

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS

www.BodieFoundation.org

VOLUME III

SPRING 2011

NUMBER 1

Bodie Cemetery Gets New Life



Bodie's cemeteries overlook the townsite. The original cemetery was on waterlogged flatlands and was relocated to the present site in the 1870's. Professional conservators are straightening and restoring some of the grave markers.

By Donna Jones

At long last, the project to conserve grave markers in the Bodie cemeteries got underway in early September, 2010. Jablonski Building Conservation, an experienced and highly trained team of conservators, arrived to assess the various stone grave markers. By late October, a total of 28 stone grave markers were straightened, reset and conserved.

This company has worked in historic cemeteries across the USA and the conservators are formally trained in the science and art of stone conservation.

The conservators were surprised and delighted at the overall good condition of the surfaces of the stones. They commented that the carving still looked fresh and the stones

were all legible, whereas many of the stones in cemeteries in the eastern U.S. are illegible due to acid rain and biological growth. Bodie's climate has prevented damaging biological growth; many of the marble stones still have highly polished surfaces, more than a century after their placement.

Please see CEMETERY page 5

Mark Langner Retires



Mark Langner, the Supervising Ranger for both Bodie and Mono Lake is retiring effective May 31. Read more about Mark starting on Page 4.

Mars Rover Visits Mono Lake

By Dave Marquart

Mono Lake doesn't have a reputation for being a very ordinary lake, and that's exactly why its salty and alkaline waters, bizarre tufa towers, and other-worldly lakeshore environment has become a testing grounds for a Mars rover prototype named Pluto.

Pluto is similar in construction to Spirit and Opportunity, the two rovers presently on the surface of Mars.

Last fall, a team of twelve scientists from the Carnegie Institution of Washington, NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory "landed" at the shore of Mono Lake for five days of scientific experiments and testing.

The work focused on testing of a new robotic arm on



Paulo Younse from NASA's JPL Laboratory explains to Lee Vining students how the Mars rover works.

the rover that was fitted with a prototype tool for coring and caching (storing) rock samples.

Astrobiologist Pamela Conrad, the project's lead scientist, said, "The reason we want to do this experiment at Mono Lake is the similarity of the environment and its mineral complement to some of the potential landing sites that a 2018 Mars sample return mission may visit."

Scientists studying Mars speculate that the last surface water may have been located in closed, evaporating basins that may have had characteristics like Mono Lake.

One would think that conducting these experiments in a controlled environment at Mono Lake would be relatively easy but humans on earth have never found a way to control Mother Nature. As it turned out, the scientific team picked one of the wettest weeks of the year to conduct their tests and this rover cannot get wet.

If the rover, Pluto, cannot be taken to the field to sample bits of pumice and calcium carbonate, then the samples must be brought indoors to the

rover.

A flurry of phone calls between Conrad, State Parks, and Lee Vining High School took place early one morning, which led to the rover and its crew being invited into an empty classroom at the school so the team could conduct their experiments in a dry environment.

This turned out to be an unexpected bonus for the high school students. In return for having a dry place for the rover to do its maneuvers, the NASA team would demonstrate the rover at a school assembly.

News of the presence of a Mars rover at the high school quickly spread to the elementary school where teachers begged for the opportunity to bring their kids to see it perform.

One might think that a bunch of astrobiologists, mechanical engineers, and rocket scientists may not have the best social skills to make an event like this interesting for kids, but the team dazzled the students with a school assembly like no other!

The team ran the rover through the motions with several small groups of youngsters.

Please see ROVER page 6

Bodie Foundation News

by Brad Sturdivant

For our members, donors, and business associates, I'm taking this opportunity to thank you for helping the Bodie Foundation through 2010 and into 2011.

We started the year in a rush to bring us up to speed with State Parks, get the gates open to Bodie and the doors open to the Bodie Museum. From past experience we knew if we could accomplish these things, we would be fine.

Now we are preparing for our second year as the Cooperating Association for the three Sierra district parks - Bodie, Grover Hot Springs and Mono Lake.

First up, wait for the snow to melt at Bodie. As of this writing (mid-April), there is still some snow on the ground.

We are concerned about gas prices, the economy and the State budget, especially on its impact to State Parks.

We will have to wait and see how things play out, but we are all assuming that our parks will remain open and have not heard anything to the contrary.

The Foundation is planning to open a visitor center at Grover Hot Springs. This was on our list last spring. We discovered early on that time and available help is limited, but State Parks provided a sales office and we expect to open the visitor center in May. Stop by to see it and have a soak while you're there!

The Bodie Foundation website has been redesigned and expanded. The URL remains www.BodieFoundation.org.

Please see FOUNDATION page 6

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MONO LAKE
&
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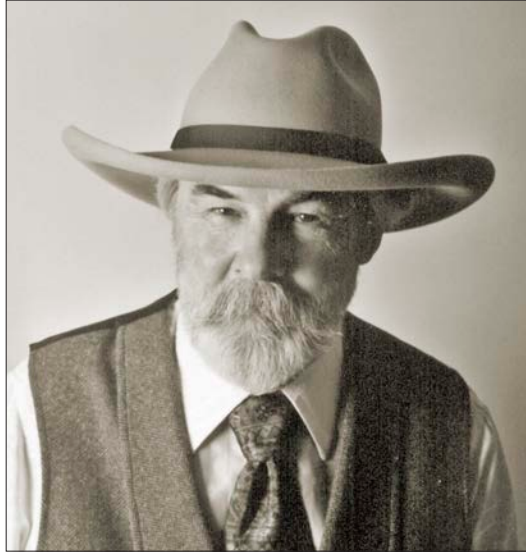
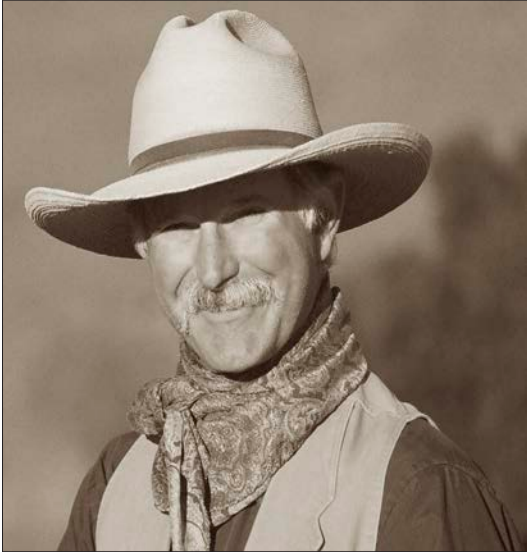
Marty Cole, Donna Jones and Roger Vargo, Contributing Photographers

Comments, stories and photographs are welcome. Please email to: info@BodieFoundation.org.

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July 16, 2011

Benefit Concert for Stabilization



Dave Stamey (left) and Professor David E. Bourne (right) and are the two featured performers for the Bodie Foundation's first benefit concert, July 16 in Bridgeport. The concert is reminiscent of those held in nineteenth century Bodie.

DAVE STAMEY AND PROFESSOR DAVID E. BOURNE HEADLINE THE BODIE FOUNDATION'S FIRST BENEFIT CONCERT, SATURDAY JULY 16.

Most concerts try to raise the roof. The Bodie Foundation's first benefit concert tries to literally save the roof. The concert, reminiscent of those long ago in Bodie, will be held at the Bridgeport Ranch Barn & Terrace, 68 Twin Lakes Road, Bridgeport. The evening begins at 7 p.m. and lasts approximately three hours.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased on the Bodie Foundation website (www.BodieFoundation.org) or in person at Bodie State Historic Park. A no host bar and finger food will be available for sale.

Dave Stamey, is our first featured entertainer. *Cowboys and Indians Magazine* has called him "the Charley Russell of Western Music". *Western Horseman Magazine* has declared his "Vaquero Song" to be one of the greatest Western songs of all time.

In addition to being an accomplished musician, Dave has been a cowboy, a mule packer and a dude wrangler.

Dave has delighted

audiences in twenty states, and finds that he prefers this to being stomped by angry horses.

Dave Bourne, our other featured entertainer, has been playing piano professionally since his first job in the Calico Saloon at Knott's Berry Farm in 1958. He is a graduate of USC with a degree in music education.

He has released three albums playing cornet with his own "Dawn of the Century Ragtime Orchestra" and three cassettes and one CD playing guitar with his own western singing group, the *Lobo Rangers*.

Dave is probably best known for his five solo *Saloon Piano* CD's.

Dave's saloon piano music

was used extensively in the HBO series "Deadwood" where he was also the piano player in the Gem Saloon.

He is a member of the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association, the Single Action Shooting Society and the California Desperados.

A good selection of music from both Daves is available on the Bodie Foundation website and in the Bodie Museum store.

Please visit Dave Stamey's (www.DaveStamey.com) and David Bourne's (www.SaloonPiano.com) websites for their complete music catalogs.

The Bodie Foundation is thrilled to have these two top-notch gentlemen performing. Get your tickets early, as we expect a sellout!



All proceeds from the concert will go directly toward stabilization projects at Bodie. These projects include:

Stabilizing the Lester Bell house and garage (the garage with the incredibly zwieback roofline which is ready to collapse).

Re-roofing several residences used as staff housing to stop (multiple) leaks.

Re-erecting and stabilizing the Bodie Railroad water tower on top of the ridge (blown over in winter 2006 by 190 mph winds).

Stabilizing and renovating the railroad office on the ridge.

A Ranger's Life in Bodie

LANGNER, from page 1

Mark Langner, Supervising Ranger (for Bodie SHP and Mono Lake) has announced his retirement effective May 31, 2011. We bid Mark a "hail and farewell!" as he and wife Lynn grab their backpacks and hiking shoes to head off in search of purple mountains majesty.



Mark dispenses ice cream at Jaclynn Workman's going away party. One of Mark's unofficial duties as Supervising Ranger was staff social director. He organized arrival and departure parties, full moon pie hikes to Bodie Bluff, zombie movie nights and Frisbee golf tournaments.



Mark's replacement is Tom Gunther, who was formerly stationed at Red Rock Canyon State Park (near Mojave). Tom comes to Bodie with a menagerie in tow - five dogs and two cats.

A Ranger's Life

by Mark Langner

Being a ranger at Bodie provides one with the opportunity to experience some interesting encounters with nature – human or otherwise. Mark Langner, Supervising Ranger at Bodie, has some interesting stories and events that he has dealt with during his 13 year tenure in Bodie. As he prepares to retire, we wanted to capture some of these stories and share them. Here are some memories from Mark in his own words. Enjoy. ...Ed.

A really nice thing about working at Bodie is that you never know what to expect when starting each day.

A good mix of first-aid calls, chatting with the public, some resource management, maybe a little law enforcement all keep it interesting for a ranger.

Every once in awhile an oddball

Please see RANGER page 8



Mark Langner patrols Main Street in Bodie. His official duties include supervising both Bodie and Mono Lake.



Mark dances in the street with his wife Lynn (left) during a Friends of Bodie Day and cuts the rug in the IOOF with Ed Allen and Terri Geissinger during a staff reunion celebration.

Prop 84 Funds Cemetery Conservation

CEMETERY, from page 1

The conservation process was fascinating to watch, with many discoveries along the way.

Iron pins that once held the stones together had rusted and split some of the stones. This wasn't a surprise, but removing them was a slow process, with gentle methods to avoid further splitting the stones and meticulous work with dental picks to remove debris in the holes.

After removing stains and realigning parts, special grouts, mortars, adhesives and small tools were used for patching and filling small cracks that all but disappeared when completed.

Replacing the rusting, expanding iron pins with more stable stainless steel, and filling the tiny cracks and large losses to prevent the freeze-thaw cycle from continuing to shatter the markers, will help preserve these markers for many more years.

Discovering the partial remains of a brick wall around the Annie C. Fouke marker was a surprise and led to a different final appearance for the plot.

The Fouke marker is one of two very unusual stone monuments, carved to resemble natural rock outcroppings. The Perry marker is the second, and both were made circa 1896.

So far, no one has claimed to have seen a similar style in any other cemeteries. Both the Fouke and Perry monuments are single, massive stones, unlike the more typical stack of several blocks with smooth sides.

The unusual shape and size made resetting the Fouke stone, which had tilted, silted in and sunk in about six inches, a bit more challenging.

A badly fragmented grave marker for ... G. Stebbins spent



Jennifer Kearney, Helen Haney-Thomas and Rebecca Brown reset Annie C. Fouke's grave marker (top). Small cracks in the mid-base of the L.H. Arrild monument are carefully refilled (bottom).

many years propped up on the ground in the Masonic section.

Two small fragments had been carefully curated and stored. They've now been successfully reassembled with the other three, larger parts on their original base.

A large missing area will be replaced next year; a marble sculptor will carve a near-match fragment, to restore the name to "Solomon G. Stebbins". For the first time in several decades, it is once again upright.

Extensive soil erosion and intrusion of plants shifted many grave markers out of their original positions. Sage trunks four to five inches in diameter had managed to slowly push several markers out of plane. Others were sitting loosely on

the surface.

Additionally, paths that cut across graves have accelerated the loss of soil. Redirecting those paths will be part a future phase of this project.

A cemetery management plan is being finalized that will help guide future decisions about many issues, including the collapsed and deteriorated wooden fences.

There were many more grave markers righted, reset and repaired, too many to mention in this article. Another 22 await restoration. Much work remains to be done, and we are planning now to continue it in 2011.

On your next visit to Bodie, please take the time to visit the cemeteries again. I hope that the changes will be obvious



but subtle; we hope especially that the families will be pleased about the care provided for the resting places of their loved ones. A "thank you" to California voters who passed Proposition 84 a few years ago. Those bond funds have allowed this long overdue work to be done.

Donna Jones is a retired State parks ranger.

Foundation News

FOUNDATION, from page 2

The site will continue to mature and implement new features, so check back often.

Grover Hot Springs and Mono Lake will soon have new websites as well; www.VisitMonoLake.org and www.VisitGroverHotSprings.org. They can also be reached from links on our main Foundation website as well.

These sites should be up by the time you receive your newsletter.

A new microbe was discovered at Mono Lake this past year, causing a stir in the scientific community.

Also, we are thankful for a sizeable contribution that was made to help keep the State Tufa Reserve open and operating.

We received funding in the form of grants from Proposition 84 and from private donors to continue work on the Bodie Cemetery Project and begin work on the Railroad Office (train station).

This year we will see the return of the "Dogs of Bodie." The Institute of Canine Forensics (ICF) will return this summer to locate unmarked gravesites in the cemetery.

Work will begin on the Railroad Office clean up project. A draft of the Historic Building Survey Report (HSR) was completed in April, 2011. It will guide in preserving the building.

The Bodie Foundation has entered into an agreement with the production company Camera One to produce a new DVD/video on Bodie State Historic Park. Filming will begin this coming summer.

The Bodie Foundation's first venture into funding stabilization of buildings begins this year. This will be an on-going program to keep Bodie

standing.

There is a Benefit Concert (see page 3) held in Bridgeport on July 16 to help us kick off this very important aspect of Bodie preservation. Please try to join us.

Finally, we will be saying good-bye to retiring Supervising Ranger Mark Langner and his wife, Lynn Inouye. Lynn worked in Bodie archives accessioning thousands of artifacts (see page 7) in her tenure. They will be missed.

Tom Gunther arrived in February to take over as the new Supervising Ranger. Brenda Hemond arrived earlier in 2010 and has taken over as the Alpine/Mono Maintenance Supervisor.

Thank you again for all of your efforts. We look forward to seeing you this summer, perhaps at the concert in July or annual Friends of Bodie Day this coming August.

Brad Sturdivant is President of the Bodie Foundation.

NASA Team Visits Mono Lake

ROVER, from page 2



Representatives from NASA, Carnegie Institute, the media, and California State Parks pose with "Pluto," a Mars rover prototype conducting tests at Mono Lake.

They also addressed a larger assembly about what it takes to become an astrobiologist for NASA or a mechanical engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The team of scientists reminded the students that they are fortunate to live in the Mono Basin, a place where visitors and scientists come from all over the world to experience and study a

unique environment.

The greater theme of the presentation, though, was that *anyone* can realize their dreams if you work hard, go to college, and set your sights high. The sky is not necessarily the limit!

Dave Marquart is a Park Interpretive Specialist, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve.

Bodie Fun Fact Quiz

One of the frequently asked questions at the park is "Why is there sooo much stuff left in these buildings?"



See page 9 for the answer.



The Keeper of Bodie's Attic

By Dave James

ARTIFACT; ahr-tuh-fakt:

a handmade object, as a tool, or the remains of one, as a shard of pottery, characteristic of an earlier time or cultural stage, especially such an object found at an archaeological excavation /historical site

ACCESSION; ak-sesh-uhn

to acquire and make a record of (an object) , especially for a permanent collection

Do you ever wonder what is done with all the artifacts at Bodie? I spoke recently with Lynn Inouye, who has the task of cataloging (accessioning)

artifacts in Bodie – from toy marbles to ore carts – and everything in between.

The process is pretty straightforward. A detailed description of the item is created, including the condition and listing of all pieces/components. Several digital photos are taken.

Lynn sometimes references a Sears & Roebuck catalog from the 1890's in case she doesn't know what she is cataloging. She also uses the internet and often asks other staffers if they know what the item is.

The maintenance team and some of the, er, more wizened staffers are the ones most likely to know what an item is, thereby saving investigating time.

Multiple state forms are required for each item, which

is standard operating procedure when dealing with a government agency.

Accessioning is done as a means of organizing and inventorying items – to know what you have and its condition.

All information collected, including pictures, are input into a statewide database for internal use only – simply referred to as “the museum system”.

There is some limited public access of edited information, but Bodie artifacts, however, are not accessible as a security precaution.

Most items being cataloged are from structures that are undergoing some sort of stabilization.

Lynn has cataloged several thousand items in her 12 year tenure and reminded me that there are several more thousand artifacts waiting to be cataloged – a never-ending task.

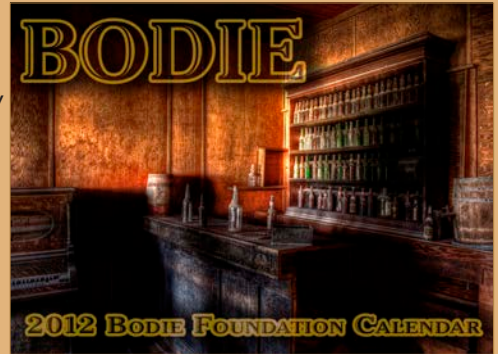
Think of someone doing this process for *everything* in your own household and you'll better understand the magnitude of this daunting task.

I asked Lynn what her favorite item was and she quickly responded with two.

The first was a walking cane with a note attached that had been donated from a private collection. The note explained that the cane was made from 52 decks of playing cards by a prisoner at the Bodie jail.

Bodie 2012 Calendar

Help support the Bodie Foundation by purchasing a 2012 calendar (\$11.95) when you visit Bodie or from our online store.



The second item was a collection of dishes donated to the park that were hand painted by Ann Donnelly, a past resident of Bodie. This is an interesting coincidence as Lynn and husband Mark live in the Donnelly house.

Editor's note: Lynn's husband Mark Langner is retiring Memorial Day, so they will be moving from the park soon. We want to take this opportunity to thank Lynn for her years of dedicated service to the preservation of many thousands of Bodie's artifacts.

Without people like Lynn who tackled this task head-on, these artifacts may have been lost forever. Thank you Lynn for preserving our history, one artifact at a time.

Dave James is a director of the Bodie Foundation.

More New Faces in Bodie

Also new to Bodie is Brenda Hemond, Alpine/Mono maintenance supervisor. She replaces Chuck Fell, who retired last year.

Jeanne Sisson, the supervising ranger at Grover Hot Springs, has assumed the duties of Alpine/Mono Sector Superintendent replacing Matt Green, who transferred to a sector job on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada.



Lynn Inouye (Mark's Langner's wife and Bodie archivist) risks udder embarrassment as she poses between Terri and Mitch Geissinger after a Friends of Bodie Day event.

Ranger's Life is Full of Surprises

RANGER, from page 4

event shakes up the day and makes it especially eventful.

THEY HAPPEN IN SUMMER...

"There is a deer running around in the O'Brian warehouse," reported a concerned visitor.

The warehouse is located in the field next to the main parking lot, by the outhouse.

Since there hasn't been deer in this building before, it didn't seem too likely to contain one now. But a ranger's duty is to check all reports and sure enough, there was a deer – a rather grumpy one with sharp hooves and mean looking antlers - in the basement.

The basement had no existing stairway so the animal must have fallen through the 'floor' or jumped in through an opening. It appeared uninjured but was unable to get out of the steep walled basement. Getting a deer into a basement would be a chore, getting one out even more so.

An impromptu plank ramp was placed with the wishful thought that the deer would just walk out. No dice - the deer would have nothing to do with that.

Staff was lacking a willingness to enter the confined space to coax the increasingly agitated critter up and out.

Roping the deer seemed like a cool 'John Wayne' sort of thing to do, but being on the opposing end of the line with a feisty beast didn't seem like great fun so that idea was scrapped.

A big and heavy metal side door, blocked from opening by a ton of rocks, looked like the only promising escape route.

This experience proved to be a graphic example of exactly how much time and work it takes to move that much rock. It gives one a new appreciation of the miner's lifestyle where that sort of activity was a daily chore.

We got the door pried open just enough for the adrenaline pumped deer to hammer his way through the doorway, nearly bowling us over in the process. He bounded off up the hill and into the sage, looking little worse for wear.

The on-lookers appreciated the effort, but none were willing to disturb their vacation by helping move the rocks back.

"There is an old lady stuck in the bathroom."

Ok, this one could be serious. Arriving at the parking lot restroom, I met a concerned daughter, her husband (who was trying to look as concerned as possible while at the same time being highly amused) and two young children who where thinking that their eighty year old grandma being stuck in the bathroom is a very funny thing.

Granny didn't speak English but her daughter said that she was fine, just couldn't get the door opened and was a bit panicked.

I first checked to see if the door would open – it did not; my key didn't work either. I was on the spot; a large crowd was politely watching the spectacle from the distance. A ranger needs to act and act quickly.

I told the daughter to tell her mother to stand back and cover her face. I figured I'd crash through the door in like they do on cop shows on TV but I didn't want to use my shoulder since it

Dates to Remember



PHOTOGRAPHER'S DAYS — Third Saturday of each month (June-October)-Photographers' Days. Advance reservations required

JUNE 17-19 — Mono Lake Bird Chautaugua

JULY 4 — Independence Day celebration in Bridgeport (parade, booths). Check website for expanded intrepritive schdeule at Bodie

JULY 16 — Bodie Benefit Concert in Bridgeport (see P3)

AUGUST 13 — Friends of Bodie Day: "Livin' in the Past Lane"

SEPT. 24-25 — Heritage Tour (see website)

was a heavy door and I like my shoulder. Instead, I got on my back on the ground in front of the door.

I gave a mighty two-footed kick and the door slammed open, door frame pieces spraying in every direction – it was way better than in the movies!

Grannie, unhurt but a bit startled, bounded off up the hill and into the sage, looking little worse for the wear – not really... she ran out of the restroom into her daughter's arms.

The kids danced around her laughing and screaming in delight. The crowd politely clapped. The door and frame were a complete loss and one precious restroom was out of commission temporarily.

IT HAPPENS IN WINTER TOO...

"Our RV is stuck on Bodie Road," said the young man to me this past winter.

This shouldn't have been possible – the road was closed due to snow, lots of snow.

I wondered - how *closed* was the road? There was a 'closed' sign on the highway, there was a barricade with another closed sign, and locked gate across Bodie Road, there was a sign saying it is dangerous to drive on the road in winter (as does the park telephone message).

None of that seemed to register with this French visitor in a rented RV, wife and infant onboard.

He drove past where my
Please see RANGER page 9

Frozen French Skiers Find Shelter

RANGER, from page 8

patrol truck was parked and partly blocking the road, he drove past where all the other park vehicles were parked, then he drove onto the snow where only sno-mobile and sno-cats should dwell.

Remarkably, he made it to within about a mile and a half of the park by driving on snow that was frozen rock-hard. And then the RV became fully, completely and hopelessly stuck - up to the axles stuck - right in the middle of the road.

The man walked to Bodie for help. I responded with the sno-cat and was able to confirm his assessment - he was *way* stuck. Since he was blocking the road - our emergency access - the only way to pull him was backwards. This succeeded in getting him out of the middle of the road but didn't help his predicament at all. Still stuck.

Night was approaching. He said that his family would spend the night in the RV (they had been camping in the cold for a month and were used to it) and try to exit in the morning.

His wife, whose birthday was that day, did not say a word - just glared at him - I'd guess driving on the closed road was likely his idea - and his alone.

They were still stuck the next morning and with a storm approaching, Mono Ranger Jim Pence transported the family to a hotel in Lee Vining where they remained safe, but in limbo, for several days.

Tow companies were not willing to risk their rigs to come rescue the stranded vehicle. The RV remained stuck for over a week. Not having been winterized, the prognoses for the survival of the water lines of the brand new vehicle were bleak.

The rental company

finally arranged for a front-end loader and tow truck to make a salvage attempt. Many hours, much plowing, and likely several thousand dollars later - the RV was dragged to terra firma. It was, at least, a memorable trip to Bodie for these folks.

I heard voices. So being a good ranger I went downstairs from my office in the red barn to investigate. Outside, I found, unbelievably, a group of French skiers. The weather was nasty and getting worse. I was as about as impressed with their navigation skills as I was distressed with their judgment in traveling here in the first place during this sort of weather.

As the storm was set to get worse, I suggested that they bug-out pronto if they wanted to make it to their vehicles before total darkness. They were dressed for the elements, had top-notch equipment, seemed to have advanced outdoor skills and should have been able to follow the GPS route back with relative ease.

They took off as the storm picked up. White-out conditions arrived within a couple of hours. I began to worry - what if these folks didn't make it back to their vehicle, what if they were stuck or lost or hurt?

I called all the motels in Bridgeport until I located where they were staying. Part of their group was at the motel. They said that they were smart enough to know not to try to make it to Bodie during such poor weather.

But, no, the other part of the group hadn't returned. Getting set to go to 'plan b' (which had yet to be developed), the weather cleared for a brief spell and I saw a man on skies in the middle of the park. I went out and chatted with him, recognizing him as the one I

spoke with earlier.

I learned they had become lost and were all huddled in a building up on the hill above town. They were all cold and frightened. He pointed up the hill toward the train office.

This was 180 degrees opposite from the direction they were supposed to travel; it seems that my confidence in their navigation skills was a tad misplaced.

I had him go retrieve the group. We put the eight visitors up in the Cody House for the night - it's a cozy place for two. We cooked them some soup and bread for dinner and brought over towels and blankets. They were happy and grateful. They didn't use the towels or blankets so it must have been a cold, aromatic night with them packed in like sardines.

In the morning when the storm cleared they skied off back towards their vehicle, this time actually going in the right direction. I had them call me when they arrived safely back in Bridgeport.

Two months later, when the snow had peeled back enough to poke around on Bodie Bluff, I noticed that someone had broken into the train office - the door was kicked in and the lock and hinges busted. Hmmm.

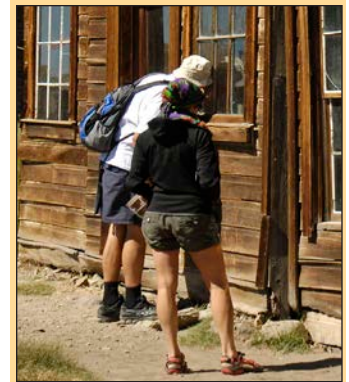
This apparently was a part of the story about the "group being in a building" that the leader had somehow failed to mention to me. Worse, a section of the historic oak flooring had been pulled up and broken off and stacked in a non-functional fireplace to try a start a fire.

The floor was ruined and the place could have burned down! Good clues to the identity of the vandals were the French credit card receipts that were used in the aborted attempt to

start the fire.

After learning about what this group had done to one of our buildings, I wished that I had accommodated them in the O'Brian Warehouse basement (perhaps with an agitated deer) instead of fixing them up in the Cody House.

Bodie Fun Fact Quiz Answer



It is largely a matter of money. People couldn't afford to move all of their belongings when they moved away from town.

Bodie's "boom years" were from approximately 1878 to 1882 and the population surged to almost 10,000.

Most of the mining operations proved to be poor producers. Dozens of mine operations closed one by one. The population began to dwindle to approximately 2000.

People packed up what they could and left for "greener pastures".

The cost of freighting all of their possessions from one remote area to possibly another remote mining town was cost prohibitive. Some did not even know where they would end up.

This is why you see so many interesting artifacts around town.



Bodie Foundation
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info@bodiefoundation.org



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

\$ 35 - Pay Dirt NAME: _____
 \$ 50 - Silver Vein ADDRESS: _____
 \$ 75 - Gold Mine _____
 \$ 100 - W. S. Bodey CITY: _____
 \$ 601 - Lifer STATE, ZIP: _____
 \$ 5,000 - Benefactor PHONE: (_____) _____
 \$ _____ - Other EMAIL: _____

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