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# TREASURE HILL CHRONICLES

PIOCHE THEN AND NOW

Spring, 2012

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Visitors in Spring Valley State Park

## 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.

The 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  
*State Parks, continued on Page 9*



By Barbara Rohde

In 1864, John E. Hammond came to a new settlement in far western Utah Territory (as it was known at that time); the little community of Panaca had just been established, and men were needed to keep the peace with the Paiute Indians. Since the Paiutes didn't prove to be much of an enemy, John and some of the other men rode along up the stream of water that entered Panaca from the northeast. The further they went, the more springs they found, and rich pasture-lands in what they named Spring Valley, Eagle Valley, and Rose Valley. Some of the men including John Hammond brought their families back in 1865, and the lands were divided up into homesteads and farms. John and his wife Selena



already had two young children (the oldest was just two when they came to Eagle Valley), and eight more children followed these over the next 23 years.

A few years later, as the mining camp of Pioche grew, they found a ready market for the produce and hay they grew in these quiet valleys to the east of the rowdy town. John Hammond and his partner Mr. Walker brought the first grain thresher into the area, and monopolized the business of threshing grain in southern Nevada, central and southern Utah for many years.

John's brother Robert came to Eagle Valley nearly twenty years after John and Selena had made it their home; and he brought milk cows with him and his family of five.

He raised up fruit orchards, some of which may still be seen in Eagle Valley today. His wife Sarah was a mid-wife and nurse, having learned this trade earlier in her life; her services were constantly needed in Eagle Valley, since it could take a few hours for a doctor to be summoned from Pioche, by horseback each way.

One of Robert's sons, Henry (born in 1874) had a son in 1905, the only son out of a family  
*Hartley & Hammonds, continued on Page 2*



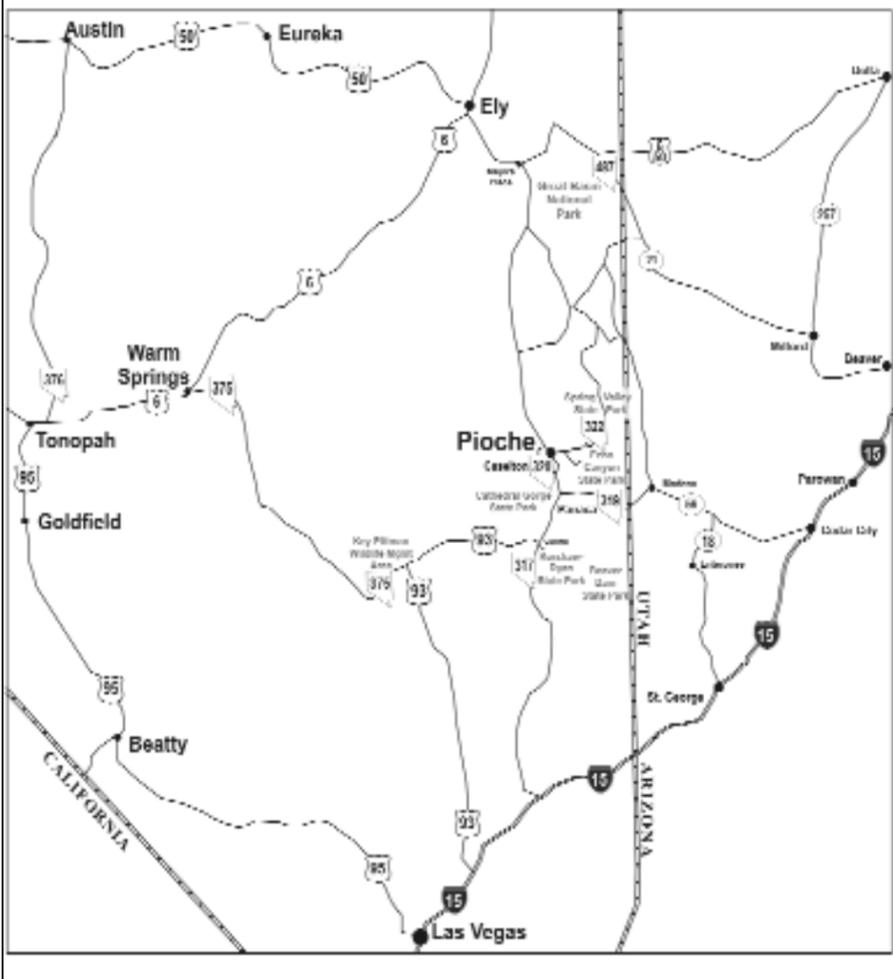
Looking up Pioche Main Street.

# 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.



## PIOCHE ON THE MAP



*Hartley & Hammonds, Cont. from Page One*

ly of four children. This son, Robert, loved to ride with his grandfather Robert on the trips into Pioche to deliver hay to the feed yards, or fruits and vegetables to the miners in Pioche, Stateline, Fay and Deer Lodge.

As he grew, young Robert learned the trade of butchering from Mr. Olinghouse who owned the butcher shop in Pioche. He would deliver ice along with the fresh meat, moving into town to live with Mr. Olinghouse. A few years later, he tried his hand at working in the mill below town, until it burned down. He worked in Gold Springs (on the Nevada-Utah border) for about nine months when that camp was "going," then tried his hand at the hay fields in Lund, Nevada with his brother-in-law; and helped his sister Ada to cook the meals for the fifty men that worked there.

By 1937, he had found a new endeavor: driving the school bus for Lincoln County High School – one of the first bus drivers in the County! The drivers at that time had to do all the service and maintenance on the buses, so Robert (by then known as "Bob") developed the skill that would serve him in his next endeavor: working evenings in Louis Scott's service station in "uptown" Pioche.

In 1938, he married a lovely young girl who worked at the Cowley's Drug store across the street from Scott's Service, Orilla Lamb. By the time their first daughter came along, Bob was helping deliver coal (which was augmenting wood in the stoves and furnaces). After Mr. Brotherson died, Bob took over the business, then sold it a few years later.

He was juggling about three different careers, still driving school bus, also delivering goods through the P.I.E. truck line, and working at the service station. But he and Orilla managed to produce two more children over the next few years, and in 1944 when their son Robert Kent was born, Louis Scott sold the service station to Bob and his partner Art Hartley.

The station was renamed Hartley and Hammond's; after a few years, they wanted to build a more modern facility with a larger service bay than there was room for "uptown." So

they acquired property next to the Million Dollar Courthouse (by then a shambling wreck of a building), and built their new service station, naming it A & B Service (Art & Bob)

Art Hartley was a relative newcomer to Lincoln County, having moved to Pioche in 1936 to find work in the mines. His first job was at the Pan American mine, and his wife Edna Mae had cooked meals for the miners. When their young daughter Peggy was ready to start school, they moved to the Prince Mine where Art ran the hoist; two more daughters followed in the years at Prince.

In the early 1940's, Art would go over the hill to Pioche to work a shift at Louis Scott's service station, where he met another hard-working family man, Bob Hammond. As mentioned, the two hit it off and shared a friendship and a business for over 50 years, which was practically a record for Chevron Gasoline.

After they opened their new service station, Art decided to extend the business to the new need for lodging as more tourists started coming through Pioche. He and Edna Mae built the Hartley Motel in 1956 next door to A & B Service, and built a small house so that they didn't have to leave the business to run it.

Hammonds' children mostly moved away, except for the little late-comer Alyson (who was born when her sisters and brothers were in high school and college). Alyson pursued a career in banking right next-door to the old Hartley & Hammond station; so it was up to one of the Hartley grandchildren to continue running A & B Service – Mike Phillips, son of Art and Edna Mae's daughter Donna. He took over the business in 1985, and still offers the famous "service with a smile" next-door to the Million Dollar Courthouse.

Hartley's Motel has gone through several owners since Art and Edna Mae gave it up, but is still as comfortable and cozy as when they owned it. And the old Hartley & Hammond service station itself went through a few changes, but for the past 25 years has been known as Tillie's, owned by Ed & Linda Wright.

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# Tillie's Mini Mart Celebrates 25 Years

By Peggy Draper Hone

Small town America always brings about a creative collection of mom and pop businesses. They grow and survive although sometimes struggle. They are there for travelers and they become such necessities for locals who come to depend on them and enjoy the personal connection they make for the local fare.

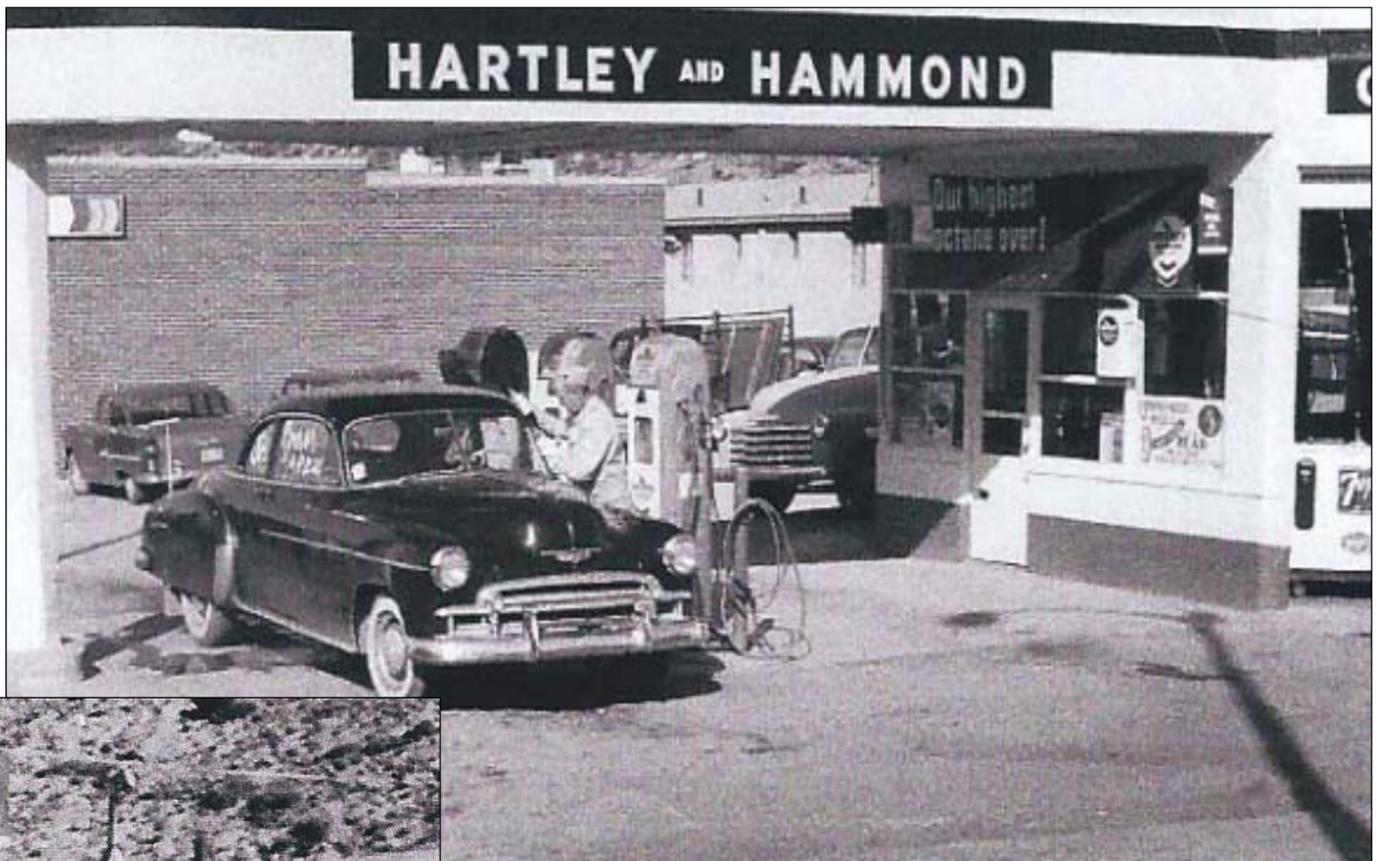
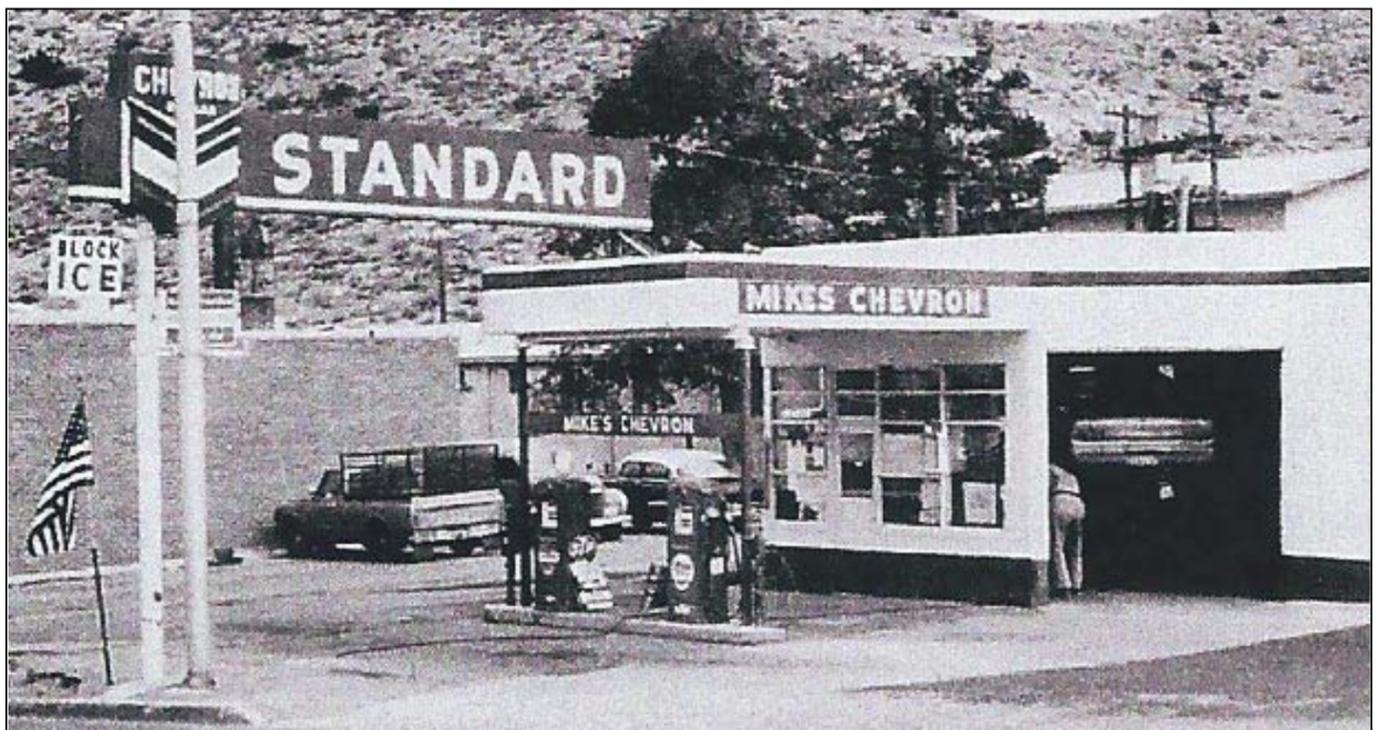
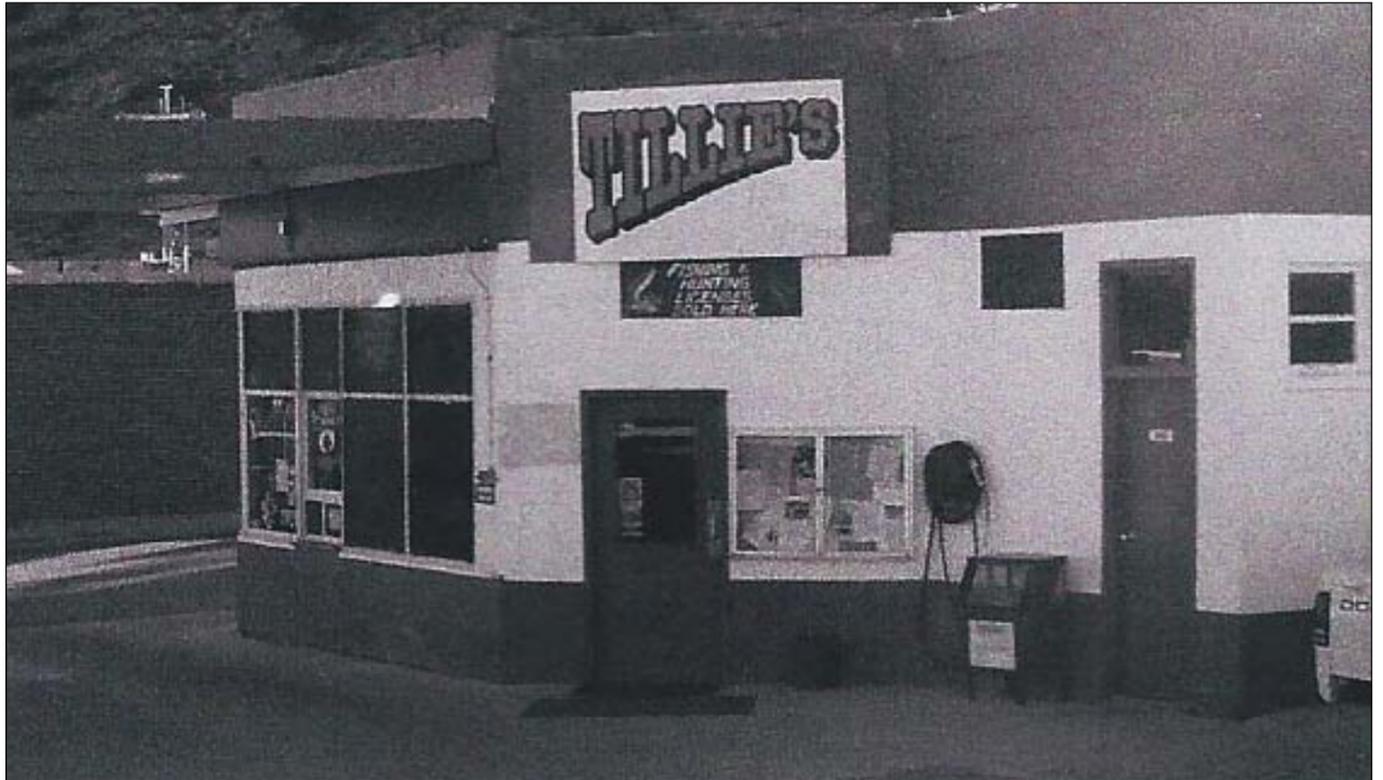
Ed and Linda Wright are owners of one of these businesses in the heart of Pioche. Tillie's Mini Mart is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary as the place to stop for gas, a soda, quick food, rent a movie, fishing licenses or just to say "hi". It has expanded to offer overnight cabins and has become a place to pick up just about anything from Vaseline to gasoline.

In August of 1979 Ed and Linda moved to Pioche from Ely with their two children Todd and Halli. He was working for Nevada Bell and with the split they were having they offered him a job in northern California. They did not relish the idea of city life: they were country people. The Lincoln County Telephone System offered him a job in Pioche. After checking it out they thought they would love it and pulled up roots to relocate. They cherish every day they have been here.

After hearing of a home for sale in Castleton they decided to check it out. They didn't have a key to the door so they had Todd scoot down the coal shoot and open the door. Thus, they purchased it and began a new life.

In March of 1987 they decided to purchase the Mini Mart on Meadow Valley and Main Street. It had been built in 1938 and Mary and Scotty Scott took it over. They had it for five years when Scotty went in the service during WWII. Two of his employees took it over as Hartley and Hammond until they relocated on LaCour Street. The station changed hands several times after that - Bill Orr and then Mike Fogliani bought after which Ed and Linda took over.

This corner has been a hub for activity in Pioche since 1870. Meadow Valley Street was the main fare way coming into town. You have to imagine great western activity on that very spot as gunfighters probably shot many a difference out and crime would have been rampant. On the other hand there would have been many a fine lady headed for markets, miners spending their hard earned



pay and children playing.

And now for the fun stuff; how did the name of Tillie's come to be? Well, Linda had a good friend who was ill with lupus and she would spend a great deal of time with her. Her dad started to call Linda Tillie. Ed picked up on that and she's been Tillie ever since. What could be a more appropriate name for the store? When Linda's dad heard about the name he thought it sounded like a FROG, of all things! He found a picture of a frog in a magazine and they altered it to become their ever present logo.

Tillie's has been stalwart as it has watched the day to day activity of uptown Pioche. The small town struggles to survive with many businesses coming and going. But on that little corner you will see cars and people coming and going from open to close.

The Wrights would like to celebrate this adventurous twenty-five years with all of their friends. March 17th will be a day to share with everyone so stop to congratulate them and enjoy some food. There will be drawings for various items such as a TV, gun, gas etc. We wish them many more years of success!

# PIOCHE, NEVADA

## 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.

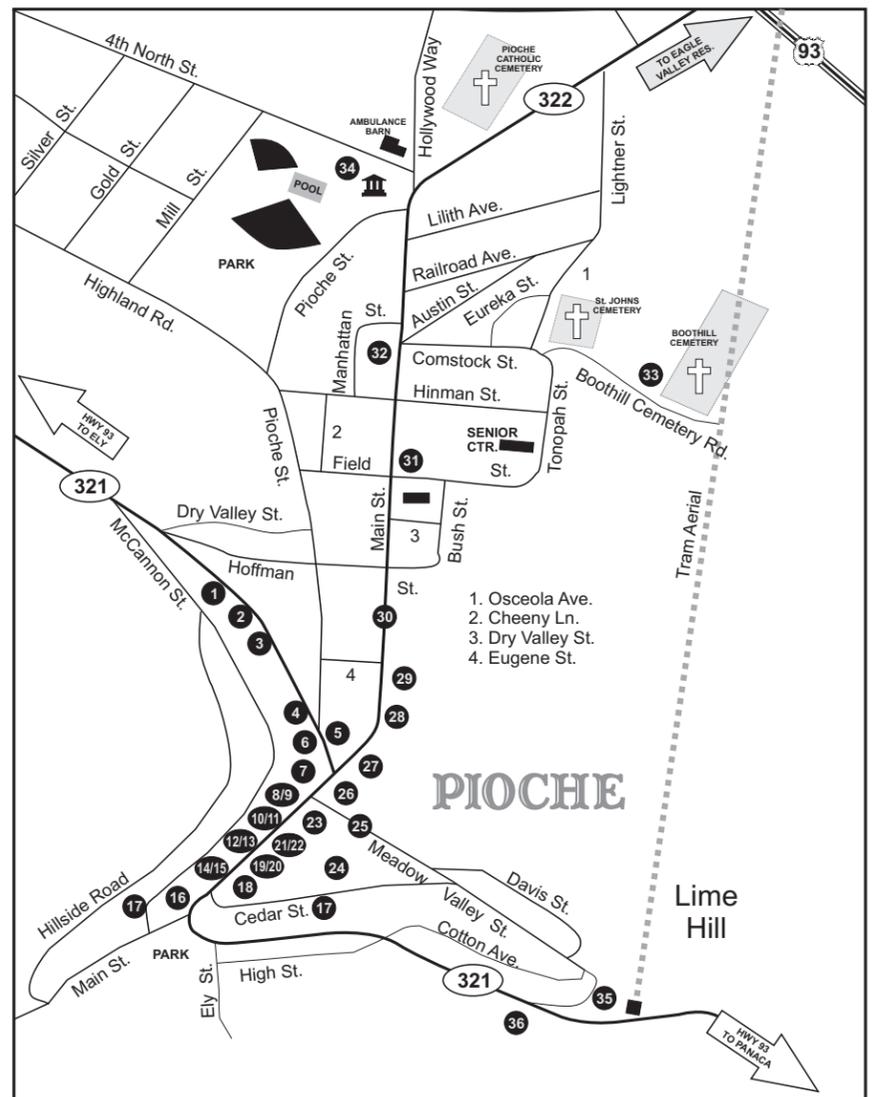
### 7. Purple Onion Antique Store

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

## 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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Stop and Shop grocery market, which was closed in 2002. New owners Leo and Dee Schafer plan to open in late spring a resale shop with new and used 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 in 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.

### 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.

### 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.

*Walking Tour, continued on Page 6*

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*Walking Tour, Continued from page 5***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.

**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 fights 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**

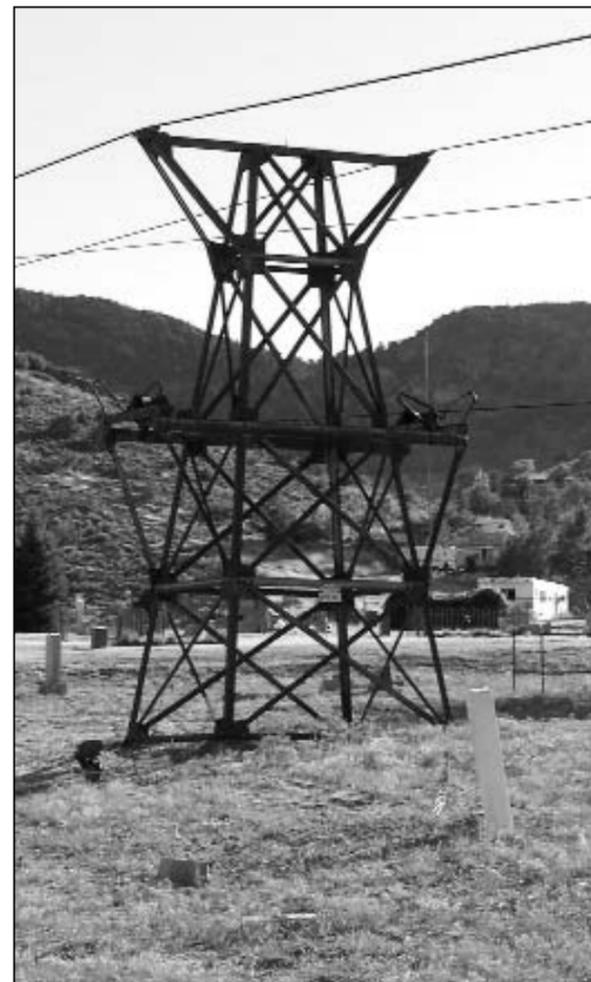
The Pioche Town Hall was built in 1936-37 by the Mormons with donated labor, material and money as the first LDS meeting house in Pioche. It was dedicated in 1950 when it was completely finished and paid for. In 1986 when the new LDS chapel was built, the old building was sold to the Town of Pioche for 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.

**34. 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.

**35. Pioche Aerial Tramway**

The aerial tramway operated in the 1920s and 1930s carrying ore from the mines on Treasure Hill to Godby's Mill in the valley. Built by the 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.

**36. 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, Pioche was a major producer to the war effort and many men were transferred here to mine the lead and zinc deposits.

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# THE GREAT DEPRESSION (NO REGRETS)

By Roscoe Wilkes

We are today experiencing a massive worldwide credit contraction, which in turn is "Sunday punching" the economy like it hasn't been punched for a long, long time. Polite media writers are calling it a recession, but when people are being tossed out of their jobs by the millions and many losing their homes in the process, and when fathers are striving to keep food on the family table the situation calls for a stronger name, perhaps disaster.

You name it.

Not having what it takes to ably do so, I will not be so bold as to suggest ways to remedy that which is happening. That must be left to our President, our Congress and other powers that be. We will hope that they know what they are doing and the steps taken prove to be successful ones. I sense that whatever they do is a gamble. They face a hard, hard problem. If it were otherwise there would have been a remedy already. Our country has seen hard days before. Among the worst were those commonly referred to as the "Great depression". It started in October of 1929 when the stock market crashed, causing men to jump out windows in the tall buildings of various financial centers in the U.S. The depression followed in the 1930's with resulting hardships everywhere.

I believe I have the authority to talk about those days — I was there in Pioche, Lincoln County, Nevada as a teenager old enough to recognize what was going on and how it was.

Now at 91, I will test my ability to recall.

In writing about those days 75 years back, I will do so based upon my personal experiences, what I saw, what I heard and what I did. Others no doubt had different experiences. My "how it was" story can only come from my perspective. I will resist the temptation to embellish the facts, even though doing so might make a good story better. I will also resist overstating the bad or hurt involved and felt. In all fairness, it wasn't all bad. In Pioche almost everyone was, at that time, poor. Such being the case, in one ways of looking at it, no one was poor. We were all in the same boat, and that made the bad not hurt so much.

In our family the circumstances were not particularly good. Our mother became a widow in 1930 and was left with two kids, my sister and me, aged 10 and 12. There was no money, no income, and a depression coming on.

A highly significant factor in how we survived as well as we did was, no doubt, where we were, i.e., in a small rural town in Nevada, population 600. We received help, and even though we were among the poorest of the



poor, we were an accepted family in the community. While the treatment we received wasn't perfect, it was for the most part very good. I love Pioche.

During the depression there were some federally subsidized public assistance, all of it "in kind." Any significant help, moneywise in particular, was supplied by the county, an entity with limited funds but helpful as it could be nonetheless. A few people made it known that being "on the county" was socially unacceptable and even a bit disgraceful.

Fortunately, most people were not that crude. Many tried, within their ability to do so, to help each other; for example, sharing venison, squash, cabbage and firewood.

When one gets down to the very basic needs in life, it comes down to a roof, food and clothes. Our two-room house, our roof, rented for \$5.00 a month. Putting together a little money for an article of clothing, while not impossible was nearly so. Of necessity people made do with what they had. Every Tuesday I delivered handbills for Ben Cohen's "Leader Store" to every house in town with no exceptions permitted. For this I received 75 cents. I'm quite sure that any item of clothing from the store was given to us wholesale.

Then there were hand-me-downs which our mother did her best to make fit. I recall that during a grade school baseball game against Caliente our opponents on the sideline let me know who the batter was, "Baggy Pants."

For .25 cents one could buy "stick-on" soles. Rough up the shoe soles, remove the cover and attach the stick-ons and presto, no holes in the soles of the shoes.

I had a pair of low-cut oxford type shoes I wore until unfortunately the back broke down on one of them. Even though that shoe flopped like a sandal I wore them to high school. One evening I watched the school bus climb its way out of town en route to the high school in Panaca for a dance, the Sophomore Hop. I stayed home for lack of shoes fit for a dance. There was a measure of hurt. I was 15.

As for my sister's clothing, she was lucky as our mother was gifted with a needle and thread. One error was buying her a "store-bought" dress for her 8th grade graduation. Mr. Cohen had only one that fit - a mustard gold creation or nothing. Price \$2.00. As for shoes, to this day she has closet full.

Today we discuss and ponder what we are going to each from a pretty much unlimited group of choices. During the depression it was, do we have "something" to eat?

Sparse meals didn't seem so very bad. In our mind set it was no big deal. We ate them, ignored the scanty dinner and went on with our lives. The government shipped in commodities. I recall cheese, lard, flour, bad smelling canned meat, etc. Mrs. Bowman was in charge of dispensing the flour. One could pick up a sack when needed but usually had to undergo a few of Mrs. Bowman's snide

remarkslike, "Didn't you get one just a few days ago?" People said, "Mrs. Bowman thinks all that flour belongs to her personally." Mrs. Bowman was stingy-magnified.

Shooting a deer was illegal, but no one was ever prosecuted. The officers knew what the circumstances were. One man shot a deer while in the hills getting his wood for the winter. Back in town he parked his truck on the slanting main street and retired into Johnny Valente's bar for a .10 cent beer. A few drops of blood had dripped from the lower side of the bed of the truck. The Deputy Sheriff came in and inquired, "Is that your load of wood out there? You better get it home before it bleeds to death."

The farmers of Enterprise, Utah, couldn't sell their potatoes. They offered them for free, come and get them. I recall riding in a truck with a group of men to Utah, picking potatoes all day and returning with a couple 100 lb sacks as my share. Farmers in Eagle Valley, Rose Valley and Panaca were also generous when they happened to have a surplus of squash, cabbage and corn.

Red or white beans were cheap and were a depression staple in most homes.. We ate lots of them. They were soaked overnight, then boiled until soft. Sometimes flavor could be improved by adding pieces of bacon rind. On better days it was beans, tomatoes and chili powder; occasionally adding ground beef, but only occasionally. Other foods often seen were potatoes and cabbage. Potatoes were cooked in various ways, often fried in a little lard. Cabbage was boiled. I had no love for cabbage, ate in only as a last resort and avoid it to this day. It can be tolerated on March 17-corned beef and cabbage.

Billie Dwyer had apple trees on his place in Eagle Valley. When ripe he would load his pickup with crates of apples and peddle them door to door in Pioche. When he had sold all he could and had some left, he made his last stop at our house. Our mother would go out, examine his remaining cargo and with a feigned look of little interest offer him .50 cents for all he had left. Billie would accept the offer rather than take them back to the valley where he had plenty more on the trees.

We solved the storage problem by sliding the crates under the various beds in our small house. Then it was apples in our school lunch kits, apple sauce, stewed apples and apples fried in a little grease (lard).

Sometimes things just happen, and once it involved food. Here is the story. I was invited by my friend "Hoot" (a nickname) to join the Ma Steward family down below town to help

*Depression, continued on Page 14*



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**State Parks, Continued from page 1**

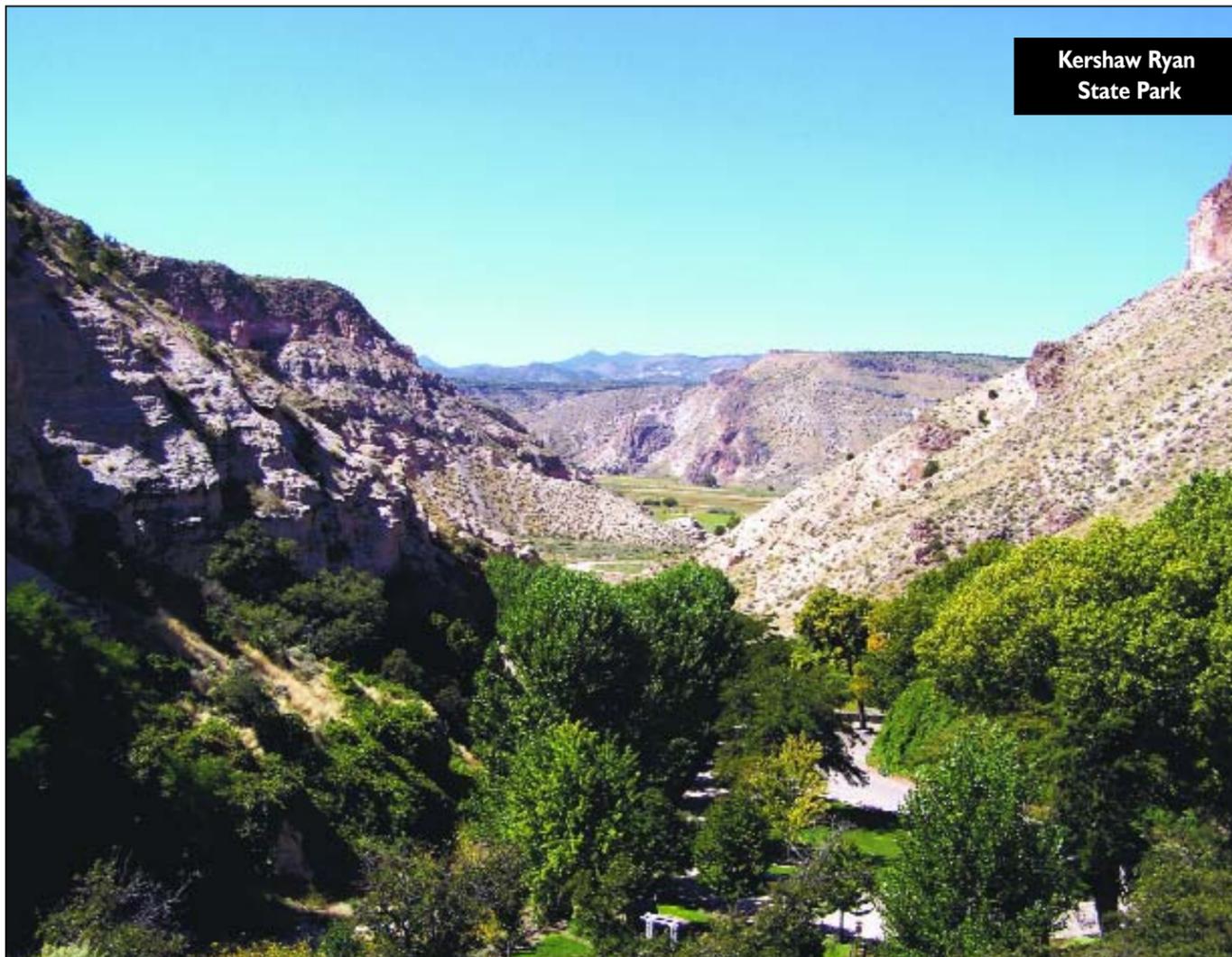
Valley (Barclay) was established in 1864, at the same time as Panaca, and families from both of those towns would often go to visit families that lived in Beaver Dam Wash. They would go fishing along the natural stream that was dotted with beaver dams, or just enjoy a picnic under the native cottonwood 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 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



**Clay formations in Cathedral Gorge State Park**



**Kershaw Ryan State Park**

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. 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.

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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



Echo Canyon State Park

Spring Valley, and is the best location near Pioche for seeing ducks and shorebirds.

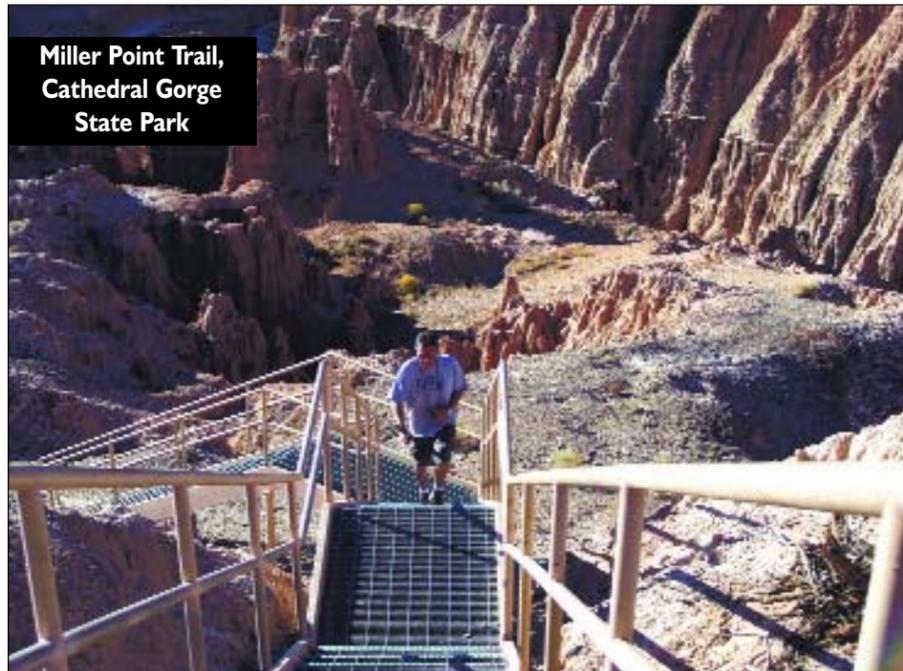
The newest addition to the State Park System in Lincoln County is the Elgin One-Room Schoolhouse State Historic Site. This original schoolhouse was restored by the family whose member built it in 1922 to educate the schoolchildren of ranchers and railroad workers in lower Rainbow Canyon. At this time,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

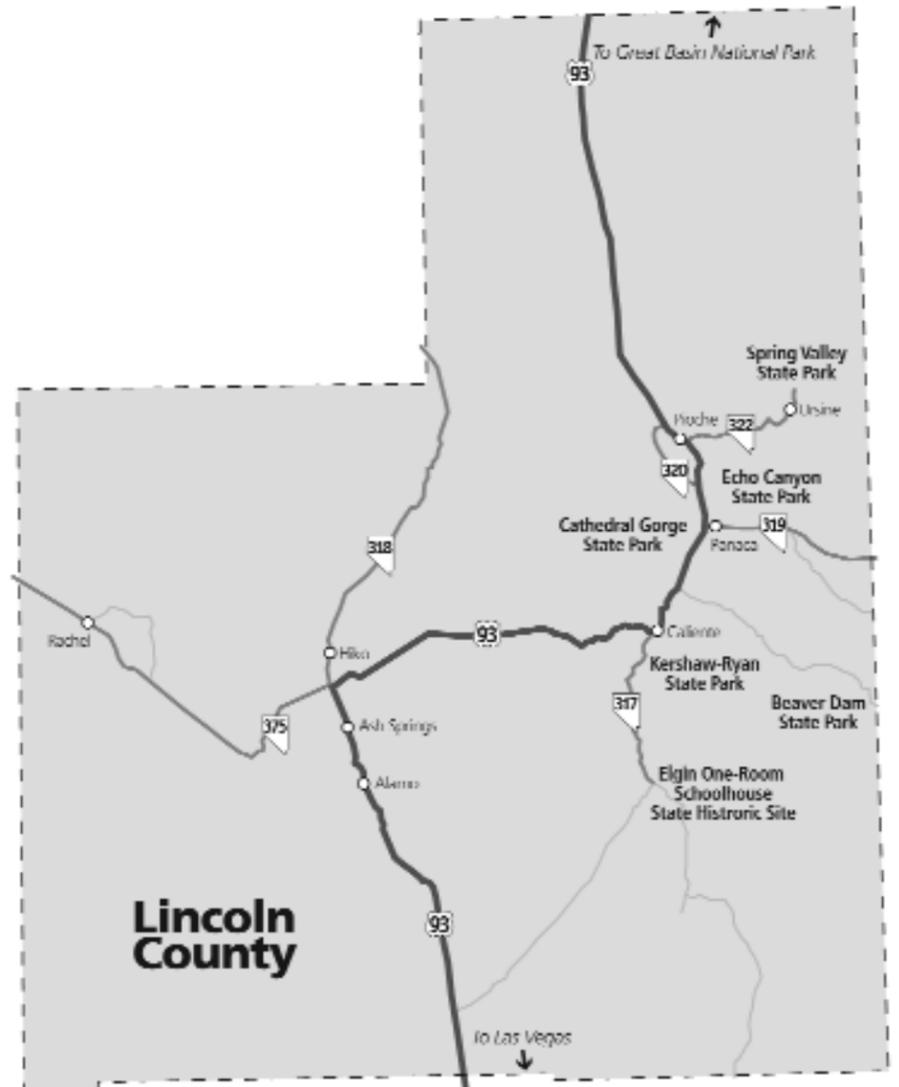
friends that funded the restoration. In 2005, the Bradshaws donated it to the Nevada State Park system for operation and maintenance. The flooding down Rainbow Canyon in January, 2005, has limited access for the present;

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!



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# WALLBAUM CABIN

## THE SCENE OF THE CRIME



By Leo Schafer and Ken Meyer

Pioche, and the vicinity around Pioche 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. The entire trip is easily accessible by automobile.

The precise destination is one of a historical nature, contained within the Pahrnatag Wildlife Refuge, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A very friendly and helpful staff is onsite. The refuge, among other things, provides a unique display of a lush water land, very unlike the desert where it resides. The area offers a meaningful view of wildlife, and plays host to migratory birds on their seasonal journeys. The refuge is adjacent to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the largest in the lower 48 states.

For thousands of years the native people inhabited the Pahrnatag Refuge region. They left behind artifacts such as rock art and rock structures. One site is thought to have been a gathering place for spiritual ceremonies. In addition to the native people the Pahrnatag Valley was later occupied by white settlers. Their initial interest was anchored in the agricultural development provided by the vast water supply.

This story takes place at a time when civilization had taken a grip, well at least a toe hold. The time frame, circa 1880, finds Pioche and the vicinity a bit unruly. Setting the stage for a sense of the development of the culture at the time, we find the local newspaper reporting the following:

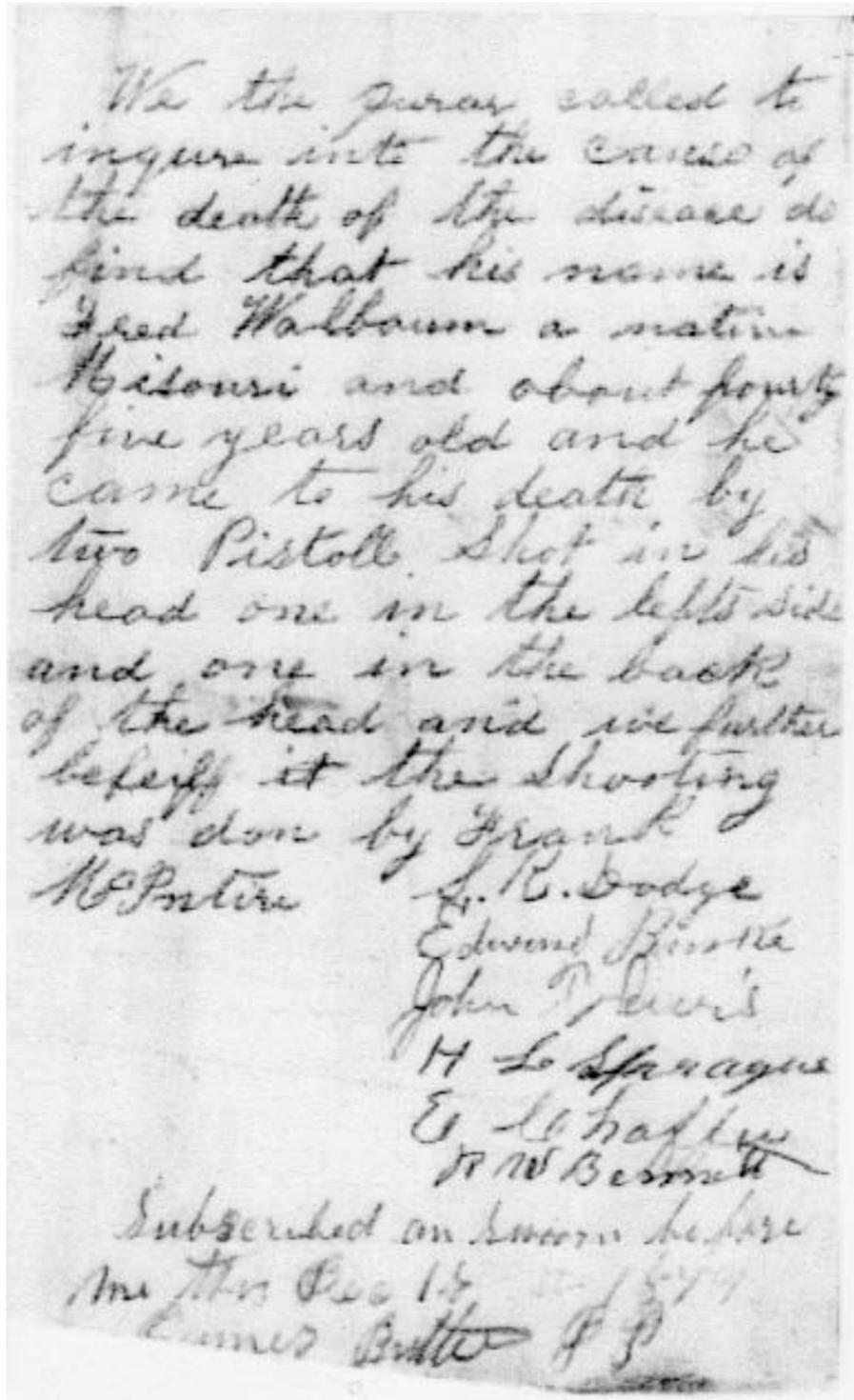
"NEEDS A DOSE OF BITTERS.—The other night Jake Drew kicked in the door of the old French Woman's house, at the lower end of Main Street, and it cost the old woman some \$12 to have it repaired. She reports that this is the second time that young Drew has kicked in her door. It is to be hoped that the next time that the young hoodlum disturbs the peace that the officers will arrest him and bring him before Justice Hoffman, and permit that gentleman to dish him out a dose of 'bitters.'"

"SHOOTING AFFRAY.—A shooting affray occurred Monday night, about 12 o'clock, at Brown's & Sparks' Saloon, between F. O. Johnson and J. F. Reed, two cattlemen. They had some words together, when they both drew their pistols and commenced turning them loose. Reed's pistol was out of working order, the pin on which the barrel revolved having dropped out, and after snapping it seven times he threw it down and closed in on Johnson..."

When a gun battle between two fighters occurred during those early days, there were times when neither of the participants was injured at all due to the contestants missing each other completely. Unfortunately, the misses could kill a nearby milk cow, or an innocent bystander. As in this case, weapons were not as reliable as today with often a misfire occurring at a crucial interlude. The paper continues:

"Johnson shot Reed four times—once in the breast, in the ribs, on the arm and in the back, but none of the wounds are serious, although the wound in the back troubles him a little. Reed received a bad scalp wound from the blow of a pistol. Complaints were made against both parties by the District Attorney and the cases will be ventilated by the Grand Jury. Reed will be able to be around in about fifteen days."

Apparently this incident was about as serious as kicking in a door twice, for nothing more was made of it. But law enforcement was available and at times attempted to intervene when they were made aware of an impending crime. Although this attempt was



not successful in apprehending the suspect, it may have been the sheriff's action that prevented an untimely death. Again the local newspaper provides the details.

"A CHASE.—Tuesday morning an Indian, becoming irritated at Cherry, shot his dog, and threatened to make old Cherry climb the 'golden stairs.' Sheriff McKee hearing of the matter went in search of Mr. Lo, found and gave chase to him. The Indian dropped his Henry rifle and ran in among the rear of some houses on Davis Street, the Sheriff still pursuing, and coming up to the Indian jumped from his horse and grabbed him, but Mr. Lo was like an eel, and instead of capturing an Indian he only captured a blanket. The Indian kept dodging around the houses, the Sheriff following, but the officer becoming entangled in clotheslines had to give up the chase..."

It should be noted that Sheriff "Fat Mac" McKee was one of Pioche's best peace officers.

There were also episodes involving domestic disagreements.

"A HEATED ARGUMENT.—On Sunday night last a man and wife had a prolonged argument in regard to his dissipated habits. The wife wound up the argument by applying a pick-handle to the cabasa of her unruly worse half, laying him out cold for a time. It had the effect of effecting a temporary cure."

Those are but a few examples of the demeanor of Pioche around 1880. But things were much better than they had been ten

years prior when Pioche was but an embryo. The character of the town had experienced measurable maturing. The newspaper again provides insight.

"NOW AND THEN.—The difference in the appearance of our streets at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. is most striking. At 6:30 the sidewalks are pretty well lined with citizens and miners off shift; at 9 o'clock most of the business houses close, and half an hour afterward the town has cooled down till it does not look like the same place. This is getting to be more and more the case. It is a good omen, as it shows that our people are settling down to a steady habits and the realities of life.

"A few years since it was not until about midnight that the town was made to 'howl,' and then for two or three hours the saloons were thronged and mere deviltry was seen than during any other hours in the twenty-four. Now, at 11 o'clock, the saloons are almost deserted and the amount of business done, except on rare occasions, does not pay for the oil burned. Then men filled the town and women were few, but now men have their families here and women are becoming numerous, therefore the men have fallen into domestic channels and do not restlessly roam abroad as in former days..."

So Pioche was coming of age. It was nearly 1880 and a serious crime, such as murder, often aroused enough interest to merit further attention. The scene of the crime is Pahrnatag Valley, within the boundaries of the wildlife refuge.

In this story, a cattle rancher was murdered for his money. The sister of the deceased claimed the estate was worth fifteen thousand dollars [three hundred thousand at today's value]. The tale begins in December of 1879 with the murder of Fred Wallbaum (Walborn), who was a cattle rancher from Pahrnatag Valley (southwest of Pioche).

A George W. McLane (McLain) Jr. had traveled to the town of Hiko, not far from Pahrnatag Valley, in search of Justice of the Peace James I. Butler. McLane requested that Butler furnish him (McLane) with a warrant. McLane wanted the warrant to arrest a Frank McIntire (McIntyre) for murder of Fred Wallbaum. Butler refused to issue the warrant. George W. McLane Sr. owned a ranch five miles from the Wallbaum Ranch. The McLane Ranch, where George Jr. also resided, was the closest neighbor to Wallbaum.

Wallbaum had been missing for some time, and the worst was feared. There was real concern because Wallbaum had an employee (ranch hand) named Frank McIntire who had been employed about a month. McIntire was broke when he took the job. He had recently been around the nearby town of Hiko spending money freely, and he also had his employer's saddle and pistol.

Deputy Sheriff Mark Moore was given a warrant for the arrest of Frank McIntire. George W. McLane Jr. was very willing to provide assistance to the Deputy in carrying out his duty.

Deputy Sheriff Mark Moore:

"...when the warrant was handed me for the arrest of McIntire, McLane was very anxious to go with me to help me make the arrest, but as I suspected him, I refused to allow McLane to make the arrest, which seemed to anger and disappoint him. I was afraid McLane's object was to kill McIntire. I judged all this by McLane's excited language and his insisting on arresting McIntire."

McIntire was placed under arrest while a party went in search of Wallbaum.

The mail rider from Hiko brought news to Pioche of what the search party had found.

Mr. Lampson:

"The party in search of Wallbaum found his body in the well on the ranch, the body being covered and held down by rocks. On taking the body out of the well it was found that Wallbaum had been shot to death; one ball penetrating the back of the head and coming out at the mouth, knocking out one tooth; another shot being in the side of the head, the ball not coming through. It was found that Wallbaum had been shot in front of his own door..."

Wallbaum had been murdered on Saturday, December 13, 1879. One of the search party was S. K. Dodge; he had the following to report:

"On the evening of the 17th [Wednesday] I arrived at the ranch; the house was locked; gained admittance by opening a small window, then opened the door so that we all went in; found coat and boots and some blankets that George W. McLane Jr. claimed as his; found a Henry Rifle and cabin utensils generally, articles of provisions, barley.

"On the outside, in front of the house, was Wallbaum's wagon; the wagon had inside a lot of dirt and pieces of rock; the wagon track ran from the corner of the house to the chicken house, and from thence to the well and back to where the wagon was standing; the tracks were made by that wagon, as the tracks were unbroken from the starting point to the place where it stood...the rocks had been moved from the chicken house.

"George W. McLane, Jr., called my attention to the wagon, the tracks and the removal of rocks. McLane stated that McIntire [Wallbaum's ranch hand currently in jail for suspicion of Wallbaum's murder] told him that he had got away with Wallbaum and had cast his body in the well; that on Saturday, the 13th, after going to Wallbaum's ranch with McIntire, he observed Wallbaum's saddle at the house; before going there McIntire had told him that Wallbaum had gone out in the mountains; on observing the saddle he suspected something wrong..."

"He observed...dirt and pieces of rock in the wagon, and also the wagon tracks to where the dirt had been taken from thence to the well; that he believed Wallbaum had been thrown in the well and the rocks had been hauled and dumped in on him...He [George W. McLane Jr.] on our first arrival at the ranch, called our attention to the dirt and rocks in the wagon..."

Dodge continues with his recovery of Wallbaum's body.

"I took him (Fred Wallbaum) out of the well at his place; I hooked him up with a hook; he was dead at the time I took him out of the well. Wallbaum's ranch is at the lower end of Pahranaagat Valley. I examined the body at that time and found two pistol, or gun-shot wounds in his head—one at the back of his head, low down, passing through the head and coming out at the mouth; the other was in the left side of his head, passing through the ear, apparently ranging upward, fracturing the skull, but not coming out; my opinion is that these two shots or wounds caused his death; I observed some bruises on the forehead and cheek; they were flesh bruises. The body was held down by something; it took all my strength at first to start the body from the well..."

Mr. Lampson again:

"On the news of the discovery of the body being taken to Hiko, Frank McIntire [Wallbaum's former ranch hand] stated that George W. McLane was the person who murdered Wallbaum. Upon this statement being made Deputy Sheriff Moore started down the valley to arrest McLane who was driving the wagon containing the body of poor Wallbaum.

"Moore, on meeting the wagon, drew his six-shooter and informed McLane he was under arrest, whereupon McLane exclaimed, 'My God! What have I done?' Moore told him that he had done enough and took him in charge. Both McLane and McIntire incriminated each other. A check paid by Johnny Davis to Wallbaum was found on McIntire, enclosed in an envelope addressed to George W. McLane. Wallbaum was shot on Saturday...and it is said that after the deed was committed a couple of squaws were taken into Wallbaum's cabin by the murderers and a high carnival was held in it."

The explanation of the envelope with McLane's name and address was that McLane had received a letter through the mails, and McIntire requested McLane hold his papers while they were drinking. McLane, having no wallet or other secure place to keep these papers, placed them in this envelope.

As reported above, S. K. Dodge had interviewed McLane at the scene of the crime, but Dodge also spoke with Wallbaum's former ranch hand, McIntire, and heard his version of the story. It was quite a variation from what George W. McLane Jr. had described.

S. K. Dodge:

"...I talked to McIntire in relation to the killing of Wallbaum. He told me that in company with George W. McLane Jr. he went to Wallbaum's on the 13th of December. Soon after arriving at Wallbaum's, about eleven o'clock in the day, Wallbaum took his double-barreled shotgun, went to the door and ordered George W. McLane, Jr., to leave his premises, and George McLane walked around the corner of the house.

"Wallbaum then returned in the house and sat his shotgun down near the bed.

## THE WALLBAUM RANCH HOUSE



The Wallbaum Ranch house, has been restored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To visit the scene of the crime travel south on route 93 from Pioche almost 90 miles. After passing mile marker 32 turn right at the sign that indicates the Pahranaagat Wildlife Refuge Hdqtrs.

Proceed approximately four-tenths of a mile on a well maintained gravel road to a fork in the road. Where a sign states:

Desert National Wildlife Range

Unimproved Road

Proceed again to the right three-tenths of a mile. At this location you will observe large cottonwood trees and the ranch house.

McIntire then said he told Wallbaum that he did not want to work any longer and wanted to quit; Wallbaum stated that he had to work two weeks longer to pay him what he owed him on a horse he had sold him; that at that moment George McLane stepped to the door and shot Wallbaum in the back of the head; Wallbaum fell forward on his face, near McIntire's feet.

"George McLane then stepped forward and placed the pistol to Wallbaum's head and shot him again in the side of the head; he then said that he (McIntire) started to pull Wallbaum's boots off, but McLane told him not to do it. McLane told him to put a sack under Wallbaum's head; McLane then picked up the body, took it to the well and threw it in. McLane then told him to hitch the horses to the wagon that they would haul a load of rock and throw it on the body; that they hauled the rock together and threw it in the well."

When McLane had applied for the warrant to arrest McIntire, he was armed with a shotgun loaded with buckshot. The settlers [locals] suspected that McLane intended to murder McIntire and then report that McIntire refused to surrender. That would give McLane a reason to kill him and the opportunity to cast all the blame for the Wallbaum murder on McIntire.

A neighboring ranch to Wallbaum's Ranch was the Pierson Ranch that was man-

aged by a Robert Clay. It was felt by some Pahranaagat residents that Clay might be a witness for the prosecution. Clay was poisoned to assure his silence. The murder attempt, however, was unsuccessful and Clay survived.

Another Hiko mail rider, Mr. Dykes, brought news to Pioche that both George W. McLane Jr. and Frank McIntire had been examined before Justice of the Peace Butler and McIntire testified against McLane, stating that McLane had done the killing and had fired both shots. The prisoners were transported to Pioche and locked up in the Lincoln County Jail.

Wallbaum's murder was considered especially heinous and was termed the "Pahranaagat Horror." The two prisoners were ironed to the floor. No visitors were allowed, and only law officers and the prisoners' attorneys were permitted contact. Their counsel told them to say nothing of the matter.

An ironic twist occurred when the prospective jurors' names were being drawn for the upcoming trial. The name Fred Wallbaum, the deceased, was selected and called.

A motion was made in court for a change in venue on the grounds of inflammatory articles that had appeared in the press. The Pioche Weekly Record newspaper responded: "...The motion excited a great deal of surprise. In the first place, on account of Pioche being deemed no unsafe place for the

trial of murderers, when it is a well established fact that whenever a murder is committed in any other county the murderer, or murderers immediately have a petition made out to have his, or their case tried in Lincoln County, because they know they have a sure thing of getting clear, or getting off with a very light punishment, compared with what they deserve.

The newspaper also had a strong rebuttal for the accusation of swaying the public perception:

"In regard to any of the articles in the Record being inflammatory, or tending in the least degree to prejudice public opinion; nobody (but a wooden man and a mutton head) would think of making them a basis on which to obtain a change of venue."

McLane and McIntire had their day in court; they each plead not guilty. It took two days to secure the jury. There was a motion put forth for separate trials, which was denied. It was reported that every single male who resided in Pahranaagat Valley and Hiko was in Pioche to see the trial. The Lincoln County Courthouse drew quite a crowd.

Robert Clay, after surviving the attempted murder poisoning, did testify at the trial saying the day prior to the murder that George W. McLane Jr. came to the Pierson Ranch to meet McIntire. Shortly afterward, McIntire arrived. McLane and McIntire had a conversation that Clay could not hear except that one of the pair said to the other, "we will do that tomorrow;" and the other responded, "all right."

McIntire left the Pierson Ranch and went to Wallbaum's. Clay further testified that McLane spent the night at Pierson's with a squaw. McIntire returned to the Pierson Ranch the next morning with Wallbaum's two-horse wagon. Both McLane and McIntire left in the wagon with two squaws in the back covered with McLane's blankets.

On Sunday, the day after the murder, the pair returned to Pierson's with the Indian women riding Wallbaum's horse.

The Pioche Weekly Record of January 31, 1880 had more on Clay's testimony:

"LUCY AND BISHOP—As there is a woman at the bottom of everything, of course the Wallbaum murder case is no exception to this rule. Bob Clay in his testimony in the murder trial, in the portion relating to the squaws, who are known by the names of Lucy and Bishop, amused the audience not a little, and the testimony showed the cause of bitter feeling now existing between McLane and McIntire.

"The squaw Lucy, it appears, is very fascinating and bewitching and is the belle among the Indians of Pahranaagat Valley; in fact, 'she's a darling, she's a daisy,' and at one time lived with McLane, who getting tired of her deserted her; but, on seeing the gentle Lucy in the embraces of McIntire caused McLane's ire to rise and he tried to persuade the dusky Lucy to return to his bosom and all would be well.

"Lucy declined, and McIntire would not permit the Belle of Pahranaagat to be taken from him by force. This made McLane angry, who was not content with the charms of pretty Miss Bishop, and very probably was the cause of McLane applying for a warrant to arrest McIntire, thus giving the first inkling to the settlers of Wallbaum having been murdered."

Mrs. C. A. Sharp, a witness, was one who knew all the parties involved. She testified as follows:

"...McLane, Jr., and Wallbaum were not on good terms; they had a quarrel some time before; Fred Wallbaum told me that in going to Hiko, George McLane, Jr., and his brother, whipped him; never saw Wallbaum and McLane together again after I heard they had a quarrel."

In addition to the statement by Mrs. Sharp, the testimony provided by the owner of the Pierson Ranch did not help McLane. From the Pioche Weekly Record:

"...James Pierson was on the stand. His evidence went to prove numerous threats made by George McLane, Jr., against the life of Fred Wallbaum, and once where McLane, *Wallbaum Cabin, continued on Page 12*

**Wallbaum Cabin, continued from Page 11**

Jr., and a man named Smith, drove a lot of Wallbaum's cattle down to Wallbaum's ranch for the purpose of catching Wallbaum out and 'fixing' him. Wallbaum, however, did not appear and the scheme failed. Pierson's testimony was very damaging to the entire McLane outfit."

The testimony of Jack Allmey (Almay) was especially damaging to McLane. Allmey was the person who would eventually kill Pahrnagat bad man Hank Sprague in a case of justifiable or perhaps more correctly, essential homicide.

Jack Allmey:

"I had a conversation with George W. McLane Jr. in October 1879, and he asked me if Wallbaum's cattle troubled Pierson's ranch, and I said some little. He said that they had been bothering him for the last five years and that he was going to put a stop to it, as he (McLane) would get Fred Wallbaum; or Fred would get him..."

There were several witnesses for each side, but the situation was generally looking bad for the boys. Both took the stand, and George W. McLane Sr. testified and tried to paint a pleasant picture for his son and something less of McIntire. It was thought he was not thoroughly successful.

The trial concluded with all the attorneys presenting their closing arguments, and then the case went to the jury. The jury had it for slightly more than five hours. Each of the defendants was found guilty of murder in the first degree. The sentence was to be prescribed at a later time.

The talk around Pioche about the verdict, by and large, was favorable. The Pioche Weekly Record stated there was "universal satisfaction" and "Lincoln County had at last redeemed itself by finding murderers guilty." It was a good day in Pioche.

February 7, 1880 was the date set by the judge for sentencing. The defendants had received their constitutional right to a fast and speedy trial. The attorneys for the defense filed their obligatory motion for a new trial, which was denied. It was now time for the boys to receive their just punishment.

The judge asked George W. McLane Jr. to stand. The judge inquired if McLane had anything to say, why sentence should not be passed upon him?

"I am not guilty of the crime. No matter what sentence you pass upon me, I am not guilty."

The judge had this response:

"It is unnecessary for me to say that I fully coincide in the verdict of the jury. I think it is fully warranted by the evidence; not only do I think you guilty, but by the cupidity and mean cunning you exhibited and by your conniving, aiding and assisting in the crime that you fully merit the death you are to meet. The sentence of this Court is that on Friday the 12th day of March 1880, between the hours of 12 a. m. and 3 a. m. that you be hanged until dead, dead, and may God have mercy on your soul."

Frank McIntire was then instructed to stand. Did McIntire have any cause to show why sentence of death should not be passed on him?

"I am not guilty."

The judge had no commentary for McIntire, but stated he was to be hanged at the same time as McLane. Both prisoners were removed to their cells and heavily ironed. It took the blacksmith over an hour to secure them. Finally, a legal execution was to take place. These murders were not going to go unpunished. It was a very, very good day in Pioche.

Some thought that George W. McLane Jr. was the real bad one of the two.

The dual hanging in Pioche did not take place as planned. The case was appealed to the State Supreme Court, and was heard in July 1880.

The technical points of the law during the original trial were carefully considered, along with the evidence including the check in the envelope with McLane's name on it; the bullet holes in Fred Wallbaum's head; and the value of an affidavit from a witness,

Joseph Upshire, who was not present at the original trial.

The Court ordered that the judgment of the District Court against George W. McLane Jr. be reversed, and the case be remanded for a new trial. Frank McIntire didn't do as well; his judgment was to be affirmed. That was the opinion of the Nevada Supreme Court, as written by the Chief Justice O. H. Beatty.

Justice Thomas Hawley had the dissenting opinion, in part:

"...It necessarily follows from the views I have expressed, that, in my opinion, the judgment of the District Court should be affirmed against both defendants."

He further stated on one of the points:

"...If either of the defendants is entitled to a new trial, upon this ground, it is the defendant, McIntire, not McLane."

Justice Hawley went on to become a United States Federal Judge, replacing Judge George Sabin, who had practiced law in Pioche for five years and carried the title of Colonel.

Frank McIntire was resented to be hanged on November 12, 1880. However, that sentence was not carried out. His sentence was commuted to life, to be served in the State Penitentiary in Carson City, Nevada. On November 13, 1880, Sheriff McKee left Pioche with his prisoner.

The Nevada State Prison Inmate Case Files do not list Frank McIntire, or any other McIntire [also with the spelling: McIntyre] for this time frame. There was indication that McIntire was in the penitentiary, based on a letter received in Pioche dated April of 1882, from the State Penitentiary.

In any case, based on the philosophy of the State Prison during that period, it is doubtful that the full term of the sentence was served; he was most likely pardoned.

George W. McLane Jr. was granted a new trial to commence on October 25, 1880 in Hamilton, Nevada. Many of the witnesses from the original trial had left the area, and it was feared they may not be found or would be unwilling to reappear. The trial did not actually begin until the first day of December. It was finished by the ninth. The jury was hung, and no further action was taken except that a twenty-five hundred dollar bond was posted. George C. McLane Jr. was in Pioche on the fifteenth, a free man.

Something went amiss with the jury. The prosecuting attorney later stated that the McLane's attorney had "packed" the jury. That was a practice not new to Pioche that was apparently shifted to the Hamilton court room. It was reported that George C. McLane Jr. carried a great deal of influence. It was firmly suspected that he had too much information about other murders in the area of Pahrnagat and, if conditions became too hot for him, he might expose the facts.

In the above case, the two guilty parties were convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be hanged. And one [probably not the right one] likely did serve at least some time in the State Penitentiary. The other went free.

Several years later, early in 1884, prominent Pioche attorney, W. W. Bishop, reported the following:

"McLane is conducting himself well in Arizona; is married, has one child and is teaching school..."

Was McLane reformed? Had he been innocent all along? Perhaps just an unwilling accessory.

The Pioche newspaper had the following to report by December of that year.

"Geo. W. McLane, Wallbaum's murderer, appears to be having a hard time of it. He has been run out of Tombstone and Sanora..."

In April of the following year from Arizona one Julius Hoffman reported;

"...George W. and Clint McLane are in the Cochise County jail for robbing the stage. Pahrnagat blood will tell wherever it may go..."

I wonder what he was instructing during his teaching career?

Nothing more was heard around Pioche from any of the "Pahrnagat Horror" participants.

## PROSPECTORS FOUND PIOCHE IRRESISTABLE



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Monday—Friday  
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and  
Miller Lite  
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# GHOST TOWN GAZETTE

Travel • Resorts • Old West • Ghost Towns • History • Legends

## ATTACK GRANDMA FROM PANACA

They haven't quit running for two miles. Sitting by the cold water of the Panaca Spring waiting to catch their breath they looked back toward the small settlement of town. "My hand hurts like hell," one Indian told the other.

The other just sat there by the water holding a handful of wet mud to the side of his head.

The newly-arrived Mormon settler's relationship with the Piute Indians of the area wasn't the best in 1864.

One day when all the men folk were away building a new irrigation ditch, Grandma Lee was alone in the family dugout when she first saw the two Indians. She wasn't too afraid—they only had bows and arrows with them. She thought to herself they probably only want something to eat or drink.

But when the Indian pointed to the gun leaning in the doorway of the cavelike shelter and said, "Me want gun," Grandma Lee knew

she was in for trouble. Where are the men when you need them, she thought. But little did the Indian know that they were up against an "attack Grandma."

"No gun, no gun," Grandma said. Just then one Indian made a dash for the weapon which was just a short distance away. With the agility of a cat, Grandma quickly jumped to her feet and grabbed a long piece of firewood that was nearby. Every muscle of her body was working like a fine oiled piece of machinery in one desperate move that was sparked by panic and fear. It was a move that only a pioneer woman can have. She swung the log just like she was chopping the branch of a tree.

The Indian head sounded like a hollow melon when Grandma hit it with the cord wood branch. The brave rolled over and over on the ground trying to regain what sense he had left. Finally he staggered to his feet grab-

ing his head. Just then, she noticed the other Indian starting to string an arrow and again she swung the axe-like club hitting the warrior on the knuckle, breaking his bow and arrow, and making kindling of them. The Indian danced and howled like a baby coyote bit by his mother.

Grandma knew that she if she was going to survive, she was going to have to attack. Both Indians were now on their feet—one holding his sore melon and the other his skinned hand and purple knuckles. They both backed up looking at this old squaw in a dirty black dress wheeling a large war club.

Grandma Lee advanced for the final kill, eyes meaner than a she wolf.

Just then, a yahoo was heard down the wash and a small outline of a man on horseback could be seen.

The Indians took one more look at Grandma and then at the approaching man and decided they'd better

run for it. And run they did!

The Indians lived to fight another day, but never did they bother Grandma Lee.

Grandma Lee's ability

with a length of limbwood became a tribal legend among the Indians of Southern Nevada.

## Caliente News

Many years ago, Mrs. Frank Pacer's little dog ran into a mine and fell into a shaft.

The owner of the mine tried to keep the shaft boarded up, but the mine was so close to town that people kept stealing the timber for firewood.

The shaft was shored with timber across the center. Mrs. Pacer said she heard the dog hit the braces on the way down and she said if it cost her \$500.00 she would get her dog out, dead or alive.

People all over town were busy finding enough rope to lower someone into the shaft. Finally a small boy was tied to a rope and lowered down the hole. Rocks could be heard hitting the water as the small boy was

lowered, but caution had to be taken if the dog was still alive. At the 250-foot level, a partial bulkhead had been put in. Over the year people had dumped trash down the shaft and a mattress had gotten wedged on one of the cross timbers. The dog had somehow landed on the mattress and was unhurt.

The boy brought the dog up and set him on the ground. And Mrs. Pacer whistled and the dog ran to her. Everyone had tears in their eyes.

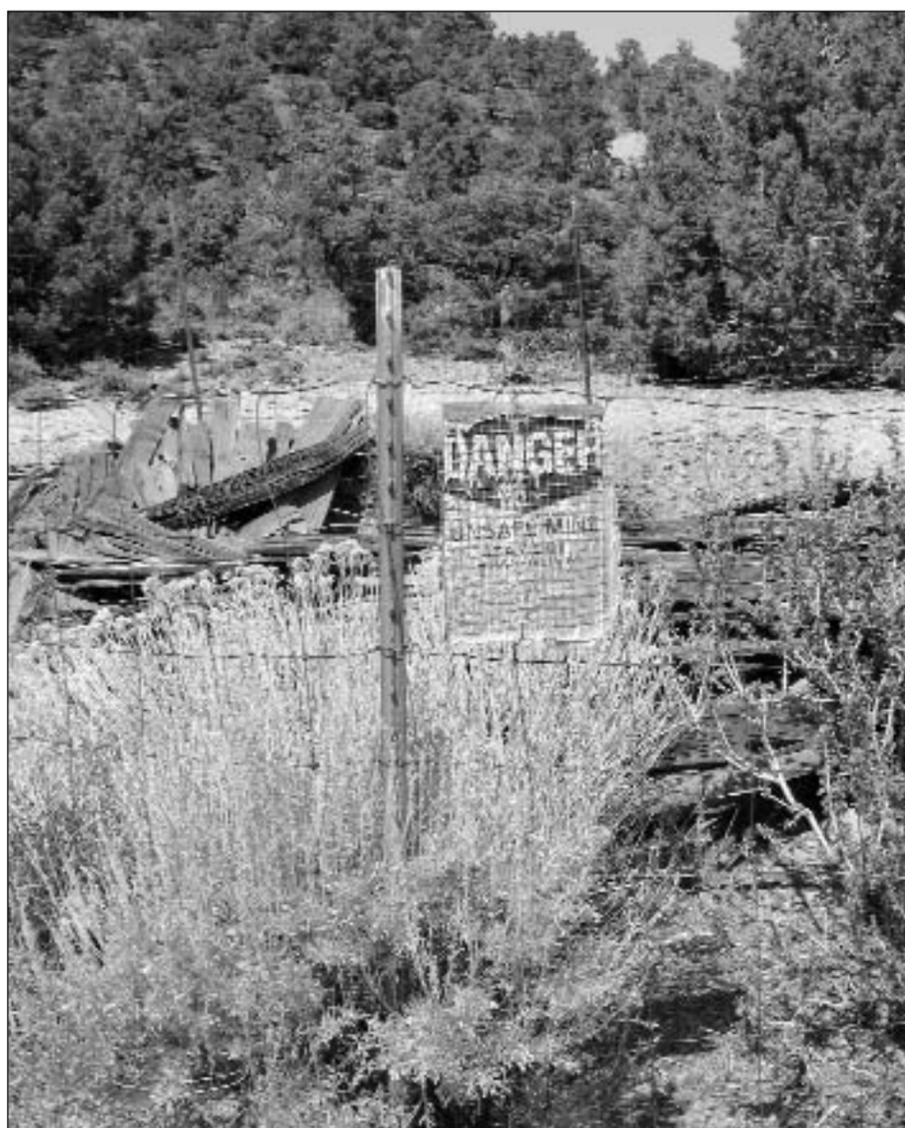
We don't know if the boy got the \$500.00.

*If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—forever.*

—George Orwell, 1984

## OLD MINES POSE MANY DANGERS

While the dwindling trickle of treasure may have sent prospectors packing for better areas, the old mines around Pioche are still inviting for history buffs, photographers, ghost town hunters and the unscrupulous few who want to search for a few take-home treasures. But old mines pose many dangers, and it's always a good idea to be extremely cautious when tramping around old minesites. In addition, remember to keep pets on a leash when visiting these sites — one misstep and Fido could be fifty feet underground! For more information about the history of mining in the Pioche area, check out the Bibliography on Page 15 for a wealth of great books on the subject.



**Depression, continued from Page Seven**

butcher a hog. That pig was slain then boosted up with block and tackle and doused in a 50 gallon barrel of boiling hot water. It was then laid out on some boards on sawhorses, and the fast action began. Each person with a knife began frantically scraping the hair off.

Ma Steward, drill sergeant like, was barking out orders: "gawd dammit, scrape down those legs to the feet, don't just scrape on the top and sides where it's easy - gawd dammit, hurry before it (the hair) sets up." When the hair was all off, the cutting up process began.

Ma addressed me, "Get that cardboard box over there. You've worked hard, and you get your share. Put the head in that box and take it home. Your mother will know what to do with it."

I did take it home where our mother cut in up and boiled the pieces like you wouldn't believe. We wound up with many little pieces of pork in a gelatin-like substance that hardened when cooked and could then be sliced. Have you ever eaten head cheese? That's what it is called, and that's what it is. It isn't all that bad when you are hungry.

Were we ever really, really hungry in a serious sort of way? No!

Were there times when food on the dinner table was scanty? Yes! But fortunately for us it was not that often. I recall a few dinners when the entire menu was bread and gravy. The free government flour was used to make the bread, and the same flour was used for the gravy with some melted lard and a little milk, if available, otherwise with water.

Before I leave you, I want to leave roof, food and clothes and share with you some of the considerable good I enjoyed as a kid and as a teenager in little old Pioche. There was lots of it.

In the very early 1930's a sport enjoyed by the boys was riding the eight or so donkeys that roamed the hills around town. Those burros may have belonged to someone, but we never knew or cared who that might be. If you caught one, it was yours until dusk when the unwritten rule was that it must be turned loose to graze - "they have to eat, you know."

One burro, Maggie, was a case. When she had enough of some inconsiderate kid banging her with a stick or otherwise harassing her, she would simply lie down where she would stay until she, in her own mind, was ready to get up.

Another animal story I liked was the "Burke Tunnel Mule." Leaving town and approaching the summit off to your right is the Burke Tunnel. Its entrance is now caved in, but in the early 1930's it was very much in operation with mine cars on tracks going in and out. There were no electric or other motors to pull the loaded mine cars out. There was rather a smallish black mule with a carbide lamp affixed to its headstall.

Back in the mine the mule would listen as the one ton mine cars were being coupled together. Three cars and yes the mule would pull them out. If she heard a fourth car being coupled to the others she wouldn't move. The lesson we learned, "mules can count." I saw the mule many times, the rest of the story was told.

Otherwise, in upper grade school and through high school we did all the things that kids did everywhere. There were all kinds of sport like baseball, basketball and track. We hunted jackrabbits with rubber powered sling shots, hunted deer later, played in the school band, attended school and community functions, went on picnics and marshmallow roasts and attended a few house parties in the winter with cookies and hot chocolate and games, with girls like "spin the bottle" and "post office." One day a high school I spotted a little cornet on top of a metal cabinet in the school auditorium. The then music director, Willis Robinson, informed me that it was not operational but allowed me to take it and try to make it work. I did, and with some help got it to be playable. I joined the band and began the interest in music which I pursued and enjoyed for a lifetime. This is another example of the good experiences during the depression.

Midway through high school I got a job in Jay Christian's variety store as the night shift PBX telephone operator. The job entailed an hour or so of tending the soda fountain and store; then lock the front door and go to bed in the back room. The slightest ring on the PBX board would have me awake, springing to the switchboard to make whatever connection the caller wanted. After about 9:00 p.m. often there were few, if any, calls until morning when I was off and on my way to school. For this I was paid \$25.00 per month, the largest source of income in our house and a real break for our family.

In 1936, I graduated from Lincoln High on a Thursday. On the following Monday, to the amazement of my high school peers, I went to work underground on the 950 foot level of the No. 1 mine above the town of Pioche at \$3.75 a day. I was 18 and immediately placed in charge of a pick, a shovel and a wheel barrow. The money helped me through junior college.

Others who lived during the great depression years no doubt had different experiences and could tell different stories, probably very interesting ones. What you have read in "How It Was" is as seen, heard and felt by a teenage boy aged 12 to 18.

In brief conclusion, I will represent that there were times when things were not pleasant and there was unhappiness. But isn't this the way life is for all of us from time to time? It must also be said that there were many happy times enjoyed with lots of fun and rewards.

I will not complain about having lived through the depression. I am sure those years were much more stressful on our mother than they were on my sister and me. Even though we were among the poorest of the poor, I have no lingering regrets. I do have serious concern for the many folks who are now experiencing bad days. I hope and pray that our problems will be short lived. We do not need another depression.

# THEN & NOW



A picnic in Cathedral Canyon, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 1880.



An Easter picnic in Cathedral Gorge State Park in modern times.

## PIOCHE BINGO NIGHTS

By Barbara Rohde

The ever-popular Bingo Nights sponsored by Pioche Chamber of Commerce are held once a month at the Pioche Town Hall. The Bingo games are a way to raise funds for the fireworks at the annual Labor Day celebration as well as provide good clean fun for all ages.

The first round will start at 6:00 p.m., and Bingo will run until 8:00 p.m. Prizes include baked goods, donated items from local businesses, and even a cash hand or two. This year, Bingo will be offered one night a month; we invite visitors and residents from all the towns in Lincoln County to come join us, and help us raise the funds for the fireworks, parade prizes, games and mining events prizes that are given during the Labor Day weekend. Snacks and drinks will also be available for a small charge. We would also welcome any baked goods to be donated for prizes; please contact Alyson Hammond at 962-5455 if you have something to donate.



## 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.

## Real Estate

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## A UNIQUE VENUE IN PIOCHE THOMPSON OPERA HOUSE

Thompson's Opera House was built in 1873 and opened as Brown's Theater. It had been a central gathering place for the residents of Pioche, Nevada from the time it was built. "Thompson's" had enjoyed community use as a dramatic theater, musical hall, dance hall and movie theater over the years, until it closed in the 1940s.

After Lincoln County completed a major renovation of the building, Thompson's was reopened in 2009. The unique facility is now available for rent by public and private parties. It is a perfect venue for many events, such as weddings, business meetings, reunions, small conferences and entertainment.

Recent use includes weddings, seminars, and community meetings.

### RENTAL INFORMATION

For more information or to reserve Thompson's Opera House in historic Pioche, Nevada, please call Leslie Derkovitz at 775-962-5426 or Cory Lytle at 775-962-5165.

#### Private use (receptions, gatherings, parties, reunions)

\$100 per event not exceeding 72 hours  
\$ 50 per day not exceeding 24 hours

#### Commercial use (shows, equipment contracts, entertainment)

\$125 per event not exceeding 72 hours  
\$ 75 per day not exceeding 24 hours

#### Non -Profit use (governmental entity)

\$ 25 per event not exceeding 72 hours

\$100 refundable security deposit  
by separate check

\*\*\*Private "event insurance" required



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## A & B SERVICE

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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

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) 962-3992

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 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

Caliente admin@lincolncountyrecord.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

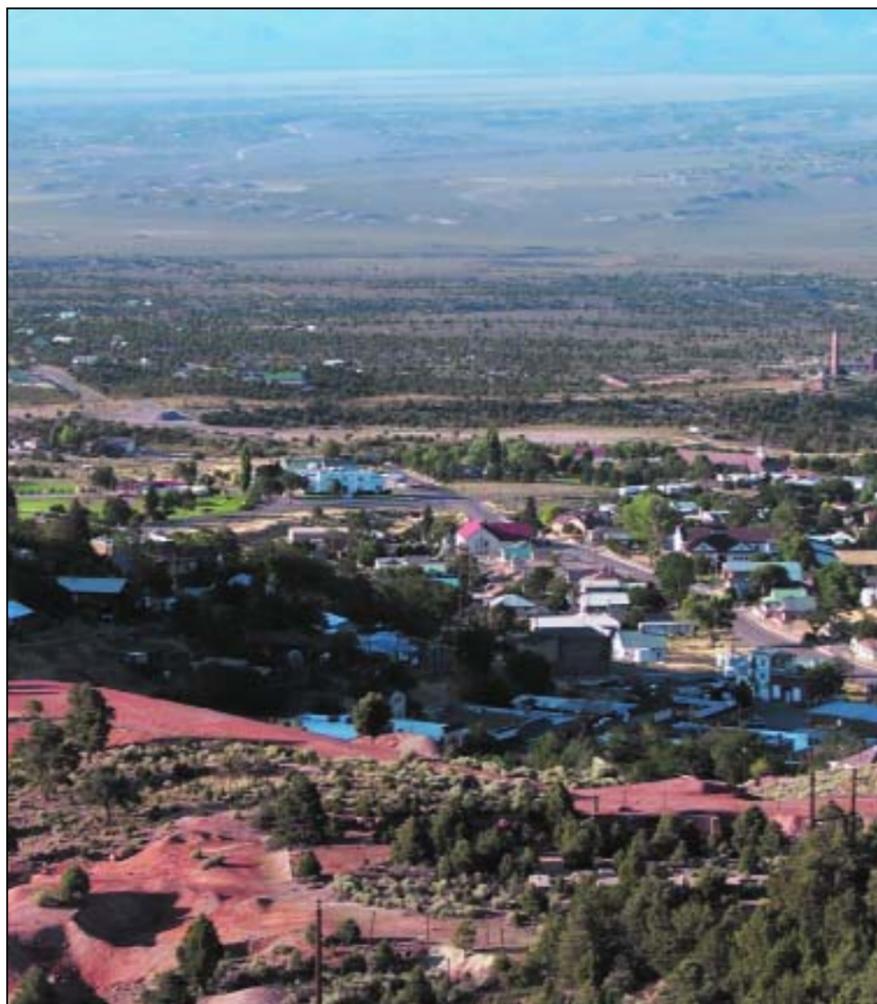
www.lincolncountynevada.com (877) 870-3003

Lincoln Links Golf .....(775) 962-5206

Retired Senior & Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Volunteers always welcome. ....(775) 726-3447

VFW, Caliente .....(775) 726-3156



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 northern-most 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.

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overlandhotel@lcturbonet.com (email)      775-962-5895