Editor’s Note: In 1875, the State of Nevada granted a patent of 40 acres on the north side of Reno for use as a cemetery, to be known as Hillside Cemetery. It was a privately-owned cemetery—not necessarily the best plan for perpetual care and maintenance. Saunders, the owner, sold plots but maintained ownership of the area between the plots—a complicated ownership structure. As you’ll read below, this historic cemetery is the final resting place for Reno’s pioneer families, among them city founders, Civil War veterans, a Paiute chief and ordinary heroes. Cemetery owner Sierra Memorial Gardens plans to disinter the remains of hundreds of Reno’s earliest residents from the south half of the burial ground and relocate them into a mass grave memorial on the north end of the cemetery, then sell the Hillside property for development. Legislation in the form of Bill AB 203 to protect historic cemeteries like Hillside is currently moving through the legislative process.

What is a hero? I am sure we can agree that a hero is a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities. Our world is full of heroes; we just have to open our eyes to the humanity around us. Hillside Cemetery is the final resting place of what I call “ordinary heroes.” Strong, determined individuals who passed through this world without recognition—they made Reno and the world a much better place. They came from all walks of life and found a way to work together by understanding similarities and embracing their differences. The following people are just a few of the amazing everyday individuals who helped build Reno. They were kind, compassionate and dedicated to building a life for their families, friends and neighbors.

Hank Rhodes
On March 2, 1879 fire raged through Reno. Many volunteer firefighters jumped into action trying to save as many structures as they could. One of these brave men was Hank Rhodes. Hank was one of the fire foremen, and he stood his ground until the heat and smoke caused him to temporarily lose his eyesight. The Reno Evening Gazette reported on March 4, 1879, “He was burned and banged up considerable. One eye was closed for repairs.”

Born Samuel Henry Rhodes in 1839 in Lowell, Massachusetts, Hank traveled to the West Coast via the Horn in 1854 at the age of 15. He lived in Montana, Utah and California before traveling to Crystal Peak where he took a job as bookkeeper for Manning and Duck. He...
In 1877, he was one of the trustees of Washoe Fire Company No. 1. He served at the Democratic County Convention in 1880 and also on the 4th of July committee of that year. He was “full of kind deeds and charity-as a picture of noble manhood.” (Reno Evening Gazette, January 23, 1882).

David was born in 1833 in Andes, Delaware County, New York of Scottish parents. He married Mary

David had a wonderful sense of humor as reported in an article in the Reno Evening Gazette on March 25, 1880. “Two Dead Men in the Cellar ... A rumor having been circulated to the effect that David McFarland had two dead men in his cellar, a reporter called on him today to ascertain the facts in the case. McFarland admitted that the men were in his cellar, on ice, as reported. When asked why he had killed them, he merely said that they ‘were in his way’. The matter should be investigated.”

As it turns out, Wiltshire Saunders and the city coroner asked David if they could keep the remains of two men in his cellar until they could come back with the wagon to take them to the death house.

James Raser Adams

James Raser Adams died on March 11, 1897, at the age of eight years, eleven months and eleven days. There is very little information on this precious little gentleman. He is resting in lot 297, plot 79, section 34. The Washoe County Assessor’s Office lists J. R. Adams as the owner of the plot, but the cemetery book at the Recorder’s Office lists a Mrs. L. Webster as the owner. His death notice was posted in the Daily Nevada State Journal on March 12, 1897, listing him as James S. Adams. The funeral was held at the parlors of Roskins’ Undertaking. A memorial appeared in the Reno Evening Gazette on March 15, 1897, page three: “Jimmie was a bright and very good little Christian, and had won the respect and love of all who knew him. He was often heard to give old men advice about the love of our Savior. His last words were, ‘Mamm, don’t cry. I’m all right.’ ... little Jimmie has been taken to a better and purer world than this.” Someone with the
Ordinary Heroes (continued)

initials M. E. S. wrote this lovely piece dedicated to Jimmie. Little Jimmie spoke with devotion to his faith and was of noble qualities which qualify him as an ordinary hero.

George Short & Calvin R. Johnson

“Pyramid Mine Disaster - Pyramid Mine, Pyramid, Washoe County, Nevada!” George Short and Calvin R. Johnson died on April 14, 1903, when the mine shaft they were working caught fire. Both men were seasoned miners and were well aware of the risks they took every time they entered a mine. The men were working on the night shift pumping water from the shaft at the Pyramid Mine, which was owned by Pyramid Lake Mining and Milling Company under the guidance of company president C. A. Norcross.

In 1900, George Short was living in Glendale, Washoe County, Nevada. The census lists him as 36 years, born April 1863 in New York and single. His father and mother were born in Germany. As reported on April 16, 1903, in the Reno Evening Gazette, both men reported for work at midnight, replacing Hackett and Archebald. The men were excited because the shaft would be cleared of water by morning and active mining would begin. Short went to the bottom of the shaft and Johnson remained in the shaft house. At 3 a.m. the other miners were awakened by a bright light and found the shaft house in flames. They rushed out to find one man in the flames, but it took some time to get into the shaft to look for George Short. His remains were located on the first level sometime after the fire was brought under control.

Calvin R. Johnson was a 43-year-old miner from Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War, serving with Major General W. R. Shafter in the Cuba Campaign, First Utah Regiment of Infantry, and later in the Philippines in the Tagalog Rebellion as a packer. The Salt Lake Tribune stated he had a wife and three children. He married Eustacia Amelia Cook Couch on June 28, 1899 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She had two children from her first marriage, Thomas Couch and Edna Couch. Their son, Byron C. Johnson, was born in 1900 in Utah and died in 1988 at Salt Lake City.

It is fitting that George Short and Calvin R. Johnson were remembered in a double funeral at the parlors of Perkins and Oliver. They were buried at Hillside Cemetery in lot 280, Johnson in grave three and Short in grave five from the south end, west side, section 34. They were ordinary heroes putting their lives on the line every shift, heroes who would have risked everything to help a fellow miner.

Information for this article came from Daily Nevada State Journal, 1897; Reno Evening Gazette, 1879-1903; Nevada State Journal, 1877-1907; Salt Lake Tribune, 1903; 1870, 1880, 1900 U. S. Census; Reno Cemetery Book, M8, Washoe County Recorder’s Office, Reno, Nevada; Silas Ross Collection, Funeral Records (NC 580) Special Collections, Matthews Knowledge Center, UNR.

Fran Tryon is a retired music teacher and one of those rare people who, upon seeing a sad or neglected situation, doesn’t say, “Someone should do something about that.” Instead, she pitches in and does something about it. This is the situation with Hillside Cemetery. Not only did she embark on a deep and thorough research of the cemetery and those at rest within, but she heads there nearly every Saturday, often with a group of volunteers, armed with garbage bags and garden implements, to clean up this sadly neglected and desecrated vestige of Reno’s history. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her dedication and efforts.
Newlands Historic District Listed on Register

by ZoAnn Campana

Editor’s Note: See page 8 for details of ZoAnn Campana’s presentation about the Newlands Historic District.

Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) is pleased to announce that the Newlands Historic District, located in Old Southwest Reno, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in January 2017. It is the second historic district to be listed in Reno, the first of which was the University of Nevada, Reno Historic District, which was listed in 1987.

The National Register is managed by the National Park Service and was authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It is the nation’s official list of places deemed worthy of preservation, and listing in the register is a purely honorific designation. The Newlands designation recognizes the neighborhood’s architectural and historic significance. Newlands is in good company: other National Register-listed historic districts include the Garden District in New Orleans and San Francisco’s Embarcadero.

Situated on a bluff rising from the south bank of the Truckee River, the Newlands Historic District is significant as one of Reno’s earliest suburban neighborhoods planned according to City Beautiful ideals, featuring gently curving roads, tree-lined streetscapes, community park space, and beautifully-landscaped front yards and gardens. Today, it is difficult to imagine that the neighborhood was once considered suburban, as its northern periphery—which includes Court and Ridge streets—is now considered part of Reno’s urban core. However, it began life as a streetcar-pedestrian suburb and eventually transitioned into an early automobile suburb as it extended south and west of downtown Reno. This transition is evidenced by the lack of driveways and garages in the district’s earliest residences. By the 1920s, small detached garages, often matching the architectural finishes of their corresponding residence, began to appear in the neighborhood, reflecting the emergence of the Automobile Age.

Senator Francis G. Newlands played a significant role in developing the collection of subdivisions that would become the Newlands Historic District. Senator Newlands arrived in Nevada in 1889 to manage the interests of Comstock silver baron William Sharon, as well as to satisfy his political ambitions. Upon his arrival, he purchased 15 acres of land south of the Truckee River which was locally—and quite colorfully—referred to as “Rattlesnake Point.” Soon thereafter, he enlisted an architect to construct a thoroughly modern Queen Anne Shingle style home, which would become the first Mansion on the Bluff. Newlands sold a swath of land adjacent to his property to wealthy colleague and fellow Senator George S. Nixon, who constructed what is today the largest residence in the Newlands district. The grand homes built by Newlands and Nixon set off a trend, and the sagebrush-choked hillock on the outskirts of town soon became the most fashionable neighborhood in Reno. These first 15 acres of land that Newlands purchased are now occupied,
at least partially, by what we call the “Mansions on the Bluff.” Senator Newlands purchased an additional 300 acres of land adjacent to his property and soon thereafter formed the Newlands Company “to take, acquire, buy, improve, cultivate, and otherwise deal in and dispose of real estate.” From 1903 into the 1940s, the Newlands Company oversaw the development of the six subdivisions that comprise the Newlands Historic District: Riverside Heights, Newlands Heights, Newlands Terrace, Newlands Manor, Rio Vista Heights, and the Marker Tract.

Because Nevada found itself uniquely insulated from the economic downturns sweeping the nation during the Great Depression as a result of legalized gambling and the thriving migratory divorce trade, the Newlands Historic District experienced continued infill and development throughout the 1930s and 1940s, all the way into the 1960s. Despite national materials shortages and a local building moratorium during the Second World War, Newlands continued to grow, albeit at a slower pace than during the rollicking 1920s and 1930s. Fifteen residences appeared in the neighborhood between 1941 and 1946, the majority of which were modest Period Revival and Minimal Traditional cottages. After the war, Reno’s population boomed, and Newlands became a gateway for postwar expansion in Southwest Reno. The area experienced infill development, as well as an expansion to the south and west, setting the development pattern for much of Reno’s postwar growth.

In addition to its significance to the historical development of the City of Reno, Newlands is significant for its role in the city’s architectural development. The district features a distinctly diverse collection of architectural types and styles. In fact, its architectural range is uncommon in other residential landscapes of Reno. The neighborhood displays most of the architectural styles that achieved popularity in the United States from 1889 to 1965, including the Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Mission Revival, Pueblo Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, Ranch, Minimal Traditional, and Contemporary styles.

The district’s range of styles is matched by the diversity in which those styles are expressed. The neighborhood features a seamless combination of modest plan-book residences and high-style, architect-designed estates. Building materials vary from wood and stone to brick, and most brick buildings within the district express the distinctive decorative brick subtype practiced by Italian brick masons and found throughout the Reno area. Nationally and locally prominent architects with work in

The listing of the Newlands Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places acknowledges the significant historical and architectural contributions that the neighborhood has made to the City of Reno as a whole. Not only is it one of Reno’s most-loved—and most picturesque—neighborhoods, but it also is something of a time capsule. It is a physical embodiment of the many development patterns, architectural trends, and historic themes common to the nation as a whole. It is a local treasure, edified by its recent distinction as a National Register-listed historic district.

A copy of the Newlands Historic District nomination can be accessed via the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) website (shpo.nv.gov) or the National Register of Historic Places website (nps.gov/nr).

ZoAnn Campana is the author of the Newlands Historic District nomination. She is a local Historic Preservation Consultant and she also serves on the HRPS Board of Directors.
Editor’s Note: The month of May is Historic Preservation Month. We offer examples of historic preservation and adaptive reuse in the City of Reno.

“Cities need old buildings so badly it is probably impossible for vigorous streets and districts to grow without them. By old buildings I mean not museum-piece old buildings, not old buildings in an excellent state of rehabilitation—although these make fine ingredient—but also a good lot of plain, ordinary, low-value old buildings, including some rundown old buildings....” Jane Jacobs, “The Death and Life of Great American Cities.” New York: Random House, ©1961.

In the past few years, Reno can boast of some amazing saves with regard to its history. Thanks to visionary people who see possibilities for adaptive reuse of historic structures, buildings no longer suitable for their original use have been creatively repurposed. Reno’s 1934 WPA Post Office at 50 S. Virginia, decommissioned as a post office, has been preserved intact and even had its ceiling opened and returned to its original design. It is now called 50 South Virginia and is home to a host of eclectic businesses. The 1910 NCO Railroad Depot, abandoned for years and in serious decline, now wonderfully restored, has become one of Reno’s most popular eateries. The out-of-business 1950s Deluxe Laundry, a longtime business staple of our city, is today a sought-after residence for those preferring modern close-in living. The distinctive architecture of the post office and depot made them attractive to purchasers, but there are many buildings in Reno similar to the Deluxe that while not dripping in architectural ornament, are still viable and important, even critical to our heritage and cityscape.

One such building is the old Hudson Motor Car, then the Morrill & Machabee store at 130 S. Center. A prime downtown business location since the 1940s, developer Brian Egan saw its possibilities, looking for the right client for the space. He found it in Patagonia, who refurbished the original brick walls and cement floors, using local reclaimed Douglas Fir for interior trim. The Patagonia clothing outlet opened in November 2016 and serves to add more retail back to the downtown core. Is it a unique structure? Not really. But it is sturdy and serviceable and constructed of gold brick, not native to Reno, with variations in patterns above and below the large windows and on the corners. A fun detail is the occasional red brick haphazardly thrown in amid the various shades of gold.

Linnecke Electric occupied 400 Mill Street from 1955 to 1980.

Linnecke Electric continued to supervise the installation and maintenance of the signal system throughout the years. The new building boasted 15,000 square feet of floor space, 5,000 of which accommodated the light fixture display area. Also on display was Harry Linnecke’s gun collection, featuring weapons from the French and Indian Wars, the military, and peace officer sidearms. Today the building features a gym on the street level and remodeled offices on the second level. It is a

In 1955, the Linnecke family relocated their business, Linnecke Electric, begun in 1921, to a new building at 400 Mill Street, on the corner of Mill and Holcomb. One of their important jobs was the installation of traffic signals in Reno. In fact, they were responsible for the very first signal in Reno, erected at the intersection of Second and North Virginia streets in 1923.

New owners of 400 Mill Street preserved the Linnecke signage; 400 Mill now occupied by Fizio Reno, a gym and athlete recovery center.
plain brick building with aluminum windows, fairly standard 1950s architecture, though the combination of gold brick with vertical red brick rows and tiled entries give it more interest than many of its era. The east side of the building has been painted, but in a tip of the hat to the Linnecke family, a corner bearing the business name and services offered remains.

At 120 Mary Street, just a block off So. Virginia, sits an odd building in an otherwise mostly residential neighborhood. The Washoe County Assessor dates it from 1918. It is a one-part commercial block of little interest but for its tall, parapeted false front of poured concrete blocks and corner quoins. It is often vacant, though sometimes used for temporary office space, such as for campaign headquarters for various candidates. An old newspaper mentions, it was referred to as the “transfer station.” Considering its proximity to Holcomb Avenue where the V&T passed through Reno, it is likely goods arriving by train or other means were stored at this location until transported. In the 1950s, it was referred to as the Peavine Transfer Station or Warehouse.

Furniture items were often sold from this location. By 1960 it was listed as Peavine Roofing. If neighborhood gossip can be trusted, the building has a much more interesting and clandestine past, however. Supposedly throughout the era when Prohibition was in force, the building was a prime site for the storage and distribution of liquor. This is given more credence taking into consideration an article from 1930 detailing a raid on a neighboring house, where authorities took possession of paraphernalia used in the production of alcohol. It is easy to imagine that with its location and the increase in value of Midtown land, this building could soon be demolished and replaced with a block of apartments, erasing a colorful vestige of local history.

There are many such buildings throughout Midtown in particular, but still a few to be found in the downtown core. These buildings are such a part of our historic infrastructure and yet are not protected and could be lost at the whim of a purchaser. This Historic Preservation Month, take the time to stroll through town and down neighboring side streets. Really look at the buildings and take note of the way they complement the character of the neighborhood and fit our pedestrian landscape. HRPS maintains a list of endangered buildings but many more are also at risk and are worth saving. We can all have a hand in preserving our local history.

Information for this article came from old Nevada State Journal and Reno Evening Gazette stories, current internet articles on the relocated Patagonia business, and Midtown neighborhood lore.

Debbie Hinman is Vice-Chair of the Historical Resources Commission, a HRPS Tour Guide, and Managing Editor of FootPrints.

Save These Dates!

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 9</td>
<td>City of Reno’s Reno 150 Kickoff celebrating Reno’s Sesquicentennial year. Reno is officially 150 years old on May 9, 2018. This event will take place at City Plaza, 10 N. Virginia, the site that used to be the Mapes Hotel.</td>
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<td>Friday, May 19</td>
<td>Nevada Historical Society (NHS) offers Docent Orientation for people interested in volunteering at NHS. For information, please call 688-1190, x 223 or email Sheryln Hayes-Zorn at <a href="mailto:shayeszorn@nevadaculture.org">shayeszorn@nevadaculture.org</a>.</td>
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<td>Saturday, September 23</td>
<td>HRPS Eighth Annual Harvest of Homes Tour will take place on the fourth Saturday in September. Plan to join the crowd to enjoy touring through five or six homes with history—Reno homes that have seen at least 50 years of Reno life. More details to follow in HRPS FootPrints, website, Facebook and Instagram.</td>
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Historic Walking Tours

**Saturday, May 13, 2017, 10:00 a.m.**

**DELONGCHAMPS RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE** — This walk takes you on a neighborhood tour of homes, large and small, designed by Reno’s notable architect, Frederic DeLongchamps. Hear about his life and what made him so unique to this area. Meet at the Hardy House/Arte Italia, 442 Flint Street. Tour guides: Anne Simone, David Vill, and ZoAnn Campana.

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Saturday, May 20, 2017, 10:00 a.m.**

**DOWNTOWN SPARKS** — Learn about the history of the rail city with a guided walking tour of Victorian Square and Downtown Sparks. This interactive tour is designed to show how this area has transformed itself from a railroad hub, to a vibrant commercial district, to a rundown urban area and finally to a successful redevelopment area that has changed the image and future of the city. The tour includes 17 buildings and sites that have played an important role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. Tour begins and ends at the Sparks Heritage Museum located at 814 Victorian Avenue, Sparks. Tour guide: Scott Carey. This tour is in collaboration with the Museum (www.sparksmuseum.org) but reservations need to be made through HRPS.

**Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 6:00 p.m.**

**UNR HISTORIC DISTRICT** — Visit Morrill Hall, Mackay School of Mines and the Keck Museum to learn the history of this beautiful campus. Meet on campus at the Honor Court just off 9th and Center Streets. Tour guides: Jack Hursh and Bob Shriver.

**Saturday, May 27, 2017, 10:00 a.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: Jim and Sue Smith.

**Tuesday, May 30, 2017, 6:00 p.m.**

**UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD** — A walk through an historic and endangered neighborhood at the foot of the campus—with vintage Queen Anne homes and charming bungalows. Meet at the base of the 9th Street University steps. Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.

Tour cost is $10 per person, free to HRPS members. Walks generally last from 1½ to 2 hours.

*No dogs please. Reservations required and space is limited.*

Please go to www.historicreno.org or 775-747-4478 for reservations and information. Access to HRPS Walking Tours varies according to venue. Certain areas may not be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities due to architectural barriers inherent in the historic construction of the structures or uneven walking surfaces.

**HRPS Annual Meeting & Program, April 30, 1 p.m.**

The program is held in the basement auditorium of the Washoe County Library at 301 S. Center Street in downtown Reno.

**Sunday, April 30, 1:00 p.m.: ZoAnn Campana on the Newlands District**

In 1889, Francis Newlands built his residence on a bluff overlooking the Truckee River. In the decades following, Senator Newlands’ real estate company laid out a series of subdivisions featuring picturesque landscapes, winding boulevards, and a mix of vernacular and high-style residences known collectively as the Newlands neighborhood. It has remained a jewel of community planning and design in Reno since the 1890s. Architectural historian ZoAnn Campana completed a historic resources survey and National Register nomination for the Newlands Heights Historic District in old Southwest Reno and will discuss her findings.
BEYOND THE ARCHES — Witness downtown Reno as it has reinvented itself for 150 years. This tour links the downtown Reno arches with stories of the forces that shaped the town: railroad and mining, immigrants, the notorious divorce and gambling mecca — and now as a livable cultural hub. Walk in the footsteps of Bill Harrah, Myron Lake, Baby Face Nelson, Frederic DeLongchamps and others. Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot area, 10 S. Lake Street. Tour guides: Jim and Sue Smith.

HISTORIC TRUCKEE RIVER WALK — A relaxing stroll along the Truckee River from the McKinley Arts and Cultural Center to the Lear Theater reveals eclectic architecture grounded by rich political histories and spiced with colorful anecdotes. Meet in front at the McKinley Arts and Cultural Center, 925 Riverside Drive. Tour guide: Joan Collins.

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

BIKE TOUR THROUGH OLD RENO — A leisurely ride through the most historic parts of Reno. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. Tour guide: Brandi Quaglieri. HELMETS REQUIRED, NO EXCEPTIONS!

MONROE STREET — Stroll along Monroe and Joaquin Miller Streets, savoring the history and architecture of this lovely residential area south of the Newlands Neighborhood. You will see the Hart House, the Patrick Ranch House, Greystone Castle, and other homes. Meet at the corner of Monroe and Manor Drives. Tour guides: Anne Simone, April Kempler and Shirie Wallace.

CULTURAL CROSSROADS, EAST SIDE — Some call Lake Street “Paradise Lost” but we will recreate the vibrant neighborhoods of Chinatown, Little Italy and Basque life. Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot area, 10 S. Lake Street. Tour guide: Sharon Honig-Bear.

PARSONS/MILLS ARCHITECTURE — Stroll one of Reno’s most unique neighborhoods to view some designs of Reno architects Edward Parsons and Russell Mills, who sometimes collaborated on designs. Hear about the families who first lived in these homes. Meet at the corner of Marsh Avenue and LaRue. Tour guides: Anne Simone, April Kempler and Teri Bartl.

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF — Walk past historical Reno homes located on Court, Ridge and upper California streets. Learn about the senators and merchants who made early Reno The Biggest Little City in the World. Be sure to bring water and wear comfortable shoes for this uphill tour which begins at the McCarran House, 401 Court Street. Look nearby for mandatory sign-in/registration on Court Street. Tour guides: Donna and Paul Erickson, ZoAnn Campana and Joan Collins.

MIDTOWN RESIDENTIAL — Join us for a walk along shady streets in a quiet neighborhood comprising several early additions: the Litch Addition, part of the original 72-acre Litch Ranch, the McCarthy Addition and the Sierra Vista Addition. All of these were established around the turn of the 20th century. The homes are an eclectic mix of styles, most dating from the 1920s through the 1940s. A portion of this neighborhood could be considered yet another “Little Italy”? Meet at the northwest corner of Mary Street and South Virginia Street. Tour guides: Debbie Hinman and Rosie Cevasco.
Field of Dreams
by Kim Henrick

John (Jack) Threlkel opened his baseball park on E. Fourth Street in the summer of 1930. (By the way, Threlkel is pronounced THREL-KEL—two bold syllables, each ending with a strong “L.”) The ball park has been called many things: Threlkel’s Baseball Park, Threlkel’s Park, Threlkel Ball Park and Threlkel Field. I will simply refer to it as Threlkel Park. Since this article is about a great semi-pro baseball park and its owner and teams, let’s start with a wonderful black and white photograph of one version of the team, taken in the 1930s at Threlkel Park. Jack Threlkel is seated at the center, surrounded by his Reno Garage players. I remember Bud Beasley as a coach and teacher at Reno High School, and the Cassinelli boys in the photograph represent a branch of a large Italian family who owned several large parcels of land in the area, including where Baldini’s Casino and the 180-1580 “Spaghetti Bowl” interchange stand today. According to Dennis Cassinelli, second cousin to Fran and Bill, Bill lost his leg during the Second World War, but remained an avid baseball fan. Fran Cassinelli would continue playing baseball for years.

Another great photograph (page 11, top), this aerial shot taken in 1957, shows Threlkel Park on the right and the Wells Cargo business buildings left of the park. The Sullivan-Kelly Ditch (which started in 1905 to 1912, and who, in 1907, built the fabulous “Nixon Mansion” on California Avenue in Reno. The story goes that around 1906 Senator Nixon encouraged his nephew to join him in Goldfield, Nevada, where Jack spent a year working before moving to Reno where he opened a car-repair shop (reportedly the first in the city) on Chestnut Street (now Arlington Avenue), just north of today’s El Cortez Hotel. Within a few years Jack became a partner in the Dorris automobile sales agency at the Chestnut Street location and by 1915 he was also managing the Mack Garage at 128 N. Center Street. The 1918 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows three large brick automobile-repair buildings in Reno: the Dorris Garage on Chestnut Street, the Reno Garage at 104 Front (First) Street (capacity 95 vehicles”), and the Reno Garage (“capacity 75 cars”) at 128-134 N. Center Street (previously the Mack Garage). It appears Threlkel was doing quite well in the automobile-repair business and a June 1919 newspaper article said he was “taking care of the wants of twenty cars a day from outside points.” In late 1918 he was installed as the “worshipful master of the Reno Lodge No. 13, Free and Accepted Masons.” In addition to running his business and being civic minded, the newspapers reported frequently about Threlkel’s involvement with committees and agencies formed to improve our roads and highways, and in the early 1920s he was an officer of the Nevada State Fish & Game Protective League.

Who was Jack Threlkel and why was he important to baseball?

John (Jack) Estell Threlkel was born in Newcastle, California, on October 28, 1882, to George and Mattie Threlkel. He was one of four children according to the 1900 U.S. Census. Mattie’s brother (Jack’s uncle) was George S. Nixon who became a U. S. Senator from Nevada from 1905 to 1912, and who, in 1907, built the fabulous “Nixon Mansion” on California Avenue in Reno. The story goes that around 1906 Senator Nixon encouraged his nephew to join him in Goldfield, Nevada, where Jack spent a year working before moving.
Field of Dreams (continued)

and from 1922 until his death in 1960, he would dedicate untold hours and energy to the development and support of a semi-pro baseball team.

A Nevada State Journal (NSJ) article on March 6, 1922, announced that, “Mr. Threlkel has made all plans for the building of a baseball field at the end of Stewart Street which will have a seating capacity of approximately 1350.” Threlkel named the park Reneva and on April 30, 1922 (NSJ) the new baseball park opened with a “fast game today” between Reno and Oakland. Mayor H. E. Stewart was scheduled to cut the corner off of home plate. (It’s unclear whether he did that.) A 1924 article put Reneva Park “...at Moran street and Wells avenue.” This would be where Stewart Park would eventually be developed.

Baseball is nothing if not a wonderful source of nicknames. Threlkel’s first Reneva Park team included the players “Lefty” (George Harding), “Horse” (George Horace Hobbs), and “Lard” (Kay McKenzie). Even Jack had a few nicknames: “Czar Threlkel” and “Reno’s Mr. Baseball.”

A Google Earth Pro image from 2016 shows what the area looks like today. The large gravel pit north of Threlkel Park and Wells Cargo has been replaced by the Governor’s Bowl Ball Park on the west and the I580 “Spaghetti Bowl” southbound ramp cutting a swath to the east. A street named Line Drive, through the Twin City Surplus business buildings, leads north off of E. Fourth Street to the new park.

In 1930, Threlkel purchased around four acres of land off E. Fourth Street and thus began a thirty-year semi-professional baseball experience that rivaled some of the best in the region. An ad in the August 8, 1930 Reno Evening Gazette (REG) read: “Ladies free! BASEBALL Sunday, August 10, Blue Label Malts of Sacramento vs. Reno Garage, Threlkel’s New Park on East Fourth Street, Near City Limits.” According to Jerry Fenwick, the field “was grass and they went over it by hand with an icepick and acid to kill what few weeds might grow. Adjacent there was a shed where chickens and at least one cow were kept. So that there would be fresh milk and eggs. The egg yolks were orange, not yellow because of the fresh grass that the chickens were allowed to run on. Occasionally, a chicken would get out during a game, and the game would be stopped until the chicken was caught and returned to its pen.” (Sorry, Jerry for using such a long quote, but it reminds us of a simpler time.)

According to the REG, on September 1, 1930, “The Koffee Kids of San Francisco gained revenge sufficient to last them a long time at the Threlkel ball park... when they defeated the Reno Garage Nine by a score of 18 to 1.” The Koffee Kids team was from the MJB Coffee Company. So it went for years, with Jack Threlkel managing teams and making his field available to any baseball team that needed some grass to play on, including the University of Nevada’s baseball team (prior to building their own park).

In 1940, Jack installed light poles around the field and that opened up even more time for baseball. Per Jerry Fenwick again, “The park was lighted, and the...
lights were aimed and set with a transit. The lights were said to be the best of any park in the area when new.” A May 22, 1940 REG article stated: “The field is lighted by 120 fifteen hundred watt bulbs, set in eighteen-inch reflectors. The locals will show up in their first night game wearing new white shirts with red sleeves.” The first night baseball game in Threlkel Park was held on June 1, 1940, between the Garage Team and the powerful S. P. Stores of Oakland.

The war years made things difficult at times, and in early 1941 Threlkel leased the park to Norrie DeLorenzi and Bob Peccole. For the 1941 season, the fellows managed the Reno Baseball Team (nicknamed the Larks). The schedule for summer of 1941 was full with bouts against Owl Drugs of San Francisco, Ben’s Golden Glow of Oakland, Southern Pacific Stores, and the Sacramento Dodgers. Bud Beasley and Fran Cassinelli, Reno Garage players mentioned earlier, continued playing for Peccole and DeLorenzi on this new team. In April of 1942, Bob Peccole and Norrie DeLorenzi gave up their lease on Threlkel Park. In May of 1943 an article stated that Threlkel had no plans to form a team that year, apparently citing the “lack of local material and the difficulty of getting adequate games.” Late in 1943, however, the manager of the San Francisco longshoremen baseball team told Jack Threlkel that the longshoremen would appear in Reno, at Threlkel’s ballpark, as agreed. So Jack was back. He reportedly spent quite a lot of time “beefing” (cajoling) with the umpires, so his long-time fans probably welcomed him back. In 1947, Jack retired from his Reno Garage car-repair business and held a pre-season meeting with his new baseball team. Since he was no longer associated with Reno Garage, his team became known officially as Threlkel’s Cubs. The Cubs continued to host teams from all over the region for the next several years and one REG article on March 20, 1959, again reminds us of a simpler, more innocent time. The reporter heard a “hen’s cackle” off Threlkel Street, which turned out to be part of the noise created by 68 chickens and three calves, all grazing in the park’s left outfield. The reporter captured the essence of this special day with, “Mr. Threlkel perched in the antiquated stands and let the warm sun nestle through his overalls. Jack Threlkel loves a warm sun and baseball.”

Jack Threlkel died on December 26, 1960, just three months after his wife Josephine passed away. The couple were still living in the house at 273 Cheney Street. In 1961, the park was purchased by Wells Cargo trucking company from the Threlkel estate, and an era of semi-pro baseball at Threlkel’s Park came to a close.

Information for this article came from “Nevada- then and now” article by Phillip I. Earl, 01/30/1997 in the Pahrump Mirror; emails from Dennis Cassinelli and Jerry Fenwick; “Nevada Baseball” article by George Ross in the “The Nevada Magazine,” April 1947; Washoe County Assessor Records; Nevada Historical Society city directories; and numerous local newspaper articles.

Kim Henrick is a member of the HRPS Editorial Board and is a regular contributor to HRPS FootPrints.
The role of the HRPS Advocacy Advisory Council (AAC) is to identify, research and obtain facts on current historic preservation issues in the Reno area and recommend a plan of action and outreach to the HRPS board. The AAC last met on March 13, 2017. The AAC is addressing the following issues:

**Hillside Cemetery**

See the first paragraph on page one for an introduction to Hillside’s current situation. The bill, AB 203, has begun making its way through the legislature. This bill will protect not only Hillside Cemetery, but all historic Nevada cemeteries. There is very little jurisdiction over cemeteries founded prior to 1971 because they are not regulated by the Nevada Board of Funeral and Cemetery Services. Because of this, state law needs to be strengthened to protect our older cemeteries. AB 203 makes five changes to current cemetery law: 1. A cemetery authority may not disinter remains from burial plots that are owned in fee simple by another party; 2. The cemetery authority may not deem their own cemetery blighted, this must be done by a third party (governmental authority); 3. Before disinterment is an option, the cemetery authority must prove they cannot sell the cemetery for market value or contract with another entity to maintain the cemetery; 4. Creates guidelines for “suitable receptacle” for reinterment; 5. Allows the district attorney of the county in which the cemetery is located to transfer the cemetery to the city or county if the cemetery authority is not maintaining it.

**First Masonic Building at Sierra and Commercial**

Constructed in 1872, this brick building is the oldest commercial structure in Reno and has deep significance to the earliest days of Reno. It is now owned by Whitney Peak Hotel which plans to re-roof and seismically retrofit the building. During the winter storms of 2017, the structure sustained significant damage and a structural evaluation is being conducted. Meanwhile fences surround the building.

**Historic Homes in the University Gateway**

We are referring to the historic homes on Center Street between 8th and 9th Streets as Historic University Avenue, since the term Gateway has nothing to do with the history of these homes, and this section was called University Avenue from 1921 to 1957. The University is still positioned to remove the historic homes from Historic University Avenue. HRPS and AAC have been working with a consultant to create renderings of the homes alongside the proposed UNR buildings.

**Hill/Redfield Mansion on Mt. Rose Street**

The mansion was listed for sale in July 2016, went into contract December 2016, out of escrow February 2017, price lowered and into contract again February 2017. We wait to see if it closes.

**Caughlin Ranch House / Also, it was the Garden Shop Nursery.**

This lovely property, on the City of Reno Historic Register, is up for sale and has applied for both a zoning map amendment and a Master Plan amendment with the purpose of developing 25 two-story townhouses near the house, to be known as Mayberry Gardens.
Greetings to HRPS members and friends,

Membership Renewals

Your HRPS Board has approved changing our “fiscal year” and our membership renewals to the calendar year January 1 to December 31 from its current July 1 to June 30. Yes, we are going back to what we used to do. We previously thought that change would help with membership, but we’ve found it too complex to have membership renewals in the middle of our busiest months—the June and July Walking Tours. Moving to the calendar year will help with financial accounting as well.

How will this affect each of our members? We’ll be adjusting your “next” renewal date from July 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018, giving you six free renewal months—the June and July Walking Tours. Moving to the calendar year will help with financial accounting as well.

Have you considered helping HRPS by being a HRPS Board member? We have one, possibly two, positions open as of June. HRPS is an all-volunteer organization; unlike some non-profits, we don’t have an Executive Director or a paid staff. The HRPS Board and many volunteers do all the work of running the organization and its events. Thirteen people serve on the HRPS Board, including the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. We are a working Board! We meet the first Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. for a couple of hours. If this description of a Board member works for you, please contact Carol Coleman (see below) and I’ll send you an application.

HRPS Welcomes New Board Member

Please welcome Holly Walton-Buchanan, Ph.D. as our newest HRPS Board member. Holly is a retired teacher and author, with five books published including Ranches of Western NV and Historic Houses and Buildings of Reno. Holly has been active in a number of local nonprofits including the Nevada Women’s History Project and the Animal Ark Wildlife Sanctuary. Holly wants to be involved in education and tours.

Protecting the Center Street Homes

Because we are concerned with the destruction or a move of the historic Queen Anne on Center between 8th and 9th streets, which we refer to as Historic University Avenue, HRPS is funding a rendering of what the site would look like if UNR’s new buildings were intermingled with the historic homes. Our hope is that UNR leadership and the public will see the value of HRPS’ proposal and of saving the site that so reflects elements of local cultural, social, economic, educational and architectural history.

HRPS Board Position Open

HRPS website, www.historicreno.org, is being reworked. The first you’ll see are the changes in the Walking Tours—which will appear well before the first Walking Tour on May 13. We’ll be providing you more information, a map to the starting point, a few pictures for each tour, and it will be easier to get to the information whether it’s from your desktop, laptop, tablet or phone. You’ll see improvements like these keep occurring as Webmaster Rosie Cevasco does her magic. HRPS is also working to improve its presence on Facebook and our new efforts on Instagram thanks to Jen Johanson. What is on the website, Facebook and Instagram—we’ll try to keep you informed.

Publicity and Communications

HRPS, www.historicreno.org, is being reworked. The first you’ll see about Reno’s Sesquicentennial. Look for details in HRPS announcements as we celebrate our 20th. Remember our 20th. Look for details in HRPS FootPrints, our website, Facebook and Instagram. Another important anniversary is Reno’s birthday—Reno’s 150th happens in May 2018. Watch in FootPrints and in local media for details of Reno’s Sesquicentennial.

Anniversary Dates Coming Up

HRPS will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in September 2017, so watch for announcements as we celebrate our 20th. Look for details in HRPS FootPrints, our website, Facebook and Instagram. Another important anniversary is Reno’s birthday—Reno’s 150th happens in May 2018. Watch in FootPrints and in local media for details of Reno’s Sesquicentennial.

Publicity and Communications

Have you noticed that it’s getting harder for us to get the word out to the public? We aren’t the only non-profit with the problem. Newspapers were our source of publicity for years, but they are getting thinner and covering fewer local events. If we had the funds to advertise, newspapers would surely accept our money and information, but we aren’t a big-budget operation. If you are a subscriber to KUNR, the local NPR radio station, you may have credits for public announcements. If you would be willing to give us those public announcements, we’d be delighted to use them to advertise our Home Tour and other events. Please think about doing that and supporting HRPS.

Website and Social Media

We are trying to update our members related to Reno’s Endangered Buildings. Have you noticed that it’s getting harder to give us those public announcements, we’d be delighted to use them to advertise our Home Tour and other events. Please think about doing that and supporting HRPS.

Advocacy

FootPrints now includes an article about issues HRPS’ AAC is working on related to Reno’s Endangered Buildings. We are trying to update our members and the public about what’s happening. Also watch for ACTION emails, and announcements on the website, Facebook and Instagram—we’ll try to keep you informed.

Carol Coleman, 775-849-3380
carol@galenaforest.net
HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) is “dedicated to preserving and promoting historic resources in the Truckee Meadows through education, advocacy and leadership.” In 1997, a small group of people interested in Reno’s history created HRPS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We have been an all-volunteer group ever since! As a HRPS member, you can learn about Reno’s history and make a difference in its future.

All Membership levels include the HRPS quarterly historical publication FootPrints; HRPS walking tours during the summer months; and education programs in the fall and winter.

You may pay by check, cash or credit card. When paying by credit card, please visit our website, www.historicreno.org. We use PayPal™ to process your payment. Don’t worry if you don’t have a PayPal™ account. They will accept your credit card on our behalf; we will send you a confirmation email with the information you provide.

Membership Levels:

- **$15.00** Student
- **$25.00** Individual
- **$45.00** Family
- **$100.00** Supporting
- **$200.00** Business
- **$250.00** Preservation Patron
- **$500.00** Benefactor
- **$1,000.00** Lifetime Member

**My Additional Donation:**

- **$**
  - **Pat Klos Annual Volunteer Award Fund**
  - **Neighborhood Preservation Grant Fund**
  - **Overall Program Support**

HRPS Quarterly FootPrints Preference (Please check one):

- [ ] Hard Copy
- [ ] Email Only

Name(s) ________________________________________________

Mailing Address ________________________________________________

City __________________________ ZIP __________________________

Phone (H) __________________________

E-Mail: __________________________

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

Please make your check payable to Historic Reno Preservation Society and send with this form to:

HRPS
P.O. Box 14003
Reno, NV 89507

[ ] YES, I want to get involved. Please contact me by:

- [ ] Phone
- [ ] Email

regarding volunteer opportunities.
Thanks to the following HRPS Business Members who are supporting the works of HRPS
Robert H. Broili Law Office
Gilbert Properties
Harold & Alice Jacobsen
Bert Pincolini
Law Office of Tammy M. Riggs, PLLC

Scan me with your smartphone and I’ll take you directly to the HRPS website

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