



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: rotary.org rotary5470.org northforkrotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 59 Issue 26 – September 3, 2020

LAST MEETING: August 27, 2020 (via Zoom)

President Bliss presided.

Visiting Rotarians: Bob McHugh, Montrose Rotary

Peggy Smith, District 5470 Governor Elect, Bayfield Rotary

Other Guests: Bronwen Barry

Judy Livingston

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had 58% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- Ulli asked for support for the Blue Sage in this difficult time. There will be a Fall Concert series taking place outside with Covid-19 protocols in place. Club members were encouraged to become Blue Sage members, underwrite events and purchase tickets to concert events.
- Sarah and Bill attended the Telluride Rotary Club's 75th anniversary celebration. They were bounced over 13,000 ft. Imogene Pass in a large tourist truck to a recognition celebration up on the mountain.

This was followed by a picnic lunch and a presentation about the history of the area held at the old Tomboy mining site. The driver of the truck, also a Rotarian, provided an interesting



RC of Telluride 75th anniversary celebrants at the top of Imogene pass - 13,000+ feet. Bill and Sarah are pictured in the front row, 2 and 3 from the right.

historical tour as well. The views, although smoky, were wonderful and well worth the bone-rattling journey.

- Bob McHugh will be moving back to Paonia next month and intends to transfer to the NFV Rotary Club.
- Anyone wishing to take over as Newsletter Editor is welcome to do so. Contact a Board Member.

PROGRAM: Neosho Mine Legend

Bob McHugh

Pam introduced Montrose Rotary member and former longtime Paonia resident Bob McHugh.

Mr. McHugh began with a series of photographs depicting the path from US 550 up to the site of the mine, parts of which are visible from the highway, along with a sign reading “Antiques 9-5” and a clothesline complete with hanging laundry. These appeared at the site around 1970 and are occasionally refreshed, but by whom is a mystery.

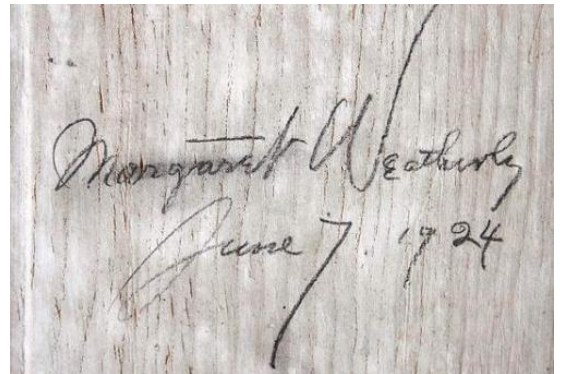
The Neosha mine is located south of Ouray up a steep trail that takes about a day to traverse. The blacksmith shop, a bunkhouse, a couple of out-buildings and some debris is all that remain of the mine. These have been stabilized by volunteers from the Ouray County Historical Society with a grant from the State Historical Fund.

In 1895 the claim was located by two miners who worked the mine for a number of years. It became the Bonanza mine and then the Neosho mine. A carpenter built the buildings about 1908. The mine went bankrupt around 1911, at which time Edward Weatherly and his wife Margaret became involved in the mine. Then moved to the site and build a cabin which was subsequently destroyed. The last private owner of the mine was a corporation out of Dallas. It is currently owned by the forest service.

Mr. McHugh showed a series of photographs of the interior and exterior of blacksmith shop and the bunkhouse that has had much of it's paint eaten away by porcupines. An inscription on the wall of the bunkhouse introduced ...

“The Legend”

Margaret was the daughter of an Irish immigrant who was working as a railroad laborer. She was not formally educated but had a flair for music which she got from her father who sang the old Irish songs around the labor camps and bars at the end of the work day. She eventually married Edward Weatherly who was from a well-to-do family in England. He studied medicine at Oxford but did not graduate or practice medicine. He became an advocate of the Silver Standard and wrote articles supporting it, eventually becoming interested in mining silver. He and Margaret moved to Ouray in 1905 and became involved in the Neosho mine around 1911.



Edward's brother Frederick was a lawyer, judge and financier, living in England. He provided financial backing for the mine. It was never profitable, but struggled on for several years.

Early in the period when Edward and Margaret owned the mine, Fredericks father and his only son both died within three months of each other. This distressed Frederick greatly and he wrote a poem to help deal with his feelings, which eventually ended up in the hands of Margaret. With her musical ability, Margaret set the poem to an ancient Londonderry air and sent the song back to Frederick, who had the

song copyrighted in 1913. The song became popular world-wide. Now, 108 years later, almost everyone is familiar with the song “Danny Boy”, a rendition of which Mr. McHugh provided to the Club.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
9/3/20	Dave Noe	North Fork Geology and Vitaculture	James Schott
9/10/20			Peggy Szvetcz
9/17/20	Cassandra Shenk	Crow Tribe leadership and tribal council	Greg Thompson
9/24/20			Bain Weinberger
10/1/20			John Zachman
10/8/20	Cynthia Houseweart		Judy Beggs
10/15/20			Jackie Parks
10/22/20			Bill Bishop
10/29/20		Fifth Thursday	
11/5/20			Sarah Bishop
11/12/20			Norm Lewark
11/19/20			Nick Lypps
11/26/20		Thanksgiving	
12/3/20			Randy Campbell
12/10/20			Annette Choszczyk
12/17/20			John Coombe
12/24/20		Christmas Eve	
12/31/20		New Years Eve	
1/7/21			Susie Coombe
1/14/21			Glenn Dahlgren
1/21/21			Marsha Grant

