

# Mint Edition

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

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## Challenges and Solutions An Interview with Facility Supervisor Rich Parker



Photo: Jeanette McGregor

by Mary W. Covington, Membership Coordinator

The first thing to know about Facility Supervisor Rich Parker is that he is a hard man to pin down for an interview. There is no slack in his work day, but I finally got him to sit down for a fifteen minute conversation, and learned a lot about someone I've worked around for several years.

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*What does a typical day as the facility supervisor look like?*

A typical day starts with assessing building needs for the day. Any emergencies come first, then scheduling any work for my maintenance and custodial staff. Next up, continuing work on any prior and future projects for the facility. Communication with facility staff, security, custodial staff, and administration is a key aspect of the position every day. I address facility and grounds issues, events, staff needs and event set-up requirements. My days are busy, but I enjoy the fast pace, and when they see me working hard, I

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*Above: Detail of Abe Blair's [Light of Dawn](#), one of several stunning images to be featured in our upcoming exhibit, [Beyond Nature's Light: The Photography of Abe Blair](#).*

Director Jim Barmore and Facility Supervisor Rich Parker coordinate plans and get it done with a smile.

think it keeps my staff motivated and focused and helps the day go by for all of us.

*How long have you been in this position and what did you do before?*

I have been with the Nevada State Museum for 14 years – eight years in the Custodial Supervisor position, a year as a Maintenance Specialist, and currently five years as the Facility Supervisor. I previously worked in Custodial and Maintenance for 11 years at Western Nevada Community College in Fallon.

*What is the most challenging aspect of your job?*

The most challenging aspects of the job are dealing with the effects of the reduction to a smaller and more minimalist staff during the 2008 recession.

*What is the best part of working at the Nevada State Museum?*

I enjoy taking care of long term maintenance issues, bringing lighting and electrical into the current century, and anticipating future maintenance needs so that my team can head them off while making upgrades. I like to plan my budget so that I have money for improvements and not just maintenance.



*Has your job changed a lot over time?*

From the time that I started, the position and duties have changed tremendously due to the fact that the museum had very little funding and no money for critical projects. In the beginning I was responsible for landscaping and enjoyed keeping that up because it is the first thing that the public sees, and that gives them a positive impression of our facility.

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It was great getting to know a little bit more about Rich. He is a dedicated, driven professional. He likes to get things done and feels strongly that everything the facilities department accomplishes is because of a great team that goes the extra mile – Maintenance Repair Specialist Clint Fuller; Custodian Mike Edling; and Security Officers Mike Sweeney, Scott Haag, and Albert Depew.

## Editor's Note

by Mary Covington

“In like a lion, out like a lamb,” or “In like a lamb, and out like a lion?” The latter seems to fit better, since it has been so stormy and unpredictable all month. It’s been a busy few months of activity at the museum as well, with the continuing collections care move, the departure of Deborah Stevenson, and the arrival of myself and Albert Depew. Spring is my favorite season and with the new flowers, grass, and signs of life, there is the tingle of excitement crackling in the air that whispers promise and change. It is the season to refresh ourselves and consider new methods of working, to open doors and let stale air out and clean air in, and to make new friends and share our joys. Here at the museum, we are grateful for the support of so many in this region and hope you will share the joy of this museum with your friends and families as the weather warms.



*Right: Light of Dawn by Abe Blair*

*Below: Abe Blair in the Columbia River Gorge working on a scene during the spring rainstorm with both his digital SLR and panoramic film camera. Photo: Moss Halladay*



## *Beyond Nature's Light: The Photography of Abe Blair*

Abe Blair is a local photographer with a gallery in Truckee, CA who has travelled the world honing his craft. Through careful study of a scene and extensive knowledge of his medium, he captures the mood and power of natural scenes many never see. Beginning in mid-April, the Nevada State Museum invites you to see some of his stunning images from Nevada and eastern California in our latest photographic exhibit.





Photos: Jeanette McGregor

# Farewell and Welcome!

On February 29<sup>th</sup> Curator of Education Deborah Stevenson received a fond farewell party in the Dema Guinn Concourse. Staff and friends toasted Deborah and amid cries of, “Speech, Speech,” Deborah spoke briefly of her time and accomplishments during her tenure, but focused her main remarks on the people and relationships that she developed. She will be greatly missed, but we look forward to her visits with pictures of her travels and forthcoming artwork! Happy Trails Deborah!

*Above:* Museum Director, Jim Barmore says a few words of thanks at Deborah Stevenson’s retirement party.

*Right:* Mary W. Covington.



## We welcome two new half-time staff members, Mary W. Covington and Albert Depew.

Mary Covington joins us in the new position of Sales and Promotion Representative II. In addition to being the membership coordinator, she will help with the newsletter, coin press, and promoting events and activities for the museum.

Mary is a native Nevadan from Silver City, with a background as an assistant sound editor for feature films such as Titanic, The English Patient, Saving Private Ryan, and Chocolat. She wrote, produced, and directed the feature length documentary, “The Life and Times of the Red Dog Saloon,” released on DVD as “Rockin’ at the Red Dog; the Dawn of Psychedelic Rock.” She most recently worked for the Nevada Arts Council as the Community Arts





*Above:* Albert Depew's favorite exhibit is NSM's replica of an underground mine.

*Right:* Road to Town by Albert Depew

Development Program Coordinator and, prior to that, spent several years working on the Merci Train Project at NSM with registrar, Sue Ann Monteleone. They developed workshops for the public, the Gifts of Healing Exhibit, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Merci Train artifacts. Mary and her husband Aaron have restored an 1878 Victorian home on the west side of Carson City and have two teenagers, a son and a daughter. Mary is thrilled to be part of the museum team!

Albert Depew is a full time stay-at-home Dad, a volunteer fire fighter with Central Lyon County Fire District for the past eight years, currently the Silver City Volunteer Fire Chief, and our newest half-time Security Officer at the Nevada State Museum.

Previously, he was a security guard for Brinks Armored Transportation for eight years. As a Brinks guard, he always got a lot of questions which he sums up jokingly as, "No I don't have change for a dollar, and yes, I've seen a million dollars." Albert has always appreciated history, and in particular, the fact that the Nevada State Museum building is one of the oldest buildings in town. When he saw the security guard position advertised, he jumped at the chance. "It's a neat place, and I wanted to be a part of that history," says Albert. Born and raised in Pismo Beach, he moved to Nevada 12 years ago to take care of his parents. He has a son at Western Nevada Community College, and two other sons at Carson High School. In what little free time he has, he enjoys photography.

Welcome Albert & Mary!



# Frances Humphrey Lecture Series

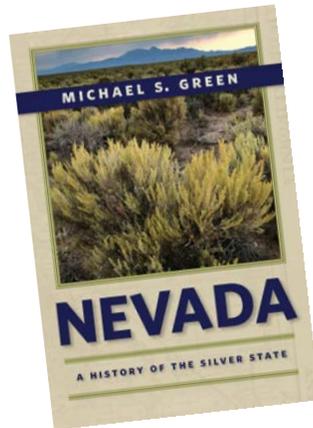
Join us on the last Thursday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Doors open at 6:00 pm.

## April 28, 2016

Frances Humphrey  
Lecture Series:

*A History of the Silver State* by Michael Green, Associate Professor of History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Green will discuss the history of Nevada from the earliest explorers to mining, tourism, and economic diversification; the program also includes a book signing. One of the themes explored in Green's book is the role of luck, especially in regard to mining and gambling. He also covers exploitation of the land and natural resources, political forces and corruption, and citizens' often tumultuous relationship with the federal government. Contact Bob Nysten, Curator of History: [rnylen@nevadaculture.org](mailto:rnylen@nevadaculture.org) or ext. 245



## May 26, 2016

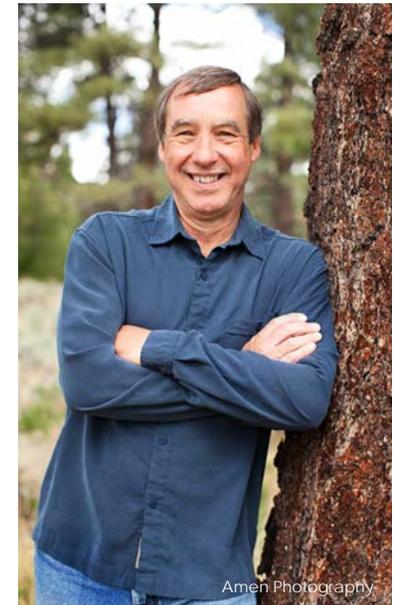
Frances Humphrey Lecture Series: *Historic Fishermen's Caches from Winnemucca Lake, Nevada* by Gene Hattori, PhD. Two, Euroamerican "fishermen's" caches from Winnemucca Lake, Nevada, were associated with a little known historic Nevada industry. These objects from the Nevada State Museum's history collections reveal a story that extends beyond their obvious importance as a time capsule containing remarkably well preserved, unusual artifacts found along the shores of a dry lakebed. They reveal valuable insights into commerce, technologies, and lifeways in late nineteenth century western Nevada.

Gene Hattori has served as Curator of Anthropology at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City since 1999. He earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington State University, Pullman (1982), his master's degree in anthropology also from Washington State University (1975), and a bachelor of science degree in zoology from the University of Nevada, Reno (1971). This lecture celebrates Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month. Contact Gene Hattori, Curator of Anthropology: [ghattori@nevadaculture.org](mailto:ghattori@nevadaculture.org) or ext. 230.

## June 23, 2016

Frances Humphrey Lecture Series: *Best Backpacking Trips in Nevada and California* by Mike White; includes book signing. The American West is home to some of the best backpacking trips in the world, and California and Nevada offer some outstanding destination trails. Mike White's presentation will help the accomplished hiker through the entire process of planning a multiday excursion. Finally, he'll add historical vignettes and entertaining personal essays to enhance the visitor's understanding of the area.

White has authored or coauthored 20 guides to the outdoors, winning the Ben Franklin Award for *Top Trails Lake Tahoe*, and a bronze medal for Fore Word magazine's Book of the Year for *50 Classic Hikes in Nevada*. In addition to his guidebooks, Mike has written articles for *Sunset*, *Backpacker*, and the *Reno Gazette Journal*. Contact George Baumgardner, Curator of Natural History: [gbaumgardner@nevadaculture.org](mailto:gbaumgardner@nevadaculture.org) or ext. 236.



# Collections Care

by Sue Ann Monteleone, Registrar

Anyone who has visited the Nevada State Museum during the last nine months knows that there is a big collections care move happening, making for a very busy building and an absorbed staff. A lot has been accomplished – here's a quick update:

Along with fresh paint and new metal shelving, a quarter of the Nevada State Museum Basement collections have been re-located to the Lower Middle Gallery, including the Mercè Train collection, the USS Nevada collection, the Dr. Lee ceramics, much of the large painting collection, and many more exciting artifacts like cradles, trunks, cameras, and mine models. Ultimately, these collections will be viewable to the public by appointment.

Similarly, the Natural History taxidermy is now concentrated in the Upper Middle Gallery (UMG) and other areas of the Museum Complex. About 40% of the large taxidermy,



*Above: You missed a spot! Evan Pellegrini, Lisa Tenbrink, and Taygan Byrns bring energy and skills to the collections care move.*

*Below left: Older, wooden storage is being replaced with archival metal shelving.*

from geese to deer, has been taken from the Indian Hills Curatorial Center (IH) to the UMG. Specimens that haven't been exhibited in a while are now on display, with more plans for additional behind-the-scenes tours.

New paint on the walls, sealant on the floors, wooden racks replaced by metal shelving – the Indian Hills Curatorial Center is hopping with activity and improvements. Approximately 30% of the collection has been moved to the Museum Complex, much in the Upper South Gallery and the basement history collections area. The collections move ranged from Doctor Shipley's dental office furniture to stoves,

saddles, projectors, telephones, assay and mining equipment, typewriters, baby buggies, toy tricycles, vacuums, lamps, and home furnishings. A collection of hundreds of historic bottles from a single donor was among the objects carefully (very carefully!) moved.

The collections housed throughout the Nevada State Museum are diverse and significant. Moving them requires thought and preparation, along with careful handling and tracking of records. A relocation of this magnitude is challenging, but not without its rewards, as you will read later in Taygan's article.



# Moving Forward: A Collaborative Approach to Collections Management

*Left: Nevada Historical Society Curator of Artifacts and Education, Christine Johnson and NSM Curator of Clothing and Textiles, Jan Loverin hanging out with some dummies.*



Photo: Scott Haag

by Jan Loverin, Curator of Clothing & Textiles  
The Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center has also been doing collaborative collections management for some time. In fact, the first big collections move happened in 1992 when the Textile Center began and all textile artifacts were moved here from the Nevada State Museum building and other locations. Since its inception in 1992, the Textile Center has also housed artifacts for the Nevada Historical Society, the Nevada State Railroad Museum, and the former School of Home Economics at the University of Nevada, Reno. Incorporating

artifacts and coordinating catalog and donor records from all these different sources has been challenging.

I am pleased to share this challenge with colleagues Sue Ann Monteleone, NSM Registrar, and Christine Johnson, Curator of Artifacts and Education at the Nevada Historical Society. Record keeping is an essential part of museum work, but due to the sheer nature and volume of work, problems do arise. We are finding lost histories and reuniting them with the artifacts, which otherwise could be forgotten. In the course of the past year, Christine and I have reconnected

ensembles, whose pieces were separated; made accurate identifications of existing artifacts, and established a coordinated, collaborative methodology for managing our combined collections.

As we move forward, the reality of physical space limitations is real. However, since our mission is to collect and preserve Nevada history, we continue to assess what we already have and evaluate current clothing items, which will prove to have historic value. Fashion is not static, nor is society and our goal is to accurately assess those objects representative of our culture and history.



# Through the Portals: My Favorite Artifact

by Taygan Byrns, Curatorial Assistant

In my time as a curatorial assistant in the [Nevada State Museum] history department, I have had the opportunity to be involved in a variety of jobs, from the processing of artifacts into our collection management program to the reorganizing and reutilization of museum space. But nothing has been as challenging or as interesting as the collections move that is currently underway between our offsite storage facility and our museum. In this process, we have moved a large fraction of our collection to safe temporary storage spaces while we seal and paint the concrete block walls, seal the concrete floor, and replace the outdated wooden shelves with more appropriate metal ones.

We have had the opportunity to see many interesting artifacts during the move, which display the diversity of the museum's collections. One of my favorite artifacts is a wooden sword with many small sharks' teeth acting as the blades on all four sides of the wooden shaft. The sword is part of our Dr. Simeon L. Lee collection, arguably the

museum's largest collection of artifacts from a single donor.

The sword is believed to be of Micronesian origin and its delicacy and lightly used condition indicate that it likely would have been used for ceremonial purposes. The sword was one of the wonderful things we found stored at the warehouse, and is now being safely stored in one of our newly renovated storage galleries at the museum.

This collections move has allowed us the opportunity to see and appreciate the diversity of our collection and to guarantee that all of our artifacts are stored safely and properly, ensuring their preservation for future generations.

Taygan Byrns is completing her undergraduate degree in History at the University of Nevada, Reno and is awaiting acceptance news to various graduate programs on the west coast. NSM Staff have been lucky enough to have her talents as she passes through the portals of the museum on her educational journey.



Photos: Jeanette McGregor

# Frémont Exhibit Finds New Path to Oregon



Photos: Susan Buce

Nevada State Museum's *Finding Frémont: Pathfinder of the West* exhibit has found a new path to a temporary home at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center (CGDC). NSM's very own Exhibits Preparator, Dave Shipman, traveled to The Dalles, Oregon February 8-12 to work with their staff to install the exhibit and make sure everything was up and running for their February opening.

Dave said that working with the CGDC team was a great experience. "The Discovery Center is an amazing place and the whole area of The Dalles is very interesting, historically speaking. It was a neat experience for me, educational, fun – they were all very accommodating and provided me with all the tools I needed. The maintenance staff and the director, Carolyn Purcell, were knowledgeable and helpful – very hands on. I even brought my 16 year old granddaughter with me and put her to work!"

If you missed *Finding Frémont* when it was on exhibit at the Nevada State Museum, CGDC will have the exhibit on display through the summer.

<https://www.gorgediscovery.org/discover/exhibits-programs/>

Above: Exhibits Preparator, David Shipman and his granddaughter, Sydney Cates setting up the Frémont exhibit.

Right: The opening of *Finding Frémont* at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum was well attended, giving this travelling exhibit exposure to a new audience.



# Welcome to the newest members of the Nevada State Museum!

## Benefactors:

Don and Nancy Dallas

## Contributing:

Sam and Joseph Miller

## Sustaining:

Gary and Brenda Croak

Tom and Sherry Grundy

## Basic:

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Donna Brand

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Colleen and Peter Skewes-Cox

Brian, Renee, Ethan and Sammi Snyder

Jane Sweetland

Mark Vollmer

Steve Wassner

Kelly Wilks

## Already a member?

Please remember to give us your email so we can make sure you receive the latest news on upcoming events and activities. Contact Mary W. Covington at 687-4810 ext. 224, [mcovington@nevadaculture.org](mailto:mcovington@nevadaculture.org)

## Not a member?

If you would like to become a member and receive all the benefits of membership, fill out and send in the form below. Click [HERE](#) for the Museum Membership Form.

## Are you a Friends Member?

If you are already a member of the museum but would like to get more involved, consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Nevada State Museum.

Nevada State Museum Friend membership benefits include: previews of new exhibits and galleries, subscription to The Friends newsletter, and association with friendly and supportive Nevada State Museum staff.

## Some of the volunteer activities:

- Lead guided tours of the Museum and/or Capitol
- Participate in outreach programs with local schools
- Work hands-on with school children
- Volunteer in the museum store or in various departments.

You must be a member of the Nevada State Museum to join the Friends.



Photo: Jeanette McGregor



Photo: Jeanette McGregor

## Store Spotlight: Volunteer Mary Ann O'Donnell

A life-long lover of museums, Mary Ann feels strongly that when you live in a community, you should volunteer. Here at the Nevada State Museum, she has been doing just that for 30 years! Since moving here in 1986, Mary Ann has been active in many parts of the museum, but now chooses to focus on helping in the Museum Store.

Contact Store Manager Charmain Phillips to volunteer for half-day shifts: 775-687-4810 ext. 244

## Visit the Museum

600 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4004

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

Members	Free	Memberships:	\$20 senior
Children (17 & under)	Free		\$35 individual
Adults	\$ 8.00		\$60 family



[www.museums.nevadaculture.org](http://www.museums.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  
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Claudia Vecchio  
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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 Cora Johnson, Chair at [cora28\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:cora28_99@yahoo.com).

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](http://www.nevadaculture.org).

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

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Jeanette McGregor, Design

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