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**Neal Cobb
Harolds Club
World's Largest Casino
ONLINE Thursday
December 3, 2020
10:00 am**



Harolds Club emerged from a hole in the wall operation at 236 North Virginia Street in 1935 to become the largest casino in the world. The owners, the Smith family, Pappy and sons Harold and Raymond, lived by Pappy's carnival-worker philosophy of treating customers with a smile and a fair hand. Run an honest game, the father said, let players win something, and they'll return. Under Pappy's leadership and innovations, Harolds Club and Reno became world-famed tourist attractions.

Neal Cobb is a Reno native, and was involved in his family's business, Modern Photo. Neal fell heir to fourteen large boxes of old Reno and Northern Nevada photos and printable film after his parents died in the 1980's and subsequently authored two books, *Reno Now and Then, Books I and II*. He has worked closely representing the Nevada Historical Society, having presented over 500 programs in Reno, Sparks and Northern Nevada since 1988.

Notes From Your Docent Council Board

New Council Board Candidates: At the November Docent Council meeting, the slate of potential officers for 2021 was presented and no additional nominations were made.

At the December meeting, we will vote on electing the following as the 2021 officers: Pam Walker, President; Linda Burke, Vice-President; Jody Covington, Secretary; Marc Ullom, Treasurer; Debra Brastoff, Statistician; and Sandy Vickers-White, D C Bee Editor.

As the outgoing president, Sam Macaluso will become the Parliamentarian.

School Tours: Good progress is being made in converting the 4th grade school tours to virtual presentations. Sessions on Pre-history, Native American, Fur Trappers and Mountain Men, and Traveling the California Trail have been scripted out and taping has begun.

Other segments are being worked on. Based on teacher input, segments will be about 15 minutes each; many will include extra resources that teachers may wish to use such as videos of additional artifacts, vocabulary lists, and other supplemental material to enhance the experience.

Parking Pass: Its that time of year again. You may currently pick yours up at the NHS front desk at any time.

Docent Dues: Dues of 15.00 are now due. Please forward you 2021 payment to Marc Ullom at NHS and be sure to indicate on your payment that it is for Docent Dues. Your payment may be mailed and/or if you are in the building you may insert your payment in Marc's time card located in the AGA area.

The four new docents who just before the shutdown will have the dues they paid in March applied to their 2021 dues.

Additional Note On Neal Cobb: Neal was born and raised here in Reno and has lived his whole life in Reno excluding four years when he was in the U.S. Navy.

Neal worked at Harolds Club as a crap deal so his knowledge about Harold' Club is first hand. Harolds Club was the first club to do international advertising. They had billboards advertising the distance to Reno Harolds Club. The slogan "**Harold's Club or Bust**" became very popular. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqfu2rqDwpHtUoHfVqa6YiuEiXizaH1c5>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information to join the meeting.

Did You Know: There are several different options available to docents to learn about the NHS and those articles and artifacts within the museum.

All docents receive the D C Bee which is updated monthly. It contains the upcoming speakers, events, what's happening at the museum, sports events, i.e., football at UNR, stories of Nevada, trivia and much more.

Docents may also go on Facebook, the NHS website, digital newsletters on constant contact, the quarterly publication, virtual tours on zoom, Eblasts and/or UTube.com

Nevada Trivia

- A. What is a "flea"?
- B. Name the first white man to enter the Ruby Mountains.
- C. Name the 19th century Equal Rights Pioneer who wrote Nellie Brown?
- D. What resort casino opened on the land once occupied by the Dunes Hotel in 1998?

A. A player that does not tip and plays the minimum to get free drinks. B. Jedediah Smith in 1827. C. Thomas Pettey, one of the earliest novels by a black American. D. The Bellagio

Update: The October speaker, Stan Paher, was unable to present his talk "*Favorite Ghost Town*" due to technical difficulties. It will be rescheduled as a virtual tour at a later date. However, if you were tuned in on Zoom the conversation moved on to the Pony Express, which was very informative, with several attendees giving their input on various stops and events that occurred.

Virtual Talks— Due to the popularity of the Artown 2020 talks on the NHS website, we would like to upload more talks. This will be worked on after the virtual school tours are completed, so we'll start in the New Year. If you have a favorite artifact or something that you've researched which you think might make an interesting presentation, please contact Linda Burke lulubelle1986@yahoo.com for more information.

In Passing: Former NHS docent Gayle Calhoun passed away on November 11. Gayle, a retired elementary school principal, volunteered with the NHS until health problems made it impossible for her to continue working in 2017. As a docent Gayle was known for her warmth, her friendliness, and her merry laugh. She pulled shifts in the store, helped organize the clipping files in the library, and enjoyed working with special events. Descended from an early Nevada family, she always loved learning more about the state.

Bernie Carter would like everyone to view the six minute tour video found at 50southvirginia.com. It is an interview with the contractor, architect, and mechanical engineer and viewing helps to understand the motivation behind the project.

Note: Due to Covid-19 and space distancing as mandated by the Governor presentations will be presented through zoom on your computers.

Docent Meeting Speakers 10:00 a.m.

January 4, 2021

Bernie Carter

"Adaptive Reuse for Revitalization: Reno's Downtown Post Office".

February 4, 2021

Larry Walker

Mountain Men

March 4, 2021

Anne Davis

Nevada's Military Women

The NHS in partnership with the Washoe County Library will be presenting High Noon Series. Registration is required on the Washoe County Library website. You may check the Calendar of Virtual Events to register.

December 17, 2020

Jim Bonar

The Black Rock Desert: A tour through the history and the Applegate Trail

You've heard of the Black Rock Desert, but have you been to it? Most impressions people get are from Burning Man, but there is so much more to this incredible place. Let's explore the northern end of Nevada. What's the history, who lived there, the first whites? Jim Bonar will detail some of the events of the past and give you information about what's going on today. See the wonders found in the wonderful Black Rock Desert.

Jim is a locally retired High School teacher, ending his teaching career as a Math teacher at Sparks high School. He became interested in roads as a young child in Green River Wyoming while watching the traffic passing through town, on Highway 30. Jim is Director and past president of the Nevada chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. This encouraged him to study and research many western events. He is a member of many of our local and state historical societies, so in his retirement activities he gives presentations of Western historical topics involving emigrant trails and early roads to many local groups.



Congratulations
To Docents with December
Birthdays

17th Janna Dunn
20th Mui Lee
31st Roger Slugg

Statistics: For safety in this time of COVID 19, statistician Debra Brastoff has requested that docents email their hours worked to her, rather than filling in the paper time cards at the NHS. Her email address is debranhs@gmail.com. Please include hours worked at the NHS, hours worked on HGS projects at home, and any virtual meetings you attended which were sponsored by the NHS or Docent Council. It is helpful to submit hours by month, since Catherine must submit a report of docent hours which is broken down by each month.

Its important to log hours worked because they help show community support when the NHS applies for grants. They also give us bragging rights: In the past, the NHS has had the most active docents in the Nevada Museum system—let's keep up the great support!

Computer Update: An additional six computers have been forwarded to Carson City for upgrade.

Holiday Ornaments: Currently available in the NHS gift shop.

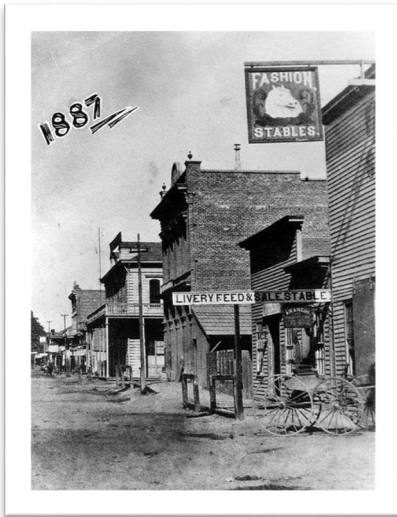
NHS Hours:

Breaking News!

Due to increased **COVID** numbers, the Nevada Historical Society will be closed to the public from **December 1, 2020 through January 5, 2021.**

The staff will be working onsite to answer all of your online research requests, take orders over the phone and provide safe, curb-side service for your holiday purchases from our museum store.

Here are some old photos for you, enjoy!



1887, Anaheim, California, now Disneyland

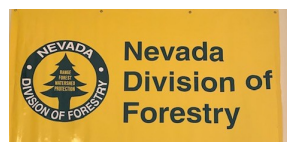
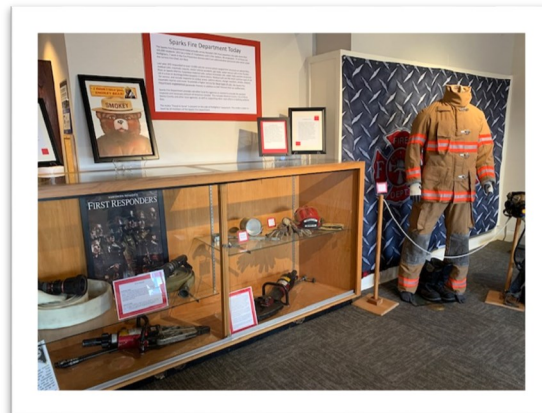


1918 Street car conductor not allowing passengers on car without a mask during the Spanish Flu



1940 Wartime lovers in London under the mistletoe, don't forget your gas mask!

And this exhibit currently at the Sparks Museum, check it out!



*This exhibit by the museum and NDF is on display thru mid-January. **NOTE: The museum is closed until December 3, 2020***

The Historical Society website: <http://nvhistoricalsociety.org>

Nevada Historical Society

The Nevada Historical Society is Located at 1650 North Virginia Street in Reno, Nevada. The cost to visit the museum is Adults \$5/pp, free for Members and Children 17 & under.

Once again due to the Covid-19 museum hours are restricted and no docent tours are currently available. You may self tour with limited occupancy.

The museum is open to the public from 10:00 am -4:00 pm on Wednesdays; access to the museum on Thursday and Friday is by appointment.

The Research Library is open by appointment only Wednesday—Friday from noon—4:00 pm.

Docents are welcome Wednesday—Friday from 10:00 am -4:00 pm, but due to the need to limit occupancy and to have workstations available, please let Shery or Catherine know in advance when you plan to come.

You may self tour with limited occupancy.

After all the computers have been upgraded, the plan is to have scheduling software in place that docents can use to reserve workstations for specific times.

Catherine has set up a sign-up sheet on website <https://signupgenius.com/o/9040545ABA82AA7FB6>-admissions for those docents to sign up for volunteerism at the admission desk on Wednesdays.

A thank you to those docents who have already signed up.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, happy holiday season