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NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 2

MARCH / APRIL 2000

'Photographer Gets High on the Job'

By SCOTT KLETTE
NSM Staff Photographer

Last November, 1999, NSM's Exhibit Director Doug Southerland asked me to photograph the seven castnos in Carson City for our up coming exhibit in the state capitol, *Big Deals from 3-Reels!*

Scouting the locations indicated the need for an elevated shooting platform or some type of "cherry picker" to effectively make good images. The pursuit of those images went something like this:

I informed Doug Southerland of the need for a "cherry picker", and, as this exhibit was part of Carson City's millennium celebration, maybe the city could provide the equipment and manpower to get myself and my cameras in the air. He had me talk to July Hendrix, Acting Director of the Museum. She called Candy Duncan, executive director of the Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau, who in turn called me to find out exactly what it was that I wanted. She called Mayor Masayko, he called Carson City Public Works, they called Candy, and she called me—again...I was given the name and telephone number of Chuck Knowlton of Carson City Public Works. I called Chuck.

He was very helpful and accommodating, so we set Tuesday, December 8th as the date for the shoot.

December 8th, 7 A.M, 40 mph winds and blowing snow. Fearing another telephone marathon, we decided to go ahead.

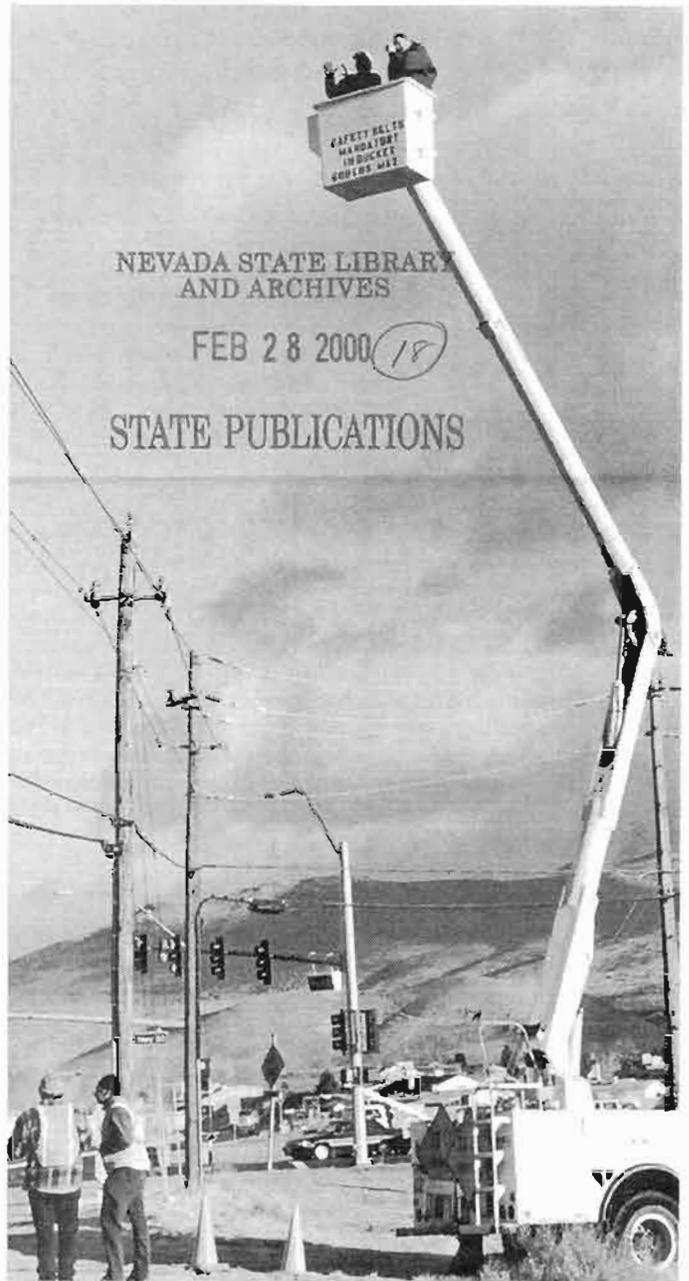
My "Aerial Chauffeur" Vernon Markussen was extremely helpful, a great deal of fun to work with, and a skilled professional in every way.

Now, the views from 60 feet up may not have been new to him, but were spectacular for me. The high wind, snow and clouds all made for some great views of the Carson castnos, as well as the state capitol, attorney general's office, the old federal building, and of course, the Nevada State Museum.

George Baumgardner, Ph.D., NSM's curator of vertebrates, and a solid photographer in his own right, accompanied us to photographically document the entire ordeal. (Slightly acrofbic, George decided to shoot from the ground.)

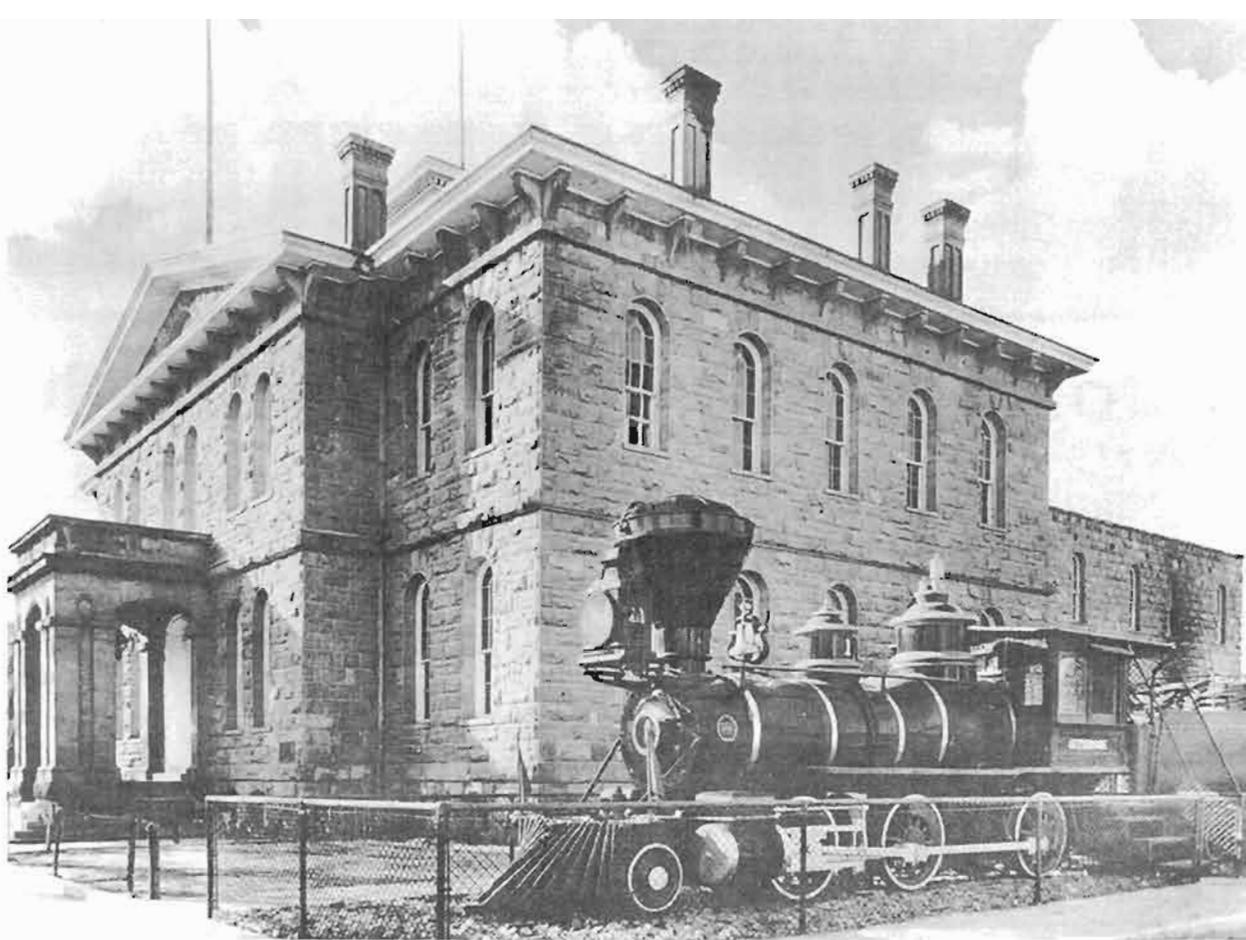
I'd like to use this space to thank Carson City Mayor Ray Masayko, Carson City's Convention and Visitors Bureau's Candy Duncan, and Carson City Public Works Chuck Knowlton. I'd also like to thank Vern Markussen, for his enthusiasim, professionalism, smooth ride and for not getting me killed.

See page 6 for samples of what the photographer saw from his perch on high in Carson City



Vernon Maskussen and Scott Klette in the bucket taking in the view.

—Photo by NSM Staffer George Baumgardner



Views of the Past

New Exhibits and Improvements: the Glenbrook Locomotive

Many changes and new exhibits have been added in the last two years. Probably the most conspicuous is the old *Glenbrook* which now is located at the northeast corner of our building. We have fenced in the engine except for the cab where visitors now have complete freedom to see and handle the operating controls. Many out-of-towners going down Carson Street stop to take pictures and view more closely this picturesque little wood-burner. Children may be seen in the cab of the locomotive at all hours playing "engineer" or "fireman." The young lady who worked so hard repainting the engine is Alice Dullion, now a student at the University of Nevada. We are grateful to the Virginia & Truckee Railway for their gift of two narrow-gauge rails and their loan of a track and accessories which we needed to move the engine from its old location. We also want to express our gratitude to Mr. Bill Henley of the Dayton Consolidated mine for the two pieces of narrow-gauge rail which he donated.

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The popular *Glenbrook* locomotive was transferred to the Nevada State Railroad Museum in 1980 for restoration, the above article appeared in the *Biennial Report of the Directors of the Nevada State Museum to the Governor of the State of Nevada, 1948 to 1948*.

Coming Events

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

March 28, 2000—*In To Their Own: Nevada Women Emerging Into Public Life*, Anita Watson, Ph.D., Education Coordinator, Division of Museums and History.

April 25, 2000—*The Silver Service of the Battleship U.S.S. Nevada: A State Legacy*, by Robert A. Nylen, Curator of History at the Nevada State Museum.

These programs are part of the Museum's Frances Humphrey evening lecture series held on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge for the programs. The Loftin Park entrance on the north side of the museum complex will be used for all programs. For more information call 687-4810, ext. 239.

Saturday, April 29, 2000—*200 Years of Dollmakers and Their Art* by Doll expert Patty Jones of Boise, Idaho. The program will be held at the **Carson Nugget Ballroom** on the 2nd floor from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The program is sponsored by the State Museum History Department and is free to the public. For more information please call 687-4810, extension 239.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

March 8—Program to be announced.

April 12—Program to be announced.

Programs at the Nevada State Railroad Museum are held in the Interpretive Center at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, and are sponsored by the Friends of the Museum. Admission is free.

Exhibit Dept.: Two Exhibits in Two Months



Nevada's Inaugural Gowns opened on November 17 followed on December 27 by the Big Deals From Three Reels. On the left we have Doug Southerland, exhibit director, and Sue Ann Monteleone, registrar, working to put together the 3 Reels exhibit in the former Assembly Room of the State Capitol Building. Below is Sue Ann finishing up on one of the exhibits. This exhibit has been extended and will close April 29. Above we have Jan Loverin, NSM Curator of Clothing and Textiles, welcoming the public at the opening of the Nevada's Inaugural Gowns exhibit in the State Library. Photo below catches guests viewing one of the many gowns on display. The exhibit closed at the end of January and moved down to the Las Vegas Museum and Historical Society for an extended visit.

—Photos taken by George Baumgardner and Jack Gibson

Comings and Goings

Judy Hendrix, NSM Acting Director for 15 years, retired at the end of 1999 after more than 27 years of State service. Thanks and congratulations to Judy for her dedicated service, and for helping make the NSM what it is today. A national search is underway for a new Director, with finalists set for interviews in February.

Museums and History Division Administrator **Doug Mishler** has recently left the Division. Doug's work and ideas on the educational initiative and more advertising and outreach will have a positive impact on the Division as we enter the new decade.

Stop by the NSM and say hello to **Kathy Baker**, our new Program Assistant. Kathy will help with accounting and administrative support for the Museum. Kathy comes to us from Employers Insurance Company of Nevada, formerly SIIS.



Museum Scientists Aid Sheriff's Department

By
GEORGE D. BAUMGARDNER, Ph.D.,
and AMY DANSIE

As the snow fell on Monday, January 24, 2000, a small number of people gathered in Carson City's Lone Mountain Cemetery. Those in attendance on this cold morning included a local minister, representatives of the Carson City Sheriff's Office, cemetery personnel, and two Curators of the Nevada State Museum. It was the hope of this group to lay back to rest the remains of Susan and Patrick Henry Clayton which had been removed by thieves from the Clayton tomb a century or more after their interment.

Patrick Henry (Hal) Clayton was a prominent attorney in Carson City and Genoa who died in 1874. Susan died many years later in 1905, and was placed in the crypt with Clayton. An adopted son died before Susan, but it is unclear if this is the child in the small coffin in the tomb. The tomb was vandalized a few years ago and the heads of the two adults were stolen. By January 2000, the crime had been solved and the heads were confiscated by the Carson City Sheriff's Office.

The Nevada State Museum (NSM) became involved with this story when Mr. Dean Higman, Forensic Specialist for the Carson City Sheriff's Office (CCSO), contacted the museum for assistance. Upon conclusion of the related court case it was the desire of the CCSO to return the skulls to the tomb; however, before reopening the tomb there was the need to confirm that one of the skulls was that of Mrs. Clayton. Mr. Higman sought the considerable expertise of Ms. Amy Dansie, Anthropologist at the NSM, who has advised the police on several previous occasions. Amy's help was requested because only the word of the perpetrators indicated that the skulls came from the Clayton tomb and because one of the skulls was nearly devoid of flesh and hair. Also present at this initial examination was Dr. George Baumgardner, Curator of Vertebrates at the NSM. During this exam Amy determined that the skull was that of a mature woman, but she thought it would be better if she could also examine the remains in the tomb to match either the neck or lower jaw to the cranium. To accomplish this, Mr. Higman invited Amy to go to the tomb the following week, and she subsequently asked George to accompany her.

To prevent the tomb's further vandalism, cemetery personnel had poured a concrete slab at the base of its door. This necessitated that the top of the iron door be removed with a cutting torch before the skulls could be returned. Unfortunately, this meant that those entering the tomb must squeeze through the low, ragged and narrow opening at the top of the door and climb four feet down into the tomb, and the task of going inside fell to George. At approximately 9:30 a.m. he and CCSO Detective Steve Johnson, flashlights in hand, entered the tomb.

The body of Mr. Clayton lay in its metal coffin on a lower shelf. The cover of the viewing window had been removed, and its glass, which had been broken, lay inside the coffin. Mr. Clayton's body was fully mummified due to the dry climate and sealed metal coffin, and his clothing was still quite recognizable as that of a man. The wooden coffin of Mrs. Clayton was on a shelf above that of her husband. The bottom of this coffin was broken, and the poorly preserved remains of Mrs. Clayton had rolled partially outward. The body had been packed in some type of material, probably wood



Amy Dansie and George Baumgardner at the tomb.

—Photo by Carson City Sheriff's Office

shavings, and was partially mummified but little clothing was evident. Fortunately, the coffin of a child was intact.

Upon examining Mrs. Clayton's remains, George identified the neck bones, which were loose, and he passed them outside for Amy to compare to the skull. These bones were a perfect match with the neck attachment at the bottom of the skull, and Amy concluded that the skull was indeed that of Mrs. Clayton.

At this point Mr. Clayton's head, which still retained scalp hair and a full, reddish brown beard, and Mrs. Clayton's bones were returned to their proper resting places, and Detective Johnson was also able to partially reassemble her coffin. Following this, George and Detective Johnson exited the tomb, a brief ceremony was performed by a local minister, and the entrance to the tomb was welded shut.

Museum curators are frequently thought to have jobs involving strictly education and research. While this story describes something that is not a normal activity for the staff of the Nevada State Museum, it is an example of the type of help the Museum is occasionally asked to provide. It is certainly sad that such assistance was needed, but the Museum scientists were pleased to help bring a conclusion to this macabre tale.

Notes from the Nevada Historical Society

Located at 1650 N. Virginia Street in Reno, the Nevada Historical Society is the oldest museum in the state. Featured in the Changing Gallery until May 12, 2000, is *Nevada Wide: Panoramic Photography in the Silver State* featuring photography by early Nevada pioneers Carleton Watkins, Charles Gallagher, E. W. Smith, and Al Smith. The Shepperson Gallery is now open with an all-new permanent exhibit, *Nevada: Prisms and Perspectives*. The museum also has a research library open from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The museum store is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission to the museum is \$2.00 for ages 18 and older. Members of any of the Division of Museums and History facilities can show their membership card for free admittance. Details: (775) 688-1190, ext. 0.—Nita Phillips, NHS Staff

Your Help Is Requested: Looking for Aliens

By DOROTHY NYLEN
NSM Exhibit Preparator II
and

DAVID A. DAVIS
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Art Johnson, Director of the Fleischmann Planetarium at the University of Nevada, Reno, and David A. Davis, Geologic Information Specialist for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology also at the University of Nevada, Reno, are looking for Nevada meteorites. Johnson reports that in over 20 years with the planetarium, he has looked at thousands of possible meteorites brought in by the public. To this date, however, only four meteorites have been documented as being found in Nevada, two during Johnson's tenure. All four are on display at the Fleischmann Planetarium. Nevada is a very big place, however, and there are surely many, many undiscovered meteorites waiting to be found. Thus, Johnson and Davis continue to be quite interested in looking at any suspected rocks. They are also interested in Native American stories about rocks and fire falling from the sky as well as historical accounts.

Antarctica is a great place to look for meteorites, because odds are if a rock is found sitting on top of ice and snow, it is a meteorite. From samples collected and confirmed from Antarctica, it is estimated that about 80 percent are stony material which may look a lot like common rocks found elsewhere on earth. The other roughly 20 percent are metallic, iron-nickel-containing samples that are usually, though not always, attracted by magnets. The bulk of the meteorites found outside Antarctica, however, are of the metallic type, mainly because they just look different and are uncommonly heavy. Though much more common, the stony types tend to look like any other rock and are therefore, much more easily overlooked.

Nevada's four confirmed meteorites were found in various parts of the state. The first is the Quinn Canyon Meteorite found near the mouth of Quinn Canyon, Nye County, about 90 miles east of Tonopah in 1908. The specimen weighed over a ton and was displayed in a Tonopah bank building until it was bought by the Chicago Field Museum. This meteorite was obtained on condition of long-term loan for display at the Fleischmann Planetarium about ten years ago. The second is the Quartz Mountain Meteorite found under two feet of detritus by a group of men clearing the way to dig a mine tunnel about five miles southeast of Quartz Mountain, Nye County, which is now on the Nellis Air Force Range. The specimen weighed about 10 pounds and was acquired by the University of Nevada shortly after its discovery. The third is the Hot Springs Meteorite found less than 10 miles southeast of Bradys Hot Springs, Churchill County. It too weighed about 10 pounds and was discovered by a dirt biker. The last is the Majuba Meteorite found in the Majuba Placers just west of Rye Patch Reservoir in Pershing County. The specimen weighed about a pound and was discovered by Mr. Harold McCormack of Carson City while prospecting for gold with a metal detector. The first three were iron-nickel types, and the last was a stony-iron type.

Johnson and Davis are especially interested in locating a 10-inch "meteorite" obtained by Nevadan C. C. Boak in 1935 from the Rhyolite area. The Nevada State Museum was given

a large amount of mineral material collected by Mr. Boak, but thus far this item has not been discovered. Docents and volunteers are presently going through the museum's mineral records in search of claimed Nevada meteorites.

About nine years ago, this author's son found a distinctive rock on top of Prison Hill in Carson City. We had it looked at by a geologist with the Bureau of Land Management, who thought it might be a meteorite. This is a small rock that easily fits into the palm of the hand. It seemed unusual in that it had a smooth metallic appearance and seemed to be iron but without rust (normally native iron exposed to air immediately begins to rust). It responded to a magnet and was unlike other rocks found in the area. We donated it to the Nevada State Museum as a sample of rare native iron where it is exhibited as such. I guess the time has arrived to determine whether it is of this earth or not.

If you believe you have a Nevada meteorite, contact Art Johnson at the Fleischmann Planetarium: (775) 784-4812; David A. Davis at the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology at: (775) 784-6691 ext 133; or Dorothy Nylén at the Nevada State Museum: (775) 687-4810 ext. 253.

The Docent File

By PEG COURTNEY
Docent Council Publicity Chairman

This month I'd like to introduce you to the Nevada State Museum Store (formerly known as the Gift Shop). Some people think the store is hard to find, but just remember when you come into the museum turn right, go through the Ghost Town, turn right again and when you come to a stairway the store is at the top of the stairs on the second floor.

If you have never visited the store I think you are in for a nice surprise. The store carries a wonderful selection of Nevada history books, educational books for children, history videos, jewelry, souvenirs and silver and bronze medallions, plus many other goodies.

Since the 2000 millennium silver coin (made in the museum on the old coin press) was introduced the Museum Store has been a very busy place. We are grateful to have Eleanor Phillips as the manager as well as the buyer. She is always looking for new and interesting items to add to the stock. The Museum Store is manned by volunteers—members of the Docent Council.

If you would like to become a docent, call the museum at 687-4810 and they will put you in touch with the Docent Membership Chairman. Each applicant must complete a period of probationary service totaling forty (40) hours. The probationary service must be completed in three months and include at least twenty (20) hours served in the Museum Store. There are many interesting departments in the museum where the applicant may serve the remaining twenty hours. If the applicant is not already a member of the museum at the end of the probationary period, he or she must pay the membership fee and remain a member by paying the yearly museum dues. A new member to the council is required to attend the monthly meetings and volunteer one hundred (100) hours each year.

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Support Your State Museum

Buy a membership for yourself or a friend.

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- Regular — \$25.00**
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- Contributing — \$100.00**
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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS will be awarded to individuals or organizations that have made substantial contributions to the department or one of its agencies.

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600 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

NSM NEWSLETTER

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER is published bimonthly the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November by the NSM Docent Council. This issue edited by Jack Gibson. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, 600 N Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701. Printed by Creative Copies +, Carson City. Read the Newsletter on the Internet: dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/dmla/newsletters/mus.htm

Scenes From the Bucket

See Page One for the Story



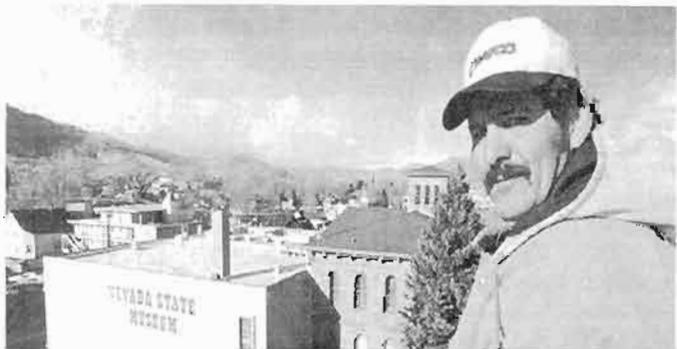
Looking north on Carson Street from opposite the Capitol Building. NDOT, please note the traffic and get the bypass built.



Looking down at the intersection from the same location as the above photo one sees what the astronauts might see in a landing here.



The Mint Building from aloft with Loftin Park and the bank building on the right. Weather that day shows above the buildings.



Vernon Maskussen, pilot of the "cherry picker", credited for not getting Scott Klette killed.

—All photos are by Scott Klette, NSM Staff Photographer

Sonny's Story: A Journalist's Memoir

Books in the Museum Store are also available by phone or mail from the Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Am Ex are accepted in telephone orders at (775) 887-3810. Postage and handling is \$2.00 for each book ordered. Membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by **MARION VOGLER**
Nevada State Museum Docent

Typically, memoirs include moaning and groaning, copious weeping, gnashing of teeth, and baring of fangs. Not so in this one. The mood is upbeat, the writing crisp, and the story as immediately engaging as the story of Everyman—whose story it is.

The news page format moves us rapidly through Rollan Melton's extraordinarily focused and productive personal life and professional career as journalist, editor of the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, and then vice president of the Speidel newspaper group. He served as a vice president and director of Gannett before returning to the *Gazette-Journal* as a columnist in 1978.

This is the story of "Sonny" who survived a difficult and sometimes traumatic childhood to finally have the good fortune of arriving in the right place at the right time—high school in Fallon, NV. His after-school job with the *Fallon Standard* was an invitation into what would become his life's work. Teamwork in high school sports, student friendships, and support and encouragement from adults now interested in seeing him succeed provided the needed impetus to help him form goals he once thought beyond his reach.

With the given that a good place to start is at the beginning, an even better place to start this memoir is at the end where Melton summarizes his life (family, friends, education, work) within the framework of the five W's of newsroom reporting: Who, What, When, Where, Why. This provides a rationale for reading the book.

Rollan Melton's approach to his memoir is open and brave. His energy and optimism shine through. Rosalynn Carter speaks for many others when she says (political comment aside), "Rollie Melton is such a good person. I can't understand why he's not a Democrat. Over the years I have greatly depended on him for information and help on many projects."

The book size and jacket design are appealing. The print is comfortably large to read; there are many photos, personal and professional; and the extensive Index reads like a *Reno Who's Who*.

214 pages

\$24.95



A.J. LIEBLING A Reporter at Large
DATELINE: PYRAMID LAKE, NEVADA
Edited, With An Update, By ELMER R. RUSCO

In 1955, *The New Yorker* published a series of articles describing lengthy litigation resulting from the controversy over rightful ownership of the Pyramid Lake Reservation lands. "The Lake of the Cui-ri Eaters" essays in this one volume provide a comprehensive view of the dispute between the Paiutes and the non-Indian squatters. These squatters, who lived on the land, claimed for themselves the few parcels that could be agriculturally productive with access to lake water—that body of water that formed the heart of Paiute culture.

Liebling lived on a divorce ranch for six weeks in 1949. The Pyramid Lake Guest Ranch at Sutcliffe was on the reservation

itself which eventually exposed Liebling to the Pyramid Lake dispute.

As a journalist, Liebling records the history and intrigue inherent in a dispute between Paiute Indians who want to keep what has always been theirs (and recognized as theirs by the federal government) and the other side as represented by Senator McCarran. "There is to my taste no better reading than the straight record of a good hearing or trial. Accordingly, in order to follow the junior Senator's maneuverings, I wrote to the Government Printing Office for all the available printed records of the hearings on the McCarran Pyramid Lake bills," states Liebling. The documents themselves make fascinating reading, and one can only marvel at McCarran's tenacity over many years to establish a procedure for legalizing the acquisition of land belonging to Indians. He failed.

The ranch was owned by Harry and Joan Drackert, and we learn something of the history of these divorce ranches as well as amusing and amazing accounts of the residents of the Pyramid Lake Guest Ranch during Liebling's stay.

Tribal members frequented the Drackert's bar, and Liebling met many Pyramid Lake Paiutes including Avery and Harry Winnemucca, descendants of the Northern Paiute Chief Winnemucca. The communities of Nixon and Wadsworth also figure in these essays.

Liebling's reporting is precise and carefully informed which furthers the delight and surprise of insights and perceptions that are often hilarious. He is great fun to read.

Elmer R. Rusco's Introduction gives necessary background for the Pyramid Lake dispute as well as Liebling's intent in pursuing the topic. Rusco gives a sympathetic assessment of Pyramid Lake's present and future needs. He has a scholarly approach to Liebling's essays as well as an appreciation for the wit throughout.

Included are photos of many of the persons named in the essays. There are maps of the reservation and an excellent reading list.

139 pages

\$21.95

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STATE BIRDS AND FLOWERS

Nevada State Museum

600 N. Carson St. • Carson City, NV 89701 • (775) 687-4810
Museum open daily 8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Museum Store open daily 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



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