



In-Situ



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Fall 2002

July 2002 Board Meeting

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

On July 19-20th NAA's board met in Wendover on the Nevada-Utah border. On Saturday, Ted Goebel and Kelly Graf led a field trip to Bonneville Estates Cave where they are conducting excavations this summer. After three years of excavations, they have unearthed valuable chronological and subsistence information about the caves occupants. Abundant organic remains include matting, basketry and cordage recovered from well-stratified layers. Last years C¹⁴ dates indicate use of the cave for at least 6000 years, but dates obtained this year extend this range farther back in time. Near the bottom of the shelter floor the crew recovered two stemmed points in association with charcoal dating to approximately 10,000 radiocarbon years in age.



In the picture above, the strata darkened by organic matter and charcoal, are easily

visible. Kelly Graf points out one of the many strata.

Our field trip also included visits to several sites on Hill Air Force Base. Jaynie Hirschi, the Air Force archaeologist led us to Snoopy Dog rockshelter where red pictographs remain on the wall above. An anthropomorphic figure can be seen in the following image.



Jaynie also led us to a spring site that bears evidence of use from prehistoric times into the historic period (42TO137). It bears the unusual name Mosquito Willie's. It is named after a desert recluse who lived and gathered and broke wild horses on the site during the 1930s and '40s, even after the site was designated as an Air Force range. We also visited a site called Deacon Ridge Village where a series of rock circles are scattered around a hill. Some of the house walls are up to three courses high and various pieces of debitage and tools litter the ground.

Thanks to Ted, Kelly, and Jaynie for leading the board and some of our Elko membership to these sites not usually accessible to the general public.

After the field trip, our board met at the Wendover library. Our conversation focused on modification of the student stipend to make it more attractive to University and Community College students and on our next annual meetings. See a separate article here to find out more about our next meeting in Boulder City.

Fall Board Meeting

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

Our fall board meeting will be held on October 11th in Elko Nevada. This meeting will be in conjunction with the Great Basin Anthropological Conference occurring October 9-12. The board will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Elko Convention Center. We aren't sure of the room number yet, but this information should be available when you come to the GBAC meetings. If you missed our Wendover field trip to Bonneville Estates Cave (see separate article in this *In Situ* issue), make sure you make it to the field trip during the GBAC meetings. Ted Goebel will again lead groups to the cave as part of the meetings. See you there.

2003 Annual Meetings

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

NAA's 32nd Annual Meetings will be held in Boulder City on March 14-16th. While we are not yet certain of the location, we are planning to focus on some of the history surrounding the town. On the Friday before the meeting, a historic can and bottle identification workshops will take place, and field trips to historic sites in the area will follow the meetings

on Sunday. Steve Daron is in charge of local arrangements. He can be reached at 702-293-8019 for information about Boulder City and the surrounding region. Anne DuBarton will serve as program chair.

Nevada Archaeological Association Student Stipend

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

Last year the NAA awarded a \$200.00 Student Stipend to Cheryl Martin, a UNLV student. At the 2002 Overton meetings, Cheryl presented a paper on her research at Tule Springs. In 2003 the Nevada Archaeological Association hopes to sponsor two Nevada students to present papers at the NAA's annual meetings. We will choose one student each from two different regions of the state to receive an increased award of \$300.00 to support a presentation of their research. The money may be used to pay for travel expenses, registration costs or other aspects of the chosen student's research.

Our meetings are held in early spring (March-April) at various locations throughout the state. The 2003 meetings will be in Boulder City from March 14-16. To apply for the NAA Student Stipend, send evidence of your student status (i.e., a copy of your student I.D.), a 1-page summary of your paper, and a letter of recommendation from a professor to:

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

Nevada Rock Art Foundation

Dr. Alanah Woody, Nevada State Museum

TRAINING: Alanah Woody will be conducting a training session for rock art recording at the Nevada State Museum on

Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th, 2002. Saturday's session runs from 9am until 3pm and will cover everything you need to know to volunteer and record rock art. Sunday will be the second part of the training, and you'll have a chance to record rock art at the Court of Antiquity, east of Sparks. This way you can get field experience, putting what you learned the day before into practice. Mark your calendars now and reserve a spot by calling Alanah at (775) 687-4810 ext 229 (days) or (775) 782-5990 (evenings). Now's your chance to learn how to do it right!

PROJECTS: Shooting Gallery - Recording rock art and other associated archaeological features at the Shooting Gallery complex for Mark Henderson (BLM Ely) is scheduled to begin September 10-17. This is a spectacular opportunity to see some fabulous rock art and participate in a really important project. The project continues October 22-28 or November 19-26 - call Alanah at 775.687.4810 xt 229 (days) or 775.782.5990 (evenings) to see if there's still room.

Lagomarsino - With the mapping of this spectacular site now complete (thanks to the Nevada Department of Transportation!), we need to do a bit of logistical planning. A few volunteers are needed to help correlate on-the-ground reference points and get ready for the recording which will begin next year. If you want to do a little survey Saturday September 21, call Alanah at 775.687.4810 xt 229 (days) or 775.782.5990 (evenings).

Court of Antiquity - as mentioned above, we'll be back out working on the Court of Antiquity site on Sunday September 29, 8am-? If you've done it before, just call Alanah to volunteer, but if not, then attend the Training Session on Saturday September 28, and you can go out the next

day to work at the Court of Antiquity (we'll be out to finish up October 19-20). This is a great site, only minutes east of Reno on I 80, horizontal bedrock (no climbing!) looking out over the Truckee River. It's in Heizer & Baumhoff (Fig. 116 & 117) if you want to get a very rough idea of what's there. Again, call Alanah at 775.687.4810 xt 229 (days) or 775.782.5990 (evenings) if you want to participate.

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation is off to a running start; more projects and events are being planned. But your help is still needed. If you haven't already done it, JOIN NOW! To make joining easier, a membership form has been included with this issue of *In-Situ*.

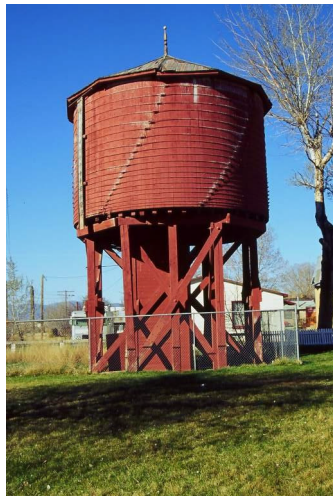
Central Nevada Historical Society Celebrates 25th

The Central Nevada Historical Society is celebrating their "silver jubilee" by restoring an historic house in Belmont. The house, last occupied by a Shoshone woman, Sarah Spud, needs a roof, rear wall support, and reconstruction of a stone retaining wall in front. The Society has plans for a secure display inside the house after the repairs are completed. You can help with money, time, or materials for the interior display. For more information contact the Central Nevada Historical Society, 1900 Logan Field Road, P.O. Box 326, Tonopah, NV 89049; phone (775) 482-9676; visit the website www.tonopahnevada.com; or e-mail cnmuseum@citlink.net.

Gerlach Water Tower

The Gerlach-Empire Senior Citizens, Inc. is raising funds to rehabilitate the Western Pacific water tower in Gerlach, Nevada. The tower was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in

1981, but is now rapidly deteriorating. An estimated \$50,000 is needed to complete the tower restoration. For more information, contact Patti Bakker, Gerlach-Empire Senior Citizens, Inc., 1755 Plumb Lane, Suite 170, Reno, NV 89502, tel. (775) 786-9955.



Western Pacific Water Tower in Gerlach.

Am-Arcs of Nevada

Am-Arcs took the summer off, at least in terms of attending meetings. Members went of field trips instead—the Pistone Petroglyph site in July, and the Star Canyon petroglyph and prehistoric site in August. Members also assisted with a July Passport in Time project recording Basque aspen art in the Toiyabe National Forest.

Am-Arcs resumed their meetings after the summer hiatus on September 11. Their guest speaker was Greg Gedney, an anthropology student from the University of Colorado, whose presentation was “The Archaeology of the Southern Stillwater Slough. Greg is plotting correlations between point types and landforms, and is finding correlations. Many of the points he is finding are dart points, Humboldts and Northern Side-notches. He believes that his research will extend the work of Elston

and Raven, who mostly found Rosegates and Desert Side-notched points.

The weekends of September 14-15 and 21-22, Am-Arcs members will be assisting with excavations Jamison Station. Jamison Station was established in 1852 as a trading post on the immigrant trail. Dr. Hardesty’s Cultural Resource Management seminar is using this site as class project, and they will supervise and participate in the excavations. They will also nominate the site to the Nevada Register of Historic Places with the assistance of Mella Harmon of the State Historic Preservation Office.

Several Am-Arcs members will be participating in the upcoming Great Basin Anthropological Conference, including Margo Memmott and Alanah Woody. Vivian Olds and her third grade class are also giving a presentation. Stop by and give them your support.

Archeo-Nevada Society (AN-S)

For information on AN-S activities please contact: Harold Larson at (702)228-3337 or Helen Mortenson at (702)876-6944.

Elko County Chapter News

The Elko County Chapter is keeping busy with a variety of activities, including the excavation of a prehistoric site near the Elko dump and assisting the Great Basin College with inventory and testing of prehistoric sites near Snow Lake.

Don’t forget to visit the ECC website at: <http://members.nbc.com/elkocccnaa>.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA)

Mike Horsley gave a lecture "The Sacred Shamanic Art of Horseshoe Canyon at the July 18th meeting of SNRAA. Horseshoe Canyon was previously named Barrier Canyon and is the location of the largest and most significant collection of pictographs on which the Barrier Canyon Style is based.

SNRAA had a brief summer hiatus during August. SNRAA member Howard Hahn, however, gave a free presentation, "Native American Music: Another Piece in the Puzzle" at the Flamingo Library conference room. Native American musical instruments were displayed, and some drumming and signing were presented.

SNRAA resumed regular activities with a monthly gathering on September 5. Thursday, September 19, 2002, Dr. Karen Harry, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies and UNLV, will give a presentation on the Rock Art at Heuco Tanks State Historical Park in Texas. The presentation will present a survey of the park's known rock art and an update on ongoing research and management, including insights on rock art protection learned at the Park.

Plans for October include a regular, scheduled lecture by Evelyn Billo and Dr. Robert Mark. In addition, Polly Schaafsma will present a free slide show and lecture entitled "Is There Meaning in Rock Art" at the Barrick Museum Auditorium, UNLV campus at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2002.

For more information on SNRAA activities, call the voice mail at (702) 897-7878.

White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society (WPHAS)

Upcoming WPHAS events include a September 22 field trip to Osceola and Cedar Breaks, lead by Dave Tilford. Tour participants should meet at 9:00 a.m. at the ATM machine in the Gorman's parking lot and provide their own transportation, food, and drinks. Guests are invited.

The annual business meeting, which includes nominations and elections of officers, will be this October.

For more information on WPHAS activities, visit their website at http://www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/historical_society/index.html.

News of Nevada Archaeologists

Peggy McGuckian Honored by OCTA

Peggy McGuckian, archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office was presented with a Distinguished Service Award at the Oregon-California Trails Association 2002 Conference in Reno. The Award was given to Peggy for her early, independent recognition of the importance of the Applegate-Lassen and Noble's Immigrant Trails in the Black Rock Desert, the research that went into the publication of *Immigrant Trails in the Black Rock Desert* (Bureau of Land Management, 1980), and her years of effort to protect all immigrant trails located on the lands administered by the Winnemucca Field Office. The Award is well deserved, and all NAA members are invited to extend congratulations to Peggy.

Gary Bowyer Honored by OCTA

Tom Burke, BLM State Office

Gary Bowyer, archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, was honored at the recent national convention of the Oregon California Trail Association, held in Reno in August 2002. Gary received a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding success in fostering historic trail preservation, providing public education and developing cooperative efforts in relation to OCTA's goals. His work to preserve trail segments near Fernley affected by a land exchange was particularly notable. Congratulations, Gary.

NAA Website

Don't forget to visit the NAA website: <http://www.webpanda.com/NAA>. The website lots of useful information, such as how to order your very own NAA mug, and contains links to related web sites.

Winter Newsletter

The Fall issue of *In-Situ* is scheduled for publication in early December. If you have anything you want included, send it to David Valentine by Dec. 15, 2002 via e-mail to david_valentine@nv.blm.gov, via snail mail to P.O. Box 1084, Winnemucca, NV 89446, or to *In-Situ*, P.O. Box 73145, Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145

Upcoming Conferences

The 28th Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be October 10-12, 2002 in Elko, Nevada. Paper and poster abstracts will be accepted through June 1, 2002. Contact Patricia Dean, GBAC Chair, Department of Anthropology, Idaho State University, Campus Box 8005, Pocatello,

ID 83209. E-mail: deanpatr@isu.edu. Phone: (208)282-2107. Fax: (208)282-4944.

The 42nd Annual Western History Association conference "Western Roots and Migrations" will be held October 16-19, 2002 at the Sheraton Colorado Springs-Colorado Springs, CO. For more information visit the web site: <http://www.unm.edu/~wha> or contact the Western History Association, University of New Mexico, 1080 Mesa Vista Hall, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1181. Phone (505)277-5234.

The Idaho Archaeological Society's 29th annual conference will be held October 25th and 26th at the University Place Auditorium in Idaho Falls, Idaho. This year's theme is "Preserving the Spirit of Place." There is a call for papers; send abstracts for a 15 minute presentation to Karen Quinton, 2777 E 2500 N, Twin Falls, ID 83301, fax to 208-655-4251, or e-mail to kquinton@filertel.com by September 20, 2002.

The 2003 Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology will be held January 14-19, 2003 in Providence, Rhode Island at the Westin Hotel. The theme for the conference is Trade and Industrialization. For registration information contact Michael J. Rodeffer, SHA Business Office, P.O. Box 30446, Tucson, AZ 85751-0446, telephone (520) 886-8006, or e-mail the_sha@mindspring.com

The Fifth World Archaeological Conference (WAC-5) will be held June 21-26th, 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, 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.

Results of a Great Basin Fluted Point Survey

Amanda Taylor

In the Fall of 2001, I began a senior thesis project on Great Basin fluted points. Because a systematic survey of these points had never been completed, I sent numerous letters to amateur and professional Great Basin archaeologists (as well posting an announcement in *In-Situ*), asking for information. I also collected data from articles about fluted point finds, and traveled to Reno to take measurements on the points in the Nevada State Museum collection and from a private collection from the Tonopah area.

As I read through the literature on the earliest peoples in the Great Basin, I became interested in addressing specific questions about fluted point technology. First, at what point in time did stemmed point technology supercede fluted point technology in the Great Basin? Second, why did stemmed points continue to be used after fluted points became obsolete? In addition, are Great Basin fluted points representative of the classic Clovis type?

By the spring, I had collected data on a total of 179 fluted points from 56 different locations, as well as on 107 contracting stemmed points from seven sites. I was then able to test various hypotheses in order to answer my research questions.

Regarding the timing of the end of fluted point technology in the Great Basin, my results appeared to confirm that it occurred by the end of the Pleistocene. A large majority of fluted points (90.2%) come from valley bottoms, while stemmed points are found in both lowland and upland settings. Assuming that people went where the food was, they would not have hunted and gathered very much in uplands until the climate warmed during the Holocene (Grayson 1993).

I next searched for an explanation for the fact that stemmed point technology persisted when fluted point technology did not. I hypothesized that if resources became sparser during the Holocene, then people would have resorted to eating a greater variety of plants and animals than they had before. As this change occurred, fluted points would have become inferior to stemmed points because fluted points were less versatile. Through statistical comparisons of various projectile point attributes, I found that fluted points were, in fact, better suited for a more specific function than were stemmed points: their shape, form, and material type made them perfect projectile tips, but fragile if used for scraping or thrusting.

Finally, I also tested the hypothesis that Great Basin fluted points are representative of the classic Clovis type. I found that in maximum width, location of maximum width, maximum length, and ratios of basal width, maximum width, and basal indentation, the Great Basin fluted point assemblage strongly resembles classic Clovis assemblages. However, in the number of flute flake removals, the amount of variation in basal width, and in maximum thickness, the Great Basin assemblage is significantly different from classic Clovis

assemblages. Although I am not certain of the precise significance of these results, I think that they suggest that it is important to study the fluted points of particular regions of North America, instead of focusing on the idea of a “Clovis People” that colonized this continent.

Thanks so much to those members of the NAA who sent data, encouragement, and advice—I greatly appreciate all of your help.

Reference Cited:

Grayson, D.K.

1993 *The Desert's Past. A Natural Prehistory of the Great Basin*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

Chinese Lumbermen in the Lake Tahoe Region

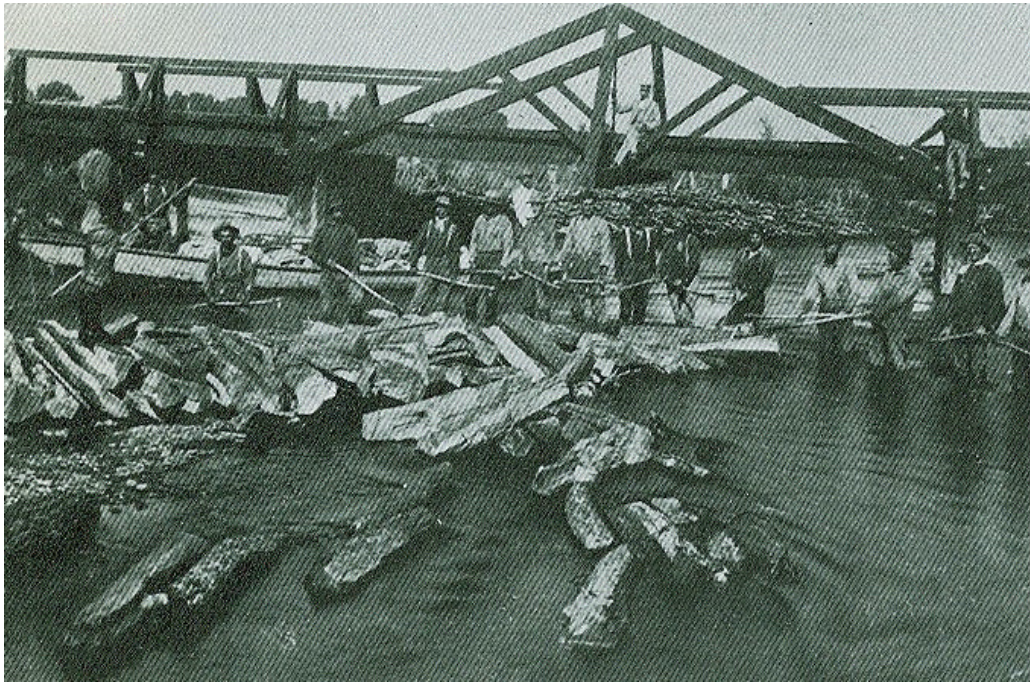
Sue Fawn Chung, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The timber industry in the Lake Tahoe region prospered twice in the late nineteenth century. With the discovery of gold and silver in the Tahoe Basin, the need for wood for the operation of smelters, construction of mines, making of charcoal, fueling of steam machinery, and general community uses, especially buildings, furniture, and wagons was critical. This started the first boom in lumbering between 1849 and 1870. When the transcontinental railroad was built and completed, even more wood products were required until the turn of the twentieth century when technological developments and the decline in mining led to a drop in the demand.

Who were the people who worked to supply the much needed wood products to the Comstock (Virginia City and Gold Hill area in Nevada)? In the late nineteenth century two ethnic groups were vital to the production: the French-Canadians, who took on many of the skilled positions and the Chinese, who constituted 82% of the total lumbering workforce by 1880. Little is known about both groups but this study hopes to shed some light on the Chinese experience.

The discovery of the Comstock Lode led to the first big demand for wood in the region. Between 1860-1881, the Comstock used approximately 2.6 billion board feet of lumber. Independent entrepreneurs and small companies did most of the logging and milling between 1850-1870. Mill towns grew up. At first lumbering companies hired skilled workers from the East Coast and Canada, but eventually used Chinese workers. The Chinese cooked for the lumber crewmen, built and tended flumes, constructed and maintained irrigation systems, built and maintained the narrow gauge railroads, leveled roads, cut cordwood, loaded and unloaded wood, and transported the wood. Some independent Chinese wood dealers also worked in lumbering. Among these was the Quong Hing (also spelled Kong Hing) Company, Sun Han Tong Company, and Hong Yick and Company, all of Carson City.

Between 1864 and 1869 the Central Pacific Railroad (CPR) was constructed. The Chinese constituted about 90% of the workforce of between 5,000 (1864-65 and again in 1869) to 12,000 (1868-69). By the time the CPR reached present-day Reno, the workforce was cut to 5,000 since the most difficult route had been completed. Chinese workers cleared



Loggers, including some Chinese men, at work in the Tahoe Basin.



Ah Can, a Chinese lumberman, on the job.

the road for the train and this involved cutting trees. The CPR also used large amounts of timber for ties and to fuel the steam engine. Although the CPR contracted with some independent companies or individuals for the lumber, they probably also used some of their Chinese workforce since some of the Chinese worked in the lumbering in China.

The federal census manuscripts for 1870 and 1880¹ give an approximation of the number of Chinese that might have been involved in the industry. In 1870 in Ormsby County there were 772 Chinese (21% of the county's population) and 72 of these lived outside of Carson City and therefore may have been involved in lumbering. Three men (Hi Sonee, age 32; Su Su, age 35; and Ah Hin, age 25) lived in Carson City and gave their occupation as woodcutters. By 1880 there were 45 woodcutters in Carson City, as well as one wood dealer, Hing Luck, age 40, married, one wood packer, Kong Chi, age 44, and one carpenter. The more prosperous related Chinese often created "employment families" as a substitute for the natal and extended families that were so important in South China. Out of the county's 972 Chinese residents (18% of the county's population), 178 lived outside the city and many of these men were probably involved in lumbering. In 1870 in Douglas County there were 24 Chinese (less than 2% of the county's population) and by 1880 they had increased in number to 157 (10% of the county's population). 52 of the latter lived in "The Mountains" and ranged in age from 18 to 65, with only 17 who were married. Another 38 lived in the lumber mill town of Glenbrook. 20 of these, ranging in age from 25 to 50 with 13 of them married but living separately from their wives (which was typical for the times),² lived in a boarding house next to M. E. Spooner, a wood contractor, and his wife. Next to Glenbrook was Chinese Gardens, presumably the Chinatown of that town. Glenbrook was the center of operations for the Carson and Tahoe Lumber and Fluming Company (CTLFC) that bought out many of the small, independent firms between 1871 and 1873. Duane L. Bliss and Henry M. Yerington, two of the major leaders in the business, controlled most of the lumber industry in the region until the closure of most of the business in 1898 and its demise in 1947. At the height of their activities, the CTLFC either owned outright or leased approximately 1/5 of the Lake Tahoe Basin, employing 500 men in milling, logging, and fluming operations as well as subcontracting to others. Yerington branched out into other areas and was a director of the Bodie Railroad and Lumber Company that hired many Chinese workers and sold lumber to the Comstock. It might also have sold lumber to the Chinese in the port cities of China, where new buildings were being built as international trade developed at a fast pace.

Many Chinese worked for the CTLFC. Just as the CPR had used the Chinese labor contracting firm of Quong Hing and Company, so the CTLFC hired Chinese workmen through Quong Hing and other merchandising firms like Chung Kee and Company. In 1871 the Virginia and Truckee Railroad (VTR), another Bliss and Yerington enterprise, hired Quong Hing to employ 100 Chinese workers to cut wood for the railroad. The manager of Quong Hing was Yee Non Chong or Ah Chung, better known in the community as Sam Gibson. According to Carson City plat maps, Sam Gibson and his wife owned at least five buildings in Chinatown in the 1880s and the four boarding houses probably were the living quarters of the Chinese workmen. Quong Hing owned one city block, from Stewart to Valley and Second to Third. Articles in the Carson City Morning Appeal in this period indicate that

¹ The 1890 census for the West was lost in a fire.

² The 1875 Page Law essentially required Chinese women to prove that they were legal wives and not prostitutes before immigrating to the United States. The 1882 and subsequent Chinese exclusion acts made it even more difficult for Chinese women to join their husbands in the United States.

Sam Gibson was one of the leaders of Carson City's Chinatown. Sam not only made money as a labor contractor but also prospered by supplying goods on a regular basis to the Chinese working in the Tahoe Basin. Quong Hing was the largest merchandising store in Chinatown in the late 1870s to mid-1880s. When the anti-Chinese movement directed toward Chinese involved in the lumber industry broke out in 1885-1886, Sam left Carson City with his wife and two of his three children. In 1892 when Duane L. Bliss visited China, the two men met again and renewed their friendship. According to records of the immigration service, in 1897 Sam's son, Yee King, returned to the Carson City and made enough money to make at least two trips to China. Yee King worked in the Quong Hing firm as well as in the railroad industry then moved to El Paso, Texas to work for relatives in a firm there.

The amount of lumber used during this era was staggering. The VTR transported lumber from the CTLFC facilities to the Comstock and used between 20 to 30 cords of wood during each of its 4 round trips at the height of Comstock mining. By 1872 the VTR reached Reno, thus connecting the region to the transcontinental railroad system. In October 1880 the CTLFC shipped 10,000 cords to the mines, mills, and construction projects on the Comstock. In September 1879 Sierra Wood and Lumber Company, headed by Duncan McRae, hired the Hi Wah Company to cut and cord wood almost 10,000 cords of wood for \$1.50-\$2.00 per cord, depending upon the size and type of wood. The work was completed by the end of November 1879. Some companies, most notably the Pacific Wood, Lumber and Flume Company headquartered in Virginia City, refused to employ Chinese workers. By 1880 the Pacific Wood, Lumber, and Flume Company had cut all of the trees in its 12,000 acres of land near Mount Rose for use on the Comstock within five years of its incorporation.

Upon completion of the VTR, some of the Chinese workers probably became cordwood cutters. In 1880 the Virginia Evening Chronicle reported that there were 3,000 Chinese cutting wood in the Tahoe region for \$1 or less per cord. Cordwood primarily is scavenged from leftover trees, stumps, roots, and brush. However, the price varied from \$1 to \$2.50 per cord and during cold winters in Virginia City when there was a shortage of cordwood, Chinese wood sellers could earn as much as \$60 per cord.

Some Chinese leased land for cutting wood. There was one notable attempt to buy public land. Fook Ling, a bona fide resident of Douglas County for several years, tried to purchase non-mineral public land in Douglas County at \$1.25 per acre, but Surveyor General C. S. Preble refused to sell him the land. The constitution of the state allowed resident aliens to purchase, own, and sell land. In 1883 the case went to the Supreme Court of Nevada (*State ex rel. Fook Ling v. C.S. Preble, 1883*) and it was decided that he was entitled to purchase public property.

A few Chinese were cooks in the lumber camps. Good food was important because single men tended to remain in the job if the food was good. Chinese cooks often bought fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables from Chinese growers, thus enhancing the meals served. CTLFC payroll records indicated that the head chef was paid \$40 a month and his two assistants \$30 a month. CTLFC purchased produce and fish from Chinese and non-Chinese sellers. The close relationship between a mill superintendent and a Chinese cook can be illustrated by the story of William Baird, superintendent of one of the Loma Prieta Lumber Company's logging camps in Watsonville, California and his cook Mock Get. When Baird died in 1905, Mock Get, devastated by the loss, committed suicide by hanging himself in the cook house. As a member of the Zhigongtang (Chinese Free Masons Association), an

elaborate funeral was staged and all of the loggers and their wives attended the event. Other stories of the same nature exist.

Flume construction workers and tenders also played a major role in the Lake Tahoe logging industry. For centuries the Chinese had built flumes, slipways (*liuzu*), and waterways to transport the logs in China. Therefore it was not surprising that many of the lumber companies hired Chinese workers as flume builders and tenders in the late 19th century. Flumes moved the logs from the forests to the sawmills and were very extensive. The main V-flume from Marlette Lake to Spooner Summit was 11,330 meters long and at its upper end was at an elevation of 7,800 feet. The water was regulated through a system of earthen dams, reservoirs, and ditches much like the irrigation systems used in Chinese farming.

By 1880 Chinese lumbermen felt the tensions of the growing anti-Chinese movement and formed a Chinese Carpenter's Mutual Protective Association in California. The association was headquartered in San Francisco, where there were at least four Chinese owned lumbering companies in Chinatown. It had a capital of \$300, established a minimum wage for their members at \$2 per day, assisted their members in sickness, and helped their members return to China when they were no longer able to work. Like the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, better known as the Chinese Six Companies, the association probably had branches in Nevada.

In 1882 the anti-Chinese forces won a major victory in getting the first of several Chinese Exclusion Acts passed. According to the Irish, who often led anti-Chinese movements perhaps in reaction to the discrimination they experienced in Great Britain, Chinese laborers could be hired cheaply and therefore took away jobs from "whites." Therefore Chinese laborers and their wives could no longer enter the United States. During the ensuing decades the immigration laws were more exclusionary until the 1924 Immigration Act effectively limited Chinese immigration to a very small number.

Not all Chinese involved in the lumbering industry achieved the status of wealth like Sam Gibson. A few, like Tom Bing Chew, did. Tom Bing Chew opened the Tie Hing & Company, wholesale and retail dealers in lumber, at 839 Clay Street in San Francisco in the 1860s. By 1893 the company had a capital stock of \$20,000 and 7 of the 22 members of the firm visiting China. On the other hand, June Young, who immigrated in 1872, made enough money to be able to travel to China twice before the industry collapsed, then he became a paper hanger in San Francisco's Chinatown. Wong Sam, who immigrated in 1882, eventually owned a lumber business in San Francisco's Chinatown by 1892, but when the financial difficulties arose, he moved to Ogden, Utah to find a completely different type of work. Some were even less fortunate. Day Kee, who immigrated in 1876, settled in Nevada, California for 11 years before moving to Dayton, Nevada. As a woodchopper who moved from camp to camp with his base in Dayton for over twenty years, Day Kee did not make enough money to go back to China and in 1905 still resided in Dayton. Woo Hing, age 35, was killed by a saw log in Ormsby County in 1870 – one of the few deaths of a Chinese person that was recorded. More work is needed in uncovering the experiences of Chinese workers in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the Chinese worked with the same tools as other lumbermen: cross-cut saws, axes, mauls, splitting wedges, files, shovels, black powder, nails, bolts, and so forth. Most, if not all, discarded their traditional Chinese soft soled shoes for western leather/rubber boots. They also ate American foods, especially in tin cans, to supplement their Chinese diet. They drank Chinese tea and liquor and ate imported foodstuffs

such as dried, pickled or fermented soybeans, cabbage, and other vegetables. Therefore the distinctive Chinese brown-glazed (*Jianyou*) utilitarian ware, Four Seasons and other dishware, traditional Chinese medicine bottles, and opium paraphernalia as well as refashioned American cans are found on sites. At one site near Lakeview, near Carson City, Nevada, it appeared that those who indulged in opium smoked apart from those who ate and played recreational games or musical instruments. They usually raised and butchered their own pigs but purchased beef from a non-Chinese butcher. They also purchased American foodstuffs and liquor. One unusual item now in the museum in Sparks, Nevada is a cast iron stove that was divided in two parts so that it could be carried on a Chinese shoulder pole. At one site in Spooner Summit, there are the foundations of seventeen structures with one larger than the rest. It probably served as the eating and recreation center while the smaller structures were equivalent to boarding houses. Another interesting characteristic was the moving of the roof of their cabin from one location to another. The roof was the hardest to construct and the most important for residential buildings. For those who originally were farmers in China, they continued their love for growing produce so that “Chinese gardens” often could be found in logging camps. Therefore while they adapted to their American environment, they also tried to maintain some of their traditional ways.

In June 2002 the U.S. Forest Service “Passport in Time” (PIT) volunteers, in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Reno and Las Vegas, excavated a single Chinese dwelling not far from Bliss Peak. The log cabin, located at the intersection of possibly three roads and near a water system or flume, was built with notched logs and had a cooking hearth-heater of rocks in one corner of the building. Near the hearth were pork bones, indicating the southern Chinese preference for pork over other meats. Among the items uncovered were parts of two opium tins, Chinese coins (used for gaming) and glass gaming pieces, indicating that the resident or residents partook of opium and enjoyed gaming as a pastime. Chinese pottery ware, tin cans, an American teapot cover, two obsidian arrowheads, a champagne bottle, and remnants of a leather boot were also found.

The Chinese played an important role in the development of the west not only in helping to build the transcontinental railroad but also in the timber industry in the Bodie-Lake Tahoe-Comstock economic network and perhaps in the U.S.-China lumber trade in the late 19th century as well. Their contributions helped to sustain the mining and transportation industries in the region. Some became prosperous but others barely made a living. The 1882 and 1892 Chinese exclusions acts resulted in a dramatic decrease in the Chinese population:

Year	Chinese in U.S.	Chinese in Nevada
1880	105,465	5,416
1890	107,488	2,833
1900	89,863	1,352

Because of the combination of the decline in the mining and lumbering industries in the Lake Tahoe-Comstock region, the advances in new lumbering technology, and the effects of the exclusion acts in the substantial decrease in the Chinese population, the Chinese no longer played an important role in the lumbering industry by the turn of the twentieth century.



The Forest Service's PIT crew excavating the Bliss Peak Chinese dwelling.



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