



## Nevada State Museum Newsletter

Volume XXIX, Number 1  
January/February 2001

Kenneth A. Rohrs Speaks . . .

### **New Administrator, Division of Museums & History**

I am very excited to have this opportunity to serve the citizens of Nevada as the Administrator of the Division of Museums and History, Department of Museums, Library and Arts. My goal is to help our museums reach more people, providing them with an experience that exceeds their expectations.

Who am I? I find it hard to talk about myself—but will highlight some of my experiences. After high school, I joined the U.S. Navy. My military service was rewarding—and actually a lot of fun. It gave me an opportunity to work with many different kinds of people and to develop leadership skills.

After the Navy, I received my Bachelor of Arts from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. History was my major, with a minor in political science. My particular interest was American history, especially the westward movement of people, from the east to the west and back east. I seriously considered seeking advanced degrees in history, but instead decided to go to law school. I received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Toledo, College of Law.

I served as an Assistant Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney for approximately four years and maintained a private law practice for over 11 years. I had offices in Toledo and Napoleon, Ohio. In 1984, the Governor of Ohio appointed me Judge of the Henry Court of Common Pleas in Napoleon. Henry County is where I was born and raised. I was twice elected, without opposition, to this position.

Once a judge, I became involved in continuing judicial education. I was on the faculty of the Ohio Judicial College and the National Judicial College. I served on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Judicial College. I also served, concurrently, as an officer of two Ohio judge's associations—the only Ohio judge to so serve. In September of 1994, I was elected 2nd Vice Chair of the Ohio Judicial Conference, the statutory organization for all of Ohio's judges.

After 10 years as a judge, I "retired" to become Dean and Chief Operating Officer of the National Judicial College in Reno. During my tenure, the Judicial College had its best years—attendance and revenues, including funds raised from foundations and the State of Nevada, increased significantly. It was a great experience to work with judges from around the world, including judges from the former Soviet Union, the Palestinian Authority, Vietnam, and many African nations. I visited Moscow, where I walked Red Square, toured St. Basil's Church, and spent a day in the museums.

With four others, I trained judges in two former Soviet republics—Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The judges proudly showed off their museums and other cultural facilities. The faculty was invited into their homes for traditional food and drink. When judges from these two republics visited the National Judicial College, my wife Georgia and I were privileged to have them in our home for an American BBQ. What a great experience!

After I left the Judicial College, I conducted a judicial education needs assessment in the Republics of Georgia and Armenia. My time in Tbilisi and Yerevan was exciting—and rewarding. It was a unique experience to facilitate a needs assessment and an action planning session using an interpreter. I also trained judges in Canada and in a number of states. This work mattered—and it was fun—but I found that I don't enjoy long-distance air travel as I once did.

In September of 1999, I accepted the opportunity to serve as the first Executive Director of the Nevada Commission on Ethics. The Nevada legislature, in the 1999 session, provided for the Executive Director position and made many other changes in the Commission on Ethics. It was an interesting experience—one I enjoyed. However, I wanted work that engaged me in more exciting ways. When I saw this position description, I knew that this was the professional



and intellectual challenge I was seeking. I am excited about working with Mike Hillerby, Director of the Department of Museums, Library and Arts, and museum directors and curators, their staffs, docents and volunteers.

I have been blessed. I have had many rewarding experiences working with others, in a professional and volunteer capacity, on things that mattered. We made a positive difference. I have been recognized on many occasions for my professional and volunteer involvement and contributions—including receiving the Golden Gavel Award from the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association and twice being selected as one of Toledo's Ten Outstanding Young Men.

While serving as a judge in Ohio, an attorney friend gave me a wall hanging that really describes my approach to me work—and life:

**To love what you do and feel that it matters—  
How could anything be more fun?**

It now hangs on my office wall. This is how I feel about being part of the Nevada museum family—"how could anything be more fun?"

I use the term "Nevada museums family" to refer to the museums which make up the Division of Museums and History: Nevada Historical Society, Nevada State Museum, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lost City Museum, East Ely Railroad Depot Museum, and the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City. I love being part of this extended family—the work you do and support matters. I see my role as a facilitator, a change-agent, and a leader. Working together, we will fulfill the mission of the Division to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret the material objects, documents, and records representing the history, prehistory, and natural history of Nevada and western United States. What could be more fun?

When I accepted the position of Dean and Chief Operating Officer of the National Judicial College in Reno, the Director of the Ohio Judicial College said "you work with Kenn Rohrs, not for him." The museum directors and curators are my administrative team. We will be a results-oriented team that is creative, enthusiastic, and committed to facilitating change where change is appropriate. Soon I will be facilitating a team building and action planning session with the museum directors and curators. We have many challenges—which I see as opportunities to energize staff, develop enthusiastic customers, and improve the bottom line. I look forward to working with Jim Barmore and the other museum directors and curators—we will step outside the box to learn how to exceed expectations.

The Division of Museums and History has great upside potential—for the museums to grow and prosper, we need to work together to find new ways to exceed people's expectations. We must develop enthusiastic and committed customers. To do so, the directors/curators and I must develop creative ways to energize the museums family—staff, docents, volunteers, and those who support our museums financially.

The high quality of the museum staff convinces me that our future is very bright. Our docents, volunteers and financial supporters are always there when we need them. To love what we do—and know that it matters—what could be more fun.

I am convinced that lifelong learning improves and enhances the aging process. Our museums give everyone—young and old—the opportunity to learn about Nevada's heritage. Museums also give us the opportunity to learn about ourselves. Our state museums are special places. We have many satisfied "customers"—but a satisfied customer is not good enough. We need to exceed their expectations. We need enthusiastic and committed customers. I will do everything in my power to help you make a visit to a state museum a "WOW" experience.



---

## Views of the Past...

This unique stereograph view of Carson City, Nevada in the fall of 1876 was taken by photographer Carleton E. Watkins for his Watkin's New Series. Watkins is considered one of the finest photographers of the nineteenth century. During his career he documented the American West from 1854 to 1891. The images numbered 4075 and described as Street View in Carson City, Nev. is taken near the

St. Charles Hotel on South Carson Street and the political banner strung across the street is interesting because it supports the Republican Presidential candidate Ohio Governor Rutherford Birchard Hayes and his Vice President candidate William A. Wheeler. The election was held on November 7, 1876 and is one of the most controversial ones in our nation's history. Rutherford B. Hayes won the election and became president however under questionable circumstances. New York Governor Samuel Tilden, Hayes' opponent, narrowly defeated Hayes in the popular vote, but came up one electoral vote shy of what he needed to win. Since the election process was deadlocked, Congress appointed an Electoral Commission which worked out a compromise in early March, 1877. Hayes became president, contingent on his promise to withdraw Federal Troops from the Southern States and end Reconstruction. Hayes did both these things promptly after his inauguration on March 4, 1877.

The Hayes and Wheeler political banner was used again when President Hayes and first lady Lucy visited Carson City in 1880. The President and the first lady rode in a carriage under the banner on their way to the Nevada State Capitol building. President Hayes became the first seated president to visit Nevada.

---

## Coming Events

### NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

**Jan. 23:**

*The Ice Age Animal Tracks at the Nevada State Prison*, by Eugene Hattori, Ph.D., Curator of Anthropology at the Nevada State Museum.

**Feb. 27:**

*Vanishing and Curious Plants and Animals of Nevada*, by Ann Pinzl and George D. Baumgardner, Ph.D., both Curators of Natural 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 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.

•••

### NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

**Jan. 10:**

*The Comstock and the Central Pacific (How Nevada's Wealth Set the Course of the Transcontinental Railroad)* by Wendell Huffman.

**Feb. 14:**

*The Wet Pass & Yukon Route* by John Frink.

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.

---

## Bally Recognized in Nevada

Reny Ashleman, left, former Chairman of the Board of Museums and History and President of the Nevada Museums, Library and Arts Foundation, presents the Carson City Countdown to the Millennium Medallion set to Marcus Prater, Bally Gaming, Inc. Vice-President of Marketing, in appreciation of the generous \$4,000 financial support given by Bally's for the Museum's millennium slot machine exhibit Big Deals From Three Reels which was on display at the Nevada State Capitol from December 27, 1999 to June 1, 2000. Special thanks also goes to the Nevada



Museums, Library and Arts Foundation Executive Director Beverly Carlino-Banta for her help in securing the grant. Bally's has more than 65 years of history in the field and there is no name more synonymous with gaming products. It has been the technology leader in creating quality gaming products in legal markets worldwide. In fact, Bally has been designing, building, and marketing gaming machines longer than any other company, and is committed to developing new, innovative products that will lead the industry into the 21st century.

---

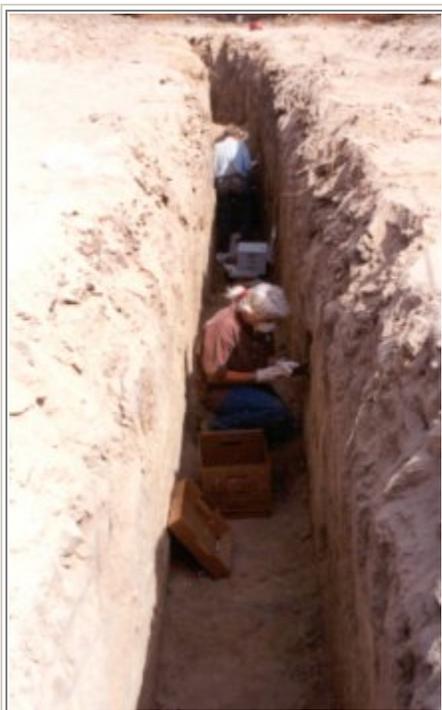
Delving the Past...

## NSM Helps Recover Chinese Burials

By ALANAH WOODY  
NSM Anthropology Program

On Friday, October 6th, I received a telephone call from the Carson City Sheriff's office informing me that bones were uncovered in a construction trench across the street from the Lone Mountain Cemetery. That construction site was the known location of a historical Chinese cemetery.

I called Cindy Southerland (a local cemetery expert and NSM Research Associate) and asked her to meet me on the site. We determined that the bones were unquestionably human, and the sheriff suggested that work stop for the day until the property owner could be contacted. Gene Hattori, NSM Curator of Anthropology, was out of town, so I discussed the situation with Jim Barmore, Director of the museum. He suggested that the NSM should remain in an advisory position, and we decided to wait until we heard from the landowner before proceeding with any recovery efforts.



Cindy Southerland, foreground, and Alanah Woody and Jeanette Dieges, in back, are digging and removing skeletons. —Photo by Carol Hendricks

I began calling agencies and individuals who might be interested in this discovery. I called Dr. Sue Fawn Chung (UNLV Chinese Historian), but had to leave a message. The State Historic Preservation Office has no jurisdiction over the burials because they were found on private property. I contacted the contractor, who gave me the name of the landowner, but again, I had to leave a message requesting permission to recover the disturbed remains. By the end of the day, I hadn't heard back from anyone and went home assuming that on Monday morning work would resume and the disturbed burials would be covered.

When I arrived to work on Monday, there were several phone messages. The property owners were very upset that the burials had been disturbed and gave permission to remove them—but we needed to get them out that day because of construction deadlines. Dr. Chung was also very concerned that the graves had been inadvertently disturbed. She got us in contact with Dr. Jennifer Thompson, a UNLV physical anthropologist. A student of Dr. Thompson offered to study the remains along with those from a Chinese cemetery in Carlin.

We realized that if we were going to recover the disturbed graves for study and reinterment, we'd have to do it immediately. Both Roz Works and Maggie Brown, of the Anthropology Program, started calling for volunteers, and I headed back to the site to start removing the burials with Cindy Southerland. Other volunteers included Allen McCabe (Summit EnviroSolutions), Make Drews (Gnomon, Inc.), Carol Hendricks and Jeanette Dieges (NSM docents). As it turned out, Jeanette has a BA in Anthropology focusing on physical anthropology. And Roz and Maggie also stayed around to help. As the day went on we removed partial remains of three individuals, all of whom were around 3-4 feet below the surface. Later, Ken Fraser and Dave Stultz (both from Lone Mountain Cemetery) arrived with a backhoe to remove the top soil above

another two individuals. Jeanette had been working on one burial most of the day, and she was able to recover the most complete individual. She also recovered a sealed jar from near the feet and an 1865 U.S. Seated Liberty dime that was in the mouth of the individual.

By the end of the day, partial remains of six individuals were recovered and boxed for transfer to UNLV. All of the burials were in an east-west orientation (contrary to all the newspaper reports) and had been more or less dissected by the backhoe (with the middle sections missing and assumed to be in the back dirt pile), so none of the remains were complete. The landowner has plans to landscape the area and put up a memorial plaque. The Museum will work with UNLV, the landowner, the Lone Mountain Cemetery and, especially Dr. Chung to properly reinter the burials in a secure location.

---

## New Natural History Feature To Begin in NSM Newsletter

The Natural History Program invites you to learn about some of Nevada's fascinating plants and animals through a new series for this newsletter entitled *Natural History Spotlights*:. In each contribution of this series one of the curators will discuss an organism that lives in our state. We might spotlight something that is in danger of extinction, something seldom seen such as the mole profiled in the September/October issue, or something as common as a weed.

---

### Natural History Spotlights: The North American Badger

By GEORGE D. BAUMGARDNER, Ph.D.  
NSM Curator of Natural History

There are at least nine species of animals worldwide that have badger as part of their common name, but there is only one such animal that lives in the United States and Mexico. The North American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is in the same family of mammals as skunks and wolverines. This animal occurs throughout Nevada in treeless areas and tends to be more numerous on dry, open hills and in valleys. This badger is about the size of a large cocker spaniel and can weigh between 6 to 14 kg (13 to 30 lbs.). The appearance of this animal is quite distinctive (see photo). Its body color varies from yellowish-brown to silvery-gray on the back and from cream to yellowish-brown on its underside. It has triangular patches of black in front of its eyes, white on the sides of the face, and a white line from the tip of its nose for varying lengths down the middle of its back. This species has many adaptations for burrowing. The body of the badger is stout and somewhat flattened; its head is wedge shaped; and it has a short neck that is nearly as round as the head. Its ears are short and protected by hair. The legs and feet of these animals are short, their fore claws are long and curved and their hind claws are shovel-like.

These creatures are primarily nocturnal. They forage at night and generally remain underground during the day but will occasionally be active in the daylight. The North American Badger is not a true hibernator, but it will enter torpor (lessened activity characterized by reduced body temperature and lowered heart rate) when its environment becomes too cold. These animals feed primarily on burrow dwelling (fossorial) rodents such as ground squirrels and kangaroo rats. The majority of holes dug by badgers are made in pursuit of prey.

These borrow openings normally have a characteristic outline which is wider than high. This shape reflects the maker of these excavations, a squat, compact-bodied animal that is also wider than high. In some places the number of such holes can be quite numerous. Frequently these burrows are the only evidence one might see to indicate that these animals live in an area. This was certainly the case in the sand dunes around a dry lakebed in Lander County where I have worked on a number of occasions. While walking these dunes it was not at all uncommon to find these characteristic holes and yet I never saw any tracks or other evidence of these creatures.



Badger near its burrow entrance in sagebrush habitat on low, rolling hills in Pershing County, Nevada.—Photo by G. D. Baumgardner

Despite its fairly widespread occurrence in Nevada, this species is not often seen. Prior to the incident described below, the other Natural History Curator, Ann Pinzl, had seen a badger only once in nearly 26 years of field work in this state. In June 1999, Ann and I were traveling in Pershing County, when we topped a hill on a dirt road west of Toulon. In the distance below were two forms nose-to-nose on the side of the road. As these shapes were at the edge of my sight, I could not readily tell what they were. At first I thought they might be yellow-bellied marmots but I soon realized they were badgers. These individuals quickly separated as I tried to get photos. The one I had chosen to try to photograph soon disappeared over a hill, but Ann informed me that the other badger was walking parallel to the road and coming in our direction. After a quick scramble, I was able to retrieve a different camera and I began excitedly following this animal across the desert with my telephoto lens. I remained far enough away from the badger so that neither it nor I were ever really threatened by the other. We were, however, close enough that I could occasionally hear it hiss when it would stop and look over its shoulder. I had never before seen a wild, live badger. I feel privileged to not only have seen these two animals but to have been able to get good photographs of one of them.



## Meet Our New Collections Manager

Dr. Alanah J. Woody was appointed Anthropology Collections Manager in July. Alanah earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UNR, where she worked for board member Professor Donald L. Hardesty in the UNR Anthropology Museum, and she was a teaching assistant for NSM curator Gene Hattori for the UNR archaeology field school. Since her arrival, Alanah completed her doctorate from University of Southampton, England. Her dissertation topic is Nevada rock art. Alanah is a native of California, but was raised in Pakistan where her father was a construction superintendent on the Mangla Dam project. As a child Alanah attended some 13 different schools while moving from one

construction project to another including projects in Canada, the Dominican Republic, and Lathrop Wells! Alanah lives in Minden with Chris, her 14-year-old son. Gene notes that, "Alanah's energy and enthusiasm for the Museum are boundless."

Jan's Boutique . . .

## Hello Hollywood Hello Costumes Undergoing In-Depth Analysis

By JAN LOVERIN

NSM Curator of Textiles and Clothing

One of the most interesting clothing collections at the Marjorie Russell Center are those from the MGM Hello Hollywood Hello show in Reno during the late 1970's and early 1980's. Varying from the scantily clad G strings and a rhinestone underwire bra to the over-exaggerated animal characters, these costumes are unique. The Center has begun an in-depth analysis of these garments: which showgirl or boy wore them, in what scene they were worn and most importantly, who designed and made them. Former wardrobe assistant manager Dottie Orchard has been helping us save the history associated with these artifacts. In doing so, Dottie has located other garments which were worn in the show, and is encouraging the owners to donate them to the Center. The Nevada Festival Ballet is the first to come forward, donating several gowns from the "San Francisco" scene and some rhinestone jewelry and headpieces.

The construction of the jeweled pieces is quite interesting, as the large stones are faceted without any sharp pointed edges. By rounding the edges, neither the stones nor the metal faceting will scrape or cut the dancer or specifically her partner, when she is lifted upward.



The actual construction of the garments is incredible. Large, very large hooks and eyes are used to secure the closures and huge, industrial zippers were inserted. The sheer weight of these garments would make wearing them, let alone dancing, grueling. Many are encumbered with feathers and more jewels.

Also included with Dottie Orchard's historic data is the cleaning information. Keeping track of shoes, wigs, headpieces, backpacks, garments, tights, etc., is mind boggling. Amazingly, she has saved the work-orders and dry cleaning tags. Our collection of showgirls/boys costumes is gradually increasing. In addition to these costumes, our sister agency, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas also received some similar garments from the Las Vegas show, Jubilee. Statewide, these gifts are a treasure. Show costumes typically get sold to other shows or as rumor has it, destroyed. The Marjorie Russell Center is very grateful to have received these new garments and is hoping in the future to develop an exhibition about Nevada showgirls!

---

## **Mid-Winter Gala Set Jan. 19**

The Nevada Historical Society is hosting its annual Mid-Winter Gala on Friday, Jan. 19, 2001 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Opening in the Changing Gallery that evening is Nevada 2001: A Photographic Odyssey. The exhibition will feature work by Nevada photographers Carleton Watkins, James Crockwell, Al and E. W. Smith, P. E. Larson, "Northeast": Johnson, William Cann, and Roy Curtis of Reno and Oakes of Las Vegas.

Several contemporary photographers, including Peter Goin, Eric Lauritzen, and Don Dondero, will also be represented. Author Phillip Earl, curator emeritus of the Nevada Historical Society, will be signing his newest book that evening also. There is no charge and the public is invited to attend. For more information, please call (775) 688-1190, ext. .—Nita Phillips, NHS

---

## **Winedale Museum Seminar**

Nevada State Museum staff member Sue Ann Monteleone was one of 20 applicants accepted to the Winedale Museum Seminar held in Texas this November. The seminar is presented by the Texas Historical Commission and began in 1971.

Sue Ann traveled to the Winedale Historic Site, a group of 1800's farm houses in SE Texas for the 10-day retreat-like seminar. The participants were provided bunk beds (!) and wonderful food (homemade bread and desserts). Classes were held morning, afternoon and evening. The staff, faculty and participants from 18 different museums produced an excellent learning opportunity.

Topics covered ranged through administration, grantwriting, exhibits development and preparation, public programming, living history, volunteer programs, photo archiving, and of course *more* conservation. A field trip to San Antonio included an exhibit evaluation assignment at a shopping mall and visits behind the scenes at the Witte Museum, the Institute of Texan Cultures, and a stop at the Alamo.

The lectures, handouts and workbook from the seminar should provide lots of inspiration for all the NSM staff. One of the best things learned at the seminar and field trip was that the Nevada State Museum is doing as well or better than many larger, better funded museums.

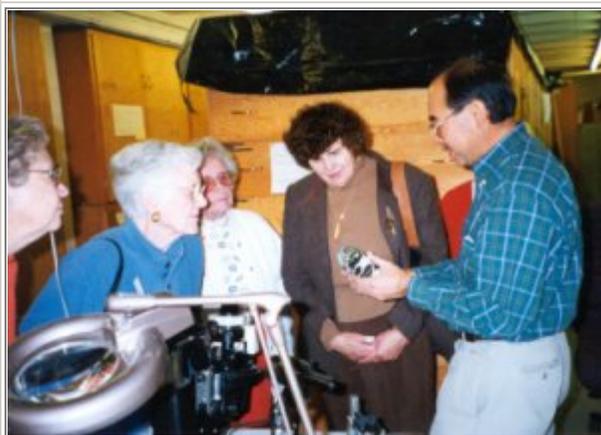
---

## The Docent File

By PEG COURTNEY  
NSM Docent Publicity Chairman

On November 1st the Nevada State Museum Docent Council had a real treat at their monthly meeting when the guest speaker was Dr. Gene Hattori who is the Curator of Anthropology at the museum. Dr. Hattori took us to the basement of the museum and showed us artifacts that are from several hundred years to thousands of years old. Most of these artifacts have never been seen by the general public. Dr. Hattori is very knowledgeable and it was fascinating to hear him recite from memory where the artifacts came from, how old they were and how they came to be in the museum.

Dr. Hattori is a native Nevadan having been born in Yerington. He received his degree from the University of Nevada, Reno and his masters and doctorate from Washington State University at Pullman, WA. He has a strong fascination for Nevada history which is very evident when he is speaking.



Gene Hattori, right, is showing members of the Docent Council some of the Indian material in storage at the Museum.—Staff photo

---

## Message From Our Director, Jim Barmore

Do you like learning about Nevada's natural and cultural heritage? Do you like helping others learn? Do you enjoy being with others who share your interests? If you answered yes to any of those questions, you should consider joining the Museum's volunteer staff.

As promised in the last newsletter, we've compiled a list of volunteer opportunities. Please take a look and choose one or more areas of interest.

- Visitor Information Desk
- Museum Store
- Natural History Collections
- Anthropology Collections
- Exhibits
- Education Programs
- Special Events
- Office Work
- Marketing
- Facilities

If you want to learn more about volunteering or the Docent Council, please call Mary Ann O'Donnell at 885-2991. Or, if you can give me a call at 687-4810 ext. 226 or e-mail at [jbarmore@clan.lib.nv.us](mailto:jbarmore@clan.lib.nv.us). Check out the Museum! You'll find many opportunities for growth, sharing, and fun.

---

## NEH Grant Gives Museum a Collections Care Workshop

A National Endowment for the Humanities grant of \$3,866.00 allowed the Nevada State Museum to contract with the Arts Conservation Center at the University of Denver for a two-day workshop presented by conservator Victoria Montana Ryan. The workshop provided our staff a basic overview on collections care and maintenance, and included topics like the effects of lighting, temperature, humidity, and pests, and care of paintings, photographs and silver.

The workshop held October 4 and 5 was a great success. We succeeded in getting information to most of our staff, four members of other state museums, several of our volunteers, and eleven representatives of six non-state museums—Carson Valley Historical Society, Churchill County Museum, Fourth Ward School, National Automobile Museum, Nevada Museum of Art, and the Pyramid Lake Visitor Center museum at Nixon.

Ms. Ryan also graciously agreed to present an evening lecture on Tuesday, October 3, 2000. The lecture was enjoyed by about 20 members of the public, who plied our speaker with many questions on care of their family photographs, quilts, and other collections.—Sue Ann Monteleone, NSM Registrar