

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

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Wes Mattice, Collections
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gvwhorton@charter.net
775-722-0394

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Between the Winter season and a community under siege, the Board is currently under hiatus. Given the latest COVID siege we have not scheduled our classes for Tour Guides, but they are coming. This does not mean things are not happening. That will be obvious with the news that follows.

PROJECTS: Visiting Room/Museum

We are waiting for temperature to rise in the Visiting Room so paint will adhere properly. We'll be doing this ourselves. Terry Hubert is project leader and will be asking for volunteers who have paint rollers, brushes, and few spare hours.

MUSEUM – COLLECTION

On 1-4-22, John O'Neil of Carson City donated an inmate painting of an owl. It's a dimensional piece combining oil and canvas to produce an owl that juts out from the surface. It was painted by inmate Roger Morrival in 1970, and was originally purchased by Pete Peterson. Pete was a long time Prison and Parole & Probation employee. Pete passed away and John bought it from Pete's estate. Inmate Morrival was convicted in Clark County with a life sentence. This was later reduced by the Pardon Board. He was paroled to Reno where he built a successful graphics business. He and his wife were killed in a motorcycle accident in 2001. The painting is somewhat large at 28x35 inches.

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The Snitch recently purchased a high-speed, duplex, color scanner. He has started a project to scan all the “orange cards” held in the Department of Corrections vault. Until the early 20th century inmates did not have a file for important documents related to their imprisonment. What the Prison used were 5x8 cards with the inmates legal and physical description. These cards go all the way back to the 1860’s through the 1970’s. They are a gold mine for inmate information

NAME M.R. Preston.	Received May 29, 1907.	No. 1177
Aliases	Discharged	
Crime Murder 2nd degree.	Paroled	Color White
Term 25 yrs.	Pardoned	
County Humboldt.	Parole Revoked	Age 34 yrs.
Finger-print	Returned	
Classification		Lineman & Electrician.

CRIMINAL RECORD				
Prison	Name	Number	Crime	Term
July 29, 1906.				Term expires with full commutation. No record of Discharge.

NAME PRESTON, Morris E.	No. 1124
Aliases	Color White
Received at Nevada State Prison May. 29, 1907.	
County Humboldt.	
Crime Murder 2nd. Deg.	
Term 25 years	months from
Term expires, with good time allowance, JUL 29 1924	
Discharged	
Fined \$112.28, 1914.	
Pardoned	
Remarks Died in Los Angeles May 9, 1924.	
	6 yrs 10 mo 29 days

BERTILLO INDEX				
Head	Body	Feet	Hand	Foot
11.2	1.4	11.2	27.2	45.8

PRIOR RECORD					
PRISON	NAME	No.	OFFER	From	To

CIRCULARS				
Identifi-	Discharge	Escape	General	Extra
100				

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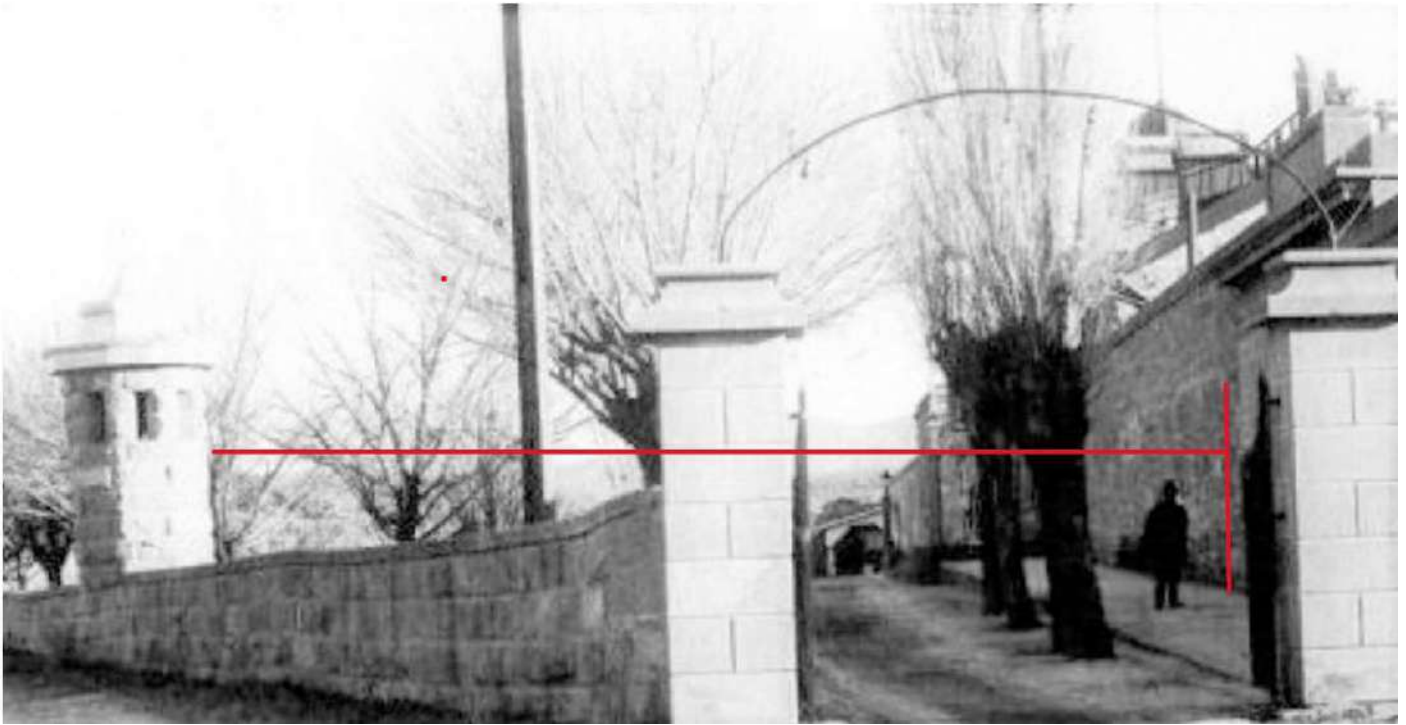
To help catalog these cards we have obtained a copy of the index of inmate files from the State Archives. This information is being entered onto an EXCEL spreadsheet that can be organized by name, ID number, or year of incarceration. This spreadsheet can be completed using the cards for inmates who do not have files at State Archives. This will be a great help in assisting people trying to find their criminal ancestors!

To me the most exciting development this last month was determining the location of the Warm Springs Hotel. While working on a lesson plan I discovered an old photo of the front gate that dates from the early 1900's. You can tell the date based on the telephone/electrical pole near the gate. The photo was somewhat dark so I used my photo editor to lighten it a bit. When I did this, a man standing inside the gate became very clear. The photo was printed and his height, with his hat on, was estimated at six feet

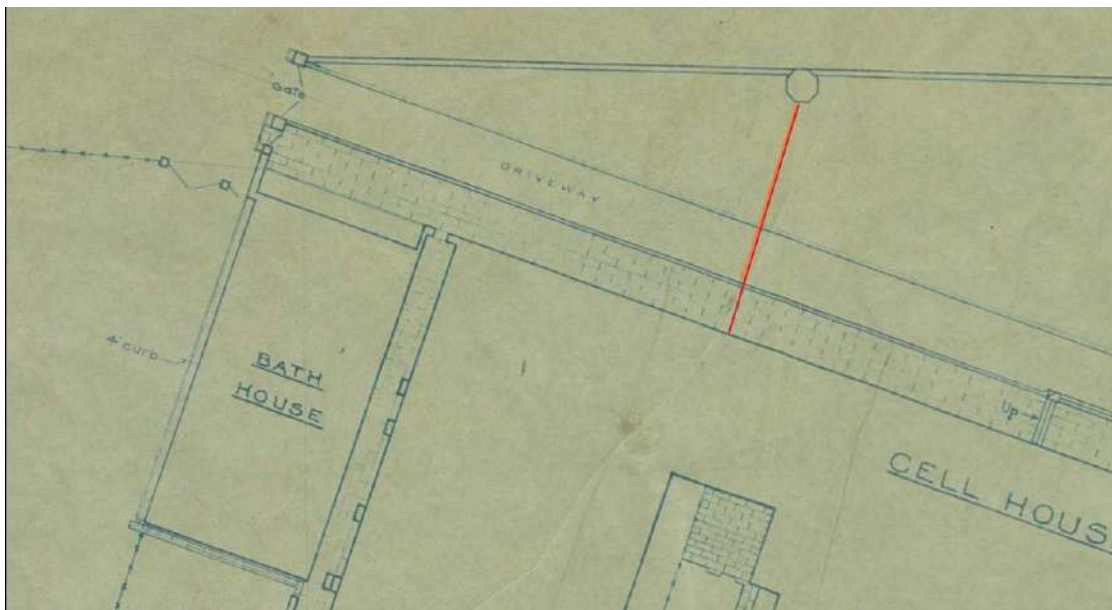


I then used a pair of dividers set to his height on the photo and walked them across the photo on a line from the gun post to the front wall of the Hotel. That resulted in a distance of 45 feet from the gun post. This assumes that the two story gunpost and the present one story gunpost are in the same location.

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To confirm this I checked the 1920 plot plan that we have. This plan showed the gunpost and the 5th street wall. The scale of the plot plan is 1 inch = 30 feet. Measuring from the gunpost to the wall also resulted in a measurement of 45 feet.



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We have wondered a long time where the hotel was. The first photo shows the stepped façade of the hotel and the eagle so we know we have the hotel identified. The only question is whether the location of the gunpost has changed. My assistant and I went to the Prison and measured 45 feet straight from the gunpost to an imaginary line parallel with the current building. We marked the front of the Warm Springs here:



VP Maurice White standing at the front of the hotel. We believe the front door would have been just to his left.

On the 19th Glen and Brew met with the Curator of the Nevada Historic Society [NHS] to discuss a trade of our NSP newspaper index for copies of all documents, photos, and art held by the NHS. The Curator was very excited about this collection of almost 5,000 news stories about NSP. She will be seeking approval of this trade from her supervisors next week.

Glen and Brew also visited the Keck Museums at the University to view the fossilized footprints from NSP. We spoke to the Curator of this museum regarding the possibility of obtaining a casting of these footprints. He indicated that the University has the capability to scan the fossils and construct facsimiles using a 3D printer. He provided us with contact information for the applicable staff. We will be pursuing this as a possible exhibit for our museum. The following pictures are not great as we had to take them through the glass of an exhibit cabinet,

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GIANT SLOTH



PREHISTORIC HORSE

It should be obvious that we are ramping up activities to develop a museum before the opening of our next tour season. So we are seeking volunteers who would like to work on this project. If you are interested contact Wes Mattice at 775-883-8708, or Glen Whorton at the address in the newsletter banner.

To go along with this, we are asking for the donation of any items, documents, or photos related to the history of NSP or people associated with NSP. Use the same contact information for Wes and Glen.

HISTORY: Nevada Appeal 1-13-1897

Alice Maude Hartley was the center of a huge criminal controversy in the mid 1890's. She was convicted of killing State Senator Murray D. Foley when he refused to acknowledge the unborn child she was carrying as a result of his raping her. She claimed he attacked her during an argument and she shot him in self-defense. The fact of her pardon is evidence of the mixed opinions of her guilt.

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Mrs. Hartly Pardoned.

Yesterday morning the Board of Pardons granted a pardon to Mrs. Hartley. The vote in her favor stood Governor Sadler, Judge Bonifield and Judge Massay. Against: Judge Belknap and Attorney General Judge. Attorney James Dennis made her fight before the Board, and as soon as the pardon was granted he sent her word to the prison. On hearing the good news she burst into tears and became hysterical.

She had hoped against hope before and suffered the disappointments, so when she heard the news, the long strain was over and she gave way to her feelings, as is the usual way with women who are overcome by strong emotion.

END