

Our Mission

To provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of Nevada women of every race, class, and ethnic background.

Alice Ramsey's Amazing Auto Adventure

Alice Ramsey, portrayed by Kathy Noneman, rolled up to the (house) at Bartley Ranch in a vintage Chevy convertible driven by Ed DeMartel of the Hot August Nights organization.



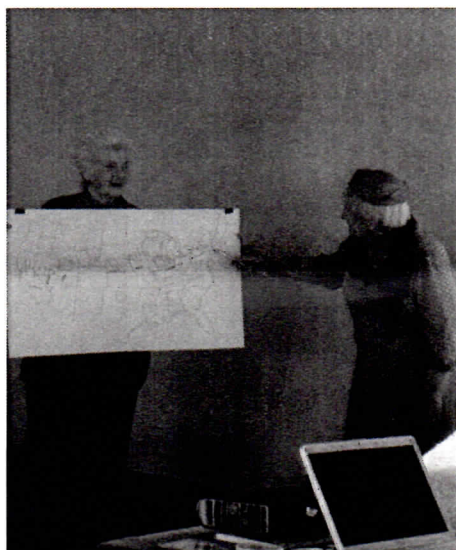
Alice and Chauffeur

NWHP members and guests greeted Alice on the front steps and escorted her into the building where she was given stage front and center. She regaled those present with stories of her adventures beginning in high school when she wanted to take mechanics and her father had to persuade the school board that Alice would be taking mechanics with all the young men.

Alice apparently was a very indulged young lady - first by her father and then by her older, financially successful husband who gave in to Alice's requests for an

automobile when most people were still in the horse and buggy days.

On June 9, 1909, Alice, her two sisters-in-law and a 16 year old neighbor climbed into a brand new Maxwell-Brisco, precursor of the



We drove from New York Chrysler, and began a journey across the United States. The Maxwell-Brisco company promoted Alice's

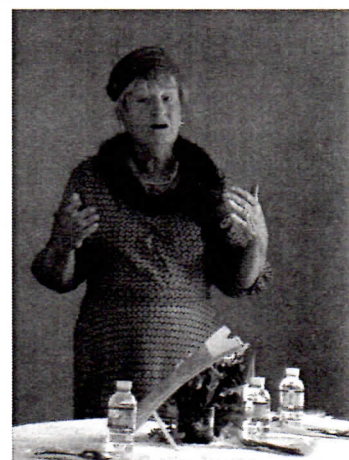
drive across the country as a means of encouraging women to drive.

Since there were no automobile roads, Alice, the only driver in the group of four women, drove on wagon tracks and dirt tracks until they reached San Francisco fifty-nine days later. They drove across Nevada and through Reno and if you look at the mural on the east wall of the

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And our tire slipped.

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building on the corner of South Sierra and California Streets, you will see Alice and her passengers.

Alice's adventure offered a unique perspective on early 20th Century America. Alice subsequently drove across the United States more than 30 times. She passed away at age 96 in 1993, having lived to see women driving expertly throughout the United States on paved roads and modern freeways!



Welcoming Group
Bella Italia (owned by Giuseppe Zappala) catered the luncheon. Bruce Lightfoot and Patty Clock provided creme puffs and designer cookies for dessert. Mary Ann Convis decorated

the tables, Holly Walton-Buchanan manned the slide projector and Carrie Porter and Carolyn Gardner held fast at the book table. Thank you also to Grace Davis, Linda Wyckoff, Charlie Noneman, Charlene Foley, Nell Fozard, and Sue Burkhamer. Our very special thanks to Alice Ramsey as portrayed by Kathy Noneman. Both Alice Ramsey and Kathy Noneman are women to be proud of!

Marcia Bernard Cuccaro
and Patti Bernard

New Book about the Making of the Sarah Winnemucca Statue

The long awaited book about the Sarah Winnemucca statue should be available by the June 23, 2012 Pink Tea in Carson City! The NWHP contracted with Mona Reno to compile this book to be sent to the Architect of the Capitol, as was required at the time of submitting the statue to the National Statuary Hall Collection. The book is titled *It Can Be Done* and is dedicated to Dema and Kenny Guinn.

With the help of many NWHP members and friends this book includes the chronology of the legislation, the fundraising efforts, the dedications, and the current location of the Sarah Winnemucca statue in the new

Capitol Visitors Center. There are many photographs and stories by those involved in the process. We know you will all want this book as a reminder of all the loving work that was accomplished for this project.

The book is not yet to the printer so the price is not known, but we will make it as reasonable as possible. Please keep this in mind and look toward to more information in the next couple of months.

The Sarah Winnemucca Statue was dedicated in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol, March 9, 2005.

Patti Bernard



Photo by Bob Harmon, Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs
The Sarah Winnemucca Statue in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol, March 9, 2005.

NWHP Collection of Files on Nevada Women to be Housed at the Nevada Historical Society

The NWHP collection of Nevada women's files will soon be accessible to researchers at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. A resolution authorizing this change was voted on and passed unanimously at the January 17, 2012, meeting of the NWHP Executive Committee. In April the Nevada Women's Fund Director and CEO Isabelle Rodriquez Wilson signed the loan agreement as did Sherlyn Hayes-Zorn, Acting Director of the Nevada Historical Society. As soon as an index is completed, NWHP will begin the transfer of its collections to the NHS facility at 1650 North Virginia Street in Reno. NWHP will retain ownership of the collections. In addition to individual files, other items to be loaned will include photos, miscellaneous files on women's issues and organizations, NWHP newsletters, cassettes, tapes, DVDs, and CDs.

Our decision to pursue this change in policy was based largely on the difficulty of our all-volunteer membership to serve as docents whenever anyone wished to access our collections and the lack of requests by researchers to do so. It became increasingly evident as the years went by

that without a paid employee to handle inquiries that we did receive, very little use would be made of our collections. The Nevada Historical Society staff members are pleased that their institution will serve as the repository of our collections which will complement their extensive holdings. Our files and other materials will be housed in separate containers and identified as belonging to the Nevada Women's History Project. NWHP members will be trained to add new information to existing files, bring in new files as they are produced, and add other pertinent material deemed of value to researchers.

The NWHP office, located in the Nevada Women's Fund office at 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300, Reno, will continue to be our organization's meeting place, repository for our equipment, sale items, books, organizational files, computer, printer, work station, phone, fax, supplies, raffle items, and remaining collections.

NWHP will continue with its mission to collect information and write biographies of Nevada women, do oral histories, reach out to the community with special events and programs,

and to educate our citizenry about the contributions women in Nevada have made both past and present.

Updates on the progress of this transition will be made via the NWHP newsletters and at our meetings throughout the coming year. We are excited that access to our research material will be available every week of the year at the oldest historic research institution in our state.

*Kay Sanders, Co-Chair
Jean Ford Research Center
Editor, Web site biographies*

***If you know of anyone
who might be willing to
come speak to our group
please call or e-mail
Marcia Cuccaro:***

**883-1454
vergato1@sbcglobal.net**

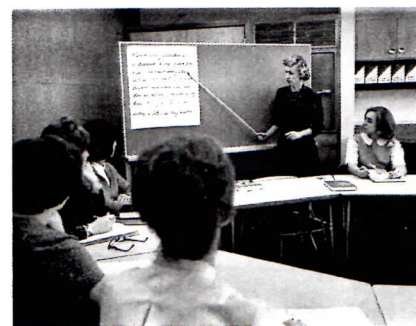
Pat Tripple Retrospective

NWHP is pleased to announce that a series of interviews with former UNR Home Economics Dean Pat Tripple led to a book entitled *Patricia A. Tripple, Educator and Legislator, A Retrospective*. This



Pat Tripple and one of her "lobbyists"

book describes Pat's interesting journey from a young Depression Era girl who obtained self-confidence through her Girl Scouting experiences to become the first Dean of the Sarah Hamilton Fleischmann School of Home Economics at the University of Nevada, Reno and a Washoe County State Assemblywoman serving in one of the most unique legislative sessions in the state's history. Along the way, she obtained a Doctorate level degree in education when a college Bachelor's Degree was quite an achievement for a young woman in the 1950s. She was actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement and became a leader in Home Economics Education at State,



1962

Pat Tripple in Classroom

National and International levels. Look for additional information on this soon to be published most interesting retrospective in the near future. The Nevada Women's History Project is honored to call Pat Tripple one of its own. She has been a member since our organization began.

Patti Bernard

NWHP Annual Pink Tea

The Nevada Women's History Project Annual Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion will be Saturday, June 23, 2012, 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

We will be sharing the book about the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project. The archivist of the United States Capital informed us that a history of the statue project is required for the Archives. We are thrilled to finally fulfill

our obligation: Mona Reno has gathered the information and created this book for us.

The cost will be \$35.00 per person, Please mail your check to the Nevada Women's History Office:

NWHP
770 Smithridge Drive,
Suite 300
Reno, NV 89502-0708

Mary Anne Convis

New & Rejoined Members

- Fritsi Erickson
- Nancyann Leeder
- JoAnne Peden

submitted by
Grace Davis

New Officers and Annual Meeting Saturday, July 14, 2012

You have voted and new officers for the 2012-2014 term will be:

Chair - Mona Reno
Vice Chair - Lynn Bremer
Treasurer - Linda Wyckoff
Secretary - Patti Bernard

They will assume their new duties at our Annual Meeting which will be held Saturday, July 14, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Cynthia Pickett, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Licensed Addictions Counselor (LADC). She is an expert in drug/alcohol addictions, domestic violence and sexual trauma. In addition to the knowledge she gained through her formal studies, Cynthia has availed herself of guidance from Native American shamans and eastern

monks and she also uses this knowledge in further assisting her clients in their healing process. Additional information on Cynthia's background and expertise can be found at <http://cynthiapickett.com/>

We will be meeting at Arlington Gardens on West Plumb Lane in Reno, Nevada. Reservations and payment are required prior to the meeting and the cost will be \$30.00. Reservations can be made by sending your check to:

Marcia Cuccaro
1005 West Sunset Way
Carson City, NV 89703

no later than Monday, July 9, 2012. So mark your calendars for this summer event!

Marcia Cuccaro

Financial Report

At the end of the first four months of 2012 the History Project has a positive net income of \$2402.37. This is partly due to the success of the Alice Ramsey luncheon which brought in \$685.00. Another source of income for the first part of the year is dues of \$3,210.00. Expenses include the

webtech and the intern as well as the usual operating expenses. Our bank balance at the end of April is \$26,943.76.

Linda Wyckoff
Treasurer

2011 - 2012

NWHP Leadership

Steering Committee:

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Chair
Marcia Cuccaro: Vice-Chair
Patti Bernard: Secretary; Editor
First Ladies Biographies
Linda Wyckoff: Treasurer
Holly Van Valkenburgh:
Newsletter & Project Review
TBD: Program Chair
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster
TBD: Marketing and Publicity
Grace Davis: Membership
Kay Sanders and Carrie Porter:
Jean Ford Research Center
Carrie Porter: Archivist
Kay Sanders: Editor, Web Site
Biographies
Martha Gould: Oral Histories

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Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Molly Flagg Knudtsen

At a glance:

Birth: September 15, 1915, New York City, NY

Death: July 24, 2001, Reno, Nevada

Maiden Name: Thyrsa Benson Flagg

Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian

Married: Robert Gibb in 1937, Richard (Dick) Magee in 1942, William C. Knudtsen in 1969.

Children: One son – William Flagg Magee

Primary city and county of

residence and work: Grass Valley, Lander County; Reno, Washoe County

Major fields of work: Cattle rancher, author, educator

Other role identities: Board of Regents member, environmentalist, historic preservation advocate, wife, mother

Thyrsa Benson Flagg, "Molly," was born in New York City into a privileged life. The family's great wealth enabled her to travel in the highest social circles. She was privately schooled, took riding lessons in Central Park, and vacationed in Europe. Her formal debut in New York society was in the fall of 1933, and the following spring she was presented at the Court of St. James in London. She attended the University of London's King's College, intermittently touring the Continent.

Molly was married to Robert

Gibb in 1937. Seriously injured in a horse-riding accident that same year, she spent nearly two years recovering at the home of friends in Cannes, France. Here, she often dined with the recently abdicated Duke of Windsor and his wife. In 1939 Molly returned to the U.S. and two years later, went to Reno, Nevada, to obtain a divorce from Gibb. Staying at an outlying dude ranch, she helped train racehorses, no problem for one who had earned a diploma from the prestigious Royal Institute of the Horse in London. At this dude ranch, she met handsome Richard (Dick) Magee, trainer of thoroughbred horses, owner of the huge Grass Valley Ranch, northeast of Austin, graduate of Princeton, and member of one of Nevada's founding families. Molly and Richard (Dick) married in 1942. Thus, she began her second life in one of the most remote valleys of the state.

In 1931, Dick had purchased a herd of registered purebred Hereford cattle developed by the University of Nevada's College of Agriculture. This herd became the cornerstone of success for his ranch in the years that followed. Molly learned how to register purebred Hereford cattle and about

bovine psychology. She improved and preserved the lineage of the herd. Later this purebred Hereford line was brought back to the University. From her observations of cow behavior, Molly

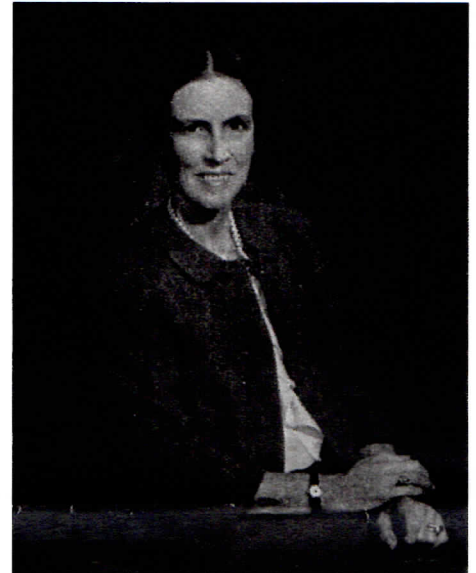


Photo credit: Molly Knudsten Collection

wrote *Cow Sense*, published in 1977. She published articles in *Vogue*, *Family Circle*, Austin's *Reese River Reveille* newspaper, and various archaeology magazines. In cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution, the University of California, the Nevada State Museum, and the Desert Research Institute, Molly found archaeological sites as she rode about the ranch, collecting and documenting artifacts and mapping sites. These pursuits led her to become a trustee of the Nevada State Museum.

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Historic Nevada Woman

Her interest in Lander County's history resulted in a campaign to re-roof Austin's Episcopal Church and to preserve Stokes Castle. In 1971, businessmen thought of moving the mysterious Stokes Castle from Austin to the Las Vegas strip. This prompted Molly to buy the Roman watchtower-like building and its underlying gold mine so it would remain in Austin. Ironically, the "castle" had been built in 1897 by Molly's wealthy New York cousin, Anson Phelps Stokes, a nineteenth-century mining and railroad baron. He lived there during his early business stays in Austin.

In 1960, concern about limited educational opportunities in rural areas led Molly to seek a position on the Board of Regents at the University. Against advice from friends who said she could not win, rancher Molly Magee ran a ranch-to-ranch campaign in the cow counties. She won by a landslide. Facing the hostility of eight male regents, the hard-working and charming Molly was soon acknowledged as "one of the most articulate and best informed persons" to hold the regent position. She was instrumental in establishing the University of Nevada Press (1961), the Department of Anthropology, UNR, the community college system (1968), and an ex-

pansion of the College of Agriculture and thence the creation of the total University of Nevada system. Molly played a key role in the complex and difficult decisions facing the regents, using her wit, humor, and "cow sense." Continuing her many roles of public service, she wrote and spoke about archaeology, literature, poetry, historic preservation, agriculture, and ranch life. In 1973, Molly was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science degree in archaeology-anthropology from the University.

After becoming more involved in horse racing in California, Dick Magee moved himself and his horses to a ranch in that state. Molly bought the Grass Valley Ranch from him; they were divorced in 1969. Molly increased the size of the ranch, as well as the size of its purebred and commercial herds. Her purebred bulls brought top prices at Western auctions. She worked with the cattle daily. In 1969, Molly married William C. Knudtsen, a California rancher and stockman.

Molly's life again took a big turn in 1987. While chasing a calf, her horse stepped into a badger hole, and she was thrown. The horse landed atop her, and she was badly injured.

Her recovery was long and hard. After this accident, Molly remained in Reno, but with Bill's help continued to manage the ranch from a distance. In 1995, she sold the 9,000-acre Grass Valley Ranch and all the cattle, yet still continued her writing, research, and public service until her death in 2001. Excelling in all she did, former socialite Dr. Molly Kundtsen, rancher, environmentalist, educator, participated extensively in building the new Nevada.

**Researched and written by
Doris Drummond.**

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no later than ,
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**E-mail her at:
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Visit the Nevada Women's History Project Online at www.nevadawomen.org

Membership Application and Renewal (Calendar Year)

Individual Membership: Dues \$30/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 _____

☐ Please send newsletter digitally to above e-mail address. DO NOT MAIL.

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Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name of Representative to NWHP _____

Make a Donation to NWHP: Amount sent \$ _____

Total Amount sent \$ _____

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

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