

NWHP

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY

Project News

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NWHP 4th Annual Conference Details

Heads Up! It's that time again. We are busy preparing for our conference "Echoes from the Past" coming up on March 17th. I hope you have all set this date aside and are planning to attend. Once again, we are side by side with the Nevada Women's Lobby (NWL) conference "Voices for Solutions" on March 18th which makes this an exciting two day event. If you have not already received your registration information it is on its way, but let me give you a sneak preview. We have left the morning open for all of you traveling from out of town, so registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. We will then open the conference at noon with a luncheon featuring Congresswoman Shelly Berkley as the keynote speaker. As most of you know, Shelly has a long, rich history in the Las Vegas area and is not only a wonderful speaker, but also a strong supporter of our organization. We feel fortunate that she has agreed to be a part of our conference.

The workshops will run all afternoon and include a variety of topics. For example, we will have a panel of women attorneys, chaired by Stacie Brown, who will trace the history of women in the law profession here in Nevada. They will discuss the many issues

faced by the undaunted pioneers who dared to enter the male-dominated field of law. The Women's Auxiliary of St. Rose Dominican Hospital will share the story of "The Making of Angel Bread." In the 1950's, Al Freeman, an executive at the Sands Hotel became gravely ill and was hospitalized in the then St. Rose De Lima Hospital. He credited his survival on the bread fed to him by a Sister Angelita. What happened next is the text of the story which is fascinating, touching, and another unique slice of our history (if you'll pardon the pun). Each of the day's workshops will be enlightening, educational and not to be missed. Two sessions will run simultaneously and I know you will all have a difficult time making a choice. The only repeat will be the video of the oral interviews done with the last seven First Ladies of the State of Nevada. Just completed in October, this video is a unique look into the lives of the women who lived in the Governor's Mansion and the incredible impact they had on our State. It will be presented once during the day and again at about 8:00 p.m., along with commentary and time for questions, for those attendees needing hours to complete a continuing education credit or those unable to attend the ear-

lier session.

At 6:30 p.m., we will all move to the top of the Riviera for a reception with hors d'oeuvres and no host cocktails. The view is spectacular. This is a wonderful time to catch up on the day's events, mingle with old friends and make new ones. The stars of the evening will be the many Chautauqua presenters walking among you - some relaying tales of their lives and experiences in the rugged frontier Nevada of long ago and some telling stories from the not too distant past when Las Vegas experienced its first population explosion. What better way to become acquainted with your state's history than to talk to the people who lived it. The reception is also available, for a nominal fee, to those of you unable to attend the workshops during the day. Check your flyer for details.

After you receive your registration form, or if you don't receive it, and you have other questions or need additional information, please call Joyce Marshall - (702) 648-7042 or Rose Irwin - (702) 457-4577. Whether you are able to stay for the two days, one day, or only the reception, we are looking forward to seeing all of you.

by Joyce Marshall

NWHP Has A New Home

The Nevada Women's Fund and the Nevada Women's History Project recently moved to new offices. The new address is 770 Smithridge Drive, Suite #300, Reno, NV 89502. Our telephone remains the same, (775) 786-2335. The post office box will be kept for a few more months, but mail can be sent directly to our new street address and will arrive in a more timely fashion. We are urging all of our members to begin using this new address for mail as we anticipate staying in these quarters for several years.

The offices are lovely and brand new. Our landlord, RPL Realty, allowed us to store everything in a space next to the new offices while they were being constructed. Our office space is about the size of our other office, however, there is a very large workroom just behind our room where we have space to store items and place our file cabinets. The Nevada Women's Fund had the large lateral file cabinets repainted (two of which we use), so everything looks new and shiny. There is a conference room, a private bathroom, and a kitchenette with a dishwasher.

Please take the opportunity to stop by to see our new home! We thank the Nevada Women's Fund for making it possible for us to have such nice offices.

NWHP Leadership

NORTH STEERING COMMITTEE:

Carrie Townley Porter: Chair
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Vice-Chair
Beverly Hubbard: Treasurer
Janice Gunderson: Secretary
Kay Sanders: Communication Chair
Kathy Noneman: Membership Chair
Mary Anne Convis & Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Project Review Co-Chairs
Dana Bennett: Program Chair
Patt Quinn-Davis: Publicity Chair

SOUTHERN REGION

Rose Irvin: President
Mitsi Johnson: Vice President
Joan LeMere: Second Vice President
Alanna Noyes: Third Vice President
Frankie Williams: Secretary
Eva Stowers: Treasurer
Joyce Marshall: Nominating Chair
Kaye Gray: Corresponding Secretary

NWHP STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joyce Marshall: Chair
Rose Irvin: Vice-Chair and Southern Region President
Eva Stowers: Treasurer and Southern Region Treasurer
Kathleen Clemence: State Recording Secretary
Carrie Townley Porter: Northern Region Chair
Beverly Hubbard: Northern Region Treasurer
Mitsi Johnson: Southern Region Representative
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Northern Region Representative

Calendar

NORTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY 14, 2000 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., NWHP office

FEBRUARY 14, MARCH 4, & APRIL 24, 2000 - NWHP/SNCAT WORKSHOP - "Preserving Your Past - Papers, Photos & Family Heirlooms"

FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 25, APRIL 4, 2000 - NWHP/SNCAT WORKSHOP - "How to Organize the Records of Your Club or Small Business"

FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 18, APRIL 10, 2000 - NWHP/SNCAT WORKSHOP - "Disaster Planning for Records of All Kinds"

MARCH 4, 2000 - Brainstorming potluck lunch at Kathy Noneman's home. Call 786-2335 for details. All members are welcome. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend

MARCH 11, 2000 - Historic fashion show benefitting the Churchill County Museum building fund. Call the Churchill County Museum 775-423-3677 or the NWHP office 775-786-2335 in February for details.

MARCH 13, 2000 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., NWHP Office

MARCH 17 & 18, 2000 - NWHP AND NEVADA WOMEN'S LOBBY CONFERENCE in Las Vegas

APRIL 10, 2000 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., NWHP Office

MAY 8, 2000 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., NWHP Office

SOUTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY 12, 2000 - Executive Committee Meeting in the home of Joan LeMere, 9:00 a.m.

MARCH 11, 2000 - Executive Committee Meeting in the home of Eva Stowers, 8:00 a.m.

MARCH 17 & 18, 2000 - NWHP and Nevada Women's Lobby \ Conference, Riviera Hotel

APRIL 1, 2000 - Executive Committee Meeting, TBA

APRIL 8, 2000 - Museum, Library and Arts Foundation Fundraiser, Mandalay Bay Hotel.

APRIL 2000 - Workshop by Eva Stowers, TBA

MAY 13, 2000 - Executive Committee Meeting, TBA

MAY 27, 2000 - Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers

Hannah Clapp Lecture Series

Wed., March 8, at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Gardnerville; Cecile Brown, curator, will give us a special tour of the Women's History Display, with a no-host dinner afterwards at a local restaurant for those who wish to stay.

Wed., April 5, at the State Library and Archives in Carson City; Cindy Southerland will portray "Louise Shreives", from Carson City history.

Wed., May 3, at the Genoa Museum; "A Peek into Grandmother's Trunk" by Janice Hansen and Laurie Hickey, with a no-host dinner afterwards at a local restaurant.

Wed., June 7, at the State Library and Archives in Carson City; Historical Portrayals by members of the "Carson Valley Young Chautauquans"

All lectures begin at 5:45 p.m.

Questions? Contact Cherry Jones 775 267-3410

Summary of Research Roundtable Speakers in Northern Nevada

A review of topics and speakers who have presented their research at Research Roundtable events beginning in 1996 in northern Nevada is outlined in the following list. With this initial year 2000 issue and the reprinting of Research Registry participants, we look back and also ahead to new research and fresh sharing of Nevada women's stories.

Bennett, Dana
Buzick, Tamara
Clemence, Kathleen
Cohen, Eileen
Cudek, Phyllis
Earl, Phil
Early, Esther
Ford, Vikki
Howard, Anne
Klos, Pat

Women Elected to State Office
Eilley Bowers

Women in Military Service

Hannah Clapp

Midwives (with Dr. Sohn)

Women in Mining Camps

Jean McElrath

YWCA History

Anne Martin

Jane Lake (with a tea at Lake Mansion)

Daze in the Mansion

Nevada Women's Organizations

Women Attorneys

Helen J. Stewart

Nevada Women in Medicine (with Phyllis Cudek)

Women's Lives in Aurora

Reno Divorce: The National Context of Local Industry

Dat-So-La-Lee

Winnemucca Women

Nevada's Basque Women

List, Kathy
McMullen, Cyd
Noneman, Kathy
Porter, Carrie
Sohn, Dr. Anton

Stewart, Bob
Watson, Anita

Westergard, Dixie
White, Janet
White, Linda

Researchers and Writers Wanted

The first-ever biographical encyclopedia for the state of Nevada is a project that needs help not only from members of the NWHF but anyone in the community who is willing to research and write about our historical women of Nevada. The materials used will list the researcher and the writer.

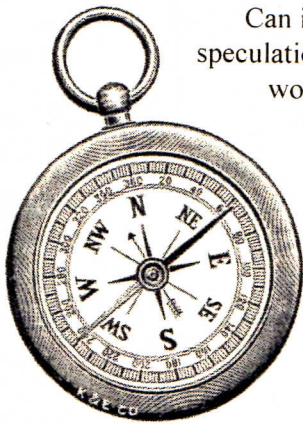
The first edition will include only the deceased historical women of the southern region with a second edition to follow with deceased historical women of the northern region. Additional volumes will follow as time permits.

If you can assist us in any way please call the following people:

Rose Irwin at (702) 457-4577 or email toots1110@aol.com, Mitsi Johnson at (702) 456-3218 or (702) 385-3677 or email mcj3825@aol.com.



News from the North



Can it already be year 2000? With all the speculations and anticipations of what Y2K would bring, it was quite a let down when all went well. I am sure we are all pleased that there were few problems.

The move from our quarters meant we were in limbo for a month without offices, but we managed quite well. Various members took home records, supplies for mailing the newsletter, or whatever a member felt she needed to continue her work. We were all delighted to learn that our offices were ready to move into a month earlier than had been expected.

In November, many of our members enjoyed the reception at the Nevada State Library and Archives Building which kicked off the opening of the new exhibit, "Silver Ladies in Golden Splendor: Nevada's First Ladies Ball Gown Exhibit." The evening was beautifully orchestrated by our member, Jan Loverin. Several of our state officers came for the evening, which enabled us to have a state meeting after the reception.

March promises to be very busy as we celebrate Women's History Month. Please see the calendar for many of the events. I am scheduled to present Helen J. Stewart for the Bureau of Land Management and to wear my costume in a fashion show highlighting historic clothing in Fallon. The event, scheduled Saturday, March 11, 2000, will be a fund-raiser benefitting the Churchill County Museum. This promises to be a fun event and will be narrated by Jan Loverin. Details will be available in early February. Of course, many of us from the north are looking forward to joining our southern members at the conference in Las Vegas.

We are very fortunate to have two of our members accept positions on our North Steering Committee. Dana Bennett is now our new Program Chair and is planning some exciting events to bring our members together. Mary Anne Convis joins Lisa-Marie Lightfoot as co-chair of the Project Review Committee. Dana and Mary Anne, have been active in NWHP for several years and we are delighted to be able to work with them again.

Now that the book assessment is finally finished - with much gratitude to the dedication and hard work of Betty Glass and Martha Gould and the fine support from Jean Stoess - we are looking at doing some brainstorming. We are inviting all members to join the north steering committee Saturday, March 4, 2000, for a potluck lunch at Kathy Noneman's home. Call me for details, (775) 857-2050.

by Carrie Townley Porter

Southern Region News

NWHP, Southern Region, welcomed the New Year with challenging goals for the year 2000. With help of its members, it should prove to be another successful year with workshops, speakers and time to enjoy the friendships of new and old.

On February 5th the southern region celebrated "Black History" month at the Desert Pines Country Club with a fascinating program on the famous and historical Moulin Rouge presented by Mary Gafford and Frankie Williams. Members and guests were invited to attend the brunch program.

The month of March will be filled with exciting and educational events. "Wednesday's Woman," the Library District is hosting, along with the support of the NWHP, women speakers of cultural backgrounds; the Women's Conference at the Riviera Hotel on the 17th and 18th of March. We do hope that our members will participate in the conference that will be filled with workshops, speakers and social time. The Museum, Library and Arts will be hosting two events. The NWHP has been asked to co-sponsor their exciting plans for the inaugural gowns being on display here in Las Vegas.

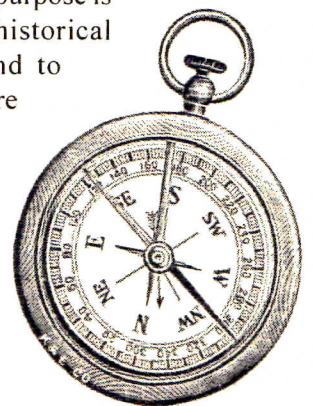
At the present time we are most anxious to produce and market the video that was completed on the first ladies of Nevada. We will have the video available for sale at the conference and anyone interested in purchasing may call Rose Irwin at (702) 457-4577. The cost will be \$20.00.

The southern region is preparing a slate of officers for the new administration and we wish to thank Jean Spiller, Karla McComb and Joyce Marshall, our outgoing State Chair, for undertaking this task. We wish them the best in their seeking and endorsing those candidates. If anyone wishes to volunteer for an elected or appointed position please contact Joyce Marshall at 648-7042. The slate of officers will be published in a regional newsletter sixty (60) days prior to the annual business meeting on May 27th.

As each month passes we are ever so grateful to have our members involved in whatever tasks are required and to have the support of our executive committee members who have taken on the challenges of an organization so vital to our community. This president will never be able to thank each for their constant support in the growth, goals and purposes of this organization. The purpose is collecting materials about our historical Nevada women, to educate, and to preserve those materials for future use.

We wish you health, success and happiness in the year 2000.

by Rose Irwin



Annotated Bibliography Goes to Press

The years of hard work and dedication to the cause by volunteers in the Nevada Women's History Project has paid off. Their publication "Women In Nevada History: An Annotated Bibliography of Published Sources" has gone to press. Editor Betty Glass submitted the final draft to the Northern Nevada Steering Committee at their January meeting in Reno. Copies of the Bibliography will be distributed to UNR and UNLV, Nevada community colleges, public high schools, junior high schools, and public libraries.

Four hundred and twenty-six books and publications dating from 1881 to 1998 are included in the Bibliography. Five indexes covering names, topics, Nevada women's organizations, race and ethnic identity of Nevada women, and genre will aid researchers. The publication is dedicated to Jean Ford, founder of Nevada Women's History Project. She, Betty Glass, and Martha Gould are named as editors. Jean Stoess did the computer inputting of all the entries as well as the final manuscript compilation.

Achieving a "first" of its kind in content for use by Nevada researchers and students, the NWHP can be proud of this accomplishment. The four purposes of the annotated bibliography project are to identify published books which include information on women's roles and experiences in any and all periods of Nevada history; to produce an annotated bibliography for use in classrooms and other formal and informal learning programs; to make the information available in various formats, from hard copy to on-line Internet access; and to encourage additional research and writing on women's history and related topics in Nevada and the surrounding region.

After identifying over 300 books in 1996, the project committee invited volunteer reviewers from all parts of the state to read, glean information, and lastly to turn in their comments on "purple sheets" created for this purpose. Even though many of the titles are out of print they are available in public, school, and academic libraries throughout Nevada. After Jean learned that she had pancreatic cancer in 1997 she redoubled her efforts to finish this project and worked on it steadily until her death in August 1998. Copies of the Annotated Bibliography will be distributed this spring.

by Kay Sanders

Spring Workshop Series

The Nevada Women's History Project, The Nevada State Library and Archives and the SNCAT (Sierra Nevada Community Access TV) Community Access Archives will offer archives classes to the public at SNCAT's Reno Media Center in February, March and April, 2000.

Jeff M. Kintop, state archives manager will offer three classes, "Preserving Your Past - Papers, Photos and Family Heirlooms," on February 14, March 4 and April 24, 2000, and "Disaster Planning for Records of All Kinds" on February 28, March 18 and April 10, 2000.

Carrie Townley Porter, State Coordinator of the NWHP, will offer three workshops on "How to Organize the Records of Your Small Club or Business" on February 9, March 25, and April 4, 2000.

The cost for each workshop is \$40. For more information, contact SNCAT at 775-828-1211 or the NWHP office at 775-786-3225.



Message from Dana Bennett

Please let Dana know what type of programs members in Northern Nevada would like to have offered in the Reno/Sparks area. She is our new Program Chair and is in the process of arranging for workshops, lectures, and presentations to be offered this year. We are also interested in working with other historic groups on program planning. Give Dana a call at (775)849-9224 or by email: RBDRB@netscape.net.

So. Nevada NWHP Membership Report

As of January 5, 2000, Nevada Women's History Project Southern Region has 123 members. This is an increase of 42 members since January 1999. Once again I want to thank all of you for your help in soliciting new memberships. I am looking forward with anticipation to the year 2000 and the growth of our organization here in Southern Nevada and in other regions of the state of Nevada.

Membership Chairman Southern Region
Joan M. LeMere

Wednesday's Woman 2000

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District hosts this second annual celebration of National Women's History Month through the Wednesday's Woman Lecture Series. This series focuses on women of diversity and achievement. Speakers take the podium every Wednesday throughout the month of March to offer their life's experience and thoughts on the roles of women. A question and answer period follow each lecture where the audience is invited to interact and discuss relevant issues with these renowned women of diversity! Each Wednesday is concluded with a reception in honor of these great women. Stay and greet our honored guests as they discover the variety of women Las Vegas is proud of!

All lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. All lectures will be broadcast on County Cable Ch. 4

March 2, 2000
Phoebe Eng

Clark County Library, Theatre

Ms. Eng is a national lecturer and author of the critically acclaimed *Warrior Lessons*. Eng is also the director of The Different Mirror, a strategy group whose clients have included the U.S. Department of Justice, the Ford Foundation, Lucent Technologies, several Fortune 500 firms, and universities.

A corporate attorney by training, Eng received her J.D. from New York University School of Law. Eng was a founding member and former publisher of *A. Magazine* for Asian Americans. She is a founding sister of the Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute and is currently involved in the program launch of The Woodhull Institute, a leadership institute for young women founded by internationally acclaimed author Naomi Wolf. Phoebe Eng's accomplishments and awards are extensive.

March 9, 2000
Emily Gunter

West Las Vegas Library, Theatre

Emily Gunter, President of Gunter Development Enterprises, which is a human development firm dedicated to the cultural and educational empowerment for all people. Gunter is the author of the best selling book *Superlearning 2000: The New Technologies of Self-Empowerment*, which promotes proactive learning rather than reactive learning out of fear.

March 15, 2000
Naomi Levy

Sahara West Library & Fine Arts Museum, Multi-Purpose Room

Naomi Levy was in the first class to admit women to study for the rabbinate at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and the first female conservative rabbi to lead a congregation on the West Coast.

Levy is the author of *To Begin Again*, acclaimed as "the arrival of an important new voice." Her book focuses on clarity, comfort, and compassion in the face of loss. "Her wisdom and tenderness help us to find our own answers and to remember the spiritual strength and healing that is possible for us all." - Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., author.

March 22, 2000
Lori A. Alvord

Whitney Library, Concert Hall

Lori Arviso Alvord, M.D., is currently Associate Dean of Student and Minority Affairs at Dartmouth Medical School. A member of the Navajo Tribe, Lori is also Assistant Professor of Surgery, and is a practicing general surgeon. Lori is the first Navajo woman surgeon. She has focused her study on the traditional healing ways with western medicine.

March 29, 2000
Lucha Corpi

Sunrise Library, Auditorium

Lucha Corpi is an Hispanic author of both children's and adult literature.



Charlotte Rowberry Ellsworth

by Jane Ellsworth Olive
Nevada Women's History Project

Ellsworth, Charlotte Rowberry (January 8, 1912 - July 11, 1998), Room Reservation Manager and executive at the Flamingo Hotel, Frontier Hotel, MGM Grand Hotel and Bally's Grand Hotel from 1948 to 1988. Born in Cardston, Alberta, Canada, Wealtha Charlotte Rowberry was the daughter of Thomas Clark Rowberry and Jane Ann Hartley Rowberry. This couple was among the first group of Mormon farmers to settle that region of Canada. Thomas Rowberry was the town administrator. Jane Ann Rowberry helped the large Hartley family farm their sizable land holdings, break horses, taught piano lessons and entertained in her Cardston home.

When Charlotte was two years old her father died. Her mother was devastated by this loss. Unable to keep her portion of the family enterprise, she left Canada and struggled for the remaining years of her life to support and keep her three children, Hiram, John and Charlotte, together. Survival became the family business and Charlotte began working at the age of eight. When Jane cooked for road gangs and Salt Lake City fraternity houses, the three children assisted her in the cooking, then washed dishes for as many as thirty men three times a day. Her brothers took on any job they could get and Charlotte was working in her school offices as soon as she was in high school.

Charlotte's mother was determined that Charlotte would attend the private L.D.S. High School and learn secretarial skills. There the strawberry blond, brown-eyed beauty came to know children of the leaders of that city. As secretary to President Feramorz Young Fox, she mastered graciousness, tact, and the qualities of a true professional. So rigorous was his tutelage that she maintained no work was ever so hard again.

A quick student, Charlotte graduated from high school at the age of seventeen. Her mother died of cancer six weeks before the graduation ceremony. She had lived long enough to ensure each of her children a living. In Charlotte's case, her

office skills carried her well through the Great Depression. As the years passed she worked in the Salt Lake area and then spent a year in Washington, D.C. While there, she renewed her acquaintance with Elmo H. Ellsworth. He had determined to marry her when they were both students at L.D.S. High School. Now he had completed a mission, was working for the government and, at twenty-four years of age, finally convinced her to marry him. He transferred to San Francisco, California, and they were married there on October 16, 1936. Their daughter Jane was born in 1938.

When World War II broke out, Elmo moved the family inland. He found work in Clark County at the newly constructed Basic Magnesium Plant. He arrived on January 1, 1942. As there was no housing, he lived in the tent city. Charlotte and Janie joined him in April. They found a room at the Walipai Lodge and stayed there until the Henderson homes were available. Their second daughter, Rosemary Lee was born shortly after that move. The infant was very ill and died at ten months of age.

Heart-broken and exhausted by their child's long illness and death, the couple moved into the newly built Huntridge homes in Las Vegas. Elmo's friend, Jack

Walsh, suggested she work for him at the El Rancho Hotel. There she was given a "flunkey's job" helping out in any and all the departments of the hotel. This would prove to be a wonderful opportunity. She learned the needs and demands of the entire hotel operation and soon became secretary to the president. When Sanford Adler took over the casino, she was made head of the room reservation department. The demands and details of the work were extraordinary and, according to Charlotte, one reservation manager was hauled to jail for overselling the hotel. She left the El Rancho to stay home and enjoy her new baby boy, John Elmo, who was born on May 18, 1947.

Charlotte had to be hospitalized for six months after John Elmo's birth. When she recuperated the family finances were stretched to the breaking point. Again, Jack Walsh called and

continued on page 8



wanted her at the new Flamingo Hotel. In November of 1948 she agreed to go to the Flamingo Hotel to manage the room reservations department.

Her career at the Flamingo Hotel lasted for nineteen years. She moved on to the Frontier Hotel in 1967 where she remained for ten years. Elmo had died in December of 1971 and so her work became her refuge. At the age of sixty-five she was persuaded to join her associates for the opening of the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, Nevada. She remained at the Grand until her retirement at the age of seventy-six. She had been a room reservation manager for forty years.

Charlotte had certain qualities that made her invaluable to hotel owners. She was willing to work twelve and fourteen-hour days, seven days a week, as did many of the owners themselves. She recognized the needs of the entire operation and gave balanced opinions that were always pointed to the success of the enterprise. She was loyal to her bosses and they were very protective of her. She fought for the good of the business, the guests and her staff.

Stories of her brilliance and graciousness abound. Once she went to one of her bosses to ask for raises for her staff. She was told that she could have the raise for herself or her staff, not both. Charlotte took the raise for "her girls." As the decades passed, Charlotte trained hundreds of men and women in the hotel business. Her standards were high. She believed in her people and they strove to match her expectations. Many insisted she was the best boss and ran the most enjoyable office they had ever worked in.

Charlotte had a photographic memory and could remember the guests' names, their casino credit rating and details about the lives of their parents and children. Because of her graciousness and interest, guests loved her and hundreds became her personal friends. Christmases were often overwhelming with gifts from all over the world. One year she received more than three hundred gifts for the holiday. These gifts were always shared with her staff.

Charlotte Ellsworth returned to Las Vegas in late May of 1998. There she passed away on July 11, 1998. Former guests and staff workers had remained steadfast friends throughout the years. All remembered her as totally professional, gracious and generous. They referred to her as "The Great Lady."

Sources: Taped interviews with Charlotte R. Ellsworth, family records, interviews of Angie Kaye, Linda Love Lee, Cec Kier.

Submitted by Jane Ellsworth Olive

Women's History Remembering Project

To celebrate women's history week, the Carson Valley Historical Society will conduct a ceremony

Sunday, March 5, 2000 - 1:00 p.m.

to honor Carson Valley women who have been nominated for the Women's History Remembering Project. The ceremony will follow the opening of the women's history exhibit, "Nevada Women on the Road to Change, 1890-1920." The reception will be held at the Carson Valley Historical Museum and Cultural Center, 1477 Hwy 395, Gardnerville, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Carson Valley Historical Society is conducting a survey soliciting nominations for the Nevada Women's History Project. The information collected during this survey will be archived in the Carson Valley Historical Society library and shared with the Nevada Women's History Project. The NWHP is dedicated to archiving information, photos, and artifacts about the roles and contributions of Nevada women. This information will be used for educational research and for exhibits in museums and galleries.

NOMINATE A WOMAN YOU WANT REMEMBERED..

There are articles in the newspapers and stories on TV about extraordinary women, but there are thousands of ordinary women who contribute their special talents and effect the lives of others. How long will they be remembered unless this information is recorded for future generations? Send any information you would like included, but be sure to answer as many of the following questions as possible.

1. What is the name of the woman you have honored? (All her names, maiden, married and possibly married again.)
2. When and where was she born?
3. If deceased, when and where?
4. If she was not born in Carson Valley, when and why did she move to Carson Valley?
5. What other dates in her life are significant?
6. Why you are honoring her?
7. What are the major accomplishments of her life?
8. You must include your name, address and phone number in order for us to verify the information.

Mall Nomination before February 15, 2000 to:

The Women's History Remembering Project

Attention: Peggy Knox

Carson Valley Historical Society

1477 Highway 395 N • Gardnerville, NV 89410

Please contact Peggy Knox at 775-783-9301 for further information or questions concerning this important project.

Reprinted with permission from the Jan./Feb./Mar., 2000 Carson Valley Historical Society Newsletter.

Nevada Women Military Pilots of WWII

Hazel Hohn's manuscript on Nevada Women Military Pilots of World War II is a tribute to over 60 magnificent women who in their flying machines slipped the surly bonds of earth in the skies over Nevada as flyers with the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) or Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

During World War II, "over 25,000 applied for the limited openings in the WASP program, 1,830 were selected, and 1,074 women completed the program before the Army Air Force abruptly cancelled it. Many were seasoned pilots and eligible except for one criterion; they were not male. These women flew 60 million miles, ferried 12,650 aircraft, towed countless gunnery targets, and instructed hundreds of Air Force pilots. They flew as regularly and as long as male pilots in the same jobs and showed no difference in physical, mental, or psychological capabilities. Although 38 lost their lives (one near Las Vegas), the record shows that the women's accident rate was about the same as the men's."¹

The manuscript written by Hazel Hohn, herself a WASP and Nevadan since 1960, outlines the personal histories of over 30 pilots who flew in Nevada. Some of the women were natives of Nevada, others came to Nevada to fly when bases along the coasts were closed, and some only flew while on assignment at Las Vegas Army Air Field, where "at the height of World War II, 600 gunnery students and 215 co-pilots graduated from LVAAF every five weeks."²

"After their graduation from Avenger (Field in Sweetwater, Texas), Ruth Craig Jones and Skip Carter reported to Las Vegas AAF along with Marie Mountain, Marge Harper, and several other 44-W-1 classmates. The base greeted the WASP with a parade, and gave them billets in the nurses' barracks. Within 6 months, 36 women would be on duty at Las Vegas, making this the largest WASP contingent in the Training Command."³

"Flying training missions in the fierce skies over the desert at Las Vegas was brutal work most of the year, and the pilots swallowed handfuls of salt tablets to stave off dehydration. After several hours of target towing, Marge Harper was stunned to find rings of salt encrusting her body when she unzipped her flight suit."⁴

Many of the WASP learned to fly in Minden, Nevada, trained by Victor Spazia. One of these women was Lois Brooks Halley, a graduate of Reno High School and the University of Nevada, who first soloed in a Taylorcraft airplane at Vista Airport, which was in a pasture field in the Sparks, Nevada, area in 1939. After serving as a WASP and in various flight capacities, Lois was inducted into the El Paso Aviation Hall of Fame in 1985.

By coincidence, Hazel Hohn was classmate with Doris Klein Ohm and Jean McCart in WASP class 44-W-4. Both Doris and Jean had come to Nevada from California to fly when coastal bases were closed. Each received their private flight training in Minden in April and May of 1943, respectively, before entering WASP flight training in November 1943 at Avenger Field.

Utilizing letters, personal interviews, and book excerpts, Ms. Hohn's collection of personal histories of these courageous women is a fascinating read. I hope the above entices each NWHF member to learn in greater detail the outstanding contributions to the defense of our great nation and to the field of aviation made by women.

Ms. Hohn's manuscript is available at the Jean Ford Research Center and UNR Special Collections in Reno. Other recommend readings:

Granger, Byrd H., On Final Approach: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII, Falconer Publishing Company, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1991.

Holm, Major General Jeanne, USAF, Retired, Women in the Military: An Unfinished Revolution, Presidio Press, Novato, California, 1982.

Moolman, Valerie, Women Aloft, Time-Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1981.

War Stories: Veterans Remember WWII, University of Nevada Oral History Program, 1995.

Verges, Marianne, On Silver Wings: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of World WarII, 1942-1944, Ballantine Books, New York, 1991.

by Kathleen Clemance

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force, Retired
NWHF State Secretary

¹ Major General Jeanne Holm, United States Air Force, Retired, *Women in the Military: An Unfinished Revolution*, Presidio Press, Novato, California, 1982, p.314.

² "History of Nellis Air Force Base," 1999

³ Marianne Verges, On Silver Wings, Ballantine Books, New York, 1991, quoted by Hazel Hohn, "Nevada Women Military Pilots of World War II," 1999

⁴ Ibid.

Research Registry Resurrected

In our first NWHP News issue, dated January 1996, page one featured a column listing individuals and the research they were pursuing on Nevada women's history. The goal of this Research Registry was to encourage the sharing of information, sources, and work collaboration, as well as new publications for wide audiences, from schoolchildren to adults. This goal continues to be one of the linchpins of our organization. To reaffirm and continue this outreach, your editor has decided to print the names and research interests of everyone included in our Research Registry to date. This information hopefully will rekindle research efforts and encourage sharing and cooperation. The spin-off could be new presentations, publications, docudramas, and development of educational materials emphasizing the role that women have played in the history of our state.

The following is the complete list of researchers and their areas of focus that have appeared in previous issues of NWHP News:

- **Dana Bennett:** women elected to Nevada state offices
- **Jean Ford:** women on the Comstock; Nevada women's suffrage; women and work
- **Joan Morrow:** Nevada women and the automobile
- **Kathleen Noneman:** early women attorneys in Nevada
- **Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales:** Hispanic women in Nevada history
- **Dr. Anton Sohn:** women physicians in Nevada before 1900
- **Carrie Townley Porter:** the life of Helen J. Stewart
- **Anita Watson:** incidence and effects of divorce in Nevada
- **Janet White:** women who lived in Humboldt County prior to 1925, particularly those of the families of Hendra, DeLong, Floyd, and Mary Rose
- **Tammy Busick:** Eilley Orrum Bowers (late 19th century) and Laura Dettenreider
- **Vikki Ford:** women's diaries and family histories
- **Dr. James McCormick:** women artists in Nevada
- **Elmer and Mary Rusco:** Rev. Mila Tupper Maynard and Alice Hartley (1890s)
- **Elmer Rusco:** women involved in civil rights movement in Nevada
- **Bob Stewart:** Aurora, early mining camp on Nevada border near Bodie
- **Dr. Sue Fawn Chung:** Asian women in Nevada
- **Dr. Joanne Goodwin:** oral histories of women who helped build victim rights organizations in Las Vegas; oral histories of women casino owners and managers
- **Joyce Marshall:** oral histories of showgirls and dancers in Las Vegas
- **Dr. Candace Kant:** image of Nevada women in film
- **Twila Rogers:** Nevada women poets
- **Leslie Shipp and Deanna Beachley:** Nevada women in World War II
- **Claytee White:** oral histories of African-Americans who migrated to Las Vegas in the '40s and '50s and worked in the hotel industry as maids and culinary workers
- **Frankie Williams:** orphan trains during the Depression that brought girls and boys to the West and POINTers (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together)
- **Gloria Castillo and Dr. Jeri Echeverria:** Basque women of Nevada Betsy Clark
- **Betsy Clark and Kathleen Clemence:** women in military service
- **"CoCo" Crum:** Genoa, Minden
- **Dorothy Dermody:** Goldfield, Tonopah, Mason Valley
- **Gertrude Gottschalk:** Ormsby County (now Carson City) politics
- **Marlena Hellwinkle:** Carson Valley oldtimers
- **Marian LaVoy:** Churchill County
- **Jeanne Miller:** diaries and journals relating to the Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- **June Rivers:** ranch families
- **Sandy Rizzo:** one-room school-house teachers
- **Sandy Miller:** women and men who lived in the Governor's Mansion as children
- **Delores Bowman:** Fourth Ward School alumni, Virginia City
- **Shirley Burman:** women in railroading
- **Esther Early and Ruth Armstrong Smith:** women students at UNR during WWII
- **Beverly McBride:** Eliza Buckland of Buckland Station
- **Peter E. Palmquist:** women photographers of the West
- **Cindy Reynolds:** Sisters of Charity on the Comstock
- **Dr. Lynn Ruegama:** early Nevada educators who taught in one-room school-houses
- **Lynn Bremer:** Mary S. Doten
- **Kari Coughlin:** women of Rhyolite
- **Kay Sanders:** women who lived in early mining camps
- **Sally Wilkins:** Idah M. Strobridge
- **Carol Corbett:** southern Nevada watering holes and springs named after women
- **Dixie Westergard:** Dat-So-La-Lee
- **Katheen McLean:** Portuguese in Nevada
- **Eileen Cohen, Susan and Gene Paslov, Dr. John Marschall, Judy Greenspan, and James Rose:** early Jews in Carson City
- **Janice Painter:** Washoe Indians
- **Patti Bernard and Joan Bowles:** early Eureka families
- **Sherrill Steele-Carlin:** Goldfield
- **Charlyne Arosio:** Italians in Nevada
- **Jennifer Nelson:** Charlotte Perkins Gilman and her association with Nevada women's suffrage
- **Hazel Hohn:** Nevada women who have been pilots in the military

Anyone willing to be included on this list, please contact the editor, Kay Sanders, at NWHP, 770 Smidridge Dr., Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502-0708. Email messages can be sent to Kay at ksanders@scs.unr.edu or FAX at (775) 747-1642. Please give your name, address, and area of interest. We plan to gather more information from our researchers in the future regarding the progress they have made and whether or not they would be willing to share their work in the NWHP News, a presentation, or other means.

Potpourri

In Appreciation:

- For help with the move of our office: Billie Brinkman, Chuck and Mary Anne Convis, Bruce and Lisa-Marie Lightfoot, Susan Roberts and Keith Porter.
- Thanks also to those of you who offered help on other days, but were not needed.

Donations:

- Thanks to the following who made donations recently to NWHP, either in kind or monetary: Lynn Bremer, Fritsi Ericson, Maya Miller, Peggy Twedt.
- Thanks to Margaret Kadayama from Fairfax California, who sent a donation to NWHP honoring her mother, member Mary Anne Convis. Isn't this a good idea to honor your own family members for Mother's Day?

Congratulations:

Member Sue Kendall, of the State Library, was named Librarian of the Year by the Nevada Library Association for 1999.

Episcopal/NWHP Joint Luncheon Held

Nevada Women's History Project members joined the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, women's group in Sparks for lunch on November 4th and a revealing talk. The Reverend Britt Olson, the first female rector of the Episcopal Church in Nevada spoke on women in the clergy.

The energetic Reverend Olson gave her personal account of breaking the "stained glass ceiling" in her rise in the Episcopal Church. She also presented a brief history of the Episcopal Church in Nevada and had several long-time church members tell their Nevada stories. NWHP Chair, Northern Region, Carrie Porter attended the meeting as Helen Stewart, first woman of Las Vegas who was also Episcopalian. Everyone was charmed.

FYI: Reverend Olson recently lead the prayer and sat next to visiting dignitary, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during her visit to Reno.

NWHP looks forward to attending more events of interest to our members. If your organization has an upcoming event, call and let us know so we can share the information with our members.



So. Region Participates in First Annual Western Heritage Festival

Members of NWHP south presented information about NWHP at a booth during the weekend of November 7-8, 1999, at the first ever Western Heritage Festival held in Las Vegas. The site for this thrilling event was the Cheyenne Campus of the Community College of Southern Nevada. Audiences were treated with presentations from Brigham Young, Annie Oakley and others from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, as well as a few local historic celebrities. There was Cowboy Poetry reading as well as music and American native dancers. The event was organized by the Friends of Kiel Ranch. All in attendance were excited to hear about NWHP, our purpose and projects and our upcoming state conference.

Special thanks to Frankie Williams, Mary Gafford, Alanna Noyes, Mitsi Johnson and Rose Irwin for working the booth those two days. Thank you to the Girl Scouts of Frontier Council for providing us with a table and some great historic activity sheets for children and other printed materials.

by Mitsi Johnson

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Visit the Nevada Women's History Project Online at www.unr.edu/wrc/nwhp/

Membership Application

Individual Membership • Dues \$25/Year

Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email _____ Voice Mail _____

Organizational Membership • Active Dues \$50/Year

Corporate Sponsor • \$250/Year

Organization _____

President or Director _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

Email _____ Voice Mail _____

Name of Representative to NWHP _____

*Welcome New
Members!*

Dee Bowman
Bonnie Bullis
Sherrie Clark
Maria Denzler
Sandy Dinsmore
Katie Donovan
Shirley Fraser
Kathryn Howell
Naomi Liles-Shirley
Yvonne Prettyman
Bella Rojas
Maggie Thomsen
J. Compton Vaughn
Kay Wilkinson-Brown

Any NWHP member may receive the full membership list by sending \$5 to NWHP, 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502. The Southern Membership Chair of the NWHP may be reached at P.O. Box 28206, Las Vegas, NV 899102.