



FootPrints

Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting Historic Resources in the Truckee Meadows through Education, Advocacy and Leadership.

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Six Historic Reno Homes on October 2010 Tour

by Sharon Honig-Bear and Debbie Hinman

Not only did the weather gods smile on HRPS the day of the Harvest of Homes Tour (The rain held off until exactly 2:59 p.m.), but the participation gods also did their part. The tour was an ambitious undertaking for a small organization like HRPS, yet due to nearly a year of meticulous planning and an industrious committee, not to mention an unbelievable host of eager volunteers and ten generous homeowners, it came off without a hitch.

But the real stars of the day were the six historic and distinctive homes, ranging in age from 60 to 109 years young.

The tour gave many Reno residents an opportunity they had been waiting for—a chance for a peek inside six notable homes in Reno. The committee purposely selected a number of older neighborhoods, from homes on Moran, Keystone, Mayberry to three homes in the Old Southwest.

Enchanted Garden aka Rick's Resort/The Willows 2775 Mayberry Drive, Reno

The main attraction of this property is the fabulous garden, while the wonderful little cottage and historic outbuildings contribute to the overall charm.

Once home to the 1900s roadhouse, Rick's Resort, the spacious grounds and resort served as the training camp for Jack Johnson, winner of the internationally-known 1910 Johnson-Jeffries fight. The resort was purchased in 1920 by the notorious William Graham and James McKay, and extensively remodeled as a first-class nightclub and dinner house, catering in particular to the divorce trade. The Willows was destroyed in a 1932 fire, never to be rebuilt. Today there is no trace of either Rick's or The Willows' buildings.

This unique property has been owned by Tim and Joan Elam since 1999. The Elams recognize the property's historical significance. In 2010, Tim erected a plaque commemorating the 1910 Johnson-Jeffries fight, Rick's Resort and The Willows on a stone pillar on the corner of Mayberry and Sherwood Drives.

The Elams have designed a wonderful garden around their home. They did much of the work themselves. Tim is a strong believer in recycling former building materials. The cottage contains beams from a local building that was demolished and many of the garden accoutrements once occupied Reno buildings. The bricks in the garden pathway are from the old Granada Theater and there are pieces of the Mapes Hotel scattered about. Two fun additions to the garden are the cabins from the now-gone West Fourth Street Siesta Motel.



*Enchanted Garden aka Rick's Resort / The Willows.
2775 Mayberry Drive, Reno. Owners: Tim and Joan Elam.*

Upson/Arrizabalaga House 937 Jones Street, Reno

This elegant home, built in 1902, is located in the Powning Addition, one of Reno's first home tracts, established in the late 1880s by Christopher Columbus Powning. The house's builder and first owner was businessman Pearl Upson, proprietor of Pearl Upson & Son, a hauling business.

The current owner is Joan Arrizabalaga, who has lovingly restored it, adding her own eclectic touches to the interior. Joan is a Nevada native, born in Fallon of Basque heritage. She

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is a working artist, with a degree in Art from the University of Nevada, Reno.

The house sits on a hand-hewn rock foundation and has double brick walls. It consists of two floors — the ground floor with 1300 square feet of living space. A traditional Victorian staircase leads to the 700-square-foot second floor, which features three bedrooms and a bathroom with original wainscoting. A full attic has recently been finished and serves as the artist's studio.

The home has experienced many incarnations from single-family residence, to a boarding house, and even a fraternity house. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.

Patrick Ranch House 1225 Gordon Avenue, Reno

This beautiful ranch house was built around 1901, on a 160-acre parcel of historic land once a part of the Arlington Ranch and Nursery. Fannie Patrick acquired the land about 1907; she and husband Frank operated a successful dairy and stock farm, with Frank and son Lloyd delivering milk to the businesses on Commercial Row. The ranch remained in the family for nearly 50 years.

The house is a Folk Victorian style, popular between 1870 and 1910. In the years surrounding World War II, the home was modified into apartments on the upper level to house Air Corps personnel stationed at Stead Army Air Base.

The current owners, Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder and Judge Jack Schroeder, have owned the home for 35 years. The Patrick Ranch House won an Historic Preservation Award from the City of Reno in 2002 and in 2003, it was placed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Full Circle House 360 Moran Street, Reno

After sheep rancher Sanford O. Wells's death in 1900, son-in-law Samuel Wheeler was granted permission to subdivide the property in 1905, and it became known as the Wells Addition. Lots in this Addition originally sold for \$100 and up. New homes were erected, as well as ready-made houses, sold by the Nevada Portable House Company.

The Full Circle House is a Queen Anne Cottage, possibly built in 1907 by the Nevada Portable House Company, which advertised it could build houses in a week. The company built five houses for demonstration that year.

The original pocket doors between the front room and the rest of the house are still intact and operable. Much original woodwork, including the wainscoting, hardwood floors, doors with hardware, and windows remain.

Rosalie and Scott Powell bought the house in 2004 — a return to



*Upson/Arrizabalaga House, 937 Jones Street, Reno.
Owner: Joan Arrizabalaga.*



*Patrick Ranch House, 1225 Gordon Avenue, Reno.
Owners: Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder & Judge Jack Schroeder.*



*Full Circle House, 360 Moran Street, Reno.
Owners: Rosalie and Scott Powell.*

Six Historic Reno Homes on Tour (continued)

the “West of Wells” neighborhood for the couple. As with many owners of older homes, they feel a kinship with the home and a part of its history. The restoration work has become a labor of love.

Hart House **1150 Monroe Court, Reno**

This exotic Revival Pagoda-style home occupies 2/3 acre of what was Patrick Ranch land in the early part of the 20th century. The home was designed by up-and-coming young architect, Russell Mills, Sr., who had worked for pre-eminent architect Frederic DeLongchamps. The house was built between 1937 and 1938.

George Hart was a popular piano player and crooner who performed at such popular nightspots as the Corner Bar of the Riverside Hotel, The Willows, and the Country Club. Hart had quite a following among the local women and those who came to town in the 1930s to wait out their six weeks before they could

obtain a divorce. One of these divorcées, Marcia Keresey, arrived in Reno around 1934 and won George’s heart. They married and Marcia, an heiress, purchased an 11-acre tract on what was at that time the outskirts of Reno and is now the heart of the Old Southwest, just off Monroe Street.

Oriental design was popular in southern California in the 1920s and 1930s. Components that identify the Pagoda style are the full-sized moon gate, arched doorways, multi-level roofs, round windows, and the red and black trim. Skilled craftsmen milled the cedar siding on site to resemble stacked bamboo. Unique features such as the octagonal living room, three-inch-thick pocket doors, built-in cabinets and niches, and a rotating bed remain to this day. The grounds are lovely and quiet. A teahouse mimicking the design of the home sits near a bridge arching over the original koi pond, and a walking path encircles the beautifully landscaped property.

The home is currently owned by Shirlee and Larry Hull who purchased it from Elsie Newman, HRPS Tour Guide, and husband, Larry, in 2006.

Abner Sewell House **1280 Monroe Street, Reno**

Abner Sewell designed the home that was built between 1946 and 1948 for his family. He had blueprints drawn and contracted to have it built, but it took longer than expected. Local craftsmen were in high demand following World War II. The most significant project under construction in Reno at the time was the Mapes Hotel. Workmen, lured by the promise of higher wages, left smaller projects like the Sewell House to build the new high-rise.

The Sewell name was well known in Reno. Abner and his two brothers, Harvey and Herbert, began with a small grocery store on Commercial Row in 1920, which grew into the popular Sewells’ Markets by the early 1960s.

Constructed of brick with a Mediterranean red-tile roof, the home features radiant heat in the ceilings and tile floor. Much of the home is original, including the front door, the tile and hardwood floors, the casement and double-hung windows, and the custom plaster fireplace, which Mrs. Sewell found in a magazine and had a local artisan recreate. There are wood touches throughout the home — all of Philippine mahogany.

Current owner Shirie Wallace purchased the home from Abner’s widow Ellena in 1991. Ms. Wallace has made only minimal structural changes to the home but her artistic flair and love of antiques have contributed to the eclectic and cozy interior and the fabulous garden.



*Hart House, 1150 Monroe Court, Reno.
Owners: Shirlee and Larry Hull.*



*Abner Sewell House, 1280 Monroe Street, Reno.
Owner: Shirie Wallace.*

Sharon Honig-Bear is President of HRPS and was chair of the Harvest of Homes Tour. Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Board member, HRPS Tour Guide and on the HRPS Editorial Board. Photos courtesy of Jerry Bartz.

Slabs of Bronze

by Kim Henrick

In May 1911, the Washoe County Commissioners accepted the newly-remodeled Washoe County Courthouse, as designed by Frederic DeLongchamps. The magnificent building, which literally encases the shell of the boxy, original brick structure, is best described by Mella Rothwell Harmon in a Fall 2006 *Nevada Historical Quarterly* article, "The Extraordinary Career of Frederic J. DeLongchamps." In the famous architect's plans for this Neoclassical building, "elegantly foliated capitals topped the Corinthian columns supporting the portico. The window surrounds were capped with pediments and keystones. A massive ribbed copper dome covered a shallow leaded stained-glass dome over the second-story hallway."

As for front exterior doors, DeLongchamps's 1910 architectural drawings show ornate doors, "metal sheathed" over a "metal frame"—the artistic trim design to be "stamped" into the metal. At some point, the final door choice changed from the metal-sheathed doors to the massive cast-bronze doors.

Fast forward 39 years and imagine how stunned two carpenters were when, while changing the courthouse front doors to swing outward, they discovered "two eight-foot slabs of bronze at either side of the entrance." A September 7, 1949, *Nevada State Journal* article states that the slabs turned out to be sliding doors on rollers, which in 1910 "were intended to be closed every evening, serving as an impressive barricade in front of the regular doors."

After discovering the doors (which the article says weighed about 1,500



pounds each), they were removed and laid near the entrance to be admired by judges and all who entered the courthouse. Not unlike a comment today, one barrister was quoted as saying, "Those were the days. They knew how to make things when those doors were made." No one, even the few employees who had been at the courthouse since 1910, remembered the doors being there. Unfortunately, the next step for the beautiful doors was a county storage facility.

Enter an admirer. A *Nevada State Journal* article on September 22, 1953, titled "Historians Float a 'Heavy Loan,'" discusses a request by historian Clara Beatty of the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) to have the bronze doors donated to the Society

for use in a special display. Clara thought displaying the massive doors was preferable to storing them. A transfer was made and the doors can be seen in an undated Nevada Historical Society photograph (found among other photos dated 1958), as part of a display, in what looks like the interior of the State Building on South Virginia, which housed the Nevada Historical Society at the time.

Much later (some time between 1968 and 1975) the doors were hung at the entrance to the current NHS building at 1650 N. Virginia Street, which according to Harmon's article, was designed by Raymond Hellmann in 1968, in the "Populuxe mode; made of pre-cast concrete panels...."

According to SherylN Hayes-Zorn, NHS Registrar and acting director, and Eric Moody, retired NHS Curator of Manuscripts, the doors were installed as sliding outer security doors and were closed

each night until the late-1990s, when they became cranky and hard to lock. At that point, they were secured in place, resting to the sides of the double-glass doors.

Long overdue and as if to say, "thanks for the memories, thanks for decades of standing tall and pleasing thousands of visitors," the NHS recently received a new sage- and copper-colored paint job that finally compliments these impressive 1,500-pound, eight-foot tall, three-foot wide slabs of bronze. 

Kim Henrick is a HRPS member, on the HRPS Editorial Staff, and a volunteer at the Nevada Historical Society. Photos courtesy Kim Henrick.

Nevada in the West, a Magazine of Popular History

Review by Kim Henrick

There is a new quarterly in town and it is pure Nevada history—not a publication of the greater western United States (like *True West* or *Wild West*), which might write about an occasional historical event that has something to do with our interesting state—but pure Nevada history and some might even say *a work of art*.

The first issue of *Nevada in the West* that I saw was the Summer 2010 issue. It had a pleasant, color-coordinated cover showing a circa 1874 watercolor of Fort Halleck by Alexander Harmer with turquoise and purple title letters over a yellow background. I was thrilled that I did not have to hunt down a table of contents among pages of ads since the article titles were clearly listed near the bottom of the front cover. Neal Cobb, editorial board member (who honestly admits he cannot spell worth a darn) and part owner of the magazine, explained that each issue is thoughtfully organized around specific color schemes. The Fall 2010 issue used a red background with yellow text. Those stark colors complimented the disturbing cover photograph of a nuclear bomb blast in southern Nevada in 1957. As a visual learner, I give Sharon Lee Taylor, the magazine's art and design director, and the rest of the staff an A for appearance and appeal. The slick, heavy paper felt good in my hands and the images are sharp. Small historical snippets, quotations and quizzes are placed throughout the magazine, as are some of Sharon's nice landscape photographs. Each page is colorful, lively, easy on the eyes and is totally fun to read. And it is nice to know that the magazine is printed locally at Panda Printing and Mailing on Mill Street in Reno.

The people behind this adventure are owners Eric Moody, Marilyn Bremer, Phillip Earl, Neal Cobb and Douglas McDonald. The magazine staff includes Eric Moody, Sharon Lee Taylor and Douglas Hutchinson. Editorial consultants are Dana Bennett, Joyce Cox, Nicholas Cady, James McCormick and Katherine Ralston. The magazine's website declares: "*Nevada in the West, A Magazine of Popular History* is a lively new history magazine that explores

topics such as: Weed Heights, the process of writing a book on nuclear weapons' testing, the "Riverside Starlets," and Virginia Lake, among more traditional subjects such as Mark Twain and the Eureka Opera House.

Phil Earl is pleased with the publication so far and is hopeful that it will find a niche. Eric Moody believes it will appeal to a "wide audience with an interest in the state's history," and to those primarily in the 40-year and older range since "as we age we have more interest in our own family history and history in general." The publication is also geared more to residents than tourists. It derives revenues from quarterly subscriptions (\$18 per year) and advertisements—and true to its emphasis on Nevada subjects only, the magazine is interested in "distinctly Nevada ads."

The magazine is young, so naturally it is refining its publication, planning to include more articles from southern Nevada and making improvements to its website (which will allow for PayPal subscription purchases). The magazine can be purchased in Reno at Sundance Bookstore and the Nevada Historical Society, at the Mark Twain Bookstore in Virginia City, the Eureka Sentinel Museum in Eureka, the Mark Twain Cultural Center in Incline and the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas. (Check the website, www.nevadainthewest.com for retail outlets carrying the magazine.) Happy reading!

Kim Henrick is a HRPS member, on the HRPS Editorial Staff, and a volunteer at the Nevada Historical Society. Cover images courtesy Eric Moody.



the fascinating past of the Silver State, from the nineteenth century to the present, north and south, urban and rural. From early explorers, mining moguls, and frontier lawmen to political leaders, artists, entertainers, mobsters and gaming industry giants, the most colorful personalities from Nevada's history make appearances in the pages of the magazine. Every issue contains illustrated articles by top writers and historians, book reviews, quizzes to test your knowledge of the state, and other features." I was pleased to see articles on fresh



Report of 2010 Historic Reno Preservation Society Historic Walking Tours

by Ed Wishart, Walking Tour Chair

Our 2010 HRPS Walking Tour season is over and it was a grand success. We scheduled only five walks in September because past experience has demonstrated that Street Vibrations and limited daylight make giving tours difficult. Included in the September totals are three private tours with 34 participants.

We offered three new tours this year:

- Other Side of the Street
- West of Wells
- Historic Nevada State Hospital

The **Other Side of the Street** tour covers homes opposite the mansions on Court and Ridge streets and California Avenue, plus some homes on and near Arlington Avenue. Tour Guide Anne Simone has done considerable research

on the history of these homes, which are interesting architecturally and historically. The highlight of the tour was a look at Marilyn York's office at 548 California Avenue. This home has been converted into law offices for several attorneys, but retains much of its original charm. Marilyn is proud of her conversion—and rightly so.

The **Historic Nevada State Hospital** tour was given by Rosie Cevasco, HRPS Webmaster, and Kim Henrick. The tour visited the site of Nevada's first state hospital (originally the Nevada Insane Asylum) at Galletti Way and Glendale Avenue, one of the state's oldest institutions. The passion these two women have for the historic buildings (some designed by Frederic DeLongchamps), and their feelings about the buildings'

current lack of care and ugly add-ons was impressive. This tour has been requested by many and will be offered next year.

Barrie Schuster, the new HRPS secretary, gave a test run of her new **West of Wells** walk to HRPS tour guides and members of the West of Wells Neighborhood Group. This tour is centered around Wheeler Avenue north of Vassar and includes some homes on Wells and Holcomb avenues, and covers many interesting homes with worthy histories. Barrie deserves a round of applause for her research for this tour. See www.westofwells.com for more information about this neighborhood group.

The total participation in walking tours in 2010 was 920 (May-292, July-454, September-174). Previous year totals are 573 in 2006, 892 in 2007, 827 in 2008, and 919 in 2009. 

Ann Parish McCarty

HRPS supporter and board member Ann McCarty passed away on October 23, 2010. Ann loved Reno and Nevada history so it was only natural that she participate in HRPS events and activities. She served on the HRPS board from 2001-2003 and enjoyed volunteering on various HRPS projects. She graciously opened her Russell Mills-designed cottage home for meetings. Many an evening was spent at Ann's charming home placing address labels on *FootPrints* and party invitations. Ann would not miss a program meeting at Mount Rose Elementary School and attended many of our socials.

Ann was born in Denver, Colorado to Mary Delich Parrish and Burton Parrish Jr. Her family lived in various communities throughout California while following her father's professional baseball career. They moved to Virginia City in 1936, where she attended Virginia City schools and graduated from Carson High School. After graduating from UNR, Ann taught at Mount Rose Elementary School, married and had three daughters: Molly, Meg and Katy. She later resumed her teaching career at Hunter Lake Elementary School where she taught for twenty-four years. Ann traveled extensively but always came home to Nevada.

HRPS' condolences go out to Ann's family. She will be deeply missed. Ann requested that HRPS be one of the organizations to receive donations in her name. 

Eslie Finn Cann

Eslie Finn Cann, a friend of HRPS and Nevada history, has passed away after a long and fruitful life. She was born on the Finn/Bella Vista Ranch on East Peckham Lane in the Truckee Meadows. The ranch was not "in Reno" in 1914; that ranch was way out of town in what is now the Peckham/Longley area. The airport was not even a glimmer in anyone's eye back then.

Eslie attended Anderson School; the junior high on Lake and Fourth Streets; the old Reno High; and graduated from the University of Nevada. She married Elliott Cann in 1937.

After her children were raised, she worked as a secretary at the Nevada Historical Society (NHS). After Marion Welliver, director of NHS, retired in 1971, Eslie was Acting Director until Robert Townley was hired in 1972. Afterward, she became Curator of Photography where she pursued her love of local history and early photography, providing information with her keen and accurate memory.

Eslie made a generous gift to HRPS when she allowed HRPS to make and use copies of her photo and post-card collection. Eslie was a lovely lady and a down-to-earth native Nevadan. 

HRPS Putting More Emphasis on Preservation

Almost four years ago, I joined the HRPS Board. Like many Board members, in the beginning I was not really sure I understood the organization's needs and how I might contribute. I listened to HRPS members and others in the community. From their remarks, I heard two questions, over and over:

- What does HRPS need to raise money for?
- What is HRPS doing to preserve anything?

These are good questions and I found that I did not have easy answers to the questions. What has really helped is that I have heard the HRPS Board frequently ask similar questions. What I have witnessed, under my tenure as president, is that our organization is now ready to provide some answers.

HRPS is reaching a new level of maturity and moving in some new directions—ones that befit a 13-year-old organization. We are building on a foundation that emphasized walking tours, educational programs and our publication, *FootPrints*. As we consider the focus for our “middle years,” the Board has been examining HRPS’ mission (*Preserving Truckee Meadows’ past through Education, Advocacy and Leadership*) to see how to turn those words into action.

In the next issue of *FootPrints* I will discuss the roles of *education* and *advocacy*. In this issue I would like to focus on our increasing role in *preservation*, rounding out the vision for our organization. Let me describe some of our actions and intentions.

HRPS and Historic Preservation

So, back to the basic questions: Why DO we raise money and what exactly does HRPS do to preserve our heritage?

• Supporting Small Projects:

Sometimes HRPS works in small, quiet ways to help in preservation projects. This generally involves someone coming to the Board for a donation and we are glad that our financial assistance can help. A recent example is Brent Bremer, from Boy Scout Troop 107 in Reno, who

asked for help to preserve a gazebo at Rancho San Rafael Park. Our funding and his sweat equity created a great partnership to restore the gazebo to its former loveliness.

- **Supporting Major Projects:** Our strong financial condition has placed us in a position to consider larger preservation projects and you will hear more about these in future issues. One BIG project involves the restoration of the



City worker Simon McClellan installs sign toppers in the Powning Conservation District. Photos by Cindy Ainsworth.

1920s clock that once stood in front of Ginsburg Jewelers and then became an icon at Park Lane Mall. This landmark is now in storage and HRPS is investigating how to return this to our streets. Major expenses will be involved. A group is already forming to work on this, so let me know if you would like to play a role in this project!

- **Creation of Conservation Districts:** HRPS played an important role in establishing the Powning Conservation District and is now working to support the creation of the Wells Avenue Conservation District. Both efforts involved cost (the documentation for the process is daunting) and a lot of volunteer labor.

HRPS continues to be involved with the Powning Conservation District by designing a commemorative pillar that we hope to have in place in early 2011.

- **Neighborhood Preservation Fund:** I am incredibly excited about the possibilities of this new fund. Starting with the proceeds from the Home Tour, HRPS is creating a mini-grant process so that we can assist property owners in making improvements on their historic properties. These grants will enhance our older neighborhoods and allow HRPS to play a direct role in preserving buildings. We are working on guidelines for the fund and a plan for attracting additional gifts. Look for future information about donations to the Neighborhood Preservation Fund.

As confident as I am about the HRPS Board in steering our preservation efforts, I wish to acknowledge that we do not work in isolation. We have working relationships with the City of Reno's Historical Resources Commission, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, editorial input from noted historian Mella Rothwell Harmon and with other local nonprofits and professional organizations. I appreciate the support we receive as we delve deeper into preservation issues in the Truckee Meadows.

William Murtagh stated, “It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.” It should be a source of pride for all of us in HRPS that the dialog has entered an active phase. I look forward to telling you more in future issues. 

Sharon Honig-Bear
HRPS President

HRPS April 27, 2011 Film Night The Steamy Film *Wild is the Wind*

by Cindy Ainsworth

Mark your calendars for April 27, when HRPS presents another fun evening at the movies. This year we will feature the steamy 1957 film *Wild is the Wind*. Filmed primarily at the Pine Nut and Wallace Park Ranches in the Carson and Hope valleys, the movie also provides a glimpse of vintage 1950s Reno Airport. Directed by George Cukor (*The Women*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *My Fair Lady*), the film features Anthony Quinn (Gino), Anthony Franciosa (Bene), and a fabulous performance by Italian actress Anna Magnani (Gioia). The film was nominated for three Academy awards including Quinn for best actor and Magnani for best actress. Dimitri Tiomkin and Ned Washington were nominated for the original song, *Wild is the Wind*, sung by Johnny Mathis, and sung in the 1970s by rock star David Bowie.

In the story, Gioia marries widowed Italian sheep rancher Gino who is haunted by the memory of his first spouse. The twist is that Gino's deceased wife was Gioia's sister. Tiring of Gino trying to re-shape her into the image of his late wife, Gioia is driven into the arms of his son Bene. The movie poster taglines summed up the plot perfectly: "She married a man she'd never seen—before she met the man she couldn't live without; theirs was a wild obsession they could not hide!"



Reno photographer Don Dondero was johnny-on-the-spot in 1957 when he wrote his account of the filming of the movie for the *Nevada State Journal*. Dispatched to the set in Carson Valley to take photos, Dondero, along with Ed Olson, the wire services Reno bureau chief, arrived to meet with actor Tony Franciosa and other cast members. A few days earlier, according to Dondero, Franciosa "tried to jam a speed graphic down a photographer's throat." Apparently, rumors started to circulate about an off-screen romance between Franciosa and Magnani.

Assured that Franciosa "had changed his brand of tranquilizers, improving his feelings toward photographers," Dondero was allowed on the set to record the movie-set happenings, including snapping photos of newlyweds Franciosa and actress Shelley Winters. (When Hollywood received word of the romance rumor, Winters, Franciosa's fiancée, caught the first flight to Reno and the two were married in Carson City the next day.) Nothing seems to have changed. The public loves Hollywood rumors and romances.

Catch all the intrigue and romance on April 27, 2011. The film will be shown at 7:00 p.m. at Studio on 4th, 432 W. Fourth Street. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and **reservations are required.**

To make reservations, please call the HRPS voicemail line at 747-4478 or purchase tickets online at www.historicreno.org. Cut-off date for reservations is **April 22nd.**

HRPS would like to thank Steve Savage of Great Basin Film Society for his assistance with the film and Mike Steedman for venue use of Studio on 4th. 

Cindy Ainsworth is a Past-President of HRPS and currently the HRPS Administrator.

Definitions from 1879

Sierra, a name applied in Spain, and in countries in which the Spanish language prevailed, to a ridge of mountains. The word means saw, and is descriptive of the notched or saw-like skyline of certain mountain ranges. *People's Cyclopaedia of Universal Knowledge*, published in 1879.

Nevada, "the Sage-Hen State," whose name is a Spanish word signifying snow-covered, is bounded on the west by California; on the south by California and Arizona; on the east by Utah and Arizona; and on the north by Oregon and Idaho. Area 104,124 square miles. Population 62,265, besides 4,000 tribal Indians. The chief river is the Humboldt. The principal lakes are the Mud Lakes, Pyramid Lake, and the Walker and Carson Lakes. Nevada is the center of that elevated basin

which reaches west from the Rocky Mountains to the Sierra Nevada, at the mean altitude of about 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. Numerous mines of gold and silver have been discovered. The whole country is rich in mineral wealth. Besides gold and silver, quicksilver, antimony, and lead are found. The territorial capital is Carson City, but the principal town is Virginia City. The product of silver in Nevada during the decade 1859-1869 was valued at \$137,382; in 1874 its value was about \$25,500. Governor of the Nevada Territory was James W. Nye, 1861-1864. Governors of the State: Henry G. Blaisdell, 1864-1871; Louis R. Bradley, 1871-1879; John H. Kinkaid, 1879-1883. *People's Cyclopaedia of Universal Knowledge*, published in 1879. 

The HRPS Porch Party

by Debbie Hinman

It seemed far more like an evening in late August than the first of October. The breeze was warm and the rolling lawn surrounding the Caughlin Ranch House was lush and vivid green. The dignified old home provided a fitting and glorious backdrop to the crowd, who wandered back and forth from the silent auction tables located on the grand, wraparound porch to the Tahoe Ridge and Ferrari-Carano wine stations, the Silver Peak beer station, and the Seven-Up Bottling station, offering soft drinks and water. Then, attracted by an enticing aroma, they made their way to the tent donated by Western Nevada Supply, where a unique selection of delicious appetizers, expertly prepared and served by smiling employees of the 5th Street Bakehouse, greeted hungry members and friends. Contributing to the elegant atmosphere was the Paul Roth Trio, providing a melodious jazz accompaniment to the event.

Guests stood in small groups talking, or sat at the tables scattered about the lawn. Old friends greeted one another and new friends became better acquainted. In addition to the social activity and the bidding wars going on at the auction tables, guests



*HRPS President and Past-Presidents.
Front (l to r) Patty Cafferata and Pat Klos;
Second Row (l to r) Cindy Ainsworth and Sharon Honig-Bear; Third
Row (l to r) Joan Dyer, Felvia Belaustegui, Kathryn Wishart.*

were delighted by the special treat of being able to tour the ranch house. For many, this was their first opportunity to see the inside of this local landmark, which has been lovingly restored and is simply but elegantly decorated. An additional bonus was the open Garden Shop Nursery gift shop, attended by owner Ed Bath.

New HRPS President Sharon Honig-Bear welcomed the crowd and thanked the Porch Party Committee, headed by veteran HRPS Annual Social planner and board member Carrie Young. Sharon thanked the Garden Shop Nursery, Ed and Jennifer Bath, and the other contributors who made this year's event so special. The HRPS past presidents and Sharon gathered on the porch for a commemorative photo.

This year's party was a bit of a departure from the usual format of a sit down dinner held inside, followed by a thematic historic presentation, but most seemed to feel that it could not have been more enjoyable. In addition, it provided a lovely prelude to our first Harvest of Homes Tour held the next day.

This year's silent auction netted \$2,000 for the organization. HRPS wishes to thank all of the contributors, members and friends, for their support of and participation in our wonderful organization. 📷

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Board member, HRPS Tour Guide and on the HRPS Editorial Board. Photos courtesy of Jack Hursh.



(Clockwise l to r) Paul Roth Trio; Cindy Ainsworth and Debbie Hinman; Carrie Young; Rosie Cevasco and sister.

Report on the Harvest of Homes Tour

HHRPS is thrilled by the success of the Harvest of Homes Tour as a new and exciting experience for our membership and the community. In addition, the greatest benefit will be the incredible head start the \$9,000 proceeds will provide for our new Neighborhood Preservation Fund. Look for more information on this fund, eligibility requirements and application process in upcoming *FootPrints*.

The Harvest of Homes Tour took almost a year to plan and when we were ready on Saturday, October 2, we received an enthusiastic community response.

The Home Tour: Factoids

- The turnout was impressive and engaged: 366 tickets sold.
- 75 volunteers provided information and hospitality.
- 267 people purchased tickets in advance, 99 on day of event.
- 44 tickets were purchased online; the most active ticket outlet was Sundance.
- \$11,008 in revenues included ticket sales and program ads; the tour racked up a remarkably low \$1,547 in expenses.

HRPS is pleased to take the proceeds from the Home Tour to launch the Neighborhood Preservation Fund. The intention of this new project is to offer mini-grants for preservation and home

improvement projects in older buildings. This gave the Home Tour two purposes: to reveal some gems of Reno's neighborhoods and to help improve and preserve those very same neighborhoods.

The home visits were upbeat and social, many of our guests running into friends along the way. We received tremendously favorable evaluations, which included comments such as:

- The homes were overwhelming in their history, care, layout and gardens.



Putting on booties prior to entering the Sewell House.



Guests look over the décor and construction of the Hart House.



Guests wander about the Jones-Arrizabalaga home.

- It could not have been better – I loved seeing the homes, all unique and a joy.
- Thanks to everyone who made this a great Reno happening.
- Everyone in my group thoroughly enjoyed the tour and are looking forward to next year.

We especially want to thank the great folks who opened up their homes for our first Reno Harvest of Homes Tour.

We want to thank the volunteer Home Hosts: Joan Dyer, Pat Klos, Barrie Schuster, Elsie Newman, Charlotte Voitoff and Cindy Ainsworth.

For more information about the homes, visit our website at www.historicreno.org.

HRPS is happy to add this successful first-time event to its annual events line-up. It was a classic "good time was had by all" way to spend a beautiful fall day experiencing Reno's history.

With an inauguration like this, you can be certain that the Harvest of Homes Tour will return in 2011 with a new selection of homes on which to get the inside scoop. 

Sharon Honig Bear
Chair Harvest of Homes Tour
HRPS President

Photos courtesy Jack Hursh and Jerry Bartz.



Home host Pat Klos signs in people for the Home Tour.



Joan Arrizabalaga stands in front of her home.

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join HRPS or renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno!

Please make checks payable to **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, and mail along with this application to:
P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewing Member

Name(s) _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ Best time to call: _____
Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
Fax _____ E-Mail: _____

Annual membership includes: Footprints (HRPS Quarterly) • Free participation in walking tours

- ☐ Student \$15.00 ☐ Individual \$25.00 ☐ Family (Children 18 yrs and younger) \$40.00
☐ Business Contribution \$50.00 ☐ Supporting \$100.00 ☐ HRPS Angel \$250.00

Additional donation: _____

Thank you for joining HRPS. An organization is only as strong as its members. There are many areas in our organization where your enthusiasm, skills, and dedication will be invaluable to historic Reno and future generations. The goal of the Historic Reno Preservation Society is to preserve the historic resources of our community. What would you like to contribute to HRPS?

**FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY**

PAID: ☐ Check ☐ Cash Amount: _____ Membership # _____ Renewal Date: _____

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Thank You to our Home Tour Volunteers and Businesses

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Ince Jewelers

Thanks to supporters:

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Mella Rothwell Harmon
Jerry Bartz
Jack Hursh
Double Click Design
Loren Jahn
Renown Health

**The Home Tour owes a big debt
to the great group of volunteers,
led by Volunteer Coordinator
Lynne Savinski. Thanks also to
OLLI and Nevada Bell Pioneers
for helping us reach new
volunteers.**

Noelle Allen
Jay Barsenas and Tina Wu
Margaret Barthel
Geraldine Basye
Frances Beckett
Felvia Belaustegui
Sandi Bitler
Lani and Jim Bonar
Marilouise Brayer
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Diana Tangen
Mark Taxer
Chris Theisen
Wendy Urruty
Dave Vill
Ed Wishart
Cathy and Tony Zoch

**The tour kicked off with the
Porch Party, attracting 125 HRPS
members. Special thanks to:**

Tahoe Ridge Winery
Silver Legacy Resort Casino
Ferrari-Carano Vineyards
Silver Peak Brewery
Seven Up Bottling Company of Reno
5th Street Bakehouse
Western Nevada Supply
Garden Shop Nursery at Caughlin Ranch.



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WINTER 2011 PROGRAMS

Jack Hursh Jr. – Program Chair: 746-3252

All program events are on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at Mt. Rose School (Lander Street between Taylor and LaRue, just off Arlington), unless otherwise noted.

January 26, 2011 – Bill Isaef, A Legal History of the Truckee River. Bill Isaef, a retired environmental lawyer, will discuss Nevada's water law, the Newlands Project, Pyramid Lake's endangered and threatened fish, and the negotiated settlement. Isaef spent 12 years representing Reno and Sparks in water litigation and negotiations.

February 23, 2011 – Jack Harpster, 100 Years in the Nevada Governor's Mansion. The 2009 book was published in conjunction with the state's centennial celebration of the Carson City mansion that has been home to the last 19 of Nevada's first families. The book is about the lives of those first families during their residence in the mansion and the building itself.

March 23, 2011 – Jim Bonar, Director Nevada Chapter Lincoln Highway Association presents Lincoln Highway through Nevada and over the Sierra. In anticipation of the 19th annual national Lincoln Highway Conference, to be held June 20 thru June 24, at Lake Tahoe, Bonar will present a lecture and photos of the Lincoln Highway across Nevada and over the Sierras from the period 1913 through 1928.

April 27, 2011 – HRPS Film Night, Wild is the Wind, shown at 7:00 p.m. at Studio on 4th, 432 W. Fourth Street. Tickets are \$10 and **reservations are required.** See page 9 for details of this event.

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