



Newsletter April 23, 2016

In This Issue:	Page
<i>HHS Plans for the Future</i>	1-2
<i>Gearing Up for Heritage Days Celebration</i>	3
<i>Flashback: Remembering the History of Heritage Days</i>	3
<i>Henderson Home News Historic Photo Project</i>	4
<i>Welcome Dana Bullinger</i>	5
<i>A License Plate for Our Town</i>	5
<i>Three Cheers for Our School</i>	6
<i>We Remember</i>	6-7

Henderson Historical Society (HHS) looks to the future - In January of 2016 a planning team of HHS board members began a series of strategic planning sessions with James Kinsey, Jk3 Non-Profit Consultants. Founded in 2011 by Henderson pioneer Lou LaPorta, the group sought to review goals and objectives and seek out ways to strengthen the efforts of HHS.

After two months of earnest conversation, research and soul searching the group devised a plan that will result in more board members with more depth and a wider range of skills necessary to accomplish the goals set out by the organization. The new plan also calls for the development of an Advisory Council. The members of this group will not be involved in day-to-day operation but will moreover be positioned to reach out into the community and develop links with leaders and entities that can help HHS see and react to the future.

Volunteers are a key component to HHS's current structure. Additionally, HHS Depends upon a bevy of community volunteers and partnering entities with common goals. HHS strategic plans include building on its successful volunteer program by recruiting like-minded people who possess the skills, desire and abilities to grow the organization.

Programs currently underway include: "Henderson Speaks" – gathering stories from early Henderson residents 1942 to 1980s and using these to preserve the history of the area and to enhance the collections of local libraries and museums. "Henderson Now and Then" employs photography and memorabilia to display local history as well as to dramatize change and its impact on people and the environment. "Water Street Walking Tour" is a collaborative project involving the City of Henderson and HHS. When complete it will provide a self-guided tour, exploring historic buildings and locations that supported Henderson's growth as an industrial center, leading to its present place in history.

The plan addresses fundraising, expanded membership, marketing and public relations goals and their role in providing resources needed for the success of HHS.

In the culmination of the strategic plan it was determined that what HHS needed most was a new member of the organization, an executive director. The HHS Board approved that recommendation and has employed Robyn Campbell Ouchida. Ms. Ouchida's roots are in Henderson and her talents are many. She will help to ground the organization and be a communication link among Board, volunteers, Advisory Council and the many partners of HHS.

Robyn Campbell-Ouchida has a long history with Henderson, moving here as a child in 1977. She is a graduate of Basic High School, the University of Nevada, Reno (bachelor's degree in journalism), and holds a master of communications degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As the owner of All Write Business Communications, she has worked for a variety of clientele, including the Lee Business School and William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration at UNLV, the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health/Keep Memory Alive, SAFE House, Inc., and Nevada State College. She has also written extensively for *Nevada Business Journal*, *Casino Executive* magazine, and Nevada Public Radio. She is an alumna of Leadership Henderson's class of 2002.

Gearing Up for Heritage Days

The Henderson Historical Society (HHS) is gearing up to participate in the City's annual celebration of Heritage Days to be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016. The Society will sponsor a float in the parade. Watch for Jerry Hughes' restored 1955 Chevy Truck sporting the HHS banner. The parade begins at 10:00 A. M. Then join us again at 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the City's Convention Center, Sierra Rooms B and C for a Pioneer Days reception. You can expect to enjoy story telling, a great collection of historic photos and light refreshments. HHS partners, the Clark County Museum and Henderson Department of Public Libraries will be represented at the event. Cynthia Sanford, from the Museum will be on hand to display photos from the Henderson Home News collection. Dana Bullinger, Henderson District Public Libraries will be on hand with historic photos and to help visitors learn how to link to the Library's Digital Collection. HHS, C.C. Museum and Henderson libraries offer a great many resources for school academics as well as family history study. HHS looks forward to meeting new members and sharing the opportunities our organizations provide. Watch ABC Channel 13's Morning Blend on April 18, 2016. HHS Executive Director Robyn Ouchida and Director Rick Watson will be hand to show pictures and tell viewers about the HHS Heritage Days events.

Heritage Days Flashback

The history of Heritage Days begins in 1952 when the young city of Henderson was about to mark the 10th Anniversary of its incorporation. In those days Morry Zenoff was owner and Editor of the town's newspaper. From his vantage point he cheered on town leaders and public-spirited citizens as they planned a gala event to commemorate the founding of their town. Every issue of the paper in the new year of 1952 carried reports and cheerleading to inspire the town folk to make the neighboring towns and the State of Nevada stand-up and take notice.

For example, the front page for March 20, 1952 ran "Anniversary articles" in Morry's Story, Mr. Zenoff's editorial column. Column 5 of the front page displayed an article by Lyal Burkholder, Henderson Schools Superintendent reporting on plans for a "Big Parade". A story in Column 3 reported on plans for donors to supply new/additional band uniforms. Joe McBeth, Townsite Drugstore, had already donated (his daughter played snare drum) and this article added that now Charley Bondtrager of Prime Meats and insurance agent, Lou LaPorta were about to join in with donations. In yet another page one article in columns 1&2, below Morry's Story, it was reported that Bob Woodruff of Basic Photos was organizing the town's first official beauty pageant, featuring a plan for merchants to issue ballots to purchasing customers. Bob took photos of the contestants and posted them in each Henderson store. The more purchases a shopper made, the more votes they were awarded. You can read all about it in the pages of the Henderson Home News. Here is the path >>[www://hendersonpubliclibraries.com](http://hendersonpubliclibraries.com) >>research>>digital collection>>Henderson Home News>>1952. Don't search for Industrial Days or Heritage Days because those titles had not been invented yet. At the time Henderson believed this was to be a one-time affair. How wrong they were. Read "letters to the Editor," Mr. N. D. Van Wagenen's letter, in the May 1, 1952 issue of the paper to see how this great celebration became an annual event.

Henderson Home News: Its History

It is difficult to reminisce about Henderson and Heritage Days without remembering the town's newspaper. The following is a quick history of the late, great Henderson Home News:

The Henderson Libraries' Digital Collection of the Henderson Home News introduces the old paper with the following description:

Originally published as a supplement in the Boulder City News, Henderson Home News became a separate publication in 1951. Like many local newspapers, Henderson Home News chronicles the life and growth of a city in ways that larger newspapers cannot. It details events in individual residents' lives, from birthday parties to families' vacation plans. It covers local association activities, local political and economic issues, and includes advertisements by locally-owned businesses. This local focus and the fact that the area had been significantly populated for only 9 years in 1951 means that Henderson Home News traces a nearly complete history of Henderson's development.

This digital collection includes almost every issue of the Henderson Home News, including the supplemental issues published in the Boulder City News in 1949 and 1950 as well as the stand-alone issues published in and after 1951.

Project to Identify Old Home News Photos –

When the paper closed its doors in 2010, the Clark County Museum fell heir to its collection of photos. The Museum is currently in the process of identifying the subjects in the photos. Members of the HHS who have a long history with Henderson are among the volunteers helping the Museum to identify the subjects in the photos and to recall stories that give the pictures relevance in existing history. Many of the photos were taken by old time Henderson photographers Bob Woodruff of Basic Photos and his sometimes colleague Jerry Ludwig(call Lucille Haynes Gibson @702-564-2184).

The digitized copies of the newspaper offer clear views of the text but newspaper photos are often of poor quality. Having clear, high-resolution photos, matched up with their news stories will be a blessing to researchers. Also, the collection includes a number of photos that were not used to illustrate stories but non-the-less may be valuable resources in telling Henderson History. Cynthia Sandford, Museum (insert her title) staff will be on hand to show some of the old photos at the HHS Heritage Days event.

Welcome Dana Bullinger

The Henderson Department of Public Libraries is an important partner of the HHS in the task of collecting, archiving and sharing Henderson history. Since the founding of the HHS our group has had the pleasure of working with two fine digital librarians in the persons of Wendy Walker and Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm. Their archival and digital skills have helped us greatly in our mission. Both Wendy and Anne Marie have followed career opportunities to new jobs in far away places. Luckily HHS has been joined by another talented librarian. Dana Bullinger was introduced at our March meeting as the new Digital Projects Librarian for Henderson Libraries. She moved to Las Vegas in 2013 from Tampa, Florida and started her library career as a shelver at Henderson Libraries, and a Digital Collections Specialist at UNLV. Prior to her current position, she was the Project Manager for the National Digital Newspaper Program, a joint-partnership grant from the Library of Congress and National Endowment for Humanities, hosted at UNLV from 2014-2016. Dana Bullinger is the illustrator of the childrens book, *Picking Apples with Daddy*, written by Tawnya Shaw.

A License Plate for Our Town

I would love to have a license plate that says I am proud to be from Henderson; one that reminds me of growing up in Carver Park and the old Townsite. A license plate that calls to mind that our town helped win WWII, was first to bring Lake Mead's water to the Vegas Valley, was ready with leadership that put Green Valley on the Henderson map and sent our town's boundary to the LA highway. A Henderson plate would remind me that our town has the best of many things and the most down to earth and friendly people in Southern Nevada. How about you? Would you be proud to have a Henderson License Plate even if it cost a few bucks a year?

Denell Hahn is the HHS license plate committee chairperson. The committee is meeting with community advisors regarding how to gather support for the project and laying out a timeline for completing all of the necessary steps in gaining State approval. Since it is a requirement that each specialty license plate have a certain number of subscribers each year, it would help our cause to know how many Nevadans would purchase the Henderson license plate. Send us a post card or comment on the HHS Facebook page if you would buy a Henderson plate. Address post cards to the Henderson Historical Society, 121 South Water Street, Henderson, Nevada 89015. Here is a link to the HHS Facebook page:

www.hendersonhistoricalsociety.org

Three Cheers for Our School: BHS Class of 1966 Reunion

HHS member John Winlow is a graduate of Basic High School's class of 1966. The group is planning their 50th Reunion, scheduled for October 21 and 22, 2016. HHS will staff a table at the reunion as well as supply pictures and memorabilia to help the class remember what Henderson looked like in those days. We are hoping that the group will engage in story telling and photo recollections that will help HHS solve mysteries in the photo collections of the City of Henderson, the Clark County Museum, and the Henderson Department of Public Libraries.

We Remember

Members of the Henderson Historical Society, from time to time notice the passing of teachers, classmates and neighbors who left our midst without much notice given. The Facebook site "You know you are from Henderson if..." posted information about two long time Henderson residents who left Henderson and passed away in their new communities. We thought you would like to know -

William Chapman Wooten, taught at Basic High School for many years. He was 92 when he passed away December 3, 2015 in Spanish Fork, Utah. He was in the U. S. Army during WWII, serving in France and Germany. At war's end he returned home to North Carolina, married, started a family and completed his education in 1950. That year he accepted a job at Basic High School in Henderson, Nevada, where he taught band, choir and math for 30 years. During his time in Henderson, he formed Fairview Estates subdivision where he built a house that was large enough to accommodate his growing family, which at that time included his wife Dorothy, 8 children and his father-in-law. A daughter would later join the family there. In 1990, the Wooten family purchased a home in Orem, Utah where Chapman lived until his death last December.

We Remember (Continued)

Marvin Lloyd Buescher died February 20, 2016 in Twin Falls, Idaho. He was born February 4, 1944 in Henderson's BMI Hospital that we all know today as St. Rose DeLima Hospital.

He attended St. Peter's Parochial School in the 1950s, was a member of the St. Peters sponsored Cub Scout Troop and was active in the schools sports programs. Toni Watson Tibbets and Patricia Espinosa Hinds were Classmates of Marvin at the St. Peters School. They remember him to be a handsome young man, a good student (especially in math) and "a nice kid". His classmates also remember that he was well loved by the Dominican Sisters who were his teachers, including Sister Robert Joseph, a Clark County School District (CCSD) School namesake.

When he was thirteen, Marvin was severely beaten by local toughs. They knocked out his friend Gary Bates and broke Marvin's nose and jaw. He spent several days in the hospital. The Henderson Home News (HHN) article covering the event didn't mention a concussion or the long-term damage of such a beating to a young man's brain. Marvin's lifelong struggle with emotional issues makes a person think back to that incident and wonder.

Marvin was a graduate of Basic High School where he was a pitcher on the wolves baseball team under Coach Dick Empson. The Henderson Home News includes accounts of Marvin's games, including one written by a young BHS history and government teacher, Mike O'Callaghan: (Buescher Beats Boulder, HHNews, 4-14-59, Page 1, columns 4&5).

Buescher was a veteran of the United States Navy. After his tour of duty in the USN he returned to Southern Nevada where he worked as an electrician for many years.