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Historic Preservation at Nevada City, Montana

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Introduction:
- Primary emphasis this summer was placed on restoring the Richards Cabin however, the first week was spent priming and painting the interior of the Iron Rod Post Office.
- All the buildings within the Nevada City Outdoor Museum complex are historically significant, some more than others. Some have been used as sets on major Hollywood productions such as, "The Missouri Breaks", "Little Big Man", "Return to Lonesome Dove", "Thousand Pieces of Gold" and "The Left Handed Gun". Others have more historical significance. Some are from Yellowstone National Park. One specifically built for a County Sheriff's Department eventually accommodated a legal "triple hanging" of outlaws in 1917. One was used as a location for a Blackfeet treaty signing in 1865.

Richards Cabin background-what makes it significant:
- Allegedly built in the summer of 1863, it holds a heralded position in the colorful history of the Montana vigilante movement. A notorious Russian, highwayman and alleged murderer, named George Ives, was tracked down by the first Montana vigilante posse for the murder of Nicholas Tbalt. On 21 Dec 1863, a large crowd was present during his trial and sentencing. Immediately after the sentence was passed, Ives’ lawyers requested a 24-hour stay of execution so he could put his family affairs in order. As the story goes, a local lawman named X. Beidler was observing the proceedings from the roof of the Richards Cabin and upon hearing the request yelled out "...how long did he give the Dutchman...?" (Now, the victim was actually German, but being as good Americans could not pronounce "Deutsch-man" properly, all in the community called Tbalt "the Dutchman"). Ives was hanged within the hour from the ridgepole of a neighboring building under construction without writing a word to his sister or his mother.
Research:

- Was conducted over the course of my summer internship at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)-Helena; Madison County Court House-Virginia City; Virginia City Library; period newspaper articles from the Montana Post authored by Thomas Dimsdale via on-line resources; and a personal interview with John Ellingsen-Virginia City Curator Emeritus who was in the employ of Charles Bovie for many years and performed early preservation on numerous structures in Virginia City and Nevada City.

Chronology of property:

- 1861: Alder Gulch (the region that eventually became Virginia City & Nevada City), was part of Washington Territory
- 1863: When gold was discovered in Alder Gulch, it was part of Idaho Territory
- 1864: Alder Gulch now within the boundaries of the newly formed Montana Territory
- The above information is stated because the first few entries in the Madison County historic ledgers, listed below, were entered while Virginia City & Nevada City were still in Idaho Territory.
- With the help of Kathleen and Paula at the Virginia City courthouse, we determined via a county plat map, that Nevada City was located in 6S, 3W of section 16. In the Index to Deeds, Books 1, 2, 3, and 4; 1864 through 1891; Grantors & Grantees, we discovered the following: A placer claim was deeded from the US Government to Lawrence A. Fenner in 1875, for the parcel where the Richards cabin now sets. This is the oldest documented/deeded transfer of ownership of the land I could find in these reference ledgers. There is no mention of structures in this document, only a description of the section and parcel.
- Further investigation of the Madison County courthouse records Preemption Book, May 1865-May 1869, revealed 29 entries for the Richards name from June 1865 to October 1868. All of these entries describe either a purchase, or sale of mining claims. Of all these entries, there is only one that could describe the buildings in question.
- That description was found in Preemption Book 2, page 554: From R. L. Schultz to William Richards on 20 Nov 1864 "...sold to Richards - quartz mining claim, Keystone Lode, NE from Discovery claim #5, NE from Discovery on the Gleeson Load claim, N. & NE from Discovery of the Robeck Load in Madison County aforesaid, and the dwelling houses now occupied by the party of the 1st part, on the east side of the street leading to Nevada City & just out of the limits of Virginia City in said county aforesaid and also a dwelling house adjoining the said house and lot upon which the said house stands and also a small house in the rear of said last mentioned house, to have and to hold the property aforesaid and said party of the 2nd part, his heirs and assigns forever. And the said first party for himself assigns hereby conveys to warrant the title to all of the said property..."
- There is a lot of information here that is in a very grey area. Today, Virginia City is 1.5 miles from Nevada City. When this document was authored it could have been considered a short ride on horseback to be "...just out of the limits of Virginia City..."
- There are no Richards listed on the Virginia City/Nevada City 1880 census.
- John Ellingsen, Curator Emeritus of Virginia City, states by 1876 Nevada City "...was for the most part a ghost town and by 1900 some of the few families remaining were the Finneys, Fenners, Dalleas, Alcide Richards (who evidently returned sometime after the 1880 census), and Les Stiles - who was burning remaining structures for - horse safety..." He also stated the only time a deed was required was when a property was sold and you wanted that transaction put into the county records. Numerous times these documents, these hand written bills of sale, were misplaced and lost and simply were not available years down the road when the current owner wanted to sell out and move on. Paraphrased from John's words "...maybe, unbeknownst to the owner, packed away, somewhere in a trunk in an attic in Massachusetts is the original deed for the Richards cabin..." He could be right.
- The Madison County courthouse documents reflect 10 different owners of the current property from 1875 to present with the State of Montana being in current possession. That does not include any who might have had claim via the Pre-emption records. Most of these owners were of the Fenner family however, during the course of this investigation it was noted that the same names came up often when dealing in Nevada City real estate; Fenner, Batten, Stiles (who still owns some of the hills above Nevada City), Finney and Bovey. When Charles Bovey purchased the property from the Finney family it is said that the Richards cabin was referred to as "...the old Richards place..." Indicating it was still intact and had not been dismantled "for horse safety". The Finney family simply absorbed the property into their holdings. There
was actually little official documentation of bills of sale or deeds for real estate prior to the state of Montana taking over the documentation.

- As is the norm for most ephemeral towns, of this nature, the mining claims were the priority. Where the miner slept was usually under a brush bower, in a canvas tent, or simply wrapped up in his blankets directly on his claim site until it became too cold to stay there any longer. By that time it was too late in the season to build a structure and who wants to take the time away from their "diggin's" during good weather to hunt down what little timber remained within walking distance to build a log place when you could be finding color in the gulch? Most established structures were recorded only because they were a place of business separate from the diggings and claims activity.

**Note:**

- Other than oral history and the limited, convoluted and for the most part, questionable documentation stated above, I found no incontrovertible evidence to verify the cabin under discussion was owned by the Richards family. Granted, my time for research was limited, and there might exist some other documentation outside my grasp, not within the confines of the Madison County courthouse or the State Historic Preservation Office that verifies the connection. Maybe a privately owned diary or journal or family bible from the time period exists. I'm simply saying I could not find it through my limited investigative efforts.

- Investigation of this property was rife with discrepancies & inconsistencies. The Courthouse Book of Deeds #3 shows the Fenner sale of this property as being 160 acres, the County ledger book #31 shows the same physical description as being only 60 acres. There's also a discrepancy in the dates of transaction, one source shows 1875 another 1877.

- The County Ledger shows a real estate transaction for John Baten buying the northern 1/2 of the north 1/2 of SW corner of section 16. The entry is dated 22 June 1886. Date of reception is 27 May 1889 and the date of instrument 14 July 1883. So the bill of sale was drawn-up and seller & buyer agreed in 1883, the buyer received the property in 1889, however it was entered into the county records in 1886. And there is no record of this transaction at all in the Index to Deeds.

- The more I researched the records of property transfer the more the same names came up. Sometimes it appeared the protagonists were simply trading property back & forth for minimal fees as low as $1.00.

- I do not find this surprising though, as activity of this nature takes place even in today's real estate market.

**Work I performed and or assisted with this summer:**

- Spent the first week repairing plaster & lath walls, priming & painting the Iron Rod post office. Allegedly the oldest post office the state of MT, it was built in 1869 & moved to Nevada City in the mid 1970s, (slide #1).

- Removed the lean-to shed from the rear of the Richards Cabin, (slides 2, 5, 7, & 8). The rotted bottom of the three sides of the shed was consolidated: Consolidation: A process by which two engineered liquids are mixed together in a one-to-one recipe, stirred as per the directions on the container, and applied to the rotted portion of the cabin material. We used a product called ABATRON, (slide #9). We found the application to be best applied with paintbrushes due to the liquid being thick as molasses and would not lend itself easily to be applied with a hand held bug sprayer. It dried overnight so work was not hampered nor delayed. We also used this process for the rotted log ends on the eaves of the cabin, (slides 10, 11 & 12). In these slides you can see we used paint pans to catch the spills and covered the log walls with canvas tarps to prevent splatter where it was not wanted.

- An early 70s repair of the original roof had run its course. It was stripped of the vegetation, cactus and purposely-placed dirt, (slides 3, 5, 6 and 8). The rotted planks were removed and disposed of; rotted pole ends were consolidated as described above. New boards were placed over the 3” diameter roofing pole material; felt paper laid and new rolled roofing material was nailed in place with the nail heads being tarred to prevent possible leaks, (slides 13, 14 & 15). A new board & batten roof was installed. Due to the uneven nature of the roof, the board material was supported where required with sleepers to level out the final exposed roof, (slides 16, 17 & 18). If you look closely in slide #18, you can see the string we used to run from gable end to gable end to verify the straight line needed to build the ridge to. Once the boards were installed the tails were trimmed an inch longer than the poles to help preserve the pole ends, (slide #19). Now that the boards were in place, the ridge caps and the battens can be installed. The ridge cap was a problematic installation. On a perfect 12/12 roof (for every 12” you move horizontally, you also move 12”
vertical), the ridge will be a 90-degree angle; so one edge of the ridge cap will lie directly against the side of the adjoining piece without having to make a cut, making a perfect 90 degrees at the ridge as experienced with the outhouse you will see later in this report. However, this cabin is not a 12/12 roof. It's an odd pitch due to its age and the rooflines were not the same on both sides. To compound the issue, a common table saw will only cut a maximum of a 45-degree angle. This roof was closer to a 30-degree angle, meaning a one-time jig was required to rip the two, 12' long, 1x6 pieces required. As mentioned, this is all rough-cut lumber; it is very green fir. It was sticky with sap oozing constantly. Once the jig was fabricated and the ridge pieces ripped, they were installed and cut to length. All boards and battens were placed with the cupped side down, however after the first week it was impossible to determine if that was still the case. Green material is going to do what it wants to do no matter how far in advance you think things through during the installation. The battens were trimmed to match the boards, (slide #20). The result is now a flat, straight roof with no swayback appearance in ridge or eaves, (Slide #21).

Note:
- Originally this cabin would not have had felt paper and rolled roofing. Even though the first US Patent for a type of waterproofed roofing paper was granted in 1801, the process of rolling tarred paper wasn't fully perfected until the early 1860's in Massachusetts. I do not think the miners of Nevada City had access to the bulk amounts needed to roof every temporary shack occupied in Alder Gulch in 1863. The technology of the day was to place the roof poles as close together as possible and throw dirt on top of them. If you had access to cut lumber you would of course place that over your roofing poles, and there was a lumber mill in Virginia City so sawn lumber was available. Dirt was seen as an insulator from the cold and the heat and it also filled in the cracks on the roof. It was however a different story when it rained. There are numerous journal entries written by frontier family members that complain about hunkering together under the kitchen table to stay dry during a rainstorm because of the mud dripping through the roof. If possible a layer of rived shingles would be applied to the roofing poles and it was not uncommon to place earth on top of them as well. Additionally, linen stretched over a light framework was placed inside the cabin on the ceiling to not only brighten-up the poorly-lit interior but to prevent dirt from falling through the cracks into
the room. Again, there are accounts of family members watching the feet of mice & other rodents as they ran across the upper side of this linen ceiling cover. There are cabins on the Nevada City property with earth roofs. They have a pole frame along the perimeter of the roof holding the earth in place. There is also a cabin in Virginia City that has what appears to be Buffalo or Ox hide within the numerous layers of roofing material. It verifies the early settlers were an ingenious lot when necessity came to bear. The roof that was placed on the Richards Cabin in the early 70's was constructed with boards placed over the poles and rolled roofing placed over those boards. On top of that was board & batten and dirt, (slides 3 & 5). When the new roof was placed on the cabin this summer, it was determined we would do it the same way but without the dirt. If we would have replaced the roof as originally constructed in 1863 with no rolled roofing or tar paper, just poles, sawn boards, battens & dirt, the next generation preservation crew would be back here re-doing our work while we're still collecting our retirement checks.

- The back-fill concrete foundation was removed by hand with jackhammer and bobcat from the entire structure, (slides #2, 3, 4, 22 & 23). From the 50's through the 70's, forms were placed inside the log walls and rocks, some as large as volleyballs, were added to the concrete aggregate recipe. The recipe was physically forced under the bottom walls of most of the structures from the exterior. This might have helped stop the building from sinking into the earth but it also promoted wood rot. Without a layer of sill seal material between the wood and the concrete, the logs will continue to rot, which they did. This foundation eventually pulled away from the logs, allowing years of trapped water, snow & ice to be deposited directly against the wood and accelerate the decay process. This cabin is also located on the lowest spot on the property. All the natural spring water, rain and winter thaw runs right into this cabin. This Spring, there was a frozen pond of ice inside and outside the cabin, (slide #3).

- Removing the foundation took a few days. It was hot, tedious, noisy work. Once the foundation was broken into small enough pieces, it was picked-up by the bobcat and disposed of, (slide #23).

- The entire cabin was raised approximately 40" and placed on cribbing, (slides 24, 25 & 26). Slide #26 shows the inside of the cabin with stiff backs screwed into the log walls to keep them plum and while they were unsupported by a foundation. The main support the walls received was from the notches at the end of each log.

- Rotted logs were removed. Approximately 24" of the cabin had decomposed back to the earth and were simply missing!

- The number of replacement logs needed was determined and the work began. The side logs were close to 20' long and the end logs were 16'.

- After selecting a replacement log; one that fits the proper diameter and shape of the log it will be placed under, it must be prepared for the hewing process. Some of our logs required debarking to match the logs on their side of the cabin others did not. Slides 27 & 28 show me using a debarking spud. This is a tool much like an ice chipper, but narrower. It is not so sharp as to cut into the wood, only sharp enough to get under the bark and remove it exposing the sapwood beneath.

- If the log doesn't require debarking it is ready for hewing. Placing the log on the saw horses crown side up and determine the center on each end. These measurements are made using a pocket tape and a torpedo level. Keep in mind the thickest part of the log might not be through the center. As the logs on the cabin averaged 5" thick, we measured 2 1/2" either side of the centerline and placed a corresponding mark on the end of the log, creating four marks on each end. Slide #29 shows the center of the log and the width after hewing and notching. It was exactly 5" wide.

- Now that we have our 5" section marked out we need to clean the bark, if necessary, so we can see the chalk-line we will use to snap straight lines from along the log. These lines will give us marks to hew to creating the rectangle/flat sides of our logs, (slides 30, draw-knifing the bark so we can see the chalk lines & 31 showing the blue chalk on the log.

- Rotate the log 90 degrees and cut your kerfs. Kerf: Is the area removed which creates a groove; a cut made by a saw into a piece of wood. If you fail to rotate your log 90 degrees you will cut your kerfs on the wrong quarter of the log. It will be ruined for its intended purpose and will have to be used elsewhere. Cutting kerfs, (slides 32, 33, & 34). We cut the kerfs to within 1/2" of our chalk line. This gave us wiggle room incase the log split deeper than intended while we were hewing.

- There are many different axes that can be used to hew logs. Traditionally, the ancient, huge broad axe was the logsmithy's choice of tools however, the right-handed American Axe (1889-1921), broad axe I own weighs-in at 7 1/4 lbs. and I have yet to perfect a technique I'm comfortable with. Swinging the smaller, lighter Gransfors Bruks axe weighing-in at close to 4 lbs and was only 20 inches long was much more to
my liking (see video-slide #38). The axes used to hew logs are usually heavy because the weight does the work. Most are either right or left-handed. That means they are bevel sharpened on one side with a handle curved to the same side as the bevel. This keeps your fingers from being "barked-up" on the material. This is where the term "Barking your knuckles" comes from. Because we used smaller axes, our kerfs were closer together making our juggles easier to remove. Juggling: what the technique is called when you cut grooves into a log for removal of the remaining pieces. The pieces of material between the kerfs are called juggles, (slide #34). Slide #35 shows me hewing the juggles from a 20' log. Slide 36 shows a log hewn on both sides and just one hewn side on the far end. That end was eventually cut off and used in a different location in the cabin wall. Slide # 37 shows hewn logs ready to be installed. The video of me hewing is slide #38. Notice in the video I'm standing with my hip against the log with my leg out of the way of any over-swing. I'm taking short strokes with the axe, trying to keep the cut as vertical as possible. This cuts through the wood rather than splits it with the grain. Opening the grain by splitting the log allows the weather to hasten the demise of the material. The object is to get it as smooth as possible for the water, snow etc. to spend minimal time on the exposed material.

- Once the log is hewn to the proper dimensions, it's ready for the notch. This cabin was built using a dovetail style notch. They are common throughout Montana and make for a strong corner detail. Both top and bottom surfaces of the notch are cut with an outward angle. Meaning they both repel water away from the log joint rather than into the cut exposing the porous material. The flatter and smoother the notch, the better the fit. The location of the notches move up or down the log end depending on the height of the adjoining logs. There are numerous books written just about the notching of logs so I will not go into great detail about how we cut ours. Here are the basics: Using a bevel square and a torpedo level we determined the angle of the notches from logs still in place on the cabin and by measuring the depth of the material removed from the adjoining log we determined there the new notch should be located. We were pretty close most of the time, (slides 39, 40, 41 & 42 show a notch in progress, slide #43 shows it in place).

- As we continued through the summer we went around the cabin replacing logs as required. Three logs on the East side, two on the West side, two on the north and south ends, (slides 44, 45, & 46) We also had to replace a section of log that was missing from the lower, left front of the building. Due to the size of the original logs and the location of the missing section, this called for some critical thinking on the part of the entire preservation crew, myself and the Curator Emeritus, John Ellingsen - who was employed by Charles Bovey from 1972 through Mr. Bovey's death in 1978. John has been a positive influence in the Virginia City/Nevada City area for over 30 years. His first job for Charles Bovey was re-roofing the Richards Cabin. He is a treasure trove of first hand information for the Nevada City Living History Outdoor Museum. With all of us thinking hard and brainstorming how this empty space would have been filled 150 years ago we came to consensus and ran a full-length spandrel log across the front of the building. We then came back to the hole and filled it in with a carefully cut and aged piece.

- If your attention is not purposely drawn to the spot, the untrained eye will never know it is a separate piece of wood and not part of the actual log, (slide #47).

- Due to the lack of adequate logs, work on the cabin stalled out and we concentrated on restoration of the outhouse and a shed that are associated with the Richards cabin, (slide #48).

- Stabilizing the outhouse involved placing a 2x4 bellyband around the inside, (visible in slide #49), digging a perimeter away from the bottom and tilting the structure on its side. It was only at that point we realized there was originally a floor in this outhouse. It is one of the few on the property with a floor. It was so deteriorated it could not be seen until the existing structure was physically removed from the site, (slide #50).

- With the new floor rebuilt, (slide #51), we could verify the extent of deterioration, (slide #52), over 7" was eaten away in 15 decades.

- With the structure stabilized and the floor rebuilt I could concentrate on the roof, (slides 53 & 54).

- As with the cabin, there was a question as to the extent of restoration vs. preservation, and again it was determined to include some current technology to preclude the next generation of preservationists having to re-do our work. So new boards replaced rotted & warped original sheathing, felt paper and fire rated cedar shingles were used to "restore" the outhouse roof. We also replaced battens over the worn boards and consolidated the base of the rotted walls, (slides 55, 56 & 57).

- The storage shed was also in dire need of stabilization. It was bolstered on the inside with cross ties and support poles and a new temporary corrugated steel roof was added, (slide #58).

- After pictures of the outhouse, shed and cabin, (slides 59, 60, 61).
The current plan for next summer:
- Place new spandrel logs front & rear. Spandrel: logs that tie the building together under an opening like a door or archway; they "span" the distance between walls. Like a sill log in modern construction.
- Install sonotubes under the corners and mid way along the sides of the cabin; erect forms for and pour grade beam foundation walls; finish with cinder block and apply stone fascia.
- Install rough-cut plank floor; finish doors & window; replace the rear shed and whitewash the interior of the cabin and shed.

The dilemma of a foundation:
- Knowing the Richards cabin was originally built directly on the earth, it must be taken into account the necessity of raising it above the spring water table, either by placing it on a proper foundation or by landscaping the hydrology away from it. If no foundation is constructed, it will continue to deteriorate and the Historic Preservation crew will be back in a few short years replacing the very same logs that were placed under it this summer.

Thanks to:
- John Ellingsen - Curator Emeritus of Virginia City, (personal interview)
- Marilyn Ross - Chair, Montana Heritage Commission (we put a lot of paint on the Iron Rod post office walls)
- To Dan Thyer - Volunteer/Living History Coordinator (without his outreach none of this would have happened)
- Kate McCourt - Cultural Resource Manager
- Marge Antolik - Museum Technician
- Elijah Allen - Business & Development Manager
- Dianne Carey - Administrative Assistant
- Kathleen and Paula - Madison County Courthouse
- Pete Brown - Historic Architecture Specialist - Helena SHPO
- Mark Baumler - State Historic Preservation Officer - Helena SHPO

Special Thanks to:
- Don Steeley - Preservation Specialist
- Jeff Cleverly - Preservation Specialist
- These two, maintain the heart & soul of the Virginia City/Nevada City complex. 90% of their work goes un-noticed by the general public. Rarely is much accomplished for so many and seen by so few. I learned so much from them.

Partnership possibilities:
- You betcha!
- This is an opportunity for all parties involved to benefit.
- Highlands College has the capability to assist with putting Nevada City on its own alternative energy power grid as well as continuing to assist with their historic preservation projects. We are already working on producing period correct light poles and fixtures for the Virginia City/Nevada City complex, (slides 62 & 63).
- There are eager students willing to participate and the Montana Heritage Commission has a need for them, win-win, (slide #64).
My first week was spent priming and painting the inside of the Iron Rod Post Office.
Richards cabin, note archeology holes, condition of shed and the roofs
Southeast corner of Richards cabin, another archaeology hole & better view of the roof
Bottom SE Corner of Richards cabin, backfill poured foundation just to right of door
Americorps crew assisting. Shed roof removed. Note vegetation on the cabin roof and whitewashed interior of the shed
Americorps crew cleaning roof
Shed partially removed. Better view of whitewash and rotted logs on the bottom
Shed removed. Lead Preservationist Jeff Cleverly (yellow shirt), & Americorps crew prepping roof
Jeff Cleverly, instructing some of the Americorps crew on how to mix the consolidant
Leading edge of sheathing removed. Americorps crew “consolidating” rotted log ends
Better view of “consolidating” log ends. Two part epoxy dries like a clear plastic to arrest deterioration.
Consolidating of one side complete
Good photo of the gable edge showing the felt paper under the rolled roofing
New sheathing installed and rolled roofing completed
Showing tarred nail heads on the rolled roofing material
Installing the upper sleepers to straighten the ridge line
Sleeper at ridge and mid way down the roof
Stabilizing final board & batten roof with new rough-cut boards & shims
Jeff trimming the board ends
Installing the battens
Board & batten roof complete
Paul removing backfill foundation with Hilti jack hammer. The entire foundation was removed in this manner.
Removal of backfill foundation
Fascia completed, structure cribbed up awaiting log replacement
East side showing cribbing
Stiff backs lag bolted in to keep the walls plumb & supported during cribbing.
Paul debarking log with a “barking spud”
More debarking
Pencil marks show center of the log
Paul using draw knife to clear surface of log for chalk line
Chalk lines laid
Paul using chain saw to cut kerfs close to lines for hewing.
Safety first: chaps & safety glasses
Kerfs completed on the entire log. Wood between the kerfs are called juggles.
Paul hewing the juggles from the log
Some logs required more work than others
Thankfully, not all the replacement logs required hewing on both sides. Average hewn width was 5”
Paul creating a dovetail notch with a “slick” & mallet
More notch work with the “Slick”
Finished Dovetail notch
Finished piece for bottom right of front door where the backfill foundation was
Fits pretty well
Five notches in this corner by the end of August
Three replacement logs on right side. Two logs on front. Front still needs the “spandrel” log, the log that runs the entire length of the front to include under the door.
Back still needs the “spandrel” log as well
Short log pieced in just to the left of the window sill.
Outhouse & storage shed required stabilization. Both are associated with the Richards cabin and are original to the property
This was on purpose. The structure originally had a floor, so it gets a new one.
Rotted floor showing 12 inches down, archaeology will performed at a later date
New floor completed
12” of rot. In some places over 7” was simply gone
149 years of exposure. No shingles left. Boards warped & cupped
The lee side still had a few shingles
New sheathing, felt paper, Paul installing fire rated cedar shingles
New battens installed, shingles near completion
New cedar shingle roof, “consolidated” the rotted bottom, reconstructed a new floor, replaced battens, this outhouse will stand another 149 years
State Preservation Specialists Don Steeley & Jeff Cleverly apply a temporary steel roof to the Richards storage shed.
Stabilized shed and preserved outhouse
Finished product
Until next year, when the remaining logs will be fitted, proper foundation erected, a rough cut floor installed, the rear shed replaced, and a coat of whitewash applied to the inside
John Jachim next to a load of timber Highlands College will mill onto light poles (like the one on the left)
John Jachim, Highlands College; Bill Ryan, Highlands College & Dan Thyer, MHC; discuss off the grid power in Virginia City
Highlands College can indeed help light the way