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2001 - A Year of Adjustment for Nevada Women's History Project

The first six months of 2001 were highly successful ones for the Nevada Women's History Project. We experienced a rewarding conference in Carson City and work continued on the biographical encyclopedia.

We spent an anxious three months hovering over Assembly Bill 267 designating Sarah Winnemucca as Nevada's second statue to be placed in Statuary Hall in the U. S. Capitol in Washington D. C. The bill passed through both houses of the Nevada Legislature with no negative vote. We felt joy when Governor Guinn signed the bill into law on May 29.

In this newsletter you will find a tri-fold on the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project. Please fold it so that Sarah's photo becomes the front page. The section with the logo will become the back page when you make the folds.

We are planning a blitz of these brochures all over Nevada. The Statue Project committee can provide you with as many of these tri-folds as you need. Please take them to all groups and organizations in which you participate. Leave a stack at businesses you patronize, offices, museums, libraries or any place that occurs to you.

The brochures have been handed out to several organizations in the north. We are starting to receive the little form and donations from people who are not members and whose names are not familiar.

All seemed to be well with the NWHP until July when our State President became ill. We do miss her greatly. Many members, realizing it could happen to anyone, began evaluating their own life styles.

On September 11, 2001, when the terrorists attacked our country, Americans began to make adjustments in their lives. Again, members of the NWHP had be adaptable. Plans for raising the money for the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project had to be changed.

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March 2002 Conference Canceled

NWHP Southern Region President, Jane Olive, announced that the March, 2002 NWHP Conference has been cancelled due to lack of personnel. Despite every effort, no one has been found who could give this undertaking her full attention for several months. Members volunteered to help in small ways, but most hold full-time jobs and are active in other organizations as well. Therefore the Executive Committee of the Southern Region voted unanimously to cancel the event. These conferences had originally been scheduled to be held every other year. This is a return to the former policy.



NWHP Members
on the Trail

View of Lake
Tahoe



NWHP Leadership

NORTHERN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE:

Holly Van Valkenburgh: Chair
Sarah Britt: Treasurer
Kathleen Allred: Secretary
Kay Sanders: Communication Co-Chair/Newsletter Editor
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Communication Co-Chair
Isabel Espinoza: Finance Chair
Kathy Noneman: Membership Chair
Mary Anne Convis: Project Review Chair
Cherry Jones and Carleen Ernest: Program Chair
Patt Quinn-Davis: Publicity Chair
Carrie Townley-Porter: Past-Chair

SOUTHERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jane Olive: President
Anne Reck: Vice President
Joan LeMere: Second Vice President
Frankie Williams: Third Vice President
Maureen Schnitzer: Recording Secretary
Mary Gafford: Corresponding Secretary
Mitsi Johnson: Treasurer
Frankie Williams: Acting Nominating Committee Chairwoman
Alice Pearson: Parliamentarian

NWHP STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carrie Porter: Acting 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
Mitsi Ericson: Nevada Women's Fund Representative
Maureen Schnitzer: Corresponding Secretary
Kay Sanders and Michelle Lord: Editor for State Newsletter
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster
Mary Anne Convis: State Project Review Chair
Jean Baker: State Publicity Chair
Joyce Marshall: Nominating Chair

NORTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

Northern Region Steering Committee meeting, second Monday of each month - Carson City or Reno.

NOVEMBER 13, 2001 - Nevada Women's Lobby Anniversary Celebration. 5:30 - 8:00 PM. Bartley Ranch, Reno. Call Diane Coper at 787-7875.

NOVEMBER 17, 2001 - Nevada Women's Fund Fundraising Event at Harrah's Reno. Gordie Brown will perform in Sammy's Showroom. \$29.00 per person. Special dinner package available for an additional \$20. Call (775) 788-2908 for information and mention the Nevada Women's Fund Special.

NOVEMBER 27, 2001 - Hannah Clapp Lecture Series with Cherry Jones portraying Dr. Eliza Cook, the first woman physician in Carson Valley. This will be at the Gold Hill Hotel, 1 mile south of Virginia City. Dinner at the hotel's restaurant is available starting at 5:30 p.m. Program will begin at 7:15 p.m. Reservations are advised. Call (775) 848-0111. Northern Region Steering Committee meeting will be held at 5:30 PM at the hotel. It will be a dinner meeting.

JANUARY 14, 2001 - Northern Nevada Region Steering Committee meeting. NWHP office. 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9, 2002 - "Western" fund raiser for the Sarah Winnemucca Project has been postponed.

FEBRUARY 11, 2002 - Northern Nevada Region Steering Committee meeting. 6:00 p.m. Location TBA

MARCH 3, 2002 - Third Annual Women in History Remembering Project - Old Gym Playhouse, Gardnerville, NV. Nominations for next year's awards must be received by December 14, 2001. Contact the Carson Valley Historical Society office at (775) 782-2555 for details. Nominees must have lived in the Carson Valley and made a significant contribution to the quality of life in that area.

MARCH 6, 2002 - "Conversations with History" will be the theme of a dinner and fund raiser co-sponsored by NWHP and the AAUW. Location is Lilly's Restaurant at the Lakeridge Tennis Club. Cost is \$35.00 part of which will go to the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project. Seven historic women will be portrayed including Nellie Mighels Davis, Mrs. Mary Roberts, Eilly Oram Bowers, Sarah Winnemucca, Dr. Eliza Cook, Anne Martin, and Helen Stewart. A flyer giving details will be mailed early in 2002. Carleen J. Ernest is the coordinator for the event.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations to the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project are entirely tax deductible. Donations will not be used for administrative expenses.

Please fill out the form below and include it with your donation to:

Nevada Women's
History Project
770 Smithridge Drive, Ste. 300
Reno, NV 89502

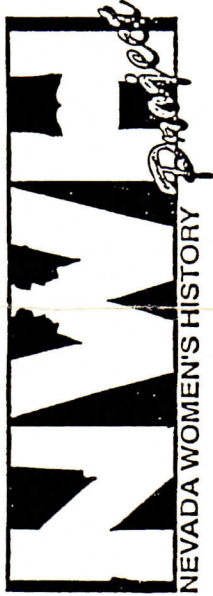
Name _____

Mailing
Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Amount of
Donation \$ _____

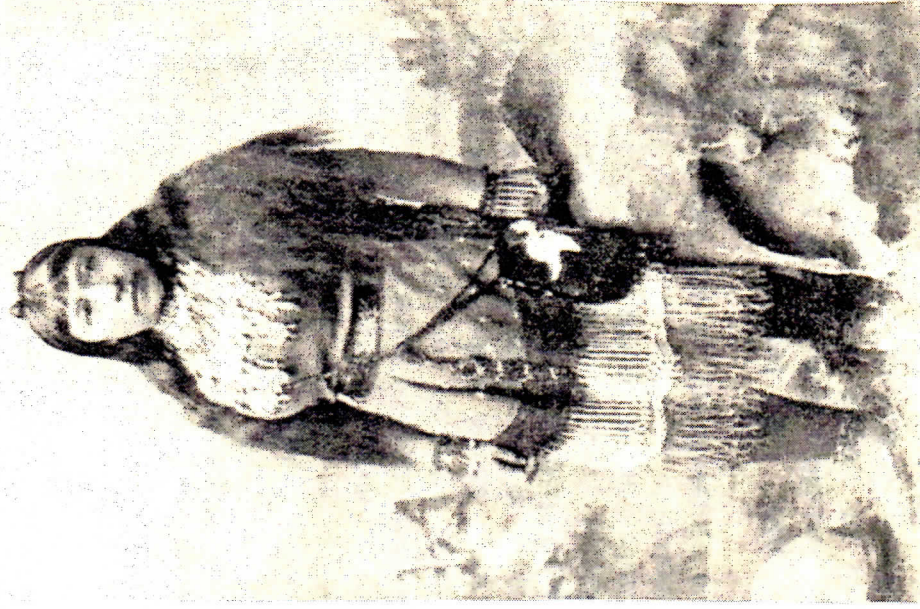


The Nevada Women's History Project Mission:

To provide visibility and support
for the gathering and dissemination
of history about the roles
and contributions of Nevada women
of every race, class and
ethnic background.

The Nevada Women's
History Project,
a program of the
Nevada Women's Fund,
is a statewide, nonprofit organization.

For information call 775-857-2335
or visit our Web site at
www.nevadawomen.org



Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society

Thocmetony
(Original Paiute name)

Shellflower
(English adaptation of Paiute name)

**Sarah
Winnemucca**
(English name)

SARAH WINNEMUCCA STATUE PROJECT

Nevada is one of three states which has only one statue in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol. Each state is allowed two statues to honor persons notable in their history. Of the ninety-seven statues there, only six are of women.

The Nevada Women's History Project initiated a project to designate Sarah Winnemucca as Nevada's second statue. Nevada Assemblywoman Marcia de Braga sponsored Assembly Bill 267, designating Sarah Winnemucca to be Nevada's second statue. The bill was passed by the Nevada Assembly and Senate with no objections and signed into law by the Governor on May 29, 2001.

The bill assigned the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs the task of providing administrative support to the committee of six Nevadans who will choose a sculptor and oversee the construction of the statue and its placement in the U. S. Capitol. Raising the funds, approximately \$150,000, is the responsibility of the Nevada Women's History Project.

The Nevada Women's History Project envisions the statue as an opportunity to use this Native American's life and accomplishments to provide an example of courage to all Americans. Educational projects for Nevada's children are a part of the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project.

We request your help in honoring this most unusual Nevadan.

SARAH WINNEMUCCA 1844-1891

"She was a believer in the brotherhood of mankind." This quote is on the first Nevada historical marker dedicated to a woman.

Her Paiute name was Shellflower. We now know her as Sarah Winnemucca. She was the daughter of the chief of the Paiutes, Winnemucca, and granddaughter of Chief Truckee. The Paiute creation story tells how dark and light-skinned people were all one family in the beginning. This is the basis for their belief in the brotherhood of mankind.

Sarah's autobiography, "Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims", was the first book written by a Native American woman. It was her story of the life and customs of the Northern Paiutes and of her struggle for justice for her people. She spent most of her adult life seeking that justice by lecturing and pleading with those in authority. She went to Washington to meet the president and to testify to Congress about the condition of her people.

She started a school for Native Americans, a model for schools that came later. She taught children both in their native language and in English. This was part of her effort to build self-esteem throughout the tribe.

She served as an interpreter and negotiator for the army to her people. Her pleas to return them to their ancestral lands fell on deaf ears. She would not

give up, and eventually Fort McDermitt became one of their reservations. A very small portion of the Paiutes' original land was returned to them.

Sarah deserves to be honored as a representative of Native Americans, not only in Nevada, but across the United States.

SARAH'S HONORS

Sarah Winnemucca was the first woman to have a Nevada state historic marker erected in her honor. She is in the Indian Hall of Fame and is the only Nevada woman represented in the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York. In 1993, she was inducted, posthumously, into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame honoring her autobiography.

She is listed in "Notable American Women, 1607-1950", published by Brown University Press. The Encyclopedia Britannica includes her biography. She is included in "Herstory: Women Who Changed the World". The Internet has over 1400 Web sites which include her name.

The Nevada Women's History Project intends to add the highest honor to the many Sarah Winnemucca has received - her statue in the United States Capitol in Washington, D. C.

Calendar

SOUTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 11, 2001 - NWHP in Veteran's Day Parade. We meet at 10 AM at 4th and Gass. Hopefully the parade will begin at 11 AM. This is in honor of the fact that World War II ended at 11 AM on Sunday, November 11th.

NOVEMBER 15, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

DECEMBER 1, 2001 - Business meeting/breakfast, Policies and Procedures changes at 9:15 AM. Marie Calendar's on Tropicana and Eastern. Please call 456-9242 to reserve your place in the room. Breakfast will be \$9.00.

DECEMBER 15, 2001 - Frankie Williams will host a Fork Buffet at her home from noon until 3 PM. Members and friends are invited to join us for good food, good conversation and great holiday cheer at 5166 Stampa Ave. Call Frankie Williams at: (702) 876-3586 for details.

JANUARY 17, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

JANUARY 18, 2001 - Frankie Williams will present her "Hat Show" at the Mesquite Club meeting.

MARCH 15, 2001 - Joan Fragakis will present "Julia Bulette" for the Mesquite Club meeting.

MARCH 22 & 23, 2001 - NWHP State Conference has been cancelled.



Jean Ford
Memorial Site

Sierra Beauty



Wildflower Seed
Scatterers

2001 - A Year of Adjustment for Nevada Women's History Project

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With the extremely large amount of donations collected for the victims and their families of the attack, it became obvious that letters which were to be sent in October to solicit donations for the statue should be postponed until America was on more stable grounds.

Some planned fund raisers will be delayed - not canceled. Grant work is continuing. The brochure blitz can continue. We are adjusting.

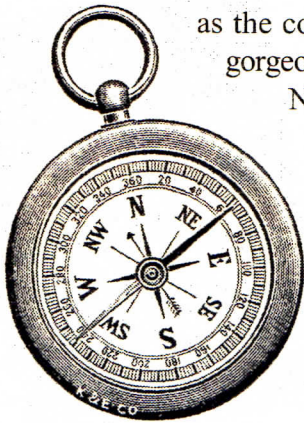
After our country emerges from the shock of September 11 events, adjustments will be made to return to some state of normalcy although we all understand that life in America has changed forever after that "Day of Infamy." I sent an e-mail to all those whose addresses I could find requesting that they record and send in their feelings, thoughts and reactions to the attack. I asked that word of mouth on this project be spread to members without e-mail. The response to this request is bringing in some wonderful accounts. This is not limited to members and can be in any format. We will store them in the Jean Ford Research Center for future historians. Please continue to send in your thoughts, feelings and reactions to record how we are coping with this horrible event.

I am writing this just after I learned that our state treasurer, Mitsi Johnson is ill and undergoing surgery. Those who work closely with Mitsi know how much NWHP depends upon her faithful work. May she recover quickly and return to good health..

When we continue to solicit donations for the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project, we need to remember that putting a new statue in the U. S. Capitol will show the courage that Americans have and prove to terrorists that America will never be conquered.

*Carrie Townley Porter
Acting State President*

News from the North



Fall has come to northern Nevada, and as the colors of the leaves turn to their gorgeous shades of gold, orange and red,

NWHP members are turning their thoughts to the activities of the fall and winter.

Membership Chair Kathleen Noneman reports we have 116 individual and 13 organizational members in the Northern Region.

Kay Sanders reported the Great Basin Book Festival went well. The couples Jones, Noneman and Sanders participated and enjoyed networking in their usual capacity. Marian LaVoy, Linda Wyckoff, Kathleen Clemence, Sarah Britt and Eva Leiker contributed their time and expertise to help make this event a success.

Mitsi Johnson, Frankie Williams and Holly Van Valkenburgh, represented the NWHP at the Nevada Library Association Conference in Las Vegas, October 4 and 5. Membership information was available and brochures were handed out for the Sarah Winnemucca Project and Letters from Nevada's Daughters. Holly presented a program on the Letters from Nevada's Daughters project to the conference attendees..

The excursion to the high Sierra for the Basque "Aspen Carving" led by Dr. Jose Mallea of the UNR Basque Studies Department was enjoyed by NWHP members Carleen Ernest and Kathleen Clemence. Kathleen's husband Von also participated in this outstanding day trip.

In the October 27 Nevada Day Parade in Carson city, three NWHP members portrayed Anne H. Martin, Hannah Clapp and Maude Frazier. Six Girl Scout cadets from Carson City portrayed Dr. Eliza Cook, Eilley Orum Bowers, Mary Roberts, Nellie Davis, Felice Cohn and Mary McNair Mathews. Assisting in the event was Nolan Prater and his 1910 Buick. We gathered afterwards at Lake Glen Manor for lunch and fellowship.

The Jean Ford Memorial Hike took place Sunday, Oct 28. Eileen Cohen led us to the location where Jean's ashes were spread and we scattered wildflower seeds in her honor. It was a poignant reminder of the woman we all loved and admired so much, and for whom we still

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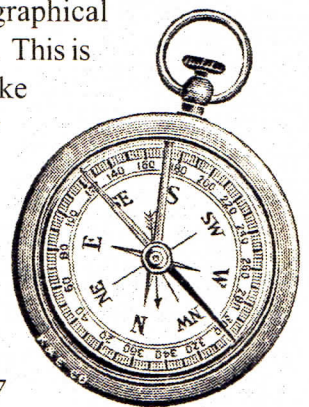
News from South

The Southern Region of the NWHP continues to grow with a current membership of one hundred and two persons. As always, the new members bring us bursting energy and renewed vigor as we forge ahead into the winter of 2001. We have also had some changes of leadership on the Executive Committee. Maureen Schnitzer has graciously agreed to be our Recording Secretary. Frankie Williams is replacing Eva Stowers as our Third Vice-president and Mary Gafford is replacing Frankie Williams as our Correspondence Secretary. Frankie Williams is also our acting Nominating Committee Chairman. She is filling in for Rose Irwin. We send many thanks to ALL these ladies for their devotion to this effort.

We began the fall season with a most interesting meeting in the McCaw School of Mines at Henderson's McCaw Elementary School. There, on Saturday, September 8, 2001, members and their guests toured the school's mine and antique mining equipment. Then they gathered in the meeting room that had been prepared by the mine's coordinator, Dorothy Wood. The room showcased mining models and large gemstone centerpieces. The elementary school children contributed the laminated drawings that were used as charming placemats. Next we were entertained and informed by Janet Bremer and Dr. David Weide. Mrs. Bremer performed as Marie Louise Mackay, wife of the famous John Mackay of Virginia City. Dr. Weide then showed and explained slides that illustrated the geology of Nevada and why it is endowed with such mineral wealth. Our delightful luncheon was catered by John Clark and topped the event with a most attractive presentation of food.

Now we are proceeding to develop our Living History Program. New member Jean Baker is heading this effort. She is arranging our Chautauquan performances at various civic events and seeing to it that we continue and enlarge our mission to educate the public on the contributions of Nevada women.

Meanwhile, Joan LeMere continues to devote time and energy to the gathering of biographical information for our encyclopedia. This is an on-going project and will take several years to complete. New members Fran Haraway and Doris Drummond join Jean Spiller, Betty Miller, Phyllis Young and Alice Pearson with this effort.



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Fritsi H. Ericson

2001 NWHP Roll of Honor Recipient



Fritsi H. Ericson is President and CEO of the Nevada Women's Fund, a community based foundation committed to raising and allocating money to benefit northern Nevada's women and children. A member of the 1983 founding board, she became its chief administrator in 1984 and in 1996 earned her fund raising executive certification from the Association of Fund Raising Professionals (formerly

National Society of Fund Raising Executives).

A native of Reno, Fritsi received her bachelor's of education degree from the University of Nevada. She was an elementary school teacher for the Washoe County School District and was employed as a congressional district aide for U.S. Representative, James D. Santini, prior to her employment with the Nevada Women's Fund.

Fritsi has been instrumental in the founding of and served in a number of leadership roles for other non-profit organizations serving women and children. They include the Nevada Self Employment Trust (now known as the Nevada Micro-Enterprise Initiative), the Foundation for an Independent

Tomorrow (a non-profit foundation serving the Las Vegas area) and the Nevada Women's History Project.

Her community involvement is wide ranging. She is a member of Reno Rotary, serving as its foundation treasurer, a member and past president of the Sierra Chapter of the Association of Fund Raising Professionals, member of the University of Nevada Pack Paws Advisory Council, member of United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra's Community Building Committee, member Nevada Women's History Project's State Committee and is a member of the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Advisory Council.

Fritsi has been recognized with a number of awards for her leadership and work to improve the quality of life for Nevada's women and children by numerous organizations. She was chosen to participate in the 1996 Olympics Torch Bearer Relay, in 1998 was awarded the prestigious President's medal by the University of Nevada for her continuous commitment to higher education, received the Sierra Chapter Association of Fund Raising Professionals outstanding Fund Raising Executive in 1994. Named to the Nevada Women's History Project's Roll of Honor in 2001, Truckee Meadows Tomorrow recently chose Fritsi and the Nevada Women's Fund to receive a Platinum Star for outstanding community service. She's listed in a variety of Who's Who both nationally and internationally.

Fritsi is married to Harry Ericson. They have four grown children, Heidi, Gretchen, Jon and Brook and one grandchild.

NWHP-South Fall Meeting 'Rocks'!

Our day started at the McCaw School of Mines, which is adjacent to the McCaw School in Henderson, Nevada. The mine replica is so well done that you feel you are within an actual mine. Many donated mining artifacts are present, adding to the realistic touch. The volunteer Tour Guides were very well informed and answered our many questions as we toured.

We returned to the meeting room in the "Mining Village" for our meeting and luncheon. The tables were decorated with laminated place mats of mine scenes drawn by the young students who have toured the mine, along with wonderful specimens of a unique variety of minerals. Following a catered luncheon, President Jane Olive introduced Janet Bremer. Bremer, a teacher at the McCaw School, presented a Chautauqua performance of Marie Louise Mackay, wife of the Comstock "Silver King" John Mackay. Dressed in a

beautiful period gown, Bremer wove her story of Marie Louise Mackay and her family. Rich beyond imagination, she and her children lived in palatial residences in the south of France, as well as a large home in London, near Buckingham Palace. The home is now a museum. The family mingled with European royalty and wed persons of title.

Dr. David Weide was introduced by President Olive. Dr. Weide gave a comprehensive lecture entitled "The Geology of Our Valley: Our Environmental Challenges" complete with slide presentations. We all now know where to look for rich mines as Dr. Weide showed us how the vertical faults in the state line up with some of the greatest discoveries.

Drawing winners included Joan LeMere, Anne Reck, Mary Gafford, and President Olive.

Submitted by Maureen Schnitzer

Featured Historic Nevada Woman

Hilda M. Covey

Hilda M. Covey (December 4, 1909 - December 2, 1982.) Hilda was the daughter of Anna Seeley Dickinson and Lynn Dickinson. She was born on their farm outside of Millerton, Pennsylvania and was the oldest of three children. She was a graduate of the Elmira Academy in Elmira, New York and later attended Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

Classically trained in the restaurant business by Howard Johnson's in New York City, she opened one of their first restaurants in Rochester before the operation was known as an Inn-keeper. They were actually creators and vendors of dozens of flavors of ice cream in their fine dining facilities. In the next ten years, Hilda had much success. She headed a chain of restaurants in Sibley, Lindsay & Curr, which was a large New York department store. During this time she was National Education Chairperson for the Stewards and Caterers Association.

In 1949 Hilda met and married William H. Covey who was also a New Yorker. They came to Las Vegas and opened an eatery they called "The Skillet" downtown on Main Street. Bill ran the kitchen and Hilda ran the front when she wasn't making the pies she became famous for. Next they purchased land from the Old Smoke Ranch and built "The Coffeepot Ranch", a Las Vegas showpiece in that day. "Hilda and Bill's Coffeepot" on Garces by a Texaco Truck Stop and a "Coffee Pot II" were equally loved for good soups, pies, a bottomless cup of coffee served with a friendly banter and lots of tall tales.

The locations were extremely popular with contractors in the construction trades and architects. Hilda, who worked up to twenty hours many days, saw a need in 1953 for a publication for then-growing Las Vegas construction.

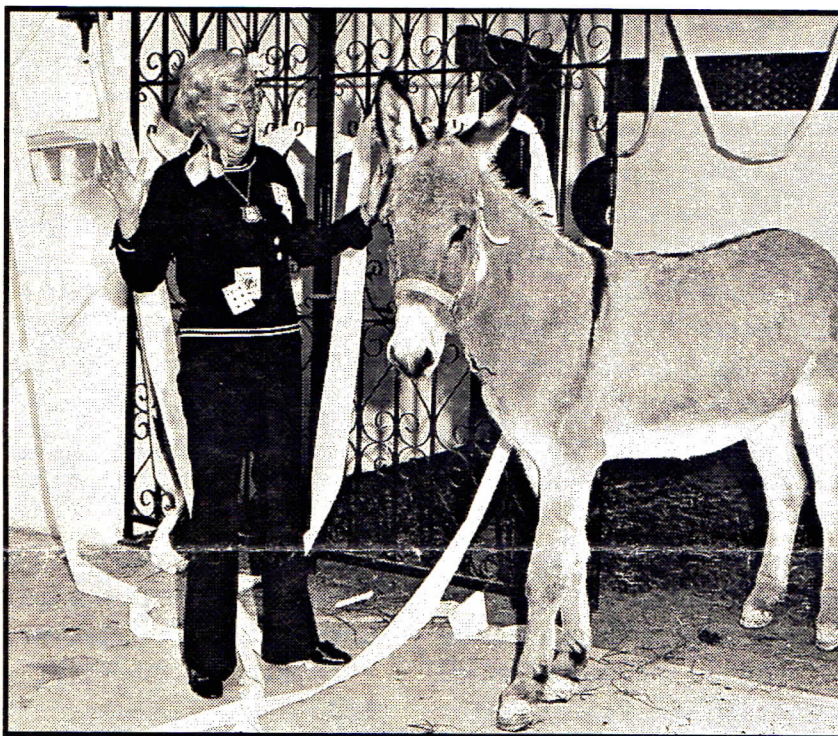
In a back room at the "Coffeepot" Hilda produced the first issues of Construction Notebook. J. A. Tiberti was signed up as her first subscriber. There was a General Bid Index, chronologically listed. A section called General Bids described the job, location, architect and details which included the fee for blueprints. There was a Sub Bid Index and a description

of them also. She sold advertising in a Resource Directory which listed Construction Equipment, Materials and Services available; then Permits in different categories appeared. Monthly business license applications were alphabetically listed. Homestead Filings, Notice of Completions, Mechanic's Liens, Tax Liens, Tax Lien Releases, and Bankruptcies --- everything you needed to know in the construction business was there along with some charming cartoons and business card type ads.

Hilda and Bill were loved and respected by Clark County and all Nevada. They both became members of the 36th Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and were remarried in the Temple in St. George, Utah. They were totally involved in Las Vegas. She served on the Board of Directors of Citizens for Private Enterprise; She was on the Board of St. Jude's Ranch and the Nevada Economic Development Corporation.

For twelve years she served as Executive Secretary of the Las Vegas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. She was the first woman president of the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce (1978).

Hilda also wrote "Sidewalk Superintendent" column in the Las Vegas Sun, combining her wit and wisdom. She was



Hilda M. Covey responding to a surprise "burro gift" from an old friend, Vern Frehner, in Las Vegas

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News from the North

continued from page 4

carry on the activities of the Nevada Women's History Project.

The Gold Hill Hotel Tuesday evening lecture series will be honored by presentations by NWHP members. November 6 Carrie Porter will portray Helen Stewart and November 27 Cherry Jones will present Dr. Eliza Cook.

In light of the events of September 11, the February Fundraiser has been postponed. March 6 will be a Sarah Winnemucca Project joint fundraiser with AAUW at Lilly's Restaurant in Reno with Dema Guinn as the guest of honor. "Conversations with History" will be the theme of the program featuring NWHP members portraying former Nevadans.

Mary Ann Convis and Carrie Porter have been working on the Sarah Winnemucca Project. Mary Ann reports that Governor and Mrs. Guinn will again sponsor a "Pink Tea" at the Governor's Mansion, in May 2002, this time as a fundraiser. Names are being submitted for the Sarah Winnemucca Committee to be appointed by the Governor. Dema Guinn has indicated she would like to be on the Committee.

Cherry Jones noted the next Hannah Clapp lecture will be held when the Basque cookbook is published. The date has not yet been firmly established.

Sadly, we are losing vice-chair Anita Watson to a new position as Education Coordinator at the Stearns Museum in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Anita assures us she will remain an NWHP member and will be visiting frequently. (We commissioned her to locate Lake Wobegone.) Isabel Espinoza has agreed to be our Fiancee Chair.

The Northern Region has been busy and will continue to be involved in NWHP activities during the fall and winter. Many of our activities are really State activities - sometimes it is difficult to separate them, mentally as well as physically. Thanks to all of our members for their commitment to NWHP!

*Holly Van Valkenburgh
Chair, Northern Steering Committee*

Hilda M. Covey Biography

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in charge at her businesses...she never hesitated to threaten obstreperous customers with what she called, "a trip to the woodshed." A woman for all seasons and reasons, she is remembered for an amazing capacity for hard work, for prodigious numbers of Christmas fruitcakes, Relief Society pies, an infectious laugh and a love of pranks. She could dish it out and she could take it. Once on her return from a birthday dinner party she found a gift from a well-known Las Vegas contractor, Vern Frehner. He had tethered a braying burro in her atrium and she stayed up all night feeding it peanut butter sandwiches to keep it quiet!

Missed and mourned by family and friends, Hilda Dickenson Covey is at rest at Palm Cemetery on Main Street in Las Vegas.

Sources:

"Construction Notebook", vol. XLIX, No. 41.

"Construction Notebook", Vol. XXX, No. 50

Personal Interviews with Paula R. Lawson, Fall of 2001

Personal memorabilia of daughter, Paula R. Lawson.

News from the South

continued from page 4

Finally, we head into the Holiday Season with plans to participate with a float in the Las Vegas Veteran's Day Parade. Mary Gafford and Frankie Williams are working out the details for that event. Then we look forward to a business meeting, which will be held on December 1, 2001 at Marie Callendar's on Tropicana and Eastern at 9:15 AM. We will breakfast and work out the revisions of our Policies and Procedures that were started by Rose Irwin. On Saturday, December 15, Frankie Williams will host a "Fork Buffet" for NWHP members and friends at her home. This holiday event will go from noon to 3 PM. In addition, Alice Pearson is communicating with Public Television staff to allow NWHP members to work the telephones for their money-raising drive. This should be an entertaining opportunity for our organization to gain more public recognition.

All in all, we have many coals in the fire. We are looking forward to a busy and heart-warming winter. We send our best wishes to all members of NWHP for a joyous holiday season and remember Rose Irwin in our hearts and prayers.

*Jane Olive
President, So. Region Executive Committee*

Featured Historic Nevada Woman

Margaret M. "Peg" Wheat

- **Born:** September 9, 1908
- **Died:** August 28, 1988
- **Maiden name:** Marean
- **Race/nationality/ethnic background:** Caucasian
- **Married:** William Hatton, Wendell Wheat
- **Children:** five (four sons, one daughter)
- **Primary city and county of residence and work:** Fallon (Churchill Co.)
- **Major fields of work:** science (anthropologist, geologist); government (State Park Advisory Commission); writing (author), photography
- **Other role identities:** wife, mother, rancher, beekeeper



Margaret M. "Peg" Wheat

Margaret Marean was born September 9, 1908, in Fallon, Nevada. Her parents were Stanley and Ruth Marean, pioneers in the Fallon area. Her father was born in Washington, D.C., in 1885. Upon completion of his education, he was offered an opportunity to work at the Newlands Reclamation Project in Western Nevada. He eagerly accepted. Later, he was to become the Water Master on the Newlands Project. He was an important figure

in the Fallon area. Ruth followed later, arriving at the age of eighteen from Washington, D.C. and bringing in her belongings and a twelve place setting of Haviland china. Stanley met Ruth at the train station in Reno and they traveled the sixty miles to Fallon by wagon. There they settled and raised their family of three children. Margaret, or "Peg," was the middle child. In later years, they moved to a farm out on what is now Highway 50, just three miles west of town.

Peg received her education in the Fallon public schools and at the University of Nevada, Reno. Completing two years of college in the field of geology, Peg left school to marry. Recognized as a self-taught geologist and anthropologist, her

field work experiences ranged from working for the U.S. Geological Survey to protecting important cave sites from vandals. Nevada State Museum hired her for archaeological field work. She also worked on water resource projects for the Desert Research Institute. A special interest in the Ichthyosaur area near the mining camp of Berlin, Nevada, involved her with the Nevada State Park System. The major portion of Peg's research was devoted to the Northern Paiute Indians. She recorded a history of these people, their arts and their lives' ways.

Peg married William Hatton, the son of Judge Hatton, of Tonopah, Nevada. Her mother-in-law was not supportive of the marriage because it interrupted her son's education. The couple lived in the Fallon area. They had four children; Bill, Jack, Sylvia, and Don. Two years after Don's birth, Peg and William were divorced in 1937.

Not long after her divorce, Peg married Wendel Wheat. They stayed in the Fallon area, buying a place on the Carson River. Mr. Wheat was a modern day version of a mountain man. He had been with the Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC) camp when he met Peg. He and his new wife wandered the desert together and he introduced Peg to a broader view of the Great Basin. She began to develop her interests in caves, fossils and the Indians.

Peg's field work took her out of her home almost daily. She left many of the housekeeping jobs to her daughter, Sylvia, who, by the age of nine had the main responsibility of her younger brothers. It was said that Peg never cleaned house. One year the river flooded their home, and it was commented that now maybe Peg would clean out the front room. One of Peg's boys showed up for a school graduation without the required white shirt. A correct shirt was quickly supplied from someone's home. Peg probably never knew about the incident or even attended the ceremony.

The Wheats were always short of money, so Peg hired out on odd jobs. She worked for the telephone company during World War II. She also house-sat at Lake Tahoe for a year or so. Once, when she needed to be in Los Angeles, she took a "nanny" position with friends. This enabled her to spend time at the Southwest Museum-the oldest museum in Los Angeles. Being a self-taught person, her odd jobs allowed her to be close to the experts in different scientific fields. For example, as camp cook for archeological digs, she was on the scene to enrich her inquiring mind.

In 1968, while working on a grant from the Fleischmann

continued on page 9

Foundation through the Foresta Institute, Peg was assigned to work at the Washoe Pines Enrichment Camp in Washoe Valley—an environmental camp for young teens. Peg would bring Wuzzie George, a Stillwater Paiute, to teach tule arts. "She would take the kids out in the field (the desert). Self-indulgence for anyone was OUT!"

When Peg wanted the local or state officials to listen to her about preserving an area or about doing something important, she was "persistent, wasn't above asking...using the family standing to bring political pressures." The only thing Peg found difficult to do was writing. Her daughter, Sylvia, who worked as a transcriber on her mother's book, found this ironic. She thought her mother could do anything.

Most of Wheat's life's work was devoted to recording the traditional arts and sacred beliefs of the northern Nevada Paiute tribes. Starting in the 1940s, she spent twenty years interviewing and photographing Paiute elders whose trust she gained, persuading them to recount their old ways before they were lost in time. Using a crude wire recorder and a box camera, she started recording what she saw, switching to tape recorders and 35-millimeter cameras when they became available. Her relaxed interviewing style was the key to the information she received. She was always respectful and sensitive as an interviewer. Yet her transcripts reveal her concentration on specific topics and a determination to get information without dominating the dialogues or alienating her Indian friends.

Reading up on the era and the events she wanted to cover, she was well prepared with questions, but seldom interjected her own views. This free-form technique worked well with elder Indians whose personal memories extended back to early settlement days. To stimulate conversation, Peg sometimes drove around the State with one of her Paiute acquaintances, recorder in hand, letting geographic features stir memory and association.

Indian research received a special boost from Wuzzie George, who was an important Paiute contact for Peg. Wuzzie and her husband, Jimmie, shared Peg's passion for preserving Paiute culture. They showed Peg how Paiutes built houses and boats from tules and cattails, how they wove baskets and how they gathered and processed pinenuts and how they made clothing from rabbit skins. Sylvia Jesch's statement about her mother's work with the Paiutes was that "her interest was in their culture as a history. She was not really concerned with the blending of the Indian and white cultures. Her attitude was to keep track of what she saw, saving a history."

While Peg was pursuing her anthropological studies, she also persuaded paleontologists from the University of California-Berkeley, in 1954, to excavate skeletons of ichthyosaurs, giant fish-like reptiles, that inhabited Nevada when it was covered by a sea, 185 million years ago. Later, as a member of the Nevada Parks Commission, appointed by Governor Grant Sawyer, she was instrumental in getting the state to acquire

and preserve the area as The Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

Through her knowledge of Indian culture, Peg also led archeologists to several caves used by ancient man, including the famous Hidden Cave, east of Fallon. This cave is on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management which has set it aside for research and public tours. She also assisted numerous other archeological projects, including the Nevada State Museum's Tule Springs dig, which established evidence of Paleo-Indian culture dating back 11,000 years.

Peg's 1967 book, *Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes*, stands as the definitive record for the ingenious technology that the Paiutes developed in order to eke an existence from the limited resources of the dry Great Basin. At the first annual Ladies of the Press Luncheon, Peg was honored as an outstanding Nevada woman writer for 1969. She received the award from the Reno Professional Club and the Nevada Library Association.

As part of the Fleischmann/Foresta grant, several thousand feet of film was shot in 1964 and 1979. This film depicts Paiute lifeways and was compiled into a movie which was released in 1983. The film "Tule Technology: Northern Paiutes Uses of Marsh Resources in Western Nevada" was narrated by the granddaughter and grandson of Wuzzie and Jimmie George.

Although Peg dropped out of the University, she later found herself frequently lecturing at University classes. In 1980, she received an honorary doctorate of science degree from the University of Nevada.

Margaret "Peg" Wheat resided in Fallon until her death on August 28, 1988. She was remembered as recently as Arbor Day, 1991. Rancho San Rafael Botanical Plant Society honored her memory with the planting of a pinion pine tree. In attendance were about sixty of her family and friends. Among the guests were her brother, John Marean, and her daughter Sylvia. Kay Fowler and Art Mundt were the Society's board members who proposed Peg's name for the honor.

(Biographical sketch by Sally Wilkins from research paper by Beverly Hubbard)

Published works:

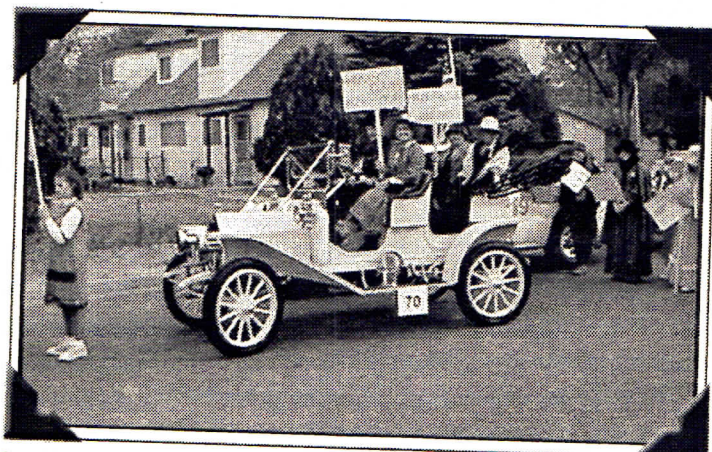
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Vicki Roberts, Isabel Espinoza, Jeanne Larson, Carleen Ernest, Kay Sanders, Eileen Cohen, and Holly Van Valkenburgh at the site of Jean Ford Memorial Hike, Tahoe Rim Trail, Spooner's Summit on October 28th. Kay gave a brief tribute; wildflower seeds were scattered in Jean's memory at the beautiful site overlooking both Spooner Lake and Lake Tahoe.



Sarah Winnemucca, as depicted by Brianna Gormley, Western Nevada Young Chautauquan, leads the way in the Nevada Day Parade, October 27, 2001, in Carson City. The NWHP entry, together with the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, identified historic Nevada women to comply with the parade theme "Where the Past Meets the Future." Other Girl Scouts dressed as their future career choices. Seated in a 1910 Buick, driven by Nolan Prater, are Eileen Cohen (Hannah Clapp), Cherry Jones (Maude Frazier), and Jeanne Larson.



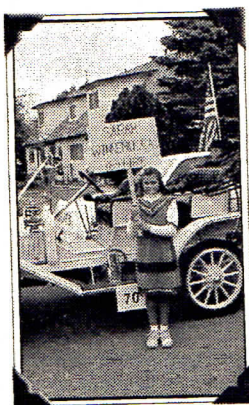
Eileen Cohen, all smiles as she tells the story of Hannah Clapp to Girl Scout members prior to the start of the parade.



Helen Stewart, Bertha Raffetto, and Mary McNair Mathews portrayed by Carson City Cadet Troop, Girl Scouts of America members ready and waiting to begin the parade.



Holly Van Valkenburgh, portraying Anne H. Martin, explaining her role in Nevada history.



Eilley Oram Bowers lives again at the 137th celebration of Nevada's Statehood, Carson City Nevada Day Parade 2001. A pretty Girl Scout takes her role for the day.

Thanks to:

- Cherry Jones for organizing the Nevada Day NWHP float in cooperation with the Girl Scouts and Young Chautauquans. It was a great entry and one of the bonuses is that the Girl Scouts will be working on merit badges for doing Nevada women in history projects.
- Our wonderful volunteers at the Great Basin Book Festival held in Reno on September 29th. They include: Marian LaVoy, Linda Wyckoff, Eva Leiker, Chuck and Mary Anne Convis, Charlie and Kathy Noneman, Kathleen Clemence, Fred and Cherry Jones, Neil and Kay Sanders, and Sarah Britt.

Congratulations to:

- Anita Watson who recently accepted the position of Curator of Education, Stearn's History Museum, St. Cloud, Minnesota. She starts on November 7th and will be running their educational program outreach to schools and communities. Her new address is: 3710 West St. Germain #339, St. Cloud, MN 56301 and she would love to hear from our members. She had to resign as northern region vice-chair, but will remain a member of NWHP.
- Marcia de Braga was honored at the Public Forum for Northern Nevada Women Legislators sponsored by the AAUW and the League of Women Voters on October 9th in Reno. She was recognized for receiving the Good Housekeeping Award as one of 10 Outstanding Women Legislators nationwide.
- Fritsi Ericson and the Nevada Women's Fund received the Platinum Stars Award at the annual Accentuate the Positive Luncheon sponsored by Truckee Meadows Tomorrow. They were recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the community. The event was held on October 25th at the Reno Hilton. Fritsi is President and CEO of the Nevada Women's Fund, our sponsoring organization.

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.

Recovering:

- Rose Irwin has been released from the hospital in Kansas and is recovering at her daughter Mary's home. She is doing some walking and is getting strength back in her right leg, arm and hand. Therapy is going well. Her new address is: 8300 Rosewood, Prairie Village, KS 66207.
- Mitsi Johnson had surgery on Friday, October 26th. Her husband reports that she will remain in the hospital for at least a week. The surgery went well and she was able to be up briefly on Sunday the 28th.

Notice:

- Articles for the February newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor Michelle Lord no later than January 21st. Email at mlord@clan.lib.nv.us.



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

Michelle Lord

Email: mlord@clan.lib.nv.us • Fax: 702-486-5172
Tel: 702-646-5116 (home) • 775-486-5205 (work)

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

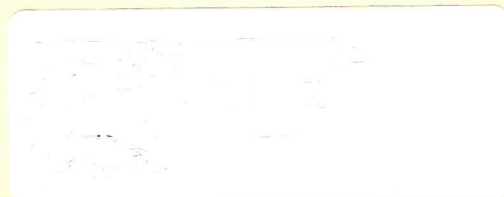
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Mailing Address _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

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Name of Representative to NWHP _____

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

*Welcome New
Members!*

AAUW - Reno Branch

Jeanne Clark

Elvira Garcia

Betty Legge-Middleton