Harry Gosse and the Riverside Hotel

by Kim Henrick

In 1896, Harry J. Gosse and his family moved into the Riverside Hotel to begin a new phase of their lives. It was reported by the Reno Evening Gazette (REG), on February 1, 1896, that “Captain Harry J. Gosse, late of Virginia City, assumed the management of the Riverside Hotel this morning. William Thompson, late proprietor and manager, retiring.”

On July 7, 1896, same paper: “The Riverside is very popular under the able management of Captain Henry Gosse, and deservedly so too, for Captain Gosse is a prince of good fellows and knows how to keep a good hotel.” Harry was called “Captain” quite often during these times, probably due to his prior status with the Nevada National Guard in Virginia City.

Although Harry did not obtain legal ownership of the Riverside lot and building until 1906, early on he formed the Riverside Hotel, Inc., under which he operated the hotel’s business. For this article, we will say Harry managed the Riverside Hotel, which we know he did with great flair and for 26 years.

Harry became a family man, when on January 16, 1889, he married Josephine M. Mudd, from another long-time pioneering Virginia City family. The couple soon had two children, Marguerite and Harry Jr.

In 1896, Harry and his family moved into the Riverside Hotel (a three-story wood structure at that time) where Harry put his management skills to work. In 1901, he began the long process of building the magnificent brick structure that, with the Nevada National Guard in Virginia City volunteer fire department. The December 11, 1915 Nevada Newsletter quotes Harry as saying he was “a feather bed soldier and a fourth of July parader.”

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So it seems that Harry learned the hotel business by working with his father and brother at the Eureka Hotel, but he was also busy with other interests as well. Harry became captain of Company A of the Nevada National Guard, and was also a proud member of the Virginia City volunteer fire department.

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Harry J. Gosse and the Riverside Hotel (continued)

Continued from page 1

The majority of the grand new building was completed by 1906, but there were still some important items to finalize. A NSJ article on May 4, 1907, reports on the near completion of the magnificent bar: "The bar is by far the finest ever placed in Reno, the top being a particularly fine specimen of the beautiful myrtle, brought from Coos County, Oregon. The rest of the woodwork, the high wainscotings (sic) and the beamed ceilings as well as the massive chairs in the smaller rooms, are all finished in Flemish oak." The subtitle of the same article announced the plans for "enclosing the frontage on the river with glass—one of Reno's chief attractions.

In the Fall 2006 Nevada Historical Society Quarterly article on Frederic DeLongchamps, Mella Rothwell Harmon describes the new Riverside Hotel this way: "Gosse completed his Chateauesque version of the Riverside Hotel just in time for Reno's entire entry into the national migratory divorce trade. The hotel—H-shaped, with north and south wings running from east to west. The south wing comprised three stories and the north wing four. Centered on the north wing, facing the Truckee River, was an enclosed porch with an open-air patio above. At the northeast and southeast corners were turrets with circular rooms.

A 1904 Sanborn map showing the wooden Riverside Hotel on the left and the new south wing of the brick Riverside Hotel on the right. Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.

Admission to the Historical Mitigation of the Riverside Hotel/Casino is free. But the public's money will be spent to preserve the hotel's unique architectural heritage. The Preservation Society is committed to making sure the hotel is available to the public in the future.

Footprints apologizes to Patty Cafferata and Barbara Vucanovich:

In Footprints Vol. 10 No. 2, in the article The Mapes Hotel & Casino by Patty Cafferata, in the credits, we incorrectly moved Patty's mother, Barbara Vucanovich, to Nebraska. To be correct, Patty and her mother co-authored the book, From Nevada to Congress and Back Again (not Nebraska).

The Historical Mitigation of the Riverside Hotel/Casino

Footprints Vol. 10 No. 3, Summer 2007

Harry J. Gosse, December 31, 1875. Sketch from the Nevada Newsletter and Advertiser. Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.

Local newspapers tracked the progress like this: Nevada State Journal (NSJ), October 9, 1901: "Harry Gosse has completed his plans for the new Riverside Hotel. It will be one of the finest hosteries in the inland west.... It will contain over one hundred rooms. Seventeen will be suites with baths attached... the entire hotel will be heated with steam and will be a beautiful, substantial, fire proof structure.

A November 20, 1901 NSJ article tells of Harry "making extensive improvements along the riverfront. The ditch near his hotel is being covered with a brick archway and filled in with earth from the cellar of his new hotel." Unfortunately, there is no information on any architects or builders who worked on the Riverside. As an aside, did Harry design the new brick hotel in the shape of an "H" as an act of self-indulgence? Progress was slow and Harry moved forward and was extremely optimistic, as an act of self-indulgence?

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Reno’s Champion Trees (continued)

Continued from page 9

decide which tree would suit your location. Of particular importance is knowing what trees are drought tolerant.

Or, perhaps you have seen a tree you want to nominate as a prospective champion
vw.gov/main/bigtree01.htm you will find a link to the Nomination form.

What does the future hold for Reno’s trees? Only time will tell.

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Continued from page 10

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Relocated History
by Debbie Hinman

In the 1890s, South Virginia Street just south of the Courthouse was a choice location for many homes of Reno’s elite. The Lake Mansion, built by W.J. Marsh, had occupied the corner of South Virginia and California Avenue since 1857. State Senator Patrick L. Flanigan and his family chose this street on which to build their elegant mansion, faced with impressive columns and bay windows. Transportation in those early days was by horse and carriage, and in order to facilitate ladies’ entry into and exit from the high wheeled conveyances, most homes provided a carriage step. The Flanigan’s step was particularly impressive, being a 500 pound block of granite engraved with the initials of its owner, P.L.F.

Flanigan died in 1920, and Mrs. Flanigan sold the home in 1925 to the Yorii family, who occupied and operated it as an apartment house until its demolition in 1955. The step remained in its curbside location, in spite of what a Reno Evening Gazette writer of the 1950s claimed was “the anguished cries of car owners who had brushed off chromium paint and tried in vain to park beside the carriage step.”

However, one summer day in August of 1955, the step simply disappeared. A Mrs. Gateswood, the manager of the Yorii Apartments, had no idea what had become of the step. As it turned out, due to complaints by motorists, the step had indeed been removed by the city and taken away to the city dump, where it was relegated to the city dump, unnoticed by most visitors to the Society, but still proudly sporting its P.L.F. monogram.

The Gateway to Higher Education

In a custom that is still honored today by many graduating classes, the University of Nevada Class of 1899 presented a gift to the Nevada Historic Society on North Virginia Street in Reno. The step remained in its curbside location, in spite of what a Reno Evening Gazette writer of the 1950s claimed was “the anguished cries of car owners who had brushed off chromium paint and tried in vain to park beside the carriage step.”

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City of Reno’s Landmark & State Champion Trees
by Leanne Stone

“Urban forest” are the professional buzz words used today to describe the collection of both public and private trees within a city.

Some of these trees were here when Clark wrote his book and some are now Reno’s State Landmark and Champion Trees. As of 2003, the City counted 32 trees in Reno with additional champions on the University of Nevada, Reno campus and in Idlewild Park. Landmark trees are so named based on their age, historical association, size, shape, species, location, visual quality, and other characteristics.

In 1940, American Forests, the nation’s oldest non-profit citizens’ conservation organization (founded in 1875) decided to administer a documented list of the largest tree of each species referring to it as the “National Champion.” The state champion tree is the largest tree of its kind located within the state. All of the Reno champions except one are in city parks or on parkways, at the university where they get constant attention, or in the yards of residents who treated them well.

The biggest tree is not necessarily the oldest. Champion trees are considered on height, trunk diameter or girth, total size, and age. Trees grow well where they are protected against the elements and have sufficient light and water with little competition from other trees in the area. It is interesting to note, although not surprising, that worldwide, the top position in a champions list is always held by a conifer (a cone-bearing tree).

One tree you may have noticed over the years (but well past Van Tilburg Clark’s time) is on the west side of South Arlington Avenue near Urban Avenue by the Washoe County golf course. The Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa) was planted in 1964 and it is hard to miss. The city cut around the tree when the street was widened so the base of it is protected from the street with curbing around it.

The City of Reno Arboretum has a publication, “Idlewild Park Trees: Self-Guided Walking Tours of Reno’s Arboretum.” It is available for a suggested donation of $2 from the Parks office in Idlewild Park. Longtime members of RUFC give guided tours and many other times of the year, but with the printed guide you can take tours at your convenience.

The University of Nevada, Reno campus was designated a State Arboretum by J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day.

In the City of Trembling Leaves, Walter Van Tilburg Clark wrote in his prelude, “In Reno...this universal importance of trees is intensified, for Reno is in the Great Basin of America, between the Rockies and the Sierras, where the vigor of the sun and the height of the mountains, to say nothing of the demanding activities of mining booms, have created a latter day race of tree worshippers.” Still true! Well yes, in fact more so now. In 1945, Van Tilburg Clark may have had in mind Pick-a-tie, the University of Nevada’s Arboretum, which he referred to as the “Nevada Arboretum.” In 1973, the City of Reno purchased Pick-a-tie and it was designated a State Arboretum by the Nevada Board of Agriculture.

In 1987, Reto Stone, a Reno city council member, started a project to buy the land surrounding Pick-a-tie. He contacted both the University and the State Legislature about leasing the land. Unfortunately, both said no. Stone purchased Pick-a-tie with the money he had saved from his previous job, about $10,000. In 1989, when the new governor, Bob Miller, left the gates of the University of Nevada in Reno to the people of the state, the gates of Pick-a-tie were taken down and moved to the University of Nevada campus where they remain today.

Nevada Historic District walking tour, contacted the university archivist Karen Gash to ask about the disposition of the gates. Ms. Gash claimed to have heard two different stories. The first stated that the gates had been donated to the scrap metal drive mounted during WWIII. The second, however, related that the gates had somehow come into the possession of a resident of University Terrace. It’s a Grand Old Fountain

Proudly displayed in the very bottom level of the newly-renovated Amtrak Station is a 14-foot cast iron fountain. Though it is not currently running, it is an eye-catching structure, featuring drinking basins at various levels, originally intended not only to satiate humans, but to “quench the thirst of all of God’s creatures.”

In 1898, the first Red Cross Society in Nevada was established in Carson City. In April 1901, the Reno Red Cross Society met to determine how to use a funds surplus they had accrued. At the same time, the national organization known as the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was raising funds across the country to fund the erection of grandiose fountains for the dual purpose of providing a free alternative to the evils of saloons, and to honor various causes.
Relocated History (continued)

Continued from page 5

with a monument. In Reno, these two organizations joined forces and raised enough additional funds to pay a local masonry firm to build the fountain. The Reno monument honored the veterans of the Spanish American War of 1898, with a crossed swords design on two sides of the base. Another side displays the Red Cross symbol, honoring their work in caring for wounded veterans.

The fountain was originally placed on the southwest corner of Virginia and Plaza Streets, named for the plaza that it was hoped would eventually occupy the site. The fountain was dedicated in a ceremony held on Oct. 17, 1908 and occupied that site until it was moved in 1932 to make way for a "Flying A" gasoline station.

The fountain was saved before it fell into the hands of a giant trash receptacle. It lost its dog and the front of the California Building in Reno, sporting a garish red paint job and the sign "The fountain honors wounded veterans." A Capitol Gazebo

Tucked away in a lovely, quiet, old southwest neighborhood, just visible over the top of a backyard fence, is a unique gazebo. It looks like the perfect venue for a real challenge in moving the windows, which measured 5 feet by approximately 17 feet, to his parents' backyard on Nixon Avenue.

Jahn believes the window frames were made of tamarack wood from Peavine Mountain. The lumber was milled in Reno and transported to Carson City overland, as the V&T did not yet exist. He came up with the idea of a gazebo, and built a foundation and connecting elements. The resulting creation is an elegant focal point in the yard, and provided a unique backdrop for Jahn's own wedding. Jahn is in the process of doing more refurbishing of the gazebo, which he hopes to finish sometime this summer.

The fenestration is the basic building element—the gazebo was constructed from windows salvaged from the state capitol building in Carson City, which was built in 1870.

In the late 1970s, a seismic retrofit was undertaken that resulted in some of the historic elements being removed.

The windows were acquired by a local artist/sculptor who sold them to Jahn. Apparently he wasn't the only one unable to resist such a treasure—there are Capitol windows in Virginia City, Truckee, and even old San Diego.

Even though the original 26-ounce French crystal glass was missing from the frames, Jahn experienced a real challenge in moving the windows, which measured 5 feet by approximately 17 feet, to his parents' backyard on Nixon Avenue.

John and Sally's favorite river is the Truckee, ¿ trucking. They often talk about the river's history.}= #24, 2007

Harry (Hank)ắc Heyer, a renowned chronicler of the Truckee, always had a special relationship with the river.

Mary (Ma) McWhirter, a member of the historical society, often discussed the history of the river.

Information for this article came from:

Debbie Himman is a HRPS Tour Guide and a member of the HRPS Editorial Staff.
The fountain was dedicated in a ceremony hoped would eventually occupy the site. Its original state, assisted by many local organizations and individual contributors, is it a work in progress, but definitely worth a visit.

A Capitol Gazebo

Tucked away in a lovely, quiet, old southwest neighborhood, just visible over the top of a backyard fence, is a unique gazebo. It looks like the perfect scene for an elegant afternoon tea, with its graceful lines and arches. I used to wonder how its creator arrived at such an unusual design. The structure was designed and constructed around 1990 by HRPS member and local artist Loren Jahn. However, the secret to the clever design is the basic building element—the gazebo was constructed from windows salvaged from the state capitol building in Carson City, which was built in 1870.

In the late 1970s, a seismic retrofit was undertaken that resulted in some of the historic elements being removed. The windows were acquired by a local artist/sculptor who sold them to Jahn. Apparently he wasn’t the only one unable to resist such a treasure—there are Capitol windows in Virginia City. Truckee, and even old San Diego. Even though the original 26-ounce French crystal glas was missing from the frames, Jahn experienced a real challenge in moving the windows, which measured 5 feet by approximately 17 feet, to his parents’ backyard on Nixon Avenue.

Jahn believes the window frames were made of tamarac wood from Peavine Mountain. The lumber was milled in Reno and transported to Carson City overland, as the V&T did not yet exist. He came up with the idea of a gazebo, and built a foundation and connecting elements. The resulting creation is an elegant focal point in the Jahn yard, and provided a unique backdrop for Jahn’s own wedding. Jahn is in the process of doing more refurbishing of the gazebo, which he hopes to finish sometime this summer.

These are but a few of the “history out of context” items that exist in the local area. If you have such an item you would like to tell me about, please call or send me an e-mail at lurem@nevadamax.com. Gazebo photo by Loren Jahn.


Relocated History (continued)

Continued from page 5

Left, the Capitol showing arched windows; right, the gazebo built from the Capitol windows. Capital photo courtesy of nevadamax.com. Gazebo photo by Loren Jahn.

City Council approved the relocation of the fountain to the Amtrak building, almost a homecoming for the fountain. Hollecker and Cobb have worked to raise funds to restore the fountain to its original state, assisted by many local organizations and individual contributors. It is a work in progress, but definitely worth a visit.

2007 Summer
HRPS & Artown Walking Tours

Historic Reno Preservation Society will present eight historic walking tours and one bike tour during the annual Artown celebration this July. All tours are $10 per person; tours are free to HRPS members. Tours generally last about 2 hours. No dogs, please. Helmets are required for the bike tour. If you would like to attend, please call 747-HIST (4478) to reserve space.

Tuesday, July 3, 2007 6 p.m.
TRUCKEE RIVER CORRIDOR – A relaxing stroll along the Truckee River reveals eclectic architecture grounded by rich political histories and spiced with colorful anecdotes. Meet at McKinley Arts and Cultural Center, 925 Riverside Drive. Tour Guide, Joan Collins.

Tuesday, July 10, 2007 6 p.m.
NEWLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD – An architectural walk through one of Reno’s oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. Tour Guide, Scott Gibson.

Tuesday, July 17, 2007 9 a.m.
POWNING ADDITION AND LITTLE ITALY – Discover one of Reno’s earliest and most delightful vernacular neighborhoods, predominantly settled by Northern Italian immigrants. Meet at McKinley Arts & Culture Center. Tour Guide, Felvia Belastag.

Sunday, July 15, 2007 9 a.m.
MONROE STREET NEIGHBORHOOD – 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 Hart House, the Patrick Ranch House, Greystone Castle, and other distinctive homes. Tour Guides, Elsie Newman and Anne Simone.

Tuesday, July 17, 2007 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 24, 2007 6 p.m.
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, Jan & Sue Smith.

Saturday, July 21, 2007 9 a.m.
MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF – View high style architecture in Reno’s most significant political neighborhood. Meet at the McCarran House, 401 Court Street. Tour Guide, Ed Wishart.

Tuesday, July 24, 2007 6 p.m.
DELONGCHAMPS ARCHITECTURE – Stroll along Reno’s oldest neighborhoods noting the masterpieces of our famous homegrown architect, Frederic J. Delongchamps. Meet at the Hardy House, 424 Flint Street, northeast corner of California Avenue and Flint Street. Tour Guide, Anne Simone.

Saturday, July 28, 2007 9 a.m.
EL RENO APARTMENT HOMES – Visit the original site of these charming and unique homes, and possibly some even more compelling context” items that exist in the local area.

Tour Guide, Debbie Hinman.

The City of Reno has over 20,000 trees now. That was nothing compared to what we  
true? Well yes, in fact more so now. In 1945, Van Tilburg Clark may have  
true? Still. Walter Van Tilburg Clark wrote in “The City of Trembling Leaves”  
Arbor Day. The cultivation of trees is the  
“racy” or girth, total size, and age.  
the base of it is protected from the street with curbing around it.  
1964 and it is hard to miss. The city  
the newly-renovated Amtrak Station is a 14-foot cast-iron fountain. Though it is not currently running, it is an eye-catching structure, featuring drinking basins at various levels, originally intended not only to satiate thirst but to “quench the thirst of all of God’s creatures.”  
Dr. Albert Stone Ehrman—no one knows how he acquired the gates, but they may have been given to him when they would no longer fit the newly-widened entrance. The shortened gates are still at this residence at 208 University Terrace. It's a Grand Old Fountain  
One tree you may have noticed over the years (but well past Van Tillburg Clark’s time) is on the west side of South Arlington Avenue near Urban Avenue by the Washoe County golf course. The Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa) was planted in 1964 and it is hard to miss. The city  
the newly-riveted and widened entrance. The shortened gates are still at this residence at 208 University Terrace. The shortened gates are still at this residence at 208 University Terrace. The shortened gates are still at this residence at 208 University Terrace. It's a Grand Old Fountain  
The City of Reno Arboretum has a publication, “Idledwld Park Trees: Self-Guided Walking Tours of Reno’s Arboretum.” It is available for a suggested donation of $2 from the Parks office in Idledwld Park (334-2270). Members of the Reno Urban Forestry Commission (RUFC), including HPRS’s own Anne Simone, put this guide together in 2003. Now, members of RUFC give guided tours in Idledwld Park during Artoon and at various other times of the year; but with the printed guide you can take tours at your convenience. The University of Nevada, Reno campus was designated a State Arboretum by J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day. Celebrating the importance of trees is intensified, for mining booms, have created a latter day race of tree worshippers.” Still true? Well yes, in fact more so now. In 1945, Van Tillburg Clark may have thought Reno’s leaves trembled, but that was nothing compared to what we have now.

The City of Reno has over 20,000 trees growing just in its parks and other publicly owned land. This count does not include the trees on private property. “Urban forest” are the professional buzz words used today to describe the collection of both public and private trees within a city. Some of these trees were here where Clark wrote his book and some are new. In 1903, the City counted 32 trees in Reno with additional champions on the University of Nevada, Reno campus and in Idledwld Park. Landmark trees are so named based on their age, historical association, size, shape, species, location, visual quality, and other characteristics.

In 1940, American Forests, the nation’s oldest non-profit citizens’ conservation organization (founded in 1875) decided to administer a documented list of the largest tree of each species. Planted in 1910, English Oak, 925 Riverside Dr., McKinley Arts and Culture Center.

Planted in 1910, Western Catalpa, 925 Riverside Dr., McKinley Arts and Culture Center. Photos by Leanne Stone.

City of Reno's Landmark & State Champion Trees
by Leanne Stone

Nevada Historic District walking tour; contacted the university archivist Karen Gash to ask about the disposition of the gates. Ms. Gash claimed to have heard two different stories. The first stated that the gates had been donated to the scrap metal drive mounted during WWII. The second, however, related that the gates had somehow come into the possession of a resident of University Terrace.

Leanne’s husband Tom was dispatched on a reconnaissance mission to check out the gates. Ripping life and limb on the narrow, busy street, Tom found the gates and determined that the gates appeared to have had the bottom half removed. But the distinctively-designed top portions were identical to the gates shown in various photos of the University entrance between 1899 and 1921.

The shortened gates are still at this residence at 208 University Terrace. It's a Grand Old Fountain

The Stones’ further research uncovered that in 1921, the property was owned by an agriculture professor, Sanford Dinsmore—no one knows how he acquired the gates, but they may have been given to him when they would no longer fit the newly-widened entrance. The shortened gates are still at this residence at 208 University Terrace.

It’s a Grand Old Fountain

Proudly displayed in the very bottom level of the newly-renovated Amtrak Station is a 14 foot cast-iron fountain. Though it is not currently running, it is an eye-catching structure, featuring drinking basins at various levels, originally intended not only to satiate thirst but to “quench the thirst of all of God’s creatures.” In 1898, the first Red Cross Society in Nevada was established in Carson City. In April 1901, the Reno Red Cross Society met to determine how to use a funds surplus they had accrued. At the same time, the national organization known as the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was raising funds across the country to fund the erection of grandiose fountains for the dual purpose of providing a free alternative to the evils of saloons, and to honor various causes. Continued on page 6.
which to build their elegant mansion, and his family chose this street on 1877. State Senator Patrick L. Flanigan Virginia and California Avenue since location for many homes of Reno’s south of the Courthouse was a choice

artifact you can go out and “discover” all of you who grew up delighting in historic object has a less obvious but than that for which they were originally
designed. It is true that “every picture tells a story,” but also true that every historic object has a less obvious but equally intriguing story behind it. For all of you who grew up delighting in treasure hunts, here are some historic artifacts you can go out and “discover” on your own.

The Case of the Kidnapped Carriage Step

In the 1890s, South Virginia Street just south of the Courthouse was a choice location for many homes of Reno’s elite. The Lake Mansion, built by W.J. Marsh, had occupied the corner of South Virginia and California Avenue since 1877. State Senator Patrick L. Flanigan and his family chose this street on which to build their elegant mansion, faced with impressive columns and bay windows. Transportation in those early days was by horse and carriage, and in order to facilitate ladies’ entry into and exit from the high wheeled conveyances, most homes provided a carriage step. The Flanigan’s step was particularly impressive, being a 500 pound block of granite engraved with the initials of its owner, P.L.F. Flanigan died in 1920, and Mrs. Flanigan sold the home in 1925 to the Yori family, who occupied and operated it as an apartment house until its demolition in 1955. The step remained in its curbside location, in spite of what a Reno Evening Gazette writer of the 1950s claimed was “the anguished cries of car owners who had brushed off chromium trim and paint in trying to park beside the carriage step.”

However, one summer day in August of 1955, the step simply disappeared. A Mrs. Gatewood, the manager of the Yori Apartments, had no idea what had become of the step. As it turned out, due to complaints by motorists, the step had indeed been removed by the city and taken away to the city garage. At that point, city engineer and longtime Reno resident Elliott Cann, not wanting to see the historic stone relegated to the city dump, secured the item for safekeeping, until a Flanigan family member could be contacted to authorize disposition of the step. Paul Flanigan, son of Patrick L., presented the step to the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) and it became an exhibit in the Virginia City Room of the museum, then located in the basement of the State Building. There it remained until the NHS moved to their new and current location, north of the University on North Virginia Street. Due to space constraints, the step now sits outside to the east of the building, unnoticed by most visitors to the Society, but still proudly sporting its P.L.F. monogram.

The Gateway to Higher Education

In a custom that is still honored today by many graduating classes, the University of Nevada Class of 1899 presented a gift to their soon to be alma mater. The gift was a set of black wrought iron gates to be attached to the stone pillars at the Ninth Street entrance to the University campus. Each side of the gate bore a stylized “99” to commemorate the class. For over 20 years they remained in place, and served as an attractive background for many photographs and postcards of graduating classes, marching bands, and such. But by 1971, the entrance road needed to be widened to accommodate automobiles, and a safe passage to the grounds. The gates were removed, the pillars, a gift from the class of 1890, were moved back, and the road was paved.

Former HPR’s tour guide Leanne Stone, who created the original University of Nevada Class of 1899 presented a gift to their soon to be alma mater. The gift was a set of black wrought iron gates to be attached to the stone pillars at the Ninth Street entrance to the University campus. Each side of the gate bore a stylized “99” to commemorate the class. For over 20 years they remained in place, and served as an attractive background for many photographs and postcards of graduating classes, marching bands, and such. But by 1971, the entrance road needed to be widened to accommodate automobiles, and a safe passage to the grounds. The gates were removed, the pillars, a gift from the class of 1890, were moved back, and the road was paved.

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There are many benefits of urban trees. They improve the water quality of rivers and streams by capturing rainfall and reducing erosion and runoff, provide privacy and reduce noise and glare, provide homes and food for wildlife, provide shade and keep homes and buildings cooler in the summer, and remove air pollution and reduce carbon dioxide.

According to the National Wildlife Federation there are between 60 to 200 million spaces along our nation’s city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year and saving $4 billion in energy costs. It is known that sight, sound, smell, and touch of plants help to reduce stress levels as well. As the 2003 president of the Arbor Day Foundation, John Rosemono said, “There is enduring value in planting trees. Planting a tree is always a gesture of hope for the future.” The City of Reno has had a Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Founda-
tion for the past 24 years because of its commitment to city trees.

Perhaps now you will look at trees in the City of Reno with a new awareness or be inspired to plant your own tree that could become a champion. The most effective action anyone can take to improve our urban forest is to learn how to properly plant, care for and preserve your own trees. By looking at the trees throughout the city, you can

Continued on page 10

Footprints Vol. 10 No. 3, Summer 2007
Left, the Flanigan Residence from the 1927 Nevada Newsletter; look closely to see the step in front of the center walkway; right, the carriage step at the Nevada Historical Society on North Virginia Street in Reno. 1927 Nevada Newsletter courtesy of Pat Best. Carriage step photo by Debbie Hinman.

Footprints Vol. 10 No. 3, Summer 2007
Planted in 1992, Tuliptree, 1015 Forest St., parkway

Reno's Champion Trees (continued)
Continued from page 9

Reno’s Champion Trees (continued)

As you go on the various walking tours provided by HRPS, you might look for these trees. They are listed here in an order that you could also take a driving tour to see them. (See website address below for a complete list). Please enjoy viewing the trees from the street or sidewalk and respect privacy.

- London Planetree Sycamore (Platanus x acerifolia) 1944, 26 Winter St., parkway;
- Western Catalpa (Catalpa speciosa) 1930, and English Oak (Quercus robur) 1930, both at 925 Riverside Dr., McKinley Arts and Culture Center grounds;
- Spanish Fir (Abies pinpin) planting date unknown, south side of Newlands Park;
- Nordmann Fir (Abies nordmannia) 1907, and Green Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica) 1907, both at 611 California Ave., front yard;
- Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) 1939, 595 W. Arroyo St., front yard;
- Tulipree (Liriodendron tulipifera) 1932, 1005 Forest St., parkway.

Move across S. Virginia St. to see the two trees below:
- European Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) 1940, at 701 and 705 Wilson (corner of Thoma and Wilson, one block east of Wells). When you are near the university take the time to view the tree below:
- Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) 1928, in the back yard of the house on the corner of Ninth and Bell Sts. (west side of N. Virginia St.).

The complete list can be found at www.sccleavedinfo.renochamps.com. Sadly some of the trees listed are no longer there.

Information for this article came from:
City of Reno publication Urban Forestry; websites of the City of Reno, The State of Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, American Forests, and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Leanne’s Tree Tour

‘Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel,” by Aldo Leopold, for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel,” by Aldo Leopold.

Gosse family members stayed busy with civic duties during their lives in Reno. Harry helped found the Elks Reno Lodge #597 and was its first Exalted Ruler. In 1905, he was the Generalissimo of the Knights Templar, and in 1906, the Oriental Guide of the Shriners, Johnnie G. Gosse, a noted hostess and a life member in the 20th Century Club. The society columns of the day frequently covered the Gosse’s as they entertained or were entertained. Marguerite, the Gosse’s daughter, was involved for years with the Red Cross and the Young Women’s Christian Association.

Tragedy struck the Gosse’s when their only son, Harry J. Gosse Jr., contracted a disease in the Hawaiian Islands while serving in the military in 1916. He died shortly after his mother Josephine Gosse, arrived to be with him. Josephine brought Harry Jr.’s body back home with her and the Gosse’s staged a huge, memorable funeral for their only son.

Tragedy returned on March 15, 1922, when the beautiful Riverside Hotel burned to the ground. The fire apparently started in the basement and within a few hours quickly consumed the entire structure, leaving only a smoldering brick skeleton. Thankfully no one was killed. Harry and his family worked hard to find lodging for their customers and helped authorities account for everyone.

Within a short time the indefatigable Gosse’s, who not only lost their livelihood but all their possessions, moved to the California Apartments on California Avenue and opened their temporary home to their friends and family. Marguerite even entered politics after the fire, and won a seat representing Washoe County in the Nevada Assembly in 1922.

Happier times were to follow for the Gosse’s. In August of 1923, Marguerite Gosse married Richard C. Stokey, one of the prominent pioneers of Stoddard family. The guest list was a virtual “Who’s Who” in Reno at the time; Senator and Mrs. Tasker L. Oddie, Senator and Mrs. Key Pittman, Governor and Mrs. J. G. Scrugham, John Chism, Richard Kirman, Roy Stoddard, and on and on with the names we know as well as our own.

Harry announced several times that he would immediately rebuild even a finer hostelry, but insurance to rebuild the magnificent hotel was inadequate. Harry tried for two years to secure the financing he needed. Finally, in November 1924, after lengthy negotiations, George Wingfield purchased the Riverside lots for $70,000.

Harry was 65 years old when the Riverside Hotel burned down. He left the hotel business but remained busy and active with his social life.

An announcement in the REG, October 14, 1926 reads: “Attention Elks. Regular meeting Saturday, October 16th. Initiation and feed. Due to scarcity of ducks, the duck dinner has been postponed but a ‘Pop’ Gosse muggun will be served after the meeting.”

Locals called Harry “Pop” during his later years, probably because he was a kind and fatherly man who, like his dream hotel, charmed Reno for many exciting years.

Harry J. Gosse died on December 18, 1944 at age 87.

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Information for this article came from:

Harry J. Gosse and the Riverside Hotel (continued)

Footprints Vol. 10 No. 3, Summer 2007

Do You Have Rosemount Lodge Stories?

Do you have personal memories of the Rosemount Lodge (now the Reindeer Lodge) that you would like to share? Perhaps you stopped there for a nice meal after a day on the slopes during the winters from 1957 through 1959. We’re planning a story about the Lodge on its 50th anniversary. We’ll try to incorporate your stories into the article about the lodge for the Winter 2008 FootPrints. Please type up your remembrances and email them to Kim Henrick, khenrick@rtci.net.
Harry J. Gosse and the Riverside Hotel (continued)

Continued from page 1

Harry J. Gosse, December 31, 1915. Sketch from the Nevada Newsletter and Advertiser. Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.

The majority of the grand new building was completed by 1906, but there were still some important items to finalize. A NVJ article on May 4, 1907, reports on the near completion of the magnificent bar: “The bar is by far the finest ever placed in Reno, the top being a particularly fine specimen of the beautiful myrtle, brought from Coos County, Oregon. The rest of the woodwork, the high wainscotting (sic) and the beamed ceilings as well as the massive chairs in the smaller rooms, are all finished in Flemish oak.” The subtitle of the same article announced the plans for “enclosing the frontage on the river with glass—one of Reno’s chief attractions.”

In the fall 2006 Nevada Historical Society Quarterly article on Frederic DeLongchamps, Mella Rothwell Harmon describes the new Riverside Hotel this way: “Gosse completed his Chateauesque version of the Riverside Hotel just in time for Reno’s entry into the national migratory divorce trade. The hotel was H-shaped, with north and south wings running from east to west. The south wing comprised three stories and the north wing four. Centered on the north wing, facing the Truckee River, was an enclosed porch with an open-air patio above. At the northeast and southeast corners were turrets with circular rooms.”

FootPrints apologizes to Patty Cafferata and Barbara Vucanovich:

In FootPrints Vol. 10 No. 2, in the article “FootPrints: From Nevada to Congress and Back Again (not Nebraska)” it is incorrect that Patty and her mother co-authored the book, From Nevada to Congress and Back Again. The correct co-authors are Patty Cafferata and Barbara Vucanovich.
Harry Gosse and the Riverside Hotel

by Kim Henrik

In 1896, Harry J. Gosse and his family moved into the Riverside Hotel to begin a new phase of their lives. It was reported by the Reno Evening Gazette (REG), on February 1, 1896, that “Captain Harry J. Gosse, late of Virginia City, assumed the management of the Riverside Hotel this morning, William Thompson, late proprietor and manager, retiring.”

On July 7, 1896, same paper: “The Riverside is very popular under the able management of Captain Henry Gosse, and deservedly so too, for Captain Gosse is a prince of good fellows and knows how to keep a good hotel.” Harry was called “Captain” quite often during these times, probably due to his prior status with the Nevada National Guard in Virginia City.

Although Harry did not obtain legal ownership of the Riverside lot and building until 1906, early on he formed the Riverside Hotel, Inc., under which he operated the Riverside lot and building until 1906, early on he formed the Riverside Hotel, Inc., under which he operated the Riverside Hotel, but he was also busy with other interests as well. Harry became captain of Company A of the Nevada National Guard, and was also a proud member of the Virginia City volunteer fire department. The December 11, 1915 Nevada Newsletter and Advertisers quotes Harry as saying he was “a feather bed soldier and a fourth of July parader.”

Harry became a family man, when on January 16, 1889, he married Josephine A. Mudd, from another long time pioneering Virginia City family. The couple soon had two children, Marguerite and Harry Jr.

So it seems that Harry learned the hotel business by working with his father and brother at the Eureka Hotel, but he was also busy with other interests as well. Harry became captain of Company A of the Nevada National Guard, and was also a proud member of the Virginia City volunteer fire department. The December 11, 1915 Nevada Newsletter and Advertisers quotes Harry as saying he was “a feather bed soldier and a fourth of July parader.”

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In 1896, Harry and his family moved into the Riverside Hotel (a three-story wood structure at that time) where Harry put his management skills to work. In 1901, he began the long process of building the magnificent brick structure that, when completed, would dominate the Reno scene for fifteen years. His plan was to build the south wing first and leave the wooden Riverside Hotel structure in place to accommodate...