

Project News

Calendar

Northern Nevada Schedule

FEB. 25 – "Herstory Affaire", Welcoming party luncheon for new and renewing members, Karen Benna's, Reno. 11:30AM- 2:30PM, 787-8799. Don't forget to send an invitation to a friend!

MAR. 11 – "Letters from Nevada's Daughters" Day. See detailed article in this newsletter.

MAR. 13 – Steering Committee Meeting, 6PM, at Lisa-Marie Lightfoot's, 2050 Chipmunk Dr., Washoe Valley, 849-2050, (members welcome, RSVP to Lisa-Marie).

MAR. 14 – Member Jan Cleere, lecture and book signing, *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Nevada Women*, Gold Hill Hotel, 7PM (buffet dinner available 5-7PM, \$15.00, lecture only, \$5) 847-0111.

APRIL 23 – Annual Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City; see article on page 2.

MAY 5, 6 & 7 – Silver State Sampler Bus Trip "In the Footprints of Sarah Winnemucca".

Southern Nevada Schedule

FEB 25 – NWHP-So. Region Luncheon Meeting, \$20, 11AM-2PM, Marie Callender's, 4800 So. Eastern

MAR 25 – Dedication of 3 ft. tall Sarah Winnemucca Statue, 3PM, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Reception to follow.

MAR 26 – NWHP State Conference with So. Region hosting State Board Meeting, Mesquite Club Bldg., 1800 East St. Louis, 9-11AM. NWHP State Conference Luncheon, Mesquite Club Bldg., 11-noon social hour; luncheon: noon-1PM, Guest speaker NWHP General Business Meeting 2-4PM

MAR 25 – Tentative launching of book sales of *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor*, NWHP-So. Region's 225 page book containing 100 bio's that is currently in publication by Stephens Press

APR 1-30 – Speaking engagements w/book sales: The bio *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor* is to be promoted and sold at various Clark County organizations, libraries, etc. Mention of upcoming Volume II. of women's bio's which eventually is to be published jointly by both No. Region and So. Region will be incorporated into respective speeches.

MAY 15 – Luncheon Meeting, 11AM-2PM, Honoree: Mrs. Russell Bates (Billie), oldest member, mother of So. Region. Program is to be built around one of our own and her sacrifices during motherhood while surviving in a harsh environment: Boulder City, NV Election of So. Region Officers for 2006-2008.

Ten Years of NWHP Newsletter Publication Noted



An anniversary is a special celebration! Even for a newsletter! Thanks to all the volunteer editors, writers, columnists, photographers, and general membership for your loyal support and hours (months, years) of work. The newsletter is the most hands-on aspect of NWHP as every one of our members receives a copy quarterly and, hopefully, enjoys reading the numerous articles and biographies. It informs, entices, and encourages each one to become more involved, to start doing research and writing, and to stay connected to NWHP. It gets the word out about our meetings, special events, and projects. It facilitates communication between the elected officers and members. To many of our members, this publication is the only contact they have with NWHP. It provides an historical record of NWHP. Therefore it serves a vital role in our organization.

The inaugural issue of this newsletter was published January 1996. Our first editor was Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales, followed by Joan Morrow, and Carolyn Hamilton Proctor. In February 1999 your current editor, Kay Sanders, took the helm. Two wonderful substitute editors have taken over occasionally – Patt Quinn-Davis and Susan Paslov.

Our layout specialist Leslee Hill has made the job of putting out the newsletter so much easier as she is a real professional in every way. Grace Davis is our hard-working label maker and mail-out helper. Allegra Printing Co. also deserves recognition for a job well done.

So "Happy 10th Anniversary"! We can all take pride in this accomplishment and give ourselves a well-deserved pat on the back.

Your Editor, Kay Sanders

Southern Region to Host NWHP State Conference in March 2006

The Southern Region is making plans to host the Nevada Women's History Project State Conference March 25th and March 26th. This two day conference will be highlighted by the dedication of a third statue of Sarah Winnemucca. Numerous dignitaries from Nevada will be present as well as a contingent from our Native American population. This statue will be dedicated at 3:00 p.m. with

continued on page 2

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---------|
| Calendar | Page 1 |
| Ten Years of NWHP Newsletter Publication Noted | Page 1 |
| Southern Region to Host NWHP State Conference in March 2006 | Page 1 |
| Southern Region Membership Report | Page 2 |
| Two Events of Interest | Page 2 |
| NWHP State Committee President's Message | Page 3 |
| NWHP-So. Region Luncheon Meeting Slated for Saturday, February 25 | Page 3 |
| News From The North | Page 4 |
| News From The South | Page 4 |
| In the Footprints of Sarah Winnemucca | Page 5 |
| 2005 Roll of Honor Inductees | Page 6 |
| "Memoir" or "Letters"... ? | Page 7 |
| Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Martha Gruss Barlow | Page 8 |
| Our First Editor Congratulates NWHP | Page 10 |
| Potpourri | Page 11 |
| NWHP Leadership | Page 11 |
| Some NWHP News Contacts | Page 11 |
| New & Rejoined Members: North & South | Page 12 |
| Membership Application | Page 12 |

Southern Region Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome Darline (Libby) Bjerke as a member of the Southern Region Nevada Women's History Project.

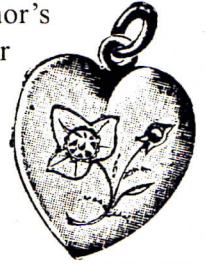
Membership renewals for 2006 are due. Thank you to all that have renewed their membership. Every member is important to the success of the organization and your continued membership is appreciated. If you have not renewed, please make your check payable to NWHP and send to Kaye Gray, 8109 Bay Pines Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89128. If you have any questions about membership or need a membership application, call Kaye at 702-242-6622.

*Kaye Gray, 2nd Vice President
(Membership Chair)*

Two Events of Interest

Mark your calendar for the first annual luncheon to honor new and renewing members. This will be held Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the home of Steve and Karen Benna, 13330 Rancho Verde, Reno. This awarding winning Frank Lloyd Wright-style concrete home is located at the south end of Reno. Join us for a fun-filled event! R.S.V.P. to Carleen @ 787-8779 by February 21st. There is no cost to members and their guests.

The Annual Pink Tea will be held Sunday, April 23rd, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. This year we will honor First Lady Dema Guinn for her support of the Nevada Women's History Project.



Southern Region to Host NWHP State Conference in March 2006

continued from page 1

a lavish Las Vegas reception to follow at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 North Las Vegas Boulevard. Mayor Oscar Goodman was delighted to accept the statue of Sarah Winnemucca on behalf of the citizens of Las Vegas and the surrounding area, and assured NWHP that this statue will be put in a place of honor in City Hall.

The second day of the Conference will be held at The Mesquite Club of Las Vegas located at 702 East St. Louis. This club is the oldest women's club in Las Vegas and was founded in 1911. We feel fortunate to hold our conference in this facility. Our conference theme is "Stand Up and be Counted!" The Keynote speaker is Teresa Bell of the League of Women Voters. Along with Teresa will be the two young girls who thought that suffragettes needed to be recognized with a day of their own and took the steps to make it happen.

Our Biographical Encyclopedia, "Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor", will be available for \$24.95 at the conference. The books are in limited supply. You may reserve your copy now by calling 702-456-7778. Please leave your name and phone number.

The Southern Region looks forward to hosting all members.

Joan LeMere, State Committee President

NWHP State Committee President's Message



Happy New Year to all of you. The new year always brings a sense of excitement and anticipation for me. With the new year there will be new projects to explore and opportunities for the growth of our existing projects. We have made tremendous advances during 2005 and in 2006. Not only will we be publishing our Biographical Encyclopedia, but we will be dedicating another statue of Sarah Winnemucca. This dedication will be done in conjunction with our 2006 Annual Nevada Women's History Project Conference to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada March 26, 2006. Information on both of these exciting events is covered elsewhere in your State Newsletter.

With the installation of the statue of Sarah Winnemucca in Las Vegas, I feel that it is the culmination of the Sarah Winnemucca Project. We have placed statues of her in Washington, DC and in both the northern, and southern regions of Nevada. Sarah Winnemucca may be viewed and remembered by all citizens. This is only because of the diligent efforts of the women of Nevada Women's History Project. If I had a my hat on I would take it off to you. Congratulations, and thank you for a job well done.

In friendship,
Joan LeMere, State Committee President

NWHP-So. Region Luncheon Meeting Slated for Saturday, February 25

Saturday, February 25, 2006 is NWHP-So. Region's luncheon meeting. It has been moved from Golden Steer to Marie Callender's Restaurant, 4800 So. Eastern (east side of street) at corner of East Tropicana Ave. Luncheon cost is \$20 to be paid at the door. Come hungry for good food and an interesting program guaranteed to ENTERTAIN you! Particulars related to the luncheon follow.

11-noon Social hour

Noon Luncheon with speaker to follow

At the door pay \$20 for CHOICE of the following:

Coffee, tea, or fountain drinks

Tossed luncheon salad with Roqueford, Honey-Mustard, or Creamy Italian

Cornbread

Fresh lemon-pepper salmon, roasted turkey, or lemon chicken (chicken pot pie upon request)

Slice of Apple, Chocolate Cream, or Lemon Meringue Pie

FEBRUARY PIE SPECIAL: ANY WHOLE PIE \$5.99 plus pie tin for DINE-INS

FANTASTIC FEBRUARY SPEAKER TO "ENTERTAIN" ATTENDEES!

For February a FANTASTIC SPEAKER is to share with NWHP-So. Region attendees and the guests her work experiences. AUDREI KAIREN is speaking on the topic "What's a Nice Girl like ME Doing in Theatre?" Audrei, a Canadian, was one of the nuns in "Nunsense", was the GENERAL overseeing sinners in "The Guys and Dolls," and holds impressive film credits with Christopher Reeve in STREET SMART and with Charles Bronson in "An Act of Vengeance". These are but a few of her accomplishments in tv commercials, tv productions, and numerous other live theatre productions. She is guaranteed to bring to this occasion an aura of energy and enthusiasm. Remember to come to MARIE CALLENDER'S RESTAURANT, 4800 So. Eastern Ave on Saturday, February 25, from 11 AM to 2PM!

Eastern Ave on Saturday, February 25, from 11 AM to 2PM!



News From The North



So far it has been a really cold and stormy winter in Northern Nevada! The weather is conducive to curling up with a good book, so I recommend trying one of a number of books that have been written by our own members!

I belong to a book group, which is made up mostly of a Red Hat Society chapter, which is made up mostly of local NWHP members, and we recently read Jean Ford's oral history, *A Nevada Woman Leads the Way*. It was a rewarding experience for those of us who had known Jean to be reminded of her background and ideals, and to remember what led to the formation of the History Project. Those in our group who had not had the privilege of knowing her were also inspired and began to realize why we are all so dedicated to keeping the Nevada Women's History Project a viable organization.

As I write this we are eagerly anticipating the reception and signing party for Sue Wagner to recognize her oral history, *Through the Glass Ceiling*, which has just been published by the University of Nevada Oral History Program. (I'm sure that you all received your invitations to the event at Austin's, and attended it in January!)

Our member, Victoria Ford, has done another masterful job organizing and writing former Lieutenant Governor Sue Wagner's interviews, just as she did with Jean Ford's.

And, if you missed the presentation and signing last spring for member, Jan Cleere, you will notice on the calendar that there will be another chance to meet her, as she will travel to Nevada from Arizona in March and lecture at the Gold Hill Hotel on March 14. Her book is *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Nevada Women*.

I am sure that it is mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, but please note also that we will have our first opportunity to purchase Volume I of the long-awaited Biographical Encyclopedia at the NWHP Conference that is being put on by the southern region in Las Vegas on March 26.

If you feel inspired by all these suggestions for reading, perhaps you would also like to try your hand at writing. Our "Letters from Nevada's Daughters" project is right up your alley, then! And if you need a little nudge to get yourself started please join Holly Van Valkenburgh, Carrie Porter and others who will be at the South Valleys Library on Wedge Parkway in Reno on Saturday, March 11, to help you along. Read the

continued on page 5

News From The South

NWHP-Southern Region had quite a successful luncheon meeting on Saturday, November 19, 2005 at the lavish

Golden Steer Restaurant. Speaker was Margo Bartlett Pesek, a UNR journalism major graduate who writes a Sunday travel column for the *Las Vegas Review Journal* each week. Margo spoke on her mother Adelene Bartlett who, among other accomplishments, was a *Review Journal* columnist, was past president of Mesquite Club, and was a community activist giving much time to bettering Las Vegas. As an added treat Margo culminated her presentation by giving iris and oxalis(sp) plants that had belonged to her mother to various attendees. What a generous act by Margo!

One guest was Lynn Zook. In November Lynn's contributions to Nevada State Museum and Historical Society at Lorenzi Park were noted by the administration as they opened up "History of Gambling in Las Vegas" display to the public.

A dream of both Jean Ford and of former NWHP State President Rose Irwin is now being realized! Stephens Press of Las Vegas has agreed to publish the NWHP-So. Region's project of a biographical encyclopedia. Now being edited are the book's 225 pages! To bring some mystique to the publication there is to be an added title: *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor*! Thus the efforts of respective biographers contributing to this project are about to be realized. Hopefully by March, 500 books will be donated to academic and public libraries; the remaining 500 books are to be made available for sale. What a wonderful accomplishment for March and Women's History Month!

Saturday, January 14, 2006 a class on preserving pictures and other precious documents from antiquity is being taught at UNLV's Lieds Library on East Harmon. UNLV Librarian Sue Kim Chung is teaching the class. NWHP-So. Region President Anne Reck is hosting the event.

Now for the next NWHP-So. Region luncheon meeting! It is to be Saturday, February 25, 2006. Location is to be the lavish Golden Steer at 308 West Sahara Avenue. Social hour is to be 11-noon. To make reservations for the luncheon which costs \$23 a person one should call Mary Gafford at 648-9415 or President Anne Reck at 736-6605. Attendees should pay the \$23 at the door on the 25th. For this price one is to

continued on page 5

In the Footprints of Sarah Winnemucca

Patti Bernard, my co-chair, and I are busy making plans for our forthcoming Jean Ford Silver State Sampler. It will take place on May 5, 6, and 7 and will be entitled "In The Footprints of Sarah Winnemucca".

Our first stop will be at the Genoa Mormon Station, the place where Sarah and her sister lived with Major Ormsby and his wife. There will be a Chautauqua performance of Major Ormsby by Chris Bayer.

Then we travel to Carson City where we will view the Sarah Winnemucca statue and the museum at the capitol. There will be a catered lunch at the State Library and Archives, and a lecture by Guy Rocha.

In the afternoon we travel to within sight of Johntown (where Sarah used to dance at Dutch Nick) on our way to the Virginia City Opera House where portions of Sarah's lectures will be read.

We spend the night in Fernley and dine at the Wigwam, which is a wonder Native American museum.

Saturday morning we go to the Nixon Museum where we will have entertainment and/or lectures. After that we go to Pyramid Lake and lunch will be at the Santini/Royel Ranch at Five Springs.

We will continue on to Winnemucca and will view the Humboldt Sink. Stops will be at the Marzden House in Lovelock, the round Courthouse, and the brand new "Lock Your Love in Lovelock".

Dinner at the Winnemucca Hotel and a lecture with slides by Caroline Duferrena about the exciting life Josie Pearl lived in the Black Rock Desert is planned for Saturday night.

Tentative plans for Sunday include lectures and photos regarding Fort McDermitt, also a visit to the location where Sarah had her school. There we will have wine tasting.

For more information call (775) 826-3612 or 883-9035.

Isabel Espinoza

News from the North

continued from page 4

details in this newsletter--WE NEED YOUR LETTERS FOR THIS VALUABLE RESEARCH PROJECT!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the "Herstory Affaire" on February 25 at Karen Benna's. Be sure to bring a friend and prospective member to learn more about the educational and entertaining events that we sponsor, and the many ways that your special talents can be used. It will be fun, I promise!

Our next steering committee meeting is on March 13; so if you have something that you want the group to discuss please let me know so it can be put on the agenda. Contact me by e-mail, , or by phone, (775) 267-3410.

Remember to hold the date for the Annual Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion. This year is on Sunday, April 23.

Also save the dates for our Silver State Sampler Bus Trip, "In the Footprints of Sarah Winnemucca", with many surprises in store! It will be the first weekend in May, Friday through Sunday, the 5th, 6th and 7th.



Sue Wagner and Victoria Ford at the reception and book signing honoring the publication of "Through the Glass Ceiling".

Cherry Jones, Chair, No. Reg. Steering Committee

News from the South

continued from page 4

receive coffee, tea, or soda and house salad plus one of these entrees:

1. prime rib with potato
2. chicken angelo w/wild rice
3. fish with rice

A superb speaker and a delicious lunch at the luxurious location of the Golden Steer Restaurant! You are guaranteed to have a captivating afternoon that will make you so proud to be a part of a women's organization reaching for the stars: Nevada Women's History Project!

Mary Gafford

2005 Roll of Honor Inductees

At the Nevada Women's History Project State Conference held last March at The Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington D.C. the following individuals were inducted into the Roll of Honor as "individuals who have 'made a difference' in the gathering and dissemination of Nevada Women's history . . . who have shown commitment and creativity that resulted in tangible contributions of published works, video collections, accessible research data and special services."

Carrie Townley Porter



"No one more richly deserves a place on the Nevada Women's History Project Roll of Honor than Carrie Townley Porter. Through her writing and her living history presentations she has brought Las Vegas pioneer Helen Stewart to public attention. Through her work as a president of the Nevada Women's History

Project and her role as a leader in the successful drive to bring a statue of the Nevada heroine Sarah Winnemucca to U.S. Capitol Statuary Hall, she has made invaluable contributions to establishing a recognized place for women in Nevada history."

What better way to introduce Carrie to those (few) of our readers who do not know her than by the words of her friend, Sally Zanjani, written on the nomination form for the NWHP Roll of Honor!

Carrie is a native Texan, but has lived in Nevada since 1963. In 1967 she received a Bachelor of Science degree from Nevada Southern University (now UNLV) and a Master's degree in history and archeology from there in 1971. She taught seventh grade Nevada history in Las Vegas before moving with her first husband, Dr. John M. Townley, to Reno in 1972.

In Reno, Carrie developed the Archives of the Episcopal Church in Nevada and wrote a monthly article "From the Vault" in the church newsletter, teaching church and local history. She became interested in the Bishop Whitaker School for Girls when she wrote an article about it for The Nevada Historical Society Quarterly and still presents programs about the school. For five years she was Curator of Manuscripts, Special Collections at UNR. She became an archivist and wrote many Nevada history articles.

In the private sector, Carrie has used her skills in records management for both the Sierra Pacific Power Company in Reno and Caesars Tahoe at Lake Tahoe. She started her own consulting firm, Townley-Porter Associates, in 1985, the year that she married Keith Porter.

Carrie has been an active member of the Nevada Women's History Project for well over 10 years, and during that time has

continued on page 10

Gwen Clancy



Most of our readers will be familiar with Gwen's filmmaking skills because of her beautiful and inspiring presentation of Sarah Winnemucca: The Dream Fulfilled, which tells the story of the statue installed last

March in Washington, D.C. Some readers have probably seen one or more of her other informative films about people, places and events in Nevada's history and not realized that she was responsible for them. And there may even be a few of our readers who remember the presentation that she and her co-filmmaker, Nancy Kelly, gave at the 1999 NWHP conference at the Sands Regency in Reno about the four years they spent as ranch hands in Surprise Valley producing their first Western documentary, A Cowhand's Song: Crisis on the Range".

It is easy to assume that Gwen is a life-long Nevadan because of her devotion to our state's history, but that is not the case at all. She actually grew up in Massachusetts, but longed for the "wild west" after spending a year in Arizona. She graduated from Wellesley, spent a year teaching in Paris, and then apprenticed herself to a filmmaker in Amherst.

"After helping to save an old mountaintop hotel with my first and very crude filmmaking attempt, I finally broke free and headed to Nevada, accompanied by another grownup woman who ditched her tenure-track job at U-Mass in favor of seeking the pony she'd always wanted," she says. That began her four-year stint, as they "cowboyed-up" in Surprise Valley.

Now, some twenty years later, Gwen is an accomplished and respected filmmaker in her own right. From Surprise Valley, she moved to Reno where she worked with the local PBS station, KNPB, the University of Nevada Oral History Program and the UNR Historic Preservation Program. With Joanne Peden she helped create a documentary of Paiute elder Katie Frazier, That Was a Happy Life, one of the first films to look closely at a Paiute woman's life. Her 1990 documentary, The Man they Called Will James, won a Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame for its historical excellence.

continued on page 10

“Memoir” or “Letters”... ?



Should you write a Memoir for your family (or even for publication)? Or should you write a Letter to your family and future historians who are writing about the history of twentieth century Nevada? *Letters from Nevada's Daughters* is an exciting project for Nevada women who wish to preserve and share their family and life histories.

The purpose of the *Letters from Nevada's Daughters* project is to have first-person materials about life in 20th century Nevada on file in the Jean Ford Research Center and in the Jean Ford Center at the Clark County Library. When a researcher is writing about the history of Nevada in the 20th Century, first-person information will be available. Never again will the history of Nevada be written about its male citizens only.

Still undecided? Don't know what to do ... how to start ... how to continue?

Join NWHP members on March 11 at the South Valleys Library in Reno. There will be two sessions - one starting at 11:00 am, the second starting at 2:00 pm - come for one or both!

Meet with discussion leaders Holly Van Valkenburgh and Carrie Townley-Porter - organize your thoughts with the assistance of Holly, Carrie and other group members. Bring a brown-bag lunch if you will be there at lunch time. Bring your sisters, daughters and granddaughters - make it a family affair!

The format of this project is designed to be straightforward to use. Each woman who participates will write a letter to her “family” regarding a certain area of her life. Participants are not limited to the one page form and may attach as many additional pages as are needed. There is no word limit. Participants decide what information they wish to preserve. All answers and information are optional and participants may share their contributions with other family members or friends.

The topics are:

Basic Data
Family Genealogy
Important Issues/Events/Causes in my Lifetime
Home/s
Life Work or Career/s
Daily Life and Activities
Foods
Religion
Fashions

Significant Medical History
Recreation and Travel
Impact of Technology
“Famous” People I Have Known
Music and the Arts in My Life
Retirement
Holiday Celebrations & Customs
My Treatment as a Woman

“Basic Data” will only be utilized for statistical compilations. “Family Genealogy” will not be available for contemporary researchers, but will be preserved until seventy years after the death of the contributor.

All letters are to be delivered to the Nevada Women's History Project. The original letters will be placed in Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno, with copies in the Jean Ford Research Center at the NWHP in Reno and in the Jean Ford Special Collection at the Clark County Library in Las Vegas.

NWHP members are encouraged to look at the format online at www.nevadawomen.org and be considering their “letters” for the Project.

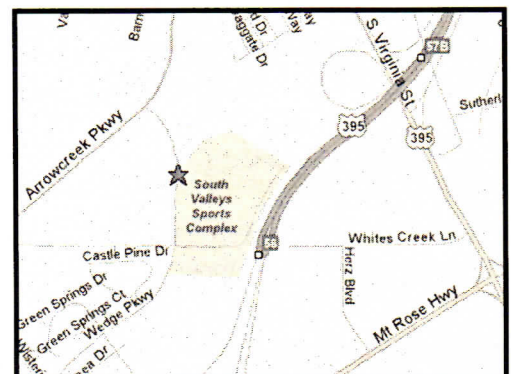
We are Daughters of Nevada by either birth or choice!

What: Letters from Nevada's Daughters Workshops

When: Saturday, March 11, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm; 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where: Reno, South Valleys Library, 15650 Wedge Parkway, 851-5190
West of South Virginia, north of Mt Rose Highway, south of Arrowcreek Parkway, in the South Valleys Sports Complex

Holly Van Valkenburgh



Featured Historic Nevada Woman

Martha Gruss Barlow

Born: November 6, 1920 in Silver City, Nevada

Died: December 27, 1993 at Washoe Medical Center, Reno Nevada.

Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian, her maternal grandfather was born in Ireland

Primary city and county of residence and work: Hawthorne, Mineral County

Major fields of work: elected Mineral County Clerk/Treasurer

Other role identities: wife and civic leader

Biography:

Martha Barlow was the epitome of a successful public servant. She was born Martha Gruss in Silver City, Nevada, and her parents were Joseph W. Gruss and L. Martha Harley Gruss, a Virginia City native. While her father was born in Michigan, he migrated to Nevada from Arizona in 1907. He was associated with the primary industry in Nevada at the time, milling and mining. Her mother's father emigrated to the Comstock from Ireland in the 1860s.

Well-educated, Martha attended primary schools in Simon in Mineral County and in Silver City in Lyon County, Nevada. Simon, northeast of Mina, Nevada, was the site of the Simon Silver-Lead mine. The heyday of this town was from 1919 to 1927. A post office and a 100-ton flotation mill operated during this period. During Martha's childhood, Silver City's mining was never as important as Virginia City's, but the town was famous for its quartz mills.

Martha attended high school in Dayton, in Lyon County, Nevada, and completed her education at Mt. St. Mary's Business Academy in Grass Valley, California. Apparently, this educational experience gave her the skills she needed to serve in public office.

She moved to Carson City (Ormsby County) in 1941 and remained there until about 1945-1946. During World War II, she was a civil employee of the Selective Service System in Carson serving as an auditor and state procurement officer.

Because of her job, Martha traveled numerous times to Hawthorne, where she met her future husband, Arthur R. Barlow. In 1945, he had been discharged from the Army and returned home to Hawthorne.

They were married in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church by Father John R. Durocher in the afternoon of June 30, 1946. The wedding reception followed the ceremony at the Babbitt Community Center, and they honeymooned in California. Their first home was at the Barlow family's Dutch Creek Ranch. Later, they moved to Babbitt.

When Martha was elected county clerk, they had moved to Hawthorne. During part of his career, Arthur worked in the ordinance department at the Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Dump. When Arthur retired from civil service, he was a distributor for the Standard Oil Company and managed the

Mineral County Airport. They did not have any children and had been married almost 40 years when Arthur died in 1984.

A year after her wedding, Martha began her career with the Mineral County government in July 1947 as the chief deputy in the office of the County Clerk/Treasurer A.J. Park. Her salary was \$100/ month. In 1954, when Park decided not to seek reelection, Martha ran and was elected clerk/treasurer for her first four-year term. She was reelected to office nine times from 1958 to 1986. When she was first elected, her salary was \$500 a month.

In her first campaign, her opponent was Jack W. Bay, a local businessman. He sold real estate and insurance and provided accounting services. Since they were both Democrats and no

Republican filed for the office, they faced off in the general election on November 2, 1954. His campaign ad sported his picture and urged his friends to support him on November 2nd. Martha ran two types of ads. One ad stated that she was "Capable - Qualified - Experienced" and had been the Chief Deputy Clerk and Treasurer of Mineral County for the past seven years, and the other larger ad restated her abilities but took a swipe at her opponent. She stated that, "No Outside



continued on page 9

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Martha Gruss Barlow

continued from page 8

Business or Interests Will Interfere With Office Duties." An unofficial tally of the votes gave Martha 1636 votes to Bay's 694. Barlow was the second woman elected to this position in Mineral County. (Anita Tennison was elected in 1944 after being appointed to fill an unexpired term.)

In 1958, Martha did not have an opponent, but she ran an ad thanking her staff and the citizens of Mineral County and promised to continue to conduct her office on the basis of serving the public, honestly, efficiently, and as economically as is consistent with the performance of the numerous duties that are imposed by law.

Martha was reelected without opposition in 1958, 1962, 1966, 1974, 1978, and 1982. After her first election in 1954, the next time she had an opponent was in 1970. Democrat John Madraso, Jr., garnered 1164 votes to her 1643. Her opponent in 1986 was Lois Allen, another Democrat. In a decisive victory Martha received 1480 votes to Allen's 749. Governor Richard Byran declared June 20, 1987 *Martha G. Barlow Day* to honor her 40 years of service as the deputy and as the clerk/treasurer of Mineral County. This award was not enough to reelect Martha to a tenth term. After serving 36 years as the clerk/treasurer, in her final race for office in 1990 she was defeated by Marlene Bunch, a Republican, by 1319 votes to 1095. Martha had been one of the longest serving clerks in Nevada history when she was lost this election.

The reason Martha succeeded in being reelected nine times was because she was competent, outgoing, courteous and responsive to the public's needs. Local elected officials, those who hold the courthouse offices, are the most secure elected officials in the state. The courthouse is the one place where citizens come in direct contact with their elected government officials. If the office holder is friendly and responsive, the people will vote to keep them in office because they know the office holder and know that their matters will be taken care of by the official.

During Martha's tenure, her duties included serving as the clerk of the district court, board of county commissioners, county licensing board, and town boards of Hawthorne, Luning and Mina and as the treasurer, receiving, banking and investing the county's monies.

In addition to Martha's activities as clerk/treasurer, she was involved in numerous civil activities. In 1963, Martha was elected to serve as secretary at a meeting to formally organize a planning commission. In addition, she was a committed member of the Soroptimist International of Hawthorne. Martha served as Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. Beginning in 1959, she served a one-year term in each office. She was also a Trustee after serving as President.

Outside of work and civic activities, Martha did not participate in any hobbies, except as a collector of books. She listed this activity on a Biographical Questionnaire for Governor Paul Laxalt in 1967.

On December 27, 1993, at age 73, she died at Washoe Medical Center being flown by air ambulance to Reno after a fall while working in her yard. Grave side services were conducted by the Hawthorne Funeral Home on December 31, 1993. She was survived by her older brother, Harley Gruss of Santa Monica, California.

I first met Martha when I was campaigning in the Mineral County courthouse in 1978. The contact was a brief smile, handshake, and a, "Hi! How are you?" I saw Martha, however, over the years she served Mineral County. In the 1980s, we ate lunch together at the El Cap coffee shop. I came away from the meal thinking that she was a smart, plain-spoken and direct woman. She told it like she saw it; she was a no nonsense type of woman. She knew her responsibilities, her county and its people. I could not help but admire this "crusty old dame" of Nevada politics.

Biographical Sketch by Patty Cafferata for the Nevada Women's History Project, October 9, 2004

Sources of Information:

- Helen S. Carlson, *Nevada Place Names, A Geographical Directory*, Reno, Nevada, University of Nevada Press, 1974;
- Stan W. Paher, *Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps*, Las Vegas, Nevada, Nevada Publications, 1970;
- *Nevada, The Silver State*, Vol. I, Carson City, Nevada, Western States Historical Publishers, Inc., 1970;
- *Mineral County Independent* 21 August 1946; 16 July 1947; 26 August 1953; 7 April 1954; 14 April 1954; 20 October 1954; 27 October 1954; November 1954; 22 October 1958; 28 October 2003; December 1993 and January 1, 2004;
- The Reno newspapers in July 1946;
- *Reno, Sparks, Carson City and Washoe County City Directory* 1941-1942 and 1944;
- Biographical Questionnaire for Governor Paul Laxalt completed by Martha G. Barlow; the Mineral County Clerk/Treasurer's record of the Affidavit of Application for Marriage License and the Mineral County Recorder's Marriage Certificate recorded in Book 2 of Marriages, page 99.
- Photo credit: Special Collections Department, University of Nevada, Reno

Our First Editor Congratulates NWHP

Throughout the documentary-making process of "Making a Difference: A Celebration of Women in Politics," during 1994-1995, I became painfully aware that there was little to nothing formally recorded about women's history in Nevada. Jean Ford, of course, shared in my consternation as I had asked her to be not only the narrator but my consultant for this PBS production. The dearth of information we faced gave impetus to the creation of the Nevada Women's History Project. Needless to say, I was elated when a small group of women, with Jean at the helm, set pen to paper and made the Project a reality. Being one of NWHP's founding members and the first editor in 1996 of its quarterly newsletter are among my cherished memories. In those early days, the NWHP newsletter became an invaluable tool for spreading the word about NWHP, its programs and plans.

Managing a newsletter is no easy task. There are contributors to be found, deadlines to be met, square inches to be filled, content to be decided, art to be included, postage budgets to be considered, mailing lists to be updated, and more. And, of course, there is that last minute crunch because someone didn't submit their contribution on time or the computer went on the blink. Along with all these demands comes infinite pride, and a different kind of pressure when the final product is the first issue. The nagging question: Will it survive? But a managing editor doesn't work alone. So, thanks are due to all the women who knew the Project was an absolute necessity in Nevada and production of its newsletter a worthwhile endeavor -- without you there would not have been a second issue . . . or a third, and we would not be celebrating the Tenth Year Anniversary of the NWHP Newsletter.

In the last ten years countless women, and men, have joined NWHP because the newsletter linked them to their Nevada heritage in a tangible way: with profiles of historical personages, with news and announcements of relevant current events, as a forum for sharing their own historical research, and as a vehicle to encourage women of all ages and ethnicities -- whether from the North or the South, the urban centers or the rural desert expanses -- to take pride in the women who came before them and in their own legacy to the Silver State.

Congratulations to all my fellow editors on a job well done!"

Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales, Esq.

2005 Roll of Honor Inductees:

continued from page 6

Carrie Townley Porter

served as President of both the State Executive Committee and the Northern Regional Steering Committee. She was on the State Sarah Winnemucca Committee and is currently the Membership Chairman for the NWHP Northern Region. She has received many awards, such as the Soroptimist "Ceec Abrams Award", the Nevada Women's Fund "Woman of Achievement" and the Nevada Society of Scottish Clans 2004 "Scot of the Year" Award.

After the untimely death of her husband last year, Carrie has continued to write articles, provide assistance to researchers and give living history portrayals of Helen J. Stewart. She can often be found at the NWHP office in Reno working in the Jean Ford Research Center, and will be assisting with a fascinating project this summer, "The Jarbidge Archive Brigade: Preserving Past and Community in Northeastern Nevada."

Gwen Clancy

For eight years now Gwen has produced, as well as hosted, a television series for the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, called Exploring Nevada. Many of the subjects of these programs have been Nevada women. Besides Sarah Winnemucca, there have been programs focusing on Mary Pickford, Dr. Sue Fawn Chung, Billie Rightmire of Genoa, Nora Hughes of Mesquite, Lou Warner of Hawthorne and Logandale's Verna Heller (who grew up in St. Thomas before it was flooded by Lake Mead). She has also presented episodes that featured Reno's divorce commerce in the 1930's with architectural historian Mella Harmon, Victorian Secrets with fashion historian Jan Loverin, and the work of the Las Vegas Junior League in saving architectural treasures from the wrecking ball. The series currently airs on 14 stations throughout Nevada and parts of California.

In addition to the first documentary about Sarah Winnemucca and the project to place her statue in Washington, D.C., Gwen is producing a second "Sarah" film, *In the Footsteps of Sarah Winnemucca*. This takes the viewer to the areas in Nevada that were pertinent to Sarah's life, and Dr. Sally Zanjani, Sarah's biographer, explains the importance of each location. Our "Silver State Sampler" bus trip in May is based on this documentary. (See information about the trip in this newsletter).

Gwen presently sends out informal e-mails to let interested people know when and where her videos are being shown. If any of our readers would like to be on her list, let her know at: gwenclancy@charter.net. She keeps the recipients hidden in the e-mails and uses the names for her list only.

Thanks to:

- Kathleen Clemence for graciously accepting the job of working with the Las Vegas Mayor's office on the planning of the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Dedication ceremony to be held in Las Vegas on March 25th.

Congratulations to:

- Martha Gould for receiving the Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows "Making a Difference for Women Award" in January.

Announcements:

- Women in History: "Douglas County Women: Footsteps in History", program and reception will be held at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Gardnerville beginning at 2:00 p.m. on March 12, 2006.
- DAR chapters across the country will be showing the video, "In Sarah's Footsteps" produced by member Gwendolyn Clancy, as one of their programs. DAR chapters can borrow videos for these programs. The National DAR Program Library will purchase copies of the video for this purpose according to information received by the producer.

Condolences to:

- NWHP member Marlena Hellwinkel on the loss of her husband Don on January 15, 2006. Don was a prominent businessman in Minden and member of a pioneer Carson Valley family.

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 May 2006 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor Kay Sanders no later than April 28, 2006. E-mail her at ksanders@unr.nevada.edu.

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

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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

Some NWHP News Contacts

Joan LeMere

E-mail: nokomis100@aol.com • Tel: 702-456-9242

Kay Sanders

E-mail: ksanders@unr.nevada.edu • Fax: 775-747-1642
Tel: 775-747-1740

NWHP - State Office

770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, Nevada 89502-0708
Tel: 775-786-2335 • Fax: 775-826-6865 • Email: NWHP@gbis.com

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

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Membership Application

Individual Membership • Dues \$25/Year

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Organizational Membership • Active Dues \$50/Year

Corporate Sponsor • \$250/Year

Organization _____

President or Director _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name of Representative to NWHP _____

Mail to NWHP: North members - 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste., 300, Reno, NV 89502

South members - 8109 Bay Pines Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89128-6771

*New & Rejoined
Members
North & South*

Darline (Libby) Bjerke

Deb Brown

Nancy Cashell

Nancy Patron

Sally Wilkins

NWHP STATE CONFERENCE MARCH 25-26, 2006

“STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!”

HOTEL INFORMATION: Since this is a two day conference, attendees are responsible for making their own reservations. A suggested Hotel Casino for room reservations close to both venues would be the Golden Nugget. 1-800-634-3454.

REGISTRATION: The registration fee of \$45.00 should be mailed by March 10, 2006. This fee includes Saturday, March 25, 3:00 p.m. dedication of the Sarah Winnemucca Statue and reception to follow at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 Las Vegas Boulevard North. Also included Sunday, March 26 is NWHP State Conference Registration and social hour from 11 to noon. Our Conference is to be held at the Mesquite Club House at 702 East St. Louis, Las Vegas. Lunch will be served at 12:00. Late registration for this event is \$55.00. Please return this registration form to NWHP, State President Joan LeMere at 4755 South Pearl St., Las Vegas, NV.89121. Checks made out to NWHP.

REFUND POLICY: Requests for registration cancellations received before March 22, 2006 are subject to a \$15.00 cancellation fee. Sorry, we cannot refund registration cancellations after March 22nd.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NWHP STATE CONFERENCE: The Dedication of Nevada's second statue and the publication of volume I of the biographical encyclopedia **SKIRTS THAT SWEPT THE DESERT FLOOR** will be complemented by a dynamic female keynote speaker.

.....

“STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!”
MARCH 25-26, 2006 NWHP STATE CONFERENCE
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

\$ _____ Registration fee

\$ _____ O _____ Dedication/Reception Sarah Winnemucca

\$ _____ Dues (\$25 now due for 2006)

\$ _____ Total enclosed Make all checks to NWHP.

Mail payment and registration form to: Joan M. LeMere
4755 South Pearl St.
Las Vegas, NV. 89121

Member's copy

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT PRESENTS

THE "HERSTORY" AFFAIR

A luncheon to honor new and renewing members

February 25, 2006

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

At the awarding winning Frank Lloyd Wright style concrete house
Of Steve & Karen Benna
13330 Rancho Verde
Reno, NV

R.S.V.P. by February 21st (775) 787-8779

Friend's Copy

You are invited by your friend, _____, a member of

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT
Presents

THE "HERSTORY" AFFAIR

A luncheon to honor new and renewing members

February 25, 2006

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Reno, NV

R.S.V.P. before February 21st (775) 787-8779

Directions: From Reno, take Hwy 396 South. Take 57B dropping down to old Hwy 395 (Virginia Street). At stoplight take a left on State Route 341, going towards Virginia City. Pass Foothill Market; Take a left on Rim Rock. Take second right on Virginia Foothills Drive. Take second right on Rancho Verde Drive. Go to the end of the pavement and continue up the direct road to home on the hill. For questions call our hostess, Karen Benna at 852-7333/742-8265.

Directions: From Reno, take Hwy 396 South. Take 57B dropping down to old Hwy 395 (Virginia Street). At stoplight take a left on State Route 341, going towards Virginia City. Pass Foothill Market; Take a left on Rim Rock. Take second right on Virginia Foothills Drive. Take second right on Rancho Verde Drive. Go to the end of the pavement and continue up the direct road to home on the hill. For questions call our hostess, Karen Benna at 852-7333/742-8265.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

SILVER LEGACY RESORT, 407 NORTH VIRGINIA STREET, RENO, NV, 89501

DEADLINE Reserve by Wednesday March 22, 2006 under AAUW'S group code AAUW06.

RATES: \$109 per night plus 13.5% Washoe County Tax and a \$3.00 Resort Fee, which includes free airport shuttle service and free local phone calls. Check in time is 3:00 p.m. Check out time is 11:00 a.m.

CALL: TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS 1-800-687-8733.

“EDUCATION IS THE GATEWAY”
2006 AAUW NEVADA STATE CONVENTION
APRIL 21-APRIL 23
SILVER LEGACY RENO, NEVADA

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name (Please Print) _____
Mailing Address _____
Telephone Number _____ Email _____
Branch _____ Branch or State Office _____

Registration Fee \$ 30.00 _____
Late Registration or On-Site Registration \$ 40.00 _____

Friday, April 21 Reception at Silver Legacy \$ 5.00 _____
AAUW Hospitality Room
Hosted by Reno Branch Members

Saturday, Lunch Grilled Breast of Chicken \$ 18.50 _____
Sautéed with Tomato Mushroom Tarragon Sauce
Served on a Bed of Spinach
Buttered Egg Noodles

Saturday, Banquet CHOOSE
Baked Filet of Salmon \$ 34.00 _____
Parsley and Tarragon Crust Guest _____
And Lime Butter Sauce
OR
Roast Prime Rib of Beef \$ 34.00 _____
Rosemary Juices Guest _____
Keynote Speaker Only \$ 10.00 _____

Sunday, Breakfast Orange Juice, Fresh Fruit Cocktail \$ 16.00 _____
Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Ham, Sausage & Bacon
Breakfast Potatoes, Freshly Baked Pastries

Sunday Registration Only \$ 5.00 _____

*Vegan substitutions are available upon request. Check here _____. TOTAL AMOUNT _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 5, 2005

Send completed registration form and payment made payable to AAUW Nevada to:

Rita Malkin, 1705 Burwood Circle, Reno, NV 89521

Special Needs or Accommodations? Questions?

Call Rita at 775-852-3938 or email at renorita22@sbcglobal.net



NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT NOMINATION FOR ROLL OF HONOR

The Nevada Women's History Project Roll of Honor honors individuals and organizations who have "made a difference" in the gathering and dissemination of Nevada women's history...who have shown commitment and creativity that resulted in tangible contributions of published works, video collections, accessible research data and special services.

The recipients may be deceased or living. A panel of judges is comprised of individuals in the history, library, archives and other professional fields who are familiar with the roles played by individuals or organizations who have played a part in Nevada women's history. This panel makes the decision of which nominated individuals and organizations will be inducted into the Nevada Women's History Project Roll of Honor based on information given in this form and, in some cases, interviews with the nominees. Permission of a living nominee must be given before consideration, either in writing, via telephone, mail or e-mail.

The recipients of the Roll of Honor are traditionally inducted into the Roll of Honor at conferences held by the Nevada Women's History Project.

Should you wish to submit a nomination, please fill out the remainder of this form and mail it to the NWHP office at the address below, or send to Cherry Jones, 1734 Toni Ct. Minden, NV 89423. Attachments may be included.

Deadline for nominations for the Nevada Women's History Project 2006 Conference is February 25, 2006. Nominations must be received at the Nevada Women's History office or postmarked by that date.

SUBMITTED BY:

Date _____ Telephone number _____
Name _____ E-mail address _____
Mailing address: _____
If an organization, Name of individual to contact: _____

NOMINEE:

Name _____ Telephone number _____
Mailing address: _____ E-mail address _____

NOMINEE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AS SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS FORM: (Attach additional pages if needed, resumes or other information which may be helpful to the judges.)

770 SMITHRIDGE DRIVE, SUITE 300 RENO, NV 89502
(775) 786-2335 FAX (775) 786-8152



In The Footprints of Sarah Winnemucca

We will visit:

- > Pyramid Lake
- > Carson City's China Town
- > Nixon Indian Museum
- > Lunch at Santini/Royels Ranch
- > Virginia City's Opera House
- > Genoa
- > Lovelock
- > Winnemucca
- > And much more

Join us May 5-7, 2006

**Cost: App. \$320, which includes transportation, lodging and meals.
Limit: 43 participants
Reservations/Information:
Call 775-826-3612 or 883-9035**

**Presented by
The Nevada Women's History Project
A Jean Ford Silver State Sampler**