

# Carson City Historical Society

1207 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV

Mailing address: 112 North Curry, Carson City, NV 89703

**June 2021**

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## Upcoming events:

- Exhibit "Notable Women of Eagle Valley" June 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month until October. (Page 3)
- Zoom Lecture by Robin Holabird June 17, 7:30 p.m. (page 2)
- Picnic, Chautauqua, June 27, reservations required. (page 1)

## PICNIC, CHAUTAUQUA, AND BUSINESS MEETING



*Kim Harris*

*Portraying*

*Laura Fair*

**Sunday, June 27 from 1 to 4 p.m.**

**\$15.00 per person --**

Reservations call Paula at (775) 887-8865, or

Noni (908) 415-4820

### **ONLY 25 PICNIC SPACES AVAILABLE**

Picnic Includes:

- Box lunch from KFC in the park
- Water
- Chautauqua by Kim Harris as "Laura Fair" in the Carriage House
- Business meeting, 50/50 raffle

## **Laura D. Fair: Fatal Mistress**

Four times married, twice widowed and twice divorced all by the age of 33, beautiful Laura D. Fair was the first woman in California sentenced to hang for the murder of her lover, Alexander Parker Crittenden, in November of 1870. Arriving in Virginia City, Nevada Territory in 1863, she ran the newly built "Tahoe House" as an upscale boarding house where she met successful San Francisco attorney A. P. Crittenden. Laura dreamt of wealth, but was never afraid to work for it... or to marry into it. She will share with you her seven-year affair with Crittenden and her journey of emotional ups and downs ending in his murder, for which she was eventually acquitted.

## **Kim Harris: Bio**

Kim Harris is an accomplished Chautauquan who has portrayed living history characters at various venues including Genoa Cowboy Festival, Piper's Opera House, the Gold Hill Hotel and The Lake Tahoe Chautauqua Festival.

Harris currently serves as owner/operator of Western History ALIVE!, where she portrays several Chautauqua characters that helped to shape Northern California, Nevada and the early days of the West. Characters she portrays include Libbie Bacon Custer, Calamity Jane and Lizzie Borden.

Harris was born and raised at Donner Lake, CA, growing up immersed in the history of our West. She enjoys not only sharing what she has learned about our history, but continuously learning from those that have lived it themselves.

## **ZOOM LECTURE, Robin Holabird June 17, 2021, 7:30 pm**

Robin Holabird's Lecture on "The Silver State on the Silver Screen"  
Thursday, June 17, 2021

Robin Holabird will present a lecture on "The Silver State on the Silver Screen" on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Ms. Holabird is a well-known Nevada film critic.



Author, film expert and world traveler Robin Holabird writes regularly about films and their locations, with her weekly program airing on Reno's NPR affiliate KUNR at 88.7 FM every Friday. She also provides film commentary for KOH. Her newest book *Around the World in 80 Movies*, published by Ice Cube Press, shows the link between films and travel destinations. Her first book, *Elvis, Marilyn and the Space Aliens*, explores how movies and television programs affect Nevada's public image. Both books reflect Holabird's longtime experience as a film commissioner for the state of Nevada, where she worked with Clint Eastwood, Taylor Hackford, PT Anderson, and other directors on such projects as *Love Ranch*, *Sister Act*, and *CSI*. She honed writing skills with a degree in Journalism from Humboldt State University and reporting stints at KOLO, the *Sparks Tribune* and other media outlets. She earned certification and a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Nevada, Reno. An outdoor enthusiast who loves photographing locations throughout the world, Robin is a regular hiker and runner who finished the Boston Marathon six times.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For information about attending, send an email to [Dcbugli@aol.com](mailto:Dcbugli@aol.com) or contact David Bugli at 775-883-4154 and he will provide you with a meeting link (or a meeting ID with passcode).

Photo: Robin Holabird, Nevada film critic and author

### **Upcoming zoom lectures:**

- 6/17/21 – Robin Holabird, "The Silver State on the Silver Screen"
- 7/15/21 – CW Bayer - "The Strychnine Banjo"
- 9/16/21 - Samantha Szesciorka - "Long Riding"

### **Donate Through AmazonSmile**

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as your nonprofit, and you're all set! A percentage of your purchases automatically comes back to help fund CCHS. Every little bit helps. Because of the COVID pandemic we have not been able to do fundraisers and have not had income other than dues. I would like to thank our Treasurer Kiyoshi Nishikawa for setting up AmazonSmile for us.

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CCHS Picnic, June 27

## CARRIAGE HOUSE EVENTS

**\*Our exhibit, “Notable Women of Eagle Valley” is now open the first Saturday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Carriage House. Next date is Saturday, June 5, 2021.**

Our exhibits chairperson Kat Long and Andrea Hobbs have been working on this display for many months along with many local artists. Each month one of the women in the exhibit will be featured in the newsletter. This month it is Hazel Hohn.



**Hazel Hohn, Female Aviator**  
*“I met Amelia Earhart... and knew I wanted to fly.”*

“Put the WASPs on It”

Hazel Hohn



*Hazel Hohn was born in Brooklyn, New York to parents who divorced when she was a baby. Her grandmother, who often cut out newspaper pictures about flying, was a strong influence in her life. Her step-father also loved flying and would take her to the Newark, New Jersey airport to watch the planes take off. In eighth grade, her fate was sealed.*

**T**HE TWO WOMEN PILOTS I was aware of as a child were Amelia Earhart and Anne Lindbergh, and both of them had rich husbands. When I'd see them in photos at the end of a flight with great big flying clothes on, they always looked sort of haggard. I thought you had to be masculine and have a lot of money to be a women pilot! [laughter] Then when I was around twelve years old, I met Amelia Earhart at a junior high school program, and from then on, that was it. I wanted to fly.

As opposed to what we saw in the newspapers, Amelia Earhart was very feminine, and that made me think flying was something I could do. She was also very modest. They passed her during the introduction, and the whole time she kept her head in her hands and looked down. She described the beauty and poetry and adventure of flight, while telling us her experiences. After her talk, we ran out after her, and she told us about her plans for a flight around the world. That would become her last flight. We asked for her autograph; and she said if we would cut a picture of her out of the paper and send it to her, she would autograph it and send it back. Well, before I could do that, she was gone, but now I had a role model.

Hazel Majorie Stamper Hohn was born October 13, 1922, and passed away January 15, 2002 at the age of 79.

When she was five she became interested in flying. By age eleven she had met Amelia Earhart, and her interest in flying blossomed.

Her father insisted she take secretarial courses following her graduation in 1939 from Lincoln

High School in Jersey City. However, she purposely failed many of her courses. She worked while taking flying lessons at Newark Airport and Lambros Seaplane Base.

After reading a story in *Look* magazine about the Piper Aircraft plan in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, she applied for an aircraft welder job and received her welder's license. Her first experience was with a group of women ferry pilots, WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron). She was forced to wait until her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday before she could train with the Women's Flight Training Detachment.

There were just over a thousand highly trained female aviators known as WASPs. They took on stateside flight duties for the military in order to free up male pilots for combat. Hazel Hohn joined the WASPs at the age of 21. Her first job was with the ferrying command, flying bombers and fighter planes straight from the factory to sites across the country, and she tested newly repaired military aircraft.

She married Walter Kuik and had two sons, then divorced and married Werner Hohn and had two daughters.

Hazel lived in Carson City, Nevada, from 1959 to 1992. She had to fight for the GI Bill and eventually graduated from Western Nevada Community College. Thirty-five years later she received the medals she had won in the war.

She remained active with Experimental Aircraft Association, Ninety Nines, Aviation Writers group and the Reno Air Races. (This information is from Hazel's oral history that is available on-line at

<https://archive.org/details/WWIIVeteransProject/page/n133/mode/2up>

### 2021 Officers:

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