



# The Goldfield Historical Society

## Newsletter, Goldfield, Nevada

John Ekman, President  
www.goldfieldhistoricalsociety.com

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Joan Sieber, Editor

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and we wish everyone a Happy New Year.

A warm welcome to our new members:

Elizabeth Combs, NV  
Helen Quigley, NV

**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](http://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.

Our anonymous donor is once again allowing us to run the half price offer for new members only. A new **individual** member can sign up for \$10 and it’ll be matched. Or, you can sign a friend up for \$10 — makes a great gift! There are only 10 offers. Don’t wait.

**High School Update** –The State grant for our FY 23-24 current project entailing metal eave soffit/cornice repair and replacement, and gutter downspout fabrication and installation for the East and North building elevations has recently been funded and we’ve received notification that work may begin. Project plans/specifications have since been submitted to the State and have been approved. The contractor will start shop fabrication of the missing metalwork early next year. However, due to the onset of winter weather, the contractor will not start scaffolding installation nor actual work on the building until Spring.

**Year Review**—We expected to have the Metal Cornice/Soffit Replacement Project on the East and North sides of the High School completed this year. The funds were approved but due to a personnel shortage at the State Historic Preservation Office, we didn’t receive our funding right away.

-We’ve had several monetary and physical donations to the Society.

-Kim Hendrick purchased and donated scans from the Stimson Collection.

-Patricia Cafferata provided funds to replace a window in room 3 of the High School.

-Bonnie Clapp donated many items plus her husband’s book collection of Nevada.

-KGFN opened their studio in the former Colorado & Wyoming railroad caboose.

-We received a grant from 4 imprint again which provided us with funds for promotional giveaways.

-The Colvin Square was dedicated and now has a stage and shade cover.

-Artbox came to town and interviewed 5 local members—all members of the Historical Society.

-It was voted to move our monthly meetings to the 1st Monday of the month.

-Work continues on some of the historical homes around town which is nice to see.

-We have new street signs all over town now.

-Last but not least, progress has been made on the 76 Union gas station—perhaps next year it’ll open.

Unfortunately, several of our members passed away this year: Nicholas Clapp, Howard Owens, Daniel Leo Potter, and Don Wolcott.

## Donations—

**Phil & Kim Hendrick**, inspired by Patricia Cafferata's donation to repair a window in the High School have generously donated \$1,005 to repair/restore another window. Thank you Phil and Kim.

**Bonnie Clapp** has generously donated her husband, Nick's, collection of Goldfield memorabilia. It includes:

- 1907 cover of special edition of the Goldfield News
- Panoramic photograph of booming Goldfield
- Goldfield trade tokens
- Elegant Goldfield Elks Club badge
- Silver Labs sepia enlargement of Yellow Aster Saloon, Randsburg
- Collage of Western Federation of Miners badges & Virginia City photo & mining record.
- Mile marker #2 on Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad south of Goldfield
- Reproduction Goldfield Hermitage Saloon jug
- Reproduction Goldfield Hotel spittoon
- Mule bells from Goldfield's Mohawk Mine
- Collage of Western Federation of Miners Mojave badges & desert mining paperwork
- Three stock certificates: rare Sutro tunnel, Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad, and fraudulent New Monte Cristo Mining.
- Tuscarora mining badges & collage featuring gold & silver samples.
- Three stock certificates from camps where Mark Twain lived prior to Virginia City & fame. The Bodie Bluff one is signed by Leland B. Stanford.

Plus all his books pertaining to Nevada.  
Thank you Bonnie for your generosity.

**Randy Main** donated a bookcase/display case, shown below which we'll use in our display room. It has sliding glass doors and a glass shelf (not shown). In case you're wondering, the bookcase is lying on its side and I rotated it so it looked upright.



Unfortunately, we lost another member of ours, **Howard Owens**. He passed away on October 5th. He and his wife, Terry, joined the Historical Society in 2015. He was a tax accountant and he and Terry ran their own tax business—Taxsmart. He was also a part time math teacher in Tonopah and would tutor kids that needed help in that subject. They were very supportive of the community and always showed up for special events. They both were (are) animal lovers, dogs especially. They adopted rescued and disabled dogs and watched over them as long as they lived. He will be missed.

**Display Room**— We've been accumulating display cases with the intent of setting up a small "museum/display" room. We've received quite a few donations over the years and are finally going to set them up in the room next to the classroom. **Edie Koepnick** and **Adrienne Beard** are spearheading this effort. We're all pretty excited about this new project. We'll keep you updated as we progress.

**Wish List**—We're compiling a wish list for things that we could use help with in regards to our projects. It's not complete yet and we don't have specific monetary needs for each item yet. But, to give you an idea of what we've been thinking about are the following: complete windows for the rebuilt wall, installing spindles for the railings in the High School, refinishing the window casings in the classroom and our display room, printing posters for the display room and acquiring archival acid free pages and binders for our growing photo collection. I'm sure we'll be adding to the list as time goes on.

**Gans-Nelson Fight Site** -The Society continues to work with the Nevada Land Trust and Our Story, Inc. to develop and interpret the history of the Gans-Nelson Fight Site/Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad Yard Site. There hasn't been a lot of progress to date. The first issue is what to do with all of the discarded items cluttering up the site.

**Monthly Meeting**—The next meeting of the Goldfield Historical Society will be on January 6 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](mailto:jcsie@pacbell.net).

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**John and Ellen Ekman** have been doing some work on their 1908 Carney house. The front porch rebuild is almost complete and it looks great.



**Destination Development Design (3D) Grant** -Travel Nevada has awarded this Grant that was submitted by Goldfield Main St, to Goldfield. Our Society is working with Goldfield Main St. to develop Goldfield's and Esmeralda County's economy by various means, including the Society's promotion of heritage tourism. This is from their website: This is a "long-range, tourism-based community planning program to enable Nevada's rural communities to be more intentional about growing their visitor economies. They will collaborate with community stakeholders and partners, Travel Nevada staff, and a team of consultants to create a 10-year Destination Plan that will provide guidance and recommendations for growing tourism in a way that is authentic, sustainable, and supports the community's goals."

Our member, **Kim Henrick**, has provided us with another interesting article on the next page. I think you'll enjoy it. Thank you Kim.

## Where do Goldfield's old schools go to die?

by Kim Henrick

In 1908, the handsome Sundog Elementary School on the southwest corner of Elliott Avenue and Sundog Avenue opened to a large student population. Within 10 years the school was shuttered and sat derelict until purchased by the Nevada Department of Transportation in 1948. The school was subsequently torn down and the quarried stone blocks found new homes in a few distant places—the Nevada Department of Transportation's maintenance yard on Main Street in Tonopah, and at the rest stop at historical Millers west of Tonopah on Highway 95.

In the past decade, many of the Sundog's stone window lintels that were no longer needed at Millers as parking-lot border stones were moved back to Goldfield to be used in restoring the high school. Fortunately, when Arthur Rothstein came to Goldfield in 1940 to photograph for the Farm Security Administration, he captured the Sundog in its dignified, but silent, degraded state.

Sources: Rothstein photograph is courtesy of Farm Security Administration Photograph Collection (Library of Congress). Sundog School facts are from Hugh Shamberger's book "Goldfield" (1982), and local historians Allen Metscher and John Ekman (May 2025).

