

THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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The Snitch

“I don’t watch those true crime shows on TV. I saw the play.”

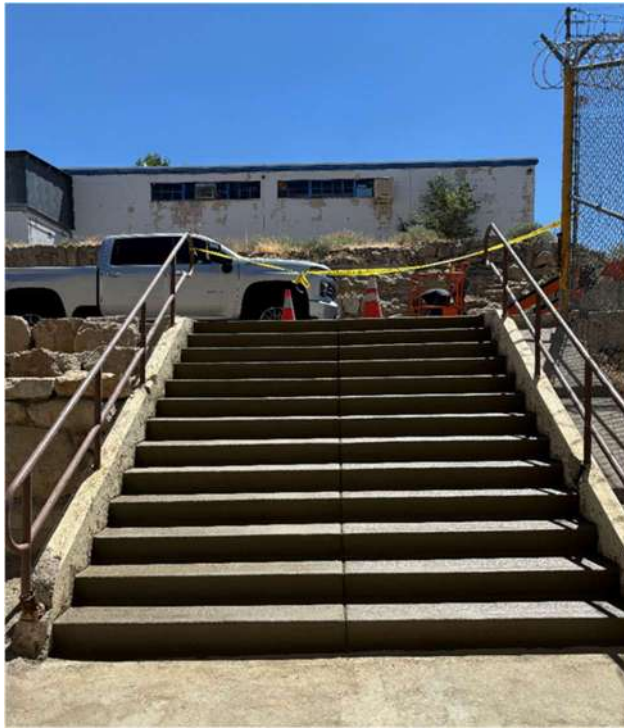
TOURS / EVENTS:

Those of us who have work on our tours will know that it is impossible for visitors with significant mobility issues to negotiate the stairs to the execution chamber. In order to satisfy the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act we have a laptop on the table at the base of the stair entrance to the chamber. This laptop is loaded with a presentation developed by Cooper Johnson, narrated by Ashley Johnson, written by Glen Whorton and produced by Lisa Walsh. This presentation will be available to tour guides for their visitors who cannot move up the stairs. This is a professional quality presentation for which we are grateful to Lisa Walsh and her team.

PROJECTS:

Lee superintended the tunnel stair project, and it is now complete. You may recall that these stairs were somewhat deteriorated, and they were then damaged by an organization’s trainees who rode their ATV’s up and down them. Although they are not directly on the tour route, their proximity to the tunnel and the max unit means that they are noticeable to our visitors. They may be new, but they look as if they were originally constructed.

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We were getting a lot of use out of the snorkel on the property this month. Primarily it was here for the contractor to repair 4 post. This post was becoming dangerous and required the supporting structure to be repaired.



LEE PERKS GETTING A LESSON IN SNORKEL USE

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Lee also arranged for the contractor working on 4 post to remove the air conditioners from the cell house and the infirmary. These air conditioners are an artifact from the 1980's and are not historic. Throughout the overwhelming life of the prison there were no air conditioners or swamp coolers. The were only added into areas where staff were stationed.



COMING DOWN



INFIRMARY'S CLEAR

MUSEUM:

On the Aug. 3 tour Saturday, we had a significant visitor. Joe DeWeese is a former officer at NSP who was employed here in the late 60's until 1971. He remembers working with many of the officers in the group of staff mugshots in the window of secure visiting. He still has many artifacts from his days at NSP including his 'bus driver's hat' with the eagle badge. Joe finished his law enforcement career by retiring from the Sparks Police Department.



JOE DEWEESE

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Several additions were made to the museum in the last month. We placed some appropriately crude stools at the 21 table to pretty much complete that display. We also placed some items on the table to represent the inmates' (and staffs') favorite addiction, smoking. We have a Brown & Williamson cigarette rolling machine, a Bugler tobacco can, Bugler cigarette papers, and the inmates' favorite, Unfiltered Camel shorts.

We also put together a display of postcards depicting NSP from the 1890's to the 1950's. Weird to think that a prison was a suitable subject for a postcard, but this was not unusual. If you look on Ebay you'll find many offerings of these cards, along with others from other prisons.



TAKE A SEAT STRANGER



SMOKE'EM IF YOU GOT'EM



WISH YOU WERE HERE!

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Another addition to the museum was a mask that was to be used in an escape attempt. It was found by the staff before it could be painted to look like skin. It was made with toothpaste molded to an inmate's face. As you can imagine, it is very fragile. It was donated to the museum by Ron Perini, retired Douglas County Sheriff, who was an officer/investigator at NSP in the middle 1970's.



On June 20, President Mo White and Glen Whorton met with the new Deputy Director for Programs at the NDOC, Emily Testwuide. At the conclusion of that meeting she gave us several blueprints of NSP that were in her office when she took over. One of these prints was a plot plan for the old cemetery on 'Boot Hill' and the newer cemetery inside the Warm Springs Correctional Center. This print was obviously interesting as they gave the location of some interesting inmates in our history. Including John Hancock, the first person executed at NSP and Gee Jon, who was the first person in the world executed by gas.

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BOOT HILL



WSCC NEW CEMETERY

This plot plan was drawn in 1942. Glen Whorton recently walked both cemeteries and it was obvious that both plot plans were incomplete and out of date. In the old cemetery the burials from 2011 (David ‘bang-bang Wayne) and two from 2020 were not documented. Further there seem to be 10 graves that are totally unmarked except for a 1”x 2” stick that is stuck in a circle of rocks. In the WSCC cemetery plot plan shows the oldest burial as John Kramer, executed in 1942. The newest burial found by Glen in this cemetery was from 1966.

These cemeteries need to be properly surveyed. The plot plans need to be corrected and updated. In some cases, the broken head stones need to be at least aligned in order to identify the inmate. Others have the small metal plaques that were provided by the

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mortuary. On many of these the lettering has fallen into the dirt and requires a little archeological dig to recover and restore to the plaque.



RESTORATION NEEDED

If you would be interested in this project you can give Glen Whorton a call, text, or email at the addresses listed in the newsletter banner.

HISTORY 8-29-1907 NEVADA STATE JOURNAL -- This escape attempt falls under of the heading; "If I can't see you, you can't see me."

<p style="text-align: center;">REGARDED AS DESPERATE MAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)</p> <p>CARSON CITY, Aug. 29.—John Edwards, a convict at the state prison, who was sentenced to serve 20 years for holding up the Oberon saloon in Reno, escaped this afternoon, but was later found by the guards hidden in the sagebrush, with his head buried in the sand.</p> <p>Edwards, in fright at the seriousness of his breach of discipline, lost his courage when he saw the posse approaching, and with the instinct of an ostrich he secreted his face, leaving his body exposed to view. He was carried back to the penitentiary, and locked in a strong cell.</p>	<p>Edwards was allowed to exercise in the yards during the day. Watching his chance, the prisoner saw that the guards were "napping," and then he climbed the high stone wall to freedom. Fifteen minutes after he was gone, a trusty told the captain of the guard. Warden Day was notified, and a party started in search.</p> <p>At 2 o'clock the wall was scaled, and at 5 o'clock Edwards was again in his place.</p> <p>Edwards is regarded by the police of Reno as a particularly desperate criminal. The night in April, 1906, when he robbed the Oberon of \$320, he tried to kill Captain Leslie Cadle and Patrolman Trembly of the Reno police. Edwards was caught after the officers fired 17 shots.</p>
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