

# 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)

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NUMBER 1

## *Bodie's Living Legend*

# Alice Dolan Celebrates Her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

by Terri Geissinger

We are sending out a Big Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to a very special lady and good friend, Alice Dolan. With two parties planned, she will be celebrating in both Bridgeport and in the Bay Area.

Up until the last few years, Alice has been spending her summers in Bridgeport (in the home her parents owned) and winters in Mill Valley, California. Enjoying the best of both worlds and weather was a tradition her mother, Cordelia, began long before Alice was born.

Alice grew up surrounded by families we recognize in the Mono County history books. Her relatives include the Hays/Hayes (both spellings), and Brandon families; very close friends were the Cain and Evans families. With deep roots in Bodie and Bridgeport, a remarkable ability to remember detail and a sharp eye (and tongue) to weed out myth and mistakes, Alice herself has become a living legend. It has been an honor and privilege to spend many days and nights with her through the years. I treasure the memories of us sitting together in her living room with tintype family albums and tattered letters of long ago, listening closely as she wove stories of the early days....

Alice was born in Bridgeport on September 10, 1913. Her parents, Cordelia (Hays) and James Dolan had

*Please see ALICE, page 6*



Teenager Alice Dolan poses with a velocipede or penny-farthing bicycle (top). As a toddler, she is photographed with a pet dog in Aurora, Nevada (bottom, right). Alice was Grand Marshall of the Friends of Bodie Day parade in 2008.



## *Expect the Unexpected*

# Grover Lifeguards Work Hard to Keep Visitors Safe



By Linda Frost, Alpine/Mono Office Assistant  
(and former lifeguard)

*(Editors note: Please enjoy this tongue-in-cheek article from a somewhat subjective viewpoint of a former Grover Hot Springs lifeguard.)*

The lifeguards at Grover Hot Springs often hear comments such as "I wish I had your job!", "Don't work too hard!", "What a way to make a living!" or, "You get paid to do this?" This usually occurs on that rare day when the weather and the visitors allow them to go about their business in a serene fashion. It's not as easy as you think. Grover

guards deal with a plethora of difficulties including crowds, frightful weather, stressful working conditions and ghosts!

To become a Lifeguard you must first become certified. This involves many hours spent in a cold, Olympic-sized pool, usually in the freezing months of early spring practicing CPR, first aid, water rescues, treading water while holding a ten-pound brick, swimming laps and pulling a large person out of the pool over and over again. At the end of the day, exhausted, you walk back to your car with frozen hair. You probably will develop a

*Please see LIFEGUARD, page 5*

# The Grebes' *Stealthy* Migration

by Dave Marquart,  
Senior Park Aide at Mono Lake

Mono Lake received more than a quarter million visitors last year but the number of humans pale in comparison to the nearly 2 million avian visitors to the lake each year. The largest number of any



Eared Grebes love Mono Lake. They go out of their flight path migrating south to take advantage of Mono Lake's bountiful food and to feel safe from predators.

## THE BODIE TIMES

THE NEWS OF BODIE,  
MONO LAKE

&

GROVER HOT SPRINGS

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

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bird species to visit the lake is the eared grebe with over 1 million each year. Yet in the 30 years I've worked at the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve, I've never spoken with anyone who's seen a flock come or go. They only arrive and leave at night.

How they time it so they arrive here before it gets light is one of several behavioral mysteries surrounding this bird. About ten to twenty thousand grebes arrive most nights beginning in mid to late August with their population peaking in October. An aerial census in October 1996 showed a count of 1.8 million of them!

Grebes, along with phalaropes, gulls and shorebirds are here to feast on the all-you-can-eat buffet of brine shrimp and alkali flies inhabiting the lake and its shoreline Spring through Fall.

Mono Lake is more  
*Please see GREBE, page 4*

## Bodie Foundation News Briefs

### 2014 Calendar Contest Winners!

We were flooded with more than 350 submissions for the 2014 calendar contest. Thanks to all who submitted entries – you made our job tough.

If your entry was not chosen, we may choose to use it on our website or in future newsletters. Check our website periodically for photo updates.

### The winners are:

Leslie Booker • Gigi Dean • Jeff Dean • Bert Dennison • Janelle DeRuosi • Jordan Fenwick • Franka Gabler • James Haverstock • Leslie Hibbert • Laura DeSimone • Raymond Jabola • Thomas Kelsey • Max Lauee • Greg Lugo • Doug Santo.

Each winner will receive free calendars for their winning shot.

### Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

The 12th annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua event is being held June 14-16, 2013.

Please visit [www.birdchautauqua.org](http://www.birdchautauqua.org) for more

info on this wonderful event.

### Private Tours Available

These tours can be for any groups; friends/family, private parties, business associates/co-workers; schools, church or social groups. There is also a 4WD Heritage Tour led by the very able Terri Geissinger. This is a two-day event, September 14 & 15, 2013. Please refer to our website at [www.bodiefoundation.org](http://www.bodiefoundation.org) for more information. You can also contact our business office at 760-647-6564.

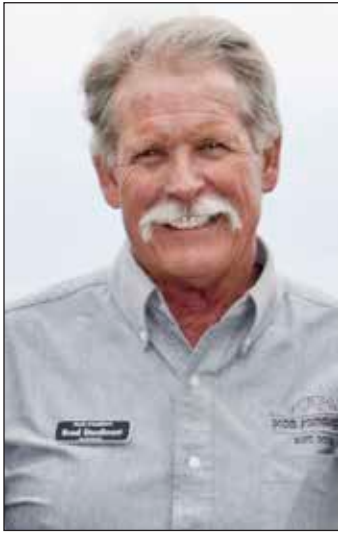
### Calling all runners!

As President Brad Sturdivant mentions in his article, the Bodie Foundation is planning on a 5K "Run for the Railroad" event in the summer of 2014. This high altitude fund raising event will be held at Bodie with all proceeds going toward the refurbishment of the foundation for the Bodie Railroad Office. Once this building has been stabilized with a new foundation, other work on the main floor can be done. Start training now for this great upcoming event. Our website will contain more info once dates are set.



"Distant Town with Dark Clouds" by Bert Dennison is one of the images selected to appear in the Bodie Foundation's 2014 calendar.

## Bodie Foundation President's Message



Brad Sturdivant, Bodie Foundation President

**2012** has been a very busy year for the Foundation. I wrote down our accomplishments and reviewed them during a recent Board of Trustees meeting. After noting 15 items, others reminded me of things I missed noting – meaning the year was even busier than I first thought.

We started off the year hiring a new Business Manager. A short bio on Dani Williams appeared in the Fall 2012 issue of *The Bodie Times*.

### 2012 achievements included:

- Hired two employees to run the Visitor Center at Grover Hot Springs State Park.
- Began a fee program at Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve to help keep the Reserve open, staffed, and operating. State Parks will be taking over this program in 2013.
- The Bodie Foundation received the Andrea Lawrence Award for our efforts at Mono Lake. This was featured in the

Spring, 2012 issue of *The Bodie Times*.

- Received a State Assembly Resolution for our efforts at Mono Lake.
- A State Senate Resolution was awarded at our annual Friends of Day event for Bodie's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and our continued support of Bodie. Please see the Fall 2012 issue of *The Bodie Times*.
- Photography workshops took off with a full schedule from May through early October. Net receipts surpassing \$12,000 went to the Bodie Stabilization Project.
- Set in motion our first efforts toward a formalized Planned Giving Program. More to come on this in 2013.
- Received donations totaling \$8,600.00 specifically for the Bodie Stabilization Project. Our thanks to Greg & Marsha Bock, who contributed \$6,200 to fund the rebuild of the Miller House chimney.
- The Bodie Foundation began working with State Parks and the Friends of the Bodie Railway & Lumber Company (a 501(c) 3 non – profit) to help fund interpretive activities at the historic Railroad Office.
- We have made progress on shooting a new DVD for Bodie. Please see the teaser of Camera One's work on our website at: [www.bodiefoundation.org/bodie-videos/](http://www.bodiefoundation.org/bodie-videos/).

The sequel "The Dogs of Bodie" returned in the fall of 2012...or would that be the "Return of the Dogs of Bodie" or maybe "Dogs III"? This program actually started the Bodie Cemetery Project in 2007. In 2012, we were able to further identify the extent of several locations. One was Boot Hill, the cemetery located around the site of the old hospital.

We also located additional areas inside the fence of the current cemetery and a cemetery on Bodie Bluff.

Don't forget to visit our website at [www.bodiefoundation.org](http://www.bodiefoundation.org). Over the past few years, our website has been a bit of a struggle. To that end, we have retained Nils Davis Designs out of Bishop, California, as our website designer. Mark Pupich, one of our Board members, is maintaining it and keeping it up to date.

### We have one main goal for 2013: *Fundraising*

This effort will revolve around two prioritized projects:

1. A new foundation for the historic Railroad Office on the ridge above town.
2. Continuing the Bodie Cemetery Project, or "Dogs IV." We hope to identify the size and exact location of the historic Chinese cemetery.

Both projects are part of the Bodie Stabilization Project, which debuted in the summer of 2011, and will require ongoing funding. They are on our website [www.bodiefoundation.org](http://www.bodiefoundation.org). Please take a look to see how you can help. Fundraising plans include:

- A July 6, 2013 Bodie Benefit Concert, featuring

David John and The Comstock Cowboys.

- A new tour: *Mines, Mills, Rails, & Ruins*. This tour will take you into "secret" areas of Bodie.
- New sales items: these will be featured online and at the Bodie Museum.
- The annual Friends of Bodie Day event on August 10, 2013.
- Photography workshops.

Returning are the Twilight town tours and Terri Geissing. Terri will do some promotional activities and provide interpretation, to include a 4x4 driving tour to other local historic sites and mining camps. One is scheduled for September 14–15, 2013.

In 2014, we are planning a "Run for the Railroad." This will be a high altitude 5K run to raise funds for the Railroad Office foundation.

Contact us for further information on events, tours, talks and schedules at [www.bodiefoundation.org](http://www.bodiefoundation.org) or (760) 647-6564.

Would you, our membership, help with \$25.00 to ensure we get off to a good start? Make sure you state specifically which project you would like to support.

I offer my thanks to our Board of Trustees and California State Parks. This has been a difficult time for the dedicated State Park employees.

A special thanks to Laird Hendricks, (hoping you are doing well), Greg and Marsha Bock, John Pinckney and our core of photo workshop leaders, for their patience and contributions to the cause.

*Please see MESSAGE, page 5*

## BODIE FOUNDATION MOURNS Rod Duff 1934-2013

Rod Duff, a long time senior park aide in Bodie, passed away on March 30, 2013. He was 77 years old.

Rod was as colorful as his bright red miner's shirt and white beard. A larger tribute to Rod will appear in the Fall, 2013 Bodie Times, as several "Rod stories" will be collected from those he worked with at Bodie... and there are plenty of stories to be told.

Rod lived a full life that included wildland firefighting (including being on the team of the Oak Grove Hotshots) for the USFS and CDF, working as a Disney Imagineer, owning an animation company and serving as an interpretive senior park aid at Bodie State Park after his retirement. He was a 19th century mining and railroading expert, a lifetime Land Rover enthusiast, a model railroader and a member of the Bodie Chapter of E Clampus Vitas.

Rod, we already miss you. We'll take good care of the Dodge Graham for you. Rest in peace, our dear friend.



Rod was a popular figure at Friends of Bodie Day events portraying a wide variety of characters.



## Mono Lake is a Grebe Motel and Diner

*GREBE, from page 2*

important to eared grebes than any other lake in the world and holds North America's largest population.

The lake is not necessarily on a direct route from their breeding grounds in Canada and the northern U.S. to their wintering grounds at the Salton Sea and the Gulf of California.

They make it a point to travel here from all over North America. "It's a molt migration," says Joseph Jehl, a biologist who's studied these birds for much of his life. "They need a safe place,

free from predators and adverse conditions, with lots of food since while they molt they are unable to fly."

They more than double their weight while feeding on the lake to prepare them for another several hundred-mile journey to the south.

Imagine traveling to Mono Lake for several weeks of vacation and doubling your weight! Stranger yet, when they begin to head southward in late October and November, some will have gained too much

weight to lift off the lake so will need to fast before they can leave. They also must rigorously "work out" on the lake building up their flight muscles that have atrophied during their lake-bound weeks so they can become airborne.

Another oddity about these birds is that they cannot walk. Their legs have evolved for swimming and diving, not for walking. Even if they were to land on solid ground by mistake they would die there being unable to take off from solid ground. These birds must get a running

start on a runway of water in order to take to flight. They're not always successful finding a water surface to land on.

Grebes have been known to mistake wet highways for water during the night. This surely seals their fate unless passersby are willing to try to catch them and take them to the closest lake. This is not an uncommon occurrence in the Mono Basin.

As if not being suited for walking wasn't bad enough, eared

*Please see GREBE, page 9*

## Terri Returns to Bodie



We didn't think Terri could stay away too long. She is back and will be involved in the Foundation.

Terri will be leading special tours and a 4WD Heritage Tour this fall. It's great to have this special lady back "in the fold" again.

Terri also leads the Bodie Resident Research Project and looks forward helping people connect with their heritage.

## President's Message

MESSAGE, from page 2

I sign off with a heartfelt "Thank You" and hope you will continue to support the Bodie Foundation, our projects, programs and pledge to "Protect Bodie's Future by Preserving its Past."

I hope to see all 600+ of you sometime this summer, especially at the Friends of Bodie day event.

Take care,

Brad

## Lifeguards Keep Eyes Open

### Scan Water, Visitors Every 10 Sec.

LIFEGUARD, from page 1

sinus infection in time for your final exam when you will bust an eardrum going to the bottom of the 12-foot deep pool to rescue your instructor who is holding the 10-pound brick. At least you get to wear a *Speedo*.

More training is undertaken at Grover Hot Springs, including how to monitor pool chemicals, water levels, pH and temperatures.

Before the pool ever opens and long after it closes - in all kinds of weather - the lifeguards have to scrub and hose, clean toilets and showers, shovel snow, do the laundry, wash down all the decks, keep track of all the lost and found articles, log incidents and stats, deal with garbage and so on.

Ah, so finally the pool opens and the lifeguards can relax, right? No, they can't. A lifeguard is required to continually scan the pool making sure to observe the state of every visitor every 10 seconds every moment of the day (pool capacity is 75 people), regardless of the distractions of the phone, visitors' questions and complaints, ringing in pool fees and monitoring the capacity.

One of the most nightmarish parts of the job is when the pool is at capacity and having to deal with the line of people waiting to get in.

Many visitors consider it the guards' faults that they are standing outside the fence while their children are getting more squirmy and whiney by the moment. They complain loudly, make cutting remarks about your ability to count.

This line persists for the entire summer and almost every weekend the rest of the year.

The guards are under constant pressure to prevent accidents, perform rescues and administer first aid, which includes giving oxygen, taking blood pressure and reviving victims of heat exhaustion.

The guards are also expected to enforce pool rules. They must try to strike a delicate balance between exerting the right degree of authority to preserve a safe atmosphere and ensuring that the visitors still have a good time.

By the end of a long, hot summer you may find yourself turned into a bitter, angry misanthrope (*a person who dislikes other humans and human society - ed.*). This state of wretchedness often lasts until October, but I usually managed to stretch it out until Spring.

Ah, then there are the rewards that come from performing a successful rescue of a child from the jaws of death! That should bring some cheer to the daily grind...except when it doesn't.

Even when said rescued child did not manage to kick, punch or vomit on you, there are still the parents to deal with. The parents invariably are offended and/or insulted you had to rescue their child while they were oblivious to what was going on. They rarely thank you and are almost always angry and belligerent, often screaming at you. Then there is the paperwork to fill out...

### Expect the Unexpected

"Expect the Unexpected" could be the motto of the Grover guards. We recently dealt with a report that there was a dead woman in the Scossa Shack. This

## BODIE FUN FACT

**Did Bodie's mills produce gold and silver ingots??**

Please see page 9 for the answer.

structure is a creepy historical building near the pool complex. During its history, it has housed ranchers and seasonal employees, but is now a storage area.

All of Alpine County's resources turned out for this call. Police, Fire Department and our Park Ranger responded to what turned out to be just Annie, one of the Rescue Dummies.

She was in storage in the shack and was hanging partway out of her carrying case. I am reminded that to remain politically correct, we don't call them "Dummies" anymore. They are now referred to as "Artificial Americans". Sorry, Annie.

Another difficult aspect of being a Grover Guard is the sometimes-difficult working conditions. The Grover guard spends many hours a day in the lifeguard shack (a tiny, drafty, capsule apparently confiscated from the French Foreign Legion who, I assume, used it as a punishment cell before the Geneva Convention was ratified).

Oh, did I mention that the place is HAUNTED? The Grover Pool complex sits alone a good half-mile from the nearest human being and is surrounded

Please see GROVER, page 9

## Alice Dolan Celebrates Her Centennial



Alice Dolan (left) poses with former Bodieite siblings Elwood, Jack and Eleanor Brown in front of the Red Barn on Friends of Bodie Day, 2009.

### *ALICE, from page 1*

married the year before. Both were well known and highly respected citizens of Mono County.

James served as the County Sheriff, winning three consecutive elections beginning in 1906. Cordelia (Cordie) served twelve years as the Mono County Superintendent of Schools.

Cordie's mother, Alice Hays, was the first woman to serve as a Superintendent of Schools in the State of California from 1876 to 1878. Years later, Alice Hays served again as Superintendent and was on the Board of Education for forty years. These two women would have a powerful influence on young Alice.

The men in her life are no less impressive. Her father, James Dolan, was born in Michigan and raised in Bodie with eight siblings. He continued his education at the University of Reno. In addition to his notable

career in law enforcement, his accomplishments include professional assayer, gifted musician and avid outdoorsman. He also learned to fluently speak the Paiute language.

He met an untimely death

by the three suspects. This unfortunate episode is engraved on a monument which honors the site near Mono Lake. Jim Dolan's brother Albert, who at the time was serving as a Bodie Deputy, was appointed Sheriff.



This photo is from the 1920's, showing a young Alice near her family's home in Bridgeport.

on July 26, 1915. During an investigation of a horrendous crime against a Mono Basin girl, Sheriff Dolan was shot

'Bert' Dolan would spend the next 23 years in office.

Alice's maternal grandfather is Dave Hays,

a pioneer of Big Meadows (Bridgeport). His name is listed among the first white men to spend the winter in the valley.

Dave established a prominent general store and played a significant role in developing roads into the region, including Sonora Pass.

Dave's brother, Henry (Hank) Hays operated the toll station on the East Walker River, six miles east of Bridgeport. He lived on the site where a historical marker now stands. Alice relayed a family story that demonstrates her father's well known sense of humor. When Alice was born, her father claimed, "She looks like Old Hank, no hair, no teeth and big feet!"

After the tragic loss of her husband, Cordie found strength in family and friends. As a new widow with a two-year old daughter to support, Cordie resumed her teaching career in Aurora. She remained there for several years until the town fizzled. Keeping their Bridgeport home, Cordie packed up her

young daughter and mother (Alice Hays was now a widow)

*Please see ALICE, page 7*

# Conquering Bodie's Ore



The tube mill on its way to Bodie in 1904.

(Emil Billeb Collection, courtesy Vickie Daniels)

By Chris Spiller,  
Bodie SHP Senior Park Aide

If you stand near the edge of the road at the Bodie picnic area and look east, you will see a large iron tube atop a small ridge at the base of the hill. This immense "tube mill" was brought into Bodie in 1904 for use at the newly renovated Standard Consolidated Cyanide Plant.

Continue to study the area around the tube and you will spot a rock foundation. You are looking at the remains of the Standard Mining Company's cyanide plant. The building burned down in 1954, before Bodie became a state park.

Over 100 years ago, some of the Standard's most important work was conducted here. The renovations at the plant enabled the Standard to hang on financially by re-working old tailings.

Visitors cannot closely examine the tube mill as it is within an area closed due to unstable ground. However, the site is now a regular stop on the new Bodie Vista Tour offered on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. beginning in July. Check the museum for additional Vista Tours that may be scheduled other days also.

A tube mill, which is a device for fine grinding of already crushed ore, utilizes rocks or iron balls in the grinding of the material.

The changes wrought by the renovation of the plant and installation of the tube mill warranted the attention of the *Mining and Scientific Press*, a mining industry publication. The Standard was featured in a lengthy article on Sept. 23, 1905.

"The metallurgical treatment of ore at the mines of the Standard Con. Co. at Bodie has been materially changed within the past eight months and is now one of the most modern in California..." states the article.

Among the modern techniques listed are "crushing in cyanide solution, further crushing in tube mill and final treatment by the Moore process."

The Moore process was a vacuum pump with canvas filters that allowed treatment of tailings that had not responded well to earlier cyanide processes.

The article goes on to explain that "irregular pebbles" from Mono Lake were at first tried in the mill. "...but being irregular, they slide and will not roll, causing great wear on the (tube mill) liners. Hereafter Iceland flints now being shipped are to be used."

While the article hails the staff of the Standard for its innovative work, the months prior to the start up of the tube

mill and newly-renovated cyanide plant were full of difficulty. The Standard's Manager, Theodore Hoover, discussed the problems and humorous side effects of replacing the original lining of the tube mill in his "Memoranda: Being a Statement by an Engineer." The original lining of

the tube mill was composed of interlocking steel plates about 10 x 12 inches in area, by one inch thick. The plates had a life of four or five months but the plates would wear unevenly with plates dropping out of place frequently. A new lining was proposed and

*Please see MILL, page 8*

## ALICE – Bodie's Living History

*ALICE, from page 6*

and moved to Palo Alto and later San Francisco where she continued to teach. Young Alice would stay home with Grandma Hays during the day and enjoy evenings with her mother. Every summer was spent back 'home' in Bridgeport. This tradition is carried out to this day.

Alice grew up to be a very dignified, intelligent and independent woman. She graduated from Stanford University in 1934 and continued on to earn her Masters and teaching degrees. Jobs were hard to find during the depression and it was Ella Cain that prompted Alice to come teach in Bodie.

She stayed for two years and taught nine grades to nine pupils (enrollment fluctuated depending on weather and mining) in 1936-37. She moved on to Weaverville for a year and then to Germany where she taught school on an Army base.

Alice travelled extensively at this time of her life including

two trips to China. She settled down in Mill Valley and was a counselor and later Dean of Girls at Tamaulipas High School. She retired in 1969.

Not many folks get to enjoy retirement for over forty years! She keeps busy with her favorite hobbies, which include reading, traveling, historical research (authors and historians often call upon her experiences), hiking and enjoying the outdoors.

It was only a couple years ago that it was decided it was time to give up her driver's license (she would argue that she is perfectly capable). Alice is in good health and says she feels better now than ten years ago! Although she never married, she does have family that keeps an eye on her. They continue to bring her 'home' to Bridgeport every summer.

I believe that the term 'Living Legend' suits this Lady well. Happy Birthday Miss Alice...Cheers!

## Friends of Bodie Day is August 10



Save the date! Our annual Friends of Bodie Day is Saturday, August 10, 2013. Plan on joining us for a fun filled day followed by our members' dinner served by Albert's Meat Market and our traditional members-only evening program.



Look for a mailer and updated website in July with full details.

## Thanks, Huell, for Sharing the Gold

Huell Howser, a public TV travelogue host for decades in California passed away in January 2013 at the age of 67.

His flagship show, *California's Gold*, aired over 900 episodes for almost 25 years on public TV. He was known as a folksy, quirky interviewer who visited hundreds of locations across California. Huell often said that *California's Gold* was as much a reference to the people of California as the places he visited.

A few years ago, Huell donated his entire catalog of *California's Gold* and other programs to Chapman University in Orange,

California. All shows are available through the school's website.

Huell had done shows both at Mono Lake (1992 and 2008) and Bodie (1992). Enjoy this endearing man's work by visiting [www.HuellHowserarchive.com](http://www.HuellHowserarchive.com).

Once in this site, scroll down to the search box on the right column. Enter a keyword (i.e. "Mono Lake" or "Bodie") to select the specific episodes for viewing. The Bodie episode can also be found on our website at <http://www.bodiefoundation.org/bodie-videos/>.

Thank you for all the wonderful memories, Huell.

## Bodie's Stone-Ground Ore

MILL, from page 7

Theodore Hoover continues the story at this point:

"On the first of January 1905, the new plant was ready to start. The construction work had taken just six months, which at that time seemed to me just twice too long. Since then, further experience shows that it was remarkable short period for a work of that magnitude... the tube mill which we had installed for regrinding was also an innovation in America, being the first one installed outside

South Africa, for the purpose of grinding gold ores.

The manufacturers were Allis, Chalmers & Co., and they apparently had a very immature idea of what they were about. The liners would not stay in and it gave us endless trouble putting them back.

What was worse, this continuous coming out was damaging to the liners and we soon found ourselves, in midwinter, far from a railway with no tube mill lining.

We were forced to



The tube mill today (top). Icelandic flints still remain at the tube mill site (bottom).



for. There was froth everywhere, in all the vats and launders and on the floor knee deep, hip deep, chin deep. The men in the works look like a lot of water beetles engaged in curious evolutions."

make one of wood, but this soon wore out, and besides it introduced organic salts into the cyanide solution, which made a tremendous froth all over the place. The sight was comical enough to create amusement, in spite of the hard work and worry it was also responsible

Hoover concluded, "we finally solve the liner and froth problems by making a new lining out of old...Cornish pump (iron) rod straps. This entailed a lot of hard work on the part of the blacksmith, but was finally accomplished and was a complete success."



## Bodie Volunteer Mourned



Frank Hays

Frank Hays from Wooster, Ohio, passed away in January 2013. He was 82. Frank was an ex Marine and estate lawyer who loved reading and traveling. He was also an amateur photographer and a private pilot.

After his retirement, every summer for nine years, he would drive out to Bodie and be a volunteer docent. Frank would camp out of the back of his pickup for six weeks every summer until declining health would not allow him to continue. Frank was always

a welcomed addition to the volunteer family at Bodie. We shall miss his wonderful persona and gracefulness.

A humorous story that still lives on in Bodie involves Frank being trapped in an outhouse one summer afternoon. A bear scavenging in trash cans in the picnic area was between Frank's camp area and the outhouse he was in. After about 10 minutes of being sequestered and waiting for the bear to leave, Frank couldn't stand it any more. He kicked open the door, yelling and waving his hands over his head. The bear reacted as hoped for and scampered off into the hills, not to be seen again.

His wife Barbara, four sons and five grandchildren survive him.

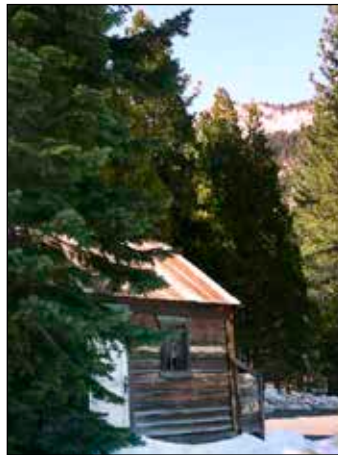
## Working at Grover Offers Challenges, Rewards

*GROVER, from page 5*

on all sides by towering cedars and volcanic cliffs. Almost every worker at the pool has reported unexplainable phenomena including hearing voices and seeing strange sights. Some have heard voices, others have heard drum beats, seeing a "Man in Brown" and swinging doors that opened themselves.

My personal favorite is a horrid, angry groaning right in your ear. This last one sent me screaming and flapping my arms half a mile down the road, abandoning my car, backpack and all else in my haste to blubber senselessly on the ranger's doorstep.

So, as you can see, the rewards of being a Grover Guard may not be serenity,



Scossa Cabin

ease, financial gain, sanity or job security, but there are certain things that do make the job bearable. There is the occasional visitor who shares a kind word of thanks and a pleasant demeanor, the lovely setting of the meadow and the mountains, and that rare

but appreciated day when the visitors are happy, the weather is spectacular and your leftover food did not turn green in the fridge overnight.

By the way, if you think you can handle this challenging job, we need you! Please feel free

to apply in person or by sending in a State Application (available at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)) to:

Grover Hot Springs State Park

Attn. Personnel

PO Box 188

Markleeville, CA 96120

## BODIE FUN FACT ANSWER FROM P 5

Yes, but they weren't pure gold or silver; they were typically blended ingots. Ore coming out of the mines contained both metals.

There were reasons the bars were mixed; the mills at Bodie didn't have the equipment to separate the two metals. Separation occurred once the bars reached a U. S. mint, where they were re-smelted (melted down to their liquid form) and then the metals separated. A variety of processes were used to do this; one included using a centrifuge and another used nitric acid. A second reason they were left in ingot form when shipped from the mill was that thieves were much less likely to attempt to steal them - they couldn't separate the metals either.

Each bar had to be assayed by a chemist to determine the value. Chemists had several processes they employed to accomplish the assay - fire processing, chemicals (usually iodine) and specific gravity (ratio of density of the metal vs. the density of water). Depending on the percentages of silver and gold, each bar had a different value, as there was a significant price difference between gold and silver - just as there is in today's economy.

## 1-Million Grebes at Mono Lake

*GREBE, from page 4*

grebes are not very coordinated in the air. In fact, in their great rush to take off after sunset to fly south, many birds collide with each other and cannot recover. They fall back into the lake and often wash up on shore dead with broken bills and bloody noses.

It is a spectacular sight to

see a million grebes on the surface of Mono Lake in September and October. It has been said that if the grebes on Mono Lake could support the weight of a human being, one could walk back to back on these birds from one side of the lake to the other. Visit Mono Lake in the fall sometime to see this spectacle for yourself.



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Photo, "Country Barn, Bodie" by Franka Gabler, will appear in the 2014 Bodie Foundation calendar.