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NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 6

OCT 30 1997 (11)

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1997

Another Successful Coin Show State Publications *Views of the Past*

Pioneer Physician S. L. Lee



The Dr. S. L. Lee Collection is the largest and most significant single collection at the Nevada State Museum. Dr. Samuel Lemuel Lee was born near Shobonier, Fayette County, Illinois, September 4, 1844, and died in Carson City, Nevada, January 12, 1927. Dr. Lee started his collection when he was ten years of age with arrowheads found on his father's farm in Illinois. He was an avid collector, and collected stamps, arrowheads, baskets, stones, minerals, ceramics, fossils, guns, and other rare objects that he found. His collection was presented to the state of Nevada in 1934 by his widow and was placed on display at the Nevada State Capitol building. In 1941, the Lee Collection numbering more than 4,000 artifacts, was transferred to the Nevada State Museum, and this one collection became the cornerstone of the Museum's collections.—Robert Nylan, NSM Curator of History

For a report on the show see the column *In and About the Museum* on page 6.—Photos by Scott Klette, NSM Photographer

Coming Events

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

November 25—*Margaret Breen: Donner Party Survivor*, presented by Historian Doris Dwyer, Western Nevada Community College, Fallon. Program is part of the Nevada Humanities for the Road.

December 23—No program due to Christmas Holiday.

January 27—*Deep Roots and Desert Flowers: Part 2: Birth of a Community*, presented by Jane Pieplow, Director of Churchill County Museum.

February 24—*Ghost Towns of Elko County*, by author Shawn Hall.

These programs are part of the Nevada State Museum's Frances Humphrey evening lecture series held on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge for the programs. The Caroline Street entrance on the north side of the Museum complex will be used for all programs. For more information call 687-4810.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

November 12—Kel Aiken: *The V & T Then and Now: A Rephotographic Study*.

December 10—Brad Lomazzi: *Railroad Communication in the 19th and 20th Centuries*.

January 14—John Christensen and Ken Yeo: *Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Yesterday and Today*.

Programs at the Nevada State Railroad Museum are held in the Interpretive Center at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, and are sponsored by the Friends of the Museum. Admission is free.

December 13 & 14—Santa Train.

December 27 & 28—Happy New Year Train.

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 13—A Pow-Wow presentation of traditional dances and songs. 7-8:30 p.m.

Recent Accessions Listed

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

Eleni Antonsen, Carson City—2 pc. blue & white cheerleading costume. Lillian Bergevin, Minden—Clothing. Judith Burt, Brunswick, ME—Photo album. Douglas Southerland, Carson City—Military dog tag. Frances Humphrey, Reno—Photograph, framed collage of 3 pipes. Helen Enos, Vacaville, CA—Receipt. Wm. D. Ekness, Placerville, CA—Archaeological artifact. Jack & Margie Gibson, Carson City—11 bottle books. Noreen Humphries, Carson City—Silverware. Louisa Cagwin, Mill Valley, CA—25 photographs. Mary Lou Zec, Kentfield, CA—18 photographs. Bunny Corkill, Fallon—2 quilts. Blaine Schmeer, Wilsonville, OR—Frame. Donald S. Sjoblom, Carson City—Document. Victor A. W. Clyde, Carson City—Document. Herbert Rickards, Surrey, BC—Plaque. Cathy Unruh, Carson City—Book. Emma Collins, Irvine, CA—Portfolio of paintings. Marilyn Schenk, Reno—Pistol.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Carry E. Stewart, Burbank, CA—5 views of locomotives No. 25 & 22. David McNussen and John Amundson, Minden—SPRR lantern. Linda Lippincott, Carson City—Photographs. Bert Hansen, Boulder City—Builders plate. Salvador V Curgido, Carson City—2 vol. of books. Stan Larsen, Juneau, AK—Ledger book.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline for the *Nevada State Museum Newsletter* will be Friday, December 5 for the January/February issue. Mailing will be made on December 31. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701.



Carolyn Beaupre recently portrayed a Daughter of Charity, a St. Mary of the Mountain, Virginia City, Catholic order that was in existence during the 1800s at a meeting of the Museum's Docents.—Staff photo

The Docent File

By PEG COURTNEY

NSM Docent Publicity Chairman

Marge Sasso, one of our much appreciated tour guides, has lived in Nevada for seven years, coming here from the Bay Area. She was born and raised in Florida, graduating from Florida State University. In California she was a teacher in a juvenile detention center. She and her husband have four daughters and are expecting their eighth grandchild at the end of the year (aren't they lucky!). Besides being a busy grandmother and volunteering at the museum, she's learning to play golf— next year she may be an LPGA champion!

Cynthia Cook is a brave soul as she has only been a docent since last March and in June '97 she took on the job of being our placement officer — meaning she has to keep the museum store and information desk manned five days a week — not an easy task. Cynthia retired last year from the State Medical Dept. after working there ten years. She was born in Massachusetts but raised in Sierra Madre, CA. She and her husband have four grown children. They plan visits with their children so they go north in the summer and south in the winter.

Rick Rueles is the first new male member of the Docent Council that we've had in a long time. He was born in California and, after becoming a hair dresser, he decided he wanted to work in Las Vegas. Lucky for us he didn't like LV. While driving through Carson City he saw a house for sale that appealed to him and he bought it. He has lived here twenty nine years. Rick says Carson City has been very good to him and volunteering at the museum is his way of showing his appreciation. You'll find Rick on the information desk most weekends.

Nevada Minerals

Jeweled Caverns Found in Meikle Mine

By DOROTHY NYLEN
Exhibit Preparator II

One of the more unique gold mines in Nevada today is Barrick Gold Corporation's Meikle Mine on the Goldstrike Property in Elko County. Not simply because it's the largest underground mine in North America, or one of the most technically advanced operations in the world. It's the jeweled caverns.

Normally when we think of caverns we think of something like Nevada's Lehman Caves, or the Carlsbad Caverns of New Mexico. The incredible stalagmites, stalactites and the myriad of other strange and wonderful forms one finds in those carbonate rock cavities were formed as water seeped, dripped or flowed, slowly creating sculptures from the dissolved minerals in the water. The Meikle Mine's caverns are different. They were described by one Meikle employee as being akin to the seven dwarfs mine in Walt Disney's *Snow White*.

The high heat of this hydrothermal area has created large clumped rounded forms covered with twinkling masses of calcite crystals accented with transparent world-class barite crystals. These caverns had no outlet to the surface until they were encountered over 1,000 feet down while mining. One large area has recently been sealed off because it was belting out volumes of 140 degree heat making it even more difficult to maintain a comfortable working atmosphere in the already hot mine. Another cavern has been set aside as an exhibit area. It has been artfully illuminated and the Meikle Mine offers limited tours

to visiting business associates who find that the view allows them to better understand the nature of the deposit and the working needs of the mine.

Barrick has generously donated samples of lemon-yellow barite crystals in their various forms found on the Goldstrike Property. There are thin and thicker square crystal forms, including small elongated prisms, and clumps of stocky tabular crystals with criss-cross networks of partly-developed, brightly reflective surfaces. The most unusual form has been dubbed "sugar cookie." This features tiny paper-thin squares of barite encrusting a delicate network of calcite. All of these pieces look delightfully edible, like fancy confections. Barite is of course quite heavy, although the samples are somewhat fragile and must be handled with care to avoid bruising. Meikle staff had to experiment with ways of safely bringing the larger crystals from their heated environment to the coolness of company offices. The first ones brought up developed disappointing fractures.

The outstanding specimens on exhibit at the Nevada State Museum are located in the Dana case on the south wall of the Earth Science Gallery. Hopefully they will soon be joined by photographs of the cavern.

World class barite crystals on display in the Nevada State Museum's Earth Science Gallery. They are from the Meikle Mine.
—Photo by Scott Klette, NSM Photographer



Delving the Past

A Bloody Tale with an Anthropological Twist

By DONALD R. TUOHY
NSM Curator of Anthropology

When I was in Graduate School at the University of Washington in Seattle, during the middle 1950s, the budding anthropologists were the favorite employees of the King County Blood Bank. They were trained by Dr. Frederick S. Hulse, professor of physical anthropology and a student of Professor Earnest A. Hooten, a Harvard University anthropologist. Among the other tasks we had to perform, a baboon had just died at the Seattle zoo, had been pickled in formaldehyde, and subjected to internal investigations of his interior organs by us student neophytes in order to find the cause of death. The class of physical anthropology was slated from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon five days of the week. Although we wore plastic gloves the innards of that baboon, the strong smell of formaldehyde was not conducive to eating a hearty lunch in the period that followed the baboon-probing.

A fellow classmate of mine, Earl H. Swanson, was studying to get his Ph.D. degree, and I was a candidate for a Master-of-Arts degree at U.W. He got his Ph.D. in archaeology in 1956, but there were no jobs for him that year, so he worked for a year or more in the King County Blood Bank supervising the blood bank technicians about half of whom were advanced students studying anthropology. I was out of work that year and Earl asked me to become a technician working on the swing shift (from 4:00 p.m. to 11 p.m.). I was given to study a 21-page xerox copy of "A Short Synopsis of Blood Group Immunohematology," a 3-page xerox showing the procedures used to make "Serology Tests," a 5-page xerox stating the procedures to be used during the "Crossmatch Procedure," a 4-page xerox of the procedures used to "Blood Grouping," and a 60-page booklet on "The Rh Factor." After reading them all, I was ready for work in the King County Blood Bank.

The King County Blood Bank was located right next to the downtown area in Seattle, Washington, and it served all of the hospitals in the greater Seattle area (I have forgotten how many, I think it was 14 to 20 hospitals). The anxious telephone calls would come in to Dr. Earl H. Swanson; first of all, he didn't say that he had a degree in anthropology, but the caller thought he was a doctor of medicine. Earl could have very well had a doctor of medicine degree, because he had been a diabetic all of his life, and he knew a great deal about medicine and medical practices in general. From there, the caller would often ask to speak to the blood bank technician to find out how long the crossmatch procedure would take. The standard answer was about 55 minutes to do a blood grouping system (there were nine blood group systems at that time), and a crossmatch. The caller would often be a relative or a friend of the patient and insist on a shorter procedure. This shorter procedure would be a "ten minute crossmatch." The technician would follow the caller's orders and mark the invoices accordingly "ten-minute crossmatch," *if the caller insisted, and if he or she took the risk.* The blood sample was delivered immediately by taxi, and if the physician saw the patient was having a problem receiving the blood sample, he would stop the delivery, and very often call the blood bank. This time, the sample would go to an experienced physician who had years of training on blood group immunohematology. Seattle and the United States had the fol-

lowing phenotype frequency in the ABO blood group system (for the white race).

Frequency	Phenotypes	
33%	A1	recipient
10%	A2	recipient
8%	B	recipient
2.5%	A1B	recipient
0.5%	A2B	recipient
46%	O	universal donor

In the middle 1950s, Seattle's King County Blood Bank tested the serology for venereal disease which was then reported to the Director of the Blood Bank, When a Catholic Priest was told he had a positive serum, he said: "I had to join the other church members in giving blood, otherwise they would have been suspicious of my motives." He had V.D. for years. I suppose the blood bank technicians now test for AIDS.

It was years later when my ancient knowledge of blood grouping systems would come in handy. I joined Margaret Newman and Gene Hattori in a paper presented by Margaret titled "Blood Residue Analysis of Great Basin Crescents" at the 1990 Annual Meeting of the Great Basin Anthropological Conference in Reno. This paper was a product of Margaret's research into the application of molecular biological techniques to archaeological materials, to tell which animal's blood stains were still on the stone artifact. That there were some disbelievers is attested by a paper delivered by Judith Eisele and Don Fowler at the 24th Great Basin Anthropological Conference which met in Elko in 1994. Their paper concluded ... "that blood residues do not survive on stone tools from archaeological sites, except under extremely unusual circumstances." Their argument continues with a paper delivered by Margaret Newman at the 25th Great Basin Anthropological Conference which met at King's Beach, California last fall (Oct. 10-12, 1996). She said in her abstract ... "scientific research by reputable scientists clearly demonstrated that these criticisms are founded on inadequate knowledge of the basic concepts of the procedures used." Needless to say, I agree with Margaret Newman's latest statement. Incidentally, do you know what that baboon (I mentioned in the introduction) died of — he died because he had a ruptured appendix!

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1994 "Survival of Blood Residues on Stone Tools." Paper delivered at the 24th Great Basin Anthropological Conference in Elko, Nevada October 6-8, 1994.
- Newman, Margaret
1996 "The Use of Molecular Biological Techniques in the Analysis of Artifacts." Paper delivered at the 25th Great Basin Anthropological Conference in King's Beach, California, October 10-12, 1996.
- Newman, Margaret, Eugene M. Hattori and Donald R. Tuohy
1990 "Blood Residue Analysis of Great Basin Crescents." Paper presented at the 1990 Annual Meeting of the Great Basin Anthropological Conference in Reno, Nevada, October, 1990.



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Jan's Boutique

Dinner, Lecture Held On First Ladies' Gowns

By JAN LOVERIN
NSM Curator of Clothing and Textiles

This fall has been very busy for the Marjorie Russell Center. We have been in the process of creating a brochure on the Center. With help from Gloria Harjes and Scott Klette we photographed many articles of dress to use in this new pamphlet. Graphic artist Marjorie Marshall Hall is busy laying out the photos and the text and hopefully it will be available to the public by the end of the year.

On September 30 we hosted a dual lecture and dinner in honor of Nevada's First Ladies. All nine of our Inaugural Ball gowns were on display, including our recent acquisitions from Bonnie Bryan, Carolyn O'Callaghan and Sandy Miller.

With First Lady Sandy Miller in attendance, this event featured Smithsonian Curator Edy Mayo and Costume Conservator Polly Willman. Both of these women collaborated in creating the immensely popular *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* exhibition at the Smithsonian. The event began with Ms. Mayo's lecture about the various roles of our national First Ladies. All First Ladies play the role of hostess to their husbands, but many develop alternate roles as well.

For example, Edith Bolling Wilson was a political partner to her husband, President Woodrow Wilson, during his recuperation after suffering a stroke, as she literally controlled who spoke with her husband; she screened his mail and interpreted many national decisions. Eleanor Roosevelt was a well known crusader for social causes and Lou Hoover was honorary president of the Girl Scouts of America.

In addition to the well known facts about our twentieth century First Ladies, Mayo discussed the powerful women behind some of our nineteenth century presidents. Dolly Madison was a gracious hostess, but not only for one president, but two of them. Prior to her husband's election, she served as First Lady for the widowed Thomas Jefferson, since her husband was at the time Jefferson's Secretary of State. This of course triggered negative reports from the press, but Dolly Madison carefully controlled her self image, and preserved her role through her husband's term in office. Rachel Jackson was unfairly accused by the press as a bigamist, when the timing of her divorce did not coincide with her marriage with Andrew Jackson.

The second speaker was Polly Willman, Costume Conservator for the Smithsonian. Her job in creating the First Ladies exhibition was to prepare the gowns for display. She told of the investigative work which goes into restoring an historic garment. The Mary Todd Lincoln gown had been heavily altered, with a much later-day bodice created from rearranging the original skirt. Not all of the gowns in the First Ladies exhibition are their Inaugural Ball gowns.

Frances Cleveland's wedding gown, which is on display, was another problem. When her gown was donated, it was missing a sleeve and it was up to the conservation staff to recreate the missing member. As one of the audience asked, "Where do you get 110 year old silk satin fabric the same color as the original garment?" Polly replied that luckily she had retained some scraps of historic fabric from her previous museum job and was able to confiscate some of it for the replaced sleeve.



The First Ladies Inaugural Gowns on display at the dinner and banquet held at the Carson Nugget on September 30. From left to right are the gowns of Ida Pittman, Marjorie Russell, Bette Sawyer, Jacalyn Laxalt, Carolyn O'Callaghan, Katherine List, Bonnie Bryant, and two gowns of Sandy Miller.—Staff photo



Edy Mayo is pointing to a feature on a gown on display while Polly Willman looks on.—Staff photo

And interestingly, on the exhibition text panels she challenged the public to try and determine which is the original sleeve and which one is the replacement. Now that is sophisticated sewing!!!

Polly also went on to discuss the costume problems in creating the 150th anniversary exhibition of the Smithsonian. This traveling show has been on the road for several years and has been a challenge in dealing with the conservation of many of the fragile garments. So she created a unique custom molded dressform, which supports the garment, displays the garment and at the same time is its transportation system. Polly graciously brought copies of the specifications to create these dressforms with her so I am able to copy these instructions and pass them out to interested parties. Please call me at (702) 687-6173.

Nevada's First Lady Sandy Miller spoke briefly on her social cause, which is children's literacy programs. She also told us how young Nevada school children define First Lady. The first child suggested that a First Lady was the first person in Nevada and the second one suggested that perhaps she was Abraham Lincoln's mother!!

It was a delightful evening of history, fashion and fun (and good food!).

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NSM NEWSLETTER

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER is published bimonthly the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November by the NSM Docent Council. This issue edited by Jack Gibson. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701. Printed by Creative Copies +, Carson City.

In and About the Museum

By DENISE SINS
NSM Media Liaison

As I gaze into my crystal ball I see ... OH! It's *Blue Carrot Puppet Productions'* Halloween Show! Larry Tanner, Exhibit Preparator at NSM, is the puppet master of several talented Carson High students who comprise *Blue Carrot Puppet Productions*. They put on four rousing and hilarious puppet shows at the Children's Museum in Carson City over the Halloween holiday weekend. The shows boast true originality and creativity in all production phases. The characters are outrageous and the scripts are a hoot. All the puppets are made by the students. They're called "Larianettes", a cross between a rod & stick puppet and a marionette. They are Larry's own invention. Incredible!!

September's Coin Show was a huge success. Nearly 40 dealers swarmed over the museum grounds September 6 & 7 selling a plethora of numismatic goods and related collectibles. Warren Engine Company No. 1 was on hand to provide plenty of good food and drink for the throngs of patrons who visited during the festivities.

The raffle of a one-of-a-kind silver bar with cancelled strikes of "CC" mint mark dies was the highlight of the show. A gentleman from Michigan won it. The other four smaller silver bars were won by people from various places, including our very own Peg Courtney from right here in Carson City!

September 30 was an "inaugural" day in history. Jan Loverin, Curator of Clothing & Textiles, hosted an historical lecture and dinner at the Carson Nugget featuring gubernatorial First Ladies and their Inaugural Ball Gowns. Guest speakers were Edy Mayo, costume conservator at the Smithsonian Institute, and Polly Willman, a very animated and funny textile specialist, also from the Smithsonian. Sandy Miller, the Governor's wife, was on hand to donate her two gowns personally. Diners and history buffs alike all agreed this was one of the best programs of this type so far.

Restoration has begun on the Basque shepherd's wagon scheduled for display in next year's Changing Gallery exhibit. It was quite a job to just clean the thing; it was filthy. Rats had made themselves quite comfortable in the wagon for some time. An envelope was found with a wonderful drawing in it depicting a man putting an engagement ring on a woman's finger. It's drawn in a primitive style, much like the linear tree carvings the Basque shepherds are so noted for.

Museum Past Pages:

Strategic Mineral Display Gathered Ores Are Shown at State Museum

Carson, December 12—Mrs. Percy Train, curator of the Nevada State Museum announced this week the addition of a strategic minerals display, composed of minerals being produced in Nevada for the war program.

Complementing the exhibit is a display of model airplanes, with appropriate notations of the minerals used in their construction.

Among the strategic minerals displayed are curpite, zinc sulphide, antimony, scheelite, cinnabar, dumortierite, graphite, vanadium, manganese, cassiterite, lead and magnesite.

Reno Gazette, December 12, 1942

In the Museum Store 'A Mine of Her Own' Is on Women Miners

Books in the Museum Store are also available by phone or mail from the Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and AmEx are accepted in telephone orders at (702) 687-4810. Postage and handling is \$2.00 for the book order. Membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by ELEANOR PHILLIPS
Nevada State Museum Docent

In her latest book, **A MINE OF HER OWN**, Sally Zanjani breaks new ground in defining the role of women prospectors in the American West in the period 1850-1950.

Speak of a prospector and immediately the image that is conjured up is that of a bearded figure leading a burro laden with pick and shovel, coffee pot and supplies. To supplant that image, long-ingrained in American consciousness, with one of a spry, energetic, weather-beaten female in men's clothing taxes the imagination. Yet this history of more than one hundred women prospectors invites the reader to do just that.

A little-known fact is that prospecting was not the realm of men only. As early as the 1840s Hispanic women worked the rivers of the Southwest.

While women frequently worked side-by-side as lesser partners with their husbands, lovers, friends or family, it was not unusual for the women of the relationship to initiate the search for gold, to want "a mine of her own." This breed of women, like their male counterparts, were irresistibly drawn to the remoteness and desolation of the wilderness. Whereas pioneer women in general desired and sought the company of their sex, these prospectors preferred the companionship of men, or none at all. This striking fact is clearly apparent in many of the histories presented in Ms. Zanjani's work. Perhaps, as the author explains, the "queen bee" syndrome accounts to some degree for this characteristic.

One of the most outstanding figures in mining circles from Nevada to the Arctic tundra was Ellen (Nellie) Cashman. For her numerous charitable works and saintly qualities, she was often referred to as an "angel". But the "angel" had a wild side. Her predilection for living to the fullest led her from the infamous Pioche to the shore of the Stikine River in British Columbia, the only female miner in the Cassiar District. Later she would lead a rescue mission to rescue these mining comrades marooned in heavy winter snows.

From Virginia City, back to Pioche, to Tombstone (a lengthy stay), to Kingston, she pursued her dream. Although she invariably set up a business—boarding house, saloon or restaurant—to support herself (and later her nieces and nephews), mining remained Nellie's ruling passion. She invested in mining claims, offered expert advice to others, and tramped alone in the hills.

An excursion into the formidable Baja California desert nearly cost her her life—as well as her backer's investment. A trip to South Africa ended in a similar financial disaster. In 1895, she returned to Alaska, and, inevitably, was caught up in the rush to the Klondike two years later. In time, Dawson yielded her only real bonanza, a claim shared with three partners. Always the Good Samaritan, her funds went to charities, and to worthless mining claims. Her declining years were spent prospecting in the Arctic. Nellie Cashman died in Victoria in 1925, at the

age of eighty-one—in a hospital that she had helped to build years before.

Equally interesting a character was Ferminia Sarras, the Copper Queen. A well-born Spanish lady, she was the daughter of a conquistador from a noble family. She was active in the Bellevue and Santa Fe districts in Nevada where she eventually made her fortune.

Included also in *A Mine of Her Own* is the story of ex-actress Lillian Malcolm, who snow-shoed her way to Nome; a former rodeo champion; Ellen Nay, a native daughter, and a host of others.

Although several of these women prospectors did make important discoveries, and others enjoyed some success, for the majority, the pickings were lean. It seems fair to conclude that it was not the discovery itself that kept these women enthralled, it was the lure of the search. **\$32.95**



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