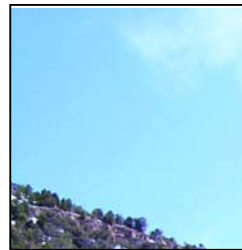


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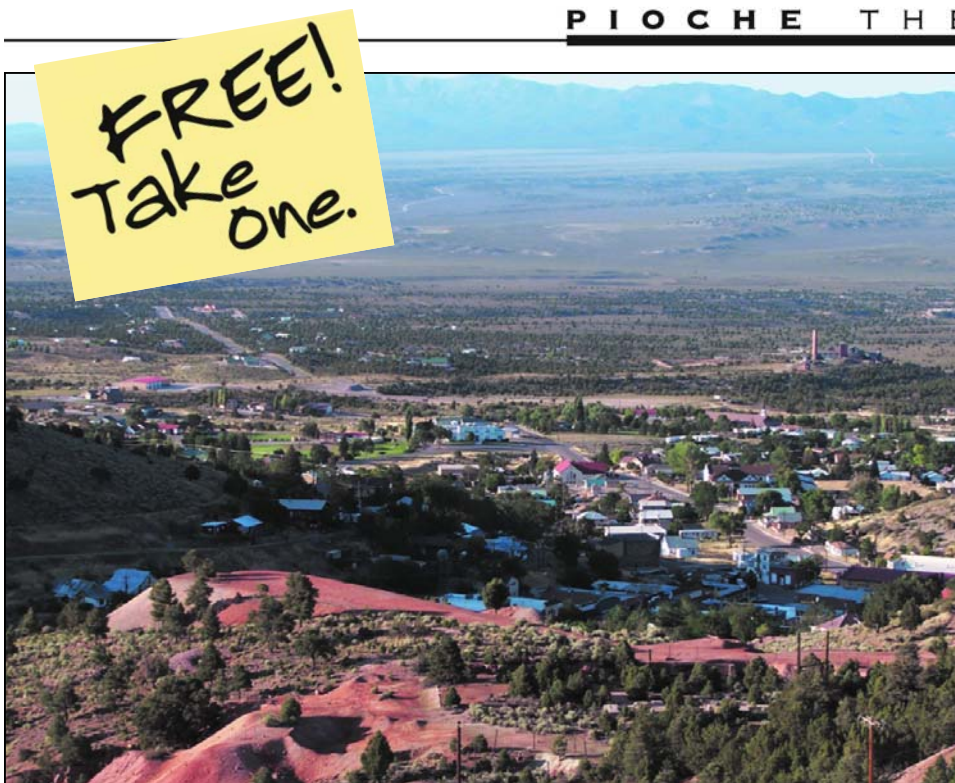


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TREASURE HILL CHRONICLES

P I O C H E T H E N A N D N O W

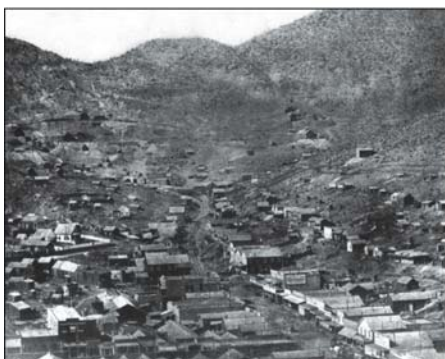
Winter, 2009 - 2010



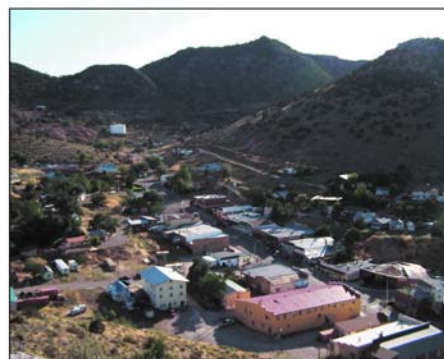
Looking down on Pioche from Treasure Hill.

Welcome to our town!

Before you set out to explore the town and its surroundings, please take a few minutes to browse through this informative little paper. You will find a tour of the uptown historic district, a brief overview of life in a boom town 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 south-eastern Nevada. You will find a description of our state parks, nearly endless public lands, the wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing possibilities. 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

Pioche and vicinity mining history

For most of the history of Pioche up until the last few decades, mining has been the leading industry. During the initial boom in the early 1870s, Pioche was the second leading producer of silver west of the Rockies and the mining boom during World War II lifted Pioche to second place in the Nation for the production of lead and zinc for the war effort. More than \$130,000,000 worth of ore has been produced in the Pioche area up until 1970 and those numbers may or may not have been

corrected for inflation. The inflation rate between 1970 and 2009 is 459%, so in present day dollars, the Pioche mine production is at least in the neighborhood of \$600,000,000 and possibly much higher. Pioche is one of the few towns in the state founded during the 1870s that had major revival in the middle of the twentieth century. It has often been called "the camp that came back."

After the boom of the 1870s, Pioche experienced many years of depression, interrupted by occasional flurries of activity. The Raymond-Ely mine on the hill overlooking Pioche's Main Street was one leading producer in the 1870s. When the town began to experience its second boom in the 1930s, this mine—then called the Number One—once again played a principal role in the production. During the first boom, the main values in the ore came from silver in fissure veins, primarily in the Prospect Mountain Quartzite on Treasure Hill. During the second boom, when availability of cheap electrical power from Hoover Dam made it possible to pump the water from the lower levels and the metal demands of World War II came along, the most important products were lead and zinc, with gold and silver as by-products. They were prima-



Godbe Mill

rily mined from the replacement deposits in Limestone within and above the Pioche Shale.

The milling of the complex ores has always presented a challenge to Pioche's mining men. The first major mill for processing the native rock was erected at Bullionville, near Panaca, and at the beginning of the first boom.

Mormon farmers from Panaca made extra money hauling the ore the ten miles from mines to mill. Then, during the height of the boom, a railroad was constructed between Pioche and Bullionville.

After the mines closed and the Bullionville mill ceased to operate, the buildings and equipment were removed, rails were torn up, and the tailings at Bullionville were hauled away to extract the gold, silver and quicksilver that had been lost in the first milling.

Some fifteen years after the first mining boom had ended, some Utah mining men represented by W. S. Godbe constructed a new mill and smelter in the valley north of Pioche. This venerable mill, which may still be recognized by its smokestack, processed some ore before the turn of the century, but the economics of the mining industry

Continued on Page 13

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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Pioche, Nevada

The baddest town in the West



Trestle and ore bin for Pioche Tram.

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

\$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

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.



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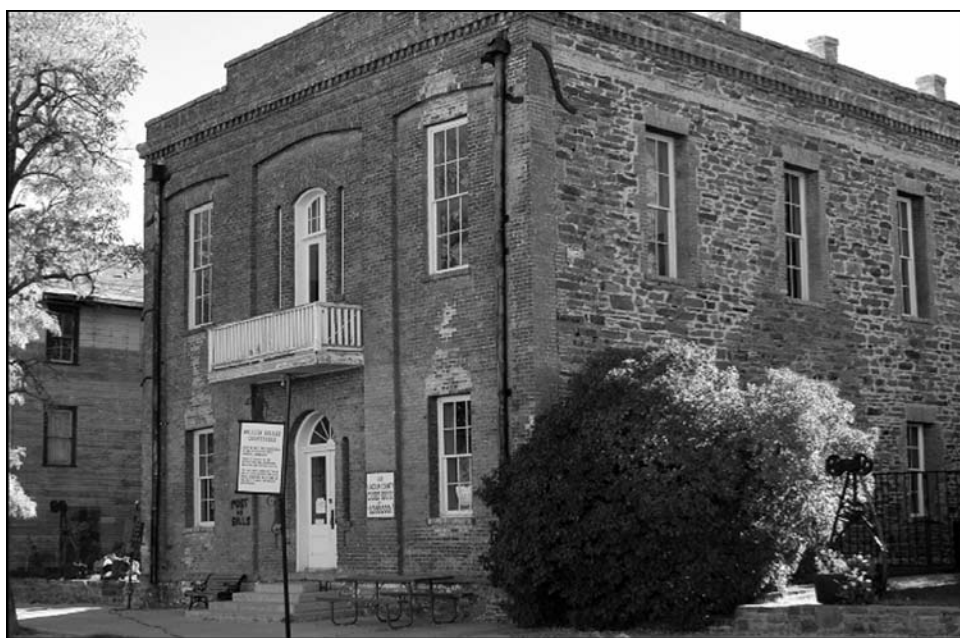
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Pioche, Nevada

Walking Tour



The Million Dollar Courthouse

1. The Million Dollar Courthouse

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

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

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

Meadow Valley Street was the original entry street from Meadow Valley to the south of Pioche's business district. Many of the miners' cabins were located on the southeast end, and businesses flourished on the northwest end. 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

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 hap-

pened on Main Street.

6. The Lincoln County Museum

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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 "Peggy's Store" 768 Main Street, a building that appears to date from the early 1900s. The Pioche Record is now known as The Lincoln County Record and is headquartered at 195 Clover Street in Caliente. 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. 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

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

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

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

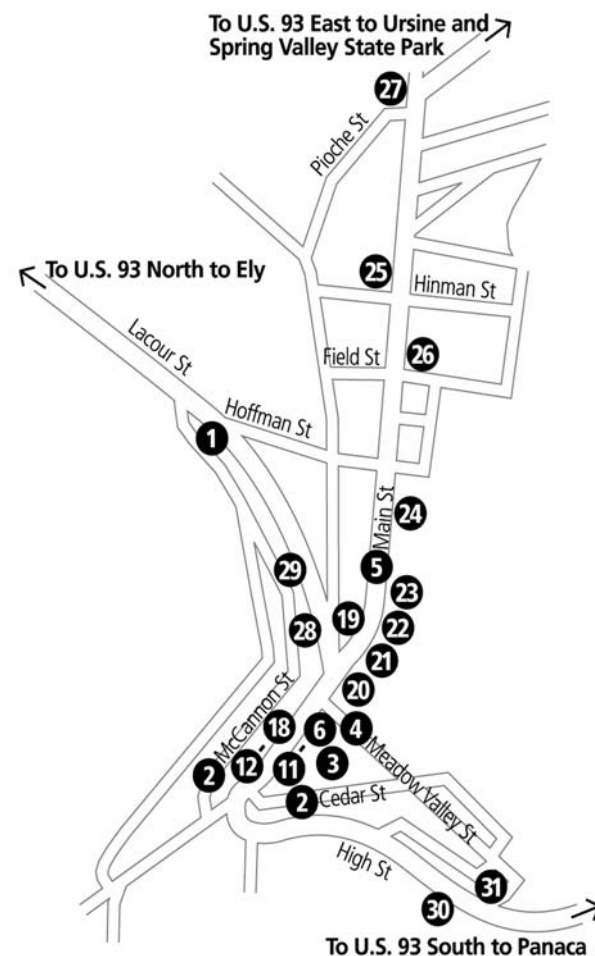
Stever's Store and Beauty Shop, originally built in the late 1860s, was partially burned and then rebuilt several times. It served as Stever's Apparel Store and The Garden Bar from the 1934 until 1997, when the Stever family sold the business. It has gone through several hands since and the current owner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

16. The Pioche News Stand

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

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

The Bank Club Building, Lincoln County Market, and Treasure Chest had 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 it was remodeled into the Grubsteak Dinner House, which is now 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 antique store was first Welland's Mercantile, then Gottfredson's Dry Goods, then Cowley's Drug Store and later the Baptist Church-Treasure Chest. Corbett's Antiques opened in 1993 but has been closed the past few years. New owners expect to reopen in 2010.

Continued on Page Six





Bank Club of Pioche

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Walking Tour, Continued from page 5

18A Historic Silver Café,

Historic Silver Café, north of number 18, has been in business for 102 years, under several owners. It is one of the oldest continuously operated businesses in the state. Sisters Judy Kwiatkowski and Julie White have owned and operated the restaurant for the past three years. They expanded last year with the opening of the adjacent Silver Mine Gift Shop.

19 The Commercial Club/Amsden Buildings

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

The Leader Store Building is the impressive building on the northeast 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 a used merchandise business. 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.

21. The Overland Bar and Hotel Building

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

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.

23. The Orr Garage

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

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 privately owned.

25. The Pioche Town Hall

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



Treasure Hill

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 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

Boot Hill: Crime was rampant in Pioche in the early 1870s. 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 and built by E. Clampus Vitus in 2009.

27. The Lincoln County Court House

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 St. John's Masonic Lodge

The St. John's Masonic Lodge has been in continuous operation since 1873, mak-

ing 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

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

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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Curious doe in Rose Valley.

Wildlife

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 web site, 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 web site 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.

The Cathedral Gorge State Park Visitor Center has a supply of Fishing Proclamations (the rules, fees and general information), and Hunting Proclamations for the current year. These may also be obtained at the businesses that sell the hunting &

fishing licenses:

Tillie's Mini-Mart, 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!

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Spring Valley in Spring Valley State Park

STATE PARKS

LINCOLN COUNTY

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 1890's, 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 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 1920's, 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 1930's C.C.C.-constructed picnic ramada still stands. Over the years,



Eagle Valley Reservoir in Spring Valley State Park

improvements were made, including a 22-unit 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.

Beaver Dam State Park (35 miles east of Caliente) was also established in 1935, having been "just off the main road" for the earliest years of its use. The little community of Clover Valley (Barclay) was 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



Echo Canyon State Park



Kershaw-Ryan State Park

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 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 1960's, 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 manmade 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.

Continued on page 10

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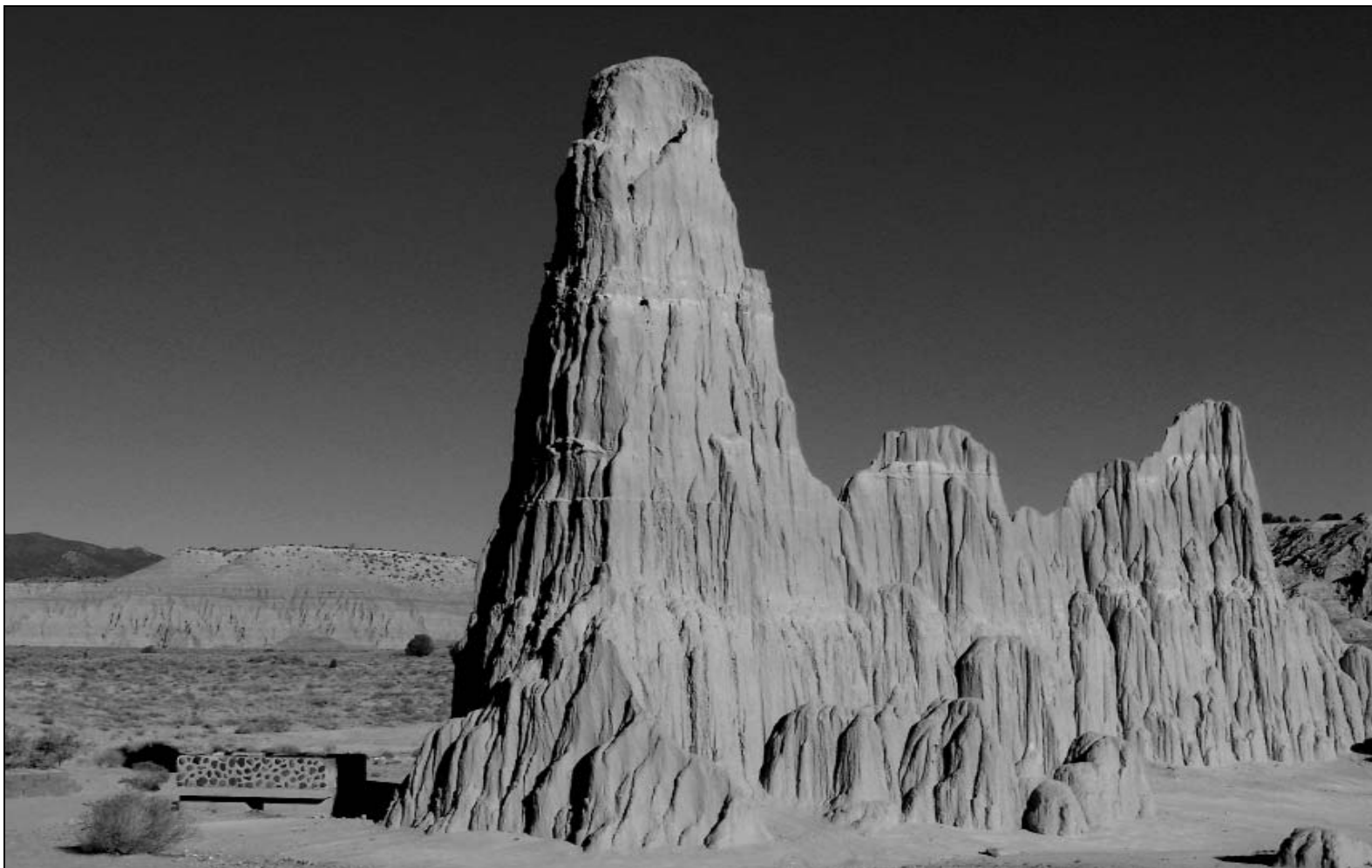
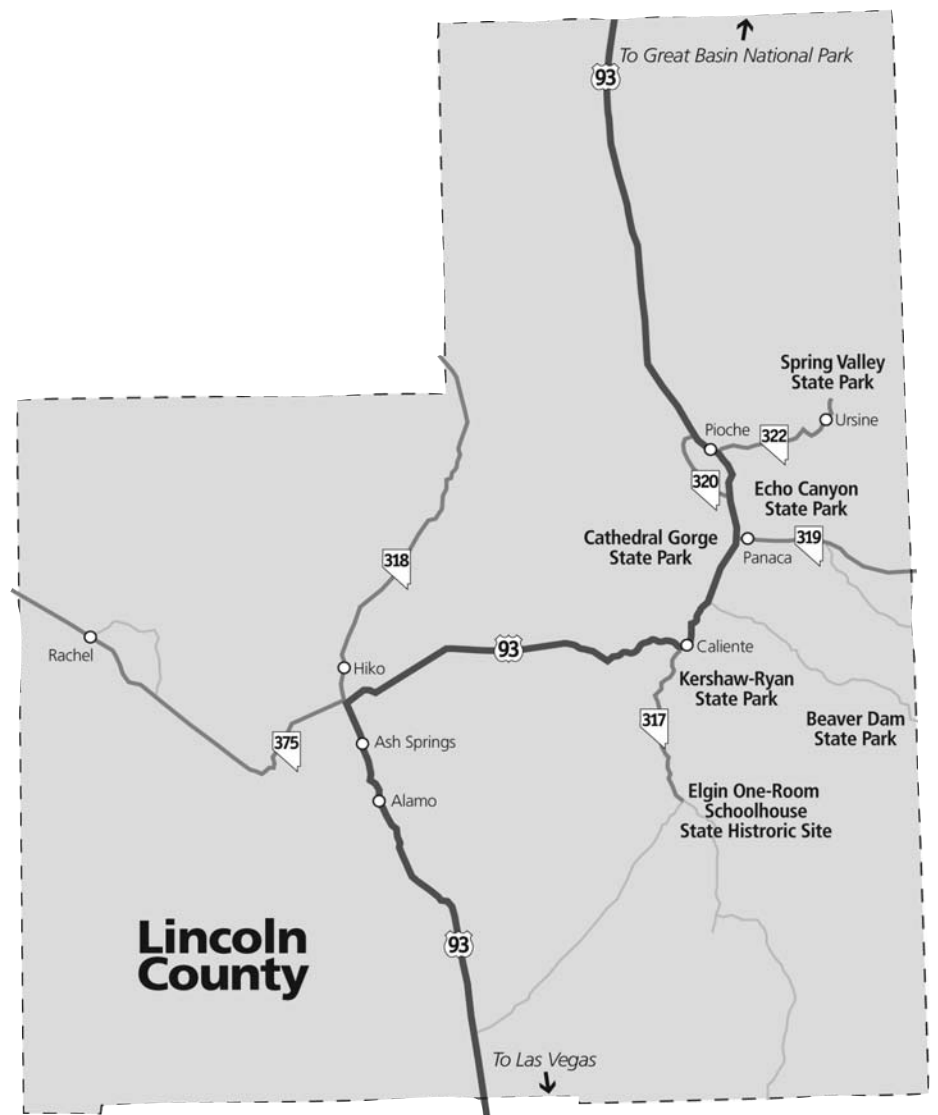
Continued from page nine

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 renamed as Spring Valley State 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 Back-country 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



Clay formations at Cathedral Gorge State Park

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 1960's, bus service was increasing, and the number of families living in Rainbow Canyon decreased – so the 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!



Boot hill cemetery.

Pioche's Ghost of Boot Hill

by Leo Schafer

Pioche's boot hill has gained a reputation of legendary proportion; it's nearly as famous as the Million Dollar Courthouse that is located less than a mile away. There are many occupants resting within the confines of the Pioche cemeteries. Murderer's row, or boot hill, contains the majority of those who had a sensational end to their lives. With no houses or a well traveled road nearby, it's a lonely place even on a bright sunny day. A dark night adds another dimension to this forlorn place of headstones and sagebrush. It was on a warm, dark night at almost midnight when Pioche's ghost of boot hill was sighted.

One night many years ago, an old-timer was walking to work at the mill below Pioche. His route took him beside this eerie location. He was working the "graveyard" shift. He did not feel comfortable passing this place. Former Pioche prospector and miner, Vernon Jeffcott described what the old-timer was feeling:

"...he was somewhat nervous about spooks and watching pretty close for any signs of spooks. When he was alongside the cemetery he saw a peculiar dim light up above a spot in the cemetery. That scared him. Then a light came up out of a grave, he was nearly paralyzed."

Now this might be explained by a cloud that had just passed over the moon, or perhaps a shiny object, or perhaps just the imagination. What happened next could only be explained one way: a spirit was leaving his grave! Jeffcott continues:

"Then a man crawled out of the grave, and he had a quick recovery from his paralyzes, dropped his lunch bucket and made the speed record from the cemetery to Pioche."

The old-timer had to report the incident immediately, and at midnight there was such a place that had a gathering of people still awake. So into the bar he went and told the patrons there of his supernatural experience. His audience just laughed at him. They did-

n't believe one of the interred had risen up from his grave. But the old-timer insisted that what he saw was real and was finally able to convince the assembly to go to the cemetery.

Being in the company of others was somewhat calming and the old-timer simply had to prove that what he saw had really happened. It had to be real, he saw it. What if it was gone? It just had to be there. He would have a difficult time living this down if the boys found nothing.

And then they all saw it. They were still some distance away but there was something there. At one of the graves there was a light. Maybe this was a good time to return to the bar. This incident could be better investigated in the daylight—but they went on. As they approached the light, they could see the silhouette of what appeared to be a man. It was there! It could not be denied!

As they grew closer things became clearer, they saw the gravedigger sitting on the edge of a freshly dug grave, next to his lantern, eating the lunch the old-timer had dropped when he had launched himself from that location. It seems the weather being so hot during the day, the gravedigger preferred working at night.

The mill is less than two miles down the valley below Pioche. One end of the tram that is still in place on the east side of town terminates at the mill. The mill can be seen from various locations around Pioche, including boot hill.

Boot hill can still be visited in Pioche. From the Overland Hotel and Saloon (center of town), travel four tenths of a mile north, downhill, on Main Street to the junction of Main, Austin, and Comstock. Turn right on Comstock Road, travel two tenths of a mile past the IOOF and Masonic Cemetery, then past the Public Cemetery to Boot Hill. The Catholic Cemetery can also be seen by traveling further down Main Street, on the left.

If you're at boot hill at midnight keep an eye open for the ghost, as well as a man with a shovel.

Pioche Public Utility Rates as of June 1, 2009

Residential Water \$21.00/month for the first 15,000 gallons and \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons used thereafter.

Commercial Water \$26.00/month for the first 15,000 gallons and \$1.25 per 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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Meter Size	Equivalents to 5/8-3/4	Development Fee
5/8-3/4	1.0	\$1500
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
8.0	163	\$244,500

Public notice: Accessing water meters is in violation of town ordinances. You will cause damage to the meter and you will be held financially liable. Please contact the Pioche Public Utilities two business days before you need to have your water turned on or off. Office phone is (775) 962-5840.

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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.

It's All in the Family

Art & Edna Mae Hartley moved to the Pioche area in the summer of 1936, where they made their home up until the time of their death. They both worked at the Pan American Mine for 3 years before moving to the Prince, where Art continued to work at the mine for the next 6 years. They then moved to Pioche in 1946, which was to be their home for the next 40 years.

In 1944 Art and Bob Hammond bought the service station on Main St. from Louis Scott and they went into business together under the name of Hartley & Hammond. They worked at this location for 8 years and then made the move to a larger station on LaCour St in 1954. It was then they shortened the name to A & B Service. Over the years their business grew and it has always been a full service station with many additions, such as wrecker service, oxygen, etc.

During these years Art was an active member of the Pioche Chamber of Commerce, traveling throughout the state working for the benefit of Pioche. He also served on many boards - Power District,

School & Town and was a member of the Fire Department.

When Art & Bob decided to retire, they sold their business to Art's grandson, Mike Phillips in 1984. Mike still operates the business under the name of A & B Service in the same location on LaCour St.

Art & Edna Mae also built (1956) and operated the Hartley Motel (now the Motherlode), which consisted of 6 units and an office, until they built a new home adjoining it and then the office was converted to another room. In 1973 they decided two businesses was too confining so they sold the motel.

Art & Edna Mae were very successful business people, but they also raised three daughters - all of whom still reside in Pioche, along with 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Their son-in-law, Vaughn Phillips has also been in the construction business in Pioche since 1974. You can drive most anywhere in the surrounding area and even Ely and see the beautiful homes he and his son Curt have built over the years.



Roadrunner RV group from Henderson, Nev., view the renovation of the Thompson Opera House. Photo courtesy of Laura Darnell.

GRAND OPERA

Thompson's Opera House now available for rent

The Opera House built in 1873, and originally known as Browns Theater, has been a central gathering place for the residents of Pioche, Nevada from the time it was built.

Closing in the 1940's, it has now reopened in 2009 after a major renovation by Lincoln County. The "Thompson's" has enjoyed use as a dramatic theater, musical hall, dance hall and movie theater over the years, and is now available for rent by public and private parties. It is a perfect venue for events such as weddings, business meetings, small conferences and entertainment.

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Pioche Mining History, Continued from front page

worked against the Pioche investors at that time. The town had no ready connection with the interstate transportation systems; it was 200 miles from the transcontinental railroad. Not until 1907, after the so-called Clark Line (later the Union Pacific) had been constructed between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles and after a spur line had been constructed into Pioche, did the town have a ready outlet for its ores.

At the Prince mine, across the mountain range from Pioche, the picture was somewhat brighter. There the investors who worked ores between about 1910 and 1935 produced several million dollars and established that the deeper ore bodies of the Pioche district were more extensive than the pioneers had realized.

Mining is a notoriously volatile industry, and those who have lived in Pioche for more than a few years have known the various stages of the cycle of boom and bust, hope and disappointment, bonanza and borrasca. The second boom ended in 1957, when low ore prices and the rising cost of deep mining forced a closing of the main mines. There have been other flashes of excitement and periods of disappointment related to the search for tungsten, manganese, perlite, uranium and other metals, and at the end of the first decade of the 21st century, Pioche and the neighboring districts are still hoping for another revival somewhere in the vast 10,600 square miles of Lincoln County.

For further reading on the mining history and geology, check out the bibliography section.



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Domestic Infelicity

by Leo Schafer

Many years ago in Pioche there was a report of an incident that had no parallel in those moral times, and it might even be described as unusual in this enlightened age. The "Smith" family of two resided in their suburban domicile in a neighboring valley of Pioche. They did, on occasion, take in a temporary border. A young man who was identified only as A. came to the Smiths seeking the protection of their roof. The Smith's house was quite cozy and contained but two rooms, the kitchen-dining room, and the bedroom. A. was given permission to spread his blankets in one of the corners of the latter. Mr. Smith soon found himself in an unanticipated situation. The local newspaper continues with the story:

"Matters went on smoothly until one night 'mine host' awoke and found the partner of his joys and sorrows gone from his side. Listening quietly for a short time, he had no difficulty in tracing her whereabouts to the corner in which A. was sleeping. He sprang from bed, and a row ensued, during which he was ejected from the premises. Next day he made application at the house for board and lodging, but was politely informed by A. and his own wife that he could be accommodated with board, but under no circumstances with lodging. He told them he

wanted both, or neither, and departed at once in an unenviable state of mind.

"Several days after, during the absence of his wife and A., he obtained possession of the house, and armed to the teeth, denied his wife and A. admittance, and they compelled to 'camp' in the sagebrush for the night. Next day the wife held a parley with her husband, and, under the plea of a desire to effect reconciliation, she succeeded in securing the deadly weapons and admitting A...."

Smith again took to the sagebrush, and there was no further report of him regaining his former possessions.

It would appear our Mr. Smith lost his house, his spouse, and his tenant!

Mr. Smith and the happy couple are no longer with us but the neighboring valleys are still here, and they are worth a look. Dry Valley is one and it features Echo Canyon State Park. Not far from there is Spring Valley State Park, and just south of Pioche is Cathedral Gorge State Park. Along with these parks, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) controls thousands of acres accessible to the public nearby. The BLM also has a unique campground less than a mile south of the Spring Valley State Park entrance sign. These areas are but a short pleasant drive from Pioche.

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PIÑON PINES OF LINCOLN COUNTY

by Donald Shanks

The elevations between 5,000 and 8,000 feet in Lincoln County include vast tracts of piñon and juniper forest, PJ for short. Some tree connoisseurs from more humid regions derisively call it the pigmy forest, and nearly everyone in the region takes them for granted, a weed tree to be removed or exploited. They were used by the miners to make charcoal and timbers; settlers used them for fence-posts and burned them to bring back grass; and later, huge amounts were chained, but still they claim new territory. There is an ongoing debate as to whether they are an invasive water-wasting weed, choking out everything else or are just reclaiming their former turf.

Years of fire suppression have left few natural firebreaks, so biomass projects are on the drawing boards. But native Americans certainly found many uses for them, including a very nutritious food source, the large, tasty pine nut. There are two varieties of piñon pines in the region comprising the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau. *Pinus monophylla*, the single leaf piñon, grows in much of the Great Basin, including Nevada in areas above about 6,000 feet, although strangely, is missing in the area north of the

Truckee and Humboldt Rivers. *Pinus edulis* is the two-needled pine, with smaller pine nuts, but still highly sought after, that grows further east in the more humid summer climates of the Colorado Plateau, although a few of this variety are found in Lincoln County.

A more recent use that is gaining popularity is the harvesting piñon pines for Christmas trees. Many families are finding that a trip into the countryside to harvest their own tree makes a great kickoff to the Christmas season. The Caliente Office of the BLM issues 5,000 tags per year that can be used anywhere on BLM land in Lincoln County other than wilderness areas and the higher peaks that contain more valuable and scarcer ponderosa pine, bristlecone pine, white fir and Douglas fir.

Prime areas around Pioche include the Highland, Bristol and Wilson Creek Ranges, Meadow Valley Wash north of Spring Valley State Park, Highway 93, 13 to 27 miles north of town in the area known as the Cedars and the Pioche Hills (be careful, there are a lot of private mining claims in the area). It helps to have a 4-wheel-drive vehicle because the roads are often muddy or snowy in late fall, otherwise stick to paved roads.

Some harvesting tips: The BLM includes



important information with the Christmas tree tags; read this carefully. The trees always look smaller out in the woods, so bring a measuring tape as well as a saw. The stories are legion about people that have dragged trees home that fill the whole room if they can even get them in the door. Avoid forest areas with mature trees, because these trees are far too big and there are few young trees of suitable size. The young trees are mostly in more open areas.

You are allowed to top trees that are under ten feet tall, but cut away the remaining stump to as close to the ground as possible. The lower branches tend to curve upwards, so be careful when topping or trimming, that the shape of the tree doesn't change significantly. The trees are odiferous at first, so give them a few days outside to air out. Make sure you have a roomy and sturdy base that holds water, because piñon trunks tend

to be thicker than the spruce and fir trees normally sold as Christmas trees.

A few interesting stats about these trees: The Single-Leaf Piñon Pine and the Bristlecone Pine share the title of Nevada State Tree. The piñon is the only pine bearing a single needle per fascicle; the oldest known tree of this species is 903 years old and the largest ever discovered is 4.4-feet in diameter, 46.3-feet tall, with a 48.1-foot canopy.

BLM Tree Permits

An individual may purchase from one to five tags (trees) at \$4 each with one check or money order. They are for pinyon and juniper trees only. Over the counter tag sales at Caliente Field Station continue through to Christmas Eve, 775-726-8100.



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A picturesque town with a colorful past

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).



Looking south up Pioche Main Street.

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.

Restaurants

Historic Silver Café(775) 962-5124
Grub Pub(775) 962-5419

Lodging

Hutchings Motel(775) 962-5404
Motherlode Motel(775) 962-5159
Overland Hotel(775) 962-5895
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 U.S. 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 U.S. 93
Lincoln County Airport(775) 728-4409
Lighted, paved runway, 4800 feet long 12 miles south in Panaca

Bus Service

Lincoln County Transportation ..(775) 728-4477

Education

Pre-school(775) 962-5832
Elementary School K-6
Junior High School(775) 728-4655
Students bus to Panaca, 12 miles south
High School(775) 728-4481
Students bus to Panaca, 12 miles south

Utilities

Pioche Public Utility(775) 962-5840
Solid Waste – NWS Crestline ... (775) 728-4333

County Government

Lincoln County Clerk(775) 962-5109

Taxes

Lincoln County Assessor(775) 962-5890

Police

Lincoln County Sheriff(775) 962-5151

Telephone

Lincoln County Telephone Co . (775) 962-5131
www.lctsys.com
WUE Inc. (cell phone service) .(775) 962-5161

Cable TV

Rainbow Cable(775) 962-5111

Internet

Lincoln County Telephone(775) 962-5131

Medical

Grover C. Dils Medical Center . (775) 726-3171
25 miles south in Caliente
Caliente Clinic(775) 726-3121
Steven Klomp, Dentist(775) 728-4432
12 miles south in Panaca
Lincoln County Ambulance911
Shannon Kirchesh, Masseuse ..(775) 728-4325
Panaca
Lincoln County Physical Therapy (775) 726-3117
Panaca
Meadow Valley Pharmacy(775) 726-3771
Panaca

Churches

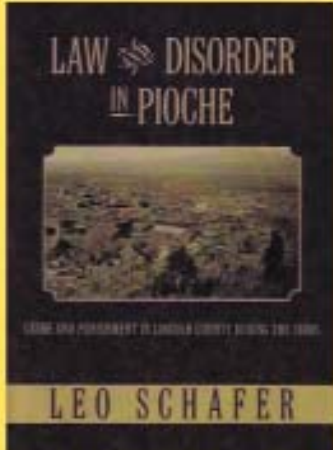
Berean Baptist(775) 962-5886
Christ Church Episcopal(775) 962-5835
Holy Child Catholic, Caliente ..(775) 726-3669
LDS, Pioche Ward(775) 962-5469
United Methodist Church(775) 726-3665
Caliente

Newspaper

Lincoln County Record(775) 726-3333
admin@lincolncountyrecord.com , Caliente

Other Community Services

Pioche Senior Center(775) 962-5378
(serves lunch daily)
Pioche Chamber of Commerce .(775) 962-5544
www.piochenevada.com
Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce.
www.lincolncountynv.com
Lincoln Links Golf(775) 962-5206
Retired Senior & Volunteer Program
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VFW (Caliente)(775) 726-3156



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