

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS
www.BodieFoundation.org

VOLUME VIV

SPRING 2016

NUMBER 1

Loose Brothers' Fight for the Bodie Mine

By Chris Spiller
Bodie Times Editor

Bodie's heyday of 1877-1881 attracted notable people of the west to its gold and silver mines. Among those were brothers Warren, Edwin and William Loose, original owners of the Bodie Mine, one of Bodie's richest. Today, two descendants of the Loose Brothers maintain their ties with Bodie.

Judge Ed Peterson of Vernal, Utah, the great-grandson of Charles "Edwin" Loose, enjoys his family's connections to both Bodie and Utah's history. He and his son, Ted, visited Bodie in Fall 2015.

Warren "Bob" Loose III, of Pleasant Grove, Utah, is the grandson of Warren Loose. He lived part-time in Bodie for the first eight years of his life. Bob's father, Warren Loose II, was the author of *Bodie Bonanza*, a book about the town's history and the Loose brothers' time in Bodie. The Warren Loose family has donated items to the park over the years, including a map of the Bodie Mining District.

The brothers were all born in Quincy, Illinois. Their father died in 1854 of cholera when Warren, the oldest, was five years old. Their mother, after teaching school in Quincy for a few years, decided to cross the plains for Utah in 1860.

Warren left Utah several years later to travel to Sacramento, California to work



The Loose Brothers: from left, Warren, William and Edwin. Photo courtesy of Warren "Bob" Loose III

Please see LOOSE page 3

Bob Tanner, a Friend of the Mule and Bodie, Passes Away

By Terri Geissinger
BF Historian & Guide

Bob Tanner, a legend in his own time and a great friend of Bodie, passed peacefully at his Bishop, California home on December 3, 2015.

An outdoorsman and packer, he introduced thousands of people to the strength and intelligence of the mule by suggesting in 1969 that Bishop host an annual event to honor mules and their roles in the packing industry. "Mule Days," held every Memorial Day Weekend, grew to become one of the largest events held in our region.



Bob Tanner and Bodie Foundation's Terri Geissinger chat at a recent Friends of Bodie Day.

Bob also owned and ran the Red's Meadow Pack Station which hosted the annual Bishop to Bodie Ride, another huge success for over 20 years. Riders created lifetime memories while riding through the high desert and camping

under starry skies amid freezing temperatures. The grand finale was a ride down Main Street in Bodie.

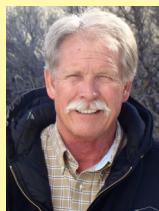
Bob also brought up his crew, horses, mules and stagecoach to help us on many Friends of Bodie Days over the years. He was known for his wit, charm and countless stories of the old west and his own wild experiences. His deep love of animals, people, history and the outdoors left a lingering mark and made a difference in many lives. He especially loved kids and was always looking for ways to be 'family friendly' so that everyone would enjoy the outdoors as he did.

You will be missed, good friend.

President's Report

Seeing it Through

By Brad Sturdivant
Bodie Foundation President



The past several weeks have provided me with the opportunity to reflect on things that occurred during 2015. These things have caused the Board of Trustees to look to the future of the organization.

It is amazing to consider all that has happened since 2010 when our first agreement with California State Parks was signed. State Parks was kind enough to ask us to remain the cooperating association of record for another five-year term. We penned the agreement in February 2015, which allows the Bodie Foundation to continue until 2020.

In that first year, we approved a Strategic Plan to move us through the first five years in business. I'm happy to say that we have achieved most of those goals. This past fall, we began working on a new list of goals.

During the past five years, I have to say by far the biggest commitment to our parks has come from our supporting

membership and donors. As always, we thank you for putting your trust in us to meet the requests of State Parks and to ensure your funds are well spent.

We started off the first half of the year by saying goodbye to three two-term members of the Board of Trustees; Mark Pupich, Geoff McQuilkin, and Dave James. Dave remained on the Board until December 31, 2015.

In March 2015, we added four new Board members, Jessica Horn, Dick Canton, Dennis Fisher, and Dydia DeLyser. Later in the year, we said goodbye to Business Manager, Dani Williams, and welcomed Shayla Geissinger to our staff as Membership and Photography Workshop Program Manager. Terri Geissinger assumed the duties of Business Manager on October 1, 2015, and was formally voted into the position in January 2016. An assistant to the Business Manager, Betty McCunniff begins work in June 2016. You may have seen her providing talks, tours, and working in the Museum as a volunteer. We welcomed Chris Spiller as Editor

Please see PRESIDENT page 5

News Briefs

Bodie Hours and Tours

Summer hours at Bodie are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily with public tours starting Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 28. Tours include free daily history talks and three stamp mill tours at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Tickets for stamp mill tours must be purchased at the museum at least 30 minutes before tour time. Cost is \$6 per person.

Grover Hot Springs Hours

Current Grover Hot Springs State Park pool hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays through Tuesdays. The pool is closed every Wednesday. Starting sometime in June, the pool will be open every day with expanded hours at the hot springs. The exact date depends on budget and staffing levels.

The first loop of the summer campground is open on a first-come, first-served basis with the second loop of the summer campground set to open about Friday, May 20.

Mono Lake hosts tours

Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve is offering three "Birding By Ear" workshops on May 28, June 11 and June 23. These are half-day workshops from 8 a.m. to noon and cost is \$25 per person which benefits Friends of Mono Lake Reserve/Bodie Foundation. To register, call the Reserve at (760) 647-6331.

Daily South Tufa tours tentatively begin June 25 with tour times of 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Bird Walks at the Mono Lake County Park/State Reserve boardwalk begin Sunday, May 22. These walks are offered starting at 8 a.m. on Sundays and Fridays each week through

Please see NEWS BRIEFS page 6

THE BODIE TIMES

The Bodie Times
is the official publication of the Bodie Foundation, P.O. Box 278, Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 647-6564

Comments, stories and photographs are welcome.

Please email to:
Chris@BodieFoundation.org
COPYRIGHT 2016
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Brad Sturdivant	President
Chris Spiller	Editor
Terri Geissinger	<i>Bodie Historian & Guide</i>
Jessica Horn	<i>Production & Design</i>
Shayla Geissinger	<i>Project Manager</i>
Betty McCunniff	<i>Office Assistant</i>

LOOSE from page 1

on the transcontinental railroad. William worked as a teamster in Utah for a short period of time and eventually joined Warren. Edwin, the youngest, also went to work with his brothers. The three brothers were suppliers for the laborers on this historic effort to connect east and west, delivering water, food and other needed supplies, said Peterson. All three brothers witnessed the driving of the golden spike on May 10, 1869, marking the joining of the rails in Promontory, Utah.

From 1869 to 1876, Warren worked the mines in Eureka, Nevada, with William and Edwin working there as teamsters. William married Eliza Thomas of Lehi, Utah, and the couple eventually returned to Utah. The two other brothers were destined to travel to Bodie.

A biography of Charles Edwin Loose, written by his grandson, Edwin Loose Peterson, (Ed Peterson's father) describes Edwin's 1876 arrival. Noting that it was quite a change from Payson, Utah, Edwin "very quickly adapted himself to the life of the roaring camp." He staked a claim and called it, "The Bodie Mine."

Warren also moved to Bodie and that was good, as other people were looking with interest at Edwin Loose's claim. Edwin quickly

made his brother a partner in the mine.

The new owners of the nearby Bunker Hill were organizing the mine with a new name, The Standard. They were busy sinking a shaft and exploring several drifts and crosscuts, according to *Bodie Bonanza*. "They uncovered riches so great in one part of the mine that it was named the 'treasure house.' Many people soon realized that the lines of the ore bodies would extend into the brothers' claim.

Michael Piatt's book, *The Mines Are Looking Well*, discusses the story of Edwin's claim. In this account, William M. Lent, a well-known San Francisco stock trader and Col. John F. Boyd, a part owner of the Standard, set out to acquire the Bodie Mine.

Lent supposedly hired gunmen to scare Edwin into giving up the claim. According to *Bodie Bonanza*, a gunman named "Burkhart," brought "several bums" with him and gave Edwin 24 hours to leave. In response, the "boys in the saloons" organized and sent word that Burkhart better leave town instead. He did.

As the situation heated up, Edwin and Warren called in brother William, who arrived in Bodie in 1877. Upon arrival, William made the rounds in local saloons, getting acquainted

with Bodie society.

According to a diary entry by William's wife, Eliza, "Will's arrival was heralded with great joy. He went, with the welcoming party, the rounds of the saloons and was greeted in true Western fashion, glass in hand... They had heard that Will could out-run, out-wrestle, out-ride any athlete; and could out-shoot for accuracy and quickness any of the crack shots."

After the welcome, his brothers took him up the hill to see the mine. Edwin and Warren had grim news: they had just heard that day that well-known gunmen

from San Francisco had contracted for the sum of \$15,000 to run the Loose Brothers out of Bodie.

Ed Peterson says there was a shooting incident that his family learned about from others. It is recounted in the history his father wrote.

"At one period, Ed (Edwin) was forced to defend his claim against claim-jumpers. It happened at night and he received a number of .45 slugs in the mid-section.... This story was never told by him but was told to the family in later years by men who were

Please see LOOSE page 7

Bodie Volunteer Becomes “Ambassador” to World

By Jim Murch
Bodie SHP Volunteer

In the back of my mind for the last few years, I had thought of being a volunteer in Bodie. Having visited many times over the last 20 years, I had always found Bodie a fascinating part of our history.

After contacting the volunteer coordinator, I was told I needed to come up for a volunteer training day. At the training a few months later, I learned I could work with the park maintenance people on different projects, including re-roofing of the historic buildings. As far as working with the public, we would be asked to give talks, walk around the park meeting the visitors, answering questions and giving impromptu talks on Bodie. Much of the information and history to help you work with the public is in the volunteer manual.

In about a month, my head full of history, I packed up the RV and headed for Bodie. Little did I know a spell had been cast upon me with all this knowledge. Cresting the last



Volunteer Jim Murch shares Bodie's history with visitors.
Photo by Chris Spiller

hill, the town came into view off in the distance. As I looked out, the hills and buildings looked different. No longer were they just the mounds of dirt and old buildings. No, the colors were different and more intense, the buildings had a life of their own and my imagination saw the people and lives from a bygone era.

My first few days were spent observing employees on tours and learning how to interact with visitors. All the paid employees are dedicated to giving the visitors the best possible experience and that includes all the questions this volunteer trainee asked of them. I was glad of the books I had read just

before coming to Bodie; they were a great help.

There is no formal, “Ok, now start giving tours and talks.” It is when you feel you are ready. But this pretty much happens when visitors come up to you and starting asking simple questions: what was the population, or how much gold was taken out of the mines. In the course of the conversations, I started asking visitors a small question about Bodie. It might be something such as, “There are two plants that still grow here that were used by the people in the boom era. One is rhubarb. What is the other one?” (Editor’s note: Hops is the other plant.) The answer helps to heighten their interest and imagination.

The diverse range of visitors staggers the imagination. From all over Europe and many other parts of the world, they come in search of the best western ghost town. One day, the first person in the museum was from Israel!

Now, to explain how a volunteer

Please see VOLUNTEER page 5

Mono Lake Seeks Summer Volunteers

Become a volunteer at Mono Lake this summer and meet visitors from all over the world while sharing your knowledge of the Eastern Sierra. Volunteers are very important to the visitor experience!

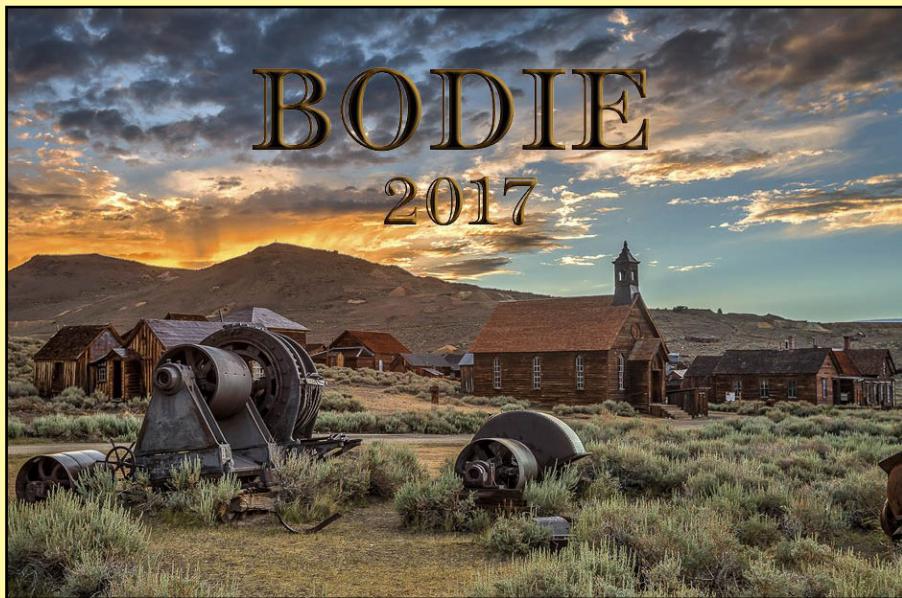
There are opportunities to rove and answer questions at the shore and/or visitor center, guide group tours and help with trail maintenance and weed removal. An 8-hour commitment per month, June through September, is requested. Participants must be at least 18 years old, able

to walk short distances and stand for two hours in sunny locations.

Free training sessions are set for May 25 & 26 and June 1, 2, 8 & 9 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers are requested to attend all half-day training sessions.

(May 26 session 9 a.m.—12 p.m.)

Please contact Jessica Horn at Jessica@monolake.org or call 760-647-6595 for more information.



The 2017 Bodie Calendar, beautifully illustrated by photos of Bodie, is now on sale for \$11.95 at the Bodie Foundation online store, <http://www.bodiefoundation.org/store/>. The calendar will also be for sale at the Foundation bookstore at Bodie State Historic Park this summer. Entries for the annual contest were voted upon by a team of judges.

The cover photo of sunrise over Bodie was taken by Jeff Sullivan. Other photographers with winning images include: Stephen Curtin, Mariana Hays, Jeff Dean, Greg Lugo, Deborah Seibly, David Hays, Charles Phillips, Jim Billups, Gigi Dean, Paula Shroyer, Paul Cockrell, Robert Peek, Joe Lhotka, Marynn Vilarino and Lori Hibbett.

VOLUNTEER from page 4

gets paid. It is the memories that come to mind: the single mother with her 8-year-old son looking up at me as we sat talking about the life of kids in Bodie and seeing him imagining being a kid in Bodie back then; the grandfather who thanked me for taking some extra time with him and his family and doing a short walking tour that he could comfortably do. I also found that I was an ambassador to the many foreign visitors. I helped give these people a memory, or a moment by taking their photo. It is something they can take back to their country and show that Bodie is a truly great California State Park in the United States of America.

(Editor's Note: The next volunteer training at Bodie is Saturday, May 21. To register, call 760-647-6445.)

PRESIDENT from page 2

of the Bodie Times. Chris worked for State Parks for many years. She also helps with the Bodie Calendar.

Of course, in between all of this activity was a very successful year in sales at the Bodie Museum and new management of Visitor Center operations at Grover Hot Springs by Carolyn Vaughn and Mark Pupich.

We began to revamp the Foundation's online store to include more from Grover and Mono Lake. By the way, 2015 was our most successful year for the online store. The first three

months of this year has surpassed the first three in 2015.

We are looking forward to a successful 2016. We have reached a point where we can begin to contribute more funds toward stabilization of structures. An agreement was reached with State Parks to begin work on the foundation of the Railroad Office east of the town. This could begin as early as Fall 2016. Funds will be contributed by the Bodie Foundation and State Parks.

We have been raising funds for the Bodie Cemetery Project, but

not nearly enough to complete some of the major projects to see it through to completion. Last fall, your contributions helped fund a fly-over by drones to photograph all the known cemeteries within the state park. These images will be used to produce maps to help locate burial sites on the ground.

On April 20, 2016, we welcomed Karen Hutchins to the Board of Trustees. We will begin our quest for two new Board members during 2016 as two founding members of the Bodie Foundation will reach the end of their terms.

On a personal note: Being part of the Bodie Foundation since 2008 has provided me the opportunity to work on a few projects that were started while I still worked for State Parks. With a lot of help, I set up an operation, made a lot of new friends and continue friendships with many of you who have supported us these many years.

I believe it was one of our employees who said, "There's no place like Bodie." We are not done yet. Please join us August 13, 2016 for the 29th Annual Friends of Bodie Day celebration.

Foundation Donors Make it Happen

We thank everyone who responded to the recent letter describing the current critical needs to continue the preservation of Bodie. The response was astounding. Nearly every member upgraded their membership and some of you gave an extra donation as well. Our generous Lifetime Members have donated over \$3000 since February with more arriving every day. We want to acknowledge the members who went above and beyond the call to Help Save Bodie. This list reflects additional donations from members between October and April:

\$2500

- Ellen Halter

\$2000

- Carmichael Family

\$1000

- Brad Sturdivant
- Dick and Wanda Canton
- Diane and Dave Luders

\$500

- Jill and Elias Hanna
- Adam Rubinson
- Cameron Close
- John Houghton
- Paul Cooley
- Brett Trentham

\$250

- Lillian Tallman
- Norm and Shari Stump
- Richard and Sandra Houk
- Gretchen Whisenand
- Smokey and Lili Pickett

We want to 'shout out' a special acknowledgement to Douglas and Marilyn Urbani for their monthly contribution to the Cemetery Project for the last several years totaling: \$4500.

Below are our top 10 donors to the Bodie Foundation. We all know how special Bodie is to us and it is with your donations and membership we can Help Save Bodie for future generations. From the bottom of our hearts – THANK YOU!

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.....	\$50,000
Sturdivant, Brad	\$9750
Halter, Ellen	\$8100
Stump, Norman and Shari	\$8100
Pinckney, John.....	\$8000

Canton, Dick and Wanda	\$6050
Romero, Benny.....	\$4600
Urbani, Douglas & Marilyn	\$4500
Bertling, Lutz	\$4000
Enders, Tom	\$4000

NEWS BRIEFS from page 2

Labor Day. Daily summer tours are free of charge.

We're on Twitter and Instagram!

Keep up on the latest Bodie Foundation news on Twitter and Instagram. The Foundation also continues its presence on Facebook.

FIND US:

On Twitter: @SaveBodie
On Instagram:
@bodiefoundation

Mono Bird Fest in June

The 15th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is set for June 17-19, 2016 and internet registration is now open.

Based out of Lee Vining, this celebrated event is among the best of the nature festivals blending science, art, and music into a three-day event. The festival's programs include not only birds but also flowers, plants, butterflies, mammals, geology and

much more.

For more information, visit: birdchautauqua.org.

New items at bookstores

Exciting new items are available this summer at both Bodie Foundation bookstores at Bodie and Grover.

This summer, the Bodie bookstore will be offering the first edition of a collector's series of shot glasses featuring Bodie

saloons. The first two glasses available will feature the Old Sawdust Corner Saloon and the saloon at the Bodie Hotel. Bodie boasted over 60 saloons at one time. New editions will come out every few years.

Grover's new offerings include several natural history books on shrubs, flowers, trees and animals. Shoppers will also notice new cultural history books along with new apparel and gift items featuring the new Grover logo.



Edwin Loose (seated) and Bodie attorney William Metson at a photographer's shop on a visit to the San Francisco area. The two friends were probably living in Bodie at the time. Photo courtesy of Ed Peterson

LOOSE from page 3

in the camp at the time it happened.... The evidence always remained in a series of small bullet scars upon his abdomen."

The pages of *Bodie Bonanza* mention an incident in late summer 1877 that turned the tide in favor of the Loose Brothers. Standing guard at the Bodie Mine one day, William spotted three men climbing the hill carrying some kind of "contraption." Thinking it could be a mount for a light cannon, he took a shot at the item. His shot knocked the contraption down the hill and scattered the men. It was a surveyor's tripod. The men were working for someone who wanted to locate a claim near the Bodie Mine.

"There were a lot of people well concealed, watching the results. If it had been safe for that bunch of men to advance on to the forbidden ground, then a swarm of men and claim hunters would have been there," stated Eliza's journal.

Not long after this incident, Lent apparently realized that there was no way to chase the Loose Brothers off, even with hired gunmen. A generous settlement was agreed upon with the brothers. William set off back home for Utah, and eventually moved to Oregon and later Southern California, according to Bob Loose.

Warren and Edwin stayed in Bodie. In 1892, Edwin returned to Provo, Utah where he worked in mining, financial and political circles. In 1900, he was a delegate to the National Republican Convention and served as State Senator from 1903-1906. His portrait hangs in the Utah state capitol for his role on the formation committee for the new state capitol. He received many accolades for his character and generosity over the years. One of his Bodie friends was William H. Metson, a young lawyer in the law offices of Pat Reddy. Metson went on to achieve prominence in legal and financial circles in San Francisco and beyond. He commented that Edwin Loose, "taught me everything I know outside of my law. He taught me to ride, fight, shoot, take care of myself and always be on the straight."

Edwin visited Bodie frequently. During one visit, he met with Warren about buying the old Syndicate Mine properties. The brothers bought the property and organized the New Bodie Mining Company in the early 1900s.

That property stayed in the family. Bob Loose, born in 1934, remembers living nine months of the year in Bodie in his family's brick home across from the mill. During Bob's childhood, the mill on the property was no longer crushing ore. Most of the work in the later years was to re-process the "tailings," (crushed ore) that still contained gold. All mining halted when the United States entered World War II in 1942. Gold and silver were "non-essential" metals for the war effort.

Edwin Loose died at age 76 and is buried in Provo, Utah. Warren died at age 63 in 1917 in Bodie. Bob said his grandfather had blood poisoning caused by gold fillings in his teeth that he refused to have removed. During his illness, Warren took his son and wife to a hill overlooking Bodie to show them where he wanted to be buried. He instructed them to bury his body under six feet of rock to keep coyotes from digging him up.

Today, many visitors to Bodie notice the monument that marks his grave. Some climb the hill and appreciate the wonderful view of a town with incredible history and incredible people such as the Loose Brothers.



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



Your renewal means you continue to be a part of Bodie's future!
Join or renew online at www.BodieFoundation.org,
or fill out and return this form:

- \$35 - Pay Dirt
- \$50 - Silver Vein
- \$75 - Gold Mine
- \$100 - W. S. Bodey
- \$250 - Teamster
- \$601 - Lifer
- \$5000 - Benefactor

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

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
STATE, ZIP:
PHONE:
EMAIL:

Please make checks payable to:
BODIE FOUNDATION

Bodie Foundation 2016
Photo by Art Dart