In the spring of 1997, the Old Huffaker School reopened its doors at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. This beautiful, historic building was built in 1867 and the students were primarily the children of ranchers and farmers of the area. In 1951, it was moved off the original site when the second Huffaker School was built. It was on blocks until it was moved to the Neil Road Fish Hatchery and was used as a storage shed for fish food and equipment. The Huffaker Restoration Committee formed and raised the necessary funds to move the building to its present location in 1992. The Friends of the Old Huffaker School with Bartley Ranch Regional Park have continued the efforts of restoring, preserving and maintaining this important historical landmark. The old school has undergone many different changes since its original construction. It has been brought back in time, back to the school days of the turn of the century and the early 1900s in rural Reno.

MEANWHILE, BACK at the RANCH – Annual Meeting

Dinner Picnic and Tour of the Old Huffaker School

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 24th, for a fun late spring evening meeting at the Old Huffaker School at Bartley Ranch. The Friends of the Old Huffaker School will be offering tours of the school. We also encourage everyone to explore this wonderful regional park at their leisure. See old ranch equipment, stroll the pathways, admire the amphitheater. Bring a dinner picnic and HRPS will bring the dessert. Be sure to attend since this will be our yearly membership meeting where members have the opportunity to vote for the HRPS Board.

Bartley Ranch is in the southwest part of town by Windy Hill. Drive south on Lakeside and make a left on Bartley Ranch Road. Meet at the picnic area. Since there are only about five picnic tables, you may want to bring your own chairs or blankets.

Listen Up Podner, Here’s The Lineup...

5:00-6:30 PM: Tours of the Old Huffaker School. Wander around Ranch.

6:30-7:30 PM: Picnic dinner and Annual Meeting. Election of the Board of Directors and presentation of HRPS Preservation Awards. Loren Jahn, from the Friends of the Old Huffaker School, will talk about the challenges that the organization faced in moving and restoring the school.

7:30-8:30 PM: The school and park remain open. Explore and enjoy!
HRPS Partners with Virginia City’s Fourth Ward School (FWS)!

THE 14TH ANNUAL COMSTOCK HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEKEND
May 19-21, 2000

The Art Of Restoration

NOTE: THE EVENTS OF FRIDAY, MAY 19TH ARE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HISTORIC RENO PRESERVATION SOCIETY. FWS THANKS THEM FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO SAVING NEVADA’S HERITAGE. Please note: HRPS members will receive the same courtesy pricing for all events as if they were members of Fourth Ward School. A brochure and reservation form will arrive under separate cover.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2000

EXHIBIT OPENING
Partnership Beyond Borders:
The FWS Making History for 125 Years

Premiering the work of Savannah College of Art & Design photographers, videographers and historic preservation graduate interns; restoration of the FWS as completed by the Reyman Brothers Construction, and field work performed by nationally recognized restoration architect Milford Wayne Donaldson Architects.

The Parade That Began It All
An exhibit featuring the 1876 parade from the First Ward School to the Fourth Ward School in honor of the Fourth Ward School’s grand opening.

DINNER LECTURE
Telling Tall Tales:
The Stories That Our Old Buildings Tell Us

The restoration of the Fourth Ward School is all about protecting and promoting the stories of its past; the stories that are imprinted in the building from its beginning in 1876. It is these stories that connect us to the past and allow us to better understand our present. Join nationally recognized historic preservation and FWS architect Wayne Donaldson as he uncovers some of these long forgotten tales that the FWS is only now telling us. Mr. Donaldson, FAIA, of San Diego, is a restoration architect and contractor. He has received several awards in historic preservation. Mr. Donaldson has worked on the Nevada State Museum, the Carson City Mint, and is completing work on the Fourth Ward School in Virginia City.

Exhibit Opening & Reception:
5:30 PM at FWS

Place: Dinner & lecture at the Fourth Ward School
Time: 7:00 PM
Tickets: $25.00 (HRPS and FWS members, $22.50) per person. Seating is very limited, reserve your place in history today.

The dinner and exhibit reception is co-sponsored by FWS and HRPS.

HRPS strongly suggests carpooling to this event. For those who would rather not drive to the Comstock, HRPS will have a van available. Space is limited. Please reserve your seat by Friday, May 12, 2000. The cost is $6.00. Reservations may be made by calling Lynn Allen (826-4841) or Cindy Ainsworth (747-0340).
SAT., MAY 20, 2000  
Going Deep:  
A Personal Tour of the Fourth Ward School

An in-depth personal tour and breakfast workshop featuring architect Wayne Donaldson. You haven’t seen the fourth Ward School until you’ve gone on this excursion into the nooks and crannies of the 124 year-old national treasure.

Place: Fourth Ward School  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Tickets: $10.00 (members $8.00)

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2000

The Carol Morgan Silver Tea and Musicale featuring the Comstock Children’s chorus as directed by Squeek LaVake of the FWS.

Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Docent led tours of FWS by Virginia City middle school students.

Nevada Preservation Awards will be presented by State Historic Preservation Officer Ron James.

JUNE EVENTS on the COMSTOCK

SAT., JUNE 24, 2000

Privately Guided Tours Featuring “C” Street – Virginia City’s Main Vein

Using the extensive research compiled on the history of the businesses and buildings along Virginia City’s main street, your guide will personally lead you into the past during this first-ever behind the tee-shirt curtain tour of our most famous main vein. Wear your walking shoes. Tours are approximately 2 hours in duration, but timeless in effect.

Place: Tours begin at the Fourth Ward School  
Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Tickets: $17.00 advanced (HRPS & FWS members, $15.00)  
$20.00 if purchased the day of the tour  
$5.00 for children 12 and under

Wine Tasting At One Of America’s Historic Treasures

This event features fine wines from California vineyards and other regional wineries, gourmet foods from award-winning chefs, and entertainment at the historic Fourth Ward School. FWS is one of 64 projects in 24 states recently designated by the White House Millennium Council as one of America’s Historic Treasures.

Place: Fourth Ward School  
Time: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Tickets: $25.00 in advance (HRPS & FWS members, $22.50), $30.00 if purchased the day of the event

Combination prices for “Main Vein” tour and Wine Tasting are: $35.00 advanced (HRPS & FWS members: $30.00), $40.00 purchased the day of the events. All tour and wine tasting ticket prices include transportation to the Comstock from Reno and Carson City.

WHAT WAS THE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF RENO FROM 1870 ON?

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PRESERVATION WEEK 2000

"Taking America’s Past into the Future" is the theme of the week-long celebration, said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation." This year’s theme celebrates that link between past and future, challenging us to plan for the issues that will confront us in the years to come. It is essential that we be vigilant, flexible and well informed in order to deal with the rapid changes that are sure to have an impact on our irreplaceable historic treasures."
AN INTERVIEW WITH
CHRISTINE FEY

by Sharon Adler Walbridge

Christine Fey is a self-described Air Force "brat" married to (her description) another Air Force "brat." Their common experience of childhood rootlessness, a 5 year tour of duty in England, and a grandfather who lured Christine into a love of architectural salvage jointly served to put her in the tour of duty in England, and a childhood rootlessness, a 5 year description) another Air Force grand father who lured Christine "brat."

"There is something about Reno that is very appealing," Christine confides. "I am very partial to mountains, but I am also very partial to desert. Reno has a wonderful blend of mountains and high desert. I think this is the most stunningly beautiful place you could be. Now we have roots and we've made roots for our children. This is where we will die."

Happily, Christine has miles to go, and dragons to slay before she contemplates sleep.

Since 1989, Fey has not only been learning the secrets of survival and success in the contentious environment that surrounds the planning and development function in the city, she actually thrives on the process. In that time she has worked on the Master Plan update, C.I.T.Y. 2000 Reno Arts Commission, Historical Resources Commission, and Skyways Design Review Committee.

Nancy Holmes, HRPS charter member and President of the Heritage Tourism Coalition (HTC) says of Fey, "She is the genesis of historic awareness in city government. She knows everything about preservation and heritage. She is an excellent communicator and a very skilled persuader. I think she's one of the sharpest people around."

Perhaps that explains Fey's progress from Junior Planner, to Assistant Planner to Senior Planner and now to Interim Manager of Arts and Culture. Her list of publications clearly reveals her knowledge in areas of interest to HRPS members. They include: "Highlights of the City of Reno Zoning Regulations, 1990; Reno's Historic Resources, 1993; Plumas' Neighborhood Plan, 1995; Historic Structures Handbook, 1995."

Pat Klos, HRPS founder and first President says, "Christine Fey has been historic preservation's primary resource in Reno for the last ten years. She studied historic preservation with Don Fowler at UNR (where she received her M.S. in Land Use Planning with a specialization in Historic Preservation). As a member of the City of Reno Planning Department staff, she was able to interpret code, ordinances, and law to all of us who have volunteered our time and interest to the cause of saving historic places and sites in Reno. She has given generously of her time and expertise."

The City of Reno, and especially the cultural and heritage community here, are truly indebted to Christine's family for moving her all over the world and exposing her to the non-disposable lifestyle of an English village. Perhaps her road to Reno was destiny.

In her mellifluous voice Christine says, "I became a conservationist and a preservationist as a result of living in an old house in England. I experienced a real paradigm shift as a result of living a basic, non-disposable life."

"I came to understand the benefits of simplification, of not having more than you need; of recycling the remains of what you do use. And not just the stuff from every day life like your papers and your cans, but the built environment as well."

"In England I learned how to get paint off of brass fittings; at UNR I learned how to make historical preservation a community reality."

You're right, Christine. Thanks and Godspeed.
NOTE: In addition to the events outlined below, regular meetings of HRPS are held the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Mt. Rose Elementary School, 915 Lander Street, Reno.

PLEASE SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

HRPS HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK WALKING TOURS
May 13-20, 2000

In celebration of Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week, May 14 through May 20, 2000, the Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS) presents several walking tours. All walks are about 1 1/2 hours long. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Unless otherwise noted, there is no cost for HRPS members. $5.00 for non-members. Any questions call HRPS Tour coordinator, Leanne Stone, 322-1638.

Saturday, May 13
1:00 pm  A Blast from the Past: Fourth St. Corridor
          Tour guide: Gaye Canepa. Reno-Sparks Corridor Business Association will present the walk along one of Reno's most historic streets — old Highway 40. Meet at Louis' Basque Corner, 4th Street & Evans Avenue.

Monday, May 15
6:30 pm  Bricks and Stones: Humboldt & Lander Streets Neighborhood
          Tour guide: Anne Simone. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue.

Tuesday, May 16
6:30 pm  University of Nevada, Reno Historic District
          Tour guide: Leanne Stone. Meet at Honor Court on University campus, 9th Street entrance.

Wednesday, May 17
6:30 pm  Wells Avenue Neighborhood
          Tour guide: Mark Taxer. Meet at former Southside School, corner Liberty and Sinclair Streets.

Thursday, May 18
6:00 pm  A Walk Along the Historic Truckee River Corridor
          Tour guide: Joan Collins. Meet at McKinley Park School Lawn Riverside Dr. & Vine Street.

Saturday, May 20
9:00 am  Just For Kids (And Their Parents) Architectural Walking Tour
          Tour guide: Mercedes de la Garza. This walking tour will be geared for children ages 5 to 12 years old with an accompanying parent. We will start with a quick discussion about different types of buildings, materials, and ways these materials are used on buildings. Following the discussion, we will go for a quick walking tour in an historic neighborhood to discover the things we discussed. We will end the walk with an art session of drawing our Dream House. Please bring an apron for child and parent. This tour is free for both children and parents. Please note: space is limited so you must make a reservation. To RSVP and for more information, please call Mercedes at 322-6406. Meet at Little Learners, 551 California Avenue.

Saturday, May 20
1:30 pm  Idlewild Park, Arboretum of the City of Reno
          Tour guide: John Crandell. This walk is focused on identifying trees in the park and the history of the park. Meet at the Peace Officers' Memorial in the park, south of the California Building. This tour is free.
HRPS will offer 10 tours during ARTown this summer, one of which will be a bike tour of an historic neighborhood. With the exception of the bike tour, tours are about 1 1/2 hours long. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Unless otherwise noted, there is no cost for HRPS members, during ARTown there is a suggested donation of $10.00 for non-members. No dogs are allowed, and children are discouraged. Any questions, call the tour leaders noted below.

Sunday, July 2
10-11 am  Historic Walking Tour of Reno's Gaming Industry
Contact Person: Sandy Crooms (784-6573 ext. 233). HRPS and The University of Nevada Press are teaming up to present a walking tour of The Biggest Little City's rich and colorful gaming history. Pat Klos, HRPS founder, and Dwayne Kling, retired casino executive and author of "The Rise of the Biggest Little City, An Encyclopedic History of Reno Gaming, 1931-1981," will co-host the tour. The tour will end with a book signing at the River Gallery. Meet at the Virginia Street Arch. This walk is free.

Thursday, July 6
6:30 pm  University of Nevada, Reno Historic District
Tour guide: Leanne Stone (322-1638). Meet at Honor Court on University campus, 9th Street entrance.

Saturday, July 8
9:00 am  Just For Kids (And Their Parents) Architectural Walking Tour
Please see the description for Saturday, May 20th (on the back of this page) for details.

Wednesday, July 12
7:00 pm  Historic Truckee River Corridor Including Bluff Area
Tour guide: Joan Collins (329-0394). Meet at Mckinley Park School Lawn/Riverside Drive and Vine Street.

Saturday, July 15
10:00 am  Blast from the Past/Historic Fourth St. Corridor
Tour guide: Gaye Canepa (323-0220). Meet at Louis' Basque Corner, E. 4th Street and Evans Avenue.

Sunday, July 16
10 am - 12 pm  Bike Tour: An Easy Paced Tour of Historic Buildings and Places in Central Reno
Tour guide: Glee Willis (323-0696). Meet at My Favorite Muffin, California Ave. and Lander St.

Tuesday, July 18
6:30 pm  Wells Avenue Neighborhood

Saturday, July 22
1:30 pm  A Walk in Historic Idlewild Park
Tour Guide: John Crandell (746-0776). This free walking tour is focused on the history of the park as well as on identifying its' trees. Meet at the Peace Officers' Memorial in the park, south of the California Building.

Tuesday, July 25
6:30 pm  Bricks and Stones: Humboldt & Lander Sts. Neighborhood

Saturday, July 29
10:00 am  The Newlands Neighborhood
Tour Guides: Scott Gibson & Mercedes de la Garza. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, California Ave. and Lander St. Phone 322-6406 or e-mail sgibson@nce.reno.nv.us
Mt. Rose School has been in use as a school since 1910.

ADAPTIVE REUSE
THINK ABOUT IT!

by Sharon Adler Walbridge

Readers may have noticed by now that this issue of the newsletter contains information on four different schools in this region representing three distinctly different eras and environments.

We’re fortunate to have Huffaker School built in 1867, the Fourth Ward School built in 1876, and McKinley Park and Mt. Rose, circa 1910. They are a glimpse of our past.

Mt. Rose, where HRPS holds its monthly meetings, was rescued by people who wanted to preserve the building and the function of a neighborhood elementary school. In bringing it up to current code and service standards, some of the original interior had to be modified, notably the ceilings and floor coverings. But the school retains the feeling of the original, and it is comforting to know that it will serve its original purpose in the 21st century.

McKinley Park has become an exciting and vital part of Reno’s cultural and arts life. In the restoration of McKinley, the original building was revealed. The high ceilings, the beautiful wood floors, the large windows all speak of a different era.

In addition to providing office space for historical and arts groups, the Fourth Ward School will become a tourist magnet in Virginia City, thus providing a beneficial economic boost to that community.

Huffaker School will remind all who visit it that Reno was a far, far different place in the late 1800s. It will serve as a permanent reminder of our rural roots, a community that knew nothing of glitz and glamour and razzamatazz.

Three of these schools had fallen into disuse and disrepair. Given a new lease on life through adaptive reuse, they will serve us and our children’s children in ways never contemplated for them upon construction. We are all richer because of the vision, the effort, and the commitment of those who know that by honoring the past we serve the future.

WHO WAS GRANVILLE W. HUFFAKER?

Granville W. Huffaker was born in Monticello, Kentucky on May 7, 1831. He settled in Salt Lake City, Utah where he was involved in the mercantile business. He came to the Nevada Territory in 1858 and bought 600 acres in south Reno and 500 head of cattle.

His ranch became known as "Huffaker’s." During the 1860s, Huffaker had an established Stage Line, a U.S. Post Office (Pony Express Station), and a general store. The Virginia and Truckee Railroad was built to Carson City in 1871-72 and Huffaker’s became a regular station for the railroad. Produce was shipped and lumber was transported through this important station. This site is located on South Virginia Street. Several of the original structures and the millpond are still in existence. A Nevada State Historical Marker can be found at the site.

In 1869, Granville W. Huffaker deeded one acre of his property to Huffaker School District No. 9. The property was located at the north end of his ranch. The original site of the Huffaker School was one mile north of Huffaker’s Station and is the site of the second Huffaker School, which is still in use by the Washoe County School District as a building maintenance center.
**MCKINLEY PARK SCHOOL: A “Make-Over” Success**

by Sharon Adler Walbridge

McKinley Park School has a new lease on life. Don’t you think it’s kind of exciting to be 90 and starting over so to speak? (Ah yes, the secret “make-over” of my fantasy life.)

McKinley Park and Mt. Rose are the two surviving schools of the 4 designed by George Ferris in the early part of the twentieth century. In my youth, the Mission Revival buildings were a comforting refrain scattered around the compact city that Reno once was, and we’re fortunate that McKinley Park and Mt. Rose didn’t succumb to the fate of Orvis Ring and Mary S. Doten.

McKinley Park has not been a school since 1975. In the 25 years between the end of its life as a school and the beginning of its new life as an arts and cultural facility, Reno Parks and Recreation used it as a community center. It’s important to note that this building did not sit empty and idle during those years. If it had, we probably wouldn’t have it today.

Of course, this metamorphosis wasn’t easy. Michael Hillerby, former Arts and Culture Manager for the City of Reno and now Gov. Guinn’s Director of Museums, Library and Arts, played a vital role in reviving this gem on the Truckee River. He is credited with choosing the school’s new colors, which highlights the mosaic tile on the front in a way the gray tone never did.

Last fall I was in this building for the first time since I was a child. It was during the Great Basin Book Festival, sponsored by Nevada Humanities. Even though it was hot in the auditorium, and construction noise from outside intruded, I was thrilled to hear nationally prominent authors Anne Lamott and E. Annie Proulx “do their thing” in this old school, and to realize that the dream of an arts district along the river was, in fact, becoming a reality.

A story about McKinley Park would not be complete without mentioning Christine Fey. Mella Harmon, HRPS member, Reno Historic Resources Commission member, and Historic Preservation Specialist for the State Historical Preservation Office says, “Christine deserves a great deal of credit for McKinley Park, and it is a wonderful and fitting reward for her to be able to work there. All of her work, all of the grant applications, all the meetings — it was a labor of love.”

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**RESEARCH POSITION AVAILABLE.**

**LOW PAY, BUT LOTS OF HIGH NOTES.**

Washoe County Community Concerts was organized in 1934. Today this non-profit group is raising funds to restore their 1906 nine foot Steinway Grand piano located at the Pioneer Center. As part of the restoration effort, WCCC is hoping to collect, organize, and archive the history of the organization. This information will be displayed at future concerts. If you would like to help with this research project or if you have any historical information to share about Washoe County Community Concerts, please call Ardie Ingres at 784-4555.
APRIL 26, 2000
HRPS MEETING 6:30 PM

by Leanne Stone

The HRPS April 26 meeting will be in Idlewild Park. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. (note the earlier time from our usual meeting time) to take advantage of as much daylight as possible.

Jim Ross, the City of Reno Urban Forester, will lead a walking tour of the park. This will be an opportunity to see unusual and unique tree species and also tree species that, while not often seen in this area, are well-adapted here and should be used more often in our landscapes. The tour will originate at the Police Memorial, to the south of the California Building. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.

The 49 acres that became Idlewild Park was sold to the City of Reno by Francis Newlands' nephew about 1920. In 1927, the Park was the site for the Transcontinental Highway Exposition. The State of California built a temporary structure to house its display and gave the building to the City of Reno when the exposition was over. It is commemorated as the California Building and is one of the most widely-used assets in the City of Reno's park system. The concrete support of the Lincoln Highway that spanned the Truckee River from Idlewild Park can still be seen in the river. (Thanks to my friend and Reno High School classmate, Karl Breckenridge, for this information on the history of the park.)

We Welcome New Members
Carrie Bennis
Sarah Britt
Carol Buckman
Dave & Kathy Ebner
Holly Fiala
Charles & Mary Lee Fulkerson
Norm & Donna Howard
Jan Lewis
Robert & Georgene Lindsey
Susan Mantle
Don & Anne Meier
Sue Sanchez
Sherryl Sanders
William & Barbara Thornton
JoAnne Waters
Karen Wells
Joyce Williams

Renewing Members
Cindy & Tom Ainsworth
Jane Bowden
Lois & Len Crocker
Andria Daley-Taylor
Julie Ehrman
Christine & Walter Fey
Nancy Hardy
Merry Hofford
Nancy Holmes
Ginger & Pete Salcedo
Mark Taxer
Sharon Walbridge
Diane Watterson

IT'S NEVER DULL IN RENO!
Skyfire
July 3, 4, 5
Chautaqua Historical Tent Show
July 17-20
Balloon Races
September 5-11

TRAILS WEST, an organization dedicated to identifying and marking emigrant trails has an interesting site at: www.emigranttrailswest.org
Surf on over and check it out yourself!

Dues Are Due: Check your mailing labels. Renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno.

Membership Application

Please make checks payable to:
Historic Reno Preservation Society

☐ New Member
☐ Renewal

Name(s) ___________________________ ___________________________

Address ___________________________ ___________________________

City __________________ State ____ ZIP _____

Telephone ___________________________

Best time to call ___________________________

Please detach and return to: Historic Reno Preservation Society, P.O. Box 33444, Reno NV 89533
We regret to inform you that both Claire and Ron Evenson have both succumbed to cancer since the first of the year. Claire and Ron, along with their daughter Mary, held membership number 25. Strong believers in the preservation of historic Reno, all three were early and enthusiastic supporters of HRPS.

Claire attended the first-ever walking tour training workshop held at R&R Advertising in November 1997, and went on every walk HRPS offered until illness intruded. Claire, Ron and Mary were regulars at monthly meetings.

Donations may be sent to Pat Klos, 245 Glenmanor Dr., Reno 89509.