



Powning Veterans Memorial Park

by Jill Richardson

At one point, Reno's Powning Veterans Memorial Park, across from the Washoe County Courthouse on South Virginia Street, encompassed not only its current location but also all the land upon which the current Pioneer Center is built. For the purposes of this history, the entire area will be discussed.

Purchase of Park Land

The earliest mention of the land on which the park is located was in the late 1860s, when a Mr. M. J. Smith operated a blacksmith shop on the site of the park.

According to some accounts, Myron C. Lake, one of Reno's founders, reportedly gave the property to the City of Reno to be used as a park, with a stipulation that if the property was ever used for another purpose, the land would revert back to Lake's heirs. However, several newspaper articles from 1891 conflict with that account. They instead indicate that the County Commissioners issued \$5,000 in bonds for public parks, and authorized the purchase of lots owned by William Thompson and Baker & Stewart for

\$1,250. William Thompson received \$500, and Baker and Stewart received \$750 in exchange for the deeds to their lots. These amounts were less than the actual value of the land. Improvements to the park began in September 1891, authorized by then Park Commissioner C.C. Powning. The grand opening of the park (which at that time was called "City Park") was May 23, 1892, with a musical concert.

A current view of Powning Veterans Memorial Park on South Virginia Street across from the Washoe County Courthouse. Courtesy Jill Richardson.

On June 1, 1911, the park's name was updated to Powning Park. Mr. Powning had died a few years earlier. The name was suggested by former state senator W. J. Westerfield, and it was unanimously approved by the Reno City Council.

Across the street from the park is the Washoe County Courthouse, which dates back to 1871. The land was donated by Myron Lake and the original courthouse building was built from red bricks. The current building with its copper dome was designed by prominent Reno architect early in his career, Fredric DeLongchamps in 1909, and opened in May 1911. Extra additions and restorations, also designed by DeLongchamps, to the courthouse building have taken place over the years. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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An aerial photo of Reno from the 1920s with the current location of Powning Veterans Memorial Park boxed in red. The current Pioneer Center is located on the block to the left of the red box. Source: Western Nevada Historical Photo Collection/Bill Eaton (<http://wnhpc.com/details/fb10213594468604416>)

Memorial Park

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C. C. Powning

Christopher Columbus (C.C.) Powning came to Reno in 1868 from Wisconsin when he was only 16 years old. He had been orphaned at the age of three and raised by his grandmother until he left home at eleven. When he arrived in Reno, he was making a living by selling newspapers on the Central Pacific Railroad. He died at the young age of 46 in 1898, but in those short thirty years, he was a prominent figure in the development of the young city of Reno. He married the daughter of an important Nevada family, Clara Poor.

Among his many accomplishments was his association with the *Nevada State Journal* from 1870 to 1891, owning the publication by the end of his tenure. He was active in politics, particularly as it pertained to improvements to Reno such as the annual state fair, and was elected the state's youngest senator. He was influential in getting the University of Nevada moved to Reno from Elko, owned a number of public buildings in Reno, and was owner of the Reno Water Works. Besides the park, his name is associated with the Powning Addition—the neighborhood around the former McKinley Park School, now the McKinley Arts & Culture Center, which had previously been a “rockstrewn waste.” Over time, many immigrant Italian families settled in the neighborhood, dubbing it “Little Italy.” Powning served as park commissioner without compensation.

When the Reno City Council recommended naming the park after him, they recalled Powning's “prodigality” for donating to many public causes and charities at the detriment of his own wealth.

Veterans Memorials

While the park is officially called Powning Veterans Memorial Park to pay tribute local veterans who fought the war on terror, many veterans of other conflicts are also honored. These include Washoe County soldiers who died in World War I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Many military ceremonies have taken place in the park.

A plaque at the park recalls a Women's Christian Temperance Union drinking fountain honoring the 1898-1899 Spanish-American Cavalry Volunteers. Originally located on North Virginia Street near the railroad, the fountain was later moved to Idlewild Park where it fell into sad disrepair. The fountain has since been restored and stands in the lower level of the Amtrak Train Depot.

In 2006, a statue of Maj. General Jesse Lee Reno, for whom the city is named, was erected. Maj. Gen. Reno never visited the city which bears his name. He died in the Civil War and had been a friend of Charles Crocker, one of the “Big Four” with the Central Pacific Railroad. As construction superintendent of the transcontinental railroad, in 1868, Crocker named the new town after his friend.



Christopher Columbus Powning,
c. 1890.

Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.



Veterans monument in the
Powning Veterans Memorial Park.

Courtesy Jill Richardson.

In addition to the city named after Reno, a WWII battleship was named U.S.S. Reno. A flag from the ship was donated to the city in 1946 and a ceremony was held at Powning Park in 2022. The U.S.S. Reno launched in 1942 and it served in the Pacific theater including the battle for Iwo Jima, Japan. The ship was damaged in that battle but served in other battles. It was deactivated in 1946 and sold for scrap by the Navy several years later.

Parish/Wheeler House

In the early days of Powning Park's existence, an old two-story house was located on the east side of the block adjacent to the park, on the corner of Mill and Center Streets. The home was a Reno landmark, formerly belonging to prominent Reno resident, D.C. “Uncle Dan” Wheeler. It has been built originally in 1879 by Mark Parish, a county clerk. Parish lived in the home for many years before selling to Mr. Wheeler.

Daniel C. Wheeler was born in 1840 in Ohio and came west across the plains to Salt Lake City at the age of 18. Against the advice of many, he and a few colleagues crossed the Great Basin and arrived in this area in 1858. Wheeler settled down in the Truckee Meadows and began his successful sheep-raising business. By the time he died in 1915, D. C. Wheeler, Inc. was one of the largest and wealthiest land-owners in the West, owning about 50,000 sheep throughout the state that were raised for mutton.

Wheeler lived in the home for a time, selling it to Frank Golden in 1907. Golden then sold the home to Mrs. Jennie T. Coll. By 1918, Mrs. Coll still owned the home but had not lived there for years, leaving the home in disrepair. Neighbors along Mill Street complained. Several women's clubs organized an effort to buy the property and make it part of the park. The city council authorized the purchase of the home in 1919 for \$10,000 to make more room for the park.

State Building

After the completion of the Lincoln and Victory Highways in the 1920s, which converged in Reno, the states of Nevada and California decided to put on an exposition in Reno to celebrate the country's first transcontinental

highway. California contributed the only remaining architectural element of the exposition, the California Building, to the Idlewild Park site. The Reno City Council selected the east side of Powning Park to construct the Nevada State Building.

Note that Reno's Arch was also built as part of this exposition, with the words "Nevada's Transcontinental Highways Exposition" and below that "June 25-Aug 1, 1927."

The State Building architects were Frederic J. De Longchamps and George D. Ferris & Son. The cornerstone was laid by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Nevada in June 1926 at the corner of Mill and South Center Streets. The building opened in October 1926 and was dedicated in March 1927. After the exposition, the building was used as a county library, an auditorium, and the home of the Nevada Historical Society and the National Guard. Powning Park would continue to be used for events, concerts and activities.

Not everyone connected with the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) was happy to reside in the basement of the State Building. By 1950, it was evident that the collection of state's historical materials was too large for the building. Some claimed that the relics were collecting



The State Building in 1961. Source: Western Nevada Historic Photo Collection/Old Reno (<http://wnhpc.com/details/fb2628819860744107>)

dust and possibly becoming damaged by sitting in the basement. Consequently, the Society asked the state legislature for a bigger building. The NHS and museum relocated to the University of Nevada, Reno campus in 1968.

Pioneer Center

As far back as 1945, the city planning commissioners discussed the prospect of a new civic center to replace the State Building. Discussions continued for twenty years before the Washoe County Fair and Recreation Board spearheaded construction of a landmark performance facility.

The State Building was demolished in 1966 to make way for the current Pioneer Center.

The current auditorium was designed by the Oklahoma City architectural firm of Bozalis, Dickinson, and Roloff, and dedicated on January 7, 1968. It features a gold geodesic dome to provide a 1960s "space age" feel and to reflect Reno's unbounded optimism for the future.

The building obtained its current name, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, in 1988 as a nod to the pioneer family statue from the 1939 water fountain. The auditorium is currently used for performances by both the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and the Nevada Opera Association, among others.

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. ~~_____~~

Information for this article came from newspaper articles (1900 through 2020) from the Reno Gazette-Journal, Nevada State Journal, Reno Evening Gazette, Pioneer Center website and from articles in HRPS FootPrints.

Jill Richardson is a member of HRPS, Nevada Historical Society, and a volunteer history researcher and Board member for Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation.



Pioneer Statue and Pioneer Center. The statue of the pioneer family looking west, located in front of the Pioneer Center, was installed in 1939 as a water fountain, replacing three prior generations of fountains. The sculpture, entitled "Humanity," was created by Bryon S. Johnson of San Francisco and donated to the city by the estate of William E. Price, an electrical engineer. Courtesy the Pioneer Center.

THE PRISON THAT NEVER WAS

by Debbie Hinman with Rosie Cevalco

In today's world, we tend to accept as the norm the petty bickering between the two major political parties that often leads to bitterness and projects that never see the light of day. But who would have thought this same behavior would occur back in the early 1870s, when faced with the challenging yet exciting task of carving out a government in the new state of Nevada?

This should have been an occasion for enthusiasm and cooperation—but this was not the case. The simple idea of relocating a prison, for what seemed to one side to be worthy considerations, caused a furor—not just between the two towns involved, but among other Nevada locales as well. Characterizing it as a dogfight would not be an

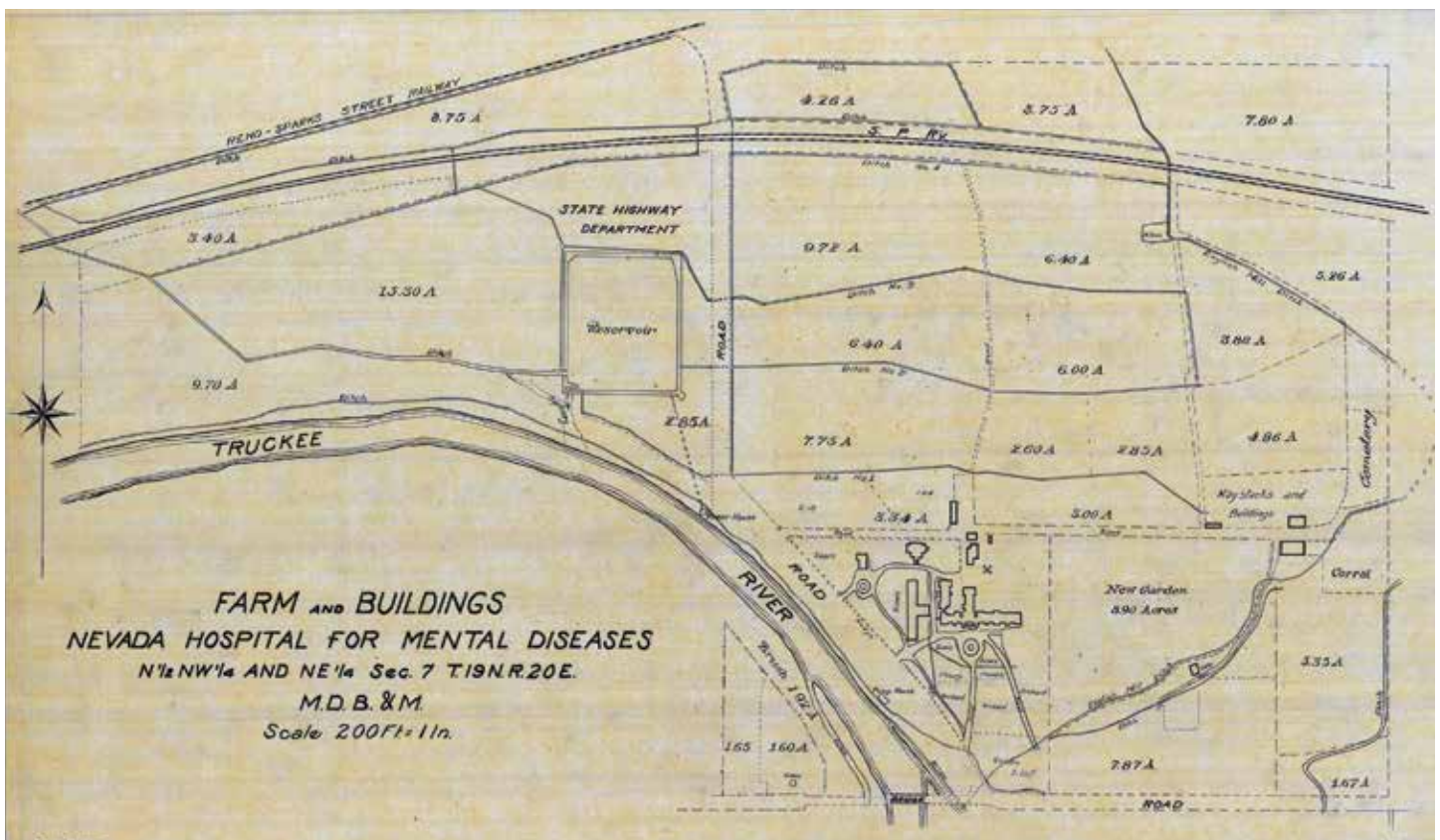
exaggeration. At the center of the fight was the second Governor of Nevada.

Governor Lewis Rice “Broadhorns” Bradley, Democrat, served two terms from 1871 to 1879. Bradley, originally from Virginia, came west with his son driving a herd of Texas Longhorn cattle, which earned him the nickname, “Old Broadhorns.” He first settled in Stockton, California but after his lands were ruined by ceaseless winter and spring flooding, he came to Nevada, settling in Elko County. Buying a defunct newspaper to act as a campaign tool, Bradley made a successful run for Nevada’s highest political office.

Two years before Nevada’s statehood, a prison had been established on land adjacent to Abraham Curry’s Warm

Springs Hotel in Eagle Valley, the site of Carson City. Curry was appointed as first territorial prison warden. This changed with Nevada becoming a state; its constitution established a Board of Prison Commissioners composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. There were two serious fires at the prison in 1865 and 1870; it was rebuilt by inmates using stone quarried on site.

At the 1873 legislature, Governor Bradley recommended that the state prison might be more efficient if located on the Truckee River, where the mechanics of the prison might be driven by waterpower. He also broached the idea of using the Carson City facility as the state’s asylum, in the vernacular of the day.



A later view of the area where the Nevada State Prison was to be located. The square titled “Reservoir” was the wall. The entrance to the prison would have faced the railroad tracks, the rear, the Truckee River.

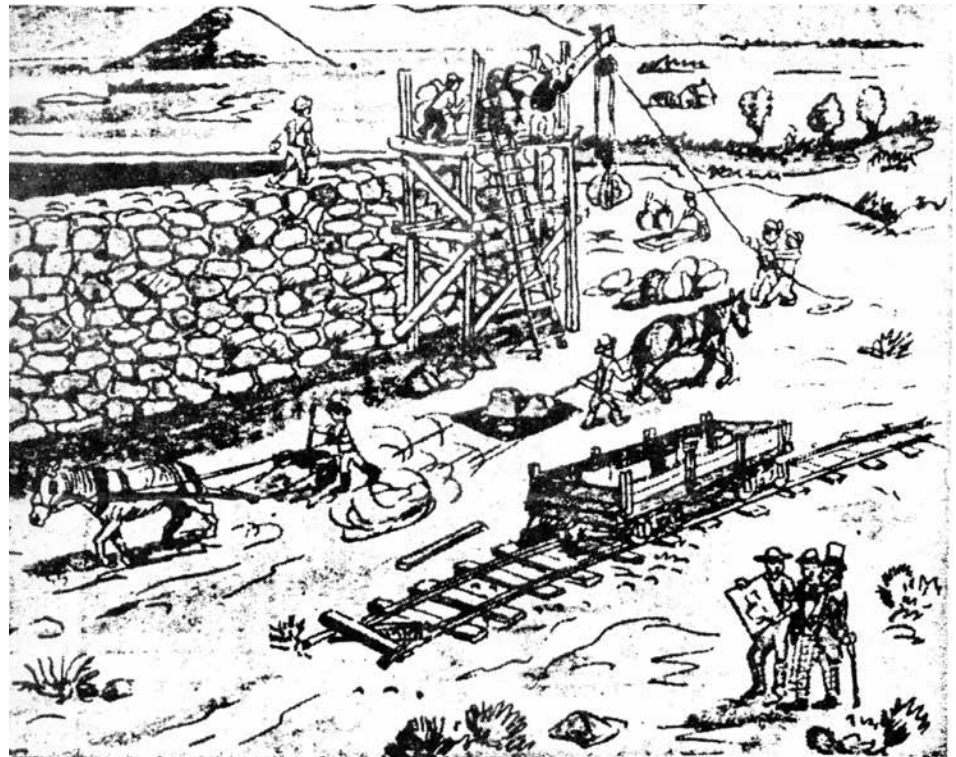
Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno, Special Collections.

Representatives from Reno liked the idea and Bradley was inspired to continue, suggesting, "Inmates might become financially independent by turning out shoes, woolens, or other industrial goods. The prison structure itself would be built largely from convict labor, to save public funds." Another strike against the prison remaining in Carson City was that the land on which it was situated was under dispute. A farmer named Treadway had laid claim to the land and felt he was due remuneration for the use of the prison grounds. Given the stated advantages of the Reno site, the Democratic legislature agreed with Bradley and authorized the Board of Prison Commissioners "to look for a site at which to spend \$100,000 appropriated for a new facility."

In October 1873, Commissioners made the first of many visits to Reno inspecting possible locations. All throughout 1873 and the first half of 1874, the Board dithered and argued, exasperating the Reno contingency. Unofficially, the Commissioners expressed a preference for the Mayberry vicinity but eventually they would purchase 206 acres of the Marshall ranch, on the Truckee's north side and two miles downstream from Virginia Street, at a cost of \$3318.

Work began near the modern intersection of Kietzke Lane and Galletti Way on August 29 when the Commissioners, Architect S.F. Hoole and 26 workmen set corner stakes. The wall enclosure was to measure 450 by 500 feet, with foundations 9 feet deep and seven feet wide, topped with 26-foot-high walls, 5 feet thick at the base and 3 feet at the peak. Towers at each corner would be connected with walkways. That November, a flurry of activity ensued as 140 men crowded the site, excavating foundations, and filling them with fitted stone. Around Thanksgiving, contractor William Thompson ordered the work to cease until the following spring, 1875.

The 1875 legislature was largely Republican and maintained that overspending was occurring at



A depiction of the prison wall construction,
Courtesy of "Tough Little Town on the Truckee," John M. Townley.

the building site; a committee had analyzed the work and claimed that \$50,000 had been spent on work that should only have cost \$35,000. Critics often referred to the walled enclosure as "Broadhorns Bradley's Corral." *The Nevada State Journal* reported the following: "It is well known by this time to our citizens that in the dying hours of our Legislature the additional \$100,000 appropriation for the new State Prison at Reno was stricken from the general appropriation bill, in a spirit of meanness and revenge." *The Eureka Daily Sentinel* joined in the fray, gloating, "The grounds of the new State Prison at Reno are to be fenced in and trees planted, which is probably about all the work that will be done for the next two years, the Legislature having failed to make an appropriation for the completion of the work." *The Carson Tribune* reported on the "flimsiness" of the prison wall. *The Journal* fired back with, "The remarks about the prison walls are nothing but a mess of lies. Carsonites are so mean spirited and selfish that when they see the walls of our prison, they imagine they are looking at the iron railing around the State Capitol."

In spite of not receiving a second funds appropriation, by July of 1876, further progress had been made on the wall. While some of the stone had been quarried at Carson, where it was mainly sandstone, the majority of the stone of better quality came from the Ashley quarry north of Reno. Reported a Reno newspaper, "The wall can be plainly seen from Reno, though almost a mile distant...the enclosure is square, comprising some 25,000 square feet. At each corner of the walls, a handsome guardhouse has been constructed. These guardhouses are an ornamental and attractive feature of the prison. They surmount the huge wall at each corner and can only be entered outside of the wall by means of a circular iron staircase. From the house the guards have a full view of the entire prison enclosure, and, besides, are able to walk all around the top of the wall." *The Carson Tribune's* report was somewhat different in tone: "The four walls have been splendidly built on that cobblestone foundation, and there they stand as monuments of legislative and executive humbuggery with a slight tint of political fraud

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Prison That Never Was

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intermingled.” The *Journal* fired back, “The foundation of the new prison walls is mostly of granite; no cobblestone about it. The *Tribune* writer’s twaddle about ‘executive humbuggery’ and ‘political fraud’ is simply sheer nonsense. He is ignorant and prejudiced of what he is talking about.”

The 1877’s legislative session had the task of determining the future of the partially constructed prison. Governor Bradley again urged a second \$100,000 appropriation to complete the job. Circumstances seemed to favor the move, since a private individual found that the Carson prison site had never been formally acquired by the state, and was still, incredibly, public land. He filed a claim and demanded that the state vacate his property. The suit was being heard while the legislature deliberated.

Reported John Townley in his book, *Tough Little Town on the Truckee*: “Had Washoe County’s delegation been able to set aside private squabbles to work together, there is every reason to think the prison would have been completed on the Truckee.”




Photograph of north and west wall for a State Prison erected along the Truckee River east of Reno, never finished during the tenure of Governor Bradley, Washoe County, Nevada. circa 1875. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

Townley reported that in his view, “the fly in the ointment” was editor/owner of the *Nevada State Journal*, C.C. Powning, “who had just been defeated in an intra-mural fight for control of the county’s Republican Central committee.” Powning’s editorials were full of demands that the Board of Prison Commissioners be totally revamped to exclude the governor and to appoint a majority of Republicans. It was a slap at Bradley, but actually intended to embarrass William Boardman, Powning’s personal enemy, who would ruin his chances for reaching the legislature in 1876, and who was leading the fight for a prison appropriation. Claimed Townley, “Powning even lobbied actively in Carson City against any prison fund unless controlled by the GOP, transforming what had been a coalition of both parties into a bitter partisan issue with Democrats cynically accused of inefficiency and fraudulent use of the initial \$100,000.” The infighting continued even into later legislative sessions, until, as Townley wrote, “the prison issue became a dead letter.” Opponents continued to stress the exorbitant amount of funds it would take to complete the prison and Virginia City’s *Territorial Enterprise* coyly suggested the following: “Nevada would be money ahead to

buy the opulent Ormsby house and board its inmates there.” Townley’s article concluded: “In later sessions, despite a decade of attempts to re-open the question, Carson City blocked any transfer. Gradually, the incomplete walls toppled as neighbors helped themselves to building stone, or after floods weakened the unsupported heights. In winter, its interior made a dandy skating rink while ranchers stabled cattle there in summer.”

Governor Bradley lost his third bid for the Nevada governorship by a narrow margin and died in Elko, Nevada on March 21, 1879.

For many years following the wall’s demise, chunks of stone blocks could be found in the Old English Mill and Sullivan Ditches, which ran through the property. The first building of what was initially referred to as the Nevada Insane Asylum would be constructed nearby in 1882. As for the Carson property, an online history reads, “The Nevada State Prison remained the only state prison until the Department of Prisons expanded in 1964 with the opening of the Northern Nevada Correctional Center on the prison farm property. The building was expanded in the 1980s and a phased closing occurred. The prison’s final close was May 18, 2012.”

Not only is it a sad thing for Nevada that politics and petty squabbles resulted in an enormous loss to the state coffers, but that a valuable lesson is still disregarded today. 

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Walking Tour Guide, HRPS Board Secretary, HRPS Liaison to City of Reno Historical Resources Commission, and Editor of HRPS’s FootPrints publication.

Information for this story include various Nevada newspaper articles 1874-1879; Wikipedia “Lewis R. Bradley; website History of the Nevada State Prison; Appendices to Senate Journal, Sixth & Seventh Sessions - Nevada Legislature; *Tough Little Town on the Truckee*, John Townley.



Above: Photograph of Emma G. Gibbs Art Needlework, 104 Virginia Street; left, Annie Martin, Flora Pinniger, Mrs. Pinniger, Miss Gibbs, Mrs. Knowles, Etta Smith, and Frances Frey; Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. 1900. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

Early Reno Businesswoman Emma Gibbs Schadler

by Brett Banks

Emma Grace Gibbs [Schadler] was born in Fredericksburg, Douglas County, just outside of Gardnerville, Nevada on May 3, 1860 to mother Rosemund Barker Gibbs and father Charles Franklin Gibbs (both born in New York). She was their youngest child and third daughter. Rosemund and Charles, a farmer, moved from Ostego County, New York to Carson Valley, Utah Territory and later to Fredericksburg.

The Gibbs family relocated to Reno in 1870, to a home at 227 S. Virginia Street. Emma began her schooling, receiving many awards for her various arts through grade school and Reno High.

By 1875, Emma's father Charles had passed away, widowing her mother with three daughters (Frances, Marian, and Emma - they had a son in 1866 who passed at birth). Rosemund was not able to manage everything on her own and had her brother, Don Barker, move from Mexico to come and stay with her and the children. Don quickly gained popularity as one of the area's best surveyors and civil engineers alongside friends like C. C. Powning and T. K. Stewart. After Don's passing in 1893, Emma and mother Rosemund moved in with Don's widow, Mary Frances, at 211 Mill Street.

As with most young women of her era, Emma did not go on to college. But she had plans that would take advantage of her skills. In 1887, she opened a millinery and needleworks store at 204 S. Virginia Street. Her store was known across the state for importing, selling and creating items from some of the finest textiles in the West. Newspaper adverts show fine hats, buggy robes, and more being sold at a rapid rate from her storeroom. Emma boasted the cheapest prices, best quality, and even on occasion hosted companies like Singer to show their newest and finest machines (such as their new embroidery machine in 1892).

Emma lived with family her entire life, never having children of her own. Her beloved mother, Rosemund, died of a fractured femur on December 8, 1898. The funeral took place at the Mill Street home.

Emma had at some point become acquainted with Fred Schadler, who was born in Germany and moved to Reno in 1889 with his parents from Fort Bidwell, California to attend the University of Nevada. He later completed a course in architecture in San Francisco. After graduation, he began his impressive career as an architect. Fred and Emma were married in 1901 at her home by Reverend Samuel Unsworth of Trinity

Episcopal Church; Emma was 40, Fred was 35. The couple would later move to a home at 445 S. Virginia Street. Fred went on to build the Elks Home (First and Sierra - 1904-1957), the Humphrey House (Ralston and 5th - 1906), the Howell/Sinai Home (Hill St. - 1916-2023), the Steinmiller/Parsons House (761 California Ave - 1920), the Twentieth Century Club (335 W. First - 1925), as well as many other buildings and residential dwellings across the state.

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Top: 211 Mill Street, Courtesy Jerry Fenwick Collection. Bottom: 151 W. Taylor Street, Courtesy Debbie Hinman.



Historic Reno Preservation Society 2023 May-June Historic Walking Tours

Reservations required and space is limited. Tour cost is \$10 per person, free to HRPS members. Please go to www.historicreno.org for reservations. If tour is full, you will be placed on a wait list and notified by email if space opens. Call 775-747-4478 for information.

Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in and sign the required liability waiver. Wear comfortable shoes. A hat, sunglasses, and water bottle are advised in warm weather. **No dogs or baby strollers allowed.** Please note, some neighborhoods may have uneven walking surfaces and sidewalk barriers, which may make it difficult for people with mobility issues. Walks generally last 1 ½ to 2 hours.

Tuesday
May 16
6:00 PM

WELLS AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD – Take a stroll through a working-class neighborhood along the path of the Wells Avenue streetcar, across the V&T tracks, and past the homes of the “Thoma Street Gang.” Meet at the Sinclair Street side at the historic Southside School Annex, 190 East Liberty Street. **Tour guide: Mark Taxer.**



Saturday
May 20
9:00 AM

BRICKS AND STONES – A walk through the Humboldt and Lander Streets Neighborhood. Discover the architectural treasures of this area, a mix of bungalows, Tudor and mission revivals and cottage styles. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. **Tour guide: Susan Mullen.**



Tuesday
May 23
6:00 PM

NEWLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD – Enjoy an architectural walk through one of Reno’s oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Newlands Heights Historic District was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. Meet outside Brewers’ Cabinet, at the northwest corner of Arlington and California. **Tour guides: Derek Partridge, Matt Magaletti.**



Saturday
May 27
9:00 AM

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF / COURT STREET – A stroll through Reno’s most treasured historic neighborhood. Many of early Reno’s prominent families built generous homes on this once treeless bluff overlooking the Truckee River with panoramic views of Peavine Mountain and the Sierra. Take in the beauty and charm of this coveted neighborhood, largely developed by U.S. Senator Francis Newlands. Walk to the oldest home on the bluff, built by Newlands in 1887. Meet on the sidewalk at the McCarran Mansion, 401 Court Street. **Tour guide: Pat Cantwell.**



Tuesday
May 30
6:00 PM

EL RENO APARTMENT HOMES – Visit the original site of these charming and unique homes and view seven of them at their new locations. See other Sierra Vista Addition architecture, such as the August Hill brick houses and the impressive stone home of eccentric millionaire LaVere Redfield. Meet at the northwest corner of the Statewide Lighting parking lot, 1311 S. Virginia. **Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.**



Saturday
June 3
9:00 AM

LITERARY RENO – Take a Tour of Writing from the “Underbelly.” There’s more to Reno’s literary history than “City of Trembling Leaves!” Reno continues to be a mythical magnet for ‘outsider’ writers and characters: the misfits, outcasts and seekers. Let your imagination roam as we travel downtown streets encountered by traditional writers like Will James, Robert Laxalt and Joanne de Longchamps, then walk the haunts of contemporary writers such as Bernie Schopen, Willy Vlautin and Susan Palwick. Meet near the Riverside Artist Lofts, 17 S. Virginia Street. **Tour guides: Amy Burton, Anne Benoit and Jessica Johnson.**



Tuesday
June 6
6:00 PM

UPPER RALSTON/NORTHERN LITTLE ITALY – Enjoy a walk in a residential neighborhood with a mix of architectural styles. Proximity to the University has traditionally determined the mix of residents, professors and students alike. Meet at the intersection of Washington Street, The Strand and College Avenue. **Tour guides: Jim & Sue Smith and Brad Carlson.**



Saturday
June 10
9:00 AM

MOVIE FOOTPRINTS IN RENO – Walk in the footsteps of Marilyn Monroe, Kirk Douglas, Kevin Costner, Clint Eastwood, Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren and more. The tour covers downtown Reno's rich film history inspired by divorce, gambling and the city's distinct look in such movies as "The Misfits," "Cobb," "Sister Act," and "Love Ranch." Meet by the northeast entrance to the lobby of the National Automobile Museum, 10 South Lake Street. **Tour guide: Robin Holabird.**



Tuesday
June 13
6:00 PM

EAST FOURTH STREET – From a county road and railroad hub to the Lincoln Highway, U.S. 40, and beyond, Reno's East Fourth Street has always been a dynamic crossroads for industry, tourism, and commerce. Explore the historic roots of this corridor, where century-old brick hotels, warehouses, railway, and manufacturing buildings have been preserved and revitalized to create one of Reno's most energetic districts. Meet around corner from Louis' Basque, 301 E. 4th Street. **Tour guide: Brett Banks.**



Saturday
June 17
9:00 AM

DELONGCHAMPS RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE – This walk takes you on a neighborhood tour of homes, large and small, designed by Reno's notable architect, Frederic DeLongchamps. Hear about his life and what made him so unique to this area. Meet outside the Hardy House/Arte Italia, 442 Flint Street. **Tour guide: David Sholtz.**



Tuesday
June 20
6:00 PM

COUNTRY CLUB ACRES – Take a stroll through an area of southwest Reno steeped in history from the 1920s and 30s. Hear about the original Reno Golf Club, Reno's first airfield and the luxurious, ill-fated Country Club. With the growing popularity of the Washoe Golf Course and the newly-created Virginia Lake, the early 1940s saw the rise of a new neighborhood created for suburban living. The sale of lots rather than homes ensured an eclectic mix of architectural styles and homes of all sizes. Meet at the corner of Bonnie Briar and Lakeside. **Tour Guide: Debbie Hinman.**



Saturday
June 24
9:00 AM

LAKE ADDITION – Meander through one of Reno's earliest additions, past divorce-trade dwellings, Victorian and ultra-modern architecture. Nowhere in Reno is the contrast between old and new more evident. Includes a stop at the Historic Lake Mansion. Meet in front of the Nevada Museum of Art, 160 West Liberty Street. **Tour guides: Debbie Hinman and Meredith Ohm.**



Tuesday
June 27
6:00 PM

CIRCLE DRIVE / SOUTHRIDGE – Learn about Southridge Estates, one of Reno's most outstanding residential areas in the early 1950s, featuring large yards, big trees, and the beautiful homes of many prominent Renoites. Meet outside 1615 Circle Drive. **Tour guide: Caroline Asikainen**



Thursday
June 29 PM

HEBREW AND KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS CEMETERY TOUR – Join HRPS for an early evening visit to two of Reno's most historic cemeteries: Knights of Pythias and the Hebrew Cemetery and "become acquainted" with some of their most notable residents. Meet at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada Street. Please wear closed shoes suitable for rocky and uneven ground. **Tour guides: Steve Matles and Bill Mardon.**





HRPS and Artown 2023 July Historic Walking Tours



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Saturday
July 1
9:00 AM

TRUCKEE RIVER ALL THE TIME – See Reno’s relationship with the Truckee over time, learn of the great floods and of Reno’s architectural heritage, hear the Voice of the City, observe how the HRPS Walks in July relate to the Truckee and the history of Reno. Meet at the Wild River Grille at the Riverside Artists Lofts. **Tour guides: Jim & Sue Smith and Brad Carlson.**



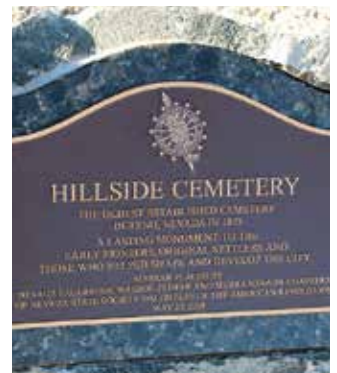
Saturday
July 8
9:00 AM

DISCOVER RENO’S PARKS – The Reno/Sparks area boasts over 200 parks, many with early settler origins and history as fascinating as the buildings and neighborhoods that have grown up around them. During this stroll through two beautiful parks, you will hear stories of Reno’s pioneers and their ranches, and how the legacy left by these visionaries has given us a treasure trove of parks in which to enjoy nature. Meet at the parking lot at Crissie Caughlin Park, 3415 Idlewild Dr., **Tour guide: Jill Richardson.**



Tuesday
July 11
6:00 PM

HILLSIDE CEMETERY – Hillside Cemetery is a historic cemetery located in the heart of Downtown Reno, Nevada. Originally called the Reno Cemetery in 1869, Hillside Cemetery was officially established in 1875, making it Reno’s oldest. It sits on a gorgeous hillside overlooking the cityscape of Downtown. Hillside suffered through years of neglect and vandalism, but a group of dedicated volunteers has worked to return it to its former glory. Meet at the front gates of the cemetery, west side, next to the Knights of Pythias lodge at 980 Nevada Street. **Tour guide: Brett Banks.**



Saturday
July 15
9:00 AM

DOWNTOWN SPARKS – Learn about the history of the rail city with a guided walking tour of Victorian Square and Downtown Sparks. This interactive tour is designed to show how this area has transformed itself from a railroad hub, to a vibrant commercial district, to a run-down urban area and finally to a successful redevelopment area that has changed the image and future of the city. The tour includes sites that have played an important role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. Tour begins and ends at the Sparks Heritage Museum located at 814 Victorian Avenue, Sparks. **Tour guide: Scott Carey.** *This tour is in collaboration with the Museum (www.sparksmuseum.org) but reservations need to be made through HRPS.*



Tuesday
July 18
6:00 PM

MONROE STREET – Stroll along Monroe and Joaquin Miller Streets, savoring the history and architecture of this lovely residential area south of the Newlands Neighborhood. You will see the Sewell House, the Hart House, the Patrick Ranch House, Greystone Castle, the Jack Dempsey House, and other interesting properties. Meet at the corner of Monroe and Manor Drives. **Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.**



Saturday
July 22
9:00 AM

PARSONS/MILLS ARCHITECTURE – Stroll one of Reno's most unique neighborhoods to view some designs of Reno architects Edward Parsons and Russell Mills, who sometimes collaborated on designs. Hear about the families who first lived in these homes. Meet at the corner of Marsh Avenue and LaRue. **Tour guide: Madeline Van der Voort.**



Tuesday
July 25
6:00 PM

CULTURAL CROSSROADS, WEST SIDE – Chinese herbal shops, Judaism's early days and a rich African-American heritage come alive on this tour. Includes a walk to the Lear Theater and the historic Bethel AME Church. Meet at West Street Market, located on West between First and Second Streets. **Tour guide: Jill Richardson.**



Thursday
July 27
6:00 PM

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF / CALIFORNIA AVENUE – Walk past historical Reno homes located on California Avenue. Learn about the senators and merchants who made early Reno The Biggest Little City in the World. Be sure to bring water and wear comfortable shoes for this uphill tour. Meet at the corner of Nixon and California. Look nearby for mandatory sign-in/registration table. **Tour guide: Matt Magaletti.**



Saturday
July 29
9:00 AM

BRICKS AND STONES – A walk through the Humboldt and Lander Streets Neighborhood. Discover the architectural treasures of this area, a mix of bungalows, Tudor and mission revivals and cottage styles. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. **Tour guide: Susan Mullen.**



Emma Gibbs Schadler

continued from page 7

Shortly after her marriage, Emma sold her business on Virginia Street to Mrs. M. F. Goodwin. Goodwin went on to rename the store “The Gibbs” in Emma’s honor and it quickly relocated from Virginia Street to Commercial Row in the new storefronts at the Masonic Lodge.

Emma lived a long and successful life, dying at home on February 16, 1935 at 74, after a few days of illness. She was the president of the Twentieth Century Club, a member of the Episcopal Church, as well as

a prominent member of the local P. E. O. Sisterhood (the Philanthropic Educational Organization). Fred passed away in November of that same year at 69, after suffering injuries in an automobile accident. Emma was the last surviving member of her family and as it was not known where her mother and father were buried, Emma was laid to rest in the Schadler family plot in Mountain View Cemetery alongside Fred’s parents, where Fred would join them just a brief nine months later.

Today, all the lovely, large residences that once occupied South Virginia and Mill Streets are just a memory, replaced by commercial businesses. In one fortunate save, the home of the Barkers and Fred and Emma on Mill Street was relocated to 151 W. Taylor Street sometime after the Schadlers’ death. It still stands today and has been beautifully restored. Three of the five buildings highlighting the Schadler legacy are still standing. The latest loss, the Howell/Sinai house, occurred this April 2023, due to a planned Nevada Museum of Art expansion. 



HRPS presents this list of historic properties not to point fingers or to raise alarms, but to generate awareness and appreciation. We want their owners, whether public or private, to know that we care about these places and that we consider them highly significant to Reno's history and worthy of preservation. Lastly, we want to offer our support to help ensure that they can remain safe and protected for years to come. You can find full entries for each property listed below on Reno Historical at <https://renohistorical.org/>.

1. **Benham-Beltz House** (likely 1868/1869), 347 West Street
2. **Nystrom Guest House** (1875), Formerly in 300-block on Ralston Street, now up on blocks off 4th Street, between Washington and Vine Streets
3. **I.O.O.F. Lodge/Reno Savings Bank** (1877), 195 N. Virginia Street
4. **Reno National Bank** (1915), 206 N. Virginia Street
5. **Howell/Sinai House** (1916), 448 Hill Street
(Demolished April 2023)
6. **Piazzo Building** (1925), 354 N. Virginia Street
7. **Southern Pacific Railroad Depot** (1926), 135 E. Commercial Row
8. **Freight House** (1931), North side of Greater Nevada Field on Evans Avenue
9. **El Reno Apartment Homes** (1937), 1461 Lander Street
10. **Solari Building** (1938), 1052 S. Virginia Street
11. **First Church of Christ, Scientist/Lear Theater** (1939), 501 Riverside Drive
12. **Regina Apartments** (1941), 260 Island Avenue

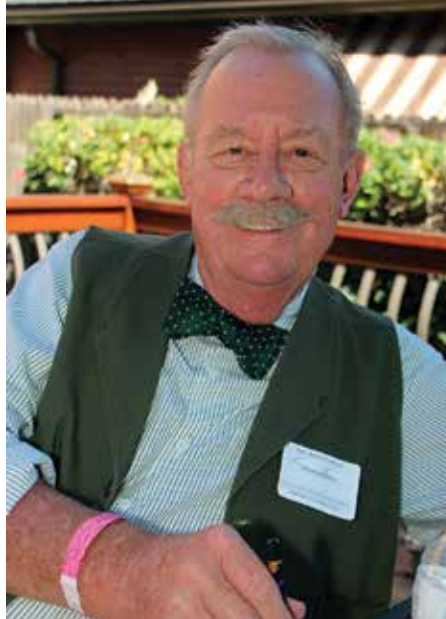


Karl Breckenridge (1941-2023)

by Debbie Hinman

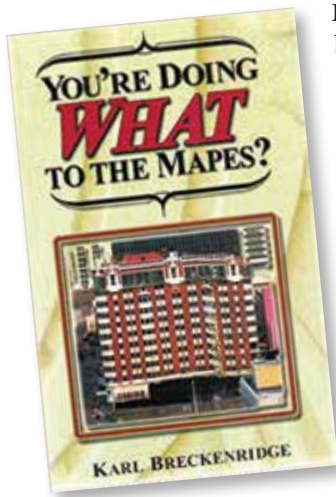
It isn't often that Carol Coleman asks me to write on a specific topic. One reason I so enjoy writing for FootPrints is that I can generally write what I want—no matter how obscure the topic. So when she requests a story, I generally feel obligated to do it—no matter how difficult it may be. This may be the most difficult one ever.

Karl Frederick Breckenridge died on Friday, March 10, 2023, at the Life Care Center of Reno. He was 81, a longtime Reno resident and spent the better part of his life writing about our city. His recall was amazing, right to the end. You could ask him, “What building stood on W. Fourth Street next to Alpine Glass in the 1950s?” and Karl would think for a moment, then produce the answer from his prodigious memory. I never knew him to be wrong.



Karl Breckenridge as storyteller at the 2018 HRPS Harvest of Homes Tour.
Courtesy David Lowndes.

I had always been a fan of Karl's *Reno Gazette-Journal* column, but first met him when he began writing about the El Reno Apartment homes. I was captivated by the story and began a correspondence with him that turned into a 20-year friendship. I talked him into joining me for a series of three HRPS El Reno bus tours in 2003 and after some whining and coercion on my part, he agreed. From that time, he became a friend to HRPS. Karl was always willing to donate



copies of his book, “You're Doing WHAT to the Mapes?” a thoroughly entertaining collection of stories about Reno locales and residents, to fundraiser baskets.

One of Karl's favorite things was to introduce his friends to his favorite local hotspots. When I confessed I had never had prime rib at the Liberty Belle, he insisted on treating me to dinner there. Of course, he knew all the staff by name which made the dinner all the more special.

Karl was always in high demand as a speaker. He had a commanding voice and a sense of humor that made you hang on his words; a born storyteller. He had very little patience


for those who tried to pretend they were local experts and got things wrong, however. He was a staple at the GOD (Good Old Days) Club, and had a huge circle of longtime friends. I felt lucky to be invited to accompany Karl to his 60-year Reno High School reunion as it was clear he was a class favorite. Karl was at first reluctant to attend, as he had taken a bad fall and his mobility was impaired. He was in his element that evening, though, and I'm glad he had the chance to reconnect with old classmates.

Honest and blunt, Karl pretty much always said exactly what he thought. He told me one day, “Your columns are too long.” I snapped back, “That's because they aren't columns—they are feature stories.” For once, he had no comeback.

HRPS' last few Harvest of Homes tours prior to the pandemic were made even more special by the “triad of Reno experts” we invited to occupy tables at

three of the properties to share stories and answer questions. This triad included Neal Cobb, Jerry Fenwick, and Karl. It was obvious that our guests loved this addition to the tours—they lined up to be able to speak with such venerable Reno authors and experts to share their memories and have their questions answered. When I asked Karl to participate, he first grumbled a bit but then succumbed to my pleading and as I observed him at his table with a crowd of locals surrounding him, vying for a chance to speak with him, I knew he was enjoying himself as much as his audience enjoyed him. When Karl asked about the 2021 home tours and I regretfully told him it was too soon to resume them, the look of disappointment on his face underscored my feeling that they were important to him. His face in the accompanying photograph taken at the 2018 home tour is clearly a testimony to his enjoyment.

Though he had never fully recovered from his first fall, he fell again in January and was at Renown for a period and then moved to the care facility, as his pain needed to be managed and he could no longer live alone.

Karl will be greatly missed, but I know he will live on in the hearts of those of us who knew him, and in the memories of all who followed his columns, Facebook page, or heard his stories of Reno, delivered with his trademark humor and incredible recall. 

Message From Your HRPS Board

Hello Members and Friends,

What a year! Snow from December to April? The snow is beautiful but now it's time for Spring. Please.

May Speaker Program

On Sunday May 7, we hold our final Speaker Program for our 2022-2023 season. Remember, this time it's the first Sunday of the month (not the second) to avoid Mothers' Day. As usual, we are collaborating with Washoe County Library System, and holding the program in their wonderful auditorium at the Downtown Library at 301 S. Center Street. First, we'll have our Annual Meeting to update you on how and what HRPS is doing. Our featured speaker is Karen Burns, who purchased "a piece of history" when "Hello Hollywood Hello" at the MGM closed in 1978 – she purchased over 1,250 original costumes. That's historic preservation of a different type from homes and buildings. Besides the preservation issues, it's a story of art, culture and entertainment in Reno. Hope to see you there!

The Speaker Programs don't happen without a lot of work, and many thanks go out to Shery Hayes-Zorn and Susan Mullen for making it all happen!



Historic Walking Tours

This is our Historic Walking Tours issue – announcing that we are holding May, June and July tours this year. You may recall that last year we began in June, still a bit iffy starting up after COVID. This year we begin May 16, when there is enough daylight in the evening to have a tour that starts at 6:00 pm. We have eight new Tour Guides to complete our season and we want to thank them for coming forward. One is doing a brand-new Walking Tour on the History of a couple of parks – that's Jill Richardson, who is also the author of our first page article in this issue. Thanks to the volunteers that have come forward to help with the walks. But, we need some more wonderful souls to help: another person(s) to "shlep" the table and chairs (and banner and a few other things) to and from the walks. This could be several people, so that it fits your schedule. And a person to be the caretaker of the microphones and to keep them charged and ready for each walk. Please email board@historicroeno.org if you can help. You'll see our walks listed under the History genre on the Artown site (www.Artown.org) and on the HRPS website under Tours & Events.

It takes a bunch of people to put things together, and behind the scenes we want to thank Carol Coleman, Joy Orlich and Rosie Cevasco for the Walking Tour setup. Thanks to the Walking Tour Guides for their dedication, research and willingness to offer HRPS Historic Walking Tours. A

special thanks to everyone who works to make the walks run smoothly!

2023 Harvest of Homes Tour

We've begun our search for possible homes for a 2023 Home Tour. We're looking for five to six homes that are at least 50 years old, that have interesting architecture, personal history, and/or relate to history of the area and that you'd like to view. One property will be what we call a "rerun" – that is it was popular on an earlier HRPS Home Tour. Another one should demonstrate adaptive reuse, where a property has gone from a residential home to a business, or maybe the reverse. Then, we look for homes in different areas of town. This is the "go/no go" step in bringing you the HRPS Home Tour. Without these homes, we can't go forward with a Home Tour. The plan is that we hold the tour on Saturday, September 23. Wish us well in our home search!

Another Big Thanks

You have likely gotten used to an email newsletter arriving monthly. It didn't always happen. It began in October 2020 when then temporary Executive Director Joy Orlich suggested sending out a newsletter with Constant Contact. A few months later she transitioned to Treasurer and began working in our Membership Management Software, Wild Apricot. It too has features that support a newsletter. Through COVID and continuing to recent days, the newsletter helps you learn about what HRPS is offering and what other non-profits and agencies are offering that could be of interest to you. We are able to get the word out quickly if needed, and you can count on Joy to collect information for you, delivered the first of each month in your email. Thanks, Joy!

HRPS thanks you for your support of our organization and of historic Reno.

Contact us at board@historicroeno.org or call/text Carol at 1-775-560-0602.

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(*) *deceased*

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

By joining **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, you are a member of a community group that celebrates Reno's history by sharing information and advocating for our endangered properties.

HRPS offers Walking Tours during the summer, Speaker Programs during the winter, and a Home Tour in fall as a fund-raiser to support our Reno Heritage Fund grants. As a member, you receive our monthly email newsletter and our quarterly publication, FootPrints, to keep you informed about HRPS events, places of historical interest as well as items of concern. HRPS information is on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing		My Additional Donation:	
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HRPS respects your right to privacy. We will **NOT** share your email address.

WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Tours	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking Tours	<input type="checkbox"/> Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Research
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Ways to become a member or renew your membership in HRPS:

- 1) Join or renew on HRPS website historicreno.org using credit or debit card
- 2) Fill out the above form and mail with a check to address below
- 3) Fill out the above form and credit/debit info below and mail to address below

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FootPrints Graphic Design:
Double Click Design
dcdreno.com

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