

# NWHP

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY

## Project News

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### Exciting 2001 NWHP Conference Plans

In an array of subjects from the historic perspective of women's lives in prison to a unique presentation on Wild Horse Annie, the Nevada Women's History Project Conference 2001 promises a fulfilling, engaging weekend this March in Carson City. The keynote speaker for this fifth annual event, March 23-24, will be Anne M. Butler, professor of history at Utah State University. With interests ranging from gendered justice on the American frontier to the Catholic Daughters of Charity life on the Comstock, Butler, the editor of the Western Historical Quarterly, will give a fascinating presentation about the often harsh lives of western women against the backdrop of their individual lifestyles.

Friday evening, Alexandra Voorhees will perform a Chautauqua performance of Sarah Winnemucca. Voorhees will present in a special engagement at the Piper's Opera House in Virginia City. The evening, which offers bus service to the historic mountain town, will include dinner. Young Chautauquans from Carson Valley will also take part in the Virginia City tribute.

Saturday sessions include a presentation by Dana Bennett on women who served in the Nevada legislature in the early 20th century, and an illustrated talk by wildlife ecologist and wild horse advocate Craig Carpenter Downer, about his years working with Velma Johnston, better known as Wild Horse Annie. Vikki Ford, a Reno oral historian, will discuss her oral histories of Jean Ford and Sue Wagner, and a presentation of "Dr. Mary" by her daughter-in-law Georgia Fulstone and Dixie Westergard, offers an unusually unique view of Dr. Mary Fulstone, a doctor in Smith Valley. Women of the Moulin Rouge will receive a fascinating look by Frankie Williams and Mary Gafford, and historian Sally Zanjani will present her new research on Sarah Winnemucca during Saturday's sessions.

The conference begins with registration at the Plaza Hotel, 801 S. Carson, from 9-10 a.m. Friday, March 23rd and a later Friday registration from noon to 2:30 p.m. Early registration conference fee is \$75.00. Additional events include an historic Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion Friday afternoon and a tour of the Nevada State museum or Blue Line walking tour (dependent on weather). On Saturday the conference will be held at the Nevada State Library and Archives building in downtown Carson City.

Co-chairwomen for this event are Carrie Townley Porter and Anita Watson. Additional information is available by contacting Carrie at 857-2050, email: [tpareno@msn.com](mailto:tpareno@msn.com), or Anita, 882-8135, email at: [tarnished@uisreno.com](mailto:tarnished@uisreno.com). Also, check the Nevada Women's History Project website at [www.nevadawomen.org](http://www.nevadawomen.org) for other conference information.



### Send Sarah to Washington, D.C.!

The SarahWinnemucca Project was undertaken by the NWHP with the approval of the State Executive Committee at the September 13, 2001 meeting. Find out more on page 3!





## NWHP Leadership

### NORTHERN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE:

Carrie Townley Porter: Chair  
Anita Watson: Vice-Chair  
Tammy Buzick: Treasurer  
Carleen Ernest: Secretary  
Kay Sanders: Communication Chair/Newsletter Editor  
Kathy Noneman & Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Membership Co-Chairs  
Mary Anne Convis: Project Review Chair  
Cherry Jones: Program Chair  
Patt Quinn-Davis: Publicity Chair  
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Finance Chair

### SOUTHERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jane Olive: President  
Anne Reck: Vice President  
Joan LeMere: Second Vice President  
Eva Stowers: Third Vice President  
Irene Rostine: Recording Secretary  
Frankie Williams: Corresponding Secretary  
Mitsi Johnson: Treasurer  
Joyce Marshall: Nominating Chair  
Rose Irwin: Nominating Committee Chairwoman

### NWHP STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rose Irwin: President  
Carrie Porter: First Vice President  
Joan LeMere: Second Vice President  
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Third Vice President  
Mitsi Johnson: Treasurer  
Eva Stowers: Secretary  
Jane Olive: Southern Chapter Representative  
Carleen Ernest: Northern Chapter Representative  
Fritsi Ericson: Nevada Women's Fund Representative  
Alanna Noyes: Policies and Procedures Chair  
Beverly Carlino: 2002 Conference Chair  
Maureen Schnitzer: Corresponding Secretary  
Alice Pearson: Parliamentarian  
Kay Sanders: Editor for State Newsletter  
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster  
Mary Anne Convis: State Project Review Chair

## NORTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

**FEBRUARY 12, 2001** - Steering Committee Meeting

**MARCH 4, 2001** - Our Women in History Remembering Project reception at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville. For additional information contact Peggy Knox at (775) 782-2681.

**MARCH 12, 2001** - Steering Committee Meeting

**MARCH 23-24, 2001** - 5th Annual State Conference, Carson City

**APRIL 9, 2001** - Steering Committee Meeting

**MAY 14, 2001** - Steering Committee Meeting

## SOUTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

**FEBRUARY 13, 2001** - St. Jude's Fashion Show and Luncheon will be held in Las Vegas and several members of the Region will be modeling for the show.

**FEBRUARY 15, 2001** - Region Executive Committee Meeting.

**FEBRUARY 16, 2001** - At 1:00 pm Frankie Williams will present an interesting history on "Remembering The Moulin Rouge" at the Mesquite Club located on St. Louis Street in Las Vegas.

**MARCH 5, 2001** - "Remembering Women of the Past" will be presented by Marie Pellicioni as Olive Lake and Frankie Williams as Fanny Soss at the Salvation Army General Meeting.

**MARCH 7, 2001** - Project Review (Biographical Encyclopedia Project) Committee will meet in the home of Rose Irwin.

**MARCH, 2001** - Mitsi Johnson will present a program on the history of the NWHP to the AAUW members.

**MARCH 15, 2001** - Region Executive Committee meeting.

**MARCH 23-24, 2001** - NWHP Conference in Reno-Carson City. Please make your reservations early.



# *Send Sarah to Washington, D.C.!*

## *NWHP Sponsors the Sarah Winnemucca Project*

The Sarah Winnemucca Project was undertaken by the NWHP with the approval of the State Executive Committee at the September 13, 2001 meeting. Member Sally Zanjani requested that the NWHP sponsor placing a statue of Sarah Winnemucca, Nevada's first national renowned Native American woman, as the second statue from Nevada in the U. S. Capitol Statuary Hall of Fame.

Currently only three states, including Nevada, have not chosen their second statue. Wyoming has chosen their person, although the statue is not yet sculpted. Of the ninety-six existing statues, there are only SIX women, none of whom is a minority woman.

Sarah Winnemucca is the only Nevada woman included in the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York. She was so the historic woman featured in our last newsletter.

NWHP member, Marcia de Braga, Assemblywoman from Fallon, submitted the needed bill draft to the 2001 Legislature on September 28, 2000. The draft, BDR S-695, "provides for the creation of a statue of Sarah Winnemucca to be donated to the National Statuary Hall at the United States Capitol." The requested amount of money is \$100,000. The Jean Ford Research Grant for this year from the Nevada Women's Fund, \$800, was designated for use in this project.

The co-chairs of the NWHP Committee are Mary Anne Convis and Carrie Townley Porter. State President Rose Irwin has appointed Rosann Sirody and Carol Clanton to the committee. We still need others in various communities, such as Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon and Ely. If you wish to help with this project, please notify me at the state office in Reno or e-mail Carrie at [tpareno@msn.com](mailto:tpareno@msn.com).

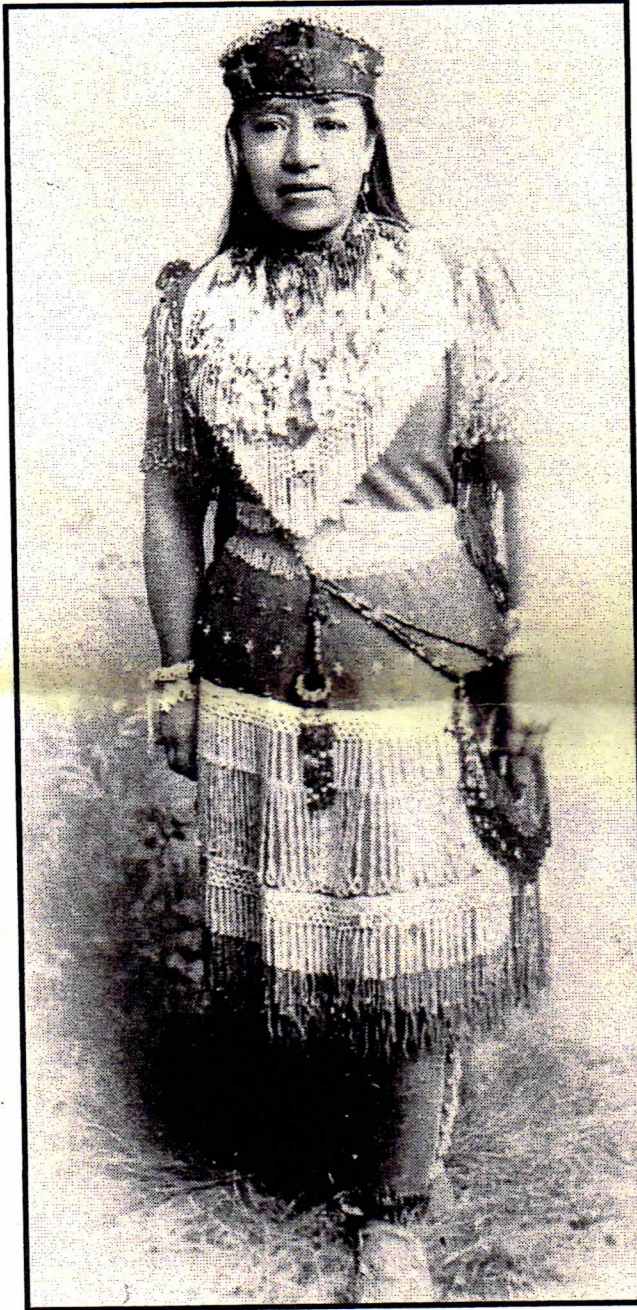
We are sending letters to all service organizations, women's groups, and perhaps even churches to ask for their

support of this project and donations. If the NWHP can collect a significant amount of money, the chances of the bill passing would be greater. Meticulous records of the donations will be kept and the money will be placed in a dedicated fund. Should the bill pass with enough money for the entire project, then the money will be refunded to the donors.

The committee is working with the schools to involve Nevada's school children in the project, which will be a unique learning experience.

Assemblywoman de Braga plans to have the bill introduced on March 23, 2001, the first day of the NWHP conference in Carson City. There will be activities at the conference to showcase and support this project. It is anticipated that Sally Zanjani's biography of Sarah Winnemucca will be just off the presses of the University of Nebraska Press and available for purchase at the conference.

Please help us spread the word on this project. Ask everyone you know to contact his/her Nevada legislator urging support of this important bill. Let's make Nevada proud to be the first to place a minority woman in the U. S. Capitol! If we are successful, many members of NWHP plan to make the trip to Washington, D. C. for the ceremony and unveiling of the Sarah statue!



Sara Winnemucca

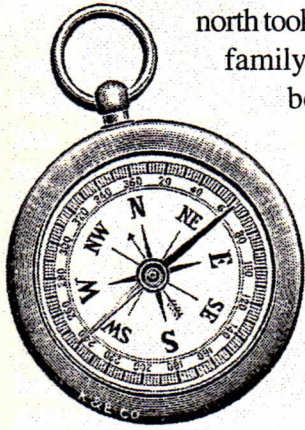
Photo courtesy of Nevada Historical Society

**LET'S SEND SARAH TO WASHINGTON, D. C.!**

Mary Anne Convis  
Carrie Townley Porter



## News from the North



After an extremely busy fall, members in the north took time to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. When the New Year began, we quickly returned to our NWHP projects.

The NWHP Conference 2001 Committee is working hard to provide an exciting conference on March 23-24 to be held in Carson City. The presenters promise to bring us interesting and timely information on various subjects. With the introduction at the

legislative session of the bill to "Send Sarah to Washington, D. C." to kick off the conference, this promises to be an extremely unique experience. We invite all of you to come share this with us. Please see the separate flyer included with this newsletter for details and registration information.

We were pleased to be able to host the January 15, 2001, State Steering Committee Meeting. Fifteen members gathered in our state office for the meeting. We were delighted to show the seven southern members our lovely and comfortable offices which we share with the Nevada Women's Fund. The Jean Ford Research Center looks professional and beautiful, thanks to our decorator, Mary Anne Convis. The northern members provided an enjoyable dinner for us all. Thanks to Mary Anne Convis, Kay Sanders, Holly Van Valkenburgh and my always supportive husband, Keith, who baked us a desert and rolls. We were most appreciative of having a lovely meal without having to go out in the chilling cold and occasional flakes of snow!

Cherry Jones has begun the Hannah Clapp Lecture Series for the year, kicking it off with one of our own historians, Dr. Anita Ernst Watson. On February 7, Jo Ann Peden will discuss and show "Tah-Gum", her video on the pine nut harvest. Having the HCLS meetings at the Carson City Library is working out well. Thanks, Cherry, for your hard work.

Holly Van Valkenburgh and I presented a workshop on our Letters From Nevada's Daughters Project for the Five State Library Leadership Project of Native Americans. We presented this last year and it gave us a fine opportunity to involve our Native America women of Nevada in our project and into our data base for this project. Have you added your information to our project?

I met with our Girl Scout Council leaders and we are going to work together to see how we can be more beneficial

for our girls in scouting. We envision some new programs using our materials in the Jean Ford Research Center to get them to come in and learn to research. If any of you have ideas along these lines, please let me know.

I continue to be so grateful that I have so many wonderful, talented, interesting women to work with in the Nevada Women's History Project. I used to think nothing could beat working with Soroptimists - but I have now met their match and then some! Keep up all the fine work.



*Carrie Townley Porter*

## News from the State President

Dear Members:

Happy New Year and Happy Valentines Day! A new beginning for the NWHP. With new ideas and future plans we strive to continue with the purposes and the goals of this organization, amongst which are to retain our seasoned members, to spark enthusiasm, and to invite and hold new members.

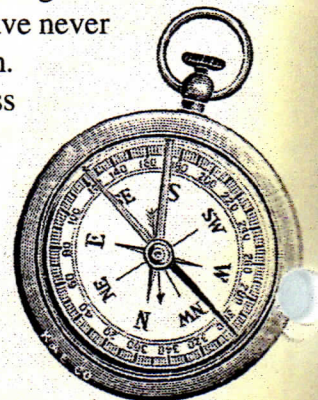
When you read each regional President's article you will take notice and wonder where do they find the time to participate as a volunteer in an organization that provides programs, workshops and entertainment for its members and guests? It's quite simple. It's dedication, it's commitment, it's to help the community in which they live, it's to write about our historical women of Nevada, a history that has been silent or kept on a shelf gathering dust.

We hope you will make your reservation for the upcoming NWHP Conference on March 23rd-24th in Carson City, Nevada. Our special invitation to the Governor's Mansion for a "Pink Tea" will be delightful and a rare treat for some who have never attended a function in the Mansion.

The NWHP annual business meeting will take place on March 25th. Plan to attend this meeting and the many other events offered in your region.

Best Wishes for a Successful and Healthy Year.

*Rose Irwin*





## *Celesta Lisle Lowe, NWHF Roll of Honor Member*

Celesta Lisle Lowe is truly an outstanding woman in Southern Nevada. The youngest daughter of a pioneer Mormon family who lived in both California and Nevada, Celesta stood tall beside her husband of 57 years, David Walker "Deke" Lowe, Jr., to assist in rearing their four children destined to become productive citizens in their own respective communities. A prolific writer and researcher, she wrote "Echoes from the Archives" in the Nevadan section published in the Sunday edition of the Las Vegas Review Journal and followed that with a column entitled "Southwestern Bookshelf." Her papers, housed at the Special Collections Department of the Dickinson Library at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, include copies of her articles, as well as correspondence and newsletters from the Pen-Hens and the National League of Pen Women.

She served as the first secretary to James Dickinson, who was in charge of the Nevada Southern University Library. In 1967 she took charge of the Special Collections Department. She was employed at the university for 21 years. Prior to working at the university, she worked at the original Von Tobel's Hardware Store on Main Street. Although hired as a secretary, she set up advertising layouts and did other tasks.

It was in Ludlow, California, on October 26, 1917, that Celesta Lisle was born. Her father worked for the railroad, did some mining, and dabbled in small businesses. This resulted in the family moving a great deal. Celesta attended many different schools. Grades one through three were completed in Fernley, Nevada, grades four and five in Ash Meadows, grades six through 11 at St. Thomas. Although finishing high school in San Bernardino during the Depression, she was able to attend Redlands College for a short time. Around this time

romance entered Celesta's life when she met her future husband Deke. He was the telegraph operator for the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad and also a member of a pioneer

Mormon family. On April 25, 1935, Celesta and Deke were married in Las Vegas. The couple walked in the first Helldorado Day Parade in Las Vegas, beginning at Fremont and Main Streets in front of the old Union Pacific train station and ending at Helldorado Village on 6th Street. It was there that these two young people took their marriage vows.



Celesta Lisle Lowe

Deke worked at Silver Lake for the railroad and Celesta settled down to become a model wife. When their first child, a son, David, was about to be born, she traveled to Las Vegas to stay with her sister-in-law Exa Jones in order to be near a doctor. Their second son, Lisle, was also born in Las Vegas under identical circumstances. By the time their third child, Janet, was ready to be born, Deke was working for the Northwestern Pacific Railroad in Santa Rosa, California. The baby was welcomed into the world in their meager dwelling, an empty railroad box car. Rain fell continuously those days. Ironically, to this day Janet detests the rain.

While living in San Bernardino, California, the Lowes added one more child to their family. At this time Deke decided to trade the equity the family had in their San

Bernardino home for the Goodsprings Hotel in Goodsprings, Nevada. The hotel had twenty-six rooms and two bathrooms. The year was 1945 and the mines in Goodsprings were active. Prosperity seemed imminent. Suddenly World War II was over. The Goodsprings mines began closing. Deke, needing to provide for his family, took a job working as central train control dispatcher for Union Pacific Railroad in Las Vegas. Deke moved to a mobile home on 10th Street with the oldest son David while Celesta and the other three children resided at the Goodsprings Hotel. In 1946 Deke and Celesta filed for a "Jack Rabbit" homestead in Las Vegas. They put in for five acres of land adjacent to a ranch owned by Celesta's parents. The land was facing a dirt road now named Twain and was in "spitting distance" of what is now called Eastern Avenue. In

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# *An Update from the Carson City Preservation Coalition*

It has been three and a half years since Jean Ford said to me that Carson City needs a historical watchdog group. As you remember, we started soon after when we were needed to help preserve the Hyman Olcovich House on Curry and Spear streets. Currently we are working on erecting a plaque honoring Carson City's historic China Town located in the vicinity of Stewart and Third Streets. At one time it was the largest China Town in our state. The State of Nevada now owns most of the property. Also, we are working on oral histories of older Carson residents. These are called "Memories of Carson City" and have been placed at the Carson City Library and the Nevada State Library. Copies are available for purchase at \$55.00. Contact me at (775) 882-7599 if you are interested in obtaining one.

One of our first projects was working on an early ethnicity study of Carson City residents under a Nevada Humanities Grant. We decided to research the history of the near east side of Carson City which had been neglected. What we found was a fascinating social history of houses and sites that we decided to have printed in a little booklet called "The Charles W. Friend Historic Driving Trail." Charles W. Friend was Nevada's first weatherman. His house and observatory was just east of our Nevada State Library and Archives (100 N. Stewart Street). Last Nevada Day morning at 9 a.m., just before the parade, we, in collaboration with Bob Nylen from the Nevada State Museum and Guy Rocha, our State Archivist, and descendants of Charles W. Friend who came from Clear Lake, California, dedicated a plaque on the ground of what was the home and observatory of Charles W. Friend.

Bernie Allen, an active member of our group, lived in the railroad car house which is one of the sites on this trail. He and I have led walking groups. This trail takes about three hours and participants have really enjoyed the exciting history of these sites. The Charles W. Friend booklet can be bought at Kennedy's Book Store or at the State Railroad Museum, both in Carson City. If you send me \$4.00 to cover the cost and mailing, I will mail a copy to you.

We see ourselves as a vehicle for helping preserve the historic character of Carson City and area. Some of our speakers who have enlightened us have been: Maggie Tracey from Northern Nevada Dark Skies International, John Henningsen from Save Historic Genoa, Dr. John Marshall, Religious History Professor from UNR, and Mike Drews from HARC (Historical Architectural Review Committee) to discuss possibly extending the historic district in Carson City, etc.

Some of our successful and fun fundraisers have included: a Corbett/Fitzsimmons St. Patrick's evening at the Brewery Art Center with original film from the 1897 fight that took place on the east side of Carson City; Phil Earl, Historian and Guy Rocha were our speakers and the evening was excellent. presentation of a movie, "The Remarkable Andrew", that was filmed in Carson City in 1942 at the Rinckle Mansion on Curry Streets; and a fun Jazz Brunch.

If you have any questions, please call me at (775) 882-7599. My mailing address is: 3586 Haystack, Carson City, NV 89705.

*Eileen Cohen.*

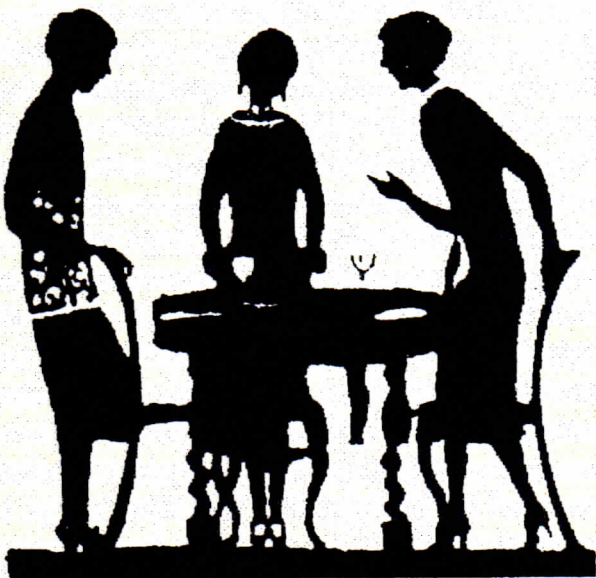
## *Memo from State Membership Chair*

Ladies, again Nevada Women's History Project has increased its' membership since our last newsletter. Currently there are 255 members state-wide. The Southern Region has 121 members and our Northern Region has 134.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the State Steering Committee is still interested in chartering new chapters in areas that would benefit by having a chapter closer to home. Please notify me if any of you are interested in chartering a new chapter. My email address is nokomis100@aol.com or call me at (702) 456-9242.

In addition, please continue to spread the good news of our organization and invite your friends to attend our functions.

*Joan LeMere, NWHP State Membership Chairman*





# Helen J. Stewart

## The First Lady of Las Vegas

Helen Jane Wiser was born April 16, 1854, in Springfield, Illinois. Her parents, Hiram and Delia Gray Wiser, brought their family across the country, ending up in Galt, California. There, Hiram purchased a large two-story house which had been dismantled on the east coast and shipped by boat around the Horn. Helen attended the public schools in Sacramento County, California, and Woodland College in Yolo County, California.

She married Archibald Stewart on April 6, 1873 in Stockton, California. He moved his new bride to eastern Nevada. Stewart was in eastern Nevada as early as June of 1868, operating a freighting business.

In 1869, Archibald gave up his other business ventures to deal in cattle. The Stewarts moved first to Pony Springs, a lonely ranch thirty miles north of Pioche, Nevada, then for a few years lived in the town of Pioche. Their first son, William James, was born at Pony Springs and Hiram Richard and Flora Eliza Jane were born in Pioche.

In 1882, Helen moved with Archibald to the Las Vegas Ranch. He had foreclosed on a loan he had made to the owner, O. D. Gass. Archibald promised Helen that it would be temporary - just until he could sell it. Helen was expecting her fourth child at the time of the move and was concerned about going through childbirth again while living on an isolated ranch where there was no help. Eveline La Vega, their second daughter was born on the Las Vegas Ranch.

The ranch thrived under the management of Archibald. He sold produce and beef to the miners in El Dorado Canyon. He also produced wine for sale, which he made from the

grapes planted in the area by the early Mormons.

After Archibald was murdered at the nearby Kiel Ranch on July 13, 1884, Helen received a note from Conrad Kiel, the owner, to "send a team and take Mr. Sturd away he is dead." She described her reaction in her day book (journal), "I left my little children with Mr. Frazier and went as fast as a horse could carry me. The man that killed my husband ran as

I approached as I got to the corner of the house I said O where is he O where is he and the Old Man Kiel and Hank Parish said here he is and lifting a blanket showed me the lifeless form of my husband. I knelt down beside him took his hand placed my hand upon his heart and looked upon his face" What she saw was not pretty, and she described in her day book the numerous wounds which had been inflicted upon Archibald.

That hot, July day changed Helen J. Stewart's life forever. After reading the burial service over her husband's grave, she stepped across the well-defined boundary between the gender roles of the nineteenth century. She realized she either had to sell the Las Vegas Ranch or learn how to operate it. From her day books, it is evident that at the time of her husband's death she knew nothing about the business of the ranch.

Although pregnant with her last child, she had no choice but to take over the management of the ranch and hired hands.

Her father came to oversee the ranch for a short time, allowing Helen to travel to Galt where she stayed with her mother while she gave birth. On January 25, 1885, her last child, Archibald, Jr., was born.

Helen J. Stewart became extremely proficient as a rancher



Helen J. Stewart

Photo courtesy of the Carrie Townley Porter Collection

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## *Helen J. Stewart: The First Lady of Las Vegas*

*continued from page 7*

and business woman. Realizing that some day the land in the Las Vegas Valley would become of value, she began buying land around the ranch. By 1890, she was the largest landowner in Lincoln County which at that time included present-day Clark County. She was appointed the first postmaster of Las Vegas in 1893.

She often told her children to be patient and civilization would catch up with them. She spoke of "seeing the glint of the rails, the smoke of the trains, and homes and church spires in the grain fields on the hill."

After numerous attempts to sell the ranch, it was not until 1902 that the ranch was sold to the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad. Shortly after, the town of Las Vegas was begun as a railroad town.

Just after the sale, Helen married one of her ranch hands, Frank Roger Stewart, but not until he signed a prenuptial agreement, ensuring that all her money and belongings would go to her children. Helen never used the name Mrs. Frank Stewart, but continued to use Helen J. Stewart. In lists of women in her clubs, she remained Helen J. Stewart although the other women used their husband's names.

Helen remained in Las Vegas for the rest of her life, playing an active role in the community. She was the first woman elected to the school board, and sat on the first jury containing women, as well as being one of the first women jurors to participate in a murder trial in Clark County. She was a charter member of Christ Episcopal Church and the Mesquite Club. She suggested the name for the Mesquite Club noting that if that club could do as much for their community as the mesquite bush did for her Paiute women friends, it would be well named.

She was considered an authority on the history of southern Nevada and wrote a portion of Sam Davis' *The History of Nevada*. With the help of her friend, Jeanne Wier, she organized a branch of the Nevada Historical Society in Las Vegas. Active in several women's clubs, she encouraged women to record their stories and their history. In 1997, Helen J. Stewart was among the first to be inducted into the Nevada Women's History Project Roll of Honor.

Living on the isolated ranch for over twenty years, she became friends with the Paiute women in the area. They told her stories of their lives, the meaning of their work on baskets and how the baskets told the stories of their lives. Many of these she wrote in her journals. She lectured to women's clubs and conferences on her basket collection and the history

of the Native American women.

Her collection containing over 550 baskets was considered the finest in the state. She was in the process of turning her work and the basket collection over to the state of Nevada when she died of cancer in Las Vegas on March 1, 1926. Her heirs sold the collection out of the state.

For her funeral, people and flowers came from all over the west to pay tribute to this brave pioneer woman.

Although she was a successful rancher, farmer and businesswoman, her death certificate listed her occupation as "historian." Her close friend, Delphine Squires, gave Helen J. Stewart the sobriquet, "The First Lady of Las Vegas." She truly deserves that honor.

Her numerous papers reside in the Nevada Historical Society in Las Vegas and the Special Collections Department of Dickinson Library at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

For primary sources and extensive documentation, please refer to "Helen J. Stewart: First Lady of Las Vegas" by Carrie Miller Townley in the Nevada Historical Society Quarterly, Volume XVI, No. 4, Winter, 1973, pp. 215-244 and Volume XVII, No. 1, Spring, 1974 pp. 3-32.

*Carrie Townley Porter*





# News From the South: Where Were You in World War II?



Irene Rostine (center) joins with friends Florence McClure (left) and Caroll Dziedzick (right) at the January General Meeting of the NWHP Southern Region. Rostine was the keynote speaker. She shared her research and slide presentation on the war efforts of women at the Henderson Basic Magnesium Plant during World War II.

Women of World War II were honored at the January 13, 2001 General Meeting of the NWHP Southern Region. It was held at the Elks Lodge. Forty members and guests recalled their own memories of the war as Recording Secretary Irene Rostine gave the keynote address. Rostine's work was based upon her own research and personal interviews of women who had worked at Henderson's Basic Magnesium Plant during the Second World War. She included a most illuminating slide presentation using pictures shared by women she had interviewed. Rostine refers to those women as "Magnesium Maggie's." Many present had no idea of the dangers and difficulties faced by those women.

During the buffet luncheon, ladies were invited to come to the front and share their own memories with the group. Alice Pearson, Jean Baker, Frankie Williams, Annette Goldstein, Verlee Anderson, and Edythe Katz Yarehever all did so.

Mary Gafford shared her information about Las Vegas' new Lowden's Veteran's Center and Museum. Located at 3333 Cambridge, this museum is filled with memorabilia gathered from all the recent wars engaged in by our nation. They are seeking more items for their collection. Please call them for further information.

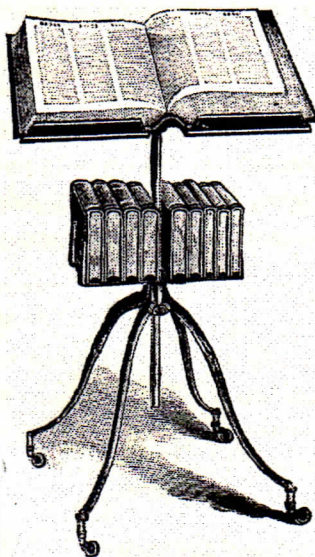
Winners of the fundraising drawings were Frankie Williams, Anne Reck, Joan McSweeney, Annette Goldstein, and Jean Baker. Annette Marcus won the "Uncle Sam" Beanie Bear. It was donated by Verlee Anderson.

Special thanks were extended to Anne Reck and Eva Stowers for all their fine efforts to organize and present this activity.

*Jane Olive*

## Biographical Encyclopedia

We hope that all members, friends and organizations will participate in contributing materials for the first ever Biographical Encyclopedia for the state of Nevada. We are indeed grateful to Dr. Joanne Goodwin for bringing this project to our attention and with her help it will be a successful project.



The committee for the project has made a few changes and we hope you will help in whatever way possible to make this project a success. Our goal is to help make citizens of Nevada realize that an organization within the state is interested in and working towards the preservation of our historical women who made a great impact in the development of our beloved State of Nevada.

We have made changes for the first volume. The first volume will be on deceased historical women of Nevada prior to 1950. This is subject to change only if we do not receive at least 100 complete biographies for the first edition. Additional editions will be added until our research and writings are completed.

The biographies must contain date of birth, birthplace, death, race, occupation, family status, education, community activities, and research sources. It must be between 800-1000 words. A photograph would be deeply appreciated. The author will be credited for all materials sent.

Please contact Rose Irwin at (702) 457-4577, email her at toots1110@aol.com or mail the information to NWHP, PO Box 12184, Las Vegas, NV 89112-0184.



## News From the South: Anasazi Report



During the November luncheon at the Anasazi of Santa Fe Restaurant, President Jane Olive chats with guests Regina Clauschee and Crystal Platro. Regina is President of the UNLV Native American Student Association and Crystal was recently crowned Miss Native American UNLV.

Liz Warren gave the keynote address at the NWHP General Meeting on November 18, 2000. There, in the Anasazi of Santa Fe Restaurant, she reminded members and guests of the difficulties faced by and the traditions of local Native American women. Warren noted the challenges facing our organization's efforts to record the lives of outstanding members of that community. She noted that only in recent decades has much information become available.

A number of those present were of Native American descent. Visitors included Theresa Malone, Patrice Hollrah, Jane Hayfen and member Gayleen Roy. Two young women from UNLV attended the event; Regina Clauschee who is President of the UNLV Native American Student Association, and Crystal Platro, Miss Native American UNLV.

President Jane Olive treated those present to the story of "The Worrystone." Onyx worrystones were given as favors to all in attendance. Copies of the story are available for those who may not have received one. Please call 735-1675 for further information.

Special thanks are extended to Char Cruse and Joan LeMere. Both donated beautiful works of art to be used for the fundraising drawings. Thanks also to Frankie Williams for contributing her collector's snowglobe.

*Jane Olive*

## Celesta Lisle Lowe, NWHP Roll of Honor Member

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1952 they received approval for their homestead. It was 1956 before they fulfilled the requirements of the homestead, a liveable dwelling (still standing), a well for water, and a septic tank. They paid \$10.00 an acre for the original homestead.

During this time the town of Goodsprings was dying on the vine. Celesta saw the light in 1951. While Deke was on a three-week fishing trip, Celesta brought her children and herself to her parents' ranch in Las Vegas. She had her children all enrolled in public schools in Las Vegas, leaving the one-room schoolhouse in Goodsprings. Celesta proudly boasts that all four are graduates of Las Vegas High School. As for the Goodsprings Hotel, the Lowes rented it out from 1953 until it burned down in 1964.

Celesta and Deke had a very busy time after their respective retirements. While Deke dabbled with prospecting and mining, Celesta took up gardening and to this day proudly shows off her garden produce and her flowers. Celesta is not only a very well-read person and an accomplished writer, but

she is interested in photography and has a large collection. She is currently working at getting together a book of photographs of the Lowe Homestead from its inception in 1951 up to the present time. She is contributing to the NWHP's Biographical Encyclopedia.

She proudly boasts of her nine grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and is excited that two more are due in 2001. Celesta Lisle Lowe's philosophy offers fine food for thought. This 83 year old woman literally lived her wedding vows to love, honor and obey for better or worse her beloved husband David Walker "Deke" Lowe, Jr., for a glorious yet challenging 57 years. He died in 1992. She has this to say, "I believe in parents being faithful to each other and to their children and they must remain together through thick and thin. One must work at keeping one's children on the right track of morality and integrity. My theory is that you have to sacrifice your own personal feelings for the others that you love."

*Mary M. Gafford*



## Thanks to:

Fritsi Ericson, Dana Bennett, and Janet Spelman for their generous donations to NWHP.

- Eva Stowers for her performance as Edith Head on January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Mesquite Club in Las Vegas; Joyce Marshall for her delightful program on January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Salvation Army in Las Vegas and the information shared on how to do our own biographies and oral histories of family; Irene Rostine for her program on "Where Were You in World War II" and sharing her research materials on the magnesium plant in southern Nevada.

## Help needed:

- Help needed: volunteers to work during the 2001 conference as greeters, staff NWHP booth, introduce speakers, drive, and be available as gophers. Contact Anita Watson at (775) 882-8135 or email her at [tarnished@uisreno.com](mailto:tarnished@uisreno.com) or Carrie Porter at (775) 857-2050 or email at: [tpareno@msn.com](mailto:tpareno@msn.com).
- Volunteers to help locate biographies on historical women of Nevada. The first edition to be published will be deceased women prior to 1950. Please contact Rose Irwin at (702) 457-4577 or email her at [toots1110@aol.com](mailto:toots1110@aol.com).

## Announcements:

- Now is the time to renew your NWHP membership. You may do so when you register for the 2001 conference or separately.
- Those of you from southern Nevada flying to Reno to attend the conference, make your plane reservations early. Call Jane Olive for information about best rates at (702) 735-1675.

PLEASE INFORM THE STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND YOUR REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIR OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS. JOAN LEMERE'S ADDRESS IS: P.O. BOX 12184, LAS VEGAS, NV 89112. IN THE NORTH PLEASE ALSO NOTIFY KATHLEEN NONEMAN AT: NWHP, 770 SMITHRIDGE DR., SUITE 300, RENO, NV 89502.

# Happy Valentine's Day!



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## Membership Application

Individual Membership • Dues \$25/Year

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

*Welcome New  
Members!*

Jean Baker

Judy Hetherington

Claytee White

Kris Darnall

Ruth Norton