

In-Situ



SPRING 2010

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Eva Jensen, NAA President President's Corner

Thank You!

Since I made the mistake of missing the elections and board assignments this year I will have to defer to your collective judgment (and warped sense of humor). I accept your invitation (draft notice) to continue to write the President's Corner for another year. Thanks for your support, I think? I made an unexpected trip to Utah for the early arrival of my new granddaughter and missed the NAA Annual Meeting festivities this year. I know, I should learn to get my priorities straight but babies will come whenever they please.

Life events mark points of transition in our lives, moments for review and reflection. As archaeologists, we are well versed in the concept that we are a result of our collective history. Looking back to understand what is at our fingertips today is what we do best. The NAA is

a collective effort of people who believe the past has value and is worthy of protection. Many individuals have helped shape the future of the past in Nevada. Alice Baldrica is one of the very special people.

Alice's retirement is a transition. SHPO without Alice is a huge adjustment for Nevada archaeology.



Alice Baldrica (far right) looks to the future during a 2005 field trip to Sloan Canyon.

There is no one in the state who knows more about the archaeology and the history of preservation in the state. There is no one who knows more about the NAA. Her insight and long term connection with the organization make her our ex-officio

(Continued on page 2)

President's Corner, 1

Articles

- Silver Trowel Award, 2
- Lost City Museum, 3
- Annual Meeting, 4
- Auction, 6
- New Bylaws, 8
- Board Meeting, 8
- Karla Jageman, 9
- Troop Movements, 10
- 2010 Membership, 11

Mini-Reports

- New Can Type, 12
- Half Way House Dig, 15

Chapter & Affiliate Reports

- Elko Co., 17
- Lincoln Co., 17

(Continued from page 1)

'institutional memory'. As an organization we are the direct beneficiaries of her experience. She is instrumental in our partnership with SHPO. She is the reason we have preservation grants to promote public awareness and education for Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month and grants to support site steward training.

Working for the State and on the NAA board I know Alice as a sounding board, a colleague, a mentor, and friend. I met Alice 12 years ago when I began working for the state museums. We had a conversation then about the idea of a site steward program in Nevada. Through the efforts of many people, and with Alice's strong support, the statewide site steward program is a reality.

To Alice from the NAA: Thank you for your professionalism and passion! Good luck with your transition and new beginning. We are fortunate to have you as a member and as a friend. And I thank you personally for the wonderful birthday

cakes and special treats at board meetings! I am honored to call you my friend.

Annual Meeting

Thanks to Laurie Perry and Sue Edwards for arranging and hosting the Annual Meeting. Laurie Perry planned the program and Sue Edwards put together the arrangements including the venue, food, and general good times. Desert Research Institute made generous contribution of the meeting space, employee time, and breakfast. I am personally indebted to Laurie and Sue, to the board, and to everyone involved for keeping it together while I was off playing grandma in Utah. Yes, I will pay my debt in the usual prescribed method at the next board meeting.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park near Gabbs on July 24th (see article on page 8). As always, all NAA members are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings and field trips. ☸

LAURIE PERRY, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

AND THE SILVER TROWEL AWARD GOES TO . . .

The Nevada Archaeological Association presented the 2009 Silver Trowel Award to Alice Baldrica for her years of devotion to historic preservation in Nevada. The Silver Trowel Award is presented to professionals that have spent a majority of their professional career working in Nevada; have made outstanding, positive, and lasting contributions to archaeology in Nevada; and have maintained the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in the conduct of his or her career. Alice far exceeds all of these requirements. During her many years in the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Alice was involved in developing numerous preservation programs and working with too many people, government agencies, preservation groups, etc., to mention. Alice also remained (and hopefully will continue to remain) very active in the NAA. Alice retired from SHPO but is not gone from the preservation world.



Alice Baldrica and Laurie Perry with the Silver Trowel Award.

The NAA honored her at the 2009 Annual Banquet where we were joined by Ms. Mimi Rodden, Nevada's first State Historic Preservation Officer. Ms. Rodden hired Alice into the SHPO. The NAA wishes Alice the best of luck in her new pursuits. ☸

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE LOST CITY MUSEUM BUILDS ON THE PAST

The Lost City Museum in Overton, NV, is commemorating its 75th anniversary with the opening of a new exhibit entitled *"Building on the Past."* This new exhibit addresses the significant changes that have taken place in the field of archaeology and within the museum itself over the last seventy-five years.

"Building on the Past" uses a timeline to illustrate the changes that have occurred to the physical site of the early excavations of Pueblo Grande de Nevada, the museum that was established to house the recovered artifacts and the field of archaeology from the original excavation.

"While time has allowed the museum to expand both its space and the message it offers, time has also worked with man and nature to destroy the very sites upon which that message is based," said museum attendant Jesse Davies.

Established in 1935, the Lost City Museum was built by the National Park Service to

exhibit artifacts that were being excavated from Pueblo Grande de Nevada. These Anasazi sites were being threatened by the waters of Lake Mead as it backed up behind the newly built Hoo-



Reconstructed Anasazi pueblos at the Lost City Museum (Wikipedia).

ver Dam. Eventually, when the lake was filled to capacity, about five miles of sites had been inundated or undercut by the water.

The Civilian Conservation Corps assisted in the excavation of the sites and the construction of the museum building. The building was constructed of sun-dried adobe brick in a pueblo revival style.

The Lost City Museum is one of seven managed by the State Division of Museums and History, an agency of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs. The Department serves Nevada's citizens and visitors through cultural and information management, presentation and promotion of cultural resources, and education. The Department also includes the State Office of Historic Preservation, Nevada State Library and Archives, Nevada Arts Council, Comstock Historic District Commission, Literacy Coalition, Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy, and Commission for Cultural Affairs. For more information, please call Teresa Moiola at (775) 687-8323 or visit the department's web site at www.nevadaculture.org.

Lost City Museum Hours

Thursday through Sunday

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Admission Charge

Adults over 18: \$5.00

Children: Free

Members: Free

Location

The museum is located in Overton on State Route 169 off I-15, exit #93 or via Lake Mead or the Valley of Fire.

For more information, call the museum at
702-397-2193.

LAURIE PERRY, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FABBITY-FAB 39TH ANNUAL NAA MEETING IN VEGAS



Ron Reno presented the pre-conference historic artifact workshop on cans.

Sue Edwards and I had the honor of organizing the 39th Annual Meeting at the Desert Research Institute (DRI), March 26-27, in Las Vegas, Nevada. DRI's Division of Earth and Ecosystems Sciences (and Sue Edwards) generously provided meeting facilities and a wonderful banquet room for the weekend. Friday started with a Historic Artifact Workshop (hands-on with some really cool examples) presented by Ron Reno and Lynn Furnis. After lunch, a discussion on Lithic Landscapes ensued to identify, pontificate, and vent about surveying, recording, and managing extremely large areas of scattered lithic artifacts. For continued discussions, Steve Daron (National Park Service), co-lead for the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Cultural Resources Team, and

Jeff Baker (Knight and Leavitt) will accept and consolidate comments to coordinate agency-contractor talks.

Saturday was filled with a variety of researched presentations from across the state and across periods of time. This year, several posters were also presented.

The Silent Auction was conducted throughout the day with a Live Auction of the most sought after items conducted during the Banquet (lead by Jeff Wedding, Auctioneer). The annual General Meeting was held after the presentations with the passing of by-law changes and the election of Board Officers. The new Board then met and identified the office positions. The evening banquet by At Your Service Catering was delicious with a fantastic view of the city lights. Sunday morning, the Atomic Testing Museum offered a special tour for NAA members.

Special thanks to everyone who stepped in and helped. A great time was had by all. ☺



Above: Lynn Furnis talks buttons at the Historic Artifact Workshop.

Right: Mimi Rodden, Nevada's first State Historic Preservation Officer.



Above: Keynote speaker, Dr. Colleen Beck, talked about the Peace Camps near the Nevada Test Site.

Below: The conference was held at the fabulous Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas.



Above: Elizabeth Russell inspects the auction goods.

JEFFREY R. WEDDING, HRC

FROM THE AUCTION BLOCK



Jeff Wedding directs the auction while Greg Seymour models a photograph donated by Elizabeth Dickey. The auction raised almost one thousand dollars for the NAA. Photo by Keith Kolb.

I had the privilege to once again act as auctioneer, this time at the 2010 annual meeting held at the Desert Research Institute here in Las Vegas. As I'm unlikely to ever be more honored (*i.e.* nominated for an Academy Award), I'd like to thank my manager, the academy, my parents and my lovely wife. Most of all, I'd like to thank you, the general membership, for without your item donations and generous bidding the auction would not, could not succeed. This year, auction sales (and a few cash gifts at checkout) realized \$995.

A total of 49 auction lots were donated this year. Some of the items donated included: a replica petroglyph sandstone slab, handmade socks and an afghan, two sets of ironstone dishes, a Mogollon-style art print, various turquoise/

silver/art glass/beaded jewelry, a Metropolitan Museum Egyptian paperweight, and framed photographs of the Caliente Theater and a vintage Fernley Fire Department truck. But wait! There's more! Also donated was a pair of Peeling Paws potato peeling gloves, a powered scooper and a chopper fantastic (As Seen on TV!). A fine selection of archaeology, history, anthropology and random topic books were also donated.

The standout item, from my perspective, was a tin foil hat. The hat was crafted by NDOT archaeologist Steve Sterns (congratulations on the recent retirement!) as part of the northern Nevada premiere of the Pahrump-filmed sci-fi epic *Dorks on the Moon*. His creation won the first annual tin foil hat competition associated with the event (more congratulations Steve!). Always a

gracious winner, Steve donated his one-of-a-kind masterpiece, along with a DVD copy of the film, to the NAA auction. The bidding was furious, with Greg Seymour taking the wondrous headwear home for \$65. Dave Valentine was stiff competition for the glorious cap, as was Sue Edwards.

Dave Valentine did win the blue rubber Peeling Paws potato peeling gloves donated by Sali Underwood. This is most appropriate, as Dave now resides in Idaho, the land of spuds, where the gloves would come in most *handy* (horribly puny, I know, but how could I resist?).

The highest grossing single item was the red, white and blue afghan donated and handmade by Liz Russell. The auctioneer swung the gavel on a winning bid of \$70 by none other than the auctioneer. The afghan was the perfect housewarming gift for my sister in Phoenix. Thanks Liz!

This year's item donors include: Liz Dickey, Sue Edwards, Margaret Lyneis, Ron and Mona



Jeff Wedding finds protection from mind control in the tin-foil "art piece" crafted by Steve Stearns. Photo by Keith Kolb.

Reno, Jane Russell, Liz Russell, Steve Stearns, Sali Underwood, David Valentine, Loretta Watson, Diane Winslow, and Jeff and Stacey Wedding. There were also a few anonymous gifts. On behalf of the NAA, I want to thank you all for your generous support by donating items to the auction.

We had twenty-three registered bidders for the silent and live auctions. As always, 100% of the winning bids go straight to the NAA. This year's bidders included: Mark Boatwright, Kurt Brown, Steve Daron, Daron Duke, James and Elizabeth Dickey, Susan Edwards, Lynn Furnis, Lisa Gilbert, Karla Jageman, Keith Kolb, Ruth

Lopez, Margaret Lyneis, Laurie Perry, Ron and Mona Reno, Carol Shimer, Greg Seymour, Kathleen Sprowl, Ed Stoner, Kelly Turner, Sali Underwood, David Valentine, Diane Winslow, and Jeff and Stacey Wedding. Again, on behalf of the NAA, I offer deepest and sincerest thanks for your participation. And, congratulations to all of the winning bidders who were lucky enough to take a new treasure home.

If I have missed someone, or misspelled a name, please accept my apologies. As those who have attended the annual meetings are aware, we have been making changes to the auction both in format and auction tracking documentation. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the auction you would like to share with the NAA board, feel free to email them to your favorite auctioneer. If he's unwilling to listen you can just send them to me (ha!) at boneman@unlv.nevada.edu. Once again, thanks to all who took part in auction 2010, and I look forward as we start the year long countdown to auction 2011! ☺



Greg Seymour demonstrates the multiple uses of the "Peeling Paws" using Sue Edwards' head. Photo by Keith Kolb.

EVA JENSEN , NAA PRESIDENT

NAA GENERAL MEETING: NEW BY-LAWS AND BOARD

In the next year the NAA board will finish the review and organization plan and complete the By-laws review. Both of these tasks have been in the works for a few years now and it is the goal to complete them this year. We are looking forward to the 2009 and 2010 editions of the *Nevada Archaeologist* to be completed this year.

Business from the general membership meeting included electing the Board of Directors and passing the by-laws revisions. The new board of directors and assignments are as follows:

- Eva Jensen - *President*
- George Phillips - *Treasurer*
- Lynn Furnis - *Secretary*
- Daron Duke - *Membership*
- Greg Seymour - *Newsletter coordinator*
- Hal Rager - *Web Master*
- Liz Russell - *Site Steward Liaison*
- Jeff Wedding - *Committee of Auction Affairs*, and
- Karla Jageman - *Everything Else!* (See page 9 for the scoop on our newest board member).

The by-laws revisions were approved and will help bring us up to date with the electronic age. Changes included voting by electronic means, and check approval as required by the bank. The short text for revisions is printed below. The full copy of by-laws with new revisions will be available on the web site in the near future.

Change: ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, inserts a new Section 3

Section 3: The Board may vote utilizing electronic, facsimile, mail or telephonic means. Any vote taken by these means between regular board meetings will be reported and recorded during the next regular board meeting.

Change: ARTICLE VII: FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE NAA, Section 3:

Section 3: All checks shall be approved by any two of the following officer positions: the Treasurer, the President and/or the Secretary. The check will then be signed by one of any of the above named officer positions. ⚡



The ghost town of Berlin is a protected site in the State Park (Wikipedia.com).

MEETING-CAMPING AT BERLIN ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

Get your camping gear spit polished for the next NAA board meeting that will be held on July 24th, 2:00 pm at the Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park, east of Gabbs. All NAA members are invited to attend. Camping space has been reserved for the group on July 23rd and 24th. A group feast will be held Saturday evening. Not feeling rustic? There are a few motels in nearby Gabbs, but camping might be cleaner. ⚡

EVA JENSEN, NAA PRESIDENT

THE SCOOP ON OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



Karla Jageman

Karla Jageman is the newest NAA board member. Karla is the archaeologist at Great Basin National Park. Karla is a native of northern Idaho where she started her archaeology training at the University of Idaho. While at the University of Maine, Orono, her graduate course work focused on Historic Archaeology. Karla's research interest includes the

history and archaeology of mining in the west. "I like historical archaeology because you can see the remnants of peoples on the ground and find out more about them in the historical record. It is an interesting mix." Karla is currently researching the Johnson Lake Mine complex for Great Basin National Park and hopes to find a thesis in the remains. ☪

*Ahhhh,
The "Good
Old Days"*



Suzan Slaughter, Eva Jensen & Elizabeth Dickey

Troop Movements

Congrats

Laureen
"Laurie"

Perry, Reclamation Archaeologist from the Lower Colorado River Office in Boulder City (and former NAA Secretary extraordinaire) removed to Sacramento for a supervisory archaeologist position with Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region office. Laurie is a prehistoric

pottery specialist *Jim Bunch, Patti DeBunch and Steve Stearns wear their NDOT gang colors one last time.*

and studied with

Margaret Lyneis as a graduate student at UNLV. Laurie is a long time member and NAA board member. She joins our thriving NAA 'California Chapter'.

One More Time, with Feeling

In case you haven't figured it out by now, **Alice Baldrice**, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for [censored] years, is retiring to a life of leisure, decadence and complete fulfillment.

Rumor Mill

Bryan Hockett is taking a hike out of the Elko BLM office and into the BLM office in Reno.

Greg Seymour joined up with Nevada Wilderness Project as the Renewable Energy Program Coordinator. Plus, Greg is now the Western Advisor for Nevada for the National Trust for Historic Preser-



vation. You can direct all your complaints to him now.

Adios Amigos

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) cultural resource section bids goodbye to three archaeologists who have been the mainstay of the section for over 30 years. **Jim Bunch, Patti DeBunch and Steve Stearns** all retired from NDOT at the end of April, 2010. The sudden loss of 90 years of archaeological experience in the state leaves us with a large hole that will not easily be filled. While we are sorry to see our three friends and colleagues leave, we extend our best wishes to Jim, Patty and Steve and say goodbye with heavy hearts, best wishes, and envy! ☹

Are you Forgetting Something?

The stove is turned off, your purse (or man bag) isn't on the top of the car, you remembered to wipe your fingerprints off the paperweight, so what is causing that nagging feeling in the back of your mind?

Maybe you forgot to pay your NAA membership dues? There isn't a better way to spend \$20. For the price of four beers (eight if it's happy hour) you can get a whole year of that drunken

jovial feeling knowing you are supporting the best Archaeological Association in Nevada.

Those already wallowing in the euphoria that NAA membership brings are listed below. What? Your name isn't listed!?!* Then quick, fill out the membership form on the back page and mail your check to: P.O. Box 73145, Las Vegas, NV, 89170. You won't regret it in the morning! ☺

JEFFREY BAKER	DON HENDRICKS	ELIZABETH ROYCRAFT
ALICE & MICHAEL BALDRICA	PAT HICKS	ELIZABETH RUSSELL
COLLEEN BECK	KARLA JAGEMAN	DAVID J. SCOTT
LISA BENSON	EVA JENSEN	PAUL, MARK & JON SCOTT
ADAM BERG	DON JOHNS & FAMILY	DENA SEDAR
RICHARD BURNS	MONIQUE E. KIMBALL	GREG SEYMOUR
ANNE CARTER	KEITH KOLB	CAROL SHAMBERGER
DON CHRISTENSEN	RENEE C. KOLVET	GLENN SHAW
JERILYN & BOB CLAYTON	MELINDA LEACH	CAROLYN SHERVE-BYBEE
NORMA & JAMES COZBY	ROBERT C. LEAVITT	CAROL A. SHIMER
STEVE DARON	RUTH LOPEZ	ALAN H. SIMMONS
JUSTIN DEMAIO	MARGARET LYNEIS	KATHLEEN SPROWL
ANNE DUBARTON	CHERYL MARTIN	KEITH & MARYANNA STEVER
DARON DUKE	DOUGLAS & LOIS MERKLER	ED & CHERYL STONER
MARK ENNES	JULIE MICHLER	ROBERT & JOANNA SWAIN
MARY LOUISE ERB	LESTER & EDNA MORRIS	DAVID THOMAS
SUZANNE ESKANAZI	TIM & DONNA MURPHY	SHERI, KEITH, & KAYCEE
JOHN L. FAGAN	SUSAN MURPHY	THOMPSON
JAMES A. FAGIN	D. JEAN MYLES	SALI UNDERWOOD
DON & KAY FOWLER	LETICIA NEAL	DAVID VALENTINE
OYVIND FROCK	ERICH OBERMAYR	THOMAS VALERIE
LISA & TONY GILBERT	GLENDEE ANE OSBORNE	TERRI WADE
CHERYL GREGORY	LORANN PENDLETON THOMAS	LORRETTA WATSON
MELLA HARMON	GEORGE PHILLIPS	JEFFREY WEDDING
EUGENE HATTORI	SILVIA PIERCE	JAMES M. WELCH
GREG HAYNES	DON POAG	WILLIAM WHITE
MARK & YOLANDA HENDERSON	KEVIN RAFFERTY	DIANE WINSLOW
AMY, ERIC, COLIN, & ELINOR HENDERSON	HAL, AUDREY & IAN RAGER	ELLEN WRIGHT
	RON & MONA RENO	

* If you know you paid recently but don't see your name, don't panic! This list is only current as of May 10, 2010.

Mini Reports

LYNN FURNIS & MARGO MEMMOTT, MACTEC ENGINEERING & CONSULTING, INC.


A NEW CAN TYPE IN NORTHERN NEVADA

During a recent field inventory of several historic archaeological sites in lower Six Mile Canyon, Margo Memmott and myself identified a historic can type not previously known to them. The work was being conducted for MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in Reno. Two cans of the same type were found during the inventory, both within the same 200+ can cluster at the site. The two unfamiliar cans, as shown in the accompanying photographs, are oblong in shape, on top and bottom ends, and technically rectangular when viewed from the side. The top end has a hole-in cap closure, with the cap being approximately 7/8 (0.88) inch in diameter, soldered in place, with a central, soldered venthole in the cap. The cans are 6.8 inches long by 3.62 inches wide and 2.82 tall. The end seams are lapped and have been hand soldered. As shown in the photographs, each can has been opened by means of crude knife cuts, around approximately 65 percent of the top end.

Margo Memmott first noticed the cans and recognized that they were a type unfamiliar to her. I then examined them and agreed these were new to me as well. While hole-in-cap cans with lapped seams and solder are not new types to us, the combination of the hole-in-cap closure, oblong shape, and depth of the cans is new. We assume that the cans held some sort of food product, but cannot be certain of this at the pre-

sent time. The two cans were found at a site with multiple features and artifact clusters that appears to represent a possible turn-of-the-twentieth century domestic and industrial (mill/mine related) site in Six Mile Canyon. More research needs to be done to identify the site. The can concentration that the two oblong cans are part of suggests a turn-of-the-twentieth century age for the can cluster, at least, and most of the cans there are food and evaporated milk cans, including sanitary food cans, hole-in-cap food cans, and venthole evaporated milk cans.

We have shown the can photographs to several colleagues in the Reno area who are extremely knowledgeable about metal cans and who have worked in Nevada for decades on historic sites and who have catalogued and analyzed historic artifacts. They are also unfamiliar with the oblong can type and with its function (its contents).

We offer this new information to the members of *In Situ* and to the Nevada archaeological community at large to make it commonly known. More importantly, we hope that someone out there has already seen such cans and may have an idea of what they were used for when new. If you have information about the oblong cans, or suggestions as to where to look for additional information, please contact me at 775-326-5391, or e-mail at clfurnis@mactec.com. 

Lynn Furnis and Margo Memmott have been collecting cans along the roadside in the hopes of getting enough money to attend Burning Man (for ethnographic reasons only). They hope to make many other can history break-throughs as a result of this endeavor.



Oblong hole-in-cap can, view of top end.



Oblong hole-in-cap can, side view, showing lapped end seams and solder remnants.



Half Way House was a way station on the busy 1860s tollroad from Carson City to the booming Comstock Mining District. Freight wagons, stagecoaches, and horseback riders paused at Half Way House to pay their toll, or stayed longer while mules and oxen were fed and watered, drivers and passengers had a meal, took a drink at the bar, or found a bed for the night.

Historical accounts tell us Half Way House included barns and corrals, a hotel and residence for the toll collector and his family, a toll gate, a flume bringing water from a flooded mine in the nearby hills, and a bar serving "the finest wines, liquors, and cigars."

Today, little remains of Half Way House except a few depressions in the ground and scatters of rusty metal and broken glass.



Leftover bones were often disposed of in small pits. Most meat consumed was beef or mutton, but venison and pork were also part of the diet.



Dolls

Children visiting or living at Half Way House left broken toys behind.

Marbles



MAP
of the
VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE
RAILROAD
from the Lake to the Coast



1867 half-dollar

Tolls ranged from 3 cents per animal to 50 cents for a loaded wagon.



This pen point, and fragments of ink bottles, are evidence of toll station paper work.



Wine or liquor bottle



Spice bottle, J. W. Hunnewell & Co., Boston



E. Brown's Essence of Ginger

Half Way House served European wine and liquor, and meals were enlivened with spices and flavorings from the East Coast.



MICHAEL DREWS, GNOMON, INC

WILLIAM WHITE, STATISTICAL RESEARCH, INC

ARCHAEOLOGY AT HALF WAY HOUSE

In conjunction with a treatment plan prepared for the Reconstruction of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad (Zeier and Reno 2007), archaeologists from Gnomon, Inc., and Statistical Research, Inc., jointly participated in a data recovery project at the Half Way House site (26Ly918/Or308) during the first two weeks of December, 2007. The Half Way house was a toll station located along the McDonald and Bedford Toll Road approximately half way between Carson City and Virginia City, near the Lyon County Line. The California Emigrant Trail and Lincoln Highway cross a portion of the site. With a hotel, bar and stables, the Half Way House served travelers and teamsters through the 1860s. Its decline began with the completion of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad in 1869.

Fieldwork focused on two artifact concentrations previously identified as potentially holding data relevant to addressing research questions designed for the site. To control artifact provenience, 134 shovel scrapes were completed as 1-by-1-m units. Some of the shovel scrape units were as shallow as 10 cm while a few went as deep as 40 cm below the surface. In addition to the shovel scrapes, two linear trenches, a minimum of 0.5 meters wide were excavated perpendicular to the reported California Emigrant Trail and Lincoln Highway alignment.

Four features were encountered from

Concentration 1 located at the northern extent of the site including two intentional trash pits (one filled with relatively modern material remains and another with historic refuse), and a length of a soft lead waterline. This waterline appears to be contemporaneous with the site. Artifacts gathered from Concentration 1 are generally related to domestic activities, and include the fragments of different china dolls.

Concentration 2 lies near the center of the site just north of the California Emigrant Trail. Work in this area focused on a concentration of artifacts dominated by alcoholic beverage bottles situated east of a deep pit located outside the project area. The pit is thought to have been as-



Tooled saddlebag from Concentration 2.

sociated with the hotel and bar referenced in the historic record. Work in Concentration 2 revealed twelve features including six postholes, a plank or boardwalk, two intentional trash pits, and three relic-collector excavation pits. Four of the postholes are in linear alignment and parallel to the Emigrant Trail, but appear to post-date the occu-

pation of the site. Artifacts recovered from Concentration 2 generally reflect a business establishment where meals and alcohol could be purchased.

Two trenches were excavated perpendicular to the reported California Emigrant Trail and Lincoln Highway alignment. Trench 1 was 16 meters in length, providing a berm to berm cross-section of the travel corridor. A second trench (Trench 2) 10 meters in length was placed west of Trench 1 across the roadbed itself. The west wall profile of Trench 1 revealed linear exposures of oiled dirt associated with early utilization of the Lincoln Highway.

Most of the highway fill is contained within stratum 3 which appears to be re-worked and re-deposited stratum 2, a compact loamy sand that underlies the site. The leveled and paved highway is 9 meters (30 feet) wide with a 1 meter (3 foot) drainage ditch is exposed along the south side (stratum 4). Rusted metal within stratum 1 and ruts intrusive into stratum 2 may be relicts of California trail segments.

Remains of a wooden boardwalk were exposed at the northern edge of Trench 1. It consists of what appears to be 1"x 6"x 4' planks over 2"x 4" runners oriented along the reported California Trail and Lincoln Highway alignment. Seven

inch spikes anchor the planks to the 2"x 4" runners.

Few features were identified in Trench 2. Depressions intruding into stratum 2 may represent

ruts from the California Trail or unpaved portions of the Lincoln Highway. An unidentifiable concentration of rusted metal occurs at the contact between stratum 2 and 3.

A final report was submitted to the Nevada Department of Transportation and Federal Highway

Administration in September 2009. Archaeological research provided insights into research questions pertaining to site patterning, verification of the historic record, lifeways and consumer choice, and exchange networks. ☺

Electronic versions of the report and public outreach documents are available at:

<http://www.gnomon.com/GnomonReports/HalfwayHouse.pdf> or

<http://www.historicinsight.com/images/pdfs/half-way-house-brochure-2009.pdf>



Walter Krupicz, age 3, demonstrates the utility of the serving spoon in archaeology.

Michael Drews and William White enjoyed excavating in sub-zero temperatures so much that they are currently developing a portable field tent made from sheet ice. They hope their invention will provide brisk arctic chills and frozen earth, even during the most mild of field seasons.

Reports from Chapters and Affiliates



ELKO COUNTY CHAPTER:

Archaeology Fair

Elko County Chapter members are putting together an American Colonial Era **Traveling History Trunk** that will be loaned out to teachers and educators as a resource for teaching students about everyday life of an average family during colonial times. The trunk will consist of reproduction objects, resource materials, teaching plans, and activity ideas for 3rd through 5th grade students. The reproductions include eating utensils, household objects, clothing, games, writing equipment and other replicas that represent the early American times.

The Elko County Chapter's **Peace Park Project** is ongoing. We are waiting for the ground to dry up so more testing can be done to



determine the extent of the site. A C14 date of the charcoal recovered from a buried hearth dates the site to 2400 b.p. Our plans are to uncover the hearth and protect it with a secure cover and a gazebo type kiosk with information signs describing this specific site as well as a brief description about the prehistory of the area. ⚓



NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION:

Lincoln County Rock Art Inventory Project

The 2010 fieldwork session of the Lincoln County Rock Art Inventory Project will be starting in spring and early summer, with fieldwork tentatively scheduled for early April, early and late May through to mid-June. Members interested in volunteering or with questions should contact Kim by email at info@nvrockart.org or by phone at **702-804-6723 ext 11** or **775-323-6723 ext 11**.

The purpose of this project is to collect baseline data on all known rock art sites in Lincoln County. Project volunteers will help with assessing site condition, determining site

boundaries, identifying rock art panels and design types, and mapping. Training will be provided in the field for those wanting to complete the practical component of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation recording certification.

The work will require some hard hiking, so volunteers should be in good physical condition. The crew size will be 6-8 people a day, so not all the days you wish to work may be available. Volunteers will be responsible for their own accommodations and food, but will receive a \$20/day stipend to help defray costs. ⚓

**The Nevada Archaeological
Association**

P. O. Box 73145
Las Vegas, NV
89170-3145

**Submit !!!
To the NAA Newsletter**

Submit your mini-reports (max. 5 pages
plus references), articles (1/2- 2 pages),
chapter reports, pictures, and upcoming
events to:

NAA Newsletter
c/o Elizabeth Dickey
1105 West Sunset Way
Carson City, NV 89703

Phone: 775-888-7478
E-mail: edickey@dot.state.nv.us

**“Hundreds
of good-looking
archaeologists
can’t be wrong!”**

We’re on the Web!
www.nvarch.org

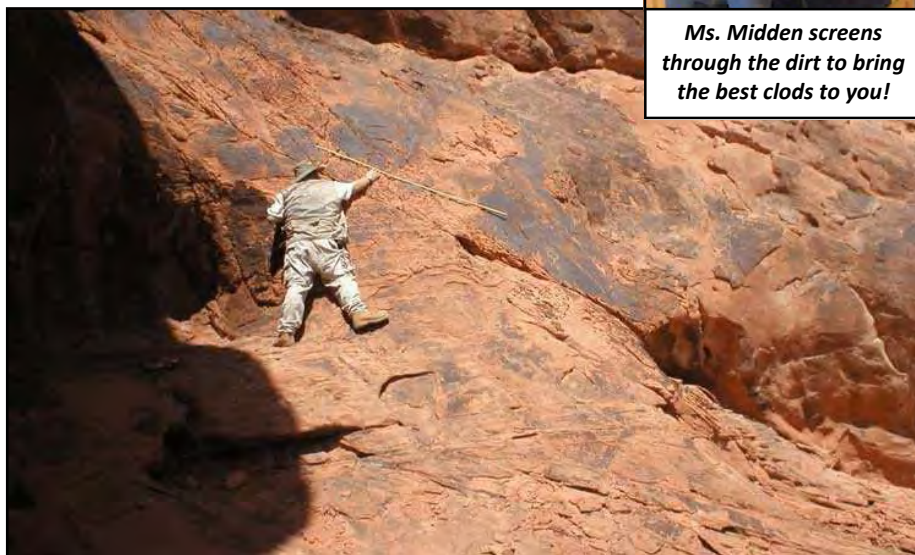


Ms. MIDDEN REFLECTS ON BIRD WATCHING

While Snipe hunts have long been out of favor in the rest of the country, Nevada is sometimes slow to catch on, as are it’s inhabitants. An auctioneering archaeologist, who should have known better, was sent up a canyon face, equipped with a “snipe stick” to search for the retiring little bird. Our zealous archaeologist made it 150’ up before his iPod battery died and he could suddenly hear the chirping, not of the snipe, but of his puerile colleagues below.



**Ms. Midden screens
through the dirt to bring
the best clods to you!**



“Walk vertically and carry a big stick,” is Ms. Midden’s sage snipe hunt advice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27 7:00 pm: Dr. Donald L. Hardesty, Professor of Anthropology at UNR presents *Archaeological Perspectives on the Pony Express in Nevada* at the Nevada State Museum, Carson City. Call Deborah Stevenson, 775-687-4810, x237 for more information. \$8.

June 5 11:00 am: **Lincoln County Chapter Annual Picnic and Lithics Presentation** by Will Reed of Utah, Kershaw-Ryan State Park. \$5 per car (park entrance fee.)

June 12 **Rock Art Documentation Training** offered by the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, Las Vegas. Call Kim, 775-323-6723 x11 for more information.

July 24 2:00 pm: **NAA Board Meeting** at the Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park . See article on page 8. **Free.**

Oct 6-9 **Society for Commercial Archaeology Conference** in Fayetteville, AR. Abstracts for presentations due **May 31**. Contact Christina at christina.slattery@meadhunt.com for details.



www.nvarch.org

Nevada Archaeological Association

Membership Application

Join the NAA! – just fill out this form and return to:

Nevada Archaeological Association
PO Box 73145
Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

MEMBER INFORMATION *Please print*

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr.

Last Name

First Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Email

Additional Member Names:

CHAPTER AFFILIATION *Check all that apply*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Am-Arcs of Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Steward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeo Nevada Society | <input type="checkbox"/> None (Member-at-Large) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchill County Chapter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elko Chapter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln County Chapter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Pine Historical & Archaeological Society | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada Rock Art Foundation | |

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular - \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life - \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting - \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional - \$10 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate - \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$1,000 | |

CODE OF ETHICS:

The purpose of the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA) is to preserve Nevada's antiquities, encourage the study of archaeology, and to educate the public to the aims of archaeological research. Members and chapters of the NAA shall:

1. Uphold the purpose and intent of the NAA
2. Adhere to all antiquities laws
3. Seek the advice, consent, and assistance of professionals in archaeology and/or history in dealing with artifacts, sites, and other materials relating to antiquities
4. Assist professionals and educators in accomplishing the objectives of the NAA
5. Be a personal envoy of the NAA and responsible for conducting themselves in a manner so as to protect the integrity of the artifacts, sites, or other material

I hereby agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Nevada Archaeological Association.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

All members now receive *In-Situ* electronically if an email is provided. Would you like to help us reduce costs and protect the environment by discontinuing your hardcopy mailing? ☐ Yes



Nevada Archaeological Association
P.O. Box 73145
Las Vegas, NV
89170-3145