

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 2

MAY 2006

New Exhibit Opens On May 12

Through Innovative Programming

NSM Museum Weaves Tradition and Creativity

In conjunction with *Interwoven: Visions of the Great Basin Basketmakers*, on display from May 12 through August 7, 2006, the Nevada State Museum (NSM) hosts a series of intriguing basketry lectures, workshops and demonstrations this summer. The excitement begins with a slide presentation by internationally-known basketry expert, Jackie Abrams, at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 19. Jackie will delight audiences with the story of her own artistic journey, inspired by traditional baskets from around the world. The presentation, *Adventures with Paper. Exploration of Traditional and Contemporary Basketry* is co-sponsored by the Great Basin Basketmakers (GBB) and is free for members of NSM and GBB.

Jackie is a captivating world traveler. Her baskets are resplendent with color in unique and interesting forms. Jackie explains, "Much of my work is influenced by my months in Australia. Sometimes it is the sunburned colors that appear. Other times it is the landscapes, the mountains, the stones, the people. I am excited and inspired by flower gardens, architectural structures, and tales of other cultures."

Abrams will teach a limited enrollment workshop May 20-21, entitled *Paint and Plait: Bias Plaited Basketry*. On Saturday she will teach how to make a bias plaited basket and on Sunday she helps the students journey from that basic shape

(Continued on page 8)



Victoria James: Poly clay and pine needles

Interwoven

Visions of the Great Basin Basketmakers

What do wild willows, electrical wire, antlers, cable ties, clay, pine needles and horsehair have in common? Come see the remarkable art of the Great Basin Basketmakers in the museum's Changing Gallery May 12 through August 7, 2006. More than 100 contemporary and traditional baskets and woven artwork by the region's finest textile artists will be showcased. The Great Basin Basketmakers is a guild of artists who joined together more than 16 years ago to learn, preserve and promote the art of basketweaving. Now more than 200 strong, the guild has published a book—*Weaving Naturally in the Great Basin* (available in the NSM store), and in 2004 in conjunction with Reno's Art Town celebration they hosted a five-day convention, the first basketry-related convention held in the western U.S.

You can meet the artists at the opening reception to be held the evening of May 18, 2006, 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to join the GBB artists here at the Nevada State Museum for workshops, demonstrations and lectures throughout this spring and summer (see schedule below). Works by the artists will be available for purchase through the museum store.

Join us and feast your eyes on the beautiful, wild, inspired works of *Interwoven*.



Margaret Marshall: Goud with pine needles



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The museum is an agency of the State of Nevada

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• 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

Views of the Past . . .



—Photo from the Ed Peterson albums

This wonderful view of the Carson City Mint will be one of the top prizes at the 14th Annual Carson City Mint Coin Show to be held on August 26th and 27th. The picture of the Mint was taken around 1900 and included with the photo will be two replica 1889 CC Morgan Dollars and a Nevada State Seal Medallion. The three medallions were all minted on Historic Coin Press No. 1. The photograph and the medallions are all beautifully framed by the Great Basin Art Gallery. The raffle tickets are available in the lobby of the Museum or to find out more about the coin Show contact Deborah Stevenson at 687-4810, ext. 237.

Page Three

News from the Department of Cultural Affairs

By **SCOTT K. SISCO**
Interim Department Director

After a busy winter providing Nevada's citizens and visitors with good reasons to brave the cold, the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs looks forward to continuing a full slate of cultural and educational programming and events. All of our divisions are in high gear to make this spring and summer shine.

A lot of exciting things are happening at Nevada State Museum in Carson City. The museum is undergoing a major renovation. With the first phase now completed, the museum is moving into its second phase of restoration, but will remain open to the public during the construction. Beginning mid May, the museum will host *Interwoven: Visions of the Great Basketmakers*, an exhibition featuring fine art woven and handcrafted baskets and vessels. Amazing creations by many of the region's finest basketmakers and weavers will be displayed in the new changing gallery space. The exhibit will run through August, so be sure to stop by and see it.

The Division of Museums and History recently released its second edition of the official Nevada State Quarter commemorative set to the public. This beautiful set features mint-quality quarters from both the United States Mints at Denver and Philadelphia. These popular commemorative sets sold out on the day of the official quarter launch ceremony in January and only 5,000 sets were reissued. The state quarter sets have been very popular, and all the proceeds from their sale go to benefit the state museums and the Historic Carson City Mint. The Department of Cultural Affairs thanks the Office of the State Treasurer and the United States Mint for their instrumental role in making these state quarter sets possible.

But it's not just the Nevada State Museum providing excitement for the Division of Museums and History. The state railroad museums have been hard at work, too. The Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City will begin their operating schedule for steam ups and motorcar rides in May. In honor of Mothers Day weekend, moms ride free on May 13 and 14.

Recently the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office to move a historic GE 80-ton locomotive from the Nevada Test Site to the Railroad Museum in Boulder City. This locomotive, which was purchased new for the test site in September 1964 to transport nuclear materials for testing, was donated to the Railroad Museum by DOE. Because of its connection with one of the more fascinating pages in the state's history, the locomotive used at the Nevada Test Site is a valuable addition to the State Railroad Museum. After inspection and servicing, the locomotive will likely be used to operate an excursion train on the railroad line built by the Union Pacific Railroad to haul equipment and material needed to construct Hoover Dam.

In conjunction with many of their public and private partners, the State Historic Preservation Office will celebrate Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month in May. Nevadans are invited to celebrate their past through participating in exciting events planned throughout the state.



This historic GE 80-ton locomotive from the Nevada Test Site was recently relocated to the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City. It was originally used to transport nuclear materials for testing and was donated to the Railroad Museum by the Department of Energy.

Everything from historical walking tours to informative lectures to archaeological adventures are scheduled. With such a great variety to choose from, there is sure to be an event for you no matter what your personal interest. In addition, the events are spread throughout Nevada, so whether you're in Elko or Reno, Las Vegas or Lyon County, Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month has you covered. Visit our website at www.NevadaCulture.org for a complete listing of events.

A program that recognizes Nevada families who have kept a Nevada ranch or farm in the family for at least 100 years is receiving applications for 2006. The State Historic Preservation Office, in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Farm Bureau, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, and the Nevada Ag Council, is seeking applicants for the Nevada Centennial Ranch & Farm Award. Applications are due June 1, 2006. To qualify, a ranch or farm must have belonged to a family for at least 100 years and be a working ranch or farm with 160 acres or with gross annual sales of at least \$1,000. Applications are available on-line at www.nvshpo.org (click on "Centennial Ranches & Farms") or by contacting Terri McBride at the State Historic Preservation Office, (775) 684-3445.

We hope you will take some time out this spring to enjoy the offerings of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs. Whether it's visiting one of our museums, attending a lecture, or catching a ride on a steam train, there is truly something for everyone.

The Day of the Nevada Quarter



Photo above has Bob Stoldal, chair of the Board of Museums and History at the left, with Mimi Rodden of Boulder City, middle, and Bob Nysten, Curator for the Nevada State Museum, on the right. All were involved with the issuance of the Nevada Quarter by the U.S. Mint. They were on the podium waiting for the start of festivities on January 31, 2006.



Photo top right shows the volunteer group loading the quarter and "Spirit of the West" medallion for sale by the museum on this day. Identified are in front on the left is Karen Hopple and on the right is Karen Giancontieri, museum custodian.



Photo right center finds the crowd waiting in line in the hallway at the museum to get to the last room where the coin and "Spirit of teh West" medallion was being sold by the museum. This line appeared to be endless.

Photo bottom right shows that after purchasing and receiving the folder with the coin and "Spirit of the West" medallion, the line formed outside at the museum's parking lot waiting for the U.S. Post Office vehicle to come and date validate the coin's folder.

Pictured below is the Carson City High School Band which entertained the crowds with stirring music while awaiting the start of the morning's festivities.



She Never Stops

Former Carsonite Busy With Projects

By Staff Writers

Historian and Author Mimi Rodden was selected to witness the striking of Nevada's first quarter at the January 4, 2006 official ceremony held at the U.S. Mint in Denver, Colorado. Also attending the event was Nevada State Museum Curator Bob Nylen and selected Nevadans, representatives of the U.S. Mint Committee and certain dignitaries from Washington D.C. Mrs. Rodden served on Nevada's state-wide selection committee under the guidance of Nevada State Treasurer Brian Krolicki. She also participated in Nevada's ceremony in Carson City on January 31, 2006.

Mimi has a long and interesting history associated with Nevada's U.S. Mint and its historic coin press. She is singularly the person most responsible for getting the U.S. Mint, famous for its "CC" mint mark, in Carson City stabilized and reopened to the public.

The doors of the Carson City Mint were padlocked by the state on the evening of July 3, 1990 with little warning or information. The state was advised that code issues existed and was fearful of earthquake liability. Historic Preservation Specialist and well known structural engineer, Mel Green, was brought in to assess the issue of permanent closure and then the demolition of the famous western mint. It was demonstrated that with leading edge technology the historic building and the home of the famous Carson City dollar could indeed be made safer from earthquake hazards and therefore safer for public use.

After concerted efforts led by coin enthusiasts, *Coin World Newsletter*, historians and the general public, Mrs. Rodden, along with Senator Hal Smith and Assemblyman John Marvel as well as other legislators lobbied the legislature and secured funding for the renovation project. Following a fairly short process and analysis, expedited by specialized structural engineering work with state public works, the mint was reopened in 1992. Had the building remained padlocked and the restoration work not accomplished, our Nevada State Museum which is housed in the historic mint structure in our capitol city and the original home of the State Museum would be but a memory. The Carson City Mint restoration came in under budget and ahead of schedule. If the tremendous work of rehabilitation with some restoration had not been achieved another significant historic structure would have been lost forever.

Following the January 31st ceremonies in Carson City the new Nevada quarters were ready for general circulation.

Mimi Rodden, a native of Elko, lives in Boulder City and does historic preservation projects as consultant, is a public speaker, published author and avid historian. She was one of the founders of the volunteer Docent Council at the Nevada State Museum before moving to Boulder City. She has also been a long time member on the board of the mining museum in Tonopah, Nevada.

Excitement Builds for 14th Annual CC Mint Coin Show

Mark your calendar now for the 14th annual Carson City mint Coin show, scheduled for August 26-27, 2006, 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.

For the comfort and convenience of dealers and visitors, this year all 35 dealers will be inside the main building, utilizing both changing galleries, the auditorium and part of the upper middle gallery.

As in years past, the dealers are offering free appraisals, numismatic expertise, and quality merchandise for sale or trade. Families and "young numismatists" will enjoy panning for gold, discovering foreign coins in our treasure chest, and other exciting educational activities. Volunteers play a key role in the event.

The Carson City show is the only coin show in the country held in an historic mint. The Nevada State Museum takes pride in its heritage by operating the Historic Coin Press No. 1 throughout the event. Commemorative medallions and state quarter sets make memorable gifts!

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the fabulous prizes that will be raffled every hour on the hour; you need not be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please support this cause and encourage your friends to do so. The funds earned from the raffle support future educational programs, exhibits and projects at the museum. The following prizes will be on display in the museum lobby:

The Grand Prize is an historic framed photograph of the Carson City U.S. Mint building, ca. 1875 with an 1878 Uncirculated Morgan Silver Dollar in custom Nevada-shaped holder, valued at \$600.00 and 1882 CC choice Uncirculated Morgan Silver Dollar in GSA holder, valued at \$400.00. The total value of the prize with framing is over \$1,200.00. The prize is generously donated by Southgate Coins and Collectibles, owned by Rusty and Marie Goe.

One prize is an historic framed photograph of the Carson City U.S. Mint building, ca. 1900 with two replica 1889 Morgan "CC" Silver Dollars with one side showing the obverse and the other the reverse. Also included is the Nevada State Museum's 2006 State Seal Medallion. The medallion and replica coins were all minted on Historic Coin Press No. 1. This special prize was put together by the Nevada State Museum History Program for the 14th Annual Coin Show.

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

An Exhibition of Sheer Precision With **Strange Vibration, Deaf Sensation**

Notes from the Basement

I think drilling through concrete is the worst...or maybe the whine of the pipe threading machine. I can't decide. My brain has been skewered, my teeth shattered, my eardrums pounded—all in the name of progress.

Every employee here at the museum has had their share of retrofit woes, and we are looking forward to the completion of the new fire suppression system. I am sure our patient patrons will also welcome the end of strange vibrations and terrific noises radiating from every corner of the building. Once the plumbers, electricians and inspectors get out of here, we will all begin the recovery process (and prepare for the next huge construction project). I personally feel a few days at the spa/hot springs would do wonders for the entire NSM staff (all in favor, say aye).

This upset to routine in the form of Capital Improvement Projects has given us the perfect opportunity to update some exhibits. The historic Carson City Mint has been top on the list, beginning with new wood flooring to approximate what it may have been like in the late 1800's. Since then, plans have been laid for improvements throughout the mint and steady progress is being made in the Coin Press room, the Coin Vault, the Mint History room, the Main Hall, and the Silver room.

A stylish new railing system is in the works to surround the Coin Press. It will fit in with the look of the mint and incorporate new graphics, text, and possibly artifacts. The Coin Vault just off of the press room is getting an all-new look as well. Some of you may remember the unlikely raspberry pink color the interior of the vault. Pink be gone! The new vault interior actually looks like a vault. The Railroad Museum is working in collaboration with the NSM Exhibits program to manufacture a specialized display system for our wonderful Norm Biltz CC Coin Collection. A mechanism will rotate the coins to allow study of both sides. In addition, the new arrangement will allow for greater accessibility in a previously cramped space. While this system is being developed, the collection is on static display behind the vault bars.

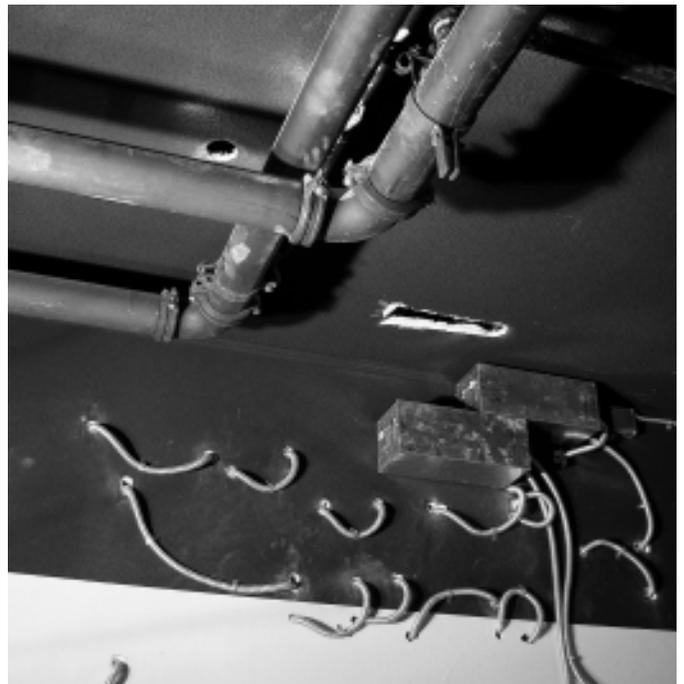
The outmoded displays in the Mint History room are getting a fresh new look. New materials and arrangements, larger text, and improved lighting will highlight the artifacts and make these cases much easier to navigate and enjoy. A case featuring a sample of CC coins and trade dollars has also been updated and moved from the Mint History room out into the Main Hall of the mint. This has allowed for greater accessibility and a much more open atmosphere in the Mint History room. New text and graphics panels are currently being produced as an introduction to the process of coining. These updated panels will replace one that currently hangs in the Mint History room and give this topic a new emphasis.

Finally, the museum's silver collection will shine with the changes made to the Silver Room. A whole new case is being made to feature the beautiful silver service of the USS Battleship Nevada and the older cases are getting revitalized with new mounts and text panels.

Look for the completion of the Mint renovations this summer. You can always plan on action and adventure with every visit to the Nevada State Museum.



The Pipe Threader



Pipes elbow their way into every corner.

*See you at the hot springs,
—Jeanette Dieges McGregor, Exhibits*

Tracing the "Roots" of Prehistoric Basketry

By Anthropology Staff

Gene Hattori, Curator of Anthropology at the Nevada State Museum, is part of a team of scientists and archaeologists conducting research on determining the origin of willow and tule used to make prehistoric basketry in the museum's archaeological collections. He is working with Dr. Larry Benson and Dr. Howard Taylor, U.S. Geological Survey, Dr. Simon Poulson, UNR, and Ph.D. candidate Edward Jolie, University of New Mexico.

Relative concentrations of isotopes for strontium (Sr-87 to Sr-86) and oxygen (O-18 to O-16) were obtained from rivers, lakes, plants, and ancient Nevada basketry to determine the feasibility of using trace element analysis on archaeological basketry. Dr. Benson and other colleagues used this method to determine that Ancestral Puebloan (Chaco Anasazi) corn found at Pueblo Bonito, New Mexico, was traded in from outlying areas to the west and northeast of that site.

The basis for tracing corn or for tracing plants used in basketry is the same. Strontium levels in water used by plants are influenced by the bedrock and sediments that the water flowed through. Water from Sierra Nevada drainages (Carson, Truckee and Walker rivers) largely flows through granite, while the Humboldt River largely flows through limestone. Each of these bedrocks has distinctive strontium concentrations, and these differences are maintained in the plants using water from these sources.

The oxygen isotope values reveal whether the plants grew in or adjacent to flowing river water versus water from terminal basin lakes and sinks. Water molecules comprised of O-18 are heavier than water comprised of O-16. Lighter water molecules evaporate more readily, leaving lake and sink waters with higher concentrations of water with the heavier isotope. Plants break down the water molecules and incorporate these oxygen isotopes into their cellular structure.

Although only 10 specimens were tested for this phase of the study some surprising results were revealed. Willow bas-



Edward Jolie (left) and Larry Benson (right) sampling Carson River water and plants below Fort Churchill.

ketry and the tule matting from Charles Brown Cave at Winnemucca Lake, formerly fed by the Truckee River, was made from plants that grew along the Humboldt River 38 miles to the east. Similarly, matting from Lovelock Cave on the Humboldt Sink, was made from tules grown along the Carson River 32 miles to the south or the Truckee River 42 miles southwest of Lovelock Cave.

Information from these and future analyses will be used in reconstructing prehistoric tribal boundaries, trade routes, and the Sierra drainage. The closest sources would have been the Carson River 32 miles to the south or the Truckee River 42 miles southwest of Lovelock Cave.

Preliminary results from their study will be published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Coming Events

June 27—The Arts and Crafts Movement: Inspirations for Contemporary Basketmakers, by Dr. Kay Fowler of the University of Nevada, Reno.

July 25 — American Basketry: A Living Tradition, by Mary Lee Fulkerson.

August 22 — 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. Museum members receive free admission. The Loftin Park 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

May 10—Altoona at Work: An Era of Steam, by Peter Barton.

June 21—Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West, by Michael Makely.

July 12—Tarnished Legacy: the Story of the Comstock Lode by Ellen Hopkins.

Spirit of the West Medallion

The Spirit of the West medallion commemorating the release of Nevada's quarter by the U.S. Mint on January 31, 2006 has been a tremendous success. Museum volunteer Karen Hopple came up with the idea for the project and local artist Margery Hall Marshall designed the medallion. The package includes the .999 fine silver medallion and an uncirculated Nevada Quarter from the Denver Mint. The set is a numbered, limited edition, and a total of 2,006 will be minted. The Spirit of the West set sells for \$50.00 plus handling and shipping. The set has been so popular that there are only about 600 still available. We have had people request the Spirit of the West set from all over the country from Florida, New York, Illinois, and Kansas. To order a set call the Museum Store at 687-4810, ext. 234.





NSM Friends Rilla Douglas, Jean Grinold, Louise Inman and many other hands did a fantastic job on the assembly line for the Nevada Quarter sets being sold through the museum store. The sets sell for \$10.00 and are still available at the museum store. Sets include mint-quality quarters from both the Denver and Philadelphia mints. The original sets were sold out on opening day ceremonies.

New Exhibit Opens

(Continued from Page 1)

into a more contemporary basket of their own unique design. Advanced registration and fee are required. For more information, contact Eileen Brilliant at 530-544-5145 or abrilliantidea@cs.com.

More summer basketry fun follows:

June 8: 1:00-3:00 p.m.; Pine Needle Basketmaking demonstration by the Great Basin Basketmakers; for more information call Cheryl Bennett at 775-852-5090. Regular admission fee; members, free.

June 17: 9:00 a.m.-4 p.m.; *Reed Basketmaking Workshop* by Letitia Kendrick, co-sponsored by the Great Basin Basketmakers; limited enrollment, pre-registration required; fee required. For more information, contact Eileen Brilliant, 530-544-5145 or abrilliantidea@cs.com.

July 13: 1:00-3:00 p.m.: *Making an Antler Basket*, demonstration by the Great Basin Basketmakers, for more information call Cheryl Bennett at 775-852-5090. Regular admission, members free.

July 15: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: *Mini Basket Workshop* by Karen Rosselli, co-sponsored by the Great Basin Basketmakers; limited enrollment, pre-registration required; fee required. For more information, contact Eileen Brilliant, 530-544-5145 or abrilliantidea@cs.com.

Interwoven: Visions of the Great Basin Basketmakers continues in the Changing Gallery through August 7, 2006. Don't miss it!



Drs. Marilyn J. Horn Bohmont and Dale W. Bohmont

Textile Center

Dr. Horn, Dr. Bohmont Leave Gift to Center

When reading the paper a month or so ago, I was shocked to see that Dr. Dale Bohmont had passed away. Dr. Bohmont and his late wife, Dr. Marilyn Horn Bohmont have provided the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center with financial support for the past five years. It was however, approximately fifteen years ago that the Bohmonts originally approached the Center about developing a taxonomy of dress, using it to classify clothing and textile artifacts and then featuring each object online.

At that time, the Center was unable to fulfill their wishes and it wasn't until six years ago, that we were able to use computer technology to achieve their long term goal of photographing and cataloging our objects. We have now photographed over a thousand artifacts and we have developed an online virtual exhibition. The Bohmonts have generously purchased the Center's computer and have funded our employees who have made this project possible: Christine Farlow, Diane Underwood, Mary Ellen Klette, and Sandy Marshall.

As part of the Horn Bohmont's granting requirements, I submitted our progress and our goals in a written report every six months. This past December when I gave him my report, Dr. Bohmont told me that their Foundation had voted to continue to fund this project for the next five years! I was quite surprised, as we had been on a six month renewal basis. As I look back, he must have known that his health was declining and he wanted me to know that his gift would continue. I told him our computerization project would be complete in three years and the balance of his gift would be used for clothing and textile exhibitions.

It is our goal to develop an exhibition of wedding dresses and name this exhibition after my mentor and UNR professor, his wife Dr. Marilyn J. Horn Bohmont. This exhibition is on the Museum's calendar for 2010.—*Jan Loverin, curator of the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center*

Among Our Exhibits

With Jack Gibson

One of the more historical exhibits in the Nevada Gallery has to do with the Chinese population in early Nevada, why they were here and what they accomplished.

It was the building of the Central Pacific over the Sierras and across Nevada and into Utah that brought them to this state. When the railroad started building east from Sacramento they had many labor problems, especially when they started up into the Sierras. The project ahead of them was almost insurmountable. They faced labor problems because of the difficult work in getting over the Sierras, consisting of mostly granite and other hard materials.

The labor problem was helped somewhat when they hired a few Chinese laborers from San Francisco, and found that they were valiant workers. They then decided to import Chinese workers from China. The workers formed into teams, and one member had the task of boiling water and making tea for the crew. This prevented much of the dysentery encountered by other workers.

Blasting into the granite was hard work, and the Chinese worked from huge baskets suspended over the edge, drilling holes, placing dynamite, lighting it and then being hauled rapidly up and out of the way. When it came to the summit tunnel progress from each end was measured in feet a day. The Chinese drilled down from the top and that formed four working faces to speed up the work. Needless to say, many Chinese workers were killed in getting over the Sierras.

Once into Nevada the work progressed rapidly. Chinese laborers began to be laid off from the job, forming enclaves of small Chinese communities across Nevada. At that time, Carson City had the largest Chinese enclave in the state. When the Virginia & Truckee was ready to build from Carson City to Virginia City, they had a professional railroad building crew residing in town.

Other communities across Nevada had settlements of Chinese, such as Reno, Lovelock, Winnemucca, and points east. What we have on display here is the Winnemucca Chinatown. Both it and the artifact adjoining to the left from the Carson City Joss house were part of an exhibit on Chinese that the museum formerly had. It opened on a Friday night, and on the next day two bus loads of Chinese members of the Chinese Historical Society from San Francisco came to town to view it. I followed one group, and when they came to the Winnemucca Chinatown this one fellow studied it for a minute and then said to the others, "See that little red house over there on the left? That is the house I was born in."

The next week I was there witnessing three Chinese, an elderly woman, her daughter, and the granddaughter. The elderly woman was reading the Chinese characters on the Carson City Joss House Altar to her daughter in Chinese who in turn was translating it to the granddaughter in English. And me without a tape recorder! The Joss House artifact was brought to the museum when the last Chinese resident died in Carson's Chinatown by Carson's Sheriff Harold Brooks and workers who retrieved it and brought it to the museum at that time.

Enjoy your visit to the museum and especially to the gallery of Nevada History, which starts with the "birth" of the state and ends on the minute you exit the gallery.

Our Chinatown Exhibits



Carson's Chinatown Joss House Altar



Winnemucca Chinatown

Both photos by SueAnn Monteleone



Come Visit

The Nevada State Museum Store.

The Carson City Mint's very own "Spirit of the West"
commemorative medallion in honor of Nevada's State Quarter.

Peruse our new Spring and Summer items including

Native American baskets and jewelry;

Western style gifts and novelties;

Kids projects and educational games, coloring books, and novels;

Books ranging from History to Natural History;

Prints, posters

and much more.

Open Daily: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

600 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

775-687-4810 x234