoxicated Madigan entered the Combination Cellar, accompanied by his grudge—and by a gambler named Joe Hamilton. The three went directly to the faro table. Jack slapped down \$270 and demanded the dealer turn a card for that amount. When told the table limits were five and ten dollars, Jack responded by striking the dealer across the face.

Ole Elliott, who was nearby, immediately intervened. He told Jack that such behavior would not be tolerated and advised him that if he wanted a fight, he should take it elsewhere.

What followed seemed lifted from the pages of a dime novel.





Madigan—who had been threatening to kill Ole for months—drew his gun. Ole reacted instantly, rushing him. As he did, Joe Hamilton seized Ole from behind in an attempt to restrain him. Ole broke free long enough to knock Madigan to the ground, sending the gun flying from Jack’s hand. Ole picked it up and struck Madigan twice in the head. When Madigan lunged again, Ole fired. The bullet entered Jack’s neck and severed his jugular vein. Death came swiftly.

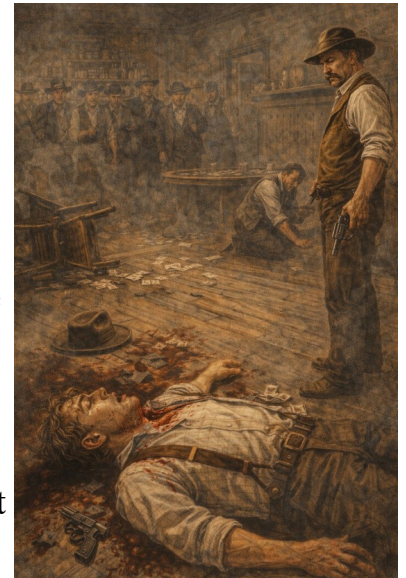
Even then, the struggle continued. Hamilton again grabbed Ole from behind, and from that position Ole shot him in the thigh with Madigan’s gun. As Hamilton fell, he reached for a weapon of his own. Ole fired again, this time striking him in the arm.

Jack Madigan’s long-nurtured jealousy—

fed by alcohol, failure, and the success of a man he could not forgive—had finally consumed him. Following an autopsy, his body was returned to Tonopah for burial in the Old Tonopah Cemetery, where the Eagles Lodge conducted his funeral.

Ole Elliott faced no charges. One newspaper declared that “Madigan was looking for trouble and got what he deserved,” while another dismissed him simply as “a bad man.”

In a final twist at odds with Jack’s reputation, it emerged that he was married. A few days after his burial, his widow arrived in Tonopah from Salt Lake City to settle his estate, insisting, “He was not a desperado, and he never carried a gun.”



Upcoming Event—The Spring Fling is going to be held at the Colvin Town Square on May 2nd. There’ll be a Community yard sale, hot dogs and craft projects for the kids. They’re also advertising a booze walk of some historic buildings for adults. Should be fun.

Nevada 3D Program—The Society continues to partner with Goldfield Main St. on Travel Nevada's 3D Program grant to enhance heritage tourism as part of their economic development plan for Goldfield and Esmeralda County

Monthly Meeting—The next meeting of the Goldfield Historical Society will be on April 14 at 7 p.m. Please attend if possible.

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

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