

# NWHP

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY

Project

News

## Las Vegas Site of 2000 Conference

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After the success of our last conference at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 1998, we have again decided to present a one day conference on Friday, March 17, 2000, that will coincide with the Nevada Women's Lobby Conference on March 18th. The dual event will be held at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas beginning at noon on Friday with workshops and seminars until 6:00 p.m. A social hour will follow complete with entertainment and refreshments. The NWL Conference will begin early on Saturday and continue until early evening.

A flyer will be forthcoming with a call for papers and more detailed information in regards to scheduling and cost. Thus far, workshops sponsored by the NWHP are set to include chautauqua presentations, a film featuring the last seven First Ladies of Nevada, and the history of women in the law professions. Set aside these dates and spend an informative and exciting time with us.

Hotel rooms at the Riviera are blocked for a special \$89 rate single or double. Ask for NWHP Conference/Summit rate. Chair of the conference planning committee is Joyce Marshall. Call 702-255-8309 or e-mail [marshalljy@aol.com](mailto:marshalljy@aol.com) for more information.

## Silver State Sampler Tour Recap

Historical facts, folklore stories and amusing anecdotes were the bill of fare for a group of 22 during the Second Annual Silver State Sampler Tour continuing the Jean Ford Legacy and celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Trail of the 49ers.

A large motorcoach gathered its passengers at Reno and Carson City on October 15 to commence the three-day almost 650-mile trek across the Nevada desert to Winnemucca while studying the route of the Emigrant Trail.

Day 1 provided historical

facts about Dayton and Sutro Tunnel, a stop at the Wigwam Cafe, Fernley, to peruse the great collection of Indian artifacts, and a look around the grounds of the Marzen House Museum at Lovelock. Dixie Westergard, who had occupied the house as a teenager, described the interior. A tour of the Pershing County Court House, one of two round court houses in use today in the United States, was led by Belinda Quilici, Pershing County District Attorney.

A box lunch was served at the next stop at Rye Patch

Dam where Gary Orr, State Parks Ranger, and Bennie Hodges, Pershing County Water Conservation officer, each gave knowledgeable presentations on their respective areas.

Chuck Barrett, director of the Trail of the Forty-Niners Interpretive Center, Battle Mountain, led us to Imlay and the Callaghan Bridge where the 49er Trail crossed the Humboldt River. As we traveled along this adventuresome route, Chuck gave us an insight on the everyday life style of the immigrants. After hav-

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# Tea with our First Ladies of Nevada

The Nevada Women's History Project held its second annual tea party benefiting the NWHP and the Governor's Mansion on October 16th at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Monte Greenawalt in Las Vegas. Approximately 175 people attended this outstanding event.

Greeting members and guests were Rose Irwin, Chair for the Southern Region, Joyce Marshall, State Chair and our hostess Jeanne Greenawalt.

Committee members directed the invited guests to the dining room where marvelous assortments of petite tea sandwiches, dainty pastries

and other refreshments were served. Participants enjoyed, mingled and conversed with our honored guests and their friends. Musicians provided soft, melodious music for our en-

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Kevin Olson, Kathy List, Tina Smith

## NWHP Leadership

### NORTHERN REGION:

Carrie Townley Porter, Chair

Holly Van Valkenburgh, Vice-chair

Janice Gunderson, Secretary

Beverly Hubbard, Treasurer

Fritsi Ericson

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot

Kathy Noneman

Patt Quinn-Davis

Kay Sanders

### SOUTHERN REGION:

Rose Irwin, Chair

Mitsi Johnson, Vice-chair

Frankie Williams, Secretary

Eva Stowers, Treasurer

Joan LeMere

Pat McNutt

## Calender

**NOVEMBER 17, 1999** - "Nevada's First Ladies Ball Gown Exhibit", Nevada State Library and Archives, Stewart Street, Carson City - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Call Jan Loverin at (775) 687-6173 or Carrie Porter at (775) 786-2335 for details.

**NOVEMBER 17, 1999** - State Executive Committee meeting, Carson City.

**DECEMBER 1, 1999** - Hannah Clapp Lecture - Carson City Library, 900 Roop Street, Carson City, beginning at 5:45 p.m. Topic will be "Christmas Stories from Carson and the Comstock." Light refreshments will be served. Call Cherry Jones at (775) 267-3410 or email at [cherry@pyramid.net](mailto:cherry@pyramid.net) for more information.

**DECEMBER 13, 1999** - North Steering Committee Meeting at State Office, 201 W. Liberty St., Suite 201, Reno at 6:00 p.m.

**JANUARY 5, 2000** - Hannah Clapp Lecture - Nevada State Library and Archives, Stewart Street, Carson City, beginning at 5:45 p.m. Bobbie Williams will portray Sacajawea.

**JANUARY 10, 2000** - North Steering Committee Meeting at State Office, 201 W. Liberty St., Suite 201, Reno at 6:00 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 5, 2000** - Black History Month, Desert Pines Country Club, Las Vegas, Time TBA.

**MARCH 4, 2000** - Women's History Month, Las Vegas, TBA.

**MARCH 17, 2000** - Nevada Women's History Project Conference at the Riviera Hotel Convention Center on the Strip, Las Vegas. A separate mailing for this event will come out early next year.

**MARCH 18, 2000** - The Women's Summit 2000, March 18, 2000, at the Riviera Convention Center in Las Vegas.

**MARCH, 2000** - "Wednesday's Woman", Every Wednesday, Clark County Library District, Las Vegas, TBA.



# Silver State Sampler Tour Recap

continued from page 1

ing a group picture taken standing in the desert where wagon ruts are still visible, (see photo below), we completed that days journey by checking into our accommodations in Winnemucca and enjoying a fine dinner at an authentic Basque restaurant.

Day 2 found us heading north on Highway 95 for a visit with Linda Dufurrena at the Dufurrena Ranch about 70 miles "up the road". There we visited her photography gallery, and were guests in her home while Carolyn Dufurrena recited several pieces of her work. We viewed the site of the historical Quinn River Ranch. As we had traveled north, land marks were pointed out from a "Road Log" by Carolyn. Holly read a story from the Humboldt Historian, "Jean Olivia" written by her daughter Janet E. White.

Stonehouse Country Inn, about 30 miles out of Winnemucca in Paradise Valley, was our lunch stop. We met Ernest Miller in the town of Paradise Valley for a 30 minute bus tour of that tiny mecca that the 75 residents wish to keep that way. We were told the population had once reached 6,000.

En route back to Winnemucca, we visited the Humboldt County Museum. It is in the process of being renovated and was only partially available to us.

A catered dinner at the Buckaroo Hall of Fame in the Winnemucca Convention Center was superb (as was every meal on the tour). We were entertained by a group of dancers from the Winnemucca Basque Club who drew all of us into one of

the dances. Isabel Espinosa and Roland Westergard were the stars of the bota contest.

Day 3 started with a great kick-off when Hughie Schoff, "Mr. Winnemucca", joined us for an hour-long tour of Winnemucca which was interspersed with many yarns, one-liners and proud statements about "his town".

We were entertained by storytellers, Fred and Vivian Hurlburt of Golconda at Button Point rest stop 8 miles east of Winnemucca while sack lunches were devoured. Buttons reading "I had lunch at Button Point" were distributed as we viewed the winding Humboldt River from this lookout point and heard folklore stories of how it got its name.

En route to Fallon, the last leg of the tour, historical presentations were made by tour

the Churchill County Museum prior to a visit inside.

Our final meal together was in Fallon. Doris Dwyer, NWHP member, portrayed Sarah Royce, one of the many emigrants who came west. It was a fitting end to our trek along the Emigrant Trail.

As the motorcoach ate up the miles between stops, activities were afforded for amusement along the way. Isabel had prepared a different trivia quiz on Nevada History for each day; appropriate videos were shown; and those who knew of historical events pertinent to a particular location shared them with the group.

Appreciation and thanks go to those members who participated in commentary and historical facts on the bus. They included: Lisa Marie Lightfoot, Holly Van Valkenberg, Carrie Townley-Porter, Dixie and Roland Westergard and Cecilly Jacobsen.

As we neared our points of departure, riding in luxury comfort, we came to realize that every program presented enlightened us about the history of the Emigrant Trail and the part Nevada played in the hardships the emigrants endured.

by Billie Brinkman



Participants on the Silver State Sampler Bus Trip looking at the emigrant trail just west of Imlay, where the Applegate-Lassen Trail cuts off the Humboldt River Trail. They are: Dorothy Allen, Ginger and Chuck Barrett, Karen Benna\*, Lou Brande\*, Billie Brinkman\*, Sarah Britt\*, Carleen Ernest\*, Isabel Espinoza\*, Shirley Fraser, Shirley Giovacchini, Ces Jacobensen\*, Jeanne Larson\*, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot\*, Linda Madsen\*, Kathy Noneman\*, Dorris Norris, Margaret Oakley\*, Susan Paslov\*, Carrie Porter\*, Keith Porter, Kathryn Smith, Holly Van Valkenburgh\*, Dixie Westergard\*, and Roland Westergard. (\* = NWHP Member)

participants. Plans for a wine tasting at the 40-mile Desert Monument were aborted when the cautious bus driver informed us the trail across the desert to the monument "was not a bus road"! Therefore wine was poured and cheese and crackers enjoyed in the parking lot at



tainment.

The NWHP bestowed Honorary Memberships to Dema Guinn, Sandy Miller, Bonnie Bryan, Kathy List, Carolyn O'Callaghan, Jackalyn Laxalt and Bette Sawyer. Congresswoman Shelley Berkley made a special appearance and presented proclamations from the State of Nevada to each of the First Ladies.

Jan Loverin who is with the Nevada State Museum in Carson City brought with her a valuable collection of photographs of the inaugural gowns worn by our First Ladies. Several ladies also provided us with treasured memorabilia. These were displayed about the balcony area of the Greenawalt's gracious home. First Lady Dema Guinn brought her inaugural gown which was placed on a dress form so that we could admire its detail and beauty.

Members and guests had the opportunity to meander into the lower level of the home to enjoy a film featuring seven of the First Ladies being interviewed by Joyce Marshall, Samantha Seegers and Marlene Adrian prior to the tea. This film will be made available for sale to the public. Copies will be placed in our universities in Nevada.

It was a most inspiring afternoon, where one had the privilege to meet our honored and distinguished guests, and share precious moments with each.

The success of the tea was made possible by our community friends and neighbors. It made our guests aware of what must be done to preserve the history of our pioneer women including writing their own family histories. We were also reminded that had it not been for our beloved Jean Ford and her wisdom and foresight, we would not be what we are today, an organization that is reaching out and growing.



Joan LeMere, Jeanne Greenawalt and Alsie Pearson

## *Spring Workshop Series*

The Nevada Women's History Project and the SNCAT (Sierra Nevada Community Access TV) Community Access Archives are joining together to present a series of workshops.

These workshops are designed to provide consciousness raising and provide entry level skills for the organization and conservation of the records of families, churches, social organizations and clubs and small business owners. Cost of each workshop is \$40.00.

The dates are tentative. The topics are:

1. "Preserving Your Past - Papers, Photos and Family Heirlooms" Presented by Jeffrey M. Kintop, Nevada State Archives Manager:  
February 14, 2000  
March 4, 2000  
April 24, 2000
2. "How to Organize the Records of Your Club or Small Business" Presented by Carrie Townley Porter, State Coordinator, Nevada Women's History Project:  
February 9, 2000  
March 25, 2000  
April 4, 2000
3. "Disaster Planning for Records of All Kinds" Presented by Jeffrey M. Kintop, Nevada State Archives Manager  
February 28, 2000  
March 18, 2000  
April 10, 2000

The workshops will be held at the SCNAT offices in Reno. For more information call Shayne Del Cohen at 775-827-1228. Jeffrey M. Kintop at 775-684-3410, or the Nevada Women's History Project office at 775-786-2335.

Gift certificates to these workshops would make unusual and great Christmas presents!

### **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.



## News from the North

NWHP, Northern Region has been busy with numerous activities in the past few months.

On August 26th NWHP took part in the unveiling of a portrait of former U. S. Congresswoman, Barbara Vucanovich by "kicking off" an exciting new project, Letters from Nevada's Daughters. The project is sponsored by NWHP with assistance from the Nevada Department of Museums, Library and Arts. See our web site for more details. The two members responsible for making this happen, Patty Cafferatta and Holly Van Valkenburgh, can be proud of their work on this project, which we hope can save the history of women of the 20th century for future historians.

On September 9th, the NWHP participated in the Nevada Women's Lobby to honor several of our women politicians. NWHP sponsored our member, Rene Diamond, to be one of the award recipients and I was pleased to have the privilege of introducing her. It was overwhelming to hear all that this group of women have accomplished!

We participated in the Great Basin Book Festival, sponsored by the Nevada Humanities Committee. NWHP shared a booth with Nevada Magazine and offered many books, calendars and other items for sale. In addition, it was a great opportunity to talk with people about NWHP.

The 2nd Annual Jean Ford Silver State Sampler held October 15 - 17 followed the theme suggested by Jean Ford last year of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 49ers and the rush to California. Everyone had an enjoyable and educational trip. Yes, we "saw the elephant" - we successfully crossed the 40 Mile Desert. More on this trip can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

NWHP joined with the churchwomen of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Sparks for a lunch on November 4. The Reverend Britt Olsen, the first female rector of St. Paul's, spoke on "Breaking the Mold". The presentation was an account of women in the clergy and the history of Episcopal women in Nevada.

The Hannah Clapp Lecture Series in Carson City continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Cherry Jones continues to find excellent and enjoyable speakers and programs.

Although many volunteer hours have been spent to make these events so successful, we still need the help of other members who can help. We need a Program Chair to plan events for the Northern Region. We need members to work on the Finance Committee. If you would like to volunteer to help with these two areas, please let me know.

*Carrie Townley Porter*

## First Annual Jean Ford Wildflower Hike

On August 21st several friends and members of NWHP travelled to Donner Summit on Interstate 80 where they hiked a Sierra trail visiting meadows and mountainsides, enjoying the beauty of nature, especially the gorgeous wildflowers. Local amateur botanist Gary Monroe identified the flora and fauna along the way. A rare species of Indian paintbrush was discovered as they were leaving the Peter Grubb Hut where they had stopped to eat lunch. New (to most) names of flowers and plants - Jacob's ladder, yampah, mallow, cow parsnip, cinquefoil - to name a few - were mentioned by Gary as the group made their way on the high Sierra hike. Plans to hike next summer in a different area were talked about as the hikers said their goodbyes. Many thought of Jean and how much she loved nature and wildflower hikes in particular. Look for the Second Annual Jean Ford Wildflower Hike announcement in the spring issue of this Newsletter.





# *"Letters from Nevada's Daughters"*

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The seventeen-month project "Letters from Nevada's Daughters" has begun. Each month will be a different topic (see your September issue). Several NWHP members have contributed their September letter: "Basic Data". These letters will be retained for future research projects. As with the United States Census material, it will be seventy years before any of them can be made public.

The October letter will also be used for research only. The November letter begins the publication on the web site from selected contributions. Both of these are included in this NWHP newsletter. The September letter was in the last NWHP newsletter and can be submitted at any time.

NWHP is in the process of contacting other women through service groups and personal contacts to invite them to participate. The goal is to create an information source on women of the Twentieth Century; who we were, how we lived and thought. If you know of a group or an individual who should be involved, get this information to them. Brochures are available at the NWHP Office.

The scope of the contributions will determine how they are to be compiled. Right now they are being stored and will remain in storage until January 2001, when the last letters are collected. They will be photocopied or placed on a CD-Rom (or some yet to be invented format). They are also accessible on our website at [www.unr.edu/wrc/nwhp](http://www.unr.edu/wrc/nwhp).

The Zonta Club of Greater Reno has awarded the NWHP "Letters from Nevada's Daughters" project a grant of five hundred dollars (\$500) to provide postage and paper to distribute the project pamphlet and funds for photocopying the November 1999 - January 2001 submissions for the Research Centers. Thank you, Zonta Club!

*Project co-chairs Patty Cafferata and Holly Van Valkenburgh*

## *Jingles from Joyce*

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I sat down at my computer early today to answer e-mail and think about what kind of exciting tidbits I could write for the newsletter. It wasn't long before my mind started wandering back through the last six years. I remember the early organizational meetings in the south, trying to figure out how to mesh together a state so large geographically, and finding enough women who could commit to the time and energy needed for the Project to succeed. It was, at times, hard to stay motivated and difficult to remain focused on our mission. Without a doubt, the persistence of Jean Ford and her belief in the Project was the catalyst that kept us going during the early years. Even when she got sick, she remained totally involved and completely sure we would carry on and be successful. She was an inspiration to me and I am sure to many of you also. It has not been without its bumps and hiccups, but we now stand on solid ground with lots of positive recognition. Jean would be very proud of what we have accomplished and of all the projects we are looking forward to undertaking in the coming year.

On a personal note, I spent some wonderful time in September interviewing the last seven First Ladies of Nevada. I feel so very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet them. They are all truly delightful. Each one shared funny stories and warm remembrances of their time spent in the Governor's Mansion and, for Dema Guinn, her hopes and plans for the future. I was particularly fascinated by the stories of the prison inmates who worked for them. In some cases, strong bonds were forged that remain today.

Each one of the First Ladies made her own unique contribution. Betty Sawyer researched the histories of the First Ladies who came before her. Jackie Laxalt was responsible for the long overdue refurbishing of the Mansion. Kathy List produced cookbooks that were free to everyone as a way of connecting her family with other families in the State; and Carolyn O'Callaghan held blood drives in the Mansion and worked for multiple sclerosis awareness. Bonnie Bryant holds the interests of senior citizens paramount and Sandy Miller works on projects to keep families together. Because of the efforts of Dema Guinn, the State of Nevada now has a bus that will travel to the rural areas of our state

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# "Letters from one of Nevada's Daughters"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## October, 1999: Family Genealogy

Dear Family:  
This letter contains information about our family tree: Birth and Death dates, Places of Birth and Death, Marriage, and Occupations.

### Parents:

Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Siblings:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grandparents:

Father's Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

### Great-grandparents:

Father's Father's Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Father's Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Mother's Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Mother's Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Father's Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Father's Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Mother's Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Mother's Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Why they came to the U.S.A.: \_\_\_\_\_

Interesting facts and stories: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of first family member to live in Nevada: When? Where? Why? Occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission to the Nevada Women's History Project for the above material to be utilized for research and place no restrictions on its use. I expect no remuneration.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# "Letters from one of Nevada's Daughters"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## November, 1999: Important Issues/Events/Causes in My Lifetime

*Please submit a letter on the November topic and include this release statement.*

I \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission to the Nevada Women's History Project for the above material to be utilized for research and place no restrictions on its use. I expect no remuneration.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Wuzzie George - Folk Artist, Teacher, Tribal Elder

*Wuzzie George at a glance: Born sometime between 1880 and 1883, died December 20, 1984, Maiden Name Dick, Native American Northern Paiute tribe nationality. Married, Joe Springer, Jimmy George, ten children (several died in infancy, lived primarily in Fallon, Churchill County. Worked in preserving Paiute crafts and customs.*

Wuzzie George, a Northern Paiute woman, learned Paiute tribal customs from her grandmother. She then spent an important part of her life teaching and demonstrating her skills and knowledge, thus preserving those tribal traditions. She also preserved Paiute customs through her work with Nevada anthropologist Margaret Wheat. Wuzzie was born sometime between 1880 and 1883 to Sam and Suzie Dick. She was born somewhere in the Nevada mountains during a pine-nut gathering expedition in the fall. Her Paiute name was Wuzzie, meaning "Small Animal," which is pronounced similar to Wuzzie, the white man's version of her name. Her ancestors were of the group of Paiutes called "Cattail-Eaters."

During her childhood, she lived near "Indian Village," about 60 miles east of Reno near the Carson Desert. The Nevada towns of Fallon and Stillwater are now located where Wuzzie spent most of her life. Wuzzie's grandparents, who were known as Stovepipe and Mattie, played a major role in shaping her life.

During the 1880s and 1890s, the Northern Paiute Indians were adopting some of the white ways and working for white people. Wuzzie's father, Sam Dick, worked for a rancher named Charles Kaiser herding sheep, building fence and working as a general ranch hand. This is where he learned to speak English. Wuzzie's mother, Suzie, washed dishes at John Sanford's hotel in Stillwater. While her mother worked, Wuzzie spent her days with grandmother Mattie, who taught Wuzzie the traditional skills of the "Cattail-Eaters."

Wuzzie and Grandmother Mattie began each day by gathering greasewood for the hotel's kitchen stove. In exchange, they were given breakfast. Afterwards, they spent their days walking to the sloughs and rivers to fish. They gathered berries and tules, dug roots, and collected pine pollen and honeydew from the cane. Wuzzie learned to make the baskets that were used to carry water, berries, nuts and seeds, and her grandmother taught her how to gather duck eggs and hunt ducks.

While they worked, Grandmother Mattie told Wuzzie stories about her life and her tribe's first contact with whites, such as this one:

"Before the [1860] war at Pyramid Lake, the Indians lived in tule houses for miles along the Carson Slough. Indians lived everywhere. Smoke all over when Indians built their fires in morning. That's what my grandmother said. When soldiers threw poison in river lots of them died. Killed lots of them. After that,

not so many. My people in the mountains that time. That's what my grandma and grandpa always say. Stay over there on the mountains all winter, make house over there on mountain. That's why they never catch it, the poison. We call that place, where Indians died, 'people's bones'..."

When Wuzzie was ten years old, her parents separated. Wuzzie moved away from her grandmother and went with her mother, Suzie, to the Ernst ranch. There she worked for white people for the first time. Her job was to iron towels, and being a small child, she had to stand on a box to reach the ironing board. She also watched a herd of sheep. Her wages were ten cents a day, which she

spent on candy at Jim Richard's store. Mrs. Ernst talked to Wuzzie while she worked, so Wuzzie began to learn English.

When her mother died, Wuzzie's father took her to live with his mother in Virginia City. She was not there long before she was moved to Carson City to enroll in the new Indian School. Her father removed her from school after just six months, fearing an epidemic of measles would harm her. "That is why I never got my schooling," Wuzzie told Margaret Wheat. Her father took her home to Fallon and she returned to her grandmother's instruction.

Between 1909 and 1915, Wuzzie's life went through several changes. Wuzzie was married at a young age and divorced her first husband, Joe Springer. Their two children stayed with their father. Wuzzie then worked at a restaurant owned by a Chinese man. It was there she met Jimmy George and they married a year later. After the restaurant burned, Wuzzie went to work in the home of Marge Harmon, a job she continued off and on until 1928.

Wuzzie and Jimmy had eight children together, and five survived to adulthood. Jimmy worked as a ranch hand, but he had another important calling as a medicine man or shaman. For about forty years, Jimmy worked as a doctor and treated more than 1,000 people. Wuzzie traveled with him and served as his interpreter until he lost his powers in the mid-1950s.

About that same time, Wuzzie and Jimmy began working with anthropologist Margaret Wheat to document their Paiute



Wuzzie demonstrating weaving techniques

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culture. Wheat's book, *Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes*, features Wuzzie harvesting pine nuts, making cradleboards for babies out of willows and working with her husband to make a house of willows. The book also shows traditional Paiute fishing with hand-made harpoons and making items like a boat and duck decoy out of cattails and tules, cordage for nets out of hemp, blankets from rabbit skins and clothing from soft plant fibers.

After her husband died in 1969, Wuzzie continued to work with Margaret Wheat and to teach her cultural traditions through demonstrations at local schools. She traveled to the Idaho State Museum to build a house out of cattails. Her work was fea-

tured on film and many of the items she made are still in the Nevada State Museum in Carson City and the Churchill County Museum in Fallon. In addition, Wuzzie's children and grandchildren learned many of her skills.

Wuzzie was reportedly 104 years old when she died on December 20, 1984. In her lifetime, she lived with a grandmother who told her stories of the Northern Paiute's first encounters with white settlers. As she learned Paiute cultural traditions at her grandmother's knee, Wuzzie also watched the "white people bring electricity, cars, airplanes, telephones, world wars and space travel into her world." Through it all, Wuzzie guarded and saved the traditions of "the old ones" and passed them on to future generations.

by Victoria Ford

(For sources of information and a map, visit our website: [www.unr.edu/wrc/nwhp](http://www.unr.edu/wrc/nwhp))

## Profiles of Members - Rose Irwin



Rose Irwin was born in North Dakota and raised in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She and her three brothers completed the family of John and Mary Mathern. John was a cabinet maker and relied on his wife to help with the business bookkeeping and sometimes helping in the shop when an extra hammer was needed. Life was interesting and sometimes adventurous when winter months came with a blink of an eye and lasted so long that other seasons were forgotten.

In 1950, Rose moved to Sacramento, California to seek fame and fortune. She worked for the State of California as a staff member of the Franchise Tax Bureau and later transferred to the State Library where she was employed until 1957.

Rose married Robert E. Irwin, who was stationed at Mather Air Force Base, California, which is located near Sacramento. The family then started the moves from California, to Kansas, North Dakota, Texas, Arizona, New

Mexico, back to California and then in 1970, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Irwin family wanted roots and the purchase of their first home is where they still reside. Son Steven was born in Sacramento and daughter Mary in Roswell, New Mexico.

Rose has always been a person who not only enjoyed helping people but thrived on volunteer work. Her mother taught her well and she remembers those fond memories of helping her mother when friends or family needed help. Her own volunteer work really began as a military wife and extended into the community wherever they were stationed. Her involvement in the Officers Wives Club wherever they were stationed, managing the Thrift shop at Nellis Air Force Base, the American Red Cross, Frontier Girl Scouts, Boys Scouts of America, the American Heart Association and then her membership in the Mesquite Club in 1980. The Mesquite Club was organized in 1911 and is the first women's club in Las Vegas.

Mesquite Club offered her another concept of volunteer work, lasting friendships, and yet it provided that special support that is so rare in organizations today. She became president of the Mesquite Club in 1992. It was also during this time that she became involved as a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of which the Mesquite Club is a member. She served on various positions on the state level of the Federation and in 1994-1996 she became State President of the GFWC Nevada. She has served as fund-raiser and is presently serving on the credentials committee for the Western States Region Conference. The WSR consists of eleven states and they are: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Rose also serves as Credentials Chairman for the GFWC International organization.

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## *Jingles from Joyce*

*continued from page 6*

doing mammograms and prostate cancer testing for people who have had no access to these services in the past. Of course, what I have space to mention here is only a minuscule sampling of their community involvement and other varied interests. The video taped interviews were shown at the October tea in Las Vegas and are in the process of being produced for distribution. Our hope is to make it available to schools, libraries, organizations and individuals in the coming year.

In case you haven't stopped to think about it, this newsletter is not only the last one of the year, but the last of this century. We can leave the 1900's behind, be proud of our accomplishments, and look forward to the year 2000 knowing that the Nevada Women's History Project is only just beginning its journey to become the premier organization of women's history in the state. I am very proud to be a member of this group and look forward to many more years of involvement. We have so many hard working, dedicated women that I am constantly amazed at their energy (or it could be that I am just getting old). I hope all of you will have a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference in March.

*Joyce Marshall, State Chair*

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## *Profiles of Members - Rose Irwin*

*continued from page 9*

Her first association with the NWHP was in March of 1996 when the first meeting was called to order at the Elks Club located in Las Vegas. The NWHP founder, Jean Ford, was present. Jean gave those in attendance an overview of the organization that had already begun in the Northern Region. The challenge of this organization was so completely different from anything she had ever participated in and the idea of not only learning about the pioneer women of Nevada, but preserving her own family history, was something to think about. In 1997 she took on the role of fund-raising and the first project was the creation of the Nevada coverlet. In June of 1998 she became Chair for the Southern Region and is presently serving as Vice Chair for the State organization.

The challenges have been many: the partnership with the Las Vegas - Clark County Library District with Wednesday's Woman in March of 1998; the adoption of the first set of by-laws for the NWHP Southern Region in 1998; the first tea honoring the First Lady, Sandy Miller in 1998; and the completion of the second annual tea, honoring the First Ladies of Nevada on October 16, 1999.

## *Northern Nevada One Stop History Shop*

Northern Nevada NWHP is starting its **One Stop History Shop**. Here's how it works. Members who conduct one of the listed businesses can register for a directory/referral service. Annual registration fee is \$100.00 per member business. For that fee, member businesses will receive free publicity in local media and referrals for new business opportunities.

Anyone from the general public will be able to call the NWHP office asking for a list of businesses that perform history services. They will receive names from the directory and be asked for a minimum \$25.00 donation. From there, it is up to the business and the client to determine whether they will work together.

This could be a great fund-raiser! If ten member businesses register and ten customers call each year, funds for Northern Nevada NWHP operations could total \$1,250.00. Please fill out the questionnaire in this newsletter, and mail to P.O. Box 50428, Reno, NV 89513. Someone will contact you with an update on when to pay fees and when you can expect referrals to begin. Thank you!

### QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please mark the categories of service you would pay to have registered:
  - ☐ Oral Histories or Family Histories
  - ☐ Research (what kind - historical, legislative, other?)
  - ☐ Training and Workshops (list what subjects)
  - ☐ Genealogy
  - ☐ Performance - Living History Character (Who?)
  - ☐ Writing & Editing
  - ☐ Publishing
  - ☐ Other (describe service)
2. Would an annual fee of \$100.00 work for your business?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - ☐ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Please list the name, address, and phone numbers for your business \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Comments, suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Potpourri

## In Appreciation

- Once again we are delighted and so pleased to have the support of Dr. and Mrs. Monte Greenawalt, who shared their beautiful home on October 16th, for the NWHP 2nd Annual Tea Party.
- Ralph Jones Display Company for providing the dress form so that we could display Mrs. Guinn's inaugural gown.
- Nevada Power Company for printing the invitations for the October Tea.
- Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for furnishing us with eleven easels so that we could display the photos of the inaugural gowns.
- Nevada State Museum and Jan Loverin for making the necessary arrangements to bring the valuable collection of photographs of the inaugural gowns to Las Vegas for the annual tea.
- To all the members of this organization who volunteered to greet guests, attended to the guest book, served refreshments, entertained guests with music, was a hostess to a first lady, guided and assisted wherever help was needed. We are indeed indebted to our Chairman Kaye Gray and Co-Chairman Joyce Marshall for making the arrangements to have the First Ladies of Nevada interviewed and filmed.
- Zonta Club of Greater Reno for awarding NWHP a grant of \$500.00. It is earmarked for the "Letters from Nevada's Daughters" Project.

## Donations:

Thanks to the following who made donations recently to NWHP, either in kind or monetary: Mary Bean, Billie Brinkman, Patty Cafferetta, Isabel Espinoza, Hazel Hohn, Townley-Porter Associates, Peggy Twedt, Holly Van Valkenburgh, Dixie Westergard.

## Congratulations:

- Dixie Westergard of Carson City has published her first book, a profile of the famous Washoe Indian basketmaker, Dat-So-La-Lee (1829-1925). A Lovelock native, Dixie spent years doing research and writing the biography and also raised funds to get it published. The illustrated book costs \$12.95 and is at many area bookstores. Details: 775-882-3506.
- Sally Kinsey, youth services outreach and literacy coordinator for the Washoe County Library System, was featured in the Reno Gazette-Journal in August. She takes the library to children in a Traveling Tales van as story-teller extraordinaire. Since early last summer she has told stories to more than 1,000 children, stopping two or three times daily at day care centers, preschools and child care providers as well as making outreach visits with Kids Korner to motels and homeless shelters.

# Visit to Lovelock Soroptomists

On September 21<sup>st</sup> Kay Sanders, Carrie Porter, and Alice Downer were guests at the noon meeting of the Lovelock Soroptomists. Carrie and Kay gave a short presentation on Oral History Projects. The Lovelock Soroptomist organization is considering doing oral histories of local women residents who have lived in the area for a long time. We will be encouraging the Soroptomists to consider this project. Alice is a Lovelock native and was especially interested in the Marzen House Museum that exhibits historical items and photos of Lovelock, its residents, and the surrounding area. NWHP member Carol Clanton helped to arrange this contact.

## Invitation

**Wednesday, November 17, 1999**

Members of NWHP are invited to the opening reception for "Silver Ladies in Golden Splendor: Nevada's First Ladies Ball Gown Exhibit". The event will be held at the Joseph Anderson Gallery at the Nevada State Library and Archives Building from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. For questions, call Jan Loverin at (775) 687-6173 or Carrie Porter at the NWHP office (775) 786-2335 or her home office - (775) 857-2050.

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE WINTER  
ISSUE OF NWHP NEWS IS JANUARY 10, 2000.**

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## 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!*

Lynn Kearney  
Linda Madsen  
Chris Miller  
Marion Kohler  
Beth Stewart  
Pamela Tschernia  
Rosemarie Arcieri  
Jay Kennedy  
Sharon Meyerkamp  
Evelyn Bisek  
Barbara Hunter

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