

# Carson City Historical Society



The Foreman-Roberts House is located at  
1207 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701.  
Carson City Historical Society

**Mailing Address —**

**112 North Curry Street,  
Carson City, NV 89703**

*Funded in part by the  
Carson City Cultural Commission.*

***Please double-check on Page 4 that your 2022 dues have been paid —  
We don't want you to miss out on our membership-only special!***

## **Newsletter for October 2022**

*By Sue Ballew and Noni Hayes*



### **Autumn Shout-Out!!**

We have an awesome calendar of events planned in the next few months - unique to anything else in Carson City. One of the key elements hopefully will be identifying and featuring residents and business leaders right here who shaped our town—they are living history and deserve the podium. We envision a Sunday afternoon series of no-cost presentations, each highlighting someone who was instrumental in the development of Carson City and who can give us first-hand info on how it all came about. Your suggestions on potential

speakers are most welcome. Some re-scheduled events will also feature Jan Loverin from the Majorie Russell Textile Museum in January, and a walking tour guided by Ron Roberts to the Governor's Mansion this Spring. We are in the detail phase of offering our Christmas party at the Carriage House from 1 to 3 p.m. on December 4, which will feature jazz band holiday music, Chautauqua entertainment by Dr. Michael Fischer, and a catered luncheon. Hope to see you at one of our fabulous events.



## Adele's Dollhouse Debut

*Scheduled for November Reveal--*We all have memories of delicious dining and special events at Adele's Restaurant in Carson City. Unfortunately, following a destructive fire, the building was eventually razed to make room for an expanded gas station. The Carson City Historical Society has been gifted with a replica of that building in the form of a dollhouse, generously donated by Diane Bertrum from Washington State, along with a notarized transfer of ownership. Now restored and finished, the house is ready for its welcome mat. *We will host an open "house" for members only on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Carriage House. The public is invited on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.* There will be a cash bar from the Royal Peacock Traveling Cocktail Coach

both days. Please call Paula to make reservations (775) 887-8865.

Diane Bertrum, the donor worked at Porter's Music Box, later renamed Adele's, in her teenage years and met her husband there. He had a replica made for her from the 1870 blueprints, but it wasn't quite finished and remained in the box for almost 50 years. The basic mansard house was done, but the painting and finishing touches had not been completed. The Society is having the paint and finishing bric-a-brac put on by Jim DeMagistris and his staff. For a history of the house, see page 5.

## Sutro Tunnel Vision Accompanied by Local Folks

A presentation of the Sutro Tunnel and its ongoing restoration was presented Sept. 25 at the Carriage House by Chris Pattison, Project Manager of the Friends of Sutro Tunnel, an organization working to return the site back to being as historically accurate as possible. Chris is also a board member of the Carson City Historical Society. Almost 30 people attended the program and got the extraordinary chance to also hear personal accounts from two people who lived on and near the Sutro Tunnel site.

The first special speaker was Lola Gordon from Reno, whose uncle ranched in the Sutro area and was very familiar with the land. She brought unique photographs of the buildings and property. Mrs. Gordon is also a member of the Teddy Bear Club of Reno and Carson City. Also attending the presentation were five members of the Teddy Bear Club, a social organization of aficionados and collectors of teddy bears.

The second presenter was Loretta Williams, Society member, who lived in one of the houses on the Sutro tract. She shared memories of the events, celebrations, and good times that happened there.

Listening to first-hand accounts brought the Sutro site and its history to a fresh reality and accessibility.

Chris reported that the purpose of restoring the tunnel was to create a place that people can visit and understand the effort which went into its original construction. In 1860 Adolph Sutro was a Prussian mining entrepreneur who proposed a drainage tunnel to allow access to deeper mineral exploration in the Comstock. The main tunnel connected to the Savage Mine in 1878, and water started being released in 1879. The tunnel is 3.88 miles long, connected to the Comstock Lode. It begins in Dayton and proceeds to the Savage Mine in Virginia City. Below, Chris Pattison, talks about the Sutro Tunnel.



Figure 1: Chris Pattison, project manager at Sutro, talks about restoration of the site.



Figure 2: Lola Gordon talks about ranch life near the Sutro Tunnel.

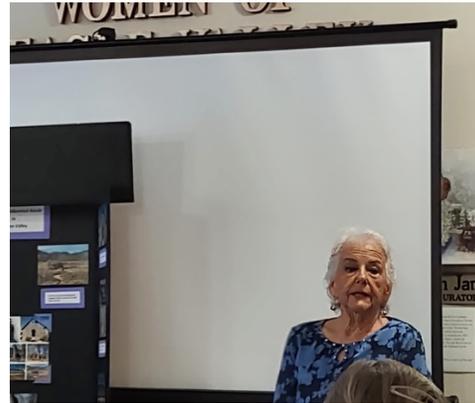


Figure 3: Loretta Williams discusses what life was like living in a house at Sutro

## **Please help just once?**

We really need some extra hands for our exciting and worthwhile ventures.

--**Just one** Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the *Foreman-Roberts House*. We are open every Sunday all year.

--**Just one** event November 5 and 6 from 1 to 3, for the unveiling of Adele's dollhouse.

***If you can lend your kind support, please contact Donna McLaren at [Dmclaren789@gmail.com](mailto:Dmclaren789@gmail.com).***

AS ALWAYS, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE.

## **Ongoing events:**

### The Foreman-Roberts House

- \* The Foreman-Roberts House and Carriage House are open every Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Carriage House is open from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays

- \* Notable Women of Eagle Valley
- \* Northern Nevada Children's Home
- \* Hats of the '30s and '40s—on loan from Jo Saulisberry

## Downtown:

- \* Nevada Day, The Vintage Market will be open, Saturday, October 29 (parade day). Come and meet Carson City Historical Society members and share some history. Call (775) 400-1166 for more information.

## **New events—please mark your calendars**

### November

- \* Open to members. Arrival of Adele's Dollhouse, November 5, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Cash bar.
- \* Open to the public. November 6, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Both will have a Cash Bar, "The Royal Peacock Traveling Cocktail Coach."
- \* November 14, 4:30 p.m. CCHS Board meeting, Carriage House

### December

- \* Sunday, December 4, Christmas party, Carriage House, Jazz band holiday music and Chautauqua by Dr. Michael Fischer. Light luncheon. Cost TBA. Time 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Brief meeting and election of officers.
- \* Saturday, December 10, Christmas Tour of Victorian Houses in Carson City, 8 locations. Cost and times TBA.
- \* Board Meeting, Monday, December 12, 4:30 p.m.

## Next year 2023

- \* Monthly Historic Lectures at the Carriage House, free and open to the public. Dates and speakers TBA.
- \* Classes—painting, genealogy, line dance, etc. Carriage House. Cost and time TBA.
- \* April 2023--Mark Twain Days Festival, Carson City Historical Society sponsoring “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” games at the Legislative square. Date and time TBA.
- \* May 2023--Part 2 and 3 of “If Gowns Could Talk”--Time and date TBA

**MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES. THANK YOU! IF YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST AND YOU HAVE PAID, PLEASE CALL ME. SUE (775) 220-6278.**

**Paid Members: Sue and Gary Ballew, Sandra Bell, Joe and Michelle Bennett, Diane Grayson Bertram, Jed Block, Cindy and Steve Brenemen, David and Elinor Bugli, John and Bonnie Bullis, Paula Cannon, Barbara Cavanagh, Adam Cohen, Kathleen and Robert Colley, Shannon Cord, Mary and Angelo DeFelice, Noelle and Jay Dienken, Jenny Dodds, Jan Doescher, Stephen Drews, Karen and Rick Dustman, Guy Farmer, Kit Farwell, Francis Fields, Michael and Janet Fischer, *Laura Fusion*, Harvey and Terri Edwards, Julie Grady, Tom and Sherry Grundy, Ronni Hannaman, Francisca Hansen, Kim Harris, Noni and Larry Hayes, Martha Keating, John and Pat King, Travis Legatzke, Colleen Lyons, Rob McFadden, Donna McLaren, Lisa Meyer, Jeanette Miller, Monica Moriarty, Paula Morton/Kristen Weisenborn,**

**Helen Allen Nerska, Bonnie and Kiyoshi Nishikawa, Debbe Nye, Anne Lee Oakes, D. D. Spencer, Dr. Ernie Rambo, Bruce and Lynn Scott, Jennifer and Greg Stedfield, Chris Pattison, Emily Paul, Carole Payne, Paula Peters, Jeannelle Pevey, Trent Pitsenbarger, Bob Quinn, Julie Rodolph, Ron and Thelma Roberts, Jo Saulisbury, Doug Sonneman, Nina Spradlin, Helen Stecker, Hope Sullivan, Gail and Jim Sutton, Rita Tessaro, Ralph Thomas, Matt and Teola Tremayne, Rebecca Van Sickle, Loretta Williams, and Pam Abercrombie**



Cleaning our closets  
**FOR SALE**



*We are offering vintage items for sale, some of which remained after the recent Silent Auction. These items are for sale. If you are interested, you can see them first-hand at the Foreman-Robert's House on Sunday afternoon from 1-3 pm. Payment by check or cash, please.*

- \*Crystal Punchbowl Lamp. One of a kind. Fashioned from Victorian-inspired punch bowls. \$55.00.
- \*Walnut bookcase. 5-tier with decorative borders. \$75.00.
- \*Oak rocking chair. Complete with comforter. \$75.00.
- \*Black iron bird cages and seed cups, dating from the thirties. Small cage is \$50.00. Larger is \$70.00. Both stand over five feet tall.
- \*Haviland Fine China set. 20 pieces made in Bavaria, Germany in the “Forever Spring” floral pattern. \$75.
- Brown faux-fur ¾-length coat. Label is by White Bear of St. Paul, MN. \$35.00



The following companies and businesses have generously provided discounts or donations to support the historical enrichment for the

residents of Carson City. We gratefully thank them for their valuable support.



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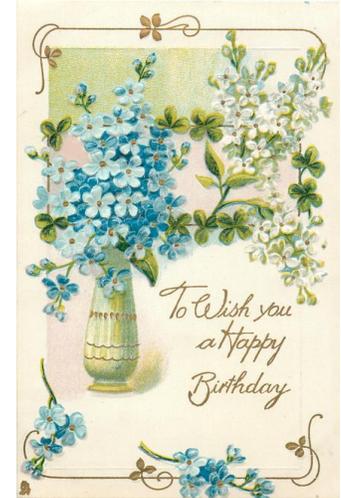
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On November 10<sup>th</sup>—  
Happy 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday

Thelma Roberts

If you would like to send her a birthday card, her address is: Ms. Thelma Roberts, 507 Oxford Ct., Carson City, NV. 89703



## Brief History of Adele's and the Adele's Doll House

By Sue Ballew



On May 29, 1874, an article appeared in, The Daily Appeal: “A dwelling is being built by Captain Porter of the V. & T. Fronts on North Carson Street. Of moderate size, but will be a handsome house. Has a French or Mansard roof—the first of the kind in Carson. Will be a decided ornament to the north end. Should like to see more of the same kind going up.”

It has a mansard roof and dormer windows typical of a Victorian building style, also called “Second Empire.”

In 1880 the home became the property of Benjamin F. Slater who worked in the V. & T. shops.

In March 1884 Judge Michael Augustus Murphy owned the house. He was a native of Aurora and received his education in Carson City schools and the University of Nevada. He was a judge, attorney and land owner. When he died in 1909, his son Frank Murphy, one of the five children, continued to live in the home until the 1920's. Frank worked for the Virginia and Truckee Railroad as a baggage handler.

It was purchased by Bill Porter in 1958 and became home to “Porter's Music Box,” a bar and antique shop. “Before they opened

their handsome old Victorian house on Carson Street as a decorous and dignified bar and place of entertainment, Porter and his wife knew they were taking a gamble, but after a year Porter's had become a good place to spend a pleasant evening," according to the Journal reporter. He combined antiques and top-drawer professional "live" music. Originally, the red and white Victorian house was run as an antique shop. Bill Porter decided it was time to retire in 1977.

In 1978 it was purchased by the Abowds, and the name was changed to Adele's when restoration and renovation was done.

In April 2020, the beloved and popular Adele's was closed after a fire. Adele's restaurant was a mainstay in Carson City—a place where wonderful memories were made. After the fire the house and property were purchased by a gas station company. Efforts were made to move the structure, but there was a tight timeline and there wasn't enough money donated to pay to move it to another location. It was a historical landmark on Carson Street and was replaced with a gas station and parking lot.

Last year the Society got an email regarding a dollhouse that was made to replicate "The Music Box" or "Adele's." The replica was made from the original 1870 home blueprints. The name of the donor is Diane Grayson Bertrum, who lives in Washington State. She worked in "Porter's Music Box" (Adele's) when she was in high school and met her husband there. He had a replica of the dollhouse made for her. When I talked to her it had been in the original box for almost 50 years.



*Pictured are Sue Ballew, Diane Bertrum, David Bugli and part of the doll house.*

In light of losing the historic Adele's she decided to donate the dollhouse to the Carson City Historical Society. She drove it from Washington State in the back of her car to Carson City. It came with the basic mansard house partially done, but the bric-a-brac, painting and finishing touches had not been completed. Diane said, "I wanted to bring the house home (to Carson) where it belongs." The Society is having Jim DeMagistris, of Woodworking Specialties, complete the final "Adele's." The project will be done in late October and will be on display in the Carriage House, 1207 North Carson, Carson City, Nevada, for the open house, where it will be on permanent display.

- On Saturday, November 5, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., we will be having an open house for our members only. It is a no cost event. There will be a cash bar.
- On Sunday, November 6, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., it will be open for the public. This is a no cost event. We hope to hear stories about the old day