



The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is an independent non-profit organization whose member partners share and support its mission to: develop and enable partnerships to help identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity without managing or regulating land use.

Learn more about us at:

[http:// www.greatbasinheritage.org/](http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/)

National Heritage Areas are designated by congress in recognition of the contributions they make in forming the unique fabric of our country. There are more than forty-nine such Areas in the United States, including the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

Designation confers no authority to manage or regulate land use in any way.



## **GBHAP board meeting planned for Fillmore**

The public is invited to join the board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership when it meets at the Fillmore Library on Saturday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. MDT.

During the regular organizational business meeting the Board will discuss current and proposed projects and handle organizational business. One such item will again be the election of officers of the Partnership President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Long time president Denys Koyle has asked to step down from the position.

The board will also entertain proposals for collaborative partner projects.

As always, member partner representatives and the public will be offered an opportunity to comment during the meeting.

## **Is this the first time you have received this newsletter?**

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership has recently reviewed its list of partners and stakeholders and updated all of the e-mail addresses to make sure they were current. Then we added a number of recipients we thought would be interested in receiving this newsletter. If you wish to be removed from the list please notify us at:

[greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com](mailto:greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com). If you have found this newsletter on our website or somewhere else and wish to have us e-mail future editions to you please notify us at the same address.

**GREAT BASIN HERITAGE NEWS**

GBH News is the newsletter of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership.

GBH NEWS is published quarterly. All issues are posted on the GBNHP website. Copies are e-mailed to GBHAP partners and associates.

GBH NEWS will accept articles from partners or interested parties on heritage issues or events occurring within the Great Basin National Heritage Area. Articles may include photos (preferably in JPG format) accompanied by a cover letter with the author's name, address and telephone number. They may be mailed to:

GBH News  
PO Box 78  
Baker, NV 89311

or e-mailed to: [greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com](mailto:greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com)

**Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership Board:**

President.....Denys Koyle  
Treasurer.....Julie Gianoli  
Directors.....Jane Beckwith  
.....Eric Jenson  
.....Cheryl Noriega  
.....Kyla Overson  
.....Virginia Sanchez  
.....Greg Seymour  
.....Delaine Spilsbury  
.....Dave Tilford  
Bookkeeper .....Susan Wetmore

**Become involved...**

GBHAP seeks partners to join us as supporters, funders, operators of heritage features, volunteers, or even as critics.

Contact us at:  
PO Box 78  
Baker, NV 89311  
or e-mailed to [greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com](mailto:greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com)

**A message from the president of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership:**

Glory Hallelujah,

The finalized Great Basin National Heritage Area Management Plan has been submitted to the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Park Service. When we receive NPS approval, the Plan goes to the Secretary of Interior for final signature. I don't anticipate any problems at this point as we have had reviews



*GBHAP President  
Denys Koyle*

by Park Service personnel all along the way. We did much of this project in-house spending approximately \$125,000 to do it which in the world of management plans is a bargain. Also, this leaves us a fairly considerable amount of unspent federal money that is available to use as we proceed forward as an organization.

In the last year, we have been able to help some of our partners in significant ways. The Great Basin Museum in Ely received support to help with an appraisal on a building they want to purchase.

We partnered with the Nevada Northern Railroad Museum to do an interpretive program and spent \$25,000 to restore train car couplers to keep the excursion cars safe.

Topaz Museum also received money from us for an appraisal on property at the Topaz site that they have now purchased. At the June meeting, the Board approved \$50,000 to the Topaz Foundation to help fund the proposed Topaz Museum that will be built on Main Street in Delta, Utah. GNHAP Board member Jane Beckwith, Exec. Director, of the Topaz Foundation, has secured \$1.6 million towards the final \$2.3 million for the project. Topaz and the Northern Nevada Railroad are both National Historic Landmarks and signature attractions within the Heritage Area.

Being able to assist partners in substantial ways was the reason we all started the Heritage Area process back in 2000. Having been involved since the very first meeting in 1999, I can't tell you how proud I am and how excited I am to think about all the projects we can now tackle.

I encourage all of our partners in their planning to consider the Great Basin National Heritage Area as a resource for funding but also for technical assistance including grant writing and in meeting federal standards including Sec. 106 work.

Denys Koyle, President

## **Tour of Millard County enlightens tourism and heritage professionals of White Pine County**

In July the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership hosted a bus tour for folks from western part of the Great Basin National Heritage Area who are involved in the tourism industry there.

The tour was to the adjacent Millard County in the eastern part of the Heritage Area where locations of interest to tourists were visited. Here are some highlights of the trip.

Tour members rode the bus from Ely to the Border Inn at the state line where most other tour members joined them. Our main speaker, Denys Koyle (Heritage Area President), talked about the history of the area from the Nevada/Utah border 88 miles west to Delta and beyond. .

We caught a glimpse of Crystal Peak in the distance to the southeast as the sun glinted on the quartz mountain.



*Irrigation pumping has now dried out a formerly swampy area that once forced travelers along the route that is now US 6 & 50 to detour farther southward.*

Starting at the border one of the tour members recalled that she had heard her great grandmother tell that the area at the border where US Highway 50/6 now runs was a damp swampy area so native peoples hiked and later drove buckboards further south toward Crystal Peak and then down to the Sevier Lake to collect salt then pack it back home to trade for goods they needed.

As we passed nearby a woman who grew up there told the story of the Eskdale community that started as an isolated and self sustaining religious community at Partoun in the northern Snake Valley. Later the women of the community began to take homestead titles in the current location of Eskdale just east of the Utah/Nevada border a few miles north of Highway 50. (The men of the community had earlier taken homestead titles to the Partoun land and could not do so again elsewhere.) The community's goal of isolation and self sufficiency eventually changed with the times and today they operate a dairy and a other enterprises at the small religious enclave.



*Recent higher prices for wool and lamb has resulted in a rebound of sheepherding within the Great Basin National Heritage Area.*

The group learned how prior to the Taylor Grazing Act shepherds were trailed from as far as Wyoming to winter in Utah's Western Desert. The sheep were often herded along the railroad lines from the Leamington and Lyndyl along trails that would let them pause at springs and water sources. The first there got the most water and had best choices of where to graze. Most of the shepherds in the West Desert were of Scandinavian descent. They were hardy people who would spend months alone with their dogs, sheep, and a horse or two then moved them back home in the spring. The Taylor Grazing Act allotted most of the land, suitable or not, to cattle ranchers and for a time marginalized sheep production in the area. Changes

in regulations brought some of the land back for sheep grazing after a number of years.

One year in the late 1940's when the present US-6 & 50 route was being developed and improved a major snow storm struck stranding sheep and shepherders— many in the open. Some were able to make it to crude shelters and cabins in the Tule Valley to last out the storms. Equipment that was being used to build the (then) new alignment of US 6 & 50 was pressed into service to reach some of the stranded herders.

Driving eastward, evidence of terraces and other indications in the rocks told of the extent of ancient Lake Bonneville. There are incredible fossils in the ancient limestone formations where rocks form mountains and notches today. Our guide also pointed out roads leading to places such as Ibex well and the location of a table mountain grazing areas. The vast and now mostly dry Sevier Lake was filled with fish prior to the diversion of much of its source water for upstream irrigation. The water is drawn off from below the headwaters to the southeast and now very little ever reaches the mostly dry lake bed.

We drove through Hinckley which was one of the early LDS communities and saw the vast and interestingly designed building that was constructed to house the now shuttered Millard Academy that started there in 1876.



*The mud fort at Deseret has been partially restored by volunteers. The site is now a Utah*

Just south of Hinckley, we visited the partially restored Fort Deseret built of straw and adobe in just over two months by local men for potential defense from a potential Indian uprising; fortunately there was no attack and the structure was used for a cattle pen and material storage before lapsing into a deteriorated state.

We then traveled south through Holden, Flowell and other towns on our route to the Territorial State Capitol in Fillmore where we toured the Territorial State Capitol Museum. The building was originally constructed in anticipation by Mormons of its becoming the capitol of the State of Deseret—a huge planned region encompassing what is now Utah, Nevada and much of California and Arizona. When the petition of statehood was denied, a territorial government was established. Brigham Young was appointed governor of the Utah Territory and Fillmore briefly became the territorial capital rather than the state capital.



*Only one wing of the planned monumental state capitol of Deseret was built. It serves today as a state museum.*

Construction of a Territorial Statehouse commenced in 1852, the first wing of which was completed in 1855. Local red sandstone and native timber were used as construction materials. The statehouse was planned to be a monumental structure, but the majority of the structure was never completed. The Territorial Legislature met there in December 1855 and was the only full session held in the Statehouse. It was used for part sessions by the 6th (1856) and 8th (1858) Utah State Legislatures.



*The interior of Cove Fort was quite civilized and accommodating. The fort never saw any military assault and eventually became a travelers way station and telegraph relay site.*

When the state capitol was relocated to Salt Lake City the building was pressed into service as a school, dance hall, theater, jail, and even a hiding place for publishing the Deseret News during the Utah War in 1857. By the turn of the century this building had fallen into disuse and decay. The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers were responsible for restoring the Territorial Statehouse. Under the direction of the Utah State Park and Recreation Commission, the museum opened in 1930 and was placed in the custodial care of the DUP. Today the building is the oldest existing governmental building in the state. In its current service as a state museum, the Territorial Statehouse exhibits Utah pioneer culture and history through artifacts and paintings.

We next stopped at Cove Fort originally build by Mormon settlers for protection and later use as a telegraph relay station. After many years of decay and neglect, today it has been beautifully restored and parts replicated by descendents of the original families who lived there and were able to re-acquire part of the original acreage.

The tour returned through Delta where we visited the new Great Basin Heritage Museum, and the adjacent future site of the Topaz Museum. Heritage Area board member Jane Beckwith who also heads up the Topaz Museum Board acted as our guide when we visited the remains of the Topaz WWII Japanese-American Relocation Camp site about 12 miles from Delta. We arrived just at dusk and lowered the American flag that flies there. The gathering darkness conveyed a special feeling of reverence at the site where more than 11,000 Japanese descendants and American citizens were forced to wait out the war years in relative isolation.

We passed back across the Utah/Nevada border well after dark. There some of the participants disembarked and bade farewell to fellow travelers heading for Ely and home.

### **New GBNHA brochure available**



In late July the Great Basin Heritage Partnership offices were so full of boxes of the newly delivered brochure that the entry door could not be closed. Distribution of the brochures began the next day.

The new promotional piece explains the purpose and value of the Great Basin National Heritage Area and provides a detailed map locating many of its heritage features. The piece is intended to appeal to “the special few” travelers who want to explore the rich western heritage of the region and experience “its loneliness and wide open spaces”. One passage from the brochure reads:



*The new brochure features a detailed map locating the heritage features of the Great Basin National Heritage Area.*

*“ The Great Basin National Heritage Area is remote. It is remote from large cities and heavy traffic. And spaces between places are huge here. Its isolation means that residents and visitors are less frequently disturbed by the activities of other human beings. Quiet is most notable. The vastness seems to slow the pace of time giving one pause to reflect on the natural surroundings, on life itself and on simply being.”*

The piece will be distributed by our heritage partners in the region and by visitor centers at the portals to the heritage area.

### **Technology helps interpret the Topaz Japanese-American WWII Relocation Camp site**

Two contemporary products of technology have been applied in Delta, Utah to interpret an important World War II era government program that was located nearby.

Today, the 19,800 acres where 11,000 Japanese American internees farmed and lived in isolation from the rest of the country is easy to miss on the drive west from Delta, Utah. A iPhone walking tour initiated last December, however, aims to virtually reconstruct the historical Topaz War Relocation Center, so that this flat stretch of desert—and the dark time in American civil rights history it represents—won't be so easily overlooked.



*The now vacant area that once was the site of the Topaz Japanese-American WWII Relocation Camp is interpreted with an iPhone application.*

Available on Rama, the BBC-recommended iPhone app that serves as a portal for authors offering photographic walking tours, “Topaz Relocation Camp” uses the iPhone’s mapping and GPS functions to guide visitors through the former site of the camp and offer glimpses of its former structures and residents. Using archival and personal photographs taken at the camp in the 1940s, the tour’s journey-through-time shows and tells the story of the internees at Topaz, including daily life in the camp’s 36 residential blocks, toiling on the farms in the desert, the activities of the local Boy Scouts troop, and the Topaz High School’s dances.

“I wanted to tell a story of triumph over adversity and the great ability of the Japanese community to establish their own unified and successful community by looking at the artifacts and landscape features that remain at the site,” said Dana Ogo Shew, the tour’s author.

Shew’s research in the concentration camp was motivated not only by her background in archaeology and history, but also by her personal connection. “My grandmother, her three sisters, parents, and other family members were all interned at Topaz. By examining the everyday lives of the internees, it helped to bring the site to life and give me a better understanding of my

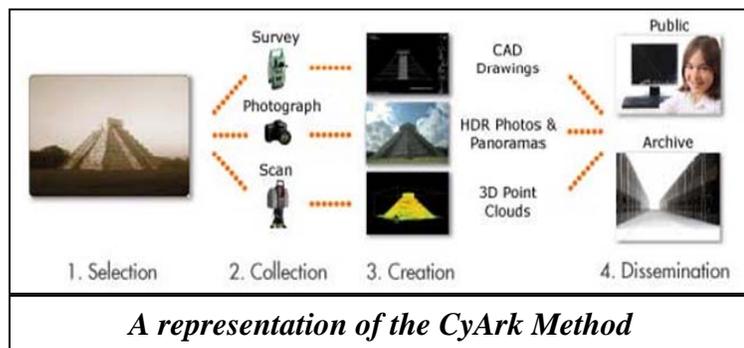
family's day to day experience within confinement.”

“Topaz Relocation Camp” is available as an in-app purchase for \$0.99 on Rama. Download Rama at iTunes by visiting <http://bit.ly/iTunesRama>, or through the developer's website at <http://www.crimsonbamboo.com>.

The second technological application that will help to interpret the site is being developed by CyArk, a non-profit organization with the mission of: digitally preserving cultural heritage sites through collecting, archiving and providing open access to data created by laser scanning, digital modeling, and other state-of-the-art technologies. Under a grant from the National Park Service, the organization has been photographing remnant buildings from the Topaz Camp and compiling maps and historic information to create a three dimensional digital model of the site. The digital representations will be available together with photographs and histories on the CyArk website joining representations of world heritage sites including Pompeii, Deadwood Colorado, the Roman Baths, Mesa Verde and others.

How they do it:

In order to meet the challenges facing cultural heritage, CyArk has developed the Total Process for Digital Preservation. This four-step process is performed by CyArk and its world-wide partners.



1. A site is chosen based off many factors, specifically individual site need, and its significance to human culture.
2. Upon arrival at a project site, the CyArk team uses a variety of methods to thoroughly collect and document the site. These include traditional survey techniques, new photographic processes, and 3D laser scanning.
3. Collecting data in such a manner allows CyArk to create a multitude of "deliverables" including CAD drawings, High Dynamic Range photographs, accurate 3D Point Clouds, and

multimedia for educational and cultural tourism.

4. Once these files have been created they are securely stored in the CyArk archives and made available to site managers and the public in the Heritage Sites section of its website.

### **Northern Nevada Railway is seen on nationwide TV as its artifacts are restored**



In 2011, working with the History Channel and Rick's Restoration of Las Vegas, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum (one of our heritage partners in Ely) had three of its important artifacts restored. The projects are being aired nationwide on the History Channel's *American Restoration*.

The three restored items are an old west strongbox, a vintage 1915 industrial vacuum cleaner and an airbrake tester for trains. The now like-new items are on display at the museum.

Three additional artifacts have been selected for restoration during the 2012 season.

### **Great Basin National Park celebrates 25 years**

On August 25 a special program and exhibits was presented at the Great Basin National Park Visitors Center in celebration of the park's 25 years since the park's dedication.

### **Video production will include Heritage Area**

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is working with the Nevada Commission on Tourism's Pony Express Territory (the Nevada tourism region stretching along Highway 50) to develop a video production to be used on the Territory website. A videographer will be coming to the Heritage Area to record video clips of locations of interest to tourists. The Partnership has proposed a number of sites for shooting. It had already been established that at least a day of production would focus on the Northern Nevada Railroad. Great Basin National Park will also be covered. Production is scheduled to take place this fall. The completed project is expected to be ready prior to the 2013 tourist season.



*Sign post that once designated the Lincoln Highway Route still persist within the Great Basin National Heritage Area.*

## **Lincoln Highway plans 100th Anniversary**

The Lincoln Highway Association is working on preparations for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Lincoln Highway celebration. The Association is planning for west coast members and supporters to travel east across one of the Highway's original routes to its annual meeting in Kearney, Nebraska

A group of auto enthusiasts in Europe plans to ship their antique cars to the USA to participate in a drive across the Lincoln Highway route and to stay in Ely, NV for a few days. (Ely hosted the Lincoln Highway convention in 2005.)

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is pondering how to be involved with either or both of the planned celebratory passages through its region.

## **Topaz Museum ground breaking ceremony held August 4**

The ground breaking ceremony for the new Topaz Museum site was held in Delta Utah to honor those who lived at the Topaz camp from 1942-1944.

It was an all day program starting with "Honoring Our Past" held at the Delta City Park. Jane Beckwith and other members of the Topaz Museum Board spoke along with Delta Mayor Bunker and others.

Those who were children in the camp sang and spoke. Toru Saito sang beautifully and Willie Ito who was also a child at the camp spoke about being taken from his California home a couple of days after seeing the movie Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. He used the edges of old catalogs and drew on them then flipped the pages to create animations. He later worked for decades with Disney and others as an animator.

A Taiko drumming demonstration was also performed.

At the ground breaking shovels were wielded first by former Topaz internees, then large donors' representatives (Great Basin National Park Superintendent Andy Ferguson represented the National Park Service's contribution) other donors, then by elected officials, Topaz Museum Board members past and present, internees from other camps, families of internees, and others.

Throughout the day bus trips were scheduled to take people out to the original site of about 640 acres near Abraham, UT 12 miles northwest of Delta. There were also displays of art work the internees had completed while at the camp, other pieces donated for former internees and their families, and those who had been guards and staff at the camp.



*Ground was broken for the new museum by former internees, their family members, donors, Topaz Museum Board members past and present and by elected officials.*

CyArk, a technology company that works with archaeology and historical site restoration projects gave a digital mapping project presentation of their results so far in creating the Topaz project. They do restoration work with specialized mapping and computer programs and using photographs, maps, and other information to recreate sites from ancient, historical, written, and photo and art renditions of sites. They showed what parts of Topaz looked like and also presented the restoration project nearly completed for the Manzanar internee site near Lone Pine, CA.

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**The winter Heritage Area board meeting is  
December 1, 2012 in Ely, NV.**



*Frequent late summer rainfall in the Snake Range produced an abundance of wildflowers in the Great Basin National Park.*