



FootPrints

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

FALL 2024
■ vol. 27 no. 4 ■

WE PRESENT HRPS HARVEST OF HOMES TOUR 2024

by Debbie Hinman, Researcher and Writer

Welcome to our 12th year of wonderful homes, handpicked for your enjoyment! We offer six homes this year, all quite different in style and age but each one a gem in its own right. Our homes range in age from 56 to 114 years.

You will have the opportunity to visit a Mid-Century Modern in a lovely, semi-rural neighborhood south of town; two properties very much at home in an early neighborhood framed by the Truckee River; two lovely architectural gems in our often-visited Newlands Manor neighborhood; and a stunning two-story Craftsman that began its life just a stone's throw from the University of Nevada but following a move and a facelift, is now adjusting to life in the Country Club Acres neighborhood. All six homes have great history and we can't thank the owners enough for offering to open them for our guests.

Since the Harvest of Homes Tour's inception in 2010, with the exception of

a 3-year pandemic interval, the Harvest of Homes Tour has been offered every September. Several years ago, our loyal attendees began pointing out years they had missed and asking if we could "rerun" any of the homes. A handful of our homeowners who enjoyed opening their homes have stepped up and agreed to open their homes again. This year's encore home is the lovely Greystone Castle on one of our favorite streets, Joaquin Miller Drive. Last year we featured its neighbor to the east, Holly Cottage, and this year not only are we showing Greystone, but visitors will be able to tour its neighbor to the west, Casa del Rey. These somewhat fanciful names were given to the homes by the neighborhood's developer, W. E. Barnard, some 96 years ago and we feel it's only right to introduce them by name.

The other homes are first-timers and we are thrilled to have them on the tour. The little Craftsman bungalow on

Keystone Avenue has been there at least 110 years, when the Powning Addition was new and there was no overpass in its front yard. Its owner has lovingly restored the interior and furnished it to match its era.

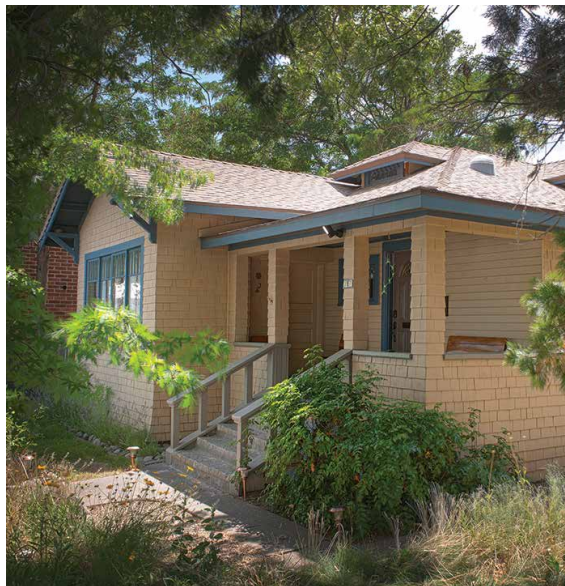
Just down the block are the two brick cottages that some years ago were joined to make one residence. Although one is a short-term rental, you will be able to view both units. This owner has attractively decorated it and the garden is lovely.

Your curiosity will be rewarded when you view our relocated beauty on Plumas Street and we know you will enjoy your "Saturday drive in the country" on the way to visit our stunning Mid-Century Modern home sprawling on a quiet lane south of Huffaker Lane.

We hope you're as thrilled with this year's homes as we are! Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of HRPS.



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27 KEYSTONE AVENUE

Built sometime between 1910-1914, this home in Reno's early Powning Addition, within a stone's throw of the Truckee, is a textbook Craftsman Bungalow. Notable features are its prominent front porch and windows with divided upper lights. Early residents were the Fannings, who moved to Reno in 1921. Frank and Florence Fanning owned the home for many years and passed it to their son who sold it in 1956. In 1947, following Frank's death, Florence had the garage remodeled into a rental unit, affording her an income source. It remains a rental today but will not be a part of the tour.

Current owner Zach Ormsby purchased the home in 2021 and has done a remarkable job of restoring it to reflect the home's early heritage. Furniture has been carefully selected to complement the era and though the kitchen and baths have been updated, all were done so with care to pay homage to an earlier time.

We know you will love this home and upon entering, will feel as though you've stepped back in time.

1009 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Just a short distance from our Keystone home sits what were originally two side-by-side brick cottages built in 1936. The cottages were an all-brick take on the Colonial Revival architectural style. Owned early on by Grace Hawthorne who occupied one of the cottages and was the manager of the second one, they are said to have been built by well-known early Renoites Anna Frandsen and her daughter Grace Lusty. Around 1997, the two homes were joined by a portico by then owner Tom Swan who also purchased the adjoining lot and planted a garden.

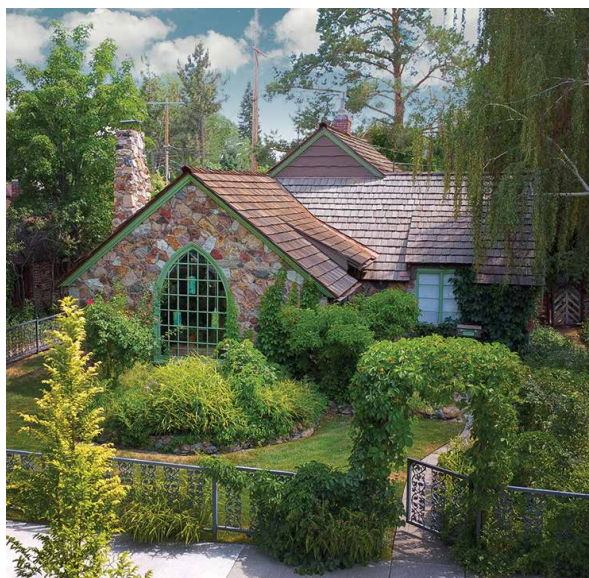
Today the property is owned and lovingly cared for by Valerie Hastings who occupies one of the cottages and rents the other. Home tour participants will be able to view both sides and will no doubt admire Valerie's style and her interesting décor items. The garden is a bonus treat for this home; be sure and take the time to wander through and take in the wonderful plantings and objects d'art that are scattered throughout.



970 JOAQUIN MILLER DRIVE (GREYSTONE CASTLE)

Lovely Joaquin Miller Drive is the site of two special homes this year. Greystone Castle attracted so much attention on a previous home tour that we decided it should be our "encore home" this year. The cottage looks like something from a fairy tale, with its lovely stone exterior and fabulous gothic front window. The style is Cotswold Cottage. An Open House announcement from August 1930 read, "Greystone Castle has the charm of an old English castle and all the modern conveniences of the very latest American home."

The owners of Greystone are Tim and Nancy Gilbert, known for saving one of the Gateway Homes and having restored a number of historic homes throughout the Old Southwest, their favorite neighborhood. The home is a rental property, though the young family occupying it today has called it home for no less than ten years. It's easy to see why when you view its interior charm with random-plank floors, tiled dining room floor and window sills. If you missed this jewel last time, you must make time for a visit this year!





990 JOAQUIN MILLER DRIVE (CASA DEL REY)

The neighbor to the west of the “Castle” certainly does not bear a resemblance to it in style, but in age, charm and lofty moniker, it is certainly a twin. This one’s name translates to “house of the King” but it would have to have been a modest, unassuming ruler to occupy this just over 1000-square-foot residence. The home is classic Spanish Colonial Revival, with its stucco walls and clay tile roof. The half-arch entry and the wonderful tiles also celebrate its Spanish style.

The Gilberts purchased this home in a sadly dilapidated state. They undertook a massive restoration and added new touches to the home, as always being careful to stay true to its original style. Tiles in the kitchen echo those of the entry and add color and panache to the room. But the piece de resistance has to be the brilliant red sink. Those of you who toured Holly Cottage last year will recognize the beehive fireplace, twin to the one found there.

2520 PLUMAS STREET


This home was known as the Mack House, c. 1910-1912, in its former life in the University Gateway neighborhood. The Macks were its most significant owners who treasured the home. In its latter years it experienced neglect and ill-conceived alterations. It would not be inaccurate to call it a “party house,” with student tenants and slapdash efforts upstairs dividing rooms to house additional occupants. But Jerry and Beth Krug saw the beauty of the home and wanted to save it. At great effort and expense, they moved the home to its current location and began a long, careful restoration.

Today the home is stunning inside and out. One of the biggest challenges was stripping layers of white paint from the interior pillars, wall trim and fireplace, revealing beautiful wood underneath. The kitchen was updated and upstairs bedrooms were reconfigured. The Krugs added a detached garage to the north side and fenced the property. We know you will enjoy this home that you have likely driven past many times, wondering what was going on inside.



1745 CATALPA LANE

This is the youngster of our tour, at a mere 56 years of age. It has its own history though, and an individual style. That style can be described as Organic-Modern. Many of architect Peter Wilday’s creations embraced this style, one reason for their popularity. “Organic Architecture” was a term coined by Frank Lloyd Wright, which can be defined as “the harmonious union of art and nature.” With all its natural wood, rock and many windows, nature plays a big part in this lovely home.

The current owners, Linda and Chris Demers, have upgraded the spacious kitchen very tastefully and in tune with its organic elements. Outside there are attractive plants, a rolling green lawn in front and a stunning, large pool to the rear of the home. The feel of the home is calm and restful and the neighborhood is peaceful. It isn’t difficult to imagine the property as it was before the development occurred, when farm animals roamed the acreage and the dairy was in operation. 



2024 HOMES TOUR DETAILS & MAP TO HOMES

Saturday, September 21 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Advance Ticket sales will be available on the Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) website from September 1 to September 20. Online ticket sales close at 9:00 pm on September 20.

Ticket prices are \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Advance ticket purchase is encouraged. Scan this QR code to go directly to the HRPS website: historicreno.org.

Day of Event Tickets will be sold on September 21 at any of the six homes at \$50, cash or check.

YOU CAN START AT ANY HOME AND VISIT THE HOMES IN ANY ORDER YOU CHOOSE

At any home on the tour, you can check in and receive a wristband that will allow you entrance into all six homes. Our friendly check-in volunteers will be ready to sign you in, fit you

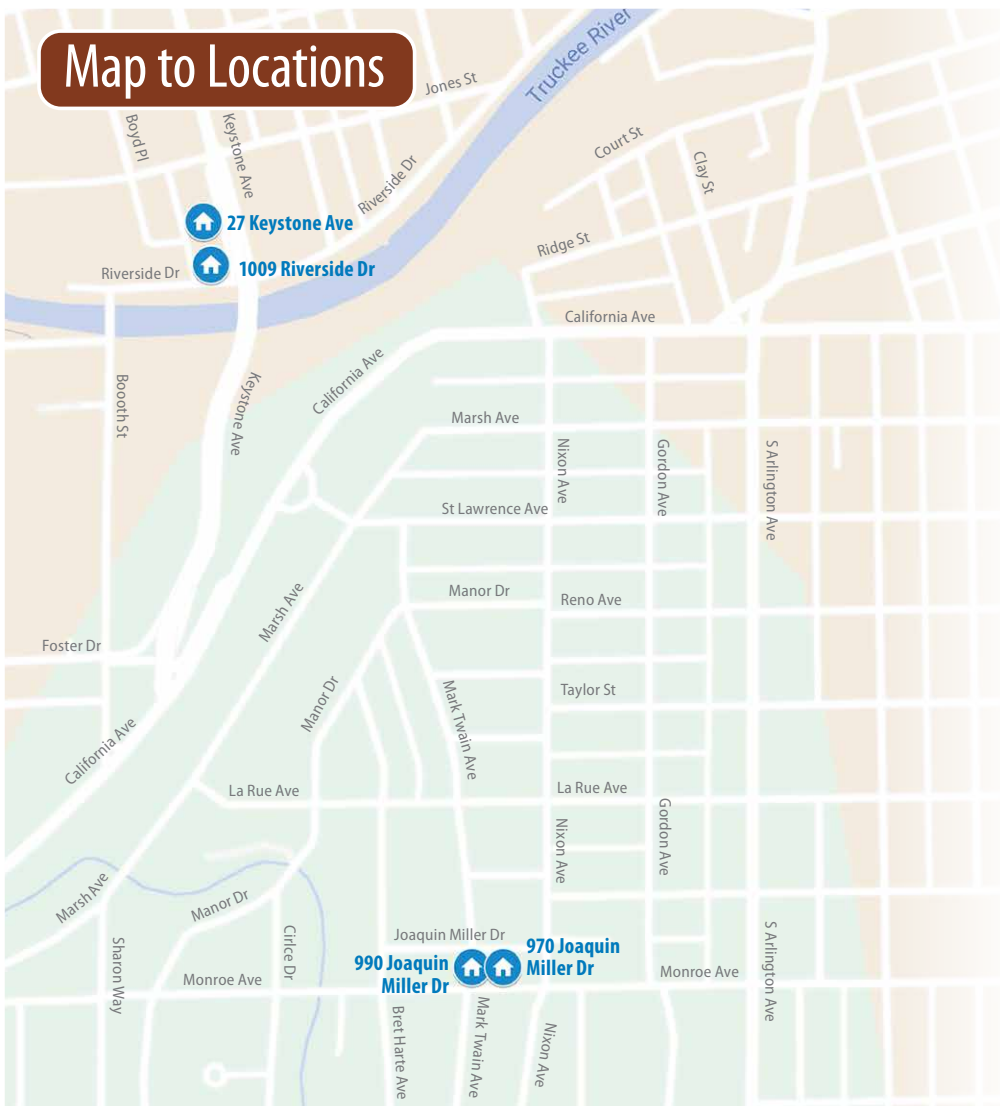
with a wristband, and give you our Home Tour Program so you can step back in time to Old Reno with us.

27 Keystone Avenue (1914)
1009-19 Riverside Drive (1934)
970 Joaquin Miller Drive (1928)
990 Joaquin Miller Drive (1930)
2520 Plumas Street (1910/2020)
1745 Catalpa Lane (1968)

Parking is limited on Keystone and on Riverside Drive so we suggest parking at McKinley Arts and Culture Center and walking over on Riverside.

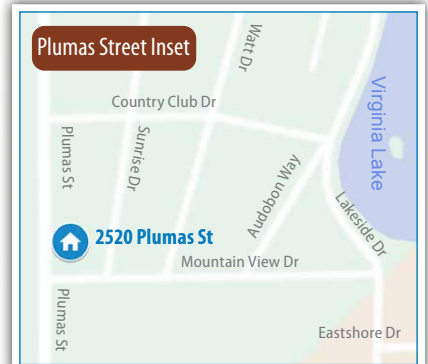
1745 Catalpa is south of town on Lakeside to Huffaker to Olive to Catalpa. Tucked on a quiet dead-end street, you've likely never passed by before. Look for Olive Lane just East of the intersection of Lakeside & W. Huffaker, this home is worth the drive!

Map to Locations



historicreno.org

Plumas Street Inset



Catalpa Lane Inset



Remembering Rosie

by Debbie Hinman

In 2009 I interviewed a newcomer to HRPS for a *FootPrints* article. Her name was Rosie Cevasco. She had written a letter to the board expressing her interest in the organization and offering her services as a webmaster or with any other task we might need. Fritz Grupe, our current webmaster, made it clear he was more than happy to turn that responsibility over to someone with her experience and expertise and the HRPS Board eagerly asked her to submit a board application. Her application was readily accepted as was Rosie, who became a valuable board member and excellent webmaster as well as assistant for the walking tours. Though quiet and unassuming in manner, she was someone you could always depend on to help with any event and do whatever was needed. Once I came to know her I found she also had a keen wit and great sense of humor. We became friends as well as fellow history nerds.

Rosie had relocated from Martinez, California to Reno in 1978, where her sister and her family live. When Rosie joined HRPS, she was employed by the Nevada Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services as webmaster for her division. In her spare time, she created her own web hosting and design business, Grumpfish Web Services. Rosie was thrilled to be working in the historic mental health facility on Galletti Way.

Joining forces with former *FootPrints* writer Kim Henrick, the two did copious research on the old buildings and developed a walking tour to share that history. In the process, Kim and Rosie became fast friends. Rosie and I also wrote a walking tour together, known as the Midtown Residential Walk. Rosie

took on the research of the land and its early owner, the Litch family, and I researched the homes. We offered it for two seasons, and although it was well attended, after some sad losses in the neighborhood, Rosie said she didn't have the heart to continue with the walk.

Rosie missed Martinez and in 2013 decided that four of us—Rosie, Sharon Honig-Bear, Cindy Ainsworth and I—should take a weekend trip there to attend the annual Martinez Home Tour,



From top, counterclockwise: Rosie in 2009; the Peanutmobile with Debbie Hinman (rear), Rosie Cevasco (center), Cindy Ainsworth (front); celebrating Sharon Honig-Bear, Rosie Cevasco, Cindy Ainsworth, Debbie Hinman, Joy Orlich.

have Rosie show us around the city, and view Rosie's childhood home and old stomping grounds. Oh, and this was of course primarily research to pick up pointers for our home tours. We compiled our ideas while drinking beer in a gas station that had been converted to a bar. A few years later the four of us checked out a home tour in Tahoe City and had a photo op with a Mr. Peanutmobile. Once Joy Orlich became involved with HRPS, she joined our get-togethers. The five of us made dinner in the bar at Louie's Basque Corner a regular event.

Through Rosie's years of tenure as our webmaster, our HRPS website just got better and better. Every issue of *FootPrints*, even the early few with no name, can be found in the archives. Before Rosie, members had no ability to renew memberships online, or pay for events. The only way to find out about activities was through *FootPrints*, but soon they were on the website, with photos and descriptions. In addition to assisting with the walking tours, Rosie was indispensable during the home tour; she schlepped supplies to all the houses and checked back regularly to ensure the registration folks had everything they needed. Our home tour this year won't be the same without her. Nor will anything else that HRPS does.

Aside from HRPS, Rosie had other talents—I've never tasted better biscotti than the ones she baked, she shared jars of her special blend chocolate malt

mix with friends, and last but not least, she made an excellent gin and tonic, her drink of choice. As for her loves, they included computers (of course), history and old buildings, classical music, mystery novels and her dachshund, Lola.

Rosie was strong and determined, and as you read in the latest newsletter, she had beaten the insidious disease, cancer, twice before. Last year, a new test drug seemed to be helping her, but after a brief respite, the cancer finally spread beyond any treatment's ability to stop it. It made it hurt a little less that she died in the home she loved with family around her. She is missed and will continue to be. The only one who may miss her more than her friends and family is Lola. ~~XXXX~~

Walking Through Time: Guides Share Local History with Hundreds

by Amy Burton



Guide Amy Burton,
Powning's Addition Walk



Cabooses Roger Slugg
and Honey Cook



Guide Brett Banks,
Nevada State Hospital Tour

The 2024 Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) Walking Tour season featured 24 tours which ran for 12 weeks, from May 11th through July 30th. The 620 total participants consisted of 290 individuals who attended one or more tours. Those individuals included 172 HRPS members and 92 non-members.

The walking tours are HRPS' oldest program offering. Their focus is to educate the public about historical structures and locations: their owners, architecture and significance. The goal is to increase awareness of, and hopefully appreciation for, Reno's historical neighborhoods in an entertaining manner.

The walking tours also serve as an HRPS' membership drive. Membership numbers traditionally spike in May when the walking tours kick off because an individual membership costs less than paying for three individual tours. This year HRPS membership increased by 89 new members from May through July according to membership chair Deedee Pace.

Rodney Neufeld, new to HRPS and the walking tours, said the experience had changed the way he and his wife, Tabitha, viewed Reno, "When my wife and I drive through Reno now we see things differently—through more of a historical lens."



Guides Matt Magaletti and Derek
Partridge, Mansions California
Tour at Nixon Mansion gates



Guide Madeline Van der Voort
on Parsons Mills Walk



Guide Robin Holabird, Movie Footprints Tour,
at National Bowling Stadium



Guide Scott Carey,
Historic Downtown Sparks



Guide Meredith Ohm, Belmont
Apartments, Lake Addition Walk



Guides Jim Smith and
Bradley Carlson, Truckee River Tour

HRPS received recognition in May for its 26 years of educational service through the walking tours. The City of Reno Historical Resources Commission (HRC) presented HRPS leadership with the Historical Project Award for promoting preservation within the community through the more than 250 historic walking tours it has presented since 1998. After this season that number increased to 274 total walking tours.

HRPS member Bill Kolton praised the tours, "The HRPS walking tours are a treasure for the city of Reno and its residents." That "treasure" was made possible by 26 volunteers: 14 HRPS guides, five guest guides, registration and caboose volunteers. The tour managers were Amy Burton and Pat Cantwell. The chairs were Brett Banks and Deb Hinman.


Some guides did double and triple duty as tour managers, registrars and cabooses.

Stepping into the role of guide for the first time were Stasia Mata who partnered with Amy Burton on the Powning's Addition tour and Roger Slugg who co-hosted with Brett Banks on the Nevada State Hospital tour.

Deb Campbell and Pam Moore were new walking tour volunteers this year. Honey Cook supported the most tours serving as caboose for 18 of the 24 walks. Meredith Ohm and Roger Slugg were caboose several tours. Deedee Pace was a regular at the registration table. An end-of-season gathering was held to celebrate them all.

Tours new to the 2024 season included the Nevada State Hospital and Powning's Addition. While these tours were not new to HRPS, they had not been offered for a few years.

Two varied tour options were also featured: a bike tour of Reno parks created by Jill Richardson and an ADA accessible version of the Mansions on the Bluff/Court Street tour adapted by Pat Cantwell.

Some tour surprises included a peek inside the Belmont Apartments, a tour of the Newlands Mansion gardens, a visit inside an El Reno apartment, a stop inside the National Bowling Stadium, access beyond the gates of some California Street mansions and a visit to Shirie Wallace's home, garden and studio. 



Guide Bradley Carlson,
Upper Ralston Tour



Guide Mark Taxer,
Wells Avenue Tour



Guide Roger Slugg,
Nevada State Hospital Tour

Look for more HRPS Historic Walking Tours May 2025 to July 2025

The Historic Reno Preservation Society
with the Washoe County Library System Present:

2024 Fall HRPS Speaker Programs

Co-Chairs: Sheryln Hayes-Zorn and Susan Mullen

Held at noon on the second Sunday of the month, these free programs offer topics related to Reno's history and culture. There will be no program in December.

Programs are held at the downtown library located at 301 S. Center Street in the lower-level auditorium.

Date: September 8, 2024

Presenter: Jean-Guy T. Dube'

Topic: Surviving Railroad Depots of Nevada

Nevada's railroad history is long, rich, and varied, dating back to 1868 when the Central Pacific Railroad reached the state, building east from Sacramento, California. In the century-and-a-half since, the Battle Born state has been served by a handful of railroads. One aspect of their legacy is the railroad depots and facilities built to serve local communities. A century ago, there were hundreds of depots dotting the state. Today, just over two dozen passenger and freight depots survive in Nevada. Some are threatened, some are preserved. Their present day uses range from Amtrak stops to museums; homes to a brewery; businesses to tourist railroads.

Jean-Guy T. Dube' is an author, architectural draftsman and historian. He has studied Southern Pacific depots since 1983 and is the author of *Railroad Depots: A Southern Pacific*



Collection. Dube' works for the State Historic Preservation Office of Nevada as the National and State Register of Historic Places Coordinator. He is a member of the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Southern Pacific Historic and Technical Society, Virginia and Truckee Railroad Historical Society. Dube' received the Leicester B. Holland Prize in 2017.

Date: October 13, 2024

Presenter: Michael E. Fischer

Topic: Roy Frisch Findings

Follow Roy Frisch from boyhood to the night in Reno when he mysteriously disappeared. On March 22, 1934, now almost 80 years ago, Frisch vanished and would never be seen again. What conditions in 1934 Reno allowed his disappearance with no trace despite the presence and sustained efforts of numerous Bureau of Investigation agents? Take a trip through the many contemporary and later accounts along with the FBI website "Vault" to discover both the old and new facts of the case and to gain a better understanding of why Roy Frisch was the man who never returned.

Michael E. Fischer is a retired dentist who has many years of private sector cultural affairs management experience. Fischer has served on the Board of Directors of the Western Folklife Center, serves on the board of the Douglas County Historical Society, the board of the Thunderbird Lodge

Preservation Society and the Nevada Agricultural Foundation. Fischer is actively involved with the H. F. Dangberg Home Ranch in Douglas County, and was a Douglas County Commissioner for eight years. He was appointed Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs by Governor Gibbons in 2007 and served in the Sandoval Administration until Cultural Affairs was merged with Tourism. Fischer's interest in Nevada history began as a child when his family visited historic sites around the state.




Date: November 10, 2024

Presenter: Chuck Weller

Topic: *Stories of Reno in World War II*

In *Stories from Reno in World War II* historian Chuck Weller will relate stories of the Reno Army Air Base and other military presence in the city, a Japanese balloon bomb shot down over Reno, the gift to Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, Jr. of a saddle from the war bond buyers of Washoe County and more.

Chuck Weller is the historian for the Reno chapter of the United States Navy League. His book *Nevada during World War II* was released in May. Weller received his undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, a juris doctorate from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Nevada Reno. He practiced law in Reno from 1982 through 2004 and hosted a weekly talk program on KKO radio, *Chuck Weller and the Law*, from 1991 to 2004. He served three elected terms as a District Court Judge in Reno from 2005 through 2021 and continues to serve as a senior judge. 



Previous Speaker Programs Available for viewing on HRPS Website:

<https://historicro.org / Archives>

The Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) has been offering its Speaker Programs since its inception in 1998, usually two to three in the Fall and four in the Winter-Spring season. Think of how many interesting presentations HRPS did not have the ability to capture. However, in response to the COVID Pandemic of 2020, HRPS started using Zoom technology to bring its Speaker Programs (and Neighborhood Stories) to members on a regular basis through their computers. As a result, HRPS was able to record (and edit) the presentations and the questions-and-answers sessions. The following are now available for you to view on the HRPS website, historicro.org, at your leisure:

- **The Lear Theater (First Church of Christ, Scientist)** with Dr. Alicia Barber
- **The Archaeology of Burning Man: The Rise and Fall of Black Rock City** with Dr. Carolyn White
- **The U.P. House** with Loren Jahn and Neal Cobb
- **American Mountain Men** with Larry Walker
- **Harolds Club** with Neal Cobb



HRPS Speaker Programs, in cooperation with the Washoe County Library, will be offered September to November 2024 and January to April 2025.

Early Pioneers in the Truckee Meadows: G. W. Huffaker

by Diane Crowne

My interest in Truckee Meadows history began in 2009 when as an avid hiker with The Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) I began little trailside talks about the pioneers who formerly owned the land where favorite trails were located. Because of the interest generated, I began spending time in the Nevada Historical Society's research library where I discovered old family files and newspaper reports of local pioneers.

In Holly Walton-Buchanan's book, *Historic Ranches of Western Nevada*, she describes in Chapter Three the "First Ranches: Huffaker's Station, Holcomb Ranch and Jones Dairy Farm." Each of these were in the southern part of the Truckee Meadows in close proximity to one another and with a dependable supply of water. Creeks named Steamboat, Brown's, Thomas, Whites, Dry and Evans brought water from the Sierra down to the meadow below.

In 1881, Myron Angel published a book called the *History of Nevada*, commonly referred to by its publishers' names, Thompson and West. It contains profiles of some of the Truckee Meadows pioneers. Granted we don't generally consider this book a reliable resource, but it's an interesting profile.

"Granville W. Huffaker was born in Monticello, Wayne County, Kentucky in 1831. The first eight years of his life were passed at that place, when he moved to Jacksonville, Illinois where he received his education. In 1847 he went to St Louis, Missouri. During the succeeding six years he was rambling about on the frontier, subject to many curious adventures. In the year 1853 he emigrated to Salt Lake City, Utah engaging in the mercantile business until 1858 when he came to Nevada Territory and settled where he now resides at the head of the Truckee Meadows. Very few of the Nevada



Granville W. Huffaker, courtesy Myron Angel's 1881 *History of Nevada*, published by Thompson and West.

pioneers are able to date back as far as Mr. Huffaker, and his early experience has enabled him to accomplish many things impossible for those who arrived later in the territory. He owns one of the finest ranches in the state, near the renowned Steamboat Springs (sic Moana Springs) to enjoy the fruits of his labor."

The Mormons: 1850-1857

In 1850, a party approximately 80 men from Salt Lake City arrived in Carson City intending to go to California to mine for gold. They decided to stay in the Carson Valley and establish a trading post. They would be the first to remain in the Carson Valley area and build homes. Another group of Mormons arrived about 1855 and established the town of Genoa and set up a government. The Mormons were called back to Salt Lake City by 1857, as the church expected the U.S. government to attack to "rid the country of polygamists." They left in such haste that there was no time to

sell their homes, businesses and land. Early pioneers Peleg and Joshua Brown and Granville Huffaker would be the beneficiaries of the Mormons' hasty return to Salt Lake City.

Granville Huffaker's Early Years

Granville Huffaker was born on May 7, 1831 to Miss Martha Nelson, an unmarried girl. She or probably her parents, sued the Huffaker family naming Simpson David Huffaker, aged 17 at the time, as the father of her child. Simpson's father, Jacob Huffaker, intervened before the suit went to public trial. Then, at the tender age of five months, Granville was given to Jacob and his wife, who already had ten children. Seven years later, Granville went to Jacksonville, Illinois with his father, Simpson David Huffaker, where he received his early education. Granville's father had married two years before the move to Jacksonville. Soon thereafter, Simpson David Huffaker was baptized and converted to the new and controversial religion of Joseph Smith. Much later, Simpson married an additional four wives.

A Move to Nauvoo

Young Granville and his Huffaker family moved to "the new Zion" known as Nauvoo, Illinois in 1845. LDS archives state that, Granville W. Huffaker, was baptized into the LDS faith in 1847 at Nauvoo the same year the Saints were driven from Nauvoo. Life as a Mormon in the 19th century was plainly dangerous. The Saints were driven from every home they had ever established. They were forced to leave the properties they had developed, the gardens they had planted, the wells they had dug, the orchards they had cultivated and the livestock they had raised. Some sources say that this heinous madness on the part of the gentle mobsters who persecuted them was because of the practice of polygamy.

Polygamy may have been an objectionable practice to most Christians at the time (even today), but there is more to that story. It is reported that at one time Brigham Young intended to run as a presidential candidate. In all probability the Mormons were feared because of their political clout, and were envied because of their successful communes.

By 1847 fewer than 150 Saints were living at Nauvoo, Illinois, as the first wagon train with Brigham Young aboard left for the Salt Lake Basin in 1846. LDS archival descendant accounts tell us that Simpson David Huffaker, our pioneer's father, joined the "Band of Spartans" at Nauvoo. In fact, if you were living in Nauvoo late in 1847, and if you were old enough to hold a rifle, as our pioneer was, you were among those who were later called the Band of Spartans at the Battle of Nauvoo. The Battle happened without much warning when several hundred angry mobsters overran Nauvoo and drove its inhabitants, those who survived the gunfire, across the Mississippi River and out of Illinois.

Life went temporarily downhill for our Truckee Meadows pioneer, Granville Huffaker, after that terrible day in Nauvoo. It was September. Winter was coming. Most people had nothing but the clothes on their backs. They managed to make camp across the river, and to send someone to Winter Quarters near today's Omaha, Nebraska to ask for help.

Salt Lake Valley

Eventually the Huffaker family met up with other Mormons and formed a wagon train to trek west to Salt Lake Valley. They left an outfitting post on the Elkhorn River about 27 miles west of Winter Quarters on June 19, 1847. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley three months later. Granville's father wrote to his parents during that perilous cross-country trip. He describes encounters with Native Americans mostly seeking

to steal cattle and goods, but in one conflict a member of the Huffaker Company was killed.

Three years later our Truckee Valley pioneer was still living with his father, Simpson David Huffaker and family in the Salt Lake Valley. They were: Elizabeth Huffaker (22), Rosilla Huffaker (14), Lewis Huffaker (10), Sidnah Huffaker (8) David Huffaker (3), Melvina Huffaker (1), Granville Huffaker (20) and Simpson David Huffaker (39). Granville W. Huffaker was enumerated in Salt Lake Valley as a teenager in the Territorial Census of 1850.



The homestead of G.W. Huffaker, on Henness Pass Road, (later known as Virginia Street). This house still exists. Covered in white stucco, it is currently the home of a firearms seller and is hidden behind a used car lot. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society MSNC 572.

The settlement rapidly became a major supply point for the "Human Avalanche" of gold-seeking migrants to California. As merchants in this burgeoning city, Granville and his business partner, L.P. Drexler, profited greatly from the amazing growth and prosperity of that Western Frontier town.

Into the Truckee Meadows

When G.W. Huffaker departed Salt Lake City in 1858, and came into the Truckee Meadows, it happens to have been about the same time after Brigham Young called all the Saints back from their missions in California and the far west Utah territory (Nevada) to fight the troops that the United States government sent to Salt Lake City. Paranoia was rampant in Salt Lake City.

Reports from migrants to California of huge losses in dead or dying livestock, household furnishings, and wagons abandoned across the Great Basin Desert, were well known. So too were the reports of Mormon merchants who made fortunes selling goods to migrants in the Nevada territory. Historic numbers (estimated 44,000 at the peak in 1850) were pursuing gold in California. By 1858, Granville Huffaker was a successful Salt Lake City merchant. However, looking westward, he was interested in "gold" of another kind.

Huffakers

G.W. Huffaker could never have known that his decision to come into the Truckee Valley and to settle on the road from Henness Pass would be followed only a year later by the discovery of valuable metals in Gold Hill canyon. Gold and silver finds precipitated the infamous "Washoe Rush," which was essentially a mad rush of miners from California to the area we now know as Virginia City and specifically, the Comstock Lode. Wealth extracted from those Nevada hills would continue nearly 20 years, and G.W. Huffaker was, as they say, "the right man in the right place." Almost immediately after G.W. Huffaker moved into a previously owned stone building, left by exiting Mormons in 1857, people began stopping to replenish their water supply, and to buy and to trade livestock. Soon G.W. Huffaker was providing meals and overnight beds for exhausted travelers. He traded fresh cattle for their thin and nearly depleted ones.

By 1854, the "human avalanche" of 1849 (looking for gold in California) had fallen to about 12,000 a year, but the practice of driving large herds of cattle had increased. When Ervin Crane and Peleg Brown introduced "Chili Clover," otherwise known as alfalfa, to the Truckee Valley they touched off a booming trade in hay production and

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cattle feeding. Granville W. Huffaker was well positioned to take advantage of yet another profitable frontier venture. His fields were producing bumper crops of cattle feed, mainly crops of alfalfa. Earlier, in 1859, Huffakers had become a regular stopover for Langston's stages. In 1860, the Pioneer Express had established an office at Huffakers, which was succeeded by Wells, Fargo & Company, and then by the extension of the V&T Railroad. In 1862, the Huffaker station was given a post office with G.W. Huffaker as postmaster. For the next ten years, Huffakers was the most prominent stage station and stopover in the county.

By the time the Central Pacific Rail Road came through the west in 1868, ranchers from all over Nevada were bringing their range fed cattle into places like Huffakers to be fattened and shipped to California and the Midwest.

G.W. Huffaker encouraged gatherings of local ranchers to join him in frivolities with music and dancing. In the early days, few women lived in the Truckee Valley and bachelor men would gather at Huffakers to "give rein to their jolly natures." News of the Battle of Bull Run and other news of the Civil War came into the Truckee Valley by Pony Express and stagecoach, and were vehemently argued and discussed at Huffakers.

Much later George Peckham described activities at Huffakers in his newspaper series, "Reminiscences of an Active Life." Huffaker established the Athenian Literary Society, which met at the schoolhouse that he built in 1868. People attending could "hear recitations, eulogies, songs, debates, mock trials and newspaper readings that included neighborhood news that was always a hit." Huffakers was a popular center for horse racing and a place to air land squabbles in the 1880s. In other

accounts, the Athenian Literary Society was founded to inform the public, and to connect people, resources and opportunities that advanced education, culture and government. It was a forum for the beginnings of a new government.

Lumber for the Comstock

Someone once said that the Comstock was the graveyard of the entire old growth forests of Lake Tahoe and the Eastern Slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Granville W. Huffaker profited greatly by



Huffaker's 1867 schoolhouse on Virginia Street and former home of the Athenian Literary Society was removed from Virginia Street, restored and now resides at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Washoe County, Nevada. The 1898 class of students and teacher are pictured here. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

that lumbering. The Pacific Wood and Lumber Flume Company, whose principal owners were John Mackey, James G. Fair, and J.C. Flood, built the longest V-flume in Washoe County. It began at Huffaker's Mill north of Lake Tahoe on 12,000 acres owned by the flume company. The flume extended for fifteen miles terminating at Huffaker's log pond on South Virginia Street. Sections of the flume can still be seen in the foothills behind the old Huffaker estate.

Within a few years of the establishment of the V&T railroad in 1871, logs and cordwood from Huffaker's and the "Bonanza Flume" were loaded and moved to Virginia City via Carson by rail. It was said that the carrying capacity of the flume was 500 cords of wood and 500,000 feet of lumber every day. It would take 2,000 horses to do the same work of this flume in one day. Needless to

say, it was a very profitable business for Huffaker and his well-known business partners who were, not coincidentally, Comstock multi-millionaires.

Huffaker as an Activist

G.W. Huffaker was active in Nevada government and politics for almost twenty years from 1866 to 1885. He held committee memberships to bring the university to Reno from Elko, to form a new mining district in Washoe County, and to extend the Virginia and Truckee (V&T) Railroad to Susanville. During this time, he was one of Washoe County's highest taxpayers, an indication of his exceptional wealth.

Funeral of G.W. Huffaker

Granville W. Huffaker died in 1892 at the age of 61. The funeral of the late G. W. Huffaker, one of the first settlers on the Truckee Meadows, was the largest ever seen in Reno. Hundreds of citizens from town and country attended, as well as members of the fraternities of which the deceased was a member, to pay the last tribute to an old and highly esteemed citizen. He was a member of Reno Lodge, F.& A. M of Reno Chapter, R.A.M., and De Witt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar of Virginia City. The riderless charger of the deceased Knight, fully accoutered, was led behind the hearse, emblematic of the fact that a companion had fallen in the battle of life. ~~XXXX~~

Sources for this article were in the Research Library of Nevada Historical Society and the LDS Archives in Salt Lake City.

Diane Crowne's early education was in Maryland. The rest of her formal education was in California. She earned her B.A. at the University of California Long Beach and well after the age of 50, she pursued a Master's Degree in East Asian Medicine in Washington State. Life Long Learning is her fundamental passion.



HRPS presents this list of historic properties not to point fingers or to raise alarms, but to generate awareness and appreciation. We want their owners, whether public or private, to know that we care about these places and that we consider them highly significant to Reno's history and worthy of preservation. Lastly, we want to offer our support to help ensure that they can remain safe and protected for years to come. You can find full entries for each property listed below on Reno Historical at <https://renohistorical.org/>.

1. **Reno National Bank** (1915), 206 N. Virginia Street
2. **I.O.O.F. Lodge/Reno Savings Bank** (1877), 195 N. Virginia Street
3. **Nystrom Guest House** (1875), Formerly in 300-block on Ralston Street, now up on blocks off 4th Street, between Washington and Vine Streets
4. **Benham-Beltz House** (likely 1868/1869), 347 West Street, to be purchased from Jacobs Entertainment for \$1 upon condition of moving and preserving the home. Contact Chris Manzanec: christopher@jacobsinvestmentsinc.com
5. **Piazza Building** (1925), 354 N. Virginia Street
6. **Southern Pacific Railroad Depot** (1926), 135 E. Commercial Row
7. **Freight House** (1931), North side of Greater Nevada Field on Evans Avenue
8. **Regina Apartments** (1941), 260 Island Avenue
9. **First Church of Christ, Scientist/Lear Theater** (1939), 501 Riverside Drive
10. **El Reno Apartment Homes** (1937), 1461 Lander Street



A Message from your HRPS President

Hello HRPS Members and Friends,

Summer is a busy time here at HRPS. Even as we are getting walking tours underway in May, our Home Tour team is busy lining up homes for our annual Harvest of Homes Tour. Some think getting homes is the easy part, but not everyone who has an older home is willing to let 800-1,000 total strangers into their living room for a look!

THE HARVEST OF HOMES TOUR 2024

The Harvest of Homes Tour was the brainchild of past-president Sharon Honig-Bear, and though she passed the torch to others to chair the event, she is still actively involved with the process. Sharon provided this year's team with a list of prospective homes and contact information, sample solicitation letters, and a packet for homeowners who are considering allowing their home on the tour, all of which came in very handy for HRPS Vice President and Home Tour Chair, Derek Partridge. We didn't realize until after Derek volunteered, that he had never actually attended one of our home tours!

Once the homes are secured, the next phase kicks in—photographing the exteriors for this issue of *FootPrints* and the home tour program, thanks Steve Ellison; arranging site visits of each home so that researcher Debbie Hinman can do a write-up of each home, as well as site notes for volunteer home hosts and docents who will tend to the houses and monitor traffic the day of the event.

All of this has to be completed by mid-August so our graphic designer, Frank Ozaki at Double Click Design, can get materials designed and printed in time for distribution by early September.

While all of this is going on, we are busy recruiting some 120-130 volunteers to man the registration and check-in tables at each house, act as docents inside



HRPS' President Joy Orlich

each home to direct traffic and make sure nothing gets touched or broken, and serve as home hosts who oversee the activities at their assigned home during their assigned shift. It's quite an undertaking! However, in return for their time, our volunteers receive complimentary admission to the tour.

You'll see we've raised prices for the Home Tour this year, to \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members, and \$50 for everyone the day of the event. This is our primary fundraiser, and our costs for printing, promotion, supplies and everything else have gone up. And while most of the funds raised are earmarked for our Reno Heritage Fund to assist owners of older homes with exterior repairs and improvements, it also goes to help pay for a part-time administrator. HRPS can no longer exist on volunteer labor alone!

So, invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join you on this year's tour; it's going to be a good one! And don't forget, we are already starting to scope out potential homes for 2025, so if you live in an historic home (50 years old or older), or you know someone who might be willing to open their home for a tour next year, please contact us at board@historicroeno.org.

NEW HRPS ADMINISTRATOR

Amy Burton has decided to switch from a paid contract administrator position to a volunteer role with HRPS as of August 1. However, before she made the switch, she found us a replacement! So we don't lose Amy, we will simply see her in a slightly different role, and we welcome Peggy Boni as our new Administrator. Peggy jumped right in and began helping with the walking tours, and will now be assisting Carol Coleman and Derek Partridge with home tour needs.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime Membership in HRPS begins with a \$1,000 donation to our organization, half of which is put into a special reserve fund, and half is used for operating expenses. And while we thank our Lifetime Members for their generosity, it is often their commitment to the organization in other ways that we cherish most. Such as attending events, encouraging friends and family members to join, volunteering, and even making additional donations from time to time.

In August, we welcomed another person to our family of honored Lifetime Members—Paula Lyons-Rigdon. Paula turned 90 on August 9. In celebration of her special birthday, son and daughter-in-law Jeff and Deana Lyons gifted Paula with a Lifetime Membership to HRPS, as a way to honor her love of Reno and the history the Society keeps alive through its programs.

Paula is a long-time resident who grew up near the VA hospital. She graduated from Reno High School and UNR and was an elementary school teacher in Sun Valley for many years before retiring. She remains active in the Reno community and loves attending the programs HRPS offers. Many thanks to Jeff and Deanna for honoring Paula in this special way!

Joy Orlich
joyorlich@sbcglobal.net
775-544-0686

HRPS Lifetime Members

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 Sharon Honig-Bear
 Sandi Bitler
 Jacqueline Black (*)
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 (*) deceased

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

By joining **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, you are a member of a community group that celebrates Reno's history by sharing information and advocating for our endangered properties.

HRPS offers Walking Tours during the summer, Speaker Programs during the winter, and a Home Tour in fall as a fund-raiser to support our Reno Heritage Fund grants. As a member, you receive our monthly email newsletter and our quarterly publication, FootPrints, to keep you informed about HRPS events, places of historical interest as well as items of concern. HRPS information is on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing

Membership Levels:

- ☐ \$15.00 Student
☐ \$25.00 Individual
☐ \$45.00 Family
☐ \$100.00 Supporting
☐ \$200.00 Business
☐ \$250.00 Preservation Patron
☐ \$500.00 Benefactor
☐ \$1,000.00 Lifetime Member

My Additional Donation:

\$ _____ Pat Klos Annual
 Volunteer Award Fund
 \$ _____ Reno Heritage Grant &
 Marker Fund
 \$ _____ Overall Program Support

HRPS Quarterly FootPrints Preference (Please check one):

☐ Hard Copy ☐ Email Only

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

HRPS respects your right to privacy. We will **NOT** share your email address.

PD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON:

- ☐ Home Tours ☐ Walking Tours ☐ Board ☐ Research
☐ Other _____

Ways to become a member or renew your membership in HRPS:

- 1) Join or renew on HRPS website historicreno.org using credit or debit card
- 2) Fill out the above form and mail with a check to address below
- 3) Fill out the above form and credit/debit info below and mail to address below

Visa/MasterCard Credit or Debit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____ Name on Card _____

Address (include City, State, Zip) _____

_____ Phone Number _____

Historic Reno Preservations Society, P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507

<https://historicreno.org>

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