



Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs — Division of Museums and History

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2006

Thank You Governor and First Lady for the Tin Cup Tea Tradition!



Governor Kenny Guinn and First Lady Dema Guinn hosted their last Tin Cup Tea and Chuck Wagon BBQ September 9 at the Governor's Mansion. The 7th annual celebration of Nevada's western heritage raised funds for the Nevada State Museum and the W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum at UNR.

The uniquely Nevada experience surpassed all previous records. Over 1,200 people filled the mansion grounds. Guests, outfitted in western attire, tapped their toes to music of David John and the Comstock Cowboys, indulged in a generous buffet compliments of Boomtown, took in the exhibits and mansion tours, and made their best bids in the silent and live auctions. The governor's live auction performance was a highlight of the evening. John Tyson entertained the crowd as M.C.

A special moment came with the donation of Mrs. Guinn's inaugural ball gown. The gown joins a series of gowns contributed by previous Nevada First Ladies conserved at the

Photo courtesy of the Nevada Appeal, Brad Horn photographer
Dema Guinn donating her gown to the museum's collection

museum's Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center. Visitors may see the gown up close in the museum's changing gallery.

A surprise for everyone occurred when the Guinns announced a \$25,000 gift, commemorating the Tin Cup Tea. The donation helped set a new all time fund-raising record, significantly surpassing the goal for the evening. Over \$90,000 was raised. One half goes towards exhibits, educational programs, and collections at the Nevada State Museum. The evening was magic. Support for Nevada's heritage was phenomenal!

The museum thanks the organizing committee, sponsors, and donors for their hard work and generosity. Above all, the museum thanks the Governor and Mrs. Guinn for opening up their home and extending their support (*Continued on page 3*)



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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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

Views of the Past . . .



On October 31, 2006, the Nevada State Museum marked the 65th Anniversary of the opening of the museum to the public for the first time. Many people from Carson City and other parts of the state came on Nevada Day to watch the parade and also to see the newly remodeled Carson City Mint, which took two years of effort by the WPA workers and workers hired by Major Max Fleischmann. The museum that first day was crowded all day. Judge Clark J. Guild and many others supported the idea of converting the historic mint into a museum. The Carson City Mint is still filling that dream of providing a great museum for the citizens of Nevada.

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News from the Department of Cultural Affairs

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

As I write this, most of the fiscal year and program management staff within the Department are just beginning to recuperate from the last few weeks of preparing the budget request for the next biennium. The whole process starts back in February and culminates in about the final six weeks of working straight through to meet the submittal deadline of September 1. For the Department of Cultural Affairs, this means the production of detailed publications around 4,500 to 5,000 pages in length.

Although always one of our most difficult and resource-intensive tasks, the budget building process often results in some very valuable plans and strategies for future operation of the Department. One of the planning documents produced over the last month was an update to the Nevada Southern Railway Business Plan. Having two actual years of operation to analyze, as well as the ability to look at both what has worked and what didn't work over those years, has resulted in a very comprehensive plan, schedule and budget to direct the operation. We look forward to seeing this project firmly on track with this updated plan now in place.

Another fairly intensive component of the budget process is the State Public Works Board Capital Improvement Program. This program determines where the State invests in maintaining, expanding, remodeling, and building existing and new state buildings. State agencies must first submit their initial requests by the first week in April. Working with the Public Works Board staff, agencies then fine-tune their program descriptions, costs and justifications, culminating in a presentation to sell the project to the Board in late August.

The Department put substantial efforts into preparing for this presentation, and as a result, has the top two listed projects on the final recommended list that will go to the Governor. Those projects include funding the construction shortfalls for both the Nevada State Museum's new connecting building, and the new Las Vegas museum being built at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve site. Also included in the recommendations is the remodel of the old Las Vegas museum building to meet other needs for the Department, funding for re-roofing the Railroad Museum Annex building, sprinkler and alarm systems for both the Railroad Museum in Carson City and Ely, as well as paving work for the Nevada State Museum.

The Department has many other wonderful events to also celebrate. The Governor's Seventh Annual Tin Cup Tea and Chuckwagon Barbeque held September 9 was definitely the most successful ever. With a record setting 1,200-plus guests in attendance, the Governor and Mrs. Guinn held their final fund raiser at the Governor's Mansion for the Nevada State Museum and the W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum. We all owe the Governor and Mrs. Guinn a debt of gratitude for not only coming up with the idea, but also for all the work and efforts they've put into the last seven years of hosting these fund raising events. All told, over \$350,000 has been raised for these two important facilities through the Governor's Tin Cup Tea. We certainly hope the new occupant of the mansion will be as generous in hold-

ing this event as the Guinn's have been.

Just a brief mention, the new Las Vegas Museum development is also moving forward. Plans have been delivered to the Clark County Building Inspection Department, and ground-breaking is expected next month. If everything goes as planned, the museum will have its grand opening in July of 2008. This new museum will be part of the Springs Preserve campus and will be just one of eight cultural experiences available to visitors on the site.

Please visit the Department of Cultural Affairs website at www.NevadaCulture.org to learn more about all that is culturally available within this great State.

Message From the Museum Director, Jim Barmore

The museum is about all people in Nevada. The museum is for all people.

Serving diverse audiences is a fundamental purpose of the museum. Our mission statement articulates this purpose: "The Nevada State Museum engages diverse audiences in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage." Behind the scenes we collect and document collections representing the heritage of all people. We conserve these collections for audiences today and those hundreds of years from now. We present heritage to broad audiences by offering a variety of exhibits, education programs, publications, and research services.

Our programs and services are here for everyone, but not everyone participates for one reason or another. So, we create special opportunities to draw new audiences, striving to make the museum relevant and enjoyable for all groups.

This fall we're unveiling a package of special activities highlighting Latino heritage. A traveling exhibit opens in our changing gallery called *Viva la Revolucion! The Money of the Mexican Revolution*. The exhibit complements our exhibits on numismatics and the Carson City mint. Patrons may chose between English or Spanish exhibit text. Saturday, November 4, we'll offer the *Day of the Dead* multicultural celebration. Later this fall, we're initiating audio tours of our long-term *Nevada History* and *Under One Sky* exhibits. All will benefit from these hand-held listening devices; however, those still learning the English language will enjoy a Spanish version audio tour.

We know our regular visitors will enjoy these new programs. We hope to see some new faces too!

Tin Cup Tea

(Continued from page 1)

for heritage education. Hundreds of thousands of visitors from Nevada and visitors to our state and ten thousand school children a year benefit from their support. Thank you for celebrating Nevada's identity, for the memories, and for the Tin Cup Tea tradition – a tradition we hope continues next year with our new governor.

First There Was the Coin Show



Visitors learn about numismatics at the 14th Annual Carson City Mint Coin Show



Cliff Dunseth, member of the Friends of NSM, staffs a table for the Museum Store.



The Reno Coin Club was available to introduce newcomers to the coin collecting hobby.



A young volunteer prepares to draw the winning ticket for the Grand Prize while Deborah Stevenson advises him to stir 'em up good."



Dave Shipman of the museum's staff shows some "young numismatists" the art of panning for gold.



Deborah Stevenson, Coin Show Coordinator, awards the Grand Prize to Doug Daniels of Marathon Ltd., whose dog Enzo had the winning ticket.

And Then Came the Tin Cup Tea



First things first upon entering — find your tin cup among 1200 others!



Then find a table for your group.



Fine western music was provided during the evening. The group was called David John and Comstock Cowboys.



The Governor stopped to speak to anyone and all. Getting a point across.

All photos on this page by Skip Gibson or Kate Cates



Music enticed all to dancing. Here are two dancing to the music.

Changing Gallery

See Money of Mexican Revolution Exhibit

A bilingual (Spanish/English) exhibit entitled *Viva La Revolucion! Money of the Mexican Revolution* is on display at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City from November 2006 through mid-January 2007. Viva la Revolucion! traces the individuals and events of the Mexican Revolution through the medium of money. The exhibit features coins, paper money, military decorations and numismatic material from 1910-1920, a turbulent period in Mexico's history. Brief biographies and photos of revolutionary leaders such as Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata, and Victoriano Huerta are included. The exhibit, sponsored by the Reno Coin Club and Bretzlaff Foundation is on loan from the American Numismatic Association (ANA) Money Museum. The Nevada State Museum's history program contributed a section on the role of Latinos in Nevada history. For more information, contact Robert Nylen, Curator of History at 775-687-4810, ext. 239 or Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education, at ext. 237.

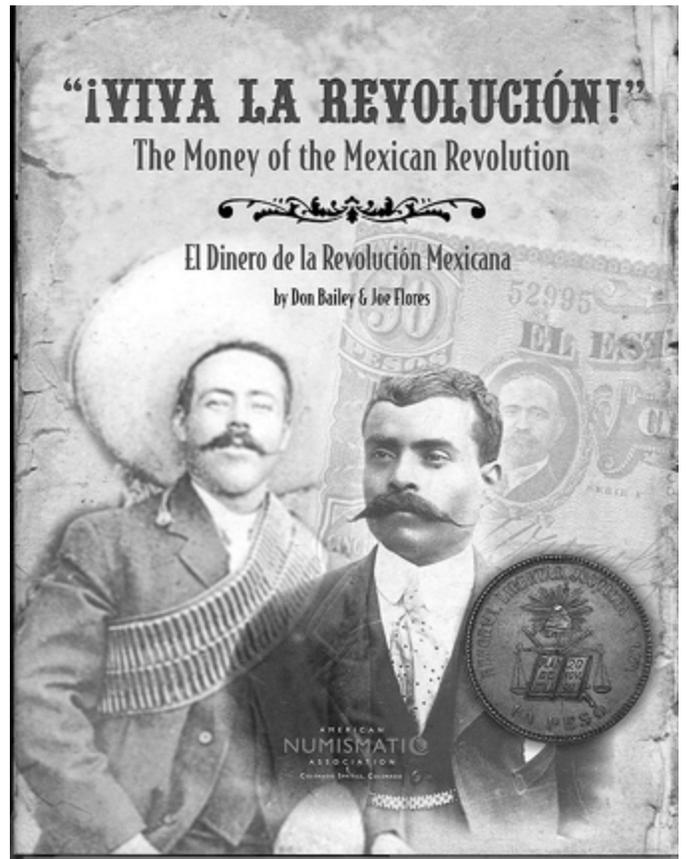
Don Bailey and Joe Flores served as consultants for the ANA Money Museum's exhibit *Viva la Revolucion!* and lent part of their collection for the displays. Bailey and Flores, authors of the exhibition catalogue, have been traveling to coin shows in Mexico for years. As a complement to the exhibit, Bailey and Flores will present *Personages of the Mexican Revolution and their Coinage*, a bilingual (Spanish/English) program and book signing, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 2006. The program, sponsored by the Reno Coin Club and Bretzlaff Foundation, is part of the Frances Humphrey Lecture series. Regular admission fees apply; the program is free for museum members.

Bailey and Flores helped found the United States-Mexican Numismatic Association (US/MexNA). Bailey's efforts and diplomacy in this area, including his work with Banco de Mexico and Casa de Moneda de Mexico, earned him the respect of the Mexican government, which awarded him the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, (the highest honor bestowed on a foreigner). Flores, one of the foremost authorities on coins of the Mexican Revolution, loves sharing information. He says, "unless you pass it on before you go, what good is it?" Bailey adds, "we think it's important for the public to see an exhibit that communicates Mexico's proud heritage."

These bilingual programs are part of the museum's effort to bring in new audiences, including Latinos from northern Nevada. Audio tours of the exhibits, *Nevada: A People and Place Through Time* and *Under One Sky: Nevada's Native American Heritage*, will soon be available in both Spanish and English.

New Additions to Security Staff

The Nevada State Museum welcomes two new Security Officers. Karen Giancontieri, formerly a custodian worker at the museum, began her new position on September 25. Tom Lynch, formerly a security officer at Western Nevada Community College, began on October 6, 2006.



Coming Events

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 is used for all programs. For more information call 687-4810, ext. 239.

November 28 – *Personages of the Mexican Revolution and their Coinage*, bilingual presentation by Don Bailey and Joe Flores, sponsored by the Reno Coin Club and Bretzlaff Foundation., free for members.

December 26 – No program, Christmas Holiday.

January 23, 2007 – *They Died to Make the Desert Bloom: The Story of the workers at Hoover Dam*. Video presentation by Guy Louis Rocha, Assistant Administrator for the Nevada State Library and Archives.

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NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

November 8 – *Hunting the Chinese Iron Dragon* by Bill Kohler.

December 13 – To be announced.

January 10 – *The Southern Pacific Railroad and the History of the West* by Richard Orsi.

Capitol Tour Guide Training Set Dec. 5-6



Nevada State Capitol Building in 1873

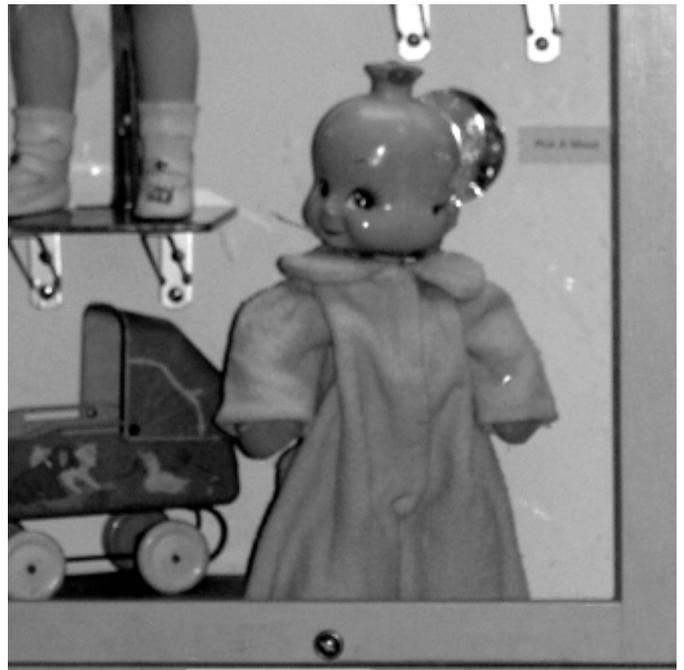
The Nevada State Capitol stands as a significant historic landmark and symbol for the State of Nevada. The capitol houses the historic Supreme Court, Assembly, and Nevada history exhibits in the Senate Chambers. Offices for high-level officials, including the Governor, are located in the capitol. Residents and visitors are drawn to this historic landmark, which serves as a source of pride and identity.

The Nevada State Museum holds responsibility for managing the use of the historic chambers, conducting tours, and presenting exhibits on state government history, as authorized by NRS 331.130 and 133. Bob Nysten, Curator of History, has been the main NSM staff person to conduct capitol tours in the past.

Due to increasing demand for tours during the legislative session, the Education Program is rising to the challenge of providing guided tours of the Nevada State Capitol. Experienced tour guides, who possess a firm understanding of the early history of Carson City and the State, are encouraged to attend **Capitol Tour Guide Training**, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., December 5-6, 2006. The volunteer training covers the architecture of the Capitol, its history, Governors' portraits, state minerals and industries, Assembly and Senate Chambers, Capitol grounds, and common myths and stories about the Capitol.

Qualifications for the volunteer position of Capitol Tour Guide include energy, enthusiasm, love of history, and the ability to work a crowd. Museum volunteer, Rilla Douglas, jumped at the opportunity to give Capitol tours. "I saw it as a way to expand my horizons," she says. "The history of the Capitol and Museums are closely tied. To me, they're a package."

To register for Capitol Tour training, call Deborah at 775-687-4810, ext. 237.



Among Our Exhibits

With Jack Gibson

From time to time we receive letters from visitors to the museum who are interested in one or more of the displays in the various galleries. One that came in some years ago was about the doll display in the Nevada History Gallery on the second floor. It concerned one doll in the lower right hand portion of the display.

She wrote about being a young girl in England after the First World War and that her father made a trip to Germany. Before coming home he purchased a doll for her, and it is a perfect match to the one in our display., including the clothing. She still has hers with the three faces, a smile, sleeping and crying.

It is information such as this that the many items on display and in our collections can become better informative and more valuable.

From the Editor's Notebook . . .

The last issue appeared with two serious errors, one of which was not caught by any of the many proofreaders that scan each issue for errors. How it happened I do not know but I was the typist that placed the governors wife's name under her photo as Donna Guinn, and two lines above it read Dema Guinn. My wife, Margie, was ready to stuff the printed Newsletter for mailing when she caught it. My apologies go to the Governor's wife. Getting it right once out of two times is not good enough.

The other error was on page 3 and involved the caption under the lower photo in the second column. It was on the disc that went to the printer but apparently a geek dropped it out. Both errors were corrected when the disc went to the State Library for placement on the internet. It read:

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



**FALL IS HERE AND THE TEMPERATURE IS DROPPING.
THAT MUST MEAN IT'S TIME TO GO SHOPPING!
T-SHIRTS AND SWEAT SHIRTS, HATS FOR ALL YEAR.
COOKBOOKS WITH RECIPES FOR HOLIDAY CHEER.
FUN GAMES, PUZZLES AND COLORING BOOKS TOO!
ITEMS FOR ALL AGES FOR YOU TO VIEW.
INCLUDING PLUSH WILD HORSES,
WESTERN BIRDS AND ANIMAL HAND PUPPETS GALORE.**

**STOP IN AND SEE US AT
THE NEVADA STATE MUSEUM STORE!**

**600 N. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OPEN DAILY: 9:00AM - 4:30PM**