

Summer 2014



Nevada Historical Society

Society News



NV 150 Celebrations—

We want to acknowledge our librarian assistant Heidi Englund for all of her hard work on the 150 Cake celebration and the upcoming **Nevada Proud Pioneer Picnic** at Bower's Mansion on Saturday, July 27th from 10am—3pm. Visit our website for more information.

Grants Awarded —

The Society would like to thank the following foundations and funding sources: LSTA federal grant for \$50,555 for the Emil Billeb collection; Charles H. Stout Foundation for \$10,000 to purchase collection materials; and John Ben Snow Foundation for \$20,000 to remodel our museum store and general museum improvements.

Rediscovered Collections Highlights—

Jenny Clemens childhood dishware, a five-piece set, calling card stencil and books using

Effie Mona Mack Manuscript collection correspondence with the last Clemens family member.

Generous Donation —

The Society would like to thank Jerry Fenwick, a long-time resident and supporter of the Nevada Historical Society for donating his latest exhibition called **50 Years of Photography**. All the sale proceeds will be put into a restricted fund for the benefit of the Society.

Busy Year for Photography Department—

Lee, our photography curator and his volunteers and interns have had a busy year with requests for images for books, murals and videos for Nevada's Sesquicentennial year.

TV Filming at the Society —

The Society has worked with three producers over

the past three months, interviewing our staff and/or using our space to film! Episodes were filmed for HGTV, *Mysteries at the Museum & Monumental Mysteries* that will be televised in the fall.

Historic Trees at the Society—

The University has been replanting many of the trees that once stood by the **Getchell Library**. The Society was pleasantly surprised when the Grounds department installed two trees along our side lawn. They even provided us with an older picnic table for visitors and staff to use.

History Tours—Artown and NV150 Event

Two tours will be offered each Wednesday in July, one from 10-11am and one from 2-3pm, led by our Education docents. The tours will rotate every other week between the Reno History and the NV History Galleries. We hope that you will stop by...it's cool inside!

Digitization News

This fall, the Historical Society will begin additional cataloging of our Emil Billeb Collection.

The 5,000 plus images create one of the very best depictions of the life and times of central Nevada and the adjacent Mono County, California, during the early 20th century.

The photographs record Emil's own remarkable transformation from young East Coast novice to mining-camp

worker and eventually manager of mining and railroading enterprises.

Although literate, Mr. Billeb arrived in the boomtown of Tonopah, Nevada with little more than a letter of recommendation in his pocket. Among Emil's early successes was marrying Miss Jessie Cain, one of the best looking and well-connected young women in the major mining camp of Bodie, California.

An advanced amateur photographer,

Emil used his own photographs to illustrate his memoir, **Mining Camp Days**. Emil also collected photographs and postcards by many of the professional photographers of his day.

The project is made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant. The collection was donated by Emil's granddaughter, Vicky Daniels. Larry Meeker, Engineer and railroad historian, assisted with the donation and started the initial cataloging.



Bodie Dining Room, 1910 (Billeb)

Education Department Notes

We are thrilled to report that the 2014 statistics that span from January to June reflect an exponential increase in attendance by local area schools to the Society.

To date, we have provided tours to 1,254 students in K-12 age ranges and from a variety of institutions, including public, charter and home schools.

The whole of 2013 saw 1,443 students coming through the Society on educational tours, which

was in itself a fantastic amount, an 84% increase in attendance over 2012. At this rate, we are on track to surpass 2013's numbers, a statistic we are very proud of!

Thanks to our wonderful Docent Council and their continued support of educational tours, we are able to continue offering and growing this wonderful program to our community.

If you are interested in joining this wonderful group of Docents, or if you would like to book a

tour for a class, please email Christine Johnson at ckjohnson@nevadaculture.org or call 688-1190 x231 for more information.

...did you know that the Society has many Samuel and Orion Clemens family artifacts in our collection?

Museum Store News

Many people still are not aware that the museum store has a large collection of topographical maps for sale. We have much of Nevada and areas of California.

The cost is only \$2.00 each or if more than 10 are purchased, they are only \$1.00 each. Customers use them for hiking or exploration. At this low price, they could also be fit wrap, framed as matting of travel pictures, etc...

I have charts of both states showing the names of the different quadrants. Please list the quadrants you want, as we can pull them in advance for you. You can send me your list by email, at jdandini@nevadaculture.org with a contact phone number. With limited volunteer staffing, we don't always have complete coverage for the front.

I hope to have an after-inventory sale starting the

middle of July. Check the store for updates.

This year the store has been busy with a much needed remodel in February and the beginning of March. The space is bright and cheery. If you haven't been in awhile stop on by and check out the variety of products, including Made in Nevada and Sesquicentennial items.



Three photographs of our remodel



Library News

Recently there has been an increased demand at the library for Nevada High School Yearbooks. If you have a yearbook to donate please email Michael at mmaher@nevadaculture.org or call 775-688-1190 ext. 227 for more information.

Did you know that the Society is always looking for Nevada related memorabilia. Items including posters, print items, maps, historical documents, brochures, menus, matchbooks, books, and political ephemera, etc.

Volunteering Opportunities

Do you like computers? Are you a quick learner and are willing to learn? Have you thought of volunteering?

work on scanning materials in the following departments: Photography, Manuscripts and Library.

might be up your alley.

Did you know that we are always looking for volunteers to work with collections? The types of jobs include cataloging materials, basic data-entry, and

If that's not the job for you, what about working with kids and adults? Are you interested in learning more Nevada history? If so, helping lead tours in gallery

Maybe you like assisting the public? You might be a perfect candidate to work in our combined Admissions—Museum Store. If any of these jobs sound interesting, please call Shery at 775-688-1190 x 222.

Notes from the Crypt

We are thrilled to highlight a particular artifact that was found, lost, and found again during its lifetime.

The artifact we present this month is an ice cream maker from 1889 (see photo). We can assume the piece was donated at some time in complete form, however over the years, and moves between buildings, the piece either fell or was taken apart and stored in separate pieces.

As part of the ongoing reorganization project in artifact storage, pieces of this artifact began to unveil themselves, and it

wasn't long before all the fragments began to be associated.

What we have today is a complete piece, including the cork in one plank of the bucket! The bucket is stamped on one side with the date of 1889, and text that reads, "Triple Motion White Mountain Ice Cream." The handle turns and all the gears are in operating condition, albeit a bit rusty.

Special thanks to our very skilled Docent Steve Reyman for his contribution in rebuilding this artifact!

We are now searching our early records for information on who the donor was, and where this piece originated, which will help complete its story, and will continue to report on our progress in the artifact collection.

Until then ice cream anyone?!

Ice Cream Maker, 1889



Exhibit Schedule

50 Years of Photography—Jerry Fenwick

June 13 —September 27, 2014

Lecture August 9th 1:00-2:00pm

6th Annual Latimer Art Club

NV themed Miniature Art Exhibit

October 10 —December 13, 2014

Free Reception Oct 10th 5:00—7:00pm

History for the Holidays

December 13, 2014

11:00 am—4:00 pm

Upcoming Programs

Engrid Barnett, PhD

Rockin' The Comstock

July 12th 1-2pm

Pioneer Picnic Event

Bower's Mansion

July 26th 10-3pm

Jerry Fenwick

Nature's Beauty Lecture

August 9th 1-2pm