

Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

FootPrints

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

vol. 15 no. 3 ❖ Summer 2012

A History of Reno's Early Schools: 1912 - The Present

by Debbie Hinman

The first part of this history, Reno Schools 1868-1912, appeared in FootPrints, Fall 2011. What follows is a continuation of this rich and interesting history of our local schools. Note: as Reno was growing and building schools, so was our sister city Sparks, but for space considerations, this article will only discuss the Reno schools.

By 1912, Reno had come a long way from the dusty, upstart town with so few children that a one-room schoolhouse adequately served its education needs. It now possessed a stately brick building known as the Babcock Kindergarten, constructed in 1901, and the brick Mission-style Southside elementary school, built in 1903 by W. W. Shaff and the Burke Brothers. In addition, there were four lovely stucco Mission Revival-style elementary schools (McKinley Park, Mary S. Doten, Mt. Rose, Orvis Ring), dubbed the Four Sisters or Spanish Quartette, and an impressive Spanish Renaissance-style high school, all designed by local architect George A. Ferris and completed between 1910-1912. The Ferris schools in particular were beautiful structures and the envy of many school districts across the nation.

Superintendent Benson Dillon (B.D.) Billingshurst was just four years into what would be his 27-year tenure in that position; he had already accomplished a great deal, but he wasn't nearly finished.

Reno was continuing to grow at a phenomenal rate and with this growth came children who needed to be educated. Soon the five elementary schools and one high school were not enough to contain them.

Since the early 20th century, there had been a movement in secondary education to implement "the junior high school." Since many students left school after eighth grade, some believed having a separate school for 7th, 8th and 9th grades

might encourage students to remain in school at least another year. Educators also felt it was important to "recognize and accommodate the special nature of early adolescence and individual differences in aptitude, interest and ability." The first junior high opened in Berkeley, California in 1910.



Billingshurst Junior High, built in 1930 on Plumas between Walker and Monroe avenues in the sparsely populated area between Arlington and South Virginia. Courtesy Jerry Fenwick.

Reno was a little late coming to that table, however, as it was busy building five new schools to address years of overcrowding and unsuitable classrooms. But in 1928, funds were raised to build Reno Junior High School in the one hundred block of East Fourth Street. By this time, George Ferris' son Lehman (Monk) Ferris had begun working with his father, so this may account for the departure from the Mission and Spanish architectural style of the earlier schools. This school was a large, modern, squarish, multi-storied brick structure.

Shortly after the completion of the first junior high, a second junior high was funded and completed in 1930 to serve the area south of town. Because there were now two junior highs, Reno Junior High was renamed Northside and the second junior high school was christened B. D. Billingshurst in honor of the Superintendent, now in his 22nd year of leading Reno's educational system. Built on Plumas Street between Walker and Monroe avenues, the new junior high had the same basic floor plan as Northside but with its exterior of whitewashed stucco over brick, it had a distinctly art deco appearance.

After suffering a heart attack and succumbing to pneumonia, Superintendent Billingshurst died on December 3, 1935. He was only 66 years old. Accolades were heaped upon the educator for his 27 years of service to Reno's schools. According to local newspapers, Billingshurst lay "in state" in the Billingshurst Junior High Auditorium where all could come to pay their respects. Not only was he responsible for building seven fine schools, Billingshurst was instrumental in creating laws for mandatory

Continued on page 2

Reno's Early Schools 1912-Present (continued)

Continued from page 1

attendance, free textbooks and medical exam requirements. In 1933, the U.S. Department of Education rated Nevada schools second only to New York in quality and educational standards.

Two weeks following Billingshurst's death, a replacement was named. After considering nearly 20 applicants from all parts of the western United States, the Reno School Board unanimously voted for E. Otis Vaughn for new Superintendent. He had been the Reno High School principal for 17 years and would hold the Superintendent position for 9 years before retiring to Oroville where he had an olive orchard. He passed away in Oroville in 1954. Two years later, a junior high school in the southeast portion of the city would be named for the educator.

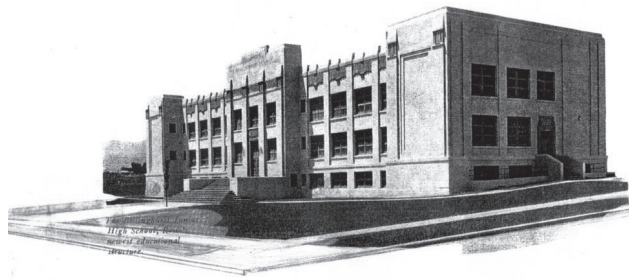
During Vaughn's time as Superintendent, the Reno school system was increased by one elementary school, Home Gardens School, in an area now absorbed by the Reno-Tahoe Airport. It was through his efforts while at Reno High School that the merit system, shifting responsibility for achievement from teachers to the students themselves, was established in 1928.

In 1944, history repeated itself as the current Reno High School principal was again named to replace the outgoing Superintendent of Washoe County Schools. The new superintendent would be Earl Wooster; his salary would be \$4,500 a year. Wooster received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada in 1921. He had taught in Nevada schools since 1922 and earned a Master's Degree from Stanford University in 1942. Wooster held several principalships throughout the state before coming to Reno.

By the 1940s a real need had been growing for another grammar school; the Four Sisters and Southside were

overflowing. But World War II created a shortage of labor and materials and Reno had to make do until the economy improved.

The next school didn't open until September of 1949—and a school more different from those already in existence could not have been imagined. Veterans Memorial School was designed by preeminent local architect Russell Mills. He went on to design other schools, but this was his first, though you would not know it, reviewing the list



*Architect's sketch of Billingshurst Junior High, in the Bricks and Stones Neighborhood on Plumas.
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.*

of modern innovations and the child-friendly design he created. The *Reno Evening Gazette* reported, upon its opening, "The little red schoolhouse was never like this." The building was called sprawling and ultra-modern as it certainly was for its time. Built of reinforced concrete, the structure was unpainted, with scrolls and geometric designs etched into the concrete and liberal use of glass bricks as the building's only adornment. It was touted as fireproof and earthquake proof; corners in the school hallways were rounded to reduce accidents and exits were placed to avoid cross traffic. Recently remodeled, the school still stands facing Locust Street, between Wonder and Vassar streets.

Close on the heels of Veterans was the Sierra Vista School, off Valley Road, opened in December of 1949. Here, the concept of "adaptive reuse" reached a

new height. Architect Edward Parsons took three surplus army buildings, linked them together, and remodeled them into a homogeneous structure. A separate concrete block building was later built to the south of the school, accommodating kindergarten and first grade classes. Sierra Vista is now in its 63rd year of operation.

A boom in school construction occurred in the 1950s, due to the improved economy and arrival of the "baby boomers" who would require additional educational facilities. A few one-room schoolhouses in the outlying valleys were moved to larger quarters in the 1950s, such as Brown School, Anderson and Huffaker Elementary, but most of the schools were brand new and many bore the names of noted local educators. Included in this group were Roger Corbett, Libby C. Booth, Glenn Duncan, Echo Loder, Jessie Beck, Ernest M. Johnson and Alice Maxwell.

The trend continued, though building slowed in the 1960s with the addition of Florence Drake, Rita Cannan, Lena Juniper, Agnes Risley, Mamie Towles, and Roy Gomm. Other schools bore the names of locations, nearby landmarks or streets, including Sun Valley, Greenbrae, Hunter Lake, Peavine, Lincoln Park, Stead, Elmcrest, Lemmon Valley, Pleasant Valley, Stead and Smithridge. Most of these schools were very similar in appearance with unremarkable architecture.

Junior high schools cropped up to accommodate students after the closing of Northside in 1962. The old Reno High building was converted to Central Junior High in 1951. It served students another 16 years but in its final days, its appearance could be compared to that of an aging diva who had turned to the bottle. Gone were its stylish balconies; boarded-up doors leading nowhere presented an absurd face to anyone approaching the school. The building had been painted a garish turquoise with the tower caps an artificial silver. It had been a lovely building that should have lived another 100 years but was

Reno's Early Schools 1912-Present (continued)

demolished in 1967, even before its Four Sister grammar schools, Mary S. Doten and Orvis Ring. McKinley Park and Mt. Rose still stand 100 years later.

The next junior high to be built was E. Otis Vaughn, completed in 1956. The school was designed by Albert W. Alegre, who practiced architecture part time until his 1956 resignation as Assistant Superintendent of Schools, a post he held for 26 years. He then joined the firm of Ibez and Hamilton. By the time junior high schools George Dilworth and Fred Traner were built in 1961, Alegre had joined the firm of Ferris & Erskine. This same plan was used for these schools and Darrell C. Swope as well, in 1966.

A departure from these cookie-cutter junior highs occurred in 1965 with construction of a new style of school, Archie W. Clayton, designed by Hewitt Wells of DeLongchamps, O'Brien and Wells. Built on the site of the old Seventh Street airfield, there was a large slope to the land that Wells took advantage of in his design and was the primary reason the school could not utilize a similar design to the other recent junior highs. The school is multi-level and was built around a courtyard to give students, in Wells' words, "a live-within feeling."

Following George Ferris' retirement, his son Monk began practicing on his own but when Graham Erskine came to town in 1946 seeking a divorce, he called Ferris and asked about working for him. Erskine was a graduate of Columbia University and the University of Rome, Italy, with a doctorate in Architecture. When Ferris learned of his impressive credentials, he took him in.

Erskine's first assignment was to produce preliminary designs for the new Reno High, as the old school on West Street between 4th and 5th had been outgrown. The designs were accepted by the Reno School Board and Ferris & Erskine collaborated on their first joint project, an ambitious undertaking to be sure. The new Reno High was to

be located on a 51-acre site between Idlewild Park and Westfield Village in southwest Reno. Many locals at the time scratched their heads in mystification, remarking, "What are they thinking, building a school way out there?" But its removal from downtown Reno made sense to most.

Opening in the fall of 1951 to 1300 students, this new Reno High was the most expensive public building in the state, costing \$3,360,000. The school contained about five acres of floor space and used approximately 300,000 bricks.



Northside Junior High School, the first junior high built in Reno, was in the one-hundred block of East Fourth Street. Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society.

At the confluence of three wings, there was a 26-foot parabolic dome, a very distinctive architectural feature.

In 1957, Erskine became Ferris' partner and their practice consisted mostly of the design of commercial buildings. The firm continued to be a preferred designer of schools.

Erskine worked diligently with the Reno School Board early in 1960 to design the new Earl Wooster High School, to be built on Plumb Lane. This school was a low, one-story campus-style facility, with covered walkways between buildings. The design was not to everyone's liking; in an article entitled, "Shopping Center? No, a School," an editorialist wrote, citing the traffic lanes and parking lots Erskine worked into the campus design in response to the growth of "motorized students." The

writer stated sarcastically, "About all that is missing is a service station and a car wash to serve the needs of the pampered students."

These objections were overridden and the next high school, Proctor Hug, was built in 1967, using the same basic plan as Wooster, though Erskine made modifications to accommodate the hilly terrain.

Reno continued to grow and the demand for more and larger schools increased. Robert McQueen High was built in response to the building flurry that occurred to the west, Galena High School in the south part of the city, North Valleys to the growth in the Golden Valley, Lemmon Valley, Stead and Cold Springs neighborhoods, and Damonte Ranch to the southeast. It is hard to believe that for 69 years, Reno High was our city's only high school until the establishment of Bishop Manogue Catholic High School in 1948 and it was still another 12 years until its archrival Wooster High appeared on the scene.

While our new schools are larger, safer and more technologically advanced than those of yesteryear, there is something comforting about climbing the steps and entering into the enveloping warmth of the old schools. Whether it's the sunlight pouring in through the large and numerous windows or the slight aroma of wood floor varnish, many of us are transported back to the schoolhouses of our past. We owe a great debt to those who fought to preserve these precious vestiges of our history. 📖

Information for this article was taken from various *Reno Evening Gazette* and *Nevada State Journal* stories; *Tough Little Town on the Truckee* by John Townley; Wikipedia on Secondary Schools; and websites of existing Reno Schools.

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Tour Guide and on the HRPS Editorial Board.

A Letter to HRPS

Editor's Note: We received the following letter in the HRPS mailbag from Robert Edd Lee, 306 Beverly Hill Blvd, Billings, MT, 59101-0655, Phone: 406-245-3113. It was addressed to our administrator (and a founder of HRPS) Cindy Ainsworth.

Dear Cindy Ainsworth:

I hope you are still on board with HRPS. My brother sent me the Spring 2010 issue last summer because it had the article about the Wells Avenue District. Enclosed is my check for a membership and subscription for future HRPS FootPrints issues.

I noted with interest that the Society had established its offices at the Hawkins House on Court Street. That brought back memories of a dinner Bob Hawkins hosted for a few college friends and their dates when we were all attending the University of Nevada, back when the U of N's only campus was in Reno.

Barrie Schuster's article about the Wells Avenue District was especially interesting to me because I grew up at 550 Wells Avenue (there was no "South Wells" in those days, because "North Wells" was known as Alameda Street) in the apartments built by my father, a Reno builder named Edd Lee. He had previously built the little grocery store at the southeast corner of Wells and Moran which was owned by my aunt and uncle, Virginia and Tom Reid. My mother, Pearl M. Lee, continued to live in and operate the Wells Ave. Apartments until her death in 2001.

Since I hung around my aunt's grocery store a lot as a little kid, I got to know a lot of the neighbors who used to shop for their daily bread at Reid's Grocery. Most of them had to walk to the store every day or so because there was no "driving to the super-market" in the 1940s, although that began to change by the 1950s.

I was also interested in the Spring 2010 issue's article about the V&T railroad, because when we were kids my brother and I took the train to Carson City, and then went by bus to Virginia City, for day trips. I am told that now one drives to Carson City, and a relic of the V&T makes an excursion train run from there up to Virginia City.

A school friend I met later at Reno High School had lived near the old Huffaker School on South Virginia while growing up, so he used to snag rides to and from downtown Reno before the V&T rail line was abandoned.

Recently my niece attended an HRPS event during which Edd Lee was mentioned as the builder of many small homes of a particular style which he constructed on the side streets east and west of Wells Avenue in the blocks lying north of Vassar Street. I have some of my father's papers, old advertisements (you can't believe that some of those houses sold for what a flat-screen TV sells for today), and other items related to the construction of those homes. Edd Lee also built housing in Winnemucca and Elko during WWII.

If convenient, please pass this on to any other members who are interested in the Wells Avenue District. I would be happy to assemble and impart information I have or otherwise help to preserve anecdotes about the area.

Very truly yours,

Robert Edd Lee



Exhibit at the Nevada Historical Society

June 22 - September 29, 2012

End Times —
A Photography Exhibition

by Dr. Lee Brumbaugh,
Curator of Photography

Nevada Historical Society

1650 N. Virginia Street, Reno,
Nevada

775-688-1190

www.nevadaculture.org

High Noon at the Nevada Historical Society

The Society invites you to a free documentary series in the Reno History gallery at noon on the fourth Wednesday of each month. High Noon will feature a Nevada video from **SunProductions** by Sunny Minedew with a special guest speaker on hand to present and discuss the film.

There is free parking — you can pick up a temporary parking permit in the NHS building to place in your vehicle.

Wednesday, July 25, noon

Topic: Riding the Rails that Built the Dam, from Sun Productions

The Story Behind 520 California

by Anne Simone, Tour Guide

A major part of giving a walking tour is to research the buildings you plan to pass by. I've been researching houses along California for the HRPS walking tour "The Other Side of the Street." I spend countless hours at the Nevada Historical Society looking things up. It's somewhere between a scavenger hunt and trying to find a needle in the haystack.

The first time I was able to find someone living at 520 California was in the 1920-1921 Reno City Directory — it shows John M. and Joseph Kirkley residing at 520 California. It appears John Kirkley lived in this house with various relatives for about 15 years. In 1927, John and wife, Lola, were listed at the address. He was listed as Reno's Chief of Police.


The 1931 city directory shows John and Lola still at the address (along with Florence, John and Roberta, all students) while John was listed as Chief of the Reno Police Department. He was also the treasurer of W. J. Hackett Inc., distributors of Durant Autos. John Kirkley's relative, Joseph, mentioned earlier, was under-sheriff by that time.

In 1937, John Kirkley was with the Silver State Detective Agency — or he owned

it. His relative, Joseph Kirkley, was a sergeant in the Reno Police Department and living elsewhere.

From about 1938 to 1945, there were renters in the house.

Starting in 1946, Martin (Manuel) E. Cafferata lived in the house for 11 years. In Virginia City during the 1890s, Martin married Matilda Piper, John Piper's niece and they had three boys and a girl. The third son was Harold, who was Treat Cafferata's father. Treat's wife, Patty Cafferata (a former Nevada State Treasurer and a past president of HRPS), has shared many interesting stories about the history of Nevada's state treasurers. Patty now writes a history column for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* and has written several books highlighting historic buildings, families, and events. In 1982, Patty's mother, Barbara Vucanovich, became Nevada's first female member of the U. S. Congress.

After the Cafferata family lived at 520 California, the house was used for business such as accountants and real estate companies and the most recent tenant was the Voila Restaurant. 



520 California Street, Reno.
Courtesy Anne Simone.



Historic Reno Preservation Society's July 2012 Historic Walks Celebrate Artown!



Tour cost is \$10 per person, free to HRPS members. Walks generally last from 1½ to 2 hours. No dogs please. **Reservations are required and space is limited.** Please call 747-4478 or go to www.historicreno.org for information and reservations.

Sunday
July 1
9:00 a.m.

BIKE TOUR THROUGH OLD RENO - This delightful tour will kick off HRPS July Walks in Reno for Artown! A leisurely ride through the most historic parts of Reno. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. Tour guide: Glee Willis. **HELMETS REQUIRED, NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Tuesday
July 3
6:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN RIVERWALK - See Reno's relationship with the Truckee over time, learn of the great floods and of Reno's architectural heritage, hear the Voice of the City, observe how the HRPS Walks in July relate to the Truckee and the history of Reno. Meet at the Wild River Grill at the Riverside Hotel. Tour Guides: Sue and Jim Smith.

Saturday
July 7
9:00 a.m.

NEWLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD - Enjoy 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
6:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY HISTORIC DISTRICT (CAMPUS) - Visit Morrill Hall, MacKay School of Mines and the Keck Museum to learn the history of this beautiful campus. Meet at Honor Court, 9th and Center Street. Tour Guide: Jack Hursh.

Saturday
July 14
9:00 a.m.

ETHNIC RENO: WEST SIDE - Chinese herbal shops, Judaism's early days and a rich African-American heritage come alive on this tour. Includes an inside visit to the Lear Theater and the historic Bethel AME Church. Meet at West Street Market, West between First and Second streets. Tour guides: Sharon Honig-Bear and Ken Dalton.

Tuesday
July 17
6:00 p.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.

Saturday
July 21
9:00 a.m.

BEYOND THE ARCHES - "In The Spirit of Artown" Free Tour - Witness downtown Reno as it has reinvented itself for 150 years. This tour links the downtown Reno arches with stories of the forces that shaped the town: railroad and mining, immigrants, as a notorious divorce and gambling mecca—and now as a livable cultural hub. Walk in the footsteps of Bill Harrah, Myron Lake, Baby Face Nelson, Frederic DeLongchamps and others. Meet at the National Automobile Museum, 10 S. Lake St. Tour guides: Jim Smith, Sharon Honig-Bear, Debbie Hinman. **RESERVATIONS required!**

Tuesday
July 24
6:00 p.m.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET - Perhaps you've done the Mansions on the Bluff and the DeLongchamps walks but how about the houses on the other side of Court, Ridge, California and Arlington? Distinctive, architecturally-styled homes line these quiet streets where many of Reno's families lived, some for over 50 years. Today the neighborhood is a blend of family homes along with businesses. Meet at the southwest corner of Arlington and Court. Tour guides: Anne Simone and Rosie Cevalco.

Saturday
July 28
9:00 a.m.

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF - A historic walk that looks at some of the most notable homes in Reno: Court, Ridge and upper California streets, home to three senators and the merchants that made early Reno *The Biggest Little City*. Meet at the McCarran House, 401 Court Street. Tour guides: Ed Wishart, Bill Isaef, Joan Collins.

Tuesday
July 31
6:00 p.m.

LAKE ADDITION - Meander past divorce-trade dwellings and Victorian architecture, through one of Reno's earliest additions. Includes a stop at the Lake Mansion. Meet at the Nevada Museum of Art, 160 West Liberty Street. Tour Guide: Debbie Hinman.

Message From Your HRPS President

When you think of downtown Reno, what buildings come to mind?

For me, the answer is simple. I see the glorious corner of Mill and Virginia streets, with the Pioneer Center glowing against the elegance of three Frederic DeLongchamps buildings.

This corner has always represented a type of architectural history lesson. Within eyesight, you're presented a taste of the Beaux Arts (the Washoe County Courthouse), Art Deco (The Post Office), Gothic (The Riverside) and Buckminster Fuller-inspired modern (Pioneer Center). For me, these buildings are the jewels in the crown of Reno architecture.

And now the future of our much-loved Post Office is in question.

We love the 1934 building for its rich Art Deco design (specifically Zig-Zag Moderne), its lustrous aluminum panels, its cool marble interior and as a project of the Civil Works Administration during President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

It is well known that the building is being sold by the USPS to the City of Reno and we understand that it will immediately be resold to a private developer. At this point, there hasn't been a competitive process for selecting the developer, and we understand there probably won't be. The USPS cannot



divulge the nature, price or conditions of the sale. A specific plan for the building has yet to be announced.

HRPS has provided public comment to the USPS, to Reno City Council members and to the State Historic Preservation Office. Our comments voice our concerns that the historic and artistic integrity of the building be maintained and that a fair, open and competitive process be followed to obtain the best developer for the project.

The good news is that a series of Protective Covenants were developed for the building in 2008 and these will be attached to the deed to protect the structure into the future. This protection is one of the values of having a building designated on the National Register of Historic Places. If the Covenants are addressed carefully, the building should

adapt to its new use, whatever that proves to be.

But until we know for certain what the plans for the building are, we remain guarded. Private development or partnerships can work wonderfully in historic buildings — we consider the Riverside Artists Lofts a good example—but so much is unknown at this time about the future of Mr. DeLongchamps's substantial structure.

I just finished reading an article about the exploration (some might even say plunder) of the RMS Titanic crash site. The story contained a quote by Dave Conlin, chief marine archaeologist with the National Park Service, that really struck me: "It's not easy to thread the needle between preservation and profit." We can only hope (and act as vigilant watchdogs, when appropriate) that a developer considers the careful preservation of our jewel of a Post Office, along with turning a profit.

You will be receiving email updates from us to keep you informed. If you would like to know more, or would like to get more involved in efforts to ensure the careful reuse of this building, please contact HRPS via email, phone or by letter.

Sharon Honig-Bear
President

Neon and Other Roadside Attractions — November 10, 2012

If you enjoy Reno neon and our roadside heritage, then be sure to mark your calendar for our special Saturday, November 10, 2012 bus tour. HRPS is celebrating the Nevada Museum of Art's exhibit, "The Light Circus, Art of Nevada Neon Signs" featuring Will Durham's neon collection. The NMA exhibit will run from October 13, 2012 through February 10, 2013. HRPS featured Will in our Summer 2011

FootPrints issue and he spoke to an enthusiastic HRPS' crowd about how he acquired many of Reno's neon signs.

The bus tour will explore many Reno and Sparks neon signs along with some hidden highway landmarks. You'll learn about the importance the Lincoln and Victory Highway played in the development of businesses in both Reno and Sparks. Will Durham will

share his neon and roadside knowledge along with tour guides Mella Harmon and Cindy Ainsworth. As a bonus, we'll be stopping at Casale's Halfway Club on 4th Street for dinner. You won't want to miss this one!

Cost is \$50 per person. The tour will begin around 3:30 p.m. — more details to follow. Please call 747-4478 for reservation information.

What's Cooking at HRPS?

by Debbie Hinman

Don't get out to eat very often? And when you do, are you getting a little tired of the Olive Garden and Claim Jumper? Have we got a deal for you!

HRPS' walking tours have been an important staple of the organization since its inception, but President and Tour Guide Sharon Honig-Bear has added an exciting new twist to the "tried and true." Beginning last summer, Sharon has created an experience known as *Reno's Historic Kitchens* which is different than the standard tour. Not only are participants treated to food for thought — history of some of Reno's historic buildings, most of which are fine examples of adaptive reuse of former residences now used as restaurants — but they get actual food. And what interesting fare it is! No longer are they left hungry following a two-hour walk in the hot sun or evening wind but instead go home sated with history and a sampling of local specialties.

The inaugural Historic Kitchens tour was actually a walking tour, but this year, Sharon decided to allow for greater flexibility in her restaurant choices by making the second tour a "drive yourself" format.



Davy Cunningham of Rose's and Sharon Honig-Bear. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.



Pat Blanchard selects items at Rose's on South Center Street. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth

Held on a warm and lovely Saturday in April, the first stop was Rose's at 725 South Center Street. The cozy brick bungalow beckoned to both those who recognized it as an old friend and those to whom this was a new place. The group settled at tables in the sunny, attractively appointed front rooms as Sharon introduced the most recent owner, Davy Cunningham, who was warm and welcoming.

Sharon related the story of the house, from its beginnings, circa 1919, as a part of the Southside Addition to its longtime ownership by W. E. and Eva Fuhrman, who raised a son and were major participants in the social affairs of Reno. Smiling employees of Rose's carried platters of varied and delicious sandwiches through the rooms, followed by attractive salads and beverages. The group of 35 made fast work of the gourmet sandwiches but all tried to save room, knowing there were three more food samplings to experience.

The next stop was a short distance northwest to the Hill Street Grill at 275 Hill Street. The group stepped ahead some 38 years as they entered an elegant dining room appointed with long tables, white tablecloths and elegant china and cutlery. Built in 1957, in a modern style with clean geometric lines, the Hill Street was, in its first incarnation, known as Reno Medical Building, designed to accommodate medical and dental professionals. This April day it was accommodating people

who oohed and aahed appreciatively over the beautifully presented tempura shrimp with wasabi sauce and a dollop of Asian cabbage salad. The shrimp disappeared in record time—the sandwiches of the earlier stop apparently digested and forgotten.

The group left the cool and attractive Grill to travel downtown to the lively West Street Market for a taste of the fare at Z-Pie. The space is small in square footage but huge in history. Sharon, who also leads the Reno Ethnic Tours, held the group enthralled with stories of its early days as a Chinese Herb Shop operated by Dr. Q. S. Wong. The friendly wait staff served an assortment of both meat and fruit pies to tour participants, whose hunger must



Diners chat inside Z-Pie in the lively West Street Market. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth


have been stimulated by the afternoon heat and the throngs of Wine Walkers celebrating the advent of Spring crowding downtown sidewalks. The pie pasty was light and the fillings creative and tasty.

The group left to locate their vehicles and head south to the shady patio of the Stone House Restaurant on Plumb and Arlington, the final Historic Kitchen of the tour. This beautiful structure is one of Reno's many stone houses and was built for Dr. Fred Phillips in 1918. The style is a Craftsman bungalow, built from the natural round rocks found in profusion on the property. Sharon gave the group a history of Arlington Nursery and the

What's Cooking at HRPS? (continued)

Chapin family, who arrived in Reno in 1876 to open what was then a unique business in the dusty, largely treeless fledgling town. The food samples were appetizers from the Happy Hour menu and some participants purchased libations and lingered under the umbrella tables in the welcome breeze to celebrate the end of an interesting and "full-filling" tour.

Because the nature of the *Reno Historic Kitchens Tour* necessitates limiting attendance to 35 participants, those interested in attending future Kitchens tours might be wise to email Sharon at sharonbear@sbcglobal.net and ask to be placed on a notification list. The tours will be offered occasionally, once or twice a year, and due to their special nature, the cost is \$35 per person.

Sharon, who was the restaurant critic for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for many years, commented, "I hope these tours encourage people to frequent these restaurants. It's an easy way to aid preservation when you support businesses that adaptively reuse historic structures. When a business is successful, the building is preserved. Besides, who doesn't like an outing with food and good conversation?" 



*Hill Street Grill at 275 Hill Street.
Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.*

Does This Photo Remind You Of Something?




Jack Hursh and friend Sandy pose in front of Jack's Carpenter Gothic on Vine Street.


Nevada Historical Society Volunteering Opportunity

Would you like to assist the historical society and its professionals by volunteering as a docent? Docents perform vital work in all areas of the historical society including in the galleries as tour guides, in the outreach services to area schools, in the research library, artifacts, manuscript, and photography collections, and in the front office and museum store.

To become a NHS Docent you complete a 4-hour training program, a minimum of two workshops, and attend at least three lectures. You must become a member of the Nevada Historical Society and the Docent Council and work a minimum of 48 hours per year.

The next docent training will be Wednesday, September 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Nevada Historical Society, 1650 North Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89503. For information, please call 688-1190, and ask for Shery. 

Latimer Art Club Originators?

Jack Bacon and Guy Clifton are working on a project about the founding members of the Latimer Art Club. The Club was formed in 1921 by a group of Reno women. They are looking for photos of the women and personal remembrances of them. If you could provide input to this project, please contact Guy Clifton at: gclifton1@reno.gannet.com. 

Reno Harvest Of Homes Returns on September 29, 2012

Something new awaits at the 3rd Annual Reno Harvest of Homes Tour: it's an all Southwest Reno circuit! Our committee has lined up six exceptional homes, each with its own story to tell. They are an interesting mix of charming, antique-filled homes and several grand estate houses. We know that this is a Tour that you won't want to miss!

The date for this popular activity is Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It should be very easy for attendees to visit all the homes during this time since they are located fairly close to each other. In fact, three of the houses are within walking distance of each other. As always, we encourage car pooling, so grab some friends and make a day of it!

Our Houses for 2012

640 California - Original house built in 1929, with several lovely additions.

775 California - known historically as the Dexter/McCaughlin house, with expansive house and grounds, designed by Ed Parsons and built in 1940.

575 Ridge - The Chism Home, a DeLongchamps-designed house with the plan dated 1927. This is the home we are featuring on the posters and other artwork, using Mr. DeLongchamps's architectural drawings.

1000 Plumas - built in 1911, this is an impressive Queen Anne.

1080 Mt. Rose - (the "old Melton place") was built in 1949.

716 S. Arlington - a brick charmer that proves that bigger isn't always better.

Tickets will again be \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the Tour. They will be available in late August and further details will follow. We encourage ordering tickets online at historicro.org but we will also have retail outlets for your convenience. We are happy to announce that L'Uva Bella, next to Dillards in the Summit Sierra, will serve those who live south of town and want tickets.

Historic Reno Preservation Society is continuing the tradition of dedicating profits from the Home Tour to benefit the Neighborhood Preservation Fund. This program offers mini-grants to property owners in older neighborhoods and is one small way that HRPS is helping preserve and improve the best of Reno!



Two views of the lovely home at 575 Ridge Street, designed by Frederic DeLongchamps. Courtesy Sharon Honig-Bear.

It's Time to Renew Your HRPS Membership

Wow, how the days fly by! Once again it is time to renew your Historic Reno Preservation Society membership for 2012-2013. As most of you know your HRPS membership renewal is due July 1.

You can grab a membership renewal form from the HRPS website at historicro.org and there is always a membership renewal form in

FootPrints. We have included an envelope printed with a renewal form in this issue of *FootPrints* for your mailing convenience.

If you haven't already had a chance to look at the July Walking Tours line-up, you'll be glad to see that there are some great new tours this year as well as HRPS's fascinating evening programs starting again in September! And, with

your membership you receive a copy of *FootPrints* four times a year. All of these are free to you with your HRPS membership.

You'll want to get all the announcements about HRPS Harvest of Home Tour for 2012, the Neighborhood Preservation Fund and its winners.

— Carrie Young, Membership Director

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join HRPS or 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

Name(s) _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (H) _____ Fax _____
E-Mail: _____

NEW! Pay online at www.historicreno.org

Annual Membership Includes:

HRPS Quarterly (Footprints) • Free participation in walking tours

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Children 18 yrs & younger) | \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Contribution | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HRPS Angel | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation to help our
Neighborhood Preservation Fund | \$ _____ |

Thank you for joining HRPS.

As a supporter, you have the opportunity to learn more about the history of this community and make a difference in its future. There are many areas in our organization where your enthusiasm, skills and dedication will be invaluable to us. We currently need help in the following committees. Can you help?

- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Special Events
- ☐ Outreach/Education
- ☐ Preservation Issues

**FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY**

PAID: ☐ Check ☐ Cash Amount: _____
Membership # _____ Renewal Date: _____

RV 06.04.2012/FO-DCD

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. Articles may be reprinted in print or electronic formats only with permission of the HRPS Editorial Board. *FootPrints* is a quarterly publication printed in Reno, Nevada. All rights reserved. ©2012 Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS).

HRPS Life Members 2012

Darleen Azizisefat

Lynn Bremer

Melinda & Dan Gustin

Sharon Honig-Bear

Marshall & Pat Postman

Terry & Fran Terras

Charlotte Voitoff

Betty Watts



**Historic Reno
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY**


And Now We Are Eight!

Each time a new *FootPrints* comes out, new Lifetime memberships follow and our April issue continued the trend. We're happy to add two more to our roster and welcome Terry and Fran Terras and Marshall and Pat Postman!

It's never too late to join this exclusive club! We are dedicating Lifetime Memberships towards our Neighborhood Preservation Fund grants. Beyond your support of HRPS's work, your membership will mean:

- No need to renew membership annually
- Annual receipt of 4 walking tour passes
- Special recognition in *FootPrints*, meetings and at other HRPS events
- Special invitations to all HRPS Events

You have your new *FootPrints*... how about joining now as a Lifetime Member, and see your name here in the next issue. Please use the membership application in the newsletter or visit us at historicreno.org to complete your Lifetime Membership. *It's a perfect way to show your love of our town!*

We would like to thank all of HRPS's members for your patience, belief, and continued support of HRPS while we continue to define our growing role in determining Reno's historic legacy. There have been several changes to HRPS's membership — changing the membership renewal date to July 1, creating a new Lifetime Membership, and revamping HRPS's business membership — all of which you've embraced. Your support of our organization has given us the credibility and courage for a preservation voice in our community. 



P.O. Box 14003
Reno, NV 89507

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

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Bulk Rate Mail

Bulk Rate mail is not forwarded.
FootPrints is mailed using a Bulk Rate Mail permit. If your address changes, please notify us at HRPS, P. O. Box 14003, Reno NV 89507, with your address change, to keep **FootPrints** coming.



Where in Reno?

We hope you're not losing interest in this photographic feature but we only received three entries to our last puzzler. Hannah Satika, Judith Stewart and Ursula Wellman all correctly guessed that the terra cotta detail is found on the El Cortez Hotel, on West Second Street.

Some interesting facts about the El Cortez:

- built in 1931, a great example of Art Deco style, it was Reno's tallest building in 1931.
- a high-class hotel, charging an astounding \$6 per night, compared to the prevailing room rate of \$2.50 per night.
- built in anticipation of increased divorce traffic after Nevada's residency requirements changed to six weeks in 1931.

So join in on the fun and tell us the answer to this issue's location.

To make it easier, you can mail in your response or go to our website historicreno.org and post your answer.

*Seems to me you can't go wrong
On a building by DeLong,
Especially when it bears the physique
of Mercury the Roman (or Hermes the Greek).
It doesn't matter where he's from,
Immortalized in aluminum,
Atop a doorway with winged shoes
On a building we don't want to lose.*

Poem by Debbie Hinman. • Photo courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.



HRPS Officers

President: Sharon Honig-Bear
Vice President: Byllie Andrews
Secretary: Barbara Courtmay
Treasurer: Roger Steininger

Board of Directors

Rosie Cevalco, Charlotte Eckmeyer, Paul Ferrari, Bill Isaef, Kimberly Roberts, Barrie Schuster, David Vill, Gene Williams

Program

Jack Hursh Jr.: Jack.Hursh@gmail.com

Membership Director

Carrie Young

Walking Tours

Rosie Cevalco

Webmaster

Rosie Cevalco

Administrator & Publicity

Cindy Ainsworth 747-0340

FootPrints Managing Editor

Carol Coleman

Editorial Staff

Kim Henrick
Debbie Hinman 322-9400

Editorial Board

Mella Rothwell Harmon

Editor Emeritus & FootPrints Founder

Sharon A. Walbridge

Graphic Design:

Double Click Design 324-5569