



News

Calendar

Northern Nevada Schedule

NOV. 18 – Women's Works in Progress Workshop. Mills Park Wungnema Stone House, Carson City, 10:00 a.m. to noon. (See newsletter article on page 5 for directions and information).

NOV. 18 – Northern Region Steering Committee Meeting. At the home of Cherry Jones, 3:00 p.m., light supper included.

DEC. 16 – Women's Works in Progress Workshop. Mills Park Wungnema Stone House, Carson City, 10:00 a.m. to noon. (See newsletter article on page 5 for directions and information).

JAN. 13, 2007 – Northern Region Steering Committee Meeting. Reno Office, 9:30 a.m.

FEB. 24, 2007 – Nevada Women in Art at Nevada Museum of Art. Lecture and optional lunch. Contact Karen Benna at 775-852-7333 for details.

Southern Nevada Schedule

NOV. 15 & 16 – Meeting of the Oral History Project participants for training at UNLV. Claytee White will deliver this 2-day workshop. Contact Jill Stovall for details or to RSVP at 702-877-5645.

DEC. 3 – Holiday Tea. Sandy Frank's home, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call Mary Gafford at 702-648-9415.

MARCH 3, 2007 – General Meeting. Marie Callender's, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Barbara Hodges' presentation on Nevada's Suffragettes and the first women licensed to drive cars in the state.

MAY 5, 2007 – General Meeting, to be followed by the Annual Business Meeting. Caryll Dziedzic will present her research on the women who fought for the ERA in Southern Nevada.

Nevada Day Parade - An NWHP Tradition

The first year that the Nevada Women's History Project participated in the Nevada Day Parade was 1995, and the theme was "Nevada Legends". Jean Ford organized more than 35 participants to march behind a 1910 Oldsmobile from the National Auto Museum. Ten women marched in historic costumes carrying placards bearing names of Nevada suffragettes, and 25 or more marched wearing special NWHP t-shirts. They were #25 in division 2 — a bit better placement than our #152 in division 8 for this year!

We have participated in almost every parade since then, keeping our name and mission in the public's eye. Sometimes we have a dozen or more in our group, sometimes less, but we always manage to tie the theme of the parade into our mission to "provide visibility ... about the roles and contributions of Nevada women of every race, class, and ethnic background".

The theme of this year's Nevada Day Parade was really perfect for our group — as you will read in the News from the North column. I sometimes portray Dr. Eliza Cook, an early doctor in Carson Valley. When I read about the theme I remembered mention in a newspaper article something about the railroad and half-fare for the women attending the meeting in Reno to form the Nevada Women's Suffrage League (where Dr. Cook was elected an officer). Sure enough, when I looked in my Dr. Cook file I found the article from the Oct. 31, 1895, Reno Evening Gazette that mentioned the resolution.

Mary Anne Convis took the idea and "ran with it", as they say. What resulted was a whimsical, but pretty accurate, depiction of a Virginia & Truckee passenger car built around a little u-haul trailer. Mary Anne actually copied the real passenger car that is in the State Museum! It was yellow, with green trim around the windows. She painted the wood to simulate the slats from which it was constructed. And wait ... there's more!

Some of our members needed hats, so Mary Anne had researched just what would have been worn at the time, and made at least 4 of the hats besides her own. Lisa Marie Lightfoot, Isabel Espinoza, Betty Ihfe, Kathy Noneman and Grace

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Isabel Espinoza as Alice Ede.
Photo credit: Rich Johnston, State Photographer



Cherry Jones, NWHP State President
portrayed Dr. Eliza Cook
Photo credit: Rich Johnston, State Photographer

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Time to Renew Membership

Membership renewals for 2007 are due January 1st and should be received by January 31st. Please fill out the membership application on the back of this newsletter and send to the appropriate address listed on the bottom of the form. Make your check out to Nevada Women's History Project.

Website Committee Plans and New Name

At the last meeting of the "Website" Committee, a decision was made to rename the Committee to more accurately reflect the diverse functions and responsibilities of the committee. "Website" simply did not do it justice. Thus, our new name of "Education, Outreach and Review Committee".

- Education involves largely the biographical section and all the related information for collections, research and writing biographies.

- Outreach is the direction we would like to take the NWHP to our communities by involving schools and other local programs.

- Review pertains to the written biographies and involves the accuracy, credits and resource information before biographies are posted to the website or included in any publications.

- Somewhere in the midst of all these activities are the "website" responsibilities, which overlap all the previously described functions.

Our Committee members are: Pattie Bernard, Carol Clanton, Grace Davis, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot, Kathy Noneman, Nancy Oakley, Carrie Porter, and Kay Sanders. We all look forward to working with all our members throughout the state.

Grace Davis

Save This Date

January 20, 2007

Nevada Women's Agenda presents

Women's Summit 2007: Nevada Women United

Take Back the Public Agenda:
Educating, Empowering and Activating Nevadans

To be held at the Moyer Student Union, UNLV

Mission statement: A statewide conference to unite Nevadans about issues affecting the lives of women and families.

For more information, please visit
www.nevadawomenssummit.org
or email womenssummit@aol.com.



State Committee President's Message



In September the new State Executive Committee held its first meeting in Reno at the home of Patti Bernard. Jane Olive, Betty Miller and Su Kim Chung flew up from Las Vegas for the day, while Holly Van Valkenburgh, Kay Sanders, Carleen Ernest, Lisa Marie Lightfoot, Carrie Porter and I had to drive only a few miles to join the group. We all enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and get to know one another better. It was great fun to see the wonderful Nevada historical memorabilia that Patti displays throughout her house. We savored a scrumptious lunch, and also managed to get all the way through a rather lengthy agenda.

This Executive Committee is working cooperatively to support some statewide projects that fulfill our mission, and to encourage each region in its own projects that do the same. One goal of the Committee is to revisit the Operations Guideline to simplify the wording and consolidate some officers' duties, etc. This will be done by committees from both the southern and northern regions. Please let your representatives know if you are interested in helping with this project.

Of course, Volume II of *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor* will be a big statewide project. Look in this newsletter for more information regarding that and other projects that are "in the mill". Various committees will be busily working throughout the year, and will keep us all posted through newsletter articles and e-mails.

The Executive Committee meets twice a year and will get together again in March—this time in Las Vegas.

I hope that you all have a delightful holiday season. Remember to take some "time out" for yourself!

Cherry Jones, State Committee President

Jarbidge History Project Underway

This past summer a small team of historians embarked on an unusual archival project to preserve the history of one of the last "living" gold rush towns in Nevada, the isolated hamlet of Jarbidge.

Located in the Humboldt National Forest in northeastern Elko County, Jarbidge is nestled at the bottom of the Jarbidge River canyon. Its seasonal population in summer boasts over 100, but only a dozen residents choose to remain there during the harsh weather in the winter months.

Jarbidge was founded in 1909 with the discovery of gold. Although the mines ceased to produce and closed in the 1930's, the town has been occupied continuously since its beginning.

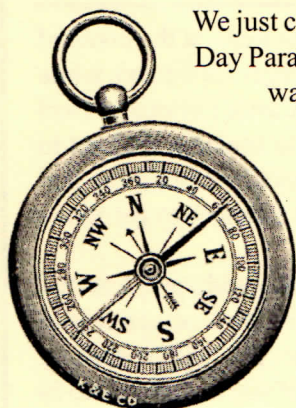
The project was funded by Nevada Humanities, Inc.; E. L. Cord Foundation; and John Ben Snow Memorial Trust. Instigator and leader of the project is Mary Greenfield, a doctoral candidate in history at Yale University. Nevada historians and archivists participating are Jacki Alexander of the Northeastern Museum in Elko and Carrie Townley Porter of Townley-Porter Associates, a Reno consulting firm, and active member of the Nevada Women's History Project. Leslie Paul, who resides in Fallon and also in Jarbidge, is the town's historical committee chairwoman for the project. Other historians participating are Kathryn Hampton and Jim Jenks of Helena Montana. Numerous Jarbidge residents worked closely with the historians.

The grants provided the Jarbidge Archives with state-of-the art computer equipment. During the project, the 100-year old miners' cabins were surveyed, dated, and plotted on topographic software. Residents brought in family photographs dating back to the nineteen-teens for scanning into a twenty-first century digital archive, which now contains over 500 photographs. Oral histories of residents and their families were recorded. The papers of the defunct Elko Mines Company (1916-1932), formerly housed in the ancient town jail, were stabilized and organized as the centerpiece of a new research facility located in the Jarbidge Community Center. This is an historic building built in 1910 which is still being used by the townspeople.

The Jean Ford Research Center of NWHP will receive copies of the women's oral histories and can have access to the numerous photographs preserved. Biographies of women who lived in Jarbidge are in the process of being written with help from some of the current residents of Jarbidge. If you would like to help in production of these biographies, please contact Carrie Townley Porter, Archivist of NWHP.

Carrie T. Porter

News From the North



We just completed another successful Nevada Day Parade up here in Carson City! The theme was made to order for our NWHP — “Nevada Day meets the V&T Railroad”. And do you know why?

On October 29 and 30, 1895, the formation meeting of the Nevada Women’s Suffrage League was held in Reno at McKissock’s Opera House. Eighty-nine women attended, coming from Austin, Winnemucca, Virginia City, Sheridan, Genoa and Carson City, as well as Reno. Before adjourning various resolutions were read, among them one thanking the railroads for half-fare rates for women traveling to the meeting! So check out the photos in the newsletter of our entry to see how we paid tribute to the V&T.

Mary Anne Convis was the inspiration behind this entry, with lots of help from Isabel Espinoza. And, of course, we are grateful to Mary Anne’s husband, Chuck, for driving the truck that pulled our “passenger car”—when he would rather have been at the UNR football game!

Maybe next year we can entice some of you from the Southern Region to join us in this really delightful activity and make a weekend of it for Nevada Day. We always have a lot of fun. (Well, except when the weather is horrendous. This year we added a new rule—if it is cold and rainy we would “scratch”!)

And thanks to Carleen Ernest and her committee for arranging another successful “Afternoon Reception and Book Signing with Nevada Authors”. It is always a good time when we can get together and socialize. Thanks, also, to Holly Van Valkenburgh for handling the bookselling, and to the authors for their donations to NWHP.

As winter approaches, albeit slowly this year, we look forward to cozy days spent indoors. What better time to get busy on our reading and research in order to write biographies for the growing list on our website? If you want help or suggestions, check out the article that tells you about our “Women’s Works in Progress” workshops in Carson City, and watch for information about similar meetings in Reno.

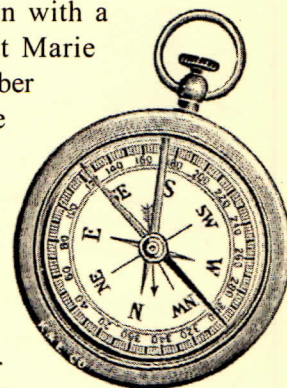
Enjoy the upcoming holidays, and remember that if you come across something that would be of interest to your fellow history lovers, please let us know!

Cherry Jones

Chair, No. Region Steering Committee

News From the South

Our autumn schedule began with a delightful luncheon meeting at Marie Callender’s Restaurant on September 23rd. Claytee White introduced the



new Statewide NWHP Oral History Program. It will emphasize interviews of Nevada’s Native American women. Several members volunteered to assist in this project. We are still looking for more interested members to help with this endeavor. It is important and time is short. (Would all those who did volunteer and would like to volunteer contact me, Jane Olive, at 702-735-1675 so I can give your names to Claytee? Thanks).

Next, we were treated to a program presented by three former members of the Las Vegas High School Rhythmettes. Dee Trumble Hale presented the history of the group. Terry Jeffers Gialketsis showed pictures and a video film of the performance on the “Ed Sullivan Show.” Marilyn Reynolds Dosch completed the program with handouts and scrapbook records of the drill team. The Rhythmettes represented and entertained Las Vegans for over two decades. All honored the founder of the group, Miss Evelyn Stuckey.

The Executive Committee also met that afternoon. Among the decisions of the group were two that may be of interest to the general membership. First we voted to apply our remaining funds from the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project toward the new Oral History Program that is focused on interviewing Native American Women. Claytee White and Jill Stovall have arranged training sessions to be held on November 15th and 16th. Please call Jill at 258-9240 for further information. We also agreed to keep any profits from the sales of *Skirts that Swept the Desert Floor* to use as ‘seed money’ for publication costs of the second volume.

We are pleased to announce that our Telephone Tree is up and running. We want to thank the following members for helping us unite our little group by keeping everyone posted on our news and events: Peggy Priest, Jill Stovall, Joan Dimmitt, Blanch Zucker Bozarth, Mary Gafford and Betty Middleton. Thanks so much.

Now we are busy planning our next event. It is a Holiday Tea, one that will express all the graciousness of such a gathering. It will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 3, 2006 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the home of Sandy Frank. Thank you so much, Sandy! We will serve light refreshments

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News From the South

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and celebrate the holiday season in each other's company. Several members have volunteered to represent women of Nevada's past. They include Sojourner Truth, Helen J. Stewart and Julia Bulette. We will have the books of several NWHP authors there to purchase as gifts. The costs of the event have been covered by a generous donation from a member so there will be no charge. Members are invited to bring guests, especially those who may be interested in joining NWHP. Please set the afternoon aside. Just contact Mary Gafford (648-9415) to let her know you are coming.

Finally, the time is fast approaching when we need to renew our memberships. Until then, best wishes to all for a most happy and healthy holiday season!

Jane Olive

President, NWHP Southern Region

All members of NWHP and their guests
are cordially invited to attend

A Holiday Tea



On Sunday afternoon,
December 3, 2006
from 2:00 to 4:30 PM

At the home of Sandy Frank
2900 Morning Dew Street
Las Vegas, NV 89117

Sandy's home is just west of the West Sahara Library and Art Museum and off South Grand Canyon Ave.

We will have books by some NWHP authors to sell for holiday gifts. We'll enjoy light refreshments, tea and apple cider, as well as each other's company.

There is no charge.

Just come and join us!

Please call Mary Gafford, 702-648-9415
to confirm your attendance.

"Women's Works in Progress" Workshops

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Have you considered writing biographies for our website and inclusion in Volume II of *Skirts that Swept the Desert Floor*? The NWHP is seeking writers to research and write a brief biography on a Nevada woman. All biographies will be reviewed for content and historical framework accuracy prior to publication. A list of names of women and research resources will be provided at the meeting.

Would you like to participate in the "Telling My Story: *Memoirs of Today's Woman*" project? By writing the story of today's Nevada woman - either native or those of us who are Nevadan's by choice - we wish to preserve and share family and life histories for the future. Our own life histories are worth remembering!

Interested in learning how to research and portray one of Nevada's historical women, either by doing a Chautauqua or living history performance? One of the goals of the NWHP is to develop a speakers' bureau focused on Nevada women and the role they played in shaping and developing the state.

If you answered "yes" or even "maybe" to any of these questions, then we invite you to join with us in developing these projects! We will meet together and give each other support and suggestions for whatever projects about Nevada women is brought to the workshop. Our meetings will be held on the third Saturday each month, beginning November 18. Here is the date, time and location:

DATE:

November 18, 2006 (Saturday)

TIME:

10 a.m. - noon Light refreshments will be provided.

LOCATION:

The meeting location is the historic Wungnema House stone cottage, located at the east end of Mills Park in Carson City (address: 844 North Saliman Road).

DIRECTIONS:

From Hwy 50 east, turn south on Saliman Road. The entrance driveway is across from Carson City High School and there is plenty of parking. A sign will be posted on Saliman Road.

Please join us on November 18!

For more information contact Cherry Jones, cljnvquail@charter.net or Cindy Southerland at 882-8956.

Cindy Southerland

Nevada Day Parade - An NWHP Tradition

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Davis all wore hats designed and executed by Mary Anne. Particularly inventive was Grace's hat, which was concocted from a vegetable tray.

On Friday afternoon Isabel, Holly Van Valkenburgh, Mary Anne and her husband, Chuck, my husband, Fred and I gathered at the Convis' to assemble the passenger car. Despite the rental place giving us a different trailer than the one Mary Anne measured and had been promised, after just a few hours of re-cutting, screwing together, painting and bunting draping, we had a wonderful finished product. (Well, not completely finished — Mary Anne was putting on more finishing touches at 7:00 the next morning).

Our eight participating members, the women in the passenger car and walking beside it, represented the women who were elected officers at the 1895 meeting, so each one, of course, carried a sign with her name, town of residence and office held.

With Chuck driving the truck that pulled us and Fred "riding shotgun", our entry was a beauty, and was certainly "right on" the theme. We received loud ovations from the crowd, and, waved back with our best princess waves. At this writing it isn't known if we won anything, but even if we didn't we had a great time on a beautiful day, and also taught a little history lesson as we went along.

Cherry Jones



Grace Davis was Hannah Clapp.

Photo credit: Rich Johnston, State Photographer

Roll of Honor "inductee" Marlene Adrian



Cherry Jones presenting Roll of Honor award to Marlene Adrian

It has been NWHP policy to include in the newsletter after our conferences biographies of the women whom we have chosen for our Roll of Honor. At the March conference in Las Vegas we honored three women; Dr. Marlene Adrian, Jan Cleere and Eileen Cohen. It is always interesting to learn more about the accomplishments of those members whom we often know only by a name on a list. Here is the first of the three biographies.

Marlene Adrian was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After graduating from high school there she attended LaCrosse State College in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. Not content to stop there, she received a Masters of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a Doctor of Physical Education degree from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Marlene taught in departments including Physical Education, Kinesiology, Rehabilitation and Biomechanics at several colleges. She retired from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as Professor Emerita and later moved to Las Vegas in 1996.

Marlene is also the author of *Woman in Motion*, *Biomechanics of Human Movement*, *Complete Encyclopedia of Aerobics*, and *Catastrophic Injuries in Sports*.

In the field of fencing, Marlene was a Fencing World Cup competitor, the US National Sabre Champion, won both a silver and gold medal on the US National Women's Epee Team (epee is a type of fencing sword—I had to look it up), ranked 24th in Women's Foil (also a fencing sport). She continues to be involved in sports as her hobbies include softball, whitewater canoeing and tennis. (I believe that she also line dances!)

Marlene was chosen for the Roll of Honor for her many contributions to NWHP in her capacity as President of Women of Diversity Productions, Inc. According to Mary Gafford, who nominated her, Marlene has "been an active NWHP member almost since its inception". Her media company produced many videos promoting the mission statement of NWHP. Some of them are: Sarah Winnemucca (portrayed by Alexandra Voorhees), The First Ladies of Nevada and Remembering Nevada Women. She selected and presented various videos promoting Nevada women and their accomplishments and showed them at various teas as fundraisers for NWHP. She has also, quoting Mary Gafford, "recorded numerous NWHP Southern Region programs for archival purposes".

So, now, the next time you hear the name of Dr. Marlene Adrian, you will know a little bit more about our friend and member in the Southern Region group.

Cherry Jones

Report on Dangberg Ranch Tour



Front entrance to the Dangberg Ranch house.

On Saturday October 14th, members from the NWHP and the AAUW met for a "preview" tour of Nevada's newest State Park, the Dangberg "Home Ranch" in Carson Valley. Thanks to the efforts of Carleen Ernst, NWHP members Patti Bernard, Marcia Cuccaro, Kathy Drake, Isabel Espinoza, Lisa Marie Lightfoot, Kathy Noneman, Kathy Allred, Sarah Britt Carleen and AAUW, several members and guests spent an enjoyable day touring the ranch and stopping afterwards for a delicious lunch at the Sugar Plum Restaurant in Genoa.

The historical park site was built by German immigrant H.F. Dangberg (1829-1904) who settled in Carson Valley in 1852 and began to acquire land for his ranch. He became the largest landholder in Carson Valley. The 1881 *Thompson & West History*

of Nevada reported his fenced land holdings (4,600) amounted to approximately 1/5 of the Nevada portion of Carson Valley (30,000). In addition to raising cattle and alfalfa, owning the largest butcher and meat packing plant in the area, founding the town of Minden, and coaxing the owners of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad to make Minden the train's southern terminus, he also found time to serve numerous terms in the State Legislature.

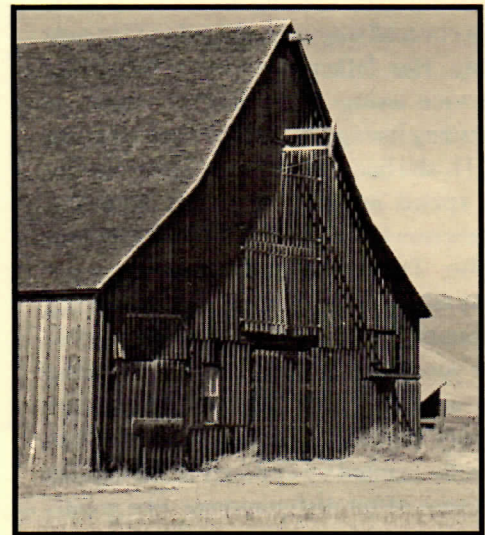
Dangbergs continuously occupied the ranch until the death of the last remaining Dangberg granddaughter, Margaret McDonald, in 1988. At that time, the ranch was put up for sale. In 2005 the state acquired a five-acre parcel consisting of the main ranch house and some adjoining out-buildings. Also on the ranch, but not part of the park, are several structures designed by famed architect Frederick Delongchamps.

The most unique feature of this newest park is all contents of the buildings were donated at the time of state acquisition. The three generations of Dangberg families that lived there rarely disposed of anything and furniture, dishes, clothing, items left in the pantries and medicine cabinets, carriages, etc. were left intact just as they had been before Ruth and Margaret's deaths. This site is truly an historic time capsule of memorabilia from the 1850's through the 1980's. It is a valuable addition in the preservation efforts to showcase another part of Carson Valley's colorful heritage.

The main house has been unoccupied for the last eighteen years and thus a tremendous amount of stabilization, cataloging and conservation must be done before it and future exhibits can be opened to the public. What a treat it was for us to get this informative tour from Park Ranger Suzanne Sturdevant! A wonderful bonus was meeting Ruth Achard's son, Steve, who was in town visiting friends. Although he lives in California, he grew up on the ranch. He regaled us with anecdotes associated with his early life in Carson Valley and his memories associated with many of the items we viewed.

The tour and finally meeting with Steve Achard was especially meaningful to me because as a high school and college student each summer I worked closely with the two Dangberg sisters, Ruth Achard and Margaret McDonald, at the State Highway Department in Carson City. Ruthie used to speak often of her sister Kat and her son Steve who lived in California, so it was nice to finally put a face to a name.

Patti Bernard



Historic barn on the Dangberg Ranch

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Velma Bronn Johnston a.k.a. "Wild Horse Annie"

Born: March 5, 1912, Reno, Nevada
Died: June 27, 1977, Reno, Nevada
Maiden Name: Velma Bronn
Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian
Married: Charlie Johnston
Children: None
Primary city and county of residence and work:
Wadsworth, Reno, Washoe County, Storey County.
Major fields of work:
Secretary, rancher, wild horse advocate, and activist.
Other role identities: Lecturer, writer, organizer, day camp owner.

Biography:

Velma Johnston was a Nevadan of pioneer heritage, born in Reno, March 5th, 1912, oldest of four, to parents Joseph Bronn (saved as an infant by the milk of a mustang mare coming across the deserts in a covered wagon) and mother Gertrude Clay. Her father operated a freighting service using many horses, some of mustang lineage. In 1923 at the tender age of 11, she became disfigured after having to spend months in a cast in a San Francisco hospital when being treated for polio. This experience gave her great empathy for confined and suffering animals. Having much time to herself in her youth, she devoted her time to caring for animals on her parents' ranch. She avidly pursued learning but was often cruelly taunted by children in her classes because of her disfigurement. She greatly enjoyed composing poetry and drawing. She married a neighbor, strong, six-foot four inches tall, Charlie Johnston, part Delaware Indian, who took over her father's ranch along the Truckee River near Wadsworth (the Double Lazy Heart Ranch). Unable to have children of their own, Velma and Charlie operated a sort of dude ranch for children which included many troubled city youth. This experience gave them great joy. For over forty years she worked as a secretary for Reno insurance executive Gordon Harris.

In 1950 one morning while driving to work, Velma witnessed a gruesome scene – wild horses crammed into a truck destined for a pet food slaughterhouse. Blood oozing from the truck revealed a yearling being trampled to death. She decided to expose this to the public eye. The massive wild horse and burro

clearances from the Western public lands of the mid-1900s involved airplanes and many WWII pilots. They operated in conjunction with truck drivers and were aided by cowboys with lassoes and heavy truck tires.

Being an astute executive secretary, Annie set about amassing a legion of facts and evidence which she neatly organized into very effective presentations to all economic and social branches of society. She adroitly cultivated many contacts, from school children to ranchers to businessmen, biologists, and politicians. Both a charming and a commanding public speaker, she delivered her message with passionate conviction, inspiring a sense of justice and compassion for the wild horses in her listeners. She began her campaign in her home Storey

County. Here it was in 1952, with help from prominent citizens and after fiery meetings in Virginia City, that she earned her nickname, "Wild Horse Annie". In 1955, her campaign in the Nevada State Legislature led to a bill banning aircraft and land vehicles from capturing wild horses on state lands. Unfortunately this left the wild horses on 86% of Nevada lands, as well as on the public lands of other Western states, unprotected, since these lands were largely under federal jurisdiction. Seeing that these indiscriminate wild equid gatherings continued to supply the pet food industry, indefatigable Annie aroused public indignation and support for the first federal law to protect wild horses. This was accomplished in 1959 with support from Nevada's U.S. Representative Walter S.

Baring. It prohibited the use of any form of motorized vehicles as well as the poisoning of water holes done either to capture or kill wild horses. It is known as the Wild Horse Annie Act (P.L. 86-234).

By the mid-1960s it became apparent that P.L. 86-234 was not enough since wild horses continued to rapidly lose ground in the West. Of pivotal importance in Annie's determination to continue with the fight was the failure to obtain conviction for a well-documented violation of the Act involving a wild horse roundup in Central Nevada and subsequent shipping of the animals to a Fallon slaughter house. This inspired her all the more to bring justice for the horses. She felt strongly that they had a right to remain in viable numbers on the public lands.

In spite of her husband Charlie's untimely death from

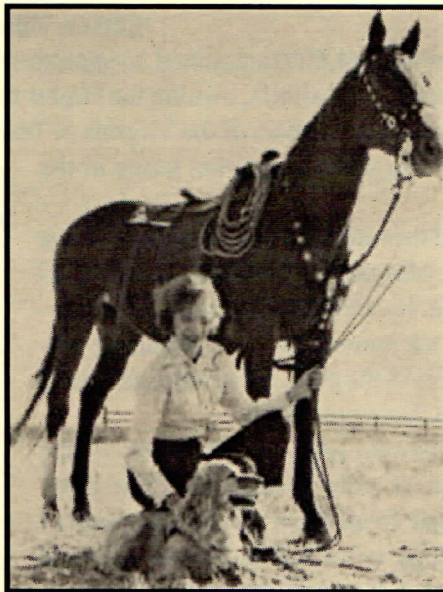


Photo courtesy Nevada Historical Society

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Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Velma Bronn Johnston

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emphysema and by means of a meticulously organized campaign involving many audio-visual presentations to schools and civic gatherings, plus a wide-spread letter writing and illustrated fact sheets distribution, Annie convinced thousands of people of all ages and walks of life to advocate for the wild horses. Congress received more letters on this issue than any other, save the Vietnam War. Annie herself testified before Congress. The result was the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) which was unanimously passed and signed into law in 1971. This gave the wild equids protection on BLM and Forest Service lands "where found" at the time of the passage of the Act in 303 areas.

Another of Annie's major accomplishments was to see the establishment of special wild horse refuges, some coming before the Act. The largest such refuge, established in 1966, lies within the vast Nellis Air Force Base in southern Nevada. The historically significant Pryor Mountain refuge, established in 1968, on the Montana-Wyoming border, and picturesque Little Bookcliffs refuge (dedicated to Annie) near Palisade, Colorado, are two other such sanctuaries.

During her lifetime, Annie and her dedicated assistants kept a rigorous vigilance on the equid herds to assure their fair treatment. The files of the two organizations she established, the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros (established before the 1971 Act) and Wild Horses Organized Assistance (established after the 1971 Act), include meticulous field notes (many by Annie herself), maps and photographs of horse/burro spottings (along with individual descriptions of the animals and their activities), witness testimonies, and other documents.

After her husband's death, Annie lived with her mother "Trudie" in her home overlooking Reno where she loved to garden. But her standing up for the wild ones had made her the subject of many vicious attacks, including threats to her life. On June 27th, 1977, she passed away after bravely fighting a losing battle with cancer. She was 65 years old.

Biographical sketch written and researched by Craig C. Downer, Wildlife Ecologist and Author.

Sources of Information:

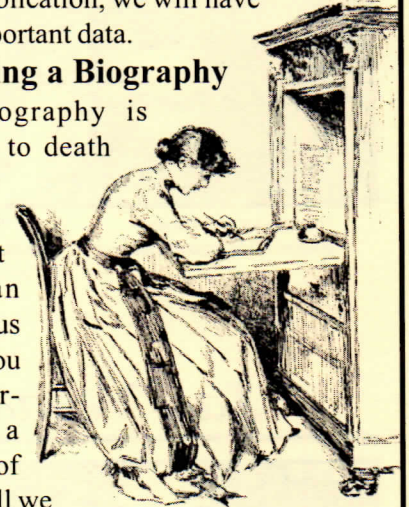
- Denver Public Library, Velma B. Johnston Special Collection, Denver, Colorado.
- Downer, Craig C. 1977. *Wild Horses: Living Symbols of Freedom*, Western Printing and Publishing Co., Sparks, NV.
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Let the Biographies Begin

A county by county plan is underway for determining an equitable distribution of subjects to be included in Volume II of *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor*. By developing written guidelines and research aids as well as a program for training aspiring writers, we will improve and polish our submissions. Consideration for inclusion of women with diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds is an important goal. Additionally, by placing the biographies on the website for review prior to publication, we will have a system to verify important data.

Tips for Writing a Biography

Although a biography is generally in a birth to death chronology, you may decide to begin the narrative with an event that illustrates an exciting or momentous experience. Have you discovered an interesting quote from a relative or associate of the subject? What will we learn that fascinates us or illuminates the time period? Including dialogue will enable you to show the reader an intimate moment and draw them closer to the life and times of our Nevada women. An excerpt from a letter or diary could add just the right touch.



Oral History Project Workshop

Arrangements have been made with Claytee White from the UNLV Oral History Resource Center to deliver a 2 day workshop for all of those interested in learning how to conduct oral history interviews.

Where:

UNLV Lied Library -
3rd Floor near Special Collections

Date:

Wednesday Nov. 15 - Thursday Nov. 16

Time:

10-11:30 a.m.

RSVP:

Jill Stovall at
infosourceress@aol.com or 702-877-5645

Remembrances of the July Wildflower Hike

This year eight NWHP hiking adventurers journeyed to Kit Carson Pass, west of Carson Valley, to the 8,560 summit where we began our 5 mile round trip hike to Frog and Winnemucca Lakes. This is one of the most popular hikes in the Sierras as the panoramas of the Sierra peaks and forest are spectacular with vistas of the wildflowers described as "Sweeping Hillside of Rainbow Color."

We dutifully identified numerous species of flowers on the trek to the Lakes, took photos, and enjoyed each other's company. Frog Lake overlooks a lower lake, Red Lake, and is the location of beautiful wild iris, Mountain Sorrel, Blue Flax, and Whitebark Pine trees. Back on the trail to Winnemucca Lake the western vistas open up which include a magnificent view of Caples Lake as well as fields of wildflowers in full bloom. Penstemon, Indian paintbrush, mountain bluebells, lupine, elephant head, buttercups, monkeyflowers, shooting stars, marsh marigolds are among the numerous varieties that grace this beautiful place. Red heather shows up at Winnemucca Lake where we stopped for lunch before returning to our starting place.

By mid-afternoon we arrived back to our cars, tired but happy. No one even complained of a blister and we vowed to return soon.

Kay Sanders



Hike leader Kay Sanders and son Chris at trailhead.



The Nonemans, Charlie and Kathy - relaxing at the end of the hike.



Isabel Espinoza and Jeanne Larson - happy hikers.



Holly VanValkenburgh - one of our most loyal hikers.



Barbara Finley - resting in a convenient tree.

Southern Luncheon Features Las Vegas High School Rhythmettes in Review



Las Vegas High School Rhythmettes on the steps of the old Las Vegas High School, early 1950s.

A lovely luncheon and general meeting was held on Saturday, September 23, 2006 at Marie Callender's on Tropicana and Eastern. The program began with Claytee White's introduction of the new facet of the NWHP Oral History program. The program will now emphasize the interviews of Nevada's Native American Women. Several members volunteered to serve on her committee.

Next, the program featured the Las Vegas High School Rhythmettes. Former Rhythmettes - Marilyn Reynolds Dosch, Terry Jeffers Gialketsis, and Dee Trumble Hale - shared the spotlight as they gave the history of the group, honored its founder, Miss Evelyn Stuckey, and related the joys and frustrations of their experiences.

They brought pictures of the group and of Miss Stuckey, copies of a Rhythmette Review Program with pictures of the Rhythmettes, a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, and paper-doll illustrations of their costumes. They even showed a video copy of their performance on the "Ed Sullivan Show."

Long-time Las Vegans will remember how popular this marching group was in the 1950s and 1960s. Led by Miss Stuckey, the girls were required to be above average students, talented, and prepared to practice many hours each week. They performed at local high school ball games, at university games, at school assemblies, in parades, on television, at world fairs, and on The Wide World of Sports. They presented a dance program each spring called "The Rhythmette Review." The entire community quickly recognized that the little group presented a very positive image of "Sin City." The Rhythmettes often posed for 'photo ops' on behalf of the city fathers and Chamber of Commerce.

Many Las Vegans are now seeking to have a school named for Miss Stuckey. They hope to honor her for her decades of dedicated service to the Las Vegas community as well as for the personal care she gave "her girls." Always called "Stuckey" by those who knew her, she came to Las Vegas to teach Girls P. E. in 1948. She organized the Rhythmette drill team shortly thereafter. Their first performances were in 1950, and continued with only a few years' break until 1979. Stuckey's outstanding contributions to the community gained her many honors including *Las Vegas Woman of the Year* (1954) and *Nevada's Outstanding Citizen* (1964). Evelyn Stuckey passed away in 1980. Members of the NWHP Book Committee hope to include her biography in our next volume of *Skirts*.

Jane Olive



Former Rhythmettes Marilyn Reynolds Dosch, Dee Trumble Hale and Terry Jeffers Gialketsis gave the program at the Southern Region general meeting.

Congratulations and Thanks to:

- Douglas County Historical Society for their successful 7th Annual Women's History Remembering Project – "Douglas County Women: Footsteps in History". Four women were honored for their contributions to the quality of life in the county. Honorees include Carol Lee Biaggi Aldax, Anna Norgaard Harris Behrman, Lura Ida Jones, and Cherie Owen. The NWHP Jean Ford Research Center has received a copy of these biographies as well as those included in the previous six events.



Jill Stovall to Take the Reins as Newsletter Editor

Jill Stovall, NWHP member who resides in Las Vegas, has graciously agreed to take over as NWHP Newsletter Editor beginning January 2007. She also holds the position of Book Committee Chair whose members are busily working on collecting biographies of Nevada women for Volume II of *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor*, a state-wide project.

A retired librarian, Jill brings to the position a great background in organizational and writing skills. She was a member of the Book Committee for Vol. I of *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor* and contributed to that edition.

It's always those who are busiest who step up to the plate for yet another task. Thanks so much, Jill for agreeing to assume this position. I treasure my eight years as Editor and wish to thank everyone for their loyal assistance and contributions during those years. I know that our members will continue to cooperate and work with Jill, myself being first in line.

Kay Sanders

PLEASE INFORM THE STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND YOUR REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIR OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS. BETTY MILLER'S ADDRESS IS: 2633 LEGEND DR., LAS VEGAS, NV 89134-8810. 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 February 2007 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor, Jill Stovall, no later than January 26, 2007. E-mail her at infosourceress@aol.com.

NWHP Leadership

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Jill Stovall: Editor for State Newsletter
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster
Carrie Porter: Archivist

WEBSITE: www.nevadawomen.org

Some NWHP News Contacts

Cherry Jones

E-mail: cljnvquail@charter.net

Jill Stovall

Tel/Fax: 702-877-5045

E-mail: infosourceress@aol.com

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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Frances M. Doherty
Moirra Ginn
Irene Heidorn
Grace Medeiros
Robin Munier
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XI Chapter, Delta
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