

NWHP

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY

Project News

In This Issue

State President Rose Irwin III, in Rehab	1
Reflecting on the Past, Looking Toward the Future	1
NWHP Leadership	2
Calendar	2
Sarah Winnemucca Project Update	3
NWHP Conference, March 22-23, 2002, Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas	3
News from South	5
John Ben Snow Memorial Trust Grant for \$10,000 Awarded to NWHP	5
Margaret Wells Butts, 2001 NWHP Roll of Honor Recipient	6
Featured Historic Nevada Woman, Lubertha Johnson	7
New Date for Jean Ford Memorial Hike	8
Basque "Aspen Carving" Hike	8
Member Profile: Mollie Murphy	9
Memo from Membership	9
Hannah Clapp Lecture Series to Resume	10
State Nominating Committee Report	10
Great Basin Book Festival	10
Potpourri	11
Some NWHP News Contacts	11
Member Application	12

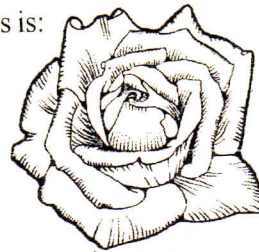
State President Rose Irwin III, in Rehab

NWHP State President Rose Irwin of Las Vegas experienced a stroke during the third week of July. According to her family, she is slowly making progress, has delighted in her family's presence at her bedside, and has been trying to communicate with those family members. The family thanks everyone who has sent lovely cards and flowers. They ask that any cards be sent to Rose's home. Her family will read the messages to her. Please do not phone or email her home for the present.



Rose's home address is:

Rose Irwin
3111 Carnelian Ct.
Las Vegas, NV
89121-2220



Reflecting on the Past, Looking Toward the Future

Carson City:

On Thursday, March 22, 2001, I arrived in Carson City, Nevada's capital, to attend the 2001 Nevada Women's History Project Conference that was to begin on March 24th. As I walked down Carson City's main street, I suddenly stopped, looking about in awe. Visible were old and rustic taverns and restaurants that exhibited characteristics of age but showed little change in their overall appearance. Wooden walkways lead to weather-worn, wood and brick buildings that now house antique shops and gift stores. At my feet stood impressive government buildings, some old and some new, that contain so much history. I could almost feel the presence of an old gentleman guiding me, with just a touch or tug on the arm, into the buildings and down the hallways where legislators have walked, talked and created the laws that govern our state.

Once I had actually entered it, the Nevada Capitol's ceilings reached so high that my neck ached from looking upward to admire their carvings and moldings. Windows measured at least eight feet tall. Their simple, semi-sheer curtains did not limit sunlight or hide

continued on page 4

NORTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

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

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001 - Hannah Clapp Lectures Resumes

SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 - Great Basin Book Festival. NWHP will work with Washoe County Libraries to schedule author Sally Zanjani in several presentations related to her new publication on Sarah Winnemucca.

OCTOBER 2, 2001 - Clapp Lecture

OCTOBER 6, 2001 - Basque "Aspen Carving" Hike

OCTOBER 27, 2001 - Nevada Day Parade - Cherry Jones, Chair: cherry@pyramid.net or 775-267-3410.

OCTOBER 28, 2001 - Jean Ford Memorial Hike

NOVEMBER 6, 2001 - Carrie Townley Porter presents "Helen J. Stewart-First Lady of Las Vegas" at the Gold Hill Hotel, 7 PM

NOVEMBER 27, 2001 - Cherry Jones portrays Dr. Eliza Cook

FEBURARY 9, 2002 - "Western" fund raiser for Sarah Winnemucca Project

MARCH 6, 2002 - Joint Fund Raiser with AAUW for Sarah Winnemucca Project

SOUTHERN NEVADA SCHEDULE

AUGUST 16, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

AUGUST 31, 2001 - Biographical Encyclopedia Workshop

SEPTEMBER 8, 2001 - Gene Segerblom talk, "Outside Las Vegas," regarding the work of historic preservationists outside the Las Vegas metropolitan area. Chance to explore the McCaw School of Mines at Gordon McCaw Elementary School in Henderson. Also, Janet Bremer portrayal of Marie Louise Mackay, wife of Silver King John Mackay of Virginia City.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 18, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER 15, 2001 - Executive Committee Meeting

DECEMBER 1, 2001 - General Business Meeting and social at Marie Callendar's Restaurant on Tropicana and Eastern. Our purpose will be to revise some of our policies and procedures. Breakfast will be served at 9:15 a.m.

MARCH 22 & 23, 2002 - NWHP State Conference, Las Vegas. Set this weekend aside for a wonderful social and educational event relating to the history of women in our state.



The Annual Business Meeting of the NWHP Southern Region was held at Desert Pines Golf Course in Las Vegas on May 12, 2001. Officers and participants are pictured from left to right: Mitsi Johnson, Irene Rostine, Kathy Augustine, Anne Reck, Alice Pearson, Jane Olive, Frankie Williams, Dema Guinn and Rose Irwin.

NWHP Leadership

NORTHERN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE:

Holly Van Valkenburgh: Chair
Anita Watson: Vice-Chair
Sarah Britt: Treasurer
Kathleen Allred: 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 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
Eva Stowers: Third Vice President
Maureen Schnitzer: 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
Maureen Schnitzer: Corresponding Secretary
Alice Pearson: Parliamentarian
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

Sarah Winnemucca Project Update

The Nevada Senate recently passed Assembly Bill 267 which supports Nevadan Sarah Winnemucca as the subject of the state's second statue to be placed in the U.S. Capitol, by 21-0. The NWHP's next step is to raise the money needed to put her sculpted likeness in the Capitol's Statuary Hall. The NWHP's Winnemucca fund-raising committee has developed procedures to ensure that all our members who want to solicit funds will handle the project in a similar manner. These procedures are available to all who request them. Should a member or group of members wish to hold a fund-raising event, a proposal describing the event should be submitted to the Sarah Winnemucca Project Committee for approval. The committee may then submit the proposal to the appropriate NWHP Project Review Committee for its approval.

Among fund-raising events being planned for the north are an evening in a beautiful new, hilltop home and a train trip to Sacramento for visits to historical centers and repositories,

some of which are not normally open to the public. Members in the south are considering a special fund-raiser in conjunction with a well-known entertainer. Watch for details in future newsletters.

Members are searching the Internet for grant opportunities that fit our Winnemucca statue project. Organizations such as the Soroptimists, the American Association of University Women, the Girl Scouts, and others have indicated they will support our effort. We have even heard from a group in Australia studying American pioneer women, that also wants to contribute!

It is wonderful to hear, "I want to help." Have we heard from you? Write, call - email - fax. We would welcome your ideas and help.

*Mary Anne Convis and Carrie Townley Porter;
Co-Chairs Sarah Winnemucca Project Committee*

NWHP Conference

March 22-23, 2002 • Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas

Business Meeting Plans: The Annual Business Meeting will be held during the NWHP conference next March. All members are invited to attend. Regular business will be conducted and the election of officers for the 2002-2004 administration will take place.

Please contact any member of the nominating committee if you wish to place your name or another member's on the ballot. Each nominee must give her written consent to the nominating committee to have her name on the ballot for the following offices:

President; 1st Vice President (Programs); 2nd Vice President (Membership); 3rd Vice President (Meetings); Secretary; Treasurer; ;Corresponding Secretary

Nominating Chairman: Joyce Marshall 702-648-7042
Committee: Betty Glass (Northern Rep.) 775-356-7233
Mary Gafford (Southern Rep.) 702-648-9415

Conference Report: The Planning Committee for the Conference 2002 is busily designing the March 22nd and 23rd event. More information will be available as the date nears, but the Committee is inviting members and friends now to join them for the two-day program. They believe

that when members learn who guest speakers and workshop presenters will be, they won't want to miss these offerings.

On Friday, March 22, 2002, the Committee has scheduled an afternoon tour that will end at the historic Boulder Dam Hotel. The hostelry will provide an exceptional exhibit of historic objects, an engrossing guest speaker, and fine dining.

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Conference day begins at 8:30 a.m. with a hospitality breakfast for registered members and guests. Workshops will then proceed from 9:00-10:00 a.m., followed by the opening of the Nevada Women's History Project Second Annual Business Meeting at 10:15 a.m. It will continue until the lunch break that will be enlivened with a talk by a guest speaker.

Additional workshops will be presented until the Social Hour at 6:00 p. m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. After dinner, a final oral presentation will be given. The evening will conclude with the "Roll of Honor" and installation of officers for 2002-2004.

Biographical Encyclopedia Report

The Project Review and Biographical Encyclopedia

continued on page 9

Reflecting on the Past, Looking Toward the Future

continued from page 1

the beauty outdoors. Each room I encountered commanded silence so I walked quietly.

On Friday morning, March 23rd, we Nevada Women's History Project members and guests were given an impressive tour through the halls and various rooms of the legislative building while Nevada's State Legislature was in session. Then we sat in the gallery, listening to the legislators and watching them vote. The main purpose of our Assembly visit was to hear the second reading of AB267 to create a statue of Nevada Sarah Winnemucca that would be placed in the U.S. Capitol Statuary Hall of Fame. We had been advised after the bill's first reading to delete our request to the State for \$100,000.00 for the sculpture because of Nevada's budget deficits. The NWHP will raise the needed funds with help from other organizations.

We held our breath for just an instant. When the bill was accepted, we were delighted. It will now go to Nevada State Senate Finance Committee to be discussed and voted on. Then it will go to the entire Senate for a final vote. Governor Guinn's signature will be the last step in approving bill AB267, helping to make Sarah's only the second statue from Nevada, the seventh of a woman, and the first representing an ethnic minority, erected in the Hall. Following the Hall of Fame's stringent guidelines, we will engage a sculptor to complete the project. Then we will have the piece transported to Washington, DC.

The ladies who attended the morning session of the Assembly were presented with a certificate that will make the day more memorable as time passes.

Just prior to my trip to Carson City, I had reviewed some old newspaper clippings about the remodeling of the Governor's Mansion there and was anxious to see the results. On Friday afternoon, March 23rd, I and other visitors traversed the mansion's long walkway, admiring beautiful flowers that had been planted just days before. Gardeners were busy planting pansies for additional color.

The front door of the mansion opened to tasteful rooms decorated in simple lines and soft colors. The home's grand staircase impressed us. I could envision Nevada's First Ladies in their ball gowns slowly floating down the stairway to greet distinguished guests.

Each room in the mansion was charmingly decorated. With Mrs. Guinn's special touch, it was not just a house but a home to all who gathered that afternoon at Mrs. Guinn's "Pink Tea". A special group of ladies in antique gowns added charm and flair to the historical setting. Scrumptious pastries, exquisite trays of delicate tea sandwiches, and an elegant and delicious tiered cake completed the arrangements for the afternoon gala. Julia Child and Martha Stewart would have been envious!

After leaving the mansion, we boarded buses to Virginia City, Nevada. They shifted gears several times as we traveled upward into the mountains on steep and curving roads. The view from the coaches was intriguing as diggings from mines now silent were visible. As Virginia City came into view, I felt that certain Matt Dillon and Miss Kitty would meet us at the Saloon. It is a city in which time stands still.

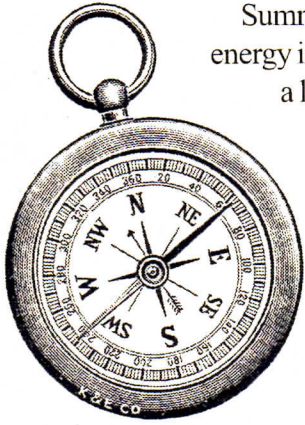
The dinner hour that evening was spent on the second floor of an old Virginia City saloon that serves comfort food. The night's entertainment was scheduled for 8:00 p.m. at Piper's Opera House. No one had informed us that we would have to climb a rather short but steep hill to the opera house and that stairs would then take us to the second level! Elevators were nowhere in sight. Breathless and exhausted, we theatre-goers collapsed onto uncomfortable folding chairs.

The still-quiet opera house is currently undergoing a major renovation. Nevertheless, we sat enthralled with a portrayal of Sarah Winnemucca by Alexandra Voorhees. After the performance, we reversed our climb and boarded the buses back to Carson City and rest before the conference.

The Nevada Women's History Project 2001 Conference finally began early Saturday morning, March 24th with our keynote speech given by Anne Butler in the Old Assembly Chamber of the Nevada State Capitol. Other presenters held workshops in various rooms throughout the day. At the gathering's end, I thanked the volunteers who had made the NWHP Conference 2001 a success and declared that the passing of bill AB267 was what dreams are made of. I finished by remarking that the organization looks forward to placing the Sarah Winnemucca statue in the U.S. Capitol Statuary the Hall of Fame in Washington, DC. A reception was held at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate "Roll of Honor" presentations and formally close the conference.

The following day, Sunday, March 25th, members of the NWHP were invited to the First Annual Business Meeting of the organization at the Lake Glen Manor. The business before us was a motion to accept the organization's Policies and Procedures as presented. The motion was adopted. The second order of business was a motion to decree the First Ladies of Nevada "Honorary Members" of the NWHP. It was also adopted. Finally, a motion that the northern and southern regions of the organization pay dues to the NWHP for their honorary memberships was adopted. Jean Baker was appointed Publicity Chairman by NWHP President Rose Irwin and approved by the members present.

Rose Irwin, President



Summer has definitely arrived! Here in the south, we find our metabolism slowing, winding down and saving energy in order to survive the heat and the monsoon season's dank humidity. Homes and businesses are running a little warmer this year in order to cut back on power costs. As a result, personal energy is running a little lower. Someday, historians will give their accounts of this summer. Being history buffs, we could even say that we are enacting instant "living history" ourselves this sweltering season. It's a good time to settle back with a cool drink and ponder past and future.

Looking back, I can report that our Annual Business Meeting was held May 12th at the Desert Pines Golf Course. A very special program followed the business portion of the meeting. Irene Rostine was released and thanked for her year of service as Recording Secretary. Maureen Schnitzer was kind enough to take the position for us. Following the President's Report, Frankie Williams performed as Judy Bayley.

A stalwart Chautauquan, Frankie also discussed how she had developed her portrayal of Ms. Bayley. Rose Irwin then introduced our lovely guest speaker, the Honorable Kathy Augustine, Nevada State Controller. With handouts for all, Mrs. Augustine updated us on the roll of women in government, past and present. She also gave us a great deal of information on her department's current efforts regarding Nevada's economy. Nevada First Lady Dema Guinn stopped by and joined us for photographs in front of the golf course. Afterwards, we savored a mouth-watering salad as we communed just off a shaded patio. Maureen Schnitzer, Alanna Noyes, Irene Rostine and Judy Hetherington won the day's door-prizes.

.Even though some things have slowed down for the summer, the biographical encyclopedia and Conference 2002 committees have not. Indeed, meetings are underway for both projects. "Bios" are coming in for the encyclopedia while the Conference Committee is brainstorming to draw up conference details. We are enthused and excited about both endeavors.

Our next General Meeting will convene on Saturday, September 8th at 10:15 a.m. at the Gordon McCaw Elementary School in Henderson. At the meeting we will consider several different topics. For example, NWHP member Gene Segerblom will discuss the efforts of historic preservationists who work outside the cities and towns of Southern Nevada. Then, Chautauquan Janet Bremer will perform the historic role of Marie Louise Mackay, wife of Silver King John Mackay of Virginia City. We invite all members to join us after that for a catered lunch at this unusual and intriguing meeting. Finally, we will also get a chance to investigate the school's on-site, historic mine before and after the meeting.

So then, it's time for an old president to kick back, enjoy some well-deserved summer respite, and relax. Have a great summer!

John Ben Snow Memorial Trust Grant for \$10,000 Awarded to NWHP

The "great news" came by way of a phone call from Rollan Melton of the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust to Kay Sanders in late June - the NWHP request for a \$10,000 technology grant for the Jean Ford Research Center in Reno had been fulfilled. This means that starting in late August, we will begin turning our Jean Ford Research Center into a first-class facility. A dedicated telephone line will be installed to provide Internet access and email capabilities. We will purchase the items necessary to "make it all happen" including a computer, printer, fax, scanner, and work-station.

In addition, regular contracted technical support will assure the availability of the biographies of Nevada's significant women from the past's on the NWHP web site. We plan to enlist volunteers to provide research assistance and individual support. People interested in pursuing research on Nevada women will be allowed access to our biographical collection as well as the use of our computers and related research tools.

Kay Sanders and Lisa-Marie Lightfoot are the Project Chairpersons. The grant covers a two-year period ending in August, 2003. We will keep our membership apprised of our progress in achieving the goals outlined in the grant request.

Kay Sanders

Margaret Wells Butts

2001 NWHF Roll of Honor Recipient



Margaret Wells Butts

Margaret is a pioneer teacher of Nevada, having begun her career in 1932. She taught at Jackson Mountain, Denio, and Jungo in Humboldt County and at Winnemucca Elementary School. Since retiring in 1975, Margaret has become a researcher, writer, and museum staff member and volunteer. She served as vice-president of the North Central Nevada Historical Society and was appointed to serve on the Humboldt Historian's editorial board and board of directors. Her research and publications include: "Humboldt County Treasurers" (Humboldt Historian, Fall 1978), "Humboldt County Assessors" (ibid: Summer 1980), "Our County Schools" (ibid, Winter 1983), "The Staff of Life: Winnemucca Bakers, 1877-1985" (ibid, Spring-Summer 1985), and "Recollections of an "Extra" (included in "Hollywood Comes to the Black Rock: The Story of the Making of The Winning of Barbara Worth" by Phillip I. Earl, ibid, Winter-Spring 1988).

An oral history of Margaret, completed in 1977, is located in the Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca. It reads like a social history of rural schools, remote ranches, and mining camps in Nevada, especially north-central Nevada.

Her father had come from Texas in 1907 to the mining camp of Red Butte, Nevada, situated at the base of King Lear Peak in the Jackson Mountains.

Her mother joined him in 1910. They settled near Jungo on a small ranch, halfway between where a station was to be built on the Western Pacific Railroad, (Antelope Crossing) and the mining camp.

Margaret was born in Winnemucca in 1914 but spent her primary school years being taught by her mother, except for one day a week when she attended the small school in Jungo. When Margaret entered high school in 1926 at age 12, her mother decided that the youngster needed to attend regular school and moved them to Winnemucca for that purpose. Margaret graduated from Winnemucca High School in 1930 with her class of 28 students.

Deciding to major in education after high school rather than journalism, since the latter required four years of study and the Great Depression had made money scarce, Margaret enrolled at the University of Nevada, Reno in the fall of 1930. Students in the field of education were required to take eighteen credit hours per semester the first year and twenty per semester the second. Five of these were in practice teaching. After completing these requirements, she graduated with a "normal school" teaching certificate in 1932.

Her first teaching position was at the one-room school in Jackson Mountain. She boarded at the Alexander Ranch, riding horseback every day the three miles between ranch and school. At Denio, she walked a mile to the school every day, in winter lighting the schoolhouse stove before her pupils arrived. Margaret enjoyed many fun times in Denio, a closely-knit community. Dances, celebrations, rodeos, plays and meetings occurred regularly.

In 1937, Margaret accepted a teaching position at Jungo, only 12 miles from her childhood home. Here she met her future husband who literally came "out of the sky into her life." During one schoolday, an airplane landed on a flat about a half mile from the schoolhouse. Margaret and her students trekked over to get a look at the machine and to meet the pilot, McKinley Butts. The following weekend, Margaret, her pupils, and their parents all were treated to airplane rides. Thus began the Butts' courtship. They were married June 30, 1940 in Winnemucca.

During WWII, the couple lived in Sacramento and worked at McClellan (air) Field. Their children, one son and two daughters, were born in 1947, 1948, and 1951. The not quite completed family returned to Winnemucca in 1949. Widowed in 1963 with three children to rear, Margaret returned to teaching.

This sprightly, dynamic lady still lives in her own home in Winnemucca. In addition to her work with the North Central Nevada Historical Society and Museum, she was active in the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoys visiting her grandchildren and working in the museum. Last March she celebrated her 87th birthday. Her exemplary life has earned her a spot in the "Roll of Honor."

Featured Historic Nevada Woman

Lubertha Johnson

- **Born:** 1906 (exact date unknown)
- **Died:** February 6, 1989
- **Maiden Name:** Miller
- **Race/nationality/ethnic background:** African-American
- **Married:** Lawrence Warden
- **Primary city and county of residence and work:** Las Vegas (Clark)
- **Major fields of work:** medicine (nurse), social welfare (poverty program administrator), civil rights (NAACP)
- **Other role identities:** wife, farm worker, recreation director, civic leader

Lubertha Johnson was born in Ackerman, Mississippi, in 1906 to Golden and Mary Miller. She was born on a farm that her father had inherited from his father Joe, who had been a slave.

During many of her early years, Lubertha lived with her grandmother about ten miles from her parents. This grandmother, whose father had been murdered by white bigots, enjoyed having her granddaughter live with her while Lubertha's parents worked hard to get ahead--it was also easier for Lubertha to attend school from her grandmother's place. From her grandmother, Lubertha learned many skills, such as how to use a spinning wheel and how to use various plants to dye cloth different colors. On the farm, the two women raised rice, corn, and a small amount of cotton; they also tended a large orchard.

The Millers were working hard in the South at a time that the KKK membership was growing by leaps and bounds (the 1920s), and the family subsequently made the decision to move north to Chicago. They had decided to travel by train, but the station master for the railroad in Lubertha's town would not

sell them tickets. Consequently, friends took them by wagon to another town from which the family left.

The move to the Chicago area opened up a whole new world to Lubertha as she became exposed to a metropolitan area with its tall buildings and a more sophisticated lifestyle. Seventeen years old when she arrived in Chicago, Johnson landed in a neighborhood which was mostly Italian. This was her first interaction with whites. At home in the South, blacks and whites did not mingle. A year later, the family moved to another suburban area, Maywood, a steel mill town where her father worked.



Lubertha Johnson
Photo credit: UNR Oral His. Pgm.

Johnson found race relations in the North much better than in the South, but she refused to go to school with white children at first. Finally, she agreed, and enrolled at Chicago Music College and the Y College, where she met not only white people from her area, but white people from the South who wanted to be friendly. This also was a new experience for her. Following high school, she enrolled in Roger Williams University, an all-black school, in Nashville, Tennessee. She planned to pursue a teaching career but the Depression of the 1930s forced her to quit school and get a job to help support her family. She remained in the Chicago area when her parents moved to Pasadena, California for Mr. Miller's health.

In 1943, Lubertha moved west to be with her parents and immediately got a job in public housing for the Urban League. She remained there only a few months before moving to Las Vegas where the family purchased a twenty four acre ranch in Paradise Valley on which they raised chickens. It was located near Eastern Avenue and Sunset Road. Many blacks found the ranch to be a favorite picnic and recreation spot as they

continued on page 8

Lubertha Johnson

continued from page 7

were then barred from mainstream accommodations. The ranch was sold in 1979.

Lubertha worked as recreation director of the Carver Park Housing Project in Henderson. She served as president of the local NAACP chapter and was a signee of the Consent Decree to end employment discrimination in the hotel and casino industry. She was a member of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, The National Conference (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews), a board member of the Caliente School for Girls and founder of Operation Independence Pre-school Learning Center.

Ms. Johnson was sometimes compared to the famous educator, Mary McLeod Bethune, in that she had access to powerbrokers and often used that to push for social change. During her lifetime Lubertha Johnson was a recipient of numerous awards in recognition of her contributions to the community and to the State of Nevada. She left a legacy for all: "Education is the key to independence." She was Southern Nevada's first black nurse, but it is felt that she really made her mark after becoming active with the NAACP's Las Vegas chapter in 1945. Her work there included two different terms as president of the organization. Her many accomplishments include helping to expand employment opportunities for blacks in the school district, hospitals and hotels. She is also credited with helping to enact open housing legislation and Nevada's civil rights law.

One of her proudest achievements was the founding of the county's first anti-poverty, self-help initiative, Operation Independence. It included the first Head Start program, the Manpower program, and the Operation Independence child development centers and was the first black nonprofit agency to receive funding from the United Way of Southern Nevada.

On February 6, 1989, Lubertha died in a Las Vegas nursing home.

(Biographical sketch by Sally Wilkins and Jean Ford)

Published Works: Johnson, Lubertha, Lubertha Johnson: Civil rights efforts in Las Vegas, 1940s-1960s, an oral interview conducted by Jaime Coughtry. Reno: Oral History Program, University of Nevada, 1988.

Sources of Information:

1. Burkhart, Joan, "Las Vegas recalls role in local civil rights efforts." Las Vegas Review Journal, February 9, 1989.
2. Knight, Sarann. "The Lubertha M. Johnson Story. Alpha Rho Chapter, Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc. Papers. November 1978.
3. McClure, Florence. "A Time to Weep...But Also Rejoice." Mentor. February 1996.

October 28 New Date for Jean Ford Memorial Hike

Sunday, October 28, 2001, is the date set for the Spooner's Summit area Sierra hike to remember Jean Ford, late Nevada State Assemblywoman. The purpose will be to visit the 1998 scattering place of her ashes. Eileen Cohen will lead NWHP members and friends to the grounds. Eileen encourages everyone to bring wild-flower seeds to spread. For those wishing to continue with a day hike along the Tahoe Rim Trail, Eileen will lead the way.

Reno-Sparks area participants plan to car-pool from the Southwest Pavilion, in front of Heidi's Restaurant, leaving at 8:45 a.m.. At 9:30 a.m., they will meet those from the Carson City/Carson Valley area at the Park and Ride turnout on Highway 50. It is near the intersection of Highway 395 which heads towards Spooner's Summit.

The walk to Jean's scattering site will take ten to fifteen minutes. Afterwards, the Tahoe Rim Trail hike will last as long as the hikers wish. Bring a lunch and water. Wear good hiking shoes or boots and layered clothing.

Call Eileen at: (775) 882-7599 beginning in September for information.

October 6 Basque "Aspen Carving" Hike

Hike within the splendor of the high Sierra and discover the Picassoesque art, which for 100 years, Basque shepherds have been carving on aspen trees.

Dr. Jose Mallea of the UNR Basque Studies Department, will lead the excursion. It will take the hikers north of Truckee, CA, to the Tahoe National Forest for an easy, four-mile walk. A picnic will follow.

Bring water and something to share. There is a \$29 charge for this activity.

Meet in back of the Reno (Old) Town Mall in the TMCC parking lot at 9a.m.

This outing will last until approximately 3p.m.

To register, call TMCC at (775) 829-9010.

For questions, call Carleen Ernest at (775) 787-8779 or email her at ccjernest@aol.com.

Member Profile: Mollie Murphy



Mollie L. Murphy

Mollie Lou Knudsen Murphy was born in Minot, North Dakota and is a graduate of the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. She continued her teaching studies at Minot State College from which she received her credential. This knowledge-seeker then entered Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Still not "satisfied," Mollie completed two years of preparation at the University of Nevada Las Vegas for her Special Education teaching certificate.

In 1952, she married her college sweetheart and traveled with her husband to where his military service stationed him. Because of her husband's frequent job location changes, over the past twenty years Mollie has taught school in Alabama, California, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, Las Vegas, Nevada, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Everyday, somewhere, teachers miss school. Everyday, students' educations continue with the help of substitute teachers. But what is it really like to substitute teach? Mollie pursued such a twenty-year long, "temporary" career, saying of her endeavor, "It's a great job."

Once she receives her substitute assignment, Mollie likes to arrive at the school one hour before class in order to acclimate herself. She surveys the room, introducing herself when the children arrive. She learns to identify her students by writing a card with each child's

name and the place he is seated. She uses the rest of the day to teach traditional lessons such as reading, writing and arithmetic.

As with any job, Mollie says that substitute teaching has its difficulties, but she loves the job because "the kids make it all worthwhile."

In 1979, Patrick retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, ending his career in Omaha, Nebraska. Patrick and Mollie have four children and five grandchildren. Patrick III and George live in Las Vegas, Peggy is in Hawaii, and Colleen resides in Florida.

Mollie enjoys memberships in the Chrysanthemum Club, Delta Delta Alumna, Green Valley Women's Club, Mesquite Club, NWHP, P.E.O., Republican Women's Club, St. Viator Women's Guild, and the Town Club. She has served as President, Corresponding Secretary, and Chairman of the Lorenzi Park Rose Garden and as Chairman of the Town Club Calling Committee. She currently serves on the NWHP Conference 2002 committee.

When Mollie is not in the classroom or supporting the organizations she belongs to, she enjoys working in her garden, traveling with Patrick, and playing bridge with friends.

Memo from Membership

As of this newsletter, Nevada Women's History Project enjoys a statewide membership of two hundred four. Northern members weigh in at one hundred four while southern membership rests at the one hundred mark.

Please keep up the good work and invite friends to our thought-provoking programs. It is amazing to see how a few dedicated members can make such noticeable changes and produce an impact on our Silver State! Thanks to all of you who sponsor new members both north and south.

Joan M. LeMere,
State Membership Chairman

NWHP Conference

continued from page 3

Committee continues its work in providing educational workshops for its members and for other organizations that wish to help write the history of Nevada's significant women from the past.

The committee's goals for the encyclopedia's first edition are slowly being realized. Committee members urge researchers to forward their completed biographies as soon as possible. Each biography printed in the first and following editions will include a photo, if available, of the woman studied. Every biography should contain only 800-1000 words, a bibliography, and the author's name. Two pages have reserved for each woman studied.

The NWHP is committed to providing our schools and citizens with the stories of hardships endured by women while Nevada was being founded. Your help conducting research and writing will make this worthwhile project a success.

Please help the NWHP produce the first biographical encyclopedia of Nevada's women!

Hannah Clapp Lecture Series to Resume

The NWHP's Hannah Clapp Lecture Series will resume on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 PM at the Carson City Library, 900 Roop St. The program is as yet unconfirmed. The series, named in Clapp's honor and presented in her spirit, covers a variety of topics. Clapp participated in the early history of Carson City as an educator and a suffragette! She operated one of Nevada's capital city's first boarding schools. Spreading her energy to Reno, this forward-thinking woman began Reno's first library.

The Tuesday, October 2nd program will occur at the same hour and place. As October is the month in which we note Nevada's entry into the Union, we will focus on Nevada symbols, with special emphasis on the Nevada State Song. Our guest presenter will be one of the Carson Valley Young Chautauquans, Jenny McMenemy, who will portray Bertha Raffeto, the creator of our state song, "Home Means Nevada."

On Tuesday, November 27th, member Cherry Jones will portray the first woman physician in Carson Valley, Dr. Eliza Cook, at the Gold Hill Hotel, 1 mile s. of Virginia City. Dinner at the hotel's restaurant is available starting at 5:30 PM. Cherry's portrayal will begin at approximately 7:30 PM.

State Nominating Committee Report

The NWHP State Nominating Committee will meet soon to begin formulating a new slate of officers for the 2002-2004 term. The committee is comprised of Joyce Marshall: Chair, Betty Glass, and Mary Gafford.

It is time to start thinking about whom you would like to see as your new officers. All positions are available, including President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.

All nominations should reach this committee no later than November 1, 2001. I know that November seems like a long way off, but we are already in the second half of the year. Retail stores are unpacking their Christmas goods! Time is flying, so if you know of someone you think would be an energetic addition to the State slate of officers, please make sure she is nominated.

In order to do that, you must contact the proposed nominee and get a signed, dated permission statement from her. She must put in writing that 1. She is willing to be a nominee and 2. would accept the position if elected. Then, you may email or mail the nomination, along with the nominee's consent, to: Marshall@nevada.edu or, to Joyce Marshall, 6229 Old Trail Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89108.

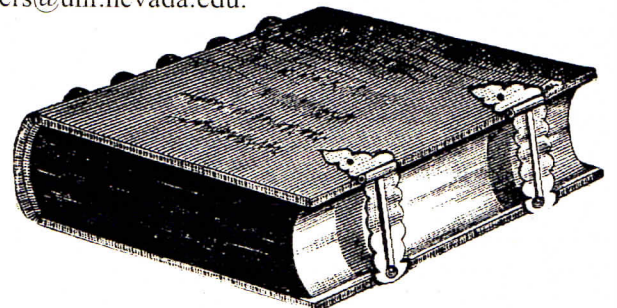
If you have any questions, you may also call Joyce at 702-895-2246. Installation of officers will follow the main speaker during our conference in March.

Great Basin Book Festival: Saturday, September 29, 2001

Once again the Nevada Women's History Project will represent itself at the Great Basin Book Festival at Wingfield Park, along the Truckee River in downtown Reno. The Festival hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will be the fifth such event we have participated in and it appears the gathering will foster much enjoyment. An impressive group of writers, including keynote speakers Russell Banks and the husband-and-wife team of Sally Denton and Roger Morris, has been lined up. Cowboy poet Paul Zarzyski, Las Vegas City of Asylum poet-in-residence Syl Cheney-Coker, and Navajo writer Irvin Morris are just a few of the 20-30 writers who will present their work.

Our booth will feature Nevada women authors, many of whom are NWHP members. In addition to books, we will sell NWHP items such as postcards, notebooks, and historical booklets.

Please call our office at 786-2335 to woman our booth for a couple of hours that day to help the NWHP. Kay Sanders is coordinating the event. She can be e-mailed at: ksanders@unr.nevada.edu.



Thanks to:

- Ingrid Texeira of Minden for being the botanist guide on our July 14th hike into the beautiful Sierra wildflower area. We left from Woods Lake, Kit Carson Pass. The sharing of her knowledge of flowers and plants added immensely to the enjoyment of our day hike to Winnemucca and Frog Lakes.
- Lt. Gov. Lorraine Hunt and Dina Titus for agreeing to speak at the 2002 Conference.
- Nevada Power for printing new stationery for NWHP.
- NWHP sends a very special "Thank you" to our member and Assemblywoman from District 35, Marcia de Braga. Her dedication, perseverance and just plain "hard work" in overseeing the passage of the Sarah Winnemucca Project through both houses of the Legislature are unequalled. Thanks, Marcia.
- For sometime, NWHP has needed a database of contacts that will help us reach out to groups, leaders and other Nevadans. Thanks to our member Kathleen Clemence who is diligently entering contacts, this is becoming a reality. The database can be used to print labels and merge letters among other projects. Thanks, Kathleen.

Congratulations to:

- The President sends congratulations to the new officers for the Northern Region. May you hold fast, promote and support the purposes of this organization. She also congratulates our member Alice Gottschalk Downer who was honored at the Nevada Women's Fund's annual Women of Achievements Award Luncheon on May 2nd at the Reno Hilton Hotel. Alice was recognized for her contributions to education, community service, and research regarding Nevada women and their families.
- Nevada State Assemblywoman Marcia de Braga for having been featured in the July issue of Good

Housekeeping in its "Award for Women in Government" section. She was titled, "Nimble Negotiator" for her successful Truckee River water rights legislation settling decades of infighting amongst various water user groups in Nevada.

- Congratulations Mary Gafford! Teacher and member Mary Gafford won a trip to New York City by participating as an evaluator for SCOPE Magazine, one of several educational creations of the publishers of Scholastic Magazine. Mary and her students critique each issue regarding its cover, articles, and artwork, for example. She and other teachers who had also won the trip were invited to take a guest along. The winners were treated to a night on Broadway and took in the play, Kiss Me Kate. The group lodged at the Grand Hyatt Regency Hotel near Grand Central Railway Station and were "wined and dined" by Scholastic to boot! Mary then toured the Big Apple briefly, (very difficult to do!), which included taking a cruise aboard the Staten Island Ferry. She viewed the Statue of Liberty and Staten Island, later taking a look at Central Park and many quaint shops.

Notice:

- Articles for the November newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor Kay Sanders no later than October 22nd. Email at ksanders@unr.nevada.edu.

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Co-Editor: Kay Sanders and Michelle Lord

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.

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!*

Peggy Carras
Dr. Linda Clement
Karen Dannehl
Joan Doubrava
Doris Drummond
Joan Fragakis
Fran Haraway
Dona Hoesly
Betty Miller
Barbara Presler
Harriett Smith
Phyllis Young