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NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Including News of Nevada Historical Society
Nevada State Railroad Museum • Nevada State Museum & Historical Society • Lost City Museum
Nevada State Library

VOLUME XVII

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Coming Events In and About The Department

Documents Section

Las Vegas Announces Various Spring Exhibits

Utilizing its three main changing exhibit areas, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas has outlined a full schedule of exhibits for the spring of 1989. "A Common Thread: Fiber Art from the North," a survey of Native American, traditional and experimental fiber art, will be on exhibit in the Changing Gallery through March 12. Artists Carys Hamer of Elko and Mary Lee Fulkerson of Palomino Valley, exhibition coordinators for the Northern Nevada Fiber Guild, brought together artists from throughout the northern part of the state. "A Common Thread" is Nevada's first traveling exhibition of fiber art.

"Music in Nevada, 1860-1920," an exhibit prepared and circulated by the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, occupies the Corridor Gallery through April 19. The exhibit highlights the careers of such internationally known musicians as Emma Nevada (Emma Wixon) and Richard Jose, and discusses the important role that music has played in the state's cultural life.

Following "A Common Thread" into the Changing Gallery will be "Celebration of Color II," the annual spring exhibition of the Nevada Watercolor Society. This juried exhibition, featuring the newest work of the Society's members, will be on display March 18 through April 30.

Las Vegas High School and its neighborhood will be the subjects of an exhibit to open in the Corridor Gallery on April 15. Based upon a survey completed in 1988 by the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, the exhibit will be prepared by the Museum staff with funding assistance from the Nevada State Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. When the new Las Vegas High School was built in 1930, it was thought to be too far out of town, but the neighborhood grew rapidly during the expansion years of the 1930s and 1940s. It has retained much of its early residential integrity. The exhibit will focus upon the architectural values of the area and its role in the emerging Las Vegas metropolis. The exhibit will run through June 18.—*Frank Wright, NSM&HS*

LCM To Use Civil War As Reception Theme

The Lost City Museum will hold its annual membership reception on Saturday, April 29. This year's theme revolves around the Civil War.

The Southern Nevada Civil War Historical Society will furnish a month-long exhibit of Civil War memorabilia and art and will reenact a battle scene on the Museum hill the night of the reception. A pit barbecue beef dinner will be provided by the Moapa Valley Trail Riders to benefit their scholarship fund.

It is the hope that all members will come out and enjoy this evening with us and that members will encourage their friends to join the Museum so that they can enjoy the events offered and support the programs at the same time.—*Kathryne Olson, Curator, LCM*

85th Birthday Celebration Scheduled For NHS In May

The Nevada Historical Society is planning a celebration May 18 and 19 to honor its 85th year. Details will be forthcoming at a later date.

As part of "From Seamstress to Salesclerk," the Society will continue the Wednesday night lecture series on March 29 at 7:00 p.m. with "Fashions and Social Mores of the Western Frontier," by Inez Brooks-Myers, Associate Curator of Clothing and Textiles, Oakland Museum; April 19 at 7:00 p.m., "The Clothes in our Closets," Jan Loverin, Historical Costume Specialist, Nevada Dept. of Museums and History; May 3, "A Costume Designer's Perspective," Virginia Vogel, Associate Professor and Costume Designer, Dept. of Speech and Theatre, UNR. All lectures are held in the Changing Gallery at the Society.

Despite The Weather

OASIS '89 Is Successful

Gusting 60-mile an hour winds, zero degree temperatures and intermittent snow showers didn't have much of an effect on the attendance numbers at the OASIS Conference, Feb. 1-3. Tailored wool suits and silk dresses accented by unstylish moon boots were the uniform of the day.

Approximately 245 conferees filled the entire second floor of the Ormsby House attending sessions focused around the theme "Setting Your Sites." Information was provided with regard to planning, preserving and adapting historic structures for community use, interpreting historic sites, and learning how to communicate design needs to an architect. Organizing activities and developing programming to bring people back time after time, promoting and publicizing events, and an overview of cooperative marketing were also on the OASIS agenda.

On Thursday everyone's attention turned toward the appearance of Thomas Jefferson, recreated by Clay Jenkinson, the director and principle humanities scholar for the Great Plains Chautauqua. Mesmerizing the audience with his unique and spontaneous presentation, Mr. Jenkinson could have entertained the audience easily for the rest of the afternoon.

Also playing key presenter roles were Edward Able, Jr., executive editor of the American Association of Museums; Thomas Carter, architectural historian for the Utah Historical Society; Catherine Brown, co-author of *Building for the Arts*; Andrei Codrescu, professor of English at Louisiana State University and regular commentator on National Public Radio; Michael J. Fox, director of the Heard Museum in Phoenix; Amy J. Dansie, anthropologist for the Nevada State Museum; and Eugene Hattori, Ph.D., a specialist in historic archaeology and private consultant for Archeo-Tech, Oakland, California.

And what is OASIS without parties. Legislators, OASIS reistrants, Rotary Foundation members, state agency heads, museum personnel, city officials, and Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroad representatives were lavishly entertained on Wednesday evening, Feb. 1 at the Nevada State Railroad Museum legislative reception. In an effort to thank their supporters, the museum offered rides on coaches No. 8 and No. 10 pulled by locomotive No. 25. The wind rattled the cars sending the kerosene lamps dancing, the engine's steam filled the dark skies, the potbelly stoves warmed the cozy cars and it was the "Days of the Comstock" once again. Tasting all of the elaborately prepared hot and cold hors d'oeuvres by caterers, Scotty's of Carson City, turned into a gastronomic marathon.

The conference is sponsored by the Nevada Humanities Committee, the Nevada State Council on the Arts, the



Nevada Governor Bob Miller (left) has just turned the microphone over to Jerry Davis, Vice President of Operations, Union Pacific Railroad. The presentations at the Legislative Reception held at the Nevada State Railroad Museum during OASIS were conducted on the recently restored caboose No. 3 of the Nevada Copper Belt Railroad.—Photo by Scott Klette, NSM

Department of Museums and History, and the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Special thanks go to the Ormsby House catering staff and engineers, the Nevada State Museum and Nevada Historical Society staff and docents, Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Cheryl Miglioretto, Eve Tlachac, Neeroo Kumar, Tracy Hamby, Arlene Price, Kathy Davis, and Donna Miles. A very special thanks to Nevada State Museum computer whiz, Amy Dansie, for taking her valuable time to systematize the 5,000 person mailing list, and organize the registration and book-keeping procedures for OASIS.—Janine Sprout, NSM

Las Vegas Reception Unveils 'Megaliths'

Stonehenge has come to the Nevada Gallery at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. On Jan. 20, Museum members and invited guests joined staff and docents at a reception and preview of the exhibition "Megaliths: Photographs by Paul Caponigro." The Museum's exhibit staff unveiled a mini version of England's prehistoric Stonehenge ruins which serve as a backdrop to Caponigro's starkly beautiful photographs. The eighty-one images by the eminent Santa Fe landscape photographer and master printer clearly impressed Museum visitors.

The Museum is very pleased to have been able to work with the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of New Mexico to schedule the exhibition for an extended stay through April 23. This traveling exhibition and the widely praised book *Megaliths*, which will be available in the Museum Store, are the culmination of over twenty years of work by Caponigro.

The Boston-born Caponigro originally set out on a musical career at Boston University College, but left his studies to learn photographic techniques in San Francisco. Having photographed extensively in the canyon lands of the Southwest, Caponigro wished to broaden his work by pursuing photographic studies in Egypt. The difficult diplomatic situation then existing diverted him instead to the prehistoric ruins of the British Isles and Brittany. It was a fortuitous selection. Caponigro developed a love affair with the silent stones, returning again and again to experience as many sites as possible — Stonehenge, Avebury, Callanish, and the great mounds of Ireland's Boyne Valley. Responding to those who might think him a "kook," Caponigro replies "That's quite all right. I was a kook from childhood and discovered that the difference in experience and thinking could be very rewarding." He aims, he says, "at unearthing hidden aspects of man and his world—a rich heritage that might be awakened in the heart. My hope is that the images will instill a sense of the harmony and interrelatedness of the monuments, as well as of the motivation of the builders."

According to Steven Yates, curator of the exhibition for the Museum of New Mexico, the photographs unmask the universal nature of these diverse and mysterious stone structures, their unique relationships to the land, and extraordinary abstract sensibility of prehistoric culture.—*Frank Wright, NSM&HS*

NHC Deadlines For Grant Proposals

The Nevada Humanities Committee has announced that May 19 and Sept. 15 are the 1989 deadlines for grant proposals. Prospective applicants may contact either the Reno office, P.O. Box 8029, Reno, NV 89507, phone 784-6587, or the Las Vegas office at 4765 Brussels Ave., phone 798-0337.



Virginia City, Nevada

The back row of C Street, Virginia City

'Nevada's Yesterday Today' Art Exhibit Opens At NSM

The Nevada State Museum announced an exhibition of paintings by Dorothy Paulsen, Carson City artist. The show titled "Nevada's Yesterday Today," includes watercolors, oils, and acrylics, depicts scenes and historical sites of Nevada as it appears today. A former staff member of the Museum, Paulsen is an avid lover of nature and Nevada history and enjoys painting directly on location. By working on location she feels that she is better able to capture values and the emotion of the subject matter and setting before lighting effects should change.

Paulsen holds a degree in fine arts and has taught painting at Western Nevada Community College, the Brewery Arts Center, St. Mary's Art Center in Virginia City and at South Lake Tahoe. Her paintings are in private collections throughout the West, Hawaii, Canada, and West Germany. The show is open to the public and runs from February 1 to April 30, 1989. Museum hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, including Sundays.

Public Lecture At NSM&HS

Members should mark Thursday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. on their calendars. Paleopathologist Ann Stirland, visiting Scholar-in-Residence with the Department of Anthropology at UNLV, will present an informal lecture on Ashton Roman Town, a prehistoric settlement in north-eastern England.

Stirland will discuss the results of an excavation of the cemetery and burial practices related to the Celtic and Roman religions in the first three centuries A.D. The lecture is especially for Museum members, members of Archeo-Nevada Society, and the Preservation Association of Clark County. The program is sponsored by the Nevada Humanities Committee.—*Frank Wright, NSM&HS*

A Summary

Archaeology Finds At Stillwater

By DONALD R. TUOHY

Curator of Anthropology, Nevada State Museum

The Great Basin in Nevada is a land of contrasts. Who would dream of taking an airboat to work every day at 45 archaeological sites exposed by floodwaters in the Carson Sink? After a ninety year decline, the lakes in northwestern Nevada reached a pinnacle from 1983 till 1985.

At the Stillwater national Wildlife Refuge, the surging floodwaters raised the water level by 6.2 to 6.7 feet, thus creating a damaging flood that stripped away the archaeological cover from the heretofore unknown archaeological sites. As the water began to recede in 1985, hundreds of archaeological features, including cache pits, human burial pits, strewn animal bones, exposed house floors with their food preparation utensils, including manos and metates (to-and-fro food grinding tools), and mortars and pestles (up-and-down food grinding tools) came into view.

Charles Gomes, a Fallon resident, was the first person to notice the archaeological material. By flying over the Stillwater Refuge in a light plane, he was able to testify that there were hundreds of human burials that needed attention. Alice Becker, the State of Nevada Historic Preservation Archaeologist, took the necessary steps to develop the interagency cooperation to deal with the problem. And a problem it was, too! It was a nightmare of overlapping jurisdictions of several federal, state, and local government entities. Eventually, it was figured out that the Bureau of Reclamation owns the land, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took the lead in the management and operation of the "Stillwater Archaeological District" within the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge. Anan W. Raymond was appointed archaeologist in charge in 1986 by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

But before Anan Raymond was appointed to his Stillwater post, increasing vandalism at the Refuge made it mandatory to take emergency steps to salvage the human bones that were washed out of place and exposed to sunlight and further erosion. At first there supposedly was a total of a dozen human burials, but as the archaeological field party from the Nevada State Museum found out, there were 45 archaeological sites and a total of 140 individuals and 4,026 human skeletal remains to deal with. A major effort was made in the Fall of 1985 before the duck-hunting season opened on the Refuge. It was agreed that the human burials over 50% exposed would be collected, while burials less than 50% exposed would be covered. This policy was reviewed and approved by the local Indians, represented by the Stillwater Tribal Council.

THE SITES

Assisted by members of the Fallon Chapter of the Ne-

vada Archaeological Association, the State Museum crew was transported to the archaeological sites via airboats, the propeller-driven watercraft so useful for getting people in and out of the marsh. The flooding had washed out the existing roads that connected the sites. The Refuge employees who drove the craft were Delvan Lee, Ernest Lantto, and Eugene Duffney. These Stillwater employees knew where all of the archaeological sites were located and took us to them with little or no delay.

The flood stage in 1985 rose in the spring to its highest elevation since the 1860's, 3,876.2 feet, and by fall the Carson Sink began to evaporate to 3,873 feet. All 45 sites were located within a six-square mile area on the Refuge on a chain of islands and ismuthses, and an occasional peninsula. All sites were waterlogged, and occasionally an excavator would sink up his knees in mud. Floodwaters had killed the vegetation which formerly consisted of bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.), cattails (*Typha* sp.), saltgrass (*Distichlis* sp.), alkali weed (*Salicornia* sp), and greasewood (*Sarcobatus* sp.). Many sites were of large size and covered more than 275 meters (800 square feet), and several had circular house floors on their surfaces. Some of the sites were littered with fragmentary freshwater clam shells that the prehistoric people had gathered and had made a meal of them.

Many of the archaeological sites occurred in large midden deposits which showed a dark color compared to the surrounding silt and clay deposits. Features, such as house pits and storage pits, occurred within the middens and around the perimeters of sites. The features often appeared as rings, or circles in plain view, and ranged in diameter from 10 cm (about 4 inches) to 2 meters (about 6 feet). Some of the larger features contained human burials, but the function of most are unknown: (Most would probably have to be excavated to find out what purpose they served). Right now, our best guess is that they served as post holes, cache pits, burial pits, trash pits, and house floors. A few sites had as many as 110 features, while an occasional site had only one or two.

THE HUMAN REMAINS

The size of the salvaged human population, 140 individuals, is what makes the Stillwater skeletal series so important. It is one of the largest groups of prehistoric Indians to come to light in the Great Basin. There were more than 51 males recovered with 48 females and 44+ persons with unknown gender. The latter includes 18 children under 15 years of age, and 17 adults 14 to 20 years of age. The two oldest males were 41 to 45 years of age, and the oldest female was 41 to 45 years old.

One pattern that does show clearly in the grave associations is that males were much more likely to have grave

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Stillwater Archaeology

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goods, including faunal remains, than females. Of the 926 items associated with burials for which sex could be determined, 607 faunal remains and 158 artifacts were associated with male burials, while 134 faunal remains and 27 artifacts were associated with female burials. Only the dog and coyote associations suggest a female bias, with 3 canids from female burials, and only 1 from a male burial.

This population was subjected to pathological analysis and four main categories of pathology were identified: (1) trauma, (2) inflammatory disease or nonspecific infection, (3) arthritis, and (4) eight low frequency pathologies.

The only type of trauma present in the remains were fractures. The most frequently encountered fracture was to the nasal bones. Nine male and two females had this sort of injury. Broken noses were common place in this population, but it is not known whether or not the injury was caused by shamans (medicine men) or by forces outside of this society.

Swelling and porosity of the bone material indicated evidence of inflammatory disease or nonspecific infections. This was encountered in six individuals. But the most numerous pathology encountered was two types of arthritis: (1) degenerative joint disease, and (2) the formation of bony spikes around the margins of the vertebrae.

The degenerative joint disease produces a condition called "eburnation." Eburnation results when the cartilage degenerates and basically the mechanical forces create bone-on-bone wear without the benefit of cartilage. The bone is rubbed raw, and the joint becomes hard and dense like ivory. Five males and two females exhibited this condition.

The second type of arthritis, the formation of bony spikes around the margins of the vertebrae, and other pathologies, was noted in nine additional cases.

So the Stillwater group can be characterized as follows: It had a high incidence of healed fractures of the nasal bones, and vertebrae osteoarthritis and degenerative joint diseases occurred often. The primary weight bearing joints of the hip, knee, and lower back were the most often affected followed by the elbow and wrist. In stature, they must have looked like the modern Great Basin Indians, relatively robust bodies with small hands and feet, but with a high incidence of broken noses, and, as a group, a high incidence of arthritis.

Further studies are underway on these bones. Studies in physical anthropology should produce the nutritional status, diet, disease processes, factors affecting mortality and life expectancy, and biological response to environmental stresses. Knowledge of mortality rates, fertility, and sex ratios can help explain how well a population was adapted to its physical environment and its culture, why it grew in size or declined toward extinction, and why certain cultural practices may have developed

and continued. Studies of the bones can answer these questions before the bones were reinterred again in 1988.

THE ARTIFACTS

The artifacts totaled 347, and they should provide clues as to approximately how old the occupants of the Refuge were. Projectile point styles are particularly useful in the Stillwater area, as elsewhere in Nevada. The Rose Spring/Eastgate series of projectile points were preponderant, totaling 25 of the 66 typable points. Dr. David Thomas had worked out a chronology for the Gatecliff Shelter in central Nevada, and had related that sequence to the nearby archaeology contained in Hidden Cave in the Stillwater Range. The Rose Springs/Eastgate style of projectile points in Hidden Cave were referred to the "Underdown Period" in that cave. The "Underdown Period" converts to Christian time on the calendar from 1,450 to 650 before the present, or from 500 to 1,300 years after the birth of Christ.

There were other varieties of points in the collection, as well. Elko points precede the "Underdown Phase" and belong to a period of time known as the "Reveille Period," dating from 2,950 to 1,450 B.P. (before the present). There are Desert Side-notched points which date to the most recent period in the chronology, from 650 to 100 B.P. And there are Stemmed points which belong to the "Devil's Gate Period," the oldest known cultural period on the Refuge, dating from 4,950 to 2,950 years before the present. So the point typology reflects the stratigraphic sequence at Gatecliff Cave and at Hidden Cave in the Stillwater Mountain Range.

At the same time, there are other chronological indicators in the artifact collections. A small carbon sample was submitted to a radiocarbon laboratory, but the sample was too small to indicate a date. However, two samples from superimposed middens at one site yielded radiocarbon dates of 1240 B.C. and 740 B.C. (*Raven and Elston 1988:82-86*). Seven fragments of shell artifacts were retrieved from the Refuge. A shell typology has been worked out in California, and the chronology which applies to these types of beads ranges from the Late Middle Archaic Period, or from 200 B.C. to A.D. 700, to the Protohistoric and subsequent Historic Period from A.D. 1,500 to A.D. 1,850. Thus, buttressing the projectile point typology from the Stillwater Refuge, the shell artifact chronology provides an independent means of providing a relative chronology for the sites.

Aside from the Side-notched point which may date to 650 to 100 B.P., the youngest artifact in the collection is half of a wheel-like clay disk. The Paiutes did not make pottery vessels in aboriginal times, but after contact with the Europeans, they experimented with clay vessels. A wheel-like clay disk with a central perforation was found on the surface of a site. The Paiute use of clay and mud for modeling was recorded by the ethnologist Julian H. Steward. Human and animal figures for toys, and clay disks for wheels to toys were recorded by Steward for the Historic Period. This is the only artifact which may relate to the living Paiutes in the region.

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Stillwater Archaeology

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THE ANIMAL BONES

Animal bones found with the human remains can give the archaeologist some clues as to how the prehistoric people lived. The animal bones represented 36 taxa including bird, artiodactyl (mountain sheep, deer, and antelope), canid, mustelid, rodent, lagomorph (rabbit), snake, amphibian, fish and fresh water mollusk. There were no extinct species among them, but many of the collected specimens contained butchering scars, skinning scars, and grooving channels on their surfaces. The animal bones, in general, reflect an adaptation to marshes and to life in a marsh environment.

Birds are the dominant faunal type in the Stillwater Marsh assemblage. Not many ducks or geese, but many pelican and long-limbed shorebird types in profusion. Mudhens or coots (*Fulica*) are the dominant species per count, with pelicans and swans also common. There appears to be an uncommon association of bird wings and other bird parts in the articulated human grave sites. This has strengthened the suggestion that some of the bird bones (with feathers and all) were placed in the grave as burial offerings.

The variety of carnivores tallied at the 45 archaeological sites is a pattern both unusual and unexpected. Carnivore remains are usually rare in archaeological assemblages. The carnivore assemblage contains Indian dogs, coyotes, coyote-dog crosses, foxes and wolves. There are several kinds of Stillwater dogs: a small, narrow-nosed Terrier type, a medium sized, heavy-jawed Indian dog, and a larger, wolf-like dog between the large Indian dog and a wolf in size. The large canids in the collection may be wolf-dog hybrids. All in all, the Stillwater carnivore collection is distinctive and unique.

The artiodactyl (mountain sheep, deer, and antelope) population was well represented with 78 fragments representing a minimum of 17 individuals, all but two of which are mountain sheep. Antelope and deer are poorly represented in the collection. Several mountain sheep bones exhibit butchering scars and other modification marks. Unless they were fashioned into artifacts, bone awls in particular, artiodactyl bones were not found with the human bones.

A goodly number, 21 total or 5% of the surface assemblage, was represented by mustelids (muskrats, mink, otter, weasel and badger). These are fur-bearers, and there is ample suggestion on a major emphasis on warm fur clothing in the winter marsh. Several skinning scars were noted on the mustelid skeletons.

In summary, the faunal remains constitute an unprecedented view of life in the prehistoric past during the past 5,000 years. It showed people heavily dependent on the marsh for their resources and artifacts and dependent upon the fur-bearing animals to keep warm in the winter time. The presence of numerous bone artifacts bespeaks a preference for this material for many artifact uses. The use of stone for tools was precluded as stone

resources were available only at some distance from the marsh. The data on the animal bones from Stillwater represent the largest exposure of intensively occupied hunter-gatherer sites in Nevada. Although they were impacted by flood erosion, the quantity and quality of these faunal remains is extraordinary.

CONCLUSION

The flood in the Stillwater Marsh in Churchill County in 1983-1985 knocked out all existing roads that connected the islands and peninsulas that constituted the Refuge. Upstream flooding of the Humboldt River Basin unleashed a wall of water at Stillwater reaching the highest elevation since the 1860's, 3,876.2 feet. Subsequent erosion laid bare hundreds of cultural features at 45 heretofore unknown archaeological sites on the Marsh. The Nevada State Museum crews, aided by local volunteers, exposed the remains of 140 individuals which were more than 50% out of the ground, and 4,026 other skeletal parts which were out of the ground. Also collected were 347 artifacts, and 1,112 animal bones. This collection was salvaged using airboats for transportation. These cultural remains and animal bones belonged to a marsh-using and marsh-exploiting prehistoric population that dated from 3,000 B.C. till about A.D. 650.

In a wildlife sanctuary, such as this, where every day one can visualize the web of life, it's easy to picture a past way of life that depended on the skills of hunting, fishing, and gathering for the survival skills of human life. That prehistoric lifeway is extinct now, but the nearby Indian community became disturbed at so many Indian skeletons exposed to the air, and to the vandalism of visitors to the Refuge.

Accordingly, the tribe and the Fish and Wildlife Service decided to build a concrete bunker, 12 x 12 x 30 feet, to house the human remains. In November, 1988, a D-8 cat deposited the final load of boulders in front of the steel door to an underground vault which housed the largest group of prehistoric Indian remains from a single place in the Great Basin. Thus, with all of the studies completed, the bones have found their final resting place.

*** ***

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Copies of the above reports are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1236, Fallon, Nevada 89406. Be prepared to spend \$30 to \$50 for xeroxing.

History Expo '89 — 'Rolling Right Along'

It's only February and already there's quite a stir in the community. People are asking what's "History Expo



'89?' Magazines are calling for information, exhibitors are reserving their spaces, and the Carson City Chamber of Commerce, Carson City Tourism, and Nevada

State Museum are stamping their mail with a special 50th anniversary commemorative stamp.

The "expo" will get underway on May 19 and continue through May 29. Just some of the reasons we're celebrating: the Nevada State Museum's golden anniversary, the 120th birthday of the V&T Railroad, the Nevada State Railroad Museum's 10th, and the State of Nevada's 125th. And just some of the things scheduled: International Museum Day, May 20-21 featuring Nevada folk artisans and craftspeople, basque and square dancers, quilters, mountainmen, antique cars, and representation from many of Nevada's museums and the State Park system. May 22-26: History oriented lecture series every evening in the Nevada State Museum auditorium. A treasure hunt with a not-yet-confirmed but we're pretty sure *GRAND PRIZE*. Hint: an airline trip somewhere. May 27-29: Railfair, steam-up, antique steam tractors, visiting locomotive display at the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

Have any ideas to add to the celebration's colorfulness? Contact Janine Sprout at 885-4810.—*Janine Sprout, NSM*

Items Are Being Sought For Display At The State Capitol

Robert Nylén, Registrar at the Nevada State Museum, is issuing a call for items that can be used in a semi-permanent display. The exhibit will tell the history of the state and will be assembled in the former Senate Chambers in the State Capitol building so that visitors can better understand Nevada's past.

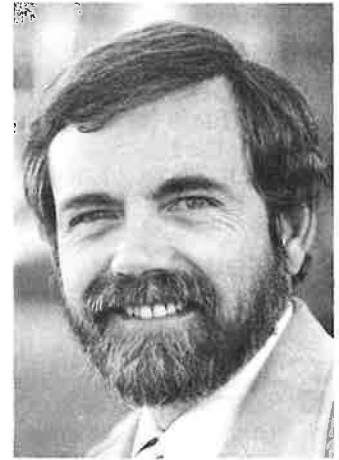
"Such items as the state's centennial souvenirs were never before collected by the Museum," said Nylén. "It is our hope to be able to present a display of our Centennial celebration, which was 25 years ago." Any items of interest to this display are encouraged, he said, and Bob Nylén can be reached by calling the Museum, 885-4810.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline for the *Nevada State Museum Newsletter* will be Wednesday, April 5. Mailing will be made on April 27. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710.

Museum Administrator Heads Western Museums Conference

Nevada Department of Museums and History Administrator Scott Miller has been named president of the Western Museums Conference (WMC), a nonprofit organization that promotes cooperation and communication among museum professionals from nine western states.



Miller, 39, is a 35-year Nevada resident who earned a masters degree in biology from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas before becoming the Nevada State Museum's director in 1979.

As president of the 500-member WMC, Miller will also sit on the American Association of Museum's board—one of 18 counselors who set national policy.

WMC acts as a liaison with state museum associations through elected representatives. Last year, Miller was WMC's vice president and treasurer.

New Officers Installed For NHS Docent Council

New officers were installed at the Jan. 9 regular meeting of the Nevada Historical Society Docent Council. Jeanne Davis once again took the gavel as president with Jan Douglass as vice-president, LaVerne Burmeister, secretary, and Jeanette McBride, treasurer. The new year agenda began with a brief look at the accomplishments of the past year, committee appointments and presentation of special events and tours being planned.

A graduation tea was held in the tour gallery on Feb. 6 for those members completing the extensive fall training program. Certificates, as well as badges, were given to Joseph Brooks, Jennifer Bullock, Phyllis Hansen, Joan Mensor, and Priscilla Theriot. This brings the active membership of the Docent Council to 67.—*Ida Straub, NHS Docent Council*

*Support Your Local Museum
and Historical Society*

NSM NEWSLETTER

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This Is Your Invitation To Join a State Museum

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS (With Benefits)

All memberships receive the gift shop discount and the *Nevada State Museum Newsletter*.

- STUDENT (\$5.00)**
- SENIOR CITIZEN (Without Quarterly) (\$7.50)**
- REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (\$25.00)**
Historical Society Quarterly
- FAMILY (\$30.00)**
Historical Society Quarterly, and Christmas Ornament
- SUSTAINING (\$35.00)**
Historical Society Quarterly, Christmas Ornament, and Changing Gallery Poster/Catalog
- CONTRIBUTING (\$50.00)**
Historical Society Quarterly, Christmas Ornament, Changing Gallery Poster/Catalog, and Calendar
- ASSOCIATE FELLOW (\$100.00)**
Historical Society Quarterly, Christmas Ornament, Changing Gallery Poster/Catalog, Calendar, and Book (UNR Press title relating to Nevada)
- FELLOW (CORPORATE) (\$250.00)**
Historical Society Quarterly, Christmas Ornament, Changing Gallery Poster/Catalog, Calendar, Book (UNR Press title relating to Nevada), Wall Plaque, and Newsletter Advertisement
- ASSOCIATE PATRON (\$500.00)**
Historical Society Quarterly, Christmas Ornament, Changing Gallery Poster/Catalog, Calendar, Book (UNR Press title relating to Nevada), Wall Plaque, Newsletter Advertisement, and Annual Governor's Dinner
- PATRON (\$1,000.00)**
Receives all of the above benefits and has his/her name placed on an Honor Roll Plaque
- LIFE (\$2,500.00)**
Receives all of the above benefits (one time only/life time payment)

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City

State, Zip

Clip and mail to: (with your check)

Nevada State Museum
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Nevada Historical Society
1650 N. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89503

Lost City Museum
P.O. Box 807
Overton, NV 89040

Nevada State Railroad Museum
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Nevada State Museum & Historical Society
State Mail Complex
Las Vegas, NV 89158

or hand deliver to any of the above facilities.

Santa Rides The Rails

In what may have become the first of an annual event, on Dec. 17 and 18 the Nevada State Railroad Museum and the Friends of the Museum operated a "Santa Train" for the children, adults, grandparents, and others of Carson City.

A record crowd of 2484 people took free rides during the two-day event while Santa went through the three-car train on each trip passing out candy canes to the children. Sunday's event was conducted with a light overnight snowfall turning the area into a white wonderland.

Recent Acquisitions Listed

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

Don Bohall, Carson City—8x10 b&w photograph of the Warm Springs Hotel. **Welmar W. White, Caneseraga, NY**—8 color photographs of Carson City coins. **Robert A. Nylan, Carson City**—Case of Tahoe Beer cans; hop sack; Carson City Brewery carton; 4 square nails from Carson Brewing Co.; wooden display case with Carson Brewing Co. artifacts; beer gauge; beer tap; beer cork; 2 Carson Opera House tickets; 3 steel clamps; publication: *History of the Carson Brewing Company, "Nevada's Oldest Business."* **Senator Chic Hecht, Las Vegas**—5 framed Congressional Bills sponsored by Sen. Hecht and passed by Congress. **Shirley Tyler, Carson City**—Singer sewing machine with electrical cord and pedal, instruction booklet, carrying case; 2 keys; 7 steel bobbins; buttonhole attachment with box and instructions; 8 sewing machine attachments; 2 measuring tapes; cardboard ruler; 3 screwdrivers; light bulb; 6 packages of sewing machine needles; 5 packages of sewing needles; cloth book to hold needles; tube of sewing machine lubricant; thimble; paper note pad; 2 razor blades; handkerchief. **Purchase—Cloche** hot ca. 1920, purchased from Noreen Humphreys, Carson City. **M. H. "Reese" Rose** in memory of **Maurice H. and Reese T. Rose, Walnut Creek, CA**—2 Carson City Morgan dollars. **Cultural Resources Consultants, Ltd., Reno**—Osborne computer, computer monitor, printer, 9 computer reference manuals, 28 disks with various programs. **Nicholas All, Fernley**—20x30" framed color photograph of Tuscarora, Nevada (1981). **Mary Pagni Family, Sparks**—Beaded seal of the State of Nevada enclosed in glass frame. **Martin C. Miller Family, Sparks**—5 study kits from various ghost towns in Nevada; misc. iron items from the Emigrant Trail. **Daun Bohall, Carson City**—8x10 photograph of Major Ormsby. **Noreen Humphreys, Carson City**—Commemorative pin of the Centennial Caboose.

LOST CITY MUSEUM

Mrs. Oran Holloway, Payette, ID—3 pieces of obsidian from Glass Butte, Oregon.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

David L. Garcia, Downey, CA—Xerox copies: *Westinghouse Traction Brake Co. Part Catalogs; Westinghouse Air Brake Co.; Westinghouse Traction Brake Co.*; instruction pamphlets. **Peter Hahn, Reno**—Brass switch lock with key; brass switch key; crewman's button "Safety First" (Key System); crewman's badge "412" SFO&SJ Ry. **Ted Wurm, Oakland, CA**—37 negatives; 2 color slides; Nevada Central annual pass (1927-1933); 14x8 print; 2 V&T photos; 2 copies of Clauson's Guide Map of Nevada (1918); map of Nevada RRs; letter re: Loco. No. 9; 12 color slides. **Daun Bohall, Carson City**—5x7 print of Ludlow, CA RR yard; 8 b&w prints. **Gary Youngs, Santa Clara, CA**—1955 *Southern Pacific Bulletin*. **Ted Wurm, Oakland, CA**—3 glass lantern slides (hand tinted); ashtray "The Old Delta Saloon and Cafe." **Martin C. Miller Family, Sparks**—17 volumes of train register record books from Weso Station; electric light fixture with white globe from Weso, Nevada, station. **Karen Gash, UNR Special Collections, Reno**—Name badge for excursion ride on the Sierra Railroad; copy of *Railroad magazine*; commemorative pamphlet issued by Cal-Nevada Railroad Historical Society. **Don Bohall, Carson City**—5x7 photo of Tonopah, NV, c.1904; two 8x10 photos of V&T #25 at NSRM, 12-17-88. **Transfer from N.S. Archives, Carson City**—Southern Pacific 68th Annual Report. **Richard Datin, Reno**—2 packets of V&T misc. Xerox copies of newspapers and records from UNR Special Collections.

Life and Corporate Members Listed

Corporate and life memberships in the Nevada State Museum are listed as follows:

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Roy Marshall
Reno

PATRON MEMBER

Freeport-McMoran Gold Company
Elko

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Art and Antiques
Carson City

BP Minerals
Salt Lake City, Utah

Cashman Equipment Company
Las Vegas

Francovich and Company, Inc.
Reno

GardenAmerica
Carson City

Gold Fields Mining Corp.
Lakewood, Colorado

Hill Cassas deLipkau & Erwin
Reno

Homestake Mining Company
San Francisco, California

Nevada Independent Insurance Agents
Carson City

Ormsby House Hotel/Casino
Carson City

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Placer Dome U.S. Inc.
San Francisco, California

Placer U.S. Inc.
San Francisco, California

Porsche Cars North America, Inc.
Reno

Sierra Pacific Resources
Reno

Southwest Gas Corp.
Carson City

Sunshine Mining Co.
Kellogg, Idaho

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Mail to: Nevada State Museum

Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710

If you are moving into an apartment, PLEASE INCLUDE THE APARTMENT NUMBER. Mail will NOT be delivered to an apartment complex unless the apartment number is included in the address.

'Nevadans' On Sale At Gift Shop

Books in the Museum's Gift Shop are also available by phone or mail from the Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710. Visa and MasterCard are accepted in telephone orders at (702) 885-4810. Postage and handling is \$1.00 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book on the same order. Membership discount of 15% applies. Some of the following titles may be available at other department facilities.

Reviewed by MARY CRAWFORD
NSM Docent and Former Librarian

NEVADANS. By Rollan Melton. University of Nevada Press, 1988. Paperback, 275 pages with index and appendix.

NEVADANS is a collection of columns written by the author from 1978 through 1987 for the *Reno Gazette Journal*. Rollan Melton writes about Nevadans, both native and outsiders, with a gentle, loving perception that glows. His columns cover a broad range of subjects that include the rich and the poor, the great and the small, the politicians and the celebrities and many others. There are columns about World War II, pages from the past, man's inhumanity to man, but my favorite ones are those about the animals: Bertha, the elephant, or the dog lost in the snow, or the snake in the bathroom. But each column is a story in itself, and so readable, written by a man who loves his work, and I urge you to read this book.

Robert Laxalt says in this preface to the book, "Glimpses of that Nevadan glint through each story and each profile in singularly revealing brush strokes. The secret, of course, is one that Rollan Melton is not aware of — that only a Nevadan by rearing and perception, and with sensitivity to the state's people and settings, could have written this book." There is an appendix of the date each column first appeared and an index. The University of

Nevada Press is to be congratulated on the quality of this paperback: the paper is good, the printing clear and the book sturdy.

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE SIERRA NEVADA. By Clarence King. University of Nebraska Press, Bison Book edition, 1970, originally published 1872. Paperback, 292 pages, \$7.95.

The author of this book, Clarence King, was a famous geologist and mining engineer who organized and was the first director of the United States Geological Survey. If you are looking for books to read on the Sierra Nevada this is the first book on the subject and Wallace Stegner calls it "The most delightful book of its decade, along with *ROUGHING IT*, the highwater mark of frontier literature." It is written in the style of a personal recollection, and there is no index, maps or illustrations.

AT HOME IN THE DESERT. By Bradford Angier and Peter J. Whitney, M.D. Stackpole Books, 1984. Paperback, 146 pages, \$10.95.

The subtitle of this book is *Surviving and Thriving for a Day, a Week, or a Lifetime*. There are many pictures and illustrations, the chapters are well organized, and is everything you need to know about getting along in the desert.

BRIGADIER GENERAL SYLVESTER CHURCHILL. By Brigadier General David C. Henley. Lahontan Valley Printing, Inc., Fallon, Nevada, 1988. Paperback, 52 pages, \$4.95.

This is a book in the author's Western American History Series, which is subtitled *The Story of an American Army Hero, Together with the Saga of Nevada's Pioneer Fort Churchill and the Fighting Warship USS Churchill County*. This book is well documented and complete with many old photographs and reproductions of newspaper articles.

Docent Council
NEVADA STATE MUSEUM
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

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to

Joan Kerschner
State Librarian
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710