



Driving and Walking Tours
LincolnCounty
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1

Lower and Upper Pahrnatag Lakes

Travel approximately 4 miles south of Alamo and turn west at the identification signs.



South of the town of Alamo, the run-off from White River flows into an idyllic, pastoral, 50 acre lake. This lake is called Upper Pahrnatag Lake and is just over 2 miles long and a half mile wide. It is encircled with beautiful shade trees, brush and grasses. The surrounding land is designated as a National Wildlife Preserve and the area has become a permanent home for birds such as duck, geese, quail, blue herons, and many varieties of smaller birds. Migrating birds include swans and pelicans that pass through in winter and spring.

The overflow from the Upper Pahrnatag Lake is carried downstream about 4 miles to Lower

Pahrnatag Lake. This lake is slightly less than a mile and a half long and about a half mile wide.

Fishing in early spring and summer is excellent. During the summer months, water is used for irrigation and reduces the level of both lakes.

2

Alamo—A Historic Pahrnatag Valley Town

Continue north about 4 miles from Upper Pahrnatag Lake or south 9 miles from Ash Springs on U.S. 93 to the historic town of Alamo. See the Alamo Walking Tour in this brochure for individual attractions.



Alamo, the principal town of Pahrnatag Valley, was formed around 1900 by Fred Allen, Mike Botts, Bert Riggs and William T. Stewart. It was settled largely by individuals and families from Fredonia, Arizona. The town is located on U.S. 93, about 93 miles north of Las Vegas. The post office was established on May 12, 1905. It is thought that the name of the town was derived from the Spanish

term "alamo" meaning "poplar", and denotes the presence of the poplar or cottonwood trees in the area.

3

The town of Ash Springs & Ash Springs Recreation Site

Drive north on U.S. 93 from Alamo or south on U.S. 93 from the junction of S.R. 375/318 and U.S. 93 to the town of Ash Springs. Ash Springs Recreation Site is unmarked but is located across the highway from the gas station.

There are an abundance of springs in the Pahrnatag Valley and Ash Springs is most frequently visited. The temperature ranges

between 88 and 97 degrees at the warmest points and the flow of water is 17 to 23 cubic feet per second. Stream channels have been built to carry this water to the numerous ranches in the valley below. A cool, natural swimming pool is available for local residents and visitors. No user fee for day use but camping is not allowed.

4

Delamar

Turn off of U.S. 93 approximately 16 miles west of Caliente and drive about 15 miles south on a gravel/rock road to the present day ghost town site of Delamar. Road not recommended for passenger cars.



Visitors should be warned that the Delamar town site, like many other old mining camps, is on private ground near dangerous mine workings and access is limited due to current mining activities.

Shortly after farmers from the Pahranaagat Valley discovered gold in 1890, the Ferguson Mining District was formed. Reports reached Pioche of

assays ranging from \$75 to \$1,000 value for a ton of ore, resulting in a rush of miners to the Ferguson District. Golden City and the town of Helene were the first small temporary encampments.

The camp of Delamar grew rapidly after Captain John Delamar of Montana purchased the principal claims in 1893 for \$150,000. The first post office was opened in June, 1894, and by the end of 1895 the camp had become a town containing many businesses and dwellings built with the surrounding native stone. By 1897, Delamar's 3,000 residents supported numerous stores, saloons, theater and a variety of professional businesses. However, because of what was called "Delamar Dust," the silica dust inhaled by the miners, Delamar acquired the reputation of "The Maker of Widows."

2 years after a fire destroyed half of the town in 1900, Captain Delamar sold his mines which had produced an estimated \$8.5 million in gold. The new owners, controlled by Simon Bamberger, continued to out-produce all other mines in the state until about 1909, at which time the operation was closed and only reopened briefly from 1929-1934. Today, partially standing rock buildings, mill ruins, a cemetery and ghosts from the past are all that remain at this site.

5

Caliente-Historic Railroad Town

Continue east approximately 16 miles on U.S. 93 from the Delamar turnoff, or southeast 15 miles from Panaca on U.S. 93 to the historic railroad town of Caliente. See the Caliente Walking Tour information in this brochure for individual attractions.

The meadow area around the junction of Meadow Valley Wash and Clover Creek was originally settled in the early 1860's by Ike and Dow Barton, 2 Negro slaves who had escaped from Arkansas. In the early 1870's the area was known as Dutch Flat, with Jackman Ranch being established. In 1874, ranchers Charles and William Culverwell purchased the Jackman Ranch and renamed it Culverwell Ranch. It was later referred to as "Culverwell." Along with ranching, the family earned a living by providing hay for the mining camps in Pioche and Delamar.

A dispute between 2 major railroad companies began when E.H. Harriman of the Oregon Short Line and Union Pacific, pushed track from Utah to the site of Culverwell. Even as Harriman's crews worked on the line, the newly formed San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad owned by Senator William Clark, claimed the same territory. These rival groups had sought the right-of-way in a canyon only big enough for a single set of tracks. The Union Pacific had grade stakes set all the way into Culverwell and on toward Pioche, but their rival group gobbled up enough of the narrow canyon to set a road block in the path of Union Pacific.

In 1901 William Culverwell ended the Harriman-Clark battle with his shotgun. As owner of the land, Culverwell allowed one railroad grade to be built through his property. The 2 factions eventually reconciled, Union Pacific assumed control of the project. Culverwell became "Calientes" (the Spanish word for hot) after the hot springs found in a cave at the base of the surrounding mountains. The town was surveyed, and on August 3, 1901, a post office opened and postal officials renamed the town Caliente, dropping the "s". The railroad line was completed in 1905, and by 1910, Caliente was the largest town in Lincoln County with 1,755 residents.

A 2-story wooden structure served as a train depot until burning down in one of Caliente's disastrous fires. In 1923, the impressive Caliente Train Depot was built, a classic Mission-style building constructed of tan stucco. This 2-story building included the railroad station, private offices and a community center on the first floor, while the second level featured a hotel.



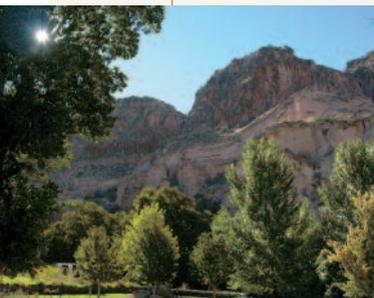
Within a few years, Caliente grew to more than 5,000 residents. For more than 40 years, Caliente was one of the major division points on the railroad line. When steam engines were replaced by diesel locomotives in the 1940's, the division point moved to Las Vegas. Without the depot as a main railroad stop, the town's growth dwindled but not its spirit.

A town steeped in history, Caliente has many stories to tell and was one of the favorite writing spots for western novelist Zane Grey.

6

Kershaw-Ryan State Park

Turn south at the Kershaw-Ryan State Park sign near Caliente's western city limits and travel about 2 miles south on S.R. 317 until you reach the park.



Kershaw-Ryan State Park is a colorful side canyon to Rainbow Canyon. Wild grapevines climb up the sheer rock cliffs, and Gambel oaks, cottonwoods and elms provide a shady retreat.

The Samuel Kershaw family homesteaded the canyon in the 1870's and sold to James Ryan in the early 1900's. Ryan donated the "Kershaw Garden" as a public park in 1934, and the Civilian Conservation Corps

developed a picnic site and a small wading pool that year. Floods in 1984 destroyed much of their work, and the park was closed for more than a decade. Facilities rebuilt in the mid-1990's include 2 picnic areas, a restroom and trails.

The day-use picnic area has large shade ramadas and picnic tables.

7

Rainbow Canyon Historic Sites

Mileages and suggested stops along Rainbow Canyon (Note: Mileage on odometers can vary from car to car, because of tire size. The mileages shown here are within 1/10 to 2/10 of the actual mileage on your odometer.)

0 Stop sign at U.S. 93 and S.R. 317 junction. "All Aboard" for the Self-Guided Tour of Rainbow Canyon. Check your odometer, fasten your seat belts, and time-travel with us down colorful, historic Rainbow Canyon.

2.0 Kershaw-Ryan State Park. "Kershaw Garden" (settled in 1870) was donated to the State and became one Nevada's first state parks in 1935. In 1984, flash floods destroyed park facilities, and the park was closed for more than a decade before the park was rebuilt. A day-use area with lawns, hiking trails, and shaded picnic tables has been open since 1997, and campground facilities are planned for future construction. The park is open from 8:00 a.m. until dusk for picnicking and hiking; a park entrance fee is charged.

3.8 Old Conaway Ranch, established 1873. In the late 1970's, a golf course was developed on this ranch, which is still privately owned. The floods of 1984 destroyed the 9-hole course, and the owners could not afford to rebuild it. 3 elevated homes which resemble mushrooms were part of the golf course development.

5.0 Etna Cave. Park on the right shoulder of the road, and look for a low underpass (a trestle) under the railroad tracks. Walk up the wash and through a narrow tunnel that extends about 200 feet. The tunnel was blasted to divert water from Etna Wash away from the railroad tracks. Continue upstream of

the tunnel for about 400 feet, then look to your left on the tan cliff face for a series of red-orange pictographs (painted figures). These were painted by unknown prehistoric artists, using red hematite (an iron oxide pigment). Other colors may have been used, but have long since faded or washed off the cliffs; it is hard to imagine what some of these designs may have been. While facing the pictographs, glance over your right shoulder and spot the cave opening halfway up the opposite cliffs. This is Etna Cave, which was totally excavated by Sidney M. Wheeler, working under the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935-1937. The hundreds of artifacts recovered document a 5,000-year sequence of prehistoric occupation by different cultural groups. These artifacts were taken to the Los Angeles Museum of Man, which was the only research museum in operation at that time. Mr. Wheeler and his wife Georgia went on to discover and excavate many other archeological sites in Nevada.

6.1 Tennille and Dula Ranches. Thomas Ed Dula lived in Delamar during the peak years, and then purchased this ranch. The 1910 flood did a lot of damage to the Dula Ranch, which was across the creek from the Tennille Ranch. Thomas C. Tennille had also lived in Delamar with his wife and some of their children. They purchased their ranch in 1915, and members of the Tennille family still run cattle on the ranch. The Longhorn Cattle Company built the beautiful log lodge on the hillside in 1995, and operated as a "dude ranch" for a couple of seasons.

8.7 Stine Power Station. The foundations of a steam-generated power plant were located in the wash bottom; the cement walls seen across the wash were part of this operation. Between 1902-1909, this plant supplied electrical power to the mines, mills, residences and businesses of Delamar. Water was also piped from Meadow Valley Wash over the mountains 12 miles west to the gold mining camp. The remains of the old pumping station and pipeline are within a mile of this stop. Steam-powered booster stations, fueled by local pinyon and juniper wood, were required at two locations along Rock Springs Wash, to pump the water over the Delamar Mountains. On the other side of the railroad tracks, beyond the cement foundations, there is a long, low cement wall that was built to funnel water down the wash and underneath the tracks.

11.0 Pinyon-Juniper View Point. Pinyon pines and juniper trees were much more prevalent in Rainbow Canyon before settlers, miners, and railroad workers cut the wood for their various needs. The woodlands seen on the left-hand (east) side of the road are making a come-back after a century of not being harvested.

Note: Road closed to all but local traffic beyond this point until further notice (washed out in flooding, January, 2005)

11.4 Ballou's Ranch. This homestead, dating from the 1880's, is the headquarters for a ranching operation that uses public and private lands for cattle grazing throughout Rainbow Canyon. Some of the cows that you see along the roadside may be part of these herds. "Open Grazing" is practiced throughout much of the West, and ranchers pay a monthly fee per head (called an

Animal Unit Month) for grazing on public lands.

14.7 Grapevine Canyon. Watch for a left turnoff, just after crossing under the railroad bridge over the road. Take the right-hand fork in this turnoff, and drive as far as you can; rock-fall sometimes blocks the narrow 2-track that parallels the highway, then turns east into a narrow canyon. This roadway was part of the old railroad grade, which was abandoned after the track was moved to the other side of the canyon. At the end of the roadway, in Grapevine Canyon, there is a little creek which tumbles over rocks, and wild grapes grow in this moist canyon setting. Ash and Hackberry trees also grow here, and provide a cool respite for a hot day. Near the grove of trees, a narrow path leads up a slope to cliffs and shelter caves that face the railroad tracks. Red Pictographs and a few petroglyphs may be seen on the Tuff walls. Some of the petroglyphs were outlined with chalk by well-meaning visitors, to enhance their visibility; but this practice is detrimental to the rock art since it hastens erosion. Be cautious when hiking through these brush-covered slopes since rattlesnakes may be present during spring and summer months. They hunt the rodents and small mammals that are attracted to the water and fruits in Grapevine Canyon.

17.5 Tunnel No. 5. There are both historic and prehistoric sites at this location. Just past the railroad bridge, look for a short dirt road on the right-hand side. Park and walk along this road for about 400 feet. The railroad tie structure was a "guard station" dating back to World War II days, when workers were assigned to guard the tunnels along Union Pacific Railroad. The tunnel itself was built in 1911, and improved in 1925. Look west and uphill from the "guard station" at the darkly-stained rocks strewn down the hillside. Some of these boulders have petroglyphs (incised images) of bighorn sheep. Native populations of bighorn sheep disappeared for many years after cattle grazing started in the canyon, but glimpses are occasionally seen of sheep who are starting to re-populate the Delamar Mountains.

19.0 Petroglyph Boulder. There is not much room to park off the shoulder of the highway at this location, and the boulders are at the base of the cliff. The designs on these boulders are more abstract than the ones at Tunnel No. 5. On the other side of the highway, the stream almost washed out the road in January, except where the willows were growing. Willows and cottonwood trees are the preferred food and building material for beaver, who build dams along Meadow Valley Wash. Deer also browse on the tender leaves, and the Southwest Willow Flycatcher is a bird that nests and hunts for insects exclusively in the willows. Both native trees are being choked out by a more aggressive, introduced species, the Salt Cedar or Tamarisk tree, which has little food value for animals. The Tamarisk can re-emerge from the roots after being burned or sprayed with herbicide; its roots tap deeply and absorb much more water than native species.

20.2 Elgin, and Bradshaw's "End of the Rainbow" Ranch. The Bradshaw Ranch was established in 1880, and the fruit trees supplied the mining camp of Delamar, and then later

the railroad workers. A grandson of the original settler planted a larger orchard in the 1950's, with 4 varieties of apple trees which ripen in September. Across the tracks Elgin had been a "siding" on the railroad from 1907-1987, with its own small depot and telegraph station. In 1922, a one-room schoolhouse was built for the children of railroad and ranch workers in Rainbow Canyon. It was used until 1967, when the last eighth grade student "graduated" and started attending the high school in Panaca. It fell vacant for a number of years, and in 1998, the Bradshaw family renovated the schoolhouse to become a small museum. In 2005, the Nevada Legislature accepted the Bradshaw family's offer to make this a Nevada State Historic Park. Picnic tables under the old cottonwood tree are available for your picnic.

Your tour ends at this point, and we hope you have enjoyed learning more about the history of Rainbow Canyon.

8

Beaver Dam State Park

Beaver Dam State Park is located approximately 38 miles from Caliente. Travel 6 miles north on U.S. 93 to the Beaver Dam State Park sign, turn east and travel 19 miles on an improved gravel road and then 13 miles on a dirt road.

The park is surrounded by scenic pinions and junipers and has primitive camping units and year-round flowing streams. Good drinking water is also available. The dam has recently been breached due to flooding, but there is stream fishing and excellent in-season hunting for deer and wild turkeys. It is open from April 15 to October 15; call to check on road conditions at other times of the year (775-728-4460).

9

Panaca-Oldest Surviving Town in Eastern Nevada

Panaca is a small farming community located 15 miles north of Caliente (about midway between Caliente and Pioche). It is a mile east of U.S. 93 on S.R. 319 and is situated in the Meadow Valley Wash.



Panaca was settled by Mormon pioneers in 1864 and at that time was within Utah Territory. In 1866 the Nevada border was moved further east to its present boundary.

This historic and picturesque town is home to the Lincoln County High School and Middle School. Students from neighboring communities and rural areas attend grades seven through twelve.

Panaca's primary industry is farming, but it also neighbors one of Lincoln County's five State Parks, Cathedral Gorge, which hosts year-round camping and exploration. To the north of

Panaca, is the entrance to scenic Condor Canyon. Approximately 2 miles to the west, the Lincoln County Airport accommodates small aircraft and is presently being considered for updating and renovation.

The community celebrates "Pioneer Days" each July and hosts the Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo each August.

10

Cathedral Gorge State Park

Cathedral Gorge State Park is located approximately 1 mile northwest of Panaca on U.S. 93. Turn west at the state park sign.



This is an area of majestic eroded cliffs with spectacular spires, towers and columns, defined by a long narrow valley cut into tan bentonite clay formations. Erosion has created unique spires and slot canyons in the Gorge walls. During the 1920's and up to the 1950's, Biblical pageants and "vaudeville" style plays were held at various locations within Cathedral Park. In Nevada's Centennial year of 1964, a history play about the settling of Panaca by early pioneers was presented here. Scenic overlooks, shaded picnic areas and a tree canopied campground for 22 units are provided for visitors. The park includes a sewage dump, good drinking water, restrooms, showers and is open year round.

11

Bullionville-Historic Mining Camp

Bullionville is about 10 miles south of Pioche on U.S. 93 where a historic marker identifies the townsite. The site is on private property and is fenced and gated. The owners have cattle grazing and visitation is not allowed.

Originally a camp named Ely City, this area was later renamed Bullionville. Because of the abundant water supply (which was not the case in Pioche), most of the mills that crushed the ore from Pioche were built in Bullionville.

In 1872, construction began on the 21-mile narrow gauge system, named the "Pioche & Bullionville Railroad." By 1873, this railroad began transporting ore from the mines to the mills. This rail line claimed to be the second oldest "internal" rail system built in Nevada. 5 mills and a substantial number of homes and businesses were built during this peak period of 1872-1875.

In 1880, the Five Stamp Mill was relocated to Silver Reef, Utah, and the last remaining mill stopped running along with the railroad. A fire in 1894 destroyed what was left of the town. Today, little is left of Bullionville except wind and wandering ghosts of the past.

12

Highland/Caselton-A Historic Mining Camp

The remains of Highland are a few miles from Caselton on the slopes of Highland Peak.

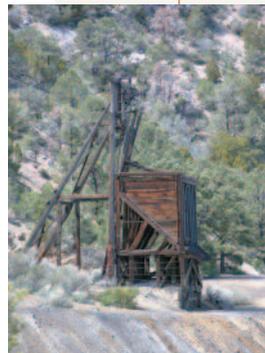
In 1868, silver was discovered on the eastern side of Highland Range, west of Pioche. A boarding house, brewery, saloon and various other dwellings were built the following year. Wagons transported ore to the smelter at Bristol, 20 miles to the north. About 25 tons of ore were taken out each day for months at a time until the camp died in the 1870's. Broken brick, stone and twisted steel identify the site today.

The town of Caselton, established in the 1920's by Combined Metals Reduction Company on the south slope of Ely Mountain, is within a few miles from the original Highland mining camp. Caselton was named for J.A. Caselton, an official of the National Lead Company. The town and its flotation mill were built by Combined Metals in 1941 and the lime kiln operation was added in the mid-1950's.

13

Pioche-Historic Mining Center

Pioche is located approximately 11 miles north of Panaca and about 108 miles south of Ely on U.S. 93. Motel, hotels and R.V. spaces provide overnight accommodations with a complete business community of service stations, restaurants and shops. See the Pioche Walking Tour in this brochure for individual attractions.



In 1864, William Hamblin, a Latter Day Saint missionary, was led to silver deposits in the vicinity of Pioche by a Native Paiute. In 1868, San Francisco financier Francois L.A. Pioche purchased claims and constructed a smelter in the area, forming the Meadow Valley Mining Company. The mining camp was called "Pioche's City" and later became known as Pioche.

The town rapidly became the largest mining town in southeastern Nevada in the early 1870's. Population was estimated at 10,000 people by 1871. The town quickly gained fame for its "toughest town" reputation. Due mostly to confusion over the exact

location of mining claims, mine owners finally resorted to hiring guards. Hired gunmen were imported at the rate of about twenty a day during boom times to fight mining claim encroachments. Mine owners often paid the gunmen a salary of \$20 per day – a more certain investment for owners than settling disputes in court where bribery often determined the final outcome. The sheriff's office was reputed to be worth \$40,000 a year in bribes alone.

Guns were the only law, and Pioche made Bodie, Tombstone, and other better known towns pale in comparison. It has been reported that 75 men were buried in the cemetery before anyone in Pioche had time to die a natural death. According to

one reputable source, nearly 60 percent of the homicides reported in Nevada during 1871-1872 took place in and around Pioche.

A favorite example of the town's bloody character recalls the arrival of young Illinois lawyer and his bride in 1871. As the couple stepped off the afternoon stagecoach, a flurry of shooting broke out and before the couple could sprint into the hotel, 3 men were sprawled dead, still twitching in the dirt street. The bride didn't even bother to unpack, and within minutes of her arrival hopped back aboard the stagecoach and headed home to her mother.

Not even the building of the county courthouse was exempt from corruption. Pioche was designated the county seat in 1871 and courthouse plans were initiated. The county contracted to build the courthouse at a cost of \$26,400. In order to raise the needed money, \$25,000 worth of bonds were sold at a discounted rate of \$20,000. By the time it was completed a year later, costs had escalated to more than \$88,000 because of alterations, cost overruns, mismanagement and kickbacks.

To finance payment the courthouse, the Board of Commissioners issued certificates of indebtedness at a high rate of interest, and by the 1880's the debt had risen to \$181,000. By the end of the century it exceeded more than \$670,000. The final payment was made in 1937; 4 years after the building had been condemned. The total cost of the Lincoln County Courthouse was nearly \$1,000,000.

One of the worst fires in the West took place in Pioche in 1871. It began in a restaurant during a celebration commemorating Mexican independence and quickly spread. When it reached the Felsenthal Store, a stone fireproof structure where 300 barrels of blasting powder were stored, the subsequent explosion shot nearly 400 feet into the air, blowing a 1,000-pound door clear out of town and showering the town with flaming debris. The explosion of debris killed 13 and injured 47, and the accompanying fire left virtually the entire population homeless.

The fortunes of Pioche diminished in the 1880's due to the shutdown of the principle mines in 1876. During World War II, an economic boom occurred when Pioche was the second largest lead and zinc producer in the nation. Present day Pioche has little mining activity, and in being the county seat, the main focus is now government.

14

Echo Canyon State Park

From the Pioche and S.R. 322 junction, take S.R. 322 east from Pioche about 5 miles until you see a brown State Park directional sign. Take a sharp right (south) just after the sign and onto the paved county road and travel about 8 miles to Echo Canyon State Park.



Echo Canyon State Park is one of 5 state parks located in Lincoln County and is a popular area for camping, fishing, bird-watching, hiking and enjoying the beautiful scenery of eastern Nevada. Elevations range from 5,200 feet to 5,600 feet.

The park has facilities that include 41 camping sites, boat launching, fishing, fish cleaning station, water skiing

(when the water level is adequate), hiking and hunting. It is open all year and a sewage dump is provided.

15

Ursine-Historic Mormon Town

Continue east on S.R. 322 about 11 to 12 miles from the Echo Canyon turnoff, or about 17 miles east of Pioche via the Eagle Valley Road (S.R. 322) to the town of Ursine, also commonly known as Eagle Valley.

Ursine is a historic farming community that was originally settled by a small colony of Mormons in 1865, the year after Panaca was settled. This "one street community" at the head of Eagle Valley Canyon was developed as a farming and stock-raising area. The town once had a recreation hall that also served as a school and church building, and the Ursine post office was in operation from about 1895 to 1980. Many of the present homes have been occupied since the late 1800's.

16

Spring Valley State Park

Travel 17 miles east of Pioche on S.R. 322 to Ursine, then 3 miles north on S.R. 322 to Spring Valley State Park.



Spring Valley State Park is open year-round and provides excellent water recreation at the 65 acre Eagle Valley Reservoir. Visitors can enjoy boating, fishing, water skiing (between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), hiking, picnicking and exploring the historic pioneer ranch house buildings and surrounding range land. Boat rentals, 43 camp sites, rest rooms, sewage dump and good drinking water are available. Winter

ice fishing is excellent but be prepared for extreme winter conditions, especially from November to March.

17

Bristol-Historic Mining Camp Town

Travel about 13.5 miles north of Pioche on U.S. 93, then west on a graded road for about 10 miles. Visiting this site is by permission only.

As early as 1870, Mormon settlers discovered silver on the western flank of the Bristol Range. This gave rise to a camp called National City, established in April of 1871.

The mining camp was renamed Bristol City in 1878 with the establishment of the Bristol post office. By 1882, the town of Bristol had 5 stores, 8 saloons, 2 hotels with restaurants attached, numerous other shops and businesses and “more prospective millionaires than any other camp of comparable size.” While the Bristol Mine still has potential ore, equipment has stood idle for many decades and the townsite remains under the watchful eye of a caretaker.

18

Bristol Charcoal Kilns

Travel about 13.5 miles north of Pioche on U.S. 93, then west on a graded road for about 6 miles.

The Bristol Charcoal Kilns were built in the 1870’s out of native stone for the purpose of making charcoal from juniper or pinion wood. The charcoal was used for smelting ore and operating blacksmith shops. The kilns operated for many years and are unique in design, craftsmanship and large size.

Although more than a hundred years have passed, many wood cutting sites can still be found in the juniper forests near the kilns. Huge tree stumps are reminders of the vast amount of labor and resources used to produce the charcoal.

Evidence of the milling operation at Bristol Wells is visible in the smelter tailings, even though all of the buildings are now gone, leaving only picturesque ruins and a stone house.

19

Whipple Cave

This cave is located on S.R. 318 about 29 miles south of Lund and about 63 miles north of Hiko and east of S.R. 318 about 7 miles.

The major attraction of Whipple Cave is a room 100 feet in width and height, and about 500 feet long. Within this underground cave room is a stalagmite called the “Great Column” which extends from the floor to the over-arching roof. John L. Whipple was the discoverer and developer of this natural phenomenon. Warning: Because of the long drop, descending this cave is only recommended for groups of experienced spelunkers with ropes.

20

Hiko-Historic County Seat & Mining Town

Hiko is located on S.R. 318 about 5 miles north of S.R. 375 and about 17 miles north of the town of Alamo.

The town of Hiko, first established in the late 1860’s, is located in the north end of the Pahrnagat Valley. In March of 1865, Indians of the Pahrnagat Valley revealed the location of silver to several white settlers. By October of that same year, a camp

was established at Hiko. The name is said to have been a Shoshone Indian word meaning “white man” or “white man’s town.”

A “rush” occurred in early 1866 producing a population of a few hundred residents. During this time, William Raymond purchased many “squatter’s claims” and laid out a town site after obtaining the necessary capital in the East. The new facility, including a Five Stamp Mill, started up in November, 1866. However, because of the absence of skilled workers, this effort soon failed and by 1871 the mill had moved to Bullionville. Today, the only evidence of early mining activity is the stone ruins and graveyard.

21

Rachel-The “Newest” Town

Rachel is on S.R. 375 and located 40 miles west of the junction of S.R. 318 and U.S. 93 in western Lincoln County.



Originally called “Sandy” because of its long expanse of sand, Rachel is the youngest town in Nevada and is considered the “UFO Capital of the World.” The town was named after Rachel Jones, the first child born in the community founded by D.C. Day in 1978. The community has been featured in magazines, books,

television shows and many major newspapers as the center of UFO activity, drawing Sci-Fi fans and visitors from all over the world. The result of this publicity was the renaming of S.R. 375 as “The Extraterrestrial Highway” by the Nevada State Legislature. For the inquisitive, part of the Nevada Test Site is situated in southwestern Lincoln County, close to Rachel. However, for obvious reasons, there are no guided tours and warning signs are posted for visitors who get a little too curious.

With only about 100 people in the entire valley, Rachel does not even have a post office. There is, however, a gas station/ convenience store at one end of town, a restaurant/ bar/motel at the other, and an RV park. The town is located at the southern end of the Sand Springs Valley, an otherwise empty, bowl-shaped valley about 25 miles wide.

In and around this little town, alfalfa is grown and cattle raised. Western history buffs may want to explore the mountains surrounding Rachel. Paiute Indian artifacts such as arrowheads, petroglyphs and other signs of encampments can be found. Please leave what you find and remember that excavation, collection, damage or destruction of archeological resources (pottery, chipped stone, rock art and other resources) is prohibited under the Archeological Resources Protection Act (43 CFR Part 7). Not far from Rachel are said to be ghost towns full of spirits of deceased cowboys. Inquire locally for directions – the friendly folks at Rachel invite everyone to explore their town and the surrounding area.

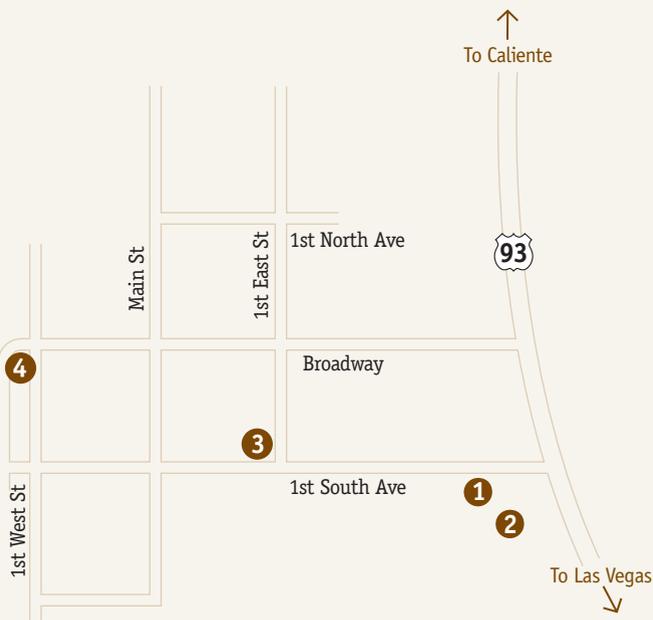
Alamo

1

The **Earl Wadsworth Home** was built in 1920 and is typical of this type of concrete block "Plain Early 20th Century Vernacular" house style of the period. While the house was later purchased by the Albert Frehner family, the Wadsworth family was one of the earliest Mormon families in Lincoln County.

2

The **Delamar Ice House** was originally located in the historic 1890's mining town of Delamar. It is thought that Earl Wadsworth moved the ice house from Delamar to Alamo in 1920. Various Panaca families such as the Lees, Edwards, and Wadsworths, were involved in cutting and hauling ice to Delamar.



3

The **David L. Stewart House** was built by Mr. Stewart as a hotel around 1930. This appears to be the only "Craftsman/Cottage" style building in the area that is of this quality. The present owner, Earl Wadsworth, is a descendent of an early Lincoln County family.

4

The **Alamo School** is a typical 1900's "Classic Box" style of architecture with its hip roof, gabled front porch and a small hip roofed bell enclosure at the highest point. It was built in 1917 by George Syphus, Henry Bolling and community volunteers. Syphus built many of the cinder-block buildings constructed during the 1905-1920's era. The building was sold to private owners around 1995 and was remodeled into a personal residence.

Caliente

1



The **Union Pacific Railroad Station**, built in 1923, was designed by John and Donald Parkinson from Los Angeles. It was originally used as a hotel, restaurant, telegraph office, as well as a train depot for the Union Pacific Railroad and Amtrak passenger waiting room. It is presently being used as Caliente's City Hall, Library and Art Museum. This building represents the best in Mission style architecture and is a good example for adaptive reuse of buildings. The Caliente Boxcar Museum was opened in 2005, adjacent to the Railroad Station. It houses memorabilia and photos documenting Caliente's railroad history.

2

The **Train Service Store** was built in the 1920's to serve passengers in addition to the service given in the train depot. It is thought that Charles Culverwell Senior owned and operated this store. This is the general location of the early ethnic wars and fights between the Japanese and Chinese railroad laborers. The current owners are Steve and Chuck Culverwell.

3

The **Culverwell Stone House** appears to be constructed in the 1860's or 1870's as one of the earliest stone shelters in the area. It is thought that Charles and William Culverwell may have built one or more of these stone shelters when they first arrived. They were built into a hillside and measured between 12 feet to 15 feet square. They were generally cool in the summer and warm in the winter because of the partial integration of the structure into the hillside.

4

The **John Miller Buildings** (land originally owned by Mr. Culverwell) were built in 1907 as a bank with a hotel above, but never actually served as a bank or a hotel. At one time it was used as a cleaners and a saloon called the "Bucket of Blood Saloon," as well as a variety of other "lively" uses. It is now owned by Gottfredson's and is operated as a furniture and appliance store.

5

The **Caliente Business District** was originally located at the north and south areas of the railroad tracks (shortly after 1900.) Early photos illustrate the scattered stores, saloons and other places of business. The San Pedro Saloon best illustrates this period.

2 major fires occurred that burned down most of the present day business area. The businesses rebuilt both times and most of the present -day businesses have origins that date back to around 1928. However, portions of buildings, such as stone or brick walls, date as far back as 1905-1910. The buildings that survived the fires include most of the Underhill block, east of the grocery store, and the block west of South Spring Street.

Portions of business buildings on the north side of the tracks have been rebuilt.

6

The **J.C. Crawford Stone House** appears to be constructed in the 1860's or 1870's as one of the earlier stone shelters in the area. It is thought that one of the early cattlemen such as Ike or Dow Barton, freed slaves, may have built this structure or one of the other stone shelters in the area. In more recent times, these stone shelters were used for pantries, cold storage and general storage.

7

The **Richards Railroad Hotel** was built about 1910 to 1915 by Mr. Underhill and was used primarily as living quarters for railroad workers.

8

The **"Underhill" Stone Residence** was built in 1905 and is constructed of local stone. While it was originally a 1-story with a flat roof, by 1920 a second story was added. It was used as a residence and a saloon.



9

The **Underhill General Merchandise Store** was built around 1905 and is constructed of stone with some wood framing. Mr. Underhill used it primarily as a general store and a hardware store.

10

The **Underhill Rock Apartments** were built between 1906 and 1907 and are constructed entirely of stone.

11

The **Liston Home** was built in 1905 or 1906 and is also constructed of stone. It is an excellent example of the early 1900's "Classic Box" style of architecture.

12

The **Caliente Stone School** is a landmark within Caliente and is significant with respect to the many adaptive uses that the building has undergone while maintaining the exterior stone wall construction intact. The school was constructed in 1905 and is another excellent example of the early 1900's "Classic Box" style of architecture. It is now used as the Caliente Methodist Church.



13

The **Caliente Elementary School** was constructed by George Syphus and Henry Bolling in 1922 to accommodate growing enrollment during the early 1920's. The 1922 school was demolished in 2000, and a new school was built by the Nevada Division of Forestry Honor Camp Crew under the direction of Luke Bradshaw.

14

Union Pacific Railroad "Company Row" Homes are excellent examples of the housing that the railroad provided for many of its workers. These homes were built in 2 different time periods. The first 18 houses were constructed in 1905 and were wood framed with 2 floor plans. The single story house is generally a 2- to 3- bedroom unit and the 2-story plan includes 3 and 4 bedrooms.

Panaca

1

The **Panaca Mercantile** was constructed of adobe and opened for business on December 8, 1868 by the "Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution" comprised of approximately 115 stockholders. Their purpose was to satisfy bartering, merchandising and marketing needs. Goods could be paid for in cash, or bartered with in-kind goods or labor on town projects such as the irrigation ditch from Panaca Springs. Wagons from Salt Lake City, drawn by 6-mule teams, carried stock to the area. On the return route, they carried produce from Panaca and other locations back to Salt Lake City. The building housing the present-day grocery store was remodeled around 1980, to add a large section to the original Panaca Cooperative Mercantile.

2

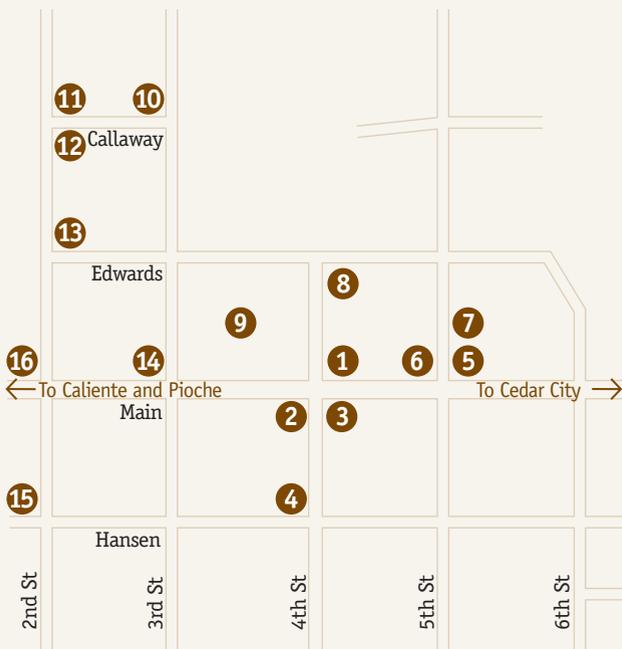
The **Wadsworth Store** was built in the 1880's by James Allen Wadsworth and was constructed of adobe. It underwent graceful adaptive reuse by being converted into a general mercantile and a school. It was renovated in 1998 to become the Panaca Heritage Center, open during town celebrations ("Pioneer Day" on July 24th or the closest Saturday to it).

3

The **Turnbaugh Home** appears to have been built in the 1870's by the Isaac Turnbaugh family.

4 The **James Allen Wadsworth Home** was originally constructed of adobe by James Allen Wadsworth in the late 1860's. It has been used as a residence and boarding house.

5 The **N.J. Wadsworth Second Home** was built in 1895 of brick and natural stone and appears to be a combination of ornate Victorian and Victorian Italianate styles. Its significance relates to the quality of workmanship and to the personality of N. J. Wadsworth. On many occasions, people would gather in the front yard to listen to the Wilcox Orchestra practice in the parlor.



6 The **Christian Peter Ronnow Home** was first built in Panaca about 1866 or 1867. The original shelter was only one room and was constructed of rough rock with a dirt roof. A shed with a willow roof, at the back of the house, was used for a kitchen in the summertime. Joseph Ronnow was born in this home on June 21, 1869. Christian Peter Ronnow was sent on a 2 year mission that same year, and when the family returned in about 1871 or 1872, he built a 3-room, unfired brick and adobe house that featured a front and a back porch. As the family continued to grow, the home was enlarged to 8 rooms.

7 The **F. E. Wadsworth Home** is thought to have been built about 5 years after his marriage to Florence Aveson in 1912.

8 The **Dan Mathews Home** was built in 1879 and was constructed of brick. It appears to combine decorated pioneer Victorian with Victorian gothic detailing above the windows that has been removed over the years.

9 The **Panaca Public Square** includes a meeting house built in 1868 for Sabbath meetings, a school building, recreation hall and public meetings of all kinds. This building is still standing and was in continuous use until 1940 when the Town Hall was remodeled to become a chapel and recreation center. Also, the Panaca Elementary School, constructed in 1909, and the Lincoln County High School, constructed in 1911, were both located in this public square area. Both of these buildings, however, burned down separately in the 1940's and were replaced with newer buildings for the elementary and high school students.

10 The **Samuel and Jane Lee Home** was constructed of adobe and appears to have been built in the 1870's. This is a vernacular style of architecture that uses local materials and adobe.

11 The **Osborn and Ervin Lee Homes** are very similar, and appear to have been built around 1917. They are both built in an early 1900's "Classic Box" style. A dormer and front porch rail are featured at Ervin's home.

12 The **Henry Mathews Home** includes several stages of shelter. The earliest shelter was a dugout home that was generally about 6 feet deep and 12 feet square with a slanting roof. Crevices between the roof poles were filled with small compact bundles of bushes held in place by weaving together young willows. Dirt, which was excavated from the cellar, was then placed on the roof. Adobe and lumber replaced this dugout which is still located in the back. A two story brick/adobe ornate Victorian home was constructed in the late 1870's immediately to the west.

13 The **Lee Hotel** is a wood frame structure built in 1868. It is a typical 2-story "New England Pioneer" style building with board and bat construction. Lumber for this home was made by whip saw from logs hauled from the mountains east of Panaca. Its significance is that it was the one and only hotel and stage stop in Panaca's early days. It was built and lived in by Jane Vale Johnson Lee and her son Francis C. Lee. She operated it until her death in the 1870's, and it is assumed that Mr. John Wedge took over operation. Jane and her husband Francis, with their grown sons and their families, were the first settlers in Panaca. Mr. Lee died in 1866, which is when the town cemetery was built.

14 The **Mark Mathews Home** is a wood framed home that was built in the 1880's. It is a simple, plain "New England Pioneer" style structure with horizontal wood siding.

15 The **George Lee Edwards Home** was constructed in 1912 by owner George Edwards. Mr. Syphus was responsible for the concrete block work and Mr. Bolling the carpentry.

16 **Luke and Christians Syphus** came to Panaca in 1867 and

built a small earth shelter similar to the one described in the Henry Mathews house. This was followed by the adobe and stone structures that have since collapsed.

1 Pioche

The Million Dollar Courthouse was designed by Edward Donahue and was built in 1871. It is constructed of brick and stone and borders on the "Classic Revival" style of architecture with its detailing and proportion. The Courthouse originally cost \$16,400, and the jail an additional \$10,000, for a total of \$26,400. Due to "cost over-runs" at the beginning of the project by politicians, and delayed payments with mounting interest, the price soon ballooned to nearly 1 million dollars (\$800,000) by 1936 when it was finally paid off.



2

McCannon/Cedar Streets are where the first prominent families built prestigious homes, some of which are still in use today. Several of the homes were built by mining bosses, while others were occupied by doctors and lawyers. These streets were considered to be the fashionable place to live in early day Pioche.

3

The Miner's Union Hall is presently the Episcopal Church. It is a 3-story wood framed structure with a gable roof. This building was built to fit into the landscape and is a typical example of "Plain Early" 20th Century style. The Miner's Union was a center of social activities in this community for nearly 50 years.

4

Meadow Valley Street was the original entry street from Meadow Valley to the south of Pioche's business district. Many of the miner's cabins were located on the southeast end, and on the northwest end business flourished. It was one of the main business streets with the Catholic Church, Hanley's Opera House, 2 livery stables, blacksmith's shop, bakery, and dentist office being some of the first businesses located here. A few of these buildings were moved to Delamar in 1894 when that town started booming.

5

Main Street runs from the famous Treasure Hill to the current Lincoln County Courthouse. From the days of mud and ruts to its present day concrete walks and asphalt paving, there have been thousands of exciting, tragic, happy, and wonderful events that have occurred along this Main Street. People from all over the world have traversed this small area and been charmed by the charisma of it. Some have stayed. Many have returned again and again. With its gun fights and killings, Pioche became known as the roughest, toughest mining camp in the West. Most of this happened on Main Street.

6

The Lincoln County Museum is housed in the building built by A. S. Thompson around 1900. A victim of a fire, it was rebuilt once, then later remodeled in 1929 to make it more modern. On the death of Charles Thompson, Sr., the building was sold to James Gottfredson, Sr. and he operated a mercantile and clothing store for a time. Later, the store was closed and the Gottfredson family donated the building to Lincoln County in 1962, to become a museum. Over the years, it has evolved into one of the best museums of its kind in the state of Nevada.

7

The Pioche Odd Follows Lodge was built in 1872 and was originally J. J. Halpin's Hardware Store before he moved his business to Silver Reef, Utah. It has been used for many lodge functions, community dances, parties and social gatherings.

8

The Nevada Club generally dates back to the early 1900's. It is on the site of the original Pioche assay office that had been destroyed by a fire. The present structure is constructed of brick, concrete and stone to reduce the fire hazard potential.



9 **The Pioche Hotel** dates from the turn of the century. The hotel was operated by Virginia Cottino and family until the mid-1950's. It is now a private residence.

10 **The Commerce Cottage** was one of several lending libraries in Pioche that was operated by commercial establishments in the late 1800's. In 1940, the Lincoln County Library system was started with the purchase of this building which had been a jewelry store. It served as a library for 10 years. After a number of years of neglect, this building was refurbished in 1984 to become the Pioche Chamber of Commerce "Commerce Cottage" and Information Center.

11 **The Pioche Record** is the second oldest continuously printed weekly newspaper in the state, which was started in May 1870. Through the years it has changed owners and editors many times. The newspaper office was located for many years in the current "Grandpa's" on Main Street, a building that appears to date from the early 1900's. The Pioche Record is now known as The Lincoln County Record and is headquartered at the 1001 Ranch along U.S. 93 between Caliente and Panaca. 2 of its most notable editors have been E. L. Nores, who bought the paper about 1920 and ran it for many years; and Thos. L. Clay, a retired attorney, who bought it about 1970 and ran it until his death in 1979. Connie Simkins has been the editor of the newspaper since 1979.

12 **The Stockum House** is one of the rare survivors of age and fire in this part of Main Street. It was built in 1866 and has been used as a residence, boarding house, hotel, church and once housed the Francois L.A. Pioche Art Gallery. It is presently a photography portrait studio.

13 **Pioche's First U.S. Post Office and Western Union Office** was built in 1864 of stone to resist fire. The post office was established on August 17, 1870. Western Union service commenced in 1873. The front was later remodeled and modernized several times, but in 1985 the owners, the John Christian family, had the front rebuilt to its original design. Over the years, it has served as a cafe and has housed many other businesses. It is presently used by Rainbow Cable and Cell Phone Sales, a division of the Lincoln County Telephone System network of services.

14 **The Alamo Club** was originally built in the mid 1800's and was The Pioche Bank. It is noted for the large bank vault in the rear of the building. Throughout the years this business has hosted many notables and derelicts alike. Ernie Ferri operated the Alamo Club bar and gambling business for about 30 years, and upon his death, his wife Lena continued to run the business. The Ferris' owned the oldest continuous gaming and liquor license in the state of Nevada for many years until the 1988 sale. The current owner, Jim Marsh, renamed the bar to "The Banc Club."

15 **Stevers Store and Beauty Shop**, originally built in the late 1860's, was partially burned and then rebuilt several times. It served as Stevers Apparel Store and The Garden Bar from the 1940's until 1997, when the Stever family sold the business.

16 **The Pioche News Stand** was originally built in the 1860's, and was partially burned then rebuilt in the early 1870's and in 1919. The false front "Pioneer" style and treatment of the fake brick tin appears to date from the early 1900's. The first telephone system was operated from this building and was owned by J.W. Christian. For many years, part of this building was used as Pioche Post Office. The Rag Doll gift shop now occupies this area. The News Stand and Phone Company area is now used as storage by the owners, the Christian Family.

17 **The Pioche Mercantile** was originally known as Hodges & Cook Mercantile. For about 40 years, the Christian Brothers, Edwin and Lloyd, operated the store following the death of their father in about 1925. For years they handled groceries and would order any amount of needed mail order supplies that you would want. The business was acquired from Edwin Christian by Jerome and Tom Sears, descendants of J. L. Sears, a telegrapher that came to Pioche around 1873 from New York. Tom sold the business in 2001. Ted Daskas is the present owner and it is now a second-hand store.

18 **The Bank Club Building**, Lincoln County Market, and Treasure Chest have all weathered the storms of Main Street including fires and the mining boom and bust cycles. Many businesses have come and gone in these buildings. John Valenti operated the Bank Club bar and cafe for many years and in 1996 was remodeled into the Grubsteak dinner house which closed in 2001. The Lincoln County Market housed the Navajo Bar before being converted into the Stop and Shop grocery market, which closed in 2002. The Treasure Chest was first Welland's Mercantile, then Gottfredson's Dry Goods, then Cowley's Drug Store and later the Baptist Church-Treasure Chest. Since 1993 it has been the Antiques Store.

19 **The Commercial Club/Amsden Buildings** were built about 1865 and are located at the junction of Main and LaCour streets and were once the hub of community activity. Pioche's old Fire House is adjacent to the Amsden building and it served for nearly 40 years as the fire house and apartment for the fire chief. Attorney A. L. Scott owned the Commercial Club Building for about 50 years beginning around 1916. He conducted his law practice on the first floor and lived in the basement area.

20 **The Leader Store Building** is the impressive building on the west corner of Meadow Valley and Main Street. It was owned for many years by the Ben Cohen family and operated as a dry goods store. It now houses several business offices including Angel's Touch Flowers. Next door is a massive stone building once used as a bar, the Allen's Cash Store, and a warehouse for the Leader Store business. The space is now shared by Floors

and More and IMS Medical Supplies.

21

The **Overland Bar and Hotel Building** was built in 1940 by Bob Free. It has been burned and rebuilt several times over its colorful past. It originally had a bowling alley in the basement, and the west half was rented to the Allen's Cash Store for more than 30 years. This part is now a dance hall, with an antiques shop up front. Candace and Ron Mortenson have owned the Overland since 1995.

22

The **Brown/Thompson Opera House** has survived from its 1873 construction date, but is presently being renovated. It is entirely constructed of wood and has a classic revival style combined with an early pioneer board construction. It was built by Aleck Brown in March of 1873 and renamed the Thompson's Opera House in April of 1892. It was later used as a movie theatre. After the new movie house, The Gem Theater, was built, the Opera House was used for weekly dances for many years. The Gem Theater showed movies until 2003, when high winds blew the roof off and the owners could not afford to repair it and also continue to show movies (the demise was hastened by videotape and DVD rental and sales).

23

The **Orr Garage** was built in the early 1870's and was constructed of stone. Its original use may have been as a blacksmith shop or harness shop. In later years, from about 1915, it was used as an auto repair garage.

24

Pioche School was built in 1909 in a "Mission" style of architecture. At one time, this was the oldest continuously used school building in the state of Nevada. A new school was built in 1999 by the Nevada Division of Forestry Honor Camp, and held classes for kindergarten through sixth grades. The old building has recently been sold and the new school is now located in the new part of town.

25

The **Pioche Town Hall** was built in 1936-37 by the Mormons with donated labor, material and money as the first LDS meeting house in Pioche. It was dedicated in 1950 when it was completely finished and paid for. In 1986 when the new LDS chapel was built, the old building was sold to the Town of Pioche for a public meeting place. Now known as the Pioche Town Hall, it serves many organizations for weekly or monthly meetings and social events.

The most noteworthy activity held here is the "Pioche Heritage Days" which are held the second Thursday through Saturday of July and again on the Sunday of the Labor Day holiday. The presentation includes plays, usually one being a melodrama and the other an original, locally historical sketch about the colorful Pioche characters of the past.

26

Boot Hill Crime was rampant in Pioche in the early 1870's. During the first settling of Pioche, it was said that 72 men "were killed with their boots on" before anyone died a natural

death. Many of these men are buried in the "Old Boot Hill" Cemetery.

27

The **Lincoln County Court House** was constructed in 1938 to replace the historic courthouse on the hill. It is a simplified version of the modern Art-Deco style, and it continues to house most all of Lincoln County's government functions. The Sheriff's Office and Jail have been moved north of town off S.R. 322. Excellent park facilities are located adjoining the courthouse with a swimming pool, ball fields, horseshoe pits, playground and picnic areas.

28

The **Masonic St. John Lodge**, constructed of stone and brick, is one of Nevada's oldest lodges in continuous operation since 1873. It is a typical "False Front Pioneer" style.

29

The **Mountain View Hotel** was built in 1895 by the Ely Valley Mines to house their guests. It is a combination of styles including "Shingle" style and early 1900's "Classic Box." The building is presently in need of restoration.

30

Treasure Hill (Nevada Centennial Marker No. 5.) Silver ore was discovered in this range of mountains in 1864, but no important developments took place until 1869 when mines were opened and the Town of Pioche appeared. Pioche soon became the scene of a wild rush of prospectors and fortune seekers and gained a reputation in the 1870's for tough gunmen and bitter lawsuits. Over 5 million dollars in ore was taken out by 1872, and by 1900 Pioche was nearly a ghost town. Designated the seat of Lincoln County in 1871, Pioche survived hard times as a supply and government center for a vast area. In later years, notably during World War II, profitable lead and zinc deposits were developed.

31

Pioche Aerial Tramway This aerial tramway operated in the 1920's and 1930's carrying ore from the mines on Treasure Hill to Godbe's Mill in the valley. Built by Pioche Mines Company, the tramway was mainly gravity powered with the aid of a 5 horsepower motor. The ore in the full buckets rolled toward the mill and provided the momentum to return the empty buckets to the bin. In 1928 the cost of delivering ore to the mill via this tramway was six cents per ton.



Eastern Nevada was home to Native Americans for thousands of years before European exploration. The early Basketmakers and later Fremont people lived in the lush valleys, where they grew crops of corn, beans and squash, and lived in permanent "pueblos." The more nomadic Southern Paiute appeared in the area around 900 A.D., building no permanent dwellings, but moved with the seasons to hunt and gather nuts, berries, seeds and roots. The Fremont people disappeared by 1200 A.D., reducing the competition with the Paiutes for the same game species which at one time included bison.

In 1863, Missionary William Hamblin was scouting new areas for settlement, and while he was in Meadow Valley, a Paiute Indian showed him some rocks which he called "panagari" or "panacker." In March of 1864, Hamblin brought some men with him and established claims on the "panacker ledge," which was located 8 or 10 miles north of the valley itself. A specimen of the silver ore was sent to Salt Lake City, and the area was deemed worthy of more exploration.

J. N. Vandermark and Stephen Sherwood undertook the first expedition, and along with Hamblin they organized the Meadow Valley Mining District in April, 1864. In May, 1864, Francis Lee and 6 other families moved from Santa Clara, Utah, to Meadow Valley, where they established an agricultural settlement that they called Panaca. Approximately 60 miles west of Meadow Valley, the Pahrnagat mining District was formed in 1865, and William H. Raymond moved a mill from Los Angeles to process the ores.

In 1869, Francois Pioche, a San Francisco businessman, bought out some of the claims of the Meadow Valley Mining Company. A town sprang up around the claims on the "panacker ledge," which became known as Pioche's City, or Pioche. More prospectors drifted into the area and staked claims, sometimes overlapped prior ones. Mine owners resorted to hiring guards and gunfighters to protect their mining claims. Guns were the only law, and Pioche made Bodie, Tombstone, and other better known towns pale in comparison with its violence. It has been claimed that 75 men died "with boots on" before anyone in Pioche died of natural causes.

When first settled in 1864, the area was still a part of Utah Territory. Nevada officially became a state in October, 1864. Upon a request by the Nevada State Legislature in 1866, the boundary was revised, and Congress allowed an additional degree of longitude to be added to the eastern border of Nevada. This became Lincoln County, and its boundaries changed 3 more times over the course of the next 43 years. In 1871 the County Seat was moved to Pioche, where it remains today.

The population has varied over the past century, with the surges and downturns in mining, railroad activity, and tourism. Today, the County population is under 4,000 people, with primary occupations in agriculture and cattle ranching, railroad, small-scale mining, and government services. The population is soon to increase however, with the arrival of large developments in the southern part of the county at Coyote Springs and areas north of Mesquite.

Visitors enjoy the state parks of Eastern Nevada for a number of reasons. Daytime summer temperatures are 10 to 15 degrees cooler than in Las Vegas, and nights cool down considerably more. Anglers can enjoy sport fishing from boat or shore at Spring Valley, Echo Canyon and Beaver Dam. There are beautiful areas for exploration and photography, like Cathedral Gorge with its ancient spired formations, the springtime wildflowers at Spring Valley, or the historic charcoal ovens at Panaca Summit.

An assortment of wildlife is found in this part of Nevada. Visitors may spot coyotes, mule deer, elk, antelope, badgers and rabbits along highways and dirt roads. Animals such as the mountain lion and ringtail cat are more elusive, moving about in the evening and early morning in areas away from heavy visitation.

Lizards, snakes, squirrels and skunks are also found in the parks. Some of these animals have nocturnal habits and can be "seen" only by their tracks. Bird life is abundant. Ravens, scrubjays, hummingbirds, quail and doves often are seen around campsites and lakes. If you're lucky you might also see a golden eagle, redtailed hawk or roadrunner.

Experience outdoor adventure and exploration at one of the many parks and sites of Lincoln county, and please remember to always practice Leave No Trace skills and ethics and Tread Lightly minimum impact camping techniques.

Alamo The town of Alamo is located just 90 miles north of Las Vegas. This friendly community includes cafés, a grocery store, church, motels, service stations, emergency services and a landing strip for small private airplanes. It is the social and business center of the rich Pahrnatag Valley and home to the Pahrnatag National Wildlife Refuge.

With an abundant water source, the Pahrnatag National Wildlife Refuge has over 5,000 acres of open wetlands and lush green grasslands. An important stop on the Great Pacific Migratory Route, thousands of migratory birds and waterfowl fly through this area every year. Dozens of bird species can be found in this long valley, and it is one of over 500 managed areas in the National Wildlife Refuge system.

The country surrounding Alamo offers great fishing, many lakes, hot springs, and Native American artifacts. It is also one of the closest inhabited places to the government installation known as Area 51.

Elevation: 3,449 feet

Weather: The average temperatures in July are a high/low of 100°/55°F and in January 51°/20°F. The average rainfall is 4.88" and snowfall is 4.5".

Population: Approximately 900

Caliente Shaded by beautiful cottonwood trees, the quiet town of Caliente has a friendly hometown feel. Evidence of the historical roots of this railroad town can be seen in its mission-style Caliente Railroad station. City offices, an art gallery, library and a unique mural in the old Amtrak waiting room now occupy the railroad depot. A picturesque line of "company row" houses are located just northeast of downtown. Town services include restaurants, a gas station, motels, a small casino and a variety of stores. A new office building in town, the U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management offers visitor information for travelers.

For sports and recreation there are three city parks, a public swimming pool, tennis courts, rodeo grounds, shooting range, and motocross race track. One motel also has natural hot springs and mineral baths that are available year-round. Hometown activities include barbecues, softball tournaments, homecoming reunions and the Fourth of July Celebration. An annual town event, the Fourth of July Celebration, draws visitors from several states with great food, dancing and games for the kids. A dazzling fireworks display makes for a spectacular finale.

Caliente is conveniently located within some of the most beautiful country in the state. To the south is magnificent Rainbow Canyon, with the oasis-like setting of Kershaw-Ryan State Park just 2 miles south of the city center (note: the lower part of Rainbow Canyon is closed due to flood damage and will reopen at a later date). Within 50 miles of the town are 4 other state parks: Beaver Dam, Cathedral Gorge, Spring Valley, and Echo Canyon.

Elevation: 4,400 feet

Weather: The average temperatures in July are a high/low of 95°/57°F and in January 46°/18°F. The average rainfall is 9.10" and snowfall is 10.6".

Population: Approximately 1,000

Panaca The town of Panaca is located about 165 miles north of Las Vegas. A quaint Mormon farming community dating back to the 1860's, Panaca is the oldest surviving town in eastern Nevada. Rich in tradition and agricultural beauty, many of today's townspeople are direct descendants of the original settlers. Visitors interested in 19th century architecture can enjoy a variety of beautifully designed buildings.

Panaca is a favorite stop for people traveling to Cathedral Gorge State Park which offers year-round camping and exploration. Many nearby ghost towns can also be explored. The Lincoln County Airport is located one mile west of Panaca and has a lighted, paved runway that is 4,800 feet in length.

Elevation: 4,729 feet

Weather: The average temperatures in July are a high/low of 95°/55°F and in January 47°/16°F. The average rainfall is 10.43" and 10.6" snowfall.

Population: Approximately 800

Pioche Pioche is the northern-most community in Lincoln County located 174 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 93. Much in contrast to its colorful past, Pioche today attracts new residents with its friendly, picturesque hometown appeal. Pioche is the Lincoln County seat, the courthouse a prominent fixture of the town. With full amenities, Pioche offers good food, lodging, shopping, automotive and emergency services. The town's recreation center includes park and picnic facilities, a swimming pool and a baseball diamond. A 9-hole golf course is under ongoing construction, but it is open for play with artificial turf T-boxes and greens.

Local events include Pioche's annual Labor Day celebration offering parades, mining events, a craft show, mining contests, lots of games for the kids and a fireworks display.

For a step back into the soul of the old west, pick up a walking-tour guide of Pioche's historic buildings from the Pioche Historical Museum on Main Street or the Million-Dollar Courthouse on Lacour Street. Visit sites such as Heritage Park, The Alamo Bar and Boot Hill for a journey into the rich history of Pioche.

For more information, please visit the Pioche Chamber of Commerce website at www.piochenevada.com.

Elevation: 6,060 feet

Weather: The average temperatures in July are a high/low of 87°/59°F and in January 42°/21°F. The average rainfall is 13.76" and 44" snowfall.

Population: Approximately 900

Rachel Originally called “Sandy” because of its long expanse of sand, Rachel is the youngest town in Nevada and is considered the “UFO Capital of the World”. The town was named after Rachel Jones, the first child born in the community founded by D.C. Day in 1978. The community has been featured in magazines, books, television shows and many major newspapers as the center of UFO activity, drawing Sci-Fi fans and visitors from all over the world. The result of this publicity was the renaming of S.R. 375 as “The Extraterrestrial Highway” by the Nevada State Legislature. For the inquisitive, part of the Nevada Test Site is situated in southwestern Lincoln County, close to Rachel. However, for obvious reasons, there are no guided tours and warning signs are posted for visitors who get a little too curious.

Elevation: 4,970

Population: Approximately 100

Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce
LincolnCountyNevada.com P.O. Box 915, Panaca, NV 89042

Nevada State Parks
www.parks.nv.gov (775) 728-4460

U.S. Dept. of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management .
www.nv.blm.gov (775) 726-8100

Alamo

Lodging

Alamo Inn (775) 725-3371 or (888) 740-8009
 Sunset View Inn (775) 725-3336 or (775) 725-3338
 Windmill Ridge (775) 725-3686

RV Parks

Alamo Auto Motel (775) 725-3336
 Alamo Truck Stop (775) 725-3337
 “R” Place RV Park (775) 725-3545

Caliente

Lodging

Midway Motel (775) 726-3199
 Rainbow Canyon Motel (775) 726- 3589 or (775) 726-3291
 Shady Motel (775) 726-3106 or (775) 726-3107

RV Parks

Agua Caliente RV Park (775) 726-3399
 Young’s RV Park (775) 726-3418

Panaca

Lodging

The Pine Tree Inn Bed & Breakfast (775) 728-4675

RV Parks

Dotson’s Trailer Park (775) 728-4250

Pioche

Lodging

Hutchings Motel (775) 962-5404
 Overland Hotel (775) 962-5895 or (775) 962-5177
 Motherlode Motel (775) 962-5159

RV Parks

Eagle Valley RV Park (775) 962-5293
 Roll Inn RV Park (775) 962-5566

Rachel

Lodging

Little A’Le’Inn (775) 729-2515

Emergency Numbers

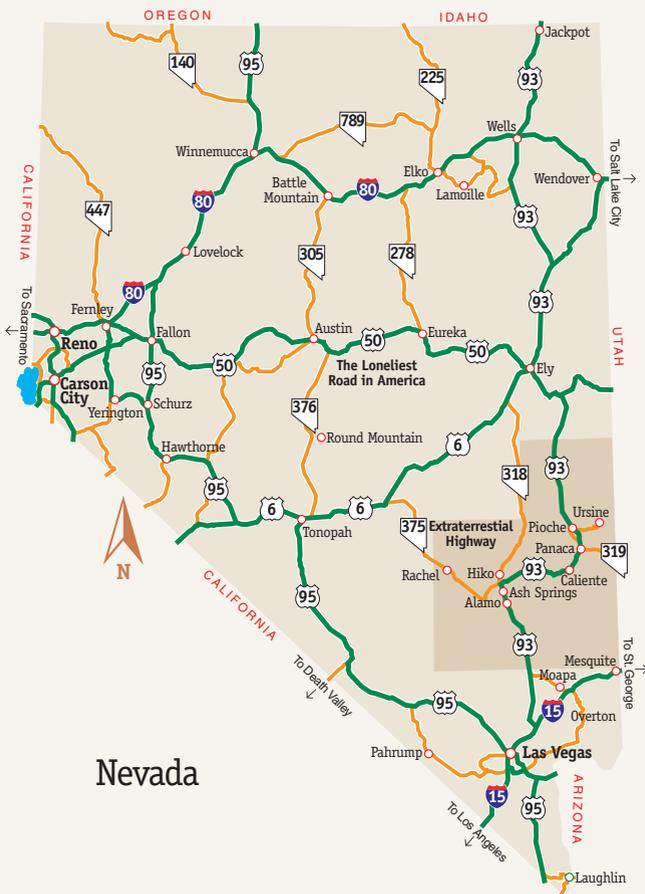
Lincoln County Sheriff (775) 962-5151
 Fire Department **911**
 Ambulance **911**
 G.C. Dils Medical Center (775) 726-3171
 Nevada Highway Patrol ... Dial Operator ask for Zenith 1-2000
 Lincoln County Transportation (775) 728-4477

Directions Lincoln County

From Las Vegas take I-15 traveling northeast from Las Vegas to U.S. Route 93 and travel north to Lincoln County (93 miles from Las Vegas to Alamo).

From Reno exit I-80 at Fernley onto U.S. Alternate 50 to west of Fallon, then proceed to Ely on U.S. 50, then south on U.S. Route 93 to Lincoln County (428 miles from Reno to Pioche). Or you may choose U.S. Route 95 to Tonopah, take U.S. Route 6 east to Warm Springs, then State Route 375 to Hiko and then on to U.S. Route 93 through Lincoln County (426 miles from Reno to Caliente this way).

From Salt Lake City take I-80 west until passing the Utah-Nevada border, then take U.S. Alternate Route 93, south to Lincoln County via Lages, and regular route U.S. Route 93 thru Ely. A second route is to travel south on I-15 to U.S. Route 6, through Delta, Utah, and then southwest to U.S. Route 93, which takes you past the Great Basin National Park. A third route is to travel south on I-15 to Cedar City and then continue west on Utah State Route 56 then Nevada State Route 319 to Panaca.



get primitive



LincolnCountyNevada.com

Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 915, Panaca, NV 89042

Nevada State Parks
(775) 728-4460 www.parks.nv.gov

Bureau of Land Management
(775) 726-8100 www.nv.blm.gov

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(800) NEVADA-8 www.TravelNevada.com

