

How Carson City, Founded by Mormons, Looks Today

(BY LUCY S. DAVIS)

CARSON CITY, the capital of Nevada, is situated in Eagle Valley most picturesquely surrounded by the Sierra Nevada mountains. The southern peaks are snow-capped at all times rivaling in their rugged grandeur the world-famed Alps, while the western slopes are covered with majestic pines, manzanita and chaparral with just enough snow to intensify the deep rich green.

This valley is 4,500 feet above the sea level, a mountain height and owing to the altitude and dryness of the atmosphere possesses a most delightful climate. While the four distinct seasons are recurring, excessive heat or cold are unknown. While the summer days may be warm, the cool evenings bring rest and comfort to the weary, such as only pure mountain air and clear moonlight may produce. The bracing cold days of winter are invigorating to just the right degree. Health is invariably the rule under such climatic conditions, consumption or malaria never originating in this part of Nevada.

Settled by Mormons.

The town of Carson was first settled in 1851 by "Mormon" prospectors who made of it a trading station or center of supplies while prospecting the adjacent country for gold. It also proved of the greatest convenience to overland travelers on the way to California. The earliest discovery of gold was the great Comstock lode, 15 miles distant, the wealth of which is known the world over. As the population of Virginia City increased the necessity of a permanent settlement in Carson became apparent. In 1855 the town was officially laid out and named after Kit Carson, well known for his fights with the Indians about this district. As the town grew in population and industry a newspaper became necessary and the Morning Appeal was started in 1866. The paper has been published continuously ever since and is therefore one of the oldest in the state. In 1870 the State Capitol's Home was founded. The original building was destroyed by fire about three years ago and has been replaced with a commodious building made of stone from the prison quarry.

The State Capitol.

The next year the State Capitol was built at a cost of \$1,000,000 and the offices of the state government permanently established in Carson. In 1875 Carson was incorporated as a city and has flourished ever since. The residents have taken a pride in beautifying their property with trees and lawns, making the city one of the most beautiful for its size on the Pacific coast.

The Capitol building is near the central portion of the town in a square containing four blocks. It is a massive structure made of stone from the prison quarry and is at once substantial and ornamental in its architecture. A fine new supreme court and library is to be built in the immediate future, adjoining the Capitol, and similar in construction. This is necessary as the old quarters have been too small to accommodate the rapidly increasing State library. There are at present over 20,000 volumes in the library with new books arriving daily. A handsome new schoolhouse is rapidly nearing completion. It is built of stone and much larger and finer than the old one.

Footprints in the Rocks.

The Nevada State prison two miles



PRINCIPAL STREETS, BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS OF CARSON, CAPITAL OF NEVADA.

Wonderful Romance of Nevada's Golden Wealth

(BY P. F. MONTGOMERY.)

M. TAINIE in his "English Literature" says that the life of a nation is like the life of a man. One lives 20 centuries, the other a part of a century. The nation is youthful, middle-aged and aged; feeble-minded at first, broader and more thinking later on, still later magnificent in its golden age and then dissolution. Centuries, like the years of a man's life, are possessed of their particular moods, and from these moods spring national deeds which are spread upon the pages of history. Taine thought a Norman, has thus fittingly estimated not only Anglo-Saxon national life, but all national life. Thus when we come to study our own political and national life we find ourselves at first fretful of parental restraint from the mother country, we find ourselves running away from home to a strange land over the seas, we easily remember the days when we bitterly told the parent land we were able to face the battle of life alone; we remember how we made for ourselves a family home in the wilderness, how we had a great family struggle against the very bosom of our peace; we recall the day when just pastured our happiness when loving arms were folded in helpfulness again. Throughout all these days and years out, and has been like the strong man, rising up to power and full usefulness until today we behold this giant of national power before us in an all-wise, a majestic, a living thing, capable of accomplishing any work before and equally capable of obliterating any error of the past. Each state of the union, like the coral reef of the tropics, has been built up and up until it has appeared above the waters of oblivion, and taken its place in the continuous increasing number of units working toward the common end—national success. Each of these states is interesting because of some one particular day in its existence which bears direct relation to the life of the nation. New England is before us the exponent of political and religious liberty; Ohio, Indiana, in short the old northwest territory—the land of Abraham Lincoln and William McKinley—is before us as the land of expansion and broader growth; the south is before us with all its lore of moody living and civility, as the home of the autocrat, the man of gentle breeding, the spirit of original action and comfort arising from personal power and riches; the west—the limitless glorious west, is before us as the field of activity for the man of the will and iron nerve, as the arena in which the national Hercules has met the wilderness of daily defeat and risen from each combat victor. Surely, in tracing our life as a people from the first days of the New England States, when doubt hovered as a cloud about the scales of liberty, on through the various epochs and important years, none can demand from us such wholehearted admiration as the history of the west. In the crossing of its wilderness and the mastering of its opposition we have shown all other peoples of the earth the latest power which had been slumbering through the early days.

From the shores of the Pacific came

the half-mad cry of, "Gold, gold, gold—gold for every man—power and plenty—a chance for the poorest man, of all the earth." Thrice round the world it rang, and from the farm and the factory leaped the American master builder, and forged his way to his hiding place, and there built up a community, second to none in the land in half a century. Today it does not impress them as a thing of magnitude, for it is too commonplace to them. They see it every day. It is to the traveler that these things are impressive. In London one sees houses three centuries old; in Germany castles towering above some moonlit crag in which knights and ladies once made merry; in the Orient one comes upon temples older than the Christian era; in the west one comes upon a progressive, self-supporting people risen from nothingness and oblivion, their homes reared upon a desert, in less time than it took the European or the Oriental to place the roof upon one of his temples. It is of this realm and of this type of man that Nevada was born. Nothing was too difficult, nowhere was defeat nor fear written upon their faces. They were men who had no chain that they silently carved their future and raised their state to a superior position in the nation. We have chosen to call this epoch of Nevada's life the Romance of Nevada, and to all who are familiar with its history romance will appear as a fitting term, we are firmly convinced.

In Search of Game.

Let us for a moment travel with some of those hunters who were attracted to the attention of the rest of the land. From the southland came the Spanish padre, searching for a site to rear his adobe mission walls; from the northland came the trapper in search of game. Unfurnished with his agricultural and productive possibilities, the Spaniard withdrew. Not so with the American. The territory many times, coming from the southward and again from Oregon and entering it from the northward. The first made maps of the country and spoke of it to others so glowingly that curiosity took possession of several men, and they also braved its wilderness. It was not long before the first of the hunters found their own way to the land of opportunity. They had spoken truthfully of its natural beauty and its future possibilities. That these things are real is a well known fact to all historians. At Plymouth they show you a rock; in Smoky Valley (in Nevada) they have another. Upon it is carved Fremont's name. The sportsman of the continent, however, is the true monument. This intrepid distance which even the modern express train labors against for a full week is the real and genuine monument to the man who has the hardihood to carry in his precious load.

An Absolute Wilderness.

When California announced to the world that her hillside and mountain streams were bathed in precious gold, the migration of adventure became a part of our national life. So well known is its history that it would be needless repetition to speak of it here. Only that phase of it which concerns Nevada is of interest to us at the moment. California was reached either by sailing ship around Cape Horn, by

transfer across the Isthmus of Panama and voyage up the Pacific coast, or by the overland trail across an absolute wilderness. That the overland trail where it crossed what is now Nevada was then an absolute wilderness is evidenced by even the slightest knowledge of its topography and geology, or best of all, by the brief and stirring records written by the men who crossed it.

Then a Part of Utah.

Just at this time "Mormon" domination claimed all of its land, and upon the fast increasing horde of pioneers set up trading stations, reaching out over the desert. In 1851 Genoa, in a beautiful valley at the base of the Sierras, had become quite a settlement. It was here that travel worn and weary, the overland pioneer rested before the ascent of the snow-capped mountains. Records, however, are so brief in their descriptive lore as to fail to give a very good word picture of the community. Striking off at right angles from the main trail lay a little covey, known as the Carson covey. In this some pioneers had panned for gold to pass the time away. Finding some gold several of them remained, and with their own hands and the Silver State, born in the heart of a land absolutely isolated from all other

communities; on one hand by a chain of high mountains, impassable more than four months of the year; and on the other hand almost equally as impassable for lack of water in a desert stretch of many days' travel.

Its Financial Greatness.

While the dwellers of the east were secure in their water supply, secure in their older civilization, secure in their markets for factory products, a more handful of men was laying the cornerstones of a state in the Union which should very soon, of its sheer financial superiority, take its place as an equal among them, and place its star upon the emblem of achievement. Soon there was Johnstown, Gold Hill and Sixmile Canyon. In a country like that there was demand for men of the type of Henry M. Stanley, of African fame. And America, ready to supply any man for any work, supplied the mining pioneer. He did not care for a fancy dwelling, he was not cold at night, he did not pine for amusement, for success was his life's dream, and his days were full of vigorous, primitive toil, with his body and mind and brain for simple tools. At Gold Hill, one writer tells us, they lived in

the open when the weather was good, and when it snowed, they lived in caves and dugouts in the sides of the hills about the canyon, hibernating like the bears, until a thaw. When the days were good and the water came down from the mountain streams they strolled off at daybreak and dug holes in the earth and washed out their gold in wooden "rockers."

The Price of Life.

When they returned at night they cooked their own food and slept the sleep of the just. If one among them was unfit to remain, he was told to go if one of their number was so great a fool as to open an attack upon his neighbor, the price of his folly was sudden death, and like the water earth from their rockers his useless clay was cast upon the hillside. The price of success in the primitive community was constant exercise of primitive vigor and prehistoric vigor. Those who possessed it were ever masters of the situation. In these camps lived James Pennington, a man who loved whisky, but a man without—and one Henry Comstock, a man of infinite self-esteem. They had heard the cry of California's gold, and to its hiding place, like the men in search of youth's eternal fountain, hither they had come to search for power amid the mountain's fastness

and solitude. What they did all unknowingly, is a tale in all men's mouths today when Nevada is spoken of in any part of the globe.

Discovery and Death.

In 1851 across the Sierras came two brothers named Groesch. At Gold Hill they built a cabin and set therein certain instruments for testing ore. There was just this noteworthy distinction between these two men and their fellows. While the pioneers of Gold Hill and Sixmile Canyon turned over the lumps of earth in their hands and looked with keen eyes for the sparkle of the gold they sought, Hosea Groesch and his silent brother used their heads and matched their educations against those other men's natural fitness for a wild life. They were men of considerable education, and to them full credit is due for the discovery of sulphur and silver and the presence of the lode of silver which lay hidden beneath San Peak. They kept written notes, they made assays of ore, in short, they scientifically noted that month this mountain, tipped with the first ray of the morning's sunlight and bidding farewell to its last afterglow, there lay wealth undreamed of by any other men in the land. What must have been the dreams of these men, in possession of such a secret, and at such a time, what must have been their triumphant pride in their knowledge of all beneath their very feet in a land where even children learning to talk learned the magic of the one word, "gold."

These two brothers closed their cabin took up their silent labors in the little canyon. Shortly after this one of them stuck a pick into his foot and died of their rockers, never to be seen by another. He had the stock of the cabin, its instruments, its precious ore specimens, its documents, all of its learning and its priceless secret and set out for California. He, too, met with tragic death. Thus, upon the mountainside, hidden from the light of day, lay the secret of a state of the nation, the secret of fabulous wealth and power in possession of this wealth.

Old Virginia.

In January, of the year 1853, spring, as if impatient of man's delay in discovering nature's bounty, caused the snows to melt and the waters to flow again, and the dwellers of Gold Hill to commence suspended mining activities. Pennington, known to his fellows and to romance as "Old Virginia," located a claim on the side of Gold Hill. For quite a while he and his several partners worked it for gold, taking out the earth and washing it in their rockers, never dreaming of the dark blue stuff they cursed in their haste was even greater wealth in their careless hands than the particles of gold. Even the gold, however, did not plentiful that they drank to its continuance and endlessness. One historian tells us that after "Old Virginia" and his partners had been at work many days Henry Comstock, wandering amid the sagebrush and the loose rock of the neighboring hillsides for his lost horse came upon them. He stopped and picked up some of the waste-out gold, he smiled as he ran it through his fingers and looked at the hole from which it had been taken. Then he calmly told them that it was all his by right of prior location. The scene is better pictured in imagination than in mere

east of Carson is most interesting to travelers on account of the prehistoric footprints of man and beast, which have been uncovered in the quarry surrounding the buildings. Scientists assert that these impressions were made from two to six hundred thousand years ago.

The government building and U. S. mint are both fine structures and add greatly to the appearance of the town. Handsome modern residences under course of construction attest to the prosperity of the city and show faith in its future.

The Hazen Cut-off.

It was argued by many that the Hazen cut-off, carrying all traffic to Tonopah and the southern mining districts away from Carson would work a considerable hardship. It is true that the heavy travel of freight trains from Tonopah, through Carson, was of great benefit to the town but the loss has not been so keen as it appeared at first. It will not be killed by any means as other interests are continually arising to take its place. In a short time the extension of the Virginia and Truckee railroad to Gardnerville and other points south, now under construction, will bring sufficient business to replace that lost by the Hazen cut-off. The road will be broad-gauge and will probably extend to the extreme Southern mountains where the railroad company will open up extensive timber lands, hitherto unavailable owing to the expense and loss of time necessary when hauling by wagon.

Through Rich District.

This road will pass through one of the richest agricultural districts in the state and will bring the market for all produce within easy reach of the smallest farmer. It will also extend to the stock raising section and greatly facilitate the shipping of beef cattle, sheep and horses. In the pursuit of agriculture lies the surest road to success in this section of Nevada. The soil is excellent, the climate favorable and with sufficient water, crops cannot fail. The finest apples and potatoes in the world are raised in this little valley, and are in great demand in eastern markets. The best of the apples are annually shipped to London where they bring the highest market price.

Artesian Well Water.

Streams from the mountains supply most of the farms in the immediate vicinity of Carson, while natural springs and artesian wells are to be found in many places. Experiments are being made with artesian wells sunk in reservoirs and deep dug wells with a view to using electric pumps if the supply of water obtained is sufficient for irrigation purposes. It can hardly fail as there are no ground water flowing throughout this entire section, as is proven by the fact that flowing artesian wells can be found at a depth of 40 feet with an average flow every 10 feet deeper. When the success of these ventures is proven beyond a doubt, thousands of acres of the finest land will be placed under cultivation that has hitherto been idle for want of the necessary water, not only about Carson but throughout the entire state.

Government Canals.

The government reclamation canals will work an everlasting benefit in the district south of Carson. The diverted waters, but beyond these sections electric pumping plants will solve the problem of the water question. At the present time the project has been the public eye as a wonderful mining state while the agricultural wealth is little known, but the time is not far distant when the steady and reliable yield of agricultural greatness will cast a new light upon the resources of Nevada.

Melodramatic Struggle.

Then, with the news of the rich silver discoveries coming to the ears of the man at the rocker over in the Golden State, was one of America's great melodramatic struggles for primacy of individual man enacted. They dropped their rockers and took upon their hands food for the journey over the Sierras to the new land. In one village in California they set forth in the darkness of early dawn upon foot. This was the modern manner.

Great Men Were They.

Little wonder is it to the man of easy life that Virginia City became what it did in a night. Such were the men who turned Rome upside down and rushed about her streets wearing on their brows crowns striped from kings of old. They were men who mapped the slope of the fearless captain who landed on our shores and knelt before his wooden cross and asked of the Father in heaven for strength and courage. A mile above the sea, hundreds of miles from a food supply, cut off even from drinking water at a time when they languished at defeat and festered with despair. Never was town torn of such hardships, never will town be born again of such men's labor. In all American history Virginia City must ever stand as the first real monument to physical daring reared upon the trackless west. In comparison with it, cities of the east, needing in the arm of navigable waters, blessed with every natural resource known to ambitious man, must fade into insignificance. Thus was Virginia born and the new life that was within what the world what American men might do when fear and dreaming were cast aside; thus did the west teach the east the new life that was within what the world what American men might do when fear and dreaming were cast aside; thus did the west teach the east the new life that was within what the world what American men might do when fear and dreaming were cast aside.

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NEVADA'S ASSESSMENT FOR THE PAST FORTY YEARS.

Statement showing the annual assessment of real and personal property, and the net proceeds of mines, from the organization of the State Government to the year 1904, inclusive.

Year.	State tax rate.	Value of real estate and improvements.	Value of personal property.	Total value of property.	Net proceeds of mines.	Total assessment.
Assessment Roll of 1865.....	8.95	.....	.....	\$18,608,275.76	3,286,672.34	\$21,894,948.10
Assessment Roll of 1866.....	9.5	.....	.....	17,650,244.80	2,047,880.85	19,698,125.65
Assessment Roll of 1867.....	1.25	510,229,597.07	88,971,492.94	19,203,080.91	7,044,556.56	26,247,637.47
Assessment Roll of 1868.....	1.25	10,598,112.53	8,236,077.68	18,834,220.36	6,551,169.98	25,385,390.34
Assessment Roll of 1869.....	1.12 1/2	14,841,620.92	11,345,208.17	26,186,829.09	1,252,806.19	27,439,635.28
Assessment Roll of 1870.....	1.12 1/2	17,320,113.52	8,377,993.52	25,698,107.04	5,916,336.46	31,614,443.50
Assessment Roll of 1871.....	1.25	14,499,412.79	9,410,566.88	20,909,989.67	7,856,071.73	28,766,061.40
Assessment Roll of 1872.....	1.25	12,129,110.00	16,750,335.32	22,879,445.32	7,814,176.97	30,693,622.29
Assessment Roll of 1873.....	1.25	12,513,293.95	13,235,275.37	25,748,569.32	11,200,048.58	36,948,617.90
Assessment Roll of 1874.....	1.25	14,125,578.01	12,501,701.21	26,627,279.22	13,869,578.17	40,496,857.39
Assessment Roll of 1875.....	.90	15,502,392.68	13,737,172.67	29,239,565.35	17,062,899.95	46,302,465.30
Assessment Roll of 1876.....	.90	10,820,385.87	12,744,289.30	23,564,675.17	21,167,408.24	44,732,083.41
Assessment Roll of 1877.....	.90	18,021,872.48	11,600,341.90	29,622,214.38	24,033,532.35	53,655,746.73
Assessment Roll of 1878.....	.90	17,335,962.09	10,893,548.39	28,229,510.48	30,945,909.11	59,175,419.59
Assessment Roll of 1879.....	.55	17,944,030.73	11,350,429.45	29,294,460.18	7,268,361.99	36,562,822.17
Assessment Roll of 1880.....	.55	17,742,714.97	9,855,944.59	27,598,659.56	4,496,738.91	32,095,398.47
Assessment Roll of 1881.....	.90	18,020,814.50	9,476,177.73	27,496,992.23	2,442,371.60	29,939,363.83
Assessment Roll of 1882.....	.90	19,152,541.92	8,216,792.78	27,369,334.70	1,740,554.49	29,109,889.19
Assessment Roll of 1883.....	.90	18,845,868.01	8,912,304.80	27,758,172.81	1,643,107.80	29,401,280.61
Assessment Roll of 1884.....	.90	17,508,271.50	9,029,027.54	26,537,299.04	1,133,686.53	27,670,985.57
Assessment Roll of 1885.....	.90	16,839,692.94	8,108,254.50	24,947,947.44	449,050.96	25,397,000.40
Assessment Roll of 1886.....	.90	16,104,245.32	8,068,632.01	24,172,877.33	554,136.62	24,727,013.95
Assessment Roll of 1887.....	.90	15,049,536.55	10,709,670.22	25,759,206.77	1,557,132.13	27,316,338.90
Assessment Roll of 1888.....	.90	17,018,582.15	9,724,796.38	26,743,378.53	2,109,292.87	28,852,671.40
Assessment Roll of 1889.....	.90	17,418,101.90	9,211,579.31	26,629,681.21	1,283,492.57	27,913,173.78
Assessment Roll of 1890.....	.90	16,934,721.02	7,728,663.53	24,663,384.55	686,709.51	25,350,094.06
Assessment Roll of 1891.....	.75	21,470,035.05	8,837,507.93	30,307,542.98	1,443,107.80	31,750,650.78
Assessment Roll of 1892.....	.75	18,840,290.17	7,617,130.78	26,457,420.95	1,133,686.53	27,591,107.48
Assessment Roll of 1893.....	.90	18,220,814.50	9,476,177.73	27,696,992.23	1,133,686.53	28,830,678.76
Assessment Roll of 1894.....	.90	16,751,871.20	6,873,840.20	23,625,711.40	181,294.93	23,806,906.33
Assessment Roll of 1895.....	.90	15,586,641.57	7,069,077.66	22,655,719.23	167,729.62	22,825,448.85
Assessment Roll of 1896.....	.90	16,932,837.70	6,173,296.39	23,106,134.09	352,331.71	23,458,465.80
Assessment Roll of 1897.....	.90	16,339,692.94	6,108,254.50	22,447,947.44	449,050.96	22,897,000.40
Assessment Roll of 1898.....	.92	16,304,656.16	6,882,555.00	23,187,211.16	339,093.13	23,526,304.29
Assessment Roll of 1899.....	1.00	15,589,727.26	7,066,731.10	22,656,458.36	128,254.33	22,784,712.69
Assessment Roll of 1900.....	1.00	16,578,404.34	7,622,432.43	24,199,836.77	106,990.45	24,306,827.22
Assessment Roll of 1901.....	.80	19,209,526.00	8,791,363.57	28,000,889.57	294,481.08	28,295,370.65
Assessment Roll of 1902.....	.80	20,109,398.75	9,215,537.85	29,324,936.60	506,710.18	29,831,646.78
Assessment Roll of 1903.....	.75	22,784,049.37	9,943,414.32	32,727,463.69	1,512,191.87	34,239,655.56
Assessment Roll of 1904.....	.75	25,554,639.45	10,715,495.95	36,270,135.40	925,034.52	37,195,169.92