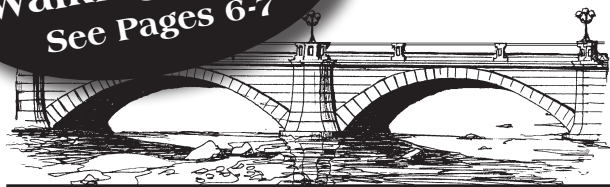


May/June  
Walking Tours!  
See Pages 6-7



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# FootPrints

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

vol. 16 no. 2 ❖ Spring 2013

## W. E. Barnard: A Lasting Imprint on Reno

*by Debbie Hinman*

Perhaps no Reno neighborhood symbol is as instantly recognizable as the lovely stone markers of the Old Southwest. There are eight of them in all, paired over four blocks on Nixon Avenue, announcing the entrance to the streets contained in the early subdivision known as Newlands Manor. Since 1927 they have graced this neighborhood, an eclectic mixture of bungalows, cottages, Spanish Revival homes and other diverse architectural styles. Thankfully, this area remains largely unchanged from its inception, the late 1920s through mid-1930s. You might wonder, as you walk past the mostly small, lovely homes, each one different from its neighbor—who was responsible for this unique development? That person was William Everett Barnard.

Always referred to in print as W.E. Barnard, he came to Reno to live in 1925 and immediately began making his mark upon the city. But who was he?

Born in Oakland, California in 1890, Barnard attended Oakland High and the University of California. From an interview given in early 1930, it sounds as though he was an entrepreneur from a very young age. The article mentions that at age 11, Barnard “compiled, issued and sold” a town directory and by age 15, was the “champion vacuum cleaner salesman of Central California.” Leaving college, Barnard entered the grain business. By 1917, he was married to Martha, had one child and was living in Chico. He was the superintendent of a rice farm owned by Dodge Land Co.; the rice farm was 5,600 acres, reputedly the largest in the world.

No mention was made in the interview as to why he came to Nevada, but Reno of 1925 was growing quickly and pre-

sented a myriad of opportunities for a creative and motivated young man such as Barnard. The 1925 Reno City Directory shows him living at the Liberty Apartments, which are still in existence at 234-240 West Liberty. The Mission Revival-style units must have appealed to Barnard, as many of his finest homes were in that style. He was, at that time, in business with a brother, Gerald, who also became noteworthy for his involvement in the local real estate scene.



*The Arcade Medico-Dental Building on North Virginia Street. Courtesy Jerry Fenwick.*

W. E. Barnard was a financier and builder and his first projects were public buildings. In 1926, he and George Southward, former bank examiner with whom he would form a financial partnership the following year, purchased a lot on First and Sierra Streets, extending south to the Truckee River. They announced plans to build a three-story apartment house, but a month later a revised plan appeared in the *Nevada State Journal* (NSJ) announcing the construction of the Fulton Building, so named as it was adjacent to the Fulton home property and Mary Bragg Fulton was involved in the financing. This notice did not mention Southward, but instead listed Scheeline Banking and Trust along with Barnard. The Fulton Building stood on the southwest corner when Sierra Street dead-ended at the river. It was later replaced by the block of shops that were destroyed in the 1957 downtown explosion.

Not only did Barnard distinguish himself in the business world — he was also active in the local community. In 1926, the Reno Advertising Club, affiliated with the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, was founded with W. E. Barnard named as President. Other officers included Richard Kirman, former Reno Mayor and future Nevada governor. Barnard was also involved with the Reno YMCA.

*Continued on page 2*

## W. E. Barnard: A Lasting Imprint on Reno (continued)

*Continued from page 1*

At the end of 1926, the *Nevada State Journal* announced, "Reno Man in Huge Deal." The article reported that Barnard was now engaged in the largest project of his life, to the tune of \$13 million. He had been named Financial Manager of the Port of San Francisco project, building an artificial harbor at South San Francisco. The project, said the *NSJ*, would require him to spend weekdays in San Francisco, returning to Reno on weekends. Barnard was quoted as saying he had no intention of leaving Reno.

Just to show that he was not a man to sit with only one iron in the fire, plans had been underway throughout 1926 to tear down the old Grand Theater and the adjacent Mariner Music building on North Virginia Street and replace them with a modern "high rise" to accommodate office space above and shops on the ground floor. Property owner Harry Scheeline was assisted by Barnard in this endeavor. Barnard was able to gather enough stock in the Reno Amusement Co. to enable Scheeline to end the lease of the property to the theater operators. An April 1926 edition of the *NSJ* featured an architectural drawing of the six-story building, to take its place as Reno's tallest building, designed by Frederic DeLongchamps.

The Arcade Medico-Dental Building was completed in May of 1927, and was a beautiful, Spanish Revival structure and a desirable location for retail, as evidenced by the fact that the 19 shops and half of the offices were rented a year in advance of its scheduled completion. Barnard himself moved his business, Nevada Developers, to #9 Arcade Building. The building featured an entrance 18 feet wide and 16 feet high, extending from North Virginia Street through to an alley behind. Reported the 1926 *NSJ*: "Spanish frescoes will adorn the ceiling of the arcade and the floor will be tiled. Uniform entrances and uniform lettering will be used for all the stores, and the warm southern color will be used throughout." Prior to construction beginning, the article also



*One of the eight lovely stone markers on Nixon Avenue in the Old Southwest announcing the Newlands Manor development.*

noted that Barnard and DeLongchamps had visited arcade stores in Hollywood, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and Cleveland to gather ideas and incorporate the best designs of all into the Reno Arcade. Local businesses were used for materials: cabinet and store fixtures were supplied by Union Mill and Lumber on E. Sixth Street, decorating by Harry Curtin on Thoma Street, windows by Alpine Glass on E. Fourth, electrical work by Linnecke Electrical Company on High Street and brick work by Smith Petersen & Co. of W. Fifth.

Although he continued to be involved in Reno's commercial real estate, Barnard then turned his sights to residential property, wishing to create high-end neighborhoods in desirable areas filled with unique homes.

In June of 1927, Barnard, as President of the Nevada Developers, Inc. purchased nearly 21 acres of land west of Gordon Avenue, south of Marsh Avenue to be divided into building lots. He immediately erected the lovely stone markers mentioned above and began creating the neighborhood he

envisioned. The land was formerly a part of the Newlands estate so apparently Barnard wished to carry on Francis Newlands' legacy; he named the addition Newlands Heights, with Newlands Manor being his first subdivision. By 1930, he had also developed Manor Heath, Manor Park, Manor Circle, Manor Gardens and Manor Knoll. An interview with Barnard refers to him tongue-in-cheek as possibly being "to the manor born." He had many of the homes built himself, probably commissioning construction firms to build using pattern books rather than employing architects. For others, he sold lots but maintained control over construction, ensuring they were suitable additions to his neighborhoods. The conditions set forth in the deeds were quite restrictive and reflected, in some cases, the unfortunate social mores of the era.

Conditions stipulated that buildings be homes and not used for any business purposes which included such specific examples as flats or apartment buildings, funeral parlors or beer gardens. They further stipulated that intoxicating liquor could not be manufactured, sold or traded (although this was during Prohibition, there was no mention of private use). It was also stated that it was desired to have a community of "persons who are on a social equality" and that properties could not be sold, leased or occupied by anyone other than those of the Caucasian race.

On Saturday, September 10, 1927, Nevada Developers announced an Open House of Newlands Manor, selling lots at "ridiculously low prices" (as low as \$425). The ad goes on to tout the "artistic stone monuments" and the fact that all telephone and power lines would be placed in underground conduits to further enhance the beauty of the surroundings. 115 lots were advertised for sale. In November, the ads featured a list of 70 Reno residents who had purchased property in this "new high-class restricted residence district." Newlands Manor comprised the area north to



## W. E. Barnard: A Lasting Imprint on Reno (continued)

St. Lawrence Avenue, south to LaRue Avenue, bounded on the west by Circle Drive and by Nixon Avenue on the east.

On the personal front, in the summer of 1929, Barnard's wife Martha left him, taking their two daughters and moved to Berkeley, California. Very quickly Barnard, then 39, married a 23-year-old woman named Norma Robinson. In 1931, the couple had a daughter, Beryl Ann.

In addition to his firm Nevada Developers, Inc., there are frequent newspaper notices calling for investors in W. E. Barnard & Co. Bonds. These ads target Nevadans by beginning, "You people of Nevada are the wealthiest per capita of all the people of all the states of the Union."

In 1929, Barnard purchased 41.5 acres of land from Fannie Patrick, of the Patrick Ranch. The sale price was approximated at \$41,000. He introduced Manor Heath subdivision, billed as "Estates of Distinction." This area was adjacent to Newlands Manor from Circle Drive on the east to Sharon Drive on the west. The north boundary was Munroe Street (now spelled Monroe) and to the south, the end of the city limits which was Mt. Rose Street. By 1930, Barnard had sold this project to the Southwestern Bond & Realty Co. who was offering the lots from a hefty \$1,200 and up.



*The small, Spanish style home on Circle Drive that Barnard and third wife Edna Clausen moved to in 1934.*

Barnard was busy building in Newlands Manor, in the spring opening the homes El Mirasol and Casa Monte Bella on Bret Harte Avenue, Green Gables on Walker and Nixon Avenues, and on Joaquin Miller Drive, Holly Cottage and Casa del Rey for inspection. By August he had added Greystone Castle on Joaquin Miller Drive. The three homes bearing Spanish names were beautiful Mediterranean-style homes. Another similar home was built on a hill on Mark Twain Avenue, but its Spanish name has been lost. Green Gables, Greystone and Holly were traditional English-style cottages.

Southwest Reno was not Barnard's only area for planned subdivisions. In 1930, the *NSJ* announced that W. E. Barnard had purchased 272 lots in the University Terrace subdivision, near the University of Nevada. The deed shows the purchaser as Gerald Barnard so the real estate may have been placed in his name for financial reasons. Soon ads began appearing in newspapers for homes in this area as well, many in Barnard's apparently preferred Spanish style.


In 1932, Norma Barnard died suddenly of a kidney hemorrhage. One newspaper suggested a cause as eating a large quantity of pine nuts. Barnard was left widowed with a small daughter to raise. He continued developing property, and was listed as one of the surprisingly brief list of members of the Reno-Sparks Realty Board. Apparently not



*Drawing of W. E. Barnard from the book, Meet Mr., by Boyd Moore, 1932. Courtesy of Special Collections, UNR.*

one to remain single, in 1934, Barnard married Edna Clausen of Reno. The couple moved to a small, Spanish-style home on Circle Drive.

It is not documented exactly when and why Barnard left Reno, but by 1936 he was referred to in local papers as "former Reno resident" and in the 1940 census roster was living in Manhattan Beach, California with Edna and Beryl. Barnard lived until 1982, when he died while living in Kauai, Hawaii. Daughter Beryl Barnard Moir died in Kauai in 2009.

For a man who came to Reno an unknown in 1925 and stayed a short ten years, W. E. Barnard made a lasting imprint on Reno. Though his commercial buildings have been lost to the wrecking ball, his lovely Newlands and Manor neighborhoods are largely intact, the stone monuments still adding substance and grace to the narrow streets of eclectic and charming homes. Those of us who live in or enjoy walking Barnard's neighborhoods will forever appreciate their unique qualities and the care one man took to make them something very lasting and special. 

Information for this story came from various *Reno Evening Gazette* and *Nevada State Journal* articles, 1926-1936; *Meet Mr.*, a book by Boyd Moore, 1932; a Nevada Historical Society file compiled by researcher Arline Laferry; and searches in Ancestry.com.

Photographs of Barnard's homes in the southwest of Reno courtesy of Debbie Hinman.

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS member, a Walking Tour Guide and a member of the HRPS Editorial Board.





## Reno Homes by W. E. Barnard



*El Mirasol on Bret Harte Avenue*



*Unnamed on Mark Twain Avenue*



*Holly Cottage on Joaquin Miller Drive*



*Casa del Rey on Joaquin Miller Drive*



*Casa Monte Bella on Bret Hart Avenue*



*Green Gables on Nixon Avenue*



*Greystone Castle on Joaquin Miller Drive*

## HRPS Doing “Good” in the Community

**H**HRPS is known for its great walking tours, stimulating monthly programs and an excellent newsletter. Our other activities are less known and the HRPS Board thought this would be a good time to let you know about some of these community projects. Some of these are generated by us. Sometimes we are approached by others for help or financial support. Either way, we are making a difference in heritage-related endeavors and are equally proud of all of them.

There is a place for lists...grocery shopping, New Year's resolutions, holiday cards...but our goal is to make our accomplishments sound interesting and important, not just another list. So here goes a “list” which we hope transcends boredom!

### Mobile History “Application:”

HRPS has provided matching funds for a new project spearheaded by Special Collections at the University's Knowledge Center. This will provide historical information about Reno via mobile devices. HRPS will also help with the content. You'll be hearing more about this important direction in coming months.

### Creation of Conservation Districts:

First there was the Powning's Conservation District and now the Wells Avenue Neighborhood Conservation District. Both of these efforts involved some cost and a lot of volunteer labor. HRPS was the force—and a good deal of the money—behind the lovely Powning's Pillar erected on

Riverside Dr. and the signs and gateways in the Wells Avenue area.

**Our “4th Grade Project”** has engaged Reno school children for almost five years. About 2,000 children have received classroom instruction, followed by a field trip to actually experience historic Reno locations. HRPS has paid for buses to transport the classes and to reprint a Washoe County activity book first developed by the Clerk's Office.



*The best way to do ourselves good  
is to be doing good to others;*

*The best way to gather  
is to scatter.*

— Thomas Brooks



**The Scholarship Fund** was established through the UNR Foundation and offers tuition assistance to a student working on historic preservation subjects. This endowed fund provides practical experience like researching the Wells Avenue neighborhood. The Fund was established with donations to HRPS and the generosity of Sharon Walbridge and Wanda and Earl Casazza.


### Neighborhood Preservation Fund:

The Fund is now working on its third funding cycle. Our “mini-grant” process assists property owners to make improvements on their historic struc-

tures and contribute to the neighborhood's beauty. We've helped nine structures so far, allowing HRPS to play a direct role in preserving buildings.

**Supporting Small Projects:** Sometimes HRPS works in small, quiet ways to help in preservation projects. As much as we tried to avoid a list of accomplishments, here we go: the 100-year Anniversary of the Mt. Rose School; a Boy Scout project to preserve the gazebo at Rancho San Rafael Park; a plaque at the site of the Jack Johnson training camp; restoration of the Parker's neon sign; support of the Bethel AME Church; adoption of hanging baskets in downtown Reno; underwriting brochures for the City's Historic Resources Commission and more.

**HRPS admires the significance of the stone markers** that define Newlands Manor (see page 2 image and caption), but they are in need of repair. If you would like more information about the needed work or are interested in helping underwrite some of the costs for the work, please contact Ann Little at 786-0126 or Sharon Honig-Bear at sharonbear@sbcglobal.net.

We've all seen road signs “Your Tax Dollars At Work.” This list reflects your HRPS dollars at work...and our work is not done! We appreciate your membership and support that have allowed us to be such good neighbors. Let us know if there are special projects you're involved in and we always welcome additional donations to “do good.” 

HRPS recently pledged \$1,000 towards a documentary under development entitled *Reno and The Romance of Divorce*. This is an ambitious project that explores how Reno played a major role in reshaping attitudes about marriage. **We expect there may be others in the Reno area who would be interested in this project.** There are many sponsorship levels available. For more information, contact us or check out [http://www.madeincloverland.com/current\\_projects.htm](http://www.madeincloverland.com/current_projects.htm).

## Nevada Westerners Corral

### Reno's Oldest History Club

Dinner with history speakers and presentations, third Thursday of the month, 6:00 pm,

Sands Regency Casino banquet room, 345 N. Arlington Avenue, Reno.

For reservations, call the Sands at 348-1392 no later than two weeks before.

[www.nevadawesterners.org](http://www.nevadawesterners.org)





# Historic Preservation Month

## May 2013

### HRPS Historic Walking Tours

Tour cost is \$10 per person, free to HRPS members with a 2012-13 membership. 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](http://www.historicreno.org) or for information and reservations.

Saturday  
May 4  
10:00 a.m.

**PROHIBITION IN RENO** — We've turned back the clocks to the 1920s and 30s. We'll walk streets and alleys and visit significant buildings, recalling Reno's saloons and reformers (the WCTU and Anti-Saloon League) and feature a guest appearance by a local dignitary of the area. Tour starts at Amtrak's Reno Station, 135 East Commercial Row. Tour guides: Debbie Hinman and Sharon Honig-Bear.

Tuesday  
May 7  
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  
May 11  
10:00 a.m.

**MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF** — An 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: Bill Isaef and Joan Collins.

Tuesday  
May 14  
6:00 p.m.

**WELLS AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD** — Take a stroll through a working-class neighborhood along the path of the Wells Avenue streetcar, across the V&T tracks, and past the homes of the "Thoma Street Gang." Meet at Southside School Annex, Sinclair and Liberty Streets. Tour guide: Mark Taxer.

Saturday  
May 18  
10:00 a.m.

**NEW! — DOWNTOWN SPARKS** — Learn about the history of the rail city with a 1-hour guided walking tour of Victorian Square and Downtown Sparks. This interactive tour is designed to show how this area has transformed itself from a railroad hub, to a vibrant commercial district, to a rundown urban area and finally to a successful redevelopment area that has changed the image and future of the city. The tour includes 17 buildings and sites that have played an important role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. Tour begins and ends at the Sparks Heritage Museum located at 814 Victorian Avenue, Sparks. Tour guide: Scott Carey. This tour is in collaboration with the Museum ([www.sparksmuseum.org](http://www.sparksmuseum.org)) but reservations need to be made through HRPS.

Tuesday  
May 21  
6:00 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 and Sue Smith.

Saturday  
May 25  
10:00 a.m.

**MONROE STREET** — Stroll along Monroe Street and Joaquin Miller Drive, 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 homes. Meet at the corner of Monroe and Manor Drives. Tour guide: Elsie Newman.

Tuesday  
May 28  
6:00 p.m.

**UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD** — A walk through an historic and endangered neighborhood at the foot of the campus—with vintage Queen Anne homes and charming bungalows. Meet at the base of the 9th Street university steps. Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.



# Historic Preservation Month

## June 2013

### HRPS Historic Walking Tours

Saturday  
June 1  
10:00 a.m.

**HISTORIC NEVADA STATE HOSPITAL TOUR** — Visit the site of Nevada's first state hospital (originally the Nevada Insane Asylum) at Galletti Way and Glendale Avenue in Sparks, one of the state's oldest institutions. The tour will include a look at the remaining Frederic DeLongchamps' buildings, a walk through the approximately 106-year-old "Stone House," and a visit to the hospital cemeteries. Park in the circular driveway on the Galletti Way side. Tour guides: Rosie Cevasco and Kim Henrick.

Tuesday  
June 4  
6:00 p.m.

**THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET** — Perhaps you've done the Mansions on the Bluff and 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 Cevasco.

Saturday  
June 8  
10:00 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 Phil Ulibarri.

Tuesday  
June 11  
4:00 p.m.

**INSIDE DELONGCHAMPS' DOWNTOWN** — Go behind the scenes in some of downtown's most notable buildings designed by Reno's most celebrated architect, Frederic DeLongchamps. Visits to interiors of the historic Court House, the Giraud House (*arte italia*) and several of the artist lofts at the Riverside are the tour's highlights. Meet at the Washoe County Courthouse front steps. Tour guide: Sharon Honig-Bear. Please note, this tour starts at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday  
June 15  
10:00 a.m.

**PARSONS/MILLS ARCHITECTURE** — Stroll one of Reno's most unique neighborhoods to view some designs of Reno architects Edward Parsons and Russell Mills, who sometimes collaborated on designs. Hear about the families who first lived in these homes. Meet at the corner of Marsh Avenue and LaRue. Tour guide: Anne Simone.

Tuesday  
June 18  
6:00 p.m.

**DELONGCHAMPS RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE** — This walk takes you on a neighborhood tour of many noteworthy homes, both large and small, designed by Reno's notable architect, Frederic DeLongchamps. Also, hear about his life and what made him so unique to this area. Meet at the *arte italia*, 442 Flint Street. Tour guide: Anne Simone.

Saturday  
June 22  
10:00 a.m.

**ROADS AND RAILS, HISTORIC FOURTH STREET CORRIDOR** — Discover the historic origins of the Lincoln Highway and the Nevada, California and Oregon Railroad, stopping to appreciate the Barengo/NCO building, Flanigan warehouse, and other vestiges of the corridor's heyday. Meet at Louis Basque Corner, 301 E. Fourth Street. Tour guide: Cindy Ainsworth.

Tuesday  
June 25  
6:00 p.m.

**ETHNIC RENO, EAST SIDE** — Some call Lake Street "Paradise Lost" but we will recreate the vibrant neighborhoods of Chinatown, Little Italy, and Basque life. Meet at the National Automobile Museum, 10 Lake Street. Tour guide: Sharon Honig-Bear and Byllie Andrews.

Saturday  
June 29  
10:00 a.m.

**WESTERN ADDITION** — Visit vestiges of one of Reno's earliest residential neighborhoods, dating from the mid-1870s. Hear the stories of its early "movers and shakers," such as Fire Chief George Twaddle, businessman Frank Humphrey and banker Charles Bender. View the varying architectural styles, from the Carpenter Gothic Clifford House to the modest brick bungalows of the Smith-Petersen subdivision. Meet at the Northeast Corner of Fifth and Bell Street by JJ's Pie Co. Tour guides: Cindy Ainsworth and Debbie Hinman.

## Washoe County: The Making of an Arcadia Book

by Kim Henrick

Joyce Cox's small stature belies the considerable challenges she is apt to take on from time to time. For instance, let's look at the 2011 publication of her Arcadia book, "Images of America: Washoe County," a wonderful collection of historical images and accompanying captions.

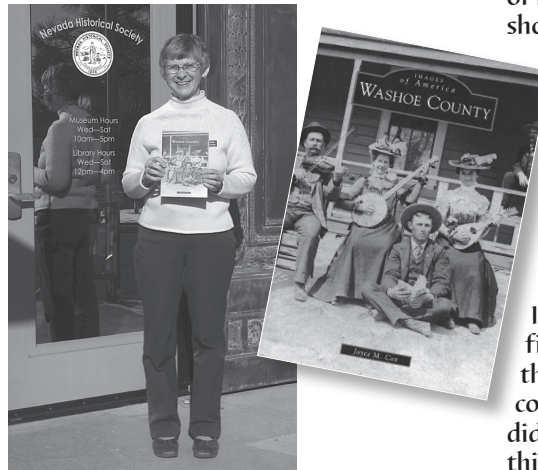
I interviewed Joyce and I think I have a good idea how her Arcadia book came to be. First, let's start with finding a large, clutter-free desk in the secret "stacks" of the Nevada Historical Society (NHS). A clutter-free desk has probably never existed there, but just go with me here. After selecting some prospective photographs from photo copies in an NHS library binder, you slip on the ubiquitous, shapeless, white protective gloves and carefully spread out some original photographs in front of you. You stare at each image, some clear and some faded, all variations of black and white, ranging in size from large to very small. You make some cryptic notes about the photographs that spark your interest—the photo number, its uniqueness (its potential to amaze or surprise) and its physical quality (how well it will reproduce)—and assign each to one of the many preliminary subject categories you have selected for the book's chapters.

Arcadia books are called "format" books and the layout and final appearance of each is dictated by the publishing company. They include rules like: there will be between 180-210 photos, there will be 128 pages, there will be 6-10 chapters, and there will be no more than 18,000 words.

Who could write 18,000 words, you might wonder early on? Then you laugh—or cry, depending on your personality—when down the line, at crunch time, you wind up having to cut mountains of your perfect image descriptions.

You are simultaneously overcome with fear and pride, natural reactions to the realization that you have not even scratched the surface of this monumental task. After wiping the smears from your glasses and resting your eyes for

a moment, you move on and carefully return this first group of photographs to their protective envelopes and boxes and bring out the next group. You do this again and again and again, because you are selecting them from about 11,000 photos in the NHS's Washoe County general photograph collection. And what of the additional 10,000 or so photographs stored in the society's private collections? Though not Washoe County specific, some of these collec-



Author Joyce Cox stands in front of the door of the Nevada Historical Society.

To the right is the cover of Joyce's Arcadia Book *Washoe County*. Photo by Kim Henrick.

tions hold very interesting topic-specific photos which can compliment your new book, including those about Native Americans, logging and prominent people. Some of these *must* go into the book, and do.

Don't forget that you must also select the best images, create a project binder (or a digital record) that meets Arcadia's publishing requirements, scan the images not already scanned, research the history of each chosen image and write a short, relevant caption for each and then update the NHS photograph database. On and on and on it goes and not always in this linear one-two-three-step fashion. There will be roadblocks, delays, and confusion and that's just in the first four hours.

You work hard for 18 months, then drag your tired body to your first book

signing event where you're forced to sign thousands of copies of your newly-published book for throngs of admirers. Well, we hope that is the case. Actually, this high-level, tongue-in-cheek description of Joyce's Arcadia book-making adventure is probably more fact than fiction (with the exception of the *throngs* part).

Instead of dwelling on the difficulties though, she told me, "I am very proud of my book on Washoe County," as she should be. She is also thrilled that it is

listed in the Online Computer Library Center. Of course she is — she is a retired research librarian, having worked in more libraries than I have entered in my entire life. One such library, close to home, is the Nevada State Library and Archives.

I have lived in Washoe County for fifty-six years, more than half of that time outside of city limits, and I consider myself a "county" girl. Yet, I didn't realize how little I knew about this important county until I picked up this book. Joyce's choice of chapter headings seemed logical enough to me, but it was the thoughtful selection of images that gave me a new appreciation of my home. The book has about 200 images, including photographs, maps, tickets and advertisements. The cover photograph (selected from 26 that Joyce submitted just for that critical position) shows a charming family of two brothers and two sisters, all sitting in front of a building on the Deep Hole Ranch near Gerlach in the 1890s. Three siblings are playing instruments and the two ladies, with pleasant smiles, look like they might actually be enjoying themselves.

In the "Early People" chapter I was haunted by some images of early Paiute women, one sitting in the dirt preparing a meal, and another walking hunched over a walking stick while carrying two railroad ties on her back. I looked into the eyes of buckaroos and famous Paiute chiefs and wondered about their important roles in our history.



## Washoe County (continued)



1898 photo of teacher and students at Huffaker School, now located at Bartley Ranch in Reno. Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society.

The second chapter, “A Fertile Valley,” tips its hat to the early Washoe County settlers who farmed and ranched in this challenging climate. You’ll see images of all-but-forgotten ranch houses, owned by folks with familiar names like Farretto, Kleppe, and Flanigan. Washoe County also had a fair number of dude ranches with inviting names like the Lazy Me Dude Ranch and the Flying Me Dude Ranch.

“A Rush to Washoe” is a chapter about hope. Mining was our county’s story. Spurred by the 1859 Comstock Lode discovery, people poured into Washoe County. These photos give us a glimpse of places like the Imperial Mine on Peavine Mountain, the Wedekind Mine north of Sparks, the Gerlach Gypsum Plant, and the many mine-supporting operations such as a sawmill at Lake Tahoe and the Cliff Ranch Blacksmith shop in Washoe Valley.


Early Washoe County was traversed by foot, horse-back, wagon, train, car and plane. The images in “Railroads, Highways, and Airplanes,” show us the advancement of transportation modes. One image of Old Geiger Grade, which endured years of oxen- and horse-drawn-wagon travel between Virginia City and the Truckee Meadows, reminds us of how dangerous travel was

in the early 1860s. Train travel changed the whole dynamic of commerce in Washoe County. Check out the images of the Central Pacific Railroad depot in Wadsworth, built to support the trans-continental railroad in 1868. Of course, the first automobile in any area was big news, as was a motorcycle driven by J. F. Kleppe of Reno in 1916.

Wherever people landed for a period of time in Washoe County, they soon demanded “Schools, Churches, and Picnics” to satisfy their need for education, worship and recreation. The restored Huffaker School, which now resides at Bartley Ranch in Reno, looks familiar in a photograph taken in 1898, in which the teacher, tall in her stance and bonnet, towers over about 30 straight-faced students. Many churches popped up in Washoe County, and I found an interesting photograph of a “saddlebag missionary.” Also called

“circuit riders,” these determined folks brought religion to the residents. An 1898 photograph of a family enjoying a picnic on the banks of the Truckee River near Pyramid Lake caught my eye, because the little girl could have been me, if not for the year and the fact that I never wore a bonnet.

Underlying everything in early Washoe County life—day-to-day living, work, worship, and play—was the constant need for adequate water supplies. The chapter on “Water and Power” has numerous images of flumes, like the Marlette and Verdi flumes; dams (Derby and Marlette); the famous Orr ditch, and, of course, our precious Truckee River. The last image in the book is that of the weather observatory built by Dr. James Edward Church on Mt. Rose Summit in 1905, “to study climate and snow levels in the Sierra Nevada.”

There are now 29 published Arcadia books on Nevada topics, with four more in the pipe. The next time you see one of these distinctive-looking books, please pick it up and let it transport you back to our state’s fascinating history. And don’t forget to appreciate the time and effort required to publish these treasures. 

Kim Henrick is a HRPS member, on the HRPS Editorial Board and the author of an index to all of the issues of *FootPrints*.

## HRPS Mini-Grants Available

Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) is pleased to announce its next round of grants for the enhancement of older structures. April 30, 2013 is the deadline to submit applications for a mini-grant to help Reno property owners to rehabilitate historical structures and landmarks. The grant process is underwritten by the HRPS Neighborhood Preservation Fund (NPF).

The goal is to improve curb appeal and the look of older neighborhoods. Proposed work is limited to the exterior improvements of buildings and must be designed in a manner authentic with the original architectural style of the structure. Along with houses, a grant could fund

exterior improvements to commercial properties, such as historic signage. The Fund plans to award several mini-grants of up to \$2,500 and one large impact grant of up to \$15,000. The funding for the grants must be matched by the property owner.

Grants from the Neighborhood Preservation Fund are generated primarily from the proceeds from HRPS Reno Harvest of Homes Tours.

Additional information, including Grant Guidelines and Application, is available through the HRPS website at [historicro.org](http://historicro.org) or by calling (775) 747-4478.

## Message From Your HRPS President

**A**s President, it's expected that I'll write four messages each year for *FootPrints*. Because I like to write and because I care deeply about historic preservation, writing these columns has been a pleasure. I collect ideas for the messages as they occur to me and then rework one or more into the final column. Here goes, following a period full of ideas!

### ☞ The death of Ada Louise Huxtable

One of the pivotal moments for me as a young woman was when I discovered Ms. Huxtable and her voice for architecture in the *New York Times*. Raised in the suburbs, I headed to Buffalo, New York to attend the university and discovered a world of beautiful buildings struggling to stay relevant and repurposed. My Buffalo days and my introduction to Ms. Huxtable coincided. As one of the earliest and most consistent champions of preservation, she gave me a blueprint for understanding the urban landscape and my world changed.

Esteemed architecture critic Paul Goldberger said, "Before Ada Louise Huxtable, architecture was not a part of the public dialogue." Often preaching from the "bully pulpit," she made New York developers, politicians, and bureaucrats pay attention and was a force to be reckoned with in the field of planning and urban design. I like this quote from her obituary in the *Times*, "At a time when architects were still in thrall to blank-slate urban renewal, Ms. Huxtable championed preservation — not because old buildings were quaint, or even necessarily historical landmarks, but because they contributed vitally to the cityscape."

Ms. Huxtable once recounted her early role in the movement to save New York's 19th century buildings. "Preservationists were just little old ladies in tennis shoes when I started," she said. She changed that view and left a legacy with many,



including me. Maybe that's why I never wear tennis shoes except for exercise!

### ☞ Preservation can be confusing

I continue to travel and my observations, which I began in the fall, 2012 President's *Message* about "old" and "really old" continue. In December, I was confronted with a great preservation dilemma in Mexico City.

The oldest square in the historic center dates from after Cortes in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Spaniards razed Tenochtitlán, the name of the existing Aztec town, and built their cathedrals and buildings over the earlier structures. This present historic center (The Zocalo) is teeming with life and surrounded by wonderful buildings, including the National Palace, heavily decorated with murals by renowned artist Diego Rivera.

In 1978, workers were digging to place underground electric cables near this historically significant area and uncovered (rediscovered) The Templo Mayor, or the remains of the Aztec Temple from the pre-Columbian days. From 1978 to 1982, specialists worked to excavate and needed to demolish thirteen buildings in this area. Nine of these were built in the 1930s and four dated from the 19th century, and had preserved colonial elements.

What a preservation dilemma—sacrificing several blocks of worthy buildings to reveal a deeper and almost

forgotten past. You are struck with the richness of Mexico City's heritage and also the strange juxtaposition of stark stone Aztec ruins surrounded by ornate and lovely colonial buildings. There are still unexcavated areas surrounding the Templo but archeologists have struck a balance between revealing the "really old" and the simply "old."

### ☞ Our Own "Stone History"

Closer to home, I would like to thank Betty Dodson, Ted Levatter, Byllie Andrews and Barrie Schuster for paying close attention and speaking out at public meetings about changes to Plumas Park and the surrounding neighborhood. At one time, one of the important stone houses near Our Lady of Snows was under consideration to be demolished for a parking lot. At this point, it looks as if the house will remain and be used by the School. Some of the historic stone walls in the park were obscured for a handicap ramp, however. Finding the right balance in preservation is always a challenge.

*Sharon Honig-Bear*  
President

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

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### 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
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- ☐ Preservation Issues

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## A Touch of Old Reno

**Hold the Date!**

A soft breeze, surrounded by the charm of old Reno...what could be better than that on an early summer eve? Join HRPS in honoring the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Powning's Addition—and to inaugurate the new Pillar that commemorates the neighborhood:

**Thursday, June 6, 2013**

6:00 p.m. Ceremony at Powning's Pillar  
(Riverside Dr. at Washington St.)  
Open to all

6:30 p.m. Dinner at Daughter's Café  
(97 Bell Street at First)  
A "period appropriate" meal  
will be served

**Seating is Limited and Reservations  
are a must. Costumes are  
Encouraged! Details will follow.  
Contact Sharon at  
[sharonbear@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharonbear@sbcglobal.net)  
for more info.**

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## **SPRING 2013 PROGRAMS**

**Jack Hursh Jr. – Program Chair; [Jack.Hursh@gmail.com](mailto:Jack.Hursh@gmail.com)**

*All program events are on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at Mt. Rose School (Lander Street between Taylor and LaRue, just off Arlington), unless otherwise noted.*

**April 24, 2013**, Kimberly Roberts discusses “Family/childhood photographs of Reno residents.” Special Collections has personal photograph collections of many well-known Reno residents and many anonymous ones as well. Roberts will explain what the photos tell us about daily life and our history, beyond the newspaper headlines and political events. Roberts will show the historical importance of personal photographs in understanding history.

**May 22, 2013**, Alicia Barber, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Director, University of Nevada Oral History Program, Department of History, University of Nevada, Reno. Professor Alicia Barber will speak of her experiences directing the University of Nevada Oral History Program over the past four years. She will talk about the 49-year history of the program and discuss the new online database that will make its entire transcript collection available to the public for free for the first time. The presentation will include some audio slideshows that students have put together to showcase the program’s recordings.



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