

Calendar

Northern Nevada Schedule

FEB. 16 – Guy Rocha talk on History of Brothel Prostitution in Nevada - Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City. 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Luncheon and talk will be \$15.00. For reservations, please call Carleen Ernest at 775-747-8779. Deadline is Feb. 14. See article in this issue.

MARCH 7-8 – State Conference, Carson City. Details in article and insert in newsletter.

MAR 29 – North Region Steering Committee Meeting - 9:00 AM to Noon - State Office in Reno.

APRIL 19 – Her Story Luncheon, Holly House, Reno. Information will be mailed to members.

APRIL 25 – Dedication of Nevada Stanchion at Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Washington, D.C. See flyer and insert for details and registration.

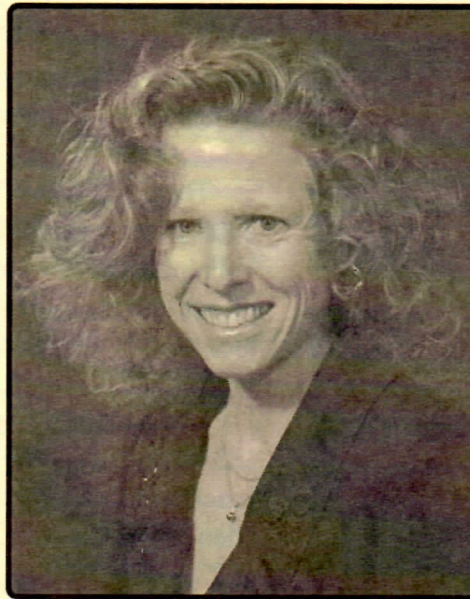
MAY 24 – Pink Tea - Governor's Mansion, Carson City. Information TBA.

Southern Nevada Schedule

MARCH 1 – Celebrating the Life of Helen J. Stewart. By Helen Mortenson, President, Archeo-Nevada Society. Marie Callender's, 4800 S. Eastern, 11:00 AM to Noon - Social Hour, Noon - Luncheon, 1:00 PM - Program. Cost \$18. "Call Mary Gafford for reservations, 702-648-9415.

MAY 3 – The Contributions of Asian American Women in Nevada featuring Dr. Sue Fawn Chung, UNLV. Marie Callender's, 4800 S. Eastern, 11:00 AM to Noon - Social Hour, Noon - Luncheon, 1:00 PM - Program, 2:00 PM - Installation of officers. Cost \$18. "Call Mary Gafford for reservations, 702-648-9415.

"On the Move, Women in Transportation"



Susan Martinovich

Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, March 7-8, 2008. Nevada Women's History Project's (NWHP) state conference will host, "*On the Move, Women in Transportation*." The conference will open with a wine and food reception on Friday, March 7th starting at 6:00 PM at the Railroad Museum in Carson City.

The keynote speaker will be Susan Martinovich, Nevada State Director of the Department of Transportation. Entertainment will be provided by Cherry Jones and a cast of NWHP members doing a short skit on the history of transportation as it relates to the Nevada suffrage movement.

The fear of women **straying** too far from home combined with the need of American women to expand their lives outside of home, created male confusion and yet another struggle for women to achieve - the transportation rights afforded to men. Exceptional research and talent have produced a conference that will capture and delight attendees.

On March 8th, Saturday's March conference will open at 8:00 AM at the Nevada State Library and Archives and last until 5:00 PM. There will be twelve 30 minute presentations with several breaks for refreshments, questions, and a catered lunch. The variety of presentations include: *Pioneer Women in Aviation, Women School Bus Drivers, Eilley Orrum Bowers' international travels, WWII Women Aviators, Sarah Winnemucca's famous ride to save her people, Nevada's 1913 Women Drivers, Hand Carts to Zion, "Rusty" Dow's Alcan Highway ride, Harvey Girls, Dog Sledding, Women Teamsters, and Women on the Railroad.*

To complete a perfect day, a banquet will be held that Saturday night at the Silver Oak Golf Club in Carson at 7:00 PM. The theme for the night is automobiles and the entertainment will be a charming presentation by Kathleen Noneman called Alice's Ride. "Alice" was Alice Huyler Ramsey, a 21 year old Vassar graduate from New Jersey and the first woman to drive across the United States. Guests are welcome to attend the banquet for an additional fee.

continued on page 2

Table of Contents

"On the Move, Women in Transportation"	Page 1
NWHP State Nominating Committee Report	Page 2
State Committee President's Message	Page 3
NWHP Membership Report	Page 3
News From the South	Page 4
News From the North	Page 4
NWHP Receives its Third John Ben Snow Memorial Grant	Page 5
New Books on Sarah Winnemucca	Page 5
Restored Reno Water Fountain Unveiled	Page 6
Details of Stanchion Dedication Outlined in Flyer	Page 6
Nevada Women's Fund Celebrates 25 Years: 1982 – 2007	Page 7
State Archivist Guy Rocha Lecture and Luncheon Planned	Page 7
Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Virginia Moreira Moura	Page 8
Women's History Month Biographies New Plan	Page 9
Featured NWHP Member Jean Cameron Fraser Spiller	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

"On the Move, Women in Transportation"

continued from page 1

The lobby of the Nevada State Archives will have books for sale and non-profit groups will have free tables to present information about their organizations. Please contact Billie Brinkman at 775-887-1972 if your organization would like a table.

If you're from out-of town, NWHP has booked 10 rooms at the Plaza Hotel and Conference Center for \$59.00 per night. The hotel is walking distance from the Nevada State Library and Archives. Local NWHP members will assist in transportation needs as much as possible and home guest rooms will be provided by local NWHP members as available. If you need assistance, contact Lisa-Marie Lightfoot at 775-849-2050.

There will be a NWHP state meeting on Sunday, March 9th, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the home of Holly Van Valkenburgh, 184 Lake Glen Drive. Everyone is welcome, but please call Holly at 775-884-4246 if you plan to attend. It's a nice opportunity to meet some of our NWHP sisters from Las Vegas.

Make checks payable to NWHP and send your check for \$85.00 (includes the Friday night reception, Saturday conference/lunch and Saturday night dinner) to Isabel Espinoza, 122 Lake Glen Drive, Carson City, NV 89703. Call Lisa-Marie Lightfoot at 775-849-2050 or Isabel Espinoza at 775-883-9035 if you have questions.

Great presentations, food and fun - if you love women's history, then you **must** attend the "On the Move, Women in Transportation" conference. See you there!

*Lisa-Marie Lightfoot
NWHP State Conference Co-Chair*

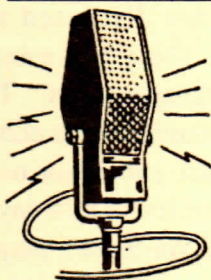
NWHP State Nominating Committee Report

The State Nominating Committee, as always, had its job cut out for it this year. It wasn't easy finding willing members to tackle the responsibility of a state office. However, the committee is pleased with the results of its efforts.

We would like to thank those who have consented to place their names for consideration as our new state officers. The ballot is included in this issue of the newsletter. Please take an active part in your organization by voting. The ballots need to be received at the State Office by February 29, 2008 as the results of the election will be announced at the NWHP conference in March.

*The 2008 State Nominating Committee:
Jane Olive, Kay Sanders and Carrie Porter*

State Committee President's Message



As I write this I am looking out over a small lake in central Florida. We are having a “cold spell”—it was only 60 degrees yesterday and people were wearing coats and complaining about the weather. Although we are missing the cold and snow, I am feeling nostalgic for Nevada.

We had lived in Nevada for only a short time when I attended a Chautauqua workshop given by Nevada Humanities. I wanted to portray Dr. Eliza Cook and was looking for information about her. Mary Anne Convis told me about the NWHP and put me in touch with Jean Ford. Jean was enthusiastic about my project and gave me wonderful advice. Then she handed me the whole file on Dr. Cook, saying something like “Keep it as long as you need it, just be sure to return it”. I count myself very fortunate to have worked with her.

As I got more involved with my own project I began to meet other “NWHPers” and was soon invited to a Region Committee meeting. I kept asking about the next meetings and kept attending, so finally they gave me a job! I am delighted to be a part of this group. The women whom I have met through the Nevada Women’s History Project are strong, intelligent, humorous, and devoted to each other and their goals—just like the women whose history they strive to perpetuate. They have given me a sense of appreciation for this wonderful state and its many facets.

As I look back over the last few years I am amazed at what the NWHP has accomplished. Of course, the Sarah Winnemucca statue placement is the most visible accomplishment, but the raising of consciousness regarding women in Nevada’s history is right up there in importance, and is the goal of the organization. This has been done in so many ways—starting with the annotated bibliography of books mentioning Nevada women, then the outstanding book of biographies, *Skirts That Swept the Desert Floor*, that the Southern Region produced, the whole series of “mini-bios” published in the Nevada Appeal in Carson City every day of Women’s History Month last year, our super website with so many biographies right out there for public research, our members who portray historical figures and give other types of programs to local audiences all over the state, and even this newsletter that you are reading right now.

And not the least of our accomplishments has been the State Conferences put on alternately by the North and South regions. This year it is the North’s turn, and I hope that you are all planning to attend this fun event next month in Carson City. Check out the information and registration in this newsletter, and I’ll see you there!

Cherry Jones, State Committee President

NWHP Membership Report

It is time once again to pay your annual membership dues. Annual dues cover the period of January through December. Dues for individuals are \$25 (students are \$15), organizations are \$50, and corporate sponsors are \$250. We express our appreciation to those who have already sent in your renewals and thank you for your continued membership.

If you’ve forgotten to renew, feel free to use the membership application and dues form in your newsletter to accompany your check, particularly for updating information on address, telephone, or e-mail changes. And just in case you don’t want to cut the form from the newsletter, the application/dues form can be downloaded from the NWHP web site, www.nevadawomen.org.

If you have e-mail access and we don’t already have your e-mail address, please consider providing it to us. Please be assured that we do not share the information with other organizations.

Our NWHP membership statewide is currently 239 and we have started using e-mail dues notification for those who have e-mail access. This allows the NWHP to reduce the costs of mailings for both materials and postage. We also have found it useful to be able to notify members of NWHP events or changes in schedules by e-mail.

Most of all, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported our organization over the years and hope that we will continue to see your names on our membership roster.

Grace Davis, Northern Region Membership Chair – Individuals
Carrie Porter, Northern Region Membership Chair – Organizations
Betty Miller, Southern Region Membership Chair/ State Membership Chair

News From the South

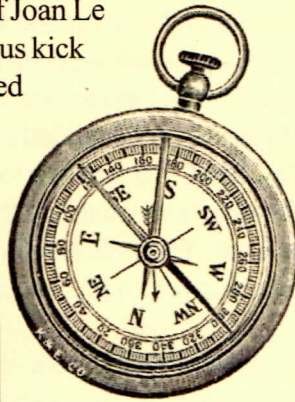
The Holiday Tea at the home of Joan Le Mere on December 1, 2007 helped us kick off the holiday spirit. It was attended by thirty-five members and guests. Dorothy Huffey attended and wrote about it in her column on December 6, 2007 in the Review Journal.



Dora and Dianne Steel looking over the beautiful tea table.



Hostess Joan LeMere and South Region President Linda Miller at the Tea.



I designed a Teacher of the Year award. The application consists of a lesson plan which promotes the roles and contributions of Nevada women. Applications were due by February 1, 2008. The award will be presented at the Nevada Women's History Project State Conference on March 9, 2008 in Carson City. The winner will receive \$200 and have their lesson plan published on the website. There are more details on the Nevada Women's History Project website: www.nevadawomen.org.

Hannah Low and Destiny Carroll will be receiving the George Washington Medal of Honor from the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation at a ceremony sponsored by the Nevada League of Women Voters on February 16, 2008. The meeting will take place at 9:30 AM at the Main Street Station's Social Club. Congresswomen Shelley Berkley and Secretary of State Ross Miller will be on the schedule. Press releases have been sent out. The Review Journal covered their story on December 19, 2007 in the Anthem View.

continued

News From the North

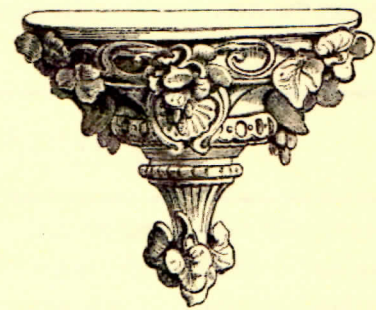
At our last meeting we discussed the upcoming conference. This year's subject is "Women in Transportation". The Conference Committee has done a magnificent job obtaining speakers and it will be a day to remember. We chose a subject that has not had a lot of coverage. Do plan to come and enjoy the speakers.

We are emphasizing oral histories this year and will be gathering more of these. We have so many fascinating women to record. These histories will be a great addition to our current collection. We hope to have a training session soon. We will keep you posted.

We will be making some changes in the office as we need more space to work. We have been given some computers and need to have them ready for people who are working on the biographies.

A big thanks to all of you who work so hard. We wouldn't be here without you.

*Cherry Jones
Chair, No. Region Steering Committee*



News From the South *continued*

On a personal note, I spent ten days in Egypt in December on a People to People Global Peace Initiative. There were about 200 students and adults. We engaged in a peace walk on the road to the Great Pyramids.

Our board meeting was held on February 2, 2008. Our next meeting will be March 1, 2008. Helen Mortenson, President of Archeo-Nevada Society will be discussing Helen J. Stewart.

*Linda Karen Miller
President, NWHP Southern Region*

NWHP Receives its Third John Ben Snow Memorial Grant

Happy news – NWHP has received a grant in the amount of \$8,000 from the John Ben Snow Memorial Grant Fund. Grant Trustee Emelie Williams informed Kay Sanders of this award and a check was delivered to our office in the late Fall. The monies will be used to support the Jean Ford Research Center housed at the state office in Reno. This includes salary for a Web technician for the NWHP website, telephone costs, internet provider, domain renewal, printing/copying, and supplies. The grant covers projected costs for two years. It also includes monies for purchase of some equipment including a transcriber. We plan to hire someone to do the transcribing so that biographies of contemporary women will be available in print form.

Members are currently working on recording oral histories as well as writing biographies of Nevada women. New biographies of historic Nevada women are uploaded to the NWHP website prior to possible future publication of Volume II of *The Skirts that Swept the Desert Floor*, which is a statewide project. We will be focusing on reaching out to various groups, particularly students who would be interested in utilizing our Jean Ford Research Center collections.

The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust was established in New York in 1975. The donor, John Ben Snow, was a graduate of New York University who accumulated a small fortune through hard work, savings and wise investments. He retired as corporate director of F.W. Woolworth & Company in 1939 and devoted the rest of his life to building the Speidel chain of newspapers and publishing the *Western Horseman*. He preferred to “invest” in people, especially the young, by making available financial assistance. He was a believer in many philanthropic causes, including the improvement of quality of life in a variety of communities. He passed away in 1973 and made provision in his will for a charitable trust.

Thanks once again to the Trustees of the John Ben Snow Memorial Grant for their generous award. Our success in accomplishing the goals of the first two grants have made it possible for this third one to become a reality.

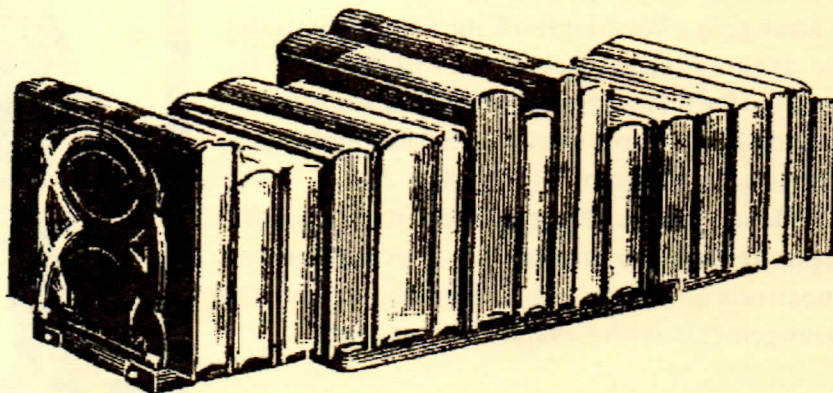
Kay Sanders

New Books on Sarah Winnemucca

Sarah Winnemucca has been included in four recent books. They are: *Portraits of Women in the American West*, (Routledge, 2005), edited by Dee Garceau-Hagen and *Oregon Indians: Voices from Two Centuries* (Oregon State University Press, 2006) edited by Stephen Dow Beckham. Reviewer Helen Sheumaker says of *Portraits of Women in the American West* that “Rosemarie Stremlau’s insightful discussion of Sarah Winnemucca’s campaign against sexual violence towards Native women is especially effective in highlighting the ways in which women’s economic freedoms were contested throughout the West. Winnemucca understood that sexual violence against Paiute women was also a mechanism of control: Paiute women, unable to travel freely, were also hampered in their ability to regain Paiute economic autonomy.”

Another reviewer, Richard Sims, commenting on *Oregon Indians: Voices from Two Centuries* alludes to “Sarah Winnemucca, passionate advocate for her Northern Paiutes, suffering the verbal abuse of her reservation’s Indian agent, William Rinehart.”

Two children’s books authored by Reno author Georgia Hedrick feature Sarah. Their titles are: *Sarah’s Story*, (self-published) 2007, and *I Am Sarah: Hear My Story*, (self-published) 2007. The children’s books are in paperback and available at www.lulu.com. *Sarah’s Story* is printed in both Spanish and English.



Restored Reno Water Fountain Unveiled

On October 17, 1908 the Women's Christian Temperance Union donated and unveiled a drinking fountain in downtown Reno on Virginia Street and Plaza, near where the Reno Arch is today. The fountain was built to foster sobriety and honor the Nevada men who fought in the Spanish American War. It had two drinking bowls, one up high for humans, and a low one for dogs, as well a trough for horses. Those early Reno women wanted to encourage men to drink water, not alcoholic beverages in the nearby saloons. The fountain also doubled as a lamp post with three illuminated glass globes.

The fountain was moved in 1932 to Idlewild Park and became very neglected. Recently, two members of the Reno Historical Resources Commission - Neal Cobb and Dave Hollecker, undertook to restore the fountain and to have it moved back to the center of Reno. Today, the steel and iron fountain looks much as it did in 1908, although without the water. This restoration was the work of Reno metal artist Christopher De Witt and took about four years to complete at a cost of \$25,000. The Nevada Women's History Project, among other organizations, supported this project.

On November 15, 2007, the restored fountain was again unveiled at its new location nearly 100 years after its first dedication. It now sits in the lower lobby of another historic restoration project, the Union Pacific Amtrak Depot on East Commercial Row in downtown Reno. Peggy Lear Bowen and Carrie Porter attended the ceremony, representing the Nevada Women's History Project.

Carrie Porter

Details of Stanchion Dedication Outlined in Flyer

If you are interested in attending the first-ever stanchion dedication event in April, please read the enclosed flyer. Rose Stuart, Kathy Noneman, and Kathleen Clemence have worked out the details and hope that there will be a good turnout. The dates are Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th. Location is the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Reservations need to be made no later than March 15, 2008. The room rates arranged for at the Crystal City Marriott are \$149 per night, double occupancy. Tell them you are with the Travel Center group to get the quoted rate.

The cost of the dedication and luncheon April 25th is \$30.00 per person. Mary Anne Convis is arranging a Washington City Tour on Saturday the 26th. Contact her at (775) 888-9867 for details. Patti Bernard will have information on post-dedication tours to historic sites in the area. Her contact number is (775) 826-3612.

Please contact Rose at her e-mail address: grphoneman@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions about the Stanchion Dedication and arrangements with Crystal City Marriott.



Nevada Women's Fund Celebrates 25 Years

1982 – 2007



Denise Yoxsimer, President and CEO
of the Nevada Women's Fund.

2007 marked the Nevada Women's Fund's 25th year as an organization dedicated to improving the lives of northern Nevada families through the educational empowerment of women. A Silver Celebration in honor of this milestone was held on November 13, 2007 at the Siena Hotel Spa Casino in Reno. Denise Yoxsimer, President and CEO of NWF since 2005, said that there were over 300 people in attendance and the net gain for the Fund was \$70,000. The informal, cocktail party atmosphere, music, and presentation of Golden Compass awards to corporate supporters, all added to the enjoyment of this festive event.

Denise is excited about the changes that she and the Executive Committee have enacted recently including "picking the areas of greatest need in our area" to refocus their mission. The publication of *The Status of Women and Girls in Nevada Report* gave them the data to help inform their grant making decisions. She described those areas as "health of Nevada women, issues of aging of women in Nevada, and preventing violence against women and families. Scholarship areas will remain the same," Denise said.

A difficult decision was made to hold only one major fundraiser, the Salute to Women of Achievement Luncheon, thereby eliminating the Fall event, Going for the Gold. The goal of being more strategic in their fundraising activities was the catalyst for this change. They have already started planning for Women of Achievement including the selection of a speaker. The

logo and branding changes that have occurred were greatly enhanced by the professional assistance of Valerie Glenn (Rose-Glenn Advertising Agency).

The community has benefited from the over \$4 million raised through NWF activities that has been awarded in the form of grants to organizations that support women and children and scholarships to women working to achieve their full potential through the completion of their educations.

The NWHP has been a Program of the NWF since January 1996 and has an office in their facility at 770 Smithridge Drive, Suite 300, Reno. A bit of history regarding the relationship between NWF and NWHP: on February 22, 1995, the Nevada Women's Fund then President and CEO Fritsi Ericson invited a number of nonprofit organizations and government agencies to attend the launching of a new, exciting program regarding Nevada women's history. More than 20 people attended this gathering and expressed interest in creating a statewide organization. The official ratification of NWHP was accomplished on January 27, 1996 by the general membership and the first newsletter was published that same month. Jean Ford, our founder and inspirational leader, saw the need for our organization and, with the backing of the NWF was able to accomplish the creation of NWHP.

Kay Sanders, Editor

State Archivist Guy Rocha Lecture and Luncheon Planned

Saturday, February 16, 2008 – Nevada State Library & Archives, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Nevada history is featured in the upcoming movie entitled "Love Ranch" to be released 2008 or 2009. It stars Helen Mirren (The Queen) and Joe Pesci as a married couple whose faithfulness is tested after starting Nevada's first legal brothel. Guy Rocha, State Archivist, Nevada State Library & Archives will present an entertaining and informative lecture on the History of Brothel Prostitution in Nevada. This will be held at the Nevada State Library & Archives, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City. Cost for lunch and lecture will be \$15. For reservations, please call Carleen Ernest at 775-787-8779. Deadline for reservations is February 14, 2008.

Mary Anne Convis, North Region Chair

Featured Historic Nevada Woman:

Virginia Moreira Moura

Born: June 10, 1910 in Lovelock, Nevada
Died: March 30, 1994 in Lovelock, Nevada
Maiden Name: Virginia Moreira
Race/Nationality: Portuguese
Primary city and county of residence and work: Lovelock, Pershing County, Nevada
Married: Manuel Moura on November 9, 1942 in Reno, Nevada
Children: Thomas
Major fields of work: Housewife, mother, ranch partner, Deputy County Recorder, secretary/bookkeeper
Other role identities: Member of St. John's Catholic Church, St. Agnes Altar Society, I.D.E.S. Portuguese Society of Lovelock, Lovelock Eaglettes, Pershing County Farm Bureau, Fairview Homemakers, Soroptimist International

Biography:

Virginia Moreira Moura was born June 10, 1910 to Manuel and Maria Moreira. She was a native and lifelong resident of Lovelock, Nevada. Her life began on the Taylor "Lower Ranch" in Upper Valley. Her father was employed as a foreman at the John C. Taylor Lower ranches. Virginia's parents immigrated to the United States in the late 1800's from the island of Santa Maria in the Azores.

In 1916, her family purchased a ranch in upper Valley, as it would be the perfect place to raise a daughter, just down the road from the county schoolhouse. As a youngster she did the chores of any farm girl, such as milking the cows, riding horses, and driving wagons. Milking the cows was not a pleasant experience for Virginia. During the milking process, she would have to press her head against the cow, which would in turn get her hair dirty. While she quickly learned to cover her hair, she still got quite disgusted each time she was sent to milk the cows!

Even though she spent a great deal of time around them,

Virginia never cared much for horses. Despite this fact, her first job, at age fourteen, was to guide a horse-drawn cart used to stack hay. Virginia received \$30 for the season's work. Aside from the ranch work, Virginia also had duties in the home where she learned how to cook and sew. Her grandchildren can still remember the lingering smell of Portuguese Sweet Bread filling her home, as well as memories of her crocheting her beautiful Afghans.

Virginia received her elementary education through the eighth grade within walking distance of her home at Fairview School on Looz Road. Her early years in school were a challenge, as she not only had to learn the academic

subjects, but also master the English language at the same time. She was quite proud of how hard she worked to accomplish the goal of learning English. After graduating from Pershing County High School in 1930, Virginia worked at the local Pershing County Bank, formerly the Lovelock Mercantile Bank, operating the large Burroughs adding machine, which at the time was considered state-of-the-art. From there she worked for Bell Telephone and the Golden Rule store (owned by J.C. Penney). Her skills led her to the Courthouse where she worked for ten years as Deputy County Recorder. Virginia joined the Pershing County Water District as clerk/bookkeeper for fourteen years until she resigned to become the part-

time treasurer, where she served twenty five more years until July of 1992. In an article following her retirement in the Lovelock Review Miner, Virginia was described by Myron Goldsworthy, a former secretary/manager of the Pershing County Water District, as the woman who "broke in" the secretary/managers for the Water District. Her years spanned from the first manager, Robert Leighton, to the current and fifth manager, Bennie Hodges.

Virginia's job with the Water District was always close to her heart because of the importance she held for water



continued on page 9

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Virginia Moreira Moura

continued from page 8

- a precious commodity for the valley. She remembered the days before Rye Patch Reservoir was constructed, and "Water Wars" were common. Virginia often recalled memories of how men would sit by an irrigation channel with shotguns at night to protect their water and prevent others from manipulating the water flow. She believed that Rye Patch Dam was the answer to the serious problems that faced the Lovelock Valley. She was quick to say that she appreciated the dam and never took it for granted. Virginia experienced three separate droughts during her tenure with the district and could frequently be heard calling water "the life blood of the Lovelock Valley."

Virginia married Manuel Moura on November 9, 1942. Like her parents, Manuel also emigrated from the Azores Islands. Manuel, from a family of eleven, came to America at age eighteen from the island of Santa Maria. Together they had one son, Thomas Anthony Moura. She and Manuel farmed in the Upper Valley. Their farming operation began in 1945 by taking over her family farm, where they raised alfalfa hay and grain, as well as owned over 150 head of registered and commercial Herefords.

Virginia had a deep love for her family and enjoyed their activities. She was always supportive and involved in her son's and three grandchildren's church, school, and 4-H activities. While she was an only child, Manuel's family gave her the joy of a large family and the opportunities to travel to enjoy their many nieces and nephews. She loved to travel to visit family in Brazil, the Azores Islands, Canada, the East Coast, and Bermuda.

Her years in the public sector gave her numerous opportunities to meet many people and make lifelong friends. Her recollections of these days included humorous events, as well as events that influenced and impacted the growth and history of Pershing County. Virginia's views and thoughts were respected by all people who engaged her in conversation.

Virginia was involved in many community organizations. She was a member of Saint John the Baptist Church, where she was an active member of the Saint Agnes Altar Society for over sixty years. She was a founding member of the Lovelock Soroptimists Club, and was active in the Lovelock Eaglettes, Pershing County Farm Bureau, the Portuguese I.D.E.S., and the United Portuguese of California. Her hard work and love of her Portuguese heritage helped preserve the Portuguese traditions celebrated during the Annual Festa in Lovelock. She took great pride in making the traditional Saint Anthony's bread year after year. Virginia is one of the reasons the Festa still continues annually after almost 75 years.

Virginia's life was committed to her family and her church. Her values and goals were always demonstrated by her example as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, neighbor, and friend.

Researched and written by her granddaughter, Amy Moura Blanchard, October 2006.

Women's History Month Biographies New Plan

I received a call from my contact at the *Nevada Appeal*. The editor informed me that he will NOT be printing a daily biography of women during the month of March. He is going to concentrate on the sesquicentennial of Carson City. So, the only biographies we'll get in the *Nevada Appeal* this year are those about women who lived in Carson City 150 years ago. Get your thinking caps on and do some research and write . . .

Donna Clontz is handling biographies for the *Reno Gazette Journal* this year and she has a UNR student working on the project. So, if you are writing about a woman who is not from Carson City 150 years ago, please contact Donna – 747-5452 or e-mail at donnanorm1@yahoo.com – and let her know what you are working on.

Here's the deal: if you write the piece for the web site, using the online biography format and it is printed, then the biography belongs to the NWHP. It can then be condensed to meet the minimum word requirements for the newspaper article. Last year it was 400 words, but I don't know what the *Gazette Journal* wants. If the article is written specifically for the newspaper, then it belongs to the newspaper.

What can we do in a month? We're NWHPers – we can do anything!!

Holly Van Valkenburgh

Featured NWHF Member Jean Cameron Fraser Spiller



I was the second daughter born to Hugh and Sarah Fraser of Reserve, New Mexico. We moved to Socorro when I was nine. After graduating from Socorro High School, I attended New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico. I married a fellow UNM student. While my husband was working on his MBA, I worked as a statistician at the Bureau of Business Research at UNM.

We had two sons and lived in Albuquerque for several years, then in Santa Fe until we moved to Las Vegas, NV in 1963. While in Santa Fe, I worked for the State Department of Education with the Manpower Development and Training programs, and I was a docent in the Palace of the Governors. After our move to Las Vegas I was a stay at home mom and UNLV student getting my teaching credentials. In 1967 I began working for the Clark County School District as a school librarian and retired in 1993. My life as a school librarian was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed every minute of it, well almost every minute. I was able to read so many wonderful books and meet so many fabulous people. I was active in the Nevada Library Association, the American Library Association, and the local and International Reading Association.

In 1988 I had the privilege of being appointed to the Governor's Council on Libraries and Literacy and served for ten years. Since my retirement I have been active in the Mesquite Club, the PEO Sisterhood, and the Nevada Women's History Project.

In 1996 Jean Ford asked if I would help compile a bibliography of books containing information on women in Nevada that are available in Nevada libraries. This project was published in 1997 and entitled *"Women's History in Nevada: A Bibliography of Published Sources."* I also participated in the preparation of *"Women in Nevada History: An Annotated Bibliography of Published Sources,"* published in 2000. I have been active in Nevada Women's History Project since its inception and have served as Treasurer of both the State and Southern District levels, and as Southern District Corresponding Secretary. I wrote several biographies for Volume I, *"Skirts that Swept the Desert Floor,"* and am currently working on biographies for Volume II.

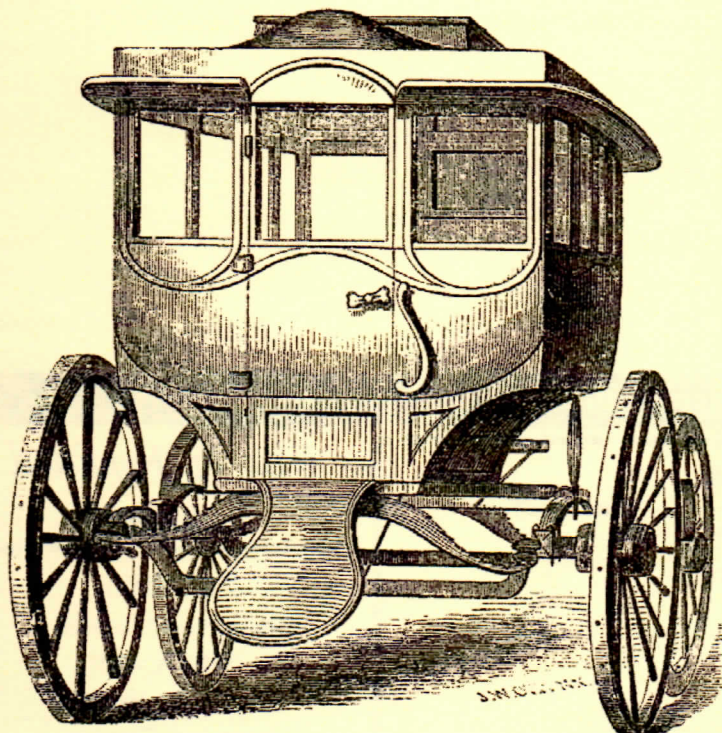


Condolences:

- Sally Zanjani on the loss of her mother, Sallie Ruperti Springmeyer, who died at her home on December 23rd, 2007, at the age of 104. She had resided for nearly 70 years in the Carson Valley house that she and her husband had built on their ranch. Sallie was one of Nevada's first female attorneys and the oldest lawyer in the state, having joined the State Bar of Nevada in 1936. Sally Zanjani was her only child.

Congratulations to:

- NWHP member Kaye Gray who was married in September to Craig Baxter at a beautiful ceremony in Snowbird, Utah.



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 May 2008 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor, Kay Sanders, no later than April 25, 2008. 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
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

Jane Olive: President
Mary Gafford: First Vice President
Betty Miller: Second Vice President
Doris Drummond: Recording Secretary
Jean Spiller: Corresponding Secretary
Su Kim Chung: Treasurer

NWHP STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cherry Jones: President
Jane Olive: First Vice-President
Betty Miller: Second Vice-President
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Third Vice-President
Su Kim Chung: Treasurer
Patty Bernard: 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
Carrie Porter: Archivist

WEBSITE: www.nevadawomen.org

Some NWHP News Contacts

Cherry Jones

E-mail: cljnvquail@charter.net

Kay Sanders

Tel: 775-747-1740

E-mail: ksanders@unr.nevada.edu

NWHP - State Office

770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, Nevada 89502-0708

Tel: 775-786-2335 • Fax: 775-826-6865

Email: NWHP@pyramid.net

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

The Nevada Women's History Project newsletter is published quarterly in Reno, Nevada. Annual subscription rate is included in dues. Non-member subscription rate is \$20 domestic, additional overseas. Copyright NWHP. All rights reserved. Under copyright law, this newsletter and the contents herein may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any means, electronic or otherwise, without permission from the publishers, except in normal use as provided by law. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily reflect official policy of NWHP. Unsolicited articles and photos and requests for Writer's Guidelines should be sent to the editor, NWHP • 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, NV 89502-0708.
Editor: Kay Sanders



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reno, Nevada
Permit No. 568

Visit the Nevada Women's History Project Online at www.nevadawomen.org

Membership Application

Individual Membership: Dues \$25/Year • Student Membership: Dues \$15/Year
Organizational Membership: Dues \$50/Year
Corporate Sponsor: Dues \$250/Year

Name: Individual or Student _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Organization or Corporate Sponsor _____

President or Director _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name of Representative to NWHP _____

Make a Donation to NWHP: Amount sent

Mail to North members - 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste., 300, Reno, NV 89502
NWHP: South members - 2633 Legend Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134-8810.

New & Rejoined Members

Patti Adams
Jennifer Amundsen
Bette A. Ault
Kay Miller Browne
Margaret Conway
Dinah Jordan



2008 BALLOT FOR STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The NWHP State Nominating Committee is please to present the following slate of nominees for the coming two year term. These positions must be filled by election and it is your privilege as a member of the NWHP to actively let your vote count. You may either vote for the slate as it is or you have the opportunity to write in additional candidates. Please be advised that before you can add a name, you must have that person's written permission to do so.

President: Diane Steele
1st Vice President: Lisa-Marie Lightfoot
2nd Vice President: Betty Miller
3rd Vice President: Holly Van Valkenburgh
Secretary: Patti Bernard
Treasurer: Su Kim Chung

I accept this slate as nominated: _____
Your signature

I propose the following alternatives: _____

Your signature (attach written permission)

Please mail your completed ballot by February 29, 2008 to: NWHP
770 Smithridge Dr., #300
Reno, NV 89502

770 Smithridge Drive • Suite 300 • Reno, NV 89502
(775) 786-2335 • Fax (775) 786-8152

A STATE-WIDE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PROVIDING VISIBILITY AND SUPPORT FOR
THE GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF HISTORY ABOUT THE ROLES AND CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF NEVADA WOMEN OF EVERY RACE, CLASS AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND

WASHINGTON, DC
WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL
FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 25, 2008
DEDICATION OF THE NEVADA FLAG STANCHION PLAQUE

HISTORY

In March 2005 the Nevada Women's History Project held their annual conference at the WIMSAM in conjunction with the dedication of the Sarah Winnemucca statue at the Capitol. While admiring the flags of all the states it was discovered that the Nevada flag, unlike many of the others, had no plaque on the stanchion holding it. Kathleen Clemence, who had done such a magnificent job arranging the dedication and conference, announced that there were enough unused conference funds to cover the cost of the plaque. The members attending the conference voted to spend those funds to purchase and install a plaque from the NWHP.

The NWHP State Executive Committee decided on the wording for the plaque at their March, 2006 meeting. Rose Stuart agreed to coordinate a dedication event and since that time she has worked closely with Lt. Col. USA (Retired) Marilla Cushman and Leslie Simmons at the WIMSAM to find a date and time that would fit in their schedule. Hopefully, it will not be so cold in DC in April as in March 2005! Rose has arranged for a group rate of \$149 per night double occupancy at the Crystal City Marriott (where many stayed during the "Sarah dedication") for April 24-27, 2008. Tell them you are with the Travel Center group to get the quoted rate.

Reservations must be made by March 15. We must book 16 rooms to get that rate!

It is interesting to note that the WIMSAM had not been asked about dedicating any other state's Stanchion Plaque and they are very excited about the idea. So we are setting a precedent!

FRIDAY, APRIL 25: Stanchion Dedication--morning, afternoon free, informal
dinner, cost & location to be announced

SATURDAY, APRIL 26: Washington City Tour cost to be announced

*Specific information regarding schedule will be in the February
NWHP Newsletter and mailed to attendees not in NWHP*

Please return to Rose Stuart, 6841 Marble Canyon Rd, Reno, NV 89511-3612 or contact her at grphoneman@sbcglobal.net with your information.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

- ☐ I (we) will attend the stanchion dedication on April 25, 2008 in Washington DC
☐ I will stay at Crystal City Marriott and make my own reservations, 1-800-228-9290 and tell them I am with the Travel Center group for rate of \$149 dbl. occupancy
☐ I will be staying somewhere else
☐ I (we) want to attend dinner with the group on Friday evening
☐ I (we) would be interested in the Washington City Tour on Saturday



ON THE MOVE ~ WOMEN IN TRANSPORTATION
March 7 and 8, 2008, Conference Registration form

Deadline: February 29, 2008

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail	_____

Conference registration fee: \$85.00 (Includes conference and three meals)	\$ _____
Guest for Friday night's reception: \$15.00 X _____	\$ _____
Guest for Saturday night's banquet: \$35.00 X _____	\$ _____
Saturday lunch and program: \$20.00 X _____	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Please make the check payable to: **Nevada Women's History Project**

Please mail to:

Isabel Espinoza
NWHP
122 Lake Glen Drive, Carson City, NV 89703-5215

Questions, call:

Isabel – (775) 883-9035
Lisa-Marie – (775) 849-2050

The opening reception on Friday night will be at 6:00 p.m. at:

Nevada State Railroad Museum
2180 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada

The convention on Saturday will be held at 8:00 a.m. at:

Nevada State Library and Archives
100 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada



The Saturday night banquet will be held at 7:00 p.m. at:

Silver Oak Golf Club
1251 Country Club Drive, Carson City, Nevada

On the Move ~ Women in Transportation
At The Nevada Women's History Project Conference on March 7 and 8, 2008

There will be presentations, as follows:

Friday Evening Entertainment

Nevada Women's History Project members present a skit highlighting the history of Nevada suffrage as related to modes of transportation.

Keynote Speaker is Susan Martinovich
Executive Director, Nevada Department of Transportation

Pioneer Women in Aviation

The likes of Amelia Earhart and Beryl Markham, each was the first solo woman aviator to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean; one flew East to West and the other flew West to East. Earhart was a noted American aviator, author, and women's rights advocate. Markham was a British-born Kenyan author, pilot, horse trainer, and adventurer.

Women Bus Drivers

The history of women school bus driver.

One Women's Methods of Transportation

Transportation methods used by Eilley Orrum Bowers, as she emigrated from Scotland to Nevada via Salt Lake City.

World War II Women Aviators

Over 60 of the Women Air Force Service Pilots, WASPs that flew for the military flew in Nevada. None of them received full veteran's benefits until President Carter signed the bill to establish that law.

Sarah Winnemucca's Ride

Sarah Winnemucca rides to save her people; one of the most famous epochs in Western History.

Nevada's 1913 Women Drivers: Women Who Dared

In an era when women were more often considered property than owners of property, there were an astounding 41 women registered as drivers.

Hand Carts to Zion

Mostly for religious reasons, pioneers made the trek on foot across windblown plains, sun-baked deserts and frozen mountains

Alcan Highway – Benzie Ola "Rusty" Dow

Rusty Dow, trucker and artist, was the first woman to drive the Alcan Highway, the utility road built by the Army in 1944. She drove it all by herself.

Harvey Girls

Harvey Girls were a familiar sight to train travelers across the Southwest from the late 1800 through the first half of the 20th century.

Dog Sledding

Susan Butcher, a dog musher, ran the Iditarod Sled Dog Race four times in five years. It is a grueling 1,112 to 1,131-mile race through Arctic blizzards across the Alaskan wilderness.

Women Teamsters

Mrs. S. H. Ferris drove her own freighting wagon and team on the Goldfield to Bullfrog run in 1904. Charlie Parkhurst was reputed to be the fastest and safest stagecoach driver in California.

Women On The Railroad

Learn about gandy dancers, women hostlers, call girls, railroad slang, and shortline railroads run by women.

Alice's Ride

Alice Huyler Ramsey, a 21-year old Vassar graduate from New Jersey was the first woman to drive across the United States.

State Executive Committee Meeting

The State Executive Committee Meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at:
184 Lake Glen Dr., Carson City, NV 89703 – Phone: (775) 884-4246

Room reservations at \$54.00 per night, at the Plaza Hotel, must be received by 2/20/08 – Phone (775) 883-9500