



## Nevada State Museum Newsletter

Volume XXX, Number 2  
March/April 2002

### The Exhibits Program: Our Changes 'Under One Sky'

By DOROTHY NYLEN  
Exhibit Preparator II

After more than twenty-six years of service to the Nevada State Museum, exhibits manager Doug Southerland is retiring. Before leaving he is completing all major designs for the upcoming extravaganza *Under One Sky*. We wish him well and will miss him.

Scott Klette will be serving as the interim exhibits manager. Scott has been with the Nevada State Museum's exhibit program for fourteen years. We are grateful for his leadership, talent and willingness to take on additional responsibilities at this time.



Jeanette Dieges applies paint, breathing new life into marsh plants for the *Under One Sky* exhibit.  
—Photo by Sue Ann Monteleone



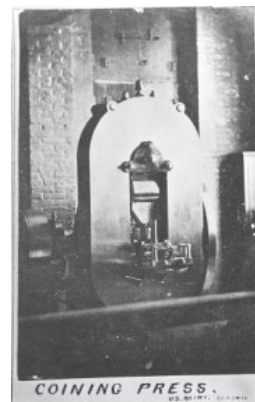
The Selections From the Collections exhibit has been removed from the North Building exhibit gallery to make way for the construction of *Under One Sky*. Exhibit Preparator David Shipman removes screws from a panel that will be reused.  
—Photo by Dorothy Nylén

We have also obtained additional help for *Under One Sky* in the form of Jeanette Dieges. Jeanette is a familiar face cast in a new role. A volunteer for the museum's exhibit program for more than a year, she has been hired to assist with some of the finer aspects of production. Jeanette was formerly employed as the artist at Trader Joe's, a unique grocery store in Reno. In September 2000 she received the award for the "Best Signed Store" out of the 144 Trader Joe's stores located across the country. She is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara. On January 1, 2002, Jeanette married Steve McGregor of Reno. We offer our congratulations!

### Views of the Past

This photograph shows one of the three original coin presses used at the Carson City U.S. Branch Mint. The three coin presses minted coins from 1870 to 1893 and after the mint stopped operations they were shipped back east to other U.S. Mints. The museum has one of the original presses on exhibit. Coin Press No. 1, was sold for \$228 to the museum by the U.S. Treasury Department in 1958.

The museum was not allowed to make the press operational again until it was used to strike Nevada Bicentennial medallions in gold, silver, copper and bronze in 1975. The Nevada State Museum started in 1977 to produce its own series of medallions both silver and bronze for sale in the museum store.





Chris DeWitt of the Nevada State Railroad Museum has been repairing and making new parts for Coin Press No. 1. He successfully struck several medallions January 29, and we hope to be back in business soon. —Photo by Sue Ann Monteleone

In the last year the press has been under repair with the assistance of the Columbia Machine Works in Oakland, California and the restoration shop of the Nevada State Railroad Museum. Chris DeWitt of the Nevada State Railroad Museum restoration shop has taken the lead in repairing the press. And on January 29, 2002, he successfully got the press running and minted several medallions. The museum will again start minting more medallions off Coin Press No. 1 for sale.

Shown the first medallion that Chris DeWitt stamped on the repaired Coin Press No. 1. Soon the press will be back in production with medallions for sale in the museum store.—Photo by Sue Ann Monteleone



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## Nevada Minerals

By JOSH BONDE

Picture yourself in a redwood forest, trees reaching far above your head and blocking most of the light. Ferns grow underneath your feet and the ground is damp. You can hear birds around you but you can't see them. Now picture northern Nevada. The evidence of the previous setting lies in the rocks below the sagebrush and pinion pines in the form of petrified wood.

Petrified wood is found throughout the state and varies in age. The picture I asked you to imagine is what it might have looked like here in northwest Nevada about eight million years ago. At this time you would have had camels and four-tusked, hairy elephants feeding on the vegetation and big cats feeding on them.

Fossil bones that are found near petrified wood help us piece together what the world would have looked like in the past. You can see growth rings in petrified wood. These rings can tell a scientist the story of that tree's life. By the width of the rings you can tell wet years from drought years. Just in my own fossil hunting in the state I have found a variety of sizes of petrified wood, from branch-sized in Lyon County to log-size in Mineral County. Petrified wood is amazing because it is like a book of climate conditions millions of years ago.

To identify petrified wood is relatively easy. Petrified wood has very much the same pattern as modern wood. I have found fossilized wood as old as the dinosaurs that looked like it had just fallen off the tree.\* If you pick up a rock and it has uniform layers in circles it is a good bet that you have petrified wood. The pattern is the most distinctive way of determining if it was formerly wood. The colors of petrified wood covers the spectrum depending upon the replacement minerals. If you have what you think is petrified wood take it to your local museum. They will either identify it for you or direct you to someone who can.



Sometimes the color of petrified wood is amazingly like that of the tree in life. This recently donated Nevada specimen is obviously redwood. —Photo by Sue Ann Monteleone

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Guest columnist Josh Bonde studies geology and biology at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is employed at the Keck Museum on that campus and is a volunteer at the Nevada State Museum.

\*Note: The museum has such a specimen from Eureka County. It is on exhibit in the Earth Science gallery in the Mesozoic case.

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## Coming Events

### NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

**March 16: *Nevada History Day*** held at Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Award ceremony at the Assembly Chambers, Nevada State Capitol building, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

**March 26: *Women's Voices From the Overland Trail***, by Doris Dwyer, historian and instructor at the Western Nevada Community College, Fallon Campus. Frances Humphrey Lecture Series, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**April 23: *Archaeology on the Comstock***: by Ron James, Nevada state historic preservation officer and historian, Frances Humphrey Lecture Series, Nevada State Museum, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

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### NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

**March 13: *Railroads and Photography: 15 Years of Great Images***, by John Gruber.

**April 10: *The Great Desert Railroad Race***, by Ted Faye.

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.

The Docent Council of the Nevada State Museum invites members of professional, service, or fraternal organizations to the museum for guided tours of the exhibits.

In addition to sharing information about the displays, we would welcome the opportunity to talk about volunteer activities at the Nevada State Museum. Consider arranging a visit in the near future. Please contact Dorothy Lusty, Tour Chairperson, at 884-3859.



### WNCC Donated Die Used to Strike Commemorative Medallion

Helaine Jesse and Shelly Aldean of the Western Nevada Community College Foundation with Jim Barmore, Nevada State Museum director. The WNCC Foundation donated the die used to strike the "Reaching for the Stars" medallion commemorating the Jack C. Davis Observatory and astronaut Buzz Aldrin's lecture April 18, 2001. The medallion is available at the museum store, with purchases helping to fund the observatory.—Photo by Sue Ann Monteleone

## Past Pages...The Mobile Museum

### NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

[The following article on the Nevada State Museum's Mobile Unit appeared in the Nevada State Museum's Biennial Report of The Directors of The Nevada State Museum To The Governor of the State of Nevada, For The Period, July 1, 1952 to June 30, 1954. The Mobile Unit was a very successful educational and public outreach program which lasted from 1953 until 1967.]

An intensive campaign was launched in the summer of 1953 by Judge Clark J. Guild, museum board chairman, to obtain sufficient monies to purchase a mobile unit for exhibit purposes. Through personal appeal by letter, and appearances at service clubs and organizations throughout the state, he has since that time obtained generous donations from many business firms and individuals, making it possible for the museum to purchase a 35-foot trailer and station wagon to take museum exhibits to Nevada communities and schools. Augmenting changing displays in the mobile unit will be films and slide lectures conducted by Museum staff members and guest lecturers.



As but few museums have such a service extending museum facilities, the trustees and staff are proud that the Nevada State Museum can thus be taken to the people of the state, many of whom are separated from Carson City by great distance.

Credit for the design of the trailer interior, to allow for display case arrangement adaptable to a series of diversified exhibits, is due to Museum Director Mr. James C. Calhoun.

## The Hidden Department

Have you ever wondered what department takes care of the museum buildings and grounds? Did you know that this same department is responsible for six buildings, in excess of 200,000 sq.ft., and covers a radius of 22 miles? Did you know they are the first ones you see and the ones that will leave a lasting impression on you? And this is the only department whose staff are required to work seven days a week, on-call twenty-four hours. This department is not known by many, but plays a vital role in the operation. This department is known as the facilities operation.

The Facilities Operation Department provides safety and security to the employees, visitors, buildings, grounds, and artifacts. They help set up for lectures and special events. They interact with all other departments in the division as well as other state agencies, city and state police, federal and city officials. The department is divided into the several areas which are custodians, carpenter/maintenance, facilities supervisor, museum attendant and security.

Over the next few issues we will examine these areas and tell a little about the staff. In the photo above they are: front row: Dan Mosebacher, Mark Falconer, Sonja Gasper, Karen Giancontieri; back row: Gene Corley, Bobby Meares, Mike Sweeney, and Dean Miller.





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## Message From Our Director Jim Barmore

The response to the Nevada State Museum's *Annual Appeal 2001* fund drive was exceptional! The museum needed help, and people gave generously, demonstrating their support for the preservation and appreciation of Nevada's heritage. Donations go towards the museum's educational programs, exhibits, and the preservation of collections.

On behalf of the Division of Museums and History and the Nevada State Museum, thank you for your generous contributions.

### *Annual Appeal 2001 Contributions*

Catherine Aaronson	Maydean Martin
Ray and Julie Bacon	Bill & Maxine McClain
Betty & Allen Bakewell	William & Louise McConnell
Jeanne Baret	Anna McMillian
John & Mary Kay Bax	Jean Moltz
Robert & Norma Jean Best	Jean Murry
Dolores Bowman	Frad Naroll
Charles Brown	Wilma Nelson
Edwin & Kathryn Cantlon	Dr. Stan Norsworthy
Assemblyman Jerry Claborn	Beverly Parker
John Copoulos	David Parks
Mike & Melanie Crossley	Susan Paslov
Dale DeLong	Patricia Phillips & Family
Renee & Leo Diamond	Tom & Judith Price
Barbara Dodgion	Patricia Puchert
Jack Farley	Francis & Lennoe Quillinan
Cheryl & Bob Ferrera	Mildred Raffetto
Oyvind Frock	Senator William Raggio
Ron & Ann Funk	Richard Rhodes
William Hartman	Andrey Rich
Elizabeth Haws	Bud & Bonnie Rieckhoff
Carol Haydis	Mimi Rodden
William Heise	Jim Santini
Mark Henderson	Bette Sawyer
Elizabeth Hicks	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Schaefer
Earl Hill	Paul Seideman
Joan Houghton	Jeanne Shipley
Kenneth & Treva Jewkes	Frances Sozanski
John Johnson	Larry Taylor
George Kaiser	Gail & Roger Teig
Joan Kerschner	Carole Terry
Dr. Edgar Kleiner	Donald Trantow
Bob & Terri Knutson	John & Kay Winters
Daniel Kohler	Toni Wodrich
R.E. & Gloria Landenbach	Dr. and Mrs. Charles Woessner
Fred & Peggy Lanman	Lynn Wustenberg
William & Phyllis Lewis	Janie Young
Paula Lyons Trust	Elizabeth Young
Herman Martens	

## New Director at CVM&CC

Mary Ellen Conaway has assumed the position of director of museums at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, and has been welcomed into the circle of leaders of the state's cultural affairs. She arrived here on December 7, 2001 from Madras, Oregon. In addition to the museum on highway 395 in Gardnerville, she is also head of the museum in the former courthouse at Genoa.

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## The Endless Quilt Odyssey

By JAN LOVERIN

NSM Curator of Textiles and Clothing

The Marjorie Russell Center has been actively involved in the development of the Nevada Historical Society's current exhibition, *The Endless Quilt Odyssey*. This exhibition is in three parts; the current exhibition features historic quilts from the Nevada State Museum, the Nevada Historical Society and the University of Nevada's collections.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter article this exhibition features many historic quilts, including a spectacular crazy quilt made in Belmont, Nevada in the 1890s, the Red Cross quilt made by Mrs. Lucille Wheeler in the 1920s, and a quilted dress from the late 1790s. This segment of the exhibit will be on display until the end of March, when the second and third segments will feature juried quilts from the local quilt clubs.

The museum's exhibit department designed and created an innovative method to display these quilts. Each quilt was displayed in a custom frame using electrical conduit and plaster cast flower pots as the base. In addition, the exhibit staff built boxes to carry the plaster bases so they are easily portable! Many thanks.

In conjunction with this exhibition, the Nevada Historical Society is sponsoring a quilt symposium the first weekend of March 2002. Speakers include Joe Cunningham, better known as "Joe the Quilter," Reno's quilt artist Monica Calvert, and social quilt sociologist Colleen Hall Patton. For further information on attending this symposium please call Jackie Clay at 688-1191 extension 223.

The Center was recently awarded a generous grant from the Horn/Bohmont Foundation to continue the computerization of the clothing and textile artifacts at the Center. Staff has begun to photograph the dress collection and will in the future create another "virtual exhibit" on our website which will feature these objects. Our thanks to the Horn/Bohmont Foundation for continuing to fund this essential project.



Crazy quilt made for the wedding of Francis and Marguerite Humphrey, Belmont, Nevada, 1898. —Photo by Christine Farlow

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## Spring Reading With These Books

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 \$4.00 for each book ordered. A membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by MARION VOGLER  
Nevada State Museum Docent

**THE FLOCK by Mary Austin with a New Afterword by Barney Nelson**

In the Afterword, Barney Nelson says, "Austin humbly claims no personal experience herding sheep. Instead of presenting herself as an authority, she presents herself as a simple reporter, asking questions, listening to shepherd stories around campfires."

Austin refers to *The Flock* as "My sheep book." But, as Nelson shows, Austin's astute understanding of California political controversies at the turn of the last century coupled with knowledge and empathy for rural life carry her story far beyond a pastoral tale. In Chapter 1 she writes, "I suppose of all the people concerned with the making of a true book, the one who puts it to pen has the least to do with it. This is the book of Jimmy Rosemeyre and José Jesús Lopez, of Little Pete, who is not to be confounded with the Petit Pete who loved an antelope in the Ceriso —"

Austin's crystal clear observations of the landscape around her written down in precise and loving language flow through the pages like a blessing. Her skilled fine line drawings mirror her words.

The book closes with Notes and Works Cited. 119 pages  
**\$17.00**



**THIS WAS NEVADA Volume II. The Comstock Lode by Phillip I. Earl**

This book is organized into seven parts, each giving vignettes of life on the Comstock including firemen, railroading, miners, folklore, literature and culture, conflict, and all that remains today.

Earl energetically combines the separate drama of individual lives with the simultaneous drama of places and events while giving the attention to detail natural to a reporter and archivist.

*This Was Nevada* is informative and fascinating by turns. 159 pages  
**\$14.95**



**EXCAVATION OF THE DONNER-REED WAGONS. Historical Archaeology Along the Hastings Cutoff by Bruce R. Hawkins and David B. Madsen**

By 1986, rising water in the Great Salt Lake threatened to destroy remains of several Donner-Reed wagons left in the mud of the Great Salt Lake Desert in 1846. Time lost from the party's ill-fated decision to travel the Hastings Cutoff alternate route was a deciding factor in their ordeal and tragedy.

Gary Topping explains overland migration, the California Trail, and the Hastings Cutoff. Following Brigham D. Madsen's discussion of Howard Stansbury's 1849-50 expedition to the Great Salt Lake is a chapter on nine other previous expeditions to the abandoned wagon sites. Excavation procedures, archaeological context, and artifacts and interpretations are given full consideration. Included are area maps and extensive photographs and drawings of sites and artifacts.

Appendix I presents Ann Hannibal's "Textile and Brush Analysis" and Appendix II M. Elizabeth Manion's "Faunal Analysis". There are References and an Index. 172 pages  
**\$14.95**



**FIRST IMPRESSIONS The Trail Through Carson Valley by Robert W. Ellison.**

We are witness to the first-hand accounts of trail blazers through Carson Valley and along the Carson River in this absorbing collection of writings from 1848 to 1852. These accounts were published in the Gardnerville Record Courier during those years. Ellison says his purpose "is to add to these articles and give an overview of the history of the trail through Carson Valley."

The entries are by year, month, and day and describe the obstacles, challenges, defeats, and successes of people who seem larger than life in what they endure and hope to accomplish.

Ellison's blend of historical background with the personal remembrances of the travelers creates a seamless story.

The volume ends with an annotated section on guidebooks followed by trail maps. 124 pages

**\$18.75**