

Mint Edition

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

Winter 2013
Vol. XLIII, No. 1



Frémont cannon in Shevlin Park, near Bend, Oregon. This location was the campsite of the Fremont Expedition on the night of Dec. 4, 1843.

Photo courtesy of Loren Irving.

loved and cherished all tell stories about people's values and the lives they led. Like me, they had hopes and dreams, doubts and fears, work and family. Many lost it all and started over from scratch, demonstrating great courage and resilience. Nevada. It's all here.

That's the message the tour guides and I convey to kids who visit the museum. We only have an hour or so to light the fire of imagination, evoke a sense of wonder, touch a heart, or change a perspective. It's a daunting challenge – exciting and humbling at the same time.

Will Nevada thrive? Will the next generation of leaders emerge fresh and confident with enough sense of history to learn from our mistakes and not repeat them? Who knows? But when a 4th grader writes us a letter saying, "I love history," I know we've done our job!

We've chosen a programming theme for 2013-14: Explorations! This includes everything from discovering backyard birds to learning about geothermal energy, minerals and mining, rock art and archaeology, and culminating in a very special exhibit on Frémont's "lost" cannon. Maybe you'll be inspired to look within yourself and discover your own lost treasure – your authentic Nevada story.

Museum Explorations

by Deborah Stevenson, Editor

When I was in school, I thought history was really boring...endless strings of meaningless names and dates and events that had no relationship to me – or so I thought. But in college I had one good professor that opened my eyes. History is not about facts and trivia. It's about people like you and me.

Since I'm a visual learner, I can experience this broader historical perspective via the museum's collections and exhibits. The clothes people wore, the objects they used, the inventions they created, and the fine art objects they

Last Friday of Every Month!

10:30 am – noon & 1:00 – 3:00 pm: Demonstration of Coin Press No. 1, by volunteer Ken Hopple in the Historic Carson City Mint building. For more information contact Robert Nylén at ext. 239 or 245.



Photo: Jeanette McGregor



Admiral Halsey Saddle

The Nevada State Museum hosted the arrival of Admiral 'Bull' Halsey's 1945 saddle which will be featured in Nevada's Sesquicentennial Celebration. The saddle is on loan to the State of Nevada from the US Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, MD. Governor Brian Sandoval had the honor of opening the crate for the public unveiling on December 20, 2012. The saddle will be housed at the NSM while it is cleaned and conditioned by saddle specialists; then it is expected to

travel throughout the state in the planned NV 150 mobile museum.



Left: Governor Sandoval opening the crate.

Above: A first look at the Halsey saddle, back in Nevada for the first time in over 60 years.

A Generous Connection

by Sue Ann Monteleone, Museum Registrar

Hazel Woodgate, a longtime resident of Carson City, was here when the Merci Train arrived in 1949, carrying gifts of gratitude from the people of France to Americans for their support following World War II. Hazel's connection to Carson City history is an inspiring Nevada story.

Over the years, Mrs. Woodgate has enjoyed behind-the-scenes tours by Jan Loverin at the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center. Then Hazel participated in an early behind-the-scenes tour of the Merci Train Collection. The tours showed her not only the scope and beauty of the collections, but revealed areas where help was needed. These positive experiences motivated Hazel to make a generous contribution to NSM. Her donation benefitted the textile center, and along with a contribution from the John and Grace Nauman Foundation, enabled the development of a special Merci Train exhibit, *Gifts of Healing: French Travel Posters 1945-1949*.

One warm fall morning, Hazel Woodgate and her daughter Aleta took a tour through the museum to see the history gallery and the culmination of the Merci Train project, *Gifts of Healing*. They also examined our collection of historic photos and were delighted to discover the Carleton Watkins photographs of lumber mills.



Above: Hazel Woodgate views *Gifts of Healing: French Travel Posters 1945-1949*, an exhibit she helped bring to life.

Below: Detail of one of the amazing large format photographs taken by Carleton Watkins in 1876.

Seeing the potential of the Watkins photos for future projects, Hazel clearly recognized the need to digitize our collections in order to share them with the public and enable further exhibitions.

Mrs. Woodgate generously donated \$10,000 to the Nevada State Museum History Program. The funds will be used to enhance research and collection care of the Merci Train artifacts and to digitize a large portion of the Historic Photo Collection. Through documents and photos, families are linked to stories which become history. The Merci Train gifts represent the best of humanity. Likewise, Hazel's generosity allows her to become a part of history by making the connection to the past real for generations to come.

Early Prehistoric Textiles in the Western Great Basin



Above: "Fort Rock Type" sagebrush sandal from Elephant Mountain Cave, Humboldt County, NV.

Join archaeologist Pat Barker at the January Frances Humphrey lecture for a fascinating look into early prehistoric lifeways via textiles such as basketry, sandals, bags, mats, and cordage. Discover some of the earliest footwear in the world, dating back 9,000 - 13,000 years. "Nevada is a great place to study textiles," Barker explained, "because of excellent preservation due to the dry climate of the Great Basin." Prehistoric people collected a variety of plant materials: sagebrush, tule, dogbane, sedges, and grasses to weave into textiles. Most of the ancient textiles are twined, but a few are plaited.

Many studies of the earliest human habitation in the New World have focused on stone tool manufacture and hunting, usually associated with men. Barker's research on textiles offers a rare look at a traditional woman's role – weaving textiles in the home – and shows how the tradition evolved through time. Barker has been studying prehistoric textiles from NSM's anthropology collections for a dozen years – first as a paid employee of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and later as a museum volunteer. He works closely with other textile experts: Gene Hattori, NSM Curator of Anthropology; Catherine S. Fowler, Professor

IF YOU GO:

WHAT: *Frances Humphrey Lecture Series Early Prehistoric Textiles in the Western Great Basin* by archaeologist Pat Barker

WHEN: January 24, 2013
6:30pm – 8:00pm

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

CONTACT: Deborah Stevenson:
dstevenson@nevadaculture.org

Emeritus in Anthropology from the University of Nevada, Reno; and William J. Cannon, BLM Archaeologist, Lakeview, Oregon District. Dating the textiles scientifically has enhanced Barker's research.

"Stuff archaeologists find exciting, everyone else thinks is weird," Barker said. "Yet looking at children's sandals and footwear with holes where the ball of the foot or heel would have been, connects us to prehistoric people in a real way. They had families and needs just like us; they wore out their sandals and needed new ones. Since women traditionally gathered plants and worked at home sites, textile studies also help us understand women's roles in times past."

Pat Barker was born in Reno and grew up in Southern California. He earned a PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, Riverside. Barker's lecture, *Early Prehistoric Textiles in the Western Great Basin*, is scheduled for Thursday, January 24 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Artifacts will be available for viewing. Regular admission fees apply. Early arrival recommended; doors open at 6:00 pm.

Lost Keys and Lasting Legacies

by Scott Haag, Security Officer

“Oh no, I lost my keys! Did I leave them in the restroom? Did I drop them? Can you help me, please?” Does this sound like a frazzled museum visitor desperate for help from the Admissions staff? Maybe someone who just spent hours in a car or on a plane, with thoughts focused on making the most of time off from work? While you would easily be forgiven

for this assumption, in this case it’s one of our harried curators – someone whose thoughts are looking into the future, focused on creating exhibits that will touch the lives of our visitors and community, rather than attending to less critical personal needs.

Surrounded by staff that has worked at the Nevada State Museum for decades, I have just completed my first year. I am a security guard stationed at the admissions desk, but also patrol the museum and grounds. In this role I, along with Mike Sweeney, have two primary responsibilities: to ensure the safety and security of the staff, visitors, and items in the museum collections, and to provide outstanding customer service to all of our

visitors. Mike and I are normally the first faces that museum visitors see, and the last to wish them farewell.

On the day of my interview for this position, I was offered the opportunity to walk through the museum. From that first day I was amazed at the detail and depth of the exhibits. This sense of amazement has in no way diminished one year later. During this year I have been able to see first-hand the meticulous planning and execution that is required to maintain current exhibits and create new ones. I have seen the daily struggle to realize each curator’s vision, while constrained by the reality of budget restrictions and reduced work hours. Tens of thousands of square footage and over two million items in the collections are managed and maintained during a four-day work week. This monumental challenge is faced every week. Throw in community outreach, school tours, and endless fundraising – it becomes quite clear how keys can be misplaced.

There are several observations that can characterize my first year. This museum is staffed and cared for by passionate and visionary professionals striving to maintain and create a lasting, significant cultural legacy for all Nevadans. This museum resides in the hearts of many in our community, as seen through the dedication of the volunteers, in the faces of children filled with wonder, and through family heirlooms that are donated to the museum so they can be preserved for future generations. Every day visitors express to me just how fine a museum this is. If I had a nickel for every time over this past year a visitor expressed their surprise at the quality of this museum, I would be a volunteer rather than an employee.



Security Officer Scott Haag enjoys writing and is the author of several children’s books.

Share Your Love of Nevada: Become a Museum Tour Guide!

by Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education

Visiting the Nevada State Museum is a fun and memorable experience for thousands of students who tour here each year thanks to devoted volunteer guides who bring the museum to life. Receiving thank you letters from students is one of the most satisfying aspects of the job; the letters are heartwarming, funny, and sincere. Here's what a 4th grade student named Ashley wrote about her natural history tour which focused on the program, *Sensational Sagebrush*:



Volunteers Ron Roberts and Susan Bunker-Niles take a closer look at bats in the Discovery Lab.

Thank you for the fantastic tour. I have been there before, but I never thought I could learn so much in so little time. I had the best time ever. I wonder if we will have another fieldtrip to the State Museum.

The things I have learned [about] sagebrush is the good smell outside when it rains, people made clothes out of sagebrush, and some animals live on sagebrush.

P.S. You rock, best museum ever.

If you have time on your hands and love Nevada, please consider joining this team of interesting and talented individuals. Soon you'll be receiving letters too. Register now for *Winter Tour Guide Training*, January 22-23 and 29-30.



Museum Registrar Sue Ann Monteleone shows volunteer Bob Hilderbrand a prehistoric projectile point.

Four full days of fun, adventure, and learning await you! Contact the Education Office at 775-687-4810, ext. 237 or [dstevenson@nevadaculture.org](mailto:d Stevenson@nevadaculture.org) to register.

The January training will feature practice tours of *Under One Sky: Nevada's Native American Heritage* and the history gallery, *Nevada: A People and Place through Time*. The training also includes a presentation on *Nevada Birds* by Alan Gubanich, *Ray T. Baker and the U.S. Mint* by Curator of History Bob Nysten, *John C. Frémont* by volunteer Marv Kientz, and a new program, *Nevada's Water Use* by volunteer Joyce Gebo. Weather permitting we will walk along the Carson River to study a riparian zone and its wildlife.

Following the free training, new guides will pair up with experienced guides to observe and practice tours. Besides giving tours at the museum, interested volunteers may also learn to give tours at the Capitol which will be in high demand this legislative season. Becoming part of the museum team may be the most rewarding experience of your life. Look inside. You probably have a lot to give.

February Lecture Reveals "The Tahoe Story"

Michael J. Makley will discuss two books he wrote about Lake Tahoe history, Thursday, February 28, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Makley's program, entitled *The Tahoe Story: History of a National Treasure*, includes a book signing session for both *A Short History of Lake Tahoe* and *Cave Rock: Climbers, Courts, and a Washoe Sacred Place*. Makley is a retired teacher, and local author of several books on Comstock history as well as Lake Tahoe. Both *Cave Rock* and *A Short History of Lake Tahoe* are published by the University of Nevada Press and are for sale through the Nevada State Museum Store.

Generously illustrated with historic photographs, *A Short History of Lake Tahoe* recounts the fascinating history of Lake Tahoe. Author Michael J. Makley examines the geology and natural history of the lake and introduces the people who shaped its history, including the Washoe Indians and such colorful characters as Mark Twain and legendary teamster Hank Monk, plus later figures like entertainer Frank Sinatra and Olympic skier Julia Mancuso. He covers the development of the lake's surrounding valley, including the impacts of mining, logging, and tourism, and the economic, political, and social controversies regarding the use and misuse of the lake's resources. The book illuminates the challenges of protecting natural beauty in a fragile environment while preserving public access and a viable economy in the surrounding communities.

Cave Rock, a towering monolith jutting over the shore of Lake Tahoe, has been sacred to the Washoe people for over five thousand years. Long abused by road builders and vandals, it earned new fame in the late twentieth century as a world-class sport rock-climbing site. Over twenty years of bitter disputes and confrontation between the Washoe and the climbers ensued.

The Washoe are a small community of fewer than 2,000 members; the climbers were backed by a national advocacy and lobbying group and over a hundred powerful corporations. *Cave Rock: Climbers, Courts, and a Washoe Sacred Place* follows the history of the conflict between these two groups and examines the legal challenges and administrative actions that ultimately resulted in a climbing ban. Michael J. Makley co-authored the book with his son Matthew, who is currently teaching history at Metro State in Denver.

Makley's program is part of the museum's Frances Humphrey Lecture Series. Regular admission fees apply. Early arrival recommended; doors open at 6:00 pm.

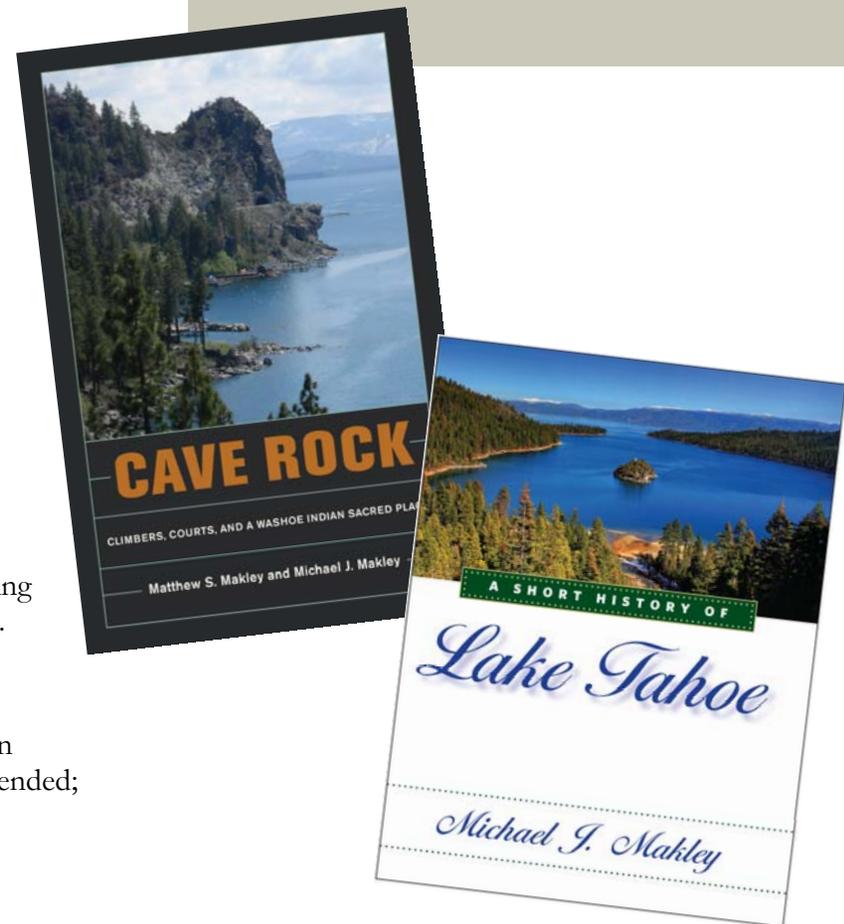
IF YOU GO:

WHAT: *Frances Humphrey Lecture Series: The Tahoe Story: History of a National Treasure*, lecture and book signing by Michael Makley, author of *A Short History of Lake Tahoe* and *Cave Rock, Climbers, Courts, and a Washoe Sacred Place*, published by the University of Nevada Press.

WHEN: February 28, 2013
6:30pm – 8:00pm

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

CONTACT: Deborah Stevenson:
dstevenson@nevadaculture.org





A Gift of an Important Nevada Story:

The Scholl Territorial Rifle



by Sue Ann Monteleone, Museum Registrar

Around 1863 gunsmith C. F. Scholl manufactured a custom rifle in Virginia City, Nevada Territory. Probably the earliest known Nevada manufactured gun in existence, it is also probably one of the last produced on the American frontier, since mass produced rifles took over the national market after the Civil War. This remarkable rifle is now a prize piece in the museum's collection through the generosity of donor Bill Bliss.

The rifle is 47" long with a 30" barrel; the octagonal barrel is 24.5 mm. in diameter, .38 caliber. The half stock is of California Walnut. There is also some gold, silver, and pewter embellishment. The top of the barrel between the hammer and the sight is marked "SCHOLL VIRGINIA N.T." We hope to display the C.F. Scholl rifle in the near future.

Photos: Jeanette McGregor





From *Nevada Today*: Jim Faulds (right) receives the 2012 Peer Review Excellence Award.

Why is Nevada in Hot Water? Find out March 28

State Geologist James E. Faulds presents a thought-provoking lecture for the Nevada State Museum's Frances Humphrey Lecture Series, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Thursday, March 28: *Why is Nevada in Hot Water: Tectonic Controls on Geothermal Activity in the Great Basin*. Faulds won the 2012 Peer Review Excellence Award for his work on geothermal energy technology; based on his credentials, Jim should be able to tell you everything you want to know about this hot topic.

Jim has been with Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology since 1997, originally as a Research Professor and since January 2012 as Director and State Geologist. He specializes in structural geology, tectonics, and geothermal systems. He has studied crustal deformation in many parts of the world, including several regions of the western U.S. and western Turkey. Much of his research has focused on how fault systems initiate and evolve through time.

He has published widely on extensional and strike-slip tectonics and the structural controls on geothermal activity.

For the past ten years, Faulds has been analyzing geothermal systems in the western U.S. and western Turkey. Jim's research has contributed to developing more sophisticated exploration strategies for geothermal systems. He has also taught courses at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) in structural geology, tectonics, geothermal exploration, and field geology, including directing UNR's geology field camp for five years.

Faulds earned his B.S. (with highest honors) at the University of Montana, his M.S. at the University of Arizona, and his Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico. Following completion of his education, he held postdoctoral research positions at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and at the University of Southern California.

The famous Fly Geiser in the Black Rock Desert shows evidence of the Great Basin's awesome geothermal potential.
Photo: George D. Baumgardner

IF YOU GO:

WHAT: *Frances Humphrey Lecture Series: Why is Nevada in Hot Water: Tectonic Controls on Geothermal Activity in the Great Basin* by State Geologist Jim Faulds.

WHEN: March 28, 2013
6:30pm – 7:30pm

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

CONTACT: Deborah Stevenson:
dstevenson@nevadaculture.org





Our Museum Store carries an excellent selection of Nevada books, T-shirts, jewelry, and unique gift items.
Selected Christmas items 35% OFF!

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 | | \$60 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.

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

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
rynilen@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

CONTACT THE MUSEUM...