

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

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

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NUMBER 1

Bodie Snowed In by Big Winter Storms



In photo at left, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) workers plow a section of State Highway 270, the road into Bodie, during a break between storms in early February. Below, the park's "snow stick" shows the inches of actual snow on the ground. During Bodie's winter season, staff travel to and from the park in tracked vehicles. Rangers estimated the park received approximately 80 inches of snow during the 2018-2019 winter. The maximum snow depth at its peak was around 58 inches.

Photo by Todd Frias, Caltrans

Bodie's Attorney for the Underdog: Patrick Reddy

By Betty McCunniff

Bodie Foundation Staff

The name Patrick Reddy is familiar to many who visit Bodie. The gifted trial attorney is remembered for his legal skill and his generosity in representing men from all walks of life. Lesser known are his years spent in California before and after he opened his Bodie law office on the entire second floor of the Molinelli building on Main and Mill, where he worked from 1879 – 1883.

Born in Rhode Island on February 15, 1839 to Irish parents, Pat was the oldest of three boys. He came first to Placer County, and then settled in Aurora in 1863. His younger brother Ned soon followed. Handsome, strong, and standing a head taller than most men of his day, Pat was a born leader, well-suited to the ways of the West. He and Ned soon established reputations as tough

See REDDY, Page 3



Photos by Dustin LeBrun

Goodbye God, I Can't Leave Bodie...

By Terri Geissinger
Bodie Foundation Staff

There is something to say about the heartstrings that connect one to Bodie. Personally speaking, I have tried to walk away only to find that the old place, with all the memories and stories, call me back. I suppose that's why most of us return again and again. Bodie gives us something we all need. Not sure how to put it in words but I could start with one: Belonging.

I am thrilled to be back in the position of Historian and Guide for the Bodie Foundation. Sharing the old stories while touring the town is what I like to do best.

As you well know, there are many ways to experience Bodie and there are several places that are historically connected that deserve to be known. It gives me great pleasure to announce that



we have created an elite Interpretive Team that will focus on enhancing existing tours and creating new ones. I have had the privilege to work closely with both Christine Spiller and Betty McCunniff over many years. Indeed, between the three of us, we have over 44 years of experience in Bodie. Now THAT is a lot of tours!!

So how do we make old history new? We are providing several new private tours that we will design to your interest. This is great for groups, family

outings and celebrations. These two-hour tours are reserved in advance. We are also excited to announce a new six-hour driving tour, Mono Memories and Bodie Dreams that include the history that connects the Basin to Bodie.

We also have the ability to begin tours at the Bodie Mercantile in Bridgeport that will incorporate the history of both towns and the historic routes that connect them.

The best part about purchasing a private tour is that the revenue generated supports critical preservation projects. We are in a time when every dollar makes a difference.

RESERVE A TOUR TODAY
For tour reservations, phone 760-616-0859. Book early as tours quickly fill up.

New State Park Staff Arrives



Bodie Ranger **Dustin LeBrun** grew up in Camarillo, California, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts of America. He later completed an AS in Fire Science and soon joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a high-risk civilian volunteer specialist and later as a Reserve Deputy on the Malibu Search and Rescue Team.

His California State Parks career began in 2016, at Angeles District, Malibu Sector. Dustin started work at Bodie last October, and is excited to live and work in the Eastern Sierra.

John Campbell is the new Park Maintenance Chief for Grover, Bodie and Mono Lake as of December 2018.



He began his State Parks career at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area as a Main-

See NEW PARK Pg. 3

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For information about submissions, please email:

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| Betty McCunniff | Bodie Lead/Guide |
| Tamara Woollard | Lead Mercantile |

New Bodie Calendar Available



2020 Bodie Foundation Calendar

The 2020 Bodie Calendar is now on sale for \$11.95 at the Bodie Foundation online store, <http://www.bodiefoundation.org/store/>. Over 200 entries for the annual contest were voted upon by a team of judges. Thank you to all our entrants and congratulations to the winners. The cover photo of Main Street was taken by Kenneth Bradley. Other photographers with winning images included Eric Draper, Jeff Sullivan, Tina Blum, Lori Hibbett, Jeff Dean, Jamie Annett, Greg Lugo, Gigi Dean, Casey Campbell, Dave Aldridge, Vladimir Cettl, Holly Calinsky Jauch, Scott Morgan, Elizabeth Allen and Deborah Seibly.

Reddy's Life Takes a Turn — from page 1

guys and gunmen, making livings as professional gamblers, occasionally leaving town just ahead of the local vigilance committee. Then Patrick Reddy's life took an abrupt turn.

He had traveled to Virginia City to see his brother, when he unwisely opened his money belt in the saloon kept by Jack Mannix. Mannix, knowing a good criminal opportunity when he saw one, stationed a man, "Soap" McAlpine, in

a side alley off B Street, then offered to show Pat where Ned was living.

As Mannix and Reddy passed where McAlpine lay in wait, Mannix stepped ahead, allowing McAlpine a clear shot; he missed. Mistakenly thinking the gunman was aiming for Mannix, Reddy drew his gun on McAlpine, and the dastardly Mannix fired, shattering Pat's right elbow.

After the necessary amputation, Pat went back

to Aurora to convalesce. As an amputee, his prospects as a miner and gunfighter were limited.

But due to a happy series of events, his nurse, Emily M. Page, became his wife. She convinced him to study the law.

Pat and Emily Reddy soon moved to Independence, California, where he passed the bar in 1867.

He also began a life-long pursuit of acquiring

New Park Staff Arrives

— from page 2

tenance Aide. In 2001, he promoted to Park Maintenance Assistant.

He soon moved to lake operations where he operated a boat and joined the scuba diving team. In December 2004, he promoted to Park Maintenance Worker 2 at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, then promoted to Park Maintenance Supervisor in 2007. In 2010, he accepted a Park Maintenance Supervisor position at Columbia State Historic Park. "Columbia was a huge adventure with lots to learn. "I had never worked on old buildings before." He also met his future wife at Columbia, who was part of a Jeep Club doing volunteer projects at the park. He went to Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area in 2014 to be closer to his girlfriend in Sacramento. The day before their wedding, John applied for the Maintenance Chief job here in Sierra District. "I talked to my wife and she was really excited about this opportunity because she loves Bodie and the Eastern Sierras."

They spend their spare time riding their Yamaha Side-by-Side or taking the Jeeps out on adventures.

See REDDY Page 6

Mono Lake On the Rise

Bird Chautauqua Registration Underway



A beautiful snowy scene at Mono Lake this past winter. The big snow year is good news for the lake.

Photo courtesy of the Mono Lake Committee

Registration started April 15 for the 17th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua, set for June 14-16, 2019 in Lee Vining, CA.

This popular event brings birders together to enhance appreciation and understanding of the Mono Basin's diverse and abundant bird life, and to educate the public about this area's value to birds and people. This year's event offers over 90 field trips, workshops, and presentations with renowned bird guides, naturalists and artists.

Register online soon at <http://www.birdchautauqua.org/> as workshops fill quickly.

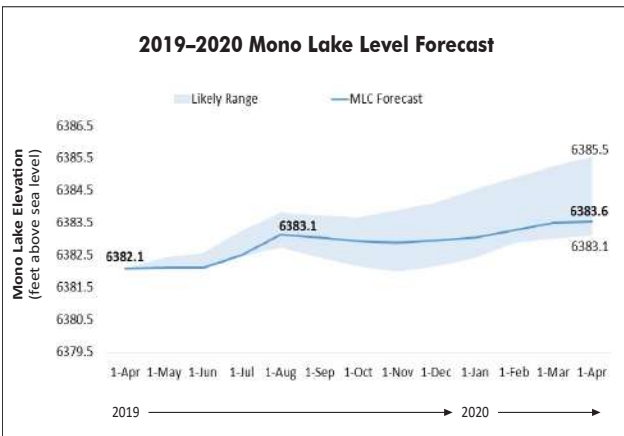
2019 Mono Lake Level Forecast

Prepared by the Mono Lake Committee, April 15, 2019

The 2018 runoff year was classified as Normal, and Mono Lake rose to 6382.1 feet above sea level by April 1, 2019.

April 1 was the start of the 2019-2020 runoff year; DWP's runoff forecast on April 1 was 144% of average. The graph below shows the range of likely Mono Lake elevations for April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. The range of projections is produced by the Mono Lake Committee's modeling of hydrologic sequences historically similar to 144% of average runoff that can reasonably be expected given current conditions.

This forecast shows that the most probable lake level for March 31, 2020 is 6383.6 feet above sea level.



Reference lake levels

- State Water Board mandated lake level to protect Mono Lake: 6392 feet above sea level.
- Lake level rise from April 1, 2019 needed to achieve the mandated level: 10 feet.
- The 2012-2016 drought lowered the lake 7 feet. The lake level rose 4.5 feet in 2017, and the lake level held steady in 2018.

Mono Lake Committee
monolake.org
 (760) 647-6595

Summer Tours Announced

The Old Marina tour introduced last year at Mono Lake has been converted into a new tour, "Mono Memories and Bodie Dreams."

See flyer below for all the public and private tours this year!

Bodie State Historic Park, Talks/Tours Memorial Day through Labor Day

Bring the family and step back in time!
 PRIVATE Tour Reservations Call (760)616-0859
BodieFoundation.org

Daily Public Tours
 Stamp Mill Tours
 11:00 - 1:00 - 3:00
 \$6 per person

Free History Talks

Two-Hour Private Tours Available
 Advance Reservations Required
 We can design a tour that best fits your interests.
Town - Mining District - Stamp Mill - Cemetery
 Group Discount Rate

NEW - Living History Mill, Town and Cemetery Tours
NEW - Private Twilight Tours and Ghost Walks
NEW - Day Tour: Mono and Bodie
Tour Reservations: 760-616-0859

NEW - Friends of Bodie Dinner and Day
 August 9 & 10
 Membership Dinner August 9th - Bridgeport
 Daytime Festivities - Bodie August 10th

Join Bodie Foundation Membership and Help Us SAVE BODIE
www.BodieFoundation.org
 760-932-7574
 Admission fees to Bodie State Historic Park
 \$8 adult - \$5 age 3 to 17 - under 3 is free
 Summer Hours 9am to 6pm

Terri Geissinger - Lead Guide

Christine Spiller - Lead Guide

Betty McCunniff - Lead Guide

Foundation Board Takes Grover Tour

Friends of Grover Hot Springs Staff and State Park employees welcomed the Foundation Board of Trustees and staff for a tour of the park and learned about the history of this beautiful park, which features pools fed by natural hot springs. At right, Supervising Ranger Joshua Heitzmann talks to the board and staff during a tour of the park.

Photo by Chris Spiller



ADA Interpretive Trail Construction Continues

**By Mark Pupich
Bodie Foundation Staff**

There is a new Interpretive Trail in the works for Grover! It will replace and reroute the old defunct interpretive trail. This new trail will be constructed to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specifications. A California Conservation Corps crew started construction last summer and work is expected to be finished either in Fall 2019 or 2020. To protect sensitive meadow areas, portions of the trail will be a boardwalk.

Bridge crossings will take visitors over creeks and other seasonal water drainages, and other areas of the

trail will be constructed of packed soil over crushed rock. Interpretive panels will eventually be placed along the trail as well as resting and viewing platforms.



Bridge crossings will protect wet parts of the new trail.

Photo by Mark Pupich



Don't forget to stop by the Friends of Grover Hot Springs store at the Visitor Center!

REDDY— from Page 3

lucrative mining properties, combining his experience as a miner and knowledge of the law with an innate business sense. His success in both endeavors won him many friends and some vehement enemies.

In Independence, Reddy grew his legal practice and reputation. “He prepared carefully, had almost perfect recall, and fascinated Judge and jury alike with his commanding voice, beautiful diction, and lilting Irish brogue.” (1)

After Reddy successfully defended nearly 100 men in and around Independence without losing a case, Inyo County offered him the job of prosecutor at a considerable increase in salary in order to obtain a conviction for the county. But Reddy proved to be a man unable to be bought. He turned down the offer. (2)

Reddy moved to Bodie in April 1879, where the boom guaranteed both abundant boundary disputes and colorful criminal cases. Reddy won a high percentage of victories in both the Justice Court in Bodie and the Superior Court in Bridgeport while adding generosity of heart to his reputation. He was known to slip \$20 gold pieces into the pockets of unemployed miners, buy meals and drinks for down-on-their-luck friends, and defend *pro bono* those unable to pay.

But just as it had in Independence, his willingness to take up unpopular cases won admiration from some residents and angered others. He hired a full-time bodyguard.

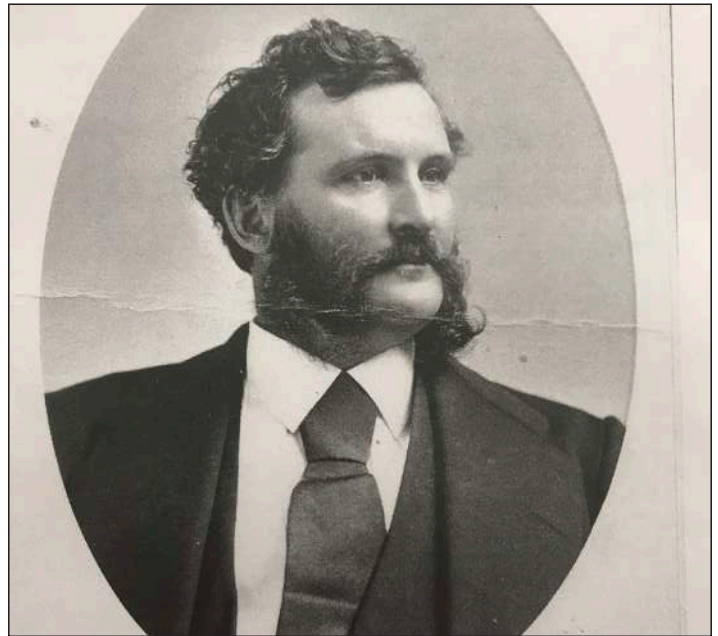
Patrick Reddy left Bodie in 1883 to open law offices in San Francisco, bringing with him Billy Metson whom he had trained in Bodie. His law practice in the big city was soon thriving, and he continued his fearless championing of the underdog both in the courtroom and out.

In January 1897, after leaving the State Supreme Court in Sacramento, Pat was informed there was a man with a revolver in the post office holding a woman hostage. Pat rushed in and tackled the gunman.

When the man turned his gun on Reddy, Pat jammed his only thumb in front of the hammer as the man pulled the trigger. The gun didn't fire though it did take a sizable chunk out of his thumb.

The man was subdued and arrested, the woman rescued, and Reddy made only a brief stop at a pharmacy to have his bleeding hand dressed before calmly continuing down the street.” (3)

By the late 1890s Reddy's reputation as a top at-



Patrick Reddy

Photo Courtesy of County of Inyo, Eastern California Museum

torney grew to encompass the entire northwestern portion of the United States. He was very ill with Bright's disease when he agreed to represent the miners' union in the Coeur d'Alene district of Idaho. He overruled the objections of his doctors, family, and friends, and traveled to Idaho to successfully defend the “little” man one last time.

He dictated his last legal argument from his deathbed at his home in San Francisco, and in the early morning hours of June 26, 1900, he died.

The *SF Star* ran a front-page memorial, whose first line read, “A God-crowned king of men has passed away, and none there is can claim his vacant throne. He was monarch of the hearts of men, for whom his own great heart beat in tender sympathy — for whom, if truth be said, he went to a voluntary but untimely grave.” (4)

A fitting tribute for a man who rose from humble beginnings to become a premier attorney, astute businessman, politician, and faithful husband — a man of intellect, action, courage, and compassion.

Footnotes:

(1) Roger D. McGrath, *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes* p. 121.

(2) John Southworth, *True West Magazine, Patrick Reddy Frontier Lawyer* pg. 42.

(3) John Southworth, *True West Magazine, Patrick Reddy Frontier Lawyer* pg. 45.

(4) *The Star, San Francisco, Saturday, June 30, 1900.*

Merc Report

**After Quiet Winter,
More Visitors Arriving**

By Tamara Woollard
Bodie Foundation Staff

This winter has been quiet and snowy at the Bodie Mercantile in Bridgeport. As all the major passes were closed due to snow, our mercantile was a “ghost town,” as not a lot of visitors came through town. Fortunately, our online sales were booming so we were kept busy sending out items.

Now that the snow is melted and spring is upon us, we are getting many visitors to Bridgeport. The Bodie Mercantile, operated by the Bodie Foundation, has a variety of unique items for sale such as bread mixes, jams, blankets, puppets, post cards, cookware, and of course, Bodie books and merchandise. We are always adding to and updating inventory, so come check us out on your way through town at 323 Main St. in Bridgeport, California. Our business hours are Thursday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours may vary depending on the time of year, so call us first at 760-932-7574.

Not able to make it in? Check us out at <http://www.bodiefoundation.org/store/>. Follow us on Facebook at Bodie Mercantile to find out about new inventory and any specials we are offering.



A light blanket of snow covers the Bodie Mercantile in Bridgeport after a winter storm this year. Business hours are Thursday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours may vary, so call us first, 760-932-7574.

Photo by Tamara Woollard

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
DAYS OF GOLD
BODIE DAY

FRIDAY AUGUST 9
BODIE BENEFIT DINNER
BRIDGEPORT BARN & TERRACE

SATURDAY AUGUST 10
FRIENDS OF BODIE DAY
BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK

DAYTIME FESTIVITIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AUG. 10TH FROM 9AM TO 8PM

MEMBERS EVENING - ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND SPECIAL TOWN STROLL



Historic Reenactments
We Encourage Period Costume
Art & Craft Vendors
Living History
Horses & Buggies
Food & Family Fun
Live Music

JOIN BODIE FOUNDATION TODAY

 www.BodieFoundation.org 
760-932-7574

Look For FOB Day Surprises

By Terri Geissinger
Bodie Foundation Staff

Every year on Friends of Bodie Day, we strive to do something different. This year, on Friday night, we are serving our members dinner at the Bridgeport Barns and Terrace. This stunning venue provides ample space for dinner along with a no-host bar to raise additional funds for Bodie.

On Saturday, the old town comes alive through living history, music, games, and reenactments. We have surprises that you won't want to miss! Rumor has it that the largest shipment of gold will be ready for transport by Wells Fargo and those darn Road Agents are up to no good.

The members' evening program begins with an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social and a special Town Stroll where you will live the stories of the past. And don't forget to buy your beeswax because the Stamp Mill is where this tour is headed. See you there!



Bodie Foundation

PO Box 278
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-7574

BodieFoundation.org

info@bodiefoundation.org



YOUR RENEWAL MEANS YOU CONTINUE TO BE A PART OF BODIE'S FUTURE!

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT WWW.BODIEFOUNDATION.ORG,

OR FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS FORM:

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

*To support Friends of Grover Hot Springs or Friends of Mono Lake, please visit the websites below:
www.visitgroverhotsprings.org
www.visitmonolake.org*

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

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE, ZIP:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

**Please make checks payable to:
BODIE FOUNDATION**

Photo by Eric Draper