

# Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

# FootPrints

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

WINTER 2004 NEWSLETTER VOL. 7, NO. 1

## A Historic Preservation Story, 93 Bell

by Steve and Linda Atcheson

**Editor's Note:** *FootPrints* contacted Dr. Atcheson and asked permission to write about the house at 93 Bell. *Footprints* stated the following details about the property: The house was built in 1912, probably for George and Lottie Holmes, shown in the City Directory as living there from 1913 to 1920. George was a City of Reno Policeman. In 1920 R. P. Wiley purchased the home from Wallace M. Holmes, probably the son of George and George's widow Lottie. Wiley lived there from 1920 to 1938. A Charles McKenzie is listed there from 1939 to 1942.

we bought the place the floor on the old porch was badly sagging and we had to demolish that part and rebuild it.

There was a brick addition on the back of the house that we think was used for wood and/or coal storage, then later converted to a small back bedroom. There was no garage, detached or otherwise, as far as we know. The brick was in terrible shape and we had to demolish that as well and replace it with a new frame.

**W**e bought the house at 93 Bell from the daughter of "Specs" McKenzie, who owned a gas station at the corner of Ralston and 2nd for many years. He was well known ("Specs' Snappy Service" is a motto I remember from my childhood) and liked, and later was a Washoe County Commissioner. I suspect that Specs was either Charles McKenzie, or his son. Specs died in the 1970's, I think, and his daughter rented the house out to impoverished bachelors for several years.



*93 Bell, in the Powning Addition, in 1989 following the completion of the renovation of the property. The renovation was the inspiration of Dr. Steve Atcheson and his wife Linda, who house their medical practice in the building.*

The original rubble foundation was also in very bad shape, and unable to support the loads we needed with the office conversion. My contractor (Mickey Finn of Spring Creek Builders) is very experienced in renovation of old properties. He got the Bevilacqua house movers to bring their huge timbers over and punch them through the foundation. Then they jacked the whole house up about 6 feet, and excavated under the house, removing the old rubble foundation and putting down a new block foundation.

When we bought the place the downstairs had been abandoned for some time. Three men lived upstairs, each having one room and sharing the one bathroom and a common hallway. They paid \$35 per month rent each. There wasn't enough income to keep the place in good repair.

Originally, there was an "L" shaped open porch going from the front around to the north side. Someone enclosed it later on, but neglected to put a foundation under the enclosure. When

Then they lowered the whole house onto the new foundation. The whole process took less than a week and saved us at least \$20,000 compared to replacing the old foundation in 8 foot sections, which the engineer originally recommended. Because we were able to save most of the original exterior, and much of the interior walls, we qualified for a special IRS tax credit. We were able to deduct 20 percent of the total

*Continued on page 2*

## The Story of 93 Bell (continued)



*93 Bell in 1987 prior to renovation. On the left is the front of the house. The front porch has already been removed because it was not salvageable. On the right is the back of the house.*

*Continued from page 1*

renovation cost from our income taxes the first year we occupied the building. The IRS required at that time that we spend at least 50 percent of the cost of acquiring the property on its conversion, so the incentives were to do a first-class rehabilitation and spend lots of money so the property would last.

We took off all the old woodwork and saved it, then gutted the interior down to the frame. Everything was brought up to commercial code. We put in all new wiring, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning, all new wallboard, insulation and windows, and then put the old woodwork back on. We put all new exterior siding on, and a new roof. We were able to save almost all the exterior gingerbread and columns. I don't know what the current IRS rules are on this kind of project, but if the program is still in effect it would be worthwhile to get the details to inform your readers.

There is no doubt that this is the best investment we have ever made. Several

people looked at the property and advised us to knock it down and put up a block office building. I think those people have no soul. I grew up in a circa 1890 Victorian on Center Street right next to the deLongchamps house (it was the Armstrong house then, owned by Ruth and Ray Armstrong of Kafoury Armstrong.)

Our patients love our offices at 93 Bell. They have told us it feels like they are




*Front of 93 Bell, 1988. The Bevilacqua movers raised the home up on blocks and a block foundation was built under it. The new foundation extends out on the right where an addition to the house was built.*

going into someone's home, rather than a doctor's office.

The place is paid for now, and after practicing here for 15 years we are still very happy with our decision. Financially and aesthetically we couldn't have asked for a better outcome and would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Thanks for your interest,  
Steve and Linda Atcheson

**Editor's Note:** *It's of historical interest to follow the chain of ownership on a property. We know that Spec McKenzie deeded full ownership to his daughter, completing the chain which the Atchesons have described.* 

Steve Atcheson is a Board Certified Rheumatologist. He and his wife Linda operate his medical practice from 93 Bell Street. Steve is a Reno native whose father was a Senior Vice President with Sierra Pacific Power and his uncle was Bruce Thompson for whom the federal courthouse is named. Photos are compliments of the Atchesons.

## HRPS Focus: C.C. Powning and the Powning Addition



FootPrints readers may remember that HRPS focus for the program year 2003/2004 is on the area historically known as Powning's Addition. HRPS objective is to showcase the area that lies between Riverside Drive and Third Street on the north and between Keystone and Arlington Avenues on the east. We plan to photographically document the area, to expand walking tours to include segments of Powning's Addition, hold the annual HRPS social within the Addition; and collect, archive and publish stories of the generations that live and have lived within the Addition who helped to create the Reno we know today.

FootPrints Vol. 6 No. 3 talked about the area of Powning's Addition known as Little Italy. With this issue, we continue by bringing you articles on a renovated home in the neighborhood, a story about Powning himself, a profile of the El Cortez Hotel and an update on the Historic Register status of 937 Jones.

Not much has been documented about C. C. Powning, his namesake Addition or the people who lived, worked and made their lives there. Not a street, a park or a school is named after him but he appears to have been a defining force in early Reno. From his arrival in 1868 at the age of 16 until his death in 1898 at the young age of 46, Powning left an indelible impression on the town of Reno.

Powning ran a remarkable newspaper, the Nevada State Journal, from 1870 until 1891. He pursued a political career

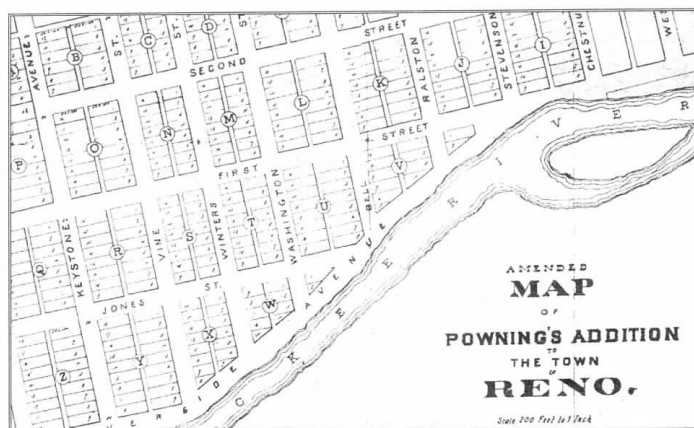
and was Nevada's youngest state senator but still found time to be involved in other enterprises. He developed Powning's Addition and set aside a large area west of Keystone Avenue fronting the river for a public park.

In 1885, he was a member of one of the boards that organized the state fair in Reno, a big annual event for many years. Powning took a leading place in political

progress for so long that he was a part of the town's structure. "He was a pillar upon which much of Reno's progress in the past and success in the future rested," said the Journal sorrowfully.

The town turned out to honor him. A trainload of friends came from Carson and Virginia for the funeral, and every business house and school closed that day. The University of Nevada also closed. Even the town's saloons observed a period of mourning during the funeral, and "Reno was a 'dry' town for three hours." From the Masonic Hall, where it had lain in state, Powning's body was carried to the cemetery. A long cortege wound after it extending for blocks. Reno had lost its greatest early citizen.

We invite your participation and encourage you to contact us with information related to Powning's Addition, C. C. Powning and Little Italy.



meetings, especially meetings that had a direct bearing on Reno improvements.

Powning was instrumental in obtaining the state mental hospital for Reno and in moving the University of Nevada from Elko to Reno. He built or had interests in a number of public buildings, among them the Odd Fellows Building (later the Washoe County Bank building) and the Powning Building on Virginia Street. He financed the construction of the Bank of Nevada Building. He bought and reorganized the Reno Water Works (see article on page 4).

When Powning died on October 5, 1898 the whole town of Reno felt it. Powning had been identified with Reno and her

As you will note since the last newsletter, we've gained valuable, factual information on what is known today as the deLongchamps residence, a house we now know was previously known as "the Armstrong" house. Without the information from Cathleen Armstrong Cobb, we would not have been able to have complete and accurate information on 821 N. Center Street. (Please see article on page 9.) We also have obtained complete and accurate information on 93 Bell Street. (Please see the article on page 6.) A HRPS member's phone call resulted in the purchase of the wonderful letter on page 5 (Please see article above the letter).

## HRPS Awarded Grant from Nevada Arts Council



In August, 2003, your FootPrints editor received notification that our application to the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) for assistance with expenses related to the HRPS publication FootPrints was favorably received. NAC granted HRPS FootPrints \$2,651.

NAC grant funds are provided from the State of Nevada and the National Endowment of the Arts. HRPS is grateful to the Nevada Congressional Delegation and especially to our Nevada Legislators. We recognize that it was a very difficult budget session, and we will honor the trust this generous grant represents.





## C.C. Powning and Reno Water, Land and Light Co.

by Linda Sievers

C. Powning was not the type of guy to back down from a controversy.

There are several tales in John M. Townley's book "Tough Little Town on the Truckee" about Powning using his position as editor of the Nevada State Journal for personal and political gain. In our last newsletter, we reprinted portions of an article from that newspaper lauding Powning's accomplishments.

Recently, a HRPS member discovered a copy of a letter penned by Powning in 1897 to then state Treasurer George W. Richards. The message alludes to the furor going on in Reno over municipal rule and ownership of the utilities.

Text of letter here:

*Powning, Francis G. Newlands and several other prominent citizens co-owned Reno Water, Land and Light Company, having purchased the town's original water works in 1889.*

According to Townley's version of events, water quality was a hot issue in town since the first pipes were laid in the 1880's. Subscribers couldn't figure out why, with the clear waters of the Truckee, they were "supplied with the meanest water...(that) looks thick and nasty, and tastes and smells just as nasty as it looks, having the flavor of rotten wood, dead fish and general staleness."

River water was siphoned off into the Highland Ditch and routed to Reservoir Hill via open canal before being dumped into a reservoir north of town. From there, pipes were laid to distribute water in town. The open canal allowed all kinds of contamination including decaying carcasses of range animals and excrement from feedlots. A strainer over the exit pipe was another culprit as it often became loose, allowing fish to swim into smaller and smaller water lines and finally arriving as "Reno chowder" into area kitchen sinks.

Many felt the untreated water was responsible for summer "fevers" and other serious illnesses. Results from water samples sent to California proved this assumption correct, which led to the water company officially advising customers to boil it before drinking.

While some improvements were made to the water delivery system after Powning and company purchased it, customers had had enough by November 1896. When the questions of forming a town government and public ownership of utilities were put to the electorate, they easily passed.

Powning and co-owners, as investors in the utility, were not supportive of either idea and filed a lawsuit. When a legislative study committee came back in January 1897 recommending city



ownership of the utilities, they realized public sentiment was heavily against them.

The bonds Powning refers to in his letter, amounting to \$160,000, were authorized by a special city election in October 1897. In addition to purchasing existing facilities, bond monies were to be used to build a new water pumping and electrical generation plant near Mogul. As the letter indicates, Powning thought the bonds were a good investment no matter what the outcome of the utilities' ownership.

More impressive, however, was the political and legal maneuvering going on by Powning and his powerful friends trying to invalidate the new city of Reno's incorporation act. In early 1898, the state supreme court ruled the incorporation fully constitutional,

vacating Reno Water, Land and Light's legal position.


But all was not dead yet. According to Townley, utility company lawyers stonewalled with injunctions and other legal hocus pocus, stalling the sale until the new legislative session opened in 1899.

In February, the utility owners had exhausted all legal maneuvers. A group of city, county and company representatives were ordered to meet and agreed on a price of \$200,000 for the water plant and electric works.

But the meeting was just another ruse. Soon after, the utilities' lawyer A. E. Cheyney had a bill drawn up asking the Legislature to repeal Reno's incorporation. A petition with 180 signatures was included along with a request for governing powers to be returned to the Washoe County Commission. It passed both houses in less than a week, heavily aided by lobbying members of the Washoe County delegation. Cheyney then convinced Governor Sadler to sign the bill despite a continual parade of protesting Reno delegations and a resolution from the Reno City Council asking him to veto the act.

Apparently, the Governor did have second thoughts. He purportedly took scissors and clipped his signature off the bill after signing it. The validity of the act subsequently came into question.

But the threat to turn Reno Water, Land and Light Company into a public utility disappeared forever. Powning, unfortunately, did not live long enough to see his company saved from public ownership. His health was already failing when he wrote the letter about the bonds in December 1897 and he died in October, 1898.

In 1901, an act of incorporation was signed by the governor and by 1903 the city was fully incorporated. 

*Linda Sievers is a retired copy editor having worked 20 years for the Anchorage Daily News. In addition to co-editing FootPrints, she is currently working on a family history of her Lothrop and Stoddard relatives.*

# A C.C. Powning Letter and the Power of Coincidence

by Sharon Adler Walbridge




The letter you see reproduced below came to the attention of HRPS' Program Chair, Felvia Belustegui, at a special time and in an unusual manner.

HRPS Annual Dinner and silent auction was only a few days from reality when, one evening, Felvia's phone rang. The San Francisco caller was unknown to her, but had interesting information. Did she know there was an original letter handwritten and signed by C.C. Powning

listed on e-bay and that it was available in Reno at Pacific Pawn? She did not. But the next day she went to Pacific Pawn and purchased it for the silent auction. After all, HRPS' celebration was being held at McKinley Park Arts and Culture Center in the Powning Addition.

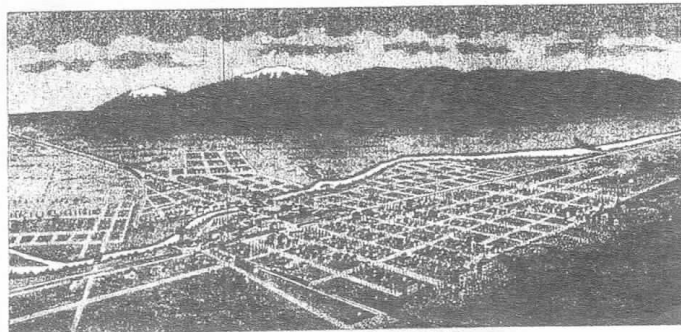
The letter has led some nosey HRPS investigators in several interesting and rewarding directions. The result may be articles for future editions of FootPrints, adding to the meager amount of

information that exists on the early days and people of Reno.

The caller? Bob Morrill, Reno native, HRPS member, 1959 University of Nevada graduate (who did just about everything anyone could do at college), and distinguished San Francisco attorney. Some of our readers may remember the Morrill family business, Morrill and Macabee, that probably set up most of the office environments in this region in those days. 

OWNERS OF:  
RENO GAS COMPANY,  
RENO WATER COMPANY,  
RENO ELECTRIC LIGHT  
AND POWER COMPANY,  
THE HIGHLAND DITCH,  
5000 ACRES OF LAND  
NEAR RENO.

TRUSTEES:  
C.C. POWNING,  
C. KAISER,  
H.M. GORHAM,  
W.E.F. DEAL,  
W.L. BECHTEL.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF RENO.

OFFICERS:  
C.C. POWNING, President,  
C. KAISER, Vice President,  
W.L. BECHTEL, Secretary,  
WASHOE COUNTY BANK, Treasurer.

CAPITAL STOCK  
\$300,000.  
30,000 SHARES  
\$10. EACH.

**RENO WATER, LAND AND LIGHT COMPANY.**

*Reno Nevada, Dec 24 1897*

*Geo. Richard, Esq*

*Carson*

*Dear Sir:*

*Yours received. Klein is off. The Corporation has no inch on this Co. The Bonds are good as gold. I don't think the town will ever put in water works. More reasonable to believe they might buy this Co. At any rate with opposition or competition I think the Bonds will always be No 1.*

*Yours*

*C. C. Powning.*



## The Powning, Poor, Bell Connection

by Sharon Adler Walbridge

One of the pleasures of membership in HRPS is the story that emerges from our exploration of the past. This story started when HRPS was trying to locate the grave of C.C. Powning, the man featured in Volume 6, Number 3 of FootPrints.

After following some bum leads, his grave was located in the Masonic Section of Mountain View Cemetery on Spruce Avenue.

On the east face of the monument is information on Powning who died on October 5, 1898. On the south face is information on Powning's only child, Pearl, who died the same week in 1879 as the disastrous Reno fire. Oddly enough, it seemed odd to me anyhow, on the north face are the names of William and Rebecca Bourne. William died in 1875 and Rebecca in 1915. Who were William and Rebecca and why are their names on this monument?

Then, in a grave just to the south of Pownings lie the remains of his brother-in-law Frank Bell and his family. Chris Powning and Frank Bell had much in common. They had both been orphaned

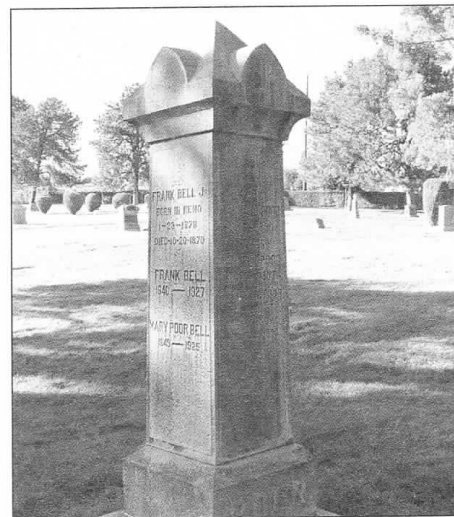
early in life, worked their way west and had entrepreneurial spirits. And they both married into the Poor family. Powning married Clara Poor and Bell married Mary Poor.

Guess what? The Poor family had four daughters: Annie, Rebecca, Mary and Clara. Ah ha! Rebecca. Rebecca was the wife of William Bourne, superintendent of a mine in Esmeralda County. William died in 1875 as a result of a mining accident. Rebecca taught in the earliest school in Reno, the one where Orvis Ring was principal and superintendent. She was a sister-in-law to Powning.

At least that explains who the Bournes are, but not why their names are on the Powning monument instead of on the Poor/Bell monument to the south. The past is like that, it doesn't always release all its stories.

*An icon representing the stone-carved triangle on top of the Powning grave has been inserted on all Powning-related articles in this issue.*

*Information for this article was taken from The Nevada State Journal, Sunday,*



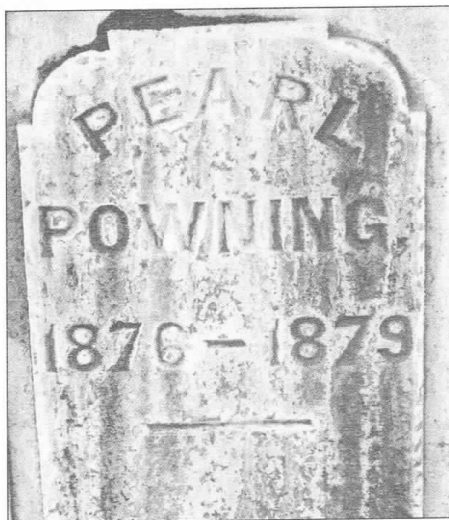
*Near the Powning grave is the grave of Frank Bell, Jr. (1878-1879), Frank Bell (1840-1927) and Mary Bell (1849-1925). Mary Poor Bell was one of Clara Poor Powning's three sisters.*

*August 11th, 1940 and from the author's personal observations. Photos by Cindy Ainsworth and Sharon Walbridge.*

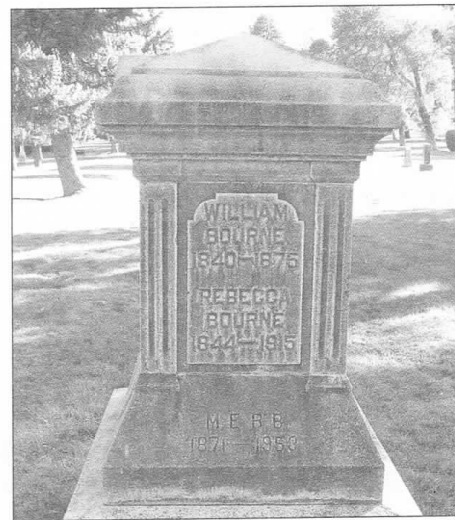
*Sharon Adler Walbridge, HRPS member and FootPrints editor, is a Reno native who was gone from the City of Trembling Leaves for thirty-six years and is more than thrilled to be back.*



*The east face of the C.C. Powning grave located in the Mountain View Cemetery on Spruce Avenue.  
C.C. Powning (1852-Oct. 5, 1898)*



*The south face of the C.C. Powning monument, where Powning's only child Pearl is buried. Pearl died during the week of the terrible Reno fire in March 1879.*



*The north face of the C.C. Powning monument. William Bourne (1820-1876) and Rebecca Bourne (1844-1915). Rebecca was one of Clara Poor Powning's four sisters.*



## On the National Register of Historic Places: The El Cortez Hotel by Carol Coleman

The El Cortez Hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 13, 1984. Located on the northeast corner of West Second Street and Arlington, the hotel is just five blocks west of Virginia Street, the "main street" of Reno.

Built in 1931 by real estate broker Abe Zetoonney, the seven-story structure was the city's tallest building at the time. During the 1930s, Nevada experienced a booming economy while the rest of the country was in the Great Depression. Nevada and Reno flourished because of a number of legal changes in 1931: the legalization of gambling; the legislature set a six-week residency requirement for divorces; and Nevada authorized the sale of beer and wine prior to the end of Prohibition (1933). The Nevada section of the federal highway system also was finished and gravel surfaced, which soon would bring more travelers.

The hotel was built in anticipation of all the increased economic activity. Considered a first-class destination hotel for divorcees arriving in Reno, the original building had 65 guest rooms, a coffee shop, barber shop and beauty salon. The going rate per night for a room was \$6, compared to \$2.50 charged in many other establishments.

In its first decade, several changes and additions were made to the El Cortez. The storefront level was altered between 1931 and 1949 and Art Moderne elements added. A 1949

photo shows Art Moderne signage for the Beauty Salon and Coffee Shop.

The El Cortez, designed by Reno architectural firm George A. Ferris & Son, is a delightful and significant example of the Art Deco style with its foliated motif on the terra cotta design elements. It is one of only two remaining large or multi-level Art Deco



*The El Cortez Hotel, October 2003. Photo by Carol Coleman.*


buildings in town, the other being the U.S. Post Office. A third was the Mapes Hotel (1947-2000).

The hotel is also historically significant as a major work of the Ferris architectural firm. George Ferris served Nevada as an architect for over thirty years. After being educated at Swarthmore College, he came west in 1879 and settled in Reno in 1906 where

he opened his architectural office. Among the noteworthy buildings he designed are: a school in Benecia, Calif.; four schools in Reno: Mount Rose (see picture page 8), McKinley Park, Orvis Ring and Mary S. Doten; the Governor's Mansion in Carson City and the Rialto Theater in Reno.

Ferris and his son, Lehman A. Ferris, formed a partnership in 1928. The younger Ferris worked for prominent Nevada architect Frederic DeLongchamps before going to work for his father. Together they designed a number of prominent buildings: the Oddfellows Building in Reno, the Cladianos Building, the Nevada State Building in Reno (in collaboration with DeLongchamps), and schools in Las Vegas, Austin and Elko.

The El Cortez is still an operating hotel. Its rooms are decorated with quite nice antiques. On the second floor there is a collection of adding machines, typewriters, phones, menus and various memorabilia from the heyday of the El Cortez.

Thanks to Mella Harmon and the State Historic Preservation Office for information for this article. 

*Carol Coleman is a retired computer programmer, having worked 27 years for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. In addition to co-editing FootPrints, she is Activity Director of Newcomers Club of Reno/Sparks.*

## Update on 937 Jones, the Arrizabalaga or Upson House by Carol Coleman

HRPS members may recall from FootPrints Volume 6, No. 3 that 937 Jones was being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. We are happy to report that the property received the Register designation on August 14, 2003. Congratulations to Joan Arrizabalaga-Wait and to Mella Harmon of the State Historic Preservation Office who worked hard to make this happen.

937 Jones Street, located on the northeast corner of Keystone and

The Queen Anne form would have been a modern design in 1890s Reno, a style that enjoyed a mere 20-year run of popularity. 937 Jones resides in what became a sea of modest Craftsman bungalows that filled Powning's Addition from the 1910s to the 1940s. 937 Jones and her neighbor at 935 Jones are the best-preserved Queen Anne-style homes in this subdivision.

C.C. Powning laid out his namesake addition in the late 1800s. He acquired 122 acres of land for the subdivision

and Jones, indicating a building at that property. For this reason, the 937 Jones nomination papers refer to the property as the Pearl Upson house.

Over the years, the property has passed through a succession of owners and uses. At one time it was a boardinghouse, and undoubtedly served the divorce trade like its neighbor at 935 Jones. It served as a fraternity house for the students at the University of Nevada, Reno, and it has been a residence for several families. The home's current owner and



*Reno, 1910. Note the two houses on the left of the picture are 937 Jones and 935 Jones. In the front 445 McKinley Park School, one of four almost identical grade schools (Orvis Ring, Mary S. Doten, McKinley and Mount Rose) built from two early bond issues. The cost of the school was \$10,000. Only McKinley and Mount Rose are still standing. This photo taken from the south side of the Truckee River shortly after completion of the school. (The photo is from Neal Cobb, Collection of Jerry Fenwick.)*

Jones, is a simplified Free Classic Queen Anne style. Built about 1902 on two lots in Block R of Powning's Addition, the two-story structure sits on a hand-hewn rock foundation, a common type in Reno. The exterior walls are red brick, a ubiquitous Reno building material, laid in common bond. The house is roughly 2,000 square feet and is generally rectangular. Its architectural features are a bit uncommon, e.g., four Doric columns support the porch on the west elevation, while on the south side the porch supports are square and shingle-clad.

from the estate of Alexander Forbes on July 1886 for the tidy sum of \$7,500. By June 6, 1888, the new addition had been platted and was being advertised in Powning's newspaper, the Nevada State Journal.

In 1901, three lots were purchased from Clara Powning, C.C. Powning's widow, for \$135 at a sheriff's auction by Mr. Robert Jones, after whom Jones Street is presumably named. On December 28, 1901 Jones sold the three lots to Pearl Upson for \$300. The 1902 city directory lists Pearl Upson's residence as the corner of Keystone

occupant, Joan Arrizabalaga-Wait, has lovingly restored it to its former glory and she is dedicated to its long-term preservation.

*Thanks to Mella Harmon and the State Historic Preservation Office for information for this article.*

*Carol Coleman is a retired computer programmer, having worked 27 years for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. In addition to co-editing FootPrints, she is Activity Director of Newcomers Club of Reno/Sparks.*



## Correction to the deLongchamps House, 821 No. Center by Carol Coleman

**Editor's Note:** In the last issue of *FootPrints*, Vol. 6 No. 3, we reported on the selection of 821 No. Center, the deLongchamps home, as the 2003 HRPS Preservation Award winner. Cathleen Cobb (Mrs. William Cobb) wrote *FootPrints* to clarify the date when the deLongchamps bought the house:

My father, Ray Armstrong (long-time Reno CPA and founder of Kafoury Armstrong & Co. accounting firm) grew up in that house. He was born in 1914 just a few blocks away at 627 N. Center St. Shortly after his birth, his parents, Elmer and Edna Armstrong, moved to 821 N. Center. They resided in the house until my grandmother died in 1962.

My parents built a small cottage in the back for my mother's parents who had retired from Ely, NV. My maternal grandparents continued to live in the cottage until 1965 or so while the main house was rented out. Around this time, my parents sold the house to some families who had children attending the University. These, I believe were the

people who eventually sold the house to the deLongchamps.

In addition, I recall that my father mentioned that the house had been moved to Reno from Virginia City in the early 1900s as several other homes in the area had also been moved. I do not have any information about this since my father has now passed away.

*FootPrints* would like to confirm the information about the house at 821 N. Center being moved from Virginia City versus the house being "built" at the location.

Details (corrected) of 821 N. Center: The house was "built" on or "moved" to land once owned by Alvaro Evans. Evans sold a portion of his extensive land holdings to Reno financier A.G. Fletcher in 1889, and Fletcher subdivided the block into 14 lots.



*The Joanne deLongchamps House, 821 North Center Street, Reno. The property was willed to the University of Nevada, Reno for use with visiting international scholars. It is now known as Northern Nevada International Center.*

Galen and Joanne deLongchamps purchased 821 North Center Street sometime after 1965. Poet and writer Joanne changed the spelling of the name from De Longchamps to deLongchamps. Upon her death, deLongchamps willed the property to the University of Nevada.

*FootPrints thanks Cathleen Cobb for the information she provided for this article. More information? Contact Sharon Walbridge, FootPrints editor at 322-5833.*

## The Verdi Library Collects the Town's History by Cindy Ainsworth

The Verdi Community Library celebrated its first year anniversary on October 30, 2003. Shortly after opening, branch manager Dianna Austin found her patrons searching for details about the history rich area. Enter the Verdi History Club. They had been meeting on and off for almost ten years. In exchange for Verdi articles and photographs, the library offered meeting space for the group. The information started pouring in and the group has since been creating scrapbooks on various subjects.

Today the library has a well organized collection of photos, articles, oral histories and books on the Verdi area. "Right now, we have a file cabinet full of

newspaper articles," Austin said, "and we're working on an index."

There is currently an excellent photo display that includes early scenes of the Verdi lumber industry, buildings, street locations and notable town citizens. The library is also accepting Verdi related historical items.

The historical collection is available for research during public hours by asking for the Verdi history information at the reference desk. The library serves as the Verdi Elementary School library during school hours and is also a full service Washoe County Library.

Dianna Austin's phone number is (775)

345-8104. The Library is located at 270 Bridge Street, Verdi, Nevada. Hours are Tuesday, 3 pm to 8 pm; Wednesday through Friday, 3 pm to 6 pm and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. The Verdi History Club meets at the library the fourth Saturday of every month at 1 p.m.

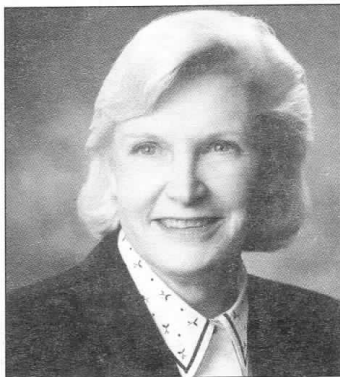
HRPS would like to congratulate Dianna Austin, Verdi Community Library and the Verdi History Club for collecting the past for future generations. We hope HRPS members will stop by and check out this fine library collection.

*Cindy Ainsworth is a HRPS Board member and a Past President of HRPS.*

## President Patty Cafferata's Notes

HRPS is off to an exciting start this year. Thanks to Joan Dyer and Phyllis Cates, our Powning Pasta Party was a huge success. About 100 people attended the event at McKinley Park Arts & Culture Center. We heard from Al Pagni, Larry Pizarro and Treat Cafferatta on their Italian ancestors who settled in the Truckee Meadows after the turn of the last century. Bob Rusk, Neal Cobb, Michael Powell and David Rocovits spoke about their properties in the Powning's Addition.

The silent auction, conducted by Kathy Wishart with the able assistance of Cindy Ainsworth and Mark Taxer, raised approximately \$2,000 for our projects. The most popular items auctioned off were a letter from C. C. Powning to George Richard who was a state treasurer and banker, and a Harold's Club or Bust sign. As you know, this year HRPS is focusing



on an area historically called Powning's Addition, just west of downtown Reno. HRPS members Felvia Belaustegui, Cindy Ainsworth, Jack Hursh, Jack and Lyndi Schroeder have been photographing and documenting the individual properties in the area. Our survey is about complete. After we finish taking pictures, we will be researching the

individual properties and compiling historic data on them.

HRPS goal this year is to begin "writing the history of Reno and the Truckee Meadows to educate our members and the public." We plan to publish a small brochure explaining the history of Powning's Addition featuring its 20 most significant buildings. In addition to 78 HRPS members sending in a donation towards the publication of this brochure we received a Nevada Humanities Committee mini-grant of \$1,000 towards the publication. We are near to our goal. The generous response of our members will make this publication possible.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please call me at 825-2694.

– Patty Cafferata




### The HRPS Powning's Addition Publication

HRPS has matured to the point that we now have enough qualified people, the skills, and the funding to gradually take on the task of documenting the history of Reno. Recognition and documentation of historic neighborhoods contribute to the understanding of the broad patterns of history that have shaped our community.

Our first step in this regard will describe an area historically called Powning's Addition, west of downtown Reno, one of Reno's earliest housing developments. HRPS plans to design and publish 1000 copies of a 32-page brochure with a two-color cover on linen paper. The interior pages will include text and photographs about Powning, the era of the Powning Addition and the area's historic buildings.

The title of this publication will be A WALK THROUGH TIME: The Historic Powning's Addition in Reno, Nevada. The publication will be available by June.

To date HRPS has received 78 contributions totaling \$4448. Together with \$1000 from a Nevada Humanities Commission mini-grant of \$1000, we are only \$552 short of the \$6,000 necessary for the project. If you have not yet sent a gift your donation is welcome. Amounts of \$100 or more will guarantee your name will appear in the publication as a sponsor. Please send your gift to HRPS, P.O. Box 33444, Reno, NV 89533.

Thank you all for your support. HRPS members can be justifiably proud of their organization. 

### 2004 Nevada Historic Preservation Week

The 2004 Nevada Historic Preservation Week is scheduled to run from Saturday, May 9 through Friday, May 14. HRPS Walking Tour Chair Susie Carter reports she will have the following walks scheduled for that week:

**Sunday:**

Downtown Historic Bike Tour

**Sunday:**

Newlands Neighborhood

**Monday:**

El Reno Apartment Walk

**Tuesday:**

Historic Truckee River Walk

**Wednesday:**

DeLongchamps Architectural Walk

**Thursday:**


Art and Cultural Walk

**Friday:**

Mansions on the Bluff

**Saturday:**

Bricks and Stones

The Spring issue of *FootPrints* will provide details of dates, tour guides, meeting locations and reservation information. 



### HRPS Grant from Nevada Humanities Commission

In December 2003, HRPS learned that HRPS was the recipient of a \$1,000 mini-grant from Nevada Humanities Commission to assist with expenses incurred in developing and publishing a brochure on the Powning's Addition (please see story above).

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (As of Dec. 19, 2003)

### Renewals

Patti Adams  
Joan Arrizabalaga  
Mary Lou Banta  
Dana Bennett  
Larry Bilyeu  
Bill & Joan Brosnan  
John & Janet Brown  
Joanie Buonamici  
Treat & Patty Cafferata  
Tom & Phyllis Cates  
Delores & Press Clewe  
Joni Cooper-Meredith  
Ralph & Barbara Courtmay  
Elizabeth Creveling  
Lois & Len Crocker  
Judy & Steve Dollinger  
Irene & Doug Douglass  
Joan Dyer  
Sheila & Joe Erlach  
Christine & Walter Fey  
Barbara & Barry Fleischer  
Don & Kay Fowler  
Italo & Gloria Gavazzi  
Mercedes de la Garza & Scott Gibson  
Sandy Gordon  
Peter Hahn  
Leath Hayden  
Joan Hendrick  
Winnie Herbert  
Mary Ellen Horan  
Jack Hursh  
Madelon & Hank Isbell

Keith Jourdin  
Torrey & Bob Karlin  
Bob Klein  
Chip Latham  
Marian & John LaVoy  
Laurance Lyons  
Mike & Jeanne Madsen  
Doug Marx  
Marty, Steve, Molly, & Bernie Matles  
Joyce McCarty  
Claire & Don McFall  
Don & Anne Meier  
Mimi Melarkey  
Sug Miles  
Ann & Gordon Milldrum  
Madeline Murray  
Elsie & Larry Newman  
Harrell & Patti Oxner  
Daryl Pelizzari  
Ronald & Sharon Rachow  
Carl Reiterman  
Scott Teachenor & Rich Reitnauer  
Connie Remde  
Don & Patti Richter  
Cathy Ringer  
Mahree Roberts  
Pat Sandstrom  
Hannah Satica  
Carole & Ernie Scheiber  
Russ Schooley  
Jack & Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder  
Carolynn Shamberger

Anne & Don Simone  
Charlotte Smith  
June Stansbury  
Roger & Luanne Steininger  
Tom & Leanne Stone  
Fran & Terry Terras  
Zona & Bob Therckelsen

William & Barbara Thornton  
Marilyn Turville  
John Johnson & Teresa Wachs  
Angela Whited  
Kay Wilkinson  
Gene & Ellen Williams

### New Members

Andrea Baccigaluppi & Peter Ames  
Lori Beck  
J. Kimberly Becker  
Diana Beggs  
Doug Brewer  
Joe & Anna Bridgman  
Lourdes Brown  
Diane Bryan  
Tracy Bulkley  
Mario & Lorraine Domini  
Katie & Larry Dwyer  
Donna Edwards  
Marie Edwards  
Joan & Robert Egbert  
Gordon & Carolyn Foote  
Janie Glidden  
Howard & Carol Gordon  
Suzanne Hawkins  
Marian & David Holten  
Aleta Hursh  
Harold & Alice Jacobsen  
Anne Johns  
Paul Pedota & Cynthia Kase

Waren & Janet Lerude  
Michelle Lopez  
Stacey Lomer  
Jane & George Magee  
John Marschall  
Viki Matica  
Susan Mayes-Smith  
Jan McGinty  
Rosemarie Miller  
Kim Munz  
Glenda Price  
Wallace Remsen  
David & Amy Rocovits  
Rebecca Rosenberg  
Chuck & Marlene Siddall  
Marjorie A. Smith  
Michael & Karren Smith  
Bridget & Wayne Tuma  
Betsy Vandeman  
Martha Waltry  
Dallas Westbrook  
Mac Wieland  
Karen Yantis

## HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Please check your mailing label! Renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno!**  
Please make checks payable to **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, and mail along with this application to:  
P.O. Box 33444, Reno, NV 89533

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New Member  
☐ Renewing Member  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual membership includes:** Footprints (HRPS Newsletter) • HRPS Calendar • Free participation in walking tours

☐ Student \$8.00    ☐ Individual \$15.00    ☐ Supporting \$100.00    ☐ Business/Corporate \$50.00  
☐ Family (children 18 & under) \$20.00    Additional donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest Survey:** There are many areas in our organization where your enthusiasm, skills, and dedication will be invaluable to historic Reno and future generations. The goal of the Historic Reno Preservation Society is to preserve the history and built environment of our community. Please indicate your interest in serving on the following committees by marking the appropriate category or categories:

☐ Education    ☐ Exec. Committee    ☐ Finance    ☐ Fund-Raising    ☐ Grant Writing    ☐ Hospitality  
☐ Membership    ☐ Office Volunteer    ☐ Newsletter    ☐ Programming    ☐ Publicity    ☐ Walking Tours

**FOR OFFICE  
USE ONLY**

PAID: ☐ Check ☐ Cash    Amount: \_\_\_\_\_    Membership # \_\_\_\_\_    Renewal Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RV 01.27.02/FO



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### WINTER PROGRAMS 2004

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.

**Wednesday, January 28:** Jack Hursh will present a photographic experience of traveling the loneliest highway in American, Highway 50. Jack's avocation is photographing Nevada, its barns, and the old, natural unpaved Nevada.


**Wednesday, February 25:** The Single Room Occupancy Hotel - El Cortez, Truckee River Lodge and historic buildings that were once boarding houses, such as the Dondero Boarding House.

**Wednesday, March 24:** It's a ditch of a story. Find out about Reno's ditches - are there really 49 ditches?

### HRPS Web Site

<http://historicro.org/>

Historic Reno Preservation Society now has a web site. Check it for the next HRPS meeting date and topic, HRPS walking tours, historic buildings in Reno, and how to apply to be a HRPS member. There is a Table of Contents to articles in past issues of FootPrints. Many thanks to Fritz Grupe for his work on the web site.

 double click design

[775] 324.5569 | [info@1click2click.com](mailto:info@1click2click.com)

### HRPS OFFICERS

**President:** Patty Cafferata,  
825-2694

**Vice President:**  
Joan Dyer

**Secretary:** Mark Taxer

**Treasurer:** Bill Walbridge

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Ainsworth, Felvia Belaustegui, Susie Carter, Phyllis Cates, Fritz Grupe, Nancy Holmes, Jack Hursh, Jr., Jack Schroeder

### PROGRAM

Felvia Belaustegui 329-0149

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Ginger Salcedo 324-6913

### WALKING TOURS

Susie Carter 787-3170

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