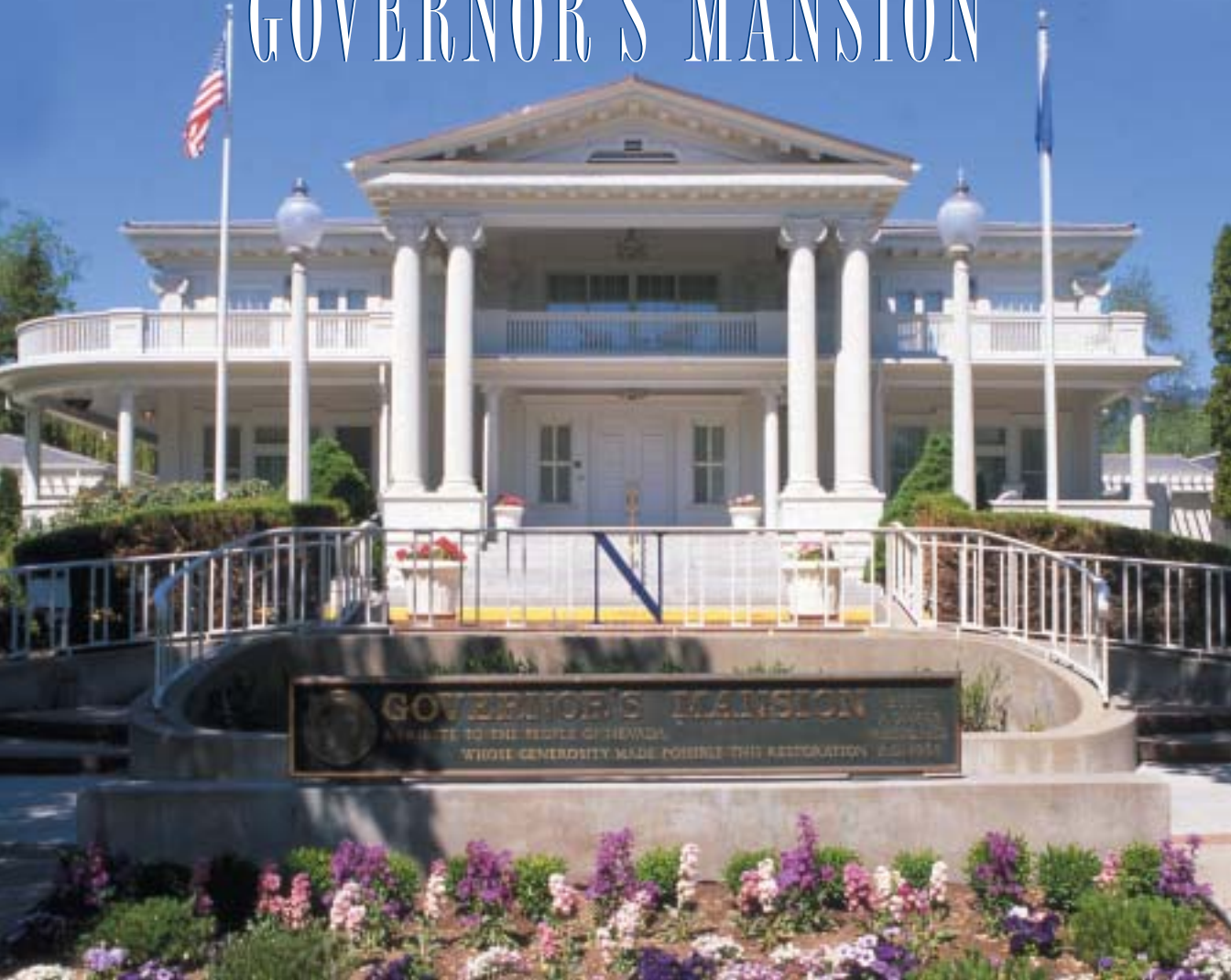


STATE OF NEVADA

THE HISTORICAL

GOVERNOR'S MANSION



GOVERNOR'S MANSION
A GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF NEVADA
WHOSE GENEROSITY MADE POSSIBLE THIS RESTORATION 1981

“Oh, it’s wonderful. I love living here. I love the house. It’s a wonderful experience. I wish everyone could experience it because the mansion does belong to the people of Nevada.”

— First Lady Dema Guinn



The Entrance



Governor Sparks



Backyard



Nevada Room



Governor Jones, first lady Elizabeth, and family



Breakfast Room



GOVERNOR'S MANSION

A GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF NEVADA

CARSON CITY, NEVADA

THOSE GENEROSITY MADE POSSIBLE THIS RESTORATION THROUGH



Credits

Published by First Lady Dema Guinn, the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Nevada Magazine, and the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs.

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Special thanks to the Nevada Mining Association for printing donations.
Source: *Nevada's Governors* by Myrtle Tate Myles

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A Word from the Governor & First Lady

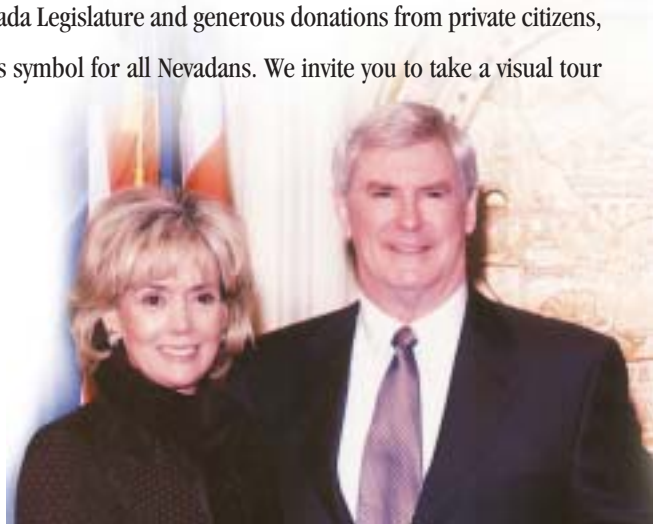
Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our home, which has also been the home of 17 past governors, first ladies, and their families and pets. Nevada's historic Governor's Mansion is truly a national treasure. Built in 1909, the mansion has hosted tens of thousands of Nevadans and other visitors, including Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. We take seriously our responsibility as the caretakers of the mansion and understand the special place that it holds in the hearts of Nevadans. That's why it has been particularly gratifying to be part of the recent restoration of the mansion. With the support of the Nevada Legislature and generous donations from private citizens, more than \$5 million was committed to preserving this symbol for all Nevadans. We invite you to take a visual tour of the mansion, which we're proud to call home.

Sincerely,



Kenny and Dema Guinn





The Den



Entry from stairwell.



Backyard



The Kitchen



Formal Dining Room



Nevada Room



The Mansion's History



Nevada became a state in 1864, but it didn't provide an official residence for its governors until 1909. During the state's first four decades, the men elected to serve as Nevada's governors either rented or purchased homes during their terms in office.

One of the major reasons for the lengthy delay in building an official Governor's Mansion in Carson City was class politics. For instance, legislation introduced in 1879 to fund a governor's home was defeated because, wrote legislators, "Mansions for public officials, especially in Nevada, is founded upon a tendency toward aristocratic distinction."

In 1905, legislation to fund a residence for the state's governors was again introduced. This measure passed the State Assembly and the State Senate but was vetoed by Governor John Sparks, who said he believed that Nevada had more pressing financial needs than a mansion.

The Stairwell with the classic 56-inch cut crystal Maria Theresa chandelier.

Two years later, however, a new mansion bill appropriating \$40,000 for constructing and furnishing a mansion was approved by the Nevada Legislature. This time, Governor Sparks signed the legislation.

Construction was delayed in the months after the legislation was passed because initial bids were too high. Additionally, the Board of Capitol Commissioners, which oversaw the project, rejected the first architectural plans because they did not conform to specifications.

Following months of debate, revised plans by George Ferris and Co. of Reno were adopted by the commissioners, who also accepted a construction bid of \$22,700 from Friedhoff & Hoeffel and Company.

Construction of the two-story Southern Colonial mansion began in September 1908 and continued into the spring of 1909. In July, Acting Governor Denver S. Dickerson and his wife, Una, moved into the mansion, becoming its first residents. On September 2, 1909, Mrs. Dickerson gave birth to a daughter, June, the only child to have been born in the mansion.

The mansion was officially opened to the public on January 1, 1910. On that date, between the afternoon hours of one and five, several hundred people toured the house.

The Formal Dining Room with the Venetian glaze dining set.





That evening, 200 guests, including most of northern Nevada's politicians and society people, attended a special reception.

Since its completion in 1909, the Governor's Mansion has been home to 17 governors, their families, and their pets. In 1931, humorist Will Rogers attended a luncheon at the mansion while visiting his friend, Governor Fred Balzar. During the meal, Balzar's large dog dashed under the table and, when ordered out, avoided his master momentarily by dodging between the knees of the seated guests. Rogers told the governor that he was used to such things and said, "When I lunched at the White House with President Coolidge a short time ago, his dog sat at the table!"

In the nine decades since the mansion was built, it has been renovated several times. In 1959, First Lady Bette Sawyer persuaded legislators to fund a partial renovation. More significant restoration work was done in 1967, after Governor Paul Laxalt moved into the mansion with his family and found the home no longer conformed to modern safety standards.

During the next legislative session, \$78,750 was appropriated for remodeling the

mansion, which was still equipped with its original wiring, plumbing, and heating systems. Additionally, approximately \$200,000 was offered by the private sector for furnishings and decorating, and more than \$10,000 was raised at “Mansion Showers” held around the state. This money was used to purchase a permanent collection of silver, dishes, and accessories for the house.

Some structural changes were made during the 18-month remodeling. Porches were extended on both floors, and bedrooms and bathrooms rearranged. A fireplace was added in the family room, and a small bathroom was installed beneath the center stairway for the comfort of guests.

Additionally, a white pavilion was erected behind the mansion. Built at a cost of \$85,000, the pavilion was donated to the State of Nevada by Harvey Gross, owner of Harvey’s Resort at Lake Tahoe, in memory of his wife, Llewellyn Barkley Gross.

The mansion received new paint and interior wallpaper in the mid-1980s. At that time, the basement boiler also was rebuilt and a beautiful Italian marble floor was added to the house’s entrance.

The North Salon with the Steinway grand piano acquired during the Sawyer Administration.





In 1999-2000, the mansion underwent a \$5 million reconstruction, which was initiated by Governor Bob Miller and First Lady Sandy Miller. The entire project was financed by private donations, and the renovation was the most significant since the house was constructed.

While many of the improvements were behind the walls, such as replacing aging pipes and electrical wiring, others were more obvious, such as the construction of the 6,608-square-foot Nevada Room addition. Built north of the mansion, the Nevada Room has a large commercial kitchen and meeting space for up to 300 people.

Waterford glass chandeliers were installed to provide lighting in the Nevada Room. Reflecting the room's name, the walls of the addition were decorated with photographs of Nevada's first ladies and historic scenes of Nevada mining camps.

Inside the mansion, the renovations included replacing worn, powder-blue carpeting with shiny hardwood floors. Heavy red and blue drapes were replaced by tasteful brown and cream window treatments. Additionally, the kitchen area, family room, dining room, and bedrooms were renovated and a new elevator was installed so that the house complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The mansion's furnishings include antiques, some on loan from Governor Kenny Guinn and First Lady Dema Guinn, as well as elegant re-creations of classic designs that enhance the mansion's historic character. Art and accessories have been carefully selected by the Guinns for their Nevada flavor. For instance, a collection of books by Nevada authors is displayed in the entryway, as is a magnificent silver candelabra, part of the priceless Mackay Silver Collection, which was crafted from Virginia City silver by Tiffany and Company of New York in the late 19th century.

The reconstruction also included a 1,200-square-foot garage addition, erected south of the mansion, and a new black iron fence, which was built around the entire compound. Lighting was added to the official Governor's Mansion sign in front of the mansion. In the backyard, nearly two dozen trees were planted, and the stately Gross Pavilion has a new dance floor area.

Thanks to the continuing interest of citizens, elected officials, and its first ladies, Nevada's Governor's Mansion continues to be one of the West's most distinguished showplaces.

— *Robert A. Nysten, Curator of History at the Nevada State Museum*





The Mackay Silver Collection

Visitors to the Governor's Mansion will notice four spectacular silver pieces on display that are part of the Mackay Silver Collection. The four items are on loan from the W.M. Keck Minerals Museum in the Mackay School of Mines at the University of Nevada, Reno, home of the Mackay Silver Collection.

In 1876, Comstock mining millionaire John Mackay commissioned the collection as a gift for his wife. He shipped more than a half-ton of silver to Tiffany & Company of New York, instructing the famed jewelry firm to create the finest silver service possible. Two hundred silversmiths worked for two years on the project. When completed, the service included 1,350 pieces weighing 14,718 ounces. Each piece was engraved with the initials "MLM" in intertwined script, representing Mackay's wife's name, Marie Louise Mackay. Additionally, each piece carried the Hungerford family crest, his wife's family emblem. Both Mackay and the Tiffany firm were so proud of the completed work that it was displayed at the 1878 Paris Exposition.

The pieces on display in the Governor's Mansion include a large, ornate candelabrum, one of a pair. Each stands three feet high and contains places for 29 candles. They were the tallest

The entrance into the Mansion displays the candelabrum from the Mackay Silver Collection.

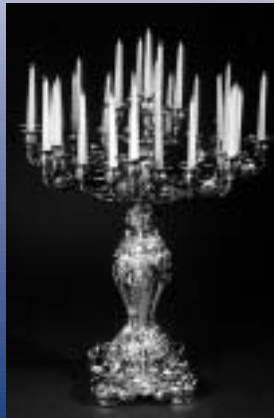
candelabra ever made by Tiffany. The other pieces include a large soup tureen, a champagne cooler, and an oil lamp.

First Lady Dema Guinn arranged for the pieces to be loaned to the mansion. “There are more than 1,300 pieces, and we’re so fortunate to have the candelabrum,” the First Lady explained. “Notice all the floral detail on the piece—it’s absolutely incredible. You couldn’t replace it. This was from the Comstock and was something Mr. Mackay wanted to do for his wife—and we’re so fortunate that he did.”

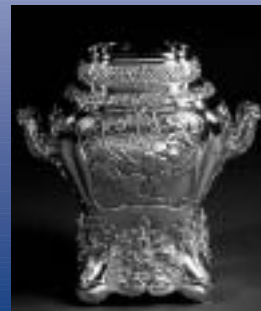
Exclusive pieces on display at the Governor’s Mansion.



Soup tureen



Candelabrum



Champagne cooler

Displayed in the Formal Dining Room under the historic Lincoln Painting is the soup tureen from the Mackay Silver Collection.



1



2



6



3



5

4

NEVADA'S Governors and their First Ladies

James Warren Nye, 1861-1864

James W. Nye was Nevada Territory's only governor. He was born in DeRuyter, Madison County, New York, on June 10, 1815. Raised in New York, he was president of the New York Metropolitan Board of Police when President Abraham Lincoln appointed him governor of Nevada Territory in 1861. Nye married Elsie A. Benson in 1839. They had two children. He left his family in New York during his term in office and rejoined them in 1865, after he was chosen one of Nevada's first U.S. senators. During Nye's term as governor, Mollie Clemens, wife of Territorial Secretary Orion Clemens, acted as first lady. Nye served in the U.S. Senate until 1872. He died on December 25, 1876, in White Plains, New York.



Clockwise – 1: Governor John Jones, first lady Elizabeth and family; 2: “Mike” O’Callaghan and first lady Carolyn; 3: First lady Marjorie Russell in the Mansion; 4: First ladies at the mansion late 1940’s from left: Ida Pittman, Marianne Griswold, Daisy Oddi, Vida Boyle, Una Dickerson, Irma Carville & Julia Scrugham; 5: Governor Paul Laxalt with first lady Jacalyn; 6: Governor “Dick” Kirman and first lady Mabelle Jean.

#1

Henry Goode Blasdel, 1864-1871

Henry Goode Blasdel, born on January 29, 1825, near Lawrenceburg, Indiana, worked as a farmer, storekeeper, and riverboat captain before bringing his family from California to Nevada in 1860. The state's first elected governor, he opposed legalizing gambling. However, the state legislature in 1869 overrode his veto. He died in his home in Fruitvale (Oakland), California, on July 26, 1900.



Sarah Jane (Cox) Blasdel

Sarah Cox, a native of Kentucky, married Henry Goode Blasdel on December 9, 1845, at the age of 18. She accompanied her husband to Virginia City in 1861. They had three children. As first lady, her “temperance” views were observed at all social functions, where no liquor of any kind was served. The Blasdel family moved to California in 1891. Mrs. Blasdel died in Fruitvale (Oakland) on October 31, 1904.



#2

Lewis Rice Bradley, 1871-1879

A well-known cattleman, Lewis R. Bradley, known as “Old Broadhorns,” was born in Orange County, Virginia, on February 18, 1805. Bradley drove cattle from Missouri to California. After the great California floods of 1862, he moved to Elko County to raise cattle. He served two terms as governor and was narrowly defeated for a third term in 1878. He died in Elko on March 21, 1879.



Virginia Hode (Willis) Bradley

Governor Bradley was a widower. His wife, Virginia Hode Willis, died after giving birth to their fourth child in 1852. His daughter, Virginia Hode (Bradley) Belknap, pictured at right, acted as the official hostess during his term. She married Supreme Court Justice Charles H. Belknap on February 27, 1873. She died in San Francisco on September 24, 1926.



#3 John Henry Kinkead, 1879-1883

A native of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, John Kinkead was born on December 10, 1826. He served as territorial treasurer in Nevada and a delegate to the 1863 and 1864 constitutional conventions before becoming Nevada's third governor. In 1884, he was appointed governor of Alaska Territory. One year later he returned to Carson City, where he lived until his death on August 15, 1904.



Lizzie (Fall) Kinkead

Lizzie Fall was born in Ohio and moved west with her family during the California Gold Rush. She met John Henry Kinkead, a business associate of her father, in Marysville, California, and the two were married in 1856. They settled in Carson City in 1860. The Kinkeads adopted a boy, Kahtz, who died at the age of 13 in 1872. Lizzie died in Carson City on August 26, 1907.



#

4

Jewett William Adams, 1883-1887

Born in South Hero, Vermont, on August 6, 1835, Jewett Adams came west with the California Gold Rush. He moved to Nevada in 1864, where he ran a freight business transporting ore from the mines to the mills and raised cattle. He served two terms as lieutenant governor and one term as governor. He died in San Francisco on June 18, 1920.

Emma (Lee) Adams

Emma Lee, a native of Pennsylvania, met Jewett Adams when he drove cattle from Texas to the Silver State in the 1870s. They were married on January 20, 1878. After her husband's term as governor, she remained in the news as one of the leaders of the antisuffrage movement in Nevada in the early 1900s. They had one child, a daughter they adopted. The family moved to San Francisco in 1915, where Mrs. Adams died on March 20, 1941.



#5

Charles Clark Stevenson, 1887-1890

Charles Stevenson was born in Phelps, New York, on February 20, 1826. In 1859 he came to Nevada, where he worked in mining and agriculture. He served three terms in the State Senate and 11 years as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. Governor Stevenson died in office on September 21, 1890.



Ellen M. (Frame) Stevenson

Ellen M. Frame was the second Mrs. Stevenson, having married Charles Stevenson on June 22, 1881, in San Francisco, two months after divorcing her first husband, Robert A. Frame. Prior to their divorce in California, the Frames had resided in Gold Hill near Virginia City. Charles Stevenson was divorced from his first wife, mother of his two sons, in 1880 in Virginia City. After the governor died in office, Ellen moved to California where she died in Oakland on July 20, 1892.



#6

Frank Bell, 1890-1891

Born in Toronto, Canada, on January 28, 1840, Frank Bell came to the Silver State while supervising the construction of the transcontinental telegraph through Nevada in 1858-1860. He was one of the operators who telegraphed Nevada's Constitution to Washington, D.C., in 1864. Bell served as acting governor when Governor Stevenson signed a disability certificate on September 1, 1890, until the inauguration of Governor Colcord. Bell died in Oakland on February 13, 1927, and was buried in Reno.



Mary (Poore) Bell

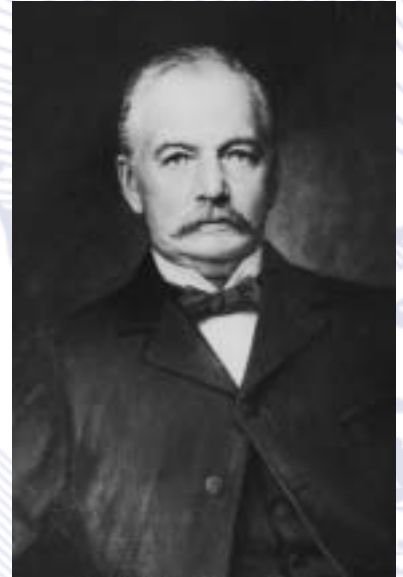
Born in Maine, Mary Poore came west with her father in 1869. She married Frank Bell in Reno on July 9, 1872, and became first lady for three months in 1890 when her husband became acting governor. They had two daughters. Mrs. Bell died in Oakland on September 9, 1925 and was buried in Reno in the Masonic Cemetery on September 12, 1925.



#7

Roswell Keyes Colcord, 1891-1895

Nevada's seventh governor was born April 25, 1839, in Seaport, Maine, where he was apprenticed to a shipbuilder and became a carpenter. Roswell Colcord came west to California in 1856. He moved to Aurora, Nevada, in 1860 and then in 1863 to Virginia City, where he became a successful mining engineer. Following his term as governor, he served as the superintendent of the U.S. Mint in Carson City from 1898 to 1911. He died in Carson City on October 30, 1939, at the age of 100.



Mary Frances (Hopkins) Colcord

Mary Frances Hopkins was born in Illinois and educated in California. She came to Nevada with her father in the 1860s and married Roswell Colcord in Virginia City on April 25, 1868. They had three children, but only one survived childhood. Mrs. Colcord died in Carson City on December 24, 1924.



#8

John Edward Jones, 1895-1896

John E. Jones was Nevada's first university-educated governor. He was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales, on December 5, 1840. His family settled in Iowa in 1856, where he attended the State University of Iowa. Jones came west while working on the Union Pacific Railroad in 1865. He settled in Eureka, Nevada, in 1869, where he worked in mining and agriculture until 1883. He served two terms as surveyor-general of the state before being elected governor. Governor Jones died in office April 10, 1896.



Elizabeth (Wayburn) Jones

Elizabeth Wayburn, a native of Wales, moved with her family to Eureka, Nevada, in the late 1870s. She married John E. Jones on November 25, 1880. They had two children. When her husband died in office in 1896, she was appointed assistant librarian at the Nevada State Library. Elizabeth later married William H. Sifford, a prominent Stillwater rancher. She died in Lassen County, California, on February 11, 1925.



#9 **Reinhold Sadler, 1896-1903**

After the death of Governor Jones, Reinhold Sadler became acting governor and was elected governor in 1898. Nevada's third foreign-born governor, he was born in Czarnikau, Posen Province, Prussia, on January 10, 1848. After he immigrated to America, he lived in Virginia City, Austin, Hamilton, and Eureka. After two unsuccessful campaigns for state offices, he was elected lieutenant governor as a candidate for the newly formed Silver Party. Reinhold Sadler died in Eureka on January 30, 1906.



Louise (Zadow) Sadler

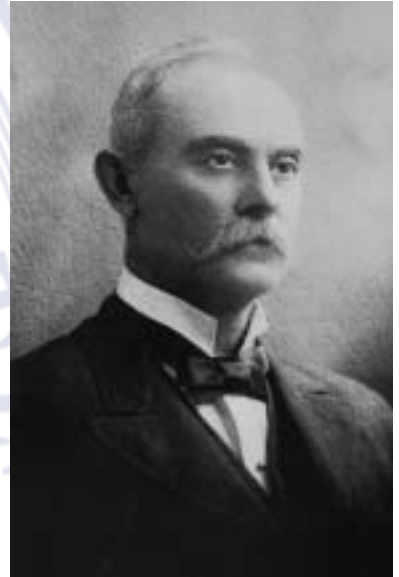
A native of Germany, Louise Zadow came to America with her family and settled in Hamilton, Nevada, in the early 1870s. She married Reinhold Sadler there on May 26, 1875. They had five children. She was the second foreign-born first lady. After the death of her husband, she moved to California. Mrs. Sadler died in Grass Valley, California, on August 6, 1923, at the age of 71.



#10

John Sparks, 1903-1908

“Honest John” Sparks was a native of Mississippi, born August 30, 1843. Before coming to Nevada he engaged in the cattle business in Texas and Wyoming. He became a rancher in Elko County and later bought the Alamo Ranch near Reno, where he lived during his term as governor. He was elected governor on the Silver-Democrat ticket in 1902 and re-elected in 1906, commuting to Carson City on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. He died in office May 22, 1908.



Nora (Knight) Sparks

A Texas native, Nora Knight married John Sparks in 1879. They had four children. He had been married to her half-sister Rachel from 1872 until her death in 1878. The Governor’s Mansion, under construction during Sparks’ term, was not completed by the time of his death in 1908. Shortly after that, Mrs. Sparks moved to Alameda, California. She died in San Francisco on July 5, 1947.



#11

Denver Sylvester Dickerson, 1908-1911

Born in Millville, California, on January 24, 1872, Denver Dickerson came to Nevada after serving in the Spanish-American War. He served as clerk and recorder of White Pine County and later owned and edited the *White Pine News* and *Ely Mining Expositor*. He was the Oyoungest man to serve as governor and the first to occupy the newly built Governor's Mansion. After his term as acting governor, Dickerson was appointed superintendent of the state police and ex-officio warden of the state prison. He died in Carson City on November 28, 1925.



Una (Reilly) Dickerson

The first Nevada-born first lady, Una Reilly was from Hamilton, where she married Denver Dickerson on April 23, 1904. They had eight children, and their daughter June, born on September 2, 1909, was the only child born in the Governor's Mansion. After Denver's death in 1925, Una became a librarian at the law library in Reno until her retirement. She died in Reno on April 9, 1959.



#12

Tasker Lowndes Oddie, 1911-1915

Tasker Oddie was born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 24, 1870, and came to Nevada to look after the business interests of his New York employer, the prominent and wealthy Stokes family. An attorney, Oddie became a member of the Nevada bar in 1898 and served as district attorney of Nye County. During the Tonopah mining boom, he became the manager of the Tonopah Mining Company. After his term as governor, Oddie was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1920 and re-elected in 1926. He died February 17, 1950.



Ellen G. Oddie

Tasker Oddie was unmarried during his term, so his mother, Ellen Oddie (middle), and his sisters acted as official hostesses for him. Mrs. Oddie kept track of her son's paychecks during his term of office, until her death in 1914. In 1918, Oddie married Daisy Randal Mackeigan (bottom).



#13

Emmet Derby Boyle, 1915-1923

Emmet Boyle was the first Nevada-born governor, born in Gold Hill on July 26, 1879. Before his election as governor, Boyle served as state engineer and as a member of the tax commission. During his two terms as governor many progressive programs were initiated for the benefit of children, women, and workers. Boyle died in Reno on January 3, 1926.



Vida Margaret (McClure) Boyle

Vida McClure was the second Nevada-native first lady, having been born in Virginia City on June 24, 1880. She married Emmet Boyle in San Francisco on August 28, 1903, and they lived in Como, Dayton, Yerington, and Virginia City before moving into the Governor's Mansion in 1915. After her husband's death in 1926, she remained active in civic affairs. She died in Reno on May 13, 1972.



#

14

James Graves Scrugham, 1923-1927

A native of Lexington, Kentucky, James Scrugham was born on January 19, 1880. He came to Nevada in 1903 to become an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Nevada in Reno, serving as dean of the College of Engineering from 1914 to 1917. After his term as governor, he was the publisher of the *Nevada State Journal* and later was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (1933-1943) and the U.S. Senate (1943-1945). He died in office on June 2, 1945.



Julia (McCann) Scrugham

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Julia McCann married James Scrugham on August 4, 1904, and accompanied him to Nevada. They had two children. After her husband's death in 1945, she remained active in the Democratic Party. She died in Reno on March 14, 1954.



#15

Frederick Bennett Balzar, 1927-1934

Frederick Balzar was the second native Nevadan to serve as governor. He was born on June 15, 1880, in Virginia City. He worked as a miner, railroad conductor, and store owner in Hawthorne and served as an assemblyman and state senator before becoming governor. During his administration, he signed Nevada's open gambling law and the six-week divorce law. "Friendly Fred" Balzar was the only governor to pass away in the Governor's Mansion. He died there on March 21, 1934.



Idelle (Sinnamon) Balzar

Born in Bridgeport, California, Idelle Sinnamon married Fred Balzar on November 11, 1907. He was a conductor for the Carson and Colorado Railroad at the time. Mrs. Balzar was the first lady when gambling was legalized in Nevada in 1931. They had one child, a daughter. Mrs. Balzar died in her home in Reno on January 5, 1943.



#16

Morley Isaac Griswold, 1934-1935

Born in Elko, Nevada, on October 10, 1890, Morley Griswold was the third Nevada-born governor. He began his law practice in Elko in 1915. He was elected to two terms as lieutenant governor and became acting governor on March 21, 1934, upon Governor Balzar's death. He lost the election later that year and did not run for public office again. Griswold practiced law in Reno until his death on October 3, 1951.



Marianne (Williamson) Griswold

Born in Washington, D.C., Marianne Williamson met Morley Griswold while they were both attending the University of Michigan. They were married in San Diego on August 4, 1920, and they lived in Elko from 1920 to 1931, when her husband was elected lieutenant governor for a second term. They had two children. Mrs. Griswold died in her Reno home on April 5, 1965.



#17

Richard Kirman, 1935-1939

Richard “Dick” Kirman was born in Virginia City on January 14, 1877, and attended local schools and Lincoln High School in San Francisco. He returned to Nevada at the turn of the century. Prior to his term as governor, Kirman served as an assemblyman from Ormsby County (Carson City) in 1899, regent of the university in 1902-1904, and mayor of Reno in 1907-1909. Throughout his life Kirman was active in banking, business, and raising livestock. He died on January 19, 1959.



Mabelle Jean (King) Kirman

A native of San Francisco, Mabelle Jean King met Richard Kirman while he was studying business there, and they were married on January 19, 1898. Throughout her life she shared her husband's business interests. They had two children. She was a principal owner of the J.R. Bradley Company, of which her husband was president, from 1905 until her death July 11, 1947.



#18

Edward Peter Carville, 1939-1945

Edward “Ted” Carville was born on a ranch in Mound Valley, Nevada, on May 14, 1885. He established a law practice in Elko and served as district attorney and district judge before becoming governor in 1939. In 1945 he resigned to be appointed U.S. Senator after James Scrugham’s death. After serving the remainder of the term, Carville practiced law in Reno until his death on June 27, 1956.



Irma Marie (Callahan) Carville

Irma Marie Callahan was born in South Bend, Indiana, where she met Edward Carville while he was attending Notre Dame. They were married in Elko on August 29, 1910. They had three sons. After the death of her husband in 1956, Mrs. Carville moved to California. She died in San Rafael on January 8, 1973, and was buried in the Reno Catholic Cemetery.



#19

Vail Montgomery Pittman, 1945-1951

Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on September 17, 1883, Vail Pittman came to Nevada in 1904. Owner of several newspapers, he was a state senator from White Pine County, lieutenant governor, and later governor of Nevada. After his term as governor, Pittman moved to Las Vegas, where he died at the age of 80 on January 29, 1964.



Ida (Brewington) Pittman

Born in Bevier, Missouri, Ida Brewington moved to Tonopah to be a teacher. There she met the manager of the *Tonopah Miner*, Vail Pittman, and they were married in Reno on March 20, 1919. She was known as a charming hostess during their years in the Governor's Mansion. After her husband's term in office, they made Las Vegas their home for many years. Mrs. Pittman died in California on October 11, 1984, at the age of 91.



#20

Charles Hinton Russell, 1951-1959

Charles Russell was the sixth native-born Nevada governor, born in Lovelock on December 27, 1903. He received his degree from the University of Nevada in 1926. He was the publisher of the *Ely Record*. Russell served as an assemblyman, state senator, and U.S. Congressman before serving two terms as Nevada's governor. Governor Russell died in Carson City on September 13, 1989, at the age of 85.



Marjorie (Guild) Russell

Marjorie Russell was the third Nevada-native first lady, born in Yerington in 1916. She taught school in Ruth, where she met Charles Russell, and the two were married on March 19, 1939. The Russells had five children. From 1977 to 1992, Mrs. Russell served as a member of the Nevada State Museum's Board of Trustees, where she was an active supporter of the clothing and textile collection. She is remembered at the museum's Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center. Mrs. Russell died in Carson City on March 3, 1997.



#21

Frank Grant Sawyer, 1959-1967

Grant Sawyer was born in Twin Falls, Idaho, on December 14, 1918. He came to Nevada first to attend the University of Nevada in Reno and later to settle in Elko. Before becoming governor, he served as Elko County district attorney and on the Board of Regents. He was a personal friend of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and frequently visited the White House. After two terms as governor, Sawyer moved to Las Vegas to practice law until his death on February 19, 1996. He was 78 years old.



Bette (Hoge) Sawyer

Bette Norene Hoge was born May 22, 1923, in Baker, Oregon. She attended the University of Oregon, majoring in French and Spanish. In 1945, Bette moved to Reno with her parents. She married Grant Sawyer on August 1, 1946. They had one daughter. While she was first lady, Mrs. Sawyer redecorated the Governor's Mansion and conducted the initial research on the lives of Nevada's first ladies. Mrs. Sawyer died in Las Vegas on September 11, 2002, at the age of 79.



#22

Paul Dominique Laxalt, 1967-1971

Born in Reno on August 2, 1922, Paul Laxalt was raised in Carson City, where he opened his law practice. He was elected Ormsby County (Carson City) district attorney in 1950, lieutenant governor in 1962, and governor in 1966. After a return to private practice, Laxalt was elected U.S. senator in 1974 and again in 1980. Declining to seek re-election, he began a law practice in Washington, D.C.



Jackalyn (Ross) Laxalt

The fourth native Nevadan to be first lady, Jackalyn Ross was born July 31, 1927, in Yerington and attended the University of Nevada in Reno. She married Paul Laxalt on June, 1946, at St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Carson City. With six children, the Laxalts were the largest family to occupy the mansion. While she was first lady, Mrs. Laxalt oversaw the remodeling and redecorating of the Governor's Mansion.



#23

Donal Neil “Mike” O’Callaghan, 1971-1979

“Mike” O’Callaghan was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, on September 10, 1929. He came to Nevada in 1956 to teach at Basic High School in Henderson. One of his pupils, Harry Reid, became his lieutenant governor and then a U.S. senator. During his career, O’Callaghan worked in public administration for local, state, and federal governments before being elected governor in 1970. He served two terms as governor and is currently a Las Vegas newspaper executive.



Carolyn (Randall) O’Callaghan

A native of Twin Falls, Idaho, Carolyn Randall met and married Mike O’Callaghan while both were attending the University of Idaho. They were married August 25, 1954, and with five children, the O’Callaghans were the second largest family to occupy the mansion.



#24

Robert Frank List, 1979-1983

Robert List was born in Visalia, California, on September 1, 1936, and raised in Exeter. He came to Nevada from California to practice law in Carson City. Before becoming governor, he served as the Carson City district attorney and the state attorney general. He now practices law in Las Vegas.

Katheryn (Geary) List

An Indiana native, Kathy Geary attended Indiana University and met Robert List at Lake Tahoe in 1961. They were married in July 1962. They have three children. She taught junior and senior high school in Carson City and at Western Nevada Community College. A realtor, Kathy is active in several community organizations.



#25

Richard Hudson Bryan 1983-1989

Richard “Dick” Bryan was born on July 16, 1937, in Washington, D.C., and raised in Las Vegas. He became the first state public defender in 1966 and was a state assemblyman, state senator, and attorney general before being elected governor in 1982. Bryan was the first person raised in southern Nevada to be elected to the state’s top executive office. He resigned as governor on January 3, 1989, after winning election to the U.S. Senate. He served two terms as senator. Currently, he is an executive partner in a Las Vegas law firm and a professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Bonnie (Fairchild) Bryan

Bonnie Fairchild was raised in Lodi, California, and later attended the University of Nevada in Reno, where she graduated in 1962 with a degree in psychology. She married Richard Bryan in September 1962. They have three children.



#26

Robert Joseph Miller, 1989-1999

Robert “Bob” Miller was born in Chicago on March 30, 1945. When he was 10, his family moved to Las Vegas. Miller served as Clark County district attorney from 1979 to 1986, when he was elected lieutenant governor. Later he served as acting governor, completing the term of Richard Bryan, until his election as Nevada’s 26th governor in 1990. Miller was re-elected in 1994. After that term, he established a Las Vegas law practice.



Sandy (Searles) Miller

Sandy Searles was raised in Las Vegas and later attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she graduated in 1971 with a degree in education. She spent four years as a speech therapist with the Clark County School District. She married Bob Miller in November 1973. They have three children.



#27

Kenny C. Guinn 1999-

Kenny Guinn was born in Garland, Arkansas, on August 24, 1936, and grew up in Exeter, California. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in physical education from Fresno State University in 1959 and 1965, respectively, and a doctorate in education from Utah State University in Logan in 1970. He and his family moved to Nevada in 1964 and he began his education career for the Clark County School District. In 1969, Guinn became the Clark County superintendent of schools. He served in that position until 1978, when he went to work in the private sector. From 1978 to 1993 he served as president and chairman of the board of directors for major banks and utility companies in southern Nevada. He chaired the Governor's Commission on Government Reorganization in 1993 and was appointed acting president of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1994. As the Republican candidate, he was elected the 27th governor of Nevada in 1998.



Dema (Lane) Guinn

Current First Lady Dema Lane was raised in Exeter, California, where she and Kenny Guinn first met when she was five and he was seven. They began dating as juniors in high school and were married on July 7, 1956, in Reno. They have two sons, Jeff and Steve. Mrs. Guinn has been active in community activities including Boy Scouts and youth athletic programs. Recently, she completed the interior decoration of the Governor's Mansion.





1: "Death Valley Scotty" Walter Scott, Governor Fred Balzar, and Will Rogers at the Winnemucca Rodeo. 2: Governor Tasker Oddie. 3: Governor "Honest John" Sparks.



Is There Anything Traditional About Nevada Day?

Why all the fuss about Nevada's birthday on October 31? The battle lines were drawn between "traditionalists" and the "grinches" who would steal Nevada Day by calling for the last Friday of October to be the state's official holiday. The parade and other festivities would follow on Saturday, thus creating a three-day weekend for some Nevadans including state and local government employees. With the passage of AB 396 by the 1997 legislature, Nevada voters on November 3, 1998, advised the 1999 legislature they wanted to celebrate Nevada Day on the last Friday in October beginning in 2000. The legislature, after much heated debate, complied.

The myth in this story is that the celebrating of Nevada's admission into the Union in 1864 has been anything but traditional. In the state's earliest years, it appears only the Pacific Coast Pioneer Society on the Comstock celebrated an admission day. It was not until 1891 that "Admission Day" was legislatively declared a judicial holiday with no court business to be transacted on October 31. Outside occasional parade activities in Virginia City and Reno, Nevada's birthday went virtually unnoticed. Efforts by the State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1908 to have Admission Day declared an annual legal holiday failed.

However, the 50th anniversary of Nevada's statehood in 1914 was officially observed. Governor Tasker Oddie issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, October 31, a one-time public holiday. Reno hosted the grand event. The outgrowth of Nevada's semicentennial was the creation of a Nevada pioneer group called the "Society of Nevadans," who for some 20 years sponsored Nevada's Admission Day in Reno.

The legislature changed the name of Admission Day to Nevada Day in 1933 and made it a discretionary state holiday. However, the festivities in Reno were on the decline with the old pioneers dying off, and weekday Nevada Day events not generating enough money and attendance.

Fortunately, Tom Wilson, a Reno advertising executive, and Carson City's Judge Clark Guild, the "father" of the State Museum, saved Nevada Day. Carson City became its new home in 1938, and a law passed the following year made Nevada Day an official state holiday, which helped to further the success of the birthday event.

Ironically, just as the tradition of annually celebrating Nevada Day in the capital city was under way, World War II precluded conducting any celebration in 1942, 1943, and 1944. Then, in 1948, October 31 fell on a Sunday for the first time, and Nevada Day officials decided that the parade and other events would be held on Monday, November 1. The legislature followed suit the next year, making Monday the state holiday when Nevada Day fell on a Sunday.

If that wasn't untraditional enough, when Nevada Day again fell on a Sunday in 1954, parade officials decided to hold the birthday events on Saturday, October 30; Halloween was observed on Nevada Day; and Monday, November 1, was the state holiday. Nevada Day was celebrated in this manner in 1971, 1976, 1982, 1993, and, for the last time, in 1999. Moreover, when the Nevada Day Committee overrode religious sentiment in 1965 and held the parade and activities on Sunday, October 31, public outcry ensured that this was the first and last time Nevada Day was celebrated on the Christian Sabbath.



Governor's Mansion decorated for Nevada Day 2001.



An effort in 1969 to move the Nevada Day holiday to the last Friday in October died in committee. However, in 1971 the legislature made Friday, October 30, the state holiday when Nevada fell on a Saturday.

What we can conclude from all of this? Since the Nevada Day celebration moved from Reno to Carson City in 1938, there has been no long-standing tradition of the Nevada Day events or the state holiday being consistently on October 31. The Nevada Day Committee made exceptions, the state legislature made exceptions, and World War II made for exceptions. What seemed to be playing among “traditionalists” was a general backlash against the modern tendency to create three-day weekends, the general public forgetting why and what we are celebrating, and the perception that business interests dictated the agenda.

However, Nevada Day on weekdays had become a losing proposition in recent years. The event was principally a regional celebration in the western part of the state. Parade entries and visitors from eastern and southern Nevada were few and far between. When they participated, it was during a three-day holiday. Californians at one time came in large numbers, but no more. While Nevada and Carson City’s populations were bigger than ever, the Nevada Day celebration had gradually declined in comparison.

Only Nevada, Hawaii (August 21, 1959), and West Virginia (June 20, 1863) have state holidays which include substantial formal celebrations

every year. The Carson City parade and activities comprise by far the largest of the three states’ celebrations.

— *Guy Louis Rocha, Assistant Administer of Archives & Records*



North Salon



Death Valley Scotty, Governor Balzar, & Will Rogers



Historic Lincoln Painting in Formal Dining Room

“We like to sit outside. We do that quite often. We wave to the people coming by. We read our papers and have our coffee outside. We just like being with people.”

— First Lady Dema Guinn



Formal Dining Room



First Lady Dema Guinn



Guest Room



JEWELLY BARLEY CROSS MEMORIAL