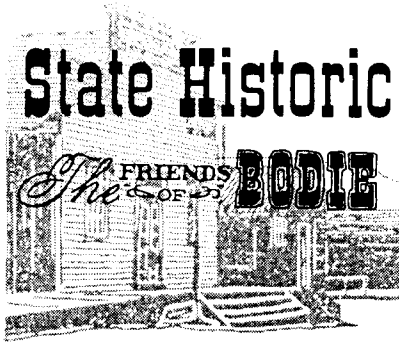


Bodie State Historic Park



Newsletter
Spring
1994

Executive Secretary's Message

Right off the top -- thank you all for your support during 1993. This past September, the 10th to be exact, marked the passing of 10 years that I have worked in Bodie. During these years many people have asked, "What is it you like about Bodie--its so desolate?" Well -- yes, that could be part of what I like about it; then again, it could be many, many other things that make up this 'Bodie Experience'. The thought of preserving a part of California's history, and at the same time protecting something that is a part of all of us, has great appeal to me. Bodie is a valuable, irreplaceable, cultural resource. We can all feel a sense of accomplishment toward preserving that feeling of *stepping back into time*.

This past year has brought both hope and disappointment. On the up side, the Bodie Protection Act, HR 240, passed in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill basically will eliminate any further mining claims, and put restrictions on mining current claims, within the Bodie bowl area. The Bureau of Land Management has put a two year moratorium on filing new claims within the Bodie bowl. The National Park Service is still working on designation of the National Historic Landmark

boundary around Bodie, which could provide further protection to Bodie. And the mining company, Galactic Resources Ltd., filed for bankruptcy as a result of cyanide spills at their Summitville, Colorado mine. Galactic started doing exploratory work in the Bodie Mining District back in 1988 and planned to operate an open pit mine next to the townsite.

On the down side, the U.S. Senate has not yet passed their sister bill to HR 240 (S 492). Another mining company could buy the mining lease and take over where Galactic left off. Another sad note, because of the budget cuts we did not receive funding for stabilization work. This is now the third year in a row which funds have been cut. It is only a matter of time before something falls.

Other good news is that we finally filled the vacant Ranger position at Bodie after six months, and it was filled by an old (he is not really old) friend of Bodie, Ranger Jack Shipley. Jack has worked at Bodie before as a Seasonal Ranger. History, music, and cross country skiing are three serious pursuits of Jack's. We are glad to welcome him back and look forward to the positive effect he will have on park operations.

The 'Friends of Bodie Night on the Town' last spring was enjoyed by about 40 Friends of Bodie members. We hope to do something like this again in '94. We will let you know if and when this event will take place. We may be asking for your volunteer help.

The museum received a new banister to help protect the glass cases. A new book display area and counter/desk area for the museum staff was completed. And many of the display case interiors were cleaned and reorganized. We still hope that someday a visitor center will be built near Bodie to help display and interpret the artifacts and history.

We had a snowy '92/'93 winter with over five feet of snow on the flat. It made for some beautiful photography and cross country skiing, but long snow cat rides. It was also hard on the backs

of the employees shoveling snow off several buildings roofs and digging out fire hydrants. We did not sustain any damage to structures due to the snow, but the fence line around the townsite needed quite a bit of repair after the snows receded; we worked into August before the repairs were completed. As far as temperatures -- it was a relatively warm winter with the lowest low temperature being 23 degrees below zero. The '93/94 winter produced much less snow and easy access by car.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and thanks again for being a Friend of Bodie.

Sincerely,

Brad Sturdivant
Supervising Ranger
Bodie S.H.P.



Vigilante Justice in Bodie

by Jack Shipley

De Roche, the murderer of Treloar, was captured on Saturday night, eight miles from Bodie on the Goat Ranch Road, and hanged by the 601 on Monday morning. Judge Lynch [i.e. a lynch mob] held his first court session in Bodie early on Monday morning, and passed judgement on a criminal whose crime was already impressed upon every mind in the community.

--*Bodie Daily Free Press, Jan 18, 1881*

Thus was Joseph De Roche, a gunman from Quebec, hanged by a large group of anonymous men in the wee hours of the morning of January 17, 1881. The men -- who included in their number many of the most prominent citizens of the town -- called themselves the "Bodie 601". They constituted a type of "vigilance committee", and their illegal lynching of De Roche was a classic example of vigilante justice in the Old West.

Contrary to popular opinion (which is based on modern TV and movies), however, lynching was not very common in the nineteenth-century American West. In fact, all forms of serious punishment for crime were uncommon, and jails were few and small. Most convicted criminals were simply booted out of town, or forced to pay a restitution fine in money, gold, or goods.

Two important reasons for the infant, underdeveloped nature of the criminal justice system are surprising to twentieth-century Americans. For one thing, there was actually a great deal *less* crime and violence in nineteenth-century America than there is today. The "Wild West" was not nearly as wild as Hollywood has led us to believe.

An interesting study of violence and vigilante justice in Bodie, for example, can be made by reading two fascinating but very different books on the subject, one a product of modern myth, and one a product of historic research. For the first book, read either *The Story of Bodie*, by Ella Cain, or *Bodie Bonanza*, by Warren Loose. These books are like many local histories in that they emphasize the violent or bizarre events, and elaborate on local oral anecdotes. you with the feeling that nothing normal, everyday, or non-violent ever occurred. Then , for a touch of reality, spend some time with Roger McGrath's *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes*. McGrath is also an entertaining and readable author, but he successfully debunks many myths about our wild and wooly ancestors by doing accurate historical research. The upshot of his study: in Bodie you could leave your wallet on a table somewhere and pick it up the next day untouched; buildings were rarely locked (except the liquor store); and an unarmed woman could traverse any section of town at night without fear. Try any of these things in an American city today.

continued page 4

Vigilante (continued)

The second reason that the criminal justice system in the nineteenth-century West was fairly primitive goes back to the origins of the Gold Rush camps in 1848-49. Towns sprung up almost overnight, with no legal system to turn to, and a very simplified procedure developed. In serious cases, an entire court -- judge, jury, bailiff, attorneys, etc. -- could be elected or appointed on the spot by whatever percentage of the town's male inhabitants happened to be present. After a verdict was reached, there were usually only three possible sentences: complete release (not guilty); banishment from town and or restitution to the victim (somewhat guilty); or death (very guilty).

Gradually a modern system of courts and jails spread from the East, and from Monterey and Sacramento to the rest of California. The primitive town courts were phased out *except* when the newer, government-supported system failed to act rapidly or firmly enough. Such was the case in San Francisco in 1851, when the "Committee of Vigilance" arose to deal out summary justice behind the back of the inept legal system. Ever since then, these non-legal courts and posses have been called "vigilantes".

In Columbia in 1858, and Aurora (just 13 miles east of Bodie) in 1864, a number of local badmen were hanged by vigilante group, Bodie, the "Last of the Old-Time Mining Camps", witnessed one of the last lynchings when Joseph De Roche was strung up in early 1881.



But by May of that year the tide had turned, and when Jobe Draper was convicted of murdering his wife he was sent to San Quentin instead of being hauled to the gallows. Thus did the modern style of criminal punishment finally reach this last outpost.



ACEC UPDATE

by Brad Sturdivant

What is an ACEC?

This may take some time! In 1984 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) entered into an agreement for the management of just less than 7,000 acres of property around Bodie State Historic Park. DPR was given authority to manage this property according to DPR Rules and Regulations ... with a few exceptions.

In recent years BLM adopted a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Bishop Resource Area. This RMP set aside approximately 7,000 acres around Bodie State Park as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern or ACEC.

In June of 1993 the BLM and Mono County established a committee to provide recommendations for management of federal and private lands around Bodie that might be consistent with the Bodie State Park General Development Plan, which was established in 1979. This group is made up of citizens from the local community with representatives from the cattle industry, mining industry, Sierra Club,

private land owners, local tour groups, DPR, and concerned citizens from various backgrounds. The group has been meeting approximately once/month since June with discussion on a wide variety of issues with the focal point, for the most part, being management of Bodie State Park. Issues have included: location of a visitor center, transportation, private property rights, by-pass roads, shuttle service into Bodie, mining vs. no mining, noise, air quality, water quality and many others. Some worthwhile recommendations have been written down and will be available for public review when the process is completed. The group must reach a consensus.

Perhaps the most frustrating part of the process is that the group tends to spend more time dealing with management ideas concerning operation of Bodie State Historic Park; most of which are covered in the General Development Plan for Bodie. This tends to take a great deal of time. However, some very good recommendations have come out of the process to date.

continued page 9

Bodie Winters

by Mark Pupich

It is said that Bodie was known for three things besides its gold: having the widest streets, the purest water, and the worst climate out of doors. Of course, these were exaggerations; but then again, there is some merit to these statements. Bodie's Main Street, the business district, did have a wide street to accommodate all the freight wagons, and stage coaches that were streaming into the booming mining camp. The pure spring water, clear, cold and delicious, is available from several nearby springs. And the winters can be severe in the Bodie Hills with temperatures that can fall to 40 below zero and snow to a depth of 20 feet.

I have been a Ranger at Bodie since 1989 and have seen five winters come and go, so I can comfortably say that I have a good idea of what winters are like up in the Bodie Hills at 8375 feet above sea level. It is cold; not the coldest, but about the coldest place you will find in California. During December of 1990 I saw the mercury drop down to 31 below zero; the average low for that month was 1.2 degrees. Because we are located in the rain shadow of the Sierras, we do not get as much precipitation as the mountain range to the west of us does, but we can still get several feet in a given winter. During the winter of 92/93 we had over five feet of snow on the flat and drifts up to fifteen feet deep; the total snow fall was 11 feet. The wind does not seem to blow any more, or harder, at Bodie than anywhere else; although, you sure do notice the wind

more when the wind-chill drops down to -55.

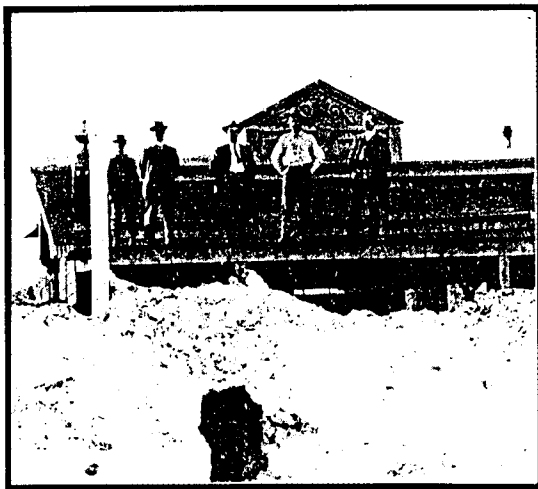
Living in this winter wonderland has its joys, as well as, its hardships. After a snow fall the beauty of the fresh snow is hard to surpass. The quiet and serenity is intensified, and cross country skiing and snowmobiling abound. One of the challenges the snow poses is getting in and out. Fortunately we have over-snow equipment (snow cats, and a snow mobile). Our counterparts back in the 1800s and early 1900s had horse-drawn sleds. Warm shelter is another concern. The drafty, uninsulated houses are difficult to keep warm. We have electric and propane to help supplement our wood heating. Back in 1884, during a severe winter, many homes were caught short on firewood for heating and cooking, which can be a life threatening situation.



Winter (continued)

Some may think it would be boring living up here during the winter. I have not found that to be so. There is a lot of time spent dealing with winter (shoveling snow, plowing roads, traveling in and out, keeping water pipes from freezing, etc.). Winter is also a time to catch up on projects and paperwork that we are unable to get to during the busy summer months. As far as entertainment we catch up on a lot of reading (no TV reception at Bodie).

Yes, Bodie does have severe winters, but you accept it and make the best of it. One Bodieite was quoted back in 1881, *"Winter is here--the snow part at least. A winter's supply of grub; a few books, including a pack of cards; and half a barrel of whiskey will carry a person through until spring."*--and another was quoted when the temperature dropped to 20 degrees below zero--*"Five minutes is long enough between drinks with the thermometer at its present."*



Helping Out at Bodie

Have you ever thought that it might be interesting to work at a ghost town? Well, there's a good way to find out: be a volunteer at Bodie State Historic Park.

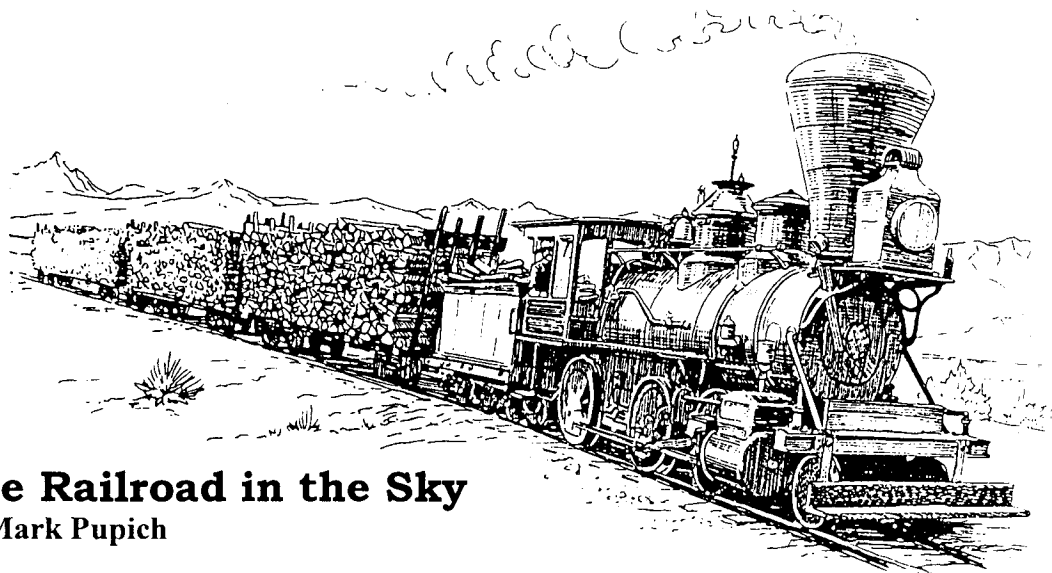
We have openings for all kinds of people, including students on vacation, working adults with a free weekend, and retired people looking for a fulfilling way to spend a week or so. Some of our volunteers give history talks and Mill Tours to the public; some work in the Museum; some do historic preservation, research and office work behind the scenes, and some do carpentry and maintenance. And *everybody* has an experience to remember.

If this sounds intriguing to you, write a letter to:

Bodie State Historic Park
P.O. Box 515
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Include information on your interests and what you would prefer to do. Also let us know when, how long, and how often you might be available.

Volunteers working in the summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day) must generally provide their own housing. Most either camp in our Picnic Area or stay in a motel in Bridgeport or Lee Vining. During the off-season we can sometimes provide housing inside the Park.



The Railroad in the Sky

by Mark Pupich

Bodie 1880 -- The gold mining camp has boomed into a mining metropolis with a population of 7,000. Lumber for building and mining, and cord wood for power and heating are in high demand. Lumber is shipped in by wagon from the eastern slopes of the Sierra, and much of the fire wood is cut and shipped into town from the near-by Pinyon Pine forests.

On February 18, 1881, the *Bodie Railway and Lumber Company* was incorporated. The B.R.&L.Co. had gained title to 12,000 acres of prime timber land south of Mono Lake and planned to build a saw mill and railroad to supply the Bodie Mining District with the much needed wood at a competitive price. Construction quickly started on the saw mill and narrow gauge track.

On November 14, 1881, the last spike was driven to complete the 32 mile railroad running from Mono Mills, 7 miles south of Mono Lake, to the ridge of the mining district just east of the townsite. Over 300 men worked on the railroad. Their wages were \$1.25 per day, plus boarding. They called the railroad "*The Railroad in the Sky*"

referring to its steepness and altitude. The railroad started at Mono Mills at an elevation of 7,345; dropped to an elevation of 6,426 at Mono Lake, and then climbed to 8,500 to reach Bodie.

There were two switchbacks, or Y's along the steep grade up into the Bodie Hills. The trains had to back up and down this steep grade. It took three trips to haul all the cars up the grade. There were four locomotives used on this railroad, the *Tybo*, *Mono*, *Inyo*, and *Bodie*. The *Bodie* was a four-wheelers and mainly hauled cars around the Mono Mills yard. The *Tybo*, *Mono* and *Inyo* were more powerful six-wheeler locomotives. They pulled the flat cars loaded with wood up the steep grade to Bodie.

The *Bodie Railway & Lumber Company* supplied Bodie with wood for 35 years. During 1882 the name of the company changed to *Bodie & Benton Railway and Lumber Company*. An attempt was made to connect the railroad with the Carson & Colorado Railroad at Benton. The connection failed due to conflicts of interest between the two rail-

Railroad (continued)

road companies and the old name was taken back. In 1906 the company changed owners and became the *Mono Lake Railway & Lumber Co.* In 1908 the railroad and lumber interest divided and the names changed to the *Mono Railway Co.* and the *Mono Lake Lumber Co.*

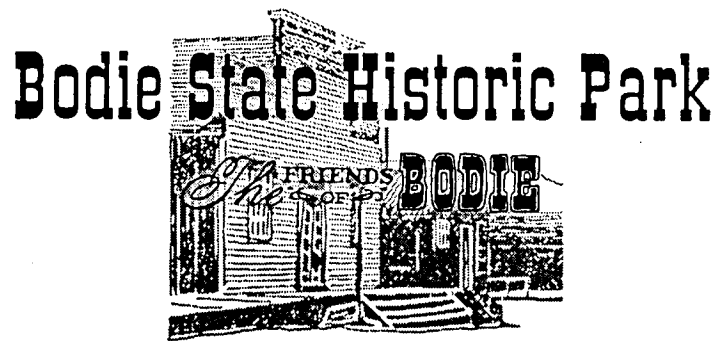
With the decline in mining at Bodie, also came a decline in the demand for wood. Between 1906 and 1908 attempts were made by the new owner of the railroad, C. Knox, to connect the Mono Railway with Southern Pacific's Nevada-California line, those attempts failed.

By 1916 the locomotives stood idle. During 1918 the railroad was auctioned to pay off the railroad's debts and dismantled. The rails were shipped to Hawaii, the Philippines, and the Orient. The locomotives, with exception of the *Tybo* that went to Keeler, Ca. to be used at the salt plant, were dismantled and scrapped. Today, much of the railroad bed is still recognizable, but overgrown with vegetation. Along Mono Lake some of the railroad ties still remain. From the townsite of Bodie one can see the Railroad House standing in the saddle of the ridge to the east; a monument to one of countless elements tied to the history of this once thriving mining district.

ACEC (continued)

The first thing the group did was come up with a definition of the *Bodie Experience*. It goes something like this: Nowhere in America can a person better journey back in time to experience a legendary western boom town than in the historic mining region of Bodie. As we walk the streets and view the structures and surrounding landscape, we begin to understand frontier life of the 1880's -- the searing heat, the bitter cold, the sound of the wind, the eerie quiet, and ... the final isolation of the cemetery. This experience helps us comprehend the

place, the events, and people of various cultures and ethnic backgrounds contributing to the American spirit of fact and myth. Bodie offers an individual the unique opportunity to discover and experience the special sense of place suspended in time ... free from sights and sounds of contemporary intrusion -- *This is the Bodie Experience.*



BODIE PHOTO WORKSHOPS 1994

The Bodie photography workshops are offered through the Friends of Bodie to provide unique photographic opportunities that are not normally available to the public, as well as, instruction on how to get the best results. During these workshops the participant will have the opportunity to photograph Bodie at sunrise and sunset, and selected building interiors. A large portion of the proceeds from the workshop fees go to the Friends of Bodie to help fund management, protection, and interpretation at Bodie.

The photo workshops vary in length from one day to four days. The leaders of these workshops are professional photographers who are experienced workshop leaders, and have been photographing Bodie for several years. The workshop leaders, tentative dates and fees are listed below. **For further information and registration please contact the workshop leaders.**

Clinton Smith, P.O. Box 8283, Spokane, WA, 99203, (800)674-8444, Ext. 2174
Dates: June 27-29, July 11-13, July 18-20
Fee: \$200

Bob Cumming, 9623 Hazard, Garden Grove, CA, 92644, (714)531-2698
Dates: Sept. 12-14, Sept. 15-17
Fee: \$200

Thomas Morse, P.O.Box 30866, Santa Barbara, CA, 93130, (805)682-3398
Dates: July 21-24, Sept. 18-22, Oct. 1-4
Fee: \$465

Noella Ballanger - Jalien Tulley, P.O.Box 457, La Canada, CA, 91012, (818)954-0933
Dates: May 13-14, Sept. 29-30
Fee: \$300

PUBLICATIONS ABOUT BODIE

The following publications are available at Bodie or by sending a check or money order to Bodie State Park at the following address:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
P.O. BOX 515
BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517

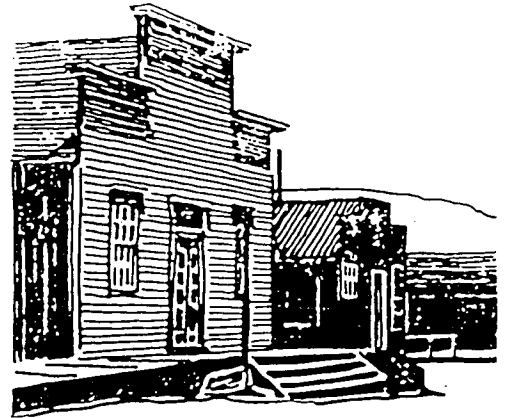
Checks should be made out to the "Friends of Bodie". Prices INCLUDE sales tax and postage. Profits from the sale of publications go to the Sierra State Parks Foundation to be used for interpretive needs in all parks in the Sierra District.

If you are a member of the "Friends of Bodie" you may order by using the FOB discount price. If you are not a member, you may join now by filling out the enclosed form and receive the discount with this order.

| BOOKS | REGULAR PRICE | DISCOUNT PRICE |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Bodie Brochure | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| Bodie 1859 -1900 | 15.00 | 12.00 |
| Bodie Bonanza | 13.50 | 11.00 |
| Bodie -- Boom Town, Gold Town | 6.50 | 5.50 |
| Bodie SHP Resouce Mgmt. & General Development Plan | 7.00 | 6.00 |
| California State Park Guide | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| California Historical Landmarks | 14.00 | 11.50 |
| California's Eastern Sierra - A visitor's Guide | 18.00 | 14.50 |
| Ghost Town of Bodie | 9.50 | 8.00 |
| Great Bodie Activity Book | 5.00 | 4.50 |
| Guide to Bodie | 12.00 | 10.00 |
| Gunfighters, Highwaymen & Vigilantes | 15.00 | 12.00 |
| Highest School in California | 7.50 | 6.50 |
| Man From Mono | 12.50 | 10.50 |
| Mark Twain: His Adventures in Aurora & Mono Lake | 8.50 | 7.00 |
| Mining Camp Days | 11.50 | 9.50 |
| Mono Diggings | 14.50 | 12.00 |
| Paiute, Prospector, Pioneer | 10.50 | 9.00 |
| Photographing Bodie | 8.50 | 7.00 |
| Poag's Guide for 1880 Bodie | 6.50 | 5.50 |
| Rosa May | 11.50 | 9.50 |
| Story of Bodie | 13.50 | 11.00 |
| Story of Early Mono County | 11.50 | 9.50 |
| Teacher's Guide to Bodie | 6.50 | 5.50 |
| Trip to Bodie Bluff | 6.50 | 5.50 |
| Women of the Sierra | 12.00 | 10.00 |
| | | |
| POSTERS | | |
| Angel of Bodie | 10.00 | 8.50 |
| Miners' Union Hall | 10.00 | 8.50 |
| 1880 Map of Bodie | 10.00 | 8.50 |
| Historic Bodie Newspaper Reprints (Set of 3) | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| | | |
| POSTCARDS | | |
| Sets of 3, Church, School & Miners' Union Hall | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| | | |
| BODIE VIDEO: | | |
| "Bodie -- Ghost Town Frozen in Time" | 33.00 | 23.00 |
| A 1 hr. video narrated by Hoyt Axton | | |

MEMBERSHIPS

- \$10.00 Student/Senior
- \$15.00 Individual
- \$25.00 Family
- \$35.00 Organization
- \$50.00 Supporting
- \$100.00 Life
- RENEWAL



The FRIENDS **BODIE**
OF

A Chapter of
Sierra State Parks Foundation

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

- Donation, without membership
- Please send information on how I can
volunteer my time.

The FRIENDS **BODIE**
OF

P.O. BOX 515
BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517