

# Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

# FootPrints

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

SUMMER 2001

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4, NO. 2

## A LETTER FROM THE HRPS BOARD TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Dear Member,

Your membership in this organization identifies you as someone interested in and probably committed to historic preservation.

No doubt you are aware that there are a number of major projects under way or in the planning stages in what we shall call the downtown/river/railroad corridor (DRRC).

Confronted with the knowledge that many decisions must take place in the near future regarding the DRRC your HRPS Board of Directors feels it is their responsibility to provide you with the best information we can

obtain in order to help you understand the issues.

In this newsletter, you will find information provided by the Truckee River Flood Management Community Coalition. The Coalition is composed of Washoe County, the University of Nevada-Reno, and the cities of Reno and Sparks.

Their combined objective is to achieve protection from the so-called 100-year flood, an event that actually occurs more frequently than once every 100 years. These floods disrupt our community and leave millions and millions of dollars of destruction and thousands of hours of travail in their wake.

How to manage and mitigate these floodwaters, originating in the Lake Tahoe Basin and terminating far downstream at Pyramid Lake, is extremely complex. We are confident HRPS members will want to obtain the best possible protection for Reno's historic assets; such as the California Building, McKinley Art and Culture, the Lear Theatre, the Riverside Artists Lofts, the old Courthouse, and the old Post Office. The Pioneer Center and the Auto Museum, while not historic gems, are certainly cultural gems at risk.

*(continues on page 2)*



November 20-21, 1950

*Hughes Porter Building  
and the Methodist Church  
on W. First Street.*

*Currently the location of  
the Java Jungle coffee shop,  
Art Dogs & Grace, and  
other eclectic businesses.*

*Photo courtesy  
of Neal Cobb*



November 20-21, 1950

The Majestic Theater  
on First and Center Streets

Currently the location of the old Mapes  
Hotel parking lot. Across Center Street  
from the Majestic, where the Reno Garage  
is pictured, now stands the AT&T  
building. Notice how strong the water's  
current is in this picture!

Photo courtesy  
of Neal Cobb

(continued from page 1)

Additionally, members may not realize that some of the bridges over the river are also considered to be historic assets - albeit one's with different considerations than the post office, for example, as they are now considered by Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to be nearing the end of their safe life.

We urge HRPS members and others in the community interested in this very important process to come to the workshop described in the meeting notice from the Community Coalition and help frame the dialogue before it reaches the final stages of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

At this time HRPS has no position on flood plain management, neither do we endorse the view of any of the stakeholders along the Truckee River Corridor. This letter and the information contained with it are for your information only. We urge you to do additional research, come to the July 9th workshop, and using your base of knowledge add informed opinion to the dialogue.

HISTORIC RENO PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY - Board of Directors

## TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY COALITION

As anyone who has lived here for more than four years can tell you, floods happen! The 1997 flood caused between \$500 and \$600 million in damages in our region.

To respond to this problem; Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County are working to get as much community involvement as we can in the early stages of the Truckee River Flood Management process. The Flood Management Community Coalition has developed a rough concept to provide a starting point for discussion. Now we are asking you to help us refine our flood protection plan for downtown Reno.

The Truckee River Flood Management Community Coalition is hosting a series of workshops to ask this question:

"How can we provide flood protection in downtown Reno in a way that best respects and enhances our community's inventory of historic, cultural and recreational assets while supporting our downtown redevelopment goals?"

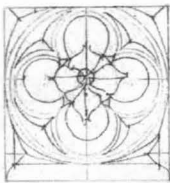
We are inviting you to participate in the first workshop, Monday, July 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center on Riverside Drive.

We will be presenting the problems we are facing in trying to provide flood protection in downtown Reno. Because of the limited amount of space, we have fewer options from a hydraulic point of view. We also have a wealth of historic and cultural structure which will be affected by any flood solution. We'll review the solutions we've studied so far and the results to date. And we are asking you for ideas about additional solutions to analyze as well as ideas for how to provide protection downtown.

For additional information, please contact:

Project Manager, Paul Urban  
Washoe County Department of Water Resources  
4930 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502  
775-954-4639 (phone) - 775-954-4610 (fax)  
purban@mail.co.washoe.nv.us

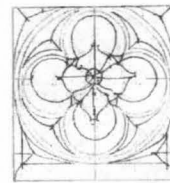
Or visit the Truckee River Flood Management Project Web Site:  
by logging onto the Washoe County Home Page:  
<http://www.co.washoe.nv.us>



## NEIGHBORHOODS FOR EVERYONE!

### Saturday, May 12, 2001

### *The Biggest Little Historic Preservation Conference in the West!*



By Nancy Holmes




*Congratulations to HRPS members Nancy Holmes (L) and Mella Harmon (R) on a wonderful conference.*

Ronald James, State Historic Preservation Officer, hosted the opening panel discussion "Historic Preservation 101," with SHPO staff historians: Mella Rothwell Harmon, and Rebecca Ossa, plus Bert Bedeau, Director, Comstock Historic District Commission, explaining how their positions can play a vital role in our local preservation efforts. Next Paul Ferrari, structural engineer, of Ferrari Shields and Associates, enthusiastically lectured us and led us through the Washoe County Courthouse. Then lunch at the new/old/Riverside Artlofts site where HRPS Board Member Joan Dyer, briefly described this success story. Christine Fey, Arts and Cultural Manager, spoke beautifully

allowing us to employ our imaginations to see the blending of art and history currently taking place in downtown Reno.

At the Masonic Building on First Street we heard first from Bill Haung, Senior Program Associate, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Community Partners-in for the day from Los Angeles to explain this excellent program. Jenny Brekhus, Senior Planner Reno City Community Development Department, then gave the status of local neighborhood projects. Our last presenter was McDuffie (Mac) Nichols, Senior Program Manager for Special Projects, for the National Main Street Center from Washington, DC to give us the details on the Main Street Program. After another opportunity to view the interesting preservation projects arranged by Cindy Ainsworth, exhibited in the conference room; many toured the rest of the Masonic Building with our host Lewis "Red" Kittell.

Brad van Woert met the conference attendees on the Plaza of the Pioneer Theater to reverently

discuss Frederick DeLongchamps outstanding architectural contributions surrounding us at the crossroads of Reno. We then toured the wonderful Downtown Post Office on our way to the wine and cheese reception at the National Automobile Museum. There the conference goes discussed the days events, talked with like minded people and who knows? – perhaps dreamed up some new historic preservation projects for this community. 

*Catering of the Riverside lunch and the reception was done by Elegant Herb.*

#### **Sponsored by:**

Historic Reno Preservation Society  
National Automobile Museum  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Nevada Arts council  
Reno Historic Resources Commission  
State Historic Preservation Office

#### **The Committee:**

Nancy Holmes – Chair

#### **Production:**

Mella Rothwell Harmon, Andria Daley-Taylor,  
Cindy Ainsworth

#### **Registrars:**

Verna Peeler, Merrilee Witham

**Continental Breakfast:** Ed & Kathy Wishart

**Riverside Venue:** Joan Dyer, Pat Ferraro Klos

**Masonic Building Venue:**

Lewis "Red" Kittell

**Grant Writer:** Felvia Belaustegui

#### **Corporate Sponsors:**

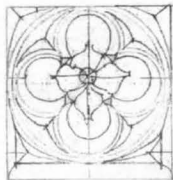
Michael R. Taylor, Sierra Nevada Funding  
Don Drake

Ferrari Shields & Associates,  
Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers  
Brad van Woert, AIA  
Double Click Design



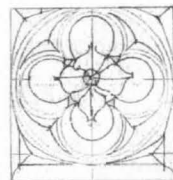
*Paul Ferrari of Ferrari Shields & Associates explains the complexities involved in preserving old buildings.*





## "NEIGHBORHOODS FOR EVERYONE!" A GLORIOUS SUCCESS

By Pat Ferraro Klos



The angels who want to save Reno were out in force when HRPS and company kicked off Preservation Week at the National Auto Museum on Saturday, May 12th. In fact, over 100 of these angels, led by Nancy Holmes whose wings were glistening, met at four heavenly venues to herald all that has been done and will be done to save Reno from the devil of destruction.

HRPS joined with the Auto Museum, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Historic Resources Commission of the City of Reno, the Heritage Tourism Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for a divine day of preservation strategies, techniques, supreme success, and of course the quest for dollars.

In the beginning ... a continental breakfast at the Auto Museum softened the jolt of an 8:30 am Saturday gathering with SHPO Director Ron James and his delightful staff of Mella Harmon (Mo), Rebecca Ossa (Ro), and Bert Bedeau (Curly). Stooges they were not as they explained the workings of the State Historic Preservation Office. From the Museum 100 preservationists walked to the lawn between our shining County Courthouse and the luminescent brick and terra cotta façade of the Riverside Artist Lofts where structural engineer Paul Ferrari explained how he had used "a #11 aluminum sky hook" to keep these two Frederick DeLongchamps from

possible collapse during the reconstruction stage. The walk that followed up the 1911 stairs to the roof of the Courthouse was like an ascendancy to heaven with Ferrari acting as St. Peter explaining the beauty of the restored heavenly stained glass dome.

At noon HRPS board member Joan Dyer welcomed everyone to a "hard hat minimalist luncheon" in a makeshift dining room in the Reiverside. Surrounded by glass and views of our Truckee River, City of Reno Arts and Culture Manager Christine Fey talked us through a walk along the historic and cultural river district. She also unveiled the astounding "Reno is Artown" poster for 2001.

After lunch about sixty of us reconvened on the third floor of the Masonic Temple on First Street. I hadn't been in those rooms since my 1958-62 season of wedding receptions. The National Trust sent two excellent speakers to discuss methods of saving our neighborhoods through preservation-base community development projects and how to get those dollars and how the Main Street project can revitalize needy neighborhoods. Everyone was listening and thinking about implementation in Reno.



*Christine Fey, HRPS member and City of Reno Arts & Culture Manager, shares her vision of Reno's emerging arts & culture district.*

From the Masonic Temple we headed to the plaza in front of the Pioneer Theater where architect Brad van Woert discussed DeLongchamps architecture from the 1911 Courthouse through the Riverside Hotel and finally the 1934 Art Deco Post Office. Van Woert just completed the Riverside project and is currently involved in the feasibility study to turn the DeLongchamps Post Office into a Community Arts Center. For many of the conference goers this was the pinnacle of the day: Looking at our three architectural jewels and listening to stories about each of them.

The last stop was libations at the Auto Museum where we thanked conference chair Nancy Holmes who also head the HTC, Mella Harmon of the SHPO and chair of the Reno HRC, HRPS President Cindy Ainsworth, and National Trust Rep for Northern Nevada Andrea Daley Taylor who generously awarded 25 complimentary memberships to the National Trust.

National Historic Preservation Week had come a long way since the day when Christine Fey, Alice Baldrice from the SHPO, and I would stand in front of McKinley Park and wonder if anyone was going to show up for our Saturday morning walk along the river. We love our city and all you preservationists who have cared and shared — angelic you are.



*Hard Hat luncheon at the Riverside Artist Lofts. In the foreground (L to R): Christine Fey, Mella Harmon, Sharon Walbridge, Scott Gibson, Mercedes de la Garza, and Anne Simone.*

## HRPS ANNUAL MEETING

By Joan Collins

About 65 people gathered at Whitaker Park for our annual picnic on a warm, windy evening. It was a time for eating, relaxing, listening to histories, and walking old neighborhoods.

As often as I have stopped to enjoy the beauty of this park on the hill and eat lunch, I had never known that it was once the campus of the Whitaker School for Girls. Historian Carrie Townley Porter gave a narrative history of the school. The elegant, three story building was both a school and a dormitory where hundred's of students proudly known as the "Bishop's Girls" were educated. The benefactor was Ozi William Whitaker, Episcopal Bishop of Nevada who identified the lack of educational opportunities for girls in Nevada and succeeded in obtaining funding to purchase the land and construct the building. It operated as a school from 1876 to 1894. It was used as a hospital for a while after that and then used again by the school district. Eventually, the main building was demolished, but the additional wing was moved to the corner of Ralston and Washington and now serves as apartments for university students. The trees and grounds have been preserved for future generations. It's up to us to preserve the stories.

The following were elected for a new three-year term on the board Cindy Ainsworth (Community and Public Relations), Joan Dyer (Sierra Arts), Nancy Holmes (Arts

Consortium, HTC) and Sharon Walbridge (Publications).

Members agreeing to serve as officers are Katherine Wishart, President; Felvia Belaustegui, Vice President and Program Director; Mark Taxer, Secretary; and Holly Young, Treasurer.

Preservation Award recipients, Susan and Scott Armstrong, were introduced. They have created child development centers in 1920 era homes on California Avenue and on Burns Street. Our kudos to the Armstrongs for bringing our city an excellent example of adaptive reuse. (See feature article in this newsletter on page 7.)

Finally, Neal Cobb led an enthusiastic, informative walk around the west university neighborhood. As the sun was setting to the west, a magical glow lit the streets where the rich heritage of this old Italian neighborhood opened its arms to all of its children. Neal shared his favorite climbin' tree and swimmin' hole. He showed us alleys where resplendent gardens were the fast food avenues of the 50's. Old family names like Piazza, are all-familiar in the history of Reno. Soon the whole walking group began sharing their stories, their memories until well after dark. The sharing of stories, the thirst for historical information continues to grow making HRPS a formidable organization in Reno. We have just begun.

## From Your Editor

*I'd like to welcome some new people to the staff of Footprints. Joan Collins and Judy Vaughan join us as reporters, you can see their bylines in this issue. Jane Bowden and Anne Simone join us in the distribution department. Frank Ozaki and Hillary Valesquez of Double Click Design continue to do layout and graphic design.*

*I'd like to thank Lynn Allen for her help with distribution in the past. Lynn works long and often uncertain hours in the labs at Washoe Medical and simply doesn't have the discretionary time to perform what has become an increasingly large job. Thanks Lynn, we'll definitely see you at the parties!*

*I am grateful to these people for helping me with the task of producing our newsletter. As we become more visible in the community, and as more issues arise, the task of informing our members grows.*

## Dues Notice:

Effective September 1st, dues for individual membership will increase from \$10 to \$15; for families the increase will be from \$15 to \$20. This rise reflects the significant increase in mailing costs and the cost of paper.

# Preservation and Choice

By Sharon Adler Walbridge

**K**nock knock. Knock knock. KNOCK KNOCK. Do you hear that sound? That's the future pounding on the door of the present in the city of Reno.

That sound is getting increasingly intense as the community struggles to deal with major, once-in-a-lifetime decisions.

Project Retrac consumes the energies of people along the proposed train trench. Flood plain management consumes the energies of people along the river. Redevelopment has consumed our energies for a long time now and promises to continue to do so.

Project Retrac and the Truckee River Flood Plain Management Project involve multitudes of agencies, including the federal government. Federal participation provides a very specific framework for consideration of such projects.

Thus, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates that the NEPA process integrate with other environmental laws. For people like us interested in preservation, we find that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides that impacts on significant cultural resources, such as historic properties be taken into consideration in any federal undertaking.

So what does this mean for people like you and me, the citizen-soldiers who believe in preserving the little that's left of what used to be?

It means we need to learn something about the federal process. It means we need to ask ourselves questions about priorities.

Can we save everything? Should we? If we can't or shouldn't, then what can and should we save?

And just how should we save historic assets? In the case of historic

structures, should we move them in order to save them?

Ask yourself about the Lake Mansion, which was moved from its original site at California and S. Virginia to its present location on the RSCVA property at Kietzke and S. Virginia.

Is it still an historic property in this setting? Well, it's still the Lake Mansion,

---

Can  
we save everything?

Should we?

If we can't or shouldn't,  
then what can and  
should we save?

---

but it certainly is out of context. Nevertheless, we still have it and it does speak to us of different times.

We need to ask ourselves what is the threshold of change/impacts (either physical or locational) beyond which the characteristics that make a property eligible for the National Register cease to exist?

**T**he National Register offers some general guidelines, but they can certainly be arbitrarily applied. To a certain degree historic significance is in the eye of the beholder.

Furthermore, adverse effects are those impacts to a historic property that would alter the characteristics that made it eligible for the National Register in the first place. This is where the purist and the rationalist come into conflict. Which

brings us to another question. Are we naïve enough to think that because there is an active preservation community in Reno that we share unanimity of opinion? I'm not, and I wonder how we can amicably reconcile those differences?

And what about preservation vs. contemporary needs? What about the demands of today's citizen for safety and comfort and prosperity?

What if in our fear of losing too much and gaining too little we defer decision-making to generations to follow?

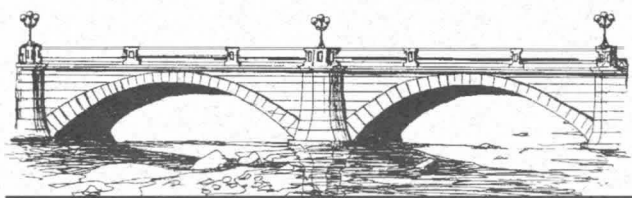
I don't have answers. I only have questions. So let's take a very brief look at the process.

Section 106 guidelines prescribe that federal agencies take the following steps in their project planning process:

- determine and document the area of potential effects
- identify consulting parties
- identify historic properties
- evaluate historic significance by applying National Register eligibility criteria
- assess effects by applying Advisory Council on Historic Preservation criteria of adverse effect;
- develop avoidance and mitigation measures if necessary; and
- document the process.

There is comfort in process. These guidelines let us know that carefully documented procedures are followed by qualified professionals who will submit their findings to appropriate boards, commissions, and the public.

Space precludes a more thorough examination of each of these steps. However, I will detail the criteria for inclusion in the National Register. In order for a property to be considered



## Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

# Historic Reno Preservation Society Artown 2001 Walking Tours

HRPS • P.O. Box 33444 • Reno, NV 89533

Nine walking tours of historic areas of Reno will be presented in July. All walking tours are about 1 1/2 hours long. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Some tours have limited participation, please call the guide to register for each tour. There is no cost for HRPS members, \$5.00 for non-members, with the exception of Just for Kids. If you have questions on the events listed, please call the HRPS tour coordinator, Leanne Stone at 775-322-1638, or the tour guides.

HRPS is pleased to again participate in the sixth annual Artown Festival, July 1-31, 2001, hosted by the City of Reno. The month-long summer arts festival features more than 200 events produced by 52 cultural organizations and businesses in thirty locations city wide. For complete information on all Artown events, please call (775) 322-1538 or e-mail [renoarts@aol.com](mailto:renoarts@aol.com).



**artown**

**Saturday July 7**  
9:30 a.m.

### **Blast From the Past: Historic Fourth Street Corridor**

Tour guide Gaye Canepa, 323-0220

Meet at Louie's Basque Corner, E. Fourth St. and Evans Ave.

Well-traveled transcontinental Highway 40, the Lincoln Highway, was the business center of Reno. Thanks to the efforts of the Reno-Sparks Business Corridor Association, this area is undergoing a rejuvenation.

**Sunday July 8**  
4:00 p.m.

### **Newlands Heights**

Tour guide Scott Gibson, 322-6406.

Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave. The area takes its name from prominent occupant, Francis G. Newlands, U.S. Senator. Explore the neighborhood that was settled by the "movers and shakers" of early Reno.

**Tuesday July 10**  
6:30 p.m.

### **Wells Avenue Neighborhood**

Tour guide Mark Taxer, 826-7070.

Meet at former Southside School, Liberty & Sinclair Sts.

This walk takes its name from a prominent street, Wells Avenue. The area developed as a site of businesses, such as a dairy, that kept Reno supplied with its needs just after the turn of the century—from the 19th to the 20th.

— continued on back —





**Sunday July 15**

4:00 p.m.

**Bricks and Stones**

Tour guide Anne Simone, 853-3414

Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

You'll find bungalows of brick and stone and other homes from Queen Anne style to craftsman in one of Reno's most eclectic neighborhoods. In the old days everything was within walking distance – schools, stores, and churches, and all on beautiful tree-lined streets. Along the way learn about a few basic Reno architectural styles and make your own decision on some of the adaptive reuse we'll pass by. Last, and certainly not least, learn the answer to the mystery – where did they get all those rocks?

**Tuesday July 17**

6:30 p.m.

**Wells Avenue Neighborhood**

Tour guide Mark Taxer, 826-7070.

Meet at former Southside School, Liberty & Sinclair Sts.

Repeat of July 10th walk.

**Monday July 23**

6:30 p.m.

**Historic Truckee River Corridor**

Tour guide Joan Collins, 329-0394

Meet at McKinley Park Arts & Culture Center (School)

925 Riverside Dr. at Vine St.

Early expansion of Reno took place on the north side of the river. Wander through the Victorians and view the mansions on the bluff as you hear the gentle cascade of the river and the "trembling leaves."

**Tuesday July 24**

6:30 p.m.

**University of Nevada, Reno Historic District**

Tour guide Leanne Stone, 322-1638

Meet at Honor Court, south entrance of University off Center & 9th Sts.

An easy walk around the Historic District of the University, includes architectural descriptions of the buildings and information about the early days and people of the University.

**Saturday July 28**

10:00 a.m.

**Just for Kids (And Their Parents) Architectural Walking Tour**

Tour guide Mercedes de la Garza, 322-6406

This walk is geared for children ages 5-12 years old with an accompanying parent. We start with a quick discussion about different types of buildings and materials, and ways these materials are used on buildings. Following the discussion, we will go for a quick walking tour in an historic neighborhood to discover the things we discussed. We will end the walk with an art session of drawing our Dream House. Please bring an apron for child and parent. Please RSVP, enrollment is limited.

**Monday July 30**

6:30 p.m.

**Lake Addition**

Tour Guide Pat Klos 348-8594

Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

McCarran, Nixon, Newlands – more than just streets of Reno. Stroll the area that was home to U.S. Senators McCarran, Nixon and Newlands, plus others in this historic treasure trove of Reno.



(continues on page 7)

for inclusion in the National Register it must meet the following criteria:

*The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and*

- (a) *that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or*
- (b) *that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or*
- (c) *that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or*
- (d) *that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

Earlier I asked how the citizen-soldier of preservation fit into the federal process? By definition, we are included in the "consulting party" category of the Section 106 guidelines. It is through this process that members of the public are asked to identify those affected properties that it sees as historically significant.

To a certain degree, if the public does not become involved in the process, the federal agency assumes no one cares and arguing for significance becomes harder for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to do.

So become involved in the process. You are a consulting party. Don't be one of the people who sits on the sidelines while the process takes place only to criticize the final decision.

This community has had far too much of that in the past. The future isn't some distant time or place. The future is now – we hold it in our hands.

## HRPS PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS

By Joan Collins

Each year HRPS recognizes individuals or organizations in our community committed to preservation. This year's award has been presented to Susan and Scott Armstrong who have restored two homes in older neighborhoods converting them into child-development centers.

The Tudor style brick house at 551 California Avenue had been a rental, then abandoned. Transients had trashed the inside and painted swastikas on the walls. The zoning allowed new structures on this lot. Anyone else would have bulldozed the old and built a new structure, but Scott's vision and his imagination persevered. He knew he could rekindle the warmth and charm he and Susan fell in love with when they purchased their 1929 era home on St. Lawrence Street.

During renovation, a 1921 silver dollar was found under the floorboards. The Armstrong's were told that this was the method used to date a building as it was completed. Scott and Susan did half of the labor while maintaining full time "paying" jobs. Opened in 1965 for an active clientele of two to five year olds, the house is now bright and airy. Right down to the cupboard knobs, the house has painstakingly been kept in its vintage grandeur, except for the hand shaped sheep

taped to the kitchen walls. From the outside the house fits once again into this lovely neighborhood. Safe access is obtained via the driveway and through the garage into the alley.

Near Holcomb, the 137 Burns Street site is on a huge lot amid eight Oaks and two catalpa trees. Spanish tiled roof, rock fountain and matching rock chimney, three arched windows and an arched entryway compliment the



HRPS 2001 Preservation Award Winner: 551 California Ave.

stately brick house. Built in the 1920's, the Armstrong's found it in pristine condition. Inside there is mahogany wood and crown, plaster molding throughout. Once brought up to code, plus a little bright paint and a lot of love, Little Learner II opened for business three years ago.

The Reno/Sparks Assistance League previously owned this house. From time to time League women stop by because they simply "miss" the house. Neighbors in both areas are supportive and relieved that the Armstrong's have introduced an adaptive reuse program that compliments the surrounding neighborhood and provides a necessary service.

There are now 120 children enrolled in the two centers. Susan and Scott believe they provide the highest in quality childcare in Reno... and just maybe in the classiest locations.



HRPS 2001 Preservation Award Winner: 137 Burns St.

## MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT Katherine Wishart

By Joan Collins

Kathy Wishart has lived in Reno since 1965. In the intervening 36 years since her arrival she has established an incredible record of public service. Not only has she served the City of Reno well, she has made a difference in the quality of life that we enjoy today in the entire Truckee Meadows.

Kathy served on the Planning Commission from 1981 to 1985. She then was elected to the City Council from 1985 to 1993. She was appointed a Regional Transportation Commissioner in 1985 and soon after became a Commissioner for the Housing Authority, serving both until 1993.

With a vision to the future, she sponsored a city ordinance that provided for public buildings to dedicate 2% of the construction budget to public art. It was her incredible intuition that initiated the use of \$100,000 in Municipal funds to first sponsor City 2000. This multi-faceted, successful program soon blossomed into the nationally acclaimed month-long festival now known as Artown. HRPS is fortunate to have such capable and experienced leadership.

## PRESENTING NEW BOARD MEMBER & HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST Ann McCarty

By Joan Collins

Ann McCarty feels she enjoys a continuity of life that is rare today; "I still see friends from sixty-five years ago and students from twenty-eight classes." And while she wasn't born in Nevada, she claims honorary birth as a result of having grown up in Virginia City and graduating from the University of Nevada (the only University of Nevada).



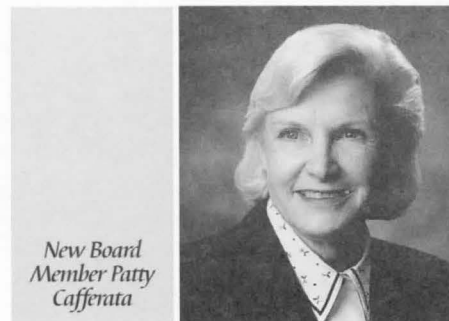
New Board  
Member Anne  
McCarty

Her teaching career started under Mamie Towles at Mt. Rose Elementary, one of only two schools in the entire southwest at the time. Mt. Rose was very crowded then and Ann felt "fortunate" to get the quonset hut as her classroom. The other option would have been the stage in the auditorium where HRPS holds its' meetings, the auditorium already having been made into two classrooms.

Following her induction into the education profession Ann took time out to raise three busy daughters and serve honorably as a PTA Room Mother—Camp Fire Leader type mother. Then one day an old friend, Ed Van Gorder, principal of Hunter Lake School (finally a new school) called and persuaded her to substitute for six weeks. Twenty-four years later, in 1992, she retired. (What a salesman!)

Ann tells us she has "seen much of the world, known interesting people, and loved my profession. I have a deep love for Nevada, Reno, and my 'Old Southwest' neighborhood."

HRPS is fortunate to have someone with Ann's centeredness, continuity and heart serve on the board.



New Board  
Member Patty  
Cafferata

## MEET BOARD MEMBER Patty Cafferata

By Joan Collins

When someone has invested as much time and energy in Nevada as Patty Cafferata, it seems a natural she'd become a member of HRPS. Her lovely home in the southwest near the Washoe County golf Course has, forever, been on the must-see list at Christmas and in the summer where beautifully appointed gardens compliment the small stream flowing under the footbridge to the entryway. Memorable Reno locations dot her history; The Twentieth Century Club, the Skyroom of the Mapes, the Riverside Showroom, the Trinity Episcopal Church, as well as the schools at St. Thomas Aquinas and Manogue.

Patty graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon in 1963. She stayed in the northwest and then in the Bay area until 1971 while her husband, Treat, completed medical school and his surgical residency. Patty always planned to return to Nevada.

Patty Cafferata entered the political arena as the Assemblywoman for District 25 in 1981. She served as Treasurer of the State of Nevada from 1982 to 1986. As her three children left home to pursue their own careers, Patty graduated from Southwestern School of Law in California. Admitted to the State of Nevada Bar in 1989, she served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable David Gamble from 1989 to 1990. Since then she has maintained either a private civil practice in Reno, and/or also served at various times as the District Attorney of Lincoln, Lander, and Esmeralda Counties.

Patty has put a lot of miles on her car administering justice in our rural counties, and many nights away from her home base in Reno. HRPS is grateful that she feels she has the time to add her many talents to the already strong talents gathered on the HRPS board of directors.

## Renewing Members

Cindy & Tom Ainsworth	Ann McCarty
Bobbie Anderson-Hubbard	Joyce McCarty
Carolyn & Dan Asikainen	Charlotte & Dick McConnell
Dean Bradt	Joe McKenna
Sarah Britt	Darla McKenna
Sue Broderdorf	Cyrstal Metzenheim
Trudy & Peter Brussard	Donna Odell
Fred & Gaye Canepa	Mike Harker & Nanette Pepe-Roehr
Carol & Sam Coleman	Bert & Jennifer Pincolini
Lois & Len Crocker	Carrie Porter
Dave & Kathy Ebner	Fred & Toni Payton Ryser
Mary Evenson	Ginger & Pete Salcedo
Donna Fulkerson	John & Bobbi Sikkens
Lavone Gelder	Anne & Don Simone
Mercedes de la Garza & Scott Gibson	Nan Spina
Louise Gilmartin	June Stansbury
Pam & David Ginsburg	Thomas Swart
Fritz & Evelyn Grupe	S. M. Temen
Dwight Harbaugh	Judy Vaughan
Nancy Hardy	Diane Watterson
Perry & Leath Hayden	Robert Wexler
Marlene & Bob Hunt	Eleanor & David Wheeler
Barbara Keller	Kay Wilkinson
Ginger Kinsey-Manna	Gene & Ellen Williams
Steve & Donna Lage	Mary Yeargin
Jacque Lane	Toni-Anne Zive
Robert & Georgene Lindsey	
Marty, Steve, Molly, & Bernie Mattes	

## We Welcome New Members

Maggy Anthony	Daryl Pelizzari
George Gadda & Betty Jo Baker	Catharyn Philippo
Mary Lou Banta	Eileen & Chris Piekarz
Alicia Barber	Ed Powell
Trip, Margaret, & Molly Barthel	Pat Quinlan
Lorna Bastian	Peter & Lorelei Redding
David & Sarah Colburn	Millard & Irene Reed
Dennis & Lonnie Destrack	Cheri Ridenour
Linda Colon & Donnette Dickey	Gary Roberts
Carol Haydis	Richard Rowley
Phyllis Hedgpeth	William Salas
Winifred Herbert	Carol Sara
Kathy Hess	Russ Schooley
Fred Hinners	Jack & Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder
Jack Hursh	Joan Shonnard
Pete Jeffalone	Robb & Jeanine Smith
Betty Lougaris	Maija Talso
Phinnie & Brynne Marsh	Claire & Steve Thurlow
Terry Meadows	Ann Weiss
Dolly Moore	Mary-Jane Williams
Robert Morrill	Barbara Youel
Elsie Newman	

## AT LAST THE MAP IS HERE AND READY FOR YOU TO ENJOY!

By Nancy Holmes

Two years ago ten members of the Heritage Tourism Coalition (HTC) submitted names of buildings and homes they deemed historic and interesting and worthy of including on the map. Many historic maps and tour maps from around the country and Nevada were also submitted to foster ideas.

Successful grant writing brought a major amount of funding from the Nevada Commission On Tourism, and gratefully grants for matching funds coming from Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation and the Nevada Humanities Committee. These funds paid for the artistic achievements of Nancy Peppin and costs of printing by Dynagraphics, Inc.

Now, two years later we are thrilled to have approximately 2500 worded text describing over 100 historic sites depicted in a four color, 18" x 24" format. The Historic Map retails for \$1.00 plus 60 cents for postage. We have liberal, inviting, wholesale prices for anyone interested in reselling these terrific Historic Truckee Meadows Site Maps. Proceeds from the sale of the map will pay for reprinting in the future.

The hours poured into project have been volunteered by Mella Harmon, Cindy Ainsworth, and Nancy Holmes; with more hours from other believing individuals helping to proof, submit ideas, and support. We thank them for their time and dedication!

Please feel free to call Nancy Holmes (775) 852-2094 with your ideas and prospects for marketing this map. Send your requests and inquiries to Heritage Tourism Coalition, PO Box 1507, Reno, NV 89505.

## 2001 HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK WALKING TOURS SUCCESS

By Leanne Stone


Nearly 200 Reno residents and visitors enjoyed the HRPS bike and walking tours offered during Historic Preservation Week in May by our enthusiastic and dedicated tour guides Glee Willis, Mark Taxer, Anne Simone, Joan Collins, Scott Gibson, Mercedes de la Garza, and Gaye Canepa. And a special thanks to JoAnne Waters who filled in for me for the beginning of the University walk. We also had several people who partnered with the guides and gave invaluable help: Sid Robinson, Theresa Frisch, Betty Hoe, and David Colburn. HRPS and AM-Arcs (Amateur Archeologists) cosponsored a tour of Jamison Stations let by Ovyind Frock. Thank you all so much for sharing your time. Without all of you, HRPS tours would not be the success they are.

As always, the guides learn more about their areas from the people who participate so the information changes each time the walk is given.



If you took one of the walks several years ago when we first began, you may want to take it again in July during Artown and learn more about

a favorite area. Or go on one of the walks you've not had time to take before. Plan your schedule now with the pull out for the July walks.

Mark your calendars now for September 22, the day HRPS will present two very special walking tours. Carrie Young will describe the architecture of Frederick DeLongchamps during a walk viewing several of his buildings in the downtown area in the morning. The role George Wingfield played in the growth of Reno will be the focus during the walk in the afternoon with C. Elizabeth Raymond. Watch for details in the next Footprints. 

## PERSERVATION POSSIBILITIES

By Judy Vaughan

On January 30, 2000 Reno lost the Mapes Hotel in a cloud of dust and dashed hopes. Since then the empty lot where the Mapes stood serves as a constant reminder that this community needs to craft a new historic preservation ordinance that will work.


At a council meeting on January 29, 2001, Councilwoman Toni Harsh requested modifications to our existing, though largely impotent, ordinance. She would like the revised ordinance to require a replacement development project with secured financing to be in place before any significant historic building can be torn down.

In response to this request, the City Council asked the Historical Resources Commission to conduct a review of our existing historic preservation ordinance. Chairwoman (and HRPS member) Mella Harmon and the commission of eleven members have established a three-step process to complete the review and make it's recommendations.

They have completed stage 1, which consisted of researching and gathering information from communities around the nation. The commission has reviewed more than 20 historic preservation ordinances. They are now working on stage 2 of the process, which is analyzing the various elements of the effective

ordinances. Mella hopes the entire review will be completed within a six month period. The final stage is one of evaluation and recommendation.

Upon completion of their review, the Historic Resources Commission will present their recommendations to the Reno City Council, and share the information with the City Planning Commission and the Office of the Reno City Attorney.

One hopes that the goal of the new ordinance will be to preserve our historic buildings while working with existing owners to save their properties. We need the means to ensure that Reno's heritage will be maintained. 



## "I WILL NOT GO DOWNTOWN. THERE'S NEVER ANY PLACE TO PARK!"

By Joan Collins

This battle cry in our area seems to be the main objection of residents from the Truckee Meadows about venturing downtown and enjoying downtown events. So, I decided to head to downtown Reno and learn for myself how awful it must be. I drive down First Street, Arlington Avenue and through some alleys, sure enough parking is scarce. Next I drive into the Parking Gallery, across from the Riverside Century 12 movie theater. I make a mental note that this garage is accessible only going west on First Street. I pull in and the friendly gatekeeper tells me the garage has only been totally full on New Year's Eve. There are 642 spaces available at \$1.75 per hour, \$.75 for each additional thirty minutes. It is \$7.50 for twelve or more hours. The most appealing news is that the theater offers four hours of validated parking, ample time for a meal, a movie and browsing around the riverside shops. My host also informs me that many of the downtown merchants also offer parking validation as advertised in the River Walk flyer. This seemed too easy. Now, just to prove a point I drive around looking for areas where street parking might be available. I find a metered parking lot on Court Street and Arlington, just one block and six

minutes south from the river. To the east there is free valet parking in the Cal Neva parking garage on Center Street. My stopwatch ticked off a twelve minute to walk to First Street.


Tired of driving, I go directly to McKinley Park Arts and Culture Center, west of town by the



Keystone Bridge. The street-lights in the parking lot and along Riverside are bright, and I feel perfectly safe walking alone here at night. I go downstream along the river and enjoy Reno's most historic homes along the bluff off to my right. As I look up at the Nixon Mansion and grieve a little, the bicycle police officers go by and we wave. The evening air is soft and scented, the river melodious. The combination draws me along like the scent of cookies fresh from the oven.

The carillons of Trinity Episcopal Church announce the hour as I come to Arlington Avenue and Wingfield Park. I cross the footbridge across the Truckee River and pause to look to the east and north along the river, the Riverside Artists Lofts, bridges, churches, theaters, boutiques, art galleries, coffee shops, street musicians. The shops and the open spaces all conspire to create a colorful, artsy, trendy backdrop to the park. It's so inviting it draws me across the plaza by the Riverside Century 12 Theater to First Street. This 200 block of first street is the last intact street of the original township of Reno. It is in this historical area that new life is emerging with enthusiasm.

Suddenly I feel very silent. The sky is now streaked with vivid pink, the breeze is still, the river murmurs in the background. It's nature that seems to be the dominant player in this moment of stillness. Conversation has stopped, and I sense we are all giving thanks for being in a beautiful place at the end of a beautiful day.

Come and see for yourself. There's a lot going on. And it's fun. 

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**FALL PROGRAMS 2001**  
**FELVIA BELAUSTEGUI**  
*Program Chair 329-0149*

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

### **September 22nd, 2001**

Two very special walking tours: Carrie Young will describe the architecture of Frederick DeLongchamps during a morning tour, and C. Elizabeth Raymond will discuss George Wingfield in an afternoon tour. See the next issue of Footprints for more information.

### **September 26th, 2001**

Tom Macauley - Ice Harvesting on the Truckee - end of the 19th Century and early 20th Century.

### **October 24th, 2001**

"Demolition by Neglect," and general information concerning what it takes and what it means to nominate properties for historic recognition. Sharon Walbridge and Felvia Belaustegui.

### **November 14th, 2001**

HRPS Annual Reno Retro Party - Save the date now! More information TBA.

*Remember to join HRPS in July, during the month long celebration of Artown. We'll be walkin' and talkin' all over town.*

**DOUBLEclick** design

double click design: 324.5569 / [www.1click2click.com](http://www.1click2click.com)

### HRPS OFFICERS

**President:** Katherine Wishart 747-4323

**Vice President & Program:**

Felvia Belaustegui 329-0149

**Secretary:** Mark Taxer

**Treasurer:** Holly Young

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Ainsworth, Patty Cafferata, Joan Dyer, Scott Gibson, Nancy Holmes, Ann McCarty, Charlotte McConnell, Leanne Stone, Sharon A. Walbridge

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Ginger Salcedo 324-6913

### WALKING TOURS

Leanne Stone

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

**Editor:** Sharon Walbridge 322-5833

#### **Reporters:**

Joan Collins & Judy Vaughan

#### **Distribution:**

Jane Bowden & Anne Simone

#### **Graphic Design:**

Double Click Design  
 Frank Ozaki & Hillary Velázquez  
 324-5569



P.O. Box 33444  
 Reno, NV 89533

