



**PIOCHE
WALKING TOUR
PGS. 4-7**



**WINTER SPORTS
IN PIOCHE
PG. 8**



**THOMPSON OPERA
HOUSE
PG. 10**



**LEADER
STORE
PG. 13**

TREASURE HILL CHRONICLES

PIOCHE THEN AND NOW

Winter, 2012-2013

FREE! Take one. 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 southeastern 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.



Looking down on Pioche from the slopes of Treasure Hill.

PIOCHE PROFILE

Much in contrast to its colorful past, today Pioche attracts new residents with its friendly, picturesque hometown appeal. Pioche is the Lincoln County seat; the courthouse is 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.

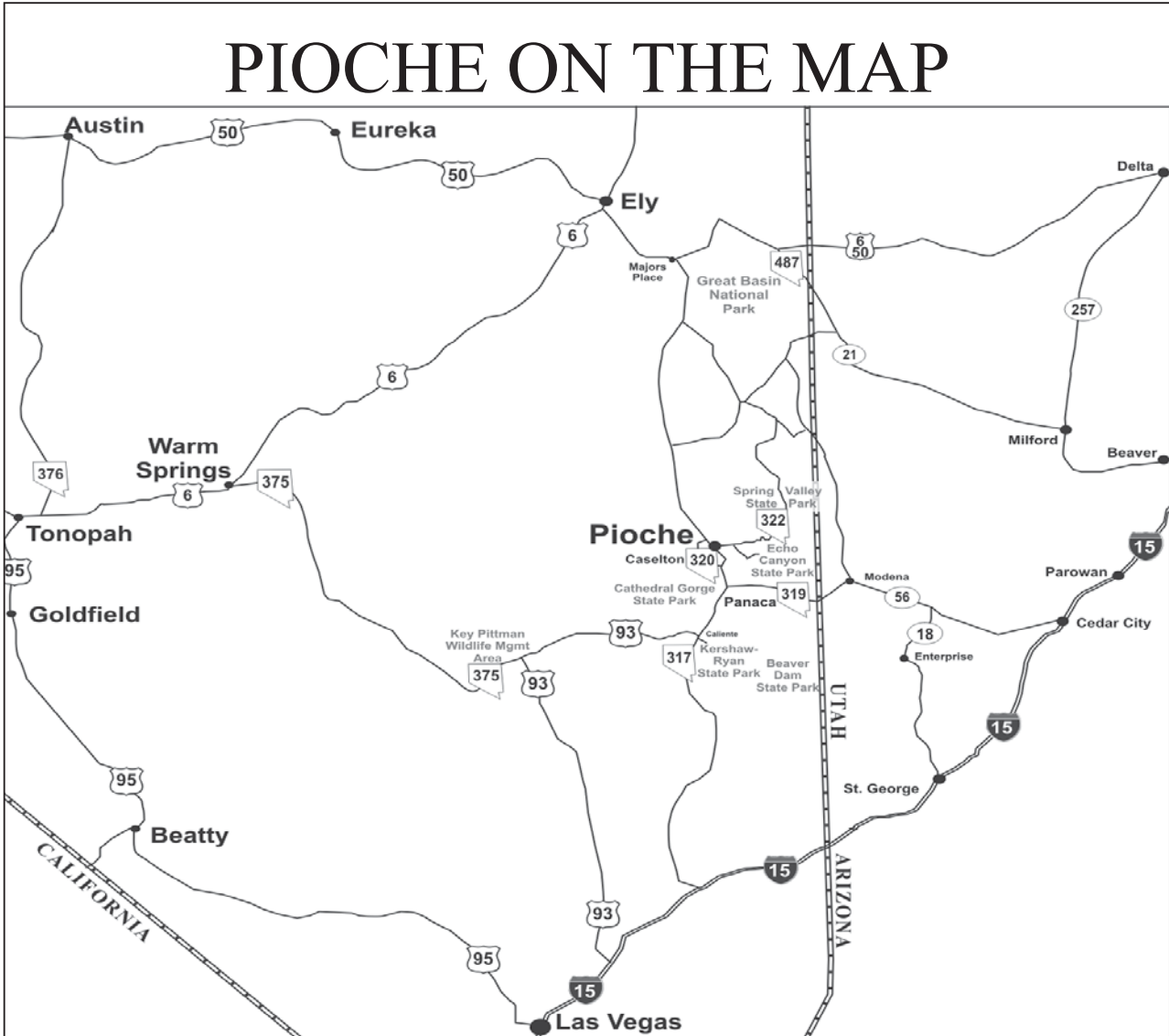
Pioche has two parks. The Mining "pocket" park is located at the upper end of Main Street, where the Business route from Highway 93 comes into town. It has a bandstand with a bench, overlooking a mine tunnel replica. The main town park is at the lower end of Main Street, by the new Courthouse. It has 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 R-V 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 two commercial full-service RV parks for those wanting or requiring all the amenities.

With a population of about 800, Pioche is the northernmost community in Lincoln County. It is 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. The relatively high elevation and location out of the rain shadow of the Sierra gives the town an invigorating 4-season climate.

Average climate data:

July average high 89 degrees F.
January average low 21 degrees F.
Annual rainfall average 13.5 inches
Annual snowfall average 44 inches.



A Trip Back in Time

By Leo Schafer



Pioche, and the vicinity around the town, offers many wonderful sites to visit. There are many day trips available while staying in Pioche. The following account provides the backdrop for such a trip. One day is more than ample time to enjoy this site and return to Pioche. The location is only about 25 miles north of town.

The precise destination is one of a historical nature, dating back to the 1800s. The site contains three charcoal kilns located at Bristol Well [Wells]. The kilns have a unique design and were used to produce charcoal, an important component in processing the ore extracted nearby. The location is less than an hour from Pioche. The area has several names, Bristol and Jackrabbit are the two most common. Bristol Well is a site near Bristol. Why are the kilns, such elaborate structures, located in this remote area? Let's look back about 150 years.

It has been reported that silver was discovered in the late 1860s. On April 10, 1870 The Blind Mountain Mining District was established. Sixty mining claims were filed and a smelter was constructed. A settlement was established and for a time it was known as National City. However, there was more enthusiasm than ore. For about five years things stood at an idle while on the other side of the mountain, the east side, another strike was made.

The original mining district was divided and the new discovery was named the Jackrabbit District. A mining camp by the name of Royal City was established. A new mining district for the original claims at National City was formed and called the Bristol Mining District. The excitement on the east side of the mountain was apparently contagious and rekindled a new bundle of enthusiasm at the old claims. The two towns were only about a mile apart but had a major obstacle separating them; an 8,000 foot mountain peak. Both sides of the mountain were now engaged

in improving their districts. But water was a problem for both camps, since there wasn't any. Water was hauled from Fairview Springs, a distance of over five miles into Royal City and an even greater distance to National City.

Both towns were attracting a lot of attention. Men from Pioche were traveling to the districts; some were even walking. Royal city was receiving the most notoriety due to the fabulous initial silver assays that the Jackrabbit Mine was reporting. Reports of the mine and city reaching Pioche were stunning. Apparently Royal City was an opulent metropolis and had been appropriately named. There was so much excitement the Pioche newspaper was compelled to investigate the rich mine and flourishing city.

Pioche Weekly Record, September 27, 1877:

"...The inspection...is marked by the establishment of the United States Post Office for Royal City...and as the department did not at present wish to go to any expense in building a stone building, they have located the post office in a cedar, a tin oyster can being the receptacle for any letters which passers-by may wish to leave for the inhabitants of Royal City [Author's note: official records indicate the Postal Service did not establish a post office here until October of the following year]. On continuing...the next view being brush shanties, tents, a water depot on each side of the road, with a sign out containing the information that water can now be purchased at the reduced price of five cents per gallon [over a dollar at today's value of money] and that animals can be watered at the rate of 25 cents per head.

"A barroom in a brush tent next comes to view, the bar being a plain dining room table, covered with a gorgeous red blanket, on top of which is displayed a number of tumblers, flanked by sardine boxes, to afford a lunch for those who have quenched their thirst..."

The newspaper goes on to describe the Jackrabbit mine, and announce its new name; the Day Mine, Day being one of the principals. The following month the newsboys were back in Royal City and were able to partake in the fine cui-

sine offered at the Jackrabbit Hotel. No description of the "hotel" was offered and based on their prior narrative of the ambiance of the place, one was not needed. The menu:

Soup: Taile de Boeuf [beef]

Entrees: Fricassee de Jackrabbit, Roast Beef, Mutton, and Pork

Game: Jackrabbit, Cottontail

With: Corn, Cabbage

Dessert: Jackrabbit Pot-pie, Apple Sauce

Coffee and Tea were also featured. Another sign of the accomplishments observed in the new city was the number of loafers available. The newspaper reported: "...A large number of men are in and around the town and, as usual the requisite number of ne'er-do-wells and loungers; but most of the those who have not work to do are out prospecting for claims which they hope will prove similar to the Day Mine..."

The newspaper was allotting a great deal of space to Royal City, but soon the neighboring National City was competing for attention. The name National City never really caught on. The Pioche newspaper generally referred to the town as Bristol. Each town, however, received an official Post Office on exactly the same day, October 15, 1878. The Postal Service also preferred the name Bristol and used that name. Of the two towns, Bristol was pulling ahead. Initially, the raw ore extracted was shipped to Pioche and Bullionville, a former town south of Pioche, for processing. During this same year, 1878, the old smelter, or furnace, was reactivated in Bristol. This was primarily due to a new mine that was a solid producer. The new producer also prompted the construction of a 12-stamp mill.

Pioche Weekly Record:

"BRISTOL—On Monday, having occasion to visit Bristol, we visited the furnace and found it in full blast, turning out bullion at a rapid rate. M.D. Howell...is superintending the working of the furnace...and seems to understand the furnace business..."

BRISTOL continued on page 3

THERE WERE SLEDS

By Roscoe H. Wilkes

It was a moment never to be repeated. There they were, gathered about 100 yards below the tramway on the road above town - about eight of the town's boys, ages 10 through 15, each with his own sled and ready to go. It was mid-winter, 7:00 p.m. in 1931. The sky was clear; it was dark and cold. One at a time each taking maybe three running steps, then it was plunk the sled down on the road with the owner landing on top and each hand grabbing an end of the guiding cross-bar.

Down the hill they went gradually picking up speed as they approached the turn at the top of Main Street. It was then a steeper grade and a faster speed down through the town's business district. Over a little hump at the intersection and immediately past Thompson's Opera House they went, each hoping to out-speed his buddies. Shortly, they passed the schoolhouse at the lower end of town.

On they went, full speed ahead past what is now Highway 93 and onto the Eagle Valley Road for another several hundred yards. When the brakes were applied, more accurately described as the dragging of feet, the trip was brought to a stop in the softer snow off the road. At this point there remained only one thing to do, that being the long, cold walk back to town unless Bill Lloyd appeared, which he quite often did.

It wasn't the Bill Lloyd you now know as your County Commissioner; he wasn't alive yet. It was rather Bill Lloyd, his uncle, a really nice young man who had heart and a genuine thoughtfulness for the younger boys of the town. Bill had a Model A Ford Coupe, a car with two small chrome rear bumpers, one behind each of the rear fenders.

When Bill appeared with his Ford appropriately chained up, a boy would promptly tie his sled to one of the bumpers. Another would tie his sled to the first one and so on. The result would be: up the road went the Ford with 8 sleds

in tow, four in a row tied to each bumper. This arrangement would permit several trips on a given night. Without Bill, it would usually be one and not more than two with the long walk and the cold temperature controlling.

How fast did these sleds go down through town? I can't tell you in miles per hour, but when conditions were right it was very fast. In those days the roads were not hard surfaced; rather, they were graveled but kept smooth. During the day when the cars were out and around they packed the snow down to a hard surface.

Sometimes it warmed up during the afternoon, and the hard-packed snow would partially melt. Then come night it would freeze up again. The result would be an icy road upon which those sleds would soar. Come dark, the cars were all off the streets and at home, except perhaps for Bill Lloyd. Every boy and many girls had a sled of their own, or at least access to one. The sleds came in all shapes, sizes and names. One brand was supreme, "Flexible Flyers." Every boy who didn't have one wished he did. They were the Cadillacs of the sled world. I think mostly because they were flexible and steered better than most.

The excellence of sleigh riding in Pioche had another side. There were accidents caused, no doubt, by the high speeds attained and where they were often used, i.e., on the public streets of Pioche.

Douglas Liston, then maybe seven or eight years of age, was sledding down the street past the Murray Fullerton and Delmue homes towards the intersecting Pioche Street. Unfortunately Tom Montgomery's coal delivery truck and Douglas came to the intersection at the same time with a serious collision. Douglas was hurt. Ma Steward approached Mrs. Liston expressing her sorrow that little Dougie was hurt and her hope for his early recovery. Then in parting Ma was her usual self, saying what she was thinking and

without regard to the effect. Her final question to Mrs. Liston was, "Do you think it will leave him goofy?" Only Ma Steward had such tact.

On a day which I believe to have been in 1928 or 1929, Ruby Olinghouse was sledding down Pioche Street with her younger sister, Annabelle, on the sled with her. My recollection could be in error, but I believe they struck a parked car. Annabelle was not hurt, at least not seriously. Ruby lost her life. (A sad day in Pioche.)

A bobsled was handed down year to year from the 1920's. It was used by the younger adult set, those in their 20's. Its size was such that it would permit maybe three riders, each sitting up facing forward. The one in front guided the sled as best he could with his feet dragging the road's surface. With the extra weight and its excellent design and construction that bobsled was fast, fast. On one occasion a popular young man of Greek descent, Fred Karacas, was the front of the sled and doing the guiding. Something went wrong while at a high speed, and there was a wreck. Fred was hurt more than just a casual bump.

Although he made a full recovery, I'm quite sure he never rode that bobsled again. The younger set, the town kids, characterized the event in their own inimitable but not too decent style: "Did you hear that Fred cracked his ass on the bobsled?" And so things went in Pioche.

I can't be positively sure, of course, but I firmly doubt that the kids of any town anywhere had better sleigh riding than that enjoyed by those in little old Pioche,

Nevada. It was real fun. They were moments never to be repeated.

BRISTOL continued from page 2

About three months later, it was announced that the smelter would need to be rebuilt; and it was. The mill was back in service about a month later treating the plentiful ore. Bristol was rapidly departing its embryonic phase. The Pioche newspaper was paying a lot of attention to Bristol, while Royal City and the Jackrabbit Mining District were receiving very little. The Royal City Post Office closed in January 1879.

The Bristol boys did more than just extract ore. Occasionally, some of them misbehaved. One of the boys acted up in a restaurant while he was visiting Pioche.

Pioche Weekly Record:

"ASSAULT AND BATTERY—John Roe, from Bristol, was arrested Thursday morning for an assault committed on a waiter at the Bank Exchange...He was taken before Justice Hoffman, tried and convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 and costs, or to serve forty-one days in the county jail. Roe said to the justice, 'I'll go to jail, old Captain,' and to jail he went."

For most of the populations of Bristol a more wholesome form of entertainment was needed. And, a source of amusement was found: athletics. The residents formed a baseball club and it was reported that they were going to take on the Pioche team. Sod was being transported from Fairview Springs and there were plans for a canvas awning and seats for the spectators. The team was rated as good at fielding but their batting needed attention. Conditions

improved, and the Bristol Baseball Club sent the following dispatch to Pioche:

SECRETARY PIOCHE BASEBALL CLUB Bristol, June 26, 1879

Dear Sir:

We, the members of the Bristol Baseball Club, do hereby challenge the members of the Pioche Baseball Club to a match game of baseball for the championship and a purse of six hundred (\$600) dollars [approximately \$15,000 at today's value of money]—\$300 aside. The selection of grounds and date of game to be left to the decisions of the captains of their respective nines. A forfeit of one hundred (\$100) dollars has been placed and will remain in the hands of W.C. Mills for one week awaiting conferment for like amount.

Yours,
H.C. Olmstead,
Sec'y Bristol Baseball Club

The Pioche team, the Chloride Baseball Club, had been having some internal problems. The cause of the difficulties is unknown, but they would have to be reconciled before such

an important contest; and fortunately they were. The newspaper reported that "...Pioche settled their animosities and resolved to accept and play Bristol..."

The Pioche team would now need to raise \$300. Outsiders offered to subscribe to the cause, but the players decided if the funds were all contributed by their club members there would be an additional incentive to play hard. The 23 members came up with the money.

The Chloride's secretary and the treasurer traveled to Bristol to formulate an understanding with officials of

BRISTOL continued on page 3

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Walking Tour

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. 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 1900's "Classic Box". The building is presently in need of restoration.

3. St. John's Masonic Lodge

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

4. The Miner's Market

The Miner's Market is located north of the Silver Café, on the corner of Main St. and LaCour Street. The store opened in 2008 and is operated by Debbie Sandoval. The town had been without a grocery store since the closing of the last one in 2002. In earlier days, the building was the site of Amsden Garage, Foglianis car dealership, Orr's garage for almost 30 years, and Alfano Brothers' The Workshop (custom woodwork).



5. The Commercial Club/Amsden Buildings

The Commercial Club/Amsden Buildings, built about 1865, 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 almost 50 years beginning around 1916. He conducted his law practice on the first floor and lived in the basement area.

6. Historic Silver Café

Historic Silver Café, located north of the antique store has been in business for 103 years under several owners. It is one of the oldest continuously operated businesses in the state. Sisters Judy Kwiatowski and Julie White have owned and operated the restaurant for the past several years. They expanded a few years ago with the opening of the adjacent Silver Mine Gift Shop.

7. Purple Onion Antique Store

The antique store was first Welland's Mercantile, then Gottfredson's Dry Goods, followed by 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. Leo & Dee Schafer opened Purple Onion Antiques & Collectibles in May 2010 on a part time seasonal basis.

8. The Lincoln County Market

The Lincoln County Market housed the Navajo Bar before being converted into the Stop and Shop grocery market, which was closed in 2002. Leo and Dee Schafer opened the Chile Pepper, an extension of Purple Onion, Labor Day weekend with mostly new merchandise, along with resale and consigned items.

9. Dougherty's Fine Jewelry

John Dougherty opened Dougherty's Fine Jewelry in 2009. It previously was a deli and part of the Lincoln County Market.

10. Grubsteak Dinner House

(formerly known as part of the Bank Club Building)

In the Bank Club Building, former businesses Lincoln County Market and Treasure Chest have weathered the storms of Main Street, including fires and mining boom and bust cycles. Many businesses have come and gone in these buildings. John Valenti operated the Bank Club bar and café for many years and 1996, it was remodeled into the Grubsteak Dinner House, which closed in 2001. It reopened in spring 2010 as the Grub Pub and Deli and closed in September 2010.

11. The Pioche Mercantile (Buggy Whip)

The Pioche Mercantile was originally known as Hodges & Cook Mercantile. The Christian Brothers, Edwin and Lloyd, operated the store for about 40 years, 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.

TOUR continued on page 5



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TOUR continued from page 4

12. The Pioche News Stand
(presently occupied by The Rag Doll)

The Pioche News Stand was originally built in the 1860's, and was partially burned then rebuilt in the early 1870's and in 1919. The false front "Pioneer" style and treatment of the fake brick tin appears to date from the early 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 the 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.

13. Stever's Store and Beauty Shop
(presently owned by SNWA)

Stever's Store and Beauty Shop, originally built in the late 1860's, was partially burned and then rebuilt several times. It served as Stever's Apparel Store and The Garden Bar from 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.

14. The Bank Club
(formerly known as 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, purchased the building and business from Shirley Scott and renamed the bar to "The Bank Club" in 2003.

15. Pioche's First U.S. Post Office and Western Union Office
(presently Rainbow Cable)

Pioche's first U.S. Post Office and Western Union Office building was constructed 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 café 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.

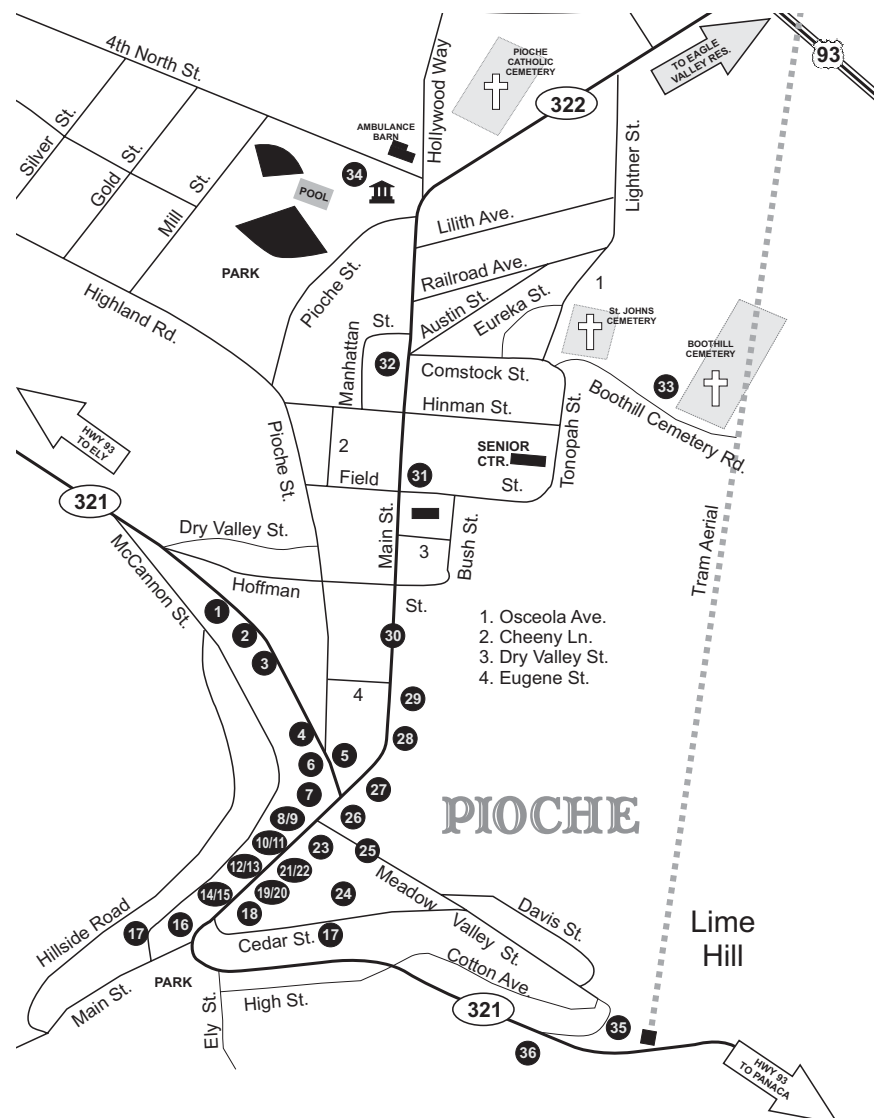


16. The Stockum House

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.

TOUR continued on page 6

Walking Tour Map and Legend



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The Million Dollar Courthouse | 19-20. Commerce Cottage & Pioche Hotel |
| 2. The Mountain View Hotel | 21-22. Nevada Club & Pioche Odd Fellows Hall |
| 3. St. John's Masonic Lodge | 23. Lincoln County Museum |
| 4. The Miner's Market | 24. Miner's Union Hall |
| 5. Commercial Club/ Amsden Building | 25. Meadow Valley Street |
| 6. Silver Café & Silver Mine Gift Shop | 26. Leader Store Building |
| 7. Purple Onion Antiques | 27. Overland Bar & Hotel |
| 8-9. Lincoln County Market & Dougherty's Jewelry | 28. Brown/Thompson Opera House |
| 10-11. Bank Club Building & Pioche Mercantile | 29. Orr Garage |
| 12-13. Pioche News Stand & Stever's Store | 30. Main Street |
| 14-15. Alamo Club & Rainbow Cable | 31. Pioche School |
| 16. Stockum House | 32. Pioche Town Hall |
| 17. McCannon & Cedar Streets | 33. Boot Hill |
| 18. Pioche Record | 34. Lincoln County Court House |
| | 35. Pioche Aerial Tramway |
| | 36. Treasure Hill (Nevada Centennial Marker No. 5) |

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TOUR continued from page 5**17. 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.

18. The Pioche Record

(presently Peggy's Store)

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 at 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 197-A 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. Stephens Media acquired The Record from owner/publisher Raymond Thompson in the fall of 2010.

**19. 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 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. The Chamber moved to the first floor of the Thompson's Opera House in 2011 and will utilize the Cottage for inventory storage.

**20. 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.

21. 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. The present owner is Larry Gearhart who purchased the bar in 2010.

22. The Pioche Odd Fellows Lodge

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. The building most recently was purchased in 2010 by Richard Bohlke.

23. The Lincoln County Museum

The Lincoln County Museum is housed in the building built by A. S. Thompson around 1900. A victim of fire, it was rebuilt once, then later remodeled in 1929 to make it more modern. Upon 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.

24. 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 landscape and is a typical example of "Plain Early" 20th Century style. The Miner's Union was a center of social activities in this community for nearly 50 years.

25. 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, two 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.

26. 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.

27. The Overland Bar and Hotel Building

The Overland Bar and Hotel building was constructed 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. Candice and Ron Mortenson have owned the Overland since 1995.

**28. 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 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 was built, the Gem Theater, 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 it was more of a community service than a viable business. The Pioche Chamber moved to the Opera House in 2011 to help staff the facility with tours and rental information, as well as continuing to provide tourist area information and souvenirs for sale.

TOUR continued on page 7**A & B SERVICE**

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29. The Orr Garage

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

30. 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 were charmed by its charisma. Some have stayed. Many have returned again and again. With its gun

BRISTOL continued from page 3

that club. They had also carried the \$100 forfeit fee. The arrangements included that a coin toss would determine the time and location for the match. Pioche won. A list of players was drawn up so neither team could insert a ringer. The game was to be held on a ranch some miles south of Pioche. Some of the Pioche team went out to the ranch and staked out the field and the location for the spectators.

The teams were practicing for the big game. One unfortunate Chlorider was hit in the jaw by a "hot ball." It was reported that he since was unable to whistle. It was also reported that the Saturday event would be a regular holiday. The excitement was contagious. Another baseball club was forming in Pioche to take on the victor of the championship game. Soon after that announcement, neighboring Eagle Valley and Panaca declared they would also form clubs. The paper had the following to report on the Pioche team:

"THE CALL—Whenever the boys desired to call the baseball club together for practice during the week, they 'canned' a dog, and that was as good as the reveille..." This was a prank, "canning a dog" involved attaching a can to the end of a dog's tail. The dog, while creating a great commotion, and an excessive amount of noise, would chase the can until exhausted.

The citizens of Bristol were putting together a purse to bet on their boys. It was stated that some fans in Pioche were willing to put up as much as \$10,000 [today's money]. The Chloriders' uniforms were to consist of a blue and white cap, blue shirt, with the letter "C" on the front; black belt, Chloride engraved therein; blue pants with white strips; red and blue stockings; finished off with white canvas shoes. The women of Pioche were "being bothered nearly to death" by members of the chloride club for assistance in sewing their uniforms. One player requested one young lady to sew buttons on his stockings.

A special stage coach was to be dispatched to fetch the Bristol team into Pioche the day before the game. If you have ever seen an old Western movie you might wonder how an entire baseball team would fit on the two benches in a stage coach. However Hollywood does not provide an accurate portrayal of the coaches. The vehicle actual had three benches and could accommodate nine adults. But the club was larger than that; not a problem because the real coaches carried people sitting on the top. These outsiders were appropriately called hangers-on. So, a coach could provide accommodations for at least 15 passengers.

fight and killings, Pioche became known as the roughest, toughest mining camp in the West. Most of this happened on Main Street.

31. Pioche School

Pioche School was built in 1909 in a "Mission" style of architecture. This was the oldest continuously used school building 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 original school building was sold and is now privately owned.

32. 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 in 1950 when it

As for transportation to the stadium, every vehicle in town was placed in operation. However, that was insufficient to accommodate the masses traveling to the arena. In those days, there was a narrow gauge railroad connecting Pioche and Bullionville. The line was over 20 miles long and was the first narrow gauge railroad to be built in Nevada. It was the third railroad built in the state, the transcontinental railroad being the first. It was officially named the Nevada Central, but was often called the Pioche and Bullionville Railroad. Three ore cars, two flat cars, and the caboose [this was probably the entire rolling stock] went to the grounds fully loaded. It was said that 5 more persons could not have boarded that train. There were 40 people on the engine alone. There was a man, described as youthful, that straddled the engine. The iron horse, in reality being a boiler, had our young man dismounting quickly.

The first two hours at the ball park were spent dancing and picnicking. One might assume that beverages of an adult nature were featured at this early version of a tailgate party. The actual ball field was described as level as a table and fine grounds for playing baseball. A coin was tossed to decide who the umpire would be. Pioche won the toss: a Mr. J. F. Ryan of that place was given the honor.

Bristol Team Captain—Short Stop Eugene Howell, and Chlorider Captain—Pitcher Thompson Campbell, lead their respective teams out into the arena. Pioche took to the field. The visitors were up to bat. The lead-off hitter was the Bristol pitcher, Vallejo. The contest was ready to begin!

At the end of the first inning the score was tied at one to one. The second inning was quite the same for Bristol boys, but Pioche scored three runs. The top of the third was a repeat for Bristol, but Pioche put it together for seven. This may have been demoralizing for the visitors because they went scoreless in the fourth. Pioche came back with 13 runs. The fifth came in at two to one. Bristol finally settled down and began to show a comeback with five runs in the sixth, while holding the Chloriders scoreless. Bristol's momentum carried through in the seventh when they scored 15! Seven of the players scored 2 runs each. The center fielder scored one run and two players were scoreless. Time for a break, the seventh inning stretch brought the score to a dead-even tie at 25.

This is what the fans had come to see: a contest. With that comeback it was any body's game. The Chloriders answered with a respectable 9. The score now being 34 to 25 in favor of Pioche; but the way the Bristol was now playing, the game was up for grabs. In the top of the eighth the Bristol boys made five. Every at-bat was now crucial. Pi-

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, plays, and social events. A noteworthy activity held here is the Labor Day Craft Fair.

33. Boot Hill

Crime was rampant in Pioche in the early 1870's. During the first settling of Pioche, it was said that 72 men "were killed with their boots on" before anyone died a natural death. Many of these men are buried in the "Old Boot Hill" Cemetery. A monument commemorating Boot Hill was built and donated by E. Clampus Vitus in 2009.



oche's short stop, up first, scored. The center fielder made it to second. The right fielder was up next and made a small hit. There was a quick play at first. It was close. McShane, Bristol's first baseman, thought the right fielder was out. The umpire professed he was safe! McShane, who had been termed a chronic groaner, threw down the ball and declared the Bristol boys would play no more. The captain agreed and the boys left the field.

The umpire issued an ultimatum: resume play within 15 minutes. Bristol responded by trying to "bulldoze" the official, which was characterized as ungently. The game was not renewed and Pioche was given the victory. The purse was awarded to Pioche, but there was initially some grumbling about the side bets, but after a few days the Bristol crowd made good their wager.

So much for diversion and entertainment; Bristol had lost the baseball match but there was money underground, and they were extracting it. Things were not as bright in Royal City, or Jackrabbit, as most people had come to refer to it. The Post Office there was now closed. In that same year Bristol mined more silver than Pioche. Bristol production, by the current value of money, was nearly nine million dollars, while Pioche did less than eight million. By the beginning of 1880 the Hillside Mine, the big Bristol producer was employing 80 miners. They also employed 50 men in the refining process. The population of Bristol was 167 and growing, compared to 745 in Pioche. About seven years earlier, during the big boom, Pioche's population was ten times that. Incidentally Royal City, or Jackrabbit, had 37 residents and the location that would become Las Vegas claimed 35.

Bristol hosted eight saloons by 1882. There were two hotels, each with a restaurant. The Pioneer restaurant was owned by the same fellow that owned the Bank Exchange in Pioche. Both establishments advertised the "earliest vegetables, fruits, and fine meats." There was also a weekly newspaper, the Bristol Times. Miners from the declining Jackrabbit brought their trade to town. A female beer tender was hired at the Star Brewery.

Much of the ore processing for Bristol and the Jackrabbit Districts took place at Bristol Well. After this site was developed, water was no longer hauled from Fairview Springs. Originally a five-stamp mill and furnace were located here along with three charcoal kilns. A small town sprang-up at the well and the population grew to about 400. The flat area below the kilns was the location of the Bristol Baseball Club's ball field.

BRISTOL continued on page 11

WINTER SPORTS IN P



When snow blankets the hills in Pioche, residents don't bemoan their fate and turn up the thermostat: they throw on their long-johns and winter coats, and head outdoors! Snowmobiling used to be popular, until ATV's came along; now many folks just load up their ATV's and head for the dirt roads and explore from sun-up to sun-down. The Silver State ATV Trail can be accessed from Pioche, by following the old road to the "Ely Valley Mine" and the brown Carsonite (skinny fiberglass) markers. Many other dirt roads are popular for those that want to trailer their ATV's to start exploring; for any of these adventures be aware that most side roads are

not plowed, and be sure to take along extra gas, warm & dry change of clothing, and a small Coleman type stove in case you run into vehicle problems along the trail.

Those that enjoy self-propelled activities grab their cross-country skis, and sometimes (before the side roads are plowed) just ski right out their front door! The Pioche Golf Course offers some good downhill and side-hill runs for testing one's cross-country skills, with parking right beside State Route 322. Sledding is fun on the hill east of the post office and Pioche R-V Park, with the slope leveling off near Boothill Cemetery.

Ice-fishing may be done from late December until mid-February, at Eagle Valley Reservoir, Spring Valley State Park. Fishers usually open their own holes with ice-augers, and these often remain open for a few days afterwards if you don't have your own auger. Eagle Valley Resort, 2 miles from the Park, has augers for rent by the day. The ice is usually 12 to 15 inches thick; call the park office before your visit, 775-962-5102, or the Regional Visitor Center 775-728-4460, for current conditions. Bundle up for ice fishing: it doesn't resemble the same sport made popular in the movie "Grumpy Old Men" in which people bring or build huts to erect over their fishing holes! While the ice

PIOCHE

By Barbara Rohde



is usually sturdy enough for pedestrian traffic or even ice skating, vehicles and structures are not allowed (or recommended) on the ice! In mid-January, the Park hosts an "Ice Tee" golf tournament on the frozen lake, using the ice fishing holes for the course, and "practice" (whiffle) type balls. The State Highway Department maintains State Route 322 in plowed conditions, to the park fee station; beyond that, conditions on the graveled road can be questionable. The regular Nevada fishing license is required for fishing in all waters of the state, no exception for winter ice-fishing! During the winter, the German Brown trout seem to be hungrier than the Rainbow Trout, and near-trophy size trout are sometimes taken from the lake. Echo Canyon Reservoir, at Echo Canyon State Recreation Area, sometimes freezes hard enough for ice fishing; but generally only during the coldest winters.

For any of these activities, be sure to bring along warm and dry change of clothing; days may reach the 40's or 50's, but as soon as the sun goes behind a cloud (or the hills), the temperature plummets rapidly. In addition, storms can often develop quickly, and a north wind usually brings



these storms in – which can be very cold if you haven't prepared. Dressing in layers is usually best: with long-johns underneath street clothing, fleece or down vest with wooly cap may keep you warm enough on sunny days, with a wind-resistant outer layer and wooly mittens or gloves when the wind comes up. Bringing along a Thermos full of hot cocoa or coffee will also warm your insides!





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THOMPSON'S OPERA HOUSE

By Les Derkovitz

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 it's 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 the 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, 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 make shift 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 1930's maintenance of the building again started lacking just as in the late 1890's 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 1940's. It was falling into a further and further state of decline until Lincoln County secured the building from Lamplighter, 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 mil-

lion dollars has been spent to bring the House back to its former glory which can be seen when visiting the building today.

The renovated building was completed and ready for use in the spring of 2009 and is used by the County for as well as being rented out to individuals, public, and private organizations for events. The Pioche Chamber of Commerce moved its information center and items for sale to the first floor of the Opera House to make the building more accessible to the public. It is usually open Saturdays and Sundays May through October, weather permitting.



The Less-Wild Side: Churches in Pioche



By Barbara Rohde

Despite the wild reputation Pioche had gained in its early years, there was a mild and cultured side that revealed itself with the coming of wives, families, and churches. The first church service (Episcopal) was actually held in a bar in Sept. 1870, for lack of another suitable building; after many Sundays of raising a sizeable church-going crowd, the Episcopal congregation raised funds to build their own church. The Episcopal Church stood on Cedar Street. In August, 1873, the "Episcopal church ladies held a fundraiser for their bell and tower, held at Brown's (Thompson) Opera House." Sometime during the history of the town, it burned down; by the early part of the 20th Century, the congregation had moved into the old Miners Union Hall, where they still meet today.

The Catholic Church also had a strong presence in Pioche: St. Lawrence's Parish was started in 1870, and they dedicated a building on Cedar Street (about seven lots down from the Episcopal Church) three months later. In October, 1872, they started a "St. Vincent de Paul Society, and raised funds to build a hospital. The Catholic Cemetery stands well apart from the other three in town (the Public Cemetery, Boot Hill, and the I.O.O.F./Masonic Cemetery). After 1876, the Catholic "presence" diminished (coinciding with the slowdown in mining, and desertion by its church-members?), and it was downgraded to the status of a "mission."

The Presbyterians established a church in 1873, but disbanded in 1879 — perhaps also due to the movement of miners out of Pioche after the "boom" years ended. During the fire in August, 1872, "a small church on Meadow Valley Street was used as a morgue" — perhaps this was the Presbyterian Church? Reference p. 168 of *Treasure in the Hills*>

There were a few Jewish people among the early residents of Pioche; but they had no synagogue, and celebrated their holidays with each other in their homes. In 1873, the newspaper recorded the "first circumcision ever held in Pioche," done on the child of merchant Jonas Cohn. The Cohns ran a store in Pioche. In October of 1876, the *Pioche Record* noted that the "Israelites" in Eureka, Nevada, had "organized a congregation for religious worship — numbering about 30 people, and it is the first and only Hebrew congregation ever organized in the state of Nevada." Adolph Cohn started a tobacco and cigar store in Ward, Nevada, in December, 1876; and the newspaper reported that much of Jonas Cohn's stock was shipped to Adolph's store. This was at the time many miners were leaving for "richer pastures."

By the 1930's, other denominations had come to Pioche. One woman, writing of her youth in Pioche from 1929 to 1933, mentioned that "the different churches in Pioche would usually have summer school, all of us attended them. All the Churches sponsored a play and we all wore costumes rented from the 'Salt Lake Costume' house." (p. 207, *Treasure in the Hills*)

In the early, wild days of Pioche, there were no Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) in Pioche; their church president had warned them away from associating with the lawless

miners and saloon girls... though they would bring wagon-loads of produce, hay, eggs and meat to sell in Pioche, or some of the Panaca residents would haul ore from Pioche to Bullionville (a mile west of Pana-

ca) until the narrow-gauge railroad was built. When Mr. J.A. Caselton established a new mining/milling area near the Prince Mine, on the western slopes of the Ely Range (3 miles west of Pioche), he preferred to hire Mormon miners, observing that they did not drink or "party," and would show up on time for their work. In 1929, a branch of the L.D.S. Church was established in Pioche, and in 1938, they completed building their first meetinghouse. This building now serves as the Pioche Town Hall since a new, larger (and all one-story) church was built in 1988.

A small church stands at the head of Main (High) Street, which was the Unitarian Community Church in the 1940's, then was called the "Four-Square" church during the 1980's and 1990's. During the 1940's, the Morris Motor Company had operated the "Quonset" style building which now bears the name of "Channel of Light," which denomination or congregation met there is an unknown.

The Baptist denomination met for many years in the old, 1930's Cowley Drugstore (where the Purple Onion Antique Shop is now located); then built a modern church in 1988, on the developing, northern edge of town. This is a thriving church, which sponsors a "Vacation Bible School" in the summer (as alluded to by Arlena Heidenreich Duke, earlier) open to children of all faiths.

The wooden cross on Lime Hill has been an "institution" as long as any of the early 20th Century residents of Pioche could remember. While no one remembers its origins, everyone associates Christmas with the lighting of the cross, and of the "town tree" at the head of Main Street, in the small mining park. In December, 1876, the *Pioche Record* newspaper recounted that "the music and literary (association) entertainment to be given to provide funds for a Christmas tree for the children of Pioche, at the Episcopal Church on Cedar Street." It is tradition for the townspeople to gather there on the first Monday of December, to sing carols, share hot chocolate, and wait for the arrival of Santa Claus, usually arriving by horse and buggy!



BRISTOL continued from page 7

The first of several mining booms in that location was about to close. The Bristol Post Office closed in 1887. The post office and mining would return to Bristol, but for now the boom was over. The last issue of the *Bristol Times* carried the epitaph for the district:

"Bury us deep under the fragrant sagebrush... Let the sympathizing coyotes gather around our grave. Let them yelp a mournful dirge over what was but is not..."

"Down we go cheerfully,
Nary a sigh.
Sober not beautifully—
Thus do we die.
Yet we're not kicking,
Though called rather soon.
Plant our toes sticking
Straight up at the moon.
We run with the devil,
And paid pretty dear;
Rewarding our evil,
They planted us here."

The kilns were built near Bristol because they were needed to assist in the refining of the raw ore. It is far more economical to ship refined silver than all the host rock with it. If this process was not accomplished, due to the transportation expense, mining in many locations would be cost prohibitive.

Metallic minerals reside in combination with other elements. To separate the metal the ore must be treated and the undesirable components must be removed. Heat and carbon are two essentials necessary in the successful cleansing process. Coal would satisfy both of these requirements but there was none at hand. Wood in its natural state will not provide the essential heat or carbon, but charcoal would. Wood can be converted to charcoal; and there was plenty of that on hand.

The creation of charcoal is an ancient and simple process. The procedure is known as destructive distillation. Wood can be transformed into charcoal by heating it for a sufficient amount of time in the absence of air. The finished carbon product is greater than 90% pure. The kilns were used to that end. The placement of the wood inside was critical. The wood was loaded through an upper opening and then this cavity was closed and sealed with clay or some other material to insure that it was impervious to the release of gases. The wood was then stacked around the perimeter of the kiln leaving the center open to act as a chimney. The bottom center of the chimney was loaded with tinder and kindling and lighted from the lower door. This door was adjusted to provide a source of oxygen to allow the kindling to burn.

After a suitable period of cooking and cooling the charcoal was removed and ready to be used in extracting the silver from the host rock. In that process, the undesirable components would convert to gas and escape to the atmosphere through the hole at the very top of the kiln. And they also adhered to the floors and inside walls of the kiln thus providing the acrid odor of resin and creosote, byproducts of the transformation.

These distinctive structures were built by skilled stone masons who were able to construct the kilns without supports. They worked fine but why is their shape so unique and awkward? The beehive or conic shape is a parabola.

BRISTOL continued on page 15

STATE PARKS IN 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, 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"

*Eagle Valley Reservoir in
Spring Valley State Park*



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.

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.

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

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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

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LEADER STORE - JOE AND SARAH COHEN

By Peggy Decker

Anyone who has lived in Pioche (and surrounding towns) remembers the Leader Store and its many treasures. It was a general merchandise store that had absolutely everything. It consisted of two levels and both levels were jam packed with anything a family would need. If you should ask for an item that was unavailable - their answer was always 'it's on the way' and sure enough, it would show up a short time later.

Joe and Sarah were probably the only Jewish members of our community and they were very private people - so their life away from the store is vague. Since they had no children or family in the area, there is no one to tell their story, except the many still left who have their memories of them and the store. They certainly were a major part of Pioche history!

The store was huge but they always seemed to handle all the aspects of the business themselves, except for an occasional visit from Joe's sister Tillie and her son Erving. You never went in, that you weren't greeted at the door by one of them. Joe always seemed gruff with his chewed-on cigar hanging in the corner of his mouth (never knew him to light one) and Sarah always with a big smile.

Joe was very civic minded - He was on the Boulder Dam Area Council for the Boy Scouts of America and received the coveted Silver Beaver Award for his long

time involvement in the organization. He was also active in the Pioche Lion's Club and was always helping with the various parties given for the children thru the year. He was a member of the Pioche Oddfellows and Sarah was in the Rebecca Lodge. It is also remembered that for years they donated the fireworks at Labor Day - Joe would be the announcer and the firemen would set them off. Joe would close the fireworks by telling everyone to "Drive careful - the life you save may be one of my customers."

One of the things that everyone always remembers are the \$.25 "Surprise Boxes" that filled the front window every Labor Day - they would wrap items that hadn't sold in the store in plain brown paper and let all the kids buy a box. It was usually something you didn't want or need but the fun was the surprise and tradition.

Another thing about the Joe and Sarah is that they never failed to have Santa Claus arrive at their store



Photo Courtesy of Tim Fogliani

with a gift for every child - the line was always way up the street, but always worth the wait. No matter what project the community was putting together, Joe and Sarah were always there with their support. We hope their legend will live on in the community of Pioche and in the hearts of those who remember them. We also hope that they pass on these memories to following generations.



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Lincoln County Specialist

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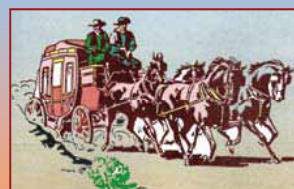
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Fax: (702) 655-9200
JLeedham@RealtyOneLV.com

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Restaurants

Historic Silver Café.(775) 962-5124

Lodging

Hutchings Motel(775) 962-2853
Motherlode Motel(775) 962-5159
Overland Hotel(775) 962-5895
Wright’s Country Cabins(866) 810-7303

RV Parks

Eagle Valley RV Park.(775) 962-5293
Pioche RV Park.(775) 962-3992
Roll Inn RV Park(775) 962-5566

Transportation

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

Airport Service

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 Ambulance 911
Shannon Kirchesh, Masseuse(775) 728-4325
Panaca
Lincoln County Physical Therapy (775) 726-3117
Caliente
Meadow Valley Pharmacy(775) 726-3771
Caliente

Churches

Berean Baptist.(775) 962-5886
Bible Talk Comm. Church, Panaca (775) 728-4734
Christ Church Episcopal(775) 962-5835
Holy Child Catholic, Caliente. . . .(775) 726-3669
LDS, Pioche Ward(775) 962-5469
United Methodist Church, Caliente. (775) 726-3665

Newspaper

Lincoln County Record.(775) 726-3333
www.lincolncountyrecord.com
contact.lcrecord@gmail.com.

Other Community Services

Pioche Senior Center.(775) 962-5378
(serves lunch daily)
Pioche Chamber of Commerce. . .(775) 962-5544
www.piochenevada.org
Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce
www.lincolncountynvada.com . .(877) 870-3003
Lincoln Links Golf(775) 962-5206
Retired Senior & Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Volunteers always welcome. . . .(775) 726-3447
VFW, Caliente(775) 726-3156



Curious doe in Rose Valley.

Wildlife in Lincoln County

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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Nevada Department of Wildlife, <http://www.ndow.org/>.

Bureau of Land Management, http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html.

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Nevada Commission on Tourism, <http://travelnevada.com/>.

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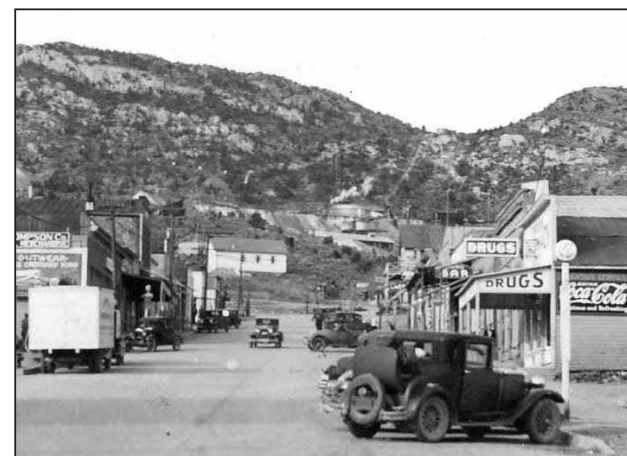
BRISTOL continued from page 11

The parabolic curve is very similar to the golden arches at MacDonald's. The parabola reflects energy and, like a flood light reflector, it focuses the light that strikes it. It would also have the same effect, if constructed from the proper material, to reflect radio waves, sound waves, and of course heat waves. While inside a kiln two people can experience the collimated properties of the kiln with sound rather than heat waves. If one person stands at an inner wall and the other at the center of the structure, and each person says a few words while changing the direction of their speech, the unique reflective properties will be heard. To fully experience the experiment the two people should then trade places.

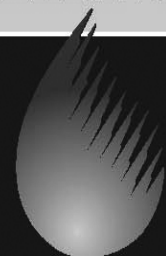
The kilns are readily reached by automobile from Pioche. Travel approximately 13 miles north on route 93, and turn left at historical marker #204, "Jackrabbit," and proceed on the gravel road, see map. After leaving the pavement and traveling about a mile there is a fork in the road and sign indicating six miles to Bristol Wells, which is the site of the kilns. The mill and smelter are close at hand, marked by the vitreous slag, a byproduct of the smelting process. The cemetery is six-tenths of a mile to the south, but this road should only be attempted by a high-clearance vehicle. A tombstone from 1882 is still visible within the graveyard.

There are many old mines in the area and because of the hazards associated with them, they should be avoided. The kilns are relatively safe and, along with the nearby remains of the mill and smelter site, can still be enjoyed.

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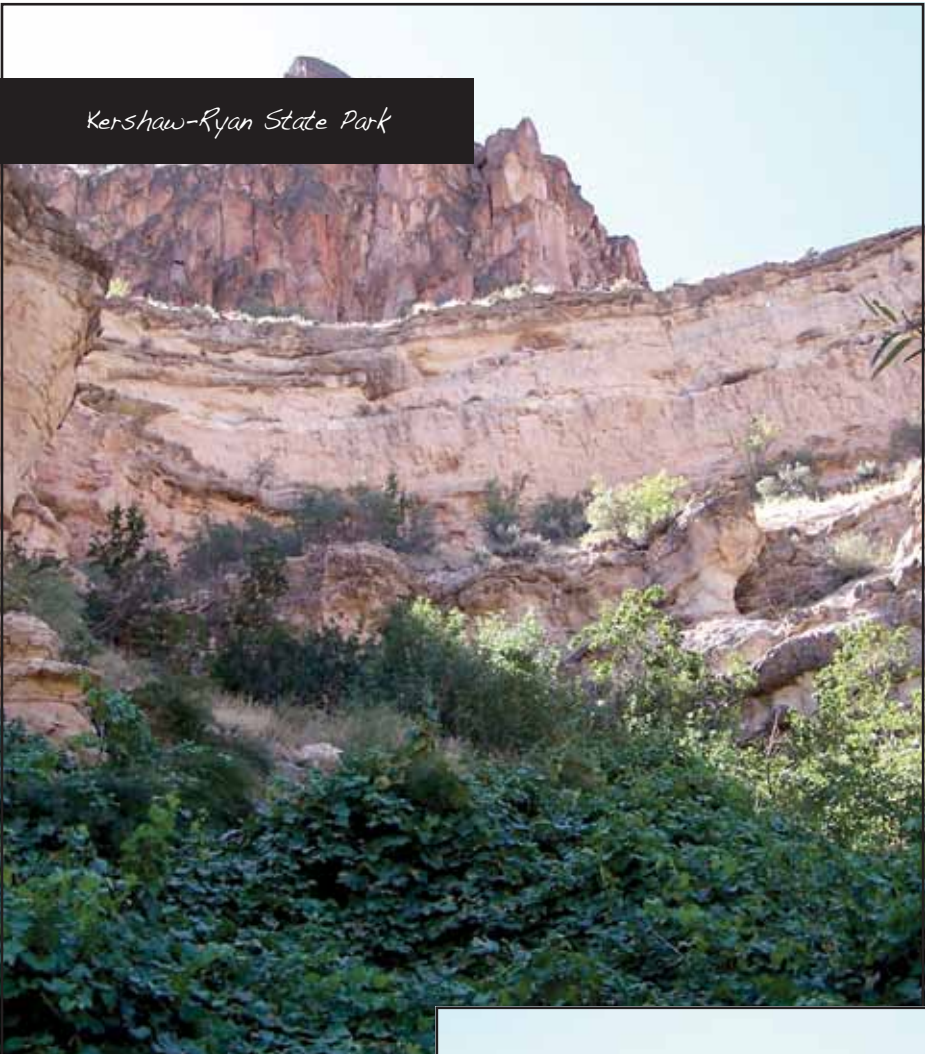
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STATE PARKS continued from page 12

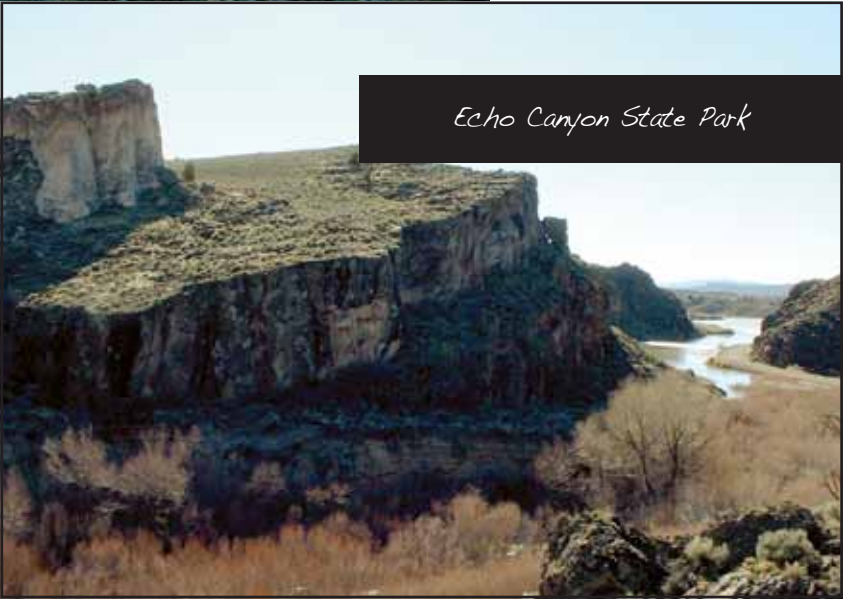
of these, the Stone Cabin Living History Museum, is available for tours, having been renovated in 1995 to its original appearance. There is a trailhead at the Stone Cabin for a 2-1/2 mile trail that ends at the “Ranch Campground,” a 6-unit “dry” campground near the park headquarters, the old 7-L (Hollinger) 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



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 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!



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

Group Visits to Pioche

The Pioche Chamber of Commerce welcomes your group to our town. In addition to the varied outdoor recreation available in Lincoln County, the Chamber is pleased to provide the informational tours and possible discounts for your group. Town Tour — Guided tour of Pioche

A local resident will meet your group of 10 or more at different locations in town to provide information and answer questions. There is no charge, but donations are always gratefully accepted at both the Lincoln County Museum on Main St and the Courthouse Museum. Note: the Chamber cannot provide transportation.
Discounts — Retail businesses may provide discounts especially for your group.

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