**RTC Midtown History Project Photos**

Oral history volume can be found online here: https://archive.org/details/MidtownReno

Chronicler portraits taken by photographer Patrick Cummings

Bacon\_PC-1

Bacon\_PC-2

Bacon\_PC-3

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Jack Bacon moved to Reno with his family in 1975 and founded an art gallery the following year, at age eighteen. In 1998 he purchased the building at 516 South Virginia Street, where he operated Jack Bacon & Company, dealing in picture framing, custom book publishing, historical autographs, and appraisals. He sold the building in 2012. Pictured at his home in Reno.

Bascom\_PC-1

Bascom\_PC-2

Bascom\_PC-3

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Reno native Jonathan Bascom got his start in the coffee business in 1998, when he took ownership of a coffee cart at Washoe Medical Center. In 2002, he opened Dreamer’s Coffee House at the Riverside Artist Lofts. In 2012, he reopened Dreamer’s at 701 S. Virginia Street (pictured).

Bonnenfant\_PC-1

Bonnenfant\_PC-2

Bonnenfant\_PC-3

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Mark Bonnenfant’s grandfather, Fred Bonnenfant, purchased Peerless Cleaners (pictured) at 698 Forest Street in 1949. After the death of Fred, Sr., Mark’s father, also named Fred, ran the business for many years. Today, Mark manages the family business in the original historic building.

Bonnette & Fontana\_PC-1 (with their son, Luca)

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Sadie Bonnette, originally from Vallejo, California, and Ivan Fontana, born in Italy, met in Reno. Together with a partner, they opened Midtown Eats at 719 S. Virginia Street, in 2011, soon becoming its sole owners. They opened the cocktail lounge Death & Taxes (pictured) in a duplex at 26 Cheney Street in 2013.

Bonnette\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

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Borde\_PC-1

Borde\_PC-2

Borde\_PC-3

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Tammy Borde bought the Chocolate Walrus (pictured) in 2004 and moved the business to its current site at 1278 S. Virginia Street. She also owns the Sierra Nevada Chocolate Company at 1290 S. Virginia Street and for a time operated Lulu’s Chic Boutique at 1298 S. Virginia Street.

Carter\_PC-1

Carter\_PC-2

Carter\_PC-3

Carter\_PC-4

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Bernie Carter grew up in eastern Nevada and moved to Reno in 2000 after time in Oregon, Las Vegas, Colorado, and Genoa. He began to purchase property in the Midtown area in 2008, starting with the building now housing Carter Bros. Hardware Store, operated by his brother, Tim. Carter’s other Midtown projects included the Sticks development (pictured) and numerous rental properties.

Christensens\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Christian and Kasey Christensen met in Hawaii in 2000. Christian, a Reno native, worked his way up in numerous kitchens before becoming a chef himself. They were married in 2006 and founded the restaurant Süp (pictured) at 719 S. Virginia Street in August 2007. The couple moved the restaurant just up the street, to a renovated historic bungalow at 669 S. Virginia Street, in 2011.

Cobb\_PC-1

Cobb\_PC-2

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2015

Neal Cobb’s father, Jerry, founded a number of local businesses including Modern Photo, a shop that moved into the building at 520 S. Virginia Street in the early 1950s. His father also ran Modern Radio & TV and the KNEV-FM radio station out of 538 S. Virginia Street (pictured). Neal worked in both buildings with his family.

Collins\_PC-1

Collins\_PC-2

Collins\_PC-3

Collins\_PC-4

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Randy Collins moved to Reno with his family in 1963. In 1973, he began working at College Cyclery, then located on Arlington Avenue. In 1975, the shop moved to its current location at 622 S. Virginia Street (pictured), and Collins became a partner and ultimately the sole owner.

Doege\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Born and raised in Cleveland, Paul Doege moved to Reno in 1980 and that December, purchased Recycled Records, which had been founded in 1978 at 1440 South Wells Avenue. He moved the business several times, to South Virginia & Kietzke, then to Keitkze & Moana, and finally, in 2012, to 822 S. Virginia Street in Midtown (pictured). He also had branches in Sparks and near UNR.

Fenwick\_PC-1

Fenwick\_PC-2

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

In 1946, Jerry Fenwick’s father, O.T. “Fen” Fenwick, moved his family from California to Reno where he managed the Sherwin-Williams paint store then located at 1460 S. Virginia Street, current site of the Stremmel Gallery. Pictured at his home in Sparks.

Fontana\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

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Granata\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Joe Granata’s grandfather moved to Reno around 1904. Joe was born in 1937, and as a child, lived for a time in the Giraudo Apartments at 717 S. Virginia Street. As an adult, he worked as a firefighter and fire captain and spent a great deal of time in the Southside Fire Station once located at 532 S. Virginia Street. Pictured at his home in Sparks.

Hawkins\_PC-1

Hawkins\_PC-2

Hawkins\_PC-3

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Jack Hawkins grew up in Missouri and earned an architecture degree from the University of Kansas. After several years in Australia and Phoenix, he founded Hawkins & Associates in Reno in 1994. With offices at 1400 S. Virginia Street (pictured), he has worked on numerous Midtown-area projects, including the Stremmel Gallery, Lulou’s, 8 on Center, and 777 Center Street.

Healion\_PC-1

Healion\_PC-2

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Tim Healion opened the legendary coffee shop Deux Gros Nez with his partner John Jesse at 249 California Avenue in 1985. The two later opened the Pneumatic Diner, and eventually Healion helmed Deux Gros Nez alone until its closure in 2006. He also founded the popular bike race, the Tour de Nez. In 2014 Healion helped open the Laughing Planet Café at 650 Tahoe Street (pictured).

Kelly\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Christine Kelly began to work at Sundance Books at the store’s original location at 1155 West 4th Street. Eventually she became the store manager and then owner. In 2011 the store, now called Sundance Books & Music, moved to the historic Levy House at 121 California Avenue (pictured), where Kelly is also publisher and executive editor of the publishing company she founded, Baobab Press.

Leggett\_PC-1

Leggett\_PC-2

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Jan Leggett’s grandfather, Sidney Leggett, was one of Reno’s early advertising men. He ran a billboard business at 1039 S. Virginia Street (pictured)and three motels: the Oxbow Motor Lodge, Ho Hum Motel, and Sutro Motel.

Lynn\_PC-1

Lynn\_PC-2

Lynn\_PC-3

Lynn\_PC-4

Lynn\_PC-5

Lynn\_PC-6

Lynn\_PC-7

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Realtor Barrie Lynn leads historic tours of the Midtown and Wells Avenue neighborhoods for the Historic Reno Preservation Society. Owner of several historic properties including her own home, she has conducted extensive research on the area and its residents. A passionate advocate for preservation, Lynn led the effort to establish the Wells Avenue Conservation District in 2013. Pictured at her home in Reno.

O’Sullivan\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Born in Reno, Barry O’Sullivan recalls spending time at his grandparents’ house at 706 Holcomb Avenue (pictured), where he now lives. His father began to purchase houses in the Midtown area for rentals in the late 1950s and also constructed some new apartments. Barry took over the property management business after his father passed away in 2003. He is an expert on the neighborhood.

Rollins\_PC-1

Rollins\_PC-2

Rollins\_PC-3

Rollins\_PC-4

Rollins\_PC-5 (Rader with his daughter, Sara)

Rollins\_PC-6 (Rader with his daughter, Sara)

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

In 1974, Rader Rollins moved from Las Vegas to Reno, where his family had opened Statewide Lighting at 1311 S. Virginia Street the previous year. He began working in the store while still a student at UNR, eventually becoming its owner and expanding the family business into Statewide Lighting & Accents.

Siri\_Jeff & George\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

In 1954, George Siri, Jr. bought his father’s interest in Reno Frozen Food Lockers, the storage and butchering business his father, George Siri, Sr., had founded with Willie Carano at 1264 S. Virginia Street. In 1974, George Jr. partnered with Don O’Day and Bruno Mastelotto to create the Ponderosa Meat Company. His son, Jeff Siri, also worked in the business while growing up. Here, George Siri, Jr. and his son, Jeff Siri, are pictured at their home in Reno.

Sprague\_PC-1

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Originally from Fernley, Sam Sprague moved to the Reno-Sparks area in 1969 and later entered the U.S. Army. He founded Micano Home and Garden in 2003 at 1350 S. Virginia Street (pictured) after traveling around Mexico to purchase art and handcrafted goods. He was a participant in the early meetings that led to the formation of the Midtown District.

Stremmel\_PC-1

Stremmel\_PC-2

Stremmel\_PC-3

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Peter Stremmel moved with his family from California to Reno when he was just a child. His father, Bill Stremmel, was in the horse-booking business and founded Stremmel Motors at 1492 S. Virginia Street in the mid-1950s. Peter founded the Stremmel Gallery at 1466 S. Virginia Street (pictured) in the early 1970s. He is now the Executive Director of the much-expanded Stremmel Gallery.

Watson\_PC-1

Watson\_PC-2

Watson\_PC-3

Photographer: Patrick Cummings, 2016

Originally from southern California, Angela Watson moved to Truckee in 1992 and to Reno in 1994, when she purchased Black Hole Body Piercing. She later moved the business to 675 South Virginia Street from its original location on California Avenue and around 2003 moved to its current location in a renovated house at 912 S. Virginia Street.