

In This Issue

Sarah Winnemucca Project Update	1
NWHP Leadership	2
Calendar	2
Memories from the 2001 Conference	3
NWHP Honored With American History Award	4
News from the North	5
News from South	5
North Annual Business Meeting Plans Set	6
Jean Ford Annual Wildflower Hike Planned	6
Mildred Bray	7
Southern Region Project Review	8
NWHP Woman of Achievement Honoree: Alice Gottschalk Downer	9
March 25, 2001 State Annual Business Meeting Briefs	9
Letters from Nevada's Daughters	10
Potpourri	11
Some NWHP News Contacts	11
Member Application	12

Sarah Winnemucca Project Update

March was a busy month for the Sarah Winnemucca Project. On March 2, 2001, Assembly Bill 267 was introduced to the Assembly by NWHP member and Assemblywoman Marcia de Braga. On March 11, NWHP members Marcia, Carol Clanton and Carrie Townley Porter testified on the bill at a meeting of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. After speaking with several Assemblymen that day, it became obvious that as long as the bill had the original amount of \$100,000 attached to it, no action would be taken by the Legislature in this year of tight money.



Assemblywoman Marcia de Braga and Louise Tanneheimer, grandniece of Sarah Winnemucca, waiting in Assembly Chambers for AB267 Amendment to come to a vote.

A session in the Assembly kicked off the NWHP Conference 2001. At that time, the grandniece of Sarah Winnemucca honored us with her presence and sat on the floor beside Assemblyman de Braga. Over twenty NWHP members were present for the session and were recognized by the Assembly. The Assembly passed the amendment removing the money portion. On March 26, 2001, AB267 was passed by the Assembly by a vote of 41-0.

After being read once in the Senate, it was sent to the Senate Finance Committee, where at this writing it remains. The Finance Committee is attempting to get the budget bills out in a timely manner. It is hoped that as soon as the budget is finished, that the bill will be sent to the Senate for vote. If, when you read this, the bill has not been voted upon, please contact your Senator and request his/her support and vote for this bill.

The education projects connected with the Sarah Project continue to grow. The school children in Lovelock and McDermott have started projects connected with Sarah Winnemucca. The Girl Scouts all over are getting involved. One of Washoe County schools fourth graders are writing letters in support and will be making a visit to the Legislature next week.

As of this writing, we have received unsolicited donations of over \$7,000 for the project. Once Governor Guinn signs the bill, the NWHP Sarah Winnemucca Committee will initiate its plan to raise the needed money. Keep spreading the word and asking everyone you see to support this important project. We can succeed in making Sarah Winnemucca the seventh woman in Statuary Hall and the first minority woman!

Mary Anne Convis
Carrie Townley Porter

Co-Chairs of Sarah Winnemucca Project Committee

2001 Conference picture album ... page 3



Holly Van Valkenburgh, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot, Rose Irwin, Mary Anne Convis, and Joyce Marshall, greeters at the "Pink Tea".

NORTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

MAY 14, 2001 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., State Office.

MAY 23, 2001 - Carrie Townley Porter will present "Bishop Whitaker's School for Girls" at Whitaker Park in Reno for the Historic Reno Preservation Society. Call Carrie at 786-2335 or email at tpareno@msn.com for details.

JUNE 16, 2001 - North Annual Business Meeting at the Olive Garden, Reno. 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM. See article on page 6.

JULY 9, 2001 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., State Office.

JULY 14, 2001 - Jean Ford Annual Wildflower Hike - Winnemucca Lake revisited - See article on page 6 for details.

AUGUST 13, 2001 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., State Office.

OCTOBER 6, 2001 - Memorial Hike - Details to be announced in August Newsletter.

OCTOBER 13-14, 2001 - Jean Ford Silver State Sampler Tour - Details to be announced in August Newsletter.

SOUTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

MAY 10, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

MAY 12, 2001 - Annual Business Meeting. This will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Desert Pines Golf Course. Following the business portion of the meeting Kathy Augustine, our State Controller, will address the group.

MAY, 2001 - Project Review Committee meeting (TBA)

JUNE 6, 2001 - Project Review Committee meeting

JUNE 21, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

JULY 19, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

AUGUST 16, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting



Kathy Noneman introducing Sally Zanjani, conference presenter and author of *Sarah Winnemucca*, published this spring.

NWHP Leadership

NORTHERN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE:

Carrie Townley Porter: Chair
Anita Watson: Vice-Chair
Tammy Buzick: Treasurer
Carleen Ernest: Secretary
Kay Sanders: Communication Co-Chair/Newsletter Editor
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Communication Co-Chair
Kathy Noneman: Membership Chair
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
Jean Baker: State Publicity Chair

Memories from the 2001 Conference



Cherry Jones and Holly Van Valkenburgh all dressed up and ready for the "Pink Tea" at the Governor's Mansion, Carson City.

What a unique and exciting event our 5th Annual NWHP conference was! It kicked off on Friday morning in the State of Nevada Legislative Chambers where NWHP members witnessed the voting to approve Assembly Bill 267 - nomination of Nevada Native American Sarah Winnemucca for inclusion in the U.S. Capitol Statuary Hall of Fame. She would join Nevada Senator Pat McCarran as our second honoree.

Anita Watson, conference co-chair, led the Blue Line Walking Tour Friday afternoon and pointed out lovely old homes and businesses in an historic section of Carson City. The historic Pink Tea, attended by over 125 women, was outstanding. Held in the Governor's Mansion, hosted by Gov. and Mrs. Guinn, the guests were treated to an elegant tea, complete with sandwiches, sweets, hot scones, cake, champagne, flowers, music, and a welcoming speech by Kenny Guinn. Models and some guests came attired in their best period costumes. Pouring tea and coffee from a beautiful Virginia City silver tea service were Joan LeMere, Jean Baker, Frankie Williams, and Joyce Marshall. Dema



Vicki Ford accepting the Roll of Honor award from Carrie Porter. State President Rose Irwin (left) watches.



Anita Watson and Carrie Porter, our 2001 Conference Co-chairs, welcoming people to the reception and awards ceremony.

Guinn, our First Lady of Nevada, cut the lovely elegantly decorated cake.

After a short ride to Virginia City, members and guests enjoyed a lively evening starting with dinner at the historic Delta Saloon. The Piper's Opera House was the scene of the night's entertainment featuring Chautauqua performer

Alexandra Voorhees who portrayed Sarah Winnemucca. In addition, a stirring round of bagpipe music played by Ron James opened the program.

Dr. Anne Butler, Utah State University professor, editor, and author of numerous books on western women's history, was our keynote speaker Saturday morning. She kept her audience's rapt attention with her talk on "Criminal Women and Catholic Nuns in the American West." Next on the agenda were three sessions which included the following presenters: Jennifer Burton, *A Portable Life*; Dixie Westergard, *Dr. Mary Fulstone*; Mary Gafford and Frankie Williams, *Women of the Moulin Rouge*; Dana Bennett, *Nevada's Women Legislators, 1919-1929*; Craig Downer, *Velma Johnston (Wild Horse Annie)*; Victoria Ford, *Oral History and Two Nevada Women - Jean Ford and Sue Wagner*; Sally Zanjani, *Sarah Winnemucca*; and Carolyn Loftis, *Historical Look at Women's Clothing*.

A reception and closing ceremonies rounded out



Georgia Hedrick, Louise Tanneheimer, and "Tanny" Tanneheimer at the Nevada State Legislature.

continued on page 4

Memories from the 2001 Conference

continued from page 3

the day. NWHP Roll of Honor Awards were presented to Victoria Ford, Eleanor Gottschalk, Joyce

Marshall, Margaret Wells Butts, Fritsi Ericson and the Nevada Women's Fund, and the Churchill County Museum. Special thanks went to the Conference Committee members who included: Tammy Buzick, Carol Clanton, Kathleen Clemence, Mary Anne Convis, Carleen Ernest, Isabel Espinoza, Rose Irwin, Cherry Jones, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot, Kathleen Noneman, Susan Paslov, Kay Sanders, and Holly Van Valkenburgh. Underwriter for the conference was the Nevada Humanities Committee.

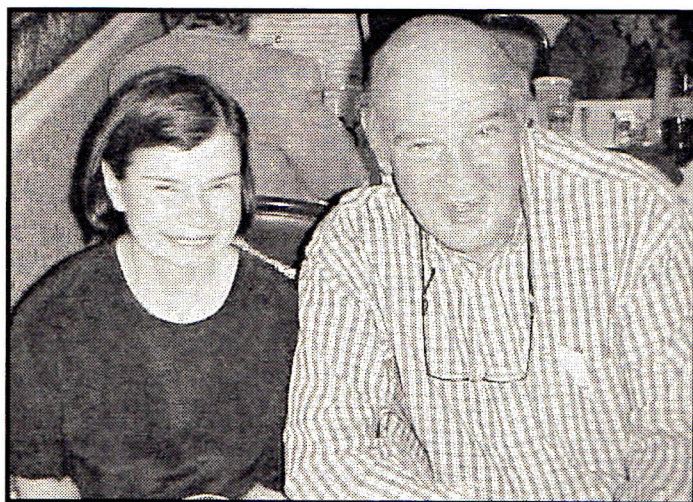
A wonderfully rewarding and memorable time was had

by all who attended this spectacular conference. Certainly they will be motivated to carry out the mission statement of NWHP to its fullest in the months to come.

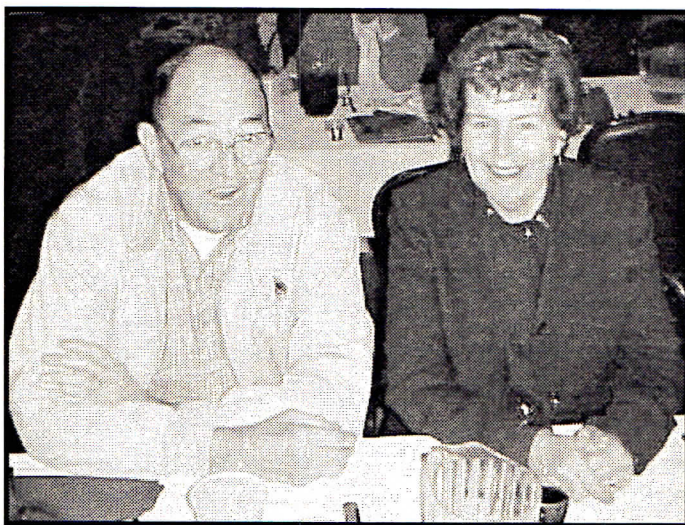
*Mary
Gafford
and
Frankie
Williams*



Alexandra Voorhees performing in her Chautauquan role of Paiute Indian activist Sarah Winnemucca in Virginia City.



Nancy and Bob Price enjoying themselves at the dinner in Virginia City prior to heading for Piper's Opera House.



Bud and Cecile Brown, conference attendees from Carson Valley.

NWHP Honored With American History Award

The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History presented a certificate of accomplishment to the Nevada Women's History Project on November 15, 2000. We accepted the award with pride and shall continue our work in preserving the history of women of Nevada.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Nevada State President Betty Miller and Rose Irwin nominated the NWHP for recognition of its role in researching, documenting, and preserving the history of our pioneer women of Nevada to the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The GFWC in turn submitted the entry to the Presidential Commission.

John F. Kennedy raised awareness of the issues affecting women in contemporary society when he authorized the President's Commission of the Status of Women in 1961. William Jefferson Clinton became the first President to recognize the importance of women's historical contributions to the creation and development of our country when he established the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History, by means of Executive Order 13090. The task of the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History is to make recommendations to the President, through the Co-chairs of the Commission, on ways to best acknowledge and celebrate the roles and accomplishments of women in American history.

News from the North

Conference 2001 has come and gone. When preparing for it, many of our members questioned if it were worth the time and effort expended to make it a success. We

ask ourselves what is it all for? We found out in Carson City on March 23-24, 2001. We were proud to be in the Nevada Assembly to watch one more step being taken to place a statue of Sarah Winnemucca in Statutory Hall in Washington, D. C.

The Pink Tea held at the Governor's Mansion was a smashing success! So much so that people who did not attend and heard about it are requesting to be put on the reservation list for "next year." How fortunate we were to have our First Lady, Dema Guinn, as our gracious hostess who orchestrated the event. We cannot thank her enough. The weather was beautiful. Sitting on the veranda in the balmy afternoon made attendees feel that they were ladies and gentlemen of leisure of a time long past, not 2001. The fashion models and gowns provided by Carolyn Loftis (including two young Paiute women in their native dress) and our members who wore period clothing created an ambiance which removed us from today's hurried activities.

The major thrust of our northern members for the past months has been to make this conference one which will long be remembered. Kudos to all our members from both regions who made this conference possible. Not only did you meet our goals - you exceeded them!

Interspersed with the work on the conference was the participation of northern members in our exciting project to "Send Sarah to Washington, D. C." It would have been more convenient to finish up the Conference, then concentrate on the 'Sarah Project.' This was not to be however, as the Sarah Project "hit the deck a running." Although a state project, northern members have been more involved at this stage because of geographical proximity to the site of the Legislature. Our members have talked to many organizations to tell them of this project and solicit their support. Once the bill is passed and signed into law, members from all over the state will have the opportunity to participate in making the project successful and to help raise the necessary funds.

The Sue Wagner History Project has been put on hold until the Legislature closes due to Ms. Wagner's obligations.

continued on page 6

News from South

Now that we are blessed with a beautiful spring, it is time to express thanks to those who have worked so diligently to prosper the NWHP. Here in the Southern Region, the Executive Committee continues to do all in its power to promote the work of this organization. Yet there are others who deserve acknowledgement. Now seems a good time to do it.

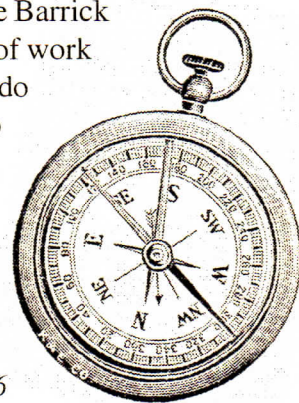
Thanks to Frankie Williams and Mary Gafford. They not only handle our publicity project, but they research and present entire programs for NWHP and for the community at large. Since the earliest period of this organization they have spent time and money in this effort. Their historical and Chatauqua presentations have been wonderfully received.

Thanks to Mitsi Johnson and the Frontier Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada. As the Girl Scout representative on our Board, Mitsi has blessed us in countless ways. The organization has supported her efforts on our behalf and always seems happy to lend us a hand be it with meeting space, printing, or publicity.

Thanks also goes to the members of the Projects Review Committee, Rose Irwin, Joan LeMere, Alice Pearson, and Maureen Schnitzer. They lead a growing group of women who are learning how to write biographies and oral histories. Research contacts have been made all over the state. The writing of bios is underway. The journey ahead is long, but now that it has begun, the goal is half won.

Thanks are also extended to Jean Baker. She has accepted the position of Chautauqua/Special Programs Chairman. She will coordinate the growing demand in this area for our presenters. We hope by this means to extend our outreach program further into the community. We are excited about this effort and look forward to greater opportunities to teach others about Nevada's women and their contributions to our history.

Thanks also to Irene Rostine and Dorothy Dereng for their continued efforts to complete the oral histories now being done on Helen Cannon. Marjorie Barrick and Edyth Hoban. The quality of work required and the time necessary to do these histories has been amazing to those of us doing them for the first time. Fortunately, Irene is a veteran and has guided our efforts. If we can match university standards, it will add



continued on page 6

North Annual Business Meeting Plans Set

Save Saturday, June 16th, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for our NWHP North Annual Business Meeting. Organizer Carleen Ernest has made arrangements for our group to meet for lunch at the Olive Garden, 4900 South Virginia St., Reno. The luncheon speaker will talk on "History...Effecting Our Present and Future." The focus will be on how our genealogy and/or medical history effects our lives.

Cost of the luncheon will be \$12.00 and will include breadsticks, soup or salad, nonalcoholic beverage, vanilla ice cream and gratuity. Choices for the entrée are: (1) spaghetti with meat sauce, (2) lasagna classico (pasta, meat and 4 cheeses), (3) eggplant parmigiana, (4) fettuccine alfredo, (5) cheese ravioli, (6) soup, salad and breadsticks (bottomless).

Please send in your reservations by June 6th to Carleen Ernest, NWHP, 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502, or call Carleen at 787-8799, or email her at ccjernest@aol.com. Guests are welcome to attend.

Jean Ford Annual Wildflower Hike Planned

Back to the beautiful Sierras we will go on Saturday, July 14, 2001 for this year's Wildflower Hike. Ingrid Taxiera of Carson Valley has agreed to be our botanist guide. Kay Sanders and Ingrid will lead the hike which will take us back to the top of Kit Carson Pass (Highway 88). We will start at the Woods Lake Campground (1.8 miles past the Carson Pass Summit), follow the trail through meadows filled with wildflowers to Winnemucca Lake, Round Top Lake, and return to Woods Lake Campground on the west trail passing the Lost Cabin Mine buildings.

This hike will be about 4 1/2 miles in length with an 1,100 foot elevation gain. Be sure to wear layers, bring plenty of water, snacks, and your lunch. Hiking boots or good quality walking shoes are a must. You might want to put on some sun screen and wear a hat. Car pooling will be available. We will leave Reno at 8:30 a.m. and should return by 4:00 p.m. Carson City and Carson Valley residents can meet us at the Douglas County High School parking lot where we will rendezvous at 9:30 a.m. Look for a red jeep. The rendezvous for Reno area hikers is the parking lot in front of Heidi's Restaurant in the Southwest Pavilion Shopping Center on South Virginia Street at 8:30 a.m. for those wishing to car pool.

So save that date and get those hiking muscles in shape. Call Kay Sanders @ (775) 747-1740 or e-mail her at ksanders@unr.nevada.edu to sign up for the hike.

News from the North

continued from page 5

Great progress had been made before the Legislature convened. We hope to see this project completed by the fall.

Please make an effort to complete your own contribution to Letter From Nevada's Daughters.

The annual meeting for the north is planned for June 16, 2001 with a lunch at the Olive Garden in Reno. New officers will be elected to lead us in accomplishing our mission. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The Jean Ford Annual Wildflower Hike is being planned for July 14th. Can we be that close to summer? Where did the winter go? The answer is that it went to make a highly successful Conference 2001!

Carrie Townley Porter
Northern Chair

News from the South

continued from page 5

prestige to the work of this organization.

Last but not least, thanks and congratulations to Joyce Marshall for her recent award, the Nevada Women's History Roll of Honor. Joyce has served Nevada history and this organization in so many ways! The honor was well deserved. Congratulation also go to Joyce on the birth of her first great grandson!

So then, having counted our blessings, we move on to preparations for our Annual Business Meeting. Once again, it will be held at the lovely Desert Pines Golf Course. Kathy Augustine, our State Controller, will address the group following the business portion of the meeting. Some surprises may be in order, so all our southern region members who can come are encouraged to join us for the meeting and the luncheon on Saturday, May 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Jane Olive, South President

Featured Historic Nevada Woman

Mildred Bray

- Born: May 14, 1892
- Died: October 26, 1975
- Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian
- Primary city and county of residence and work: Minden (Douglas Co.), Carson City (Ormsby Co), Goldfield (Esmeralda Co.), Reno (Washoe Co.)
- Major fields of work: education (teacher, elected Nevada State Superintendent of Schools)
- Other role identities: civic worker, secretary, writer, women's club leader

Mildred Nevada Bray, dedicated educator and native Nevadan, was born in Reno (some accounts say Dayton) on May 14, 1892, to parents who were both involved in education. Her father, John Edwards Bray, was principal of Reno High School at the time of her birth and the students had participated in the event by suggesting names in a sort of contest-her name was pulled from a hat. Her maternal grandparents came to Nevada Territory by covered wagon in 1861 and her mother, Minnie Leslie, was born enroute.

Mildred's mother was a teacher and her father followed his career in teaching and school administration by being elected to the office of State Superintendent of Instruction. He served from 1909 to 1919 in a position which would eventually be held also by his daughter. Miss Bray once wrote that during a period of seventy-five years, there was not one year in which some member of her family was not involved in education.

Miss Bray never married although she did occasionally enjoy the company of men friends. She loved children and felt badly that she hadn't had her own family. She took great interest in her friends' children. She led a very busy life and one cannot imagine that it could have been less than full. She belonged to

many organizations and was an avid reader.

Upon completion of her education in Reno public schools and graduation from college, Mildred became a teacher. She taught at the Esmeralda County High School at Goldfield, which was then a bustling mining camp, at Minden Elementary Schools, and at Sparks Elementary School.

She varied her pursuits with travel all over the state and developed her lifelong interest in politics. She was employed for a year at the Nevada State Journal, worked in the Comptroller's office, and was a secretary for a private law firm in Reno in the early years. She later was secretary in the Attorney General's office under the administrations of M.A. Diskin and Gary Mashburn.

Miss Bray was State Superintendent of Schools from 1938-1950. From the time she had been a secretary for the department, her abilities were recognized and she was elected to the post of State Superintendent in 1938 after being appointed, upon the death of Chauncy Smith, to fill out his term.

She was the only woman to hold the position until Mary Peterson was appointed in 1995 and the only person in Nevada history to be elected to three

successive terms as State Superintendent. She held the position during World War II, an especially problematic and challenging time during which many adjustments had to be made and she saw it through the transition period following the war.

She originated the basic state aid to education plan (still in use in 1997) which secured state aid for rural schools and county aid to district high schools. In addition, during her years as Superintendent, the school code was revised, a minimum salary law for teachers was established, the public school



Mildred Bray
Photo credit: Nevada Historical Society, Reno

continued on page 8

teacher's retirement system was integrated with the state employees' pension system, statewide workshops were created, a curriculum development program was inaugurated and a state committee was established for the evaluation and revision of high school curriculum. Nevada was the first state to have a statewide curriculum development program and received national recognition for it.

Following her retirement from the Nevada Department of Education in 1950, she became personal secretary to Governor Grant Sawyer. She called herself a "night person" and often dictated letters at 3 or 4 a.m. to be typed the following morning.

In addition, Mildred was affiliated with Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority, was a member of the Carson City Mineral Society, and a member of both the Business and Professional Women's Club and the League of Women Voters. She was a charter member of the Desert Gardeners Garden Club. Mildred attended St. Peter's Episcopal Church which was located just two blocks from her home.

Miss Bray was honored in 1969 for her dedication to the field of education. An elementary school in Carson City (the "blue school") was renamed for her and she is remembered in an annual celebration at the school. She was recipient of the "Distinguished Nevadan" citation for the indelible mark she had made in her field. This award was given annually by the University of Nevada Board of Regents to its chosen recipient(s) for "significant achievements contributing to the social, economic and cultural advancement of our state and nation and for exceptional service to the well-being of humankind." Ceremonies were held during commencement exercises at the University of Reno, which was also Miss Bray's alma mater. She had also attended Mills College in Oakland, California.

Bray also was honored in 1973 by the Nevada State Society of Washington, DC. The society selected women who, through their professions and their interests, had made exemplary contributions to the nation and to the State of Nevada, its communities and citizens. A plaque, with the names of all twenty women so honored, was on display in the J.W. Calhoun Changing Gallery at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City for many years. It was titled "The Feminine Frontier."

Such an avid Democrat was she that she would call her pet Boston bull terrier "Mike" (for O'Callaghan, Nevada governor) when he was good and "Dick" (for former President Richard Nixon) when he was bad. She was quite a "character" as remembered by Joan Houghton, who visited her when she

was elderly, and Ellen Couch, a retired teacher and sorority sister of Mildred's, who taught during Mildred's tenure.

Mildred Bray died in Carson City in the fall of 1975 at the age of eighty-three. She was remembered by those who knew her as someone quite unique who cared very much about the school children around the state and about the job she performed because it was so important to her to be accomplished and useful. She was a model for the women of her time, working tirelessly in her efforts to improve the school system for teachers and students alike.

(Biographical sketch by Sally Wilkins from a research paper by Christine Gridley)

Sources of Information:

1. Inside Nevada Schools: A Challenge for the Future; Nevada State Retired Teachers Association; 1976.
2. Women Who Made Their Mark: Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, Research Committee; 1981-82.
3. Nevada Appeal; Carson City, Nevada; June 5, 1969; "Two Prominent Nevadans to be Honored Saturday".
4. Obituary, Nevada Appeal; Carson City, Nevada; October 24, 1975; "Educator Mildred Bray Died, 83".
5. Joan S. Houghton, interview, 1993; distinguished Carson City community volunteer, community theater.
6. Ellen M. Couch, interview, 1993; retired teacher and former State Superintendent of School Lunch Programs.

Southern Region Project Review

The Project Review Committee is in the process of designing a brochure that will be distributed to organizations within the state giving them information about the NWHP purposes and involvements. Also included will be a listing of Chautauqua performers and special programs for educational and entertainment purposes. The Chautauqua performers will be listed by name and the person they portray. Video presentations of the "First Ladies of Nevada", "Sarah Winnemucca", "Sojourner Truth", and "Remembering Nevada Women" are available. Other special programs will be: "The Moulin Rouge", "Carver Park and Victory Village", "Where Were You During World War II", and "The 50s in Las Vegas".

The brochure will be updated as members who wish to participate in presenting programs notify this committee and have their listings added. It will also contain the cost of the presentations and the guidelines between NWHP and the organization requesting the program. Also included will be an NWHP membership form and listing of state and regional officers.

NWHP Woman of Achievement Honoree

Alice Gottschalk Downer

Lovelock native Alice Gottschalk Downer was honored on May 2nd as the 2001 Woman of Achievement representing the Nevada Women's History Project. Alice was recognized for her contributions to education, community service, and research into the lives of pioneer Nevada women and their families. She was introduced at a luncheon held at the Reno Hilton.

Alice has been a member of the Nevada Women's History Project since 1997. She was born and raised in Lovelock and received her Normal Degree in Education from the University of Nevada, Reno. She taught for twenty-five years beginning with the Old Anderson School on South Virginia Street in Reno during World War II. Her teaching experience included working at Marcie Herz's private school in the 1950s, followed by years of service in El Dorado and Alpine Counties, California. During this time she earned a B.Ed. Degree from California State University at Sacramento.

Moving to Carson Valley, Nevada in the 1960s, Alice continued to teach in Alpine County, California until she retired in 1978. She was active in and served as president of the University Women's Club and the Carson Valley Literary Club in that community. She chaired the Easter Seal campaign, served on the Board of Directors of Common Cause, held the office of secretary/treasurer of the Douglas County Democratic Central

Committee, and is a life member of the Carson City Democratic Women's Club. She also is a life member of Sertoma International and volunteered for years in membership drives for Community Concert in Carson City.



Alice Gottschalk Downer
NWHP Woman of Achievement

Currently she and her daughter are researching the lives of early Cornish families who came to Nevada in the 1800s to work in the mines. Alice's grandfather and grandmother, both natives of Cornwall, England, were married in Austin, Nevada in 1878. Another of her projects is doing research on the early Scandinavian families who settled in the Lovelock area.

Alice and her husband Robert, who passed away December 21, 2000, celebrated 66 years of marriage. They were dedicated to their three children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Alice enjoys reading, playing the piano, walking and has plans to do some traveling this summer.

The Nevada Women's Fund, of which the Nevada Women's History Project is a program, has sponsored the Women of Achievement event for ten years. The women honored are selected by organizations throughout the region for their contributions to the strength and vitality of our community. Funds raised from the Salute to Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon help to provide scholarships and programs serving women and children in Nevada.

March 25, 2001 State Annual Business Meeting Briefs

- Motion to accept the Policies and Procedures for NWHP. Adopted.
- Motion that the First Ladies of Nevada be honorary members. Adopted.
- Motion that each region pay dues to the state for the honorary members nominated in their region. Adopted.
- Appointment of Jean Baker as State Publicity Chair by President Rose Irwin. Approved.
- Announcement of site for 2002 NWHP Conference - March 22-23, 2002, Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas.

Letters from Nevada's Daughters

Fifty-nine women have contributed Basic Data to the Letters from Nevada's Daughters. The data has been entered into two databases. The first is a list of the contributors with their physical and e-mail addresses. The second database of information is being analyzed for statistics. The compiler has deliberately assured there is no connection between the two databases.

For example: participants were born in 18 of the United States and England. Obviously, the most were born in Nevada (20); California was second with 9 and New York was third with 6. For all participants, the average number of children is 1.89 and for those who had children, the average is 2.38. The average number of marriages, for those who were married, is 1.44.

Eighteen participants were not "named after" another person. One was named after a hymn, "Joy Cometh in the Morning", and one was named after Morgana, the Queen of Fairies. One was named after an actress, nine were named after an aunt, five were named after their father (and in two cases also the mother, and in another, also the grandmother); four were named after family friends. Eight were named after their mother (with two of these also after their father), and seven after grandmothers, three after great-grandmothers and one after her great-great-grandmother.

The first two Letters from the participants, Basic Data and Genealogy, will be deposited in Special Collections at UNR, after it is determined that the databases created from the information are relevant and appropriate.

The most letters contributed by a participant is eight. She is a member of the Zonta Club of Greater Reno, which has contributed funds to this project.

An excerpt from the November 1999 letter from Norma Jean Best:

"... Our next home, 1930, was a two-story weathered wood home west of Fallon. It had a lawn, which was irrigated by flooding from the ditch. Nice tall Chinese elms, two apple trees, a flower garden and a few vegetables, a small alfalfa field and the ever-present Jersey milk cows. There was a small bathroom in the house.

I was married while we lived here. The first home Bob and I occupied was a small two-bedroom house in Fallon, which we rented for \$20.00 a month on his \$1800 a year salary (1937).

Our next home was in Elko, a little hovel that we stepped down to from the sidewalk. Next, still in Elko, we were able to buy a home for a borrowed \$8,000. It was a cement block home with hardwood floors, a coal furnace and a bathroom with shower. This was in 1940.

Next we bought a small wooden house in Hawthorne (1950), on a double lot. Here we had lawn, a vegetable and flower garden and a cherry tree and a couple of apple trees.

The reason for all the moves was that my husband was a schoolteacher, now a principal. After twelve years in Hawthorne, we moved to Yerington where he was county superintendent. Here we had an almost new, three bedroom home with varnished wooden siding. We enjoyed our first attached garage, which had storage space in a loft. The garage also contained a chest freezer. We occupied this home for twelve years between 1955 and 1967.

Our next and final move was to Carson City where we built the home we lived in the rest of our lives. It is brick-faced, with a two-car garage on a 5-acre lot under a few hundred-year old Jeffrey pines plus many trees we planted. It has three bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, living-dining room, family room, kitchen and laundry room with two wood-burning fireplaces. It is heated by an oil-burning furnace. We have our own well and septic system. We bought the lot in 1962 for \$10,000 and built on it in 1969 for \$55,000."



For other excerpts from "Letters", go to the web site:
www.nevadawomen.org.

Potpourri

Thanks to:

- Gov. Kenny and Dema Guinn for hosting the "Pink Tea" during our 2001 conference in Carson City. The use of the Mansion and beautiful arrangements are greatly appreciated.
- The Nevada Commission of Tourism, Carson City Convention and Visitor's Authority, Danny Lee, Nevada Magazine, Nevada Legislative Council Bureau, Steve Watson, Silver Legacy, and Pinon Plaza for their donations to the 2001 Conference. Also, thanks to Russ Clanton for volunteering to do the signage. Carolyn Loftis and her models, Evelyn Cummings, Fritsi Ericson, May Shelton, John Voorhees, Pat Tripple, and the Nevada State AAUW deserve a special thanks for their invaluable assistance. The Nevada Humanities Committee is greatly thanked for underwriting the conference.
- Charles L. Convis, Jr. and Bettina McLeod for their generous donation to NWHP in the name of Mary Anne Convis.
- Frankie Williams for her performance as Judy Bayley on March 5th at the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary in Las Vegas. Irene Rostine for her program on World War II. Mary Gafford and Frankie Williams on their presentation of the Moulin Rouge at the Mesquite Club. NWHP members Joan Fragakis, Sandy Dinsmore, and Rose Irwin for their help as models and fashion coordinator at the May 5th "Spring Luncheon and Nearly New Fashion Show" at the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary.
- The librarians who responded to our request for help and support of the Biographical Encyclopedia project.
- The presenters who gave of their time and talent at the 2001 Conference in Carson City - Jennifer Burton, Dixie Westergard, Mary Gafford, Frankie Williams, Dana Bennett, Craig Downer, Victoria Ford, Sally Zanjani, and Carolyn Loftis and her outstanding models.

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.

Congratulations to:

- Joyce Marshall recently hired at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Special Collections Department as an archivist. To top it all off, she became a great-grandmother for the first time. April was quite a month for Joyce.
- Gene Segerbloom, NWHP member, was presented the Women's Role Model Award March 23rd at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa, who sponsored the seventh annual award, recognized recipients, nominated by their peers, for their achievements and impact on society.
- Congratulations to our 2001 Roll of Honor recipients - Victoria Ford, Eleanor Gottschalk, Fritsi Ericson and the Nevada Women's Fund, Margaret Wells Butts, Joyce Marshall, and the Churchill County Museum.

Help Needed:

- 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 1-702-457-4577 or e-mail toots1110@aol.com.

Have you signed the "Send Sarah to Washington" petition? Call Mary Anne Convis at 775-888-9867 for information.

Some NWHP News Contacts

Carrie Townley Porter

Fax: 775-857-4447 • Email: tpareno@msn.com

Kay Sanders

Email: ksanders@unr.nevada.edu • Fax: 775-747-1642

Tel: 775-747-1740

Rose Irwin

702-457-4577 • Fax: 702-385-9278

NWHP - State Office

770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, Nevada 89502-0708

Tel: 775-786-2335 • Fax: 775-786-8152

South: P.O. Box 12184 • Las Vegas, NV 89112-0184

The Nevada Women's History Project newsletter is published quarterly in Reno, Nevada. Annual subscription rate is included in dues. Non-member subscription rate is \$20 domestic, additional overseas. Copyright NWHP. All rights reserved. Under copyright law, this newsletter and the contents herein may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any means, electronic or otherwise, without permission from the publishers, except in normal use as provided by law. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily reflect official policy of NWHP. Unsolicited articles and photos and requests for Writer's Guidelines should be sent to the editor, NWHP • 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, NV 89502-0708.

Editor: Kay Sanders



Project News

770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, NV 89502
NWHP is a program of the Nevada Women's Fund

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reno, Nevada
Permit No. 568

Visit the Nevada Women's History Project Online at www.nevadawomen.org

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 _____

Mail to: NHWP, 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502

*Welcome New
Members!*

Karen Alcorn

Mary Carter

Susan James

Patricia McNeil

Mary Royels

Moe Royels

Louise Tanneheimer

Christena Wiseman