



In-Situ



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Winter 2001

The End of the Year is Near

And that means that your membership dues are due! Attached to this issue of *In-Situ* is the membership form. Please fill it out and send it in along with some of your hard-earned cash (really not much!). The membership form is essential for NAA's membership secretary to track membership and keep the database updated. Your continued, and timely, support is also greatly appreciated.

2001 November Board Meeting

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

As per tradition, the winter board meeting took place in the warmer climes of Southern Nevada. We all converged on Searchlight late Friday afternoon for an evening presentation by Dave Valentine at the Searchlight Community Center. Dave presented some of his thesis research in a talk about Chinese placer mining in American Canyon.

Our Saturday field trip focused on the Nelson Canyon vicinity. The current owners of the historic Techatticup mine led us on a guided tour. We saw historic photographs and artifacts collected from the property and saw several 19th century buildings that are still standing. Then we entered the mine itself. After signing

in and receiving our assigned numbers (standard mining procedure to keep track of who's underground), we headed down one of the tunnels. The tunnels and shafts follow white quartz veins that contain gold and silver. While the portions open to the public are well lit, our guide turned off the electricity for a few minutes and the utter darkness of the interior kept us immobile. We could imagine the early miners using only candles to light their way and we could see how donkeys used to pull the ore carts went blind inside the mine. When we emerged from the mine we still had some time before the board meeting so we drove down to the end of the road to a place once known as Nelson Landing. The community that once stood where the steep-sided valley comes into Lake Mojave now lies buried beneath a massive mudslide.

The board meeting focused mainly on final details for the upcoming 2002 annual meeting to be held in Carson City. Bob Elston is slated to be the speaker for the Saturday night banquet and two field trips are in the works. One will visit Hidden Cave and the Grimes Point petroglyphs and a second will visit historic cemeteries near Virginia City. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

