The Beginnings of HRPS, Ten Years Ago

by Debbie Hinman

I have long admired those who see a need for a particular service and instead of complaining “Why isn’t there...”, they quietly set about creating it themselves. This is, in fact, the genesis of the Historic Reno Preservation Society or HRPS, and the inspiration for the organization was that of Pat Ferraro Klos.

Although a Reno native and high school English teacher who had long appreciated our city and all it has to offer, the concept of historic preservation was not a familiar one when Pat attended the first Oasis Conference in March of 1987. The Oasis Conference, now a biennial event, was created when all statewide cultural organizations felt the need to come together and talk. Previously, libraries were not talking to museums, museums were not talking to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and SHPO had no idea what tourism was doing. None of the different arts groups were talking; Nevada Humanities was operating all by itself.

Oasis is a multi-day conference with guest speakers and breakout sessions on various topics. It was while attending one of these sessions entitled “Historic Preservation,” led by a personal friend, that Pat became focused on the concept. Out of this session grew a statewide preservation organization named Nevada Heritage, which Pat eagerly joined. Within two years, she was president. Two years after that, she decided on a narrower focus—specifically, a Reno organization.

Pat wrote a letter to the editor of the Reno Gazette-Journal, asking why there was no such organization, only to find out through the Nevada Historical Society that there was a county preservation group on the books. Pat immediately requested a meeting with a group representative, who told her that the group was basically inactive. Pat’s reaction to this information was, “Well, that’s crazy.”

Probably most HRPS members are under the impression, as was I, that the walking tours were created as an offshoot of the original HRPS group, but they were actually a predecessor of the organization. Pat got the idea for doing her own walking tours down Riverside Drive, and into the downtown courthouse and post office, when she was asked to take a social studies class from McQueen on a bus tour of historic Reno. From there, she went on to do walks for friends and interested groups such as the Junior League, Friends of the Library, theYWCA, YMCA, and the Retired Teachers Association. It was only a short time until she was doing walks for SHPO, for Historic Preservation Week. The only payment Pat received was the knowledge and satisfaction that she was exposing new people to the concept of historic preservation and increasing awareness of the historic treasures found in our city.

For Historic Preservation Week in the spring of 1997, Pat conducted a program for SHPO called “A Walk and a Talk.” The group met at My Favorite Muffin on California Avenue. Owner Melinda Govein, who along with her husband Dan,
Fletcherian Planetarium was the focus of a 2002-2003 effort by HRPS to save the property. UNR announced plans to build a Planetarium on the site.

This summer committee first met on June 10, 1997 on the patio of the Klos Building. All present agreed, and Pat was off and running.

HRPS and Reno Milestones 1997-2007

- Historic Reno Preservation Society becomes a reality on September 22, 1997, when 60 people meet at the Reno Elementary School.
- The organization’s logo is unveiled featuring the Virginia Street Bridge.
- Monthly evening programs at the Ren & the Loewy and walking tours are offered.
- The first newsletter asks members to pay attention to the fate of the Amtrak train station, the Old Corral, as well as the “jewel” of the city, the courthouse.
- The post office, the Riverside and the Mapes.
- Sharon Wallbridge brings on as the newsletter editor for the second issue.
- Ginger Salecico is named Membership Director.
- HRPS offers three walking tours for May 1998: Historic Preservation Week, Historic Truckee Corridor with Carol Winans, UNR Landscapes: Newlands Neighborhood with Anne McCarty and Scott Gibson and Hills and Stones with Pat Klos.
- In 1998, the Mapes is placed on America’s Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places List.
- The proposed ReTrAC project threatens the old downtown train depot.
- Walking tours increase to eight offered in May, June and July of 1998. New Walks added include Fourth Street Corridor with Gaye Canepa, Wells Avenue with Mark Tater and Tilling the Domers, a daylong adventure with Frank Mullen, Jr.
- HRPS offers an Oral History Workshop.
- The East Fourth Street Corridor, once known as the Lincoln Highway and Highway 40, is included in a Special Parking District in 1998-1999.
- HRPS receives an award from the Reno City Council and the Reno Historical Resources Commission.
- Cindy Ainsworth is HRPS President from 1998 to 1999.
- Inform HRPS members of historic preservation issues within the city.
- Build partnerships between HRPS and City of Reno Historical Resources Commission, neighborhood councils and other groups.
- Recognize and reward historic preservation projects.
- Build a partnership with the Native American community.
- Purchase and develop a house museum in the Truckee River corridor.

HRPS Beginnings (continued)

This summer committee first met on June 10, 1997 on the patio of the Klos home. Present were Mike and Pat Klos, Cindy Ainsworth, Nancy Holmes, Sandy Saunders, Holly Young and Bill Thimmesch. Holly Young, whose husband Tom Miller is a descendant of Reno founder Myron Lake’s brother, urged the group to set ten goals. The goals were:

1. Train walking tour docents
2. Develop educational programs for children and adults
3. Build a strong membership
4. Make available to the people of Reno lists of historic properties
5. Identify endangered sites in the city
6. Inform HRPS members of historic preservation issues within the city
7. Build partnerships between HRPS and City of Reno Historical Resources Commission, neighborhood councils and other groups
8. Recognize and reward historic preservation projects
9. Build a partnership with the Native American community
10. Purchase and develop a house museum in the Truckee River corridor.

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HRPS Membership Application
Please check your mailing label! Renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno! Please make checks payable to Historic Reno Preservation Society and mail along with this application to:

PO. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507

Name(s):
Mailing Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone:
Fax:
E-Mail:
Occupation:
Employer:

Annual membership includes:
- Footprints 4 HRPS Newsletter
- Free participation in walking tours
- Student $35.00
- Individual $25.00
- Family (children 18 yrs and younger) $40.00
- Business Contribution $50.00
- Supporting $100.00
- HRPS Angel $250.00

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

HRPS Memberships:
- Memberships are for one year only.
- New memberships are welcomed at any time.
- Dues are non-refundable.
- Membership benefits include:
- Footprints Newsletter
- Voting privileges at member meetings
- Priority registration for special events
- Access to HRPS member database


RENEWALS

- Maureen Adams
- Cindy & Tom Ainsworth
- Lynn Adkins
- Bruce Alcock
- Partheno A. Aquaforte
- Robert & Sandra Backus
- Mark Backus
- Carol Ballard
- Betty & Frank Baker
- Bill & Dorothy Barnard
- Nancy & Sandy Beckman
- Jan Bishop
- Jim & Lani Bolon
- Jan Bolon
- Jerry & Jerry Brown
- Holly Buchanan
- Diane & David Buchanan...
From Your HRPS President, Felvia Belaustegui

I

am truly honored to be chosen as President during HRPS’ momentous ten-year anniversary celebration. Our many accomplishments during this period have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life in the Truckee Meadows. This could not have been accomplished without the dedication of the first HRPS President, Pat Kios. Followed by Presidents Cindy Ainsworth, Kathryn Wishart, Patty Cafaretta, and Joan Dyer and the dedication of the past and present Board Members. Our financial records are in immaculate order thanks to our treasurer, Bill Walbridge. Gordon Foote, our current membership director and his predecessor, Ginger Sakeda, have worked to bring our membership from five people in November of 1997 to almost 500 at the present time.

Our mission is to preserve and promote historic resources in the Truckee Meadows through education, advocacy and leadership. Over the past 10 years, our influence has brought attention through education and assistance to the Fleischmann Planetarium, UNR’s General Plan and the Virginia Street Bridge. On its tenth anniversary, HRPS has become one of the most well-respected preservation organizations in Northern Nevada.

HRPS’ educational programs bring Reno preservation issues and history to the public’s attention. The community and new visitors to the area now enjoy twenty different walking tours, followed by twelve tours offered throughout the year. I am grateful to the many members who have contributed countless hours to lead our walking tours, making HRPS Walking Tours a well-known and respected introduction to the Truckee Meadows.

HRPS’ future looks bright and promising. Much of this time were Scott Gibson, Mercedes De la Garza and Pat’s childhood friend, Charlotte McConnell.

HRPS Beginsnings (continued)

HRPS and Reno Milestones (continued)

• The Mapes is imploded on Super Bowl Sunday, 2000.
• In 2000, HRPS presents its First Preservation Award to the Reno Quakers for the restoration and adaptive reuse of their historic meeting house at 505 Virginia Ave.
• Holly Young is noted as HRPS Treasurer until May, 2001. Bill Walbridge has been HRPS’ Treasurer ever since.
• In 2001, HRPS presents Preservation Awards to 205 California Ave. and 127 Burrs St.
• On May 12, 2001, HRPS joins the National Automobile Museum, the Nevada State Trust for Historic Preservation, the Nevada Arts Council, the Historic Resources Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office to present “Neighborhoods for Everyone,” a day-long Historic Preservation Conference.
• Fall of 2001, the Wingfield Mansion at 220 Court Street burns.
• HRPS 2002 Historic Preservation Award is presented to Artists Coop Gallery.
• Carol Coleman joins Sharon Valentine and Joan Collins on FootPrints for the Spring 2002 issue. Linda Sievers joins in Winter 2004. Debbie Winter joins in Fall of 2004 and Carol became Managing Editor for that issue. She continues to edit FootPrints with the Winter 2006 issue. Karin Honeck joins the editorial staff in Fall 2006. Mella Harmon has unofficially supported FootPrints with interesting articles and as a proofreader. Distribution is handled by Lynne Allen, darn, Joan Bowland and friends, and lately by your editorial staff.
• Kathryn Weber is HRPS President from 2001 to 2003.

The Historic Reno Preservation Society initiated a three-pronged approach to preservation: walking tours, monthly meetings, and a newsletter. Realizing that once goals were created, people had to be informed of them, Pat, working with Frank Ozaki and his partner, Venine at Double Click Design, created the first HRPS newsletter, which was simply called Historic Reno Preservation Society Newsletter. Its initial focus was the reporting of activities of interest to the general membership. Frank, who still handles graphic design and printing of FootPrints, had been present at HRPS’ genesis at My Favorite Muffin and wanted to help the organization. This first newsletter was an 8½ x 11 sheet Pat had run off at Kingo’s and which was sent out to the budding membership and everyone else Pat knew. By the second issue, which was actually Volume 1, Number 1, the newsletter had expanded to four pages and sported an innovative new logo, combining the work of Double Click and illustrator Loren Jahm.

Another landmark gone.
A win with Fleischmann’s. Pat has a love with Wingfield, 219 & 220 Court Street: The Wingfield Mansion on the right, and the adjacent property burned in the Fall of 2001.

2008 Call for Proposals

The Eighth Biennial Historical Conference on Nevada History will be held May 20-21, 2008 at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, NV. The focus will be Alphabet Soup: The New Deal in Nevada. Proposals for papers and presentations are due March 15, 2008. For information, call Mella Harmon, 775-688-1191, ext. 223.

Another landmark gone.

Footprints Vol. 10 No. 4, Fall 2007

Continued on page 4
HRPS Beginnings (continued)

Continued from page 3

Volume 1 Number 2, dated May 1998 announced Sharon Walbridge as HRPS President. The newsletter became FootPrints with Volume 4, No. 1 in Winter 2001 and has remained so ever since.

Programs continued on a monthly basis, September through May, and the growing interest in them soon caused the group to move from a small classroom in the Mount Rose School to the auditorium.

The number of available Walking Tours began to grow, as members created their own new walks and walkers enthusiastically joined the walks again and again, bringing new friends and noticing things they had missed in previous walks.

HRPS and Reno Milestones (continued)

• HRPS celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the completion of the Lincoln and Victory Highways with an Exposition of the California building.
• The Fleischmann Planetarium is threatened with demolition in order to make space for a UNR parking garage.
• Patty Cafurina is HRPS President from 2003 to 2004.
• HRPS 2003 Preservation Award is given to Joanne deLange/Khams House, 821 North Center Street.
• HRPS begins the Preserving Addition project.
• In August, 2001, HRPS FootPrints receives grant from Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts.
• Joan Dyer is HRPS President from 2004 to 2007.
• The Lake Mansion is moved to Court & Flint Streets on July 11, 2004.
• In 2004, Sharon Walbridge, Editor of HRPS FootPrints, is given the 2004 Advocate Award by the Historical Resources Commission of the May 12 Reno City Council meeting.

• The 2004 HRPS Historic Preservation Award is given to Steve and Linda Anderson for their adaptive reuse of 601 Holland.
• The new UNR General Plan threatened the Queen Anne structures on Center Street.
• In October, 2006, HRPS staged A Night of Not So Living History, a self-guided tour of Hilbald Cemetery, with HRPS members portraying cemetery inhabitants.
• The Interstate celebrates its 50th anniversary.
• The historic Mizpah Hotel on Lake Street burns in October, 2006.
• Shanghai Lil, a sturdy white colonial at 1640 South Aflington, burns in November, 2006.
• On March 28, 2007, the Reno City Council unanimously recommends the Virginia Street Bridge be torn down and replaced.
• Prvla Belaustegui is HRPS President in May of 2007.

Information for this article came from discussions with HRPS’ first President, Pat Klos, and from reviewing the past issues of FootPrints.

Debbie Himman is a HRPS Board Member, HRPS Tour Guide and a member of the HRPS Editorial Staff.

High Noon at the Nevada Historical Society

The Nevada Historical Society invites you to a free lecture series in the Research Library at noon on the fourth Monday of each month. High Noon will feature a selection from the series Exploring Nevada, with a special guest speaker on hand to present and discuss each film.

Information for this article was discussed with Sharon Walbridge, HRPS Board of Directors President 1997–1999 and Patty Cafurina, HRPS President 2003–2004.

Bits and Pieces of Information

Many Thanks to those who volunteered for the HRPS Board of Directors 1997–2007

Pat Klos
Cindy Ainsworth
Holly Young
Sandy Saunders
Scott Gibson
Nancy Holmes
Charlotte Jones-McConnell
Kathryn Wishart
Mark Taxer
Sharon Adler Walbridge
Joan Dyer
David Ginsburg
Felvia Belaustegui
Debra Perry Lockwood
Leanne Stone
Patty Cafurina
Ann McCarr
Duane Rasmussen
Susan Carter
Phyllis Cates
Fritz Grupe
Jack Hurst, Jr.
Jack Schroeder
Gordon Foote
Bob Harmon
Marilyn Fuetsch-Turville
Linda Sievers
Jean Collins
Debbie Himman
Jim Smith
Barbara Swart Courtnay
Marilyn Fuetsch-Turville
Leanne Stone
Patty Cafurina
Ann McCarr
Duane Rasmussen
Susan Carter
Phyllis Cates
Fritz Grupe
Jack Hurst, Jr.
Jack Schroeder
Gordon Foote
Bob Harmon
Marilyn Fuetsch-Turville
Linda Sievers
Jean Collins
Debbie Himman
Jim Smith
Barbara Swart Courtnay
Jerry Fenwick
Sharon Honig-Bear

Docent Training and History Lectures at the NHS

Have you ever thought about becoming a docent at the Nevada Historical Society? Training sessions are beginning this fall for the 2007 Docent Class. NHS is trying a new approach with this year’s training.

Starting October 11 from 9:00 am to noon, there will be four Thursday training sessions for those interested in assisting the curators of Manuscripts, Photographs, Artifacts and the Library. In addition to the training sessions, current docents will be assigned to mentor the trainees.

Classes on education for people interested in doing tours and outreach will be scheduled later.

If you are interested in either or both of the education or curator training programs, please contact Nancy Oakley, 322-1110 or Linda Sanderson, 158-4662 for details.

In conjunction with the training program, the Docent Council will be presenting a mini Nevada History course with sessions to be held on consecutive Monday afternoons from October 15 through November 5. The sessions begin at 1:30pm the 15th, 22nd, and 29th. The Nov. 5 session begins at 1:30 pm. The course is being coordinated by Dr. Arlene Edwards, emeritus professor of history at UNR. The history course will be open to all docents and docent trainees, as well as the public. Space is limited, so please contact Mella Harmon at 688-1191, ext. 225 or mella@smohio.com to indicate interest in attending. Docent trainees will be required to attend, so they will get the first seats.

Do You Have Rosemount Lodge Stories?

Do you have stories of the Rosemount Lodge (now the Reindeer Lodge) during the period 1957 to 1959? We’re planning an article about this and its 50th anniversary. Please send your remembrances to Kim Henrick, khenrick@rtci.net.
Meet HRPS Newest Board Members

Sharon Honig-Bear

I have lived in Reno/Sparks for 61 years arriving here at the age of 10. I attended Orvis Ring, Binghamhurst and Reno High Schools. I graduated from the University of Nevada in 1958 with a degree in Foreign Language and History/Political Science. I worked with my parents in our store, Fenwick’s for almost 30 years and then the City of Reno for 13 years where I retired as Gok Manager/Safety Inspector in 1992. I am currently single (divorced) and have two sons, Daniel and Raymond, who both live in Sparks.

I am proud to work for the Washoe County Library for 17 years, as Development Officer. Looking back, I am especially happy with the development of the Friends of Washoe County Library and the passage of two ballot initiatives to improve libraries. I can remember as a girl, living in a town without a public library, and “lobbying” my parents to vote for a bond for libraries. The measure passed and my life direction was set!

My hobbies are hiking and camping, travel, geocaching, food and cooking (I have cats.

I am still finding the best way to serve the HRPS organization. I love to give tours and hope to do more. I have experience planning special events. I’d love to see a Reno Heritage Center one day.

Jerry Fennwick

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Barbara Swart Cournay

I was born and raised in Reno, went to Southside, Binghamhurst, Reno High, and graduated from the University of Nevada. I taught at Binghamhurst and Wooster the first year it opened.

I then moved to California where I taught for eight years, married, had two children, was a stay at home mom, and then worked at De Anza College in Cupertino as a program assistant in a computer applications lab for 14 years. My husband and I moved to Reno six years ago, and we enjoy living in Reno. Our two children live in California.

I minored in history in college and have always had a great love for that subject. My father was one of the founders and volunteers of the Sparks Heritage Museum, so I come by my interest in Reno history quite naturally.

I am an active member of the Assistance League of Reno/Sparks, I enjoy gardening and reading, and my husband and I like hiking in this wonderful area.

I am ready to do whatever HRPS might need from a new board member with a special interest in old Reno.

HRPS Board Member

Jerry Fennwick

I worked with the Sparks Centennial Commission on a history program about Sparks that was presented to various organizations and schools and created a DVD that the commission and Sparks Heritage Museum sold. I have many interests including history, collecting real photo post cards from early Nevada and Lake Tahoe. I restore old photos, sell enlargements and also have done restoration work on photographs for the Nevada Historical Society and the Sparks Heritage Museum. I have been on the museum board of directors. Currently I am a director for the Reno High School Alumni Association and a member of the Westerners Nevada Corral.

My main interest is the preservation of our heritage. I have worked with Neal Cobb creating and presenting programs on the history of Reno and Nevada and have created DVDs on Reno and early Nevada that are sold at the Nevada Historical Society.

HRPS Board Member

Barbara Swart Cournay

As a relatively new member of HRPS, I took on this assignment, interested in knowing more about the genesis of the organization and looking forward to interviewing those key people who made it what it is today. I already knew and admired the five past presidents, but after speaking with each and hearing their stories, I have an even greater admiration for them, and all that they accomplished. HRPS is a thriving organization and these five extraordinary women were key to making it the success it is today.

Pat Ferraro Klos was a woman with a great notion, back in 1999, to create an organization with a specific focus on Reno historic preservation. A high school English teacher, Pat was the first president, holding that position for the next two years.

She was followed by the very able Cindy Ainsworth, who had been involved with the group since that first meeting at My Favorite Muffin, and had a keen interest in Nevada history and preservation. In 2001, Cindy handed over the reins to former Reno councilwoman Kathy Wishart. Kathy provided her leadership until 2003, when Patty Cafferata, former state As¬
torney General, stepped into the role. Patty completed a one year stint until Joan Dyer took over from her in 2004. Joan, a long-time key figure in many local arts organizations, served as president for three years. Just this May, Felicia Belaustegui became HRPS president. Felicia completed her MAS in Land Use Planning and Historic Preser¬vation from UNR in May of 2000.

I asked all five past presidents a set of questions and found their answers to be thoughtful, insightful and occasion¬ally humorous. Through their answers I gained a new appreciation of just how much effort goes into creating a new association, and perhaps even more into keeping it going, and how remarkable these key people really are.

What do you feel was the main focus or vision of the organization during your tenure as president?

Pat: Once we had established our ten goals (see “Beginnings of HRPS” article), we set about clicking them off, as we moved through the next several years. Growing the organization became a priority, through the newsletter and personal contacts, especially those in the university community, such as Donna Fowler. “There was already a community of preservationists,” says Pat. “We were all here. But nobody had just said, ‘let’s concentrate on Reno.’

A Tale of Five Presidents

by Debbie Hisman

As HRPS also needed to differentiate itself from another new preservationist group active at that time, Truckee Meadows Heritage Trust, whose main focus was saving the Mapes. By the end of the first year, HRPS could boast a membership of 100-200.

Cindy: As HRPS was still a young organization, just keeping it going was a challenge. The administrative details had to be worked out, such as creating the bylaws, and getting the organization’s 501C3 designation as a non-profit established. And building the membership was still a priority. “We didn’t have much money,” Cindy reported.

Kathy: During Kathy’s tenure, the group was experiencing some fairly rapid growth, and so was continuing to focus on organizational or administrative details. “These were sexy, exciting things such as the strategic plan, with annual planning retreats, and we developed a budget,” quipped Kathy. “We developed job descriptions, and went over and revised the bylaws.

Patty: “Publishing the Powning Addition book was really fun for us. Patty Cafferata. Patty spoke with each board member individually when she assumed the presidency, asking them for their individual visions for the organization. Felicia Belaustegui wanted to see the Powning Addition declared a historic district, and the first part of that was to do the research and select the houses, and the book itself was born.

Joan: “I was lucky,” said Joan, “when I came on as president, HRPS was already in a wonderful holding pattern and a whole lot had already occurred, and I think I saw my mission as just steering the ship and enhancing the three areas that we already were doing, and encourage people to relax up on these.”

Joan mentioned the walking tours— they were something HRPS had done from the beginning so she felt HRPS needed to “take them and run with them.” Joan referred to the upcoming programs as wonderful and informative, with a very attentive audience. She wished to encourage people to make suggestions for future programs.

And the newsletter stepped up from “doings of the masses,” in Joan’s words, to more historical and investigative writing. “In my tenure we didn’t innovate any new big endeavor. We looked at a few things that could be fun in the future. We had stepped away a little from our past relationship with the educational community and looked at re-estimating those ties. And this year we’ve added a lot of work for us, we have the newsletter steps in the hands,” laughed Joan.

What roadblocks, if any, did you encounter?

Pat: “There were some decisive roadblocks. People did not want a preservation district, which of course we still

Continued on page 6

Footprints Vol. 10 No. 4, Fall 2007
Continued from page 5  

Cindy: “Money was a big issue,” said Cindy. “We really had to economize and figure out how to fundraise, as the City Council. “We really had to economize and order to the organization so that we could go forward. I think HRPS has since been very successful with everything they have done, such as the annual tours, and the walking tours, which are dynamic.” Kathy feels that the walking tours are really what HRPS is becoming known for, as well as having “it warms the cockles of my heart,” Pat exclaims. “Everyone I ever went to school with, people I had known all my life, all were interested in what we were all about. And the money rolled in. And as Cindy and I were never ones to leave anything alone, the next year we did retro at the Frockadero Room. We were a real organization when we could pull in 150 people for a dinner.” Cindy: Cindy also cites the HRPS annual parties as some of the most fun events. In particular, she enjoyed the train station event, laughing that the planners had “nearly lost it” and softened up the “ticket taker” to make things happen. Kathy: “The board that I worked with at that time was very supportive. They volunteered to do things and they did them, and a lot of it was paperwork and just drudgery. The people with whom I interacted were terrific.” Patty: “It’s hard to pick any one thing out, but certainly the parties and the different themes were fun. And turning out the booklet, in such a short period of time.” Patty saw this as a very rewarding endeavor. Joan: “I think our socials have been a great fun. I am not a big theme party person but I’ve become more of one, and our creative board has thought some great things. Also, to tie speakers with the party gives validity to the gathering and entices people to come – our turn outs have been very good in the eight or so years we have been doing this.”  

Tell me about one of your fondest memories of your time with HRPS.

Patt: “Cindy Ainsworth. It couldn’t have happened without her. And Frank Ozaki, who volunteered his services from the beginning. And Loren Jahn, who helped create our logo.” Kathy: “Charlotte McConnell. She really kept us on track. And Sharon Walbridge, who took on the newsletter and really moved it up a step.” Kathy: “Pat, and the other founders – Jean Ford, and Mella Harmon has been a great resource. And anyone who is willing to be a walking tour guide. It takes a lot of work and preparation. If it weren’t for this great volunteer spirit, we wouldn’t be here.” Patty: “Kathryn Wishart, who preceded me as president, was a former city councilwoman and very prominent. And Joan Dyer, who is as active in the arts in the Reno community. And the new president Felsia Belaustegui, who is so involved in the historic preservation community. Of course Pat Klos, and Lindy and Jack Schroeder.” Joan: “The most visible person who came on board during my tenure was Patty Calverta. She brought a very structured, businesslike approach, and also her expertise with the law was helpful. Also, those members of the university community who have always supported us.”  

Is there anything else you would like to tell our current members, or advise you could offer to future boards for the betterment of the organization?

Pat: “Get your children and grandchil- dren involved.” Cindy: “Just continuing on being of service to the community. I know the members appreciate what we do.” Kathy: “No advice – they’re doing a heck of a job. It’s an organization people can be proud to support – they get a lot of bang for their buck for their member- ship dues. We’ve always been fortunate to have a cadre of people willing to step up and do the work.” Patty: “You have to have a plan, I think the organization is very good about this. You can’t do it all, so you have to focus on one or two things and accomplish them.” Joan: “Just hang in there and keep at it and throw the ideas—if they’re not good, we’ll sift through them, and if they’re wonderful we’ll use them.”  

Footprints Vol. 10 No. 4, Fall 2007

A Tale of Five Presidents (continued)
Continued from page 5

don’t have, because they wanted the ability to pick and choose what they were going to do with their property: they didn’t want anybody telling them that.” People at that time in Reno were very divided over the Mapes issue, and confused HRPS with TMHT, as mentioned above. HRPS had made an organizational decision not to get involved with TMHT, which was taking an openly adversarial position to the City Council. “You catch more flies with honey than vinegar,” commented Pat, explaining that HRPS preferred to educate and inform rather than jump into the fray that HRPS preferred to educate and inform rather than jump into the fray.

Joan: “There weren’t many,” Joan stated. “I know I have created an awareness that was not there before,” stated Pat. She is particularly proud of the tradition of walking tours that she began those ten years ago. She says that when she now sees groups walking through historic Reno neighborhoods, “it warms the cockles of my heart,” Pat says. Her fear is that her tombstone will someday bear the epitaph “She was a streetwalker.”

Kathy: “A being a part of an organization that was offering so much to our community, in terms of the programs, the walking tours and the newsletter, and this was all early on. It came together on the accomplishments and we were able to keep it going.”

Kathy: “Bringing a sense of structure and order to the organization so that we could go forward, I think HRPS has since then been very successful with everything they have done, such as the annual parties, and the walking tours, which are dynamite.” Kathy feels that the walking tours are really what HRPS is becoming known for, as well as throwing parties and sending out the newsletter.

Patty: “The publishing of the Pewning Addition booklet,” she quickly responded. She went on to comment that every new president and board builds on the accomplishments of the previous president and board, and that in her tenure, they continued the structured approach that Kathy had begun, with the annual strategizing for the future. Patty also commented on the continuing improvement in the walking tour offerings, and quality of the newsletter.

Joan: “I took over after we had had the Planetarium situation, which came out positive, and it made our presence stronger with the hierarchy of the university. I was invited right from the get-go to these morning breakfasts the president of the university had, dealing with many subjects. They insured that we were in the loop.” Joan went on to comment that this has changed, with the new university management, and she feels it is something HRPS needs to keep its eye on.

That’s a healthy thing. In Joan’s opinion, the one wonderful thing about HRPS and its boards over the years, is that unlike many organizations, all our board members are actively participating in the group’s events and projects—none merely sit on the sidelines.

What do you see as your most significant accomplishment during your tenure as president?

Pat: “I know I have created an awareness that was not there before,” stated Pat. It was a nice party,” she adds, laughing. Patty: “It’s hard to pick anything one out, but certainly the parties and the different themes were fun. And turning out the booklet, in such a short period of time.” Patty saw this as a very rewarding endeavor.

Joan: “I think our socials have been fantastic events.”

Kathy: “The board that I worked with at that time was very supportive. They volunteered to do things and they did them. And a lot of it was paperwork and just drudgery. The people with whom I interacted were terrific. Kathy also commented on the continuing improvement in the walking tour offerings, and quality of the newsletter.

Joan: “I think our socials have been wonderful we’ll use them.”

Patty: “Just continuing on being of service to the community. I know the members appreciate what we do.”

Kathy: “Just as the people who have done a heck of a job. It’s an organization people can be proud of; they get a lot of bang for their buck,” for their membership dues. We’ve been fortunate to have a cadre of people willing to step up and do the work.

Patty: “You have to have a plan. I think the organization is very good about this. You can’t do it all, so you have to focus on one or two things and accomplish them.”

Joan: “Just hang in there and keep at it and throw the ideas—if they’re not good, we’ll sift through them, and if they’re wonderful we’ll use them.”

Debbie Himman is a HRPS Board Member, HRPS Tour Guide and a member of the HRPS Editorial Staff.
Meet HRPS Newest Board Members

Sharon Honig-Bear

We moved here over 31 years ago and we liked it right away. Every day seemed to offer a special event and the summer skies were spectacular; I love the mountains and the dry climate.

I am married with two grown children. My husband teaches at UNR. Both my son and daughter were small when we moved here and were always sorry they ‘just missed’ being native Nevadans. I always have cats.

I have proudly worked for the Washoe County Library for 17 years, as Development Officer. Looking back, I am especially happy with the development of the Friends of Washoe County Library and the passage of two ballot initiatives to improve libraries. I can remember as a girl, living in a town without a public library, and ‘lobbying’ my parents to vote for a bond for libraries. The measure passed and my life direction was set!

My hobbies are hiking and camping, movies.

Gazette-Journal

Barbara Swart Courtney

I have lived in Reno/Sparks for 61 years arriving here at the age of 10. I attended Orvis Ring, Billinghurst and Reno High Schools. I graduated from the University of Nevada in 1958 with a degree in Foreign Language and History/Political Science. I worked with my parents in our store, Fenwick’s for almost 30 years and then the City of Reno for 17 years where I retired as Gok Manager/Safety Inspector in 1992. I am currently single (divorced) and have two sons, Daniel and Raymond, who both live in Sparks.

I minored in history in college and have always had a great love for that subject. My father was one of the founders and volunteers of the Sparks Heritage Museum, so I come by my interest in Reno history quite naturally.

I am an active member of the Assistance League of Reno/Sparks. I enjoy gardening and reading, and my husband and I like hiking in this wonderful area.

I am ready to do whatever HRPS might need from a new board member with a special interest in old Reno. 

HRPS Board Member

Jerry Fennwick

I worked with the Sparks Centennial Commission on a history program about Sparks that was presented to various organizations and schools and created a DVD that the commission and Sparks Heritage Museum sold. I have many interests including history, collecting real photo post cards from early Nevada and Lake Tahoe. I restore old photo, sell enlargements and also have done restoration work on photographs for the Nevada Historical Society and the Sparks Heritage Museum. I have been on the museum board of directors. Currently I am a director for the Reno High School Alumni Association and a member of the Westerners Nevada Corral.

My main interest is the preservation of our heritage. I have worked with Neal Cobb creating and presenting programs on the history of Reno and Nevada and have created DVDs on Reno and early Nevada that are sold at the Nevada Historical Society.

HRPS Board Member

Sharon Honig-Bear

Pat Ferrero Kles My main interest is the preservation of our heritage. I have worked with Neal Cobb creating and presenting programs on the history of Reno and Nevada and have created DVDs on Reno and early Nevada that are sold at the Nevada Historical Society.

HRPS Board Member

Barbara Swart Courtney

As a relatively new member of HRPS, I took on this assignment, interested in knowing more about the genesis of the organization and looking forward to interviewing these key people who made it what it is today. I already knew and admired the past presidents, but after speaking with each and hearing their stories, I have an even greater admiration for them, and all that they accomplished. HRPS is a thriving organization and these five extraordinary women were key to making it the success it is today.

Pat Ferrero Kles

HRPS President September 1997-May 1999

Photos for this article taken by Debra Hinman

HRPS also needed to differentiate itself from another new preservationist group active at that time, Truckee Meadows Heritage Trust, whose main focus was saving the Mapes. By the end of the first year, HRPS could boast a membership of 100-200.

Cindy: As HRPS was still a young organization, just keeping it going was a challenge. The administrative details had to be worked out, such as creating the bylaws, and getting the organization’s 501C3 designation as a non-profit established.

And building the membership was still a priority. “We didn’t have much money,” Cindy reported.

Kathy: During Kathy’s tenure, the group was experiencing some fairly rapid growth, and so was continuing to focus on organizational or administrative details. “These were sexy, exciting things such as the strategic plan, with annual planning retreats, and we developed a budget,” quipped Kathy. “We developed job descriptions, and went over and revised the bylaws.”

Patty: “Publishing the Pawning Addition booklet was the last project under the leadership of Kathy Ferrero Cafferata. Patty spoke with each board member individually when she assumed the presidency, asking them for their individual visions for the organization. Felvia Belaustegui wanted to see the Pawning Addition declared a historic district, and the first part of that was to do the research and select the houses, and the booklet concept was born.

Joan: “I was lucky,” said Joan, “when I came on as president, HRPS was already in a wonderful holding pattern and a whole lot had already occurred, and I think I saw my mission as just steering the ship and enhancing the three areas that we already were doing, and encourage people to rely on each other.”

Joan mentioned the walking tours—they were something HRPS had done from the beginning so she felt HRPS needed “to take them and run with them.” Joan referred to the beginning programs as wonderful and informative, with a very attentive audience. She wished to encourage people to make suggestions for future programs.

And the newsletter stepped up from “doings of the masses,” in Joan’s words, to more historical and investigative writing. “In my tenure we didn’t innovate any new big idea. We looked at a few things that could be fun in the future. We had stepped away a little from our past relationship with the educational community and looked at re-establishing those ties. And the newsletter included words for taking us sideways into the barns,” laughed Joan.

What roadblocks, if any, did you encounter?

Pat: “There were some definite roadblocks. People did not want a preservation district, which of course we still

Continued on page 6
HRPS Beginnings (continued)

Continued from page 3

Volume 1 Number 2, dated May 1998 announced Sharon Walbridge as Editor. The newsletter became FootPrints with Volume 4, No. 1 in Winter 2001 and has remained so ever since.

Programs continued on a monthly basis, September through May, and the growing interest in them soon caused the group to move from a small classroom in the Mount Rose School to the auditorium.

The number of available Walking Tours began to grow, as members created their own new walks and walkers enthusiastically joined the walks again and again, bringing new friends and noticing things they had missed in previous walks.


The newsletter became FootPrints Vol. 10 No. 4, Fall 2007

HRPS Mission Milestones (continued)

- HRPS celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the completion of the Lincoln and Victory Highways with an Exposition Social of the California building.
- The Fleischmann Planetarium is threatened with demolition in order to make space for an UNR parking garage.
- Patty Caffarata is HRPS President from 2003 to 2004.
- HRPS 2003 Preservation Award is given to Joanne deLongchamps House, 821 North Center Street.
- HRPS begins the Powaying Addition project.
- In August, 2003, HRPS FootPrints receives grant from Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts.
- Joan Dyer is HRPS President from 2004 to 2007.
- The Lake Mansion is moved to Court & Flint Streets on July 11, 2004.
- In 2004, Sharon Walbridge, Editor of HRPS FootPrints is given the 2004 Advocate Award by the Historical Resources Commission of the May 12 Reno City Council meeting. FootPrints is awarded the 2004 Significant Historic Resource Award by the HRHC.
- The 2004 HRPS Historic Preservation Award is given to Steve and Linda Anderson, for their adaptive reuse of 601 E. 4th Street.
- The new UNR General Plan threatened the Queen Anne structures on Center Street.
- In October, 2006, HRPS staged A Night of Not So Living History, a self-guided tour of Hillside Cemetery, with HRPS members portraying cemetery inhabitants.
- The Intersecte celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- The historic Mizpah Hotel on Lake Street burns in October, 2006.
- Shangri-La, a steady white colonial at 1640 South Adlington, burns in November, 2006.
- On March 28, 2007, the Reno City Council unanimously recommends the Virginia Street Bridge be torn down and replaced.
- Felvia Belaustegui is HRPS President in May of 2007.

High Noon at the Nevada Historical Society

The Nevada Historical Society invites you to a free lecture series in the Research Library at noon on the fourth Monday of each month. High Noon will feature a selection from the series Exploring Nevada, with a special guest speaker on hand to present and discuss each film.

- September 24, 2007
  Steam Up Carson City
  Bert Bedeau

- October 22, 2007
  Neon Unplugged
  Peter Bandurraga

- November 26, 2007
  Tireless and Unremitting
  The Chinese on the RR
  Speaker TBA

NHS Evening Lecture Series

The Nevada Historical Society invites you to a free lecture at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Fall programs are listed below:

- September 25, 2007
  The Iron Horse Reaches Nevada
  Wendell Huffman, Curator of History

- October 23, 2007
  Nevada State Railroad Museum
  Dr. Jerome Edwards, Emeritus Professor of Nevada History

- November 5, 2007
  The 15th, 22nd, and 29th. The Nov. 5 sessions begin at 1:30 pm. The course is being coordinated by Dr. Jerome Edwards, Emeritus Professor of Nevada History.

Docent Training and History Lectures at the NHS

Have you ever thought about becoming a docent at the Nevada Historical Society? Training sessions are beginning this fall for the 2007 Docent Class. NHS is trying a new approach with this year’s training.

Starting October 11 from 9:00 am to noon, there will be four Thursday training sessions for those interested in assisting the curators of Manuscripts, Photographs, Artifacts and the Library. In addition to the training sessions, current docents will be assigned to mentor the trainees.

Classes on education for people interested in doing tours and outreach will be scheduled later.

If you are interested in either of both of the education or curator training programs, please contact Nancy Oakley, 322-1110 or Linda Sanderson, 158-4662, for details.

In conjunction with the training program, the Docent Council will be presenting a mini Nevada History course with sessions to be held on consecutive Monday afternoons from October 15 through November 5. The sessions begin at 1:30pm the 15th, 22nd and 29th. The Nov. 5 session begins at 1:00 pm. The course is being coordinated by Dr. Jerron Edwards, Emeritus Professor of History at UNR. The history course will be open to all docents and docent trainees, as well as the public. Space is limited, so please contact Mella Harmon at 688-1991, ext. 223 or mella.harmon@clan.lib.nv.us for details.

Do you have Rosemount Lodge stories?

Do you have stories of the Rosemount Lodge (now the Reindeer Lodge) during the period 1957 to 1999? We’re planning an article about all members and their families for some special anniversary. Please send your reminiscences to Kim Henrick, khenrick@rri.rri.net.
I am truly honored to be chosen as President during HRPS' momentous ten year anniversary celebration. Our many accomplishments during this period have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life in the Truckee Meadows. This could not have been accomplished without the dedication of the first HRPS President, Pat Klos, followed by Presidents Cindy Ainsworth, Kathryn Wishart, Patty Cafarella, and Joan Sayer and the dedication of the past and present Board Members. Our financial records are in immaculate order thanks to our treasurer, Bill Wallbridge. Gordon Foote, our current membership director and his predecessor, Ginger Sakeda, have worked to bring our membership from five people in November of 1997 to almost 500 at the present time.

Our mission is to preserve and promote historic resources in the Truckee Meadows through education, advocacy and leadership. Over the past 10 years, our influence has brought attention through education and assistance to the Henschlmann Planetarium, UNR's General Plan and the Virginia Street Bridge. On its tenth anniversary, HRPS has become one of the most well-respected preservation organizations in Northern Nevada.

HRPS educational programs bring Reno preservation issues and history to the public's attention. The community and new visitors to the area now enjoy twenty different walking tours offered throughout the year. I am grateful to all the members who have contributed countless hours to lead our walking tours, making HRPS Walking Tours a well-known and respected introduction to our historic neighborhoods. What a wonderful way to teach Reno's citizens about our unique neighborhoods, landmarks and to share the importance of preserving our significant buildings.

FootPrints has been a valuable source of information over the years thanks to editors Sharon Wallbridge and Carol Coleman, the many editorial staff members and a variety of contributing writers. Today, members receive our twice a year, featuring in-depth articles on local history and architecture.

For four years, HRPS has been working to bring the Powning Addition to the attention of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to create a National District. With help from then president Patty Cafarella, HRPS members and Nevada Humanities Commission sponsored the publication A Walk Through Time, The Historic Powning Addition in Reno, Nevada, a look at Reno's first subdivision. HRPS volunteers have almost completed the enormous amount of documentation required by SHPO and the amount is now almost to be submitted in the next few months.

In the last ten years, HRPS has presented many educational lectures and entertaining special events. We've had an Oral History Class, a Donner history tour and we've conducted a History of Reno class for Washoe County School District elementary teachers. How many of you remember our first party at Lewis' Basque Corner? How many annual parties have you attended? How about 'On the Archibron, March 30 at the Summit Cafe,' the party that included costumed attendants, wine at the Southern Pacific Depot, and a traditional Basque dinner and celebration at the Santa Fe Hotel?

Our monthly programs have always been interesting and innovative. Speakers have included HRPS' members and friends, such as Dr. Charlie Baska, author of Nevada's landmark titles, the book The Nevada Historical Society, Neal Cobb, local historian and "historic photo king," Vicki Ford, University of Nevada Oral History Program, university professors Don Fowler and Tom McCormick and former mayor, Sam Bihn. Topics ranged from ice harvesting, depression era Reno, the art of Cartoonist Lew Hornsby, and various slide show presentations on topics related to local preservation.

HRPS' role in historic preservation has been and will continue to be an educational or "resource" one through our strategy of walking tours, programs and articles in FootPrints. We offer recognition and assistance with regard to adaptive reuse of historic structures and help support HRPS financially. HRPS is also looking for an office in a central location that would allow self-guided walks, enhance a tour guide's walk and help support HRPS financially. HRPS is also looking for an office in a central location, at a beautiful place for a bulb — for sharing information and storing archival materials for research.

HRPS' future looks bright and promising. I look forward to continuing with all of the dedicated people that put their time and effort into preservation in our area.

2008 Call for Proposals

The Eighth Biennial History Conference on Nevada History will be held May 20-21, 2008 at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, NV. The focus will be Alphabet Soup: The New Deal in Nevada. Proposals for papers and show presentations on topics related to the New Deal in Nevada are due March 15, 2008. For information, call Mella Harmon, 775-688-1191, ext. 223.

HRPS and Reno Milestones (continued)

• The Mapes is imploded on Super Bowl Sunday, 2000.
  In 2000, HRPS presented its First Preservation Awards to the Reno Quakers for the restoration and adaptive reuse of their meeting house at 635 Nevada Ave.
  • Holly Young is named as HRPS Treasurer until May 2001. Bill Wallbridge has been HRPS Treasurer ever since.
  • In 2001, HRPS presents Preservation Awards to 251 California Ave. and 127 Bursts St.
  • On May 12, 2001, HRPS joins the National Automobile Museum, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Nevada Arts Council, Historic Resource Commission of the State Historic Preservation Office to present "Neighborhoods for Everyone: A Day of Long History Preservation Conference."
  • Fall of 2001, the Wingfield Mansion at 220 Court Street burns.
  • HRPS 2002 Historic Preservation Award is presented to Artist, Coop Gallery.
    • Susan Carter from 2003 to 2005.
    • Debbie Hinneman from 2005 to 2007.
  • Carol Coleman joins Sharon Wallbridge and Joan Collins on FootPrints for the Spring 2002 issue. Linda Sievers joins in Winter 2003. Debbie Bihn joins in Fall of 2004 and Carol became Managing Editor for that issue. In Fall 2005, Carol joined the editorial staff with the Winter 2006 issue. Kathy Weinreich joins the editorial staff in Fall 2006. Mella Harmon has unofficially supported FootPrints with interesting articles and as a proofreader. Distribution is handled by Lynn Allen, from then and Jack Hunt, Jr. and lately by your editorial staff.
  • Kathryn Wetbrot is HRPS President from 2001 to 2003.

Another landmark gone.

A win with a Muchman, a loss with Wingfield, 219 & 220 Court Street: The Wingfield Mansion on the right, and the adjacent property burned in the Fall of 2001.

The Historic Reno Preservation Society initiated a three-pronged approach to preservation: walking tours, monthly meetings, and a newsletter.

Realizing that once goals were created, people had to be informed of them, Pat, working with Frank Ozaki and his partner Hillary Velazquez at Double Click Design, created the first HRPS newsletter, which was simply called Historic Reno Preservation Society Newsletter. Its initial focus was the reporting of activities of interest to the general membership. Frank, who still handles graphic design and printing of Footprints, had been present at HRPS’ genesis at My Favorite Muffin and wanted to help the organization.

This first newsletter was an 8 ½ x 11 sheet that had run off at Kinoko's and which was sent out to the budding membership and everyone else Pat knew. By the second issue, which was actually Volume 1, Number 1, the newsletter had expanded to four pages and sported an innovative new logo, combining the work of Double Click and illustrator Loren Jahn.

Pat calls this last item her "swan song," from that evening to the present time. "We have to have a physical presence within this community," she says.

They met again a month later, on July 7. "We just clicked," said Pat of this time were Scott Gibson, Mercedes De la Garza and Pat's childhood friend, Charlotte McConnell.

HRPS Beginnings (continued)
HRPS and Reno Milestones 1997–2007

- Historic Reno Preservation Society becomes a reality on September 22, 1997, when 50 people met at the Downtown Elementary School.
- The organization’s logo is unveiled featuring the Virginia Street Bridge.
- Monthly evening programs at Mt. Rose Elementary and walking tours are offered.
- The first newsletter asks members to pay attention to the fate of the Amtrak train station, the El Cortez Hotel, as well as the “jewels” of the city, courthouse, post office, the Riverside, and the Mapes.
- Sharon Wallbridge comes on as the newsletter editor for the second issue.
- Ginger Salcedo is named Membership Director.
- HRPS offers three walking tours for May 1998: Preservation Week, Historic Truckee Corridor with Carol Williams, and walking tours are offered.
- New ideas and energized members. Present at this event was creator of the Nevada Women’s History Project, Jean Ford.
- Fat was ripe for a fresh new organization, to plan for a local preservation group. All present agreed, and Pat was off and running.

Fleischmann Planetarium was the focus of a 2002-2003 effort by HRPS to save the property. UNR announced plans to build on the site.

In September 2000, HRPS offers an Oral History Workshop.

The East Fourth Street Corridor, once known as the Lincoln Highway and Highway 40, is locked down for a Special Designation in 1998.

HRPS receives an award from the Reno City Council and the Reno Historical Resources Commission.

Cindy Ainsworth is named President from 1999 to 2001.

In September 2000, HRPS offers an in-service class on “Reno History” to 40 Washoe County teachers.

HRPS sponsors First VIP Bus Tour, a 1-Hour walking tour of Reno’s history sites.

Develop a partnership with the Native American community.

And purchase and develop a house in the Truckee River corridor.

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

I have long admired those who see a need for a particular service and instead of complaining “Why isn’t there…?” quietly set about creating it themselves. This is, in fact, the genesis of the Historic Reno Preservation Society or HRPS, and the inspiration for the organization was that of Pat Ferraro Klos.

Although a Reno native and high school English teacher who had long appreciated our city and all it has to offer, the concept of historic preservation was not a familiar one when Pat attended the first Oasis Conference in March of 1987.

The Oasis Conference, a biennial event, was created when all statewide cultural organizations felt the need to come together and talk. Previously, libraries were not talking to museums, museums were not talking to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), and SHPO had no idea what tourism was doing. None of the different arts groups were talking. Nevada Humanities was operating all by itself.

Oasis is a multi-day conference with guest speakers and breakout sessions on various topics. It was while attending one of these sessions entitled “Historic Preservation,” led by a personal friend, that Pat became focused on the concept. Out of this session grew a statewide preservation organization named Nevada Heritage, which Pat eagerly joined. Within two years, she was president. Two years after that, she decided on a narrower focus—specifically, a Reno organization.

Pat wrote a letter to the editor of the Reno Gazette-Journal, asking why there was no such organization, only to find out through the Nevada Historical Society that there was a county preservation group on the books. Pat immediately requested a meeting with a group representative, who told her that the group was basically inactive. Pat’s reaction to this information was, “Well, that’s crazy.”

Probably most HRPS members are under the impression, as was I, that the walking tours were created as an offshoot of the original HRPS group, but they were actually a predecessor of the organization. Pat got the idea for doing her own walking tours down Riverside Drive, and into the downtown court house and post office, when she was asked to take a social studies class from McQueen on a bus tour of historic Reno. From there, she went on to do walks for friends and interested groups such as the Junior League, Friends of the Library, theYWCA, YMCA, and the Retired teachers Association. It was only a short time until she was doing walks for SHPO, for Historic Preservation Week. The only payment Pat received was the knowledge and satisfaction that she was exposing new people to the concept of historic preservation and increasing awareness of the historic treasures found in our city.

For Historic Preservation Week in the spring of 1997, Pat conducted a program for SHPO called “A Walk and a Talk.” The group met at My Favorite Muffin on California Avenue. Owner Melinda Gustin, who along with her husband Dan,

Continued on page 2