

Mint Edition

Newsletter of the Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs

Fall 2012
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Death, Respect, and New Life

by Deborah Stevenson, Editor

In this issue of *Mint Edition*, we honor those who have passed on, including anthropologist Donald Tuohy, show respect for WWII veteran Jack Streeter, and celebrate new beginnings by welcoming a new baby, Brooke E. Malloy, to our museum family.

Jesse Ortiz, the lead Aztec dancer of Danza Azteca Quetzalcoatl, reminds us to celebrate life—to express our feelings for loved ones while they are alive. This is the key message of Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, a very tender holiday where families remember and honor deceased loved ones with great warmth, affection, and respect. Special exhibits called *ofrendas* display memorabilia from a departed loved one. Families delight in decorating sugar skulls and making fancy paper cut-outs and crafts that add color to the tables. Then, in a few short hours of triumphant intensity, hearts and drums pounding, the spectacular Aztec dancers transform the museum into a sanctuary of peace.

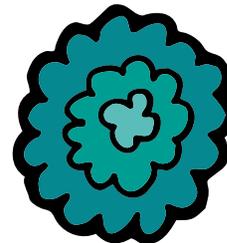
Right: the Aztec dancers led by Jessie Ortiz present elaborate feathered headdresses, colorful costumes, rattles, and drums.

Left: Traditional dancers delight audiences of all ages.



“You have to experience it to understand the emotional intensity,” said Jeanette McGregor, exhibits preparator. “The atmosphere is both powerful and magical.”

Day of the Dead is a multicultural celebration of life through death. In this wholesome family holiday, participants learn to deal with death in a healthy way by celebrating the lives of dear ones that has passed away.





Message from the Director

by Jim Barmore

We total up our services at the close of each fiscal year. We track attendance, education programs, exhibits, and dozens of other services. In recent years, the exercise often leads to frustration and even sadness. Many numbers were forced down by budget cuts. Attendance took a big hit when open hours were reduced from seven to four days a week. Thousands of potential visitors were turned away. This is hard to take. Staff and volunteers are driven by public service.

One number hasn't decreased though. In fact, the number has increased as budgets declined. Volunteer hours are up. They're up even though volunteers are working five days a week compared to seven days as in previous years. People have stepped up to help the museum until funding improves. The response is heart-warming.

Volunteers helped avoid greater loss of basic services, but their value goes well beyond. Volunteer hours are a key indicator of the museum's relevance and value for Nevada residents. Each hour represents an endorsement, a vote of support. The high number of hours indicates a strong community base.

As members of the community, volunteers form a powerful constituency, held in high regard by state officials. Volunteers are some of the museum's strongest advocates.

Volunteer hours quantify community participation. A successful museum provides opportunities for people to volunteer and participate in heritage education—to come together, learn, meet others of common interest, and enjoy the rewards of public service. Volunteerism is at a healthy and high level at the museum.

Hours quantify community contribution. We place a dollar value on every volunteer hour contributed. When translated, the financial contribution is enormous. If you multiply \$21.79 per hour, the 2011 national average rate for volunteers, times 6,337, the total volunteer hours for last fiscal year, you get \$138,083! This demonstrates cost savings and efficiency. The museum is a good investment worth supporting with public funds. This is critical in today's economic climate.

High volunteer hours clearly substantiate the museum's value, support, and cost efficiencies. While services have declined with the budget, the museum maintains a strong foundation for rebuilding when funding improves in the future.

It is especially helpful in teaching children how to deal with loss.

Day of the Dead is about creating community. We gather with open hearts—remembering, sharing—and learn to understand one another. The stories remind us of our common humanity. Dancers carry us to a higher place. We embrace sadness laced with joy. The sweet, fresh-bread aroma of *pan de muerto* evokes a feeling of family, home, safety. We smile at the sight of tiny children dancing their dreams into reality. We rest content, knowing that for one day, in the midst of all the world's turmoil, the Nevada State Museum is a place of peace.



IF YOU GO:

WHAT: Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead

WHEN: 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday, November 10; Aztec dancers at 1:00 and 3:00 pm.

WHERE: Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson Street.

WHY: Experience the magic through crafts, stories, songs, folkloric dances, displays, video, and discussion.

ADMISSION: \$8 adults; free for museum members and children 17 and under.

CONTACT: dstevenson@nevadaculture.org or 775/687-4810, ext. 237.



In Memoriam Donald R. Tuohy

by Gene Hattori, Ph.D., Curator of Anthropology

Donald R. Tuohy passed away on August 10, 2012. Don was longtime Curator of Anthropology at the Nevada State Museum, and he was affiliated with the museum beginning in 1961 until his death. He was liked and admired by his staff and colleagues here at the museum and in the archaeological community. He retired from the museum in 1998, and the Board of Museums and History awarded Don Curator *Emeritus* status for all his contributions to the museum's Anthropology Department. Don received his B.A. in Anthropology from San Francisco State University, M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and he took anthropology graduate courses at University of Washington and University of Arizona. He was adjunct faculty at the University of Nevada, Reno and UNLV. Don

took great pride in being a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA/ Society of Professional Archaeologists). He conducted fieldwork in California, Washington, Idaho,

Arizona, Hawaii, Baja, and Nevada; but his expertise and interests extended well beyond those boundaries. Don was a dedicated researcher with over 100 publications including articles in the Smithsonian Institution's *Handbook of North American Indians*, *American Antiquity*, *University of Utah Anthropological Papers*, *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*, *Kiva*, and *Tebiva*. Don edited and co-edited many volumes of the *Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers* and

Nevada State Museum Occasional Papers. He also published in the museum's publications.

On a personal note, I knew Don as friend, mentor, and colleague. I first met him in 1970

at a Great Basin Anthropological conference. Through the years, Don was most kind and generous in providing me with collections access, antiquities permits, advice, and publishing my thesis and dissertation. My Ph.D. dissertation was his unfinished project, and he selflessly surrendered it to help me begin my career. Don had a wicked sense of humor, and he was very opinionated, mostly

in regards to politics and politicians. Don retired during a period of change in the politics of anthropology and state government. These changes were reflected in today's museum, including the Anthropology Program, and especially in *Under One Sky*. Don did not approve, but he remained my friend.



From Left to Right: David Johnson ,
Don Tuohy, Gene Hattori.

Eying the Ichy: Creating Exhibit Touch Specimens of a Nevada Icon

by Jeanette McGregor, Exhibits Preparator

We happen to have one of the coolest casts of an ichthyosaur that you could ever ask for. The skull of this *Cymbospondylus piscosus* is absolutely the best preserved ichthyosaur skull *in the world*. All other ichy skull fossils are found flat as a pancake, leaving a challenging puzzle for paleontologists to reconstruct in three dimensions. You may have wondered at this impressive cast as you climbed the stairs to the entrance of our Nevada's Changing Earth gallery.



As many of you know, the ichthyosaur is the Nevada State Fossil (as well as a lovely local pale ale). We have a terrific ichthyosaur on display, but it is *not* the state fossil. *Shonisaurus popularis*, one of the largest ichthyosaurs found (and the species that practically litters the ground at Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park), is the official state fossil. Curators and exhibits staff wanted to make sure this distinction was made clear on new interpretive panels that will be near our pal up on the wall. Exhibits Manager, Ray Geiser, asked me to sculpt two touch specimens to scale – one of our ichy, *Cymbospondylus*, and one of the much larger *Shonisaurus*. That way, our patrons could clearly see and feel the difference in size. I was thrilled at the prospect.

I ran across several challenges while making the touch specimens. I was able to finish *Cymbospondylus* fairly quickly; I had an excellent reference right upstairs! *Shonisaurus* posed more difficulties. I had a drawing of a scientific reconstruction done by Bradley Kosch in 1990 that I was using, but it was only two-dimensional; I needed more details about the larger ichy's bones, skull, and possible outline. I got really lucky...

As part of our Fall Tour Guide Training, Curator of Education, Deborah Stevenson, contacted some of the top ichthyosaur specialists in the country. Dr. Jennifer Hogler, Bradley Kosch (yes, the same guy who did the 1990 reconstruction), and Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park Ranger, Robin Riggs,



Left: Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park Ranger, Robin Riggs.

Below: Dr. Jennifer Hogler and our full size replica. Our *Cymbospondylus* would have been around 27' long in life.

Upper right: Clay model of *Cymbospondylus*.



Making the Molds

David Shipman, Exhibits Preparator, forms a plasticine clay dam around the sculpted model we're using to make the mold. Next he sprays on a coat of mold release.



Dave mixes some two-part silicone rubber and coats the model.



After the rubber cures, the dam is topped off with plaster. This acts to stabilize the mold while minimizing use of the more expensive silicone rubber.

When the whole thing cures, the mold is separated from the original and is ready for casting. The casts will be colored, sealed, and mounted.



agreed to speak with our Friends group and share some of their expertise. We all learned some eye-opening facts about ichthyosaurs, including that when they lived, during the Middle Triassic, almost the *entire* western United States was under water – these were ocean dwellers. Also, miners near Unionville found our first ichthyosaur fossils even before Nevada became a state.

Ichthyosaur experts, Bradley Kosch and Dr. Jennifer Hogler, gave exhibits preparator, Jeanette McGregor, some of their time and expertise to help determine key physical features of the *Shonisaurus popularis* model.



After the Tour Guide Training, Jennifer and Brad spent most of the rest of the afternoon helping me with some critical adjustments to my model of *Shonisaurus popularis*. Their insight and knowledge was priceless. Because of their help, I am confident that I have created a realistic (though idealized) model of our state fossil. Exhibits Preparator, Dave Shipman, is now working on making casts of the models (see left) and we will soon have them up on the wall, complete with graphics and text.

After working on this project, I have a renewed appreciation for our ichy – I look at him with a greater understanding of his place in our state's history and a sense of awe at his enormous "cousin" who also once swam in a Nevada ocean. I invite you all to come to the museum soon to see the finished panel and revisit, with new eyes, an old friend.

Ron James Offers 30-Year Overview of Virginia City Archaeology

Spent cartridges. The pieces of an original Tabasco Pepper Sauce bottle. Shards of a ceramic pot, stained red. For archaeologists each of the thousands of artifacts uncovered at a site tells a story. For noted Comstock authority Ronald M. James, it is a story resulting from decades of research and excavation at one of the largest National Historic Landmarks in America, the Nevada town that, with the discovery of the Comstock Lode, became a boomtown microcosm of the American West.

Join Ron James for a lecture, *Virginia City and its Archaeology: A Thirty-Year Overview*, plus a book signing presentation on his book, *Virginia City: Secrets of a Western Past*, Thursday, November 15, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Note: this program is being offered one week early due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Drawing on the work of hundreds of volunteers, students, and professional archaeologists, *Virginia City: Secrets of a Western Past* shows how every detail—from unearthed artifacts to reports of local saloons to plans for the cemetery to surviving nineteenth-century buildings—adds to our view of Virginia City when it was one of the richest places on earth. James recreates this unlikely epitome of frontier industry and cosmopolitan living, the thriving hub of corporate executives, middle-class families, miners, prostitutes, and barkeepers—and

more foreign-born residents per capita than anywhere else in the country—in a spot that had begun its life a few years earlier as the mining camp of several lucky guys. An excavation of the history of Virginia City, a window on the heyday of the American frontier, James's book is also an enlightening look at how archaeology brings the story of the past to life.

Ronald M. James is the long-term state historic preservation officer for Nevada and chairman of the National Historic Landmarks Committee of the National Park Service. He is the author or editor of numerous books, including *The Roar and the Silence: A History of Virginia City and the Comstock Lode*.

"If you love Comstock history, then you'll find a bonanza of great reading in Ron James' gem of a book."—Cynthia S. Kennedy, *Virginia City News*

"Framing his inquiry within the cultural context of a nineteenth-century urban mining community, Ronald James elaborates on the ways in which artifacts, ecofacts, architecture, abandoned cemeteries, probate records, journals, newspapers, and maps offer new directions for understanding the dynamic history of the American West's great Comstock Lode and 'people from another century.'"—Kelly J. Dixon, author of *Boomtown Saloons: Archaeology and History in Virginia City*.

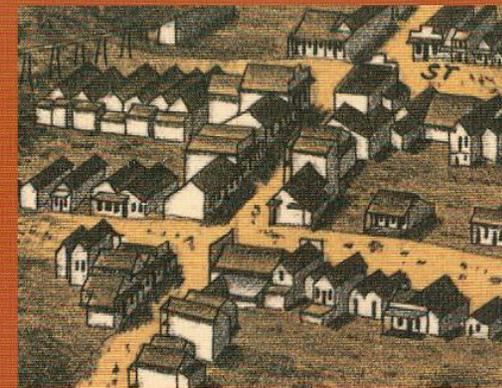
IF YOU GO:

WHAT: *Frances Humphrey Lecture Series Virginia City & its Archaeology: A Thirty-Year Overview* by state historic preservation officer Ron James; includes discussion, artifact viewing & book signing.
Note: new date and time.

WHEN: November 15, 2012
6:30pm—8:00pm

ADMISSION: \$8 adults, children 17 and under & museum members are FREE.

CONTACT: Deborah Stevenson:
dstevenson@nevadaculture.org



Virginia City

Secrets of a Western Past

Ronald M. James

Nevada's Most Decorated World War II Veteran

by Robert Nylen, Curator of History

Jack Streeter is a distinguished veteran of the 1st Infantry Division, 18th Regiment. During his service in World War II, he earned many honors: a Silver Star with four oak leaf clusters; Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster; Purple Heart with four oak

leaf clusters; Arrowhead Award for the assault landing on D-Day; French and Belgium *Croix de Guerres* with palm; as well as the Combat Infantryman's Badge. By the end of the war in 1945, Streeter was the most decorated Nevada veteran.



Jack Streeter loaning his WWII medals for display at the Nevada State Museum for Nevada Day. The medals will be on exhibit in museum's World War II case on the 2nd floor of the Historic Carson City Mint portion of the complex.

Left to Right: Bob Nylen receiving the medal display case from Jack Streeter at White Law Chartered Law firm in Reno. Mr. Streeter has been a member of the Nevada Bar for 64 years.

Prior to fighting in World War II, Streeter served in the ROTC program while in school at the University of Nevada. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1943. During World War II, he was part of the following engagements: D-Day at Omaha Beach, Normandy; Saint-Lo breakthrough, France; Battle of Mortain, France; Battle of Mons, Belgium; Battle of Aachen, Germany; Hurtgen Forest, Germany; Battle of the Bulge, Germany; and Remagen Bridgehead, Germany. To earn his third Silver Star, Streeter put himself in direct fire to distract three machine gun nests. Luckily, he was not hit. Because of his bravery, Streeter's unit escaped destruction the next day.

Streeter later earned the rank of Captain. After the war he became District Attorney of Washoe County and has been a practicing lawyer since 1948. In 2000 the U.S. Senate passed legislation naming a new wing at the Reno VA Medical Center in honor of Jack Streeter's service to the nation.



Nevada Night Fliers:

Nevada State Museum Scientist Helps with Bat Study

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

Bats are extremely important biological indicators of environmental health. Throughout their distribution, they eat a wide array of insect pests and, in the tropics, they pollinate many night-flowering plants of value to humans. Bats have been threatened by habitat destruction and human vandalism for some time and are facing new problems due to flying too near wind turbines and the spread of a fungal disease called “White-nose Syndrome.” Work is being done to mitigate and reverse these threats, but the very nature of a bat’s life style makes gathering information difficult. All data on their biology are valuable.

There are 23 species of bats known to live in Nevada and at least 16 types occur in the Carson City region. Last month I was fortunate to help with a field-research project lead by Jenni Jeffers, Wildlife Biologist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. She has conducted this study for several years in the area of Fort Churchill in western Nevada. Bats are caught by stretching very fine nets where they fly, such as over water pools where they eat and drink. The animals are identified, weighed, and measured. Each subject is then fitted with a tiny radio transmitter before being released. Jenni and her volunteers periodically check on each bat’s location by homing in on the radio signals. In this way it can be determined where the animals roost, feed, and otherwise spend their time. Such information is of extreme value in managing and protecting these fascinating animals that are of such importance to the ecology of our world.



Above: Jenni Jeffers, Wildlife Biologist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, in the process of outfitting a bat with a radio transmitter.



Right: The museum’s Natural History Collections house specimens for identification and research.

Families Go Wild over Saturday Nature Programs in the Discovery Lab

Since March 2012, the Nevada State Museum has been opening its Natural History Discovery Lab and classroom for family learning adventures and creativity one Saturday per month. Families with children ages 6-11 have been going wild over programs such as *Funky Fungi* (March and April), *Fun with Butterflies* (May), *Bird Beaks and Feet* (June), *Nevada Reptiles* (July), *Bats: Night Flyers of the Skies* (August), *Beastly Encounters* (Sept.), and *Sensational Sagebrush* (Oct.). Upcoming discovery programs include *Fun with Fossils* (November 3) and *Pines are Fine* (December 8).

“In designing nature programs, the skies the limit,” said Curator of Education, Deborah Stevenson. “I have some very talented docents with advanced degrees in science; I give them free rein to develop programs that are entertaining and engaging. We’re dispelling the myth that Nevada is a wasteland. In our sagebrush ocean, 3,000 different plants, 70 kinds of mammals, and 100 diverse species of birds thrive. That’s something to celebrate!”

The October 13 program featured *Sensational Sagebrush*, Nevada’s State Flower. Families learned why Big Sagebrush is called

Artemesia tridentata.

The three-tipped leaves of this amazing plant look like felted wool under the microscope.

“Kids love peeking in the microscope in the Discovery Lab,” said volunteer Margee McCafferty, “and even young children learn how to use a plant key to identify Big Sagebrush and use puppets to act out an original story called *Coyote and the Sagebrush*.”

Discovery tickets are available in the Dema Guinn Concourse on the day of the event beginning about noon. Children must be accompanied by one responsible adult. Tickets are free with regular paid admission: \$8 for adults; free for children 17 and under and museum members. Time: 1:00 - 3:30 pm; choose art of science or both. Each activity lasts 30 minutes.

For more information about programs or tours at the Nevada State Museum, contact Deborah Stevenson: dstevenson@nevadaculture.org or 775-687-4810, ext. 237.



Superior camouflage! A Black-tailed Jackrabbit in the brush.



Sage Grouse

Hot Springs, Vapors, and Crystallization

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

In July of this year the Nevada State Museum, Carson City, received a donation of native sulfur from Mr. Martin Jensen of Reno, NV. Mr. Jensen remembered from when he was younger that sulfur could be found near Steamboat Hot Springs in southern Reno. With the help of Mr. Mike McVey, of Ormat Technologies, Martin recovered a number of samples and gave one of the finer ones to the museum. This specimen is currently on display in Natural History.

In the late 1800s the Steamboat area was known for its geothermal features such as hot springs, boiling pools of water, and a geyser said to be the third largest in the United States. Many locals and tourists visited to enjoy different health and resort facilities at this site.

In 1900 an earthquake caused the geyser to dry up, but the area is still geothermally active. Among connoisseurs of crystallized minerals from Nevada, the sulfur specimens from Steamboat Hot Springs are considered classic. They form by crystallization from vapors generated by hot spring activity. As the high

pressure, mineral-bearing, hot water flows through fissures toward the surface, it cools and turns to steam. When this happens, the minerals in solution are deposited about 50 feet below ground surface as these beautiful crystals.

The Nevada State Museum thanks Mr. Martin Jensen for donating this specimen. We also thank Mr. Mike McVey and Ormat Technologies Inc. for facilitating the collection of this material. This specimen has become part of the state's permanent collection and will be used for display, in educational programs, and for study. It is an important addition to Nevada's mineral heritage. I'm sure it will long be enjoyed by our visitors.



Welcome Clint Fuller!

NSM would like to introduce and welcome a new staff member who came aboard in September. Clint Fuller accepted the position of Maintenance Repair Specialist I and comes to us with a background in plumbing, construction, and home maintenance.

Clint is from Chester, California, near Lake Almanor, and has a daughter, Jessie, and three grandkids there. He also has a son, Eric who is currently attending Portland Community College.

Training pointing dogs takes up much of Clint's spare time and he loves to hunt, fish, hike, and camp with his two German Shorthair Pointers, Ellie and Lu. He also enjoys reading and always incorporates visits to museums and historic sites into his travels.

Clint is looking forward to exploring our museum—both learning about the ins and outs of this complex facility as well as the artifacts it houses.

What's in a Name?

Historic Photo Documentation

Recently the NSM History office received a call from Mr. Thomas Hannah of Eureka, California, asking if we would like an old photograph from our area. We said yes and he mailed it off that week. It is a lovely picture of a Washoe Indian woman with her baby in a traditional cradle basket around 1916. The photographer signed it "Smith, Carson City, No. 35."

We've found an Albert Smith, photographer, listed for 1920 in Carson City in the State Historic Preservation Office's Nevada Census Database online. We have several other photos by a Smith in Carson around the same time, some with the same handwriting. We hope to find out more about A. Smith!

It would be great if learning more about Smith the photographer would lead us to the names of the woman and baby. A close look shows that the mother is wearing a calico dress, gingham apron, crocheted lace collar and shawl, as well as a silk scarf.

Contact Sue Ann Monteleone, Museum Registrar:
sueann.monteleone@nevadaculture.org



Congratulations to the Malloy Family

Speaking of babies, we would like to welcome the newest member of our museum family, Brooke Malloy. Anthropology Collections Manager Rachel Malloy and her husband Shane present their healthy baby girl, born on the blue moon in August.

Weight - 6 lbs. 6 oz.

Length - 18.5 inches

Date of birth - August 31

Full name -

Brooke Ealamailaninokapolumahina Malloy

Brooke's middle name is Hawaiian and means the heavenly path of the blue moon.





Our Museum Store is stocked and ready for you to shop! Remember that **museum members receive 15% off** store merchandise!

Visit the Museum

600 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4004

Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Wednesday through Saturday
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years

Members	Free	Memberships:	\$20 senior
Children (17 & under)	Free		\$35 individual
Adults	\$ 8.00		\$50 family



www.nevadaculture.org

CONTACT the MUSEUM...

775/687-4810
Fax 775/687-4168
www.nevadaculture.org

Jim Barmore,
Museum Director, ext. 226
jbarmore@nevadaculture.org

George Baumgardner,
Curator of Natural History, ext. 236
gbaumgardner@nevadaculture.org

Ray Geiser,
Exhibits Manager, ext. 252
rgeiser@nevadaculture.org

Eugene M. Hattori,
Curator of Anthropology, ext. 230
ghattori@nevadaculture.org

Rich Parker,
Facility Supervisor, ext. 254
richard.parker@nevadaculture.org

Jan Loverin,
Curator of Clothing and Textiles,
687-6173 jloverin@nevadaculture.org

Sue Ann Monteleone,
Registrar, ext. 240
sueann.monteleone@nevadaculture.org

Robert Nylan,
Curator of History, ext. 239
rnylan@nevadaculture.org

Holly Payson,
Membership, ext. 222
hpayson@nevadaculture.org

Charmain Phillips,
Museum Store Manager and
Facility Use Coordinator, ext. 244
charmian@nevadaculture.org

Deborah Stevenson,
Curator of Education, ext. 237
dstevenson@nevadaculture.org

Indian Hills Curatorial Center
775/687-3002
Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile
Research Center
775/687-6173
Anthropology Resource Center
775/687-4810, ext. 229
Bretzlaff History Resource Center
775/687-4810, ext. 239 or 240
Natural History Resource Center
775/687-4810, ext. 236

The Nevada State Museum in Carson City is an agency of the Division of Museums and History within the Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs. The museum engages diverse audiences in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage.

State of Nevada
Brian Sandoval
Governor

Nevada Department of
Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Claudia Vecchio
Department Director

Division of Museums and History
Peter Barton
Division Administrator

Nevada State Museum
Jim Barmore
Museum Director

The Friends of the Nevada State Museum, a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit organization, supports the museum through volunteer assistance, fundraising, and advocacy. For information contact Bonnie Rieckhoff, Chair at 775/841-2108.

The Nevada State Museum publishes the *Mint Edition* newsletter for the purpose of highlighting museum exhibits, education programs, special events, and collection activities.

The publication is available online at www.nevadaculture.org.

Museum members receive the *Mint Edition* as a benefit of membership if they provide an email address.

Newsletter staff:
Deborah Stevenson, Editor
Jeanette McGregor, Design

Please address all newsletter communications to:

Deborah Stevenson
Nevada State Museum
600 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4004
775/687-4810 ext. 237
Fax 775/687-4168
dstevenson@nevadaculture.org