

Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter

Dedicated to Preserving Reno's Rich Past with
Education, Advocacy, and Leadership.

MAY 1998

VOL. I, NO. 2

4th Street Needs You!

In 1927 the Lincoln and Victory Highways Project was completed with the paving of Highway 40 over Donner Summit. Thus was established the first transcontinental highway in the United States, and it went right through the middle of Reno and on to Sacramento and San Francisco. To celebrate, California and Nevada jointly sponsored the 1927 Highway Exposition in Idlewild Park. Somehow, Nevada got California to donate the exposition hall. Happily, the California Building still stands in the park and was recently refurbished by the city.

U.S. 40 is what we now know as 4th Street, much of which is badly in need of a similar restoration. Recognizing this, the Reno Sparks Corridor Business Association (RSCBA) organized as a not-for-profit cooperative corporation dedicated to the development and revitalization of the area bounded by Lake Street, I-80, Reno/Sparks city limits, and the Truckee River.

The City of Reno has awarded a \$200,000 Block Grant to this organization with an eye toward jump-starting their efforts with improved lighting and landscaping.

Writing in the Reno Gazette-Journal June 2, 1996 edition, Phillip Earl, Curator of History, noted:

"Nevadans saw the value of highways almost immediately, promoting travel through the state and establishing campgrounds, motels, restaurants, garages, auto parts outlets, auto dealerships and other highway-and automobile related enterprises."

Take a drive from the Reno/Sparks city limits (Galletti Way) to Lake Street - or beyond if you wish. Phillip Earl is right.

Amidst some distressing sights along the way, you will also see the remnants of a once prosperous tourist and commercial area. There are too many bars to mention. Nevertheless, a couple of them almost deserve to be considered "historical." You will also see motels of various vintages, trailer parks, gas stations, restaurants, tire stores, old hotels, and a substantial number of commercial structures. Please don't overlook the functioning businesses — right now they're what keep this area alive. This is a time capsule in very bad repair, nevertheless, it is a time capsule.

From a HRPS viewpoint, an especially attractive structure within the corridor is the NCO (Nevada, California, and Oregon) Railway building by Frederic DeLonchamps. It's worthy of your viewing and may be seen at 325 E. 4th Street.

RSCBA asks that people share with them their special knowledge of this historic area. Gaye Canepa is President and may be reached at P.O. Box 609, Reno, 89504. Support of any sort would be sincerely appreciated. HRPS wishes the Reno Sparks Corridor Business Association well as it undertakes the task of returning vitality to this area.

Check our tour notice for more
HRPS activity along Old Highway 40.

Introducing:

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WANTED:

Avid news hound
whose day is never
complete without a
thorough reading of the
newspaper, ideally
with beverage in reach
and scissors in hand.

HRPS needs an histori-
an who realizes that
information is the first
step in the process of
preservation & is will-
ing to track HRPS and
preservation issues at
leisure, daily.

Please call Pat Klos
after 5 PM at 348-8594.



Letter From The Editor

One of the advantages of being editor of anything is the opportunity to fill space with information. As your new editor I have chosen to fill this space with a little information about myself and about my impressions of Reno.

Reno is my "home" town. I went to Mt. Rose, B.D. Billingshurst, Reno High, and the University of Nevada. But I left in 1960, returning only for brief visits until 1996 when we returned permanently. Since our return we've had many friends visit. Those from the east have, of course, been exposed to the "Reno Tour," and it is very informative to see Reno through their eyes.

Reno's reputation has always preceded it. Media flacks eager to attract tourists have long written almost anything about this town, and casinos spend millions advertising opportunities for unlimited fun. These created perceptions are true, but they're not the entire truth.

Consequently, it's always fun to watch the expression on peoples faces

as we leave the airport. They look out at our bold scenery and grow silent. As we wend our way home through attractive, tree-lined streets (I know the ones to take), inevitably they will say, "Gee, I didn't realize it was so pretty here." The real clincher comes the next day when we tour my old neighborhood, drive along the river, swing by the university, and visit some of the parks.

What they didn't expect was the sense of place and the small, hometown feeling. That's why I feel it's important to blend tradition with progress — so that humans feel a part of the built environment, not apart from it. In 1960, when I left town, the population of Reno was 51,470. This was a small town; one with an attractive and distinctive built environment. Much of that's gone now, but my visitors confirm that the feeling remains. It is up to this community to preserve what's unique about Reno the best we can. We really don't want to be any other place, we want to be this place. HRPS is one way to help.

— Sharon Walbridge



HISTORIC RENO PRESERVATION SOCIETY CELEBRATES NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

TOUR #1 Saturday, May 9 • 10:00 am

"A Walk Along the Historic Truckee River Corridor"

Meet on the steps of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church,
Corner of Arlington and 2nd Streets.

HRPS members free, non-members \$5.00

Tour leader: *Carol Winans, HRPS member*

Call 348-8594 for additional information

TOUR #2 Sunday, May 10 • 2:00 pm

"A Mother's Day Walk and Reception in the University of Nevada, Reno Historic District"

Meet in the Honor Court adjacent to Morrill Hall.

The walk will culminate with a wine and cheese reception in the
Walter Van Tilburg Clark Room of historic Morrill Hall.

HRPS members \$5.00, non-members \$10.00

Tour leader: *Leanne Stone, HRPS member*

Limited participation, please make reservations by May 5.

Call Leanne, 784-6837 days, 322-1638 evenings.

TOUR #3 Saturday, May 16 • 10:00 am

"A Walk in the Newlands Neighborhood"

Meeting place to be announced

HRPS members free, non-members \$5.00

Tour Leaders: *Anne McCarty & Scott Gibson, HRPS members*

Call 329-0611 or 322-6406 for information.

TOUR #4 Monday, May 18 • 6:00pm • Note: No fee


"Bricks and Stones, a walk in the vernacular Humboldt and Lander Streets Neighborhood"

Meet on the lawn of Mt. Rose Elementary School on Lander Street for
a bring-your-own-picnic followed by the walk.

Tour leader: *Pat Klos, HRPS President*

Walking Tour Policy

Participation is at your own risk. You will be asked to sign in at the beginning of each walking tour. You will sign a waiver acknowledging your awareness of potential risks, and your willingness to join the walk in a purely voluntary manner.



Goals of Historic Reno Preservation Society

1. Train Walking Tour Docents.
2. Develop educational programs for children and adults.
3. Build a strong membership.
4. Make available materials about preservation and lists of historic properties and issues.
5. Identify endangered sites.
6. Inform about local, state, and national preservation issues through timely programming.
7. Build partnerships between HRPS, Reno Historic Resources Commission, neighborhood councils, and other preservation groups.
8. Recognize and reward historic preservation projects.
9. Build a partnership with the local Native American community.
10. Purchase and develop a house museum in the Truckee River corridor.

We Welcome New Members:

Tom Ainsworth, Trudy and Peter Brussard,
 Diane & David Buckman, Lois & Len Crocker,
 Judy & Steve Dollinger, Fritsi & Harry Ericson,
 Mary Evenson, Greg Ferraro,
 Mary Lee & Chuck Fulkerson, Scott Gibson,
 Pam & David Ginsburg, Pat Hickey,
 Merry Hofford, Mary Ellen Horan,
 Honor Jones, Andi & Steve Kaylor,
 Darla McKenna, Joe McKenna,
 Edda Morrison, Allan Reinap,
 Ginger & Pete Salcedo,
 Sue & Ted Schroeder,
 Maila Talso, Mark Taxer, Sally Temen,
 Fran & Terry Terras, The Theater Coalition
 Diane Watterson, Gayle Whitaker,
 Angela Whited, Ellen & Gene Williams,
 Bill H. Williams, Kathryn & Ed Wishart,
 Holly Young.



For the long-range planners out there:

Please note that the regular meetings of HRPS will move from the 4th Monday of the month to the 4th Wednesday. We will not meet during the summer. Our educational meetings will resume in September at 7 PM at the Mt. Rose School. Mark your calendar today!

Membership Application

- ☐ **Yes**, I want to become a member of the Historic Reno Preservation Society. Annual membership includes:

- HRPS newsletter
- Walking Tour brochure
- Free participation in walking tours

- ☐ Student\$8.00
☐ Individual\$10.00
☐ Family (children 18 and under) ...\$15.00
☐ Supporting\$100.00
☐ Additional Donation.....\$_____

Please make checks payable to:
Historic Reno Preservation Society

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

Best time to call _____

Please detach and return to: Pat Klos, 245 Glenmanor Drive, Reno, NV 89509



HRPS FIELD TRIP

to

FLANIGAN WAREHOUSE

Located within the Reno Sparks Corridor Business Association (RSCBA)
corridor at 701 E. 4th Street on the historic Lincoln/Victory Highway

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH 7 P.M.

Former Reno City Council Member Clyde Biglieri
will discuss the history and future of this historic building
as we tour the facility. Meet at the site.

Details? Call Cindi Ainsworth: 747-0340

DOUBLEclickdesign

.....phone: 324.5569/e-mail: info@doubleclick.reno.nv.us

PLACE
STAMP
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