

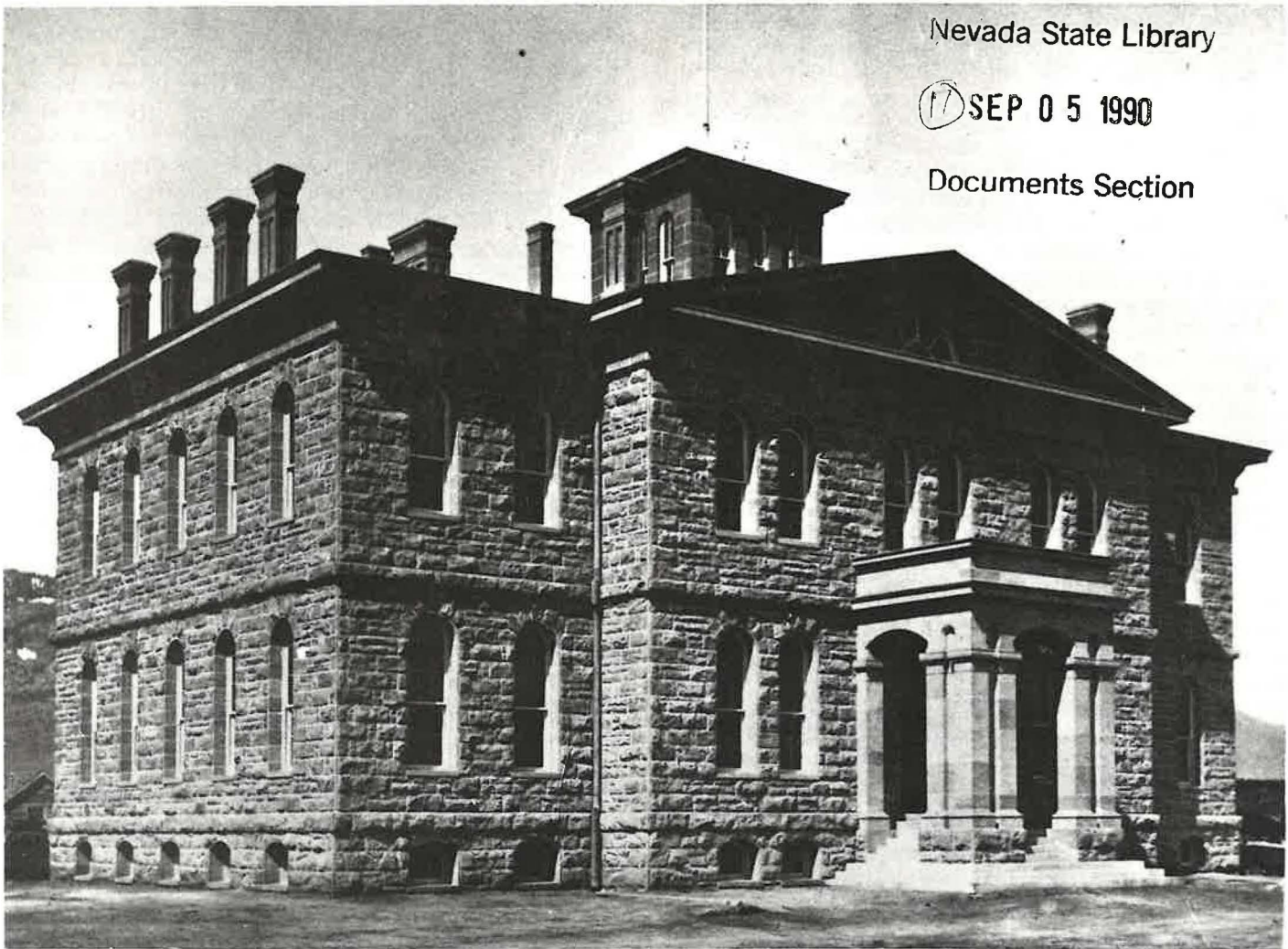
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NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVIII

SEPTEMBER 1990

NUMBER 5



Nevada State Library

SEP 05 1990

Documents Section

U.S. MINT BUILDING, JUNE, 1870—*Nevada State Museum collection*

Important Dates In Mint Building History —

- 1870**—Mint opens
- 1893**—Mint ended coinage
- 1899**—Minting machinery removed; began as assay office
- 1933**—Assay office closed; used as WPA office
- 1939**—Mint building sold to Nevada for Museum usage
- 1990**—Mint building closed due to earthquake instability

—*See Page 5*

Report Leads To Closure Mint Closed To Public

By SCOTT MILLER

Administrator of the Department of Museums and
History for the State of Nevada

I would like to make clear some of the circumstances surrounding the recent closure of the U.S. Mint portion of the Nevada State Museum and subsequent activities associated with it. The building is an extremely important part of Carson City history, and the citizens should understand what is occurring.

Approximately 2½ weeks ago, [editor's note—this article was first published in the Nevada Appeal, Sunday, July 15, 1990] a report on the structural stability of the Mint Building was released by the State Public Works Board. The report had been commissioned by public works through Mr. John Webster Brown, a local structural engineer. Mr. Brown was chosen for this job because he was the author of a similar study which was conducted in 1957-58. That study indicated the building was very susceptible to an earthquake and several recommendations were made to overcome the problems. Some of the recommendations were acted on, but the overall wall and foundation concerns were not dealt with at the time.

The report languished for the next 33 years until Mr. Brown was retained to re-examine the building and update its condition in terms of modern seismic codes.

The report presented two problems to the museum's administration. The first was one of public safety due to his conclusion that in the event of even a moderate earthquake, in close proximity, the building could fall. The second problem centered on the proposed solutions to the structural instability. They included the possibility of dismantling the building and putting up a modern structure with sandstone blocks then replaced, creating a facade of the building.

I'll begin by addressing the first problem. Earthquakes are inherently unpredictable in terms of when they occur and their magnitude of force. Carson City is in what is known as Zone 4, which related to earthquake frequency and magnitude. Most of coastal California is in the same zone. The recent study indicated that the Mint Building was in very poor structural condition due to its age, construction type (unreinforced masonry on a rubble foundation) and level of deterioration. The combination of these factors made continued occupancy of the building an unacceptable risk, and the decision was made to close the doors July 3. The building is not in any danger of falling down under its own weight or anything else of that nature unless the ground moves sufficiently. Those who consider that prospect unlikely should consult their recent history. No matter how remote the possibility of an earthquake may appear, when they do occur, the loss of life is frequently great and there is no justification for taking that risk.

Regarding the second problem, I would paraphrase Twain, "the rumors of the Mint's demise are greatly exaggerated." It is true that all of Mr. Brown's recommendations could cause some level of destruction of the building.

However, we are not required to accept those recommendations and indeed other options do exist. A second opinion concerning these other options is currently being sought. I am confident that a workable alternative can be found and, hopefully, at a lower cost than the maximum figure of \$3.2 million as estimated in the report. In any event, I am personally against any action which would destroy the integrity of the building. If I am wrong and no other recourse exists, I will argue strongly that the building be left entirely alone until better technology and/or more funding is available to solve the problem. We cannot afford to lose such an important piece of our history by tearing it down or simply creating a replica.

Meanwhile, the rest of the state museum is alive and well. The staff is working hard to overcome the problems of limited space and reduced exhibits, and we will continue serving the public to the best of our ability. Although on the short term this is a major inconvenience for everyone and surely a big disappointment to many of our visitors, in the long run we will overcome this problem and come away better for the effort.

The western-most wings of the museum are safe and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. The gift shop is now located on the second floor in the museum auditorium and all staff offices and research functions are operating. The new entrance is located on the north (Caroline Street) side of the building. We invite you to come by and visit us soon.

Comments By Visitors On Mint Closure

Sorry the Mint Bldg. was not open. I would have not brought my group into the Annex — it is a poor substitute. A wasted step — should have been informed. My 43 passengers were disappointed. — AFC Tours

☆☆☆

The closing of the Mint from the public for earthquake reason is absolutely ridiculous. It needs to be seen. — Perry Fox, Boulder City, NV

☆☆☆

Long drive for nothing! Came to see the mine, mint, weapons, etc. — Robert Dunhour, San Jose, CA

☆☆☆

Very disappointed. Long drive for nothing. — John Baldauf, E. Northpoint, NY

☆☆☆

I am from Massachusetts probably for the only time in my life and am very disappointed not to see the mint and the mine especially. — C. Bellefouille, Boxford, MA

Museum Carries On

Gift Shop Moved, Exhibits Follow; A Second Report Due In October

With the closure of the Mint section of the Nevada State Museum, the offices of the Public Information Officer, the History Department Office and Library, the Museum's Gift Shop, the Information Desk, and the Security Station had to be consolidated into the Guild and Calhoun wings of the building. Visitors must now enter the Caroline Street door. An information desk is located at the entrance with an attendant on duty. The Children's Gallery is on the right past the information desk. Visitors may write their comments about the Mint's closure on a form which is available to them at information or upstairs in the Gift Shop which is now located in the auditorium next to the new Earth Science Gallery.

In October the exhibits staff along with other staff will begin the enormous task of moving exhibit cases from one gallery to another in an attempt to move some of the exhibits from the Mint to the other wings. The Mammal Gallery will be consolidated into the Bird Gallery leaving one gallery open for the reinstallation of a History Gallery. Portions of the history exhibits from the Mint along with mannequins and clothing from the Women of Nevada Gallery and a history of the Museum will make up the new gallery. Some changes will also be made in the Ethnology and Archeology galleries on the second floor. Earth Science, however, will not be affected and staff are moving along toward a late winter, early spring opening for this much awaited new permanent gallery.

As of this writing Museum staff and volunteers are anxiously awaiting the outcome of a structural evaluation by Melvin Green and Associates of Manhattan Beach, California. Mr. Green, an engineer who is considered by many to be the best in his field, specializes in the area of seismic rehabilitation of historic structures. His firm acts as an advisor in historic preservation to the National Parks Service and the State Historic Preservation Offices of the states of California, Nevada and Arizona. He is currently doing several reports on buildings in Carson City. Those buildings include the Presbyterian Church, the old Supreme Court Building, and the Brewery Arts Building.

Mr. Green met with Scott Miller, Department Administrator, and Craig Defriez of the State Public Works Board, and conducted a preliminary tour of the Museum in July.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline for the *Nevada State Museum Newsletter* will be Friday, October 5. Mailing will be made on Oct. 30. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710.

At that time he indicated that there are several new methods for stabilization that may work for the Mint that would save the integrity of the building itself as well as its interior exhibits. Mr. Green should have his report back to the Museum sometime in October. Once that report is received, Department of Museums officials will work closely with State Public Works and the Governor's office to expedite the rehabilitation process.

Remember, Museum members, the Nevada State Museum needs your support now more than ever. Please stay tuned for updates in future *Newsletters*. —*Judy Hendrix, Assistant Director, NSM*

Emptiness marks the former gift shop located in the Mint Building. The shop is now located on the second floor of the annex in the former auditorium.—*Photo by Scott Klette, NSM photographer*



CC Mint Survival In 1869 Quake Seen As Good Omen

The strongest earthquake to hit Carson City occurred in late December 1869. The Carson City Mint had just been completed after three years of construction. On Dec. 13th, 1869, the architect pronounced the building completed. The earthquake hit at 6:00 p.m. and was centered in the Virginia Range. The motion of the earthquake was felt underground in Virginia City mines and numerous brick and wooden buildings were damaged. The quake was felt as far off as Camptonville, Sacramento, Stockton, Chico and Truckee, California. The strength of the quake has been calculated at 6.0 on the Richter scale.

Howard Hickson, author of *Mint Mark "CC": The Story of The United States Mint At Carson City, Nevada*, wrote about this incident:

"At 6 p.m. on Monday, December 28 the worst earthquake in historic times struck Carson City. Brick walls were damaged, scores of windows shattered, and the town in general was badly shaken up. To Curry¹, this must have been the final blow in a year of disasters. He rushed to the Mint, fearing that he would see a pile of rubble. But it had been so well built that he could not find a crack anywhere."

Robert W. Julian, a prolific numismatic researcher and author, wrote about the effect of the quake on the Mint in the June 14, 1989 issue of *Coin World*. Julian wrote:

"Just before Superintendent Curry opened for business came one of those curious events that could easily have set the infant Mint back more than a year. A major earthquake struck Carson City and the surrounding area and there were many who rushed to the new Mint to see if it had suffered the same as the rest of the town. It had not and was able to open on schedule. All concerned saw the event as a good omen because the building had survived when much else came crashing down."

The Mint had survived the 1869 quake and shortly thereafter opened and began operations on January 8th, 1870. Since 1869 the Mint building has experienced numerous quakes of various intensity over its history without suffering major damage.—*Robert Nysten, Curator of History, NSM*

¹ Abe Curry was superintendent in charge of the construction of the Mint, as well as being appointed the Mint's first superintendent when it opened for operations in January, 1870.

Nevada 90 Photo Exhibit At NSM

Nevada 90, the 16th touring photography exhibition produced by the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko, will close Sept. 12 at the Nevada State Museum.

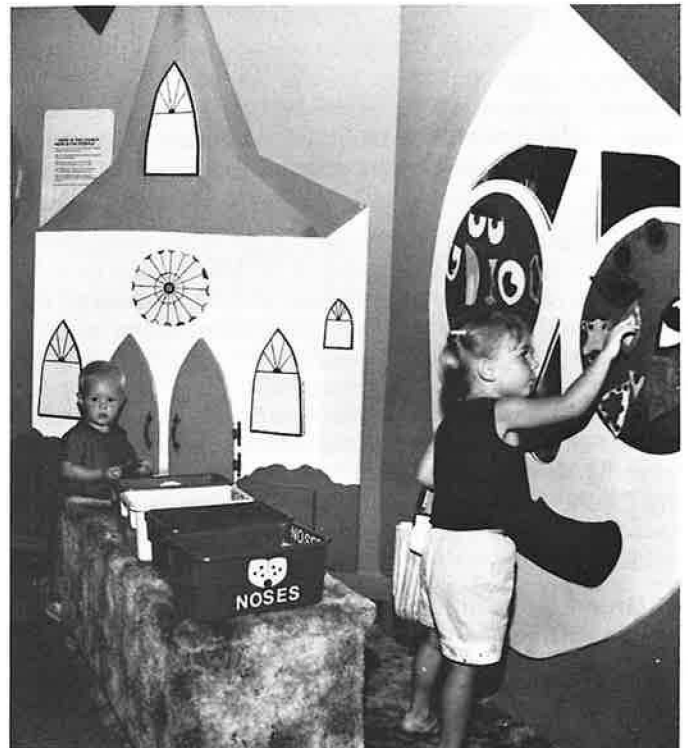
Awards were won by the following area participants: third in color prints: Stephen Johns, Carson City; merit awards in color slides: John T. Biale, Carson City, Bob Cline, Minden, and Syd Brown, Carson City.

THE DAILY APPEAL

Tuesday Morning, December 28, 1869

THE EARTH QUAKES

There were several shocks of earthquake, night before last. The first occurred about six o'clock in the evening, and was the shakiest ever experienced by the white people in this State. Its vibrations varied but little from south to north. This shock brought with it much trembling and occasioned not a little alarm. A goodly portion of the quiet inhabitants of this town suddenly became very nervous and were active in getting into the streets, and alert in ascertaining their effect of the commotion upon other people. Brick walls were damaged to some extent, and other buildings were slightly injured. But it has not come to our knowledge that any serious accident therefrom occurred to life or limb. Another aftershock was felt about 10 o'clock and yet another, and nearly as severe as the first, transpired about 2 o'clock yesterday morning.



With the mine in the Mint Building closed, the Carson City Children's Museum gallery is now the most popular with the younger set. Here Krystle Kirkpatrick, age 3, from Roy, Utah, accepts a challenge while her younger brother, Kyle, age 1½ years, wonders "what next."—*Photo by Scott Klette, NSM photographer*



COSTUMES OF THE AMERICAN WEST: 1850~1975

Reminisce as the Nevada State Museum takes you through 125 years of fashion.
A parade of authentic clothing from the museum's collection ranging from
the bustle to the bellbottom. Narrated by Jan Loverin, NSM Curator of Clothing.

**Saturday, October 6
11~3 p.m.**

CARSON CITY NUGGET, CARSON CITY, NEVADA

Admission: \$20, includes lunch. Discounts on tables for 9 (\$162).

Proceeds go toward the preservation and conservation of the
Nevada State Museum's textile collection.

.....
I WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A SEAT FOR "COSTUMES OF THE AMERICAN WEST: 1850-1975."

NAME _____

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ Make check for \$20 payable to Nevada State Museum. Mail to Nevada State
Museum, 600 N. Carson, Carson City, NV 89710. Questions: 687-4810.

Chronological Dates In History Of CC Mint Bldg.

- 1863—Carson City Branch of the United States Mint created by an Act of Congress.
- 1866—Construction on the Mint Building starts.
- 1866—Cornerstone laid on September 24, 1866.
- 1869—On December 13, 1869, the architect pronounced the building completed to his satisfaction. Total expenditure on the structure, \$426,787.66.
- 1870—The Mint began official operations on January 8.
- 1870—First coins struck on February 10, 2,203 silver dollars. On February 15, the first gold coins struck at the Mint.
- 1878—In October 1878, work on an addition was begun. The one story addition housed a new and enlarged boiler room, an engine room, carpentry shop, and storeroom.
- 1879—On November 15, coinage was suspended completely although assaying work continued.
- 1880—Coinage started again in September.
- 1881—Coinage was again suspended from April through October.
- 1881—In September, construction was commenced on a second floor to the rear wing, to house a new refinery. This was completed in November.
- 1881—Coinage begins again in November.
- 1893—The Mint was closed to coinage.
- 1895—In February it was discovered that an embezzlement of precious metals had been going on, triggering a major investigation. It was discovered that \$75,000 was unaccounted for but only about a third was recovered. Several Mint employees went to jail.
- 1899—All minting machinery was removed, leaving only assay equipment.
- 1899—The Carson City Mint was made an Assay Office.
- 1933—The Carson City Mint building was closed as an Assay Office.
- 1933-1939—The building was used by the United States Government as an office for the Works Project Administration (WPA).
- 1939—The Mint building was sold to the State of Nevada for Museum usage.
- 1941—The Mint was first remodelled for museum use. Work began on February 2 and the building was dedicated and opened to the public in October.
- 1959—The Clark J. Guild Hall was dedicated. The new hall contained additional exhibit space and was built to the southwest of the original Mint building.
- 1971—The rear of the Mint Annex which had been added in 1878-1881 was demolished and replaced by the John W. Calhoun Annex. The Calhoun addition includes both exhibit areas and administrative offices of the museum.
- 1990—On July 4, the Mint portion of the Nevada State Museum was closed to the public due to earthquake instability.

NSRM Heralding Its Busiest Season Yet

The Nevada State Railroad Museum is attracting crowds during the busy summer season. Over 3,520 visitors came in May, 3,488 in June and over 3,700 in July for a year-to-date attendance of over 15,000 patrons.

The gift shop is also doing well and is now under the guidance of Rich Reitnauer. Rich joins the NSRM staff after 12 years of managing the Yosemite Association gift shops in Yosemite National Park.

The *Friends of the NSRM* continue to provide volunteer services, operating the trains on weekends throughout the summer. The volunteers at the Museum provide a valuable service for the visitors and the support in hours shows their dedication. The *Friends* have volunteered over 614 hours in May, 572 hours in June and 576 hours in July. The *Friends* also coordinated work parties to replace the siding on the Nelson House and are funding a contractor to paint not only the station agents house, but the Wabuska Depot as well.

Two new improvements have also been made to the Jacobsen Interpretive Center; the installation of two roof mounted exhaust fans, and the installation of solar film window tinting. These have combined to reduce temperatures in the building by as much as 15 degrees. The window tint also filters out harmful UV radiation that is so destructive to artifacts, photographs and archival material on display.

The summer season is winding down but many activities remain this year including steam-ups Sept. 1-3 and Oct. 27 and 28, the annual V&T Symposium and Dinner Oct. 27, and the second Annual Carson City Invitational Handcar Races to be held as part of the Nevada Day celebration Oct. 31. And please remember, the Railroad Museum is now open year round, Wednesday through Sunday, so stop in and visit during the winter season.

If you would like more information on upcoming Railroad Museum activities and the Symposium, please call or write:

Nevada State Railroad Museum
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710
(702) 687-6953

—John Ballweber, Curator, NSRM

More Comments

We are very disappointed that the mining display is not open. We have made a special trip here to show our grandchildren the display. We hope maybe the exhibit will be open soon. — E. J. Lord, Santa Cruz, CA

☆☆☆

We were *really disappointed* that the mint (mine, ghost town, silver display) was closed. We came especially to see it! Please open it soon (like yesterday). We brought two guests from Spain to see it and were unpleasantly surprised to find it closed. — Mr. and Mrs. Robert Currie, Redding, CA



Janine Sprout is wearing a Red Cross uniform, one of the many classics to be shown in the October 6 fashion show.
—Photo by Scott Klette, NSM photographer

Fashion Show October 6; Grant Received To Fund Book On Clothing Women

The Nevada 125th Anniversary Commission recently awarded the Nevada State Museum a \$3,750 grant to partially fund a book being prepared by the History Department's Jan Loverin and Bob Nysten. The grant will be matched from the Woodrow Loftin Trust Fund.

The 44-page book "To Clothe Nevada Women: 1860-1920" will examine pioneer woman's quality of life, what dictated her lifestyle, why she chose to look fashionable in the dusty makeshift mining camps, what was available and how she "made do." From hand-sewn calico prairie dresses to seamstress-made stylish silk ball gowns to dress patterns and sewing machines to department store ready-to-wear frocks — you'll follow step by step through their evolution in early Nevada.

The book will make its debut at the museum's historical fashion show, "Costumes of the American West: 1850-1970" on October 6 at the Carson Nugget. Color plates of costumes from the museum's collections and rare scenes depicting early Nevada women at work and at leisure accompany the informative text. Docent Jack Gibson is generously donating his expertise as the manuscript's typographer and the Exhibit Department's Scott Klette shot the fashion photography. Don Tuohy, Curator of Anthropology, and Frada Naroll, Docent, are the book's editors.

Reservations are now being accepted for the fall fashion show. The admission price is \$20 and includes lunch. Ten percent off earlybird discounts are being offered on "close to the runway" reserved tables for nine until September 15. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Mark your calendars for this enjoyable and entertaining occasion. The Nugget offers spacious accommodations, delicious food and the new show promises to be *spectacular*. And all profits go toward a great cause — the conservation and preservation of the museum's clothing collection. For more information or reservations, call Janine Sprout, 687-4810.

Historical Society Needs Docents

Docents are needed as tour guides, etc. for the Nevada Historical Society located in Reno. The Fall training program will begin Sept. 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Museum.

The eight-week program covers all phases of Nevada history as well as training in how to conduct gallery tours. For more information, please call the Nevada Historical Society at 789-0190.

New Curator Takes Over At Stewart Indian Museum

The resignation of Museum Director and Curator, Mr. Ed Johnson, has been announced by the Board of Trustees of the Stewart Indian Museum Association. Other actions taken at a special meeting of the Trustees included recognition of those involved with this year's Pow Wow, held June 16-17 weekend.

Mr. Robert Still was appointed "Acting Director and Curator" and will serve in that capacity until a "Selections Committee" can complete the process of interviewing candidates for the position. A Registered Tribal Member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and Disabled Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Still has served as president of the Museum Association for the past three years. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and has been employed in television production in the Reno area since 1980.

Mr. Johnson became the first director of the museum in 1983 and has given leadership to its development through the early difficult years. The Trustees were saddened by his decision to leave, but wish him every success in his new undertaking.

NSM NEWSLETTER

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER is published bimonthly the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November by the NSM-Carson City Docent Council. This issue edited by Jack Gibson. Mailing by Jan Buchanan. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710. Printed by Creative Copies +, Carson City.

Up Close And Personal With Phyllis Stewart

In 1985 Phyllis Stewart joined the Nevada State Museum Docent Council. She became interested in the Docent Council while vacationing with her mother-in-law in New Zealand and Australia. While on vacation, she met Gloria Gunn and Mary Catherine Johnston, at the time both active NSM Docents, who encouraged Phyl to join the Docent Council. We are thankful to Gloria and Mary Catherine for bringing Phyl to our Council.

Since that time, Phyl has done everything from mounting flowers, cleaning animal traps, inventorying animal skins, working in the gift shop and information desk, giving tours, co-chairing special events, treasurer for two years, and is currently in her second year as our chairman. The only things she hasn't done are typing and cleaning windows. She'll even do windows on occasion. Phyl has served over 2,000 hours in her five years as a docent.

Phyl was born in Minnesota. She attended the University of Missouri where she met Bob Stewart who was a journalism major. Bob got his degree, Phyl got her M.R.S. They were married in 1962 and moved west. They lived in Elko for six years, then relocated to Reno for two years, and finally got to Carson City in 1970 when Bob was appointed Press Secretary to Governor O'Callahan. Bob is now working for the BLM as head of Public Affairs. They raised two fine sons, Mitchell and Scott, who attended school in Carson City. Both sons are presently living in southern California.

Phyl likes to garden when she has the time. She and Bob are die-hard San Francisco Giants fans. Many weekends, you can find them in Candlestick Park cheering the Giants on to hopefully another World Series.

We are truly lucky to have such a wonderful person as Phyl as our chairman, and look forward to many more years of working with her.—*Shari Fisher, NSM Docent Council Publicity Chairman*



PHYL STEWART
—Photo by Scott Klette, NSM photographer

IMS Grants Workshop Set In Nevada

The Institute of Museum Services will present two grant-writing workshops in Nevada this September. Both will focus on the General Operating Support Program.

The first workshop will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 17 at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. The second will take place on Sept. 18 at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas, with an identical schedule. There is no charge for registration. For more information and registration forms, call Betty Powers at IMS (202) 786-0539.

Travel awards of up to \$50.00 are available to workshop participants from Nevada who are members of the Nevada Museums Association. For information on the travel awards call Arthur H. Wolf, President, Nevada Museums Association, (702) 486-5205.

Docent Council Visits Reno's Harrah's Automobile Museum

The August general meeting of the Nevada State Museum Docent Council was held at the William F. Harrah National Automobile Museum in Reno. The Docents had an enjoyable lunch on the patio overlooking the Truckee River before the tour of the auto museum, which was a very pleasant and nostalgic way to spend a hot August day. Several guests were also in attendance, including Mrs. Marjorie Russell.

A change has been made on the Docent Board. Carol Hendricks has been elected the new Vice Chairman. The position opened when Maria Stern moved to Idaho. Maria will be greatly missed. We welcome Carol to her new position on the Board. Gerry Donahoe is taking over Carol's position as Chairman of Docent Membership. We welcome Gerry to the Board.—*Shari Fisher, NSM Docent Council Publicity Chairman*

Latest Acquisitions Listed For Both NSM And NSRM

Jim Blinn, Carson City—Weather vane in shape of locomotive, will be installed on water tower. **Arnold M. Heggelund, Concord, CA**—3 early V&T documents (1874, 1876, 1877). **Group from Switzerland**—Patch; sticker of American railroads; model train. **Historical Society of The Tarrytowns, Tarrytown, NY**—One crinoline. **Jim Ober, Stateline**—Hercules blasting machine (50 cap-electric); cap crimping machine. **Betty Edwards, Reno**—Toy wagon. **Francis Humphrey, Reno**—Carson City Carnival Official Program, 1901; commencement week at Carson City

High School, 1921; 16th Piano Recital, 1918; souvenir of Nevada's 74th Anniversary, 1864-1938; Carson City News, 8/24/1912; photo Washoe basketball team, ca. 1910; photo album; negative Sheriff Joseph Stern; 2 photos Maud Stern Mortenson; boy's (child's) dress of George Edmund Maute; 4 photos; 1 tin-type photo. **Pat Raycraft Kearns, Ojal, CA**—Photo Julia Cannon Brougher; photo Ida Brougher Raycraft; photo James Morris Raycraft; color photo Brougher residence; lantern from Raycraft Livery Stable; *Western Treasures Magazine*, 1971; Nevada Appeal, 12/3/1952; Oakland Tribune newspaper clipping 10/3/1965; paletot; black capelet; purple umbrella; offwhite crochet and lace wedding dress w/belf; pair wedding shoes w/beading; black shirt; black undershirt; white gauze undershirt; offwhite lace boice/shirtwaist. **Bob Service, Dayton**—Railroad lamp "Angle Lamp", from N. Pacific, ca 1875. **Tumbleweed "Mack" McBride, Benson, AZ**—Oil painting. **Harrah's (Lynn Atcheson), Reno**—Cocktail waitress dress; cabaret dress. **Jack Winther, Carson City**—Misc. RR documents (bill of ladings, shipping bills, shipping orders, shipping receipts). **Dorothy Whitney, Reno**—2 capes; duster. **Gregory Taylor, Reno**—16th century German sporting cross bow. **General Services (Terry Sullivan), Carson City**—2 sets Bicentennial Coins.

An Invitation To Join CATEGORIES

- Student & Senior Citizen — \$15.00**
- Regular — \$25.00**
NSM Newsletter, Historical Society Quarterly, Christmas card, 15% Museum Store discount, free admission to all museums within state system, invitations to previews, receptions, events.
- Family — \$35.00**
Same as "Regular" plus a bronze commemorative medallion.
- Sustaining — \$50.00**
Same as "Regular" plus a Museum mug.
- Contributing — \$100.00**
Same as "Regular" plus a 5x7 historical photograph.
- Department Fellow — \$250.00**
Same as "Regular" plus basic membership in all museums within the state system.
- Patron — \$500**
Same as "Regular" plus Nevada Place Names book.
- Benefactor — \$1,000.00**
Same as "Regular" plus framed 8x10 historical photograph.

COMMERCIAL

- Regular — \$50.00**
- Sustaining — \$100.00**

CORPORATE

- Regular — \$250.00**
- Sustaining — \$500.00**

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS will be awarded to individuals or organizations that have made substantial contributions to the department or one of its agencies.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Make check payable to Nevada State Museum and mail to:
Nevada State Museum
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

June Kunkel, Twin Falls, ID—Oversized photo of Board of Commissioners; 3x5 b/w of Wm. Havenor; 8x10 Commissioners & guests at Washington Territory reception; letter board U.S. Executive Dept., New Orleans, 1885; deed of gift from the Smithsonian Institution, 1885; letter of The American Exhibition, London, 1886; letter American Shipping & Industrial League. **Amy Dansie, Carson City**—2 computer weave shirts, ca 1968; outfit (top and pants) ca 1969. **Mira Lewis, Palm Springs CA**—2 white boy's dresses, ca. 1880-1900s. **Shortline, Carson City**—Locomotive #8; V&T coach/caboose #10; V&T coach #3; V&T coach/combine #8; V&T coach #17; V&T baggage car #21; V&T box car #1011; V&T transfer car #1; V&T flat car #160; 2 SNW&L flat cars. **Daun Bohall, Carson City**—Photo of Federal bldg. with caboose #24 & S.P. #8; photo of V&T #26 on bridge in Reno, 1949. **Gesine C. Stevens, Lake Placid, NY**—Cradle-board covered with buckskin; 3 coiled baskets. **Mike Leigh, Carson City**—*Modern Plastics Encyclopedia*, 1989. **Brent Maxwell, Carson City**—1873 Carson City Trade Dollar. **Edith Milo, Carson City**—Gold-water for President campaign button; Wilkie & McNary presidential campaign button; slide rule and case; instructions for use of Alco Slide Rule; instructions for operating Ever-There Slide Ruler; *The Polyphase Slide Rule* booklet; The History of the 27th Engineers, U.S.A.; white mourning handkerchief. **Michael Brannon, Palmdale, CA**—Japanese gas mask. **Dorothy Wylie, Carson City**—Grinding stone. **Lucy Melendy, Fallon**—2 pestles; mortar; huller. **June Kunkel, Twin Falls, ID**—1939 Nevada map. **Frances Humphrey, Reno**—1939 music ticket; 1896 copy of March of State of Nevada.

More Comments

What a blow — I won't be back. — *Lloyd K. Long, Las Vegas, NV*

☆☆☆

Very disappointed. It should be advertised in AAA, other tourist places, mint closed. — *Fran Parman, San Diego, CA*

☆☆☆

I waited twenty years to come see this & it was closed when I got here. — *Mike Hawkins, Anchorage, AK*

☆☆☆

We came to the mint from Missouri to see the old mint. We are collectors of coins minted here at the mint. Enjoy the Indian artifacts, but was disappointed. — *Kit Salmon, Florence, MO*

☆☆☆

Came all the way from Illinois to see coin museum and coin press. *Very disappointed.* — *Laurence Neyrimck, Erie, IL*

☆☆☆

I came especially to see the mint. I'm disappointed that the mint is closed. My visit from Cincinnati was made for this very reason. — *E. G. Mary, Cincinnati, OH*

In the Gift Shop

Books On Varied Subjects Available

Books in the Museum's Gift Shop are also available by phone or mail from the Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710. Visa and MasterCard are accepted in telephone orders at (702) 687-4810. Postage and handling is \$1.00 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book on the same order. Membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by MARY CRAWFORD
NSM Docent and Former Librarian

THE NEVADA ADVENTURE. By James W. Hulse. University of Nevada Press, sixth edition 1990. Paperback, 315 pages, \$12.95.

This book is the classic one volume reference book on the history of Nevada. It is written primarily for the schools, but adult readers will also find it interesting. The author discusses the rugged Nevada environment, prehistoric Indian lifeways, and experiences of the earliest explorers and immigrants. He reviews the impact of early pioneers and examines the lives of miners and the boom-bust cycles of Nevada towns. This book also covers the growth of the cattle industry, twentieth-century mining, federal government projects, atomic testing, and the phenomenal growth of the tourist and gaming industry. Dr. Hulse has added a new chapter which is devoted to 1980s Nevada with particular attention given to the explosive growth of the state. Dr. James W. Hulse is a professor of history at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the author of several books.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS. By Vernon Brown. Naturegraph Publishers, 1974. Paperback, 80 pages, \$5.95.

Although this book covers practically all the species of reptiles and amphibians of the west, it is not meant to be a complete guide. It is easy to use and understand for both beginners and those more knowledgeable in this field. There are color charts and black and white drawings for easy, quick identification, and a section on how to catch and care for these animals in captivity. The book is well organized, has an index and covers a fascinating array of lizards, snakes, turtles, tortoises, frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders found from Saskatchewan, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Texas, and the Western United States to the Pacific Coast.

EXCAVATION OF THE DONNER-REED WAGONS. By Bruce R. Hawkins and David B. Madsen. University of Utah Press, 1990. Hardback, 175 pages, \$19.95.

The sub-title of this book is Historic Archaeology along the Hastings Cutoff. The tragic fate of the Donner-Reed party of California emigrants is one of the most famous episodes in the history of western expansion and settlement. The party's late arrival in the Sierra Nevada Mountains caused it to be stranded by snow during the winter of 1845-47 and led to starvation and the death of much of the party. What is less well known is that the tragedy of the Donner party's experience in the Sierra was caused in large part by the delays and difficulties which they en-

countered while crossing the Wasatch Mountains and the Great Salt Lake Desert in Utah. The Donner-Reed excavations were undertaken as part of a salvage effort necessitated by the construction of a water impoundment on the Great Salt Lake Desert. As a result, this book is a report of the historic archaeology of these excavations. The book is full of drawings, charts, maps, and pictures. There is a final chapter on Interpretation of the Findings, appendix and index. Both the authors are authorities in the field, and are able to make a very readable account of a complex little known historical event.

DAN DE QUILLE, THE WASHOE GIANT. (Prepared) By Richard A. Dwyer and Richard E. Lingenfelter. University of Nevada Press, Western Literature Series, 1990. Paperback, 450 pages, \$16.95.

This book is both a biography and anthology of Dan De Quille (1829-1898) who was Nevada's most popular writer in the nineteenth century. He was a prolific and versatile storyteller and journalist. The authors have extracted rich nuggets of his best and most entertaining work, and added a biographical sketch, based on his writings and letters. A list of sources is included and there is a checklist of De Quille's writings and where to find them. This book is an authoritative, quality paperback and a fine readable book about a major Nevadan. It is also a book for admirers of American humor and those readers interested in the American West during the great days of the Comstock Lode.

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