



The Miner's Pick

Abuquerque, New Mexico

January 1992

THREE CHEERS FOR EVA MARY!

As most of you know, Eva Mary Scott Trujillo has been a committee of one to handle all arrangements for the Dawson Picnic for more years than we can remember. She no doubt had lots of volunteer help, but the responsibility was hers entirely.

The new Picnic Committee is made up of ten members — lots of folks to fill Eva Mary's shoes. Our hope is that we can come close to doing the job that Eva Mary has done in the past.

She has consented to be on our enlarged committee, so we feel we will be getting lots of much-needed advice from her.

Thanks, Eva Mary, for all the time and effort you have put into the Dawson Picnics!

+++ DAWSON CEMETERY NOMINATION

The nomination of the Dawson Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places is under consideration.

Corinne Sze, of Santa Fe, is working on contract for the Historic Preservation Division of the New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs. She has for months been researching the history of the Dawson Cemetery. She has contacted lots of former Dawsonites and looked into many documents. But her work goes on.

If you have any information or photographs that might help Corinne with this project, she would be most grateful. She particularly would like information about the iron crosses that were placed in the cemetery following the mining disasters. When were they purchased, and when were they installed?

You may contact Corinne Sze at 1042 Stagecoach Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Or phone her at (505) 983-5605.

P.A. SYSTEM, ANYONE?

We would love to have a public address system at September's picnic. If you have one and have the know-how to set it up, please contact one of the members of the Picnic Committee. We shall be eternally grateful.

DAWSON IS PEOPLE . . . AND THEIR MEMORIES

That's why every other year families travel from miles away to attend the Dawson Picnic: to relieve, to regain, to remember.

Yet as wonderful as those Dawson memories are, most of them have never been set down on paper. Dawson's been gone for more than forty years now. Isn't it about time we had a real history of the place?

Toby Smith never lived in Dawson. But he has been there and walked around what's left of the town, and he has talked to several Dawsonites. For the last fifteen years, Toby has been a staff writer for the *Albuquerque Journal*. Perhaps you saw or heard about a *Journal* article written by Toby several years ago, "Tough Life of Mining Town Trained Top N.M. Athletes." Although the very moving article mentioned a number of Dawson athletes and coaches, Nick Di Domenico was the person most quoted.

Along with his journalistic duties, Toby has put together two popular books about New Mexico — *DATELINE: NEW MEXICO*, and *NEW MEXICO ODYSSEY*, both published by the University of New Mexico Press.

Now Toby wants to do a book about Dawson, and we think it's a great idea.

Toby's plan is to interview former Dawson residents and their offspring, dozens of them, if he can. From their stories and from other sources, Toby's goal is to stitch together a picture of what Dawson was like and what the town meant to those who knew it.

This won't be a dry, tedious history. Rather, it will be something illuminating, something you'll be proud of, smile over, read again and again, and then pass on to your kids and grandkids.

The book will have pictures never seen before and information you've never heard before (or maybe just plain forgotten).

Your Picnic Committee would love to hear what you think of this project!



CEMETERY CLEANUP

Often we have a crew of volunteers to help clean the cemetery prior to the Dawson Picnic. Once again we're asking for help on the Friday and Saturday before the picnic.

The cleanup entails weeding and clearing the trash that has blown around. If you have your own tools — mainly hoe and shovel — and would like to spend a few hours with friends on this detail, your Picnic Committee would love to hear from you.

And, if you would be willing to head up the cleanup detail at the cemetery, please let us know that too. We really need someone to take charge.

IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?

For weeks the Picnic Committee has been attempting to update the address list. We have done all we can do. Now it's up to you!

Is your name misspelled? Is your address correct? Do we have the right Zip Code? Would you like us to have your phone number on record?

Maybe you know of a Dawsonite who never receives notice of the picnics. Drop us a line and let us know. We'll send this mailing as soon as we hear from you.

We'll once more at the picnic have cards for you to fill out with all this information. That way we can keep the mailing list up-to-date. If you should move, please let the Picnic Committee know of your new address immediately.

POSTERBOARDS FOR PHOTOS



We're looking for a few (a couple?) posterboards of some sort on which to display photos at the picnic. We could even use a couple of 8-ft. or 10-ft. folding tables on which to show photo albums.

We encourage folks to bring their old Dawson photos. Wouldn't it be nice to have a place to display them?

If you can help with these items, please contact a member of the Picnic Committee. And don't forget to bring your old photos!

Historic Highway Marker

Some Committee members have been toying with the idea of asking the State to install a Historic Highway Marker at the cutoff into Dawson, on Highway 64 between Raton and Cimarron. It would basically be a "point-of-interest" marker to identify the geographic location of what was the greatest town on earth!

You might have knowledge on how to go about getting this accomplished. If so, would you share it with the Committee?



FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Would you like to receive a Dawson newsletter (newspaper) every year that we don't have a picnic?

We think it's an idea whose time has come. This issue of *The Miner's Pick* is just a tiny sampling of what we could do in the future.

Many of you will remember that our high school newsletter was called *The Miner's Pick*. Perhaps you can come up with a more appropriate name for the new one.

In order to produce a newsletter every other year, we'll need your input. If you are willing to send news or write articles, let us know. We will designate a newsletter editor sometime in the future, and you can be in contact with that person. Just let one of the Committee members know now of your interest to contribute.

A Saturday Night Social

Evelyn and Bob Rosenfield have reserved the Elks Lodge in Raton for a social gathering of Dawsonites on Saturday evening, September 5 — the night before the picnic. Any of your Raton friends will be able to give you more information when you arrive.

65 YEARS AGO . . .

PHELPS DODGE MERC. CO. HOLDS STYLE SHOW

February the first the Phelps Dodge Mercantile company entertained the people of Dawson with a free show, and at the same time had their spring style revue. With the pretty girls of Dawson employed as live models, the latest creations in womens coats for spring as well as beautiful gowns, afternoon and sport frocks were wonderfully displayed. The new coats are mostly plaids, and fur trimmed. Sport and afternoon dresses are straight lines while evening dresses are heavily trimmed with beads.

And shoes! The new dainty leathers of petti point, kid and calf in the very newest of colors, rose blush, parchment, shell gray and stone gray. Black patent leather with colored trimmings also very popular. For evening wear, satin, as usual predominated, shown in gored effects, beaded vamps, also with buckles. Strap patterns as well as plain pumps are also good for dress wear.

The stage decoration arranged for the show was especially attractive and added much to the success of the event. Every seat in the building was filled and even standing room was at a premium.

(Taken from *The Dawson News*, Feb. 10, 1927. Vol. VII, No. 3, Published Weekly by THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT.)