

Mint Edition

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

Summer 2012
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The Tall People Who Paint Small

by Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education

Radiating love for one another and exuberance for their shared creative life, husband and wife team Wes and Rachelle Siegrist are living their creative dream. Their home/studio adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park provides an ideal setting for interaction with the natural world and peaceful seclusion, allowing their creative muse to blossom. One can't help but notice that Wes (standing at 6'3") and Rachelle (6'1") are an

attractive couple. Their friends call them the "the tall people who paint small." Their exhibit, *Exquisite Miniatures*, is on display at the Nevada State Museum May 15 – October 13 in Natural History.

I had the privilege to interview Wes by phone and was delighted to find him easy-going, humorous, and open to sharing. "As artists, do you get jealous if one of you sells more paintings than the other?" I asked. "No, it's always been a

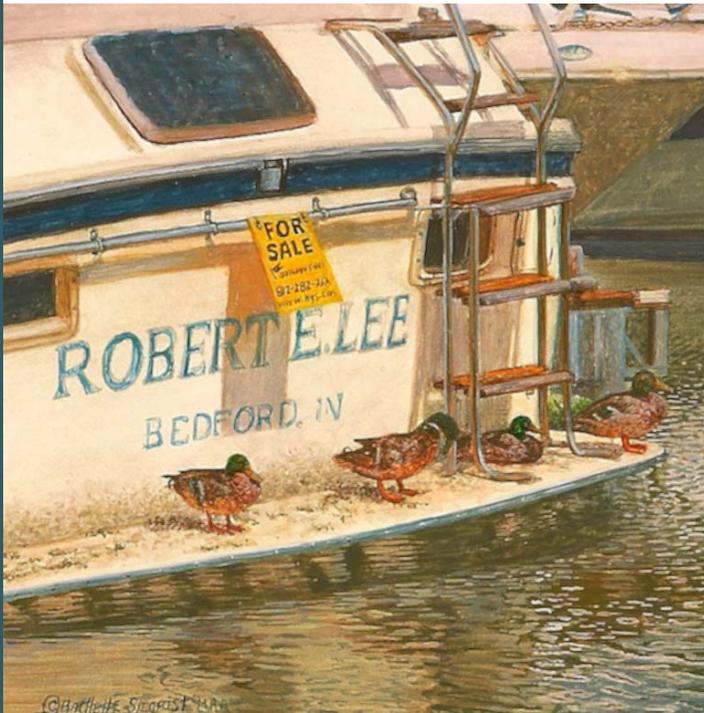
friendly competition and we're partners in our art business," Wes said. "However, competition comes into play in choosing our subject matter. You see, we work from photographs and if we capture an image of a bird or animal where the color and lighting are just perfect, we have to arm wrestle to see who gets to paint it. Rachelle always wins because she cheats by tickling me," he laughed.

Why miniatures? "From 1997-99," Wes explained, "we were living in a small community in south Florida and traveling a lot for shows. We wanted something easier to ship and carry. All artists do 'bread and butter' pieces – smaller, more affordable works, but we found out there were actual societies and museums that focus on miniature art with a 1/6 scale guideline. Now we are hooked, captivated, and enamored by miniature art and the public's reaction to our work. We've sold over 1000 paintings. It was a business decision to find a niche within the world of wildlife art. Now we actively



Left: A Change of Heart, by Rachelle Siegrist

Above: Rachelle & Wes Siegrist





Message from the Director

by Jim Barmore

The timing of the 100th anniversary of the Titanic made me nervous. Was the anniversary an omen? Would the “flagship” Nevada State Museum suffer the same fate?

Budget cuts forced the museum to request emergency funds from the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to avoid losing more staff. We already lost six positions. Remaining staff were cut to part-time status. Open hours were reduced to four days a week. The museum was sinking and needed a rescue.

I considered wearing a life preserver to the committee meeting just in case. To my great relief, we steered clear of the iceberg. The IFC approved supplemental funding. True, we’re still barely making headway, against strong winds and heavy seas. But, we’re not sinking!

The approval temporarily ends a major constraint lasting more than twelve years. The museum was required to raise funds for three positions that didn’t directly generate revenues. The situation held us back—then proved unworkable when budget cuts came down two years ago. For many years, staff did everything possible to save the positions and museum. Only at the end did the budget situation overwhelm staff initiative, resourcefulness, and determination. The IFC action allows us to survive this fiscal year and the next. We’ll seek a permanent fix during the next Legislative Session.

Several people in different agencies and levels of government played a role. Thank you for your hard work. I give special recognition to the Friends of the Nevada State Museum and other citizens who voiced support. Nearly a dozen Friends attended the meeting. The Friends’ chair, Cliff Dunseth, testified. The IFC chair, Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, recognized the important role of the volunteers. Thank you Friends for helping save the museum.

We can now stow the life preservers, at least until the next Legislative Session.

preserve, promote, and produce miniature art. Our tiny treasures usually measure less than 9 square inches, with many as small as a postage stamp.”

Wes and Rachelle are members of The Society of Animal Artists, the Miniature Art Society of Florida, the Miniature Artists of America, and the Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, DC. To save themselves from “going blind,” from their painstaking occupation, they use color corrective light, take frequent breaks, enjoy gardening, walk or bike in the afternoon, and gaze from their large picture window at the birds on their feeders or across the cove to the mountains in the distance.

“Have you ever been to Nevada?” I inquired. “No,” he replied, “but it’s a plan.” The museum is currently seeking a sponsor to pay for their airfare so they can join us for a reception/program in the fall. The artists are willing to donate a painting to the sponsor. Any takers? For more information, contact me at dstevenson@nevadaculture.org or 775/687-4810, ext. 237.

For more information on the artists:

Rachelle’s blog: underthemagnifier.wordpress.com, The Miniature Paintings of Wes and Rachelle Siegrist: artofwildlife.com and, on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com).



Nevada's Environmental Legacy: An Interview with James W. Hulse

by Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education

When I signed up for a course in Nevada History at Western Nevada College, it did not surprise me that a required textbook was *The Silver State:*

Nevada's History Reinterpreted by

James W. Hulse. A native Nevadan from Pioche, Nevada, Hulse has been writing about history for 40 years and is professor emeritus at the

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Although Hulse focused most of his career on European History, his book

The Silver State and others have become classics in Nevada.

After retirement, Hulse was drawn

more and more towards

environmental issues, a topic few historians have addressed.

The effects of mining, water use, atomic testing, over grazing, clear cutting, and other practices have brought dramatic change to the Nevada Hulse knew as a child. His latest book, published by the University of Nevada Press, is *Nevada's Environmental Legacy: Progress or Plunder*. In this timely work, Hulse links events in Nevada to broader economic and political trends and to changing perceptions of the value of the austere ecology of the desert West.

I had the opportunity to interview “Jim” on May 3 and found him delightful, energetic, passionate, and caring:

Do you have a positive outlook for Nevada's future?

I try to avoid predictions; after all, I got paid to study the past. I'm an optimistic person, but I am not optimistic that the land and resources of Nevada can keep up with the growth. I could not have anticipated these changes; they happened rapidly.

What is the most serious environmental issue facing Nevada?

It is hard to single out just one issue—it's really a combination of problems. If I had to pick one, it would be population growth. In my lifetime, the population increased over tenfold, from 150,000 to over 2 million. That is why I feel that population growth in Las Vegas and the Reno/Carson area is our biggest threat.

Will there be enough water?

I'm concerned about urban sprawl and the overuse of water as well as the practices of the mining industry. In my book, I try to show both sides of the issue, but research has shown me that depleting aquifers in the Humboldt Basin and groundwater pollution from heap leaching could prove to have more serious consequences than nuclear testing.

What was the highlight of your teaching career?

I loved the teaching! I taught at the UNR for 35 years. I graduated in 1952, went into the army, and then was hired by the *Nevada State Journal* (predecessor of the *Reno Gazette Journal*). I attended graduate school at Stanford and taught at Central Washington College, where I met my wife Betty. Then we moved to Nevada,

where I mostly taught European history, but later shifted to Nevada history.

Was there a special teacher or mentor who spurred your interest in history?

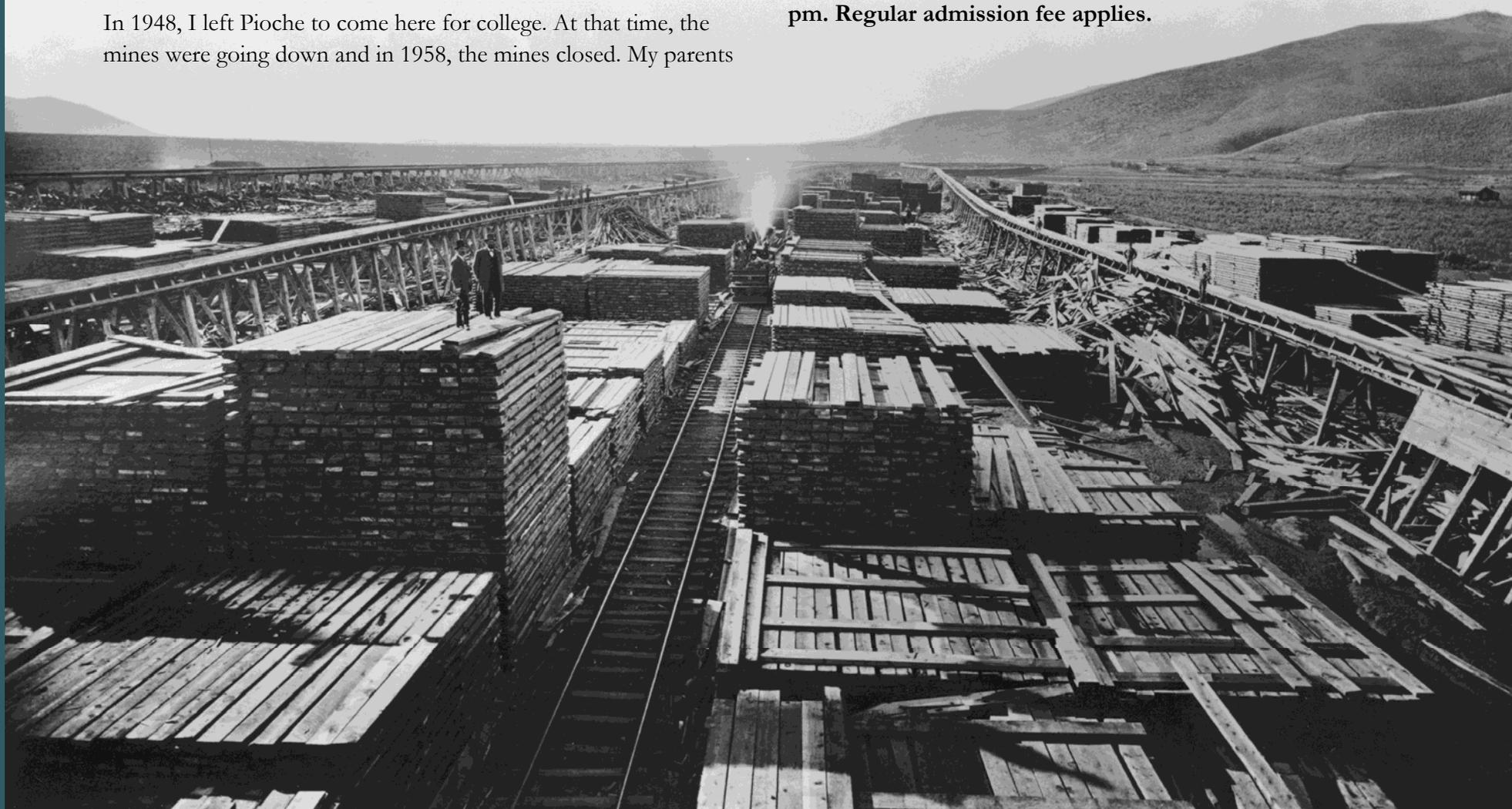
I had great teachers at both the University of Nevada and Stanford. I was especially fond of Charlton Laird at UNR. He was a wonderful, grandfatherly man! Laird stopped me when I was working for the newspaper and asked, "Have you ever thought about academia?" Well, that surprised me, but he said he would help me and that is how I made a career change.

What would you like to share about your personal life? What legacy do you hope to leave?

In 1948, I left Pioche to come here for college. At that time, the mines were going down and in 1958, the mines closed. My parents

lived there, so of course, I returned to visit and Nevada has been my home base most of my life. June marks my 50th wedding anniversary to Betty. We have a son in Reno and a daughter in Vancouver and we have three grandchildren. When my children were growing up, we used to do a lot of camping and fishing. I love the great outdoors! We explored many wonderful places in the mountains of eastern Nevada where I grew up. I dedicate my book to my grandchildren. They will harvest the seeds we have planted...

James W. Hulse will conduct a book signing for *Progress or Plunder* at the museum from 6-7 pm, Thursday, June 28, followed by an audience participation discussion from 7-8 pm. Regular admission fee applies.



GIFTS of HEALING:

French Travel Posters 1945-1949



French travel posters given to Nevada in 1949 in gratitude for American support following World War II are now on exhibit in the museum's South Changing Gallery. These 21 travel posters (1945-1949) were gifted to Nevada aboard the Merci Train in February of 1949 and are being exhibited for the first time. The *Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français*, the French National Railways, commissioned contemporary regional artists to depict stunning French landscapes, historical provinces, and cultural regions.

A free reception for *Gifts of Healing: French Travel Posters 1945-1949* will be held Thursday evening July 12, 2012. The reception will be from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, followed by a presentation by NSM Research Associate Mary Covington on the history of the Merci Train and the project. For more information, contact Sue Ann Monteleone: sueann.monteleone@nevadaculture.org or 775-687-4810, ext. 240.

Gifts of Healing: French Travel Posters 1945-1949 features artwork carried aboard the Merci, or Gratitude Train, in February of 1949. Research indicates that all states received a set of posters, yet only three appear to have retained possession of their collection, and Nevada will be the only state to exhibit them. Staff from the Nevada State Museum and Nevada State Archives restored the posters for the exhibit, generously sponsored by Hazel Woodgate and the John and Grace Naumann Foundation.

In addition to the beautiful posters, the exhibit includes a selection of other gifts received with the Merci Train—a couture wedding dress from



Above: A tag like this accompanied each gift shipped aboard the Merci Train.

Right: A partial view of the gallery, showing the amazing couture wedding dress from Lyon.

Lyon, an antique clock, French toy soldiers and more. The Merci Train, *Le Train de la Reconnaissance*, carried 49 boxcars filled with tokens and treasures from the French provinces, one boxcar for each state and one to be shared between Hawaii and Washington, D.C. French individuals gave more than 50,000 items. The bulk of the gifts were works of art including paintings, folk art, sculptures, ceramics, and trench art made from artillery shells used in WW I. Children sent their prized possessions and families sent war medals of their lost relatives.



The artwork displays the healing power of artistic expression and a universal language that cuts across time, tides, and allegiances. The significance of the Merci Train gifts represent the best of humanity: the kindness that humans can give and share in the face of great suffering, the deep connection possible across cultural and spatial boundaries. In this new century, the ability to share the story of *Le Train de la Reconnaissance* is more relevant than ever.

Exhibits Manager, Ray Geiser, and Research Associate, Mary Works Covington, carefully frame the Merci Train posters. Framing them in archival Plexiglas allows them to be displayed and will help protect them from further deterioration.





Coin Collecting at the Carson City Mint Coin Show

People collect coins for a variety of reasons: curiosity about the stories behind the symbols, an interest in the animals and people depicted, connecting with like-minded people, and a fascination with history, foreign countries, and ancient civilizations. Some are delighted by artistic detail and the beauty of the coins; others collect as an investment. Collectors, dealers, and coin enthusiasts flock to the Nevada State Museum, site of the former U.S. Mint in Carson City, every August to buy, sell, trade, and share in the camaraderie of numismatists from all over the world.

Many find the process of minting as fascinating as the coins themselves. “Coin Press No. 1,” explained Curator of History, Bob Nysten, “has a long colorful history which continues to this day. On February 11, 1870, Coin Press No. 1 struck the first coin, a Seated Liberty Dollar, bearing the soon to be famous CC mintmark. The original press still works, but today instead of minting coins, we produce commemorative medallions—still bearing the CC mintmark.” Visitors to the Nevada State Museum can see Coin Press No. 1 in action the last Friday of the month and at the coin show.



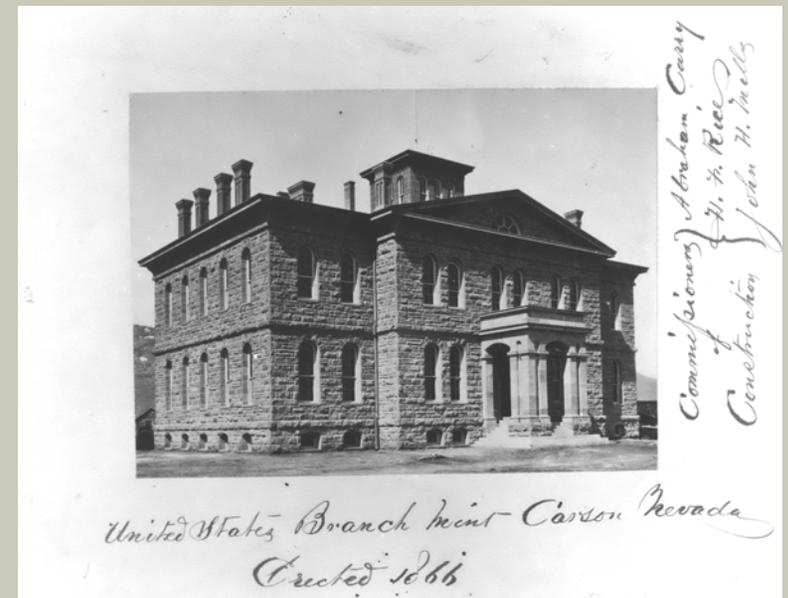
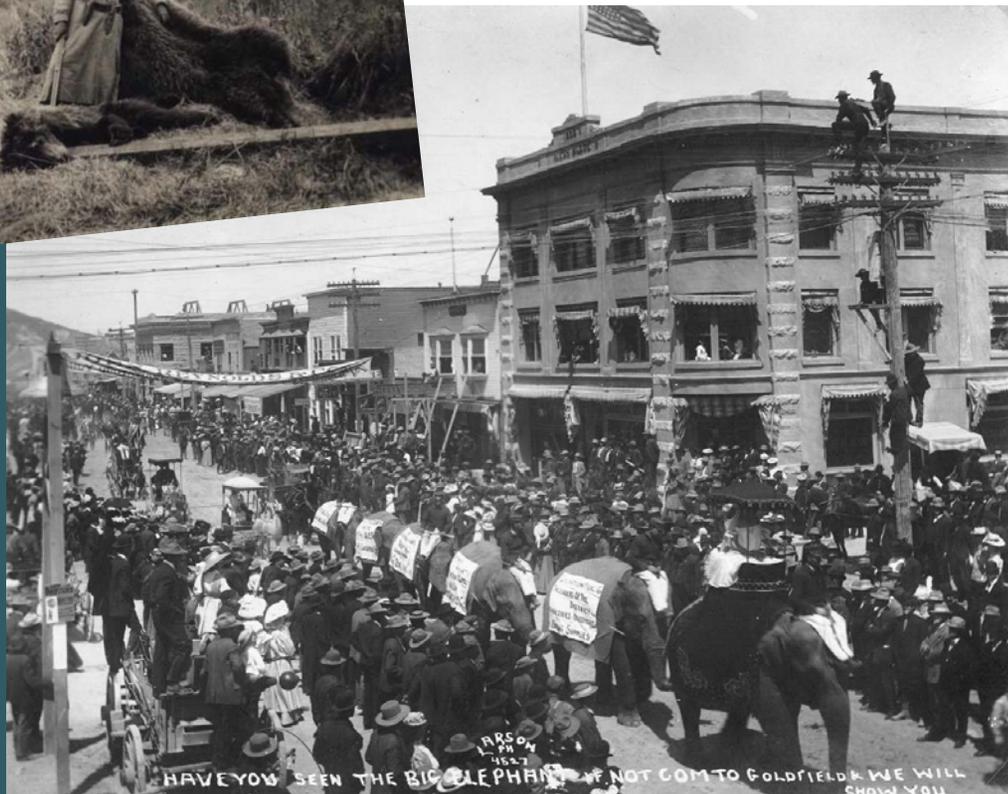
The 2012 Carson City Mint Coin show runs from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, August 24-25. In addition to demonstrations by Coin Press No. 1, the show features 24 coin dealers, numismatic education, gold panning, a children’s treasure chest, food sales, and valuable raffle prizes. Admission is free for museum members and children 17 and under; non-member adult admission is \$8 per day. Entrance fee includes the coin show and all exhibits. For information about the show or to purchase raffle tickets, contact Deborah Stevenson at d Stevenson@nevadaculture.org or 775/687-4810, ext. 237.

Collect a Piece of History from Nevada State Museum's Historic Photo Collection

by Sue Ann Monteleone, Registrar

Did you know you can purchase copies of historic photos of Nevada's people and places right here at the Nevada State Museum?

The History Program has a wide variety of interesting images of early Carson City, Virginia City, Goldfield, Stewart Indian School, and the USS Nevada, to name a few. Our collection of P.E. Larson photos from 1905-1908 Goldfield is especially unique.



This photograph was placed in the cornerstone of the Nevada State Capitol Building in a special Masonic ceremony on June 9, 1870. When the Capitol was restored in the late 1970s, the cornerstone was opened and the contents inventoried. A copy negative was made of the original photo before it was placed in the new Capitol cornerstone.

History researchers and journalists from all over the U. S. and the world contact the Nevada State Museum for images to use in research, text books, fiction, advertisements, and documentary films. One of our photos was used in the Ken Burns National Parks series.

Nevada State Museum charges a fee for services: one to copy an image and another to publish it. You may want to consider purchasing a copy of an historic image that is personally meaningful to you to enhance your home or office décor.

Our current standard rates are:

5 x 7 print -	\$12.00
8 x 10 print -	\$20.00
Digital image file -	\$20.00

Nevada State Museum members receive a 15% discount on basic fees, but are not exempt from commercial/publication fees. For more information, contact me at 775/687-4810, ext. 240 or sueann.monteleone@nevadaculture.org



A Friendship Based on Taste and Trust

by Jan Loverin, Curator of Clothing and Textiles

I am always amazed at the emotional impact of fashion and this was certainly true at our reception for *Dress and Designer: Kathleen Sandoval's Inaugural Ball Gowns*. The reception was held April 19 and proved to be an evening of great smiles, warm hugs, laughter, and tears. First Lady Kathleen Sandoval and her gown designer, Virginia Vogel, responded so emotionally to each other, that we, the observing public couldn't help but be touched as well.

The evening began with a wonderful reception, catered and hosted by Museum Store Manager, Charmain Philips, and our dedicated Friends of the Nevada State Museum. The crowd then moved into the exhibition area, where the First Lady gifted the gown she wore to the Las Vegas Inaugural Ball to the Museum. When asked to sign the Deed of Gift, the First Lady hesitated; although she knew she wanted to make the donation, there was a strong attachment to the gown, which has been such an important part of her life.

The crowd then took their seats in the South Changing Gallery, where the First Lady

graciously talked about meeting "Gini" for the first time, going to her home, seeing her UNR students working on projects, and developing a rapport built on taste and trust. She was so impressed with Gini's design skill, remarking

that Gini just "sketched out" an image of the proposed dress and it turned out to be exactly what she envisioned! Mrs. Sandoval expressed herself beautifully when talking about the friendship which developed during the design and fittings of her gowns.

Gini spoke about what an honor it was to work for the First Lady – it being the highlight of her long and illustrious career. She talked about conceiving the idea of creating two inaugural gowns; integrating the blend of rust, chartreuse, and brown silk *dupioni* fabrics; and the extensive time it took to applique the lace and beaded embellishments.

The audience was enthralled, watching these two women interact with each other. They sensed their strong connection, developed through the design and construction of a garment, which will become a significant part of the Museum's collection. Our Division Administrator, Peter Barton, commented, "Museums and programs that move people emotionally are often the most meaningful and memorable. Last evening certainly was all that and more."



Mackinaw!

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

In April, the Natural History Program received a welcome addition to its holdings when Mr. David Kindred of Reno, NV donated his prized taxidermy mount of a Mackinaw (also known as Lake Trout; *Savelinus namaycush*) to the Nevada State Museum, Carson City. This animal was caught in May of 1989. At 29 inches in length and weighing 9 lbs., it is among the larger specimens of this fish generally caught in Nevada.

The back, sides, and fins of this species are a grayish color overlaid with lighter gray spots. Orange or red-orange coloration may occur on the fins. Mackinaw from Lake Tahoe average 3-5 pounds and 6 to 10 lb. fish are common. The largest animal caught in this lake weighed 37 lbs. 6 oz. This fish is native to the Arctic Circle of Alaska and Canada south to Washington state and the New England states but it has been released into a number of higher elevation lakes in the western United States outside of its native range. The Mackinaw was introduced into Nevada least 125 years ago and has supported a popular sport fishery for over 100 years. It has lived in Lake Tahoe since 1885 or 1887 and now also thrives in Donner, Fallen Leaf, and Stony Ridge lakes. Attempts to release it into the Truckee River and Walker Lake in the early 1900s failed. It is considered a great catch due to its large size, trophy value, and because they are really tasty.

The specimen we received is an excellent example of a species of fish popular in Nevada. It is at least a third larger and considerably more



Family – Salmonidae

Savelinus namaycush (Mackinaw Trout, Lake Trout) –

Physical Characteristics/Physical

Characteristics/Unique Features –

The back, sides, and fins are a grayish color overlaid with lighter gray spots. The top of the head generally has a marbled pattern of wavy, fine lines. Background grayish color can vary in shade among lakes. Some animals from larger water bodies can be so silvery that the spots are difficult to see. Orange or red-orange coloration may occur on the fins. Not as highly colored as many trout.

The largest animal caught in the Great Basin weighed 37 lbs. 6 oz. Ten year old fish from Lake Tahoe can have a

length from tip of nose to the inside of the tail fork of 24 inches.

The caudal (tail) fin is deeply forked.

Sexes – During courtship and mating the backs of males become light-colored contrasting with markedly with the dark sides. Female during this time are dark all over.

Range – Arctic Circle of Alaska and most of Canada south to Washington state and the New England states. Has been introduced into parts of the western U.S., south of the above mentioned regions.

Resident Status – Introduced into Lake Tahoe 1885 or 1887. Also released in Donner, Fallen Leaf, and Stony Ridge lakes. Populations in these lakes are well established. Smaller plantings in the

attractive than the mount we previously displayed. I thank Mr. Kindred for his willingness to share his animal with the people visiting our museum.

It will contribute to the enjoyment and education of Nevada residents and visitors for a long time to come.



Detail of the Mackinaw (Lake) Trout's caudal fin.

Truckee River and Walker Lake in the early 1900s failed.

Habitat – Will occupy rivers and shallow waters of cold, northern regions but prefers deep, cold, stratified lakes in the southern part of its distribution. In Great Basin lakes it occurs in 100 foot or deeper water and has been found in Lake Tahoe at depths of 1,400 feet. Cannot tolerate waters over 70° F. Prefers temperatures near 50° F. Requires low salinity and high oxygen levels.

Food Habits – Carnivorous. Young feed primarily on small insects, crustaceans and zooplankton. Animals over 2 lbs. (15+ inches long) eat primarily fish. In Lake Tahoe they feed on Tahoe suckers, Lahontan Tui Chub, and mountain whitefish but they also feed heavily a shrimp-like crustacean called Mysis which was transplanted from Northern lakes.

Neat Facts –

Second half of species name (namaycush) is derived from the language of the First Nation peoples from the Hudson Bay area of Canada.

Prized sport fish due to its large size and trophy value. It is also popular fish for consumption.

Tahoe Mackinaw can live up to 17 years and animals from other areas have been reported to be as much as 41 years old.

Spends most of its time in colder water but comes into shallow depths to spawn in fall. Have done well in Tahoe. Are generally considered to spawn in silt-free rocky, boulder strewn areas

ranging in depth from a few feet to 200. In Lake Tahoe, however, there is evidence that at least some Lake Trout deposit eggs over macrophyte beds on underwater mounts. It is thought these beds may provide the protection for the eggs afforded by interstices among the rocks of other lakes. Do not build gravel nest (“redd”) like other trout but will fan away silt and roll small rocks off the site. Mating occurs when the males nudge the females in the side with their snout and press their vents near those of the female. Both animals quiver as their gametes are released. The fertilized eggs settle into spaces among the rubble and gravel of the bottom. Neither the eggs nor the newly hatched young are protected by the adults.

Males lack development of the misshapen jaws seen in many breeding salmonids.

Introduction of Mackinaw into Lake Tahoe no doubt had a negative effect on native trout but because they prefer much deeper water than native fish this impact should be somewhat mitigated.

Slow growing, long-lived fish.

Sources –

La Rivers, I. 1962. Fishes and fisheries of Nevada. Nevada State Fish & Game Commission. State Printing Office, Carson City.

Sigler, W. F. and J. W. Sigler. 1987. Fishes of the Great Basin: A natural history. Max C. Fleishmann series in Great Basin natural history. Univ. Nevada Press, Reno.

April 20, 2012

Dear Friends of Nevada state museum

I had the TIME OF MY LIVES I finally got to see what my dad studied all his time in collage. I also got to learn about natives. I also enjoyed the coin press. I thought that how the press was operated. Thanks again

your friends,
Alex nesmet

April 20, 2012

Dear friends of Nevada State Museum,

Thank you for you time. I learned so much about everything even myself. My favorite part was the mine. It was very dark in the mine. Thank you for your time. I enjoyed coming and will come again and see you again.

Sincerely,
Kylie N.

April 20, 2012

Dear Friends of the Nevada State Museum.

Thank you for showing us that very interesting tour. I learned that all you need are cat tails and pine nuts if your in the old days. My favorite part was learning about flint. Thank you again for your wonderful hospitality and tour.

Sincerely,
Joshua Jones or
kid who asked many questions



Museum volunteers give tours to thousands of school children each year. The guides really enjoy receiving wonderful Thank You letters like these.

Fall Volunteer Tour Guide Training

Jump into fall by attending Tour Guiding Training at the Nevada State Museum, 9 am - 3 pm, September 11-12 and 18-19. Curator of Education, Deborah Stevenson, promises four full days of learning adventure, plus the opportunity to meet new friends, network with like-minded people, and contribute to the success of the museum. The training includes two potlucks, a field trip, and lectures by experts in the fields of history, natural history, and anthropology.

All new and experienced guides are encouraged to attend the training. This year's history focus will include a prelude to the 150th anniversary of the state (2014) by Curator of History, Bob Nylen. Nylen will discuss the history of the State Capitol and has invited special guest Kay Winters, the hostess who cut the cake at the state's centennial celebration. In the area of Natural History, volunteer Tom Strekal will give a presentation from his area of expertise, *Pyramid Lake Fish*, including the Cui Cui and Cutthroat Trout.

To register, contact dstevenson@nevadaculture.org or call 775/687-4810, ext. 237.

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

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.

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Governor

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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.

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