



The Historic Mining Town of Pioche

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TREASURE HILL CHRONICLES

PIOCHE THEN AND NOW

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Pioche in the 1930s taken from Lime Hill

Welcome to our town. Before you set out to explore the town and its surroundings, take the time to browse through this informative little paper. You will find a tour of the uptown historic district and a brief overview of life in a boomtown mining camp miles from mainstream America that is in stark contrast to the present day village. We are surrounded with what is probably our biggest asset, the natural World of the high desert of southeastern Nevada. You don't have to venture far from town to find nearly endless public lands, spectacular state parks, the Silver State ATV Trail, the Mt. Wilson Backcountry Byway and plentiful wildlife. For those that want to stay a while, our businesses are advertising their services and for those that might be tempted to permanently join us for a more laid-back lifestyle, we have included a relocation section with a listing of community services, fees, etc. Lastly, we have included a bibliography for further reading and internet browsing.



Pioche in 1870 before the big fire



Pioche in 2009 taken from Lime Hill

Thompson's Opera House sings again

The Thompson Opera House in Pioche, Nevada has a rich history, as does the town of Pioche. The building, located on Main Street just down the hill from the current Overland Hotel, started out its life known as Brown's Hall. In February of 1873, Mr. Aleck Brown of Pioche, announced that he planned to build a two-story building and that the upper story would be a public hall – “something greatly needed in Pioche” as commented by the newspaper. By April of that year, the



paper announced that the wholesale and retail liquor store of Aleck Brown has been moved to his new building, “where he will be pleased to meet with his customers new and old.” Two days later, on April 26th, the new Aleck Brown's Hall hosted the Odd Fellows Ball. It was the grandest ball ever held in Pioche. A newspaper of the time stated the new hall was, “a large and elegantly furnished hall and was crowded with joyous participants. The music was exquisite and the supper could not have been surpassed.” Brown's Hall competed with a couple of other halls in the early days of Pioche: hosting theater events, lectures, variety shows and dances (balls).

On September 16th of 1873, Brown's Hall, became Brown's Theatre as it held its Grand Opening presenting the comedy of *Pygmalion* and *Galatea* starring Miss Sallie Hinckley and Mr. Pierpont Thayer. On the following night, the two were again scheduled to do *The Fortunes of a Poor Young Man* but a substitute stood in for Mr. Thayer. Later that night, at about eleven in the evening, a conversation was interrupted at the lodging house where Mr. Pierpont Thayer was staying, by what sounded like a moan. Upon investigating, the party discovered that the sound came from Mr. Thayer's room. When they went into the room to check, they found Mr. Thayer lying on the floor undressed, except for his

undershirt. A white froth covered his mouth and an empty bottle of Laudanum (opium based painkiller) was on the table. He had succumbed to two days of drinking along with the Laudanum leaving a note saying, “I test the problem”. He was buried at Boot Hill possibly as the 196th “guest.”

Mr. Arthur S. Thompson purchased Brown's Hall in September of 1891 and started overhauling the inside and out according to a newspaper of the time. By April of 1892 the renovation was complete in the upstairs part of the building that housed the hall, with a new stage and floor. A newspaper of the time stated the “new set and stage scenery,” was included in the renovation, “at that time for the benefit and amusement of the loving people of Pioche.” On April 14th the paper states that “The building on Main Street for so long known as Brown's Hall is renamed and hereafter will be known as Thompson's Opera House.” Various performances and events were held at the newly renovated “Thompson's” to close out the nineteenth century with seats going for 50 cents and 25 cents extra for reserved seats.

In January of 1893, an advertisement in the paper stated that A. S. Thompson had built a store in the downstairs part of the building beneath Thompson's Opera House on Main Street,

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The Strange Story of

F.L.A. PIOCHE

by Philip S. Rush



Of the many queer actors who strutted across the stage in the dreams and tragedies of early California, there was no stranger figure than Francois Louis Alfred Pioche.

He rose from comparative obscurity to great prominence, millions of dollars of other peoples' money passed through his hands, he became wealthy a great land owner. In the first quarter century of California statehood he was a power for good in the development of the land. He was certainly gifted with the touch of Midas. Yet, when apparently at the height of his success, he died a suicide – for what reason know one knows definitely.

Pioche's name is found frequently in the records of California of three quarters of a century ago, from San Francisco to the Mexican border and he was well known in the Nevada mining fields, as well. Yet, he has been almost a forgotten man, whose memory was recalled only recently, when during the celebration of the French Centennial at San Francisco, a plaque was dedicated in his honor, under auspices of the California Historical Society. It marks the site on Clay Street, near

Montgomery, where Pioche established a store in February 1850.

Francois Louis Alfred Pioche was born at St. Dizier, France in 1818, the son of a well-to-do French business man. Although educated as a lawyer, he received an appointment to a clerkship in Le Ministere de Finance. In 1841 an uncle, M. Ferrand, left him an estate of a hundred thousand francs, most of which Pioche soon lost in extravagant living and in unwise stock speculations. When near the end of his legacy, he sailed for Chile, South America (as did many adventurous European lads in those days), and soon became a clerk in the French consulate. Later he took employment with the trading house of Roux et Ci, where the bookkeeper was J.B. Bayerque, and the two formed a personal and business friendship that continued until Pioche's untimely death.

Then came the California gold discovery, and the gold rush of 1849, with its insatiable demand for supplies and merchandise of every kind, Roux Et Ci outfitted a ship and sent it to California, laden with the best French liquors and other merchandise, placing Pioche and his friend Bayerque in charge. Apparently from the time they opened their doors in February 1850, their business prospered.

In 1852 Pioche returned to France, where, if reports are true, he electrified all who heard him with stories of the great new California, and the opportunities there for vast, quick

wealth. People in all walks of life are said to have entrusted their money to him, and when he returned to San Francisco, he had six million dollars to invest.

Pioche envisioned a great city at the Golden Gate, although San Francisco then was only a few thousand population, clustered around the old harbor section. So he purchased the San Miguel Rancho, a great land grant confirmed in the name of Jose de Jesus Noe, and lying southward from the harbor, down the peninsula, as well as Hayes Valley and Visitacion Valley – all in the direction he believed the future great metropolis would grow. Pioche again visited France, and although the depression of the 50s had somewhat curtailed his earning, he continued to expand his interest, particularly in the early Sacramento Valley Railway and the old San Francisco Gas Works. Then, because his land holdings on the outskirts of the city were dormant, he built the first Market Street railway, opened new home sites for the bulging city, and sold his acreage at enormous profits.

He ventured in mining as an owner/operator, and became one of the principals of the rich new mines developing 215 miles east of Tonopah, Nevada, at a town named in his honor, Pioche, Nevada. The settlement soon outdid Virginia City, Butte and all the other wild camps, in lawlessness and mining profits. According to the book, "Gold, Guns and Ghost Towns," one Pioche mine paid thirteen million dollars in dividends in a few years, and the others did almost as well. Crime was rampant. When the camp went for a period of 60 days without a single murder, its newspaper congratulated the citizens that their settlement was becoming a better place in which to live.

In the Pioche graveyard are the bodies of 116 murderers, one section containing 43 graves being known as Murderers Row. But the mines poured wealth into the coffers of Pioche and Bayerque in distant San Francisco, and their farther distant French stockholders.

F.L.A. Pioche financed a number of ranches in Santa Barbara and Monterey counties, and he was an investor in the tin mines of

Temescal Canyon, between Elsinore and Corona, which had been discovered in 1857. The mines, located on the western edge of Rancho El Sobrante de San Diego, did not add to Pioche's wealth: in later years an English syndicate lost \$2,000,000 in an unsuccessful effort to profit by tin mining.

Pioche as a wealthy merchant, living in grand estate and entertaining lavishly at his several residences in the San Francisco Bay region, is the picture he left in Northern California. But as an unusually large investor in Southern California ranch lands, very little is known of him except the scanty records of deeds and transfers in early San Diego and Los Angeles counties. It is quite evident, however, that he had a great interest in the Southland, and that either he is penchant for buying up Mexican land grants in the south, or Don Juan Forster was a super real estate salesman who found in him a mighty good customer.

In Deed Record Vol. 1. Pg. 72 San Diego County, there is recorded a deed from Juan Forster to J.B. Bayerque, covering Rancho de la Nacion and Rancho San Felipe, for a consideration of \$25,000. The deed bears date of Sept. 22, 1850, which was about nine months after Pioche and Bayerque landed in California, and started their San Francisco enterprises. The San Diego county records also show that Nov. 17, 1857, J.B. Bayerque deeded the same property to Romaine Bayerque, and Oct. 14, 1869, Romaine Bayerque deeded Rancho de la Nacion to Pioche for \$20,000.

The description of Rancho de la Nacion is that it was six square leagues, or 26,631.94 acres, bounded on the north by Sierra de San Miguel, on the south by San Diego Bay, on the east by Canada de las Chogas, on the west by Rancho de la Punta (the latter the property of the Arguellos). It was originally granted to Juan Forster by Pio Pico, last Mexican governor, Dec. 11, 1845. Pioche retained the property a number of years, but without ever constructing a residence on it. June 18, 1868, he entered into an agreement to sell the tract to Frank A and Warren E. Kimball, and the sale was consummated by July 8, 1871, for \$30,000.

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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 1870s. 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.

“It has been reported that 75 men were buried in the cemetery before anyone in Pioche had time to die a natural death.”

A favorite example of the town’s bloody character recalls the arrival of a 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

by the 1880s 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 1880s due to the shutdown of the principal 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.

\$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 of the courthouse, the Board of Commissioners issued certificates of indebtedness at a high rate of interest, and



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Pioche, Nevada

Walking Tour



1. 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 Miners 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.

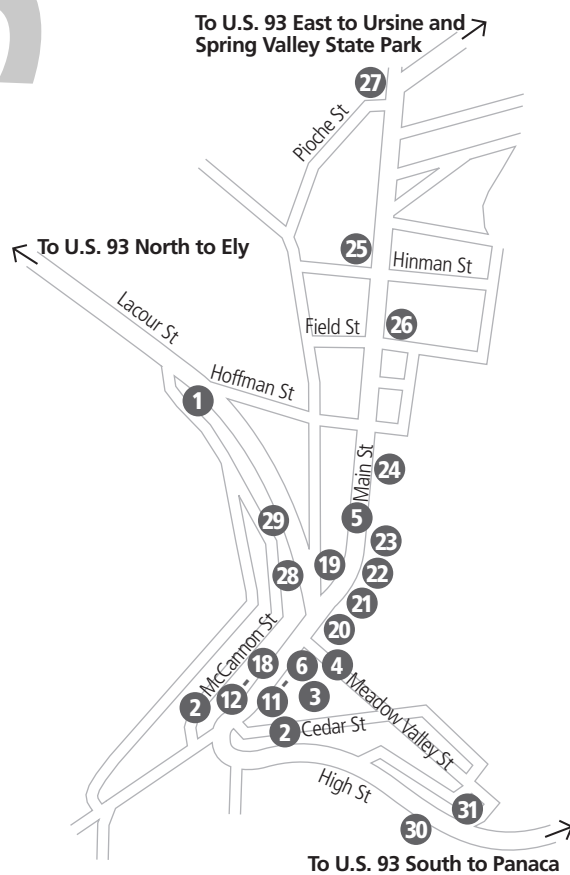
7. The Pioche Odd Fellows Lodge was built in 1872 and was originally J. J. Halpin's Hardware Store before he moved his business to Silver Reef, Utah. It has been used for many lodge functions, community dances, parties and social gatherings.

8. The Nevada Club generally dates back to the early 1900s. 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-1950s. 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 1800s. 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



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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 building that is now Peggy's Store, 768 Main Street. The Pioche Record is now known as The Lincoln County Record and is headquartered at 195 Clover Street in Caliente. Two 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. More recently, Connie Simkins was the editor for 28 years, from 1979 to 2007. The current editor/publisher is Raymond Thompson.

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-1800s 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 Bank Club."

15. Stever's Store and Beauty Shop, originally built in the late 1860s, was partially burned and then rebuilt several times. It served as Stever's Apparel Store and The Garden Bar from the 1934 until 1997, when the Stever family sold the business. It has gone through several hands since and the current owner is the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

16. The Pioche News Stand was originally built in the 1860s, and was partially burned then rebuilt in the early 1870s and in 1919. The false front "Pioneer" style and treatment of the fake brick tin appears to date from the early 1900s. 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 is now the Grub Pub and Deli. 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 NE corner of Meadow Valley and Main Streets. It was owned for many years by the Ben Cohen family and operated as a dry goods store. It now houses a used merchandise business. Next door is a massive stone building that is now vacant.



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 empty store 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 and was recently extensively 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. The Opera House is currently owned by Lincoln County and will be used for public meetings and can be rented for private use. 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. The roof was repaired, but the owners decided not to reopen because this was more of a community service than a viable business.

Continued on page 6

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Walking Tour *Continued from page 5*

23. The Orr Garage was built in the early 1870s 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 The Pioche School was built in 1909 in a "Mission" style of architecture. This was the oldest continuously used school in the state of Nevada in 1999 when it was abandoned for a new building, built on the northwest side of town by the Pioche Division of Forestry Honor Camp. The building was sold and now is privately owned.

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 Plays, which takes place in June or July and again on Sunday of the Labor Day celebration. The plays usually include a lively melodrama and an original historical sketch about some of the colorful Pioche characters.

26. Boot Hill Crime was rampant in Pioche in the early 1870's. During the first settling of Pioche, it was said that 75 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. A monument commemorating Boot Hill was donated by E Clampus Vitus in 2009.

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. St. John's Masonic Lodge has been in continuous operation since 1873, making it one of Nevada's oldest lodges. It is constructed out of stone and brick and is 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 1900s "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 1870s 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 1920s and 1930s 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.

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It's all in the family

The town of Pioche was once a thriving metropolis with many businesses, especially of the entertainment genre. Saloons and brothels were in high demand by the miners who didn't have many diversions after a day down in the mine. Their cabins were very small and not very warm so the bars and brothels also offered them comfort and warmth. There were the necessary merchants that grow with any town, like grocery stores and truck farmers from surrounding areas who brought their produce to town to sell. Meat markets and hardware stores appeared later. We even had a rather large Chinese business district. They did the laundry and other services.

Over the years though, with the boom and bust economy, many of the businesses had to close and move on to greener pastures. This has left us with a sad lack of businesses and services. The Lincoln County Telephone System (LCTS) is a notable exception; a family-run business, that has been around in good times and bad for four generations of vital service to this community. They are also leading us into the 21st century with the latest technology and innovations that link us to an increasingly interconnected World. These include fiber optic lines, cell phone and high-speed DSL Internet service. They are continually taking the risks to keep us at the cutting edge of technology and all we need is the vision to take advantage of these services that have the potential to allow even the smallest businesses to market their wares World-wide! That is why we're featuring this company in our first edition.

Like so many of the early phone companies, the Lincoln County Telephone System didn't start out as a phone company at all, but as a drugstore. John Ward Christian purchased the drug store in 1919, along with lease of the phone lines. About 1922 a switchboard was installed in the living room of the home of John and Louise Franks Christian so that emergency calls could be answered at all hours. They signed a ten-year lease agreement on the telephone system with the Utah, Ne-

vada and Idaho Telephone Company (UN&I) in 1926 with an option to buy and exercised that option when Bell of Nevada bought UN&I. That was the official beginning of the Lincoln County Telephone System. Nevada Bell and Mountain States Telegraph Company built a line into Pioche from Modena, Utah in 1940 on the Union Pacific poles and LCTS extended the line to Panaca and Caliente, giving the residents their first direct long-distance line. LCTS received the first Rural Electrification Administration (REA) loan in Nevada on December 1951, which allowed for the start of conversion from station to dial service; a big leap forward. LCTS also incorporated at this time. LCTS cut over to dial service on August 20, 1954. A new toll line was completed in 1966 to the northern county border and this became the connection to the outside World in the late 1970s. The new building on Main Street was completed in 1968 to better serve the residents of the county. Prior to its completion, John Ward Christian Senior passed away and was succeeded by John Ward Christian Junior. The LCTS saw many advances under John Jr.'s leadership (too numerous to mention in this limited space) and he and his wife, Mary Louise Christian, were prime movers in the betterment of the community in activities that included the Heritage Plays, the Uptown Revitalization Project, the Pioche Heritage Park Project, the Chamber of Commerce and many other civic projects.

John Christian III and Paul Christian took over the company in 1986 following the tragic deaths of their parents and have lead the LCTS into the 21st century with improvements that have made Lincoln County the envy of many larger communities that lagged behind in this progress. This was and is no easy or un-risky task, as the pace of regulation, deregulation and technological change is coming at an accelerated and expensive rate.



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Eagle Valley Reservoir



Meadow Valley Wash, Rose Valley



Echo Point, Echo Canyon State Park

BIRDS

Pioche Birding Adventures

by Barbara Rohde

Pioche is an excellent place for birding, not only right in the town, but also in some of the nearby state parks. When in town, you have only to stand on the street and listen in the morning, for the raucous cries of the Pinyon Jays that fly from one end of town to the hills above, in their search for pine nuts and juniper berries. These bright steel-blue birds tend to stay together in flocks, and they call to one another as they fly.

In the winter, you may be treated to a sight of a different variety of blue bird, the Mountain and Western Bluebirds. These smaller birds spend the winter around town, where they may find seeds and berries to eat; as it gets warmer, they return to their mountain habitat where they feed on insects. Winter is also the best time to spot the Dark-eyed Juncos and White-crowned Sparrows that flock around feeders, or downed garden vegetation in search of seeds. Nuthatches and Chickadees may be seen or heard in the pine and juniper trees in more wooded outskirts of town. Red-shafted Flickers and several species of woodpeckers are also resident in town as well as in the wooded areas adjacent.

Spring brings the return of swallows of several varieties. Their favored habitat is around the town park, where they swoop low over the swimming pool and baseball field to catch flying insects. Say's and Black Phoebes, and Western Kingbirds also feed on those pesky insects, and can be seen in all parts of town. As the weather warms up and the wildflowers emerge on hillsides and in gardens, hummingbirds return to this higher elevation town. Black-chinned, Anna's, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are early visitors; the Rufous Hummingbirds generally come later



Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

in June. Western Tanagers, Bullock's Orioles, and several varieties of Warblers may be seen in the deciduous trees where they feast on caterpillars and insects throughout the spring and summer, and the Orioles also visit hummingbird feeders to augment their diet.

In the fall, flocks of Cedar Waxwings often congregate in the Russian olive and juniper trees that provide their favorite food, berries.

To see many varieties of ducks and shorebirds, take a drive to Echo Canyon and Spring Valley State Parks, east of Pioche via State Route 322. Echo Canyon Reservoir has a gently sloping shoreline that gradually drops throughout the summer; this is ideal for the shorebirds that probe in the mud for small fish and frogs. April is the best month to see a large variety that changes daily: terns, gulls, Avocets, White-necked Stilts, sandpipers, White-faced Ibis, and the variety of ducks that include Cormorants, Teals, Ruddy ducks, Grebes (3 varieties), and even Loons. In canyons above the lake itself, you may see nesting Golden eagles and hawks, and hear or see both Canyon and Rock Wrens, and White-throated Swifts or Cliff Swallows. Occasionally you may spot the nest of Great Blue Herons, that stay nearly year-round at the reservoir, or be treated to the sight of a Belted Kingfisher (which nest in the mud banks along the stream). In the willow trees lining the stream coming into the lake, you may hear or see yellow-breasted Chats and the Common Yellow-throat, both warblers.

A county road continues northeast from Echo Canyon into Rose Valley, and this is a rewarding drive for birders. In the summer, the bluebirds may be nesting near the alfalfa fields, where parents can find plenty of insects to feed their young. Lark Sparrows and Lincoln Sparrows may serenade from a fence-

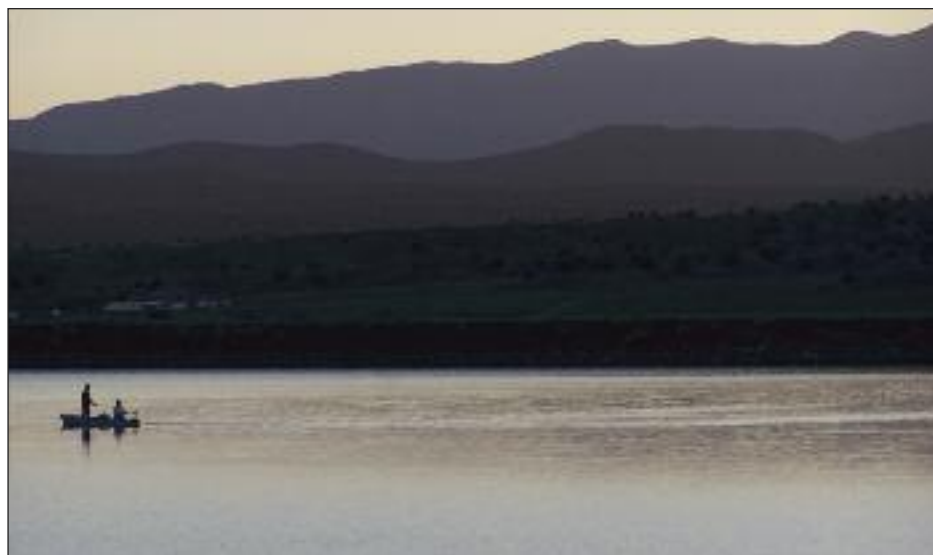
line, while you may catch a glimpse of Road-runners pursuing their favored prey, lizards and snakes. Turning east after crossing the bridge in Rose Valley, the road continues through a narrow canyon of Ashfall tuff rocks, where the Cliff Swallows often nest within sight of the road. There are more willow and cottonwood trees lining the stream, where you have another chance to look and listen for Chats and Yellow-throats, or Black Phoebes. When the road emerges into Eagle Valley, the fields again provide opportunities for glimpsing insect-eating birds. Several large stands of cottonwood trees in the middle of the valley have been used as a Great Blue Heron rookery for decades. The most likely time to see the herons in the rookery is April through June; then the fledged young herons disperse to their own territories along Meadow Valley Wash.

The main street through Ursine in Eagle Valley twists and winds back to State Route 322, which continues north to Spring Valley State Park. Meadow Valley Wash runs alongside this road, and there are several places to

stop, look and listen for avian occupants in the willow, cottonwood, and box-elder trees. A few stands of chokecherry and elderberry trees provide fruit for birds in the early fall. Venturing into the BLM's Meadow Valley Campground may provide glimpses of Blue-grey gnatcatchers, Solitary vireos, and Nuthatches, though they are more likely to be heard than seen.

Spring Valley State Park's centerpiece is Eagle Valley Reservoir, which provides habitat for many ducks and geese. The paved road turns to graded gravel where it skirts the reservoir to the north, and continuing along this road may reward you with glimpses of Egrets and Herons in the wet meadows above the lake. Several miles beyond the park headquarters, at the 7-L Ranch, there is a meadow where Sage Grouse congregate, in a "lek," in the springtime. Ask the ranger for directions if you are interested.

Returning to Pioche on State Route 322, keep an eye out for hawks and eagles, and especially for Mule deer and occasionally Elk that cross the road at all hours.



Late afternoon on Echo Canyon Reservoir.

Go fish!

Eastern Nevada is home to a variety of large game mammals, waterfowl, and lakes that are stocked for fishing. A Nevada fishing and/or hunting license is required of all persons over the age of 12, whether resident or not. Hunting may only be done by persons over 12 years of age, and anyone born after January 1, 1960 must provide proof of attending a Hunter Education course (in Nevada or any other state) when they apply for a hunting license. Fishing, on the other hand, can be done by anyone old enough to hold a rod. Licenses are sold at select local businesses who are contract agents for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The license year is from March 1 to February 28 (or 29) of each year. Complete regulations and prices may be found on the Nevada Department of Wildlife website, www.ndow.org. On one day a year, the Department of Wildlife sponsors a Free Fishing Day, when anyone can fish without a license; it is usually the second Saturday of June (check the website for the official date before making any plans). Echo Canyon State Park has sponsored a Children's Fishing Derby on this day since 1998; local businesses provide prizes, and it is the highlight of the year.

Fishing Proclamations (the rules, fees and general information), and Hunting Proclamations for the current year may be obtained at the businesses that sell hunting and fishing licenses:

- Tillie's Mini-Mart and Chevron gas, Pioche
- Eagle Valley Resort, Ursine (Eagle Valley)
- Mountain Mercantile (True Value Hardware), Caliente

In a manner different from some states, hunting licenses must be purchased prior to submitting an application for a "tag" to hunt for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn (antelope) or turkeys. Applications for tags are

due in mid-April, and Nevada Department of Wildlife places all applications in a "lottery." They draw only a certain number of tags for each "area" in the state; applicants find out in mid-June whether they will receive a tag. The numbers of tags drawn are based on scientific and physically-surveyed studies of the herds, and this may vary from year to year depending on climatic conditions. When a person applies for a tag, he/she will be given a specific area of the state to hunt. Each area has a certain period of time set aside, usually two to three weeks, for the different modes of hunting (black-powder/muzzle-load; archery; general rifle/shotgun), and sometimes a late hunt or depredation hunt is set after all the general hunt periods have ended. Upland and migratory game birds and waterfowl may be hunted during specified seasons, and a special "stamp" or tag is required for certain species. Lincoln County is home to almost every species of game bird or waterfowl that can be found in Nevada.

Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge is located five miles south of Alamo, and has facilities for picnicking and camping along the shoreline of Upper Pahranagat Lake. It is an ideal place for bird-watching throughout the year, with migratory birds and waterfowl in the spring and fall, and a few winter residents such as swans. Fishing is another popular activity, from the shoreline or non-motorized boats. A trail for hiking has been developed around the western perimeter of the lake, which is not accessible by motorized vehicles. Wildlife-watchers may see deer or even bighorn sheep coming down to water in the evening or dawn hours. (775) 725-3417



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Going for a drive in the dirt

by Peggy Decker and Carol Stever Shanks



Years ago, when just about everybody in Nevada played on dirt courses, Pioche had a nine-hole course north of town with oiled dirt greens. The old-timers had some great stories to tell about the old course and the competitions around the state back in the days when Pioche was about as large as any other community and before Vegas had grown out of its britches. Pioche played in the state championship in 1938. It was played in Reno and they had just put in grass. My dad

said hitting off the grass was like playing off of a tee, after getting used to playing off of dirt. The team from Pioche was Uther Jones, John Mezzano, Joe Templeman and Verne Stever.



Labor Day Golf Tournament at the Lincoln County Golf Course

John Mezzano had this very, very heavy suitcase. When they got to their room and opened it, there were a couple of pairs of underwear and socks and the rest was bottles of whiskey. He would take one or two of these each day to the golf course. At the first tee, he'd offer it around to all the men in his foursome and those on the tee box. They'd be quite taken aback and refuse none too politely. When they would tee-off, John's ball would rarely travel more than a 150 yards, but straight down the fairway. The others on the tee box would sort of look at each other and chuckle. What they didn't know was that, although John never hit his ball very far, he always hit it straight. His chip was usually close and so he almost always one-putted. He played par golf, plus or minus a couple of strokes, depending on the length of the course. This would put a crimp in the other golfers style, this guy who couldn't out drive their wives, was keeping up or out right beating them. The next few holes found them slowly joining John in a little snort before teeing off at each hole. By the time they made the turn at number 9, one or two of John's playing companions wouldn't care what the score was, they were just having a real fine time. After eighteen holes, they would be pretty close to needing John to carry them. He'd still be just gently hitting the ball and having a good time. Beating the socks off those drunk guys.

Over the years since the demise of the old timers and the inattention of several new generations that wouldn't stoop to playing on anything but lush grass, the old course fell into disrepair. There were several efforts at reviving golf in Lincoln County. There was even a nice little course in Rainbow Canyon for a while, but it couldn't be sustained. Finally in 2002, several local golf families that were tired of having to drive to Ely, Cedar City, St.

George or Las Vegas got the idea to put an ad in the Lincoln County Record and see how many people were interested in golf and starting a course in Pioche. Much to their delight, over 50 people turned out to this first meeting and the project was born.

The goal is for the course to be a model for what low maintenance golf can be without just playing on dirt. Constructing and maintaining grass greens and tee-boxes is prohibitively expensive and labor-intensive for small, remote communities, but dirt is a long way from the real thing and soaking the ground with oil is an environmental no no. So we settled on a nine-hole executive course with the latest technology in artificial turf greens and T-boxes on Lincoln County Recreation Park land acquired from the BLM below town (the access road turns off of SR322 at mile-marker 2). A target golf concept was envisioned and grass is gradually being added as we raise the funds for turf and water. The community pitched in with many hours of donated labor, equipment, materials and funds. Now all the greens and T-boxes are in place. There are separate women's tees on four of the holes. The golf course length is 1,656 yards with 7 par 3 and 2 par 4 holes. Membership is \$25/year, but everyone is welcome to play. There are no set green fees, but a suggested minimum donation of \$5 per round will be gladly accepted. We have no paid staff. The course is improved and maintained completely by volunteers and all donations and fund-raisers go entirely into improvements to the course. We have special rules for the dirt fairways. Mats or tees are allowed and winter rules are in force. The ball can be moved up to two club lengths in the rough, which is really rough, but no aids such as tees or mats can be used, although if a handy weed or tuft of grass happens to fall within two club lengths, the players are allowed to place the ball upon them.

The course is a work in progress and more volunteers are welcome and needed. We held our first Labor Day Golf Tournament on the new course in August of 2002 with a total of 55 people participating. The tournament has been held each year since and continues to be a huge success. We have many fund raisers during the year and since it is for such a great cause, they have had great returns. We have formed a summer league each year and encourage anyone that enjoys golf to join in the fun.

Opera House *Continued from page 1*

selling flour, grain, hay, and general produce. It was also selling wine, liquor and cigars.

Mr. Thompson died in 1905 and his sons, Charles and Frank, took over operations while doing some remodeling again in 1907. As the new entertainment medium of moving pictures began to gain popularity, the Opera House was outfitted on the upper floor with a projection booth and screen to show moving pictures and in 1915 showed its first silent movie. Over time, movies became one of the primary uses of the upstairs and it prompted a name change to the Gem Theater in 1935. While hosting dances with a band on the stage, hosting events, showing plays and movies were the most common usages for the upstairs; downstairs, the store and warehouse for groceries were a mainstay for the building. The tunnel at the back of the downstairs dug back into the rock hillside served as a makeshift refrigerator in the days before electricity. Locals would fondly tell stories about the regular Saturday night dances and how the whole building would sway with the dancing crowd. By the 1930s maintenance of the building again started lacking just as in the late 1890s prior to Thompson owning it.

When Frank Thompson took over as sole

operator in 1935 he renamed the building the Gem Theater, but then built the new Gem Theater adjacent to the Opera House in 1937. That building was specifically built as a movie theater so the transition to the new theater spelled the gradual demise of the proud old Thompson's Opera House. Use of the building dropped to nothing and it was finally closed by the mid 1940s. It was falling into a further and further state of decline until Lincoln County secured the building from Lamp-lighter, Inc on December 18, 1991. For many years now, Thompson's Opera House has been in the process of a patient and careful renovation/reconstruction, and perhaps as much as a million dollars has been spent to bring the House back to its former glory which can be seen when visiting the building today.

The newly renovated building was completed and ready for use in the spring of 2009 and is expected to be used by the county for historical and cultural events as well as being rented out to the public or private organizations or people to be used for events. It is hoped that the Pioche Chamber of Commerce will be locating to the downstairs of the opera house with their office and, thus, be able to keep the building open for the public to see. Various displays and artifacts will be set up in the downstairs showing how the building has been used over the years.

Pioche Public Utility Rates as of June 1, 2009

- Residential Water** \$21.00/month for the first 15,000 gallons and \$1.25per 1,000 gallons used thereafter.
- Commercial Water** \$26.00/month for the first 15,000 gallons and \$1.25per 1,000 gallons used thereafter.
- Residential Power** \$0.0718 per KWH
- Commercial Power** \$0.0768 per KWH
- Residential Sewer** \$18.00/month
- Commercial Sewer** \$23.50/month for the first 15,000 gallons of water used and \$1.25 for every 1,000 gallons of water used thereafter.
- Customer Charge** \$9.00/month for the first meter and \$4.50/month per meter thereafter.
- Lower Colorado River Multi Species Fee** \$ 1.10/month per power meter per month.
- Universal Energy Charge** 0.00039 based on electric usage.
- Supplemental Power Charge** PPU will occasionally receive an increase for power from LCPD when they must purchase supplemental power over and above their contract with the Colorado River Commission.
- New Connection fee** Connection and capacity fees are for the privilege of hooking into the main system. These fees are non-refundable.
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3/4	1.4	\$2160
1.0	2.6	\$3840
1.5	5.0	\$7500
2.0	8.0	\$12,000
3.0	23.0	\$34,500
4.0	40.0	\$60,000
6.0	92	\$138,000
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Lincoln County

Nevada State Parks

by Barbara Rohde



Lincoln County is blessed with some of the greenest scenery in Nevada, and also has one of the largest concentrations of Nevada State Parks within a 50-mile radius of Pioche. Three of the first Nevada State

Parks were established in Lincoln County, back in 1935 when the State Legislature created the State Park System. **Cathedral Gorge State Park**, located 10 miles south of Pioche right along U.S. Highway 93 dated back even further, having been declared a "State Park and Wildlife Refuge" by Governor James

Scrugham in 1926. This scenic canyon park had been a favorite among Lincoln County residents from the 1890s, when its name was changed from "Panaca Gulch" to "Cathedral Gulch" by the wife of Pioche mining engineer William S. Godbe. Mary W. Godbe sometimes accompanied her husband on his trips to Bullionville, and she would ride her horse and buggy just over the hill to explore the



Cathedral Gorge State Park

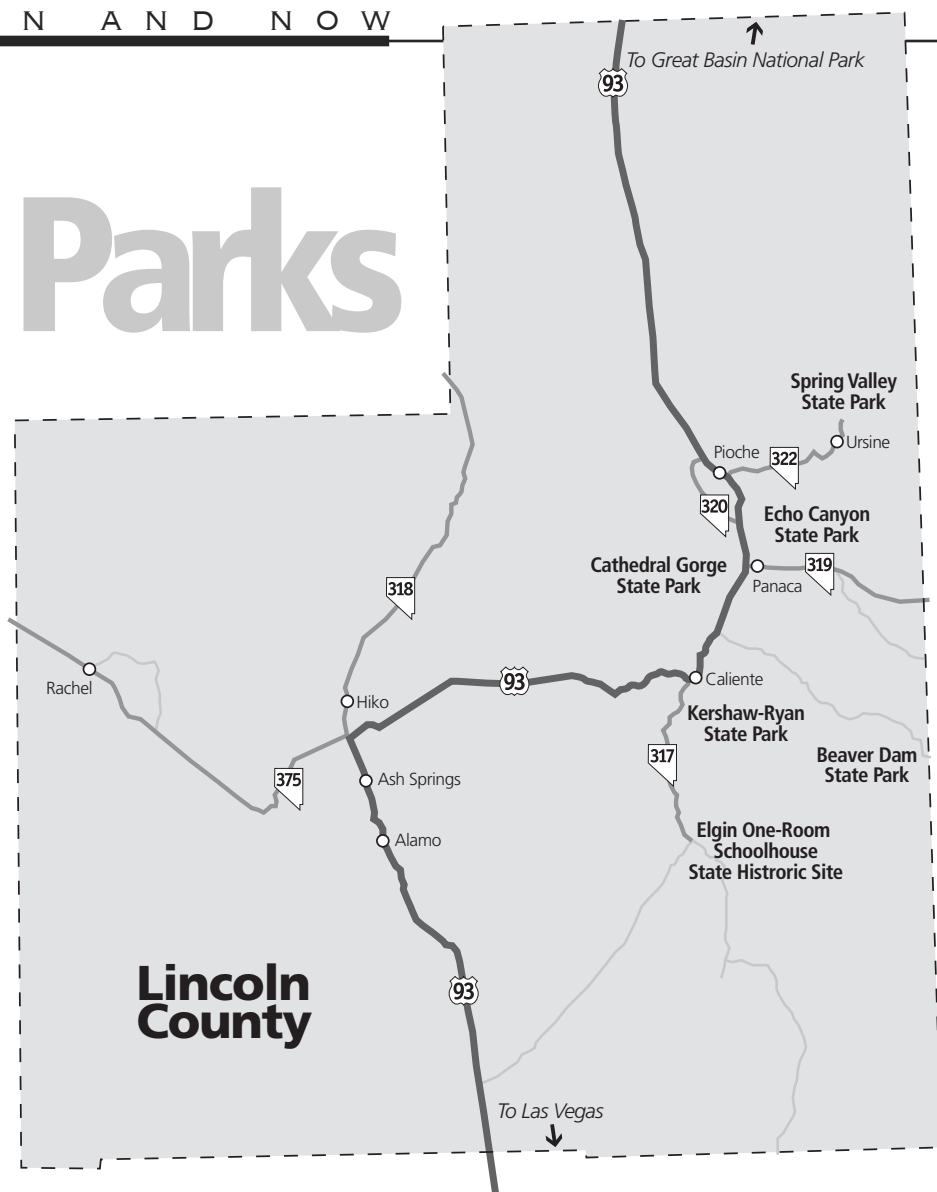
time as Panaca, and families from both of those towns would often go to visit families that lived in Beaver Dam Wash. They would go fishing along the natural stream that was dotted with beaver dams, or just enjoy a picnic under the native cottonwood and willow trees along the stream. The "Acoma-Shem Highway" was the first "all-weather" road from Lincoln County into Utah, and it passed

eerie rock formations along the base of the eastern-most cliffs of the gorge. She exclaimed "Why, this is like God's own Cathedral," and she extolled the scenic qualities of the gorge to anyone who would listen. As it turned out, a lot of people listened, and started visiting the gorge, to explore the slot canyons (nicknamed caves), and enjoy a pleasant Sunday outing in the natural setting. During the 1920s, many open-air pageants and plays were put on in the Gorge, and in 1964, the Nevada (and Panaca's) Centennial Pageant was produced with the backdrop of the Gorge, in the area where the 1930s C.C.C.-constructed picnic ramada still stands. Over the years, improvements were made, including a 22-unit

Beaver Dam State Park

campground and a nice tree-shaded group area, along with the Regional Information Center at the park's main entrance. A network of trails provides access to the park's features, and back-country.

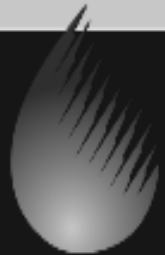
established in 1864, at the same time as Panaca, and families from both of those towns would often go to visit families that lived in Beaver Dam Wash. They would go fishing along the natural stream that was dotted with beaver dams, or just enjoy a picnic under the native cottonwood and willow trees along the stream. The "Acoma-Shem Highway" was the first "all-weather" road from Lincoln County into Utah, and it passed



only a few miles from Beaver Dam Wash. It was a "natural" to become a Nevada State Park; although the 1935 Civilian Conservation Corps crews spent a lot of time constructing camping and picnicking facilities at Beaver Dam, the floods in 1937-38 destroyed most of their work. A man-made dam in 1961, Schroder Dam, controlled the floods, and provided a small lake for fishing; but severe floods in 2004-2005 breached the dam and led to its destruction. The area once again is a natural setting for primitive camping; two developed campgrounds with 30 sites are set among the pinyon and juniper forested setting of Beaver Dam canyon, and a network of trails offer exploration opportunities.

Kershaw-Ryan State Park (2 miles south of Caliente) was the third park established in 1935. The Samuel Kershaw family had homesteaded this little canyon in 1870, and had an orchard and garden that was watered by the natural springs that emerge from the base of towering igneous-rock cliffs. After 30 years (and Mr. Kershaw's demise), the canyon was sold to James and Martha Ryan, who did not actually live in the canyon. During their years, local residents would come to picnic and enjoy the shady canyon, and the Ryans decided to donate Kershaw Canyon to the State of Nevada in 1934, to be made into a public park. The C.C.C. companies developed camping and picnicking sites, a wading

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Spring Valley State Park

pond (from one of the springs), and a caretaker's cabin. The City of Caliente generously provided a caretaker during the years that Nevada's State Parks were not funded by the Legislature; and when funds became available in the early 1960s, a 12-unit campground with modern toilets and showers was built in the area surrounding the wading pond. Floods in 1984 destroyed most of the man-made features of the park, and it was a 13-year

struggle to rebuild and reopen the park in 1997. In 2009, the long-awaited new campground opened.

Spring Valley State Park (18 miles east of Pioche) started as a county park, when Eagle Valley Dam was built in 1965. Eagle Valley Reservoir once covered 65 acres, but has shrunk a little over the years. It provides a good trout fishery, with deep and cold waters that fill the canyon at the southern/western end of Spring Valley. Water is released for ranching in Eagle Valley and Rose Valley, for natural irrigation of the pastures. A campground in Horsethief Gulch was built at the same time as the dam, and the campsites are tucked among the pinyon and juniper woodland. In 1969, Lincoln County turned over operation of the park to the Nevada State Park System, and it was re-named as Spring Valley State



Kershaw-Ryan State Park

Park, though locals often just call it "Eagle Valley." The park now includes the pastures, and several of the homesteaders' homes in Spring Valley-proper. One of these, the Stone Cabin Living History Museum, is available for tours, having been renovated in 1995 to its original appearance. There is a trailhead at the Stone Cabin for a 2-1/2 mile trail that ends at the "Ranch Campground," a 6-unit "dry" campground near the park headquarters, the old 7-L (Hollinger) Ranch. The graded gravel road continues beyond the 7-L Ranch to become the "Mt. Wilson Backcountry Byway," which loops back around to Highway 93 about 60 miles later. High-clearance vehicles may enjoy this road in the summer months; it is often snowed in by November.

Echo Canyon State Park (12 miles east of Pioche) also started as a county park, when Echo Canyon Dam was built in 1969. Its campground amenities were identical to those at Spring Valley, except for lacking showers in the restrooms, or power to keep the restrooms heated and open through the winter months. After completion of the dam and campground, the county turned over operation of the park to Nevada State Parks. An ongoing problem since the dam's first

years, is the loss of water through the lakebed (which was not "sealed" when the dam was built). Echo Canyon dam was built in "Dry Valley," which the pioneers named for the habit of the Meadow Valley Wash (stream) going underground at this point, and re-emerging from springs a few miles further south (by the Delmue Ranch). However, the lower water level of the lake makes it an ideal "warm water" fishery, for bass and crappie, and also a good location for finding "trophy size" bullfrogs (when the Great Blue Herons don't beat you to the catch). Another feature of this park is that all portions of the shoreline

may be reached by vehicle (Spring Valley has only one side of the lake accessible by car, and by scrambling down a hillside). It is also less crowded than Spring Valley, and is the best location near Pioche for seeing ducks and shorebirds.

The newest addition to the State Park System in Lincoln County is the **Elgin One-Room Schoolhouse State Historic Site**. This original schoolhouse was restored by the family whose member built it in 1922 to educate the schoolchildren of ranchers and railroad workers in lower Rainbow Canyon. At this time, there was no "bus service" as we know today, and the children needed to be educated closer to their homes. By the 1960s, bus service was increasing, and the number of families living in Rainbow Canyon decreased – so the



Echo Canyon State Park

school closed after the last Bradshaw child finished 8th grade. In 1998, one of the Bradshaw family members decreed in his will the wish to see the schoolhouse restored; and in two short years, it was dedicated by the Bradshaw families and friends that funded the restoration. In 2005, the Bradshaws donated it to the Nevada State Park system for operation and maintenance. The flooding down Rainbow Canyon in January, 2005, has limited access for the present; but State Route 317 is on the list for Nevada Dept. of Transportation to repair as funds become available.

We welcome you to explore and enjoy the Nevada State Parks!

Vaughn Phillips

CONSTRUCTION

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Rock, paper, scissors

The Craft Fair, held on Saturday of Labor Day weekend, has become a Pioche tradition over the past 20 years. Local crafters show off their handmade wares, some of which cannot be found at big-city craft fairs. Crocheted afghans, baby dresses, wool caps, and even cartoon animals are the specialty of several Pioche women, and a woman who lived in Pioche several years comes back year after year with her crocheted doilies and fancy items. A Caliente couple does stained glass and scroll-sawn wood items, calling their business "Wooden Glass." Several Tole Painters often have their works in the show, with individually-painted items (not mass-produced). Paper-crafters often have hand-made greeting cards, and scrapbook pages ready for your own photographs. One Pioche woman specializes in

decorative birdhouses made from recycled wood and bits and parts. The selection of items varies each year, as some crafters come only every few years, when they have enough items made to sell. If you are looking for something unique, this is where you will find it!



Labor Day Weekend 2009 in Pioche

Friday, September 4

6 pm Softball Tournament, Pioche Ball Park

Saturday, September 5

7-10 am Masonic Lodge Breakfast, town park

7 am Softball Tournament-1st round, Pioche Ball Park

7 am Golf Tournament-1st Flight, Lincoln County Golf Course

8 am Turkey Shoot, Rod & Gun Club

9 am Golf Tournament-2nd Flight, Lincoln County Golf Course

9 am - 5 pm Craft Show, Town Hall

9 am - noon Chili Cook Off & Judging, town park

10 - 11:30 am Farmer's Market, Heritage Park

11 am Pet Show

Noon - 2 pm Kids Free Swim, town pool

1 pm Masonic Lodge Open House

1 pm Children Mucking (sign up 12:30 pm), town park

2 pm Singles Horseshoes, town park

2:30 pm Fireman Softball Grudge Match, town park

2:30 pm Adult Mucking, town park

3:30 pm Chicken Chucking, town park

5 pm Maggie Ann's (Chamber Dinner), town park

7 pm Street Dance (Road Crew Band), uptown Pioche

9:15 pm Night Parade, uptown Pioche

Sunday, September 6

7-10 am Masonic Lodge Breakfast, town park

7 am - 2 pm Eagle Valley Resort Fishing Derby, Eagle Valley Reservoir

7 am Softball Tournament, town park

10 - 11:30 am Farmer's Market, Heritage Park

11 am Golf Auction, town park

Noon Doubles Horseshoes, town park

Noon - 2 pm Kids Free Swim, town pool

Noon - 3 pm Opera House Open House

1 pm Hay Scramble/Cake Walk, T-ball field, town park

4 pm Firemans Fund-raising Dinner, town park

6 pm Stage Struck Players Play, "Educating Angels," Pioche Town Hall

9 pm Fireworks, town park

Monday, September 7

6 am Sunrise Salute, you'll hear it and feel it!

6 - 9 am Masonic Lodge Breakfast, town park

8 am 10K Fun Run, starts at town park

10 am Labor Day Parade, Main Street, Pioche

After Parade: Kids Games & Adult Mining, town park

11 am Taco Stand, town park

TBD Final Event: Raffle Drawing, town park

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ROCKS

L I N C O L N C O U N T Y

Recreational opportunities abound
by Clint Moore

Being a resident of Pioche, Nevada has opened up so many recreational opportunities for me. I'm sure anyone coming to the mountains of southeast Nevada will be able to find a wide variety of wonderful ways to have fun in the outdoors.

Let's start with some of the most popular recreational attractions, State Parks. Our State Parks have been designed with the visitor's enjoyment as a prerequisite. You will find our lakes stocked with trout, and bass as well as a variety of native fish species. Small boats, and canoes can be used on several of our lakes to add to the fun. The campgrounds are well maintained, and scenic. Wild creatures abound in, and outside of the parks, and photo opportunities are everywhere.

Hiking, and climbing in our mountains can be great fun, and good exercise, but make sure you are prepared. Be sure to carry plenty of drinking water, some high-energy snacks, and any emergency items needed for the high desert. Footwear should be good quality, of the hiking style, above ankle if possible, and comfortable. Wearing shorts pants is not recommended. Don't forget to carry a hat, sun block, and a windbreaker might come in handy as well. Remember the temperature can change drastically as you change altitude. It will most likely be hot in the valleys, and cooler as you climb higher. Short snow squalls, or hail are not unknown even in July above 8,000 feet.

Recreational Vehicles are very popular here, and we have hundreds of miles of trails, dirt roads, and mining roads. The Silver State recreational trails run all through the county, and are

well marked. Maps are available at the BLM office in Caliente, and at some businesses.

Equestrian enthusiasts will find plenty of great places to explore, and many horse breeders have ranches here in Lincoln County.

Ghost Towns are scattered throughout Lincoln County, and historic mining towns such as Pioche are fun to explore as well.

Petroglyphs, and pictographs are found in many places, but remember, Native American artifacts are protected by law. Enjoy viewing them, but leave them for future visitors.

Wild life viewing, and photography opportunities are great here. Wild horse herds, elk, mule deer, wild burros, mountain lions, Bighorn sheep, antelope, coyotes, eagles, wild turkeys, and many other species call Lincoln County their home.

Fossil hunting is a great pastime and many

different varieties have been discovered in the county. Also many mineral samples can be found along old railbeds and tailings piles. Be aware that many mining claims are still current, and minerals cannot be removed from these claim areas. If in doubt, ask. Many old mines are privately owned and you will be trespassing if you go beyond warning signs. Beware of glory holes; vertical shafts, often with collapsing collars, that are very dangerous. By law, these glory holes are fenced and have brightly colored warning signs. The people of Lincoln County are friendly folks, and are always willing to give advice on great recreational opportunities.

Enjoy our many natural attractions, be kind to the environment, and have a great time in Lincoln County, Nevada. Thanks for visiting with us.

A picturesque town with a colorful past



Looking Down on Pioche from the slopes of Treasure Hill.

Pioche, population about 800, is the northern-most of the four main communities in Lincoln County, located 175 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 93 at 5,500 to 6,200 foot elevation in the high desert of southeastern Nevada. It's relatively high elevation and location out of the rain shadow of the Sierra's gives the town an invigorating 4-season climate. Average daily temperature: July average high, 89 degrees F.; January average low, 21 degrees F.; Annual rainfall average, 13.5 inches; Annual snowfall average, 44 inches).

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, with artificial turf T-boxes and greens, is located 2 miles north of town at mile-marker 2 on SR322.

Pioche has two parks. The Mining "pocket" Park is located at the upper end of Main Street, where the business route from Highway 93 comes into town. It has a bandstand with a bench, overlooking a mine tunnel replica. The main town park is at the lower end of Main Street, by the new Courthouse. It has a baseball field, large grassy play area, a large picnic shelter with cooking areas, and playground equipment. This is where the Labor Day celebration events are held, including the mining/drilling competitions. The town swimming pool is located on the other side of the baseball field, and is open only during summer months. The town's free RV Park is located across the street from the swimming pool; six pull-through sites are available for short-term stays (less than one week). Water and sewer are available, no electricity, and a donation is requested for use. No restroom facilities are provided at this RV park. There are three commercial full-service RV parks for those wanting or requiring all the amenities: The Eagle Valley RV Park, (775) 962-5293, www.EagleValleyNV.com; Roll Inn RV Park, (775) 962-5566; and the Pioche RV Park (775) 962-5570.

Lodging

Hutchings Motel(775) 962-5404
Overland Hotel(775) 962-5895
Motherlode Motel.....(775) 962-5159
Sweet Life Guest Cottage(775) 962-5188
Wright's Country Cabins.....(866) 810-7303

RV Parks

Eagle Valley RV Park(775) 962-5293
Pioche RV Park(775) 962-5570
Roll Inn RV Park(775) 962-5566

Transportation (getting here)

Major Highways

From Las Vegas I-15 northbound to 93 north

From Ely U.S.93 southbound

From Salt Lake City to Cedar City I-15 southbound to Ut SR-56 to Nv SR-319 to 93 north

Lincoln County Airport(775) 728-4409

12 miles south in Panaca, lighted, paved runway, 4800 feet long

Bus Service.....(775) 728-4477

Lincoln County Transportation

Education

Preschool/Elementary School K-6 (775) 962-5832

Junior High School(775) 728-4655

Students bused to Panaca 12 miles south

High School, Panaca(775) 728-4481

Utilities

Pioche Public Utility.....(775) 962-5840

Solid Waste - NWS Crestline(775) 728-4333

Telephone

Lincoln Co. Telephone(775) 962-5131

www.lctsys.com

WUE Inc. (cell phone service)(775) 962-5161

Cable TV

Rainbow Cable(775) 962-5111

Internet

Lincoln Co. Telephone(775) 962-5131

Community Service

Churches

Berean Baptist(775) 962-5886

Catholic- Holy Child, Caliente(775) 726-3669

Christ Church Episcopal(775) 962-5835

LDS, Pioche Ward(775) 962-5469

Senior Center (Serves lunch daily) (775) 962-5378

Masonic Lodge

Newspaper

Lincoln County Record(775) 726-3333

.....fax (775) 726-3331

Medical

Grover C. Dils Medical Center(775) 726-3171

Caliente, 25 miles south

Caliente Clinic.....(775) 726-3121

Dentist

Steven Klomp(775) 728-4432

Panaca, 11 miles south

Lincoln County Ambulance911

Masseuse, Shannon Kirchesh(775) 728-4325

Panaca

Lincoln County Physical Therapy ..(775) 726-3117

Caliente

Meadow Valley Pharmacy.....(775) 726-3771

Caliente

Taxes

Lincoln County Assessor(775) 962-5890

Sheriff(775) 962-5151

P.O. Box 570, 1050 E. SR 322 , Pioche, NV 89043

Special Interest Groups and Community Organizations

AA and Al-Anon (meets weekly in each town, check the newspaper personals listing for location)

Creative Artists of Lincoln County (meets monthly, sponsors occasional art lessons, and yearly juried Art Show during Memorial Day weekend)

Chambers of Commerce (Pioche and Greater Lincoln County)

Lincoln County Chapter, Nevada

Archeological Association (meets monthly, preservation and protection of historic and prehistoric sites)

Lincoln County Fair Committee

Lincoln Links Golf Association

4-H (youth activities, volunteer adult leaders always needed)

Farm Bureau

Freemasons/Masonic Lodge (Pioche)

I.O.O.F. (Pioche)

Retired Senior & Volunteer Program

(different agencies and services always in need of volunteer help: Hospital Thrift shop, Chambers of Commerce, State Parks Regional Visitor Center, companion helpers, etc.)

V.F.W. Hall (Caliente)

Weight-Watchers (meets weekly in Alamo)

Political party support groups (meetings announced in newspaper)

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