

Silver State Peace Officers Museum

Preserving The History of American Law Enforcement



The Silver Star

Newsletter of the Silver State Peace Officers Museum

Volume 2, Issue 4

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www.PeaceOfficersMuseum.org

Year in Review

The museum will move from our daily schedule to our winter schedule beginning November 1st. We will be closed with the exception of special openings, such as Veteran's Day. We will open for next season around May 1st. It is a great time to reflect on our first year in operation and especially our first full tourist season in Virginia City.

It has been a successful season and we have enjoyed visitors from all over the globe. We have found that the majority of our visitors are somehow connected to the law enforcement profession, either active or retired officers or even the parents or children of current or past law enforcement. Those with no connection to law enforcement have given us rave reviews and they walk away from the experience with a renewed respect and expanded knowledge of our rich history.



This Kawasaki motorcycle served the Sparks Police Department in 1994. Kawasaki produced police bikes from 1975 until 2005. BMW and Harley-Davidson now control the police bike market.

This season has also brought new exhibit items including a number of new historical badges, firearms, and a 1994 Kawasaki KZ1000 police motorcycle.

The motorcycle made its debut in the Labor Day Parade and took its place inside the museum later that day. SSPOM board member Roy O'Connell rode this motorcycle from 1994 until assigned his replacement Harley-Davidson.

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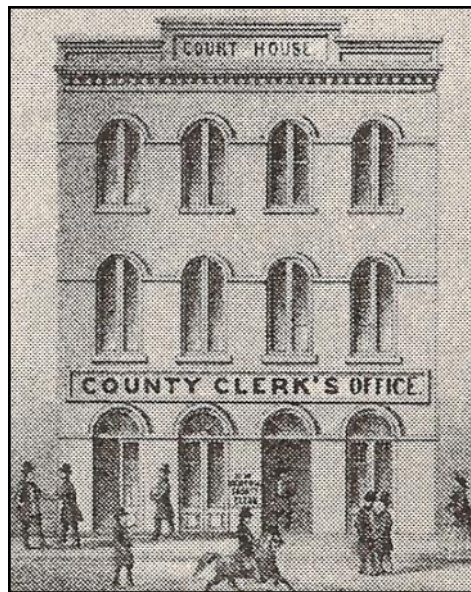
Historical Corner

Storey County Sheriff Thomas Kelley of 1874

Thomas E. Kelley arrived here in the west in 1857 and in Nevada in 1863. Like all others coming here, he was seeking his fortune. He worked as a miner at the Gould and Curry Mine for some time before entering law enforcement.

Kelley was eventually elected Chief of Police for Virginia City and served in that capacity until elected Storey County Sheriff in 1874.

As sheriff of Storey County, Kelley was a



Original Courthouse until 1865

lawman through the great fire of 1875.

Kelley was still sheriff on February 18, 1877 when the doors to the new courthouse and jail opened for use. Thomas Kelley served two terms as sheriff. His office was the first on the right when passing through the front doors of the courthouse.

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Find the museum on face book!



**Historical Corner
Unique Patrol Cars**

Law enforcement officers have throughout history worn many hats. It has always been said that they must have the knowl-

edge of a doctor, lawyer, psychologist, and even a plumber in order to perform their duties.

The Nevada State Highway Patrol until 1949 was actually an arm of the Nevada State Police but funding for Highway Patrol came from the Nevada Highway Department.



In 1936, Nevada State Highway Patrol troopers expanded their duties greatly when the Nevada Highway Department took delivery of two new 1936 Nash highway patrol cars equipped to serve as ambulances. These two-door beauties contained both a standard and collapsible stretcher as well as first aid equipment in order to sustain life during the race to the nearest hospital. The cars were purchased through Reno automobile dealership Heidtman Motor Company. One must note the very



Nevada State Highway Patrol 1936 Nash ambulance patrol cars

distinctive door insignia in the state shape.

The Nevada Highway Patrol must have been pleased with the Nash brand of car as they went on to use them later in history. The 1949 Nash police car shown at left served the Nevada Highway Patrol when new and now is owned by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office in California.

The Nevada State Police became the Nevada Highway Patrol in 1949. Patrol cars and uniforms for the agency in those days were second hand California Highway Patrol equipment.

CONSIDER MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Your continued support is vital to our success and there is no better way to support your museum than through membership. It is as easy as completing the form below. Just mail the form and your check as directed. The three levels offer various benefits depending on the package you select. We maintain the largest and finest law enforcement historical collection for the enjoyment and education of the public and our day to day operation and continued improvement of the experience comes with a price. All staff members volunteer their time to operate, promote, and improve the museum.

Please take a moment and review the three membership levels below and consider becoming a member today. You will help preserve a lasting legacy to the men and women serving you on the streets across America.



Tin Star

Tin Star members will receive a certificate of membership, membership card, and passes to the museum.



Circle-Star

Circle Star members will receive a certificate, membership card, passes, and special gift.



Chief's Shield

Chief's Shield members will receive a certificate, membership card, and special gift.

SILVER STATE PEACE OFFICERS MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Level (circle one) Tin Star \$50 Circle Star \$100 Chief's Shield \$500 Donation Only

See what each member level offers on our website!

Please mail this application with your check to: Silver State Peace Officers Museum, P.O. Box 17051, Reno, NV. 89511

Please allow up to eight weeks for delivery.

Survivor's Event Update

Throughout the history of Nevada, 114 law enforcement officers have been recognized on memorials for giving their lives in service to their communities.

SSPOM board member Frank Adams has dedicated his life to bringing that recognition through his years of research and through the establishment of the Nevada Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Carson City.

We will hold a reception in the museum on the evening of May 5th, 2011 for surviving family of those 114 officers. It is our intent to bring as many of those survivors together to experience the next level of tribute to their loved ones, the Silver State Peace Officers Museum and Nevada Officers Memorial Room. Unfortunately, finding surviving family members from incidents occurring years ago is quite a time consuming challenge and we need your help. Please contact us if you are interested in helping bring this event to the museum or if you have contact information that will assist us in fulfilling this goal. Watch for details of this event in our next newsletter which will be published in January.

Year in Review

(continued from page 1)

The Kawasaki was then sold to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and was used on the street and then as a training bike until taken out of service and sold. The Visiting Officer Board has been a very popular feature within the museum. The eight by eight surface has been completely covered with signatures of officers active and retired from all across America as well as many from overseas. A number of tributes have been left for officers killed in the line of duty.



The Visiting Officer Board

A Salute to Those Who Make it all Possible

The museum organization operates solely through volunteer efforts and if not for those volunteers, doors would be closed. Our board of directors have dedicated not only their leadership but also their hard labor during construction and development as well as dedication to staffing on a daily basis. Board members Roy O'Connell, Frank Adams, Dick Williamson, and Adam Wygnanski have provided their assistance with staffing this season.

Still, there are several other volunteers who have made this year a success. Bill and Barbara Tompkins have served throughout the summer as our weekend docents. Bill, a retired CHP officer and our founding senior docent, has been a valuable member of the museum team since the start of construction. His interest in the museum and ever increasing knowledge of our historical collection has provided an exceptional experience to all who visit the museum when he is on duty. Barbara has taken the admission and gift area as her own and does a wonderful job greeting our guests and managing our store inventory.

Brian Baracz has recently come to assist us with staffing the museum and has become an invaluable member of our team as well.

Roy Semmens and Mark Finch have been quick to jump into the period uniform and participate in parades. Roy has ridden the V&T Railroad for us as well and we especially appreciated his very hard labor as we set up and tore down our collector and restored vehicle event. Roy is one of those guys that can't say no!

Thanks also to Dennis Daniels for assisting with coordination of our collector show for 2010.

Museum Hours

Open daily from 11 to 5.
Closed Nov. 1st for winter.
Open May 1st summer season.
We will open on special days
Through the Holidays.

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 11, 2010, Open on Veteran's Day
12:00 Parade in VC
11:00 Parade in Reno
- Dec. 1, 2010, VC Parade of Lights
- May 5, 2011 State Memorial
- May 5, 2011 Survivor's Reception
- May 6, 2011 Hoff Memorial
- May 14, 2011, Collector and Vehicle Show, Police Memorial Parade

What's New

- 1994 Kawasaki Police Motorcycle
- Several antique firearms have been added to our exhibits
- Badges, photos, and wanted posters have been added.
- Thomas Kelley exhibit
- And so much more.!

Storey County Sheriff Thomas Kelley

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Complex. The Silver State Peace Officers Museum is located in 1888 Thomas Kelley was appointed to the position of U.S. Marshal for the District of Nevada by President Cleveland.

This very office served as the sheriff's office until recent years when the sheriff moved to the more modern Justice within that very same jail opened by Kelley in 1877.



Thomas Kelley while in office

His office was located inside of the Odd Fellows Building on C Street, now home to Grandma's Fudge, in Virginia City throughout that time. The Marshal for the State of Nevada was seated in Virginia City very likely because it was the largest town in Nevada. Today, the U. S. Marshal for the District of Nevada is based in Las Vegas.

On Monday, July 2nd, 1888, Marshal Kelley fell ill while working with his nephew in his office. The two began walking toward his home and when he became worse, summoned a ride to his A Street home. Kelley died before the doctor arrived. He was 49 years of age.

Marshal Kelley lost his wife, Winnie, only two weeks prior to his own death. He left behind six children with the youngest being only four.

Thomas Kelley's family has loaned the museum his handgun carried by him throughout his law enforcement career. This antique firearm, his photo and story are part of an exhibit on Virginia City law enforcement within the museum.

He bore uncommon afflictions with patience and was never heard to murmur at his lot. Those who knew him best loved him most. His life was noble, his example worthy of imitation. He used the ability he had to serve his fellows and his family to the utmost.

- Evening Chronicle, Virginia City, Nevada, July 2nd, 1888

The Silver State Peace Officers Museum is a 501c3 approved non-profit organization.

This quarterly newsletter is produced by Doug Gist



This 1868 L.P. Wesley & Sons firearm was carried by Sheriff Kelley

The museum will once again host the Comstock Police Collectors and Restored Emergency Vehicle Show in conjunction with our Police Memorial Week

Comstock Police Collectors and Restored Emergency Vehicle Show And Parade in Honor of Police Memorial Week 2011

Parade in Virginia City. The one-day event will take place on Saturday, May 14th, 2011. The car show this year will take place outside of the Silver State Peace Officers Museum while the collector show will move to the Virginia City Middle School gymnasium. This location offers better lighting, space, and parking should be vastly improved as well.

Special room rates are provided at the Silverland Suites, the same location many of those attendees from this years show enjoyed. Their show rate is unchanged and will be \$69.00 per room. Be sure to tell them that you are attending our show when making reservations. There are several very nice bed and breakfast locations within Virginia City if you enjoy that environment with a little extra care! You may visit our website for further information on those options. Don't forget that Virginia City offers plenty of fun for the whole family so consider extending your stay and take in the sites of the area.

Please see our show announcement and registration sheet on page 5 of this newsletter.

Thanks must go out to those professional organizations supporting the museum again this year. Those supporting organizations are:

- Reno Police Protective Association
- Washoe County Sheriff's Supervisory Deputies Association
- Sparks Police Protective Association
- Nevada State Law Enforcement Officers Association

These Organizations Have Supported Us in 2010





Silver State Peace Officers Museum
Presents

COMSTOCK POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW
RESTORED EMERGENCY VEHICLE SHOW
and POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK PARADE

Saturday, May 14th, 2011
Parade at 12:00 Noon on C Street
Car Show 9:00 to 4:00 at the Museum
Collector Show 9:00 to 4:00 at the Middle School Gym

Proceeds benefit the Silver State Peace Officers Museum, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of American Law Enforcement.

World Famous Virginia City, Nevada *Step Back in Time!*

8 Foot Tables : \$25.00 Vehicle Show Registration: \$25.00 Walk in Admission: \$5.00

*Table holders, car participants, and walk in admission includes museum admission *
*Friday evening social for participants at the museum * Car participants will receive a dash plaque *
*Awards will be presented in several categories * Museum members receive a \$5.00 discount on tables and car

REGISTRATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Tables (@ \$25.00 ea.): _____ SSPOM Membership discount applies: Y Total enclosed: _____

Vehicle Entry (@ \$25.00 ea.) _____ SSPOM Membership discount applies: Y Total enclosed: _____

VEHICLE ENTRY INFORMATION

Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____ Original: ___ Novelty: ___ Agency: _____

Contact Doug Gist @ 775.846.5948 or doug@PeaceOfficersMuseum.org for information.
Send registration to: Silver State Peace Officers Museum, PO Box 17051, Reno, NV. 89511