

UC Merced

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology

Title

A Memory of Donald R. Tuohy

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0z35v85h>

Journal

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, 38(1)

ISSN

0191-3557

Author

Brown, Margaret

Publication Date

2018

Peer reviewed

for the Nevada Assembly in 1974, and was famous for her highly publicized struggle with the BLM, who claimed the brothel was on BLM land.

Beverly Harrell ran a clean, well-ordered house and wrote a book about it. She was concerned with the health and education of her charges, encouraging them to read books and to take walks in the desert around the brothel.

Apparently, some of the women had found arrowheads and other artifacts on their walks and were curious about what they were. So, Beverly wrote to Don as the Curator of Anthropology at the Nevada State Museum, inviting him to come to the Cottontail Ranch, look at the sites and artifacts the women had discovered, and talk with them about archaeology and Nevada prehistory.

I thought this was a fine idea—a real opportunity to educate the public and to find new sites around the little playa, in the badlands, and in the volcanic terrain around Lida Junction. Don was amused and intrigued by the invitation. He agreed that there should be some interesting archaeology there, but in spite of my urging him to accept, he did not. He claimed that as innocent and educational as our visit would surely be, someone might see the Museum truck in the parking lot and complain to the Museum Board of Directors. I countered that we could hide the truck behind the privacy fence of the brothel, but he said that a patron might rat us out. I suggested that we could take his car, but he said that would be worse, since if we were discovered, it could be said we were not on official business.

So, we never did visit Beverly and her girls and the sites they found. The ancient secrets of Lida Junction remain for others to discover. Cottontail Ranch was closed in 2004 when Ms. Harrell retired.

* * *

A MEMORY OF DONALD R. TUOHY

Margaret Brown
Nevada State Museum

I met Don Tuohy in the summer of 1976, while working as a dig bum with Mary Rusco. Don had no love for CRM work and therefore was disdainful of Mary's ragtag band of laborers. To make matters worse, I had worked for Bob Elston, who had fallen out of favor with Don. Famous for holding a grudge, I was essentially invisible

to him. It took years for him to warm up, but we became fast friends by the time he retired.

One summer in the early 1990s, Don thought he might check out the Burning Man festival, which takes place in the Black Rock Desert northeast of Gerlach. These were the earliest years of Burning Man at the Black Rock lakebed site, so Don must have heard about some strange goings-on out in the desert.

Don loaded up the truck, and perhaps seeking a back way into Burning Man, given the unknown nature of the activities out there, he took off for Winnemucca, with nary a mention of his intentions to his staff. Not sure of what he would encounter at such a gathering and being a well-seasoned desert traveler, he decided to drop into the Black Rock Desert by following the railroad tracks west from Winnemucca to Jungo and beyond. We were clueless as to his travel plans, and I suspect Don was too.

Out for a good time, he wandered the funky desert "roads" for hours, and eventually got a flat tire. He changed the tire, continued on his journey, and a short time later got another flat tire. Hot and tired, he drank the canteen of water he had packed. No more water, but of course he had a six-pack of beer in the cooler. He unloaded one of the tires, rigged a rope to it, and with the six pack safely in place on top, tied the other end of the rope around his waist and began his march back to Winnemucca. He confessed his misadventure several days later and added, "I drank half of the beer before I was rescued."

REFERENCES

- Dansie, Amy
2009 History of Fieldwork at Sunshine Well, Long Valley, Nevada, 1962–1990. In *The Archaeology of the Eastern Nevada Paleoarchaic: Part I, The Sunshine Locality*, C. Beck and G. T. Jones, eds., pp. 10–26. *University of Utah Anthropological Papers* 126. Salt Lake City.
- 2016 The Archaeological Landscape of Hot Springs Mountain and the Forty Mile Desert. Paper presented at the 35th Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Reno, Nevada.
- Dansie, Amy J., and William Jerry Jerrems
1999 Lahontan Chronology and Early Human Occupation in the Western Great Basin: A New Look at Old Collections. Poster presented at the Center for the Study of the First Americans "Clovis and Beyond" Conference, Santa Fe.

- 2005 More Bits and Pieces: A New Look at Lahontan Chronology and Human Occupation. In *Paleoamerican Origins: Beyond Clovis*, R. Bonnichsen, B. T. Lepper, D. Stanford, and M. R. Waters, eds., p. 51–80. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.
- Hattori, Eugene M.
1996 Lovelock Wickerware in the Lower Truckee River Basin. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 18:284–296.
- Jacobsen, William H., and Donald R. Tuohy
1996 Beginning Washo. *Nevada State Museum Occasional Papers* 5. Carson City.
- Jerrems, W. Jerry
2016 A Somewhat Different View of the Younger Dryas Climatic Regime in the Great Basin. Paper presented at the 35th Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Reno, Nevada.
- Napton, L. Kyle, and Donald R. Tuohy
1986 Duck Decoys from Lovelock Cave, Nevada, Dated by ¹⁴C Accelerator Mass Spectrometry. *American Antiquity* 51:813–816.
- Riddell, Francis A., and Donald R. Tuohy
1978 Honey Lake Paiute Ethnography. *Nevada State Museum Occasional Papers* 3. Carson City.
- Tuohy, Donald R.
1968 Some Early Lithic Sites in Western Nevada. In *Early Man in Western North America*, C. Irwin-Williams, ed., pp. 27–48. *Eastern New Mexico University Contributions in Anthropology* 1. Portales.
1984 Implications of Obsidian Hydration Readings Source Determinations for 28 Presumed “Early Man” Points from Nevada. In *Obsidian Studies in the Great Basin*, R. E. Hughes, ed., pp. 193–221. *Contributions of the University of California Archaeological Research Facility* 45. Berkeley.
- 1989 Paleoindian and Early Archaic Cultural Complexes from Three Central Nevada Localities. In *Early Human Occupation in Far Western North America: The Clovis-Archaic Interface*, J. A. Willig, C. M. Aikens, and J. L. Fagan, eds., pp. 217–230. *Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers* 21. Carson City.
- 1993 Comment on the Complete Works of Stillwater, Nevada, Archaeology. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 15:247–250.
- Tuohy, Donald R., Amy J. Dansie, and Michele B. Haldeman
1987 *Final Report on Excavations in the Stillwater Marsh Archaeological District, Nevada*. Nevada State Museum Archaeological Services Report, Fish and Wildlife Service cooperative agreement 14-16-001-86511. Carson City.
- Tuohy, Donald R., and Amy J. Dansie
1997 New Information Regarding Early Holocene Manifestations in the Western Great Basin. *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 40:24–53.
- Tuohy, Donald R., and Anan W. Raymond
1989 Airboat Archaeology. *Nevada Magazine* 41:32–36.
- Tuohy, Donald R., and Doris L. Rendall
1980 The Archaeology of Smith Creek Canyon, Eastern Nevada. *Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers* 17. Carson City.
- Tuohy, Donald R., and Earl H. Swanson
1960 Excavations at Rockshelter 10-AA-15, Southwest Idaho. *Tebiwa* 3:20–24. Pocatello.

