



# *In-Situ*



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

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Summer 2003

## **The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference a Great Success**

Steve Daron, NAA President

The NAA's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual conference was held in Boulder City from Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The conference was well attended with over 80 people attending the various activities. The workshops on Friday and paper presentations on Saturday were held at the Community Collage of Southern Nevada Boulder City campus. Workshop participants learned the attributes to look for on historic bottles and cans in order to determine their age and function. Anne DuBarton, Sue Edwards, and Monique Kimball put in a lot of time preparing the workshop materials and did a super job presenting the information. We appreciate their hard work and willingness to share their expertise.

The Friday night mixer was held at the historic LA Water and Power building. It was an excellent atmosphere in which to great old friends, make new ones, and exchange ideas. We would like to thank SWCA and Archeo-Nevada for sponsoring the mixer.

Saturday was a cold windy day, ideal for staying indoors and listening to people give presentations. Topics ranged from the really old (Ted Goebel et al. paper on the Late Pleistocene occupation of the Bonneville Estates Rockshelter) to the recent historic (Renee Kolvet's paper on

the CCC camps in Nevada) with presentations by both avocational and professional archeologists and historians. We would like to thank all those that presented papers. We would also like to thank Heidi Roberts for providing the refreshments.

A roundtable discussion was held at noon to discuss the development of a site steward program. Harry and Helen Mortenson updated the group on the site steward legislation working its way through the Nevada legislature. Alan O'Neill and Jennifer Haley from Outside Las Vegas announced that they had applied for a grant from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act funds. The grant is to help fund volunteer activates throughout southern Nevada and some of the funding would go to support the site steward program. A lively exchange if ideas ensued ranging from how the program would be set up to what would be expected from the site stewards.

A general meeting of the NAA membership was began around 3:45 pm. After a few announcements a new Board of Directors was elected. After many years of service, Anne DuBarton and Wallace Ward announced they did not want to run for reelection. Renee Kolvet also announced she did not wish to run again. Nominations were taken and the following people were elected; Steven Daron, Daron Duke, Tom Flanigan, Oyvind Frock, Ted Goebel, Eva Jensen,

Laureen Perry, Hal Rager, and David Valentine.

After the general meeting, a board meeting was held and the following officers were elected: President, Steven Daron; Treasurer, Oyvind Frock; Secretary, Ted Goebel; Membership, Laureen Perry; Newsletter Editor, David Valentine; Web Master, Hal Rager; Members at Large, Daron Duke, Tom Flanigan and Eva Jensen. The time and location of the next board meeting was set. It will be in Ely on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday evening's events were held at the Two Gals restaurant. Dinner was served buffet style and no one went away hungry. Farrel and Manetta Lytle were presented with the Ting-Perkins Award for their many contributions to Nevada Archeology. The auction was a great success again this year, raising over \$700 for the organization. We would like to thank all those who donated items to the auction; without your generous donations the auction would not be possible. We would also like to thank Mark Henderson for doing a great job again this year as auctioneer and his lovely assistants Lisa Gilbert, Dawna Ferris, and Yolanda Henderson (Mark's Angels) who modeled the jewelry and delivered the goods. Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Kurt Schweigert. Kurt is a historical archeologist who has done contract work for both the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service. He gave a power-point presentation on the historical industrial landscape around Hoover Dam.

Three field trips were planned for Sunday morning, unfortunately, it rained. Six hearty souls braved the bad weather and went on a walking tour of the boulder city historic district. Those who were going to go on the Camp Alunite and Railroad Pass Squatters Camp tours met at the park service headquarters building and

looked at maps and photographs of the sites in lieu of the actual field trip.

### **Summer Board Meeting in Ely**

Tom Flanigan, USFS and NAA Board

The next NAA board meeting is scheduled for June 13 and 14, 2003 in Ely. As always, any NAA member is welcome to attend the board meeting and/or any associated activities.

On June 13, a presentation on the history of White Pine County is planned for 7:00 p.m. at the Hotel Nevada.

On Saturday, June 14, starting at 8:00 a.m. in the Forest Service parking lot, 825 E. St., we will have a tour of the site Dr. Ted Goebel is excavating in Jake's Valley, then on to Shermantown to see the United States Forest Service (USFS) Passport-In-Time (PIT) project there. When we return to Ely, we will have the board meeting at the USFS office.

There are numerous places for people to stay in town, people who travel to Ely often seem to prefer the Bristlecone Motel ([775] 289-8838).

I encourage anyone who is planning to attend to call me after May 12th, and before June 9th (that is when I will be out at the PIT project) at my office, (775) 289-5124, to find out what the final plan is. If calling after June 9th, my cell number (if I have coverage at Shermantown) is (775) 296-1024.

### **N.A.A.'s Sales Tax Exemption Status**

Oyvind Frock, Am-Arcs & NAA Board

The State of Nevada renewed our sales tax exemption until December 31, 2007. Steve Daron and Oyvind Frock have copies of the approval letter, and will send a photocopy to any chapter requesting one. This exemption can be useful if you are

purchasing shirts, mugs, banquet supplies, etc.

### **Lassen Lectures in Reno and Gerlach on June 28 and 29, 2003**

Susan Lynn, Friends of Black Rock-High Rock

Mt. Lassen, Lassen National Park, and the Applegate-Lassen Trail are just a few namesakes that bear Peter Lassen's name. Peter Lassen's great...nephew, Rene Lassen, a Danish schoolteacher, has spent numerous summers in the United States researching his uncle's history. He also lectures at Lassen National Volcanic Park during the summer. He will provide humorous insights and slides on his famous, or infamous, uncle at upcoming lectures in Reno and Gerlach, Nevada the last weekend in June.

Friends of Black Rock – High Rock will sponsor Rene Lassen's visits this summer. Bruno's Gerlach Country Club will be the site of dinner and the lecture on Saturday, June 28 at 6 PM. Cost will be \$35. A guided tour to the Lassen-Clapper murder site on the edge of the Black Rock Desert will begin in Gerlach at 11AM on that same Saturday and can be together or separate with dinner and the lecture. Reservations are a "must."

Additionally, Rene Lassen will lecture on Sunday evening, June 29 at Bartley Park Ranch House in Reno. A fee of \$5 for the lecture will benefit Friends of Black Rock – High Rock volunteer activities. For an additional \$10, participants may meet Mr. Lassen at a reception, purchase his history of "Uncle Peter" and have it signed by the author prior to the lecture. The lecture will begin at 7 PM. The reception, requiring reservations, will begin at 6 PM.

Friends of Black Rock – High Rock, Inc. is a tax exempt non profit organization that works closely with the Bureau of Land

Management to provide volunteer services that promote education, stewardship and enjoyment of the desert. We co-sponsor Public Lands Day in the area. Public Lands Day will be September 27 and 28 this year. Funds raised from these events have purchased tools, meals for volunteers, and brochures to help educate people about use of the desert.

For further information or to make reservations, please call Susan Lynn at (775) 786-9955 or leave a message at (775) 324-6221.

### **Am-Arcs of Nevada**

Oyvind Frock, Am-Arcs & NAA Board

Hopefully Spring will arrive in May so our schedule of field trips can commence. On May 17, we will visit the Mountain of Heiroglyphs (that is what it is still called) on Lahontan Reservoir. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, Am-Arcs and the BLM are conducting a clean-up of the access road to the High Basin sites. A tour of some of the petroglyphs with Alvin McLane will be the reward for the grunt labor.

In April, University of Nevada Reno graduate student Margo Memmot discussed last year's dig under Piper's Opera House in Virginia City. She framed her talk with a discussion of the roles played by opera houses in the mining towns.

Our May speaker was Dr. Pat Barker, the Bureau of Land Management's State Archaeologist. He presented the most recent information regarding the successful prosecution of the individual who heavily vandalized a cave in the Black Rock Desert. This was our contribution to Archaeological Awareness Week.

## **Archeo-Nevada Society (ANS)**

Cheryl Martin, President, ANS

The most exciting thing happening for us in Southern Nevada right now is the guidance that local federal land managers are giving to a new volunteer multiple-agency site steward program, modeled after the very successful one in Arizona. Since agencies usually only hire one archaeologist for an area, it is difficult for them to keep track of the conditions of so many archaeological sites. ANS and other interested groups want to support these archaeologists by carefully checking on assigned sites and reporting on any impacts that are taking place.

Participants in a meeting on April 4th included Kathleen Sprowl (National Forest Service), Steve Daron (Lake Mead Recreation Area), Eva Jensen (Lost City Museum), Mark Henderson and Stan Rolf (BLM), Lauren Perry (Bureau of Reclamation), Elaine and Jack Holmes, already experienced volunteers in similar programs, and ANS member and archaeologist Mark Rosenzweig. Mark has volunteered to be a regional coordinator for the program in the Las Vegas area. Darrell Wade is the regional coordinator for the Mesquite area. The purpose of the meeting was to learn from land managers what type of program they would like to have and how it should be managed.

People who are interested in being volunteers for the program will first receive training that is provided and approved by the land managers. After training, those who are willing to take on the responsibility of being a site steward will work with archaeologists and regional coordinators to get some field experience in stewardship, and then be assigned a site to look after. Volunteers make a commitment to visit their site at least four times a year, and fill out and send in

paperwork to land managers on the condition of the site in a timely manner. As the integrity and professionalism of this program are extremely important, volunteers are asked to visit their sites with another person for safety, but not with a group of people or pets. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a site steward in Nevada, contact Mark Rosenzweig at WENRO702@aol.com or (702) 233-9424 in Las Vegas or Darrell Wade in Mesquite at dwade@mesquiteweb.com.

Also, special thanks to Dr. Bill Johnson of DRI for taking us on a very interesting tour of historical archaeology at the Nevada Test Site and to Eva Jensen of the Lost City Museum for an excellent presentation on local ceramics.

## **Elko County Chapter News**

Elko County Chapter (ECC) continues to be very busy. Monthly meetings are held at the Spring Creek Round Table Pizza on the first Friday of the month. Some activities that members have been busy working on and attending include:

The Chautauqua performance of William Clark at Greenhaw Technical Arts Lecture Hall, Room 130 at the Great Basin College on Thursday, April 17, 2003.

A Community Center Clean-out in Tuscarora on April 12th from 9am till 5pm. The project was a preliminary clean-up for the restoration of the old Masonic Hall/Tuscarora Tavern. The work is sponsored by the Friends of Tuscarora & Independence Valley. Once restoration is complete, the building will be used for a community center.

An archaeology fair held Saturday May 10. Some activities at the fair were Indian Tacos; a scholarship fund donation jar; performances by young chautauquans;

a pottery reconstruction table; coloring books and magnetic puzzles of pottery, a Clovis point, a wagon, basketry, and a mastodon; flint knapping by the Knapper Lady; an information table with flyers, membership info and bumper stickers; a pump drill, seed grinding and bead necklace demonstrations; and cordage and bone bead making demonstrations.

Future activities might include a field trips to Cherry Creek and to the Stage Stop in Twin Falls; fundraisers for the scholarship fund; a knapping workshop; "dye day" using natural materials to dye cloth and various objects; work party gatherings for the display at Midas.

If you have any questions please call Donna at 738-6269.

### **Nevada Rock Art Foundation**

Alanah Woody

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation (NRAF) continues to grow with currently more than 200 members across the state! Projects for land managers are scheduled for the summer and fall in the northern part of the state and in the winter down south (when it's cold up north it's perfect rock art weather in the south!). In addition, the multi-year Lagomarsino Canyon project begins in June. It is anticipated that this project will take three years to complete. Support from the Nevada State Museum, the Nevada Department of Transportation, Storey County, Lost City Museum, Ed Laine Photography, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Western Nevada Resource and Development Council has helped this extensive project get off the ground. Training continues with the next Recording Workshop scheduled for July 12-13 in Carson City and in Las Vegas later this fall. Also, Site Steward training workshops held in Las Vegas have resulted in cooperative

stewardships between NRAF and Archeo-Nevada. Volunteers are already monitoring sites for the Ely BLM Field Office under the direction of Mark Henderson. Since additional training is necessary to become a Site Steward, workshops are being planned in Carson City, modeled on those already held in the south. Anyone interested in either recording or site monitoring opportunities, or any land managers who need rock art sites recorded and/or monitored, are encouraged to contact Alanah Woody at [info@nevadarockart.org](mailto:info@nevadarockart.org)

### **Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA)**

SNRAA continues to hold their Gatherings on the first Wednesday of the month and their regular meetings, which feature guest speakers, on the third Wednesday of the month.

Recent speakers include Kirk Neilson on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Nielson's talk was "Sun and Shadow, Solar Markings and Interactions." Bob Lawson, whose talk was titled "Rock Art and Ruins of the Paria Plateau, Cowboys and Indians," was the speaker on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Speakers for June and July are as yet undecided, but information on the speakers and their topics can be acquired by calling the SNRAA Voice Mail at (702) 897-7878.

SNRAA members were also very active in the establishment and recent opening ceremonies of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA). Sloan Canyon NCA encompasses 48,438 acres south of Las Vegas, and should help protect hundreds of Native American petroglyphs.

## **White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society (WPHAS)**

WPHAS conducted a number of activities for Nevada Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week. Sunny Martin led a tour of historic structures in Ely. On May 17, WPHAS member visited the Riordan Ranch house and the North Portal and Horseshoe petroglyphs within the White River Archaeological District. After the site visits, there was a clean-up of WPHAS's Adopt-A-Highway segment within the archaeological district.

Future activities include a field trip to Spring Valley on June 15. The trip will be led by Dave Tilford, and will include a site where the U.S. Army massacred Shoshone in 1863.

On June 29, WPHAS president Mike Bunker will lead a work project to identify the 1869 grave of James Irwin, an early stage driver. Afterwards, a field trip to segments of the Pony Express trail and several stage roads will take place.

WPHAS will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the removal of modern debris from the site of Fort Ruby on July 16-17.

On August 13, there will be the WPHAS annual potluck at Ken and Patti Heinbaugh's place in Duck Creek. The hosts will provide Dutch oven ribs and beans. Sounds delicious!

Future field trips and activities not yet finalized include a trip to Duck Creek and a Nye County Loop Trip, and an October annual meeting to elect officers, appoint committees, and conduct other necessary business.

For additional information on WPHAS and its activities, visit their website at:  
[http://www.webpanda.com/white\\_pine\\_co\\_unity/historical\\_society/index.html](http://www.webpanda.com/white_pine_co_unity/historical_society/index.html).

## **News from Ely**

Tom Flanigan, USFS & NAA Board

In support of *Nevada Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week*, the USFS will be giving a presentation titled "The Early Prehistoric Colonization of North America." This presentation will take place on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, at the Ely Ranger District Office, located at 825 Avenue E in Ely. On May 17<sup>th</sup> the USFS, BLM, and Nevada State Parks will be running three, two-hour tours. These tours will involve three stops: Ward Cemetery, Taylor Cemetery, and the Ward Charcoal Ovens. The tours will begin at the Ward Cemetery at 10 am, 12 pm, and 2 pm. For More information contact Lisa Gilbert, BLM Archaeology Technician, at (775) 289-1862, or Tom Flanigan, USFS Archaeologist, at (775) 289-5124.

From June 9-13 & 16-20, the USFS will be running a Passport-In-Time (PIT) project, in and around the historic site of Shermantown. This is a mapping and recording project that will build on the work done by Dr. Donald Hardesty of the University of Nevada Reno. The project will add to Dr. Hardesty's maps, site recording, and draft National Register Nomination, with the hope of getting Shermantown listed on National Register. The Shermantown nomination will act as a cornerstone for future work on other historic town sites in the White Pine Mining District. Visitors are welcome at the PIT project. For directions to Shermantown contact Tom Flanigan.

## **NAA Website**

The NAA is developing a new website. Check out [www.nvarch.org](http://www.nvarch.org), which is being constructed and maintained by our very own Web Master, Hal Rager.

Feel free to stop by for a visit on your next trip on the cyber highway. The website lots of useful information, such as how to order your very own NAA mug or back issues of *Nevada Archaeologist*, and contains links to related web sites.

### Fall Newsletter

The Fall issue of *In-Situ* is scheduled for publication in September 2003. If you have anything you want included, such as mini-reports, requests for information, announcements, letters to the editor, book reviews, etc., etc., send it to David Valentine by September 10, 2003, via e-mail to [david\\_valentine@nv.blm.gov](mailto:david_valentine@nv.blm.gov), or by snail mail to P.O. Box 1084, Winnemucca, NV 89446.

A diverse and interesting *In-Situ* cannot be maintained without member support and participation.

### Upcoming Conferences

The Society for Industrial Archaeology (SIA) is sponsoring the 2003 Montreal Industrial Heritage Conference May 29 to June 2, 2003. A number of tours of Montreal's industrial heritage are scheduled, as well as papers. For more information, contact the web site at: [www.siahq.org/conference/montreal2003.html](http://www.siahq.org/conference/montreal2003.html).

The Fifth World Archaeological Conference (WAC-5) will be held June 21-26<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Early registration will run through January 1, 2003 (\$335.00 for WAC members and \$200.00 for students). There is a call for theme and session proposals. Session proposals will be accepted through January 1, 2003. For more information, visit the

web site <http://www.american.edu/wac5>, e-mail [WAC5@american.edu](mailto:WAC5@american.edu), or contact Program Committee, c/o Dr. Joan M. Gero, Academic Secretary WAC-5, Department of Anthropology, American University, Washington, D.C. 20016, U.S.A.

The Sixth International Mining History Congress will be held September 26-29, 2003 in Akabira, Hokkaido, Japan, at the Multi-purpose Community Center of Akabira called "MIRAI." For more information visit the website [www.imhc2003.com](http://www.imhc2003.com).

### Southern Nevada Exposures

With the continuing drought in the West, water levels in Lake Mead have been dropping, exposing archaeological treasures long submerged.



St. Thomas' Main Street. Photo courtesy of Laurie Perry.



Pat Hicks, Bureau of Reclamation archaeologist, ponders a St. Thomas foundation. Photo courtesy of Laurie Perry.

## **BLUE GOOSE CONUNDRUMS**

David Valentine

Bahn and Tidy (1999) point out that during the early years of archaeology in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries much of the research was sanitized. Although information on sexual practices, bodily functions, etc., was encountered, it was either destroyed or hidden away and never discussed. This was due mainly to prudishness brought about and supported by the Victorian sensibilities of the time. It did nothing to provide the complete picture of humanity that archaeology and anthropology strive for.

Research and publication into these previously forbidden realms have entered the mainstream of archaeological research. Books like *The Prehistory of Sex* (Taylor 1996) can be found on bookstore shelves, members of the Society of Historical Archaeology receive journals issues completely devoted to privies (Wheeler 2000), and a recent issue of *Archaeology* carries a story about prostitution in New Orleans (Powell 2002).

One early Nevada example of research into these arenas is Roberta L. Becker's (1981) archaeological Master's thesis at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Her thesis explores the archaeological deposits of the red light district at Goodsprings, Nevada; an area known to local residents as the "Blue Goose." The area was active between 1916 and 1921 during a corporate dominated phase of mining development (Becker 1981). This thesis made a real contribution in the historic archaeology of mining and prostitution, and was recently cited in a comparative study between mining towns in New Zealand and the United States (Simmons 1998).



Like all good research, however, just as many questions are raised as answered. One being, why was the area known as the Blue Goose? Becker (1981: 1), although she posed the question, was unable to determine the answer. Other questions are raised concerning the 150 multi-colored fragments of rubber that were found. There was some speculation in the thesis that a few of these fragments could be the remains of condoms, although it was also stated the condom survival was not considered likely in a surface context 60 years after use (Becker 1981: 81). Assuming Becker is right in stating that the condom survival is unlikely, what other traces of condoms use could be found? Most condoms today are manufactured from latex, and are sold in plastic or plasticized foil sheaths. Were condoms in the early twentieth-century manufactured and packaged the same as today? If not, what was their packaging, and would it be more likely to survive than the actual article? Condoms are readily available today and can be found in groceries, drug stores, and convenience stores, but was that always the case? Would the Victorian mores that squelched the reporting of sexually explicit archaeological discoveries also restrict condom availability and use? Condom use is a requirement today in Nevada's legal brothels (Shaner 1999). Would they have been a requirement in an early brothel, or would that have been merely an option?

With the introduction of incurable and lethal sexually transmitted diseases, such as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and the discovery that condom use is an efficient barrier towards its spread, there is more information on condoms than was available for Ms. Becker in the early 1980s. It is time to slip on the ole thinking cap, and see if it is possible to answer a few of these questions.

Parisot (1987) has prepared a history of the condom. From this we learn that evidence of penis sheaths dates back to between 15,000 and 10,000 B.C. and comes from a cave painting in France. A variety of materials were used in antiquity, including linen, oiled silk paper, and animal membranes. It is speculated that these early sheaths were used for decoration and rank instead of as a measure against disease and/or pregnancy. It is not until 1564 that a description of linen sheaths soaked in herbal brews and inorganic salts and used for the prevention of disease is published by the Italian doctor Gabriello Falloppio. Where the name condom comes from appears to be lost in time, although there is a plethora of theories, most of which assume it is named after the inventor of a sheep intestine sheath useful in preventing disease and pregnancy. Animal intestine condoms have been recovered archaeologically, from an English castle's privy used prior to A.D. 1647 (Parisot 1987: 7-10).

Rubber condoms were developed after the invention of the vulcanization process in 1844. They had a seam, as did many of the intestinal sheaths, which all needed to be held in place with a ribbon (Parisot 1987: 25-26). It was not until the turn-of-the-twentieth-century that manufacturing methods for seamless condoms were developed. Another twentieth-century development was a method for manufacturing latex condoms, which become common in the 1930s (*Ibid*: 29).

Becker (1981: 79) (citing Goldman [1978]), stated that the prostitutes at the Blue Goose area would have access to other forms of birth control via mail order houses. In 1873, however, it became illegal to manufacture and mail order birth control devices, including condoms. This law was known, ironically, as the Comstock Act (Tone 2001). The Comstock Act (named after its chief proponent, New York resident Anthony Comstock) was on the books into the 1970s, although birth control devices continued to be manufactured by bootleggers and distributed on the black market. Enforcement of the law was also minimal (Tone 2001).

The Comstock Act was amended in 1918 to exclude prophylactic devices prescribed by a doctor, which legalized condoms. This was done partly in response to the high levels of sexually transmitted diseases contracted by United States military personnel during World War I, both abroad and in the States. After condoms were legalized, their manufacture began to be taken over by legitimate pharmaceutical and rubber manufacturing companies. They became widely distributed in drugstores, barbershops, newsstands, pool halls, tobacco shops, and gas stations (Tone 2001).

From the above information we can infer that most of the condoms available at the time were made of vulcanized rubber, but most likely not latex nor of organic materials like animal membranes or linen. They would have been seamless, and thus not have required the use of a ribbon. Based on the high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, condom use was probably not a requirement in the early brothels. During the first two years of the Blue Goose site's existence, condoms were not legal but still available on the black market. During the last three years of the site's occupation, rubbers would have been legal and openly available in a number of venues.

Legalized rubbers were often packaged in aluminum or tin cans or in fake cigarette cases (Tone 2001: 184). Dodge (1995) has published an identification and value guide to antique tins. From this guide, we learn that prophylactic condom tins were small rectangular or round cans, containing three (often labeled as  $\frac{1}{4}$  dozen) rubbers. The rectangular tins illustrated by Dodge (1995: 260-264) range from 2 by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches to 2 by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Becker recovered four small tins from the site that she assumes were aspirin tins (1981: 82). She lists their size as being  $1\frac{5}{8}$  by  $1\frac{3}{8}$  by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches (1981: 116). The scaled illustration of the aspirin tin, however, indicates that the can is actually roughly 2 by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches (Becker 1981: 154, Fig. 21). Perhaps the variation in size comes from the fact that the illustrated tin appears to be somewhat smashed. The illustrated size is a common size for the condom tins listed in Dodge (1995: 260-264). An Anacin™ tin recently found in a second hand store measures  $1\frac{13}{16}$  by  $1\frac{3}{8}$  by  $\frac{5}{16}$  inches, which is very close to the listed size of the tins. In spite of the confusion, there is a very good chance that one or all of the "aspirin" tins are actually condom cans, a very good indicator of condom usage at the site.

It must also be noted that one of the brand names listed in Dodge's (1995) book is "Blue Goose" (Figure 1). Blue Goose tins are listed as 2 by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in size (Dodge 1995: 260), in line with Becker's illustration (Becker 1981: 154, Fig. 21). Perhaps Blue Goose was a popular condom brand in use in Goodsprings' red light district, and the reason the area became known by that name.

With the continuing open discussion of human sexuality in archaeological and historical literature, there is the opportunity to flesh out earlier research. It is hoped that some of the unanswered questions brought up in Becker's thesis are satisfied, and that research into previously forbidden realms continues to flourish.

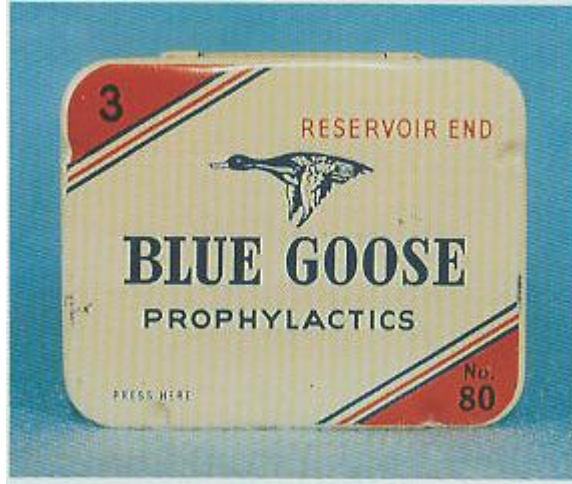


Figure 1. Blue Goose condom can. From Dodge (1995: 260)

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