



Nevada State Museum Newsletter

Volume XXIX, Number 5
September/October 2001

Only In Carson City...

Ex-Mint Building Hosts Another Coin Show on September 8-9

The Nevada State Museum will host the Annual Coin Show on Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free to the Museum during both days of the show. Nearly forty dealers from various parts of the United States will travel to Carson City to attend what has become one of the more prestigious coin shows held anywhere.

According to Greg Corbin, Show Coordinator, what makes this show so unique is its location at the most famous U.S. Branch Mint ever operated in the United States. Dealers and attendees are intrigued by a coin show held at a former mint building. The Carson City Mint opened for business on January 6, 1870, and during those years of operation produced some \$50,000,000 worth of gold and silver coins. Because the Mint operated for only 23 years, only about 13 million, or about 2% of the 700 million silver dollars produced by all U.S. mints between 1794 and 1935, bear the famed "CC" mintmark. The Carson City Mint stopped operations in 1893.



Age is no deterrent when it comes to looking at and purchasing what is needed to fill out a collection in this photo taken under the outside big top



Inside the Museum looking and buying goes on all day long. Someone will have that missing coin you need.

Dealers in attendance will offer many collectibles such as "CC" minted silver dollars, rare domestic and foreign coins, paper notes and currency, historical documents, tokens, casino chips, stamps, jewelry, and many other unique and rare gifts. Most dealers offer free appraisals of your old coins, and coins are bought and sold during both days of the show. So, it's a great time to find out the value of any old coins or currency you may have tucked away. One northern Nevada resident had an old coin purchased by one of the dealers for \$1,300 during last year's show, so you'll never know!

The Museum is raffling off the last silver and bronze "CC" Millennium Medallions mounted on a 10-ounce silver bar. The cost is \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. The raffle will occur on Sunday, September

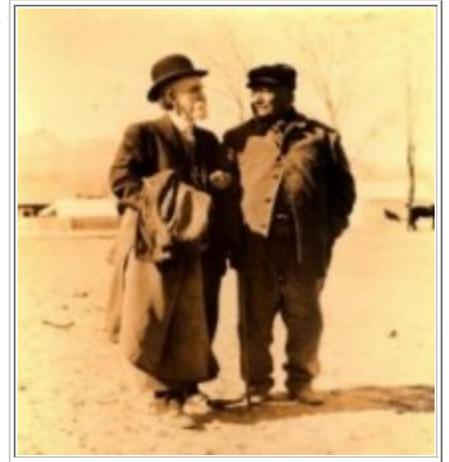
9. The winner doesn't need to be present. Tickets are on sale at either admission desk at the Museum and during the event. Proceeds benefit the Museum's educational programs.

During show hours, the Carson City Maverick Lions Club will serve hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks. Proceeds support the Club's many charitable efforts in and around Carson City.

The Ross Price Dixieland Band will perform on Saturday only from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Views of the Past...

This is a photo of Captain Dave Numana (right) of Pyramid Lake and Major G. W. Ingalls in 1913-1914. It was taken by Ethel Shaber, an Indian Service teacher at Pyramid Lake, who donated her photographs, baskets and other collections from around the West to the museum in 1970. Mrs. Shaber's photos include many of her students at Pyramid Lake and later at Tulalip School in Washington.



Captain Dave Numana was a grandson of Truckee, traveled to San Francisco and Washington, D.C., and headed the Pyramid Lake Reservation Indian Police from the 1870's until his death in 1919. The Captain Dave Numana Hupa-Agai fish hatchery at Pyramid Lake is named in his honor.

Major G. W. Ingalls was an Indian agent in northern Nevada and co-authored reports on the population and political organizations of Nevada native peoples to the Commission on Indian Affairs with J. W. Powell in 1873 and 1874. He compiled a history of the Indians of Nevada published in Davis's History of Nevada in 1913, which also included incomes, trades and land ownership. Ingalls was active in the temperance movement, encouraging Paiute leaders to sign the temperance pledge, and was also photographed with Wovoka at a temperance meeting in 1919.

The following article appeared in the *Nevada Appeal* on Monday, February 24, 1958

Old Coin Press Returned To Its Former Mint Home

Museum Past Pages - 43 Years Ago



Coin Press No. 1 arriving at the Nevada State Museum from San Francisco, California, February 24, 1958.

Saturday marked the return to Carson City of a coin press used in the Mint here until coinage was stopped and it was shipped to San Francisco.

The press was used in the San Francisco Mint until 1955 and then "retired." It was to be sold as scrap when the State Museum negotiated its purchase for \$225 last year.

According to museum chairman Clark J. Guild, the fact that the press was to be sold for scrap was brought to the museum's attention by Frederick J. Monteagle, city editor of the Oakland Tribune.

An appeal was immediately made to Senator Alan Bible to have the press returned to Carson City to be made part of the museum exhibits.

"Much correspondence passed between the senator, William H. Britt, director of the Mint; acting director of the National Parks Service, E. T. Scoyer; G. C. Carmichael, superintendent of the U.S. Mint at San Francisco; Monteagle and ourselves over a period of three months," Guild said.

At the end of three months, Britt ruled that the government could not give the museum the press for free, and a price of \$225 was finally negotiated.

Through Monteagle's efforts, the press was then transported to Oakland by the Bigge Drayage Company as a public service. The press was shipped to Reno by the Bigge Drayage Co. Howard Wells of Wells Cargo in Reno was contacted, and equipment to haul the 12,000 pound press from Reno to Carson and install it in the museum was donated, Guild said.

1. Coin Press No. 1 was originally manufactured by Morgan & Orr in Philadelphia and arrived at the Carson City Mint in 1869. On February 11, 1870, this press struck the first coin bearing the CC mintmark, a Seated Liberty dollar. When the press arch cracked in 1878 it was repaired at the V&T Railroad shops in Carson City. The press was sent to the Philadelphia Mint in 1899. In 1930 the press was remodeled to operate by electric power. In 1945 it was transferred to the San Francisco Mint and remained until it was returned to the Nevada State Museum. (See: **Carson City Mint's Press No. 1** brochure for more information on the press.)

Nevada Minerals...

Miners in the Classroom and Showstopper 'Gems'

By DOROTHY NYLEN

Exhibit Preparator II

In late July the Nevada Mining Association and the Nevada Division of Minerals put on its 18th annual teachers' workshop. This year the northern Nevada event was held in Fallon. Teachers were treated to fieldtrips in a wide variety of geological locations ranging from fossil localities, earthquake faults, historic sites, to working mines. They were invited to collect educational materials for their classrooms. Teachers also attended hands-on, in-the-classroom activities taught by fellow teachers and professional geologists. I attended sessions for teachers for grades 9-12 (last year I participated in the sessions for grades 4-6). The high school teachers were offered a short course in how to evaluate former mining areas that have undergone reclamation work, including replanting.



Mining companies now have to post huge bonds before they begin operations to insure that modern mines don't leave the messes behind like historic mines did in the past (ex: dangerous chemical residues, open shafts). They don't get the bond money back until they pass inspection. The solution involved a lesson in practical hands-on statistical, random analysis that was fun! There was also a study of the leaching process using copper ore, coffee filters and ammonia. We created blue water and then retrieved copper from the mixture using steel wool. I also got to cast my own fossil. In between there was time to talk one-on-one with geologists about an exciting Nevada mineral poster project I will be working on with the Nevada Division of Minerals and the Keck Museum.

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Visitors to our new *Selections From the Collections* exhibit have been impressed by an old minerals poster. In calling around I had discovered that the University of Nevada Press has a new book in the works that will be all about Nevada minerals. The photographer for the project, Jeff Scovil of Arizona, has captured a lot of beautiful Nevada mineral specimens on film. A new exciting donation to the Nevada State Museum also inspired the idea of developing an all-Nevada mineral poster.

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In June and July the Newmont Mining Corporation donated three jeweled specimens to the Nevada State Museum. They are from a world-class orpiment deposit discovered at the Twin Creeks Mine in Humboldt County. Orpiment, a yellow arsenic sulfide mineral, is a colorful component of gold ore bodies in northern Nevada. The Twin Creeks material features well-formed transparent orpiment crystals that range in color from brilliant orange to something like root beer. One specimen (middle below) also contains pale yellow barite crystals.

(Ed note: The specimens are shown below in black and white, but are spectacular in their original color photograph.) These spectacular minerals, donated by Newmont Corporation, can be viewed in color on the Nevada State Museum's website.

Message From Our Director Jim Barmore

Under One Sky is underway! This exhibit on Nevada's Native American heritage, opening in the spring of 2002, reached a major milestone this last April. More than a year ago, the E.L. Wiegand Foundation awarded a challenge grant to the Nevada Museums, Library and Arts Foundation in the amount of \$124,000 for the exhibit. To receive the grant, matching funds were necessary. Fundraising for the match was completed this past spring, securing the grant funds. The support of the E.L. Wiegand Foundation and your support are deeply appreciated. Many of you helped us meet the challenge.

Work on the exhibit is progressing well. The oral history program is a key component. Recording Native American stories and perspectives fosters participation in the exhibit's development and contributes to the final content. The exhibit will emphasize these Native American voices. In addition, the Museum will preserve the recordings for future reference. The University of Nevada Oral History Program is currently conducting interviews in the Pyramid Lake, Stillwater, and Carson Valley areas.

Monthly meetings of co-curators continue. These gatherings of Native Americans also help with the exhibit's formation. The group benefited from a trip to two museums in Oregon offering model Native American exhibits, The High Desert Museum and The Museum at Warm Springs. I thank the Bureau of Land Management for supporting the trip. The co-curators also conducted an art competition for exhibit logo designs. I thank all the committee members for contributing their time and talents.

The project is well into the design phase. Museum staff are busy detailing floor plans, determining audio-visual technology, and designing cases with special fiber optic lighting. A unique challenge is attempting to realistically recreate a major marsh scene, complete with water, grasses, and cattails.

The purpose of *Under One Sky* is to bring communities together, share points of view on Nevada's Native American heritage, and broaden cultural awareness. The process of the exhibit is already achieving this purpose.

NSM Host To Petroglyphs Program

Dr. Alan Watchman, Research Fellow from James Cook University in Australia, did a presentation on the challenges and problems in the direct dating of rock art in the Nevada State Museum on Tuesday, August 7. The dating of pigment paintings (pictographs) has been possible for some time, but only recently has the dating of engravings (petroglyphs) become possible with advances in dating methods.

Dr. Watchman's research projects span the globe. He was in Nevada on a project to date petroglyphs funded by the Calhoun Foundation and the California Bureau of Land Management. He has developed a technique of removing very small amounts of rock varnish which may contain particles of carbon or other organic materials which can be dated using advanced C14 dating methods.

Dr. Watchman showed slides of his work in Australia, Egypt, Baja, and here in Nevada and answered questions from the audience.—Alanah Woody, NSM Anthropology Department.

New Division Administrator Named, To Start September 10

The office of Governor Guinn has announced the appointment of Marcia Wolter Britton as the new Administrator of the Division of Museums and History. Appointed by Scott Sisco, Department of Cultural Affairs Interim Director, Wolter Britton will begin her new position on September 10, 2001.

Wolter Britton most recently served as Education Chair of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, coordinating public programming for a five-museum complex, and Division Director of the State Historical Society of

North Dakota. She brings a wealth of public history and administrative experience to the position, as evidenced by her recent appointment as national board member for the Museum Education Round Table/Journal of Museum Education.

Wolter Britton will be responsible for oversight of seven state museums, including the Nevada State Museum and State Railroad Museum in Carson City; Nevada Historical Society in Reno; Las Vegas Museum and Historical Society; Boulder City Railroad Museum; East Ely Railroad Depot Museum; and the Lost City Museum in Overton. She replaces Kenneth Rohrs, who recently took the position of Executive Director for the Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys.

Registrar Awarded Travel Stipend

Nevada State Museum registrar Sue Ann Monteleone received one of five \$500 travel stipends awarded by the Registrars' Committee to attend the Western Museums Association Annual Meeting coming up in October. This year's WMA conference is focusing on diversities, community and museum collaboration, especially museum and Native American collaborations. Most valuable is a one-day pre-conference workshop on OSHA Standards and hazardous materials in museum collections. The workshop covers federal standards, violations, hazards, air quality standards, and safe handling, and participants will receive OSHA certification.

The funding for the Registrars' Committee stipend comes generously from Atelier4, an art handling company based in Brooklyn, New York. Their \$500 will cover about two-thirds of the cost of the trip, and is greatly appreciated. Results of the conference and workshop will be reviewed in the *NSM Newsletter*. We'll know more about what lurks in our basement in November.

New Exhibition Opening at Nevada Historical Society

A new exhibition will open in the Changing Gallery of the Nevada Historical Society in Reno with a reception on Friday, October 5 at 5:30 p.m. Artist Roy Powers has been on a mission for the past quarter century and the result will be *A Reunion of Landmarks: The Paintings of Roy Powers*, a retrospective exhibition of venerated architectural structures around northern Nevada. The Nevada Historical Society is located at 1650 N. Virginia Street on the University campus. For more information, please call (775) 688-1190, ext. 221. The public is invited and there is no charge.

Natural History Spotlights:

The Red-tailed Hawk

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

Spring of this year found Ann Pinzi, NSM Curator of Natural History, and myself camped near Rock Spring in far northeastern Elko County, Nevada, as part of the Nevada State Museum work to document what plants and animals live in this state. Because Rock Spring is one of the few long-term water sources in the area we thought that a number of interesting species might be concentrated there.

The spring bubbles from under a rock ledge inside a door-sized opening in the cliff, forming a pool about 40 feet long x 25 feet wide and maybe 3 feet deep. The water then flows under a road to soon drop into a narrow, deep gully. Except for thick grass and water plants that live in a thin border along the stream, the surrounding vegetation is primarily sagebrush. Rock Spring is an historic site in Nevada that was a resting spot for

The undersides of the wings of Red-tailed Hawks form deep upward curves. This cupping combines with the long, broad wing surface and the air slots between the tips of the terminal wing feathers to allow these animals to fly in a slow and highly maneuverable manner.



travelers along the Emigrant Trail. Perhaps these travelers were responsible for the large willow trees growing here because Ann, a botanist, felt that these trees were uncommonly large for our native species and suspected they may have been accidentally or intentionally planted. The only other trees within sight were low junipers on nearby hills. Regardless of how these willows came to grow here, they provided a focal point for bird activity.

This became apparent to me on the morning of May 9. The night had been punctuated by a number of birdcalls. Shortly after dawn, as I walked to the nearby rock outcrop to check rodent traps I had set the previous evening, I heard a kree-e-ee-like cry coming from above. Looking up I saw a large hawk soaring 50 to 60 feet overhead. I watched this bird for a moment but because of the dim light I could not see much detail so I returned to my task. [Unfortunately, I was not able to document the presence of woodrats as I had hoped, but I did catch a couple of mice common to Nevada and found an uncommon cactus for Ann to examine.] An hour or so after the landscape brightened I noticed a number of birds in the nearby trees and began to record the species I saw. In the hour or so that I intermittently scanned these trees I saw several Brewer's Blackbirds and Red-tailed Blackbirds. I also saw one or two Robins, Northern Flickers, Yellow Warblers, and possibly Violet-green Swallows.

I soon noticed a number of the blackbirds paying particular attention to the far side of the largest willow. These birds were calling and hopping about the tree near a good-sized Red-tailed Hawk sitting by a nest. This was probably the hawk I had seen in early morning light.

The Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is probably the most easily recognized hawk in Nevada. It can frequently be spotted sitting on trees and power lines along our roads and soaring overhead. Locally, it is a common sight in winter along the Highway 395 corridor from Minden/Gardnerville through Reno. Except for the Bald and Golden Eagles, which are technically hawks, the Red-tail is as large or larger than any other hawk in Nevada. It is fairly easy to identify because of its large size (up to 56 inch wingspread and 3 1/2 pound weight) and coloration. Typically, this hawk is dark brown above, has a generally white underside with brown streaks on the neck, and a broad band of dark streaking across its belly. Certainly the classic recognizable feature of this bird is its tail that is chestnut red above . . . hence Red-tailed Hawk.

The Red-tailed Hawk has a wide ecological tolerance and lives throughout the North American continent except on tundra and in unbroken forest. It prefers country with mixed vegetation of open fields interspersed with woods. In the American Southwest it will occur in mountainous forests and deserts having some trees. This hawk is a permanent, nesting resident across this state. It seems less common in winter in areas having harsher weather. In southern Nevada it is a permanent resident in woodlands, living more in montane forests in summer and desert scrub and along rivers in the winter. The habitat where we saw this hawk consisted of a broad, sandy valley having primarily sagebrush and rabbitbrush next to rocky, juniper covered hills.



The white underside and broad band of dark streaking across the belly that is common to this species can be seen in this photo. The animal's nest appears in the lower right corner of this image.

This species eats a variety of small mammals from mouse to jackrabbit-size. In summer, ground squirrels are frequently preyed on. The only mammals I caught in my trapping near Rock Spring were a couple of medium-sized mice; however, it is likely that woodrats, two types of ground squirrels, cottontails, and jackrabbits also live in the vicinity. All of these animals may serve as meals for this bird. Red-tail Hawks also eat various kinds of snakes, lizards, birds, and large bugs. Two days earlier in central Nevada I saw, at a considerable distance, what looked like a Red-tail Hawk flying with an approximately three foot snake in its talons. Considering the snake's length, it was probably either a Bullsnake or a Western Coachwhip. We observed both of these reptiles near Rock Spring and the local hawks probably ate them.

The nests of Red-tailed Hawks are large and bulky (2 1/2 to 3 feet across). These structures are made of sticks and twigs and lined with bark. Often there is fresh greenery mixed with the bark. Generally these

nests are built high in a tree where a branch joins the trunk. Nests tend to be in the tallest tree near the edge of the woods. In treeless areas they will be located atop shrubs, in cactus, and on cliffs. The nest at Rock Spring was in a thickly branched part of the tallest tree.

The size of the bird (female hawks are larger than males) and its association with a nest indicated this animal was a female. I cannot say if it was tending young but considering that Nevada Red-tail Hawks lay eggs in April and it takes 30 days for them to hatch, it is possible that eggs were present. I neither saw nor heard any hatchlings in this nest.

The hawk seemed more disturbed by the blackbird's harassment than our presence, and every so often it would take flight and soar above the immediate vicinity pursued by the smaller birds. As we continued to watch this animal, it occasionally flew in lazy circles over our camp. The wings of these birds are shaped to permit slow, maneuverable flight. They are masters of such soaring and can do so in a much steadier fashion than Turkey Vultures that soar in a more rocking and tilting manner. Red-tail Hawks will ride air currents and thermals and spend little energy in this activity. Except when it first took flight, the bird we watched rarely beat its wings more than a couple of times in a row. When flapping and gliding in migration they can fly 20 to 40 miles per hour and in level flight can reach top speeds of 35 to 40 m.p.h. In aerial dives it is thought they can reach speeds of 120 m.p.h.

While the Red-tail Hawk is common in Nevada and the continent as a whole, I have never before had the opportunity to observe one in such detail. I saw no behavior by this bird that could not be read about in books, but seeing it so closely gave me a far better feeling of wonder about it that I wanted to share with others.

If you wish to learn more about Red-tail Hawks and other plants and animals that live in Nevada feel free to contact us at the Nevada State Museum, 600 North Carson Street in Carson City.

The undersides of the wings of Red-tailed Hawks form deep upward curves. This cupping combines with the long, broad wing surface and the air slots between the tips of the terminal wing feathers to allow these animals to fly in a slow and highly maneuverable manner.—Photo by George Baumgardner

Jan's Boutique . . .

Gowns Will Be Featured at a 'Tin Cup Tea & Chuck Wagon Social'

By JAN LOVERIN

NSM Curator of Textiles and Clothing

The staff of the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Center is preparing to feature selected gowns from Nevada families at the Governor's annual fund raiser which is scheduled for Sunday, September 23, 2001. This event, first held last year, is hosted by Governor and Mrs. Guinn and benefits the University of Nevada Keck Museum and the Nevada State Museum. Proceeds from last year's event were used to restore two historically significant gowns, one a yellow brocade second day dress worn by Sarah Winters in 1852, and the other, a red and black two piece gown worn in Virginia City in the 1890s. Both of these gowns had deteriorated and will be featured at the September event.

In addition to restoring these gowns, we were able also to purchase two custom made mannequins. When people first visit the Center and see actual nineteenth century women's garments, they are usually surprised by their size, as people were smaller and so were their clothes. Sometimes, however, they are so small conventional mannequins and dress forms don't fit. In this case, one of our featured gowns at this year's event will be a spectacular two piece reception dress from the University of Nevada's costume collection. It was worn by Jessie Hobart Leonard in 1895. Ms. Leonard was born in Gold Hill in 1877 and wore this magnificent Silk taffeta gown at age 18 for her "coming out" ball.



Sketch of Jessie Hobart's ball gown which will be on display at the Governor's fund raising event, scheduled for September 23, 2001.

When we tried mounting this gown on a conventional form, the skirt barely fit, but the bodice was cut so severely "hourglass" that we could not get it hooked at the center front. Fashion silhouettes are sometimes created by manipulating undergarment foundations. In this case, the waist was nipped in and the corset compressed the ribcage and uplifted the bustline so that the bodice has a 21" waist and a 30" bust. Conventional posturing and body proportions prohibited this garment from fitting any of our dressforms. With the funds generated by last year's Governor's fund raiser, we were able to send the garment to the dressform manufacturer, who created a form to specifically fit this gorgeous gown.

Please plan to attend this year's event, called "The Tin Cup Tea & Chuck Wagon Social" and see this and other magnificent fashions from Nevada families. Further information and reservations can be secured by calling Kathy Baker at 687-4810 ext. 222.

Coming Events

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

September 25: Carson City Mint's Press No. 1, by Robert A. Nylén, Curator of History at the Nevada State Museum.

October 23: Mr. Lincoln and Nevada, by Michael Green, instructor of history at the Community College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas. This program is funded by the Nevada Humanities and the Bretzlaff Foundation.

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.

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NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

September 12: Program to be announced.

October 10: 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.

Museum Celebrates 100th Free Program



On June 26, 2001, the Nevada State Museum presented its 100th free Tuesday night Frances Humphrey Lecture Series program outside in the Loftin Park with a Chautauqua presentation of John Sparks, Western Cattle King, by Michael Fisher, at left. The audience, right, enjoyed history as presented by Michael Fisher.



Ask the Curator

Dear Curator:

Q: We have a concrete block making machine and this machine is for making concrete building blocks. Apparently Sears sold them out of their catalog years ago. 1900 and maybe prior. If you could help us date this machine, we'd appreciate it. Thanks, Jim and Ann Ronsee.

A: The concrete block machine that you have is called the "Wizard Concrete Building Block Machine," and it sold for \$42.50 in the Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalogue in 1908. The 1908 Sears Catalogue described "the Wizard as the best concrete building block machine made. It contains all up to date scientific improvements known to this class of machinery. In offering it has no equal and thus it is superior to concrete block machines which are sold as high as from \$100 to \$200." The Wizard and other concrete block machines were shipped from the factory for about "40 cents per 100 pounds for 200 miles, about 75 cents per 100 pounds for 500 miles and about \$1.20 per 100 pounds for 800 miles. The freight charges on the Wizard Concrete Building Block machine with full outfit, weighing about 520 pounds to Auburn, Indiana, would be about \$1.72, or to Lewiston, Maine about \$2.96 or Manhattan, Kansas about \$6.60. ...Don't let the freight question worry you; we will save you money no matter where you live."



Dear Mr. Nylen,

Thank you so much for the information on the "Wizard Concrete block making machine" \$42.50 was a lot of money back in 1908. We got a kick out of the freight charge.

....thank you so much again for helping us in getting some history on our concrete block making machine.

Thanks again,
Jim and Ann Ronsee
Chicago Park, California

Books Make Good Autumn 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 and MasterCard only are accepted in telephone orders at (775) 687-4810. Postage and handling is \$3.00 for each book ordered. Membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by MARION VOGLER
Nevada State Museum Docent

CARSON CITY YESTERDAYS Volume 1 by Raymond M. Smith

These forty-six chapters of delightfully engaging stories carry us into early Carson City history as well as into the lives of the people who lived, worked, and fought here.

In addition to the accounts of the well-known people who enjoyed life in the inner circle, Smith expands his narrative to illuminate the enormity of the struggle of pioneers against earthquake, fire, rat infestation, and exploitation.

We come away with admiration for the energetic and fun-loving families and individuals that laid the foundation for the Carson City we know. The pages crackle with humor and intelligence and the unspoken covenant that life is good.

In the Foreword, the author says not to expect a "usual" history book. He says of the vignettes, "They are stories of the pioneer spirit that settled in the valley and persevered through the early turbulent days of the gold and silver rush,

of massive freighting and rampant timbering, standing strong when Nevada became a state and selected its capital; all with the attendant scandals, successes, "Grand Balls" and chicanery that epitomized those days."

Large print makes for comfortable reading. There are photographs throughout, and an essay about the author ends the volume.

223 pages **\$20.00**



THE OREGON TRAIL REVISITED by Gregory M. Franza, Foreword by Robert M. Utley

It's easy to see how very appealing this Silver Anniversary Edition is to people wanting to learn about the Oregon Trail and to visit sites along the way. The Oregon Trail extended a vast 2000 miles from its beginnings in Independence, MO, to the valley of the Willamette River.

Explaining the format, Franza says, "This book is written in two parts; the first a broad history of the Oregon Trail and its impact upon the course of American events of the nineteenth century; followed by a brief and general outline of the route. The second and larger part of the book is a detailed guide designed to direct the reader to the exact points where the old trail crosses the public roadways of today. This section is interlaced with historical data pertinent to the specific areas being visited."

The book concludes with a comprehensive Bibliography and Index.

419 pages **\$20.00**



CRIME OF 1879 by Robert R. Van Ryzin. A Tale of Mines, Trade and Morgan Dollars

The strength of this book is in its logically organized explanation of the otherwise mind-bending array of events and intrigue surrounding the myths and facts of silver coinage culminating in the Crime of 1873. The Free Silver Movement is examined in light of previously unpublished contemporary letters which help clarify what led to the change to the gold standard.

Some of the players in this remarkable production are William Chapman Ralston, powerful and ambitious Californian; William Jennings Bryan, presidential aspirant; and Henry Comstock, prospector. Of equal interest to their stories, are those of Morgan dollars, Trade dollars, and Seated Liberty coins along with scarce pattern coinages and unusual alloys. In center stage we find the mints of Carson City, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Philadelphia. The Carson City Mint and its famous CC-mint-marked coinage is featured in depth.

Once opened, this is a hard book to put down. In addition to its scholarly achievement, it's fun to read beginning with mine sites and operations straight on through to coinage acts.

Included are proof pricing for Morgan and Trade dollars; grading and collecting tips; pricing; and mintage and time-lines for regular-issue Trade and Morgan silver dollars. There are excellent photographs of coinage.

The Coinage Act of 1873 is Appendix A, and the Revised Statutes of 1874 is Appendix B. There are extensive Notes, a Bibliography, and an Index.

297 pages **\$34.95**