

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

EWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 3

NEVADA STATE LIBRAR AND ARCHIVES

MAY / JUNE 2000

Past Pages . . . The Museum's Mobile Unit

(This appeared in the Biennial Report of the Trustees of the Nevada State Museum to the Governor of the State of Nevada, For the Period July 1, 1954, to June 30, 1956.)

[Editor's Note: The Nevada State Museum was one of the first museums in the country to embark upon a mobile museum program in 1953. The mobile museum brought the Museum to schools and communities around the state and made it possible for people to see exhibits without traveling to Carson City. Long-time Curator of Natural History Peter Herlan was the first to be in charge of the unit. By 1960 the state had grown so fast in school population that the mobile unit was limited to visiting half the state one year and the other half the next year. The successful and innovative program came to an end in 1968.]

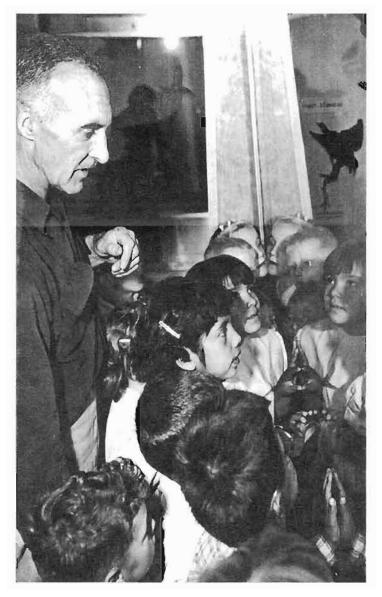
The Traveling Museum to the schools and communities of Nevada has been a tremendous success.

The station wagon and trailer, purchased with donations from banks, clubs and other business and professional citizens of Nevada; designed by our Director J.W. Calhoun; bird and mammals prepared by Frederick H. Holley, Museum Preparator, and exhibits installed by Nancy Bordewich and Peter Herlan, technicians, has been enthusiastically received by our school facilities and students.

In the first year we visited 98 schools, and 33,000 students viewed our beautiful collection of birds, and small mammals. In the school year September, 1955, to June, 1956, we visited 169 elementary and 29 high schools, including the parochial schools in our State. Fifty thousand seventyfive students were treated to a visual picture of 125 Nevada birds. The Unit was on the road 156 days and traveled 4,998 miles.

We have every assurance by our schoolteachers and students that our bringing to them a visual picture is a great benefit in instilling into their minds a better understanding of the nature history of Nevada, and it is our sincere desire to help implant into the minds of our youth a greater love for and interest in protecting and preserving our wild life.

We would like to impress and stress upon our citizens that the cost of preparation and travel of the Mobile Unit is not paid through legislative appropriation, but is paid for by donations from our patriotic citizens and through the generosity of the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation of Nevada.



Curator of Natural History Peter Herlan teaching Wadsworth Elementary School students about Nevada native birds, ca. 1955-Nedvada State Museum photo



Views of the Past...

Carson City Episcopal Reverend James B. Eddie placed an announcement on September 28, 1896, in *The Carson City News* suggesting those, "... who wish to take up some literary work during the coming winter meet at the rectory at eight o'clock." Some 12 people signed up as charter members of a literary study group and assumed the name Leisure Hour Club. The club met from 1896 to 1900 regularly at St. Peter's Episcopal Church under the guidance of Reverend Eddie. In April of 1900, Reverend Eddie resigned to become Dean of the Cathedral in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Leisure Hour Club became an independent organization and then built a clubhouse at the corner of Musser and Division streets in Carson City. The club is still active in Carson City today, almost 104 years after Reverend Eddie founded the group.

The photograph shows the Masquerade Ball held as a farewell party honoring Reverend James B. Eddie and his wife on their departure on April 17, 1900. Attending the party given at the church were the following members:

1. Mrs. Farrah; 2. Amy Cohn; 3. (not identified); 4. Jennie Torreson; 5. Alice Bryant; 6. (not identified); 7. Howard Mulecky; 8. Emma Dunn; 9. Mr. Farrah; 10. Emma VanDerleith; 11. Edith Huffaker; 12. (not identified); 13. Clara Woodbury; 14. (not identified); 15. Ethel Hofer; 16. Stella Colcord; 17. Bird Cohn; 18. Tom Cohn; 19. Reverend James B. Eddie; 20. Lola Lee; 21. Ema Noteware; 22. Vichell Cohn; 23. Ed VanDerleith; 24. Eva Stingerlano; 25. Mrs. P.B. Ellis; 26. Bessie Mighels; 27. (not identified); 28. P.B. Ellis.—Historical information was provided by Everett Randall, Leisure Hour Club Historian

Coming Events

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

May 23: Man's Oldest Best Friends: Ancient Dogs in Nevada, by Amy Dansie, Nevada State Museum Anthropologist.

June 27: Tales from the Emigrant Trail and the Sagebrush Hills of Nevada, by Humanities Scholar Fred Horlacher, program sponsored by the Nevada Humanities Committee.

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 Caroline Street entrance on the north side of the museum complex will be used for all programs. For more information call 687-4810, ext. 239.

May 16: Membership Reception and opening of the Beyond Tonopah exhibit.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

May 10: Snowbound Streamliner by Robert Church.
June 14: V&T McKeen Car Restoration Project—Two Year
Progress Report by Chris deWitt.

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.

Nevada Minerals . . .

Scheelite: The 'Shining Light' of Nevada Minerals

By BILL DURBIN Geologist, Nevada Division of Minerals

If you want to get a good look at an absolutely spectacular specimen of scheelite, I suggest that you pay a visit to the Nevada State Museum. It was donated to the Museum by John W. Mayeroff in memory of his father, John P. Mayeroff, and came from the Riley Mine in the Potosi Mining District of eastern Humboldt County. The mine is located approximately two miles west of the active Getchell gold mine.

This specimen is nearly a foot across and contains granular, vein-filling, and massive crystalline scheelite. Under shortwave ultraviolet light, the scheelite in the sample lights up the room with a brilliant bluish-white to yellow glow. The host rock for the scheelite is a "skarn" or "tactite" that is composed of reddish garnet, dark green pyroxene, pale gray-green idocrase (a.k.a.: vesuvianite), quartz, and calcite. Skarn is a term of Swedish origin that defines a rock type of contact metasomatic origin ("tactite" is a term synonymous with "skarn" and was coined here in the US). Carbonate or dolomitic rocks are intruded with fluid or gaseous materials from granite magmas. In contact metasomatism, the intruding gases and fluids melt and recrystallize the carbonate or dolomite rocks and a whole new assemblage of minerals is born. The granitic fluids contribute many elements including silicon, iron, aluminum, magnesium, tungsten, molybdenum, copper, gold and silver.

Scheelite is an important ore mineral for the metal tungsten. The chemical formula is CaWO₄ – calcium tungstate. It contains minute traces of uranium and/or thorium that are responsible for the mineral's fluorescence. Pure scheelite fluoresces the brilliant bluish-white color. If there is molybdenum present in the scheelite crystal, the fluorescence will appear cream-colored to yellow. Samples with a high percentage of molybdenum will fluoresce bright yellow and will tend to be powdery. A number of the crystals in the Riley Mine sample exhibit cores, rinds and growth rings that fluoresce yellow. The powdery mineral may be lacking the element tungsten and may enrich in the element molybdenum and therefore is the mineral powellite, CaMoO₄, calcium molybdate.

Scheelite is an extremely dense mineral, having a specific gravity of 6.12. It usually has a tetragonal dipyramidal crystal habit. In plain light, scheelite is white, colorless, pale yellow, brownish, gray, or reddish. It has a hardness of 4½ to 5 and has a white streak. The tungsten metal derived from scheelite has the highest melting point of all metals and is known for its great strength as an alloy in steel. It was of vital importance as a strategic mineral from the mid 1930s through the end of the Vietnam War.

Tungsten is used in light bulb filaments, drill bits of all sizes — from concrete bits to giant tunnel borers, tungsten steel is used in the manufacture of dental and surgical instruments, and many other industrial areas where durable, high strength, high temperature metals are needed.

Scheelite has been mined in many locations throughout Nevada. The Riley Mine was operated by Union Carbide Nuclear Company from 1942 to 1948 and from 1952 to 1957 as both an open pit and underground mine. Other notable mines include the Springer (Nevada-Massachusetts) Mine in Pershing County, Golconda in Humboldt County (a few miles south of the Riley Mine), Tempiute (Emerson) Mine in Lincoln County, and numerous small mines and prospects in the Pilot Mountains in Mineral County. There are many other occurrences, as well.

Tungsten mining is non-existent in Nevada and the US these days. The needs of the world are being met by exports from China, South Korea, Australia, and Mexico. If the demand ever rises and market conditions improve, rest assured that reserves of the "shining light" of Nevada minerals are in great quantity and just waiting to be tapped!

Membership Reception Set for May 19 Opening of Renaissance of Mining: Beyond Tonopah

The Changing Gallery exhibit opening on May 19 will be on the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of silver in what became Tonopah. This was following shortly by the discovery of gold in what became the city of Goldfield. Both discoveries were responsible for the renaissance of mining in Nevada that followed the closing of most of Virginia City's mines and the slump that followed. The exhibit is titled Beyond Tonopah, and will feature photographs of P. E. Larson and other frontier photographers.

Refreshments will be served during the annual membership evening. Everyone is invited and membership renewals will be solicited. The hours of the reception will be from 6 to 8 p.m. and admittance will be through the door from the Loftin Park. Reservations can be made by phoning the museum at 687-4810 ext. 234.

Lennan Lucille Guild

One of the earliest members of the Museum's Docent Council, Lennan Lucille Guild, died on March 15, 2000, at the age of 94. She was the wife of one of the museum's founders, Judge Clark Guild. Services were held on Monday, March 20, with burial following at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Big Oak Flat, Calif. She was born in Groveland, Calif., July 19, 1905.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline for the Nevada State Museum Newsletter will be Tuesday, June 6, for the July/August issue. Mailing will be made for delivery by June 30. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701.

A Report to Our Members

Stretching Your Exhibit Dollar

By D.E. SOUTHERLAND NSM Director of Exhibits

For over twenty-four years I have been a part of the exhibits program here at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. Our little exhibits staff of four people has accomplished some remarkable projects over that span of time and continue to reach Nevadans throughout our state and visitors from around the world. We use real and reproduced artifacts and scientific specimens coupled with scientific data and historical research provided by our curators to create exhibits that both educate and entertain our visitors.

This past decade our state projects budgets ran from zero to \$12,000 a year which keeps us very lean, but at the same time makes us always very thankful for all the wonderful people who have contributed to the museum's dedicated trust, for without them we would not exist. Keeping in mind we are only four people, I wish to point out that without our docents and volunteers this program again would not exist; therefore another very special thanks!

To get a better understanding of our size and budget compare us with the California Academy of Science's exhibit staff of 15, the Denver Museum of Natural History's exhibit staff of 38, and the Milwaukee Public Museum's exhibit staff of 25. These three museums are some of the finest in the West and have exhibit budgets that run from \$625,000 to \$2.7 million a year plus salaries. All this is fine you say, but what have we done? Well, in 1982 we designed and built all the exhibits for the premier opening of our sister museum in Las Vegas. Over the next 18 years through our changing gallery program and in one case a contract, we designed and built the exhibits that became the foundation of the Stewart Indian School Museum, the Fourth Ward School Museum, the Warren Engine Company's Museum, the State Capitol Exhibit Room and the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada. Throughout these years we have always maintained a high number of traveling exhibits from panel displays to full gallery shows which we provide for free to small museums and libraries around the state. In some cases we have designed and built special exhibits outside this museum such as the Big Deals From Three Reels, Silver Ladies in Golden Splendor, Silver in the Golden State and the State Constitution Room.

I was recently asked by the editor of this newsletter to provide a list of our outreach exhibits that are running at this time, as he felt most of his readers had no idea how much we are doing these days. Well, here goes, the four people in your museum's basement with help from curators and docents are presently developing a new changing gallery exhibit Beyond Tonopah, scheduled to open May 19 on the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Tonopah. This exhibit could travel a year after its debut here at NSM. We are continuing with the development of our three history galleries and simultaneously running the following outreach programs:

At the State Capitol Building: Big Deals From Three Reels, the history of the slot machine, was extended to run through June 3. Collections support for this exhibit came from the Fey brothers and sons of Reno and financial support came



Jessica Lake, of Fallon, visited the Museum to see her photograph as part of the Handed Down exhibit which was scheduled to close shortly. Since dismantled it will eventually reopen in Elko.—

Newsletter staff photo

from Bally's International, the Carson City Millennium Committee, and others. At the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas our Silver Ladies exhibit will be showing from April into the summer, funded by the Russell Memorial fund. The Western Folk Life Center in Elko will be showing our Handed Down exhibit on Nevada's living folk arts from May into September, jointly funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Nevada Arts Council, and the Nevada State Museum dedicated trust. The Carson Valley Historical Society is exhibiting our Nevada Women on the Road to Change panel show through June of this year. The Getchell Library at UNR is displaying our New Look at Old Collections, a panel exhibit about the pre-history of the ancient Lake Lahontan Basin. The exhibit runs to the end of the semester. The Lyon County Museum in Yerington is showing our *Emma's* Basket panel exhibit until June first. In Virginia City you can find an exhibit we developed for the State Historic Preservation Office titled Piper's Old Corner Bar, that addresses the archaeological findings of a dig at that bar's site. Until May first the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko ran a full Gallery exhibit of ours, Beyond Gum San, the history of Nevada's Chinese People, and the Tonopah Mining Park is running our full gallery exhibit, Metals to Marble, the history of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and its impact on the State of Nevada.

That's all I can think of right now, but an important point to remember is that we provide these exhibits for free as outreach to the people of our state and visitors from around the world. By contrast many public museums are changing from \$2,000 to \$20,000 rent for four week to ten week showings of their traveling exhibits to other agencies. That is why I say we are and have been stretching your exhibit dollar for the education and enjoyment of all.

Report from the Art Council

Nevada as a Cultural Crossroads

By ANDREA GRAHAM
Folk Arts Coordinator, Nevada Arts Council

Nevada has always been a state of immigrants; only the native Washoe, Paiute and Shoshone people can claim indigenous status. In the nineteenth century, Nevada had the highest percentage of foreign-born residents of any state in the union. Today's Italian, German, Basque, Irish and other ethnic groups claim a proud lineage to those early pioneers.

Nevada continues to be a land of opportunity for people of every possible ethnic and cultural group, whether new immigrants to the U.S. or people moving from other parts of the country. Filipino, Mexican, Iranian, Argentinean, Thai, Ethiopian, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Tongan, Puerto Rican, Hawaiian, East Indian, Israeli, Greek, Polish, Navajo, and many other ethnic and national groups are now represented in our population. The list is long and tremendously diverse.

These newcomers contribute their history and heritage to our already heady cultural stew, but they are often not visible in the rush of modern life, especially in Reno and Las Vegas. Folk arts especially tend to be practiced on an intimate scale, within homes and churches and other community settings not often seen by outsiders. One small remedy for this has been the production of folklife festivals in the state's two largest cities, co-sponsored by the Nevada Arts Council in partnership with other local cultural organizations.

This past year the Sierra Folklife Festival was held on a Saturday at Wingfield Park in downtown Reno, and included performances by a bagpipe band, Native-American dancers, cowboy poets, and Tongan dancers, among others, as well as demonstrations of Washoe and Shoshone basketry and beadwork, Hawaiian lei making, cowboy silversmithing, and Norwegian embroidery. Food vendors sold Basque chorizos, Indian tacos, Mexican enchiladas, and Greek and Jewish pastries. The festival was co-sponsored with the City of Reno and the Sierra Arts Foundation. In Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Folklife Festival was set for a Saturday in October at the Rainbow Library Park and Amphitheater. Crafts demonstrations included Polish papercutting, Navajo silversmithing and rug weaving, cowboy hat making, Filipino Janterns, Ukrainian Easter eggs, and Mexican paper flowers, and a crafts market offering art work by the participating artists for sale. Performances of Hawaiian hula, South American songs, a Chinese lion dance, Iranian music, Japanese taiko drumming and Mexican dance filled the stage all day, and visitors sampled Thai, Filipino, Mexican, African-American and Japanese foods as well. The Las Vegas festival was co-sponsored with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and the Clark County Cultural Affairs office.

Folk arts are part of a community's heritage. They have been shared within that group, whether it be ethnic, tribal, religious, familial, occupational, or regional, and they express important values, beliefs and esthetics of that group. But folk arts forms aren't perpetuated automatically or unthinkingly, and it takes work, time and understanding to keep them alive and vital. That dedication comes from individuals who actively choose to learn, perfect, develop and pass on an art form as part of their culture. The folklife festivals provide a

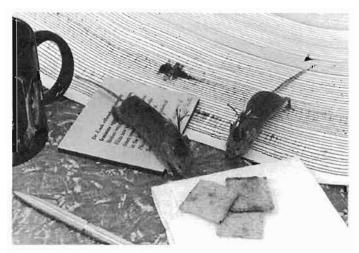
rare opportunity to meet those individuals and to see, hear, touch, smell and taste the richness of all Nevada's cultures, from the most ancient to the newest arrivals.

For information on other folk arts activities and programs, contact the Nevada Arts Council's Folk Arts Program at 775-687-660.

The Nevada Dept. of Museums, Library and Arts sponsors other opportunities to experience Nevada's rich cultural heritage, such as Festival Americana held at the Lost City Museum in Overton, and the Long Steel Rails Festival held every Spring in Ely. For information in department offerings, call 775-687-8323.



No, it's not sailmaking. Carol Hendricks, docent, and Dave Shipman, exhibit department, are making the cover for the sheepheerder's wagon used in the Museum's previous Basque exhibit.—Photo by Scott Klette, NSM Photographer



These two revelers are additions to NSM's 1890s kitchen display in the History Gallery. Trapped and killed as pests in a local home they were given to NSM Curator of Natural History George Baumgardner who "resurrected" them for display in the Kitchen. —Photo by Scott Klette, NSM Photographer

Support Your State Museum

Buy a membership for yourself or a friend.

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NSM NEWSLETTER

Carson City, Nevada 89701

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dmla.clan.lib nv.us/docs/dmla/newsletters/mus.htm

Jan's Boutique . . .

First Ladies Inaugural Gowns Now On Internet

By JAN LOVERIN
NSM Curator of Clothing and Textiles

Photographs of Nevada's First Ladies' inaugural gowns are online! The Marjorie Russell Center is pleased to announce that photographs of the Inaugural ball gowns are now available on the Museum's website:

http://dmla.lib.nv.us/docs/museum/cc/gowns

It has been a long-term goal to provide the public with visual access to the Museum's artifacts by scanning photos onto the web and we are pleased to begin with these gowns.

When you access this site, you will notice that each inaugural ball gown has been professionally photographed, with some close-up shots of specific features. Fashion photography is a time consuming project, with staff photographer Scott Klette setting up his equipment, and skillfully capturing the image and curatorial staff mounting and padding out each gown, but the result is absolutely wonderful.

We are hoping to continue internet access by featuring the quilt and flag collections next. Select quilts have already been photographed and are now being identified and described for inclusion on the website. One of the Center's oldest quilts is a pieced grandmother's flower garden from former Governor Scugham's family. This silk quilt is lined with paper, which dates from the 1830s. Another interesting one is an election quilt from Lander County, Nevada in the 1890s. Both of these and several others should be on the website by late spring.

We are then thinking about photographing the flag collection. This is one of our earliest collections and cataloguing and identification of them is currently going on. We are hoping to get artifacts on the web by fall of this year. Photographing large flat textiles like quilts and flags are difficult because of their size. They must be placed on a slanted backdrop and photographed at an angle.

Eventually we would like to have the majority of the collection available to the public via the internet. But please be patient, it requires accurate identification, quality photographs, and a very skilled webmaster. Thanks to all who have assisted us in this project.

Long-time NHS Librarian to Retire

Nevada Historical Society Research Librarian, Lee Mortensen, retired on April 30, 2000 after a career spanning nearly three decades. She will be missed by her many friends, patrons, and co-workers. However, Lee says not to miss her too much as she plans on coming back to NHS as a volunteer as soon as she retires. Lee, would it hurt you to take just a short vacation? A book fund is being set up in her name. To make donation or for more information, please call Ann at 688-1190, ext. 221.—Nita Phillips, NHS

The Museum Gift Store also has a line of puzzles on the Civil War, First Ladies, U.S. Presidents, American West, State Birds & Flowers, as well as tule ducks, tule boats, and millennium coins

Books Make Good Spring Reading

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) 687-3810. Postage and handling is \$2.00 for each book ordered. Membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by MARION VOGLER Nevada State Museum Docent

FIGHTING BACK A Life in the Struggle for Civil Rights by James B. McMillan

Fighting Back is one of six oral histories originally intended to document the growth of African-American civil rights in Nevada. The book evolves from sixteen hours of recorded oral interviews with Dr. and Mrs. James B. McMillan and is written as a narrative. In the Preface, R.T. King, professor at UNR and director of its Oral History Program, states the tapes of the interviews are available for listening in the office of UNOHP.

Dr. Gary E. Elliott, Community College of Southern Nevada, conducted the interviews during the years of 1993-1995,. His introduction follows McMillan's life from his birth in Mississippi in 1917 through his mother's flight to Hamtramck, Michigan, in 1922, and on to finishing dental school in 1944 and beginning practice in Detroit.

McMillan served in WWIJ and the Korean War after which he relocated his family in Las Vegas. Here, his vigilant and outspoken stand against segregation earned him the position of president of his local NAACP. This book documents his personal life as well as the years dedicated to eliminating social discrimination in all the forms typically suffered by thousands of other African-Americans.

Dr. McMillan's professional, political, and personal memoirs are instructive in illustrating the achievements of race relations as well as the need for determined and continuing

Included throughout the text are family photographs. 181 pages

THE RISE OF THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY An Encyclo-

pedic History of Reno Gaming, 1939-1981 by Dwayne Kling with a Foreword by Rollan Melton

Encyclopedic doesn't begin to convey the interest engendered by this beautifully crafted and fun to read volume.

Rollan Melton begins his Foreword (in itself a compact summary of gaming in Reno), "If made into a stage play and then taken on to Broadway, this epic gaming history might well be confused with fiction." And he goes on to say, "What Dwayne Kling has done is monumental, a factual atlas with an authenticity that in grounded in his incredibly painstaking fourteen-year research/writing effort."

In the Preface, Kling explains that casinos, their owners, and casino workers fascinated him when he arrived in Reno in 1947 and that "One of the major purposes of this volume is to honor and salute the individuals who broke ground for the gaming industry and for those who kept it going and growing into what has become the dominant industry in the state of Nevada."

Kling sets the cut-off point for this work as 1981 due to financial and regulation decisions within the gaming industry that will make future recording of its history easier than prior to that date.

The first entry under A, for Nick Ableman, is so engrossing that the reader is led on to the last entry, Zimba's Casino, without any thought of skipping pages. The entries are documented with excellent historical photographs. The book ends with maps showing casino locations throughout the years, a Glossary of Gaming Terms, and an Index.

226 pages

STORIES FROM THE SAGEBRUSH Celebrating Northern Nevada at the Millennium by Don Cox, Jean Dixon, and Ron Oden

Readers of the Reno Gazette-Journal were treated to installments of this book throughout 1999 in recognition of the end of the millennium. This series of newspaper articles selected various small communities that would tell through their histories, buildings, and residents the meaning of rural living which more accurately represents Nevada life style than do its cities.

This oversize book gives people who delighted in the newspaper series an opportunity to once again savor the tightly written text by reporter Don Cox and the sublime photos by Jean Dixon and paintings by Ron Oden. New readers will be delighted with the communities chosen to represent Nevada as well as the uniquely talented people living in them.

Use the volume as a travel guide, Nevada State memoir, and as a source of introduction to friends and relatives who wonder why we choose to live here. \$49.95

319 pages

These volumes and many others line the shelves of the Museum Store for your reading pleasure

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 - The Complete Nevada Traveler
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Nevada State Museum

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