

Shoshone Museum Reader

Produced for our Members by the Shoshone Museum Assn.

Winter 2022

Shoshone Museum Association

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SHADOW OF THE ARROW

(part one of two)



In 1921 Dr. Margaret Long and her friend Anne Martin were the first white women to travel unguided into Death Valley, exploring and documenting their journey. Earlier, in 1920, Edna Brush Perkins and Charlotte Hannahs Jordan had been guided by Beatty Sheriff Julius Meyer through the valley and described their adventures in the book The White Heart of the Mojave (1922).

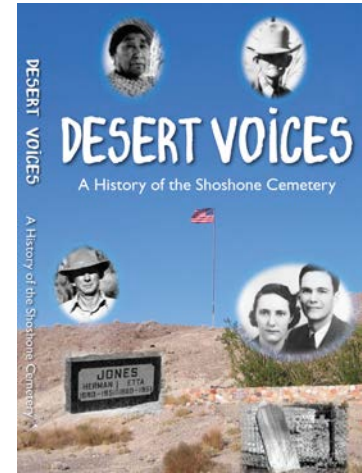
During Long's and Martin's first visit to this area, they became interested in tracing the route of the Death Valley '49ers and were frequent visitors to Shoshone, where they often consulted with knowledgeable local residents, including Charles Brown and Herman Jones. In 1941 Dr. Long published an elegant account of their investigations in the book The Shadow of the Arrow. Both Long and Martin were accomplished, intelligent women with a strong sense of adventure.

Dr. Long was born in 1873 near Boston, MA. Her father, John D. Long, was a lawyer who later served as governor of Massachusetts and as secretary of the Navy. She had a younger sister, Helen. Their mother died when Margaret was 9 years old; her father remarried and had a son, Piercy, with his second wife. Margaret attended Smith College in Northampton, MA, graduating in 1895. She then traveled and studied abroad before entering Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, for premedical studies. In 1903 she earned her medical degree from Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, MD. While at Hopkins, she worked as a nurse at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Brooklyn. She also interned at the New York Women's Infirmary where she contracted tuberculosis (TB), a disease that had killed her sister in 1901. In 1905 she moved to Colorado to recover and established a medical practice specializing in epidemiology. She was one of the founders of the Sands House Sanatorium, which provided medical care to destitute women with TB. She retired in the late 1930s and remained in Denver until shortly before her death in 1957 at the age of 84.

Her companion, Anne Martin, was an equally impressive woman. A native of Nevada, she was born in 1875 in Empire, NV, to William O'Hara Martin and Louise Stadtmuller. Her father was a Nevada state senator. She earned a BA in history in 1894 at the University of Nevada. She then attended Stanford University and earned a second BA and an MA in 1896. She returned to Nevada where she established the University of Nevada's history department. She then

(continued on page 2)

DESERT VOICES



A History of the Shoshone Cemetery

This popular book has been updated and reformatted and is now available in the museum bookstore. As before, all proceeds from sales benefit the Shoshone Museum. This volume contains new information and photographs about those whose final resting place is the Shoshone Cemetery. The book is an extensive collection of personal stories, contemporary news articles, and information from primary documents. These stories offer a unique glimpse into desert life in the last century and bring a personal touch to the understanding of local history.



Dr. Long chauffeuring Anne Martin (passenger) during Martin's campaign for U.S. senator. (Nevada State Historical Society)

MUSEUM HOURS

Open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 pm

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

(continued from page 1)

took a leave of absence to study and travel in New York, Europe, and Asia. She joined the suffrage movement in England and at one point was arrested. A friend from Stanford, Lou Henry Hoover, sent her husband, Herbert Hoover, to pay her bail! She returned to Nevada in 1911 and organized a



campaign that resulted in winning women's suffrage for Nevada in 1914. She continued to work for women's rights at a national level and was arrested a second time. In 1918 and 1920, she was the first woman to run for the U.S. Senate—sadly both bids were unsuccessful. She moved to Carmel, CA, and wrote numerous articles advocating for women's rights. In 1945 the University of Nevada awarded her an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. She had suffered a heart attack in 1930, but recovered, dying years later in Carmel in 1951 at the age of 76.

In 1918 Dr. Long took a leave of absence from her medical practice and used her own car to chauffeur Anne Martin on her campaign for U.S. senator. They were first introduced to the Death Valley region while on a visit to Beatty, NV, where they immediately became interested in exploring the area further.

According to Dr. Long's diary, in October 1921 they drove from Reno to Beatty where the car was serviced and stocked with "five extra gallons of gas, seven of water, and one of oil." Here they were also heartened to see "the first car come out of Death Valley for several weeks." At the garage, Fred Remick drew a map of the route and admonished them not to wander off the beaten path. He said that if he didn't hear from them, "He will assume we had broken down and come to our rescue."

The road to Furnace creek was "atop an abandoned railroad embankment, made just passable, but no more." They drove through the ghost town of Rhyolite, where Martin had previously campaigned to large crowds for women's suffrage. They had a flat tire, which they quickly changed, set up camp, and cooked canned soup and beans over their campfire. The next morning they discovered their camp was next to the Rhyolite cemetery and that they "had unwittingly selected a resting spot that was the resting place of others as well."

As they crossed over Daylight Pass, they encountered "Old Dinah," the steam-powered tractor abandoned at the pass

after failed attempts to use it to haul borax from Death Valley and then gold ore from the Keane Wonder Mine.

As they drove on, they passed several old graves near Cow Creek, including that of "Tim Ryan, died 1909." After reaching Furnace Creek, they drove up to the Ryan mining camp intending to go on to Shoshone. However, a cloudburst had washed out the road, so they returned to Furnace Creek and camped two miles to the south. After a breakfast of coffee and stale donuts, they drove back to Beatty and found that Remick was preparing to come after them! That evening, a former precinct captain of Martin's prepared "the finest dinner we ever ate."

While driving in Furnace Creek Wash, they observed that they "had traveled the forty-niners' trail, . . . [the] wagon tracks had remained in the hard-packed sand for years." With this discovery, they determined that they would return and attempt to trace the route of the '49ers into and through Death Valley.

(to be continued next newsletter)

Shoshone Museum Thanks Deputy Matt Graeff

Matt grew up in Orange County, CA, and was an English major in college, planning to become a teacher. Inspired by a fellow football team member, Matt joined the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department in 1989. To be close to family, he transferred to Bishop and then to Mammoth, CA. He has worked in several departments, including the Narcotics Task Force and the Sexual Assault Response Team, and was a detective in the juvenile division. In 2011 Matt was recruited to fill an opening in Shoshone, attaining the rank of corporal. He felt that remote communities deserve high-quality police service and was attracted by the challenge. Matt's oldest daughter, Alexis, has also served our community as an EMT with the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District. In his spare time, Matt enjoys weight lifting. The entire community thanks you, Matt, for your 12 years of dedicated service.



Echoes from the Archives

(The "Echoer" is taking a short break, but will return!)



THE SHOSHONE MAMMOTH



The largest exhibit in the museum (20 feet long) is that of the 600,000-year-old Shoshone mammoth—the Mammoth Room was actually added to the original building in 1997 to house these prehistoric remains. In 1981 geology students from Sonoma State University (SSU) were camped south of Shoshone when large bones that looked "older than just old" were discovered (legend has it that a dog may have brought the initial specimen into camp!). Investigation revealed a large collection of fossils and footprints nearby.

Prehistoric remains had been previously located in the area in 1938 when a local prospector guided National Park Service naturalist and geologist Donald Curry to the discovery. Because they were outside of Death Valley National Monument, no further study was done at that time.

The Tecopa Basin was actually a large lake until the southern end was breached through the Amargosa Canyon about 185,000 years ago. The wetter climate had supported grasses, shrubs, trees, and marshlands that supplied food for these very large herbivores. As these animals lived and died along the banks of Lake Tecopa, the Amargosa River currents concentrated their bones at and near this site.

Between 1982 and 1983, the students documented and excavated 113 fossils, which were transported to SSU for further study and display in the university's Darwin Hall. The bones were finally returned to Shoshone in 1997.

Initially all the bones were thought to be a 100,000-300,000-year-old juvenile Columbian mammoth. However, in 2000 the bones were reevaluated at the Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center at Anza Borrego State Park and found to be from up to five individual mammoths and mastodons at least 600,000 years old! The mammoth remains were from a primitive species that became extinct 650,000 years ago and are of great scientific interest. The bones were stabilized in 2004 by University of Nevada students. In 2021 the display case showed signs of weakening under the weight of the exhibit, and John Moran came to the rescue with repairs (details in the fall newsletter, 2021).

"ADOBE" CHARLES NELS

(1859-1937)



Nels home in Dublin Gulch (*True West*, 1979)

From the 1920s to the 1960s, many colorful characters lived in the caves known as Dublin Gulch in Shoshone, including Charles Nels. "Dobe" Charlie Nels's cabin butted against the east end of the ledge. Dobe's expertise with adobe gave him his moniker, and he is pictured in photographs from the 1930s working with Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees in Death Valley making bricks for the monument's buildings and walls.

Nels was born in Poland about 1859, emigrated to America in 1865, and became a naturalized citizen in 1880. His name subsequently appeared on many documents as either Nells or Nell. Nothing is known of his early life here except that he worked as a miner and reputedly was acquainted with the notorious woman gambler and madam known as Eleanor Dumont. He is said to have lost faith in religion and became an agnostic after her suicide in 1879. In the early 1920s he worked in the borax mine at Ryan before moving to Shoshone in the late 1920s. In the 1930 census he stated that he owned his home, valued at \$50, and that he was retired. He owned a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and enjoyed exploring the countryside. He was always prospecting for the next big strike! He died in Los Angeles in 1938.



Nels supervising Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees in Death Valley in the 1930s (NPS photo)

Shoshone Museum Association Membership Form

(Annual Dues)

Individual	\$25	Name: _____
Family	\$35	Mailing address: _____
Business	\$50	_____
Nonprofit	\$35	_____
Mtn Lion	\$100	Email: _____
Mammoth	\$500	Phone: ____ (____) _____
Senior/	\$15	Donation: \$ _____
Student	\$15	Amount enclosed: \$ _____

New Renewal

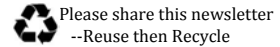
Make checks payable to Shoshone Museum Association
Mail to: P.O. Box 38, Shoshone, CA 92384 or
pay by phone using VISA or Master Card 760 852 4524

Upcoming Events

- Oct 2 - *Desert Light*, Reception Oct 2, Plein Air paintings by David Michaels, Tecopa Hot Springs Resort to Jan 10
- Jan 14 - *Portrait of a Desert*, Paintings and Photographs by Merilee Mitchell, Reception Jan 14, Tecopa Hot Springs Resort to Mar 16
- Mar 18 - *Group Show, Local Artists Celebrate Our Landscape*, Tecopa Hot to End of Season

Ongoing Tecopa Hot Springs Resort: Fri & Sat night music with Pablo and friends weather permitting, Sunset - 10pm
 Death Valley Natl Park events: <www.nps.gov/deva>
 Get Outdoors Nevada volunteer opportunities <www.GetOutdoorsNevada.org/>
 Road Scholar Program, Death Valley Natl Park <www.dvnha.org/programs-events/road-scholar>
 Ash Meadows Natl Wildlife Refuge events information <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ash_Meadows/>
 Tecopa Hot Springs Campground (music, hikes, and more) <<http://www.tecopahotspringscampground.com/>>

Please contact the Shoshone Museum for more information
shoshonemuseum@gmail.com 760 852-4524



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Eligible for **amazon** smile donation

Shoshone Museum **\$432.44** has received as of June 2022

The Shoshone Museum Association
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