



# NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 3

AUGUST 2006

## Two Exceptional Events Planned . . .

### Coin Show August 26-27

The 14th Annual Carson City Mint Coin Show, scheduled for August 26-27, 2006 at the Nevada State Museum will have something new this year—educational exhibits! Ken Hopple of the Reno Coin Club, a volunteer who operates the historic Coin Press No. 1 at NSM, is organizing the exhibits. One display will feature the cleaning and restoration of cancelled coin dies, discovered on the grounds of NSM while excavating the parking lot. Other exhibits include *California Gold: an Answer to a Pinch* and *Counterfeit Gold Detectors of the 1800s*.

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. Coin Press No. 1 will mint a special .999 fine silver *Spirit of the West* Medallion, designed by Margery Hall-Marshall, and packaged with the newly released Nevada quarter. Commemorative medallions and state quarter sets make memorable gifts!

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 34 dealers will be inside the main building, utilizing both changing galleries, the auditorium and part of the upper middle gallery. As in year's 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. The Reno Coin Club will have a table upstairs with information for "young numismatists" on how to get started in the hobby and literature about the American Numismatic Association (ANA). Free items from the U.S. Mint will be available in the Coin Press area.

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the fabulous raffle prizes that will be awarded every hour on the hour; you need not be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Funds earned from the raffle support future educational programs, exhibits and projects at the museum.

The Grand Prize is an historic framed photograph of the Carson City U.S. Mint building, ca. 1875 with an 1878 CC Uncirculated Morgan Silver Dollar in custom Nevada-shaped holder, valued at \$600 and an 1882 CC choice Uncirculated Morgan Silver Dollar in GSA holder, valued at \$400. The total value of the prize with framing is over \$1200. The prize is generously donated by Rusty and Marie Goe of Southgate Coins, a Silver Sponsor.

The *Nevada Appeal* is our Gold Sponsor. Other sponsors

## You're Invited!

### 2006 Tin Cup Tea & Chuck Wagon BBQ

Tickets go on sale for \$45 beginning August 14 for the event at the Governor's Mansion, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Watch for your invitation or contact Holly Austin at the museum: 775-687-4810 ext. 222 or [hjaustin@clan.lib.nv.us](mailto:hjaustin@clan.lib.nv.us).

Nevada's First Lady Dema Guinn invites you to kick up your heels at the 2006 Tin Cup Tea and Chuck Wagon BBQ.

The annual benefit, now in its seventh year, celebrates Nevada's western heritage. The 2006 celebration marks the last time the Governor and Mrs. Guinn host the Tin Cup Tea.



Nevada's First Lady  
Dema Guinn

The First Lady initiated the event for the benefit of the Nevada State Museum in Carson City and the W. M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum at Mackay School of Earth Science and Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno. Both museums engage audiences in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage.

Last year, nine hundred people viewed exhibits, toured the mansion, made bids on unique auction treasures, danced to the music of David John and the Comstock Cowboys, and indulged in a western BBQ — all within the beautiful setting of the Governor's Mansion. The 2005 Tin Cup Tea raised \$74,000 for exhibits, educational programs, and collections at the two museums. This year Mrs. Guinn has set the goal at \$100,000.

If you wish to become a sponsor and join the "Tin Cup Tea Outlaws," please call director Jim Bamore at 775-687-4810 ext. 226 or [jbamore@clan.lib.nv.us](mailto:jbamore@clan.lib.nv.us). Sponsors receive prominent recognition during the evening.

include Marv McQueary Excavating, Mission Industries, Camelot Party Rentals, and the Carson City Nugget.

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



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The museum is an agency of the

**State of Nevada**

Kenny Guinn

*Governor*

**Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs**

Scott K. Sisco

*Interim Department Director*

**Division of Museums and**

**History**

Wally Steffan

*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](http://www.NevadaCulture.org)

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# BIG

# EVENTS

# Are Coming

# Up

*See Page One*

*Call and invite your friends NOW!*

## Page Three

# News from the Department of Cultural Affairs

By **SCOTT SISCO**  
Department Director

It's been a bumpy road trying to build a connecting building between the Nevada State Museum and the new North Building. Not only is that building designed to connect the Old Mint and the Museum's North Building together as one complex, it is also intended to resolve the long standing issue of access for disabled visitors to the Museum. Since the original support was given for the project by the Governor in 2004, we've lost the project, revived it, lost it again, revived it again, lost it a third time, and once again revived it. We of course hope this last revival will stick.

The main problem of course is responding to hyper-inflated construction costs that are affecting Nevada and the rest of the country. Not only are concrete, steel, and plastic prices going through the roof, but construction growth itself is exceeding the availability of reputable companies to bid on these projects. As a result, fewer bidders mean even higher prices. As of the last bid opening, the project costs were somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.4 million over budget—and increasing at the rate of 1.5% for each month that the project is delayed. Public Works Officials, the project Architect, and I met with the Governor June 23rd, and developed a plan to put in a request to the 2008/2009 Capitol Improvement Program (CIP) to cover the shortfall, including the anticipated costs for inflation between now and the start of the project. As part of the proposal, if we are successful in obtaining the funding, the project would be at the front of the list and ready to go forward once funded in July of 2007.

The Nevada State Museum isn't the only Department construction project that has us running around in circles trying to keep the project going. The new Las Vegas museum being planned to be built on the Las Vegas Springs Preserve site is also experiencing its own inflationary dilemma. The new museum, originally cost-estimated back in 2001, is also experiencing 15% inflation per month. As may be surmised, there has been a lot of months in between 2001, when the project was first approved, and 2006. We're certainly working on a plan to get the shell of the building completed, leaving the interior and exhibits to be built contingent on a special funding request in the beginning of the next Legislative session. Stay tuned for more information on this important project.

We continue to keep a lot of balls in the air. From finalizing the agreement crafted by Senator Mark Amodei and the Legislative Council Bureau's Legal Council Brenda Erdos that allows the Railroad Museum to finish the restoration on the McKean Motor Car, which will allow us to preserve this historically significant artifact for Nevada's citizens, to coordinating the artist selection process for an artist to paint the official Governor's Portrait, to starting a brand new site stewardship program in Las Vegas so the State Historical Preservation Office can save historic landmarks in southern Nevada, the Department continues to move cultural efforts forward throughout the state.

Although actually started back in April, the real work of building the 2008/2009 Agency Budget Requests begins in earnest this month. Staff from Fiscal folks who'll put in a

earnest this month. Staff from Fiscal folks who'll put in a substantial number of hours for each and every week to September 1st, to program managers and many other employees are all meeting the many deadlines associated with this process.

I know I've missed many significant areas and issues from throughout the Department, but this touches on just a few of the many behind-the-scenes issues that the Department's Administrative staff are working on so that our many agencies and programs can continue to provide the finest services to Nevada citizens and visitors.

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## *RR Fun on the Fourth of July Weekend*

At least ten steam and mechanical motive power units arrived at the Nevada State Railroad Museum for the Fourth of July four-day weekend. Much of it was operational for the entire four days. Steam three-foot gauge locomotives, standard gauge motor power-equipment and a variety of small equipment that found a necessity on a railroad.



Dan Markoff of Las Vegas brought his *Eureka*, 36-inch gauge steamer originally from the Eureka & Palisade RR. Still burns wood.



This little gem was originally used in a stone quarry. Being kid-sized, it drew a large attendance right where it was parked.

—Both photos by Jack Gibson

## A Nevada Stylist

# Your Denim Jeans Are a Nevada Invention

By JAN LOVERIN, Curator

Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Center

On May 20, 2006, the city of Reno acknowledged a little known tailor, who changed how the world dresses. Jacob Davis, a Latvian immigrant, was indeed the genius behind placing copper rivets onto trousers. Known today as Levi's, the concept of securing pockets of trousers to the garment itself was Davis' idea. He set up his tailor shop on S. Virginia Street in 1870 and in December he was approached by a woman wanting to order a pair of trousers for her husband, who was a woodcutter. Davis was aware of difficulties workers had in acquiring sturdy work clothes. As he stitched up the trousers, he decided to secure the pockets with some copper rivets he had sitting on the table. The woman paid Davis \$3 for the pair.

Several months later, Davis had orders for more and more pair of these copper riveted trousers. In 1871 he decided he needed to secure a patent for his idea and he approached his dry goods merchant, Levi Strauss of San Francisco to be his partner. Strauss, a German immigrant, was the purveyor of fabrics and miscellaneous goods. On May 20, 1873 the US patent office granted both men Patent Number 139,121 for a Fastening Pocket Opening.

One hundred and thirty years later to the day, Jacob Davis was honored in a celebration in downtown Reno. The streets were closed off, members of the City Council were in attendance, and Historic Resources Commissioner Sally Ramm opened the ceremony by introducing Jacob Davis' great grandson, Frank Davis and family. The ceremony continued with the introduction of Ann Morgan Campbell, former Chief of the San Bruno branch of the National Archives, whose 1974 article in the Nevada Historical Society's Quarterly revealed Jacob Davis and the Reno connections. Lynn Downy, curator of history at the Levi Strauss Co., presented the oldest known levis in the world. Then a letter from the Latvian ambassador was read and Nevada State Archivist Guy Rocha spoke about identifying the actual location of Davis' tailor shop.

Many local historians had known about Jacob Davis' remarkable invention, but none of us knew the exact location of the site. Rocha, using the Paris Sanborn fire map city directories and plat maps was free to determine that Davis' shop was located between 2nd and Commercial Row on the west side of Virginia Street. The site is now marked with a lovely blue brass plaque in the shape of a pocket with the following inscription:

## From the Editor's Notebook

Have you ever had a desire to get another copy of the *News-Letter* or just a page or article in it. It's no secret that the internet has it all. I found it quite easy for me, inexperienced in this kind of thing, but click, click, click and there it is! Try it yourself, and it you can make it happen, don't blame me, just look in a mirror. Enter: NevadaCulture.org, then go to Dept. Happenings and click on Newsletters. And there is the list by years and months. What ever you want, just click on. Hey, I don't put it there but the disc containing each issue of the *Newsletter* is taken to the State Library, and their personnel posts it on the internet.



New officers of the Friends for the ensuing year are, left to right, D.D. Spencer, treasurer; Jean Grinolds, secretary; Kathleen Borchers, vice chairman; and Michelle La Fontaine, chairman.

## Thank You, Friends of the NSM

The museum acknowledged significant contributions of the Friends of the Nevada State Museum at the well-attended appreciation luncheon May 8 at Pinon Plaza Casino Resort. Friends contributed funds for special projects last year and volunteered thousands of hours assisting all areas of museum operations, including the museum store, education programs, exhibits, special events, and collections.

The occasion served as the Friends annual membership meeting. Outgoing board chair, Marge Sasso and other trustees were thanked for their dedicated service. New officers were installed, including the chair, Michelle LaFontaine.

The museum and Friends began another year working together preserving and celebrating Nevada's heritage.

# Day of the Dead Celebration Set For Nov. 4

By DEBORAH STEVENS

The Education Program is pleased to celebrate El Dia de Muertos or Day of the Dead from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, 2006. Day of the Dead is a multicultural celebration of life through death, with a target audience of Latinos from northern Nevada. In this wholesome family holiday, participants learn to deal with death in a healthy way by celebrating the lives of dear ones that have passed away. Building on successful multicultural programming over the past two years, Day of the Dead supports our strategic planning goal of cultivating diverse audiences through fun, family activities. The holiday has become very popular in recent years and is celebrated in schools, homes, community centers and museums in all 50 states.

Day of the Dead is a very tender holiday where relatives remember and honor deceased loved ones with great warmth, affection, and respect. Special exhibits, called *ofrendas*, are set up with a display of memorabilia from a departed loved one. This may include a photo of the person, samples of their favorite foods, symbols of activities they loved, and bright yellow flowers. A typical bread called *pan de muerto* is abundantly displayed during the festival. Sugar skulls are decorated and fancy paper cut-outs add color to the tables.

The Nevada State Museum's Day of the Dead celebration begins at 1:00 p.m. with a lecture entitled, *What is the Day of the Dead and How is it Celebrated?* The lecture by Dr. Carlos Romo of Truckee Meadows Community College will explain the history of the holiday, its origins, and how it is celebrated in the United States and Mexico. Exhibits by local families honoring departed loved ones will be on display in the South Changing Gallery, along with Bread of the Dead (*pan de muerto*), cut paper decorations, and folkloric figurines. Visitors may also view a video showing how the festival is celebrated in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Enjoy crafts for the whole family upstairs in the auditorium, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Visitors can decorate sugar skulls



Decorating sugar skulls will be part of the fun at *Day of the Dead* on November 4.

calaveras de azucar), cut fancy paper designs (*papel picado*), fashion a folklore figure, make paper flowers, or paint a maraca to take home. Bilingual volunteers will be available to assist children of all ages. Sponsors include the Nevada Art Council's Folklife Program, the Latino Parents Committee, Sierra Bakery, Truckee Meadows Community College, and Carson City Citizen Outreach.

Sugar skulls are a symbol, which serves as a way to soften or sweeten the harshness of death and its effect on loved ones. El Dia de Muertos reminds us in a gentle way that death is always with us, even as we go about our daily activities. No one will live forever; therefore every family has been touched by the loss of a relative, friend or pet. Even the death of a favorite movie star, athlete, or musician can be hard on a devoted fan. The skeletons are humorous, so they help us "lighten up" and live life to its fullest. For example, one might remember things the dearly departed ones enjoyed doing, the way they laughed, or the way they made us laugh.

## NSM Offers Tour Guide Training

The Education Program offers a free, four-day volunteer tour guide training program, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., September 26-29, 2006. The training covers basic interpretive skills and museum education theory, and prepares volunteers to give tours to adults, children and family groups. This fall the focus will be on the Historic Carson City Mint with its newly remodeled exhibits. History Curator Robert Nylen, and Exhibits Manager Ray Geiser, will explain improvements to the Historic Carson City Mint exhibits and how to better interpret the displays.

According to Curator of Education Deborah Stevenson, "being a volunteer tour guide is a fun way to give something back to the community." Working as a tour guide is a great way to meet interesting people and to learn more about Nevada's fascinating geology, plants and animals, history and culture. Enrichment programs throughout the year make the experience memorable. This summer the docents visited museums in Carson Valley and Genoa, Thunderbird Lodge at Lake Tahoe, and Bower's Mansion in Washoe Valley.

## A Gift from Newmont Mining



Kent Pearce, geologist from Newmont Mining Corporation, presented Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education, with a beautiful calcite crystal on June 6, 2006. Newmont also donated stibnite, pyrite and marcasite crystals, plus gossan and refractory (carbon) high-grade gold ore for the education program. With the help of intern, Alexia Sober, and other devoted volunteers, the museum is developing hands-on geology programs using minerals and fossils.





This male Sage Grouse is part of the taxidermy recently donated to the Nevada State Museum by the family of Walter D. Brown

## Natural History Thanks the Family of Walter D. Brown

By George D. Baumgardner, Ph.D.  
Curator of Natural History

In February of this year, the Natural History Program of the Nevada State Museum received four well-crafted taxidermy mounts. These animals were donated by the family of the late Walter D. Brown who was an avid sportsman from Reno.

These mounts are a fine addition to our collections and include life-sized specimens of Hungarian Partridge, Sage Grouse and a Bobcat capturing a Chucker. As you may be aware, the museum's natural history displays are currently in storage to allow for building construction. This renovation is allowing us to redesign our exhibits, and I am confident these specimens will find homes in our new exhibits or educational programs.

Mr. Brown's sister, Laura Robertson, and father, Gene H. Brown, felt that he would have wanted the people of Nevada to benefit from being able to see his animals, and we thank his family for thinking of the museum.

## Items Taken From the Editor's Notebook

It's time to find a new address for the print shop taking care of the *Nevada State Museum Newsletter*. It isn't that it'll be a new printer; it's just that the shop has moved to a new location at 411 Hot Springs Road #4.

When I took over as editor back in autumn of 1982, the shop I used was just across the street in back of the museum. In shopping around for a better financial deal for the museum, we found Creative Copies out on Highway 50, and for many, many years they printed the *Newsletter* on schedule. But times change, and Creative Copies merged with Utt Printing on Carson Street, but the deal was still the same. Now, Utt Printing has moved, and I'll just have to get use to another location for printing the *Newsletter*, though the personnel will be the same. Jim Wing is the printer that has handled the *Newsletter* for us all those years.

## Good Bye, Roz



It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the sudden death of Roz Works, former Administrative Assistant with the Nevada State Museum's Anthropology program. Roz retired from the museum two years ago after 13 years of dedicated service. In her retirement, Roz enjoyed spending time with friends and family, and especially spoiling her four, young grandchildren. Roz's enthusiasm and keen sense of humor, including her spontaneous outbursts into Broadway tunes and dances, will be missed by her NSM colleagues and friends.

## Letter From the Governor To the Staff and Volunteers

Dear Mr. Barmore:

I recently learned that the Nevada State Museum in Carson City was awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums. This is a great honor for Nevada and a compliment to you and your staff for the excellent management of this center of learning.

I am aware of the stringent requirements to be named to this distinguished list of accredited museums, and am very pleased that Nevada's State Museum met those standards. Having the stewardship and responsibility of providing a facility that will enhance the education of Nevada's children and adults, and preserve our history is a monumental challenge, and it has been met admirably.

Your impressive efforts have increased our pride in our state and communities, and will continue to have a positive effect on generations of school children. We are indebted to all those who have brought this project to fruition, and congratulate everyone involved in the process.

Sincerely,  
KENNY C. GUINN  
Governor

# Among Our Exhibits

*With Jack Gibson*

The burst in silver mining in and around Virginia City had grown tremendous amounts, and with that it was found necessary to establish lines to get supplies up the mountain to the camp. The first necessity was transportation and this was solved with the building of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad from Carson City to Virginia City, along the Carson River and then up the mountain through Gold Hill and into the mining district.

There was also the necessity of lumber for building in the city, and as we'll see, lumber for enabling mining to continue on its gigantic scale.

The largest excavation was the mine directly under Virginia City, producing enormous amounts of wealth, but causing considerable worry about the city collapsing into the underground mine. So the problem was turned over to a German engineer, Mr. Philip Diedsheimer, who pondered over it and then came up with the solution. It included tremendous amounts of heavy timbers, notched and fit together to support the ceiling of the mine, and which could be extended as the mine developed further.

Today Virginia City still sits above the huge cavernous mine supported by the countless heavy timbers that were designed to do the job, though the mining under the city has long ceased.

Along the mine tour under the museum building (you are not underground but the building was raised for the most part so that a large deep basement would not be necessary in the early years of the mints existence) you will come to this exhibit of the timbering holding up Virginia City.

To supply all the material it was necessary to have a virtual foolproof supply of trees, which the forests surrounding Lake Tahoe provided. This, in its production, included three saw mills at Glenbrook, two steam launches to guide log rafts to the mills, a later purchased steam boat to facilitate getting around the lake as well as carrying freight, and a further and last steamer to haul passengers, mail and freight. All of this activity ceased in about 1935 with the building of the highway surrounding the lake.

In addition a narrow gauge railroad was built from Glenbrook up the mountains to a summit meadows where a small dam was built. Here the manufactured lumber was dumped from the train into the pond and then sent down a large flume to Carson City. As it entered the flat land the flume split into two sections and certain timbers were sent to one of four locations, two on each side of the branch flume. Here the lumber was dumped from the flume onto the ground. Virginia & Truckee tracks were on both sides of each flume extension, and the lumber was then loaded onto flat cars for destinations, most often Virginia City, but fire wood for the many mills extracting the ore along the way.

So when you take a look at this model on the mine tour of how Virginia City was held up above the tremendous underground pit below it, also think of the efforts that it took to get the timbers there and the ingenious workers that did it.

When I look at this model, and you can do it too, think about this: did an ingenious inventor visit the Nevada State Museum, see the exhibit mentioned, and Lincoln Logs for youngsters soon became a hit on the market?



—Photo by Jack Gibson

Exhibit showing how the wooden beams were holding up the mine roof under Virginia City while the ore was extracted. Such wooden beams are still in place doing what they were intended to do.

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## Message From the Museum Director, Jim Barmore

I'm very pleased to announce, the Accreditation Commission of the American Association of Museums has once again recognized the Nevada State Museum's professional excellence and granted re-accreditation! The prestigious status certifies an ongoing commitment to high standards by the museum and Department of Cultural Affairs. Professional standards and public education are near and dear to staff, Friends, and volunteers. Congratulations to all those who care so much and work so hard to make the museum so great!

To retain accreditation, the commission requires extensive review every ten years or so. The museum was up for renewal. Over the past three years, the museum has undergone a rigorous process of self study by museum staff and assessment by professional peers. A final report was submitted to the Accreditation Commission last January. The commission made a final determination in early April.

The commission initially granted accreditation to the museum in 1972. Accreditation came just one year after the national program was established. This official stamp of approval certified the museum's compliance with professionally accepted practices. The museum was the first in Nevada to receive such status. Since then, the museum has maintained accreditation, placing the museum in a very select group. Out of 17,500 museums in the country, only 775 are currently accredited by the American Association of Museums. Only 7% of accredited museums are multi-disciplinary museums, such as the Nevada State Museum. Only 8% of accredited museums are operated by state governments. The Nevada Historical Society in Reno and the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas, both within the Department of Cultural Affairs, are also accredited.

# It's Summer at the Nevada State Museum Store!

We have a new line of **hats** and **t-shirts** to keep you **cool**,  
**Native American** made **jewelry** to keep you looking **cool**,  
**Cool books** to read, color or just look through  
and really **cool projects** and **games** for kids of all ages .

For **cool** new **gift** ideas,  
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