

TONY'S DELICATESSEN: DELI TO LOCALS AND THE STARS

by Debbie Hinman

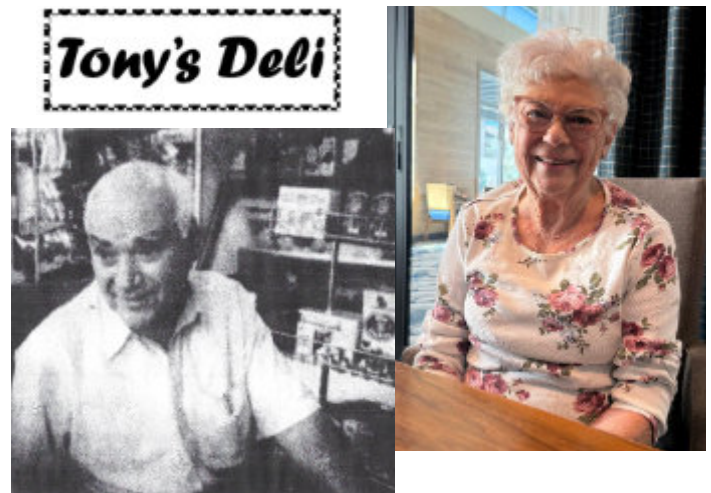
I've never forgotten the downtown Tony's Delicatessen. I was barely a teenager when I discovered it, and I probably ate 150 salami and cheese sandwiches over the next 10 years. I was never brave enough to sample the more exotic offerings, but I loved reading the labels of the cans and peering into the pickle barrel to find the most appetizing-looking one to accompany my sandwich. I met Jeanette Danna about three years ago, but it wasn't until recently that she mentioned her family delicatessen and I realized it was Tony's! She kindly agreed to an interview and permitted me to use her story in an article. It brought back wonderful memories, and I learned a lot I never knew about the store and Tony.

If you were to walk up to a long-time Reno resident and ask if they remember Tony Squatrito, you would likely get a puzzled look, maybe a head scratch or a shoulder shrug. But if you asked if they remember Tony's Delicatessen, most would probably light up like a Christmas tree and respond, "Oh, THAT Tony! Best deli ever!"

And by all accounts, it was the first real deli in Reno when Tony opened the door of the tiny storefront on West First Street in 1954. Said his son Ronald in an interview in the early eighties, "When we first started, there were no other delis in Reno. When I was growing up there were just a couple of drive-ins with car hops." Tony provided a lunchtime option: fresh rolls with various deli meats, imported cheeses and slices of Tony's jumbo-sized dill pickles. By 11:00 am, the sandwiches would be in plastic bags, heaped on the counter where you could select your preferred combination, pay and be on your way. You might need to duck your head to avoid the hanging salamis and were encouraged to fish out your own enormous dill pickle from the barrel to accompany your lunch.

Downtown workers were a large part of the clientele, many already acquainted with Tony from his time at the Riverside Hotel. As word spread about the deli, locals from all over the city came to pick up a lunch or to shop the other unique offerings of the deli. More about those later.

Tony Squatrito had a fascinating history before he moved to Reno. He was born in Fair Haven, MA to Italian immigrants. His father worked in a mill in nearby New Bedford, MA and so millwork became Tony's first occupation. In his 20s, Tony worked in a shoe store, providing footwear for the whole family. He then went to work at the El Salvador Deli. He worked near the large glass plate window and every day he would admire a



Meet the owner of Tony's Delicatessen, Tony Squatrito, through the memories of his daughter Jeanette Danna. Learn how the magnanimous Tony and family survived multiple jobs and the early disasters impacting Tony's Deli. Jeanette's photo by Debbie Hinman.

lovely young woman standing at the bus stop. Somehow, he found out her name was Anna (she later shortened it to Anne), and one day he asked a co-worker to go tell her that her sister was inside the deli. Anne followed him inside and stood puzzled, as she did not see Luisa. Tony made his move; they chatted for a while and he invited her out. She accepted and they became a couple.

Tony had been hearing that there were good jobs to be had in Washington D.C., so he relocated and got a position inside the British Embassy. At first, he waited tables in the restaurant, and as time went on, Tony became indispensable to the chefs and management.

Tony and Anne were married and settled down to life in Washington D.C. They soon had a daughter, Jeanette.

In December of 1941, war broke out, and Tony feared he would be drafted. He had an aunt who lived in Long Beach, CA, who urged him to come out west, where there were lots of defense jobs to be had. Tony began saving all his gasoline tickets and

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friends at the Embassy helped supplement them. Once he had enough, the Squatritos packed up their belongings and child and headed across the country. In Long Beach, Tony became a certified welder, helping to build the Liberty ships for the war effort. They bought a small house where Anne grew her own Victory Garden and she soon gave birth to a son, Ronald.

When the war ended, Tony went back to waiting tables, but jobs were becoming scarce and he disliked the smog. A friend of Tony's mentioned that she used to work at the Riverside Hotel in Reno and suggested he move there and get a job at one of the large hotels. She gave him a letter of recommendation and told him to be sure and bring his union papers and a "monkey suit."

Tony had one from his job at the Embassy, so off he went to Reno to apply for work at the Riverside. They looked at his papers, interviewed him, asked if he had a "monkey suit" and asked, "When can you start?" Tony explained he lived in Long Beach. Apparently unimpressed, his interviewers told him to return for work at 5:00 pm. Tony further explained



Reno Flood 1955: One year after Tony's Deli opens on West Street near the Truckee, a major flood occurred, impacting all businesses in the area.

The deli is just next to the large PARKING sign. Courtesy "Reno Flood 1955" by Roy Powers and Max Dodge.

that he had a house, wife and children there, so they gave him a few days off. Tony called Anne and told her to put the house on the market as they were moving to Reno. Anne responded, "But I don't want to move to Reno!" In any case, they did. Once again, the family packed their belongings and made a much shorter trip this time. In Reno, they found their final home.

1954 - Tony's Deli Opens

Tony loved Reno and found the mountain air invigorating. He quickly developed his own clientele who would ask for him by name, and he was put in charge of his own dining room. But one day in 1954, he and Anne were walking down West First Street where there was a small storefront next to the Riverside parking garage. Anne said it would make a good deli and prompted Tony to ask about it. He found the manager who liked the idea so much he lowered the rent for the couple. Tony left his job at the Riverside and opened his deli. The shop was later described in a newspaper story as "an old Reno nook—master-closet sized."

Tony set about stocking the small space with any number of exotic wares. In addition to sandwich meats and cheeses, there were items not to be found anywhere else in Reno or many other places. The above quoted newspaper story went on to mention some of the delicacies to be found at Tony's, such as fried baby bees and canned bird's nest soup. There were items from such places as Denmark, Japan, Finland, England and New Jersey. And of course, there were products from Italy. Various brands of salami hung from the ceiling so that taller clients had to be careful to watch their heads.

While getting his business going, Tony worked 14 - 16 hour days, seven days a week. But soon Anne put her foot down and insisted Tony close on Sunday, for family time. She assured him he would have more business the rest of the week to make up for it, and as usual, Anne was right. She also insisted he close from 12-3:00 pm on Good Friday, and she would be right there to put up the "Closed" sign, according to daughter Jeanette. Business boomed in the little shop; clients wound



Water is flowing from the Truckee River along First Street towards North Virginia. Note the barriers in front of Gray-Reid-Wright department store and the Granada movie theater. On the left you can see the Mapes Hotel. Courtesy University of Nevada, Special Collections.

around the pickle barrels and continued all the way down the block, past the garage and the bank.

1955 - The Truckee Floods

However, there were two interruptions to business within the next several years that could not have been anticipated.

The first event came at Christmas time—the flood of 1955. There had been a serious flood in 1950 that had caused a great deal of damage to downtown businesses, and the 1955 flood was no less threatening. Yet, thanks to the knowledge gained from the previous flood, a flood operating committee was formed some four days before the predicted event. Due to their efforts, extensive preparations were well underway by the day prior to it, though a weather report and river analysis indicated that the river would probably not overflow its banks.

The weather defied this prediction and once again, downtown Reno streets filled with water. But this time, there were preparations in place. In a 1988 *Reno Gazette-Journal* interview with Tony, he recalled staying in the store day and night to save the compressors. He sealed the doors, then settled down on a box and fell asleep. He awoke to feeling his feet cold and wet. Lighting a candle, he found that water was coming in via the keyhole. The pressure was so high that the water was squirting 10 feet inside the store. Tony



On February 5, 1957, two major explosions occurred, centered on Sierra Street between First Street and the Truckee River. Gas lines ruptured beneath the street. Tony's Deli at 150 W. First Street was impacted by a 2-week closure. Photo courtesy Neal Cobb.

stuffed the keyhole and saved the store. Tony told his interviewer, shaking his head, "Thank God the salami was always high and dry."

1957 - Downtown Gas Explosion

The second threat to the deli occurred on February 5, 1957. Early that day, workers in several businesses on the west side of Sierra Street between the river and West First Street reported smelling gas in their shops. Sierra Pacific Power Company was called to check on the reports. Several of their employees were still on site at 1:00 pm when a tremendous explosion occurred, followed quickly by another, impacting that whole section of town. All businesses in the vicinity were ordered to close immediately, including Tony's Delicatessen. Just down the street other businesses continued to burn throughout the night. Damages were estimated to be in the millions. Dozens of people were injured and there were two fatalities and another victim who later died.

Fortunately, the deli escaped damage due to quick action by the firemen who

worked through the night "on the still-blazing business shells," as reported in the *Nevada State Journal*. They ordered the closing of all businesses in the area for two weeks. Tony's reopened as soon as permitted and likely saw an increase in patrons who came to grab a sandwich and view the damage to the area.

Customers from Stead Air Force Base

From 1942 until 1966, the Stead Air Force Base was operational in Nevada. Personnel from the base came to Tony's for the usual staples and sandwiches. In addition, a USAF Survival School had been established at that location early on. Once it became known that Tony's was also known for its possibly less palatable but certainly more fascinating specialty food items, it became the provider for the chocolate-covered bumblebees and ants, rattlesnake meat, etc. requested by the survival team to train servicemen to keep themselves alive by eating whatever could be found.

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From "DISASTER ON SIERRA STREET"

by Jerry Fenwick

FootPrints Winter 2015, Vol. 18 No.1

The force of the explosion and the heat of the fire were so intense that the steel girders supporting the roof and walls of the Nevada Shoe Factory building were twisted like a nest of snakes. Flaming debris was blown across Sierra Street, setting fire to the Elks Home and Gray-Reid-Wright's department store.

All of Reno's emergency equipment was called to the scene. The City of Sparks and Stead Air Force Base sent personnel to aid in rescue and security.

Manufactured gas and oil were the fuels of choice in use in the Reno area at the time; no natural gas lines had as yet reached the area. Many of the buried gas lines were old, and their exact locations were not known. A call for all former and retired gas employees to report in was issued by the Sierra Pacific Power Company and the City of Reno in the hope that these former employees could assist in the location of the gas lines and their shut offs. The fear of further explosions decreased as lines were located and shut down and the fires were contained and finally brought under control.



Looking north from the Sierra Street bridge. On the east side, the Elks Home to the rear of Gray-Reid-Wright department store. On the west side, the Sanford-Biltz Building and Nevada Shoe Factory, all in flames. Photo by Jimmy Smith.

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The Rich and Famous

Although the townspeople were Tony's bread and butter, he also had a fan base made up of the rich and famous. Whether by word of mouth or just stumbling upon the deli while walking through town, if folks tried Tony's once they would always return. Jimmy Durante visited whenever he was in town, always entering with the same line: "Somebody stole my lasagna, and I found it at Tony's Delicatessen!" Singer Tony Bennett was another Tony's fan. He would order cheese, sausage and wine and seat himself on a barrel to eat. In 1960, a movie called "The Misfits" was being filmed in the Reno area. Someone had purchased some of Tony's provolone cheese to take to the set. The story goes that Clark Gable was so taken with it, he strode into Tony's to purchase another huge wedge. Gable told Tony he would try to work it into the script, but to Tony's regret, neither he nor his cheese were mentioned. Singer Frankie Laine also visited the deli when he was performing in town.

1975 - Anne Squatrito Passes

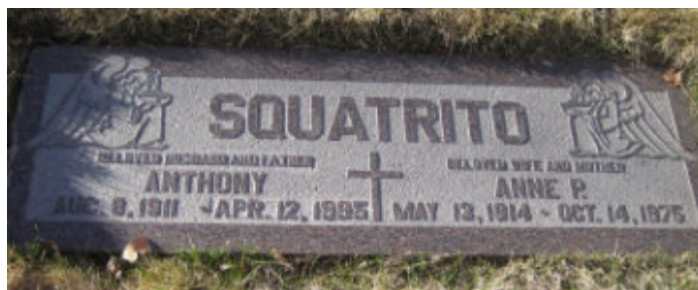
In 1975, Tony's wife, Anne Peroni Squatrito passed away from a heart attack. Sadly, heart trouble ran in her family, and Anne succumbed to it. Her family was devastated, and while she was always a quiet presence in the back of the shop, she was missed by deli patrons as well. Anne was only 61. As the family parish was Our Lady of the Snows, Anne was honored by her family with a lovely stained glass window portraying St. Anne, a permanent tribute to a well-loved woman.



In August 1977, Tony's Deli opened at 145 Casazza Drive. The operators were Tony's daughter Jeanette and her husband Dan D'Anna. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

1977 - A Second Deli Opens

Tony's continued to be Reno's "deli of choice," and as Reno grew, so did its popularity and requests for catering services. The business had clearly outgrown its downtown location so a second store was added in August 1977, at 145 Casazza Drive. Catering requests could easily be handled there and it offered a spacious seating area with tables and chairs, replacing the barrels of First Street. The Squatrito children had both graduated from college, with the intent that they would never go back into the deli business, according to Jeanette. But in a typical "never say




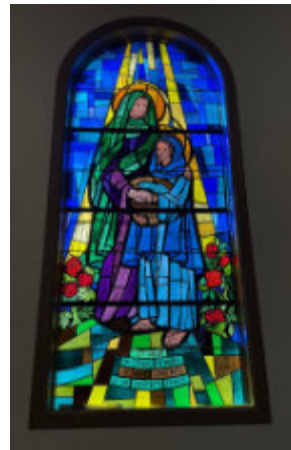
never" scenario, they were now owners/operators of the businesses, along with Jeanette's husband Dan D'Anna. The new location carried the name Tony's Delicatessen, and the original location became D'Anna's Delicatessen, named for Jeanette and her husband. Jeanette met Dan when he was delivering bread for Oroweat to the deli and romance bloomed.

1991 - Tony Retires

Tony retired in 1991 but could often be found at Casazza, as Jeanette wanted him to be visible to remind clients that it was still "Tony's." Tony would remark that he went from having the smallest deli in Reno to the largest. A reporter viewing the new location called it the "Taj Mahal" as compared with Tony's #1, but Jeanette believes that Casazza never had the charm of the West First Street "hole in the wall." Although it was spacious, bright and carried the same products, I think there are many who would agree with her.

Tony died at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in April 1995. He and Anne were reunited at Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery. Both stores were sold, and for whatever reason, the new owners were unable to stay in business.

In 2002, Tony's was featured in Guy Clifton's column, "Signs You Might Be a Nevadan If..." when a reader submitted the response: "You actually ate chocolate-covered bumblebees, ants and caterpillars from Tony's Delicatessen." This should be a definite qualifier. 



The inscription on Our Lady of Snows window reads, "St. Anne, In Loving Memory of Anne Squatrito by The Squatrito Family." Photo by Debbie Hinman.

Information for this article came from: Interview with Jeanette Squatrito Danna and various local newspaper articles 1955-2005.

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS walking tour guide and serves on the FootPrints editorial board. Deb started writing for FootPrints in 2004, and she is still a prolific contributing writer two decades later. She says her passion, "is discovering heretofore unknown local history."



A Historical Investment

How the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust helps Reno Historical tell more inclusive stories.

by Alicia Barber, PhD

Editor's intro: *Reno Historical is a smart phone app and a website begun in 2014 at UNR. It began with the belief that education is the key to appreciation. When it comes to historic structures, one of the biggest challenges to their preservation is a lack of knowledge about them, the history they represent, and the stories they contain. In a free moment browse the Reno Historical app and website where stories, tours and maps are available to provide you valuable information and insight. Reno Historical is now supported by HRPS.*

One of the most exciting features of any digital history project is its endless capacity for expansion. Unlike a printed book or a paper map, the website and smart phone app, Reno Historical, allows us to continuously add sites of interest, enabling its users to embark on an ever-broadening journey of historical discovery.

An opportunity to create some new destinations for the curious traveler arose recently, thanks to a generous grant from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust. Our proposal was to develop additional Reno Historical content to better reflect the cultural diversity of our region, and that's exactly what we did, in cooperation with Our Story, Inc., Jewish Nevada, and the Nevada Historical Society.

These new stories weave their way throughout Reno's history from the 19th century through the 1970s, helping to paint a fuller picture of our community as it grew from a modest railroad junction to a cosmopolitan urban center. Here's just a taste of this new content, which we invite you to check out for yourself at renohistorical.org or by downloading the free app to your smart phone.

Note: *On Reno Historical, the parenthetical*



Tom's Laundry, ca. 1902. Nevada Historical Society ETH-03065

(site) indicates that the historic resource once at a location is no longer there.

Reno's Early Decades

The early population of Reno was more diverse than is often understood, something that our new entries help to illuminate. A story written by Sharon Honig-Bear, writer and HRPS Past President, describes the history of Reno's **Hebrew Cemetery**, Northern Nevada's only entirely Jewish cemetery, which was established on Angel Street in 1878. An article published two years later in the *Reno Evening Gazette* stated, "The location is good and...the Hebrew Cemetery will be a delightful suburban retreat from the cares and sinfulness of the world." The park-like setting may now be surrounded by a decidedly more urban environment, but today's residents can still be transported into the past by the names of some of Reno's pioneering families on its monuments and stones including the Sheyers, Levys, Jacobs, and Lachmans.

When looking through photos at the Nevada Historical Society, I came across an intriguing photograph that led me to research and write the story of **Tom's Laundry (site)**, a business founded by early Chinese immigrant and Reno merchant Sue Wah, known to Reno's white residents as "Tom." He ran a series of local laundries as early as the 1880s at a time when anti-Chinese sentiment was on the rise in Reno and throughout the country. In 1905, the Odd Fellows offered him \$15,000 for his lot on the corner of East 2nd and Center Streets, a site he had purchased just three years earlier for \$3,500. Sue Wah moved across town after pocketing a tidy profit and the **E.C. Lyons Building**, built by the Odd Fellows, still stands on the site today.

Earlier research into the history of Reno's **Bethel AME Church** prompted my curiosity about how it came to be located on Bell Street, on the west side of downtown. What I found led to my entry on the **Hamilton Homestead (site)**,

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Historic Investment

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home to William and Sarah Hamilton since 1900. Former residents of Virginia City, the Hamiltons, who were African American, had purchased their first Reno lot on the original Reno townsite in 1876. A few years after moving to the Powning Addition, they sold forty feet of their Bell Street property to the newly-established Bethel AME congregation, who constructed their church there in 1910. That church is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Another African American former resident of the Comstock is the subject of the **Martha Jackson House (site)**. Born in Kentucky in 1849, Jackson made her way to Virginia City, where she worked as a washerwoman. After being widowed, she moved with her three children to Reno, where she purchased a lot next to Sue Wah's laundry on East 2nd Street. Benefiting like her neighbor did from the desire of the Odd Fellows to expand Reno's early business district, Jackson made a bundle from selling them her parcel and moved to Sparks, where she spent the rest of her life.

A Growing Community

As Reno became more stable, bolstered by the migratory divorce industry and the Tonopah and Goldfield mining booms, the town's wooden sidewalks and frame structures gave way to edifices of brick and stone. Contributing to that growth were residents from many backgrounds.

My new entry for the **Club Cal-Neva/Fordonia Building** explains how half of the current Club Cal-Neva building between Virginia and Center Streets was constructed upon the framework of the 1914 Fordonia Building. Originally the home of Palace Dry Goods, the building was financed by the store's founder, pioneering Reno merchant Wilhelm Levy, a member of Reno's early Jewish community who named the building after his birthplace in Germany.

Sharon Honig-Bear continued to trace the growth of Reno's Jewish community with an entry for the first **Temple Emanu-El**



The Fordonia Building was constructed in 1914 to be the new home of the Palace Dry Goods House, operated by Wilhelm Levy. This photograph shows the southwest corner of Center and East Second Streets. The building's main entrance, seen on the right, faces Second Street
Courtesy Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno Libraries

(original site). The temple was dedicated in 1922 at 426 West Street, thanks to broad community support from members of the Jewish community and those of many other faiths, as well as local businesses and politicians. The two-story synagogue featured meeting rooms, a banquet hall, and a spacious auditorium. In 1973, the congregation opened its current synagogue on Manzanita Lane, a modern structure designed by Graham Erskine and described in **Temple Emanu-El (current)**. The original temple's location is now the site of the Eldorado Resort Casino parking garage.



Temple Emanu-El in 1922.
Nevada Magazine

Rounding out the new entries penned by Sharon Honig-Bear is the story of **Temple Sinai**, Reno's Reform Jewish synagogue. Its roots date back to 1939, when a small group of Reno residents started a book group that led to the establishment of a Reform congregation, Temple Beth Or. Redefining itself in 1962 as Temple Sinai, a group of the Reform members spearheaded a movement that culminated in the purchase of a plot of land on Gulling Road in northwest Reno. Their original modest 1970s structure has since been transformed by multiple additions.

Increasing numbers of African Americans moved to Reno in the 1930s, only to find racial discrimination pervading much of the residential and commercial landscape. In response, a handful of Black entrepreneurs opened their own venues on the east side of downtown. Among them was the **Dixie Club (site)**, located in East Douglas Alley. The nightclub quickly gained a reputation for hosting some of the best live music in town, and for a time even served home-cooked meals, keeping its doors open until 1949.

Also bursting onto the scene in 1930s Reno was the **Architecture of Paul Revere Williams**, the renowned African American architect from Los Angeles. His

local designs are grouped together in a new virtual tour featuring five entries: the **Luella Garvey House**, **Herman House**, **El Reno Apartments (original site)**, an individual **El Reno Apartment Home** on Mt. Rose Street, and the **First Church of Christ, Scientist**, widely known as the Lear Theater.

Entering the Modern Era

Post-World War II Reno was absolutely booming. Tourism and entertainment brought floods of visitors to its streets, and yet most of the city's gambling establishments and clubs remained racially segregated. My new entry about **Club Harlem (site)** describes the evolution of one of Reno's most famous clubs run by and for African Americans, whose second location was found, like the Dixie Club, in Douglas Alley. The popular club continued its long run as the Soul Club through 1977.

Nevada Historical Society archivist Sarah Patton contributed the story of the **New China Club (site)**, the integrated club that Bill Fong opened at 260 Lake Street in 1952. The club provided much-needed entertainment for the Black servicemen stationed at the newly-opened Stead Air Force Base, as well as employment for many Black residents. In addition to gambling, the hot spot offered live music, dancing, and dining, and remained a popular destination until closing in 1972.

Discrimination in mid-century Reno extended to places of lodging. Adding to our many entries on Reno's historic residential landscape is the story of the **Needham Rooming House**, a private home on Elko Avenue that offered lodging to African American residents and visitors alike from 1943 through the 1970s. Operated as a rooming house by J.T. Needham, a prominent member of Reno's Black community, the rooming house was featured in a 1950 article in *Ebony* magazine about the experience of an African American woman from California who stayed there while securing a six-week Reno divorce.



Jazz singer at the New China Club. Nevada Historical Society MSNC 469



Kiah Lumpkin stands outside the Squeeze Inn in 1983, the year that the restaurant closed. Creator: Marilyn Newton, Date: 1983. Courtesy Reno Gazette-Journal



Needham Rooming House. Although renovated on the exterior, and expanded with an addition to its north, the Needham Rooming House remains standing on the NW corner of Elko Avenue and East 5th Street. Courtesy Alicia Barber Date: 2022

Many locals fondly recall the hugely popular restaurant **Kiah's Squeeze Inn (site)**, which operated at 344 N. Virginia Street until 1982. My entry about the beloved Southern homestyle eatery traces the story of Kiah and Henry Lumpkin, African American brothers from Mississippi who opened a barbecue place called the Hickory Pit on Commercial Row in 1962. Kiah later opened his first Squeeze Inn on Lake Street, moving over to Virginia Street in the late 1960s.

In addition to enabling the creation of these new and enhanced entries, the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust grant allowed us to expand stories of the historically African American neighborhood of Black Springs, in continued collaboration with the local nonprofit organization Our Story, Inc.

We also undertook a significant upgrade to the Reno Historical platform. Each entry is now associated with various Subjects and Tags that allow users to search through the entire site not only by keyword but by common topics and themes. At the same time, new subheads appearing under the entries' titles strive to inspire curiosity with an intriguing glimpse of the story within.

Looking toward the future, additional research completed during the grant period will help us to compose even more entries reflecting Reno's diverse history. Our commitment to these efforts reflects our belief that the only way to produce an accurate record of the past is to include the perspectives and stories of the many different communities who experienced it. It is therefore with immense gratitude that we thank the trustees of the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust for this invaluable opportunity. 

Alicia Barber, PhD, is a professional historian and author who runs the historical consulting firm Stories in Place LLC. She co-founded, edits, and manages Reno Historical for Historic Reno Preservation Society.



Historic Reno Preservation Society

May 2025 Historic Walking Tours

Reservations required and space is limited. Free to HRPS members, \$20/pp for non-members.

Please go to www.historicreno.org for reservations. If tour is full, you will be placed on a wait list and notified by email if space opens. Call 775-747-4478 for information.

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

Walks generally last 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Saturday
May 10
9:00AM

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



Tuesday
May 13
6:00PM

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF/COURT STREET – Many of Reno’s prominent families built generous homes on this once treeless bluff overlooking the Truckee River with panoramic views of Peavine Mountain and the Sierra. Take in the beauty and charm of this neighborhood. Meet on the sidewalk at the McCarran Mansion, 401 Court Street. **Guide: Pat Cantwell**



Saturday
May 17
9:00AM

LAKE ADDITION – Meander past divorce-trade dwellings, Victorian and ultra-modern architecture in one of Reno’s earliest additions. Includes a visit to the historic Lake Mansion. Meet in front of the Nevada Museum of Art, 160 W. Liberty Street. **Guide: Meredith Ohm**



Tuesday
May 20
6:00PM

UPPER RALSTON/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, students and families alike. Meet at the intersection of Washington, The Strand and College. **Guides: Bradley Carlson, Jim and Sue Smith**



Saturday
May 24
9:00AM

DOWNTOWN SPARKS – Learn about the history of the Rail City with a tour of Victorian Square. The tour includes sites that have played a role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. Meet at the Sparks Heritage Museum, 814 Victorian Avenue. **Guide: Scott Carey** in collaboration with the **Sparks Heritage Museum**. Make reservations through HRPS.



Tuesday
May 27
6:00PM

COUNTRY CLUB ACRES – With the “new” Washoe Golf Course and Virginia Lake, the early 1940s brought a new neighborhood created for suburban living. The sale of lots rather than homes ensured an eclectic mix of architectural styles and homes of all sizes. Hear about the original Reno Golf Club and Reno’s first airfield. Meet at the corner of Bonnie Briar Place and Lakeside Drive. **Guide: Debbie Hinman**



Saturday
May 31
9:00AM

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





Historic Reno Preservation Society June 2025 Historic Walking Tours

Tuesday
June 3
6:00PM

CIRCLE DRIVE/SOUTHRIDGE – Learn about Southridge Estates, one of Reno’s most outstanding residential areas in the early 1950s. This neighborhood features large yards, big trees and the beautiful ranch style homes of many prominent Renoites. Meet outside 1615 Circle Drive. **Guide: Caroline Asikainen**



Saturday
June 7
9:00AM

BRICKS and STONES – A walk through the Humboldt and Lander Streets neighborhood. Discover the architectural treasures of this area, a mix of bungalows, Tudor, Mission Revivals and Cottage styles. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. **Guide: Sue Mullen**



Tuesday
June 10
6:00PM

WELLS AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD – 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.” Wells Avenue is the City of Reno’s second Conservation District. Meet at the Sinclair side of the historic Southside School Annex, 190 E. Liberty Street. **Guide: Mark Taxer**



Saturday
June 14
9:00AM

CULTURAL CROSSROADS WEST – Chinese business ventures and herbal shops, Christianity and Judaism’s early days and a rich African American heritage come alive on this tour. Meet at West Street Market, located on West Street between First and Second Streets. **Guide: Jill Richardson**



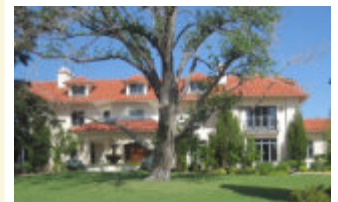
Tuesday
June 17
6:00PM

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS and HEBREW CEMETERIES – Visit two of Reno’s historic cemeteries and become “acquainted” with some of their most notable residents. Wear closed shoes suitable for rocky, uneven ground. Meet at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada Street. **Guides: Bill Mardon and Steve Matles**



Saturday
June 21
9:00AM

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF/CALIFORNIA – Walk past historical Reno homes located on California Avenue. Learn about the senators and merchants who made early Reno The Biggest Little City in the World. Be sure to bring water and wear comfortable shoes for this uphill tour. Meet at the corner of Nixon and California Avenues. **Guide: Scott Gibson**



Tuesday
June 24
6:00 PM

HILLSIDE and GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CEMETERIES – Tour Reno’s oldest cemetery, Hillside Cemetery, established in 1875 and visit the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, the only Civil War cemetery in Nevada. Wear closed shoes suitable for rocky, uneven ground. Meet at the west side gates of Hillside Cemetery south of the Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada Street. **Guide: Brett Banks**



Saturday
June 28
9:00 AM

PARSON/MILLS ARCHITECTURE – View some of the designs of Reno architects Edward Parsons and Russell Mills who were known to collaborate on designs in this unique neighborhood. Hear about the families who first lived in these homes. Meet at the corner of Marsh and LaRue Avenues. **Guide: Madeline Van der Voort**





HRPS and Artown Present July 2025 Historic Walking Tours



**Tuesday
July 1
6:00PM** MIDTOWN RESIDENTIAL — Join us for a walk along shady streets in the neighborhoods of several early additions: the Litch Addition, the McCarthy Addition and the Sierra Vista Addition, established around the turn of the 20th century. The homes are an eclectic mix of styles, most dating from the 1920s through the 1940s. Meet at the northwest corner of Mary Street and South Virginia Street. **Guide: Debbie Hinman**



**Saturday
July 5
9:00AM** TRUCKEE RIVER ALL THE TIME — Learn about Reno’s relationship with the Truckee River. Hear about the great floods and of Reno’s architectural heritage, observe how the HRPS’ walks in July relate to the Truckee and the history of Reno. Meet at the Wild River Grille at the Riverside Artists’ Lofts, 17 South Virginia Street. **Guides: Jim & Sue Smith and Bradley Carlson**



**Sunday
July 6
9:00 AM** 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. **Guide: Joy Orlich**



**Tuesday
July 8
6:00PM** HISTORIC NEVADA STATE HOSPITAL — Visit Nevada’s first state hospital (originally the Nevada Insane Asylum) at Galetti Way and Glendale Avenue in Sparks, one of the state’s oldest institutions. See the remaining Frederic DeLongchamps’ buildings, a walk by the 100-year-old Stone House, and a visit to the hospital cemeteries. Park in the circular driveway on the Galetti Way side. Meet at the Nevada historical marker. **Guide: Brett Banks**



**Saturday
July 12
9:00AM** MOVIE FOOTPRINTS IN RENO — Walk in the footsteps of Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, and Helen Mirren. Explore downtown’s film history inspired by divorce, gambling and the city’s distinct look in such movies as The Misfits and Sister Act. Meet by the north-east lobby entrance of the National Automobile Museum, 10 South Lake Street. **Guide: Robin Holabird**



**Tuesday
July 15
6:00PM** POWNING ADDITION — Discover one of Reno’s earliest and most delightful vernacular neighborhoods, predominantly settled by Northern Italian immigrants. This neighborhood is the first City of Reno Conservation District. Meet in front of the McKinley Arts & Culture Center, 925 Riverside Drive. **Guide: Stasia Mata**



**Saturday
July 19
9:00 AM** EAST FOURTH STREET — From country road to railroad hub, the Lincoln Highway then U.S. 40, explore a historic corridor where century-old brick hotels, warehouses, railways and manufacturing buildings are preserved and revitalized. Meet on the Evans St. side of Louis’ Basque Corner, 301 E. Fourth Street. **Guide: Brett Banks**



**Tuesday
July 22
6:00PM** MONROE STREET — Savor the history and architecture of this lovely residential area south of the Newlands Neighborhood. See the Sewell House, the Hart House, the Patrick Ranch House, Greystone Castle, the Jack Dempsey House and other interesting properties. Meet at the corner of Monroe and Manor Drives. **Guide: Debbie Hinman**



**Saturday
July 26
9:00AM** DELONGCHAMPS RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE — Enjoy this tour of homes, large and small, designed by Reno’s notable architect, Frederic DeLongchamps. Hear about his life and what made him so unique to this area. Meet outside the Hardy House/Arte Italia, 442 Flint Street. **Guide: David Sholtz**



**Sunday
July 27
9:00AM** RENO PARKS’ HISTORIES BY BIKE — Enjoy a leisurely 7-mile (one way) bike ride on the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, with frequent stops, to discover the rich history of Reno parks along the Truckee River. Hear about residents Mayberry, Dorostkar, Caughlin, Newland, and Wingfield, who are immortalized in Reno’s history through their contributions to our city’s parks. Meet at the California Building in Idlewild Park and end at Mayberry Park (ride back on your own). Bring your bike and helmet. **Guide: Jill Richardson**





The second Child Garden Nursery, on Hill Street. Refer to the article about the school and building in *FootPrints* Vol. 28 No. 1 Winter 2025. Courtesy ZoAnn Campana, 2023.

FOLLOWING THE TRANSITIONS OF THE CHILD GARDEN NURSERY TO ITS NEW LIFE

By Debbie Hinman

The firm of Goodnight Design & Build is making great strides with the renovation of the former Child Garden Nursery. The plywood has been replaced with new shiplap siding, echoing the building’s original appearance and the paint is appropriate for its era. The eave brackets have been retained as have the dormers atop the house with their original windows.

The Child Garden Nursery first appeared on my radar when I was about nine years old. My mother had just had dental surgery and was in a great deal of pain, so my father took my 4-year-old sister to the “Garden” for a couple of weeks during Mom’s recovery. I remember being envious that she got to spend time in such a beautiful house. Every night, my sister would come home excited, waving drawings she had done and singing songs she had learned.

These memories came to me when I was tasked with updating the Lake Addition Walk, originally created by Pat Klos. I was happy to see the house still existed, did some brief research and included it on that walking tour. Last year I passed the tour on to Meredith Ohm who has now made it her own.

Some twenty years later, I was at a HRPS gathering following our Harvest of Homes tour. I greeted my friends Phyllis and Tom Cates, and Tom asked me if I could find some history on the old Child Garden Nursery; he was interested in knowing more about the house and its ownership. I was happy to look into it, especially because of my early memories.

Tom introduced me to owner Helen Goodnight’s daughter-in-law, DeDe, who provided photos and great information on the home’s history. Another friend led me to former owner Linda Vlautin Escher who added even more great history. The school was a very popular topic for Reno newspapers so there was plenty of information there.

It is so gratifying to see this lovely building and important piece of Reno’s history preserved. We will continue to keep readers updated on its progress. 🏡

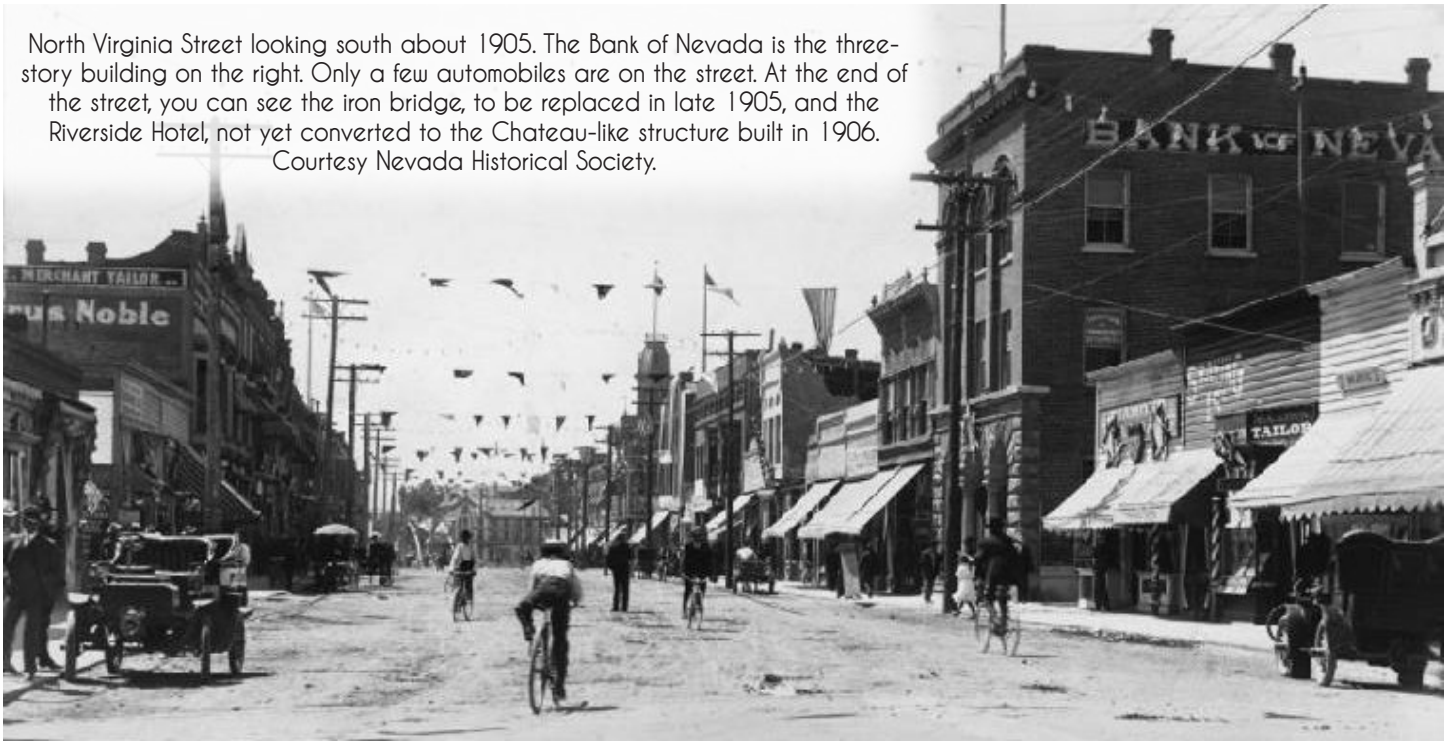


September 2025, this lovely building appeared to be under construction? Or wrapped in plywood? Courtesy Debbie Hinman.



Unveiling the building under the plywood that has been replaced with new shiplap siding, echoing the building’s original appearance. Note the dormer atop the house with its original window. Courtesy Debbie Hinman.

North Virginia Street looking south about 1905. The Bank of Nevada is the three-story building on the right. Only a few automobiles are on the street. At the end of the street, you can see the iron bridge, to be replaced in late 1905, and the Riverside Hotel, not yet converted to the Chateau-like structure built in 1906.
 Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.



The Scheeline Family Story, Banking & Real Estate

By Brett Banks

Many of the most distinguished men to make their way to Reno from other parts of Nevada and California chose to enter the lucrative profession of banking. These men bear well-known names in local history, such as George Wingfield, George Nixon, Richard Kirman and Charles Bender, to name a few. But less well-known though noteworthy are the father and son, Moritz and Harry Scheeline, and Moritz's uncle Daniel Meyer.

Moritz Scheeline was born on July 7, 1860 in San Francisco, California. His parents, Nathan and Jennette Scheeline, were natives of Germany and came here by way of the Panama Canal and settled in the San Francisco area by 1855. Moritz was the third of four siblings and was raised in the Bay Area, going to school and graduating in banking and finance there. He was a self-proclaimed "capitalist" before he ever moved to Nevada.

The Bank of Nevada was incorporated in 1887 by Daniel Meyer, the San Francisco

money king, M. D. Foley and C.C. Powning with capital of \$150,000. They did business in the Marshall Building on Commercial Row, later moving to a large brick and stone building on Virginia Street by 1892 (see picture above). The bank opened under the management of Moritz Scheeline.

Moritz left town in 1888 to live in Eureka, NV, working in the banking industry at the directive of his uncle, Daniel Meyer. Moritz married Aggie Hall in Eureka, NV in 1891. Aggie was a native of Eureka and the daughter of one of the pioneers of the state, David Hall. Her father managed a large hotel in Eureka during the early days of the camp and was one of the most prominent men of the community and county.

Moritz Scheeline came to Reno at Meyer's request again in the 1890s to work at the Bank of Nevada. Moritz and Aggie had one of the most elegant homes of the time on the hill overlooking town from the south at 306 S. Virginia Street,



Pictured are Moritz Scheeline and his wife Aggie Hall Scheeline.
 Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

built by Scheeline in 1898.

Agnes and Moritz had one child, Harry Hall Scheeline. He was born in Eureka in 1893 and raised in Reno, brought here at just 18 months old. As an adult, he was a banker like his father.

On Moritz' return to Reno he became vice president of Nevada Bank after M. Foley was shot and killed in the third story of the bank building in 1891.

Moritz eventually would find his demise in a bank with a handgun as well.

Moritz was Jewish and deeply involved in the economic, religious, and civil growth of the Hebrew community. By 1900, there were approximately 140 Jews in Reno and in 1908, sixty-five men organized the Young Men's Hebrew Association, the Jewish counterpart of the YMCA. Moritz was a member.

By 1907, he had sold his interests in the Bank of Nevada and started the Scheeline Banking & Trust Company which survived until the 1930s when it was purchased by George Wingfield. The Scheeline bank occupied a variety of locations downtown, one being the E.G. Lyons building along 2nd Street.

On July 14, 1917 at 4:10 p.m. in the afternoon Gim Chew, Chinese porter of the Scheeline Banking & Trust Co., heard a gunshot and rushed in the direction of the shot, which led him to Mr. Scheeline's office. There he noticed Moritz slumped in a chair at his desk with a bullet hole through his chest. This bullet passed through his heart and out the back of his chair. There were no suspects in this incident as two handguns and cleaning solution were found on the desk in front of Mr. Scheeline. This was determined to be a tragic accident.

Mr. Scheeline was 57 at the time of his death. Unfortunately, his father, Nathan Scheeline, a pioneer business man of San Francisco had just passed away two weeks earlier. At the time of his death and his father's death, there was a huge banking crisis of 1907 where almost all Nevada banks closed. Moritz had kept in business by switching to a cash-only operation. He is quoted as saying repeatedly after he was found with the gunshot wound that he "never hurt anyone." Those were his last words.

Two years almost to the day of Moritz's passing, Aggie was still fiercely grieving. She was regularly taking sleeping supplements to get any rest and, in the days leading up to the anniversary of his death, she consumed a bit too much and suffered heart failure. She was reunited with Moritz on July 10, 1919. Her body was sent to Oakland for cremation and



The residence of Moritz and Agnes Scheeline, which they built in 1898, located at 316 S. Virginia, at S. Virginia and Ryland. The impressive building was on a large lot and by 1925, it was sold to the fraternal organization The Sciots Club, after the deaths of Moritz and Aggie.

then returned to Reno to be interred in the Scheeline family vault at Mountain View Cemetery. Moritz is buried in Mountain View Cemetery with his wife, Agnes, and son Harry.

Moritz's son Harry graduated from Reno High, went to University of Nevada for one year, then transferred to University of California where he graduated in 1917. During World War I he served as a captain of field artillery in the army. Then he returned to Reno, taking over his father's assets and responsibilities. He became a bookkeeper, eventually advancing to director and cashier of Scheeline Bank. Scheeline Bank eventually merged with United Nevada Bank.

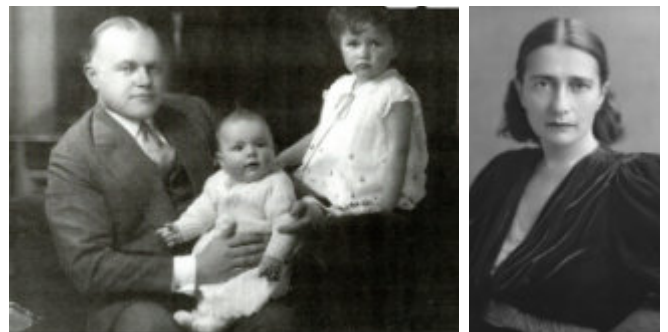
By 1925, the iconic Scheeline mansion at 306 S. Virginia St. was sold by son Harry. It was purchased by the Sciots Club, a group of which he was a member. In addition to being a grand meeting place, the home provided accommodations for twelve men to make it their club home. Later the club moved the original home from its first location at Ryland and Virginia Street to a lot off of Center Street; with its new address being 316 S. Center Street.

The Scheeline home was moved to allow for an automobile show room to be built, a new Spanish Mission style brick addition covering the entire S. Virginia at Ryland lot for Nevada Cadillac and built by Harry. The building would house office space, showrooms, used-car rooms, a repair shop and a service department. Harry was a big proponent of business growth along Virginia Street as well as in the city. Several older homes were moved from S. Virginia Street, and the strip was referred to as the new automobile row.

Fraternal organizations were an important part of life during the 1850s to 1950s in this country. The Sciots Club is defined as a Masonic-affiliated fraternal organization established in 1910. Dedicated to uniting Master Masons in a closer bond of Friendship, Fellowship, and Cooperation, the organization's motto is "To help each other in the accomplishment of honest endeavors" and to spread the doctrine of "BOOST ONE ANOTHER."

In 1935, the Sciots Club at 316 S. Center and the Lincoln Garage at 316 S. Virginia were sold at public auction to the highest bidder, and it was eventually demolished. There is a parking garage there now. 🚗

Brett Banks is a HRPS Board member, HRPS Walking Tour Guide, manages the HRPS Instagram account and is President of the Hillside Cemetery Preservation Foundation.



Moritz and Agnes' son Harry Scheeline (left) married Juliet Groak (right) in 1924. Harry is shown with their two daughters Evelyn and Valerie. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

A Message From Your HRPS President - Spring 2025

Hello HRPS Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce our 2025 Walking Tours in this issue. We have some old favorites and a few new or recently revived walks. We hope you'll take advantage of these volunteer-led walks to get to know different parts of our community on a personal basis.

Walking Tours continue to be free for HRPS members, and will be \$20 for non-members. At \$25 for a one-year membership, you not only get to go on the walking tours for free, but you also receive our monthly online newsletter, our quarterly *FootPrints*, and notices about other events and activities. The inside back page contains the membership form which can be filled out and mailed in with a check, or you can sign up through our website at www.historicreno.org.

Remaining Vigilant

We lament the loss of another historic building - the Southern Pacific Railroad machine shop in Sparks, which came down in February. Numerous pleas had been made to save it, but the requests fell on deaf ears. Photos taken just before demolition started show the advanced stages of decay; yet another example of demolition by neglect.

There are many old homes and buildings all over Reno and Sparks, hiding in plain



HRPS' President Joy Orlich

sight, and not always in obvious places. Take the E. Sixth Street area in Reno, for example, between Center St. and Wells Ave. Some of those homes date to the late 1800s, the same era as the Gateway homes. Or East Mill Street between Lake St. and Kirman Ave, where the occasional Victorian style home manages to survive. Once a building is torn down, it is gone forever. Alarmingly, most of us will never have noticed it was there, much less recall its history.

Successful Speaker Programs

By the time this issue reaches you, we will have held our fourth and final speaker program until we resume them next fall. A hearty thanks to Jim Bonar, Richard Hill, Pat Ferraro Klos, Sunny Minedew, Patti Bernard and Marcia Cuccaro for their enlightening talks. We have had a full house for every single

talk! Many thanks to Sheryln Hayes-Zorn and Susan Mullen who continue to provide these wonderful programs.

A note for the future, the Washoe County Library, which graciously allows us to use their theater for our programs, has asked us to start having people register to attend from now on. The programs will continue to be free to anyone who wants to attend, but you will be asked to register online - we will provide the link in our monthly online newsletter, and you can also register through the library website. This will allow them to plan better for the number of attendees and arrange for overflow viewing space if necessary.

New Donations

We were fortunate to again receive a generous donation of \$5,000 through the Vanguard Group and the Three Owls Fund. The actual donors wish to remain anonymous. We have also received \$900 in donations to date in memory of Gene Williams, longtime HRPS supporter and former board member. Gene passed away in February. We are grateful to his family for asking for Gene to be remembered this way.

And we are grateful to all of you, our members, who support our programs with your attendance. See you on the streets!

Joy Orlich

president@historicreno.org
775-544-0686



The Sparks - Union Pacific Machine Shop, built c. 1904, was a gorgeous building. With the equipment inside, operators could lift a railroad engine or car off its wheels for repair or replacement. The building was torn down early February 2025.

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

Members receive our monthly digital newsletter and our quarterly publication, *FootPrints*, with news of upcoming events, people and places of historical interest, as well as items of concern. Members receive free admission to our summer historic neighborhood walking tours, and a reduced rate to our annual historic homes tour. You also receive advance notice of our speaker programs which are free to attend.

Are You A...		HRPS Quarterly <i>FootPrints</i> Preference (Check one):	
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Please return this form with your check made payable to **HRPS, P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507**. You may also join and pay online with a credit card on our website: <https://www.historicreno.org>.

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