

CHG author's book a change from procedures

Erin Donahoe, CHG

Beth Gibson, a technical writer for CH2M HILL Hanford Group, always knew she would be a published author of something more captivating than a tank-farm procedure manual. This past March, her dream came true.

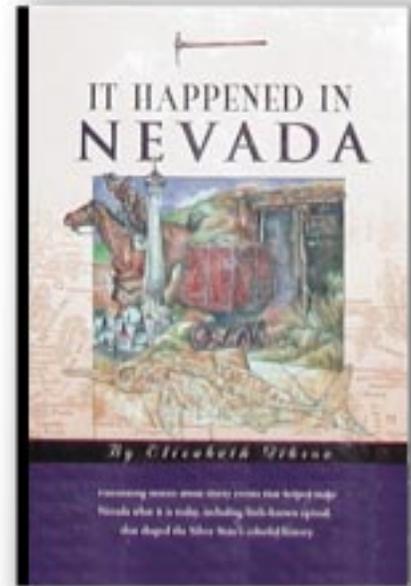
Gibson's new book, *It Happened in Nevada*, is a colorful history of the state as told through personal stories about the people who lived it. It's part of a series of "It Happened in..." books on various states, and Gibson was familiar with the series. Then she stumbled across an ad asking for writers to explore states that hadn't been covered in the series.

Having just visited Nevada, Gibson thought it would be a natural choice. She wrote and submitted a proposal, then began her research — starting with the books she had purchased on her trip and scouring the Internet for other stories and sources. Videos on PBS and the A&E Network provided some fascinating stories as well.

It Happened in Nevada explores beyond the glitz of Las Vegas and Reno. In her writing, Gibson brings the state's history to life with unusual stories and anecdotes. "I was looking for stuff beyond what the state bird is," Gibson said. "I wanted something more interesting."

Gibson, who has worked at Hanford for 18 years, earned a degree in English history in May of 1997. She has also served as editor of the East Benton Historical Society newsletter.

She said her just-published book will not be her last. In fact, she's already working on another manuscript about Washington State outlaws for the same publisher, due out next fall. ♦



Gibson