

FRIENDS OF MIDAS 2003

The first school building was located on a hill above the main part of town to the east and was probably built in 1908 or 1909. Five or six years later, a larger facility was built on a hill near the original school. Neither of these buildings remains standing.

From 1926 through 1929, two teachers were employed by the Midas School District. In 1928, 50 children enrolled at the Midas School, and Parent-Teacher Association meetings were common. Probably the most important activity in the school district during this period was the building of the new schoolhouse.

Midas children began the 1927 school year in the Big and Little Schools on the hill above town, but their elders determined that it would be the last year in those buildings. That fall, Midas voters approved a \$12,000 bond measure to erect a new two-room schoolhouse. The 1927 district school board consisting of **F. M. Macy, Chairman; Paul Ehlers, Trustee; and C.S. Warren, Trustee and Clerk**, then published a notice of the intent to sell bonds to finance the new school building. Completed in 1928, the structure still stands. The debt on the building was retired in 1935.

In October 1936, the **Midas News Notes** (Battle Mountain newspaper) announced the installation of playground equipment at the school. The columnist proclaimed that the "new swings at Midas grammar school help to make recess and noon more fun." (The equipment remains at the school in its original location and is still enjoyed by kids of all ages.) A year later, workers employed by the **Federal Government's Works Project Administration** completed over \$200 worth of work at the schoolhouse. Most of the work involved fencing the school yard. (The same fence and gates are still in use today.)

By the end of 1924, the school was closed because it could not enroll at least three students. The Midas School reopened in 1943 and continued until at least 1951. Between 1951 and 1972, the building was used as a school only occasionally. In 1972, the **Elko County School Board** voted to close the Midas School and it was sold to a private group in that same year. **Midas Joint Venture**, which developed the **Ken Snyder Mine** purchased the property in 1995. **MJV** teamed up with adjacent property owners, **Bob & Ida Unger** and **Pete & Betty Vander Wende** and donated it all to Friends of Midas in 1998.

Probably one of the most beautifully restored and preserved two-room schools in all of the western states, this structure from the last century stands proud in the high desert country of Nevada. Application has been made to the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office to recommend its inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

PROPERTY DONATED: **Ken & Ingela Snyder** donated four lots and a large metal storage container. These lots may be a suitable location for a display of assay office artifacts housed in an appropriate building. **Dan & Joan Bennett** donated 12 lots located at the north end of the community. Site of the Long Chance mine, this property will be used to display old mining equipment.

ARTIFACTS AND MEMORABELIA: A horse-drawn grader made its way to Midas early this summer thanks to the generosity of the **May Brothers** and a lot of help from **Newmont** and **Davis Trucking**. **Tom & Carole Doughty** donated old lumber and an outhouse, which is now in the park. **Mark & Sheri Barlow:** framed copies of old Midas postcards, copies of old stock certificates and other documents; **Bev White:** two beautiful trees for the park; **Terry Bates:** 1943 Time magazine and a 1945 newspaper; **Dick & Win Elmore:** photographs of main street, ca. 1963; **Mrs. Glen Chipman:** schoolbook, chime and a "Midas Flashlight" which belonged to Glen when he lived here. **Dan & Joan Bennett:** ore carts and mining equipment. **Iris La Franz** sent a booklet written by **Lela Halsell Hempton**, a former Midas school teacher. **Jim Maguire & Carl White:** framed sketch of the schoolhouse. **Ken Keeler:** old engine block; **Jim & Pat Swisher:** scoop for a drag line; **Les & Bev Matson:** a very old woodburning cookstove; **Bob & Ida Unger:** buck saw, soldering iron and auger/drill; **Len & Jeanne Berg:** a very old knife, custom made in Finland for Len's father who was mill foreman at the Elko Prince; a ring which belonged to **Sanfried Johnson**, Len's uncle, who was the victim of a misdirected shotgun blast in Midas in 1931. **Gene & Pam Mortara:** a lot of old lumber and a very special sign from an old Midas bar; "No Minors Aloud." [sic]

Thanks to generous contributions by the **Scheuller Family** in memory of **Clayton Phillips**, and by **Keith & Sheri Thompson**, a beautiful oak cabinet has been built which will display Indian artifacts. The **Elko County Chapter of the Nevada Archaeological Association** is constructing a diorama which depicts Indian life in northeastern Nevada hundreds of years ago and when completed, the display will be moved to the Midas School museum.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION WILL BE SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 3RD AND 4TH, 2004

FRIENDS OF MIDAS, HC66 BOX 75 MIDAS, NEVADA 89414

e-mail: friendsofmidas@yahoo.com

MIDAS SCHOOL

"I think it was 1930 and 1931 that my brother John and I were enrolled in this school. Unlike the city school we had attended, there was no heat from the basement; just a big, round stove between the two rooms. There was no indoor plumbing; just a short run to one of the two outhouses."

Robert W. Pilant



HC 66 Box 75
Midas, NV 89414

A SPECIAL PIECE OF MIDAS HISTORY COMES HOME...



Less than two pounds of silver mined by the Elko Prince Mining Company prior to 1922 was poured into an ingot and stamped "Elko Prince" on the top side and the initials "O.W.B" on the bottom. It was not uncommon for small ingots to be given to

potential investors, owners and those in supervisory positions at the mines. Oscar Wilhelm Berg held the prestigious position of Mill Foreman at the Elko Prince between 1917 and 1922. This ingot, which likely contains some gold, is on display at the Midas School museum together with the story of the Berg Family and their role in the early days of the Gold Circle Mining District.