

# Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

# FootPrints

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

vol. 17 no. 1 ❖ Winter 2014

## Before the Applause: Fred DeLonchant

by Kim Henrick

**Editor's Note:** The DeLonchant name was used in the United States by the family, but Fred would change to the original DeLongchamps family name around 1912.

### The Night Watchman and the Architect

Harlan strolled down the third-floor hallway breathing in the sweet odors of polished wood and fresh plaster. The shiny new maple floor made the hallway seem longer than its 100-foot length. Each patient door was a heavy wire mesh material, making it easy for employees to peek into the rooms. Near the north end of the hallway, before entering the large dining room, Harlan stepped into an alcove and lifted the lid on the clothes chute and then opened the large door to the electric dumbwaiter nearby. His curiosity made him a good watchman. He knew it wouldn't be long before the nasty odors of a well-used hospital would permeate the new surfaces. The smell of urine, sweat, and the stench of burned-out mattresses would assault the senses soon enough, and it wouldn't be long before the lonely moans and screams of frightened patients would pierce the silence. For now though, the hallways of the new female ward building at the Nevada Hospital for Mental Diseases in Sparks were clean and quiet and Harlan felt particularly proud to be the new night watchman. His midnight shift was over and he walked down to the first floor, gathered up his belongings and stepped out into the crisp morning air. He stopped for a moment when he saw the building's architect. The handsome young man with black hair and blue eyes looked like a schoolboy and as usual he was studying some drawings. Bent over a stack of papers on a rough picnic table near the ward's north entrance, he seemed oblivious to the gentlemen all around him, all older, all talking loudly, all pointing here and there,

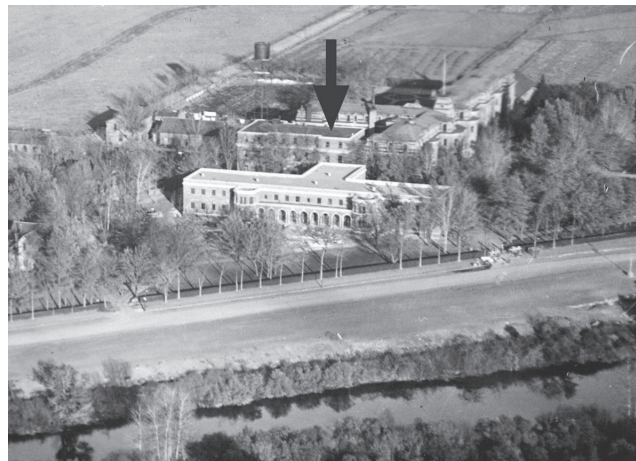
all with important things to say. Harlan smiled to himself and thought, "That's probably how this young fellow was able to design such a fine building. He's smart and industrious and he's able to tune out the noise."

This scene is a fictional account obviously, but something similar could have happened. In the summer of 1910, Frederic Joseph DeLonchant was 28 years old and his hair was black and his eyes were blue (at least that's what he wrote later on his 1918 WW I registration card). The hospital did have watchmen and the description of the third floor comes from DeLonchant's architectural drawings of the female ward

building at the state hospital in Sparks. He was known to be a quiet man and based on the hundreds of buildings he designed in his career, it's a sure bet that he was smart and industrious.

On June 9, 1909, after considering the plans of George A. Ferris and Fred DeLonchant, Nevada's Board of Commissioners for the Care of the Indigent Insane voted unanimously to accept DeLonchant's plans. DeLonchant said that "his compensation would be five per cent on the cost of the building," which included compensation for his plans and superintending its construction. Nine bids, ranging from \$33,530 up to \$40,000 came in from companies vying to build the ward building. Self & Sellman Mill & Building Company of Reno submitted

the lowest bid, which was accepted by the state. One year later, in July of 1910, the beautiful ward building was completed. It was a large, three-story brick building with enough rooms for 70 patients, and it had reception rooms and comfortable quarters for the ward's Matron and female night attendant. In the final tally, the total amount appropriated to build the ward



Nevada Hospital for Mental Diseases, c 1920.  
The arrow points to the female ward building  
designed by Fred DeLonchant in 1909.  
Courtesy Special Collections, UNR Library.

Continued on page 2

## Before the Applause: Fred DeLonchant (continued)

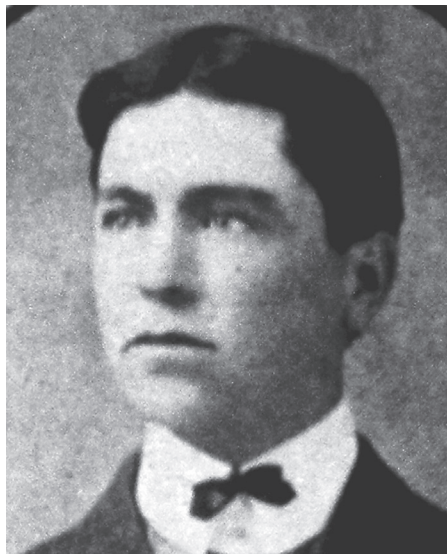
*Continued from page 1*

building was \$43,710 and the amount expended was \$43,640. For his part, DeLonchant was owed approximately \$2,200 and was paid in incremental payments between late 1909 and late 1910. One of the most exciting things about this story is that in preparing for the ward addition, Fred also drew detailed floor plans of the original 1882 state hospital building. These may be the only drawings of that building in existence.

### DeLonchant —The Cleanup Guy

This article is about Fred J. DeLonchant, but a little history will make his place in the story more understandable. By 1909—thirty years after the state abandoned plans to build a new prison near the present-day state hospital at Galletti Way and Glendale Avenue in Sparks—a new prison was again in the works, this time to be built in the Carson City area. A legislative act passed on March 20, 1909, appropriated \$205,000 for a building site and a new prison building. The Board of Prison Commissioners (*Board*) was to oversee the project and the State Engineer Frank R. Nicholas was charged with visiting several prisons to gather building ideas, and then acting as the architect and superintendent of the new prison. Sadly, nearly every aspect of this prison project became controversial, and serious enough to justify the formation of a legislative committee in early 1911 to investigate the many suspect actions by the Board. The report titled, “Conduct of the Board of Prison Commissioners,” was filed with the Senate on March 16, 1911, and is fascinating, but back to the story.

Frank Nicholas was not an architect and agreed to allow W. N. Bowman to draw up general plans of the new prison. The two gentlemen had met while Nicholas traveled around the country, gathering design ideas. Nicholas admitted knowing that Bowman represented Stewart Jail Works Company (which was planning to submit a proposal to build the new prison’s steel cells), but Nicholas said he made it clear to Bowman that no special consideration would be given his compa-



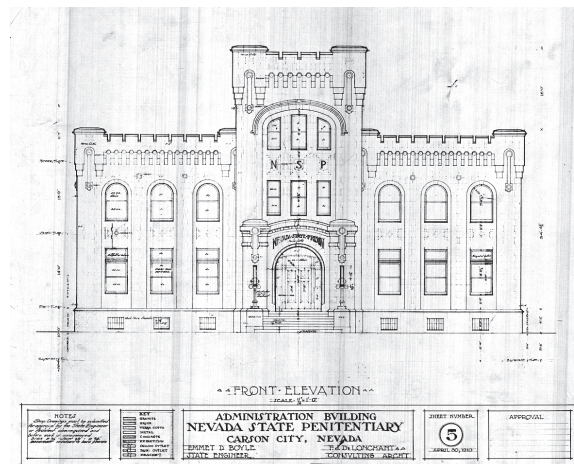
*F. J. DeLonchant in the Nevada State University yearbook “Artemesia” in 1904.*

ny when the final contract was let. Well, Frank Nicholas might have survived this bit of poor judgment, but what he did not know was that Bowman’s “...resulting specifications of the locking devices were so drawn that only certain patented features of the Stewart locking device could fulfill the requirement.” In other words, no other business *could have* supplied the plan’s required devices. Feathers flew and Frank Nicholas was relieved of his position as State Engineer on March 2, 1910, replaced quickly by Emmet D. Boyle.

Enter F. J. DeLonchant. On March 14, 1910, at the Board’s request, DeLonchant attended a meeting to discuss the plans and specifications of the new prison. Basically, he was brought in to clean up the cell block design mess created by Mr. Bowman. Apparently, the general prison drawings by Bowman (with the exception of the *fine detail* of the locking devices) were so general, they were totally unworkable as design plans. So DeLonchant cleaned up the prison cell drawings and specifications, and on March 29 proposals went out asking for bids to build the cells. (Note that at this stage of

the project, the Board had dealt only with the jail cells, but the rest of the prison still needed to be designed—an administrative building, bath houses, steward’s quarters, execution chambers, etc.) The final contract for 296 cells was given to Nevada Engineering Works, which stirred even more controversy, since that company was the second highest bidder, not the lowest. This too was reviewed later by the investigative committee.

DeLonchant worked for the next few months on the rest of the prison design and presented over 50 pages of plans to Emmet Boyle on July 7, 1910. Mr. Boyle declined to approve them until he had time to review them carefully and estimate the cost himself. After his own research, Mr. Boyle refused the plans, saying the prison would cost \$550,000 to build! Later, the investigative committee found that, “The completion of the DeLonchant plans and the estimates thereon by Mr. Boyle, in which, by the way, Mr. DeLonchant substantially concurred, convinced the Prison Board that the prison built after these plans was altogether too elaborate, expensive and impracticable for the needs of the State.” Emmet Boyle was ordered to design a more affordable prison, which he did based on the prison in Salt Lake City. When finished, the estimate to build with Boyle’s plans would be \$355,000—still too high a cost.



*1910 DeLonchant drawing of Administration Building of planned new state prison complex. Courtesy Special Collections, UNR Library.*


## Before the Applause: Fred DeLonchant (continued)



In 1910, DeLonchant designed the N-C-O (Nevada-California-Oregon) Railway Passenger Depot building in Reno. Photo courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

four long rows of steel cells, two-stories high, which would radiate out from a large rotunda in the center of the complex, allowing the guards to easily see down all the hallways. The plans addressed more mundane structures as well, such as a "Women's Bldg," a "Men's Hospital," a "Laundry" and "Bath Houses." This major project, which would have cost over \$550,000 dollars to build in 1910, may well be DeLonchant's *greatest unbuilt* ever.

he received the commission to design and superintend the state ward building on June 9, 1909, two months before he got the court house commission and the ward building was completed a year before the court house. In addition, there is evidence that his partner Ira W. Tesch was out of the area by mid-to-late 1908, which would make the ward building DeLonchant's first solo commission—that is until another one that fits the description is discovered. Some say the court house was "his first major work in Nevada." The allocated \$120,000 for the court house job certainly dwarfs the nearly \$44,000 allocation for the state ward building and the contract for \$29,000 let for building DeLonchant's 1910 N-C-O building on Fourth Street. But who defines what *major work* really means? Architects are in the business of designing buildings, so some might think the design of a state prison complex that would have cost \$550,000 to build in 1910, should be considered his first major work in Nevada—that is, if when we look back on history we judge an architect's work by commissions given, designs completed, and compensation received, and not by the completion of the designed building. Semantics.

No matter what is discovered about the period before the applause, nothing will diminish the splendor of our Washoe County Court House. 

This prison was just not meant to be. There was a new Board of Prison Commissioners in 1911, and at a meeting on August 28, after admitting that the State of Nevada's treasury was nearly exhausted, the Board agreed to transfer the remaining \$74,000 from the "New Prison Building Fund" to the "General Fund," in order to help meet expenses of the state.

DeLonchant's prison drawings (for which he was paid \$4,000) are held at the Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno Library and are titled "Nevada State Penitentiary." As with many DeLonchant's buildings, this one would have made Nevada proud. The handsome, castle-like, brick Administration Building would have had green terra cotta medallions on its front and copper on its large front doors. The first floor would house the warden, the Captain of the Guards, an armory and lobby, and a Bertillion System room (this is the pre-fingerprint system by which each prisoner was identified by physical characteristics and details then recorded on special cards). The second floor would be for a billiards room, barber shop, kitchen and bedrooms. In a separate building, the Execution Chamber would have a large witness room with a view into the execution room, which would have an elevated hanging platform equipped with an ominous trap door at its base. Behind the platform there would have been built two dungeons and a death cell. General population prisoners would be kept in

### Before the Applause

When Fred DeLonchant published a rendition of his new Washoe County Court House design in August 1909, the applause started and has never stopped. Shortly before he died, DeLonchant penned a partial list of "items that have been completed during the active time," and that list starts with the court house. Yet, there were important buildings completed (and one prison designed) before the court house which are worthy of our attention.

One *Nevada State Journal* article about the court house commission, dated August 27, 1909, says, "He has been four years in the business and in that time has, prepared the plans and supervised the constructions [*sic*] of 31 buildings of importance." Interesting. Is this a misquote or an erroneous report by a local reporter, or a bold statement by DeLonchant? Four years in the business would take the timeline back to sometime in 1905, yet most accounts would have his architectural career starting with his partnership with Ira W. Tesch in the spring of 1907. Were these "31 buildings of importance" supposedly completed during the Tesch/DeLonchant association, or do they include time he spent in San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake?

The Washoe County Court House has been called DeLonchant's "first solo commission," but we now know that

Sources: State Controller's warrants, various state board meeting minutes, biennial reports by various agency superintendents (Nevada State Library and Archives and Google Online); The Washoe County Court House Restoration Project booklet (pub 1999), various Reno and Salt Lake City newspaper articles, vertical files (Nevada Historical Society); articles on DeLongchamps by Mella Harmon and Ron James in *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, Fall 2006; architectural drawings and personal correspondence (Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno Library).

Kim Kenrick is a member of HRPS and the HRPS Editorial Staff.

## 4th Reno Harvest of Homes Tour A Great Success

by Sharon Honig-Bear

**G**randeur, spectacle, charm, history...the 4th Reno Harvest of Homes Tour had it all! Chilly temperatures and a threatening sky didn't deter nearly 900 people from experiencing the pleasures of five wonderful homes in several distinct Reno neighborhoods. The event generated close to \$20,000, which will be used to fund grants through the Neighborhood Preservation Fund.

### The Home Tour: Factoids

- The turnout was impressive and engaged: 788 tickets sold in advance and 94 on day of event
- We saw a big jump in online ticket sales, up to 250; Sundance Books continues to be our most active ticket outlet, selling 200 tickets
- We drew the largest crowd beginning their tour at the Lakeside house (294), followed closely by the Jones Street house (251)
- The small homes continue to be—and sometimes exceed—the grand houses in their popularity
- We promoted partnership with area restaurants and that was a fun and successful addition

### Some Comments:

- “Really a fun local event”
- “I enjoyed seeing the young people from Damonte Ranch H.S. in costume. It really made the homes feel lived in and related to the period of the house.” (we received a dozen or more favorable comments about the students)

- “I have been on many home tours. I liked this one because of the historical aspect and the information contained in the Program.”
- “Had a great time—people really seem to enjoy themselves.”
- “I loved seeing these homes. Old Reno came alive!”

Special thanks to the owners of the five homes featured:

- John H. O. LaGatta
- Cynthia and Hugh Roy Marshall
- Sue and Paul Rutherford
- Lori and Tom Burke
- Mike and Pat Ferraro Klos

Students from the Performing Arts Center at Damonte Ranch dressed in costume for the event. Sales were helped by ticket outlets at Sundance Bookstore, St. Ives Florist, Ryrie's Art and Home, L'uva Bella, Café Deluxe, Dreamer's Coffee, Rail City Garden and Ince Jewelers. Other thanks to Renown Health, Dillard's, Raley's, *Reno Magazine*, Tales of Nevada, Sharon Walbridge, Jean Green, Patty Caferrata, Greg Newman and House Detective, Erin Breen and KTVN, Susan Skorupa and *RGJ*, Chris Buckley and KOLO and KRNK.

The Tour, based on popular demand, will be back in 2014. 📅



Margaret Barthel puts on required shoe covers. Photo by Jack Hursh.



Guests admire the memorabilia gallery in the California Avenue home. Photo by Steve Ellison.



Damonte Ranch H. S. theater students at Joaquín Miller home. Photo by Steve Ellison.



Mr. LaGatta chats with a Home Tour attendee inside his California Avenue home. Photo by Steve Ellison.

## 4th Harvest of Home Tour Photos



*Volunteers Lynn and Ron Savinski greet attendees at the Joaquin Miller site. Home hosts (l-r) Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder, Shirie Wallace and Rosie Cevasco can be seen standing behind the Savinskis. Photo by Jack Hursh.*



*HRPS President Byllie Andrews, Program Chair Jack Hursh and Home Tour Chair Sharon Honig-Bear at the welcoming table in front of the Lakeside home. Photo by Steve Ellison.*



*Tour attendees move through the Jones Street home. Photo by Steve Ellison.*



*Home Tour attendees line up outside the Joaquin Miller Drive home. Photo by Steve Ellison.*



*Tour guide Phyllis Cates describes a gallery at the Lakeside mansion. Photo by Steve Ellison.*



*Attendees line up in front of the Glenmanor home. Photo by Steve Ellison.*



*A Damonte Ranch H. S. theater student poses in the pool room of the Lakeside mansion. Photo by Steve Ellison.*




*Damonte Ranch H. S. theater students pose inside the LaGatta home on California Avenue. Photo by Steve Ellison.*

## Newlands Pillars Restoration Project a Success!

After 86 years of standing proudly, the Newlands Manor Pillars were restored in only a few months! We began the planning in the spring of 2013 and celebrated with a ribbon cutting on a glorious fall day on November 10, 2013. Spearheaded by HRPS and boosted by an outpouring of dollars and support from the neighborhood, the Pillars should grace Nixon Avenue for decades to come. Over \$8,000 was raised from the community and the balance of the bill (approximately \$4,000) is being picked up by HRPS. If you would still like to contribute to this worthwhile preservation activity, you can send checks to our post office box or go online to [historicreno.org](http://historicreno.org)

We'd like to thank the Committee for overseeing the restoration: Pat Klos, Ann Little, Betty Dodson, Byllie Andrews, Sharon Honig-Bear and especially Cindy Ainsworth. The contractors were Granite Mountain Marble and Sartorial Masonry (see article on page 7) and they were a pleasure to work with. We'd also like to thank Adela Arellano and Victor and Darla Demitrios for hosting celebrations relating to the restoration.

HRPS is proud to be a part of this project. It highlights the "preservation" part of our name, happily doing what we can do to protect Reno's story. 

*Sharon Honig-Bear  
Home Tour Chair*



*Neighbors on Donner Drive gather at the Newlands Pillars Restoration Ceremony. Photo by Jack Hursh.*



*Councilwoman Jenny Breklus prepares to cut the ribbon on one of the eight newly-repaired Newlands Pillars. Photo by Jack Hursh.*

### Major Gifts

City of Reno, Councilwoman Jenny Breklus  
Historic Reno Preservation Society

### Our Pillar Adopters

Toni Harsh and Family  
The Rodney Reynolds Family

### Our Donors

*(Please contact us if there are any errors or omissions on this list; there was a problem with our post box during the summer)*

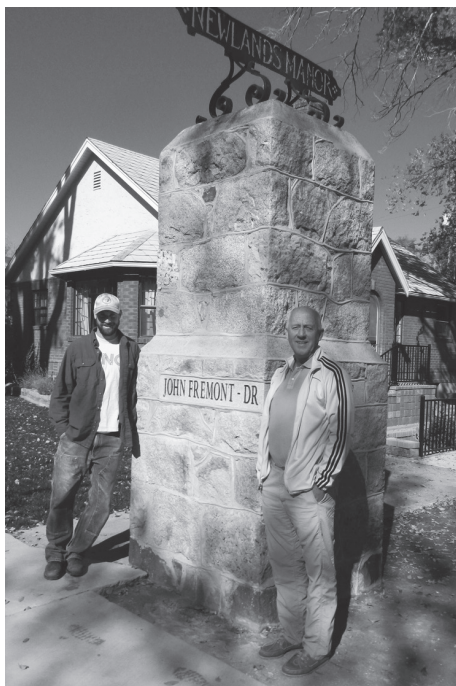
Amy Altick	Gilbert Properties
Michael Amsbry	Sami Giraud
Anonymous	Francine Gray
Adela Arellano	Mike & Jean Halley
Harold & Jeanette Arnett	Mary Hansen
Mary Lou Banta	Deborah & John Hester
Tiffany Barnett	Liz High
Tom Bass	Susan Hoffman
Jane Bowden	Stephanie Hogen
Marilouise Reynolds	Sharon Honig-Bear
R. Brayer	Monica Houghton
Lynn Bremer	Catherine Howard
Betty Bremer	William Hunt
Kristin Burgarello	Sandy Hutchinson
Scott & Julie Callahan	Jon Johnson
Melvin & Doris Carpenter	Marilyn Johnson
Renee Carrico	Ann Keniston
Daniel Carter	Pat & Mike Klos
Rosie Cevasco	Kay Kurvers
Tom & Mary Conklin	Ann Little & John Fontius
Jane Constantino	Vincent Lotito
Jim & Evon Dack	Peggy McGraw
Carol Cook Flanagan	John Mendicino
Heidi Cooper	& Tamara Scronce
Thomas & Patti Davee	Jan Muscio
La Belle DeAngeli	Steve Novacek
M. DePaoli & M. Dunagan	Marian Osgood
Victor Demitrios	Craig Questa
Frances & Pat Dobrowski	Bruce and Jim Reynolds
Nancy Dodson	Ben & Jill Rogers
Betty Dodson	Ted and Sue Schroeder
Julian Dufort	Pauline Severino
Danielle Durkee	Kerry Seymour
Betty J. Easton	& Michael Tissier
Vernon Eaton	Dan & Gia Shaheen
June Ellern	Carl Shogren
J Farrow & J Ostrander	C. Coe Swobe
Richard Flanagan	Verdi Family Trust
George & Barbara Frederic	Gini Vogel
Darren Georgeson	Sharon Walbridge
The Georgeson Family	Ursula Wellman



*Pillars Restoration Committee at ribbon cutting ceremony with Jenny Breklus in rear; from left Betty Dodson, Cindy Ainsworth, Sharon Honig-Bear, Ann Little, Byllie Andrews, Pat Klos.  
Photo by Jack Hursh.*



*HRPS President Byllie Andrews speaks at the Newlands Pillars Restoration Ceremony.  
Photo by Jack Hursh.*



*Gavin Duffy and Peter Duffy of Sartorial Masonry, experts in restoring historic masonry.  
Photo by Kim Henrick.*



*Original street names salvaged from the Newlands Manor pillars. HRPS is donating two of them to the Nevada Historical Society.  
Photo by Gavin Duffy.*


## Sartorial Masonry

*by Kim Henrick*

Masonry is a nasty business. Masons repair stone, brick, terra cotta, adobe and concrete, all the while looking for signs of blistering, spalling, erosion, flaking and pitting (we're talking about building materials now). Masons must think in terms of *capillary water uptake rates, hydrophobic impregnation, and penetration depth* if they are to successfully restore the ravages of crust formation and other structural enemies.

As sad as this all sounds, two men gladly tackle our deteriorating world every day. Peter Duffy started Sartorial Masonry in 1979 and the route by which he became a mason in Reno, Nevada, is an interesting one.

Peter was born and raised in England and at the age of fifteen he started a brick-laying apprenticeship. He had to run several miles to and from his work location, but as luck would have it, he loved running and was good at it. In 1968, when he was nineteen, he was the third-fastest, professional "two-miler" in England, which caught the attention of UNR's Coach Cook, who recruited Peter to run on the university's track team. Peter ran track for UNR from 1968 to 1973. (He completed his brick-laying apprenticeship in 1969 and continued doing masonry work as he found the time during school.)

After college he continued running for some years and in 1979 started Sartorial Masonry. His son Gavin took over the business about five years ago and according to Peter, Gavin no longer needs fatherly advice. After returning from a recent trip, Peter visited the nearly-finished Newlands Pillars and seemed quite pleased at the job Gavin and the Sartorial workers did. The "beading" of the mortar between the stones is a technique used to give the appearance of smaller gaps between the ill-fitting stones. Well done Gavin. Sartorial has repointed several custom homes and historical structures in the area over the years. Peter mentioned the beautiful stone house at 603 Humboldt Street, on the southwest corner of Humboldt and Marsh. Check it out some day. 

## The Flick Ranch — Can It Be Saved?

by Kelly Rigby

For decades residents of the Truckee Meadows cruising along South McCarran Boulevard between Greg Street and Mill Street, by the University Agricultural Farms, have asked themselves, “just what is that place exactly? Is it a home or a school? Is it a monastery or a treatment center?” Well, yes it is! Or at least, it was all of those at one time or another.

In 1943, Robert “R. J.” Flick and his wife Margaret Kimpton had a beautiful ranch house constructed less than 100 feet from the banks of the Truckee River within the township once known as Glendale. The address was 101 Boynton Lane.

The Flicks purchased their land from the prominent Mapes family who raised cattle, furnishing the budding population of the Truckee Meadows with beef. Before the Mapes, the George Alt family owned the land and in 1866 built one of the first homes on the property, near where the Flick home stands today. Prior to that, in 1857 when George F. Stone and Charles C. Gates opened a trading post and erected a toll bridge crossing the Truckee River, they called it “Stone and Gates Crossing.” As the settlement built up and the first post office was opened, the name was changed to “Glendale.” Glendale was the most prosperous village in the region from 1857 to 1868.

The Flicks were a very active couple in the local politics of the early 1940s. Before there were city and county buildings to be used for meetings, the Flicks offered their residence for Washoe County Planning Board meetings. R. J. was a county planner tasked with sewage, flood control and drainage projects.

It isn’t known why the Flicks moved out of their opulent home on Boynton Lane, but by 1947 they had moved to another area of town.

Bishop Gorman, the first Bishop of the Reno Catholic Diocese, purchased the Flick house and 14 acres of surrounding land in 1948. The Reno Diocese, deciding

it was time for a Catholic high school in Nevada, opened Bishop Manogue High School September 13, 1948, in the converted ranch house. The school was named after Bishop Patrick Manogue who served in Virginia City for 20 years during the height of the mining boom.

During the school’s nine years at the ranch, students enjoyed all the modern amenities including a cafeteria, study hall, science labs and locker rooms. A still-standing Quonset-style building just west of the main building was erected to house the basketball court. Graduates went on to become lawyers, engineers, military generals, spiritual leaders and



*Flick Ranch, most recently known as Bristlecone Family Resources on Southeast McCarran, just south of the Truckee River.*

local business owners. Those who attended school at the Flick Ranch reunited recently, with 70 couples in attendance.

Despite the idyllic location, the second Bishop of Reno, Robert Dwyer, moved to a larger facility and turned the property over to the Brothers of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in the winter of 1958. The ranch house was the quintessential setting for a monastery where an apple orchard was beginning to grow and an abundance of wildlife still flourished. The monks expanded the home by adding small bedrooms to the west wing and a chapel with beautiful wooden arches.

During the nearly 39 years the Brothers were at the ranch, a number of changes occurred in Reno and Sparks. Boynton Lane was paved over and the address changed to 1725 S. McCarran Boulevard. A flood control project in the 1960s, straightened the river’s channel, causing certain repercussions to the natural hab-


itat. Between 1958 and 1997 the monastery was flooded on three occasions. Due to the flooding and a decreasing number of members in the brotherhood, the monks moved to a smaller monastery near downtown Reno.

In 1997, the Diocese leased the ranch to the non-profit organization SageWind, which provided substance abuse and mental health services to adolescents. SageWind later merged with an adult program forming Bristlecone Family Resources. Throughout its 16 years at the ranch house Bristlecone helped thousands of Northern Nevada families return to a state of wellness. In June

2013, Bristlecone moved to a modern facility downtown where clients could better access ancillary services and employment, thus leaving the building vacant for the first time in 70 years.

In 2007, the newly formed Truckee River Flood Project had bought the 14-acre ranch from the Diocese along with other properties along the river. They have concluded that the old ranch house, rich in cultural history, should be demolished for a construction project needed to reduce the impact of flooding in the Truckee Meadows.

The only way the building can be saved is to move it out of harm’s way. It has been inspected by a company with experience in moving historic structures. The building can be moved and renovated providing a facility that will once again serve the community.

For decades the facility has taught, sheltered, and healed us. It is a place of endless opportunity and lasting service to our community. When it is saved, it will most assuredly continue to serve our community as it did for the past 70 years in meaningful and purposeful ways. 

Kelly Rigby can be contacted at 775-673-0723, 775-223-4450 (cell) or email at [KellyRigby@FlickRanchProject.com](mailto:KellyRigby@FlickRanchProject.com) or check the website [www.FlickRanchProject.com](http://www.FlickRanchProject.com).

## House Histories 101 Workshop

### HRPS New Preservation 101 Series in Celebration of Nevada's Sesquicentennial

**A**re you curious about your neighborhood and the home you live in, but you don't have a clue where to start or search for information? House Histories 101 will present the who, what, when, where and how of doing historical research. This will be a full-day workshop focusing on local resources available to you.

You'll learn from HRPS' research and preservation professionals the techniques used to research a building's history. We guarantee that you will be hooked on history after you attend House Histories 101!

Some of the topics will include:

- Identifying a home's architectural style and date
- How to identify the past owners and occupants
- Determining the community roles the home's owners, occupants, architects, and builders played

Included with the workshop will be two optional field trips. After the workshop on Saturday, we will tour the Special Collections Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. Then on Sunday, April 6, you have the option of touring the reference department at the Downtown Washoe County Library (details to follow).

This is the first in a new HRPS' Preservation 101 series and space is limited. Call 747-4478 for details and reservations. 

#### The details:

Date: April 5, 2014

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm,  
there will be a no-host lunch break  
from 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Cost: \$15.00

Location:  
Nevada Historical Society,  
1650 North Virginia Street, Reno

## HRPS 2014 Neighborhood Preservation Fund Grants

**H**istoric Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) is pleased to announce its fourth round of grants for the enhancement of older structures. April 30, 2014, is the deadline to submit applications for a grant to help Reno property owners to rehabilitate historical structures and landmarks. The structures should be at least fifty years old. 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, lighting and doors. The fund plans to award several 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.

In 2013, HRPS awarded seven grants which helped in the rehabilitation of porches, roofs, foundations and exterior paint. A significant grant was awarded to partially fund Phase One of a large commercial restoration project at 750 E. Fifth Street. Work on this new redevelopment project will commence soon.

Jan Walker, a 2013 grant recipient who lives at 501 Imperial, stated, "Just

a note of heartfelt THANKS for the grant to fix my roof, not only "fix" but a whole new roof! It is such a great feeling to know it is secure and looks perfect for the stone house ... again thanks to each of you for all you do to keep historic Reno beautiful."

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 [historicreno.org](http://historicreno.org) or by calling (775) 747-4478. 

## Thank You to the Powning's Addition Pillar Plaque Donor

**A**s many of you know, the Powning Addition's Pillar plaque was stolen sometime during October 2013. HRPS would like to thank those who donated materials and money to replace the plaque.

A special thank you goes to Felvia Belaustequi for her efforts in coordinating this project.

Thanks to the overwhelming response, a fund will now be established to maintain the pillar.

#### Donors:

Joel Manly, Digital Ceramic Technologies  
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## Message from Your HRPS President, Byllie D'Amato Andrews

**W**hat a great year 2013 has been for HRPS and for historic preservation in Reno! As we gear up for the State of Nevada's sesquicentennial celebrations in 2014, I have been reflecting on all that has been accomplished this year across Reno.

**Wells Avenue:** In March, The Wells Avenue Neighborhood officially became Reno's second Historic Conservation District. Even prior to the formal declaration, the increase in neighborhood pride and pride of ownership shows as you drive or walk through the district. At the southern edge of the district, Café DeLuxe opened, completing the adaptive reuse of the historic DeLuxe Laundry building.

**Midtown:** On November 6, the Reno City Council voted to approve changes in the municipal code, establishing new commercial and residential zoning for Midtown. Beginning in the fall of 2012, the planning process involved Midtown residents and business owners working with city staff and the Reno Planning Commission to select a plan that will advance the eclectic neighborhood by making it more pedestrian and bicycle friendly while preserving older residential neighborhoods.

**Lincoln Highway:** The 84-year-old Morris Hotel on East 4th Street was purchased in July, and is being transformed into the first "Burner" hotel in the world. The new owner plans to refurbish the period neon signs to their former beauty and will retain the punched tin ceiling. Hailing from around the world, residents of Burning Man's Black Rock City will help remodel the historic hotel's 43 rooms. Also on East 4th Street, the *Reno Gazette-Journal* reported on November 6 that the Nevada-California-Oregon Railroad Depot (NCO Building) will be repurposed as a brew-



*HRPS President Byllie D'Amato Andrews at the Powning Monument dedication.  
Photo by Jack Hursh.*

ery and distillery. This beautiful building designed by Reno's famous Frederic DeLongchamps has been on the watch-list of the HRPS Advisory Advocacy Council (AAC) for some time.

**Powning Addition and Newlands Manor:** HRPS helped to recognize these landmark Reno neighborhoods in 2013, with the dedication of the Powning Pillar in June as a monument to celebrate Reno's first Historic Conservation District, the Powning Addition, and the restoration of the eight pillars at the entrance to the Newlands Manor neighborhood on Nixon Avenue.

**HRPS News:** September brought us the fourth annual Harvest of Homes Tour – a fantastic success with around 900 people touring five historic homes, each from a different decade. This event is fast becoming a local favorite, and helps to raise awareness of and support for historic preservation in Reno. At the end of October, HRPS purchased a bathtub that had been used by Harold's Club in a Reno parade in 1946. Presently the tub is being stored by the Nevada Historical Society as we wait for a proper

venue for its display. Additionally, several events brought HRPS recognition by former Councilman Dan Gustin and Councilwoman Jenny Brekhus, who made a point to recognize a representative from HRPS, saying that HRPS was a great example of a grassroots organization and praising the role HRPS plays in improving the City of Reno.

The year 2013 has set quite a bar for the future, especially as we begin marking Nevada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday next year. There are rumors of several ideas for a museum of Reno's history (perhaps a home for our new bathtub?), and undoubtedly 2014 will bring more opportunities for HRPS to be involved in the preservation and adaptive reuse of Reno's history. (Reno's own sesquicentennial will occur in 2018.)

Even with increased community awareness and commitment to our heritage, we must remain vigilant, and to that end the HRPS AAC continues to work on ways to get more citizens involved in advocating for historic preservation. If you would like to receive email alerts about preservation issues as they arise, please send your name and email address to [renopreservation@yahoo.com](mailto:renopreservation@yahoo.com).

Finally, I would like to welcome our newest Lifetime Member, Jonnie Pullman. She joins seventeen other individuals and couples who have made this commitment to the mission of HRPS. Income from Lifetime Membership is used to support our Neighborhood Preservation Fund – please consider adding your name to this important list in the New Year.

*Byllie D'Amato Andrews*

## 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

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- ☐ 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

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## **WINTER 2014 PROGRAMS**

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

*Historic Reno Preservation Society's free fall programs offer an assortment of Reno historic topics. All program events are on the 4th Wednesday of the month (except for November) at 7:00 pm at The Laxalt Theater in the Nelson Building at 401 W. Second Street, Reno. For more program information contact Jack Hursh via email or call 747-4478 and leave a message. More organization information can be found at [www.historicreno.org](http://www.historicreno.org) or on Facebook.*

**January 22: Now and Then II** – Nevada historians Jerry Fenwick and Neal Cobb are back with a follow-up to their highly successful book *Now and Then*. They will share Reno and Sparks history, comparing eras in a then and now photo format. A book signing will follow.

**February 26: Harolds Club or Bust!** – Presenters: Steve Ellison, Dwayne Kling and Neal Cobb. The filmmakers that are creating the forthcoming documentary, “Harolds Club” will present a program detailing the history of this groundbreaking and pioneering club. Many historic images will be presented, including several that have not been seen in public before.

**March 26: Reno's Dark Underbelly of Prostitution and Drugs from 1900 through the 1950s** – Michael Fischer will follow the hookers and narcotics traffic in Reno during the first half of the Twentieth Century including historic pictures of a Reno Madam and some of her girls. Find out about the 1951 international drug ring that had direct ties to Reno and individuals in the gaming industry.

**April 23: More on the Lincoln Highway** – The Lincoln Highway was 100 years old as of October 31, 2013, and in celebration historian Jim Bonar will look at the inspiration behind the creation of the first transcontinental highway and address the issues around why highway organizers chose the overland stage route through central Nevada as opposed to the more obvious Humboldt corridor roadway.

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