

# NWHP NEWS

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY *Project*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Note .....	2
Jean Ford Women's Studies Fund .....	2
Great Basin Book Festival .....	2
Update on the NWHP Web Site .....	3
From \$5 to the Jean Ford Special Collection for Citi- zen Action and Commu- nity Building .....	4
NWHP Forum Presents "Startle Yourself" .....	5
A True Community .....	5
Carrie's Corner .....	5
Tea With Nevada's First Lady, Sandy Miller .....	6
Over 400 Books in Book Assessment Project .....	6
Jean Had Another Vision Monitor Pass Tour .....	7
Silver State Sampler Tour, Event to Remember .....	8
Trip to Berlin .....	9
Two Scholarships Named For Jean .....	9
Hannah Clapp Lecture Series Begins in Carson City .....	10
State Parks Remembers Jean Ford .....	10
Jean Ford Research Grant Fund .....	11
Calendar & Potpourri ..	11
Research Registry .....	11
Welcome New Members .....	12



### NWHP's November 1998 Newsletter Dedicated to Memory of Founder, JEAN FORD

Jean Ford, our beloved founder, passed away at her home in Carson City on August 26, 1998. She had battled pancreatic cancer for over a year. She was 68.

Jean continued to be an active force throughout her illness. At her memorial service held in Washoe Valley August 30th, it was stated that, if anything, she became even more productive during that time in her rush to complete unfinished projects and to create new ones.

With Nevada Women's Lobby, Jean helped plan the joint conference held in Las Vegas last March. She and Vikki Ford (no relation) completed her oral history. Together with volunteers, Jean went through each of thousands of slides she had of her many trips throughout Nevada, labeled and categorized them, for donation to the State Library for research purposes. Together

## Women on the Trail: From the 49ers to the 99ers— Second Biennial Nevada Women's History Conference

### CALL FOR PRESENTERS

We invite proposals for presentations of two kinds. The proposals should be no more than one page in length, accompanied by a resumé of the proposed presenter, and no more than one page in length.

Send your proposal for presentation no later than December 14, 1998, to: NWHP, PO Box 313, Carson City, NV, 89702-0313

All those submitting proposals will be notified of their status no later than January 1, 1999. Presenters will be selected on the basis of creativity and the relevance of their topic to Nevada women's history.

All presenters will do-

**WHERE—**  
The Sands Regency  
Reno, Nevada

**WHEN—**  
Friday evening,  
February 26,  
Saturday, February 27,  
& Sunday morning,  
February 28, 1999

nate their time and talent. However, they may distribute cards or advertising regarding their services at the presentation and in the exhibit area. ♦

(See page 3 for Proposal  
Outline Application Form.)

with UNR Friends of the Library and NWHP, Jean organized and helped plan the Silver State Sampler Tour.

Working with the Special Collections staff at the UNR Library, she finished proofing her *Nevada Women's History - A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in Nevada Repositories*, which has now been published and is available for purchase.

Visits with her daughters, grandchildren, other family members and many friends

were an important part of her last year's agenda.

Included in this edition of NWHP News are articles from several entities to whom Jean and her family had requested donations be made in her memory in lieu of flowers. NWHP plans to continue yearly Silver State Sampler Tours in her honor as well as other events. Jean Ford is greatly missed. However, our members are dedicated to making sure her legacy continues. ♦



## Editor's Note:

Like many longtime residents of southern Nevada, I watched Jean Ford's community and political accomplishments unfold in newspapers and on television. I voted for her and met her casually for the first time sometime in the early '80s when I was a partner in newsmen 'n hamilton advertising.

I was looking forward to getting to know her personally when I accepted this position as editor of the NWHP News. But it was not to be. As is often the case, timing is everything.

Yet, in editing and placing in this issue the many tributes to her memory, I feel I have come to know her enough to know what a terrific friendship I missed, and to appreciate the fine example of accomplishment one woman can be.

*C.*

### *The Nevada Women's History Project 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.*

## Jean Ford Women's Studies Fund

The Women's Studies Program at UNR is fortunate to be the beneficiary of the Jean Ford Women's Studies Fund, endowed last year within a few weeks of its inception, and proving (as if there were any doubt) the depth of feeling that exists in the community for Jean Ford.

The Director of Women's Studies, Dr. Jennifer Ring, worked closely with Jean Ford to design the fund in a way that would ensure the fulfillment of her vision for Women's Studies.

A stipend of one thousand dollars is now available each year; it was Jean's explicit wish that it be used whenever possible to permit students of Women's Studies to complete their course of study at UNR.

The recipient, who must carry a major or minor in Women's Studies, may use the award to pay for registration or materials

needed to continue progress toward completion of her or his education, or to fund a research project undertaken as part of her or his work in Women's Studies at UNR.

In the absence of a qualified recipient in any given year, the Women's Studies program may use the stipend to enhance the program's resources, thereby indirectly benefiting Women's Studies students.

This fund, bearing Jean's name, provides a continuing opportunity to teach future generations about who Jean Ford was, and what she contributed both to the state of Nevada and specifically to Women's Studies at UNR. We will, in this way, keep Jean's memory and legacy alive at UNR. ♦

— Dr. Jennifer Ring  
Director, UNR Women's Studies Program

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Editor: Carolyn Hamilton Proctor

## Great Basin Book Festival

Saturday, September 26, 1998

The day was mostly wet and dreary, but inside the Nevada Women's History Project booth, shared with Isabel Espinoza and *Nevada Magazine*, there were laughs and smiles and the selling of books!

We sold our new postcards and logo pencils, arranged for by Kay Sanders, and our 1999 *Nevada Magazine* Calendar. Orders were taken for the oral history of Jean Ford and for the coverlet which adorned the back wall of the booth.

We sold books from UNR Press, thanks to arrangements and toting and carrying by Linda Wykoff. We were also given the opportunity to sell games and books, thanks to Beverly Hubbard and Mary Ann Convis.

Additional sales people were Kay Sanders, Pat Tripple, Helen Oster, Beverly Hubbard, and Carrie Porter as Helen J. Stewart.

Kathleen Noneman and Nancy Holmes were in charge of set up and tear down, but everyone pitched in to help, especially when a downpour occurred just as we were loading the cars!

Thank you all, for a great day at Wingfield Park for our second adventure at the Great Basin Book Festival. ♦

—Nancy Holmes

# Update on the NWHP Web Site

Over a year ago, Jean Ford had the vision to participate in a project at UNR that resulted in the development of a web site for the NWHP.

Jean and Sally Wilkins worked long and hard to coordinate the site and input the data and graphics. Larry Gilbert and Dave Ragsdale at UNR were indispensable with the technical side. All of this was done at almost no cost to NWHP.

The web site was—and is—a very ambitious project. Originally we planned to post over 70 biographies of notable Nevada women as well as an annotated bibliography. Women were chosen who represented all of the counties as well as various ethnic groups, backgrounds, and interests.

A conscious effort was made to include historic women who may not be as immediately recognizable as a Hanna Clapp or Anne Martin. It is expected, however, that biographies for these Nevada history giants will be added eventually.

The biographies came from various sources, some written from scratch by dedicated authors, others from previously written papers or articles. Currently, the site features 38 biographies; others are completed, but are not yet on-line.

The site, although unfinished, is a wonderful resource for researchers, students, teachers, and others interested in Nevada and women's history. NWHP has heard from many people who

like and appreciate the site.

However, the site has become stagnant. Dana Bennett kept up with it, but it turned out to be too much for her at the same time she was starting her own business.

Meantime, changes at UNR necessitate finding a new home for the web site and a new technical advisor, as Dave Ragsdale may not be available much longer. It could be moved to another department within the university, but that requires the coordinator to be affiliated with the university.

If the site is moved to a non-university web server, it may become necessary for NWHP to pay monthly charges.

Moving the site and updating the information will require a significant amount of time, but, once established, it can be easily maintained.

Clearly, NWHP's web site has reached a crossroads. Basic decisions about location and maintenance must be made, and it may be time to review the vision for the site in order to specify and articulate our goals and plans for this project.

A committee to address these questions is being established. If you wish to participate in this important effort, call Carrie Townley Porter at the NWHP office. ♦

—Dana Bennett

# Women on the Trail: From the 49ers to the 99ers— Second Biennial Nevada Women's History Conference

## APPLICATION FOR PROPOSAL

Category A: Nevada Women's History

Length: 45-60 minutes

Date: Saturday, February 27, 1999

Name of proposer \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of presenter/s (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate type of presentation you propose:

☐ Paper read/summarized by one individual

☐ Dialogue between two or more individuals

☐ Dramatic monologue

☐ Lecture with slides or video

☐ Panel presentation/ discussion

☐ Other (Attach a typewritten description of the focus of your presentation in no more than 100 words.)

Will you have handouts for your audience? \_\_\_\_\_

"How-To" Category: workshops, relating to researching, writing, publishing, producing Nevada women's history.

Length: 45-60 minutes or 2 1/2 hours

Date: Saturday, February 27, 1999

Name of proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of presenter/s (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a typewritten description of the focus of your workshop in no more than 100 words.

Will you have handouts for your audience? \_\_\_\_\_

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW FOR CONFERENCE COMMITTEES!

Contact:

Holly Van Valkenburgh, Conference Chair

Telephone (702) 884-4246; fax (702) 884-4247

e-mail: hovava@juno.com

# From \$5 to the Jean Ford Special Collection for Citizen Action and Community Building

On December 11, 1997, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Board of Trustees unanimously voted to establish the Jean Ford Special Collection for Citizen Action and Community Building as a part of the Clark County library in Las Vegas to honor Jean's devotion to Nevada and her special service to the library users of Clark County.

When Jean moved to Las Vegas in 1962, there was no library service for 80,000 people who lived in the unincorporated part of Clark County because it was not a traditional service for the county and therefore was not being funded through taxes.

Jean learned that, since she lived in unincorporated Clark County, a Las Vegas City Library card would cost her \$5. Also, she would need to have a member of the established Las Vegas community vouch for her good character. This meant newcomers and their children could not enjoy library service until they were established in the community, until they had been there long enough to know someone who could vouch for them.

Working with the Universalist Unitarian Church, Jean was able to form a committee to start a new library.

They soon discovered they had to obtain signatures on a petition guaranteeing a rise in the property tax to fund the new library. At least 51 percent of the total value of the area had to be guaranteed for the Clark County Commission and the state

legislature to approve the establishment of an independent taxing district which would support the expense of a library.

Countless hours were spent at the assessor's office poring over tax records, drafting a proper petition, getting it into an acceptable form, and seeking people to sign it. This was not easy because the signers were saying "yes" to raising their own taxes.

Soon, Jean's little band of workers realized that getting 51 percent of the owners of such a vast area as Clark County might not be do-able. They went to then civil district attorney, Jon Porter, who suggested the group work toward changing the law to make the percentage more manageable.

Now our intrepid band of library enthusiasts had to learn their way around the political and governmental arena! They succeeded in getting the legislature to change the 51 percent to ten percent. It took them another year to collect the new total number of signatures needed.

A.A. McCollum, manager of the Sahara Hotel, was the person who put the petition over the top. His commitment to raise the taxes on the Sahara set such a good example for the community that others thought if the Sahara could do it, they would, too.

Since then, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, free and open to all who wish to use its services, has become one of the most vi-

brant and useful resources in our state. The district circulates millions of books and answers hundreds of thousands of questions each year. It has remained at the center of the intellectual and recreational life of the community. (The district annexed the Las Vegas Library some years ago.)

In establishing the Jean Ford Special Collections, the library district has sought to pay tribute to the things that were the lessons and tools of Jean's highly productive life. Included with her books and papers is the Nevada History Collection and The Grants and Funding Resource Center.

Jean had a life-long love

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."***  
- Margaret Mead

of libraries, a continuing fascination with the process of coalition building. She certainly affected Nevada history, and she was a great grass roots fund-raiser! Jean brought the gift of knowledge, life, and love to the people of Clark County, and on May 31, 1998, the library board of trustees, together with the combined staffs of the district, created a formal reception and program to show her how the people felt.

Honored guests, besides the board, included Senator Richard Bryan; Mrs. Landra Reid (wife of Harry Reid, Nevada's senior senator); Joan Kerschner, Nevada state librarian; Carl Rowe, acting director of the library district; Monteria Hightower, regional library administrator and chair of the committee who planned the event; Francis Hollis, Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries; Sophena Karim, president, League of Women Voters; and Larry Struve, who keynoted the evening with his speech, *The Importance of Participatory Democracy in Nevada*.

Jean Ford died August 26, 1998, at her home in Carson City, Nevada. She is survived by her daughters, Carla and Janet and their families, a host of loving friends, and her considerable, indelible achievements.

It was Jean's hope that the material she gave would become a growing repository of materials of a how-to nature. The library plans to add to the collection over the years, including materials from many of the organizations for whom she worked and in which she believed.

The Jean Ford Special Collections at the Clark County Library is open every day that the library is open. The collections accept financial, political, organizational, or volunteer time as donations. To participate, call Ellen Reed, senior librarian, special collections at (702) 733-3642. ♦

-Ellen Reed

# NWH Forum Presents "Startle Yourself"

Add a life to your years!  
Have hunger pangs? Cravings to be real?

Be a banquet, participate, incorporate yourself into a walking legend/story teller/memory walk/letter writer/dreamer. You be the stylist!

Katharine Hale, self-described "life guide", will open "Startle Yourself" on Saturday with a "time line exercise" to begin our adventures. Katharine is a self-made woman, educator, tutor, mentor, co-founder of Citizen Alert, "Writies" and creator of "Train Your Brain".

RSVP, share comments, etc. with Susan Roberts (702) 677-2423.

Look for the "Not Necessarily History" book

group to begin after the first of the year.

Guests are encouraged to become NWHF members or make a donation.

—Susan Roberts

.....  
• When: Saturday, November 21, 2-4:30 p.m. (thereafter to meet monthly.)

• Where: YWCA, 1301 Valley Road, Reno, NV, Room 6

• What to bring: yourself, pen, pencil, paper, two dollar donation or one dozen yummy cookies to share, and courage—all you can find.

• Why: If you don't, who will? Have fun, share experiences, support and encouragement, to do what we all have been thinking!

.....

## A True Community

After decades of receiving from Jean, the community that had formed around her recognized a need to extend her physical strength so she could complete her final projects.

People came together to provide meals, house cleaning, yard maintenance and whatever else was needed. Jean was taken to visit her favorite Nevada rural communities where she spoke at events and met with many friends for the last time. There was always someone to take Jean to meet with her primary doctor and obtain required treatments and medications. A torrent of flowers, books, letters, cards and gifts arrived at her home in Carson City.

It seems that Jean Ford

was always surrounded by groups of people working on creative and productive projects. Through her guidance, influence, and persistence, many of these groups came into existence, grew and flourished.

After years of drawing energy from Jean, Nevadans tried to return to her some of that energy. When people worked together to serve her needs and help complete projects, they connected not only to Jean but to each other.

Nevada has lost a truly great woman, but Jean's legacy of committed people working to improve the quality of life in our state continues.

—Beverly Hubbard

## Carrie's Corner

by Carrie Townley Porter, state coordinator

The past three months have been busy ones for NWHF. We were all saddened at losing Jean Ford. How wonderful it is, though, that she was able to finish her oral history and the guide to Nevada women's history collections in state repositories, both now available for our members.

In working with the Fourth Ward School in Virginia City, I have already had occasion to use Jean's book on the collections in the state.

Jean's legacy continues in the numerous projects undertaken by our group. The Sandy Miller tea in Las Vegas was a high point in Las Vegas events and was a beautiful and elegant affair.

I regret that I was unable to attend because of my obligations as a tour coordinator for the exciting first annual Silver State Sampler. How significant it was that Jean designed the trip.

We filled two buses and packed so many experiences into the four days that before the first day was finished, several people asked when they could sign up for next year's trip.

This trip was my first appearance as Helen Jane Stewart (The First Lady of Las Vegas). Thanks to expert costume designer and seamstress, Paulette Grune, my 1884 traveling garment was constructed just as women of that time made their clothing.

My second costume, for the older Helen Jane Stewart, was found in vintage clothing stores in Ft. Bragg, Cali-

fornia, and was authentic 1920's era.

Now that I have these two costumes, I intend to continue to participate in events where living history is performed. Those of you who have not become involved in representing a Nevada historical woman should give it some thought. It's great fun.

Holly Van Valkenburgh and her committee are making great progress on our second biennial Nevada Women's History Conference. Mark your calendars and plan to attend; it promises to be a great weekend.

Our coverlet featuring historical Nevada women has been a great success. There are few left from the first order of 100.

Isabel Espinosa has begun her fall programs in the Hannah Clapp Lecture Series in Carson City, which continue to draw a large attendance.

Susan Roberts is restructuring what formerly was known as the Reno Research Roundtable and has some very interesting plans.

Once again, our office is moving. We will be sharing space with the Nevada Women's Fund. The quarters are very nice. We will have the use of their copy machine, kitchen and telephones.

We are an agency of the Nevada Women's Fund so, when we were asked to move in with their staff, we considered the move to be a win-win situation. By the time you read this, we should have the move behind us. ♦

# Tea With Nevada's First Lady, Sandy Miller

After a year of preparation, "Tea With Nevada's First Lady" is now a completed, successful celebration.

Many thanks to our gracious hostess, Jeanne Greenawalt, for allowing us into her beautiful home. With the support of the committee and the contributions from generous friends, it was a beautiful afternoon.

Historical ladies in their finery added a touch of class to the elegant afternoon tea, while the tinkling sounds of a grand piano provided music to heighten the pleasure of taking tea and indulging in exquisite petite sandwiches and pastries.

Sandy Miller delighted us with enchanting, funny, and mischievous adventures of children who grew up in the

Governor's Mansion. Sandy shared her dream of completing her research of the Governor's Mansion and all the children of resident Nevada governors.

A highlight of the tea was Megan Miller, who came prepared with a tote bag full of entertaining items which she shared with another young lady, Lauren DeCorte, daughter of guest Christine DeCorte. Both little girls were dressed in pretty afternoon party dresses. As Sandy spoke, with a soft whisper Megan reminded her mother not to forget her own moments in the mansion, the only home she has known to date.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will help complete Sandy's research, to be com-

piled in a book, "I Live At 606 Mountain Street", and placed in Nevada schools statewide for fourth grade students as part of their social studies curriculum.

## Special acknowledgments:

- Nevada Power and employees Shirley Wooden and Barbara D'Alliegro for the line art of the beautiful lady that graced the front cover of the invitation, and for the printing of the invitations.

- Char Cruze, for her lovely poem inside the invitation.

- Alice Latimer and Gina Larsen for their graceful music.

- Joanne Goodwin for adjusting the size of the photos of the historical women on the coverlet so they could be

used as additions to the attractive floral centerpiece on the buffet table.

- For the expert workmanship of Patrick Murphy in creating the continual running of the VCR tape of Sandy's interviews with some of the children raised in the mansion.

- Alice Brown, Char Cruze, Sue Fong Jung and Frankie Williams for their portrayal as historical women of Nevada.

- Kudos to Joan LeMere and committee members for making this a very special fundraiser; its success was not only monetary, but made our presence known to community leaders and members in southern Nevada. ♦

—Rose Irwin

## Over 400 Books in Book Assessment Project

Originally, the scope of the NWHP's Book Assessment Project was limited to developing a bibliography of books available in the Washoe County school libraries as a guide to teachers for curriculum enhancement.

Volunteers from across Nevada read books from a master list, filled out "purple sheets", and wrote brief annotations summarizing their assigned books.

That phase ended in the spring of 1997. After that, co-editors Martha Gould and Betty Glass worked with Jean Ford on several occasions to remove titles from the list that really did not cover women in Ne-

vada, and to perform preliminary editing to standardize the format of each entry. Jean and Betty worked with UNR staff who provided word processing to produce a master list from all the entries submitted by volunteers.

Jean Ford arranged for Jean Stoess to provide an additional \$500 worth of word processing. Stoess has indicated she is available to do more word processing for this project if necessary.

During this phase, it became obvious that many of the annotations would have to be rewritten to reflect how a book dealt with Nevada women's history. Jean

Ford targeted annotations that needed revision, and Glass examined the books first hand and rewrote many annotations. Some volunteers were unable to complete work on all their assigned books, so these gaps have also been filled during the past year.

Along the way, Jean Ford and Glass became aware of other books dealing with Nevada women. Entries have been made for these as well, including Vikki Ford's oral history of Jean Ford. At this point there are entries for over 400 books, with the final title count anticipated to be close to 410 books. The introduc-

tion to the bibliography will reflect its widened scope.

Glass and Joan Kershner (of the Nevada State Library) met with Jean Ford in June, 1998, to discuss the Book Assessment Project. At that time, Jean transferred coordination of the project to Glass.

Kershner will be able to assist with funding for the publication of the finalized bibliography and will be able to provide assistance with the indexing of names, organizations, subjects, and genres of the books. Gould will help organize the distribution of the bibliography to libraries in Nevada. ♦

—Betty Glass, coordinator

# Jean Had Another Vision

In the spring of 1997, Jean Ford asked Susan Paslov and me to meet with her at her home. She explained that Carson City needed a group to work on historic preservation—that there was no citizens or grass-roots group to preserve old buildings.

A few months later, Guy Rocha, our state archivist, saw me perform as Hannah Clapp at the Carson City library. He told me about the Cactus Jack Casino purchase of the 1876 Hyman Olgovich house, and their plans to have it moved from its historic location because they wanted to develop more parking space.

Guy walked me through the west side Carson neighborhood and pointed out many nineteenth century houses of Jewish people of Carson City. Remembering Jean's concern for Carson's

old landmarks and seeing Guy's concerned energy for the Olgovich House, I became inspired.

I called a meeting at my house. Jean, Guy, Susan and Gene Paslov, Peggy Twedt, Rob Joiner, Pam Graber, Noreen Humphries and Dorothy Dolan from Landmarks Society came, as well as Judy Greenspan and others from C'hai Sierra, a Jewish social group in the Carson area. We discussed the situation of the Olgovich house, agreeing to meet again.

This group became the Carson City Preservation Coalition, with supportive groups including the Landmarks Society, C'hai Sierra and NWHP.

We sponsored an educational forum on Carson City and Cultural Tourism, which Jean chaired. The news me-

dia has given CCPC excellent coverage.

Mary Walker, who was Carson City director of budget and finance, was helpful in drawing up a compromise with Cactus Jack, and they agreed not to move the house if they could put in 15 parking spaces in the backyard.

The CCPC has turned into a power force in Carson. We have supported Pam Graber, Tahoe-Carson Fund Raiser Chairman, and her project to save the Adams House from demolition. This old house will now be used as an office for the hospital's auxiliary and board.

Landmarks' president Dorothy Dolan's idea of a green line (similar to the west side Carson Trail Blue Line) for the historic east-side homes has exploded into an entire study. Many excited

east-side home owners have called to share the history of these houses.

We are continuing our ethnicity study, working with 1860, 1870, and 1880 census records and directories to find out where early people in Carson came from. Ron James and John Marshall guide this project, for which we have a Nevada Humanities grant.

Jean's illness eventually kept her from our meetings. When I would share with her what was happening, she would say, "That's incredible," or "You see, it only takes one person." Jean was a wonderful mentor and visionary and we will continue her care and concern for the history of Carson City. ♦

— Eileen Cohen, president  
Carson City Preservation  
Coalition

## Monitor Pass Tour

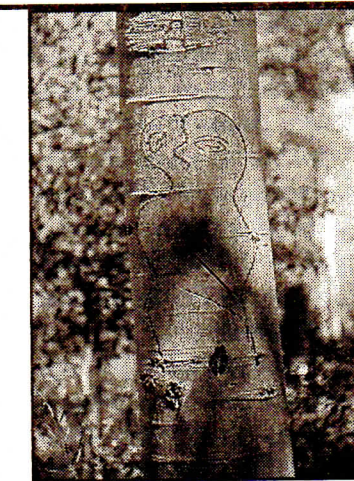
A group of 22 motored to Monitor Pass in July to view Basque tree carvings. We departed from Carson City, led by Basque historian Dr. Jose Mallea-Olaetxe.

A bright sunny day

greeted the party at the 8,000 foot elevation where, according to Dr. Mallea-Olaetxe, ranchers once ran bands of sheep during the summertime.

The herders who watched over the flocks were most often of Basque descent, having come to the United States from the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain. The primary purpose for the migration of these gentle people was to herd sheep.

The remote areas where sheep were taken to summer pasture resulted in the herders seeking entertainment through carving on trunks of



quaking aspen trees.

Carvings identified by Dr. Mallea-Olaetxe included names, dates, outlines of the female silhouette as well as animals such as horses and birds, and conversations between herders.

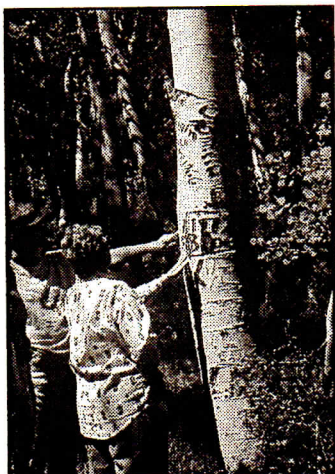
Dates in the Monitor Pass area (south of Markleeville,

CA) began in the 19th century and spanned over 75 years.

The day-long journey was part of the continuing Hannah Clapp Lecture Series sponsored by NWHP. Isabel Espinoza, Carson City chairman, made arrangements for this informative tour.

Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Felter came from Richmond, CA., especially to participate in this tour. Others making the trek included Carol Kallers, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Noneman, Billie Brinkman, Alicia Smalley, Stella Lefever, Larry Taylor, P. Powell, Jacquie Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones, Juanita and Elyssa Meitz, Barbara Kurek, and Isabel Espinoza. ♦

— Billie Brinkman



# Silver State Sampler Tour

## An Event to Remember

The first Jean Ford Silver State Sampler Tour encompassed 1,200 miles, seventeen stops, and four history and art-filled days driving across Nevada. Tour guides Jim Hulse and Mary Lee Fulkerson shared stories and facts about the areas as we passed.

Carrie Townley Porter, dressed in authentic costume, surprised us by portraying Helen J. Stewart, southern Nevada pioneer woman.

Our two buses rambled from Reno through Carson City, Fallon, Austin, Hickison Petroglyph Site, Eureka, and Ruth. Wally Cuchine and Linda Peek

arranged a tour at the famous Eureka Opera House. Waiting at Ruth was the Ghost Train, wine and hors d'oeuvres. We traded the buses for the train and 45 minutes later, refreshed and relaxed, arrived in Ely, ready for dinner and an evening of creative art with local artists who hosted a show just for us.

Day two saw the eastern side of Nevada—Pioche, Panaca, Caliente and Cathedral Gorge. Hulse, a Pioche native, led us on a tour through his western mining home town, showing us the Hulse family home, the Million Dollar Courthouse, and other sites. We took turns visiting Larry Williamson at his studio where he told us about his wood and clay creations.

Barbara Rohde of the Nevada State Parks gave us the

history of Cathedral Gorge State Park while we lunched at the picnic area there. The Caliente railroad station, art exhibit and box car museum hosted by Maryellen Sadovich were a special treat.

Late that afternoon we arrived in Henderson, checked in at the Sunset Station, and were turned loose for the evening.

Saturday, October 3, Searchlight celebrated its Centennial. After false clues and a circuitous tour of the area, we arrived in time to see the parade. We visited various

museum and art galleries before leaving for the Walking Box Ranch (former home of Rex Bell and Clara Bow) where Senator Harry Reid hosted us to a western barbecue and tour of the ranch house. Rex Bell, Jr., Landra Reid, and Senator Richard and Bonnie Bryan greeted us after lunch.

On to Boulder City's annual Art Fair—we scattered to look and buy, then walked up the street to the home of Ralph and Sarah Denton where we were welcomed with an array of drinks and refreshments.

The day ended at the historic Green Shack Supper Club in Las Vegas. Two historians from UNLV, Eugene Moehring and Michael Green, spoke. Constance Devereaux told

us about art in Las Vegas and introduced us to novelist Erica Hector Vital, who shared an African-American man's experience leaving his family in the east and coming to Las Vegas.

We headed north listening to accounts of early-day ranching life, the atomic test site, protest activists, flash floods in Beatty and other historic events—visited the famous bottle house at Rhyolite, and noted unconventional, creative "objets d'art" on permanent display in the surrounding desert.

At the Mining Park/Museum in Tonopah we enjoyed lunch served by the local Lions Club. We did the obligatory pit-stop at the El Cap in Hawthorne and arrived in



*Carrie Townley Porter in authentic costume as Helen J. Stewart, early southern Nevada pioneer*

Yerington in time for happy hour hosted by the local Arts Council at the renovated Yerington School.

Native American dancer/drummer/singer Gayle Johnson performed songs for the tour members at the newly created performing arts theater there. She and husband Fred joined us at dinner at Joe Dini's Lucky Club.

Barbara Thornton gave a toast to Jean at dinner, and our trip ended appropriately with this tribute: Thanks from all of us, Jean. Your legacy continues. Everyone from the NWHF and UNR Friends of the University Library involved in the planning of this event can be proud of a job well done. ♦

*—Kay Sanders*



*Tour guide Mary Lee Fulkerson*



*Reno artist Marilyn Melton, relaxes at Walking Box Ranch.*

# Trip to the Ghost Town of Berlin Leads to Historic Discoveries

We discovered, on our first stop, that the Churchill County Museum at Fallon has been updated and is not only very well organized, but the displays are thoughtfully handled.

The display of clothes washers was not only complete from washtub and scrubbing board to some of the first tubs with wringers attached, but also had a push-button vocal which related how women, on Mondays, had to build the fires, carry the water in from the wells, heat the water, wash the clothes, heat more water for rinsing, wring by hand to hang out; then bring in the clothes, fold them, get the three meals and clean the house as well—and then do the ironing on Tuesdays. No wonder women wore out early!

At the Ichthyosaur Park at Berlin we discovered that our bus was too long/low/heavy to make a downhill/right-hand turn into the giant lizard part of the park. We got hung up by the tail (rear bumper) and the park ranger had to help our driver raise the darned thing up and out.

We hiked up the last hill to see the huge sea lizard fossils—one skeleton over 60 feet long. They were piled up on top of the other, and without the park ranger's expert lecture we would have never known which was tail end and which was head.

It is believed that these giant creatures roamed the sea that covered western Ne-

vada some 200 million years ago. The problem with dating them exactly is that carbon-dating won't do the trick—the fossils are too old. Also, we can't discover with DNA what family of sea creatures they belong to because there is nothing with which to compare their DNA.

In 1977 the Nevada State Legislature enacted a law making the ichthyosaur the State's official fossil, the only state in the nation to have one. The park ranger told us that these fossils, enclosed in a building to protect them from thievery more than weather, are found all over the area.

Since Nevada is composed of such a variety of rock—volcanic, sedimentary such as limestone, shale, sandstone and gravel, and metamorphic, there is the possibility that different kinds of fossils may yet be discovered.

Some of the volcanic rocks were formed only a few thousand years ago, while some of the metamorphic rocks are more than a billion years old. From these rocks come the many minerals which make up Nevada's diverse wealth.

It has been thought that probably some of the old German prospectors named Berlin for the German city of the same name; many German tourists stop there today.

The first mining activity in West Union Canyon was

in May of 1863, when a small group of prospectors discovered silver there. Berlin sprouted between 1864 and 1868 when the mine was opened. The Berlin Mine was worked from an incline shaft with eight levels, and the total production of its three tunnels is estimated to have been around \$849,000 when gold was \$20/ounce.

Ore was processed by crusher, stamps (the Berlin mill had 30 stamps), amalgamation, and concentrating tables. The population grew to 200-250, including miners, woodcutters, charcoal makers, a doctor and nurse, a forest ranger and, of course, a prostitute or two.

Buildings included, in addition to the huge mill, an assay office, post office, barn and corrals, Union Hall, store, infirmary, stage station, a large boarding house for the miners, and some homes.

The remaining 13 buildings are in a state of "ar-

rested decay", maintained by the Nevada Park System, and it was fun to follow the knowledgeable guide from place to place.

We felt privileged to have the cabins unlocked especially for us so we could browse inside. I found, on an old bedside table, a Bible inscribed from a sister to her brother for Christmas 1912.

All of the bodies originally interred in the cemetery southeast of the little town have been moved to other graves, but it's my guess that most of the ghosts have remained. We didn't stay overnight to find out.

Our dinner at the Apple Tree in Fallon was delicious, mostly locally grown veggies and fruit, and all home-cooked—including fresh-made apple and rhubarb/apple pies.

Isabel gave a lot of thought and time to creating this tour and we all had a wonderful time. ♦

—Janet E. White

## Two Scholarships Named For Jean

In honor of former Nevada legislator, women's rights advocate and university professor Jean Ford, the Sierra Nevada Girl Scout Council is renaming its two scholarships. The Reno-based council wanted to recognize Ford for her advocacy work on behalf of

women's issues and her life-long volunteer commitment to Girl Scouting.

Each year, two college-bound Girl Scouts will receive \$1,000 scholarships in Ford's name. ♦

—Nevada News,  
University of Nevada, Reno

# Hannah Clapp Lecture Series Begins in Carson City

By Patt Quinn-Davis

Jan Loverin, curator for the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center in Carson City and assistant curator at the Nevada State Museum, began the 1998-1999 Carson City Hannah Clapp Lecture Series with a presentation in October about Victorian fashions and dress reform.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, Dr. Marie I. Boutte from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno, will speak on radiation fallout.

A portrayal of one of Nevada's historic women doctors, Dr. Eliza Cook, by Carson Valley resident Cherry Jones, will be Wednesday, Dec. 2. Dr. Cook was self-educated when she entered Cooper Medical College—later to become Stanford Medical School—in San Francisco in 1882. She received her medical degree in 1884, and after graduate studies opened a medical office in Reno.

Cook was prominent in the Women's Suffrage League of Nevada and the Nevada Women's Temperance Union. She continued her medical practice in Carson Valley until 1921 when she retired. She died in her sleep in 1947 at 91.

Cherry Jones also portrays Laura Ingalls Wilder and has been a story teller at the River City Storytelling Festival in Wingfield Park, Reno.

Kathleen Noneman, chairwoman of the Nevada Women's History Project, will present the history of women

lawyers in Nevada during January's lecture. In February, Jane Pieplow, director for the Churchill County Museum, will show videos about the history of the Churchill County area.

Noneman, now semi-retired, lives in Reno with her husband Charlie, a retired Air Force pilot. She is a pro tem Family Court Master and does court-appointed arbitrations. She has done extensive research on the history of Nevada's women lawyers.

Pieplow has lived in Fallon since 1993. She worked for a Milwaukee advertising agency, and at the High Plains Museum in Goodland, Kansas. She has degrees in commercial art and public history, teaches at Western Nevada Community College's Fallon campus, and sings with the Fallon group "Harmony 5."

In March, Carson City's Anita Watson will portray Mary Oxborrow, a Mormon midwife and pioneer from Lund. Oxborrow, who emigrated from England as a young girl, became a plural wife and the mother of 11 children. Her experiences reflect significant aspects of the Nevada experience, including the lifestyle of pioneer women, colonization in Nevada by followers of the Mormon faith, and work as a midwife and healer.

Watson will also discuss a forth-coming book, *Nevada Women Into Their Own*, based on the research of Jean Ford and other members of NWHP. The book portrays the emergence of women in

public life in Nevada and their work in the temperance and suffrage movements, politics and various organizations.

Watson received her doctorate from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her dissertation focuses on the decline of the stigma of divorce in Nevada and throughout the U.S. Her research interests include women in the West and beyond, and the history of the

American family.

Isabel Espinoza is the organizer of the Hannah Clapp Lecture Series. All the lectures in this year's series begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Nevada State Library and Archives Building in Carson City. ♦

*Hannah Clapp (1824-1908) was a Nevada educator & suffragist. Isabel Espinoza, director of the Hannah Clapp Lecture Series, may be reached in Carson City at 702-883-9035.*

## DEADLINE

FOR ARTICLES FOR the WINTER ISSUE OF  
NWHP NEWS is JANUARY 1, 1999

## State Parks Remembers Jean Ford

Most people who knew Jean Ford are aware of her contributions, as a legislator, park advisory board member and private citizen, to Nevada State Parks.

Jean wished to continue to rally support for parks even after her passing. At her request, Nevada State Parks has set up a special donation fund, "The Jean Ford Park Resources Fund," for the improvement of the park facilities and resources she loved so much.

Money contributed to this fund will be used to improve interpretive facilities and park natural resource values in parks around the state.

Persons wishing to donate to this fund should send donations to the Nevada Division of State Parks, Jean Ford Park Re-

## Annual Dues

Annual dues for the 1999 NWHP membership year are due and payable on January 1st, 1999. The price remains the same - \$25.00 per year. Anyone who has joined NWHP from September 1st to the end of 1998 does not have to pay for renewal.

sources Fund, 1300 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV, 89703-5202.

The Division of State Parks planted a tree in Jean's honor at the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park last fall, and will be honoring her with a plaque at the soon-to-be-completed wetlands viewing area at Washoe Lake State Park.

We thank Jean for her support and devotion to State Parks and hope her legacy will encourage others to follow in her footsteps. ♦

— Bob Francke, chief of operations & maintenance  
Nevada Division of State Parks

# CALENDAR

## NORTHERN REGION MEETING DATES

November 16, 1998  
December 7, 1998  
January 18, 1999  
February 15, 1999  
Executive Committee Meeting, NWHP, 201 West Liberty, Suite 201, Reno

Wednesday, December 2, 1998  
Hannah Clapp Lecture Series

## SOUTHERN REGION MEETING DATES

November 12, 1998  
January 13, 1999  
Executive Committee Meetings, 4 p.m., at the Frontier Girl Scouts, 2530 Stewart Avenue, Las Vegas

February 13 Members & Friends Special Event  
Frontier Girl Scout Council, 11 a.m.

## NWHP Leadership 1998-1999

Carrie Townley Porter, State Coordinator

### State Board:

Kathleen Noneman, Chair  
Rose Irwin, Vice-chair  
Beverly Hubbard, Treasurer  
Eva Stowers, Southern Treasurer  
Mitsi Johnson

### Northern Region:

Kathleen Noneman, Chair  
Holly Van Valkenburgh, Vice-chair  
Helen Oster, Secretary  
Beverly Hubbard, Treasurer

Mary Ann Convis  
Phyllis Cudek  
Fritsi H. Ericson  
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot  
Pat Quinn-Davis  
Susan Roberts  
Kay Sanders  
Janet White

### Southern Region:

Rose Irwin, Chair  
Mitsi Johnson, Vice-chair  
Frankie Williams, Secretary  
Eva Stowers, Treasurer  
Carolyn Hamilton Proctor  
Joan LeMere  
Pat McNutt

# Research Registry

**Jennifer Nelson, East Ely:** Charlotte Perkins Gilman and her association with Nevada Women's suffrage, 1913-1914. Telephone (702) 289-6480.

**Frankie Williams, Las Vegas:** Seeking orphan train riders and their descendants. 59 children were left in Nevada. Telephone (702) 876-3586.

**Frankie Williams, Las Vegas:** POINTers (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together) Telephone (702) 876-3586.

**Hazel Hohn, Reno:** Nevada women who have been pilots in the military. She found 60 and has been able to contact or get information for about 30 of them. Telephone (702) 323-4374.

**Janet E. White, Reno:** interested in women who lived in Humboldt County prior to 1925. Also working on the Humboldt County DeLong women; also Mable May Floyd who married William DeLong; Elizabeth Ellen Hendra who was mother of Mable May, and Mary Lou Kershner who married John DeLong. Telephone (702) 826-3352.

We welcome anyone doing research on Nevada women to share that topic or focus with us. If you would like your research topic shared with others, please call 322-7754 in Reno, or write us at NWHP, 1301 Valley Road, #2-A, Reno, NV 89512. To hear and discuss, in an informal setting, the research underway, join the Nevada Women's History Forums.

# POTPOURRI

## Wanted

• The NWHP News wants to continue the "Research Registry" feature in each issue. If you know anyone who is researching some topic related to Nevada women's history or you are researching a topic yourself, please submit these items to Kathy Noneman (North) at (702) 786-2335 or Frankie Williams (South) (702) 876-3586.

## Thanks

• For volunteer office labor, Nevada Sampler Tour, garage sale help, and Great Basin Book Fair work to: Lynn Bremer, Billie Brinkman, Kathleen Clemence, Eileen Cohen, Mary Anne Convis, Phyllis Cudek, Vikki Ford, Mary Lee Fulkerson, Beverly Hubbard, Jim Hulse, Nancy Holmes, Tom Kendall, Alice Lohse, Charlie Noneman, Kathleen Noneman, Helen Oster, Keith Porter, Susan Roberts, Pat Tripple, Isabel Espinoza, Kay Sanders, Neill Sanders, Holly Van Valkenburgh, Anita Watson, Janet White, Charlotte Wilcox, Linda Wyckoff.

# Jean Ford Research Grant Fund

Jean Ford spent more than four decades serving the community. As a member of the Nevada State Assembly and Nevada State Senate, she introduced and supported a myriad of legislation important to women and minorities. In 1991, through her work as director/instructor of the Women's Studies Program at UNR, she discovered a lack of information about the history, accomplishments and activities of Nevada women. Working with other interested women she founded the Nevada Women's History Project (NWHP), and in 1995 it became a delegate agency of the Nevada Women's Fund.

In recognition of Jean Ford's dedication to expand historical information about Nevada's women, the Nevada Women's Fund established the Jean Ford Research Grant to further the mission of the NWHP by providing visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contribu-

tions of Nevada women.

Jean felt strongly about the projects to accomplish her goals. She recommended several areas to be considered for financial support by this fund including: collection of materials and placement in repositories for public use; depiction of how women are portrayed; oral histories; development of instructional materials; exhibitions and programming in museums and galleries; resource center and clearing-house activities and public education projects.

Established in January of 1998, the Fund has received \$4,225 in contributions and a pledge of \$10,000 from Nevada Bell. The grant recipients will be chosen by the Nevada Women's History Project and approved by the Nevada Women's Fund Board of Directors. Contributions to increase the amount in the Fund are welcome and should be sent to the Jean Ford Research Grant Fund, c/o the Nevada Women's Fund, POB 50428, Reno, NV 89513. ♦

—Fritsi Ericson, president & CEO  
Nevada Women's Fund

NEWS

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Reno, Nevada 89513

NWHP is a delegate agency of the Nevada Women's Fund

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Visit the Nevada Women's History Project Online at [www.unr.edu/sb204/nwhp/](http://www.unr.edu/sb204/nwhp/)

## Membership Application

Individual Membership • Dues \$25/Year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Remember that e-mail is case sensitive, so please print carefully.

Organizational Membership • Active Dues \$50/Year  
Corporate Sponsor • \$250/Year

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

President or Director \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Representative to NWHP \_\_\_\_\_

## Welcome, New Members!

### New Individual Members

**Las Vegas:** Marlene Adrian,  
Joanne Goodwin, Jeanne  
Greenawalt, Sophia Hesbon,  
Bob Price, Maureen Schnitzer,  
Annette Mills, Susan Tegano  
**Carson City:** Jacquelyn M.  
Moore, Carol Roberts  
**Ely:** Gayle Woodard  
**Boulder City:** Billie Bates  
**Winnemucca:** Lynn Jackson  
**Reno:** Karen Benna

Any NWHP member may  
receive the full membership list  
by sending \$5 to NWHP, PO  
Box 50428 Reno, Nevada 89513.  
The southern membership chair  
of the NWHP may be reached at  
PO Box 28206, Las Vegas, NV  
89102.

**GIVE the  
PERFECT GIFT-  
A NWHP  
Membership!**