

Shoshone Museum Reader

Produced for our Members by the Shoshone Museum Assn.

Summer 2013



CHINA RANCH copyright © Mark Hamlin 2013

MARK HAMLIN, Desert Artist Exhibit at Shoshone Museum

by Amy Noel

Dr. Lauren Wright made a generous gift to the museum of six Mark Hamlin paintings that he commissioned or acquired over the many years that they were acquainted.

Lauren and Mark had great affection and respect for each other. When I first met Lauren and Benny Troxel, I told them I had met a painter earlier that same day who had told me I would soon meet them. Nearly jumping out of his seat, Lauren said with mirth, "Painter?!! Mark is much more than a painter, he's a true Renaissance man!" Benny concurred! In many ways, Lauren's legacy of passion for rocks and desert and curiosity about many things lives on through folks like Mark.

Mark Hamlin, who is self-taught, has lived and painted in this part of the Mojave for all of his adult life. Ask him anything about the rocks, the plants, or the sky around here and he probably knows it, or at least how to find the answer. He spends most of his time walking, running,

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Shoshone Museum Association
P.O. Box 38
Shoshone, CA 92384
(760) 852-4524

SHOSHONE MUSEUM Amateur Photography Contest

The second annual photography contest sponsored by the Shoshone Museum Association will be held this summer.

Selected images will be displayed at the Shoshone Museum from July 11 through November 10, 2013.

Winners will be chosen by popular vote and will receive ribbons and cash prizes.

Contest rules, regulations, and entry forms are available at the Shoshone Museum. Entries will be accepted between April 30 and June 29, 2013.

For more information, call the museum at (760) 852-4524.

To download information and an entry form, please go to <tinyurl.com/SMAPHOTO2013>

Volunteer Opportunity

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is seeking outgoing, friendly volunteers to assist visitors to their refuge office one day a week or more. This person would greet visitors, answer questions about the refuge, operate the cash register, and answer the phone. Training is provided, and there is staff on site to assist when necessary. For more information, e-mail <cyndi_souza@fws.gov>.



Dorothy (Dort) Frederick

Handsome New Banner Draws Visitors

Our master quilter has provided the museum with an eye-catching banner that sure attracts attention! Dort has been making highly sought-after quilts for the annual Old West Days auction for many years. Now we can admire her work all year round! Thanks Dort, it is a wonderful way to welcome visitors to our museum.



Epsom Salt Monorail A-frame

New Interpretive Signs for Outdoor Exhibit Area

The museum's interesting outdoor collection of historical mining equipment is sporting new interpretive signs that hopefully will hold up under the extreme weather conditions experienced here! In the past, signs have faded in the sun, sustained water damage, or blown away in the high winds. These solid wood signs are carved with a computerized router (Shopbot) and wired in place. Watch for more improvements in the outdoor exhibit area!

(continued from page 1)
MARK HAMLIN

reading, and painting--all while intensely observing details in the world around him.

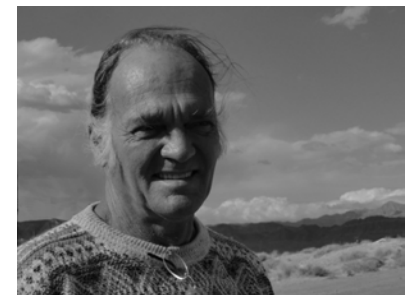
For years he worked mainly on commission. The process was engaging and thought provoking, especially for his clients. In recent years, with the development of a local place to exhibit fine artworks, Mark has found himself free to paint what he wants and to continue his explorations.

The paintings Dr. Wright donated to the museum represent the development of Mark's work over the last 30-some years. For many years, Mark worked exclusively oil on panel. One of his oil-on-panel paintings of Dante's View won the 1993 National Parks Academy of the Arts Competition, "Arts For The Parks" program. Around the year 2000 he decided to explore a "more painterly" (his words) approach and began working oil on canvas and exploring portrait work.

Mark also thinks a lot about how we observe the world around us. He's noticed that there seems to be a progression in the way people experience the landscape in this part of the world, including himself. In the vast areas of the Amargosa and Death Valley, it's the open space that first assaults one's senses. If it doesn't send you running for cover of trees or urban spaces, the magic of the light dancing on eons of time will captivate your senses, calling you to come back again and again to experience more. The more you look and wonder--the more you see.

Lauren loved to read all kind kinds of subjects and to discuss many things. Mark once lent me a marvelous book by Reyner Banham, an English architectural critic and prolific writer. His Scenes in America Deserta brilliantly describes how our desert captivated him. When I finished the book, I asked Lauren if he had read it; he thought for a moment and said, "Oh yes, that's the guy who writes about the light, like Mark paints it." Perfect, just perfect! Three of these painting are hanging in the museum now, and the rest will be displayed soon.

Stop by on your next exploration and take a look.



Echoes from the Archives

by Susan Sorrells
Museum Board President



The spring of 2013 has been a bittersweet time for the Shoshone Museum. In early February Lauren Wright, a dear friend to many in the community and an avid supporter of the Shoshone Museum, passed away at State College, Pennsylvania, where he had been head of the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Pennsylvania State University for many years. But Lauren, with his wife, Myrtle, and son, Tony, also had been an important member of the Shoshone-Tecopa community for many years. While he was working for the California Division of Mines from 1947 through 1960 as director of its Los Angeles office, he visited Death Valley and the Amargosa often and stayed in Shoshone, which became his base camp. He spent much of this time with Benny Troxel mapping the area under the guidance of Levi Nobel. During this same period he was also doing research to complete his master's thesis for the California Institute of Technology on the talc deposits of Death Valley, which has become a classic for those studying the region's mining history and geology.

While Lauren was a member of the faculty of Pennsylvania State University, he continued to visit the Shoshone-Tecopa area with his family. He brought many graduate students to the area as their advisor for their doctoral theses. Over his career Lauren dedicated sixty years to the study of the geology of the region and became a world-renowned expert. Geologists from all over the world traveled to Shoshone to work with him in the field. During this same time Lauren also became an important community member, serving as president of the Shoshone Museum and as a founding director on the board of the Amargosa Conservancy. He also became a valued friend to many in the community,

SUMMER HOURS

Open daily (except Tues) from 9 am to 3
The Mission of the Shoshone Museum Association
is to tell the unique story of the Amargosa region
and to preserve its cultural and natural history.

OLD WEST DAYS HISTORY TALKS

Nov 1-3, 2013

by Jim Gilliam

It's hard to believe that soon we will be celebrating another Old West Days in Shoshone! We have some great talks lined up for the fall, including presentations about Ash Meadows and the Noonday Mine and stories about the Sorrells, Weed/Ross, and Rook families in Shoshone.

You can help support the Shoshone Museum's activities during Old West Days and receive recognition for you or your business. Your name, organization, or business will be prominently acknowledged during the historical conference and listed in the program. We are building the museum's historical collections and programs on volunteer help, donated artifacts, and financial contributions.

Send your logo and \$25 (full page) or \$15 (half page) to the Shoshone Museum. For further information, call (760) 852-4524 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/OWDSponsor2013>. Thank you for your community spirit and for keeping history alive.

Shoshone Museum Association Membership Form

Annual Membership Dues (Please circle one)
 Individual \$15. Name: _____ Date _____
 Family \$25. Mailing address: _____
 Business/Nonprofit \$50. _____
 Cougar \$100. Email _____ @ _____
 Mammoth \$500. Returning Member ___ New Member ___
 Building Fund _____ Amount enclosed _____

We are grateful for your contributions.
 This is your museum and we hope to
 make you proud to be a member.

Make checks payable to: Shoshone Museum Association.
 Mail to: P.O. Box 38, Shoshone, CA 92384
 or Pay by phone using your Visa or Master Card! 760-852-4524



Please share this newsletter
 --Reuse then Recycle

Upcoming Events

- Apr 1 Suzanne Hackett-Morgan - Tecopa Basin Gallery Mojave Paintings and Prints (through May 31)
- May **Desert & Mining Photography Contest***
- May 1-3 Devils Hole Conference
- May 4 Community Concert, Tecopa Hot Springs Resort
- May 18-19 Sierra Club Desert Committee, Mission Creek
- Jun - Sep Group Art Show - Tecopa Basin Gallery
- Jun 21-22 Full Moon Festival - Death Valley National Park
- Jul 10 100th Anniversary of the World's Hottest Day Death Valley National Park
- Oct 19 Old Spanish Trail Reenactment - Tule Spring
- Nov 1-3 **Old West Days History Talks***
- Nov 6-10 Death Valley '49ers encampment
- Nov 15-17 Death Valley Natural History Conference

Please call the Shoshone Museum for more information
 760 852-4524

(* Shoshone Museum events,)

The Shoshone Museum Association
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