

Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

FootPrints

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

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Reno's Gould Family from 1879

by Debbie Hinman

Reno's Hillside Cemetery has been featured in the local news lately, due to the controversy over ownership and a fight to prevent disinterment of those buried there. No matter from which direction it has been photographed, one monument towers above all others; a tall gray obelisk which, though weathered, has remained sturdy and intact. This monument is the final resting place of Gould family members, prominent Reno residents from 1879 through today.

The Reno legacy of the Goulds begins with Warren Hill Gould, born in Somerset County, Maine in 1836. Like so many easterners, he decided to "go west," though not for the Gold Rush. Warren arrived in Sierra Valley, California in 1869 and according to his obituary, that was "where he made a reputation for thrift, industry and honesty." He was a family man with a wife, Charlotte; three sons, William, Fred and Allen, and a daughter Lone. Gould farmed, and raised and traded livestock.

In 1879, he moved to Nevada and purchased a ranch described as "near Reno" with a lovely Victorian home on 40 acres from Reno merchant, James Paul Gray. Gray had built the house the year before. The 1880 Census shows the

family as residing in Glendale, an early, thriving community; by the 1920s, the property was known as 1375 Mill Street, Reno. Today, that is the address of the Washoe Mill Apartments, located between Renown Regional Medical Center and the Renown Rehabilitation Hospital. Gould Street is nearby. When the Goulds moved to the



The Gould Ranch House, c. 1879, east of Reno, on what later became Mill Street.

ranch in 1879, their neighbor was the Washoe County Hospital, established on Mill Street and Kirman Avenue just three years previously. The hospital was comprised of a two-story building with an adjoining poor farm.

Charlotte Gould passed away in 1884, at the age of 44. In the manner of the times, a funeral procession began at

the family residence and moved to the Methodist Church on Sierra and Front streets. The local newspaper reported that there were not fewer than fifty carriages in line, besides many mourners on foot. It went on to say, "Though the deceased went very little into society, and had not lived long in Reno, she was much respected and beloved by all who had met with her." After the church service, the procession followed the carriage with Mrs. Gould's remains north to Hillside Cemetery. No cause of death was published but she had given birth to a son who had died less than two weeks before her own passing. Warren remained on the family ranch with his children: William, who was now 21; Lone, 19; Fred, 17; and Allen, 11.

Following Charlotte's and her child's passing, Warren commissioned a stone mason to create a monument for his family plot at Hillside

Cemetery. That mason was likely John McCormack. McCormack was born in Michigan, and went to New York City at the age of 20 to use his talent as a stone mason in constructing the Brooklyn Bridge. Coming to Reno in 1885, he was in business for himself by 1886 and continued in this trade, creating monuments in cemeteries throughout

Continued on page 2

Reno's Gould Family from 1879 (continued)

Continued from page 1

Nevada. He became president of the Western Marble and Granite Company, and had his own marble works. His advertisement for the company displayed an obelisk monument very much like two at Hillside: the Gould monument and the smaller one for the Morton family. Nine members of the Gould family are buried in the family plot. At the time it was erected with Reno still a fledgling town, it comforted Warren that he could look to the northwest and see the monument from his Mill Street home. A similar monument adorns the Gould family plot in Maine.

In 1891, Warren built the valley's first commercial creamery on his ranch. According to author John Townley, who wrote *Tough Little Town on the Truckee*, "The building itself was notable; a two-story frame structure with an icehouse in the basement. A steam-powered butter maker produced 150 pounds from a single cycle." He designed the plant to serve the area well into the future, taking milk from 500 cows from some twenty ranches all over the valley. Again, from Townley, "His wagons toured the Meadows each dawn, collecting fresh milk for the creamery. A third of Gould's butter went to San Francisco's posh Palace Hotel, thanks to the help of friend and Reno booster, Francis G. Newlands." Warren placed son William in charge of the creamery. A year later, the Goulds tripled the capacity of the facilities and under the tutelage of a cheesemaker sent for from Wisconsin, began producing cheese. A wheel submitted to the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 took a First Prize. In addition to the cheesemaker, Warren sent for a Maine cousin, George Crosby, to come to Reno to deliver milk for him. Later, Crosby and Charles Clough built the Grand Hotel, the Colonial Apartments (now Ross Manor) and many other buildings.

T. K. Hymers was an early Reno resident who had established a successful livery stable on Sierra Street. His brother John came west from New York to join him, and in 1888, John's daughter Prudence, age 21, came west to live with her father, who had purchased a ranch directly across the street from the Gould Ranch. William Gould and Prudence Hymers met, fell in love, and married in December of 1892. They had a lavish wedding attended by many friends of both families, including Superintendent of Public Education of Washoe County, Orvis Ring.



*The obelisk-like Gould monument at Hillside cemetery where many Gould family members are buried.
Courtesy Fran Tryon.*

Tragedy struck the Gould family again when in August of 1893, Warren Gould and John Hymers both fell ill after examining some dead cattle (thought to be black leg fever or some kindred disease). Warren's arm began to swell, but he dismissed it as a bee sting. A physician was called in who felt it was blood poisoning but was of the opinion it wouldn't amount to much. When Warren's arm swelled to three times its normal size, he took to his bed and died on August 31 at the age of 57. John Hymers recovered. The disease was later found to be anthrax; John was a very lucky man to survive.

Warren Gould's funeral was a replay of his wife's just nine years earlier, featuring, in the words of the *Reno Evening Gazette*, "one of the longest processions of sorrowing friends ever seen in Reno." Pallbearers included C.C. Powning, Orvis Ring, and a host of other scions of Reno society. Warren joined Charlotte in the family plot he had established in Hillside Cemetery.

William and Prudence had moved into the large Gould home following their marriage. In 1895, the couple had a son whom they named for his grandfather, Warren. Young Warren's middle name was Hymers. Two years later daughter Helen was born and two years after that, son Clifford. This didn't mean that Prudence only stayed home and tended the children, however. In 1889, she joined the Women's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic and held several offices, including that of president. She also joined the Federated Church that year and in 1921 the Daughters of the American Revolution, becoming both chapter and state regent.

William's sister Ione married Dr. John Lewis in 1896 and the two of them also occupied the Gould home. Ione was one of the founders of the Twentieth Century Club, and Dr. Lewis was superintendent of the state hospital.

William remained engaged in the business of the creamery and running the ranch, along with brothers Fred and Allen. The three of them organized a local milk producers' association which supervised the creamery, now known as the Reno Creamery Company. The business handled almost all the local milk production but was having trouble keeping up with local demands. According to Townley, the town of Reno "...needed over 1,000 gallons of milk, 200 pounds of butter and 300 pounds of cheese every day for local consumption." This became a moot issue in June of

Reno's Gould Family from 1879 (continued)

1900 when the creamery burned to the ground. Fortunately, the home was spared as strong winds blew the fire away from it. The Goulds, however, abandoned the dairy business. Following the fire, the William Gould family briefly left the Mill Street home when they purchased a ranch partway to Pyramid Lake. They sold that ranch in 1904 and returned to alfalfa ranching at their family home.

Sons Warren and Clifford married in 1923 and 1922 respectively; daughter Helen never married. She worked as a stenographer, then as manager of the Colonial Apartments.

Keeping the farm and the equipment on the ranch functioning had turned them into accomplished mechanics, and by 1921 they had established Gould Brothers, an auto repair business.

In 1925, the Sierra Garage at 215 Sierra Street, then owned by Warren and Clifford, burned when an oil furnace exploded. Fortunately, Warren was home ill and Clifford was in the barber shop next door. The old stable building once owned by the Goulds' maternal great-uncle, T. K. Hymers, had been remodeled into a garage in 1915 by previous


owners. The Goulds acquired the garage circa 1921, leasing the land from John Semenza. Clifford Gould's daughter Prudence married Neal Muran in 1942. Upon Neal's return from the army, he went into business with Clifford Gould and the garage was known as Gould & Muran Machine Shop.

Prudence Muran, who had been named for her grandmother, celebrated her 93rd birthday in 2016 and has always been a vocal advocate for the preservation of Hillside Cemetery. Her son John has attended many of the Hillside meetings and has also spoken out against the proposed disinterment.

And what of the wonderful old Gould house? In 1965, Warren Hill Gould's grandson Warren Hymers Gould sold the house and the remains of the original acreage. The house was not well cared for and deteriorated substantially until 1980. There was some thought of using it for a Ronald McDonald House, but it was decided it would be too costly to renovate and wasn't big enough to accommodate the number of guests anticipated. In 1982, just when the 94-year-old structure was destined for the wrecking ball, it received a reprieve. The house was moved to its current site at 832 Willow Street by

Harry O. Miller, Esq. and Vernon E. Leverty, Esq. and lovingly restored. Mr. Miller passed away in 1991, but the home still belongs to the Leverty Trust and is occupied by Vernon Leverty and his son Patrick's law firm. It has lovely dark wood trim and built-ins, etched glass transoms and period-appropriate wallpaper. The carpet is a deep, rich red, and the staircase balustrade has a wooden handrail with white painted balusters with gold trim.

Baby Prudence was brought home from the hospital on an early June day in 1923 to this house where her parents were living with the elder Goulds. Although the family later had their own home, when Prudence speaks of the house, her eyes glow with the memory of spending much of her youth there. She remembers the tall-ceilinged, quiet rooms, the steep staircase and the wonderful large yard and outbuildings. Leaning forward in excitement, she told me of visiting a tiny house, an outbuilding on the ranch occupied by the Chinese cook, and how the interior walls were overlaid with Chinese newspapers.

Although the creamery, the outbuildings and acres of farmland are things of the past, the house, the street bearing the family name and that tall granite monument high on a hill in the University District still stand as reminders of one of the important early families who contributed to the city we love today. 

Note: As I was completing this story, I received notice from Prudence Muran's son John that she had passed away suddenly on November 9 of heart failure. Next to her chair was a stack of issues of *FootPrints* that she had been rereading. Prudence was a lovely lady and I feel so fortunate that I was the recipient of her kind emails, urging me to "never stop writing." I so enjoyed meeting her at her home in Tahoe City this past summer. I regret she didn't live to see her own story in print.

Information for this article came from newspapers 1879-1950, *Tough Little Town on the Truckee*, by John Townley, Hillside Cemetery historian Fran Tryon, Gene Leverty, Esq. and an interview with Prudence Gould Muran.

Debbie Hinman is a member of the Historical Resources Commission, a HRPS Tour Guide, and Managing Editor of *FootPrints*.



The Gould House today, now Leverty & Associates, 832 Willow Street. Courtesy Debbie Hinman.

Recap of Reno Harvest of Homes Tour 2016

by Sharon Honig-Bear, Tour Chair

This year's Home Tour can be recalled as a great day with perfect weather, a wonderful variety of homes and nice crowds. There was favorable feedback on the new Program format and ever-popular vintage cars. All these positives contributed to a very well-run and extraordinary event.

Almost 700 people visited the homes, and special thanks are extended to the generous folks who opened up their homes for the Home Tour, and to our 124 volunteers who are needed to make the tour a successful operation.

Some "factoids" about the Tour:

- The two houses that were most selected to begin the tour were Juniper Hill and the Arroyo duo.
- The most popular homes were Marsh Avenue, Juniper Hill and the Arroyo Cottage. Clearly there are many fans of mid-century and "tiny" homes.
- Sales were greatest on the Internet and at Sundance Books.
- Final accounting awaits but it looks as if we will add over \$15,000 to the Neighborhood Preservation Fund for our next grant cycle.

A personal footnote from Tour Chair Sharon Honig-Bear: This year's wonderful and entertaining tour was my "swan song" as Chair of the Home Tour. We are seeking a new Chair for the Tour, to work with the continuing leadership already established. If you are interested in this position, please contact Sharon at sharonbear@sbcglobal.net. 



373-1/2 Arroyo Street home tour host Byllie Andrews talks to guests in the tiny house. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.



HRPS Board member Garrett Barmore was the shuttle driver to and from the Juniper Hill home during the Home Tour. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.



Tracy Soliday and Glenna Smith at registration during the Home Tour. Courtesy Sharon Honig-Bear.



6th Street home tour host Jack Hursh explains the construction of the 1880s vintage home. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.

Recap of Reno Harvest of Homes Tour 2016 (continued)



Charlie and Kathy Schopper, whose grandparents built the home, with Arroyo Street home owner Tim Braidy during the 2016 Harvest of Homes Tour. Courtesy Elizabeth Iverson.



Kimberly Woods' 1965 Mustang Fastback 2+2 sat in front of the Marsh Street home during the Home Tour. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.



Michael Mikel, owner of the 6th Street home, talks with a visitor during the Home Tour. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.



Student volunteers, Dashauna and Nyla, from McQueen High School's Black Student Union, who helped at the Juniper Hill house during the Home Tour. Courtesy Sharon Honig-Bear.

HRPS Endangered Building Watch List

- Freight House on Evans St.
- Nevada Brewing Works on 4th St.
- Regina Apartments on Island Ave.
- First Masonic Building (Reno Mercantile) at Sierra and Commercial
- Historic Homes in The University Gateway District
- Buildings in the University Neighborhood
- The Hotel El Cortez at 2nd and Arlington
- Hill/Redfield Mansion on Mt. Rose St.
- Lear Theater
- Flick Ranch House
- Two El Reno Apartments at 1461 Lander St.
- Hillside Cemetery
- WPA Projects at Plumas, Stewart and Virginia Lake Parks
- Mid-century Motels
- Burke's, Belli and Mountain View Additions

Caughlin Ranch House and 373 Arroyo, Revisited

By Debbie Hinman

Sometimes when you write articles about historic events and homes, a wonderful thing happens: people with firsthand or research-acquired knowledge suddenly appear to set you straight on your facts. This occurred when my story on this year's Harvest of Homes Tour was published. In the interest of historical accuracy, I want to correct an error and share new information on both the Caughlin Ranch House and the two houses at 373 Arroyo Street.

Caughlin Ranch House

The date of this home was reported as 1851 in the Home Tour story, as it was the date given by Crissie Caughlin to her granddaughter and biographer, Shiela Lonie. It only occurred to me after we went to print that this was highly unlikely, in fact impossible, given that the house was said to have been built in Virginia City. There was no Virginia City until 1859, when miner Peter O'Reilly discovered gold at the head of Six-Mile Canyon. I was reminded of this fact by Gloria Manning, President of the Historical Society of Dayton Valley (HSDV). Gloria referred me to HSDV docent Pat Neylan for additional information on the house. Pat also volunteers at the museum in the basement of St. Mary in the Mountains Catholic Church in Virginia City and is very knowledgeable on both localities. Pat estimates the date of the house between 1865 and 1867. He provided the following information—a great surprise to me and no doubt to its occupants, the Bath family. Pat reports that the house was built as an orphanage; in fact, the first one in the state of Nevada. My own research confirmed that the Daughters of Charity arrived in Virginia City in 1864 and soon established a small boarding school and orphanage. The Nevada Orphan Asylum opened in 1867, reportedly in the structure we now know as the Caughlin Ranch House. There was a great need at the time; many children were orphaned by mine

accidents and the social disorder in the rowdy town. For five of the thirty years the school and orphanage operated, the Daughters received some state assistance, but the bulk of their funds came from their own fundraising efforts and the generosity of such scions of the Virginia City community as John and Mary Louise Mackay and Mr. and Mrs. James Fair. The school and asylum closed in 1897, with the mines played out and townspeople leaving. A new orphanage was established in Carson City. Crissie's recollection was that the house was moved to Reno around the turn of the century; Pat's estimate is around 1904.




Kathy Schopper's mother Hazel Bonta and her then fiancé Leo Pistone, whom she later married, on the porch of the newly-built home on Arroyo Street.

Courtesy Kathy Schopper.

373 Arroyo Street

Reader Kathy Schopper became very excited when she saw the two stone houses on Arroyo Street advertised in the local paper as featured on the Harvest of Homes Tour. She called HRPS and provided valuable information on the home and cottage. It seems Herman and Frances Bonta, mentioned in the story as taking out a building permit in 1932, were her grandparents. We were thrilled to hear more about the origin of the home and her information

cleared up a puzzling mystery for me. The Washoe County Assessor's date on the home was 1920 and yet the building permit date of 1932 seemed to belie this. This block of Arroyo was predominantly populated in the 1930s, and the style of the home with the garage underneath also indicated a later build date. I was very puzzled by this; assessor dates are often incorrect due to the build date being readjusted following a remodel or addition, but because of this the house is usually older than shown. This one appeared to be 12 years newer. Kathy easily solved this conundrum. She explained that what we referred to as 373 ½ Arroyo, or the cottage to the rear of the home, was on the site when the Bontas purchased the lot and oversized 2-car garage in 1931; the garage may well have been built in 1920. There was a basement dug for the front house but no construction had begun. Herman remodeled the garage into two sections; a bedroom for the two Bonta daughters and a living room/kitchen/bathroom where he and Frances slept. They occupied the little stone house for nearly eight years before they were able to complete the front house. Due to the Depression, the economy was slow and Herman was set against borrowing. He would only work on the house as he could afford materials. He obtained the stones from the excavation for the addition to St. Mary's Hospital. Today the fireplace is tiled but Kathy says originally it was made of moss-covered rock that Herman had collected from Geiger Grade. When it was finished, he didn't like the look of it and painted it white. Apparently a later owner didn't care for that modification either.

I don't like being wrong when I write about Reno's history, but when I look at the wealth of information I gained because people were kind enough to help me set the record straight, it's worth it. Thanks to Gloria, Pat and Kathy for the great information and for keeping me honest! 

No Admittance: A Love Story

By Debbie Hinman

Over its years of existence, HRPS has been known for many things—primarily sharing local history through our monthly programs, our walking tours and our quarterly publication *FootPrints*—but fostering love and romance? This is definitely a new arena for us. It happened, though, on a cold, blustery evening in March of 2014.

Local realtor Kitty Howard was at the end of a busy workday, but she really wanted to hear Michael Fischer's presentation that evening on "Reno's Underbelly." A Reno resident since 1990, when she moved from the east coast, Kitty had become fascinated by her new home's history. Ever since becoming a realtor, she was enamored of the Old Southwest and had purchased and renovated several properties in the neighborhood, as well as a charming residence for herself. So in spite of the chilly weather, she changed into a pair of yoga pants, grabbed an old brown coat and was out the door.

Gardnerville engineer Mike Merritt had seen a notice on the presentation in the Reno paper and decided it was something that interested him. Relocating to Northern Nevada from Wyoming in 1990, Mike often had business in Reno. He wanted to know more about its origins, and tonight's topic piqued his interest. As he had to come to Reno that afternoon anyway, he decided to take his old work truck, conduct his business, and drop by the Nelson Building to attend the HRPS program.

HRPS had recently made the decision to relocate the monthly programs, as they felt they had outgrown the auditorium at Mt. Rose School. Also, there was the unwelcome task of setting up the folding chairs, then folding them back up and storing them away. The chairs were not the most comfortable seating, all of the audio visual equipment had to be brought in and set up as well, so the idea of a high-tech auditorium with comfortable, theater-style seating greatly appealed to the Program Director and the HRPS Board. We made the switch to

the Nelson Building in the fall of 2013. At first, the Laxalt Auditorium was a big hit with HRPS members. Greater publicity brought in new locals and as the word got out about the free and interesting programs offered monthly by HRPS, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute members also began attending in droves. Although thrilled that the programs were attracting such interest, it soon became evident to the Program Director and Board that the auditorium did not have sufficient seating for everyone who wished to attend. By early 2014, HRPS was having to turn people away due to lack of seating and strict fire codes. Understandably unhappy that they were




not to be allowed in, people gathered in the parking lot outside, hoping that seating might be found for them.

That evening in March, Kitty and Mike found themselves huddled together in a group of those who were turned away. One member suggested they walk an historic neighborhood, but the weather wasn't really conducive to that. As the group finally dispersed to return home, Mike mentioned he would like to see some of Reno's historic neighborhoods and he and Kitty discussed taking a drive around. However, both were somewhat reluctant, for reasons of their own. Mike was embarrassed to have this woman who had already impressed him see his old work truck. Kitty was thinking

that the way Mike was dodging the issue, he didn't have a vehicle, and she was embarrassed by the way she was dressed. Also, she was a little nervous about inviting a stranger, however nice he seemed, into her vehicle to take a ride. So Kitty gave Mike her card and the two parted with a tentative suggestion of someday taking a walk. Mike glanced at the card and realized he knew that face—he had seen her photo in real estate listings for some time, but hadn't recognized her. Mike says Kitty's smiling face had attracted him from the first time he saw it.

The following weekend, Mike took out Kitty's card and debated calling her. He finally decided on sending a text, suggesting they take a walk on Sunday but leaving it casual enough that neither would be embarrassed if she turned down his offer or didn't respond. Mike was surprised but pleased when Kitty countered with a suggestion to visit the Nevada Museum of Art. The two ended up spending the day and evening together; first the museum, then lunch, then a visit to a friend of Kitty's, a walk along the River Walk, and to Kitty's to watch a movie. The rest, as they say, is history.

Following a two-and-a-half year courtship, Kitty and Mike were married on September 17, 2016. They divide their time between Kitty's wonderful historic home and Mike's house in Gardnerville. The couple continue their mutual interest in historic Reno, and have added exploring historic Gardnerville and the surrounding area to their activities. Kitty and Mike didn't dwell on the evening in 2014 when HRPS locked them out in the cold, but instead gave HRPS a generous gift. They requested that in lieu of wedding gifts, guests make a contribution to HRPS, which amounted to a whopping \$1050! But after all, had they been able to find seats in the Nelson Building's Laxalt Auditorium, they possibly would never have met.

Thanks, Kitty and Mike, and best wishes for a long, happy marriage! We'll save you seats at the first program of 2017. 



HRPS 2017 Winter Programs

Sheryl Hayes-Zorn & Kimberly Roberts, Program Chairs

Each fall and winter, the Historic Reno Preservation Society offers free programs to the community on “last-Sunday” afternoons. These programs cover an assortment of topics regarding Reno’s unique heritage and are held in the basement auditorium of the Washoe County Library at 301 S. Center Street in downtown Reno. Visit the HRPS Facebook page and/or website at www.historicreno.org for additional information. The program chairs may be contacted by leaving a message at (775) 747-4478.



Sunday, January 29, 1:00 pm: Sharon Honig-Bear on Reno’s Mid-Century Properties. Reno underwent a building boom in the 1960s and 70s to keep up with trends in modern architecture. Through a series of images, Sharon will describe the features that defined the Mid-Century design movement, creating major changes in architecture and modern living. We will examine the style both internationally and how it was interpreted in Reno. Join in on the conversation about this style of design... clean and functional? ugly and bare? organic? This program may help you decide. Sharon Honig-Bear is a HRPS tour leader and created a Mid-Century Modern walk. She is founder of the annual Reno Harvest of Homes Tour.

Sunday, February 26, 1:00 pm: Garrett Barmore will speak on the Keck Museum and its collection. Located in the Mackay School of Mines Building at the University of Nevada, Reno, the W. M. Keck Earth Science & Mineral Engineering Museum houses an outstanding collection of minerals, ores, fossil specimens and photographs, in addition to mining related relics. Museum Curator Garrett Barmore will discuss the treasures housed here. Garrett Barmore earned his Bachelor’s degree from University of Nevada, Reno, and his Master’s in Museum Studies from the University of Washington. He is the administrator at the Keck Museum on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.



Sunday, March 26, 1:00 pm: Dana Munkelt on the Truckee Meadows Irrigation Ditches. Did you know there are nine hand-dug irrigation ditches still operating from the Truckee River in Reno? From short ones for the hydroelectric plants at Verdi, Fleisch and Washoe, to the big one, the Steamboat Ditch, more than 30 miles long. Most have access along at least part of their routes, winding through suburbs and golf courses, north past Kiley Ranch and south to Steamboat Hot Springs. Come to a talk about the history of these water channels and how they have survived today. Originally from California, Dana retired to Reno a couple years ago, and while learning his way about, kept running across ditches weaving through town. A little reading gave some of the ditch history, and inspired further research.

Sunday, April 30, 1:00 pm: ZoAnn Campana on the Newlands District. In 1889, Francis Newlands built his residence on a sagebrush-choked bluff overlooking the Truckee River. In the decades following, Senator Newlands and his real estate company laid out a series of subdivisions featuring picturesque landscapes, winding boulevards, and a mix of vernacular and high-style residences. These subdivisions are known collectively as the Newlands neighborhood, which has remained a jewel of community planning and design in Reno since its earliest development in the 1890s. Architectural historian ZoAnn Campana recently completed a historic resources survey and National Register nomination for the Newlands Heights Historic District in old Southwest Reno and will be sharing her findings. ZoAnn Campana is an architectural historian and historic preservation consultant in Northern Nevada.





HRPS Advocacy Advisory Council

Article by ZoAnn Campana

AAC Members: Byllie Andrews (Board Liaison), Garrett Barmore, Betty Dodson, Barrie Lynn (Chair), Tracy Soliday, Eric Swanson and Mark Taxer

The role of the HRPS Advocacy Advisory Council (AAC) is to identify, research and obtain facts on current historic preservation issues in the Reno area and recommend a plan of action and outreach to the HRPS board. Highlights from the September 26, 2016 meeting are discussed below.

Hillside Cemetery

If you have been following the news, you can imagine that the agenda for the last AAC meeting was packed with local preservation topics, and foremost among them was the pressing issue of Hillside Cemetery. The historic cemetery is more than a century old and is the final resting place for Reno's pioneer families, among them city founders, Civil War veterans, and a Paiute chief. However, it is situated on a prime piece of property along University Terrace, a stone's throw from downtown Reno and the university. This past summer, it came to light that cemetery owner Sierra Memorial Gardens planned to disinter the remains of hundreds of Reno's earliest residents from the south half of the burial ground and relocate them into a mass grave memorial on the north end of the cemetery. This project, euphemistically dubbed a "restoration project," sought to clear the south end of the cemetery so the land could be sold to a developer.

The proposed project incited a major public outcry, and its implications were discussed in the local media, as well as in county commission and city council meetings. On September 18, Sierra Memorial Gardens publicly announced that they were temporarily suspending their disinterment plans, and Notice of Determination of Disinterment signs were removed from the cemetery's fence that week.

In its September 28 meeting, the Reno City Council approved a resolution to become an active stakeholder in the development at Hillside Cemetery.

Because the AAC convened two days prior to this meeting, the committee discussed what role the city might play as an active stakeholder for the preservation of this significant historic resource, such as transforming the cemetery into an interpretive heritage site. Ultimately, the committee decided to wait on the City Council's decision before making recommendations to the HRPS board regarding a strategy for partnering with the city on the preservation of Hillside.

The AAC is heartened by the activism of HRPS members, the Hillside Cemetery Volunteers, and other concerned citizens, which likely led to the suspension of the disinterment.

Masonic Lodge No. 13/Reno Mercantile

Located at 98 W. Commercial Row and constructed in 1872, this building is the oldest commercial structure in Reno. Because of its deep significance to the earliest history of Reno, the AAC pays close attention to any developments related to the Reno Mercantile. At the last meeting, the AAC discussed the plans to re-roof and seismically retrofit the building and suggested that HRPS should reach out to the Whitney Peak Hotel—the building owner—recognizing the efforts being made to preserve this local treasure and offering to provide further support in the interest of its preservation.


The Gateway District

Another hot topic in local preservation is the fate of the historic homes located in the footprint of UNR's proposed "Gateway District." Endangered by UNR's plans to construct a new business building in their place, the homes are arranged along Center and Lake Streets one block south of the university and embody the last remaining evidence of Reno's 19th century past. The AAC discussed the latest development

regarding the Gateway, which is that the City of Reno Historical Resources Commission (HRC) wrote a letter to the Board of Regents requesting that they suspend their plans to move the homes until further study of the university's needs in that area be undertaken. Moreover, they requested that the Regional Transportation Commission's needs along the Virginia Street Corridor also be assessed prior to moving the homes. The university responded that they have adequately completed outreach efforts to the community and have no intention of changing their plan to relocate the houses.

Other News

- The AAC discussed the recent epidemic of demolishing historic resources in the community, which results in the loss of neighborhood character and community identity. Reno needs to focus on its heritage, especially as it is expressed in the built environment. Once a property is destroyed, it is gone forever. It is important to note that the salvage of discrete architectural elements from a historic building prior to demolition is not historic preservation.
- With the 2017 Legislative Session around the corner, the AAC is beginning to brainstorm potential preservation measures. Stay tuned!

To read more about the history of the Gateway homes, Masonic Lodge No. 13/Reno Mercantile, and other important places about Reno's heritage, please visit www.RenoHistorical.org or download the Reno Historical app. Reno Historical provides an ever-growing historical narrative of Reno with thematic tours, oral histories, location-based essays, and archival images. 

ZoAnn Campana is a local Historic Preservation Consultant who serves on the HRPS Board of Directors.

Fun Day at Barn and Ranch Tour

by Cindy Ainsworth

The date August 20, 2016 proved to be a very sunny, hot day but that did not deter HRPS tour goers on the successful Barns or Bust Ranch Bus Tour. We filled the bus with 53 participants anxious to see some hidden jewels in the Truckee Meadows and a very unique ranch over the Nevada border in California. Starting at Washoe County's Bartley Ranch, barn expert and longtime HRPS volunteer Jack Hursh spoke about the significance of saving and relocating the historic Joe Ferretto Ranch buildings to the park. Even before the tour started, we witnessed two groups using the very photogenic spot for a professional photo shoot. The little buildings date from circa 1870s to the 1910s and include a decorated bunk house, chicken coop with pigeon loft, cook house, and granary/tool shed.

As with most of our tours, we always have a few surprises. This time we were fortunate to have some Ferretto Ranch relatives along on the tour who shared their tales about the area. Kathy and Ken Zugar came from San Francisco. She is the great-granddaughter of Joe Ferretto and spent many summers at the Ferretto Ranch. Once while visiting the Reno area, Kathy had purchased a copy of Jack Hursh's *Truckee Meadows Remembered* book which features the barns in the

area. She contacted Jack by letter shortly after acquiring the book. Jack reminisced that, "she was in awe to see that the little (Bartley Ranch) buildings still existed and were being saved. A few weeks later I met her in Reno and she had old family photo albums with photos of the buildings on the ranch in the 1940-50s time frame. These are priceless photos."

Kathy emailed these kind words to Jack, "We had a most wonderful time on the Barns or Bust tour. Thank you so much for putting on such a great program. We learned so much. Saw places we would never see or even know about on our own exploring. And starting off at the Bartley Ranch was so emotional for me. A good kind of emotional. To be at the buildings where I and my family once played and lived at during summers was a miracle in itself. Again, thank you so very much for saving that part of Truckee Meadows history. I always felt that Truckee Meadows was special. And it still is. Even with all the changes."

The next stop was the magnificent 1880s Mayberry Barn. Owned by Karen and Lindsay Craig, the family feels that they just don't own the barn but are stewards of the land and building. The Craigs now have a full blown interdependent ecosystem of goats, plants, fruit trees and garden beds built on top of mulch piles that make the property a very active family project. The vintage barn is timber framed using huge hand-hewed timbers



Attendees visit the magnificent 1880s Mayberry barn. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.

joined with mortise and tenon and scarf joinery. It is one of the largest and best-preserved barns in the area. Karen shared the family's ideas about permaculture farming and Jack and Loren Jahn spoke about the barn's history and architectural construction. A pair of barn owls perched high in the rafters kept an eye on the visitors during this discussion.

After this we moved down the road to the Durkee barn and property located along the Truckee River. The barn dates to around 1910 and is a unique gable with wings design. This rural site



The original Ramelli Creamery/Dairy. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.



Host Jack Hursh describes the barn's structure to tour attendees. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.

Fun Day at Barn and Ranch Tour (continued)



*The vintage New Deal Works Progress Administration Fly-Proof Privy on the Durkee property.
Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.*

includes a beautiful springhouse and some fantastic outbuildings including a rare 30s vintage New Deal Works Progress Administration (WPA) Fly Proof Privy. Presently, the Durkee family owns the property. Danielle Durkee shared some of her early experiences growing up on the ranch, including using the WPA privy! It was a treat to see this property.

Our last stop was the Old 1862 Ranch located in California off Highway 395. Our hosts were owners Jan and Jim Loverin who purchased this beautiful property in 1984 and have lived at the rural location since 1986. Jan shared



Tour attendees enjoy Jan and Jim Loverin's Old 1862 Ranch house and porch. Courtesy Kelly Rigby.


the interesting history of the ranch including the tale of about the Ramelli Creamery/Dairy. Caesar Ramelli owned the ranch until well into the twentieth century. The property includes the unique creamery building. The Ramellis made cheese and butter and stored it in the basement of the Loverin's lovely brick house. The goods were sold to restaurants in Reno and Jan showed off a 1914 Riverside Hotel menu that featured locally grown and produced products including "Ramelli-made Reno cheese."

We were happy to have Corrine and John Matley along on the tour. Corrine's mother was Eslie Cann who many of you may remember as a curator at the Nevada Historical Society. There she provided researchers with information, stories and photos about the area. Jan Loverin had approached Eslie to learn about the history of the ranches north of Reno. Eslie's mother was Lena Ramelli of the Creamery/Dairy family. John Matley mentioned that Lena was raised in Jan's house and "was the gal who rode a buckboard to Reno, changing her clothes by some red rocks!" Eslie later lived with the Matleys on their ranch.

The tour ended with some tasty appetizers and wine out on the Old 1862 Ranch porch and patio. There we shared stories and relaxed before the short trip back to Reno.

We'd like to end by quoting a nice note from tour goers, Arlene and Bill Dempsey. "We want to thank you for the most enjoyable Barns or Bust Ranch tour. We appreciated being able to view barns unknown to us and also see their construction...We especially liked the ending of the day at the Old 1862 Ranch. It was beautiful, interesting, relaxing, peaceful...The

commentary from Jack and Loren was very informative and fun! Thank you for all you did to organize the day for us. We thoroughly enjoyed it."

HRPS would like to thank Jack Hursh and Cindy Ainsworth for organizing the tour. Additional information was provided by Loren Jahn and Holly Buchanan. And a special thank you to Jan and Jim Loverin for allowing us to tour their beautiful property. 

Cindy Ainsworth is a HRPS Walking Tour Guide, retired HRPS Administrator and a Past-President of HRPS.



*John Matley, whose wife's grandmother was Lena Ramelli of the Ramelli family, speaks to the group.
Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.*



Hosts Jim and Jan Loverin at their Old 1862 Ranch. Courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.

Misery Cheers Reno

by Robin Holabird

Despite zombie crawls and other seasonal activities, Reno's reputation for scares on film remains relatively low. Vampires? The Devil? A maniacal leprechaun? They all go to Vegas. But Reno boasts one link to horror's reigning king—Stephen and the film adaptation of his book *Misery*.

It started in the summer of 1989 when Director Rob Reiner and his Castle Rock production team investigated possible locations for their version of King's best-selling novel about a psychopathic fan who traps her favorite author in a remote mountain hideaway. Of course they knew the story takes place in Colorado, which offers made-to-order locations for high altitude shenanigans. But many movie makers like to check options and feel sure nothing better lies out there. As a result, the *Misery* team sent a blast-email to western film commissions, those government agencies dedicated to luring movie makers to their regions to promote economic development and tourism.

As head of the Nevada Film Office's Reno-Tahoe branch, I quickly gathered photos suiting the request:

- a farmhouse and barn in a meadow with a huge massif looming behind it
- a small mountain town
- a rustic lodge
- a steep, winding snowy road

Desolate isolation ruled, with one caveat. The locations must lie near easily accessible services less than an hour from a major airport in an area with top notch accommodations.

Reno and the Sierra provide all that, and Location Manager Lampton Enochs agreed when he saw the pictures I sent. So did Director Rob Reiner. Soon the two joined producers Jeff Stott and Steve Nicolaides plus cinematographer Barry Sonnenfeld on a flight to Reno for a northern Nevada scout with me.



Bonanza Barry.

It worked great. The movie makers began cheerfully because their new film "When Harry Met Sally" just opened to rave reviews. Rob also felt good that he recently settled a casting issue after Bette Midler dropped out of "Misery," switching in Kathy Bates. "She'll win an Oscar for this," he said to my surprise, since, like most movie goers at the time, I hadn't seen her in many films. Still, I knew enough obscure names to hang in playing a movie game similar to "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon" as I drove the scouting team from location to location.

Spirits stayed high when we scouted the Ponderosa Ranch, bringing on a case of warm nostalgia for Barry, who bought a placemat for his wife. "Sweetie will love this," he insisted, holding up the plastic covered photo of the Cartwrights.

Rain started falling as we scoped a meadow near Incline Lake, but we continued the scout as the guys opened umbrellas I passed out—pink ones, but they didn't seem to care. The resulting gloom in August hinted at what the area might look like when winter hit.

Rob and the others appreciated the harsh grays of the granite mountain faces rising above them. Rather than cluster in warm forests, trees towered like threatening prison guards. The

landscapes seemed ominous and lonely, in contrast to Reno's Airport Plaza Hotel, which provided a nearby, top-class service base camp.

Before cameras rolled in winter, the *Misery* team prepared carefully and visited the area frequently. One step involved getting cooperation from Genoa residents. Steve, Jeff and I went to a town hall meeting, where we explained the benefits (and hassles) of filming. Famous faces! Road closures! A location fee!

Locals liked the idea, though one woman stood up with a question: "It's so wonderful here. Do you have to call the movie *Misery*?"

Steve's jaw dropped a bit—his group paid a lot of money for that familiar best-selling title and built-in audience for anything by the internationally known, chart topping author, Stephen King. *Misery* stayed on as title, but the woman had a point. Neither the locations nor project proved miserable.

Initially, locations threatened one problem as winter started with drought conditions. And then, as the most serious needs for snow approached in February, 1990, Reno got its third-heaviest snowfall of all time, with 18-inches blanketing the city and more

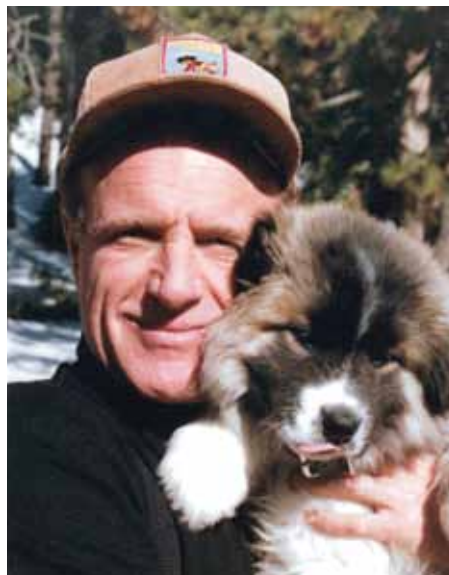
Misery Cheers Reno (continued)

than enough covering Genoa, the farm set off Clear Creek Road, Old Donner Pass and other key locations. Some film projects fear the company of snow. *Misery* loved it.

Set visits proved cheery for a project called *Misery*. Getting out of the snow one day, I joined several others from the set by popping into star James Caan's trailer, empty since he was off filming nearby.

We played with his new acquisition, a totally adorable Akita-husky mix puppy. One by one, various set workers got called to their jobs. When the last worker got his call and asked if I would stay and watch the dog, I obliged. "Of course," I said, since film commission duties include such diverse skills as puppy sitting. The fuzzball leaned against my leg, spying my leather shoe and testing its quality as a chew toy.

Suddenly, the door popped open and James Caan ran in, tearing off his shirt revealing a well-muscled chest. "Keep going," I thought but said, "Uh, I can leave." "Oh, no, that's okay," he said, putting on a different shirt and disappearing out the door. No misery in that memory.



James Caan and Reno.

Later, Caan regaled Kathy Bates and some of us with the story of how he got the puppy at a Reno casino, the Peppermill. It was love at first sight when he saw the dog in a woman's arms, and he made several monetary offers before she eventually accepted. Caan adored everything about the puppy except his name, "Coon Dog." The actor immediately changed it to "Reno the Wonder Dog." Reno wagged his tail during the tale,

ignoring us as he frolicked in snow. He demonstrated another example of the lack of misery on set.

Filming finished smoothly and the movie makers moved on.

Rob Reiner returned to southern California and put together a film that always makes the lists of "best Stephen King adaptations."

Barry Sonnenfeld finished his stint as cinematographer and shifted into directing such hits as *The Addams Family* and *Men in Black* series.

Kathy Bates really did end up on stage accepting a Best Actress Oscar for *Misery*.

And James Caan went home with Reno. 

Robin Holabird spent more than twenty years as a state film commissioner helping producers make movies and television programs in Nevada. Her book *"Elvis, Marilyn and the Space Aliens: Icons on Screen in Nevada"* comes out in 2017 from UNR Press.

HRPS 2017 Neighborhood Preservation Fund (NPF) Grants

by Cindy Ainsworth



*A 2016 NPF Grant helped refresh the paint on 542 Lander Street.
Photo courtesy Cindy Ainsworth.*

HRPS is pleased to announce its seventh round of Neighborhood Preservation Fund (NPF) grants for the enhancement of older structures. Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2017 for an NPF grant to help Reno property owners rehabilitate historical structures and landmarks. The structures should be at least fifty years old. 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.

Grant guidelines, timeline and the application are available through the HRPS website at historicro.org or by calling (775) 747-4478.

Message from Your HRPS President Carol Coleman

Greetings to HRPS members and friends,

I hope you had the opportunity to attend the 2016 Harvest of Homes Tour in September. It was a grand event with houses both interesting and charming. Over 100 volunteers make the event happen, many involved in long-term planning and even more with short-term responsibilities working at the various homes on the day of the event. I had the opportunity to take tickets at 507 West 6th Street, where owner Michael Mikel brought me a “parasol” that matched the colors of my outfit to keep me out of the western sun (*see picture*).

Sharon Honig-Bear is the founder and Chair of the Home Tour, which just completed its seventh consecutive year. Sharon created the Home tour with the idea that any profits would go to grants to improve the exteriors of older homes in Reno, an effort now called the Neighborhood Preservation Fund (NPF). At the end of 2016, if every grant for this year is completed, NPF will have distributed just over \$133,000 through 33 separate grants since its 2011 origin. This represents a major effort in historic preservation in Reno!

With many thanks to Sharon for all the successes of the Home Tour (and the NPF), we accept her resignation as Chair of the Home Tour following seven fruitful years. HRPS is looking for a very organized person to volunteer to take over the Home Tour position. We think it should be someone who has been a Home Tour volunteer and has some understanding of its complexities and processes. Please communicate with Sharon at sharon-bear@sbcglobal.net if you'd like to know more about the position.

Blog on HRPS Website

Do you follow the blog on the HRPS website? Take a look to see the conversation on historic properties that takes



place there. Its short and timely articles that might be of interest to you. Add your comments if you like.

What is HRPS doing in Historic Preservation?

Do you wonder what HRPS is doing in the area of historic preservation? You can see we are “educating” through programs and through walking tours and home tours. But what about “advocacy and leadership” – a part of our mission too? You likely have not heard about it, but a member of the HRPS Board or Staff has had the assignment of being a member of the City of Reno’s Historical Resources Commission (HRC) since it began. In fact, when Cindy Ainsworth had that assignment, she was also Chair of HRC. HRC has an open meeting policy so other HRPS members can and do attend. Since 2014, HRPS has had its own Advisory Advocacy Council (AAC) to watch over historic preservation issues in the Reno area and keep the HRPS Board informed. Beginning with this issue, HRPS *FootPrints* will have a column on the AAC and the issues to watch.

Another way that HRPS is an overseer for historic preservation is through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) which “requires Federal agencies to take into account the

effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment.” Like the HRC and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), HRPS now receives Section 106 requests to review the impact of a project on the historical integrity of the site. The request may be to review the impact of adding a cell phone tower to the top of a building or digging a ditch under a wall constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) or of the Veterans’ Hospital expansion into the surrounding block. You may not hear about these, but several may happen each month. As they bear reporting to you, we’ll include them in *FootPrints*.

What can you do to support historic preservation in the area? When we send out an email asking you to attend an HRC meeting, a City of Reno Planning Commission meeting or a City Council meeting, please do. Just numbers at a meeting do help, but so do people speaking out and writing letters. Another way, if you see a strange activity at one of the properties on our Endangered List, please call our phone number (775) 747-4478 to report it. And a third way, get your historic property on the City Register of Historic Homes. There’ll be more about this in future issues of *FootPrints*.

Congratulations to our newest Life Member

I would like to welcome our newest HRPS Lifetime Member, Marilyn Fuetsch. Marilyn is a lovely person and was a HRPS Board member for a number of years. She joins forty other individuals and couples who have made this commitment to the mission of HRPS. Half of the income from Lifetime Membership is used to support our Neighborhood Preservation Fund. 

Carol Coleman, 775-849-3380
carol@galenaforest.net

HRPS Lifetime Members

Darleen Azizisefat
 Jacqueline Black
 Laurie & Greg Boyer
 Lynn Bremer
 Florence Ann Burgess
 Phyllis & Tom Cates
 Jan Chik
 Becky Czarnik
 Joan Dyer
 Betty Easton
 Marilyn Fuetsch
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 Sharon Walbridge
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 Kathy Williams

(*) Deceased

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The **Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS)** is "dedicated to preserving and promoting historic resources in the Truckee Meadows through education, advocacy and leadership." In 1997, a small group of people interested in Reno's history created HRPS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We have been an all-volunteer group ever since! As a HRPS member, you can learn about Reno's history and make a difference in its future.

All Membership levels include the HRPS quarterly historical publication *FootPrints*; HRPS walking tours during the summer months; and education programs in the fall and winter.

You may pay by check, cash or credit card. When paying by credit card, please visit our website, www.historicreno.org. We use PayPal™ to process your payment. Don't worry if you don't have a PayPal™ account. They will accept your credit card on our behalf; we will send you a confirmation email with the information you provide.

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HRPS Fall and Winter Programs are on Page 8.

HRPS offers great speakers at the HRPS meetings in October, November, January, February, March and April. Beginning with the October 2016 meeting, meetings will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm at the Downtown Reno Library.



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