



FriendsofMidas@gmail.com

Friends of Midas

Exploring the history of Midas, Nevada, since 1994

Annual
Newsletter
2026

www.FriendsofMidas.org

FRIENDS OF MIDAS ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED

In June 1908, Dr. Mabel Young arrived in the new mining boomtown of Midas with her sister, May “Jinky” Thompson. They were soon joined by their niece, Genevieve “Jennie” Young. These women quickly established deep roots. Mabel was especially engaged — she was the area’s dentist, postmistress, and mining reporter — and bought property on Main Street across from what is now the firehouse; likely, it was the site of her home and office. Her lot now belongs to Friends of Midas (FOM) and will soon feature a marker to commemorate this remarkable woman.

Dr. Young adored her niece who married Roy Roseberry of Tuscarora in 1912. Jennie’s granddaughter, Billie Jean (B.J.) Matthews, did not live in Nevada, but she heard her family’s stories and treasured the memorabilia passed down from Mabel and Jennie. B.J. was an early supporter of FOM and donated priceless family photographs and mementos, such as Dr. Young’s tiny Bible. B.J. passed away in 2023 and left an incredibly generous financial bequest to FOM in honor of her great-aunt, Dr. Mabel Young.

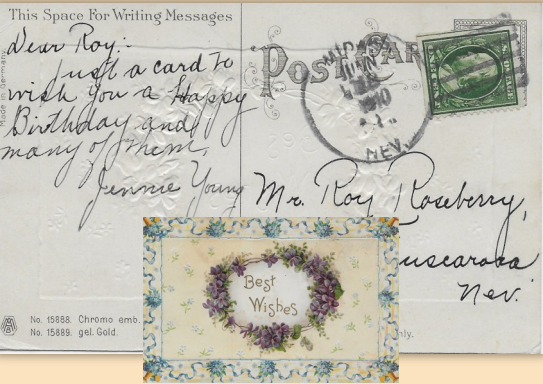
B.J.’s contribution has enabled FOM to establish an endowment with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada (Nevadafund.org). Based in Reno, this respected organization manages and invests on behalf of numerous funds like this one. Each year, FOM will receive a distribution from the endowment’s earnings.

This annual distribution will ensure that FOM’s basic costs—such as insurance, utilities, postage, website maintenance, fees, and supplies—will be covered in perpetuity. It has also allowed FOM to contract with a bookkeeper and reenergize the exhibits at the Macy Place. This endowment is essential to provide for FOM’s future, but your dues and contributions are now even more significant.

With a secure base, member contributions will go directly to history-related projects, such as the preservation and digitization of FOM’s extensive photo collection and archives. An app is also being developed that will share historic photos and information on your phone; with it, you can design your own walking tour! Please renew or start your membership with the form included with this newsletter. Electronic payments through Zelle are also welcome. Contact friendsofmidas@gmail.com with any questions.

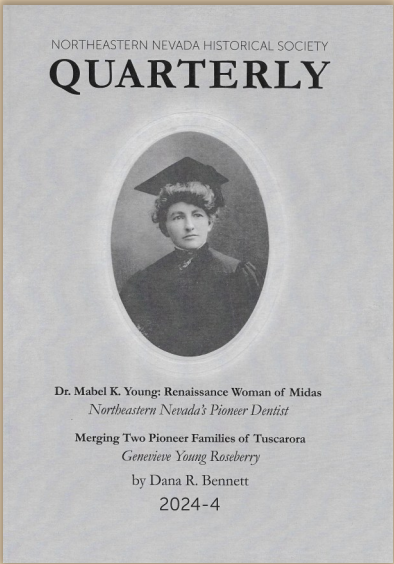
If you would like to contribute directly to the endowment or include it in your estate planning, please contact Lyndsey Crossley, CFNN’s Director of Giving Strategies, at 775-333-5499 ext 120 or lcrossley@nevadafund.org.

Dr. Young was an enthusiastic Midas booster. Her legacy lives on!



Left: Mabel was Midas postmistress and Jennie was the assistant postmistress when she mailed birthday greetings from Midas to her future husband.

Right: In recognition of B.J.’s generous contributions, the Elko **Quarterly** featured her family’s biographies. Contact FOM if you would like a copy.



Acquisitions...and Losses

This past year, FOM purchased three items: a collection of maps of the Elko Prince Mine, a 1911 letter written by Dr. Edward Dunscomb on his Midas letterhead, and a postcard with a clear Midas postmark of July 13, 1908.

Peter Maciulaitis donated two original documents: a 1908 location notice for the “Noon Mine” and a card, likely also from 1908, urging investment in the Gold Circle Townsite.

Les Sweeney, Charlie Primeaux, Barbara Murdock & Denice Miller, Darin & Jenny Elmore shared copies of family photos. FOM is always interested in family photos taken in Midas! FOM can provide a safe and

lasting home for originals, but if the owner is not yet ready to part with them, copies are certainly welcome.



was at least 90 years old, are both gone. Facilities at the Miner’s Gold minesite were burned, too.

On the positive side, hidden historic activities became visible. Without sagebrush and willows to block the view, old roadbeds, mining efforts, and trash piles can now be seen.

In August, the Jakes Fire burned perilously close to Midas. Thanks to the herculean efforts of 600 firefighters, the town was saved. But historic assets in Midas Canyon were lost. The dugout (you might not have noticed it before) and the cabin, which

Memorials

In 2025,
FOM received contributions
in memory of:

Art Cimijotti	Bob Lukens
Paula Scheuller	Tom Haltom
Pat Pearce	Jim Gregory

FOM BOARD

President:	Dana Bennett
Secretary:	Sheri Barlow
Treasurer:	David Morris
Trustees:	Pam Mortara
	Jim Schennum
	Jenny Wilhelm

Walking Tours

Beautiful weather greeted the 40 people who came to the 2025 Cemetery Walking Tour. Mark your calendar for this year's tour: **Sunday, May 24, at 10 am.**

A new tour debuted in 2025: **Midas Murders & Mystery!** For 90 minutes, 30 people visited several relevant sites in the heart of town. Many thanks to the Midas Bighorn Saloon for starting the day with coffee & donuts! By popular demand, the tour will be offered again during Nevada Day weekend in October.



Website Update

All of FOM's newsletters of the past three decades have been scanned and are now on the website. Look under the Memberships tab.

The home page has a link to the Vox Media video produced this past summer. It has had more than 576,000 views!

A detailed biography of Dr. Young can be found under the Stories tab.

Content will be uploaded as FOM's archives are digitized. Coming soon: a timeline of fires in and around town.



90 years ago in 1935 ...

- Mrs. Irene True, freight and mail driver between Midas and Winnemucca, testified to the Nevada Assembly re: trucking legislation.
- Miss Ina G. Sharp was the only teacher. 20 children were enrolled.
- Mrs. Hilda Jacobson was clerk of the Midas School Board.
- Mrs. Isabel Lyon was postmaster.
- Sen. Noble & Louise Getchell moved from Midas to Lander Co.

Left: One of the Murders & Mystery stops was the Midas Jail, which was built in 1908.

Right: Charlie Primeaux shared this 1919 photo of a lumber delivery at his great-uncle's store on Main Street, about where the bar is now.



Friends of Midas

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Point your phone's camera here to reach FOM's website!

Kenneth Altenreuther
Dan Bennett *
Dana Bennett
Joan Bennett
Patricia Calferata
Corey Casci
Arthur Cimijotti *
Patrick & Debbie Cimijotti
Connor Coleman
Kaycee Coleman
John & Sue Davis
Shane & Sheryl Davis
Margie Evans
Greg & Carolyn Ferraro
Chris & Denise Gemmill
Ronald Granata *
Hall/Horgan Household
Sue Haltom

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Jim & Carol Johnson
Ronald Johnson
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Beverly Matson *
Les Matson *
Brooke Matthews
Richard Matthews
Pamela Mortara
Barbara Murdock
Sharon Newbold
Stanley Paher
Skip * & Dorry Powell
Ramona Reno

Jim & Charice Schennum
Anthony Scheuller
Paula Scheuller *
Elizabeth Stern
Eric Stern
Robert Stoldal
Frank & Julie Sullivan
Lester Sweeney
Jim * & Pat Swisher
Brie Thompson
Jordan Thompson
Keith Thompson
Sheri Thompson
Michael Waddell
Gus Wegren
Lori Wegren
Beverly White *

*Those who have gone on will never be forgotten.



Xmas party at Midas Town Hall, c1935. Courtesy of Ken Fox

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 deductible; consult your tax advisor.