

# Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

# FootPrints

*Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting Historic Resources in the Truckee Meadows through Education, Advocacy, and Leadership.*

VOL. 10 NO. 3 ♦ SUMMER 2007

## Harry Gosse and the Riverside Hotel

*by Kim Henrick*

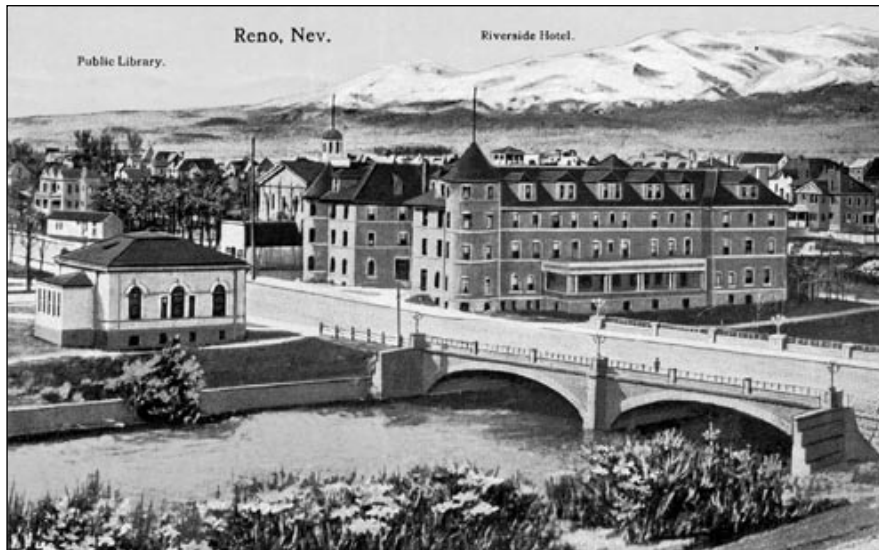
In 1896, Harry J. Gosse and his family moved into the Riverside Hotel to begin a new phase of their lives. It was reported by the *Reno Evening Gazette (REG)*, on February 1, 1896, that "Captain Harry J. Gosse, late of Virginia City, assumed the management of the Riverside Hotel this morning, William Thompson, late proprietor and manager, retiring."

On July 7, 1896, same paper: "The Riverside is very popular under the able management of Captain Henry Gosse, and deservedly so too, for Captain Gosse is a prince of good fellows and knows how to keep a good hotel." Harry was called "Captain" quite often during these times, probably due to his prior status with the Nevada National Guard in Virginia City.

Although Harry did not obtain legal ownership of the Riverside lot and building until 1906, early on he formed the Riverside Hotel, Inc., under which he operated the hotel's business. For this article, we will say Harry *managed* the Riverside Hotel, which we know he did with great flair for 26 years.

Henry Julius Gosse was born near Sacramento on June 9, 1857. He moved to the exciting mining town of Silver City with his family (his parents and a brother and sister) in 1863, when he was just six years old. A year later the family moved to neighboring American City (later called American Flats) where his father, Theodore, ran a hotel. As a young boy, Harry went to school in Virginia City and also attended the Golden Gate

Academy in Oakland, California. When Harry was 21 years old, the business directory for Virginia City in 1878 shows: "Henry J. Gosse, clerk Eureka Hotel; Jacob Gosse, barkeeper Eureka Hotel; and Theodore, proprietor Eureka Hotel, 287 South C." Jacob was Harry's older brother.



*The Riverside Hotel, ca 1908.  
Postcard courtesy of Debbie Hinman's Collection*

So it seems that Harry learned the hotel business by working with his father and brother at the Eureka Hotel, but he was also busy with other interests as well. Harry became captain of Company A of the Nevada National Guard, and was also a proud member of the Virginia City volunteer fire department. The December 11, 1915 *Nevada Newsletter and Advertisers* quotes Harry as saying he was "a feather bed soldier and a Fourth of July parader."

Harry became a family man, when on January 16, 1889, he married Josephine M. Mudd, from another long-time pioneering Virginia City family. The couple soon had two children, Marguerite and Harry Jr.

In 1896, Harry and his family moved into the Riverside Hotel (a three-story wood structure at that time) where Harry put his management skills to work. In 1901, he began the long process of building the magnificent brick structure that, when completed, would dominate the Reno scene for fifteen years. His plan was to build the south wing first and leave the wooden Riverside Hotel structure in place to accommodate

*Continued on page 2*

## Harry J. Gosse and the Riverside Hotel (continued)

Continued from page 1



Harry J. Gosse, December 11, 1915.  
Sketch from the *Nevada Newsletter and Advertiser*. Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.

guests until he could have it moved to the back of the lot and then complete the new building's north wing.

Local newspapers tracked the progress like this: *Nevada State Journal (NSJ)*, October 19, 1901: "Harry Gosse has completed his plans for the new Riverside Hotel. It will be one of the finest hostelrys in the inland west.... It will contain over one hundred rooms. Seventeen will be suites with baths attached.... The entire hotel will be heated with steam and will be a beautiful, substantial, fire-proof structure." A November 20, 1901 *NSJ* article tells of Harry "making extensive improvements along the riverfront. The ditch near his hotel is being covered with a brick archway and filled in with earth from the cellar of his new hotel." Unfortunately, there is no information on any architects or builders who worked on the Riverside. As an aside, did Harry design the new brick hotel in the shape of an "H" as an act of self-indulgence?

Progress was slow but Harry moved forward and was extremely optimistic, for in the 1902 *Reno and Washoe County Directory* he ran a full-page

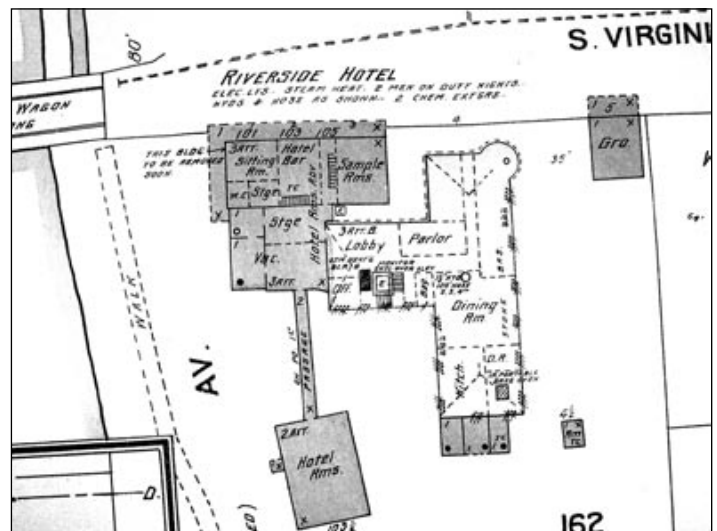
advertisement for the Riverside Hotel. The advertisement included a sketch of the finished hotel and his boast, "Herewith is presented a good sketch of this already popular hostelry as it will appear when completed, about July 1." Harry missed the mark; the hotel was not completely finished until five years later. As is common with huge projects like this, there were many delays and problems that could not be foreseen. In *The Historical Mitigation of the Riverside Hotel/Casino*, written by Steve Hardesty of the City of Reno in 1997, Hardesty summarizes a number of articles of the times with, "During that time there were labor strikes, fires at brick yards and a general shortage of building materials."

There are conflicting news reports as to the completion date of the south wing. A 1904 Reno Sanborn map shows how the new brick building's south-wing section stood right next to the old wooden Riverside Hotel. In an *REG* article on February 23, 1906, Harry ran this advertisement, "FOR SALE—The old Riverside hotel building. Purchaser to tear down and move from premises. Inquire of H. J. Gosse, Riverside Hotel."

Harry figured it would cost him more to move the structure to the back of the lot, than it would to have it torn down. Early photographs and the remark on the 1904 Sanborn map near the old building, "This bldg to be removed soon," appear to support the claim that the wooden Riverside Hotel building was torn down to make room for the new north wing. Yet several written contemporary sources report that the old building was in fact moved to the back of the lot, like Harry had initially planned.

The majority of the grand new building was completed by 1906, but there were still some important items to finalize. A *NSJ* article on May 4, 1907, reports on the near completion of the magnificent bar: "The bar is by far the finest ever placed in Reno, the top being a particularly fine specimen of the beautiful myrtle, brought from Coos County, Oregon. The rest of the woodwork, the high wainscoatings (sic) and the beamed ceilings as well as the massive chairs in the smaller rooms, are all finished in Flemish oak." The subtitle of the same article announced the plans for "enclosing the frontage on the river with glass—one of Reno's chief attractions."

In the Fall 2006 *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* article on Frederic DeLongchamps, Mella Rothwell Harmon describes the new Riverside Hotel this way: "Gosse completed his Chateausque version of the Riverside Hotel just in time for Reno's entrée into the national migratory divorce trade. The hotel was H-shaped, with north and south wings running from east to west. The south wing comprised three stories and the north wing four. Centered on the north wing, facing the Truckee River, was an enclosed porch with an open-air patio above. At the northeast and southeast corners were turrets with circular rooms."



A 1904 Sanborn map showing the wooden Riverside Hotel on the left and the new south wing of the brick Riverside Hotel on the right.  
Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.

## Harry J. Gosse and the Riverside Hotel (continued)

Gosse family members stayed busy with civic duties during their lives in Reno. Harry helped found the Elks Reno Lodge #597 and was its first Exalted Ruler. In 1905, he was the Generalissimo of the Knights Templar, and in 1906, the Oriental Guide of the Shriners. Josephine was a noted hostess and a life-member in the 20th Century Club. The society columns of the day frequently covered the Gosses as they entertained or were entertained.

Marguerite, the Gosse's daughter, was involved for years with the Red Cross and the Young Women's Christian Association.

Tragedy struck the Gosses when their only son, Harry J. Gosse Jr., contracted a disease in the Hawaiian Islands while serving in the military in 1916. He died shortly after his mother, Josephine Gosse, arrived to be with him. Josephine brought Harry Jr.'s body back home with her and the Gosses staged a huge, memorable funeral for their only son.

Tragedy returned on March 15, 1922, when the beautiful Riverside Hotel burned to the ground. The fire apparently started in the basement and within a few hours quickly consumed the entire structure, leaving only a smoldering brick skeleton. Thankfully no one was killed. Harry and his family worked hard to find lodging for their customers and helped authorities account for everyone.

Within a short time the indefatigable Gosses, who not only lost their livelihood but all their possessions, moved to the California Apartments


on California Avenue and opened their temporary home to their friends and family. Marguerite even entered politics after the fire, and won a seat representing Washoe County in the Nevada Assembly in 1922.

Happier times were to follow for the Gosses. In August of 1923, Marguerite Gosse married Richard C. Stoddard, of the prominent pioneering Stoddard family. The guest

years to secure the financing he needed. Finally, in November 1924, after lengthy negotiations, George Wingfield purchased the Riverside lots for \$70,000.

Harry was 65 years old when the Riverside Hotel burned down. He left the hotel business but remained busy and active with his social life.

An announcement in the *REG*, October 14, 1926 reads: "Attention Elks. Regular meeting Saturday, October 16th. Initiation and feed. Due to scarcity of ducks, the duck dinner has been postponed but a "Pop" Gosse mulligan will be served after the meeting." Locals called Harry "Pop" during his later years, probably because he was a kind and fatherly man who, like his dream hotel, charmed Reno for many exciting years.

Harry J. Gosse died on December 18, 1944 at age 87. 



*The Riverside Hotel after it burned down on March 15, 1922.  
Photo courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.*

list was a virtual "Who's Who" in Reno at the time: Senator and Mrs. Tasker L. Oddie, Senator and Mrs. Key Pittman, Governor and Mrs. J. G. Scrugham, John Chism, Richard Kirman, Roy Stoddard, and on and on and on with the names we know as well as our own.

Harry announced several times that he would immediately rebuild even a finer hostelry, but insurance to rebuild the magnificent hotel was inadequate. Harry tried for two

*Information for this article came from:*

*Nevada State Journal* and *Reno Evening Gazette* articles, starting in 1896; various deeds at the Washoe County Records office; Sam P. Davis, editor, [History of Nevada](#); Thomas Wren, editor, [A History of the State of Nevada](#); C. Elizabeth Raymond, [George Wingfield: Owner and Operator of Nevada](#).

Kim Henrick is a member of the HRPS Editorial Staff.

## Do You Have Rosemount Lodge Stories?

Do you have personal memories of the Rosemount Lodge (now the Reindeer Lodge) that you would like to share? Perhaps you stopped there for a nice meal after a day on the slopes during the winters from 1957 through 1959. We're planning a story about the Lodge on its 50th anniversary. We'll try to incorporate your stories into the article about the lodge for the Winter 2008 *FootPrints*. Please type up your remembrances and email them to Kim Henrick, [khenrick@rtci.net](mailto:khenrick@rtci.net).

## Relocated History

by Debbie Hinman

In Reno, history is all around us—it exists in the timber, stone and manufactured brick of our stately homes, charming bungalows, and dignified commercial buildings. It lives in our bridges, our river, and is commemorated in our street names.

Though some of the buildings have been relocated, most stand in their original surroundings even if narrow streets have been widened, and dusty country roads paved. But there are historic elements or artifacts that began life in one location, and have since been moved or incorporated into a different use than that for which they were originally designed. It is true that “every picture tells a story,” but also true that every historic object has a less obvious but equally intriguing story behind it. For all of you who grew up delighting in treasure hunts, here are some historic artifacts you can go out and “discover” on your own.

### The Case of the Kidnapped Carriage Step

In the 1890s, South Virginia Street just south of the Courthouse was a choice location for many homes of Reno's elite. The Lake Mansion, built by W. J. Marsh, had occupied the corner of South Virginia and California Avenue since 1877. State Senator Patrick L. Flanigan and his family chose this street on which to build their elegant mansion,

faced with impressive columns and bay windows. Transportation in those early days was by horse and carriage, and in order to facilitate ladies' entry into and exit from the high-wheeled conveyances, most homes provided a carriage step. The Flanigan's step was particularly impressive, being a 500-pound block of granite engraved with the initials of its owner, P.L.F.

Flanigan died in 1920, and Mrs. Flanigan sold the home in 1925 to the Yori family, who occupied and operated it as an apartment house until its demolition in 1955. The step remained in its curbside location, in spite of what a *Reno Evening Gazette* writer of the 1950s claimed was “the anguished cries of car owners who had brushed off chromium trim and paint in trying to park beside the carriage step.”

However, one summer day in August of 1955, the step simply disappeared. A Mrs. Gatewood, the manager of the Yori Apartments, had no idea what had become of the step. As it turned out, due to complaints by motorists, the step had indeed been removed by the city and taken away to the city garage. At that point, city engineer and longtime Reno resident Elliott Cann, not wanting to see the historic stone relegated to the city dump, secured the item for safekeeping, until a Flanigan family member could be contacted to authorize disposition of the step. Paul Flanigan, son of Patrick

L., presented the step to the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) and it became an exhibit in the Virginia City Room of the museum, then located in the basement of the State Building. There it remained until the NHS moved to their new and current location, north of the University on North Virginia Street. Due to space constraints, the step now sits outside to the east of the building, unnoticed by most visitors to the Society, but still proudly sporting its P.L.F. monogram.

### The Gateway to Higher Education

In a custom that is still honored today by many graduating classes, the University of Nevada Class of 1899 presented a gift to their soon-to-be alma mater. The gift was a set of black wrought iron gates to be attached to the stone pillars at the Ninth Street entrance to the University campus. Each side of the gate bore a stylized “99” to commemorate the class. For over 20 years they remained in place, and served as an attractive background for many photographs and postcards of graduating classes, marching bands, and such. But by 1921, the entrance road needed to be widened to accommodate automobiles and ensure a safer passage to the grounds. The gates were removed, the pillars, a gift from the class of 1898, were moved back, and the road was paved.

Former HRPS tour guide Leanne Stone, who created the original University of



Left, the Flanigan Residence from the 1927 *Nevada Newsletter*; look closely to see the step in front of the center walkway; right, the carriage step at the Nevada Historical Society on North Virginia Street in Reno. 1927 *Nevada Newsletter* courtesy of Pat Best. Carriage step photo by Debbie Hinman.

## Relocated History (continued)



*Left, the University of Nevada, Reno gates with Morrill Hall in the background; right, the gates in their current location at 208 University Terrace. UNR gates courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society. University Terrace gates photo by Debbie Hinman.*

Nevada Historic District walking tour, contacted the university archivist Karen Gash to ask about the disposition of the gates. Ms. Gash claimed to have heard two different stories. The first stated that the gates had been donated to the scrap metal drive mounted during WWII. The second, however, related that the gates had somehow come into the possession of a resident of University Terrace.

Leanne's husband Tom was dispatched on a reconnaissance mission to check out the gates. Risking life and limb on the narrow, busy street, Tom found the gates and determined that the gates appeared to have had the bottom half removed. But the distinctively-designed top portions were identical to the gates shown in various photos of the University entrance between 1899 and 1921.

The Stones' further research uncovered that in 1921, the property was owned by an agriculture professor, Sanford Dinsmore—no one knows how he acquired the gates, but they may have been given to him when they would no longer fit the newly-widened entrance. The shortened gates are still at this residence at 208 University Terrace.

### It's a Grand Old Fountain

Proudly displayed in the very bottom level of the newly-renovated Amtrak Station is a 14-foot cast-iron fountain. Though it is not currently running, it is an eye-catching structure, featuring drinking basins at various levels, originally intended not only to satiate humans, but to "quench the thirst of all of God's creatures."

In 1898, the first Red Cross Society in Nevada was established in Carson City. In April 1901, the Reno Red Cross Society met to determine how to use a funds surplus they had accrued. At the same time, the national organization known as the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was raising funds across the country to fund the erection of grandiose fountains for the dual purpose of providing a free alternative to the evils of saloons, and to honor various causes

*Continued on page 6*



*Left, the original fountain at N. Virginia and Plaza. The tall white building behind the fountain is Reno's oldest commercial structure, the Masonic building; right, the fountain in place at the Amtrak station.*

*Original fountain courtesy of David Hollecker. Amtrak fountain courtesy of Debbie Hinman.*



## Relocated History (continued)

*Continued from page 5*

with a monument. In Reno, these two organizations joined forces and raised enough additional funds to pay a local foundry to build the fountain. The Reno monument honored the veterans of the Spanish American War of 1898, with a crossed swords design on two sides of the base. Another side displays the Red Cross symbol, honoring their work in caring for wounded veterans.

The fountain was originally placed on the southwest corner of Virginia and Plaza Streets, named for the plaza that it was hoped would eventually occupy the site. The fountain was dedicated in a ceremony held on Oct. 17, 1908 and occupied that site until it was moved in 1932 to make way for a "Flying A" gasoline station.

The fountain was then relocated to the front of the California Building in Idlewild Park. There it stood for over 70 years, sporting a garish red paint job and suffering vandalism, neglect, and use as a giant trash receptacle. It lost its dog and horse troughs, lights, plumbing and cast-iron base.

Thanks to the advocacy of local historians David Hollecker and Neal Cobb, the fountain was saved before it fell into further disrepair, and in 2005, the Reno

City Council approved the relocation of the fountain to the Amtrak building, almost a homecoming for the fountain. Hollecker and Cobb have worked to raise funds to restore the fountain to its original state, assisted by many local organizations and individual contributors. It is a work in progress, but definitely worth a visit.

### A Capitol Gazebo

Tucked away in a lovely, quiet, old southwest neighborhood, just visible over the top of a backyard fence, is a unique gazebo. It looks like the perfect venue for an elegant afternoon tea, with its graceful lines and arches. I used to wonder how its creator arrived at such an unusual design until I joined Scott Gibson's "Newlands Neighborhood" walk.

The true story of the gazebo is much more interesting than anything I could have imagined. The structure was designed and constructed around 1990 by HRPS member and local artist Loren Jahn. But the secret to the clever design is the basic building element—the gazebo was constructed from windows salvaged from the state capitol building in Carson City, which was built in 1870.

In the late 1970s, a seismic retrofit was undertaken that resulted in some of the historic elements being removed.

The windows were acquired by a local artist/sculptor who sold them to Jahn. Apparently he wasn't the only one unable to resist such a treasure—there are Capitol windows in Virginia City, Truckee, and even old San Diego.

Even though the original 26-ounce French crystal glass was missing from the frames, Jahn experienced a real challenge in moving the windows, which measured 5 feet by approximately 17 feet, to his parents' backyard on Nixon Avenue.

Jahn believes the window frames were made of tamarack wood from Peavine Mountain. The lumber was milled in Reno and transported to Carson City overland, as the V&T did not yet exist. He came up with the idea of a gazebo, and built a foundation and connecting elements. The resulting creation is an elegant focal point in the Jahn yard, and provided a unique backdrop for Jahn's own wedding. Jahn is in the process of doing more refurbishing of the gazebo, which he hopes to finish sometime this summer.

These are but a few of the "history out of context" items that exist in the local area. I know there are many more out there, and possibly some even more compelling stories surrounding them. If you have such an item you would like to tell me about, please call or send me an e-mail at [paris652@nvgbell.net](mailto:paris652@nvgbell.net) and your treasure may be featured in Relocated History II.

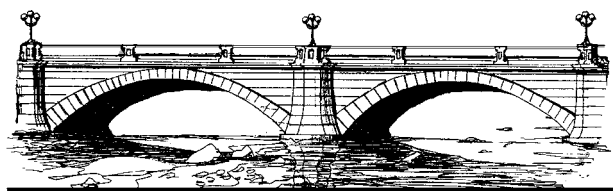


*Left, the Capitol showing arched windows; right, the gazebo built from the Capitol windows. Capitol photo courtesy of [nevadamax.com](http://nevadamax.com). Gazebo photo by Loren Jahn.*

### *Information for this article came from:*

Leanne Stone, former UNR District Tour Guide; Loren Jahn, creator and builder of Capitol Gazebo; Kay Mergen, "Heavy Block of Granite Missing from Old Home," *Reno Evening Gazette*, 8/13/1954; Susan Voyles, "Historic fountain at Idlewild Park to get new home in downtown Reno," *Reno Gazette-Journal*, 6/10/2005; Caroline Panches, "A History Worth Celebrating," *American Red Cross Newsletter*, Volume 1, Issue 2, Summer 2006.

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Tour Guide and a member of the HRPS Editorial Staff.



# Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## 2007 Summer HRPS & Artown Walking Tours



Historic Reno Preservation Society will present eight historic walking tours and one bike tour during the annual Artown celebration this July. All tours are \$10 per person; tours are free to HRPS members. Tours generally last about 2 hours. No dogs, please. Helmets are required for the bike tour. If you would like to attend, please call 747-HIST (4478) to reserve space.

Tuesday,  
July 3, 2007  
6 p.m

TRUCKEE RIVER CORRIDOR - A relaxing stroll along the Truckee River reveals eclectic architecture grounded by rich political histories and spiced with colorful anecdotes. Meet at McKinley Arts and Cultural Center, 925 Riverside Drive. Tour Guide, Joan Collins.

Saturday,  
July 7, 2007  
9 a.m.

NEWLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD - An architectural walk through one of Reno's oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. Tour Guide, Scott Gibson.

Tuesday,  
July 10, 2007  
6 p.m.

POWNING ADDITION AND LITTLE ITALY - Discover one of Reno's earliest and most delightful vernacular neighborhoods, predominantly settled by Northern Italian immigrants. Meet at McKinley Arts & Culture Center. Tour Guide, Felvia Belaustegui.

Saturday,  
July 14, 2007  
9 a.m.

MONROE STREET NEIGHBORHOOD - Stroll along Monroe and Joaquin Miller Streets, savoring the history and architecture of this lovely residential area south of the Newlands Neighborhood. You will see the Hart House, the Patrick Ranch House, Greystone Castle, and other distinctive homes. Tour Guides, Elsie Newman and Anne Simone.

Sunday,  
July 15, 2007  
9 a.m.

BIKE TOUR THROUGH OLD RENO - Ride along quiet streets under a canopy of trees in Reno's oldest neighborhoods. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. HELMETS REQUIRED, NO EXCEPTIONS. Limited to 20 bikers. Tour Guide, Glee Willis.

Tuesday,  
July 17, 2007  
6 p.m.

UPPER RALSTON/NORTHERN LITTLE ITALY - Enjoy a walk in a residential neighborhood with a mix of architectural styles. Proximity to the University has traditionally determined the mix of residents, professors and students alike. Meet at the intersection of Washington Street, The Strand, and College Avenue. Tour Guides, Jim & Sue Smith.

Saturday,  
July 21, 2007  
9 a.m.

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF - View high-style architecture in Reno's most significant political neighborhood. Meet at the McCarran House, 401 Court Street. Tour Guide, Ed Wishart.

Tuesday,  
July 24, 2007  
6 p.m.

DELONGCHAMPS ARCHITECTURE - Stroll along Reno's oldest neighborhoods noting the masterpieces of our famous homegrown architect, Frederic J. DeLongchamps. Meet at the Hardy House, 442 Flint Street, northeast corner of California Avenue and Flint Street. Tour Guide, Anne Simone.

Saturday,  
July 28, 2007  
9 a.m.

EL RENO APARTMENT HOMES - Visit the original site of these charming and unique homes, and view seven of them at their new locations. Other examples of the Sierra Vista Addition architecture will be seen. Meet at the Statewide Lighting parking lot, 1311 S. Virginia. Tour Guide, Debbie Hinman.

# City of Reno's Landmark & State Champion Trees

by Leanne Stone

"The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man."

J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day.

In *The City of Trembling Leaves*, Walter Van Tilburg Clark wrote in his prelude, "In Reno...this universal importance of trees is intensified, for Reno is in the Great Basin of America, between the Rockies and the Sierras, where the vigor of the sun and the height of the mountains, to say nothing of the demanding activities of mining booms, have created a latter-day race of tree worshippers." Still true? Well yes, in fact more so now. In 1945, Van Tilburg Clark may have thought Reno's leaves trembled, but that was nothing compared to what we have now.

The City of Reno has over 20,000 trees growing just in its parks and other publicly owned land. This count does not include the trees on private property. "Urban forest" are the professional

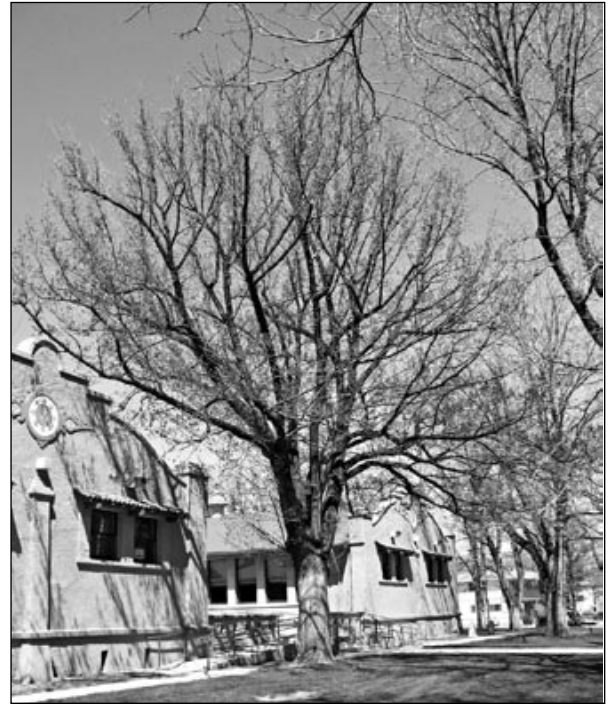
buzz words used today to describe the collection of both public and private trees within a city.

Some of these trees were here when Clark wrote his book and some are now Reno's State Landmark and Champion Trees. As of 2003, the City counted 32 trees in Reno with additional champions on the University of Nevada, Reno campus and in Idlewild Park. Landmark trees are so named based on their age, historical association, size, shape, species, location, visual quality, and other characteristics.

In 1940, American Forests, the nation's oldest non-profit citizens' conservation organization (founded in 1875) decided to administer a documented list of the largest tree of each species,

referring to it as the "National Champion." The state champion tree is the largest tree of its kind located within the state. All of the Reno champions except one are in city parks or on parkways, at the university where they get constant attention, or in the yards of residents who treated them well.

The biggest tree is not necessarily the oldest. Champion trees are considered on height, trunk diameter or girth, total size, and age. Trees grow well where they are protected against the elements and have sufficient light and water with little competition from other trees in the area. It is interesting to note, although not surprising, that worldwide, the top position in a champions list is always held by a conifer (a cone-bearing tree).

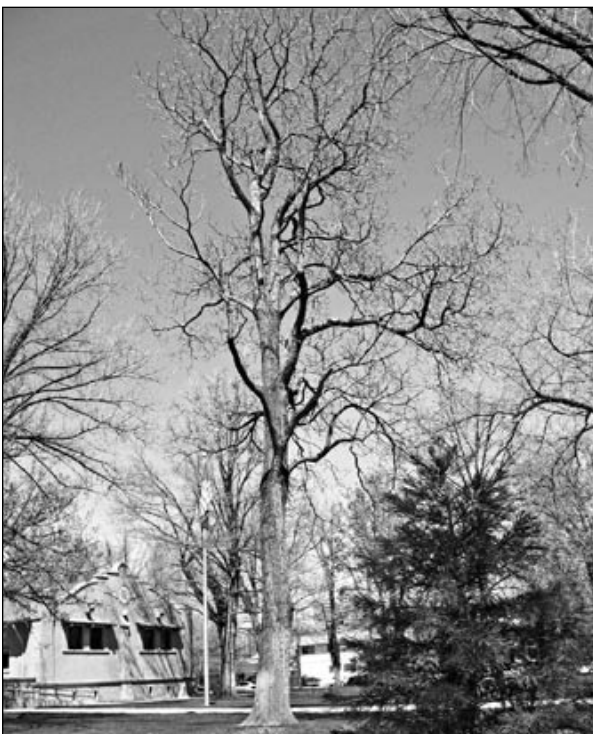


Planted in 1910, English Oak, 925 Riverside Dr., McKinley Arts and Culture Center.

One tree you may have noticed over the years (but well past Van Tilburg Clark's time) is on the west side of South Arlington Avenue near Urban Avenue by the Washoe County golf course. The Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) was planted in 1964 and it is hard to miss. The city cut around the tree when the street was widened so the base of it is protected from the street with curbing around it.

The City of Reno Arboretum has a publication, "Idlewild Park Trees: Self-Guided Walking Tours of Reno's Arboretum." It is available for a suggested donation of \$2 from the Parks office in Idlewild Park (334-2270). Members of the Reno Urban Forestry Commission (RUFC), including HPRS's own Anne Simone, put this guide together in 2003. Now, members of RUFC give guided tours in Idlewild Park during Artown and at various other times of the year, but with the printed guide you can take tours at your convenience.

The University of Nevada, Reno campus was designated a State Arboretum by



Planted in 1910, Western Catalpa, 925 Riverside Dr., McKinley Arts and Culture Center.  
Photos by Leanne Stone.



## Reno's Champion Trees (continued)



Planted in 1932, Tuliptree, 1015 Forest St., parkway

the Nevada Legislature in 1985 and has 22 of Reno's champion trees. Formal landscaping on the campus began in 1908, when the Quadrangle was developed between Morrill Hall, the original campus building, and the Mackay School of Mines to the north, the second building to be built (now Mackay Mines). Besides the grass, Elm trees were planted around the perimeter of the Quad. There are several trees on the champions list in the historic district of the University besides the Elms worth noting. As you enter the campus from the south at Center and Ninth Streets there is a Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and a White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) both at the northeast corner. Between the Honor Court Arbor and Morrill Hall look for the Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). To the west of Morrill Hall is an Ohio Buckeye Horsechestnut (*Assculus glabra*). At the west side of the sidewalk at Morrill Hall is a Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*).

To take a self-guided walking tour of all the campus trees, check out a complete list at the same website listed at the end of the article for the City of Reno trees. There are plaques attached to the campus trees identifying them as champion trees. However, there are no dates listed as to when any of these trees were planted.

There is one tree that deserves your attention, but is not on the landmark and champion lists. It is the Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) at the corner of Ninth and Center Streets, across the street from the south entrance to the campus. It was dedicated June 10, 1913, as the National Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Tree, as part of a GAR convention that was held in Reno then. It was planted in soil from several Civil War battlefields

and is Washoe County Historical Marker #81.

There are many benefits of urban trees. They improve the water quality of rivers and streams by capturing rainfall and reducing erosion and runoff, provide privacy and reduce noise and glare, provide homes and food for wildlife, provide shade and keep homes and buildings cooler in the summer, and remove air pollution and reduce carbon dioxide.

According to the National Wildlife Federation there are between 60 to 200 million spaces along our nation's city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of

CO<sub>2</sub> every year and saving \$4 billion in energy costs. It is known that sight, sound, smell, and touch of plants help to reduce stress levels as well.

As the 2003 president of the Arbor Day Foundation, John Rosenow said, "There is enduring value in planting trees. Planting a tree is always a gesture of hope for the future." The City of Reno has had a Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation for the past 24 years because of its commitment to city trees.

Perhaps now you will look at trees in the City of Reno with a new awareness or be inspired to plant your own tree that could become a champion. The most effective action anyone can take to improve our urban forest is to learn how to properly plant, care for and preserve your own trees. By looking at the trees throughout the city, you can

*Continued on page 10*



Planted in 1939, Giant Sequoia, 595 W. Arroyo, Front yard.


## Reno's Champion Trees (continued)

*Continued from page 9*

decide which tree would suit your location. Of particular importance is knowing what trees are drought tolerant.

Or, perhaps you have seen a tree you want to nominate as a prospective champion tree. Anyone can do so. On the Nevada Division of Forestry site, [www.forestry.nv.gov/main/bigtree01.htm](http://www.forestry.nv.gov/main/bigtree01.htm) you will find a link to the Nomination form.

What does the future hold for Reno's trees? Only time will tell.

"Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel," by Aldo Leopold, considered to be the father of wildlife management and of the United States' wilderness system. 

*Information for this article came from:*

City of Reno publication Urban Forestry; websites of the City of Reno, the State of Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, American Forests, and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Leanne Stone is a former member of the Reno Urban Forestry Commission and the University of Nevada, Reno Arboretum Board. She is a charter member of HRPS and a former HRPS Walking Tour Director.



*Planted in 1944, London Planetree Sycamore, 26 Winter St., parkway.*



*Planting date unknown, Spanish Fir, south side of Newlands Park.*

## Leanne's Tree Tour

As you go on the various walking tours provided by HRPS, you might look for these trees. They are listed here in an order that you could also take a driving tour to see them. (See website address below for the complete list). Please enjoy viewing the trees from the street or sidewalk and respect privacy.


- London Planetree Sycamore (*Platanus x acerifolia*) 1944, 26 Winter St., parkway;
- Western Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) 1910, and English Oak (*Quercus robur*) 1910, both at 925 Riverside Dr., McKinley Arts and Culture Center grounds;
- Spanish Fir (*Abies pinsapo*) planting date unknown, south side of Newlands Park;
- Nordmann Fir (*Abies nordmannia*) 1907, and Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) 1907, both at 631 California Ave., front yard;
- Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) 1939, 595 W. Arroyo St., front yard;
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) 1932, 1015 Forest St., parkway.

Move across S. Virginia St. to see the two trees below:

- European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) 1940, at 701 and 705 Wilson (corner of Thoma and Wilson, one block east of Wells).

When you are near the university take the time to view the tree below:

- Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) 1928, in the backyard of the house on the corner of Ninth and Bell Sts. (west side of N. Virginia St.).

The complete list can be found at [www.wide-eyed.info/renochamps.htm](http://www.wide-eyed.info/renochamps.htm). Sadly some of the trees listed are no longer there. 

## HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Please check your mailing label! Renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno!**

Please make checks payable to **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, and mail along with this application to:  
P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507

- ☐ New Member  
☐ Renewing Member

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual membership includes:** Footprints (HRPS Newsletter) • Free participation in walking tours

- ☐ Student \$15.00      ☐ Individual \$25.00      ☐ Family (Children 18 yrs and younger) \$40.00  
☐ Business Contribution \$50.00      ☐ Supporting \$100.00      ☐ HRPS Angel \$250.00

Additional donation: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for joining HRPS. An organization is only as strong as its members. There are many areas in our organization where your enthusiasm, skills, and dedication will be invaluable to historic Reno and future generations. The goal of the Historic Reno Preservation Society is to preserve the historic resources of our community. What would you like to contribute to HRPS?*

**FOR OFFICE  
USE ONLY**

PAID: ☐ Check ☐ Cash    Amount: \_\_\_\_\_    Membership # \_\_\_\_\_    Renewal Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RV 08.28.05/F0-DCD



*May 10, 2007 at Reno City Hall, Truckee Meadows Remembered (L-r; Jack Sutton, Jack Hursh, Loren Jahn) receives the History Advocate Award from the Historic Resources Commission. To the right of Jahn are City Councilmen Dave Aiazzi and Pierre Hascheff and HRC Chair Sally Ramm. Photo courtesy of Ted Cook.*

### **FootPrints apologizes to Patty Cafferata and Barbara Vucanovich:**

In *FootPrints* Vol. 10 No. 2, in the article *The Mapes Hotel & Casino* by Patty Cafferata, in the credits, we incorrectly moved Patty's mother, Barbara Vucanovich, to Nebraska. To be correct, Patty and her mother co-authored the book, *From Nevada to Congress and Back Again (not Nebraska)*.



P.O. Box 14003  
Reno, NV 89507



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
RENO NV  
PERMIT NO. 20

**Bulk Rate Mail**  
*FootPrints* is mailed using a Bulk Rate Mail permit. If your address changes, please send a note to HRPS, PO Box 14003, Reno NV 89507, with your address change. Note that Bulk Rate mail is not forwarded.



## HISTORY LIVES! CHECK OUT THESE PLACES

*HRPS Speaker Programs will resume September 2007.*

**Bowers Mansion (tour)**, 4005 U. S. Hwy 395 North, Carson City, 849-0201. Call to make reservation.

**Churchill County Museum**, 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, NV 423-3677.  
Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday, noon - 5 pm

**Fourth Ward School Museum and Cultural Center**, 537 S. C. St., Virginia City,  
847-0975, Daily, 10 am - 5 pm

**Genoa Courthouse Museum**, 2304 Main St., Genoa, 782-4325. May - October: Daily, 10 am - 4:30 pm

**National Automobile Museum**, The Harrah Collection, 10 S. Lake St., Reno, 333-9300  
Monday - Saturday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm

**Nevada State Capitol**, Musser and Carson streets, Carson City. (800) 638-2321. Daily, 8 am - 5 pm

**Nevada State Railroad Museum**, 2180 S. Carson St., Carson City, 687-6953. Daily, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Nevada Historical Society**, 1650 N. Virginia St., Reno, 688-1190. Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

**Nevada State Museum**, 600 N. Carson St. Carson City, 687-4810. Daily, 8:30am - 4:30 pm.

**Sparks Heritage Museum**, 820 Victorian Avenue, Sparks. 355-1144,  
Tuesday-Friday, 11 am - 4 pm, Saturday, 1 pm - 4 pm

Opinions expressed in *FootPrints* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff, the Historic Reno Preservation Society executive board or the general membership. *FootPrints* is a quarterly publication printed in Reno, Nevada. All rights reserved. © 2007 Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS).

**HRPS Web Site:** <http://historicro.org/>

### HRPS Officers

**President:** Felvia Belaustegui  
**Vice President:** Phyllis Cates  
**Secretary:** Joan Collins  
**Treasurer:** Bill Walbridge

### Board of Directors

Barbara Courtney, Joan Dyer, Jerry Fenwick,  
Gordon Foote, Debbie Hinman, Sharon  
Honig-Bear, Jack Hursh, Jr., Jim Smith,  
Marilyn Fuetsch Turville, Carrie Young

### Program

Jack Hursh Jr. 746-3252

### Membership Director

Gordon Foote 348-6455

### Walking Tours

Ed Wishart

### FootPrints Managing Editor

Carol Coleman

### Editorial Staff

Kim Henrick  
Debbie Hinman 322-9400  
Linda Sievers

### Editorial Board

Mella Rothwell Harmon  
John Marshall

### Editor Emeritus & FootPrints Founder

Sharon A. Walbridge

**Graphic Design:**  
Double Click Design 324-5569