

THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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TOURS:

First tour on May 7, went off without a hitch.
Tickets for July and August tours went on sale
Monday the 16th.



STEPHANIE HUMPHRY GIVES A PARTING WORD

PROJECTS:

The Yard Labor Crew, and the Paranormal committee have been working on the weeds that perennially try to engulf the prison

Continued:

Joe Kinsley and Susan Bernard recently mowed in front of the Warden's House after hand pulling the tenacious weeds around the fire hydrant and Cupola. The lower yard has been treated with Ranger, but requires another application or two, depending on the weather. The protected area blocked by the rail needs weed whacking and has been hand pulled. Similarly, the cave and culinary need to be addressed by weed eater volunteers. Joe has acquired some old lawn mowers and a wheeled weed whacker.



SUSAN & THE MOWER



CLEAN & READY

On April 27th with the painting of the Visiting Room and Prisoner Art Room was finished. The painters were. Bill Humphrey, Terry Wingfield, Glen Whorton, Susan McCurdy, Terry Hubert, Joe Kinsley and Lee Perks. The only work left to be accomplished on the rooms themselves is the placement of baseboard.

We have been working on the Electrical systems at NSP for the last several years. As some of you know, the "basement" of the Administration Building, nicknamed the Sagebrush Room, flooded in the late spring of 2015. This would have been a minor annoyance—except all of the electric power for the historic buildings runs through a floor mounted transformer, and 1930s era power distribution panels. Fortunately, the power was cut before serious damage could occur. But that left NSP "in the dark" until October 2020.

Continued:

We hired an electrical contractor, and with lots of work, and a little luck, they repaired the water damage to the transformer, identified key circuits along the tour route, and Ecce lux! (behold, the light), the overhead lights came on in the Administration Building, the Visitors' Room, and most importantly, the very dark and scary stairway to the Execution Suite.

Admittedly, these were quick fixes, and got us through Nevada Day 2020 tours and the entire 2021 tour season. For 2022, we decided to craft a long-term solution.

In April, we engaged Briggs Electric to re-evaluate the lighting along the tour route. In one day, they installed switches to control the lighting in the Control Room, Visitors' Sally Port, Visitors' Room, and the additional rooms adjacent to the Visitors' Room. In the Cellhouse, they installed a new switch in long hallway outside the Execution Suite and brought power and lighting to the second floor Pipe Chase.

As a side benefit of lighting the Pipe Chase, we have identified the circuits that control the Corridor lighting and auxiliary outlets in the Cellhouse. We were also able to bring power to both the Infirmary (second floor of "B" Block), and the Inmate Laundry, which is now the Tool Room, affectionately known as Buca di Beppo (Joe's Basement).

The following days resulted in the removal of the inefficient, noisy, and failing fluorescent tubes, replaced by much more efficient (and quieter) LED tube lights. Thanks to Briggs, NSPPS was able to take advantage of a NV Energy rebate program, saving money on the new LED lights! With the life expectancy of the LEDs, none of the current hard working NSP maintenance crew will ever have to replace them!

Again, some of you may be aware that the Courthouse never lost power as it was on a separate service. However, there was a NV Energy issue at the pole that kept the Air conditioning and some of the lights in the Courthouse from working--NV Energy resolved the problem in March 2022.

The Education Department (second floor of the Administration Building) was on an additional separate service that never lost power, either. Continued:

During the filming of The Mustang, the crew used it for location services and on-site editing, so having lighting and power there was helpful! Since then, Public Safety has successfully used that area for Field Training.

As time and funding allows, we will bring lighting and auxiliary outlets back throughout the historic structures of NSP. Next on the list is C Block and the Culinary Building.

We have identified the power source for both, but in an unexpected bout of caution, we are proceeding slowly with both.

Depending on tour and other potential uses, we could restore lighting and outlets to the industrial areas in the North Wing, which would complete the project of restoring lighting and some power outlets throughout the entire historic Nevada State Prison site.

Huge thanks to our contractors, Lee Perks, and especially Tootsie Perks, [She's a good girl!!!] for their hard work, determination and diligence throughout these efforts!



LIT FOR TOURS

Continued:



CONTROL ILLUMINATED!



NEW SWITCHING MAKES OPENING / CLOSING EASIER

Continued:



SPOOKY PIPE CHASE LIT TO SCARE TOURISTS

The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution have donated a tree for the flagpole area of the front of Admin. This evergreen replicates the tress that lived in this area in the 1960's to the 1980's. Lee Perks is again our hero, bringing his excavator to attack the hard prison soil.



Continued:

PARANORMAL:

The Paranormal Committee continues their events and making a significant contribution to our income. The most dramatic of these events was a 19-person examination of the scary entities that inhabit NSP. These events usually start at 5pm and go till...



JOE KINSLEY POINTS OUT WHERE THE SCARY GUARDS LIVED

MUSEUM – COLLECTION:

Our Committee has completed the enlargement and printing of 52 pictures of the men executed on the Prison property. The next step in this project is setting up a display in the execution chamber. This should be accomplished before the end of the month. We are going to set up a similar display for the 32 men who have served as the Warden of NSP. Both these efforts were made possible with funds from the next tour date on the 31st. As a result of our meeting last month with Myron Freedman of the State Museum, Brew Brewster and Brian Hutchins took the State Museum Curators on a tour of the prison on Wednesday, April 13. The Staff were very impressed with the institution and saw opportunities for collaboration between us and the Museum. Specifically, their Outreach Coordinator and the Textile Specialist were very interested in working together.

Continued:

Unfortunately, our perception of this meeting was to demonstrate the Visiting Room's suitability as a display area for our artifacts AND artifacts on loan from the State Museum. This was not the case as the Museum Staff were not aware of our intentions to borrow NSP items that are in museum storage. This will thus require more meetings and the attendant delay in obtaining prison artifacts from the State.

The Committee is working to produce photographs of NSP through 150 years. This process has also been slow due to the response of vendors to enlarge and mount the photos. This is apparently the result of pandemic supply chain and employee shortages.

We'll keep plugging.

We are still accepting donations of any objects, documents, or photos related to NSP. You can contact Glen Whorton at 775-722-0394 or gvwhorton@charter.net to increase our collection and document our history.

With all this action we are still looking for more committee members. We have volunteer opportunities in:

Display design and construction,
Collection documentation, and
Oral history interviews.

HISTORY: NEVADA STATE JOURNAL, MAY 26, 1893

Here's a story from the Nevada State Journal, which is a reprint of an article from the San Francisco Chronicle. I have to admit that this story regarding the finding of a fossilized tiger at NSP has me a bit confused. Maybe I just don't understand 19th century journalistic humor. After all, there's nothing particularly humorous about 21st century journalism.

Continued:

**Corroborative Discoveries Among
the State Prison Fossils.**

Among the most interesting things discovered by the scientists in connection with the fossils and prehistoric tracks at the Nevada State Prison are the tracks of the saber-toothed tiger. These tracks, according to Professor Harkness' calculations, were made 240,000 years ago. The rock in which they appear was then mud, and the holes look as if they were made by a potato masher. There is nothing to show whether the animal that made them was feline, ursine or bovine, but the traces of neither claws nor hoofs, but the scientists, with commendable energy, were determined to leave nothing unexplained, and so at once pronounced the tracks to be those of the saber-toothed tiger. In view of the indistinctness of the tracks and the great length of time that is alleged to have elapsed since they were impressed upon the plastic mud, some rash scoffers made bold to question the reliability of the scientific diagnosis. Fortunately, these ribald jesters have come to grief. Warden Bell is not only a careful business man, and a competent manager; he is also a painstaking devotee of science. To him, therefore, is due the discovery that fully corroborates the hypothesis of the learned geologists and rebukes the ignoramuses. Following suggestions made to him by a newspaper correspondent who recently visited the Prison, and who knows as much as anybody about tracks made 240,000 years ago, Mr. Bell has completed some further excavations, and has found a complete specimen of the tiger-toothed saber, as well as the brass handle and leather scabbard of the saber. All these things are in an excellent state of preservation, and the finding of them strongly illustrates the great advantages to humanity which are to be derived from a scientific education and a trained imagination.

END

