Curator of History Robert Nylen shares his passion for baseball; doors open at 6 pm, lecture at 7 pm

August 4, 2011

Carson City, Nev—Curator of History, Robert Nylen presents Early Frontier Baseball, at the Nevada State Museum Thursday, August 18, 2011, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Note: this lecture is presented one week early due to the coin show.
"Nylen will surely be at his best since baseball is his secret passion," said Curator of Education, Deborah Stevenson. "Having been with the Nevada State Museum for 27 years, Bob is truly an expert on all aspects of Nevada history; when he talks about what he loves his face lights up and his eyes sparkle with excitement." Nylen has done extensive research on early frontier baseball and has quite a collection of interesting historic photos of teams such as the 1905 Dayton team pictured here.

Museum members and children 17 and under are free; non-member adult admission: $8. Doors open at 6:00 pm for exhibit viewing in the main building. For more information, contact Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education: dstevenson@nevadaculture.org or 775/687-4810, ext. 237.

Formalized in 1845 when a group of business and professional men in New York organized the Knickerbocker Club, baseball became the first and most popular organized sport in the United States. By the 1860s pickup games were being played on vacant lots and open rural fields across the nation.

Baseball first arrived in Nevada around 1868 - 1869. Two employees of the Carson City U.S. Branch Mint started the Carson City team in 1869. Abraham Curry, the first superintendent of the mint, was a one of Carson City's most die-hard fans. This was also an era before players used gloves and pitchers threw the ball underhand, which resulted in high scoring games. The rules and how the players played the game were very different from today, but Nevada baseball teams approached the game with the same enthusiasm that makes baseball such an exciting sport today.

The Nevada State Museum actively engages people in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage. Due to mandatory state budget restrictions, the museum is closed Sunday – Tuesday, and open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Wednesday – Saturday. See the changing exhibits: Nevada: The Photography of Cliff Segerblom, Slot Machines: the Fey Collection, and Selections from the Collections, featuring historic fashions. Admission: $8 for adults and free for children 17 and under and museum members. For information, call (775) 687-4810.

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