

THE D C BEE

The Newsletter of the Nevada Historical Docent Council

Volume 32 Number 1

September 2021

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Dr. Gene Hattori
North America's
"Oldest" Petroglyphs
at
Winnemucca Lake, Nevada
ONLINE
September 2, 2021
10:00 am

Eugene M. Hattori is the Curator of Anthropology at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. He was born in Yerington and raised in Sparks. While attending UNR in the mid-1960s and continuing after graduation, Gene worked at the Nevada Historical Society on Artemisia Way. Gene graduated with a B.S. in zoology from UNR, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology at Washington State University. He is an archaeologist specializing in historic and prehistoric archaeology of Nevada and surrounding regions., Gene previously worked at the Desert Research Institute, Bechtel, Archeo-Tec Consulting and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. He began at the museum in 1999 as lead co-curator for *Under One Sky: Nevada's Native American Heritage*. He was also co-curator for *Finding Fremont: Pathfinder in the West*.

Many archaeologists and locals knew about the unusual petroglyphs at a well-known Winnemucca Lake site, but few realized that they might have arrived at the end of the Ice Age! During a rock art tour at this site for a group of Dr. Larry Benson's, US Geological Survey (retired), former colleagues, he noticed that some of the petroglyphs were coated by tufa from being submerged by ancient Lake Lahontan after they were carved. Larry is a tufa scholar and never noticed the coating in prior visits. This began a three year project that resulted in a 2014 report published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Notes From Your Docent Council Board

IN Memoriam: John Milton Gomes Born in Oakland, California May 14, 1925 he passed away at his home in Reno, Nevada, June 15, 2021.

At 17, with his mother's signature, he entered the Army Air Corp and was preparing to deploy to the Pacific when the Second World War ended.

He attended the University of Nevada, Reno on the GI bill graduating from the Mackay School of Mines with a degree in metallurgical science.

John worked at the US Bureau of Mines for 35 years, developing over 1000 patents and earned the reputation as one of the greatest experts in mid-century Great Basin mining.

Among his various activities, organizations and achievements, John was Emeritus becoming a docent in 1992 and president of the Docent Council in 1997 through 1998 along with Vice President in 1996. He earned the Marjorie Fordham award in 1999 and was active in tours and photography.

John co-wrote with Judy Eisele the History on Wheels program, Mining and Miners and was still giving school tours and Artown talks throughout 2016. He spent many years organizing field trips for the Docent Council and wrote articles on his mining experiences for the DC Bee and other renowned publications.

One of his last presentation's at the NHS was in 2016 when he spoke at the March meeting of the Docent Council on his family's history in Nevada from 1868 to 2016 with a focus on Golconda. John has donated artifacts such as his helmet and lamps to the Docent Council, many photographs and much memorabilia. He was a mentor and guide with a subtle sense of humor and a wry smile.

Many of you at the NHS knew him and he will be missed.



New/Old Areas: In compliance with the strict regulations for wearing masks and distancing within the NHS the building is open to the public on Wednesdays, open galleries by appointment on Thursdays and for research purposes on Fridays. . Please check the NHS website for access and availability. **Masks are required.** There is a meet and greet area at the front doors where you and visitors may sign in. This area is staffed by docents with screens in front .

Side Note: Dr/ Catherine Magee is currently reviewing applicant resumes for the Library/ Archivist position.

ARTOWN: Linda Burke would like to thank all of the NHS presenters: Neil Cobb, Jack Hursh, Anne Davis, Larry Walker with the Washoe County Library. Sam Macaluso, , Pam Walker, Catherine Magee, Sandy Vickers-White. Our thanks to Carol and Sam Coleman for their technical and promotional service.

We entertained 200 participants. The events are recorded and are available for viewing on the Nevada State Museums YouTube channel.

This is the correct link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCirEJG9vL6ylns7K7lzkrcavb5StYww>

SherylN Hayes Zorn has also created a playlist called Nevada Historical Society so all videos, HN Lecture series, DC Lecture series, DC Artown Lecture series and the educational videos can be pulled up.

Docent Help Requested: Linda Burke, Pam Walker and Sandy Vickers-White have been organizing/re-organizing the Docent Council history archives, while Joyce Cox and Barbara Weinberg, along with some assistance, have done a great job cleaning up the Docent Library area, you can find things now!

We will soon begin going through the old photographs, copying and getting them ready to be archived. We are always looking for more help and there are a ton of photos! Interested in helping, we meet on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to Noon.

Congratulations To Docents with September Birthdays

11th Francine Mannix
16th Lorraine Petersen
21st Susan Townzen

Docent Meeting Speakers

October 7, 2021

Carrie Jensen

Truckee River Watershed

November 4, 2021

Sam Macaluso

We the People

December 2, 2021

Pam Abercrombie

The Sutro Tunnel

This information is also posted on the NHS website: <http://nvhistoricalsociety.org>

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

Statistics: Although we do not have a current update for August on hours imputed, Debra Brastoff would like to remind you that she would like to have your hours posted as you have been doing by the 10th of the month.

Remember this is important for the NHS and the grants, etc. we receive. Also computers are now updated and installed at the NHS



High Noon Talks:

Thursday, September 16, 2001

Speaker: Jerry Aaron, Author of *Nevada's Times in Rhymes*

Nevada's Times in Rhymes is directed toward young people to provide an understanding of Nevada's past and present. The book takes the reader on a fun filled path of learning via rhymes. It begins with the Great Basin's prehistoric times and moves onward to modern day. The rhymes convey much of Nevada's history while providing information about the Silver State's town, wildlife, mining, rivers, its long-ago railroads and much more. Within the books ninety-six pages are sixty-eight poems with over two hundred colorful illustrations that will augment the storyline as the readers travels to all areas of the Sagebrush State.

About the Author:

Jerry Aaron was first introduced to Nevada at the age of fourteen when his dad came to work in Reno for the summer of 1957. The bright lights of the "Biggest Little City" and crowds on Virginia Street seemed so exciting. With my dad's help I was able to quickly meet other young teenagers in the area. I soon saw a way of life much different that my home state of California. There seemed to be more freedom and things to do. You could fish along he Truckee River right in the middle of town and search for old wedding rings under the Virginia Street Bridge. There were old mines to explore not far from town and the vastness of the high desert was alluring

For the next couple of years, we moved back and forth from Nevada to California. But the freedom and excitement of Nevada and the adventures that awaited lured me back in the mid-1960s. I spent over fifty years in the trucking industry starting as a truck drier and working into middle management and sales. These positions allowed me to travel throughout the Silver State and meet great people and see the interworking's of Nevada firsthand. Intertwined with exploring ghost towns and airplane crashes were many years of automotive actives long before Hot August Nights came into being. I wrote freelance articles for several car magazines and spent eighteen years as Show Chairman for the Reno Autorama. In recent years I have written history books on trucking as well as the history of this great state itself.

My wife Sunya and I have lived Sparks nearly forty years and my youngest son and daughter were born at Washoe Hospital and live in the Reno area. I have been retired for three years and get out in the desert with my Jeepin' buddy's as often as I can until my ashes become part of this land I love.

Jerry's book will be out in late November and will be added to the NHS inventory along with his two other books.

Parking Pass: It's that time of year again. Your current parking permit expired mid August. . New passes are currently available and you may pick yours up at the front desk at any time.

NEVADA TRIVIA

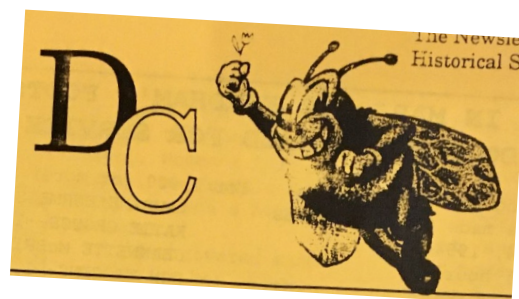
- A. What year did the University of Nevada, Reno, open?
- B. In gaming, what is a "bullet"?
- C. Name the fort established in 1862 in the Ruby Mountains?
- D. Name the newspaper published in Unionville in its hay day?

A. 1874 B. An Ace C. Fort Ruby D. The Humboldt Register

FROM THE D C BEE ARCHIVES

The Nevada Historical Society's third annual Ice Cream Social will celebrate the opening of the new Changing Gallery exhibit, "I Made That!": Nevada Crafts Past and Present on Saturday, July 19, 1997 from 12 to 4. Items from historic walking sticks and quilts to contemporary baskets will be featured in the new exhibit.

Ice cream will be provided free of charge by the Historical Society, and an arts and crafts fair will be held on the front lawn. Inside the building, the Sparks Little Theatre group will once again give two performances of a melodrama.



IN THE MUSEUM

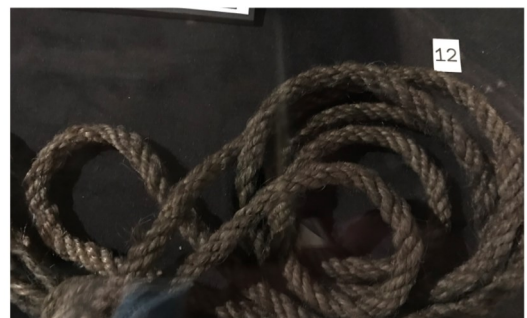
Can you see it? What is it? Well this is a hangman's noose which is located in the museum in the lower right hand corner of the large case in the center of the museum.

This noose, made of horse hair, was donated to the museum by Joseph Conboie, an undertaker, in 1910.

As the story goes this is the noose that was used to hang a Mr. John Keringer on September 12, 1887 for the killing of his sister-in-law, Mary Ann Harder in Virginia City, Nevada. However the only information we could find after research does not give us the story or reason why Mr. Keringer murdered his sister-in-law.

An eye witness to a hanging gives a description of what was observed on a personal basis.

**BE AWARE THIS DESCRIPTION IS EXPLICIT AND
MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME INDIVIDUALS**



January, 1867, *"I can see that still stiff corpse hanging there yet, with its black pillow cased head turned rigidly to one side and the purple streaks throughout the hands and driving the fleshly hue of life before them, Ugh!"*

Mark Twain describing the hanging of the Frenchman, John Melanie, for the condemned murder of Julia Bulette.

While we may never give a description, unless asked, regarding this hangman's noose it is an item in our gallery, an antique, a reminder of how justice, whether right or not, can be used in the capitol punishment system.

Reminder: Dr. Catherine Magee has set up a sign-up sheet on the website <https://signupgenus.com/o9040545ABA82AA7FB6>—admissions for those docents to sign up for volunteerism at the admission desk.

Volunteers are needed so please sign up, if not for the front desk area, perhaps in another area.

Safety Precaution: Now that UNR is back in session, be aware that should you ride a bicycle and park it in the area of the NHS you should use a loop handle lock on the bicycle to avoid unnecessary loss.

Roberts Rules Updated: The Docent Council is reviewing an update on the rules of procedure for meetings held at the NHS. This is due to meetings being conducted via zoom, which is not included in the rules as standing.

DUES: Docent dues still outstanding may be paid to Marc Ullom at any time. The Docent Council has set a time limit of 30 June 2021 for payment after there may be a late fee.

The Docent Council will remove from the roster those names of docents who have not paid effective 31 December 2021.

Other Museums/Information: Be sure to check out the NHS website for updated information and news. Don't forget to also check the Sparks Museum sparksmuseum.org and HRPS at historicro.org

Sparks Museum does have a **“Third Thursday”** for September 16 with Bill Kolton leading it off.

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.

Museum and reference hours are also currently limited. Museum hours currently are **Wednesdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**. The research library is available on **Wednesdays 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. Staff is limited. Other times are available with reservations made through the NHS website. The public is required to follow mandated safety procedures including wearing masks.

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.

Have a safe and happy Labour Day weekend.