



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2007

Another Garcia Saddle Donated to the Museum

In February, the Nevada State Museum received a generous donation of a historic G.S. Garcia Ladies Astride Saddle No. 5 from Mrs. Mary H. Farrington of New Hampshire. The saddle, with its "G.S. Garcia, Maker, Elko Nevada" stamp on the fenders, was probably made between 1900 and 1910 and came down to the donor through her family. The saddle belonged to Mrs. Farrington's grandmother, Anna Maria Meyers Lacey, originally from Denmark, who married John William Lacey of Owens Valley, California. Lacey arrived in Ft. Independence, CA from Missouri about 1867, established a home with Anna Maria near Manzanar, and the Lacey family still ranches in the southern Owens Valley.

Saddle historian Griff Durham and Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs Michael Fischer assisted with identification of the saddle and with contacting the Lacey family. John Lacey, of Independence and Paso Roles, CA has loaned the NSM historic family photos of John William and Anna Maria Lacey and their home near Manzanar.

The saddle had been well-used and was very dry and dirty after years of storage. Local saddlemaker Pete Schuler spent two days cleaning and conditioning the saddle, removing remains of paint and restoring much of the suppleness of the leather.

While here to work on this new saddle, Mr. Schuler also cleaned and conditioned the G.S. Garcia 1904 St. Louis Fair saddle, as well as a pair of chaps from the ranching and buckaroo exhibit.



Garcia Ladies Astride Saddle after cleaning and conditioning by Saddlemaker Pete Schuler.



Historian Griff Durham and DCA Director Michael Fischer studying the Garcia ladies saddle.



Pete Schuler cleaning the Garcia 1904 St. Louis Fair saddle.



Volunteer Yvonne Reilly demonstrates the use of a telegrapher's key to Mrs. Medeiros' second grade class from Bordewich-Bray elementary on a Capitol Tour March 23, 2007. By the end of June, over 2000 participants will have enjoyed a Capitol Tour given by caring NSM volunteers.

Museum Volunteers Showcase Capitol Tours

The Nevada State Museum volunteers are the best in the West! Just ask them. Fifteen dedicated volunteers are now cross-trained to give tours both at the Museum and the State Capitol. Yvonne Reilly enjoys giving Capitol tours because the security guards and staff there are so friendly. She loves showing the kids the old safe in the Secretary of State's office. "A really neat part of the tour," says Yvonne, "is showing the kids the telegraph key." Ron Roberts adds, "Kids relate to technology and when they try the telegraph key, their faces light up. They suddenly realize what it was like to live in that time."

Curator of Education, Deborah Stevenson adds, "In this age of cell phones, email and instant messaging, the kids can't believe the Nevada constitution was relayed by telegraph from Carson City to Chicago, Chicago to Philadelphia, and Philadelphia to Washington D.C. After trying out a few words in Morse code, they get an appreciation of how difficult it would be to send about 30 handwritten pages or 16,543 words." Dawn McGill likes telling the students the story of Hannah Clapp and the fence. Dawn explains, "Nevada women are strong and even in those days, women did a lot."

From February to June 2007, these enthusiastic, caring individuals will have given tours to over 2,000 participants, mostly school children. Guided tours of the State Capitol are by reservation only and limited to the availability of volunteers. For more information, call Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education, at 775-687-4810, ext. 237.

Visitors over the weekend?

Bring them to the
Nevada State Museum,
and we'll do the rest.

Natural History Gallery Opens With Temporary Displays

By George D. Baumgardner, Ph.D.
NSM Curator of Natural History

In the February newsletter I reported on the progress toward long-term natural history exhibits. I also said we hoped to provide temporary exhibits to the public in the near future. I'm happy to report we opened such a gallery in late March. Displayed on the second floor next to the "Nevada's Changing Earth" exhibit are over 170 animals that will be used in the future exhibits. These specimens include most of the amphibian and reptile replicas we recently obtained plus the refurbished taxidermy I mentioned in the last newsletter. Response to these displays has been gratifying. In the first hours this room was open, I saw a number of children excitedly looking at the animals and I heard one of the accompanying adults call to another that she loved this room.

I am happy that the public enjoys this hall and look forward to building the long-term exhibits. As I stated in the previous newsletter, the current displays are minimal. Future offerings will be considerably more substantial in both text and presentation. Most will depict Nevada's habitats and others will cover biological themes. The work continues. A number of original scenic photos of Nevada are planned for the walls by late May. As long-term exhibits are prepared, they will replace these temporary displays. Of necessity, this is a slow process. As time goes on, our natural history exhibits will continue to improve.



Temporary natural history displays on the second floor of the NSM, April 3, 2007

Nevada State Museum Mission Statement

The Nevada State Museum engages diverse audiences in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage. The museum achieves this through collecting, documenting, and studying objects and information significant to our heritage. The museum preserves this heritage for long-term public benefit. The museum presents this heritage to broad audiences through exhibits, educational programs, publications, and research services. The museum optimizes its educational mission by cultivating effective partnerships and attaining high standards of public service.

Master Paiute Weaver Saturday, July 21

The Nevada State Museum celebrates Paiute cultural heritage as master basket weaver Elaine Smokey demonstrates her art from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, 2007. Elaine is a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, currently living in Schurz, Nevada. Elaine will bring raw materials to demonstrate both willow work and horsehair basketry techniques. She is highly skilled in the art of making cradleboards, but she also knows how to make "boat" baskets for newborns, round baskets, cone baskets, winnowing trays and rattles. Her demonstration complements the exhibit *Interwoven 2007: Visions of the Great Basin Basketmakers*. The program is co-sponsored by the Nevada Arts Council's Folklife Program. For more information call Deborah Stevenson at 775-687-4810 ext. 237.

Smokey has been weaving traditionally with willow since 1999 and with horsehair since 1977. She is 1/4 Tomoko Shoshone; her grandpa, Ed McCann, was full-blood Shoshone. Her in-laws introduced her to horsehair in a style different from that of her mother and grandmother, so Elaine knows both ways. Weaving traditions are passed on from one generation to the next. Elaine and her sister, Rosemary Rogers DeSoto, learned Paiute-style weaving from their mother, Betty McCann Rogers, who learned from her grandmother, Mamie Dempsey McCann. Elaine learned as a teenager and started practicing as an adult while raising her children. Her husband "Woody" cleans all her willows.

Smokey sees herself as an elder now. She lovingly fashioned cradleboards for seven grandchildren, one boy and the rest girls. Having lost one kidney to cancer, she focuses on what is most important—showing others the "easy" way to make baskets so they won't give up and quit. Her six-year old granddaughter is learning how to split willow. Elaine taught her daughters, Hannah and Lindsey, plus her son, Chris, the intricate art of horsehair basket weaving. If Elaine has her way, basket making will always be at the heart of her family's most treasured memories and traditions.



Elaine Smokey with cradleboard

Anthropology's New Show

The second half of the Behind the Scenes Tours changes each May with Nevada's Historic Preservation and Archaeological Awareness Month. The basketry vault will still be featured the first half of the tour. Tours are given each Friday in May, and then the last Friday of each month for the remainder of the year. This year, Anthropology will feature objects from the S. L Lee collection. Dr. Lee was a prominent Carson City physician in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. He was also an avid collector of historic and ethnographic (Native American) objects. Dr. Lee's collections form the foundation for the museum's early holdings, but what truly sets it apart is his documentation. Many of the Native American artifacts in his collection are identified as to date of collection, maker and their place of residence, price paid, and other details concerning the object. In some instances, the details are difficult to verify, but, if true, make for a fascinating story. For example, one of our Apache burden baskets was said to be used by one of Geronimo's wives to carry ammunition to him during the heat of battle.

Reservations are required due to space limitations in the museum's basement. Call Deborah Stevenson at 687-4810 ext 237.

Message From the Museum Director, Jim Barmore

I'm very please to report, the Tin Cup Tea tradition continues!

Governor Jim Gibbons and First Lady Dawn Gibbons announced the Tin Cup Tea and Chuck Wagon BBQ will celebrate its eighth consecutive year September 8, 2007 at the Governor's Mansion. The Tin Cup Tea is a fundraiser for the Nevada State Museum and the W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum at the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno. First Lady Dawn Gibbons said, "The Tin Cup Tea provides important financial support for two institutions that serve critical functions in preserving Nevada's cultural and historical identity. We're proud to continue the tradition by hosting this event."

The Tin Cup Tea celebrates Nevada's western heritage. Since beginning in 2000, the annual event continues to grow in popularity, drawing over 1,200 guests in 2006. The Tin Cup Tea features a western BBQ; music by David John and the Comstock Cowboys; Guns and Gals of Old Virginia City, silent and live auctions; tours of the Governor's Mansion; and exhibits of historic costumes, artifacts, rocks, minerals, and fossils. Last year's event raised \$100,000. One half of this supports exhibits, educational programs, and collections at the Nevada State Museum.

Museum Presents Program on Washoe Baskets

The Nevada State Museum presents an afternoon of cultural enrichment as master basket weaver Sue Coleman demonstrates her art from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 30, 2007. Sue Coleman is a member of the Washo Nation, part of the Dresslerville reservation. She currently lives in Carson City. A participant and core group organizer of the 40th Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Sue is passionate about weaving and her Washo heritage. She will demonstrate the art of twining in willow, a method of basket weaving popular in the Great Basin since prehistoric times. "Sue's presentations are always very special," says Curator of Education Deborah Stevenson, "because she shares so generously from the heart of her Washo teachings and childhood memories." The program is co-sponsored by the Nevada Arts Council's Folklife Program. For more information, call Deborah at 775-687-4810, ext. 237.

Sue learned basket weaving from her mother, Theresa Smokey Jackson, in the late 1980s. Together they gathered willow, which they stripped, cleaned and made into thread. It took a long time to prepare all the materials. Her first basket was the *bicoos*, Washo for cradleboard. Over the years, she has challenged herself with round baskets, burden baskets, seed beaters and winnowing trays, in addition to cradleboards, in a variety of styles.

Sue is inspired by her ancestors, such as her great-great grandmother, Sara Mayo, known for her famous "territorial" basket. "Baskets are important to the native people," Sue explains. "Traditionally, baskets were used to gather, prepare, cook, and store native foods, for rearing children, for gift giving and ceremonies. Weaving almost died in our tribe and even now, there are only a hand-full of weavers left. I am continuing my mother's dream and now mine, to keep the baskets alive." Sue is proud to announce that her daughter, Cynthia, and her granddaughter Tara, age 11, are now weaving baskets.

Sue Coleman has earned a total of 44 blue ribbons in prestigious shows. No wonder Coleman's baskets are coveted by collectors! The Smithsonian purchased one of her baskets for their traveling exhibit program, which will travel to museums throughout the U.S. and Canada. Sue says her participation in the ten-day Smithsonian Folklife Festival was "truly the most wonderful experience ever!" Coleman is on the board of the National Basketweavers Association and is a member of the California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA), Northwest Native American Basketweavers, Hawaiian Basketweavers, and Great Basin Basketmakers (GBB), to name a few. She was the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award for excellence in folk arts in 2002.



Sue Coleman with one of her baskets

USS Nevada Silver

Work moves forward on the *USS Nevada Silver Set*. I know there has been some frustration with the silver being off display for so long, but I hope the new display will prove to be worth the wait.

The new case provides more open space for the collection and better traffic flow through the gallery. The lighting for the exhibit is provided by overhead track lights that are concentrated on a light reflecting tube. The tube channels the light into the case and the lenses diffuse the light into the display. A fiber optic projector generates light through flexible fibers to ports just above the glass. All of the heat generated by the light sources is eliminated from the display and bulbs can be easily replaced from above without opening the case.

The new case is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and should provide easy viewing for everyone. Your view from the middle of the room should be unimpeded. Labels and text can be easily read from the side windows. The silver case opens in an unusual fashion and allows for easy installation and cleaning. Thank you for your patience. I believe the new exhibit will add to everyone's enjoyment of this incredible collection and should be on display early in May.—Ray Geiser, *Collections*

Slot Machines!

Make saving Nevada's contribution
to the modern world possible!

Help Keep the original machines
here in Nevada!

Saving a Nevada Treasure

The Nevada State Museum has a one-time opportunity to purchase an extraordinary collection of twenty-eight historic slot machines, dating from 1895 to 1937. The gaming devices are on loan to the museum from owners Marshall and Frank Fey and available for viewing in the middle changing gallery.

The Fey brothers set aside the collection in 2006 when auctioning off other slot machines and gaming memorabilia housed at the former Liberty Belle Restaurant and Saloon in Reno. They saved the best and oldest machines invented by their grandfather Charles Fey. The family wished to keep the collection together in Nevada for public benefit and offered to sell the collection to the state at a price well below market value.

The collection spans the formative period of Nevada's gaming history. The state had gaming before 1910, followed by "back room" gaming between 1910 and 1931. The passage of the 1931 Gambling Act started the development of the state's leading industry today. Acquiring the collection would celebrate over seventy-five years of legalized gaming in Nevada.

The collection holds major historical and educational value for residents and visitors to our state. If acquired, the museum will produce an expanded exhibit presenting the fascinating story of slot machine development. The exhibit will travel to suitable venues in the state, including the new Nevada State Museum Las Vegas, now under development. Plans call for touring the exhibit around the nation, telling a story only Nevada can tell.

Not acquiring the slot machines would likely result in the break up of the collection and sale to private collectors. The state would lose the opportunity to preserve its history, educate the public, and celebrate Nevada's gaming heritage.

The museum established the Fey Slot Machine Collection Fund for the acquisition and exhibition of the collection. Bally Technologies stepped forward as lead sponsor, making a major contribution. Bally also sponsored the opening reception

for the exhibition on March 29, attended by over 250 guests. If you want to help save this treasure, please contact Jim Barmore, Director Nevada State Museum at 775-687-4810 ext. 226 or jbarmore@clan.lib.nv.us.





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Governor
Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs
 Michael E. Fischer
Department Director
Division of Museums and History
 Peter Barton
Acting Division Administrator
Nevada State Museum
 Jim Barmore
Museum Director

Become a member and support the Nevada State Museum. Membership includes free admission to all seven state museums, a 15% discount in all museum stores, the *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* newsletters, and selected invitations to exhibit openings, educational programs, and events.

- Individual \$35
 - Family \$50
 - Sustaining \$100
 - Contributing \$250
 - Patron \$500
 - Benefactor \$1000
- For seniors who simply want free admission and a 15% discount and not the *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, a special senior membership is available at only ... \$20

Other facilities included in your membership are:

- Nevada State Historical Society, Reno
 - Nevada State Museum & Historical Society, Las Vegas
 - Lost City Museum, Overton
 - Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
 - Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
 - East Ely Railroad Depot Museum
- www.NevadaCulture.org

Information Sought on Glass Tumbler at the Museum



The glass is pictured showing the segments. There are 135 separate cattle brands embossed in the glass tumbler which is about 6 inches tall.

Sometime ago the museum received a drinking glass embossed with 135 Nevada cattle brands. Accompanying the glassware was a printed list of the brands. On the sheet it also lists the names, addresses and county of each ranch. There is no clue as to whom or what organization issued the 6-inch tall slightly brown-yellowish color glassware. But, it is all part of Nevada's history.

Here is a small listing taken at random with the name and county and omitting the address of some of the information from the printed sheet: Harry L. Crosby Jr., Elko County; Sweetwater Ranch, Wellington, Lyon and Mineral Counties; E. L. Cord, Esmeralda County; Ira H. Kent, Churchill County; Heise Land & Livestock Co., Douglas County; Mrs. Mary Rand, Palisade, Eureka County; Fern Louise Talcott, Pershing County; Mildred Doyle, Washoe and Elko Counties; W. Ugell Stewart, Lincoln County; Lloyd Jacobsen, Eureka County; George McKenna, Esmeralda County, and Pete Goicochea, Eureka County.

There is hope that someone will have the information that the museum needs to complete this history, and with hopes that some day it will be an exhibit for all to see. Bob Nylen, curator of history for the museum, can be reached at 775-687-4810 ext. 239

Shown below is a small section of the printed list with the brand on the left and the owner and area to the right of the brand.

X	BRUFFEY BROTHERS PALISADE EUREKA COUNTY	⊙
7	LELAND W. WILLIAMS MOUNTAIN CITY ELKO COUNTY	X
1	JOE F. PERKINS OVERTON CLARK COUNTY	⊙
1	MYRON EVERETT GROUT W. STAR RT., FALLOW CHURCHILL COUNTY	⊙
1	HARRY A. WINKELMAN BOX 85, GENOA DOUGLAS COUNTY	⊙
1	JOHN L. DENNIS PRESTON WHITE PINE COUNTY	⊙
1	C. A. SCOTT RENO WASHOE COUNTY	⊙
1	RUTH PATTERSON FALLOW PERSHING, HUMBOLDT COS.	⊙
1	W. J. STINSON CARSON CITY	⊙

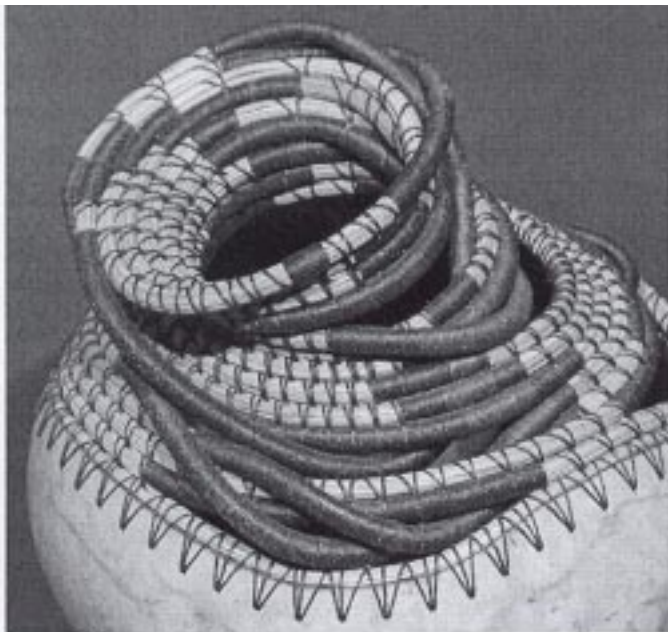
Interwoven 2007

Celebrating 20 Years of the Great Basin Basketmakers

Last year's debut of *Interwoven: Visions of the Great Basin Basketmakers* was such a success that the Nevada State Museum and the GBB have united to create another wonderful exhibit, this time also honoring the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Great Basin Basketmakers guild. This year's exhibit will feature many new creations of contemporary and traditional basketry, some by original founding members and others by brand new members of the GBB. The exhibit will include innovative uses of weaving techniques and unique materials from plastic and hardware cloth to gourds and banana leaves.

Interwoven 2007 will be on exhibit in the NSM South Changing Gallery from May 11 through August 5, 2007. Please join the GBB artists in celebrating their 20th anniversary with a reception Wednesday, May 23, 2007 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. here at the Nevada State Museum.

Let your friends in Southern Nevada know that they too will get to enjoy this exciting exhibit. *Interwoven 2007* will travel to the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas, and be on display there from September 6 through November 18, 2007.



Coiled pine needles on gourd by P. Weidmann from *Interwoven 2006*.

Now that you've seen what is offered during the coming two months, make your plans now to visit the msueum.

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Need a quick gift from Nevada to send to someone?

Try the Nevada State Museum's Gift Shop



An example from "Weaving on Gourds" workshop by Cheryl Bennett coming June 14, 2007.

Great Basin Basketmakers Will Demonstrate Working With Gourds and Natural Materials

In conjunction with the exhibit, *Interwoven 2007*, the Great Basin Basketmakers (GBB) will offer a series of demonstrations at the Nevada State Museum this summer. The mission of the GBB is to make baskets, to learn everything about the traditions and techniques of basketry and to pass that knowledge along to others. Cheryl Bennett shares her expertise in a presentation entitled *Weaving on Gourds* from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2007. Cheryl has been weaving on gourds for 12 years. In her presentation, she will explain how to clean and prepare the gourds and show how to finish the rim by weaving with reed and date palm.

A demonstration of *Weaving with Natural Materials* is offered on Thursday, July 12, also from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Experts from the GBB will show how to twine and wrap natural materials such as willow, pine needle, iris leaves, day-lily, honeysuckle, and tule to design expressive basketry creations. GBB produced a book entitled *Weaving Naturally in the Great Basin*, which is available for purchase in the Museum Store. They dedicated the book to Nadine Tuttle, a generous woman, known for her love of plants and the adventure of sharing her talents with others.

GBB member Betty Hulse will offer a Willow Basket Workshop at the Museum from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 4, 2007. Betty says, "Basketry is the creative spark that fills my needs. I have enjoyed other crafts, but none excites me the way basketry does. Willow offers a challenge and a bridge to other interests: gardening and nature." To register for the willow workshop, contact Eileen Brilliant at 530-544-5145. For more information about museum programs, call Deborah at 775-687-4810, ext. 237.