

RESEARCH REGISTRY

We welcome anyone doing research on Nevada women's history to share that topic or focus with us. Added to the list of researchers published in our first newsletter in January, 1996, are the following:

North

- ✦ Tammy Busick, Reno: Eilley Orrum Bowers (late 19th century)
- ✦ Vikki Ford, Reno: women's diaries and family histories
- ✦ Dr. James McCormick: women artists in Nevada.
- ✦ Elmer & Mary Rusco, Reno: Rev. Mila Tupper Maynard and Alice Hartley (1890s)
- ✦ Bob Stewart, Carson City: Aurora, early mining camp on Nevada border near Bodie

South

- ✦ Dr. Sue Fawn Chung, Las Vegas: Asian women in Nevada
- ✦ Dr. Joanne Goodwin, Las Vegas: oral histories of women who helped build victim rights organizations in Las Vegas; oral histories of women casino owners and managers
- ✦ Joyce Marshall, Las Vegas: oral histories of showgirls and dancers in Las Vegas
- ✦ Dr. Candace Kant, Las Vegas: image of Nevada women in film
- ✦ Twila Rogers, Las Vegas: Nevada women poets
- ✦ Leslie Shipp, Las Vegas and Deanna Beachley, Henderson: Nevada women in World War II
- ✦ Claytee White, Las Vegas: oral histories of African-Americans who migrated to Las Vegas in the '40s and '50s and worked in the hotel industry as maids and culinary workers
- ✦ Frankie Williams, Las Vegas: orphan trains during the Depression that brought girls and boys to the West

If you would like your research topic shared with others, please call 784-1268 or write us at NWHP, 1048 N. Sierra, #A, Reno, 89503.

Schedule of Roundtables on page 8.

Many Reasons To Celebrate

NWHP grows 200% in three months

The Nevada Women's History Project has more than tripled its size. In the last three months 167 new members have joined NWHP. Welcome!

In the North our new member organizations are the Soroptimists International of Carson City (Connie Sparbel) and the Soroptimists International of Truckee Meadows (Carrie Townley-Porter). Douglas County Library (Carolyn Rawles-Heiser), Eureka Opera House (Wally Cuchine), Reno Nevada Family History Center (Loren J. Spencer), TMCC Committee on the Status of Women (Donna Odell), UNR Great Basin Historical Medical Program (Phyllis Cudek), and UNR Library Special Collections (Susan Searcy) are our new Associate members.

In the South the Mesquite Club (Ethel

Trione) and Southern NV Assn. of Pride, Inc. (Carol Corbett) are new organizational members. Associate members are Educational Equity Resource Center (Joyce Nelson-Leaf), Lost City Museum (Kathryn Olson), Nevada Commission on Tourism (Jackie Brett), Nevada Magazine—LV Office (Ann Henderson), UNLV History Dpt. (Joanne Goodwin) and UNLV-NAACP College Chapter (Janice L. Schrader).

Twelve cities in the North and four in the South are represented with individual memberships. NWHP also has some new out-of-state members.

As of April 1, total membership included 204 individuals, 18 organizations, and 23 associate members.

(continued on pg. 6, col. 3)

NWHP to hold 1st Annual Meeting

Entertainment: Historical figures' handwriting analyzed

The First Annual Meeting of the Nevada Women's History Project, Northern Region will be held Monday, June 3, 1996 at 5:30 PM in the Auditorium of the Washoe County Health Department on 9th and Wells in Reno.

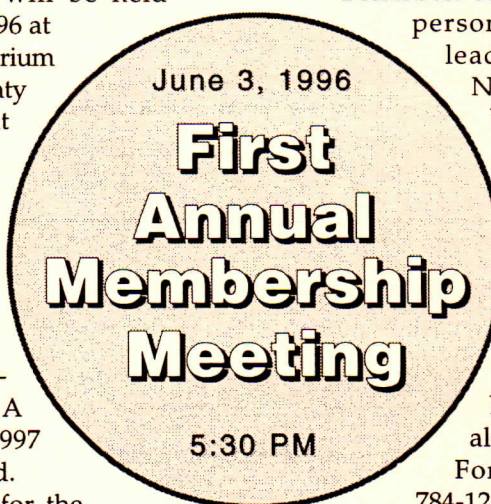
The business agenda includes election of officers to the seats of Vice-chair, Treasurer, and two Member-At-Large positions. A budget for 1996-1997 will also be adopted.

Entertainment for the

evening features handwriting analyst and NWHP member Kathleen Dickinson. Kathleen will present personality profiles of leading women in Nevada's history based on her analysis of samples of some of these women's handwriting.

The Nevada Women's History story basket, created by Mary Lee Fulkerson, will also be on display.

For information call 784-1268.



NWHP Leadership NORTHERN REGION

Officers for 1995-1996

Jean Ford, Chair
Sally Wilkins, Vice-chair
Barbara Spring, Secretary
Linda Wyckoff, Treasurer

Steering Committee

Kathleen Dickinson
Fritsi Ericson
Zola Ferguson
Betty Glass
Mary Lee
Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales
Madeline Parsons
Pat Salandra
Bobbie Talso
Anita Watson

Newsletter Editorial Board

Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales, Editor
Jean Ford
Barbara Spring
Anita Watson

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1048 N. Sierra, #A, Reno, NV 89503
(702) 784-1268

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Who Was The First?

by Dana Bennett

One of the fun aspects of studying history, particularly women's history, is finding the "firsts."

In 1916, Nevada newspapers were cognizant that it was the first year in which women would be allowed to vote in a statewide election. This amendment had been made to the state's constitution in 1914. The candidates were also aware of the historic nature of the election. Consequently, there were in 1916 -- and have been since -- various claims to being "The First Woman Elected in Nevada."

There is no question that Edna C. Baker (Republican) was the first woman elected to a statewide office. Until 1958, the seats on the Board of Regents were statewide offices, so Baker's election as a Regent in 1916 clearly grants her this "first."

However, there are numerous elected offices, at both the state and local levels, in Nevada. Who was the first woman candidate chosen by the voters in an official election?

Mary Ellen Glass, in a 1978 article, noted that Rita Millar, a Democrat, was often called the first woman elected in this state because she was elected Mineral County Clerk in 1916. Millar was active in the production of a newspaper and later was elected to the State Assembly, so she probably helped publicize this assertion.

But it was a tenuous claim. The election in November 1916 involved

14 female candidates throughout the state, five of whom won. In addition to Millar and Baker, the group of winners included Jennie Wadsworth Wilcox (D) for Lincoln County Auditor/Recorder.

Glass provides a strong argument that Wilcox was the winner of this "first" by a technicality. Glass wrote: "[R]ealizing that this might be a history-making occasion, and also knowing that Lincoln County was -- unlike most of the rest of Nevada -- on mountain time, the election board rushed the counting of the ballots in the sparsely-populated county, and declared Jennie Wilcox 'the first woman elected to office in the state of Nevada,' probably before the polls closed in the rest of the state."

However, November 7, 1916, was not the first time women could vote: school offices were filled earlier that year. It is tempting to name this same Edna C. Baker as the first woman elected in Nevada because of her previous election to the Sparks Board of School Trustees in April 1, 1916. Although early school election results are incomplete, it is clear that 11 other women were elected to local school boards in 1916.

Thus, it appears that one of these trustees could be declared the first woman elected in Nevada.

Not so fast!

(continued on pg. 10, col. 2)

MISSION STATEMENT

**TO PROVIDE VISIBILITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE
GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF HISTORY ABOUT THE ROLES
AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEVADA WOMEN OF EVERY RACE,
CLASS AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND**

Letter from the Editor

Let's celebrate! First, I'd like to thank all of you who have sent compliments to NWHP News for its inaugural issue. It was so well received that we had to rush and do a second printing! Indeed, its success is owed to the quality of our leadership; to the interesting projects and events NWHP officers and members have undertaken; and, to the contributions the News has received.

More importantly, the success of NWHP News is a reflection of your commitment. The Project has struck a chord in the community of Nevada lovers of history, particularly among those who would see women's history assume its rightful place in our state. And so, kudos to you who share our vision.

Another reason to celebrate. Southern Nevada has moved forward in the formation of NWHP. A temporary steering committee is headed by Leslie Shipp (565-3288). Congratulations!

As NWHP develops its state-wide structure, the News will also expand to include the contributions of our Southern Region. The News liaison is Ruby Fowler (253-5775). She'll be glad to receive articles, news, artwork.

With a view to that expansion, the Editorial Board has adopted some basic policies to determine copyright ownership of materials and establish editorial guidelines. This information is available to all members — some of it is found in the fine print on the second page of this issue; other details can be mailed upon request.

For this Spring issue we have added a few more pages and photographs. There's much more that we could have included. Alas! Old man dollar wouldn't let us. Yes, it's a matter of money. The News is our biggest item in the budget and will continue to be so when it becomes the purview of our State Board. Thus, we are looking for Angels who want the News to maintain its present quality and improve as we grow. If you are an Angel, I'd like to hear from you.

In the meantime we are considering the inclusion of advertising (business

NWHP searching for permanent home

Office furniture, miscellaneous items needed also

NWHP will vacate its current Northern Nevada administrative office by the middle of June. The Project needs to find new space, ready for occupancy, by that time or earlier. The search is on for space in the Reno area that could be made available at very low-rent or as in-kind contribution.

The organization's current Sierra Street home is part of the UNR campus.

"We acknowledge with thanks the substantial support for NWHP, including this semester's use of office space, from Jennifer Ring, Chair of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Nevada, Reno," said NWHP Chair, Jean Ford.

Jean is eager to hear about possible leads. Call her at 784-1268.

In the South, the Temporary Steering Committee of NWHP is also looking for possible donated office space in the Las Vegas area. Messages can be left on voice mail at 651-4124 or by calling Leslie

Shipp, Southern Nevada Chair, at 565-3288.

Both branches of NWHP are also in need of office furniture. Desks, filing cabinets, bookcases, slide projectors, and portable screens are some of the items needed to carry out NWHP programs. NWHP welcomes donations or loans. Call the phone numbers listed above to offer your contribution or suggestions. ♦

Messages to NWHP

Congratulations on the first issue of the NWHP newsletter! I just read every word of it, and I think it's marvelous. I enclose \$5 for an additional copy; I have a friend in Las Vegas who will be very interested in this project.

Dana Bennett
Reno

I loved the newsletter! Great job. I get so many, but this one I'll read from cover to cover.

Joan Kershner
NV Dept. of Mus. Library & Arts
Carson City

The 1st newsletter prompted me join. Great work! I support this organization and look forward to participating.

Tracy Owen Chapman
Stateline

We received the first issue of the Nevada Women's History Project newsletter in the mail two days ago. Congratulations to you and everyone else involved! We'll look forward to hearing from you regularly.

Best wishes to you with the work you've cut out for yourselves in Nevada. We'll watch with interest and optimism. Exciting times, no?!

Mary Ruthsdotter, Director
National Women's History Project
Windsor, CA

card size only), to supplement the budget. To cut costs we will stop sending complimentary copies. This is the last complimentary issue. A NWHP membership (see form in back) includes an automatic subscription. We encourage you to join, if you haven't yet; and if you are already a member, consider giving a NWHP News subscription (\$20) to a friend or family member or institution.

Another important business matter is participation. Let me encourage you to send in your contributions to the News and to volunteer for the Newsletter Committee. We need you. There's much to be done.

Now, let's get out the tambourines! NWHP has grown 200%, tripling its membership, since our last issue! And, NWHP North is holding its first Annual Meeting on June 3rd. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales

PROFILE

EDNA C. BAKER

The First Woman Elected to a Statewide Office

by Dana R. Bennett

"A woman's influence in educational matters is always good." Thus, the *Nevada State Journal*, one of Reno's daily newspapers, urged the election of Edna C. Baker to the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. Less than a month after this endorsement, on November 7, 1916, Baker became the first woman elected to a statewide office in Nevada. (Until 1958, Regents were elected statewide; currently, Regents are elected by district.)

This historic candidate was born Edna Nevada Catlin in Carson City in 1876. She completed her early education in Carson City and entered the University of Nevada. She graduated in 1895 and began her teaching career in Carson City. By 1899, she was teaching in Wells in Elko County. Her career was brief, however, as she retired in 1900 to marry Fred W. Baker, an engineer with the Southern Pacific.

The newlyweds lived in Winnemucca for several years; most likely, their sons were born during this period. In 1909, the Baker family moved to Sparks.

Edna Baker quickly became active in her new home. In March 1916, the Women's Civic League of Sparks chose her to run for

"She will bring to the position native ability in management, combined with a warm sympathy with the boys and girls at the university and an intuitive power to get at the heart of things and to make wise decisions."

Nevada State Journal, 1916

the 4-year seat on the Sparks Board of School Trustees. Her opponent was James W. O'Brien, already a member of the board. According to the *Sparks Tribune*, the campaign was lively, but no details were given. On April 3, 1916, the paper reported that Baker had beaten O'Brien handily. At the first meeting of the new board, Baker was elected as the chair.

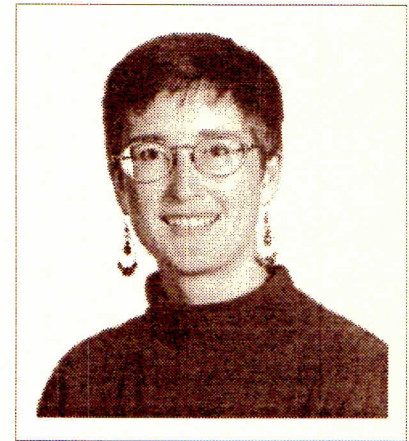
In September of 1916, the state's Republican convention nominated Baker, without opposition, to the candidacy for the open 2-year seat on the Board of Regents. The *Sparks Tribune*

explained that the Republicans "naturally turned to the lady from Sparks, who by previous experience and successful candidacies had proven that she was entirely competent to fill the position as well as being a good vote getter."

There were three seats to be filled at this election, and nine candidates. Throughout the campaign, Baker was linked with two Republicans who were running for the two 4-year terms: J.F. Abel of Elko and Benjamin F. Currier of Winnemucca. The *Journal* openly declared that the open seats should go to these three candidates because they had pledged to reform the university. "They have come out

squarely for efficient management of the university, for the elimination of politics from university affairs and for the widest publicity in all matters affecting the people's educational institution."

Editorials and advertisements in the Reno paper often appealed directly to women voters to support Baker. No concern was ever expressed about a woman filling this office; in fact, the *Journal* believed it to be an asset: "She will bring to the position native ability in management, combined with a warm sympathy with the boys and girls at the



Dana R. Bennett.

Dana R. Bennett grew up in Reno; graduated from Reno High School. She received a B.A. in American History from Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. She holds an M.A. in Women's History from State University of New York, Binghamton, New York.

Currently a Principal Research Analyst in the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Dana authored the 1995 LCB Background Paper, "Women in the Nevada Legislature."

Her book *Forward with Enthusiasm: Midas, Nevada, 1907-1995*, was published by Great Basin Press last year.

She has also written several articles, including one about the first Assemblywoman and first female Senator in the Nevada Legislature (*Nevada Magazine*, March/April, 1995), one about cowgirls competing in the Reno Rodeo (1994 Reno Rodeo Program), and one about polygamy in Idaho (*Idaho Yesterdays*, Spring 1984).

university and an intuitive power to get at the heart of things and to make wise decisions."

Baker defeated her opponents, well-known Democrat I. H. Kent of Fallon and Socialist J.F. McQuestian, with an impressive 44 percent of the vote. She carried 11 of the 16 counties (some by substantial margins); interestingly, she lost in two of the three Sparks precincts. Her co-candidates also won their seats, but their margins of victory were not as wide as hers.

(continued on pg. 11, col. 1)

Who is Who in NWHP -- North

Jean Ford — Chair



Jean Ford

Born in Miami, Oklahoma, Jean arrived in Nevada in 1962. Her parents were Daisy Flook, a school teacher, and Clarence Young, Met Life agent.

She was married for 22 years to retired dermatologist, Samuel M. Ford. They have two daughters, Janet and Carla.

Jean holds a BA in Sociology from SMU, Dallas and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She works as a Surveyor for the University of Nevada Special Collections.

In addition to being the Chair for NWHP, Jean is President of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada.

Jean's current community involvement includes membership in the Nevada Women's Lobby, League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, and American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Her past activities in Nevada include being President of the League of Women Voters (1969-71), the American Society for Public Administration and Nevada Elected Women's Network. She was elected Assemblywoman (1972-76) and State Senator (1978-82).

She was also appointed to various offices: Nevada State Park Commission (1965-72), Nevada Commission on

Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales — NEWS Editor

Born in Lima, Peru. Sylvia arrived in the U. S. for the first time in 1965 with a one-year scholarship from the American Field Service. In 1972 she came back to America, making Reno her home where she's lived for the last 24 years.

She is the daughter of the late Pablo C. Ontaneda, Rear Admiral (Peruvian Navy) and fashion designer and entrepreneur Luzmila Bernales, also of Peru.

Sylvia was married for 23 years to American explorer and author, Gene Savoy. They have three children: Gene Jr., Christopher Sean, and Sylvia Jamila.

She holds a Certificate in English proficiency from the University of Cambridge (London), a Certificate in journalism from the Catholic University in Lima, and a BA in broadcast and social psychology from UNR. This year she will obtain a Master of Arts degree in journalism from the same institution.

Sylvia was a free-lance reporter in Lima and worked in publishing until 1990, editing more than 100 texts. She has taught Spanish since 1974, most

Tourism (1982-85), Governor's Office of Community Services (Director, 1985-89), UNR's Women Studies (Acting Director, 1991-95).

She was President of Jean Ford Associates (1981-82) and owner of The Jean Ford Company (1982-85).

Jean is the recipient of many awards of distinction including the 1994 Woman of Power Award from the Nevada Women's Political Caucus. She has authored several articles, such as "The First Battle for Women's Suffrage in Nevada," with James Hulse, Nevada Historical Society Quarterly, 1995. ❖

recently at TMCC. As a Graduate Fellow, she worked at KNPB/Channel 5 for two years. She co-produced "Nevada Newsmakers" (Ch. 8) and "To the Point," a local PBS public affairs show.

Sylvia also has been involved in the production of documentaries, such as "Pathways: Disabilities, Culture and Technology," about disabled Hispanics.

Her most outstanding work was the one-hour PBS special "Making A Difference: A Celebration of Women in Politics," which first aired February 1995.

She is journalism representative to the Graduate Students Association, UNR's Academic Standards Committee and Status of Women Committee.

Sylvia is founder and president of COMMON GROUND, a nonprofit corporation that aims to

build bridges between and among individuals and organizations.

Other current community activities include membership in Washoe Health Systems, Washoe K-16 Council on Education Reform, Gold Hill Gathering, and the Professional Advisory Board of the School of Journalism.

Her past activities include Planned Parenthood (Board Member 1993-95), Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (President, 1995), Alliance of Latinas in Action & Solidarity (Director & Founding Member, 1994), Coalition For Legal Immigration (1995).

Sylvia has been the recipient of many scholarships and honors, including Nevada's First Women's Role Model Award given by Attorney General Frankie Sue del Papa (1995), the Robert Laxalt Writing Award, the School of Journalism's Outstanding Graduate Student Award and Outstanding Magazine Editor Award. ❖



Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales

Docu-Drama to be presented in Gardnerville Valley's main players in "votes for women" highlighted

"The Saga of Nevada Women's Suffrage - 1869-1920" will be presented on Friday, April 26, at 7:30 PM in the Carson Valley Cultural Center on Hwy 395 in Gardnerville. This one-hour dramatic presentation will highlight Carson Valley residents who played a significant role in the "votes for women" struggle in Nevada. Featured in "The Carson Valley Connection" are Linda Hardy as Dr. Eliza Cook, Joyce Hollister as Anna Craighead Frey, Kate Gardner as Alma Settelmeyer, Heidi Manlove as Lillie Jacobsen, and Marlena Hellwinkel and Patrick Hardy as narrators.

Adding a state and national perspective to the story will be Roslyn Works as Nevada Equal Franchise Society President Anne Martin, Richard Scott as power broker and anti-suffragist George Wingfield, Karen Chandler as a visiting suffragist from Boston, Margaret Foley, and Virginia Cain as national leader Carrie Chapman Catt.

Laurie Hickey will introduce the Acts and Nancy Scott will sing a suffrage song of the early 1900s. The drama was researched and script written by Jean



Roslyn Works as Ann Martin

Ford; Roslyn Works is Director. A reception will follow the performance.

Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and can be reserved by calling the Carson Valley Cultural

GROWTH

(continued from page 1)

NWHP's new individual members:

NORTH — Baker: Tonia Harvey. **Carson City:** Dee Bowman, Eileen Cohen, Harriett Cummings, Gertrude Gottschalk, Carol Hernandez, Mary Grace Kaljian, Joan Kerschner, Sarah Mersereau-Adler, Cindy Southerland, Robert Stewart, and Peggy Twedt. **Elko:** Victoria Heim, Cyd McMullen, Lisa Seymour and Penny Urriola. **Fallon:** Bunny Corkill, Doris Dwyer, Cecilly Jacobsen and Marion LaVoy. **Genoa:** Sonia DeHart. **Lovelock:** Judy Thompson. **Minden:** Marlena Hellwinkel. **Railroad Valley:** Lina Sharp. **Reno:** Emmy Bell, Sarah Britt, Tamera Buzick, Val Chappel, Pam Chapin, Betsy Clark, Kathleen Clemence, Phyllis Cudek, Bonnie Dahl, Esther Early, Missy Eason, Paula Eisenbarth, Mary Lee Fulkerson, Carroll Gardner, Janice Goodhue, Pat Gottschalk, Martha Gould, Lois Harry, Jean Hazen, Mary Ellen Horan, Anne Howard, Agnes Howell, Joyce McCarthy, Barbara McGlade-Taylor, Annemarie McTaggart, Carol Mueller, Jean Naystatt, Margaret Oakley, Nancy Oakley, Kathleen Ouma, Toni Payton, John Pollastro, June Rivers, Arlene Rossman, Elmer and Mary Rusco, Catherine Sanders, Sherry Sanders, Bobbie Talso, Sally Temen, Patricia Tripple, Frances Warden, Charlotte Wilcox, Judy Winzeler, Christina Wiseman. **Sparks:** Sarah "Kit" McGrath, Dennis Myers, Sandra Neese, Paula Saponaro. **Stateline:** Tracy Owen Chapman. **Winnemucca:** Marie Thompson. **SOUTH — Boulder City:** Diane Greene, Dennis McBride, Mimi Rodden, Gene Segerblom. **Henderson:** Deanna Beachley, Alice Brown, Carol Cohen, Margaret Heinle, Leslie Shipp. **Las Vegas:** Harold Abel, Verlee Caro Anderson, Jan Biggerstaff, Deanna Braunlin, Sheilaigh Brooks, Kate Butler, Gilda Castellini, Christina Chandler, Barbara Cloud, Robert Coffin, Barbara Crowell, Charlene Cruze-Fuller, Rosemary Denis, Renee Diamond, Nancy Eaton, Dorothy Eisenberg, Harold Erickson, Bernice Fischer, Carol Fitzgerald, Ruby Fowler, Rachel Gibson, Anne Golonka, Arley Ann Goris, Carolyn Grattan-Aiello, Michael Green, Sharon Ann Heflin, Dona Hoesly, Judith Ingham, Rose Irwin, Candance Kant, Edythe Katz-Yarchever, Ardis Kearns, Billie Kinney, Karen Layne, Florence McClure, Pat McNutt, Anne Macomber, Joyce Marshall, Sandra Metcalf, Rita Miller, Joyce Nelson-Leaf, Cynthia Ortiz, Diane Ortiz, Florence Ortiz, Patricia Pearson, Mary Kozlowski Pichot, Gayleen Roy, Margaret Quinn, Anne Reck, Ellen Reed, Twila Anne Rogers, Kim Russell, Marta Sorkin, Jean Spiller, Eva Stowers, Margo Thayer, Carol Thompson, Iris Torfason, Ethel Trione, Emilie Wanderer, Claytee White, Sheila Small White, Cate Wilman, Frankie Williams. **Overton:** Kathryn Olson.

Happy participation in NWHP. ❖

Basque women in Nevada: Who are they?

Bibliography of resources, oral histories to be gathered

What roles and contributions have Basque women made to Nevada culture? A newly formed research group is out to answer that question! Under the leadership of Linda White of the UNR Basque Studies Program and Dr. Jeri Echeverria, history professor at California State University, Fresno, plans are being formulated to prepare a bibliography of resources already available, gather additional data, including oral histories of Basque women, identify potential donors of personal papers and photographs to the Nevada Women's Archives, and circulate exhibits that depict Basque life in Nevada.

Participants in this project include Bob Blesse, Susan Searcy, and Victoria Yturalde of UNR Special Collections, Jill Berner of the Basque Studies Library, Jeanne Harrah of the University of Nevada Oral History Program, Janet Inda, Gretchen Osa, and Gloria Castillo of the Basque community, Jean Ford and Vikki Ford of the Nevada Women's History Project.

For further information, call Linda White at 784-4854.

HOLLIS' BIBLIOGRAPHY List can help to figure out "what is women's history"

In the last newsletter we promised to include a list of some references for further reading on Susan Hollis' topic — "What is Women's History?" Here is a bibliography, compiled by Susan, that may provide the foundation for further inquiry and discussion about what history really is. — the Editor.

Abel, Elizabeth and Emily K. Abel, eds. *Women, Gender and Scholarship*. Chicago: Chicago, 1983.

This collection of articles, originally published in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, includes Joan Kelly-Gadol's "The Social Relation of the Sexes: Methodological Implications of Women's History," a classic in the field.

Anderson, Bonnie S. and Judith P. Zinsser. *A History of Their Own: Women in Europe from Prehistory to the Present*. 2 vols. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.

This set of volumes falls into the category of identifying women in history, thus something of the add-in, though very necessary variety.

Bridenthall, Renate, Claudia Koontz, and Susan Stuard, eds. *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1987.

This volume is a classic, written for the first edition of this volume (1977) "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" Recommended as early reading. Identifies key issues. Marries theory with specific cases.

Carroll, Berenice A., ed. *Liberating Women's History: Theoretical and Critical Essays*. Urbana and Chicago: Illinois, 1976.

Brings together theoretical and critical essays.

Farnham, Christie, ed. *The Impact of Feminist Research in the Academy*. Bloomington: Indiana, 1987.

This collection crosses different fields. Two excellent theoretical essays: L. Lamphere's on "Gender in Anthropology" and Joan Wallach Scott's on rewriting women's history.

Gold, Penny Schine. *The Lady and The Virgin: Image, Attitude, and Experience in*

Historic first

Pioneering political women share legacy



From left to right: (top) Lynn Atcheson, Marge Sill, Anne Howard, Maya Miller, Jean Ford, and Tina Nappe; (center) Jan Evans; (bottom) Ruby Duncan and Sue Wagner. These nine women gathered on February 15, 1996 to discuss their experiences in social activism and political office. They were featured in the documentary "Making A Difference: A Celebration of Women in Politics," available from KNPB/Channel 5 - Reno.

Twelfth-Century France. Chicago; Chicago, 1985.

A true-eye opener for the beginner. Its specificity helps the understanding of theoretical issues. An early read.

Kleinberg, S. Jay, ed. *Retrieving Women's History: Changing Perceptions of the Role of Women in Politics and Society*. Providence: Berg Publishers, Inc./ UNESCO, 1988.

Part I of this collection includes a key essay by J. Wallach Scott: "The Problem of Invisibility." Part IV addresses the development of a history of women and its challenges. Includes "Breaking out of Invisibility: rewriting the history of women in Ancient India" by Uma Chakravarti and Kum Kum Roy.

Minnich, Elizabeth Kamarck. *Transforming Knowledge*. Philadelphia: Temple, 1990.

Necessary read. Identifies underlying assumptions about writing history.

O'Barr, Jean F., ed. *Women and a New Academy: Gender and Cultural Contexts*. Madison: U. of Wisconsin Press, 1989.

Good theoretical material; some outside the field.

Pantel, Pauline Schmitt, ed. *A History of Women: From Ancient Goddesses to Christian Saints*. Cambridge: Harvard, 1992.

Thought provoking. Essays written by culture and time period.

Scott, Joan W(allach). "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 91, #5 (December). 1053-1075.

Useful essay.

Zinsser, Judith P. *History and Feminism: A Glass Half Full*. New York: Twayne, 1993.

Another good volume on theory. Outlines issues in writing history. ❖

ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULE *Northern Nevada*

April 23, 1996

Speaker: Tammy Buzick
Topic: Eilly Orrum Bowers
Time: 4 PM

May 23, 1996

Speakers: Dr. Anton Sohn and
Phyllis Cudek
Topic: The Impact of Women
Physicians in Nevada
Time: 4 PM

June 25, 1996

Speaker: Janet White
Topic: Humboldt County
Time: 12 Noon

July 23, 1996

Speaker: Dr. Elmer Rusco
Topic: Myla Tupper Maynard
and the Unitarian
Church in Reno.
Time: 12 Noon

Sessions will be held in the private dining room of Cafe-Ten-O-One, University Inn, 10th & Virginia, Reno.

For 12 Noon meetings purchase lunch (\$6) at the door.

Late afternoon schedule is set to accommodate school teachers.

Contact: Carrie Townley-Porter, Research Roundtable Coordinator, at 857-2050, for answers to questions or to volunteer to be a speaker.

Extra benefit for those who join NWHP now

Dues paid this year between March 1 and June 30 give members up to four extra months of membership.

The NWHP Steering Committee has set up the membership year to coincide with NWHP's fiscal year, running from July 1 to June 30.

Thus, renewal of membership for those who joined on or after March 1, 1996 won't be due until June 30, 1997.

Renewals for all individuals and organizational memberships paid prior to March 1 are due on July 1, 1996. ❖

Archives contribution invaluable *Nevada women's history collected and preserved*

For the last four years the Nevada Women's Archives has been collecting and preserving primary source materials about women's history in Nevada.

The Archives was established in 1992 after Jean Ford approached Bob Blesse and Susan Searcy of Special Collections with the concept for a repository of documents and artifacts about women and their activities.

The idea was triggered when Ford discovered that there was little primary research material about Nevada women and women's issues while preparing courses she taught at the university. At that time she was acting director of the Women's Studies Department.

Today, students, faculty and researchers can access a variety of collections about individuals and organizations. The Archives project is housed in the Special Collections Department at Getchell Library in the University of Nevada, Reno.

Individual collections in Reno include those of Eva Adams, Thelma Calhoun, Joanne de Longchamps, Mary Gojack, Nancy Gomes, Jackalyn Laxalt, Verna Patterson, Marjorie Russell, Ann Scott, Alice Smith, Maude Sawin Taylor, and Margaret Wheat.

Materials about organizations range from the American Women's Volunteer Service, Gardnerville Literary Women's Club, Governor's Conference for Women, National League of Nevada Pen Women, Nevada Cowbells, Nevada Federation of Republican Women, Nevada Federation of Women's Clubs, Nevada Press Women, Nevadans for E.R.A., Twentieth Century Club, Women's Relief Corps, to the Women's Silver League of Austin.

Archivist Susan Searcy processes the women's collections. A manuscript curator, Victoria Yturralde, will assist in the processing of additional collections.

Two years ago the project was expanded to include the Special Collections Department at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Carol Corbett works

as a part-time archivist. Graduate students process the collections under Corbett's supervision.

At UNLV one finds collections about women such as Eileen Brookman, Florence Cahlan, Cynthia Cunningham, Thalia Dondero, Flora Dungan, Lilly Fong, Doris Hancock, Grace Hayes, Alice Key, Celesta Lowe, Byrd Sawyer, and Helen J. Stewart.

Along with these individual collections, there is a wealth of material on women's clubs, societies, and organizations. These collections include the American War Mothers, Daughters of the American Revolution, Las Vegas Porcelain Artists, League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley, Mesquite Club, National Organization for Women, Navy Mothers Club of America, Nevada Nurses Association, Nevada Poetry Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Women's Political Caucus, and the U-Wah-Un Study Club.

Processed collections can be accessed from anywhere in Nevada and the world through the Nevada Educational Online Network (NEON) catalogue and through the Internet.

Advisory Committees to the Women's Archives at UNR and UNLV review work in progress and identify potential collections as well as potential sources of funding. Funding for the project comes from donations, grants, and institutional support of the university libraries. The committees are composed of faculty, staff, and community leaders.

Ford performs acquisition and outreach work for the Nevada Women's Archives project. She contacts women in all areas of the state in search of suitable materials. She is currently completing a statewide survey of libraries and museums to ascertain what archival materials about Nevada women already exist; her survey results will

(continued on pg. 11, col. 3)

NEWS

NWHP launched in the South *Temporary steering committee formed*

More than seventy women and men attended the inaugural meeting of the Nevada Women's History Project, Southern Region on Saturday, March 2, 1996 at the Elks Lodge in Las Vegas. Jean Ford, Chair of the Northern Region, presented an overview of the group's organizational structure and current projects. Dr. Joanne Goodwin of UNLV History Department, Joyce Nelson-Leaf of the UNLV Educational Equity Resource Center, and Jerome Herrman, Multicultural Education Specialist for Clark County School District spoke briefly on their projects and invited all to participate.

A highlight of the morning was a "Living History Showcase" featuring Dr. Sue Fawn Chung as Mrs. Loy Ford, a Chinese woman living in Tonopah about 1900; Mike Prince, cowboy poet with tales of Nevada women on the range; Verlee Anderson, telling stories as Mother Goose, and Kim Russell as Sojourner Truth. Lori Lippman Brown introduced the Showcase performers.

Those present were enthusiastic about the creation of an active Southern Regional group within NWHP. Seventeen women agreed to serve on a temporary steering committee which met March 20 and chose the leadership that will serve until a formal election in June.

Southern Regional Chair is Leslie Shipp. She will be assisted by Ellen Reed, Vice-chair and Project Review Committee Chair, Joyce King as Secretary, and Eva Stowers as Treasurer. The Publicity chair is held by Ann Henderson and Membership has Ethel Trione as Chair. Ruby Fowler heads the Program Committee and will be Newsletter liaison. Historian is Carol Corbett. The Finance Committee Chair is yet to be determined.

Other members assisting in various tasks are Verlee Anderson, Rachel Gibson, Joyce Nelson-Leaf, Mary

Kozlowski Pichot, Mimi Rodden, Twila Rogers, Jean Spiller, and Frankie Williams. Renee Diamond has been designated by the Nevada Women's Fund as their representative on NWHP's Southern Regional Steering Committee.

A special mailing for members of the Southern Region will announce dates and other details of the first Research Roundtable, the formation of an Oral History Network, and a workshop on preserving family and/or organizational records, photos, scrapbooks, and other historical documents.

As of March 2, there were 75 individual members, three active organizational members and seven associate members in the Southern Region. Until a Southern Nevada office address and phone is established, new member dues and applications will continue to be received at NWHP, 1048 N. Sierra #A, Reno, NV 89503.

For more information call Leslie Shipp at 565-3288 or leave a voice mail message at 651-4124. ❖

NWHP "Suffragists" to be part of Helldorado Parade

NWHP has applied to be an official entry in the May 11 Helldorado Parade in Las Vegas, celebrating the 76th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote.

The Project will have a flatbed truck, a large banner, signs honoring Nevada's women suffragists. NWHP is looking for members and friends willing to ride or walk and wear period costumes (pre-1920) or Nevada suffrage t-shirts (available in several sizes and bright colors for \$10).

Those interested in participating should call Barbara Crowell at 431-5677 evenings or fax her at 455-6405. ❖

Inclusion of women's history in the state's schools investigated

Under the leadership of retired teacher Bobbie Talso, NWHP's K-16 Status Review Committee is gathering information from teachers about the ways in which the roles of women and specific individuals are included in educational curricula in Nevada.

Nevada history is formally taught in grades four, seven, and eight as well as in government and history courses in high school and college. However, the committee's initial investigation of the extent to which women are included in such instruction is targeting the area of Social Studies.

This project helps implement NWHP's mission statement by reviewing the ways in which Nevada women are included in accounts of the state's history.

The committee is also investigating the kinds of literary, visual, and audio resources libraries offer students and teachers about Nevada women's history. One of the outcomes of this review will be the compilation of a comprehensive bibliography that will be made available to librarians and Social Studies teachers.

Additionally, the committee will conduct a study of policies used by those who develop curricula to assure that women are presented in accurate and realistic ways.

In order to accomplish these tasks, Talso says, the committee requires the participation of interested individuals who are willing to contribute ideas, talent and, above all, time.

The committee meets May 1, at 4 PM in McQueen High School. To become involved, call 784-1268 or contact Bobbie Talso at 825-3452. ❖

WAY TO GO!

➔ Kathleen Noneman. The Virginia City *Comstock Chronicle* has reprinted Kathleen's article, "Laura M. Tilden: Nevada's First Woman Attorney."

➔ Janet White. Her article "The Genesis of NWHP" appears in the April 1996 issue of *Women's History Network News*, published by the National Women's History Project. ❖

More NEWS

Del Papa to speak at Spring seminar

Nevada Women's Fund offers morning of excitement

"Women of Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow" will be the focus of the 11th Nevada Women's Fund Spring seminar. NWHP will provide the historical perspective by presenting entertaining insight into several characters of Nevada's past, including Mrs. Myron (Jane) Lake, Anne Martin, and George Wingfield.

Nevada State Attorney General, Frankie Sue del Papa, will speak at the event scheduled for Saturday, April 20th from 9 AM to 1 PM. Del Papa and Alison May, CEO for Patagonia, Inc. will share their keys to success during the seminar, held in the Furniture Store of Macy's. Pre-med and Health studies major Melanie Williams will tell what the Fund's scholarship has meant to her.

Entertainment will consist of a "retro" fashion show, followed by champagne and chocolates. Estee Lauder will provide make-up tips. Prize drawings will be held throughout the day, including two \$500 Shopping Sprees, courtesy of Macy's. The event begins with a continental breakfast and harp music by Beverly Colgan.

Tickets are \$35 (\$25 tax-deductible). Advanced registration is required. Seating is limited to 500. For information and reservations call NWF at 786-2335. ♦

Repository wants local women artists

The Nevada Art Research Project wants information on Nevada women and men artists who have worked in visual media since 1850.

Jim McCormick, retired art professor and founder of NARP, says the project is looking for amateur or professional persons who have done work in architecture, crafts and folk arts, graphic design, architectural landscape, photography/film and the traditional fine arts, such as drawing, ceramics, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

McCormick says the repository, which makes its home in the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, includes resumes, selected color slides and reproductions of the artist's work; catalogs and mailers from exhibitions, as well as articles and reviews from newspapers and periodicals.

Future plans for the six-year old program includes the publication of a hardcover directory of Nevada artists. The NARP files already hold information on 1,800 men and women.

"Such a repository will serve scholars, writers, and others interested in the visual arts," says McCormick. He may be reached at 323-5646. ♦

FIRST

(continued from page 2)

As is usually the case with historic firsts, the determination of this "first" can be changed by semantics. Yes, the school trustees were the first female candidates chosen in an election in which both men and women cast votes. But women were elected to offices during years when only men were doing the voting.

In 1889, the Nevada Legislature sent to the all-male electorate several proposed constitutional amendments, one of which specifically authorized women to hold the elective offices of school trustee and superintendent. For reasons that are not quite clear, this amendment was approved with little discussion or fanfare.

Some women noticed it, however, and in 1890, Mrs. Josephine Taylor (R) and Mrs. S.S. (Susan) Miller (D) were elected School Superintendents for Elko and Humboldt Counties, respectively. In Lander County, all of

*... women were
elected to offices
during years
when only men
were doing the
voting.*

Dana Bennett

Committee forms to prepare slate for June elections

Beverly Hubbard (829-1336), Chair, Betsy Gledhill (849-0842), and Kitty Rowe Roberts (747-2003), who serve as the Nominating Committee, are preparing a slate of leaders for consideration at the NWHP Northern Region Business Meeting in June.

The nominations will be for Vice-chair, Treasurer, and two Members-at-large for two-year terms to the Northern Region Steering Committee. The Chair, Secretary, and two other Members-at-large will continue another year.

The Committee welcomes your recommendations. The slate will be announced in the notice of the June business meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be called for as part of the election process. ♦

the trustees elected in the Galena and Lewis Districts were women, and in White Pine County, the Hamilton district elected a female trustee.

Now, it seems that one of these school officials can be declared the first woman elected in Nevada. But additional review of the election results questions this finding.

In 1888, Mrs. Lewis was elected to the White River District's Board of School Trustees in Nye County. In 1882, Helen Bain won the race for trustee in the Gold Run District of Humboldt County.

These women were elected *before* they were legally authorized to hold office and *before* they had the franchise! Barring the discovery of additional information (qualifications are always necessary in this business), *Helen Bain*, 114 years ago, became The First Woman Elected in Nevada. ♦

BAKER

(continued from page 4)

Although she was now a state officer, Baker was not required to surrender her seat on the Sparks School Board. She continued as chair of that body until early 1920. Most likely, this accomplishment makes Baker the first, and perhaps only, woman to hold two elective offices at one time.

Her term as Regent expired in 1918. In July of that year, she announced that she would not seek re-election. She explained that she did not have the time necessary to devote to the office. The *Reno Evening Gazette* did not provide much comment on her term, other than noting that she had been one of the Regents who had called for the resignation of then-president of the university, A. W. Hendrick.

Baker did not run for statewide office again. In fact, she may not have run for any office again. She was not re-elected

to the Sparks school board in 1920; it is unknown if she was defeated or did not run.

The Baker family moved to Palo Alto, California, in 1950, after Fred retired from the railroad. On July 12, 1957, Edna Baker died there after a long illness. She was 81 years old. The obituary in the *Nevada Appeal* of Carson City remembered that Baker had been "long active in Nevada political circles and women's service organizations."

Baker was followed on the Board of Regents by Eunice Hood who served from 1918 to 1926. Twelve years later, Anna Wardin soundly defeated incumbent George Wingfield for a seat on the board. These three women were the only female Regents during the time in which the offices were filled by a statewide election. Edna C. Baker, a true Nevada pioneer, opened the door for these and other women to run in, and win, statewide elections. ❖

ARCHIVES

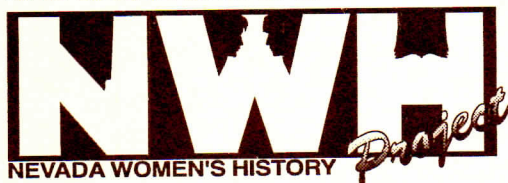
(continued from page 8)

appear in *Nevada Women's History: a Guide to Primary Sources*.

Eventually the Nevada Women's Archives will be a coalition of Nevada repositories (archives, repositories for manuscripts, libraries, historical societies, and museums) that collect, or are interested in collecting, materials about Nevada women, women's organizations, and women's issues. The coalition's participating institutions will work together to assist each other in all phases of the acquisition and processing of collections.

The Nevada Women's History Project will be working closely with the Archives to further the research of women's history in Nevada.

For further information or to suggest potential donors to the Archives, contact Jean Ford in Reno at 784-1268 or Carol Corbett in Las Vegas at 895-3954. ❖



NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

A STATE-WIDE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

1048 N. Sierra #A ❖ Reno, Nevada 89503

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to any woman or man willing to support the mission, purposes and policies of NWHP. There are two main membership categories. Organizational representatives may also join as individual members and state appropriate area of desired involvement. Please mark applicable category and area of involvement. Mail today with check payable to NWHP.

Name (Individual or Organization): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone:(day) _____ (eve) _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Voice mail _____

Organization President or Director: _____

No. of Members: _____ Representative: _____

Other Phone:(day) _____ (eve) _____ Fax: _____

COMMITTEE (check all that interest you)

(Individuals)

- ☐ Administrative/office assistance
- ☐ Finance, fundraising
- ☐ Legislative action
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Newsletter Advertising
- ☐ Program planning
- ☐ Project review
- ☐ Speaker's Bureau
- ☐ Publicity, PR, media contact
- ☐ Other: _____

PROJECT & ACTIVITY (check all that interest you)

(Individuals)

- ☐ Archives: papers, records, photos, etc.
- ☐ Audiovisual materials: posters, slides, videos
- ☐ Clearinghouse for information
- ☐ Education: conferences, seminars, workshops
- ☐ Living history: drama, Chautauqua
- ☐ Museums: artifacts, exhibits, programming
- ☐ Oral history: tapes, manuscripts, videos
- ☐ Publications: authoring, editing, publishing
- ☐ Research: registry, roundtable
- ☐ K-16 instructional materials
- ☐ TV/radio documentaries, talk shows

CATEGORY (check all that apply)

- I** ☐ INDIVIDUAL
\$15/yr (voting)
- IIa** ☐ ORGANIZATION
\$50/yr (voting)
- IIb** ☐ CORPORATE SPONSOR
\$250/yr (non-voting)
- IIc** ☐ ASSOCIATE
(gov't agency or institution)
No Dues (non-voting)

- ☐ Tours, field trips for adults & children
- ☐ Other: _____

IN-KIND ASSISTANCE (check all that apply)

(Organizations, Agencies, Institutions)

- ☐ Copying/printing
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Graphics, layout, etc
- ☐ Meeting space
- ☐ Postage
- ☐ Short-term volunteering
- ☐ Program sponsorship
- ☐ Other: _____

Of INTEREST to you

UP-COMING EVENTS

- ❖ Nevada History Day: April 13, Las Vegas, and April 20, Reno. For details, call Nevada Humanities Committee, 784-6587. A new feature this year is a cash prize from Zonta of Greater Reno (one of our members) for the best project regarding a Nevada woman in history.
- ❖ Churchill Co. Museum: April 14 exhibit of work of woman photographer named Freeman. Paulie Alles gave notice of this at our January 27 meeting; call her for details.
- ❖ Friday, May 3 - Sunday, May 5, 1996: Southwest Oral History Conference, Boomtown Hotel, Las Vegas. For info, call 310/825-7524.
- ❖ Monday, June 3, 1996: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Nevada Women's History Project Annual Membership Meeting, Washoe Co. Health Dept. Auditorium, 9th and Wells, Reno. For info, call 784-1268.
- ❖ Wednesday, June 12, 1996: 1:00-5:00 p.m., Workshop on Nevada Women's Archives led by Carol Corbett and Jean Ford at Berg Hall, Great Basin College, Elko. No charge; sponsored by Nevada Libraries Continuing Education Committee. To make reservation, call 753-2221.
- ❖ Sunday, July 14 - Thursday, July 18, 1996: Teacher Training Workshop sponsored

by National Women's History Project, Rohnert Park, 50 miles north of San Francisco. For info, call 707/738-6000.

- ❖ Monday, July 15 - Thursday, July 18, 1996: Great Basin Chautauqua, Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno. For full schedule of events, call Nevada Humanities Committee, 784-6587.
- ❖ Friday, July 19, 1996: 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., "Women and the Undiscovered West," a guided cultural history tour to Bowers Mansion, Carson City and Virginia City. Bring brown bag lunch. For info on fee and to place reservation, call Nevada Humanities Committee, 784-6587. (Final stop of tour will be event listed below.)
- ❖ Friday, July 19, 1996: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Reception and Opening of new Changing Gallery exhibit on Nevada Women's Suffrage at Nevada Historical Society Museum, 1650 N. Virginia, Reno. No charge. For information, call 688-1190.
- ❖ Saturday, July 20, 1996: 6:00 p.m., Seneca Falls Awards Dinner sponsored by the Capitol Women's Political Caucus, Carson City Nugget. Help honor their 1995 Woman of Power, Pioneer Woman, and Feisty Feminist. For cost and other info, call 885-1909. ❖

WELCOME TO NWHP!

Toni Dewey (Denver, Colorado),
Kathleen Worley (Portland, Oregon), and
Ann Jilg (Pasadena, California). ❖

Around the USA

The history of women's roles in the American West is the central concern of a newly developed museum.

The Women of the West Museum, located in Boulder, Colorado, is dedicated to tracing and interpreting the multicultural history and contributions of western women from earliest times to the present.

In development since 1992, under initiative from Toni Dewey, former vice-president of Motorola, Inc., WOW's state-of-the-art building will house a library, archives and research center. 303-499-9110. ❖

A THANK YOU NOTE TO:

- ✉ University Inn, Reno, for the use of their meeting facilities
- ✉ Carroll Gardner, Charlotte Wilcox, Bobbie Talso, Linda Wyckoff, and Barbara Spring for their assistance with mailings and other office tasks
- ✉ Verlee Anderson and all the Delta Kappa Gamma members who helped with balloons, registration, etc. at the March 2 Las Vegas meeting.
- ✉ Paulie Alles and Kit Miller, photographers.
- ✉ Jeff Kintop, Tom King, and Jeanne Harrah for sharing their expertise in oral history and archives preservation. ❖

Nevada Women's History Project

A Delegate Agency of the Nevada Women's Fund

NEWS

1048 N. Sierra #A ❖ Reno, Nevada 89503

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**Annual Membership
Meeting
June 3, 1996**

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I S S U E