

# DESERT DUST

*Carlin Historical Society - Carlin, Nevada*

## Carlin's Red Cross



WRITTEN BY ELLA B. TRUJILLO

The first mention of an American Red Cross chapter forming in Carlin was actually in 1898 but it was called a Red Cross Society. However, it wasn't until 1917 that the American Red Cross became significant in Carlin. Elko formed a Chapter and an "enthusiastic Red Cross meeting was held in Carlin" on June 22, 1917. Several prominent Elko citizens gave speeches.

On July 11, 1917, the *Elko Independent* reported that a branch of the Elko County Red Cross Chapter had been formed in Carlin and that one Mrs. Margaret Webb was appointed as chairman. The branch reportedly had "a membership of fifty-five and there is much enthusiasm over the work undertaken." In August of 1917, a dance was held by the "Carlin Auxiliary of the Red Cross" and the proceeds were used for the "work in the chapter".

This picture shows a Red Cross tent set up on Main Street in front of the Overland Hotel. It was taken before the Colonial Hotel was built around 1910 so we know the Red Cross was active between 1898 and 1917.

The American Red Cross grew in significance with the outbreak of the Spanish Flu in 1918. The flu arrived in America with the soldiers returning from France during World War I. No part of Elko County, including Carlin was spared. The first cases of the flu in the area were reported in October 1918. Schools were closed, masks were worn, and a quarantine was implemented. In fact, there was a \$5 fine if you were caught not wearing a mask in public. No exact figures about Carlin are known, but as an example, in Tuscarora, 68 cases were reported with only 15 residents remaining healthy. By mid-December, the cases were decreasing.

After the quarantine was lifted, Carlin's Red Cross got to work again making bandages for the soldiers fighting in the war. In February, Carlin was commended for its work. The *Elko Independent* reported that the Elko Chapter "wishes to say that the work received from Carlin has been especially fine." The Carlin Chapter also held a fundraiser on February 14th. There was a flag-raising ceremony, speeches, a dinner at Smith's hall, and a "night spent dancing at Eagle's Hall to the music of the 36-piece Ogden band". The event raised \$243.88, which was given to the Elko Chapter.

Carlin's Red Cross was also in existence during World War II with Adolph Moldenhauer as Chairman. On January 7, 1942, the *Elko Daily Free Press* printed a letter from a soldier stationed in Palisade regarding Carlin's Red Cross branch.

**American Red Cross  
Carlin, Nevada**

**Sirs and Mesdames:**

***On behalf of all the personnel in the service stationed at Palisade, we wish to offer our heartfelt appreciation and sincerest thanks for your kindness and thoughtfulness in remembering us with your most welcome contributions. The gifts have helped us immensely in that it makes our task here a bit more enjoyable.***

**Sincerely,**

**Thomas B. Sawyer  
1st Lt. U.S. Army  
Sgt. Frances H. Lamb**



## *News and Gossip*

The Carlin Historical Society is continuing with our Tea Time Talks. May's topic will be The Wreck of the *City of San Francisco* near Carlin.

We will also be holding our Second Annual Kisplosion program over the summer. Keep an eye open for dates and events!

**Monthly Meeting - 3rd Tuesday  
of each month at 5:30 p.m.  
The Carlin Museum is open on Thursday and Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m.  
You can also make an appointment to view  
the Museum by calling 775-754-2287.**

**[www.carlinhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.carlinhistoricalsociety.com)**