

THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sorry for the delay in getting the newsletter out this month. The Snitch had to go to Court in Las Vegas and you know how distracting that can be. The Snitch is going to deliver the message this month cause Jim is has his own, legitimate and serious distractions.

The message for the month is "COME TO THE GENERAL MEETING!! Here's what's going to happen at the meeting. The committee chairpersons will report on what they have accomplished over the last year. There will also be a discussion on what we have planned for next year. We will also be identifying those areas in which we need the help of our members.

The Prison will be open after the meeting and you can visit the locations that interest you. There will be docents, so to speak, spread throughout the institution to answer any questions you might have. The Board will also available to answer questions and take YOUR suggestions for the next year.

Tour Guides and Sweeps should especially attend the meeting as there is important information to pass on regarding the development of our tours for next year.

**SEE YOU AT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON NOV. 13,
AT 10:00 am. IN THE COURTHOUSE**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

This past month we welcomed Beverley Wickel, Samantha Singh and Amanda Elliot as new members. And prior board member, Wes Mattice, generously renewed his membership as a Life Member. Our Paranormal Tours added 34 new members this past month. We appreciate their avid interest in the Nevada State Prison. Our Nevada Day weekend promises to be an active one. **Our General Membership Meeting on November 13th at 10am is open to members and those who wish to join or are interested in volunteering in various capacities. Come and find out what we've accomplished thus far and what future projects are planned. See you there!**

Didi Chaney

PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT

With great surprise, and more than a little incredulity, I am pleased to announce that the final finish coat of "Haze Gray" epoxy was applied to the Visitor Room Floor. Cody, our great "painter", finished up and the floor looks great.



Continued:

The Admin Building is a little stinky, and that the floor is quite shiny. It was fully cured in time for the Model A Club tours on Friday, and really ready for its closeup by the time that people start arriving for their tours on the following Saturday.

This project has been in process since November 2019 (22 months), and I had been saying that Golden Gate Bridge was built in less time than we took to complete the floor. Glen disputes this, and sadly he is correct--the Bridge took a little over four years (January 1933 to April 1937). So, I'll revise my comment and state that the Empire State Building took less time--March 1930 - April 1931, a mere 13 months.

Next up: We'll repair as necessary, protect the murals, then paint the walls. Lee and I are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us paint. Minimal experience required, just get more paint on the walls than on yourself and the team :-)

We have some money in the grant contingency fund, and I propose we use that to replace the missing baseboards (also with volunteer labor).

Brew Brewster

TOURS AND EVENTS

We had a very successful tour of the local Model A club on Sept. 30. These were enthusiastic tourists and they asked great questions. They even made the parking lot look historic.



We have a full schedule of tours set for Nevada Day Weekend, and they are totally sold out. We will be touring NSP on all three days

HISTORY: Reno Gazette Journal 10-30-1877

1871, was not the only big escape attempt from NSP. This was another attempt by multiple inmates, involving gunfire. The outcome was different.

Continued:

Liberty or Death.

Desperate Attempt at Prison Breaking—
Two Prisoners Wounded, one Fatally—
A Short Combat and a Graceful Sur-
render—Bravery of Captain Mathew-
son.

About 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon the time arrived for the periodical attempt to break the State Prison at Carson. The plans seem to have been laid and understood, but appear rather clumsy in various details. At the hour named Captain Mathewson deputy Warden, and Gunnond, Captain of the guard, were in the upper story of the shoe shop. They were surprised by the nine or ten men who are employed in this department, and armed with knives came dashing up the steps crying "Liberty or death." The officers had no time to prepare for the shock and were overpowered and dragged down the stairs by the desperate villains, who had evidently determined to compel their assistance in liberating the other prisoners. One Belcher, who is under sentence for 21 years, was the leader and directed each movement of the forlorn hope. The villains brandished their weapons about the faces of their captives, and seemed to grow more savage at the prospect of their success, all the time repeating their watchword of liberty or death. Upon reaching the yard however, Mathewson resolutely raised the alarm although surrounded and in the power of his enemies. Then a struggle ensued between the officers and their captors, and the sentries hesitated to shoot because of the fear of killing the officer. During the affray Captain Gunnond was cut severely in the thigh by one of the ruffians, and affairs were getting desperate when Mathewson, with a round oath to the sentries, commanded them to shoot and never mind him. This order was obeyed, and Alec Johnson, one of the prisoners, fell to the ground mortally wounded. Captain Mathewson, the brave deputy, who placed his own life in peril, that he might defeat the attempt, was also wounded in the left arm slightly.

The desperate prisoners seemed to lose all hope when the sentries began to fire upon the crowd, and the leader, Belcher, told Mathewson that he was ready to surrender, thereupon the fire of the sentries was withdrawn and the desperadoes surrendered and were locked up.

The desperate men who made such a hopeless dash for freedom are given below:

Badarecca, under sentence for life; Kelley, of Reno, for life; Mattheyny, for life; Johnson, 12 years; Burton, 3 years; Crawford, 7 years; Estrade, 25 years; Allen, 7 years; Belcher, 21 years. Medical aid was immediately summoned from Carson to attend the wounded. The physicians found that guard Mitchell's aim had been unerring, and that Johnson's sentence was about served out, so far as this world is concerned. He is a Dane and was sent from Nye county to serve 12 years. Mattheyny, the other wounded prisoner, (imprisoned for murder) will probably live but was severely wounded. The officers were not wounded seriously and will soon recover.

The prison break occasioned great excitement in Carson, yesterday, and many words of praise were given to Captain Mathewson for his gallant conduct. The jail birds under his charge will hereafter lay better plans or choose some moment when the Captain is absent.