

## City Plaza: A Time Capsule

by Debbie Hinman

On the southeast corner of First and Virginia Streets is a large expanse of concrete, too barren to be considered a park by normal definition but it is indeed a designated park, purchased by the City of Reno in 2005. Perhaps that's the significance of the massive BELIEVE sign, which occupies the expanse along with the colorful Space Whale. Newcomers and infrequent visitors to our city must wonder about its purpose unless they take the time to read the display posts at the northeast corner of the property. Then they will begin to realize that they are standing on one of the oldest and most historic spots in all of Reno. Here's how it all began...



Left, a modern view of City Plaza with two of Reno's remaining historic buildings in the background: the Riverside Hotel, now the Riverside Artists Lofts, and the Downtown Post Office, now 50 S. Virginia. Right, one of the six display posts on the plaza featuring vintage photos and snippets of Reno history.

Photos by David Lowndes and Debbie Hinman.

### Lake's Grist Mill and the Alhambra Hall: 1867-1904

In 1861, seven years before Reno was to become a town, a successful rancher from Honey Lake, California named Myron Lake happened upon a deal that he couldn't refuse. In a remote outpost between Honey Lake and the Comstock, beside a river that frequently overflowed its banks causing mayhem for the operator of a way station and his series of makeshift bridges, Lake saw a golden opportunity. The timing was right and Charles Fuller accepted Lake's offer of land in Honey Lake in trade for the station and the toll road itself, for a considerable



An early view of Reno to the east, across the iron Virginia Street bridge. Alhambra Hall is the dark wooden building to the left of the tall white structure, which was Reno's Army. Courtesy Neal Cobb Collection.

distance north and south of the crossing. Lake also purchased land on either side abutting the road.

By 1867, Lake was doing well enough that he began working on a new building across the river, at the northeast edge of his bridge. Lake had decided to build a grist mill, as he was growing a crop of wheat. Most accounts say the structure was never used for this purpose but one reference claims Lake pioneered industrial use of Truckee water power on this site. And little did Lake know he was also erecting Reno's pioneer establishment—its first saloon. For the duration of its relatively short life of less than 40 years, this building had a plethora of uses—once the railroad was completed through Reno on May 4, 1868, the town began to grow and there were at that time no other community buildings.

In 1868, two men of the cloth, Rev. J. W. Atherton and Rev. T. H. McGraw, held services at the mill, now known as Alhambra Hall. There is no mention of the origin of the name in newspapers of the day. Could someone with a grand sense of humor have named it for the Spanish palace or the massive and highly ornamental London Alhambra Theater from the mid-1850s? Reno's Alhambra was a barn-like structure of weathered wood, as seen in the photo on the left.

At some point that year, a Mr. W. B. Whittemore acquired the building and began operating a very welcome saloon and

*continued on page 2*

# City Plaza: A Time Capsule

continued from page 1

lodging house. He added a half-story creating, as reported in the Reno Crescent, “a splendid hall, 30 by 50 feet, the finest room probably in all the state.” At this time, it was Reno’s only schoolroom, civic auditorium, meeting hall, theater and house of worship until the beginning of 1869. The first school was held in the Alhambra in September of 1868 with 31 students and one teacher, Miss Lucy Scott. At Christmastime, the Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 held a benefit ball in the new hall at \$3 a ticket—supper extra—which was reportedly “a little short of colossal” and most of the town attended.

In 1869, the first meeting of Reno Lodge No. 13 of the Masons met in the Alhambra; it would be another three years before they would have their own building. The Odd Fellows also held meetings in the Alhambra.

In early August of 1878, fire consumed the Chinese quarter of town. A Chinese firm had recently been awarded a contract to build the 33-mile Steamboat Ditch and the existing disdain for the Chinese was reaching a fever pitch. Coincidentally (or not), an anti-Chinese group had met that same evening to discuss “the Chinese question.” With their homes and possessions suddenly turned to ashes, Alhambra Hall became a short-term home for displaced persons. A local newspaper unsympathetically reported the following on August 17th: *In the basement story of the old Alhambra Hall are stowed away from 150 to 200 moon eyes, who live like so many sardines in a box. In the dimly lighted room we see them reclining in every corner, some smoking, a few gambling, others cooking, more eating and all jabbering and gesticulating.* The town would not put up with this situation much longer. In early October the following news item appeared: *The notice to leave given by the Pavilion Committee to the Chinese who still lingered around the old town, had a decided effect, for not a heathen was left yesterday. It is interesting to go over the vacated places and imagine how like hogs they must have lived.*



Reno’s 1909 Post Office and Federal Building, facing Virginia Street just north of the Truckee River. Postcard Courtesy Debbie Hinman.



The 1934 Post Office and Federal Building, across the river from its predecessor. The treed area behind the building was a park given to the city by Myron Lake. Today it is the painted cement area fronting the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society

Somewhat ironically, in 1901, the Alhambra was mentioned as being occupied by the Volunteers of America, a faith-based non-profit organization established in 1896 to provide housing assistance to low-income people. In 1903, the building was referred to as the Salvation Army barracks and was demolished in December of that year. A few weeks later, a *Nevada State Journal [NSJ]* editorial entitled “Another Landmark Doomed” delivered a statement that we might well consider today. Said the writer, “It is all very well to brush away the musty past to make room for the present and give the future a chance, but it is also well to stop and meditate a while.” The land would lie vacant for the next six years.

## The Reno Federal Building and Post Office: 1909-1933

As early as 1882, Reno was lobbying for a federal building and a permanent site for the post office, which moved around to various storefronts in the downtown area. When news that Carson City was to have a new federal building reached the ears of a local newspaper editor, he expressed an opinion that inflamed Carson residents and was reported by the *Virginia Chronicle*: *The editor of the Reno Gazette will not dare to visit Carson for months to come. He suggested in his paper the other day that the new Federal building which is to be erected should be put up in Reno rather than in the State Capital. The indignation excited in Yeringtonville by this outrageous idea does not find expression loudly, but it is murderous in its intensity, and blood would surely flow should the Reno journalist venture within the limits of Ormsby county.* Carson needn’t have worried; their beautiful Richardsonian Romanesque federal building was completed in 1891 and is still standing today.

As for Reno, proposals opened in July of 1902 for a suitable site. A corner lot, approximately 130-150 feet was required. The former site of the Alhambra fit the bill and it became the desired choice. But that was the easy part. For the next several years, a series of start dates were announced and then met obstacles, such as a delay in getting the appropriation increased, alterations to the plan needed and the delays causing the contract with the builders not to hold. In August of 1907 it was announced that work would begin without further delay. By late October, the message had become “*While not definitely certain it is almost an assured thing that work on the new federal building will be begun immediately.*” There was another delay when the local contractor was unable to secure local stone for the work and then it became necessary to change the course of the Asylum Ditch in order to build the foundation.



By April of 1909, the lovely neoclassical brick federal building was complete. Having to get the last word, a local newspaper article proclaimed it *the best Federal structure in the state, and one of the best in the west although it is small. It is not as large as the Federal building in Carson City, but it is more substantial and has a more imposing appearance.* By May the post office employees and Postmaster Dwight Dawson had moved into the first floor; the second floor was occupied by Surveyor General Kyle and his team. Men from the Southern Pacific railroad came to measure the distance from the old post office across from the train depot to the new one, needing to estimate the additional cost to deliver mail to the new location.

This federal building had served the community well for nearly 20 years but Reno was growing and in 1927, local newspapers reported that the U. S. Government was looking at providing allocations for new federal buildings across the country. A year later, an act of Congress provided funds to purchase a site and fund construction of a new federal building for Reno. A location south of the river was chosen to the disapproval of many living on the north side. The building was completed in 1933 and most of the residents of the “old” federal building moved to the commodious new quarters. The smaller federal building was used for various other offices; the National Rifle Association had office space there. In its later years, the Temple Baptist Church and the Arthur Murray Dance Studio shared space on the second floor.

On October 25, 1945, the NSJ featured a photo captioned “Old Post Office is Doomed.” On December 21st of that year, a headline read “Pillars Crash to Ground as Crowds Watch;” a smaller but no less noteworthy preface to what would occur a little over 55 years later on that same spot. Locals’ fascination with demolition was apparently just as intense then as today. An amusing tongue-in-cheek bit of writing announced: *A large delegation of the Sidewalk Watchers Association was present for the final smash—and a goodly number of the crowd had the additional pleasure of being powdered with brick and plaster dust as the last bit of the structure came thundering down.*



Here you can see the sign with its iconic Mapes cowboys forming the “M” on the Mapes Casino sign. Looking south on Virginia Street, you can see the Mapes’ competitor, the Riverside Hotel. Courtesy Neal Cobb Collection, Nevada Historical Society.



The Mapes Hotel, looking north on Virginia Street. After the windows were installed in 1947, the balconies and delicate railings of the Sky Room were made of aluminum and embedded in concrete. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

### The Mapes Hotel: 1947-2000

The site of the old post office was purchased by Charles Mapes, Sr. prior to his death in 1937. He had the idea of building a hotel there in memory of his father, George Mapes, who he claimed had always fondly related a story that he had operated a grain store and lodging house on that same site in the early days of Reno, before there was even a Virginia Street bridge. Either George misspoke or Charles Sr. was unclear on this memory; research shows that the Alhambra was the first structure on this plot of land and there is no record of it having been owned by Mapes. In 1903, however, he did own the Palace Hotel on Commercial Row.



The unforgettable Mapes cowboys in neon; they currently reside in Reno resident Will Durham’s amazing neon collection. Courtesy Will Durham.

At any rate, son Charles Jr. and daughter Gloria agreed it was a prime site for a hotel—and what a hotel they built! Using 20-year-old plans (construction was delayed by World War II), the Mapes Construction Company and architect F. H. Slocombe created an art deco marvel that would attract visitors from all over the world. On opening day, December 17, 1947, the Mapes family announced, *“The hotel is informal in keeping with the western tradition which makes Reno so hospitable. Come in full dress if you want any time... or come in cowboy boots. You will feel equally at home.”* The Mapes was the tallest building in Nevada offering dining, dancing, floor shows, a casino, and its crowning glory, a 12th floor “sky

*continued on page 4*

# City Plaza: A Time Capsule

*continued from page 3*

room,” totally enclosed in glass. For more than three decades, the Mapes was known for fine dining, top-level entertainment, and many a Reno High graduating class, as well as University of Nevada pledge classes, held their proms and dances high above Reno in the Sky Room. Throughout the 1990s, the *Reno Gazette-Journal* was filled with photos and items submitted by locals and visitors from outside the area, relating memories of first dates, first kisses, marriage proposals, meeting celebrities and other unforgettable experiences linked to this iconic property. But even a popular marvel can experience financial difficulties and the Mapes organization was forced to file for bankruptcy in late 1980.

The building closed for good in 1982. Locals held their breath when in 1990 prospective buyer Hollis Walker vowed he would not tear down the



The Reno City Council and thousands of the 180,480 Reno citizens of Reno watched either in person or on television as Clauss Construction imploded the building on the chilly Super Bowl Sunday of January 30th, 2000. Picture courtesy Dr. Lee Brumbaugh, Nevada Historical Society. Caption from Patty Cafferata's book, *Mapes Hotel and Casino: The History of Reno's Landmark Hotel*.

building, declaring “The Mapes deserves preservation. It would be almost criminal to go in and tear that building down.” Other prospective buyers spoke of elaborate plans but were unable to come through. The Mapes was sold to the Reno Redevelopment Agency in 1996. The building continued to deteriorate, with the New Year's Day 1997 flood filling the basement and broken windows allowing birds to take up residency inside. Still no developers with the necessary financial backing appeared on the horizon to save our local treasure. And there were many who deemed it too far gone to make renovation feasible in any case.

Preservation-minded locals fought hard for this iconic building, presenting all manner of creative ideas for adaptive reuse but without funds to bring the plans to fruition, they went unfulfilled. Although the Mapes' future would still be argued in court, its fate was sealed. Just as locals had filled the sidewalks to watch the federal building fall, a new contingency of the “Sidewalk Watchers Association” was present that Sunday Super Bowl morning in 2000 to watch the building go down in a massive cloud of dust and debris. In a letter to the editor, one local observed, “It's a shame that we live in an era when it is easier to blow up our past and, in the process, lower the quality of our future.”

## City Plaza: 2000-present

City officials had announced that once the hotel was destroyed, the land would be cleared and sold to a developer for some type of entertainment attraction. The lot was paved over and a concrete bench created along one side of the space. Ice skating was held on the plaza for a short stretch in winter months. Six metal posts were added to the northeast corner of the site, with panels relating downtown history and historic photos; a wonderful tribute to Reno's beginnings created by Alicia Barber. In 2015, the BELIEVE sign was installed on the plaza; in 2017, the Space Whale arrived.

Today, the history display posts still stand but the material covering the photographs is stained and pitted from



The north end of the City Plaza today, with the garish Cal Neva parking garage in the background. Along the concrete bench you can see the homeless denizens of our city that frequent this space.

Photo Courtesy Debbie Hinman.

the elements, making them difficult to see. The concrete bench is a sad echo of the Alhambra basement, occupied by homeless denizens with blankets and shopping carts, whose forward view is filled with BELIEVE. It's difficult to BELIEVE this is what we are left with, after 154 years of vibrant history.

*Information for this article came from local newspaper articles 1870-present; Tough Little Town on the Truckee by John M. Townley; assistance from Jeff Borchardt, City of Reno Planning Manager; Dr. Alicia Barber, local writer and historian; and Jerry Fenwick, local historian.*

*Debbie Hinman has been active with HRPS since 2004, she is a HRPS Walking Tour Guide, HRPS Board Secretary, Vice Chair of the City of Reno Historical Resources Commission, and a researcher and Editor of HRPS's quarterly FootPrints publication.*



# HRPS Volunteer of the Year Award

And the 2021 Winner is...

HRPS is very fortunate when it comes to its wonderful membership. Many of you volunteer for help with our walking tours, Harvest of Homes tour and have remained loyal to us by renewing your memberships year after year. We couldn't exist without you. Annually we look forward to formally recognizing one of our contributing, enthusiastic members who loves our history and goes above and beyond to share that love with the Reno community. This year we are pleased to present the Klos Volunteer Award to ZoAnn Campana.

The award was established in 2010 by Pat Klos, HRPS' founder and first president who personally funded the award for many years. Today it is funded by our generous members. Recipients receive a cash award and a certificate. The winner is selected by the HRPS Board of Directors with the concurrence of Pat Klos.

ZoAnn probably needs no introduction to most of you but you may not know all she has contributed to preservation efforts in Reno and in the state of Nevada. ZoAnn was a 2-term board member of the HRPS Board and Vice President for three years. Although her board term recently ended, she agreed to fill the vacant position of Membership Chair. As our walking tour attendance



grew, she became one of the guides on our most popular tour, Mansions on the Bluff. She has also led two walks highlighting three of Reno's most prolific architects, the DeLongchamps residential walk, and the Parsons/Mills walk. As an architectural historian, ZoAnn speaks with authority on the architecture of our historic neighborhoods. She applied this same expertise to a massive project, researching and cataloguing the homes within the Newlands Neighborhood to register the Newlands Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. You would think this list of credits would be enough but wait—there's more! ZoAnn has been involved with the annual Harvest of Homes tour as a Home Host for several years and is

also a member of the editorial staff of HRPS' quarterly publication, *FootPrints*, writing stories and numerous articles on architectural elements. She is a past member of the Reno Historical Resources Commission, holding Vice Chair and Chair positions. She was also a principal on the HRPS Reno MoMo project.

In recent years, due to her husband's job change, the couple has relocated to Las Vegas. This was "coming home" for ZoAnn, as she grew up in Las Vegas. However, ZoAnn has remained active in HRPS as the distance allows and is also a member of Preserve Nevada, a preservation group which is in partnership with UNLV, as part of the Department of History and the Public History Program. Preserve Nevada is, like HRPS, a 501c3 organization, through its relationship with the UNLV Foundation. Through her relationship with this group, ZoAnn is able to keep HRPS apprised of preservation efforts taking place in the south end of the state.

In her spare time, although you wonder how she has any, ZoAnn teaches a biennial class in World Architecture at UNR.

ZoAnn is a valuable member of HRPS and a dedicated and knowledgeable proponent of historic preservation. Congratulations ZoAnn, this award is well earned! 🎉

## Highway History, Glimpses of Reno's Past Along U.S. 395/580

by Alicia Barber

As you drive along U.S. Highway 395/580 through Reno, you may not realize how much of our community's history is written on those green and white exit signs.

Just south of Interstate 80, Glendale Avenue takes its name from an early settlement located where East McCarran Boulevard meets the Truckee River. Originally a simple ferry crossing named for its operators, Stone and Gates, the community later took on the name of the Glen Dale house, a hotel that opened there in 1866.

Plumb Lane, Kietzke Lane, and the Damonte Ranch Parkway all were named for early immigrant ranching families. The Plumbs, originally from England, owned land near the current intersection of Plumb Lane and Hunter Lake Drive. The Kietzkes hailed from Germany, while Louis Damonte, a native of Italy, established his family ranch further south on Old Virginia Road. Virginia Street, of course, indicates the route to Virginia City.

Moana Lane takes its name from Moana Springs, a resort that opened three

miles south of Reno in 1905 and was itself named after a famous Hawaiian spa ("Moana" means "ocean" in most Polynesian languages). Residents flocked to the hot spring-fed pool, bath house, hotel, baseball diamond, man-made lake, and clubhouse. The buildings were demolished by the city in 1956 in order to construct a modern recreational facility.

So the next time you're stuck in traffic, don't despair; just entertain your friends with a little highway history trivia. 🚗



# HRPS and Artown Present July 2021 Neighborhood Stories

Alexis Thomas & Libby Cook, Walking Tour Chairs



Usually HRPS Summer *FootPrints* includes Historic Walking Tours. COVID-19 has changed that and much more in our lives. To protect everyone and keep you all safe, HRPS and Artown are only offering events that ensure we can maintain social distancing. That would be impossible for our walking tours.

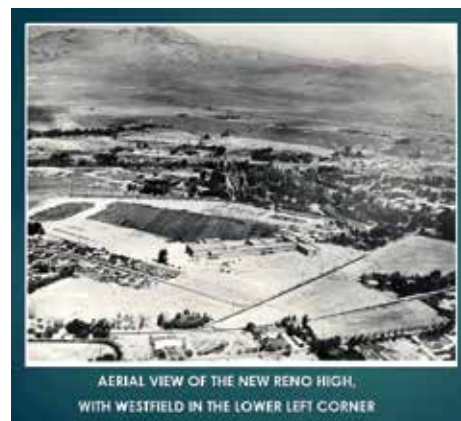
HRPS' July Artown events are presented virtually using Zoom, delivered to you over your computer or phone. Our events are free to all. Go to the Artown site, [renoartown.org](http://renoartown.org) and select History. You will see all the events that are history-related, including the HRPS events. Select the event, and register for it. You will receive an email confirmation that you have signed up for the selected story with access information. The HRPS website, [historicreno.org](http://historicreno.org), will give you similar access.

## WESTFIELD VILLAGE

**Presenter: Sharon Honig-Bear**

Thursday  
July 1  
6:00 p.m.

Discover Westfield Village, a post-WWII suburb that tells an important story of Reno's growth in the mid-century period. Westfield became a prototype for affordable, mass-produced homes. Our tour includes the rural character of west Reno before development, the creation of Idlewild Park and Reno High, and the importance of the FHA and automobiles in creating the modern suburb.



## BRICKS & STONES

**Presenter: Susan Mullen**

Saturday  
July 3  
9:00 a.m.

Enjoy 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. For some homes, we'll have a photo of things they've done to their historic homes or things that have stayed the same over the years.



## RENO'S HISTORIC KITCHENS

**Presenter: Sharon Honig-Bear**

Tuesday  
July 6  
6:00 p.m.

Savor a visual history of local food, drink and the industries that surround them! *EdibleRenoTahoe* columnist Sharon Honig-Bear brings her love of Reno history, throws in a pinch of local restaurant lore and winds up with *Reno's Historic Kitchens*. Our tour visits more than a dozen eateries located in historic buildings. From little known stories for Calafuria to well-known places like the Wild River Grille in the Riverside, the presentation is fast moving and full of surprises about your backyard and the food enjoyed here.





## THE U.P. HOUSE

**Presenters: Loren Jahn and Neal Cobb**

Thursday  
July 8  
6:00 p.m.

Artist/Preservationist Loren Jahn and Historian Neal Cobb tell the story of Loren's move of The U.P. House property at 821 N. Center Street in the UNR Gateway to its new location on Taylor Street near Nixon. This was the only property saved on the west side of N. Center between 8th and 9th Streets, once UNR decided to remove or demolish everything in the Gateway. The property once belonged to poet Joanne de Longchamps who donated it to the University. Its final 15 years were spent housing the offices of the university's Northern Nevada International Center.



## STORY OF BRICK

**Presenter: Alexis Thomas**

Saturday  
July 10  
9:00 a.m.

Have you noticed how much of the older part of Reno is built with brick and what a variety of colors, styles and patterns there are? The Story of Brick provides a brief history on the process of brickmaking and delves into the history of Reno's brickyards and various brick masons responsible for constructing some of Reno's iconic architecture.



## EDWARD PARSONS' ARCHITECTURE

**Presenter: Anne Simone**

Sunday  
July 11  
2:00 p.m.

Throughout Reno and Carson City, renowned local architect Edward S. Parsons designed many beautiful homes and other buildings between 1938 and 1982. His creations include homes, as well as churches, schools, motels, fire stations and several buildings on the UNR campus. Here's a chance to learn about the life, designs, contributions and restoration works of Ed Parsons, who had unique ideas and vision, and see samples of the variety of his works and restorations, and the two historic properties he helped save – Morrill Hall and Bower's Mansion.



## HISTORY OF RENO SCHOOLS

**Presenter: Debbie Hinman**

Tuesday  
July 13  
6:00 p.m.

Take a whirlwind tour through Reno's educational history and the changing architecture of our educational facilities. From the one-room schoolhouses of the Truckee Meadows' early settlements to the varied architecture of Reno's earlier elementary, junior high and high school buildings to today's sprawling, low-profile institutions of learning, our schools have told the story of the changing face of our city.



### POWNING'S ADDITION

**Presenters: Jack Hursh and Loren Jahn**

Thursday  
July 15  
6:00 p.m.

Discover one of Reno's earliest and most delightful vernacular neighborhoods and learn about the English, Germans and Italians that settled the area. This neighborhood is the first City of Reno Conservation District.



### DOWNTOWN SPARKS

**Presenter: Scott Carey**

Saturday  
July 17  
9:00 a.m.

Learn about the history of the Rail City on a virtual walking tour through Victorian Square and Downtown Sparks. Hear about how this area has transformed itself from a railroad hub to a vibrant commercial district, into a rundown urban area before successful redevelopment changed the image and future of the city. We discuss some of the buildings and sites that have played an important role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. This talk is in collaboration with the Sparks Heritage Museum ([www.sparksmuseum.org](http://www.sparksmuseum.org)).

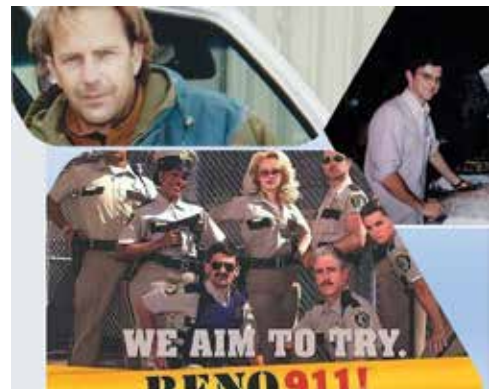


### MOVIE FOOTPRINTS IN RENO

**Presenter: Robin Holabird**

Sunday  
July 18  
2:00 p.m.

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."



### MEAT PACKING DISTRICT

**Presenter: ZoAnn Campana**

Tuesday  
July 20  
6:00 p.m.

More than a century ago, Reno had a booming meatpacking industry, as illustrated by the rise and fall of the Nevada Packing Company on E. 4th Street. Founded by Patrick Flanagan as the Nevada Meat Company in 1902, the Nevada Packing Company grew into Nevada's only Federally-inspected packing plant. More than just a slaughterhouse, the company manufactured butter and ice, distributed beer and liquor, and smoked its own bacon and hams. Most notably, the company foreshadowed the locavore movement as we know it today, sourcing its animals and other materials from local ranches and farms.





## HISTORIC RENO CEMETERIES

**Presenters: Bill Mardon, Fran Tryon and Brett Banks, Mac Wieland and Steve Maples**

Thursday  
July 22  
6:00 p.m.

Today we bring you the Oldest Cemetery Neighborhood Story, about the cemeteries on the hill west of the university. There are four historic cemeteries there: Knights of Pythias, Hillside, The Grand Army of the Republic and the Hebrew Cemetery.



## LAKE TAHOE ARCHITECTURE

**Presenter: Peter Mires**

Saturday  
July 24  
9:00 a.m.

Dr. Peter Mires, historical geographer and Carson City resident, presents an illustrated lecture on the rustic architecture of the Lake Tahoe region. Material for the talk comes from his book "Lake Tahoe's Rustic Architecture." Rustic has become Tahoe's brand; its expression extends beyond homes and resorts to include myriad forms – churches, stores, restaurants, and a host of ancillary structures among them. Dr. Mires will focus largely on its Gilded Age-to-Great Depression heyday.



## TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED

**Presenter: Carrie Jensen, Landscape Architect with Urban Ecology Solutions, LLC**

Tuesday  
July 27  
6:00 p.m.

Join us for this presentation on historic pollutants of the Truckee River Watershed and learn how you can be part of the solution to water pollution. One Truckee River works to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community. We believe learning about the history of the Truckee River Watershed helps us to understand our path to a clean, healthy, and sustainable Truckee River in the future.



## UNR HISTORIC DISTRICT

**Presenters: Jack Hursh and Bob Shriver**

Thursday  
July 29  
6:00 p.m.

The University of Nevada, Reno quadrangle was placed as a District in the National Register of Historic Places on February 25, 1987. Visit Morrill Hall, Mackay School of Mines and the Keck Museum to learn the history of this beautiful campus.



## CIRCLE DRIVE/SOUTHRIDGE IN OLD SOUTHWEST RENO

**Presenter: Caroline Asikainen**

Saturday  
July 31  
9:00 a.m.

Learn about Southridge Estates, one of Reno's most outstanding residential areas in the early 1950s. Imagine the large yards, big trees and beautiful ranch style homes of many prominent Renoites. For a number of the photos, owners have shared special features of the interior or exterior of their home.





# Message From Your HRPS President Carol Coleman

restore or preserve the original signs? The eight replica signs are not historic, and installing them in lieu of restored original signs is not historic preservation.

## What are HRPS Long Term Goals?

When HRPS began back in 1998 to 2000, a major goal was to have an office to greet the public. In the back of their minds was the hope it could be a museum. Issues of staffing whether paid or volunteers, renting, leasing or buying space, insurance and utilities, etc. made it clear that having a museum and even a staffed office were out of our reach financially and certainly if staffed by volunteers.



But the question continues – Red Kittell brought up the museum question recently. Wouldn't it be great to have a museum where "Reno related history could be reflected upon and Reno historical artifacts could be collected and displayed?"

We shouldn't give up on our goals and dreams. Let's put that one on our list again and see if we can work towards it.

## Powning Appeal Denied

The City denied the appeal to stop the 34-unit apartment project at 700 Riverside Drive. You may recall that the City of Reno in 2006 transferred ownership of a public street (Washington between Jones and Riverside) to allow parking spaces for an 11-unit condo development. That

project died in the recession. Who knew the street had been transferred?

The proposed (and in progress) 34-unit apartment project will make use of that once-public street and encroach on Lunsford Park. It's a four-story building in an area of century-old single and two story homes. What a shame.

The City Hearing Officer ruled:

- The Appeals do not have standing
- The building permit as issued is valid
- They do not need to comply with the new (1/13/21) Land Development Code and are grandfathered in under the old zoning and development code
- No Special Use Permits are required

The next step could be a costly one and with no guarantee of success. The Nevada Supreme Court did rule, back in 1913, that the City could not give away city property – they must put it up for sale.

## An Apology and Correction

I was incorrect in a description for Dale and Diane Edwards. Diane's mother, Olive Hill Shroder, was the District Representative for Nevada's first Congresswoman, Barbara Vucanovich, and thoroughly enjoyed her job so we want to give her proper credit and recognition.

## What's Coming in the Fall?

As you probably realize, we aren't planning a Home Tour in 2021. The process of a Home Tour begins early in the year, finding homeowners willing to open their homes, and later finding 140 volunteers. Nobody knew what the Fall would bring with COVID; perhaps we still don't.

We're scheduling HRPS Speaker Programs on 2nd Tuesdays at 5:30 PM for September, October and November. They will once again be virtual, until we are sure we can all be safe.

Thanks again for your support,

Carol Coleman, 775-849-3380  
carolc@galenaforest.net

## Hello HRPS Members & Friends,

We are at the time of year when termed-out Board members leave the Board. We are already missing John Farrow and ZoAnn Campana, both of whom contributed greatly to our organization. Whether we agree on issues or not, after working together for six years (that's two terms) we definitely have become friends and even feel like a family. Needless to say, these two leave a big hole to fill.

## Neighborhood Stories

Much as we would like to, we still aren't ready to offer in-person events. I understand this may disappoint you, but our first priority is to keep our volunteers and community safe. We will be offering Neighborhood Stories again this July, both through Artown and our own website. We have sixteen Stories for you, nine of them new material and seven are the virtual version of a walking Tour, all described in this issue of *FootPrints*. They are described in this issue of *FootPrints* and you can sign up through [renoisartown.com](http://renoisartown.com). I suggest looking at the Artown History genre, or through HRPS site [historicroeno.org](http://historicroeno.org).

## Reno's Neon Line

It was tragic to see the downtown motels demolished for the Jacobs Entertainment project they call The Neon Line. However, I thought the neon signs on Fourth Street were a way to honor and remember those places. Now, according to Yesco, we find out that 8 of the 9 signs are modern fabrications. Only the City Center Motel sign (below) is original. So let us ask the question: what happened to the original signs after their corresponding buildings were demolished? Are there plans to



# HRPS Lifetime Members

Darleen R Azizisefat  
 Sharon Honig-Bear  
 Sandi Bitler  
 Jacqueline Black (\*)  
 Laurie & Greg Boyer  
 Lynn Bremer  
 Holly Walton-Buchanan  
 Florence Ann Burgess  
 George Burke  
 Linda Burke  
 Tom & Phyllis Cates  
 Jan & Phil Chik  
 Press & Delores Clewe  
 Karalea Clough  
 Dr. Thomas & Mary Conklin  
 Barbara & Ralph Courtney  
 Joyce Cox  
 Becky Czarnik  
 Joan Dyer  
 Betty Easton  
 Diane & Dale Edwards  
 Fran Bryne Fricke  
 Marilyn Fuetsch  
 Susan Holly Gallup  
 Francine & Ted Gray  
 Melinda & Dan Gustin  
 John & Susan Hancock  
 Toni Harsh  
 Carol Haydis  
 Jacquie Foundation  
 Alan Lee & Ivye Johnson  
 Larry & Chris Klaich  
 Pat & Mike Klos  
 Laurence & Linda Kutten  
 Katherine Latham  
 Jan & Jim Loverin  
 David & Laura Lowndes  
 Linda Madsen  
 Catherine Magee  
 Francine Mannix MD  
 Charlotte & Dick McConnell  
 Wayne & Patty Melton  
 Marilyn Melton  
 John & Holly Muran  
 Prudence Gould Muran(\*)  
 Peter & Renate Neumann  
 Al & Nancy Pagni  
 Butch & Susan Peachy  
 Pioneer Center  
 Marshall & Pat Postman  
 Jonnie Pullman  
 Hannah Satca (\*)  
 Rhonda Shoollroy & Jerry Sawyer  
 Michael & Karren Smith  
 Robert Stoldal  
 Tom & Leanne Stone  
 Fran & Terry Terras  
 Mike & Karen Traynor  
 Charlotte Voitoff  
 Sharon Walbridge  
 Betty J. Watts  
 Kathy Williams  
 Reg & Shelley Willison  
 Catherine Coscarelli Zugar  
 (\*) *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		<b>My Additional Donation:</b>	
<b>Membership Levels:</b>		\$ _____ Pat Klos Annual Volunteer Award Fund	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Individual	\$ _____ Reno Heritage Grant & Marker Fund	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Supporting	\$ _____ Overall Program Support	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00 Business	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 Preservation Patron	<b>HRPS Quarterly FootPrints Preference (Please check one):</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00 Lifetime Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Email Only	

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

HRPS respects your right to privacy. We will **NOT** share your email address.

<b>WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Board <input type="checkbox"/> Research
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Ways to become a member or renew your membership in HRPS:

- 1) Join or renew on HRPS website [historicreno.org](http://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

Visa/MasterCard Credit or Debit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Address (include City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Reno Preservations Society, P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507**  
<https://historicreno.org>

RV 04-15-2021 / FO-DCD



P.O. Box 14003  
Reno, NV 89507

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
RENO NV  
PERMIT NO. 20

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED



Check us out on  
**Facebook!**  
Give us a Like!



NEVADA  
HUMANITIES



### BULK RATE MAIL

Bulk Rate mail is not forwarded. FootPrints is mailed using a Bulk Rate Mail permit. If your address changes, please notify us at HRPS, P. O. Box 14003, Reno NV 89507, with your address change, to keep *FootPrints* coming.

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Summer 2021 • Vol. 24 No. 3*

- 1-4 City Plaza A Time Capsule
- 5 HRPS Volunteer of the Year Award
- 6-9 July Neighborhood Stories
- 10 HRPS President's Message
- 15 HRPS Membership & Lifetime Members
- 16 Table of Contents and Board of Directors



Support Us on  
**Amazon Smile!**  
**amazon**smile



Scan this QR code with  
your smartphone to go  
directly to the HRPS website

### HRPS Officers

**President:** Carol Coleman  
**Vice President:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Debbie Hinman  
**Treasurer:** Joy Orlich

Board of Directors  
Brett Banks, Alicia Barber,  
Elizabeth "Libby" Cook,  
Sharon Honig-Bear, Bradley Carlson,  
John Farrow, Alexis Thomas

HRPS Phone:  
775-747-4478 (775-747-HIST)  
Sandi Bitler

Executive Director:  
Open

Programs:  
Shery Hayes-Zorn, Susan Mullen  
Membership: ZoAnn Campana

Walking Tours:  
Alexis Thomas, Libby Cook

Webmaster: Rosie Cevalco  
HRC Liaison: Debbie Hinman

RHF Administrator: Cindy Ainsworth

*FootPrints* Managing Editor:  
Debbie Hinman, 322-9400

Editorial Staff:  
ZoAnn Campana, Joyce Cox

Photographer: David Lowndes

Editor Emeritus &  
*FootPrints* Founder:  
Sharon Walbridge

*FootPrints* Graphic Design:  
Double Click Design  
dcdreno.com

Opinions expressed in *FootPrints* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff, the Historic Reno Preservation Society executive board or the general membership. *FootPrints* is a quarterly publication printed in Reno, Nevada. Articles may be reprinted in print or electronic formats only with permission of the HRPS Editorial Board. All rights reserved. ©2021 Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS)