

Calendar

Northern Nevada Schedule

NOV. 14 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, at Cherry Jones', Minden, 267-3410, "supper" provided.

DEC. 10 - Book signing event for Barbara Vucanovich in Reno (see article).

JAN. 9, 2006 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, at Patti Bernard's, Reno, 826-3612.

FEB. 25 - "Herstory Affaire", Welcoming party brunch for new and renewing members, Karen Benna's, Reno (watch for your invitation in next newsletter!).

MAR. 11 - Statewide "Letters From Nevada's Daughters" Day (watch for details).

MAR. 13 - Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot's, 849-2050.

APRIL - Annual Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City (watch for details).

MAY 5, 6, 7 - Silver State Sampler Bus Trip, "In the Footprints of Sarah Winnemucca" (save the dates—and your money!).

JUNE 24 - Steering Committee Meeting and Annual Members Meeting (watch for details).

JULY - Jean Ford Memorial Wildflower Hike - TBA.

Southern Nevada Schedule

NOV. 19 - The 2nd Quarter Luncheon Meeting, Golden Steer, 308 W. Sahara Ave. 11:00 AM - Cost \$23. RSVP by the 17th to Anne Reck - 736-6605 or Mary Gafford - 648-9415. Luncheon Speaker: Margo Bartlett Pesek. Board meeting to follow.

JAN., 2006 - NWHP-So. Region Writers Workshop at 4755 So. Pearl Street. Hostess Joan LeMere. Time: 10:00 AM Date to be announced.

JAN. 14 - Class - "Preserving Your Family History" - UNLV Library, Special Collections Area. Time: 10:00 AM - Noon. FREE.

FEB. 18 - Membership luncheon meeting. Golden Steer Restaurant - 11:00 AM.

MAY 20 - Membership luncheon meeting. Golden Steer Restaurant - 11:00 AM.

History Celebrated on Nevada Day in Carson City

Carson Street in Carson City, during the Nevada Day Parade on October 29th, was full of Nevada characters. The Nevada Women's History Project entry had participants from as far away as Montana as their Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin (Jean Marie Simpson) came to Nevada to help Anne Henrietta Martin (Rose Stuart) campaign for the U.S. Congress. Sculptor Benjamin Victor came from North Dakota to be in the parade, as himself. Other characters included Cherry Jones as Dr. Eliza Cook; Eileen Cohen as Hannah Clapp, entrepreneur; Chuck Convis as Rattlesnake Dick, a perilous life on the Comstock; Isabel Espinoza as Fermina Sarras, miner; Fred Jones as Orion Clemens, Nevada Territorial Secretary; Susan Paslov as Margaret Ormsby, proprietor; Billie Brinkman as Annie Oakley, show girl; Bonnie Dietrick as Eilley Oram Bowers, seer; Bruce Lightfoot as Adolph Sutro, mining engineer; Mary Anne Convis as Lillian Malcolm, prospector; Cameron Crain as Charles Friend, weatherman and astronomer; Jeannie Larson as Julie Bulette, working girl; Michael Curcio as Wyatt Earp, U.S. Marshal; and Lisa-Marie Lightfoot as Mary McNair Mathews, charity worker.

Thanks to Reno Justice of the Peace Barbara Finley for providing her beautiful red convertible and to Diane Phillips and her husband Wayne for the use of their white truck.

Isabel Espinoza



Bruce & Lisa-Marie Lightfoot, Bonnie Dietrich, and Eileen Cohen lining up for the Nevada Day Parade.

Jean Marie Simpson, Billie Brinkman, and Cameron Craig portraying their historic characters.



Cherry & Fred Jones and Benjamin Victor riding in style.

Numerous historic Nevada personalities.

Southern Region Membership Report

The Southern Region has added three members to our roster. We are very pleased to welcome Dorothy Kemp, Betty Legge Middleton and Geri Wagner.

Membership renewals for 2006 are due January 1st and should be received by January 31st. Please make your check payable to Nevada Women's History Project and send to Kaye Gray, 8109 Bay Pines Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89128. If you have any questions about membership or need a membership application, call Kaye at 702-242-6622.

NWHP Leadership

NORTHERN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE:

Cherry Jones: Chair
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Vice-Chair
Holly VanValkenburgh: Treasurer
Patti Bernard: Secretary
Kay Sanders: Communication Co-Chair/Newsletter Editor
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Communication Co-Chair
Isabel Espinoza: Finance Chair
Carrie Townley Porter and Grace Davis: Membership Co-Chairs
Mary Anne Convis: Project Review Chair
Carleen Ernest, Martha Gould and Karen Benna: Program Chairs
Kathy Noneman: Past Chair

SOUTHERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anne Reck: President
Mary Gafford: First Vice President
Kaye Gray: Second Vice President
Pat McNutt: Recording Secretary
Jean Baker: Corresponding Secretary
Su Kim Chung: Treasurer

NWHP STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joan LeMere: President
Cherry Jones: First Vice-President
Kaye Gray: Second Vice-President
Mary Anne Convis: Third Vice-President
Elsa Torgenson: Treasurer
Mary Gafford: Secretary
Carleen Ernest: Northern Region Representative
Joan Fragakis: Southern Region Representative
Denise Yoxsimer: Nevada Women's Fund Representative
Kay Sanders: Editor for State Newsletter
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster
Mary Anne Convis: State Project Review Chair

Jean Ford Research Center – An Update

In September volunteers and student workers continued their efforts getting all the various materials we have on Nevada women in retrievable shape for researchers to access. They have made great strides and are looking at our library of books, cassettes, CDs and DVDs as the next area to organize. An announcement will be made when we are ready for our members and interested parties to be introduced to the Center. This will be next year and will be announced in the February newsletter.

Carrie Porter, Patty Bernard, Grace Davis, Kay Sanders, and Debbie Lander worked during the summer months on the organizing of materials. Nancy Oakley has been given permission from the Nevada Historical Society to work on the Virginia Cain collection at their location in Reno.

Slowly but surely we are accomplishing our goals for the Center. Jean Ford would be proud.

*Kay Sanders,
State Newsletter Editor and
North Communications Co-Chair*

Who is Kate Smith?

Or for that matter, Agnes Risley? Do you know your Alice Taylor from your Alice Maxwell? I have discovered that most of us know very little about these women and the other outstanding educators for whom so many Washoe County schools were named. Your NWHP North Board wants to remedy that. Other states have volumes devoted to the outstanding female educators in their history. Nevada does not. We want to do biographies of our women educators, and we need your help. I know that many of our members went to schools or have had children or grandchildren who went to schools that were named after our distinguished women educators. Some of you taught with or for these women. Some of you had these women as your teachers or principals. Let us hear your stories about these women or volunteer to do a biography of one or more before we lose the first hand knowledge which you have. Please send us a letter or an e-mail of what you remember about these distinguished educators so we can begin building files and writing biographies.

*Kathleen Noneman
North Past Chair*

NWHP State Committee President's Message



Word has reached me that each Region is busy with their individual projects furthering our common goal of "Providing 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 Southern Region is presently meeting with Stephen's Press who are the publishers of Volume 1 of the Biographical Encyclopedia. The meetings are going very well. They promise you all that the result of their efforts will make you very proud. It will be a hard bound edition, with 100 biographies of women in Nevada from both the North and the South. Contributions of biographies have been selected from members throughout the state. I can hardly wait to get my copy.

In the Northern Region many of the ladies participated in the National Women's History Conference in Mills College, Ca. Benjamin Victor, our sculptor of the Sarah Winnemucca statue, is back in Reno again working and renewing friendships. Carrie Porter, our Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project Archivist, is diligently working on gathering together materials pertaining to this event. If anyone has materials that they feel should be in the Archives, please send them to Carrie.

The State Board meeting that was scheduled for October 8, 2005, in Las Vegas was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. The next State Board Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, April 1, 2006. State Board members, please make a note of this on your calendars. This will be the final meeting of this administration.

Continue in the good works Ladies; every small effort counts. We appreciate all of you.

In friendship,
Joan LeMere, State Committee President

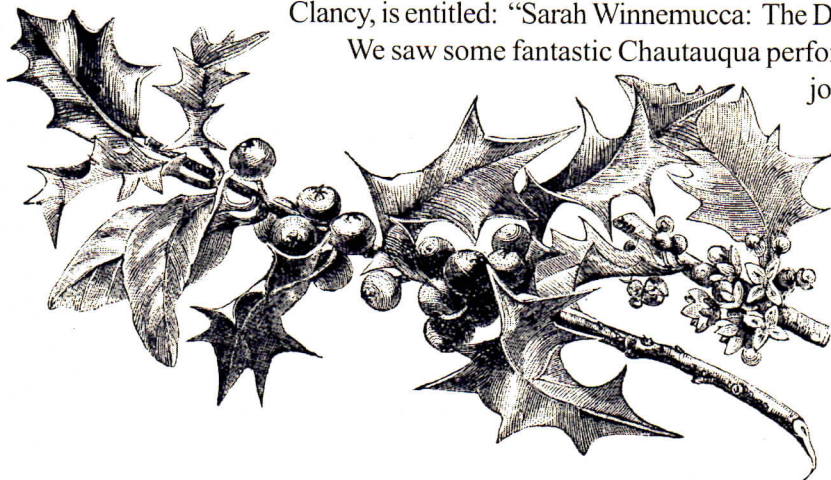
National Women's History Conference Report

Those of us who went to the National Women's History Conference at Mills College, held October 6-8, were thrilled to hear of ways that women are being honored across the United States. The theme of the conference was "Women of the West: A Multicultural Multigenerational Women's History Networking Conference. We shared a plenary session with a diverse group of women. One is involved with forming a Rosie the Riveter Museum; another is helping to start a women's history museum in San Diego. A young lady who has been in the military for 20 years told of her struggles to honor women.

Mary Anne Convis, Holly Van Valkenburgh, and Carrie Townley Porter presented a workshop on our Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project. The audience was in tears at the end of the film that we showed. They came up and gave us big hugs and ordered the film. Some will use the film as a teaching aid; some to show that "it can be done". This film, produced by Gwen Clancy, is entitled: "Sarah Winnemucca: The Dream Fulfilled."

We saw some fantastic Chautauqua performances. I would like to have more of our members join the National Women's History Project. They have a great catalog with lots of material on women's history. Their address is National Women's History Project, 3343 Industrial Dr., Ste 4, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Phone: (707) 636-2888 or email: nwhp@aol.com

Mary Anne Convis



News From The North



The North is looking forward to a busy year, with many interesting and fun events planned for members!

Of course, for some time now our efforts have been centered on Sarah Winnemucca and getting her statue installed in Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. But before we break our arms patting ourselves on the back for the success of that project, we realize that it is time to pick up some of our on-going projects that seem to have fallen by the wayside and remember the purpose for which we were founded.

Our "Mission Statement" says:

The Nevada Women's History Project (NWHP) mission is 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.

So, bearing that in mind, the planning committee (Karen Benna, Carleen Ernest, Cherry Jones, Lisa Marie Lightfoot and Holly Van Valkenburgh) met one Saturday morning at Lisa Marie's home overlooking Washoe Valley to work out a schedule for the coming months.

The specific results of that meeting can be found in the Calendar. Some of the events mentioned are featured in other articles in this newsletter and some will be featured in future newsletters. The committee made certain that there is at least one event planned for each month of the coming year.

Besides specific events, the steering committee agrees that we need to continue gathering biographies for our website, and for the second edition of the Biographical Encyclopedia. We are particularly looking for people to write biographies of the women for whom local schools have been named. If you would like to write a biography (or two!) please contact any member of the steering committee. Much of the information on the women is available at the Jean Ford Research Center at our office in Reno, and we have members who can assist you in finding what you need.

There are also plans to reconvene the participants in the Chautauqua workshop from last year so they can work on their characters; new participants are welcome. So if you think it would be fun (and it is!) to portray a particular historical Nevada woman, please watch for more information. Our goal is to establish a NWHP Speakers Bureau from which organizations and schools can draw for programs.

You may have looked at the names on the North Region

News From The South

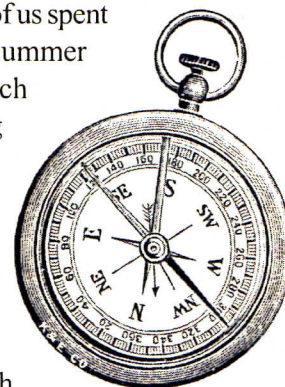
Since our last meeting, some of us spent a cool (really) evening at Super Summer Theatre, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Mary Gafford, a long time volunteer, treated us to prime seating. NWHP presented a letter of appreciation to Super Summer Theatre, one of Southern Nevada's greatest assets, on their 30th birthday.

Our speaker on November 19th is well known to all of us as the Review Journal's "Trip of the Week" columnist. Topic: "Life in Las Vegas with My Mother Adelene Bartlett."

The January 2006 class at UNLV will be short with lots of time for questions. Invite your family and friends. Sue Kim Chung will be our teacher. Parking, no problem.

I'd like to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful Holiday Season.

*Anne Reck, President
Southern Region*



News from the North

continued from page 4

Steering Committee (inside front cover) and thought to yourself something like, Hmmm, seems like some of the same old names put around in different offices. Well, yes and no. Some of the names are the same, and some are familiar, but we have some new members taking on various jobs, and we hope to encourage more members to participate. That is one reason that you see the steering committee meetings scheduled in different geographical locations. Members are welcome at our meetings, and we invite you to attend one of them. By the time you get this newsletter the November meeting may be passed, but if you are interested in attending a meeting please contact the hostess so she will know how many will be attending.

If you can't attend a steering committee meeting but would like to have something put on the agenda, please contact me (cljnvquail@charter.net or 775 267-3410) and it will be done.

We are still waiting for the Sue Wagner Oral History to be available. When we have details about a reception for her we will let you all know.

*Cherry Jones,
Chair, No. Reg. Steering Committee*

Progress Report: "In Sarah's Footprints"

I'm happy to report on the progress we've made in producing a new video tentatively entitled "In Sarah's Footprints." But first, let me express my deepest appreciation to NWHF for the donation of funds. With this additional support, we can bring this intricate program to the level it deserves.

When this idea took hold last Spring, we agreed on one thing: that we would get all the outdoor interviews done before winter. The specter of cold weather nipped us into speedy action. Progress to date includes four full days of videotaping with Dr. Sally Zanjani. On Sept. 28, we videotaped segments in Carson City with Guy Rocha at the Capitol Mall and the site of the former Chinatown, in Genoa at the old Mormon Fort, in Gold Canyon just east of Dayton at the likely location of Johntown, and with Bert Bedeau, historic preservation expert, in Virginia City.

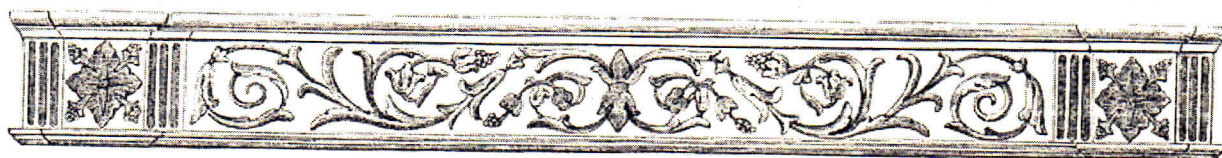
On Oct. 4, we ventured forth to points east, with Sally's husband, Esmail at the wheel. Our first stop was the Humboldt Sink, where we left the paved road and followed a rough gravel road along the railroad tracks to a high spot recommended by Stan Paher. There we taped what will be the opening for the program, with Sally talking about Sarah's birth. It took the rest of the day to reach McDermitt (current signage includes two "t"s), and the old building left from the days of the Fort, now on the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe reservation. There Sally spoke about Sarah's days as an Army interpreter. The following morning, Pansilee Larson kindly opened the Humboldt County Museum an hour early, so that I could squeeze in videotaping rare photos in the collection donated by the former McDermitt Indian agent's family. Then we videotaped at the courthouse in Winnemucca, to capture the drama of Sarah's court trial.

Lovelock was our final stop, where research done by Carol Clanton, Elaine Larson, Pat Simpson and others pointed to an old house on the current Safford Ranch. I spoke by phone with Betty Safford, who said an old-timer had stopped by the ranch years ago and said that Sarah's school was in a small building that was subsequently folded into the larger house. Since the old-timer is long gone, that trail is cold, and Betty, Sally and I agreed this information would fall into the category of "hearsay." Nonetheless, the old wooden structure provided an interesting visual backdrop, and Sally was careful to state that the old building was "said" to be the site of Sarah's school, but that we didn't have firm proof. (If any more research is revealed before this program is finalized, please let us know!)

Our final day of taping took place on Oct. 13, when Sally and I drove to Pyramid Lake and picked up Ralph Burns at the museum. We conferred with Ben Aleck about the best place to tape, and agreed upon the old bridge road in Little Nixon. This site was ideal, low and out of the wind, and providing a magnificent backdrop for Ralph to talk with Sally on-camera about the life ways of the Paiute people both before and after contact.

As we all knew she would, Sally did an outstanding job distilling down the immense story of Sarah Winnemucca and presenting relevant portions on camera, not an easy job, and one made harder by the challenging geographical terrains we chased down. Now, with wind, rain and snow predictably upon us, I'm delighted to note that all the field interviews are successfully "in the can". The task becomes one of writing the narrative bridges, finding archival footage, and diving into the deep and magical waters of postproduction. One of the things that drew me to filmmaking 30 years ago was the discovery that film/video is a collaborative art. I believe that is what makes it such a powerful storytelling medium. I welcome your questions, thoughts, suggestions and feedback. E-mail is best for me, at gwenclancy@charter.net, or phone at 775-813-1350. Thank you again for your ongoing support, collaboration and good will.

Gwendolyn Clancy



2005 - Celebrating the 85th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified as part of the U.S. Constitution. The 19th Amendment was referred to as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment and states **“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”**

This 85th anniversary marks the culmination of a 72 year campaign to win for American women the right to vote and participate in the governance of our nation. During this 72 year period, thousands of determined women circulated countless petitions, and gave speeches in churches, convention halls, meeting houses and on street corners for suffrage. They published newspapers, pamphlets and magazines. They were harassed and attacked by mobs and police – and some were thrown in jail. Still they persevered to achieve the goal with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Had the suffrage movement not been so ignored by historians, women like Lucretia Mott, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul would be as familiar to most Americans as Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt or Martin Luther King Jr. We would know the story of how women were denied the right to vote despite the lofty words of the Constitution, how women were betrayed after the Civil War, defeated and often cheated in election after election and how they were forced to fight for their rights against entrenched opposition with virtually no financial, legal, or political power.

Women were a poor, unarmed and disenfranchised class when they first organized to gain political power in the mid 1800s. Amazingly, this achievement was accomplished in a non-violent manner. The deliberate rejection of violence may be one reason that the movement has not received the attention lavished on other, more bloody struggles in American history. The non-violent approach was a logical strategy as a remarkable number of prominent suffrage leaders were Quakers and pacifists. They were clear about their goals: not victory over men, but equality; not constant war, but reconciliation.

Many factors contributed to the passage of the Amendment – such as the changing role of women in the workforce during World War I – which brought them a new social position and made their continued disenfranchisement preposterous. On May 20, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the amendment, and on June 4, 1919 the Senate passed it. The fight then went back to the states – final ratification came with the vote of the Tennessee legislature on August 24, 1920. Two days later, the Secretary of State signed the Amendment into law, without fanfare.

In 1971, at the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), August 26 was first designated as Women's Equality Day, an annual commemoration of the suffrage victory and a reminder of women's continuing efforts for equality.

Nancy Oakley

Save These Dates!

AAUW Conference – April 21, 22, 23

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming Nevada State American Association of University Women Conference. This three-day event will be held the weekend of April 21, 22 and 23. The theme this year is Education is the Gateway. Friday night will be a Welcome Reception and entertainment at a colorful Reno landmark. Saturday and Sunday will be packed with inspirational speakers and activities at the Silver Legacy. A diversity panel, educational speakers and entertainers will present throughout the conference. NWHP's own Mary Ann Convis will present a Chautauqua performance on Elizabeth Peabody, first English speaking Kindergarten school and a friend of our own Sarah Winnemucca. Juanita Westbrook will portray Alice Smith; civil rights pioneer and namesake of Reno's elementary school. Dr. Meggin McIntosh, Emphasis on Excellence, is the keynote speaker. Look for registration form in next issue of NWHP newsletter. Attending this event is another way we can support our corporate sponsors. For further information, call Carleen Ernest @ 787-8779, Martha Gould @ 747-0777, or Joyce Destefanis @ 852-0275.

Carleen Ernest

A Celebration of Sarah Winnemucca



Sarah Winnemucca maquette graces the library garden.

There are days that are wonderful and there are days that are spectacularly wonderful. October 30th at the Spanish Springs Library in Sparks, Nevada was such a day. The sun shown and the sky was blue. Many came to celebrate the unveiling of the maquette of the Sarah Winnemucca statue and the bust of Sarah Winnemucca. And what a celebration it was.

The celebration opened with an honor song to the gathering of pinon nuts by singers and drummers Lois Kane, Reno Sparks Indian Colony and Janice Gardipe, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Hungry Valley. Then Janice gave the blessing. Lucille Adin, Chair of the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone and pointed out that October celebrates diversity and this special event is the highlight of the Library's celebration of diversity.

Susan Bruno, Chair of the Friends of Washoe County Library, talked about the maquette and its context used by Benjamin Victor, when he made his presentation to the Selection Committee. She also gave tribute to Carrie Porter and members of the Nevada Women's History Project, who worked so hard and so successfully, to raise the money for the Sarah Winnemucca statue. Susan Bruno talked about the

Gilbert Bento Estate gift to the Friends and that the purchase of the maquette of Sarah Winnemucca is the first gift from his estate. While Susan Bruno talked, Benjamin Victor unveiled the statue. It is truly beautiful and the setting among trees in the center of the Library most appropriate.

But more was to come. Nancy Cummings, Washoe County Library System Director, and her sister Terry Gialketsis of Las Vegas purchased the bust of Sarah, which Benjamin Victor had done, as a tribute to their Mother, pioneer Nevada journalist Ruthe Deskin.

Benjamin Victor then talked about how he was inspired to do the statue. "I chose to represent a combination of her character qualities in her portrait, rather than just sculpt a literal portrait from a single photograph. It is a portrait of her spirit. Her deep dark eyes are telling the story of her life." He then discussed the themes embodied in the statue and pointed out what one should look for when first observing the statue and the bust of Sarah Winnemucca.

The program ended with a blessing by Ralph Burns, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and drumming and singing by Lois Kane and Janice Gardipe.

Following the ceremony, Sally Zanjani signed copies of her book on Sarah Winnemucca, sold by the Friends. The Nevada Women's History Project sold DVD's of the "Exploring Nevada Program", and the Nevada State Library sold posters of Sarah Winnemucca which Benjamin Victor signed.

The ceremony was followed by Ralph Burns storytelling for the children who came to the celebration, and additional entertainment was provided by Ben Aleck, Pyramid Lake Paiute, the Hungry Valley Tribe and Lois Kane, Reno Sparks Indian Colony.

Gwen Clancy's video, "Sarah Winnemucca: The Dream Fulfilled", was screened on a continuous loop in the meeting room.

Not only was this day a day to celebrate diversity, it was a day to celebrate the life of a unique woman, Sarah Winnemucca, and to honor Benjamin Victor as the youngest artist to create a sculpture for the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

The quotes from Benjamin Victor are from the "Bust of Sarah Winnemucca".

Martha Gould



Nancy Cummings, Washoe County Library System Director, spoke at the ceremony.



Beatrice Poafpybitty (l) and Pearl Paddy (r) pose with the maquette of Sarah Winnemucca.

Featured Historic Nevada Woman

Dat-So-La-Lee

Born: About 1829

Died: December, 1925

Maiden name: Dabuda

Race/nationality/ethnic background: Native American (Washo Tribe)

Married: Assu, Charlie Keyser

Children: Two; died in childhood

Primary city and county of residence and work: Carson City (Ormsby County)

Major fields of work: basket weaver

Other role identities: wife, mother, household servant

Biography:

Dat-So-La-Lee was a Washo (or Washoe) Indian woman who was born near the place that became the mining town of Sheridan in Carson Valley. She was also known by her given name Dabuda. Her birth date is believed to have been 1829. Her father's name was DA DA uongala and her mother's name is unknown. Dat-So-La-Lee lived in and around Carson City, Carson Valley, and Lake Tahoe

Sometime around 1899 Dabuda became known as Dat-So-La-Lee. This nickname suited her nicely. It was musical like her weaving.

Records provided by Dr. S.L. Lee indicate she was first married into the family of "Lame Tom", who was called Assu and possibly died of consumption. No children from Dabuda's marriages apparently survived to adulthood.

In her earlier years, Dabuda washed clothes and cooked for the miners and their wives. In 1871, she went to the mining town of Monitor in Alpine County, California, and worked for the Harris Cohn family. She worked as a servant.

In 1888 Dat-So-La-Lee married Charlie Keyser, who was part Washo and took his name from the family which owned the Keyser and Elrod Ranch in Nevada's Carson Valley. At this time she took the name Louisa Keyser. Charlie was twenty-four years younger and an expert arrow craftsman.

Louisa came to Abe Cohn's attention in 1895 when he

bought four willow-covered bottles she had made. He later became her sponsor, business manager, and press agent. In 1899 her baskets were being carefully recorded, in a ledger separate from the family's business ledger, by Amy and Abe Cohn who recognized how skillfully they were made.

Dat-So-La-Lee and Charlie led a comfortable life with Abe and Amy Cohn. From 1895 until Charlie's death in 1928, all of their expenses were taken care of by the Cohns. They traveled to Lake Tahoe every summer where Cohn had provided another home for them near Tahoe Tavern and Louisa (Dat-So-La-Lee) traveled extensively with the Cohns to arts and crafts exhibits. In return for their providing room and board, the Cohns received Dat-So-La-Lee's baskets. For pleasure she liked the games the Indians played with wood or bone dice hidden in the hands or under baskets and the new games

of chance the white men brought to Nevada. Sometimes she played late into the night.

Dat-So-La-Lee is probably best known for her degikup or "day-gee-coop" baskets. This type begins with a small, circular base, extends up and out to a maximum circumference, then becomes smaller until the opening at the top is roughly the same diameter as the base. She wove baskets for Cohn's Emporium for approximately thirty years until her death in 1925. It is now generally accepted that some of Louisa's designs were inspired by other weavers, probably Pomo and Miwok Indians. Most of her designs were her own. She used symbols like words to tell a story.

Dat-So-La-Lee lived during a time that saw an enormous amount of change for her people. She used her hand print, which was copyrighted, to certify bills of sale. The receipts included the hand print, a description of the basket, stitches to the inch, design, and time involved in its construction—a lovely gesture devised by Abe and Amy Cohn.

Dat-So-La-Lee was a member of the southern Washo group associated with Carson Valley and Alpine County. Her native people of the Great Basin, the traditional Washoe homeland, have been making baskets for several thousand years. The "Hokan" speaking Washo people apparently

continued on page 9



Photo Credit: NV Historical Society, Reno

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Dat-So-La-Lee

continued from page 8

entered the Great Basin of the American West via a California route perhaps as many as 4,000 years ago. Though the Washo inhabited areas of eastern California, the tribe is more commonly associated with western Nevada. According to Jane Green Hickson,

"Before the white men came, the Washoe camped by the shores of Lake Tahoe and Washoe Lake, on the banks of the Truckee, Carson, and Walker Rivers, and near springs in the Pine Nut Hills.

For food, they hunted rabbits, antelope, and mud hen, fished the lakes and streams, brought back fly larvae from Mono Lake, hiked to the western slope of the Sierras for acorns, collected seeds from the grasses, and gathered pine nuts.

The men did the hunting and fishing and made arrows, tools, and blankets; while the women gathered and prepared the plant and insect foods, tended the children, and made baskets."

Esther Summerfield, writing for the Nevada State Historical Society, says, in part:

Myriads of stars shine over the graves of our ancestors. Dat-So-La-Lee had seen some 96 winters, mostly in the Carson Valley, when death came. Last of the famed Washo basket-weavers, her unexpressed dreams and her love of beauty were woven into her masterpieces. Her baskets were unsurpassed for their artistic conception and symbolical significance. She gathered all known materials, with the aid of her husband. This work was tedious and required careful attention. Her materials were cured, seasoned and tied up ahead for the next year's work. She was among the last of those Washo weavers whose ancient art had been practiced by countless generations.

Her memories and her visions are beautifully woven into her baskets and will live on to remind us of the history and unique tribal artistry of her people, the Washo Indians."

Dat-So-La-Lee died in December 1925 and was buried at the Stewart Indian cemetery in Carson City.

Original biographical sketch by Sally Wilkins from an unpublished research paper by Kim Von Aspern. Revision done by Dixie Westergard in 2005.

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continued on page 10

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Dat-So-La-Lee

continued from page 9

Time Line

- 1829 - Dabuda born to Washo people about this time.
- 1840s - Dabuda married Assu.
- 1844 - Dabuda (16) and nephew see white faces.
- 1848 - 1852 Dabuda and Assu welcome two children during these years.
- 1858 - 1860 Dabuda's and Assu's children died about this time.
- 1850 - 1900 Traditional 10,000 year old Washo way of life destroyed – Dabuda (31 to 71) jerked from Prehistoric Age to Frontier America.
- 1871 - Dabuda (42) worked as servant for Harris Cohn.
- 1870s - Assu died of consumption or exposure during this time.
- 1877 - Dabuda (48) worked at Elrod – Keyser Ranch.
- 1888 - Dabuda (59) married Charley Keyser, took Louisa as English name.
- 1895 - Louisa promised all of her baskets to Abe Cohn for a house, food and clothes.
- 1899 - Louisa given nickname “Dat-So-La-Lee”.
- 1899 - 1914 Considered Dat-So-La-Lee's (70-85) classical phase of weaving.
- 1919 - Dat-So-La-Lee (90) traveled to St. Louis , Missouri by train with Abe Cohn, his wife, and an Indian girl to the Arts and Crafts Exhibition.
- 1925 - Dat-So-La-Lee died (96); buried at Stewart Indian Cemetery near Carson City, Nevada.

Letters from One of Nevada's Daughters

NWHP Event - December 10, 3:00 to 5:00 pm



Picture taken by Bob Blesse . Head of UNR Special Collections.

When Barbara Vucanovich began to write her memoirs, they were in the form of letters to her children and grandchildren. Five of these are available on the NWHP website at <http://www.nevadawomen.org/>, Letters from Nevada's Daughters, Letters from Barbara Vucanovich.

This year, her memoir was published by the University of Nevada Press: ***Barbara Vucanovich: From Nevada to Congress and Back Again.***

For five years, Patty Cafferata talked to her mother about her life and career, including 14 years in the U.S. Congress

and raising a family in Nevada. Barbara was a homemaker, mother of five, grandmother, a business woman and an active Republican when she decided to run for the U.S. Congress at the age of 61.

Her age didn't affect her ability to do her job, she said. What else did she say? We will find out when the Nevada Women's History Project members are the special guests at a reception and book signing to be held in Special Collections of UNR on December 10 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Why in Special Collections? Because that is where the Barbara Vucanovich Special Exhibit is located. It opened September 20 and will run through December 23, 2005.

Join Barbara Vucanovich and her daughter Patty Cafferata Saturday afternoon, December 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Special Collections in UNR's Getchell Library. A no-host dinner will follow at the Record Café at 351 East 9th Avenue, Reno. Please make your own reservation at 329-7227.

The “Letters from Nevada's Daughters” project will continue! March 11, 2006 - the plan is to have workshops all over the State of Nevada for women to come together to write their own Letters. If you are interested in facilitating or attending a workshop, please contact Holly Van Valkenburgh at hovava@juno.com.

Holly Van Valkenburgh

Announcements:

- Nevada Boomtown History Event, February 3-5, 2006 at Longstreet's Hotel and Casino in Amargosa Valley. Sally Zanjani will be presenting on Jack Longstreet and Carrie Townley Porter will be presenting on Helen J. Stewart. For information or reservations contact: nvboomtown@earthlink.net or 775-372-5341.

Thanks:

- to Susan Paslov who did an outstanding job as editor of the NWHP Newsletter during Kay Sanders' leave of absence. Her good work was appreciated by all. Thanks also to Grace Davis for mailing out the two editions.
- Barbara Vucanovich, the first Nevada woman ever elected to federal office, for her generous donation of proceeds from her new book, *From Nevada to Congress, and Back Again*, to the Nevada Women's History Project.
- Marlena Hellwinkel and the Douglas County Historical Society for sending copies of the Women's History Remembering Project biographies for 2004 and 2005. They are a most welcome addition to the Jean Ford Research Center.

Our Condolences:

- To member Martha Gould on the loss of her husband Art in Reno on October 10th. Art was a well-known filmmaker and producer.



Sarah Winnemucca Tour Planned

Be sure to reserve May 5-7, 2006 on your calendar to travel "**in the footsteps of Sarah Winnemucca**" Our three day road trip will visit Nevada sites that were important in Sarah's life as she pursued her lifelong quest of equality for her people. Trip details are still being formulated but plan on interesting and informative site presentations and great company as our travels take us between Genoa and Fort McDermitt. More information will follow in future newsletters. Isabel Espinoza and Patti Bernard are co-chairs.

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

Articles for the Winter 2006 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor Kay Sanders no later than January 28, 2006. E-mail her at ksanders@unr.nevada.edu.

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NWHP is a program of the Nevada Women's Fund

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Reno, Nevada
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*New & Rejoined
Members
North & South*

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