

# THE MAIL CAR

August 2020



Bishop Museum  
& Historical Society  
dba  
Laws Railroad Museum  
& Historical Site  
PO Box 363  
200 Silver Canyon Road  
Bishop CA 93515  
(760) 873-5950  
[www.LawsMuseum.org](http://www.LawsMuseum.org)



You will not believe your eyes when you see how inviting and enticing the space that welcomes you to Laws feels! And just wait until you see the merchandise! We have art prints for sale, collectibles, as well as branded merchandise such as soaps, cups and magnets. We have jams and jellies and other tasty items to tempt you. And of course hats, sweatshirts, pup treats, and other fun souvenirs all waiting to commemorate your visit to our museum. Stay tuned, and please come visit us at Laws once we reopen! We'll be waiting to show off our new exhibits and Reception Center to all of our guests...socially distancing and masks in place, of course!!!

## Living History Visits Laws

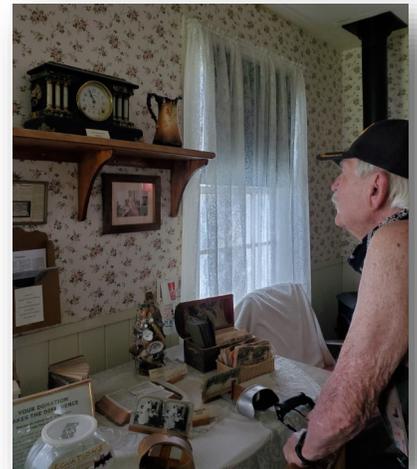
Founding Director Daniel "Dan" Young visited us for a private tour with President Pete Watercott 56 years after forming Bishop Museum & Historical Society. Initial meetings for the society were held in Bishop Public Library said the lifelong resident of Bishop. Dan was one of seventeen who felt the preservation of Laws was paramount because of its historical sentimental value as it pertains to early development of the Owens Valley and its importance in railroad annals of a period when the "Great West" was being won.

To look at Dan today, one would assume he is an average guy. Dan is anything but average. As a boy growing up in Bishop Dan would play around the Depot until the Agent would shoo him away. Later Dan and friends would hop the train for a "free" ride often going further than initially planned and having to hitch rides back to town. Dan enjoyed scouting the valley finding many historically significant sites and petroglyphs reporting them to the Bureau of Land Management for preservation. Dan graduated in 1947 and went on to serve in the Air National Guard and the Army in the Armored Division.

Dan's family, Daniel and Mary Rupp arrived in Laws in 1898, coming from Whitehouse Ohio by train. Mr. Rupp was a farmer in the valley, and his children, Nellie Rupp (McNally), Edith Rupp (Barlow), Kathryn Rupp (Young) and Nickolous Rupp attended schools at Poleta, Laws, and Bishop from 1902 to 1915. Kathryn later taught in third grade in Bishop.

Dan was pleased Aunt Nellie's clock is in the Agents House for safe keeping even though he had asked Nellie if he could have it. Dan also visited family artifacts in the School and Western Display and was very pleased with the refurbished school saying, "That's just how it was."

Dan has certainly left his mark on the world and we are all better for it and for having the good fortune of the Rupp's leaving Ohio for our beautiful Owens Valley.



## Raffle Time!



We received an **amazing** donation that could soon be yours! Fabric donated by Paul Thompson, was lovingly crafted into a 62" x 64" quilt by Kathryn Daniels, and long arm quilted by Laurie Morrow of Written in Thread Quilting.

Spoil yourself with **snuggly cotton comfort** just in time for the holidays.

Drawing will be held Thursday Dec. 10, 2020

**Tickets are only \$5 each or 5 for \$20**

Please make checks payable to Laws Railroad Museum & Historical Site PO Box 363, Bishop CA 93515 or log on to [www.LawsMuseum.org](http://www.LawsMuseum.org), click Join Our Family, then One Time Donation. Please note for Quilt Raffle. **Good Luck!**

Pictured are Kathryn and sister Mary Jo

## Hoyle's History



Many people have passed through the doors of the Reception/Gift Shop at the Laws Museum since I first became a volunteer. You might know me, my name is Bob Hoyle and before volunteering at Laws, I was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Bishop for twenty-six years. After I was trained and was released to be on my own, I was a little nervous about being responsible for and working with money, while trying to put the history and the story of Laws' into my brain. But it all quickly came together, like the Post Office, the order of the day was repetition, and this was going to be a lot more fun.

Now, looking back at it, years later, the number of faces that came into the Museum were young, old, in between, a large number of foreign visitors from all over the world, and eventually dogs. But the one that sticks out in my mind happened on either my first or second day on my own.

A young couple were the very first guests of that day, early in the morning and after some chit chat I gave them a brochure and off the cuff, I was curious where they were from as their east coast accents were quite noticeable and not looking at the guest book, I asked "Where are you two from?" The young lady who seemed to be the spokesperson answered "BAASTON." Well this was right up my alley as I too originally was a "BAASTONIAN", so I proceeded to talk sports with them covering all four, Patriots [football], Celtics [basketball], Bruins [hockey], and everyone's favorite, the beloved Boston Red Sox [baseball]. She was a huge Tom Brady fan as am I, and at this point in time I could clearly see I had met my match. We had a great visit and I answered most of their Museum questions, but before departing, I asked if they were from Boston, or a suburb and she said "Grafton" Mass. For the second time in my lifetime I was speechless, as when I was eleven years of age, my parents ripped my brother and I away from our home in "Grafton" Mass. to drive cross country and live in Long Beach, California. Well, we became fast friends and that evening driving home I thought to myself how odd that I would meet someone from my home town 3,000 miles away in another small town and a railroad museum, and I think at that point, I thought to myself, "I'm going to like volunteering here." GO SOX!!

## What's New & Old in the Wells Fargo Building?

We found a great collection of antique surveyors' equipment in storage. We had some items featuring the Bodie Mining operation that we consolidated to tell a smaller mining story in the rear display case while featuring some of these wonderful old pieces of equipment that have never been on display. We are working on getting signage, more artifacts, and making that area tell even more of an interesting story. All of the flooring was replaced in the entire building courtesy of Inyo County, and we thank them so much for helping bring this area up to a much more attractive space for our guests. In our immediate plans we are reorganizing and bringing in some other items in storage to refresh the Native American section of the Wells Fargo Building. All of the rock displays in the other parts of the room have been cleaned and they look so much more interesting given some new lighting and refreshed cabinetry.



*If you would like to be on our email list, simply send us an email at [LawsRailroadMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LawsRailroadMuseum@gmail.com) and say, "I'd like to be added to your email list". We won't spam you, we promise. Thank you for your continued support.*

*P.S. Our annual membership meeting must be postponed due to the pandemic. Better safe than sorry.*

**On the Horizon** We have a surprise in store for your next visit to the Bottle House. We have made the Jim Beam room into a small drinking parlor, where a few friends could enjoy a glass or two, listen to some music, and tell some lies about places they've been and things they have done! We found some wonderful old portraits, and have picked some of the most charming decanters from our collection to feature. It will be quite a fun little space for our guests to view and enjoy. It's not quite complete, but will be ready in the next week or two.

We are really looking forward to the completion of the never-before-open Appliance Building. We are hoping to make quite a splash with a completely new exhibit near the Train Barn. It's needed quite a bit of structural work, as well as new flooring, siding repair, and fresh paint, so keep your eyes peeled in the future!

# 18

The historic turntable is being renovated, with an eye on getting it to function again. Won't that be fun for everyone to get to help turn the tracks! We are working with several entities on that effort, and hope to pair a functioning turntable with our planned track extension in the not-too-distant future. Our dedicated train staff are so excited about getting to take our renovated Brill Car for a longer journey, and we hope to have our great friends in Independence bring their gorgeous #18 locomotive for another visit...and won't it be great if you get to ride it down the tracks?!?