

# THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



## Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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Joe Kinsley, Paranormal  
Marti Cockell, Store  
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## The Snitch

“When I went to trial, my only defense was that I was unsupervised.”

## TOURS/EVENTS

Are regular tours are proceeding without any issues. We are sold out but have been having a few no shows. Might be a problem with the long lead time for purchasing tickets.

On Sunday, 10-15-23, we had a special tour of the staff from the Washoe County District Court. 16 people attended and they were a really interesting group themselves. A lot of interaction.

Karen has some positions to fill on the coming tours so you should call her if you have some free time to volunteer.

You can contact Karen at: [karendenning21@gmail.com](mailto:karendenning21@gmail.com)  
775-220-0906

## PARANORMAL

Didi Chaney sent out a general notice this last week regarding the broadcast of the “Jack Osbourne’s Night of Terror” featuring NSP on Sunday night at 10 pm. The Snitch was locked down in the cell house at that hour and I imagine that it was a dark time for many of you. If you have Prime TV you can look

at Episode 3 of Season 1.

Continued:

## **YARD LABOR CREW & PROJECTS**

Not a lot to report this month. Burn season is coming soon so Terry will be out to NSP making smoke. Also, Joe Kinsley and Glen Whorton have done a lot of mowing in preparation for Nevada Day.

## **MUSEUM**

The medical cabinet pictured below was used in the prison. Unfortunately, at some point the glass on the left side of the cabinet was totally broken. That side was completely covered by a piece of white cardboard. It was definitely not ready to serve as a display cabinet. Getting the busted glass was a chore. Whoever put the glass in plastered over the retaining screws?? So, first it was necessary to find the screws (read digging & scraping) then came the wrist twisting effort to loosen the tiny devils from their steel and plaster prisons. We then obtained a pane of glass, even though it took us two tries to get the right size. Not my fault! We managed to get the glass placed with just a couple of little cracks and no injuries. Now we are looking for appropriate objects to place in it.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

We were able to contact Sgt. Clark of the Training Division of the Dept. of Corrections with a request for shanks to 'flesh out' our shank collection. Not only were they able to supply

shanks from their storage closet, but he called the Northern Nevada Correctional Center and had them contribute as well. These shanks are now in the display cabinet ready for our Nevada Day visitors.

We also got shank donations from former Director Bob Bayer & former Warden Jim Benedetti. Those weapons are also now in the case. It's looking pretty good & gets a lot of attention from the tourists.



The donations of Bob Bayer last week included some really interesting pieces. There was one shank that he once confiscated that was crafted to be a leg on a small gaming table. Pull the leg apart & there is an 11- & 3/4-inch spike blade. It's the most impressive shank the Snitch has ever seen.



**TABLE LEG**



**JESUS!!**

**Continued:**

Bob's donation included a couple other beauties. The first picture is of a Wilcox-Gay "Recordlo" These were marketed in 1939 & 1940. They were unusual in that they included a radio and phonograph that was capable of recording on a vinyl record. They were popular with performers for the recording of demo records. Ours is even more unusual in that it is configured as a radio AND public address system. This makes it even more unusual. This example was used at NSP in the 1940's. It is going to be staged in the Warden's office.



Another donation from Bob was a register of NSP inmates from the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is in beautiful shape. Although it is hard to read in this photo, this is the page for Ben Kuhl. Kuhl took part in the robbery of a mail stage wagon in Jarbidge, Nevada, US; the driver, Fred M. Searcy, was killed. The incident became a myth: "Staging a Robbery Without a Coach". While most of the evidence against him was circumstantial, a bloody palm print on an envelope led to Kuhl's conviction. Kuhl's trial, which began in September 1917, was noted to be the first time palm prints were used as evidence in a U.S. courtroom. State v. Kuhl also set the precedent that palm prints were as valid as fingerprints in criminal cases for identifying individuals.



STATE OF NEVADA--BUREAU OF PRISONS 175

NAME JOHN, B.S. U.S.P. NUMBER 2012.

ACTIVITY *Michigan* READY WRITER OCCUPATION *Bank*

AGE 22 HGT. 5' 10 1/2 WGT. 145 COMPLEXION *Light* EYES *Blue* HAIR *Dark*

RECEIVED *Dec 12 1917* COUNTY *Essex*

CRIME *Murder first degree* TERM *Death*

PAROLE APPLICATIONS *See note*

PAROLE GRANTED EFFECTIVE

PAROLE REVOKED

CONDUCT ON PAROLE

PAROLE REPORTS RECEIVED											
YEAR	MO.	PAR.	RE.	CON.	DIS.	PRO.	RES.	RE.	DIS.	RE.	REMARKS

PAROLE APPLICATIONS *None* EFFECTIVE

PAROLE GRANTED

CITIZENSHIP

REVISION EXPIRES

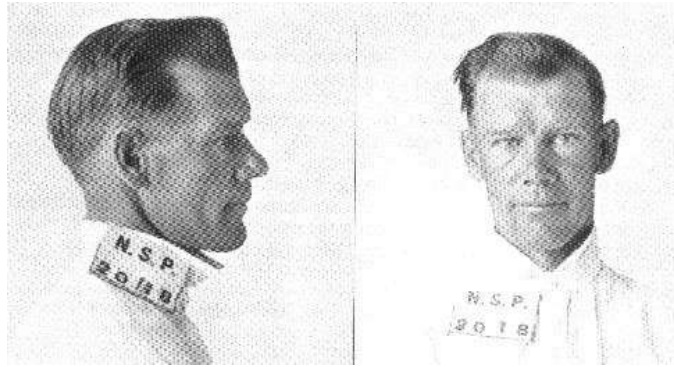
RECHARGED ON PAROLE

WITH OFFENSES

RECHARGED APPLICATIONS OF OFFENSES

REMOVED IN PRISON FROM... TO... STANDINGS



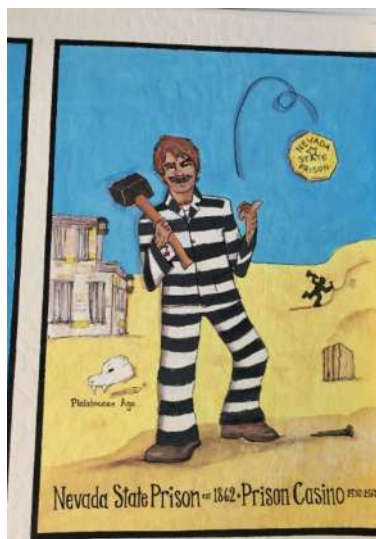


Ben originally came to NSP with a death sentence which was later commuted to 'life'.

Another item from Bob's donation was this beautiful sap. This is our third example of this type of prison weapon & it is the finest.



If you wander into the Carson City Tourism office on Carson Street, they have large painted wall posters of Carson attractions. We're on the wall!



**Continued:**

In the past we brought you the story of inmates working the quarry finding a live frog encased in solid rock. The following amphibian story is just as interesting, as long as you are not reading it at the dinner table.

**A Snake-Eating Toad in Carson.**

Mr. Pine, of the State Prison at Carson, yesterday related to a GAZETTE reporter a curious anecdote which illustrates the elasticity of the common garden toad. Two toads dwelt this summer in the pump yard of the State Prison. One day about two months ago a garter snake, sixteen inches long, wiggled into the pump house. One of the toads hopped forward open-mouthed, and commenced swallowing the snake. In a short time the snake had almost completely disappeared down the throat of its captor, leaving only an inch or two of tail projecting from the toad's mouth. The other toad had been quietly watching the proceedings, and at this stage came forward and began swallowing the tail. There is no telling what might have happened had the toads been left to dispose of the snake as might to them seem best, but Mr. Pine interfered and drew the snake from its snug lodging in the toad. An hour or two afterward a small snake of the same kind came into the pump house and was quickly gobbled up by the same toad which had nearly swallowed the large snake. Several gentlemen officially connected with the penitentiary vouch for the truth of this narrative. The remarkable thing about the story is that the toad, reversing the usual order in such cases, should have eaten the snake, instead of the snake the toad. The toad of this exploit still lives, and is shown to visitors as one of the interesting objects of the State Prison.

END