

THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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Lynne Knack, Treasurer
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Marti Cockell, Store
Rose Kinsley, Store
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The Snitch

“I’ve Reached the age where my brain has switched from, I probably shouldn’t do that to; What the hell! Let’s see what happens.”

TOURS/EVENTS

Our tour season is over, and we were able to sell every ticket we offered. We did have more no-shows than we expected, and the Board is considering changing the sequencing of the ticket sales so people will not forget their dater, or there is less time for personal events to interfere with their attendance.

We will be having basic and advanced tour guide/sweep classes during the winter. We will provide a schedule of classes in the next newsletter.

Like many museums, we are developing a looped video presentation on the history of the prison. Obviously, this will be a chronological history of the prison rather than the presentation dictated by the tour route. We will be testing our looped historical presentation for criticism and suggestions at the tour training.

Our President, Maurice White, is working on the development of a Halloween event at NSP for next year. Both Maurice and our Secretary, Didi Chaney, toured the Reno event and were

really impressed with the professionalism of the company. The company has already hired an individual to begin the implementation of our event. Brian Hutchins is developing a contract that will make the event possible.

PARANORMAL

Susan Bernard and her crew did a Ghost walk on Oct. 26th, and has an interesting picture and story to share.



“So, I had asked everyone to sit on the bleachers so I could take a picture. After I took the picture, I said ok let’s start the ghost walk. I did not see this until I got home, and I contacted the group and they also confirmed on our web site Nevada State Prison Paranormal that nothing was behind them and were all freaked out. I hope to do a lot of ghost walks throughout the year and much more. “

YARD LABOR CREW & PROJECTS

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This is a quiet time of year with the end of the tour season. That means that Terry Hubert and his crew have been burning the weeds in the yard.

Lee Perks is working on getting a contractor and a schedule for the repair of the roofs. This action will take place next Spring, but we want to be ready to go when the weather turns.

MUSEUM

Continuing to stage the Warden and secretary's offices. They will be ready for next season's tours. We have received an important donation from the Bernard family for the Warden's Office. Their father was Warden at NSP from Jan. 1951 to Apr. 1959. The donation included some dramatic art that was done by inmates.



WARDEN BERNARD



NAOMI BERNARD

They also donated personal items that Warden Bernard used in his office. This is wonderful to have items of such clear provenance and attachment to the history of NSP. My personal favorites are the pipes that were always to hand in most of our photos of him.



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Another small triumph for the Museum was the capture of a set of bars, with door, to be used by our tourists for proper prison portraits. We have long noted the presence of the bars in the junk yard alongside the NSP maintenance building. The other day the Snitch intercepted John Meyer, the NSP/WSCC Maintenance Supervisor, as he drove up to the building on the BIG NSP forklift. Thanks to John the bars were moved to a spot in front of Admin. We now have an appropriate NSP photo opportunity for the next tour season. The question is whether we clean them up or leave them in their current scruffy state.



We have several projects that we wish to complete over the winter. We would like to document and perhaps develop a display of graffiti in the prison. We are also working on completing a large display of mugshots of some of the more notorious inmates in our history. This would include an accompanying write-up about the inmate. This project will involve working in the State Archives.

One of the problems we have in working with State Archives is that many of the inmates from the 19th century do not have a file. During this period an inmate only had a file if he applied for a pardon. Another problem with Archives is that old inmate files are not available until 20 years have passed after their departure from the Department. What the NDOC has is a collection of “orange cards” which details the data on almost all former inmates. We have a “visible file” cabinet that we would like to use to collect cards on significant inmates. This would involve scanning the cards in the central offices of the NDOC at the Stewart Indian School.

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If you would be interested in working on these projects, you can contact Glen Whorton at the email or phone number listed in the side banner on the first page.

HISTORY

We've found a couple of interesting things this month. We regularly cruise EBAY to watch for NSP items and usually see the same old postcards and the modern picture book. This time there was a postcard using a photo of NSP that we had never seen.



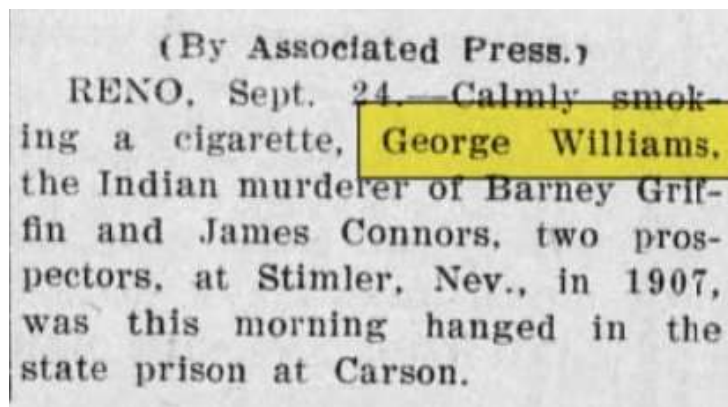
Obviously, this is a shot looking into the yard towards the northeast. It is after the 1925 construction, but the building looks pretty well worn. Perhaps the construction is incomplete. Looking at the old control area in the lower left corner of the photo, it is not secured so its original use must have been for some other purpose.

Another interesting find is an execution that has not been documented in any of the available lists of persons put to death at NSP. This is a list of the people executed at NSP before the use of gas. Note the time gap between Joe Ibapah and Andriza Mircovich.

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	Year	Date	Name	Method
1	1905	September 8	John Hancock	Hanging
2	1905	November 17	Thomas F. Gorman	
3	1905	November 17	Al Linderman	
4	1905	November 17	Fred Reidt	
5	1905	November 17	John P. Sevener	
6	1906	December 7	Indian Johnny	
7	1906	December 7	Joe Ibapah	
8	1913	May 14	Andriza Mircovich	Firing Squad (Machine)

The execution of George Williams noted in the Sept. 24, 1909, Associated Press story bridges that gap.



We have not seen George listed in any other reference to NSP executions. I guess we'll have to learn how to edit a Wikipedia article. This brings the total executions at NSP to 55. We will also have to adjust our dialogue for the tours and search out a mugshot for George.

RENO GAZETTE 11-29-1904

This is a great story. We get to combine an escape with fossils! You don't find that combination in many prison histories. What'll they think of next. CASINOS IN PRISON?? By the way, where did all these mastodons get to? How come you don't have one in your little museum, HUH?

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Through the efforts of a prisoner to escape from the state penitentiary at Carson City last week is due one of the most remarkable scientific discoveries of ancient or modern times. The news reached the Standard office last evening and in substance is as follows:

Monday evening at roll call a prisoner serving a life sentence failed to answer to his number and a search showed that he had evidently taken French leave. The fact was reported to the warden and he at once detailed several of the men to scour the surrounding hills for some trace of the absent criminal. The hounds were brought up, but they sulked and refused to leave the prison yard, seemingly unable to find the trail. The matter was kept very quiet as is the usual custom, but the search continued unabated.

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The afternoon following the prisoner's disappearance a guard at post three noticed one of a number of prisoners, who were busily engaged quarrying stone, deposit a package near a hole in the solid stone wall at the eastern end of the prison enclosure which the convicts had uncovered the day previous. Thinking the package contained nothing other than a new drill, the guard paid no attention to the affair until presently he saw a man's arm reach out through the opening and take in the little bundle. He instantly signalled the lieutenant of the guards, who straightway informed the captain. The convicts were all called in and locked up and Guard Joe Muller, who at various times has displayed great bravery, was selected to investigate.

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investigate.

With a dark lantern in his hand thoughts of his home and family in his heart, Mr. Muller entered the hole in the wall. A flash from his lantern revealed a circular cave much larger than the boiler of a modern locomotive, but quite the same in general appearance, with rib like bands of solid stone extending from the top to the bottom, connecting with a beam of solid stone at the top which closely resembled an enormous backbone of some prehistoric **mastodon**. He could notice no one in there, however. The strange appearance of the cave awakened in him a curiosity for further exploration. Elevating his light he noticed a globe like passageway some feet in front of him and just a trifle higher than his head. He passed along until he reached the place and by grasping onto the edge of the passage drew himself up and peered into the darkness. His lantern was then brought into play and the light showed that the passageway narrowed perceptively in the five feet of its length and then extended downward. He crawled to the further edge and shot the rays

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to the further edge and shot the rays of his light down the tube like passage. The piercing light revealed the form of a man a few feet below standing erect and with wide-open eyes staring steadily at the guard.

"God have mercy on me," escaped the lips of the man hunter, and the silence that followed was only broken by a voice from below saying: "Don't shoot me, Joe, don't shoot! You have caught me. Help me up and I'll go with you."

Muller, having by this time regained his composure, stretched out his arm and lifted the life-termer out from his hiding place, led him through the cave and passing out with his man turned him over to the captain.

The prisoner was searched and on him were found matches, tobacco, food and other articles that had been passed to him by fellow prisoners.

Muller lost no time relating his experience and the sights he saw. While his story seemed credulous, a party of

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guards and scientific men set to work the following day making researches. With the assistance of convicts, the party is extracting from the **prison** wall a petrified mastodon, the identical one no doubt that made the tracks which have given to the Nevada State **Prison** a reputation the world over. And it was in the petrified body of this mastodon that the prisoner was hiding, the aperture through which he entered being unquestionably the anus. When found by Mr. Muller the would-be escapee was standing in the petrified trunk of the huge beast.

The scientific men who are engaged in the work of excavation are of one belief to the effect that the animal was suddenly caught in the great upheaval which occurred about the time the tracks were made, estimated at 10,000 years ago, and was so positioned that it could not fall, though they agree that it is hard to account

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they agree that it is hard to account for the absence of the vital organs. Its great strength, they say, would enable it to stand under the weight of a mountain and that petrification is due to the properties peculiar to the soil in which it was found. At any rate the discovery forever settles the question as to the origin of the tracks.

While there is being little or nothing said about the find, pending further investigation, the news will shortly be flashed to the four corners of the earth and it is almost certain that the capital city will be a meeting place for scientists from all parts of the known world, while the state may enrich itself many thousands of dollars by placing the wonderful curio on exhibition.

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