Remembering Friends

Betty (Howell) Woodburn ’36 (psychology) died on June 29, 2008 with her three daughters by her side. Born in Reno, Betty’s family was truly one of the great pioneer families who settled in the Truckee Meadows. Her grandfather, James W. Haines, was one of the signers of the Constitution for the state of Nevada in 1864. Betty attended the University of Nevada and was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.

After graduating from the University, Betty married William Woodburn in 1938. Betty loved playing golf as a member of the Hidden Valley Country Club and was a recipient of the “Hole In One” Award. She and her bridge buddies never missed their weekly game.

Betty was a wonderful and caring mother with a fabulous sense of humor. She was truly the original “Energizer Bunny”! Over the last five years, she survived a heart attack, a broken hip and several small strokes. But she was never ready to give up and she always insisted on taking trips, which she did thanks to her daughters. The day before she passed she had her hair done and took a drive to Virginia City!

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, William Woodburn, brothers, Eugene, Jack and Haines. She is survived by her daughters, Patricia, Mary Liz (Ron), Sarah (Gerry): grandchildren, Mark (Liz), Chris, Lance, Erica (Newt), and Ryan; and five great-grandchildren, Cody, Connor, Lexi, Newton and Hope, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A special thanks to Ida Jacobs and Heidi Elswick (her caregivers) for taking such good care of her and Noe Martinez, who made her home and garden so beautiful!

Lt. Col. (ret) Allan C. McGill ’41 (journalism) died July 17, 2008 at Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis, MD. He was 90.

McGill was the son of the late Neil and Ozella McGill and grandson of W. N. McGill, prominent Nevada rancher, livestock owner and business executive from Ely. The town of McGill was built on the site of the grandfather’s home ranch. “Mac” McGill was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1942. During WWII, he served in the Pacific campaign with the 19th Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. Upon leaving the Army, he returned to Reno and served as a reporter for the Reno Evening Gazette covering the Nevada state legislature.

In 1950 he was recalled to active military duty and was assigned to the Public Affairs office in Seoul, Korea, and then on to the Information Office of the Far East Command, Tokyo, Japan. He continued his military career serving as an instructor at the Army Information School at Ft. Slocum, N.Y. One of his greatest challenges was serving as information officer for Berlin Command, Berlin, Germany. He concluded his military career at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, retiring in 1966.

Following his retirement from active duty he pursued a career in the Civil Service, retiring in 1983.

McGill is survived by his sons, Allan C. II and David, his wife Sally, sister Kathleen, and grandchildren Russell, Erin, Conor and Nicole.

In lieu of flowers the family requests any donations be made to the Allan C. McGill Memorial Scholarship Fund through the University of Nevada. Donations should be sent to the following address: Allan C. McGill Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Kristin Burgarello, Reynolds School of Journalism/MS 310, Reno, NV 89557.

Gordon Candee Mills ’46 (chemistry) died on Jan. 24, 2008 at Fleet Landing, Atlantic Beach, Fla. Gordon was born in Fallon, February 13, 1924. Two days after graduating from high school in June of 1941, at the age of 17, he was injured in a farming accident; the accident resulted in paralysis from the knees down. After a long re-cooperation, he was ultimately able to walk with braces. In the fall of 1942, he enrolled at the University. In 1946, he met Mary Jane Medlin and they married in 1947. He continued his education at the University of Michigan where he obtained his doctorate in biochemistry.

In 1950, the couple moved to Memphis, Tenn., where Gordon was a research associate in the biochemistry department at the University of Tennessee Medical School. In 1955, he accepted a position at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, where he taught medical and graduate school until he retired in 1989. During his tenure he attained the position of full professor within the Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics.

During Gordon’s career he authored over 65 articles on biochemistry. In 1957, he authored a paper on glutathione peroxidase, an enzyme, and was later credited with the discovery of it, having written at least five articles on it before anyone else. He was a member of numerous scientific societies and served as president of the Sigma Xi Chapter at University of Texas.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Jane Mills, and is survived by two sons, David (Julia) and John, a daughter, Melinda (John), four grandchildren, Jack, Kyle, Markena and Lauren and a great-granddaughter, Kobel.

Frank H. Delaplaine ’63 (journalism), a former newspaper executive who served as managing editor of the Nevada State Journal and the Reno Evening Gazette, died Aug. 4, 2008 at the age of 79. Frank, who was the younger brother of former San Francisco Chronicle columnist Stanton Delaplaine, was a reporter in San Francisco and Reno and then became managing editor of the Reno papers. He later served as news editor for the Gannett News Service in Washington.

Frank was born in 1929 in Appleton, Wisc., and served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1950. He then majored in journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno, working his way through college as a pit boss in casinos.

After graduation, Frank worked as a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, and then moved to Reno in 1957 to work on newspapers there. “He was an instinctive investigative reporter,” said Warren Leisure, a Nevada journalism professor who hired Frank as a reporter when he was managing editor of the Reno Evening Gazette.

“Some people are good reporters, and some are good writers. He was both,” Leisure said. Frank so impressed his editors that they promoted him to management and he became managing editor for both papers.


He is survived by his wife, Gaye, and a son, Frank, both of Reno.

Betty Jo (Ange) Manhart ’64M.S (fashion merchandising) died February 29, 2008 from cancer. Betty Jo was born October 2, 1929 in Orlando, Fla., daughter of Joseph and Gertrude Elizabeth Ange. When Betty Jo was only six months the family moved to Albuquerque, N.M., where she lived until she married Robert A. Manhart on July 2, 1949. She received her undergraduate degree in home economics from the University of Arizona, Tucson in 1957 and later obtained her master’s of science from the University of Nevada, Reno. In 1974 she went on to obtain her doctorate in Home Economics Curriculum and Instruction from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Betty and Bob moved to Reno, Nev. in 1961 and lived there until Bob retired from the University in 1986 as a professor of electrical engineering. Betty Jo was head of the home economics department at Clayton Junior High...
School and later an associate professor of home economics at the University. She was a member of various local and state boards and committees in the state and a member of the American Home Economics Association, the American Association of Housing Educators, Kappa Omicron Phi (home economics), Pi Lambda Theta (education). She was also active in her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, where she was president of the Reno chapter house corporation, and later was the national housing director.

She is survived by husband of 58 years, Bob, daughter Pamela (Ed), son Craig (Marsha), along with two grandsons and three great grandchildren.

David A. Cooper ’68 (journalism) died June 18, 2008, at City of Hope in Los Angeles County at age 69. David had the courage to fight tough battles. On Sept. 25, 1957, he was one of two dozen paratroopers of the famed 101st Airborne Division who escorted the nine, frightened black teenagers up the front steps of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. Following military service, David enrolled at the University of Nevada, Reno where he continued his fight against discrimination. In 1963, as a senator from the student union board, David helped pass Assembly Bill 338 that prohibited discrimination in all public and private establishments for public use.

David held a bachelor’s in journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno and a master’s in journalism from the University of Southern California. Following graduation, he was news director/anchor for KTNV-TV in Las Vegas. Later, he founded and led Cooper Burch and Howe, an award-winning advertising firm in Nevada for more than 10 years. His agency began the boom for the Palace Stations and ran campaigns for numerous elected political officials.

David also served as a member of the U.S. Senate staff for the Senate Committee in Washington D.C., where he specialized in investigative and legislative activities related to urban transportation, court reform and housing needs for citizens in the district. Later, he worked in radio in Nev., and Washington D.C., he was a congressional correspondent for National Public Radio on “All Things Considered,” and filmed a pilot show titled “That’s My Baby” for Animal Planet. In 1983, David moved to Los Angeles and, inspired by his love of movies, established Aries Productions. In 1984 he worked for passage of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact.

In the latter part of his life he took his love of advertising and became a professor at California State University, Fullerton; Otis College of Communications and Pepperdine University in California.

David is survived by his wife, travel companion and best friend, Bonny; his sons, David Cooper Jr. and Justin Cooper, whom he admired; his beloved daughter, Marceline Cooper Ayres; son-in-law, Andrew Ayres, and granddaughters, Adelaide and Eliza Ayres. David also leaves behind his two pugs, Pearl and Duke, cases of unread books and films that he will miss seeing.

On behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation we are thrilled to announce the charter members of the Nevada Legacy Society

The Nevada Legacy Society at the University of Nevada, Reno honors a special group of individuals who are partners in planning for the future. By designating Nevada as a recipient of deferred gifts through their financial and estate plans, these thoughtful friends are helping to build our Endowment and provide a never-ending source of support so that the University can continue to increase student success.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the Nevada Legacy Society by planning a future gift to Nevada. We are grateful for gifts of any size. If you have already planned such a gift, please let us know. This allows us to plan for the future and thank you today by including you in this special circle of friends.

In recognition of their vision and generosity, Legacy Society members are guests of honor at an annual Nevada Legacy Society event, receive invitations to other key university events, receive a copy of our Nevada Legacy Planner newsletter featuring the stories and generosity of our Legacy Society members as well as helpful information on charitable gift planning, and are listed in our annual Honor Roll of Donors publication (unless anonymity is requested).

To learn more about options for planned giving and how you might become a member of the Nevada Legacy Society, contact Lisa Riley or Bob Eggleston at (775)784-1352 or e-mail us at plannedgiving@unr.edu. All inquiries are strictly confidential.