

# September 2014

Volume 19, Number 3

Our Mission

To provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of all Nevada women.

# **150 YEARS OF FASHIONABLE HISTORY**

By Patti Bernard

We have been busy planning our September 27, 2014 "150 Years of Fashionable History" old fashioned box lunch social and hope to see you all in attendance. Fashions of each decade will be modeled from the 1860s through the present.



WHEN:	Saturday, September 27th 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
WHERE	The historic main ranch house at heautiful Rancho

- VHERE: The historic, main ranch house at beautiful Rancho San Rafael, 1595 N. Sierra, Reno, NV
- COST: Adults \$35; Children 16 and younger \$15 Includes a box lunch
- CALL: For Questions call Marcia Cuccaro 883-1454

Although the event is highlighted with the fashionable history about the women of the Mudd/Gosse families who made outstanding contributions to many social issues in Nevada, some of their menfolk were also involved in events that so typified our early statehood years, that a few of their stories and fashions will be also be included,

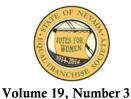
It's always dangerous to classify someone as "the first" in any one area, as history is full of unknown people and events that are just waiting to be discovered to prove that previous assertion wrong.

I first came across the name of Marguerite Gosse Clark in a brochure that we traditionally gave out at our annual Pink Tea. This was a small pamphlet that gave twelve mini biographies of women that were "firsts" in some aspect of their Nevada lives such as "first" woman attorney in Nevada, "first" woman legislator, and "first" woman District Attorney in Nevada.

As I read through these biographies I thought it would be more interesting for the reader to have additional facts to better visualize who these women were, so that their accomplishments could be more easily remembered. Thus, I set about with a great bit of zeal and curiosity to locate more information about them. Some were easily found on our website section of <u>Nevada Women</u> <u>Biographies www.nevadawomen.org</u>. But others were yet to be written.

Marguerite Gosse Clark was listed on the pamphlet as a native of Virginia City who was active in community welfare work in Reno. The pamphlet also stated she had been associated with the YWCA and that she helped her father manage the old Riverside Hotel. Also highlighted was that she was the **first** Nevada-born woman elected to the State Legislative Assembly. A full biography was not on our website but those few facts were enough to piqué my interest and I was off and running to fill in the life of this noble woman.





**Continued on Page 4** 

NWHP News

# NWHP MAKES IT HAPPEN: NEW SUFFRAGE WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING

By Kathy Noneman

If you haven't visited <u>www.suffrage100nv.org</u>, then you must do it now. Susan Skorupa of the *Reno Gazette-Journal* not only visited our new site, but she wrote a full page article which appeared in the <u>Our Nevada</u> section of the *RGJ* on July 22, 2014. This site will serve as the nationwide source of information on how Nevada women obtained their right to vote 100 years ago. As women everywhere prepare to celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution in 2020, they will have accurate, historical information about Nevada's successful campaign.

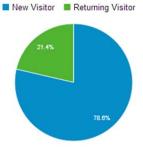
Our suffrage web and grant committee, Kay Sanders, Kathy Noneman, Leslie Carson-Marlowe and Mona Reno obtained a \$2,000 grant from Nevada Humanities and hired Shannon Hataway of Tangerine Web and Design to create our suffrage website. Shannon worked on the project for over 3 months and created an easily navigable and entertaining, as well as informative site with lots of pictures and graphs. Several of our members wrote articles; Dr. Dana Bennett allowed us to use her timeline and Mona Reno added many interesting spots to it. Dr. Sally Zanjani is contributing a monthly blog using her extensive research on suffrage. We will be asking other Nevada history scholars to contribute articles as well.

Your grant committee will be seeking additional funds to add more information to the site. With that in mind, we are asking our members who may have information or family memorabilia about the suffrage movement to please contact us so that we can include your information on the website. Our website also features a store where you may conveniently purchase our merchandise or donate to NWHP. We appreciate your providing whatever help that you can.

Please visit *www.suffrage100nv*.org to learn all the latest news from 100 years ago.

Thank you Nevada Humanítíes!

Here is a report from Google Analytics for the launch in July 2014 to the middle of August 2014.



		Acquisition	
Cou	intry / Territory	Sessions 🤄 🦊	
		<b>131</b> % of Total: 100.00% (131)	
1.	United States	92 (70.23%)	
2.	🔊 Brazil	24 (18.32%)	
3.	Italy	5 (3.82%)	
4.	Argentina	<b>1</b> (0.76%)	
5.	🗎 Finland	<b>1</b> (0.76%)	
6.	United Kingdom	1 (0.76%)	
7.	Malaysia	<b>1</b> (0.76%)	
8.	Nigeria	1 (0.76%)	
9.	Netherlands	<b>1</b> (0.76%)	
10.	Panama	1 (0.76%)	
11.	Peru	<b>1</b> (0.76%)	
12.	Portugal	1 (0.76%)	
13.	Venezuela	1 (0.76%)	

Sessions: **131** Uses: **111** Pages/Session **3.10** August Session Duration: **00:02:17** Bounce Rate: **57.25%** %New Sessions **78.63** 



### NWHP ARCHIVING PROCEDURES

By Jacki Falkenroth, Jean Ford Research Center Committee

For over 3 years, members of the Jean Ford Research Center Committee have been working to clean out and organize our files. Twenty-six boxes of research materials have been moved to the Nevada Historical Society to make the information more available for research. Our remaining NWHP files are being stored in the back room of our office. To help eliminate clutter and to make our files more accessible and useable, the committee has developed the following procedures for handling archival materials. This policy will be posted in the office.

Before leaving materials to be filed, please do the following:

- 1. Clean out files remove duplicates, any notes or information of a personal nature, and paperclips.
- 2. Cut out newspaper articles be sure to include the name of the newspaper, date and page number.
- 3. If you know where the files should go, please file them yourself.
- 4. If you're not sure where to put the files, leave a note indicating the following: Where should the materials be archived?
  - <u>Nevada Historical Society</u> materials pertaining to the history of women in Nevada i.e. suffragist movement, or individual women's biographies, autobiographies, oral histories.

Office Files – materials relating to the organization NWHP itself

i.e. officers' reports, fund raising, grants, programs, publicity materials.

What's contained in the files?

Who left the files, including contact information?

Materials should be left in the back room storage area, not in the main office.

Thank You for your cooperation!!

The Jean Ford Research Center Committee

## DANA BENNETT, PhD ON NEVADA SUFFRAGE

Plans are in the works for Dana Bennett to present a talk on Nevada Suffrage for the NWHP in October. We are working toward a Meet and Greet at the home of Patti Bernard, in Reno, in the middle of the month of October. This will be a light refreshment event.

As soon as we have more information and a solid date and time we will definitely let you know.



#### www.nevadawomen.org

#### **Continued from Page 1**

What I discovered was that Marguerite was NOT the first native born Nevada woman elected to the State Assembly [Ruth Averill (R-Nye) was elected in 1920], but that she WAS the one woman given credit for getting passed a piece of nursing legislation in the 1923 State Legislature that affects all nurses in Nevada even today. And she made national news headlines in the process.

Also while uncovering the story of Marguerite, I discovered information (both humorous and tragic) to piece together the stories of two typical immigrant families who dearly loved their newly adopted state. As conscientious Nevadans, they set out to improve aspects of everyday life of the citizens in which they shared it with. Starting in the late 1860s, when outside influences propelled them to move to the Comstock and eventually intermarry, through the period of their strong influence which extended well into the twentieth century. These folks represent what is best and unique about Nevadans. Their contributions deserve to be remembered and recognized.

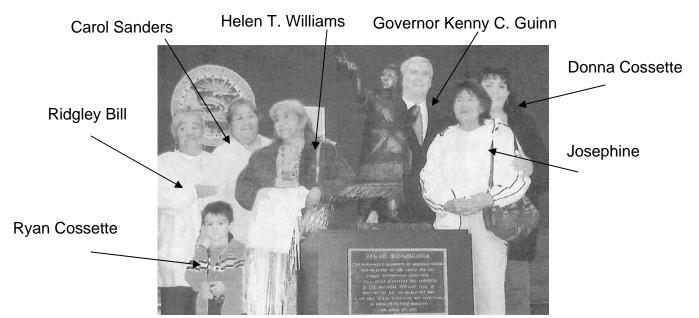
But women have continued to fight for women's rights. Therefore our fashion show takes us not just back through the past but to the present. From Women's Suffrage Rights to Civil Rights; from Equal Rights through today's Equal Pay Rights, women have been working to improve the lives of other women.

Marguerite Gosse's Aunt Anna Mudd Warren, one of the first attorneys admitted to the Nevada Bar Association, once owned a button shop in Reno. She understood a fashionable woman stood out in a crowd. Every woman knows that when she looks good, she feels good and any achievement is possible. The Gosse/ Mudd women as well as ourselves in latter years have thus been fighting for our rights through these many decades and will continue to do so-FASHIONABLY.

Fashion commentator Carolyn Runnells <u>www.LadyCarolyn.com</u> will weave the educational and entertaining stories behind the dress styles that our models will portray from the 1860s to current times. What garments were fads or classic fashion throughout the years? How did one manage to keep clothes clean in early Nevada communities? Her lively delivery will fill–in many details.

AND what better way to experience history than to attend an old fashioned lunch box social that was so common to many Nevada communities. It's a perfect way to spend a delightful September afternoon.

These are descendants of Sarah Winnemucca's family who were not identified in *It Can Be Done* the Sarah Winnemucca statue book on page 134. Thank You Donna Cossette for these names.



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# 2014 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT MONA RENO



At the May 29, 2014 Nevada Women's Fund, Salute to Women of Achievement Luncheon Mona Reno was honored for her work with the Nevada Women's History Project.

"Mona will preside over Nevada's 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Graduating from Idaho State University (BA in Anthropology), she worked as an archaeologist. An M.A. in Library Science from the University of Arizona led her to the Nevada State Library. She recently compiled and produced a publication documenting NWHP's efforts to send the Sarah Winnemucca statue to Washington, DC. She and her husband Ron reside in Silver City, Nevada."

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

### What is Women's Equality Day?

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the US Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day."



The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of

National Women's History Project

the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Workplaces, libraries, organizations, and public facilities now participate with Women's Equality Day programs, displays, video showings, or other activities.

# NEVADA HERITAGE PLAYING CARDS

http://dcnr.nv.gov/documents/nv-heritageplaying-cards/

Mona Reno, Chair NWHP, worked with the State Historic Preservation Office on three of the Queens in this deck of cards. In the Guide for these three queens our biographies website is listed as the source for more information.



The guide book is available at <u>http://dcnr.nv.gov/wp-</u>

content/uploads/2014/04/Complete-Playing-Card-Guide-Book-for-web-smaller1.pdf

The deck of cards are free. Call the Director of the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources to find out where to get them 775-684-2700.







### EUPHRASIA LOUISA "UNA" (REILLY) DICKERSON (1881 – 1959) 1st First Lady born in Nevada (Hamilton, White Pine Co.) Governor Denver S. Dickerson (1908 – 1910)

### At a glance:

Born: July 12, 1881 (Hamilton, NV) Died: April 9,1959 (Reno, NV) Burial: Carson City, NV Maiden Name: Euphrasia Louisa "Una" Reilly Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian Married: 23 Apr 1904 (Hamilton NV) Children: Harvey, Norinne, June, Donald, Denver, Barbara, Belford, George Primary city and county of residence and work: Carson City, NV, Reno, NV Major fields of work: First Lady, Librarian Other role identities: Wife, Mother

Euphrasia Louisa "Una" (Reilly) Dickerson, born July 12, 1881, to James Reilly and Elizabeth Doyle Reilly in Hamilton, Nevada, was the first native Nevadan to become a Nevada First Lady. Her father owned a dry goods store and was the Postmaster of the small town of Hamilton, which was founded after the discovery of rich silver ore in 1868. Hamilton was one of the boom/bust towns created throughout the state, and at the time of Una's birth, held the distinction of being the county seat of White Pine County. Una and her siblings, Norinne, James, Liza, Harvey and Garrett lived in this small mining town until their father's death in 1886. Una's mother was left to care for six children under the age of twelve.

In 1900 Nevada's population was 42,335 and the 1900 Federal Census found 18 year old Una teaching school in a one room schoolhouse in Cherry Creek, Nevada. During the early 1900's young, single schoolteachers were housed with families in the small towns or on ranches where they were contracted to teach. Una boarded with a local saddler by the name of Ira McKnight, his wife and two sons. The town, located north of Ely, Nevada was organized after the discovery of ore deposits in 1872 and was named after the wild chokecherries that grew along its stream.



Photo credit: Nevada Historical Society

Grandson Denver S. Dickerson related a family story about how Una and his grandfather, also Denver S. Dickerson, met. Mustered out of the US Cavalry after the Spanish-American War, he decided to leave Oregon with a friend to seek his fortune in California until destiny intervened. He rode his horse down the Steptoe Valley when, some days later, he reached Cherry Creek just as night was falling. He stopped for the night at a local hotel and was informed that a masked ball was being held later in the evening. The event was a box social in which a dinner prepared by the ladies was shared with whomever they were dancing with when the masks were removed at the stroke of midnight.

As the clock tolled, Dickerson saw the face of Cherry Creek's school marm for the first time. The next morning, when his trail partner suggested it was time to hit the road, Dickerson replied he had decided to stay over for a few days. On April 23, 1904, the *Eureka Sentinel* announced the marriage of Mr. D.S. Dickerson and Miss Una Reilly which took place in the parlors of the Brown Hotel. It was noted in the newspaper article that Una was "a very capable young lady, possessing marked clerical ability and efficiently filled the position of Minute Clerk in the Nevada Assembly of 1903." A later publication, *Mothers of Achievement in American History* 1776-1976, noted Una Reilly had attended business school in Michigan and had returned to the State of Nevada to serve as Minute Clerk for the Nevada State Legislature.

The newlywed couple made their home in Ely, Nevada where her husband was the White Pine County Recorder. In Ely, the family grew larger by one when son Harvey was born. Denver Dickerson was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1906 at age 34 and the family moved to Carson City, Nevada with new baby Norinne. Denver S. Dickerson became Nevada's 11th and youngest Governor upon the untimely death of Governor John Sparks in 1908. In July 1909, the Dickersons became the first occupants of Nevada's newly constructed Governor's Mansion and daughter June, the only child ever to have been born in the Governor's mansion, arrived shortly thereafter. A special train from Reno brought guests for what was reported to be an "elaborate Reception," as the Mansion was opened the public for the first time on New Year's Day 1910. The classical revival structure has continued to house Nevada's Governors and their families for over one hundred years.

Carson City remained home for Una for the next fourteen years, during which time the Dickerson's added five more children to their family. With school-age children, there were always demands on her time. Una was a leader in the many social events that took place in Carson City during those years. Denver held the positions of Warden of the Nevada Penitentiary, Federal Superintendent of Prisons and again Warden of the Nevada Penitentiary. It was there that he passed away at age 53 on November 28, 1925. Like her mother before her, Una was left a widow with eight children to care for – ages 19, 17, 15, 14, 10, 3 year old twins and a 2 year old! Una had to go to work. Fortunately the skills that she learned in Business School, honed in the Nevada State Legislature, enabled her to obtain a position In Reno as law librarian for the Washoe County Library. She held this position until her retirement in 1957.

During her years as law librarian, Una had the opportunity to meet many of the young "up -and-coming" new attorneys and attorneys to be. An article in the February 4, 1935, Reno Evening Gazette noted Una Reilly Dickerson had assisted a generation of Nevada lawyers studying for the bar in the research area of the Washoe County Library. She never failed to help the mostly young men in their endeavors to obtain information. Local attorney Kathy Noneman stated that even today, in 2014, Una's reputation for knowing the law is still legend at the Washoe County Law Library. In 1945, Una Reilly Dickerson was Nevada's first "Mother of the Year," an honor bestowed on her by the American Federation of Women's Clubs.

Una raised her eight children into adulthood, no small feat during the times when diseases such as polio, diphtheria, tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza (e.g. influenza pandemic of 1918) often took the lives of children in Nevada and the United States. Many of Una Reilly Dickerson's children went on to become prominent Nevada figures in their adult lives. Daughter Norinne Buck attributed their success to "my mother's love and guidance. I feel we have all tried to live up to her confidence and faith in us, and I know she was proud of all of us."

In March 2014, Una's grandson, Denver Dickerson, wrote: "When I think of the courage and determination of this woman – alone through the Great Depression, seeing that her children were properly raised, and that all of them received an education, I am filled with pride and emotion for a wonderful person, whose unique role in the history of Nevada is forever secured."

#### Continued from Page 7

Una's retirement in August of 1957 had been precipitated by a fall at her home where she sustained a fractured arm. She continued to live at her home in Reno until her death on April 9, 1959 in a Reno hospital. She was 77 years old. She is buried in Lone Mountain Cemetery in Carson City, Nevada alongside her husband Denver S. Dickerson.

#### Researched and written by Marcia Bernard Cuccaro

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### WOMEN IN NEVADA HISTORY

By Kathy Noneman

Have you read any good books about Nevada women lately?

In 2000 NWHP published its annotated bibliography entitled *Women in Nevada History*. This was one of Jean Ford's pet projects. We oldtimers all remember those ubiquitous purple cards, hours spent scouring libraries and bookstores throughout Nevada and then reading and searching and annotating Nevada women. Jean Ford, Betty Glass and Martha Gould edited the book and NWHP provided copies for school and public libraries all over the state.

Time has gone by since the last century, 14 years to be exact, and many more books about Nevada women have been published. Advances have also been made in technology.

Betty Glass, a Librarian at Special Collections at UNR and one of the original editors has volunteered to update the bibliography for us. The original book will be scanned and available on the UNR website. There readers will be able to check to see if the book they are reading is included in the original bibliography. If your book was published after 1998 or has been updated since then, we want to know about it. We are asking our members to let us know about any new or updated volumes.

How will we do this? In our next newsletter we hope to have a form ready to fill out or tell you how to let Betty Glass know about your book online. In the meantime, please be looking for books about Nevada women.

# BENJAMIN VICTOR SCULPTS NORMAN BORLAUG FOR THE NATIONAL STATUARY HALL COLLECTION

By Adrian Higgins for The Washington Post March 24, 2014

Benjamin Victor and his son Caleb, who is 12, walked briskly the other day from the White House to the US Botanic Garden, on the Mall side of the Capitol. They arrived unflushed; Caleb is young and vital, and his father, 35, is clearly an athlete, with broad shoulders and a thin waist. But the journey was longer than they imagined. "Phew," Benjamin said. "Made it."

Benjamin Victor is from Aberdeen, SD, and is carrying a little pouch that houses a camera. He might be mistaken for millions of other tourists in cherry blossom season, but if Victor is a mere springtime visitor, he will leave a Washington legacy more enduring than most of the rest of us in this town. The work of guileless Benjamin Victor will be around long after we are forgotten.

In 2005, he sculpted the figure of a woman named Sarah Winnemucca, a Native American from Nevada, for the National Statuary Hall Collection in the US Capitol.





Tuesday, dignitaries will gather on the Hill to commemorate another of his works, the bronze sculpture of a man named Norman Borlaug.

For Benjamin Victor, the competition started as yet another commission but soon became something far greater. He began to read about Borlaug and came to understand that Borlaug was as important to agriculture as, say, Charles Darwin was to our understanding of natural evolution or J. Robert Oppenheimer was to the atomic bomb.

Victor was one of 65 artists who submitted applications. Ken Quinn, who is director of the World Food Prize, based in Des Moines and which commissioned the statue, said Victor stood out for two reasons: One, he was a gifted figurative sculptor who brought Winnemucca to life in the Capitol, and, more important, he brought a passion to the persona of Norman Borlaug that could not be denied.

In the two years it took to transform Borlaug into clay and then bronze, Victor was thinking constantly of what his subject did to make our world a better place.

# NWHP RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE ESTELLE J. KELSEY FOUNDATION

The Grant Committee submitted an application to the Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation to update the main NWHP website at <u>www.nevadawomen.org</u>. We are very excited that we were successful in that grant. We received the following letter from the Kelsey Foundation Trustees.

"Please be advised that due to the hard work of Patti Bernard and the support of Marcia Cuccaro, the Trustees of the ESTELLE J. KELSEY FOUNDATION have made the decision to grant \$5,000 to the Nevada Women's History Project.

We hope the contribution will help with the upgrading of the web site, and contribute to the dreams and goals of NWHP."

This project will begin in early 2015 and is projected to take many months. If you have input on the existing website and any changes you would like to see please contact us at nwhp@pyramid.net.

# NEVADA STATE FAIR REPORT

The NV150 Fair was held in Carson City, NV at Fuji Park July 30-August 3, 2014. The NWHP had a 10'x10' canopy with many interesting items in it. The Fair made a profit of \$361.83.

The following people helped the booth with set-up, staffing or take-down.

Patti Bernard, Marcia Cuccaro, Mary Anne Convis, Isabel Espinosa, Nell Fozard, Christianne Hamel, Jon Hamel, Joyce Hinton, Mona Reno, Ron Reno, Carolyn Runnells, Holly Van Valkenburgh. Patty Wallace

# **REMEMBER NWHP WHEN YOU GIVE TO KUNR**

### KUNR B8.7 RENO PUBLIC RADIO N P r

88.7 KUNR Reno Public Radio provides a number of free, 15-second onair messages to non-profit organizations on behalf of donors who support KUNR at certain levels.

The Nevada Women's History Project has been designated to receive free messages. The messages are written for length and FCC Public Radio compliance. The following message will air a total of 8 times; airing 3 a day on Wednesday 9/9, Thursday 9/10 and 2 a day on 9/11/14 as follows:

KUNR RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM CHARLIE AND KATHY NONEMAN FOR NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT. PRESENTING A BOX LUNCH SOCIAL WITH FASCINATING WASHOE COUNTY HISTORY AND FASHIONS FOR NEVADA'S 150th BIRTHDAY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, AT RANCHO SAN RAFAEL MAIN RANCH HOUSE. MORE INFO AND TICKETS AT *NEVADAWOMEN.ORG*.

This is a wonderful way to support the NWHP with your generous contributions to KUNR. When you donate, please remember this opportunity to provide publicity for NWHP events.

Thank you to Kathy and Charlie Noneman for this donation!

# Membership Report

New & Rejoined Members:

Peggy Arps, Betty Barker, Grace Butler, Candy Fife, Janet Langford Gray, Jon Hamel, James & Betty Hulse, Sally Lee, Shar Murphy, Yvonne Rickman, Jocelyne Roy, Simonne Roy, Robert Stoldal, Thuy Tran, Sally Wilkins

And For All They Have Contributed to the NWHP, "Thank You" to Our Newest Honorary Members:

Mary Anne Convis, Gertrude Gottschalk, Carrie Porter, Kay Sanders and Linda Wyckoff

Submitted by Grace Davis

### Membership - Donor (Calendar Year)

Membership Categories (not tax deductible)

Student: \$15 • Individual: \$30 • Organizational: \$50 • Corporation: \$250

Donor Categories (may be tax deductible)

\$1-99 Fellow • \$100-249 Partner • \$250-499 Patron • \$500-999 Benefactor

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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.
Organization or Corporation
President or Director
Mailing Address
City/State/Zip Code
Phone E-Mail
Membership Amount \$ Donor Amount \$ Check No Date
Mail to NWHP, 770 Smithridge Dr. Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502

Nevada Women's History Project is a Nevada Nonprofit Corporation and a 501(c)(3). Contributions or donations may be tax deductible pursuant to the provisions of section 170.c. of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 USC 170c.

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Editor: Holly Van Valkenburgh hovava@juno.com



2013 - 2014

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