
FRIENDS OF BODIE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 Issue 1

Spring 1998

BODIE: LAST OF THE OLD TIME MINING CAMPS

This address is excerpted from one that was delivered before the California Historical Society, October 28, 1924 and can be found in the California Historical Society Quarterly, Pages 64-80.

Here are some interesting excerpts taken directly from the address of Grant H. Smith:

Bodie is an unforgettable memory. After more than forty years it gives me a thrill to speak of it. I went there as a boy of fourteen in June of 1879, when the camp was in its glory and left in 1881, before the rapid decline had fairly set in; consequently I remember only its golden days.

Bodie was unique; it was the last of the old time mining camps, the last, in type of the pioneer days of California. Bodie came into prominent notice in 1878, through the discovery of some extraordinary bodies of gold ore.

The adventurous heard the call and by 1879 ten thousand people had flocked to Bodie. The majority were the best of mining camp type, but there was also a gathering of the wildest and most desperate characters that ever infested a mining region. Besides the business and professional men, mine-operators, miners, etc., there were hundreds of gamblers, hundreds of prostitutes, many Chinese and a considerable number of Mexicans and an unusual number of what we used to call "Bad Men"---desperate violent characters from everywhere, who lived by gambling, gun fighting, stage-robbing and other questionable means.

I was the only messenger boy employed in the telegraph office at Bodie during the greatest excitement years of 1879 and 1880. I went everywhere to deliver messages. The mines, mills, stores, offices, saloons, gambling houses and the red light district were visited almost daily.

The traffic in the streets was continuous and enlivening. The streets were alive with men at all times of the day and night. A daily horse-market in the center of town was a feature in summer, and an impromptu horse race on Main Street was not unusual.

If there was a town government of any kind in 1879 and 1880, I did not know of it. There was a justice of the peace, but there was practically nothing to hold in check the rough element of the town, except the fear of the other fellow's gun and knife.

Cold-blooded murders were uncommon. Most men were killed in open gunfights, where each side has at least some chance. Weapons were oftener drawn than used. Most men that carry guns like to get them out on slight provocation, but they loath to use them. Bodie had a record of hundreds of men killed by violence.

While violence was the order of the day, every day, in Bodie, there were no bank robberies, no store robberies, no house breaking and little petty thieving. Of course the bullion stages were frequently held up on the long road to Carson City, usually resulting in the killing of one or more men, but that was expected.

The camp produced altogether about \$21,000,000; of which \$14,500,000 was produced by the Standard Mine, \$4,000,000 by the Bodie, \$1,000,000 by the Noonday, and \$1,500,000 by all of the other mines in the camp. It is an interesting fact that nearly all of the wealth of the Standard and Bodie mines was found within five hundred feet of the surface, and that no ore of importance was produced below eight hundred feet. **Con't on page two**

Bodie: Last of the... con't

The richest ore from the Bodie mine did not pulverize readily in the mill, because the gold and silver would pound up into massive sheets under the stamps, and had to be shoveled out of the mortar-boxes in order that the stamps could do their duty. All of the gold in the district was heavily alloyed with silver, and was rarely worth more than \$12 per ounce.

A kindly foreman took me down into the Bodie mine to see the "1879 Bonanza," and I shall never forget one small drift, or tunnel, that glittered on all sides with gold and silver like the treasure house of Croesus.

By 1881, men were beginning to realize that none of the mines in the district had proven very profitable, except the Standard and the Bodie. It became evident too that the ore in those mines did not extend to any great depth. The stock market went to pieces, and other large mining plants began to close down one after the other. Stocks moved up and down with startling rapidity. Men were rich today and poor tomorrow, and then rich again. The phrase that one heard the oftenest in Bodie was "Let's take a drink," and the next most popular expression was the inquiry, "How are the stocks today?"

One of the remarkable things about Bodie; in fact, one of the striking social features of all mining camps in the West, was the respect shown even by the worst character to the decent women and the children. Some of the best families in town lived in the immediate neighborhood of Chinatown and red-light district, and the women and children could not move out of their houses without passing saloons and all sorts of terrible places.

The town was small, congested, and "wide open"; people lived and did as they pleased, without pretense; the lives of all were open and known to men, women, and children. It has always seemed to me that one learned more about human nature in a mining camp in a few years than could be acquired in a city in a lifetime.

People found Bodie so intensely human and interesting that, notwithstanding the hardships and the ultimate failure of all their hopes, they always spoke of it in after years with enthusiasm.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

First the good news!

Summer of 1997 ushered in a new era for Bodie State Historic Park. The park actually doubled in size to over 1,000 acres. How did this happen? If you recall in last years newsletter State Parks was deeply involved with negotiations to purchase 517 acres of mineral property on Bodie Bluff. In June of this last summer the deal was finalized. After 35 years the Bodie Mining District has become part of the historic park. A rededication of the park was held in September of this year. See the article included in this issue.

You would think that after 8 years dealing with mining companies, 2 years in negotiations, and 35 years as a park **everybody** would be happy ... well we are ... but now comes the hard part.

Adopt – a - Building

The acquisition included 517 acres, about 30 additional structures, some fencing of old mine shafts, and perhaps some unwanted material clean – up. However ... there were no additional funds allocated to manage the property, put up signs, patrol, interpret, fence, or stabilize structures. SO ...

We thought of putting together an Adopt – a – Building program where, if people were inclined to so, they could donate funds to a specific structure located on this property. Our first choice is the Railroad Superintendent's Residence or as we call it, the Train Station ... probably because it is easier to say. The Train Station was chosen because it is the most visible building in the area and has suffered the most noticeable damage over the past ten years due to weather and vandalism. If you have ideas how we may get this project off the ground, we would like to hear from you.

Stabilization

Funding still looks good for stabilization within the townsite. The Maintenance and State Architecture crews are doing an excellent job "keeping Bodie from falling down ... but still making it look like it is ..." Arrested Decay. Next summer looks good for stabilizing the trestle into the top floor of the Standard Mill and perhaps by summer 1999 a tour of the entire mill from top to bottom will be available.

Please read the entire newsletter as there are some exciting things going on. New Rangers, increased number of mill tours, new ridge tour, new sales items, history, natural history, and current events ... or at least current for an old town.

Thanks to all of you for your support. Hope to see you this summer ... maybe at the Friends of Bodie Night.

Sincerely



J. Brad Sturdivant

FRIENDS OF BODIE NIGHT ONCE AGAIN A SUCCESS

by Julia Hayden

The Friends of Bodie gathered together this year Saturday, August 23, 1997 for the annual membership night. We were very pleased with the turnout of approximately 110 members and their families.

Members were able to take the first ever evening tours of the Standard Stamp Mill. This is due to an ongoing illumination project. This year eight lights were added to aid viewing on tours during the day and making possible the night tours. Additional lighting is scheduled for installation next year, with the hope of expanding the tours further.

Between tours, members enjoyed a buffet supper catered by Paul Greenstein.

Bodie's seasonal employees provided additional entertainment as they gave a living history presentation of the adventures of Theodore Hoover and family as they attempted to visit Yosemite.

A short dialogue was held between the membership and executive secretary J. Brad Sturdivant to discuss several topics. The possibility of opening a mining tunnel for tours was brought up as well as an "Adopt a Building" program as a potential source of funds for additional stabilization of structures. Also discussed were additional types of interpretation the members would like to see in the park.

All seemed to enjoy the evening, and we hope that by continuing to hold the membership night in August more members will be able to attend, and that they will stay warmer too.

FROM WHERE I SIT (NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM DESK)

by Julia Hayden

The past year saw 101,646 people come through the museum at Bodie SHP.

This year Denise Lydestrom joined the Bodie seasonal staff. If you chanced to visit the museum while Denise was working you would have been delighted by one of the several period costumes she created and wore throughout the summer. With Denise's help everything ran smoothly in the museum, and we look forward to having her back next summer.

A small addition was made to our display collection. Pete Flewelling of the Department of State Architecture crew working in Bodie donated a small gold coin. This ½ ounce piece was separated and refined from 25 gallons of soil collected from under the amalgamation tables at the Standard Stamp Mill. Thank you Pete.

In an effort to raise funds for expansion of interpretive activities, a number of items have been added to our non-profit foundation sales area.

We now carry the Mono Lake Guidebook, a guide to the natural and human history of Mono Lake and the Mono Basin. We also carry *Stokes Beginning Guide to Western Birds*, a full color guide to birds commonly found in and around the Bodie area.

We are carrying two books specifically for the younger members of Friends of Bodie. *Nine for California* is a beautiful, fully illustrated hardback book that shares the adventures of a young girl as she travels west with her rather large family via stagecoach. *Goodbye God, I'm Going to Bodie* is the contemporary fictional tale of a young girl spending the summer in Bodie. When she and her companions discover an old diary, it leads to high adventure and treasure in the old ghost town.

I hope everyone that visits this coming year will be able to stop by the museum and reacquaint themselves with our collection. Even after working in the museum for three seasons, once in a while I still see something new.

NEW RANGERS COME TO BODIE

Last spring, Bodie saw some major changes in staffing. Ranger Mark Pupich transferred to Grover Hot Springs and Ranger Jack Shipley retired.

We would like to welcome their replacements, Rangers Mark Langner and John Hughes. They were asked to write short biographies to introduce themselves to the membership

Mark's Biography

I'm the replacement Ranger Mark at Bodie SHP (my immediate two predecessors were "Ranger Marks" as well, what are the odds?). I arrived here in June of 1997 after having worked the previous ten years at the State Beaches along the Monterey Bay coast. These two locations are not as different as you might expect; each has stunning sunsets, both have a rich cultural history, the rolling sage plains are similar to the sight of the open rolling ocean, and wildlife abounds at each location (the two legged type in Monterey, the four legged variety in the Bodie area). Bodie for me was even a "step forward in time" compared to Monterey; for example, my house in Bodie, built in the 1870s, is actually forty years *newer* than the Robert Louis Stevenson House where I lived in Monterey.

Why Bodie? I've always wanted to live and work somewhere where the elevation is higher than the population, a place where you can see the Milky Way from horizon to horizon every night, a place where the only way in is a bumpy dirt road. The era of Bodie's heyday appeals to me, and the eastern Sierra seems like California at its best.

I'm a Humboldt State University alumnus with a degree in Wildlife Management. I've worked as a backcountry ranger, ecologist, firefighter, and biologist for the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and the California Department of Fish and Game. (I also cooked donuts and made Pepsi Cola but that was a long time ago!)

I live in Bodie with my wife Lynn, our main cat Wally and accessory cat LaKita. In our spare time we like to backpack, hike, ski, read, travel and soak in hot springs.

Bodie SHP has been a wonderful experience so far; there is a skilled and dedicated staff, the weather is pleasant (in quite variable ways), the visitors to the park are genuinely, and often rabidly, interested in California history, and having pikas, badgers and coyotes for neighbors is a cool thing.

A Little Information on Ranger John

I told my wife Cindy, that we needed an adventure. Our son Darin just started Chico State and two positions became available at Bodie. What perfect timing. I finally convinced Cindy that an adventure was starring us in the face.

I was born in Texas, raised in Los Angeles and graduated from Alhambra High School in 1964. I went to college, got drafted and enlisted on the same day into the US Army. I took a European Discharge and traveled as a hippie in 1968. Afterwards, I went back to college and got a BS in Environmental Resources. During summers I worked in Quinault Washington, Southeast Alaska, Glacier National Park and Mt. McKinley National Park.

After graduation, I took a year and my bicycle and traveled Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia, New Zealand and Australia. I returned home and the Department of Parks and Recreation hired me as a Ranger in 1977.

My first year with the department was at Folsom Lake SRA, then on to the Salton Sea SRA for two years. I transferred to Sonoma Coast/Fort Ross as a Dog Handler. The dog handler position fell through and I became the Fort Ross Ranger. In 1984 I transferred to Fort Humboldt SHP/Azalea SR/Patrick's Point SP. In 1986 I again transferred to Lake Oroville SRA. This was to be our permanent home while Darin went to school.

Bodie has many challenges for me. I think Bodie can have yearly changes that will bring people back again and again. A lot of the visitors seem to develop an emotional attachment to Bodie, and I can see why.

Some changes I would like to see are the opening of the Bodie Tunnel Mine for viewing and tours; opening the Hoover house for viewing; developing a self guided trail between the mine and town; and a self guided trail with brochure for the cemetery.

All this takes time, money and support from the Friends of Bodie.

REDEDICATION CEREMONY BRINGS DIGNITARIES TO BODIE

On September 12, 1997 Bodie saw a gathering of dignitaries that hadn't been matched in 35 years, not since the original dedication of Bodie as a State Historic Park and National Landmark.

September 12, 1997 marked the 35th anniversary of Bodie, and the celebration of much more as the acquisition of the historic mining district was added to the current park lands. The ceremony was held under a tent on the historic mining district lands above the town to the east. Guests were also able to view the historic train station.

Attending to mark the ceremony were many of those who had assisted in the acquisition of the lands or in intermediate measures to protect Bodie, such as the Desert Protection Act.

To open, Northern Sector Chief Carl Chavez delivered a moving welcome as he read from the diary he kept his first season as a ranger at Bodie SHP. More speeches followed by Donna Pozzi of the Save Bodie Committee, Nancy Whitmore of the Eastern Sierra Citizens for the Protection of Bodie, Ed Hasty of the Bureau of Land Management, Mono County Supervisor Andrea Lawrence, a representative from the American Land Conservancy, and California Department of Parks and Recreation Director Donald Murphy.

Framed limited edition prints by Jill Lachmen were presented to those involved in the acquisition to commemorate the occasion, and to thank them for their help.

A BBQ luncheon followed, and a tour of the new acquisition by Senior Park Aide Walter Stone was offered to help explore the new lands.

Governor Wilson Proposes Park Bond

As part of the state budget for 1998-99 fiscal year, Governor Pete Wilson is proposing the 1998 Watershed, Wildlife, and Parks Improvement Bond Act. The state parks will receive \$ 310 million of the \$ 800 million to preserve and improve a system that includes over 264 park units, 1.3 million acres, 625 miles of lake and river frontage, and nearly 18,000 campsites.

STABILIZATION IN BODIE

OR

WHY DOESN'T IT FALL DOWN?

by Julia Hayen

One of the most asked questions by visitors to the park is, "Are you just going to let the buildings fall down?" The answer is, "Certainly not!"

With the help of a dedicated stabilization crew of four, buildings are constantly undergoing work to help keep them solid, even if they do look terrible. Seven buildings went under the saw last year.

After talking with the crew on location at one of their work sites, I found the most common types of repairs are working on foundations, re-roofing, and window replacement. Between these three, the buildings can be kept weather tight to help protect any artifacts inside; as well as prevent further decay of the structure itself. "You start from the bottom and work your way up, kind of like an office job," states James Anthony, Park Maintenance Aide, as he hammers away at molding holding up the ceiling.

The ultimate goal is to maintain the buildings in a state of arrested decay. While the buildings are generally kept looking like they did when Bodie became a park in 1962, the maintenance crew says the how changes every year. Policies include maintaining the "historic fabric," original materials whenever possible, and replacing materials in kind when necessary. To accomplish this, the crew often uses historic photos and measurements taken before they begin work, as well as "a fair amount of creative license" says Worker I Michael Whitsel.

Our stabilization crew truly seems to enjoy their job. They are very excited that their role in maintaining the park is expanding thanks to additional monies from the Environmental License Plate fund. In the past, large projects were handled by outside workers from the Department of State Architecture, but more and more these are dealt with by the crew within the park. The consensus among the crew as to the worst part of the job is crawling under the building, when the crew is fondly referred to as "The Badger Boys," but they enjoy buying time for a structure, 25-50 years in some cases. Another high point is the artifact discoveries made, and whenever possible added to the museum collection. A favorite job is re-roofing, especially tin roofs, but says Worker I Charley Spiller, "It doesn't get really satisfying until it rusts up a little bit."

THE RUBBLE RABBITS

[Article originally appeared in its entirety in the November 1997 *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, pages 66 - 72]

Andrew T. Smith

Department of Biology

Arizona State University

Today Bodie survives as one of the West's best preserved mining towns, but for me, the place is a gold-mine of an altogether different sort. In an area no larger than eight square kilometers, devoid of any trees, lives one of the most diverse assemblages of terrestrial mammals in North America. All told the area is home to more than 30 species - about ten per cent of the total found in Canada and the US.

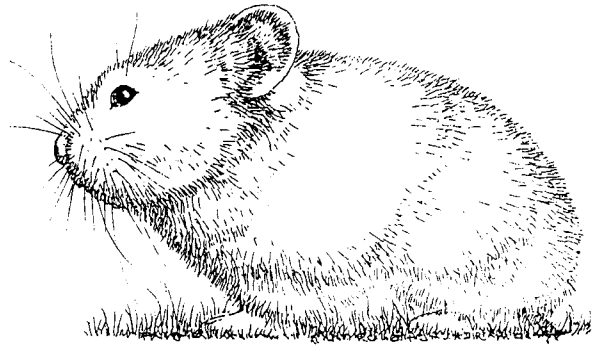
Over the years I've found that Bodie is an ideal place for studying one of those species, the American pika (*Ochotona princeps*). Pikas have a special liking for rocky habitats, and at Bodie they've taken over the ore dumps left behind by the miners.

These piles of broken rock dot the landscape like islands in an ocean of sagebrush. And, from the pikas' perspective, that's exactly what the ore dumps are: islands of ideal habitat in a hostile sea. This makes Bodie a unique natural laboratory where ecologists can learn about the ecology of fragmented populations - an issue that becomes ever more pressing as endangered species find their habitats being fragmented by human activity.

I first came to Bodie as a young researcher in 1969, drawn by my delight in the antics of pikas. I knew that they normally inhabited cool rocky slopes at much higher elevations than Bodie -- which, although 2,500m above sea level, is decidedly warm by pika standards. And yet somehow they'd managed to colonize Bodie's ore. I was impressed and intrigued, and I had to see them for myself.

At first I concentrated on finding out how the Bodie pikas cope with the high temperatures they encounter around the ore dumps. At high elevations, pikas can be active through summer days, at Bodie they run around only at dawn and dusk. The Bodie pikas conduct their business until the temperature approaches about 20° C -- which normally happens about 10 am -- then they retreat into the rocks, surfacing again only about 5 pm when the air begins to cool.

This avoidance of high temperatures has profound consequences. Pikas are territorial animals;



Pikas are classified, along with rabbits and hares, in the order Lagomorpha, and in a single genus, Ochotona. There are about 25 species of pikas, all remarkably similar looking.

once they settle down they are very reluctant to move to a new location. Most movements within a population are by young animals which, as they mature, go looking for vacant sites where they can set up house. Breeding occurs early in summer, and the young reach the age when they're ready to disperse just as summer temperatures are reaching their peak. In these conditions, it's difficult for juveniles to travel very far across the hot and inhospitable terrain -- and this severely limits their ability to colonize new ore dump "islands."

To find out more, I counted all the pikas on the ore dump islands at Bodie, relying on telltale signs left by the little animals, notably their droppings and haypiles -- the stores of vegetation they construct during summer and eat during winter, when snow covers their territories.

It seemed that at one time or another all of the ore dumps and potential territories at Bodie had been colonized by pikas. But, at the time of my early censuses in the 1970s, about 40 per cent of all ore dump islands were vacant. An intriguing picture emerged. Pika populations, especially those on the smallest islands, were frequently going extinct. And, because pikas find it hard to travel across inhospitable habitat on hot summer days, many of these unoccupied patches were not recolonized for years -- even when the journey involved was a mere 300m.

I began to realize that what we had at Bodie was a classic example of what biologists call a "metapopulation" -- a collection of scattered groups living in a patchy or fragmented habitat. At any one time, some of these groups are going extinct, while others are providing colonists who start up new groups on empty patches of suitable habitat.

It works like this: when the number of occupied patches declines for some reason, fewer

patches are producing dispersers to colonize unoccupied ones. This has serious consequences. The number of occupied patches can spiral down and ultimately result in a total collapse of the metapopulation.

With this in mind I censused Bodie in the early 1990s. In an extraordinary turn of events, we came face to face with a regional crash of the Bodie pika metapopulation.

The staggering thing was that pikas had disappeared from nearly all the ore dump islands in the southern half of my Bodie study area, while those on the northern patches were thriving. Why? The total study area at Bodie is small, and so we can't blame factors such as the climate, which affects all pikas equally.

So what caused our population collapse? The key point is that pikas have a difficult time dispersing. They are reluctant to disperse, and when they do -- particularly at Bodie -- all the cards are stacked against them. Summer heat, or a predator's strike, may kill them on the way. And once they reach a new patch, they may be excluded by existing territory holders.

A young pika's only chance is to find an unsaturated or unoccupied ore dump, but this is as hard as finding a needle in a haystack. With the chance extinction of a few key patches in the south, such restricted dispersal probably led very quickly to the regional collapse of the metapopulation that we observed.

Conservation biologists are beginning to take such findings to heart. More and more of our threatened and endangered species are living in patchy or fragmented habitats. The Bodie pikas show us that even seemingly secure metapopulation systems may collapse. From my surveys in the 1970s, I could never have anticipated this result.

And, even if I'd been told that it was possible, I couldn't have determined whether it would have occurred in the northern or southern regions of my study area. The lesson is clear: endangered species living in fragmented habitats may be far more vulnerable than we have previously supposed.

Our current studies on individually marked pikas tell us which animals move between patches and how these movements may be dependent on the spacing of the ore dumps. Once we understand this, we will have taken a major step towards being able to develop habitat conservation action plans for threatened fragmented species.

BODIE PIKA RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMER 1998

Andrew Smith, John Nagy and John Frisch (Department of Biology, Arizona State University) will be continuing their work on the metapopulation dynamics of pikas at Bodie in summer 1998. Their work will be sponsored by EARTHWATCH (The Center for Field Studies). Anyone who wants to participate in this project should contact EARTHWATCH for details:

EARTHWATCH
680 Mt. Auburn Street
P.O. Box 9104
Watertown, MA 02272
Phone: 617.926.8200
FAX: 617.926.853

"Strike it Rich"

May is State Park Month

This year will mark the fifth annual promotion of State Parks Month in May. Each year the parks department sponsors this promotion to increase public awareness and support for state parks. This year's theme is the Sesquicentennial and the slogan is "Strike it Rich, Discover California State Parks"

There will be a Governors Proclamation that highlights the richness of our natural and cultural resources and the opportunities for rich experiences in the park. Every state park with regular day use fees will be free on the first Monday in May. (Hearst, Angel Island, Ano Neuvo. Calif. Rail Road Museum and the Grover Pool are not included).

PARK HOURS

8 am – 4 pm End of Daylight Savings to March 1st

8 am – 5 pm March 1st to Daylight Savings

8 am – 6 pm Daylight Savings to first Sat. prior to Memorial Day weekend

8 am – 7 pm First Sat. prior to Memorial Day w/e thru mid-September

8 am – 6 pm Mid-September thru Columbus Day w/e

8 am – 5 pm After Columbus Day w/e to end of Daylight Savings

LET'S OPEN THE BODIE TUNNEL MINE!

by John Hughes

Almost every visitor asks "can we see the mine" or "can we go into the mine," and the park staff always has to say, "no, none of the mines are safe." I had the Cal OSHA representative for Tunnels and Mines, Tim Hurley, look at the Bodie Tunnel Mine. He was very helpful and had no problem with the mine opening for tours as long as a few safety problems were addressed.

I then had a licensed mine engineer come out and give me a ball park bid on building a historic but safe portal, some interior mine bracing, bar down work and clean up. All this would be in the area of \$35,000.00. Cost would vary due to park staff and volunteers assisting with the labor.

I have submitted a request within the proper channels. Management feels the project is at least two years away, but with some encouragement from the membership, we might at least open the mine for outside viewing within the next year. Show your support for the Bodie Tunnel Mine and write the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

The following is some information and history of the Bodie Tunnel Mine.

The Bodie Tunnel Mine is completely separate from the Bodie Mine. It was incorporated November 12, 1877 and had a capital of \$10,000,000 with 100,000 shares. The officers were Josiah Belden (President), G.F. Bowman (Secretary), J.A. Robinson (Treasurer), Frank Taglibue, and George Daly. The office was located at 202 Sansome Street.

The Bodie Tunnel Mine was originally located in 1865 as the Lady Alice Tunnel Company, but the property was abandoned.

By May 1878, 480 feet of the solid part had been completed, with about the same amount remaining before penetrating the very heart of Bodie Bluff in a transverse manner. When work was first begun on this enterprise, it cost \$20 per foot, but by 1878 it could be done for \$8.00. The advantage of this tunnel, both for prospecting veins, draining and extracting ore in all weather, cannot be overestimated. Besides, the company owned a valuable mill site at its mouth, including live springs.

By November 1878, the tunnel was in 600 feet and was almost perfectly straight. The miners could work without candles, and there was enough light to see to strike the head of a drill. Fresh air was supplied by

an air flue formed of boards laid at the bottom of the tunnel. Air passed through this 10-inch gutter to the working area.

The Bodie Tunnel Company was especially successful. This company also had its own mill, and their tunnel penetrated beneath the Bechtel Mine and McClinton group of veins. At its shallowest point, it was 600 feet beneath the surface. Miners working in three 8-hour shifts drove the tunnel, and it was of sufficient size to accommodate two car tracks.

When the tunnel reached 1,600 feet it had cut 19 veins which ranged in thickness from 4 inches to 12 feet. The veins were worked by winzes and drifts. At a length of 2,250 feet, 21 veins had been cut and about 2,000 tons of ore had been taken from the Festoon vein. The tunnel was extended to 3,000 feet, and it operated profitably for many years.

In 1880 the horizontal Bodie Tunnel Mine connected with the vertical Bechtel Mine shaft. The tunnel was in a distance of 2,000 feet, and at this point they met the Bechtel shaft at its 400-foot level. The connection caused an upcast of air with enough force to blow off a man's hat. This enabled the tunnel company to dispense with the great expense of pumping air into the header, and the labyrinth of drifts and crosscuts of the Bechtel Mine was also thoroughly ventilated. The miners in both works also now had ample means of escape in case of fire, and it was cheaper to mine as the Bechtel did not have to hoist its ore above the 400-foot level.

As December of 1881 came to a close, Bodie recorded its biggest year in the production of gold and silver bullion with a whopping \$3,160,067. The Standard Consolidated Mining Company disgorged the lion's share of the riches with a dividend-fattening \$2,168,575, followed by the Bodie Consolidated Mining Company, which dropped to a mere \$372,800. A far cry from the state leading production this mine had attained in 1878. The other Bodie mines that contributed to the record year of 1881 were the Noonday and North Noonday with \$244,000, Syndicate \$134,706, Bechtel Consolidated \$123,751, Oro \$14,155, Bodie Tunnel \$ 10,626, and Concordia \$5,670, with \$85,780 in scattered production and shipments from banks, including gold dust from Bodie placers worked by the Indians. But even as this production record was chalked up, a weakness in the district was apparent. Ten other well-known mines failed to record any production, and kept going only by levying heavy assessments of their hopeful stockholders.

Con't from previous page

Among those properties relying on Irish dividends were the Summit, Black Hawk, New Standard, Bulwer, Consolidated-Pacific, Belvedere, Mono, Dudley, Red Cloud, Boston-Consolidated, and 3 or 4 smaller mines.

By December of 1882, the Bodie Tunnel Mine had produced over \$100,000 in gold and silver.

As of March of 1883, the Syndicate, Bodie Tunnel, and Standard companies continued to operate, as did those worked through the Lent Shaft. Speculation in stocks amounted to nothing, and it was evident that the ore did not extend to any great depth.

VOLUNTEERS LEND A HAND

This summer several individuals and groups came to help in Bodie.

Jean-Pierre Salzmann from San Francisco came for a week this fall. John-Pierre gave history talks, assisted in the museum, and generally made himself useful. His contribution was especially appreciated by our foreign visitors as he speaks French and German and was able to answer questions from everyone.

Ed and Joann Allen stayed with us for four weeks working four days a week, leaving plenty of time to play. These two gave numerous history talks and mill tours, assisted in the museum, and helped with Friends of Bodie Night. Ed helped install part of the new lighting system for stamp mill tours, and Joann even did paperwork!

Later this fall a photography class led by Dan McIntyre from San Clemente High School assisted us. Between practicing their craft the class was able to clean the museum, dig out and replace posts, and dig a REALLY big hole so the broken self-pay station in the parking lot could be replaced. In addition to this they were able to complete a photo inventory of the structures on the new land acquisition to the park. All this accomplished in a long weekend. Way to go everyone!

Dave James visits Bodie as often as he can from the Los Angeles area. He often comes to assist with history talks on holiday weekends when we need an extra hand. Many times his daughter Allison comes along to lend a hand as well.

Many types of volunteer opportunities are available and help is always appreciated. If you would like to volunteer or simply want more

information, feel free to contact Ranger John Hughes at 760/ 647-6445.

Commitment

By Jill A. Lachman

With the recent acquisition of 517 acres, Bodie SHP's size has doubled overnight. The implications are staggering. Much thought and planning is required to ensure appropriate management. The process to obtain the property has its roots in the SAVE BODIE! Committee of the California State Park Rangers Association. That vision has become a reality. The commitment of those involved in that process merely sets the stage. With the celebration of this acquisition and Bodie's Rededication behind us, now is the time for each of us to renew our own dedication and commitment.

I know commitment is an amorphous quality. I ask everyone to reflect on what the word - Commitment - means to them. Literally, it means: 1. To do; perpetrate 2. Entrust; give into someone's care or custody 3. Pledge or promise (oneself or resources) to an action or use.

Bodie SHP needs all of the above. Did you know that The Friends of Bodie is a volunteer organization? Projects such as the newsletter, Friends of Bodie Night and Friends of Bodie night T-shirts are all handled by volunteers (primarily the Seasonal staff members plus a handful of volunteers). Even if you pick up the telephone and ask, "How can I help?" the answer is not an easy one. There are so many areas where help is needed. **Cont. on page 10.**

FRIENDS OF BODIE NIGHT 1998

Plans have already begun for this year's Friends of Bodie Night. For 1998, members will be invited for the entire day. The event will take place Saturday, August 22, 1998.

During the day, this event will be used as a membership drive. Activities will include live historic music, a demonstration of the favorite gambling pastime, faro, and a charity drawing. We also hope to invite authors of your favorite Bodie books for a book signing. Later in the evening, events will be held for members only. This will include the opportunity to discuss future plans with the executive secretary in an open meeting (we will have a microphone this year) as well as a BBQ dinner.

Don't forget to look for your invitation.

FRIENDS OF BODIE CALENDARS

The Friends of Bodie are proud to announce the sale of the 1999 color photo calendar with 15 images of Bodie SHP. We would like to thank all of the contestants that entered the contest. The choice was difficult with so many beautiful images. The winners are: Richard Bucich, Shannan Deatwiler, Althea Edwards, Lois Fontana, Alan Hacker, Mary Klinger, Daniel McIntyre, Sonnet Pierce, Jack Shipley, T.A. Shroul, John Slenter, Brad Sturdivant, Ray Williams, Michele Willson.

Supplies are limited, so order your copy now. Cost is \$10 each plus \$3 shipping for 1-4 calendars.

A few 1998 calendars are still available at \$6 each plus \$3 shipping for 1-4 calendars.

To order send a check or money order with your name and address to Bodie SHP.

2000 Calendar Competition

The Friends of Bodie would like to invite all artists, amateur and professional, working in the photographic medium, to enter the annual calendar competition. The photographs will be published in the 2000 calendar, and all published artists will receive a \$100 honorarium.

The deadline for entries is June 1, 1998. For complete details contact the park at (760) 647-6445.

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS

A few 35th anniversary commemorative T-shirts are left from the 1997 Friends of Bodie Night. These shirts are marked with the Friends of Bodie logo on the front and a map of the historic mining district on the back in white ink. Sizes L, XL, XXL are available for \$10 including shipping. If you would like to order a shirt, send a check or money order with your name, address, and desired size to Bodie SHP.

Cont. from Page 9.

Sometimes it is difficult to know where to start. Offer your ideas, remember each of us has something to offer. Whatever form your involvement takes, you can be sure that your efforts will be greatly appreciated. Your personal satisfaction level will be enhanced and you will know you have taken steps to ensure Bodie's future. It may be time, talent, money, services, equipment, expertise, ideas or even just plain old muscle power.

I know at this time of the year we are all besieged with requests for donations, food, time and etc. My personal appeal is not one meant solely for the Holiday season, it is a call for year-round participation. With the approaching Sesquicentennial celebration acknowledging California from Gold Rush to Statehood, remember that Bodie is tangible evidence of that great confluence of man and nature. Bodie is a link between the past and the future. Let us forge the bonds which will keep that connection alive. Renew your membership with a renewed sense of purpose. Offer your helping hand.

PHOTO RAFFLE TO BENEFIT BODIE

For the third year Jan and Ray Williams have donated a beautiful framed limited edition print to be raffled off with proceeds to go to the Friends of Bodie. This year's print is of the Methodist Church at dusk with the windows lit from the inside. The Photo is mounted in a cherry frame. The drawing will be held July 4, 1998. Tickets are \$1.00 each, 7 for \$5.00, and 15 for \$10.00. You can purchase tickets by mail by sending a check or money order to the park with your name, address and phone number. You need not be present to win, and the photograph will be shipped to the winner.

TOURS OF THE TOWN

This summer with the completion of the new land acquisition, Bodie was able to offer a new tour developed by interpreter and Senior Park Aide Walter Stone. The new tour includes areas visitors were previously unable to see including the historic mining district, a peek at the train station, horizontal and vertical shafts, and scenic views of the town. This tour was offered only on weekends last summer, but expansion to weekdays is hoped for this coming summer.

The other tour offered at Bodie is the ever-popular tour of the Standard Stamp Mill. While it is true a separate charge is now collected for the tour, the money collected assisted in the funding of an additional position dedicated to tours, increasing the schedule from four tours a week to 35 tours a week. This money has also funded the installation of additional lighting, allowing the expansion of tours to previously inaccessible areas of the mill. The hope is to continue with expansion as funds become available for stabilization and lighting. This schedule will continue in the coming summer. We hope all will be able to join one of the new and improved tours.

MRS. HOOVER RETURNS TO BODIE

by Chris Spiller

Mrs. Theodore Hoover joined the staff of interpreters at Bodie State Park this past season.

A living history program, where the interpreter poses as a character from history is not new to Bodie; Friends of Bodie interpreter Walt Stone has taken thousands of visitors on a tour of the Standard Consolidated Mill in the guise of a 1905 mill foreman for years. But what would a woman be doing leading a tour of the mill in the early 1900s? Women did not work in the mill. The only woman who might be anywhere near the mill would be Mrs. Hoover, who lived in the house next door to the Standard Mill, with her husband, Theodore, the mill superintendent.

However, not much was known about the Hoovers. We knew Theodore's famous brother, Herbert, had visited Theodore in Bodie and that Theodore eventually went on to be a Professor of Mining and Metallurgy and executive head of the Department of Mining and Metallurgy at Stanford University. Both Hoover brothers and their spouses attended Stanford University.

Thanks to a helpful gentleman in the Stanford Archives, we obtained an article about Theodore Hoover when he was named head of the department and another article written upon his death in 1955. He also sent information about material located in the nearby Hoover Institution. We ended up sending for two items: the memoirs of Theodore and Mildred. (The chief archivist at the Hoover Institute graciously lowered the per page copying cost for the park).

Not only did the memoirs help in developing Mrs. Hoover's character for Park Aides Chris Spiller, Sonnet Pierce and volunteer Joann Allen; the documents revealed a number of facts about the Hoovers and life in Bodie just after the turn of the century.

The Hoovers and their two-year old daughter Mildred arrived in Bodie on June 13, 1903, from Palo Alto, where Theodore had been looking for a more promising position. Before moving to Palo Alto, the Hoovers lived in Amador City, in a home that, like the one in Bodie, was close to the stamp mill.

Hoover was offered the job of Assistant Manager of the Standard Consolidated Gold Mine. "The position had great possibilities and the salary of \$2,000 per annum looked as big as the U.S. Treasury," Hoover wrote.

Both Hoovers mention the Bodie house. Theodore wrote: "The day we arrived (we) moved into the company's house next to the office, and close to the mill, but somehow the noise (from the pounding of the stamps) did not worry the two Mildreds as it did at Amador. In time, we got to like the roar."

Mildred doesn't mention liking the roar, but commented, "(we) had a nice home and many conveniences." It's a good bet they had electricity in the home, since electricity came to the mill in 1892.

Of course, Bodie had a reputation. "...Bodie—once the maddest, wildest and biggest gold mining camp in California," Mildred wrote. "The old saying, the bad man from Bodie had originated here and some of the bad men were still there."

As an example, she discussed her butcher in Bodie. "Our butcher was one of those of whom they said, 'he had killed his man.' I found the butcher a good tradesman after he learned that any poor meat he sent to me was returned to him at once."

The Paiute Indians living in and around Bodie fascinated Mildred. She wrote, "some of the Indian families were quite respectable. A dainty young girl appeared at our house one day with her old grandmother. The squaw had baskets for sale, but the younger one was carrying...a medium sized water jug, made of roots, which interested me and which they finally agreed to sell to me. This was the beginning of our acquaintance with this family. The old squaw later came to do our family washing, her daughter came to do the ironing, and eventually, the granddaughter, Minnie, came to live at our house and attend school in the town. Out of school hours, she learned to do easy household tasks and to play with our little Mildred, who lacked young companionship."

She also began putting the Paiute language in writing. "I began taking down phonetically the words Minnie could translate for me. I wrote to Dr. Branner at Stanford in regard to it and he was interested enough to give me a few directions. He also wrote to Dr. A. L. Kroeber in regard to it. Dr. Kroeber, the authority on Indian dialects, wrote me asking that I collaborate with him in the plan as he had not then been able to get the Piute language, although he was working on some of the others."

This work, however, had only begun, she said, when they left Bodie in January 1906.

Theodore was busy with his duties at Standard Consolidated. "The chief reason for my selection as assistant manager was that I might begin a careful study

of the accumulated slime dumps, to determine whether they could be turned to account.”

In January 1904, he served as acting manager when the current manager and family left for a vacation, “as the health of their whole family was very poor.” In March, the company vice-president and general manager, R. Gilman Brown, wrote and offered Hoover the position of acting manager, as the manager had resigned. “I answered that I would accept an appointment as actual manager. I did not want the position with any strings to it, as I had an offer of a position in Australia, where salaries were much higher than in California,” Hoover wrote. He got the job as manager at Standard Consolidated.

He saw himself as a strict but fair boss. “In the course of time, I had to make a few changes in the personnel of the employees and reluctantly had to discharge several who would not do a fair day’s work. There was some loud talk in the streets with threats to kill the manager and the matter was discussed at the union meeting. The conservative element in the union was able to make the point that a mine manger had a right to discharge men for almost any reason, or without reason.”

Under Hoover’s leadership, a new cyanide plant and a tube mill were built. He wrote about one unusual night in 1905.

“One night, when we were specially busy, I was working very hard and became horribly thirsty. I went down to the zinc-room and took a big drink of water at the spring-water faucet, and then went about my business. In about five minutes, I began to feel queer, but thought it was fatigue and loss of sleep. A minute or two later I looked up, thinking that all the machinery had stopped, as everything was silent. The machinery was all running, but I had lost my hearing. Then my hearing came back all right again with a bang. In a few minutes, hearing was gone again, also sense of touch, and also, I suppose, taste and smell. By this time I was becoming excited and my mind was working rapidly to fathom the cause.”

With his background, his mind fathomed the cause quickly. He must have ingested cyanide solution. It turned out that a defective valve had allowed cyanide solution to leak into the spring water supply. “After the first flush of fright, however, I felt that as I had lived the better part of half an hour since drinking, the chances were that the poison would not get me that time.”

A visit from brother Herbert and his wife Louise in summer 1905 prompted an attempted trip to Yosemite Valley. The tale of the unfinished journey was

the subject of a play presented at Friends of Bodie Night in August 1997. The trip included a visit to the camp of State Road Commissioner Nate Ellery, a classmate of Herbert’s at Stanford. “He was camped in Lee Vining Canyon where he was engaged in building the state highway over the Tioga Pass,” Theodore wrote.

Tragic news awaited the manager upon his return from this trip. The new mill superintendent had been instantly killed in the mill by missing his footing and falling onto a flywheel. Another accident involved a “M.J. Cody,” who was killed in Green Creek Canyon, “by not taking time enough to get away from a blast. His skull was fractured and he died after a week’s illness. He was an excellent man, the best of the residents of Mono County,” Hoover wrote.

We wondered if this could have been the same M.J. Cody of Bodie’s Cody house. Cody was the U.S. Land Agent in Bodie and later became sheriff of Mono County before the turn of the century. His daughter, Ella Cody Cain, did not mention her father’s death in her book, *The Story of Bodie*. After a look at death certificates at the county courthouse in Bridgeport, we confirmed by checking birthplaces that this was the same Cody. The certificate also stated he had been buried in the cemetery at Bodie, which was not previously known.

By the end of 1905, “the whole mine was now running smoothly and paying a profit,” reported Hoover. When he first came to Bodie, the Standard Consolidated had only been making operating expenses. It was natural that the talented young mining engineer would soon move onto another job. The telegram came in January 1906. Hoover was offered the position of examining engineer for Hannan’s Proprietary Company in Mexico. A severe snowstorm complicated their departure from Bodie. With bobsleds pulled by horses, it took them 10 hours to travel 10 miles.

Hoover went onto work in Mexico, London and in later years, Australia. He returned to California in 1919 to accept the position at Stanford. He was also influential in the formation of the School of Engineering at Stanford in 1925 and was made Dean of that school, a position he held until retirement in 1936.

In 1940, he lost the mother of his three daughters, his beloved Mildred, 15 years before his own death in 1955.

Bodie's reputation in the mining world, even as the town declined, is illustrated in the following two letters from Herbert Hoover.

13th April 1904
Theodore Hoover, Esq.,
Standard Consolidated Mining Co.,
Bodie Cal., U.S.A.

My dear Brother:

Kindly accept my congratulations on your accession to the Management of such a well-known mine as the Standard Consolidated. You have got behind you several generations of men who have made the Mining Profession, and to have come from the Management of the Standard Consolidated is a credit to any man. I am delighted that you shall have made your name outside of my own self and any possible influence I could use for you. I believe it will be a matter of greater satisfaction to you in the end. After you have had the management of the Standard for a while, if you wish to make a change, let me know and with that record back of you I shall be able to place you almost anywhere you would like to be.

Very sincerely your brother,

H.C. Hoover

The second letter, again on the stationary of Hoover's firm, Bewick, Moreing and Co., of London, came two years later.

Dear Brother:

I have just yesterday returned to London from Australia; consequently I have not paid due attention to your letters.

I have to-day received your cable, and I have replied, asking if you would leave the Standard Mine temporarily, to make an examination. I think by the time you get this examination through, I can arrange to establish you to represent B., M. & Co., somewhere in the States, on a satisfactory footing which will be the first step towards the campaign which I shall carry out, and will enable you to get away from Bodie.

Fond regards,

H. C. Hoover

Remember me to Mildred!

**BODIE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS
1998**

The Bodie photography workshops, offered through The Friends of Bodie, provide unique photographic opportunities and instruction. During these workshops the participant will have the opportunity to photograph Bodie at sunrise, sunset, and selected building interiors. A large portion of the proceeds from the workshops goes to The Friends of Bodie to help fund management, protection, and interpretation at Bodie.

The leaders of these workshops are professional photographers and experienced workshop leaders. The workshop leaders, tentative dates, and fees are listed below. **For further information and registration please contact the workshop leaders.**

Jan Williams, 10411 11th Ave. Hesperia, CA 92345, (760) 947-6734
Dates: Aug. 28-30
Fee: \$325

Bob Cumming, 14090 Flower Street #4, Garden Grove, CA, 92843, (714) 638-9744
Dates: Sept. 14-16, Sept. 17-19
Fee: \$200

Thomas Morse, P.O. Box 30866, Santa Barbara, CA, 93130, (805) 682-3398
Dates: July 5-9, July 12-15, Sept. 1-5, Sept. 7-10
Fee: \$465

Noella Ballanger & Associates, P.O. Box 457, La Canada, CA, 91012, (818) 954-0933
Dates: May 13-15, Oct. 7-11
Fee: \$330

Jill A. Lechner Photography, 2536 Tahoe, Hayward, CA 94545, (510) 330-4183
Dates: Aug. 7-9, Oct. 1-4
Fee: \$250

Daniel McIntyre, 31921 Camino Capistrano #119, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
(714) 493-5943
Dates: July 17-19 and July 24-26 special event permit and, Aug. 14-16 with the Friends of Bodie.
Call Mr. McIntyre for workshop costs.

PHOTOGRAPHERS' DAYS

The Friends of Bodie will be hosting a Photographers' Day one day each month during the summer. They will be on the 3rd Saturday of each month starting in May and ending in October.

During this day photographers are allowed to enter the park 1/2 hour before sunrise and stay until 1/2 hour after sunset. Limited to 50 people per day. Cost is \$30 (\$20 for FOB members). **Reservations are required.** For further information and reservations contact Bodie at (760) 647-6445.

FRIENDS OF BODIE MAIL ORDER LISTING

Send mail orders with payment to:
 BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
 P.O. BOX 515, BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517

Make checks or money orders out to "**Friends of Bodie**". Prices include sales tax and postage
 Orders from outside the U.S.A. add \$3.00 per book to the regular price. Send Postal Money Order only.
 If you are a Friends of Bodie member you may order using the FOB discount price.

BOOKS	REGULAR PRICE	DISCOUNT PRICE
Bodie Brochure	2.00	2.00
Aurora	8.50	7.20
<u>Bodie 1859 -1900</u>	16.50	13.70
Bodie and Esmeralda	6.50	5.50
<u>Bodie Bonanza</u>	16.50	13.70
<u>Bodie Boom Town, Gold Town</u>	8.50	7.20
Bodie SHP Resouce Mgmt. & General Development Plan	8.00	6.90
California Historical Landmarks	15.50	12.90
California State Parks, A Visitor's Guide	18.75	15.50
California's Eastern Sierra - A Visitor's Guide	20.75	17.10
Fieldcard - Birds of the Sierra Nevada	4.25	3.60
Fieldcard - Mammals of the Sierra Nevada	4.25	3.60
<u>Ghost Town of Bodie</u>	10.75	9.00
Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of California	17.50	14.50
Goodbye God, I'm Going to Bodie	12.50	10.40
Great Bodie Activity Book (<i>children</i>)	6.00	5.20
Guide to Bodie	13.50	11.30
Gunfighters, Highwaymen & Vigilantes	18.75	15.50
Highest School in California	8.50	7.20
Man From Mono	14.50	12.10
Mark Twain: His Adventures in Aurora & Mono Lake	10.50	8.80
Mining Camp Days	16.50	13.70
Mono Diggings	16.50	13.70
Mono Lake Guidebook	11.50	9.60
Nevada Ghost Towns	18.50	15.30
Nine for California (<i>children's hardback</i>)	19.50	16.10
Paiute, Prospector, Pioneer	12.75	10.80
Photographing Bodie	9.50	8.00
Rosa May	14.50	12.10
Sagebrush Country	17.75	14.70
Soiled Doves	15.50	12.90
Stoke's Beginning Guide to Western Birds	10.50	8.80
<u>Story of Bodie</u>	15.50	12.90
Story of Early Mono County	15.00	12.40
Trip to Bodie Bluff	7.50	6.40
Women of the Sierra	15.50	12.90
<u>Underlined books specifically Bodie history</u>		
Historic Bodie Newspaper Reprints (Set of 3)	5.00 set	4.30
Posters (Please note your selection)		
Angel, Miner's Union Hall, View up Green Street, or Winter	10.50 each	9.00
1880 Map of Bodie	6.50	5.70
Calendar: 1998 color calendar with 16 images of Bodie	9.00	9.00
1999 color calendar with 16 images of Bodie	13.00	11.00
Postcards: Set of 5 (Town, Church, Wheel, School & Miners' Union)	2.50 set	2.50
Bodie video: "Bodie -- Ghost Town Frozen in Time"	33.00	27.00
Hat Pins: Bodie Main St., Church	4.50 each	3.70

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Membership

\$20 Copper

\$35 Silver

\$50 Gold

\$100 W.S. Bodey

\$250 Life

Renewal

Donation, without membership.

Please send information on how I can volunteer my time.

Bodie State Historic Park

P.O. Box 515

Bridgeport, CA 93517