

I want to take a few minutes and comment on this donation from the Clarence and Martha Berger Trust.

Martha Berger died on August 23, 2019, almost one year ago today. Had she lived two more months, she would have been 101 years old. When Martha was born, her aunt Betty was disappointed that the baby girl was not named after her and began calling her 'Betty'. It stuck, all her life the name she preferred for herself was Betty, so it seems a bit strange for me to see the name Martha on the Trust.

Clarence and Betty had no children. They basically adopted the children and grandchildren of Clarences extended family.

Clarence's mother was born Parnee Smith on a farm in Washoe Valley across from where the old Cattleman's restaurant used to be. She was born in 1863, when this was Nevada territory. She married Joseph Berger who later became the watermaster for the Marlette Lake Virginia City water system.

Both Clarence and Betty graduated from Carson High School. Clarence served in the US Marines and worked 33 years for the US Post Office. Betty worked for different banks and retired from an accounting job at the State of Nevada.

They did live a conservative life and saved their money. They invested. Betty usually took the lead on these investments. While she never talked specifically about them, they were a source of pride to her. When the trust was dissolved, between 2 and 2-1/2 million dollars was distributed to local causes.

One of Betty's nieces, Barbara Berger married Joe Hawley who had lived at Stewart when growing up. His dad, Albert Hawley, a native American, was an instructor at Stewart Indian School and coached the boxing club. I'm sure that this is the reason for the donation to the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum.

Neither Clarence or Betty went to college but they valued education. Part of their legacy was to donate \$500,000 to WNC as a scholarship fund for students. The trust also gave to the Brewery Arts Center, the Sheriff's canine unit, the Sheriff's Search and Rescue, several churches and many community organizations.

A lot of the descendants of Joseph and Parnee Berger still or have lived in the Carson area. There are architects, engineers, nurses, law enforcement, airline pilots, pastors, an army general, lawyers and even one Nevada State Assemblyman. I give this tribute to Betty and Clarence Berger, my aunt and uncle.

I'd like this statement to be made a part of the minutes in its entirety.