

# Museum Happenings

## Moab Museum Winter Closure: December 23 – February 10

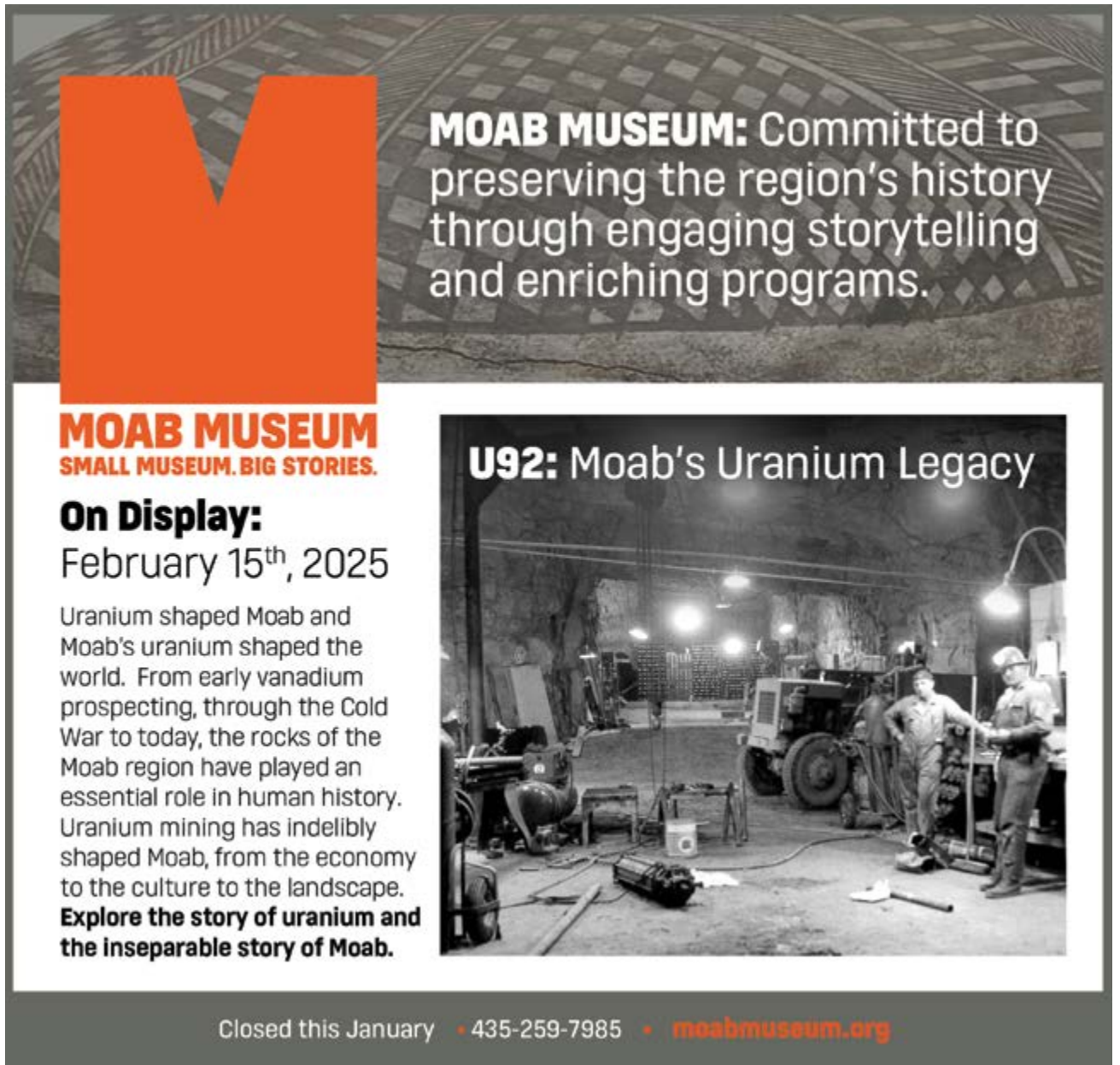
by Moab Museum staff

The Moab Museum will be temporarily closing its doors from December 23, 2024, through February 10, 2025, as we prepare for the exciting installation of our newest exhibition, U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy. During this time, Museum staff and volunteers will be hard at work creating an immersive and educational experience that delves into the history and legacy of uranium mining in the Moab area.

While the Museum will be closed to visitors, we will host periodic volunteer days for those interested in supporting this important installation process. Community members are encouraged to get involved and be part of bringing U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy to life.

Mark your calendars for February 15, 2025, when the Museum will reopen with an all-day celebration of the new exhibition. Join us to explore the stories of miners, mill operators, entrepreneurs, and others who shaped Moab's uranium boom and its lasting impact. Stay tuned for more details as we approach this exciting opening!

For updates and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.moabmuseum.org](http://www.moabmuseum.org) or contact us at [info@moabmuseum.org](mailto:info@moabmuseum.org).



**MOAB MUSEUM:** Committed to preserving the region's history through engaging storytelling and enriching programs.

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SMALL MUSEUM. BIG STORIES.

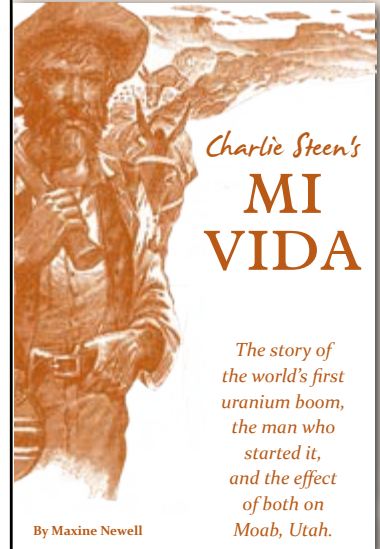
**On Display:**  
February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Uranium shaped Moab and Moab's uranium shaped the world. From early vanadium prospecting, through the Cold War to today, the rocks of the Moab region have played an essential role in human history. Uranium mining has indelibly shaped Moab, from the economy to the culture to the landscape. **Explore the story of uranium and the inseparable story of Moab.**

**U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy**

Closed this January • 435-259-7985 • [moabmuseum.org](http://moabmuseum.org)

Charlie Steen's  
**MI VIDA**  
by Maxine Newell



**Great Gift Idea!**

**ON SALE**  
at  
Sunset Grill  
Red Cliffs Lodge  
Museum of Moab  
Back of Beyond Books  
Moab Information Center  
Canyonlands Copy Center

The story of the world's first uranium boom, the man who started it, and the effect of both on Moab, Utah.

By Maxine Newell

## U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy Arrives

by Moab Museum staff

In less than four months, the Moab Museum will open a new exhibition that transforms both the south and north galleries – “U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy.” This space will feature a walk-in powder magazine, floor-to-ceiling historic images, and a variety of artifacts, from Geiger counters to glowing Vaseline glass. These objects and visuals

bring to life a time when the uranium boom filled headlines, sparking a “frenzy” that lured thousands to Moab and a subsequent boom of the town which elevated Moab to the “richest town in America,” albeit for only a short while.

Visitors will be able to follow the journeys of notable figures, both well-known and unsung, from a uranium queen to a Geiger counter salesman, each with a different role in this electrifying moment in history. Alongside personal narratives of “boom,” we present pieces of the “bust”—sharing stories



The Uranium Queen presented here with her attendants at the Annual Uranium Days Parade in the 1960s in Moab, UT.

of America's “Most Scenic Dump” sign, tales of nuclear waste incinerator proposals, and the birth of the modern recreation economy as a reminder of the industry's inevitable decline and Moab's unwavering resilience.

Developing this exhibition has underscored how critical it is to preserve these personal stories. Many uranium miners and their contemporaries have passed, taking their memories with them; those still living are in their eighties and nineties. The Museum's team has prioritized connecting with these individuals and their families throughout 2024, capturing first-hand accounts of life in Moab during WWII and the uranium frenzy that forever shaped the community. Special collaboration with organizations like the Atomic Legacy Cabin and scientific support from the Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation Action (UMTRA) project have been essential in enriching the exhibit's narrative and ensuring historical accuracy.

Every shared memory helps us understand more fully what Moab's uranium era meant to those who lived it. We're especially grateful for insights from the many



Charlie Steen famously hosted blow out parties and gatherings at his home up on the Moab hillside where Sunset Grill now resides.



**Hours:**  
9am-5pm  
Tuesday-Saturday

118 E. Center Street  
Moab, Utah

435-259-7985

**MOAB MUSEUM**  
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Mi Vida Mine was Charlie Steen's uranium mining operation

community members who contributed stories that add depth and authenticity to the exhibition. This exhibition is as much a tribute to their legacy as it is a chronicle of Moab's past.

“U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy” opens to members on **Thursday, February 13**, and to the public on **Saturday, February 15, 2025**. If you or someone you know has stories from this era, we would love to hear from you; Please reach out to Tara or Allie at the Museum ([tara@moabmuseum.org](mailto:tara@moabmuseum.org) or [allie@moabmuseum.org](mailto:allie@moabmuseum.org)).


And be sure to mention you read about it in *Moab Happenings*.



**Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum**

**Park Hours**  
(Mar-Nov): Open 7 Days a Week - 9am-5pm  
(Dec-Feb): Open 7 Days a Week - 9am-3pm  
**Closed:** Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Day  
New Year's Eve/Day

660 West, 400 North, in Blanding, Utah.  
For more information please call the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum at (435) 678-2238

Follow us on  [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/edge-of-the-cedars](https://www.facebook.com/stateparks.utah)