

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS

www.BodieFoundation.org

VOLUME VI

SPRING 2014

NUMBER 1

Bodieite Remembered

Evelyn Helen Mary Scarlett

By Rachel Godfrey

My mother, Evelyn Helen Mary Scarlett, was born in Bodie, California on December 24, 1905 and named for the day on which she was born, Christmas 'Eve'. An Indian "squaw" delivered her at home because the local doctor was too drunk to be of any help. Bodie's population at that time was around 800. A contemporary report in the Chronicle-Union, a Bridgeport newspaper, states that Bodie "has good schools, and the purest water that springs naturally from the earth. It has 2 churches, a Catholic and Methodist Episcopal. Bodie people have the virtues of the west and few of its vices. They have no city government, yet the best order is maintained." Evelyn told how she and her brother York, who was born in 1907, used to ski to school.

How did this English woman come to be born in Bodie, you may wonder. Her father, John Edwin Scarlett, known as Jack, was born in Toronto, Canada and immigrated to California around the turn of the century. He held a couple of jobs in the automotive trade and then worked for a short while for a gas company in San Francisco. There he met his future wife, Annie Byner, who was a governess. Annie was born in Cranbrook, Kent, England and

Please see EVELYN, page 10

Park Fees Reduced

Entrance fees to Bodie State Historic Park have been reduced! Adults are now \$5 (was \$7) and kids (17 and under) are now \$3 (was \$5).

We hope to see you at the park multiple times in 2014!



Three-year-old Evelyn and family in front of the Standard offices where her dad worked in 1908.

So Long Sweetwater!

John Buie, better known as "Sweetwater" John, has worked both as a park aide and in the Bodie Museum. John has decided not to return to Bodie .

No doubt, if you visited Bodie in the last six years, you would remember meeting John. In fact, many visitors believed that John walked right out of the mines and into Bodie! He portrayed W. S. Bodey almost every FOB Day and certainly entertained the crowd with his (very) tall tales, charm and wit!

We want to thank Sweetwater for his dedication and service to Bodie State Park and Bodie Foundation. He promises to come back for visits and we will hold him to it!

We will miss you Sweetwater John!



"Sweetwater" John Buie kicks up his heels during Friends of Bodie Day 2010.

The Rocket of Mono Lake

By Dave James

During the late 1870's and into the early 1880's, Bodie was booming. There was a high demand for wood products; lumber for building, shoring for the mining operations and a huge demand for firewood.

Firewood was the primary source for heating homes and businesses. The mining industry was also heavily dependent on a cheap source of fuel to power their steam boilers used on hoisting works, stamp (quartz) mills and huge water pumps that removed water from lower sections of mineshafts. There

was a need for dozens of cords of wood daily in Bodie to supply the heavy demand.

Everyone, businesses and individuals alike, also had to stockpile vast amounts of firewood in the fall to see them through a Bodie winter, as it was sometimes impossible to bring wood into town during harsher winter conditions.

During the early years, lumber and firewood were freighted to Bodie from various sawmills and wood ranches throughout the region, such as G. L. Porter and Company. They operated a sawmill, two shingle

mills and a lumberyard south of Mono Lake. A small steamship was purchased by them and freighted in pieces to the shores of Mono Lake. It was named the *Rocket*. Once assembled, it measured 36 feet long by 10 feet wide. A barge (scow) was built and towed by the *Rocket* to carry wood products across Mono Lake to then be freighted into Bodie. Barging wood across the lake saved several hours of transportation time, making it financially viable.

Porter ran into financial difficulties in 1880. The business of supplying the precious



Although this is not the *Rocket* nor Mono Lake, this photo nonetheless gives you an idea of what the *Rocket* towing a barge (use your imagination here – the barge is stacked with railroad ties – wink wink) may have looked like.

THE BODIE TIMES	
THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE AND GROVER HOT SPRINGS	
<p>THE BODIE TIMES is the official publication of the Bodie Foundation, P. O. Box 278, Bridgeport CA 93517 (760) 647-6564</p> <p>Comments, stories and photographs are welcome. Please email to: DaveJ@BodieFoundation.org</p> <p>COPYRIGHT 2014 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED</p>	
<p>Brad Sturdivant</p> <hr/> <p>Danielle Williams</p> <hr/> <p>Dave James</p> <hr/> <p>Terri Geissinger</p> <hr/> <p>Explore Historic California</p> <hr/> <p>Gigi Dean, Terri Geissinger, Josh Grant, Dave James, Ellen Klinkel, Mark Pupich, Chris Spiller, Roger Vargo, Dani Williams</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>President</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Business Manager</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Editor</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bodie Historian & Guide</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Production & Design</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Contributing Photographers</i></p>

Bodie Foundation News Briefs

Bodie Foundation announces the 2015 Calendar Contest winners!

Thank you all who submitted entries – we had almost 400 photos to view. Remember, even if your entry was not chosen, we may use some on our website, in future newsletters or other Bodie Foundation materials. If we do so, photo credit will be given. The 16 winners are:

- Tanya Bunch
- Cat Connor
- Gigi Dean
- Jordan Fenwick
- Franka Gabler
- Jerome Gibson
- Josh Grant
- David Hayes Jr.
- Rice Jackson
- Dave James
- Ellen Klinkel
- David Safanda
- Doug Santo
- Jeff Sullivan
- Ryan Watamura
- Michelle Wilson

Each will receive a free calendar for their winning shot.

There were so many quality photos submitted, we decided to create a list of Honorable Mentions (kudos but no prizes involved). They are:

- Cat Connor
- Jeff Dean
- Jerome Gibson
- Alena Hagedon
- Dave James
- Thomas Kelsey
- Ellen Klinkel
- Jill Odice
- Doug Santo
- Jeff Sullivan
- Florene Trainor
- Michelle Wilson

See their work on our website at www.BodieFoundation.org

commodity of wood and lumber was a cutthroat business and the smaller suppliers were often forced out of business when bigger enterprises entered the picture and drove down the price of wood products (firewood in particular). Such was the case with Porter.

He sold off the steamer to James Cain, who was one of the principals for the newly formed Bodie Railroad and Lumber Company. The new company had acquired about 12,000 acres of timberland near Mono Craters and built a large sawmill.

Please see *ROCKET*, page 11

Please see *FOUNDATION* page 5

*President's Report***Year in Review**

By Brad Sturdevant,
Bodie Foundation President

By all accounts, 2013 was a successful year for the Bodie Foundation. There were Park leadership changes at Bodie, but a very harmonious relationship continues between the Foundation and State Parks.

We have been able to fund most all project and activity requests at all three parks – Bodie, Mono Lake and Grover Hot Springs - and have made considerable strides in raising funds for a few of our larger endeavors, which I will discuss in a minute.

The Foundation was pleased to see the return of funds for the Stamp Mill tours. This important income stream goes into our general fund. We also saw an increase in the number of photography workshops, which was one of our goals going into 2013.

A big “Thank You” to new workshop leaders for thinking of Bodie and Mono Lake and for those who have been with us for the past few years. Funds from photo workshops are used in the Bodie Stabilization Project.

New tours were started in 2013 and will continue into 2014. See article on page 4 for more info on these.

Our other big event for 2013 was a concert by David John and the Comstock Cowboys performed last July 4th weekend. Funds raised for this concert went towards the Bodie Railroad Office stabilization.

For the past two years, we have been raising funds for the stabilization of the Railroad Office (it needs a new foundation) and the Cemetery Projects. We have received many donations for both projects,

including a generous \$50,000 grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. We are well on our way to our goal of raising \$150,000 for the Railroad Office foundation with over \$100,000 in a restricted fund for this project.

In the past year, we have raised over \$20,000 for the Bodie Cemetery Project. We were able to bring back the “Dogs of Bodie” last September. Numerous unmarked gravesites were discovered in what we believe was the historic Chinese Cemetery, and we are pretty sure the “real” burial site of W.S. Bodey has been identified by the forensic dogs.

We launched a website supporting Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. You can visit it at www.visitMonoLake.com.

We started a chapter of the Bodie Foundation called the

Friends of Grover Hot Springs. We have approximately 60 members to help support our efforts for this park. A website is also being designed for Grover Hot Springs.

Dr. Robin DeRosa of Plymouth State University in New Hampshire spent last July in Bodie, researching and interviewing for a new booklet she wrote called “The Women of Bodie”, which she is donating to the Foundation for sale. We thank Dr. DeRosa for her generosity. The booklet is available in the museum and on our website.

You will notice a bit of a difference on your next visit to Bodie. The park is now ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Updates include completely new bathrooms in the parking lot, a sidewalk that goes from the parking lot to Green

Please see REVIEW, page 7

**BODIE
FUN FACT**

Which mine enhanced Bodie's national fame in 1879 when miners discovered the Fortuna Lode (a very rich quartz vein containing considerable gold and silver)?

- (A) Bunker Hill Mine
- (B) Standard Consolidated Mine
- (C) Noonday Mine
- (D) Bodie Mine
- (E) Red Cloud Mine

Please see page 11 for the answer.



David John and the Comstock Cowboys perform at Bridgeport Barns and Terrace last July 4th weekend. Funds went to the Railroad Office stabilization project.

Exciting New Tours Available in 2014

By Terri Geissinger,
Bodie Historian and Guide

MEMORIAL WEEKEND 2014 SPECIAL CEMETERY TOURS

Join us for “Soul Stories”, an exclusive Memorial Day weekend event; May 24 & 25 at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting). \$5 per person. For more info, call 760.647.6564 or email Terri@BodieFoundation.org.

INTRODUCING THE BODIE GHOST WALK AND STAR STORIES!

Three dates have been established when the park will stay open late for the general public where you can experience Bodie after dark. You can enjoy the park on your own or you can choose one or both new activities. The first is an hour-long Ghost Walk tour, which begins at twilight. As we

meander through town, you will learn of the most fascinating ghost stories and legends of Bodie. When it is good and dark and the velvet diamond studded sky opens above, you can choose to stay with an astronomer and listen to ancient Star Stories. This Bodie experience is guaranteed to treat your family with lasting memories. Limited dates are: June 28; July 26; August 15. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under per tour. Combine them and it is \$15/adults and \$7/child. Newly reduced Park Entry Fees also still apply; \$5 Adults - \$3 age 17 and under. Please visit www.BodieFoundation.org for more details.

MINES, MILLS, RAILS AND RUINS TOUR

This is a guided driving tour of Bodie’s Mining District. Located on the hills above town, the mines, mills and rails that



Terri Geissinger (in green shirt) and others check out some “diggings” at Masonic, another mining community not far from Bodie. Masonic was active around the turn of the 20th century and many Bodieites migrated there as Bodie mines closed.

roared for over 70 years now lay in quiet ruin. The echoes of the past are all that remain of this rich landscape. Take this extraordinary opportunity to experience Bodie as you never

have before.

Three hour tours are \$40 pp (\$30 for FOB members). High clearance vehicles strongly recommended – otherwise other

PLEASE NEW TOURS, page 9

Grover Hot Springs Offers *Something for Everyone*

By Dave James

Grover Hot Springs State Park is located four miles west of Markleeville, California, on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range at the end of Hot Springs Road. It is situated in a pine forest and alpine meadow setting, surrounded by majestic 10,000 foot peaks. It is also conveniently located just 35 miles (45 minutes travel time) from South Lake Tahoe.

Naturally, the hot springs are the main attraction at Grover. There are two pools; one hot (102 – 105 degrees) and the other a “cooling” pool. The hot pool is fed continuously by 6 mineral springs and contains virtually none of the “rotten egg” sulphur smell that is typical for some hot springs. The greenish-

yellow color of the water is from mineral deposits on the bottom of the pool. It is an oxidation reaction between the mineral salts in the water and a sanitizing agent (bromine) used. Kids and adults alike enjoy soaking in the soothing mineral water.

Hiking is another favorite pastime in the Grover area. There is an easy family hike called “Transition Walk” that loops the parks’ alpine meadow and goes out to a waterfall on Hot Springs Creek. This is a three-mile fairly easy hike. For the more serious hikers, Burnside Trail is a 10-mile round trip hike with a 2100-foot elevation gain. Along the way, you’ll get a marvelous view of Hot Springs Valley. This trail winds through meadowlands, Jeffrey pine and white fir covered



Camping among the pines at Grover Hot Springs. This is a “dry” campground, which means no hookups are available. Water and restrooms are on site.

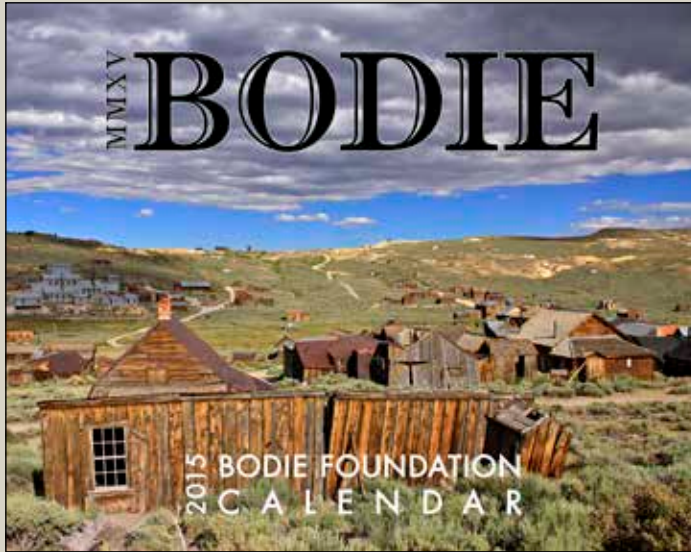
slopes. It eventually ends up at Burnside Lake.

There is also a campground

at Grover Hot Springs. It has 76 sites – all have firepits with

PLEASE SEE GROVER, page 7

Foundation 2015 Calendar Raises Funds, Showcases Bodie



Cover photo by Ellen Klinkel

The Bodie Foundation 2015 calendar is on sale now. The calendar features 16 images selected from nearly 400 photos submitted between September 2013 and January 2014. Revenue generated from calendar sales helps support the Foundation's goals. Please see *Bodie Year in Review* on page 3 for details on the Foundation's achievements.



Photo by Josh Grant



Photo by Gigi Dean

Bodie Foundation Adds Websites and Events

FOUNDATION from page 2

Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

The 13th annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua event is being held June 20-22, 2014. Please visit www.birdchautauqua.org for more info on this wonderful and very popular birding event.

Bodie Family Reunion

July 12 - 13

The Reunion is open to anyone who has lived in Bodie, is a descendent of a Bodie resident or someone who had a profession connected to Bodie (i.e. doctor, teacher, etc.). We are also welcoming Rangers who

previously lived in Bodie.

On Saturday, we will meet at Bridgeport Barns and Terrace for dinner (advance reservations only). There you will have the chance to mingle and share your Bodie stories. On Sunday we will meet in Bodie for a private driving tour followed by lunch on Bodie Bluff. If you would like to be on the invitation list, please email Terri@BodieFoundation.org.

These wonderful stories of life in Bodie are the very fabric that weaves its history. Through these accounts, we can understand, interpret and teach how life was lived during different time periods.

To pass down this history is an honor and our gift to future generations. It is the cornerstone of the Bodie Foundation mission of "Protecting Bodie's Future by Preserving Its Past".

Friends of Mono Lake website

We now have a website for The Friends of Mono Lake, which is a chapter of The Bodie Foundation, focusing on Mono Lake. Please check us out at www.FriendsofMonoLake.com.

Like us on Facebook

We'd LOVE you to *LIKE* us on our Facebook page! Enjoy the 'Photo of the Day' along with some Bodie history. We also include announcements and new

items. Thanks for spreading the word – see you on Facebook!

Private Tours

Private tours can be for any groups; friends/family, private parties, business associates/co-workers, schools, church or social groups. Please email us at info@BodieFoundation.org or call our business office at 760-647-6564 for more information.

Native American *Guesso's* Camp Found

By Chris Spiller,
Senior Park Aide

One of the great things about working at Bodie is that history can change as new information is uncovered. The work of researchers provides more pieces of the puzzle and questions get answered. New research can end up changing the interpretation we provide visitors in our programs and it enriches the history of the people who lived in Bodie.

In the last few years, some dedicated volunteer state park archaeologists uncovered (literally) new information in a surface survey of one of the Native Paiute camps within the park. Volunteer archeologists Ross and Maiya Gralia approached my husband Charley and I in 2010 about finding a certain Paiute camp. They showed us a photo of a man I instantly recognized. They asked if I knew why he was called "Guesso," and I told them several Bodie books mentioned him. The old story was that when he was asked a question, he frequently replied "Guesso," and the name stuck. Guesso worked locally in various jobs and his wife, Mattie, worked for a family



Manos are grinding stones used by native Indians. Finding them – along with several other artifacts - at the Guesso site helped confirm this was a site occupied by local Native Americans.



Only known photo of a local Native American Indian named "Guesso". He received this nomenclature when he frequently answered questions with the phrase "guess so", which sounded more like "guesso".

(A. A. Forbes photo, courtesy Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History)

in Bodie. He appeared on the 1900 census with the name, "Gessoe Bodie." His wife, "Old Mattie Bodie," is also listed. His age was 70.

The Gralias began doing avocational archaeology for California State Parks in 2003, helping with surveys, recording, monitoring and excavating prehistoric and historic sites throughout Northern California. They soon began to focus on the Sierra District State Parks, working under the supervision of District Archaeologist Denise Jaffke.

In 2010, they began to volunteer at Bodie, beginning with an archaeological survey to locate prehistoric sites. Their present project is to monitor the condition of historic sites on Standard and Bodie Hills (often referred to as Bodie Bluff – ed.), correcting GPS information and updating the photographic record.

They call the locating and recording of the Guesso site, "our most exciting project." They are completing a record of the site,

including a map of features and photographs of artifacts.

Native Paiutes in the area lived off the land, making "wiki-ups" from trees for shelter, hunting deer and other animals, and fishing from local streams. The Pinyon pine nut crop was an important food source that could sustain them through winter. When miners and others arrived in the Eastern Sierra, they chopped down trees, hunted animals and deprived the Native people of their way of life. Local Paiutes had to turn to work on local ranches, domestic work or in other industries.

Walking around some less-traveled areas of the park with Ross and Maiya was eye opening. They showed us one area where I had noticed broken dishes and other items before. Maiya and Ross noted that many of the dishes were clearly Chinese. I was confused for a minute, thinking this was another area where Chinese had lived. They explained Chinese dishes were a common find in Native encampments, possibly

because of fondness for the items or simply because of the proximity of Chinese neighbors.

We then turned to the task of locating the area where "Guesso's camp" could be. You'd think it would be fairly easy to line up the landmarks. There was a huge tailing pile in the background and there was a building that no one recognized. In Bodie's later years, abandoned mine buildings eventually fell down, buffeted by the area's strong winds. Tailing piles were moved around as companies in the 1920s and 1930s continued reprocessing this material, ground earlier in the stamp mills, searching for every last bit of gold and silver early miners missed.

The Gralias knew the campsite wouldn't be found quickly. Would we carry the photo and look for it as we hiked around the park? We did for the next summer and into the following year. One thing I knew from my own research is that many Native people lived

Please see GUESSO, page 10

President's Year in Review

REVIEW from page 3

Street, a reworked boardwalk in front of the museum and a new cement stoop in front of the Red Barn. Federal and State funds were used for this project.

I would like to thank all of you, our members, for supporting the Bodie Foundation and our efforts to preserve "our fair city." Without you, many of the things we do would not be possible. It is one of our personal commitments and goals to be great stewards of your generosity and hopes for Bodie's future.

For those of you who may not be aware, the Bodie Foundation spends a great deal of time in planning and preparation for each year.

The Board of Trustees holds regular phone conferences and also has three actual face-to-face meetings annually. Frequent meetings (usually weekly) are held with our Business Manager, Interpreter/Historian and our partners in State Parks.

Our fall meeting is focused on our annual operating budget. State Park personnel prepare a budget request for their needs for the upcoming season.

We hold an annual 2 ½ day "Retreat" in January, usually in Bodie. The Foundation and State Parks personnel review/approve plans for the upcoming summer season. Other discussions involve finalizing/approving all budgets and State priorities for stabilization activities.

In April, we hold our

annual Governance meeting. We focus on "in-house" business during this meeting, including updating Strategic and Yearly Plans, by-laws, Foundation financials, new products, etc.

In closing, I would like to give a special thank you to Dani Williams, Business Manager, and Terri Geissinger, Interpreter/Historian with the Bodie Foundation. You truly are both tireless, especially with keeping me in line and focused.

We also have both seasonal employees, Liz and Carolyn, returning at Grover Hot Springs, whom I am excited to work with again. Thank you both for doing such a good job at Grover. Your efforts take considerable burden off Dani and Terri.

I also want to single out

Dave Marquart, a State Park Interpreter 1 at Mono Lake for 30 years. Dave primarily works alone at Mono Lake and he manages our new VisitMonoLake website also. Please stop by Mono Lake to catch some of Dave's interesting tours of the history and wildlife at Mono Lake – you won't be disappointed.

To our Board of Trustees - Nancy Frye, Mark Pupich, Norm Stump, Dave James, Geoff McQuilkin and Benny Romero - thank you for your support of me the past five years as President and all the time you contribute to make this organization successful. It has truly been an honor for me.

Swim, Camp, Hike at Grover Hot Springs S. P.



Pool complex at Grover Hot Springs. The 'hot' pool is on the left. The greenish-yellow color of the water is from mineral deposits on the bottom of the pool (not the water itself).

GROVER, from page 4

grills, cupboards, bear-proof lockers and tables. Also, two of the sites are designed for wheelchair use with accessible restrooms nearby. Although there are no hook-ups, there is potable water and restrooms available in the campground area. Reservations can be made

by calling (800) 444-7275 or at www.parks.ca.gov. See the State Parks website for more detailed info also.

Don't forget to stop in and visit our Bodie Foundation Visitors Center while in the park.

See you at Grover Hot Springs!

FOB Day 2014 Announced



Albert (center) of Albert's Meat Market in Bridgeport supervises the grill team as they cook steak and chicken. The dinner, followed by an evening members-only event are part of the fun of each Friends of Bodie Day.

Mark your calendars, as FOB Day will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2014.

This year, our theme is "Back to the Good Ol' Days". We are celebrating the time from the 1859 gold discovery through the 1880's boom years.

We welcome and encourage you to dress in costume! Much is planned throughout the day including Living History, Live Music, Special Tours and Wagon Rides. The Member BBQ will be served and when the park is closed to the public, our evening program will begin. Your invitations will arrive in July. See you then!

New Faces in Old Places

Bodie State Historic Park has gone through several personnel changes in the last several months. Our Fall 2013 *Bodie Times* had a small introduction, but we would like to more formally reintroduce them.



Josh Heitzmann

**Josh Heitzmann,
Supervising Ranger**

Josh is the new Supervising Ranger for both Bodie and Mono Lake. Josh is originally from Lacey, Washington (near Olympia) and now calls Bodie home.

Josh first worked for State Parks as a seasonal Park Aide at Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley while attending Sierra College.

He eventually was accepted to the Ranger Academy and first served at Lake Perris State Recreational Area in 2008.

After a short stint there, he moved to Anza Borrego Desert State Park until promoting into his current assignment in Bodie.

Josh is an avid sports fan (all sports according to him) and enjoys outdoor recreation activities including kayaking/canoeing and backpacking.

He is excited to be back in the eastern Sierra Nevada area, which he loves.



Terra Woodall

**Terra Woodall,
State Parks Ranger**

Terra graduated from the Ranger Academy in May of 2013. She originally hails from Reedley, California (near Fresno) and possesses an AS degree in Biology from Reedley College.

Terra was a park aide in Bodie for 5 seasons before being accepted into the Academy. She was encouraged by a previous Bodie Ranger to apply for the Academy as she loves to work outdoors and is the type of person who enjoys helping people in any way she can.

Terra also enjoys the natural and cultural history of the area. She has a keen appreciation of Bodie's great history – one that can captivate you and makes you want to learn more.

Home is in Bodie, living there with her husband, Maintenance technician Matthew (Woody) Woodall (see *Bodie Times* 2011 Fall edition newsletter for article on Woody and Terra's wedding in Bodie).



Brooke Fellers

**Brooke Fellers,
State Parks Ranger**

Brooke is originally from Northern California and graduated from California State University, Chico with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation – Parks and Natural Resources.

She has been with State Parks since 2010 and was previously posted in northern San Diego County beaches at Carlsbad and San Elijo. Brooke had worked earlier with Santa Clara County Parks Department and the U. S. Forest Service at Nevada City. Home is currently in Burbank where her husband resides, so off time is spent traversing highway 395 between southern California and Mono County.

Brooke works in Bodie and Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. She loves the mountains, snow and stories of those who have lived here.



Sterl Cogar

**Sterl Cogar, Senior
Maintenance Manager**

Sterl has been with State Parks for 26 years, originally starting in Calaveras Big Trees State Park as a maintenance aide, then moving to Sierra District for eight more years, then on to Mono/Alpine District.

Sterl has his hands full managing all maintenance projects at Bodie, Grover Hot Springs and Mono Lake – a big responsibility for sure!

Sterl is originally from West Virginia and now resides in Dayton, Nevada. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and also served in the Marines, but realized law enforcement and the military weren't for him.

He headed to the mountains in 1988 to (quote) "become a better troglodyte" and begin his career with State Parks.

Sterl is committed, highly project-oriented and very excited about his new position.

Experience Bodie's Backcountry on a Guided Tour

TOURS from page 4

riding arrangements might be necessary. Available every other Thursday June thru August; June 12 & 26, July 17 & 31, August 14 & 28; advanced reservations required by calling 760-647-6564; email Terri@BodieFoundation.org or through our website at www.BodieFoundation.org. This great tour is also available for private/group tours.

HERITAGE GHOST TOWN AUTO TOURS ARE FANTASTIC!

THESE 2-DAY TOURS ARE A WONDERFUL WAY TO GET IN-DEPTH EXPERIENCE OF THE HISTORY OF BODIE AND THE REGION LED BY OUR KNOWLEDGABLE HISTORIAN TERRI GEISSINGER.

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING DATES/TOURS:

BODIE MINING DISTRICT AND MONO BASIN - JUNE 14 & 15, 2014

This Heritage Tour will take you back in time where you will discover the fascinating history that connects Bodie and the Mono Basin. The past will come alive as you hear stories of the discoverers, the prospectors and the families who settled here. We will travel historic wagon routes as we visit Dogtown, the first significant gold discovery of the Eastern Sierra. We then visit the site of Monoville, the very place where W. S. Bodey and partners left to discover the rich hills of Bodie.

We traverse up to the Bodie Mining District, where the ghosts whisper their stories of hope, wealth and loss. The second day, we tour Mono Mills and learn of men, mules, wood



Terri Geissinger (in green shirt pointing on right) leading a two-day heritage tour last summer. These tours are a magnificent way to get immersed into all the history of Bodie and surrounding region.

and rails. Next is Lundy, the beautiful sister-city of Bodie. Last, we visit Jordan, the site of cutting edge technology and tragedy.

BODIE, MASONIC AND AURORA SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 2014

The Heritage Tour will take you back in time where you will discover the fascinating history that surrounds Bodie, Masonic and Aurora. While in Bodie, you will receive an in-depth tour of the town, stamp mill and cemetery. You will learn about the people, the mining and souls who never left.

We then travel up Geiger Grade to the remnants of the town of Masonic, then onto the Chemung Mill. Our second day is spent traveling on the historic stage route between Bodie and Aurora. Once a bustling community of importance,

Aurora now sits quietly with her ghosts. The stories bring this place to life and the scenery will mark your memory forever.

\$140 per person per tour (\$125 for FOB members).

High clearance vehicles strongly recommended – otherwise other riding arrangements might be necessary.

Advanced Reservations Only for both Tours – www.BodieFoundation.org; or call 760.674.6564; or email Terri@BodieFoundation.org

Oops!

On page 9 of the Fall 2013 *Bodie Times* newsletter, in the 'September Snow Covers Bodie's Dust' article, we gave out an incorrect phone number for the park. The correct phone number for Bodie State Historic Park is 760-647-6445. We regret the mistake. *Ed.*

Bodie 5K Run (and Walk) for the Railroad Postponed

This event, planned for Summer 2014, has been postponed for 2014. Our focus events this year will be our annual FOB Day August 9 and the Bodieites Reunion July 12-13.

We are still planning for this event to materialize at some point in the future and will share info on it when available.

Bodie Park Hours

Park hours are 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily (except for three special late dates – see pg. 4 for more info). Also, the 3-mile dirt section of the Bodie Road has finally been graded, as it was in dire need of maintenance. See you in the park!

Volunteer Archeologists Help Find Lost Camp

GUESSO, from page 6

up on the ridge in a lean-to or small buildings they constructed themselves. I had read that some worked at the limekilns along the railroad tracks near Mono Lake but lived near the tracks closer to Bodie, so we started in that vicinity.

What prompted the search for this particular camp? Sierra District's Jaffke explained that Shelly Davis-King, a well-known California Ethnographer, and Tom Mills, a Caltrans archaeologist, had a special interest in historic Native American sites, especially on the east side of the Sierra Nevada. Reviewing old photos, they attempted to find the sites at Bodie because they were

personally interested.

There have been former surveys in Bodie that identified sites, including numerous prehistoric sites, as early as late 1960s, and then again in 1990s when State Parks acquired approximately 500 acres on the ridge that held most of the mines. Jaffke explained there hasn't been much follow-up fieldwork and research to identify historic Paiute sites specifically, due to lack of funding and staff.

After many hikes together and separately, Charley came down a hill at a different angle one day in 2012 and looked across the valley. There was a tailing pile, not as large as the one in the photo, and of course there was no building. We went

back up the next day, compared the ridgeline and decided we might have found the site.

The Gralias came several weeks later and agreed with our opinion. They began a surface survey and found over 40 artifacts, including a shoe, teakettle and most exciting, "Manos", or grinding stones.

"The goal of the study of historic Native American site is to recognize the influence of Euro American culture on the adaptive strategies of local Native Americans at the time of contact and into historic times (ca. A.D. 1840-1900)," said Jaffke.

Future work on Native sites will continue to uncover their stories and enrich Bodie's history.



Maiya and Ross Gralia at Guesso campsite. Their volunteer work, including a map of features and photographs of artifacts, will add to the understanding of the Paiute presence in the mining town of Bodie.

Remembering Evelyn's Bodie

An Unrestricted Childhood and Cold Winters



Evelyn in 1974, two years before her passing.

EVELYN, from page 1

immigrated to California at about the same time. They were married in May, 1905 in San Francisco. Shortly thereafter, Jack made the acquaintance of Theodore (Ted) Hoover, older brother of the 31st President

of the United States, Herbert Hoover. Both were mining engineers who graduated from Stanford University. Ted, who had recently been hired as assistant manager to the Standard Consolidated Mining Company in Bodie, asked Jack if he would be interested in working as Treasurer. Jack accepted and the young couple moved to Bodie to start a new life. The Standard had its ups and downs, but Ted Hoover was instrumental in implementing a new method for extracting metal from the piles of crushed rock waste (tailings), and the company prospered until 1913 when the supply was exhausted. The Scarlett family packed up and moved to England to live near Annie's family.

Winters were sometimes harsh in Bodie as you can see from the piles of snow in the photograph on page one. This photo was taken in 1908

(Evelyn would have been 3 years old) in front of the Standard offices; no doubt Jack's office. If you look on page 227 of *Bodie: The Mines are Looking Well* by Michael H. Piatt, you will see a larger view of the same scene taken only a few days earlier (note the snow on the roof and the icicles). My mother's face would light up when she told me stories of growing up in Bodie.

The freedom to enjoy a relatively unrestricted childhood and experience the excitement and beauty of the natural environment more than compensated for the hardships of living in such a remote area. Evelyn was fascinated by the warm springs that "came right out of the ground" and enraptured by family visits to Mono Lake and Yosemite.

My mother passed away in 1976 and I wanted very much to visit the town where

she was born and raised. So, in 1981 my husband and I visited Bodie. We were impressed at how beautifully the town had been preserved. We felt as if we had been transported to another era.

Our guide was interested to hear my mother's story and she showed us the house where the Hoover family lived and an office at the mine -- rebuilt after a fire destroyed the original one -- similar to one my grandfather might have used. It was a deeply moving experience to stand and look around and imagine my mother standing in exactly the same spot and seeing the very same scenery.

Editors note: If you would like to contribute an article, please contact DaveJ@BodieFoundation.org. Also, please see the Bodie Briefs column for info on the 2014 Bodie Family Reunion.

Mono Lake's Rocket Carried Passengers, Wood

ROCKET, from page 2

They also started construction of a narrow gauge rail line that would run from the lumber mill (named Mono Mills) up to Bodie – a distance of 32 miles – with the last section steep and winding.

Cain continued to use the steamer to barge lumber products across Mono Lake, much of the lumber being rails for the rail bed.

The *Rocket* was also used as a pleasure craft. Mono County residents would often use it for excursions on Mono Lake and its two islands, Paoha and Negit.

A September 11, 1880 article in *The Bodie Chronicle* described one such adventure for a party of ladies to Negit Island. "We cannot too highly commend to the people of Mono an excursion to and on this lake."

The *Bridgeport Chronicle-Union* of August 20, 1881 also extolled the pleasures of riding on the *Rocket*. "Tomorrow a large number of our belles and beaux are going to Mono Lake for a sail on its placid waters. They will leave town at a very early hour – about 4:00 a.m. – in order to get to the landing before the steamer *Rocket* shoots out."

Once the last stake in the rail line was pounded into place in November 1881, the *Rocket* was no longer needed, so it was sold.

One of its shortcomings was put forth in the *Weekly Standard-News* edition of October 12, 1881 thusly: "The small steamer cannot travel in a storm, and as a *terrific* wind frequently blows over the lake, there is often trouble among the sailors. Last week the craft came near being swamped, and four day's delay was the result."



A young James Cain poses for a photographer. Cain was heavily involved with many of the "infrastructure" businesses in Bodie, including mining, banking and the wood business.

Mono Lake also played a prominent role in averting an ugly labor dispute, which may have led to some bloodshed.

The Bodie Railroad and Lumber Company had hired dozens of laborers to cut and grade a path and put in a rail bed and rails for the new railroad. Pay was a low \$1.25 a day (plus board) for the backbreaking work.


Many Chinese were hired along with several unemployed white laborers. The two large crews were kept separate; the Chinese working from the Mono Lake end while the white crew began at Bodie.

The section of line the Chinese were working on ran across some alkali flats near Mono Lake, making this section very challenging to work on due to the dust and smell.

Evidently, several white workers became enraged about how Chinese were taking away jobs and headed off to Mono Lake with the intent of running off the Chinese labor force. Word of their intent preceded them, so railroad management used a

BODIE FUN FACT

ANSWER FROM PAGE 3



ANSWER: (D) According to Bodie's last prospector and miner, Bobby Bell (1914-2003): "The *Fortuna* was only found in the Bodie Mine. Quartz veins at Bodie tended to be nearly vertical at about 75 degrees to 85 degrees. Most of them had names. They all came to the surface but cropped under the overburden. The *Fortuna* was a different vein system altogether. It pitched toward the east at an angle of about 30 degrees. It predated all the others because they all cut it. It kept faulting and was never found between the 300-foot level and the surface. There must still be a 300-foot piece of it still in the hill."

(Robert T. Bell: Interview, August 27-30, 1994)

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Michael Piatt for supplying this fun fact.

clever tactic to avert problems.

The Chinese were put on the barges of the *Rocket* and moved to Paoha Island – the larger of Mono Lake's two islands, which is about a 3.5 square mile land mass – along with all their earthly goods.

When the angry white mob arrived at the Chinese labor camp looking to cause trouble, nothing was to be found.

They had acted without much coordination or planning, not having brought with them much in the way of provisions or a way to cross the lake to Paoha Island. They soon returned to Bodie, dispirited by the futile trip. The Chinese were brought back and work resumed on the rail line. No further violent labor issues arose.

Unfortunately, there are no photos of the *Rocket* available, so you'll have to use your imagination of the little steamer who (barely) could, toting barges laden with firewood and lumber across the windswept Mono Lake one day, and transporting folks out for a scenic ride the next.

Bobby Bell's Mining Terminology Explained

When Bobby used the word "cropped," he really meant "outcropped," the correct mining term. Most veins outcrop at the surface of the ground. That's usually where prospectors find a mineral deposit, because it is visible and the most accessible there. At Bodie, a layer of dirt, called "overburden," concealed the outcrops. Bobby said the *Fortuna* didn't reach the surface, so it didn't outcrop. That's why there is 300 feet immediately below ground that was never found. It's a fabulous mystery.

According to mining law, when a vein is discovered its owners may follow it no matter how many other claims it passes through. So, Bobby was noting that as miners from the Bodie Company removed ore from the *Fortuna*, and went deeper into the earth, the *Fortuna* was cut by veins owned by other mining companies.



Bodie Foundation
 PO Box 278
 Bridgeport, CA 93517
 (760) 647-6564
BodieFoundation.org
info@bodiefoundation.org



With your renewal, continue to be part of Bodie's future!
Join or renew 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: _____

Please send to:
BODIE FOUNDATION
 P.O. Box 278
 Bridgeport, CA 93517

Please make checks payable to:
BODIE FOUNDATION

Photo by Josh Grant