

THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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The Snitch

“A big part of my problem is that I like a nice cold beer after a cold beer.”

TOURS/EVENTS

We have set the dates for Guide and Sweep training. These events will be as follows:

Saturday 4-13-2024 – Basic Course

Saturday 4-20-2024 - Advanced Course

Saturday 4-27-2024 - Basic Course

Saturday 5-4-2024 - Advanced Course

All new and current Guides and Sweeps should plan on attending. An example tour dialogue and notecards will be available at the training to help with consistency of dates and numbers. Classes will be held in the Admin area of the prison, starting at 1PM. Bring a zip drive. Reservations are not necessary.

The Board has also approved the tour date schedule for next year. The dates are circled in blue on the following calendar:

2024 Calendar

January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31													
May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30																				
September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

NSPPS TOUR DATES

Contact Karen Denning to schedule your participation dates. New Guides and Sweeps should also be scheduled, even if you have previously been to training. We are trying to get more consistency in the information we present.

Karen Denning
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YARD LABOR CREW & PROJECTS

Big News! On January 22nd, roof preparations will begin for the Courthouse HVAC. This will make that portion of the prison habitable in both winter and summer. This month's Board meeting had to be moved as the prison was just too cold for a meeting. Originally, the project was approved for \$12,500. The board authorized a \$2,500.00 increase for Lee to use his discretion in completing the Museum Room Air Conditioning project.

The project will make the museum portion of our tour bearable for the visitors and our volunteers. This will also result in the movement of the store into the museum area so our store volunteers will be comfortable, and they can keep an eye on our artifacts.

Burn season closes this week but Terry Hubert and his crew have been burning and cleaning up the weeds.

MUSEUM

One of the projects we're working on is the scanning of the orange cards held by the Department of Corrections. If you go to State Archives you'll find that not every inmate who was incarcerated at NSP had a file. Back in the day, only inmates who were considered by the Pardons' Board had a file. Because of the massive space need of State Records for storage, what files the Archives possess have been purged of everything but judgements, orders & letters related to pardons or parole, and maybe a mugshot.

An alternative document was what the prison called an 'orange card'. This 5x8 card [yes they're orange] contains the basic identification and legal information for almost every inmate. These cards also note interesting events that involved the inmate. As there are 10's of thousands of cards, we are focused on scanning the cards of inmates who escaped, were executed, or were involved in significant violence. We're also looking for interesting inmates. These are inmates like Jack Meredith who escaped, and ghost wrote the book "Pots 'o' Gold" for Warden Penrose.

Leafing through the early cards has disclosed a couple of interesting trends. These statements are anecdotal and not supported by a true 'statistical' review. It appears that:

- Women and Chinese inmates were mostly imprisoned for selling liquor to Indians. I suspect this was because women and older Chinese were limited in what they could do to earn money to keep body and soul together.
- There was a high tolerance for violence. Time after time you see inmates who have committed murder or manslaughter released after serving a few years; as little as one year on a life sentence!!!??
- Hanging was not as prevalent as the old cowboy movies would have us believe. There are some instances where murderers with death sentences were commuted to Life, with subsequent releases in a few years that would outrage our present-day community.



NAME	Thomas Flynn.	Received	Aug. 29, 1870	No.	47-H 3
Aliases	Mat Rafferty	Discharged		Color	White
Crime	Grand Larceny -Att.to Rob	Paroled		Age	30
Term	5 years & 2 years	Pardoned	July 9, 1889	Classification	Miner
County	White Pine	Parole Revoked			
Finger-print		Returned			

CRIMINAL RECORD

Prison	Name	Number	Crime	Received	Term
	May 1, 1871:-Escaped from Prison.				
	May 7, 1871:-Arrested and returned to Prison by Sheriff C.W.Pegg, Washoe C				
	June 12, 1871:-Delivered to Sheriff Washoe Co. charged with Burglary.				
	July 16, 1871:-Recd. from Sheriff Washoe Co.; convicted of Burglary and sentenced for 9 years from expiration 2nd sentence.				
	Sept. 5, 1871:-Recd. from Sheriff, Ormsby Co.; convicted of Breaking out and escaping from State Prison; sentenced for one year from expiration all other sentenced.				
	Sept. 17, 1871:-Escaped in Break.				
	Oct. 6th, 1871:-Returned to Prison.				
	Mar. 5th, 1872:-Delivered to Sheriff Ormsby Co. to be tried for Prison Breaking.				
	Mar. 15, 1872:--Convicted and sentenced for 10 years from expiration of all former sentences.				
	Feb. 16, 1875:--First sentence expired.				
	Nov. 2d, 1876:--Second sentence expired.				
	July 29, 1878:--Killed Prisoner Wm.H.Betharas in Prisoners Dining Room.				

--Over--

The staff of the newsletter was recently taken on a tour of the State Museum by Gene Hattori, the Curator of Anthropology & Paleontology. Knowing our interest in the prison Gene rolled out some objects that he thought would convince us that sloths, not giant men, walked the muddy meadows of Warm Springs

This is a sloth shoulder blade. Although none of these 3 objects were found on NSP property they were found in the Great Basin. They are about 14,000 years old.



The label says sloth hair and hide. For 14,000 years this is an amazing State of preservation.



Sloth poop!! Now that's just wrong. You've got to admire the professionalism of a paleontologist who collects, much less knows what sloth poop looks like. None of these items are on display so we are grateful to Gene for showing us the remains of these Nevada giants.



HISTORY Nevada Appeal 1-28-1885

You know, there are not a lot of kids these days that dream about becoming a prison guard or warden. Most of us who have worked in the business came to it unexpectedly and perhaps necessarily through dint of the need for a job. However, as the following article relates, employment at NSP in the 19th century was so desirable that it was thought necessary to provide criminal penalties to control the process of the Warden's selection. I know the antique legalese can be awkward, but you should read the article to the end.

THE STATE PRISON BILL.

There was a discussion in the Senate yesterday over the bill placing the election of a Warden in the hands of a Board of Commissioners and the result of the discussion was a drawn battle which will be resumed today.

At that time the House report of the Prison Committee was not before the Senate, had it been, there would have doubtless been a more decisive vote for the bill.

A portion of the report is printed in another column. It calls attention to the trading which a Warden is compelled to indulge in to secure his election, and the promises he is obliged to make to secure votes.

If this has been indulged in, the persons engaged in these transactions should be criminally prosecuted under sections 90 and 91 of the election law of the State which reads as follows:

SEC. 90.—Every person who gives or offers a bribe to any officer or member of any Legislature, caucus, political convention, committee, primary election, or political gathering of any kind, held for the purpose of nominating candidates for offices of honor, trust, or profit in this State, with intent to influence the person to whom such bribe is given or offered to be more favorable to one candidate than another, shall be guilty of felony, punishable by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or ten years imprisonment in the State Prison, or both such fine and imprisonment.

SEC. 91.—Every person who, being a candidate at any election, offers or agrees to appoint or procure the appointment of any particular person to office, position or employment as an inducement or consideration to any person to vote for, or procure, or aid in procuring the election of such candidate, or person not being a candidate, who communicates any offer made in violation of this and the preceding section, to any person with intent to induce him to vote for, or to procure or aid in procuring the election of the candidate, shall be deemed guilty of felony, punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Here is the current statute:

NRS 218A.960 Person prohibited from bribing or using other corrupt means to influence Legislator.

1. A person shall not give, offer or promise, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gratuity or reward to a Legislator, or attempt, directly or indirectly, by menace, deceit, suppression of truth or other corrupt means, to influence the Legislator to give or withhold the Legislator's vote or to be absent from the House of which the Legislator is a member or from any committee of the Legislature.

2. A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

END