

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 1

MAY 2005

2005 Coin Show Will Be Held Saturday, Sunday, August 27-28

The 2005 Carson City Mint Annual Coin Show has been scheduled for August 27-28 at the Nevada State Museum. Coin show hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

This year's coin show promises to be bigger and better than ever, with more than 30 dealers both inside and outside the museum offering free appraisals, numismatic expertise, and quality merchandise for sale or for trade. Families and "young numismatists" will enjoy panning for gold, discovering foreign coins in our treasure chest, participating in a scavenger hunt, crafts and more! Musical entertainment will be provided and food and beverages can be purchased at the event.

Fabulous prizes will be raffled every hour on the hour; you need not be present to win.

Rusty and Marie Goe of Southgate Coins and Collectibles have again donated the Grand Prize this year, valued at \$1,000.00. You must see this remarkable prize, on display in the museum lobby, to witness its beauty and elegance! The prize consists of a beautifully framed shadow box with U.S. Treasury certification for the un-circulated **Morgan "CC" mint mark silver dollar** and a lovely 1870 print of the U.S. Mint in Carson City. The second place prize is a woman's coin watch and the third prize is a man's coin watch, valued at \$429 each.

As before, raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. There will be more prizes to come, but these three are exceptionally fine. The drawing will be held on August 28. You are encouraged to support this cause and ask your friends to do so. The funds earned from the raffle support future educational programs, exhibits and projects at the museum.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and free for persons under 18 and members of the museum. For more information or to volunteer, contact Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education and Coin Show Coordinator, at 775-687-4810, ext. 237.



Two photos from the Coin Show last year. There is something interesting for all ages.



Both photos by Sue Ann Monteleone

Views of the Past . . .



The *Nevada State Museum Newsletter* is published quarterly in February, May, August and November by the Friends of NSM, for the benefit of museum members. This issue edited by Jack Gibson. Printed by Capitol City Press, Carson City. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701.

The museum is an agency of the
State of Nevada
Kenny Guinn
Governor

Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs

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Interim Department Director

Division of Museums and History

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Division Administrator

Nevada State Museum

Jim Barmore

Museum Director

Become a member and support the Nevada State Museum. Membership includes free admission to all seven state museums, a 15% discount in all museum stores, the *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, newsletters, and selected invitations to exhibit openings, educational programs, and events.

- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Sustaining \$100
- Contributing \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000

• For seniors who simply want free admission and a 15% discount and not the *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, a special senior membership is available at only ... \$20

Other facilities included in your membership are:

- Nevada State Historical Society, Reno
 - Nevada State Museum & Historical Society, Las Vegas
 - Lost City Museum, Overton
 - Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
 - Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
 - East Ely Railroad Depot Museum
- www.NevadaCulture.org



The Nevada State Museum History program has a large collection of historic photographs on the Nevada State Prison. This unique photo shows a Colt Gatling gun on top of the wall at the entrance of the prison in Carson City, ca. 1925. The gun was the first successful machine gun, which combined high firing rates and ease of loading into a single device. It was designed by the American inventor Richard J. Gatling in 1861 and patented on May 9, 1865. The Gatling gun shown was patented on May 9, 1865. The caliber is .45/70 and has a serial number of #317. It was later transferred from the prison holdings to the museum. The Gatling Gun is currently on display in the museum's weapons gallery.

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News From the Department of Cultural Affairs

By Interim Department Director Scott K. Sisco

I can say with confidence that the spring and summer of 2005 have become the high water marks for the Department of Cultural Affairs. We are seeing some of our more ambitious projects come to fruition, such as the renovation of the Nevada State Museum and installation of the Sarah Winnemucca statue, while taking time to celebrate and honor some of our state's longstanding cultural achievers.

On behalf of the entire Department, I'd like to congratulate the staff of the Nevada State Museum for their wonderful work in renovating the historic U.S. Mint building and recreating exhibits within its walls. The work looks great so far and is nicely complemented by the *Sagebrush Ocean* photography exhibit. I am already receiving positive feedback and seeing an enthusiastic response from the public.

A full-size replica of the Sarah Winnemucca statue that represents Nevada in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall is now in place and on view in our own capitol building in Carson City. In what was truly one of the highlights of my tenure as Interim Director of the Department, a dedication ceremony held on April 6 introduced this extraordinary work of art to the people of Nevada. If you have not yet had a chance to see this sculpture by artist Benjamin Victor, I suggest you stop by the capitol at your earliest convenience.

In early April, the Governor's Arts Awards honored Emma Sepulveda, Elizabeth Brady, Paul Ford, the Arts Council, and the late Jack Fegely of Reno for their outstanding and enduring contributions to the state through artistic achievement, commitment and service to the arts. This year's ceremony marked the 25th anniversary of this prestigious event. Nearly 200 artists, organizations, educators and patrons have now been honored with this award.

First Lady Dema Guinn presented the awards on behalf of the Governor, who was in Washington, D.C. testifying before the U.S. House Reform Subcommittee on Yucca Mountain. The evening included spectacular performances by UNR's faculty jazz ensemble and high school piano prodigy Jiyang Chen.

This year's OASIS conference successfully brought cultural providers from throughout Nevada to Carson City. The conference is a rare opportunity for people who work in the museum to mix with those from libraries, arts and historic preservation. OASIS helps increase understanding and collaboration. Thanks to all who worked to make this conference a success.

I hope you will all participate in the Nevada State Railroad Museum's Silver Anniversary Celebration. The museum plans to kick off its anniversary year May 28-30. Throughout the weekend they will offer family activities, historical programs, and of course, train rides. Visit our website, NevadaCulture.org, or call the museum at 687-6953 for a complete schedule of events.

I also invite you to visit the *Wally's World, Loneliest Art Collection in Nevada* exhibit at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. This remarkable exhibit highlights the unique collection of Nevada art owned by Wally Cuchine, Director of the Eureka Opera House. He's been building his collection

over the last quarter century, and this is a rare opportunity to see a selection arranged by University of Nevada, Reno Professor of Art Emeritus Jim McCormick.

A reminder: May 8 through 14 is Archaeology Awareness and Historic Preservation Week in Nevada. This week is observed each year as an opportunity for communities and organizations to share Nevada's history by providing activities for the entire family. As in years past, the Nevada State Museum will host "Behind the Scenes" tours of its anthropology collections. A complete list of events being held statewide is posted on the Department website. I think you will find there is genuinely something for everyone. For additional information, please contact the Department's Public Information Officer Bob Harmon at (775) 687-8323.

Lots to see and experience this summer—enjoy!

What's Going On Here?



Visitors line up outside the state capitol for a first look at the Sarah Winnemucca statue. The sculpture is now on permanent display inside the capitol. Capitol hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. seven days a week. For the rest of the story see the next page.

Photos Tell the Story of the Museum's Activities



Spectators await the April 6 dedication ceremony for the Sarah Winnemucca statue at the state capitol. Over 1,300 people came to see this unique Nevada treasure.

Three Views of the Museum's Participation in the Recent OASIS Program



Two views of the presentation by conservator Victoria Montana Ryan teaching collective care workshops.



Governor Kenny Guinn helps artist Benjamin Victor unveil the Sarah Winnemucca sculpture moments before the dedication ceremony at the Nevada State Capitol. The sculpture, an exact replica of the statue that now represents Nevada in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall, is on permanent display in Carson City thanks to the efforts of the Nevada Women's History Project, Department of Cultural Affairs, First Lady Dema Guinn and the many Nevadans who contributed to this historic project.



Photos of the Oasis program were contributed by Sue Ann Monteleone



Dr. Pat Barker, BLM, teaching artifact ID workshop.

All three photos of the sculptures unveiling event were made available to the Nevada State Museum Newsletter through the courtesy of the photographer, Rich Johnson of the Nevada Department of Transportation.

And Tell Much More of the Museum's Activities

Scenes From Sagebrush Ocean's Opening



Scenes From a 4-H Tour at the Museum



Views on this page are either by Sue Ann Monteleone or Jack Gibson

Santini Stones To Get New Home

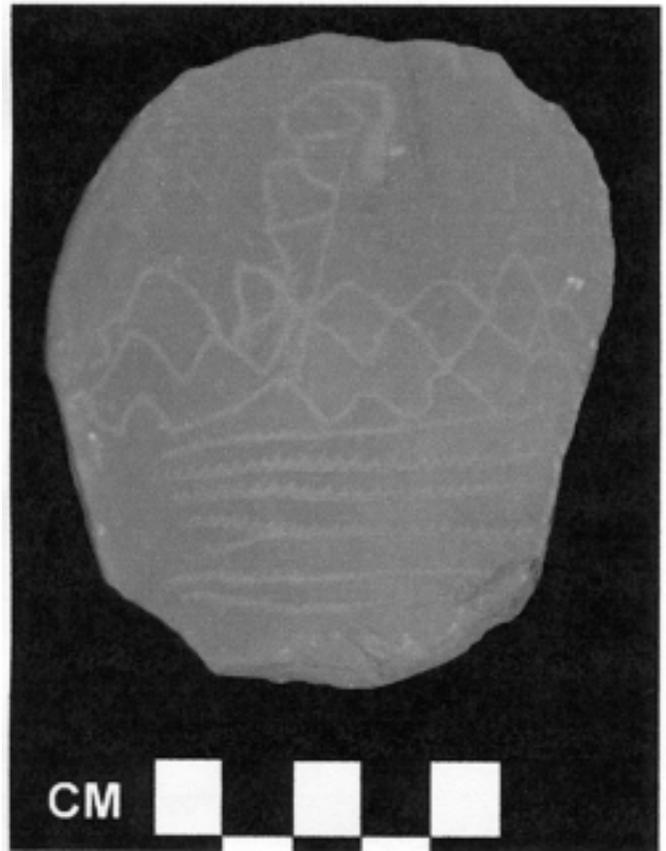
By ANTHROPOLOGY STAFF

Making portable art by incising small, hand-sized objects is a global human tradition of great antiquity, and may be one of the first expressions of human artistic creativity. One common form is flat, tabular stones which are finely incised with a wide range of geometric shapes. Curvilinear and rectilinear forms predominate the motif types, suggesting that design rules were followed. Locally available materials were used for making this portable art, with exotic raw materials rarely—if ever—used. Recently, incised stones were recovered from the Gault Site, a Clovis-age site (approximately 11,200 years in age) in Texas. In Nevada and the Great Basin, the tradition of making incised stones is at least 8000 years old.

Decorated tabular stones are found throughout the region in a variety of archaeological contexts, and although they appear to be most common in southern Nevada, very large numbers have been recovered from excavations at Gatecliff Rockshelter in the central part of the state. The meanings and functions of incised stones are enigmatic: suggested functions include ceremonial objects, pendants and other personal ornaments.

One of the largest collections of incised stones from southern Nevada (nearly 800) is the Santini Incised Stone Collection, housed here in the Nevada State Museum. The collection was donated a number of years ago by former Congressman James D. Santini, who has been a friend of the Nevada State Museum for many years. A small number of the stones were put on exhibit in *Selections from the Collections*, the inaugural exhibition in the North Building. Now, through the continuing generosity of Jim Santini, the incised stone collection will be re-housed in state-of-the-art metal cabinets. This will allow the stones to be better protected by having their own snug, form fitting, ethafoam mount, and facilitate their integration into the very popular *Behind the Scenes Tours*. These tours provide an opportunity to the general public to get a look at many of the museum's treasures that don't often go on display.

The Anthropology Program aims to replace all its outdated and inadequate plywood storage cabinets, and thanks to the generosity of a number of private donors great strides have



Actual size of the stone shown

already been made with the basketry collection storage. Now, thanks to Jim Santini, this truly remarkable collection of incised stones will also get a new home that will better protect them, make them more accessible to researchers, and enable their presentation to the general public. Watch upcoming *NSM Newsletters* for information on when you can come and have a look at the Santini Incised Stones Collection in its new home.

Message From the Museum Director, Jim Barmore

I invite you to view *The Sagebrush Ocean: A Naturalist's Vision of the Great Basin*. Our newest exhibit presents stunning photographs of our extraordinary Great Basin landscape by master photographer and naturalist, Stephen Trimble. We thank the Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City for sharing this wonderful collection. The exhibit continues through August 21, 2005.

Opening *The Sagebrush Ocean* represents a milestone at the Nevada State Museum. The exhibit unveils our new changing gallery, three times larger than the previous space. Now you can view regularly changing exhibits, enjoy major traveling exhibits from around the country, and experience a greater variety of temporary exhibits highlighting Nevada's heritage. You'll see more of the museum's substantial collections, which

we haven't been able to include in long-term exhibits.

In addition to Stephen Trimble's photographs, you can see improvements to your favorite exhibits in other galleries. Enhancements to Nevada's *Changing Earth* have created a more engaging experience. New exhibits in *Nevada: A People and Place Through Time* reveal more stories about the past. You'll see improvements to the building itself. The museum's relocated entrance provides greater visitor convenience. New wall treatments and floor coverings add visual appeal. Wood floors in the historic Carson City Mint replicate the building's original look.

Please stop by and enjoy the best of Great Basin photography and join us in celebrating advancements at your Nevada State Museum.

New Facilities Supervisor



Jim Barnmore, Museum Director, is very pleased to announce the promotion of Scott Klette. Scott accepted the position of Facilities Supervisor III at the museum. He thanks Scott for filling in following Mark Falconer's departure and looks forward to supporting Scott's success in this new role. Please join in congratulating Scott and wishing Mark well in his new position at Public Works.



These are the prizes for the drawing on Sunday at the 2005 Coin Show. Tickets are available at the museum's entrance.

More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Nevada Women

Many Nevada women have made lasting social, political, and cultural contributions to both their own state and to the nation. *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Nevada Women* (The Globe Pequot Press) presents the compelling histories of twelve pioneering Nevada women, plus a remarkable group of nuns, all born before 1900, who displayed extraordinary courage as they broke through social, cultural, and political barriers to advance women's roles. Facing unimaginable challenges, they climbed mountains seeking untold riches, swooped down legislative hallways, wove intricate artistry, and taught the next generation about equality.

Author and freelance writer Jan Cleere graduated from Arizona State University West with a writing degree in American Studies. She writes extensively about the desert southwest, its unique characters, creatures, and vegetation. Her work appears in numerous regional publications. She is a member of the Nevada Women's History Project, Western History Association, National Federation of Press Women, Women Writing the West, Society of Southwestern Authors, and the Nevada and Arizona historical societies.

More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Nevada Women is available at the museum store and local bookstores.

Let your friends know about
the coming 2005 Coin Show

Coming Events

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

June 28—*The Nevada Political Tradition*, by Michael Green, History Professor Community College of Southern Nevada. Program funded by the Nevada Humanities Committee and The Bretzlaff Foundation.

July 26—*Sparks Then and Now: In Celebration of the 100th Birthday of the Founding of Sparks*, Neal Cobb and Jerry Fenwick.

August 23—TBA.

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 687-4819, ext. 239.

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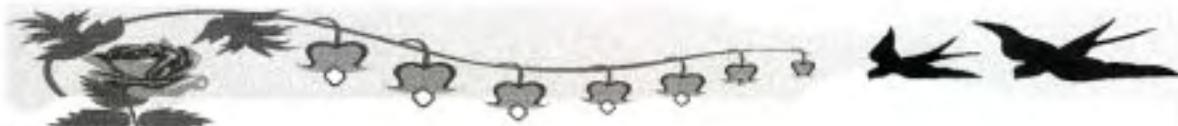
NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

May 11—*National Historic Preservation Month* by Ron James.

June 8—*NSRM Restoration Shop Progress* by Chris de Witt.

July 13—*Talk on movie railroading—especially the Wild West* by Bob Kredl (tentative).

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 State Museum Store

Invites you to step into Spring and Summer.
Explore the world of Birds & Butterflies; Flora &
Fauna and all that Nevada's nature has to offer.

Come in and peruse the various books on natural wildlife, insects, trees and flowers or try your luck at catching butterflies, building a bird house or pressing flowers. And if its adventure you're looking for, check out some of Nevada's great hiking trail books we offer. Let the Museum Store help you have a fun-filled season exploring Nevada.



Nevada State Museum Store
600 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Open 9:00—4:30 Daily

