

UNOHP!

The Newsletter of the University of Nevada's Oral History Program

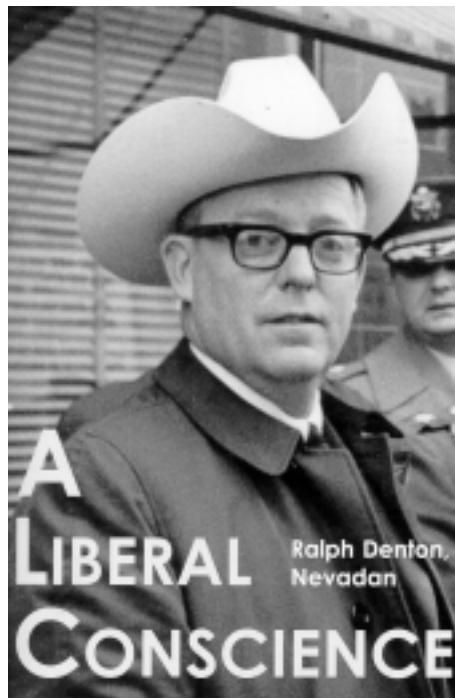
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UNOHP Publishes Denton Book

Ralph Denton, *A Liberal Conscience*, with Michael S. Green. Reno: UNOHP, 2001. (408 pages, 36 illustrations, \$19.95.)

In November 2001, the UNOHP published its most recent book. Drawn from fifty-seven hours of oral history interviews by Dr. Michael S. Green, *A Liberal Conscience* is the witty, highly informative memoir of Ralph Denton, one of the most revered figures in Nevada's Democratic Party. An eyewitness account by an influential player, it is studded with stories that reveal the multiple dimensions of state politics and politicians—ideals high and low, uncompromising principle, unapologetic patronage, political machinery (some of it broken), back-room deals, up-front stands, and all the reckless scheming and swirling energy that make



Nevada politics so entertaining and occasionally so appalling.

Born in 1925, Ralph Denton is descended from early settlers of Caliente, a little railroad town in the mountainous desert of southeastern Nevada. As a teenager, Denton punched cattle, labored in mining, and kept a lid on his aspirations. Then he came under the patronage of Pat McCarran, a powerful U.S. Senator, and his life forever changed. Living in Washington, working for the Senate, and earning a law degree with McCarran's help, Denton became one of a select group of influential young Nevadans who were widely known as "McCarran's Boys."

Pat McCarran died in 1954, but the Boys continued for decades to be important players in Nevada politics and government. Ironically, given McCarran's
(continued on page 4)



Melton as a young reporter, 1957.

Rollan Melton, 1931-2002

The Oral History Program lost its best friend when Rollan Melton died in his sleep on January 13. Melton was 70 years old and had suffered severe heart problems for the last two years. He is survived by his wife Marilyn, daughter Emelie, sons Wayne, Royle, and Kevin, and 16 grandchildren.

A 1955 graduate of the University of Nevada, Melton was a newspaperman who rose from humble origins and a troubled childhood to achieve extraordinary success
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Interviews Begun on Gaming Regulation

by Dwayne Kling

In a gaming history project that began just a few months ago, I have been conducting interviews with former members of the Gaming Control Board, including Jack Stratton, Phil Hannifin, Shannon Bybee, and former staff member Guy Farmer.

Stratton, who served on the Gaming Control Board longer than any other member, was on the board when applicants such as Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal, Allen Glick, and Morris Shenker were called up to be licensed. Guy Farmer, in his turn, was a witness to Frank Sinatra's infamous telephone complaint to board chairman Ed Olsen, which eventually led to Sinatra's surrendering his Nevada gaming licenses at the Cal-Neva Lodge at Lake Tahoe and the Sands Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas.

Phil Hannifin, who was chairman of the Gaming Control Board for more than six years (1971-1977), conducted hearings regarding the licensing of Las Vegas hotel-casinos such as the Dunes, the Stardust, the Aladdin, and the Tropicana. One of the highlights of Hannifin's term in office came in 1973, when he and Governor Mike O'Callaghan met with Howard Hughes in a hotel suite in London. After leaving the Gaming Control Board, Hannifin worked as a top casino executive for the Summa Corporation, Kirk Kerkorian, Harrah's, and the Fitzgerald's Corporation.

Shannon Bybee served on the Gaming Control Board from 1971 to 1975. During Mr. Bybee's tenure, the board was concerned with actions that forever altered the gaming industry. Regulations pertaining to internal control systems were either initiated or revised, regulations allowing licenses to be issued to applicants who had licenses in other states were created, regulations pertaining to records that accurately reflect gross income and expenses related to gaming operations were put into effect, and corporate gaming laws were revised.

Many other individuals associated with the Nevada Gaming Control Board and the Nevada Gaming Commission will be inter-

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Much Good News, Some Bad

As readers will learn in this issue of our newsletter, the Oral History Program's thirty-seventh year of operation was a productive one. The individual articles and reports appearing within tell much of the story, but not all of it. Space limitations (a. k. a., "not enough money to print and mail a larger newsletter") prevent us from reporting on all our work in depth, but several items that do not get the full treatment will be of interest to many of our readers, and they deserve mention here. Chief among them is a project entitled "Under One Sky," on which the UNOHP is collaborating with the Nevada State Museum and Nevada's Indian tribes.

"Under One Sky" is the title of a grand exhibit that is scheduled to open at the State Museum in June of 2002. It will portray Nevada's Native American heritage, from earliest times to the present. A large gallery will house a traditional museum display of interpreted objects. In close proximity will be listening stations providing access to oral history clips and a mini-theater showing six short videos produced by the UNOHP. In audio- and video-taped interviews with chroniclers from each of Nevada's tribes, the UNOHP is recording their accounts of the origins of their people, how they came to be located where they are, their relationship with nature and the land, first contact with non-Indian people, and what life has been like for Nevada's Indians since the arrival of white people in territory that was formerly under Indian control. Mark Gandolfo and JoAnne Peden are the principals on this project, and they are doing a splendid job.

Other items worthy of note: For our university history series, Kathleen Coles has completed her interviews with Agnes Heidtman, who worked in the office of six UNR presidents, 1954-1981; the U.S. Forest Service is subsidizing a revised edition of our book, *The Free Life of a Ranger*, to be published in 2002; and another of our popu-

viewed as part of this ongoing project. The resulting oral histories will add considerably to the information available on the state's gaming industry.

lar (but out of print) titles, *Always Bet on the Butcher*, will be reprinted in February. Finally, and most important, Brad Lucas, the oral historian on our "Governor's Day, 1970" project, successfully defended his dissertation in the fall and will be awarded a Ph.D. in English at spring commencement ceremonies. Congratulations, Dr. Lucas.

Now for the news that is less than good: In 2001, Congress repealed the estate tax, mandating that it be phased out at the federal level over a period of ten years and that rebates to the states end in 2003. Nevada uses estate tax rebate money to partially fund a number of higher education programs in the state, ours among them. One of the unintended consequences of the repeal (at least, we hope it was unintended!) is that the Oral History Program stands to have its funding reduced by over 25% in 2003. Unless this amount is made up from other sources, the program will be severely damaged.

It is unlikely that the university will be able to address our problem through the institution's budget (it has other, far more important and far more expensive problems that can be solved only through an infusion of money that is not currently available); so, for the first time since I became director of the Oral History Program, I am turning to the private sector for help. With the assistance of the University of Nevada Foundation and the development officer of the College of Arts & Science, I have begun work to establish in the Foundation an endowment for the Oral History Program. By March, I hope to have formed an endowment committee to spearhead the fundraising effort. N. Edd Miller and Bill Thornton have already volunteered to serve, and we hope to enlist at least a dozen more bright, energetic people in our cause. Please, if you value the work of the UNOHP and want it to remain one of the best oral history programs in the country, volunteer to serve on our endowment committee, or write us a large check, or both. Thanks, and I wish all of our readers peace, happiness, and good health in 2002.

Tom Kling

Silver Peak Book Planned

Silver Peak: Never a Ghost Town is slated for publication in the first part of 2002. The book was written as one aspect of a historical study of the Silver Peak, Nevada, area. The research was sponsored by Mineral Ridge Resources, Inc. (MRRRI) and resulted in this volume, which was written by UNOHP associate Victoria Ford. The book combines oral history interviews, archival records, and archaeological information to present a history of a small mining community.

Interviews began before MRRRI started open-pit mining operations in 1996 at the sites of the historic Mary, Drinkwater, Oromonte, and Gordon-Brodie mines near Silver Peak. A total of 23 oral history interviews were conducted, resulting in over 40 hours of audio tape and more than 1,600 pages of transcription. Individuals were iden-

tified who could provide firsthand information on mining and milling technology, transportation and housing, and the community of Silver Peak.

Chroniclers commented that Silver Peak was a special place for them. Of course, some still lived there, so it was their hometown. But even those who came expecting little from the community and those who have gone on to other jobs still remembered their time at "The Peak" (a term used by local residents) with fondness. Individuals who were interviewed recalled such momentous local events as moving the schoolhouse, lighting the volcano, and initiating newcomers to the town. The local stories and characters are given life through the detailed descriptions provided by the chroniclers from Silver Peak.



Leon Hill loading ore into Jimmy Morris's two-ton Ford truck at the Mary Mine. (Photograph courtesy of Leon Hill.)

Project Documenting Sagebrush Rebellion Continues

by Susan Imswiler

Work continues on interviews with participants in Nevada's Sagebrush Rebellion and those affected by it. While the first round of interviews focused on individuals involved in the 1979-1980 legislative attempts to obtain state control of federal lands, many of the recent interviews have been with participants in the Jarbidge Road controversy and more recent phases of the movement. Gloria Flora, former Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest supervisor, and her nemesis, former U.S. Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage (R-Idaho), discussed the issues and actions surrounding the determination of Elko County commissioners to rebuild the washed-out Jarbidge Road.

Differences emerged within the ranks of the protesters themselves. While Marla Griswold simply wanted that particular road open so that she could continue to enjoy camping in a favorite location, fellow Jarbidge Shovel

Brigade Corporation member Elwood Mose saw in the controversy a larger issue of the federal government's historic failure to keep its word, a point he argues dates back to an 1863 treaty between the United States and the Western Shoshone.

Many consider rancher Wayne Hage to be the ultimate Sagebrush Rebel, but ironically, in his interviews, Hage adamantly argues that the entire Sagebrush Rebellion is based on faulty understandings of "public" and "federal" lands, and, as such, is invalid. Various other points of view were articulated by Susan Tixier of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, geologist Bill Kohlmoos, and former head of the Nevada Mining Association, Bob Warren, who testified before the Nevada legislature during the 1979 hearings on AB 413, the Sagebrush Rebellion bill.

While I have been interviewing the above chroniclers, the UNOHP's director, Tom King, has been conducting interviews with Jim Nelson and Guy Pence.

These men came in contact with the Sagebrush Rebellion through their roles in federal land management.

Jim Nelson became the forest supervisor for Toiyabe National Forest in 1982 and was in that position during a period when strong pressure was being put on the Forest Service to relax rules and regulations pertaining to use of federal lands by ranchers and miners. As supervisor, he hired Guy Pence as the Carson District ranger for the Toiyabe National Forest, as Pence had been successful in handling a tense situation for the Forest Service in the Tonopah area.

During their time on the Toiyabe, both men received anonymous threats, and in 1995, both Pence's office and his van (which was parked outside his home) were bombed. No one was ever charged in connection with those incidents. Pence has since transferred to the Boise National Forest in Idaho, while Nelson retired from the Forest Service in 1998.

Denton (continued from front page)

often extreme conservative tendencies, several of the Boys proved to be somewhat liberal, Denton chief among them. Denton was also outspoken and uncompromising in his beliefs, and his idealism would lead to narrow defeats in two Congressional campaigns.

Although Ralph Denton couldn't get himself elected (except for one term as DA of Esmeralda County), he was a whiz at helping others. He was the southern Nevada coordinator of Grant Sawyer's three campaigns for governor, and he was state coordinator for the presidential campaigns of John F. Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy, and Jerry Brown. Since 1954, Denton has had a successful law practice in Las Vegas, where he served an appointed term on the Clark County Commission in the 1960s, and his memoir includes fascinating stories that illustrate the interface of law, government, gaming interests, and the forces of development in Las Vegas.

The following discussion and excerpts detail some of Denton's first experiences with political patronage.

A McCarran Boy

Patrick A. McCarran represented Nevada in the U. S. Senate from 1933 until his death in 1954. During that time, he used the power of patronage to provide Capitol Hill jobs for a number of young men from the state, many of whom, under his sponsorship, went on to earn a law degree from Georgetown or George Washington University. In return for his help, McCarran expected political loyalty, and he got it. Known as "McCarran's Boys," most of the young lawyers returned to Nevada, where they supported McCarran in his campaigns; some went on to become governor, congressman, or U. S. Senator themselves.

Ralph Denton was a McCarran Boy. In these edited excerpts from A Liberal Conscience, he remembers patronage jobs and Senator McCarran:

A lot of people were in Washington on patronage from senators' offices, and some had jobs slinging mail in the Senate Post Office. Those jobs were arranged for patronage people—you had half-shifts, so you had plenty of time to attend classes—but when I was slinging mail there, we had a couple of older guys that worked full time. They delivered registered mail, and one of them was

"selling numbers" in the Senate office building—taking bets on horses! Who was buying? [laughter]

Patronage came and went with changes in political fortune. When the Republicans became the majority with the election of 1946, the morning they took office, every elevator boy, doorman, post office employee. . . every one of them got a pink slip! Well, to the victors belong the spoils. That's the way it worked, and, in 1949, when the Democrats regained the majority, all the fellows came back to work.

* * *

Joseph E. Duke was the Senate's sergeant at arms. From time to time, I would act as receptionist in Mr. Duke's office. One of his jobs was to have plenty of whiskey on hand for senators who wanted a drink, and I got to know quite a few senators when I was fulfilling that responsibility. Any number of them would come in to have a drink, just visit—get off the floor away from everybody. Lots of senators were in there all the time, but McCarran was a loner, pretty much, and he rarely came in. . . neither did I ever see him behaving collegially with another senator or group of senators.

People who work on the Hill treat senators with a great deal of deference. They don't say much that's critical, and I rarely saw any open hostility toward McCarran. Many people respected him, but some were afraid of him—he was a strong, powerful senator. One night session, I was handling the phones, and senators were coming in off the floor, getting refills. Senator Dennis Chavez (Dem., N. M.) got drunk, so Mr. Duke asked me to get him off the Senate floor before the news people could discover his condition, maybe get pictures and a story. I get Chavez into the Senate car with a driver. We're taking him home. He's madder than hell at me, wants to know whose patronage I'm under. I say, "Senator McCarran."

He says, "That son-of-a-bitch! I can't stand McCarran. I liked Key Pittman—



Senator Patrick McCarran (Photograph courtesy of Ralph Denton.)

he was a hell of a guy. [Pittman and McCarran were enemies.] As a matter of fact, I was on the Senate committee to attend Pittman's funeral, but I set out from Albuquerque, got to Tonopah, checked into the Mizpah Hotel, got drunk, and never made it to Reno." [laughter]

* * *

In the main chamber of the Senate, McCarran's seat was on the front row—he had that much seniority. Although it didn't appear that he had any good friends among his colleagues, he had a great sense of humor. One time after a vote on something, Senator Tom Connally came by and said, "Hey, Pat, I thought when you were bought, you stayed bought!" McCarran just laughed, and Connally waddled on out to the cloakroom.

He liked to laugh at his own stories. I remember him telling stories at a picnic in Nevada in the early 1950s—he was sitting on the grass with his back up against a tree, all of us "McCarran Boys" sitting in front of him, and he was reminiscing about the old days in Tonopah and Goldfield, the labor strife and the union. He'd tell a story, and he'd laugh. And he was a practical joker. Joe McDonald told about the 1950 campaign: They were staying at the Thunderbird, and McCarran went to bed earlier than the others. The rest of the guys were out carousing, and when they came back, they found that McCarran had short-sheeted all their beds. . . done it himself!

* * *

In 1954, McCarran was thinking forward to the election of 1956. Where was his



“McCarran’s Boys” gave a testimonial dinner for Senator McCarran at the Riverside Hotel in Reno, September 1952. Ralph Denton is in the front row, far left; Senator McCarran is in the front row, center. (Photograph courtesy of Ralph Denton.)

vulnerability? The Democratic primary. Where was he vulnerable in the party? Clark County. He recognized that, and he felt betrayed. Newcomers to the county didn’t seem to appreciate him, but no one should doubt his effectiveness in producing things for Clark County. You look at Nellis Air Force Base, the airport, and all that McCarran did for this part of Nevada. . . .

Melton (continued from front page)

in his profession. After a hitch in the army following college, he began his journalism career as a sportswriter for the *Reno Evening Gazette* in 1957. By 1966, he was the publisher of the *Gazette* and its sister paper, the *Nevada State Journal*. He quickly went on to become president of Speidel Newspapers, and then, when Speidel was purchased by Gannett, a V. P. and board member of the parent corporation. After resigning his Gannett vice-presidency in 1979, Melton returned home to Reno and began writing a thrice-weekly local interest column for the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. The last of his popular columns appeared the day of his death.

Rollan Melton was a great supporter of the Oral History Program. He saw value in state and local history and in capturing the stories of those whose lives generally go un-

When he died, he was touring the state with the entire Democratic ticket, speaking on behalf of some candidates whom he did not feel should be in the high offices they were seeking. That included Vail Pittman, running for governor. McCarran told me at one of our discussions in Elko that he was going to make this last attempt to be with the

recorded in print. Through a generous gift to the program in 1979, and by frequently writing about its work in his column, he did much to ensure its success. He also helped advance the program’s work in the 1990s by backing a series of grant proposals to the John Ben Snow Trust (he was on its board)—Snow grants helped make possible the program’s video documentaries, *Rabbit Boss* and *Tah Gum*, and other important research on the history of Nevada’s Washoe Indians; publication of our books, *War Stories*, *Fighting Back*, and *A Liberal Conscience*; Brad Lucas’s study of the 1970 Governor’s Day incident and its consequences; and work on the social history of mining communities in Nevada. In 1999, we were privileged to publish Melton’s memoir, *Sonny’s Story*.

It is unlikely that the Oral History Program shall ever have another friend so kind,

party, but if the party still was going to oppose him, he would consider doing what Senator George Norris of Nebraska had done and run as an independent. Of course, he dropped dead while he was making his speech from the party platform in Hawthorne on September 28, 1954.

When McCarran died, I felt a personal loss. I remember thinking, “What happens now?” McCarran’s death had the effect of snapping the connection between his Boys. While the senator was alive, we were all unified in whatever political activities any of us went into or did. Although most of us remained friends through the years, that unity didn’t survive his death, because he was what tied us together politically.

thoughtful, generous, and supportive as Rollan Melton. All who work here were very fond of him. We will miss him very much.

Tom King

Program’s Founder Remembers Melton

Rollan Melton was the Oral History Program’s first real benefactor. One day he called, asking for the head of the program. When I answered, he said he’d like to interview me for the column that he wrote regularly for the (then) *Reno Evening Gazette*. In about thirty minutes, I told him what the program did and about some of my aspirations for it. When we finished, he thanked me and then said, “Marilyn and I are going to give the program. . . .” He mentioned what seemed like a huge sum. It was a huge sum for a program that had only a skeleton staff and strained budget. In a few days, he called again to tell me that he had convinced one of the Gannett executives to give money as well. That was genuinely the start of what the Oral History Program has been able to accomplish. I’ll never stop being grateful.

Mary Ellen Glass

Supporters of UNOHP

Within the last year, the following individuals or organizations have made donations in support of the UNOHP’s mission. We thank them for their assistance and encouragement.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Ken Adams | Victoria Ford | Dan Orlich |
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| Bob Faiss | Nevada Women’s Fund | The Westerners |

Oral History Underway with Pete Cladianos Jr.

by Dwayne Kling

A segment of the UNOHP's gaming history project—the story of the Cladianos family, which built and operated the Sands Regency Hotel-Casino in Reno—is in its final stages of production. This oral history is not limited to the gambling history of Reno or even of the Sands Regency. It is also a family history (with a few Greek recipes included) and a history of early Reno. The story begins when a Greek immigrant, Pete Cladianos Sr., arrives in Nevada in 1913 and begins to lay the groundwork for what will one day become a gaming empire. The story continues as his sons, daughter, and grandchildren follow in his footsteps to keep the family business growing.

The chronicler of this oral history is Pete Cladianos Jr., who was born in Reno in 1930. He tells how his father



Pete Cladianos Sr. (left) and Pete Cladianos Jr. in 1943, when Pete Jr. was fourteen. (Photograph courtesy of Pete Cladianos Jr.)

and uncle came to the United States and why they eventually settled in Reno. Their first business was a produce stand on Commercial Row near the railroad station, and it became the building block for the family business.

Cladianos discusses growing up in Reno and recalls the various restaurants, movie theaters, and businesses that were flourishing when he was a young boy in the 1930s. This segment will be especially intriguing to those readers interested in Reno's history prior to World War II. He also describes his high school days, his teachers and friends, and his encounters with the local police department.

Also detailed are Cladianos's days at the University of Nevada and the difficult times he had before finally graduating and entering the military during the Korean Conflict. His service was an embarrassing time for both Pete and his family, but he does not refrain from relating his actions.

Pete Cladianos Sr. got into the gambling business in 1932 when he purchased five slot machines and founded what was to become one of the largest slot routes in Nevada. The family then entered the lodging business as owners and operators of the El Rancho motels on South Virginia Street and on East Fourth Street, and in 1965 they purchased the seventy-nine-unit Sands motel on Arlington Avenue. In 1970, after adding an additional twenty-four rooms and battling with the City Council over the "Red Line Law" (which restricted casinos to a core area of downtown), Pete Cladianos Jr. obtained an unlimited gaming license at the Sands, making it the first full casino to be opened north of the railroad tracks.

The rest of the story is concerned with the continual expansion of the Sands



A hot-air balloon sponsored by the Sands-Regency Hotel-Casino. (Photograph courtesy of Pete Cladianos Jr.)

Regency, the company's going public in 1985, and the mistakes that were made during a trial-and-error period that eventually led to a successful operation. Cladianos's account details the many things that were done wrong during the expansion years, including the biggest mistake, the Sands Regency's Mississippi operation. Massive problems in that venture nearly brought about the collapse of the entire corporation.

A recurring theme throughout Cladianos's interview is that his father was the person who led the family through the good and bad times. He was always there in the early years to make the decisions, and in the later years he was there to give advice and counsel. Cladianos said, "One of my father's strictest rules was never to have a partner. When we got into gambling in Mississippi, we broke that rule, and it almost proved to be our undoing." The Sands Regency eventually sold its holdings in Mississippi, and its operations are currently limited to the Reno area.

This oral history, by providing the history of a man, a family, and a city, illustrates the opportunities presented by the gaming industry in its early years, and it shows what hard work and dedication could accomplish. Scheduled to go to print in the summer of 2002, it will be a valuable addition to the UNOHP's gaming history series.

New Friends

Over the past year, the following individuals have joined the Friends of the UNOHP. We appreciate their interest in oral history and their support for our program.

Sherry Darling
Joe Dini
Don Dondero
Michael Green
John Gomes
John Hanifan

With the beginning of the new year, now is also a good time to renew your membership. To join the Friends or to renew, please see the back page of the newsletter for information.

New Research Volumes Released

A number of new, oral history research volumes have been completed since the last newsletter. The stories of twenty-one chroniclers are presented in the following four volumes:

Japanese-Americans: Generations in Nevada (174 pages)

Based on oral histories conducted by Noriko Kunitomi and edited by Kathleen Coles, this set of interviews explores the experiences of Japanese-American families in northern Nevada. Chroniclers include: Fred Aoyama, Mary Date, Buddy Fujii, Henry Hattori, Roy Nishiguchi, George Oshima, and Ida Fukui Weiss.

Dwayne Kling: Luck is the Residue of Design (324 pages)

In interviews with Ken Adams, Dwayne Kling discusses his career in the gaming industry. He details his observations of the casinos, from his early days as a semi-

professional baseball player for Harrah's Club through his rise into gaming management.

Charlotte Hunter Arley (146 pages)

Born in 1912 and granted a law degree in 1932, Charlotte Hunter Arley entered the legal profession in an era when there were still very few female lawyers. Speaking with Victoria Ford, she discusses her experiences with the law and the Reno legal scene. (Volume edited by Kathleen Coles.)

Midas, Nevada: Mining, Milling, and Memories (280 pages)

Midas is a small mining town in the northern part of Nevada. In these interviews with Dana Bennett and Victoria Ford, residents describe life in their community. Chroniclers include: Dan Bennett, Bishop and Lorlene Ferguson, Phil Gemill, Gaynell and Joe Keller, Jack and Noreen Murdock, Edna Wilkerson Timmons, Gordon Warren, Byron Wilkerson, and Desda Warren Wood.

UNOHP Web Site Additions

A number of exciting features have been added to the UNOHP's Web site in the past year. Perhaps most important is the fact that the complete index to the UNOHP's collection is now online, making it accessible to anyone with an Internet connection. The UNOHP's master index is presented in two parts. Volume 1 covers the years from 1965 to 1986, while Volume 2 (previously Volumes 2 and 3 in print form) spans the years from 1986 to the present. Volume 1 existed only in hard copy previously and was readied in an electronic format through the hard work of Linda Sommer and Kathryn Wright-Ross. The two indexes will be compiled into one at some time in the near future, but in the meantime, it was thought that having the indexes available online—even if it were in the form of two separate volumes—would be of use.

The online availability of the index means that those interested in the

program's oral histories will no longer have to travel to libraries holding hard copies of the index in order to do much of their initial research. They can view the index via the Web and can identify specific pages and oral histories that would be of interest to them. Once they have done this, they can call the UNOHP to order copies of those pages for a minimal fee. It is hoped that having the index online will be particularly helpful to individuals living outside the Reno, Carson City, and Las Vegas areas. To access the index, computer users should point their browsers to <http://www.unr.edu/artsci/oralhist/ohweb/indexes.htm>.

Another new feature on the Web site is a detailed finding aid to one of the UNOHP's recent collections. For a project sponsored in part by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, UNOHP associate Meredith Rucks interviewed a number of ethnographers who worked with Washoe Indians between the 1930s

and the 1970s. Researchers who participated in the effort include the late James Downs, Stanley Freed, Donald Handelman, William H. Jacobsen Jr., Philip Leis, Peter Miller, Brooke Mordy, Norman Scotch, the late Edgar Siskin, Anita Spring, and Betty Reveley Wendt. Kathleen Coles compiled abstracts of each of the eighty-four tapes that make up this collection, and those abstracts, together with other information on the project, can be viewed at <http://www.unr.edu/artsci/oralhist/ohweb/w-g1.htm>.

Other additions to the site include the UNOHP's first online transcripts (from a project on Nevada rodeo) and a listing of upcoming book signings (when such events are scheduled). Updated UNOHP news items are also posted on a regular basis, so please visit the site often. To go to the UNOHP's home page, visit <http://www.unr.edu/artsci/oralhist/ohweb/oralhist.htm>.

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