The Newsletter of the Nevada Historical Docent Council

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Jack Hursh
Nevada Barn Heritage
ONLINE Thursday
October 1 2020
10:30 am

In this presentation, Northern Nevada’s historic barn architecture is documented by Jack Hursh’s 1995-2005 photographs.

This was a period of rapid development in the Reno area, so most of the barns in the images that Jack shows were displaced by new development. The focus of Jack’s photography was to document large timber framed barns dating back to circa 1860’s when large ranches in the area were producing goods for the Virginia City market. Small outbuildings are also featured in this presentation, including the effort led by Jack to rescue and relocate, the several historical ranch outbuildings that are now located at Bartley Ranch Park—a project that is called Truckee Meadows Remembered.

Jack Hursh is a fourth-generation Nevadan, an award winning photographer, influenced by the desire to preserve images reflecting the heritage of Nevada. Jack is a retired cartographic technician for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and geology at UNR. Jack was responsible for the design and layout editing of the popular series of Nevada Geology calendars and tour guides containing his photography including Traveling America’s Loneliest Road, A Geologic and Natural History Tour through Nevada along U.S. Highway 50.

The Historical Society website: http://nvhistoricalsociety.org
Notes From Your Docent Council Board

New Council Board Candidates: The slate of potential officers for 2021 which will be presented to the Docent Council includes: Pam Walker, President; Linda Burke, Vice-President; Jody Covington, Secretary; Marc Ullom, Treasurer; Debra Brastoff, Statistician; Sandy Vickers-White, D C Bee Editor. Sam Macaluso will become the Past President/Parliamentarian.

We would like to say thanks to Russel & Kitty Umbraco, Betsy Morse for their tenure and volunteerism on the board and contributions to the NHS.

School Tours: Due to Covid-19 there will not be any in person school tours at this time. However discussions with the Washoe County School District indicate that teachers would like us to produce some virtual tours that they can use.

Several teams have been set up to work on the tours, with a due date of early 2021. If you are interested in helping, please contact the appropriate team leader(s).

- Mining in Nevada—Linda Burke and Sam Macaluso
- Native Americans—Lorraine Petersen
- Pioneers—Betsy Morse
- Videography, photos, etc—Marc Ullom

Parking Pass: It’s 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 your 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.

Statistics: Debra Brastoff has requested that due to Covid-19 paper timecards are not practical. Debra asks that all docents who did projects for home including research for the walls, Artown talks and continuing education lectures, please email her your hours. Also email any other hours since March not logged to Debra via email at debranhs@gmail.com.

The Historical Society Website: http://nvhistoricalsociety.org
New/Old Areas: In compliance with the strict regulations for wearing masks and social distancing within the NHS building, docent work areas have been rearranged. Team Photo has been relocated to Michelle Roberts’ former office. The AGA will take over what used to be the Docent Work Room with different desk/computer spacing. Manuscript workers will be in the former Photograph Office (now renamed the Curatorial Work Room). Library and artifacts workers will be assigned spaces depending on what they are working on. There is a meet and greet area at the front doors where you and visitors may sign in. This area is staffed by docents on Wednesdays and has Plexiglas to separate workers from people coming in. Most of the computers have been updated; about nine are still being worked on. The meeting room has been repurposed as the staff/docent lunch room, since the break room is so small. Masks must be worn at all times. with screens in front and masks worn at all times.

Curatorial stations

Station 1

Station 2

Station 3

Station 4

Front Area Entrance

The Historical Society Website:  http://nvhistoricalsociety.org
Photos continued……..

Library desk area

Computers in process

AGA area with work stations and Debra’s desk area

Photos of the Photo area are not currently available but they are now relocated to the original staff sections in what was Michelle Roberts’ office.

The Historical Society Website: http://nvhistoricalsociety.org
Congratulations
To Docents with October Birthdays

28th Cheri Grayson

Docent Meeting
Speakers
10:30 a.m.

November 5, 2020
Stan Paher
“My Favorite Ghost Town”

December 3, 2020
Neal Cobb
“Harold’s Club”

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

Dr. Catherine Magee has requested those docents who signed up to do a mural wall for the new building consider using the research they have done (and the pictures which started the project) to put together a presentation. These could either be videoed presentations which are put on the NHS website or they could become short talks for the NHS.

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.

November 19, 2020—Noon
Frank Mullin Jr.
Chautauqua

December 17, 2020
Jim Bonar
The Black Rock Desert: A tour through the history and the Applegate Trail;

January 21, 2021
Sam Macaluso
Pony Express in Nevada

The Historical Society Website: http://nvhistoricalsociety.org
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 lulabelle1986@yahoo.com for more information.

The following is an article discovered in the NHS clipping files which Lorraine Petersen would like to share with her fellow docents interested in learning about Nevada history.

All articles must be approved so if you would like to present an article you have found please forward to me at sandy8white@gmail.com. I will present it to the Docent Council and if approved and agreed upon I

This article is about the pole which is standing in the back of the Passing Through Gallery. The article borrowed from the Reno Evening Gazette was published in the Reese River Reveille on July 4, 1936.

“A portion of a pole from the old telegraph line from Belmont to the Overland Telegraph Line at Austin has been given to the Nevada Historical Society.” A resident of Austin who visited the museum in Reno donated the pole which represents the very early days of Nevada.

The article goes on to say—”The Belmont line was built shortly after the mining strike in 1864, when Belmont was the county seat of Nye County. The wires followed the length of Monitor Valley to connect with the transcontinental line...The pole had been fastened to a tree trunk with wire. An old insulator, with a piece of the telegraph wire, still remains on the pole.” In the display case by the pole, you will find insulators and a block of wood similar to the one on top of the NHS pole. The telegraph meant the end of the Pony Express. In 1864, Nevada’s state constitution was sent across similar telegraph poles strung across the USA to Washington D.C. and Nevada became a state on October 31, 1864.

Found the above wealth of information in a short article in an old newspaper and that article lead to more gems of Nevada’s history. The 1864 mining strike was mentioned, and you can learn about that strike and the story behind the $4 dollar a day miner’s pay by reading Guy Rocha’s article, “The Many Image of the Comstock Miner’s Unions,” found on the internet. The mention of Belmont also reminds us of the courthouse where Charles Manson and his followers signed their names on the walls and of the dedicated residents of that old mining town who support the Belmont Courthouse’s restoration project.

The past continues to connect to us to the present and hopefully to the future.

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

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.