

# THE BODIE TIMES

*PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST*

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS

[www.BodieFoundation.org](http://www.BodieFoundation.org)

VOLUME IV

FALL 2012

NUMBER 2

## Celebrating 50 Years of Bodie SHP



State dignitaries and honored guests pose with Bodie Foundation President Brad Sturdivant during Friends of Bodie Day. A State of California resolution was presented honoring Bodie for its 50 years as a California State Park. Pictured are (L-R): Paul Lunardi, former State Senator, Brad Sturdivant, Bodie Foundation President, Ted Gaines, Calif. State Senator for the 1st District, Carl Chavez, former Bodie ranger and Marilyn Linkem, district superintendent for State Parks' Sierra District. Lunardi sponsored legislation that created Bodie SHP and Chavez was a ranger during the park's early days.

The tradition of Friends of Bodie Day (FOB) began 25 years ago in October 1987 as a way to thank folks for their membership in the Sierra State Parks Foundation, the non-profit supporting Bodie at that time. About 30 people attended that first chilly evening event. Over the years, it eventually evolved into the yearly August signature event it is today.

Our annual FOB Day was held on Saturday, August 11, 2012. This year, the event combined the traditional costumed living history day with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Bodie as a California State Historic Park. As you will see, there were many fun things to experience, along with some special guest speakers and two marriage vow renewal ceremonies held in the Methodist church. New

*Please see CELEBRATE, page 6*



## 2012 Stabilization Projects



The Bodie Railroad office (left) and Methodist Church (above) projects were part of an ambitious list of stabilization projects that were completed in Bodie during 2012. Please turn to page 3 to see more of this vital work.

# Conway House Reminisces

by Chris Spiller,  
Senior Park Aide

Thomas Robert “Bob” Conway was born in Ontario, Canada in 1875 and immigrated to the United States in 1898.

He was the cousin of John Conway, who ran a blacksmith and wagon making shop on Mill Street by Boone’s Corral in Bodie.

Bob started work for the Standard Mill in October 1898. He also worked at the Cyanide Plant and in the Standard mine. His work experiences were unique as he had extensive knowledge about all the major industrial operations performed in Bodie.

In February 1903, Bob had traveled back to Ontario to marry Elizabeth Ann McLaughlin.



Bob Conway, along with Martin Gianettoni and Spence Gregory (L – R) made up the entire population of Bodie during the winter of 1943.

They returned to Bodie and bought the Todd house for five hundred dollars in gold.

On December 10, 1903, their 10-day old son died. They would have three more children: Dorothy Claire, born in 1904, Charles Harold, born in 1907 (both born in Bodie) and Mabel Margaret born in 1911 in Ontario, where they returned to live for several years.

They moved to Los Angeles in 1924, but Bob eventually moved back to Bodie. Family members say dampness in Southern California bothered

his joints and heard him exclaim he had to go back to “God’s Country.”

Annie died in 1941 and Bob died in Los Angeles at the age of 81 in 1957.

Two granddaughters of Bob Conway visited Bodie State Historic Park June 20, 2012 along with their families. Park staff allowed them a rare look inside Bodie’s Conway House (#43 on the walking tour brochure of Bodie) where they had visited “Grandpa Bob” for so many years.

*Please see CONWAY, page 8*



Extended Conway family on the porch of the Conway house on Green Street in Bodie, June, 2012. Hops still grow in front of the porch railing.

## Bodie Foundation News Briefs

### Park Attendance Increases

All three parks (Bodie, Mono Lake and Grover Hot Springs) saw a positive jump in attendance over 2011.

Bodie hit visitation levels reminiscent of 2010. Park attendance climbed back to almost 103,000 – which was a growth of over 13% from 2011. This old, wonderful piece of history continues to be a major destination, in spite of its remote location.

Mono Lake saw its attendance also take a nice positive jump. It grew by 10% over 2011 to almost 270,000. The mild 2011/2012 winter kept the Tioga Pass open until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. December visitation to Mono Lake alone went from 2500 in 2010 to 9400 in 2011.

Grover Hot Springs also was a bit busier in 2012. Pool visits, which are not as affected by bad weather, were up 2.5%, campground visits up 5% and day use visits up 18%.

All in all, we were very pleased with the visitation levels of all three parks this past year. We anticipate 2013 will continue to be even better as the national economy continues to stabilize.

### Bodie Foundation previews new website

Our new website was recently unveiled. It is easier to use than the previous one and will continue to mature. We’re still at the same address — find us at [www.BodieFoundation.org](http://www.BodieFoundation.org).

*Please see FOUNDATION, page 5*

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## Stabilization: Keeps the Roof on Bodie

The Bodie Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and the public enjoyment of Bodie State Historic Park, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Preserve and Grover Hot Springs State Park. One of the primary reasons the Bodie Foundation exists as an organization is to keep this magnificent, historic town standing.

Within these parks we strive to provide a consistent stream of funding to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide for the stabilization of structures, conservation of artifacts, an ongoing maintenance program, interpretation and protection of natural resources.

In our Spring 2012 newsletter, we shared an ambitious list of stabilization projects scheduled for the upcoming season.

They were:

- (Gregory house (#52) new interior ceiling
- Kirkwood house (#18) interior stabilization
- Swayback Bell garage (part of #11) stabilized and partial roof restoration
- Moyle house (#65) roof repair
- Donnelly house (#8) roof repair
- Train office building (just visible on the ridgeline east of town) roof repair.

We are happy to report that all were successfully completed along with several additional tasks. These additional projects included:

- Methodist Church roof and flashing repairs

- Major house (near parking lot road and path to cemeteries) stabilization
- Several church pews repaired
- J. S. Cain (#6) front porch bottle shelving restored

Many thanks and kudos go to Brenda Hemond (BSHP maintenance supervisor) and her talented crew.

The Bodie Foundation looks forward to its continued funding of the critical stabilization efforts necessary to protect these irreplaceable structures and artifacts, as they provide us with a wonderful "window" back into history.

Thank you members for your continued support of our Foundation through your donations, items purchased (from the museum or online) and renewed memberships.



Bodie stabilization projects for 2012 included (clockwise from top-left): Roof repair on the Bodie Railroad office building on the bluff; restoration of the bottle shelves in the front window of the J. S. Cain house; interior stabilization in the Major house; and Kirkwood house interior stabilization.



# New Faces at Bodie



Supervising Ranger Tom Gunther lives with his Shiloh Sheperds: Timber, Kenai, Koda, Jasper and Yukon. Tom also shares his home with three cats: Mama Walker, Sitka and Spruce.

## Tom Gunther

Tom Gunther is Bodie's (and Mono Lake) Supervising Ranger. Tom was selected out of 5 candidates who wanted to become Bodie's next lawman.

This is the conclusion of Tom's 11<sup>th</sup> year as a Ranger. His career has taken him to many diverse locations across the state, from the extreme northwest corner (Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park) to the southeast corner (Heber Dunes SVRA) to Silverwood Lake, then to the Antelope Valley area (Red Rock Canyon, Saddleback Butte, Tomo-Kahni, Poppy Reserve and Indian Museum).

He loves the solitude of Bodie but is far from lonely. His "family" consists of Timber, Kenai, Koda, Jasper and Yukon. These guys are Shiloh Shepherd dogs, which are similar to German Shepherds. Tom also has three cats, Mama Walker, Sitka and Spruce.

If you see Tom around and he has a moment, ask him to tell how he was "adopted" by Mama Walker, a very special cat. It's a very touching story.

Tom is used to large families, having come from one himself. He has 16 siblings,

10 brothers and 6 sisters. The Gunther clan hails from the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles County. Tom claims that at one time, there were 14 kids living under the same roof.

Tom's pre-Ranger background is interesting also. For several years, he was an environmental consultant project manager, involved in large-scale environmental clean-up tasks (super fund type activities). He realized he was not happy inside – his heart just wasn't in it. This is when he migrated to State Parks and is now protecting and conserving. Finding his lost joy in Bodie has once again made him happy.

We look forward to many years of Bodie being under Tom's capable stewardship.



Brenda Hemond (right) gets a holiday hug from her daughter, Sammy. Brenda is the Park Maintenance Supervisor for Bodie, Mono Lake and Grover Hot Springs parks. She shares her Bodie home with cats Lucy and Jackson.

## Brenda Hemond

Brenda Hemond is the Park Maintenance Supervisor for Bodie SHP, Mono Lake and Grover Hot Springs parks. As with most State Park employees, her path to Bodie was filled with many stops along the way. She hails from Lawrence, Massachusetts but was primarily raised in Poway, California (near San Diego). According to Brenda, her beautiful daughter Samy is her "everything". Samy is currently in college studying blood oncology.

Brenda began her career in 1992 in a seasonal groundskeeper position for

Old Town San Diego for two seasons and six more in the San Clemente, San Onofre and San Mateo districts. In 1998 she was promoted to a permanent position as groundskeeper for Angeles District for the Historic Adamson House in Malibu. She continued moving up as a park maintenance worker at both Adamson and Historic Will Rogers State Park. In 2010 she transferred to Leo Carrillo State Park campground and State Beach. In September 2010, she promoted to her current post.

You can see Brenda around town dealing with everything from keeping the town standing to septic tank problems. In between all her responsibilities, Brenda is having the time of her life. Next time you're in town, give Brenda a "thumbs up" for the daunting task she and her talented crew accomplish in arresting all that decay and helping preserve Bodie for generations to come.

Please see *MORE NEW FACES*, page 5

## BODIE FUN FACT

What was W. S. Bodie's real name?

Please see page 9 for the answer.

## More New Faces



Dani Williams is the Bodie Foundation Business Manager. She enjoys outdoor activities and 4-wheeling in her Jeep.

### Dani Williams

Born and raised in Reno, Nevada, Dani attended Truckee Meadows Community College, majoring in Criminal Justice.

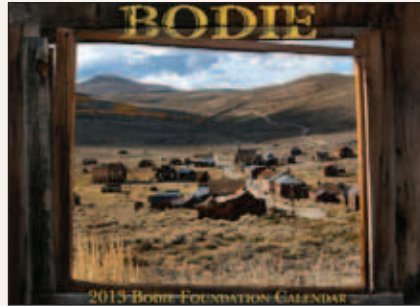
She has always had a strong interest in history. Her connection to Bodie started at an early age, exploring Bodie and the surrounding area with her family. Stories of her great-grandfather's expedition to Bodie as a surveyor and mapmaker have given her a deeper personal connection.

Dani has proven herself in business before coming to work for the Bodie Foundation. The western store under her management was turned into a top performer.

She has a great love for the out-of-doors and enjoys hiking, 4-wheeling and her doggies.

Dani is enthusiastic about all aspects of her position that will support and help preserve the three parks under the Bodie Foundation for future generations.

## 2014 Calendar Contest Rules



"Window to Bodie" by Kendra Ussery is the cover photo for the Bodie Foundation's 2013 calendar. This new contest will collect images for use in the 2014 calendar, which will be available early next summer.

- There is no limit to the number of entries a photographer may submit, but each photographer is limited to one winning entry.
- Entries are by digital submission only at [www.bodiecalendarcontest.com](http://www.bodiecalendarcontest.com).
- Images *must* have a minimum size and resolution of 3,330 pixels by 2,550 pixels at 300 pixels per inch (11 x 8.5 inches-horizontal).
- Images *must* be in either tiff or jpeg (maximum quality) format.
- Images with identifiable people will not be considered.
- No monetary compensation will be offered.
- Winning entries will be used in the 2014 Bodie Foundation calendar and may be used on the Bodie Foundation websites or in the *Bodie Times* newsletter.
- Non-winning entries may also be used on Bodie Foundation websites or in the *Bodie Times* newsletter.
- Images must be received by April 1, 2013 on the calendar contest website, [www.bodiecalendarcontest.com](http://www.bodiecalendarcontest.com).
- **Additional rules are posted online at [www.bodiecalendarcontest.com](http://www.bodiecalendarcontest.com)**

### Conditions of Entry

Entrant agrees that if their image is selected for use in the calendar or other publication and/or website, he or she will assign limited publication rights to the Bodie Foundation.

By entering this contest, entrant further agrees to these official rules and asserts he/she is owner of the image copyright and has full usage rights.

### Winner Selection

All entries will be reviewed and winners selected by the Bodie Foundation Board of Trustees. The judges' decisions are final. The winning photographers will be notified by telephone and/or e-mail.

## Foundation News Briefs

FOUNDATION, from page 2

### California Department of State Parks makes headlines

In September, California Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation setting a two-year moratorium on closing state parks. The bill provides \$10 million to match private donations to keep specific parks open, an additional \$10 million to other parks at risk of closure, and a like amount to address maintenance needs that threatened to close some parks.

The governor also signed a bill that requires the parks department to create a plan for increasing private revenue for state sites. It would allow Californians to apply a portion of their state tax refund to the parks in exchange for an annual park pass.

A new Director of State Parks, Major General Anthony Jackson, USMC (Ret.), was sworn into office in November.

## Grover Steams Through the Winter

Grover Hot Springs is open year-round. During winter, when snow covers the ground, the pool complex usually remains open, except during severe snow storms, and high accumulations of snow on the roads. The roads are generally plowed during the winter, but visitors should carry snow chains and a shovel. Always check weather service and Caltrans for conditions before departing.

Please phone 530-694-2248 for general information and 530-694-2249 for pool information and hours.

# FOB DAY CELEBRATES BODIE'S HERITAGE

*CELEBRATE, from page 1*

additions to the celebration included a jail "bailout" organized by park maintenance worker Terri Erdman and root beer floats in a glass keepsake mug with libation generously donated by Mammoth Brewing Company. Foundation member Marshall O'Grady provided a new banner reading, "Bodie your state park for 50 years. Keeping decay under arrest."

Foundation members-only special events included the traditional Albert's BBQ followed by evening living history tours featuring some of Bodie's residents from the 1930's through 1950's.

Consider joining us again next year in early August so you can experience FOB Day at Bodie State Historic Park!



USMC color guard members, Cpl. Jack Zellner, Sgt. Matthew S. Blackwell, Cpl Daniel Ramirez and Sgt. Jared L. Miller march along Main Street to begin the afternoon program. Becki Nuti sang the National Anthem.



Jim and Diane Lockwood celebrated their 25th anniversary by renewing their vows in the Methodist Church on FOB Day.



Marshall O'Grady, a Bodie Foundation member, seen at right wearing a miner's headlamp, generously provided a banner for FOB Day. With him at right is Chris Grimshaw. Both are FOB Day volunteers.



A second vow renewal ceremony for Brad and Lucinda Traugher was also held the same day. Brad originally proposed to Lucinda in the church on FOB Day a few years ago. Reverend Rod Duff, a former State Park employee, presided over both ceremonies.

# FOB DAY 2012



In a scene reminiscent of a century or more ago, Ted Holloway guides his wagon and team down Main Street.



Korilei Missamore (center) is part of a group of youthful desperadoes incarcerated in the Bodie jail for felony cuteness.



Spectators gather along the Main Street boardwalk in front of the Museum to listen to guest speakers.



Dave James (L), Bodie Foundation Board member and Woody Woodall, Bodie park staff (in background), chat as Foundation member John Pinckney checks for ghosts inside the Wheaton-Hollis hotel. Dave and Woody portrayed Bob Conway and Bobby Bell during the evening interpretation program for members. No ghosts were spotted - that evening.



Visitors gather in front of Bodie's school house to hear senior park aide T. J. Peters living history presentation during the members only after hours event. This was T. J.'s last FOB Day as a park aide. She's now in training to be a state park ranger.

## Former Bodie Ranger Returns



Carl Chavez, a former Bodie SHP ranger in the 1960's, shares a story of the "old days" in Bodie during FOB Day 2012. With him are Brad Sturdivant, Bodie Foundation President (left) and Marilyn Linkem, District Superintendent for State Parks' Sierra District.

Carl and his family lived and worked in Bodie four years after Bodie joined the state park system in 1962. His daughter was the last child born in Bodie, on June 23, 1967. Since there was a "no children" rule at that time for the remote state park, the autumn after her birth he transferred to another park that was considered more family friendly.

## Price Reduced on 2013 Bodie Calendar

The 2013 Bodie Calendar price has been reduced to \$9.95 now through the end of January. You can order these through our website at [www.BodieFoundation.org](http://www.BodieFoundation.org) while limited supply lasts.

May 2013 photo by Thomas Kelsey

## WANTED: Bodie Volunteers

by Chris Spiller  
Senior Park Aide

Bodie's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual volunteer training kicked off last September 15<sup>th</sup>, with four prospective new volunteers who will start presenting programs in the park next summer.

This date was the first of two formal training days for Tony and Kris King, Lucinda Traugher and Betty McCunniff. The four will return in May for a second day of training prior to Memorial Day weekend. The May training date will also include a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for all of Bodie's volunteers.

The four trainees learned about theories of interpretation, how to structure a tour and received their Bodie Volunteer Training Manual to study over the winter. They also went out in

the park to witness a stamp mill tour and history talk.

The next new training classes will be in the fall of 2013. If you are interested in becoming a "VIP" (Volunteer in Parks) contact Chris Spiller via email, [csspiller@parks.ca.gov](mailto:csspiller@parks.ca.gov) for more information.

California State Park Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old, able to move around easily and present programs at an altitude of 8,375 feet. They must be reliable and committed and are required to log a minimum of 8 hours a month during the summer.

Previous badmen (and women) from Bodie need not apply as volunteers must be fingerprinted and disclose any past criminal convictions.

## Conway Family Returns to Bodie



Conway bathtub, now located in the museum.

*CONWAY, from page 2*

Mary Daugherity Montag, known as Charlene, was the daughter of Bob's daughter Dorothy Claire Conway. Dorothy Jean Daugherity Mills, who goes by

Jean, is Charlene's sister.

Charlene said between the Conway house and the house west of it, there was a "mouse cemetery" where she carefully

*Please see CONWAY, page 9*



## BODIE FOUNDATION MOURNS Jim Pence 1963-2012

We mourn the loss of California State Park Ranger James (Jim) Pence, who passed away suddenly on Thursday, Sept. 27 from a heart attack.

Jim started his career with State Parks in 1982 as a seasonal lifeguard at Channel Coast. After five seasons at Channel Coast and two seasons at Grover Hot Springs as a pool guard he attended the State Park Ranger/lifeguard academy in 1989.

In his career as a lifeguard and State Park Ranger, he worked in the following areas: Orange Coast, Red Rock Canyon, Turlock Lake, Folsom Lake, Auburn State Recreation Area, Marshall Gold and his final destination at the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. Jim served

Mono Lake from 2006 until his sudden passing.

Jim was a skilled outdoorsman with well-developed survival skills. You were always safe in the backcountry when you were with Jim. He loved hiking and backpacking.

Jim was an expert backcountry skier and a very skilled rafting oarsman. His courage, love for the outdoors and passion for adventure are part of what made him a phenomenal ranger.

He is survived by his wife Sara and twin brother Sean. Sara joined him in all of these activities over the years. They met as seasonal lifeguards at Grover Hot Springs. They shared common passions, love for each other and similar spirited personalities.



## Conway Family Visit

*CONWAY, from page 8*

buried dead mice that Grandpa Bob trapped in water-filled milk bottles in the root cellar under the house. He led her to believe that it was her efforts that “caught” the mice.

Jean commented that Grandpa Bob sat on the daybed a lot and looked out the window. There were remains of old snowshoes in the house, which belonged to Bob. Later, they identified a bathtub, located in the museum near the larger hearse, as having come from the Conway house also.

The two women

remembered playing games of cribbage at the kitchen table. The back shed behind the kitchen contained a “two-holer” outhouse.

The girls, separately and together, visited Bob every summer until 1942. Charlene remembered the summer of 1951 as her last visit with Grandpa Bob. He was only living there in the summer by then.

On the porch, Jean looked at the hops and commented: “I’m overjoyed to see the hops are still growing. It makes me feel there’s life here.”

## BODIE ANSWER FUN FACT FROM P 4

Several names have been attributed to the tinsmith from Poughkeepsie, New York who left his family behind to seek the allure of gold fever.

‘William’, ‘Waterman’, ‘Wateman’ and ‘Wakeman’ have all been used as his first name. His last name has been shown as both ‘Bodey’ and ‘Body’. No one knows absolutely for sure the correct spelling, as a copy of his signature has never been found. The one that seems most likely is ‘Wakeman S. Bodey’ (sometimes referred to as ‘Body’ due to casual spelling

practices in the 19<sup>th</sup> century). His written name of Wakeman S. Bodey (but not his signature) is found on the Census of both 1850 and 1860, the U. S. Census Mortality Schedule of 1860 and an 1842 fireman’s roster from his hometown.

The story of how his last name was changed to ‘Bodie’ is attributed to an Aurora, Nevada sign maker who changed the spelling – possibly because phonetically it resembles the correct pronunciation—and the change stuck.



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I believe Bodie has a future, and I want to be a part of it!  
 Join online at [www.BodieFoundation.org](http://www.BodieFoundation.org), or fill out and return this form:

- \$ 35 - Pay Dirt
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- \$ 75 - Gold Mine
- \$ 100 - W. S. Bodey
- \$ 601 - Lifer
- \$ 5,000 - Benefactor
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