

# Bodie State Historic Park

*The* FRIENDS *OF* **BODIE**

## *newsletter*

### **VOLUNTEERS**

The past two years have been loaded with people willing to give their time to assist us with the various aspects of our operation. Since the beginnings of the Friends of Bodie in 1986 almost 2400 hours have been given by folks from as far away as San Diego.

Volunteers have assisted with Museum operations, tours of the Standard Mill, history talks, work in the Bodie Archives, cataloguing artifacts, and Safety Patrol.

We are looking for people to help with our maintenance program — skilled people who are working, or

have worked in the trades, such as carpenters, masons, plumbers, etc.

If you are looking for a place to stay for a week and would like to volunteer some time, have a motorhome or a trailer, we can provide water and septic service. At least one month advance notice is required due to limited space — We are always looking for ideas!

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Membership is growing! We now have 70 members included in our various categories. Many people have taken advantage of the \$100 life-charter. Life memberships are still \$100.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

It has been almost two years since the Friends of Bodie was established. We had hoped to have this newsletter out last year — but — at last here it is! We would like to thank everyone for staying with us and giving your time and dollars. In this, our first newsletter, you will discover some of the events that have occurred since June of 1986. There is a calendar beginning on this page, which will provide you with a brief rundown of past events. Also, you will find a section on what is planned for the near future, a short history blurb, and perhaps some other items of interest.

We hope all of you get the opportunity and take the time to visit Bodie again in the future. If not, drop us a note and let us know what you think of the newsletter.

Thank you again,

**J. Brad Sturdivant**

*Supervising Ranger, Bodie SHP*

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## — CALENDAR —

### 1986

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>June 19</b>                | Friends of Bodie Established  |
| <b>September</b>              | Plans for the Bodie Archives developed and work began on collecting archival material from various buildings around town.             |
| <b>October</b>                | Tom Morse proposes a series of photo workshops to raise funds to implement the Bodie General Development Plan.                        |
| <b>October &amp; November</b> | The Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association provided funds to build a room within a room in the old School House, for archival purposes. |

Volunteers donated over 1000 hours during 1986. CDF-CDC crews worked on a new boardwalk in front of Miner's Union Hall and put a new roof on Wheaton-Hollis (Bodie Store) Hotel.

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CALENDAR -- *Continued*

## 1987

- March** Member Henry Farrar turned in proposal for the Friends of Bodie logo.
- April** Plans began for the Bodie Archives Dedication.
- June 15** Dedication of the Bodie Archives. Over 150 people attended.

Volunteers donated over 1,300 hours. Many projects were completed in 1987. The new boardwalk, started in 1986 was completed by Park Maintenance staff, CDF-CDC, and District Maintenance personnel. The Bulwer Mine Superintendent's house was given a new roof, a new water system was added to the park, and a new restroom facility was constructed near the parking lot.

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### WHAT'S UP FOR 1988?

The Archives project will continue. The Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association and The Friends of Bodie will be funding an Archivist and two intern positions to hopefully have the Archives completed by the end of summer.

A new publication will be offered for sale this year. Nevada Publications will be putting out a 48 to 64 page booklet on Bodie, with some new text and photographs.

Mono County will be grading the main road (SR 270) about every three weeks this year instead of every four.

Office of State Architecture will be here this year to work on stabilization projects.

### MINING

A news item of interest to Friends of Bodie is a large open pit mine planned for Bodie by Galactic Resources, a Canadian Company. The project, still in its exploration phase, is expected to last 10 to 20 years, and take approximately 400 feet off of Bodie Bluff, the historic mining area on the east side of the park.

## MUSEUM: NEW HOURS

The Bodie Museum, located in the Miner's Union Hall, will be open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning Memorial Day Weekend and will remain open until September 30. The Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association has offered to fund a Museum position on a one-season trial basis. If enough sales are generated through these extended hours of operation the position could become a permanent part of the Bodie operation.



## BODIE ARCHIVES

Since Bodie became a park in 1962, many irreplaceable paper items have been laying on floors, nailed to walls, and exposed to the elements. This is about the way the California Department of Parks and Recreation found things. During the summer of 1986 a plan was put into motion to correct this situation. A major project of collecting and cataloguing archival material was begun. During the month of September a crew from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Interpretive Services, with assistance from the University of Nevada at Reno, spent about three weeks running around wearing white gloves, white smocks, and white face masks, collecting this material for removal to the School House, and later cataloguing. During the latter part of October and early November the Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association contracted to have a room within a room built at the rear of the old School House. The room was constructed so that at a later date it could be removed without causing damage to the original historic fabric of the building. The room was completed and by spring of 1987 plans were being made for a formal dedication of the Archives.

During late May and early June invitations were sent out to former Bodieites, Senators, members of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, Mono County

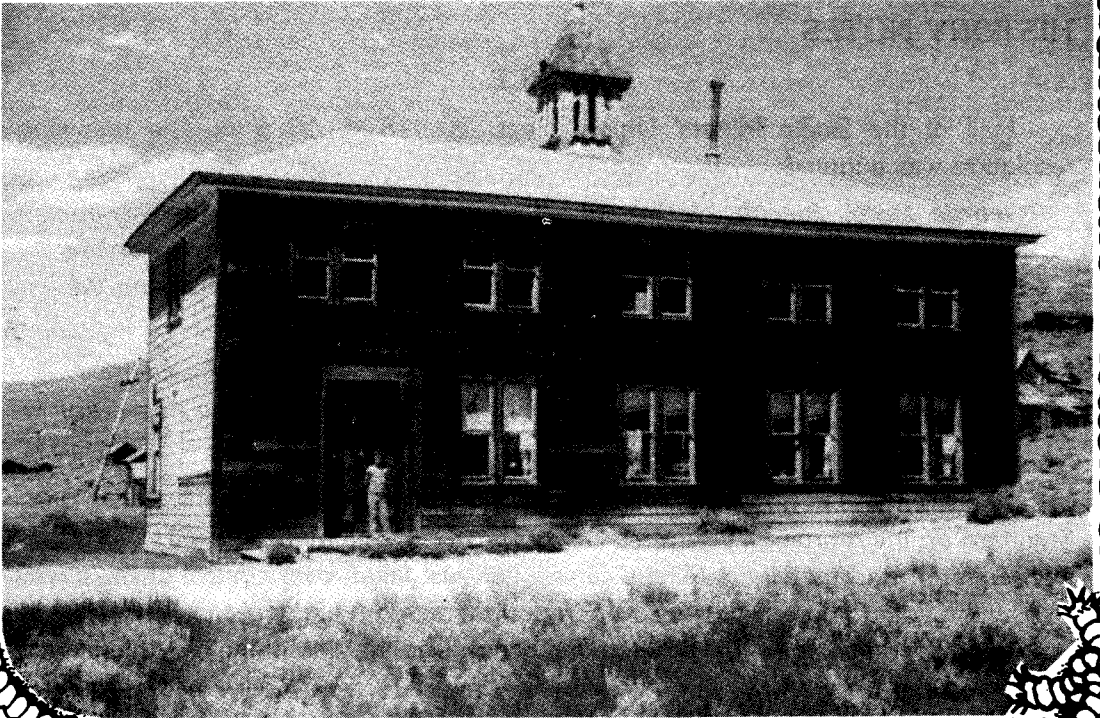
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*BODIE ARCHIVES — Continued*

Chamber of Commerce, and many others. A buffet-style luncheon was provided and the Bodie weather lived up to its reputation. The wind blew cold out of the south and carefully prepared speeches blew to the north.

One of the highlights of the dedication was the return of the Bodie Miners' Union flag. The flag had left Bodie about ten years prior and had been in Sacramento, awaiting funding and conservation. This project completed, it seemed only fitting that it be returned, not only to Bodie, but on this day.

Among the former Bodieites in attendance were Bob Bell, Ron Sturgeon, Stewart Cain, Gordon Bell, and Kent Pierce from Channel Three in Sacramento. At the close of the ceremony a photograph was taken of these past residents. This prompted Kent Pierce to say, "If you take a good look you will notice that all of the past residents are men . . . this is the real reason Bodie died."



## FEE AND PRICE INCREASES

Entrance fees for busses increased this past winter from \$20 to \$30. If you are planning a visit it will now cost \$1.00 to bring your dog and \$3.00 per vehicle.

Due to cost increases we will be raising the price of some of our books for sale in our Museum. New prices will be effective Memorial Day Weekend. Price sheet is available now.

## PUBLICATIONS

Beginning this season we will be offering the book, "Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes . . ." for sale in paperback.

A new booklet will be released sometime this summer, published by Nevada Publications in cooperation with the Friends of Bodie and the Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association. We look for this to go on sale in July.

## HISTORY NOTES

### NOTICE

Hall of the Bodie Miners' Union, Sept. 20, 1879, 10 p.m. The following resolution was adopted:

***George Daly, Joseph McDonald, Barney McDonald, George Harbor, Joseph Burnelle, James Murphy, and John Andrews be ordered outside the limits of the Bodie Mining District within a period of 12 hours from the date of this notice.***

***Signed: J.P. Shaughnessy, President  
M. Cohen, Recording Secretary***

The town was in an uproar when the above notice appeared in the Bodie Daily Standard on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 21, 1879. One man lay dead, two others were injured, and the Bodie Miners' Union had just taken over control of the town. The Union voted 500 to 3 to run seven important men out of the district, and was not in a mood to compromise. Bodie had often been called the "last of the old-time mining

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*HISTORY NOTES — Continued*

camps,” but the name was to be earned for good in this, the “Miners’ War” of 1879. The quick violence and equally quick justice of the old Gold Rush days pushed the more civilized modern court system briefly but firmly aside.

The war broke out in classic fashion over a mining claim dispute. Pugnacious George Daly, superintendent of the Jupiter Mine, argued with John Goff of the Owyhee Mine, stating that the Owyhee’s new shaft was on Jupiter land. Goff and his partners denied it, and refused to move. Later investigation proved that Daly was actually right, but at the time he simply took the law into his own hands. He began rounding up men and weapons, saying “Guns are cheaper than law.”

The pre-dawn hours of August 23 were shattered by numerous exchanges of gunfire around the Owyhee shaft, as the war began at 1:00 a.m. It ended suddenly five hours later with Goff dead and two other men wounded. Daly and his men were arrested for murder, but were soon set free, to the considerable disgust of the majority of Bodie’s mining men, many of whom still recalled the days of the informal “courts of the people” in the early Gold Rush camps. Thus when the Miners’ Union took over Bodie during this violent episode — and was accused of vigilante tactics by some — it was really resurrecting a legal relic from the days of ’49. Sentencing in those old courts was simple, usually involving only three choices: freedom, death, or banishment. It was this latter punishment that was meted out to George Daly and his cohorts. Often in trouble, Daly was finally killed by Apaches in New Mexico, in August, 1881.

**I believe Bodie has a future and I want to be part of it! Enroll me as a Friend of Bodie in the category checked.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Donation, without membership

Please send information on how I can volunteer my time.

**MEMBERSHIPS**

\$10.00 Student-Senior

\$15.00 Individual

\$25.00 Family

\$35.00 Organization

\$50.00 Supporting

\$100.00 Life

RENEWAL

P.O. BOX 515  
BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517



**T**he Friends of Bodie is a group dedicated to the preservation of the gold mining ghost town of Bodie. It is a chapter of the Tahoe-Sierra State Parks Association. This is a volunteer, non-profit organization which helps preserve and interpret state parks in the Sierra District of the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

In 1962 Bodie became a state historic park. This did not automatically insure all structures and artifacts would be properly preserved. Within the State Park System Bodie must compete with other parks for funding and priority projects. Likewise, the Department of Parks and Recreation must compete with all other state agencies for limited amounts of funding.

The Friends of Bodie can help raise funds and provide volunteer support to insure that Bodie is properly preserved.

Financial support and volunteer workers are vital in preserving Bodie. Should you wish to participate in this effort please contact:

The Friends of Bodie  
Post Office Box 515  
Bridgeport, CA 93517