



FriendsofMidas@gmail.com

Friends of Midas

Annual
Newsletter
2025

www.FriendsofMidas.org

Thirty Years of Historic Preservation

Incorporated at the end of 1994, Friends of Midas officially launched in 1995. The first project centered on restoring the Midas Cemetery; it continues today. In the past 30 years, FOM has published a book about the history of Midas, providing copies to schools and libraries across Nevada; amassed an extensive archive; acquired property for exhibits; and installed historic signs, among many other projects. This small nonprofit, generously supported by folks who love this old town, remains focused on the preservation and presentation of the history of Midas and the Gold Circle Mining District it anchors.

Last October's wildfire emphasized the risk of keeping FOM's archive in town, and a project is underway to transfer photos and other materials to the Elko Museum where they will be safe and available for research.

Families often contact FOM for information about relatives who lived here in the past. In 2024, it was rewarding to provide information to the Neiss Family of New York about Fred Neiss who lived in Midas from 1908 to 1926 and to confirm for Henry Voss's family that he rests in the Midas Cemetery. Visitors included relatives of George Boucher, longtime Elko County Manager; of Ken Fox who relished his 1930s childhood here; and of Frank and Bell Macy who arrived in 1907 and raised their four daughters in Midas.

As FOM enters its fourth decade, many more stories and photos will be added to the website. Point your browser to FriendsofMidas.org to read the final report on the Midas Cemetery's ground-penetrating radar project and stories about the people mentioned in this newsletter. Much more to come!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Midas Cemetery Walking Tour: **Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 10 am**. For more information, email FriendsofMidas@gmail.com. See you in Midas!



Many thanks to Joe Curtis of Virginia City who beautifully restored this sign, which will be re-installed on the Old Road next spring.



In addition to maintaining the park and cemetery, Kenneth Altenreuther mowed the edges of Main Street all summer.

Midas Loves a Parade!



These boys are ready to march down Main Street in the Midas Armistice Day Parade in 1918. The next parade in Midas will be **Saturday, July 5, 2025** — the Annual Independence Day Celebration! Volunteers are needed. Please contact Shelly Hall and Jenny Elmore at Midas4thofJuly@gmail.com if you'd like to help. It will be a fabulous day as always!



FOM recently received a generous bequest from the estate of BJ Matthews in honor of her great-grandaunt, Dr. Mabel Young. Dressed for a play performed in Midas in 1911, Mabel is on the right. Her beloved niece Genevieve Young, who became BJ's grandmother, is on the left. Mabel Young was a dentist, prospector, town promoter, mining reporter, and Midas postmaster. For more info about the remarkable Dr. Young, visit the FOM website! FOM is deeply grateful for BJ's support.

Please consider including FOM, a fully qualified nonprofit, in your estate plans.



Born in Nebraska, Henry Voss grew up to join the rush to Gold Circle in 1908, but succumbed to pneumonia and was buried in the Midas Cemetery. In 2024, his family kindly shared a copy of the only known photo of Henry who was just 25 when he passed away. Memorials of those who, like Henry, rest in the Midas Cemetery are on FindaGrave.com and linked on the FOM website.

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Brooke Matthews	*Those who have gone on
Richard Matthews	will never be forgotten.

Remembering Friends

During the past two years, the following FOM members left this earthly plane: David Anderson, Arnie Etcheberry, Paul Gemperle, Tom Haltom, Brad Pearce, and Wes Walker. It was especially hard to say goodbye to John Doyle, who drafted FOM’s incorporating documents and provided sound legal advice for 30 years, and to Paula Scheuller, a founding board member and unwavering enthusiast for all things Midas. These friends will be much missed. May they all rest in peace.

*In 1985, Paula Scheuller was the first
**Ms. Midas, Queen of the
4th of July Parade.**
Her court consisted of
Clydene Mickelson (left) and
Bev White (right).
Clydene passed away in 2020;
Bev left us in 2022.*

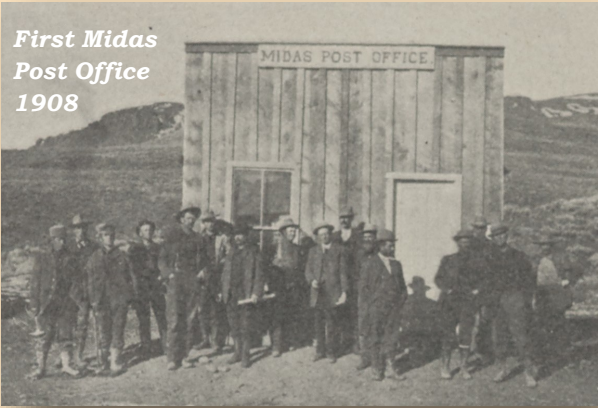


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*First Midas
Post Office
1908*



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Descendents of Midas families have generously shared copies of their family photos. Provided by the great-granddaughter of Frank and Bell Macy, this photo (left) shows the Macys with daughters Irene and Minerva at their home on Main Street c.1922. From her family’s marvelous collection, the daughter of Marian Myers Hargrove (born in Midas in 1912) shared this rare 1909 perspective (above) probably taken near Second Street. This year, many more historic photos will be added to the FOM website.

Friends of Midas is a Nevada non-profit corporation qualified as an educational organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Supported by memberships and donations, Friends of Midas is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the history of Midas and the surrounding Gold Circle Mining District in northeastern Nevada. Contributions may be tax-deductible; consult your tax advisor.

110 years ago in 1915 ...

- Martin Brown and Annie Sanders were married in Winnemucca.
- Dr. Edward Dunscomb, 77, and Gardiner Bliss, 10, passed away and were buried in the Midas Cemetery.
- Teachers were Irene Lyng and Lela Halsell.
- Edna Wilkerson (later: Timmons) was born on April 7 in Tuscarora.
- Margaret Polkinghorne Brady was postmaster.
- The Elko Prince Mining Co. fired up its new 50-ton cyanide mill. Midas entered a prosperous era.