



In-Situ

Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Winter 1998

Eureka Has Weather

For those of you coming from more populous parts of Nevada, you are reminded that the weather in March is likely to still be wintery in Eureka:

March Average Max. & Min. Temp. & Snowfall	Eureka	Carson City	Las Vegas
Average Max (F)	48	56	69
Average Min (F)	24	28	44
Average Snowfall (in)	9.9	3.5	0.0

Source: www.wrcc.sage.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliLIST.pl

Pre-Registration Extended to March 2

Pre-register now for the Annual Meeting in Eureka. If you have not pre-registered for meals by March

2, you will not be able to register for meals when you arrive at the conference. Eureka is an isolated community and food for meals must be purchased out of town by the caterer in advance of the meeting date. Enclosed you will find a pre-registration form, a list of lodgings and a preliminary program.

NAA Annual Meeting Auction

Annual meeting participants are requested to bring books or other donations to sell or auction at the meeting. We anticipate having a large selection of southwestern Indian jewelry to auction again this year, courtesy of Gallup Pawn and Jewelry. All money above the minimum bid goes to the Nevada Archaeological Association.

Come one come all to Eureka. We think there is a golden opportunity to learn more about culture in Nevada.

Friends of Big Springs Formed

The Big Springs Archaeological District (BSAD) is located in the heart of the Las Vegas Valley and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is literally the birthplace of Las Vegas as it provided an abundant water supply serving as the original catalyst for growth and development. Archaeological and historic remains provide evidence of occupation for thousands of years. Unfortunately, this relatively undeveloped land is under consideration for use in the expansion of US 95. As a result, an ad hoc group of concerned citizens has formed the Friends of Big Springs to preserve and promote the BSAD by educating the public about its natural and cultural resources.

Many of the Friends are active in organizations such as the local Audobon society, Archaeo-Nevada and, of course, the Nevada Archaeological Association. At less than six-months old, the organization has already established an enviable record of hosting a speakers bureau, providing tours of Big Springs, promoting a letter-writing campaign and more. If you are interested in learning more about the Friends of Big Springs, you may call 392-2693 or write to 850 South Rancho Road, Box #1059, Las Vegas, NV 89106. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Desert Demonstration Gardens (near Alta and Valley View Drives).

-submitted by Bill Johnson

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Lake Mead National Recreation Area Overview

The NAA membership is reminded that all activities of the NAA Board are open to the general membership. It is hoped that the following report will encourage readers to consider NAA Board Meetings as an excellent opportunity to see Nevada in congenial company.

On Friday December 12, 1997 about twenty people attended a presentation by Rosie Pepito, Lake Mead National Recreation Area Cultural Resources Specialist who provided an *illustrated Overview of Cultural Resources and Recent NPS Projects at Lake Mead NRA*. Pat Hicks began the program by introducing the Los Angeles Water & Power Building where the program was being held. This building was constructed in 1940. The Iron work is by the same craftsmen as in Scotty's Castle. During WWII this was the nerve center for the defense operations in the region. The building has been owned by Boulder City for 3 years. Wouldn't let Japanese cross dam during war.

Pat then introduced Rosie Pepito. Rosie's background is in Museum curation. Past assignments have been at Yosemite, Scotty's Castle, Molokai, and Joshua Tree. This program gave her an opportunity to provide an overview of the diverse cultural properties within Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA). The NRA is 140 miles along the Colorado River corridor. Lake Mead is the 3rd largest National Park outside of Alaska with Death Valley largest and Mohave National Park 2nd largest. Lake Mead NRA includes 300,000 acres of land and 200,000 water surface. There has been a NPS presence at Lake Mead since 1934. There have been tourist facilities there since 1936.

Perhaps the most visually impressive prehistoric resources are the geoglyphs and pictographs. Early excavations were conducted by CCC at Willow Beach under the supervision of Mark R. Harrington. Most recent prehistoric investigations have been conducted by Margaret Lyneis who has mapped sites in Lake Mead NRA. A recent project has been to move bedrock mortars to Overton Ranger Station to protect them from damage by high Lake level damage.

Native people still have a stake in the Lake Mead NRA. Spirit Mountain is an important cultural property in southern end of Park and is origin location for Yuman peoples.

Lake Mead NRA is also full of historic mining properties, with waste rock dumps and adits. Submerged historic archeological resources are also present. Callville named for the Mormon pioneer Anson Call is now submerged. The theme of fear of gentile merchants and

settlers is also represented in many now abandoned ranches on the Shivwits Plateau like Dames Sawmill and Horse Valley Ranch.

Public works are also important historical resources represented by spike Camps at Pierce Ferry for CCC and the "Rim of the Lake Highway" constructed in 1930's. Dressed stone was used instead of concrete for construction of the Highway bridges and culverts. This outstanding craftsmanship is currently being documented for inclusion in the Historic American Engineering Record.

In 1947 a B29 crashed in Lake. This resource is still submerged under several hundred feet of water, and may form the most recent significant cultural property managed in the NRA.

Hoover: the Dam

Some Board Members and friends were treated to a hard hat tour of Hoover (Boulder) Dam on the morning of December 13. Our Reclamation Guide was Al Eakle (Aeakle@LC.USBR.gov) who provided an extended tour of the innards of an amazing engineering property. Those with access to the worldwide web are able to verify facts and get an introduction to this marvel at: www.hooverdam.com. However, accept no substitutes the virtual reality can't measure up to the scale of the real thing.

We first descended 520 by elevator then walked through the dam to the Arizona side where there are 9 turbines (only 8 on the Nevada side). Each generator is 178,000 horsepower and generates enough electricity to power 100,000 homes. The first generator was put on line in 1936 and the last was online in 1961. The original GE generators are now being upgraded with Mitsubishi turbines. Twenty-five (25) % of the electricity generated is used in Nevada, but of that only 4% is used in Las Vegas.

Everything in the dam is not of grand scale however. Terrazzo floors with individual prehistoric southwest ceramic bowl designs are outstanding decorative motifs.

Congress authorized construction of the Dam in 1928 to regulate water allocations on the Colorado River, to provide domestic water, and to generate electricity. The plan was for the investment to be self-sustaining, but without profit: a socialist enterprise. In 2017 the Colorado River Compact is due to be renegotiated and this may change the operation of the dam. For the first four years of construction workers built 4,000 foot long diversion tunnels 135 feet below the level of the dam to be constructed. Over 10 million sticks of dynamite were used.

The penstock installed is 19 feet in diameter and is fitted with a 560 ton gate. New pressure valves are being installed in the place of needle valves because of danger of explosion of the needle valves.

At the foot of the dam one can see the worlds oldest overhead cable crane while gazing at the 726 foot high dam that is nearly as thick (666 feet) at the base, and about twice as long (1244 feet). There have been 21 suicides in 60 years from jumping from the dam. The life expectancy of the dam is 2000 years now that silt is not increasing as a result of construction of Glen Canyon Dam. The water held behind the dam is enough to cover the state of Delaware in 6' of water.

There are 250 employees to operate the dam. Eighty of those employees work in the visitor center. Before the construction of the new visitor center the most visitors recorded in a year was 750,000. The first year after the visitor center was completed there were over a million visitors and in 1997 there will be over 1.3 million. The dam cost \$165 million to construct in 1931. In todays dollars that would be about \$4 billion. The new visitor center cost \$123 million to build. There was no appropriated money for this as the visitors center construction and operations are to be paid for by receipts from the visitor fees.

Archaeological Awareness & Historic Preservation Week

May 10 through May 16, 1998 is Nevada Archaeological Awareness & Historic Preservation Week. You are requested to plan an event or activity in your area. Let Alice Baldrice (Historic Preservation Office, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701) know of your plans no later than March 6, 1998.

Carolyn Sherve Poster Contest Winner

NAA's first annual poster competition has a winner: Carolyn Sherve. The winning submission features a rock art panel west of Winnemucca Lake. If you wish a copy of the completed poster be sure to contact Alice Baldrice to receive Historic Preservation Week materials. Carolyn will receive a free 1998 membership to NAA. Thanks to all those who submitted photographs. Start thinking of next years contest.

Boulder: The City

On Saturday afternoon, December 13, 1997 Barbara and Paul Adams led a group of NAA Board Members and friends on a walking tour of historic Boulder City. Boulder City was laid out on March 13, 1931 as the construction headquarters for Boulder Dam.

On a bronze bust in the city park are the words of Frank T. Crowe, construction superintendent 'before schedule, under budget.' "We had 5,000 men in a 4,000 foot canyon. The problem was to set up the right sequence of jobs so they wouldn't kill each other off." The hard hat was developed at the Boulder Project as further effort to hedge against the wrong sequence. Nevertheless nearly 100 workers died in construction related accidents. In Boulder City itself a siren sounded when there were construction accidents, a red light with no noise to preserve the community tranquility, would flash for other law enforcement emergencies.

Boulder City started out as housing for Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service employees and temporary quarters for construction workers. But after the construction was completed still during the Great Depression many workers wanted to stay, with no better place to go. The permanent housing was carefully planned with garages in the back so that automobile congestion would not detract from the orderly appearance of the streets.

The first City Manager for the Federal Reservation was Simms Ely. Ely was a micro-manager of the first order requiring not only a standard of care of the government housing but a standard of behavior for the residents. For unauthorized recreation workers would travel to Railroad Pass or Henderson. Even closer there were stills always operating in Bootleg Canyon, just outside the City Limits.

The residential architecture in the community reflects the class divisions between workers, middle management and upper management as the elevation of the town rises to the north. As a "government town" the major businesses, government offices, churches and schools were all carefully controlled and compatible designs with California Mission style designs. Now that Boulder City is no longer officially a federal reserve, there is an ambivalence toward change seen in both architecture and behavior. There are still no casinos in Boulder and alcohol has only recently been allowed to be sold or served. The residential parts of National Register District are beginning to see construction of street facing driveways and garages, stucco and additions not compatible with original color and form.

Perhaps the best indicator of this ambivalence toward the features of the past is understood by the recent controversy over xeriscaping. The Bureau of Reclamation planned to remove large areas of lawn near their administrative headquarters as a water conservation measure. Historic preservationists protested the plan which would have obliterated the original intent of landscape architects to create a tree and lawn covered oasis park for the community commons. A compromise has been reached for now, but this is an on-going controversy that pits notions of historic preservation against those of resource conservation.

The tour concluded with refreshments and an opportunity to see the interior of an historic home, thanks to Mimi Rodden.

Notes from the December Board Meeting

The Fall 1997 meeting of the Nevada Archaeological Association Board of Directors took place on December 13 at the old LA Water & Power Building in Boulder City, Nevada. Several NAA members attended the meeting including Howard Hahn, President of Archaeo-Nevada Society, Jim Winfrey of the US Forest Service, Steve Durand (NPS) and David Valentine (DRI). Jim Winfrey encouraged NAA participation in the revision of the Forest Plan for the Monitor and Hot Creek Ranges of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (See article elsewhere).

Treasurer Frock reported an NAA balance of \$6888.93. This is after the \$900 bill for printing volume 15 of the Nevada Archaeologist.

Membership chair DuBarton reported only 158 members enrolled in NAA in 1997 down from 189 in 1996.

Alice Baldrice reported that a new architectural historian, Rebecca Ossa, had been added to the SHPO staff. Also Alice reminded folks to get updates on the SHPO Office activities by accessing their web page [<http://www.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/SHPO/shpo.htm>].

Bill White was congratulated for getting the 1997 Nevada Archaeologist published on time getting the production schedule up to date for the first time in years.

Henderson reported efforts to coordinate with Jeanne Moe of the BLM Project Archaeology staff in Salt Lake City to set up an Intrigue of the Past Teachers Workshop in Las Vegas sometime in the Spring of 1998.

The situation at Big Springs was discussed at some length (see article in this issue).

Passport in Time Volunteers Needed

Its not too early to start making summer plans. The US Forest Service has issued a call for volunteers to assist in locating and recording archaeological sites in the Hot Creek and Monitor Mountain Ranges. The data collected will be used to develop site location predictive models. There will be three sessions: 8-12 June; 6-10 July; and, 3-7 August. Only eight (8) volunteers will be accepted per session. Volunteers under 18 years of age may be considered if accompanied by a responsible adult. Work will be undertaken from car camps and volunteers will need to

provide their own tents and sleeping bags. For more information contact:

James Winfrey, Archaeologist
Central Nevada Ecounit, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
350 8th Street, PO Box 539
Ely, Nevada 89301
702-289-3031

Chapter & Affiliate News

Am-Arcs of Nevada. Am-Arcs continues an active program of meetings and field trips. Future meetings are planned at the Westwood Active Retirement Center (1900 East Prater Way in Sparks) the second Wednesday each month at 7pm. The March program will be presented by Sue Alexander on the History & Archaeology of the Eagle Salt Works. The April program will be a slide show and music by photographer Mark Vollmer. Contact Howard Hahn (564-7912) for information on activities.

Archaeo-Nevada. Archaeo-Nevada also has an active program of lectures and field trips. The Society normally meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Community College of Southern Nevada, Charleston Campus, Building C, Room 213. On March 12, Howard Hahn plans a presentation "The Atlatl and Atlatl Darts: Their Construction and Use. This is a precursor to the World Atlatl Association Annual Competition at Valley of Fire State Park on April 18. Contact Oyvind Frock (826-8779) for activities.

Elko Chapter. The Elko Chapter normally meets at the Northeastern Nevada Museum on the 2nd Friday of each month. The Chapter is currently watching construction of a new wing at the NE Nevada Museum. Contact Donna Murphy (738-6269) for Chapter information.

White Pine Historical & Archaeological Society. The WPH&AS normally meets the 3rd Friday of the month at the White Pine Public Museum. The Society is actively supporting the Long Steel Rails: Railroad Folklife Festival scheduled for Ely on June 13, 1998. Utah Phillips is scheduled to perform. Contact June Shaputis (June@netxxpress.net) for information on activities.

Investigations of the Spirit Cave Mummy

On February 12, several board members attended a lecture by Don Tuohy and Amy Dansie of the Nevada State Museum. The lecture was sponsored by the Archaeo-Nevada Society and was held in the Barrick Museum auditorium at UNLV. The mummy was recovered from Spirit Cave in 1940 by Sydney and Georgia Wheeler and

has been stored at the Nevada State Museum for many years. Although it was noted that the finely woven mats encasing the mummy were technologically different from the styles of later periods, no one knew how old the mummy really was. When Irv Taylor of UC Riverside radiocarbon dated the mummy as part of a study of similar mummified remains, all were startled to discover the mummy died 9400 years ago. Since this discovery, the Nevada State Museum has worked with several reknowned scientists to understand more about this individual. DNA studies indicate the mummy is most closely related to the modern Ainu of Japan and forensic anthropologists have just completed a reconstruction of the face of the mummy. This reconstruction, based on cranial characteristics and studies of skin thickness, allowed the audience to see how the mummy might have looked when he was alive. These reconstructions are of great interest because they show that this individual doesn't look much like modern American Indians or much like modern Caucasians either. Ms. Dansie used the term "generic human" to describe the facial features of the Spirit Cave man and also showed another reconstruction of a skeleton found at Wizards Beach. This skeleton has been dated to about the same age as Spirit Cave man and shows strikingly similar features. Ms. Dansie concluded by discussing the implications of this research in terms of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Groups of Northern Paiute people have requested repatriation of these remains and have asked that no further studies be conducted. Ms. Dansie feels that it is important to continue the study of the Spirit Cave Mummy and Wizards Beach man to understand the peopling of North America. She hypothesized that traditional theories involving groups crossing the Bering Land Bridge do not adequately explain the presence of individuals such as these who do not show close affinity to modern American Indians. Perhaps the first Americans were people closely adapted to coastal environments who used boats to travel from the vicinity of Japan and south Asia to the new world? Further research involving the Spirit Cave Mummy and the Wizards Beach skeletal remains may help archaeologists to answer some of these questions.

-Anne DuBarton

(editor's note-for a summary of findings see the Spring 1997, Nevada Historical Society Quarterly, Volume 40, Number 1 which is devoted to the Spirit Cave analysis).

Calendar

Feb 19. S. NV. Rock Art Enthusiasts meet. Program by Steve Freer-Landscape Symbolism and the Rock Art of Coastal-Inland S. California. 7 pm Las Vegas Library. Contact Nancy Weir (457-8690).

Feb 19. Gene Hattori lectures on the Archaeology & Ethnohistory of the Stewart Indian School. 7 pm at the NV Historical Society, 1650 N. Virginia St., Reno. For info. Phone 688-1190.

Feb 24. Ghost Towns of Elko County, presented by Shawn Hall. NV State Mus. 7:30 pm (702-687-4810).

Mar 13-15. Nevada Archaeological Association Annual Meeting, Eureka, Nevada, Eureka Opera House. Contact Wally Cuchine (237-6006).

Mar 25-29. Society for American Archaeology. Seattle, WA.

Apr 8-11. Society for CA Archaeology. Hyatt Islandia Hotel, San Diego, CA. Contact Michael Sampson (619 220-5323).

Apr 18. World Atlatl Association Annual Competition. Valley of Fire State Park. Contact Leni Club (619 358-7835).

Apr 24-27. Desert Research Symposium. San Bernardino Cty Mus., Redlands, CA. Contact Jennifer Reynolds (909 387-2582).

Oct. Great Basin Anthropological Conference. Bend, OR.

NAA At Eureka March 13 & 14

The Nevada Archaeological Association plans its quarterly, Board Meeting and Annual Convention at Eureka, Nevada. All NAA members are invited to attend the events which are:

1. Friday afternoon March 13, 2:00 pm at the Silver Sky Lodge RV Park (south end of Eureka towards Ely on US 50) there will be a NAA Board Meeting.

2. Friday evening March 13, 5:30 pm at the Silver Sky Lodge RV Park there will be a Barbecue for those pre-registered by March 2. Food served about 6:00 pm.

3. Saturday March 14, the Nevada Archaeological Association Annual Conference and Business Meeting will be held at the Eureka Opera House. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged (use enclosed form). Registration will start at 8:00 am. Fourteen speakers are offering presentations, including a symposium on the Ruby Hill Project. The Annual Banquet Program will be presented by Dr. "Tom" Jones on the Paleo-Indian Problem in Eastern Nevada.

Editor's Plea

Please send information by May 10, 1998 for inclusion in the next edition of *In Situ* to:

Mark Henderson

1001 Canyon St.

Ely, Nevada 89301-2104

or email (new address): mhenders@idsely.com

I have enjoyed editing *In Situ* for the past year, but plan to devote more time to other endeavors. I will make sure information sent to me is forwarded to one of you who will be volunteering to take over this sometimes enjoyable duty!

Las Vegas Resources

Volume 31, Number 4 of the *Journal of the Society for Historical Archaeology* includes (pg 41-58) an article entitled "Landuse Reconstruction at the Founding Settlement of Las Vegas, Nevada" by James Schoenwetter and John W. Hohmann. The article suggests that rather than exploiting available natural resources as aboriginal people had, the early European settlers actively set out to alter the ecology to fit in with cultural notions of what the environment should produce. There is a message here.

1997 NAA Officers & Chapter Representatives

- Bill Johnson, President (566-4390)
- Pat Hicks, Secretary (565-1790)
- Oyvind Frock, Treasurer & Am-Arcs Chapter Rep. (826-8779)
- Alice Baldrica, ex officio NAA Board Mem., SHPO Representative (687-6361)
- Gretchen Burris, NAA Board Mem. (289-2450)
- Anne DuBarton, NAA Board Mem., Membership (895-0534)
- Mark Henderson, NAA Board Mem., Newsletter Editor (289-8250)
- Peggy McGuckian, NAA Board Mem. (623-3396)
- Helen Mortenson, Archaeo-Nevada Rep. (876-6944)
- Susan Murphy, NAA Board Mem., Executive Secretary (658-3396)
- Maie Nygren, Churchill County Chapter Rep. (423-2212)
- Barbara Rhode, Lincoln County Chapter Rep. (728-4467)
- Skip Scroggins, NAA Board Mem. (798-7322)
- Penny Uriola, Elko Chapter Rep. (738-3430)
- Bill White, ex officio NAA Board Mem. Nevada Archaeologist Editor 1997 (566-1929)

