

FRIENDS OF MIDAS 2005

FIRES IN MIDAS Over the years, Midas has had some devastating fires. On April 15, 1922 the Elko Prince mill was destroyed when a spark from a miner's lamp ignited a gasoline tank. It was this event that started an immediate decline in the mining activity in the Midas area. The Elko Prince did contract milling for most of the other mines and when the mill was gone the other mines failed. August 14, 1923 was the date a household fire took the life of a 13 year old girl, Vivian Cozart, who had come to Midas to visit her father. Two houses belonging to A.A. Primeaux and H.A. Thompson burned on January 2, 1930. The old Cody saloon and the adjoining restaurant located on the northeast corner of 4th & Main burned July 28, 1933. The old safe which is still located on the corner is a remnant of that fire. On October 14, 1933, a house belonging to C.S. Warren burned to the ground. Wilson's house and butcher shop burned November 28, 1936. The mill at the Gold & Silver Circle Mining Co. property burned May 18, 1941. Many years before, the original cemetery fence burned in sagebrush fires. In October, 1955, a fire started by careless deer hunters burned 500 acres in Midas Canyon. Evelyn Sabin recalled that a fire destroyed several houses just before she and her husband arrived in 1957. In the early 1960's, a fire started in a home on Main Street and destroyed the teacher's rented home, the old Warren Mercantile and the Macy/Keller home. In that fire, a propane tank blew up and parts of the tank were found as far away as Spring Creek. The Rock House, which had served the community as a house of ill repute many years before it became a weekend residence, was completely destroyed by fire in the 1970's. In more recent times, numerous range fires have threatened the town of Midas. Members of the Midas Volunteer Fire Department, Newmont employees and concerned townspeople who effectively contained the Midas School building fire and prevented it from spreading to adjacent properties are commended.

NEW BUILDING Even as the remains of the fire smoldered, several concerned people offered their services to assist in the building of a structure to replace this community loss. It is being determined whether it is feasible to build a structure which looks like the original, but has the modern features necessary to serve as a community gathering place. Plans have already been drawn up and estimates have been received on several of the components of new construction. Mike Bidart, Nate Blanton and Dave Lee have put in many hours on plans and securing estimates. Funding will come from insurance proceeds, grants and donations. A building fund has been started and donations and pledges have already been received. All donations received specifically for the building fund will be used only for the construction of the replacement structure, purchase of furnishings and related costs.

ENTHUSIASM The enthusiasm expressed by so many people to replace the Midas School building and memorabilia is gratifying. Fortunately, most of the photographs of early day Midas were copies. Old mining documents, stock certificates, maps of old mining claims and much of the memorabilia obtained over the last ten years were not in the building. Within days of the fire, offers to replace museum artifacts had been received. A 1914 piano, a large school bell and numerous mining artifacts have already been acquired and placed in storage. Charles Greenhaw has offered school books, Jack Dempsey memorabilia, and an old teacher's desk and chair. Gus and Lori Wegren, who located the piano, are always on the lookout for Midas items and recently acquired 1914 Elko Prince Mining Co. documents.

NEW BOOK In 1995, Dana Bennett's book, *Forward With Enthusiasm, A History of Midas, Nevada 1907-1995* was published and sold out in short order. Thanks to Newmont Gold Mining, Dana is updating her book with a lot of additional and more recent information with many new photographs and a new title: *A Century of Enthusiasm, A History of Midas, Nevada 1907- 2007*. The book should be available by the end of this year. Dana, who has been the Corporate Secretary for Friends of Midas since its inception, was appointed to the Nevada Board of Museums and History by Governor Guinn in the fall of 2005.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS The Midas School building and grounds were deeded over to the Friends of Midas by the developers of the Ken Snyder Mine, Midas Joint Venture. Its successor, Newmont Gold Mining continued to pay the utilities, provided equipment and manpower to paint the building and on several occasions responded with manpower to help with other museum projects. Likewise, George DeLong has also provided equipment and manpower to assist with many projects which required the kind of help that Friends of Midas could not otherwise afford to engage. It would have been beyond the capabilities of Friends of Midas to acquire and maintain the historic Midas School building without the help of Newmont Gold Mining and George DeLong Construction.

THIS YEAR'S EVENTS George DeLong has generously offered his place for this year's **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**. The parade, picnic, horseshoe games, and kids' games will be held there on Saturday, July 1st.....**NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED WILL BE SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th and BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 13th, 2006. THE MIDAS VERSION OF NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED IS THE BEST OF ANY WILDLIFE EVENT IN NEVADA... HALLOWEEN POT LUCK WILL BE SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 28th**...Midas is always fun for everyone ...bring your ATV...bring your snowmobile...bring the kids!

FRIENDS OF MIDAS, HC66 BOX 75, MIDAS, NEVADA 89414 e-mail:friendsofmidas@yahoo.com

We're publishing a Midas Cookbook and we need your help!

This isn't just a recipe book.....it is a story book, a history book and a picture book

all about Midas by the people who know and love this community.

If you haven't received your informational flyer yet, please contact Dan Bennett at friends@midas@yahoo.com or give him a call at 520-744-8765!

Deadline for recipes, stories and pictures is March 15, 2006



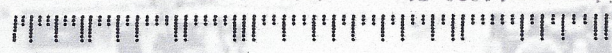
- Please send us your best....
- Recipes (as many as you want)
- Great Midas Stories and Pictures (old and new — as many as you want)
- Answer our question....
- Why do you love Midas? (Why you bought property and moved here, why you like spending time here, etc.)
- Tell us a bit about you and your family



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Downtown Midas around 1928. Photograph from the Friends of Midas collection. Midas, Nevada.



Midas Schoolhouse.....

The pride and joy of Midas for more than 70 years was completely destroyed by an early morning fire on Monday, November 7, 2005. Years of Midas memorabilia and hundreds of artifacts were lost in the fire. This beautifully restored building served as a museum and as a community meeting place for many organizations and events. The old building will be missed, however, plans are in the works for a replacement structure to serve as our community center.

Photo courtesy of Bertia Kiamm

FRIENDS OF MIDAS is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation which qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is supported by memberships and donations and is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the history of Midas, Nevada. The membership year is from January 1 to December 31. Consult your accountant concerning the deductibility of your membership/donation for state or federal income tax purposes.

Friends of Midas Membership 2006

Individual \$25 Couples \$50 Lifetime \$1000

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STREET OR P.O. _____

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Mail to: Friends of Midas, HC66 Box 75, Midas, NV 89414

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