

THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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The Snitch

“Before I came to NSP I thought that a fish was something you ate, not my new cellie.”

(For those of you who did not work in Nevada prisons, a ‘fish’ is a new person in prison. A fish inmate is a new inmate. A fish officer is a new officer. We believe that the term ‘fish’ came from the fish belly white complexion of inmates arriving at the prison from a long stay in jail, without sunshine.)

TOURS/EVENTS

Our tour season is underway with our first event on Saturday the 11th. All went smoothly and every ticket was filled. We even had a late added tourists; refugees from Mark Twain Days..



JIM BENEDETTI GIVING THE SAFETY BRIEFING

May 14th & 16th we hosted a television production company at the prison. Mad Wife Productions out of Reno were onsite those two days to film scenes for a TV pilot. The premise, from our standpoint, was that NSP would stand in for a Federal Facility. The interesting thing about this fictional prison is that it was apparently coed. The scenes included the use of the cells, and the culinary. The culinary scenes had men and women prisoners eating in the chow hall at the same time. Interesting way to run a prison??!



RECORDING IN THE TUNNEL



MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLHOUSE



BETWEEN TAKES IN THE CULINARY

Continued:

The big event for the month was the fundraiser to F.I.S.H. The event was yesterday, the 18th, and drew 190 ticket holders plus the F.I.S.H volunteers. An event like this takes a lot of organization and Maurice White was the driver in getting us prepared for the event. We had a organizing meeting for our volunteers on Friday and the F.I.S.H. VOLUNTEERS WORKED ON GROOMING THE GROUNDS THAT DAY. The were helped by some of the staff from “Dark Corners” who were interested in what it takes to prepare for an event at NSP. They are working with us to develop a Halloween event. Early Saturday, tents were erected, porta-potties placed, and the caterers and band set up their equipment. Guests began arriving and 3:00pm and stayed till about 7:30. Clean-up lasted till 9:30pm. This was a long day for our volunteers. They were stationed and significant locations throughout the prison to answer questions from the guests and deliver the history of their area. There was a catered dinner, a raffle, and an auction.



MAURICE LEADS THE BRIEFING



TENTS ON THE YARD



AUCTION UNDERWAY Continued:



VOLUNTEERS JULIE SLOCUM & ALI CADWELL ENJOYING THE GRATIS DINNER

Our volunteers for the entire project were:

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|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jim Benedetti | Ali Cadwell |
| Karen Gedney | Lisa Walsh |
| John Newman | Julie Slocum |
| Dawn Wood | Chris Pitzer |
| Joe Kinsley | Terry Hubert |
| Brad Valladon | Ruth Hart |
| Joe Hart | Mary Lynn Atkins |
| Dave Pistora | Brian Hutchins |
| Jeff Lovelace | Lori Tonne |
| Marti Cockell | Maurice White |
| Glen Whorton | Karen Denning |
| Rose Kinsley | Kim Cunningham |

We'd like to especially recognize Joe Kinsley. Joe never fails to show up. He is a hard and skilled worker. Our grounds, buildings, and security would not be the same without Joe.

Continued:

MUSEUM



Former Officer Gary Wells attended the tour training that we presented in April. Gary is an expert on the prison brass coins. What was really interesting is that he showed us a guard's badge from past years. The museum staff have never seen an antique badge for NSP. Gary's own analysis of the badge suggests that it is genuine, and not a souvenir knockoff that you see for sale from some law enforcement agencies. The hardware on the back and the patina suggests its age. We have never seen a knock off NSP badge for sale on-line. Further, if one were to be selling knockoffs, they would probably not use the number '7' as an identifier.

In the same line, an important addition to the Museum was made this month. We now have a display of the brass coins used by the inmates at NSP for the Casino and for purchases at the inmate store.



Continued:

Glen Whorton fabricated the display and Jeff Lovelace secured the door to the Officer's observation room to secure these desirable coins.

HISTORY Reno Gazette Journal 5-25-1974

Even though most of us who worked at the Nevada State Prison [and who are still around] have never seen inmate Gene Austin, we all know who he was. He was notorious through the 1940's and the 1950's for his disruptive behavior and violence. Some of us usually reference Gene when we lead tours to the Cave and the years he spent locked up in its dungeon-like environment. Gene was convicted of shooting a woman through a window and killing her in 1941. He never gave a reason for this. After his release, he died in March of 1980, in Sacramento.

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CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — The man who has been in the Nevada State Prison longer than any other inmate will be paroled to a California convalescent home Tuesday.

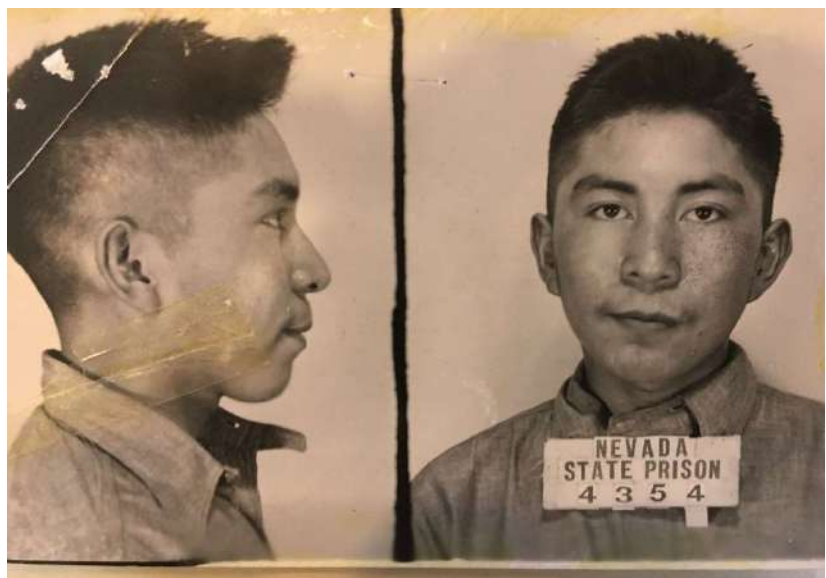
Eugene Austin, 51, blind and mentally crippled, will be escorted to the home in the Sacramento area by state prison officials, Parole Board Secretary Carl Hocker said.

Austin was sentenced to life in prison in 1941 at the age of 18 for the killing of a woman during a shooting spree in Fallon.

Prison officials said Austin went blind as a result of long years in a dark isolation cell and due to injuries suffered in prison brawls.

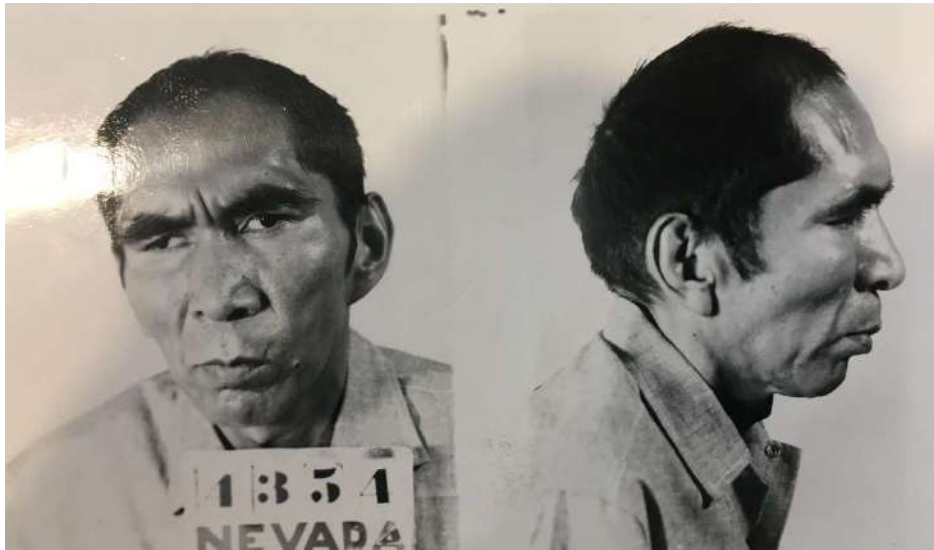
In 1953, in an attempt to control a violent temperament, Austin was given a prefrontal lobotomy, prison officials said.

Since then, he has been "extremely subdued and docile," Warden Ed Pogue said.



GENE IN 1941

Continued:



GENE IN THE 1970's

END