

THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

P.O.Box 1991
Carson City, NV. 89701
(775) 722-0394
www.info@nevadastateprison.org
<https://facebook.com/NSPPS>
info@nevadastateprison.org

2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jim Wells, President
Maurice White, Vice President
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LeRoy A Perks, Planning
Vacant, Tours
Wes Mattice, Collections
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Myron Carpenter,
Honorary Board Member

CADRE:

Brian Hutchins, Legal Counsel
Glen Whorton, Editor
775-7294
gwwhorton@charter.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

After a successful trial over Memorial Day weekend, the Board approved a regular tour schedule for the rest of 2021. Tours will be offered the first and third Saturdays of each month through October along with extra tour days on holiday weekends, including the 4th of July, Labor Day and Nevada Day weekends. Demand has been strong with many weekends already sold out. There are still available tours on Labor Day and Nevada Day weekend, so book your tours soon! Information on available tours is on the following website:

<https://buytickets.at/nevadastatepreservationsociety>

We look forward to seeing you on a tour very soon.

Last month, I toured four prison museums in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming and met with their respective staffs. All were really helpful and were quick to offer us their assistance. While a couple of them benefit from being part of their respective state governments, the other two operate similar to us here at NSP. All four have been operating as museums for decades and offer a lot of insight into where we can be down the road. The good news is that they have all been

successful in their own way. We have a lot to look forward to and the future for NSP is bright indeed!

Upon returning, I heard from Mike Budge and Ernie Mayhorn that they will be resigning from the Board for personal reasons. Most recently, Mike was heading up the recruiting and training of new tour guides and Ernie is our Treasurer. Both came on to the Board last July and have been very supportive of the mission and vision of the Society. Mike intends to help us with tours as needed and Ernie has agreed to stay on until a new Treasurer is appointed. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank them for their hard work. I also want to thank Bill Fletcher who has stepped in to assist with managing the volunteers through the remainder of the 2021 tour season.

That does mean we are looking for two energetic individuals who are interested in the mission and vision of the Preservation Society to join the Board. It would be great if one of them had a background in finance or accounting. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact our Secretary, Didi Chaney, for a Board Application at valleyjobline@gmail.com.

We also continue to need volunteers for a variety of tasks necessary to keep the Society on the path to success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact one of us on the Board for additional information.

Jim Wells, President

BOARD:

It is Summer. Unfortunately, this meant that we did not have a quorum for the July 8 meeting. This meant that the meeting consisted primarily of information items. There was a phone vote to approve funding for the visiting room floor vote.

Continued:

We now have two vacancies on the Board. Treasurer Ernie Mayhorn and Tour Coordinator Mike Budge have resigned from the Board. We are now looking for candidates for Treasurer and an at-large member. We are a working Board and will entertain applicants with accounting, web skills; or event management skills. You DO NOT have to be a former Prison employee to be on the Board.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

We are so fortunate to be able to conduct tours again, so membership has increased to include the following new tour guides: Lily Irvin, Dana Robbers, Rachel Holderread, Kristi Chagoya, and Ed & Bianca Blohme. We also welcomed new members Chris Pitzer, Josh Rogers, James Robbers and Joyce Valentine. We hope you all have the opportunity to visit our State treasure and learn some of the history behind the “state pen.”

PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT

As indicated in the last issue, the tile has been removed from the visiting room. Lee and Bruce Purves have come up with a plan to repair the floor and paint it a lovely, original gray. This solution will conform to the historic appearance of the Prison and happily fits well within our budget. That budget was approved by the Board and work is scheduled to begin on, Monday, July 19th.

MISCELLANEOUS

A General Membership meeting for our organization has been tentatively set for Saturday October 23rd. Every member is invited. Surely the temperature will moderate by that time and the Courtroom should be comfortable.

Continued:

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED!!

We have conducted three training sessions for tour Guides and have another session scheduled for Sunday, July 18th. Our tours for the remainder of the year have been scheduled and tickets are available on-line. The schedule follows:

Proposed Tour Operation Schedule

Date	Number of Tours	Tickets per Tour	Number of Tickets
Sat, 19 June	4	12	48
Sat, 03 July	4	12	48
Sun, 04 July	4	12	48
Mon, 05 July	8	12	96
Sat, 17 July	4	12	48
Sat, 07 August	4	12	48
Sat, 21 August	4	12	48
Sat, 04 September	4	12	48
Sun, 05 September	4	12	48
Mon, 06 September	8	12	96
Sat, 18 September	4	12	48
Sat, 02 October	4	12	48
Sat, 16 October	4	12	48
Fri, 29 October	6	12	72
Parade: Sat, 30 October	6	12	72
Sun, 31 October	8	12	96

Tour Start Times

4 Tours: 10.00, 11.00, noon, 13.00

6 Tours: 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, noon, 13.00

8 Tours: 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, noon, 12.30, 13.00, 13.30

NV Day Parade: 11.30, noon, 12.30, 13.00, 13.30, 14.00 (Sat, 30 Oct)

Most of the tickets for these tours are sold out, other than Labor Day Monday and Nevada Day weekend.

<https://buytickets.at/nevadastatepreservationsociety>

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So, there are still opportunities for you to volunteer. The only requirement to be a Guide is to be a member of NSPPS. For more information or to volunteer you can contact at billfletcher123@hotmail.com , 775-315-2213

There is no deadline to apply.

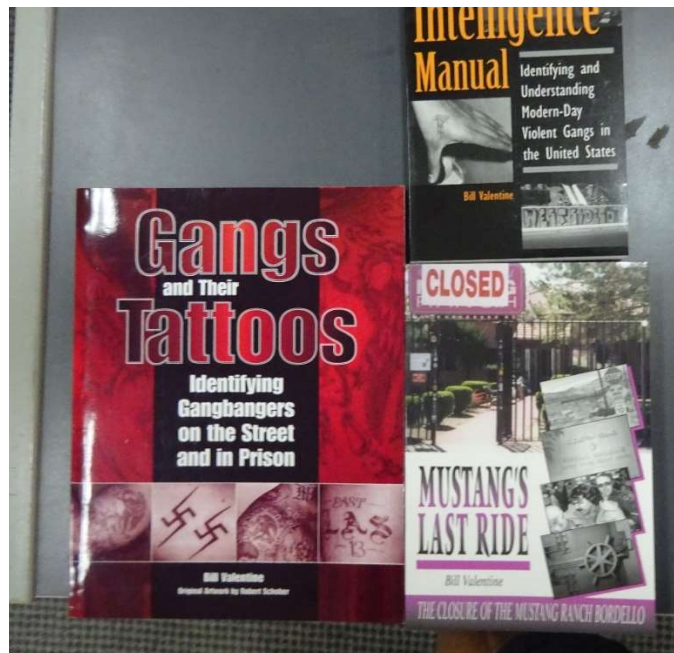
Our paranormal events are continuing. These events are generally late afternoon and night schedules, so if you are not afraid of the dark you can help out on these events by contacting Susan at:

Susan Bernard 775-434-3948
ssnbrnrd80.sb@gmail.com

COLLECTION:

We had some nice additions to our collection this last month. Shawna Halverson donated her Father's [Bill Valentine] modern uniform. This uniform displays the appropriate NSP patches, rather than the current DOC patches. The only item on the uniform missing is a hat badge. Bill worked at NSP and NNCC, where he kept an eye on the Snitch in the early 80's. Shawna also donated copies of three books that Bill wrote. Two of the titles document prison gangs in amazing detail. The third book is a really interesting work on Joe Conforte and his involvement in the Mustang Brothel, local and State politics, and NSP. The books will be available for sale in our store. Shawna also included a beautiful set of antique cuffs.

Continued:



Bianca and Ed Blohme donated three huge photos of the Prison. These pictures are now hanging in the entrance of the Admin area. They are perfect for demonstrating the changing configuration of NSP to our tourists. Bianca and Jim are also working on developing donations to produce and display historic photos along the tour route.

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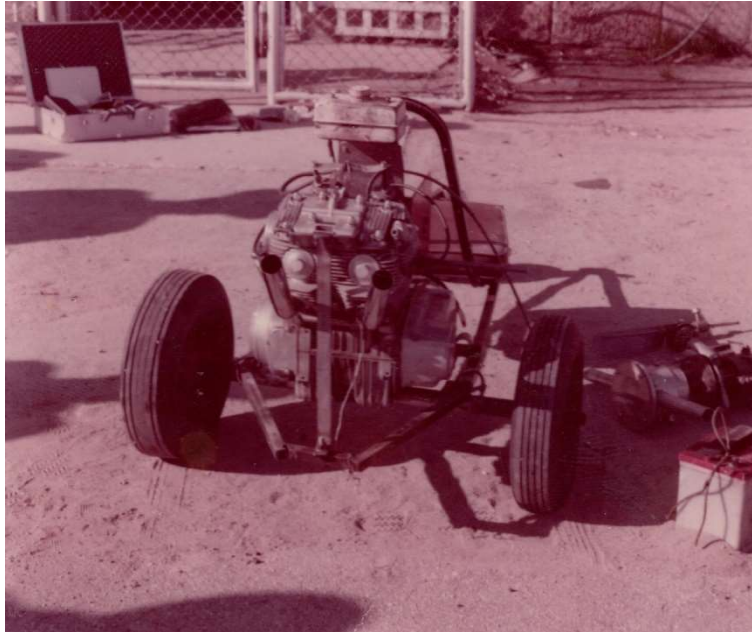


The Blohmes also donated many photos of NSP that were taken by Jim. These will be available for purchase in the store.



Continued:

Former Dept. of Corrections Investigator Kenny Wright has donated a box of investigative materials through the help of Joe Kinsley. These materials include investigative reports, lists of inmate aliases, shanks, and photos. There are two really interesting photos in the box. These are pictures of the “helicopter” being built by the inmates in the maintenance shop of NSP in 1982. I don’t think it was going to fly but it makes a great story on the tour. It’s a shame the DOC dumped the helicopter when NSP was closed



HISTORY: 7-22-1876 Nevada Appeal

The Prison has always been a big deal in Nevada History. The location of the prison was a decades long fight between Reno and Carson City. Legislators and business people from Reno constantly criticized NSP as an inadequate structure in an inappropriate location. This fight reached such a level that the State actually started construction of a replacement institution in the Reno area. Carson had the Capital so Reno thought it was only fair that they had the Prison. This almost prison was built on the property where the State Hospital in Sparks stands.

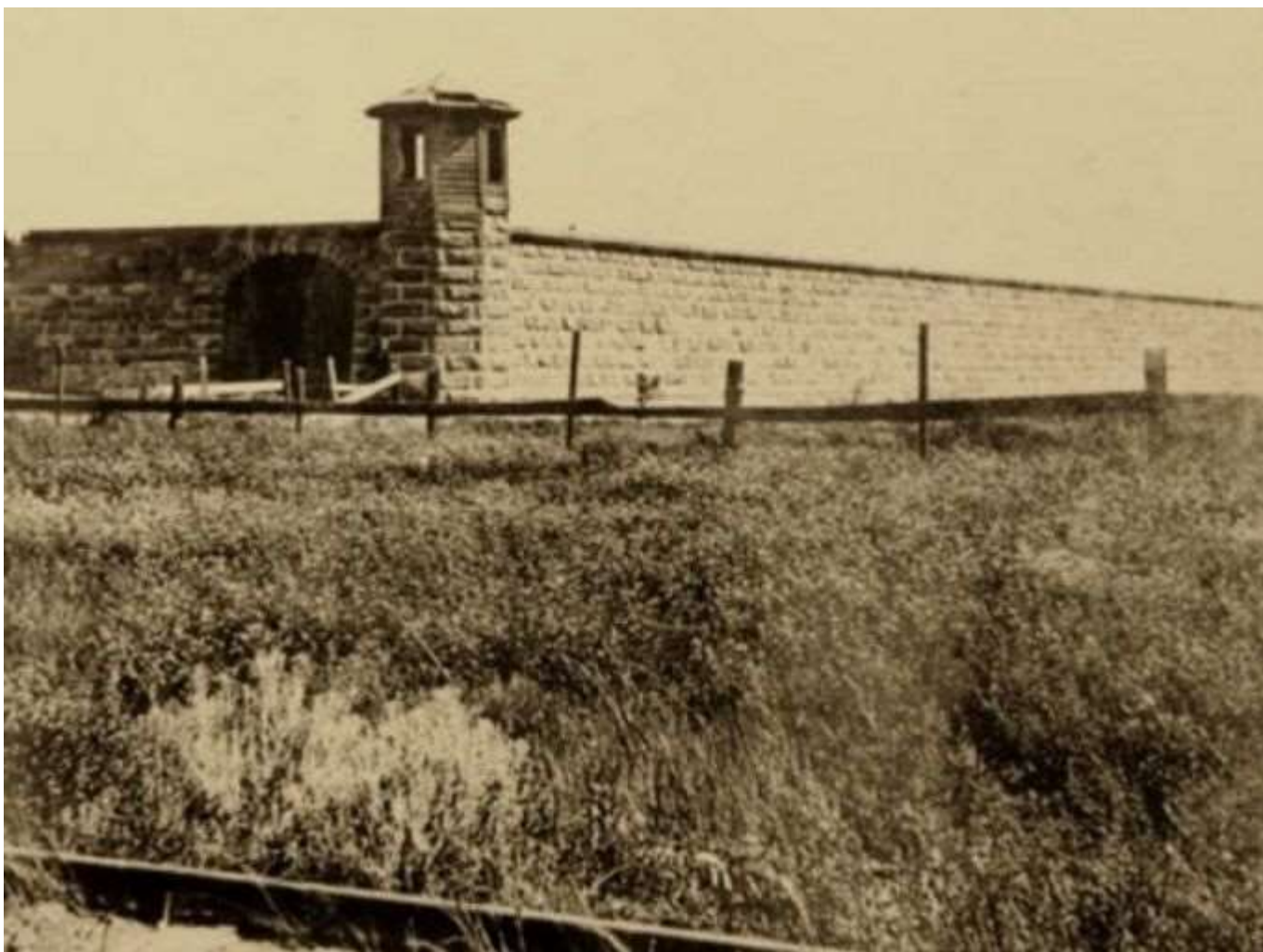
Skeptical? Check out the photo of the walls of the Reno Prison following the article.

Continued:

THE NEW STATE PRISON NEAR RENO.—

In yesterday evening's Chronicle we find the following description of the new prison near Reno: The wall can be plainly seen from Reno, though almost a mile distant. It is nearly twenty feet high, with a bottom thickness of over five feet, gradually tapering to four feet at the top. The inclosure is square, comprising 25,000 square feet, all surrounded by the massive wall. Facing the railroad will be the prison building, while at each corner of the walls a handsome guard house has been constructed. These guard houses are an ornamental and attractive feature of the prison. They surmount the huge wall at each corner, and can only be entered outside of the wall by means of a circular iron staircase. From the house the guards have a full view of the entire prison inclosure, and, besides, are able to walk all around on the top of the wall. S. F. Hoole is the contractor. The masonry was sub-let by him to Mr. Richardson of Reno. All the stone was got at the present State Prison, at Warm Springs, and shipped by rail direct to the new structure by means of a side track from the C. P. road. When completed the new State Prison will be the finest on the Coast. The locality is a magnificent one. It is situated within a few hundred feet of the Truckee river and only a hundred from the C. P. Railroad. The grounds are perfectly level and capable of thorough irrigation and cultivation. The fall of the Truckee river is so great that irrigating canals can be constructed at only a small expense, and any part of the great Reno Valley thoroughly supplied with water. After the new prison is occupied the manufacture of boots and shoes will only be a small portion of the industries carried on instead of being as now the most important and almost only one. ;

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RENO STATE PRISON

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