



BUTTE CITIZENS FOR PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION

P.O. Box 164, Butte, MT 59703 ❖ 406-490-3216 ❖ www.buttecpr.org

E-NEWSLETTER ❖ AUGUST 2008

CPR



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES IN THE WORKS

The **tentative** schedule for the next few weeks includes three workshops:

Hot Water Heat: Aug. 13-14
Brick Repair #2: Sept. 18-20
Windows Repair: September

STAY TUNED!



Also in August, we are planning another **salvage garage sale** for Saturday August 23. Details coming soon — but if you are in the market for historic windows, beadboard, doors, and plumbing fixtures, plan to attend. Examples of the kinds of materials we have had in the past are in the photos (*right*).

Coming September 7-11: **National Summit of Mining Communities**, in Butte. Butte CPR members will be giving presentations on the role of cultural tourism and Butte's architectural heritage in our ongoing revitalization.

Montana Genealogical Society Conference:
Butte, Sept. 19-20

Montana Main Street Conference: Butte, Sept
28-30



CPR's 2008-09 workshops are supported in part by a sub-grant from the State Historic Preservation Office's Preserve America Grant.



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OFFICE HOURS & UPDATES

Nicole von Gaza, CPR's Public Relations Coordinator, has office hours **Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Please stop by the office on the second floor of the Museum of Fine Arts—Butte (405 W. Park St.) to



- browse our preservation library (members can borrow),
- discuss your historic home improvement projects,
- learn about tax incentives for preservation,
- get details of upcoming programs that you can volunteer for or participate in,
- join Butte CPR or make a donation,
- and talk to fellow building-huggers.



Brick by Brick, our weekly series of articles in the *Montana Standard* is well underway. Topics have included ghost signs, brick repair, windows, the Dumas, calcimine pain, granite, Italianate architecture, and Sanborn maps. If you've missed an article, they are all linked on our education web page at www.buttecpr.org/edu.htm. Got an idea for a story (or want to write one)? Contact Nicole.

We still seek volunteers to give talks to **Beyond Assisted Living** once a month beginning in August. Contact Dick if you are interested.

Our application for operational support from the biennial **Montana Cultural Trust** grant program was submitted August 1, to allow for continuation and expansion of our Public Relations Coordinator position and expanded office hours.



MEMBERSHIP

CPR's membership is on a calendar-year basis, with annual dues in January. For the complete list of each level's associated benefits and discounts, please visit our web site: www.buttecpr.org/membership.htm. THANKS for your support!

Rooming House Level (students): \$10 annually

Miner's Cottage Level (Individual): \$25 annually

Bungalow Level (Family – up to two active members at one address): \$40 annually

Italianate Level (Supporting – up to two active members at one address) \$80 annually

Queen Ann Level (Underwriter – up to two active members at one address): \$150 annually

Copper King Level (Patron – up to two active members at one address): \$500 annually

Butte Preservationist Level: \$1000 and more annually - up to four active members at multiple addresses

For businesses:

Basic Corporate Membership: \$150 annually

Business Project Supporter: \$25 to \$100 – specific support for smaller projects

Corporate Dust to Dazzle sponsorship: \$95

Historic Improvement Program Grant underwriting: \$750

NEXT CPR MEETING
Tuesday August 12
CPR Office, MOFAB
(405 W. Park)
7:00 p.m. — 3rd floor

MEMBERSHIP

Reminder: Dues are now payable for 2008. Please refer to the web site, www.butte.cpr.org, or call Nicole at 406-490-3216 for details of membership levels outlined above.

PROTECT-A-GATE CONTINUES

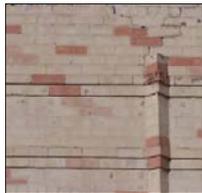
Butte CPR recently received \$300 in donations, thanks to Robert Edwards' welding of gates. Kurt Krueger, Mike Driscoll, Ristine Hall, Peggy Delaney, and Jim Driscoll all contributed unrestricted donations. The Protect-A-Gate program is free, but such donations are greatly appreciated! Thanks!

Butte CPR wants Butte's heritage to stay in Butte. To take advantage of the gate protection service, call us at 723-2174 or e-mail info@buttecpr.org. Chains are available for temporary protection of gates belonging to folks on the waiting list.

So far this summer, we have welded 22 gates, added to about 50 last summer, and we have another 30+ to go later this summer to get to the end of our backlog. It has proved to be a good opportunity to visit with friends and members, attract new members, and spread the word about Butte CPR. One party talked to Robert about trim and other "stuff" she has in her garage that she wants to donate to CPR as salvage—just in time for our August 23 salvage sale!



Montana Standard photo by Walter Hinick



President: Larry Smith ♦ Vice-President: Andrea Stierle

Treasurer: Mitzi Rossillon ♦ Secretary: Dick Gibson

**Board of Directors: Larry Smith, Mitzi Rossillon, Andrea Stierle,
Robert Edwards, Carrie Kiely**

Public Relations Coordinator: Nicole von Gaza

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor: Dick Gibson

Membership Directory: www.buttecpr.org/directory.htm

**This issue marks the 1-year anniversary of the e-newsletter.
Please send constructive criticism to Dick at rigibson@earthlink.net.**

Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization

THE BUTTE LIGHT

By Mitzi Rossillon

The sun puts on a dramatic light show for Butte some days. It happens late in the afternoon when the sun is low in the west and the skies are mostly cloudy. As the sun hits the horizon, there is just a sliver of light that shines below the clouds on the Hill and the Pit, suddenly turning a gray day into a kaleidoscope of colors. My husband and I call it “The Butte Light,” refusing to believe that the same wonderful phenomenon happens anywhere else in Montana or the world.

Uptown, the sun’s light paints a collage of peaked roofs falling down a steep street. It glints off windows below gingerbread gable ends. Church steeples rise here and there, some dark spears reaching to heaven. Chimneys stand short and tall. All are pasted against the far view of the blue-green East Ridge. The wall and roof colors are so startlingly vivid, and the deep red brick walls join together all the roof angles in the view. There’s occasionally a glimpse of the top of a blue spruce, or a black wrought iron fence, or a sparkle from a pane of stained glass. There might be a ghost of a sign painted on a long-gone neighborhood market.

The view to the east of the Anselmo Mineyard and, behind it, Nanny Goat Hill is among the best when the



Butte Light is shining. There, I get the feeling that I have stepped back in time. Would the miners have looked on the same scenes and thanked God for the light show that helped them continue with their underground lives? Did their wives marvel at it through their kitchen windows while they prepared another evening meal, the families’ clothes hung out to dry adding another layer to the mosaic?

Under The Butte Light, the Berkeley Pit becomes something quite different from a toxic pool. The strata visible in the pit wall glow, not with your ordinary colors like yellow, blue, and orange, but with shades of gold, azure, and faint copper. This view is especially striking from the Flats, when the entire Hill is bright with the rock layers of the pit on the right and the darker, jagged forms of Butte’s old commercial core to the left.

As suddenly as The Butte Light shines, it is gone; the sun has set. Our town isn’t as glorious as it was just a few minutes earlier, and the vivid overlay of historic and modern images dulls. But I know someday soon, nature will put on another of its unexpected shows to make me say I’m glad I live in Butte. ■

Mitzi Rossillon is a professional archaeologist and historian. She is a long-time member of Butte CPR, currently serving on the Board and as Treasurer.

There is love in me for this Butte.

*As much as for the mountains in their mourning
intimateness I feel love for all the outsides and sur-
faces of the town itself:*

*the brilliant sparkling look of the town from far out
on the Flat late in the evening, like a mammoth
broken tiara of starry diamonds, twinkling points of
blue and orange and cerise and violet, fired and
flung against a mountainside of dark velvet...*

—I, Mary MacLane: A Diary of Human Days
(1917)

